

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

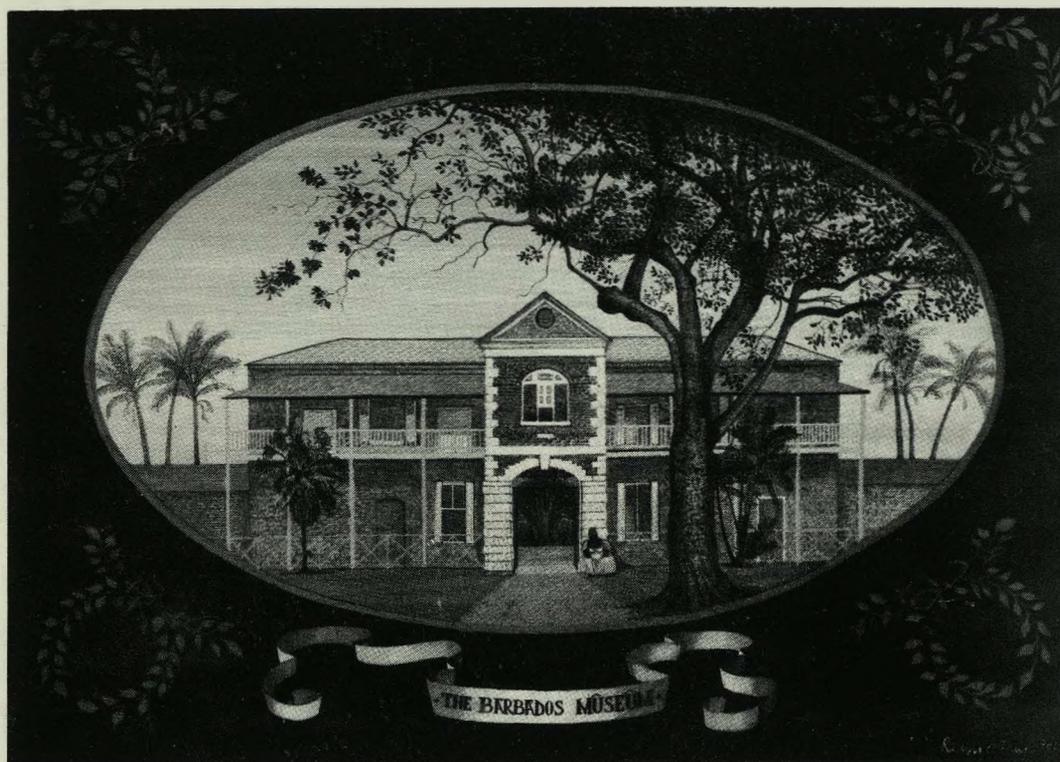
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OCTOBER 1984

TONY SHEPHERD DESCRIBES THE 1983 BARBADOS



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**President's Message**

This is being written in mid-August, and members will be receiving it at about the time of Philatelic Show '84 at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, where I hope to see many of you.

Thanks to the efforts of Mark Swetland, our Public Relations Director; Al Branston, our International Director; and, of course, BCPJ Editor George Bowman, we have started a "republishing" program whereby articles originally published in the BCPJ will be reprinted by the British Philatelic Federation, with appropriate credit given to the BCPSG. Hopefully, this additional publicity will get our name out into the philatelic press and will help our mission.

Due to the pressure of other business, Chuck Cwikala must relinquish his duties as Auction Manager, following COLOPEX '85 (see page 133). If anyone wishes to take on this interesting and important post, please contact me.

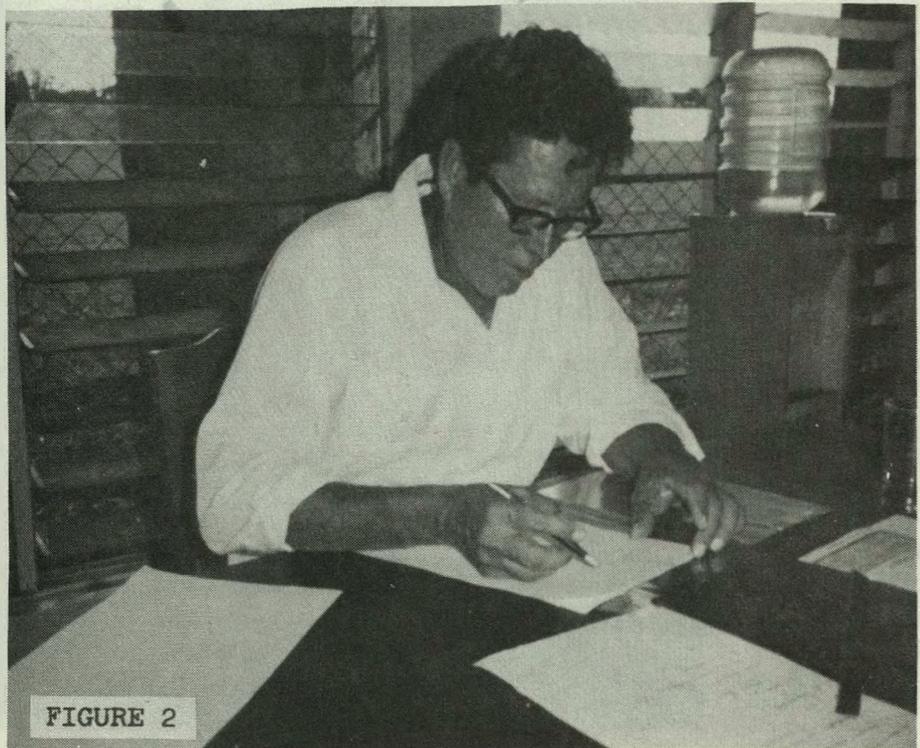
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THE EARLY MONTHS OF THE BELIZE PHILATELIC BUREAU

by Michael X. Watman

Many who have followed the recent philatelic history of Belize greeted the announcement of that country's new stamp-issuing policy with favor. I offer this brief outline of the early months of the new Belize Philatelic Bureau, gathered from several sources, with the hope that it may be similarly received. Perhaps other, more knowledgeable, members will be able to fill in some of the details and correct those errors which are bound to inadvertently creep into any "second hand" report.

The establishment of the Belize Philatelic Bureau was announced in a 20 October 1983 letter from Postmaster General E. E. Godfrey (Figure 1) and reported in the February 1983 issue of the BCPJ. Governing the Bureau's affairs is a Board of Directors, whose Chairman is John Longworth (Figure 2), Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Transport. The first items of correspondence from the Bureau, posted in early November 1983, were received here in New Hampshire via covers with the boxed "ON POSTAL SERVICE" franking. The first (Figure 3) arrived without either cancellation or return address, but with a "POSTAGE DUE 20¢" marking applied in the United States! A handstamped return address on the backflap (not shown) and a Belize City CDS on the next cover to



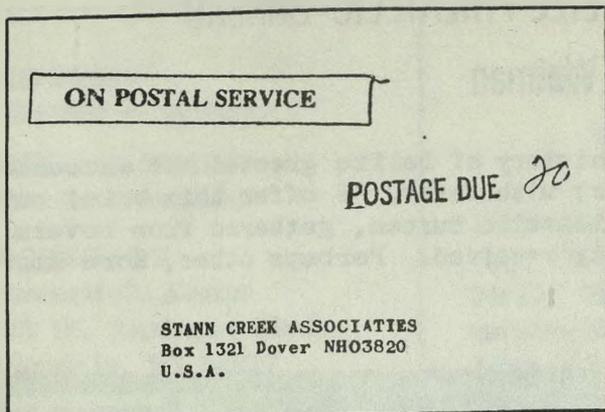


FIGURE 3

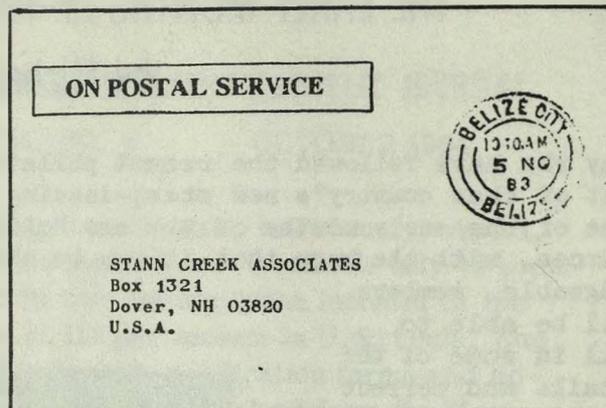


FIGURE 4

arrive (Figure 4) apparently "legitimized" the second sending, which arrived without any penalty.

An article in the 20 November 1983 issue of The Belize Times reported the 14 November opening of the Bureau's offices at 91 North Front Street in Belize City. Philatelically-inclined visitors should look for the sign (Figure 5) on the building at this address, which is shared with a law firm and other occupants. Greeting visitors is a reception counter which features a display stand of recent issues. At the time this visit was made, the "200 Years of Manned Flight" offering (not a Bureau issue), and the Maya Monuments Set (the first from the Bureau) were on view.

Mrs. Ann Pineda, a member of the Belize Stamp Advisory Committee, has been appointed Manager of the Bureau. It is currently staffed by four Belizians, with more expected to be hired in the coming year. Two unidentified employees (Figure 6) can be seen working in the air-conditioned office adjoining the reception area. By early December, some correspondence had arrived in a cover with a pre-printed address label

(Figure 7) and a typewritten "POSTAGE PAID" marking.



FIGURE 5

Late in December, stamps and brochures were posted in kraft-paper covers of other types. A large cover (Figure 8) with boxed "POSTAGE/PAID" handstamp, registered mail handstamp with "No. BPB" and written numeral 35, and an "AIR MAIL" handstamp was used for posting of a stamp order. The handwritten "C.S.V. #57" in the lower left represents the cash sale voucher number. Two days later, the Bureau

posted a publicity brochure in a cover (Figure 9) similar to the previous one, but with a pre-printed return address and "VIA AIR MAIL" marking, also pre-printed. The computer-generated address label may indicate that some sophisticated office procedures were by that time in place.

From an examination of these few early Belize Philatelic Bureau covers, I would guess that operations

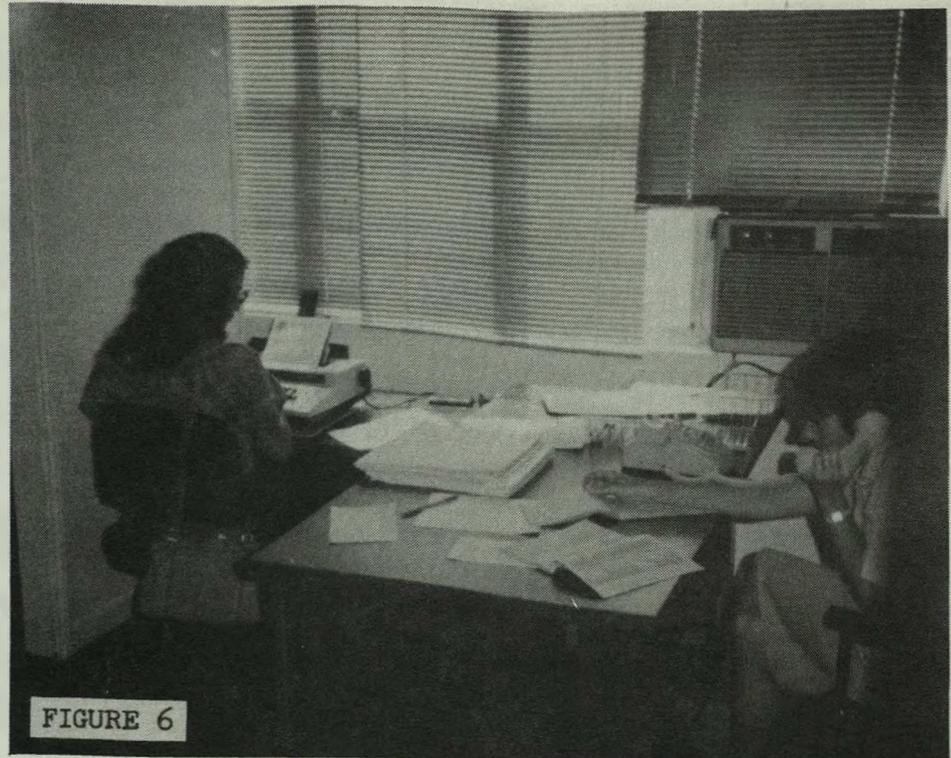


FIGURE 6

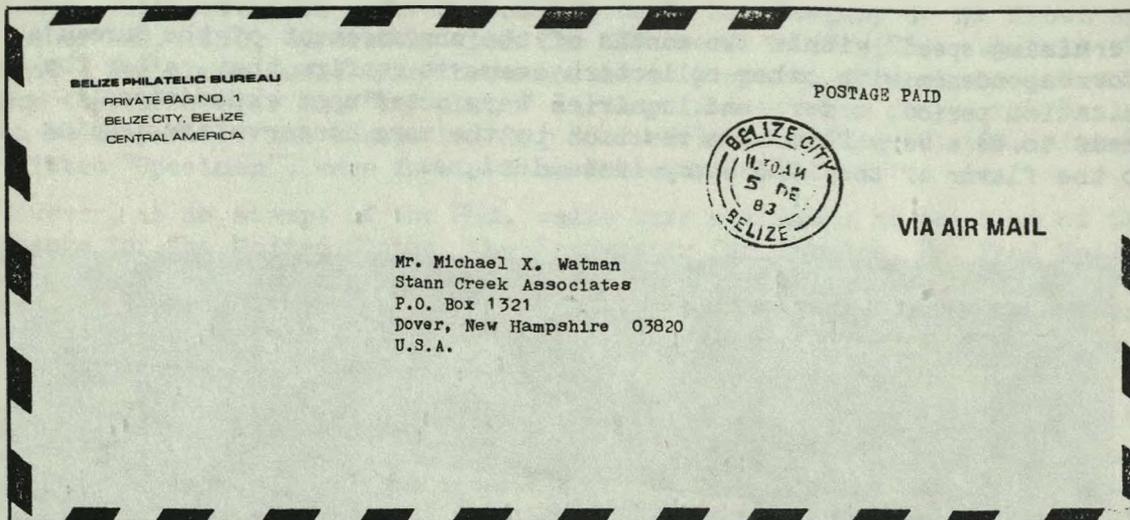


FIGURE 7

over ➔



IAN MATHESON reminds us that it's not too early to begin thinking about attending "Johannesburg 100", the International Philatelic Exhibition to be held 6-11 October 1986--- coinciding with the city's 100th anniversary. Any BCPSG'er wishing further "advance" information about the show should write to Ian at Transvaal Sales Office, AECI Ltd., P. O. Box 1938, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa. He will be only too happy to arrange a rendezvous or two with our small core of South African BCPSG'ers and other collectors of British Caribbeana.

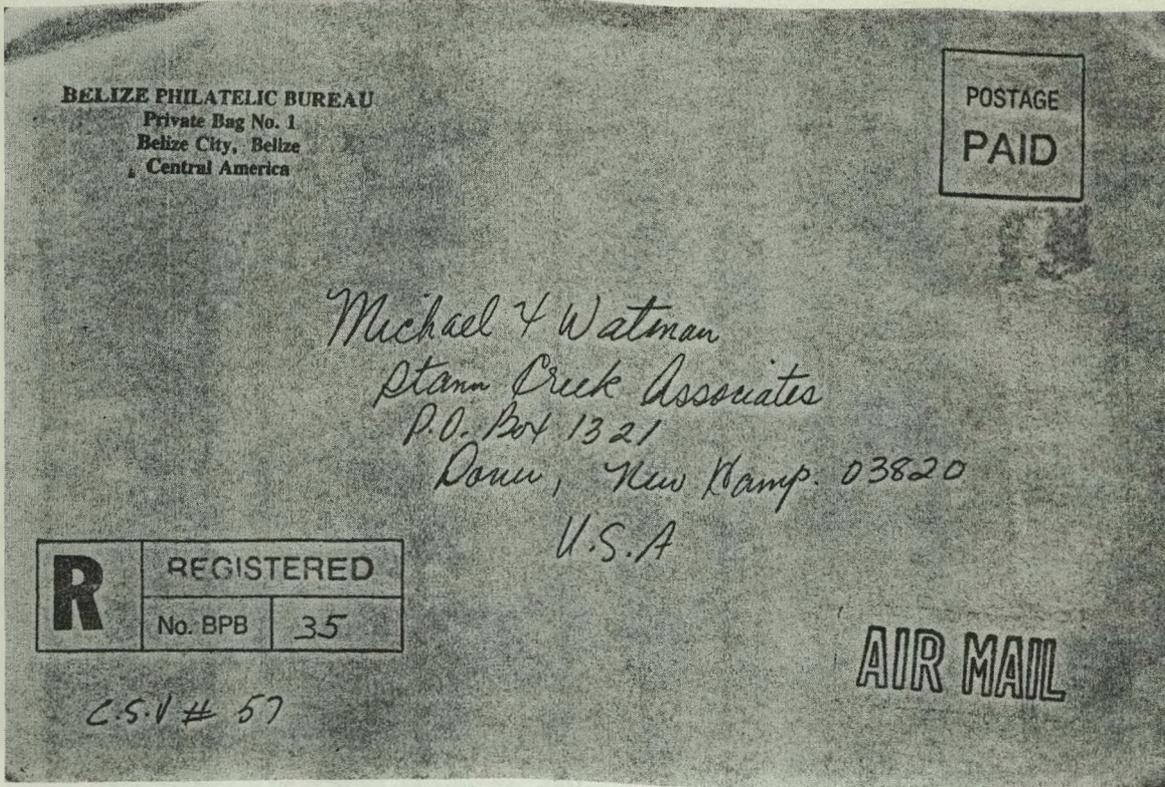


FIGURE 8

had reached "cruising speed" within two months of the announcement of the Bureau's formation. Correspondence with other collectors seems to confirm that, after the initial organization period, orders and inquiries were acted upon expeditiously. There also seems to be a very favorable reaction to the more conservative issuing policy and to the flavor of the 1983 stamp issue designs.

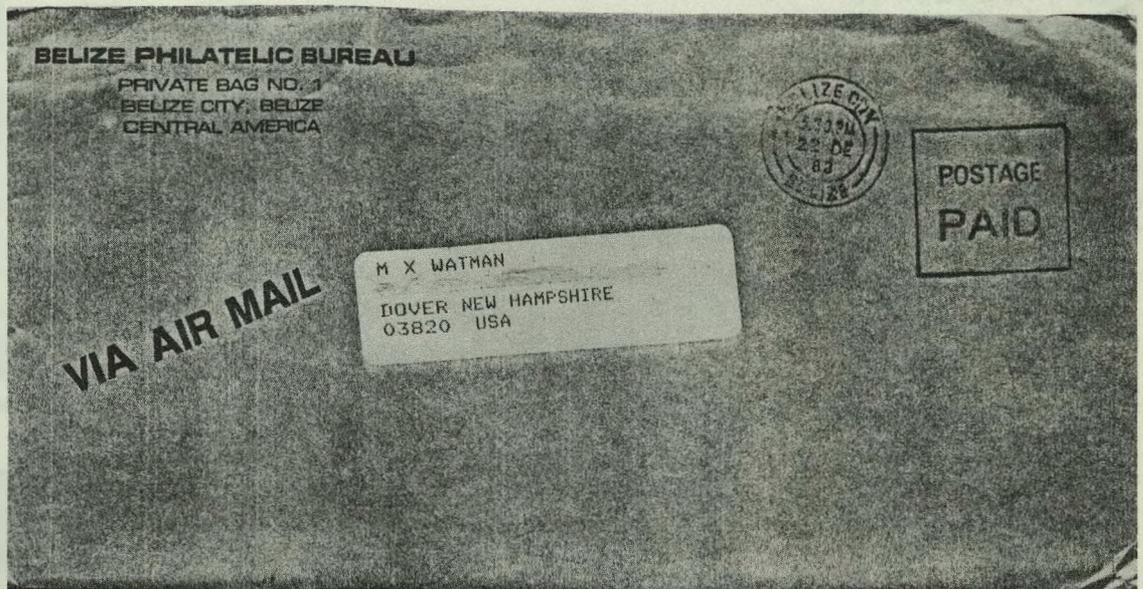


FIGURE 9

Readers wishing more information, or desiring to be placed on the Bureau's mailing list for new issue announcements, should contact the Belize Philatelic Bureau, Private Bag No. 1, Belize City, Belize, Central America.

NOTE: Figures 3, 4, 7, 8, and 9 are all reduced size.

BCPSG Meeting - COLOPEX '85

READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 117

JAMAICA'S 2 1/2d. ON 4d. PROVISIONAL ISSUE OF 1890

by *Clint von Pohle*

Prior to 1890 Jamaica had no use for a stamp of the 2½d. value. A letter to the United States cost 4d., while the reply was only five cents. About that time local agitation was started to equalize the rate, and the matter was taken up by the Legislative Council. This resulted in the announcement by Governor Sir Henry A. Blake in the newspapers of May 29th, 1890, that letters of not over ½-ounce in weight would be received for the United States at the rate of 2½d. On the first of January 1891 this rate was extended to mail for other countries of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

A 2½d. definitive was ordered from the De La Rue Company by the Crown Agents on December 2nd, 1890, apparently with the UPU use in mind ((1)). When it was suggested that a new plate would take three months to prepare, consent was given on December 8th for the use of the "key plate" already in use, with only a new "value" tablet to be prepared. The stamps (SG 29, Scott 26), totalling 291,600, with 400 overprinted "Specimen", were invoiced on February 3rd, 1891.

However, as no stamps of the 2½d. value were available at the time of the rate change for the United States, the Postmaster for Jamaica, Mr. Fred Sullivan, deemed it advisable to issue a "provisional". No official records have been found (they likely having been destroyed in the earthquake which heavily damaged Kingston in January 1907), but the 4d. stamp, not being required for foreign correspondence after the end of 1890, was a logical candidate for the overprinting.

The first interest into the background of the provisional stamp apparently was shown by Dr. R. Stanley Taylor, who, writing in Gibbons Stamp Weekly ((2)), traces his efforts to gain information from a relative in Jamaica with regard to the "thin" OFFICIAL overprints, as well as to the 2½d. on 4d. provisional. Much of his introductory article was recently reprinted in the BCPJ ((3)).

Dr. Taylor was successful in obtaining the name of the printer, Camille Vendryes, and through intermediaries submitted a series of questions, thus obtaining what information the printer was willing to give, based on his memory of the work performed some nineteen years earlier. While the questions Dr. Taylor asked Vendryes apparently have not been preserved for us, the replies of the printer were obtained by Mr. G. C. Gunter some years later, and printed in The Jamaica Philatelist ((4)). Vendryes identified the type used as "8 line gothic elongated upper and lower case and figures by the New England Type Foundry, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.", and asserts that all of the 4d. stamps remaining in stock with the Stamp Commissioner were overprinted at the time of the third setting.

((1)) Numbers in double parentheses refer to similarly-numbered references at the end of the article.

Following this pioneer study, other outstanding students of Jamaica philately have turned their attention to these provisionals, among them W. B. Edwards, Captain Gilbert Lodge, and George Pearson. Efforts to plate the various surcharges resulted in the conclusion that there were three different settings, not just the two recognized by Dr. Taylor. In addition, it was found that Dr. Taylor's second setting was actually prepared before his so-called first setting.

The 4d. stamps had been furnished to the Colony by the printers, De La Rue and Company, in sheets of 240 ((5)), consisting of four panes of sixty stamps each, six horizontal by ten vertical subjects. These were broken down to pane size in order to fit the press Vendryes was using. As there was not sufficient type available to set the surcharge sixty times to fit the full pane, the printing was done on only a portion of a pane at a time. Thus, the first setting comprised the treatment of ten stamps at a time, arranged in a vertical column; the complete pane had to be run six times through the press. For the second setting, the type was set up twelve times, arranged in two horizontal rows of six each, requiring five passes through the press. The third setting was composed of only three examples, which required twenty runs through the press to complete a pane. This explains the many opportunities for error, as the guides had to be changed each time to relocate the stamps in relation to the type. This becomes clear as one studies the plates which accompany Dr. Taylor's articles.

Writing in Gibbons Stamp Monthly ((6)), Pearson described and illustrated the characteristics of each surcharge used in the three settings, and gave helpful hints to those who would be interested in reconstructing the settings from individual stamps.

The purpose of these notes is to make available enlarged examples of the overprints, taken from the stamps themselves, together with a list of the outstanding characteristics of each surcharge of the first two settings. This should enable the enthusiast to correctly place each setting in its original position in the printing. Since large blocks are very rarely seen these days, most of us have to work from individual stamps, which in themselves are becoming increasingly difficult to locate, with an accompanying increase in price.

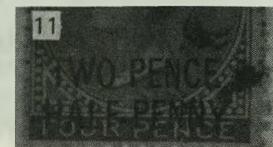
THE FIRST SETTING

The first setting consists of ten surcharges, set in a vertical pattern, which required six impressions of the press to print each pane. The earliest date known of a cancelled stamp is June 4th, 1890. There is a 1 mm. space between each of the two lines of the overprint. The vertical stroke of the "T" of "TWO" in relation to the second vertical stroke of the "H" in "HALF" is a good guide for a start in identifying the location of the various settings.

1	1	1	1	1	1
2	2	2	2	2	2
3	3	3	3	3	3
4	4	4	4	4	4
5	5	5	5	5	5
6	6	6	6	6	6
7	7	7	7	7	7
8	8	8	8	8	8
9	9	9	9	9	9
10	10	10	10	10	10

The First Setting

Position 2



The main characteristics of each surcharge are given below. There may be minor variations in some copies, due to the amount of ink used, or the differing pressure of impression as the pane passed through the press.

Position 1

"T" slightly to left of second vertical stroke of "H". Second foot of "W" is shortened and slightly curved. Upper right section of "O" flattened. Second vertical stroke of second "N" in "PENNY" is thinned or broken.

"T" slightly to left of second vertical stroke of "H". Heavy first "E" in "PENCE". Foot of first downstroke of first "N" in "PENNY" is pointed and shortened.



Position 3

"T" slightly to left of second vertical stroke of "H". "P" of "PENCE" is spaced slightly wider from "E" than is the "P" in "PENNY". Thick "N" in "PENCE". "F" made from an "E" by cutting. Upper part of second downstroke of second "N" in "PENNY" is short.

Position 4



"T" slightly to left of second vertical stroke of "H". Thin or broken "T" where vertical and horizontal strokes meet. Thick downstroke in "P" of "PENCE". Thick "F" with rounded foot.



Position 5

"T" slightly to left of second vertical stroke of "H". Thick "L" in "HALF". Lower left stroke of "W" damaged. Thick "E" with lower horizontal stroke shortened in "PENNY".

Position 6



"T" to left of second stroke of "H". Very thick "O", with left side blurred. "F" shows bulbous bottom. "NY" of "PENNY" dropped slightly below other letters.



Position 7

"T" to right of second stroke of "H". Upper right segment of "C" ends in a straight, almost vertical, stroke. Thick "A", with lower right leg slightly angled out on some copies.

Position 8



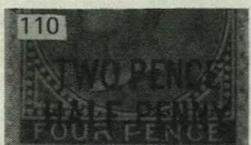
"T" immediately over second stroke of "H". Thick vertical stroke in "T". "F" apparently made by cutting the lower stroke from an "E" (portion still showing).



Position 9

"T" is thin, and immediately above second stroke of "H". "P" in both "PENCE" and "PENNY" spaced slightly away from their respective "E"'s. Bump on lower loop of "P" of "PENCE" (may have been cut from an "R" and portion still shows).

Position 10



"T" slightly to right of second stroke of "H". "P" in "PENCE" has heavy vertical stroke. "L" is thick. Both "P"'s spaced away from their respective "E"'s.

THE SECOND SETTING

The second setting was laid out horizontally in two rows of six overprints each. In the first row the two lines of the overprint are separated by a 1 mm. space; in the second row this space is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

Dr. Taylor states that his earliest used copy from this setting is dated in September 1890, which gives an approximate date for the overprinting. The first setting was apparently broken up before this printing was made, as some of the same letters used in the first setting can be found used in this setting also. There are some who maintain that the various printings of the "OFFICIAL" overprints may be dated by the

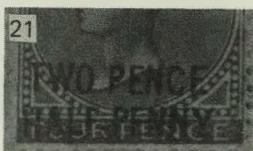
study of the use and wear of the various letters when compared with the three printings of this provisional. However, I have yet to see a definitive study of this relationship.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12

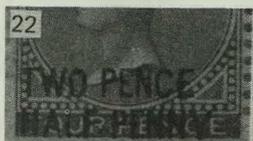
The Second Setting

Position 2 ➤

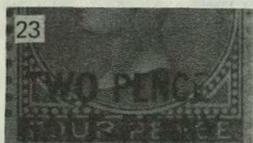
Position 1



"T" slightly to left of second vertical stroke of "H". "H" is inverted, which drops it well below the rest of the word "HALF". "P" of "PENCE" is spaced away from "E".



"T" centered approximately between the vertical strokes of "H". "H" has dried ink spots both above and below horizontal bar. Second vertical of "N" in "PENCE" is directly above the first vertical of first "N" of "PENNY".



Position 3

"T" is slightly to left of second vertical of "H". Vertical stroke of "T" broken. Heavy "O" in "TWO". "F" for "E" in "PENNY". Dot above horizontal bar in "H". "NY" of "PENNY" slightly raised.

Position 4



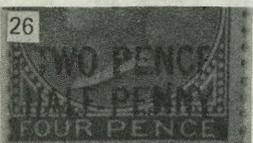
"T" is very slightly to left of second vertical of "H". "W" thinned at upper right. "P" of "PENCE" has thinned curve at lower right. Final "E" in "PENCE" is slightly low. "A" is short at top. Break in first downstroke of first "N" of "PENNY".



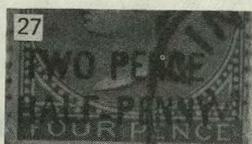
Position 5

"T" to right of second vertical stroke of "H". Second foot of "w" shortened (see Setting 1, Position 1), and first downstroke broken. "P" in "PENCE" slightly to left of "P" below it.

Position 6



"T" to right of second vertical of "H". Vertical stroke of "T" short at bottom; some copies show it broken. "P" of "PENCE" to right of "P" below (this is the only case where this occurs). Dot between diagonal and right vertical strokes of first "N" of "PENNY". "E" of "PENNY" often appears as "F" (lower stroke thinned or broken).



Position 7

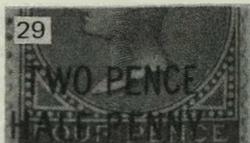
$1\frac{1}{2}$ -mm. spacing between lines of overprint. "T" slightly raised and slightly to the left of second vertical of "H"; vertical stroke thinned or broken. "P" of "PENNY" appears to have been cut from an "R" (see Setting 1, Position 9); bump on lower loop.

Position 8



$1\frac{1}{2}$ -mm. spacing between lines of overprint. "T" slightly to left of second vertical of "H". "O" has upper right section flattened (see Setting 1, Position 1). First downstroke of "N" in "PENCE" pointed and shortened (see Setting 1, Position 2). Top of "C" broken.

Position 9



1½-mm. spacing between lines of overprint. "T" to right of second vertical of "H". "F" cut from an "E" (traces of lower stroke still visible). Bottom stroke of "E" in "PENNY" is short. "P" in "PENNY" spaced from "E".

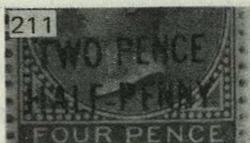
210



Position 10

1½-mm. spacing between lines of overprint. "T" slightly to right of second vertical of "H". "P" of "PENCE" directly over "P" of "PENNY". First "E" of "PENCE" damaged at left (has a short lower bar). First vertical stroke of "H" short at top. "L" cut from an "E" (traces visible). "F" for "E" in "PENNY". "Y" in "PENNY" formed from a "K" (lower right stroke removed).

Position 11



1½-mm. spacing between lines of overprint. "T" slightly to right of second vertical of "H". "A" thinned or broken at left above crossbar. "P" in "PENNY" spaced from "E". "E" in "PENNY" has short lower bar (almost an "F"). First vertical stroke in first "N" of "PENNY" damaged.

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Position 12

1½-mm. spacing between lines of overprint. "T" is immediately over right downstroke of "H". Left downstroke of "W" damaged. Second "E" of "PENCE" is widely spaced and lower than "C". "E" in "PENNY" has lost most of the upper two horizontal bars. Both "P"'s spaced from respective "E"'s.

THE THIRD SETTING

A third setting, consisting of three surcharges laid out horizontally, is known, and can be plated, but as no used copies have been found, its need and use is in doubt. I have not been successful in locating any copies, mint or used, in dealers' stocks. Perhaps one of our members can fill in the needed illustrations.

Vendryes says that he was approached on a number of occasions---apparently by some speculators---who suggested that he make up additional printings, but he claimed that he did not oblige them. He maintained that the variety showing a complete "K" for a "Y" is a forgery.

Vendryes was also responsible for the printing of the provisional "OFFICIAL" stamps, Scott 01 and 01a, but these printings are very difficult, if not impossible, to reconstruct from individual stamps, due to the apparent newness of the type; there are not the distinguishable differences of worn letters that are found on the 2½d. on 4d. provisional.



Stamp from Setting 1,
Position 5, showing
double overprint.

REFERENCES

- ((1)) John Easton, "Jamaica", The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps, pp. 501, 502.
- ((2)) R. Stanley Taylor, M.D., "Stamps of Jamaica", Gibbons Stamp Weekly, Volume VIII (1908), pp. 246-248, 295-298, 312-315.

- ((3)) Michael D. W. Vokins, "Jamaica: The Local Overprints as Accomplished by Camille Vendryes", British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, Volume 23, No. 3 (July 1983), pp. 83, 84.
- ((4)) H. Cooke, "Our Officials", The Jamaica Philatelist, Volume II, No. 16 (1942), pp. 15-19.
- ((5)) Easton, op. cit., pp. 252-255.
- ((6)) George Pearson, "Jamaica, the 2½d. on 4d. Provisional of 1890", Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Volume VI, No. 2 (November 1932), pp. 24-28.

Antigua Type PD Handstamps

BY THE REV. PETER H. BROOKS

On page 35 of his book "The Codrington Correspondence", Robson Lowe suggests that the straight-line ANTIGUA handstamp designated Type PD6 "was exclusively used in the Ship Letter Office in St. John's." As evidence, he cites the similarity to the ANTIGUA SHIP LRE handstamp in use during the same period, and adds that PD6 is known only on outgoing Ship Letters.

My own belief is that marks of origin of this type were used only in the Packet Office.

Two earlier types of the straight-line handstamp, PD3 and PD5, are also found on Ship Letters, but, like every other handstamp of this type, they are found on Packet Letters as well. From auction catalogue descriptions also, PD6 would seem to be on Packet Letters.

In "The Codrington Correspondence", PD3 is on two Packet Letters of 1782 and on two Ship Letters of 1783. The only example of PD5 is on a Packet Letter written in 1786. The four letters with the PD6 handstamp sent between May and July of 1789 all have Ship Letter markings of British ports.

Other letters have come to light which confirm that between 1782 and 1789 Types PD3, PD5, and PD6 are found on both Packet Letters and Ship Letters. Of a total of seven examples of PD3, three are on Ship Letters. One of the four letters bearing the PD5 marking is a Ship Letter. I have records of thirteen letters with the PD6 handstamp and, whilst the majority are on Ship Letters, auction catalogue descriptions suggest that a letter of March 1st, 1789, from the Tudway Correspondence is marked only with the PD6 handstamp, as are two letters from 1788 and 1789, both addressed to Scotland. These letters, and ones with other varieties of this handstamp used in between the known periods when PD3, PD4, PD5, and PD6 were in use*, all suggest that during the 1780's letters which passed through the Packet Office and received the straight-line Packet handstamp were carried as Ship Letters when the Packet Service was inadequate. This may have been in accordance with legislation passed in 1706 and referred to on page 100 of "The Codrington Correspondence", or along lines similar to the later "Withdrawn/Ship Letter" procedure. In my opinion, the evidence suggests that these handstamps were not used outside the Packet Office.

The other varieties mentioned above are two straight-line handstamps, one used in 1784 and the other in 1787, the latter on a letter also bearing a Ship Letter mark. As these varieties are not found in "The Codrington Correspondence", they were not given a designation in the PD series.

It would be helpful to find examples of other letters from Antigua which would clar-

* Type PD3: April 1782 to August 1783; Type PD4: December 1783; Type PD5: April to December 1786; and Type PD6: April 1788 to July 1789.

ify this matter, and letters from other islands bearing both Packet handstamps of the place of origin and Ship Letter handstamps. These might support my thesis that at certain times letters taken to the Packet Office were handstamped there, but allowed to be carried by private ship.

Bob Danzer's BERMUDA BRIEFS

(Ed: Bob's discussion of interesting stamps and covers in his Bermuda collection is continued from the previous Journal. Because his Items 1. and 2. were described in July's issue, and in order to maintain a thread of continuity throughout his "briefs", I have begun this chapter with No. 3.)

3. THE NUMERAL POSTMARKS ON QUEEN VICTORIA STAMPS

This letter from Baileys Bay, dated September 30, 1880 (the year slug "80" is inverted), is postmarked with the Type K3a Duplex No. 13 of the first organization of the rural receiving offices. It is typical of the postmarks showing Nos. 5 through 19. Numbers 1 through 4 bore the actual name of the post office (Hamilton, St. Georges, Ireland Island, and Mangrove Bay) in the CDS alongside the number, in place of the Bermuda/R.O. Examples of various numbers are illustrated here on stamps off cover.

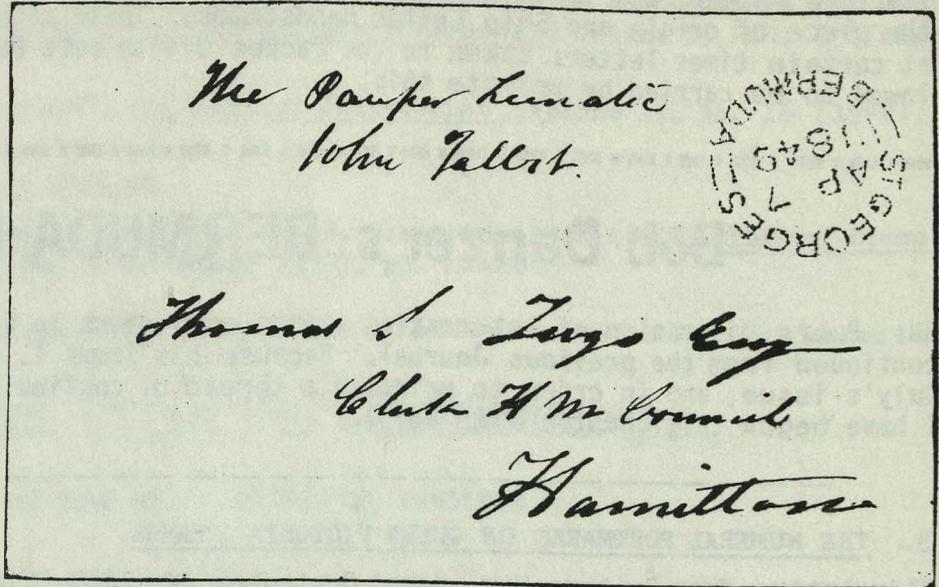


Collecting stamps showing these numbers can be a real challenge---I'm still hunting down No. 18. During 1879-1895, two sets of numbers of different type fonts were used. These are listed by Ludington as K3 and K4. (In addition, the first set of numbers was reassigned to new offices in July of 1882.) The earlier Type K1 is almost never seen with numbers other than 1, 2, and 3. Type K2 seems to have only been used at St. Georges as the letter B over No. 1 (shown above at the lower left).

4. THE 1848 PAUPER LUNATIC INLAND LETTER

This early envelope, which fortunately contains the original letter, bears a St. Georges Type P.M.5 handstamp in red and a manuscript marking "the pauper lunatic John

Talbot". It seems that the church wardens of St. Georges were concerned that the pauper lunatic rightfully should have been housed in the Hamilton Asylum. They also ask for permission to sell the property of another insane man to help pay for his upkeep at the St. Georges Asylum. Such were the problems in December 1848!



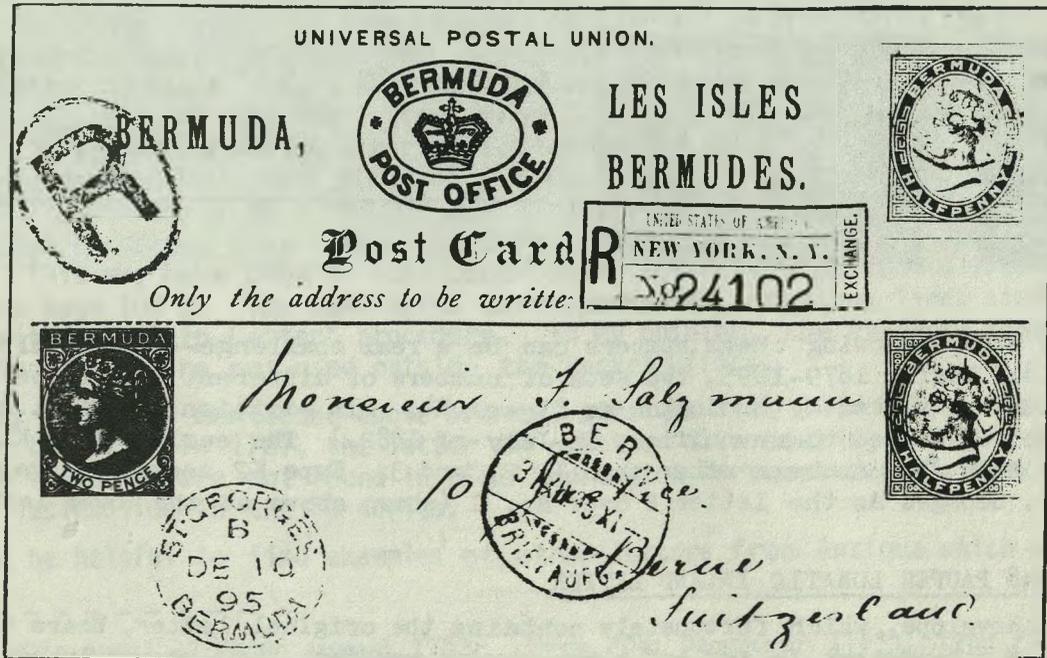
5. BERMUDA USED ABROAD (IN IRELAND, OF ALL PLACES!)



This 6d. dull purple Bermuda stamp of 1865 was cancelled with the No. 65 duplex of Belturbet, Ireland. The color of this stamp made it easily confused with the 6d. 1862 issue of Great Britain. Ludington states that the color was changed to a much lighter shade in 1874 to eliminate this confusion. Since the Bermuda pound was worth much less than the pound sterling of Britain, there could have been an incentive to substitute the Bermuda stamp on letters from Britain.

6. THE FIRST POSTAL CARDS

These were issued without imprinted stamps; instead, stamps were pasted on the cards before being sold---the ½d. buff on the inland card and the ½d. + 1d. stamps on the



card for overseas. The card at the bottom of the previous page shows late usage (in 1895) of the inland card registered to Switzerland, with additional ½d. and 2d. adhesive stamps. The rate at the time was 1d. postage and 2d. registration fee. The item went via New York City where the registry label was affixed.

7. A PRETTY PHILATELIC POSTCARD OF 1909

This grossly overpaid card was graced with an unusual registry label on arrive in Germany aboard a train. It says in essence "from outside Germany on board Train No. 15".



(TO BE
CONTINUED)

B.V.I. "Q"s - Quests, Queries, and Quotes

by J. L. FREDRICK

PAQUEBOT MARKS FOUND IN THE ROAD TOWN POST OFFICE

During a visit to the Road Town Post Office in 1976, I found four out-of-date two-line rubber paquebot stamps; each consisted of the word PAQUEBOT over the name of an inter-island mail boat. The boats were:

"ST. JOAN OF ARC"
"ST. URSULA"

"VIRGIN ISLANDER"
"GUIDE"

Information about these boats, obtained from various Tortola residents, was limited and/or inconsistent. Does anyone have any of these marks used on cover or piece, or any information about the marks, their source, and the boats themselves, including periods of use? (Incidentally, none of these marks are included in any of the standard Paquebot references, e.g., Hosking and Lund.)

BVI PICTURE POSTCARDS

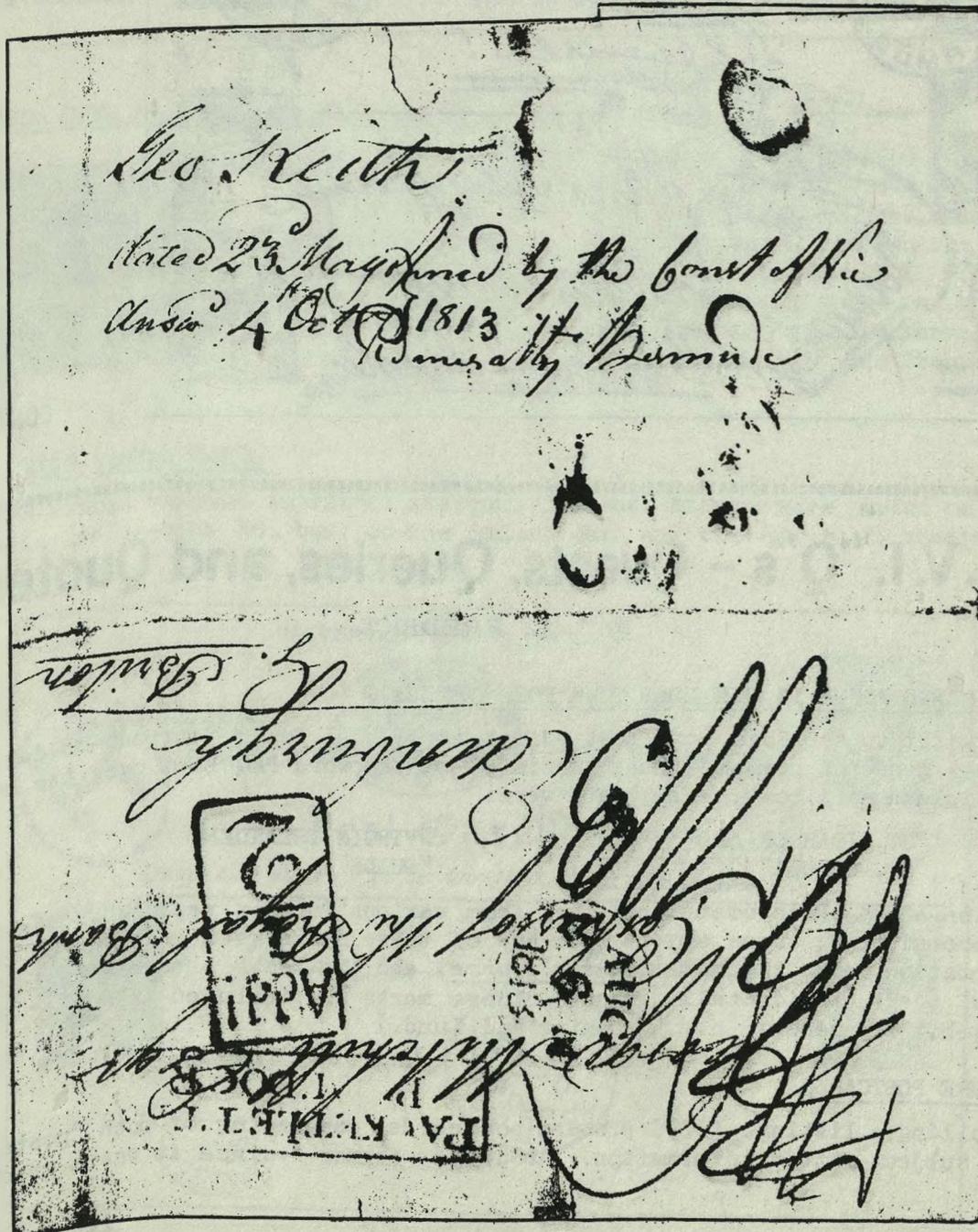
I am compiling a listing of BVI picture postcards, consisting of both "postal history" and subject-matter information. About the former---since it was a practice, at

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A CENSORED LETTER OF THE WAR OF 1812

by M. H. Ludington

When war broke out with the United States in June of 1812, England had only some 35 ships in her North American Squadron, based in Halifax and Bermuda. Privateers, a few of them Bermudian, supplemented the widely scattered naval vessels, one of whose duties was, theoretically, to enforce a blockade of the entire East Coast of the United States---an impossible task. By 1813 the naval situation in Europe had improved sufficiently to allow more ships to be sent across the Atlantic, so that by the end of that year the British fleet in American waters had been increased to over 100 ships, ranging from 11 ships of the line, each of 74 guns, down to small 4-gun sloops, the majority being frigates of 20 to 40 guns. Bermuda became the base from which the attacks against the Chesapeake Bay area were launched, which included the



expedition that burned Washington, D.C., and the bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore in August and September 1814.

A Vice Admiralty Prize Court had been in existence for some years in Bermuda to rule on the status of vessels and their cargoes captured from the French and their European allies, and this was expanded in 1812 to include captured United States ships.

A letter has recently been found, written in Charleston, South Carolina, and addressed to Edinburgh, Scotland, which was censored in Bermuda and allowed to continue its journey, since it dealt with nothing but business matters. This letter, from a certain George Keith, is headed "Charleston, So. Carolina, May 3rd 1813", and is addressed to "George Mitchell, Esq., Cashier of the Royal Bank, Edinburgh, G. Britain". In it Keith mentions four previous letters to which he had received no replies, and goes on to list sums of money due to him by various people in Great Britain.

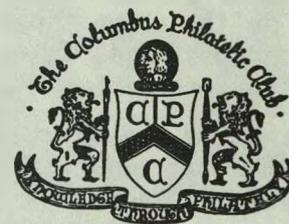
There is no Charleston postal marking, so the letter apparently left as a Ship Letter on board a vessel which was captured and brought to Bermuda. Here it was opened, breaking the central seal impressed with a fine lozenge design. The letter was checked, passed, and, in order to explain the delay and the broken seal, was marked on the back in manuscript "Opened by the Court of Vice / Admiralty Bermuda" in two lines. It was resealed with two new seals, each impressed with five small rings, and put on board a warship returning to Plymouth, England. Here it received, in red, the framed two line "PACKET LETTER / PLYM: DOCK" (a rare type) on the front. It was charged 7s. 6d., corrected to 7s. 3d. in manuscript, representing a triple weight---over 3/4 ounce but under one ounce; 3s. 3d. packet letter plus 4s. Plymouth to Edinburgh via "London inland". There is also the usual framed "Addl. 1/2d" handstamp, charged on all letters by mail coach in Scotland. In red, on the front, appears an Edinburgh date stamp of AUG 6 1813. The letter is docketed "Geo. Keith / dated 23" (error for "3") "May / answd. 4th Octr. 1813".

This is the first recorded letter from the United States to Europe during the War of 1812 showing that it had passed through censorship in Bermuda.

BCPSG TO MEET IN COLUMBUS

As briefly touched upon in the insert to the previous Journal, the BCPSG's 1985 Annual Meeting will take place at COLOPEX, to be held at the Quality Inn, 4900 Sinclair Road, Columbus, Ohio, on 8-10 March 1985. COLOPEX, an APS-accredited show staged by the Columbus Philatelic Club, is located in a part of the Midwest centrally located among a considerable number of homes of BCPSG members.

RUSS SKAVARIL, COLOPEX General Chairman, has already (and this is being written in late July!) begun coordination proceedings between the COLOPEX Show Committee and the BCPSG. Russ promises that we can look forward to a great show---which seems to get better each year!--- that will feature top-flight exhibits and a philatelic literature competition. The BCPSG auction is tentatively scheduled for 10:00 A.M. until



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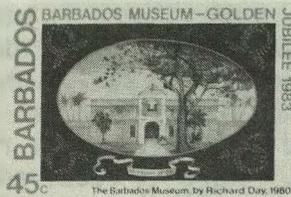
P.O. BOX 91, HARROGATE
NORTH YORKSHIRE HG2 0AB, UK
Telephone: Harrogate (0423) 69020

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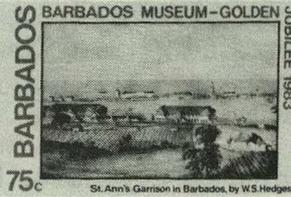
The Barbados Museum Golden Jubilee Issue

On 1 November 1983 Barbados issued an attractive set of three commemorative stamps to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society. Both the museum and the society were incorporated by an Act of the Barbados Legislature on 8 December 1933. The society had been formed one month earlier for the purpose of conserving, studying, and promoting interest in the culture and heritage of the island.

The stamps, designed by Mr. Derrick Miller and lithographed by the House of Questa, were printed in sheets of fifty, divided into two panes of 25 subjects each. The denominations are 45¢, 75¢, and \$2.50.



The Barbados Museum, by Richard Day, 1980.



St. Ann's Garrison in Barbados, by W.S. Hedges.



Needham's Point, Carlisle Bay, Barbados.

On the 45¢ value is shown the museum itself, which contains a permanent display of artifacts representing the history of Barbados. The Historical Society meets regularly in the building. When the British Army was garrisoned on the island the building served as a military prison. Constructed in 1853 by British Military Engineers, it was later enlarged to its present size.

The picture used for the stamp is the work of Mr. Richard Day, artist and art dealer who presently operates a gallery in London's Bond Street. The seated figure which Mr. Day has inserted to the right of the doorway is reputed to be Rachael Pringle Polgren, daughter of an African slave and her master, William Lauder. Rachael eventually became the owner of the Royal Naval Hotel in Bridgetown, in addition to ten other pieces of property on the island. (An enlarged picture of the vignette used for the stamp appears on the postcard on the cover of this Journal. The reverse of the postcard, which was printed by the Letchworth Press, Ltd., Bridgetown, contains the inscription "THE BARBADOS MUSEUM, By Richard Day, 1980".)

The 75¢ denomination shows an 1846 sketch by W. S. Hedges of St. Anne's Garrison, which at the time was the Headquarters for the British Army stationed in the Windward Islands.

A picture of Needhams Point, Carlisle Bay, Barbados, appears on the \$2.50 stamp. The original painting, dated in 1813, is on display in the Barbados Museum's Cunard Gallery.

This interesting trio of stamps reflects the efforts of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society to preserve the memories of the island's past for the benefit of today's Barbadians.

by Tony Shepherd

IN THE NEXT JOURNAL: JACK ARNELL begins his description of the Bermuda-Caribbean "Godet Correspondence"; TONY SHEPHERD shows photographs of Barbados post offices taken thirty years ago; and MICHAEL VOKINS extracts the Jamaica portion of "L'Union Postale".

BELIZE RUMINATIONS

by CARL F. TROY

(Ed: In this issue Carl continues his discussion of Belize overprint and surcharge varieties which began in the previous BCPJ.)

INDEPENDENCE OVERPRINT VARIETIES

A consistent "heavy lettering" variety appears once per pane of 25 stamps in the horizontal format Shell definitives (Figure 1); it is found on the fourth stamp in the the third row.

Another constant variety appears on the 25¢ Rotary Issue, in which the overprint is completely missing on the fifth stamp in the third row (Figure 2). This error was discovered shortly after issuance and all sheets in stock were temporarily pulled from sale. After the offending single was detached from each sheet (!), the remaining overprints and the suddenly valueless missing overprint were again placed on sale.



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

over ➤

BCPSG TO MEET IN COLUMBUS (Continued from page 117)

noon on Sunday, 10 March.

Write to Russ for a prospectus for either the stamp exhibition, the literature exhibition (or both), and Quality Inn reservation cards. His address is 222 East Torrence Road, Columbus, OH 43214.

"BELIZE" ON "BRITISH HONDURAS"
OVERPRINTS OF
1973



FIGURE 3

anyone else have copies of this variety on the 3¢ or on other values of the set?

LOCAL SURCHARGE VARIETIES

5¢ on 15¢ Butterfly (Scott 386; Gibbons 448):

At least two distinct constant sheet settings of this surcharge exist (Figure 4). These were created in early December 1976, primarily for fiscal use on foreign remittances cashed during the Christmas season. What I have arbitrarily labelled "Type I" ---the upper stamp in Figure 4---has the obliterating rectangle approximately 11 mm below and 7 mm to the left of the tail of the "5". "Type II"---the lower stamp---has these distances as 13 mm below and 2 mm to the left. Type II appears to be the scarcer of the two settings. Does anyone know the quantities printed of each setting?



FIGURE 4



FIGURE 5

Figure 3 shows a pair of Scott 315, on which the silver bar which blocks out the words "British Honduras" is missing on both stamps. This was found on a small piece in a batch of office clippings. (There is a very faint yellowish area where the silver should have been.) Does

10¢ on 15¢ Shell (Figure 5):

The 16 July 1981 surcharge is shown on the left; the 28 January 1983 version is on the right. There are minor variations in each double-pane sheet of fifty, but the major difference is the size of the rectangle obliterating the old value. (The January 1983 surcharge rectangle is larger.)

10¢ Double Surcharge on 15¢ Shell (16 July 1981 Issue)

An enlargement of this variety from a sheet of fifty is shown in Figure 6. Do any other readers have this variety---or inverted surcharges? As with many recent local surcharges, humidity during the printing process has caused many sheets to stick to their glassine interleaving.

AND FINALLY...

In the "franked-cover-of-the-week" category, Figure 7 shows an example of postage due assessed to the sending Ministry by the Post Office Department. (The complete inscription at the top of the cachet at the right reads "MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS & HEALTH".)



FIGURE 6

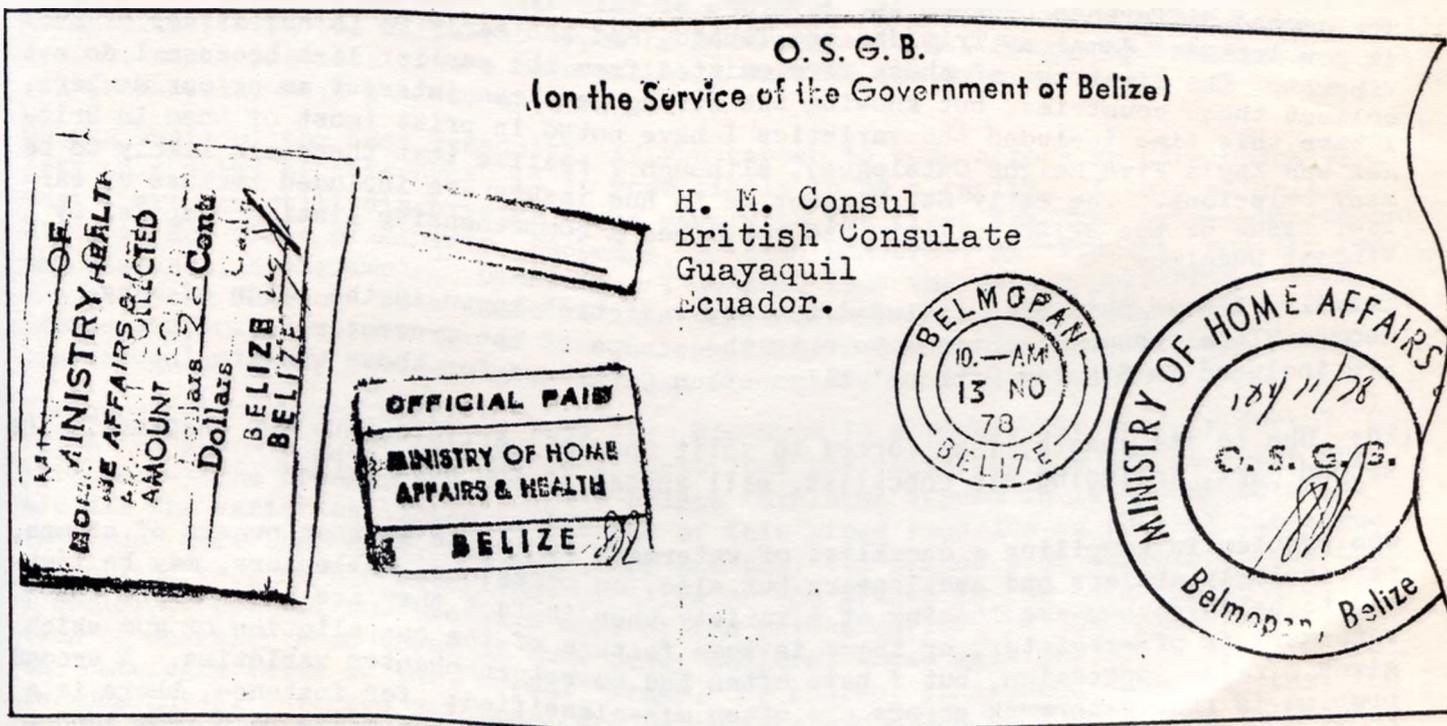


FIGURE 7

Watermark Varieties Revisited

by Charles A. Freeland

What is the difference between a stamp collector and a philatelist? There are many, of course, but one criterion I suggest is what he first looks at on the back of a stamp. The collector looks at the hinge marks and the philatelist looks at the watermark. There can be rich rewards for those lucky enough to find unrecognized watermark varieties. On the other hand, some relatively common varieties command high prices (in the U.K. market, at least), so the moral, as elsewhere, is that knowledge will pay dividends.

The BWISC Bulletin of September 1981 contained a checklist of BWI watermark varieties known to me. George Bowman has asked me to update that list and to add some observations about the collecting of watermark varieties. The checklist at the end of this article has a wider coverage than that which appeared in the Bulletin. Firstly, while still omitting Perkins-Bacon "Star" watermarks, it includes printings by De La Rue from the Perkins-Bacon plates (both CC and CA watermarks) which I omitted from the earlier listing because I did not regard them as particularly significant. I still do not, since it appears that there were technical considerations concerning the glazings of the paper which meant that some sheets were deliberately fed upside down, leading to cases in which certain issues show frequent (and in a few instances invariable) reversed watermarks. Even where this was not the case, the operators at this period seem to have taken no great trouble to insert the paper at the correct angle so that inverted watermarks abound and even sideways watermarks are not unknown. I have taken no great pains in the past to note reports of watermark varieties on such issues, so the listing in that respect can be regarded as a first effort which is bound to be incomplete to some degree.

The second difference between the coverage of this list and its predecessor is that it now includes Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and the early De La Rue issues of St. Vincent. The first two of these were omitted from the earlier list because I do not collect those countries, but knowing the strong Jamaican interest among our members, I have this time included the varieties I have noted in print (most of them in Bridger and Kay's Five Reigns Catalogue), although I realize that there are likely to be many omissions. The early St. Vincent De La Rue issues are included because an earlier issue of the BWISC Bulletin had contained a comprehensive listing compiled by Vincent Duggleby.

Thirdly, I have this time included the few varieties known in the reign of King George VI, although I continue to omit the stamps of the present reign. These last are included in Stanley Gibbons' Elizabethan Catalogue for those who are interested.

(Ed: Due to its length, I am forced to split Charles' article into two chapters. The second part, including his checklist, will appear in the next BCPJ.)

One problem in compiling a checklist of watermark varieties is that owners of stamps, particularly dealers and auctioneers but also, on occasions, collectors, may be tempted to believe they are looking at a variety when in fact they are not. Maybe the watermark is off-register, or there is some feature of the cancellation or gum which gives a false impression, but I have often had to return phantom varieties. A second problem is that watermark errors are often mis-classified; for instance, there is a tendency to report reversed watermarks as inverted. This can arise both from ignorance and from carelessness.

My personal practice when ordering from dealers or bidding at auctions is to ask that the variety be rechecked before being sent to me. But even that is not foolproof. Sometimes one can profit from misconceptions, for example, when a variety described

as inverted is found to be sideways. Reputable philatelic literature is also not infallible; for example, Charlton records the Grenada KGV 1/- black on green as existing with Script watermark inverted. I feel sure that he was referring to the relatively common Multiple Crown inverted. Alternatively, Aguilar and Saunders lists a 1922 ¼d. with Script watermark inverted; this, I believe, may have been a mis-reading of the inverted and reversed variety. Unfortunately, it is usually impossible to establish the truth in such cases, since it can only be proved, and never disproved, that a particular variety exists. I have this time followed the intellectually dubious practice of including all the varieties which I have seen reported (omitting, of course, those I have personally verified as being incorrectly described), but with a query against those varieties whose existence has not yet been established to my own full satisfaction. I would be pleased to have confirmation of any of those so marked in my listing.

Another difficulty occurs with respect to shade differences. As in the Bulletin listing, I have not tried to differentiate, except in a few obvious cases, between shades, since their identification tends to be somewhat unreliable. The numbers given, therefore, may be taken to refer also to shades of the same stamp except in cases where two different shades are listed.

If it does not sound too pretentious, I believe that any varieties not on the list (with the exception of those parts of it which I have already noted as being incomplete) must be scarce. However, the fact that I am still adding to the list at the rate of about ten items per year means that new discoveries are still there to be made. If previous experience is any guide, a new crop of varieties will come to my notice as soon as this article appears in the Journal. There is, moreover, no guarantee that a "new" variety will turn out to be very scarce---it may, for example, be part of a sheet or large block in the same way as the St. Kitts 2/- SG 32 reversed watermark recently found in an old dealer's stock.

As a possible indication of where to search, I suggest that you try Specimens or sets such as Tercentenary Issues where few collectors would have bothered to look at watermarks. Those who have large collections of cancellations could usefully run through them, too. You are less likely to find an unrecorded variety on a stamp which exists with two different types of watermarks (e.g., Single and Multiple Crown), since previous owners have probably checked the watermark type and would in all probability have noticed an error.

On the basis of the same reasoning, if you happen to come across an unrecorded variety on a stamp of this type, it is more likely to be a rarity. I have a feeling that there are still discoveries to be made with the first Key Type sets---the Queen Victoria Key Types of Bahamas, Barbados, British Honduras, St. Vincent, and the Leeward Islands, for example. Otherwise, I suspect that the main opportunities will occur in the same old sets where so many varieties are already known, such as the Barbados 1920-21 Victory Set or the Jamaica 1919-21 Script Issues. Perhaps De La Rue's regular paper feeder was on holiday when these sets were printed!

The question everyone wants to know is: How much is a particular variety worth? Until a few years ago, it was anyone's guess, but the collector now has at least one yardstick---the Bridger and Kay Five Reigns Catalogue issued in 1980. By no means are all the varieties listed at the end of this piece recorded in the B&K Catalogue (not much more than half, in fact), nor are they all priced, but at least those that are priced reflect the experience of a dealer who trades in the material he quotes. I could, of course, quibble with some of the prices marked, but they bear more relation to scarcity than those of some other dealers, whose main criterion seems to be the catalogue value of the "normal" stamp. Of course, it is understandable that the Bermuda KGV £1 inverted watermark should carry a big price because of the value of the basic stamp, but is it justified to price other quite common varieties at, say, £100 just because the normal stamp catalogues £10? To take an obvious example, the Bermuda 1924 3d. with Script watermark inverted is one of the most common BWI watermark varieties, but because the basic stamp catalogues £20 in Gibbons, dealers ask anything from £25 upwards for it. You can find many such scarcer varieties for less

than that. I would argue that if those prices are a true reflection of scarcity, the Bermuda inverted watermark 3d. should be priced at less than the same stamp with normal watermark!

An indication of what is or is not likely to be scarce is whether a variety is known in used condition. If several copies are on the market at one time, all mint, it is a fair assumption that they come from a sheet which was part of a dealer's distribution. Such sheets are likely to have suffered much less natural wastage than those issued over the post office counter. Indeed, where a dealer has recognized the variety and marketed it as such, there will be plenty of identified copies in the hands of collectors and probably stocks still in the trade.

Another factor to bear in mind is sheet size. Assuming that one sheet of a variety exists (which is, of course, not invariably the case but is a reasonable hypothesis in the majority of instances), a variety of a stamp printed in sheets of twenty (such as the stamps of St. Christopher) is likely to be scarcer than those printed in sheets of 240. As one indication of the scarcity of individual items in the list, I have marked with a "C" those I believe from experience to be relatively common---in most cases stamps which exist or have existed in sheets or large blocks. I am happy to correspond with members about the scarcity of the varieties in which they are particularly interested.

Therefore, I have assumed that the stamps we are dealing with normally show upright watermarks and that the paper has been wrongly fed into the press, either back to front (leading the watermark to become inverted), upside down (reversed), or both (inverted and reversed). There are, however, a number of other possible watermark varieties which do not fall into these categories.

Firstly, it is quite easy to find stamps with watermarks misplaced (either horizontally or vertically) because the paper was not inserted in the correct register. This may be manifested in a single CC or CA watermark off-center, or in the appearance of lines or letters from the margins of the watermarked paper. Secondly, a small number of stamps may be found with the watermark missing altogether. An interesting issue in this regard is the Turks and Caicos 1900 set, all the low values of which may be found showing instances of the two types of variety just mentioned. A plausible explanation of the reason for this is given by Morris Ludington in John Challis' recently issued *Roses Handbook* on this territory. Thirdly, varieties of watermark can arise from an error of configuration in the watermarked paper itself. Perhaps the best known example of this is the Script watermarked paper used in the early 1950's, which can be found with one of the crowns missing or with the wrong shape of crown in the watermark.

Such varieties of this type of error as are known are listed by Gibbons in their Part One Catalogue, but rather less attention has been paid to the equally arresting varieties caused by other defects in the dandy roll. In the early 1920's, for example, stamps were occasionally issued showing the "C" or the "A" missing from the CA in the Multiple Crown CA paper. I have noted reports of such flaws on the Barbados 1920 Victory Issue, the Bermuda 1920 2/- definitive, and the two Bermuda Tercentenary Sets of 1920 and 1921. A similar occurrence apparently arose with the Multiple Script paper, since I have seen offered at auction a copy of the Dominica 5¢ definitive of 1951 with the "C" of CA missing.

Fourthly, and perhaps most spectacular of all, there is a possibility of the wrong watermarked paper being fed into the press. I cannot recall any instances of this in the period I am covering, but more recently there has been the notorious case of Malawi's special paper showing cockerels in the watermark being used in error for printing stamps of other countries.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

This and That...

On page 88 of the July 1983 Journal, MICHAEL PERLIN discussed the rarity of British Honduras booklets. He illustrated a pane, and the front and back covers, from the King George V booklet which contained ten panes of ten two-cent browns issued in 1923. CHARLES FREELAND has now sent an illustration of a first flight cover of December 5th, 1931, only five of which were flown on the leg to Merida, franked with a



pane from a later booklet with the two-cent rose-carmine stamp (issued in 1926). He wonders whether any other member has an example of mail from this flight, and, if so, whether it is also franked with a pane from the same booklet.

From MICHAEL WATMAN comes a reply to the Editor's "gentle prodding" at the top of page 54 of the April 1984 BCPJ. When confronted with the challenge to explain "just what all those numbers on the envelope (pictured on page 53) mean", Mike wrote:

"These seem to be reference numbers for the correspondence or documents contained in the covers. At least an examination of some correspondence from Belize would tend to support that view...they seem to indicate a file or volume number.

"The last digits (other than those in parentheses) indicate the year, seemingly, although notations such as 83-84 pop up, too, during the late or early months of a year. At times 'Vo.' precedes the number, which could signify either 'Volume' or 'Voucher'.

"I suspect that many of the covers I obtain originally contained payments for goods or services, so perhaps an 'invoice number' might be involved, too."

True, Mike didn't seem "rock-hard" confident that his explanations were 100% valid ---he signed off his letter with the phrase "Enough of this wild guessing"---but at least he's laid out some ideas for other readers to develop.

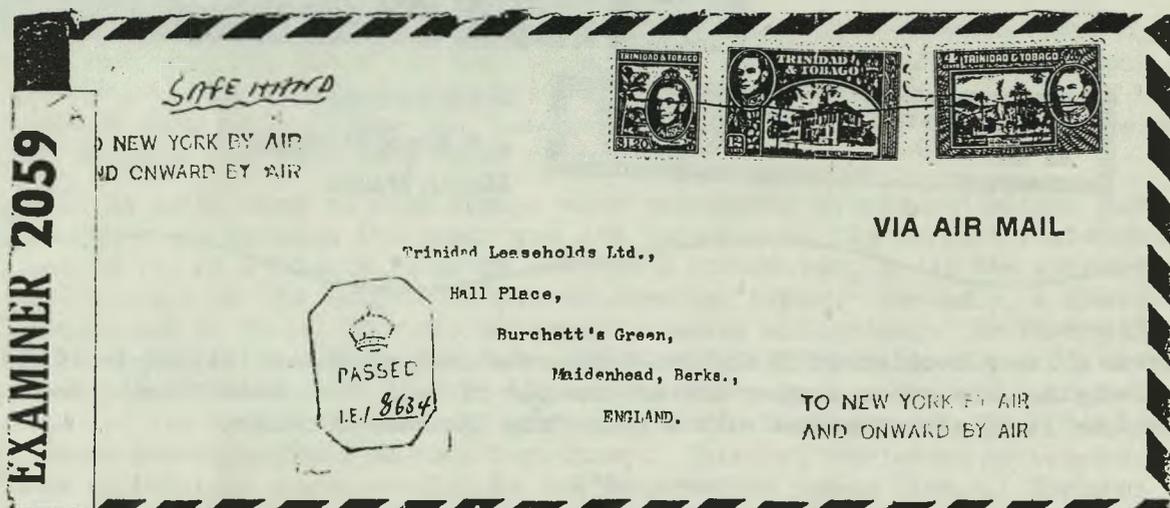
In the same correspondence as above, Mike talks about HORST AUGUSTINOVIC's "MISSENT TO BELIZE, C.A." handstamp shown as the right half of Figure 6 on page 47. (Horst had presumed that the addition of "C.A." to this handstamp occurred after---or, per-

126 haps as a result of---Belizean Independence.) Mike explains:

"Some mail posted by me to Belize is returned for additional franking at times, apparently because postal clerks do not know that Belize is in Central---not South---America, and, hence, requires only 35¢---not 40¢---for air post! Many return addresses from Belize firms or Government agencies often have 'C.A.' therein, and I now address mail to Belize as 'Belize, Central America' to avoid delays for 'additional postage required'!

"So, the addition of the 'C.A.' to the 'Missent' mark may have more to do with a general trend in addressing rather than with (1981) Independence as implied by Horst."

The item illustrated below (reduced to 64% of full size) was submitted by BRUCE WALKER. It is a censored cover from Trinidad to England via New York, but it unfortunately is undated. Bruce remarks that the "crowned" standard PASSED censor handstamp (applied here in purple ink) is the first of its type he has seen used in Trinidad. The words "Safe Hand" appear in red in manuscript, as does the number "8634" inserted in the handstamp.



Apparently the censor in England wasn't too sure about how to interpret the "Safe Hand" notation, because it appears that he himself opened the letter for examination and then resealed it with the "(Opened By) EXAMINER 2059" P.C.90 label.

Bruce wonders if other BCPSG'ers have seen covers from Trinidad to England bearing a similar handstamp, label, and "Safe Hand" inscription, and, if so, the date of the postmark.

Back in early April MIKE PERLIN submitted the following "Philatelic Observations from a Recent (and Magical) Vacation in Jamaica":

"When I purchased a reggae record in a duty-free shop in Ocho Rios, I noted that three stamps were used---one 1¢ 'Tennis' (Scott 465) and two 2¢ 'Golfing' (Scott 466)---to "seal" the record, in the same way that U.S. revenue stamps have been used to seal cigarette packs and liquor bottles. The storekeeper verified that all recent shipments of locally-produced phonograph records had such stamps, but he did not know whether they were used to comply with government regulations or merely to insure that the record could not be tampered with.

"Have any readers made similar purchases, or have they seen records distributed in such a manner? Have stamps been used in a similar way for other products? Has this been noticed on other B.W.I. islands? Are revenue stamps contemplated for Jamaica?"

(Ed: Write to Mike at 219 Morningside Drive, Trenton, New Jersey 08618. I don't know whether to refer to the people behind this record-sealing policy as musical philatelists or philatelic musicians!)

HORST AUGUSTINOVIC recently forwarded the following postmark examples:

(1) On 17 January 1984, one of the two Hamilton, Bermuda, meter machines began using the anniversary slogan shown in Figure 1. This slogan, noting the 375th birthday of Bermuda's settlement, will remain in use throughout 1984.



BERMUDA
375th Anniversary
1984

FIGURE 1

The same slogan was installed in Mangrove Bay on 18 January, and in the second Hamilton machine on 16 February. A slug error occurred on 26 January (see Figure 2), wherein the date and time values were transposed, causing mail to be metered at "26 PM on 4 January 1984" !

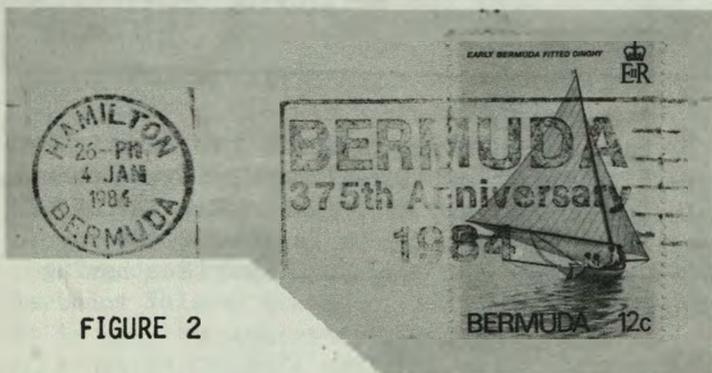


FIGURE 2

(2) Two "Missent" marks, one from St. Kitts and the other from Barbados, are pictured in Figures 3 and 4. Horst's example of the former is on a cover postmarked at Piscataway, New Jersey, on 15 August 1983 and addressed to Hamilton. The latter mark was applied to a cover mailed at Darien, Connecticut, and addressed to Hamilton, but the postmark date is illegible.

Missent to St. Kitts

FIGURE 3

Horst advised that on 3 October 1983 all the Bermuda post offices were issued new hand cancellers, and that the old cancellers were withdrawn. He promises that he will, in the near future, provide an article describing these new marks.

MISSENT TO
BARBADOS

FIGURE 4

MORRIS LUDINGTON submitted a "complete" xerox of the Lady Drake Type 3C handstamp (Figure 5) described by MIKE REGO on page 40 of the April 1984 BCPJ. (In Mike's example the tonnage figures were illegible; the weights are Gross 798491, Net 492049.)

Morris' cover also contains a strike of the MAILED AT SEA stamp which

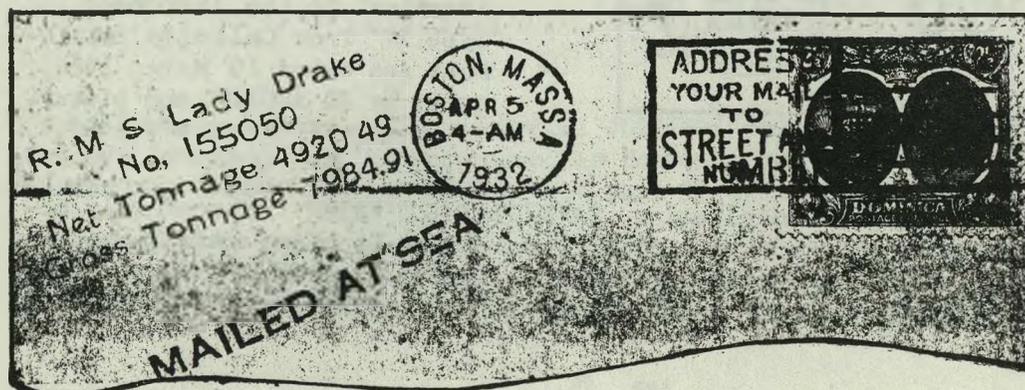


FIGURE 5

Mike calls
Type 3A.
Both marks
are in
magenta.

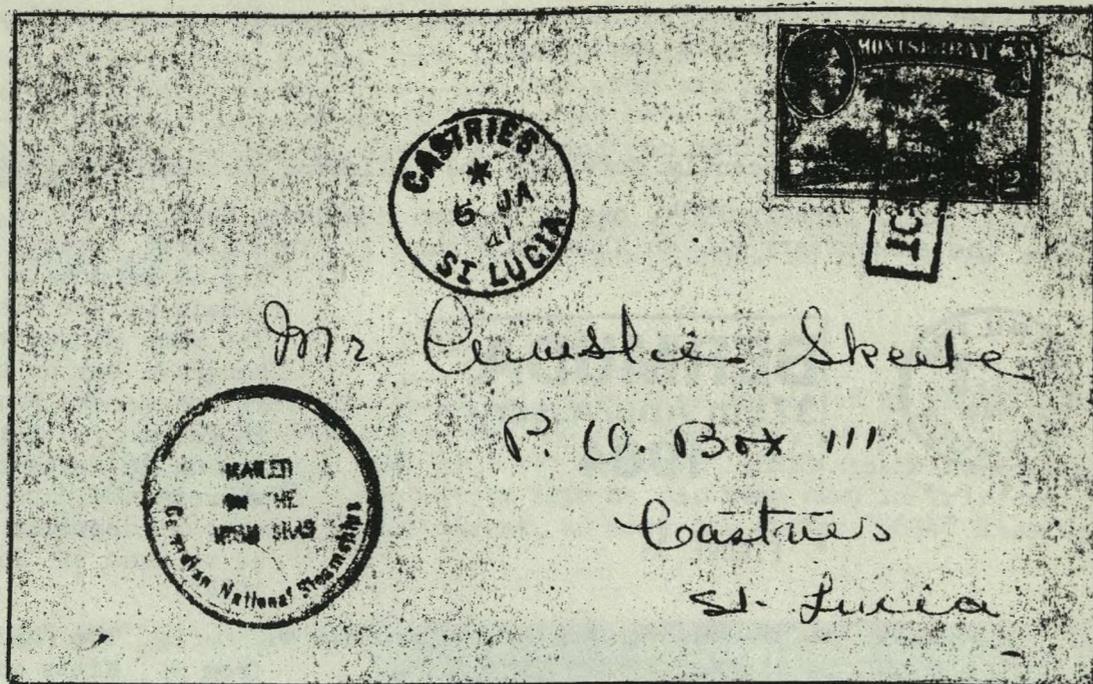


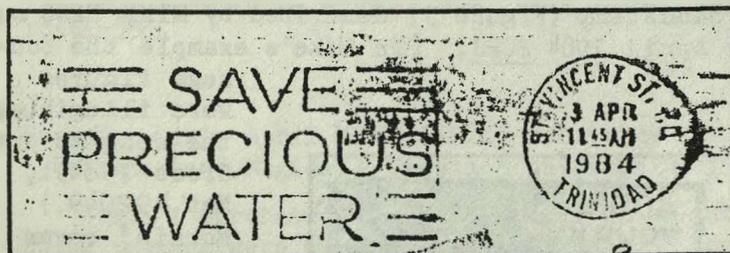
FIGURE 6

Morris also provided a copy of the Type 3E Lady Drake stamp in which the inscription R.M.S. LADY DRAKE has been cut out (Figure 6). This "mutilated" mark, in violet ink, is on a cover arriving at Castries, St. Lucia, on January 6th, 1941. Mike's LDK of this handstamp, in unaltered form, is April 24th, 1939. Morris is interested in finding out if any readers have come across examples of "Lady Boat" strikes having the names removed as a wartime modification.



BEN RAMKISSOON submits his latest observations of post-mark developments in Trinidad:

"The circular mark shown at the far left is a new type of CDS, first seen in January 1984 and used at the registration section at the General Post Office. This same style of CDS was used in February at St. James and Newtown (illustrated). This mark appears identical to the 'proposed Type XV' from Calcutta Settlement and dated 19 March 1984, noted by ED ADDISS and pictured on page 90 of the previous BCPJ.



"The St. Vincent St. P.O. slogan cancellation SAVE/PRECIOUS/WATER is seen only occasionally---it seems to suffer from mechanical breakdowns---so most mail from that facility is handstamped. However, its appearance brings to three the number of locations where it is used---the others being San Fernando and the Port of Spain General Post Office."

A most interesting letter was received in mid-July from CHARLES JANE, one of our two members in Antigua. In commenting upon COLIN BAYLEY's article "The First Statue to Nelson's Memory", published in the previous Journal, Charles specifies that the last Caribbean island Nelson visited prior to chasing Villeneuve back to Europe was Antigua---not Barbados, as stated in the article. Charles explains: "...after being told by the Governor (of Antigua), Lord Lavington, that the French fleet had passed by four days earlier, Nelson stayed only 24 hours to take on water and to land the 2,000 troops he had embarked earlier at Barbados. He sailed in hot pursuit on June 14, 1805."

Whether the esteemed Admiral's jumping-off place was Barbados or Antigua, such a small point of disagreement in no way diminishes the historical importance of the events described by Colin as leading up to the issue of the Barbados Nelson stamps of 1905.

It is easy to understand Charles' interest in Colin's article, or, for that matter, in all Nelson literature. Charles is Honorary Librarian and Historian for the Nelson's Dockyard Library at English Harbour, to which he denotes his copies of the BCPJ as a permanent reference source.

ERIC KING adds to MIKE WATMAN's comments, on page 125 of this issue, concerning the mysterious numbered notations on the Belize OHMS envelope shown on page 53 of the April 1984 Journal:

"The pictured OHMS envelope has been used three times. The use of Economy Labels goes back at least to World War II, and the multi-use of envelopes is commonplace. The numbers on these envelopes are file references. Thus: 213/2/83 (166)(161)(160) interprets as File Number 213, Volume 2, Year 83, Relevant Correspondence 166, 161, and 160. The other label on the same envelope works out to be File Number 40, Volume 1, Subsection 3, Year 83, Relevant Correspondence 127."

REG LANT has prepared another JAMAICA JOTTINGS column which hopefully will appear in the next Journal. In the meantime, he comments as follows upon CHRIS BARWICK's "MISSENT TO JAMAICA" mark pictured on page 95 of the July 1984 BCPJ:

"There is no doubt in my mind that Chris' item is the same as my Type M9. I now have recorded 25 copies of this particular marking, of which about 50% have dimensions somewhat smaller than my measurements of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm by 60mm, and about 50% have di-

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NEW BERMUDA PRIVATE BOX CODES...

JACK ARNELL recently submitted the following announcement of the Bermuda Post Office. Unfortunately, there is nothing to indicate the date of its publication, but it can be called an interesting bit of modern postal history.

BERMUDA POST OFFICE PRIVATE BOXES

"Because of the very high volume of incorrectly or badly addressed mail the Post Office has for some time had in mind a scheme to re-number or at least re-designate all private boxes so that each box reference is unique on the island.

"The Post Office now has over 8,000 boxes in 12 offices with the numbers starting at 1 in each case. Each office has now been given a two-letter prefix to distinguish its boxes from the others as follows:

"St. David's: DD; St. George's: GE;
Crawl: CR; Harrington Sound: HS;
Flatts: FL; Devonshire: DV; Pag-

et: PG; Warwick: WK; Southampton: SN; Somerset Bridge: SB; Mangrove Bay: MA; Hamilton: HM.

"Will you please start addressing all mail to boxholders using the prefixes, e.g., Box FL 1201, Box DV 1607, Box HM 4001, etc., starting today. It is an expensive business having letterheads reprinted and records changed in the short term but these are necessary if we are to obtain overall improvements in mail handling.

"It will assist us greatly if you will amend your stationery now, prior to any reprinting, and do all you can to make your correspondents aware of the change.

"Correctly addressed mail reaches its proper destination more quickly. SO HELP US TO HELP YOU. USE THE CORRECT BOX NUMBER.

G. L. PHILLIPS
Postmaster General "

"H. and H. Marketing" writes:

"There were several points in the July (1984) BCPJ that might warrant further exploration:

"Regarding C. K. Bump's 'Fah-Kee' article, it should be noted that markings of this ship are uncommon, though not particularly rare. An example dated 21 April 1866 was in the Henry Meyer collection; I also record an 1867 example in a Spelman sale and know of copies owned by Rosende, Ludington, and Michelli. Adding to the data Bump

gives, the Fah-Kee was first enrolled at New York City on 16 February 1863, and her enrollment shows that she was built in Brooklyn, not Greenport. (I believe that what Bump really meant was the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn.) As the Fah-Kee was re-documented on 22 September 1865, it would appear that that was the date of the Waydell takeover.

"Turning to the 1812 letter in Bob Danzer's contribution (page 76), the 1¢ marked on it was a perquisite fee of the New York Postmaster showing that the letter did not go through the mails. It was 'not for transmission', but for delivery at the window. Thus, the letter had to be smuggled into New York City by someone on the cartel ships.

"The '4' rate on Bob Swarbrick's ship letter into Philadelphia (page 92) is the 4¢ in-ship rate provided for in the Act of 20 February 1792, effective 1 June of that year and lasting until the Spring of 1799. The United States had abandoned pennyweight and grain mail rates (which were sterling conversions of pence) with the noted Act, so it is incorrect to match this with the Belize 4d., and even more so to relate it to any 4d. Had this letter gone on to another point, the 4¢ would have been added to the U. S. inland postage.

"Finally, I would agree that the large '3' on Richard Heap's cover on page 94 is an accountancy marking, but it may or may not be an accountancy mark from Canada. Heap is correct in noting similar-appearing '3s' in Canada; in the book Stamps of British North America, Jarrett shows several examples. I have an item similar to Heap's used on the last restored rate trip and first treaty trip ('returned for postage' letter) from Ireland to New York, where it was used as an accountancy mark in the United States Ocean Mail steamer 'Washington'.

"Such a similar item can be found in the British Proof Books (#3, page 191) circa 1843, and I am sure others can be found there of which I have no records. To truly ascertain if this is a Canadian accountancy, one would need to check the Canadian proof books to see if a perfect match can be found."

Editor's Message

REG LANT recently forwarded to me copies of two letters he had prepared, one to JACK HARWOOD and the other to BOB SWARBRICK. In his correspondence Reg explained and commented upon Jack's "Jamaican Dead Letter Markings" queries published on pages 74-75 of the July 1984 Journal, and upon Bob's Jamaican covers described on pages 92-93 of the same issue. I don't have enough space here to reprint Reg's words in full, but I'll be happy to mail a xerox copy of either or both of his letters to anyone providing a SASE.

BCPSG Winners: Congratulations to the following BCPSG'ers who were recipients of philatelic awards and honors during the past year...

JACK ARNELL, recognized expert on the subject of transatlantic mail covers, was presented the Geldert Medal for the best article in The Canadian Philatelist for 1983. His continuing series "Highlights from the Early Days of the Cunard Line", which he began publishing in the CP in 1970, earned Jack his first "Geldert" in 1971. Now, with his second award twelve years later, Jack stands alone as the only two-time winner of the award in the magazine's history.

At the 1984 meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, held in Quebec on 18-20 May, Jack's exhibit "BNA Transatlantic Stampless Mail" won a Show Gold and the Charles de Volpi Postal History Award. In addition, at that same meeting, he was one of three distinguished philatelists elected to Fellowship in the Society.

All in all, it's been a pretty good year for Jack!

over ➤

PAUL LARSEN's exhibit "Leeward Islands Federal Issues, 1890-1935" was awarded a Large Vermeil at ESPANA '84, held in Madrid on 27 April-6 May. This was the first time Paul's display had been entered in international competition.

At WESTPEX, staged at the Oakland, California, Convention Center on 11-13 May, QUINTUS FERNANDO won the Grand Award with his magnificent "Imperial Eagles of Mexico, 1864-1866". His exhibit also earned a Show Gold, the Richard Wolffers "Gold Tong" Award, and the W. E. Shelton/MEPSI Grand Award. At the same show Quintus won a Gold, the APS Pre-1900 Medal, and the MEPSI Pre-1895 Gold Medal for his display "The Provisional Issues of Guadaluajara, 1867-1868", a series of stamps which were printed from a modified CDS struck randomly on available paper. KING PARKER was presented with a WESTPEX Silver for "The Postal History of San Francisco".

GEORGE

 B.V.I. "Qs" (Continued from page 115)

times, to place the stamp(s) on the picture-side of the card, the address side can be found struck with the current CDS and the resurrected double-circle "PAID/AT/TORTOLA" crown-circle mark, in some instances. (This is discussed at the beginning of the BVI section of the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue, and will be the topic of further discussion in a future column.) One possible explanation of such "late" usage was to inform postal handlers, along the way, that the absence of a stamp on the address-side did not constitute a "postage due" situation.

About subject matter pictured on the cards---I am aware, for example, of cards mailed from the BVI that show the exterior and interior of St. George's Church in Road Town; several that depict a number of different waterfront scenes, some of which are untitled; the original Treasury (Building), now incorporated into the enlarged Government Administration Building currently in use in Road Town; at least two relating to the Agricultural Experiment Station; several snapshot-type pictures of BVI residents (untitled); and a number of non-BVI subjects, but used from the BVI.

It would be appreciated in readers would advise me of any picture postcards in their collections, preferably in the form of photocopies of both the front and back of each card.

THE WEST END TRAP

In the recently published BVI book by Vernon Pickering, reviewed by the Editor in the February 1984 issue of the Journal, the book's author is puzzled by an 1811 stampless forwarded letter (illustrated on page 203 of the book) that appears to have gone from "West End (Tortola)" to St. Thomas, and then back to Tortola. And within that reasoning lies the "West End Trap". (It is easy for me to so state because I had previously fallen into the same trap.) Although this letter, and others like it, was written in "West End", the West End cited was located on the island of St. Croix in the then Danish West Indies. In fact, West End was, and still may be, another name for Frederiksted. (In the same context, Christiansted, St. Croix, was also known as "Bassin".) (Reference: Page 324, "A Guide to the West Indies, Bermuda, and Panama", by Frederick A. Ober, Third Revised Edition, published by Dodd, Mead, & Co., New York, 1925.)

With the elimination of the erroneous supposition that the West End in question was on the island of Tortola, the routing of the letter becomes quite straightforward and logical---St. Croix to St. Thomas to Tortola. (Similar letters in my collection, written by a "(?) Moore", confirm this corrected routing.)

A GENERAL NOTE: I will be happy to provide photocopies of any discussed material, provided that a SASE is included with the request.

CHUCK CWIAKALA has announced that the BCPSG Auction at COLOPEX next March will be the final one for which he will serve as Auction Manager. For many years Chuck has organized our AGM auctions, and has prepared lot lists, kept track of funds due and funds payable, and prepared lists of prices realized. His efforts in this area have been both dedicated and outstanding, and we extend to him our deepest appreciation and thanks for a job well done.

His decision to transfer the auction activities requires, of course, that someone be found to whom these activities can be transferred. If you are willing to take over the task, or can suggest the name of somebody who might be interested, please contact Ed Addiss.

Secretary's Report

NEW MEMBERS

All applicants listed in the July 1984 BCPJ, with the exception of Peter BYLEN, have been admitted to membership.

NEW APPLICANTS

PICKERING, Vernon W., Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands.
Stamp dealer. Interested in BVI material. By George W. Bowman.

CUTLER, Samuel J., 1500 Locust St., #3615, Philadelphia, PA 19102.
Administration analyst, Philadelphia Health Department. Collects Jamaica town cancels, obliterations, slogans, and other postmarks, and U. S. precancels. By Gale J. Raymond.

CRAIG, Wallace A., P. O. Box 3391,
Fullerton, CA 92634.

Administrator, Rockwell International. Collects Jamaica, China, Brazil, and Switzerland. By George W. Bowman.

HAHN, Alfred W., Jr., 14 Quay Court,
Centerport, NY 11721.

Banker. Interested in postal history of BWI. By Howard C. Austin.

WATTS, Bruce Edward, P. O. Box 619,
Idyllwild, CA 92349.

Chef. Collects, Bermuda, Jamaica, and specializes in Barbados. By Thomas E. Giraldi.

APPLICATION PENDING: BYLEN, Peter,
P. O. Box 41284, Chicago, IL 60641.

RESIGNED (effective 14 June 1984)

SIMPSON, Philip R.

RE-INSTATED (effective 1 January 1984)

HANCHELL, L. W. A.; BUCKNER, Dr.
John M.; HONIG, Harold M.; WILSON,
Dr. Brian D.; NOTTINGHAM, Douglas
W.

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SECRETARY'S REPORT (Continued)

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS:

FREIERMUTH, John M., RMPi Ltd., P. O. Box 6736, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
 NOTTINGHAM, Douglas W., "Rebmevon", 17 Wayfield Drive, Stafford, ST16 1TR, England.
 CUSICK, Thomas K., 865 Appomattox Circle, Naperville, IL 60540.
 WASHINGTON, Thomas, Box 13957, Salem, OR 97309.
 ZETTLE, Commander Charles E., 10505 Moore Drive, Manassas, VA 22111.
 GROEBER, Karl E., Elsa-Brandstrom-Str. 23, 7500 Karlsruhe 41, West Germany.
 KABEL, Don, Box 269, J.T.P.O., Singapore 9161, Malaysia.
 GREWCOCK, Dayman, 256 Widney Lane, Solihull, West Midlands, England.
 In previous Journal's Secretary's Report, the Zip Code for TROY, Carl F., should be 96209, not 96202.

LEEWARDS LEDGER
by Rob Wynstra

On December 31, 1939, the island of Dominica defected from the Leeward Islands Federation. It was a move that left collectors of Leeward cancellations in a bind. The first-type B1 double-ring cancels had been in general use at the village post offices for only a few years. Examples on Leeward stamps are devilishly difficult to locate.

Solid information on these postmarks is equally scarce. BCPSG'er Bill Ashley, however, has provided evidence that clears up many of the lingering questions. Indeed, over the years, Bill has personally inventoried every post office on the island except one.

In 1939, Dominica's inland postal system consisted of twelve sub-post offices and the branch office at Portsmouth. Bill has confirmed that nine of these offices were using the double-ring mark by the time Dominica transferred to the Windward Islands.

It appears that only Rosalie, Delices, and St. Joseph did not switch over to the new-style datestamps. The jury is still out on the office at Mahaut. Bill reports February 25, 1932, as the last recorded date for the original single-ring mark. He has an example of the B1 double-ring dated December 16, 1946. That gap makes it likely that the double-ring was put into use prior to the transfer from the Leeward Islands.

Bill's earliest recorded dates for the other offices are:

Castle Bruce, January 1939; Colihaut, 1936; Soufriere, September 15, 1937; Grand Bay, August 21, 1938; La Plaine, January 1, 1938 (see illustration); Marigot, April 4, 1937; Vieille Case, September 21, 1938; Pointe Michel, April 29, 1939; and Portsmouth, June 16, 1937.

Moreover, Bill calls Castle Bruce "one of the great post offices" because of the wealth of information it has provided on the way these cancelers were used. The postmaster at this tiny village was a meticulous record-keeper. His monthly log reveals that the double-ring B1 mark arrived there between May 31, 1937, and June 30, 1937. The original datestamp, nevertheless, was retained at the office until sometime in the middle of 1945.

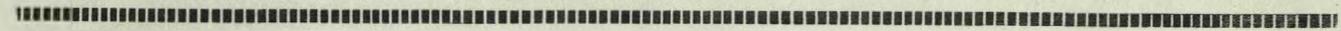
Most importantly, Bill warns against making assumptions without confirmed evidence. "Just because a non-double-ring postmark is in use on a certain date", he writes,



"doesn't necessarily mean that the double-ring is not around and also in use. Things are not so orderly as that in the West Indies."

According to him, many of the local postmasters kept a variety of supposedly discontinued canceling devices on their shelves. As likely as not, they would use whichever device was closest at hand. "You just can't be sure about end dates for a canceller," Bill says, "until you've personally checked all the postal effects of the office to be sure it's dead".

And, in my view, it is the element of human imperfection that makes postal history so much fun. There is always some piece of evidence that doesn't fit the accepted pattern. With dedicated members like Bill Ashley on the front lines, the flow of information, the mysteries, and the fun are sure to continue.



NEW ANGUILLAN HANDSTAMPS by BEN RAMKISSOON

Shown here are half-a-dozen new handstamps now being used by the Anguilla Post Office; unfortunately, I do not know the exact date when they were introduced.

The oval double-ring marks of Figures 1 and 2 are each 51 mm x 38 mm, and are of a similar design with identical crowns. The two straight-line instructional handstamps (Figures 3 and 4) are of similar format and letter style, and measure 59 mm x 6 mm and 67 mm x 6 mm, respectively.

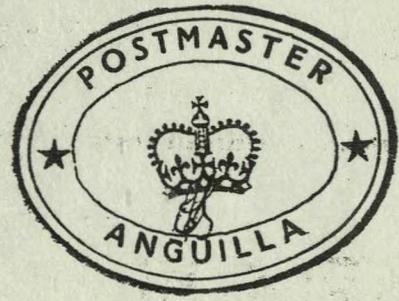


FIGURE 1

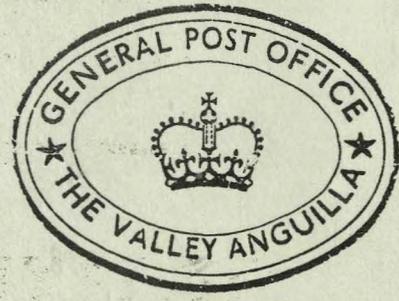


FIGURE 2

RETURN TO SENDER

FIGURE 3

MISSENT TO ANGUILLA

FIGURE 4

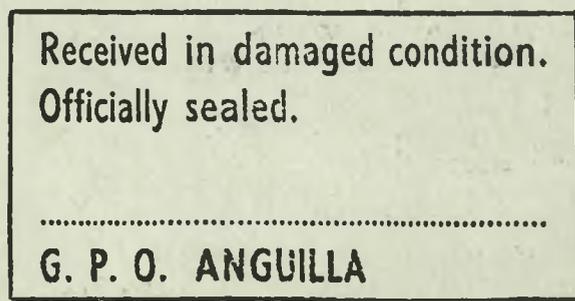


FIGURE 5

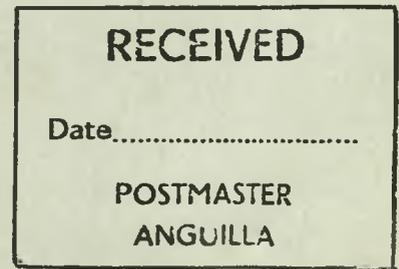


FIGURE 6

Two boxed rectangular stamps complete the "offering". The larger (Figure 5) is used for mail received in a damaged condition and then officially resealed. It measures

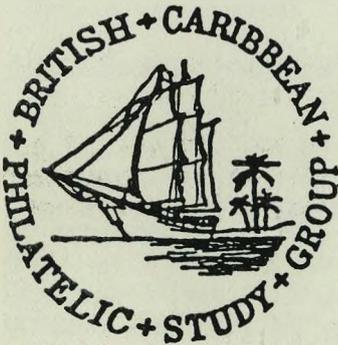
77 mm by 39 mm. The smaller mark of Figure 6, with dimensions of 51 mm by 39 mm, is for documentation by the Post Office of mail receipts.

THIS AND THAT... (Continued from page 129)

mensions approximately 1mm above those figures. The salient fact is that this hand-stamp, being rather long and narrow, could easily be slightly bent upon being struck; this would produce strikes of slightly shorter-than-normal length. Chris' example is bent in just such a manner."

...from Here and There

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For April '85 issue: 15 February 1985
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