

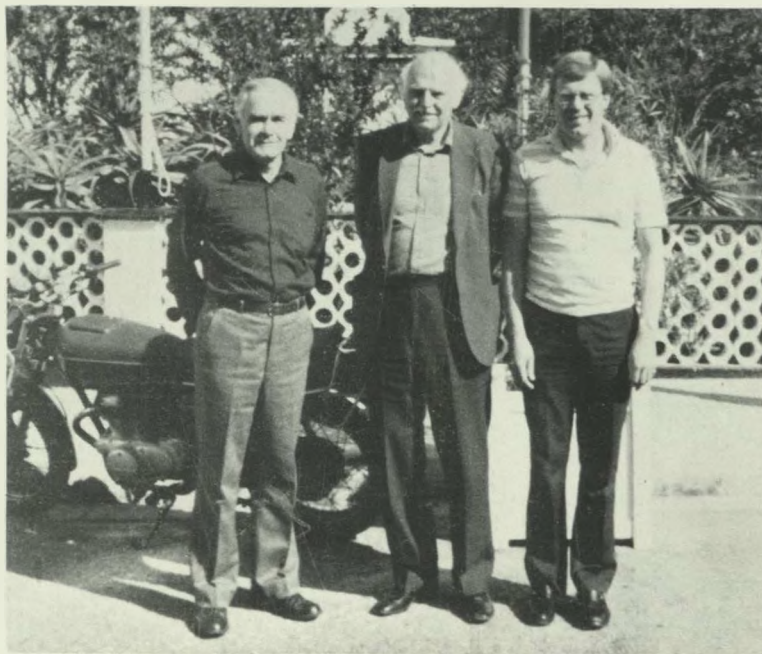
# BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

VOL. 26, NO. 4  
W/N 141

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DECEMBER 1986



Left to Right: Geoff Osborn, formerly of Bermuda, and BCPSG members Basil Bewell and Bruce Walker met in Gibraltar in March 1986. Bruce did not say whether that was his vehicle behind them. Could it possibly have been?

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# BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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DECEMBER 1986



PRESIDENT:  
Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon

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For September '87 issue: 15 July 1987  
For December '87 issue: 15 October 1987

# The President's Message

by Dr. R. A. Ramkissoon

To strengthen our Caribbean Philatelic ties, your President has been gathering information about all past and present philatelic societies organized, as well as operational in the British Caribbean area. I would welcome any such information that members can supply.

We also want to know specifically what your expectations of the BCPSG are, and in what way we may be of greater help to you in your collection or specialty pursuits.

As you receive our 1987 annual dues notices, please take a moment to tell us what you would like us to become so that we can serve you - our members and supporters - much better in the future.

## CAPEX '87

As announced in the September 1986 Journal, the BCPSG will meet in Toronto at CAPEX '87. The annual meeting, program and auction will take place on Monday afternoon, June 15th, in a meeting room at the Delta Chelsea Inn, the same hotel in which the BCPSG made their headquarters during CAPEX '78.

The hotel has blocked off 20 rooms for us covering the period of the exhibition - June 12th to 21st; the guaranteed nightly rates in Canadian dollars will be \$80 single, and \$95 double or twin.

A cocktail reception will follow the meeting. Plans also include dinner at a nearby restaurant on either Sunday or Monday evening, the 14th or 15th. A hospitality suite will be maintained during June 14th to 16th from 8 to 11 PM.

Please refer to the enclosed flyer for more explicit details. The questionnaire should be filled out and returned to Dr. Don Welsh by January 31, 1987 so final plans can be announced in the March 1987 Journal.

The BCPSG will also share a booth in the convention hall with two other societies. Volunteers will be needed to man the booth in 4-hour shifts. Please indicate on the questionnaire which day and time you can help with this coverage.

## REPORT ON FLOREX '86

An informal gathering of BCPSG members took place at the annual Florida Federation show (FLOREX '86) held in Orlando. Members Ed Addiss, Cyril Bell, John Buckner, Barry Friedman, Jack Harwood, Bill Matthews and his wife Mollie (who was born in Trinidad), and guest Bob Welky attended. Bob Welky formally invited the BCPSG to participate in STAMPOREE '87, May 15-17, 1987, in Palm Beach, FL. Since the annual meeting is scheduled for CAPEX '87 in June, the members agreed to meet informally in Palm Beach.

Several of those present showed material and gave brief presentations. Ed Addiss showed a series of pre-stamp Trinidad covers, Cyril Bell a collection of early Grenada revenues including errors and varieties, Jack Harwood a collection of BWI Postal Orders, John Buckner early Jamaica oblits on cover, and Bill Matthews a group of stamps and covers illustrating the Venezuela/British Guiana dispute over the Essequibo territory. The discussion was lively throughout the session.

Those present were most enthusiastic about the meeting, and agreed to reconvene at SARAPEX in Sarasota, FL, February 8, and at STAMPOREE '87 in Palm Beach on May 16. All members are invited to join in these gatherings. Information on exact times and places may be obtained from Jack Harwood (address inside front cover).

## THE "LADY RODNEY"

by M. H. Ludington

In the "Lady Boat" Summary by Mike Rego, (BCPJ April 1984 W/N 130) he lists, as type 5D, the circular "Lady Rodney" mark without "PURSER'S OFFICE" at the bottom, as I had done some years earlier, but without giving any date of use or color. Obviously, no cover or dated piece with this mark had been seen by either of us.

I have finally found a cover with this mark, franked by a Canadian 3 cent KG VI cancelled by the worn Hamilton Bermuda "PAQUEBOT" mark, type PQ1, and with the Hamilton Aquarium machine cancellation inverted at the bottom left. Unfortunately, this is very lightly struck and the only clearly legible part of the date is "1941" with, apparently, "CH" of "MCH" above it, but the day cannot be read at all. The cover has been censored and sealed by a censor label, Type CL 4, in pale blue with the number 625. The "Lady Rodney" mark is in black (Fig. 1).

Curiously, I have two covers with the Type PQ1 Paquebot mark cancelling U. S. stamps but with St. Georges datestamps, Type H11 dated 20 MAY 40 on one and Type H12 dated 5 MAR 41 on the other, which led me to believe that PQ1 had been transferred to St. Georges. The "Lady Rodney" cover shows that I was wrong and that St. Georges had no paquebot mark, but that the two letters had simply been forwarded to Hamilton where the stamps were cancelled with the PQ1 since they were paquebot mail.

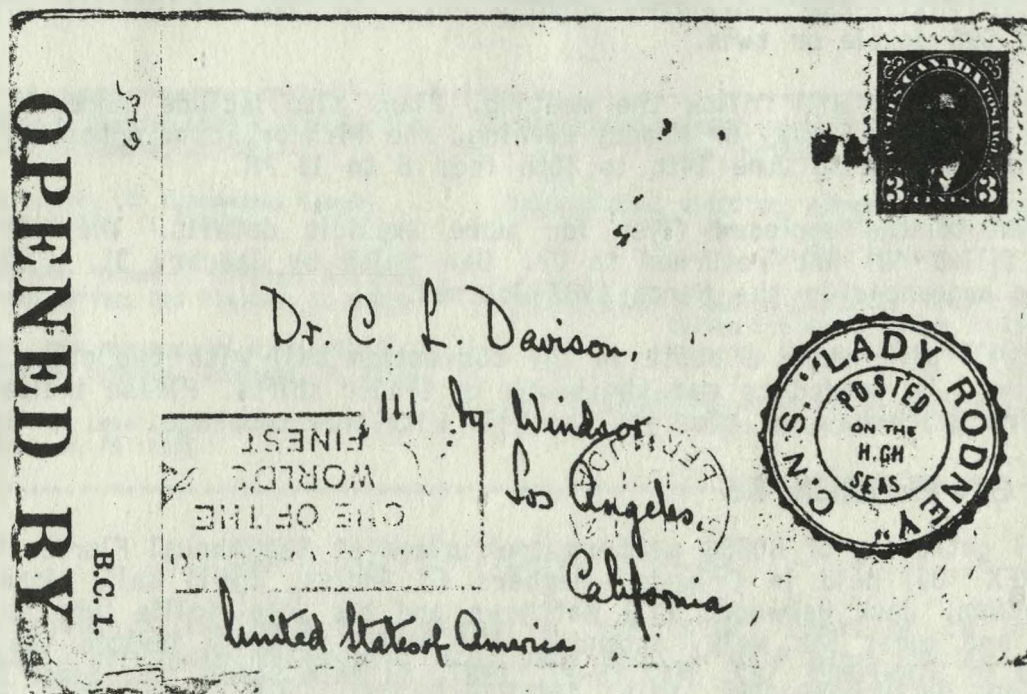


Fig. 1

### Personal Mention

Dr. Peter McCann reports that he recently won a Vermeil and British Caribbean medals at INDYPEX, held in Indianapolis, Sept 5-7 for his exhibit of six frames entitled "Postal History and Markings of the Turks and Caicos Islands". Two of the five APS judges were Paul Larsen and Dr. Russell Skavaril from whom Peter says he received much constructive help and criticism on his exhibit. Peter is also proud to note that he is now an accredited APS judge. British Atlantic and Caribbean are among his qualified categories.

## BELIZE 1983 PROVISIONALS

by A. E. Buzz Jehle

In 1983, stocks of 10¢ stamps and stamps for registered mail were in short supply, and Belize was in the process of ending its 1979-83 contract with its agent, La Cia Filatelica Mundial (Panama) Ltd. In the interim stamps were required before the new Marine Life definitives would be ready, so the provisional overprints were a necessity.

The registered rate was 75¢ and the basic airmail rate to the USA was 50¢. In the past Belize had usually had a single stamp for this combined rate. An oversupply of the \$2 Independence toucan (SG 662) and \$2 First Anniversary of Independence fish (SG 699) were overprinted \$1.25 and released 9 June 1983 to meet the need for a \$1.25 stamp. A total of 100,000 of the two stamps were ordered overprinted, but the exact number of each stamp overprinted was not kept. However, it is logical to assume that it was 50,000 of each according to the Postmaster General. The toucan with its round obliterating panel became SG 743, and the overprinted fish with a rectangular obliterating panel became SG 744. Although there are many identifiable positional varieties within the sheets, no major errors or varieties on these two provisionals have been reported.



SG 743/744



SG 735

The inland letter rate in mid 1983 was 10¢ as was the most common revenue rate. To meet the need for 10¢ stamps, 75,000 surplus Independence map stamps (SG 658) were overprinted 10¢ and released 15 April 1983. They are catalogued SG 735. These did not last long, so 200,000 35¢ shell definitives (SG 541) were overprinted 10¢ and released 28 September 1983. No records were kept as to how many of each type of overprint were actually printed and released. A trial printing was run using the round obliterating panel used earlier on the \$1.25 toucan provisional which is listed as SG 746. However, the panel was too small and the slightest misregistration let part of the old value show. The few sheets bearing the round obliterator were released as there was a pressing need for 10¢ stamps.

Due to this problem, it was decided to change to the time-honored rectangular obliterating panel which was used for the bulk of the printing, which is listed as SG 745. Both of these provisional overprints were generally of very poor quality, with disturbed gum and ink smears being the order of the day. The round panel variety is known with overprint tripled (SG 746a).



SG 745

SG 745a

SG 745c

The rectangular panel variety is known with overprint inverted (SG 745a), in pair one without overprint (SG 745b), and with overprint doubled (SG 745c). SG 745b is from one sheet which has the overprint shifted upwards such that the three lower left stamps show only the obliterating panel portion of the overprint.



SG 745b



SG 746/746a

I have never seen a used copy of the round obliterating panel variety, but I have several copies of the rectangular obliterating panel variety used on commercial covers. Luckily, these provisionals were issued on unwatermarked paper, somewhat limiting the number of possible errors and varieties. I would appreciate information on any other varieties on these provisionals. Overprinting was done by the Government Printing Office in Belize City and all four unoverprinted stamps were printed using lithography by Litografia Nacional, Porto, Portugal. The shell stamp (SG 541) was designed by Clive Abbott and the other three stamps by C. Mullin.

A later article will deal with varieties of the two different provisional printings of the 10¢ on 15¢ shell provisionals, SG 621 and SG 728. I wish to thank Mr. E. E. Godfrey, the Postmaster General of Belize for his invaluable assistance in researching this article, and to Mr. David G. Aggersberg, the editor at Stanley Gibbons, for his help in cataloguing the recent Belize issues.

(Ed: Mr. Jehle may be contacted at 31 Park Place, Darien, CT 06820-5304.)

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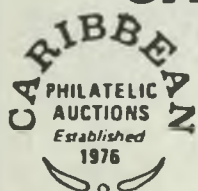
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**British Honduras - The Northern Mail Service (Part 3)**

by Eric King, O. B. E.

In late October, early November 1882 the Governor of British Honduras paid a visit to Corosal and Orange Walk; at the former, in reply to an address of welcome, the Governor replied "...The effort I am now making to establish steam communication between Belize and the North will, I hope, be an assurance that my desire for your welfare and prosperity remain unchanged."<sup>20</sup>

The Orange Walk inhabitants in their address of Welcome stated, "...we also hail, with feelings of unmixed satisfaction, the efforts which Your Excellency is making to establish steam communication between here and Belize..."<sup>21</sup>

All to no avail! The next Governor, making his initial visit to Corosal and Orange Walk in August 1884, was given the usual welcoming address which included "We cannot but deplore that Your Excellency, owing to the late failures to obtain steam communication between Belize and the North, should have been exposed to the discomfort of a passage in a small coasting vessel, but we trust that Your Excellency will see the urgent necessity which exists for steam communication between Belize and the North..."<sup>22</sup>

To which the Governor replied "...I quite recognize with you the urgent necessity for steam communication between Corosal and the Capital, and I may state that the subject is engaging my attention and I have now under consideration tenders for this service. It is a matter of regret that the efforts hitherto made have not been successful..."<sup>23</sup>

The Governor may have been referring to tenders received in response to the Government Gazette Notice of the 7th May, 1884 which is distinctly less demanding than the previous notice.

Colonial Secretary's Office  
Belize, 7th May, 1884

The Government of British Honduras invite tenders, to be received at this office until noon on Thursday the 31st of July next, for regular steam communication between Belize, Corosal and Orange Walk.

The tender to state the class and size of steamer proposed to be employed, the number of trips per month and the subsidy required.

By Command  
W. J. McKinney  
Acting Colonial Secretary<sup>24</sup>

The response to this notice seems to have been discouraging for in a further notice of 12th June, we read:

Colonial Secretary's Office  
Belize, 12th June, 1884

Tenders will be received at this office until noon on Monday the 30th instant for carrying the mails between Belize, Corosal and Orange Walk by sailing vessels, pending the arrangements for steam communication.

The tenders to state the size of vessels proposed to be employed in the service, the number of voyages per week or month and the

subsidy required.

By Command  
W. J. McKinney  
Acting Colonial Secretary<sup>25</sup>

Throughout this period of searching for a contract mail service to the North, the mail continued to be carried by any available boat. A run of Government Gazettes in 1884 carry a Corosal postmark, which is usually four days later than the publication date of the gazette. It is also interesting to note that whereas Corosal is spelt almost without exception with an 's' during this period, that of the postmark is spelt with a 'z'.



Fig. 1

The northern mail was not put on a contract basis until 1887, when Captain James Leitch of Macheca Bros., 129 Decatur Street, New Orleans, whose Royal Mail Steamship Company had held the overseas mail contract since 1879, agreed to provide a steamship service between Belize, Corosal and Orange Walk. Details of this service were given in the Government Gazette as follows:

General Post Office  
Belize, 13th June, 1887

Timetable - Mail Coasting Steamer Northern Route

The S. S. Freddie M. will make three trips a month to Corosal and Orange Walk, leaving Belize at 6 a.m. on each Wednesday and Friday after the arrival of the Mail.

The Mails will be made up at 4 p.m. the day previous to the day for departure.



Passengers will be taken off free of expense, a boat waiting for the purpose up until 5:30 a.m. of the day of departure at the Mail Company's Wharf.

The Steamer will leave Corosal for Orange Walk on Thursdays and Saturdays at 8 a.m. and will leave Orange Walk on her return to Corosal at 10 a.m. on Fridays and Sundays. She will then remain at Corosal one clear day, leaving for Belize at 6 a.m. on Sundays and Tuesdays.

Rob. W. Pickwood  
Acting Postmaster<sup>26</sup>

At this time steamers of the Royal Mail Steamship Company operating the overseas mail contract steamed direct from New Orleans to Belize every 9th and 12th day alternately. Early in 1888, Mr. Hubert Jerningham, the Colonial Secretary, went to New Orleans to negotiate with Captain James Leitch for a weekly service between New Orleans and Belize and between Belize, Corosal and Orange Walk. In this he was successful, a new contract for the overseas mail being signed on the 20th June 1888, whilst that for a weekly steam service from Belize to the North was signed on the 25th June 1888.<sup>27</sup>

These new contracts became effective in October 1888. A GPO notice of the 4th October, 1888 announced that the overseas mail steamer will be due in Belize every Monday morning,<sup>28</sup> and a further notice informed that the S.S. 'Freddie M' will leave with the mails for the northern district on Tuesday the 9th October at 6 a.m. returning on the following Friday.<sup>29</sup> In April of 1889 the northern mail service was altered as follows:

Leave Belize for Corosal, Monday 10 a.m.  
Leave Corosal for Orange Walk, Tuesday 10 a.m.  
Leave Orange Walk for Corosal, Wednesday 6 a.m.  
Leave Corosal for Belize, Thursday 9 a.m.

This schedule with minor variations was maintained over many years.

#### REFERENCES:

20. Government Gazette Belize 4 November 1882, No. 44  
pp 208 Governor's reply to address of welcome
21. Ibid  
pp 208 Address by Orange Walk residents
22. Government Gazette Belize Saturday 23 August 1884, No. 34  
Supplement, Welcome address by Corosal residents
23. Ibid  
Governor's reply
24. Government Gazette Belize 10 May 1884, No. 19  
Notice dated 7th May 1884
25. Government Gazette Belize 14 June 1884, No. 24  
Notice dated 12th June 1884
26. Government Gazette Belize 2 July 1887, No. 27
27. The Handbook for British Honduras for 1890-91 Bristowe and Wright  
Edinburgh and London, William Blackwood and Sons, 1890, pp 70

28. Government Gazette Belize 6 October 1888, No. 40  
pp 173 G.P.O. Notice dated 4th October 1888

29. Ibid  
pp 173 G.P.O. Notice dated 5th October 1888

30. Government Gazette Belize 27 April 1889, No. 17  
pp 71 G.P.O. Notice No. 62 of 26th April 1889

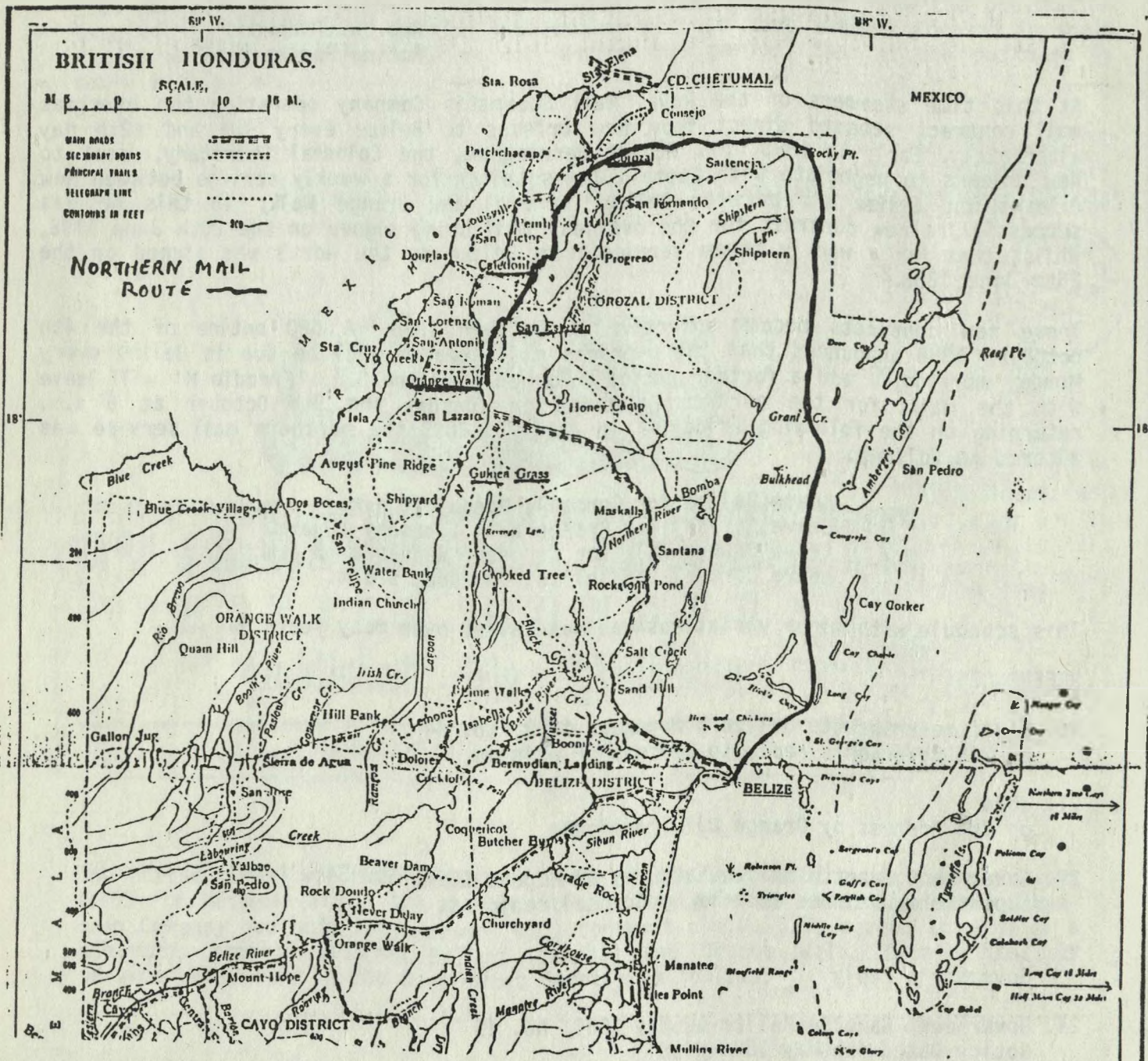


Fig. 2

Northern Route - Belize - Corozal - Orange Walk  
(Belize - Corozal By Sea, Corozal - Orange Walk by the New River)

(Concluded)

## JAMAICAN MODERN "TO PAY" HANDSTAMPS

by Robert V. Swarbrick, R.P.S.L.

In 1958 the late Tom Foster published his handbook, "The Postal History of Jamaica, 1662-1860". Section 8 thereof discusses the then recorded "To Pay" handstamps in use from 1843 to 1871. Prior to 1858 the public had the choice of paying the postage on a letter in full, paying in part - for the local postage to Kingston - or sending the letter unpaid.

This system meant that a post office clerk had to inspect each letter to see what postage (if any) had been paid and then mark the letter with the amount of the deficiency or charge that the recipient would have to pay. This system gave rise to the use of the handstamps now under discussion, and also the "Paid" handstamps discussed in Section 7 of Tom Foster's book. The use of these handstamps continued after the introduction of Imperial Postage stamps in 1858 and the subsequent issue of Jamaica's own stamps, as Jamaica was one of the few territories which has never used postage due stamps to indicate fees or charges to be paid.

The enthusiastic response to Tom Foster's long needed book led him to plan a second volume in the course of which he wrote several monographs and accumulated a large amount of notes. Through the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society I have had the opportunity to read these notes in addition to accumulating all of the articles which have appeared since Tom's death.

Recently, I have reviewed the various articles by Reg Lant on the "Unpaid Tax Markings of Jamaica" which have appeared since 1980 in the BCPJ. In particular my attention was drawn to the those parts that considered the "woodblock" postage dues. Naturally, I turned to some of Tom Foster's research on this topic.

I had a "gut" feeling that something was missing. In particular I felt that the explanation offered for the creation of the "woodblocks" was not convincing. Nor were Tom Foster's notes on this topic able to allay my initial feelings about these markings.

Having researched Tom's notes, my own library, appropriate articles in the "Jamaican Philatelist" and other works in the Royal Philatelic Society library, I now offer, for further research and comment, a resume of my thoughts on this topic.

The Jamaican postal authorities appear to have operated a two tier system to collect any deficiency of postage on incoming mail, a fact which caused no surprise as I had already found a similar two tier system operating for the "Unclaimed" letters of Jamaica.

Within the Kingston postal area (and perhaps in other large towns) letters were and are delivered on a house to house basis, much as we enjoy in this country today. In the case of these delivered letters, the point of contact between recipient and postal authorities was the postman on his rounds. A simple system was evolved to guard against dishonesty to ensure that the money due was paid to the Post Office. In case of a deficiency of postage, the letter itself was retained at the Post Office. The postman delivered instead a printed slip on which was written the addressee's name and a note of the amount due, the form being authenticated and dated by having the post office's dater added. Figure 1 shows an example of such a form. The writer understands that such forms were of local manufacture in Kingston. They are known printed on green or pink paper as well as the more usual white or cream paper.

On receipt of this form the addressee had to visit the Post Office to pay the

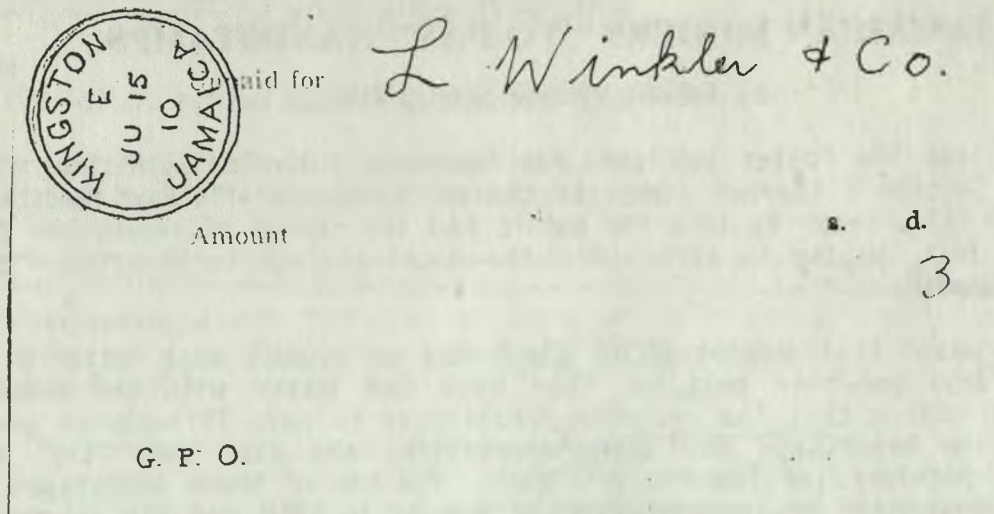


Fig. 1

charges and receive the letter. This direct contact between the addressee and the Post Office clerk ensured that the fees were paid to the postal authorities and, incidentally, dispensed with the need for postage due stamps as the underpaid letters never left the Post Office until all the fees were paid.

This system was totally impractical for use outside Kingston for areas that did not have a house to house delivery of mail. In practical terms this meant virtually the whole of the remainder of the island. In rural areas the mail reached the office nearest the recipient's address. As there was no official postal delivery of mail, the recipient was expected to collect the mail from that office. To collect the deficiencies a list of addressees, for whom letters awaited collection, was exhibited outside the office concerned, and, in many rural areas, there probably existed an unofficial delivery system operated by neighbors of the addressees.

The simple and effective second tier system devised for the rural areas was based on the Post Office procedure whereby all rural mail was first sent to Kingston. While the clerks at Kingston were allocating the rural mail to the appropriate "pigeon hole", they were also able to check whether the correct postage had been paid.

In the case of underpaid letters these had to be marked in some distinctive manner. For this purpose the Kingston postal clerks were supplied with a series of "rubber" handstamps which had been produced locally in various values from 1d. to 5d. This system had two main advantages over the alternative method of sending the letters unmarked and relying on the office of distribution noticing and levying the deficiency in postage.

Firstly, as the checking was carried out at a central point rather than at the scattered individual offices manned by different grades of postal employees, there was a uniformity of procedure and expertise in assessing the charges. The fact that this assessment was carried out by the Kingston postal clerks also reduced the possibility of local officials neglecting to collect fees or, indeed, of overcharging the public.

Secondly, when the underpaid letter was assessed for payment, a note of the amount due was made against the name of the Post Office, Postal Agency, or Sub-Postal Agency that would eventually collect the fee. Thus, so far as the head office was concerned, the distributing office became accountable to the G.P.O. for that particular fee, a factor that could be adjusted as a "book entry" when the local

official had collected the amount due.

Indeed, because of this system that I have outlined, I consider these markings to be more in the nature of accountancy marks. I make this point as it has been suggested that the marks were applied to show the correct local currency payable when converted from the gold centime standard internationally applicable to underpaid mail. To qualify my statement, I feel that, as many of the covers seen bear both Jamaican and British markings, confusion as to the correct amount would have been minimal.

Before considering the various examples of these markings seen, I must comment on the widely held belief that these handstamps were made of wood, the commonly called "woodblocks". Personally, I am convinced that such handstamps were produced in rubber, and in support of this proposition advance the following points.

Firstly, there are financial considerations. It appears that these handstamps had to be replaced fairly frequently. For instance, the 1d. handstamp appears to have been changed every three years or so. Having done some wood carving myself, I know how difficult it would be to produce, for example, the letter "d" and a stop or period when working in wood. The cost would be excessive compared to a handstamp produced in rubber.

Secondly, there is the undoubted fact that, while at first the impressions of these handstamps appear fresh and clean, over a period of use the impressions from the same handstamp became distorted and blurred, a typical problem associated with "rubber" handstamps, well known to those collectors of Jamaica "T.R.D.'s".

In support of the above conclusions, I turn now to a consideration of the examples of these handstamps seen by me.

Some time ago I was fortunate to acquire a range of post cards written over a period of two years or so from a young man in England to a young lady in Jamaica. Although an assiduous letter writer, fortunately for the purpose of this study, the young man never came to grips with the correct postal rates. As a result, all these cards carry one or another of these "rubber" handstamps.

The second favorable occurrence was that, over the two year period, the young lady travelled extensively in Jamaica as shown by the fact that virtually all the cards are addressed to different parts of the island, yet the handstamped markings are identical in all respects.

The facts that these cards ended up at widely different destinations but had identical markings prove to my satisfaction that these markings must have been applied at a central point rather than at the office that handed over the mail to the recipient. These cards also illustrate the gradual change from the crisp and clean earlier impressions to the later distorted and blurred impressions mentioned above.



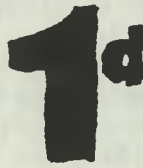
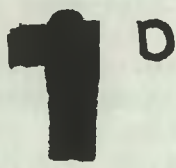


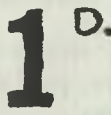

Since the 1d. handstamp is the one more usually seen, I have restricted myself to a study in depth of this handstamp. Examples of the other handstamps are still elusive. Although the pattern shown for the 1d. handstamp appears to be repeated for the 3d. handstamp, lack of material for this latter item prevents an analysis except in general terms.

Reverting to the 1d. handstamp, I believe that, initially, a series of handstamps for this value were issued to the clerks in the Kingston Sorting Office. As these handstamps were made of rubber and were the handstamps most used, the 1d. handstamp had to be frequently replaced. Thus, my study shows that a replacement of the 1d. handstamp took place about every three years. In the case of the handstamps showing

a higher value, these remained effective over a much longer period, being used to a much lesser degree.

For example, it is possible to find strikes of the 3d. handstamp with seriffed type lettering in use long after the similar 1d. handstamp had been replaced. This overlap of use of these handstamps has led to confusion in the past, as their usage during the same period of time led people to believe that the difference in type was accounted for by the handstamps being used at different offices.

In the hope that a recognized pattern emerges, I have rearranged and list below Reg Lant's types of these handstamps in chronological order, adding the known dates of use.

	29.11.1912		1. 2.1916
			6.10.1916
Type 1		Type 2	
	? . 5.1924		20.10.1928
	25.11.1925		
	25. 8.1925		
	9, 8,1926		
	5. 3.1927		
Type 3		Type 4	
	22. 8 1931		24. 4.1934
			24. 7.1934
			
Type 5		Type 6	
	4. 3.1937		22.11.1940
			21. 2.1941
Type 7		Type 8	
(Types 9 and 10 will be found on page 139)			

It will be seen from this listing that the effective life of the 1d. handstamp appears to be about three years, about the same as the life of a "T. R. D.". One might think that there is possibly an additional handstamp of this value in use in the early 1920's or before, that still awaits recording. Note that there is an eight-year gap between October 1916 and May 1924.

6. 8.1948  
**1 d.**  
 10. 8.1948

Type 9

12. 3.1951  
**1 d.**

Type 10

When I first prepared this study in 1985, the type 5 handstamp shown on the previous page was unknown. This was discovered only in mid 1986. Thus, I have hopes that a further handstamp will be found filling the eight-year gap between 1916 and 1924.

The handstamps other than the 1d. value seem to have had a much longer life, no doubt as they were the handstamps least used. My listing below of the 3d. handstamp shows fifteen examples spread over the period 1911 to 1946 and comprising only four types.

3.10.1911  
**3<sup>d</sup>**  
 12. 8.1916  
 13.12.1919  
 ?. 2.1920

Type 1

23.11.1936

**3<sup>d</sup>**

Type 3

26. 8.1921  
**3<sup>d</sup>**  
 4. 8.1921  
 16. 7.1928  
 28. 8.1930

Type 2

11. 4.1932

9.11.1943

**3<sup>D</sup>**

Type 4

11. 5.1944

30. 5.1944

?. 2.1944

9.11.1946

A comparison of the various types of the 3d. handstamp shows that this handstamp falls broadly into the same categories as the 1d. handstamp, except that each type remained in use for a longer period than the similar 1d. handstamp.

I hope that this new approach to these modern "To Pay" handstamps will prove of interest. I would be most grateful if readers would check material to which they have access and let me know of examples falling within the pattern suggested or disproving the theory I have propounded. (Ed. Mr Swarbrick's address is Walton Fields, Grimston, Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, LE14 3BY, England.)

#### MAIL OVERBOARD

Horst Augustinovic sent a copy of a newspaper article telling the story of a container carrying 155 bags of mail that was lost overboard between New York and Hamilton in October this year. If you are waiting for an answer, you might make certain your letter was not lost. Four of the sacks contained registered mail.

# ST. VINCENT #1 ON COVER

by Norman Brassler

The recent discovery of two St. Vincent covers, bearing St. Vincent #1, prompts this article, my first for the Journal, although I am a long-time member of the BCPSG. In "St. Vincent" Pierce, Messenger and Lowe list only five covers with #1 posted before September 1862. Now there are seven.

The first (Fig. 1) was acquired recently. Although only a front, it has all the essentials to show that the 1d. stamps are #1. Postmarked St. Vincent 26 March 1862, the front also bears a London receiving mark of 14 April. It bears a pair of #1 and a strip of three of the 6d., #2, the only strip of three recorded.



Fig. 1

The second cover turned up in a Frajola auction of February 22, 1986 (Fig. 2). The reverse bears a St. Vincent backstamp of origin dated 8 June 1861, a red crayon '4' and a St. Thomas transit backstamp. The front bears a strip of 3 of the 1d., #1, and a pair of the 6d., #2. This may be the earliest recorded cover bearing #1 as it is prior to all the covers listed in "St. Vincent". This sold for \$21,000 plus 10% being a "Blockade Cover".

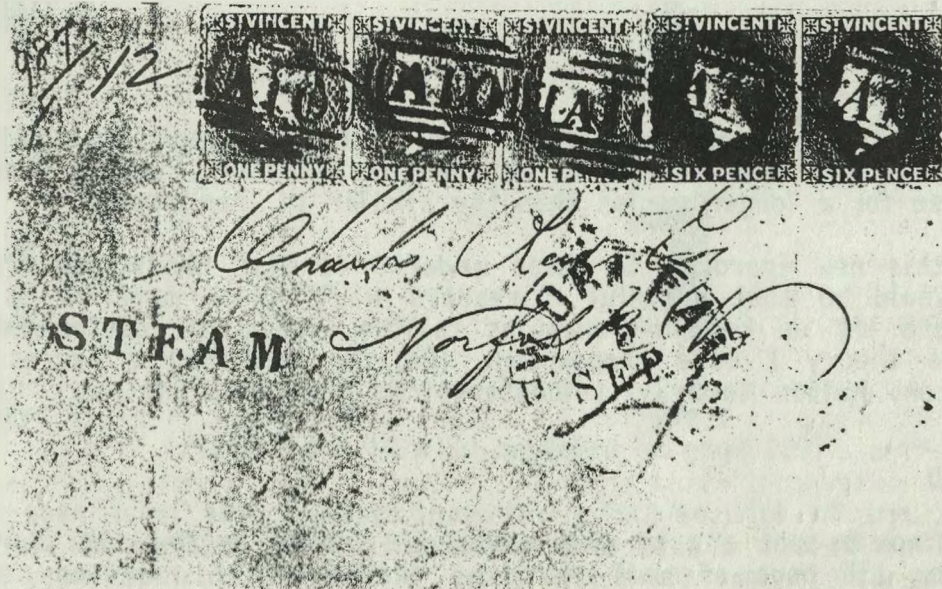


Fig. 2



## 200 YEARS AFTER JOSEPH STOCKDALE

**BERMUDA'S POST OFFICES  
IN THE 1980's**

by Horst Augustinovic

In January 1784 Joseph Stockdale organized the first regular postal service in Bermuda. In connection with the delivery of his weekly newspaper, the mail was carried on horseback from St. George's all the way to Somerset. The postage rate was 4d.; Bermuda's population approximately 11,000. Today the local postage rate is 15 cents, the population about 60,000 and the Post Office handles some 50 million pieces of mail annually. Of these about 10 million pieces are local mail, 22 million incoming overseas mail and 13 million outgoing overseas mail. Additionally, some 500,000 pieces of parcel post are received and 450,000 despatched annually.

The Bermuda Post Office is managed by the Postmaster General and has a staff of about 180. Apart from the General Post Office in Hamilton and a Receiving Office in Pembroke North, there are 13 Sub-Post offices located throughout the Islands, as well as some 38 letter boxes.

In 1973 a postal code system based on Bermuda's nine parishes was introduced. These were numbered from 1 to 9 and two digits added to identify the postal districts within each parish - for example, 1-20 for an area in St. David's, part of St. George's parish. Unfortunately these postal codes sometimes indicate more than one Post Office - St. George's and St. David's in the case of the 1-20 code. Equally confusing is Sandys parish with both the Somerset Bridge and Mangrove Bay Post Offices, not to mention Hamilton parish with three Post Offices - Harrington Sound, Crawl and Bailey's Bay.

It is therefore not surprising that the Bermuda Post Office is now introducing a new postal code system based on the Sub-Post Office from which the mail is delivered. Each Post Office now has a two-letter prefix, added to which are two digits for the postal routes. The old 1-20 code will now become something like DD-04, identifying it as an area of St. David's.

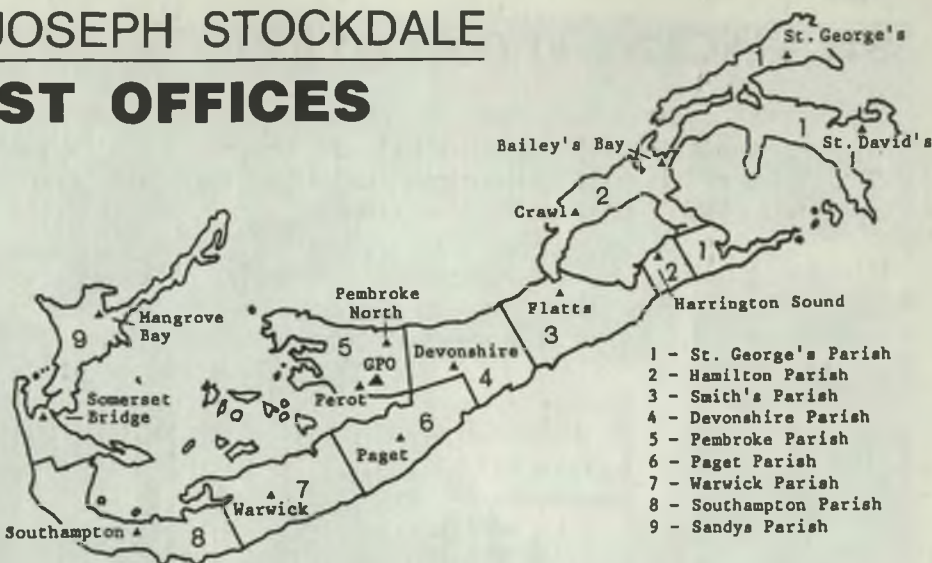
This new postal code system, together with an expansion of private box facilities (there are now over 8,000 P. O. boxes in Bermuda - all with a proper two-letter prefix), should add considerably to the improvement of mail handling on the Island.

In addition to the various categories of local and overseas mail, the 'International Data Express' service is also available. Established in 1980, this express mail service now links Bermuda with 28 countries and is given priority by postal administrations and geared to the needs of Bermuda's international business community.

Another department of the General Post Office is the 'Bermuda Philatelic Bureau'. Here an international mailing list and deposit account system is maintained for over 3,000 collectors who are regularly informed of new stamp issues. Present policy is to issue three commemorative issues per year, in addition to the definitive stamps which are in use for about eight years.

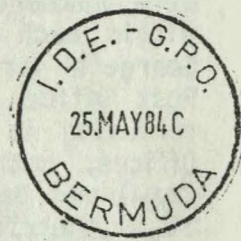
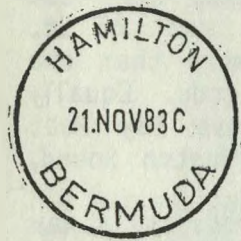
All proposed stamp issues are turned over to the 'Stamp Design Advisory Committee' which makes recommendations to the Postmaster General who in turn recommends each issue to the Minister of Finance for final approval.

Shown on this and the continuing pages are all of Bermuda's Post Offices, as well as cancellations currently in use. The circular datestamps were issued 3 October 1983 - the day on which most old datestamps were withdrawn. In recent years cancelling machines were reactivated at St. George's in 1984 and at Paget in 1985; and installed for the first time at Mangrove Bay in 1982 and both Devon and Warwick in 1986.

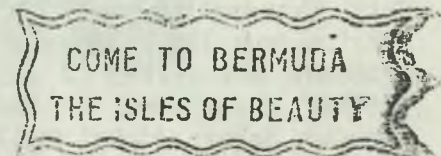
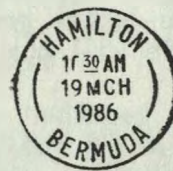




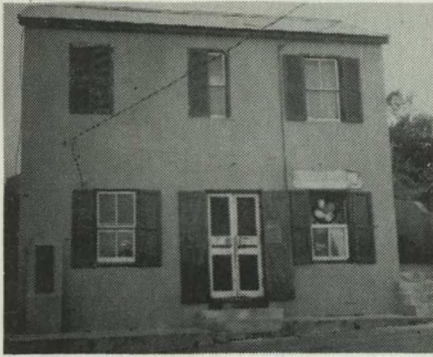
The General Post Office in Hamilton was opened 23 June 1967. Located for the previous 98 years in what is now Magistrates Court, this 'new' GPO became an absolute necessity after the dramatic increase in the volume of mail, especially in the 1960's. A few years after the GPO was built, the demand for private P. O. boxes far exceeded the 2,500 available. In the early 1980's this problem was resolved by adding an extension to the building, which provides a further 800 boxes. In the photograph this extension can be seen at the right. The letter department and philatelic section are at street level, parcel post and express mail in a lower level and offices on the first floor.



Shown above are the cds cancellations used at the General Post Office in Hamilton, including the 'International Date Express' (I. D. E.) Department. Two cancelling machines are also used - one usually with a special slogan, the other with the 'COME TO BERMUDA/THE ISLES OF BEAUTY' slogan in use for several years. The machines can also be identified by differences in the datestamps, especially during March as one abbreviates the month 'MAR', the other 'MCH'!



Home of Bermuda's famous Post Office stamps, the Perot Post Office was restored by the Corporation of Hamilton and opened 1 January 1959 to commemorate the 350th Anniversary of Bermuda's settlement. It continued to be operated by the Corporation of Hamilton until 30 April 1974 when it came under Post Office management. Used largely by tourists mail is cancelled in red ink and forwarded to the General Post Office for despatch.



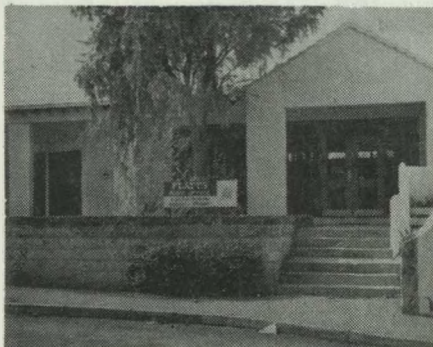
Opened 3 January 1967 in a grocery store, Pembroke North is Bermuda's only receiving office. Its mail is cancelled at the GPO.



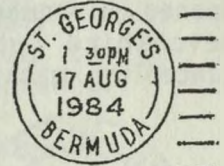
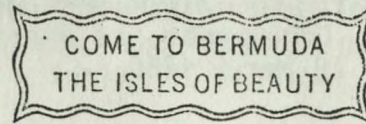
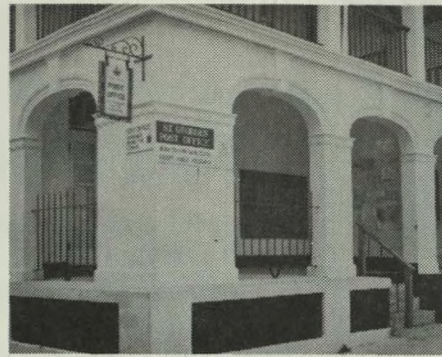
St. David's new Sub-Post Office was opened in 1974, having been without a post office since 1935. It handles local U.S. Navy mail.



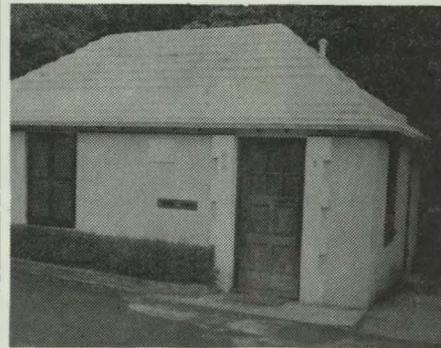
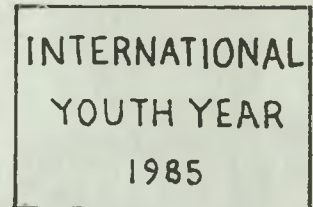
Having had a receiving office as early as 1865, Crawl's first purpose-built Sub-Post Office was opened 23 June 1980.



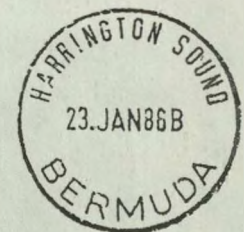
Flatts' first purpose-built Sub-Post Office was opened in 1971. Flatts had a receiving office as early as 1842.



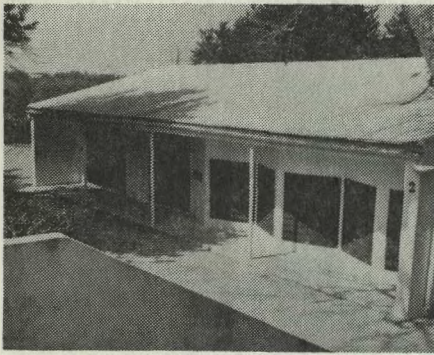
The St. George's Post Office has been in this building since 1879. The above machine cancel is in use since 8 June 1984; the one below was used for only a day or two in October 1985, following the breakdown of the other device.



This Sub-Post Office has been in its present building since 1944. Apart from Perot, it is the only office without private P. O. boxes.



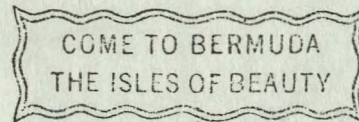
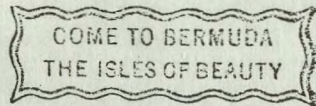
The Harrington Sound Sub-Post Office has been in this building since 1932, having previously been in two other locations.



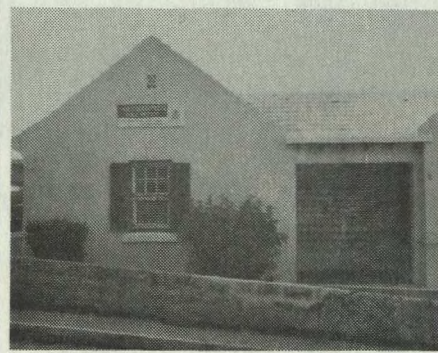
Opened September 1971, the purpose-built Devonshire Sub-Post Office got its first cancelling machine on 19 March 1986.



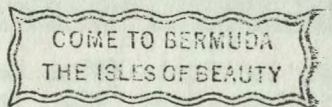
In this building since 1952, Paget's Sub-Post Office is again using a cancelling machine since 1 October 1985 - after about 20 years.



This purpose-built Sub-Post Office opened 29 June 1980; The first Warwick cancelling machine was installed 12 March 1986.



Following the closure of Southampton East and West, this Sub-Post Office opened 1 January 1942. Major renovations took place in 1980.



In the same building since 1905, Mangrove Bay got its first cancelling machine 11 January 1982. At times special slogans are used, but normally the wavy lines shown below.



A Post Office since 1844, Somerset Bridge has been in this building since 1906. Major renovations took place in 1980.



# AN OVERVIEW OF THE POLITICAL STATUS IN THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN

## AS SEEN THROUGH ITS POSTAGE STAMPS

(Continued)

by Dr. R. A. Ramkissoon

**"INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA"** Following the achievement of "Associated Statehood" by St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla (1967), Anguilla was not happy with the new political arrangement and the government it gave them. So under the threat of force, the local magistrate and the St. Kitts police force withdrew from the island. On 11 July 1967 the electors voted for independence from St. Kitts, and although unofficial, this independent movement was finally established in a series of political developments.

The existing stocks of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla definitives were overprinted for local use and released on 4 September 1967. The independent postal system of the emerging independent government of Anguilla was tested, and international validity of its stamps established. This set of overprinted definitives is among the rarest of the Queen Elizabeth II issues (Scott 1-16). A number of issues followed with the inscription "Anguilla" while at the same time the central government continued to issue postal paper with the combined name of St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla. Administration by a British Commissioner (1971), government by Executive Council and a New Constitution (1976) and finally full separation from St. Kitts (1980) was achieved, all events duly commemorated by postal issues.

The British Virgin Islands achieved self-government in 1967, which was marked by a New Constitution issue, on 18 April (Scott 179-82). The islands have a ministerial government. Apart from the Legislative Council issue, the word "British" does not appear regularly on the stamps of the British Virgin Islands until 1968. At that time it was introduced to avoid confusion with the United States Virgin Islands (formerly Danish West Indies).

The Bahamas achieved internal self-government on 1 January 1964. This was expressed by overprinting its definitive issue (Scott 185-200). There are a number of other changes in the interim, notable being a change to decimal currency when the Bahamian dollar was placed on a par with the United States dollar. Full independence was achieved on 10 July 1973.

British Honduras obtained full internal self-government on 1 January 1964. This was shown by five definitive overprinted stamps (Scott 182-86), appearing in two installments during the first half of 1964. Upon the achievement of its full independent status, the country became Belize (1973).

Bermuda has become a virtually self-governing area which is shown by a set of four stamps (Scott 219-22) on 1 July 1968. It has a liberal constitution which allows for complete participation of its people in all affairs of government.

**OTHER ISLAND GROUPS** When Jamaica became independent in 1962, the Cayman Islands ceased to be a dependency of Jamaica. A new constitution granted at that time provided that the head of the government would be a locally based administrator.

The Turks and Caicos Islands, at the same time, chose to remain as a Crown Colony (2 August 1962). However, just about two years later (November 1965), an attempt to unite with Bahamas occurred. The governor of the Bahamas is now also the governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands. A New Constitution, adopted on 16 June 1969, was commemorated on 2 February 1970, (Scott 200-01). Caicos Island, part of the Turks and Caicos islands, began separate issues on 24 July 1981, initially as overprinted releases of the Turks and Caicos Islands stamps, and later, with other releases bearing the inscription "Caicos Island."

On 19 November 1968, Barbuda, then a part of the Associated State of Antigua, issued its first definitive stamps. Presumably to boost tourism, there was a rumor that Barbuda would cede from Antigua, but this has not occurred. A long list of issues has come from Barbuda following this initial step.

Antigua became an independent nation on 1 November 1981 with the name of Antigua and Barbuda.

Dominica became an independent nation on 3 November 1978. The event was marked by the overprinting of existing stamps with the text INDEPENDENCE/3rd NOVEMBER/1978 (Scott 584-601).

Independence for Grenada was marked on 7 February 1974 by the overprinting of values with the text INDEPENDENCE/7TH FEB 1974 (Scott 294-97, 299-301, 305A-309). An interesting chapter in the history of independent Grenada is marked by Project Urgent Fury, when US forces landed on the island to ensure the safety of its citizens, and wrested the island from communistic takeover. This chapter has been covered in a prior issue of the Journal (BCPJ April 1984 W/N 130).

St. Kitts-Nevis became an independent state on 27 February 1967 (Scott 182-84). St. Kitts stamps were introduced on 23 June 1980, being versions of the previously combined inscriptions which were obliterated. INDEPENDENCE/1983 overprints of the existing definitives were released on 19 September 1983.

On 23 June 1980 Nevis issued a set of definitive stamps of St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla (8 September 1978) overprinted Nevis.

St. Lucia achieved a Ministerial Government under a New Constitution on 1 January 1960 (Scott 173-75). It became an independent nation on 22 February 1979 (Scott 456a-459a).

St. Vincent's political development was marked with the issuance of a New Constitution overprinted issue 21 September 1951 (Scott 176-79) to commemorate the adoption of a new constitution for the Windward Islands. A Ministerial Government was established in 1963, Associated Statehood in 1967 and a full independent state on 27 October 1979. Existing issues were overprinted in black INDEPENDENCE 1979, (Scott 408, 410-16, 418, 421, 473-74, 422-23, and 425 as 572-86).

The Grenadines of St. Vincent are a group of islands south of St. Vincent (which include Bequia, Mustique, Canoun and Union) which began issuing stamps in 1973. A tourist promotional issue inscribed "The Grenadines of St. Vincent" was released on 25 November 1971 (Scott 324-29a).

**CARIFTA 1968** The most promising development in the history of the British Caribbean, especially since the collapse of the West Indies Federation, is the birth of the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA). It came into being on 1 May 1968 among the Commonwealth Caribbean countries of Barbados, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago. Two months later, the Association was joined by St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. Jamaica and Montserrat were subsequently admitted into membership.

These countries have common historical ties, share similar problems, and constitute an area which for generations has worked and played together (Cricket issues of Jamaica, Scott 266-68; St. Lucia, Scott 229-30; Guyana, Scott 36-38; Barbados, Scott 358; and Grenada, Scott 324-27). It was natural, and probably inevitable, that these countries should evolve some sort of economic cooperation, to overcome the problems that were repeating themselves, and which led in part to the downfall of the Federation. The agreement contains provisions for the admission of new member states (Article 32).

While the establishment of a free trade area is a desirable achievement in the setting of neighboring under-developed countries, it is a difficult goal to achieve. However, it is clear that CARIFTA has successfully negotiated the early pitfalls on the path to progress, and that the member countries can look forward to a prosperous future.

This significant development has been commemorated by first anniversary issues of the postal authorities of several members of the Association, including Antigua (Scott 217-20); Barbados (Scott 316-19); Guyana (Scott 91-2); Trinidad and Tobago (Scott 162-65); Grenada (Scott 310-15); St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla (Scott 188-89); St. Lucia (Scott 249-52); St. Vincent (Scott 278-81); Montserrat (Scott 212-15) and Dominica (Scott 257-60).

Within this free trade area of the territories comprising the countries of CARIFTA, the seven islands of the Eastern Caribbean formed the East Caribbean Common Market. In 1970 the Caribbean Development Bank was established, and in October 1972, CARIFTA-member countries decided to strengthen the integration movement still further by forming a Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM).

CARICOM seeks to deepen the regional integration, and includes such measures as the establishment of a common external tariff, a harmonized system of fiscal incentives for industry, and taxation agreements. It calls for coordination of national development planning, rationalization of agriculture, joint development of regional natural resources, and cooperation in other areas, including health, education, culture, transport and harmonization of foreign policies. Progress toward achieving CARICOM's goal are slow, owing to the political differences prevailing in the region, to the effects of recent economic difficulties and to the problem inherent in a system whose members are both small and widely dispersed geographically. Most progress has been made in the area of regional trade - its share in total trade has increased from 6% in 1967 to 9% in 1975 - but this has slowed in recent years. The degree of success in this integration movement should be judged, however, not only by the growth of regional trade but also by the success achieved in cooperation in other fields.

The role of CARICOM has been recognized by a number of member countries, which include Guyana, CARICOM DAY 1983 (Scott 823) and Trinidad and Tobago, 10th Anniversary of CARICOM on 30 August 1982 (Scott 397-8) and 11th Anniversary of CARICOM on 11 July 1983 (Scott 382).

#### PERSONAL MENTION

**Dr. Ben Ramkissoon** took the Best of Show award plus a Gold and the APS medal for exhibits prior to 1900 for his wonderful showing of "Trinidad 1802-1895". This qualifies Ben's exhibit for the APS Champion of Champions class in Boston next summer.

At the same show **Paul Larsen** won a Gold award for his exhibit, Leeward Islands - Federal Issues, 1890-1937". Those who attended AMERIPEX had the opportunity to see both of these very fine exhibits.

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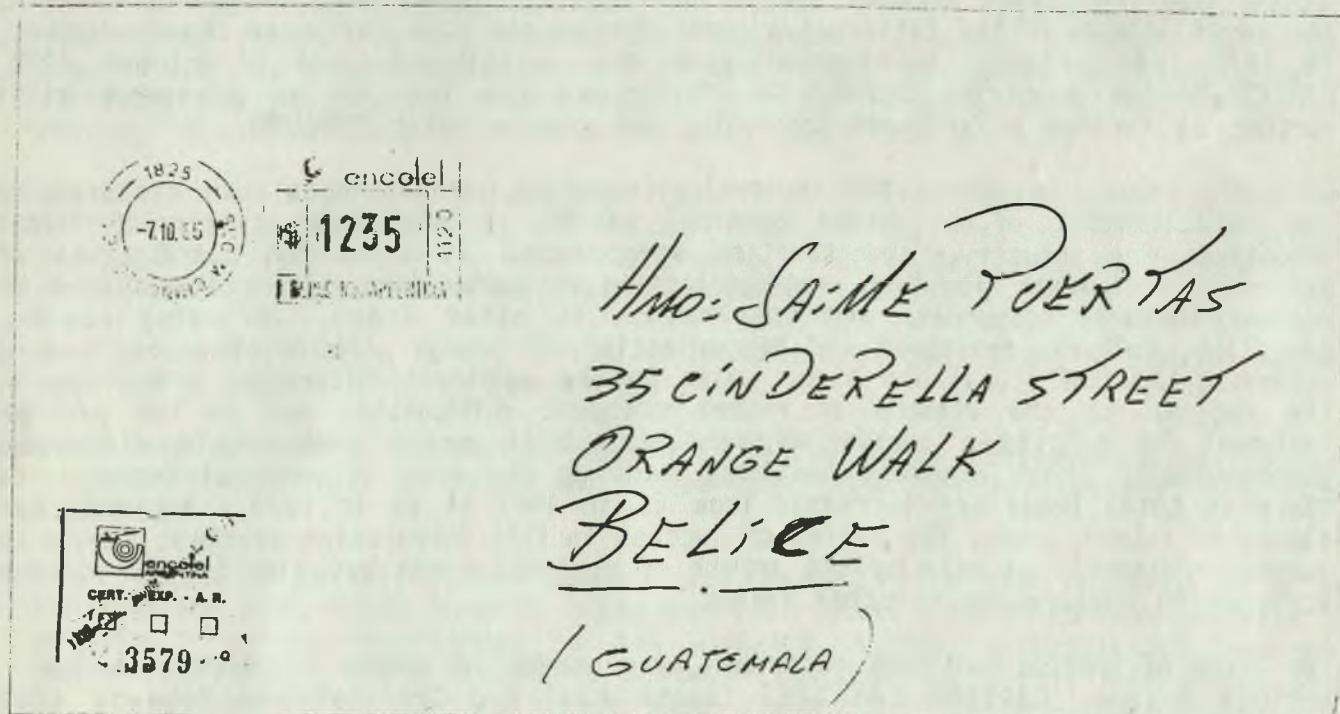
## BELIZE BITS AND PIECES

by Peter Bylen

Member Peter Bylen of Chicago has submitted a number of Belize items. Lack of space prevents showing all of them in this issue.

### Item #1

A political cover! Presumably an Argentine postal worker saw fit to correct (or at least hint at) the correct destination of this cover addressed to Orange Walk Town, Belize. The Spanish "Belice" is used over the English "Belize". This correction is done in the same hand as the remainder of the address. The parenthetical "Guatemala" may have been inserted in Argentina. It is in a different color ink and leads me to believe it is from a different hand.



Item #1 (Reduced to 75%)

### Item #2

This label was discovered as I was soaking some Belize stamps from a packet I recently received. The sender elected to "paste stamps" rather than "cross out" the notice. Does any BCPSG reader have any background on the postal marking?

Stamped in blue, from Dangriga, Belize, dated 20 September 1985, it reads:

RETURNED FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ¢  
 ADDITIONAL POSTAGE. WHEN  
 REMALING, CROSS OUT THIS  
 NOTICE OR PASTE STAMPS OVER IT



Item #2

## Personal Mention

Congratulations! Dr. Ben Ramkissoo has just received word that he has been elected a Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society, London. This honor is well deserved!



**NEW ISSUES**

by Bruce Watts

**ANTIGUA and BARBUDA:** set of four values and a souvenir sheet picturing flowers. To be issued Aug. 25, '86. Designed by Mary "Ching" Walters. Printed in multicolor offset-lithography by Format International Security Printers. The designs are: .10, water lily; .50, cup of gold; .70, golden trumpet; \$4, zephyr lily; \$5, souvenir sheet, four o'clock flower.

**BAHAMAS:** Set of two and SS depicting Christ Church Cathedral. Designed by Leslie Curtis and printed in litho in sheets of 60 by Walsall Security Printers. the .10 shows the Cathedral in 1881; the .40 the Cathedral in 1886; SS unites the stamps. Definitive varieties: reprints of the .10 and .25 aircraft on CA spiral wmk paper.

**BARBADOS:** Sept., reprints of the .01, .02, .10, .20, .25, .40, .45, .50, .65, .75, \$1, \$2.50, \$5, \$10 definitives. Now on CA spiral wmk paper. 1986 appears in the bottom margin.

**BELIZE:** STOCKHOLMIA '86 emblem overprinted on the .10, .15, .50, .75, \$1, \$2, and \$4 SS values of the AMERIPEX issue. Issue date Aug. 28, '86

**BERMUDA:** Bermuda shipwrecks definitive stamp issue Part III. Six values, designed by Leslie Curtis and printed by the House of Questa. Lithographed on CA spiral wmk paper. Issue date Sept. 18, '86. The denominations and ships are: .15, HMS Vixen; 'Caraquet'.

**CAYMAN ISLANDS:** New marine life definitive series. Walsall Security Printers Ltd. printed in multicolor lithography. Designed by Derek Miller. The stamps feature the following: .05, shrimp; .10, hermit crab; .20, coral; .25 Christmas tree worm; .35, puffer fish; .50, sea anemone; .60 feather star; .75, flamingo tongue; \$1, sea anemone; \$2, anemone fish; \$4, Scallop. Also Mangrove Life series definitive reprints .05 and .10 now perf 14.

**GRENADA:** \$20 definitive showing a paragraine flower. Designed by Mary Walters and printed in multicolor offset by the House of Questa. Issued Aug. 1, '86.

**GUYANA:** Reichenbachia Orchids two stamp books \$9.50 and \$14.00. Various orchids in many different denominations. There appears to be some confusion in the philatelic press about this issue. It seems there are two formats for each booklet. I will try to find more details on this issue. Aug. 21, '86 is the reported issue date.

**MONTSERRAT:** Communications set of four. Designed by G. L. Vasarhelyi and printed in litho by the House of Questa. The stamps are on Post Office wmk paper and perf 14. The denominations and design are: .70, Radio Montserrat Station; \$1.15, Radio Gem Z.G.M. FM 94 (satellite dish); \$1.50, Radio Antilles 930 (studio building); \$2.30 Cable & Wireless (building).

**ST. KITTS:** Agricultural Exhibition/Youth Designs. Two stamps designed by G. I. Vasarhelyi in multicolor offset. The .15, family with livestock, by 14-year old Kevin Tatem; the \$1.20 people, crops, and computers, by 19-year old Alister Williams.

**ST. LUCIA:** 25th Anniversary of the Peace Corps in St. Lucia. Three values designed by Mr. John Cooter. Printed in litho by the House of Questa Ltd. The stamps are perf 14 and the issue date is Sept. 24, '86. The values are .80, \$2, and \$3.50.

**ST. VINCENT:** Released in Aug. Part 6 Locomotives, in se-tenant pairs. Designed by Terry Hadler and printed in multicolor offset by Format International Security Printers. The pairs are as follows: .30 pair, J. N. R. ABT Rack & Adhesion Class ED41 BZZB, Japan 1926; .50 pair, Chicago Railroad Exposition 'The Judge' 1A Type

1883; \$1 pair, B.H & L.P.R.R. E60C Co-Co 1972 USA; \$3 pair, G.M. (EMD) SD 40-2 Co-Co 1972 USA.

VIRGIN ISLANDS: ERROR The \$1 se-tenant 1986 Royal Wedding pair has been found with a color missing. The country name, value and the inscription "1986 ROYAL WEDDING" are omitted.

(Ed: Please let Bruce Watts know whether you want more details in the New Issues Section. His address is P. O. Box 619, Idyllwild, CA 92349.)

## FIRST RELEASE OF BRITISH HONDURAS STAMPS

by Dr. Luis Escalante

In the March 1985 BCPJ (W/N 134) on page 24, I tried to clarify the real date of issue of the first stamps from British Honduras. In this journal I drew attention to an error in a Belize publicity release and to the reference in Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps which disagree with each other.

Mr. Eric King recently showed me a copy of the "Supplement to the Honduras Gazette" from Saturday, December 2, 1865 with the following "Notice" dated at the Post Office, Belize on the 1st December 1865.

NOTICE

Post Office, Belize

THE MAILS for the United Kingdom, the Colonies, &C. will be closed on FRIDAY next, the 8th, instant at (10) o'clock, a.m.

Colonial Postage Stamps for the prepayment of Letters and Newspapers can now be obtained at this office.

W. JAS. McKINNEY, Postmaster

This evidence establishes the date of issue for the first stamps from British Honduras as the 1st December 1865. This notice is quite important and should end all consideration of other dates.

## 1987 DUES

All members will find a notice for 1987 dues included with this Journal. Life members should complete only the applicable portion.

International Director, Robert Swarbrick, will be pleased to receive 1987 dues in sterling from members using this currency.

Returning your dues early will save us the costs of additional notices and assure you will receive all the journals without delay. In accordance with action taken at AMERIPEX, unpaid members will receive only the March issue in 1987.

If you have already paid your 1987 dues, and you have no wish to change the mailing class, please disregard the notice.

FIRE!

FIRE!

Fire totally destroyed the Turks and Caicos Philatelic Bureau last New Year's Eve according to several reports in the philatelic papers. There seems to be some mystery as to why the fire occurred. Does any member have the complete story?

## IN MEMORIAM

Thanks go to Victor Toeg, to Gale Raymond and to Bill Matthews for the memorials to Dr. David Woolfson, John A. Gavelek, and George Beeby-Thompson respectively. Word has just been received of the death of Basil Cawston, September 1 and George E. Hargest.

### DR. DAVID WOOLFSON

We shall all miss Dr. David Woolfson who passed away suddenly on 17th July this year. David joined and participated in the activities of many philatelic societies, local and international; by his active support he obtained the fullest benefits from his memberships.

For many years he was a stalwart of the British West Indies Study Circle and the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. His interest in British West Indies stamps was wide. At various times he formed collections of Dominica, Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad. He contributed articles and raised queries in both the Study Circle Bulletin and British Caribbean Philatelic Journal over a lengthy period.

Apart from philately, David was a busy general medical practitioner. He leaves his widow, Anne, three sons, Peter, Tom and Andrew, and one grandchild. To all his family, we extend our deepest sympathy at their great loss.

### JOHN A. GAVELEK

Sadly, we have lost yet another of our "early-birds" in the BCPSG. Charter member John A. Gavelek of Miami, Florida, passed away 5 October 1986 of cancer. His first love was his beloved wife, Anne; a close second was his extensive collection of Bahamas postal history, from 1801 to 1985. A specialist in Bahamas for some 55 years, Johnny made many important, original discoveries, which he shared with others through writing for our Journal and by exhibiting often.

A master typographer by trade, he was Past-President of the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs and the Miami Stamp Club. His active interest in orchids was still strong until his last illness. He was a member of the Pan American Orchid Society. Those who knew well this somewhat shy, modest man were keenly aware of his intense intellectual curiosity and his research work.

Johnny never hesitated to express his deep brotherhood within the circle of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group to which he brought his inseparable buddy, Eddie Adelson. It was Johnny who inspired Eddie and so many of us to immerse ourselves delightfully in collecting Bahamas, and to whom his collection has passed in accordance with his last wishes, that the knowledge will never be lost.

To Anne and his family, we share your loss and extend our sympathy. We know that in many ways he is still with us in heart, soul, and spirit. His body now released from travail, Johnny's presence will still be long felt in the island breezes and whispering palms at Lower Bogue, Sweetings Cay, Roses, Cat Cay, True Blue, Whale Cay, Norman's Castle --- we'll miss you, Johnny.

### GEORGE BEEBY-THOMPSON

George Beeby-Thompson, Secretary of the Trinidad Philatelic Society, died in October at the age of 81, by drowning, in saving a young female cousin, who got into difficulties while swimming at the beach in the Toco area of Trinidad.

George was born in England and came to the West Indies in early manhood, his family having ties with Grenada. He then spent several years in the Middle East, mainly Bahrain, before returning to Trinidad. He was a man of many interests being asso-

ciated with Boy Scouts, Red Cross, Blind Welfare and other similar organizations.

George was always pleased to assist overseas collectors by obtaining Trinidad and Tobago items for them, or, if they came to Trinidad, taking them around the island, visiting post offices, beaches, etc.

I came to know George well during the period I was President of the TPS and he was Secretary. Together we arranged the Trinipex Exhibition at the Holiday Inn, Port of Spain, in 1977 and the 1978 meeting of the TPS in London which events were attended by members of the BCPSG.

George's death will be a great loss to the TPS. However, those of us who knew him will agree that George went the way he would have wanted - doing a good turn for others. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Marjorie.

## **WHAT'S IN A NAME? WINDWARD AND LEEWARD ISLANDS** Cdr. C. E. Zettle

It recently occurred to me that something that I, as a lifelong sailor, consider obvious may not be so clear to the landlocked. The terms "windward" and "leeward" relate to the sailing directions "into the wind" and "with the wind." In much of the world these are far from constant because, as we've all experienced, the wind changes direction frequently. In the Caribbean, by contrast, the wind is constantly from the East, day in and day out. These are the fabled Trade Winds which result from the rotation of the earth, the greatest velocity of which is at the equator. The Trade Winds are the most consistent portion of the circular clockwise wind pattern in the Atlantic Ocean to the north of the equator.

A glance at the map of the Caribbean makes it apparent why the Windward and Leeward Islands came to be named. To sail from Barbados to Antigua for instance, one would sail with the wind (to leeward) and vice versa for the return trip, hence the names.

Incidentally, the Trade Winds are also responsible for another Atlantic phenomenon, the Gulf Stream. The wind-blown water from the southern latitudes of the Atlantic is forced into the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico by the Trade Winds. Heated by the strong tropical sun and piled up in the confined basin of the Gulf of Mexico, the water that makes up the Gulf Stream shoots out of the first opening north of the Trade Winds, i.e., the Straits of Florida (between the east coast of Florida and the Bahamas) with enough force to create a warm current that reaches north-eastward across the Atlantic, through the Norwegian Sea and around the tip of Europe to warm Western Europe and keep Murmansk essentially an ice-free port.

Thus the Trade Winds have influenced trade, transportation and climate throughout the North Atlantic region. And the sailors, who came to the Caribbean, used the Trade Winds to name the groups of islands they found there.

## **Personal Mention**

Our New Issues Editor, **Bruce Watts**, says he has been a collector since age seven. Now 38 years old, he has been a professional chef for the past ten years. In addition to stamps and cooking, he enjoys computers, horticulture, aquaculture (tropical fish) and corresponding with other collectors. Currently, he writes to collectors in the U. K., Barbados, Czechoslovakia and the Peoples Republic of China.

Bruce is interested in all aspects of Barbados, especially postmarks, watermark varieties and plate flaws. To promote our hobby, he is preparing an exhibit entitled "Collect British West Indies Stamps" for display in his local library. The exhibit includes maps, literature, post cards, and lots of stamps.

## CAYMAN ISLANDS PHILATELIC ADVENTURES

by Everett L. Parker

There's probably not a stamp collector alive who doesn't visit every post office he or she can when in a foreign country. No matter whether the person is a novice collector or an experienced philatelist, the lure is always there. Such was the case when my wife and I visited the Cayman Islands recently. I had an interview with the Postmaster General in Georgetown, Grand Cayman, for my "British Caribbean Tales" column in **Stamp Collector** newspaper, and we wanted to take advantage of a few days in the tropical splendor. A quick tour of the Georgetown Post Office was arranged but greater adventures awaited.

Taking the advice of BCPSG membership chairman, Tom Giraldi (himself an avid Caymans collector), we rented a car to tour the Islands, and, of course, visit the post offices along the way. Perhaps the most unusual aspect of the trip was a visit (of sorts) to the "post office" at Old Man Bay. For those acquainted with Grand Cayman, you know Old Man Bay lies about halfway between Northside and Savannah. It's a small settlement with a gas station being the "center" of town.

There is no post office as such but Gloria Bell serves as a sub-postmistress, selling stamps from her house, I was told. There used to be a post office, but the small amount of mail resulted in the facility being closed years ago. As most philatelists will generally agree, it's sometimes difficult to find post offices in the less populated areas of the Caribbean.

Geraldine Connolly, sub-postmistress at Gun Bay, is a prime example. Her house sits far back from the road and one would easily pass it if not for a small sign denoting the "post office." Mrs. Connolly sat on her comfortable sofa and sold me stamps from a well-worn manila folder while watching television. She never missed a word on the telly as she told me how to find the Old Man Bay sub-postmistress.

I was told Gloria Bell lived in a house behind the gas station in Old Man Bay. When we arrived, a rather rough-looking fellow taking an afternoon siesta said Ms. Bell was not home, but he was her brother and would take the money and envelopes for posting. I carefully explained I would like her to sign the envelopes for me. No stamp collector, he, I figured I would never see the covers again after passing him a couple of U.S. dollars for postage.

You can imagine my excitement when the covers did indeed arrive, not with the Georgetown cds (remember, the post office at Old Man Bay had been closed years ago), but with Old Man Bay registry marks in purple cancelling the two stamps! The covers were not registered and did not arrive as registered mail, yet were cancelled with the large "R" registry mark showing "Old Man Bay, Grand Cayman" in two lines.

Unfortunately, I did not get these covers until after returning back home. What a mystery! What other old cancellers are found in dusty, cluttered boxes? In fact, the genial Nettie McCoy, postmistress at Northside, said she had several old cancellers, plus an old "R" registry mark she wants to throw away but the post office won't let her. And forget it, Tom. She can't give them away either.

The other philatelic adventure occurred at Hell on the west end of Grand Cayman. As most of us know, Hell is named for the unusual rock formations on this part of the island, which, according to an old sage, gives it the resemblance to Hell. Whether a resemblance to Hell is there is up to the imagination, but the place does look forbidding enough. To reach the viewing area, one goes through the Hell Post Office. This is a fresh, new building, built primarily for the tourists who flock there. On the day we visited, the postmistress was in Miami for medical treatment and her daughter, a young girl of about 16, was holding down the fort.

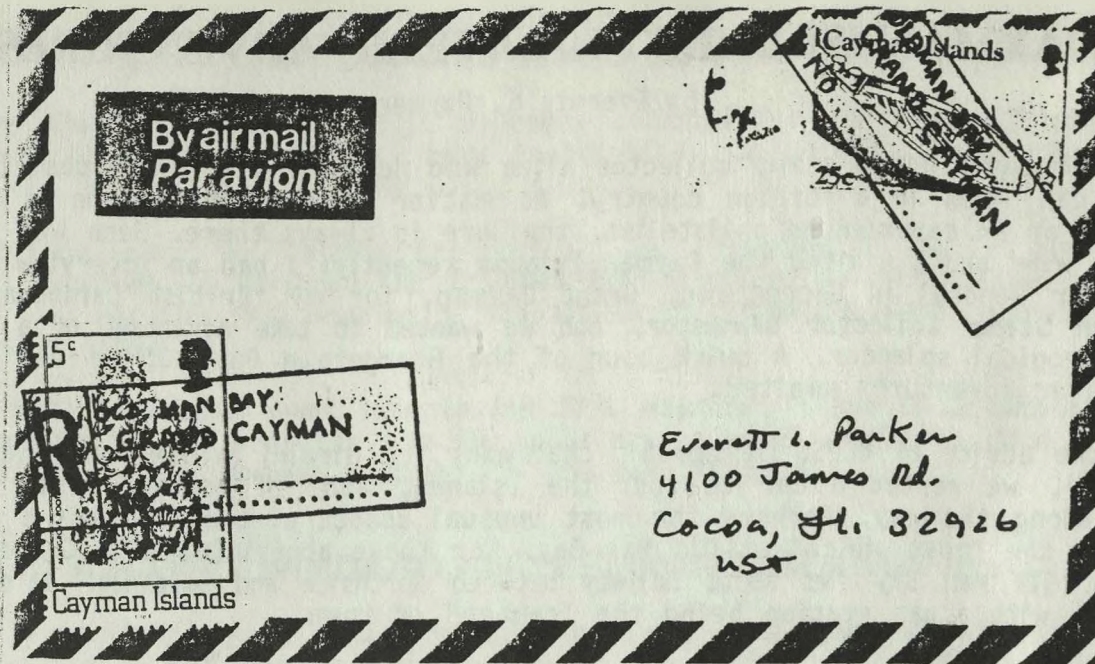


Fig. 1

I addressed several covers and asked to register each. The young lady said she didn't know much about registering mail, that she had been pressed into service on short notice. She soon found and made out the necessary paperwork. However, searching through cigar box which housed the post office markers, she couldn't find the registry stamp. Apologizing for the delay, she asked if I would take the covers into Georgetown and pass them to the postal clerk so he could apply the registry mark! To say the least, I couldn't believe my ears!

Rather than point out the obvious violation of postal laws, I merely accepted the covers and took them to another friend, Petrouella Ebanks, the matriarch postmistress at West Bay, a few miles away. She clucked her teeth, shook her head and thanked me for bringing the covers to her. She then applied the WEST BAY registry mark to the covers postmarked HELL! Another philatelic treasure!

So, you see, philatelic adventures await us all!!

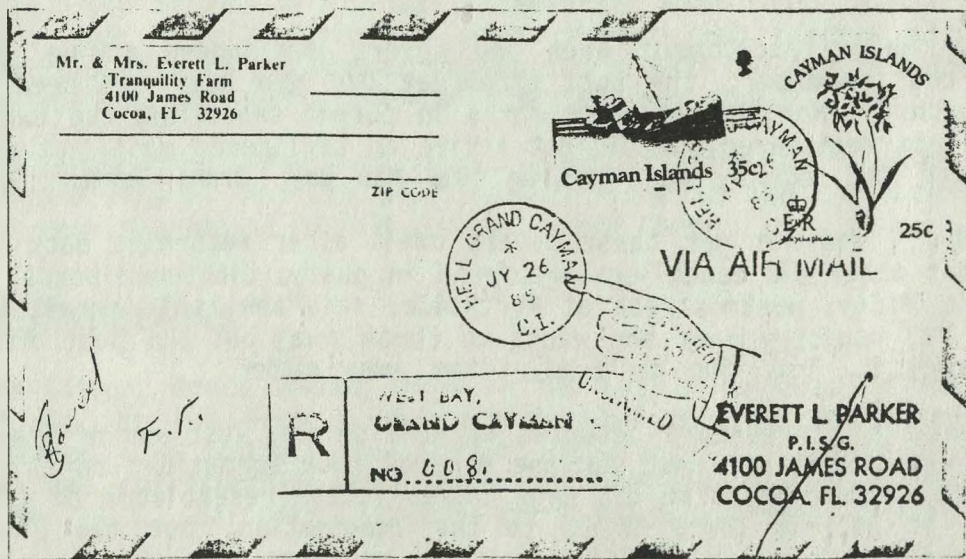


Fig. 2

# Secretary's Report

## NEW MEMBERS

PIAT, Francois, 11 Chemin de Funquereau, 59910 BONDUES, France  
by Michael Vokins

WHEATCROFT, A. A., 141 Meersbrook Park Road, Sheffield, S8 9FP, England  
Collects postal history, by Bruce Walker

LECKIE, Peter D., 75-8111 Saunders Road, Richmond, B. C., V7A 4L9, Canada  
Collects King George V definitives for Bahamas, Leewards, Bermuda, St. Kitts-Nevis, KUT, Gibratr, Swaziland, by Thomas E. Giraldi

## DECEASED

CAWSTON, Basil G. W., GAVELEK, John A., HARGEST George E., THOMPSON, George B.,  
WOOLFSON, Dr. David

## RESIGNED

BRAUER, William

## DROPPED FOR NON PAYMENT OF DUES

BARNSTONE, Howard, BRAHAM, Stephen W., BURRIDGE, David A., FASHINGBAUER, Robert,  
HIERONS, Barry C., HURLEY, Bruce D., MARTIN, William K., OTT, Russell E., RITZER,  
Stephen, SIEGEL, Abraham, SWAIN, Fred, WEBBER, Peter, WHARTON, W. Ralph, WOHLFEIL,  
Herman D.

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England

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## FROM THE EDITOR

This Journal has been much more work than usual due to the number of illustrations and long articles. There is no complaint if you are getting the journal you want.

Are you surprised to hear that no response to my notes in the September Journal has come? Will you volunteer to be the Advertising Manager or Publicity Chairman?

## CHRISTIE'S ROBSON LOWE AUCTIONS

invariably include items of interest for the  
British Caribbean collector

**IN LONDON** on 17th December the British Empire sale includes Antigua covers, Bermuda Prisoner of War postcard, good **Dominica, Grenada** with pre-adhesive covers, with proofs, essays and specimen stamps throughout the sale.

**IN BOURNEMOUTH**, auctions are held monthly throughout the year and include extensive sections of British Empire with commemoratives, collections, single rarities and postal history material of the Caribbean area.

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U.S. Agent:

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