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JUNE 1988

CONSUMER ACCOUNTS

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A modern cover beauty, showing the Anguilla
Travelling Branch registration label
Courtesy of Tom Giraldi

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Unit No. 27 of the APS

ISSN 0045-2890

The President's MessageDr. Ben Ramkissoon

With this issue of the Journal, I am beginning a series of releases featuring the existing philatelic societies in the British Caribbean and related territories of our collecting sphere of interest.

The information will be a useful adjunct to your collecting interests, since these pieces of information will be helpful to collectors wishing to form or extend 'local contacts'.

Please send me your comments about the results you achieve by contacting these organizations.

I hope that our overlapping areas of philatelic interests will be strengthened and enhanced in closer ties of affiliation and friendship.

THE GUYANA PHILATELIC SOCIETY

is an active ongoing organization, headquartered in the capital city of Georgetown.

The Society maintains a library reference collection (mint) of Guyana stamp issues. In its library of stamps of the World, the used collections of Guyana and British Guiana are maintained.

A 3-5 page monthly BULLETIN is published each year.

A special publication on the published literature relating to the stamps, usages, errors, varieties, etc., is available from the GPS library at 50¢ U. S.

Membership Information Overseas collectors may join the GPS as Corresponding Members (no dues), but an annual fee of \$1.00 is required for postage fees.

INQUIRIES TO: Guyana Philatelic Society
Attn: Ms Veronica Khemraj
P. O. Box 10471
Georgetown, Guyana, South America

From The Editor's DeskMark W. Swetland

Would members kindly arrange to notify the editor of address changes before they move or relocate? Almost every issue results in one or more copies of the journal returned or notices received from the USPS, both of which cost the Group money. You will also assure that you receive all copies of the Journal regularly.

Future issues will have several more installments of The Antigua Monograph by Bill Cornell. Bob Swarbrick has a most interesting article on the Jamaica Ser..et Error which will raise anew the question of whether the error progressed by becoming more or less noticeable. A number of new authors have also come forth with short articles. May this trend continue!

Members should be sure to read the note MARCH 1988 JOURNAL on page 64 and FLASH on page 70.

NEWS FLASH - ROSES MERGES WITH BCPSG

by Anthony Shepherd

At the AGM of the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society on 23 April 1988, the members of the Roses voted overwhelmingly to merge with the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. Trustees of the BCPSG had already approved the merger. The former members of the Roses will now function as the BCPSG(UK).

All members of the BCPSG residing in the UK or the rest of Europe who were not members of the Roses now become automatically members of the BCPSG(UK) as well as the BCPSG. There will be no additional dues.

The Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society was formed in July, 1957 by collectors of the British West Indies and Caribbean area, their interests being the whole spectrum of philately and postal history of the area. In its early days the Roses operated under the banner of the British West Indies Study Circle, but of recent years have operated as an independent society.

For those who wonder at the title of the Society, the "Roses" in question are the national emblems of Yorkshire and Lancashire, the White rose of Yorkshire and Red rose of Lancashire. These counties supplied the initial membership.

Over the years the Roses Caribbean P. S. have been quite active in West Indian philately, having published collectively, and sponsored by individual authors, several handbooks which have become the reference work in their particular fields. The Roses publication fund will be maintained separately for the publication of future handbooks on the many phases of Caribbean philately.

The Society has also organized many successful conventions, besides holding regular meetings during the "stamping season" in the UK - the winter. Under the new format it is envisaged that several meetings a year will be held at venues encompassing all of the UK, the North, Midlands and South.

In recent years several active members of the Roses have been perturbed by the lack of active interest on a local level for West Indian philately, and thought it was time for the Society to put their experience and enthusiasm to use in a Group of a national base as opposed to operating on a regional base. In open forum these ideas have been discussed with the membership of the Roses and a majority mooted for amalgamation with the BCPSG. A postal ballot was organized and an overwhelming vote to join the BCPSG was cast.

We of the ex-Roses feel that we have a lot to offer in the field of West Indian philately, and as many of us already hold membership in what is to be our parent Group, the consensus was to amalgamate to forward the cause of the study and collection of postal history, postage stamps and all other attendant philatelic interests of the West Indies and Caribbean area.

Ex-Roses members who will coordinate the activities of the BCPSG(UK) are:

Derek Lilley	UK Chairman
Malcolm Watts	UK Publicity
Anthony Shepherd	UK Correspondent to the BCPJ

Bob Swarbrick continues in the office of International Director of the BCPSG and his role is unchanged. He will continue to receive dues and provide liaison outside the USA, Canada and the Caribbean.

St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Co. Ltd. - Locals - Part III

Robert J. Devaux

(Continued from BCPJ, Vol. 28, NO. 4, W/N 144, pp 109-112)

The story of the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Company and its fascinating postage stamps is well documented in the 'St. Lucia Philatelist' Nos. 1 - 4, and later in the 'Private Ship Letter stamps of the World' Part I; so I will only comment on certain aspects of the period from the birth of the company in 1869 to its demise in 1892.

There is little doubt that the company would have quickly become a reliable mail carrier. Apart from certain obligations attached to the Government subvention of PND 250 per annum, which included the carriage of mails, the company would have been prevailed upon to carry private letters and convey last minute messages of an urgent nature, as well as regular correspondence, simply because the company offered a faster delivery service than the Post Office.

For approximately one year, the Company operated its communications service using canoes. The Company's first steam ship "Aid" arrived in 1870 and perhaps shortly after the custom of hanging a mail bag on the ship took root.

The "Saint Lucian" newspaper of 1871 makes it quite clear that the company was already charging a fee of one penny to carry letters coastwise with guaranteed same day delivery - something the Post Office could not do.

The company had postage labels printed locally on the presses of the "St. Lucian" newspaper, perhaps as early as 1870, but certainly by 1871 as shown by a cover from Laborie dated 13th October 1871 bearing such a label (Fig. 1).



The unique 1871 cover "Laborie to Castries" with St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Company label.

Fig. 1

The local post operated by the company was well established and growing, when the Directors decided to purchase a second ship. The "Creole" arrived in 1873 and sometime before that postage stamps of three denominations were produced for the company in Paris.

The only known example of these stamps is one cover dated 20th June 1873.

Additional proof that the company was operating a private local post in competition with the Post office is evident from a Post Office Notice dated 11th February 1873, which reads in part:5

"FROM THIS DATE STAMPS WILL NOT BE TAKEN IN PAYMENT OF POSTAGE OF LETTERS EXCEPT FROM THOSE PERSONS WHO HAVE PURCHASED THEM FROM THE POST MISTRESS OR AT THE POST OFFICE. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT NO ONE IS AUTHORIZED TO SELL POSTAGE STAMPS.

A. RICHARDS, POST MISTRESS

This is the clearest official evidence concerning the existence of a local post in St. Lucia. and was no doubt prompted by the appearance and use of the three postage stamps issued by the company about that time.

The Post Mistress, Amelie Richards, attempted to bring this anomalous situation to the attention of the Legislature on more than one occasion, but the resulting regulations such as the above had little effect, especially as the inland postal system was not yet organized.

Richards tried again in 1881 to establish a postal facility comparable to that of the company by providing an official Post Office mail bag at Soufriere and Vieux Fort according to the following notice dated 19th September 1881:6

"A mail bag will in future be open at the offices of the Stipendiary Magistrates at Soufriere and Vieux Fort for the reception of letters, etc., to be sent to the Post Office at Castries for transmission abroad.
.....etc., etc.

Amelie Richards, Post Mistress"

This action had little effect on the local post and the company continued to reap the lion's share of postal business.

The Post Mistress continued to complain about the competition facing the Post Office.

One reason why the above action had no apparent effect on the situation was because the company guaranteed mail delivery on the same day by keeping their offices open, while the Magistrates' offices closed at 5:00 PM.

Complaints to the Legislature became more frequent and, when it became apparent that the Post office was losing revenue, and, in fact, failing the public in its obligation to provide an inland postal service, the Legislative Council passed an Ordinance to establish branch offices in December 1881. This, however, was not implemented until July 1884, according to a Post Office Notice dated 16th July 1884, authorizing the formation of a local post between Castries and Soufriere and Vieux Fort. The charge was (similar to the company) one penny and, if not prepaid, double the above rate. The hours of closing for mails in Soufriere and Vieux Fort were in accordance with the company's sailing schedule.

This action and that of the following year, when five more local post offices were opened, had the effect of considerably increasing the postal business for the Post Office while only marginally reducing that of the company.

During a meeting of the Legislative Council held on 22nd October 1884, the

Governor informed members that:⁷

".....A local post on an unpretending scale has been started. The security it offers to those residing in Soufriere and Vieux Fort in posting and receiving mail, as well as inland letters, is a great advantage....."

The choice of words is interesting, and goes to show the Government's growing annoyance with the competition from the company. The word 'unpretending' suggests that the private local post was still operating, which it was.

Three years later, an Ordinance to prevent the company from operating a local post was passed. This Ordinance made provisions for a fine of five pounds if breached.

The company continued to operate its private local post as we learn from an interesting correspondence between the Administrator and the Managing director during 1889:

From the Governor General's Records, Grenada⁸

Government Office
8th April 1889

Sir,

I have the honor.....etc.

Will you kindly inform me what you consider your obligations to be. I am informed that the mails are not always carried by the steamers and that you have a private mail bag and charge a small sum for carrying letters; but I can get no satisfactory information about any agreement or contract or anything else.

I have.....

Sgd. R. B. Llewelyn
Administrator

Castries 13th April 1889

Sir,

I have the honor.....etc.

We have agreed to carry all public officers, policemen and prisoners free of charge, which represents from PND 6 to PND 10 per month - the mails are also carried gratuitously. I do not follow what is meant by the report made to you that the mails are not always carried by the steamers. I know of no instance when the mail has been refused when it has been delivered on time - on the contrary when for some reason the steamers cannot go down, the company sends a boat at its expense with the mails.

We have a private letter bag for merchants consignees letters. If this bag is more patronized by the public than the Post Office, although the charge is the same, the reason is this,

that we deliver letters immediately on arrival irrespective of the hour at which the steamer comes in, whilst the P. O. mail is not opened until the next morning if the steamer happens to arrive after four o'clock.

I have the honor.....etc.
 (Sgd.) C. Chastanet
 Managing Director
 St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Co. Ltd.

Letter dated 20th April 1889 from the Administrator admits that no formal agreement was ever entered into between the St. Lucia Government and the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Company, even though the company had been receiving a subsidy over the past twenty years for the performance of certain obligations to the public service. He then proposes that a formal agreement be entered into and submits a Memorandum to the Managing Director outlining certain obligations, of which some are as follows:

MEMORANDUM

The steamers are not to leave any port before the hours fixed in the time table or without receiving the mail bags. If the hour for sailing has arrived, the master of the ship is to send to the Postmaster and notify him that he is waiting for the mails and will leave without them if they are not delivered to him within five minutes.

The company shall not carry any letters except those sent through the Post Office.

.....etc.

Castries, St. Lucia
 15th June 1889

Sir,

I must apologize.....etc.

The company is quite willing to carry the mails gratuitously but on condition that they be sent on board a quarter of an hour before the departure of the steamer, but I cannot undertake to send for them as when in port all hands are required on board to land and take in cargo and attend to passengers.

If the company is to carry no letters except those sent through the Post Office, I submit that it is only fair that an adequate compensation should be given in return as I have already explained in my letter of the 13th April the original arrangement, under which the subsidy was granted, included no obligation to carry mails, or any obligation except to run the boat to Vieux Fort. So far as we have been able we have met the Government's wishes and taken over from time to time important obligations without increase in the subsidy or other compensation but the present financial position of the company

allows of no further gratuitous concession. Since the last two years the shareholders have had no dividend and it is to be feared that there will be none into distribution even this year. I could not, therefore, give up this source of income without adequate compensation which would be about PND 50 a year.

.....etc.

I am.....

(Sgd.) C. Chastanet
Managing Director
St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Co. Ltd.

We do not know if a formal contract was ever signed even though the company was receiving a subsidy of PND 600 per annum in 1891, when the Colonial Post master, F. S. Reece, made a complaint in his Post Office Report of that year as follows:9

"The Inland Postal transactions show that 16,612 letters and post cards and 6,915 articles were exchanged between the central office and the branch offices, an increase on that of the previous year of 1,653 letters and post cards, and 654 articles.

I may point out, as I have in previous reports, that this branch of the postal service is deprived of a large amount of revenue by the agents of the coasting steamers receiving and carrying letters, etc., independent of the Post Office, on which their charges are the same as the rates of postage, and notwithstanding the fact that the Post Office is paying to the company PND 600 per annum for the carriage of mails....."

It is interesting to include a table of comparative statistics of the postal business from 1883 to 1894:

INLAND POST OFFICE STATISTICS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Letters and Post Cards</u>	<u>Newspapers and Books</u>
1883	574	1,275
1884	1,014	1,228
1885	6,177	3,207
1886	10,923	5,990
1887	(11,959)	(6,100)
1888	(12,950)	(6,150)
1889	(13,959)	(6,200)
1890	14,959	6,261
1891	16,612	6,951
1892	22,617	9,083
1893	42,716	9,400
1894	45,804	11,3666

With the opening of Soufriere and Vieux Fort branch offices in 1884/85, there

was a 500% increase in business. Similarly a large increase took place in 1885/86 when five new branches were opened. The next large increase took place in 1892/93, when the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company won the coastal contract.

By Chastanet's own admission, the postal service was worth PND 50 to the company. This converts to 12,000 pence or 12,000 items at 1d. each. In 1889 when this claim was made, the postal statistics indicated a ratio of 2:1 of letters to newspapers. This ratio should also apply to the company, which means that the company handled approximately 8000 letters and 4000 newspapers in 1888/89.

The St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Co. Ltd. ceased operations in 1892 when the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company secured the coastal contract.

For more information interested readers should consult the four volumes of the St. Lucia Philatelist.

References:

3. Register of Deed, Mortgages, etc., held by St. Lucia National Archives.
4. Register of Judgements held by St. Lucia National Archives.
5. St. Lucia Gazette, 15 February 1873.
6. St. Lucia Gazette, 23 September 1881.
7. St. Lucia Observer, November 1884.
8. Correspondence Register, Administrator's Despatches 1889 held by St. Lucia National Archives.
9. Annual Post Office Department Report For the Year 1891.

(Ed: Mr. Devaux's address is P. O. Box 525, Castries, St. Lucia, West Indies)

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PERSONAL MENTION

Tony Shepherd has written that he gave a display of Barbados to the Kings Lynne Philatelic Society. Since the date was a Friday, he and Mavis made a weekend trip out of it. They put up at the Globe Inn in Kings Lynne, One of the inn's guests was Oliver Cromwell. Tony reports that not much except the plumbing has changed from those days. Apparently, the inn possesses a great deal of character.

JAMAICA JOTTINGS

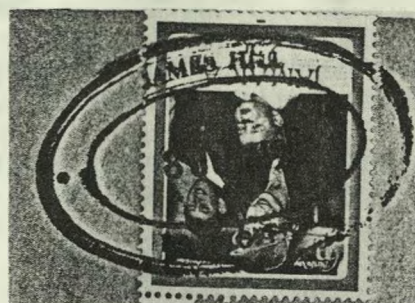
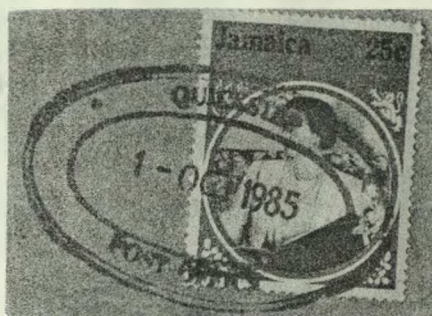
Hugh A. H. James

With great regret I heard from Reg Lant recently that, after serious reflection, he had decided to retire from Group studies and, in his words, join the normal membership. Reg, now in his 94th year, has been a tower of strength to the Jamaica Group and his contributions will be sorely missed. Thanks, Reg.

The most significant development in recent months has been the appearance of new types of Temporary Rubber Datestamps. Close examination of these marks reveals that there are three different types of mark, all in the TRD37 series. Discussions with Clint von Pohle have resulted in new sub-types of TRD37 being defined within the recording system designed by Clint. To avoid confusion I am listing all marks known to date. The new types are:

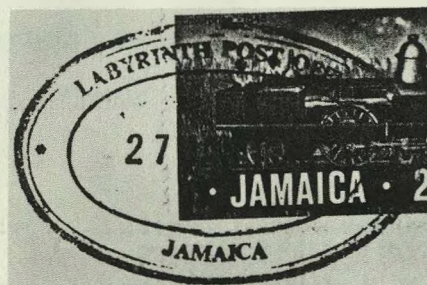
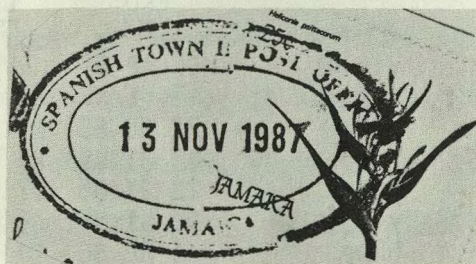
- 37h Name of office above with either POSTAL AGENCY or POST OFFICE below.
 37j Name and POSTAL AGENCY or POST OFFICE above, JAMAICA below.
 37k Name above, POSTAL AGENCY or POST OFFICE plus JAMAICA below.

<u>TRD37h</u>		<u>EKD</u>	<u>LKD</u>
BELLAS GATE / POST OFFICE	violet	16 AP 87	
BLUE MOUNTAIN / POSTAL AGENCY	"	5 FE 86	27 AP 87
BOULEVARD / POST OFFICE	"	22 AU 85	27 AP 87
DENBIGH /POST OFFICE	"	17 JY 85	25 NO 85
ELGIN / POSTAL AGENCY	black	22 JY 85	17 JN 87
FORT GEORGE / POST OFFICE	violet	11 SE 85	6 AP 87
FRANKFIELD / POST OFFICE	blue	4 AP 86	24 AP 87
JAMES HILL / POST OFFICE	violet	22 JY 85	6 JY 86
LAWRENCE TAVERN / POST OFFICE	"	31 OC 85	27 NO 87
MEADOWBRIDGE / POST OFFICE	"	15 JY 85	20 JY 87
MOUNT SALEM / POST OFFICE	"	29 AU 85	2 SE 87
QUICKSTEP / POST OFFICE	"	1 OC 85	1 MY 87
WATCHWELL / POSTAL AGENCY	"	6 SE 85	22 JA 88



<u>TRD37j</u>		<u>EKD</u>	<u>LKF</u>
ALBERT TOWN POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	black	5 NO 87	28 NO 87
ASKENISH POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	violet	5 AU 87	22 DE 87
BANANA GROUND POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	"	3 JN 87	28 DE 87
BONNY GATE POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	"	15 JA 88	25 JA 88
BRIDGEPORT POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	"	25 AU 87	28 JA 88
CHESTER CASTLE POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	"	16 NO 87	3 JA 88
COPSE POSTAL AGENCY / JAMAICA	"	2 OC 87	
DALLAS POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	black	1 DE 87	
GREAT VALLEY POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	violet	5 AU 87	7 JA 88

HOPEWELL POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	"	30 DE 87	
KETTO POSTAL AGENCY / JAMAICA	"	29 JY 87	
LABYRINTH POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	black	19 JA 88	27 JA 88
LOTTERY POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	violet	14 DE 87	30 DE 87
LUCKY HILL POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	black	28 JA 88	
MEADOWBRIDGE POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	violet	20 JY 87	28 SE 87
MIDDLE QUARTERS POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	"	25 NO 87	
MOUNT HOREB POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	"	28 OC 87	4 JA 88
MOUNT SALEM POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	"	2 SE 87	
MYERS WHARF POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	"	29 OC 87	30 NO 87
PARADISE ROAD POSTAL AGENCY / JAMAICA	"	31 AU 87	3 JA 88
PETERSFIELD POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	"	5 AU 87	17 NO 87
QUICKSTEP POSTAL AGENCY / JAMAICA	"	1 OC 87	
RESOURCE POSTAL AGENCY / JAMAICA	black	? JA 88	
SALT RIVER POSTAL AGENCY / JAMAICA	violet	14 JA 88	
SOMERTON POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	"	17 SE 87	30 SE 87
	blue	9 DE 87	5 JA 88
SPANISH TOWN II POST OFFICE / JAMAICA	violet	7 AU 87	11 JA 88

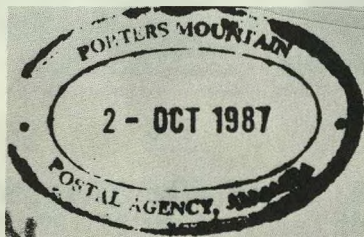


TRD37k

CAYMANAS BAY / POSTAL AGENCY, JAMAICA
 CORNWALL / POSTAL AGENCY, JAMAICA
 ENFIELD / POST OFFICE, JAMAICA
 FRIENDSHIP / POST OFFICE, JAMAICA
 LAMBS RIVER / POST OFFICE, JAMAICA
 NORMAN MANLEY / POSTAL AGENCY, JAMAICA
 PORTERS MOUNTAIN / POSTAL AGENCY, JAMAICA
 RICHARDS PEN / POSTAL AGENCY, JAMAICA

ROCK RIVER / POST OFFICE, JAMAICA
 SPANISH TOWN / POST OFFICE No. 1, JAMAICA

	<u>EKD</u>	<u>LKD</u>
violet	13 JY 87	5 OC 87
"	4 DE 87	
black	13 JA 88	
violet	6 NO 87	
"	10 JN 87	15 DE 87
"	29 JY 87	2 OC 87
"	24 JY 87	2 OC 87
"	24 AP 87	27 MY 87
black	16 DE 87	
violet	2 JN 87	
"	25 AU 87	29 SE 87



Agencies reported closed by Paul Raynor:

PAPINE, RED BANK and ROCK HALL. All around mid - 1987.

Other new marks reported are:

BREAST WORK (2 words)	TRD37	blue-black	JN 87 (no date)
CAMBERWELL	TRD41	blue	24 JY 87
MADRAS	TRD41	black enlarged,	no date in JY 87
BEESTON SPRING	TRD37	violet/black	12 AU 87

I am grateful to Reg Lant, Clint von Pohle, Scriv Scrivens and Paul Raynor for most of the above information. I should be delighted to hear from other members details of their finds; without the help of members there would be no Jamaica Jottings column.

From this month onwards I am proposing to conclude Jottings with a subject from my correspondence with members which is clearly causing some concern. There have been two main queries in recent months: the KGV1 1½d. light red-brown and inverted watermarks generally. Space does not permit me to cover inverted watermarks so that subject will have to wait until next time.

The concern about the KGV1 1½d. light red-brown (SG 123) stems mainly from the high prices charged and the validity of the Royal or B.P.A. certificates which often accompany them.

The 1½d. light red-brown appears first to have been recorded by Potter and Shelton as a Colonial release in 1944 and is believed to have been on sale in Jamaica in mid-1944. The printing records I researched while working on my study of the King George VI stamps of Jamaica which appeared in GEOSIX, the journal of the King George VI Collectors' Society, revealed that there were no printings of the King George VI 1½d. value after Requisition 2023/1 in September 1943 until 1946 under Requisition 2734/1. The allegedly scarce light red-brown was said to be from Plate 2 and that plate was used in Requisition 2023/1 which was a huge printing of some 18 million stamps, requiring several mixings of inks.

During 1943-1946 four main and visibly different shades of brown have been isolated from dated used copies in addition to the light red-brown. The light red-brown items attributed to Requisition 2023/1 differ so little from some other printings of the 1½d. value, both pre and post 1944, that it seems highly likely that many examples of the light red-brown sold by dealers etc did not emanate from 2023/1. Consequently, both Frank Saunders, the founder of the KGV1 Society, who worked with me on part of my study until he died, and the late Thomas Foster agreed that SG123a (as the light red-brown was catalogued) was a myth and they were instrumental in getting the listing deleted from Gibbons 1975 British Commonwealth Catalogue on the grounds that research had shown that it no longer deserved catalogue status any more than do a dozen or more shades, most of which are stronger candidates for inclusion than the light red-brown. (Thomas Foster's Jamaica Newsletter No. 23 - Stamp Collecting 19th December 1974.)

As regards the certificates which sometimes accompany copies of the 1½d. light red-brown, I can not believe that the certifiers had access to much if any of the data I researched during the study and consequently I must regard their conclusions as subjective albeit well-intentioned. I would not dream of paying £40 or more for a copy of this stamp with or without certificate and would advise prospective purchasers to look elsewhere for that special item for their collection.

(The General Secretary of the King George VI Collectors' Society is Frank Lockyer, 24 Stourwood Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, BH6 3QP, England. Annual subscriptions are £5 or £8 airmail. Hugh James address is 26 Maplehurst Road, Summersdale, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 4QL, England.)

NEW ISSUES

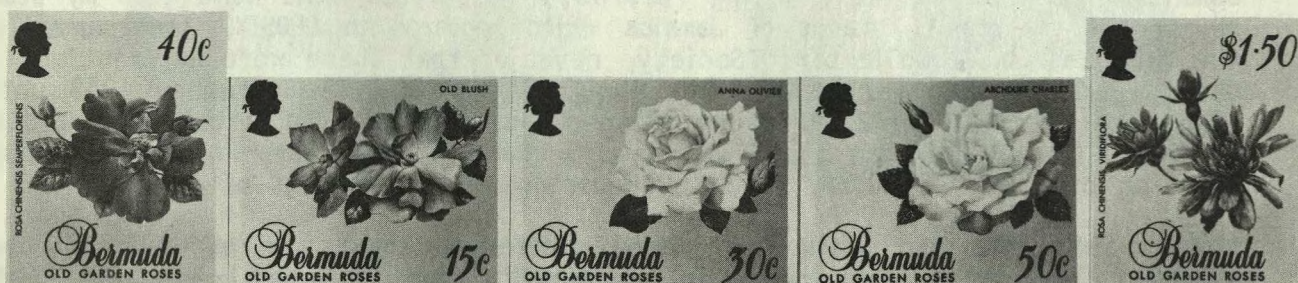
by Bruce E. Watts

All issues are printed by multicolor lithography unless otherwise noted.

BAHAMAS: Set of four to be issued in April picturing the whistling duck. Designed by William Oliver. Printer not reported. Denominations are: 5¢, whistling duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*) in flight; 10¢, in water; 20¢, with ducklings; 45¢, standing. The set also shows the World Wildlife Fund logo. The rest of the 1988 provisional program: July, Century of Lloyds; August, 150th Anniversary of the Abolition of Slavery; September, Olympic Games; October, Christmas.

BELIZE: Sheetlet of 14 stamps showing the 14 stations of the Cross for Easter. Issued March 21 on unwatermarked paper, the stamps are perf 13½. Designed by G. L. Vasarhelyi and printed by Format International Security. Denominations are all 40¢. A SS was also reported but no further details were given.

BERMUDA: Roses set of five to be issued April 21. Designed by Roger Gorringe and printed by BDT International. Denominations: 15¢, old bush; 30¢, Anna Olivier; 40¢, *Rosa chinensis Semperflorens*; 50¢, Archduke Charles; \$1.50, *R. chinensis Viridiflora*.



CAYMAN ISLANDS: Butterflies set of four to be issued March 29. Designed by Jane Thatcher and printed by the House of Questa. Denominations: 5¢, *Hemiargus ammon Erembis*, *Strymon martialis*; 25¢, *Phocides pigmalion Batabano*; 50¢, *Anaea troglodyta Cubana*; \$1, *Papilio andraemon Andraemon*.

JAMAICA: Marine mammals set of four to be issued in April. Designed by Anrew Riley and printed by Harrison & Sons. Denominations: 20¢, blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*); 25¢, Gervail's whale (*Mesoplodon europaeus*); 55¢, killer whale (*Orcinus orca*); \$5, common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*).

ST. LUCIA: 50th anniversary of the Cooperative Bank set of two to be issued in April. Designed by Stephen Conlin. Printer not reported. Denominations: 60¢, Castries branch; 90¢, Vieux Fort branch.

Total stamp issues for 1986 according to the Michel annual survey (includes SS):

GUYANA 221; GRENADA 133; GRENADA GRENADINES 126; NEVIS 118; ST. VINCENT 102; BELIZE 93; ANTIGUA & BARBUDA 86; BARBUDA 85; ST. VINCENT GRENADINES 82; ST. LUCIA 68; BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS 63; DOMINICA 54; MONTserrat 53; ANGUILLA 51; BAHAMAS 46; BARBADOS 45; BEQUIA 40; BERMUDA 28; JAMAICA 26; CAYMAN ISLANDS 25; TRINIDAD & TOBAGO 23; ST. KITTS 22; TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS 9; CAICOS 0; CAYES OF BELIZE 0.

St. Lucia "STATEHOO" Variety

Charles C. Cwiakala

Although of dubious origin, and not listed by either the Scott or Stanley Gibbons catalogs as being regularly issued, the 1967 "STATEHOOD/1st MARCH 1967" overprints on the 1964 1¢ and \$2.50 definitives are listed in the German-published Michel catalog. An item concerning these questionable issues, of which I was not aware, has come to light, so I am passing along the information for whatever its worth.

The overprinted \$2.50 value exists with the "D" of "STATEHOOD" omitted, thus reading "STATEHOO". The information and the photograph (Fig. 1) come from a correspondent in Germany who extracted it from a recent German auction catalog, but he can not remember who listed the item.

In any case the corner block illustration identifies the "STATEHOO" position as being the final one on the sheet. According to my correspondent, the variety is in the black version, and "only 300 exist". (Only 300 sheets overprinted in black?) This missing "D" variety has been accorded catalog status in Michel as No. 216b, but their valuation of the item is not known.

If any members have more information, I would appreciate hearing from them. My address is 1527 South Fairview Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068.



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1/8th page ad to fill this space for the balance of the year and longer. If you are interested, you should contact Robert C. Danzer, 19 Fox Hunt Lane, Great Neck, NY 11020. Both he and I will be happy to hear from you.

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Canadian Troops in the Bahamas in World War II

by Harold G. Gosney and Gale J. Raymond

In the military postal history of the West Indies, certain covers can be considered modern classics of the World War II period. A "new" one of only three* known from the Canadian troops in the Bahamas has just come to light. This sheds additional information on their postal arrangements. According to the "OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE CANADIAN ARMY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR", by Colonel C. P. Stacey, Vol. 1, p. 181,

"In April 1942 the United Kingdom asked that Canada give further assistance by providing a company for Nassau in the Bahamas, so that a British company on duty there might rejoin its battalion in the U. K. Protection was particularly important at this point as a member of the Royal Family, H. R. H. the Duke of Windsor, was Governor of the Bahamas. The War Committee agreed on 9 April to provide the troops. A new company of the Veterans Guard of Canada (No. 33) was organized for the purpose and arrived in Nassau in June. This was "N" Force. The Veterans were relieved in the autumn of 1943 by a company of the Pictou Highlanders. The Canadian Garrison left Nassau only in the spring of 1946, simultaneously with the relief of the troops in Jamaica and Bermuda."

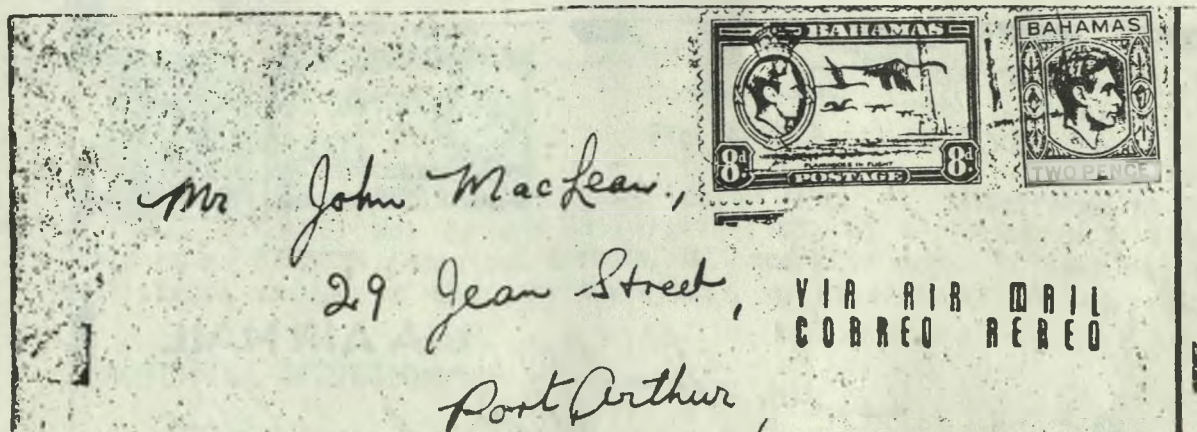


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

The size of the Bahamas detachment is not now known, but the scarcity of any covers suggest that it was certainly a small one. Figures 1 and 2 illustrate two covers recording the fact that, rather than an official Forces post office, troops utilized the normal Bahamas postal system with a 10d. rate to Canada. Military mail was handed unsealed to the censoring officer, who placed his initials or signature in the lower left corner. Some time in 1944 a Crown Circle CANADIAN ARMY 304 censorship mark, probably about the same time No. 316 was allotted to "Y" Force in Jamaica, appeared on Canadian Forces mail from the Bahamas. Consistently "N" Forces mail carried Bahamas postage stamps cancelled by a rectangular handstamp with center bar. This is a dumb-killer used at the Nassau GPO as a "security cancel" for Forces mail and sometimes as a paquebot marking for naval or ship mail. We do know that such a marking with a large "T" at the left end was available as a Postage Due marking, but was rarely if ever so utilized. Postage due marking was a GPO function, generally ignored in practice, then as now.

The latest cover to come to light (Fig. 3) fortunately includes the "official" return address of Lt. J. R. Robson, "N" Force Canadian Army Overseas, B. P. O., Ottawa, Canada. An inscription, "Ansd. Jan 16/45", gives a date frame at last. None of the three otherwise carries a dateline with this type of security cancel. Reports of any other "N" Force covers would be highly appreciated by the authors c/o Editor.

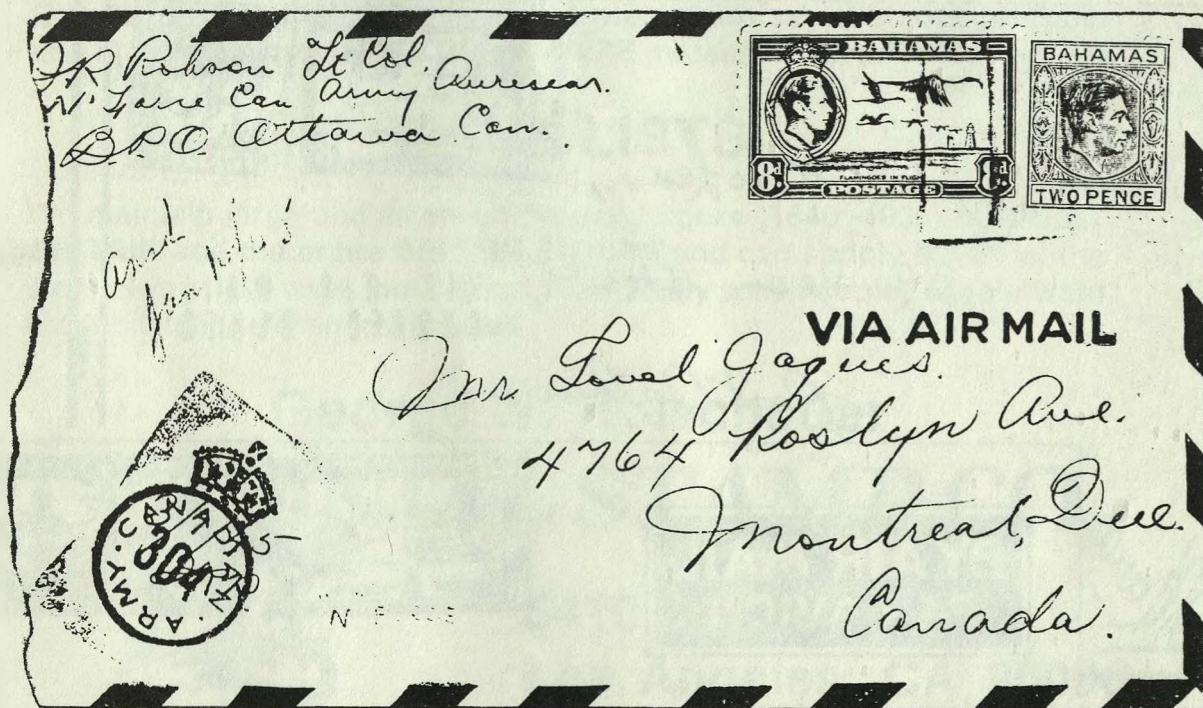


Fig. 3

In 1943 based briefly in Miami Beach in the USAAF Aviation Cadet Program, I (GJR) with several Royal Navy friends wrangled a hitch hop to Nassau aboard the Duke of Windsor's yacht "Jean Brilliant", on loan to H. M. Forces. I was privileged on this visit to view an official parade including H. R. H., which near the Royal car included a contingent of magnificently kilted, marching bagpipers in perfect step and form. The shoulder markings read "CANADA", and I asked someone if they were from the famed "BLACK WATCH" troops of Canada. The answer was no, but I was later told they were with a special force guarding H. R. H. Intrigued, we hazarded a few guesses as to where their weapons were

concealed, but as with other kilt mysteries, the answer is still ahanging. Was this a part of "N" Force? Surely someone closer to the source will inform us even at this late date.

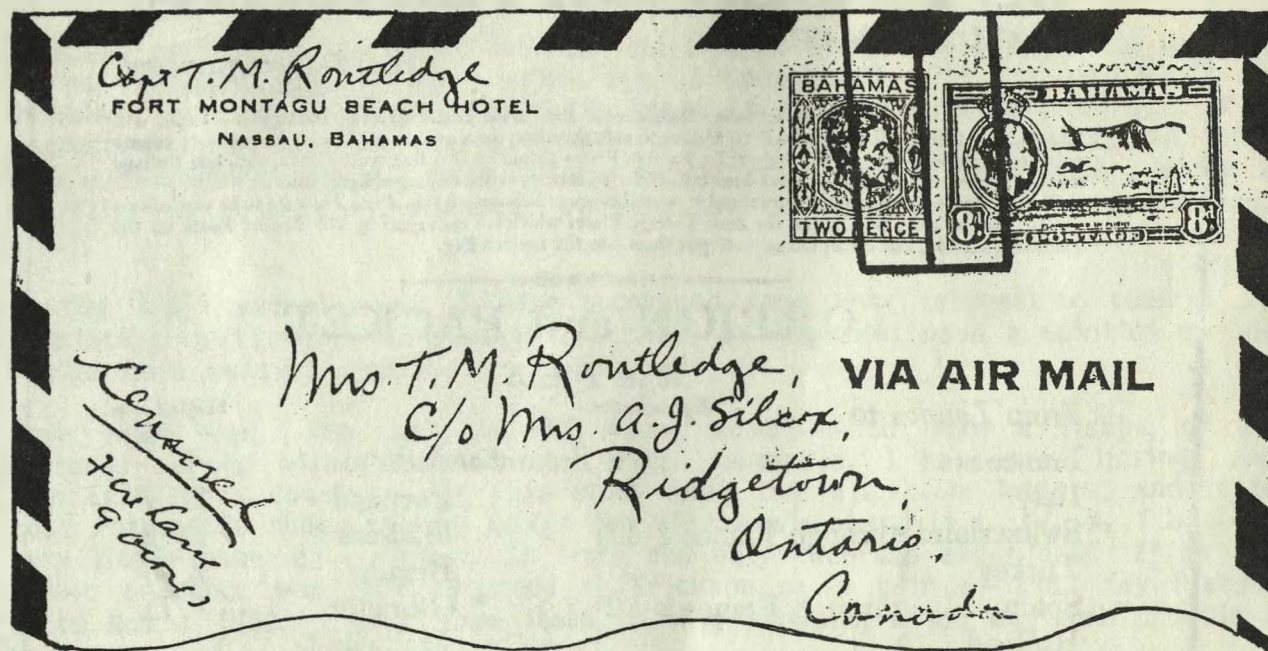


Fig. 4

*We've just been reminded of a fourth cover (Fig. 4), illustrated by Don Welsh in BCPJ, Vol. 23, No. 2, W/N 125, April 1983, p. 55. Apparently also an "N" Force cover from a (Canadian) Captain, of uncertain date, it bears an unusually well struck example of the security cancel, as usual in violet ink.

PERSONAL MENTION

Bill Ashley has moved around a great deal in the past year. When asked about his current address, he replied, "My whereabouts have been at question until recently. The San Jose address (see Secretary's Report) should be good until at least May 15. After that I'll have to rely on forwarding again. Would like to say 'see you at Fort Lauderdale' but it seems as if work is about to interfere with my longstanding hopes/plans to attend. Best regards. Bill Ashley (Wandering Philatelist)"

PACKET LETTER RATES TO THE WEST INDIES

The purchase of a Post Office notice from Caribbean Philatelic Auctions last year proved to be most interesting. Of special interest was the procedure for calculating the internal postage on letters sent from Great Britain by the packets. Is the calculation of the internal postage in this manner well known?

While the purchase of such information seems expensive, one must remember that it is history being purchased. Sharing it with others makes it worthwhile.

The notice has been reduced to 85% and is reproduced on the following page for information. Comments from members would be most welcome.

N^o. 1.

ON PACKET LETTER RATES, TO ALL POSTMASTERS,

GENERAL POST-OFFICE,
January, 1817.

THE following Statement of the Packet Letter Rates of Postage, it is hoped will be sufficiently intelligible to prevent all Mistakes, and, therefore, in any Case of Doubt, you are particularly enjoined to refer to it. If any Letters for Foreign Places should be sent from your Office with less Postage marked on them than ought to have been taken, the Deficiency will be charged upon you.

The Postmasters who have Instructions to send Letters to Falmouth by the *Cross Posts* are to be particularly careful, so to send the Letters for those Foreign Places which are conveyed by the Packet Boats on the Falmouth Station, and on no Occasion to put them into the London Bag.

FOREIGN and PACKET RATES.

From <i>London</i> to	Single Letter.		Single Letter.
	s. d.		s. d.
France	1 2	From <i>Falmouth</i> to	
Italy		Portugal	1 7
Switzerland } through France	1 11	Madeira	1 8
Turkey }		Brazils	2 7
Spain through France	2 2	Gibraltar	1 11
Holland }		Malta and	} 2 3
Netherlands }	1 4	Mediterranean	
Germany }		West Indies	1 3
Russia } through	1 8	America	1 3
Prussia } Hamburg			
Denmark }			
Sweden }	1 8		
Norway }			

*—If Persons wish to send Letters for Gibraltar through France, they must be sent to London instead of Falmouth, and the Postage will be the same as to Spain.

The POSTMASTERS are to add to the Rates on Letters for the Foreign Mails made up in LONDON, a Sum *Two-pence less* than the Inland Rate from their Offices; For Instance—the Inland Rate from Bristol to London is 10d. therefore 8d. and 1s. 2d. is the Postage of a Letter from Bristol to France, viz. 1s. 10d. and in the same manner for all the other Countries.

But, on the Letters sent to FALMOUTH, the Postmasters are to add to the Packet Rates as above stated, a Sum *One Penny less* than the Inland Charge from their Offices to Falmouth, viz. from York to Falmouth, the Inland Postage is 1s. 2d. therefore a Letter from York to Malta, is 1s. 1d. and 2s. 3d. in all 3s. 4d. The Mails are made up in London as follows,

France, { Every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday	Leeward Islands { First and Third Wed- nesday, Monthly
Holland & } Every Tuesday and Friday	Madeira and Brazils { First Tuesday, Monthly
Netherlands }	Portugal Weekly (Tuesdays)
Hamburgh Ditto	Gibraltar, Malta, { Every third Tuesday and Mediterranean }
Sweden Every Friday	
Jamaica and } First Wednesday, America { Monthly	

The Postage must be paid on Letters for all the above Places except the West Indian Colonies, and British America, (principal places, Halifax, and Quebec,) the Payment of which is optional with the Writers.

EAST INDIES.

Packets with regular Mails are dispatched from time to time of which Public Notice is given, to the Cape of Good Hope, the Mauritius, Ceylon, and the East Indies. The Packet Postage is 3s. 0d. single from London, but is not to be received in Great-Britain. It is to be paid on delivery in India, and the Postmasters are to stamp such Letters very plainly, charge them the Inland rate to London only, and send them in the London Bag.

N. B. No. 1 having required Alteration, particularly in respect to allowing Letters to British America to go unpaid, the last No. 1, dated in July, 1815, is to be cancelled, and this used instead.

FRANCIS FREELING,

The Squared Circle Postmarks of Kingston, Jamaica

Bob Swarbrick

A recent article in the BWISC Bulletin No. 135, December 1987, pp 80-81, by Mike Vokins reminded me that many years ago, I cooperated with the late L. C. C. Nicholson in a study to determine the usage of the index letters of this most interesting mark. I found my notes and copies of the letters, and compared these with correspondence which I have between Edwin Erickson and Tom Foster, which I had filed as researched. Although similar, this was carried out for a different end.

In the last several weeks I have uncovered some very interesting covers. In submitting my thoughts for comment, I think we may well have a solution to one of the more teasing problems.

Some years ago, Reg Lant and Bob Topaz combined to make a listing of all letteres marked with the Roman and Arabic numerals. I have this listing, and also Erickson's comments. In this study they give all known letters, and it is most noticeable that, at the latter end of the alphabet, (i.e., W, X, Y and Z), very little material is known. In fact, the only recorded example of "Z" in the Arabic sequence was that recorded by Erickson on a pair of 2½d. Key Plates, dated Nov 1 1982. I have some items in this grouping which may well provide a solution.

The first item (Fig. 1) is a UPU postcard, dated 13th December 1892. I was drawn to this postcard because of the excessive postage paid, namely 7d., and its non-philatelic message. The dater also has the letter "Z".



Fig. 1

The second item (Fig. 2) is an envelope, dated 22nd August 1893, again acquired because of the excessive postage paid. The dater on this item has the index letter "X".

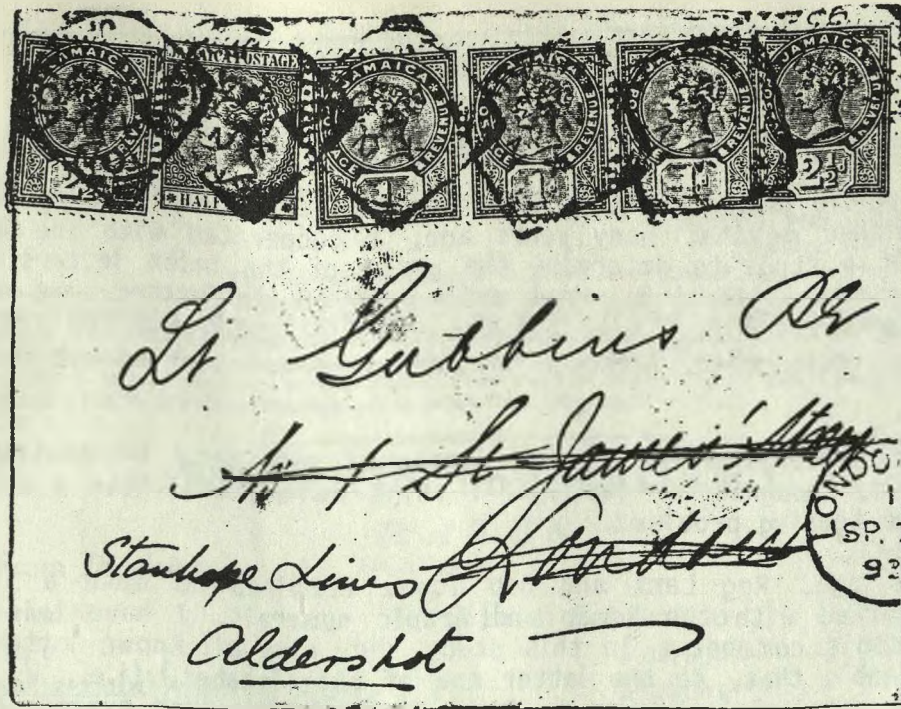


Fig. 2

The third cover (Fig. 3), dated 10th December 1885, has once more excessive postage, 1s. 2d., and bears the index letter "Y" also.



Fig. 3

Mike Vokins volunteered the information that, according to a G.P.O. notice which he has, there was a system of payment of late fee of 6d. Thus, a letter, posted after the advertised time of closure of the mail, could be included in that day's mail on payment of the "LATE FEE" for onwards transmission to England.

In all the items from my own collection, and illustrated herein, the "LATE FEE" procedure would appear to have applied. For the postcard in Fig. 1, the then UPU rate for "ordinary" postage was only 1d. For the letter in Fig. 2, the rate was 2½d., the ordinary rate having been reduced from 4d. in 1891, plus the "LATE FEE" of 6d. making the total rating of 8½d. The cover in Fig. 3 is a double rate cover bearing postage paid by 2 x 4d. stamps plus the late fee of 6d. paid by 6 x 1d. stamps.

These three covers, together with the loose stamps of the higher values mentioned above, seem to provide a probable postal reason for the usage of these particular index letters, which it must be admitted are of comparative rarity. It is my conclusion at this time that these daters were only used to cancel the "LATE FEE" mail. If my conclusions be correct, from the items so far seen, then the facet of "LATE FEE" mail may well offer us a new avenue of exploration, and possibly a chance to collect an item of postal history at a bargain price.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRIVATE CACHET?

C. T. Hinneburg Murphy

Here is a cover (Fig. 1) acquired recently which bears what appears to be a private cachet. The cover, sent to Ohio, bears adhesives to the total of 26¢ - the 1¢ and 15¢ denominations of the 1960-65 definitive set (SG 284 & 291a) in addition to the 10¢ value of the 1968 Carnival issue (SG 323). The three are tied by two strikes of the TUNAPUNA double ring hadnstamp "A / 5 JU / 68".

A cachet was struck in the lower left hand corner of the cover, in pink! Roughly triangular in shape, the logo reads '1968 / ARCHDIOCESAN / SEMINARY / SILVER JUBILEE'. The dimensions, both length and height, are 36mm. The sender's name on the flap is F. A. M. Hooplot, St. John Vianney's Seminary, Tunapuna.

I would welcome receiving any details on this cachet which is presumably a private issue/application. My new address is 6 Wellington Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent CT8 8DT, England.

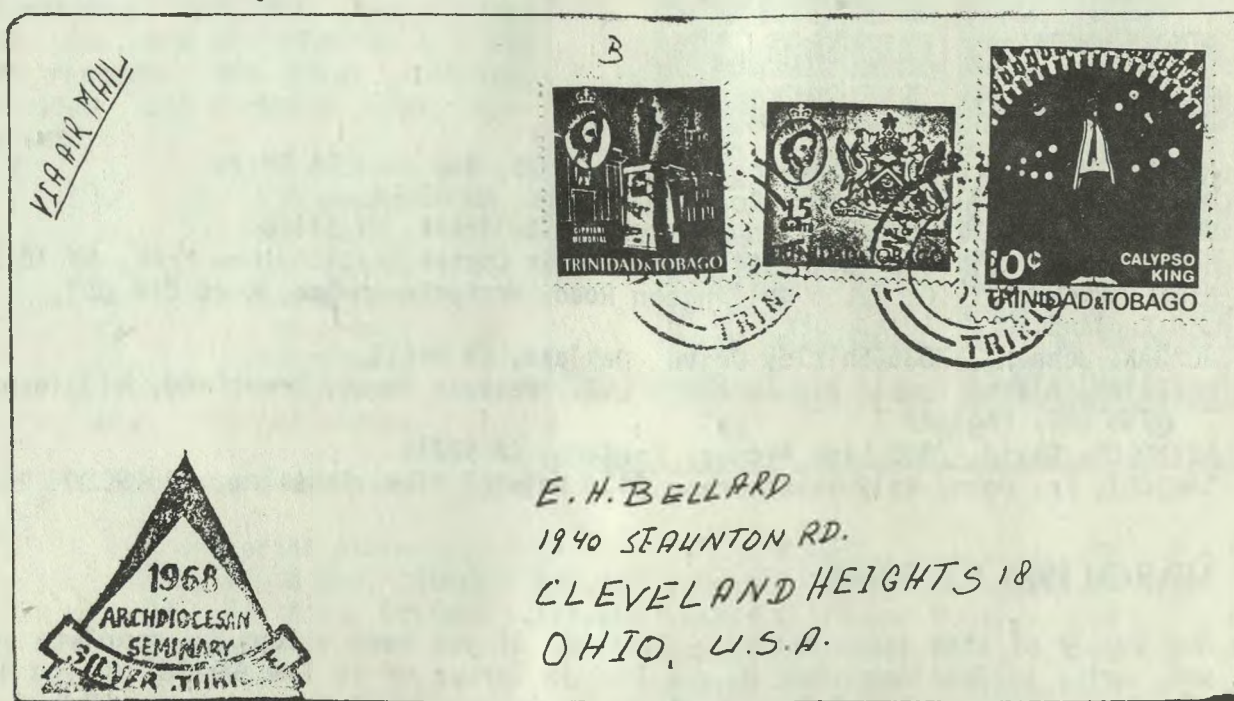


Fig. 1

IN MEMORIAM

John M. Bailey of Belper, Derby, England has passed away at the age of 79 on 10th February 1988 following three spells in the hospital over the final few months. John had been a member for some 15 or more years. Word has come from both his son, Michael, and Bob Swarbrick. No further information is available.

Secretary's Report

NEW MEMBERS

MAY, Gordon S., P. O. Box 7194, Athens, CA 30604, Collects Br. Commonwealth, by Gale Raymond.
 COHN, James, 8 Roger Place, White Plains, NY 10605, Collects Jamaica, by Mike De Lise.
 HILL, B. Reid, P. O. Box 3226, Blane, WA 98230, Collects Br. Caribbean, Mexico, Australia, New Zealand, by Mike De Lise.
 DUFRESNE, Richard L., Havcommsta Box 1285, FPO New York, NY 09539-2000, Collects Bahamas, Spain, Perfins, Revenues, Australia, New Zealand, by Mike De Lise.
 HOOPER, Edward A., 5145 Shoregate Drive, Garland, TX 75043, Collects Bermuda, Guyana, Belize, by Mike De Lise.
 DEGRAW, Ronald, 385 Evergreen Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406, Collects Cayman Islands, by Mike De Lise.
 LUTTIO, Michael I., 206 Howard Avenue, Eugene, OR 97404, Collects Scandinavia, Dominica and the rest of the BWI before 1967, Polar Bears, by Mike De Lise.

DECEASED

BAILEY, John M.

RESIGNED

ATMORE, William

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ASHLEY, William B., 467 Saratoga Avenue, #225, San Jose CA 95129
 DOW, Jeffrey, 47 Indian Rock Road, Merrimack, NH 03054.
 GRABON, George, 237 - 17 Davenport Avenue, Bellrose, NY 11426.
 HAMM, Arthur C., P. O. Box 4914, Rockefeller Center Station, New York, NY 10185
 HINNEBURG-MURPHY, C. T., 6 Wellington Road, Westgate-on-Sea, Kent CT8 8DT, England.
 JORDAN, John M., 7036 Shirley Drive, Oakland, CA 94611
 LEVERTON, Allan, Temple Bar Auctions Ltd., Westway House, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9HF, England
 REYNOLDS, David, 7805 Lime Avenue, Fontana, CA 92336
 SAWICKI, Fr. John, Holy Ghost Prep, 2439 Bristol Pike, Bensalem, PA 19020

MARCH 1988 JOURNAL

The supply of this issue is quite limited. If you need a copy to complete your set, write to Bob Swarbrick if you live in Europe or to Tom Giraldi if you live elsewhere. They will list the requests by date and fill them when possible,

LEEWARD ISLANDS - PART III

by Michael Oliver

The First General Issue

3.1 A set of 8 values in De La Rue's new Universal Postage and Revenue Key Plate design was issued at each of the six island GPO's on 31st October 1890. The stamps were printed from Key Plate 1 in 120 forme and overprinted with the Duty Plate in 60 set, in the format as in Diagram 1 which also shows the stamp numbering system.

3.2 The Marginal Rule, part of the Key Plate, was added to protect the edges when the printing roller passed over it under pressure, and is a continuous line around each pane.

3.3 This issue was printed on the 'thin' paper supplied by the Roughway Mill, Tonbridge, watermarked Crown and CA on each stamp with the wording 'Crown Agents for the Colonies' in each side selvedge.

3.4 There were 400 of each value overprinted SPECIMEN (Samuel type D12) for UPU distribution and the GPO records. The first printing, invoiced 15th October 1890, comprised:

½d.	630 sheets
1d.	1027 sheets
2½d.	584 sheets
4d.	417 sheets
6d.	83 sheets
7d.	420 sheets
1s.	44 sheets
5s.	22 sheets

and its cost was made up as follows:

8 overprint plates ½d. - 5s.	@ £12.....	96 - 0 - 0
½d., 1d. & 2½d. Duties	- 270,120 stamps @ 2/3 per M.....	30 - 7 - 9
4d., 6d. & 7d. Duties	- 111,600 stamps @ 3/3 per M.....	18 - 2 - 8
1s. Duty	- 5,680 stamps @ 5/- per M.....	1 - 8 - 4
5s. Duty	- 3,040 stamps @ 8/- per M.....	1 - 4 - 3

Overprinting with SPECIMEN the stamps required for

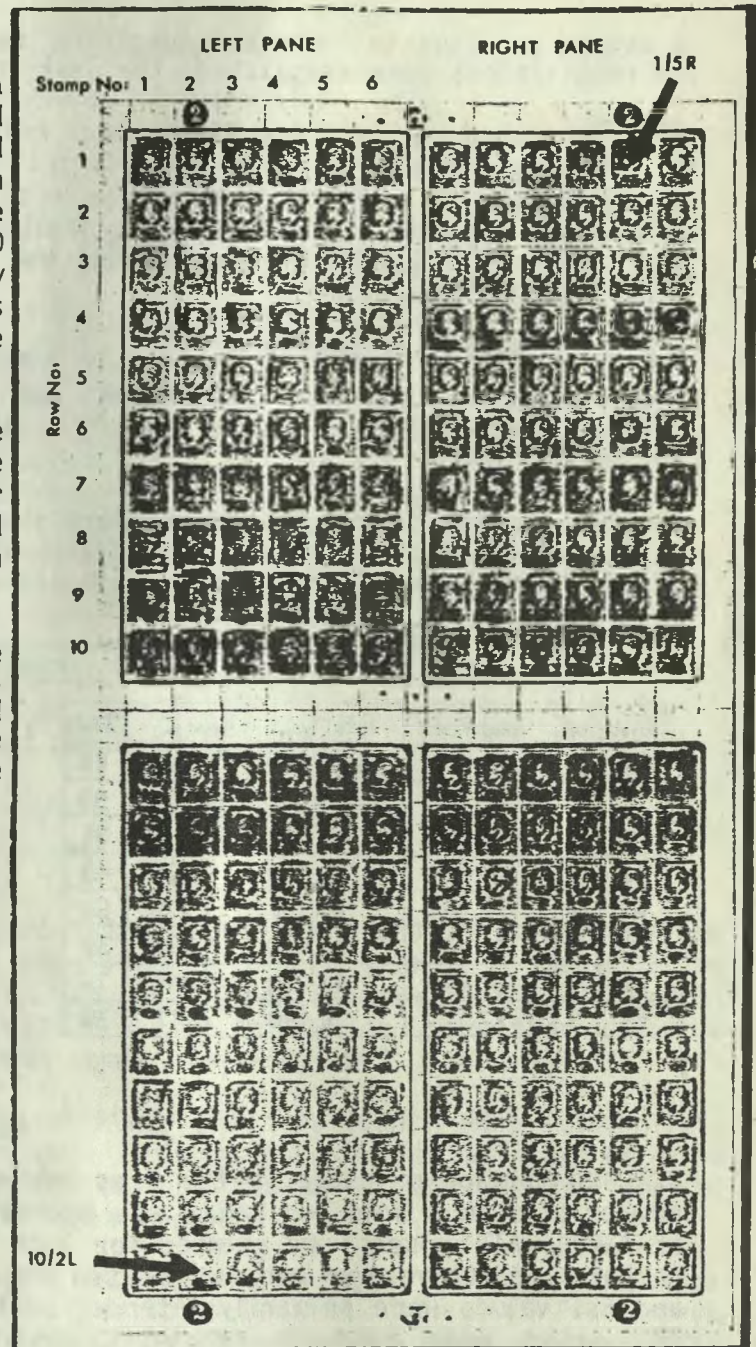


Fig. 1

distribution among the countries comprised in the		
Postal Union	- 8 kinds @ 3/6 each.....	1 - 8 - 0
Case lined with tin	6 - 0
		£148 -17 - 0

A second printing in increased quantities was made in February 1891 and further 29 requisitions were despatched, the last in August 1901.

3.5 As stated earlier, Key Plate 1 was replaced by Plate 2 in March 1895 which in turn was replaced by Plate 3 in July 1898. This issue was printed during the period De La Rue were at their pinnacle of efficiency in production. It is not surprising, therefore, there are no identifiable differences between the Plates and, moreover, no recorded flaws during the 13 years they were employed to print over 100,000 impressions.

3.6 From February 1897, De La Rue recorded the Presidency to which each requisition was despatched. None was made to Virgin Islands and it must be assumed the small quantities required there were supplied from stocks to Antigua.

The total numbers printed and sold are given in Table 1. The ½d., 1d. and 2½d. values were printed in large quantities from all three plates. The numbers of the higher values printed from each plate are given in Table 2.

TABLE 1

Value	Plqs.	Total Ptd.	Total Sold	Value in £.	% sold
½d	19	1,111,440	984,770	2,052	89
1d	30	3,034,560	3,005,700	12,524	99
2½d	13	1,024,320	1,008,720	10,508	98
4d	2	172,440	74,080	1,235	43
6d	4	125,640	63,110	1,578	50
7d	2	111,600	43,000	1,254	39
1s	9	110,640	80,680	4,034	73
5s	5	22,560	8,490	2,122	38

TABLE 2

In sheets of 120 stamps

Value	Plate 1	Plate 2	Plate 3
4d	1437 (2)	—	—
6d	847 (3)	200 (1)	—
7d	930 (2)	—	—
1s	346 (3)	566* (5)	10 (1)
5s	73 (3)	115 (2)	—

* A despatch of 22 sheets was invoiced 5/8/98.
Assumed to be Plate 2 as no example of Plate 3 known

3.7 Distribution of usage in the Presidencies is assessed in Table 3. The total number of stamps sold per annum was approximately 440,000 with a monetary value of £3000. All values were printed for both Postage and Revenue purposes and it is pure conjecture how many were used for the latter purpose. Clearly the 1s. and 5s. values were primarily intended to be and doubtless many of the ½d. and 1d. values were used for receipts. Applying the average percentages for the years 1890-1902, the total number of stamps sold and the monetary value in each Presidency per annum were:

Antigua.....	163,000	(£1110)
Dominica.....	70,000	(£450)
Montserrat.....	35,000	(£240)
Nevis.....	22,000*	(£180)
St. Kitts.....	136,000	(£930)
Virgin Islands.....	13,000*	(£90)

* A change of 1% in the percentages alters the totals by approximately 20% to 30%. More local research is needed before quantities can be stated with any confidence where usage was small. The white population of Virgin Islands was only about 60 and barely 10% of the indigenous inhabitants was literate at this time.

TABLE 3

The Distribution of Usage (%)

Column	Source	Total (pa)	Antigua	Dominica	Montserrat	Nevis	St. Kitts	Virgin Is
1	Population c 1900	130,000	27	24	9	13	24	3
2	Shipping tonnage in and out, 1914		32	25	13	7	22	1
3	Estimates for 1879	51,100	36	16	10	3	34	1
4	S. Goldblatt's table to 1890	241,000	35	19	7	6	29	4
5	All values, 1897-1902	376,000	38	14	7	6	32	3
6	2d, 1d & 2½d, 1897-1902	£1600	37	14	9	6	31	3
7	Overprints, 1897 & 1902	173,500	37	15	8	6	30	4
8	All values, 1902-12	372,000	53	15	9	3	17	3
9	1d & 2½d, 1902-12	£1520	62	10	8	3	14	3
10	All values, 1912-21	432,000	53	8	8	4	24	3
11	1d & 2½d, 1912-21	£1480	43	8	7	6	33	3
AVERAGES: 1890-02			37	15	8	6	31	3
1902-12			57	13	8	3	16	3
1912-21			48	8	8	5	28	3

St. Kitts and Nevis split in the ratio 6:1 from Cols 1-4
Virgin Islands taken from supplies to Antigua using Cols 1-4

3.8 In the philatelic life of Leeward Islands the years 1897-1903 was the one period when the General Issue was the only one officially on sale and also the Presidency of despatch was recorded. Virgin Islands recommenced its individual issue in 1899 resulting in the 1902 Stamp Act which permitted all the Presidencies to have individual issues commencing July 1903.

3.9 It is often stated that examples of Plate 1 can be identified by brown gum, whereas Plates 2 and 3 have white gum. This is not so - brown gum, or more correctly toned gum, is due entirely to the storage conditions in tropical climates, where high levels of humidity can occur.

The reason for this misunderstanding probably arose through the many complaints from various colonies about gumming difficulties between 1888-1890. From about 1872 De La Rue changed to a cheaper substitute of gum arabic known as gum Ghatti for which the raw materials came from India and this was used for all typographed stamps. The sheetes were dampened and the gum applied by machine before printing. This gum, manufactured by De La Rue's unique purifying process to remove particles of the tree bark, continued in use until 1922.

With the exception of the period 1905-1914 when some printings had a brownish tint, gum Ghatti was colorless varying between shiny to dull in appearance. This was due to the conditions obtaining at the works when drying and not due to subsequent storage.

I have 1897 Sexagenary Plate 1 examples of stamps received in the Colony in 1891 with pure white gum and Plate 2 examples received in 1896 with badly toned gum.

3.10 So far as is known, probably all printings of this issue and most small quantity printings until around 1920 were printed on hand presses. Whilst more expensive to produce, the quality was considered to be superior to those printed on steam presses. This explains variations in shade in the same printing - for if the printer underestimated the quantity of pigment, he had to mix more to complete the printing. Moreover, the ink was applied manually by passing a roller over the plate which produced variations in strength or density of color and also sharpness of the impression. The latter was also dependent upon the care taken in cleaning the plate.

3.11 Between 1892 and 1920 there were 58 requisitions for values of 3d. and upwards ranging between 9 and 208 sheets despatched and averaging 88 sheets per printing. Leewards Islands was by no means a small customer for the Universal Key Plates throughout this period. In many instances spoilage exceeded the number of sheets packed and invoiced, another pointer I think to the use of hand presses.

3.12 An obvious major economy for the printers would be to produce stocks of Key Plate sheets on the large steam presses in the commonly used colors, ready for overprinting with the various Duty Plates as requisitions were received. This was not done, clearly for security reasons. As late as 1951, when only Leeward Islands was using the Universal Key and Duty Plate type, the Key Plate was issued by CA for every requisition and returned immediately the printing run was completed, before the Duty Plates were issued.

3.13 Variations in color shade are of considerable interest to philatelists. The only interest to the printer was that the printed color identified the duty it represented and could not be confused with another.

3.14 The Key Plate was printed in doubly fugitive ink only available in dull lilac and green until about 1900 when black was added. In 1902 the dull lilac was changed to a dull brown-purple. Doubly fugitive ink would withstand any attempt to remove a pen cancellation or non-oil based obliteration by removing the printed design. Singly fugitive inks used for the Duty Plates would react to cleaning agents when attempting to remove a normal postal obliteration.

3.15 The few flaws known to exist on this issue occur on the Duty Plates which are more susceptible to handling damage, particularly the corners and edges, because they comprise a series of small separated and unprotected raised areas. The Key Plates with the great majority of the surface in relief and surrounded by a Marginal Rule were much less vulnerable.

3.16 The 1890 Issue - A Detailed Listing

Colors and shades are based on the SG100 Colour Guide and refer to unused examples with white gum. Many used stamps have their doubly fugitive color affected to some extent through being wetted when separating them from the envelopes. Minor variations in shade which are present on all values but cannot be assigned a particular printing or Plate are not included.

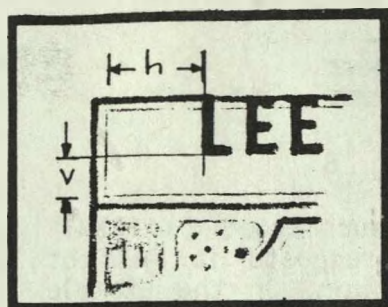
1 -	½d.	Dull lilac & dull green
2 -	1d.	Dull lilac & bright rose
	a.	1901 Duty Plate shift
3 -	2½d.	Dull lilac & cobalt

- | | | |
|-----|-----|--------------------------------|
| | a. | 1891 watermark inverted |
| 4 - | 4d. | Dull lilac & orange-yellow |
| | a. | 1891 Yellow-orange |
| | a.a | Broken final 's' |
| 5 - | 6d. | Dull lilac & bistre |
| | a. | Olive brown (Plate 2) |
| 6 - | 7d. | Dull lilac and grey-green |
| 7 - | 1s. | Dull green & deep rose |
| | a. | 1898 Green & aniline (Plate 2) |
| 8 - | 5s. | Dull green & cobalt |
| | a. | 'L' of Leeward missing |

2a - 1d. Duty Plate Shift

How this exceptional printing error passed through De La Rue's stringent quality control system is a mystery. Fortunately for the staff responsible, it was not brought to the notice of philatelists until 1911.

Only the left pane was misprinted and sent to Antigua, where surprisingly, it aroused no interest. It must be assumed the majority were sold for use on outgoing mail and have been lost. Figures 2 and 3 illustrate this variety.



Stamp 1/1

Fig. 2

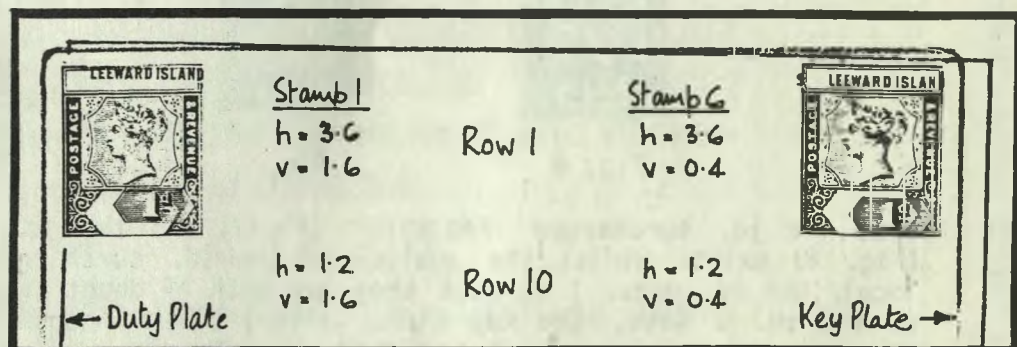
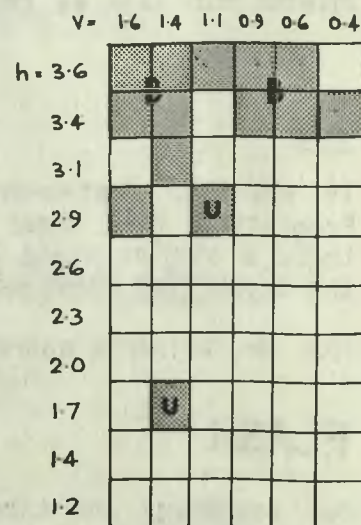


Fig. 3

Because the shift is skewed and the NW corner block exists, examples can be identified by their position on the pane. Taking the SW corner of the name tablet inner frame-line as the reference point, h and v to the outer corner of the 'L' can be extrapolated to approximately 0.1mm, including for normal overprinting misalignment.

The upper three rows have the final 's' of Islands present on stamps 2 and 6. From examples and photographs those known to exist today are shown in Fig. 4. In addition, the Royal collection has a pair, an unused copy was advertised by a British dealer recently and I have seen a grubby used copy making a total of 18 accounted for.

The stamps in the lower right corner can be mistaken for poor Duty Plate alignment and, therefore, more examples may exist but not be considered to be from this pane. The skew is the clue. Noticeable Duty Plate misalignment was rare before the 1920's.



B = Block of 4
U = Used copy

Fig. 4

4a.a - Final 's' Broken

This variety (Fig. 5) occurs on stamp 6 between rows 3 to 8 and I have only seen it on the second printing.



Fig. 5

8a - 'L' of Leeward Missing

Reported by Mr. Hugh Vallencey in which he stated he had a copy in his collection. (As a young member of the Eltham PS I had the good fortune to win the Society Silver Medal in 1948 for my line engraved GB. As a consequence another member, Mr. Hugh Vallencey, invited me to his home on a few occasions when he gave me spares of his GB, which to me were expensive gifts. What a pity I did not start with Leeward Islands!)

3.17 Various stamps of this issue were rubber handstamped 'ANTIGUA' (Fig. 6) in black or purple diagonally. It is thought these were overprinted internally for revenue and fiscal accounting purposes.



Fig. 6



Fig. 7

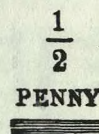


Fig. 8

3.18 The 1/2d. surcharged 'FARTHING' (Fig 7) and the 1d. surcharged '1/2 PENNY' (Fig. 8) exist. Whilst the quality of the 1/2d. surcharge suggests it was not local, the 1d. does. I suspect they are both of doubtful origin. On the example of the 1/2d. I have, the Key Plate is very blotchy suggesting it may have been tampered with, although it has full gum. The 1d. internal rate had not been introduced at this time and it is most unlikely a shortage of 1/2d. values occurred, considering the regularity of requisitions and that some 10% were offered for sale as remainders.

(To be continued)

Note

In W/N 144, September 1987 Paragraph 3.1.iv, I said the only large part DLR Progressive File Sheet I had seen was that of Leeward Islands. Since writing that, a similar sheet for British Solomon Islands and smaller cut-down parts of the Seychelles sheet were offered for sale in London recently.

(Ed: Mr. Oliver's address is 19 Moss Lane, Sale, Cheshire M33 1QD, England)

FLASH

Our Secretary and Librarian have each asked Ben Ramkissoon to be relieved of their duties. Ben has appointed W. Danforth Walker to be the new librarian. The trustees are voting on the election of the new Secretary. An announcement of our new Secretary and sketches on both officers will be in the September Journal.

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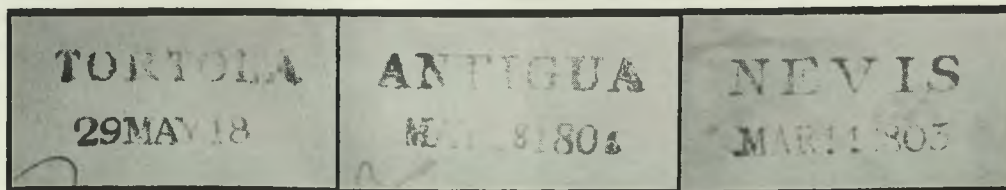
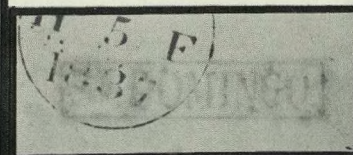
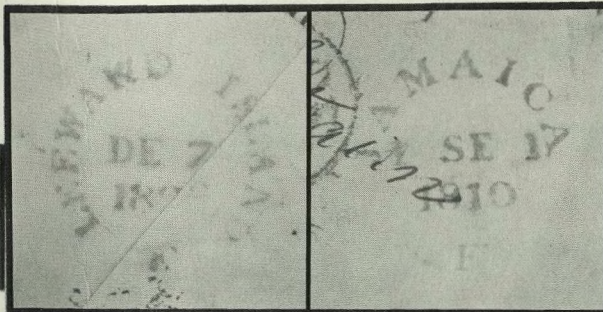
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