

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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SEPTEMBER 1988



Paul Larsen, left, and Kil Bump, right, display the Cameron Trophy, Grand Award, and Reserve Grand Award at STAMPOREE '88 with Vice President, Jay Fredrick, delighted at the BCPSG success

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JAMAICA SER..ET ERROR

ANTIGUA MONOGRAPH

STAMPOREE '88

CANADIAN TROOPS IN THE BAHAMAS IN WORLD WAR II - UPDATE

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BCPSG AND BCPSG (UK) MEETINGS

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BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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SEPTEMBER 1988



PRESIDENT:
Dr. Ben Ramkissoon

VICE PRESIDENT:
Mr. J. L. Fredrick

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For March issue: 15 January
For June issue: 15 April

For September issue: 15 July
For December issue: 15 October

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGEDr. Ben Ramkissoon

Elsewhere in this issue, new officers are being introduced. We welcome them to our working force on your behalf.

At the same time we owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our retiring secretary, who has given of his energy and talent to the work of the Group for over a decade. Thanks Howie, and thanks to Bernice and the boys for sharing his time with us.

To Bob Lovett - what can one say to an officer, our founding librarian, with a quarter century of service to the Group! It is unlikely that anyone will break such a tenure of service. We truly appreciate Bob's work, and his sharing of his own library by dedicating space to the BCPSG.

Thanks to these men who inspire your present officers to continue to work for British Caribbean philately. We are always looking for a few good men to work. Why not join us!

BCPSG REGIONAL MEETINGBruce E. Watts

New Issues Editor Bruce Watts has organized a regional meeting of BCPSG members in California at the forthcoming SESCAL show to be held October 14-16. The meeting will be held tentatively at 10:00 AM on Saturday, the 15th. Please let Bruce know if you will be attending the meeting and he has not already heard from you. Also let him know if you will bring a few pages to show the others. He's heard from 14 members in response to his first contact so the meeting will be a success. Bruce says that, although he has served as New Issues Editor for over a year, he has yet to meet any of his fellow members. Please note his address on the inside front cover.

A CALL FOR HELPMark W. Swetland

Attention!! All BCPSG members!!! If you ever thought that editing a philatelic journal would be a great activity to pursue, you have a chance to begin. Your editor needs one or more assistant editors. The requirements are an interest in the work and the ability to devote 20 to 40 hours per quarter to the job.

The help I need is in getting articles ready for publication. The work involves typing, editing and at times preparing articles from notes and illustrations. The ability to transmit articles via disk or modem is a plus but not mandatory.

Long range plans include the hope that one of the assistant editors will take on the job of editor in a few years. I have been editor 2½ years. Five years is a reasonable period for anyone to be the editor. I won't quit on you but it will be nice to know that someone is ready when it is time for me to pass on the job.

The officers of the BCPSG are considering the purchase of a simple desktop publishing system, most probably consisting of an 80286 computer, a HP DeskJet printer and software, WordStar 5.0 or WordPerfect 5.0. If you have experience with these or other programs, please write me. Your ideas on the system, the feasibility and any other aspect are welcome. Naturally, maintenance availability will be important, since the system, if purchased, will be shipped to each future editor. Remember that my address is on the front cover.

1989 DUES

Enclosed with all copies of this issue of the journal is a dues notice. Life members and those who have paid one or more years in advance need not send in additional dues. However, all should read the notice as there are important changes.

First, it has been necessary to raise the dues for all members outside the USA and Canada. For some time postage costs for members outside the USA and Canada have been subsidized by those who live in the USA and Canada. Only those members who have paid for airmail postage have been paying the full cost for postage. To keep dues as low as possible for everyone, a two-tier dues structure has been adopted. While this allows us to regain part of the postage differential, the dues increase for those outside the USA and Canada is still below the actual differential in postage.

With the June issue of the journal we tried air lift consolidated shipment for copies to Europe, South Africa and the Far East. This seems to have worked so well that all copies outside the USA and Canada in 1989 will be handled in this manner. This eliminates the need for airmail postage from all members outside the USA and Canada. Thus, their actual costs for dues and postage will be lower than before and all members living in these areas will receive their journals at the same time. We will continue to give USA and Canadian members the option of paying for first class mail delivery.

A major expense for the Secretary in both time and money is mailing notices to delinquent members. Please note that there is a strong incentive to pay your dues for 1989 before 31st December 1988. You will save \$3.00, or £2.00 if you pay in sterling. This means that USA and Canadian members pay only \$15.00 and those elsewhere pay only \$18.00 or £10.50 if paid by 31st December this year.

With these changes your officers believe that they have set the dues so as to avoid further increases for the next several years. It should be noted that those who have paid in advance will have no increase in dues until their present membership expires. Should anyone now choose to pay in advance for up to five years, this payment will be honored and they will be assessed no additional dues until the period for which they now pay expires.

With this change in the dues, the dues for new members joining in 1989 will be \$18.00 for those in the USA and Canada and \$21.00 or £12.50 for those elsewhere. It is expected that in future years the same incentive to pay your dues in advance will prevail. Thus, new members joining in 1989 will be on the same basis as current members after their first year and will be able to pay at the lower rate in future years if they choose to pay before 31 December.

Experience shows that every increase, no matter how small, may result in the loss of some members. For this reason every step has been taken to keep the increase to a minimum consistent with a balanced budget for 1989 and for the next two or three years.

These changes will keep the financial strength of the BCPSG at a high level. We are planning the publication of two monographs this year. The first will be Tony Lewarn's monograph on the "Double Ringed Circular Datestamps of Kingston, Jamaica" and the second will be Morris Ludington's and Mike Rego's monograph on the "Furness Steamship Line to Bermuda".

NEW OFFICERS

NEW OFFICERS

President Ben Ramkissoon has announced that both Howie Austin, our Secretary, and Bob Lovett, our Librarian, have tendered their resignations. He has been successful in finding outstanding members to fill these positions. The Trustees have unanimously elected Dr. Fitz Roett of Calgary to fill the position of Secretary and Ben has appointed W. Danforth Walker to be our new librarian. Their addresses are on the inside front cover.

Fitz was born in Trinidad 42 years ago of Barbadian parentage. Perhaps this accounts for his specialty today. After attending high school in Barbados, he attended the University of Sheffield, U. K., where he graduated with B. Sc. (Hons) and Ph. D. degrees in chemical engineering. Fitz and his wife emigrated to Canada in 1972.

He began collecting stamps at the age of eight. During his teens he attended meetings of the Trinidad Philatelic Society whenever possible. At the university he found an active philatelic society whose members were quite willing to assist the novices. At Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society meetings he first saw proofs and became interested in covers. Here he caught the exhibiting bug. At this time he specialized in Barbados and Trinidad.

After major purchases from the Shilstone sale, he sent his Trinidad collection to auction and concentrated on Barbados. This resulted in extensive purchases from the "Olive Blossom" sale. He has been extremely successful at exhibitions and his award at CAPEX '88 (reported in the BCPJ) was well earned. He exhibits frequently.

Fitz is a member of the BCPSG, BWISC, APS, APRL, Royal P. S. of Canada, Trinidad Philatelic Society, and Calgary Philatelic Society.

Dan Walker was born in 1944 and raised in Westchester County, New York. He holds finance undergraduate and graduate degrees, both with honors, from New York University. His majors and minors in undergraduate and graduate schools were finance, accounting, investments and economics, respectively. His professional career began in New Hampshire working for a CPA firm. He has worked eight years on Wall Street as a security analyst and nine years as financial advisor on the staff of the Secretary of the U. S. Department of Transportation. As APS Insurance Plan Manager today, Dan manages all aspects of the APS Insurance Plan for stamp collectors, dealers, stamp clubs and stamp societies.

Dan was married in 1982 to Patricia Stilwell whom he met while they were taking down their exhibits at NOJEX '79. Pat is an accomplished philatelist; she collects Irish postal history for which she won a gold medal at AUSIPEX '84.

Dan has been a collector since he was eight years old. He has specialized collections of Grenada, the Indian Feudatory States, British Borneo, Romania and Scottish Postal History. He is an accredited judge and a successful exhibitor at all levels. At AUSIPEX '84 his Grenada postal history exhibit won a large gold and his Princely State of Barwani won a large vermeil.

Dan is Treasurer and Past Director-at-Large of the APS and Secretary and Treasurer of the APRL. In December 1983 Dan became the APS Insurance Plan Manager. He is also a past President and Secretary of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. He is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

1988 AUCTION REPORT

The 1988 BCPSG auction was conducted at STAMPOREE '88, Fort Lauderdale, FL, in conjunction with the annual meeting. 253 lots were offered, of which 207 were sold. In addition, ten donation lots, primarily from Anne Gavelek, were offered for floor bidding only. These are listed as lots A through J in the prices realized. 18 room bidders and 81 mail bidders participated, of which 13 and 58, respectively, were successful. Total realization of the sale was \$4,914.50.

Members are respectfully requested to remit for purchases promptly after the sale. More than 60 days after the sale, three members had not settled their accounts. The auction manager has better things to do than to send out delinquent notices. In future sales, those who have not remitted promptly in the past will not receive their lots until their accounts have been fully paid.

Jack Harwood, our auction manager, is now prepared to receive lots for the 1989 sale (see address inside front cover). Lots may be sent certified or insured for \$100 (registered from abroad). Our insurance will cover full value if sent by these methods, and material is fully insured while in the possession of the auction manager. Minimum lot value should be \$10, except in the case of highly unusual items. Covers and postal history tend to do better than stamps, but any philatelic material pertaining to the British Caribbean is acceptable.

1988 STAMPOREE AUCTION PRICES REALIZED - All prices in dollars Lots not appearing in this list were unsold

A	3½	32	4	71	35	108	28	148	5	202	8½	235	12
B	¼	33	17	72	80	109	20	149	14	203	10	236	12
C	½	34	6	76	34	110	29	150	21	204	320	238	12
D	1	35	21	78	11	111	8½	151	11	205	24	239	32
E	¼	36	21	79	210	112	13	152	11	206	13	240	17
F	1	37	9	80	12	113	16	154	3½	207	3½	242	8½
G	1	39	3½	83	30	114	15	155	52½	208	6½	243	13
H	4	40	14	84	14	115	12	156	32	209	13	244	140
I	1	41	5	85	15	116	28	157	7½	210	29	246	17
J	2	43	12	86	21	118	65	158	5½	211	26	247	16
1	24	46	15	87	35	119	10	159	21	212	11	249	7
2	10	47	10	89	13	120	12	160	13	213	26	250	3½
3	11	49	14	90	21	122	16	161	13	214	11	251	16
4	7	51	11	91	52½	123	13	162	21	215	16	252	11
5	7	52	21	92	11	125	7	163	45	216	40	253	42
6	12	53	190	93	10	126	15	164	67½	217	40		
8	21	54	7	94	16	127	24	165	42	218	37		
10	16	57	11	95	13	128	65	166	2	219	47		
14	7	58	26	96	11	129	10	168	7	220	17		
15	15	59	11	97	18	130	21	169	7	222	6		
16	13	60	32	98	7	131	7	171	13	223	12		
17	30	61	21	99	42	132	7	172	3½	224	38		
18	2	62	24	100	26	133	14	173	6	225	52½		
19	80	63	26	101	10	136	11	175	32	226	7½		
21	21	64	13	102	27	137	23	177	1	227	14		
22	14	66	13	103	55	138	48	178	13	228	26		
23	26	67	8	104	7	140	8	180	3½	230	10		
27	4	68	32	105	12	141	16	181-188	as	231	21		
28	15	69	25	106	10	146	19	1 lot	200	232	11		
30	8	70	52½	107	26	147	16	189-201	as	233	5		
								1 lot	390				

BVI HIGH VALUE REVENUE STAMPS

by Vernon W. Pickering

The British Virgin Islands has recently issued two high value revenue stamps for its fiscal needs. In the past high denomination postage stamps were used for the purpose; however, the highest denomination in postage stamps is only US \$5.00. When compared to the needs of affixing as much as US \$100.00 for wedding licenses and other legal documents, it becomes apparent that postage stamps were inadequate.

To solve the problem the Government of the British Virgin Islands has authorized two high value revenue stamps. The authorization was Gazetted on March 3rd, 1988 but the order came into operation on the 25th of February.

The US \$25.00 revenue stamp (Fig. 1) features a map of the British Virgin Islands with the "Vigilate" motto appearing on the bottom right hand corner. The predominant color is magenta. An effigy of the Queen appears at the top right hand corner of each stamp. The US \$100.00 stamp (Fig. 2) has the same features but the predominant color is blue.

The British Virgin Islands have become a great tourist attraction and many English and American couples choose these "treasured islands" for their honeymoon. However, in recent years a new trend has developed and many couples choose to have their wedding performed here, preferably by one of the many breathtaking beaches. An average of 700-1000 such weddings are celebrated each year in this British territory.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

(Ed: Mr. Pickering's address is P. O. Box 704, Roadtown, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, West Indies)

PERSONAL MENTION

Malcolm Watts has been in demand for displays over the past several months. His schedule was:

November 1987	250 sheets of Jamaica postal history
March 1988	60 sheets of Turks Island postal history and stamps
March 1988	180 sheets of Turks and Caicos Islands
April 1988	180 sheets Jamaica postal history

Since he is on the British Philatelic Federation speakers list, he gets to do displays, as he says, "in all sorts of places". The April 1988 display was to the Civil Service Philatelic Society at Somerset House in the Strand. Perhaps we can persuade him to take a supply of membership forms to the displays.

Leeward Islands 1897 Sexagenary Overprints

Member **J. A. C. "Tony" Farmer** is known to all Leeward Islands collectors for his superb collection of this colony, exhibited at AMERIPEX '86. His studies of the Sexagenary issue have resulted in the publication of a 24-page booklet entitled "Leeward Islands Philately - 1897 Sexagenary Overprint and its Forgeries".

In addition to presenting the background and providing details of the issue, the author lists nine areas he looks at in identifying genuine overprints. He also describes and illustrates 17 identifiable forgeries. All collectors of this issue would be well served by including this booklet in their libraries. Its nominal price could save its owners many times its cost.

Copies are available from the author at £5 each for 1 to 5 copies (including UK internal postage), £4 each for 6 to 9 copies (incl. UK postage); 10 or more copies are £3 each plus postage by whatever means the buyer wishes. Mr. Farmer's address is J. A. C. Farmer, "The Peppers", The Street, Crookham Village, Aldershot, Hants GU13 0SG, England. Copies can also be obtained in the USA from Victoria Stamp Company (see ad on back cover for address) at US \$10.00 each including shipping.

AN APPEAL

Member **Keith P. Klugman, M. D.**, is a specialist collector of the postal history of St. Thomas. St. Thomas was the West Indies base for the Royal Mail Steamship Co. for many years during the 1800's. Keith is appealing to all members of the BCPSG to send him photocopies of covers in their possession, which have St. Thomas handstamps on the front or the reverse of the cover or forwarding agent's markings, and were posted during the 1800's but prior to 1st September 1877. This will assist Keith in the preparation of a monograph and checklist of covers that transited St. Thomas in the period up to UPU.

It may help you as well as Keith. Your editor sent photocopies of the front and reverse of ten Antigua covers to Nova Scotia during this period. As a result Keith told me things about my covers that I didn't know. Please note Keith's new address in the Secretary's Report in this issue.

PERSONAL MENTION

Life member **David E. Nye, P. O. Box 1492, Frankenmuth, MI 48734**, is better known to many topical philatelists than to members of the BCPSG, although a life member of our group since 1976. To them he is MR. COLUMBUS, the man who serves their interest in Christopher Columbus with offerings of stamps and covers that portray Columbus or his travels. David started his stamp business on August 3, 1987, the same day as Columbus left Spain in 1492 for the New World.

David is also Secretary of the Christopher Columbus Philatelic Society. For \$1.00 interested collectors will receive his price lists and an application for membership in the Society. David has written several articles for the Society's publication, "Discovery" and had a feature in Linn's Stamp News of Feb. 1, 1988.

The finest topical collection your editor has ever seen was on Columbus. This collection, formed by a Cincinnati who has since passed away, more than filled a 3" three-ring notebook. The pages described the life and travels of Columbus illustrating scenes from his life with stamps.

JAMAICA SER..ET FLAW

Bob Swarbrick

I recently attended a London Auction and bought, unseen, a lot described as "A Study of the Ser..et Flaw". Since it failed to attract any other bid, I was able to acquire it at well below the estimate. On arriving home, I inspected it closely to find that I had purchased a study of the various flaws as based on about 60 copies of the 1d. value of the 1903-04 Arms issue, Crown CA watermark.

It was obviously an old collection, enhanced with manuscript notes and diagrams of the various stages of the flaw on this stamp. Up to this point I was amazed that there was anything to study, since to the casual glance, there appeared little unusual, perhaps the reason why other enthusiasts had overlooked the lot. However, on the sheets the various examples of the 1d. flaw had been "typed" and listed, and the whole made up a fairly complete study.

The next event in this chain of circumstances was, perhaps, more fascinating. During my 1986 visit to Jamaica I took time off to visit the Institute of Jamaica, which turned out to be a veritable treasure trove of information, provided you were prepared to do a little searching on your own. Amongst the material I read through were all the back numbers of the "Jamaican Philatelist". There I discovered an article written in 1932 by a Mr. H. Cook on the "Ser..et" Flaw. The Institute's facilities include photostating, and on returning to my hotel, I learned that this article dealt with the study of this flaw in much the same way as the collection I had recently purchased in London.

Returning to England, I found that the lot I had purchased was the original collection formed by Mr. Cook, or so I assume, as the notes on the sheets and the "typing" of the flaw matched the printed article in all respects.

Since this article from the "Jamaican Philatelist" is fairly long and complex, it would be difficult to attempt to precis it, so at this stage it is included in full below:

"The Ser..et Varieties

This subject, and the reasons for its existence, have been the source of speculative theory at various times, and like so many others in Philately, there has been no authoritative pronouncement to settle the question. The writer does not pretend to be able to make such a pronouncement, but believes that by detail gathered from close examination, study, and comparison of some dozens of specimens; in all denominations and watermarks in which the variety is known, obtained at varied times from different sources; theory offered some time ago by Mr. Fred J. Melville, in attempted explanation of the variety, can be developed with some measure of logic. The detail gathered, and the reasoning applied, may have some interest for the serious student of Jamaican philately.

It is well to note at once that part of the title under which this appears, "Varieties," is intentional as there are several varieties of "Ser..et." minute and ordinarily perhaps not individually worthy of special remark or interest, but in such a study as this, each variant has relation to the whole, some influence on the possible deductions, and it follows that these on which rational tenable theory may be built, must to some extent at least, fit the observed ascertained detail. A recently published theory, in conflict with this, will at the same time be examined, tested on the basis of the same detail, with attempt to determine which of the two more nearly conforms to the necessity for reconciliation with the known data.

It will perhaps be best to begin the study with a table, showing the printings of the stamps in the design, in which the variety is known to appear, viz.: the "Arms" type of 1903.

PAPER WATERMARKED CROWN AND C A

	½d.	1d.	2½d.	5d.
8 Oct. 1903	5038		606	98
18 Jan. 1904	5104	20477	5133	
Total	10142	20477	5739	98

PAPER WATERMARKED MULTIPLE CROWN AND C A

	½d.	1d.	2½d.	5d.	6d.	5/-
18 Jul 1905	10303	5008		50		
16 Aug 1905						14
27 Jun 1907						5
8 Jul 1907			1008			25
30 Aug 1908			2087			27
26 Jul 1909					73	
19 May 1910					350	
total	10303	5008	3095	58	423	81

This table shows dates of invoices by the printers, and the figures beneath the several denominations signify sheets, each of 240 stamps. The printing of these sheets was accomplished, by means of two plates clamped together and used as one. Each of these plates consisted of 120 subjects, arranged in two horizontal panes of 60 each in rows or lines of 6 horizontal by 10 vertical. Each plate bore the number "1" and in the printing this figure appeared four times on each sheet, in the conventional positions at top and bottom. This detail of the makeup of the printing plate, the appearance and positions of the plate numbers, has some significance and should be kept in mind.

In general terms the variety may be described as of imperfect distorted letters "VI" in "SERVIET", so that it more or less reads "SER..ET". Its position on the sheet is No. 20 first pane, i. e., the second stamp fourth row of the left upper pane, and is therefore located on the upper of the two plates, which together made the composite plate. It is known on all denominations in this design with C A watermark, but only one the ½d. and 5d. of multiple watermark. On the variety the letter "V" appears as, or rather is replaced by, a dot shaped somewhat like a squat inverted pear. The point rises from the line of the normal letters, the base reaching to about two-thirds of their height; the whole dot never reaches to the height of the letters; the space above is blank, unprinted, except for such variants as will be noted later. The shape is not always of exactly the same conformation, but "inverted pear" describes it for all general purposes. The letter "I" may be missing entirely, or visible only in parts, viz: top, centre, bottom, or in combinations of these, and has never been seen wholly and completely present, on any genuine specimens examined by the writer. On some specimens the line of ribbon is broken on the upper edge above either or both defective letters, on others the lower edge is broken below the place of the "V", and as these particular imperfections are not unusual on "faked" copies, care is very necessary to select and identify the genuine.

Some of the variants observed on genuine specimens are:

- (a) Pear shaped dot for "V", short almost horizontal stroke at its top left, inclined downwards from the left; "I" defined but imperfect at the bottom, no break in ribbon.
- (b) Dot as before, no stroke above, top of "I", lower edge of ribbon broken below place of the "V".
- (c) Dot as before, no stroke but smaller dot above at its top left, dots for top and bottom of "I", no break in ribbon.
- (d) Dot as before, as in (c), dot for lower part of "I", no break in ribbon.
- (e) Dot as before, no stroke or dot above, dot for lower part of "I", no break in ribbon.
- (f) Dot as before, as in (e), "I" defined imperfect at centre, upper edge of ribbon broken above place of "V".
- (g) Dot as before, as in (a), top of "I", no break in ribbon.
- (h) Dot as before, as in (e), dot for upper part of "I", upper edge of ribbon broken above place of "V".
- (j) Dot as before, as in (a), top and bottom of "I", no break in ribbon.
- (k) Dot as before, as in (a), "I" represented by three dots, no break in ribbon.
- (l) Dot as before, as in (e), "I" entirely missing, no break in ribbon.
- (m) Dot as before, as in (c), "I" entirely missing, no break in ribbon.

Were it possible to learn with certainty, the order in which these variants came from the press, much might be deduced, but as that is not possible and it would be idle to speculate on the point, it is more useful to try to read what may be gathered from the foregoing, and that seems to be without doubt or question, the variety was most inconstant in its conformation, hence these variants of it. The number of the printings in which it is believed to exist, is in total comparatively small, i. e., 46,809 impressions of the imperfect subject, and apparently the disclosed inconstancy cannot be attributed to any of the usual faults, "made ready", "shifts" of the paper or anything similar. The observed variants summarised by watermark of the paper give the following results:-

	C A PAPER		M C A PAPER	
(a)	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	1d.	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	5d.
(b)	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.			
(c)		1d.		
(d)		1d.		5d.
(e)			2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
(f)			2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	5d.
(g)				$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
(h)	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.			$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
(j)	$\frac{1}{2}$ d.			$\frac{1}{2}$ d.
(k)		1d.		
(l)		1d.		
(m)		1d.		

Some of these were observed on several specimens, i. e., repeated as described on more than one copy of those seen. It is therefore clear that certain defined characteristics are known on more than one or two specimens, but do not appear on others where the different characteristics are observable. Yet again, certain of these characteristics are alike in printings of widely separated dates, and others in much closer relation to date, are not brought into agreement. The evidence of this disagreement is by no means conclusive, as all possible copies have not been examined for differences to be noted, but agreement between some

of widely different dates is positive, and of first importance to the study in progress, thus: (a) on the ½d. of both papers and the 5d. MCA, (d) on the 1d. CA and 5d. MCA, (h) and (j) on the ½d. of both papers, printings of 1903 and 1905 respectively.

So much for the evidence, data and facts observed and recorded, which it may be well to summarise at this point:

- (1) Variety exists, i. e., imperfect letters "VI" in "SERVIET".
- (2) These letters are so grossly distorted, that if divorced from the context, would be quite unrecognizable; this applies to all copies seen.
- (3) "V" is replaced by a dot, shaped like an inverted pear, which with other details varies in conformation.
- (4) The dot is always smaller in height and area, than those dimensions of the normal letter "V".
- (5) "I" may be missing entirely, or be visible only in broken parts. top, centre, bottom, or combination of these.
- (6) There is blank, unprinted space above the dot (except as has been noted in variants (a) to (m), between "R" and the dot for "V", between the dot for "V" and visible parts of "I", between "I" and parts of "E".
- (7) When "I" is missing entirely, the space it would occupy is there blank, unprinted.
- (8) There are several variants in conformation of all parts of the variety.
- (9) Some of these variants agree in different printings of widely separated dates.
- (10) The variety and its variants are not traceable to any known cause.

Query. What caused them?

The theory referred to as recently published offers this explanation.

A particle of foreign matter lodged in the angle of the "V", possibly between "V" and "I", and so printed a pear shaped dot to the exclusion of both letters. Repeated printings caused this obstruction to wear, and portions of both letters reappeared. Reference, apparently in support, is made to a small depression in the paper, said to be observable at the point where the variety occurs. As an alternative, it is suggested that the imperfection was brought to the attention of the printers, who removed the obstruction or touched up the letters, and so caused the less imperfect impressions, on MCA paper, where the variety is not known. Is it possible to reconcile these suggestions and theories, with the detail which has been ascertained?

The pear shaped dot in smaller size than the normal letter "V" is always present and never shows any part definition of the letter. The dot is smaller than the "V" alone, and cannot by any form of imagination, be made to cover the area of both "VI" and the space between them. This premise is positively contradicted by Nos. 4, 6, and 7 above. Similarly No. 9 contradicts the suggestion that repeated printings caused the alleged obstruction to wear, so that portions of the letters reappear, as the same variant exists in printings of Oct. 1903 and July 1905, so that in two years and more than 40,000 impressions, the variety was much the same; in addition, the dominant character "V", never at any time on any copy seen, gave the faintest or slightest suggestion (See No. 2 above). The writer has never observed any specimen of the variety, with the mentioned depression in the paper, but something very similar is known on many other stamps, caused by the small particle of paper, punched out by a pin of the perforating machine. Assume that foreign matter did lodge on the plate as suggested, what would one expect the printed effect to be? The "V" certainly

could have caught and held something of the kind, if it did, the printing effect on some specimens at least would have been (a) a dot or blot the size of the letter, (b) that and more, (c) less than the area, showing as well some part or parts, but in fact what does appear is a dot smaller than the area of the letter, that only, no part or parts of the letter are in evidence. Such fact as there is definitely contradicts the theory, and to fit the theory to the facts, one would need to assume a particular kind of foreign matter, capable of absorbing printer's ink in parts only, rejecting it at will in others to account for the variants observed.

Mr. Melville's theory was that the plate damaged inadvertently passed unnoticed, was used for a number of printings, then replaced with a new one less imperfect, from which the later printings were made. Developing that theory by reasonable deductions from the compiled detail, it is not difficult to imagine a printer's establishment, the plate in some position exposed to damage. It is possible to imagine something falling on it, such as a rule, striking it endwise with a glancing blow, first to the "I" breaking that through, passing to the "V" twisting in or off the top right, compressing the lower parts, finishing at the top left which was pushed out of position, all of which could and would have caused the conformation of the variety. The letters in question with the others of the word, were formed of small, thin slivers of metal, did not have even the support serifs would have given, were delicate and readily susceptible to the damage suggested. Little experience is needed to know that, such slivers may be so damaged as to be only semi-detached from the parent body, and in that state will accept a deal of play before becoming completely detached; further, the play of which they are capable will permit them to assume varied distortions in shape, when pressure or movement of any kind is applied: hence the noted variants in shape of the variety. If this theory is conceded merely to be possible, and is tested by the facts enumerated as 1 to 10, it will be found that there is reasonable acceptable deductions which fit them all, removing the theory from the realm of possibility, to that of probability. Even the alleged depression in the paper is accounted for, as the suggested damage to the "V", may have caused the metal of its make up to bunch when struck, form an excrescence above the level of the plate, and caused indentation of the paper at that spot.

The fact that the MCA printings of the 1d., 2½d., 6d. and 5/-., were without the variety, the sheets show the same plate numbers in the same positions, indicate that a new upper plate was used, for the reason that, both original plates were prepared for typographic printing, and damage such has been suggested to the face of the type, could not have been remedied by re-cutting, touching up, nor any similar process, face of the type semi-detached or wholly so, would have made that impossible.

The first known published mention of the variety was in "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News" of 2nd September, 1905, and there is the remarkable coincidence of the ½d., 1d., and 5d., MCA, invoiced at the same time under the date of 18th July 1905, nearly two months earlier; the first and last of which showed the variety while the 1d. did not. It is not responsible, but it is rather improbable, that the printer's attention was directed by outside or lay effort to the matter, prior to the published notice of it. How is the 1d. without the variety to be accounted for? The probable reply is, ½d. and 5d. printed, the imperfect piece of metal which caused the variety became completely detached, the damage was observed, a new plate was laid down at once, used for the 1d. and later printings. It is a fact that the variety disappeared completely, disappearance was not gradual but complete and abrupt, so that only intelligence and wholly corrective attention can have been responsible for the change, noted as first

effective on the 1d., supplied at the same time as two others on which there was no change. Incidentally, though authority of the printers has been cited, confirming use of two plates, existence of a third has not been denied, and until it is with acceptable explanation of how such delicate, face damaged type as this was, can have been successfully restored to the almost perfect condition of the latter printings: damage, and thereby necessity for a new plate, the third, appears to be the only reasonable tenable theory to account for the origine, existence, and disappearance of the variety."

-----//-----//-----

Broadly speaking, the information I had was based on the few copies I already owned, plus the study of the 1d. value, CA wmk. In the main, these fitted together fairly well, except that I had a few copies of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value - in both watermarks - and it was here that the anomalies appeared.

Hence, I started to collect more copies, and in particular the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. values - fortunately neither are very rare or difficult to locate and, in fact, I would suggest that the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. value is grossly overpriced in the catalogues, if indeed, not both values.

The next link in the chain was an offer by a dealer of a group of about 15 copies of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value of the flaw on MCA watermarked paper. At this point the fun really begins.

It would seem that the collection that I had bought and therefore the basis of the original study by Mr. Cook - consisting of 60 copies of the 1d. value, CA wmk - was originally comprised of other values as well as the 1d. There was evidence of such additional copies having been present, even though it appeared they had only formed the minority. Nevertheless, they had been available to Mr Cook when he completed his study and article!

However, the new group of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. values did not fit in at all with the study. In fact, at first sight, it seemed they would disprove much of what had then been written. I should, perhaps at this point, add that most of the articles that I have seen on this flaw describe it as progressive. The question is, in which direction? Did it get worse or better?

In an attempt to prove or disprove the theories, I have made reference to the printings, and in particular the fact that on the 1d. value the flaw exists only on the CA watermarked paper.

The figures quoted for the various printings would suggest that the flaw was noted by or brought to the attention of the printers in July, 1905, i. e., after the printing of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 5d. values; but before the printing of the 1d. value on MCA paper, and that as a result of this a new plate was introduced so as to allow printing to go on without the flaw.

This, up to now, appears fairly straightforward. However, a study of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value on MCA watermarked paper shows that the flaw takes on a different characteristic. There is a marked break in the scroll below the position of the "V", or at least, where the "V" should be. This is not a "fly speck" situation, but a definite break, and what is more significant is the fact that the flaw has moved to the left. Thus, the damaged area now affects the "R" of "SERVIET", and at the same time, the letter "I" re-emerges, almost completely in some cases and wholly complete in other examples - this late state of the flaw can actually read "SEP.IET", the lower limb of the "R" being missing.

The only constant factor I have so far gleaned from this study is in relation to the "V" of "SERVIET", in that on the later printings of the ½d. value on MCA watermarked paper this letter is always missing to a greater or lesser degree. In some of my examples the "V" is completely missing, whilst in others there are traces of it which vary in size.

Reverting to the general position, the dates quoted are the invoice dates, and not the actual dates of printing, so that it is possible that for some reason or another the printing of the 1d. value on MCA watermarked paper took place some weeks after the printings of the other values. If that be the case, then such period might well allow time for the corrections to be made to the "1d. plate: along the lines of Mr. Cook's article.

My own feelings are that, perhaps, the flaw was caused as originally suggested, by a piece of metal lodged and that it moved, creating the break in the scroll (the ribbon of Mr. Cook's article). This made the flaw obvious to the trained eye of the printer, and resulted in the new plate being introduced into the composite frame.

Although Mr. Cook mentions the "upper edge" of the ribbon broken above the place of "V", variant (h) in his listing, this is in relation to the ½d. value on CA watermarked paper, and it might well be that he did not have sufficient examples of the ½d. flaw on the MCA watermarked paper when compiling his article. I have been able to get together about 100 copies of the "SER..ET" flaw, and can only confirm in support of Mr. Cook, that it is quite amazing how the flaw varies from one example to another.

To summarise, the ½d. on CA watermarked paper is similar to the 1d. value on the same paper, in that the ribbon of the frame is unbroken and most, if not all, of the flawed letters show on the 1d. value. In the case of the ½d. value on MCA watermarked paper, the ribbon of the frame is broken and the damaged letters are different to those in the other earlier values, in that the letter "I" reappears undamaged - the letter "R" suffers a gradual erosion of the lower leg to the extent that it appears almost to be a letter "P" and finally a letter "F".

The one value which would substantiate the theory proposed is the 5d. value on MCA watermarked paper - sadly I can not afford to study it in depth, in fact, I have not even got one copy, so, if any member happens to have a few examples, could they please check these to see if they fit into what I have found to be a fascinating if perplexing study.

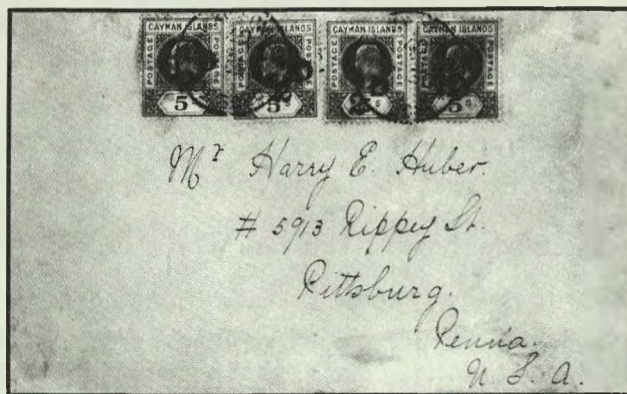
Any comments would be gratefully received, in particular in relation as to how the flaw developed. (Ed: Bob's address is on the inside front cover.)

BCPSG (UK) CONVENTION

All UK members of the BCPSG should have received a notice of the FIRST CONVENTION OF THE BCPSG (UK) from Bob Swarbrick. If you have not received this, please contact Bob (address inside front cover). The convention will be held at the Kings Head Hotel, Loughborough on Saturday / Sunday, 5th and 6th November. We hope that all UK members of the BCPSG will find it possible to attend the convention and make it a memorable occasion for British Caribbean philately. Those who have attended conventions of the Roses in the past know the warm welcome that awaits everyone. Come and make this year's event the first of many that you attend.

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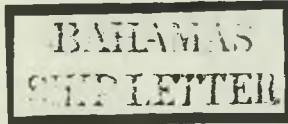
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BCPSG ANNUAL MEETING AT STAMPOREE '88 Jay Fredrick and Paul Larsen

By every measure the BCPSG's participation in and meeting at STAMPOREE '88 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, April 21-24, 1988, was a **smashing success!**

Thursday evening, April 21st, and Friday, the 22nd, were devoted to bourse table hopping, exhibit viewing, and stamp stories. A few members were observed to talk stamps and things well beyond the midnight hours. Others simply made up for lost time during daylight. A large contingent dined together Friday evening at the hotel. The Group's hospitality room was in use until the wee hours of the morning.

The AGM took place on Saturday afternoon, the 23rd, with Vice President, Jay Fredrick, presiding. Members and guests were introduced. Following a plea for more members to exhibit, Jay discussed several personnel changes. Dan Walker has agreed to take over as the BCPSG librarian from Bob Lovett, who has served the members faithfully since the early days when the library was first founded. Many thanks go to Bob for a job well done. Howie Austin has chosen to retire as our Secretary after a ten-year tenure. He is due hearty thanks from the Group for his long service. Elsewhere in this issue is the announcement of his replacement which was not available at Stamporee '88.

Editor Mark Swetland noted that we had 415 members as of March prior to dropping those delinquent in their dues. A dues incentive is suggested for 1989 to encourage prompt payment. The supply of Journal articles is adequate but more are needed to assure plenty of variety for future issues. Keep them coming! A new scheme to improve overseas delivery, consolidated air lift shipment, is being tried for the June issue. A new membership directory is planned. Finally, Mark expressed some food for collective thoughts. Mark's tenure as editor will probably last for about three more years. The Group should consider the financing and purchase of a computer/word processor and a laser printer for his successor as editor.

Two items of UK-related business were also discussed. Al Branston, our past International Director, will be given honorary life membership in recognition of his long and active service for the Group. Also, the BWISC has invited us to join with them at STAMPWORLD LONDON 1990.

Ed Addiss gave a well received slide presentation on the postal history of British Honduras. This was followed by our auction conducted by our "Auction-Master", Jack Harwood (proud father). The sale, as usual, was handled efficiently and expeditiously by him and his able assistants, Peter McCann and Eddie Addiss. Bidding from the "book" and floor was spirited and everyone seemed very satisfied with the results.

19 members and 6 guests attended the show and the various meetings and functions during the weekend. Two members were from England, one from Canada, one from Tortola, BVI and the rest from various parts of the USA. Members present were Ed Addiss, Cyril Bell, Kil Bump, Marge Doran, Jay Fredrick, Barry Friedman, Michel Forand, Simon Greenwood, Jack Harwood, Bob Hausin, Paul Larsen, Peter McCann, Tom Mills, Ian Potter, Gale Raymond, Larry Resnick, James Stern, Mark Swetland and Dan Walker.

Barry Friedman deserves a large thank you for his liaison work with the STAMPOREE show committee and for beating the bushes to provide exhibits in our specialty. Many of us also shared a delightful evening with Judy and Barry in

their home on Saturday evening, the 23rd. There was plenty of refreshments, food, companionship and an interesting slide presentation on the British Virgin Islands by Jay Fredrick.

The last major event of the weekend occurred on Sunday morning. The Group's exhibits swept away the lion's share of the top awards at the breakfast awards presentation. Four BCPSG members won Gold medals out of the total of seven awarded at STAMPOREE. The breakfast was followed by another development which all members seemed to enjoy. The Grand Award Winner bought drinks, hard or soft, for those present. Strangely this seems to have been enjoyed as a "first annual" event (new tradition) for those times when group members win the big one! The exhibit results are shown elsewhere.

It was a fun weekend with many new and renewed friendships. Everyone is looking forward to our future annual meetings, next summer in Texas and in London in 1990. We urge all of you to attend one of these future meetings where we can promise you a most enjoyable and unforgettable experience.

BCPSG AWARDS AT STAMPOREE '88

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Award</u>
Kil Bump	Postal Charges on 19th Century Bermuda Letters	Reserve Grand, BCPSG Gold, Show Gold. APS Pre-1900 Award, Postal History Award
Andrew Harwood (Youth-14 yrs. old)	Bahamas Town Cancels	BCPSG Bronze, Show Silver-bronze, JPA Award
Paul Larsen	Leeward Islands - Federal Issues, 1912-1937	Grand Award, Cameron Trophy, Show Gold, BCPSG Gold
Ben Ramkisson	Tobago, 1775-1937	Show Gold, BCPSG Gold
Ben Ramkisson	Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi	Show Silver, ATA 3rd Award, India Study Circle Award
Russell Skavari	A Study of the Bermuda Caravel Issues of 1910-1936	Show Gold, BCPSG Gold, APS Research Award

ANTIGUA MONOGRAPH

The following pages contain a further section of the Antigua Monograph, Section 7.1 on the King George V five shilling stamps of 1913 and Section 7.2 on the Arms Type War Stamp overprints of 1916-1919. These sections were drafted by Bill Cornell based on the research results of Mark Swetland and other information. Additional contributions were made by Mark Swetland, who provided photographic assistance.

7. KING GEORGE V STAMPS

7.1 FIVE SHILLING STAMPS OF 1913

Although King Edward VII died in 1910, the 5s. stamp bearing a portrait medallion of King George V did not appear until 1913. Further, the lower value Arms type showing the large seal inscribed EDWARDUS VII (see Section 6.1) continued in use until the small seal issue with a small portrait medallion of King George V appeared in 1921 (see Section 7.3).



Fig. 1

The Georgian 5s. stamps (Fig. 1) were printed in grey-green (center) and violet (frame), colors being those of Stanley Gibbons. The catalog designations of these stamps are Gibbons SG 54 and Scott Sc 61. The stamps were printed on chalk-surfaced paper, as were the Edwardian Arms type stamps dispatched to Antigua beginning in December 1905 (see Section 6.1). The stamps were perforated 14. A new head plate was used, showing the profile of King George V on an oval medallion, along with the original Edwardian duty plate (frame).

SHEETS

The sheet structure was the same as that discussed in Section 6.1.1 for the 1903 issue on Crown over CC paper ((1,2)).

SUMMARY OF PRINTINGS

The first printing of the Georgian 5s. stamps is recorded in the De La Rue records in Day Book, Volume AA, page 450, as 3,180 stamps dispatched to Antigua in June 1913 ((3)). A second printing is recorded in Day Book, Volume AB, page 45, as 6,240 stamps dispatched in January 1914 ((3)). Melville states that the first printing was received in Antigua about July 1913, and the second printing in February 1914 ((4)). There are minor shade differences between the two printings ((4)).

CA Reqn No.	Reqn No.	Stamps	Date Ordered	Remarks	Dispatched
59/19	50/13	3,180	29 APR 1913	grey-green and violet	30 JUN 1913
60/11	97/13	6,240	11 NOV 1913	grey-green and violet	13 JAN 1914

COLOR TRIALS

No color trials have been reported.

PROOFS

M. W. Swetland notes a die proof of the King George V head, dated 3 May 12, and endorsed "BEFORE HARDENING" ((1)). Robson Lowe ((5)) reports a 1912 die proof of the KGV head on card, endorsed in mss. "May 16 / 60 leads + 6 extra", and in red "Antigua / Aug 14th 12", with red line crossing proof as part of the endorsement.

((1)) Numbers in parentheses refer to similarly numbered references at the end of this Section.

Since the frame of the 5s. stamp was the original 1903 frame, there was no need for a new duty die and hence no frame die proofs ((2)).

V. N. F. Surtees ((6)) notes the existence of an imperforate die proof of the KGV 5s. stamp in grey-green and violet (issued colors). It seems likely that this item is a plate proof ((2)).

SPECIMENS

Stamps of the initial printing of 1913 were overprinted SPECIMEN in black. Data on these is given in Section 10, where SPECIMEN stamps of all issues are discussed.

VARIETIES

No varieties have been reported.

7.2 ARMS TYPE WAR STAMP OVERPRINTS

From 1 September 1916 the Leeward Islands imposed a tax of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on letters originating in the Presidencies of Antigua, Dominica and St. Kitts-Nevis, and addressed to any place in the United Kingdom or any other part of the British Empire outside of the Colony of the Leeward Islands. This tax was to be paid by $\frac{1}{2}$ d. additional postage on such letters. Initially, the tax was to expire on 31 March 1917. On 1 February 1917 the tax was extended to letters posted to the United States. Further, the original tax on letters to the United Kingdom or other parts of the British Empire was extended from 1 April 1917 until rescinded ((4)). At present the date when this was rescinded is not known.



Fig. 2

In 1916, the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. monocolour stamp of the 1908 issue (Fig. 2) was overprinted "WAR STAMP" in sans-serif capitals in one line in black. In 1917, the overprint color was changed to red. Early in 1918, a new $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp (Fig. 3) was decided upon to provide a single stamp to cover both the ordinary postage and the additional tax. All of the War Stamps were printed on paper watermarked Multiple Crown over CA, and perforated 14 ((4)).



Fig. 3

CHECK LIST

Value	SG Color	Overprint	SG number	Scott number
$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	Deep green	Black	52	MR1
$\frac{1}{2}$ d.	Green	Red	53	MR2
$1\frac{1}{2}$ d.	Orange	Black	54	MR3

SHEETS

The sheet structure was the same as that discussed in Section 6.1.1 for the 1903 issue on Crown over CC paper.

SUMMARY OF PRINTINGS

The dispatch dates and requisition numbers given were obtained by Mark Swetland from the De La Rue Records ((7)). The colors are those of Melville ((4)).

CA Reqn No.	Reqn No.	Stamps	Date Ordered	Remarks	Dispatched
63/159	71/16	253,860	20 JUL 1916	Deep blue-green, black overprint	31 AUG 1916
64/158	27/17	502,440	28 FEB 1917	Dull green, red overprint	22 MAY 1917
66/97	38/18	197,860	4 APR 1918	Brown orange, black overprint	22 JUN 1918
68/27	56/19	121,200	20 MAY 1919	Deep yellow and orange, black overprint	30 JUL 1919

In the case of the single printing of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp with black overprint, the statement of Melville ((4)) that the stamps reached the colony in time for the scheduled use on 1 September 1916 appears inaccurate in view of the De La Rue Day Book entry dated 31 August 1916. No information is presently available on the earliest date of use of this stamp. Melville reports two printings, the first on paper of medium thickness with colorless shiny gum and the second (in circulation in October 1916) on appreciably thicker paper with dull thin gum. Since only one printing is given in the De La Rue records ((7)), possibly supply difficulties, arising from the war, were responsible for these variations, as well as the shade varieties found on this stamp (see below).

The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp with red overprint had only one printing, but there are variations in paper from thin to medium to extra thick, and in the shades of green and of the red overprint color ((4)). Although minor shade differences exist in the green color of the stamps, there are definitely two shades of red in the overprints, some being bright dark red, while others are lighter dull red ((2)).

COLOR TRIALS

No color trials have been reported.

PROOFS

Figure 4 shows a die proof of the frame of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. War Stamp made from the 1903 vignette die cut to stamp size and mounted on a card 89mm x 114mm. The value has been painted in by hand. On the reverse is a pencil notation reading "Reqs n for special $\frac{1}{2}$ d from new border plate for o/prtd "WAR STAMP". Another die proof in black of the frame of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. War Stamp is known on card, inscribed "after strike" ((8)). What may be the same die proof or possibly another is described by Frank Saunders ((9)) as a "1918 duty die proof of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. War Stamp dated May 4th, 'inscribed 60 leads, plate made June 20'". The June 20 date conflicts somewhat with the initial $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps' dispatch

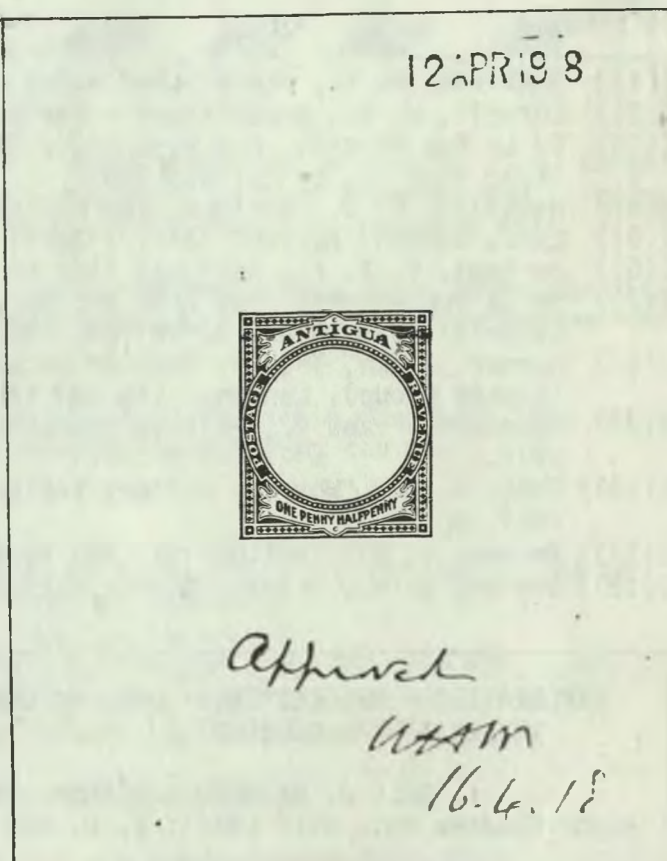


Fig. 4

date of June 22 from the De La Rue records ((7)) as given above ((2)).

E. V. Toeg ((10)) reports imperforate plate proofs of the three War Stamps on gummed paper watermarked Crown CA. Pairs of these plate proofs were auctioned by Harmers about 1982 and later offered to Mark Swetland by the dealer purchasing them ((1)).

SPECIMENS

Stamps of the printings of 1916, 1917 and 1918 were overprinted SPECIMEN in black. Data on these are given in Section 10, where SPECIMEN stamps of all issues are discussed.

VARIETIES

A variety of the 1½d. War Stamp showing a "broken S" in the "WAR STAMP" overprint was plated by George Bowman at Stamp No. 45, the ninth stamp in the fourth row of the sheet of five rows of twelve stamps ((11)). This variety had been noted earlier by Stanley Durnin, but not located in the sheet ((2)). Bowman indicated that the variety may not be constant, since examination of three of four blocks of eight stamps from the lower right sheet corner showed the variety, while the fourth block had a normal overprint on Stamp No. 45. Further, sheets of the two ½d. War Stamps examined by Bowman showed normal overprints on Stamp No. 45. Bowman later reported ((12)) that all three 1½d. blocks with faulty overprint were printed in a single shade of color, and therefore from the initial (1918) printing.

REFERENCES

- ((1)) Swetland, M. W., Unpublished notes on Antigua, May 1986.
- ((2)) Cornell, W. G., Unpublished notes on Antigua, June 1986.
- ((3)) De La Rue Records, Day Book AA, p 450, Day Book AB, p 45 and Colonial Stamp Book 11, pp 221 and 229.
- ((4)) Melville, F. J., Antigua, The Philatelic Institute, London, 1929, pp 32
- ((5)) Lowe, Robson, Auction Sale, 3 April 1976, lot 28T.
- ((6)) Surtees, V. N. F., Antigua: 1903 to date, BCPJ, W/N 7, May 1962, p 42.
- ((7)) De La Rue Records, Day Book AC, pp 32, 188 and 464, Day Book AD, p 92 and Colonial Stamp Book 12, pp 104, 131, 184, and 240.
- ((8)) Harmer Rooke, The H. Douglas Bessemer British West Indies (Leeward Islands Group), London, 14th and 15th February 1963, Lot 114.
- ((9)) Saunders, Frank R., Private Communication to W. G. Cornell, 28 February 1977.
- ((10)) Toeg, E. V., "Why Not Collect Antigua?", BWISC Bulletin, No. 63, December 1969, pp 72-75.
- ((11)) Bowman, G. W., "Antigua War Tax Variety", BCPJ, W/N 73, June 1973, p.70.
- ((12)) Bowman, G. W., Private Communication to W. G. Cornell, 23 June 1986.

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First Flight Covers to the West Indies

by Louis Weinstein

On November 15 and 16, 1985 Trans World Airlines inaugurated service to Freeport and Nassau, Bahamas, from St. Louis and New York (Fig. 1). Covers were flown on each of the flights.

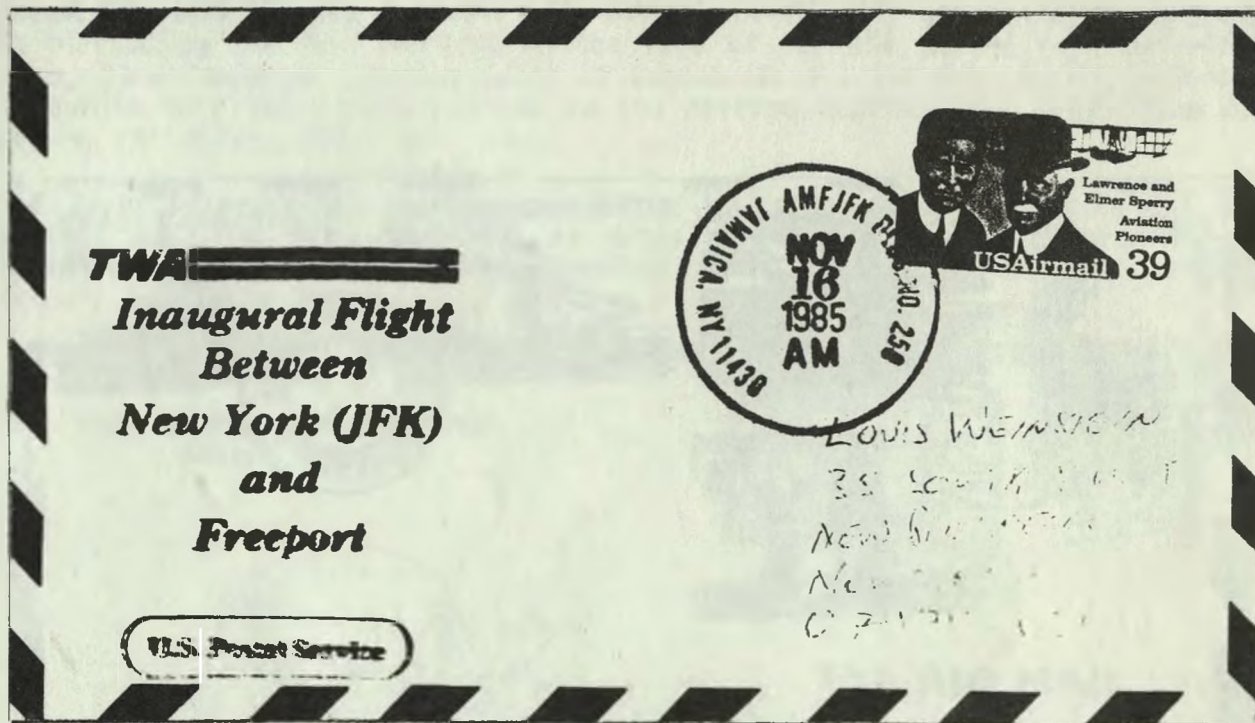


Fig. 1

Freeport covers to New York and St. Louis received a single ring cancel measuring 30 mm in diameter. This cancel was used on both incoming and outgoing mail, as a canceller on outgoing mail and as a backstamp on incoming mail.

Nassau to St. Louis covers received a 32mm diameter single ring backstamp. St. Louis to Nassau covers were backstamped using the same type of cancel as the Nassau to St. Louis covers.

New York to Nassau covers received a 30 mm diameter single ring backstamp while the Nassau return flight used a 25 mm diameter single ring cancel.

The summary for these flights is:

New York, 11/15 (blue, magenta, green) to Nassau, 516 PO, 625 AMF, 1,065 UN
 Nassau, 11/15 (no cachet) to New York, no backstamp
 Freeport, 11/15 (no cachet) to New York, no backstamp
 New York, 11/16 (blue, magenta, green) to Freeport, 457 PO, 554 AMF, 1,065 UN
 St. Louis, 11/16 (black, magenta) to Freeport, 1,175 PO and AMF
 St. Louis, 11/16 (black, magenta) to Nassau, 2,100 PO and AMF
 Nassau (no cachet) to St. Louis
 Freeport (no cachet) to St. Louis, no backstamp

Also on November 16, 1985, Pan Am started non-stop service from Miami, Florida, to Providenciales, Turks Island. Pan Am backstamped the covers with a four-line handstamp reading, "Pan Am/Providenciales/Nov. 16, 1985/Received" (Fig. 2).

PAN AM
PROVIDENCIALES

NOV 1 1955

RECEIVED

Covers from the return flight from Providenciales to Miami were cancelled with a 27 mm diameter double ring Providenciales cancel with what looks like a missing "L".

Reference: Whitlow, Wayne, "First Flight Cover Notes", The Airpost Journal, 57, Number 6, pp 242-245, 247 March 1986.

Fig. 2

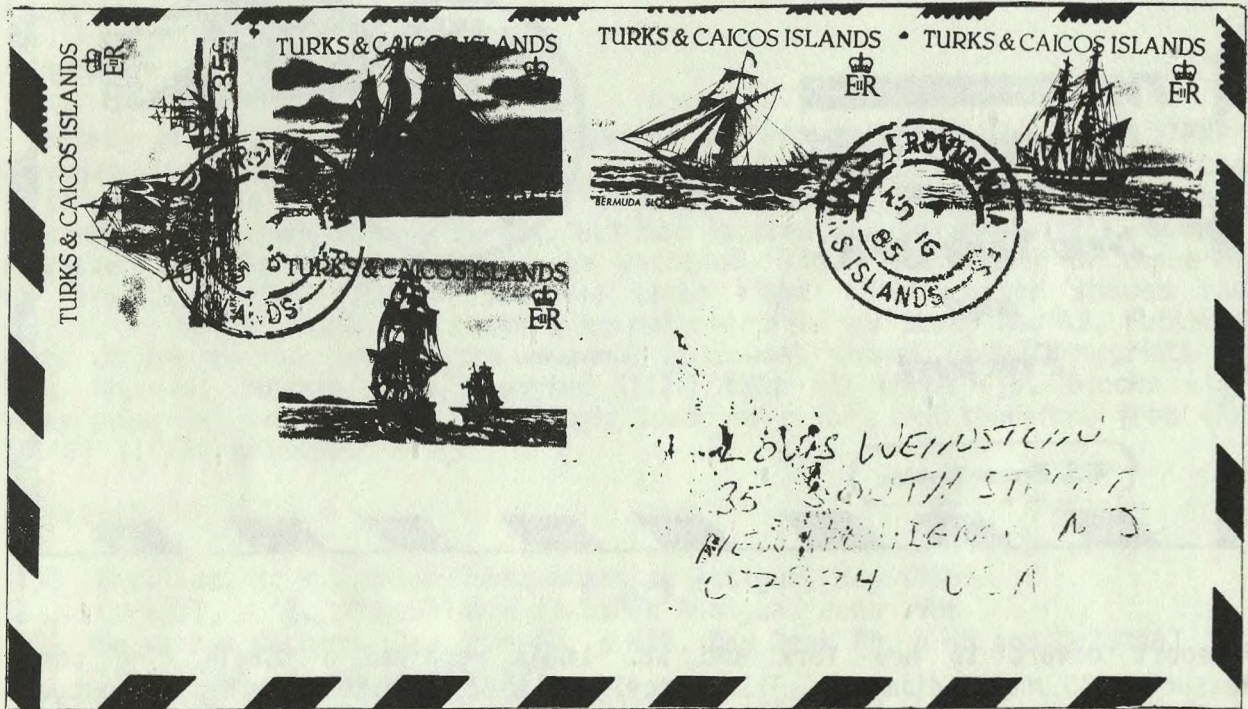


Fig. 3

(Ed: Louis Weinstein, who is appearing for the first time in BCPJ, would like to hear from others with an interest in first flight covers. His address is 170 Linden Avenue, Springfield, NJ 07081.)

BITS & PIECES

Morris Ludington reports that he recently found a new type of forged Nassau datestamp (Fig. 1) cancelling a 3s. Queen's Staircase, wmk. Crown & CC of 1903. It is rather lightly struck on the stamp, which is in black and dark green, and so does not show up well in either a photocopy or a regular photograph. The drawing is from a tracing, slightly reconstructed in a few places, but at least gives its general appearance.

Note that the date is in taller lettering than the names and that the month is in four letters, rather than the usual three or two. Also, the name "BAHAMAS" has slipped around to the left and is off-center. These alone make it easy to identify.



Fig. 1

Canadian Troops in the Bahamas in World War II - Update

Gale Raymond reports that the article on the above subject in the June 1988 BCPJ (VOL. 28, NO. 3, W/N 147) by Harold Gosney and Gale Raymond has brought to light yet another surviving cover (Fig. 1), gifted to Gale by Ed Addiss, to whom full credit and many thanks are due. This latest known cover of "N" Force, Bahamas, is blessed by the unit marking on the face of it, the marking of the Orderly Room, 33rd Company, Veterans Guard of Canada (A. F.) (is this Auxiliary Force?) in purple ink. The return address on the reverse confirms the origin from QMS Gilpin, "N" Force, VGQC, Can' Army.

The importance of this cover, aside from its sheer beauty, lies in its unit marking dateline, Feb. 19, 1943, as dates rarely appear on "N" Force covers. Again the Bahamas stamps are cancelled solely by the dumb-killer security cancel, in purple ink.



Fig. 1

From the Andy Harwood collection, we can finally illustrate a full strike of this multi-purpose dumb-killer, used as a T-box postage due marking. Postage due items were rarely ever noted by the Bahamas GPO, but this postcard (Fig. 2), posted in Nassau with naught but a USA 1¢ stamp, obviously forced the issue.

The Nassau datestamp records the date as 28OCT42. A quite nice item, this card shows 1/40 Swiss Francs owing, but nothing shows that postage due was, in fact, collected on it, on delivery in the USA.

Comparison of the T-marking, right end, with cancels on all known Canadian "N" Force covers confirms its multi-purpose use. It has been seen as a postage due marking, a security cancel and as a Paquebot marking for naval or ship mail, expeditious in wartime situations.

Thanks go to Andy Harwood, who, at age 14, is already garnering impressive awards with his exhibit of Bahamas postmarks and covers. Good show, Andy!

Gale's address is P. O. Box 35695, Houston, TX 77235. He will welcome further correspondence on this subject and we may look forward to another update if he receives additional information.

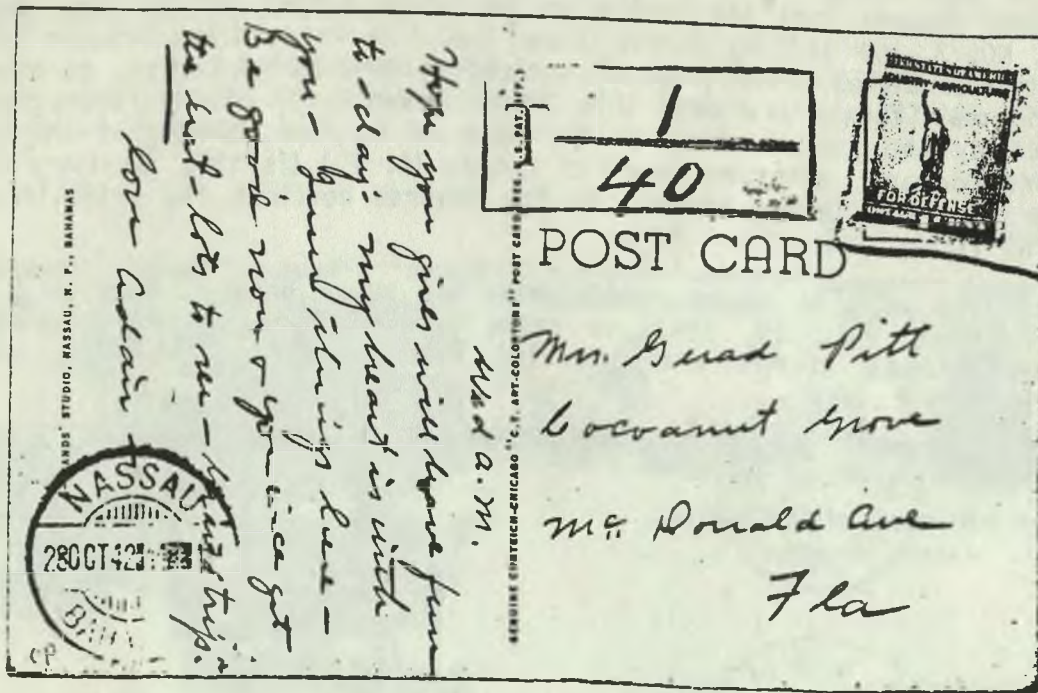


Fig. 2

F. H. Stacey, member of the RAE (Farnsborough) PS, has sent in a photocopy of a P.P.C. (Fig. 3) which also bears the Orderly Room handstamp, dated AUG 27 1943. This is in Fred's collection. He reports that he has seen another P.P.C., identical to this one. His address is 18 Maple Way, Heatherlands, Headley, Bordon, Hants. GU35 8AZ, England.

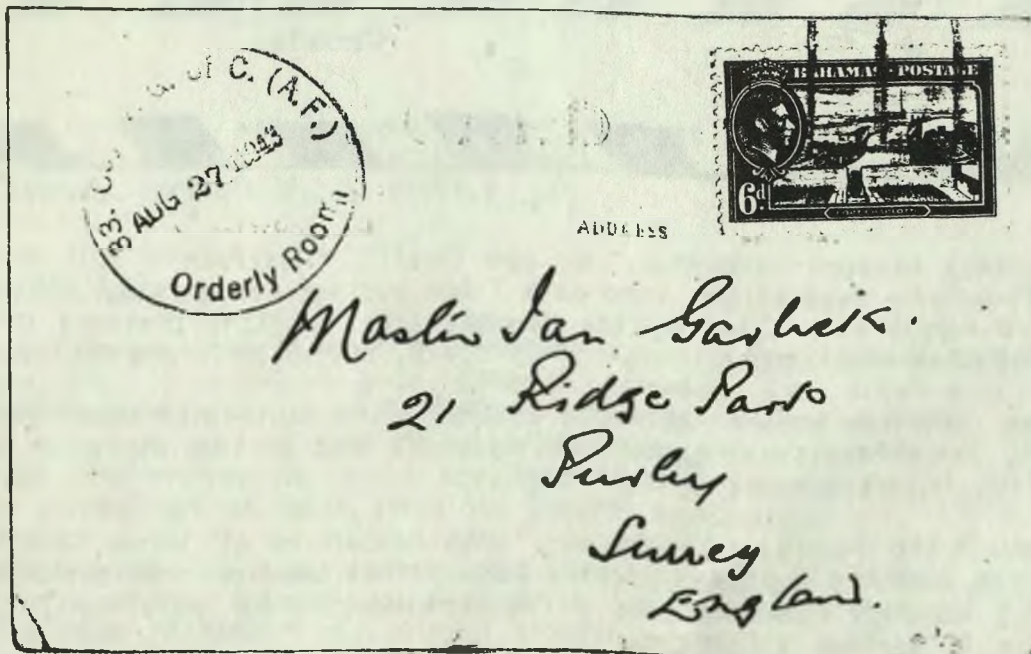


Fig. 3

Finally, member Bob Lemire sent a copy of the June Journal to J. Colin Campbell of the BNAPS Canadian Military Mail Study Group. Colin requested permission to reproduce the article from the June Journal in their Newsletter. Permission was granted. Colin also sent in a copy of a cover belonging to one of their members which he has consented to have us illustrate (Fig. 4). Colin noted that "so far we have very little on "N" Force. It was a small operation for Canadians, hence mail is scarce." Anyone wishing to get more information on this study group should write to J. C. Campbell, 1450 Ross Road, Kelowna, BC V1Z 1L6, Canada.

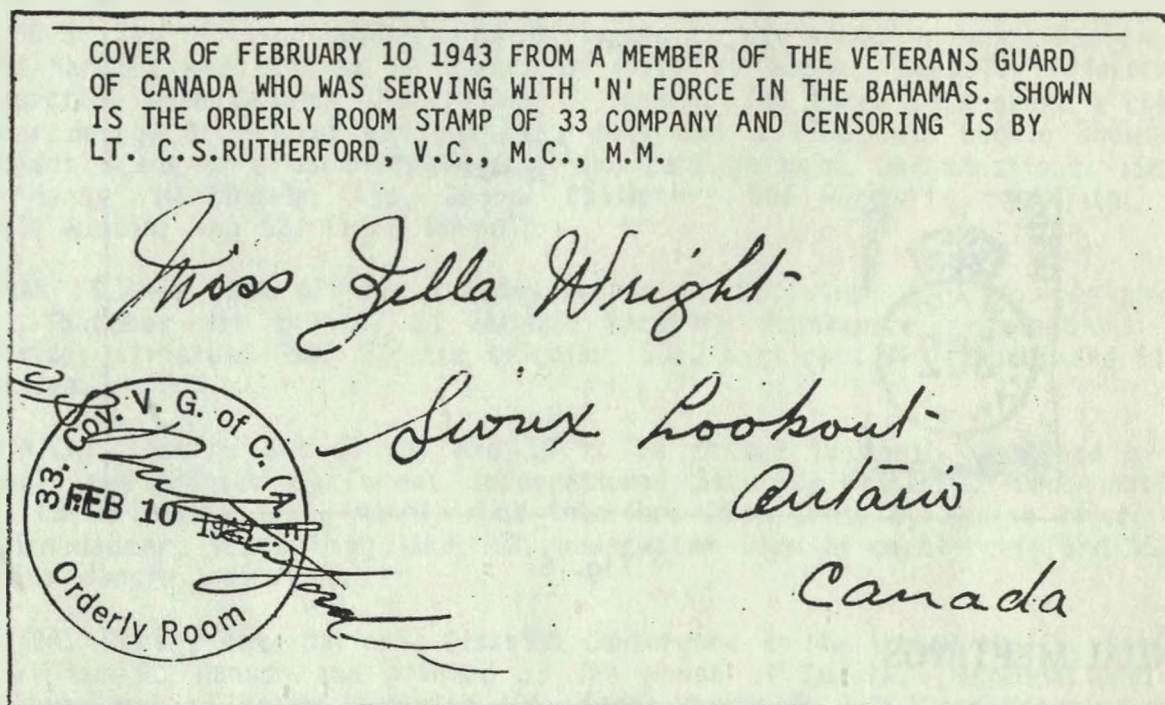


Fig. 4

Also adding to the response from this article is Horst Augustinovic of Bermuda. Although his item is not Bahamas, he has added to our knowledge of Canadian military forces during World War II. His collection contains a cover mailed in Hamilton, Bermuda, on 29MAR44. The Orderly Room handstamp (Fig. 5) is on the reverse of the cover. The front of this cover (Fig. 6) shows that the "B" Force of The Pictou Highlanders was stationed in Bermuda, using the 'Canadian Army 302' censor mark.

Horst says that this is the only Pictou Highlanders cover he knows of. Perhaps other members can share their data with Horst. His address is P. O. Box HM937, Hamilton HMDX, Bermuda.

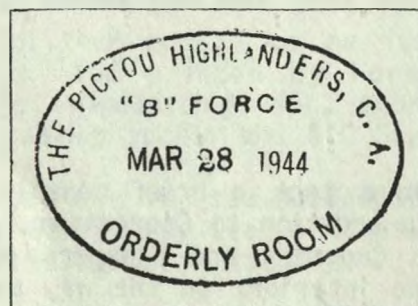


Fig. 5

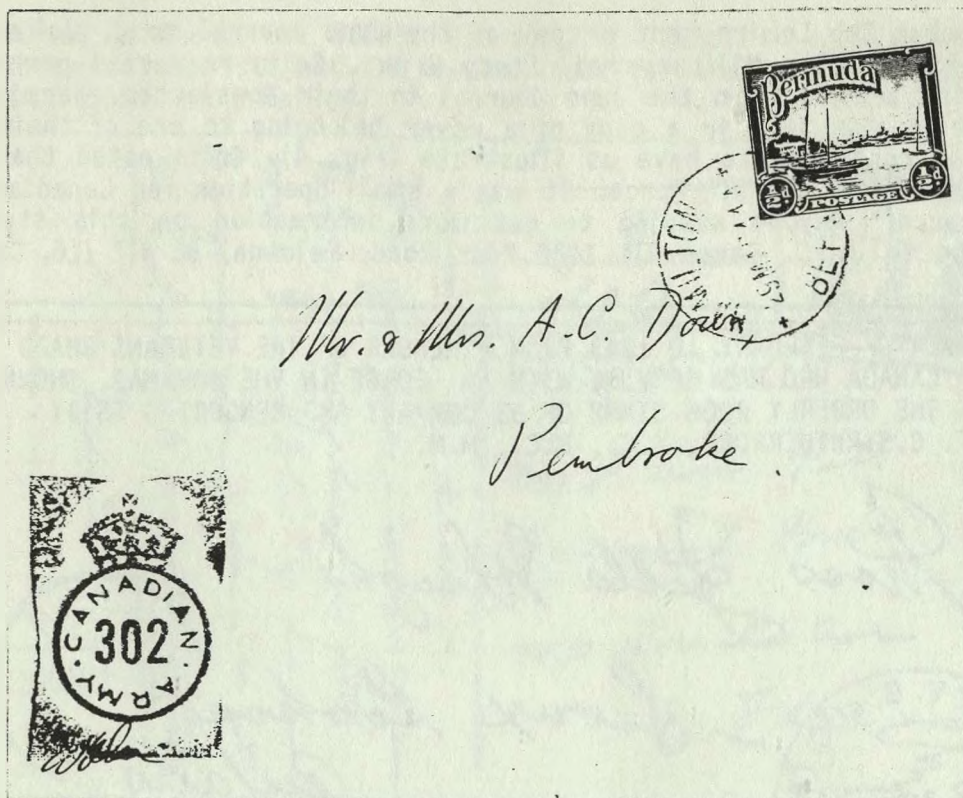


Fig. 6

ANNUAL MEETINGS

This notice calls attention to future annual meetings of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. The 1989 meeting will be held in Dallas, Texas. Gale Raymond will coordinate the arrangements for this meeting and details will be given in the December journal. Many of us have had the opportunity to know what a warm welcome our Texas members give us.

The 1990 annual meeting will take place in London England. Bob Swarbrick is the coordinator and is working with the members of the BCPSG(UK). Victor Toeg, President of the British West Indies Study Circle, has invited the BCPSG to join with the BWISC at Stamp World London 1990. Those of us, who were able to join with the BWISC at London 1980, will recall the many wonderful experiences we shared with our UK friends.

No site has yet been selected for 1991. If you and a group of members would like to suggest a national show for this meeting, please let Ben Ramkissoon hear from you.

PERSONAL MENTION

Auction Manager **Jack Harwood** took a brief consulting job which took him to Guyana for 4 days in May. In addition to Georgetown, the trip included visits to Anerika, Mackenzie, Sharima Crossing and Wineperu (the latter two of which do not have post offices) in the interior. On the way back he managed a three-day visit with member **Mary Green** in Barbados. Quite a fascinating trip!

NEW ISSUES

by Bruce E. Watts

All issues are printed in multicolor offset lithography unless otherwise noted.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA: Set of eight and two SS to be issued May 3. Designed by Disney Studios and printed by The House of Questa. All portray various Disney characters at Epcot Center exhibits. Denominations are: 25¢, 30¢, 40¢, 60¢, 70¢, \$1.50, \$3, \$4, and two \$5 SS.

BARBADOS: Set of five showing cricket players to be issued in June. Designed by David Hartley and printed in sheets of fifty by Walsall Security Printers in conjunction with Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago. The three sets share a common border design of cricket bat, stumps, ball and a 1790 belt buckle showing a Barbados scene of a batsman, windmill and cabbage palm. Denominations: 15¢, E. A. "Manny" Martindale; 45¢, George Challenor; 50¢ Herman C. Griffith; 75¢, Harold Austin; and \$2, Frank Worrell.

CAYMAN ISLANDS: Set of four showing herons to be issued July 21. Designed by Jane Thatcher and printed by Walsall Security Printers. Denominations: 5¢, *Butorides striatus*; 25¢, *Egretta tricolor*; 50¢, *Nycticors violaceus*; and \$1, *E. caerulea*.

DOMINICA: Tourism set of six and SS to be issued in April. Designed by Kim Gromoll and printed by Format International Security Printers. Denominations: 10¢, Carib Indian; 25¢, mountainous interior; 35¢, trees by Indian River; 60¢, Belaire dancer; 90¢ boiling lake; \$3, underwater view of coral reef; and \$5, SS Belaire dancer, airplane.

GRENADA: Rotary International District Conference to be issued May 5. Designed by William R. Hanson and printed by The House of Questa. Denominations: \$2, Caribbean map of Rotary district 405, Santa Maria de Gula, and Rotary emblem; and \$10 SS, Rotary emblem and motto.

JAMAICA: Cricket set of five (see Barbados). Denominations: 25¢, Jackie Hendricks; 55¢, George Headley; \$2, Michael Holding; \$3, R. K. Nunes; and \$4, Allen Rae.

ST. KITTS: Tourism set of seven to be issued April 20. Designed by Leslie Curtis and printed by Walsall Security Printers. Denominations: four 60¢ stamps and three \$3 stamps showing various island hotels and scenes.

ST. LUCIA: 50th Anniversary of Cable and Wireless set of four to be issued June 10. Designed by Tony Theobald and printed by Walsall Security Printers. Denominations: 15¢, rural exchange; 25¢, telephones; 80¢ digital earth station; and \$2.50, Eastern Caribbean microwave system.

ST. VINCENT: Tourism set of four and SS to be issued March 29. Designed by Philatelic Distribution Co. and printed by Format International Security Printers. Denominations: 10¢, windsurfing; 45¢, snorkeling; 65¢, aerial view of Young Island; \$5, charter sailing yacht; and \$10 SS, windsurfing.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: Cricket set of five (see Barbados). Designed by Leslie Curtis. Denominations: 30¢, George John; 65¢, Learie Constantine; 95¢, Sonny Ramadin; \$1.50, Gerry Gomez; and \$2.50, Jeffrey Stollmeyer.

VIRGIN ISLANDS: Set of two high value revenue stamps. See article in this issue.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

NEW MEMBERS

All applicants listed in the June 1988 journal have been admitted to membership.

NEW APPLICANTS

- BESTON, Bernard P., P. O. Box 26, Redcliffe, Queensland 4020, Australia, by Gale J. Raymond.
- JASLOWITZ, Carl, 124 Gale Place, Suite 2B, Riverdale, NY 10463, Collects British West Indies, Bermuda - pre-1955 from QV to QE2 first issues only, British Empire pre-1955, by Mike de Lise.
- HENRY, Howard G., 500 Piney Creek Lane, North East, MD 21901, Collects Canada, British West Indies, Socialty - Cayman Islands, by Tom Giraldi.
- LUXENBERG, Kenneth, 1100 N. E. 163rd Street, North Miami Beach, FL 33181, Collects world-wide, airmail proofs, Aden, colombia, Jamaica, by Barry Friedman.
- SULLIVAN, Michael K., P. O. Box 4372, Madison, WI 53711, Collects Tobago, by Mike De Lise.
- HART, John, P. O. Box 1162, Salt Lake City, UT 84110, Collects British West Indies, Falklands, by Mark Swetland.
- ASHTON, Markus, 107 Ahswoth Park, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 9DQ, England, by Bob Swarbrick.
- LEWARN, A. W. (Tony), 4 Romney court, Shepherds Bush Green, London W12 8PY, England, Collects Jamaica, by Bob Swarbrick.
- CRONIN, John A., 35 Moors Close, Hurn, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 6AL, England, collects, Grenada, by Bob Swarbrick.
- BUTKIS, John F., 4041 Via Marisol, 104, Los Angeles, CA 90042, Collects Anguilla, Tuvalu, by Gale Raymond

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