

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

VOL. 29, NO. 1
W/N 150

EDITOR: Mark W. Swetland, 32 Cat Brier
Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
Phone: (803) 757-3326

MARCH 1989



Bodden Town Post Office, Cayman Islands
There will be more about this in the June Journal
(Photo courtesy of James F. Stern)

INSIDE

NEW GUYANA REGISTRATION DATESTAMPS

THE TRANSATLANTIC AIRMAIL SERVICE

BARBA / DOES

DAVID AND GOLIATH

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS - PART IV

FALMOUTH PACKET LETTER RATES

TABLE OF CONTENTS ON INSIDE FRONT COVER

Unit No. 27 of the APS

ISSN 0045-2890

From The Editor's DeskMark W. Swetland

Your editor extends his thanks to several members who are now helping with various tasks of work. They make the work smoother and easier. Included in the crew are Jack Arnell, Paul Bondor, Bob Ingalls, Buzz Jehle and Bruce Watts. Ben Ramkisson submits more items for Caribbean Roundup than there is space for. Paul Larsen keeps us informed of awards won by members. Marge Doran keeps the journal supplied with photos from the Caribbean. Michael Wilson sees that our index is updated every two years.

Our wonderful authors have shared their knowledge and work to enlighten us all. Some are now submitting articles on disk which lessens the typing load. The journal is far from a one-man operation. Now if we can only recruit a member who lives near me, your editor may persuade him to take on the job of mailing the journal. Then he will truly enjoy the job.

There is a good backlog of interesting articles for future issues. Brad Arch has a thorough study of Bermuda registration labels for the June issue. Horst Augustinovic has an article on the Queen Elizabeth issues of Bermuda ready for use in the same issue. In fact, the June issue is already full, although much work remains to be done to have it ready for the printer.

I would ask all authors, though, to please submit their manuscripts on 8½" x 11" paper, typed double-spaced with 1" margins all around. Why? At this stage in life reading fine print, closely spaced is difficult. If I want to do any editing before I input an article to the computer, there is no room for my work. As a consequence your article may be delayed for one which is easier on the editor. The only exception to this which I agree is most useful is when an author submits his article, completely laid out with all illustrations in place. In this case the layout work is all done and it is much, much easier and faster for me to do the final work of making it ready for printing.

TEXPEX '89

Make your plans now to attend the fabulous BCPSG 1989 annual meeting to be held at TEXPEX '89. The site of the show is the Double Tree Inn, Dallas, Texas. The dates are June 2, 3 & 4, 1989. The BCPSG has reserved a meeting room and will have a show table on the stamp floor. We need a volunteer to arrange for a BCPSG sign or banner for the table.

Room rates for those attending the show are \$55.00 per night. Make reservations with the hotel early! Phone numbers are 1-800-228-0808 or (214) 934-8400.

Do we have a volunteer to book a Hospitality Room where we can gather during the off hours? From experience I can tell you that BCPSGers have an inexhaustible supply of energy and never need sleep.

If you want an exhibit application form, please request one ASAP from John Mason, TEXPEX Chairman, P. O. Box 515582, Dallas, TX 75251. Also enclose a long SASE for the reply. The BCPSG has 50 frames but can get more if we act promptly.

All questions should be referred to our Point Man, Dr. Gale J. Raymond, P. O. Box 35695, Houston, TX 77235, phones - ofc. (713) 777-6268 or home (713) 4464-5220. He needs someone in the Dallas area to help coordinate arrangements.

IN MEMORIAM

Colonel Lynn D. Wallace

The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group has suffered the loss of another charter member. Col. Lynn D. Wallace passed away on September 19, 1988 at the age of 83. Lynn's love was the stamps and postal history of Bermuda. He also had a warm spot in his heart for the BCPSG. One could be sure to see him at annual meetings whenever a meeting was held in the east.

Lynn and your editor corresponded for years. I have many warm memories of his kindness and consideration for my efforts both as treasurer and editor. His letters were full of encouragement.

Lynn was a World War II veteran and a member of the special Army committee that returned to Europe shortly after the war to study the Battle of the Bulge and draw tactical lessons from the Battle. He also served as division tactics instructor at the U. S. command and General Staff college at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

After leaving the Army, he was commandant of the 1027th Army Reserve School, a unit that held classes for reservists from the rank of private through brigadier general, until his retirement in the late 1950s. He was a skilled marksman and received the rare honor of a distinguished shooter in both the rifle and pistol categories.

We extend sincere sympathy to his widow, Helen, their four daughters and ten grandchildren. His warmth and friendship will be sorely missed.

Eric Heyer and John Field

Long time members of the BCPSG will recall both Eric Heyer and John Field. Both were strong supporters of the BCPSG and Eric made particular contributions to the pages of the journals telling of his travels with his wife, Lulu, through the Caribbean. Your editor enjoyed his contacts with both men at the time of their memberships and Eric made major contributions to his knowledge of Jamaica postal stationery.

John Field of San Fernando, California passed away on July 30, 1988 at age 72. His major love was the South Pacific. He formed collections of St. Helena, Pitcairn Islands, Seychelles, Southern Rhodesia and Canada as well as first day covers. We extend sincere sympathy to his wife, Zonella.

Ben Ramkisson has sent the following note on Eric's death.

"I regret to report the passing of Eric Heyer on December 12, 1988. Eric was a former long time member from Rancho Bernardo, California. Last January (1988) my wife and I paid a visit to Lulu and Eric. They were just as warm and friendly as when we first met them early in the 1970s when we lived in southern California.

"Eric's health was failing but his love of stamps, and collecting never abated. His travels within the British Caribbean were evident in his British Caribbean collection of ships, paquebot cancels and country collections of Barbados, Bermuda, Trinidad, etc.

"We extend to Lulu our heartfelt sympathy."

AN APPEAL TO SCOTT PUBLISHING CO.

Dr. Clemens E. Prokesch has written asking the assistance of BCPSG members in obtaining action from the Scott Publishing Company. While such action by the BCPSG is outside its charter, action by one or a group of individual members may sway Scott. If you wish to assist Dr. Prokesch, please write to him at his address given at the end of this article. Dr. Prokesch writes,

"Most philatelists have their own individual ways of collecting material. Some make up their own albums to hold their stamps while others make use of printed albums put out by different publishers. Perhaps the most popular publisher in this country is the Scott Publishing Company.

"I myself have been using Scott albums for my collections and I have been collecting for more years than I wish to admit. As we all know, Scott has gone through several changes of ownership and is presently based in Ohio. Over the years Scott has decided which countries it wishes to include in its catalogues and which not. Some of the unfavored ones have been briefly or incompletely described in the section labelled "For The Record". Others have received even less recognition, but have been lucky to be included in their "Chronicle of New Issues" in which the catalogue numbers are much different from the usual Scott format. This latter category is not to be found at all in the Scott catalogues. They merely tell the collector to find it in the journal.

"This brings me to the reason why I am writing for help from our society. Scott refuses to recognize the fact that St. Kitts, Nevis and the Grenadines postally exist. They also feel that Barbuda has somehow sunk beneath the Caribbean Sea or that no one there can write. Yet, somehow, they manage to recognize such islands as Jersey, Guernsey, the Isle of Man and the like. Having personally flown over these islands, I can attest to the fact that they are not much different in size from the unrecognized countries. When St. Kitts and Nevis postally split in 1980, Scott ceased to recognize the separate postal administrations. Anguilla was then also included in the ban, but for some unknown reason Scott finally relented and now includes this island in the catalogue and even deigned to print album pages for the island from time zero.

"I have been in correspondence with Scott for over a year about this situation and have gotten nowhere. Their last word was that their policy was to do nothing about the entire matter. Possibly, our society can do something. The postal service in Nevis has written me that they will try, too, through their North American representative, while St. Kitts so far has never answered my letters. Other philatelic groups have eventually made their opinions bear fruit with Scott---can we? Legitimate postal entities should be in the Scott catalogue and have their own album pages---foreign catalogues and albums recognize them!"

Dr. Prokesch is President Emeritus of the Thames Stamp Club. His address is 30 Admiral Driven, New London, CT 06320.

PERSONAL MENTION

Tony Shepherd reports that he is the President Elect of the Huddersfield Philatelic Society. This means attending every meeting and during his two-year term, giving two papers and displays. At the first meeting of this year he gave one on Guadeloupe French West Indies. It went quite well but required "burning the midnight oil" in order to have it ready on time.

New Guyana Registration Datestamps

Paul Raynor

At the end of 1987, a new set of datestamps was introduced for the Registration Branch at the Georgetown GPO. Used as transit marks on registered mail, the datestamps are numbered from "Zone 1" through to "Zone 6". As the illustrations show, the wording and arrangement of the type is by no means consistent. The type has already been rearranged in the case of the "Zone 3" datestamp and misarranged in the case of the "Zone 2" mark.

In addition to the "Zone" datestamps, a seventh datestamp was introduced in April this year. This datestamp reads "BOXES REGN / GPO CUYANA", and it is sometimes found as a backstamp on mail addressed to post office boxes at the GPO.

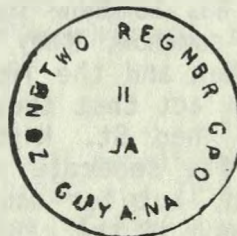
As yet, it is not clear how many of the previous datestamps have been replaced by the new set. However, the two "S.O.S." datestamps (Sorting Office Supervisor) referred to in Mike Rego's BCPSJ article (December 1981, pages 169-170) are no longer in use.

EARLIEST DATES:

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| (1) Jan 14 1988 | (2a) Dec 31 1987 | (2b) April 19 1988 |
| (3a) Dec 20 1987 | (3b) Jan 14 1988 | (4) Jan 4 1988 |
| (5) Jan 27 1988 | (6) Dec 23 1987 | (7) April 23 1988 |



1



2a



2b



3a



3a



4



5



6



7

The Transatlantic Airmail Service

Dr. Ian A. Matheson

Although Captain John Alcock and Lieut. Arthur Whitten Brown successfully completed the first non-stop Transatlantic air flight with 196 letters on 14th June 1919, it was another two decades before regular Transatlantic airmail services were introduced to link the West Indies with Europe (the Zeppelin flights were more of a novelty than a routine service).

I have acquired or seen many items which refer to the existence (or in some cases, the absence) of the Transatlantic airmail service but have never seen any details of the service itself. Although my own area of interest is the airmail service to and from the British Honduras, I would assume the service to be common to much of the West Indies. I would therefore like to share some of my own information and hope other members can assist me to complete the story.

1. British Honduras Gazette of 3rd June 1939 announces the introduction of a US-Europe airmail service, operating from New York to Marseilles via the Azores and Portugal. The postal rate was 20¢ per quarter ounce in addition to the rate to the USA.
2. The British Honduras Gazette notice no. 352 of 1st June 1940 provides the postal tariffs, rates and transmission times to all important destinations. London mail was carried by air to New York, thence by sea. Other European destinations (and Africa and Asia too) received mail via London. Transmission time to London was 9-11 days. Postal rate to the UK was 15¢ for the first quarter ounce + 10¢ for each additional quarter ounce + the surface rate.
3. British Honduras Gazette of 28 November 1942 put a limit of two ounces on any airmail item to be carried beyond the Americas. This suggests airmail services beyond the Americas may have been in place.
4. See Figure 1. Cover dated 12 November 1943 sent by air to South Africa. The cover is endorsed "By Airmail to New York" suggesting that the Transatlantic air route was not operational. The cachet on the reverse reads, "PLEASE INFORM SENDER/AIRMAIL SERVICE NOT AVAILABLE". Where was this applied? If in the USA, it is superfluous as the sender's manuscript endorsement indicated he was already aware of this. The OAT mark was applied in London (see BCPJ 27[1] P. 9 [1987]) and is also superfluous as the onward transmission to South Africa was by surface mail. The postal rate to the Union of South Africa was 5¢ per ounce (surface mail) + 42¢ (first quarter ounce) + 28¢ (each succeeding quarter ounce). The cover bears \$1.03 postage denoting a weight of over half an ounce (5¢ + 42¢ + 2 x 28¢).
5. 8 December 1943. The cover featured in *Roses Caribbean Philatelic Handbook No. 2, P. 101 (1977)* carries the manuscript endorsement "Transatlantic " indicating that the Transatlantic airmail service was in force. I have several such covers dated 1944 and 1945. Figure 2 shows such a cover dated 15 April 1944, rated 40¢. (5¢ surface mail + 15¢ first quarter ounce + 2 x 10¢ succeeding quarter ounce increments) indicating a total weight of over half an ounce.
6. 16 December 1943. Philatelic cover (Fig. 3) to South Africa (more stamps on reverse) bearing cachet "TRANSATLANTIC AIRMAIL". Was this mark struck in Belize or New York? I have seen it on several 1943 and 1944 covers from British Honduras.

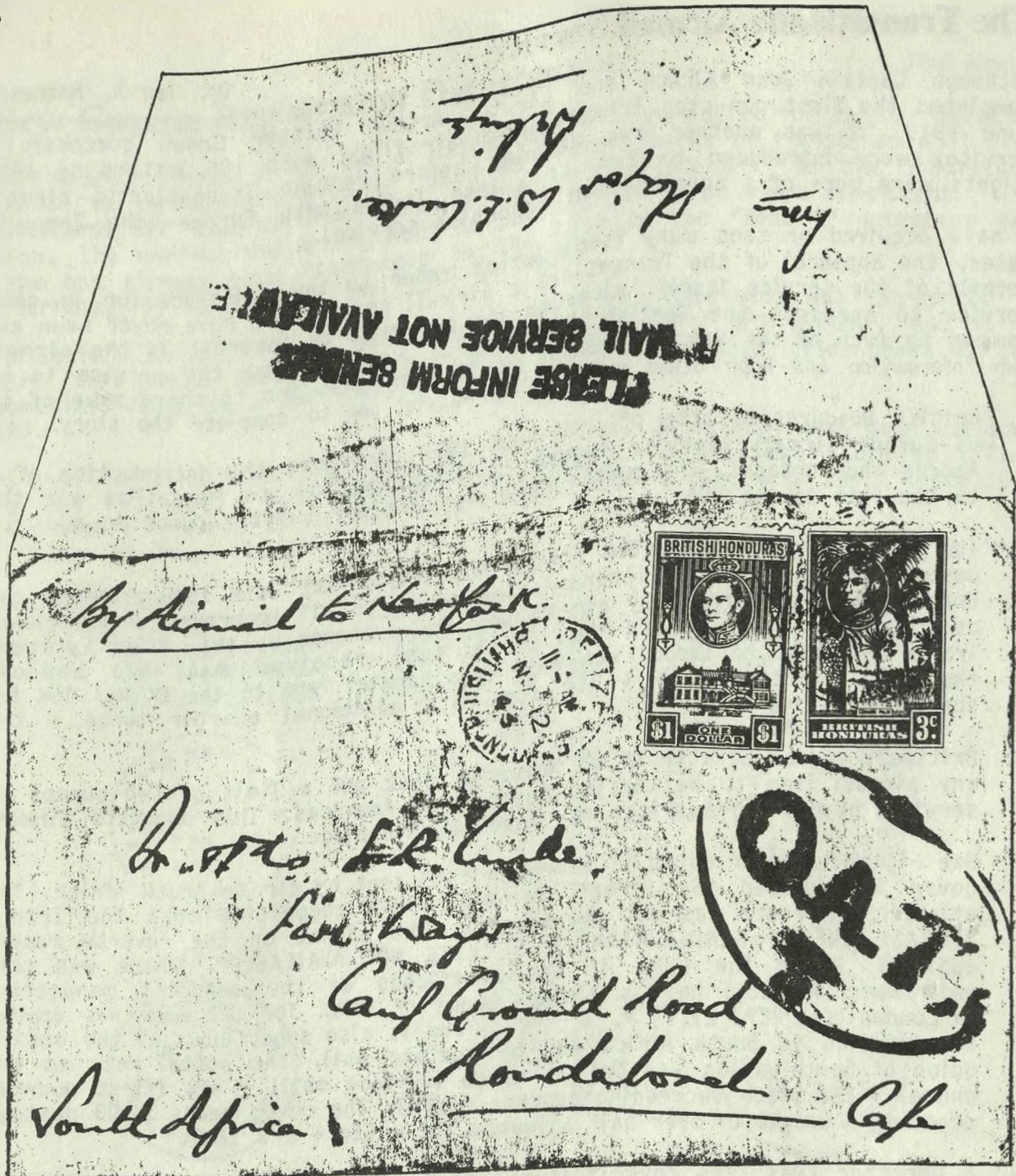


Fig. 1

7. 5 September 1944. Commercial cover (Fig. 4) to London bearing the cachet shown in Fig. 3 and an additional handstruck "Trans-Atlantic Route". Where was this struck?
8. 18 November 1944. The British Honduras Gazette announced the introduction of aerogramme service to the UK, the mail to be carried by the Transatlantic Air-Mail service. I have been unable to locate any earlier reference to the Transatlantic airmail service in any previous gazette. I presume the aerogramme form was the same as that used in Trinidad (see BCPJ, VOL. 7½], P. 9 [1967]) from October 1944.

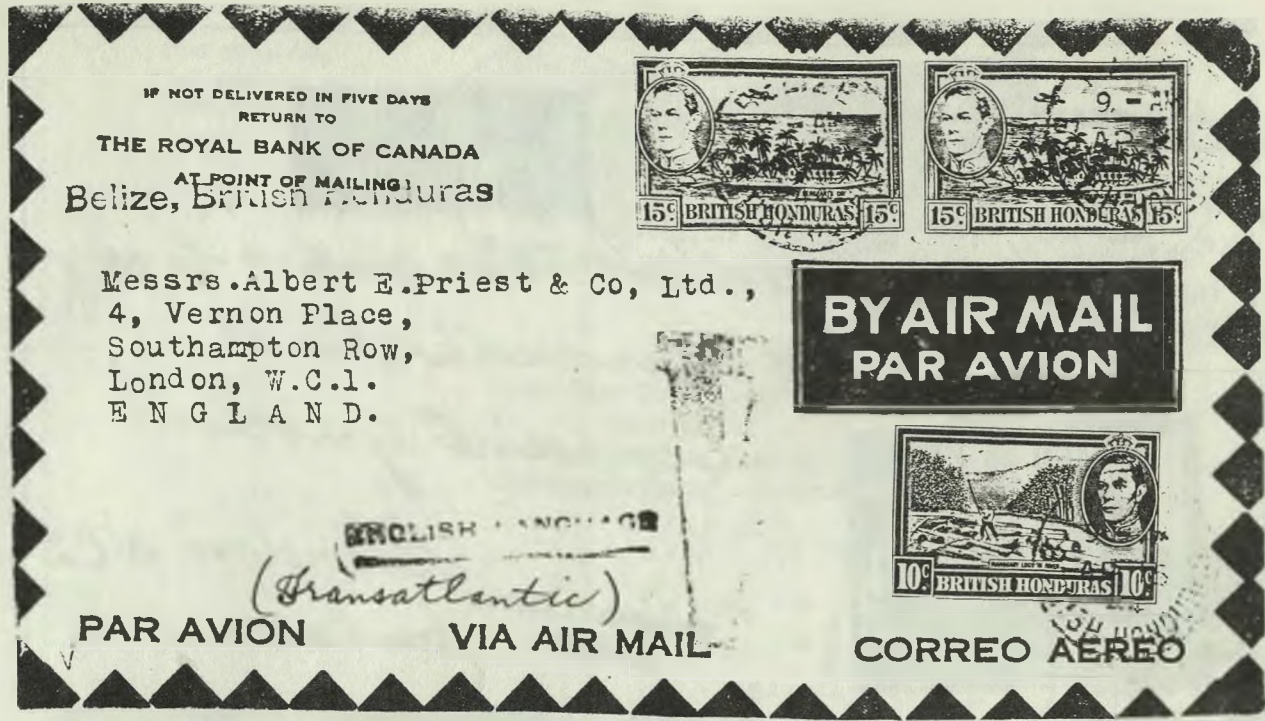


Fig. 2

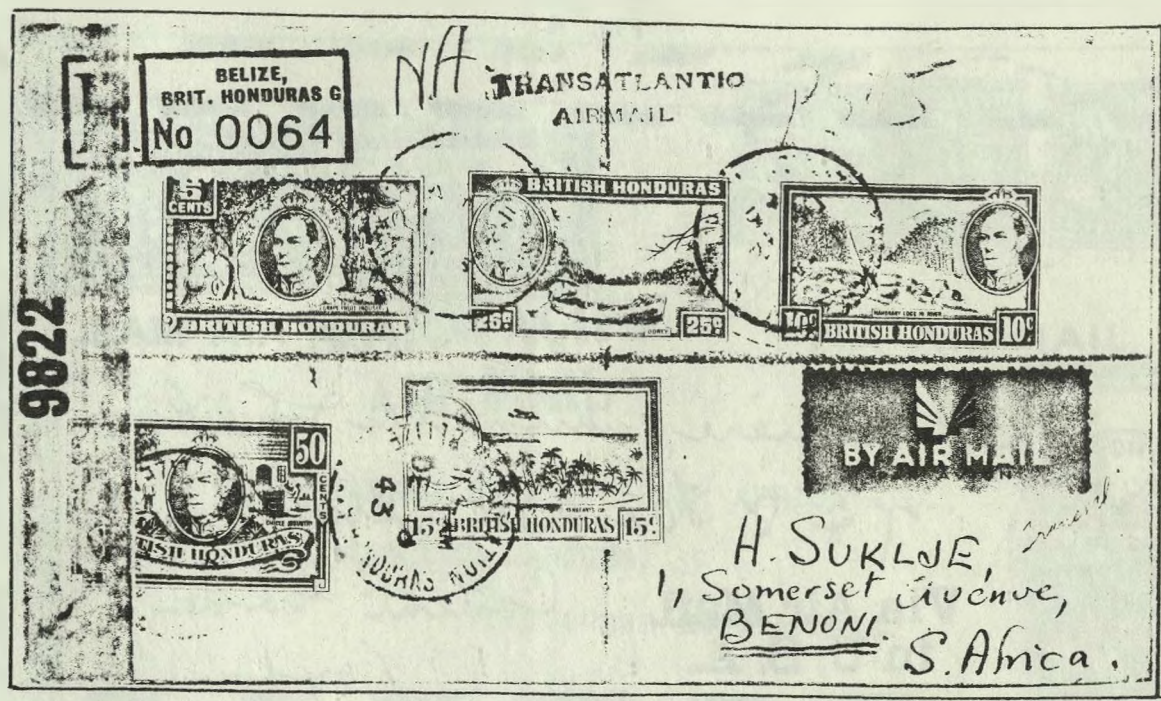


Fig. 3

9. 27 June 1945. Cover to the UK with handstamp "Via Air Mail in USA" (Fig. 5). The 20¢ rate was sufficient for carriage by airmail all the way to the UK - see (5) above. Why was the cachet applied and where? (Note that the airmail rates to the UK and USA were identical.)
10. 6 July 1945. The cover illustrated in BCPJ VOL. 27[1], P. 9 [1967] was sent only nine days after the cover shown in Fig. 5 yet did not receive the "Via Air Mail in USA" cachet. Why not?



Fig. 4

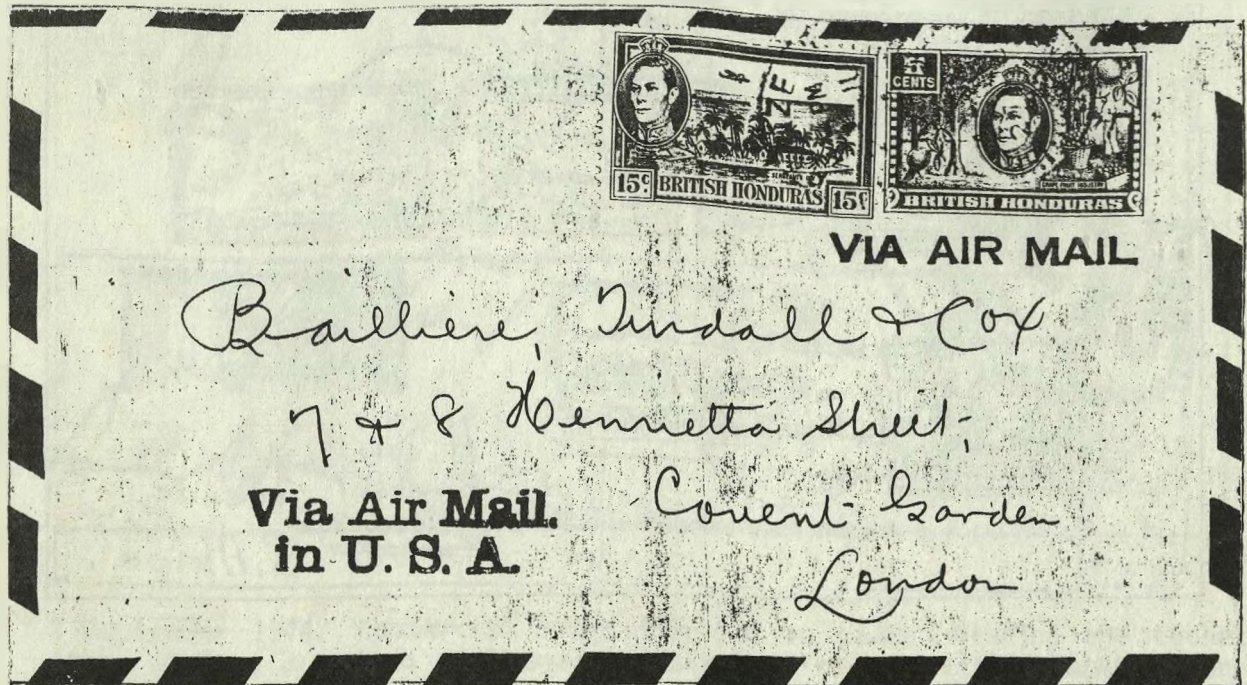


Fig. 5

My conclusion based on the above is that the Transatlantic airmail service was introduced circa November 1943. I seek confirmation from any collectors of US or West Indies territories of the actual date of the introduction of this service and also further details of the handstamps - reason and place of use.

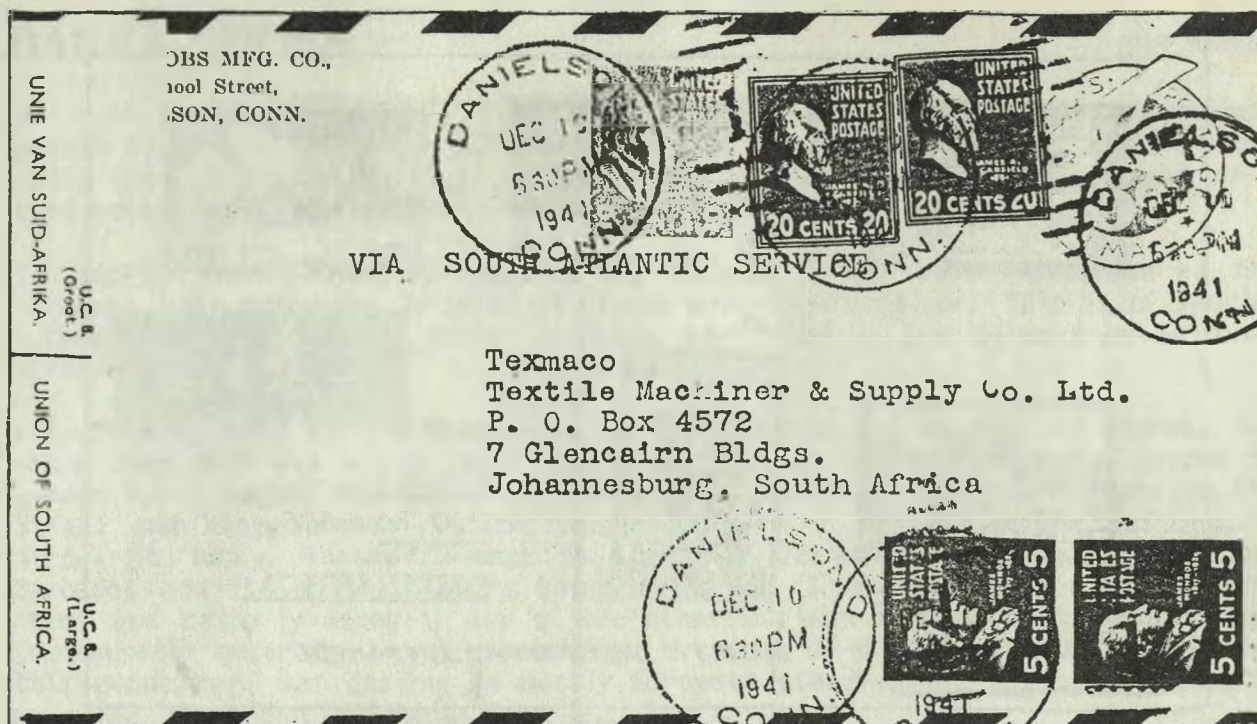


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

It would appear that two (at least) Transatlantic routes and a Transpacific route were used as I have seen covers to South Africa endorsed for transmission by these routes (Figs. 6 and 7).

Figure 8 shows a postwar (30 April 1946) cover from the West Indies to South Africa with the handstamp "NORTH ATLANTIC SERVICE". Maybe the NA on Fig. 3 denotes North Atlantic.



Fig. 8

On a related topic can anybody assist me by confirming where the "AIR FEE prepaid to New York, only" cachet was used in 1931? Two examples from my collection are shown in BCPJ VOL. 27, NO. 1, W/N 142, pp 20-21(1987).

Secretary's Report

NEW MEMBERS

All applicants in the December 1988 journal have been admitted to member ship.

NEW APPLICANTS

Membership applications have been received from the following:

SABOURIN, Marcel, P.O. Box 37, Beloeil, Quebec, Canada, J3G 4S8, collects WW postal history, Cinderellas, by D. W. Druett.

CHARLES, Cuthbert R., 3510 Mountainview Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91107, collects St. Lucia, other Caribbean Islands, by H. C. Austin.

DEAKIN, H. F., Flat 3, Avebury Court, 5 Cyprus Road, Exmouth EX8 2DZ, England, collects Barbados postal history, stamps and labels, by Bob Swarbrick.

FERNBANK, P. E., 128 Sinclair Avenue, Banbury, Oxon OX16 7BL, England, by Bob Swarbrick.

RESIGNATIONS

THOMPSON, Brian E, WARD, Ronald, WILSON, A. (Continued on page 24)

BARBA / DOES

by Cliff Abrams

While in the U. K. in 1987, I picked up a cover bearing an LKD of the earliest postal marking of Barbados (1768-1796 Ref. A2 of the pre-adhesive marks in the BWISC book on Postal Markings of Barbados). This example is a transit mark on a 1798 cover from British Guiana to England via Barbados.

It was by chance that it came to my notice. I feel quite fortunate as the contents make reference to Admiral Nelson prior to Trafalgar. This is of special interest since I was a sailor and was born just a few miles from Nelson's birthplace.

Primarily my trip to the U. K. was to visit family and friends. Of course, any stamp shop that was within reach also came into my itinerary. Having stopped in London for a couple of days, I decided to "do" Stanley Gibbons and others on the Strand and King Street. At the Strand Mart, 4-5 dealers in one building, I struck it lucky. First, I went to the only dealer in British Commonwealth, Barbados and its postal history being my thing. I managed to get a couple of items and casually asked if any of the other dealers might perhaps have British Commonwealth material. I was directed to a couple of booths down the line, where this gentleman was dealing in mostly European stamps. He had happened to pick up a few items that he would show me.

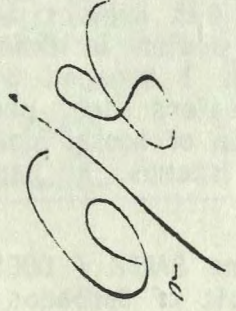
Imagine my surprise when I saw the double line BARBA / DOES (Fig. 1). I was hooked right there as I needed it for my exhibit of Barbados postal history in our club's 25th anniversary show and my first ever exhibit. During the discussions of purchase mention of Admiral Nelson was made. This also piqued my curiosity as I collect "Militaria", principally naval items, crest, etc, on stamps. Being born only 8 miles from Nelson's birthplace and being in the Royal Navy from 1943-1946, I could not pass this by.

The letter by Will Croydon seems to be only a one page letter with no enclosure although the opening is quite unusual and the postage rate of 6/8 shows that the letter was composed of several pages. I prepared a transcript of the letter even though it took me approximately three months and the help of a couple of excerpts from books of the time period.

"Our woods? so require to be of a different make and shape as in the pattern I have sent you for them to those which are usually sent from England to the islands for the cutting of those canes with and as they have no woodlands in the latter to be clearing away and taking into culture? as we are obliged to do here I am also to thank you much for your kind intention of endeavouring to procure and send me out the carpenter and lads I wrote you for as I am much in want of them and noting the difficulty you mention there is in the procuring of a woman of the description Mr. Backer is wanting for the care and improvement of his daughters can only express my sincere wish of your being able to get those? for him as his Lady is very desirous of getting one It gives me very singular pleasure in the learning by your letter of its having left your good self my dear Moira and the children in the happy enjoyment of your health and most sincerely hope for your having this Received agreeable accounts of Thomas's health and safe arrival in India where may God of his infinite goodness shower down upon him every blessing of this life and to preserve him from all harm that he may return to you as comforter of your old days is depend my earnest fervent prayer I have fully observed the account you have given me of young MacIntosh who I am informed from his unselfless? disposition is now going home with the fleet that is about to sail from this and which from the capriciousness of his

W. Gordon
 15
 The 16. October 1790.

William Gordon Esquire
 dated Oct 16. 1790
 recd 27th November
 1790 & April 1793


 Thomas Mory Esq
 Market Lane Square -
 London
 BAHIA
 DOCS




Fig. 1

temper is I think the best thing he can do as he seems to be too old to be under the controls that such a young man should be for his proper (sic) advantage and may perhaps no better by being under the look of his friends at home and having also duly observed your mention of young Master Hall? whom I am much pleased to hear takes his learning and behaves so well as I could wish for his welfare and his turning out to be deserving of the advantages which is now given him to promote his future happiness and success in life I very sincerely hope he will proffit (sic) by it for which with any little extraordinary expences (sic) which you may find necessary to permit of my being put to on account of him you

may depend on my being perfectly satisfied (sic) with it and as he is now grown far upon years I would much wish to know what profession in life his genius may lead him to the wish of his being brought up to and which I shall be much obliged to you to question him upon and particularly so as it may be necessary to mention to him that as his father is not a man of fortune and had four other children besides himself that his success in life must depend upon his own industry and endeavours from the advantage he has had given him of a good education to assist him in it-

"I have been long under much anxiety for the arrival of accounts from your side of the water of Admiral Nelson having been able to come up with the great Buonaparte as I have not from his known gallantry the smallest doubt of his total destruction of this his grand fleet if he can but once come to a fair engagement with it and most sincerely hoping for his success in doing so must now conclude this to you in every fervent hope of it finding of yourself with my dear good Moira and all the children in the happy enjoyment of perfect good health as I have the pleasure to say to you that it leaves me in and in being with my kindest love and every fervent prayer for Gods best blessings to attend you all with sincerest regards am dear sir yours sincerely and

affectly so
Will Croydon

Written by Will Croydon October 16th 1798
at Essequibo settlement British Guiana to Thomas King London
received March 27th 1799 answered 8th April 1799"

It is interesting to note that Will Croydon's request for news of any engagement came two and a half months after Nelson had met and defeated Buonaparte's forces at the Battle of the Nile Aug. 1st 1798. I wonder if Will ever found out.

I have not used any punctuation marks nor corrected the spelling as I feel it is better to transpose it as originally written. I have done nothing to interpret the contents. The question marks signify a word that could be in doubt. Will's writing may have been common to that time but it is difficult to read today. Look at the sample in Fig. 2 to see what I mean.

*It is interesting to note that Will Croydon's request for news of any engagement
came two and a half months after Nelson had met and defeated Buonaparte's forces
at the Battle of the Nile Aug. 1st 1798. I wonder if Will ever found out.*

Fig. 2

(Ed. Mr. Abrams address is R. R. 6, Kensington, Prince Edward Island, Canada C0B 1M0.)

THE BRITISH EMPIRE

1840 - 1936

BUYING

Our specialization in the stamps and postal history of the entire **BRITISH EMPIRE** makes us the logical buyer for your collection.

SELLING

Our **PUBLIC AUCTIONS** offer a comprehensive selection of collectible and investment quality **BRITISH EMPIRE** material in all price levels.

WANT LISTS

We maintain large and all encompassing stocks (1840 -1936) of **GREAT BRITAIN** and the entire **BRITISH EMPIRE** and can supply **MANY** of the stamps you have been looking for. We actively solicit copies of your want list (philatelic references, please).

George W. Holschauer
COLONIAL STAMP CO.



5410 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90036
(213) 933-9435

MEMBER — INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF APPRAISERS



C.C.N.Y.

P.T.S.

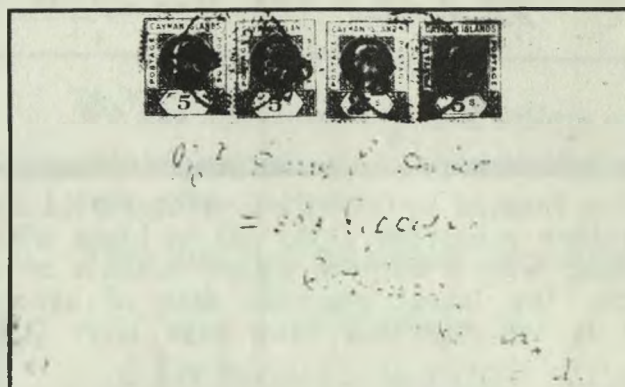


I.F.S.D.A.



HARMERS of LONDON

PULLING POWER



Selling British Caribbean at auction requires philatelic expertise, adequate marketing and above all a well established customer base. Uniquely Harmers can provide all three vital ingredients.

THE BRITISH CONNECTION

Only Harmers have sold stamps at auction on both sides of the Atlantic for so long. Established in London 70 years ago, Harmers have conducted sales in New York since 1940. And this year we start selling in Zurich.

One would expect strong bidding on BWI from America and the recent auction of R. J. Edmondson's CAYMAN ISLANDS saw 35% of the value going 'over the pond.' But British buyers remain aggressive — virtually all the 65% balance was 'won' by UK bidders. The Edmondson collection brought £63,340 overall and far surpassed the pre-sale expectation. Sell your British Caribbean collection through Harmers and enjoy a successful result.

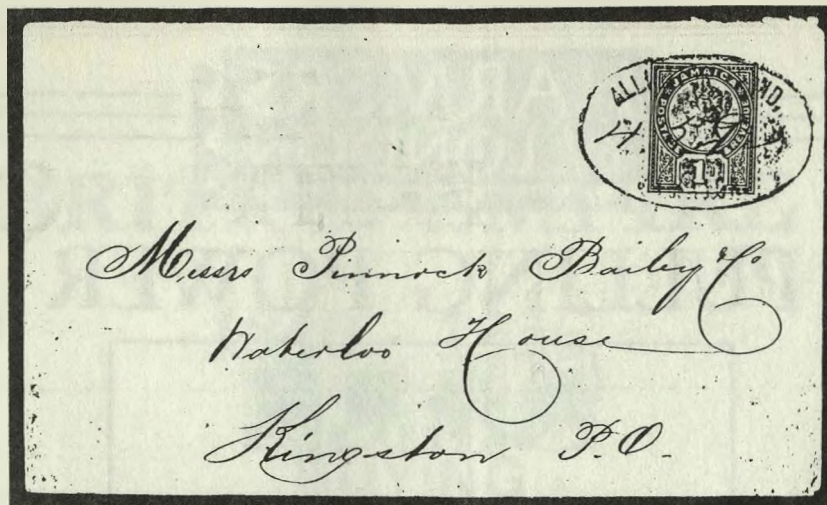
WE HAVE THE BUYERS — DO YOU HAVE THE STAMPS?



HARMERS of LONDON



91 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON W1A 4EH. TEL: 01-629 0218



1892 cover to Kingston franked by 1889-91 Q. Victoria 1d cancelled "ALLIGATOR POND/JAMAICA" oval rubber handstamp (type II) in black with date "4.5.92" in manuscript, backstamped with a further superb example of this datestamp and same manuscript date. The latest recorded date of use of this remarkable temporary datestamp is 6th May 1892, two days later (L.C.C. Nicholson and Aguilar).

Our extensive Philatelic and Postal History Stocks cover all areas from Anguilla to Virgin Islands.

Photocopies gladly sent on request.

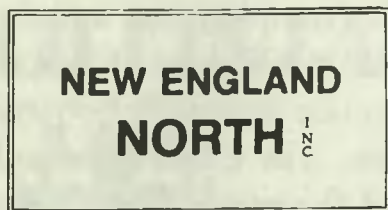
Argyll Etkin Limited



LEADING BUYERS — RECOGNISED VALUERS
THE ARGYLL ETKIN GALLERY



48 Conduit Street, New Bond Street, London W1R 9FB.
Telephone 01144 1 437 7800 Fax 01144 1 434 1060



P.O. Box 216, Waban, MA 02168-0216
Telephone: 617-527-4784



We BUY and SELL

POSTAL HISTORY of the WORLD



CCNY, CSPM, PF, CSDA, FSDA

Robert Topaz

THE
BRITISH
COMMONWEALTH
O • F N • A • T • I • O • N • S



"VISIT OUR BOOTH AT
MOST MAJOR SHOWS"

We are active buyers and sellers of all areas of the
commonwealth, including individual items,
collections or estates.

Want lists from all reigns are accepted with references.

L. W. Martin, Jr.

CROWN COLONY STAMPS

P.O. Box 1198
BELLAIRE, TEXAS 77401
(713) 781-6563



**Do you collect British West Indies
Postal History?**

IF SO WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP YOU

Our stocks consist of British Commonwealth Postal
History with (postcards from some colonies). If you
would care to inform us of your collecting interests, we
would be delighted to send you photocopies of any
relative items we obtain.

Besides being members of the BCPSG, we are
members P. T. S. (London). Prices in Sterling or US\$.

CHRIS RAINEY

**5 KELLY ROAD, BOWERS GIFFORD
BASILDON, ESSEX SS13 2HL, U.K.**

TELEPHONE BASILDON (0268) 726687

Do you Collect



**WEST INDIES and the
CARIBBEAN AREA?**

As the leading **SPECIALIZED POSTAL AUCTION** for **CARIBBEAN / WEST INDIES** founded in 1976 we hold 6-8 sales per year and cater for the Specialist, the General Collector and the Beginner. We offer quality in **POSTAL HISTORY, STAMPS, PROOFS, SPECIMENS, BOOKS, STATIONERY & EARLY MAPS** from the 16th century onwards.

Write or telephone for **FREE CATALOGUE**.



Dept. BCPJ
P. O. Box 91, Harrogate
North Yorkshire HG2 0AB
England

Telephone: Harrogate
(0423) 69020

Member: BCPSPG, BWISC, APS, PTS, BPF, PHS

TIPS FOR AUTHORS

Your editor hopes that these short tips which are actually a filler will be read by all authors. Can they make the work easier? Yes! How? If you have read From The Editor's Desk, you already know part of what they are.

When typing a manuscript, type it double spaced with 1" margins all around. This lets the editor read it and edit it without the need for retyping it first. This saves much time in getting it ready for final editing and layout.

When you submit illustrations, try to obtain screened prints or good quality clean, black photocopies. The quality of the illustrations in the journal will never be any better than that of the illustrations you submit. Photographs are acceptable but require making half-tones before printing.

Caribbean

**Always the Unusual,
Esoteric & Inimitable...**

We offer Mail Sales with extremely interesting material in the \$25 - \$150 range. In addition, our Public Auctions offer appropriately rare and specialized material.

We are always interested in buying specialized items or collections.

Our Mail Sale and Public Auction catalogs are sent free to members of The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group on request. Please specify which catalog you wish.

**George
Alevizos**



2800 28th Street, Suite 323
Santa Monica, California 90405
Telephone: 213/450-2543
Cal. Auc. Lic. No. A1229

**BRITISH
WEST INDIES
BERMUDA
Br. GUIANA
Br. HONDURAS**



**REGULAR AUCTIONS HELD
FEATURING**

**STAMPS ● POSTAL
HISTORY ● BOOKS
MAPS ● POSTCARDS**

**VISA/ACCESS/MASTERCARD ACCEPTED
COMPLIMENTARY CATALOGUE SENT ON REQUEST**

**Pennymead
Auctions**

Scotton, Knaresborough
N. Yorks. HG5 9HN, England





By Appointment to
Her Majesty The Queen
Stamp Dealer

B E R M U D A



WE ARE INSTRUCTED TO SELL THE VALUABLE COLLECTION FORMED BY THE
LATE GEORGE ULRICH

PLEASE WRITE AND LET US KNOW YOUR INTERESTS



Bridger & Kay Ltd

WESTWAY HOUSE
BRENTFORD, MIDDX.
TW8 9HF
TELEPHONE: 01-847 3128

AWARDS

BCPSG members have won the following awards:

MIDAPHIL	Edgar J. Marston	Cayman Islands, 1900-1936	Gold + best first time exhibit award
CHICAGOPEX '88	Ben Ramkisson	Mohandas Kharamchand Gandhi, 1869-1948	Vermeil + ATA1st Award
	Russ Skavaril	The Caravel Issues of Bermuda	Gold + BCPSG medal
	Diana Manchester	Fee Paid Markings of the German Inflation Period	Silver
HOUPEX	Dempsey J. Prappas	Leeward Islands, 1890-1920	Reserve Grand Award
SESCAL '88	Brad Arch	New Jersey Transit	Vermeil
SEPAD '88	Peter P. McCann	Turks and Caicos Islands	Gold + PHS Gold
FLOREX '88	Mark W. Swetland	Antigua Stamps 1862-1932	Vermeil

Russ Skavaril's exhibit now includes the huge Caravel cover he won at the last BCPSG auction. It is impressive!

Jamaica News FLash!

Caribbean Philatelic Auctions has purchased the outstanding collection of Jamaica postal history and stamps owned by BCPSG member Brian Thompson. Malcolm Watts reports that this collection is scheduled for auction on 12th April 1989. A Deluxe Catalogue is available free of charge from him (see his ad in this issue of the journal).

Brian is a well known Jamaica collector. He is also a member of the British West Indies Study Circle and of the former Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society. His Jamaica collection has won numerous awards. Highlights of the collection, including many rare and unique items are -

- Early maps from the 16th century on, including a 1534 Bordone.
- 5d. Ser..et error SG43a in mint block of 9 (possible unique).
- Woodblock Postage Due markings, including one unique.
- Boxed "REGISTERED" (only 2 known).
- Jamaica Ship Letters, Commercial Rooms and Buildings handstamps.
- GB Used Abroad, 1862 1d. bisect on cover and fiscals on cover.
- Military and Internment Camp mail, To Pay and Paid handstamps.
- 1921 6d. Abolition of Slavery overprinted SPECIMEN.
- \$ Varieties, proofs, postmarks and postal stationery.
- Straightline "JAMAICA" and Town handstamps.
- First Flights and Maritime Mail.
- TRDs including earlies such as Titchfield, Grange, Lane, Munro, College, Lucky Hill and Mount James.
- Comprehensive collection of QV to QEII stamps with many varieties

In addition to the Jamaica material Malcolm's auction will include a wide range of stamps and postal history from the other areas of the Caribbean with maps, proofs, specimens, stamps, covers including part of the Antigua Tudway correspondence, first flights, maritime mail, censored and military mail, postmarks and picture postcards.

As a former avid collector of Jamaica and still a collector of the postal stationery, I urge all Jamaica collectors to write now for a copy of the catalogue. This will be a wonderful opportunity to obtain items that are rarely available on the market.

PERSONAL MENTION

Your editor had the pleasure of receiving a letter from V. N. F. "Nat" Surtees recently. Nat answered a query on one of the lots in the sale of his Antigua collection on 7 July 1988 by Christie's/Robson Lowe. His reply explained why lot no. 670 was withdrawn from sale. It was a complete forgery. Perhaps our charter members will recall Nat's articles on Antigua in early issues of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal.

Nat is still collecting but limits his interests today to the postmarks of Peru. He is still adding to his collection but at a recent sale in New York with bids of 33% to 50% over valuation he reports that he was successful on none. Nat celebrated his 92nd birthday on 17 January this year. I feel sure he would enjoy hearing from other BCPSG members. His address is still "Hopesay", Aston-on-Clun, Shopshire, England.

DAVID and GOLIATH

Robert V. Swarbrick

The 10th December 1930 First Flight from Kingston, Jamaica to Miami is extremely well documented. It is, in fact, possibly the most commonly found cachet of that period. The history of the struggle to be the first nation to fly mail from the island to the outside world, and how the infant Caribbean Airways took on and defeated the mighty Pan Am, albeit only by a few short hours, must have stirred the school boy patriots of the day!

Eye witness accounts of the day's events were reprinted in great detail by the "Gleaner", the main newspaper of Jamaica, and were repeated in many contemporary philatelic magazines, resulting in much interest in the many varied first flight covers available, particularly the Cuban "Miranda" destination covers of the Caribbean Airways - so much interest that Francis Field, that doyen of the Airways, had a special illustrated folder printed.

In 1984 the Jamaican Post Office issued a set of four stamps which illustrated the pioneer aircraft serving Jamaica. When I first saw this most attractive set, designed by the famous artist A. D. Theobald and printed by the House of Questa, I was intrigued by the aircraft portrayed on the 25¢ value, as I had not thought that the "Moth" aircraft had operated in the Caribbean at that time.

In an attempt to find out about the design of the aircraft used, I wrote to the artist, who, in answering my letter, said that the details had been obtained from Francis Field, who had, in turn, referred to the reprinted "Gleaner" article which had been reproduced in the Jamaican Philatelist.

Rereading this and comparing it to the original article produced the answer to the problem. A small typesetting error had altered the meaning of the sentence, "Hovered like a moth in the sky". The original wording had become "Moth", which in turn had produced a design of a "De Havilland Moth" biplane, fitted with floats, in the livery of the Caribbean Airways as being the aircraft carrying the first airmail to Cuba.



Fig. 1

I wrote to Mr. Theobald, and, in the ensuing correspondence, he admitted there must have been artistic license, but said that the details of the aircraft, known to him and others only as a "Moth", was widely accepted to mean the famous product of the De Havilland factories.

However, in the original article the make of aircraft is detailed as a "Fairchild amphibian G-CAHL". I had to find the answer, and after considerable research, was able to locate a photograph (Fig. 1), showing the actual aircraft used, the "Fairchild", which I hope will provide an interesting sidelight to the early airmails of Jamaica.

As a bonus, I was presented by the artist with a set of four of the initial sketches of this series of stamps, all signed by him, and now one of my most treasured possessions - yet another little bit of postal history.



Fig. 2

An accompanying photograph (Fig. 2) shows from left to right Sir James Stubbs, Governor of Jamaica, Captain Holland, the pilot and R. H. Fletcher, the Post Master General of Jamaica.

SECRETARY'S REPORT (cont.)

ADDRESS CHANGES/CORRECTIONS

ADISS, Edward F., 3800 Parkview Lane, Naples, FL 33940

BONDOR, Paul L., c/o Shell Oil Company, P. O. Box 4704, Houston, TX 77210-4704

DORAN, Marjorie A., Box 2433 - VDA, St. Thomas, USVI, 00803-2433

HAYNES, Dr. Martin, 22-26 St. James Street, San Fernando, Trinidad, West Indies

LUNDBERG, John, P. O. Box 6192, Anaheim, CA 92816

MACDONALD, Robert E., U.S.N.S. H-HESS T-AG-S 38, OCUNIT 3, A.P.O. New York, NY 09501-7103

MCAHON, Thomas J., 86 Nash Road, Purdys, NY 10578

MITTON, Dennis, 20 Calluna Drive, Copthorne, Sussex RH10 3XF, England

MOSER, Alan J., Box 957096, Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

WERNER, Dietrich, Post Office Drawer 486, Rosendale, NY 12472

WOOLRIDGE, Thomas D., 609 Garfield, Tupelo, MS 38801

ZELL, Louis E., 18010 134 Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375

EXPLORATION - WRECKDIVING - U/W PHOTOGRAPHY - FIELD RESEARCH WORLDWIDE
INTERNATIONAL COURIER EXTRAORDINARY ASSIGNMENTS

GALE J. RAYMOND & ASSOCS. (INTERNATIONAL), INC.

10101 Fondren Rd., #215 (Mail: P. O. Box 35695) Houston, Texas, 77235 U.S.A.

PRIVATE ISLANDS For Sale, Purchase, Lease. Island Appraisals a Specialty
SRA, SCV, Explorers Club. Serious Inquiries Only. Phone (713) 726-1119

THE LEEWARD ISLANDS - PART IV

by Michael N. Oliver

The Sexagenary Issue - 1897

4.1 Queen Victoria ascended to the throne on 20th June 1837. Because 20th June 1897 fell on a Sunday, Tuesday, the 22nd was declared a Bank Holiday - the day of the great procession and service of thanksgiving held in St. Paul's Cathedral. Before leaving Buckingham Palace for St. Paul's, Her Majesty pressed a button on a wire which gave the signal to the Central Telegraph Office to transmit the Royal message to all corners of Her Empire -

FROM MY HEART I THANK MY BELOVED PEOPLE.
MAY GOD BLESS THEM. V. R. AND I.
(Victoria Regina and $\frac{1}{2}$ Empress of $\frac{1}{2}$ India)

The Genuine Handstamp



A Composite Forgery



The ink used was a dull matt black. Being applied one stamp at a time some 62,500 in all, did produce considerable variations in the overprint due to strength of the application, ink residue and wear.



A Strip of 3

- 1 - Pearl touches frame
- 2 - 'N' is upright
- 3 - Angled bar to 'A'
- 4 - Rounded top to '8'
- 5 - a. Garter widens at base
b. Two holes only
c. Diagonal line
d. Rounded end
e. No pearl
- 6 - Lines continuous
- 7 - Buckle flush to frame

Fig. 1

4.2 Earlier that month the Leeward Islands Legislative Council decided to issue a certain number of postage stamps in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. This was a patriotic gesture in keeping with the celebrations throughout the Empire. However, one suspects local finances were also a consideration in this decision - it gave the opportunity to re-use and sell unsold stocks. It was announced "the issue will be on sale for one week only from 22nd July". The subsequently published inconsistencies have sullied the patriotic gesture and strengthened the financial motives - particularly so when advance notice was given the stamps would be available for one week only. Discrepancies between the numbers issued, sold and remainders offered for sale published in the Leeward Islands Gazette are well documented.

4.3 I recently acquired a cover sent by the St. Kitts Postmaster, W. M. Pearce, to a Dr. Mason of Fitchburg, Mass. Inside was his letter and another from a Mr. Howe, also of St. Kitts. They both clearly illustrate the level of philatelic activity at the time and because they both quote the same but widely different quantities to the official figures I reproduce them in full.

4.4 The overprint (Fig. 1) was applied one stamp at a time with a locally made brass handstamp by the Antigua Postmaster's younger brother onto unsold stocks recalled from the Island Post Office. Although the task was completed no later than mid-July, arrangements to destroy the handstamp were not made until after a question had been raised in the Legislative Assembly on 19th August.

4.5 Unless Messrs. Pearce and Howe were in collusion to falsify the numbers issued to justify their inflated prices (I think this can be discounted), more stamps must have been overprinted. These were obviously done unofficially and the stamps made available by those responsible, presumably by purchasing from existing stocks at Antigua. However, the larger percentage discrepancies occur in the high values and I suspect due to the high outlay were not purchased in full because it could be reasonably assumed that discrepancies in totals submitted from five Presidencies comprising quantities recalled, issued, sold and returned would be difficult to resolve.

4.6 The Leeward Islands Gazette of 1st October 1897 published tables of the numbers of each value sold in each Presidency and also the quantities of remainders offered for sale. The remainders offered for sale exceeded the unsold balance by:

2½d.	-	240
4d.	-	240
6d.	-	240
1s.	-	543
5s.	-	484

According to the official figures there were only 6 complete sheets of the 5s. value issued - 2 to Antigua and 4 to St. Kitts. Only one could have remained unsold, yet 3 were offered for sale as remainders - and Messrs. Pearce and Howe stated less than one sheet was received in St. Kitts.

4.7 It is known that forgeries were produced very soon after issue - Stanley Gibbon's catalogue illustration of the handstamp was one of the cruder forgeries until recently. Both they and Brights condemned the issues in their magazines at the time. Gibbons described the issue as "beneath contempt for squirting ink all over Her Majesty's face and advised collectors in the interests of philately to ignore the labels."

4.8 It is generally accepted that one of the more obvious pointers to a forgery is when the upper bar of the 'R' cuts the 'I'. The logical pattern of intertwining VRI would be thus, and genuine examples with clear fine impression show it, indicating early use of the handstamp. Made in brass, a soft metal, I think the cross-bar soon became damaged. Most examples are less well defined, due partly to wear, partly to ink residue, partly to slippage and latterly to carelessness in application through boredom.

4.9 It is most improbable a genuine double, still less a triple, or an inverted, impression was made and passed for issue. Bounce or slippage when striking onto gummed sheets, some stored for up to six years, could not be avoided. Nevertheless, some examples have badly malformed handstampings and justifiably command a premium as such. The only inverted and truly double impressions I have seen are forgeries.

4.10 As Tony Farmer has made a specialized study of the forgeries, some 17 different to date, and is publishing an article on them shortly, I shall conclude my comments on this issue with a diagram (Fig. 1) showing the main characteristics to look for in assessing whether or not an example is genuine.

Annex 1 - The letter from Mr. Pearce, Postmaster, St. Kitts to Dr. Mason

Basseterre, St. Kitts
24th July, 1897.

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 12th just come duly to hand by the last steamer, as also the \$5 greenback enclosed, and in compliance with your wishes I am now enclosing the stamps you asked for and also two sheets of obsolete stamps valued at \$56.16 any of which you can have at a discount of 50% for cash, but any sold outside at 33 1/3% only. (SIC)*

I will be glad to get a sheet or two from you in return if you will do the same with your sheets.

Thanks very much for your offer to propose me as a member of the AMS Exchange, I will be glad to join, as it may do me some good and later in the year I would send on a few sheets for exchange.

Should I be accepted, you might pay in the \$1 for me out of any of the stamps you may sell or keep.

I am using on this envelope on of the 1/2d. Jubilee stamps, they were supposed to have been in issue for one week from the 22nd July, but the issue was exhausted in 65 minutes, the rush for them being very great, what I succeeded in getting is hardly worthwhile mentioning. The number of sheets sent to St. Kitts was as follows:

1/2d, 1d & 2 1/2d	-	30 sheets (of 120)
4d	-	10 sheets
6d & 7d	-	3 sheets
1/-	-	1 1/2 sheets
5/-	-	2/3 sheet

the same quantity was sent to Montserrat and Dominica and a very small lot to

the Virgin Islands and none to Nevis, the stamps must therefore become very valuable indeed.

I have not a Turks Island stamp of any kind that I can send you, they seldom come this way. I am very badly off in that issue.

Yours very truly,

W. P. Pearce

I hear that a gentleman in this town is asking 4/- each for the ½d and another one has refused 20/- for the 5/- ones. I am going to give your name to a lady there who I know has some of the small values for sale as she may perhaps send you a few of them at a reasonable price, as she does not exactly wish to make a fortune out of them - you may not however get them by this mail.

* Pearce crossed out this phrase.

Annex 2 - The letter from Mr. Howe to Dr. Mason

Basseterre
St. Kitts
26th July 1897

Dear Sir,

The Secretary of State has given permission for a small quantity of stamps to be issued in the Leeward Islands to commemorate the "Diamond Jubilee". Those sent to St. Kitts, £128/10s.** were bought up at once by a few persons who are now asking \$25 (£5/4/2) per set.

I herewith enclose you a set from ½d to 1/- (those included on the envelope as included in the set), also 6 each of the ½d, 1d and 2½d values asking you to purchase them at the following rates:

½d @ 2/0 each	6d @ 6/0 each
1d @ 2/6 each	7d @ 7/6 each
2½d @ 4/0 each	1s @ 8/0 each
4d @ 5/0 each	

If you do not wish the stamps please return them as (as regular?) your reply, care Mr. Pearce our Postmaster who will take charge of them for me.

Value of stamps now sent:

	s	d
1 set from ½d to 1/-	35	- 0
6 ½d @ 2/- each	12	- 0
6 1d @ 2/6 each	15	- 0
6 2½d @ 4/0 each	24	- 0
	<u>86</u>	- 0

Send greenbacks for payment of the stamps if you keep them.

Yours truly,

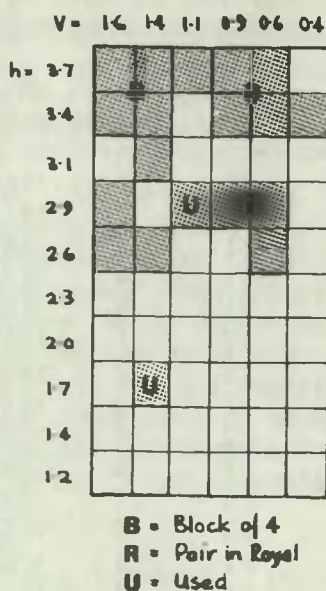
S. E. Howe

**This agrees with the totals given in Mr. Pearce's tables.

UPDATE TO PART III

1d Duty Plate Shift

Shown here is a revised chart with the locations of the known stamps in the sheet of the 1d. duty plate shift. This replaces the chart shown on page 69 of the June issue of the BCPJ. I have added the location of the pair in the Royal collection and shown the position of three new copies, two of which I found at the Stampex/BPE show in September of this year.



Of the 19 positively identified these may be in addition:

- a - I was offered a grubby used copy
- b - Paul Larsen is said to have a strip of 3
- c - Phoebe McGillarvary says she sold one on cover and another unused about 10 years ago which are still in private collections in USA.

This makes a total of 25 recorded today.

M.N.O.
10/88

Lest I confuse readers, let me call attention to the Fig. 1 of the June 1988 issue (p 65, BCPJ VOL. 28, NO. 2, W/N 147) which illustrated a 240 forme sheet. De La Rue cut these sheets into 2 x 120 sheets before overprinting the Duty Plate when the 240 forme Key Plate was first employed in 1902. On reflection I should have shown a 120 forme sheet with the Plate No. in all four corners.

LIFE MEMBERS

The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group is pleased to announce that two more of its members have elected life membership. Eugene F. Deems and Carl J Faulkner have both chosen to join for life and have paid the corresponding life membership dues. This brings the total number of life members of the Group to 36.

Your editor made this decision several years ago and his faith has not been misplaced. If you are interested in life membership, write to Tom Cusick at the address on the inside front cover. Tom will happily send you the information. Be sure to state your age when you apply so he can quote the applicable rate.

The commitment to life membership requires faith that the future of the BCPSG is assured. It also puts an obligation on the officers to make certain that the Group remains in satisfactory financial condition and continues to serve the needs of all members. To assist the officers, all members are urged to share their ideas for improving and strengthening the BCPSG with the officers.

Much of our present strength comes from personal contacts between members, some of whom have met only in the exchange of letters. The late Eddie Adelson claimed that BCPSG members were the greatest bunch of people in the world. Nothing has happened to change this position.

BCPSG JOURNALS ON HAND

Members continue to order back issues and are exhausting the supply of more issues. The supply of back issues as of 15 January 1989 follows:

Volume Number	Issue Number	Whole Number	Year	Quantity On Hand	Volume Number	Issue Number	Whole Number	Year	Quantity On Hand
9	3	49	6/69	3	21	1	114	2/81	19
9	4	50	8/69	3	21	2	115	4/81	25
10	3	55	6/70	6	21	3	116	7/81	31
10	5	57	10/70	1	21	4	117	10/81	38
11	2	60	4/71	1	21	5	118	12/81	41
11	3	61	6/71	5	22	1	119	2/82	7
11	4	62	8/71	3	22	2	120	4/82	25
11	6	64	12/71	6	22	3	121	7/82	33
13	1	71	2/73	1	22	4	122	10/82	31
13	2	72	4/73	2	22	5	123	12/82	36
13	3	73	6/73	2	23	1	124	2/83	15
13	4	74	8/73	2	23	2	125	4/83	20
13	6	76	12/73	2	23	3	126	7/83	24
14	1	77	4/74	1	23	4	127	10/83	27
14	3	79	8/74	2	23	5	128	12/83	34
14	4	80	10/74	4	24	1	129	2/84	27
14	5	81	12/74	1	24	2	130	4/84	34
15	3	84	6/75	3	24	3	131	7/84	31
15	4	85	8/75	3	24	4	132	10/84	42
15	5	86	10/75	1	24	5	133	12/84	41
16	1	88	2/76	1	25	1	134	3/85	23
16	3	90	6/76	1	25	2	135	6/85	37
16	5	92	10/76	8	25	3	136	9/85	36
17	1	94	2/77	2	25	4	137	12/85	38
17	2	95	4/77	4	26	1	138	3/86	41
18	1	100	2/78	6	26	2	139	6/86	99
18	2	101	4/78	2	26	3	140	9/86	17
18	4	103	8/78	1	26	4	141	12/86	15
18	5	104	10/78	3	27	1	142	3/87	13
18	6	105	12/78	1	27	2	143	6/87	10
19	1	106	2/79	34	27	3	144	9/87	16
19	2	107	4/79	83	27	4	145	12/87	23
19	3	108	6/79	82	28	1	146	3/88	18
19	4	109	8/79	47	28	2	147	6/88	13
20	3	112	8/80	19	28	3	148	9/88	18
20	4	113	11/80	29	28	4	149	12/88	23

Place your order with Thomas E. Giraldi, 10755 Mt. Gleason, Sunland, CA 91040. The price is \$2.50 per issue or \$10.00 for a complete year. Postage is extra. On average allow postage for 5 ounces per journal. Excess postage will be refunded. Make checks payable to the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group.

PERSONAL MENTION

Paul Larsen reports that **Peter McCann** gave a most interesting slide presentation on his Turks and Caicos Islands Postal History collection at the Collectors Club of Chicago on November 10, 1988.

Falmouth Packet Letter Rates

Jack Arneil

The anonymous note accompanying the reproduction of the G. P. O. January 1817 notice detailing the then current packet rates (BCPJ June 1988, page 59) highlights once again the apparent ambiguity associated with them when comparing this with the various tables published over the years by various authorities.

In thinking back over the past decade and a half, I am intrigued by the fact that the late Alan Robertson (who I might add gave me much support in my early work on the transatlantic mails) in his monumental work "The Maritime Postal History of the British Isles" reproduced the same 1817 G. P. O. notice facing page C.14/B, yet ignored it in his rate table on page C.14/A, as the 1/3 rate was not included; nor did he make note of the 1d. reduction in inland postage which accompanied it. This may be explained by the fact that he showed the 1813 (should have been 1812) rate as 1/2, which in itself was incorrect, but gave the correct postage for packet letters to/from London or other inland towns, if the 1d. reduction is not made. I can understand this, as I made the same mistake for a long time.

An even more confusing oversight is to be found in L. E. Britnor's 1977 publication "British West Indies Postal Rates up to 1900". As a frontispiece, there is a similar G. P. O. notice dated July 1812, which has the same Falmouth rates as the January 1817 notice, with the same 1d. reduction in the associated inland postage, and added below it is: "Note paragraph re letters via Falmouth". Yet on page 19, he gives 1/2 as the 1813 rate, presumably copied from Robertson. However, having made this error, Britnor correctly shows 1/3 as the packet rate in 1817, giving the G. P. O. Notice as the authority and quoting: "Postmasters to add to the Packet Letter Rate a sum of 1d. less than the Inland charge from their Office to Falmouth".

It was finding this frontispiece notice and the correct 1817 rate in Britnor's book that finally clarified the rates for me. As a help to others, I have listed below what I believe are the correct rates to the British West Indies from 1702 until the coming of steam in 1840. These rates also applied to North America, with the exception that the 1711 rate to New York was 1/- for a single letter and so on, instead of 1/6. The relevant Post Office Acts and Notices are given.

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Double</u>	<u>Treble</u>	<u>Ounce</u>
Royal Warrant (1702)	9d.	1/6	-	2/4
Royal Warrant (1704/5)	1/6 1/3	3/- 2/6	-	6/- (from BWI) 6/- (from UK)
9 Anne c.10 (June 1711)	1/6	3/-	4/6	6/-
5 Geo. III c.25 (June 1765)	1/-	2/-	3/-	4/-
P. O. Notice April 1792	Letters must be paid to London from other towns in G. B. and colonial postage extra			
37 Geo. III c.18 (May 1795)	No change in packet rate, but inland postage now required between London and Falmouth			
	1/-	2/-	3/-	4/- (Falmouth)
	1/8	3/4	5/-	6/8 (London)

41 Geo. III c.7 (April 1801)	No change in packet rates, but G. B. inland postage increased for distances over 170 miles			
	1/10	3/8	5/6	7/4 (London)
45 Geo. III c.11 (1805)	1/1	2/2	3/3	4/4 (Falmouth)
	also added 1d. to G. B. inland postage			
	2/-	4/-	6/-	8/- (London)
52 Geo. III c.88 (July 1812)	1/3	2/6	3/9	5/- (Falmouth)
	also 1d. added to G. B. Inland postage, but this addition did not apply to packet letters through Falmouth, hence:			
	2/2	4/4	6/6	8/8 (London)

These rates continued in effect until 1840, and were reconfirmed by 1 Vic. c.34 (July 1837).

3&4 Vic. c.96 (Aug. 1840) 1/- (less than $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce); 2/- ($\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 oz.);
 4/- (1 - 2 oz.)
 with no additional G. B. inland postage

(Ed: I am delighted that Jack Arnell has given us this summary of the packet letter rates to/from the West Indies and G. B. via Falmouth and London. May this be the correct word on the subject! Postal historians have long felt the need for accurate information, although knowledge of the correct rates does not guarantee that you will understand all rates on covers. Mistakes were made.)

BCPSG (UK) 1988 CONVENTION

by Bob Swarbrick and Tony Shepherd

A wonderful weekend, 5/6 November, full of excitement at the British Caribbean displays, marked the first annual BCPSG(UK) Convention at Loughborough. All visitors had a most enjoyable time. Although attendance was not up to the hoped for level, the time available to prepare for the convention did not allow for more. I hope that those who came left feeling the event was worthwhile. As one who was there wrote, "I thoroughly enjoyed the whole weekend and it was marvelous value".

Perhaps quoting from his letter will give you the sense of excitement that prevailed.

"Thank you for arranging it so expertly and for showing your superb Jamaica material and for arranging for us to see the other memorable exhibits - Pollard's Postal Markings, Thomson's Antigua with some really lovely marks - such a nice couple - Potter's Postal Stationery with those revenues used on cover and Oliver's Postal Stationery also a wonderful lot - the outstanding Greenwood display, the best lot of British Guiana I've ever seen and he explained the sheets so well too - and I loved Nathan's Postcards, especially the humorous ones. I found Jackson's West Indies remarkable and a completely new subject for me. And then Trevor's Bahamas was the best postal history of this country I've ever seen. And he explained everything so well.

"Well done, sir!"

My sincere thanks go to Frank Deakin for these kind comments. Frank has joined the BCPSG and will make a major contribution to the strength of the Society.

Tony Shepherd's sent his report which gives further evidence that the Convention was a great success. He writes,

"Collectors were found to be checking into the hotel on Friday afternoon with Bob Swarbrick much in evidence as a "one-man" welcoming committee. Bob, who had been the driving force behind the convention and hard working organizer, proved to be a master of his craft.

"Friday evening around 20 BWI collectors and their spouses sat down to a most convivial dinner. Following this the main body retired to the hotel lounge where old freindships were renews and new ones formed. One of the dealers, David Druett, happened to mention that he had several boxes of new cover material with him that none of us had seen before. In no time Dave's bedroom was inundated with collectors perusing this stock with the bedsm, chairs, floor, etc., pressed into use for collectors to view these treasures. One of the memorabel sights of this and any convention was Mike Rego sitiing on a bathroom appliance, viewing a box of maritime covers, this article of sanitary equipment being the only "free" seat.

"Saturday morning, the Convention was formally opened by Bob Swarbrixk with 34 collectors in attendance. A brief speech of welcome was followed by an impromptu fire works display, the 5th being the day when a cretain Guy Faulks attempted to blow up the Houses of Parliament, the day being celbrated with gusto in England.

"A series of short displays were put up for viewing: Bob Swarbrick, Jamaica King George V pictorials; Derek Pollard, Jamaica Postal Markings 1760-1860; Alex Thomson, Antigua pre-adhesive covers; Ian Potter, Jamaica Postal Stationery; Michael Oliver, Leeward Islands Postal Stationery. All these "mini" displays were of high standard and well appreciated by the members.

"After lunch the main display of the day, British Guiana by Simon Greenwood, commenced. He introduced his display with a well informed talk on the general background to what was then the colony of British Guiana. He gave details on how the first issue of adhesive postage stamps were printed and issued for postal duty. The pre-adhesive material shown was of a high standard. This was followed by a wealth of adhesives of the early issues on and off cover. Simon covered evvery aspect of the postal issues, postal history and postal stationery of British Guiana. No write-up can do justice to the treasures seen. Those who viewed this magificent display were left breathless.

"Saturday evening, following dinner, a part of the hotel package arranged by Bob Swarbrick, collectors gatehred again in the hotel lounge. One wife was heard to remark, "where do they find the energy?"

"The events resumed on Sunday morning with a display of Netherlands West Indian Maritime Mail by J. W. Jackson. John Jackson arrived "hot-foot" that morning from Holland with his display. He showed a fine display of cover material of this most difficult area with many rare and early covers and entires.

"After this members continued the "mini" diplays with: Trevor Davis, Bahamas postal history; Derek Sutcliffe, Jamaica earthquake picture postcards; David Druett, Trinidad; Bob Swarbrick, Jamaica Pines issue die proofs.

"A great big vote of thanks must be tendered to Bob who worked very hard to make this affair the great success that it was. Those attending agreed the effort achieved the goal desired. It was an event to be recalled with pleasure."

NEW ISSUES

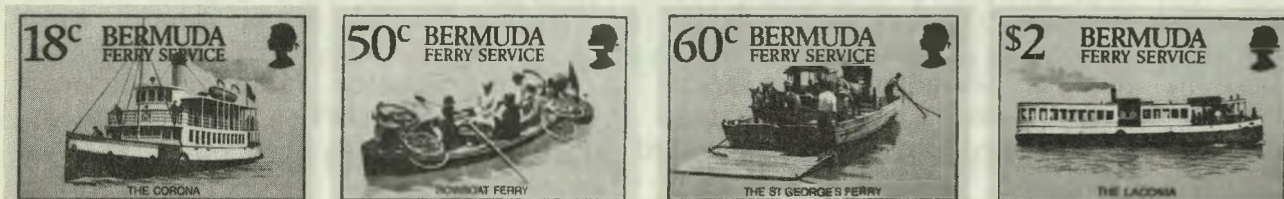
Bruce E. Watts

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA: Set of four showing Disney characters. To be issued December 1st. Designed by Walt Disney Co. of Burbank, CA and printed by The House of Questa. The denominations are: 10¢, 25¢, 30¢ and 70¢. All show various Disney characters.

BAHAMAS: Set of four and SS showing popular Christmas Carols. To be issued November 21st. Designed by Josephine Martin and printed by The House of Questa on spiral CA watermark paper. The denominations are: 10¢, Oh Little Town Of Bethelhem; 40¢, Little Donkey; 45¢, Silent Night; 50¢, Hark The Herald Angels Sing; and the SS unites the stamps.

BELIZE: Set of four to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the Red Cross. Designed by Oscar Fernandez, they show various modes of transportation used by Red Cross volunteers. Denominations are not reported at this time. The designs show: a 1912 buggy, a 1937 hospital ship, a 1956 field ambulance and a 1940 ambulance plane.

BERMUDA: Set of four honoring the Ferry Service (Transport - Part III). Designed by Leslie Curtis and printed by The House of Questa in sheets of 50 on C. A. paper. The denominations are: 18¢, The Corona; 50¢, Rowboat Ferry; 60¢, The St. George's Ferry and \$2, The Laconia.



GRENADA: Major league baseball players...nine sheetlets of nine stamps. To be issued November 28th. Designed by Rosemary DeFiglio. All stamps have a 30¢ denomination and show a close-up photograph of the player and an action shot.

JAMAICA: Hurricane Gilbert relief overprints on the Seoul Olympic stamps. Overprinted by Format International Security Printers, Ltd. The stamps are surcharged in black and red. Surcharges are 25¢ on the 25¢ boxing; 45¢ on the 45¢ cycling; \$4 on the \$4 running; \$5 on the \$5 hurdling.

ST. VINCENT: Disney set of seven and two SS. To be issued on December 23rd. Designs and printing the same as Antigua above. Denominations are: 1¢, 2¢, 3¢, 4¢ and 5¢, \$6 and two \$5 SS. All show various Disney characters.

TURKS & CAICOS: Christmas set of seven and two SS showing Titian Madonna and Child paintings. Printed by The House of Questa. The denominations are: 15¢, 25¢, 35¢, 40¢, 50¢, 65¢, \$3 and two \$2 SS.

AN APPEAL FOR BACK ISSUES

Buzz Jehle needs issues nos. 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 68, 70, 71, and 75. He wishes to borrow issues to copy or will pay \$3 each plus postage. His address is 31 Park Place, Darien, CT 06820-5304. He has all other issues available for photocopying, if you will pay the postage both ways.

***BERMUDA'S FINEST
Philatelic Properties
Are Purchased And Sold
Through***

THE KEYPLATE EXCHANGE

TKE specializes in the building of first-rate collections for the serious student of Bermuda philately. Want lists are invited and references are required. Courteous, prompt and professional service is our hallmark.

TKE always stands ready to purchase entire collections and individual pieces of significant merit. Funds can be transferred to your account anywhere in the world within twenty-four hours.

THE KEYPLATE EXCHANGE

Arthur C. Hamm
P.O. Box 3502 • New York, NY 10008
212-737-9124





CHRISTIE'S ROBSON LOWE

25th April - London

Our British Empire sale includes a good section of Jamaica
Illustrated catalogue £5



WE SELL YOUR STAMPS WHERE THEY SELL BEST

For details of all our services contact:
Dr. Gordon Torrey, P.O. Box 39023, Washington, DC. 20016

Head Office:
8 KING STREET, ST. JAMES'S, LONDON, SW1Y 6QT
Telephone: 01 839 4034 Telex: 916429 Fax: 01 839 1611

BRITISH CARIBBEAN AREA

WANT LISTS FILLED FOR SERIOUS
COLLECTORS OF THE BRITISH
EMPIRE. EMPHASIS ON PRE-1935.
REFERENCES, PLEASE.

WE ARE BUYERS OF BETTER BRITISH
COMMONWEALTH STAMPS, POSTAL
HISTORY AND SPECIALIST MATERIAL.



Victoria Stamp Company

PHOEBE A. MacGILLIVARY
P.O. Box 745, RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07451
201-652-7283

