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*Ian Potter at the Boscobel Post Office, Jamaica
(see "Jamaica Jottings")*

ALSO INSIDE:

An Early Bermuda Letter

Dominica Post Offices

Turks Islands Surcharges and Bisects

Leeward Islands KGV Issues

Virgin Islands Postmarks



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President's Message

by JAY FREDRICK

If all goes as planned, the majority of you should be reading this message *before* our annual meeting at INDYPEX on September 7th. On that day, we will commemorate our 30th anniversary as an active and viable organization. I would like to take this initial opportunity to compliment the Group's founders for their vision and foresight in establishing a democratic and lasting organization of which we can all be very proud. And if we continue to receive both the participative and financial support that we have enjoyed, we will probably make it to our 60th and more anniversaries. But we "seniors" will have to depend on some of you younger members to make it happen. For those of you already involved, thanks and keep up the good work. For those of you not yet involved, this is a good time to bring forth your good

ideas and join the ranks. Let us hear from you.

I am pleased to announce that a majority* of the basic nine-member Board of Trustees has ratified the interim selection of *Michel Forand* as Journal Editor and *Barry Friedman* as Treasurer until scheduled elections are held this year. Michel, as you already know, has taken over from Mark Swetland, who has completed his agreed-to 5½ years of dedicated and productive service. We all offer again our heartfelt thanks to Mark and our best wishes for continuing success to Michel.

Barry will replace Tom Cusick, effective September 1st (just in time for 1992 dues notices to go out). Tom had asked to be retired for very valid family reasons. We thank him and wish him well! And he has promised to help Barry get up to speed

as our interim Treasurer. If we all pay our dues *promptly*, we can also help Barry in his new "job"!

Similarly, Jack Harwood will be conducting his last auction as our current Auction Manager at INDYPEX. At Jack's request, he will be replaced by Bill Gompel, another Floridian. We also wish both of them well in their future efforts.

For those living in the Southwest or travelling there in early October, Bruce Watts and I would like to extend an invitation to attend an informal BCPSG regional meeting, to be held during SESCAL, Saturday, October 12th at noon, in the Plaza Room of the Hyatt Hotel at Los Angeles International Airport. Bruce will be sending out written announcements to those of you in cities and/or states with a geographical proximity to the meeting location. Try to make it - past meetings at SESCAL arranged by Bruce have been most enjoyable!

The Group's 1992 meeting will take place during WESTPEX, which will be held in San Francisco on May 1-3, 1992. Between 50 and 75 frames have been allocated for Caribbean exhibits; those who are interested in exhibiting can obtain the prospectus (available in September) from Stephen D. Schumann, 2417 Cabrillo Drive, Hayward, CA 94545. Steve, who is a BCPSG member, is also a member of the WESTPEX organizing committee. This will be an excellent opportunity for members to "strut their stuff," and I especially encourage those who have

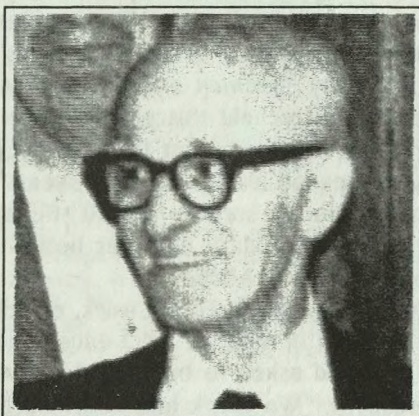
been working on a new exhibit to show it at WESTPEX.

I hope to see many of you in Indianapolis, Los Angeles or San Francisco. It is these *personal* contacts - with opportunities for 1) establishing lasting friendships; 2) the exchange of British Caribbean information and/or material; and 3) participating in the free exchange of ideas, etc. with your fellow members and officers - that have made our group what it is today and will assure its continued advancement and growth!

It is time again to elect *three* trustees to serve the BCPSG for the period 1991-97 (a six-year term). A ballot listing the five candidates is enclosed with this journal, and biographical details are provided on a separate sheet. Please exercise your rights to *choose* and to *vote*! An attempt has been made this year to expand the international make-up of the basic nine-member Board of Trustees. Those elected this year will serve along with Cyril Bell, Barry Friedman and Mike Wilson (1995) and Tom Giraldi, Jack Harwood and Peter McCann (1993). These six, plus the three "winners," will elect the six constitutionally designated officers for 1992-93 on or before December 1st, per our constitution.

*I stopped making telephone calls after I received five out of five affirmative answers.

In Memoriam Reg Lant



(Photo taken in 1977 by Paul Larsen)

R. H. Lant - affectionately and universally known as "Reg" - passed away on April 18th, 1991 at the age of 97. He is survived by his long-loving wife, Helen, and at least one child, his son Tony. Please forgive my lack of knowledge of his offspring.

Reg, a product of the Victorian age, worked for the Canadian Pacific Railway for 50 years, retiring 32 years ago on the day of his son Tony's marriage. Conservative, hard-working, thrifty, private, old-fashioned were words that came to mind when thinking of Reg. He was slightly built but had the heart and courage of a lion. He was a very serious student of Jamaica postal history, and although he was never fortunate enough to own the more glamorous pieces of his interest, his keen knowledge of the

subject led him to many extremely interesting finds and discoveries. He was generous with his knowledge and was pleased to share with anyone with a genuine interest in the hobby. He searched for truth and was never satisfied until he has sure he had found it.

Reg was one of the seven founding members of the BCPSG, known at the beginning as the West Indies Federation Study Group, and served in almost every high office of the Group during his lifetime. He worked hard at each position and was a major factor in making the Group what it is today.

He was a stubborn man but not obstinate; forth-

right but not arrogant; a fighter but not an aggressor; a gatherer but not a miser; a giver, not a taker. Reg was loved by those who knew him well. I will remember the 35 years of sharing our joys and disappointments, our finds and our discoveries, our theories and our blunders, our arguments and our coming-togethers, but most of all his great enthusiasm.

Goodbye, Reg.

BOB TOPAZ

Personal Mention

Mark Swetland, our former editor, had double bypass surgery in early May. Fortunately, the operation was quite successful and he is now recovering satisfactorily. We wish him well!

Our President, Jay Fredrick, was also hospitalized in late May by a combination of a bone lesion and the removal of gallstones. Recovery was slow and difficult for a while, but he is getting better. He says he lost several pounds in the process and would like to keep it that way!

Another member, Russell Skavaril, had minor surgery in June that turned into a major problem.

The incision became infected, and Russ had very high fevers on and off for several weeks. He thinks perhaps the surgeon left his Rolex in him!

On a happier note, Eric King, our Belize study group leader, who is in fact a resident of Belize, was recently (June) appointed a "Commander of the Civil Division" of the "Most Excellent Order of the British Empire" for his services in the area of natural resources and agriculture. Eric may now replace the letters "O.B.E." following his name by "C.B.E." Congratulations! - M.F.

Secretary's Report

New Member

The applicant listed in the June 1991 issue has been admitted to membership.

Applications Received

COOLEY, Thomas C., 1840 Carriage Lane, Apt. 127, Charleston SC 29407. Collects Falkland Islands and Bahamas. By M. F. Roett.

JENKINS, Randall, 14 East 7th Street, Apt. 1-B, Clifton, NJ 07011. Collects BWI postal history, particularly Bahamas, Jamaica and Bermuda, and all KGV and KGVI. By M. F. Roett.

Deceased

LANT, Reginald.

Address Changes and Corrections

DUFRESNE, Richard L., USS Comte de Grasse, DD 974, CE DIV, FPO New York, NY 09566-1212

HAMM, Arthur C., 110 Summit Hall Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877

OLSON, Thomas F., 1316 Solano Avenue, Albany, CA 94706

TROY, Carl F., Windhoek, D.O.S., Washington, DC 20521-2540

Bermuda: A Very Early Letter

by CHARLES FREELAND

In a recent issue of the *BWISC Bulletin*, I reported the acquisition of a rather remarkable historical document (see illustration), a letter sent from Bermuda in October 1620. To my knowledge, this pre-dates the earliest known letters from the islands in philatelic hands by 150 years or more.

Michel Forand shared my enthusiasm for this discovery and suggested I write more about it for the journal. Not only that, he did some digging at the National Library of Canada and came up with some information about the correspondence from which the letter comes. It paints a fascinating picture of life on the islands in those times.

The letter is an exact contemporary of the *Mayflower*, which left Southampton, England in September 1620 and landed at Plymouth, in what was to become the state of Massachusetts, in late December of that year. It was sent by a man named John Hanmer, who must have been one of the very earliest settlers, as it was written only eight years after Bermuda - originally known as the Somers Isles, after Sir George Somers, whose vessel, the *Sea Venture*, was wrecked on the Bermuda reefs in 1609 - was first settled in 1612. The letter reads as follows:

*from port Royall in the Sumeres Ilandes
this 14th of October 1620*

Right worshipfull and noble Sir being bould to wryte unto you I thought yt part of my duty and service to Certify you of your Impliesmentes heare, Mr. Rich your brother being decesed I was Implied in the deviding of your Tobacco in Regeard Mr. Dutton Could not leve his Trybe being deviding there, in South Hampton Trybe your peple made this yeare 2634th waight of tobacco as apears by the account which I delevered to Mr. Dutton who I thinke hath sente them you, otherwise I had, but the Governouer apointed too men to tast the Tobacco and that wich they did not aprove of, was presently to bee lurned, for of your part there was 1000th waight burnte, this yeare your tobacco has beene ill provided for in reagard you have never a se [?] house fitting for the purpose to keepe your part in, But I wil this next yeare provide you one for that you may be noe more wronged by having your Roules [?] Changed, as I understud you have beene, I have payed Mr. Day 50th of Tobacco for Caske for your tobacco, and 16th for Ropes for your Boate, and likewise I have payed the Marshall 48th of Tobacco for one Eares who was imprisoned and heare Hanged Being sent over By Mr. Dutton his apointment you shall Receve foure Buttes and a tertie full of tobacco marked as in the margent for my Deet [debt?] this shiping I was not able to paye you but god willing the next shipe you shall be satisfied and my lord and yf yt plese god to blese my indeavour Mr. Dut-

ton tould me that he would wryte to you that I and Mr. Rich might unjoye one share of my lordes which lyes next Mr. Monrer his shares wich my lord promysed me soe besheching you to stand for me that I may inyoie thus fearing be over tedyous in trobleing your worshipes more serious afaires Craving pardon for my bouldness I humblie take my leave and leave your worship to him who never Leves his

*Your servant to Command to
his pouer John Hanmer*

In the left margin of the letter appear the letters "R.W.S.N.R." Port Royal is an area of Southampton Parish (the parishes were originally known as "tribes") in Bermuda. Unfortunately, the addressee is not mentioned on the letterhead, but the text refers to "Mr. Rich, your brother being decesed." Because of this reference, it is possible to identify the letter as part of the Rich Papers, one of the original archives surviving from this very early period.

The Rich family was closely involved with the Virginia Company of London, which was granted exclusive rights to trade and colonise the area known as Virginia, which covered the whole area north of Florida. The most prominent member of the family was Robert Rich (1587-1658), a rather wild adventurer who became a privateer in both the East and the West Indies and was res-

from port Royal in the Sunday
the 14th of October 1678

Right worth and noble being bound unto yo^r. I thought yt yt of my duty and
 desire to certify yo^r of your friendly merits toward me, in the yo^r brother being
 deserv'd I was employ'd in the dividing of yo^r Tobacco in the island in
 which I was not less yo^r Tobacco being divid'd among in Southampton
 yo^r your people made yo^r share 2034 lb of tobacco as appears by the account
 of the division made by me & Mr. Dutton who I think hath sent you some
 of each, but Mr. Governor appointed to take the Tobacco and sell it
 for yo^r did not approve of, was willing to be known, for of yo^r I got your
 worth 1000 worth of tobacco, the reason of tobacco hath been borne ill
 provided for the management of your share a person fitting for the purpose to
 be chosen by me, but I will give you some thanks for the share you
 have by giving yo^r share of tobacco, as I saw, understood yo^r share
 share, I gave you the day 50th of Tobacco for each for yo^r share,
 and 6th for each of yo^r share, & likewise of your share of
 the share 48th of Tobacco for our share was my personal and some
 danger being sent over the Mr. King and Mr. Dutton, the day of your
 parcel hath been by Mr. Dutton in apartment to the latter known
 to me about and a horse full of tobacco marked as in the margin for
 my part the signing I was not able to pay, but you willing to meet
 yo^r the latter be satisfied and my lord I hope you to bless my in doing
 in Dutton hath me got to account, worthy to yo^r part of and in the
 must know our share of my lord, the lord was Mr. Moore's
 share was my lord employ'd me for the purpose of yo^r to stand for
 that I may receive the share of our share in the share of yo^r was not more afraid
 than you give for my bonds with I humbly take my leave and leave
 yo^r worth to you was never allowed the

R.W.
S
W.R.



Yo^r Obedient to Command to
 his power John Chamberlain

possible for bringing slavery to Virginia and Bermuda. Robert became Earl of Warwick when his father, the first Earl, died in 1619.

Robert, second Earl of Warwick, had a much more sober cousin, Sir Nathaniel Rich (1585-1936), who became a lawyer and a politician, devoting himself mainly to colonial expansion. Nathaniel was prominent in the Virginia Company and one of the largest shareholders in the Bermuda Company. He had a younger brother, Robert (1586-1620) - not to be confused with the Robert mentioned above - who was sent out to the colonies, as often happened to the second sons of noble families. Robert was probably on the *Sea Venture* with Sir George Somers and was among the first settlers of Bermuda in 1612, managing the family interests there.

In 1618 or 1619, Robert Rich returned to England where he married Elizabeth Dutton. In 1620, he brought Elizabeth to Bermuda but on the voyage he contracted a severe illness (the Rich Papers suggest it was some sort of "plague") and died soon after arriving in Bermuda. Elizabeth's brother, John Dutton, whom Robert had hired to work for him in Bermuda, is also mentioned in the letter. He began to throw his weight around after Robert died, making himself unpopular both in Bermuda and London.

The final character in the story is John Hanmer, the writer of the letter shown here. When in England, Robert Rich had arranged to lease from his brother Nathaniel land on which he intended to grow tobacco in partnership with Hanmer - tobacco being then the main crop in Bermuda, as it was also in Virginia, of course. The letter is evidently addressed to Sir Nathaniel: not only does it refer to the death of his brother, but it also noted that "you shall receive tobacco marked as in the margin." As noted above, the marginal inscription reads "R.W.S.N.R.", the last three letters obviously referring to Sir Nathaniel Rich.

The primary source that I have been to draw on for this information (thanks to Michel) is the book edited by Vernon Ives (see references). This records that the correspondence to Nathaniel Rich and a number of other documents of the period, which formed the Rich Papers, became part of the Manchester Papers when the widow of Robert, Earl of Warwick, married the second Earl of Manchester.

In 1970 (jumping ahead more than three centuries here), the 10th Duke of Manchester sold 110 documents relating to Bermuda from the Rich Papers through Parke-Bernet in New York. Of these, 97 documents were bought by Bermudian interests and made over to the newly established Bermuda National

Trust. Among the remaining 13 documents must have been the letter that has now come into my hands. I would be interested to learn whether any other member has any of the 12 remaining documents, or a copy of the relevant Parke-Bernet catalogue.

Finally, for those who would like to do further research on this period, the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. has photostats of many of the Manchester Papers.

I must acknowledge the great assistance from Michel in the preparation of this article. He struck it "rich," as he says. In addition, I want to thank Robson Lowe for selling me the letter and for giving me initial information about Rich and Dutton. He also put me in touch with Mrs D. M. Clarke, who kindly transcribed the letter from the early 17th century script.

References

- The Rich Papers: Letters from Bermuda, 1615-1646.* Edited by Vernon Ives. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1984.
- Robson Lowe, *Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps*. Volume 5, Part V: Bermuda, British Honduras. London: Robson Lowe Ltd., 1973.
- Henry C. Wilkinson, *Adventurers of Bermuda*. London: Oxford University Press, 1933.

From the Editor's Desk: Once again, your editor has painted himself into a corner and left no room for his own pearls of wisdom. I am quite happy to let philately take over, as this is what this journal is about. I do want to note, however, that John Bethell

(P.O. Box 7061, Nassau, Bahamas) has agreed to become the new Caribbean Round-Up editor. Send "snippets" of new information to him, but please be sure to provide some context, so he will not have to make wild guesses when describing the items. - M.F.

Inland Post Offices of Dominica

by ROBERT WYNSTRA and CHARLES E. CWIAKALA

[Continued from W/N 158]

The Civilian Period

Finally, in April 1886, the government moved to rectify the situation by turning the postal system over to civilian control. On May 8, 1886, this action was confirmed with the appointment of deputy postmasters in the villages of Soufriere, Grand Bay, Laplaine, Wesley, Vieille Case, Portsmouth, St. Joseph, and Colihaut.²⁸ The office at Rosalie remained under police control until a civilian was appointed on January 1, 1887 (Figure 9).²⁹

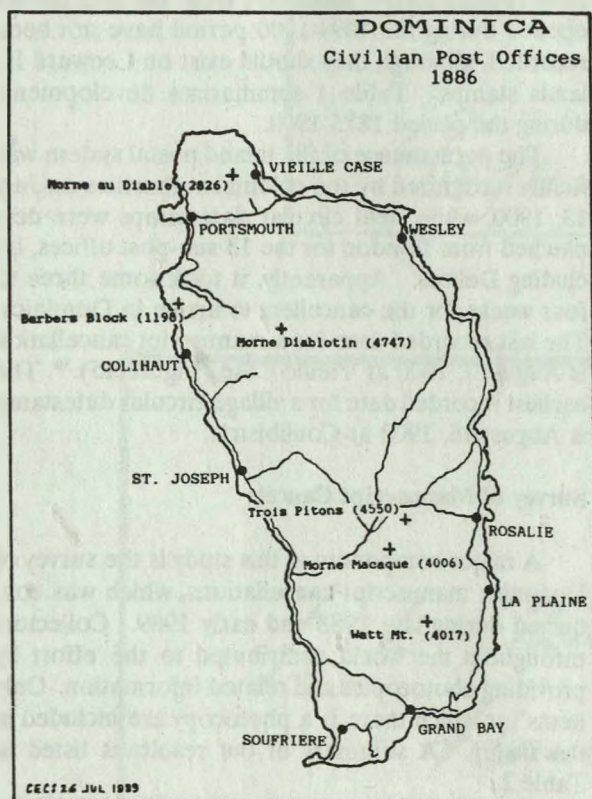


Figure 9

A notice dated June 19, 1886 directed inland mail to the General Post Office at Roseau, rather

than to Fort Young.³⁰ The deputy postmaster at each village kept a locked letter box at his residence for deposit of mail. On arrival of the post bag, he counted the incoming letters and signed a receipt. Mail was held until it could be picked up by the local residents. The postmaster was also directly authorized to sell ½d and 1d stamps.³¹

The reorganization resulted in the closing of the office at Pointe Michel and the changing of the name of Felicite to Laplaine. The lone recorded example from Laplaine shows an incomplete date on the ½d on 6d overprinted provisional stamp, which was in use from March to August 1886 (Figure 10).



Figure 10

This arrangement of nine sub-post offices remained unchanged into the mid-1890s. The deputy postmasters handled day-to-day operations with the help of a postal clerk or two. The handwriting on surviving examples from the civilian period generally exhibits a high degree of consistency, especially for the villages of Portsmouth and Wesley.

In many cases, the handwriting can be directly matched to samples from official documents signed by the appropriate deputy postmaster. All confirmed examples from Portsmouth after civilian control was established are rendered in a single hand.

Wesley shows three styles of handwriting. The majority of examples, however, are written in a single distinctive style. With the exception of Soufriere, manuscript cancellations have been recorded for all the civilian post offices from this period.

The Leeward Stamp Period

On October 31, 1890, Dominica stamps were replaced by the federal key plate issues. These adhesives were the only stamps valid for the Leeward Islands Federation. This change, however, had virtually no impact on operations at the various sub-post offices.

Indeed, the first change in this system did not take place until September 9, 1893, when Portsmouth was issued its own distinctive circular datestamp. The earliest recorded date is October 30, 1893. On July 1, 1894, Portsmouth was established as the first Money Order Office outside of Roseau.³²

The next major change came only three days later, on July 4, when a deputy postmaster was appointed at the tiny village of Dublanc, located just south of Portsmouth.³³ As late as February 10, 1897, the original nine civilian offices, plus the new one in Dublanc, were listed in a published timetable as being the only inland post offices.³⁴

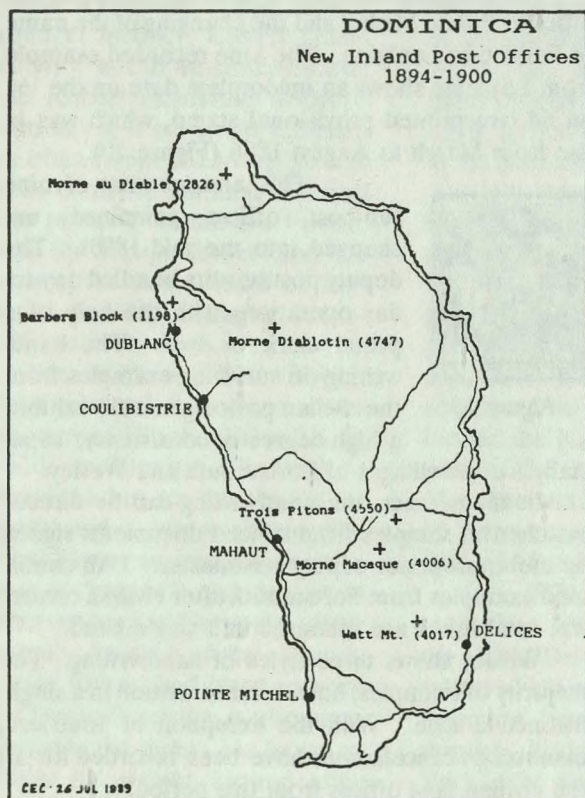


Figure 11

Only six months later, on August 4, Clarence James offered himself as a candidate for appointment to the position of deputy postmaster at the village of Coulibistrie. "I will agree to start as DPM without pay for the balance of this year as the estimates cannot be altered," he wrote, "but with the

hope of getting a fixed salary next year."³⁵

This was followed on August 18 with a similar request from one "Fredk. Jno. Marie Alexander" to be appointed deputy postmaster at the village of Delices.³⁶ The exact outcome of these requests is unknown, but clearly new offices were open by mid-December 1898 at Mahaut, Coulibistrie, and Pointe Michel. All three are recorded in published notices of the schedule for a new mail boat, named the *Pluvier*.³⁷ It is also possible that the office at Delices opened at about the same time. The Delices office was definitely in operation by July 1900 (Figure 11).

Only the villages of St. Joseph, Vieille Case, and Wesley are recorded with manuscript cancellations on Leeward Islands stamps. St. Joseph is recorded on only one example (Figure 12). Two covers from Wesley are known from the Leeward period. These are dated February 7, 1895 (Figure 13) and June 21, 1896 (Figure 14).³⁸ Examples from the five offices opened during the 1894-1900 period have not been recorded, although they should exist on Leeward Islands stamps. Table 1 summarizes developments during the period 1875-1900.

The permanence of the inland postal system was finally recognized by the colonial authorities on July 13, 1900, when steel circular datestamps were despatched from London for the 13 sub-post offices, including Delices. Apparently, it took some three to four weeks for the cancellers to arrive in Dominica. The last recorded date for a manuscript cancellation is August 7, 1900 at Vieille Case (Figure 15).³⁹ The earliest recorded date for a village circular datestamp is August 16, 1900 at Coulibistrie.

Survey of Manuscript Cancels

A major component of this study is the survey of Dominica manuscript cancellations, which was conducted during late 1988 and early 1989. Collectors throughout the world contributed to the effort by providing photocopies and related information. Only items for which there is a photocopy are included in this listing. A summary of the results is listed in Table 2.

One item of interest not included in the survey is a manuscript cancel that appears to read "eau," possibly for Roseau.⁴⁰ Roseau had its own canceler since the late 1850s. Possibly, this manuscript marking was employed when the normal canceler was



Figure 12

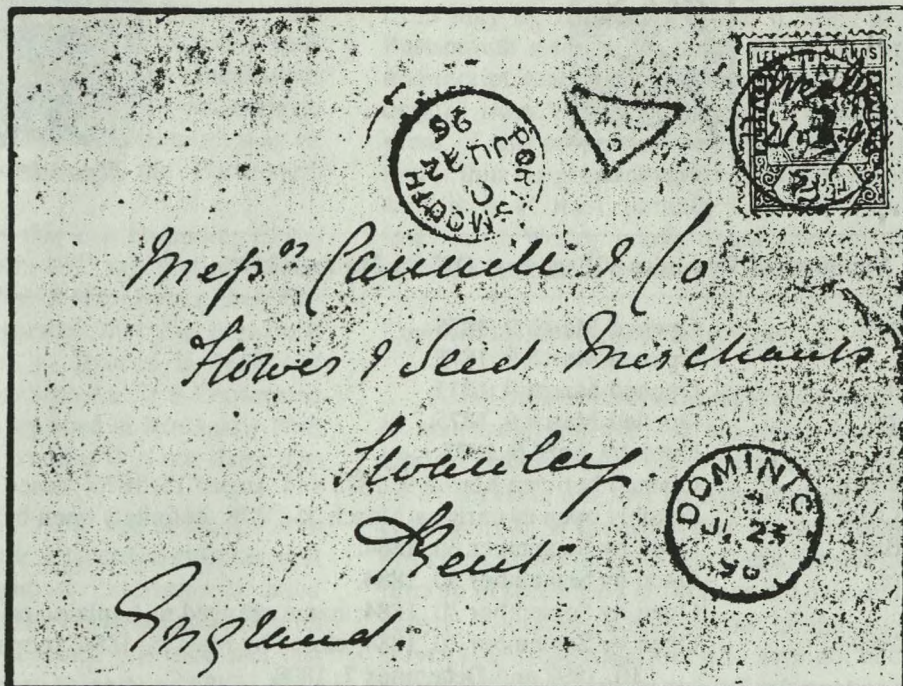


Figure 14

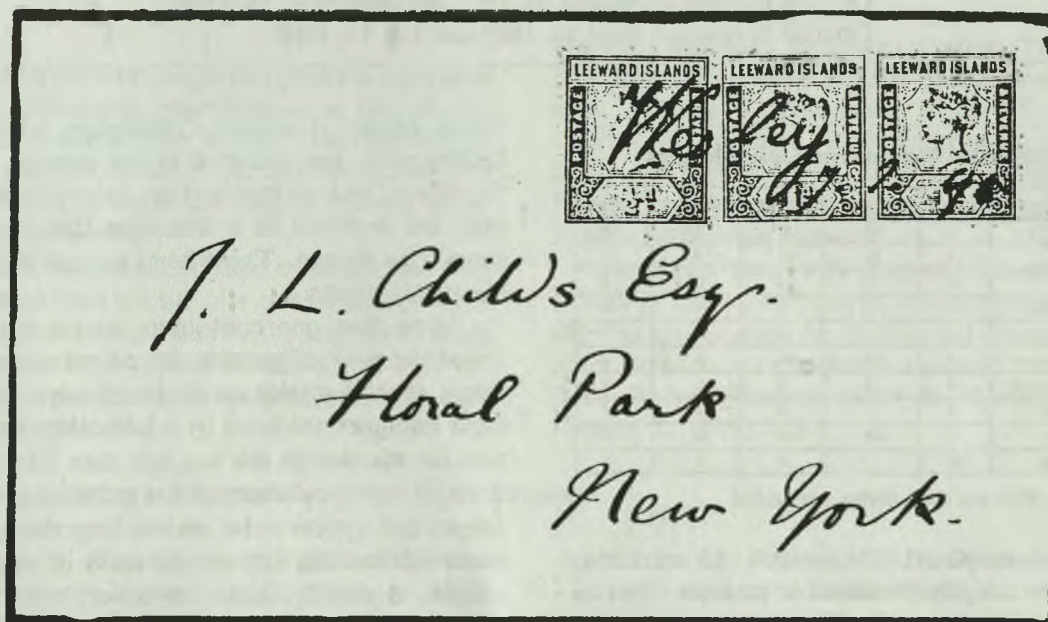


Figure 13



Figure 15



Figure 16

Table 1 Summary of Dominica Village Post Offices Through 1900

Portsmouth	Opened March 9, 1875.
Wesley	Opened March 9, 1875.
Colihaut	Opened March 9, 1875.
St. Joseph	Opened March 9, 1875.
Rosalie	Open by April 6, 1875.
Castle Bruce	Opened between March 9, 1875 and August 15, 1876; closed prior to June 30, 1883.
Vieille Case	Possibly open as early as March 31, 1878; definitely open by May 18, 1886.
Grand Bay	Open by September 30, 1884.
Soufriere	Open by September 30, 1884.
Felicite	Open by September 30, 1884; name changed to Laplaine on May 18, 1886.
Pointe Michel	Open by September 30, 1884; closed by May 18, 1886; reopened between February 10, 1897 and December 7, 1898.
Laplaine	Opened on May 18, 1886.
Dublanc	Opened about July 4, 1894.
Coulibistrie	Opened between September 14, 1897 and December 15, 1898.
Mahaut	Opened between February 10, 1897 and December 15, 1898.
Delices	Opened between August 18, 1897 and July 13, 1900.

Table 2 Recorded Manuscript Cancellations

	POLICE	CIVILIAN	LEEWARD	UNKNOWN	TOTAL
Portsmouth	5	26	0	3	34
Wesley	14	17	16	0	47
Colihaut	6	2	0	0	8
St. Joseph	4	2	1	1	8
Rosalie	1	2	0	0	3
Castle Bruce	3	XX	XX	0	3
Vieille Case	0	5	3	1	9
Grand Bay	0	1	0	0	1
Felicite	1	XX	XX	0	1
La Plaine	XX	1	0	0	1

XX = Post office not open during this period.

temporarily misplaced. As a result, this mark must be listed as a highly questionable example of an authorized Dominica manuscript cancel.

Examples of manuscript cancels from Soufriere,

Pointe Michel, Dublanc, Coulibistrie, Mahaut, or Delices were not recorded in the survey. Both a "Soufriere" with no date and two examples from Rosalie are reported in a collection that was stolen some 10 years ago. These items are not included in the survey results.

More than one contributor to the survey has raised the issue of possible forged manuscript markings. One Dominica specialist reported that six of eight examples analyzed by a laboratory confirmed that the manuscript ink was less than 50 years old. Another survey collaborator has gathered several examples that appear to be obvious forgeries. It would seem that caution and careful study of existing examples, especially those on cover, are the only answers to the potential problem of identifying forgeries.

Portsmouth

Of particular interest is the information this survey provides on the postal history of Portsmouth. What stands out is that the manuscript cancellations for Portsmouth come to a halt with an example dated July 6, 1887 (Figure 16). This is more than six years prior to the issuance of the Portsmouth datestamp in 1893.

One explanation for this sudden ending of the manuscript cancellations in 1887 was first offered by Simon Goldblatt in the *British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin*.⁴¹ He suggested that the horizontal "A07" obliterator issued to Roseau in 1858 was transferred for use at Portsmouth. It is known that this first obliterator was replaced in Roseau by 1882 with a vertical one that continued in use there into the 1900s.

Clearly, this first-type "A07" was in use at Portsmouth by 1897. The earliest recorded example with an accompanying Portsmouth datestamp is dated July 31, 1897. Several other examples are recorded through June 5, 1901. It seems probable that this mark was transferred there as early as 1887. It is, however, difficult to prove this for use prior to the issuance of the Portsmouth datestamp in 1893.

Wesley

Probably the most perplexing problem associated with the manuscript cancellations is the relative abundance of marks from Wesley. Although this village was relatively small, especially when compared to Portsmouth, it shows the largest number of examples in this survey.

Chuck Cwiakala has located evidence that Wesley may have been the site of a girls' boarding school during the late 1800s. Possibly the large percentage of Wesley marks is directly related to the high volume of mail generated by students writing to their relatives and friends.

A close examination of the survey results points to another explanation. During the civilian period from May 18, 1886 through July 6, 1887, when the Portsmouth marks end, there are 24 examples of manuscript cancels from Portsmouth, compared to only 12 from Wesley. This ratio is almost the reverse of the proportions suggested by the overall totals; thus the preponderance of Wesley manuscript cancels is at least partially caused by the large number of Wesley marks dated after the last recorded Portsmouth manuscript cancel in July 1887.

Conclusions and Acknowledgments

Aside from Portsmouth and Wesley, the Dominica manuscript cancellations are clearly quite scarce. Undoubtedly, many of these marks have been labeled as fiscal cancels and lie unrecognized in general collections or, in the worst-case scenario, have been discarded as philatelically worthless. Others may still turn up in specialized collections not included in the survey. Therefore, it is important for this continuing survey that those collectors who have not been contacted send photocopies and full information on any additional examples in their possession.

A special note of appreciation goes to William Ashley, who provided copies of original materials from the Dominica Archives. Without his assistance, this study would not have been possible. Thanks for their help on the study are also due to Simon Goldblatt, William J. Redgrave, Arthur H. Clarke, Charles A. Freeland, Roderick Parker, Malcolm Lacey, Michael Hamilton, Stephen Sugarman, E. B. Proud, Peter Jaffe, Chris Rainey, John Tyacke, Tony Farmer, and Hugh Wood.

Lastly, for those with a special interest in the Dominica manuscript marks, a comprehensive list showing photocopies of all recorded examples and other detailed information is available on request from Robert Wynstra, 1104 S. Garfield Ave., Urbana, IL 61801, USA.

References

- 1 Peter Jaffe, "Tracing the early posts of Dominica," *Philatelic Magazine*, v. 61, October 9, 1953: 800-801, 809. John Forrest, "Dominica," *Postal History International*, November 1974: 428-439.
- 2 Charles E. Cwiakala, "Early Dominica manuscript cancels," *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, v. 18, October 1978, W/N 104: 171-176.
- 2 Jaffe, p. 800.

- 3 *Dominica Official Gazette*, March 2, 1875.
- 4 *The Dominican*, March 4, 1875.
- 5 Jaffe, p. 800.
- 6 *Gazette*, April 6, 1875.
- 7 *Gazette*, August 15, 1876.
- 8 Letter from Postman Thomas Gabriel, docketed August 12, 1875, Dominica Archives.
- 9 *Dominica Official Gazette*, August 15, 1876.
- 10 Jaffe, p. 800.
- 11 *Ibid.*
- 12 *Dominica Official Gazette*, January 24, 1881.
- 13 Correspondence with William B. Ashley, 1988-1989.
- 14 Jaffe, pp. 809-15.
- 15 Private communication.
- 16 Private collection.
- 17 Letter from Inspector George F. James, docketed Oct. 16, 1883, Dominica Archives.
- 18 Ashley.
- 19 Private collection.
- 20 *Ibid.*
- 21 Letter from Inspector George F. James, docketed April 15, 1878, Dominica Archives.
- 22 Letter from Inspector Beach, docketed February 23, 1884, Dominica Archives.
- 23 *Dominica Official Gazette*, September 11, 1884.
- 24 Christie's Robson Lowe (London), "The T. V. Roberts Collection," sale no. 8237 (April 26, 1989), lots 2089-2090.
- 25 *The Dominican*, February 11, 1886; *Dominica Dial*, February 27, 1886.
- 26 *The Dominican*, March 11, 1886.
- 27 *The Dominican*, March 18, 1886.
- 28 Letter from Acting President J. S. Churchill, docketed May 18, 1886, Dominica Archives.
- 29 *Dominica Official Gazette*, June 3, 1886; letter from Acting President J. S. Churchill, docketed December 31, 1886, Dominica Archives.
- 30 *Dominica Dial*, June 19, 1886.
- 31 *Dominica Official Gazette*, May 6, 1886.
- 32 Letter from Postmaster Francis S. Fadelle, docketed September 6, 1895, Dominica Archives.
- 33 Letter from Commissioner Edward Baynes, docketed July 4, 1894, Dominica Archives.
- 34 *Dominica Guardian*, February 10, 1897.
- 35 Letter from Clarence James, docketed August 4, 1897, Dominica Archives.
- 36 Letter from Fredk. Alexander, docketed August 18, 1897, Dominica Archives.
- 37 *The Dominican*, December 8 and 15, 1898.
- 38 Christie's Robson Lowe, "The T. V. Roberts Collection," lot 2105.
- 39 Christie's Robson Lowe, "The T. V. Roberts Collection," lot 2099.
- 40 Robson Lowe (London), "Dominica," sale No. 3957 (March 12, 1975), lot 2226.
- 41 See *British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin* 126 (September 1985): 57.

An Invitation

Good times, good company and conviviality always seem to abound when BCPSGers get together. Celebrating will get an early start this year when the Group meets for its 30th anniversary at INDYPEX on September 6-8. We hope to host a record turnout of our members in Indianapolis for the three-day show. Between Group get-togethers, our hospitality room at the Omni Hotel will be open for lively conversation.

For those bringing family and friends, Indianapolis provides a number of first-rate visitor attractions to keep the non-collector. For the sports-minded, the nearby Hoosier Dome is hosting the qualifying event for the 1992 Olympics, the World Gymnastics

Championships. Art lovers will be there in time for the Penrod Art Fair, the premier event of the year at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. For those seeking a little ethnic fun and frivolity, the city's popular yearly Oktoberfest will take place in German Park.

Be sure to come to the hospitality room to pick up informational materials on the city and events. And I will be there to give you ideas on sightseeing and nearby restaurants. - JOAN LARSEN

***Send in your renewal early!
It will help the Group and it will help you.***

Comments on the Turks Islands Surcharges and Bisects, 1881-1895

by M. H. LUDINGTON

In a tiny colony like the Turks and Caicos islands, with a population in the late 19th century of fewer than 5,000, the majority of the inhabitants may have been literate, but only a very small proportion actually wrote letters. Thus the requirements of the Post Office for postage stamps were very small. Add to this the fact that some of the letter writers were in important positions and were stamp collectors, and the possibilities for unnecessary issues and varieties could easily occur.

It is well known that the local Commissioner from 1893 to 1901, Edward J. Cameron, was a collector who wrote quantities of letters to his relatives and friends - and sent them stamps. It is quite possible that one or more of his predecessors also collected.

Hugh Houston Hutchings was the son of Joseph F. Hutchings (1826-1890) of Bermuda, who on 14 January 1854 founded *The Royal Standard and Gazette of the Turks and Caicos Islands*, published weekly on Saturdays. Joseph died on 19 November 1890, and the paper was continued by his son Hugh until 1907. The newspaper press was used to print the surcharges of 1881, 1889, and 1893. Many covers from Hugh Hutchings, both to relatives and friends in Bermuda and to other destinations, have survived - often obviously philatelic, for he too was a keen stamp collector. Not a few of the covers he mailed had stamps from several issues, sometimes overpaying the postage.

John C. Crisson, the postmaster of the Turks Islands from about 1868 into the late 1890s, was, if not a stamp collector himself, agreeable to the acceptance of bisected stamps made by his collector friends. Quite possibly, since he also held other official positions, he may somewhat have neglected his duties as postmaster, for on several occasions regular stamps were not ordered from England soon enough to prevent local surcharges from having to be made.

When the Turks Islands joined the UPU on 1 January 1881, ½d, 2½d, and 4d stamps were required

immediately, but regular stamps of these values did not arrive from England until August 1881 (4d) and February 1882 (½d and 2½d). The order from the Crown Agents to De La Rue for the 4d was dated 4 March 1881 and for the ½d and 2½d was dated only 29 July 1881 - several months after these values should have been available. During the six to 14 months before the regular new values were received, there was a small but genuine postal need for the locally surcharged stamps. Used copies are rare and, since they are invariably cancelled by the bar cancellation, it is impossible to tell when off-cover examples were used. Only four covers with these provisionals have been traced by me, and all four were mailed between 1891 and 1896 - 10 to 15 years late. The reason for the many types and settings of the surcharges, some of which are still available in mint blocks and sheets, seems to have been to supply the demands of dealers and collectors, not the real needs of the Post Office.

A number of Turks Islands stamps of the 1880s and 1890s are known bisected to make up the correct postage rates. Whether or not they were made necessary by a genuine shortage of stamps at the Post Office is a matter of opinion. But since they were accepted by the Turks Island postmaster and, consequently, by the foreign postal administrations when sent abroad, they must be considered genuine varieties, and they have been accepted as such by the major catalogues.

It should be pointed out that until at least 1905, the Turks Islands continued to use the "T I" bar cancellation to cancel stamps, with the datestamp struck nearby in a second operation. Thus dates of use can only be determined for stamps on complete covers or sufficiently large pieces.

The first stamp known to have been bisected is the 1d orange-brown of 1883, line-perforated 13, with the Crown and CA watermark - which, incidentally, is always reversed. Examples have been seen by me bisected either diagonally or vertically, but only on

undated small pieces (Figure 1), though the catalogues price it on cover, without giving any dates of use.



Figure 1

The 4d gray of 1884, comb-perforated 14, watermark Crown and CA, is known bisected diagonally as a 2d value. Illustrations of only two examples have been seen by me, both of the lower right half, used with the ½d on 4d surcharged provisional of June 1893 stuck against the diagonal cut. One is on a small piece with the top of the datestamp, but no date, nearby; and the other has had the paper removed around the stamps, though some is still on the back and the cancellation ties the two stamps together (Figure 2). Both must obviously have been used after June 1893, but again the catalogues price the variety on cover.



Figure 2



Figure 3

In May 1889, the 2½d red-brown of 1894 was surcharged locally "One Penny". Besides printing varieties, such as sloping surcharges (Figure 3) and misplaced surcharges reading "Penny One", with "Penny" only in the last vertical row (Figure 4), the stamp is known bisected diagonally. A joined strip of two and a half stamps, the right stamp bisected, paying a postage rate of 2½d, is on a cover dated MY 26 91, addressed to a German stamp dealer in Aue, Saxony (Figure 5). The arrival backstamp of Aue of 6.6.91 is on the back. It would be interesting to know if the other half of the bisected stamp was used and has survived. This bisect was recently listed in the Gibbons catalogue, and the cover has a certificate of genuineness from the B.P.A.

The 1d of July 1889, Scott No. 45, is actually found in several shades, which are listed by Gibbons as No. 62 crimson lake, No. 63 lake, and No. 64 pale rosy lake. The Gibbons catalogue mentions that two shades can be found bisected. A cover exists with two complete stamps and a bisect, all joined, in the crimson lake shade, used on MY 28 96 to Hamilton, Bermuda, with the St. Georges Type H5 of 1 JU 1896 struck in transit on the back (Figure 6). (The Pickford and Black steamers running between Jamaica and Turks Islands to Halifax called at St. Georges in both directions.) On the flap is the engraved cachet of Hugh H. Hutchings. While Hutchings was a stamp collector, this cover does not appear to be philatelic, as Henry Lockward and Charles V. Ingham were president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the Bermuda Telephone Co.

A pair and a separate diagonal bisected copy of the 1d in the lake shade are known on piece with the datestamp of NO 29 95 (Figure 7). The bisect is well tied by the bar cancellation.

The 5d of June 1894 also exists bisected to make the 2½d rate. This bisect is listed and priced on cover in both Scott and Gibbons.

Figure 4



Two examples are known, both on covers dated NO 21 95 and both addressed to New York. They originally formed one stamp, cut diagonally from the upper right corner to the lower left - the only examples I have seen cut in this direction.

1. The upper left diagonal half used with a complete 5d stamp on a printed envelope addressed to "Mr. E.J.H. DARRELL, c/o Lebess' Sponge Co., 57 Maiden Lane, NEW YORK." (Figure 8). On the back is the arrival datestamp: "P.O.N.Y./B/11-27-95/10A/ PAID ALL". From the photograph, the envelope does not appear to have been extra thick and heavy, so it is not clear why the triple rate was paid.
2. Only the upper portion of the front of the second cover was illustrated in the auction catalogues (Figure 9). The bisect is the lower right diagonal half of the same stamp, but used alone. A manuscript "p. s.s. Saginaw" appears in the upper left side and the catalogue description states that it was addressed to New York, perhaps also to E.J.H. Darrell. Presumably the same New York arrival datestamp is on the back.

The remaining examples known to me were all cut diagonally from the upper left corner to the lower right. One, a lower left bisect, is on a small piece and is consequently undated. Four are on complete covers and were all used on DE 31 95 on printed envelopes addressed to: "Mr. B. R. Christiansen, Nos. 78 & 80 Broad Street, New York,

N.Y." All are backstamped "P.O.N.Y./H/1-14-96/6P/ PAID ALL".

3. In the Royal collection. No illustration is available, but it is described as an upper right diagonal bisect.
4. Upper right diagonal bisect (Figure 10). The cut barely touches the bottom left of the vertical of the T of "TURKS" (see diagram). A second arrival datestamp is on the back, inscribed "P/1-14-96/7P/N.Y."

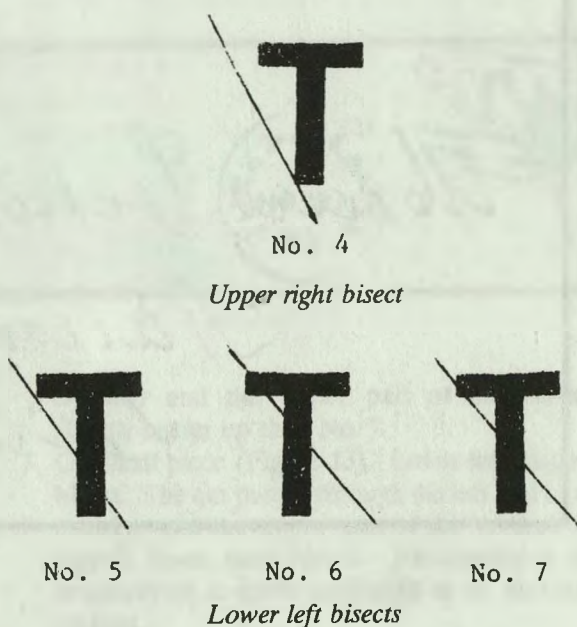


Figure 5

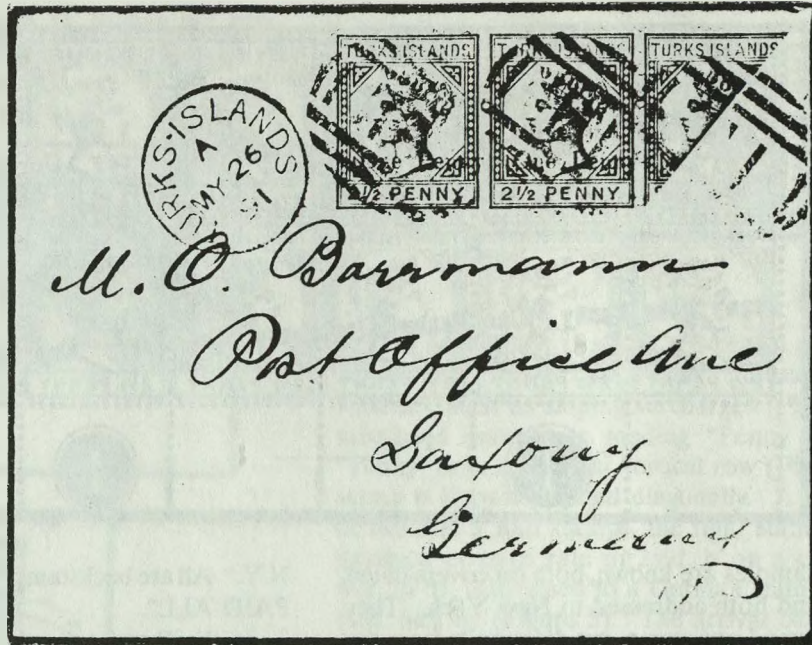
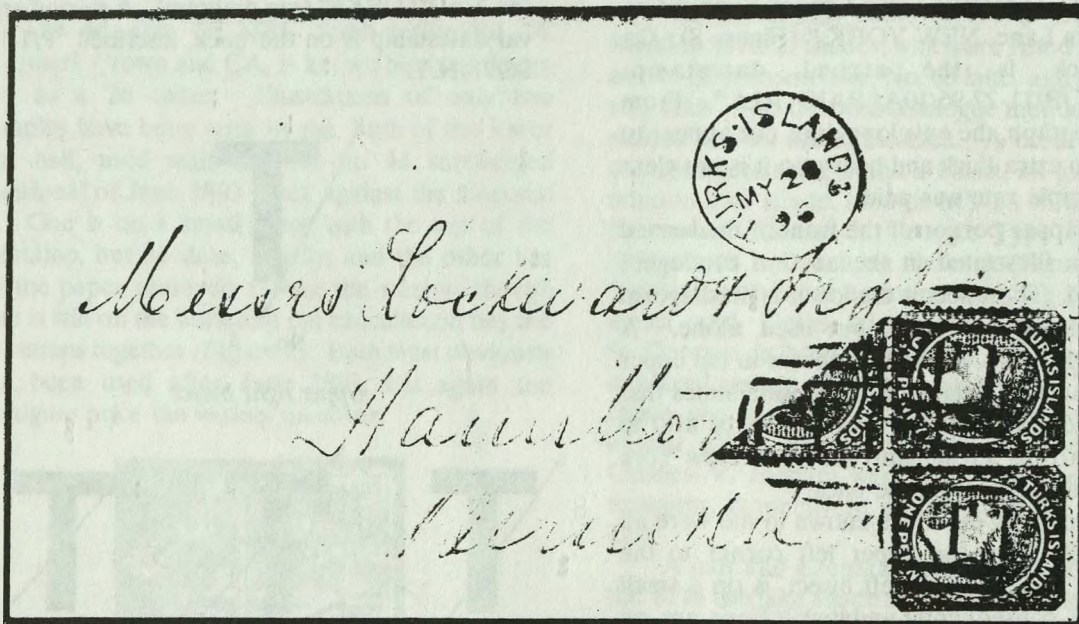


Figure 6



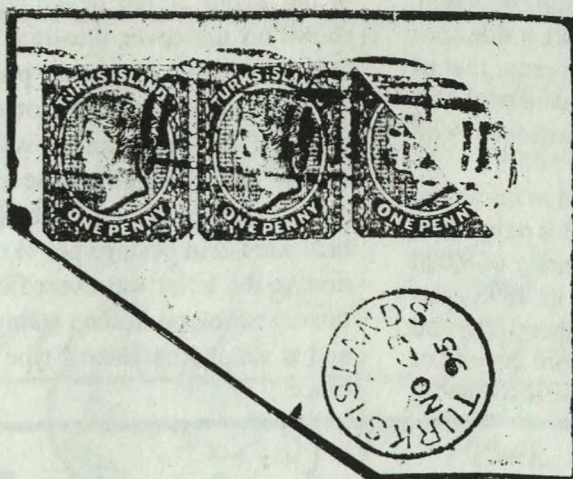


Figure 7

Figure 8

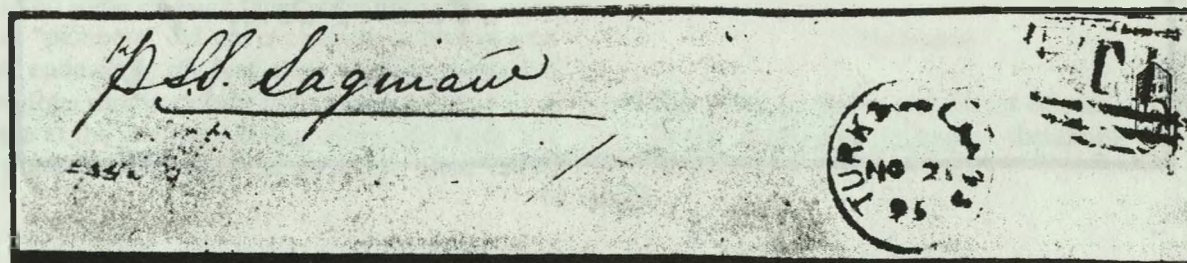
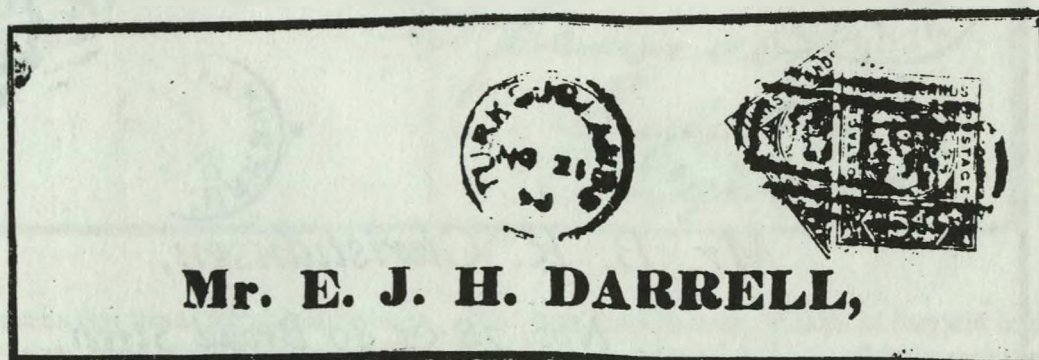


Figure 9

5. Lower left diagonal bisect (Figure 11). The cut just misses the left end of the crossbar and passes through the lower part of the vertical of the T of "TURKS" (see diagram). The cover has only the "NEW YORK PAID ALL" arrival datestamp on the back.
6. Lower left diagonal bisect (Figure 12, reduced scale). The cut passes through the left side of the crossbar and the upper part of the vertical, slightly higher up than No. 7.
7. On small piece (Figure 13). Lower left diagonal bisect. The cut passes through the left end of the crossbar and the upper part of the vertical, but slightly lower than No. 6. Presumably it was originally on a cover addressed to B. R. Christiansen.

It is possible that No. 3, in the Royal collection, is the other half of No. 5, 6, or 7, but No. 4 does not match with any of these. Thus it would seem that at least eight covers, and perhaps more, were probably mailed on 31 December 1895 to Christiansen, who was almost certainly a stamp dealer.

Whether there was a genuine need to bisect the 5d stamps at the end of December 1895 is debatable, for, according to Challis, a second printing of 9,000 of the 2½d ultramarine, first issued in 1893, was invoiced by De La Rue on 12 November 1895 and would certainly have been received before the end of the year. In fact, some 2½d stamps were available

in the island at the beginning of December, as is shown on the cover illustrated in Figure 14, dated DE 2 95. It is, of course, possible that these 2½d stamps had been bought some time earlier by the writer of the letter, and it is unfortunate that they are not tied, though there seems to be no reason to doubt that they belong. The rates to England at this time were 2½d postage per ½ ounce and 2d registration, so the letter was overpaid ½d. This postal stationery envelope has no stamp printed on the flap and is simply a standard type available for all colonies.

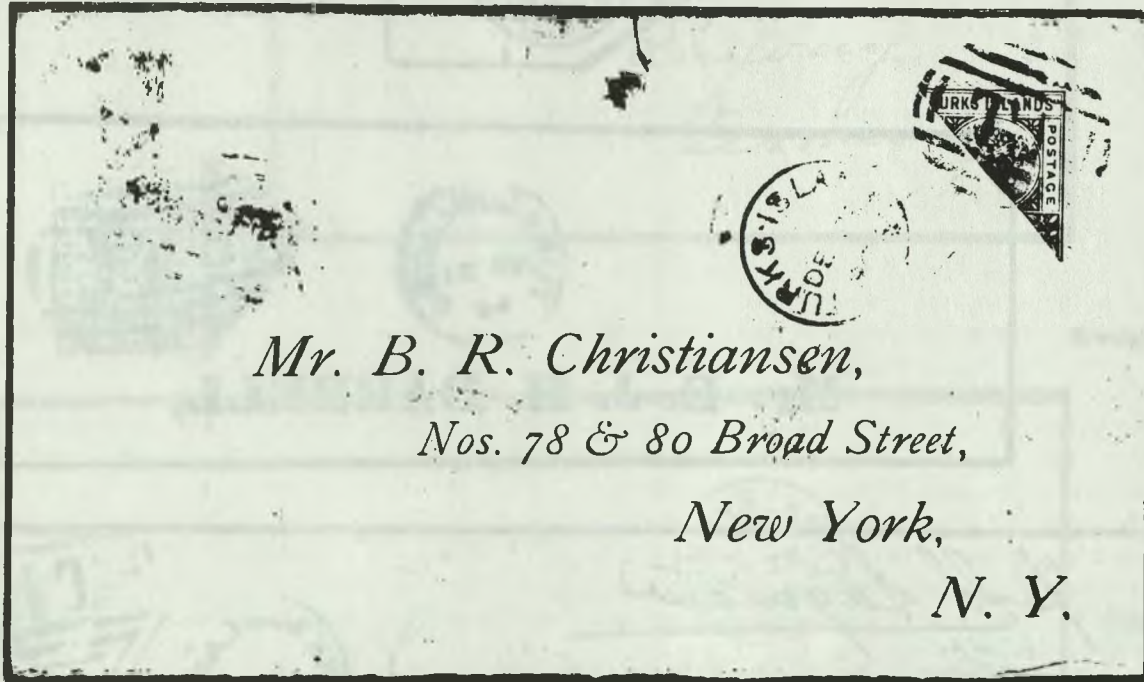


Figure 10

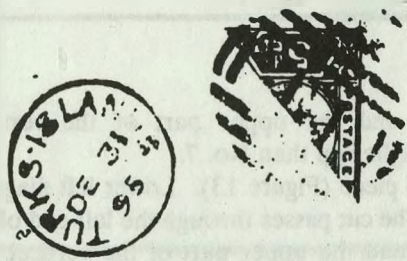


Figure 11

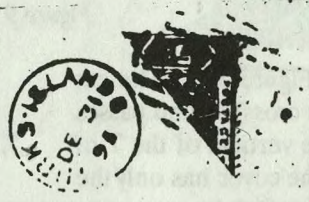


Figure 12
(reduced)



Figure 13

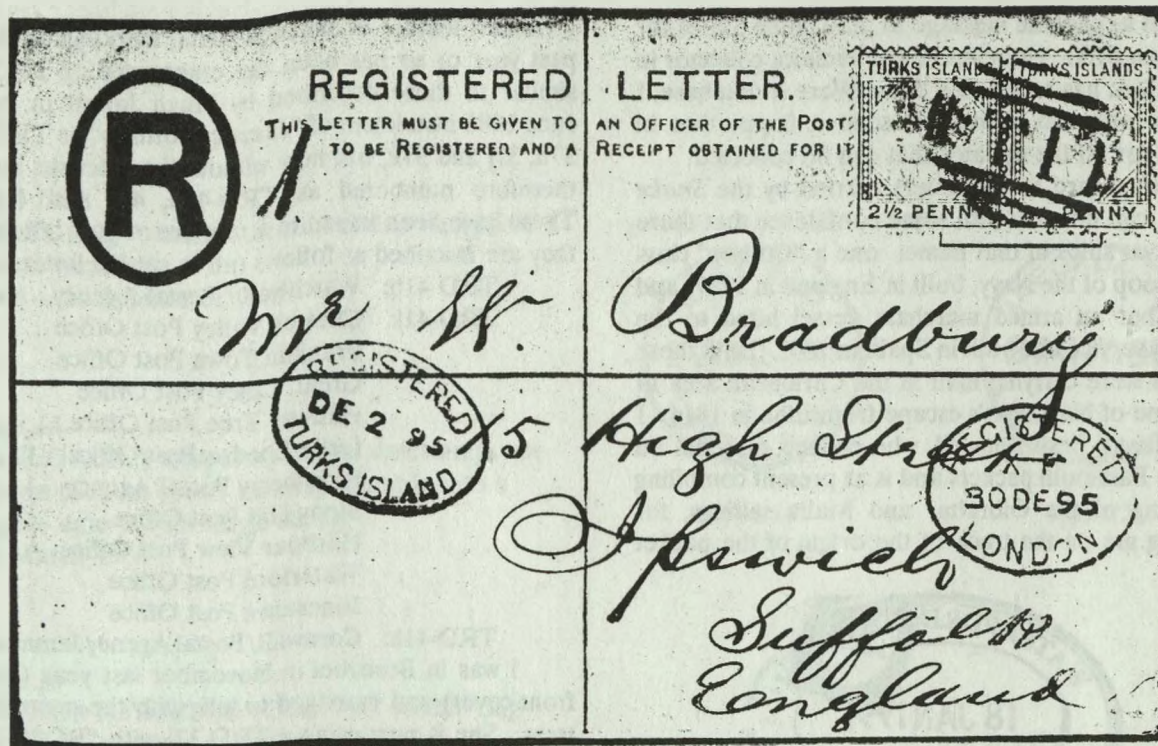


Figure 14

Thus it can be seen that “made for collectors” varieties are not a recent phenomenon, but date back over a hundred years and, because of their age, have acquired some measure of respectability. Of course, these “pioneers” did not overwhelm collectors with their endeavors, the way their modern successors have done with irrelevant and unnecessary issues. A glance at the catalogue listing shows that in the last 33 years the Turks and Caicos Islands have issued

over nine times as many stamps as they did in the first 33 years, the great majority solely for collectors.

Reference

Challis, John J. *Turks and Caicos Islands to 1960*. *Roses Caribbean Philatelic Handbook* no. 6 (1983).

Jamaica Jottings

by IAN A. POTTER

Over the last year, with the help of Hugh James I have been putting Bob Topaz's listing of Jamaica postmarks onto a computerised database and updating it as much as possible. I have of course incorporated my own material and much modern informa-

tion from “Scriv” Scrivens. I will be contacting many U.K. Jamaica collectors in the near future to ask them to add their material. Unfortunately, the cost of making a printout (more than two reams of paper) and the postage charges would make it very

difficult to pass the message to the United States for less than \$100. However, if any Jamaica collector in the U.S.A. has access to a SmartWare II database, I will be only too pleased to send a floppy disc in return for all the updates that can be collected.

With regard to the letters carried by the *Snake* ship, I can now say with some confidence that there were two ships of that name: one a "Cruiser" class ship sloop of the Navy, built in England in 1797; and the other an armed merchant vessel hired to the packet service and built in Spain in 1802. Both these vessels were carrying mail in the Caribbean area at the time of Napoleon's escape from Elba in 1814. I must thank Basil Benwell, who collects material on all the Falmouth packets and is at present compiling a listing of the Gibraltar and Malta sailings, for putting me on the track of the origin of the packet ship.



A new feature of Jamaica postal markings in the past year or so has been the emergence of TRDs similar to those described by Hugh James in the June 1988 instalment of "Jamaica Jottings" as TRD-37h, 37j and 37k, but now without the asterisks and therefore numbered as TRD-41h, 41j and 41k. These have been issued to a number of post offices; they are inscribed as follows (all in capital letters):

TRD-41h: Watchwell / Postal Agency

TRD-41j: Chester Valley Post Office
Franklin Town Post Office
Great Valley Post Office
Halfway Tree Post Office
Little London Post Office
Strawberry Postal Agency
Stony Hill Post Office
Harbour View Post Office
Waterford Post Office
Jonestown Post Office

TRD-41k: Cornwall/Postal Agency Jamaica.

I was in Boscobel in November last year (see front cover) and managed to talk with the postmistress. She is now using a TRD-37j with "BOSCOBEL POST OFFICE" spelled correctly. However, she still has the old Birmingham Type 1 cancel misspelled "BOSCABEL" and may use it again if another correct steel die is not forthcoming.

British Virgin Islands Postal Markings, 1787-1956

by J. L. FREDRICK and PETER P. MCCANN, PH.D.

[Continued from W/N 159]

Type 12

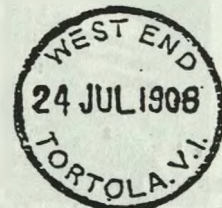
"VIRGIN-GORDA/V.I."; single-ring datestamp
1902 - 21 November 1930



Type 12

Type 13

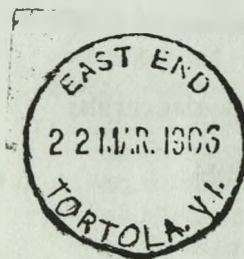
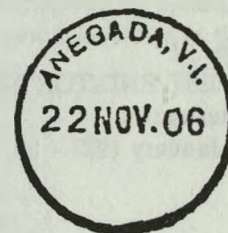
"WEST END/TORTOLA.V.I."; temporary rubber datestamp; only two covers known
13 July 1906 - 26 March 1910



Type 13

Type 14

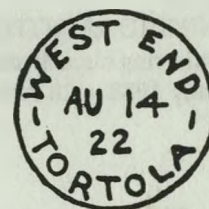
"EAST END"; temporary rubber datestamp; exists in two varieties
1906 - 24 September 1913

*Type 14**Type 15**Type 15*

"ANEGADA"; temporary rubber datestamp; not known used on cover; the only example with a legible date is on a single stamp
31 March 1908

Type 16

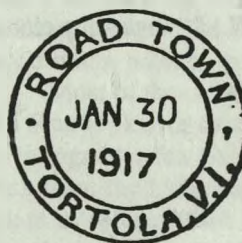
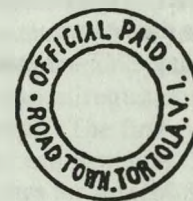
"ROAD•TOWN/TORTOLA.V.I."; double-ring circular datestamp; four variants exist
20 July 1906 - 1 August 1938

*Type 16**Type 17**Type 17*

"WEST END/TORTOLA"; single-ring circular datestamp; two colors are known
black: 26 March 1910 - 22 November 1911
violet: 19 February 1921 - 19 June 1926

Type 18

"ROAD TOWN • TORTOLA.V.I. •"; large double-ring circular datestamp
2 September 1916 - 3 October 1917

*Type 18**Type 19**Type 19*

"OFFICIAL PAID • ROAD TOWN. TORTOLA. V.I. •"; double-ring circular handstamp, some seen with dates (fewer than 10 examples known)
1907 - 1919

Type 20

“TORTOLA/V.I.”; small double-ring circular datestamp

24 September 1916 - 23 December 1930



Type 20



Type 21

Type 21

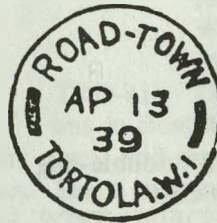
“WEST END/TORTOLA”; single-ring circular datestamp

10 January 1927 - 18 October 1944

Type 22

“ROAD-TOWN/TORTOLA.W.I.”; single-ring circular datestamp

6 April 1938 - 27 April 1940



Type 22



Type 23

Type 23

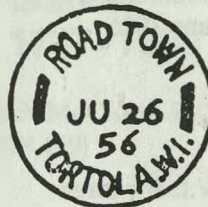
“ANEGADA/BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS”; double-ring circular datestamp

30 July 1938 - 28 April 1944

Type 24

“ROAD TOWN/TORTOLA.W.I.”; single-ring circular datestamp

18 March 1941 - 26 June 1956



Type 24



Type 25

Type 25

“ROAD-TOWN/TORTOLA.W.I.”; single-ring circular datestamp

18 May 1942 - November 1953

Type 26

“ROAD-TOWN/TORTOLA.W.I.”; single-ring circular datestamp

3 January 1949 - 12 December 1951



Type 26

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- This three-part article was followed by updates, comments, and reports of new discoveries in the *BWISC Bulletin*, as follows:
- no. 40, March 1964: 18
 - no. 60, March 1969: 12-14
 - no. 61, June 1969: 18-20
 - no. 63, December 1969: 85
 - no. 64, March 1970: 22-23
 - no. 65, June 1970: 50
 - no. 69, June 1971: 42-43
 - no. 77, June 1973: 43-44
 - no. 79, December 1973: 84-85
 - no. 80, March 1974: 18.

Leeward Islands Part VI: The Georgian Period

by MICHAEL N. OLIVER

6.1 Introduction

When King Edward VII died on 6th May 1910, his surviving elder son, the Duke of York, eminent philatelist and President of the Royal Philatelic Society, became King George V.

De La Rue's Universal key plates were being used extensively by this time: 18 territories employed either or both the "Postage" and "Postage and Revenue" types in 1911. With four changes the same number of territories employed them with the new king's head, and two new additions - Ceylon in 1912 and Nigeria in 1914 - were very large users. For example, between 1914 and 1936, there were one million ½d and four and a half million 1d stamps printed for Leeward Islands, compared with 11 and 64 million respectively for Nigeria and probably at least double for the equivalent duties of Ceylon. Between 1907 and 1912, De La Rue introduced two other small-type key plates that were employed by

seven other territories, some using more than one and St. Lucia using all three. They had been making, and printing from, 240- and 480-forme plates for many years on their British and Indian contracts, for which the quantities were enormous. In 1880, on securing the contract for the British 1d stamp, they printed 1,000 million in the first year alone. Indent No. 1 of India for the year 1900-01 comprised 164 million stamps. The Leeward Islands printings averaged half a million stamps per annum over 66 years.

Most of the colonies, including the nine that De La Rue took over from Perkins Bacon, requisitioned printings of a few thousand stamps. The first printing from the Universal "Postage and Revenue" key plate in 1889 totalled 10,200 stamps for three different duties.

6.2 Problems at De La Rue

In 1910, at the peak of their production, De La Rue

took their standing and influence for granted. Shortly before King Edward's death, the British contract came up for renewal. When the tenders were assessed, the Board of Inland Revenue asked De La Rue if they could reduce their prices a little. Although making vast profits they flatly refused, in the arrogant belief that their position in large-volume security surface printing was unassailable. They managed to lose the contract to Harrison & Co., who had never printed a stamp before. Offered a share of the contract, Andros De La Rue replied that his firm would print all or none. They printed none. After seeing the Harrison proofs, King George later confided to Andros that "these new stamps [the Mackennals] make me look like a monkey," but for the first time in over 30 years the head of De La Rue could do nothing about it. Andros died before having to suffer the ignominy of sticking a Harrison stamp onto his letters.

In the event, the Harrison stamps were much derided and greatly inferior in quality to De La Rue's. Nevertheless, by then much of the Bunhill Row works was idle. The British contract comprised over half of De La Rue's total stamp production. Whilst the firm also printed for over 50 colonial territories, this amounted to little more than 2 per cent of output, of which the Universal key plates, produced at no charge, was barely half - less than 1 per cent of total production before the loss of the British contract. Although De La Rue still had the Indian contract, the firm had been seriously wounded and did not recover.

Despite a temporary reprieve in printing the new English paper banknotes on which they did not capitalize through bad management, the firm was bankrupt in 1922, the same year they lost the Indian contract.

Just prior to this a chief executive from Waterlow & Sons was appointed managing director and he, in turn, brought in a number of key personnel. On his suggestion, De La Rue sued Waterlow following their recent acquisition of Waterlow Bros. & Leighton (English banknote printers) for payments due through a private arrangement between the principals of the two firms whereby they compensated each other according to which method of printing was chosen for printing the banknotes. De La Rue won damages of £120,000 - much-needed capital -

but during the case another long-standing personal agreement was revealed. The principals had operated a similar arrangement for many years to pay or compensate each other in cash for De La Rue to have the British and colonial - and Waterlow, the foreign - stamp markets. This bombshell, affecting government agencies, resulted in a public enquiry. Stuart De La Rue, then head of the firm, was severely reprimanded and shortly after the family relinquished control of the firm.

The new management, with their Waterlow expertise, set about modernizing the outdated machinery and methods still employed from the last century. By 1928 new rotary presses, perforators, and gumming machinery had been installed. Among the key Waterlow personnel recruited was their chief engraver; through him they set out to compete with Waterlow and Bradbury Wilkinson in producing finely executed two-colour, recess-printed pictorials to replace the dowdy and by now uneconomical surface-printed key-plate designs.

Although by 1933 they had only converted two colonies, both not using the Universal key plates, the company was profitable for the first time in 20 years. Three years later, they were surface-printing Universal key plates for only four colonies. This number was reduced to two in 1938, and from 1950 to only Leeward Islands, who continued with them until their final demise in 1956, after 77 years' continuous usage of the colonial key plates.

Surprisingly, De La Rue designed another dowdy colonial key plate, accepted by the Crown Agents and printed for some colonies for the anticipated King Edward VIII issue. These were destroyed before despatch when the king abdicated. However, the design was photogravured by Harrisons for the first colonial definitive stamp bearing the head of King George VI - the Grenada ¼d. Only four stamps of this design were printed, spanning 17 years, and each with a different portrait.

6.3 The Universal Postage and Revenue Key Plates (see Table 1)

The only change in the design was the new monarch's head. The master die was sent for hardening on 13th December 1911 and Plate 1, in 240-forme, was first used to print for Mauritius in late January

1912. The first stamps issued were the ½d and 2d Cayman Islands, on 24th April 1912.

Table 1

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAGE & REVENUE KEY PLATES
GEORGE V

PLATE	Die I											Die II											Die I		Die II			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Forme	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200	200
Spere leads	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	
No. present	TB	TB	TB	TB	TB	TB	T	TB	B	TB	B	T	B	TB	TB	T	B	TB	T	B	TB	T	B	TB	S	TB	TB	
Plates bolted								7		7	16	5	14	13		20	20			27*	25	24					22	
Dates in Use			1912-1115			1912-1115	1917	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919	1917-1919
½d																												
¾d																												
1d red																												
1d violet																												
1½d red																												
1½d brown																												
2d																												
2½d blue																												
2½d orange																												
3d purple																												
3d blue																												
4d																												
5d																												
6d																												
1s																												
2s																												
2½d																												
3s																												
4s																												
5s																												

"No. present" indicates known examples in top (T) and bottom (B) selvages. An asterisk (*) indicates that later printings have the number missing in the bottom selvedge. "Plates bolted" indicates what other plate was used to make a 240-forme printing plate.

- Plate used in the Leeward Islands
- Duty not in use
- Recorded in Royal collection
- Not recorded in Royal collection by Wilson
- Coils only

No example of Plate 27 has been seen (used for Ceylon and Nigeria only).

A total of 28 key plates were made plus four others for Ceylon in the 27 years they were in use. Two dies were engraved - the first (Die I) was condemned in 1920 when making Plate 10 (Figure 1). A second die (Die II) was struck, with distinctive border differences from which Plate 10 was made.

Although Die I was condemned it was not defaced or destroyed, for it was erroneously used to make Plates 23, 24 and 25 in 1931. Plate 23 was used for four colonies, and Plates 24 and 25 were made in 100 forme to be bolted together and only used to print the 5c and 10c Straits Settlements in 200-forme. Almost a year later De La Rue realised what had happened and the three plates were taken out of service and replaced by Plate 26. Even after 10 years' storage since being condemned there are no noticeable imperfections on the Plate 23, 24 and 25 printings to indicate why (Figure 2).

To most economically accommodate the wide range in sizes of printings requisitioned - for example, 21 sheets of Leeward Islands 6d duty in 60-set to over 10,000 sheets of Nigeria 1d duty in 240-set in 1917 - De La Rue made all the key plates (except Nos. 1, 14, 15, 24 and 25) in 120-forme and bolted some of them together to print in 240-forme when required, either for 240-set duty plates or to cut in half before the duty plate was overprinted in 120- or 60-set on the separate halves, sometimes for the same colony, sometimes for different colonies.

Because the 240-forme printings were usually separated at the post office of sale for ease of handling, very few examples exist to deduce which plates were bolted together. The number plugs were removed from the central margin because they would have overprinted. Furthermore, some were removed and at least one fell out and was not replaced, probably when the plate had a dual role in its life.

Later printings from Plate 1 have no number in the bottom selvedge. Plate 10, made in 120-forme and used for 11 territories, never had number plugs in the top selvedge. Plate 26 has the numbers missing in the bottom selvedge on later printings.

Known combinations of plates bolted together and printed in 240-forme are: 7 & 9, 7 & 12, 13 & 16, 18 & 20, 19 & 20 and it is thought also 22 & 27 and possibly 26 & 27 or 28 for some of their usage. Plates 14 & 15, as well as 24 & 25, were made in 100-forme and printed for Straits Settlements only in 200-forme (Figure 3). With the exception of Plates 14 and 15, there is strong evidence that the lower-numbered plate was always the top half.

The CA Plate Issue Register for Nigeria confirms that Plates 18 and 20 were bolted together to print the 1d in 240-forme and Plate 18 was used on

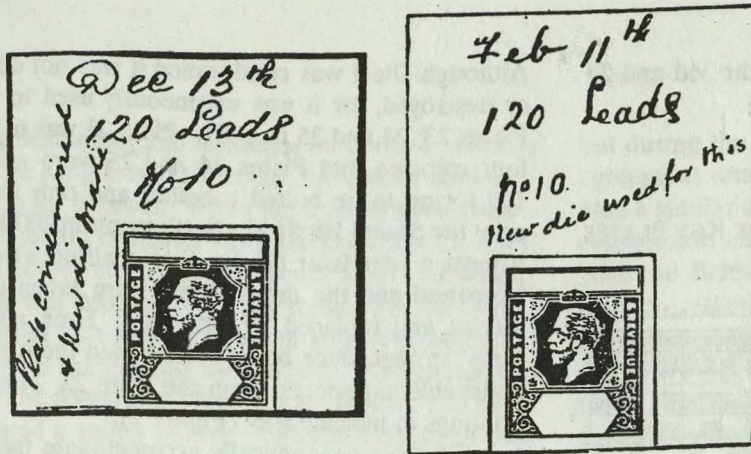


Figure 1

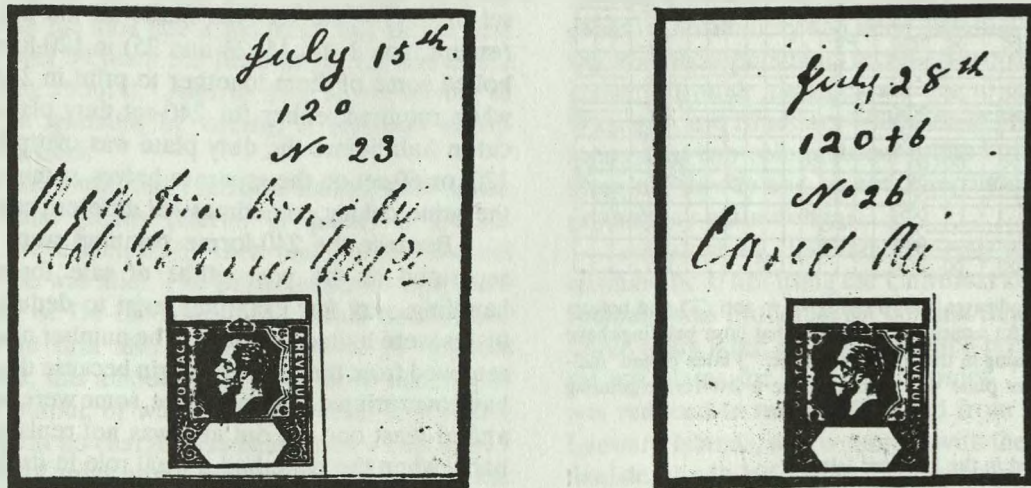


Figure 2

These DLR file copies explain the reappearance of Die I. On the left, July 15th (1931), Plate 31, Die I; a pencilled note reads: "Made from wrong die; plate (condemned) Oct. 32." On the right, July 28th (1932), Plate 26, Die II; the pencilled note (in the same hand and with the same date) reads: "Correct die."



Figure 3

Plates 24 and 25 were also made from Die I in 100-forme and condemned at the same time. They were bolted together to print the Straits Settlements 5c and 10c values.

its own to print other duties of the same requisition. This verifies, I think, that 240-forme keyplate impressions were cut in half by DLR before overprinting with different duty plates, as both Plates 18 and 20 were issued for other colonies in 120-set. There is a DLR Die Proof record copy with the manuscript note "Nov 24th/240+6/No. 19+20".

Whilst the numbers of Plates 19 and 20 only occur in the top and bottom selvages respectively, the number is present in all four corners on Plate 18. This suggests Plates 19 and 20 were made in November 1926 and Plate 19 was withdrawn before September 1928 (it had only limited use) and replaced by Plate 18 to make the 240-forme with Plate 20. The bottom numbers were not removed as they would not overprint and were also required for its dual role in 120-forme printing.

A bottom perforated selvedge without number is from the centre of a 240-forme printing. A bottom imperforate selvedge without number on paper watermarked Multiple Crown and CA is from Plate 1. A bottom imperforate selvedge on the Multiple Crown and Script CA paper is most probably from Plate 26. Top and bottom perforated selvages without number and a distinct square corner to the marginal rule are from Plate 1. All other plates have a circled quadrant at the corners.

6.4 The Duty Plates (see Table 2)

The duty plates need to be considered separately from the different key plates and catalogued issues. They were made, charged to the colony and replaced when worn out, irrespective of which monarch's head they were overprinted onto. The normal life of a duty plate was about 35,000 impressions when in regular use. Long periods of storage seemed to be detrimental to their condition, causing replacements after much smaller numbers of impressions.

Prior to about 1912 all duty plates made for the Universal key plates were produced in 60-set, even though a 240-forme key plate was made in 1902. The first 120-set duty plates made for Leeward Islands were replacements for the 1/2d and 1d in 1914.

With the very large orders for Ceylon and Nigeria plus Sierra Leone and Straits Settlements, De La Rue made changes to their procedures to accommo-

Table 2

THE DUTY PLATES

Duty	60 set (No Marginal Rule)				120 set (MR = Marginal Rule)				
	First Ptg.	Last Ptg.	Impressions	SP	First Ptg.	Last Ptg.	Impressions	SP	MR
1/2d	May 1909	Jan 1938	29,798		Nov 1938	Jun 1949	18,521	4	MR
1/2d	Oct 1890	Jun 1914	34,448	12	Apr 1915	Jul 1949	20,795		
1d	Oct 1890	(1902)	(51,000)		Apr 1915	Nov 1938	32,434		
1d	(1902)	Jun 1914	(40,000)	12	Aug 1940	Jul 1952	25,494	4	MR
1 1/2d					Jul 1926	Nov 1951	18,545	6	MR
2d	Feb 1902	(Aug 1926)	(12,234)		(Nov 1938)	(Aug 1943)	(2,512)		
2d					Apr 1944	Nov 1951	6,793		MR
2 1/2d	Oct 1890	Aug 1923	26,894	12	Aug 1926	Nov 1951	12,207		MR
3d	Feb 1902	Aug 1923	3,726		Dec 1923	Nov 1951	10,108		MR
4d	Oct 1890	Feb 1891	2,874		Mar 1922	Mar 1925	829	6	MR
5d					Mar 1922	Mar 1925	814	6	MR
6d	Oct 1890	Feb 1920	4,966	12	Jun 1923	Feb 1953	7,876		MR
7d	Oct 1890	Feb 1891	1,860						
1s	Oct 1890	(May 1936)	(6,902)		(Nov 1938)	(Oct 1943)	(1,484)		
1s					Apr 1944	Nov 1951	2,871		MR
2s					Mar 1922	Nov 1951	3,190	6	MR
2 1/2d	Feb 1902	Apr 1929	1,962						
3s					Mar 1922	Mar 1925	613	6	MR
4s					Mar 1922	Mar 1925	620	6	MR
5s	Oct 1890	Dec 1923	2,118		Nov 1938	Nov 1951	1,368		MR

Dates in brackets are assumed (see text). SP = number of spare leads made.

date these.

- Four special 240-forme key plates - three numbered 1 and one numbered 2 - were produced for the single-operation printings of the 1c, 3c, 5c and 6c of Ceylon. These key plates are easily identified by their combination of Dies I and II border characteristics. Plates 3 and 4, initially employed separately for 120-forme colonial printings, were bolted together in 1918 and converted into single-operation printings of the Ceylon 5c and remained in use until about 1929.

- As the original 60-set duty plates wore out and other new plates were ordered, they were made in 120-set. Nigeria and Sierra Leone had their duty plates for the postage rates made in 240-set.

- Although four territories had their duties in decimal currency, only Straits Settlements were printed in 200-forme. Plates 14 & 15 and 24 & 25 were produced in 100-forme, bolted together, and printed from duty plates in 100 set for the 5c and 10c only. However, other duty plates were made in 100-set and printed onto 120-forme key plates with two vertical blank rows removed before packing.

- The majority of flaws occur on the duty-plate im-

pression. This is understandable because it comprises many small isolated raised areas that make it much more susceptible to handling and printing damage than the key plate. With key plates printed in 120- and 240-forme and overprinted with duty plates in 60-, 120-, and (in some cases) 240-set, the ratio of flaws and errors to normal stamps will vary according to the printing combination between 1:60 and 1:240.

- Documentary evidence of replacements of duty plates is sparse. Whilst few are recorded in the Private Day books - which is surprising since the colonies paid for them - file copies of most of the *new* plates exist until the mid-1920s. From 1920, conclusive evidence of a new duty plate is the marginal rule, but there are exceptions.

- Some comments on the duty plates of Leeward Islands: prior to 1914, I think the only duty plate to be replaced was the 1d in 1902. Still in 60-set, the first King Edward VII issue had characteristics not present on the Plate 3 Queen Victoria printings, by which time the original duty plate had yielded 51,000 impressions and was clearly due for replacement.

The plate for the last new duty, the 1½d, was made in 1926 in 120-set with marginal rule. Only the first printing from Plate 11 had the complete marginal rule. Thereafter, it was removed from around the right-hand half of each pane and remained so until the last printing in 1951.

The five new duties - 4d, 5d, 2s, 3s and 4s - of 1922 in 120-set with marginal rule had this removed for the fourth and last printing from Plate 11 in 1925. The 1890 duty plate for 4d in 60-set either had been destroyed, was unserviceable, or was discarded in preference for the standard 120-set size in 1922. A new 5s in 120-set was made in 1924 but not used until 1938. The other uncertainties and changes occur after 1938 and will be discussed in a later article on the King George VI issues.

6.5 Paper

Until the expiry of their contract on 1st April 1912, all paper since 1878 had been machine-produced by R. D. Turner & Co. at their Roughway Mill, Tonbridge. It was ordered and supplied by the Crown Agents under a strict specification of quality and weight. This paper for surface printing was to weigh no less than 20 lbs. per ream (500 sheets), 22¾ inches wide by 22¾ inches long, the size to print a 480-forme sheet of standard-size stamps. Thick pa-

per for two-colour recess printing that had to be wetted three times was generally 25 per cent heavier.

A new contract was placed with W. Howard & Sons of Chartham Mills, Canterbury with the first supply delivered in March 1913. The paper was thinner and whiter, and had a finer grain. Howard's price for coloured papers - the Universal Colour Scheme was almost universal by now - was more than double Turner's and they required an order corresponding to about three years' printing supply.

De La Rue, still reeling from the loss of the British contract, temporarily regained some of Thomas's entrepreneurial challenge by experimenting with dyeing white paper and also coating the printed side only - hence the white-backs. The Crown Agents were evidently not impressed with their efforts and informed them in December 1913 that they had ordered coloured papers from another manufacturer, T. H. Saunders of Hawley Mill, Dartford. However, in 1918 De La Rue were complaining about the poor quality of Howard's paper: it could not be satisfactorily coated (presumably chalk-surfaced) or gummed, and much wastage was incurred.

The contract with Howards is recorded as being renewed in 1922 with the paper being manufactured again at Roughway Mill, which they had bought from Turner's successors. It is also recorded in the Colonial Journal that coloured papers from "the new mills" commenced in 1917-18. However, comparing the quality of impression of the chalk-surfaced, doubly-fugitive-ink printings between 1918 and 1923 strongly suggests that the contract must have changed in 1922. Clearly, stocks of three or four years' supply of coloured papers were not held after the problems over Howard's terms in 1913.

We do not know how many, if any, printings were on De La Rue coloured papers, whether or not Saunders provided only coloured papers, and for how long or when coloured papers from "the new mills" commenced. This, coupled with wartime difficulties - most dye pigments came from Germany and there was a general shortage of all levels of labour - became evident in the standard of printing, with wide variations in colour shades and quality of impression.

The surface-coated white-backs are easily recognised without reference to the back. They have the clearest impression and richest colours of any during this period. De La Rue, despite all their other troubles, had not lost their technical expertise.

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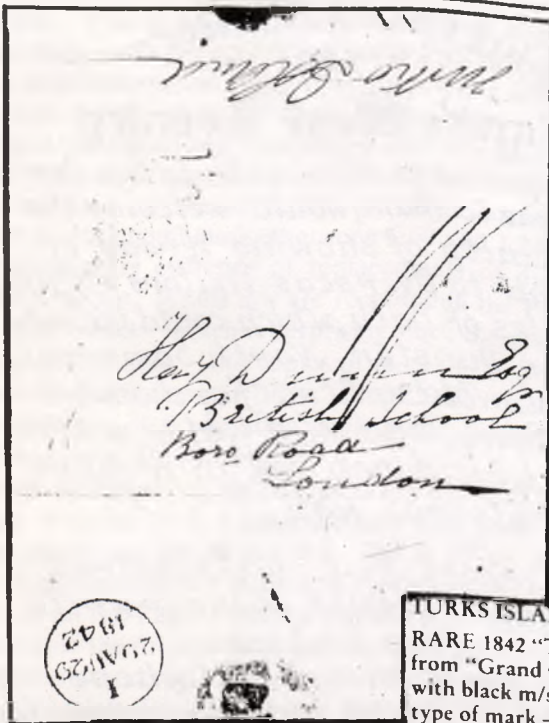
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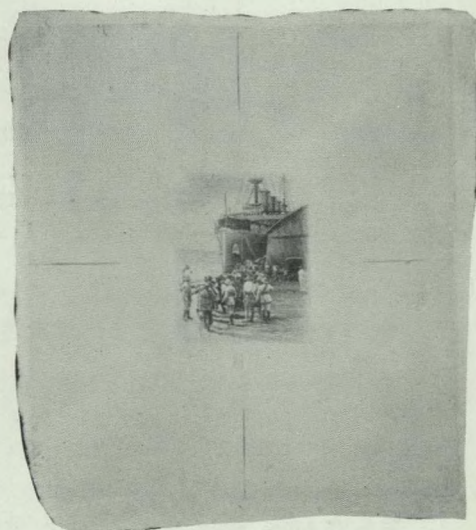
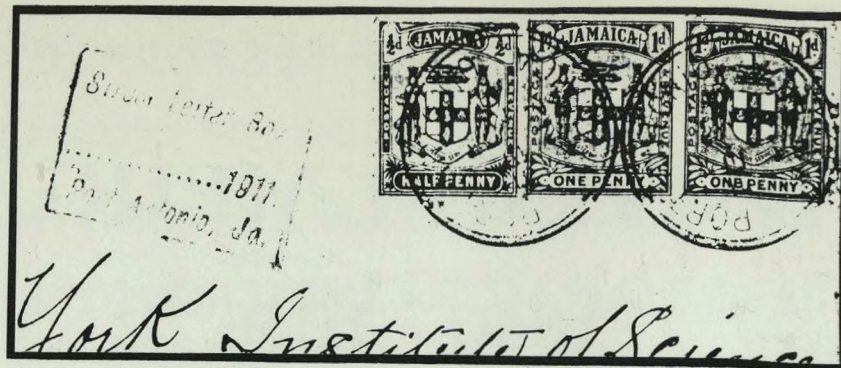
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