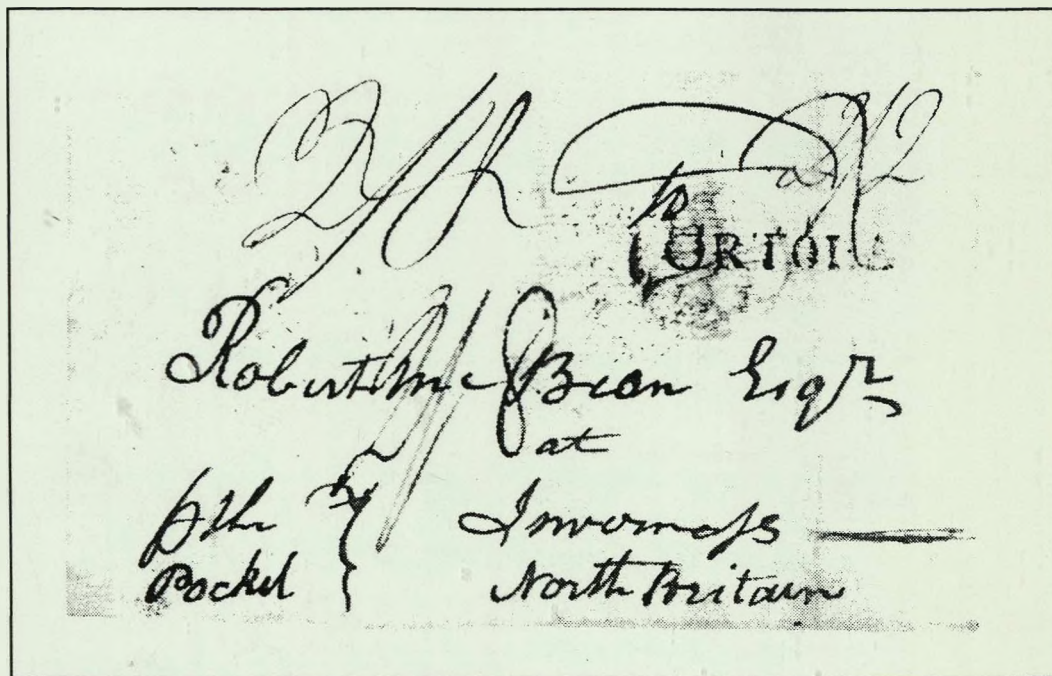


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*Letter written from Tortola in 1798,
with the second type of straightline handstamp known from that island
(see the article by C. Freeland and J. Fredrick, p.3)*

Also Featured:

Anguilla: a mystery stamp
Dominica: some postal markings
Jamaica jottings
St Lucia parcel post
St Vincent: a classification of the "queens"
Trinidad & Tobago perfins



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British Virgin Islands

The 'TORTOLA' Straightline Handstamps

by CHARLES FREELAND and JAY FREDRICK

When Charles first acquired the letter illustrated in Figure 2 (and on the front cover of the journal), he was intrigued by its early date and by the size of the letters, which were clearly larger and more closely spaced than the ones in the handstamp normally encountered in the early 1800s. Enquiries to Jay confirmed Charles's enthusiasm. Jay responded that it appeared to be an early state of the type 3 handstamp recorded by Colin Maycock in his 1963 article based on the Plantation Papers. The present article, the result of independent research by both authors, updates and expands on earlier information on the Tortola straightline handstamps supplied by Jay and Peter McCann in their June 1991 *BCPJ* article.

The Plantation Papers consist of a very large file of letters received between 1814 and 1854 by the Board of Customs in London, most of them written by its comptrollers and tax collectors in the colonies. There is a good

showing from virtually every British-owned island in the Caribbean. Maycock's summary descriptions of the files for each colony ran in successive issues of *The Philatelist* in the early 1960s, beginning in June 1962. These letters remain in the possession of the British government today.

In the correspondence for Tortola, which contained 324 letters, Maycock identified four different types of Robson Lowe's type PF handstamp, which is in two lines, with the date in the second line. Maycock recorded this type on 169 letters dated from 16 December 1814 to 9 April 1839 (all in black), and three subtypes used from 16 January 1841 until the straightline mark was superseded by a circular datestamp (Lowe type PL) in early 1848. He wrote that each of these subtypes was commonly struck in red on unpaid letters between October 1841 and October 1846. The last type PF example recorded by Maycock was dated November 1847.

Numbers ¹			Dates			Anomalies					
FF	FM	RL ²	PP	Dimensions ³ (in mm)	Configuration ⁴	ERD	LRD	Remarks	Description	ERD	LRD
FF1	1	PA	-	55 x 6½	no date	1787 Jun 22	-	1 ex. recorded			
FF2 ⁵	2	HSS/PD	-	35-36 x 4½-6½	no date	1796	1798 Dec 31	wide first 'O'			
					no date	1797 Mar 10	-	thin first 'O'			
FF3	3C	HS2c	PF3	35¼ x 4½ x 3½	MDY4	1800 Sep 21	1800 Oct 23				
						1839 Jul 27	1848 Jan 12				
FF4	3A	HS2a	PF1	33½ x 4 x 3½	MDY4	1801 Mar 5	1804 Jun 26		'803' for '1803'	1803 Nov 22	-
FF5	3D	HS2a	PF1	33½ x 4 x 3½	DMY4	1803 Jun 17	1815 Nov 4		'0815' for '1805'	1805 Mar 1	-
									'181' for '1811'	1811 Feb 24	1811 Dec 10
									'813' for '1813'	1813 Jun 30	-
FF6	3A	HS2a	PF1	33½ x 4 x 3½	MDY2	1814 Feb 15	-				
		HS2a	PF1		DMY2	1814 May 28	1839 Apr 9		'18' for '19'	1819 Jan 8	1819 Sep 22
FF7	3B	HS2b	PF2	32½ x 3½ x 3½	DMY4	1841 Jan 16	1845 Dec 29		'8145' for '1845'	1845 Nov 13	-
FF8	3D	HS2d	PF4	38 x 4 x 3	DMY4	1801 Sep 20	-				
		HS2d	PF4		DMY2	1841 Mar 2	-				
		HS2d	PF4		DMY4	1842 Apr ?	1847 Oct 29		inverted '9' for '6'	1846 3 Jul	-

Notes

1 FF = Free-land-Fredrick; FM = Fredrick-McCann; RL = Robson Lowe *Encyclopaedia*; PP = Plantation Papers (Maycock).

2 The Robson Lowe *Encyclopaedia* provides two categories of handstamp types:

- A general category, which applies to a number of colonies; types PA, PD, and PF (as well as type PL, mentioned in the text) fall into this category. Type PA refers to straightline handstamps in very large letters without a date; type PD denotes smaller handstamps without date; type PF encompasses handstamps in somewhat smaller letters, with the date on a second line; type PL is also known as the double-arc datestamp, seen from many British colonies (type 6 of the British Virgin Islands in the Fredrick-McCann article); and - A colony-specific category - in this case, types HS1 and HS2, with the latter being subdivided into four variants, and type HS5.

3 In order, the dimensions are as follows: i) the length of the word 'TORTOLA'; ii) the height of the word 'TORTOLA'; and iii) the height of the date (when present).

4 The date configuration refers to the order of the day (D), month (M), and year (Y); the numeral (2 or 4) indicates the number of digits normally present in the year date.

5 The regular handstamp has a large slanting first 'T', a large round first 'O' and a very thin second 'O' (as illustrated by Fredrick-McCann). The height of the letters is 4-5 mm, except for the first 'T', which is 6-7 mm high. There is no star as shown in the *Encyclopaedia* illustration. A second type, illustrated on p. 201 of Pickering's book, appears to have the 'O' reversed, with the second 'O' being round.

TORTOLA**

Type FF1

TORTOLA

Type FF2

TORTOLA

OCT 27 1800

Type FF3

TORTOLA

JUN 26 1804

Type FF4

TORTOLA

1 JAN 1806

Type FF5

TORTOLA

18 JUN 17

Type FF6

TORTOLA

31 MAY 1841

Type FF7

TORTOLA

20 OCT 1842

Type FF8

Although the Plantation Papers do not contain any pre-1814 letters, which were destroyed by fire in February 1814, there are other correspondences that cover the earlier period. The best known is the Thomas Walters correspondence between Tortola and Liverpool or Kendal, England. From the letters we have recorded, one can deduce that Walters was in Tortola in 1804, returned temporarily to England in 1808–09 and then went back to Tortola before finally settling in England in late 1813.

The earliest outbound Walters letter recorded by us with a type PF mark is dated 4 October 1808; the latest, 4 September 1825. There are also in excess of 20 letters with type PF marks from the archives of the Wesleyan mission, obtained by B. Rigby-Hall and sold over a long run of Rigby Postal History Auctions in the 1960s and 1970s. Our records do not contain many other letters originating in the Virgin Islands during this period, but there are a surprising number of letters originating in neighbouring islands – Anguilla, Antigua, Martinique (Figure 2), Montserrat (Figure 3), Nevis, St Croix (Figure 7), St Kitts, St Thomas, and Virgin Gorda – but bearing Tortola transit markings.

For many years, both of us have been keeping our eyes skinned for other examples of the unusual sizes. Frustratingly, only a few have turned up. Moreover, we have not come across a red strike of any type. Meanwhile, the wealth of variety in the Plantation Papers (78, by our count) remains tantalisingly out of reach. In Jay's own collection, sold by Christie's in October 1992 in London, there were 22 letters bearing type PF marks but

no irregular sizes. Neither of us agrees with Christie's claim that seven of these were Maycock's subtype 2.

With the arrival of Volume VI of Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia* a few years ago, it was our hope that much new useful information would come to light. We expected at least to find a comprehensive listing with clear illustrations of the different types and their dates of use. Are we alone in finding the listing on page 158 of the *Encyclopaedia* disappointing? To our minds, it is both confusing and error-strewn. (Type PF/HS2 is even mislabelled "type PA," and the PA/HS1 listing is totally in error.)

Accordingly, we have tried to set out an alternative listing (see table) based on our own records of several hundred covers, the majority of which we have photocopies of. For completion, and to avoid any confusion occasioned by the *Encyclopaedia*, we also list Robson Lowe's types PA and PD, thus covering the whole range of recorded straightline types. All of these types are presented on cover in the illustrations and are cross-referenced by the designations from the referenced sources.

Please send your comments and corrections to Charles at Box 2258, 4002 Basel, Switzerland. We would appreciate good-quality photocopies of any strikes that you own, unless they come from an illustrated, well-publicised source (e.g., a major auction catalogue). If the date is not immediately visible on the photocopy, please be sure to provide details separately.

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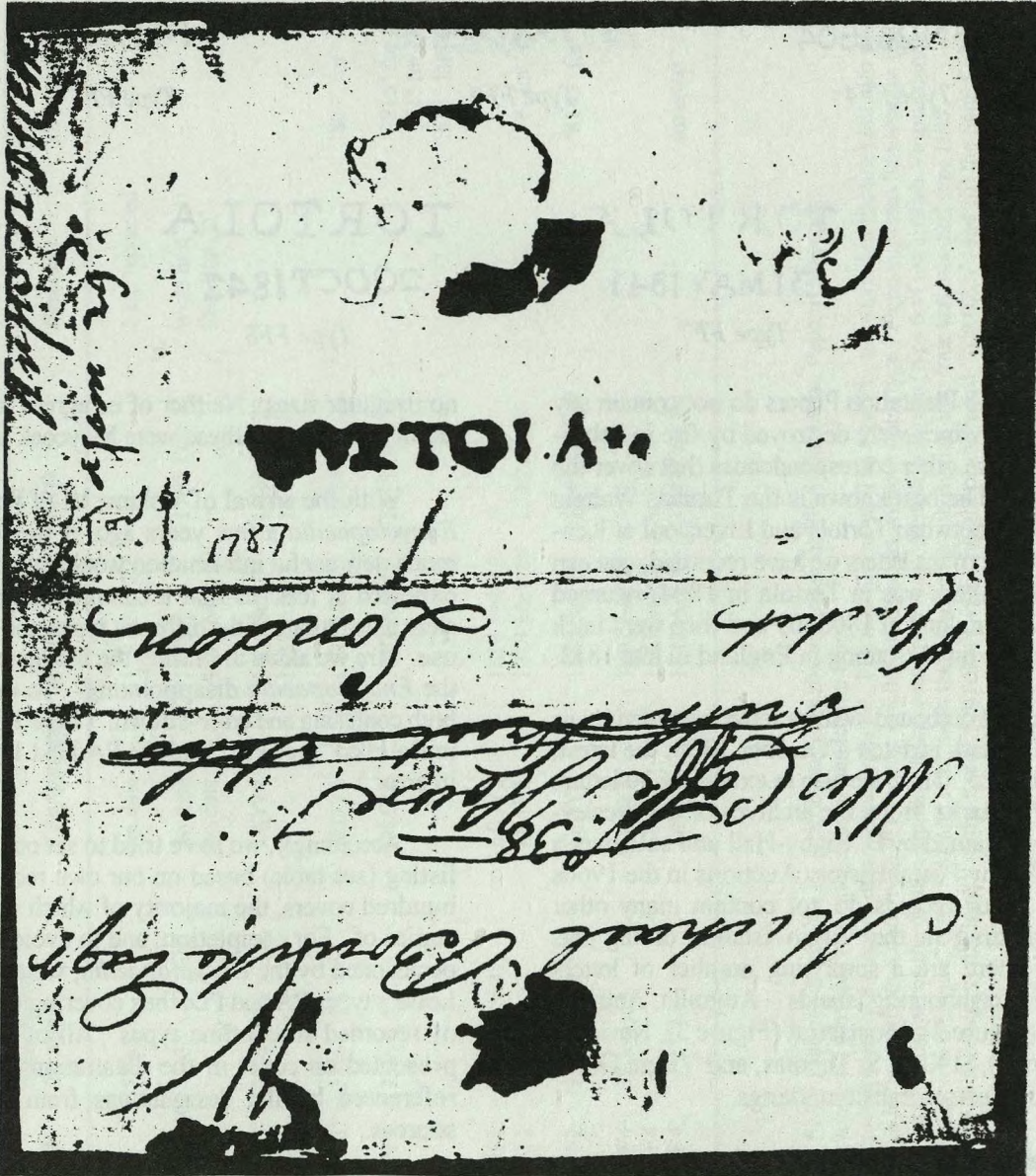


Figure 1. Type FF1 on a letter written from Tortola on 21 June 1787 to London and sent 'p Packet'. The rate is 1s0d, and the letter bears a London receipt marking dated 28 July 1787. It was carried aboard the packet *Antelope*, which departed Tortola the next day. This is the only known strike of this mark, and its condition reflects the reported corrosiveness of the inks in use during this period. Note the forwarding to 'Miles Coffe[e] House', one of many used unofficially to expedite the sending and delivery of maritime mail.

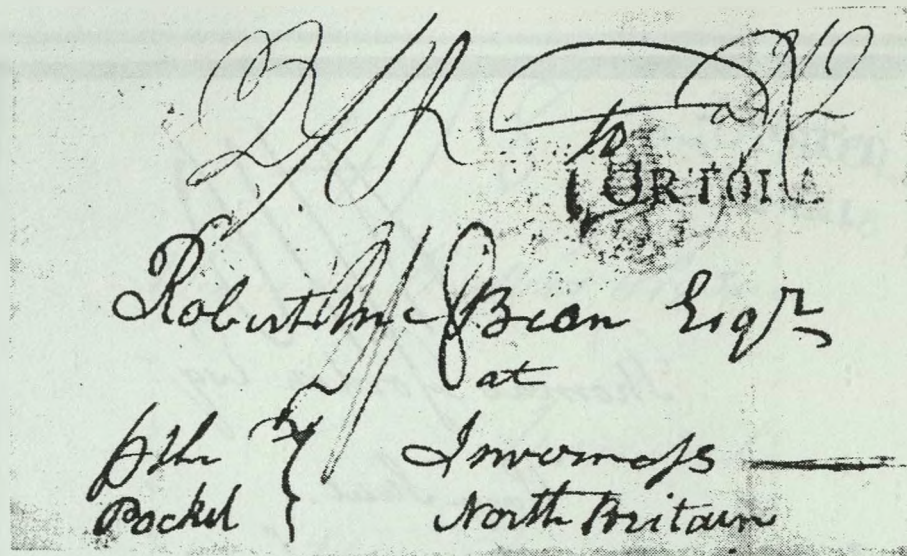


Figure 2. Type FF2 on a letter written from Tortola on 31 December 1798, addressed to Inverness, 'North Britain' (Scotland), and sent 'p. the packet'. The rate has been changed twice, from 2s2d to 2s0d, then 2s8d. Transit backstamps of London (13 February 1799) and Edinburgh (16 February 1799).

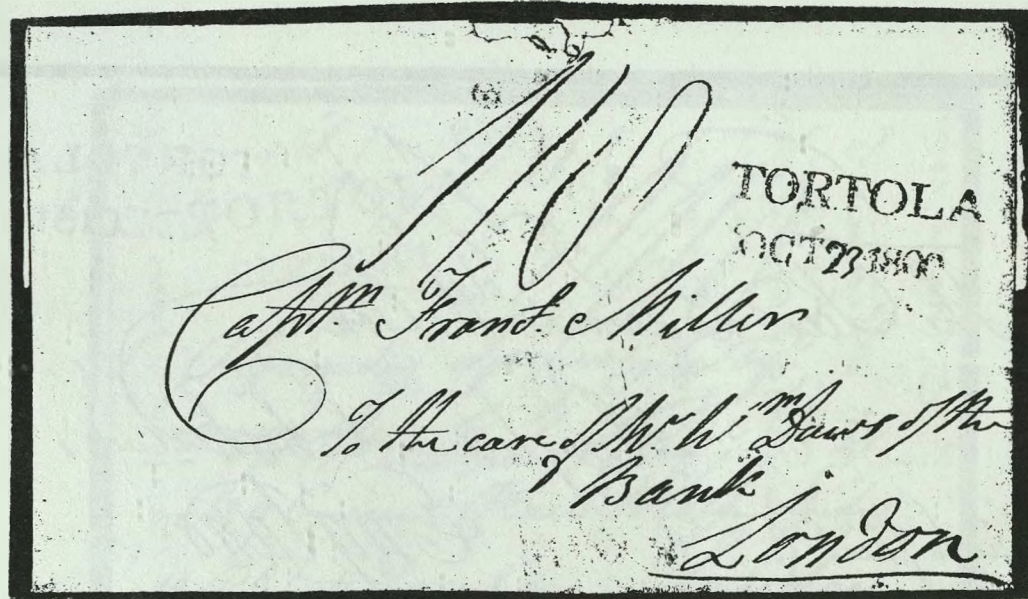


Figure 3. Early usage of type FF3, dated 'OCT 23 1800' (note the handwritten day) on a letter written on 15 October 1800 from St Pierre (Martinique) to London (Dawes was a prominent official Bank of England).

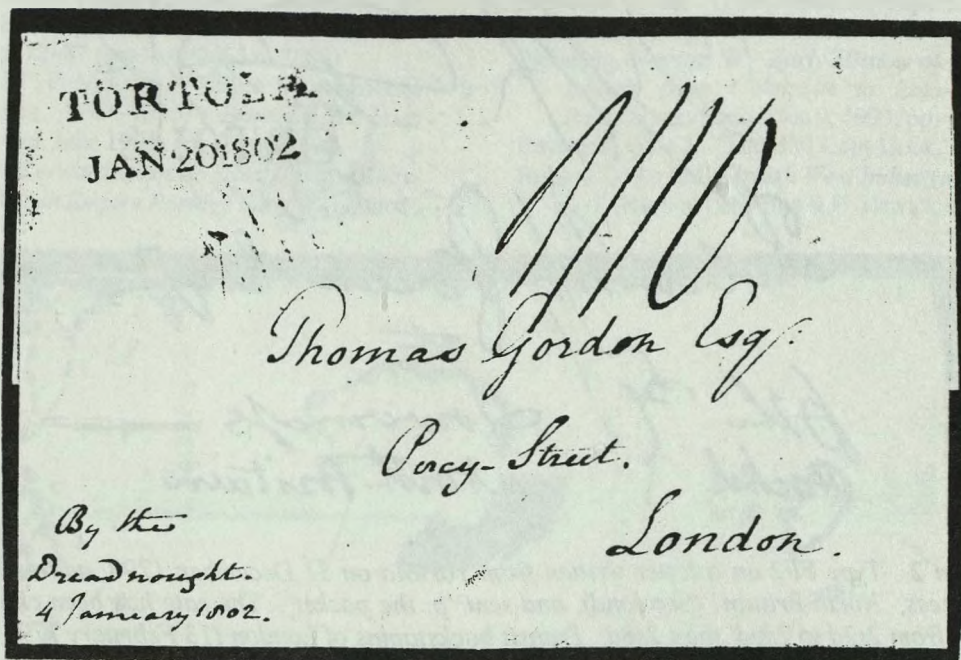


Figure 4. Type FF4, dated 'JAN 20 1802', on a 23 December 1801 letter from Montserrat to London, carried to Tortola 'By the Dreadnought, 4 January 1802'. London arrival backstamp of 28 February 1802.

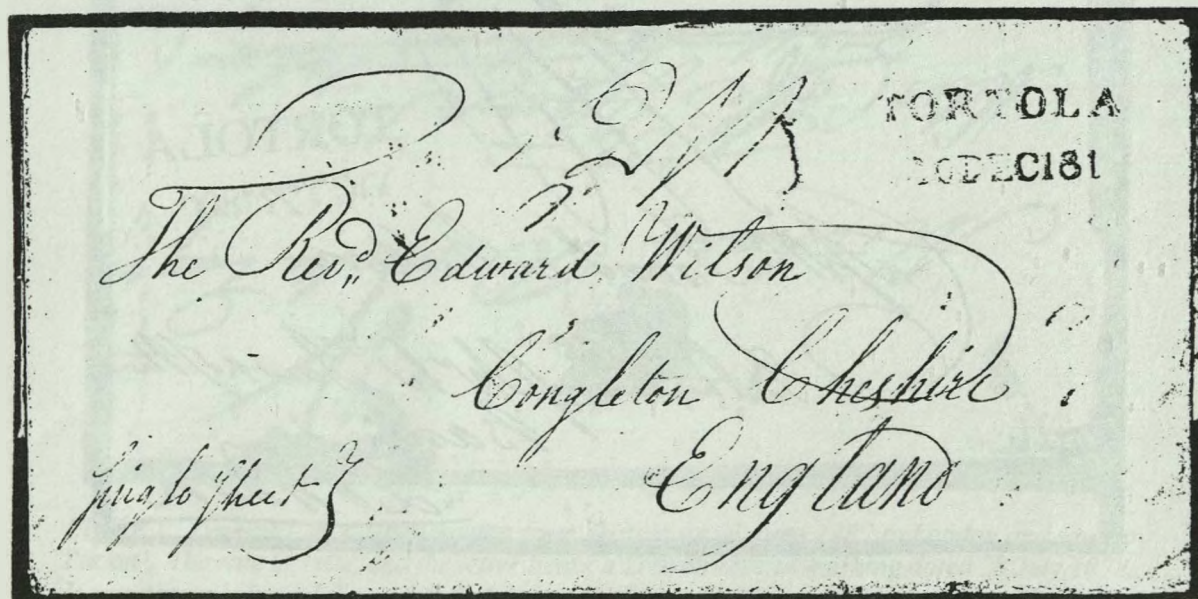


Figure 5. Type FF5, dated '10 DEC 181' (1811), from Spanish Town, Virgin Gorda, via Tortola to Congleton, England. Rated 2s1d.

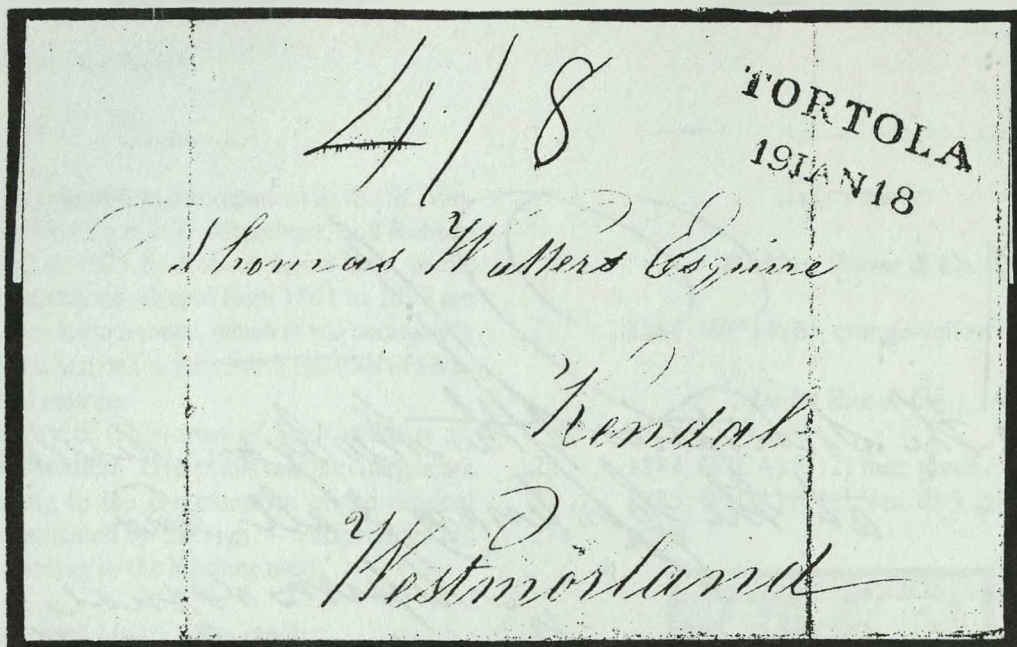


Figure 6. Type FF6, dated '19 JAN 18', on a letter to Thomas Walters at Kendal, England. Rated 4s8d (double). Only the last two digits of the year appeared in this type. Thus the '18' in the year date is an error.



Figure 8. Type FF8, dated 'SEP 20 1801' (early use), on a letter from St Croix to London via Tortola, marked 'p. Packet'. Rated 1s10d. London arrival mark dated 22 October 1801.

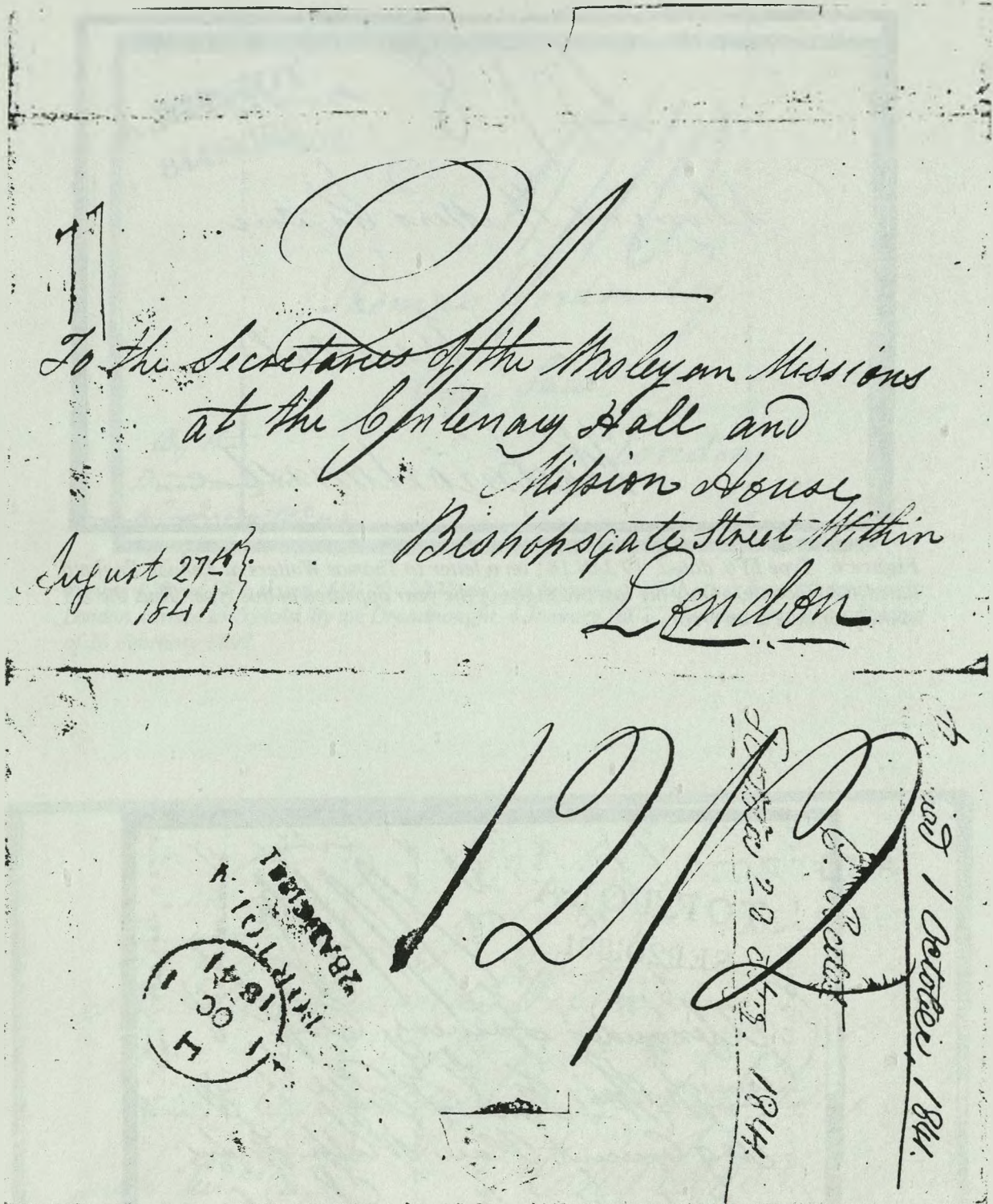


Figure 7. Type FF7, dated '28 AUG 1841' (during its "normal" period of usage), on a letter from Tortola to the Wesleyan Mission in London, received on '1 OC 1'. Rated 2s (double).

The "Queens" of St. Vincent: A Classification by Denomination

by CHRISTOPHER ANSTEAD

The following is intended as a companion to the St. Vincent book by A. D. Pierce, J. L. Messenger, and Robson Lowe, published in 1971 by Robson Lowe Ltd. In the book, the adhesive stamps released from 1861 to 1897 are presented in chronological order, which is not necessarily the best sequence when one is faced with the task of identifying individual stamps.

This inventory of the stamps of St. Vincent is arranged by denomination. Overprints and surcharges are grouped according to the denomination of the original stamp and are indicated by the sign +. Perforations are abbreviated according to the machine used:

- P(A) = perf 14–16, often rough
 P(B) = perf 11–13
 P(C) = perf 14.5–15.5, most commonly 15; this machine was constructed from the A machine.
 P(-) = imperforate
 P(BxA) = compound perf (B horiz., A vert.)
 P(Bx-) = horizontal pair, imperforate vertically
 P(-xA) = vertical pair, imperforate horizontally.

Watermarks are abbreviated for brevity:

- W(-) = no watermark
 W(*) = watermark small star
 W(CA) = watermark crown CA.

Primary issues as documented in the Messenger book are abbreviated. The numbers on the left refer to Issues 1 to 37 as defined in the book, with letters (e.g., 26a) identifying variations. When possible, the variations conform to Messenger's but this is not always possible. When details of watermark, perforation, etc. are absent from a variation, they are the same as the primary issue.



HALF PENNY

Perkins, Bacon & Co.

21 1881; W(*) P(B); orange-yellow

De La Rue & Co.

25 1884; W(CA) P(12) line; green

27 1885; W(CA) P(14) line; dark green
 27a green



ONE PENNY

Perkins, Bacon & Co.

- 1 1861; W(-) P(A) partly clean-cut, partly rough; rose-red (slight shades)
 1a W(-) P(Ax-) partly clean-cut
 1b W(-) P(-)
 2 1862; W(-) P(A); rose-red
 2a P(Ax-)
 2b P(-)
 2c P(B)
 2d P(BxA)
 2e P(B) lower margin imperforate
 7 1871; W(*) P(A); black
 7a P(-xA)
 9 1872; W(*) P(C); black
 12 1875; W(*) P(BxC); black
 12a P(Bx-)
 17 1880; W(*) P(B); olive-green
 21 1881; W(*) P(B); three distinct shades

De La Rue & Co.

- 22 1882; W(CA) P(14) comb; drab
- 23 1883; W(CA) P(14) comb; lake; + '2½ PENCE'
- 26 1885; Issue 23 + '1d' in black, with two bars obliterating '2½ PENCE'
- 26a short serif on '1'
- 26b broken top to '1'
- 26c '2½ PENCE' obliterated by three bars
- 27 1885; W(CA) reversed P(14) line; rose-red
- 27? W(CA) P(14) line rose-red; numerous shades from 11 additional printings 1885 through 1897 approx.; the issue above and the one below seem to have been isolated as they can be identified by unique watermark and perforation varieties
- 28 1886; W(CA) P(14) comb; rose
- 30 1889; W(CA) P(14) comb; milky blue; + '2½ PENCE' in black
- 32 1890; W(CA) P(14) line; grey-blue (shades); + '2½ PENCE' in black (two printings?)
- 32a 1893?; W(CA) P(14) line; blue; + '2½ PENCE' in black (four printings?)
- 37 1897; W(CA) P(14) line; mauve; + 'THREE PENCE' in black
- 37a reddish mauve

TWO AND A HALF PENCE

De La Rue & Co.

- 36 1897; W(CA) P(14) line; blue



FOUR PENCE

Perkins, Bacon & Co.

- 3 1866; W(-) P(B); deep blue
- 3a P(Bx-)
- 6 1869; W(-) P(B); deep yellow
- 14 1877; W(*) sideways P(B); deep blue
- 21 1881; W(*) P(B); bright ultramarine

- 21a P(Bx-)

De La Rue & Co.

- 22 1882; W(CA) P(14) line; blue
- 22a dullish blue
- 24 1883; W(CA) P(12) line; bright blue
- 24a dull blue
- 27 1885; W(CA) P(14) line; red-brown
- 28 1886; W(CA) P(14) line; purple-brown
- 28a lake-brown
- 31 1890; Issue 28a + '2½ d' in black
- 31a fraction bar missing
- 34 1892; Issue 28a + '5/PENCE' with corner ornaments and bar obliterating 'FOUR PENCE'; in purple
- 35 1893; W(CA) P(14) line; yellow
- 35a light yellow
- 35b olive-yellow

FIVE PENCE

De La Rue & Co.

- 36 1897; W(CA) P(14) line; sepia



SIX PENCE

Perkins, Bacon & Co.

- 1 1861; W(-) P(A) partly clean-cut; deep yellow-green
- 2 1862; W(-) P(A); deep green (slight shades)
- 2a P(BxA)
- 2b P(-)
- 4 1868; W(-) P(B); deep green
- 7 1871; W(*) P(A); blue-green, shades tinge of grey when compared with the following two issues; stamps cancelled with the vertical oval A10 in black must come from this printing
- 10 1873; W(*) normally sideways P(C); dull blue-

- 11 green; there is a stronger element of blue than in Issue 7; often faintly tinged with grey; frequently, but not always, paler than Issue 7
- 11 1875; W(*) sideways P(C); deep blue-green; the so-called bright blue-green, a rich and royal colour that might more aptly be called brilliant deep green, nearly always cancelled in red with a date-stamp or narrowed barred killer
- 13 1877; W(*) sideways P(BxC); pale yellow-green
- 13a P(-)
- 13b P(C)
- 15 1878; W(*) P(C); light yellow-green
- 16 1880; Issue 11 + red overprint twice on each stamp 'd/ 1' + central line of perforation P(12) clean-cut
- 17 1880; W(*) P(B); bright yellow-green
- 18 1881; Issue 17 + red overprint twice on each stamp 'd/ 1/ -/ 2' + central line of perforation P(12)
- 18a fraction bar omitted
- 18b straight serif to '1'
- 18c surcharge omitted
- 20 1881; Issue 17 + 'ONE PENNY' surcharge in black, with bar obliterating 'SIX PENCE'

De La Rue & Co.

- 24 1883; W(CA) P(12) line; bright green
- 29 1888; W(CA) P(14) comb; violet
- 33 1891; W(CA) P(14) line; reddish purple
- 33a purple
- 35 1893; W(CA) P(14) line; carmine-lake; + 'FIVE PENCE'
- 35a deep lake
- 35b lake



ONE SHILLING

Perkins, Bacon & Co.

- 3 1866; W(-) P(A); slate, slate-grey (shades)
- 3a P(BxC)

- 3a P(B)
- 5 1869; W(-) P(B); indigo
- 6 1869; W(-) P(B); brown
- 8 1872; W(*) sideways P(B); rose-red
- 10 1873; W(*) normally sideways P(BxC); lilac-rose
- 10a P(B) perhaps confused with Issue 11, an unstable colour; "an unsolved mystery"
- 11 1875; W(*) sideways P(B); claret; the colour is unstable and becomes dull or quite pale
- 13 1877; W(*) sideways P(BxC); vermilion; difficult to distinguish from Issue 15
- (i) colour bright or very bright
- (ii) number 4 narrow bar killer in red cancellation (late examples may appear in black)
- 13a P(BxC-)
- 15 1878; W(*) sideways P(BxC); vermilion; difficult to distinguish from Issue 13
- (i) colour often dullish and partly brownish tinged
- (ii) number 2 narrow barred killer in black or GB/40c accountancy handstamp also in black
- 15a P(C)
- 15b P(-)
- 7 1880; W(*) P(B); vermilion
- 7a P(BxC-)
- 19 1881; Issue 17 + '4d' in black, with bar obliterating 'ONE SHILLING'

De La Rue & Co.

- 24 1883; W(24) P(12) line; orange-vermilion
- 33 1891; W(CA) P(14) line; orange-vermilion
- 33a orange-vermilion to deep orange shades from subsequent printings; used examples in brownish shades are colour changelings.

FIVE SHILLINGS

Perkins, Bacon & Co.

- 17 1880; W(*) P(B); rose-red
- 17a P(-)

De La Rue & Co.

- 29 1888; W(CA) P(14) line; carmine-lake
- 29a brown-lake

I would welcome comments from readers. My address is R.R. 1, McDonald's Corners, Ontario, Canada, K0G 1M0. (It does not appear in the Membership Directory because my membership only began officially in December 1995.)

The Dominica Post Office

by MICHAEL N. OLIVER

Referring to Bill Ashley's interesting article in the December issue, I can add the following comments, although I do not think they help much in answering the questions raised.

1. Dating Stamps: I have recorded four c.d.s. as having been used:

Diameter (mm)	Code	EKD	LKD
19½	C	4 May 1882	25 Apr 1899
20½	C & blank	18 Nov 1882	6 Aug 1895
21	*	3 May 1894	12 Sep 1924
20	*	2 Nov 1896	14 Sep 1905

The last two are those sent out from London on 9 April 1894. The third one in the inventory, according to my dates, must have the 19½ mm; and the "1 Old Dating Stamp," the 20½ mm, assuming the inventory was made in early 1897.

2. Obliterating Stamp

– The horizontal 'A07': There were two, and one was

transferred to Portsmouth in 1896–97. I do not recall having seen it used before the Sexagenary issue on 22 July 1897, and I also do not recall having seen the other used at the GPO after 1896. Unfortunately, I have not kept a record of those dates.

– The vertical 'A07': I have an EKD of 14 March 1883 and an LKD of 3 September 1902.

– The 'A07' duplex: The GPO Impression Book copy is dated 29 July 1893. The few examples seen are mostly dated from late 1893 to mid-1894. However, I have a cover dated 23 July 1896.

By February 1897, the "1 Obliterating Stamp" would appear to be the second one above.

3. 'R' Stamp: An unserifed R in an oval frame was in use from 1884. A new one was despatched from London on 30 March 1901 (Figure 1). The note "penned with serifs" is at best rather ambiguous. The only example of the 'T' I have around this time is on a cover to Guadeloupe dated July 1897. It has square serifs and no bottom box.

4. Perhaps the datestamp in Figure 2 was a replacement for the Postmaster's personal postmark?

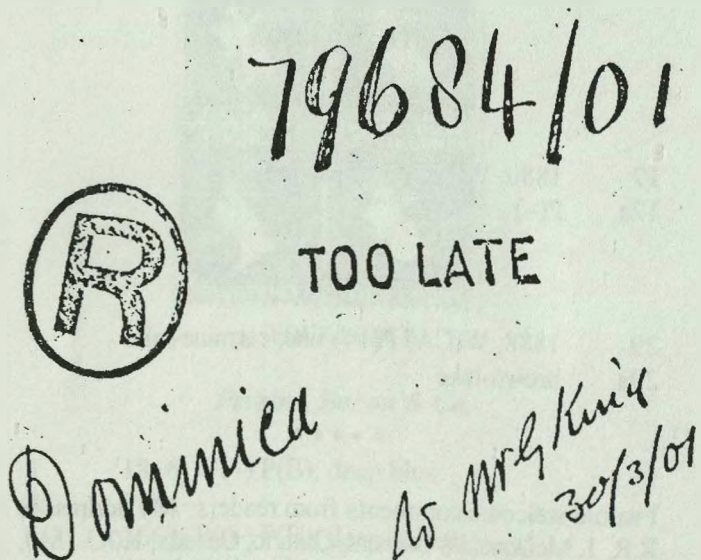


Figure 1

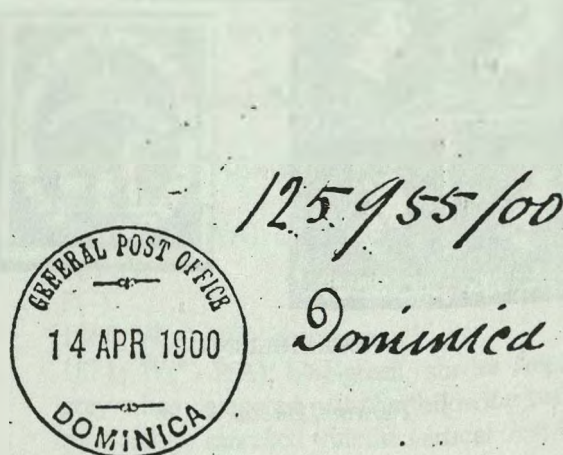


Figure 2

St Lucia Parcel Post

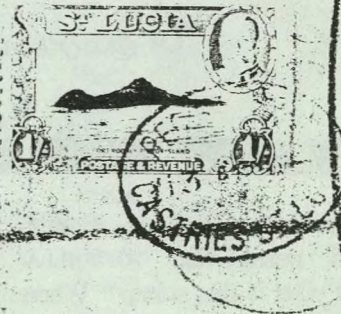
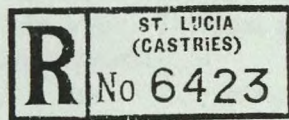
by GUY KILBURN

I recently acquired the piece shown, dated 13 AP 37, which has what may be an unrecorded mark. Parcel post marks are by their nature difficult to find because they are not intended to cancel stamps and were used on large items, which made them unsuitable for the album page. Even those cancellations intended for use on stamps are rare (see Ritchie, p. 66).

The example shown appears to be from a philatelic item. The sender clearly indicated with pencil marks where two stamps were to be placed and how the cancel-

lations should be applied. My best guess is that the parcel contained an order of stamps for a dealer sent by someone in St Lucia such as Ainsley Skeete, who was himself a collector and dealer. I think it is unlikely that another postal agency applied the mark or that it was purchased and used by the sender. In the latter case, a handwritten instruction would have done just as well.

I would like to hear from anyone who has seen this mark or portions of it on individual stamps. My address is 100 Mira Loma, Vallejo, CA 94590.



REGISTERED
PARCEL POST

The Jamaica Philatelist

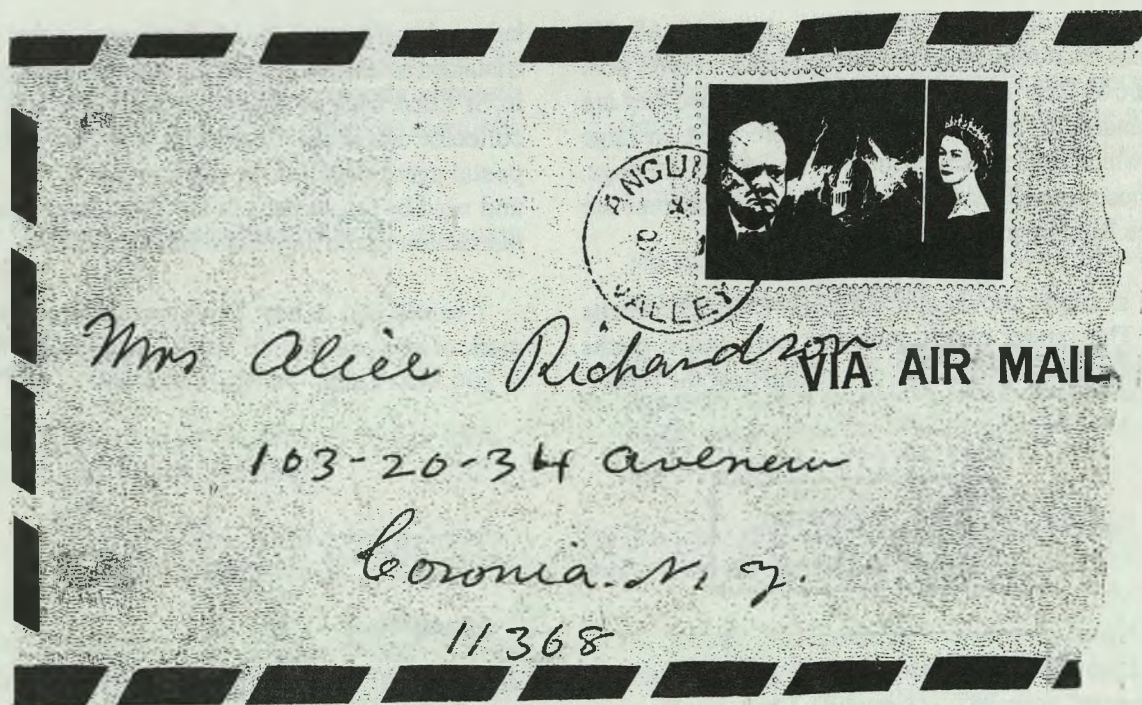
Michael Vokins writes that of the 50 copies of the reprint of *The Jamaica Philatelist* that was done in 1995, only 15 are left (see *BCPJ*, September 1995, p. 61, for details). Going, going, and soon gone! If anyone wants to have a complete run of this very informative journal, do it now! It is extremely unlikely that it will be reprint-

ed again. As a reminder, prices (postpaid, surface) are \$75 (U.S. and Canada), £30 (U.K.), and £50 (rest of the world).

Orders should be sent to Michael Vokins, 77 St Albans Road, Bristol, BS6 7SQ, U.K. Make cheques payable to the BCPSG.

Anguilla: Mystery Stamp

by GALE J. RAYMOND, FRPSL



The cover shown here appears to be an ordinary, family-type letter from Anguilla, postmarked 'ANGUILLA/ VALLEY/ 8 JY [1967]'. But what *is* this stamp? Where did it come from? Was its use official, or did it just slip through?

The stamp is of St Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla (SG no. 154), the 25¢ value of the Churchill commemorative set, issued on 24 January 1966. A black band has been overprinted across the bottom of the stamp, very precisely obliterating totally the entire country-name as well as the denomination! The perfect fit of the overprinted bar within the stamp's border reveals the hand of an expert.

This cover came to me in a swap as part of a small handful of covers sent by people in Anguilla to relatives living in the United States. All were posted between June and August 1967, during the Anguilla rebellion, which had begun on 30 May. During this period, letters to the U.S. went via St Martin or St Thomas, with French or U.S. stamps paying postage. The cover shown here is the only one with this strange stamp.

The cover has slight stains (butter or possibly coconut oil), making the year in the cancel illegibly indistinct, but surely it is 1967. Addressed to 'Coronia', N.Y. [sic for Corona, Long Island], there are no backstamps to confirm any date. The envelope itself is a common U.K. brand available on Anguilla for many years. Was this issue in the Commissioner's safe? The obscured 25¢ denomination was then the correct airmail rate for the United States.

The well-known stamps of St Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla overprinted 'INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA' were not released until 4 September 1967. Reportedly, an Anguillan living in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, flew down some stopgap 'stamps' depicting mermaids, which were refused by the Island Council.

While on Anguilla in 1967, I was granted every kindness by the postmaster general and his staff, and all my postal historian's questions were answered most graciously. Now, almost 30 years later, I realize there were *some* questions I did not know to ask! Can any reader solve this mystery?

Bermuda Censorship Monograph

by THOMAS J. MCMAHON

The Bermuda Collectors Society plans to publish a monograph covering the three periods in which censorship occurred in Bermuda: the internment of Boer POWs (1901–02), World War I, and World War II. Based on articles that have appeared in this and other journals, as well as on reports sent to us by collectors, we have assembled a great deal of information concerning the dates of use of all known censor marks and tapes, interesting origins, etc. We are appealing for help from members of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group that we may not have reached by other means. We would greatly appreciate checking your material against the data presented below. All types are from M.H. Ludington's 1978 book, *The Postal History and Postage Stamps of Bermuda*. The dates are usually those in the Hamilton postmarks.

Censorship of Boer POW Mail

Type	EKD	LKD
CM1	16 Jul 1901	22 Jun 1903
CM2	5 Nov 1901	29 Jun 1902
CM3	5 Nov 1901	13 Jul 1902
CM4	5 Nov 1901	14 Jun 1902
CM4a	22 Apr 1902	11 Nov 1902
'Plastered covers'	5 Nov 1901	19 Apr 1902
'NOT TUCKERS'	Jan 1902	7 Sep 1902
'MONTROSE'	Aug 1901	Dec 1901
'BERMUDA'	Aug 1901	? 1901

We are also interested in inter-camp mail, especially between the Bermuda camps and those in Ceylon, India, and St Helena. We would greatly appreciate details of any such covers that BCPSG members may have in their collections. Covers from unusual places or to unusual destinations are also of interest. We have recorded some from Russia, Java, Chile, etc.

World War I

There is no type CM10 in Ludington's classification. In recent years, however, two covers with a manuscript 'Passed by Censor' (both postmarked on the same day) have been reported. This mark has been designated type CM10.

Type	EKD	LKD
CM10	7 Aug 1914	—
CM11		
Red	6 Aug 1914	Dec 1914
Purple/mauve	4 Aug 1914	22 Oct 1914
CM11a		
Red	11 Aug 1914	Dec 1914
Violet	11 Aug 1914	Dec 1914
Turquoise	Sep 1914	Dec 1914
Purple	Sep 1914	Dec 1914
Black	28 Sep 1914	—
CM12		
Black	1 Oct 1914	Dec 1914
Violet	3 Oct 1914	—
CM13		
Purple	30 Nov 1914	14 Aug 1918
Violet	21 Nov 1914	3 Jul 1918
Black	2 Mar 1915	21 Aug 1918
Red	29 Jan 1916	12 Jan 1918
Blue	1917	—
CM14 ¹		
Purple	12 Feb 1915	Aug 1916
Black	1914	29 May 1918
CM15		
Purple	8 Jan 1916	15 Dec 1918
Violet	11 Feb 1916	18 Jul 1918
Black	14 Feb 1918	6 Dec 1918
Grey	23 Jul 1918	—
Red	7 Feb 1916	25 Nov 1918
Green	18 Aug 1916	—
Blue	Apr 1916	15 Dec 1918

1 Two subtypes of type CM14 are known. CM14a has a longer base (55mm instead of 50mm) and smaller lettering (1.75mm instead of 2.5mm). There are dots in the two lower angles. CM14b is tentative: only two examples have been reported. The lettering is 2mm high.

World War II

This is a vast area, but one of the scarcest items appears to be type CM23, the shield-like handstamp inscribed 'RELEASED/ by Censor/ Bermuda/ (2)' and applied in green ink. We are aware of five examples, of which four are dated between July and December 1942, and one in 1944. Two are to Guatemala, two to the U.K., and one to Switzerland. Again, reports of additional examples would be greatly appreciated. Please write to me at P.O. Box 2805, Danbury, CT 06813.

Trinidad and Tobago Topics

Perfins

by RON WIKE

In the 1860s in Britain, stamps could be used as money in many shops or redeemed for money at a post office. Because this practice put a considerable temptation in the way of lowly paid clerks, an inventor named Joseph Sloper submitted an application for a patent for a machine that could perforate initials (hence "perfin") or an emblem in stamps as a security device. The practice was authorised by the GPO in London in 1868. Sloper's patent did not expire until 1872, and he built up a large business perforating stamps for firms, thereby inhibiting their theft. The perforations were extremely varied, ranging from initials through to full names and emblems or regalia. Other firms entered the market and, dependent on the method used, the devices can be found in various positions – upright, reversed, inverted, or inverted and reversed – relative to the face of the stamp.

The practice spread to many countries, including Trinidad and Tobago. However, the perfins are scarce on Trinidad and Tobago stamps, largely because earlier philatelists considered them to have defaced the stamp and so discarded them. I have come across only two examples in my searches. The earlier one is on a 1901 5s Britannia stamp, with the initials 'G.R.A. & Co.' (Figure 1). I have not been able to establish the name of the firm using these initials. The second example is on a cover to Scotland, with two of the 1949 24¢ UPU issue plus a 1938 2¢ definitive, all perforated 'A C D' (Figure 2). The envelope has the return address of Archer Coal Depot, the company using its capital initials as the perfin.

I would like to hear from anyone who can supply the name of the user with the 'G.R.A. & Co.' perfin, or who can contribute other perfin examples from Trinidad and Tobago. You may write to the Editor or directly to me at 20 Isherwood Close, Cinnamon Brow, Fearnhead, Warrington, WA2 0DJ, U.K.



Figure 1

Figure 2



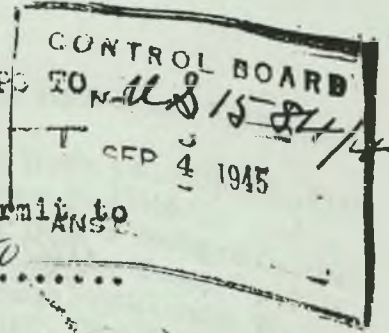
"All I Wanted Was a Cover with their Stamp on It"

by RON WIKE

The supply of postage stamps to dealers and individual collectors has always been a major problem for the Colonial Office and colonial postmasters. Various archival letters concerning this trade are documented in successive issues of *The London Philatelist* from March to July 1991. These difficulties were compounded during the Second World War, when the sale of stamps, which could be used to transfer funds or for clandestine purposes, was strictly controlled. This restriction continued even after the war as a form of currency control.

To assist genuine dealers and collectors, a permit was prepared by the Post Office in Trinidad and Tobago so that an export licence could be granted. I have been fortunate enough to acquire a cover sent by the GPO in Trinidad that still contained an authorised permit. It was sent by registered post on 20 September 1945 to an individual in California, USA. In addition to the normal postal franking on the front and rear, there is a small straightline handstamp inscribed 'ACCOUNTANT, POST OFFICE' with a signature and a manuscript 'Trinidad'. The permit itself has a large circular perforated security mark. It also has a manuscript comment by the poor collector, to whom I shall be eternally grateful for keeping the envelope and permit complete: "ALL I WANTED WAS A COVER WITH THEIR STAMP ON IT"!

APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO SUPPLY POSTAGE STAMPS TO



Application is hereby made for a permit to

supply Postage Stamps to the value of 50

to H. F. Stephens III

of California

~~The Stamps are to be supplied through the~~

Crown Agents.

A Money Order

EXPORT LICENCE
LICENCE IS HEREBY GRANTED TO
THE WITHIN MENTIONED GOODS

Postage Stamps to be supplied is held by this Department.

ment.

THIS LICENCE SHALL
REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL
THE DAY OF 1945

General Post Office,
Port of Spain.

[Signature]
Postmaster General

ALL I WANTED WAS A COVER WITH THEIR STAMP ON IT.

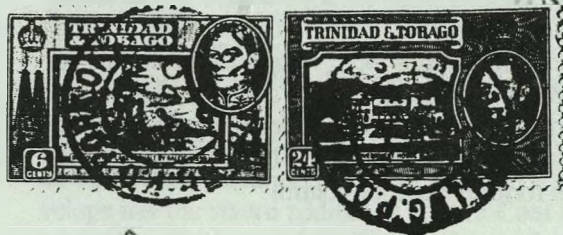
Imperial Censor Location Address

by R. A. RAMKISSOON

The cover shown here has as a return address 'M. A. McCall (I.C.Z.) Trinidad'; similar inscriptions have been

seen on postcards from Barbados. This address location was used by the Imperial censors at Port of Spain and by staff and family on vacation or temporary assignment. The dates recorded range between June 1941 and March 1945. The example shown here is dated 20 July 1942.

FROM M. A. McCALL
(I.C.Z.)
TRINIDAD.



Mr. D. Bruce Johnston.

Box 244.

Coatesville

Penna.

AIR MAIL.

U.S.A.

Jamaica Jottings

by IAN POTTER

There are some new varieties of the "modern single-arc" postmarks coming into use in Jamaica. They have either the name of the town and the word Jamaica at the top and a line arc filling the rest of the circle, or the name of the office at the top and the word 'JAMAICA' at the bottom, with two line arcs filling the spaces on either side. I have given them the codes in my book MSR-SA for the single arc and MSR-DA for the double arc. I have only had reported to me the single-arc variety from Port Royal, but Paul Raynor says there are several offices changing to the double-arc variety, and I show his illustrations of the Port Royal and Linstead cancels in use.



Secretary's Report

by PETER KAULBACK

New Members

The six applicants listed in the December 1995 issue of the journal have been admitted to membership in the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group.

New Applicants

BARNES, Louis E.; 326 Pacific Avenue, Cayucos, CA 93430; collects British Commonwealth; sponsored by T. Giraldi.

BAXTER, Roger; 181 San Pedro Drive, Hamilton, ON, Canada L9C 2C9; collects Bermuda; sponsored by M. Forand.

MALLON, Jr., Bill; P.O. Box 79, 1774 Greenhill Road, Cedars, PA 19423; collects British Virgin Islands; sponsored by P. McCann.

PAWLICKI, Roy; P.O. Box 2594, Kirkland, WA 98083; collects Trinidad & Tobago; sponsored by D. Druett.

SHAWLEY, John E.A.; Glentilt Road, Glen Iris, Victoria, Australia 3146; collects St Lucia (KGV period) and general B.W.I.

WEBB-HARRIS, Reginald L.; 13971 S.W. 71 Lane, Miami, FL 33183; collects Jamaica and British Caribbean stamps and postal history; sponsored by P. Kaulback.

ZIRINSKY, Steven; P.O. Box 49, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023; collects postal history, especially modern commercial, and New Zealand revenues; sponsored by R. Ramkissoon.

Rejoined

DOWNING, Roger; c/o RushIt Inc., P.O. Box 11156, Charlotte Amalie, St Thomas, VI 00801; collects Leeward Islands, esp. B.V.I.; sponsored by P. McCann.

Life Membership

GOLLOP, M.

Resignation

RUSSELL, J.W.M.

Address Changes

BILHAUT, Michel: 32, rue Henri-Lalone, 72430 Pirmil, France

CHAY, John: c/o Global Supply Co., #3N-1205, 8340 N.W. 56th Street, Miami, FL 33166

HARNISCHFEGER, Ralph: Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Pennsylvania, Lockhaven, PA 17745

HORRY, David: 12 Newburgh Street, London, W1, U.K.

LEMIRE, Robert: Box 1870, Deep River, ON, Canada K0J 1P0

MINK, Ellsworth: M.S.C. 324, 138 Avenida Winston Churchill, San Juan, PR 00926-6023

WATSON, Kenneth: 19 Calgarth Park, Troutbeck Bridge, Windermere, Cumbria LA23 1LF, U.K.

From the Editor's Computer

by MICHEL FORAND

New Trustees

There were three trustee positions to fill for the period 1996-2001. A total of 358 votes were cast in the election, yet of the six candidates, the difference between the one with the most votes and the one with the least was very small. The quality of the candidates was very high and that members had difficult choices to make.

Still, only three positions were open, and the BCPSG is pleased to announce that its three new trustees are Marge Doran, David Druett and Ron Wike. We congratulate all three on their election and wish them good luck in their new functions. At the same time, we thank Mary Green, Jim Stern and Ed Waterous for accepting the invitation to run. They were equally worthy candidates, and we hope they will try again!

CAPEX 96

As announced previously, we will hold our annual meeting this year in conjunction with CAPEX 96, the international exhibition that will be held in Toronto, Canada, in the late spring. The meeting will take place on 11 June at 2 p.m., at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, site of the exhibition. Apart from the "business" meeting, there will be displays, and members planning to attend are urged to bring material they would like to show to their fellow collectors.

If you haven't reserved a hotel room yet, you should do so immediately: the "show rate" at the Crowne Plaza Hotel is now sold out, and there is good chance that *all* rates may be sold out at that facility.

BCPSG Auction

Bill Gompel has announced that given a change in his own circumstances and the absence of a volunteer to assume the Auction Manager's job, he will continue in that position for the time being.

In view of the potential for "red tape" in attempting to take the auction lots to Canada for a live sale during CAPEX, the 1996 auction will be held by mail, with a tentative deadline in October. Those who wish to consign lots should do so immediately. Please note that the type of material that does well in the Group's auctions is the type of material that people want. In other words, common, easy-to-get items usually do not sell well. Among the items that do well are: specimens, varieties, used stamps with good cancellations, postal history, censored covers, "destination" covers, etc. Remember, there is a \$10 limit per lot, and a limit of 40 lots per consignor.

Consignments will be accepted until 7 June 1996. Please address them to: Bill C. Gompel, P.O. Box 872, Florence, AL 35631-0872.

Library Catalogue and Membership Directory

The new Library Catalogue and Membership Directory were distributed with the last issue of the journal. It had been many years since the previous editions of both of these were made available, and it was time updated ones were prepared. We hope they will be put to good use.

Thanks are due to Dan Walker for compiling the Library Catalogue and to Russ Skavaril for compiling the Directory. Russ also prepared the very appealing covers for both documents. This general cover design will be used for the Membership Information kit and for other BCPSG documents of that nature that will be made available in the future.

While there are still some gaps in our Library, it is nonetheless an excellent source of information on West Indian philately. Don't hesitate to borrow from it – or for that matter, to contribute items that would enhance its holdings. The Library's collection of auction catalogues, in particular, could benefit from donations. Remember, these are tax-deductible in the United States.

As for the Membership Directory, it provides data about the collecting interests of all members. This should be of great use to those who are looking for information on their favorite country or for someone to trade with.

Unfortunately, the Barbados group was inadvertently left out of the Directory. This oversight has been remedied, and you will find with this journal an insert that should be included with the Directory.

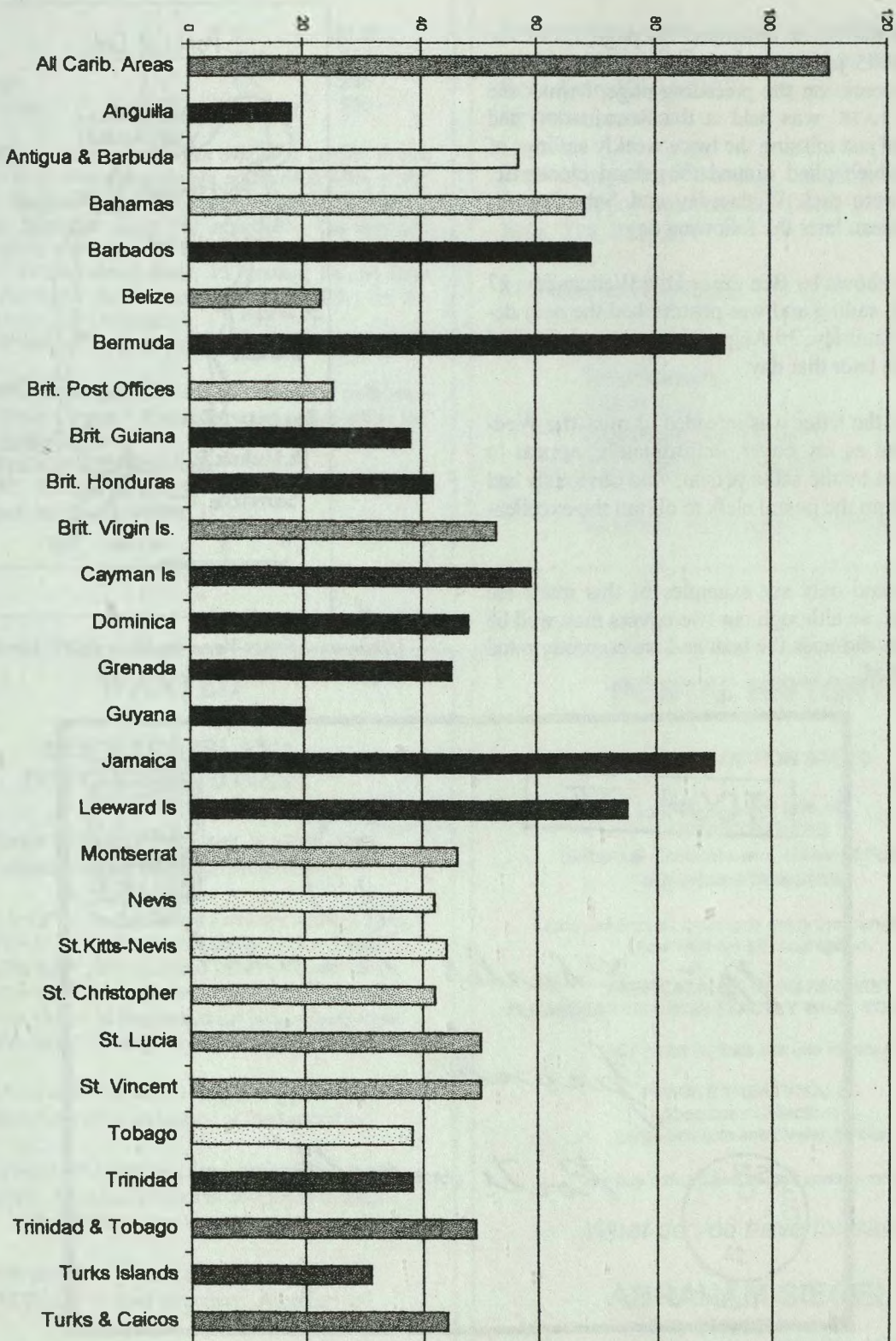
The Directory was sent only to members of the Group. For your own protection and that of your fellow members, please **DO NOT** give it or copy it to anyone outside the BCPSG.

In February, Ed Kelly, one of our Bermuda members, faxed me a copy of a graph that he had prepared, showing the geographic distribution of BCPSG members. This provides an intriguing profile of our group, and I thank Ed for mailing me a copy of the graph for reproduction in the journal.

In the December issue, it was mentioned that Peter McCann had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. I did not know at the time that three other BCPSG members were also elected Fellows last November – Clary Holt, Derek Nathan and Jeff Weiss. Congratulations to all!

Peter is currently beset by a back problem that has forced him to slow down his activities considerably. We wish him a prompt recovery.

**British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group Members
Collecting Interests
Data from Membership Directory (December 1995)**



Dominica: *TOO LATE* Handstamp

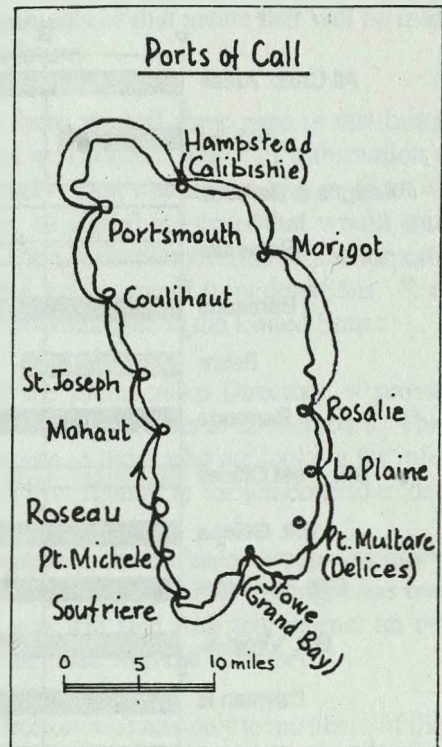
by M. N. OLIVER

Referring to the cover illustrated on page 72 of the September 1995 journal (p. 72) and to Ben Ramkisson's comments on the preceding page, I think the boxed 'TOO LATE' was held at the Roseau GPO and applied to mail just missing the twice weekly sailings of RMS *Yare*, which plied around the island clockwise. Departures were each Wednesday and Saturday, returning to Roseau later the following day.

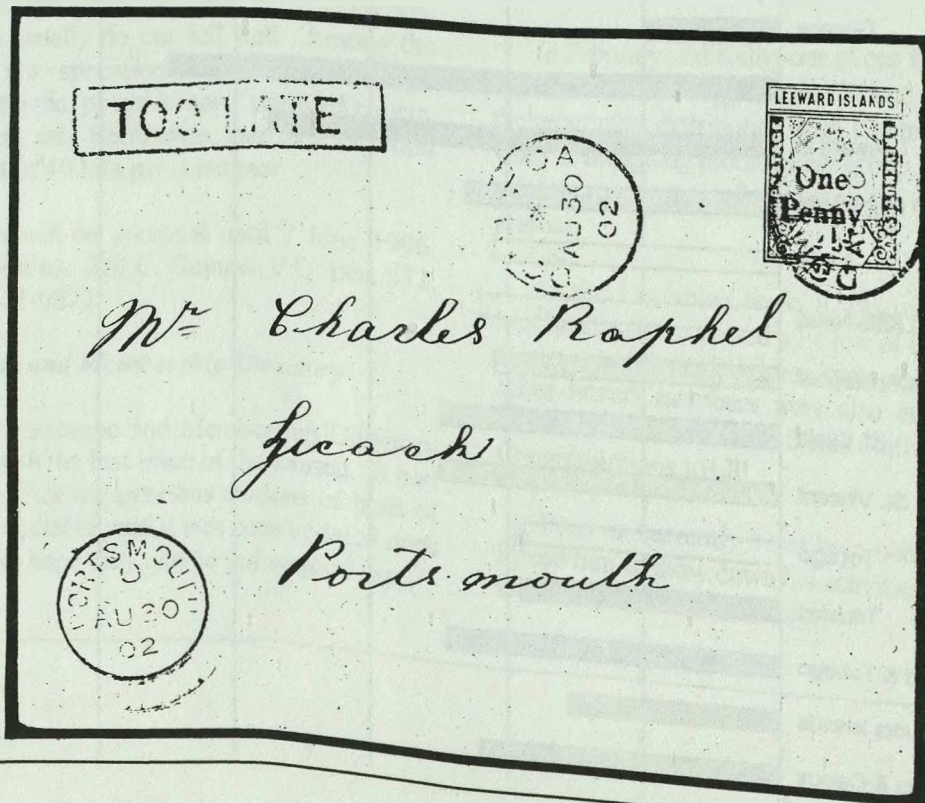
The letter shown by Ben missed the Wednesday, 27 August 1902, sailing and was postmarked the next departure date, Saturday, 30 August, when it was received at Portsmouth later that day.

I suspect the letter was intended to miss the Wednesday sailing as my cover, unfortunately, appear to have been sent by the same person, who obviously had cooperation from the postal clerk to obtain the excellent markings.

I understand only six examples of this mark are known to exist, so although our two covers may well be philatelic, they did miss the boat and are correctly rated and postmarked.



Itinerary of HMS Yare, built in 1887, Gr. Wt 300 t., in service 1901-15



Note to Advertisers

Advertising rates are as follows:

	Width	Height	Yearly rate
Full page	7"	9½"	\$125
Half page	7"	4¾"	\$75
Quarter page	3½"	4¾"	\$45
Eighth of a page	3½"	2⅞"	\$30

The cost of back-page space, when available, is 10% above the regular rate. One-time ads are accepted at 40% of the yearly rate. The initial advertising copy should be sent to the Advertising Manager along with remittance, but changed copy should be forwarded to the Editor by the following deadlines: for the March issue, 15 January; for the June issue, 15 April; for the September issue, 15 July; for the December issue, 15 October.

Actual-size, camera-ready copy is preferred.

Checks to be made payable to the "British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group." Please forward payment to the Advertising Manager:

Mr Charles E. Cwiakala
1527 South Fairview Avenue
Park Ridge, IL 60008, U S A

WANTED

SEA FLOOR – BAHAMAS

Buying covers, cards, cancels, and collateral material relating to the P.O. and expedition that operated there from 1939 to 1942. Pay minimum \$60 each for items I can use.

Also buying artists's drawings, essays, proofs, errors, freaks, etc. of Bahamas Scott nos. 106, 122, 168, 168a, 216, 242, 264.

All offers acknowledged.

Fred Schmitt
P.O. Box 67
Woodbury, NY 11797
(516) 367-4030 (24 hours)

Member: ASDA, APS, PTS, CSDA, etc.

WANTED

LEEWARD ISLAND POSTAL STATIONERY

Collector wishes to purchase, or swap other stationery, for the following items:

H&G C3a KEVII 2d Registered Envelope size H2 mint
H&G C4 KGV 2d Registered Envelope size F mint
H&G C4a KGV 2d Registered Envelope size G mint
H&G C5c KGV 3d Registered Envelope size K used
H&G C6a KGVI 3d Registered Envelope size G used
H&G C6c KGVI 3d Registered Envelope size K used

KGVI 1d red and 1½d brown "airmail" type envelopes (unlisted in H&G) in unused or used condition

Also wanted **all** Leeward Island stationery in **used** condition. Plus KGVI airmail envelopes unused
Proofs and essays keenly sought.

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Chaguaramus	7c	single ring
Charlie Ville	10	skeleton
Cumana	5	double circle
Febeau	10	skeleton
Fishing Pond	10	skeleton
Kelly Village	13	Birmingham
Maracas Rd.	13	Birmingham
Maraval	7a	single ring
Matelot	10	skeleton
Moruga	5	double circle
Point Cumana	10	skeleton
Rock River	5	double circle
St. Benedict	11	modern single ring
St. Johns	5	double circle
Todds Road	5	double circle
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Bucco Point	7a	single ring

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Brasso	13	single ring
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Caratal	10	skeleton
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Guanapo	7a	single ring
La Lune	7b	single ring
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Lengua	7a	single ring
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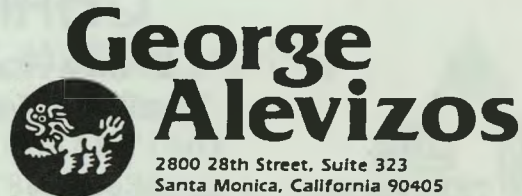
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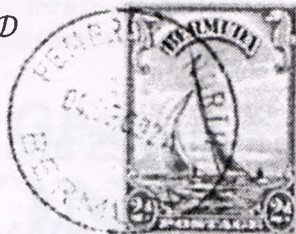
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