

# BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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*VIPS in BVI: BCPSG president Peter McCann (right) presenting  
His Excellency David Mackilligin and the Hon. Ralph T. O'Neal,  
governor and chief minister, respectively, of the British Virgin Islands,  
with the Group's medals (see article on page 54)*

#### Also Featured:

*Anguilla 'MISSENT' handstamp  
Bermuda military censor devices  
Jamaica registered envelopes  
British Honduras 'town' cancels update*



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## From the Editor's Computer

by MICHEL FORAND

### CAPEX 96

Members are reminded that the BCPSG's annual general meeting this year will take place in Toronto on 11 June, at 2 p.m., in conjunction with CAPEX. Details about the exact location of the meeting will be available at the exhibition itself. Following the usual "business" meeting, there will be displays of Grenada, Nevis and British Guiana. All those planning to attend are invited to bring "a little something" along for the "show and tell" session. A Group dinner will take place that evening.

As at past AGMS, the BCPSG will have a hospitality suite at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, adjacent to the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, where CAPEX 96 will be held. The suite will be in the name of BCPSG president Peter McCann and will be available from the evening of Friday, 7 June, to the evening of Tuesday, 11 June. All members are cordially invited to drop in for conversation, refreshments, snacks, etc. The officers are expected to meet there on Sunday, 9 June, at 4 p.m.; all members may attend.

Just before going to press, I am informed by our CAPEX 96 coordinator, John Tyacke, that seven BCPSG members will have West Indies exhibits in Toronto: H.L. Arnould, "Danish West Indies Postal History: The Foreign Mails before 1880"; Darryl Fuller, "Leeward Islands: Queen Victoria to King George VI"; John Griffiths, "British Leeward Islands, 1757-1902"; Derek Nathan, "British Guiana Postal History, 1792-1899"; Reuben Ramkissoon, "Trinidad, 1802-1906"; Roger Schnell, "Germany in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico"; and Robert Wynstra, "Leeward Islands Village Mail, 1734-1932." In addition, there will be three exhibits by non-BCPSG members: Bernard Beston, "Postal Stationery of British Guiana"; Gunnar Martin Loshamn, "Danish West Indies Mail"; and David Springbett, "Bermuda, 1799-1932." Although one might have wished for a broader representation of the Caribbean area, this is an impressive list, and I, for one, look forward to viewing the exhibits.

***The BCPSG on the Internet***

It was probably inevitable that the BCPSG would eventually join the Internet in some form or other. Not only do three officers already have e-mail addresses (mine appears in the masthead), but Vice President Russ Skavaril is currently constructing a BCPSG "home page" that will be broadcast on the World Wide Web component of the computer network known as the Internet.

For those not familiar with the Internet, the World Wide Web (often abbreviated as "the Web") gives organizations, corporations, governments, individuals, etc. an opportunity to provide information about themselves, their services or products, etc. For example, publishers list their entire catalogue, libraries provide summaries of their collections or even a complete catalogue of their holdings, and so on. These are immediately accessible to anyone who joins the Internet. In the philatelic domain, there already exist a good number of home pages, with philatelic societies, dealers, and even individual collectors from around the world using the Web to tell others about their services or, in the case of collectors, what they need to fill gaps in their collection, for example. Most of these "sites" offer direct link to other philatelic sites.

Details of the BCPSG home page are still being worked out, and will be announced once the work is completed.

***Geographical Distribution of the BCPSG Membership***

Readers of the March issue can be forgiven for thinking their editor has gone off the bend: in describing the chart prepared by Bermuda resident and BCPSG member Ed Kelly in the March issue (pp. 22-23), I referred to it as illustrating the geographic distribution of BCPSG members. The chart does nothing of the sort, of course; rather, as its title indicates, the chart shows the geographic distribution of BCPSG members' collecting interests – not quite the same thing! My apologies to Ed and to all those who were confused by my confusion.

Still, a summary of the geographic distribution of members is also an interesting aspect of our membership. As it currently stands, that distribution is as follows:

Caribbean area	26
<i>Anguilla</i>	1
<i>Bahamas</i>	4
<i>Barbados</i>	5
<i>Belize</i>	1
<i>Bermuda</i>	5
<i>British Virgin Islands</i>	3
<i>Cayman Islands</i>	3
<i>Jamaica</i>	3

*Saint Lucia* 1  
*Trinidad & Tobago* 2

<i>Australia</i>	5
<i>Denmark</i>	1
<i>France</i>	4
<i>Germany</i>	1
<i>Ireland</i>	1
<i>Japan</i>	2
<i>Norway</i>	1
<i>Panama</i>	1
<i>South Africa</i>	7
<i>Sweden</i>	1
<i>Switzerland</i>	3
<i>United Kingdom</i>	102

*Canada* 29

*Alberta* 3  
  *British Columbia* 2  
  *New Brunswick* 1  
  *Ontario* 20  
  *Prince Edward Is.* 1  
  *Quebec* 2

*United States* 255

*Alabama* 4  
  *Arizona* 4  
  *Arkansas* 1  
  *California* 32  
  *Colorado* 1  
  *Connecticut* 8  
  *Delaware* 2  
  *Florida* 26  
  *Georgia* 6  
  *Kansas* 1  
  *Kentucky* 2  
  *Illinois* 16  
  *Indiana* 4  
  *Louisiana* 3  
  *Maine* 1  
  *Maryland* 11  
  *Massachusetts* 8  
  *Michigan* 2  
  *Minnesota* 2  
  *Mississippi* 1  
  *Missouri* 3  
  *Nevada* 1  
  *New Hampshire* 2  
  *New Jersey* 12  
  *New Mexico* 1  
  *New York* 36  
  *North Carolina* 2  
  *Ohio* 9  
  *Oklahoma* 2

Oregon 3  
 Pennsylvania 7  
 Puerto Rico 1  
 Rhode Island 3  
 South Carolina 2  
 Tennessee 4  
 Texas 10

Utah 3  
 Virginia 7  
 Washington 6  
 West Virginia 1  
 Wisconsin 5  
 Wyoming 1

## Secretary's Report

by PETER KAULBACK

### New Members

The seven applicants listed in the March 1996 issue of the journal have been admitted to membership in the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group.

### New Applicants

BLOUCH, John D. 1014 Quail Ridge Drive, Plainsboro, N.J. 08536; collects Bahamas stamps and postal history, Jamaica and other BWI stamps; sponsored by J.L. Fredrick.

CLARK, Gary. 5623 Sailfish Drive, Lutz, FL 33549-7104; collects KGVII issues, Caribbean, N. Atlantic and Africa; sponsored by T. Cusick.

FENTRESS, Gary W. 11667 Gorham Ave. #103, Los Angeles, CA 90049; collects Cayman Islands, Falkland Is., Hong Kong, Jamaica; sponsored by J.L. Fredrick.

FIKUM, David. P.O. 43062, Atlanta, GA 30336; collects Jamaica, Aruba, Bermuda, Bahamas; sponsored by P. Kaulback.

MURPHY, Raymond. 1993 76th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702; collects Jamaica, Canada; sponsored by P. Kaulback.

NICKLES, Peter A. 47 Edgemere, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236; collects British Caribbean, Leeward Islands, waterfalls stamps; sponsored by G.J. Raymond.

RODGER, Annemarie. 2135 Blue Jay Drive, Gloucester, Ont., Canada K1J 6A9; collects Jamaica to the 1960s; sponsored by P. Kaulback

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Donald Winegar, P.O. Box 705, Clifton Park, NY 12065-0705.

## Book Reviews

*Postal History of Blockade Running Through Bermuda, 1861-1865*, by M.H. Ludington. Monograph no. 14 of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. Softbound, 8½" x 11" (21.5 x 28 cm), 47 pages, ©1989 and 1995. ISBN 1-888726-00-8. Price: US\$18 (\$15 to BCPSG members), postpaid. Available from Cyril Bell, 4445 Riverside Drive, Lilburn, GA 30247, U.S.A.

Receipt of this well-illustrated monograph pleased this reviewer very much. It was delivered on the day of a business trip to the West Coast and was eagerly and enjoyably digested during the 3½-hour trip from Chicago to San

Francisco. Already familiar with Morris Ludington's previous philatelic handbooks and having dabbled in this very complex subject, I immediately recognized the scope and depth of this reference work as being as scholarly and complete as one would expect from this author.

The book begins with an introduction explaining the communications, types of ships, and other historical data centered on the relationships developed between the Confederate States of America and Bermuda during the U.S. Civil War of 1861-65. The importance of Bermuda-based forwarding agents to the transfer of the mails is detailed, with many being specifically mentioned by name. The

methods used for conveying the correspondence between the Confederacy and England by blockade runner mail through Bermuda are outlined.

The fascinating 15-page section devoted to specific blockade-run mail through Bermuda is illustrated with 15 examples, presumably in the author's collection. Each of the folded letters or covers is illustrated and described with respect to origin, destination, and the Bermuda connection. In most cases, the author includes historical background and even, in some cases, tells us about the ultimate fate of the ship carrying the mail. The reader is immersed in the trials and tribulations of the period as the author reproduces or paraphrases the contemporary correspondence whenever it is available.

The existence of Bermuda-related blockade-run postal history has been known for many years: in the 1920s and 1930s, August Dietz referred to it in his Confederate States handbooks. In this reviewer's experience, these Bermuda-related items, whether or not with Bermuda markings, appear to reside mainly in the collections of Confederacy postal history specialists, with new discoveries being made to this day (I was party to two such Bermuda-related "discoveries").

Of considerable value to postal historians and to those seeking to identify other Bermuda-related blockade-run covers are two comprehensive listings at the end of the book, occupying 20 pages, both obviously the result of original research in newspapers and other sources on the part of the author. One is a list of the 80 voyages of the Cunard Line vessels between Liverpool and Bermuda via Halifax in 1862-65, with northbound and southbound departure and arrival dates, while the other provides details about approximately 230 sailings of blockade runners at Bermuda in 1861-65, including departure and arrival dates, origins and destinations, cargoes, and other information germane to the subject.

This user-friendly monograph covering a complex subject and containing many proper names concludes with two indexes – one for vessels and one for people and places. I have not seen such an index treatment previously, and I found it quite helpful.

Morris Ludington's new monograph is a must-have item for the Bermuda postal historian, and it also deserves recognition as an important original reference work for the members of the Confederate postal history collecting community. At a more general level, it is an excellent example of how to describe covers in their historical context – *Charles E. Cwiakala*

***Saint Lucia Past: A Pictorial History*, by Linda Molloy. Hardbound, approx. 8" x 6" (20.8 x 15 cm), approx. 80 pages, 1996, ISBN 0-9527632-0-6. Price: £9.99 + £2.50 p&p. Available from the author at 25 Institute Road, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 1BT, U.K.**

This is a book of picture postcards of Saint Lucia accompanied by descriptive or historical comments on the scenes and people depicted. The author, owner of a restaurant in Swanage, obviously has an intimate knowledge of the history, places, and people of Saint Lucia and has carefully selected postcards that provide a nostalgic look at the occupations and customs of Saint Lucians, the old buildings, the unpaved streets and country roads, etc. Of the approximately 78 cards shown, most are pre-World War II, and indeed some go back to the early 1890s.

The book's cover, showing a view of Castries' Bourbon Street (probably ca. 1895-1900, judging by the clothing) against an "old pink" background, sets the nostalgic tone for its contents.

In the introduction, Linda Molloy briefly describes the first inhabitants of the islands – the Arawaks, who were followed by the Caribs – and summarizes the island's history in about 15 lines.

Not surprisingly, sugar cultivation is featured prominently on the early postcards, and the author uses that opportunity to narrate the history of sugar production all the way from the ancient Persians to the West Indian plantations. One postcard shows a windmill used in the early production process.

The history of Saint Lucia has been marked by natural disasters, and postcards illustrate the effects of two of these – the earthquake of 1906 and the fire of 1927, which destroyed a large part of the capital, Castries. The island's military history is evoked by postcards depicting members of the Saint Lucia Volunteer Corps, German prisoners of war (World War I), and the barracks at Vigie.

Other scenes include the market, fishing boats, religious buildings, sports events, Government House, Victoria Hospital, the Castries River and the 200-year-old Riverside Cemetery, Rat Island, Pigeon Island, etc.

Collectors of Saint Lucia postmarks will recognize the names of several places featured on the postcards – Anse La Raye, Choiseul, Laborie, Gros Islet, Soufrière, Dennery, Vieux Fort, among others.

This charming and informative book should delight all of those interested in typical views of the Caribbean as it once was. – *Michel Forand*

## *The R.M.S.P.C.*

[The following poem appeared in *The Antigua Standard* of 9 December 1905, where it was reprinted from *The Trinidad Mirror*. My thanks to Bill Ashley for submitting this amusing complaint about the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. This had been scheduled to appear in the March journal but at the last minute was preempted by the arrival of new advertisements. Unfortunately, I forgot to adjust the table of contents accordingly in that issue. – M.F.]

When advertised Arrival-date proved snares to our undoing,  
And dreadful language from the Square showed there was trouble  
/ brewing,

The universal eloquence the Poet's harp-strings smote;  
He made a song about the Mail, and this is what he wrote:

They doubtless had their troubles, our ancestors of old,  
Who lived on one another in the primal, glacial cold;  
Yet their lot one well may envy, or so it seems to me,  
For they never were exploited by the R.M.S.P.C.

No Time Table mendacious, in hieroglyphics rude,  
Distracted lucky cave men in their early solitude,  
Foretelling ships that would not come. That happy race was free  
From the practical jocoseness of the R.M.S.P.C.

They were not taught to count the days till on a certain date  
A ship would bring their letters – and manage to be late.

Uncrushed by the disappointment they were as happy as could be  
For they didn't have no dealings with the R.M.S.P.C.

They were not made the victims of a grim bi-weekly "sell"  
So had no use for language that would burn blue flares in – Well.  
They did not suffer here below and risk eternity  
Since they had no arch provoker like the R.M.S.P.C.

So plainly they were better-off than we of Port-of-Spain  
Who feed on expectations which are obviously vain,  
See ships run to Madeira that should plough the Carib Sea,  
And furnish cheap amusement for the R.M.S.P.C.

In various ways, these latter days, men court Misfortune's ills;  
Some look for them in politics, and some in patent pills,  
But the sorrows' crown of sorrows – 'tis enough and more for me  
Is the tantalizing Time-Bill of the R.M.S.P.C.

## *A New 'MISSENT TO ANGUILLA' Marking*

by Dr BEN RAMKISSOON

The use of the reported 'MISSENT TO ANGUILLA' instructional markings has been of particular interest to me, not only because I have concentrated on Anguilla's postal history during the period of its breakaway from the central government of St Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla (based at Basseterre on St Kitts), but also because these markings have rarely been seen.

The late Ed Addiss reported two types of 'MISSENT TO ANGUILLA' markings in *BCPJ* 155 (June 1990, p. 53). Of the first type – a straightline handstamp in violet ink, 56 x 5 mm, with an earliest recorded date (ERD) of 17 March 1971 – I have seen two examples. But of the second type – a three-line version, with an ERD of 15 October 1979 – I have not yet seen an example on cover.

A third straightline type, approximately 62 x 6 mm in bold sans-serif letters, has come to light. Interestingly, it appears on a large commercial cover inscribed "Guest Questionnaire" by hand, sent to Cocoloba at Barnes Bay

from Cupertino, California, in October 1991. It is apparent that the cover received the 'MISSENT TO ANGUILLA' handstamp in error and that the postal clerk, in an attempt to correct the error, applied approximately five strikes of the handstamp over each prior impression, making the deciphering of the erroneous instructional message almost impossible.

## **MISSENT TO ANGUILLA**

A more recent example has been seen on a window envelope sent from Rochester, N.Y. in January 1995 and backstamped at The Valley, 8 FEB 95. The dimensions of the handstamp, 70 x 6 mm, can more readily be ascertained by the clear strike (above). There is some bowing of the rubber handstamp, so that the impression appears somewhat curved.

## *The Registered Envelopes of Jamaica*

by R. V. SWARBRICK

The registered envelopes of Jamaica offer, I believe, just about the last opportunity for original research in a hobby bedevilled by rising prices and a shortage of suitable material. Postal stationery has been the poor relation of philately for many years, although it was not always so. Sadly, its study has suffered greatly from the dissemination of much inaccurate information and the continued repetition by later students of what can best be called hearsay.

In an attempt to open up the whole subject and to stimulate interest, I offer the following, conscious of the fact that the last chapter remains to be written and that there is much that we don't know.

Prepaid registered envelopes were introduced in Jamaica on 27 January 1913, printed by Thomas De La Rue & Co. They followed an established design already widely used throughout the Empire. The following notice appeared in the *Gazette* of 23 January 1913:

STAMP OFFICE,  
KINGSTON,  
16 Jan. 1913

The following is a description of a new stamp embossed on an envelope for Registration purposes, which will put into circulation on the 27th Jan., 1913.

The design of the stamp is denoted by an embossed profile in white of King George Fifth, to the left, in an oval surmounted by a Crown; and to the left and right of the frame respectively are the numerals and words "2d. Registration" and "1d. Postage," and underneath Jamaica.

The colour of the stamp is brown on white paper.

GEO. S. THOMPSON  
*Deputy Stamp Commissioner*

This fact was recorded on page 182 of *Jamaica: Its Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*, edited by G.W. Collett, W. Buckland Edwards, C.S. Morton and L.C.C. Nicholson and published by Stanley Gibbons in 1928. The authors of the postal stationery chapter, Astley Clerk and L.C.C. Nicholson, stated that sizes F and G were issued. This is an error that has had widespread repetition in subsequent writings. Jamaica has only ever had two sizes: size F, 134 x 84 mm; and size H, 204 x 126 mm. I have searched all known sources of information and am convinced that this is a fact.

Broadly, there are two main areas open to us for research – the Crown Agents archives, deposited at the British Library; and the De La Rue records, deposited at the National Postal Museum, which include the Colonial Stamp Books, Private Day Books, and Correspondence Books – and it is vital that all of these be consulted. To simply quote the figures obtained from De La Rue's Requisition Books tells us only a small part of the story. Taken alone, these figures are at best misleading.

To understand this, it would be as well to consider the method production of the envelopes, since this has some effect on the interpretation of the facts. The Crown Agents maintained offices and stores at the plants of all the main security printers, and they controlled the issue of the dies and plates needed to print. These were issued for a specific job, to be returned on completion, and a charge was made against the printer for this service. I believe the printer kept stocks of printed envelopes of all sizes and that the actual print runs were substantial. The envelopes were just envelopes, without any commercial value and without any mention of destination. When an order for a specific quantity and value of envelope was received from the Crown Agents, an "indent" was made to stores for the correct number and type to be made available.

This can be seen on Requisition No. 924/4 of 17 July 1939, for example. The entry in the Colonial Stamp Book gives much detail, including (in pencil), "Envelopes supply in six weeks. Complete in eight weeks." The request was for 6,000 size H and 20,000 size F envelopes. As this order was the first received for the revalued envelopes (from 2d to 3d), specimens were required. In addition, an order for the embossing die (G8284) was placed with the Crown Agents.

I mention this aspect as many misunderstandings have crept in with respect to the question of the printing of specimens, which are always in great demand.

From the Colonial Stamp Books it is obvious that the production of specimen material was considered very important, and exact details were kept of all quantities printed. There is a considerable correspondence about two copies that went to the wrong department, for example.

The entry in the Colonial Stamp Book dated 17 November 1937 lists the order under Requisition No. 9968/4, which was one of the early orders for the King George VI





Left: 1912 De La Rue composite essay for the 2d + 1d registration stamp. frame printed in vermilion with a photographic head of King George V inset in the centre, mounted on a sunken card dated 'July 29th 12' and marked 'Approved WHM 13.8.12'. Right: impression of the finished die in vermilion, mounted on a small sunken card.

Proof impressions of the dies for the King George VI registered envelopes, both in brown. Left: the 2d + 1d die. Right: the 3d + 1½d die.



Embossing die no. 1: King George V, 2d registration + 1d postage, used for envelope types F1, F1a, F2, H1, and H2.



Embossing die no. 2: King George VI, 2d registration + 1d postage, used for envelope types F1a, F3, and H3.



Embossing die no. 3: King George VI, 3d registration + 1½ postage, used for envelope types F4, F4a, F5, F6, and F7, as well as H4, H4a, and H5.



Embossing die no. 4: King George VI, 4d registration + 2d postage, used for envelope types F8, F9, H6, and H7.



Embossing die no. 5: Queen Elizabeth II, 4d registration + 2d postage, used for envelope types F10, F10a, and H8.

**REGISTERED LETTER.**

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. LTD. PATENT. FEE PAID.  
*Type F1*

**REGISTERED LETTER.**

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. LTD. PATENT. FEE PAID.  
*Type F1a*

**REGISTERED LETTER.**

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

THOS. DE LA RUE & CO. PATENT. FEE PAID.  
*Type F2*

**REGISTERED LETTER.**

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

THOS. DE LA RUE & Co. LTD. PATENT FEE PAID  
*Type F3*

**REGISTERED LETTER.**

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

THOMAS DE LA RUE & COMPANY, LIMITED. FEE PAID.  
*Type F4*

**REGISTERED LETTER.**

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

THOMAS DE LA RUE & COMPANY, LIMITED FEE PAID.  
*Type F5*



**REGISTERED LETTER.**

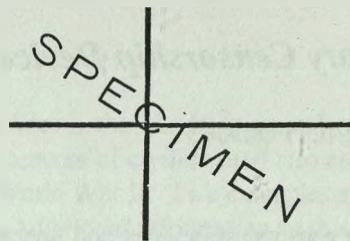
THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER OF THE POST OFFICE TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT OBTAINED FOR IT. THE ADDRESS MUST BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

THOMAS DE LA RUE & COMPANY, LIMITED.

FEE PAID.

An example of the blank size H envelope.

# SPECIMEN



*The two specimen types found on Jamaica's registered envelopes: type 1 (left) was used with embossing die no. 1, while type 2 was used with dies nos. 2 and 3. All overprints were applied diagonally.*

issue. The left-hand column gives much detail. The quantities required were 2,000 size H and 12,000 size F envelopes. It is also stated that 398 specimens are required for all except size H envelopes. This fact is important, since very often it is said that specimens exist for all sizes. In addition, the figure of 398 specimens is misleading, as the quantity printed was actually 404. This would seem to contradict the known facts, but can be explained by reference to the Crown Agents files, which include actual copies of many of the printings. In De La Rue's Colonial Stamp Book ledger is a separate column giving the breakdown of the quantities printed, which sadly was not always filled in correctly. From the known facts we can deduce that copies of the specimens were required for the archives of De La Rue themselves, for the Crown Agents, and for the G.P.O. These last were the copies to be distributed to the members of the Universal Postal Union (UPU), whose number varied with the fluctuations of history and politics. The remaining six copies were divided between the other departments. For reasons not readily known, the Crown Agents required examples (specimens) of all new issues, irrespective of value. The De La Rue ledgers contain examples of many issues of the period.

Under another reference to Requisition 9968, dated 2 February 1938, there are examples of both size F and size H envelopes overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. Under Requisition 924 of 26 August 1938, there is a similar entry. From this, perhaps I may be forgiven for making a suspicious guess that three examples of size H were made available to the Crown Agents, the other three being retained by the printers.

Whether these came onto the philatelic market when the De La Rue archives were sold, I know not, as the description in the catalogues is not helpful. Those produced for the Crown Agents still exist and are available for inspection at the British Library.

At the most, it would seem that only three examples can exist outside archives – a fact not readily reflected in

the various articles written about this issue. This is only a calculated guess, but hopefully it will give me the opportunity to present the real reason for this article.

In attempting to study these envelopes, it is necessary to treat the subject in two halves.

The embossed die, used to add an identity and value to blank envelopes, remained the property of the Crown Agents throughout its life, and it was only made available to the printers as and when orders were received. Only five of these dies exist, and individual dies were used many times on different type envelopes. For example, Die 3 was used on five different size F envelopes and on three size H envelopes. These were the only times the specimen overprint was used – i.e., to denote a change of monarch or a change of value, as it was necessary to acquaint the member countries of the UPU of any major changes.

The second stage is to consider the basic envelope itself. Having compared examples from other, non-Caribbean colonies, I am certain that the printers made up large batches of blank envelopes and simply stored them. The envelopes had no value, except the cost of production, and no identity, so they were not treated to high-security storage.

To date, I have identified five main types of size F envelopes and five of size H. I suspect there could well be more. Types F1 and F1a remained in use for a considerable time, only being altered by the use of a different die.

Previously, some writers have attempted to give dates of usage and quantities printed of the various types described. I don't think this is possible, as I have evidence of, for example, both types F1 being used for the specimen overprints.

Thus, although this subject might seem to be very complex, it is, in reality, quite simple. What's more, the information can apply to other colonies using De La Rue as their printers.

Mark Swetland has reminded me that a picture is worth a thousand words, so I illustrate this article with some of the items discussed above.

## Military Censorship Devices Used in Bermuda

by MICHEL FORAND

Civilian censorship devices and operations in Bermuda have been the focus of intense interest on the part of collectors for many years, but little is known about military censorship. My purpose here is to list and illustrate the markings and resealing tapes that are known or believed to have been used in Bermuda and to solicit more informa-

tion from readers in an attempt to draw a more complete picture. Earliest and latest recorded dates (ERDs and LRDS) are provided for each mark or tape whenever possible, but naval covers were often undated. Where no LRD is shown for a particular mark or tape, only one example had been recorded so far.

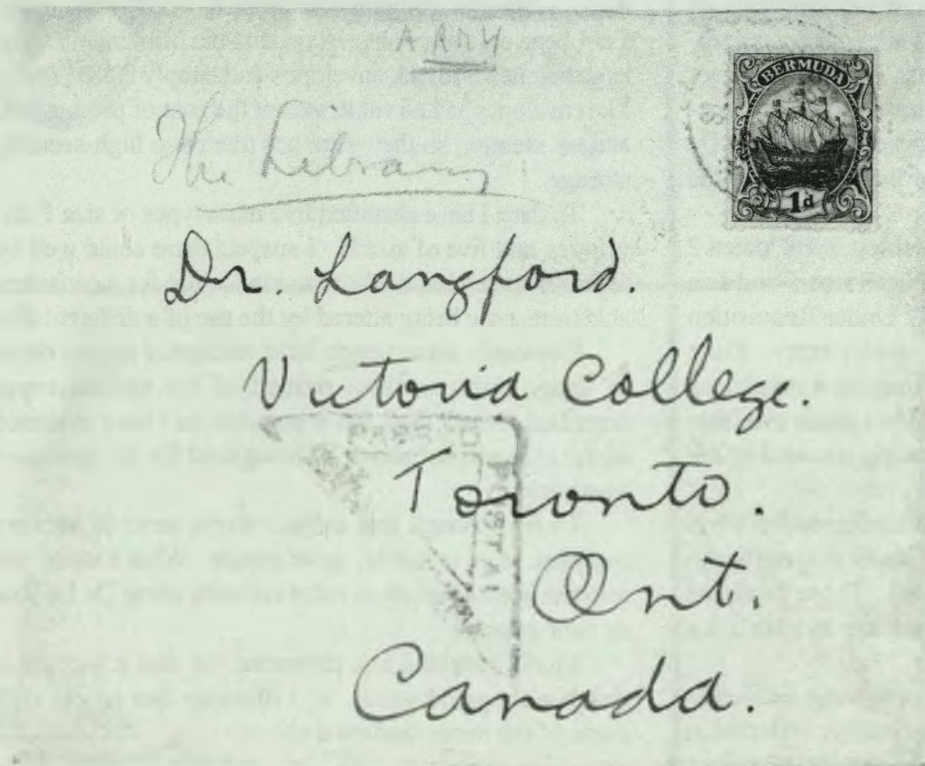
### World War I

During the First World War, the Colonial Government set up a small group of censors under Colonel William Robert Winter. While most of their work consisted of examining the civilian mails, they were also responsible for controlling military mail – that is, mail to and from members of the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps (BVRC) posted abroad, the Canadian soldiers who replaced the British garrison during most of the war, and the British soldiers when they returned to Bermuda in 1918. The censors, who probably received special training in the examination of military mail, did not have special devices for that type of mail but simply used two of the handstamps commonly

known on civilian letters – namely, Ludington’s triangular type CM13 (Figure 1) and circular type CM15.

As readers familiar with M.H. Gould’s work well know, the Royal Navy had a bewildering range of censor marks during World War I. The two that I am aware of on covers with Bermuda stamps are believed to have been applied on board ship, not in Bermuda itself.

Gould does illustrate a mark reading ‘Censored / R.N.B. / Bermuda’ (Figure 2) but says nothing about it other than that the acronym R.N.B. means “Royal Naval Base.” I do not know of any example on cover, and would welcome more information about this mark.



Censored  
R.N.B  
Bermuda

Figure 2

T. W. Macdowell, Capt.  
35<sup>th</sup> Batt C.E.F.  
St. George's  
Bermuda  
B.M.S.

On the back

Figure 1. Cover posted on 28 JAN 16 by an officer of the 35th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force.

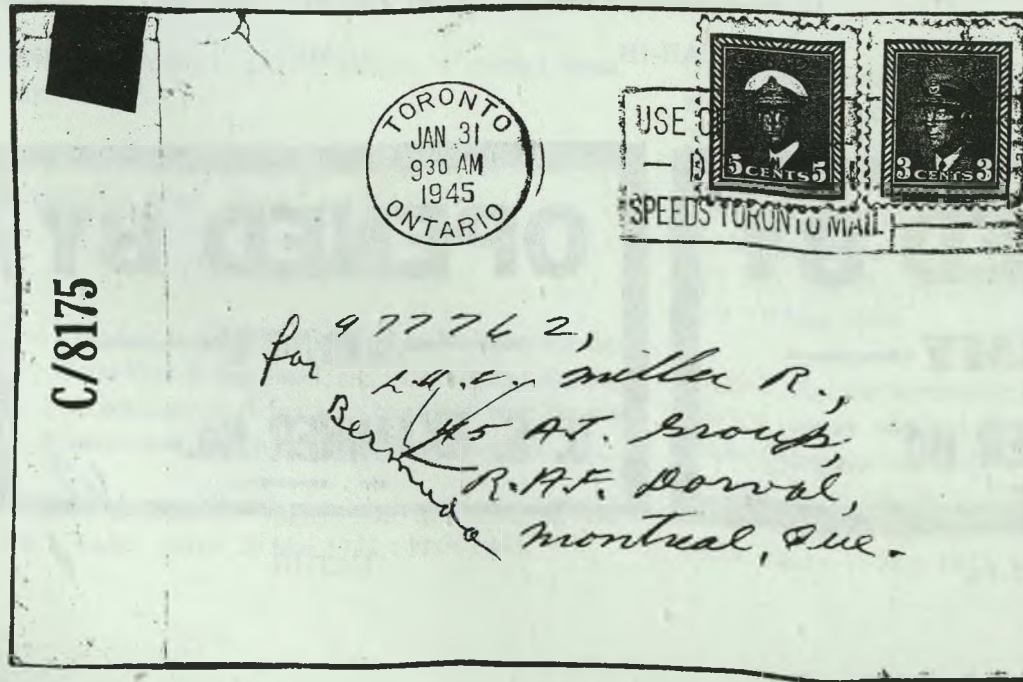
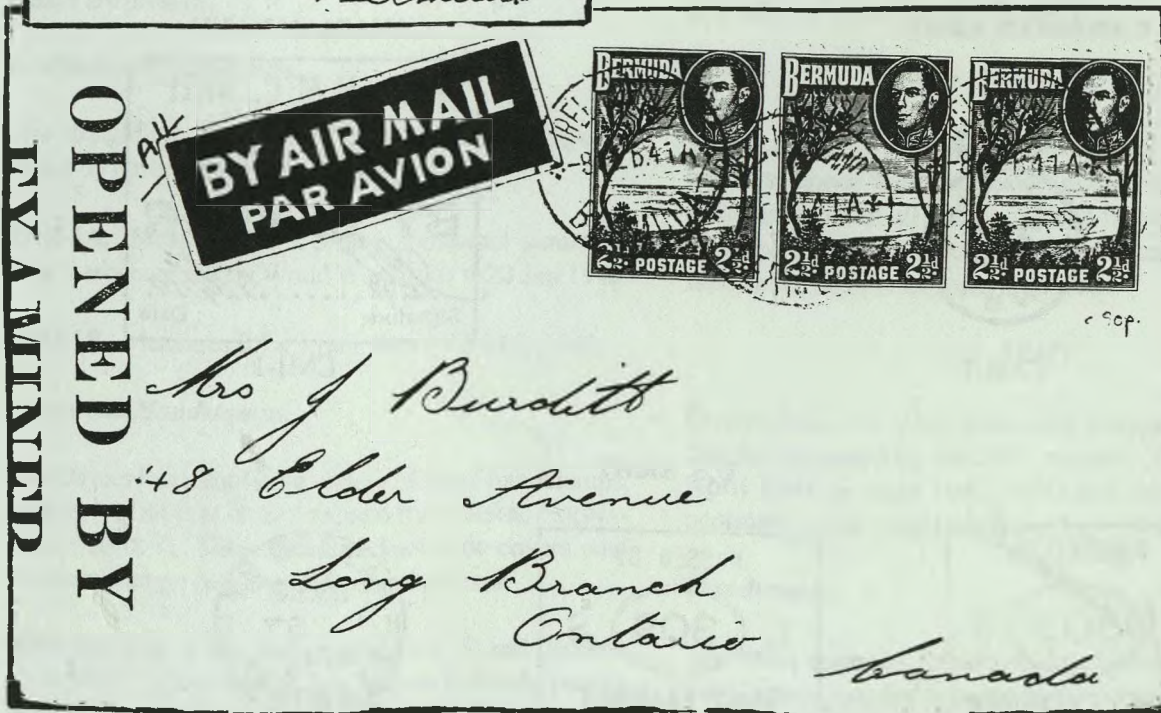
## World War II

With the development of submarines and the expansion of modern navies, Bermuda had acquired great strategic importance by the beginning of World War II. Britain, Canada, and the United States all had armed forces personnel on the island, and there were at least four different military censorship systems in operation in Bermuda.

As in World War I, the handstamps and resealing tapes used by the censors of civilian mail also appear on military covers of World War II. Two examples are illustrated in Figure 3. Additional information on this type of censorship would be most welcome, along with photocopies of unusual covers, if possible.

*J Burdett P.O.  
H.M.S. Malabar  
Bermuda*

Figure 3.  
Covers with civilian censorship resealing tapes.



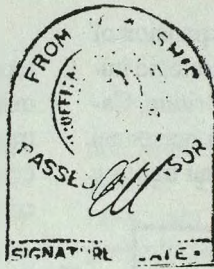
Top: cover, post-marked 8 FEB 41, from H.M.S. Malabar, the Royal Navy shore establishment at Ireland Island, with a type CL4 tape.

Bottom: letter to a member of the 45th Air Transport Group with a type CL6 tape.

ROYAL NAVY

RNH-1A PASSED *X. 6/11* CENSOR

RNH-1B PASSED BY CENSOR  
*X*



RNH-2A



RNH-2B



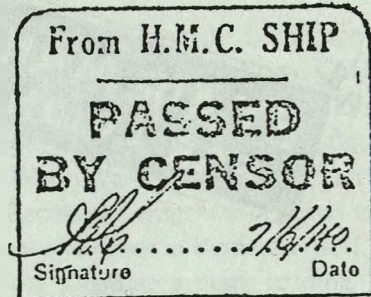
RNH-2C

CANADIAN ARMY



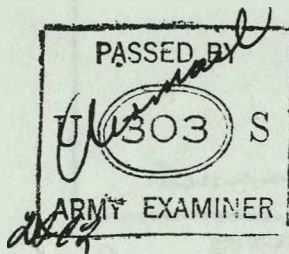
CAH-1

CANADIAN NAVY

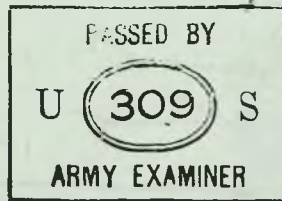


CNH-1

U.S. ARMY



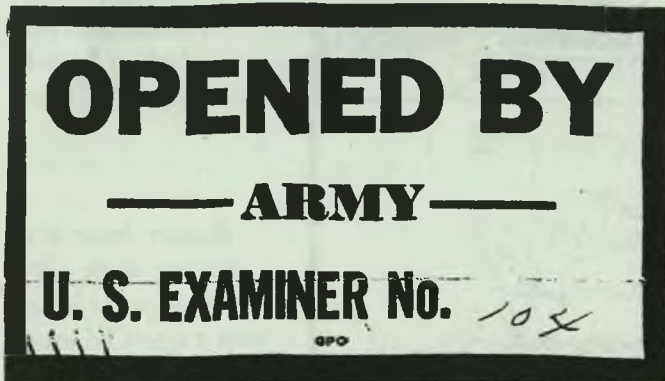
UAH-1A



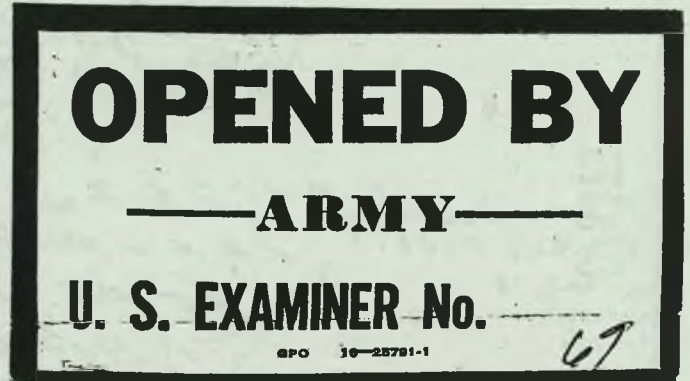
UAH-1B



UAH-2



UAT-1A



UAT-1B

To facilitate cross-referencing of descriptions and illustrations, numbers have been assigned, using the following abbreviations: RN = Royal Navy; CA = Canadian Army; CN = Royal Canadian Navy; UA = U.S. Army; UN = U.S. Navy; H = handstamp; T = tape.

## ROYAL NAVY

British naval censor marks were used on vessels and at shore establishments around the world. Most of these marks were undifferentiated as to location, and so the origin of a cover can usually be identified only when stamps are present.

### *Straightline Handstamps*

Two straightline 'PASSED BY CENSOR.' handstamps are known on covers with Bermudian stamps.

**RNH-1A.** Measures 53 x 3 mm; somewhat similar to some marks used during World War I. ERD = 20 Jan 1940.

**RNH-1B.** Measures 38 x 5 mm. ERD = 15 May 1941.

### *Tombstone Handstamps*

John Daynes has identified a variety of these handstamps, reading 'FROM H.M. SHIP / PASSED BY CENSOR / SIGNATURE · DATE ·'. Three types are known on covers with Bermuda stamps or a Bermuda return address.

**RNH-2A.** The 's' of 'SHIP' looks like a '5' and 'PASSED BY CENSOR' is in a curved line; known in black, purple, blue or red. ERD = Jan 1941; LRD = 14 Apr 1942.

**RNH-2B.** Similar to 2A, but with the 's' normal; black. ERD = 1942?.

**RNH-2C.** Similar to 2B, but 'PASSED BY CENSOR' in a straight line; black. ERD = 7 Jan 1944.

## CANADIAN ARMY

The Canadian Army detachment posted in Bermuda during World War II was small, and letters from Canadian soldiers are elusive. A few have been seen with Bermudian stamps and the Canadian Army censor mark.

**CAH-1.** 'CANADIAN · ARMY · 302' in a small crowned circle; violet. ERD = 29 Mar 1944; LRD = 1945.

## CANADIAN NAVY

The Royal Canadian Navy had a small shore establishment in Bermuda, named H.M.C.S. Somers Isles (H.M.C.S. = His Majesty's Canadian Ship). Covers with Bermudian stamps are known with the RCN's censorship handstamp.

**CNH-1.** 'From H.M.C. SHIP / PASSED / BY CENSOR / [dotted line] / Signature Date'. ERD = 6 Jul 1940.

Interestingly, this handstamp is also known on covers with Bermudian stamps but with the letter 'C' excised, suggesting it was used by the Royal Navy.

## U.S. FORCES

Censor markings and tapes found on mail from U.S. personnel stationed in Bermuda during the war are by far the most numerous of all. Richard Heap illustrated a number of these in a 1979 article, but several naval marks and tapes have been discovered since then.

### *U.S. ARMY*

Covers from U.S. Army personnel stationed in Bermuda can be identified by the APO number (APO 802 from April 1941 to April 1942, APO 856 thereafter) in the postmark or the return address.

### *Handstamps*

The most common censorship handstamp is the "race-track" mark, so called because of its shape. Two varieties are known.

**UAH-1A.** Rectangular frame measuring 34 x 28 mm; black, violet, red. Censor numbers recorded: 300, 301, 302, 303, 304. ERD = 28 Apr 1941; LRD = 16 Aug 1943.

**UAH-1B.** Similar to 1A but measuring 37 x 26 mm; black, purple, blue-black. Numbers recorded: 306, 307, 309, 313, 314, 315, 317, 319, 322, 326. ERD = Feb 1942; LRD = 6 May 1944.

**UAH-2.** Circular handstamp inscribed 'PASSED BY / US / BASE / [censor number] / ARMY / EXAMINER'; purple, black. Often seen in conjunction with a transparent resealing tape inscribed 'OPENED BY / U. S. ARMY EXAMINER'. Censor numbers recorded: 0352, 0354, 0356, 0357 and 0358. ERD = 15 May 1943; LRD = 24 Feb 1945.

**Resealing Tapes**

Two very similar Army resealing tapes are known from Bermuda, with the censor number added by hand.

**UAT-1A.** The fourth line reads 'GPO' in small type. Censor numbers recorded: 1, 4, 39, 52, 54, 55, 56, 66, 103, 104, 105, 107, 117. ERD = 2 Oct 1941; LRD = 12 May 1943.

**UAT-1B.** Same, with '16-25791-1' added after 'GPO'. Censor numbers recorded: 3, 32, 60, 66, 69, 70, 73, 75, 80, 83, 104, 111, 114, 115. ERD = Feb 1942; LRD = 27 Apr 1943.

**U.S. NAVY**

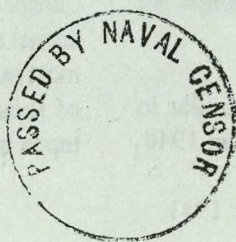
**Handstamps**

Circular censor marks reading 'PASSED BY NAVAL CENSOR' have been seen on covers with the word "Bermuda" in the postmark or the return address, or from units identified with Bermuda - e.g., Naval Mobile Hospital #1, 49th Naval Constr. Battalion, Navy 138, USS Altair, etc.

**UNH-1A.** Single-ring handstamp, wording in seriffed letters, with initials added by hand in the center; 9 mm distance between the bottom of 'P' and the bottom of 'R'; red. ERD = 9 Sep 1941; LRD = Jun 1942.



UNH-1A



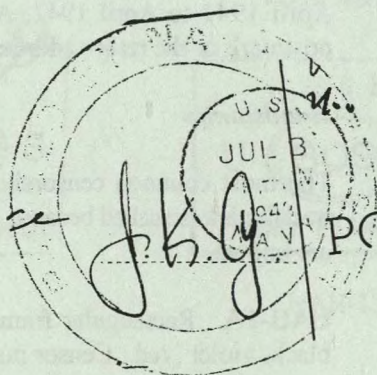
UNH-1B



UNH-1C



UNH-2A



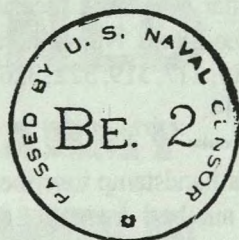
UNH-2B



UNH-2C



UNH-3



UNH-4A



UNH-4B



UNH-4C



**UNH-1B.** Similar to 1A, but sans-serif letters and 20 mm distance between 'P' and 'R'; black. ERD = 16 Nov 1943.

**UNH-1C.** Similar to 1B, but 4 mm distance between 'P' and 'R'; violet. ERD = 11 May 1943.

**UNH-2A.** Double-ring circle with wording in seriffed letters; 12 mm distance between 'P' and 'R'; black, blue, purple; 31 & 28 mm: seen on mail from the Marine Detachment and the Mobile Base Hospital. ERD = 5 Jun 1941; LRD = 21 Sep 1942.

**UNH-2B.** Similar to 2A, but 49 & 39 mm, with sans-serif wording between the two rings and a dotted line for the censor's initials or signature; black. ERD = 3 Jul 1943.

**UNH-2C.** Similar to 2B, but 32 & 18 mm, with outlined, sans-serif letters and censor's initials in the center; black? ERD = 2 Jan 1943.

**UNH-3.** Triple-ring circle with —o— in the middle and the wording between the two outer rings; black. Seen with initials or with a number in the center; numbers recorded: 3, 23, 93. ERD = Aug 1942; LRD = 26 May 1945.

**UNH-4A.** Circular handstamp reading 'PASSED BY U.S. NAVAL CENSOR / BE. [censor number]'; black, purple. Numbers recorded: 1, 2, 3. ERD = 24 Sep 1941; LRD = 24 Mar 1942.

**UNH-4B.** Similar to 4A, but with 'E' of 'BE' excised to make room for the addition of a handwritten digit before the original censor number, thus converting the latter into

a two-digit number; black. Numbers recorded: 11, 12, 13, 21, 23, 33, 91, 92, 93. ERD = Apr 1942; LRD = 20 Apr 1943.

**UNH-4C.** Similar to 4B, but with 'B' and original number entirely omitted, and new censor number added by hand. Number recorded: 5. ERD = 2 Mar 1943.

### *Resealing Tapes*

**UNT-1A.** 'OPENED BY / U.S. NAVAL / CENSOR / BE. [printed censor number]'; blue; 'OPENED BY' measures 63 x 5.5 mm. Numbers recorded: 1, 2, 3. ERD = 6 May 1941; LRD = 16 May 1941.

**UNT-1B.** Similar to 1A, but with the last line reading 'BE.' instead of 'BER.'; red. Numbers recorded: 2, 3. ERD = 30 Oct 1941; LRD = 7 Jan 1942.

**UNT-2A.** Similar wording, but with 'OPENED BY' measuring 55 x 5 mm and the fourth line reading: 'EXAMINER \_\_\_\_\_ BE'; the censor number is added by hand above the line; red. Number recorded: 101. ERD = 21 Feb 1942.

**UNT-2B.** Similar to 2A, but in smaller type; red. Numbers recorded: 11, 21, 31, 33. ERD = 25 Apr 1942; LRD = 15 Sep 1942.

**UNT-2C.** Similar to B1, but with tighter lettering as well as a dashed line and a fifth line reading (in small type) 'Norfolk Navy Yard-3-11-42-100,000'; printed in red. Numbers recorded: 13, 33, 91. ERD = 27 Jul 1942; LRD = Sep 1942.

OPENED BY  
U.S. NAVAL  
CENSOR  
BER. 1

UNT-1A

OPENED BY  
U.S. NAVAL  
CENSOR  
BE. 3

UNT-1B

OPENED BY  
U. S. NAVAL  
CENSOR

EXAMINER 101 BE

UNT-2A

OPENED BY  
U. S. NAVAL  
CENSOR

EXAMINER 35 BE

UNT2B

OPENED BY  
U. S. NAVAL  
CENSOR

EXAMINER 32 BE

Norfolk Navy Yard—3-11-42—100,000

UNT-2C

\*\*\*

The above summary is only tentative. Readers can undoubtedly provide more information on the subject of military censorship devices used in Bermuda, and I urge those who have tapes or handstamps not recorded here, date extensions, or any other information about military censorship to forward details to me so that an update can be provided in these pages.

I wish to thank Horst Augustinovic, Bill Gompel, Richard Heap and George King for providing information and/or illustrations.

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# The 'Town' Cancels of British Honduras, 1865-1973: Update II

by IAN MATHESON

Ed Addiss's monograph on *The 'Town' Cancels of British Honduras* was published in 1990. In BCPJ 169 (December 1993) I published an update with about one hundred revisions to Ed's original text. The brevity of this second update indicates that we are indeed making progress in hunting and tracking down the evidence available.

New types continue to emerge however, so the quest is far from over. A significant update which we overlooked last time is in the title itself. The reporting of Corozal type SC-11 in the first update extends the ERD of village cancels from 1880 back to 1865! This will necessitate several corrections from the cover to page v.

## Transport of the Mails

### Page 6

The second last paragraph reads "the only railway ... in the late 1930s". This should read "The first railway ... in the late 1930s. The tracks were later re-laid as a logging railway between Hill Bank and Gallon Jug."

## Datestamps

### Page Type Comments

- 11 SC-6a At least two post offices, Orange Walk and Corozal, received a second type 6 canceller. These second cancellers are not identical to the original marks and have been classified as a sub-type, type 6a.



Type 6



Type 6a

Corozal's type 6a has 8.8 mm spacing between the 'L' of 'COROZAL' and the 'S' of 'HONDURAS', compared to 8 mm in type 6.



Type 6



Type 6a

Orange Walk's type 6a has taller letters than type 6a, and the clearance between 'ORANGE WALK' and the outer circle is only 0.5 mm, compared with 1 mm in Type 6.

- 18 TDC-4 Dimensions (outer/inner) = c.31/22 mm.
- 19 TDC-6 Delete the entry for Mount Hope added in the previous update. Add:
- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Bermudian Landing | c. 34/24 mm  |
| Bomba             | c. 34/24 mm. |
- 20 TDC-10 Delete "Illustration not available"  
Change diameters to c. 33/23 mm
- TDC-12 A full strike can now be shown.



Type TDC-10



Type TDC-12

- 21 TDC-13 Delete "Illustration not available."  
TDC-16 Add:
- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Mount Hope | 34/25 mm. |
|------------|-----------|
- 22 TDC-20 Add:
- |      |             |
|------|-------------|
| Boom | c. 32.21 mm |
|------|-------------|

- 24 TDC-28 Full illustration now available.
- 26 TDC-34 Delete entries for Pomona and Stann Creek  
TDC-35 Change "large square dots" to "thick dashes." Add:  
Pomona, Stann Creek c. 37/24 mm
- TDC-37 New type: "A mark with a space of about 5 mm between the circles. The mark is similar to TDC-13 but without separators. The letters are plain capitals about 3 mm high. The date is in three lines. Used at:  
Progreso, Lowry's Bight c. 31½/21 mm.
- 28 TDO-1a Add Maskall to the list.



Type TDC-13



Type TDC-28



Type TDC-37



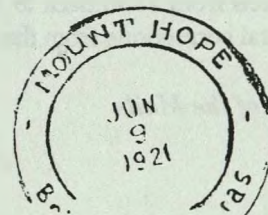
Type TDC-6

(Formerly described as TDC-20)



Type TDC-20

(Formerly described as TDC-7)



Type TDC-16

(Previously tentatively allocated to TDC-6)

### The Post Offices

Page	Post Office	Type	Comments
35	Bermudian Landing Bomba	TDC-6	On SG 121. No date legible.
		TDC-8	ERD = 1917. Add "Violet, black"
		TDC-20	Delete this entry, and substitute:
		TDC-6	ERD = 4 Aug 1927, LRD = 21 Mar 1929 Note: Date is in a four-line format (e.g. "Mar/21/1929/p.m.")
36	Boom Caledonia	TDC-7	Delete this entry, and substitute:
		TDC-20	ERD = 8 Dec 1939. Add "violet"
		TDC-12	LRD = 6 May 1923
37	Consejo	SC-3	ERD = 9 May 1910 LRD = 18 Sep 1911
38	Corozal	O-4	LRD = 1906
		SC-6	ERD = 16 Oct 1940 LRD = 23 Jun 1963
		SC-6a	ERD = 14 Mar 1962 LRD 24 Dec 1964 Note: Inverted "2" in date seen for 14 Mar 1962 and 26 May 1962.
	Double Head Cabbage	TDC-34	ERD = 9 Sep 1935

39	Gales Point	TDC-1	ERD = 28 Jan 1911 LRD = 2 Mar 1922
40	Guinea Grass	TDO-1a	ERD = 31 Jul 1951
42	Monkey River	SC-6a	ERD = 20 Aug 1971
	Mount Hope	TDC-6 (?)	Delete this entry from the first update, and substitute:
		TDC-16	ERD = 9 Jun 1921 LRD = 6 Aug 1923
	Mullins River	TDC-10	ERD = 9 Jan 1918 Substitute "Dull, muddy purple" for "Blackish red."
43	Orange Walk, New River	SC-6	ERD = 13 Aug 1947 LRD = 5 Feb 1958
	"	SC-6a	ERD = 3 Dec 1964 LRD = 28 Dec 1964
	"	DC-4	ERD = 22 Mar 1965 Note: "Year omitted on ERD".
44	Pomona	TDC-34	Delete this type
	"	TDC-35	ERD = 15 Mar 1940
	Progreso	TSL-2	LRD = 17 Aug 1929. Note: "Handstamp used as a registration mark on LRD."
	"	TDC-37	ERD = 17 Aug 1929
48	Stann Creek	SC-3	ERD = 1 Feb 1909
50	20 Miles (Stann Creek)	TDC-35	ERD = 12 Mar 1937

As with previously reported updates, this is the result of the contributions of several fellow collectors. My thanks

are due in particular to John Carter, Charles Freeland, John Forrest, Simon Goldblatt, and Mike Nethersole.

## *New Issues of the Caribbean Area*

by CLIFF ABRAM

Interspersed with issues that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, without question the most popular subject, a sprinkling of other subjects were covered in 1995. These added a touch of variety to last year's issues from the Caribbean area.

All of these issues were printed by familiar companies – BDT, Walsall Security, and House of Questa – but special mention should be made of the Cot Printery of Barbados, which now print some issues of Barbados and also printed an issue for Montserrat. I mention this, as during last year's meeting of the BCPSG in Barbados, several members took the opportunity to visit this establishment and peek into the intricacies of stamp production.

*Montserrat* issued a set of eight stamps last August, depicting scientific achievements to which WWII-related research contributed. This makes an interesting adjunct to

the above theme. Also released at that time was a sheetlet containing four stamps commemorating the International Amateur Athletic Federation's Fifth Event, held at Göteborg, Sweden. This, I'm sure, will be the overriding theme in 1996, given the Atlanta Olympic Games.



*Bermuda*, on 3 November, released two stamps commemorating the 375th anniversary of Parliament, and on 4 December, six stamps showing military bases in Bermuda. All major military bases on the island have now been

closed, so this stamp set will not breach any security rules! The 20¢ stamp shows the Ordnance Island Submarine Base at St Georges; the 25¢, the Royal Naval Dockyard at Ireland Island; the 60¢, Fort Bell and Kindley Field (U.S. Air Force) at St Davids; the 75¢, the Royal Air Force station on Darrell's Island in the Great Sound; the 90¢, the U.S. Naval Operating Base in Southampton; and the \$1, the Canadian Forces Station at Daniel's Head, Somerset.

*Saint Lucia*, on 24 October, released a set of four stamps featuring aircraft, helicopters, and trucks used by the United Nations, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the founding of this organisation. The 10¢ depicts a French Puma helicopter; the 65¢, a Renault truck; the \$1.35, a Transall C160 transport aircraft; and the \$5,

a DC3 with the U.N. colours used in Korea in the 1950s.

*Belize* also commemorated this event with four stamps showing trucks or tanks used by U.N. forces. November saw the release of four stamps with an unusual but very pleasing theme for the Christmas season, depicting four different types of doves.

*Bahamas* elected to show four island churches on its Christmas set. Among the issues designated for release in 1996 are two parts (one in January, the other in July) of the new Seashells definitives, as well as a set commemorating the centenary of radio communications and another featuring the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

## ***British Virgin Islands: Fifth Annual Stamp Exhibition***

The BVI Philatelic Society held another successful exhibition on 2 and 3 December 1995. As in the past, this event took place at Barclays Bank, Road Town, Tortola. Past exhibitions have always received visitors from abroad, and this one was no exception. The American Philatelic Society Stamp Cruise 95 aboard M.S. *Seaward* called at Tortola, and some of the APS officers were present to view the exhibits, including those of BCPSG members Marge Doran, Vernon Pickering and Roger Downing. BCPSG president Peter McCann, who happens to be a vice president of the APS, was among the *Seaward's* passengers and displayed a portion of his British Virgin Islands exhibit. (See photo on front cover of the journal.)

Shown here are some recent stamp releases of BVI, forwarded by Vernon Pickering along with news of the exhibition.

### *Recent issues of the BVI*



History is being made by the Flamingos of Anegada. When five fuzzy chicks emerged from their eggs, the BVI National Parks Trust Flamingo Restoration Project completed the first major step in successfully reintroducing these beautiful birds to Anegada.

*Anegada flamingos (released 15 November 1995)*



*Christmas stamps, designed by BVI students. (released 1 December 1995)*

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Chaguaramus	7c	single ring
Charlie Ville	10	skeleton
Cumana	5	double circle
Febeau	10	skeleton
Fishing Pond	10	skeleton
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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
Black Rock	10	skeleton
Bucco Point	7a	single ring

Golden Lane	7a	single ring
Patience Hill	10	skeleton

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Caparo	7a	single ring
Caratal	10	skeleton
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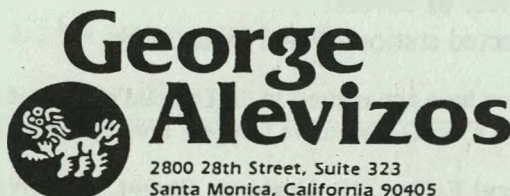
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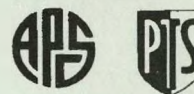
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This is the second West Indies Philatelic Exhibition to be held. The last was in February 1994 to celebrate the 40th Birthday of the BWISC. This was so successful that it was decided to hold similar exhibitions on alternate years to the Leamington convention for the future.

Events will be similar to last time.

Stephen Sharp will organise a fixed display of West Indies rarities.

There will be a members table of material for sale.

The society's publications and other West Indies philatelic literature will be available for purchase.

It is hoped that Simon Goldblatt will preside over a live expertisation service. A chance for you to bring along all your doubtful rarities and watch the experts argue.

Dealers from around the world will bring their W.I. stock.

Pennymead Auctions will hold a special sale of West Indies featuring a number of collections formed by members and former members of the Circle.

It is hoped a number of overseas members will be able to attend as the event is timed to coincide with STAMPEX which starts on the following Wednesday.