

# BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

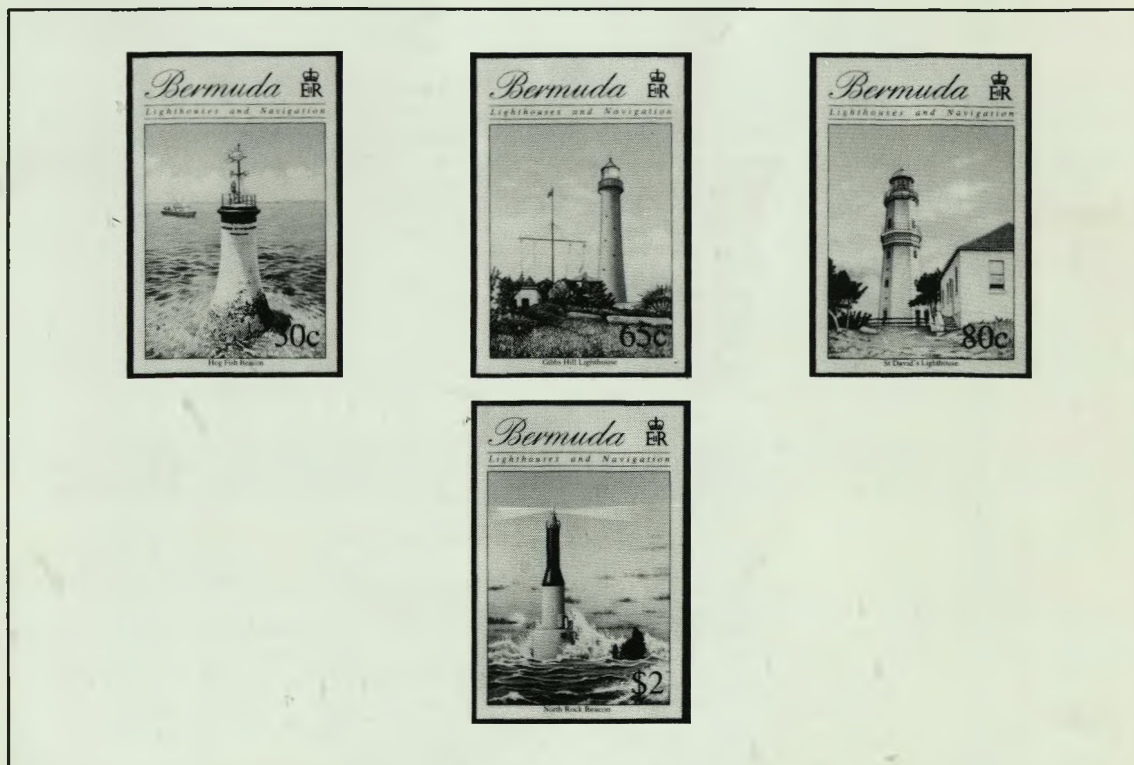
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*"Lighthouses of Bermuda" set (see "New Issues," p. 80)*

## Also Featured:

*Anguilla mystery stamp*  
*Bermuda Mails to 1865 update*  
*Cayman Islands Reinhard covers*  
*Jamaica's OFFICIAL overprints*  
*West India packet service in 1768*



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## *Jamaica: The London "Official" Overprints*

by Hugh JAMES

Whilst much has been written about the local Vendryes OFFICIAL overprints (SG 01-2), the London overprints (SG 03-5) have been largely ignored by everyone as being of no interest. Indeed on page 44 of his excellent booklet, *Jamaica: A Review of the Nation's Postal History and Postage*, Alfred N. Johnson dismisses the London overprints, saying "they are quite free of errors and varieties." This assertion also appeared on page 159 of the Jamaica "bible," *Jamaica: Its Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*.

I, too, had ignored the London overprints until I read an item in *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly* (GSM) of June 1987 which sought information about a 2d grey OFFICIAL stamp of 1890 with a pointed notch in the left-hand side of the 'O' of OFFICIAL, which made it look rather like an inverted 'c'. This triggered my interest, and the more copies of the London overprint I have acquired, the more fascinated I have become. But I must start at the beginning.

### *The Basics*

Before 1890 official mail in Jamaica did not require postage stamps to be affixed, and authorisation for "free" postage was given by franking mail with a rubber stamp showing the name of the head of department or his signature in manuscript. There were numerous complaints that private correspondence was being similarly franked to avoid paying postage. As a consequence, the Legislative Council decided that departments should pay postage on their mail.

The Postmaster of Jamaica was authorised on 21st November 1889 to introduce stamps overprinted OFFICIAL from 1st January 1890. The Postmaster pointed out that official stamps could not be prepared in time, and the starting date was put back until April 1890.

A requisition was placed with Messrs. De La Rue & Co. (DLR) for three values of Jamaican stamps to be overprinted OFFICIAL: the ½d green of 1885, and the 1d and

2d of the key-plate issue of 1889 specially printed in rose and grey, respectively.

The ½d overprinted stamps did not arrive on the date required, and it was necessary to have supplies of the ½d green overprinted locally by Camille Vendryes until such time as the DLR ½d overprints arrived – but, as they say, that is another story.

The DLR overprints were produced by electrotyping. The word OFFICIAL is 16 mm in length, in thick block capitals, 2.75 mm high. I suspect that the overprinting was carried out in 120-set across two panes of 60 stamps (6x10) because the 1d and 2d stamps in the new colours were 120-set and we have evidence below that the left and right upper panes differed. The distance between lines of overprint down the sheets is consistently 21.75 mm. (The 1995 Swarbrick auction catalogue included Lot 371, described as: "PROOF: An unwatermarked piece of paper with a proof strike of 'OFFICIAL' in green of unknown status.")

The 1d and 2d values arrived in time for use from 1st April 1890. The ½d DLR overprints did not arrive until 1891. These dates are given in Part I of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue.

According to the DLR records, the quantities printed (in numbers of sheets) were:

	½d (240-set)	1d (120-set)	2d (120-set)
29th March 1890	600	8,040	2,025
13th March 1891	1,007	–	–
3rd November 1892	602	–	500
30th December 1893	1,012	–	500
18th November 1895	1,022	2,020	510
19th October 1896	600	2,000	502
5th August 1897	<u>1,000</u>	<u>802</u>	<u>200</u>
Total (sheets)	5,843	12,862	4,237

The dates given above would appear to be the dates the overprinted stamps were invoiced if the 1d and 2d went into use on 1st April 1890, but it is an unsolved puzzle why the ½d DLR overprints were so delayed if invoiced with the other two values.

Plate numbers 1 and 3 have been reported on the ½d overprints and SPECIMENS of all three DLR overprints (Figures 1A-1C) were distributed. Many shades of all three overprinted stamps exist, most notably the 1d, varying from pale rose to deep carmine. The 2d grey has been reported with no overprint, and the 2d value is also known overprinted OFFICIAL in its *original green* colour.



A



B



C

Figure 1

The overprinted 2d in its original green colour was said by Alfred Johnson on page 44 of his booklet to be a proof, but there are substantial grounds to doubt that. An article in *The Jamaica Philatelist* (JP) for June 1942 convincingly argues, on pages 19 and 20, that the overprinted 2d green was used authentically. The unidentified writer's first knowledge of this item was in a report of the collection of a Dr Stanley Taylor, who had obtained the overprinted green item from a London dealer. The writer then mentions *Godden's Gazette* of February 1935, page 117, wherein there is a reference to the A.H. Hopkinson collection, purchased by Frank Godden Ltd. It is stated:

Among the Official stamps are some blocks showing the various settings, but the *piece de resistance* is a copy of the 2d. green key plate type, overprinted OFFICIAL. This stamp was prepared for use, but was never issued, and I have only seen two copies of this rarity.

This implies that at least three mint copies must have been known at the time. (The catalogue of the 1976 Surtees auction included a mint copy with the note, "Very rare, only four or five examples known.")

However, the JP article goes on to refer to a *used* example of the stamp and asserts that "there is no question of its having been cancelled by favour." The collector concerned "obtained it in a lot of stamps, other officials, etc. from a woman who at the time was office maid to the then Attorney General, the Hon. T.B. Oughton." The collector received the stamp on piece and it bore the Kingston 'Registered' postmark but the date was illegible. He dated it between 1893 and 1896, when he occupied an office in the same building as the Attorney General.

It seems, therefore, that while the existence of a proof or trial printing of the 2d in green is confirmed by the evidence of the mint London copies, the locally used copy suggests that the residue of the trial printing on green must have found its way to Jamaica in one of DLR's deliveries.

### The Notched 'O' Flaw

There are two versions of this flaw – one notched at 9 o'clock and the other at 10 o'clock. The 10 o'clock flaw (Figure 2) is the more common and I will deal with that first. It was first noticed by the late Thomas Foster in no. 28 of the "Jamaica Newsletter" which he regularly contributed to *Stamp Collecting* magazine between 1969 and 1977. Tom reported that it could be found on all three values, which it can. Subsequent references to the notched 'o' in *GSM* of June 1987 and February 1988 led to the first positioning of the 10 o'clock notch. In *GSM* of February 1990, P.F. Wright reported that he had it on the upper left-hand pane of the 1d value at Row 3 Stamp 5.

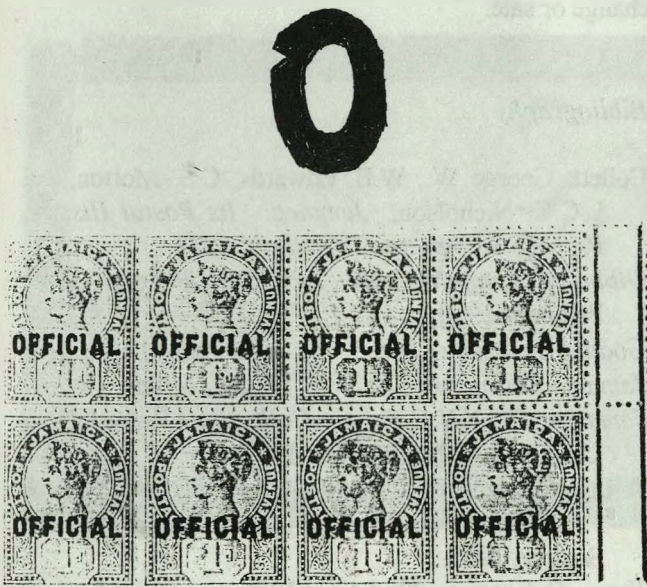


Figure 2

Mr Wright was reported as saying that "the stamps were printed in sheets of 240, divided into four panes of 60 stamps and, since he has a complete upper right hand pane of the ½d. which does not include the variety, [it] probably only appeared on the top left pane." The basic stamp on Mr Wright's part pane of the 1d showed evidence of plate wear and come from plate 3, and he deduced that his copy of the 10 o'clock flaw probably came from the printing listed above against 19th October 1896.

The 9 o'clock flaw (Figure 3) is much rarer, and its position has not yet been established, but it is definitely known on the ½d and 2d overprints. A dealer at a stamp fair showed me what was said to be the 9 o'clock flaw on all three values, but I must confess that I did not take too much notice at the time and I am now doubtful. The few

copies seen, compared with the large number of the 10 o'clock flaw, lead me to think that the 9 o'clock flaw may not be constant.

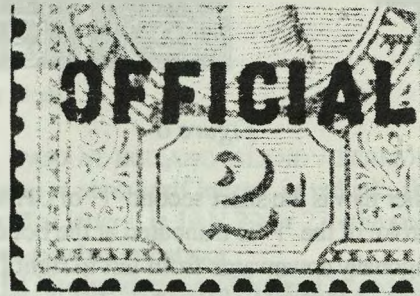


Figure 3 (from *GSM*)

### Other Flaws

I have two copies of the ½d overprint (Figure 4), both marked "Ex-Ferrari" and "Topped O" on which the top of the 'O' in OFFICIAL is flat instead of being rounded, making the 'O' slightly shorter than the first 'F', the thickness of the top of the 'O' being correspondingly less. I also have this on singles of all three values but have not yet established its position.



Figure 4



Figure 5

On the 1d I have one copy overprinted SPECIMEN, a used single and a mint pair, all with a "hole" in the 'O' at 11 o'clock (Figure 5). This is too high to be an early state of the 10 o'clock flaw. On the same stamps, there is also a "hole" in the 'C' at about 5 o'clock (Figure 5). I have not yet been able to position these. I should, however, explain that these overprints are all well-inked and the "holes" do not appear to be due to under-inking.



Figure 6

Another flaw is the short second 'F' of OFFICIAL. The vertical stroke of the 'F' is truncated at the bottom, which slopes diagonally downwards from left to right (Figure 6). This occurs on Stamp 2 of Rows 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 on my part-pane of the ½d value and also on various blocks and singles of all three values. Interestingly, on Stamp 3 of the rows mentioned above and on some singles of all values, the second 'F' is in noticeably heavier type than the first 'F'.

#### 1d OFFICIAL Bisect



Figure 7

Finally, a fascinating if unauthorised item: a bisected 1d OFFICIAL overprint bearing a full Black River squared-circle postmark dated 1890 (Figure 7). This may reflect the shortage of the ½d OFFICIAL overprints pending the Vendryes local supplies. Unfortunately, the rest of the date is illegible.

### *Anguilla Mystery Stamp: Letter to the Editor*

Anguilla, B.W.I., 11 May 1996

I read with interest Gale Raymond's article "Anguilla Mystery Stamp" in the March 1996 issue of the Journal.

I showed the article to Mr Eustace R. Brooks, who was Assistant Postmaster here during the Anguilla rebellion. And recently retired from government service as Postmaster General.

It is his opinion that it was one of several forgeries from

\*\*\*

The use of stamps overprinted OFFICIAL was discontinued from 1st January 1898, and the method of franking by handstamp was re-introduced, the official stamps having been found to have been misused on private mail. The new official handstamps were oval in shape and can be found in both violet and black ink. The initials of a proper authority were needed to validate them.

The foregoing is the result of my researches to date, but the work continues as and when new material becomes available. I should be pleased to hear from other collectors who are interested in Jamaica officials, both DLR and Vendryes, or have unwanted blocks or sheets for exchange or sale.

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those times, and whoever cancelled it didn't notice it as being irregular.

I realize that this does not tell us why someone seems to have gone to a great deal of trouble, only to save themselves EC.25, or less than 10¢US.

With best regards from the sunny Caribbean.

Bob CONRICH

## Bermuda Mails to 1865: Update No. 1

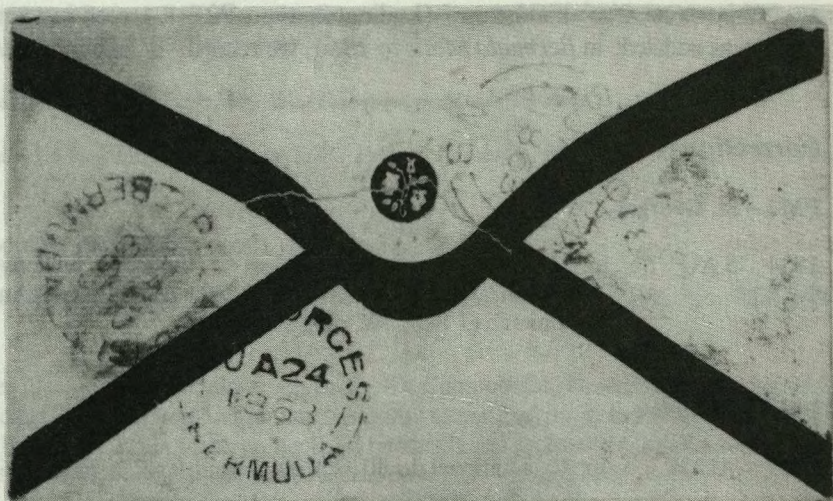
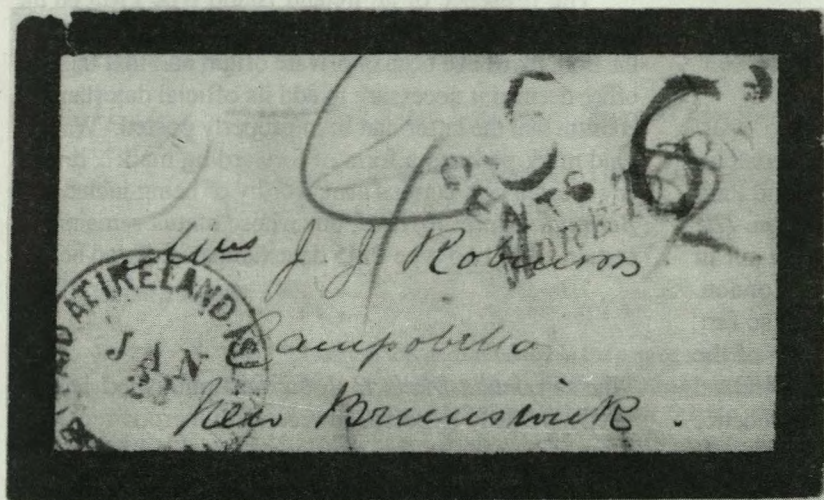
by Michel FORAND and Charles FREELAND

### A New Ireland Island Postmark?

In early 1994, we were shown by Dennis Littlewort, then chairman of the King George VI Collectors Society, a small mourning cover addressed to Mrs. J. J. Robinson, Campobello, New Brunswick. This cover, part of a family correspondence that belongs to neighbours of Mr. Littlewort's and that has never been on the philatelic market, bears a number of markings:

On the front:

- 1 A 'PAID AT IRELAND ISLAND / BERMUDA' date-stamp in sans-serif letters, in red ink; the date, in serifed letters, is JAN 22 or 23; the second digit is somewhat indistinct;
- 2 A 6d rate handstamp of Ireland Island, also in red ink, crossed out in blue crayon as 6d was the rate for England;



- 3 A manuscript '4' in red crayon; this was the correct rate for Canada;
- 4 A 'MORE TO PAY' handstamp, in grey ink; the additional postage was required for carriage from St. John, New Brunswick, to Campobello Island, located near the Canada-U.S. border, about 50 miles from St. John by sea;
- 5 A manuscript '5' in blue crayon;
- 6 A '5 CENTS' handstamp in black ink.

On the reverse:

- 7 A type PM5 of Ireland Island, dated JA 22 1863;
- 8 A type PM5 of St. Georges, dated JA 24 1863;
- 9 A St. John / N.B. datestamp of JA ? 1863 (the date, struck on the black edge of the flap, is invisible);
- 10 Another datestamp, mostly indistinct but apparently of Campobello, N.B., and dated FE 2 1863.

What makes this cover unique is No. 1 above – the 'PAID AT IRELAND ISLAND / BERMUDA' handstamp with a date in the centre. There is no mention of an Ireland Island Paid datestamp in Morris Ludington's 1978 book on *The Postal History and Postage Stamps of Bermuda* nor in the Date Stamp Impression Books of the GPO in London. No other example of this mark has been recorded so far.

Mr. Littlewort has been a vigorous champion of the theory that this is an unrecorded postmark of Ireland Island.<sup>1</sup> The fact that the cover is part of a correspondence that has never been on the philatelic market strongly suggests that the mark is not a forgery and that the whole cover is genuine.

Matters are not quite so simple, however. In December 1862, Ireland Island still had its crowned-circle 'PAID AT IRELAND ISLAND' handstamp (Ludington type P2), which was undated: in *Bermuda Mails to 1865*, we record

an example of type P2 on a cover with a datestamp (type PM5) of DE 26 – less than a month before the letter to Campobello was posted.<sup>2</sup> Thus if one assumes that the crowned-circle Paid stamp was still available in January 1863, as the type PM5 datestamp assuredly was, why would it have been necessary to create a handstamp that combined the features of both – i.e., the 'Paid' notation and the date?<sup>3</sup>

An intriguing feature of this handstamp is the appearance of the date: the seriffed letters and digits are in a style strongly reminiscent of postmarks used in parts of the United States (especially the Atlantic states) during the 19th century. The year was 1863 – the halfway point in the American Civil War, when both Union and Confederate agents were present in Bermuda, which was the centre of intense Blockade running activities.

The presence of an Ireland Island type PM5 on the reverse of the cover suggests that the Paid datestamp on the front may have been of private origin and that the post office deemed it necessary to add its official datestamp to confirm that the letter had been properly posted. Was the Paid mark perhaps a form of forwarding mark? It is, in any event, a very curious item, worthy of being included in *Bermuda Mails to 1865* but whose status remains uncertain. The two type PM5 datestamps are listed below.

\* \* \*

When *Bermuda Mails to 1865* was published in June 1995, we fully expected to receive numerous reports of letters, wrappers, covers, envelopes, etc. that had not been recorded in our inventory, as well as corrections to the entries already present in the book. In fact, however, only a few corrections and new entries were reported to us; the other ones listed below are recent acquisitions or were seen in auction catalogues, in dealers' stocks, and in an exhibit at CAPEX 96.

## Corrections

### PM2 – St. Georges

- 1834 5 AU [p. 32; revised description] Almost \*\*\*, but mostly light, over stamped at upper right, on back across the join. To London (Wesleyan Mission, b/s 3 SE 3); per *Velocity* (7 Aug) to Halifax (date ?), per *Duke of York* (14 Aug) to Falmouth (1 Sep). W, right side cut off.

### PM4 – Hamilton

- 1847 AU 20 [p. 40; additional detail] Stirling green b/s SE 7. RLL 2/96 (273P).
- 1850 JU 17 [p. 43; revised description] \*\*\*, crossed by a few pen strokes, on back. To London (Rev. Elijah Hoole; b/s 1 JY 1). Rate 1s. W \*\* to \*\*\*. VSC 6/96 (15P).
- 1851 JY 29 [p. 45; revised date; correction to entry dated JY 21] Addressed to Parrsborough (Capt. Yates).



**PM5 – St. Georges**

- 1846 MR 19 [p. 59, first entry of that date; additional details] To Rotherfield, Sussex (Mrs Johnstone; Tonbridge Wells b/s AP 11); rate 1s. VSC 6/96 (11P).

**PI – St. Georges**

- 1846 JY 9 [p. 70, additional details] Almost \*\*, some letters weak. RLL 2/96 (271P).

**Additions****PM1 – St. Georges**

- 1822 [22 Feb] \*, faint, date illegible, overwritten. To Langholm, Scotland (Wm Burgess) per *Lady Louisa* (25 Feb) to Fal-mouth (18 May); blurry square boxed 1/2 (?) h/s on front. Rated 2s6d. Fragile EL \*\*.

**PM4 – Hamilton**

- 1853 FE 22 \*\* to \*\*, faint at top. Local, to St. Georges (John Bau). W \*\*. RLL 2/96 (275P).
- 1863 ? "Faint," on back. From Hamilton to Grand Turk Island (b/s) via St. Thomas (b/s). Rate 4d (blue crayon). EL (tropicalised). Rigby 6/70 (120).

**PM5 – Ireland Island**

- 1863 JA 22 \* to \*\*, blurry at top and smudged in the centre, on back. To Campobello, New Brunswick (Mrs J.J. Robinson; b/s FE 2) via St. John (b/s JA ?); 'PAID AT IRELAND ISLAND / BERMUDA' h/s in red on front, JA 22 or 23, and type PM5 of St. Georges (JA 24) in black on back; 6d rate h/s in red crossed out, m/s 4d substituted, 'MORE TO PAY' and '5 CENTS' h/s on front in black, '5' in blue crayon. Mourning EN \*\*.

**PM5 – St Georges**

- 1847 JU 3 \*\*, light but clear, with punch hole, on back. To 'Bourdeaux' [sic] (Messrs Ruinart and Co., Wine Merchants; indistinct 2 JUIL art b/s), redirected to 'Rheim' [sic] via London (29 JU 29 b/s), Boulogne ('ANGL / 1 JUIL' and 'COLONIES &c ART. 13' h/s), and Paris (1 JUIL b/s). Per *Roseway* (3 Jun) to Halifax (11 Jun), and *Hibernia* (18 Jun) to Liverpool (28 Jun). Rate '16' (décimes due).

*The letter, written by G.M. Ross, of the Reserve Battalion, 42nd Regiment, is dated '4th June'.*

- OC 15 Barely \*\*, touches address. To Hamilton (W Astwood, c/o Frith & Ingham). EL, stains at top. VSC 6/96 (13P).
- 1851 OC 15 Barely \*\*, indistinct. To Southampton (W Astwood). EL \*\*. VSC 6/96 (17).
- 1854 OC 14 Almost \*\* but weak, 'OR' smudged. Local, to Hamilton (N T Butterfield). Mourning ENL \*\*. RLL 2/96 (277P).
- 1863 JA 24 \*\*, upper left portion over black edge of envelope, on back. To Campobello, New Brunswick (Mrs J.J. Robinson; b/s FE 2) via St. John (b/s JA ?); 'PAID AT IRELAND ISLAND / BERMUDA' h/s in red on front, JA 22 or 23, and type PM5 of Ireland Island (JA 22) in black on back; 6d rate h/s in red crossed out, m/s 4d substituted, 'MORE TO PAY' and '5 CENTS' h/s on front in black, '5' in blue crayon. Mourning EN \*\*.

**P3 – St Georges**

- 1852 MR 8 \* to \*\*. very light, incomplete. To Southampton (W. Astwood). EL. VSC 6/96 (18).  
 AP 2 \*\*. To Southampton (W. Astwood). EL rust stains. VSC 6/96 (19P).  
 OC 6 \*\*. 'DA' missing. To Southampton (W. Astwood). EL. VSC 6/96 (20P).
- 1853 Oct 10 To Astwood. No other details available.
- 1854 MR 15? \*\*, indistinct at top, over address. Local, to Hamilton (N. T. Butterfield). ENL, flimsy. Cavendish 3/96 (929P).  
 MY 3 \* poor. To Astwood. Endorsed 'Rec'd 24 May 1854'. VSC 6/96 (21).  
 MY 23 \* poor, date barely legible. To Southampton (W. Astwood). Mourning ENL. VSC 6/96 (22P).
- 1859 Nov 2 Smudged. To Darlington, England, via Liverpool ('Paid' h/s). Rate 6d.

**S1 – St Georges**

- 1845 Apr 9 From New York to Alex Higgs. No other details available.
- 1847 November? Almost \*\*, light at right, 'B' touched by ink stain. From Grand Cay, Turks Islands (26 Oct) to Bermuda (William Burgess), via Baltimore (NOV 15 d/s and 'SHIP' h/s) and New York (end. 'Care of Messrs Tucker & Lightbourn, New York'). RLL 2/96 (274P).

**Manuscript Forwarding Agent Cachet**

- 1833 [27 Jun] \*\*, reading 'Forwarded by your most Obt. Servt. W.B. Perot'. On letter from Demerara to Philadelphia (m/s 'July 8'), per schooner *Brilliant* via New York (JUL 5 d/s). 'SHIP' h/s, rated 12½ [cents due]. EL\*\*.

**FA4 – J. Mallaby Higgs**

- 1868? \*\*, superb, light at lower right, on flap. From ? to Amherst, Mass. (Messrs David Chase); per *Etta* (26 May) to Boston (JUN 2 d/s and 'SHIP' h/s with large star, on front); rate 6 (cents due).

**FA5 – N. S. Walker**

- 1863 December \*\*, top half faint, on front. Blockade runner cover to Charlotte, N.C. (Washington Reid; no d/s) via Wilmington (DEC 9 d/s and 'SHIP' h/s). Per *Flora*. Rate 12 (cents due). RLL 2/96 (268P).

This handstamp is illustrated in *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, W/N 176 (September 1995), p. 71.

**Abbreviations**

RLL = Robson Lowe Auctions, London

VSC = Victoria Stamp Company

**Notes**

- 1 See "An Unrecorded 'Paid at Ireland Island' Datestamp?" *Bermuda Post* 36, September 1995, pp. 9-13.
- 2 M. Forand and C. Freeland, *Bermuda Mails to 1865: An Inventory of the Postal Markings*. Monograph No. 13, British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, 1995; p. 76.
- 3 Curiously, we have found no example of type P2 for 1863 and only one for 1864, on a cover dated MY 9 – the last usage of Ireland Island's crowned-circle handstamp recorded before the introduction of adhesive stamps in September 1865.

## Secretary's Report

by Peter KAULBACK

### New Members

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

### New Applicant

Philippe Séguin, 6970 Jean-Bourdon, Montréal, Que. Canada H4K 1G6; collects St. Lucia; sponsored by David Druett.

### Address Changes

P. Bondor, P.O. Box 61933, New Orleans, LA 70161-1933

W.H.H. Crow, Forest Place, Roebuck Lane, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5QL

Peter Flynn: new zip code = 20191

Jay L. Fredrick, 3241-1G San Amadeo, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

R. Harnischfeger, R.R.#2, Box 94, Mill Hall, PA 17751

Robert J. Ingalls, Jr., 47 Ridge Street, Cos Cob, CT 06807-1804

Richard C. Mounsey, 9023 Mary Ave. N.W., Apt. 406, Seattle, WA 98117-3447

Jeff Weiss, Box 1580, Friday Harbor, WA 98250

Michael Wilson, 1 Providence St., Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 5ET, U.K.

Donald M. Winegar, P.O. Box 1485, Clifton Park, NY 12065-0806

### Resignation (effective December 31, 1996)

Graunitz, Wulf

### Life Membership

M.J. Nethersole

Donald Winegar

### Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues

L. Aussprung

E.J. Bowmer

C. Charles

G.H. Clingerman

R.L. Dufresne

J. Durham

M. Hamilton

W.J. Kubat

T. Lallevee

R. Longwell, Jr.

T.M. Mills

N.R. Neil

J. Parkinson

M. Sabourin

L. Weinstein

P. Wolf

P.F. Wright

## BCPSG 1996 Officers' Meeting and Annual General Meeting

by P. KAULBACK

CAPEX 96, the international exhibition held in Toronto on 8-16 June, was the site of our annual general meeting (AGM), which was preceded by a meeting of the officers to discuss BCPSG business.

### Officers' Meeting

The officers' meeting, which was open to the membership at large, took place on 9 June at 4 p.m., in the Group's hospitality suite at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and was attended by the following: Dr Peter McCann (president), David Druett (international director), Barry Friedman (treasurer), Peter Kaulback (secretary), Michel Forand

(Journal editor), Rob Wynstra (publicity chairman and trustee), Ben Ramkissoon (publications chairman and honorary trustee), Fred Seifert (honorary trustee), Ed Waterous, Bill Charles Gompel, Chris Anstead, and Frank Heller.

A number of topics were discussed in an informal setting, chaired by Dr McCann. There was a discussion about future AGMs, and it was determined that they would be as follows:

1997: San Francisco (June 3, at PACIFIC 97)

1998: Boston, Mass. (April)

1999: San Diego (February) or St. Louis (March).

Michel Forand mentioned in that respect that he had received from Darryl Fuller, a BCPSG member in Australia, a suggestion that the 1999 meeting be held in that country, in conjunction with an international exhibition that is to take place in Melbourne that year. The officers agreed that members who plan to attend the exhibition should be encouraged to meet on that occasion and possibly stage activities that would promote the Group during the exhibition. The officers felt it would be difficult to make a commitment to hold an official AGM in Australia because it is impossible to determine that far ahead of time how many members might attend.

Peter Kaulback reported on the results of the election of trustees for the period 1996-2001. He noted that all who had stood for election had done well in the balloting, each obtaining between 14 percent and 19.5 percent of all votes cast. He added that all candidates – Marge Doran, David Druett, Mary Green, James Stern, Ed Waterous, and Ron Wike – should be congratulated for their commitment to the future of the BCPSG and for agreeing to run for the three trustee positions. Mrs Doran, Mr Druett, and Mr Wike received congratulations on their election. The next election will take place in late 1997 to replace the three trustees whose terms will expire at the end of that year. A new slate of officers will be elected by the current trustees at the same time.

### *Annual General Meeting*

The 1996 AGM was held at 2 p.m. on June 11 in a conference room of the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The beginning was delayed somewhat due to the necessity of finding additional chairs for all 35 members and 15 guests attending the meeting.

We were particularly gratified to welcome a small contingent from overseas: from the U.K., Derek Nathan, Stewart Jessop, and David Druett; from Barbados: Francine Leacock (Deputy Postmaster General) and Sherrine Smith (Barbados Post Office); from Bermuda: Jack Arnell and Ed Kelly; from Jamaica: Dave Uhlman (treasurer of the Jamaica Philatelic Society).

Other members present included (in no particular order): Fred Seifert, Lynn Cohen, Del Harris, Ed Waterous, Paul Larsen, George Fabian, Duane Larson, Don Welsh, Stuart Sheppard, Harold Gosney, James Stern, Scott Gallagher, Ben Ramkissoon, Butch Arnould, Raj Ramphal, Robert Lemire, Dan Walker, Roger Schnell, Rob Wynstra, Rob Schneider, Cyril Bell, John Buckner, John Tyacke, Tim Tweddell, Bob Dickgiesser, Ray Ireson, Chris Anstead, Barry Friedman, Michel Forand, and Peter Kaulback.

Among our other guests we noted the presence of Mrs Mary Nathan, Mrs Uhlman, Ms Sarah Morson, Ms Marie-Laure Major, Bob Lamb (Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society), Keith Rourke, Charles Séguin, Philippe Séguin, B. Thomas, Geoff Ewing, John Wilson, and John Wynns.

Due to a pressing business engagement on the West Coast, Dr McCann was unfortunately unable to be present to chair the meeting. In his absence and that of the vice-president, the meeting was chaired by the secretary, as provided for in the constitution.

Following the presentation of reports from the president, the secretary, the treasurer, and the Journal editor, a wide range of topics were discussed. Those present were brought up to date on the subjects discussed at the officers' meeting. The secretary noted that some changes had been made to the process of accepting members and thanked the editor for his efforts in preparing the new membership form. All new members will now commence membership on the first day of January, and the \$1.00 admission fee has been dropped. New forms will be produced on as-required basis to reflect changes in the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the pound sterling.

### *Philatelic and Social Activities*

Following discussion of these business matters, those present were treated to three philatelic presentations.

Derek Nathan showed slides of a recent trip to Guyana, which were of great general interest with a strong philatelic perspective, aided by Derek's knowledgeable and amusing commentary.

Dan Walker gave a display of Grenada War Tax stamps and, as always, impressed everyone with the quality of his material and his detailed knowledge.

John Tyacke gave a presentation on the early stamps of Nevis, St Kitts, and the British Virgin Islands. This was another interesting display, attesting to John's expertise in this area.

It should be mentioned here that John Tyacke was responsible for making all the excellent arrangements for us at CAPEX, and we owe him many thanks for his efforts on our behalf.

At John's initiative, two BCPSG exhibitors at CAPEX had agreed to allow their exhibits to be photocopied and made available to members – Butch Arnould's "Danish West Indies: The Foreign Mails Before 1880"; and Rob Wynstra's "Leeward Islands Village Mail, 1734-1932." Copies of these exhibits were available at the meeting. For those wishing to receive a copy, please contact Peter

Kaulback (108 Byron avenue, Ottawa, Canada K1Y 3J2) and enclose US\$12 for Butch's 128-page document or US\$6 for Rob's 80 pages.

During the meeting John Tyacke made arrangements with the exhibitors who were present to conduct a "tour" of their exhibits at a specific time for those interested. This is an excellent initiative, which had uneven results. It is hoped that with enough advance notice, visitors to

future exhibitions will be able to include such tours in their busy schedules.

The BCPSG's activities at CAPEX 96 concluded with a Group dinner at Old Ed's Restaurant near the Convention Centre, attended by some 30 people in the usual spirit of fellowship. Many then repaired to the hospitality suite for more discussions and libations.

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### *Moscow 97 Entry Forms Available*

Entry forms for Moscow 97, the World Philatelic Exhibition which will be held from 17-26 October 1997 in the Central Exhibition Hall near the Kremlin, are now available from the American commissioners, Stephen D. Schumann, 2416 Cabrillo Drive, Hayward, CA 94545 (fax 510-732-8256) and Maj. Ted Bahry, USMC (Ret.), P.O. Box 756, Carlsbad, CA 92018.

MOSCOW 97, situated in one of the most historical cities in the world, promises to be an unparalleled oppor-

tunity for philatelists and non-philatelists alike to explore cathedrals and palaces, many dating from the 15th century. The U.S. commissioners are planning on leading a post-show tour of some of the most important cities in Russia's history including Vladimir, Suzdal, Novgorod, and St Petersburg. For complete information, please contact the commissioners at their addresses above.

[Announcement]

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### *News from Our Dealer-Members*

**Murray Payne Ltd.** (P.O. Box 1135, Axbridge, Somerset, BS26 2EW, U.K.) have just released extensive price lists for the King George VI high values of Bermuda and Leeward Islands, mostly mint with some used (no covers), positional flaws, multiples, a few watermark varieties (Leewards), etc. A treat for the specialist.

**Pennymead Auctions** (1 Brewerton St., Knaresborough, N. Yorks., HG5 8AZ, U.K.) have reduced the frequency of their auctions but this has not affected the quality of the items offered. Sale no. 61, to be held on 14 September in conjunction with WIPEX (at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London), contains a wealth of material for practically everyone with an interest in the West Indies.

In his 10 September sale, **Abraham Siegel** (Box 6603, Long Island City, NY 11106-9998) again offers a wide range of covers and postal stationery from all areas of the Commonwealth with estimates that should appeal to many.

**Victoria Stamp Co.** (P.O. 745, Ridgewood, NJ 07451) are planning another public auction of Commonwealth material for late 1996.

**Vernon Pickering** (Rush It Box 11156, St Thomas, VI 00801) has released a 56-page "Summer Sale 1996" catalogue with many offerings of stamps of the British Virgin Islands and other Caribbean islands, in addition to philatelic literature, Italy, the German area, and Persia.

Earlier this summer, **Schmitt Investors Ltd.** (P.O. 67, Woodbury, NY 11797) published its second list of "genuine Bermuda historical memorabilia" (including covers).

**DON'T FORGET TO ENCOURAGE OUR DEALER-MEMBERS!**

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## Cayman Islands: The Reinhard Covers

by John BYL

In the Cayman Islands section of the Cooley sale, held by Shreves in New York in September 1995, Lot no. 61 was a registered cover addressed to Monsieur F. Reinhard of Berne, Switzerland. It was franked by a 1907 ½d on 1d provisional plus a 1907 4d and 6d, all cancelled by the Georgetown type IV c.d.s. dated FE 8 08. Near the top left corner of the cover are written in the same hand as the address an 'R' and '1°'.

I have in my collection a very similar cover (see illustration) written in the same hand and correctly franked to the foreign registered rate of 4½d by a pair of ½d on 1d provisionals, together with a 1905 1d and 2½d. It is also dated FE 8 08 and at the top left of the cover are written 'R' and '9'.

Both covers bear an impression of the large 'R' in an oval, the Georgetown type I registration mark, and the Paris "Etranger" transit c.d.s. dated 29 2 08. Two sets of registration numbers appear on the fronts. Those applied at Georgetown are in manuscript and in blue pencil, and in each case the last two digits were altered. As far as I can tell from the photograph, the "Cooley" one was changed from 1281 to 1270; on mine, the change was from 1278 to 1279. This might indicate that Gwen (the postmistress, Miss Gwendolyn Parsons) was registering a batch of envelopes and, for whatever reason, had got into a muddle and found it necessary to change some of them.

The address is written in a style quite unlike that found on covers originating in the Caymans but rather has a Continental look about it. Also, '1°' is the Continental shorthand for "1st" or "number one." It therefore seems likely that these are self-addressed covers which were sent out to Georgetown to be franked and returned to Berne. Also, as one of them is numbered '9', it would seem that at least this quantity of covers was dispatched. However, a search through catalogues going back many years has failed to reveal any others. This leaves the following questions to be answered:

1. How many covers dated FE 8 08 were sent and how many survive?
2. Do they all bear one or more ½d on 1d surcharge stamps?
3. Was this the only batch of covers sent out by M. Reinhard, or did he, in particular, have an interest in many other surcharges of the period?
4. Are covers to him known from other islands of the West Indies?

Should any member have seen or possess other Reinhard cover of any date, I would be glad to receive details, as these may well be of help in answering the above questions.



## The West India Packet Service and Rates in 1768

by M. FORAND

In *The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies*, Leonard Britnor wrote (p. 23) that "a modification to the route [between Falmouth and the West Indies, Florida and South Carolina] was proposed on 6th June 1768, in order that a monthly service could be maintained" and that the vessels under contract could "return to Falmouth direct from Jamaica."

An announcement in *The London Chronicle* for September 10, 1768, signed Anthony Todd, Secretary, confirms that this new service was approved by the GPO:

His Majesty's Postmaster General having been pleased to establish a sufficient number of Packet-Boats to sail between Falmouth and New York, Charles Town, and the West India Islands, to support a regular Monthly Correspondence to and from these Kingdoms and all Parts of His Majesty's extensive Dominions in America.

Publick Notice is hereby given, that the several Mails for America, upon this New Arrangement, are to be made at this Office on Wednesday the 5th of October next, and will continue to be dispatched from hence in the same manner upon the first Wednesday in every Month.

The Mail for New York will contain the Letters for all the Provinces on the Continent of America from Virginia Northwards. That for Charles Town will include the Letters for North and South Carolina, Georgia, and East and West Florida, except for Pensacola, the Letters for which Place will be forwarded from Jamaica by every Opportunity. And the Mail for the West Indies will contain the Letters for Barbadoes, all the Leeward Islands, and Jamaica, from whence the Packet-Boats are, instead of proceeding to Pensacola, to return immediately to Falmouth.

Upon the Arrival of these several Mails from hence at Falmouth, the Packet-Boats are to proceed with them to sea immediately, Wind and Weather permitting; but, if they should be unavoidably detained one or more Days, such Letters as come hither, or may be put into this Office, will be sent every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday to Falmouth, for the Chance of the Packets under Sailing Orders, and if sailed, they will be forwarded by the next Boat in Turn.

The rate for a single-sheet letter to and from the West Indies was set at 9d in 1702 (for carriage by Dummer's packets) then doubled to 1s 6d in 1704. It remained at that level until 1765, when it was lowered to 1s.

In his booklet on postal rates, Britnor wrote (p. 14) that letters could be sent either prepaid or unpaid, although circumstances did force a change in policy from time to time. In a Post Office announcement dated October 24, 1755, it was made clear that prepayment of postage was required: "The full Postage of the above Letters and Packets must be paid at the Time of their Delivery into this Office." Britnor wrote that

this practice had grown up mainly due to the uncertainty of the safe conveyance of the mails. Apart from the natural hazards of the sea, there was always a possibility of a ship being captured by an enemy or privateer. Even if the ship was not actually captured the mails were often sunk during an action to avoid the possibility of their falling into enemy hands.

The prepayment rule apparently proved to be a burden, however, as the September 1768 notice stated:

Great Inconveniencies having arisen to the Public by returning Letters for the Postage: Their Lordships, for the Accommodation of Correspondence, leave it now to the Option of the Writer to pay or not beforehand to any part of His Majesty's Dominions, either in Europe or America, except to Gibraltar or Port Mahon.

As previously, however, "Letters and Packets from any Part of Great Britain, Ireland, or America, for all Places beyond the Seas not in His Majesty's Dominions, are to pay at the Office where they are put in, the full Port to London, besides the foreign Rates they may be chargeable with, to prevent the Necessity of their being opened and returned for the Postage."

### References

- L.E. Britnor, *British West Indies Postal Rates Up To 1900*, British West Indies Studies Circle, 1977.  
 ———, *The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies*, British West Indies Study Circle, 1973.

## New Issues

by Cliff ABRAM

Recent issues of note, as usual, cover a myriad of topics. For example, the Bahamas has released Part II of the Sea Shells definitives, and September will see Part III of the Environmental series, depicting reptiles and snakes; in November, the Christmas issue is to be released, and in 1997, the 25th anniversary of the Archives of the Bahamas will be cause for another release.

Barbados has had some interesting issues of late, including one that features Chattel Houses, a well-known traditional dwelling on the island; an issue on Transportation is due soon, and there will also be a Christmas issue from Barbados.

Anguilla has a nice set of three stamps showing the Corals of Anguilla, printed by the COT Printery of Barbados. The 20¢ value shows the Deep Water Gorgonia; the 80¢, the Common Sea Fan; the \$5, the Venus Sea Fan. Other releases slated by Anguilla include a set commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Anguilla and a Christmas issue.

Finally, Bermuda issued a Transportation in Transition set in June and a most attractive, four-stamp set depicting Lighthouses of Bermuda on 15 August (shown on the front cover of the Journal).

## BCPSG Exhibitors at CAPEX 96 by Paul A. LARSEN

Arnould, Howard	PH	Danish West Indies Postal History: The Foreign Mails Before 1880	G
Bilhaut, Michel	PH	Maritime Routing Marks of Surinam and Dutch Indies	S
Davis, Trevor	PH	English Provincial Postal History, 17th to 19th Centuries	G
Forand, Michel	LIT	<i>British Caribbean Philatelic Journal</i> (1995)	LS
Forand, Michel	LIT	<i>The Congress Book 1995</i>	LV
Forand, Michel & Freeland, Charles	LIT	<i>Bermuda Mails to 1865</i>	LS
Fuller, Darryl	PS	Leeward Islands: Queen Victoria to King George VI	LV + SP
Gallagher, Scott	TRA	Kentucky During the Civil War	LV
Griffiths, John	TRA	British Leeward Islands, 1757-1902	G
Halewood, Nicholas	TRA	The 1954-62 Definitive Issue of Hong Kong	LS
Halewood, Nicholas	LIT	<i>A Study of Hong Kong Definitives: King Edward VII &amp; King George V</i>	LS
Ireson, Raymond	THE	The Panama Canal Story	V
Larsen, Paul	TRA	German Togo, 1885-1914	LV
McCann, Peter	PH	Tristan da Cunha Postal History	LS
Nathan, Derek	PH	British Guiana Postal History, 1792-1899	V*
Schnell, Roger	PH	Germany in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico	G
Parker, Everett	LIT	<i>The Pitcairn Log</i>	B
Proud, Edward	LIT	<i>The Postal History of British West Africa</i>	V
Ramkissoon, R. A.	TRA	Trinidad, 1802-1906	FIP
Walker, Dan	TRA	Barwani, A Princely Indian State	G
Weiss, Jeffrey	TRA	The 1887 'Jubilee' Issue of Great Britain and its Derivatives	G
Welsh, Don	TRA	Fiji: King Cakobau and Queen Victoria Issues, 1871-1902	V
Wynstra, Robert	PH	Leeward Islands Village Mail, 1743-1932	V

Classes: FIP = FIP Championship class

LIT = literature

PH = postal history

PS = postal stationery

THE = thematic

TRA = traditional

\* Winner of the 1996 Byron Cameron Trophy (BCPSG)

Award levels: G = gold

LV = large vermeil

V = vermeil

LS = silver

S = silver

B = bronze

SP = special prize



## Note to Advertisers

Advertising rates are as follows:

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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

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H&G C6a KGV 3d Registered Envelope size G used  
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Written by Charles E. Cwiakala and edited by Robert W. Dickgiesser

A 160-page, hardbound, comprehensive reference encompassing all of Bermuda's air postal history from 1919 to the present day while providing substantial amounts of aerophilatelic support.

All significant flights and other aerophilatelia associated with Bermuda are listed and numbered, as well as priced when warranted. Many of the items are documented for the first time. A chronological index allows the reader to easily find all items described in the book.

Retail price, US\$67. Postpaid prices as follows:

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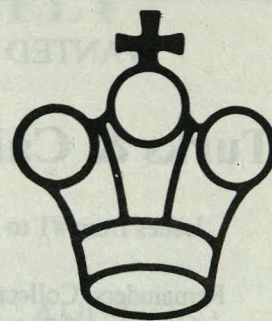
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