

# BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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*How to sort the King George VI printings of Dominica  
(see page 19)*

**Also Featured:**

*Caribbean Mixture  
St. Kitts-Nevis Postal Information  
Turks & Caicos Royal Wedding Issue*



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## *From the Editor's Computer*

by MICHEL FORAND

### PACIFIC 97

This is a reminder that the BCPSG's annual meeting and live auction will take place this year in conjunction with PACIFIC 97, the international exhibition being held in San Francisco from 29 May to 8 June 1997. An insert with details of BCPSG activities accompanies this issue of the journal.

### Forthcoming Auctions

Member Dick Colberg advises that his collection of **British Post Offices abroad** will be sold by Phillips in April. Dick says that this will include many Caribbean-related covers.

The next auction of Victoria Stamp Company will take place in June, sometime after PACIFIC 97. It will include a strong section of **Bermuda**, including the Reid L. Shaw collection of postal history, the Myles Glazer collection of King George keyplates, and Part III of the Bermuda Stamp & Coin Co. (Larry Swain) stock.

Lots will be available for viewing at PACIFIC 97 (stand #M-2).

### Jamaica Philatelic Society

The JPS is alive and well in Kingston! In a letter received last October, Dave Uhlman, the society's treasurer, wrote that the JPS (a BCPSG member) had enjoyed a particularly good year in 1996, with about 50 members, including six quite active junior members and several members living abroad. The society holds auctions every three months, and these are "about the only source in Jamaica for stamps and stamp supplies."

The "International Edition" of the society's monthly *Newsletter* has been published for about a year, with Dave as "assistant editor," and its distribution has been expanded. It is a lively publication, even irreverent at times, keeping track of postal events as described in local newspapers and magazines ("Post Office invaded by goats"), and of the society's own activities. JPS President Ewan



Cameron (a member of the BCPSG in his own right) is the editor of the "local edition" of the *Newsletter*. For more details, contact the Jamaica Philatelic Society at Constant Spring Post Office, P.O. Box 201, Kingston 8, Jamaica.

### *The Jamaica Philatelist*

Michael Vokins reports that copies of the reprint of the full run of *The Jamaica Philatelist*, done under his supervision on behalf of the Group, are still available. Prices, incl. postage and packing, are as follows: USA, \$75; Europe (incl. U.K.), £30; elsewhere, £50. Only a dozen copies are left, so act quickly! Orders should be sent to Michael at 77 St. Albans Road, Bristol, BS6 7SQ, U.K. Please make your check/cheque payable to the BCPSG.

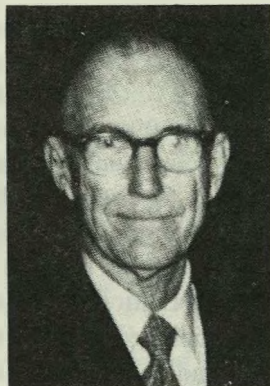
### Member News

Our Secretary being away at the moment, his regular report will appear in the next issue.

### *In Memoriam: Kil Bump*

We learn from the February 1997 edition of *The American Philatelist* that long-time BCPSG member and supporter C. Kilbourne Bump died recently. This is very sad news indeed for those who knew him.

Kil was a self-effacing and modest man. At the 1988 annual meeting of the BCPSG, held in Fort Lauderdale (in conjunction with STAMPOREE 88), he exhibited his "Postal Charges on 19th Century Bermuda Letters," and was almost in a state of shock when his name was announced as the winner of the Reserve Grand Award, in addition to several other awards (see the September 1988 *BCPJ*).



*Kil Bump (1983)*

Kil also had a specialized exhibit of Bermuda's Queen Victoria 1d stamp, as well as postal history collections of

Vermont and Springfield, Massachusetts. In fact, he collected almost anything philatelic. In his home in the village of Hampden, near Springfield, he had a wonderful "stamp room," where along one long wall were bookshelves that housed a sizeable library and numerous albums of stamps and covers. Desks and tables in the room were covered with neat piles of covers of various descriptions, virtually all examples taken from the mail he received from day to day over the years. He had contacts with firms in Bermuda that sent him their incoming envelopes, providing him with a wealth of data about postage meters, machine cancels, etc. He generously provided information and gave away duplicates.

Kil attended the BCPSG meeting held in London in 1990, accompanied by his son Ben, and it was apparent that his health was declining somewhat. About a year or two later, Kil wrote that he was forced to undergo painful dialysis treatment.

His death marks the passing of a keen philatelist and a gentleman.

### *Life Member*

Joseph Mahfood

### *Change of Address*

Bill Ashley, 89 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106-1041.

### *Get-Well Wishes*

In a letter sent around with his Christmas card, Fred Seifert, one of my predecessors as editor of this journal, reported that he had suffered a heart attack on August 15, 1996. Fortunately, Fred seems to have recovered nicely, and was even able to travel to Wisconsin and Minnesota (from New Mexico) in October.

We all wish him well.

### *A Distinguished Philatelic World Citizen*

This news is almost a year old, but was communicated to me several months after the fact. In June 1996, during TEXPEX 96, held in San Antonio, Texas, our intrepid reporter Gale Raymond, a former president (1968) received the title of Distinguished Philatelic Texan by the Texas Philatelic Association.

The article relating this event notes that Gale has been associated, in either a military or a civilian capacity, with 13 wars over recent decades, and has served in 141 nations professionally. Recent assignments have included stints with various U.N. peacekeeping missions, including a U.N. observer mission in Cambodia in 1992 and a more recent mission in Haiti.



## Journal Delays

The December 1996 issue was produced, printed, and shipped very late. The present issue is also being released later than anticipated.

No one likes such delays in the production of the journal, least of all me. Various factors enter into the production process, including the receipt of articles in a timely fashion; the amount of typing, editing, and rewriting that needs to be done; late changes made by authors; the updating of mailing labels to reflect the current status of members; the occasional need to prepare camera-ready advertisements, etc. A most important factor to bear in mind is that this work is done on a purely voluntary basis. My professional commitments often require me to work evenings and weekends. Only with difficulty can I push them aside in order to spend the equivalent of four or five days' work on the production of the journal.

Over the past year, two former members explicitly cited delays in receiving their copy of the journal as their main reason for resigning from the Group.

This reflects a curious sense of priority. Is receiving the journal "on time" so important that one would sacrifice

membership in the BCPSG and a subscription to what unquestionably remains one of the best sources of high-quality information on British Caribbean philately today?

One area where improvements are possible is in the timing of the BCPSG auction with respect to both the date of the auction itself and the deadline for submitting consignments. In the future, we will schedule the auction so that everyone will have plenty of time to submit consignments and to send mail bids.

## Classified Ads

- Have covers from Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Guiana, Dominica, Trinidad. Mostly QEII commercial covers but a few older/better. Trade for used or unused West Indies postcards. Bob Conrich, Box 666, Anguilla, BWI. Fax 809-264-3770. E-mail: <bob@offshore.com.ai>
- WANTED to buy or exchange, used Postal Stationery from St. Vincent prior to 1950. Also postcards. Barry Friedman, 4280 Galt Ocean Drive, #3F, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308; e-mail: <barstamps@aol.com> □

## *Turks & Caicos / Caicos Islands: The Royal Wedding Issues of 1981*

by A. E. "Buzz" JEHLE

It has been over 15 years since the Royal Wedding of 1981 between Prince Charles and Lady Diana, but there are still many questions about the proliferation of stamp issues commemorating the event. In June and early July of that year, the Turks & Caicos Islands joined the bandwagon by issuing a total of five denominations in various configurations (sheets, sheetlets, miniature sheets, and booklets); in late July, the Turks & Caicos stamps were released again but this time with a 'Caicos Islands' overprint, followed by similarly overprinted booklet stamps in October. These were among the first stamps of the Caicos Islands, which only issued their own stamps from 1981 to 1985. In 1986, sanity returned and issues of Turks & Caicos have been released for all the islands since then. I believe Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation (IGPC) was and still is handling the issues of the islands.

At the time, I was an avid collector of Turks & Caicos stamps, and I even went to the islands on holiday to scuba

dive and play ham radio.<sup>1</sup> We were staying on Providenciales (which everyone calls Provo), but even though it is in the Caicos group, the post office there only sold Turks and Caicos issues. In the spirit of all truly obsessed hobbyists, I did what I had to do.

I chartered a single-engine plane to take me to the Philatelic Bureau on South Caicos and to the Bureau on Grand Turk. It was a hair-raising trip: as a DC-4 leaving South Caicos with absolutely no markings turned on the runway, not seeing us, its tail went completely over our small craft, missing us by inches. There was quite a collection of confiscated drug-running planes stored at the South Caicos Airport, but that's another story.

As far as I know, the Caicos issues were only available on South Caicos, as both the Provo post office and the Philatelic Bureau on Grand Turk only carried the Turks & Caicos issues. However, the Caicos issues were accepted on Grand Turk for postage, at least by the Philatelic Bureau.



## The Turks & Caicos Issues

The Royal Wedding Issues from the Turks & Caicos are relatively simple. A set of 3 values (35¢, 60¢, and 90¢) perf. 14 was issued in sheets of 40 separated by a decorative gutter, plus a small (96 x 82 mm) \$2 miniature (or souvenir) sheet. The only complicating factor was a second issue of the three sheet values in sheetlets of five stamps plus one label, perf. 12 and with changed background colors: the 35¢ value in sheets of 40 had a light blue background, changed to dark blue on the sheetlet of five; the 60¢ value changed from light to dark green, and the 90¢ value changed from pink to violet. All are easily identifiable varieties that the major catalogues refuse to list, although they are footnoted by Gibbons. I have seen no errors, varieties, or 'SPECIMEN' overprints, but I suspect the latter do exist. I would appreciate photocopies if you have any. All of these issues were available at the Philatelic Bureau on Grand Turk.

## The Caicos Islands Issues

On South Caicos, however, things got a little crazy. On July 24, 1981 ten stamps and one miniature sheet were released. They included seven of the Turks & Caicos Fish definitives plus the Royal Wedding issue, all overprinted 'Caicos Islands'. There was no need for these issues, except greed, as the total population of the entire colony was less than 8,000 in 1980. The islands were just falling in line with many other small islands that released unnecessary issues during the 1980s, hoping to make a killing on the Royal Wedding issues.

Although the Caicos Islands issued well over 100 stamps and miniature sheets in the four and a half years between July 1981 and December 1985, I only have two covers bearing Caicos issues (not Royal Wedding stamps): one cancelled at Cockburn Harbour, South Caicos, in August 1986 from the still-functioning Caicos Philatelic Bureau; and one from the Turks & Caicos Bureau, cancelled at Grand Turk in November 1987.

There were two types of overprint on the Caicos Islands' Royal Wedding issue, one in both upper and lower case Italic type, known as the London overprint; and a cruder one, all in upper-case, sans-serif letters, known as the New York overprint. Again I could find no reason for two types of overprint, other than a desire to increase revenue. Both overprints are known on the sheets of 40, the sheetlets of five, and the miniature sheet. Examples of both overprint types appear on the \$2 miniature sheets.

## The London Overprint

As mentioned above, the London overprint is found on the sheetlets of five, but these overprinted sheetlets exist with both perf. 12 and perf. 14, whereas no perf. 14 sheetlet of five has been reported for the Turks & Caicos Islands. Moreover, these overprinted sheetlets have the same background colors as the overprinted sheets of 40! The London overprint is unknown on sheetlets of five with changed background color. Likewise, the sheetlets of five with unchanged background colors are not known unoverprinted from the Turks & Caicos Islands or with the New York 'Caicos Islands' overprint. No errors or other varieties have been reported for the London overprinted stamps.

The \$2 miniature sheet and the perf. 12 sheetlet of five are known overprinted 'SPECIMEN' in addition to the London overprint, as shown on the \$2 miniature sheet (Figure 1). I have not found the London sheets of 40 and sheetlets of five perf. 14 overprinted 'SPECIMEN', but they probably exist. Photocopies would be appreciated!

## The New York Overprint

Things get really interesting with the New York overprints. These are known on the sheets of 40, the \$2 miniature sheet, and the sheetlets of five with new background colors, and all are known with an additional 'SPECIMEN' overprint. All are also known with the New York overprint inverted (Figures 2 and 3), and the 90¢ value from the sheetlet of five only is known with double overprint, as shown in a pair with the label (Figure 4).

To make matters even worse, there are varieties of the inverted overprint on the sheetlets of five due to the placement of the label within the sheetlet. The normal overprint on the five stamps in the sheetlet stamps consists of the words 'CAICOS ISLANDS' at the top and a black bar at the bottom to obliterate the words 'TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS', while the label is only overprinted 'CAICOS ISLANDS' and has no bar. As a consequence, the sheetlet with the inverted overprint should have four stamps plus the label with the obliterating bar at the top and the words 'Caicos Islands' upside down at the bottom, while one stamp will have only the two-line Caicos Islands overprint inverted but no obliterating bar! Unfortunately, even after looking for 15 years, I have neither seen nor heard of full sheetlets of five with either the inverted overprint or the double overprint – only singles from the panes.





Figure 1



Figure 4



Figure 2



Figure 3



Of minor interest, on the sheets of 40 and the sheetlets of five, the gutters and label do not have the London overprint, but they are overprinted 'CAICOS ISLANDS' on the New York printings. In addition on the New York printing, 'CAICOS ISLANDS' has been overprinted on the lower margin on the sheetlets of five, as can be seen on my double-overprinted 90¢, which also illustrates the label overprint without the bar.



Figure 5

Then, of course, there were booklets with their own unique Royal Wedding stamps. The large, prestige-type self-adhesive booklets were available from both the Turks & Caicos (SG 657-9 in book SB4) and the Caicos Islands (SG 12-14 in book SB1). The latter were not overprinted on the Turks & Caicos booklets, but a special issue prepared for the Caicos Islands. However, at a stamp show in Texas in the early 1990s, I came upon the illustrated booklet (Figure 5), which contains left-margin pairs of all three values of the New York overprints, numbers 8-10, stapled in the cover. The inside covers are unprinted and the back cover has a photograph of the Royal couple. What I do not know is whether or not this was an "official" release of the Caicos Islands or privately produced. Any help here would be greatly appreciated.

What started out as a simple set of three values plus a miniature sheet turned into at least seven different sets of three plus three miniature sheets, three booklets, eight "errors," and at least 11 specimens. After 15 years, I need help and would appreciate answers or comments on the following questions:

1. Did any of the Turks & Caicos issues (unoverprinted for the Caicos Islands) receive a 'SPECIMEN' overprint?
2. Do the Turks & Caicos sheetlets of five exist with perf. 14?
3. Do the New York overprinted sheetlets of five exist with perf. 14?
4. Does anyone have unoverprinted Turks & Caicos sheetlets of five with the same background colors as the sheets of 40?
5. Does anyone have the Caicos Islands overprinted sheetlets of five the New York overprint and the same background colors as the sheet of 40?
6. Likewise, does anyone have the London sheetlets of five with the dark colors in either perf. 12 or perf. 14?
7. Has anyone seen stamps from the Caicos sheetlet of five with just the inverted 'CAICOS ISLANDS' overprint but without the bar? These would be from the middle stamp above the label.
8. Finally, what is the story behind my Caicos booklet with New York overprinted stamps?

As a final note, I no longer collect new issues of the Turks & Caicos Islands. I had a deposit account with the Bureau on Grand Turk for over ten years, but in 1991 the Bureau stopped sending the new issues, cashed my last \$50 check, and has refused to answer any correspondence since. I deal directly with philatelic bureaus in over 20 countries, but the Turks & Caicos Bureau is the only one that has ever stolen my money.

1. My ham radio call signs are VP5BJX in the Turks & Caicos, N5UR stateside, and G4VHD in the U.K.

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□

## A PACIFIC 97 Special

As announced on the back cover of the December issue, the June 1997 journal will be a special edition released in conjunction with PACIFIC 97. The response to the appeal for articles has been extremely gratifying, and this will be a blockbuster issue! Several articles will contain previously unpublished information, while many others will

bring together and update important data that has been scattered in various journals, other publications, or exhibits until now. As things stand at present, virtually every country will be represented in some fashion, and some more than once. It is anticipated that the June issue will be released during the second half of May. —M.F.



## A Caribbean Mixture

by Charles A. FREELAND

### St. Vincent

#### The 'UE' Abbreviated Cancel

The abbreviated cancel for Union Estates ('UE') has long been sought after as the second rarest abbreviated cancel after 'G' of Georgetown. In fact, including strikes on cover, about 20 of each are known. Both are recorded as occurring only in red ink. Michael Hamilton has established the date range for 'UE' between 2 April 1875 and 2 October 1884.

What is less well known is that a lone 'UE' example exists struck from the black pad. It would be neat to be able to report a date outside the established range, but in fact it is dated 2 February 1883 and thus must be regarded as a "one-off."

#### Postage Due

St. Vincent suffers in comparison with many other Caribbean islands in never having issued a postage-due stamp.

Indeed, it rarely seems to have had any routine for dealing with underpaid mail at all. I have seen very few covers that show any signs of having been taxed, although it is possible that fines were collected without any markings being put on the mail.

In at least one time period, however, the GPO in Kingstown had a postage-due handstamp for use on underpaid mail, as a 1902 cover illustrates (Figure 1). The marking, which has separate lines for the postmaster to fill in the deficient postage and the fine, is very similar, although somewhat larger, than a handstamp seen on mail incoming to the U.K. around 1866. The mark has also been seen on a plastered O.H.M.S. envelope of 25 January 1895, which seems to have been used to test all the instruments in the drawer at the time.

#### Manuscript 'Missent to Saint Vincent'

A straight-line 'MISSENT TO SAINT VINCENT' handstamp in sans-serif capitals has been recorded on four covers between 1905 and 1929. The next handstamp seen (a

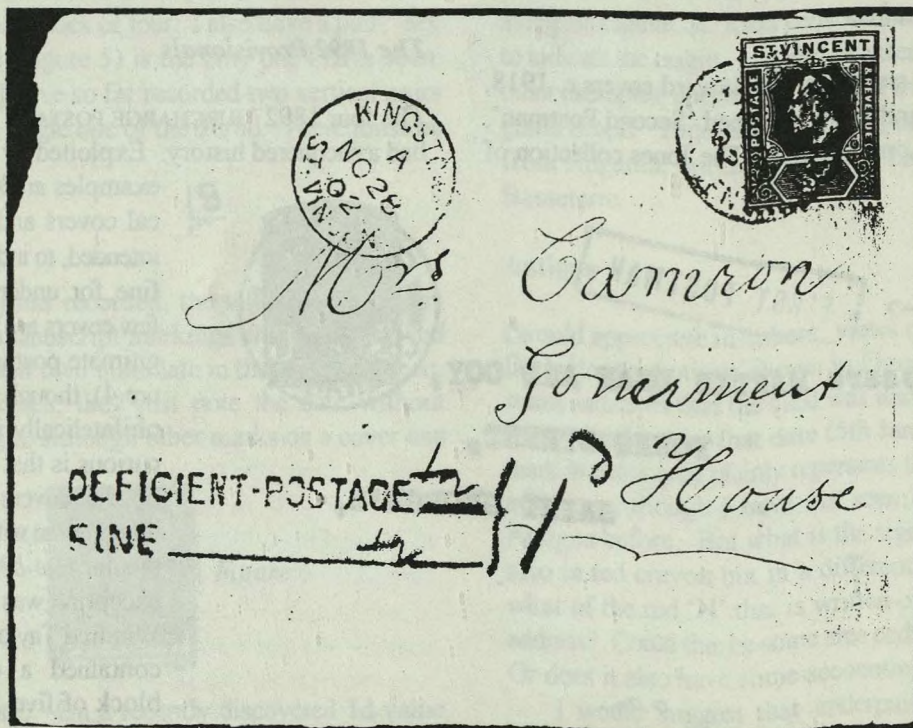


Figure 1



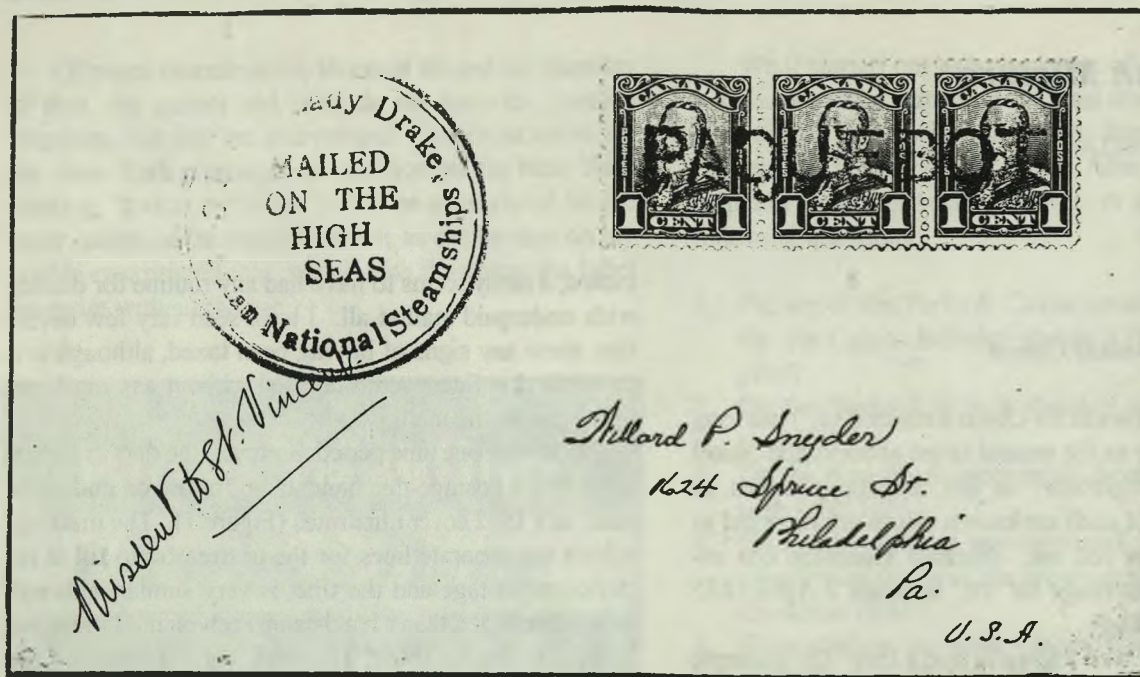


Figure 2

boxed 'Missent to St. Vincent BWI') has an earliest date of December 1942. In between those dates, it seems that manuscript markings may have been used, on the evidence of at least two recorded covers. The one illustrated (Figure 2) has no datestamp but from the ancillary markings must have been used between 1932 and 1936.

**Grenada**

*The 'Postman' Cachets*

A few years ago, a small cache of inward covers c. 1918, bearing a boxed handstamp inscribed 'Second Postman', was offered by a London dealer. The Jones collection of

Grenada<sup>1</sup> contained an example of this but also, more interestingly, a cover with a 'Third Postman' cachet. I am now able to complete the set with a 'First Postman' (Figure 3) used on a local cover dated 15 March 1921. This is the first such cover I have seen that is not addressed to Sir Thomas Haycraft, the Chief Justice. It belies the theory that his elevated position enabled him to receive multiple postal deliveries denied to mere commoners.

*The 1892 Provisionals*

The four 1892 'SURCHARGE POSTAGE' provisionals have had a chequered history. Exploited by speculators, many

examples are known franking local covers and not, as originally intended, to indicate payment of a fine for underpaid franking. A few covers are known showing legitimate postage-due usage (Figure 4), though even these may be philatelically inspired. What is curious is that the manufacturers of the covers showed so little imagination with this rather spectacular tête-bêche series. A rare exception was an example in the Winifred Taylor collection, which contained a cover bearing as block of five 1d on 8d.<sup>2</sup> Otherwise, very few used multiples ex-

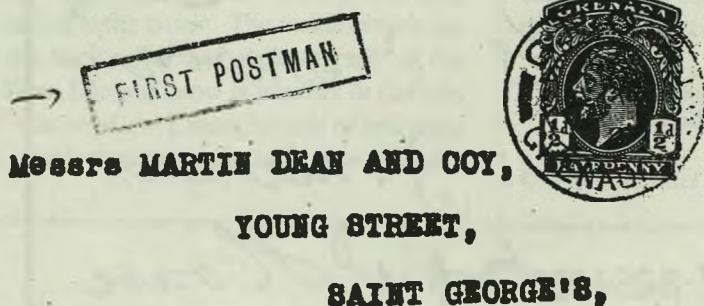


Figure 3



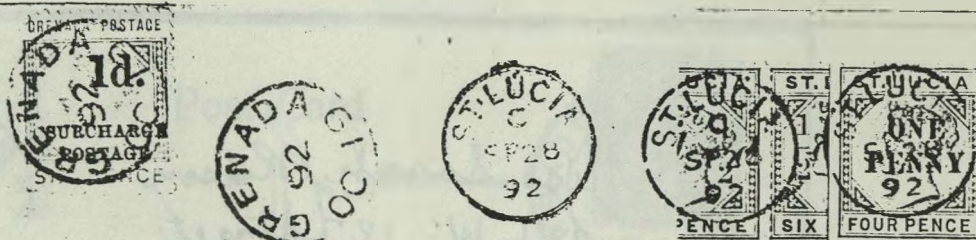


Figure 4

*E. Stanley Smith*  
*Grenada*

Figure 5



ist. Ferrari had a used vertical pair of the 1d/6d, and Bryan Johnson had a block of four. I also have a pair. My pair of the 2d/6d (Figure 5) is the only one I have seen. On the 8d value, I have so far recorded two vertical pairs of the 1d/8d and a single one of the 2d/8d. There must be more out there.

### St Christopher

As Rob Wynstra has recorded, the village postmasters customarily used manuscript markings until they received a datestamp of their own quite late in the nineteenth century. In most cases, they just note the date without indication of origin, although other marks on a cover can



Figure 6

identify the village. On a recently discovered 1d value, dated 31/10/73, the postmaster has, however, added an

abbreviated 'O.R.' (Figure 6), evidently indicating Old Road, one of the local post offices. A similar abbreviation for Sandy Point was in the Roberts sale<sup>3</sup> and the Urwick collection<sup>4</sup> contained a manuscript 'Dieppe Bay' written in full.

### Anguilla

Figure 7, a cover ex-Addiss, shows a St. Kitts censor label "extended" by an extra 'B' in manuscript. Ed's view was that the cover, posted from the Valley, Anguilla, on 15 September 1944, was examined in Anguilla by a censor using the regular St. Kitts censor label, who added the 'B' to indicate the origin. I would be interested to hear of any other examples, specifically whether they also have an Anguilla origin. There are, of course, other censored covers from Anguilla, but they appear to have been censored in Basseterre.

### Antigua

I would appreciate members' views on the postcard from Barbados to Antigua shown in Figure 8. The 'T' handstamp indicates that the card was underpaid, 1d being the inter-island rate at that date (5th January 1914). The 1d mark in red crayon plainly represents the sum due from the addressee, though I have not seen anything similar for Antigua before. But what is the significance of the '16', also in red crayon but in a different shade of red? And what of the red 'N' that is written over the 'Miss' in the address? Could this be some area code or street reference? Or does it also have some accounting meaning?

I would suggest that underpaid mail is somewhat under-researched. While we know quite a lot about the is-



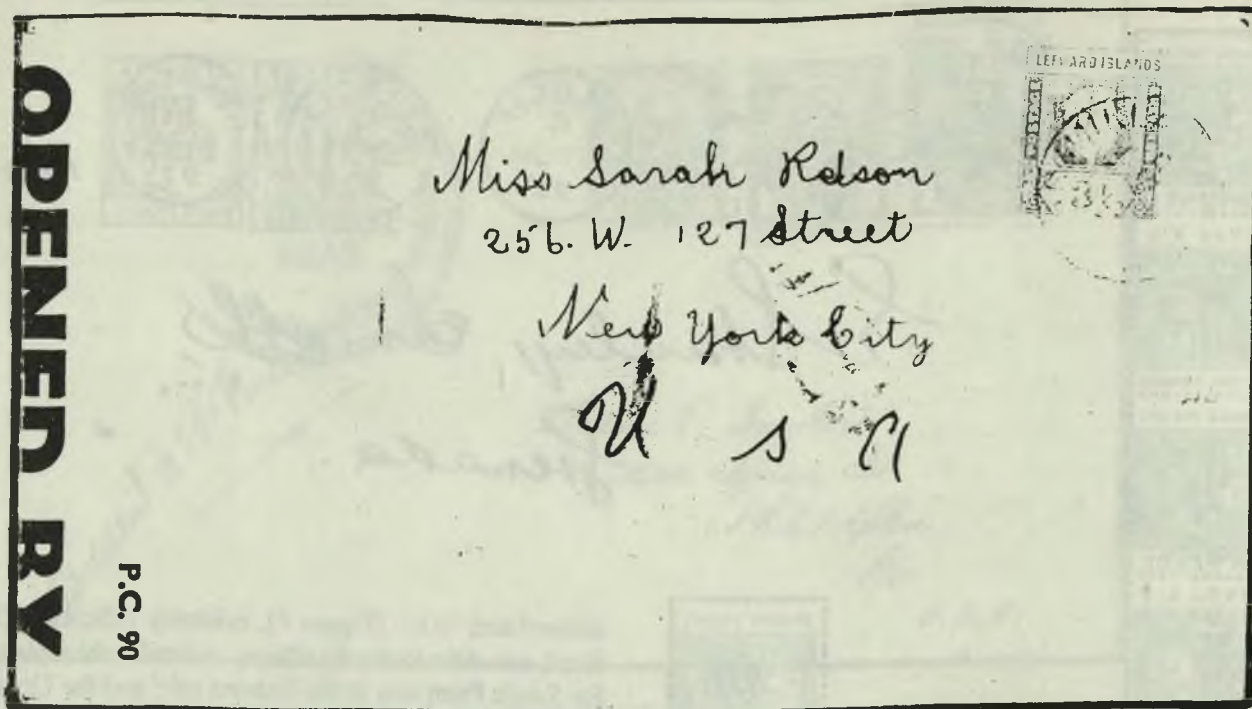
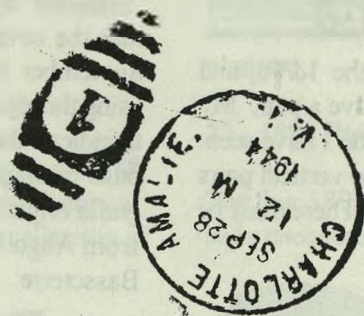


Figure 7

From Lether Rolson.  
West end  
Anquilla



b/xe

EXAMINER RB/132

lands that had regular due handstamps (e.g., Bermuda) or adhesives (e.g., Grenada or St. Lucia), those islands which had nothing similar (e.g., Bahamas, St. Vincent, Turks & Caicos) have been relatively neglected. Yer underpaid paid to those islands exists and dues were still being charged. I am sure the Editor would welcome reports of any such sightings.

### R.M.S. *Lady Drake*

Some time ago, I acquired a picture postcard of the *Lady Drake* bearing the italic straight-line mark illustrated, handstamped in violet. At the time, I thought it looked suspiciously like a home-made mark but since then I have seen examples on correspondence to a range of addressees



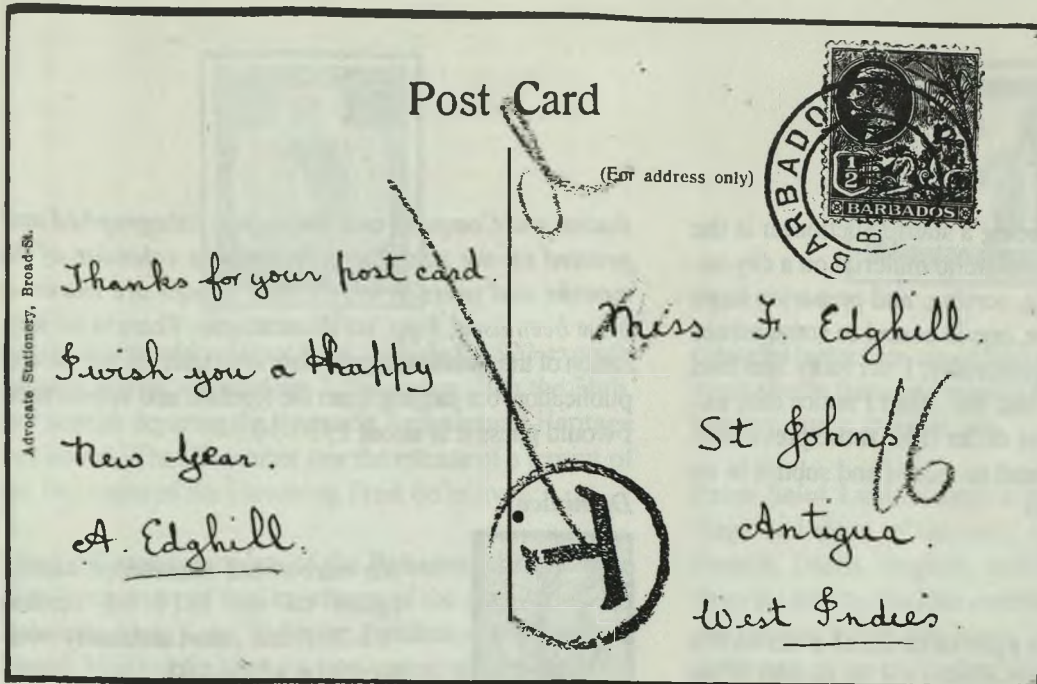


Figure 8

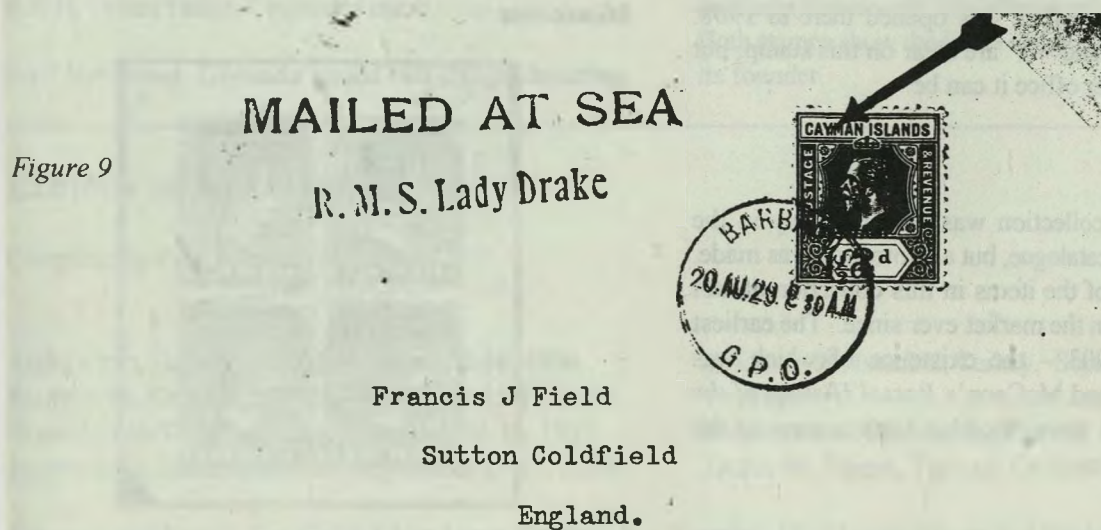


Figure 9

and it seems it was a legitimate mark used by the Purser as an alternative to the unseriffed capitals straight-line mark, 'Lady Drake'. It has been seen struck in blue, magenta, or violet ink.

I should add that I also have a 'Lady Somers' mark in seriffed capitals on a philatelic cover. Since I have not seen another example of this particular mark, I regard it as

unofficial pending further confirmation.

*References*

- 1 Sold by Christie's, London, 13 June 1991.
- 2 Sold by Harmer Rooke, London, 25 April 1963.
- 3 Christie's Robson Lowe, London, 26 April 1989.
- 4 Sold by Robson Lowe, London, 6-7 October 1964. □



## Bits and Pieces

by David N. DRUETT

One of the advantages of being a stamp auctioneer is the opportunity to see so much philatelic material on a day-to-day basis. While handling, sorting, and preparing large collections for the catalogue, one is bound to come across many unusual pieces. Occasionally, I am lucky and find a previously unrecorded item, but often I notice date extensions or types of use that differ from those previously recorded. These I now intend to record and submit in an occasional series of articles.

### *British Honduras*

A 1908-11 2¢ carmine, with a partial strike of a 'LOWRY'S BIGHT 13 MAY 1913' double-circle t.r.d. in purple. This office is not mentioned in Ed Addiss' "Town" *Cancels of British Honduras*. According to Eric King in *The Postal History of Belize*, an office was opened there in 1908. Note that only 'Y's' and 'HT' are clear on this stamp, but I cannot see any other office it can be.

### *Cayman Islands*

The Lloyd-Lowles collection was sold privately in the 1970s; there was no catalogue, but a photocopy was made. Intriguingly, many of the items in this collection do not seem to have come on the market ever since. The earliest known letter of 1903 – the existence of which was doubted in Giraldi and McCann's *Postal History of the Cayman Islands*, is there, together with a copy of the 1805 letter to Jamaica.

### *Trinidad*

A printed document entitled, *A schedule of the postage stamps of Trinidad engraved and printed by Perkins*

*Bacon and Company and the stamps lithographed and printed on the island together with a calendar of the months and years in which these stamps are known to have been used*, 4 pp, no illustrations. There is no indication of the author, the publisher or printer, or the date of publication, but judging from the typeface and appearance, I would guess it is about 1930-50.

### *Dominica*



An unrecorded manuscript cancellation on the 1874 1d, reading '9.6.76 P/mth', most unusually overstruck by a blue A07.

### *Montserrat*



I was most surprised to find a *used* block of the first issue of the 6d of 1876. The Charlton Henry strip of three had always been thought to be the largest known multiple. □

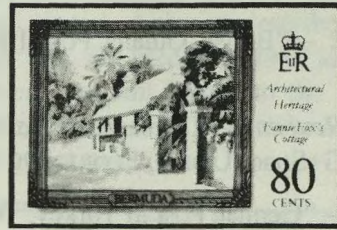
## New Issues

by Clifford ABRAM

Nevis issued a sheetlet of nine and four individual stamps in late September, all very colourful, as a salute to "Flowers of the World." The Christmas issue consisted of an

unusual but most attractive set of six values and a souvenir sheet depicting birds found on the island, alongside Christmas decorations.





Recent **Bermuda** releases have included a \$22 express postage stamp, released on 7 November. On the 28th, four stamps depicting the Bermuda Architectural Heritage was issued. Then December saw the release of a reprint of the 18¢ value of the Flowering Fruit definitives.

The 1997 stamp program of the **Bahamas** is as follows: 25th Anniversary of the Department of the Archives of the Bahamas; Hong Kong 97 Stamp Exhibition; EMS (High-Speed Mail) definitives; a new aerogramme; Environmental Protection part V (covering the Year of the Reef); Royal Golden Wedding of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II and H.R.H. Prince Philip; Christmas issue.

On 7 November, **Grenada** issued two stamps depicting

colourful butterflies, as well as two sheetlets and two souvenir sheets featuring marine life – dolphin, killer whale, sea lion, turtle, pelican, etc.

From **Saint Lucia** comes a set of five stamps showing flags and ships of the past, released on 19 September. French, Dutch, English, and Spanish vessels and flags from the 16th to the 18th centuries are depicted, as well as the famous “skull and bones” of the pirates. This is said to be part on an expanding series.

Finally, **Saint Vincent** celebrated the 60th anniversary of its Cadet Force with two stamps released on 23 October. Both stamps show the Force insignia and Lt. D.S. Crozier, its founder. □

## Exhibits and Exhibitions

Compiled by Paul A. LARSEN

AIRPEX XXI, Dayton, Ohio, September 28-29, 1996  
 FLOREX 96, Orlando, Florida, November 15-17, 1996  
 HONG KONG 97, Hong Kong, February 12-16, 1997  
 INDYPEX 96, Indianapolis, In., September 13-15, 1996

ISTANBUL 96, Istanbul, Turkey, September 27-October 6, 1996  
 STAMPSHOW 96, Orlando, Florida, August 22-25, 1996  
 TAIPEI 96, Taipei, Taiwan, October 21-27, 1996

GA = Grand Award; G = Gold; LV = Large Vermeil; V = Vermeil; LS = Large Silver; S = Silver; SP = Special Prize; F = Felicitations of the Jury; Lit = literature exhibit

*Bowman, George* – “The Rowe Aero-Achievements: From WIAE to Pan Am, 1927-31,” V, STAMPSHOW 96

*Fuller, Darryl* – “Leeward Islands Postal Stationery: Queen Victoria to King George VI,” LV+SP, HONG KONG 97

*Gallagher, Scott* – “Kentucky During the Civil War,” G+GA, AIRPEX 96

*Gallagher, Scott* – “Puerto Rico Postal History,” LV, ISTANBUL 96

*Halewood, Nicholas* – “Hong Kong Airmails, The First

Twenty Years,” LS, TAIPEI 96; V, HONG KONG 97

*Halewood, Nicholas* – “The 1954-62 Definitive Issue of Hong Kong,” V+F, HONG KONG 97

*Halewood, Nicholas* – *A Study of Hong Kong Definitives: King Edward VII and King George V*, S (Lit), HONG KONG 97

*Ingle-Smith, David* – “Jamaica Postal Stationery, 1877-1968,” G+SP, TAIPEI 96

*Larsen, Paul* – “German Caroline Islands, 1899-1914,” V, INDYPEX 96



McCann, Peter – “Turks & Caicos,” LV, ISTANBUL 96

Nathan, Derek – “British Guiana Postal History,” G, ISTANBUL 96

Ramkisson, Reuben – “Development of U.S. Lunar Exploration,” G+Space Unit G, FLOREX 96

Schnell, Roger – “German Post in Turkey,” V, ISTANBUL 96

Walker, Dan – “Barwani,” G+SP, ISTANBUL 96

The following exhibits by BCPSG members were also

entered in STAMPSHOW 96 in the Prix d'Honneur category (for Grand Award winners in 1995-96 in any of about 35 national-level exhibitions accredited by the American Philatelic Society):

Peter McCann, “British Virgin Islands Postal History”  
Roger Schnell, “German Offices in Turkey, 1870-1914”  
Dan Walker, “Grenada, 1751-1911”

Dan's Grenada exhibit was selected as Champion of Champions – the best exhibit shown at a national-level exhibition during the year. Congratulations! □

## ***BCPSG Meeting at York***

by David N. DRUETT

On Saturday, January 18, a meeting was held at York, in conjunction with the large stamp fair held at the race-course. The organizers, Chris Rainey and Trevor Davis, kindly allowed the BCPSG to hold the meeting in a room above the stamp faire, free of charge.

The meeting had been rather hastily convened, and as there had been no notice in the journal, I decided not to invite a guest speaker in case nobody turned up! Instead, I suggested that all who came bring 20 to 30 sheets from their collection. In the event, 10 members attended, and the following displays were given:

- Derek Lilley: Bahamas censored mail, plus U.S. bases and R.A.F. mail and some rare Sea Floor Post items;
- Doug Nottingham: Antigua King George VI issues and censored mail; a rare photo of the censors at work in Antigua was much appreciated;
- Mike Spaven: Leeward Islands Federal Issues, with a selection of revenue Fee stamps, including a cover post-marked DE 15 90 with the 1890 6d (a very early use), plus many sheets and blocks of the 1890 and 1897 issues, and a lovely example of the bogus ½d on 1d overprint;

- Mike Rego: St. Lucia with many fine covers, including a 1791 entire letter to Scotland, a fine crowned circle, the Perkins Bacon issues, use of the Castries temporary handstamp after the 1927 fire, and maritime mail;
- David Druett: Trinidad miscellany, including D.O.X. flight covers and a photograph of the aircraft, plus a selection of forwarding agent marks, incl. one from 1807;
- Tony Sherpherd: Barbados imperf. and perf. Britannias, including many fine covers; also Guadeloupe covers, including one with an RMSP office mark and another with a crown Paid handstamp.

Before the displays a discussion was held on possible formats for future meetings. A weekend convention somewhere in the Midlands was favoured, depending on how many members could be persuaded to attend. It was agreed that a meeting will be held in York again in conjunction with the stamp fair on January 17, 1998, at which a competition will be held, with two classes as before for stamps and postal history.

Other members in attendance included Ken Watson, Mike Hamilton, Ian Potter, and James Podger; Willard Allman also made a brief and belated appearance. □

## ***British Virgin Islands Official Overprints: More Philatelists Ltd. Fabrications***

by Giorgio MIGLIAVACCA

The British Virgin Islands' 17 definitive stamps of 1979-80 are known with an 'OFFICIAL' overprint in gold (type a – 15mm from the top of the design) in addition to the

regular series. They include the ½¢ and 10¢ denominations. All the stamps with the gold overprint come from the first printing, except for the 8¢, 15¢, and 20¢, which



come from the 1982 re-issue. The only anomaly affects the 13¢ stamp, which shows a higher-than-normal overprint.

The previously unknown ½¢ and 10¢ with the 'OFFICIAL' overprint in silver surfaced in April 1996. These stamps originated from a Pennsylvania collector

who indicated they were sold to him by a former employee of Philatelists Limited. Although described by the seller as printer's proofs, the gold overprints and the ½¢ and 10¢ with silver overprint belong to the series of eye-catching varieties fabricated by Philatelists Ltd. and do not deserve catalogue status. □

## *Tortola Stamp Show in April 1997*

The Sixth Annual Stamp Exhibition of the British Virgin Islands will be held at Barclays Bank, Road Town, on 26 and 27 April 1997, with an Afro-Caribbean flavour. The event will feature a display of the winning entries of the "Design a Stamp" competition to be held in BVI schools during the month of March. The winners, one from each age group, will see their designs adorn a new series of stamps featuring the BVI Festival.

At the award ceremony, which will precede the presentation of diplomas to exhibitors on Sunday afternoon, the results of the 1996 BVI Stamp Popularity Poll will also be announced. The clip-out ballot published in the 1 February edition of *The Island Sun* asked voters to indicate their selections for best and worst designs and for the most important and least necessary stamp issues.

Members of the local stamp club have been meeting every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at The Moorings to make all

the necessary arrangements for what is anticipated to be another major event in the BVI. The BVI Philatelic Society is importing two new exhibition frames from the U.K. for this event. Apart from stamps, phonecard and coin displays have already been secured. The Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, the Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau, and other major advertisers have confirmed their moral support with full-page advertisements in the exhibition programme.

The St. Croix Philatelic Society is negotiating special travel arrangements to have a large delegation of Cruzan collectors come to Tortola for the two-day show.

Earlier this year the BVI Philatelic Society held its general election resulting in the following Board of Directors: president, Giorgio Migliavacca; vice-president and secretary, Roger Downing; director, Thelma Swain; treasurer, Joanna Warner. □

## *Letters to the Editor*

### *From M.H. Ludington:*

In connection with the American-style Paid datestamp of JA 22(?) of Ireland Island (see *BCPJ*, W/N 180, September 1996, p. 71), I believe that D.F.C. Grote, the postmaster of Ireland Island, 1858-1870, probably had it made for himself in the U.S.A. without prior authorization. In addition, it would seem that no year date was supplied with the new Paid datestamp, so he was obliged to use his regular datestamp, type PM5, on the back, as before, with no saving in time or effort. He had also by mistake charged 6d, the rate to England, instead of 4d, the rate to Canada. This was discovered in transit at St. Georges and corrected in red crayon with a St. Georges type PM5 of JA 24 1863 struck on the back as authorization.

Since the new Paid datestamp was not in a British

style, it could well not have been approved by his superior, James H. Thies, in St. Georges, and this, plus the lack of a year date, obliged Grote to return to using his crowned circle handstamp and separate datestamp as before. The lack of paid covers from Ireland Island during this period prevents any firm conclusions.

Great Britain was officially neutral in the American Civil War, and at no time allowed any blockade running activities at the Royal Naval Dockyard at Ireland Island. A few naval officers, on leave and using aliases, did briefly take command of blockade runners, chiefly for the excitement and the high pay, but otherwise no British naval personnel were involved. All blockade-running activities were based in St. Georges and, briefly during the yellow-fever epidemic in the summer of 1864, in Hamilton.



**From John Byl:**

I have received the September issue of the *BCPJ* and notice two unfortunate errors made in the transcript from my manuscript. Both occur towards the end of the article [see p. 78], in the second column. Seven lines from the bottom "many" should read "any," and three lines up "other" should read "another."

**From Jay Fredrick:**

When three people try to "create" an article in three countries on two continents, pitfalls can occur! Here are the gremlins that have sneaked into the article on "The 'Tortola' Straightline Handstamps" written by Charles Freeland and myself, with some editorial input from the Editor [*BCPJ*, March 1996]:

- On page 3, the cover referred to at the very beginning of the article is that shown in Figure 3, not (as stated in the article) in Figure 2 or on the cover of the March 1996 issue of the journal.

- On page 4, the type listed for FF5 under FM should read 3A, not 3D.
- On page 5, second paragraph, substitute Figure 3 for Figure 2 after "Martinique"; substitute Figure 4 for Figure 3 after "Montserrat"; and add Figure 5 after "Virgin Gorda."
- On page 6, the date at the end of the second line in the caption to Figure 1 should read "28 July 1787" (not 1878).
- On page 7, the last parenthesis in the caption to Figure 3 should read: "(Dawes was a prominent official at the Bank of England)."
- On page 9, the caption to Figure 6 should state that the letter was written in 1819.

[Editor's Note: These letters were to appear in the last issue but somehow were misplaced. My thanks to all three writers, and my apologies to John Byl and to Charles Freeland and Jay Fredrick for the errors in their articles. A final check by the authors is always desirable but, alas, not always possible.]

**1995 New Issues Survey: The Caribbean Record**

Each year, the German magazine *Michel-Rundschau* publishes the results of its survey of new issues released around the world, some details of which are reproduced in *Linn's Stamp News* and other periodicals. *Linn's* 3 February 1997 edition provided some results for 1995: the total number of stamps issued that year was 11,091, from 264 postal entities.

Guyana and St. Vincent were the top two countries in the world. Grenada, Grenada-Grenadines, and Antigua & Barbuda were also among the top 10, with Dominica and Nevis not far behind.

Here are the 1995 totals for countries covered by the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (1990 figures in parentheses), along with their population estimates at mid-1995, according to the "CIA World Facts":

Guyana	497 (419)	723,774
St. Vincent & Grenadines	294 (185)	117,344
Grenada	264 (134)	94,486
Grenada-Grenadines <sup>1</sup>	256 (111)	-
Antigua & Barbuda	212 (125)	65,176
Dominica	145 (85)	82,068
Nevis <sup>2</sup>	126 (44)	-
Barbuda <sup>3</sup>	98 (88)	-

Turks & Caicos Islands	98 (94)	13,941
Montserrat	34 (32)	12,738
Bahamas	31 (21)	256,616
Belize	28 (31)	214,061
Jamaica	26 (25)	2,574,291
St. Kitts	26 (32)	40,992
Cayman Islands	23 (14)	33,192
Barbados	22 (33)	256,395
Bermuda	22 (17)	61,629
British Virgin Islands	21 (32)	13,027
Anguilla	18 (39)	7,099
St. Lucia	18 (35)	156,050
Trinidad & Tobago	8 (29)	1,271,159
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,267 1,625</b>	<b>5,994,038</b>

1. Population included with Grenada.
2. Population included with St. Kitts.
3. Population included with Antigua & Barbuda.

The 1995 figure does not include the souvenir sheets, which brings the total for that year above the 2,500 mark, with the Caribbean countries contributing nearly 20 percent of worldwide issues. Where will it all end, one wonders? - *M. Forand* □



## *Dominica: How to Sort the King George VI Printings*

by Tom CUSICK<sup>1</sup>

About 320 miles north of Venezuela in the Caribbean Sea lies the mountainous island of Dominica. Now an independent country, Dominica was part of the Leewards Islands federated colony between 1871 and 1939, then part of the Windward Islands Group until 1978. The capital city of Roseau has a population of about 11,000, and its postmarks are those you are most likely to find on used stamps from Dominica.

To a large degree, Dominica's King George VI stamps<sup>2</sup> have been ignored up until now. This is unfortunate, because there are collectable color varieties, differences in paper, and to some degree changes in perforation. These variations are found on the various King George VI issues largely as a result of the disruptions that occurred during World War II. In England, where the stamps were printed, there were shortages of inks and gums, factories were bombed, and – unlike today – printers did not have the facilities to match their previous year's output. There are many interesting examples of the color and perforation variations, as well as many costly flaws, both listed or unlisted in catalogues, that developed on stamps issued during this period.

Even if you are not very experienced at sorting King George VI stamps, you can find many different variations among the Dominica issues simply by comparing the papers used for the stamps and carefully analyzing the subtle differences in perforations.

The chart summarizes the information I have collected about these issues. The colors and issue dates are from Potter & Shelton's book.<sup>3</sup> It should be borne in mind that Potter & Shelton recorded the issues that were released in London and any other colonial releases that were reported to them by collectors. Since their book was published in 1952, they are not likely to have recorded any printing later than 1951. In the case of Dominica, the second definitive set was issued in July 1951. As this fact was noted by Potter & Shelton, it seems unlikely that any later printings of the first definitive issue were made after their book was published. At the same time, some earlier printings may have been missed – as was shown to have happened in the case of the Antigua KGVI issue by Frank Saunders.<sup>4</sup>

In the chart are the reference numbers that I use to sort the issues in my computer database. The catalogue numbers listed are only for items that are specifically iden-

tified by the Commonwealth or Gibbons catalogues.<sup>5</sup> I make the assumption that both catalogues are referring to the first printing of each value in their first descriptions. In the Scott catalogue, there is only one catalogue number per denomination.

The 1938-51 definitive issue of Dominica comprises 15 denominations, ranging from ¼d to 10 shillings, all printed on paper with the multiple crown & script CA watermark. Of these 15 values, 14 were pictorial designs printed by Waterlow, the exception being the ¼d value, which was a smaller stamp with a portrait of the King, printed by Harrison & Sons. The Waterlow issues comprised four designs in all, distributed as follows:

Fresh Water Lake: ½d, 6d, 7d, 2s6d

Layou River: 1d, 3d, 2s, 5s

Picking Limes: 1½d, 2½d, 3½d

Boiling Lake: 2d, 1s, 10s

The printings of these values have many of the traits of other Waterlow-produced stamps: the colors are fairly consistent and the perforations vary slightly around the 12.5 mark. The greatest difference I have noted is in the appearance of the paper and gum.

The first step I would recommend in sorting the different printings of these issues is to accumulate a quantity of stamps so that they can be compared for paper and gum differences. Lining up just 10 or 20 copies will be enough to see the differences. One can usually make the assumption that printings produced in the same relative time period will have the same type of paper and gum, but it is important to keep in mind that there can be exceptions to this rule. Paper differences are best seen from the back of stamps, set against a piece of black paper under a strong neutral light. I use twin spotlamps with soft white bulbs. Ironically, I find that ordinary daylight – which is often touted as the best kind of light – does not work as well for this analysis.

In general terms, five major types of paper and gum can be identified for the whole issue:

1938 Creamy-looking gum; thicker paper, with the black ink on the front not showing through as well as in other printings); watermark visible;



## King George VI Issue of Dominica, 1938-51: A Summary of the Printings

<i>KGVI Number</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Printing Date</i>	<i>Paper</i>	<i>Water- mark</i>	<i>Common- wealth</i>	<i>1995 Gibbons</i>	<i>Scott</i>
PS01	¼d chocolate	1940 Apr 15	chalk		15	109	111
PS01A	chocolate	1942			—	15A	109a
PS01B	dull chocolate	1944 Feb			—	15B	—
PS02	½d brown & green	1938 Aug 15	cream		1	99	97
PS02A	deeper brown & deeper green	1942	white		—	—	—
PS02B	deep brown & deep green	1944 Feb 3	thin	transp.	1a	—	—
PS02C	paler brown & paler green	1946 Nov	thin	opaque	—	—	—
PS03	1d grey-black & carmine	1938 Aug 15	cream		2	100	98
PS03A	grey-black & carmine	1942	white		—	—	—
PS03B	grey-black & rose-scarlet	1944 Feb	thin	transp.	—	—	—
PS03C	grey-black & rose-scarlet	1945 Oct	thin	opaque	—	—	—
PS03D	grey-black & br. carm.-red	1949 Nov 15		transp.	2a	—	—
PS03E	grey-black & br. carm.-red	1951 Feb			—	—	—
PS04	1½d green & purple	1938 Aug 15	cream		3	101	99
PS04A	green & deep purple	1944 Feb	thin	transp.	—	—	—
PS04B	lighter green & light purple	1945 Oct	thin	opaque	—	—	—
PS05	2d carmine-rose & grey	1938 Aug 15	cream		4	102	100
PS05A	carmine-rose & grey	1944 Feb 3	thin	transp.	4a	—	—
PS05B	br. carmine-rose & grey	1945 Oct	thin	opaque	—	—	—
PS05C	carmine-rose & grey	1949 Nov		transp.	—	—	—
PS05D	carmine-rose & grey	1951 Feb			—	—	—
PS06	2½d purple & blue	1938 Aug 15	cream		5	103	101
PS06A	purple & br. ultramarine	1942 Nov	white		5a	103a	—
PS06B	purple & br. ultramarine	1944 Feb	thin	transp.	—	—	—
PS06C	lighter purple & ultramarine	1945 Oct	thin	opaque	—	—	—
PS06D	deeper purple & dpr. ultra.	1948 Feb		transp.	—	—	—
PS06E	deeper purple & dpr. ultra.	1949 Nov		transp.	—	—	—
PS07	3d olive-green & brown	1938 Aug 15	cream		6	104	102
PS07A	deeper olive & brown	1944 Feb	thin	transp.	—	—	—
PS07B	deep olive & deeper brown	1945 Oct	thin	opaque	—	—	—
PS07C	sage & chocolate-brown	1948 Feb		transp.	—	—	—
PS08	3½d ultramarine & purple	1947 Oct 15			7	104a	103
PS09	6d yellow-green & violet	1938 Aug 15	cream		8	105	104
PS09A	deep green & cold violet	1944 Feb	thin	transp.	—	—	—
PS09B	deep green & violet	1945 Oct	thin	opaque	—	—	—
PS09C	green & br. violet	1946 Nov	thin	opaque	—	—	—
PS09D	green & violet	1948 Feb		transp.	—	—	—
PS09E	blue-green & violet	1949 Nov		transp.	8a	—	—
PS10	7d green & yellow-brown	1947 Oct 15			9	105a	105
PS11	1s violet & olive	1938 Aug 15	cream		10	106	106
PS11A	deeper violet & dpr. olive	1944 Feb	thin	transp.	—	—	—
PS11B	deeper violet & dpr. violet	1946 Nov	thin	opaque	—	—	—
PS11C	violet & paler olive	1949 Nov 15		transp.	10a	—	—
PS12	2s black & purple	1947 Oct 15			11	106a	107
PS12A	black & purple	1949 Nov		transp.	—	—	—
PS13	2s6d black & vermilion	1938 Aug 15	cream		12	107	108
PS13A	black & br. vermilion	1944 Feb	thin	transp.	—	—	—
PS13B	black & vermilion	1949 Nov		transp.	—	—	—
PS14	5s pale blue & sepia	1938 Aug 15	cream		13	108	109
PS14A	pale blue & sepia	1944 Feb	thin	transp.	—	—	—
PS14B	light blue & sepia	1949 Feb		transp.	—	—	—
PS15	10s brown-orange & black	1947 Oct 15			14	108a	110
PS15A	yellow-brown & black	1949 Nov		transp.	—	—	—



- 1942 Gum looks whiter than on the 1938 issue but still creamier than on later ones; thicker-appearing paper, with the black showing through the least of all printings; watermark slightly visible;
- 1944 Off-white gum; thinner paper, with the black showing through more than on other printings; watermark most visible;
- 1946 Off-white gum; paper thinner than on the 1938 or 1942 printings; watermark barely visible;
- 1949 White gum, much brighter than on the other printings; thinner paper than for the 1938 and 1942 printings; watermark more visible than on the 1946 printing.

In sorting out these issues, a good place to start is with the 2s6d and 5s values. Since only three variations have been recorded for each of these denominations, they should be fairly easy to isolate. One may sometimes have the impression that the 1938 printings were on a paper that is paler than that for later printings, but overall the colors are very similar, which is why I rely on the appearance of the paper.

If you are able to differentiate the various 2s6d and 5s printings, try comparing your 1938 and 1944 examples of the 1½d stamps. The 1945 printing may be the one that differs from these two reference samples. The paper will have a more opaque-appearing watermark and a lighter-colored gum than on the 1944 printing, and it should seem thinner than on the 1938 printing. When seen from the front, the 1945 printing should be in a much lighter shade of green than either of the two other printings.



Comparing the ½d printings should make it relatively easy to identify the 1946 example. I isolate this printing using the color of the gum as the criterion: the 1946 printing should have a brighter white gum than the other printings. The paper will appear thinner than on the 1938 or 1942 printings, and the watermark will be much more difficult to see than on the 1944 issue, which is also on thinner paper. The ½d printings vary in slight shades of green from the 1938 printing, which appears a little brighter, to the 1946 printing, which appears a bit bluer

than the other printings. As is true for most of the Dominica issues, color differences are subtle.

The 3d printings include the same types of variations that have already been sorted, plus the 1948 printing. One should expect to find the same characteristics as those described for the 1938, 1944, and 1945 printings. The 1948 printing differs from those three with its bright white gum. The paper is thin-appearing like the 1944 and 1945 printings. The watermark is more transparent than on the 1945 printing, but less so than on the 1944 printing. I also feel there is a brighter look to the front of the stamp, but that may be due to the bright white paper.

The 2d printings are similar to the 3d printings in terms and print dates and paper variations. However, this value also had two additional printings in 1949 and 1951. Like the 1948 3d printing, these printings were on bright white paper with white gum. The red also has a more pinkish cast compared with the three earlier printings. In fact, stamps from the 1949 and 1951 printings look so much alike that you may not be able to tell them apart. The only difference I have noted is the subtle checkered appearance of the paper as seen from the back of what I feel is the 1951 issue. This is similar to some of the perf. 14 British Guiana issues that were printed in the early 1950s, and Saunders noted this characteristic in his monograph on the British Guiana King George VI stamps.<sup>6</sup>

The 1d printings – 1938, 1942, 1944, 1945, 1949, and 1951 – combine all the traits discussed thus far. In addition to changes in paper, there are slight differences in the shades of red. The 1944 and 1945 shades are the palest, with a more rose cast to the color. The 1938 and 1942 shades fall into the middle of the 1d color range with a carmine (not rosy) color. Finally, the 1949 and 1951 printings are un much brighter shade of red than the 1938 and 1942 versions. Once again, look for the paper differences to sort the various printings.



The 2½d printings include the dramatic color change from blue to ultramarine in the frame of the stamp. This is fairly obvious, but the thicker paper and creamy gum will confirm that you have the ultramarine stamp. There are, in fact, several shades of blue in this issue, ranging from fairly pale blue to a brighter blue, similar to the ultramarine shades. The 1945 shade is much paler than that of the other printings. Once again, if you are able to sort the stamps through the 1945 printings, the challenge will



be to differentiate the 1948 from the 1949 printing. My view is that they both have bright white paper and similar coloration. The most significant difference I have noticed is that one has a paler blue than the other. I think this is the 1949 printing, but cannot state this unequivocally.



At this point, it is of interest to note that the 3½d and 7d issues were not reprinted. Another thrilling revelation is that the 2s and 10s stamps were printed only twice. In both cases, the printings can be distinguished by comparing the watermarks. In the 1947 printing, the watermark should be slightly more opaque than the rather transparent one found on the 1949 printing. In the case of the 10s value, the 1949 printing also looks a bit more yellowish than the 1947 printing.



The 1s shades exhibit some of the same characteristics seen on other values. The olive color of the 1938 and 1949 printings is much paler than that of the 1944 and 1946 printings. Also, the 1938 printing is on the thicker paper, while the remaining printings are on thinner paper. The gum ranges from creamy (1938) to off-white (1944 and 1946) to white (1949). Finally, a comparison of the 1944, 1946, and 1949 printings should reveal that the watermark is relatively transparent on the 1944 printing, opaque on the 1946 printing, and semi-transparent on the 1949 version.

The final challenge among the Waterlow issues is to sort the six 6d printings. The primary color difference is in the shade of the center, which ranges from yellow-green (1938) to green (1946 and 1948), to blue-green (1949), and finally to deep green (1944 and 1945). The violet color of the frame is fairly consistent, except on the 1938 printing, where it is paler. Expect to find the same paper and gum differences as on the other values. The 1944 printing has the transparent watermark, while on the 1945 and 1946 printings, the watermark is more opaque. The 1948 and 1949 printings are on the whiter paper, with the chief variation being the more blue-green center of the 1949 printing.

As for the ¼d stamp printed by Harrison, it is more like the similar stamps printed by this firm for the Virgin Islands and the Seychelles than like the other Dominica stamps. The first test is with respect to the chalk coating on the paper, which can be identified by using a piece of silver. Lightly rub the silver against the front of the stamp (I use the right bottom corner away from the design). If this leaves a light, pencil-like line, then the stamp is chalk-coated. The non-chalk ("ordinary" or "substitute") paper does not exhibit the pencil-like lines. The two substitute printings (1942 and 1944) may be differentiated by comparing the colors: the 1944 printing is much duller-looking than the 1942 printing.

If you are able to identify the various paper and gum combinations used for the Dominica stamps, you will well on your way to sorting out the Waterlow-printed issues of other colonies, as their characteristics are not as bewildering as on the De La Rue printings.

I am told by several collectors that the paper on the early printings has a grey appearance under ultraviolet light. You should also know that there are minor perforation variations that may help determine the printing to which a particular stamp belongs. The 1938 printings are perf. 12.4 to 12.5, while some 1943-era stamps are perf. 12.75 and others are 12.6 or 12.65. I have found this in particular for the Grenada values to 5s. I have not studied these variations for the Dominica issue in any great detail because this type of analysis tends to cause major eye strain!

### Notes

1. This article is adapted from an item originally published in *KGVI Stamps*, the house publication of the firm of the same name, of which I am the owner. All articles in *KGVI Stamps* (which is published four times a year) are viewed as "work in progress."
2. Only the first King George VI issue (with denominations in pence and shillings) is discussed here. The second set (in Eastern Caribbean currency – cents and dollars), released in July 1951, was in use for only three years as it was replaced in 1954 by the first Queen Elizabeth II definitives.
3. W.J.W. Potter and R.C.M. Shelton, *The Printings of the King George VI Colonial Stamps*, London, Stamp Collecting, 1952, p. 24.
4. Frank Saunders, *Antigua, 1937*, Study paper no. 7, King George VI Collectors Society, May 1975.
5. Bridger & Kay, Ltd. *King George VI Commonwealth Postage Stamp Catalogue*. 16th Edition. Brentford, U.K. 1991; *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue*, Part 1: British Commonwealth. London, 1995.
6. Frank Saunders, *British Guiana, 1938-54*, King George VI Collectors Society, November 1972 (*Geosix* no. 72).



## Postal Information in Katherine J. Burdon's Handbook of St. Kitts-Nevis (1920)

by Gerald F. SCHROEDL

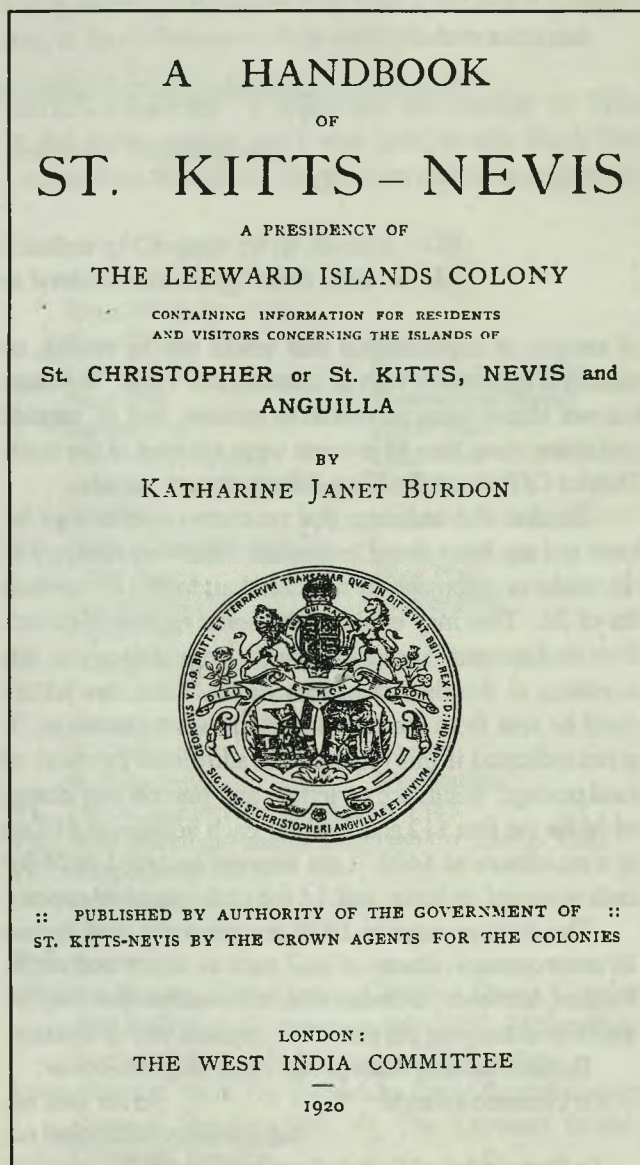
*A Handbook of St. Kitts-Nevis: A Presidency of the Leeward Islands Colony, Containing Information for Residents and Visitors Concerning the Islands of St. Christopher or St., Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla* was written by Katherine Janet Burdon and published by the West India Committee in 1920. This book has special relevance to Caribbean postal history because Burdon includes a complete chapter, totaling 18 pages, on the Post Office of St. Kitts. This chapter, titled "Postal Guide. Stamp Issues. Telegraph. Telephone. Heliograph," is organized according to 28 headings and subheadings (see below). Chapters XXII and XXXII contain brief information respectively on the post offices of Nevis and Anguilla. Included is information about the organization of the post office, categories of mail, postal rates, and stamps then in current use.

My purpose here is to provide a synopsis of these materials for wider use by philatelic researchers than is possible by the availability of the original publication. I first became aware of Burdon's handbook during a trip to St. Kitts in 1994. I subsequently located a copy at the University of Tennessee Library and I suspect most university and large metropolitan libraries have a copy in their stacks.

The postal guide indicates the location and business hours of the General Post Office at Basseterre, and the four district offices at Cayon, Sandy Point, Old Road, and Dieppe Bay, and the single offices at Crocus Hill, Anguilla and at Charlestown, Nevis. All branches were open from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM during the week and 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturdays. In addition the Basseterre office was opened as late as 11:00 PM for receiving and despatching mail to accommodate scheduled mail steamers. The despatch of mail to Nevis, according to the guide, occurred week days at 3:45 PM and on Saturdays at 1:45 PM. An extra despatch occurred usually at noon once a week, the day depending on the arrival of the mail steamer. Mail to and from Anguilla was sent by chartered sloop every two weeks. The hour of mail despatch from Basseterre to the St. Peters District was 8:00 AM and to all other districts it was 2:00 PM. Mail was delivered twice daily in Basseterre and in Sandy Point, and once daily in Nevis. Elsewhere patrons had to pick up their mail at the

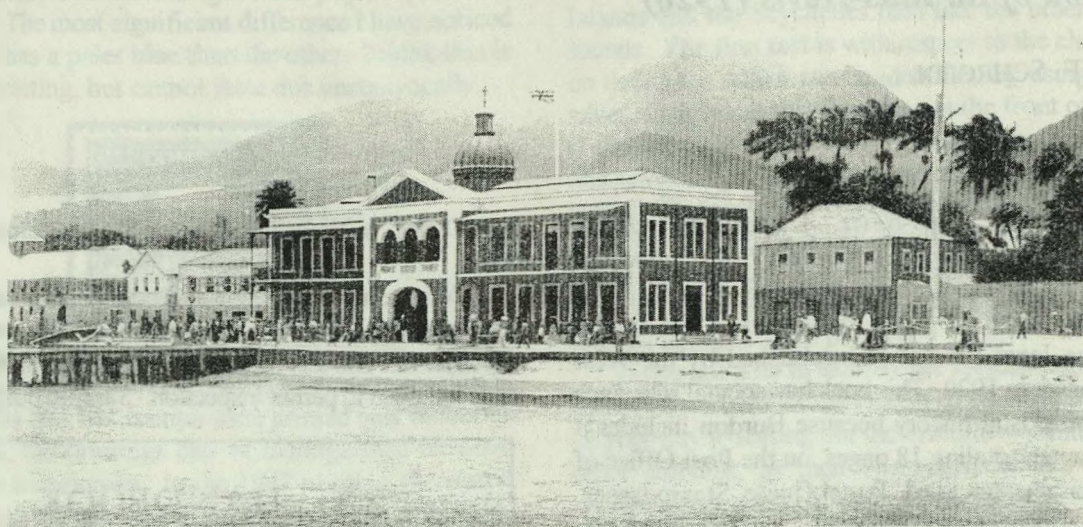
Post Office. In Nevis the mail for St. Kitts closed at 8:00 AM.

Concerning book post and commercial papers, it is indicated that any packet containing a letter was charged the letter rate and that these kinds of items had to have the ends left open to permit inspection. Sample post consisted



*Title Page of the St. Kitts-Nevis Handbook*





(Copyright by A. M. Losada, St. Kitts)

GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND ESPLANADE, ST. KITTS.

*The St. Kitts Post Office was situated in the Treasury Building, shown in this photo.*

of sample of merchandise that could not be resold, or scientific specimens with no commercial value. Invoices but not letters were permitted in parcels, and no parcels containing more than £5 in coins were allowed in the mail. District Offices on St. Kitts did not accept parcels.

Burdon also indicates that no coins could be sent by letter and any letter found to contain coins was returned to the sender or automatically registered at double the normal fee of 2d. This may explain why some registered covers from the Leewards appear overpaid. Registration was not available at the district offices on St. Kitts, but letters could be sent from them to Basseterre for registration. It is not indicated if this required the additional payment of local postage. Insurance on letters and parcels was charged 5d for the first £12 and 2½d for each additional £12 up to a maximum of £400. Late fees are recorded at 2d for each postcard or letter, and 1d for each parcel or paper.

The postage rates in 1920 are generally well known for more common classes of mail such as letters and cards. Burdon, however, includes rate information that may be useful in identifying payment that appears odd or unusual.

Burdon records letter postal rates as given below:

- To Leeward Islands: 1d for first oz.  
½d for every additional oz.
- To Remainder of British Empire: 1d for every oz.

- To United States of America and Dependencies (excluding Canal Zone): 1d for every oz.
- To Foreign Countries (excluding United States of America and Dependencies, except Canal Zone):  
2½d for first oz.  
1½d for every additional oz.

This clearly shows the differences in postage for multiple rate letters within the Leeward Islands and elsewhere in the British Empire. In 1920 war taxes on letters were in effect. The letter tax was ½d to all destinations in the British Empire outside the Leeward Islands and to the United States and its dependencies.

The rates for book post, including newspapers, are given as:

- To all countries: ½d for every 2 oz.
- To Leeward Islands, for newspapers printed and published within the Leeward Islands: ¼d for every 4 oz.
- To Leeward Islands, for other than above newspapers:  
½d for every 2 oz.

This indicates that postage on wrappers was also determined by the origin of the document being sent.

Burdon also indicates that the weight for book post to British countries was limited to 5 lbs, and to 4lbs. in the case of foreign countries. Similar restrictions applied to commercial post, with the rate to all countries being 2½d for the first 10 oz. and ½d for every additional 2 oz.



The sample post rate to all countries was 1d for every 4 oz. and ½d for every additional oz. The weight of shipments within the British Empire was not to exceed 5 lbs. The weight limit to foreign countries was 12 oz. for items no greater than 12 inches long by 8 inches wide by 4 inches deep, unless in the form of a roll not greater than 12 inches long and 6 inches in diameter.

According to Burdon (p.127) no parcel post was available within St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, although parcels of foreign origin were forwarded by the post office. Parcel rates were as given below:

- To other Leeward islands		
not exceeding 3 lbs	6d	
not exceeding 7 lbs	1s	
not exceeding 11 lbs	1s6d	
- To Canada, and the United States and Dependencies (excluding Canal Zone), per pound	6d	
- To the United Kingdom and elsewhere in the British West Indies		
not exceeding 3 lbs	1s	
not exceeding 7 lbs	2s	
not exceeding 11 lbs	3s	

A 2d customs fee was collected from the addressee on parcels delivered in the United Kingdom. Parcels were not to exceed 11 lbs. War taxes also applied to parcels in the same weight increments of 3, 7, and 11 lbs respectively at rates of 3d, 6d, and 9d. Like letters this applied to British Empire destinations outside the Leeward Islands and to the United States and its dependencies

Burdon devotes two full pages to British Postal Orders and Post Office Money Orders. Of interest here is that the former were not issued within an hour of the mail being closed for the outward mail steamer. It is also noted that the Sandy Point and Dieppe Bay offices issued but did not pay British Postal Orders. Since they were issued in 6d increments, their value could be increased by the addition of not more than three postage stamps and not exceeding a total of 5d. Post Office Money Orders could be drawn on any Universal Postal Union country. They were priced at 3d up to 10s and 5d per £. Charges for Post Office Money Orders within the Windward and Leeward Islands as well as British Guiana and Jamaica increased at 2d intervals up to 6d for every £2.10s and over.

A footnote indicates that the section on stamp issues (pp. 130-135) was written by G.C. Johnson who is identified as an employee of the Administrator's Office, St. Kitts. Johnson provides a brief history of all the stamps issued through 1920, including War Tax stamps. John

son does not use standard philatelic catalog numbers in his descriptions. He was aware of catalog prices though, indicating in one place, "This stamp [1867, one shilling, yellowish green printed on laid paper, SG14a] is very valuable, being quoted in Catalogues at £62 10s. 0d., (\$300.00)." A cursory comparison of his data with materials found in the Gibbons Catalog (1986) and Lowe (1990:109-122, 130-147) indicates slight differences only in some descriptions of colors.

Burdon's account of the workings of the St. Kitts Post Office in the early 1920s contains useful information regarding postal rates and fees (domestic and foreign) as well as the transmission of mail within St. Kitts and between St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla. The section on stamp issues, while interesting from a historical perspective, is less informative than more modern accounts.

Acknowledgments: I appreciate the interest of Mike Delise in this project and I wish to especially thank Paul Larsen for his thoughtful suggestions and encouragement.

### Outline of Chapter 10 in Burdon 1920

I. Postal Guide (p. 121)	
Post Offices	Mails
Foreign Mails	Private Letter Boxes
Book Post	Commercial Papers
Sample Post	Parcel Post
The C.O.D. System	Letter Post
Insurance and Registration	Parcel Delivery
Late Fees	
II. Rates of Postage (p. 126)	
Letter Post	Book Post
Commercial Post	Sample Post
Parcel Post	
III. Additional Postal Rates during the War (p. 128)	
IV. Postal and Money Orders (p.128)	
V. Stamp Issues (p. 130)	
St. Christopher	Nevis
St. Kitts-Nevis	War Stamps
VI. List of Stamps Now on Issue (p. 134)	
VII. West India and Panama Telegraph Co., Ltd (p. 136)	
VIII. Telephone (p. 138)	
IX. Heliograph (p. 138)	

### References

- Gibbons, Stanley. 1986 *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalog, Part 1, British Commonwealth 1987*. 89th edition. Stanley Gibbons Publications Ltd, London.
- Lowe, Robson. 1990 *The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps*, Vol. VI, The Leeward Islands. Christies, London.



## Caribbean Round-Up

[Note: The following items were supplied by Dr. Ben Ramkissoon]

### Trinidad & Tobago 6¢ Aerogramme

The 'V'-watermarked 6¢ Queen Elizabeth II aerogramme of Trinidad & Tobago is listed in the Higgins & Gage postal stationery catalog as a 1964 issue (H&G #10). Until recently, all examples of this variety examined by this observer were usages between February 1966 and March 1968.

A recent acquisition, however, postmarked at San Fernando and addressed to the United States, is indisputably dated 8 DE 1960. The message is also clearly dated December 8, 1960, and is written by a correspondent of Rodriguez Street in the pitch-lake town of La Brea.

The writer would appreciate hearing from readers who know of any similar early air letter usages, particularly as such documentation

will update and correct the catalog listings of release dates. Please write to the Editor or to me directly (address on inside front cover).

### Barbados "Received ... in wet/damaged condition" Note

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