

# BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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*Hand-Painted Essay of the Withdrawn 6d Design for the Jamaica Pictorial Issue of 1919-21  
(see the article by Joseph Mahfood beginning on p. 14)*

**Also featured:**

*Modern Official Paid and P.P. Postmarks of the British Virgin Islands  
World War II Civil Censorship in Bahamas  
Update on British Virgin Islands Temporary Datestamps*





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**...A Single Step**

by David L. Herendeen

**Here We Go!!**

There is an old Chinese proverb that says a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. As I take the helm of the *BCPJ*, I feel that this proverb is very apropos. I am honored to assume this position, and I realize that I have some large boots to fill. *Michel Forand* has done an exemplary job during his almost seven year tenure as editor.

**Getting to Know You**

Although I am a newcomer to the society, I already know many members from my exhibiting, writing and judging endeavors. However, I would like to meet as many members as possible. To this end, I expect to attend all of the society conventions, including Boxborough in April of this year. I also expect to quickly increase my knowledge of general British Caribbean philately.

**I Already Feel Welcome**

I must say that I already feel very comfortable in my new position because of the tremendous support I have had from the BCPSG officers and volunteers. Furthermore, I would like to heartily thank all of the authors who have contributed to my inaugural issue, with special thanks to those whose articles were not able to appear because of space limitations.

**Onward to the 21st Century**

As a computer professional, I expect to lead the Journal into the 21st century. The issue that you are now reading was created electronically. Yes, that's right, 100% of the journal was typeset using desktop publishing. The printing was then done in the usual manner, but I anticipate going to fully electronic publishing in the very near future. This should save the group a significant amount of money in the coming years.

### ***Why does this matter?***

So, who cares about electronic publishing? There are two powerful advantages to this technique. First, it greatly reduces production costs and turnaround time. Second, it makes the Journal "internet ready." That is, the entire journal can be quickly and easily posted to our World Wide Web homepage should we decide to do so.

### ***The Editor is The Coach - You are the Team***

There is no question that an editor of a Journal is like the coach of a football team. He may be the greatest editor in the world, but if the players are mediocre, then there will be no Super Bowl. The BCPSG has had a very good record attracting quality manuscripts for the journal. I hope that this not only continues, but I encourage all members to participate so that our content becomes even better with each passing issue.

Philatelic writing provides many rewards and allows you to share your knowledge with others having similar interests.

### ***Help is Available***

I will be more than happy to discuss any ideas for articles with members (or nonmembers, for that matter) and provide all of the assistance that I can. If you need help with article layout and illustrations please feel free to discuss your ideas with me. For those with PC's (or even MAC's), I have access to most major word processing and graphics software. We can simply eMail both messages and files back and forth during the article development process.

### ***Author's Guidelines***

**Russ Skavaril** is to be commended for his design and maintenance of our homepage on the Web. It is a first-rate, professional site which is crammed with interesting information.

One part of the homepage summarizes Authors' Guidelines which were created by our previous editor, **Michel Forand**. I expect to make some changes to these over the coming months. These changes will primarily address two areas: illustrations and citations. As I mentioned earlier, by creating the Journal in electronic form, all illustrations will be scanned. I will personally scan figures for those who do not have access to this technol-

ogy. For those authors with scanners, I will provide technical guidelines on accepted graphic formats, resolution, and so forth. I would also like to standardize the formats of references and the manner in which the references are cited in articles. I believe that such a formalization increases the importance of the Journal as an archival reference source. When I have completed this task, I will also publish it in the Journal, either as an article, or as an insert.

### ***Adobe ACROBAT®***

Adobe, the inventors of PostScript, have a special file format called PDF — Portable Document Format. Any document in this format can be viewed on a computer screen exactly as it looks in print by using the Adobe Acrobat® Reader. By publishing the Journal in this format, it may be posted on our homepage. Then anyone wishing to view an article over the Web can readily do so. The Reader is provided free and can be downloaded from the Web by going to the Adobe homepage at [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com). I will describe this powerful tool in more detail in upcoming issues.

### ***London 2000***

I think that Michel's special edition of the Journal for Pacific 97 (June, 1997) was an excellent idea. For our next major international, London 2000, I feel that our Journal should be entered in the literature competition. To do this, we will be required to submit the 1999 volume. In order to achieve the best results (and publicity for the group), we should try our best to have a collection of high quality research articles available. It is not too early to begin thinking about this. I am counting on both the group leaders and the senior membership, especially those heavily involved on the research and exhibiting fronts to contribute to this effort. Each copy of the Journal contains 24-26 pages of editorial content. Thus, we need around 100 pages of good material beginning with the March 1999 issue.

### ***My Commitment***

I am fully committed to publishing the finest journal possible. However, I must state at the onset that I have agreed to accept this position for a term of four years. I feel that it is important for an organization such as the BCPSG to have a fresh perspective periodically. To remain editor longer would be counterproductive.



## President's Message

by Rob WYNSTRA

I would like to use this opportunity to express my thanks to our out-going President, *Peter McCann*, for his service over the last four years and his help in making the transition as smooth as possible. I would also like to welcome *David Herendeen* as our new journal editor and *Ed Waterous* as our new auction manager. Special thanks further are due to our out-going editor *Michel Forand* and our former auction manager *Bill Gompel* for years of dedicated service in two of the most important and difficult positions in the BCPSG.

Each one of these dedicated members, along with all our other officers and study group leaders, have contributed greatly to the success of the group. Every one of them has had to balance their career, family, and business obligations with volunteer service to the group. We are not perfect, but everyone involved in the BCPSG is dedicated to the success of the group and the promotion of personal fellowship through our shared interest in British Caribbean philately.

Like any organization, the group cannot succeed without the support of its members. Which brings me to a plea for your help in continuing the success of the BCPSG. Currently we are looking to fill several positions. I would urge anyone who would like to contribute in any way toward building on our past successes to please contact me with your ideas and suggestions.

One easy first step toward becoming more involved in the BCPSG is to contribute an article or other item to the Journal. Each of you has a wealth of knowledge about some aspect of British Caribbean philately. There is no better way to share this knowledge than through the pages of the Journal. We make every effort to balance the content of the journal between stamps, postal history, and postal stationery and between early and modern time periods. Ultimately, however, it is the article contributors rather than the editor or the officers who determine the final content.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our 1998 annual general meeting in Boxborough. As in all our activities, one of the keys to making this meeting work is the volunteer help provided by one of our member. Our local organizer, *John Puzine*, has proved invaluable in taking care of the many details that are so

necessary for a successful meeting. I would like to personally thank him for his help and urge every other member to consider what ways you can contribute to the BCPSG.

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## Exhibits and Awards

by Paul A. LARSEN

### Greater Houston Stamp Show 97, September 5-7, 1997, Houston, TX

G. MIGLIAVACCA: *Italian Prisoners of War in USA During World War II*, Gold

### MILCOPEX 97, September 19-21, 1997, Milwaukee, WI

G. MIGLIAVACCA: *Italian Prisoners of War in USA During World War II*, Gold

R. RAMKISSOON: *Postal Stationery of Trinidad & Tobago 1879-1938*, Gold, USPSS Marcus White Award

A. TRIGGLE: *British Guiana Postal Stationery*, Vermeil, AAPE Award

### FLOREX 97, November 14-16, 1997, Orlando, FL

G. MIGLIAVACCA: *Italian Prisoners of War in USA During World War II*, Silver

### CHICAGOPEX 97, November 21-23, Rosemont, IL

R. RAMKISSOON: *Postal Stationery of Trinidad & Tobago 1879-1938*, Gold, USPSS Marcus White Award

### ARIPEX 98, January 16-18, 1998, Mesa, AZ

R. SCHNELL: *Private-Foreign Postal Services in the Danish West Indies*, Grand, Gold, APS Pre-1900 Medal, Postal History Medal

### Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition, February 6-8, 1998, Sarasota, FL

G. MIGLIAVACCA: *Italian Prisoners of War in USA During World War II*, Vermeil, APS Research Medal

## Regional Meeting at York

by David DRUETT

A meeting was held on 17 January 1998 in conjunction with the two day York stamp fair for the second year running. A total of 12 members and one guest attended.

The stamp fair, undoubtedly the premier fair in the north of England is organised by BCPSG members Chris Rainey and Trevor Davis who kindly allowed us the use of a meeting room free of charge.

During a short meeting details of arrangements for London 2000 meeting were advised. After discussion it was agreed to try to hold the 1999 meeting during Spring Stampex. Content will include the competition and a talk by a guest speaker. Mike Rego discussed his present project and asked for any help. He is collating historical facts and figures relating to each of the West India islands. Then Tony Farmer explained his project for which he needs photocopies of any large blocks of Edward VII key plates.

This year a competition was held and was ably organised by Mike Rego. There were two classes, traditional and postal history. Entries consisting of 16 sheets were received from:-

### Traditional Class:

Tony Farmer: *1897 Sexagenary overprint and forgeries*

Terry Harrison: *St Vincent, the classic period 1861-98*

Mike Rego: *British Guiana, 1860-75 ship adhesives*

Mike Spaven: *Leeward Islands QV first Federal Issue*

Ian Potter: *Tobago QV Heads*

### Postal History:

Mike Oliver: *Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.*

Ian Potter: *Pre stamp post town handstamps of Jamaica.*

Mike Rego: *Steamship lines to the West Indies - the Hamburg-America Line*

Mike Spaven: *From the Leeward Islands by sea*

Trevor Davis, who kindly agreed to judge the competition, awarded the prizes to Ian Potter's Tobago and Mike Oliver's R.M.S.P. Co

Afterwards there was time for displays from members which included:

Ian Potter - more Jamaica postal history including two original silver Pieces of Eight recovered from a Spanish treasure ship.

Peter Fernbank - GV key plate numbers.

David Druett - Trinidad postage dues and officials.

A vote of thanks was extended to the organisers by Mike Spaven.

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## World War II Civil Censorship: A Review of the Articles

by Edward T. TWEDELL

This article chronicles the latest known articles on World War II censorship for each of the Caribbean colonies. Over 20 years ago, the Roses Philatelic Society produced two volumes dealing almost wholly with World War II censorship in the British Caribbean. Surprisingly, for several colonies this remains the only work published.

### Abbreviations

Table 1 presents the summary of articles. The following abbreviations have been used in the citations.

BCPSG: British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group

BCPJ: British Caribbean Philatelic Journal

BWISC: British West Indies Study Circle

CCSG: Civil Censorship Study Group

Roses1: Roses Caribbean Philatelic Handbook No. 1 (1976)

Roses2: Roses Caribbean Philatelic Handbook No. 2 (1977)

### Summary

British Guiana, Grenada, Jamaica, and the Saints clearly could benefit from new studies. I am planning to complete a study on St. Kitts in 1998, and would be interested in receiving information on interesting censored material for this colony. Would members please contact me with anything they think would be of interest, preferably with photocopies. Such items include new devices, new censor numbers, updates to EKD's and LKD's, unusual destinations, and oddities.



Table 1. Summary of Most Recent Censorship Articles

COLONY	LATEST KNOWN STUDY	
Antigua	BCPSG	Tweddell, E. T., <i>Monograph 15. Leeward Islands Anthology</i> . 1997, pp. 49-67.
Bahamas	BCPSG	Tweddell, E. T., <i>BCPJ</i> , Vol. 38, No. 1, 1998, pp. 17-24.
Barbados	BWISC	Shepherd, Anthony, <i>The Postal Censorship in Barbados during the First and Second World Wars</i> . 1984.
Bermuda	Roses2	Heap, Richard, pp. 1-10. (A great many articles on Bermuda censorship have appeared since Roses was published. No detailed studies have been produced, but the following publication is planned: BCPSG: Forand, Michel (Ed.), "Intercepted in Bermuda: A Postal History of Censorship in Bermuda 1902-1945." To be published, 1998.)
British Guiana	Roses1 Roses2	Rego, M., pp. 22-28 Rego, M., pp. 59-62
British Honduras	CCSG	Rogers, B., <i>CCSG Bulletin</i> , Vol. 19, pp. 75-106, 1992.
British Virgin Islands	BCPSG	Fredrick, J.L. and McCann, P.P., <i>Monograph 15. Leeward Islands Anthology</i> , 1997, pp. 49-67.
Cayman Islands	—	Giraldi, T.E. and McCann, P.P., <i>The Postal History of the Cayman Islands</i> , pp. 115-123, Triad Publications, 1989.
Dominica	CCSG	Ashley, W., <i>CCSG Bulletin</i> , Vol. 21, 1994, pp. 37-41.
Grenada	Roses2 CCSG	Shepherd, A., pp. 15-20. Cronin, J. A. and Walker, W.D., <i>CCSG Bulletin</i> , Vol. 6, pp. 133-135, 1979.
Jamaica	Roses1 Roses2	Foster, T., pp. 29-53. Foster, T., pp. 25-49.
Montserrat	CCSG	Freeland, C., <i>CCSG Bulletin</i> , Vol. 21, pp. 133-135, 1994.
St. Kitts	Roses2	Shepherd, A., pp. 87-91.
St. Lucia	Roses1 Roses2	Ritchie, G.G., pp. 65-70 Ritchie, G.G., pp. 55-56
St. Vincent	Roses2	Walker, B., pp. 93-97
Trinidad	—	Wike, R. G., <i>British Empire Civil Censorship Devices - World War II: Trinidad and Tobago</i> , Chavril Press, 1993.
Turks and Caicos Islands	BCPSG	McCann, P.P., <i>BCPJ</i> , Vol. 37, No. 2, 1997, pp. 101-104.

## Some Recent New Issues

**Antigua and Barbuda.** Dec. 10, 1997. Set of five Christmas stamps with fine arts designs; 15¢, 25¢, 60¢, 75¢, 90¢, and \$1.20. Also two souvenir sheets, each showing a different \$6.00 stamp.

**Bermuda.** Dec. 18, 1997. Set of six education stamps with values 30¢, 40¢, 60¢, 65¢, 80¢, and 90¢.

**Dominica.** Jan. 1998. Year of the Tiger, set of four, 55¢, 65¢, 90¢, \$1.20, and a souvenir sheet with a \$3.00 stamp.

**Grenada-Genadines.** Dec. 1997. Set of six Christmas stamps featuring fine arts and angels; 20¢, 75¢, 90¢, \$1.50, \$2.00 and \$3.00. Also two souvenir sheets, each showing a different \$6.00 stamp. Nov. 1997. Princess Diana. pane of six \$1.50 stamps of different designs printed se-tenant. Also two souvenir sheets, each showing a different \$6.00 stamp.

**Guyana.** Jan. 1998. Year of the Tiger, block of four se-tenant \$50.00 stamps, and a souvenir sheet with a \$150.00 stamp.

*Continued to Page 24*

## Update on British Virgin Islands Temporary Datestamps

By Rob WYNSTRA

Leeward Islands village mail ranks among the scarcest for any colony in the British West Indies. Rural post offices generally consisted of little more than a table, an ink pad, and a hand canceler located in the corner of a general store, a school house, or a police station. For many of the markings, five or fewer examples are recorded. Especially elusive are the temporary rubber datestamps that were used at village offices on several of the islands.

Published information on village markings until recently was extremely incomplete and widely scattered. Even the Robson Lowe's Leeward Islands volume (Ref. 1), published in 1990, contains numerous omissions and errors. This situation improved tremendously for the British Virgin Islands with the publication of postmark listings by Fredrick and McCann in 1991 (Ref. 2) and Oliver in 1997 (Ref. 3).

Recently, however, several cover discoveries have added crucial new information to the story of the elusive temporary datestamps used at the sub-post offices of East End and West End, Tortola and the General Post Office at Road Town, Tortola. The island geography is illustrated in Figure 1.

### East End Tortola Temporary Datestamps

The use of a temporary datestamp at the tiny sub-post office of East End on the island of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands has been well documented in both Ref. 2

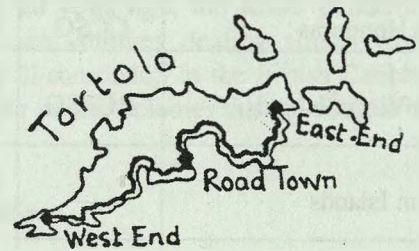


Figure 1. Geography of Tortola.

and Ref. 3. Records indicate that a 29-mm. temporary rubber datestamp (TRD) with sans-serif letters, shown in Figure 2, was proofed for this office at the London GPO on April 26, 1906. The earliest recorded date for this mark is October 11, 1906. Use of an East End TRD has been recorded through at least March 30, 1914. Evidence indicates that this sub-post office was reduced to the status of a receiving office without a datestamp by 1915.

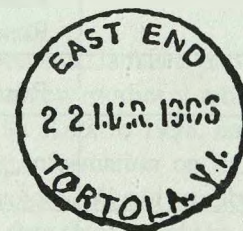


Figure 2. The first East End TRD.





Figure 3. Example of first East End TRD showing extreme distortion.

It further has been well documented by Goldblatt (Ref. 4) that this TRD exists in two slightly different types, although details on dates of use for the second type have been mostly lacking. That situation has changed dramatically with the discovery of a 2½d Virgin Islands stationery envelope canceled with the East End TRD on April 5, 1910. As seen in Figure 3, the two strikes of the datestamp on this cover show extreme distortion, which presumably was due to prolonged use of ink that was corrosive to the rubber. Because of the severity of the damage, this almost certainly represents a latest date for use of this first East End TRD.

With this discovery, the dates of use for a second-type 29-mm. East End TRD with the island name around the bottom in serif letters, shown in Figure 4, come more fully into focus. This second type is recorded with an earliest known date in November 1911, and presumably came into use as a replacement datestamp sometime in mid-1910. The latest recorded date of usage is March 30, 1914. There appear to be fewer than five recorded



Figure 4. Second East End TRD

examples of this datestamp, all of which are on loose stamps.

#### West End Tortola Temporary Datestamps

A similar TRD, Figure 5, has been well documented for the sub-post office at West End Tortola. This 29-mm. datestamp was proofed at the London General Post Office on April 26, 1906 and probably was sent out to the Virgin Islands soon afterwards. The earliest recorded date is July 13, 1906. This TRD continued in use at West End at least until March 26, 1910.

Two covers from the well-known Fishlock correspondence have long been recorded with this canceler used on July 24, 1908 and Jan. 4, 1909. Both were mailed to the local experiment station at the 1d inland rate. A third example dated Sept. 24, 1908 was recently discovered in a mixed cover lot at a major auction house. This cover is shown in Figure 6.

This latest usage is found on a 2d Leeward Islands stationery registration envelope with a 2½d Virgin Islands



Figure 5. First West End TRD.



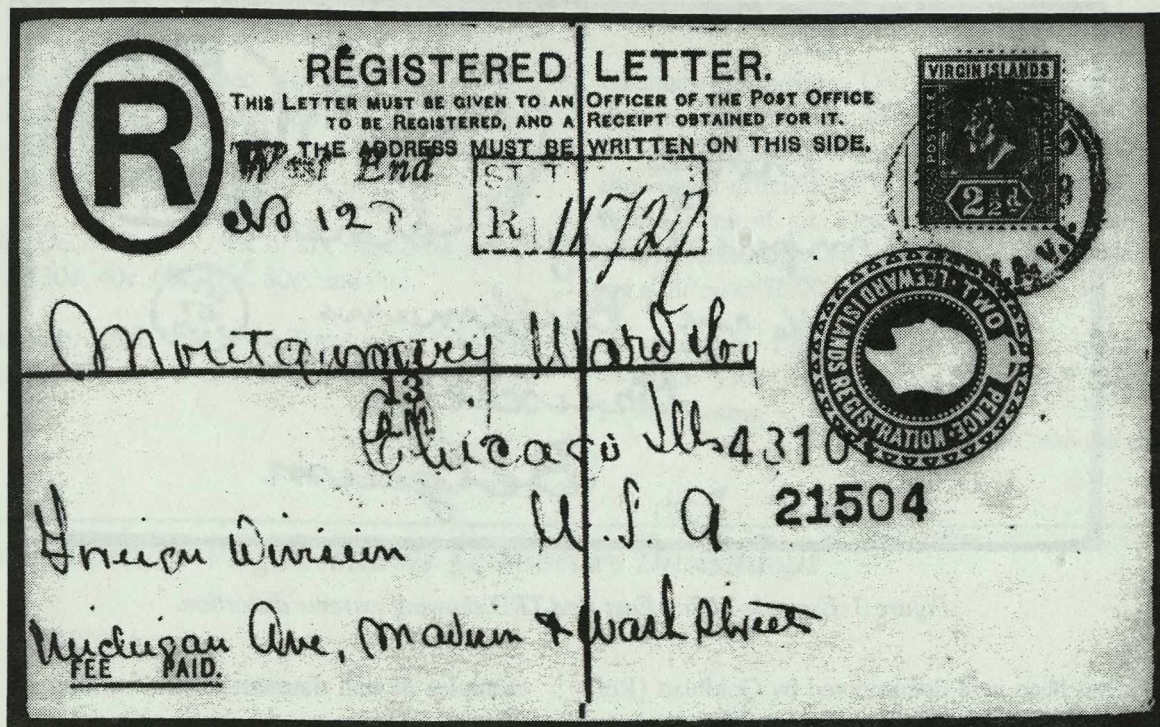


Figure 6. Recently discovered use of the West End TRD also showing unrecorded straight-line West End marking.



Figure 7. Earliest known use of the "R-in-oval" registration handstamp prior to the discovery of the cover shown in Figure 6.



stamp added to pay the one-ounce rate to the United States. Remarkably this cover also shows previously unrecorded use of a straight-line West End marking in serif letters used in conjunction with the printed R-in-oval on the envelope to indicate registration. A registration number in manuscript was added just below the straight-line marking.

This new discovery significantly pushes back the date of the first recorded use of a registration marking at West End. Previously the earliest recorded example was a simple "R-in-oval" used on a cover canceled with a steel West End datestamp in black on Nov. 22, 1911, as seen in Figure 7. The straight-line handstamp almost certainly was not originally intended for use as a registration mark. The exact origins and use of this marking remain major mysteries that are open for further study.

#### *Road Town Tortola Temporary Datestamp*

Probably the most elusive of all the Virgin Islands postmarks is the Road Town TRD, shown in Figure 8, that was proofed at the London GPO on November 27, 1906. At the time of the listing in Ref. 2, there were no recorded examples of this TRD, either on cover or on loose stamps. Recently, however, two entires have emerged that, for the first time, shed some light on the story of this mysterious datestamp.

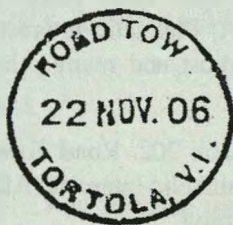


Figure 8. The Road Town TRD.

The first usage of the Road Town TRD is recorded on a Virgin Islands postal card cancelled with the first-type East End TRD on July 4, 1907. The Road Town marking was added alongside in purple ink on the same day, apparently as a transit marking. The message on the postal card reads, "Boots received with satisfaction. You will receive post office order to cover balance of account in a short time."

A second use of this TRD is found on a Virgin Islands 1d postal stationery envelope cancelled with the East End TRD on July 22, 1907. The Road Town TRD was added on the reverse as a transit mark. This entire was addressed to the same destination as the earlier postal card and presumably contained the promised payment for the boots.

This evidence raises the strong probability that the Road Town TRD was used exclusively as a transit marking on mail forwarded to the GPO from the two village post offices on Tortola. This would go a long way toward explaining why this datestamp has not been recorded at all on surviving loose stamps. However, there are still many unanswered questions that will only be cleared up with the discovery of further examples.

#### *Acknowledgments*

Numerous members of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group and the British West Indies Study Circle have contributed to this study. Special thanks are due to Barry Friedman, Simon Goldblatt, and Michael Hamilton. Most of all, I would like to thank J. L. Fredrick, whose meticulous records on all aspects of British Virgin Islands postal history proved to be a virtual treasure trove of information for unraveling the mysteries of these temporary datestamps.

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## Guyana Postmark Update

By Paul RAYNOR

The September 1997 issue of the *BCPJ* (Guyana Update, P. Raynor, pp. 143-144.) reported on a new type of date stamp introduced at some Guyana post offices in 1995. In 1997, a completely different series began to be used. All the examples that I have seen are struck in blue, and all but one follow the same format as that shown in Figure 1 for Aurora.



Figure 1

The exception, which has smaller type, is illustrated in Figure 2. So far I have seen this type of postmark in use at Aurora PO, Charity PO, the Georgetown GPO, McKenzie PO, New Amsterdam PO Mail Unit, and No. 51 PA.



Figure 2

The Georgetown variants are listed below. Presumably all the counters (CTRs) have been used with the new postmarks.

G.P.O. L.C.	G.P.O. ZONE 2
G.P.O. A.M.F.	G.P.O. ZONE 3
G.P.O. E.M.S. UNITS	G.P.O. ZONE 4
G.P.O. BULK POSTAGE	G.P.O. CTR 1
G.P.O. MONITOR	G.P.O. CTR 2
G.P.O.	G.P.O. CTR 3

## Secretary's Report

by Peter KAULBACK

### New Members

The applicants listed in the December, 1997 issue of the *BCPJ* have been admitted to membership of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. Welcome to all!

### New Applicants

Mike CHERRINGTON, 2804 Andover, Midland, TX 79705-3201, USA. Philatelic Interests: Covers, including Paquebot/Seapost and many others. Sponsored by G. Raymond.

Ione COX, P O Box 702, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Philatelic Interests: All Caribbean. Sponsored by: R. Downing

Ian FABER, P O Box 217, Erindale Centre. ACT 2903, Australia. Philatelic Interests: Dealer. Sponsored by: D. Fuller.

Ron FAITH, 6 Sherwood Walk, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 7BQ, UK. Philatelic Interests: KGV, KGVI. Sponsored by: T. Harrison

Brian FRANKLIN, 8 Titanic Way, Meadowridge, 7800 Cape Town, South Africa. Philatelic Interests: Leeward Islands and Bermuda George VI. Sponsored by: H. Godwin.

Jesse E. GLASGOW, 4904 Wilmslow Road, Baltimore, MD 21210, USA. Philatelic Interests: Jamaica, Bermuda. Sponsored by: Baltimore Philatelic Society.



John G. GRAY, 6200 E. Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040, USA. Philatelic Interests: Jamaica, Bahamas, Bermuda. Sponsored by: E. F. Styer.

Maynard R. GUSS, 9593 NW 26 Place, Sunrise, FL 33322-2738, USA. Philatelic Interests: Trinidad & Tobago. Sponsored by: B. Friedman.

Richard HILLS, 164 Dufferin Street, Smithville, ONL0R 2A0, Canada. Philatelic Interests: Philatelic Literature and Postal History. Sponsored by: F. Haller.

Henry C. KROGER, 4929 Reiger, #220, Dallas, TX 75214, USA. Philatelic Interests: British Honduras/Be-

lize, and British Antarctic Territories. Sponsored by: B. Jehle.

Gerald SATTIN, FRPSL, 14 King Street, St. James, London SW1Y 6QU, UK. Philatelic Interests: Soldiers letters of the Commonwealth, including Caribbean. Sponsored by: B. C. Gompel.

Ronald A. WARD, 15404 Carrollton Road, Rockville, MD 20853, USA. Philatelic Interests: Postal History of Bermuda, BWI and Maryland. Sponsored by: P. Flynn.

Michael YUI, 128 Elm Street, Park Forest, IL 60466, USA. Philatelic Interests: Cayman Islands. Sponsored by: G. Fabian.

## SUPPORT THE 1998 BCPSG AUCTION AT BOXBOROUGH!!

MAY 2, 1998

ATTEND IN PERSON OR BID BY MAIL

### Update on 1998 Annual Meeting at Boxborough

by Rob WYNSTRA

The final schedule is now in place for the 1998 Annual Meeting scheduled for May 1-3 in conjunction with Philatelic Show 98 in Boxborough, MA, sponsored by the Northeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs. The traditional group dinner will take place at the Holiday Inn Boxborough Woods. There will be a cash bar reception starting at 6:00PM on Friday, May 1. The buffet dinner will start at 7:00PM. If you are planning to attend the dinner, it is important to return the registration form that was enclosed in the December issue of the *BCPJ*, to *John Puzine*, 431 South Road, Reading, MA 01867. John may be contacted directly at (781) 944-6526.

The Annual General Meeting will take place at 1:00PM on Saturday, May 2, in the Board Room at the Holiday Inn. The times have been set to avoid a conflict with the Judge's Critique that is scheduled for 4:00PM. We will

try to adhere as closely as possible to the following schedule:

- 1:00-1:45PM Business Meeting
- 2:00-2:30PM Display by *Paul Larsen*  
(Leeward Islands Postal Stationery)
- 2:30-3:30PM Group Auction

The group hospitality suite will be open in the evenings starting on Thursday, April 30. The room will be registered in the name of our auction manager, *Ed Waterous*. Auction lots will be available for viewing at the hospitality suite. The room number of the suite, and other information on group activities, will be available at the Britannia Enterprises booth at the show.



## Jamaica: Stamp of Approval

by Joseph MAHFOOD

Twice in Jamaica's philatelic history postage stamps have been designed, printed, and prepared for issue only to be withdrawn prior to their public release. In both cases, the authorities of the day judged the designs to be controversial.

The first occurrence was in 1921. A 6d stamp, *Freedom From Slavery*, was prepared as part of a series of 13 pictorial stamps. It was quickly withdrawn and then replaced by a new design (SG #98) when the series was reprinted from 1921-29 on Multiple Script CA water-marked paper.

The second arose from the *United Nations International Human Rights Year* issue of 1968. The complete series of three values, 3d, 1/-, and 3/-, was replaced by a new design deemed politically correct (SG#s 272-74).

Details of both of these interesting issues are presented in this article.

### *The Freedom from Slavery Stamp*

A complete essay of this stamp is shown in Figure 1. The vignette is from a lithograph in the Art Gallery of the Institute of Jamaica, Kingston, and the frame was designed by Miss Cundall and Miss Wood. The vignette depicts the square at Spanish Town at the time of the reading of "The Declaration of the Freedom from Slavery" by Governor Sir Lionel Smith on 1st August 1838.

The design was approved, and in April 1921 the Crown Agents began printing the stamps. The first part of the printing was made on Multiple Crown CA paper, and the second part was printed on the newly introduced Multiple Script CA paper. The required specimen overprints were applied to both types and sent to the Universal Postal Union in Berne, Switzerland. These, in turn, were distributed to the member countries in the usual manner.



Figure 1. Hand-painted essay for the "Freedom From Slavery" stamp.



The reigning Governor in 1919, Sir Leslie Probyn, fearful of political unrest due to the discontent of the "freed slaves," ordered all stocks of the stamp that were held in Jamaica destroyed, along with stocks held by the Crown Agents in London. Concerned about the dawning of "Black Consciousness," due to the outspokenness of men such as Marcus Garvey, the Governor made the political decision to destroy the 6d value.

Besides the specimens, two blocks of four stamps were preserved, one sent to His Majesty, King George V, for the Royal Collection, the other kept in the Jamaica Post Office's own official collection.

The latter examples later reached the philatelic market. The local story indicates that upon hearing that the remaining block in the Jamaica Post Office was to be destroyed, a resourceful philatelist, along with the Postmaster, contrived to rescue it for collectors. Together, they "liberated" the block. It was subsequently split up and sold in Jamaica and abroad. One of the existing examples is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Original stamp.

The vignette of the replacement 6d stamp, shown in Figure 3, is also from a lithograph (*Port Royal in 1853* by Adolphe Duperly) in the Art Gallery of the Institute of Jamaica, Kingston, and the frame was also designed and drawn by Miss Cundall and Miss Wood. The vignette shows a scene from the Port Royal Harbour, with the flagship frigate Cumberland.

### Human Rights Issue

The second disputed issue was the set of three stamps issued for the 1968 United Nations International Human Rights Year. The original designs, shown in Figure 4, were by Jennifer Toombs. The artist's design notes (Ref. 6) list her concepts of "Feeding Body, Mind, and Spirit."



Figure 3. The 6d Replacement Stamp.

*Feeding the Body* showed two hands, one black and one white, holding bowls of grain; *Feeding the Mind* showed two hands, one black and one white, using an Abacus; and *Feeding the Spirit* showed two hands, one black and one white, in prayer.

There were some changes from the original design submitted by Ms. Toombs compared to the prepared stamps. The one shilling value changed the position of the Black Hands and the White Hands.

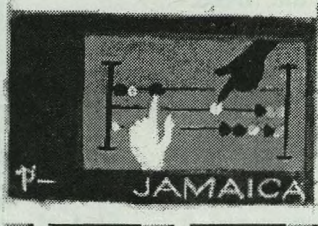
The story of the Human Rights Issue was almost identical to the Freedom from Slavery Issue. The design was accepted, proofs were made, and the stamps printed and issued. According to *susu* (local gossip), at the eleventh hour, a leading politician, a member of the government of the day, decided that the white hands had a dominant position over the black hands, and, in newly independent Jamaica (1962), this would be "politically incorrect."

Again, as with the *Freedom from Slavery* stamp, it was so late in the day that the Crown Agents had circulated the stamps to its normal wholesalers of philatelic material. While they were not offered for sale in Jamaica, large stocks were in the hands of certain philatelic dealers, who refused to return them. A new issue was quickly prepared and inscribed *International Year for Human Rights*. The stamps, illustrated in Figure 5, show The Flame superimposed on the island (3d), hands cupping the Human Rights emblem (1/-), and a Jamaican sitting atop the island of Jamaica, holding the H and R in Human Rights (3/-).

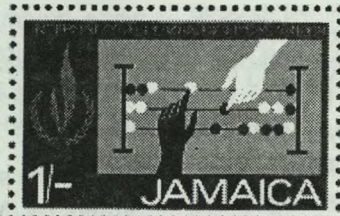
### Conclusion

Common to both of these issues is that there probably would not have been any public outcry against them. The sensitivity of the people in power caused them to look into closets and behind doors to conjure up skeletons that might affect their political person or government.





*The Jennifer Toombs Designs*



*The Issued Stamps*

*Figure 4. United Nations Human Rights Year issue.*



*Figure 5. The Human Rights Year replacement issue.*

Once more, however, to the joy of local stamp collectors, philatelic history was in the making. Something new and exciting in what is normally a calm hobby was in the air. Have you heard? And for those collectors who may never possess, or even lay eyes on, the unreleased *Freedom from Slavery* stamp, there is still a good chance to obtain one of the unreleased 1968 International Human Rights Year stamps.

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## World War II Civil Censorship in Bahamas

by Edward T. TWEDELL

### Introduction

I have been able to locate only one document of any note which addresses Bahamas WWII civilian censorship. It was written by M.D. Watts and H. Moreton Black, and included in the *Roses Handbook No.2*. (Ref. 1)

Information from that article has been added to data on about 180 pieces of mail to form the database used to produce this article. An updated method of identifying the censorship devices is presented. It follows the one used in *Roses* as closely as possible. In each case, the *Roses* identifier is given for cross-referencing. In keeping with other recent articles, civilian censorship devices begin with the letter "C". All Earliest Known Dates (EKD) and Latest Known Dates (LKD) of use are presented. All illustrations are exact size, except where noted.

Conclusions are based on the reasonable assumption that the database represents a representative sample of all the mail censored by the Bahamas civil censors in World War Two.

### The Handling of Mail

A small amount of incoming mail was handled by the censors in the early months of the war, but thereafter all items that I have been able to locate are outgoing. Initially far more mail was "passed" unopened, than was opened, examined and resealed. This liberal approach to the handling of the mails lasted until the end of 1940, after which time only a relatively few unopened items have been recorded.

### Unopened Mail and Postcards

The three handstamps used on unopened mail are illustrated in Figure. 1 and described in this section.

**Device CH2 (Roses BH2) — EKD: 5SE39 LKD: 13JY41.** The earliest known cover handled by the censors in Bahamas is dated 5SE39, only two days after war had been declared by Britain. It was addressed to the UK. Another very early cover was sent to Bahamas from the USA, dated 1SE39, but it has no receiving mark. This handstamp is always seen in light green. It is interesting to note that although all the letters in the handstamp appear to come from the same font, the final "s" differs from the first two.

Of the thirty examples recorded, sixteen occur in 1939, twelve in 1940, and two much later. The four incoming pieces of mail all came from the USA during the first two months of censorship. All other examples are outgoing to USA, UK and Canada.

**CH3 (new) — EKD: 20C42 LKD: 4FE43.** This handstamp was applied in purple to postcards. Only five have been recorded. Four are outgoing (UK, USA and Canada), and strangely, one was used internally. This form of octagonal handstamp with squared-off corners and a small King Edward's crown, is unusual. I know of no other example in any British Caribbean colony. It included the Bahamas censorship code "G," which was introduced in January 1942, and printed censor numbers. Numbers recorded are 24, 26, 30, and 35.

**CH4 (Roses BH4) — EKD: 15AP43 LKD: 13DE44.** Unopened letters and one postcard received this hand-

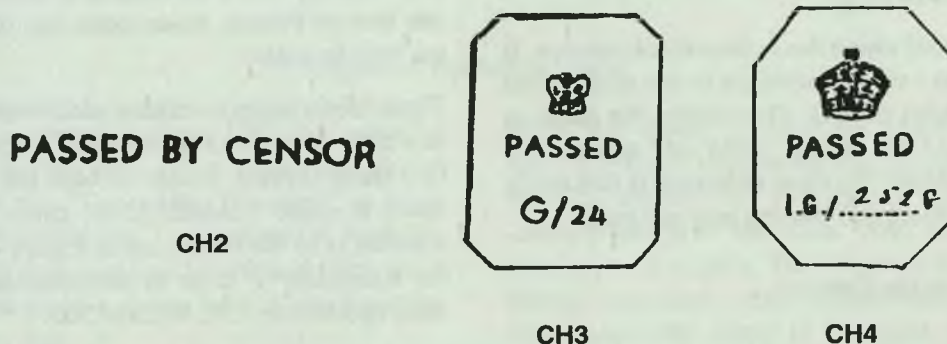


Figure 1. Handstamps used on unopened mail.



stamp, which was applied in purple or reddish-purple ink. Although in the 20 months of use, it was rarely used.

Unlike type CH3, this handstamp did not include the number, which was added in manuscript. This is the common form of octagonal (or lozenge) style of handstamp. The code included is "IG" indicating that Bahamas had been designated an Imperial Censorship Office by April 1943, but I have recorded no transit mail going through here. A list of all known examples is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Recorded Examples of Handstamp CH4

DATE	TO/FROM	NUMBER
15AP43	(Roses)	126/128
10DE43	Bermuda	2528
????43	From Cuba	4804
20JA44	USA	126
7FE44	USA	127
??FE44	UK	126
16MY44	(Roses)	126/128
27OC44	France (ppc)	8055
5DE44	Bermuda	1014
13DE44	Jamaica	4276
????44	UK	126

The censor numbers fall into three distinct groups:

- Three digit numbers which are probably local censors.
- Four digit numbers, except number 1014, which are also seen on label CL2.
- Number 1014, of which this is the only occurrence. It is recorded on a cover addressed to one of the chief Bermuda censors (Ref 2). The address, the name of the sender and the figure "1014" all appear in a distinctive red ink. The clear indication is that this is a censor (A. Wictmire) passing personal mail.

### Mail Examined by the Censors

Figure 2 illustrates the the only handstamp used on opened mail.

## OPENED BY CENSOR

### CH1

Figure 2. Handstamp Used on Opened Mail

#### CH1 (Roses BH1) — EKD: 22SP39 LKD: 21MR40.

The earliest method of resealing envelopes was with plain, gummed brown paper. This method is commonly seen in the early part of the war in many colonies. Generally a handstamp was then applied by the censor either on the brown paper, or tying it to the envelope. The font used for this handstamp is the same as that used for CH2, which is perhaps not surprising as they were introduced at the same time.

Nine examples of this handstamp have been recorded, all are struck in light green ink. They appear on outgoing mail to the USA, UK, Canada or France. One example is reported to have a manuscript "1" applied in red. This is almost certainly a censor number, and quite likely to be the number used by the Bahamas chief censor.

Resealing Labels, shown in Figure 3, were then introduced. These are described next.

#### CL3 (Roses BCL1) — EKD: 18AP40 LKD: 18FE42.

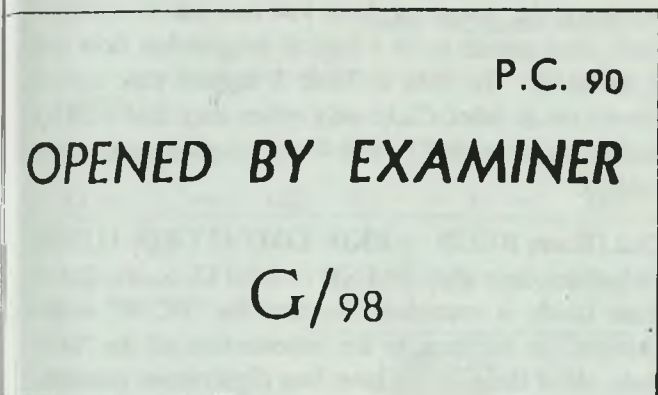
In common with many other colonies, a printed resealing label was introduced as soon as arrangements could be made to have one printed. Type CL3 was printed in green on white paper. Green is an uncommon colour for censor labels and handstamps, but it seems to have been a favourite with the Bahamas censoring authority. For this reason alone, it is almost certain that this label was produced locally. Further evidence is that the label itself is a non-standard size.

CL3 was sparingly applied during the two years of its use. Virtually all of this mail is to North America, with one item to France. Roses notes one other item sent to the Irish Republic.

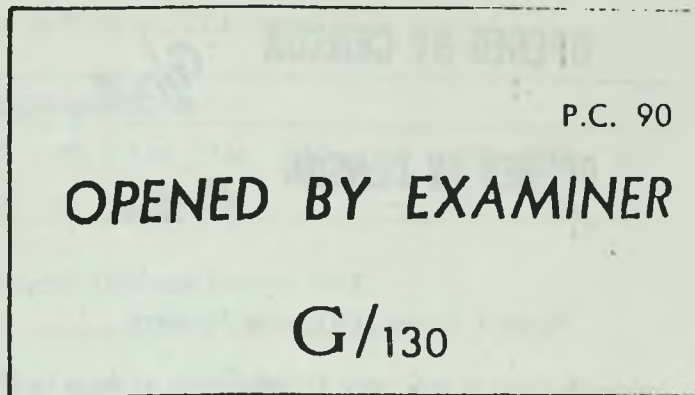
These labels begin to exhibit additional censor numbers at a time when colonial censorship began to be organised from London. Added in blue ink, the first occurrence is dated 30JA42. In all cases, the manuscript addition is of the form seen in Figure 4, demonstrating the Bahamas "G" code as described earlier. The numbers reported are 125, 502, and 503.

**The P.C. 90 Labels.** In May 1942, the first "P.C.90" labels appear as the resealing labels became stand-

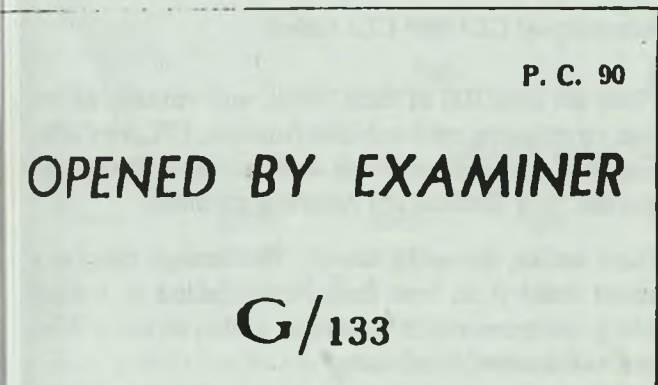




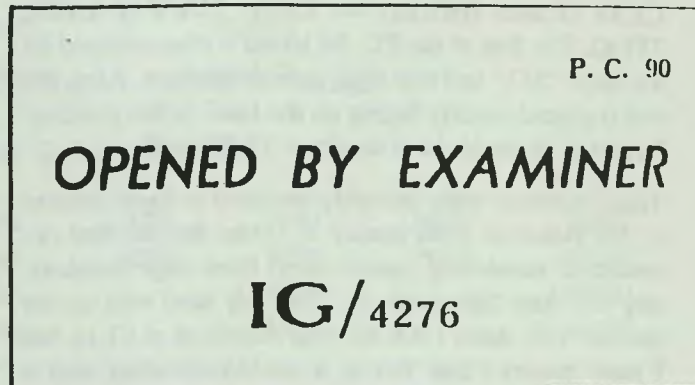
CL1a



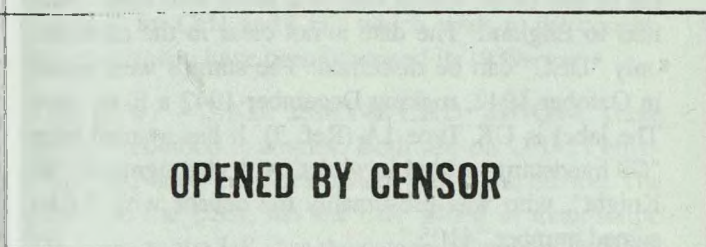
CL1b



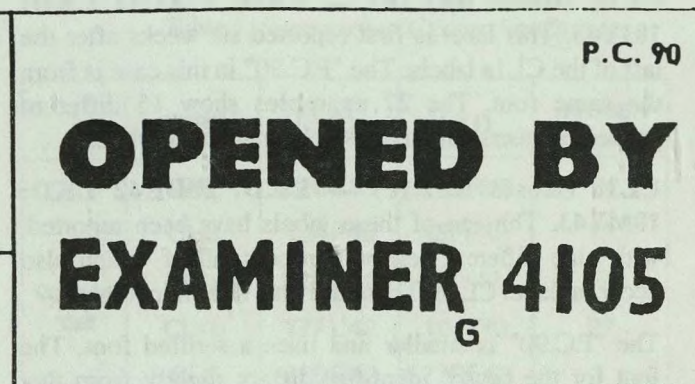
CL1c



CL2



CL3



CL4

*Figure 3. Resealing Labels.*

ardised, and have printed numbers. The CL1 and CL2 types are very similar. They differ from most British labels in that the text "Opened By Examiner" is all on one line, and in an italic font. I am tempted to think that these labels were produced locally, although they are of a standard British size. No similar label is listed as being in use in England (Ref. 3)

In all four labels "Opened By Examiner" is identical. The CL1 types incorporate the "G" letter of Bahamas, but CL2 has the "IG" identifier. They appear to be different printings of the same label, as their occurrence overlaps only slightly. The font used for the "P.C. 90" in the top right hand corner of these labels varies. Another difference is the colour of the paper. CL1 labels are on white paper, but the paper used for CL2 labels can be



OPENED BY CENSOR

G/128

OPENED BY CENSOR

G/502

Figure 4. Manuscript Censor Numbers.

brownish-white or pale grey. Enlargements of these labels is shown in Figure 5.

**CL1a (Roses BEL1a) — EKD: 22MY42 LKD: 7JY42.** The first of the P.C. 90 labels is characterised by the large "P.C." and two digit censor numbers. Also, the text is placed slightly higher on the label in this printing. Reported examples have numbers 97, 98 or 99.

These numbers were probably assigned to local censors by the Bahamas chief censor. It seems that the first coordinated numbering system used three digit numbers, and later four digit numbers. (The only label with censor number 120, dated 16OC42, was described as CL1a, but I have assumed that this is a misidentification, and it should be CL1b, given the number and the date).

**CL1b (Roses BEL1b) — EKD: 17AU42 LKD: 10JY43.** This label is first reported six weeks after the last of the CL1a labels. The "P.C.90" in this case is from the same font. The 27 examples show 15 different printed numbers which are summarised in Table 2.

**CL1c (Roses BEL1c) — EKD: 28DE42 LKD: 10MY43.** Thirteen of these labels have been reported, with nine different censor numbers, all of which also occur on label CL1b. These are also shown in Table 2.

The "P.C.90" is smaller and uses a seriffed font. The font for the censor identifier differs slightly from that used for earlier versions.

CL1a	P.C. 90
CL1b	P.C. 90
CL1c	P. C. 90

Figure 5. Enlargements of the "P.C. 90" Marking.

Although the usage of these last two labels overlaps, there does appear to be a logical progression from one to the other. The data in Table 3 suggest that censors moved on to label CL1c only when they had used up their stock of label CL1b. A few examples are given in Table 3.

**CL2 (Roses BEL2) — EKD: 13MY43 LKD: 11JY45.** Only three days after the LKD of label CL1c, the first of these labels is recorded. The font for "P.C.90" is unchanged. In addition to the introduction of the "I.G." code, all of these labels have four digit censor numbers. There are 27 different numbers, listed in Table 4.

### Summary of CL1 and CL2 Labels

There are over 100 of these labels, and virtually all are seen on outgoing mail to North America, UK, the Caribbean, and Bermuda, although destinations of Russia, Argentina, New Zealand and Australia are noted.

There are no incoming covers. The nearest thing to a transit cover is an item from New Zealand to Antigua which was censored in Bahamas. It also shows a "Mis-sent to Bahamas" handstamp.

**CL4 (new) — ??DE42.** There is only one known example of this label, which was on a letter sent from Bahamas to England. The date is not clear in the canceller; only "DEC" can be discerned: The stamps were issued in October 1942, making December 1942 a likely date. The label is UK Type 1A (Ref. 3). It has a small letter "G" handstamp added in violet, with the signature "W. Knight", who was presumably the censor with the assigned number "4105."

### Miscellaneous Handstamps

Figure 6 illustrates three miscellaneous handstamps discussed below.

**CH5 (new).** This handstamp was reported by Ref. 4. Similar handstamps were issued to most of the British Caribbean colonies for precensored mail. Very few have been recorded, and none are known for Bahamas. Each colony was assigned a different number; for Bahamas this was "11".

**CH6 (new) — 1944.** One example is recorded. The censor resealed the letter with a CL2 label across the flap, having examined the contents first(?), then added the handstamp to indicate the envelope had been found open. The font used for this handstamp is identical to



Table 2. Censor Numbers Seen on CL1b and CL1c Labels

LABEL	CENSOR NUMBERS														
	120	122	123	126	128	130	133	135	143	144	159	162	165	183	187
CL1b	120	122	123	126	128	130	133	135	143	144	159	162	165	183	187
CL1c	—	122	123	—	—	130	133	—	143	144	—	—	165	183	187

Table 3. CL1 Labels Used in December 1942 and January 1943

CENSOR NUMBER	CL1b	CL1c
130	18DE42	28DE42, 7JA43
133	10JA43	20JA43
135	19DE42	14JA43

Table 4. Censor Numbers Seen on Label CL2

1486	2270	3045	4391	5004	6030	7241	8055	9357
1973	2528	3865	4609	5647	6872	7453	8674	9435
	2927		4709	5832		7564		9534
			4804	5946		7903		9736

that used for CH1 and CH2, which leads to the conclusion that it may have been produced in 1939.

CH7 (new) — EKD: 25MY42 LKD: 29NO44. There are two recorded examples: Both are on OHMS envelopes, and have the dates added within the device. The earlier, to the USA, has the date added in manuscript. The other, to the UK, has the date handstamped. OHMS envelopes were usually allowed to leave Bahamas without any censor markings.

#### Summary of Censorship Devices

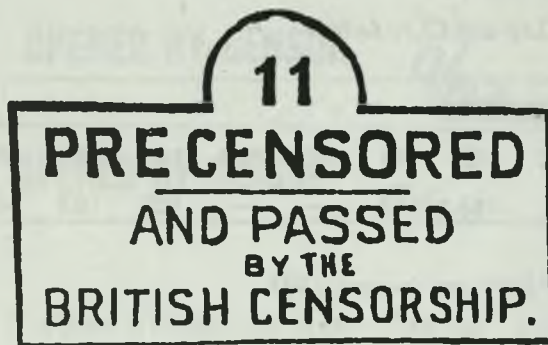
The data discussed above are summarised in Table 5. The number of items listed can be used to estimate the scarcity of each type of device.

The same data are shown on a timeline in Figure 7. Continuous periods of usage are shown by solid lines, and isolated occurrences by small boxes.

Table 5. Summary of Censorship Devices

	TYPE	EKD	LKD	NUMBER RECORDED
Opened Mail	CH1	22SE39	21MR40	9
	CH3	18AP40	18FE42	13
	CL1a	22MY42	7JY42	5
	CL1b	17AU42	10JY43	27
	CL4	??DE42	??DE42	1
	CL1c	28DE42	10MY43	13
	CL2	13MY43	11JY45	65
Passed Mail	CH2	5SP39	13JY41	30
	CH3	20C42	4FE43	5
	CH4	15AP43	13DE44	11



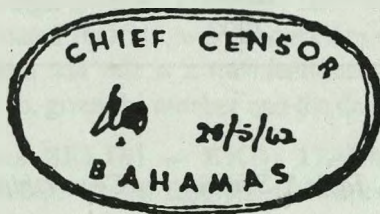


CH5

FOUND OPEN

SEALED BY CENSOR

CH6



CH7

Figure 6. Miscellaneous Handstamps

### Analysis of Amount of Mail Censored

The amount of mail handled by the censors is shown in Table 6. It would seem from these data that the approach to censorship was quite lax until 1942. Up to this time, the majority of recorded mail was not opened for examination. For example, in 1941 only four pieces of opened mail have been recorded. A further breakdown of these early years is presented in Table 7, which demonstrates more clearly the decline in the operation. For convenience of comparison, the period is broken into four month blocks.

So, after a reasonable start, interest apparently waned, and the amount of mail handled by the censorship office dropped dramatically. Three pieces of mail have been

recorded in a three-week period in mid-1941; perhaps an abortive attempt to get the censorship office up and running again. The other piece of mail in 1941 occurs on December 24th. This marks the beginning of the introduction of a new regime in colonial censorship, when Britain took a closer interest in censorship operations in the colonies, and after the USA had entered the war.

From 1942 onwards, far more mail was handled. Although the data presented here represent only a small sample of the volume of mail actually handled by the censorship office, it is possible to get a picture of the operation from 1942 until the end of the war. The thing that stands out is the number of censors which have been recorded in the latter stages of the war, handling relatively little mail. A comparison with the Antigua office (Ref. 5) is presented in Table 8.

Of course, not all of these Bahamas censors would be on the island at the same time. Although the data for the British (i.e. four digit censors) is sparse, no individual censor seems to have been there for more than nine months, based on known EKDs and LKDs for individual censors. Even allowing for this, Antigua handled appreciably more mail with far fewer censors.

### Censor Numbers

The following observations are made relative to censor numbers:

- a. It is probable that censor number "1" was the chief censor (CH1)
- b. I think it is significant that three of the four censor numbers seen on device CH3 are 26, 30 and 35; and three of the numbers of label CL1b, in use at the same time are 126, 130 and 135. I am of the opinion that these are the same local censors. The first appearance of any number in this series was in early 1942, when number 125 was added in manuscript to a CL3 label. Why then, do the CH3 handstamps have numbers apparently 100 less than they should be? Could it be that the handstamps were ordered and the numbers then changed by a directive from England, or was it simply a mistake?
- c. Censor numbers 97, 98, and 99 were probably also local censors.
- d. Censors 502 and 503 appear temporarily when the censorship office was being revamped in late 1941 or



Table 6. Amount of Mail Handled

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
MAIL OPENED	2	9	2	28	41	20	5
MAIL PASSED	16	12	2	0	3	8	0
POSTCARDS	0	0	0	2	3	1	0
TOTAL	18	21	4	30	47	29	5

Table 7. Mail Handled Before 1942

TIME PERIOD	1939	1940			1941		
	S/O/N/D	J/F/M/A	M/J/J/A	S/O/N/D	J/F/M/A	M/J/J/A	S/O/N/D
MAIL RECORDED	19	10	2	6	0	3	1

Table 8. Comparison of Bahamas and Antigua Censorship Operations

	1942		1943		1944	
	CENSORS	MAIL	CENSORS	MAIL	CENSORS	MAIL
ANTIGUA	2	60	5	70	5	36
BAHAMAS	15	30	27	47	23	29

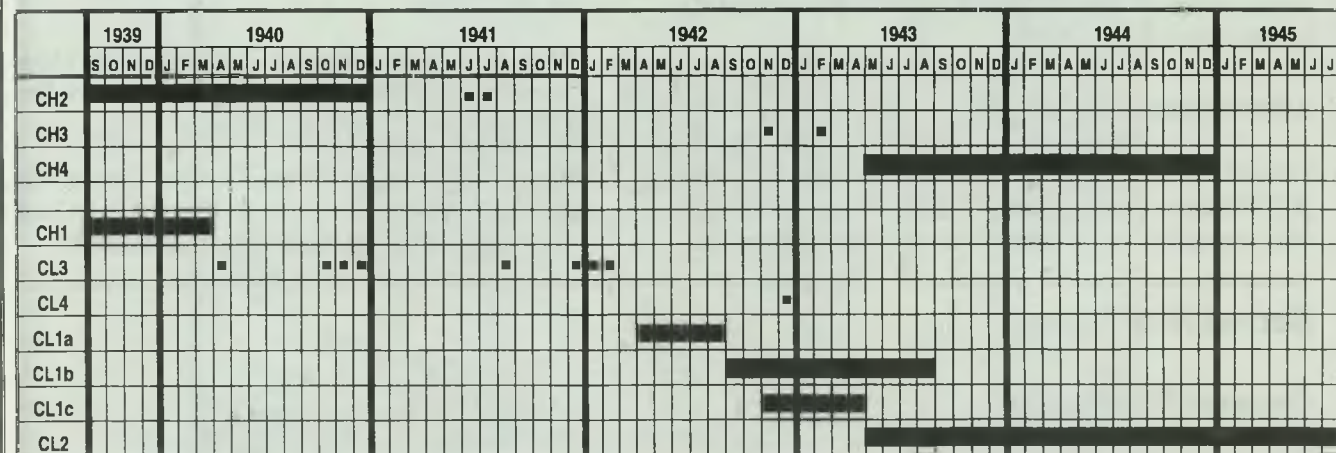


Figure 7. Timeline of Censorship Device Occurrences

early 1942. They may have been there in a supervisory or training role.

e. All censors with four digit numbers almost certainly came from Britain.

numbers 8055 and 8674 in Trinidad. While Peter Flynn, who has collected over 800 different Bermuda censor numbers, has recorded none of these numbers in use there. This is in contrast with Antigua (Ref. 5) where many of the censors there have also been recorded in other Caribbean colonies.

Very few of the 28 British censors have recorded elsewhere in the Caribbean area. Wike (Ref. 6) has recorded



PASSED BY EXAMINER 1748

PASSED BY  
CENSOR

PASSED BY CENSOR

Figure 8. Non-Bahamas Censorship Handstamps

### Non-Bahamas Censorship Devices

The handstamps illustrated in Figure 8 are seen on mail from Bahamas to the USA and Canada, commonly on OHMS covers. They are of US origin and are identified in Ref. 7. These handstamps, and similar types, were applied in Miami or New Orleans, usually in red or reddish-purple ink.

The first device shown, which has an added manuscript censor number, was erroneously listed in Roses (Ref. 1) as a Bahamas device (BH3).

### Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my thanks to the members of the BCPSG and CCSG (Civil Censorship Study Group) who responded to my requests for assistance; many tak-

ing the time to reply even though they had nothing to add to the initial database. The following contributed information to this study:

Bob Bolling	Peter Flynn	Charles Freeland
Andy Harwood	Jack Harwood	Derek Lilley
Dann Mayo	Tom McMahon	Mike Mead
Gale Raymond	Helmut Stocker	Mike White

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## Recent New Issues

Continued from Page 8

**Nevis.** Nov. 1997. Set of six Christmas stamps featuring angels; 20¢, 25¢, 50¢, 80¢, \$1.60 and \$5.00. Also two souvenir sheets, each showing a different \$5.00 stamp.

**St. Vincent-Genadines.** Nov. 1997. Set of six Christmas stamps featuring fine arts and angels; 60¢, 70¢, \$1.00, \$1.10 and \$2.00. Also two souvenir sheets, each showing a different \$5.00 stamp. Dec. 1997. Princess Diana. two panes of four \$2.00 stamps of different de-

signs printed se-tenant. Also two souvenir sheets, each showing a different \$6.00 stamp. Jan. 1998. Year of the Tiger, strip of three se-tenant \$1.00 stamps and a souvenir sheet with a \$2.00 stamp.

**Turks and Caicos.** Nov. 1997. Set of eight Christmas stamps featuring angels; 15¢, 20¢, 35¢, 50¢, 60¢, 80¢, \$1.00 and \$1.25. Also two souvenir sheets, each showing a different \$5.00 stamp.



## Christmas in Jamaica

by John HOTCHER

*Reprinted from Linn's Stamp News, January 23, 1998, with permission.*

It seems that U.S. Christmas seals were routinely distributed in Jamaica in the early 1930's.

In the Nov. 10 U.S. Notes, I illustrated two examples of domestic seals used from Jamaica in 1934 and 1936 and asked Linn's readers for other examples.

Tom Richards submitted the 1932 usage shown at the bottom of Figure 1, and Joe Ward reported the 1931 use illustrated at the top and another in 1936.

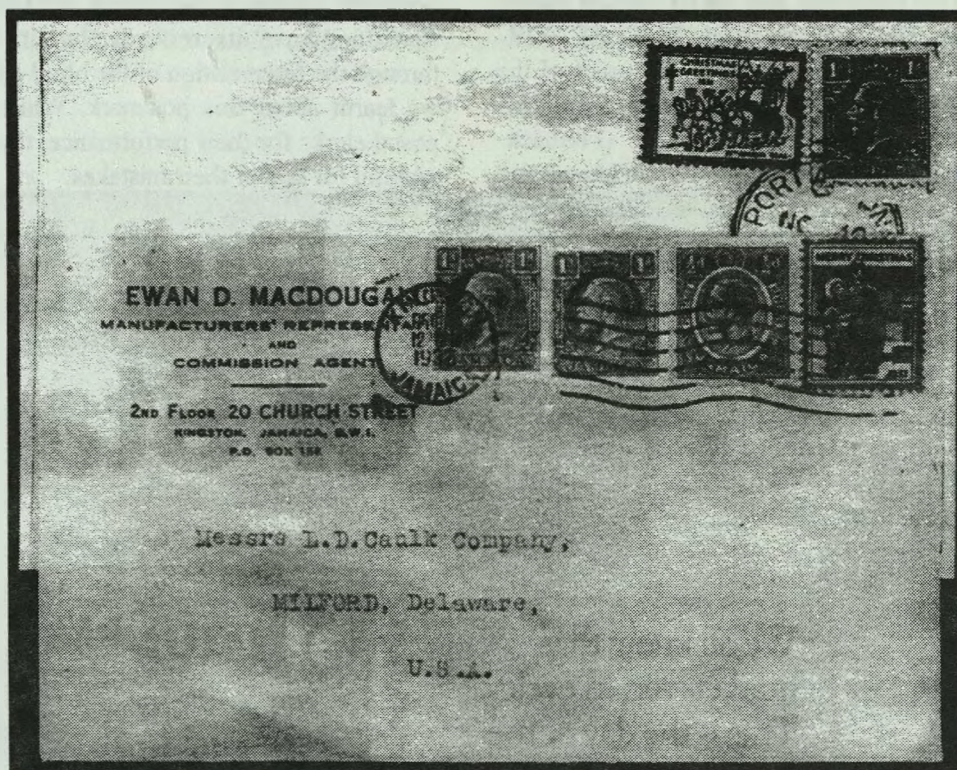
All five have different senders, different addressees and have three different originating cancels.

Can anyone else extend the period of usage in either direction?

I'm especially interested in a tied example from 1934 or anything else interesting in 1934 usages.

That's the seal I collect. It's the subject of a six-frame exhibit.

*I'm sure that John, the President of the APS, would appreciate any contributions on this subject that members might make. You may write to John at P.O. Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041-0125. Additional thanks to Barry Friedman for bringing this article to the Editor's attention.. — DLH*



*Figure 1. Two uses of U.S. Christmas seals in Jamaica, from 1931 and 1932, help to prove that they were automatically distributed to the island in the early 1930's.*

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 1998 - TODAY!!**



## Modern Official Paid and P.P. Postmarks of the British Virgin Islands

by Giorgio MIGLIAVACCA

### Official Paid Postmarks

Official Paid postmarks of the British Virgin Islands have a reputation of being among the scarcest of the British Empire. Those of the 1800s are virtually missing from every major collection with the exception, perhaps, of two of them. On the other hand, Official Paid postmarks used in the twentieth century surface, once in a blue moon, on the market when some specialized collection is dispersed.

These postmarks are listed in Pickering (Ref. 1) and more recently in a comprehensive survey by Fredrick and McCann (Ref. 2). I am told that one of these true rarities surfaced in recent years in a Cavendish Auction in a "miscellaneous" lot with a very low estimate. Eventually specialists fought to the bitter end, and the lot fetched several thousands pounds. The large crowned "PAID AT TORTOLA" is known used during the very early part of the 1900s and then replaced by a double ring "OFFICIAL PAID . ROAD TOWN. TORTOLA. V.I." (Fredrick-McCann type 19). Fewer than ten examples are known and some impressions show date in the middle.

Between the 1920's and 1970's there seems to be no evidence of usage of this type of postmark, but this may change after collectors and specialists review their holdings. We are aware of the existence of a single circle (31mm. diameter) inscribed with the legend "ROAD TOWN TORTOLA V.I." around the circle and "OFFICIAL/PAID" in the middle on two lines. This postmark was used in the 1980's, but may have been introduced at an earlier date. Its use, an example of which is shown in Figure 1, seems very limited as it was originally meant to be used on official mail to overseas destinations. It is, however, encountered on very rare occasions on locally addressed mail, as seen in Figure 2.

The existence of a more recent type came to our attention by sheer accident and through improper use of the postmark. Living in the islands and being a postal historian does have its rewards, but in this case it was through the intervention of the blind-folded goddess that we learnt about this postmark. While we often blame postal clerks for their performance, this time we may be grateful for one of their mistakes.

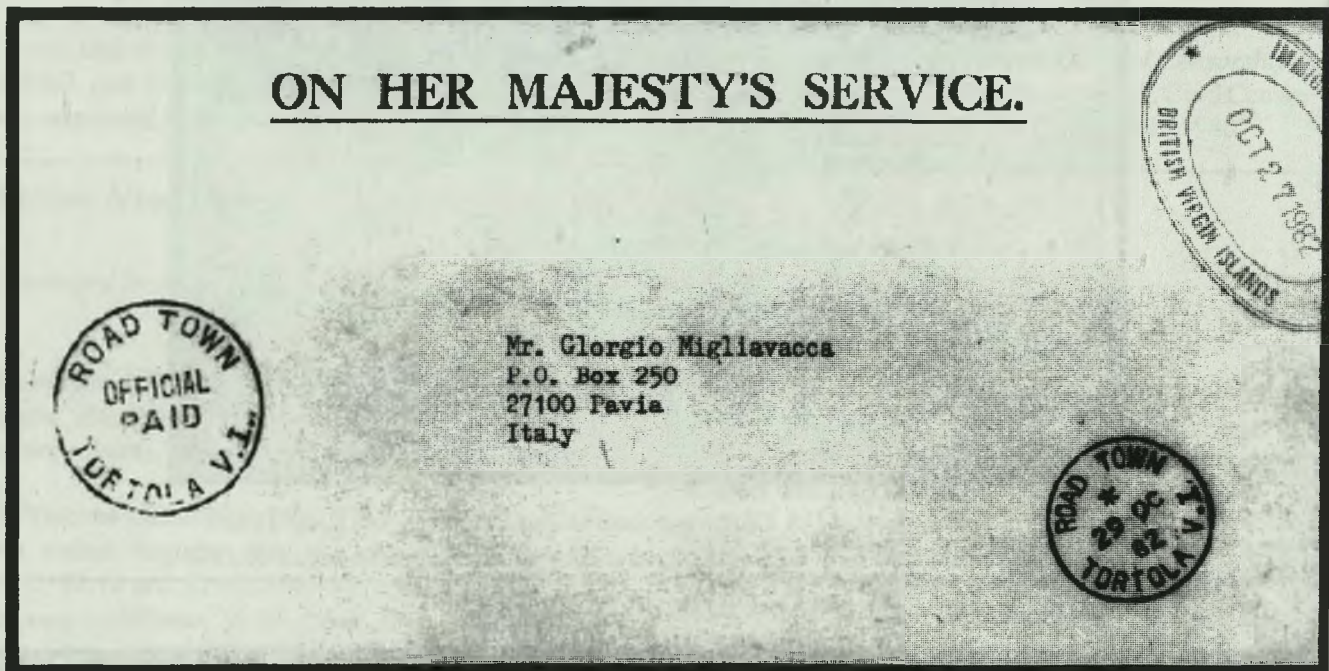


Figure 1. A 1982 Cover to Italy with "Official Paid" Postmark





Figure 2. A 1985 locally addressed cover showing the same "Official Paid" postmark.

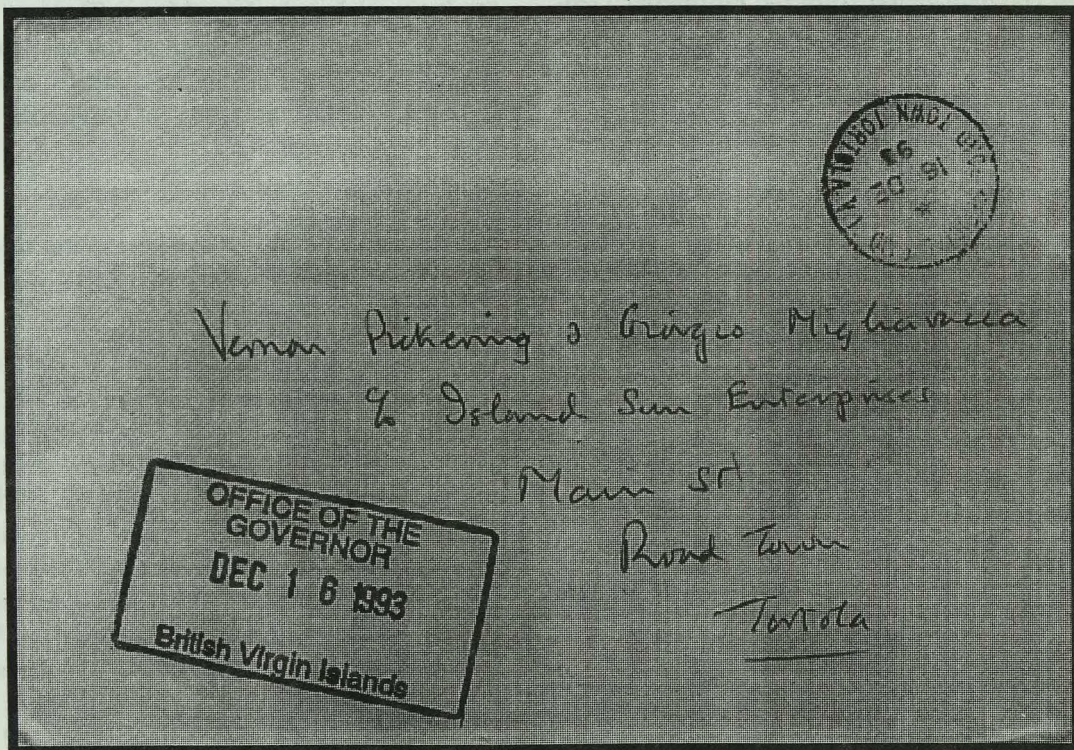


Figure 4. "Official Paid" CDS wrongly used on local mail.





Figure 3. Road Town "Official Paid" CDS.

It would appear that in 1993 a single circle dated postmark was introduced. It has a 23mm. diameter, and as illustrated in Figure 3, is inscribed with the words "OFFICIAL PAID ROAD TOWN TORTOLA V.I." with the field showing a "star" and below it day/month/year. It came to our notice through the locally addressed letter shown in Figure 4. This letter emanated from the Office of the Governor — a department, of course, which enjoys exemption from postage for its official correspondence. The impression, as customary, was poor and we overlooked the importance of it since we could not even decipher the words "OFFICIAL PAID". At a much later date while looking through the odds and ends shoebox where most collectors keep their unsuspected "jewels" we re-examined the item and became very interested in the matter.

In a written communication from the Postmaster General of the B.V.I. we were told that "this postmark is normally used for official mail, sent overseas by Government Departments other than the Post Office". It would seem that overseas departmental mail from government agencies is handed over to the General Post Office where it is postmarked with the "OFFICIAL PAID" device and then forwarded through the usual postal channels. From personal observation the postmark shows a fair amount of wear and tear, and for some inexplicable reason the segment inscribed with the words "OFFICIAL PAID" is somewhat "sunken" and hardly leaves a clear impression. This, we speculate, may stem from usage on mail that is sealed with wax-seal or from some unfortunate accident. Be as it may, the postmark is rarely used nowadays; its use seems to have been very limited and its appearance on inland mail is both unorthodox and rare, this detail was clearly expressed by the local postal authorities.

#### Postage Paid Postmarks

"POSTAGE PAID", or "P.P." postmarks as they are known in continental Europe, have always fascinated

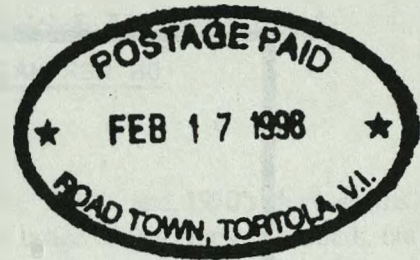


Figure 5. The recently introduced "Postage Paid" postmark.

postal historians; however, their use in one of the last bastions of the British Empire can certainly make headlines in philatelic circles. In recent months, the Road Town G.P.O. has introduced an oval postmark inscribed with the words "POSTAGE PAID \* ROAD TOWN, TORTOLA, V.I. \*" Shown in Figure 5, it has a 53mm maximum width and shows the date in the middle (month/day/year). From all indications this appears to be a rubber stamp used on pre-paid bulk mail of commercial nature. Its use has been noticed on local mail, but it may have also been used on outbound mail. It is usually impressed in a Prussian blue ink. Worthy of notice is the adoption of the American mode of giving a date on the postmark as opposed to the conventional European mode so scrupulously observed in this British Territory — i.e. day/month/year. The year is also expressed in four digits instead of the customary last two digits. These small details are, perhaps, another indication of the "Americanization" of the islands.

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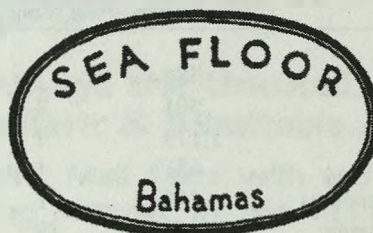
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Leeward Islands	521	1	140
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Consignments are now being accepted for 26 September sale. This will be a London room auction held in conjunction with WIPEX (a West Indies stamp exhibition organised by the B.W.I.S.C.) So far I have received a large Bahamas collection with a wealth of covers and Out Island postmarks and a fine study collection of the Pictorial issue of Jamaica with valuable proof material, formed by Ken Bolton. Contact David Druett to discuss the sale of your collection.

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