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*The Spectacular 8d Double Printed Postage Due Stamp of Trinidad, 1885, enlarged 400%
(Reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen)*

Also featured:

Status of St. Vincent and Grenadines Post Offices

Cayman New Post Office

British Virgin Islands Stamp Show 98



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Trinidad and Tobago	Dr R. A. Ramkissoon (see address above)
Turks and Caicos Islands	Dr P. P. McCann, 1669 Chinford Trail, Annapolis, MD 21401-6607

Yes, it is amazing what a small group can do when they put their minds to it.

About the Backlog and the Pipeline

At the onset of my tenure I put out a number of strong calls for research papers. Frankly, I am somewhat disappointed with the response, especially in view of my earlier comments. I realize we all have competing pressures, not only from *real life*, but also from philately. There is a constant trade-off between working on our collections, preparing exhibits, and writing about our research interests. Nonetheless, for our Journal to be successful, it is necessary for all of us to help. This brings me to discuss two topics.

The first topic is the *backlog*. The backlog is the supply of articles that I have in my hot little hand at any given time. These articles require only the finishing touches to appear in print. I must report that my backlog has been virtually non-existent. In order to prepare a quality journal, and to release it in a timely manner, I must have a complete issue, about 25 pages, ready to go at any instant in time. This represents between three and eight items. I usually have none immediately following the release of the current issue.

The second item is the *pipeline*. The pipeline is the flow of articles that are in preparation for some future time. These are not simple promises, but concrete ideas

that the author is working to complete. In a perfect world, the pipeline should be four times larger than the backlog. I must say, my pipeline is in somewhat better shape than my backlog, although it only consists of about six papers.

In closing, the next thing I would like our small group to do is increase the level of participation in the Journal. For this I will thank you as will the entire membership.

We've Made it to California

I apologize for a somewhat later distribution of this issue than normal. It is worth it though, because we are now producing everything electronically in California. Hopefully you will note an improved quality, particularly of the figures.

Letters

I was pleased to receive a number of letters during the past quarter. These are presented on page 91. Feedback relative to both the format and content of the journal is crucial. The purpose of the *BCPJ* is to meet the needs of the membership. To do this, I must understand what those needs are. It is also important to provide comments directed toward contributors. Everyone likes to see their work appreciated! Please keep the letters coming.

President's Message

By Rob WYNSTRA

I look forward to seeing as many members as possible in Florida for our next annual general meeting held in conjunction with the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition during February 5-7, 1999. Details on the traditional Friday-night group dinner and the meeting schedule can be found in this issue of the journal. *Jack Harwood*, one of our group trustees and local organizer for this event, has been working hard behind the scenes to make sure this will be an event to remember for years to come.

Besides, the business meeting, auction, and exhibition, we will have a hospitality suite each night. Members are free to gather there, have a drink or snack, and view the auction lots. We also will be having a joint reception with the show organizers, officials from several Caribbean philatelic bureaus, and the Confederate States Alliance. This will be held just prior to our dinner

on Friday night. On Saturday night, everyone is urged to join the exhibitors at the awards banquet. This event will be held at a local country club and will feature filet mignon.

Again, I urge each of you to book your hotel room and airline flight as early as possible. February is the height of the tourist season in Florida and any delays could lead to disappointment. The same goes for sending in your applications for exhibiting. With the Confederate States Alliance meeting at Sarasota, the demand for frame space will be high. Also, please be sure to send in the dinner registration form that has been inserted in this issue of the journal.

I especially look forward to seeing many old friends at this event, as well as meeting others for the first time. In fact, what could provide a better excuse to

attend one of our meetings for the first time than the prospect of a winter holiday in sunny Florida? Many of us have found that attending the group meeting for the first time was a major step toward enriching our enjoyment of the hobby we all share. What you will find if you attend for the first time is a friendly group of people who are happy to share their knowledge with beginners and to learn from the expertise of other members.

I further would urge any of you who have ever thought about exhibiting to consider the show at Sarasota as the place to make your first try. One of the true highlights of our last meeting at Boxborough was the presence of several new British Caribbean exhibits. During recent years, a number of outstanding British Caribbean exhibits have been retired from the exhibiting scene. But, if Boxborough is any indication, there are already some new exhibitors ready to make a real impact in the coming years..

Three of our group members — *Dr. Peter McCann*, *Dave Herendeen*, and *Jerry Hart* — will be on the judging panel at Sarasota. Several other experienced exhibitors and judges from the group also will be in attendance at the show. At show after show, I have seen dedicated group members spend countless hours working with beginning and intermediate-level exhibitors alike. That was the case at Boxborough, and I am certain it will be the same at Sarasota.

Let us know your plans by sending in the dinner registration form, book your hotel and airline flight early, and submit your exhibit application. Then head to Sarasota and enjoy the fun and companionship.

This and That

Letters to the Editor

Regarding letters received by the Editor, these may be published unless specifically labeled "Not for Publication." Text is subject to editing for space. The editor will attempt to allow senders to review final text if they can be contacted by eMail.

Research Clearinghouse

The results of the Research Clearinghouse in the June issue were very heartening. Both *Rene Manes* and *Dave Herendeen* received several significant responses from members. These will, hopefully, be used to form the bases for upcoming articles in the *BCPJ*. A list of helpful members will be published in the next issue.

Secretary's Report

by Peter KAULBACK

New Members

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

New Applicants

Mrs. Jewel YODER, Rt. 3, Box 40, Greenwood DE 19950-9715, USA. Sponsored by: M. Forand.

Dave UHLMAN, PO Box 201, Constant Spring PO, Kingston 8 Jamaica. Sponsored by: E. Cameron.

Edward BARROW, 524 Federal Avenue East, #203, Seattle WA 98102, USA. Philatelic Interests: Trinidad and Tobago. Sponsored by: D. Druett.

Scott SMITH, 7 King Street East, Suite 1905, Toronto, ON M5C 3C5 Canada. Philatelic Interests: Montserrat. Sponsored by: M. Forand..

Daniel L. GALLOWAY, 15 Riverpoint Road, Hannibal, MO 63401, USA. Philatelic Interests: Cayman Islands. Sponsored by: P. Kaulback.

John DUBOIS, Ph.D., 873 Hill Road, Boxborough, MA 01719, USA. Philatelic Interests: Caribbean and other mails to, from, and transiting the Danish West Indies. Sponsored by: R. Wynstra.

Sam CALNEK, 1209 Gloucester Square, Pickering, ON L1V 3P5, Canada. Philatelic Interests: Jamaica postal markings. Sponsored by: P. Kaulback.

Charles LULLEY, 9518 Oviedo Street, San Diego, CA 92129-3822, USA. Philatelic Interests: British Commonwealth, Mexico. Sponsored by: P. McCann.

André KNOWLES, P.O. Box CB-12673, Nassau, Bahamas. Philatelic Interests: Bahamas stamps and postal history, also other BWI. Sponsored by: P. Kaulback.

Regis M. HOFFMAN, 109 Center Church Road, McMurray, PA 15317, USA. Philatelic Interests: fiscals/revenues, civil censorship, modern postal history. Sponsored by: B. Friedman.

Peter J. ROBERTS, 1991 Commodore Court, Atlanta, GA 30341, USA. Philatelic Interests: Bahamas - all aspects. Sponsored by: M. Forand.

Updates on the 1999 Annual Meeting at Sarasota

by Jack HARWOOD

The final schedule is now in place for the 1999 annual meeting scheduled for 5-7 February in conjunction with the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in Sarasota, FL. The exhibition site will be the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, located at 801 North Tamiami Trail (US 41). Our host for this event is the Sarasota Philatelic Club, and our trustee **Jack Harwood** is serving as local coordinator. He can be contacted at PO Box 32015, Midtown Station, Sarasota, FL 34239; telephone: (941)924-0419; e-mail: jharwood@ibm.net.

As reported previously, the primary hotel will be the Wellesley Inn, 1803 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 44234, telephone: (941)366-5128. The backup hotel is the Hampton Inn, 5000 North Tamiami Trail, telephone: (941)351-7734. A rental car or other transportation is essential if you are staying at the backup hotel. Basic room rates of \$75 are available by calling the above numbers and requesting the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition rate. Because this will be the height of the tourist season in Florida, it is essential to book your hotel and airline flight as early as possible.

The group will once again have a hospitality suite starting on Thursday, 4 January. The suite at the Wellesley Inn will be registered in the name of our auction manager, **Ed Waterous**. The room will be stocked with an assortment of drinks and snacks, making it an ideal place to meet and socialize with other members. Auction lots also will be on hand for viewing. The best bet is to call ahead, as availability of the suite on Thursday will be subject to arrival times in Sarasota. The room number of the suite and final details on other group activities also will be available publicly starting Friday morning at the BCPSG table, located near the entrance to the show.

Group Dinner

Our traditional group dinner is scheduled for Friday evening, 5 February at the Waterside Room, located at 216 Sarasota Quay, overlooking the marina and Sarasota Bay. This location is about 1/2 mile from the show site and about 1 1/2 miles from the Wellesley Inn. Transportation by trolley (and return after dinner) will be provided from the Wellesley Inn. Details on the departure time from the hotel will be available at the group table.

The evening will feature a reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., followed immediately by the dinner in the adjoining Waterfall Room. The reception will be held on the outside terrace, weather permitting, and will be a joint gathering with the Confederate States Alliance. Representatives of several Caribbean philatelic bureaus will be in attendance at both the reception and group dinner. The dinner menu will feature lobster or pork tenderloin.

The cost for this event is \$50 per person. This price includes transportation from the hotel, all cocktails and hors d'oeuvres before dinner, the lobster or pork tenderloin dinner, and all wine or other drinks with dinner. Again, it should be emphasized that **this is not a cash bar**. All cocktails, wine, and hors d'oeuvres, both at the reception and at dinner, are included in the price.

Reservations for this event are required, as we must commit to a certain number before the start of the show. Please return the reservation form inserted in this issue of the journal to Jack Harwood, PO Box 32015, Midtown Station, Sarasota, FL 34239, along with a check payable to SNSE. Reservations are requested as soon as possible, but in no case later than 15 January 1999.

Awards Banquet

Group members are also encouraged to join our exhibitors at the awards banquet on Saturday, February 6. This event will be held at the SaraBay Country Club, 7011 Willow in Sarasota. Transportation will be provided from the main hotel. A reception is scheduled at 6:30 p.m, followed by a 7:30 dinner. The dinner menu will feature filet mignon. Unlike our group dinner, there will be a cash bar, both for the reception and dinner. The cost for dinner is \$30 per person. Once again reservations are essential and can be made by returning the form inserted in this issue of the journal.

Annual General Meeting

The 1999 Annual General Meeting will take place at 1:00 p.m on Saturday, February 6 at the Hyatt Hotel, located across the street from the show site. The exact room number will be announced at the Friday group

dinner and will be available at the BCPSG table at the show.

We will try to follow as closely as possible to the following schedule:

- 1:00-1:45PM Business Meeting
- 2:00-2:40PM Presentation by David L. Herendeen
(Postage Dues of the British West Indies)
- 2:40-4:00PM Group Auction

The times have been set to avoid any conflict with the judge's critique that is scheduled for 4:00 p.m.

Our editor, *Dave Herendeen*, will make the featured philatelic presentation. His exhibit of *Postage Dues of the British Empire and Commonwealth* has won many national and international awards, including a gold medal at Singapore 95. He also has made numerous presentations to philatelic groups across the country, including, most recently, the Collector's Club of Chicago. Group members in attendance at Chicago indicate that this is an event that should not be missed.

Exhibit Application Forms

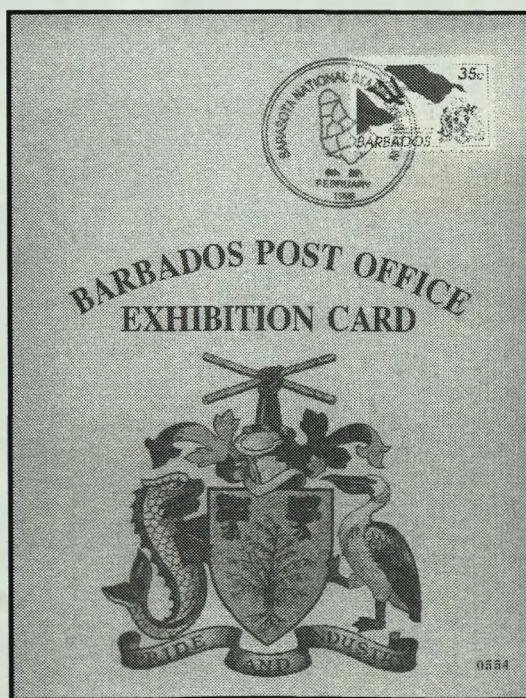
Members are especially encouraged to enter exhibits at the Sarasota show. A limited number of frames will be held for the group through November 15. The exhibit

prospectus and entry forms are available from *Jack Seaman*, Sarasota Philatelic Club, PO Box 3553, Sarasota, FL 34230 or from *Jack Harwood*, whose address appeared given earlier. Because the Confederate Stamp Alliance also will be meeting at the show, organizers expect to be over-subscribed for frames. Delays in sending in the exhibit application could result in disappointment.

Mail-In Exhibits

Exhibitors who want to mail-in their exhibit should consider the following system. The Sarasota show has an excellent system in cooperation with the local post office. All incoming exhibits addressed to the show post office box number are held by the postmaster in his vault until mounting. The postmaster is provided with a list of exhibits so that he can intercept and place them aside in the vault.

At the conclusion of the show, exhibits being mailed are packed up and delivered to the Post Office truck at the show site. They are taken directly to the Post Office on Sunday evening, for posting on Monday morning. The only times the exhibits are outside of the exhibition hall are when they are in possession of the Post Office. *Jack Harwood* reports that this system has worked extremely well, providing both the show organizers and the exhibitors with maximum security.



*Special exhibition card prepared by the
Barbados Post Office for the
1998 Sarasota National Stamp Exposition.*

Courtesy Jack Harwood

Ramkissoon Honored

The American Airmail Society announced two of its major awards at Colpex in April. BCPSG life member **Dr. Reuben (Ben) A. Ramkissoon** won the George W. Anger Award. This award recognizes overall contributions to airmail collecting. While Ben is well-known for his international award winning exhibits of Trinidad and Tobago, members may not be aware that he is a dedicated collector and researcher in aero- and astrophilately as well. Ben is currently the president of the American Topical Association Space Study unit.

1998 Congress Book

The American Philatelic Congress had their annual convention at Stampshow 98. Research papers by three of our members appear in this year's *Congress Book*. They include: **Dr. John L. Dubois**, of Boston, *The United States and Brazil Mail Steamship Companies 1866-1893*; our former editor, **Michel Forand** of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, for *The Footprint of Heaven: Fanning Island, a Philatelic Outpost*; and current editor **David L. Herendeen**, of Torrance, CA, for *Foundations of Colonial Postage Due: 1874-1909*.

John and Dave attended a wine and cheese party where contributors gave brief presentations describing their papers, and autographed copies of the Congress Book for other attendees.



BCPSG members **Dr. John DuBois**, holding his **McCoy** award, and **Dave Herendeen**

John's paper won the prestigious **Walter R. McCoy** award for the best article in the Congress Book, and Michel won the **Erani P. Drossos** award.

APC Officers

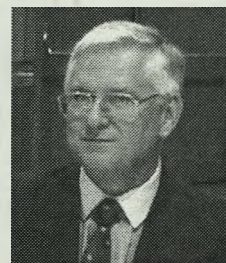
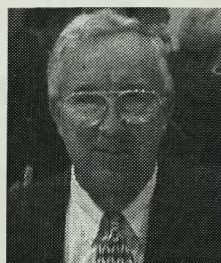
Dave Herendeen was elected 2nd Vice President of the American Philatelic Congress at the annual meeting. He joins other BCPSG members **Dr. Roger Schnell** and **Steve Shumann** as major office holders in the organization. Other members of our Group on the Council of the APC are **Dr. Peter McCann**, immediate past APC President, and **Ann Trigg**.



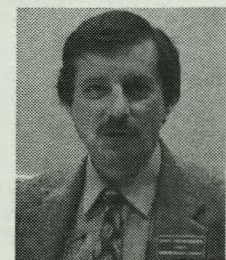
New International Director for Australasia

David "Dingle" Ingle-Smith of Canberra, Australia has graciously agreed to accept appointment to the newly created position of Associate International Director for Australasia. In this role, he will focus on organizing regional meetings and promoting membership recruitment in Australia and nearby countries. Along with group member **Darryl Fuller**, he already has begun planning for a regional BCPSG meeting in March 1999 to be held in conjunction with the FIP international exhibition in Melbourne. Details on the meeting and a special exhibition award sponsored by the BCPSG will be available in the next issue of the journal.

Continued to page 93



BCPSG sweeps APC executive offices. From upper left, **Dr. Roger Schnell**, President, **Steve Shumann**, 1st Vice President, and **Dave Herendeen**, 2nd Vice president.



Status of St. Vincent and Grenadines Post Offices

by Peter C. ELIAS

Prior to 1872, all mail into and out of St. Vincent went through the capital city of Kingstown. On 2 December, 1872, thirteen different village post offices were established. The original postmarks were a simple circle, containing either one, two or three letters for the village abbreviation, and the date. The abbreviated village cancels were followed by the small village cancels, and finally by the large village cancels with a single circle. Many of the post offices still use a similar cancel, although some of the newer post offices (as well as some of the older established ones) now use a *double circle* postmark. These are illustrated in subsequent sections of this article.

At present there are 48 village post offices on St. Vincent and seven on the Grenadine islands — two each on Bequia and Union Island. A map of St. Vincent is shown in Fig. 1. For an island that is only about 17 miles long and 11 miles wide, there are many village offices that appear to be in close proximity. This resulted because St. Vincent is very mountainous so that

even short distances take a while to cover, and many of the villagers do not have transportation available to pick up mail that is several miles away. Many of the smaller post offices only serve a small number of people (several hundred), and in some cases process only 50-200 pieces of mail per week.

Sizes for the various post office buildings vary, for many, they are simple structures, ranging from "huts" such as that shown in Fig. 2 and single-room houses to larger buildings, such as in Colonarie, where the post office is shared with the police station as seen in Fig. 3. In some cases, it appears that the post offices may also be part of a residence.

It has been many years since any listing of the St. Vincent Post Offices has been published. Pierce, Messenger and Lowe¹ cover St. Vincent postal history very well, but only up to about 1900. Aleong² discussed St. Vincent post offices during the 1980's and early 1990's. But there has been no more recent listing published. In

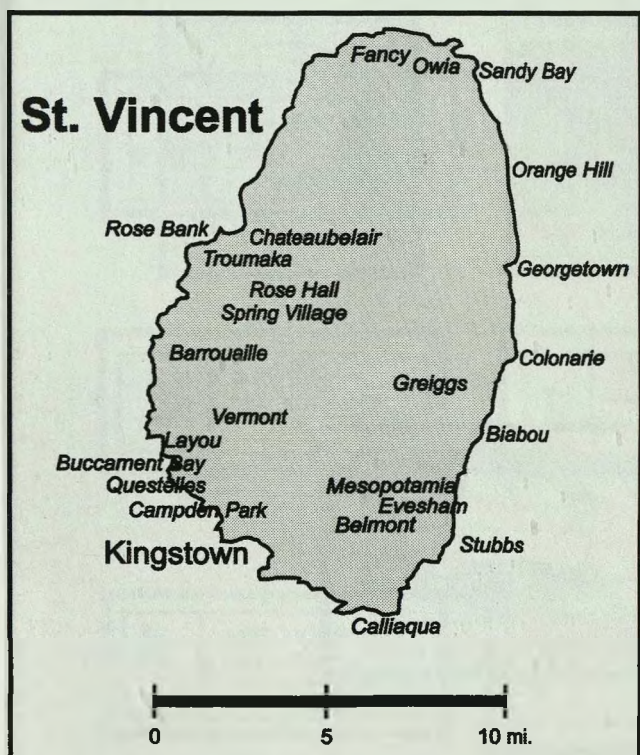


Figure 1. St. Vincent

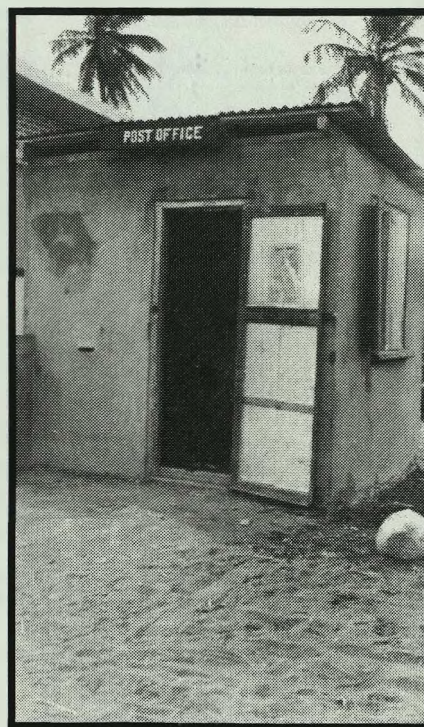


Figure 2. Evesham Post Office (ca. 1969)
A bit on the basic side...



Figure 3. Colonarie Post Office (Oct 1969)

this article, I have combined past information with recent data on postmarks and registration labels that have been provided by the St. Vincent Philatelic Services³ and Postal Officials.⁴

According to my contact at the St. Vincent Philatelic Services, all post offices now have *registration* services. Such service was limited to just the larger dis-

trict post offices until fairly recently, but no date was provided as to when this took effect.

Obtaining Postmarks and Registration Labels

I then formulated a plan to obtain copies of the current postmarks and registration labels in use. To this end, I prepared SASE's to cover postage (EC\$ 0.90) and Registration (EC\$2.50) costs and submitted them to my contact. She then forwarded these to the various village postmasters/postmistresses for postmarking and registration services. Examples of the various postmarks and registration labels are illustrated in the following sections

The Postmarks

There are three general types of *double circle* postmarks in use. The first, shown in Fig. 4a for Peniston, includes the words "ST. VINCENT W.I." The second, is inscribed "ST. VINCENT WEST INDIES" as shown in Fig. 4b for Barrouaille. The third is inscribed "ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES" plus the village

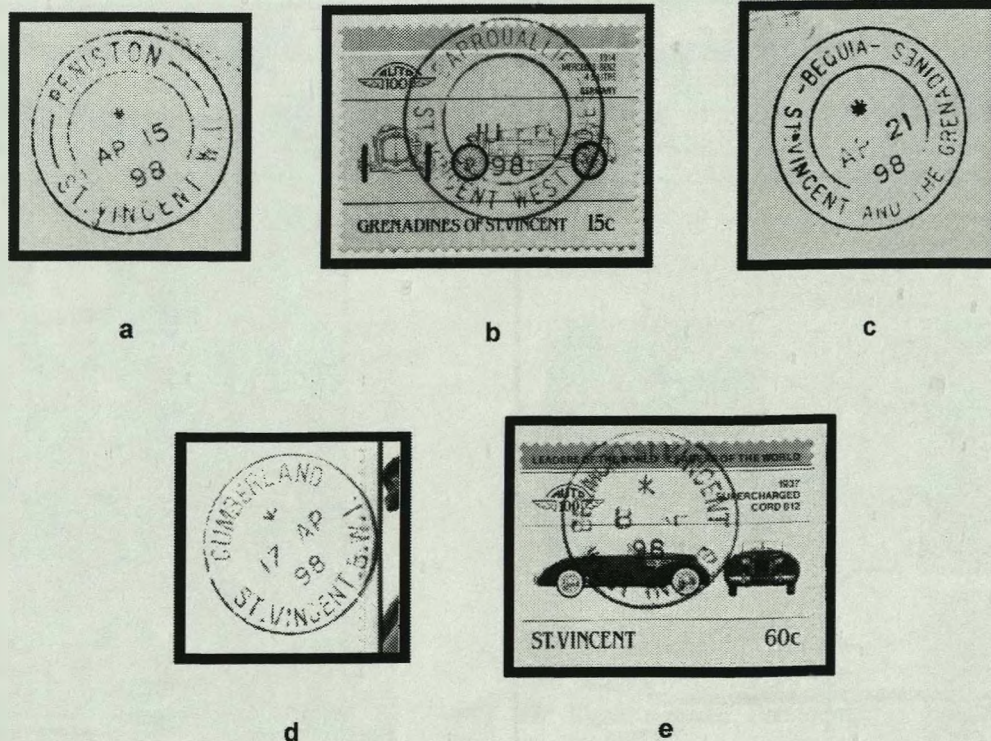


Figure 4. Examples of Current Postmarks.

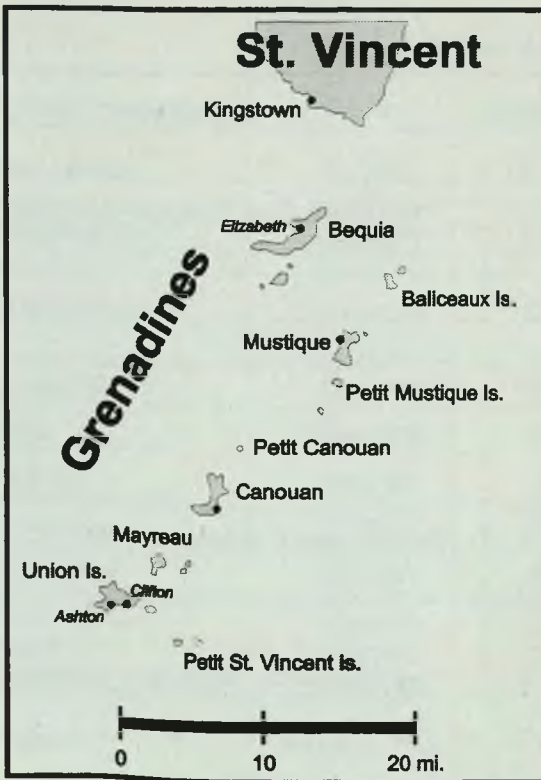


Figure 5. The Grenadines of St. Vincent

name. This is shown for Bequia (Port Elizabeth) in Fig. 4c. There are two types of the smaller, *single circle* postmarks in use, the primary difference is that the type size is extremely small on the second type (and appears to be in use only in Kingstown and Layou). Figure 4d illustrates the single circle of Cumberland with the words "ST. VINCENT W.I." Similarly, Fig. 4e shows the inscription "ST. VINCENT WEST INDIES" on the single circle of Belmont.

Table 1 provides a listing of all St. Vincent Village Post Offices and shows the original opening date (and closure / reopen dates where applicable), the current status (OPEN or CLOSED), and the type of postmark in use: single circle (S) or double circle (D).

The Grenadines, shown in Figure 5, have only seven offices. Table 2 provides the complete information for them.

The Registration Labels

Registration labels in use currently appear to be of the dry-gummed type with roulette perforations. They consist of a rectangular box with a large "R" on the left quarter side, the name of the post office above "St. Vincent," a divider line, and a handstamped number at the bottom. Two main types have been noted. The first is a

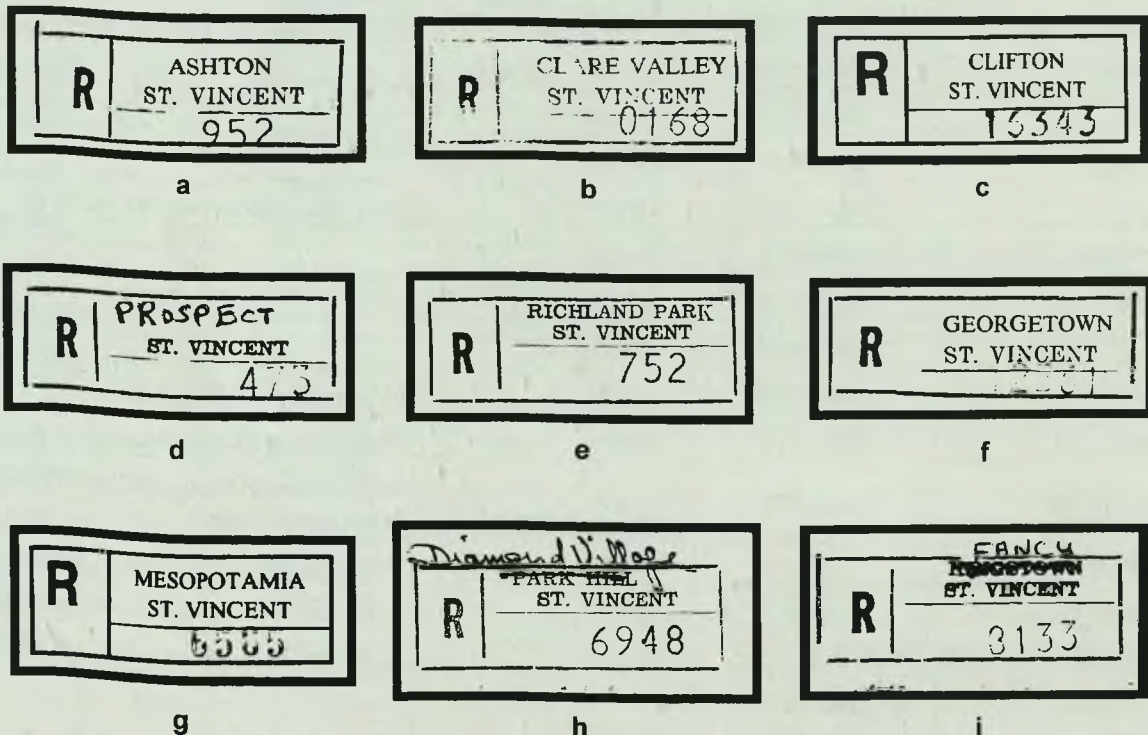


Figure 6. The Registration labels.

Table 1. St. Vincent village post offices.

Village Post Office	Opened	Status	Pmk(S/D)	Comments
Arnos Vale	1May1936	OPEN	S	
Barrouallie	2Dec1872	OPEN	D	Used "handwritten" registration (no label?)
Belmont	1Oct1966	OPEN	S	
Biabou	2Dec872	OPEN	D	
Bridgetown	21Jul1905	OPEN	?	
Buccament closed reopened closed	2Dec1872 31Dec1887 31Dec1887 1Aug1896	CLOSED		
Byera Hill?	19Apr1958	OPEN	S	Possibly opened on 1 January 1958
Calder	23Nov1964	OPEN	D	
Calliaqua	2Dec1872	OPEN	D	
Campden Park	1Dec1973	OPEN	S	Used "handwritten" registration (no label?)
Chateaubelair	2Dec1872	OPEN	D	
Clare Valley	1Nov1989	OPEN	D	
Colonarie	2Dec1872	OPEN	S	
Cumberland closed reopened closed reopened	2Dec1872 1Aug1896 3May1902 31Dec1902 1Apr1910	OPEN	S	
Diamond Village	1Apr1970	OPEN	S	Used "Park Hill" registration label
Edinboro	1May1936	OPEN	D	
Enhams	1Apr1988	OPEN	?	
Evesham	2Mar1953	OPEN	D	
Fancy	1Feb1984	OPEN	S	Used "Kingstown" registration label
Georgetown	2Dec1872	OPEN	D	
Gomea	6Dec1962	OPEN	D	
Greggs	17Sep1973	OPEN	D	
Lauders	10Apr1989	OPEN	D	note: need registration label...
Layou	2Dec1872	OPEN	S	Postmarks uses small letters similar to Kingstown
Lodge Village	3Dec1973	OPEN	D	Postmark reads "Lodge Village" but registration label is just "Lodge"
Lowmans Hill	1Jan1952	OPEN	S	Sub-post office established on 1 July 1941
Lowmans Windward	1Jan1952	OPEN	D	Registration label is abbrev. "Lowmans WD"
Mt. Grennan	?	OPEN	D	Registration label paper with light blue tint
Mesopotamia closed reopened	2Dec1872 31Dec1887 10Feb1888	OPEN	D	

Table 1 (Cont'd). St. Vincent village post offices.

Village Post Office	Opened	Status	Pmk(S/D)	Comments
New Adelphi	1Jul1913	CLOSED		Transferred to New Grounds on 1 December 1932
New Grounds	1Dec1932	OPEN	D	Originally named "New Ground"
O'BriensValley	23Nov1964	OPEN	S	Postmark reads "O'Brien's Valley", but registration label reads "O'Briens", opening date may be 1 December 1964
Orange Hill	1Jun1912	OPEN	D	
Owia	1Dec1973	OPEN	S	
Park Hill	1Dec1962	OPEN	D	
Peniston	?	OPEN	D	
Petit Bordel	2Jan1992	OPEN	?	
Peruvian Vale closed reopened	1Jan1888 1Jan1898 18Dec1898	OPEN	D	
Prospect	16Nov 956	OPEN	S	Used generic "St. Vincent" registration label with "Prospect" handwritten, on light green paper
Questelles	1Jan1932	OPEN	S	
Rabacca closed reopened closed	2Dec1872 31Dec1887 1Jan1890 1Aug1896	CLOSED		
Richland Park	1Mar1965	OPEN	S	"K" in "Park" on registration label is of a different font
Rilland Hill	16Aug1973	OPEN	S	Used "Kingstown" registration label with "Rilland Hill" handwritten, light green paper
Rose Bank	17Sep1973	OPEN	S	
Rose Hall	??Mar1960	OPEN	S	
Sandy Bay	1Nov1959	OPEN	D	
Sion Hill	1May 1936	OPEN	D	
South Rivers	?	OPEN	S	
Spring Village	??Apr1959	OPEN	S	
Stubbs closed reopened	2Dec1872 31Dec1887 2Feb1889	OPEN	D	
Troumaca	1Apr1910	OPEN	D	
Union Estate closed	2Dec1872 21Jul1905	CLOSED		Transferred to Bridgetown
Vermont	4Jul1984	OPEN	S	Used "Buccament" registration label

Table 2. The St. Vincent Grenadines village post offices.

Village Post Office	Opened	Status	Pmk(S/D)	Comments
Ashton, Union Island	1Oct1894	OPEN	D	Moved to Clifton on 1 April 1911. Registration label paper of slight blue tint
Bequia (Port Elizabeth)	9Jul1894	OPEN	S	
Canouan Island	1Oct1894	OPEN	D	
Clifton, Union Island	1Apr1911?	OPEN	D	Uses "UNION pmk, but "CLIFTON" is on the the Registration Label
Mayreau Island	1Oct1894	OPEN	S	
Mustique Island	1Feb1958	OPEN	S	
Paget Farm, Bequia	1Sep1945	OPEN	D	

narrow "R" such as those shown in Figs. 6a and 6b. The second is the wide "R", shown in Fig 6c. The "R" is of sans-serif type, while post office name and "St. Vincent" use serif typefaces.

Registration labels are generally on white paper. However, Ashton has been noted on paper with a slight blue tint; Prospect with light green paper on the generic St. Vincent registration label as shown in Fig. 6d; and Rilland Hill using a Kingstown registration label on light green paper. Minor variations in typeface styles and sizes exists such as the large "K" in Richland Park illustrated in Fig. 6e and the Georgetown with missing vertical line, Fig. 6f. The registration number is generally of sans-serif type, however Mesopotamia (Fig. 6g) and New Grounds have been seen with serified numbers. Provisional uses of the labels include Park Hill used in Diamond Village (Fig. 6h) and Kingstown used in Fancy (Fig. 6i).

Acknowledgment and References

The author wishes to thank Faustina Lewis of the St. Vincent Philatelic Services for her invaluable assistance in obtaining cancellations and registration labels.

1. Pierce, A.D., Messenger, J.L. and Lowe, R., *St. Vincent*, Robson Lowe Ltd., London, 1971.
2. Chin Aleong, J. (ed.), "St. Vincent Village Cancellations, 1872-1972," *West Indies Stamps and Postal History Review*, July 1981, October 1981, December 1981, September 1982, December 1982, June 1983, November 1983, December 1983, and June 1984.
3. Lewis, F. (St. Vincent Philatelic Services), Personal correspondence, 1997-98.
4. Providence, M., (Postmaster General St. Vincent), Personal correspondence, 1997-98. St. Vincent.

Early Example of the 1874 Barbados One Penny Blue

By Robert LEBOW

A recently discovered copy of the 1874 Barbados one penny blue, perf 14 (Scott 45, SG 66) canceled on 29 April 1874 (see adjoining figure) could possibly represent a new earliest recorded date for this issue. This stamp was the last Barbados issue printed by Perkins, Bacon, and Co. According to the *Stamps of Barbados* by E. Bayley, this issue was dispatched from England to Barbados on March 28, 1874. The same source indicates that the one penny blue was mentioned in the *American Journal of Philately* on May 20, 1874.



Since the shipment of stamps left from London, probably passing through the port of Southampton, it could have arrived at Barbados in less than 30 days. Thus, it possible for this stamp to have been available at the Barbados General Post Office prior to 29 April 1874.

Can any members confirm that this is the earliest recorded date? Examples of early dates, as well other information on the 1874 perf 14 Barbados one penny blue, would be greatly appreciated and can be directed to:

Bob Lebow
1322 East Brooklake
Houston, TX, 77077-3204
e-mail: bobbex@prodigy.net.

Caribbean Updates

by Gale. J. RAYMOND

Belize — Another U.S. APO 34026 has trickled in from Belize, which cover had an additional double-circle small utility-dater in transit of APO 34025 of the American Embassy, Belize City. As the new APO is unlisted, it is apparently a Mail-Address-Only (MAO) for military forces with the drug interdiction operations working in and from Belize. Some MAOs have hand cancels, but most do *not*.

Bahamas — My last secretary and her husband spent May 1998 sharing a small house on Great Guana Cay, near Abaco Island. Surprisingly, all mail was hand canceled with the large datestamp shown in Figure 1. She apologized, as the cay's last-known postmark had gone missing, lost, or stolen a few years back. The datestamp's temporary replacement was simply on loan from the district post office at Marsh Harbour, pending arrival of a new cancel for Great Guana Bay. Watch this space for updates — but don't hold your breath too long! Time flies when you are having fun in the balmy Bahamas.

If you enjoyed the previous article on the history of Whale Cay in the Berry Islands, Bahamas (*BCPJ*, June 1991), be aware that an American edition of the book

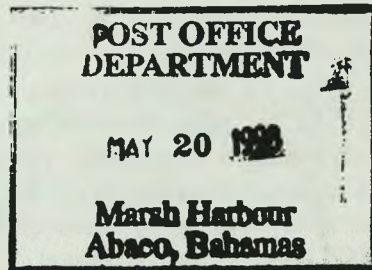


Figure 1. Marsh Harbor handstamp.

THE QUEEN OF WHALE CAY, The Eccentric Story of "Joe" Carstairs, Fastest Woman on Water is now available. Written by Kate Summerscale, this book was a London Times Bestseller. Readers should be broad-minded; a delightful book.

For reports (with dates) of other surviving steel datestamps of *Whale Cay, Bahamas*, I must thank Michael Medlicott (1911), John Bonang (SEP1910), Trevor Davis (a QV 1d dated JUL1911), Simon Goldblatt (10APR1910), mine (19MAY1911), and again



Figure 2. Sole surviving Whale Cay, Bahamas picture postcard, December 1915.

Trevor Davis (U.K.) for his apparently sole surviving picture postcard, Whale Cay dated DEC1915, shown in Fig. 2. The "19" is omitted from all year dates. Trevor reports only six known datestamps of Whale Cay, and the sole postcard. Most strikes are only partial.

The John Forrest pair illustrated in the earlier article has the clearest full strike, and my own (ex-Gavalek) has the next best Whale Cay full-strike dated 19MAY11. Thus, the known surviving cancels are in the APR 1910-1918 range. Any additional confirmed reports would be deeply appreciated. T. Davis confirms his postcard so cancelled exists only in his personal collection, and open weeping by those of us who have actually *SEEN* it has not swayed him at all. —

Amazingly, only three examples of the Berry Islands 1983 steel die cancels of *Chubb Cay, Bahamas* on registered covers or postcard are known to have survived. A Dr. Walter Hess philatelic cover from Pittsburgh PA, dated May 1929, rubberstamped "NATIONAL ELIMINATION BALLOON RACES etc." bears a red-ink manuscript notation "Airmail delayed by crash at Berry Islands May 4," backstamped Nassau, May 6, 1929. Yet another bit of Berry Islands postal history.

Sarasota Jury Selected

The philatelic jury for the 1999 Sarasota National Stamp Show, site of the BCPSG Annual General Meeting has been named.

In addition to our group, the Confederate Stamp Alliance will also be having their convention. Three BCPSG members are on the jury. They are: **Dr. Peter P. McCann** of Annapolis, MD; **Jerone R. Hart** of New Haven, CT; and **David L. Herendeen** of Torrance, CA. Dr. McCann is the chairperson. The remaining panel members are Dr. Daniel C. Warren of Gloucester, VA and Dr. James P. Mazepa of Oak Park, IL.

This jury has extensive experience and broad philatelic knowledge, including the British Caribbean area.

**ARE YOU READY
FOR SARASOTA?**

**Less than Four Months
to GO!!**

London 200 Bulletin Available

Bulletin 1 for the The Stamp Show 2000, to be held from 22-28 May 2000 at Earls Court, London is now available. Attendees were able to receive them from the U.S. Commissioners at StampShow 98. To request the Bulletin, those living in the eastern U.S. should contact commissioner:

Dr. Michael Dixon, FRPSL
P.O. Box 60007
Potomac, MD 20859-0007
Phone: 301-299-7157
eMail: mdd@access.digex.net

for those in the midwest or western U.S., contact commissioner:

Ms. Ann Triggle, FRPSL
4865 Spaulding Dr.
Clarence, NY 14031
Phone: 716-759-7185
eMail: atriggle@acsu.buffalo.edu

No fees should be sent when requesting the application, but there is a \$5 application fee due when submitting a completed application. Completed applications for philatelic exhibits must reach the commissioners by 1 April 1999, and the deadline for published literature entries is 15 February 1999.

Richard C.A. Payne, FRPSL, is the Chairman of the Philatelic Advisory Board. The editor had an opportunity to spend some time with Richard during StampShow 98. He is very enthusiastic about his show and invites everyone to be a part of the experience. BCPSG member and advertiser **Chris Rainey** is also a member of this prestigious board.

See **Rob Wynstra's President's Message** in the June 1998 issue of the *BCPJ* for details about the plans the Group is making for what has always been one of the greatest international stamp exhibitions. The highlight will be a two-day joint meeting with the **British West Indies Study Circle** (BWISC) on the weekend just prior to the Monday opening of the the show.

For the convenience of Canadian members, the commissioner is:

Mr. Clifford R Guile
PO Box #180
Port Hope, Ontario L1A 3W3
Phone: 905-885-7540

Cayman New Post Office

by Ivan BURGES

On Friday, 1 August 1997, the Grand Caymans Mail Processing Centre (MPC) opened its doors. The MPC, shown in Fig. 1, boasts a state of the art mail management system called perlnet. This allows the MPC to handle the sorting and distributing of all mail, including parcels and express in the Cayman Islands. Additionally, the MPC also offers full counter and retail service post office, named the Airport Post Office, or APO. The new Centre is located near Grand Caymans Owen Roberts Airport.

The MPC added 1,974 new post office boxes for customers to rent. This brings the total number of P.O boxes to 7,500.

The complex cost in excess of US\$3 million to build. Unfortunately, there has been no official opening of the facility to date.

The MPC began operation using the cancellations of the George Town Head Post Office. These were soon replaced by three special cancellations for the MPC and

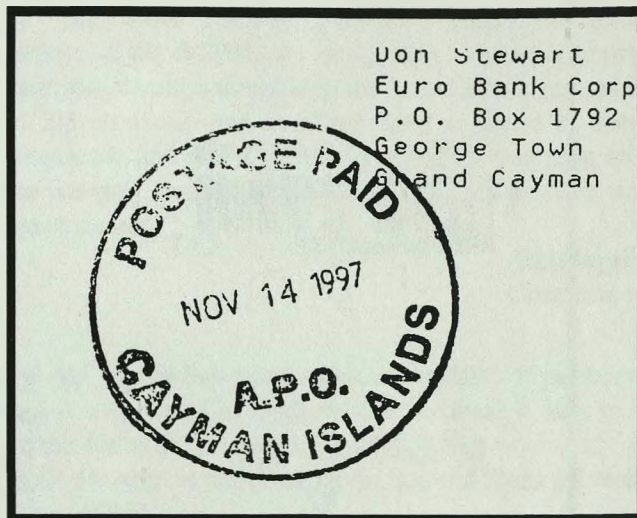


Figure 2. The APO Postage Paid Cancellor.

the APO. Regretfully, no information has been forthcoming from the postal authorities on when these cancellations were first used. The earliest of these is the postage paid APO marking, shown in Fig. 2, which was introduced in November 1997. A registration hand-



Figure 1. The new Grand Caymans Mail Processing Centre.

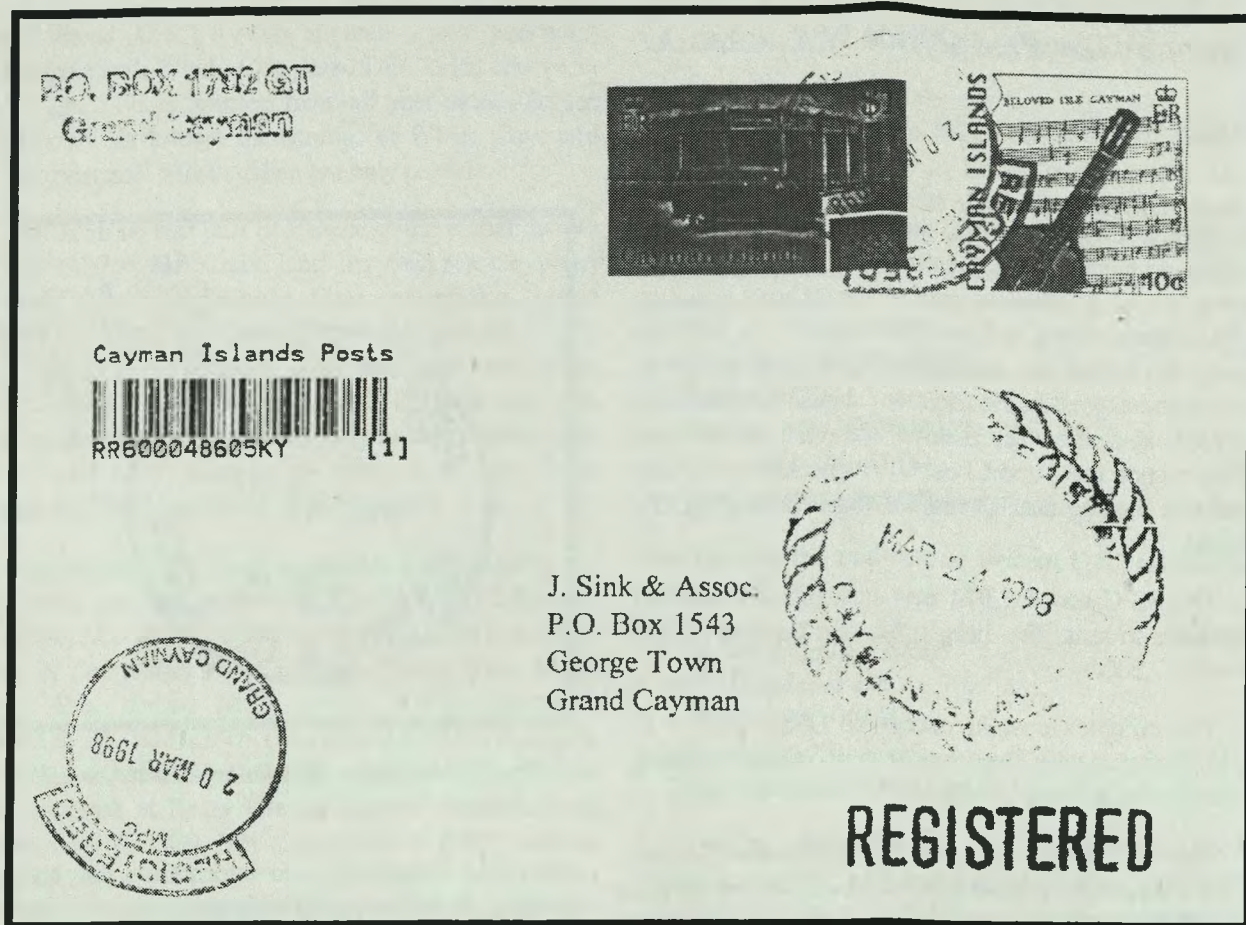


Figure 3. Registration handstamp.

stamp, shown in Fig. 3, is believed to have first been used in February 1998. Examples have been seen in both red and black ink.

Finally, the MPC cancellation, shown in Fig. 4, appeared in March or April 1998.

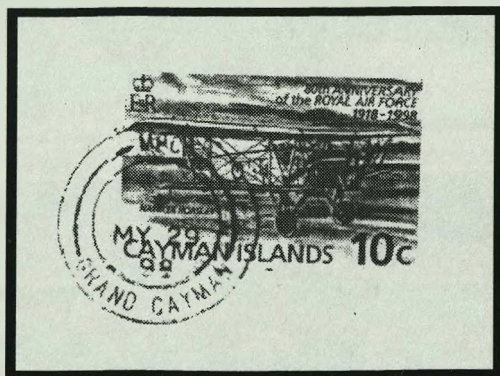


Figure 4. The MPC cancellation.

Peter H.G. Thompson, 1925-1998

Sadly, another long-time BCPSG early-bird, **Peter H. G. Thompson**, passed away on 2 July 1998 at the age of 73.

An oilfield specialist ex-Persian Gulf and Trinidad, West Indies, Pete was an advanced collector of British Caribbean material, of which he enjoyed the quest and the postal history research enormously. A former Texaco staffman, he retired some years ago to Houston, TX where he lived at the time of his passing. He is survived by his beloved wife, Ann, and a large family of six. He will be missed.

Gale J. Raymond

Letters to the Editor

I am heartened by the number of letters I have received since the June issue. The BCPJ belongs to all of the members and your feedback is both welcome and necessary. The success of the Journal should be measured by what it delivers to the membership. I pledge to always consider all comments, criticisms and suggestions and to act upon them as required. — DLH

Really enjoyed the photos of the officers and members of BCPSG attending the annual meeting. As a relatively new member (2 years) of the group, it was nice to be able to put faces to the names I have been reading about and dealing with, and to see they are all as handsome as I imagined!

W.A. Atmore's Jamaica article was fascinating, and I am still digesting it.

Altogether, a most enjoyable issue of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal!

Annemarie Rodger
Ottawa, Canada

A word of, I hope, minor constructive criticism about the June 98 Journal. I really dislike the appearance of the informational messages interspersed through the journal. I do think that mentioning Sarasota four times in thirty-six pages is overkill. It may be tempting to shove one in as a filler for page layout purposes as needed, but I got irritated by them after the second.

As for the appearance of those text boxes several comments: I found the triple border to be too heavy on the eye; an apparent attempt at shading within the text box (p. 46) did not look good; and the typeface you are using for your "Headlines" is distracting and ruins the look of the rest of the page. I think Times Roman and whatever that is in the text boxes it is a bad mix. There are typeface combinations that mix well when used very judiciously, but this is not one of them.

On the other hand, I definitely liked your cover effort of placing text on two arcs and keeping it upright rather than bending the letters as well as the baseline.

That came off looking very good above and "framing" the photo.

Unlike the majority, I do not consider the social aspects of the BCPSG (or any group) to be very important and am not interested in the "newsletter" aspects of it. Nevertheless, you, as editor, have to please as many as you can and still respect yourself in the morning, so I do not envy you the tough balancing act of which I was quite aware.

Bob Ingalls
Connecticut

As Mr. Ingalls indicates, much of the "art" of page layout is a matter of individual taste. As always, beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I actively solicit comments on both the content and look of the Journal from all readers. — DLH

You are doing a good job on the Journal. Michel is not an easy act to follow. I like the fellowship theme and I am interested in the descriptions of the awards collections though I hope there is still room for the research articles. I think the balance was fine in the June Journal.

A more detailed description of the top specialised collections, with illustrations, would also be popular, I believe, particularly collections that are relatively "fresh" or that have not appeared in competition.

Charles Freeland
Basel, Switzerland

Thanks for sending a copy of the BCPJ. I really enjoyed reading the magazine as well as looking over my own contribution. Your magazine is well done!

Thanks for devoting some space to KIDSTAMP. Your help was appreciated. I really enjoyed the Spotlight on BCPSG Exhibitors.

Nicole Pendleton
Tennessee

British Virgin Islands Stamp Show 98 Was a Resounding Success

By Giorgio MIGLIAVACCA

The 7th Annual Stamp Show at the new Barclays Bank building last weekend (20-21 June) was a huge success; this was quite apparent especially on Saturday 20 June when hundreds of visitors crowded the exhibition hall. Stamp and phone card collectors from St. Croix, St. Eustatius, St. Martin, St. Thomas, Martinique, Barcelona (Spain), the USA, France and Britain spent the weekend at Barclays admiring the many interesting exhibits and buying and trading stamps, coins, and most of all, phone cards. Even Barclays General Manager, Mr. Charles Crane couldn't help but remark publicly at the closing ceremony that he has seen serious money changing hands.

On Saturday visitors were greeted by the Shooting Stars steel band and this added a special touch to the well organized event.

The exhibit from the Liechtenstein Postal Museum and Sports on Stamps (the exhibition's theme) were the main attractions, but the addition of ten beautiful frames facilitated the organizers in attracting impressive displays of phone cards, thematic collections, and specialized studies, including early BVI and Victorian stamps.

At the opening ceremony both Governor David Mackilligin (on his last public appearance in the BVI) and Chief Minister Ralph O'Neal had words of praise for the organizers.

The palmares banquet was held on Saturday evening at the Treasure Island Hotel with more than 50 invitees in attendance. At the ceremony, awards and diplomas were presented to exhibitors by Health, Education and Welfare Minister, Hon. Eileene Parsons. A special presentation to meritorious members of the BVI Philatelic Society saw Hon. Reuben Vanterpool present gift certificates to four ladies who have contributed to the Society with dedicated work; their names are: Mrs. Thelma Swain, Ms. Ione Cox; Mrs. Astrid Wenske and Mrs. Jo Warner. *[Both Ms. Cox and Mrs. Warner and members of the BCPSG — DLH]*

The flow of public was less intense on Sunday but despite Father's Day activities and World Cup telecasts a few hundreds visited the exhibition.

At the closing ceremony the results of the BVI Stamp Popularity Poll were announced with the 1997

Definitive Series featuring Game Fish (Most Important of the Year) and the Sir Francis Drake souvenir sheet (Best Design of the Year) securing the top positions.

Two students from Cedar School in Road Town (Rebecca Peck and Rebecca MacKenzie) and one student from the British Virgin Islands High School (Jehiah Maduro) were declared winners of the "Design a Stamp" competition and their designs are now being utilized for the 1998 Festival stamps which will be issued in July. Each winner not only earned a \$75 Savings Account at Barclays, but also a \$300 check from Barclays for his/her school. In fact, Barclays has been the sponsor of the territory-wide competition since its inception in 1995; in that year four students designed the winning entries for the Christmas set. According to Barclays General manager, Mr. Charles Crane, it is hoped that the "Design a Stamp" competition will become a yearly affair with greater participation from all the local schools. He also urged Hon. Angel Smith to ensure a larger participation from BVI schools, especially the outer islands such as Jost Van Dyke, Anegada, and Virgin Gorda.

The closing ceremony was attended by Education Ministry Private Secretary Hon. Angel Smith and Speaker of the House Hon. Reuben Vanterpool. Hon. Smith presented the prizes to the students and to the schools' principals.



BCPSG member Ione Cox at her exhibit frames.

The date for the 1999 Stamp Show is already set for 1-2 May when members of the Italy and Colonies Study Circle will converge on the BVI to hold their International Meeting and celebrate their 25th anniversary. The 1999 show will not necessarily focus on Italian stamps since the visiting group, which is expected to range from 40 to 60, will exhibit stamps from a variety of countries. Vice-president of the BVI Philatelic Society, Roger Downing said that next year's show will benefit from an extra large format to accommodate the visiting group while allowing local members to exhibit.

A lavish book of some 64 pages was published for the '98 show; it includes interesting articles on Liechtenstein stamps and postal history, Coats of Arms of the British West Indies, Falconry on Stamps, and Pavarotti & Friends on Stamps. It can be obtained by sending US\$5 to the BVI Philatelic Society. Programs with valuable articles from earlier shows are also available at the same price. A special postmark saluting France 98 World Cup was used for the two-day event (see adjacent figure); cacheted covers are available from the society at US\$3 each. Overseas members are most welcome and, in fact, the Society already has over thirty of them.

The address of the BVI Philatelic Society is: P.O. Box 704, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. The eMail address is: issun@caribsurf.com.

Exhibitors

The Stamp Show included 22 exhibits. [Note: *BCPSG members are shown in bold italics — DLH*]

Ione Cox — Sports on Stamps

Violet Decastro — Sports on Caribbean Stamps

Roger Downing — BVI Varieties and Flaws: One Penny; BVI Varieties and Flaws: 6d., 1 shilling; Sports on Stamps - Czechoslovakia

Kieth & Rosemarie Flax — BVI Stamps

Richolette John — Birds and Flowers on Stamps

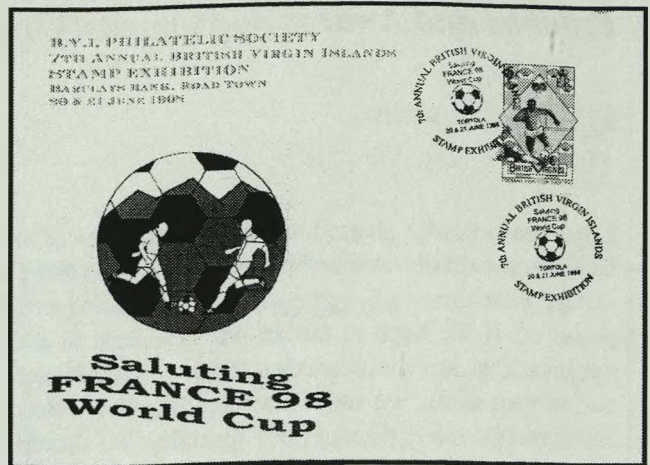
John Lewis — Olympic & Commonwealth Sports

Liechtenstein Postal Museum — Liechtenstein

Girogio Migliavacca — 20th Century Through Stamps

Jurgen Mossack — Opera Composers on Stamps

Vernon Pickering — The Coins of Tortola of the 1800s; Football Stamps and Postmarks; Diana - The People's Princess



Irma Smith — Sports on World Stamps; Orchids, Scouts & Guides
Thelma Swain — Fauna on Stamps

Joyce Titley — Sports * Royalty * Birds

Roseanne Vanterpool — Montserrat

Jo Warner — Badges & Emblems of the British West Indies; Victoria Regina: The Royal Image

Astrid Wnnzke — Sports on Phone Cards

Member News

Continued from page 80

To assist in planning for this event, members who will be attending the Melbourne exhibition are asked to please contact him at: 5 Vest Place, Weetangera, Canberra, ACT 2614, Australia; e-mail:

dingle@cres.anu.edu.au

Additional details about Australia 99 are available on the Web at:

www.Australia99.com.au

Sellman Wins Award at Stampex

The Autumn Stampex show will be held 30 September-4 October 1998 at the Business Design Centre in London. Member **David Sellman** will show his exhibit *Bermuda - KGVI Commercial Keyplate Covers*. In advanced judging, he not only won a Silver medal at this National show, but he was also awarded the BGPSG Silver Medal. Hopefully he will show his exhibit at Stamp Show 2000 so that members outside of England have an opportunity to view it.

Exhibits and Awards

by Paul A. LARSEN

I was particularly pleased to see several new British Caribbean exhibits at the Boxborough AGM. Exhibits mature over time and eventually are dismantled or disposed of. If we hope to attract our members to attend our meetings, and the unwashed to become interested in our subject areas, we must have exhibits that entertain and show the many facets of our specialty. We should all encourage our fellow members to start up new exhibits to replace those which have faded away. Better yet, overcome the inertia and start something new yourself!

COLOPEX 98

April 5-7, 1998, Columbus, OH

R. SKAVARIL: (Literature) "*St. Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society's 20th Anniversary Anthology*," Vermeil

TEXPEX 98

April 17-19, 1998, Dallas, TX

G. MIGLIAVACCA: *Italian Prisoners of War in USA During World War II*, Vermeil, APS Post-1940 Medal, AAPE Award

OKPEX 98

May 1-3, 1998, Oklahoma City, OK

G. MIGLIAVACCA: *Albania -- Italian Occupation 1939-1943*, Vermeil, APS Post-1940 Medal, AAPE Award

R. SCHNELL: *Thuringen - 1945-1946*, Silver

R. SKAVARIL: (Literature) "*St. Helena, Ascension, and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society's 20th Anniversary Anthology*," Gold

WESTPEX 98

May 1-3, San Francisco, CA

Q. FERNANDO: *Early Ceylon: Prestamp Markings, Imperforate and Perforated Pence Issues*, Grand, Gold, Best British Commonwealth Award, Best Asian Award

G. MIGLIAVACCA: *Italian Prisoners of War in USA During World War II*, Vermeil, Post-1940 Medal

1998 Auction Results

by Ed WATEROUS

Thank you to all participants for making the 1998 auction a success. There were a total of twelve consignors, eighty-four mail/internet bidders, twelve floor bidders and one agent represented bidder. Total sales amounted to \$10,780.00. Special thanks go to *Peter Kaulback* and *Duane Larson* who helped record the bidding, calculate the totals and collect proceeds from the floor bidders. Also kudos and a big "thank you" to *Guy Dillaway* who handled the return shipment of lots that were not sold at the Boxborough show. Final thanks to *Barry Friedman* who arranged for printing and mailing of the auction catalog and to *David Druett* who accepted and tracked invoice payments on the UK end. Mailing of lots began in earnest on May 22. The last lots were mailed on May 30.

Our auction saw much action in literature/ephemera, covers, used postal stationery, stamp varieties and vintage, high quality post cards. Countries drawing the most competition were Bermuda, Jamaica, Barbados and the Cayman Islands. Covers attracting serious bids included most of the scarce first flights, village/town markings and W.W.II censored mail. The Jamaica stampless cover lot estimated at \$250-\$300 was knocked down for \$360. Please keep this report in mind when preparing your auction lots. Good items will bring serious bidders.

I appeal to all members who are thinking of parting with part or all of their collections to consider the groups auction as an outlet for their material. Our minimum lot value is \$10. The average realization this year was \$34.50. We can break your collection down into smaller size lots than many auctioneers will. However, we still need some better material to reach the break-even point in our sales. Accepted for sale are stamps, covers, postal stationery, vintage picture post cards, literature and ephemera directly related to the British Caribbean area. Keep in mind that ours is a specialist group and specialty items draw the most attention.

I am now accepting lots for the February 6, 1999 sale. Consignments will be accepted until November 10, 1998. The auction will be held in conjunction with the BCPSG annual group meeting at Sarapex in sunny Sarasota, Florida. Plan to attend and have a great time. Ship your lots to: Edward Waterous, PO Box 1105, Homewood, IL 60430. Phone (708) 799-9339 or e-mail:

ewwaterous@hotmail.com.

Trinidad: The Birthplace of British Colonial Postage Due

by David L. HERENDEEN

Introduction

During the 113 years since their introduction, little has been written about the postage due stamps of Trinidad. The purpose of this paper is to draw together in a single work what is known of these issues. Only the colonial era, 1885-1962, is considered. A study of rates and usages, with the exception of several example covers, is not presented. Note that although Trinidad and Tobago were unified in 1913, all of the postage dues were simply inscribed "Trinidad." As will be seen, there are several areas of inquiry for which definitive answers are unavailable. Perhaps new information will surface and add to the understanding of these issues.

The importance of the Caribbean islands in the comparative study of postage due stamps in the colonial empires is well established.¹ With the sole exception of the Netherlands East Indies (1874), the use of colonial postage due adhesives was initiated in the Caribbean.

The first Caribbean postage dues, which were locally printed, appeared in Guadeloupe in 1876. These were followed by those of Trinidad in 1885. The postage dues of Trinidad have played an important role in the development of British colonial postage due stamps.² The keytypes created by Thomas De La Rue and Co. for the island, and the subsequent modification of the design produced for Grenada in 1891, resulted in two of the most durable postage due stamp designs, each in continuous use for nearly a century.³

A Modest Beginning — 1885

In mid-1883, the administration of Trinidad decided to introduce special adhesive stamps to be used in collecting fines on unpaid and short-paid mail. These stamps were to be inscribed "Surcharge Postage." Considering that the non-philatelic meaning of surcharge is "to charge an additional fee," this is a reasonable choice of words. It was determined that a series of nine values, ranging from ½d to 1/-, was needed. This resulted in the longest postage due series to ever appear in the British Crown colonies.

De La Rue produced a hand-painted essay for this new design, shown in Fig. 1. This design concept was accepted, and a formal set of dies for the duty plates was

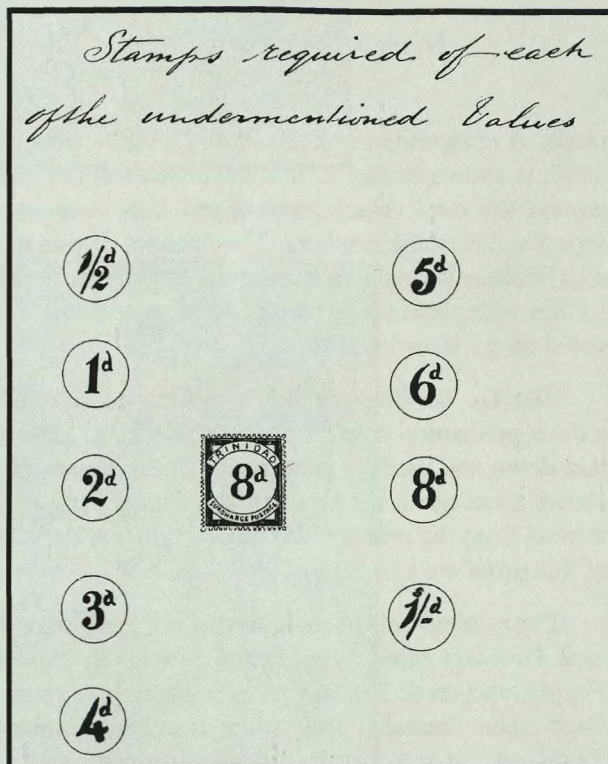


Figure 1. Original De La Rue art work of the full design and proposed duty values.

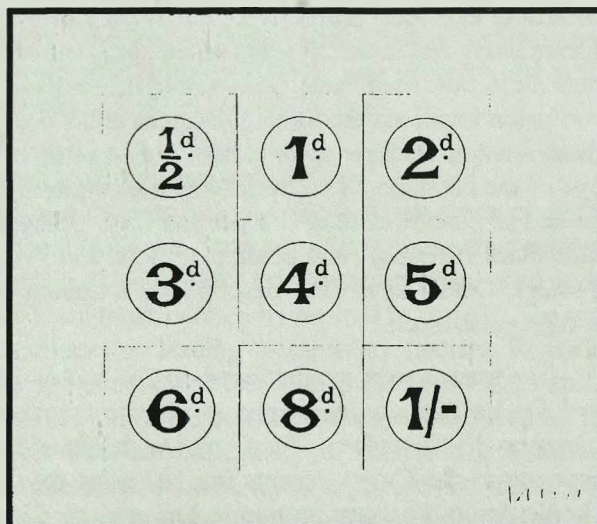


Figure 2. Composite die proofs of the final design for the duty values.



Figure 3. Die proof of frame.

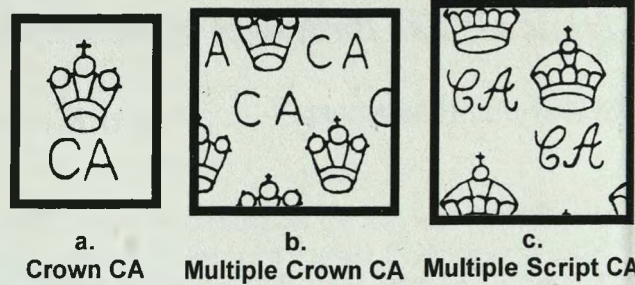
made. A composite proof of these, dated 14 November 1883, is shown in Fig. 2. It is supposed that the circles around the duty values were added later to show the aspect ratios of the numbers. They cannot be part of the dies because it would be impossible to print them on the frames with perfect registration. No displaced circles are noted on the issued stamps.

The De La Rue keyplate method was selected to reduce production costs. Thus, a single frame plate was laid down and used for printing all of the values. Fig. 3 shows a cut-down die proof of the frame, probably removed from the printer's day books. Only a few copies of this proof are known.

Plates of 60 set, 10 rows by six columns, were created. Ordinary paper watermarked Crown CA, shown in Fig. 4a, was used. The stamps were comb perforated 14. Each sheet included four plate numbers. These are found on the top margin above the second and fifth stamps, and in the bottom margin under the second and fifth stamps as shown in Fig. 10.

The author has been unable to find any information regarding individual printings for this issue. However, it seems likely that in the 20 years of use, numerous printings must have been made. This would help explain the confusion found in describing the shades of ink used for these stamps. Because color shades are so often in the eye of the beholder, these dues have been variously recorded as slate-black (e.g. Bridger and Kay,¹¹ Gibbons), blue-black (Crouch)⁴, and black (e.g. Scott and Yvert *et Tellier*). Others have used descriptions including gray and greenish black.

The stamps were requisitioned on 23 October 1883, and De La Rue was instructed to prepare the die and plates on 13 November.⁵ They sent the design and cost estimate to the Crown Agents the following day. The simple design was very economical to produce: £30 for the (frame) die and plate, and £3 each for the duty plates. The quantities printed ranged from 24,000 of the 1d to 1,500 of the 1/-. The order was invoiced on 29 January 1884.



a. Crown CA b. Multiple Crown CA c. Multiple Script CA

Figure 4. Watermarks used for the postage dues.

Having missed the start of the fiscal year, it appears that the administration decided to hold the stock of stamps until the next year. This is evidenced by a General Post Office Memorandum,⁶ signed by the Postmaster-General J.A. Bulmer, that was distributed to businesses in November 1884 stating that:

On and after 1st January, 1885, the sum to be collected in Trinidad, from the addressee, on unpaid and insufficiently paid Correspondence will be represented by a Special Stamp, or Stamps, similar to the specimen below.

Those stamps will be affixed to the cover of the Letters, &c.

With a view to expediting the delivery of mails by abolishing the present system of debiting unpaid charges in the books of this Department, and also of preventing errors of overcharges, I beg to solicit your co-operation by providing your messenger, on the arrival of each Mail, with a sum sufficient to cover the charges on any unpaid or insufficiently paid Correspondence so that the charges may be collected when the Correspondence is delivered.

From the date mentioned, all Registered and Unpaid Correspondence for your firm, arriving by English Mail, will be delivered in the room set apart for delivery to Private Boxholders together with the ordinary Correspondence.

This memorandum is important not only because it announces the introduction of the postage dues, but also because it clearly expresses the reason to do so in terms of the accounting system. It thus confirms that the administration of Trinidad had a demand for these stamps, and that they had integrated them into their postal accounting system. This is the criteria Gough⁷ and other specialist have used to establish legitimacy of a postage due issue. Marriott⁸ provides a detailed description of the procedures used in handling the postage due mail and accounting for the stamps themselves.

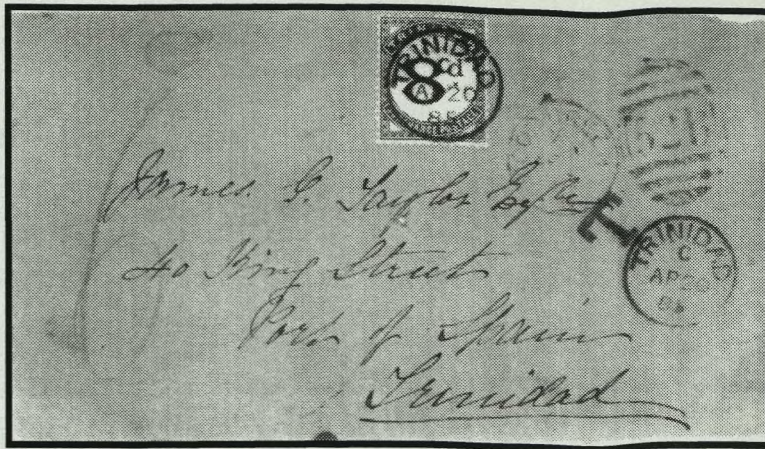


Figure 5. Earliest known cover and only 8d on cover, 20 April 1885

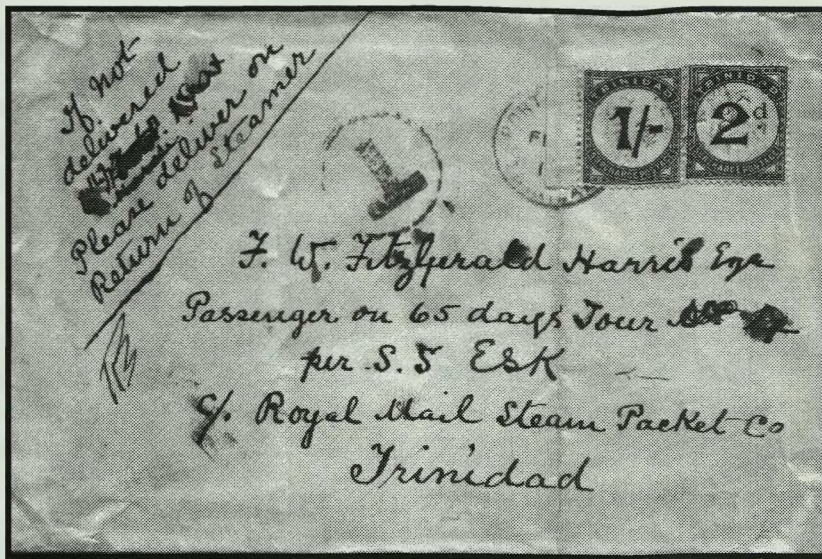


Figure 6. One of fewer than five known covers with the 1s.

The initial printing quantities for the lower values were large, further indicating a significant volume of short and unpaid mail. An anomaly occurs, however, in that only around 10 covers from the 19th Century have survived even though thousands must have existed. The earliest known cover, dated 20 April 1885, is shown in Fig. 5. This cover is also distinctive in that it is the only known use of the 8d due. This charge included 6d payable for carriage from England.

It is concluded that the unpopularity of postage due labels, and the general disinterest in saving entire covers during this era, must explain the contradiction. This hypothesis is supported by a similar shortage of covers for the 19th century postage dues of Grenada.¹ Additionally scarce are the usages of the high values. One of fewer than five covers known with the 1s value is shown in

Fig. 6. This heavy, wax-sealed cover to a ship passenger, dated 20 February 1901, was charged 14d with a combination of the 1/- and 2d dues.

The Local Specimens

Samuel⁹ records two types of local specimen overprints of the 1885 issue. Shown in Fig. 7, these are designated Types TRI1 and TRI2 (all specimen types cited in this paper are those defined by Samuel in Ref. 9). The exact circumstances leading to these are unclear. Regarding TRI1, Samuel notes that: "...On the 1850 CC 5s and on the 1876 CC 14 6d bright yellow-green we find the first of the local handstamps Type TRI1. But it is believed that these stamps were not overprinted until about 1884 when together with the Queen's Head issues they formed a presentation set of denominations from 1/2d to 5s which also included the first postage due stamps."



SPECIMEN

a. Type TRI1



SPECIMEN

b. Type TRI2

Figure 7. The local Specimen overprints.

He also indicates that the second local handstamp, Type TRI2, is found on all denominations of the 1896-1900 issues and on the 1885 postage due set.

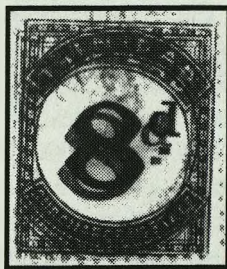
He believes that handstamp TRI1 was introduced in 1884 and TRI2 in 1896. However, no documentary evidence is available to explain them in detail.

Varieties

Thomas De La Rue and Co. had a reputation of printing the highest quality stamps for more than a century. As such, very few varieties may be found. There are, however, several for this first postage due issue.

There are two varieties in the Royal Collection¹⁰ which have not been seen elsewhere. The first is the 2d value printed in blue-black, and the second is the 8d printed double. There must have been at least 60 of the latter, illustrated in Fig. 8a, but perhaps after the presentation to the Crown, the remainders were destroyed.

A third variety, shown in Fig. 8b, is the 1/2d strongly offset on the reverse. Several additional varieties, including the so-called the "Upright Slash" also exist. As these were common to all of the 1/- denominated



a.



b.

Figure 8. Varieties of the De La Rue issues.

stamps, they are discussed in a subsequent section of this paper.

The Multiple Crown CA Issue — 1905

With the introduction by the Crown Agents of the Multiple Crown CA watermarked paper, shown in Fig. 4b, a new series of eight postage dues was printed in 1905-06. This was done as supplies of the old values became exhausted. The same plates were used, and the 1/2d value, which had no functional use, was eliminated. The author has not found any detailed printing information for this issue.

Varieties

Again, several varieties have been noted for this issue. Both the 3d and 4d values with inverted watermark have been reported, three of the former and only a single example of the latter have been noted. Other varieties include those for the 1/- described below.

The Multiple Script CA Issue — 1922

In 1921 the Crown Agents changed to the Multiple Script CA watermarked paper (Fig. 4c) for all of the colonial stamp issues. Although Trinidad and Tobago were merged in 1913, and although the inscriptions on the postage stamps were changed accordingly, the Tobago name was never added to the postage dues during the colonial period. Rather than reprinting the entire supply of Trinidad postage dues, the paper change was again made only as supplies in stock were exhausted. Not surprisingly, the four higher values (5d to 1/-), which were required far less often than the four lower ones (1d to 4d), were not printed until late in World War II (1944-45). As will be seen subsequently, this is a decade after the conversion to decimal currency.

This staggering of release dates resulted in an anomaly with regard to the specimen stamps. The complete "set" includes three different types, as shown in Fig. 9. The 2d shows Type D12; the 1d, 3d and 4d Type D16 in red; and the remainder the Type D21 perforation. These three types of specimens were used during the periods 1884-1922, 1922-28, and 1941-48, respectively.

The Upright Slash and Other Varieties

One of the few plate varieties of all three Sterling issues occurs on the 1/- postage dues. It has been cataloged¹¹ as the *Upright Slash* variety which appears in the fifth column of each row in the plate. In fact, each of the six stamps in the row have readily distinguishable differ-

SPECIMEN

SPECIMEN



a. Type D12

b. Type D16

c. Type D21

Figure 9. The U.P.U. Specimens

ences. Marriott¹² studied them in detail and measured some of their characteristics, especially the length of the slashes, the thickness of the dashes, and the distance between the cipher 1 and the dash. He also presents a qualitative assessment of the relative slant, position and thickness of the slash. The author has verified these measurements accurately using computer graphics tools.

The only reasonable way for this variation to occur is that when laying down the plate for the 1/- duty value, six unique dies were engraved. A stereo was then made from these, and this was duplicated 10 times to create the pane of 60. Fig. 10 shows a bottom margin block of

12 which illustrates the differences in the slashes. The inset shows the duty values isolated with their angles indicated. The subtended angles range from 73° to 82°. In fact, those in the fifth column are more upright than the others. The author notes that the stamps in column three shown a very pronounced tilt (the *Falling Slash*) thus it is not clear why the Upright Slash gets preferential status in catalogs. Marriott¹² has made the same observation about this position, and he identified four other minor varieties.

It is somewhat perplexing that six duty values would be made. The standard De La Rue procedure was to produce a complete pane using a single die. It is difficult to imagine what economy might be gained by using the method seen here.

An interesting aside is that only one other colony issued a 1/- postage due stamp of the De La Rue keytype: Gold Coast in 1951. It appears that the same duty plate was used to print these because the Upright Slash variety is found in the same position. In fact, even after the Gold Coast became the independent country of Ghana, the same plate was used to print the new 1/- values.

Another newly reported variety is a flaw on the 8d reported by Medicott.¹³ The variety shows a flattening on the top of the "8" and the riser of the "d" is com-

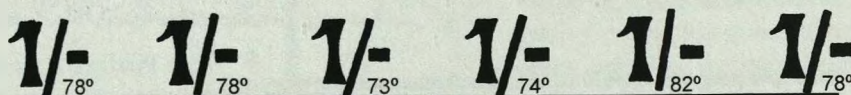
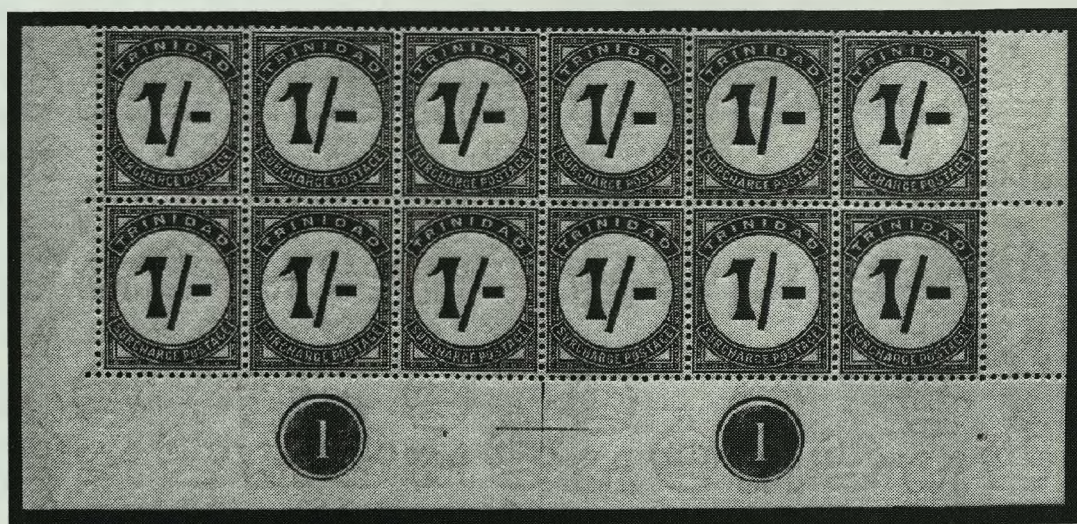


Figure 10. The "Upright Slash" variety.

Table 1. Use of sterling dues in the Caribbean colonies during the decimal period.

COLONY	LAST IMPERIAL DUE PRINTED	CONVERSION TO DECIMAL CURRENCY	FIRST DECIMAL DUES ISSUED	TOTAL PERIOD OF USE OF PENCE DURING DECIMAL ERA
Trinidad and Tobago	1945	1 FEB 1935	1 SEP 1947	151 MONTHS
Grenada	1945	10 OCT 1949	1 MAR 1952	<29 MONTHS
Barbados	1948	1 MAY 1950	8 DEC 1950	>8 MONTHS
St. Lucia	28 JUN 1947	1 OCT 1949	1 OCT 1949	NONE

pletely truncated. This gives the appearance of the value "8a." It is conjectured that this was caused by a temporary obstruction on the roller or plate, and that other examples may exist. As such, it is an oddity rather than a plate flaw.

Sterling Usages in the Decimal Era

Commencing 1 February 1935, Trinidad and Tobago converted from sterling to decimal currency. This was not, however, reflected by the postage due stamps until 1 September 1947.

While this seems to be an unusual occurrence, two of the three other East Caribbean colonies repeated this pattern, although for much shorter periods. This is summarized in Table 1. In point of fact, however, Trinidad had introduced their first local currency, a decimal dollar, as early as 1836.¹⁴ By 1905, these Trinidad dollars were tied to the pound sterling at the rate of \$4.80 to £1. These were used interchangeably, and sterling coinage remained in circulation. Thus, the use of dual currency was well established. Other British Caribbean colonies also used dual currency.

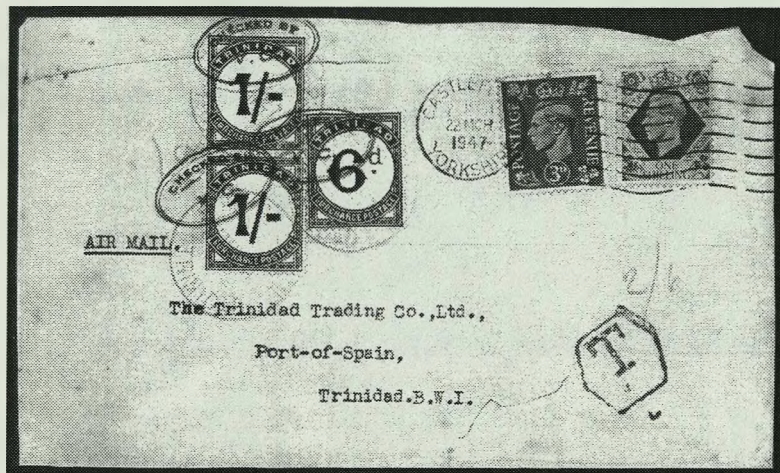


Figure 11. Late use of sterling dues during the decimal period, 28 Apr 1947

Again, no documentary evidence has been forthcoming which can prove that this use was officially authorized by the postal authorities, with or without the agreement of the Colonial Office. However, the empirical evidence verifies these usages. The earliest noted is an incoming cover from Canada charged 3d in June 1936, and the latest, an incoming cover from England charged 2/6. The latter is shown in Fig. 11.

The First Decimal Issue — 1947

As noted, the 1935 currency conversion was not reflected by the postage due stamps until 1 September 1947 when a new series of eight values, ranging from 2c to 24c was released. The ratio of the new Trinidad currency was 2c for each sterling 1d. The series was distributed to the U.P.U. with the Type D21 punched specimen, as shown in Fig. 12.

The Final Issue — 1953

The Crown Agents introduced chalky paper in the 1950's. The postage due stamps of many colonies were printed on this paper as supplies became exhausted and new orders were placed. For this issue, a detailed printing record, presented in Table 2, is documented.¹⁵

Although Trinidad & Tobago gained their independence on 31 August 1962, these dues remained in use until 1969 when a new series appeared. The stamps were finally inscribed *Trinidad & Tobago*.

The Watermark Errors

Sometime in the early 1950's several of the crowns fell off the dandy roll used in manufacturing the MSCA paper. The re-



Figure 12. Specimens of the decimal issue.

Table 2. Printings of the last issue of postage dues during the colonial era.

DATE	VALUES PRINTED
20JAN53	2c, 6c, 12c
10AUG55	2c, 4c, 6c, 10c, 12c, 24c
10SEP58	2c, 8c
10OCT61	2c, 4c, 6c, 8c, 10c, 16c

sult is illustrated in Fig. 13a. A number of sheets of paper were produced and used to print postage stamps for Johore and the Seychelles. Coincidentally, the postage due stamps of nine colonies were also printed on this *missing crown* paper. These included Trinidad and Tobago and four other Caribbean colonies. In an attempt to correct the error, a new crown of the wrong type was inserted. This is called the *St. Edward's Crown* (Fig. 13b). Small quantities of the same stamps were then printed with this paper. These two varieties represent true watermark errors, not simply misoriented paper as is often the case.

Both watermark errors are found on the 1c, 6c and 12c, all of which were issued 20 January 1953. By the time the next values were printed in 1955, the error had been corrected.



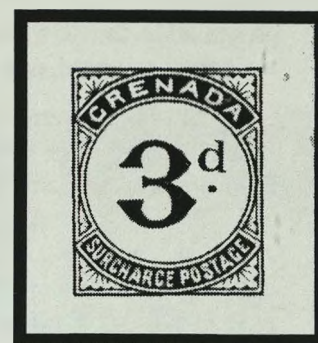
a. Missing Crown Error

b. St. Edward's Crown Error

Figure 13. The watermark errors.



a.



b.

Figure 14. Other derivatives.

The history of the colonial Trinidad and Tobago postage dues ended on 31 August 1962 when the islands gained their independence from Britain.

Other Derivatives

Around 1900, the 3d postage due duty and plates were used as the basis for a revenue stamp used for collecting governmental fees. Shown in Fig. 14a, the stamp was printed in violet, and the FEE overprint applied in a separate operation. An additional 1d postage due overprinted as a revenue stamp has been chronicled by Ramkissoon.¹⁶

Grenada, a close neighbor of Trinidad, requested its own "Surcharge Postage" stamps in 1891. De La Rue created a handpainted essay for the design, shown in Fig. 14b, using the Trinidad issue as a model. Note that the only significant difference between these designs is the removal of the inner rectangular frame and the addition of fleurons in each corner.

Further Research

This paper has presented all of the information available to the author. Several open questions remain, including:

1. Are there records in the De La Rue archives that give information on the specific printings, and quantities, for the first three issues? Easton's⁵ citation of the initial print quantities may indicate that this is true. However, he fastidiously records print quantities of virtually all issues in his book, but only makes vague reference to overall quantities of the 1885 postage due issue. Surely this question can be resolved by additional searches through the archives which are held by the British Library.
2. There is still a lack of information about the local specimen overprints. If they were in fact created for

presentation, then how many were prepared, to whom were they presented, and why?

- It appears from several dozen covers viewed by the author that the use of the sterling dues from 1932 to 1947 was sanctioned by the postal officials in Trinidad. The use of dual currency notwithstanding, it strikes the author as odd that the Colonial Office would allow the use of dual currency stamps beyond a short transitional period. What is needed are *domestic* covers during the period which are shortpaid, franked with sterling stamps, marked due in decimal currency, and paid with sterling dues showing the 2-to-1 ratio. In lieu of any official records, this would at least establish the nominal value placed on the sterling dues locally. The incoming international covers show them to be used at their old face values, which, of course, would simplify processing since most of the foreign mail was arriving via London.

Conclusion

This paper has presented a comprehensive study of the postage due stamps of Trinidad and Tobago during the colonial era. It has drawn together into a single document disparate information from many sources. Finally, it has identified several aspects of these issues — printing quantities, the local specimens and the usage of sterling issues after decimalization — that may be topics for further research.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank Mr. Jeffrey K. Weiss, Mr. Charles Freeland, Mr. Henry A Pattiz, Mr. James Peter Gough, and Dr. Ben Ramkissoon for reviewing this paper and for their astute observations. Fig. 8a is reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen. Warmest appreciation is extended to Mr. Michael Sefi, Deputy Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, for providing the photograph of this spectacular item in a most timely manner to accommodate the author's deadline. Special thanks is given to Sir John Marriott KCVO for providing copies of the wonderful art work shown in Figs. 1 and 2. These are part of his international Large Gold Medal exhibit. Figure 5 was contributed by Mr. Gough, Fig. 8b by Mr. Freeland, and Fig. 11 by Mr. Pattiz. Finally, thanks to Mr. Edward Barrow for helping to clarify the use of dual currencies in the British Caribbean.

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StampShow 98 Features Many BCPSG Members

StampShow 98, the 112th Annual Convention of the American Philatelic Society, was held in Santa Clara, CA from 27-30 August 1998. Many BCPSG members were in attendance, and many received awards and recognition.

Mea Culpa — The C of C

In the June issue, while I mentioned two members who were competing for Champion of Champions honors at StampShow, I failed to name three others! For this I humbly apologize. The honored members are **Ann Trigg** of Clarence, NY, **Dr. Quintus Fernando** of Tucson, AZ and **Jeffrey K. Weiss** of Friday Harbor, WA. Ann, who has wide-ranging philatelic interests and numerous exhibits, qualified for the C of C with her exhibit *CYMRU (Wales)*, which won the Grand Award at AIR-PEX 98. Quintus won the Grand Award at Westpex 98 for his exhibit *Early Ceylon: Prestamp Markings, Imperforate and Perforated Pence Issues*. Jeff made it to the top with his relatively new exhibit at Philex with *Postal Affairs of the Seychelles to 1902*.

When combined with this year's Cameron award winner **Richard Maisel**, and **Dr. Roger Schnell**, both noted in the last issue, BCPSG members represented nearly 20% of the C of C entrants. Well Done!

The Juries

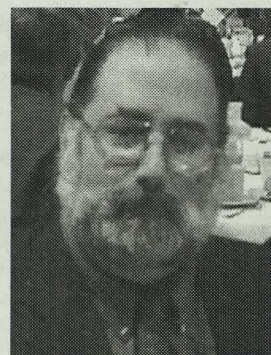
Member **W. Danforth Walker** joined a distinguished philatelic jury which included F. Burton Sellars (chief), James Adams, Steven Luster, Richard C.A. Payne, and Charles Peterson. The literature jury was headed by member **Guy Dillaway** and included our vice president **Russ Skavaril**. They were joined by Nancy Z. Clark and Earle Plyler.

The Open Competition

A number of BCPSG members had entries in the open competition. **Steve Schumann** won a Gold medal for his exhibit *New Zealand Postal Stationery, 1876-1936* as well as the Marcus White Award presented by the U.S. Postal Stationery Society. **John L. DuBois** won a Silver medal for *The United States and Brazil Mail Steamship Companies: 1865-1893*. In the single frame competi-



Ann Trigg



Jeff Weiss

tion, former *BCPJ* editor and past President **George Bowman** won a Gold medal for his exhibit *The First Type of 1d Stamps of Nevis*. This exhibit also won the Ingeberg Herst Award for the Best Single Frame Exhibit (see photo below). Hearty congratulations to all.

The Literature Competition

Immediate Past Editor **Michel Forand** had two entries in the literature competition. The first, *The Leeward Islands, a Postal History Anthology*, received a silver medal. His second entry, Volume 37 of the *BCPJ*, was awarded a Vermeil medal with the Felicitations of the jury. Kudos to Michel for a fine job!

The American Philatelic Congress

The 64th American Philatelic Congress was also held at StampShow. Participation by BCPSG members was incredible. Please see page 80 for more information.



George Bowman with Ingeberg Herst Award

Stan Durnin Award Committee Named

Stan Durnin, a Leeward Islands specialist, was Vice-president (1968) and President (1969-70) of the BCPSG. He died suddenly in December 1977, at a relatively young age. The following year, the *Stanley C. Durnin Memorial Award* was instituted by the Group, to be given annually for the best article in the journal. This was intended both to honor a member who was well liked by everyone and to encourage other members to write for the journal. The award was initially funded by donations from Group members, including past presidents *Gale Raymond* and *Paul Larsen*. The award was given for a few years beginning with the 1979 volume but somehow fell into oblivion after a while.

The Board of Directors has decided to revive the Durnin Award and has appointed *Michel Forand*, past BCPJ editor, *Charles Freeland*, and *Chuck Cwiakala* to the committee that will evaluate articles for the award. The committee is currently reviewing the award criteria, which will appear in the December issue. The first award will be presented at the AGM in Sarasota in February 1999.

Membership Changes

The following membership changes are presented for the record:

Dropped for Nonpayment of Dues

Ms. Dorothy ADACH
 Mr. Louis E. BARNES
 Mr. Alan BECKER
 Mr. Commandant M. BILHAUT
 Mr. Jeffrey DOW
 Mr. Bill DUNCAN
 Mr. Michael GOLDBERG
 Mr. Richard C. HEAP
 Dr. Walter K. HOFFMAN
 Mr. John M. JORDAN
 Mr. Donald G. JOSS
 Ms. Lois M. MAZZA
 Mr. Paul L. MILES
 Mr. Frank MONTGOMERY
 Mr. Roy PAWLUCKI
 Ms. Jeanne B. POGUE
 Mr. Gabe PUSTEL
 Mr. Hugh ROBOTHAM

Mr. Kurt H. SCHAU
 Mr. Abraham SIEGEL
 Mr. Russ D. STICHLER
 Mr. Michael SULLIVAN
 Mr. Michael J. WARD
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Resignation

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Quarter Page	3½"	4¾"	\$20	\$40	\$60	\$75

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

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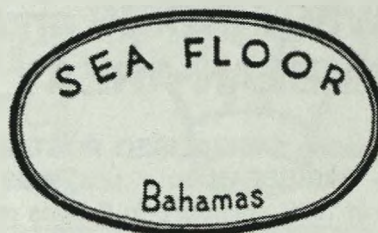
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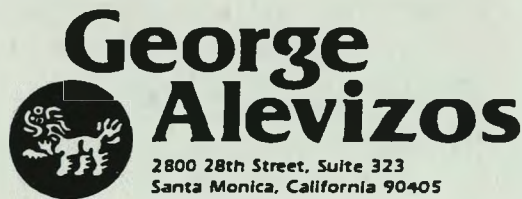
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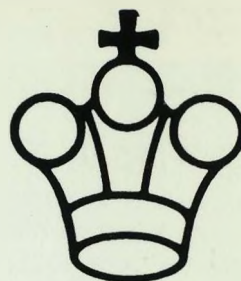
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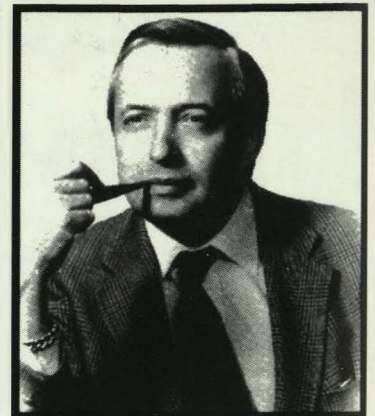
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