

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

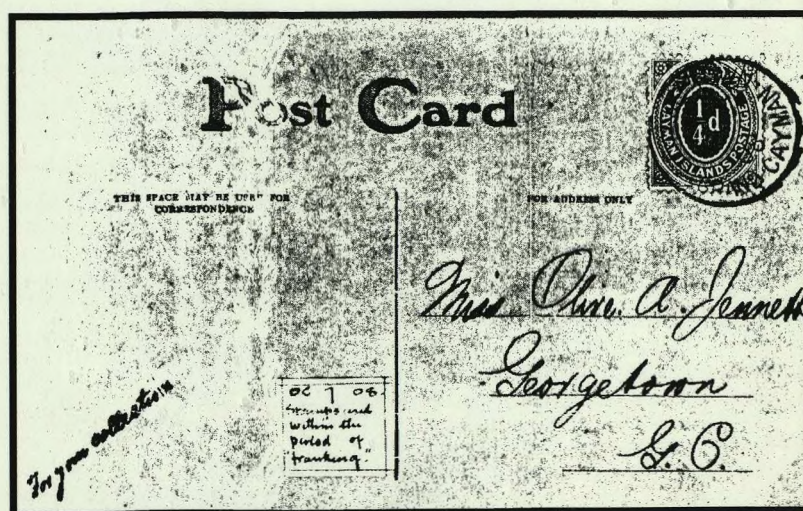
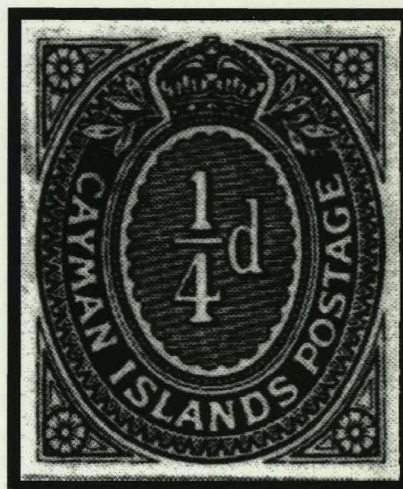
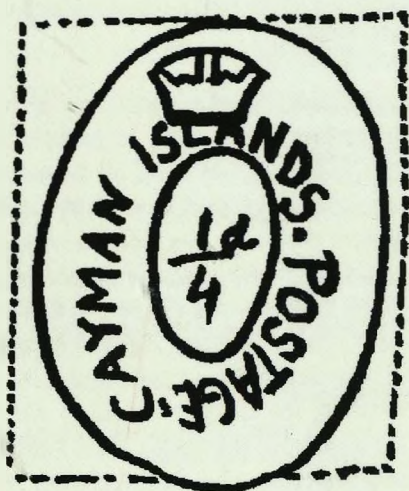
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THE 1908 FARTHING STAMP OF CAYMAN ISLANDS



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One Chapter Ends, Another Begins

by David L. Herendeen

As some members of the BCPSG already know, one chapter of my life has ended, and another has begun. In May, my company went into acquisition talks with our primary competitor. In what seems like a whirlwind romance, the transaction was completed within six weeks — an incredibly short time for such complex transactions. While I was personally preparing for my trip to PhilexFrance, I was suddenly faced with deciding what to do about my career. After 35 years in my particular niche of the software development industry, I must say I was getting tired. The day before I left for Paris, the new company informed me that they didn't really see a good slot for me, and per-

haps I would be happier doing something else! I agreed wholeheartedly, and retired on the spot. It is very doubtful that I will go back to a steady job, although I am already involved in consulting activities. In any event, my wife (who retired last year) and I look forward to more travel and the pursuit of new and exciting activities that work would not allow.

That said, I beg forgiveness for the lateness of this issue. I've just been very busy getting reorganized — a task that will occupy the rest of the year and a decent part of next.

J'aime Paris!

I must say that our trip to PhilexFrance was incredible. We spent two weeks in Paris and then one week in London. The two were connected by a train trip through the *Chunnel* on the TGV train. This wonderfully swift and comfortable train whisks one from the *Gare du Nord* in Paris to *Waterloo Station* in London in three hours flat. It thereby avoids the several extra hours it would take to go between the city centers and the De Gaulle and Heathrow airports.

PhilexFrance itself was a wonderfully run, and huge exhibit. The exhibit was setup in an interesting manner, having distinct areas for each of the different classes. The show suffered the usual problems including a lack of air conditioning during a very hot spell. We had dinner with friends virtually every night, and the food and wine at each and every restaurant were *délicieux!*

It was a banner show for Americans. Steve Walske won the *Grand Prix National* for his exhibit "Franco-Prus-

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sian War Siege Mail, 1870-1871," and my good friend J.P. Gough won the *Grand Prix D'Honneur* for his exhibit "The Evolution and Use of Adhesives for Postage Due, 1790-1954." The Palmes banquet was held at the Louvre — not your usual venue — and the dinner and ceremonies lasted from 8:00PM to 1:30AM the next morning!

While in London, we did a number of "touristy" things, and we went to Russell Square to check out the area and some of the hotels, including the Bonnington. It seems to be a reasonable neighborhood with modest hotels. It is very close to the British Museum. As usual, we were surprised at how expensive London is.

London is Only 9 Months Away

After numerous fits and starts, the London 2000 committee appears to be back on track. I understand that exhibitors will hear of their acceptance by late September or early October. Hopefully many *BCPSG* members will be in the group accepted, and the competition for the Cameron Award will be keen.

President's Message

by Rob Wynstra

It is not too soon to begin planning for the joint meeting with the British West Indies Study Circle on the weekend prior to the opening of the International Stamp Show 2000 in London. As anyone who attended the previous joint meetings in London can attest, this should be an event not to be missed.

Arrangements for the group activities are moving ahead and full details on all the events, including social events on Saturday, May 20 and Sunday, May 21 will be available in the next issue of the Journal. I would especially like to thank our International Director, *David Druett*, for handling so many of the details that are essential for making this meeting a success.

I also would urge all members to help by consigning better stamp and postal history lots for this event to our auction manager, *Ed Waterous*. Your participation in the group auction not only provides you with a valuable outlet for selling your specialized material but also contributes greatly to the financial health of the group. For this auction, the commission rate has been reduced to

only 10 percent. That, along with an expected large turnout of specialized British Caribbean collectors, should make this an attractive venue for all our members.

Although we cannot act as booking agents, a limited range of recommendations for hotels has been provided by *David Druett* in this issue of the Journal. Many other options also are available within easy walking distance of our meeting site at the Bonnington Hotel. In fact, the Russell Square and British Museum area is home to a countless number of hotels in all price ranges. This area is also easily accessible by subway from the major show site at Earl's Court.

Special hotel rates often are available through the major airlines as part of a package travel plan. Travel agents also can advise on reduced rates for many of the major hotel chains. Another source of information on hotels is the internet. By searching for "London hotels," I easily located dozens of websites with photos and rate information on many of the hotels in the Russell Square and British Museum area. Many of these sites also offered rooms at special discount prices.

The Russell square area is readily accessible from both the Heathrow and Gatwick Airports. From Gatwick, a train goes directly to Victoria Station which serves as a major subway hub for the city. From Heathrow, both a subway and an airport bus go directly to the Russell Square area.

For those who are interested in site seeing, the British Museum is only a short walk from the Bonnington Hotel. The Russell Square and Holborn subway stations, which are located close to the Bonnington Hotel, provide direct access to many other popular areas such as Covent Garden, the theater district, Hyde Park, Bond Street, the Strand, Trafalgar Square, and the Portobello Road street market. Collectors also should consider visiting many of the world famous stamp firms located in London.

Again, I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible in London. I would especially urge our newer members to make a special effort to join in the fun and friendship at this special joint meeting. From personal experience, I can honestly say that my attendance at the last joint meeting in London during 1990 was one of the highlights of my collecting experience. And, I am sure it will be the same for those who attend our first meeting of the new millennium.

Secretary's Report

by Peter Kaulback

All five new applicants listed in the June 1999 issue of the Journal have been accepted as members of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. Congratulations and welcome to the Group.

New Applicants

Dr. Frederick L. Dunn, PO Box 460274, San Francisco, CA 94146-0274, USA. Philatelic interest: postal history and postal stationery of British Honduras/Belize. Sponsored by: Tom Giraldi.

Ron Faith, 6 Sherwood Walk, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 7BQ United Kingdom. Sponsored by: Peter Kaulback.

C. Muñoz-Mellowes, M.D., 3102 Tucker Lane, Los Alamitos, CA 90720, USA. Sponsored by: Peter Kaulback.

Joy Sieminski, 1220 E. Harbor View Drive, Gilbert, AZ 85234 USA. Sponsored by Peter Kaulback.

Change of Address

The following changes of address have been reported since the last issue.

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William B. Ashley, P.O. Box 9660, North Amherst, MA 01959-9660 USA.

John D. Blouch, 3724 Quail Ridge Drive, Plainsboro, NJ 08536 USA.

Mrs. P. Capill, 8 Asher Road, Welcome Bay, R.D. 5, Tauranga, New Zealand.

Peter J. Roberts, 1137 Eton Court NE, Atlanta, GA 30319-1904 USA.

If any member has information, such as a change of address, to be included in the Secretary's Report, please contact me, either by mail (see inside front cover of the Journal) or by eMail at:

ekaulbac@netcom.ca

Exhibits and Awards

by Paul A. Larsen

Members of the BCPSG participated in a number of shows with considerable success, particularly in Minnesota where **Paul Larsen** took the Grand, and **Ben Ramkissoon** the Reserve Grand! Congratulations to all. Show results are summarized below.

IBRA 99

April 27-May 4, 1999, Nurnburg, Germany

T. Davis: *The Australian Colonies - Carriage of Overseas Mails Pre-UPU*, Large Gold.

P. Larsen: *German Togo*, Gold.

R. Ramkissoon: *Postal Stationery of Trinidad and Tobago 1879-1937*, Gold.

R. Schnell: *Foreign and Private Postal Services in the Danish West Indies*, Large Vermeil with Felicitations.

Plymouth Show 99

April 24-25, 1999, Plymouth, MI

R. Schnell: *Classic Iceland - Prestamp Period Through the Air Issues 1828-1901*, Gold, Grand Award.

Minnesota Stamp Expo 99

July 16-18, 1999, Crystal, MN

P. Larsen: *Federal Issues of the Leeward Islands 1890-1911*, Grand, Gold.

R. Ramkissoon: *Development of U.S. Lunar Exploration*, Reserve Grand, Gold, APS Research Medal.

PhilexFrance 99

July 2-11, 1999, Paris, France

T. Davis: *The Australian Colonies - Carriage of Overseas Mails Pre-UPU*, Large Gold.

F. Borromeo: *Federal Issues of the Leeward Islands 1890-1911*, Grand, Gold.

D. Herendeen: *The Evolution of Postage Due Stamps in the French Colonies and Offices Abroad*, Large Silver.

T. Proud: *The Postal History of Rhodesia and Nyasaland*, Vermeil (Literature).

In addition, member **Trevor Davis** had the distinct honor of being one of the three nominees for the *Grand Prix International*.

The Cayman Islands Farthing Stamp of 1908

by John Byl and Richard Maisel

Although the Cayman Islands Farthing Stamp ($\frac{1}{4}$ d) of 1908, shown in Fig. 1, is drab brown, crudely printed and of minimum catalogue¹ value, this common stamp is of uncommon philatelic interest. It has a unique design with many variations, which makes it a challenging and relatively inexpensive subject for a single stamp collection. Furthermore, it had a wide variety of uses which makes it a fit study for postal historians, and there are a number of unresolved problems associated with its varieties and uses which invite further research.

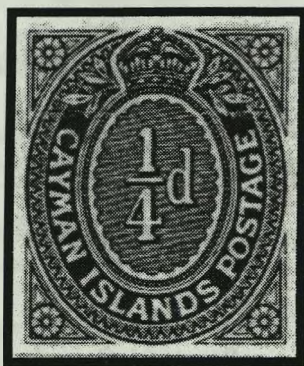


Figure 1: Die proof of the 1908 $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp.
(Enlarged 200%)

Much has been written about the Farthing stamp but the work is scattered and some of it is in older, and in some respects outdated, studies.² This paper contains: a comprehensive, updated review of its history; its postal history, the first detailed work on this topic; and its varieties, including some new and unpublished discoveries.³

1. History Of The Farthing Stamp⁴

In early 1907 an inland postal service was begun on Grand Cayman, but it proved to be less than a success. One of the main reasons for its failure was the high postal charges and the resultant lack of public support. On 3 February 1908, the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, Mr. George S.S. Hirst, ordered the suspension of the service, and on 1 March the post office at East End was closed. This left only one post office on the Island, at the capital, Georgetown, which is located on the western side of Grand Cayman. The existing service

for the outlying areas, if indeed such service existed at all, was now totally inadequate.

On the same day that Mr. Hirst ordered the suspension of the service, he wrote to the Colonial Secretary in Jamaica submitting three proposals which he hoped would revive the ailing inland service. Part of one of these proposals was the introduction of a new internal rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d for post cards and each two ounces of printed matter. On a separate sheet he included a sketch of his proposed design, illustrated in Fig. 2, that could be used for both the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp and a $\frac{1}{4}$ d postal stationery card. On this same page he also requested 100 sheets of the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp and 1,000 postcards. Approval for his scheme was received on 27 February, and, as noted earlier, two days later he closed the East End post office as it was to be effectively replaced by another of his proposals. Mr. Hirst's letter was sent to the Crown Agents in London who, in turn, forwarded it to De La Rue. After some correspondence over the design, cost and printing methods, the firm submitted a die proof for the stamp and a photographic essay for the postal card on 14 April, these being approved on 22 April.

Although the new service was introduced on 31 March 1908, the part concerning the cards and printed matter was delayed as the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp (and the $\frac{1}{4}$ d card) was not available until 30 June.

The first supply of $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamps numbered rather less than 12,000 and considering their intended limited use, might have been expected to last the population of 5,000 for a

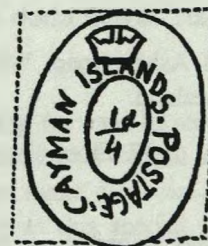


Figure 2. Commissioner Hirst's sketch of the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp
(Courtesy of National Postal Museum, London)
(Computer Enhanced)

year or more. This proved to be far too optimistic. Overseas collectors, whose interest in Cayman stamps had been stimulated by five surcharged provisionals which had been issued over the preceding ten months, were eager to obtain copies of this new value issue. Dealers were only too ready to supply them, and the postal authorities began to receive large orders from abroad for the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp. It was reported that one dealer requested 72,000. This caused the Postmistress, Miss G.A. Parsons, to issue a notice on 10 July to the effect that the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp would be sold only across the post office counter. As with the surcharged stamps, ways were found to overcome this restriction. Agents on Grand Cayman acting for dealers and speculators bought sheets of the stamp at the post office. The drain on the stock was compounded when, during August, permission was granted for the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp to be used on overseas mail, allegedly because of a shortage of $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps. Thus, by the beginning of October the stock of $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamps was exhausted. The new Postmaster, Mr. W.G. McCausland, had to resort to manuscript franking on mail requiring this value.

Supplies were restored with the arrival at Georgetown on 3 November of the second printing which consisted of 54,000 stamps. Note that the third and fourth print-

ings consisted of a little over 120,000 each. Thus the total number produced was approximately 312,000. This quantity is far in excess of any other Cayman stamp issued to that time, and it indicates the huge philatelic demand for these stamps.

The stamp was superseded by the issue on 10 February 1913 of a new $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp bearing the head of King George V. The 1908 stamp was still in use concurrently with the new one until the end of the year, by which time any stocks in the hands of individuals were finally exhausted.

2. Postal History

As one of the two reasons for issuing the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp was for local use on postcards, it is necessary to consider why only three of these, correctly franked by a single $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp, are known to have survived. Although the vast majority of the stamps found their way to collectors overseas, there would still have been plenty left for the inhabitants of Grand Cayman, should they have wished to use them. Evidently they did not so wish, at least for their intended purpose. When Mr. Hirst originated the new system he hoped to stimulate the use of the post by making it cheaper. Unfortunately the reverse was probably true for cards. To send a postcard one had to first

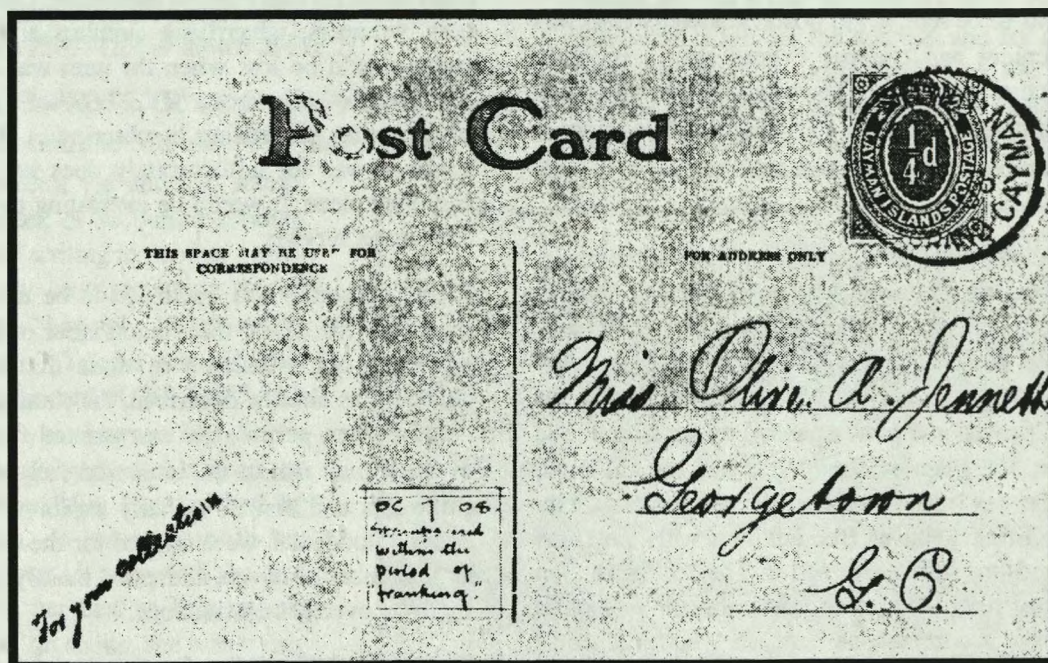


Figure 3: One of three post cards recorded with local use of the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp. Canceled "Georgetown 4" on OC 7/08, during the manuscript period. Endorsed by A.J. Watkins, who was a leading scholar of Cayman Islands philately.

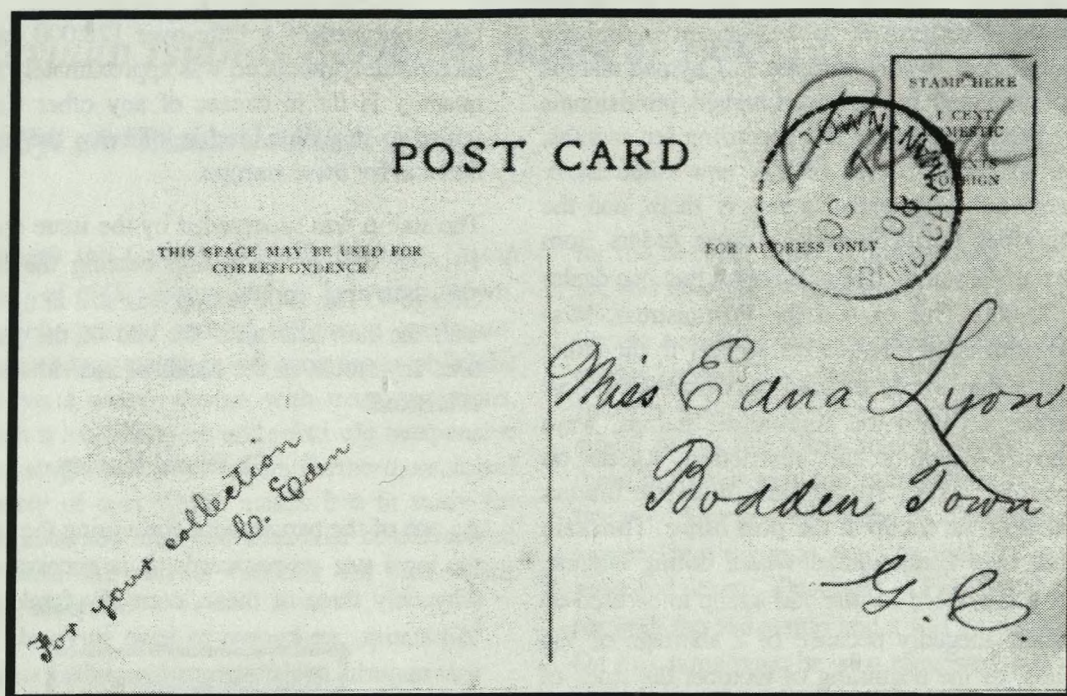


Figure 4. Post card to Miss Edna Lyon, manuscript cancellation, MP3, OC 7/08

purchase it. Since they were picture postcards, the combined cost of the card and the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp would have at least equaled that of a piece of paper, an envelope and a $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp. Also more could be written in a letter, and it was more private. If on the other hand, only a short message was to be sent, a $\frac{1}{4}$ d postal stationary card was both convenient and cheaper overall than a properly franked picture postcard. This accounts for the much greater number of surviving $\frac{1}{4}$ d postal cards compared with the number of picture postcards bearing a $\frac{1}{4}$ d adhesive.

At least two of three known cards appear to be commercial. The first, shown in Fig. 3, was sent by a C. Eden to a Miss Olive Jennett with the message "For you(r) collection." It is interesting to note that the CDS is dated "OC 7 08" showing that the card was sent during the manuscript provisional period caused by the lack of $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamps. But Mr. Eden evidently still had one on hand. On the same day he sent another picture postcard, Fig. 4, to Miss Edna Lyon at Boddentown with the same message, and this time he signed it. The "collection" in each message refers to picture postcards, the collection of which was a common pastime for young ladies in Edwardian times. When he came to the second card he had no more $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamps and so it was necessary to resort to manuscript franking. In doing so the unique example of Gibbons MP3 was created. It is known that a

Mr. Charles Eden had a store on Church Street, Georgetown during this period, and it likely that he was sending out new cards to his customers.

Examples of the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp used on printed matter, the other intended use, may be even rarer. Used on newspapers, wrappers, advertising circulars and the like, the stamp would be lost when the item was thrown away. An example exists dated "JY 27 09" of a single on part of a circular advertising a subscription. What the subscription was for unfortunately does not show on the surviving piece. It would be interesting to know if other such items survive.

If the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp had continued to be used only as intended by Mr. Hirst, then the number of known covers would be but a fraction of those that actually exist. However, as already described, the situation changed in August when permission was granted for their use on overseas mail due to the supposed lack of $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps. Collectors and dealers quickly exploited this measure and the floodgates were opened for the production of a large number of covers addressed mainly, but not exclusively, to overseas destinations.

In all probability, Miss Parsons had intended the $\frac{1}{4}$ d stamp be used to take the place of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d value only, and it was expected that this provision would cease with the arrival of a fresh supply of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps which

Sorry but the 1/4, 2 1/2, 3, 4, 6, & 1/-
stamps are out of stock. Will
fill order when new issue
arrives.
G.A. Parsons
P.M.

Figure 5: Note from Cayman Islands Postmistress to German Dealer, September 7, 1908 (back of postal card)

occurred on 3 November. Another "legitimate" use would have been the upgrading of the 1/4d card for overseas use. There remains a measure of puzzlement concerning the notice issued in early August regarding the lack of 1/2d stamps. Covers are known franked with 1/2d stamps dated throughout the month. Also in correspondence to a German dealer dated "SP 7 08," Miss Parsons writes "Sorry but the 1/4, 2 1/2, 3, 4, 6, & 1/- stamps are out of stock. Will fill order when new issue arrives. G.A. Parsons/P.M." This is shown in Fig. 5.

There is no mention in the list of the 1/2d stamp being out of stock and the 1/4d card with this message was upgraded with a 1/2d and 1/4d stamp. Again, a week or so before sending the card, and writing to another correspondent, she says, referring to the 1/4d, that she "has only 12 left and is sending them." Yet she was still able to upgrade the card of "SP 7 08" with a 1/4 adhesive, as shown in Fig. 6. The facts, as shown by the franking on the cards sent by Miss Parsons and by other covers, do not agree with her correspondence. It may well be that while doing her best to help people wanting the 1/4d stamp, she was trying to eke out the supply of both the 1/4d and 1/2d stamp by rationing her correspondents and in so doing had to be

less than accurate in describing her stock.

As indicated above, once permission was granted for use of the 1/4d on overseas mail, a large number of covers were manufactured to satisfy philatelic demand. There is no doubt that this little stamp was very popular, partly because of its low face value but also because its design was so different from the Cayman Islands stamps so far issued. Any attempt to estimate the number of such covers produced would be impossible. In a collection auctioned in the early 1990s, there were twenty four covers, four of them Rural Post, bearing the 1908 1/4d stamp. It can sometimes be difficult to separate philatelic from

commercial covers, especially from a catalogue description with an illustration showing only part of the item. However, as far as one can tell, nineteen of the twenty non-rural covers were philatelic. Some of these were franked with the correct rate while others were overfranked, some grossly so. On the other hand, three of the four Rural Post covers were probably commercial.

Covers may be found bearing so many 1/4d stamps that little room is left for the address, and for good measure more stamps have been applied to the reverse. One cover is franked by no less than 28, including three on the back. However, if the Cayman postal historian were



Figure 6: Postal card to German Dealer. Canceled Georgetown 4 CDS, SE 7/08.

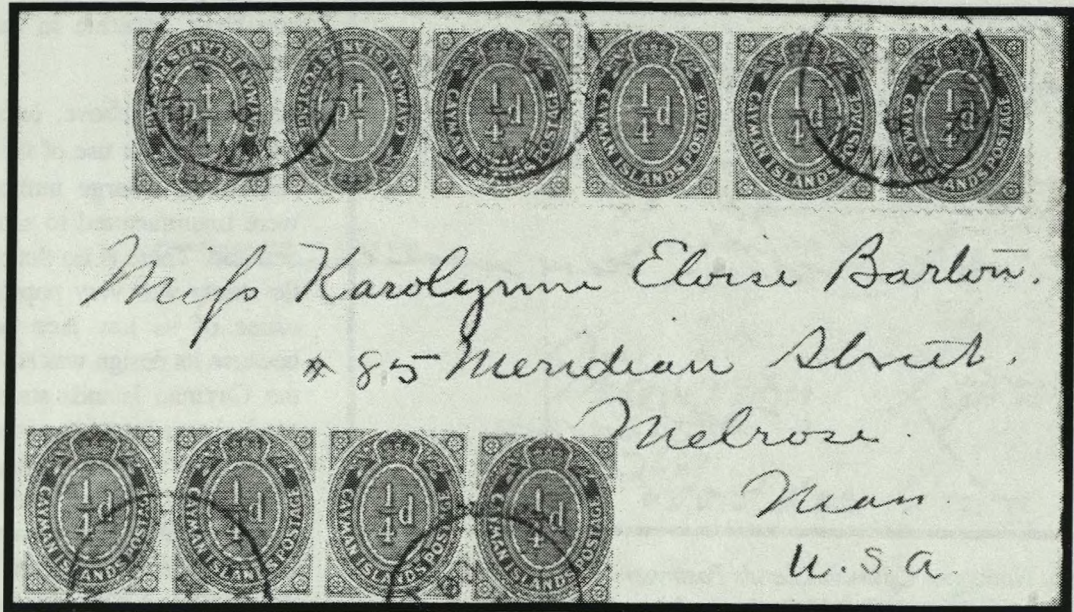


Figure 7: Farthing stamp used to pay 2½d UPU rate to Melrose, Mass. Canceled Georgetown 4 CDS JY 9/08.

to insist on having only commercial covers in his collection, that collection would be thin indeed. Some of these ¼d covers can be most attractive and there seems to be a good argument for such covers, franked to the correct amount, finding their way into a collection. A good example would be the one shown in Fig. 7 where the addressee is not a well known name, and the 10 ¼d stamps paying the 2½d rate to the U.S.A. are attractively arranged.

Collectors should, however, be aware of three faked covers and a large piece bearing ¼d stamps postmarked 23 June, a week before the issue date of the stamp. Two of them also bear Jamaican stamps (seven years after they ceased to be valid for use in the Caymans) and the third also has two 1D on 4d fiscal stamps. The piece has a 1D on 4d with inverted surcharge sandwiched between six ¼d stamps. The three covers and a similar fourth cover apparently dated 30 June are all addressed to a Capt. L.A. Anderson at Colon. As far as the authors know, the covers have not appeared on the market for many years and are hopefully out of circulation, but the piece is unfortunately still around.

3. Production and Varieties

The ¼d stamp, like most British colonial stamps of this period was 22.5 mm by 18.5 mm in size, printed on wove, medium texture paper with a Multiple Crown "CA" watermark, and perforated 14. It was printed in sheets of 120 stamps, divided into two panes (left and right) each with ten rows of six stamps.⁵

The stamp had a design unlike any other adhesive issued in the British empire during the reign of Edward VII. Most authors have described it as being similar in design to stamps issued in German states during the previous century. The ¼d stamp also differed from other colonial adhesives printed by De La Rue as the ¼d stamp was: line rather than comb perforated; lithographed rather than surface printed; and produced with less care than usual for stamps requisitioned by the Crown Agents.

The poor quality in production created many varieties of the ¼d stamp. These varieties include: eight plate varieties introduced in the process of creating the stone used for the lithograph; and five varieties derived from the four printings. Taken together there are 33 joint, plate by printing varieties.

In addition, 452 ¼d Stamps were overprinted "SPECIMEN" (Samuel⁶ D12) by De La Rue, in the first printing⁷ and sent to the UPU for distribution to member countries.⁸ There are eight plate varieties and at least seven overprint varieties of the ¼d specimens.

Plate varieties, overview

The stone for lithographing the ¼d stamp was produced in three stages. In the first stage, an original image was created. In stage two the original image was transferred to a report block containing four images of the stamp. Slight variations occurred in each transfer of the original image to the report block creating four variations in the stamp (Types I, II, III and IV). In the third stage, the 120

image plate was created by 30 transfers of the report block on to the stone used for lithographing the stamps. In theory, slight variations in each of the four types should have been introduced in each of the thirty transfers⁹ giving a total of 120 transfer varieties, which in turn would enable one to plate the stamps. To date however only four of the transfer varieties (A,B,C and D) have been identified leaving this an open field for further research.

Four types

The four types were arranged in a rectangular array as shown in Fig. 8.

Type I	Type II
Type III	Type IV

Figure 8. The arrangement of the four types on the report block.

The identifying features of each type are described in Fig. 10. It is advisable to check all seven identifying features when determining the Type of a 1/4d stamp.

Since the stone was made up by 30 transfers of the report block exactly of one fourth of the 1/4d stamps, are of each type. The successive application of the die in the transfer process created a checkerboard like pattern of the four Types on each sheet of stamps in which:

- Type I is on odd rows, odd columns (e.g. row 1 column 1)
- Type II is on odd rows, even columns (e.g. row 1 column 2)
- Type III is on even rows, odd columns (e.g. row 2 column 1)
- Type IV is on even rows, even columns (e.g. row 2 column 2)

This checkerboard like pattern means:

- each horizontal strip of the 1/4d stamps consists of alternating Type I and II stamps (odd rows) or Type III and IV stamps (even rows).
- each vertical strip of the 1/4d stamps consists of alternating Type I and III stamps (odd columns) or Type II and IV stamps (even rows)
- each block of four 1/4d stamps, contains each of the four Types.

Four transfer varieties

The identifying features and position on the plate of the four transfer varieties A,B,C and D are described in Fig. 9 along with the characteristics of a possible fifth transfer variety designated Q, whose position on the plate has not been identified.¹⁰

Eight plate varieties

Taken together the four Type by the four Transfer varieties produce the eight plate varieties designated I/X, II/X, II/C, III/X, III/A, III/B, IV/X, IV/D (where X






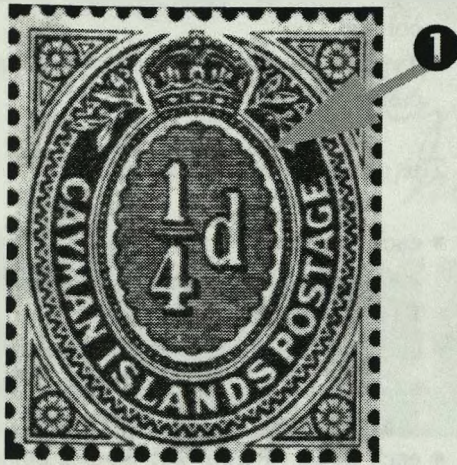
Variety A	Variety B	Variety C	Variety D	Variety Q
Position L 4/1	Position L 10/3	Position R 3/4	Position R 8/6	Position ? ??
				
White flaw on horizontal leaf, right of crown	White dot under "N" in "ISLANDS"	White mark under left leg of "A" in "POSTAGE"	White dot under "S" in "POSTAGE"	White dot in frame, left of rose in lower left corner

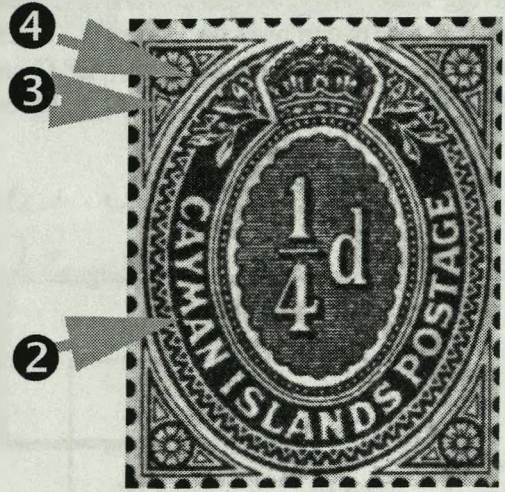
Figure 9. The transfer varieties.

Type I



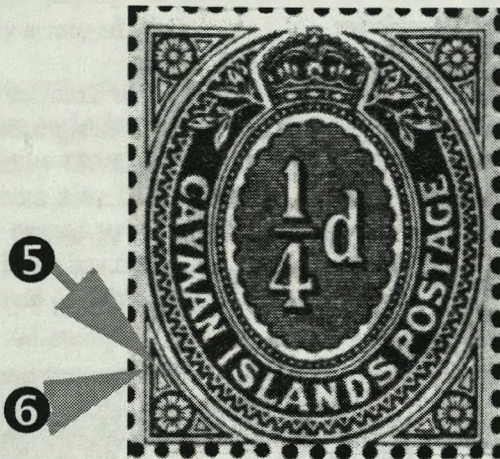
1. Weak pearls in oval at 2 o'clock

Type II



2. Space between "A" and "M" in "CAYMAN"
 3. Elongated petal, 4 o'clock top-right rose[†]
 4. Break in hypotenuse of triangle under right-hand corner rose[†]

Type III



5. Poorly formed vertex of triangle over rose in left corner[†]
 6. Bump on outside of triangular frame surrounding rose in lower-left corner, near poorly formed vertex[†]

Type IV



7. Nick or thinning, outside of right leg, second "A" in "CAYMAN"

[†] Based on Ref. 11.

Figure 10. The four types (300% magnification).

means the variety is not one of the four transfer varieties). The number of copies printed of each plate variety is given in the row totals of Table 2.

Five printing varieties

There were four printings of the 1/4d stamp. The brown ink used in these printings differed so the printing can often be determined from the color of the stamp. Table 1 summarizes the printings and the color used in each printing.

Table 1. The four printings.

Printing	Date	Color*
1	6 Jun 1908	red brown (chocolate)
2	24 Sep 1908	medium brown
3**	13 Jan 1908	deep black brown
4**	4 Mar 1908	black brown golden hue
* Aguilar and Saunders, Ref. 2b, page 75.		
** Designated 38a in the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue.		

It is often difficult to distinguish the first from the second and the third from the fourth printing because:

- the colors used in these printings were similar to each other

- the poor quality of the printings resulted in color variation within a printing;
- color changes which have taken place since the printings.

In the fourth printing one sheet was left imperforate down the extreme right side. This created ten copies of the rare partially imperforate variety, which constitutes the fifth variety based on the printings. The printing varieties will be designated by the printing number, except 4/X will be used for the fourth printing with normal perforation and 4/Y will be used for the partially imperforate variety. The number of copies printed for each of the printing varieties is given in the column totals in Table 2.

Thirty three joint plate by printing varieties

Taken together there are 33 joint plate by printing varieties. These joint varieties are designated by their plate and printing labels. For example the joint variety II/C-2 refers to a Type II stamp, transfer variety C which came from the second printing. The number printed for each joint variety is given in Table 2.

An analysis of the data in Table 2 shows the 33 plate by print varieties can be divided into three groups in terms of their rarity.

Table 2: Plate by Printing varieties, number printed*

Plate Varieties	Printing Varieties					Total
	1	2	3	4/X	4/Y**	
I/X	2,940	14,850	30,030	30,030	0	77,850
II/X	2,842	14,355	30,030	30,025	5	77,257
11/C***	98	495	0	0	0	593
III/X	2,744	13,860	28,028	28,028	0	72,660
III/A	98	495	1,001	1,001	0	2,595
III/B	98	495	1,001	1,001	0	2,595
IV/X	2,842	14,355	29,029	29,025	4	75,255
IV/D	98	495	1,001	1,000	1	2,595
Total	11,760	59,400	120,120	120,110	10	311,400

* The total quantity for each printing was based on Podger's analysis, Ref. 2.

** Plate varieties for the 4/Y printing variety are determined by their position, column 6 right pane.

- rare: the three varieties of the 4/Y partially imperforate stamp each with five or fewer copies printed. Of these the IV/D-4/Y, with one copy printed is the rarest.
- less rare: the eight varieties from printings 1 and 2 which are transfer varieties, each with either 98 or 495 copies printed.
- the remaining 22 varieties each of which had 1000 or more copies printed.

Specimen varieties overview

All 452 UPU specimen stamps were produced during the first printing and therefore are printing variety 1. These specimens can be divided into varieties on the basis of: the "SPECIMEN" overprint itself; the plate varieties of the 1/4d stamp, and markings made by receiving authorities after the stamps were distributed by UPU.

Specimen overprint varieties

The D12 forme used to overprint the 1/4d specimen stamps had a number of flaws which produced "SPECIMEN" overprint varieties. A recently published analysis by Norris¹² identified 18 such varieties for specimens overprinted with D12 forme during the Victorian era. We have seen seven of these flaws on colonial stamps of the Edward VII era which have been designated S/a, S/b, S/c, ..., S/g. These varieties are described and the number printed, based on some assumptions,¹³ are given in Fig. 11.

Specimen plate varieties

Specimen overprints were made on each the eight plate varieties creating eight specimen plate varieties. Given the assumptions in Ref. 12, the number of specimen plate varieties would vary between 3 and 4 for the four specimens overprinted on transfer varieties (S-II/D, S-III/A, S-III/B and S-IVD) and between 105 and 114 for the specimens printed on the four Types without a transfer variety (S-I/X, S-II/X, S-III/X & S-IV/X).⁸

Specimen receiving authority varieties

A number of specimen varieties were created by the application of control markings by receiving authorities after they were distributed by the UPU. These include:

- 18 or fewer, 1/4d specimens overprinted "ULTRAMAR" in Lisbon by Portuguese authorities on stamps sent to Portugal's overseas colonies
- three 1/4d specimens (two S-III/X and one-IV/X) with a circular marking made by the Madagascar postal authorities.

Acknowledgment

The authors wish to thank Kevin Darcy for allowing the publication of some of the results of his extensive analysis of the 1/4d stamp, and the use of items from his collection as illustrations in this article.

Designation	Description (Ref. 10)	Positions (Ref. 10)	Illustration	Number
S/a	Thick Top of "S"	L&R 1/1	S	7 or 8
S/b	Spur left leg "M"	L&R 1/5, 4/5, 9/5 and 10/5	M	32
S/c	Nob right leg "M"	L&R 3/5 and 8/5	M	15
S/d	Short "T" at base	L&R 6/2	CIM	7 or 8
S/e	Broken "M"	L&R 7/5	M	7 or 8
S/f	Clogged "M"	L&R 8/1 and 8/3	M	14 or 16
S/g	Short right leg "N"	L&R 9/6	MEN	7 or 8

Figure 11: "SPECIMEN" overprint varieties

Endnotes and References

1. The Farthing Stamp is assigned the number 38 in the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue and 31 in the Scott Catalogue. It was the lowest denomination of any stamp issued in the pound sterling in the British Empire during the reign of King Edward VII.
2. Among the older works are:
 - a. Adutt, A. L., "Stamps of The Cayman Islands," *London Philatelist*, March 1911, No. 231, Vol. 20, pp.66-67
 - b. Aquilar, E. F. and Saunders, P. T., *The Cayman Islands: Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*, F. J. Parsons Ltd, Folkestone U.K., 1962, pp. 74-76.
 - c. Armstrong, D. B. "The Cayman Islands: Their Stamps and Post Offices," *The Stamp Lover Booklets*, No. 3. London, H. F. Johnson, 1910, pp. 16-18.
 - d. Melville F. J. *The Postage Stamps of the Cayman Islands*, Beverly Mass/Portland Maine, Severn-Wylie-Jewett Co., 1920, pp. 12-13.

More recent works that describe the stamp include:

 - e. Maisel, R., "The Cayman Islands Farthing Stamp of 1908: The Eight Design Variations," *BCPJ*, September, 1997, 37(3), pp. 139-142.
 - f. Podger, J., "Cayman Islands: The De La Rue Records," *BCPJ*, June, 1997, 37(2), pp. 76 and 84.
3. All graphic images appearing in this article are computer scanned images. Unless otherwise indicated they were scanned at 100% magnification with no changes made in the computer scanned image other than changing its brightness and contrast.
4. The Cayman Islands farthing stamp of 1908 will be referred to as the 1/4d stamp in the remainder of this article.
5. According to Aguilar and Saunders (Ref. 2b, p. 75) the size of the sheet was reduced to 60 in the third and fourth printing. This was not the case however as the De La Rue Private Day Books list the size of the sheets printed as 120 for each of the four printings. The report of a sixty stamp sheet probably came from the practice of dividing the sheet into two panes before shipping.
6. Samuel, M., *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948*, Royal Philatelic Society London, London, 1976.
7. There are color variations in 1/4d specimens that have led some collectors to mistakenly believe there were specimens from later printings. An analysis of the De La Rue Private Day Books held in the National Postal Museum (London) lists specimens overprints for the first and only the first printing of the 1/4d stamp.
8. An additional S II/X specimen, was kept in the De La Rue archive and a few more may have been sent to the Crown Agents.
9. Williams, L.N., *Fundamentals of Philately*, American Philatelic Society, State College, PA, 1990 revised edition. P. 308 (Flaws).
10. An error in sometimes found in the description given for Type B in which the white dot is reported as under the "N" in "CAYMAN" while is actually under the "N" in "ISLANDS" (See for example Ref. 2c or Ref. 2e). The description given for Type C differs from that usually found in the literature. The possible fifth transfer variety, Q, was observed on a specimen overprint which means it was present in the first printing but may have been corrected prior to a later printing. Research to date suggests the Q variety probably was located on the right pane.
11. Darcy, K., Private Correspondence, 1998-99.
12. Norris, A., "The De La Rue 'Specimen' Overprint on Stamps of a Small Upright Size," *Malayan Philatelist*, 36(2), April-June 1995, pp. 34-39.
13. Three assumptions were used for estimating the number of UPU specimen varieties:
 - the UPU 452 specimens consisted of three complete sheets of 120 stamps and 92 stamps from a fourth sheet.
 - the 92 stamps from the fourth sheet consisted of a complete pane of 60 stamps and the remaining 32 stamps were taken from the remaining pane, either left or right.
 - the remaining 32 specimens were either taken from the top five rows with two adjacent stamps from the sixth row or from bottom five rows with two adjacent stamps from the fifth row.
14. None of the seven overprint varieties were overprinted on a stamp which is currently a known transfer variety. Since the position on the stone is known for the overprint varieties a study of these stamps might determine an identifiable characteristic which could establish a new transfer variety.

The Spink Sale of the Ludington Bermuda

by Charles Freeland

When the editor asked me to describe Spink's 22 June sale of the Morris Ludington collection, I thought that this would be quite a short article. How wrong I was! There is so much to say about one of the premier collections of any country covered by the group, as well as the action at the auction itself. I believe the attention is fully justified. After all, almost 100 of our members list Bermuda as their premier interest and another 100 collect all the islands in the Caribbean, though they may not in every case include Bermuda.

The Collection

In the June *BCPJ*, Michel Forand¹ presented a checklist of Morris' recorded writings. Well over half of these dealt with Bermuda. Even those who have only read his journal articles over the past few years will have realised that Morris was first and foremost a postal historian, and that his primary interest lay in maritime mail. The bulk of his writings are accompanied by illustrations of material from his collection, notably his 1962 handbook which was subsequently reprinted by Quartermain in 1978.² But familiar material formed only a fraction of the collection. Even for those well-acquainted with Ludington's gems, the catalogue will have been a treasure trove, replete with unique rarities, largest-known blocks, and other distinguished pieces. It was particularly interesting to note that he had continued to add material as recently as a couple of years ago, though it was no surprise to find that the bulk of the great rarities had been acquired 50 years ago.

What was offered in this auction was even more amazing when you realise that he had already disposed of parts of the collection. Some may have been surprised that there was only one Perot, but he sold two in a 1974 auction.

He discovered two of these from local sources, and only bought one on the open market. The 1974 sale also contained all his docks and ships studies (though he retained the proofs) and minor 20th century sidelines. In the late 1970s he also disposed of his GV keyplates (again keeping the proofs) and unloaded much of his 20th century postal history, while keeping the maritime mail. All this meant that the collection offered was not truly comprehensive but was instead a choice selection of his remaining interests.

This remaining collection was unchallenged in a number of areas. The pre-adhesive material (which contained at least one fine example of every Bermuda strike known, as Michel Forand and I well knew from our previous collaboration with Morris³) and the maritime mail were of course exceptional. Some had expressed their doubts that the market could absorb 20 crowned circles in one sale, but they all sold. The section of blockade runners was extraordinary, although the prices were not in my view. The late arrival of the catalogue in the US may have held this section back. The forwarding agents were also very strong and the unique marks were not cheap but no-one seemed very interested in the manuscript markings. The military and Boer War sections offered wonderful variety and hardly any bargains. The maritime sections would have rewarded those who had done their homework, as the prices were all over the

place. The only disappointing aspect was the quality and variety of the early stamped covers, but this was because the routes and usages were the main interest. I suspect that here again he had disposed of some covers that were not central to his interest in maritime mail.

For those more interested in the stamps and proofs, which comprised about 425 of the 922 lots, the Queen Victoria provisionals were unparalleled and the George VI section con-



Figure 1. Lot 242, Perot's Second Issue, SG O6.

tained large (often the largest recorded) blocks of all the rare printings. The proofs (about 160 lots) were marvelous, with many unique items among them. The stamps needed to be viewed because the quality was mixed, especially among the wartime printings which had varying degrees of climatic toning. However, the prices showed that bidders did not shun the large blocks on account of minor faults. In fact, the description of many lots ignored minor faults, so viewing was obligatory.

It will not surprise readers to learn that Ludington's album pages are meticulously researched and written-up. Anyone who bought a cover will have also received the results of the research — the routing, the names of the ship(s), an explanation of the rates and markings and in many cases collateral material such as photographs of the relevant ships, shipping schedules, and newspaper reports. I would have loved to make reference copies of all the album pages in the sale, but I understand the collection ran to 35 volumes. I would hope, nonetheless to collect photostats to the extent possible of as many pages as I can so as to compile a reference source which could eventually be copied for the BCPSG library. Sadly, I fear we have missed the opportunity of compiling a complete reference source, though Spink might have taken copies before they broke the collection up. I expect that most of the buyers who do not exhibit will leave their purchases on the pages so "Ludingtonia" will continue to surface for years to come.

The Auction

The sale total was close to £1 million, with only a few smaller lots unsold. (All my figures are the hammer prices, to which must be added 15% for overseas buyers and between 24% and 40% — for 20th century — for the poor EU members).

The early omens were not favourable. Although the collection had been consigned well ahead, Spink suffered serious delays both at the photographic and the printing stages. As a result, their staff had to come in on a Sunday to get the catalogues into the mail on 6th June. Fortunately, the sale had been well advertised so interested buyers would have been ready to act rapidly, and the estate can hardly be disappointed with the result. But with 900 plus lots and no time for postal viewing, distant bidders must have been forced to restrict themselves to the illustrated lots only unless they had taken steps to view in advance. This was a critical handicap in an unreserved sale where the prices range from the astronomical to the give-away, and I was mightily relieved that I had set aside one full day for viewing. Even then, it

proved to be insufficient. Although most of the lots were in fact illustrated in colour, there were at least 100 mixed lots where viewing was unavoidable.

The sale itself was quite a marathon. A 920 lot sale is not excessive for a day but two things held up proceedings, the constant presence of several telephone bidders and a weak book. There were about 40 room bidders in addition to Spink staff, five of whom were manning the telephones. Moreover, since the sale was unreserved, room bidders often held back in the hope of getting a steal. So we had some absurd bidding sequences where the lot opened at a quarter of estimate and sold for twice estimate. All this meant that we did not break for lunch until 2.30 and, despite having only a 40 minutes break, the last lot was not sold before 6.30 pm.

The proceedings started relatively quietly, with the pre-1800 material selling well but without a lot of interest in the 19th century covers not having Bermuda marks or stamps. The enormous range and volume of pre-adhesive Bermuda markings were nearly all in demand, despite the duplication in the more common marks. There was, of course, keen competition for all the unique postal history material. But the real surprise for me lay in the demand for the stamps, which went through the proverbial roof, starting with the Perot at £65,000, shown in Fig. 1, and coming to a resounding climax with the GVI. In fact, the stamps raised almost half of the total realisations, with blocks in special demand. The prices for proofs, essays and specimens, on the other hand, were mostly well below recent realizations — which is different from the trend seen for other territories — although they still realised almost £180,000. The postal stationery section was also rather quiet despite a number of great rarities and there were a few steals here.

When I said that the prices were all over the place, let me quote a few examples. Lot 436, containing seven mint blocks of QV 1d shades with CA watermark, fetched £5,200 against an estimate of £250, while a foxed mint block of the 1/- green perf 14, pictured in Fig.2., fetched £2,100.

The QV imperf 1d used, Fig. 3, made £12,500 against a Gibbons catalogue price of £8,500, and the inverted overprint of the 1d on 1/- provisional with damaged perfs £16,000. The same stamp with upright overprint no stop was £7,000 mint. The latter two examples are shown in Fig. 4. At the other extreme, the only known examples of the caravel plate proof for plate 1V in a full sheet of 120 went for only £2,500. Copies can be acquired from Gibbons for £200 per pair, which sounds cheap until you calculate the profit margin! Other



Figure 2. Lot 302, Block of 1/-, SG 8.

shrewd purchases by Philip Kinns included the unique proofs in lots 244 and 245 at £400 each and the collection of transatlantic maritime numerals in lot 916. David Druett kicked in near the end with some neat buys, including the soldier's letter in lot 876 at £450 and several of the maritime mail collections. Keep your eyes open for his future sales where these items may appear.

So far as the buyers are concerned, there was a reasonable spread with the purchaser of the Perot and the two 3d on 1d blocks ending up comfortably the heaviest buyer. The next big spender was a telephone bidder and he was closely followed by a British gentleman who is reputed to have built himself a mausoleum at a cost of £30 million and an American from Louisiana. These four, plus a customer of Phoebe McGillivray's, spent more than half the total sum, and there were another fifteen bidders who spent between £10,000 and £30,000. In all there were 71 buyers by my reckoning, 45 of which spent £1,000+. Even if you remove the dozen or so dealers and a few non-Bermuda specialists, that still leaves a pretty healthy collector base.

Those with wider interests will have the pleasure of bidding for Ludington's Bahamas and Turks on 9-10 November, also at Spink in London. There is a treat in store for collectors of Turks and Caicos in particular, who have not had a major collection to cherry-pick



Figure 3. Lot 314, Imperf. 1d Rose-red, SG 9.

since the Snowden collection in 1953. Here, the strength will be in the postal history and proof material. Morris turned his nose up at the provisionals, which he considered "philatelically inspired." Bermuda enthusiasts who have any money left will not have long to wait for Bob Dickgiesser's collection to be offered in New York on 26 October, where they will have the opportunity to acquire the few items missing from Ludington such as the other three Perots, the mint 1d imperf and the wonderful Dale-Liechtenstein block of nine 1/- imperf between, not to mention the odd keyplate.



Figure 4. Lots 399 and 400, One Penny on 1/- Inverted, SG 17a, and Missing Stop, SG17b.

Finally, if you have not yet seen the 22 June catalogue, try to obtain a copy if only to read the fascinating preface commenting on Morris' life and wartime career. There is also a mass of information for those interested in postal history. If you are a bibliophile, a hardback edition exists. Spink may be contacted at: 5 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QS. Telephone: (0171) 747-6932.

References

1. Forand, M., "In Memory of Morris H. Ludington (1915-98)," *BCPJ*, 39(2), June, 1999, pp. 71-74.
2. Ludington, M.H., *The Postal History and Stamps of Bermuda*, Quartermain, Lawrence, MA, xiii + 432 pages, illus., index, 1978.
3. Forand, M., and Freeland, C., *Bermuda Mails to 1865*, *BCPJ*, 35(2), June, 1995, p. 45.

Illustrations of lots shown by courtesy of Spink.

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A Survey of the British Caribbean Bisects

by Dr. Rene P. Manes

In the last forty years of the 19th century, no fewer than fifteen of the British Caribbean colonies resorted to the use of bisected stamps, such as the ones shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 3. Table 1 lists the 71 catalogued items — those known, or believed to have been postally used and authorized by the postal administration. Specialists in the philately of these colonies report many more instances in which other stamps were bisected and used. In addition, a number of fakes of such issues has been reported in the literature.¹ This article provides a survey and overview of these bisects, and formulates an explanation for their widespread use in so many of the Caribbean colonies. Many general references,² articles from the philatelic literature, and correspondence with country experts, were required to perform this study and to synthesize the conclusions presented.

Bisect Types

In the majority of cases, bisects were created simply by physically cutting a stamp into two pieces. This might be done vertically, diagonally, or, in a single case — Trinidad 107a³ — horizontally. When bisected diagonally, the stamps might be cut from upper left to lower right, or from upper right to lower left.

In several cases, a stamp may have been bisected both vertically and diagonally. Examples include St. Christopher 6a and Dominica 5a. Even more interesting are the cases in which stamps were actually perforated along bisect lines, and each half overprinted with the new value. In the case of two other items, British Guiana Sc54 and Monserrat Sc2b, the basic stamps were trisected.

The two most complex uses of the technique occurred with Barbados 64 and Dominica 5. In the former case, the 5 shilling stamp was bisected, after the 5 shilling value tablet was removed, and the remaining half stamps were overprinted three different ways creating 86, 87, and 88. In the latter

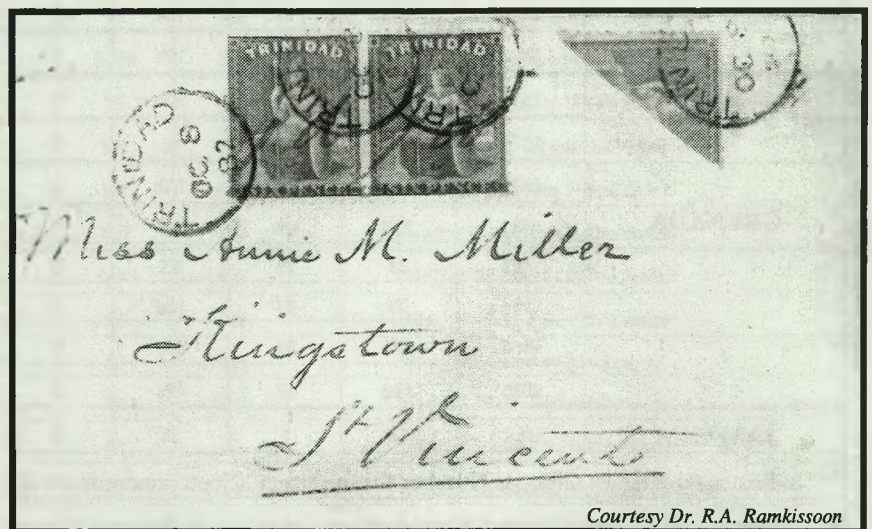
case, After being bisected in 1877 to create Dominica Sc5a, in 1882 the same basic stamp was again bisected vertically and surcharged three different ways. This resulted in Dominica 10, 11, and 12. Clearly the *ad hoc* nature of both the bisecting and surcharging indicates that no procedures approved by the Colonial office existed, and that all of the stamps discussed in this paper are *provisionals* in the truest sense of the word.

Fifty-two of the bisects were used to create $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps, usually from 1d stamps. (In a few instances, 1c stamps were created from 2c stamps.) The few exceptions include St. Lucia 54 and St. Vincent 33 which were reduced from 6d.

There are also a number of “double provisionals,” where stamps previously surcharged were then bisected. Examples include British Honduras 25b and 35a, Grenada 37f, Trinidad 105a, and Turks 61b. With respect to the $\frac{1}{2}$ d bisects, in several cases such as Jamaica 1a and British Honduras 18a, surcharges were not applied. After all, what other value could $\frac{1}{2}$ of a 1d stamp possibly have?

Bisect Trends

From the available data about these issues, two observations may be made. Firstly, in the forty year span between 1854 and 1894, the large colonies⁴ — those that were more populous and centrally located — initiated



Courtesy Dr. R.A. Ramkissoon

Figure 1. Trinidad SG107a. Bisect used to make $2\frac{1}{2}$ d inter-island rate to St. Vincent, 8 OCT 82.

Table 1. Summary of Bisects of the British Caribbean Colonies.

COLONY	Date	SG NO. Bisect*	SG NO. Basic**	SCOTT NO.	TYPE***	DESCRIPTION AND COMMENTS
ANTIGUA	1879	16a	16	8a	D/V	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
BARBADOS	1854	4b	4a	3b	V	Half of 2d used as 1d
	1861	—	Sc14	14b		Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1863	24a	24	16a	D	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1872	52a	52	33a	D	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1877	73a	73	51b		Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1880	83a	83	56c		Half of 1sh used as 6d on cover
	1878	86	64	57	V	1d on half of 5sh, slant serif
	1878	87	64	58	V	1d on half of 5sh, straight serif
	1878	88	64	59	V	1d on half of 5sh, small surcharge
BAHAMAS						
BERMUDA						
BRITISH GUIANA	1866	90a	90	52a		Half of 4c used as 2c on cover
	1866	—	Sc53	53a	D	Half of 8c used as 4c on cover
	1866	—	Sc54	54a		Third of 12c used as 4c on cover
	1882	165a	165	105b	D	Half of 2c used as 1c
BRITISH HONDURAS	1884	18a	18	14a	D	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1888	25b	25	20a	D	Half of 2c on 6d used as 1c on cover
	1888	27c	27	22a	D	Half of 2c on 1d used as 1c on cover
	1888	35a	35	26c	D	Half of TWO on 50c on 1sh used as 1c on cover
	1889	37a	37	28a	D	Half of 2c on 1d used as 1c on cover
DOMINICA	1877	5a	5	5a	D/V	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1882	10	5	10	V	Small ½ on half of 1d
	1882	12	5	11,11a	V	Small Half Penny on half of 1d, Overprint reads up or down
	1882	11	5	12	V	Large red ½ on half of 1d
	1886	14a	14	18a	V	Half of 1d violet used as ½d on cover
	1887	22b	22	19b	V	Half of 1d rose used as ½d on cover
GRENADA	1873	10a	10	5Bh	D	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1873	11b	11	6a	D	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1875	14a	14	7Ab	D	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1883	27d	27	14	D	Half of 1d surcharged Postage and Crown
	1883	28	27	15	D	Horizontal POSTAGE on half of 1d
	1883	29	27	16d	D	Diagonal POSTAGE on half of 1d
	1886	37f	37	27b	D	Half of 1d on 1½d used as ½d on cover
	1886	38d	38	28c	D	Half of 1d on 1sh used as ½d on cover
JAMAICA	1861	1d	1	1a	D	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover

* Indicates the Stanley Gibbons Number for the bisect. (Scott concordance also given)

** Indicates the Stanley Gibbons Number for the basic stamp that was bisected.

*** Indicates the type of bisect: **Diagonal**, **Vertical**, or **Horizontal**. Blank indicates that the item has not been seen.

Table 1. Summary of Bisects of the British Caribbean Colonies (Cont'd).

COLONY	DATE	SG NO. Bisect	SG NO. Basic	SCOTT NO.	TYPE	DESCRIPTION AND COMMENTS
MONTSERRAT	1876	1a	1	1a	D/V	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1876	2a	2	2a	V	Half of 6d used as 2½d on cover (not 3d as noted in the Scott catalogue.)
	1876	—	Sc2	2b	V	Third of 6d used as 2d on cover
	1884	7ba	7b	6a	V	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1884	13b	13	11b	V	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
NEVIS	1878	17a	17	14Ad	V	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1878	22a	22	18b		Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1879	23a	23	19a	D	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1883	26a	26	22a		Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1883	35	26	31	V	NEVIS ½d on half of 1d
	1883	36	26	32	V	As above, surcharged in violet. Surcharges may read upward or downward.
ST. CHRISTOPHER	1882	6a	6	4b	D/V	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1882	12a	12	9a	D	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1884	13a	13	10a	D	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1885	23	23	17	D	Halfpenny on half of 1d
ST. LUCIA	1881	F2a	F2	—		Half of 4d Revenue used as 2d on cover
	1883	26a	26	20a		Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1892	54	41	41	V	½d on half of 6d
ST. VINCENT	1880	28	19a	30		d1 on half of 6d
	1881	33	30	31		d½ on half of 6d
TOBAGO	1879	4a	4	4a		Half of 1sh used as 6d on cover
	1880	7	3	7	V	1d (manuscript surcharge) on half of 6d
	1880	9a	9	9a		Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1880	10a	10	10a	D	Half of 4d used as 2d on cover
	1882	15a	15	16a	D/V	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1886	—	Sc29	29b		Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
TRINIDAD	1876	75a	75	58c		Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1882	101a	101	64a	D/V/H	Half of 1d on 6d used as ½d on cover
	1882	105a	105	67a	D	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1883	107a	107	69a		Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
TURKS ISLAND	1881	—	Sc40	40a	D	Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1883	55a	55	44a		Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1884	57a	57	50a		Half of 4d used as 2d on cover
	1889	61b	61	55d		Half of 1d on 2½d used as ½d
	1889	62a	62	—		Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1889	63a	63	—		Half of 1d used as ½d on cover
	1894	72a	72	57a	D	Half of 5d used as 2½d on cover
VIRGIN ISLANDS						

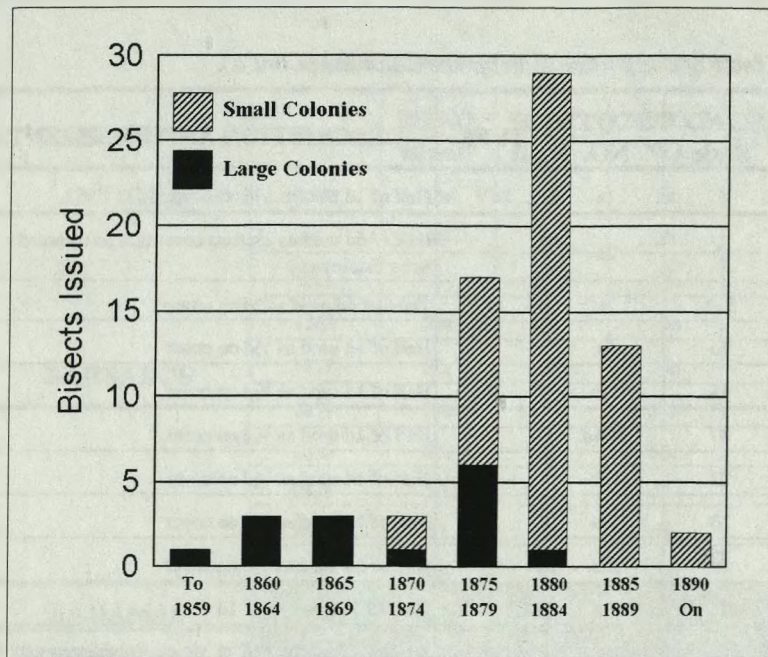


Figure 2. Bisects Issued by Small and Large Colonies.

the practice of creating bisected provisionals in the early years. However, over 75% of the bisects were created during the period 1876-1888, and most of these were issued by the smaller, out-of-the-way colonies.

To illustrate these observations, consider: that Jamaica, the largest of the colonies, only authorized one bisect; that Bermuda and Bahamas never found them necessary; and that the Virgin Islands, an early enter of packet business, issued none. Barbados was the only large colony to issue a significant number of bisects — nine. Fig. 2 shows the distribution of bisects over time and contrasts the number issued by the large and small colonies.

The first question to consider is: *Given the facts presented above, can any social trends or sequences of events explain the use of bisected stamps in the colonies?* If the need was only for new denominations, then why not simply surcharge the stamps, a much more common procedure for creating provisional issues? Two explanations are discussed. The first is that in the 1850s and 1860s the growing distribution of newspapers and other printed matter created a demand for low valued stamps at the same time a general increase in mail volume was putting a strain on existing supplies of stamps. The second, occurring in the period 1875-1881, was the entry of Great Britain and the colonies into the Universal Postal Union (UPU), and the consequent lowering of postal rates. These explanations are discussed in the following sections.

Newspaper and Other $\frac{1}{2}$ d Rates

The experience with newspaper rates in Jamaica, which was repeated in several other colonies, illustrates the first explanation. In 1843, the British Post Office system of postal rates based on weight was extended to the colonies. Newspapers, pamphlets, and other printed matter were charged a base rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Beginning in 1858, Jamaica began using the adhesive stamps of Britain. These were then replaced by a special issue for the colony in 1860. For some reason, this issue did not include a $\frac{1}{2}$ d value even though the usefulness of this stamp for newspapers was self-evident. To correct this deficiency, the postmaster of Jamaica, in November 1861, authorized the bisecting of Jamaica 1 for prepayment of "book post and newspapers." Interestingly, it was

eleven full years before a $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp was made available. Not surprisingly, the postmaster had to warn the public and local post offices not to bisect other stamps for convenience.

Walker⁵ indicates that the first regular $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp for Grenada (21) appeared in 1881, but that the earlier $\frac{1}{2}$ d bisects, 10a, 11b, and 14a, had been allowed for newspapers. Similarly, Seifert⁶ describes the practice of affixing fractions of stamps to letters prior to 1862 in British Guiana. This required the Postmaster General to declare that "newspapers sought to be forwarded in that illegal manner will be detained." He further notes that in 1877, after the supply of 1c stamps had been exhausted, that the 2c, bisected diagonally, could be used to pre-pay newspapers.

These facts indicate that in a number of colonies — including Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Christopher, and Trinidad — bisected items used to down-value stamps to $\frac{1}{2}$ d were, in fact, used prior to any regularly issued $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamp. Thus, these provisionals filled a very real need not satisfied by the postal authorities.

Entry into the Universal Postal Union

A second, and perhaps less clear-cut, explanation for bisects was the entry of Great Britain and all of her Caribbean colonies into the UPU. Beyond the original founding members, new members were admitted to the UPU by "accession to the rules and regulations" of that body. In the cases of non-independent members, i.e. colonies, their application was made by the mother country. In the case of the British colonies, this was done after agreement be-

Finally, although there is no documentary evidence, it is easy to infer that bisects were used during the UPU transition period to meet the need for denominations not included in the stamp supply. Examples of this include St. Vincent 28 and 33, and Barbados 73a. Turks Islands appears to have used the bisects Sc40a and 55a to make up the 2½d rate even though the colony had a wide range of ½d, 2½d, and 4d surcharges. Despite their catalogue listings, Ludington¹⁸ indicated that many of these latter items were, indeed, philatelic.

Bisecting vs. Surcharging

The need for ½d postage for newspapers and printed matter, and the transition problems caused by entry into the UPU, do not appear to fully answer all questions related to the bisects. The most important question is still why bisect rather than surcharge? It appears that in many colonies there was an overall shortage of stamps caused by increased commerce and correspondence. Some argue with Rowland Hill that the lowering of rates stimulated increased use of the mails, or, in economic terms, that the elasticity of demand for postage was high. Surcharging would simply have shifted a shortage from one denomination to another. Bisecting, on the other hand, allowed the actual creation of more stamps.

Postal Management

A second question arises: *Does the lowering of the inter-island rate entirely explain the greater number of small colony bisects?* Of the 71 bisects considered, at least a dozen cannot be explained by the lowering of the UPU rates or the newspaper rates. Gardner¹⁹ indicates, for example, that St. Lucia 54 was produced in 1892 "because of a shortage of low values." But, this is more than a decade after the problems caused by the UPU transition. Perhaps in these early years central authorities gave a lower priority to the needs of the smaller colonies, some of which did not order supplies directly, but had to make requests through intermediate bureaus. For example, some delays in delivering stamps to Belize surely occurred because orders were handled at Kingston, Jamaica.

On the other hand, relaxed local management occasionally accounted for shortages that were then solved by using bisects. In British Honduras, the currency was changed from pence to cents in 1888. However, the first decimal stamps were not available until 1891. For the intervening three years, Poole²⁰ notes "there was a regu-

lar orgy of provisional surcharges." But, unaccountably, there was no 1c surcharge. Instead, four bisects (25b, 27c, 35a, and 37a) were used for 1c postage. Poole further indicates that "an easy-going Belize postmaster who ran a billiard room full-time and provided postal service once a month from the saloon."

The job of postmaster in a colony of less than 10,000 persons, a tiny fraction of whom ever wrote letters, could not have been very arduous, and it certainly was not a full-time duty. Ludington¹⁸ relates how the postmaster of the Turks Islands, during the bisect era, held several other official positions. Perhaps this is part of the reason that the ½d, 2½d, and 4d stamps required in early 1881 were not ordered for several months, and that they did not arrive until August 1881 and February 1882. A casual approach to postal business appears to have been the rule rather than the exception in some of the smaller colonies.

Conclusion

Use of the bisects came to an end in the early 1890s. While 41 bisects were used in the 1880s, only two appeared in the 1890s, the last of which was Turks 72a, appearing in 1894. While the author has not obtained any definitive information regarding the UPU policy for provisional issues, the use of bisects was generally frowned upon. For that matter, even the use of overprints in the colonies — with the exception of the war tax stamps — virtually stopped around 1895.

Provisional stamp issues were the *ad hoc* measures used to respond to problems arising in a developing postal service. Such measures were seldom required during the 20th century except, as always, those produced during war-time conditions. The history of the British Caribbean bisects is interwoven with the broader story of the expansion of the postal service on the islands.

Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank many BCPSG members for their help. This article would not have been possible without their invaluable contributions. Members contributing include C.A. Freeland, J. Gardner, M. Hamilton, D. Herendeen, E. King, R.A. Ramkissoon, R. Schnell, and F.F. Seifert. Special thanks to M. Swetland, W.D. Walker, and the librarians at the American Philatelic Research Library for sharing a bounty of information.

Endnotes

1. Walker, W.D., "Fake Grenada Bisects," *BCPJ*, 1993.
 2. A number of references, not cited in the paper, were useful for providing general information on the postal services of the colonies, these included
 - a. Coddling, G.A., *The Universal Postal Union*, NYU Press, 1964.
 - b. Zilliacus, L., *Mail for the World*, John Day Co., 1953.
 - c. Lowe, R., *The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Volume VI: Leeward Islands*, Christies Robson Lowe, 1991.

Similarly, a number of references containing information about the bisects, but not cited, include:

 - d. Ellis, D., "Antigua and Montserrat," *The Stamp Lover*, Aug., 1911, p. 37.
 - e. Wilson, J., "Barbados, the 1d on Half 5sh Provisional," *The London Philatelist*, Vol. 52, July, 1943 pp. 125-127.
 - f. Johnson, A.N., *Jamaica, A Review of the Nation's Postal History and Postage*, APS, 1964.
 - g. Nicholson, L.C.C., "Jamaica, the Bisected Penny Stamp," *The London Philatelist*, Vol. 45, Aug., 1936, pp. 186-187.
 - h. Foster, T., *The Postal History of Jamaica*.
 - i. Britnor, L.E., *Montserrat*, British West Indies Study Circle, 1965.
 - j. Toeg, E.V., "Why Not Collect Montserrat?" *BWISC Bulletin*, Nos. 95, 96, 97, Dec. 1977, Mar. 1978, and June 1978.
 - k. Ritchie, G., *The St. Lucia Philatelist*, No. 2, Robson Lowe, 1949.
 - l. ———, *Roses Caribbean Handbook*, No. 3, 1978.
 - m. Wilson, J., "The 1880-1881 Provisionals of St. Vincent," *The London Philatelist*, Vol. 52, June, 1943, pp. 102-107.
 - n. Bacon, E.D., *The Postage Stamps of Turks Islands*, Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., London, 1917.
 3. Unless otherwise noted, all of the catalogue numbers refer to Stanley Gibbons, 1998. The prefix "Sc" is used to indicate the Scott Catalogue.
 4. For the purposes of this paper, the "large" colonies have been defined somewhat arbitrarily as Barbados, British Guiana, Trinidad, Jamaica, and, although they did not issue bisects, Bermuda and Bahamas.
 5. Walker, W.D., Private Correspondence including annotated photocopies of Grenada bisects, and copies of legislative appendices of Acts relating to the post office of Grenada.
 6. Seifert, F. F., "The Bisected Stamps of British Guiana," *The American Philatelist*, Aug., 1966.
 7. UPU membership dates were compiled by James Negus and first appeared as Appendix B in:

Bendon, J., *UPU Specimen Stamps*, James Bendon, Limassol, Cyprus, 1988.
 8. Robinson, H., *The British Post Office*, Princeton University Press, 1948.
 9. Ramkissoon, R.A., Private Correspondence including annotated photocopies of Trinidad and Tobago bisects.
 10. Swetland, M., Private Correspondence including annotated photocopies of Antigua bisects.
 11. Anderson, C., "Antigua in Review," *The Stamp Lover*, Oct.-Nov. 1943, pp. 59-62.
 12. Cornell, W., *The Antigua Monograph*.
 13. Hamilton, P., "Antigua's First Issues and Postal Markings," *Philatelic Magazine*, July, 1962.
 14. Woolford, J.V., "The Issues of Antigua," 1974.
 15. Freeland, C., Private Correspondence including annotated photocopies of Montserrat bisects.
 16. Hamilton, M., Private Correspondence including annotated photocopies of Montserrat bisects.
 17. Schnell, R., Private Correspondence including annotated photocopies of Nevis bisects.
 18. Ludington, M.H., "Comments on the Turks Islands: Surcharges & Bisects 1881-1895," *BCPJ*, September, 1991.
 19. Gardner, J., Private Correspondence including annotated photocopies of St. Lucia bisects.
 20. Poole, B.W.H., *The Postage Stamps of British Honduras*, Handbook #3, London Stamp Collectors Fortnightly, 1910.
- This paper is an excellent example of an interdisciplinary study of a particular philatelic aspect. Rather than delving into the depths of a single colony, it explains common trends in the issuance of provisional stamps throughout the Caribbean colonies in an overall economic and cultural setting. The covers pictured are not required for this paper, they have been shown only as illustrative examples. —Ed.*

The George VI Postcards Of Jamaica

by Dingle Smith

Postal stationery issued during the reign of King George VI poses, for many British Commonwealth countries, a range of problems. Those for Jamaica appear to be among the most complex and the situation for the post cards is particularly bewildering. The dates of first use are not known with any precision and there are discrepancies between cards that were designed, those that were printed and cards that were issued. The publication of Ref. 1 has been a valuable contribution to this subject. This comprehensive study is based upon the Crown Agents Requisition Book and lists the known requisition numbers for the different types, colours and values, quantities ordered and printed, together with dispatch dates, for the full range of KGVI postal stationery. The account also adds notes on the supply of items overprinted "specimen" with additional comments from other sources.

The size of the smaller cards is given as 115 x 90 mm throughout this paper. This corresponds to the dimensions given in Ref. 2, while those given in the study of Ref. 1 study are 114 x 89 mm, an insignificant difference.

The listing of dispatch dates provides an invaluable chronological listing for the various post cards. This is a major advance from the much earlier listing² which is incomplete and offers little on the question date of issue. However, although Ref. 1 clarifies some of the problems it also raises others, among these are the existence of postally used dated copies of some items that pre-date the listed dates of dispatch. This account aims to add a little more light to the clouds that surround the Jamaican KGVI postcards with the hope that others will provide additional evidence to more fully resolve the unknowns.

Table 1. Summary of all known KGVI postcards, in part based on Ref. 1.

Catalogue Number ²	Denomination and Color	Size (mm)	Date of dispatch		Total Printed	Specimens Issued	EKD
			First	Last			
HG 29	½d green	115 x 90	11MAR38	11OCT38	420,480	392	16MAY38
HG 30	1d red	115 x 90	9SEP38†	—	3,128	392	18OCT40
HG 31	1d red, on grey, reconstituted paper	115 x 90	25MAR42	18NOV42	611,040	None	23JUL42
HG 30 Reissued	1d red	115 x 90	8AUG47	18DEC50	728,628	None	Difficult to Define
HG 32	½d+½d green	115 x 90	24MAR38	14APR38	28,080	392	15AAUG40
—	½d+½d green	139 x 89	—	—	—	Perforated Specimen	Archival Only
—	1d+1d red	139 x 89	30SEP38†	—	6,270	392	Not Issued
HG 33	1d red	139 x 89	9OCT39	6NOV39	486,487	364	2JUN39
HG 34	1½d brown	139 x 89	20NOV39†	—	6,720	364	Not Seen Used
HG 35	1d brown on granite	127 x 100	23NOV51	3DEC51	520,320	350 None Seen	Not Seen Used
HG 36	1d brown	115 x 90	16OCT52‡	1DEC52‡	311,520‡	None	14JUL53
HG 37	1d brown on granite	115 x 90				None	25NOV51

† Only one order was dispatched.

‡ It is not possible to separate the printings for these two cards.

The account is based on my own collection which incorporates material purchased from the auction sale of the Swarbrick collection, in some cases this includes the original annotated album leaves. Where appropriate, the earliest known dates are indicated. The author would be delighted if other Jamaican collectors could look through their material to check for earlier uses. A summary of each issue of KGVI postcards, whether placed on sale or not, is given in Table 1. Although there are limitations, the table and the sequence of the descriptions in the text follows that given in Ref 1. The catalogue numbers used are those of Higgins and Gage,² which are denoted "HG." Where appropriate, the text relative to some of the major queries and inconsistencies has been expanded. The illustrations for the paper have been selected from the more unusual items.

The First Issue — 1938

The Halfpenny Cards

The first $\frac{1}{2}$ d and $\frac{1}{2}$ d+ $\frac{1}{2}$ d (115 x 90 mm) cards were dispatched in March 1938. The first question concerns their date of issue. Fig. 1 shows a $\frac{1}{2}$ d card canceled at Kingston 16 May 1938. It is addressed to J.C.Gunter. Mr. Gunter was a well-known and indefatigable Jamaican collector and the message on the reverse reads:

May 16 1938

A first day of issue card. This will serve you as a reminder that the KG VI issues of stamps for Jamaica are near at hand. Yrs sincerely E.A.C. [initials unclear]

There can be little doubt that the $\frac{1}{2}$ d card was first used on 16 May 1938, this accords with the dispatch dates given in Table 1. It is a surmise that the $\frac{1}{2}$ d+ $\frac{1}{2}$ d reply cards were issued at the same time. However, the earliest date the author has seen is 15 August 1940 and, for a reply half, January 1943.

Both the $\frac{1}{2}$ d and $\frac{1}{2}$ d+ $\frac{1}{2}$ d cards are known with a diagonal specimen overprint. The style and size of this remained constant for all the KGVI cards issued in specimen form. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d+ $\frac{1}{2}$ d reply card only has specimen on the outward half, the attached reply portion is not canceled. This is also consistent

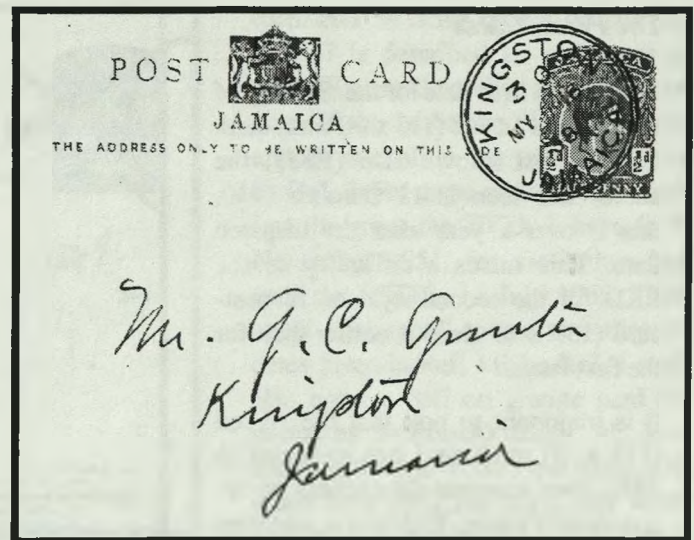


Figure 1. $\frac{1}{2}$ d Green postcard, First Day of Issue, 16 May 1938

for all the KGVI specimen reply cards. The only exception is the $\frac{1}{2}$ d+ $\frac{1}{2}$ d De la Rue archival card described in the following section.

De La Rue Archival $\frac{1}{2}$ d+ $\frac{1}{2}$ d reply card

Only a single copy of this $\frac{1}{2}$ d+ $\frac{1}{2}$ d reply card (139 x 89 mm) has been recorded. It is from the Swarbrick collection, and is illustrated in Fig. 2. The reply half is perforated "specimen of no value." This marking is thought to have been added by De La Rue although the marking has not been recorded on other archival cards. This perforation was added to a card already printed (on the outward half) with the form of diagonal specimen, shown in Fig. 3, used on other KGVI reply cards.

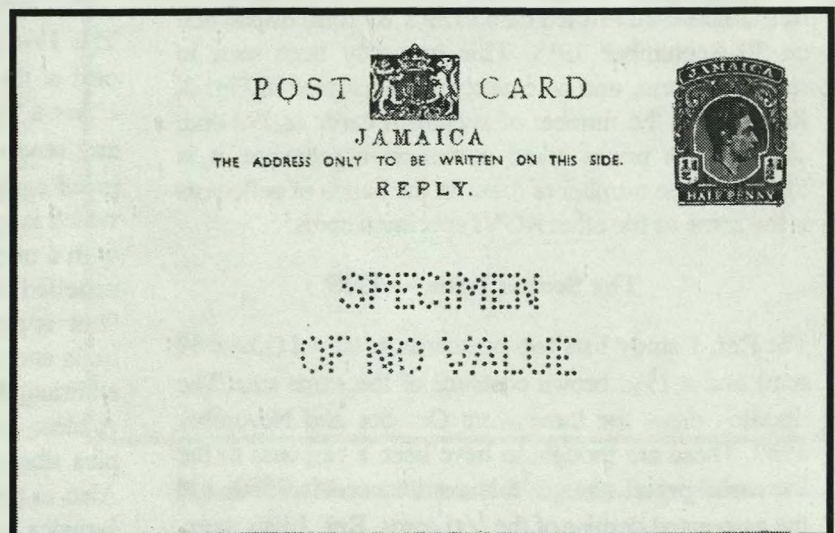


Figure 2. Archival perforated specimen on $\frac{1}{2}$ d+ $\frac{1}{2}$ d green reply card.

The Penny Cards

There is no firm date for the first day of issue of the 1d red (115 x 90 mm) card. The earliest known date (EKD) the author has seen is 18 October 1940, this is over a year after the dispatch date. This raises a difficulty as the EKD for the second style of 1d postcard (139 x 89 mm) is earlier than for the first issues!

It is important to note that the 1d red (115 x 90 mm) card was re-issued in 1942 (two separate dispatches) on re-constituted paper. This was a war-time measure to re-use paper; older British members will remember the emphasis given to "paper salvage" during the war years. Supplies of the card continued until the last order, for 15,000 cards, was sent from London on 18 December 1950. The colours of the paper and shades of the printing show marked variations and it is not possible to ascribe these to specific dispatch dates. However, the type of card used for the two 1942 printings was markedly different from the earlier or later printing of the 115 x 90 mm cards. The EKD on reconstituted paper is 23 July 1942. It is however, certain that the some of the later printings reverted to the more usual buff paper as demonstrated by a card used on 13 December 1951. However, a card sent to Grand Turk, dated 29 April 1952, is clearly on a form of reconstituted paper. Whether it was from stock dispatched 10 years earlier, in 1942, or from a later batch of poor quality paper is uncertain.

Ref. 1 lists a 1d+1d red card (139 x 89 mm) dispatched on 30 September 1938. This has only been seen in specimen form, and an example is illustrated in Fig. 3. Ref. 1 gives the number of specimen cards as 392 and, although the prices asked command a premium, it is likely that the number of these in the hands of collectors is the same as for other KGVI specimen cards.

The Second Issue — 1939

The Ref. 1 study lists two postcards, a 1d red (139 x 89 mm) and a 1½d brown postcard of the same size. The dispatch dates for these were October and November 1939. These are thought to have been a response to the increased postal charges that commenced in 1940, and the associated demise of the ½d cards. Ref. 1 lists them, somewhat confusingly, as "1940" postcards. The EKD

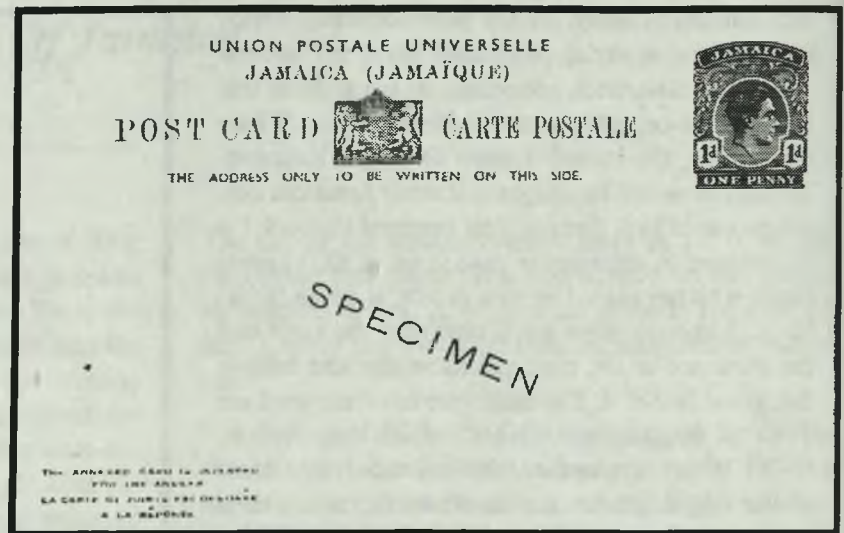


Figure 3. Specimen Overprint on Unissued 1d+1d Red Reply Card.

the author has for the 1d red postcard is 2 June 1939, with others used during 1939. This raises the question, mentioned above, that the second issue (139 x 89) cards could have been released before those of the smaller (115 x 90) size. The larger cards however, are much less common than the those with a smaller format.

Even more problematic is that these dated copies pre-date, by some months, the recorded date of dispatch! Ref. 1 states, in the introduction, that "...the author has no way of checking that the extracts are complete," although for many of the issues the dispatch dates accord well with the earliest dated copies. Help from other collectors would be invaluable in order to unravel the story still further.

The 1½d brown card

The 1½d in brown is even more of a mystery. To the best of the author's knowledge, it is only known with a either a "specimen" overprint or in mint condition. Has any reader seen a used copy? The author has a 1½d proof card, thought to be from the De La Rue records, which is reproduced in Fig. 4. It is initialed in black ink with a manuscript date of 17 August 1939. It also has a penciled inscription that states (in abbreviated form) "not approved" accompanied with indecipherable initials and the date "26/10" (likely 26 October 1939). In addition, there is a pencil cross over the head of KGVI. A close comparison of this proof to the printed examples does not show any visible differences in design. Also in pencil is the comment that a proof was sent to Jamaica with a date that appears to read "24/8" (24 August). In view of the "not approved" it is a mystery

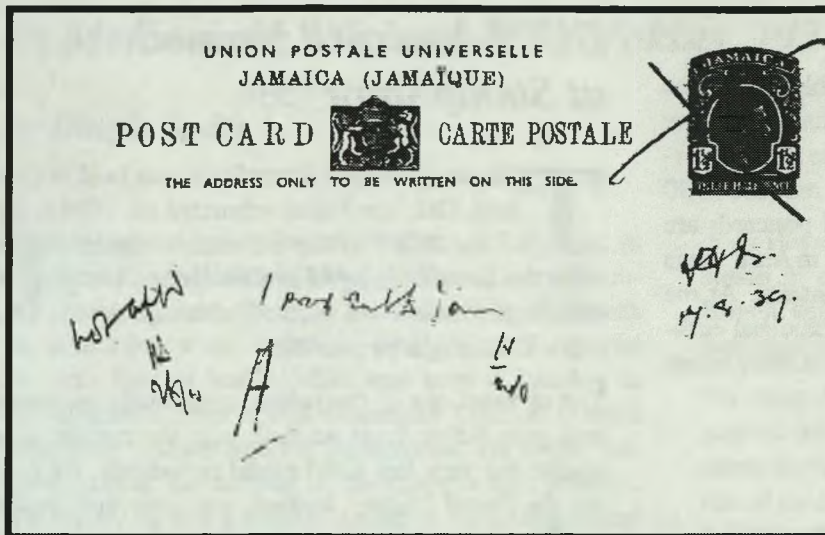


Figure 4. Proof of Unissued 1½d Brown Postcard.

why over 6,000 of the cards were listed as dispatched on 6 November 1939. The requisition records indicate that 364 of each card were overprinted specimen.

The Third Issue — 1952

The 1952 issue comprises only a single value, the 1d brown post card in yet a different size (127 x 100 mm). Again the Ref. 1 listing is confusing as the dispatch dates were in late 1951, not 1952. This is described as “on buff granite card.” The records give 350 cards as overprinted specimen, although none of these appear to have been seen. This specimen overprints on these cards is also unusual in that the practice of overprinting stamps and postal stationery for distribution via the UPU ceased in 1948. The last item of Jamaica postal stationery that was overprinted “specimen” is the first aereogram issue in 1947

While the author has not seen a copy of this card postal used, he does have a mint card, of unknown provenance, illustrated in Fig. 5. The date 22 December 1952 has been added in pencil. This could be the date added after the UPU distribution.

The Fourth Issue — 1953

Again, a single card was issued in 1953. This was a 1d brown postcard on buff granite card (115 x 90 mm), first dispatched in late 1952. Ref. 2, however, gives two listings for this

card. HG 36 is for brown on buff and HG 37 is described as *red-brown on gray*. The small number of cards I have seen of the 1d brown (115 x 90 mm) appear to confirm the two types listed by Ref. 2. For those of the darker shade (granite/grey) the EKD. I have is 25 November 1951, for the lighter buff card my EKD is 14 July 1953. These could correspond to the two dispatch dates given in Ref. 1. The Ref. 1 study also notes a buff on granite card (reported by Swarbrick) dated “5th. Mai” which is thought to be a specimen. This could be a UPU file copy, this would be consistent with the use of the French spelling of “May.” The variations in the type and colour of the card for the 115 x 90 mm 1d post card are large but the

differences between these two cards may well merit the separate listings given in Higgins and Gage. The shades of brown for the stamp impression are less well marked and may well do little but reflect the colour of the card on which they were printed.

The EKD for the 1d brown (115 x 90 mm) QEII post-card that that the author has noted is 23 November 1954, well before the 1956 date given in Ref. 2.

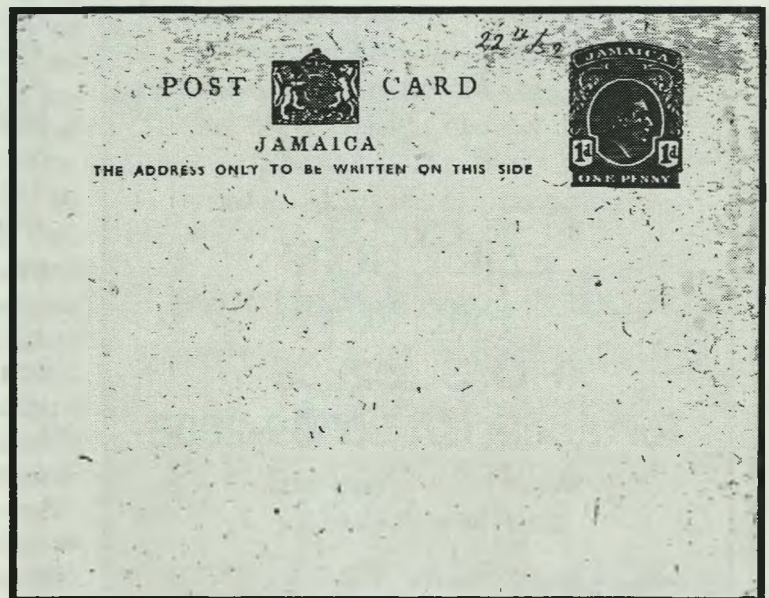


Figure 5. 1d Brown Postcard With Manuscript Date.

Conclusion

The descriptions and dates given in Table 1 and the detail in the text are certainly not the final definitive account for the KGVI postcards. With the possible exception of the earlier printings of the 1d red (115 x 90 mm) postcards, used examples of KG VI postcards are not common and the location of the writer in Australia is far from ideal for obtaining additional material. At the expense of repetition, I would welcome additional earliest known dates and other information from other members.

References

1. Hames, H.A.H., "The King George VI Postal Stationery of Jamaica, The Geosix Newsletter, Study Report No. 15, Chap. 4, 1999, pp. 157-168.
2. The World Postal Stationery Catalogue, Section 10, Jamaica to Kuwait, Higgins and Gage, Inc., CA, USA, 1968.

CRUCIAL INFORMATION

Now that the Editor has retired, it is crucial that members note the following changes.

The Editor's previous work address, Telephone, and FAX numbers no longer exist. All communication to them will fall into a "Black Hole"

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Please note these changes, they are effective immediately

BCPJ Awarded Vermeil at StampShow '99

This year, the APS StampShow was held in Cleveland, OH. The Editor submitted the 1998 volume of the *BCPJ* to the literature competition again after the success enjoyed at Chicagopex last year. We were again awarded a vermeil, although it was hoped that a Gold might be possible.

The observations of the judges seem totally reasonable, and your Editor finds no fault with the results. If one studies the very few Gold medal periodicals, for example the *Postal History Journal*, one finds that, in addition to very high production qualities, they are often 64 or more pages per issue, and they are loaded with very serious research articles. Since these journals are not generally aligned with a "club" such as the *BCPSG*, they do not usually include member news and activity reports. This undoubtedly gives them an aura of studiousness not found in the *BCPJ*.

The *BCPJ* was also criticized for the illustrations. While I don't disagree with the observation, I'm not sure we care. The authors and the Editor both share the blame for this. Many authors send very poor quality xerox copies of material. The Editor must then scan this and try to clean it up as much as possible — an often impossible task. As editor, I have selected a graphics resolution that results in computer files of a reasonable size. This has been my choice. Again, while a higher resolution could be used, most of the source documents are simply too poor for this to be useful. Some authors have tried to help the editor by providing scanned files directly. While appreciated, these files are often of low resolution (i.e. 96 dpi) which is only suitable for computer screens.

This said, the *BCPJ* is for us. While its purpose is to provide new research results, it is also the social vehicle for the membership. After all, part of the joy of philately is the camaraderie that it builds and the opportunity we all have to meet and interact with new and interesting friends. The Editor, and I believe the other officers of the *BCPSG*, are happy with the balance of news, member activities, and research. Given our backlog, it does not appear possible to significantly increase the volume of research that we are publishing.

The 1998 volume has also been submitted to the international exhibition in London. It will be interesting to see how we do there next May.

In Memoriam: Michael D.W. Vokins, 1934-99

by Dingle Smith

It is my sad task to report the death in late May, in Bristol, of *Michael (Mike) Vokins*. This will undoubtedly be a shock to his wide circle of friends as, until a few weeks before he died, Mike had enjoyed the very best of health. Mike was born in London in 1934, studied chemistry at Brasenose College, Oxford University and devoted his professional life to the improvement of the teaching of chemistry in high schools. Until 1967 he was a science teacher at the distinguished Clifton College in Bristol, he left that post to play a key role in designing the Nuffield teaching program in Chemistry. Until his retirement, in 1997, he was head of the Cecil Powell Science Centre at the University of Bristol. His contributions to the teaching of chemistry in the United Kingdom, and throughout the English-speaking world, were considerable. Indeed, he was for many years the Chief Examiner for Nuffield Chemistry and finalised the proof reading of the latest textbook on Nuffield Chemistry during his last few days in hospital.

To his philatelic friends he will however, be remembered for his encyclopedic knowledge of all aspects of Jamaican philately. Although Mike made a conscious decision not to enter competitive exhibitions, his contributions to the BSCPG and to other philatelic societies were outstanding. Foremost, was his ability to utilise his academic skills and expertise to undertake archival research into many aspects of Jamaican postal history, importantly he was always prepared to share the results of his findings with others and to publish them in the philatelic literature. This is confirmed by an editorial note by George Bowman in the July 1981 *BCPJ* noting that, "...nothing lifts this Editor's spirit more than realizing that a pipeline has formed between his in-basket and BCPSGer's typewriter, and if that typewriter belongs to Michael Vokins, then there's usually a manuscript somewhere in the tube. I can always depend on getting a Jamaica article from Mike." Equally important, his life was always marked by a willingness to undertake time-consuming tasks shunned by many others. His single-handed reprinting of the volumes 1 and 2 of the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* and of the *Jamaican Philatelist* are examples. Mike also played a major role in philately in Bristol, he was responsible for the formation of the Bristol Philatelic Society of which he was an ex-President, earlier this year he was accorded the status

of an Honorary Life Member of that society. His contribution in establishing one of the best Society libraries in Britain will be a lasting memorial, he bequeathed his comprehensive personal library to that Society.

His death is a special personal loss, Mike and I commenced collecting Jamaican material, as complete novitiates, in the late 1960s. For many years in Bristol we shared the enthusiasm and excitement of building up our collections. This included dividing up many of our buys from major auctions. Many years later, after my move to Australia, I sold part of my Jamaican collection and returned to Mike a rare and early exploded Jamaican booklet. It was typical of his well-ordered collecting that he still had the original rusted staple to re-unite the booklet to its former glory!

We extend our sincere sympathy to Michael's wife, Nadine, and their three children in their loss at a time when he could have expected to enjoy many years of active retirement. Mike's Jamaican collection will be sold in September by Cavendish Auctions in Derby. Many old friends will be there and they too, will miss Michael's unfailing affable charm and good humour at the preview.

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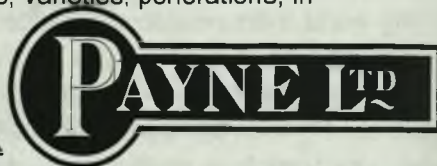
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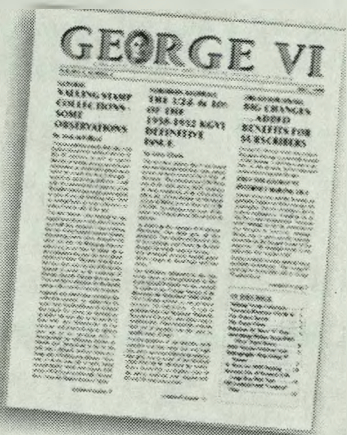
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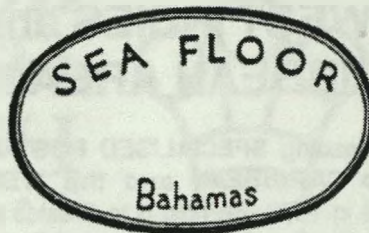
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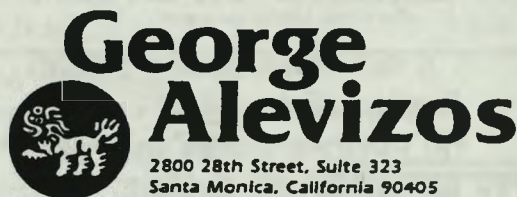
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