

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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INAUGURATION

TTPOST

Trinidad and Tobago
Postal Corporation Limited

1ST JUNE 1999

PRODUCED BY
THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

*Postponed to
1st July 1999*

**New Zealand Post International Assumes
Management of Postal Services of
Trinidad & Tobago**



Anguilla Postal History

Using Scanners to Identify Cancellations



The *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* is published four times a year (March, June, September, and December) by the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. It is available only by subscription through membership in the BCPSG. Membership is based on the calendar year; Current dues are: \$18 per annum in U.S. funds for members in the United States and Canada, and \$21 (£15) for those in other areas. Life membership is available, with the following rates being applicable:

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It Won't Be Long Now

by David L. Herendeen

By the time you receive your copy of this Journal, there will be about two months remaining before Stamp Show 2000 begins. Hopefully all members planning to attend this show — which promises to be truly magnificent — or the joint *BCPSG/BWISC*

meetings the weekend before, should have their travel arrangements in place.

This issue provides the latest updates and information on these festivities. *Rob Wynstra* provides an updated schedule of the joint meeting events on page 4. Information about the size of the exhibit, and the cost and availability of tickets is found on page 5. Information about London, including maps of our two principal venues, Earl's Court and Russell Square, are found in an article on pages 6 through 8. This article also points out some of the tourist highlights in London, and provides information on how to get around the city. Please note, however, that the *BCPSG* does not endorse any of the sites or activities listed. They are simply provided as a starting point for your convenience. Again, any homework you do before your trip to England will pay handsome dividends, and help you enjoy your visit.

Tim Tweddell's Treasurer's Report (page 17) shows that the *BCPSG* remains on firm financial ground thanks to the generosity of our membership (see list of contributors on page 25).

The Millennium Auction Terms and Conditions are found on page 26. These were accurate at the time of publication, but you should check your auction catalog when it arrives in case of any last minute changes.

For Some, The End

Note that this will be the last issue for members who have not paid their 2000 dues. Check your mailing envelope, if it is stamped **PAST DUE**, then this will be your last issue of the Journal.

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Final Details Set for London 2000 Meeting

The final details are now in place for our joint meeting at the Bonnington Hotel in London during 20-21 May 2000. The schedule as previously announced remains in place except for two changes. To accommodate our members, we have expanded the times for viewing of auction lots. The session for viewing will begin at 10:00AM on Saturday, 20 May and will continue until 1:15 PM, with the auction commencing at 1:30 PM. Danish and cookies will be available in the room starting at 10:00 AM. The auction will conclude by 5:30 PM and will be followed in the same room by an informal wine and cheese reception at 6:00 PM.

In addition, the format for informal displays has been changed due to the type of frames available for the meeting. These frames will accommodate 15 pages rather than the standard 16 pages. Members are encouraged to bring 7 to 15 pages for presentation during the informal display period. Those who are willing to put up informal displays during the meeting should contact **Rob Wynstra** to facilitate scheduling.

Please remember that our international director, **David Druett**, is serving as the local coordinator for the event. He can be contacted at:

1 Brewerton Street
Knareborough, N. Yorks
United Kingdom HG5 8AZ
Tel: 01423-865962 in the U.K.
(011-44-142-386-5962 from the U.S.)
e-mail: pennymead@aol.com

With those changes (indicated by shading) the revised schedule is as follows:

Saturday, 20 May 2000	
<i>At the Bonnington Hotel</i>	
10:00 AM-1:30 PM	Informal get-together over coffee and danish and viewing of auction lots
1:30 AM-5:30 PM	Joint 800-lot auction
6:00 PM-7:00 PM	Wine and cheese opening reception
Sunday, 21 May 2000	
<i>At the Bonnington Hotel</i>	
10:00 AM	Dealer's bourse opens (all day) and informal displays begin
10:00 AM-10:45 AM	British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group annual general meeting
10:45 AM-11:30 AM	British West Indies Study Circle annual general meeting
11:30 AM-12:30 PM	First formal display
12:30 PM-2:30 PM	Lunch and informal displays
2:30 PM-3:30 PM	Second formal display
3:30 PM-6:00 PM	Informal displays
4:00 PM	Opinion table opens
5:55 PM	Closing Remarks
<i>At Poon's Restaurant on Russell Square</i>	
7:00 PM	Cash bar reception and traditional group dinner
Monday, 21 May 2000	
<i>International Exhibition opens at Earl's Court</i>	

More on Scanning

By **David L. Herendeen**

Mr. Horry's article (see page 27) provides an excellent introduction to the use of scanning in philately. Needless to say, there are many complex facets to this technology. One of the most confusing is the **resolution** of the scan — what it means, what it does, and what values to use.

All scanners allow you to scan at a particular resolution measured in **dots per inch**, dpi. Each scanner has an **optical resolution**, which means the actual number of dots the scan engine records, and an **enhanced resolution** that allows you to scan at very high density. The

enhanced resolution is obtained by using software to **interpolate** (approximate) the image at more dots.

The resolution is an invariant quantity — it means what it says, dots per inch. Thus, the resolution that you use depends on the purpose of the resulting output image. For example, take your computer screen. If you are using a 1024x768 screen resolution on a 17 in monitor, then you have about 85 dots per inch. Therefore, it is not really necessary to scan images that will be viewed on a monitor at any higher resolution.

Continued to page 17

President's Message

By Rob Wynstra

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our upcoming joint meeting with the British West Indies Study Circle in London. **David Druett** and I have already received a large number of confirmations from members who will be attending this event and the following international exhibition at Earl's Court. Besides many old friends who were in London for our meeting there in 1990, some of our newer members are planning to attend. I was especially gratified to receive confirmations from several of our overseas members who will be there. Once again, I would encourage anyone who is planning to attend to please send in your registration form or even a simple note or e-mail with the details of your participation in the group events.

We also have been working on the preliminary details for our 2001 meeting at Texpex in Dallas, Texas. The dates of the show have been set for 6-8 April 2001. The event is currently scheduled for the Renaissance Dallas North Hotel. Other groups meeting at the show will include the Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania, the Tonga and Tin Can Mail Study Circle, and the Eire Philatelic Association.

Tentative plans for Dallas include a group dinner, the annual general meeting, and the group auction. Show organizers assure me that several judges with expertise on the British Caribbean will be included on the panel. Group member **Peter Elias** has agreed to act as our local contact. Texpex is widely recognized as one of the top shows in the country and I would encourage as many of you as possible to plan to attend. Further details on the show will be forthcoming in future issues of the journal.

In addition, **Giorgio Migliavacca** has provided some information on our planned meeting in Tortola, British Virgin Islands during late April or early May of 2002. This event will take place in conjunction with the annual Tortola Stamp Show. According to Giorgio, there is a good possibility that a number of British Caribbean rarities from the Queen's Collection will on display during the meeting. That remains unofficial at this point, but there are indications it will materialize. He notes that members of the *BCPSG* will be encouraged to exhibit and to contribute articles to their 80-page show program. Assuming that the Royal exhibition takes up 10

frames, there will be about additional 15 exhibit frames holding 16 pages each available for the show.

Giorgio promises excellent rates at a local hotel and plans are underway for a package of excursions and activities at very attractive discounts. He adds that the Italian and Colonies Study Circle which held its meeting at the show in 1999 had a wonderful experience there. "And you would not be the guinea pigs (forgive the similitude) since you have been preceded by the Italian group," he says, "We are now tested and quite trained."

Stamp Show Info

In an article appearing in *Linn's Stamp News* of 21 February 2000, James Philbrick provides some interesting and useful information about Stamp Show 2000. According to Hugh Wood, one of the major stamp insurers, the exhibits to be shown will have a value of around \$640 million!

Except for the first day of the show, tickets are free and may be obtained by eMailing:

stamp.show2000@btclick.com

If you preorder first day tickets, the cost is £5. If you buy them at the show, the price will be £10. Season tickets will be valid for the entire show.

Philbrick goes on to report that tickets for the Palmares (Awards Banquet) will "cost the same as at the Philex-France International Show held in Paris in 1999. [*These tickets cost FF1,000, or about \$160. I assume that the Stamp Show tickets will therefore be around £100. Ed.*] He further notes, "I have it on good authority — genuine insider information — that those present at the London banquet will be offered considerably more than they were in Paris." [*If this is true, it will be a wonderful event. The Paris Palmares lasted more than five hours (!!) and had something for everyone.*]

The show had applications for more than 5,500 frames, but only 3,500 frames were available. Still, the number of frames available is greater than both of last year's shows in Nuremberg and Paris. Additionally, almost 25% of the exhibits are being shown for the first time. This is a higher portion than required by FIP rules. It also helps to explain why a surprising number of successful exhibits were not accepted for the event. When last reported, more than one-third of the U.S. exhibitors applying were rejected.

The Stamp Show 2000 Venues

by David L. Herendeen

London is a very large, wonderful, and I'm afraid to say, expensive, city. For members who plan to attend Stamp Show 2000, rest assured that there will be many things for you to do, both philatelically and otherwise. One can spend weeks simply seeing the sights including: the castles, palaces and other historic sites; museums; churches; and parks. This will naturally come as a relief to our non-collecting spouses.

The adjoining maps provide an overall map of the London Underground, and enlarged views of our two principal venues: the Earl's Court area where Stamp Show 2000 is being held, and the Russell Square area where the BCPSG will be holding our joint meeting with BWISC on 20-21 May.

Get a Good Guidebook

You should get a Guide Book to London before leaving on your trip. Two of the most used are *Frommer's London* (published by McMillan Travel and available for about \$15) and *Fodor's London*. In order to make the best use of your time, it helps to plan on the sights that you wish to see.

The Underground

The London subway system is well-developed and easy to use. It allows one to get around town quite easily. Your guidebook will include a colorful map of the Underground (or Tube), an excerpt of which is shown on the next page. You will note that our two venues are connected by the Piccadilly Line. This makes it very practicable to have your hotel in the Russell Square area.

There are many different public transportation options that you have while you are in London. The Underground costs £1.20 per trip. You can reduce the price by purchasing a booklet of 10 tickets, called a *Carnet*, for £10. Naturally, you can buy other passes good for longer periods of time and for different zones within the city. Many of these passes also allow you to use the extensive bus and train systems. Taxis, while more expensive, are plentiful. Again, it would be best to check with your travel agent based on your own itinerary.

The Earl's Court Area

It is my understanding that the South Kensington area in the vicinity of Earl's Court is not rich in tourist sites. However, there are a number of museums between the venue and Hyde Park. These include the Victoria and Albert Museum, the natural History Museum, the Science Museum and several others. This venue is also close to the famous Harrod's Department Store at Knightsbridge. (South Kensington tube stop.)

The Russell Square Area

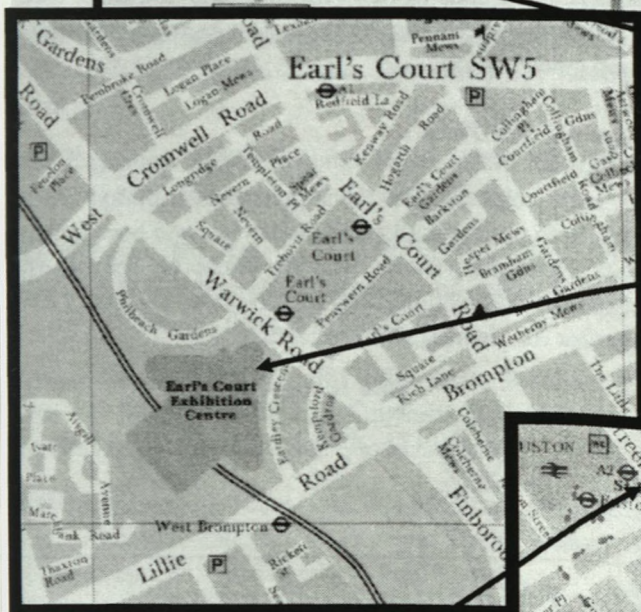
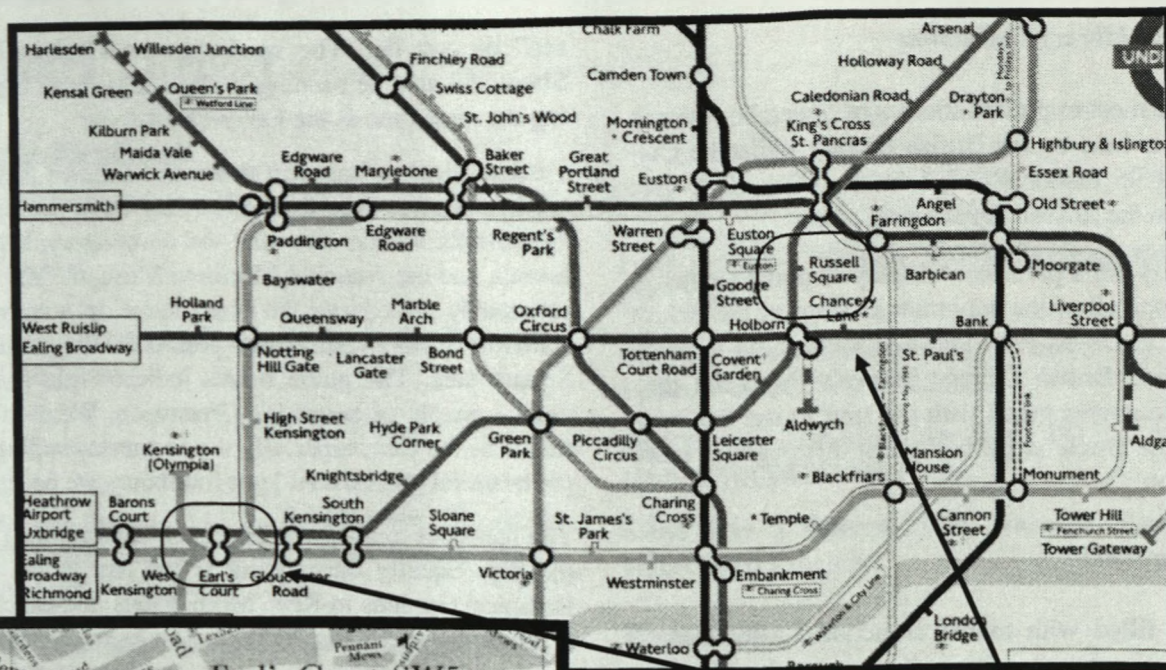
Russell Square is in a location that is close to a large number of tourist spots. Most notably, is the British Museum. One can easily spend a day or more perusing the wonderful attractions. To the southeast, one encounters the West End theatre district where many popular stage plays are always running. Also close by, to the southwest, is Covent Garden.

Food

London (and England in general) seems to have a bad reputation for dining. I think this is a remnant of a bygone era. Frankly, we have found any number of excellent restaurants in London. As a major cosmopolitan center, you can find virtually any kind of ethnic cooking that suits your fancy. Our BCPSG dinner will be held at Poon's Restaurant, shown on the inset map of the Russell Square venue.

Philatelic Shopping

As the center of British Empire philately, London has a number of retail establishments of interest to British Caribbean collectors. Located near the Covent Garden area is Vera Trinder which carries a full line of philatelic supplies and a huge stock of stamp-related books. Nearby to the southeast at 399 Strand is the world famous Stanley Gibbons, where you can examine a huge stock of stamps and covers for sale. The offices of Argyll-Etkin, located at 1-9 Hills Place, Oxford Circus, have recently moved to the area. They carry a large retail stock of stamps and covers from all the British Caribbean islands.



VENUE AREAS

**EARL'S COURT
STAMP SHOW 2000
VENUE**

**NEAREST
UNDERGROUND
STATIONS**

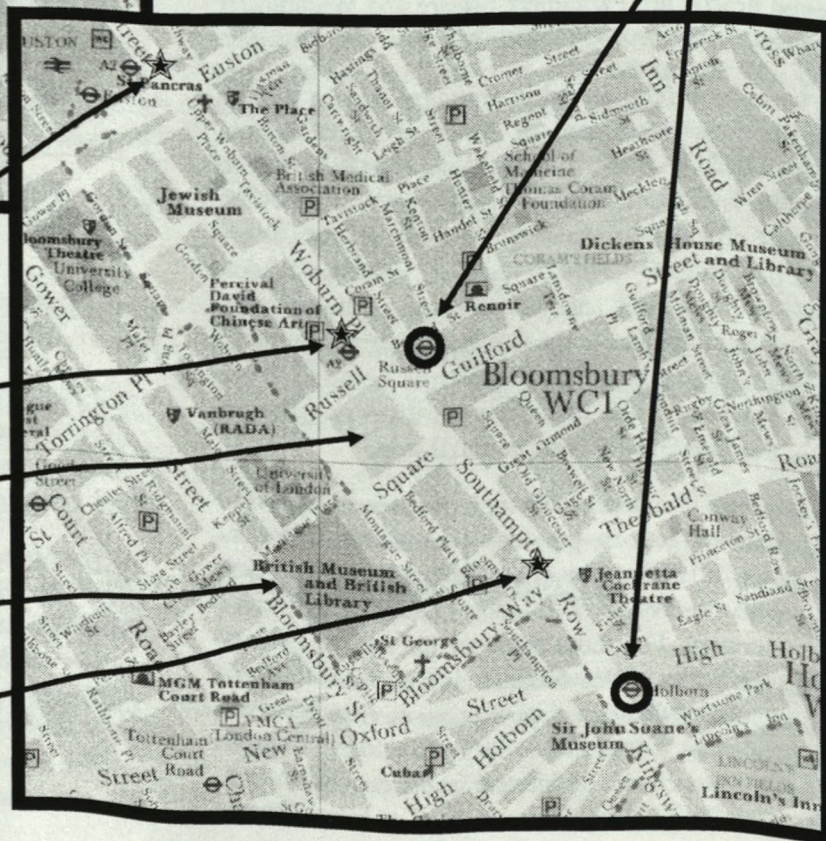
PHILATELIC COLLECTIONS

POON'S RESTAURANT

RUSSELL SQUARE

BRITISH MUSEUM

BONNINGTON HOTEL



The British Library Collections

One of the most important sources of philatelic research materials is held by the British Library Philatelic Collections at 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. (See location on the Russell Square inset map).

This facility has a permanent display of philatelic items, and access to all of the important archives of the British printers, e.g. De La Rue. Those wishing to do research must have a British Library Reader's Pass, and they must make arrangements with the staff to use the facility. See the article at the bottom of this page for more information.

Major Attractions

In a city filled with tourist attractions, a number of places stand out as "can't miss" stops for the first-time visitor. At the top of the list is the British Museum which is located very near Russell Square and the Bonnington Hotel. Among the thousands of renowned items in the museum are the Rosetta Stone and the famous Elgin Marbles from the Parthenon in Athens. For those who have never seen it before, the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace is well worth taking in. On the opposite side of St. James Park is the underground "War Room" used by Winston Churchill during World War II. Located nearby are Parliament Square and Westminster Abbey.

Not far away on the Strand is Trafalgar Square with its world-famous monument in honor of Lord Nelson. Covent Garden, which is located just off the Strand to the north, is wonderful place for a coffee and sandwich stop and provides an exciting view of the many local street performers. There is also an open-air market where one can find antiques, souvenirs, clothes, and other eclectic items. For those with an interest in music and theater, the Covent Garden area is home to Royal Opera House and the major theatrical district. For art lovers, the Tate Gallery is an essential stop.

The Museum of London, although not as well known as some other attractions, provides a wonderful historical experience. It is located near St. Paul's Cathedral, which along with the Tower of London belong in the "can't miss" category. For those with an interest in military history, the Imperial War Museum is well worth the trip. For a small fee, you can even experience the sights and sounds of what it was like to be in London during the blitz. For anyone with an interest in the decorative arts, the Victoria and Albert Museum is an absolute "must-

see" on any list. The world-famous Chelsea Flower Show will also be running in the Kings Road area during the same time as the Earl's Court show.

Further afield, a boat trip down the Thames to Greenwich is a great way to see the city from the river. In Greenwich, visitors can visit the observatory, historical homes, and the National Maritime Museum. The ride is reasonably priced and the boats leave on a convenient schedule from Westminster pier near the Parliament Square area. The guide books indicate that you only need a couple of hours for Greenwich. We didn't find this to be the case, especially if you want to walk around the beautiful grounds. At least four hours are necessary.

The half-hour train ride to Hampton Court is well worth the trip. Equally outstanding is the trip to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kew. More details and exact locations for any these attractions can be found in any of the good guide books.

Have a Great Time

We hope you will take advantage of all London has to offer, both philatelically and otherwise, and have a great time. First-time visitors will no doubt be greatly impressed by this fabulous and historic city. Thanks to **Rob Wynstra** for his help with this article.

Bon voyage!



The Philatelic Collections

David R Beech, FRPSL, and Head of the Philatelic Collections, kindly writes:

*Our Philatelic Exhibition at the Library will remain open as usual, you may see our Web site <http://www.bl.uk/> for additional information. (First, go to **Collections**, then to **Philatelic**.*

At The Stamp Show 2000 we have a large exhibition area "The British Library Rarities." As a result, our Philatelic Researchers Service for access to material not on exhibition (and the availability of curatorial staff) will be closed from Monday 15th to Friday 29th May; reopening on Tuesday 30th May. Such service is available by appointment only. Again, for general details see our web site.

Secretary's Report

by Peter Kaulback

New Members

There were no new applicants listed in the December issue of the Journal.

New Applicants

George Paul Brown, PO Box 66, Gardiner, NY 12525 USA. Philatelic Interest: British Virgin Islands. Sponsored by: Barry Friedman.

John G. Chabrol, 106-1200 Don Mills Road, North York, ON M3B 3N8 Canada. Sponsored by: Rueben Ramkissoon.

Don Demaray, 28596 Dolphin Road, RR#6, Strathroy, ON N7G 3H7. Sponsored by: Peter Kaulback.

Bob Gilman, PO Box 18, Daly City, CA 94016-0018 USA. Philatelic Interest: Bermuda, and many other areas. Sponsored by: Peter Kaulback.

Alister David Kinnon, 29 Glebe Rise, Sharnbrook, Bedford, MK44 1JB United Kingdom. Philatelic Interest: St. Lucia. Sponsored by: David Druett.

Frederick Lutt, 32 Burley Circle, Cincinnati, OH 45218 USA. Philatelic Interest: KGV1 and Postal History of Leeward Islands. Sponsored by: Paul Larsen.

Brian McLaughlin, Pigeon Hole #130, Camby, IN 46113 USA. Sponsored by: Michael Mead.

Cam McPherson, 8000 Modesto Drive, Delta, BC 4VC 4B1 Canada. Sponsored by: Peter Kaulback.

Dr. David C. Sellman, 9 Dobree Avenue, London NW10 2AD United Kingdom. Sponsored by: Peter Kaulback.

Change of Address

Bernard A. Bullivant, 12 Lonsdale Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3BT United Kingdom

John Chay, c/o PO Box International, #3N-1025, 8326 NW 56th. Street, Miami, FL 33166 USA.

Paul Feniello, PO Box 500337, Atlanta, GA 31150-0337 USA.

Charles Lee Grassman, 345 Truckahoe Drive, St. Louis, MO 63125-4142 USA.

Jack Guyer, 1056 Viewridge Drive, PO Box 1941, Oak Harbor, WA 98277-1841 USA.

Chris May, 1 Pelham Close, Whitehill, Hants. GU35 9DL United Kingdom.

Resignation

James Stubbs

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 e-mail, at:

kaulbackpe@home.com

Special Appointment

Please be advised that **Ian Matheson** has graciously agreed to act as a Trustee in place of the late **Ron Wike**, until the completion of the term, 2001.

Ian has also offered to assume the Leadership of the British Honduras/Belize Study Group, replacing the late **Eric King**. Ian's extensive knowledge in this area will be a great benefit to collectors specialising in this country.

On behalf of the Officers, Trustees and all of the members, I thank Ian for assuming both these important roles within the Group.

Exhibits and Awards

There were so few exhibition results reported for the current quarter that they will be held over until the June issue.

Postal Services of Trinidad & Tobago Under the Management of New Zealand Post International

by Dr. Reuban Ramkissoon

After a long period of review and study, a new Postal Act of Parliament was passed on 25 February 1999. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago signed a five-year management contract with New Zealand Post International (NZPIL) to manage the postal services of the country. On that date, NZPIL were authorized to assume responsibility for the management of both the Post Office and the Post Office Savings Bank.

A local editorial¹ welcomed plans for the privatization of the postal service as "a fresh breath... from the sea." In a later article² entitled "Kiwis to run TTPost," Public Utilities Minister, Ganga Singh, announced to the House of Representatives that NZPIL would manage the country's post office for the next five years. Their proposal for the management contract was selected from a short list of bidders that included Canada Post, Deutsche Post, and a British-Swiss Post alliance.

The proposed budget indicates that NZPIL will be paid about TT\$28 million for the period to spearhead the privatization process. The initial proposal included projections for capital costs and profitability. These are shown in Table 1.

The initiatives leading to privatization stemmed from a need to reduce the burden of heavy operating expenses. In fact, these expenses represented 35% of the government's total revenue. Major contributing factors to cost growth included poor service, which led to significant losses in mail volumes (a 37% decline in recent years), and to the expansion of private courier services.

The introduction of new products and better management is expected to put the post office on the road to self-sufficiency, and end its reliance on the government subvention.

Two of the first initiatives announced are: that postmen will ride motorbikes instead of bicycles; and that delivery of letters will be guaranteed to be delivered within 24 hours to principal areas, and 48 hours to the rest of the country.

Table 1. Financial Projections for TTPost Under NZPIL Management.

Capital Expenditures (Millions of \$TT)	
Local post offices	\$66.50
Motorbikes for postmen	3.50
Computerization of offices	0.80
Staff training	0.65
Renovation of offices	363.00
Improving mail security	2.60
Purchase new vehicles	3.40
Profitability (Millions of \$TT)	
First year of operation	None
Second year of operation	None
Third year of operation	2.0
By fifth year	17.2

A Truly Historic First

This historic landmark represented the end of the Postal Service as a Trinidad Government Department on 30 June 1999. As of 1 July 1999, Trinidad & Tobago Postal Corporation Limited (TTPost) began operations as a state-owned corporation with a Board of Directors appointed by the Minister of Public Utilities, the Hon. Mr. Ganga Singh.

This is the first time in the world that a Post Office will be run on a management contract, although the principle is well established in other industries. This puts TTPost at the forefront of development in the postal world, as many other countries are watching with interest to see if they should adopt this approach to improving their postal services.³

During the planned three-month transition phase, the Post Office remained a Government Department, reporting to the Ministry of Public Utilities. The finances of the Post Office were managed by the Government. Pri-

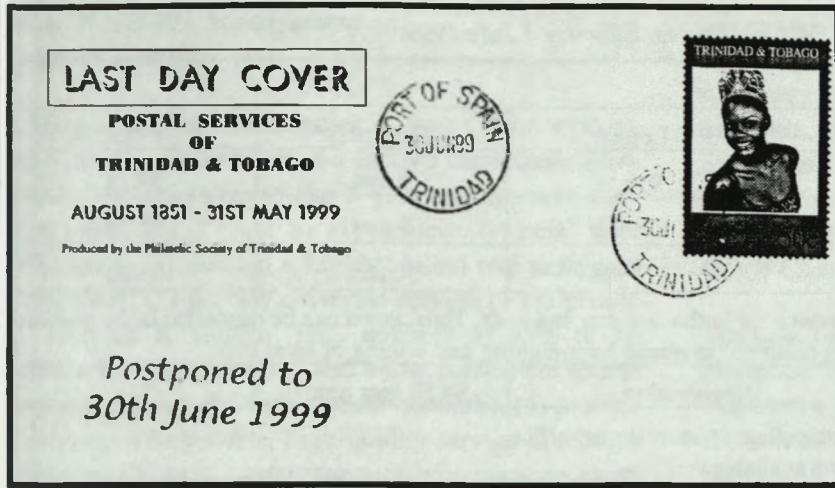


Figure 1. Last Day Cover of the Postal Service of Trinidad and Tobago (PSTT), 30 June 1999.

marily because of delays in the Post Office legislative procedures, the Post Office operations were extended to the end of June.

The last day of postal services of Trinidad & Tobago was 30 June 1999. Approximately 240 commemorative covers were serviced by the Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago (PSTT) for the Last Day of postal services. Shown in Fig. 1, these covers have cachet text in red, and are franked with the prevailing inland letter rate of 50c. No official TTPost covers were produced for this event.

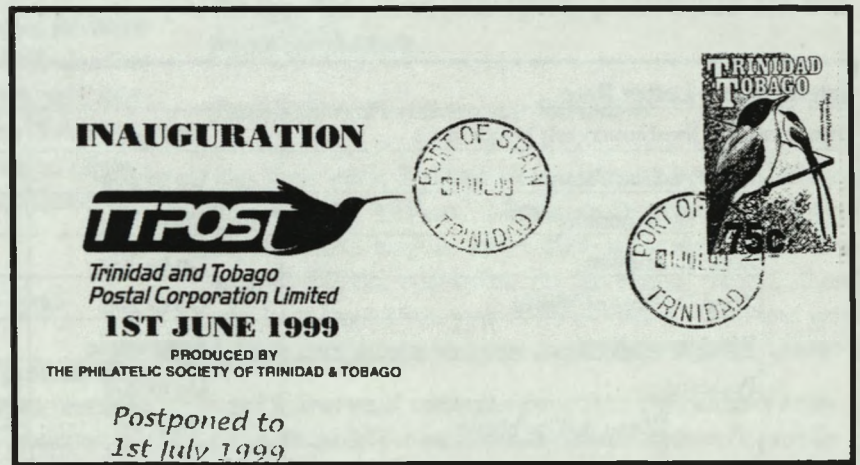


Figure 2. Commemorative cover (1 July 1999) for the Inauguration of TTPost under NZPIL.

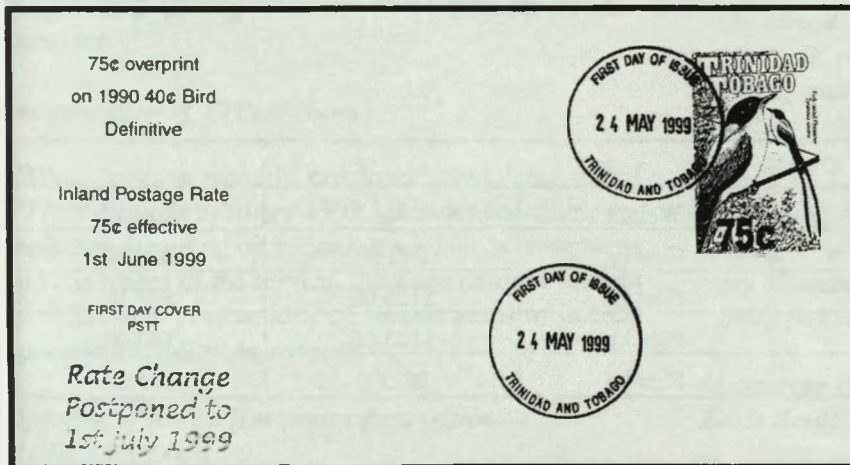


Figure 3. First Day Cover by PSTT of the 75c Overprint on the 40c Bird Definitive Issue.

The inauguration of the TTPost, occurred 1 July 1999. The event was commemorated by covers showing both the red, black and white logo of TTPost, and a printed text cachet. These covers, shown in Fig. 2, were franked at the new inland rate of 75c. Again, approximately 240 covers were produced by PSTT, but no official TTPost covers were produced.

The adhesive used was the 40c value of the Birds definitive issue (Scott 511/SG 789), overprinted 75c. This stamp was the only item produced that could be said to commemorate the establishment of TTPost. It also represented an increase in the inland postage, originally

scheduled to become effective on 1 June 1999, but postponed to 1 July.

The 40c stamps were overprinted by the Government Printery, Port of Spain. Two million stamps (80 blocks of 500 sheets of 50 stamps) were surcharged. This 75c overprinted issue was released on 24 May 1999, to enable the public to purchase stamps in preparation for the rate increase. Again, no official TTPost first day covers were produced, but the PSTT made 400 commemorative first day covers^{4,5} as shown in Fig. 3.

Table 2. TTPost Mail rates, Effective 1 July 1999.

Inland Letter Mail Rate					
Category	Width	Length	Thickness	Price	
Small	5½ in	9½ in	5 mm	\$0.75	
Large	10½ in	12½ in	5 mm	\$1.50	
Extra Large	14 in	17½ in	50 mm	\$3.00	
The rationale is to simplify the postal service for both customer and staff. Thus, items can be deposited in the post on the basis of size, without necessitating a customer to queue for weighing and pricing of local mail.					
Post cards	\$0.75	Registration	\$4.50 (per item)		
Parcels (card to call) require addressee to collect at nearest post office. (The universal delivery of parcels not yet available).					
Weight	0-5g	\$4.50	Up to 20kg (max)	\$40.00	

International Letter Rate				
(Data for the first listed country only in each zone.)		Weight	Air	Surface
Zone A. Caribbean		Up to 20g	\$2.00	\$1.50
Zone B. Americas		Up to 20g	\$3.75	\$1.50
Zone C. Europe		Up to 20g	\$4.50	\$1.50
Zone D. Rest of World		Up to 20g	\$5.25	\$1.50
Worldwide Rate		Aerogramme	\$2.00	N/A
Postcard		Up to 20g	\$3.25	2.00
EMS:	Zone A. Caribbean	First kg	\$85.00	Extra 500g \$13.00
	Zone B. Americas	First kg	\$110.00	Extra 500g \$10.00
	Zone C. Europe	First kg	\$105.00	Extra 500g \$20.00
	Zone D. Rest of World	First kg	\$160.00	Extra 500g \$20.00

International Parcel Rate				
(Data for the first listed country only in each zone.)		Weight	Air	Surface
Zone A. Caribbean		First kg	\$42.00	\$36.00
Zone B. Americas		First kg	\$126.00	\$88.50
Zone C. Europe		First kg	\$103.00	\$84.00
Zone D. Rest of World		First kg	\$92.00	\$63.00

What the NZPIL Management Contract Entails

A long history of inefficiencies in Post Office services led to the legislative relief of a foreign contractual alternative. The objectives of the 5-year management contract called for TTPost to (1) achieve financial self-sufficiency; (2) develop a highly skilled and motivated work force; (3) provide universal service to the people of Trinidad & Tobago (i.e., delivery to 95% of all households and businesses and allow convenient access to postal services through a retail network); (4) provide customers with reliable, high-quality service at reasonable cost; (5) grow postal revenues by enhancing existing services, and introducing new services; (6) modernize buildings, facilities, equipment, vehicles, systems and management.³

To accomplish these objectives, the operational structure of TTPost by NZPIL provides for four New Zealanders (Kiwis) in management: Paul Dalton, Managing Director; Dave Curtis-Gunn, General Manager, Sales and Marketing; Steve Jackman, General Manager, Operations, and Kevin Upston, General Manager, Human Resources.

TTPost New Mail Rates Began on 1 July 1999

An inaugural schedule of new rates for post services provided by TTPost was released in a folded brochure titled *Mail Rates* (effective 1 July 1999). It contains a detailed schedule of services and rate information.⁷ An innovative method of pricing of inland letter mail is based on envelope size rather than weight, while weight-based pricing continues to be used for international mail.^{6,7}

Inauguration of TTPost News

TTPost began a monthly employee news letter called *TTPost News* in February 1999.³ Besides containing information regarding operations, the goals, achievements and challenges of the service, there are items of interest to philatelists. Abstractions of several items of interest appear in the following sections.

Opening of the La Horquetta Post Office — a first for TTPost

Announced in the TTPost News in June 1999,⁶ the La Horquetta Post Office was officially opened by the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Basdeo Panday, on June 14, 1999. This facility became the first to show the new

colors and logo of TTPost. In addition to the traditional service provided, this office also contains a range of stationery items, greeting cards, refreshment vending machines, etc. It is anticipated that other facilities will follow the *new look* as existing ones are refurbished and new offices are constructed.

Other Changes

The new TTPost logo has begun to appear on street mail collection boxes. New uniforms are being introduced. The fleet of mail transport vehicles have begun to show the new look. It is expected that in a year all mail processing will be done in a new National Mail Center to be constructed at Piarco, the site of Trinidad's International Airport. Thus far, mail processing has been done at the GPO, Port of Spain, San Fernando and Scarborough, Tobago. The other post offices process mail for their respective districts.

Establishing Performance Standards

The June 1999, TTPost News discussed New Delivery Standards for TTPost.⁶ Managing Director Paul Dalton expects these targets to be 80% achieved by the first year of TTPost operation. By the end of year 2, there will be at least 85%, year 3, 93%, year 4, 95%, and year 5, 96% compliance to these standards. Excerpts follow:

*All inland mail collected from Post Offices and Post-
ing Boxes at the advertised clearance time (typically
5pm) anywhere in the country will be delivered
across the country the following working day. This
includes mail between Trinidad and Tobago.*

*On arrival in TTPost hands, incoming International
Mail will receive the same standards of service as
inland mail (that is, such mail received by the 5pm
will be delivered the next working day anywhere in
the country.*

*Outgoing International Airmail will be at the airport
ready for dispatch within the standards for the deliv-
ery of inland mail (that is, within one working day of
being posted anywhere in the country.*

Measuring Performance Standards: Netper and Early Results

Netper (network performance) is a system being used by TTPost to monitor the delivery performance, i.e. transit time, of letter mail. Based on a 10% sample (every 10th letter due for delivery that day is recorded). Already established are 16 sampling sites around the

country, which will cover both inland and international mail. When all of the samples from all of the sites are combined, an estimate of the percentage of mail delivered on time can be determined.

The sampling will represent mail to be delivered by Posties, Private Boxes, Poste Restante or Agencies. Early results are shown in Table 3a.⁹ Performance by method, as well as specific postal branches, was reported in July 1999.⁷ Shown in Table 3b, they indicate that the target goals set by TTPost are being approached. Comparative data published in September 1999¹⁰ show significant improvement in all categories and locations, as seen in Table 3c. These data show encouraging results along the path of achieving expected performance.

Changes in Staff and Working Requirements

A Delivery Officer (formerly called a *Postman*) is now a *Postie*. They carry an average of 11kg (25 lb) of mail in their shoulder bag, and travel a maximum of 3 miles (2 km) on their *walk*. TTPost Delivery Plan calls for the use of motorbikes and bicycles, and pick-up points along the delivery *walk* to pick-up mail. Less than half

(45%) of mail is delivered to residences; the remainder is *out of postal delivery*, requiring the addressee to collect mail at the post office.

TTPost aim at greater worker productivity in the sorting and handling of mail. The old Post Office system saw 400-600 letters/hour/person. TTPost's goal is 1,500 letters/hour/person (compared to NZ rate of 2,000 letters/hour/person). Sorting cages from NZ will be installed to facilitate these efficiencies.

Delivering all the Mail

The goal of TTPost is to deliver all of the mail to the households and businesses. This will eliminate the crowds which come to facilities now to collect mail. To accomplish this, residential letter boxes will become mandatory. This means that streets will have to be named, and numbers assigned to residences.

Reorganization of Post Offices and Postal Agencies

After detailed evaluation, decisions have been made regarding the size and form of the Post Office and agency network. The goal is to improve services and lower

Table 3. TTPost Performance Measures

a. Overall Delivery Performance				
PERIOD	Day 1 % Delivery	Day 2 % Delivery	Day 3 % Delivery	Day 4+ % Delivery
Target	80	20	0	0
June 1999	16	19	20	45
July 1999	36	23	14	27
August 1999 First Half	59	23	9	9

b. July 1999					c. September 1999				
Performance by Method			Performance by Branch		Performance by Method			Performance by Branch	
Method	Day 1 %	Year 1 Target	Branch	Day 1 %	Method	Day 1 %	Year 1 Target	Branch	Day 1 %
Overall	17	80	Arima	12	Overall	62	80	Arima	73
Postie	22	80	Arouca	17	Postie	61	80	Arouca	76
Poste Restante	14	80	Carenage	5	Poste Restante	56	80	Carenage	61
P.O. Boxes	12	80	Couva	31	P.O. Boxes	69	80	Couva	92
Agency	14	80	Curepe	10	Agency	66	80	Curepe	68

costs. The new network will place more emphasis on upgraded Agency/Franchises as more cost-effective for providing services to small communities.

Beginning in August 1999, the number of Corporate Post Offices will be progressively reduced to a target of 25-35. The major offices will be fully computerized, relocated, and refurbished. Such refurbishment efforts are expected to take 2 years or longer. The remaining Post Offices will be converted as quickly as possible to either Franchised Post Centers or Stamp Vendors. The effect of the conversion will not reduce the postal services to the public. In many instances, services will be enhanced and hours of operation expanded. It is anticipated that full implementation of these changes will reduce customer waiting periods in facilities to a goal of 2 minutes from entry to a facility!

Franchised Post Centers will provide a much larger range of services than current Agencies. They will be privately operated, and staff will not be TTPost employees. It is anticipated that this re-organization will take about a year to accomplish.⁸ A reduction from 200 post offices and postal agencies serving the country⁵ will result from the re-organization process.

Public Favorability Ratings

TTPost has begun to issue monthly reports based on a compilation of favorable reports in the press. The first such report issued¹⁰ showed an overwhelming favorable public reaction. The summary of the first report is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. How the Press Views the TTPost.

Item	Current Month	Year to Date (From March 1999)
Number of Press articles	49	199
Per cent Negative	6.25%\$	7.2%
Per cent Positive	93.75%	92.8%
Number of media inquiries	4	43

TTPost in Tobago

TTPost changes and improvements in services in Trinidad are also being applied in Tobago. Specific operations in Tobago include:

1. Local mail posted in Tobago is being processed at Scarborough; along with all other mail is cleared daily to Port of Spain for processing.
2. As much as possible, mail for delivery in Tobago from Trinidad is sorted to delivery offices in Port of Spain, so that it can be taken straight on the transport to the delivery office or agency the next day, without requiring sorting in Scarborough.
3. A Delivery Leader position was created for Tobago. This officer is in charge of the main delivery office in Scarborough, as well as all other posties in Tobago.
4. Same day delivery is the standard of the upgraded service for all offices.¹⁰

TTPost Service to the Trinidad & Tobago Government — it's Newest Customer!

From 1 October 1999, all Government Departments are required to pay for mail sent through TTPost.¹⁰ The options available are: Departments which generate small quantities of mail must be franked with regular postage stamps. Mail may be dropped off at any

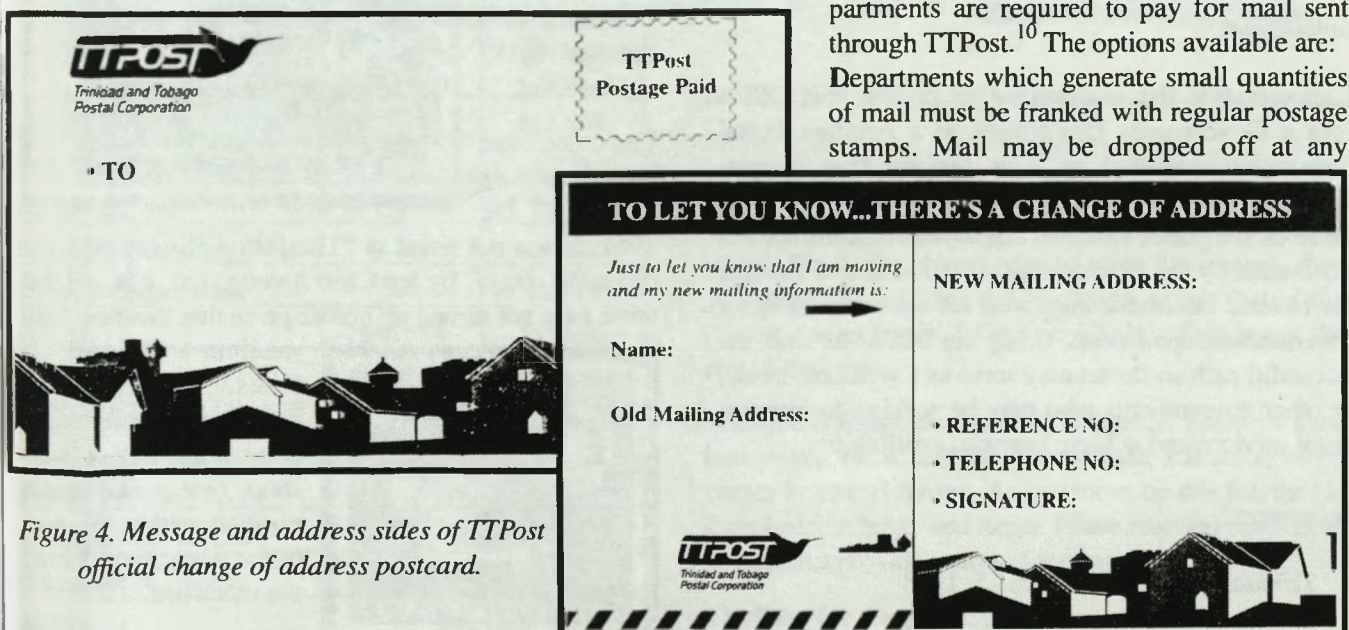


Figure 4. Message and address sides of TTPost official change of address postcard.

- TTPost street box for clearance and delivery.
2. **Bulk Mail.** For mailings of over 50 items, the need for postage stamps has been eliminated. Such mail must be brought to the acceptance office. Payment for this service as detailed in a *Statement of Posting Form* allows for payment in cash or check at the time of service, or the next day.
 3. **Permit Post.** Is a new service for Government departments, which is available for offices which lodge 100 or more items on a frequent basis. A Permit Number, issued by TTPost, is printed on the upper right hand corner of each envelope. This method eliminates the need for postage stamps.
 4. **Franked Mail.** This option allows the customer to obtain a franking machine from an approved supplier. The customer pays TTPost in advance for the postage to be credited to the machine. The customer is then free to frank mail with the required postage on the date it is being lodged at the Post Office.
 5. **Registered Mail.** As part of its special service to Government, TTPost will continue to accept Government invoices or vouchers as a form of payment.

Change of Address Prepaid Postcard

An attractive 2-color *Change of Address Packet* containing a *Postal Re-direction / Change of Address Request Form* has been put into circulation. Patrons are required to complete the required information, and lodge the card in person, at any Post Office. Both sides of this card are illustrated in Fig. 4.

Conclusion:

It appears that the re-organization of the Post Office from a Government Department to a contract Postal Corporation managed by New Zealand Post International Corporation is off to a successful beginning. Based on the public reaction, employee relationship, and satisfaction by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, this historic landmark may well set the tone for other Government Departments. Being the first of its kind, the successful path so far set may serve as a welcome model for other governments who may be seeking to improve postal services and achieve financial profitability.

References:

1. *Trinidad Guardian*, March 15, 1998
2. *Trinidad Guardian*, August 15, 1998

3. *TTPost News*, Vol. 1, Issue 1, February, 1999.
4. *Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago*, Bulletin No. 205, April-June, 1999, J. Chay, Ed.
5. *Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago*, Bulletin No. 206, July-September, 1999, J. Chay, Ed.
6. *TTPost News*, June, 1999.
7. *TTPost Mail Rates*, Effective July 1, 1999.
8. *TTPost News*, April, 1999.
9. *Ibid*, August, 1999
10. *Ibid*, September, 1999

Acknowledgment:

The author is grateful for information supplied by John Chay, Jazad Ali and Ed Barrow of the Philatelic Society of Trinidad and Tobago.

Two Unrecorded Trinidad & Tobago Datestamps

by Ed Barrow

I recently came across 2 unrecorded skeleton date stamps. One is from Scarborough, Tobago dated 26 Nov 1969, which was not listed in "The Town Cancels of Trinidad and Tobago" by E. Addiss, et al.



The other, from Newtown, is dated 20 De

1961. It was not listed in "The Postal History of Trinidad and Tobago" by Joe Chin Aleong et al. It is odd that these have not turned up before given that these are both



medium-sized post offices. However, the datestamps may have been used for a very short time period or in a position within the post office where they did not see much use.

Treasurers Report

by Edward T. Tweddell

Firstly, I would like to thank my predecessor Barry Friedman for being so helpful in my first year as treasurer, and David Druett for maintaining the sterling account in the United Kingdom. Without their assistance and that of the other officers of the group, such a smooth transition would not have been possible.

The finances of the society are once again in a very healthy state, with income exceeding expenditure by almost \$4000, not counting the donation made to the society by Robert Cooley.

I have endeavoured to simplify the presentation of the financial data in the tables below, and for the first time have included the monies held in our UK account.

The 1999 auction, so ably run by Ed Waterous, resulted in a loss of a little over \$600. This was a direct function of the number and quality of the lots received. We do, however, expect the 2000 auction to more than make up this loss.

The Robert J. Cooley Award for the year 2000 will have a value of \$545, based on the interest received for the year.

LIQUID ASSETS

	1 January 1999	31 December 1999
General Fund	\$22,191	\$24,805
Byron Cameron Fund	1,887	1,873
Ed Addiss Fund	7,176	7,535
Ed Addiss Publishing Fund	9,434	9,898
Robert J. Cooley Fund	—	10,545
TOTAL	\$40,688	\$54,656

CURRENT HOLDINGS

Checking Account (US)	\$9,768
Checking Account (UK)	4,888
Certificates of Deposit	40,000
TOTAL	\$54,656

INCOME

Robert J. Cooley	\$10,000
Subscriptions	7,814
Auction	5,080
Interest	2,423
Donations	881
Sale of Publications	547
Advertising	75
TOTAL	\$26,820

EXPENDITURES

Journal Production and Mailing	\$6,300
Auction 1999 Vendors	4,315
Auction 1999 Expenses	1,053
Officers' Expenses	426
Auction 2000 VAT	352
Awards	163
Website	129
Insurance	58
Miscellaneous	56
TOTAL	\$12,852

Net of Income Over Expenditure — \$13,968

[Signed]

Edward T. Tweddell, Treasurer

More on Scanning: Continued from Page 4

All it does is make your resulting image files bigger. Usually, the recommended resolution for the screen is 96dpi. Similarly, if you plan to print the images, then you may wish to have the resolution match that of the printer, for example 300dpi or 600dpi. This is not the end of the story.

The type of image also makes a difference. There are three basic types: black and white; gray-scale; and color, which comes in several flavors. As you move up this list, the file sizes become larger and larger. I have received scans from authors that provide cancels, for example, as color files.

Continued to page 30

Early Postal History of Anguilla

By Rob Wynstra

The 35-square-mile island of Anguilla is located about 70 miles northwest of St. Kitts. It reportedly was first sighted by Columbus during one of his early voyages. The name derives from the fact that the shape of the island resembles an eel, as seen in Fig. 1. Anguilla was initially colonized by the British about 1650. From its earliest history as a colony, it has been administratively linked to the island of St. Kitts.

The main administrative center was located at Crocus Hill village in the center of the island. In 1911, the entire population of this dependency of St. Kitts stood at 4,075. Only a handful of educated Europeans lived on the island. As late as 1920, the mail was still being carried by a chartered sloop that sailed to St. Kitts once every two weeks.

Prior to 1900, there was no organized postal system on the island. Letters were privately carried to Basseterre, St. Kitts, where they were turned over to the general post office for onward transmission. Only a handful of letters from the island have been recorded during that period. The few pre-stamp items include an entire folded letter which was addressed to London. This letter, shown in Fig. 2, was headed "Parsonage, Anguilla" on 20 June 20 1837. It was forwarded through the GPO

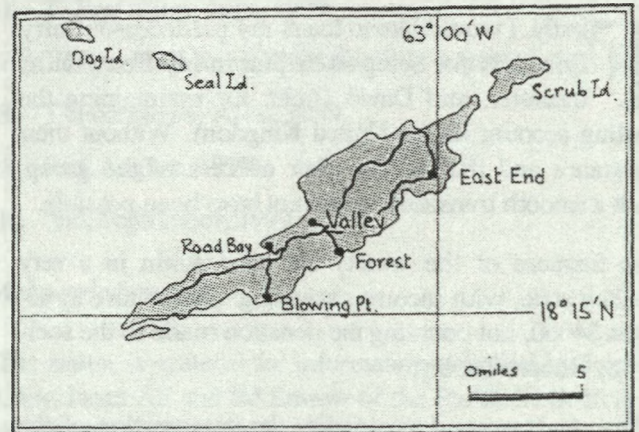


Figure 1. The Island of Anguilla.

at Basseterre. Another of the early letters is headed "Anguilles" on 16 June 16 1851. This letter, containing a report on the inheritance of an estate, was addressed to the Attorney General in Basseterre. Because it was locally addressed, it was sent without postal markings.

Mail from the period immediately after the first introduction of postage stamps in St. Kitts remains equally elusive. The only recorded item is a 1½d St. Christopher postal card seen in Fig. 3. It was addressed to

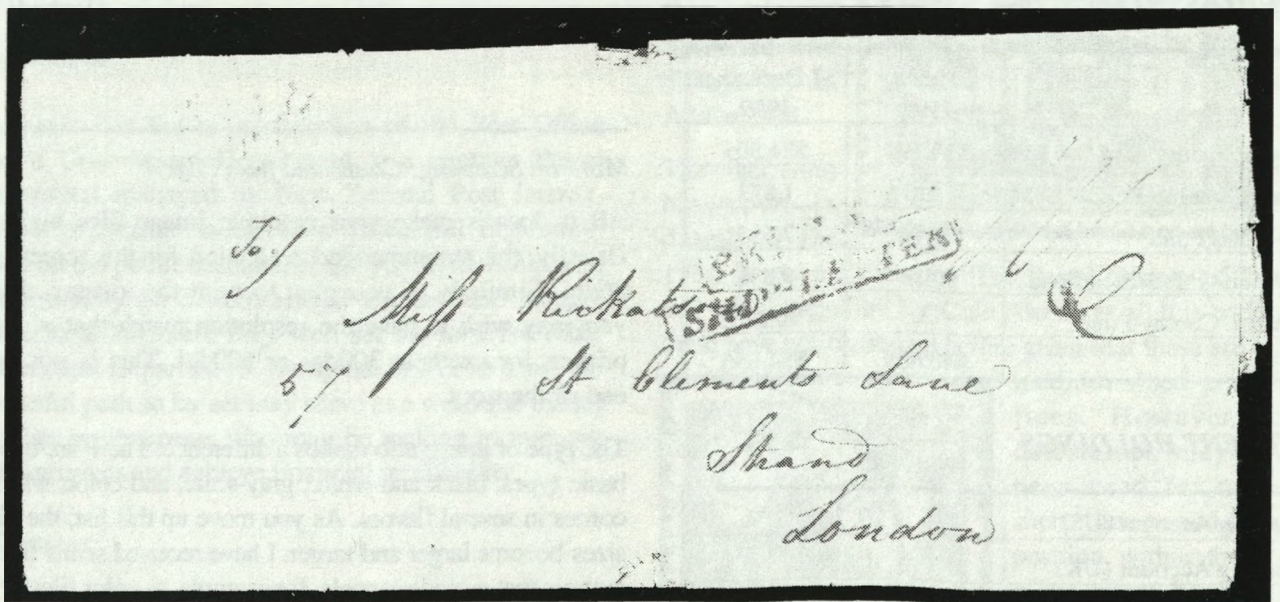


Figure 2. 1837 Pre-Stamp Letter Headed "Parsonage, Anguilla."

England, and was headed at the Crocus Hill Police Station on 25 Nov 1885. Interestingly, as late as the 1920s, the entire police force on the island consisted of only two men. The card was canceled with the St. Kitts "A12" obliterator at the Basseterre GPO. Alongside, it was marked with a St. Kitts circular datestamp that carried the date 7 Nov 1885. This almost certainly was an error caused by a missing date slug and probably should have been dated November 27.

Crocus Hill Branch Post Office

The first official postal facility opened around 1900 at Crocus Hill. It was a branch office under control of the GPO in Basseterre.

A handstamp canceler for this new office was proofed at the London General Post Office on 10 May 1900. It consisted of the standard "A12" obliterator for St. Kitts with an additional circular datestamp. As seen in Fig. 4a, the datestamp portion of this duplex carried the name "St. Kitts" curved around the top, and the letters "AN" appear above the central dateline. The earliest date known for this mark is a partial strike in January 1902. The latest known date is 16 Dec 1923.

About 1924, this first postmark was replaced by a 25-mm. circular datestamp with "St. Kitts" inscribed around the top, and the letter "A" above the dateline, as shown in Fig. 4b. This datestamp is recorded used from 13 Feb 1924 to 30 May 1927. By 1927, Crocus Hill was officially redesignated as the Valley office. A new 24.5 mm. datestamp, illustrated in Fig. 4c, was issued that year. It was inscribed "Anguilla" around



Figure 3. Only Reported St. Kitts Postal Card Used in Anguilla.

the top and "Valley" around the bottom. The earliest date known for this new canceler is 31 July 1927. It remained in use at least through 30 January 1951, by which time it had been superseded by a slightly smaller Valley datestamp.

Anguilla Sub-Post Offices

Around 1927, postal authorities in St. Kitts authorized the opening of four sub-post offices on Anguilla. These new facilities were located at the island's main customs stations. They were probably intended to prevent the local population from evading postage charges by sending mail on private ships. The story of these offices was first reported by Raymond.¹ Since then, a number of new discoveries have greatly expanded our knowledge of these elusive offices.

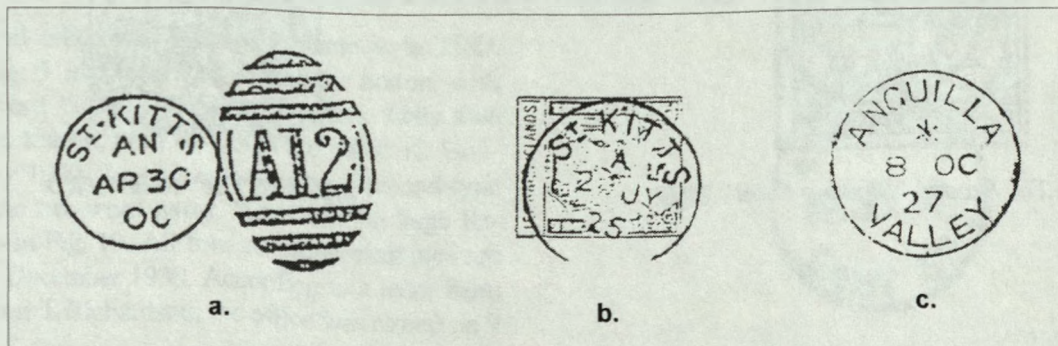


Figure 4. Early Anguilla Cancels.

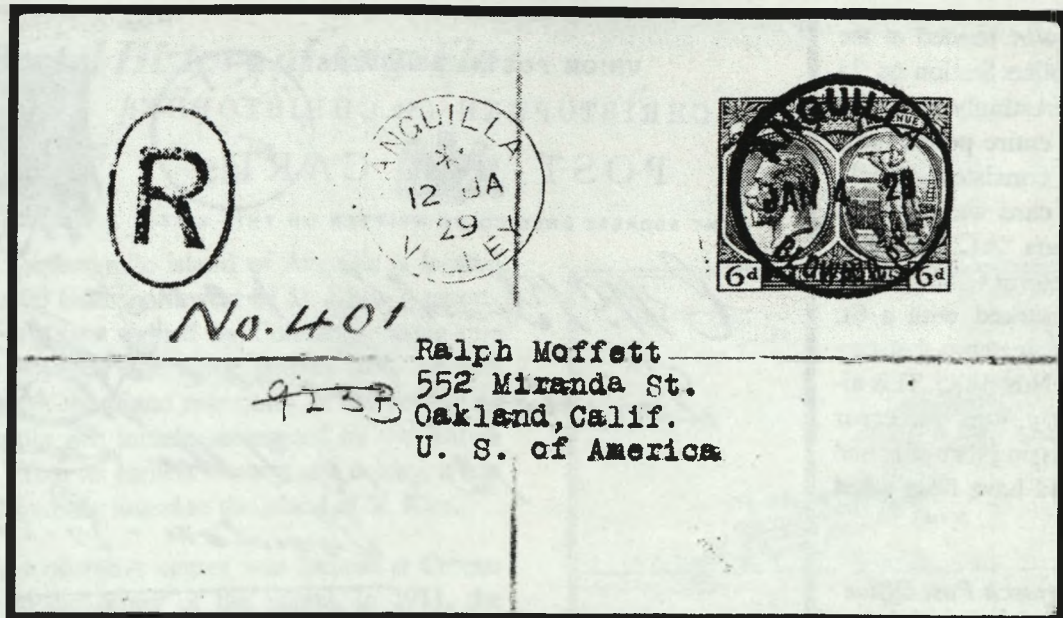


Figure 5. The First "Blowing Point" TRD.

The four offices were located at Road Bay, Forest, Blowing Point, and East End. Each of them received a 29 mm temporary rubber datestamp (TRD) for use as a canceling device. The cancellations from so-called TRDs can be distinguished by their wide uneven impressions. Unlike the steel used for most datestamps, rubber spreads badly after repeated use, causing the familiar widening of the impression.

The first TRD issued to the Blowing Point office was inscribed with the name "Anguilla" around the top and "Blowing Point" around the bottom in small letters. This is seen in Fig. 5. The earliest known date of use is 8 April 1928. It is recorded used through 22 March 1931, by which point the rubber is showing severe damage. No more than eight examples are known for this TRD. A second type TRD, illustrated in Fig. 6, with large



Figure 6. The Second "Blowing Point" TRD.

letters around the bottom was in use at this office by 1930. Five examples have been recorded, all of which are dated 3 April 1930.

The office at Road opened in February 1928, according to a 1931 letter from sub-postmaster J. F. Crum. The TRD in use there resembled those from the other offices except that it was inscribed with the name "Road" in large letters around the bottom as seen in Fig. 7. The dates of use range from 4 September 1928 to 23 March 1931. Only nine examples of this TRD have been recorded. Like Blowing Point, this office began using a second-type TRD by 1930. This new datestamp, shown in Fig. 8, carried the two-word name "The Road" around the bottom. Four examples are known, all of which are dated on Sept. 5, 1930.



Figure 8. The "Road" TRD



Figure 7. One of Nine Covers with the "Road" TRD.

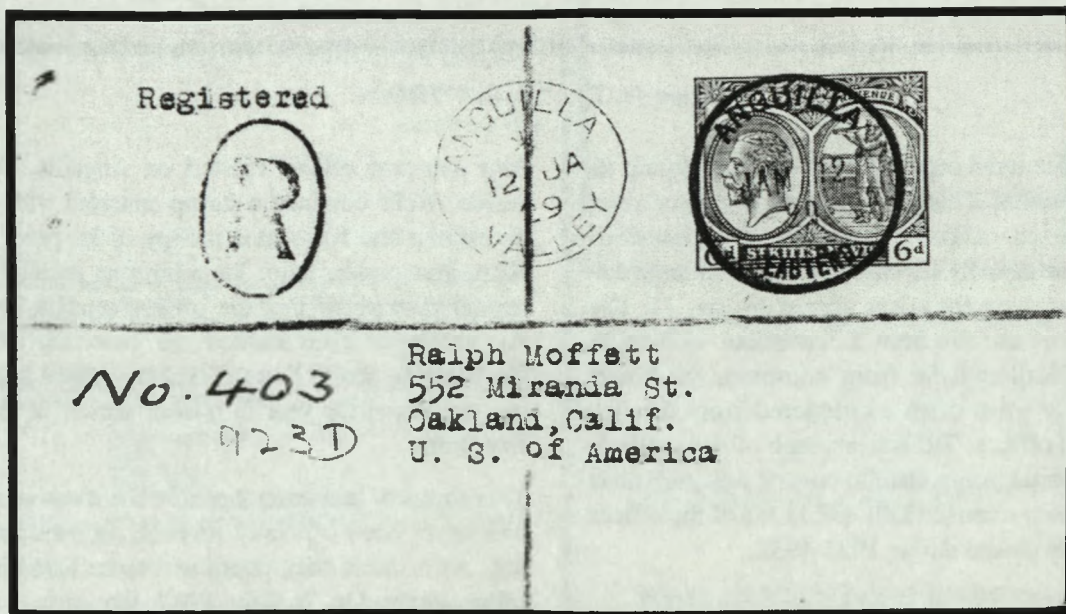


Figure 9. The First "East End" TRD.

The East End office was issued the same style TRD. Shown in Fig. 9, it is inscribed around the bottom with the single-word "Eastend" in small letters. Only two examples are known, both of which are dated 12 January 1929. By 1930, the office was using a second-type TRD with the two-word name "East End" in large letters, as seen in Fig. 10. All four recorded examples are dated on 22 December 1930. According to a letter from sub-postmaster J. Richardson, the office was closed on 9 April 1931.

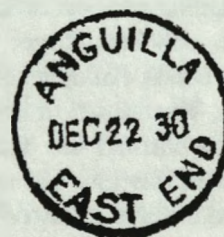


Figure 10. The Second "East End" TRD.

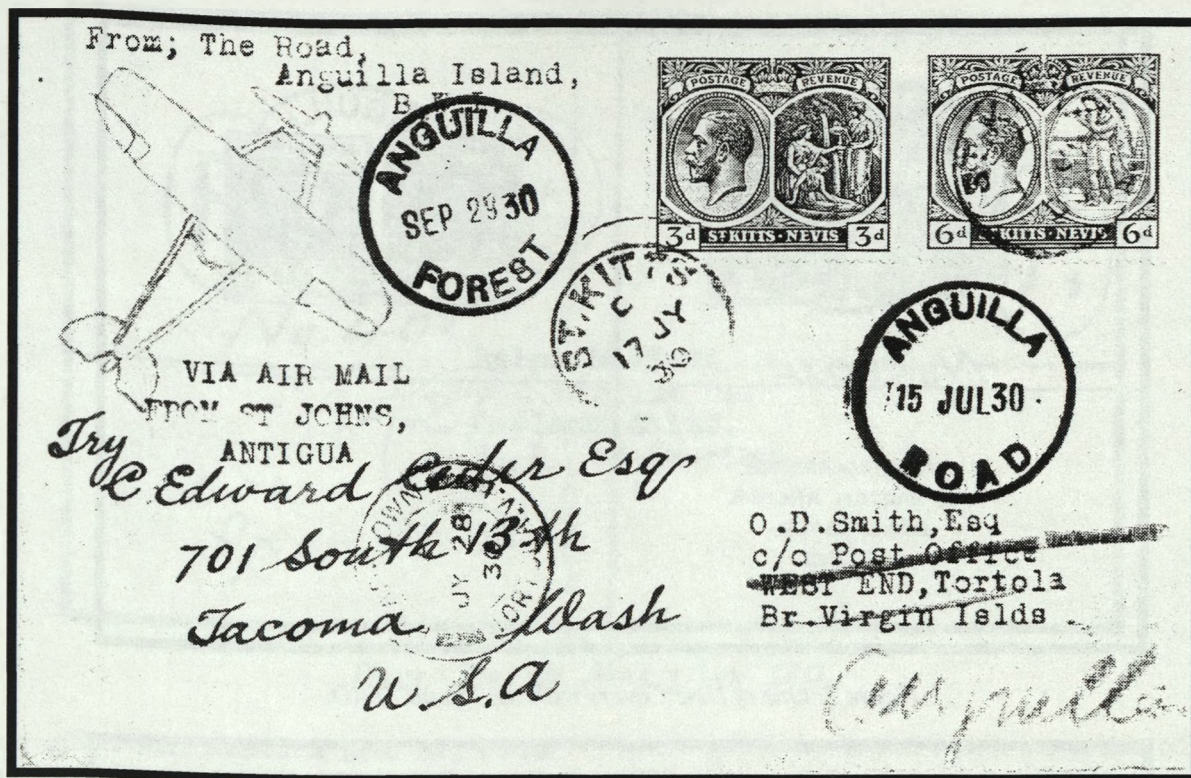


Figure 11. The "Forest" TRD.

The Forest office used only one type of TRD during its period of operation. This mark is similar to the ones used at the other offices except that it is inscribed around the bottom with the name "Forest" in large letters, as illustrated on the cover shown in Fig. 11. The recorded dates of use run from 5 September 1928 to 30 March 1931. Although far from common, the Forest TRD is the one most often encountered from the Anguilla sub-post offices. TRDs from each of these offices have been recorded on philatelic covers, although none of them is known commercially used. All of the offices were apparently closed during 1931-1932.

The Closing of the Sub-Post Offices

One of the more unusual incidents connected with British West Indies postal history began with simple letter of inquiry about the Anguilla sub-post offices. In 1938, the well-known English collector Roger Wells asked a friend in St. Kitts to obtain examples of the postmarks from the four offices. The answer to his question came as a shock. His friend insisted that the marks he had asked for were from offices that did not exist and, in fact, had never existed. Initial inquiries at the St. Kitts GPO indicated that the staff had no knowledge of any sub-post offices ever operating on the island.

Wells refused to give up so easily because the official Leeward Islands Post Office Guide clearly indicated that

four sub-post offices existed on Anguilla. Soon afterwards, Wells obtained a stamp canceled with the Forest datestamp and forwarded a copy of his proof to the St. Kitts Postmaster. After launching an inquiry, the postmaster discovered that the offices actually had existed. An employee even located the canceling devices that had been issued to them. The handstamps had been lying unnoticed for year in a desk drawer at the GPO in Basseterre.

This problem had arisen because the status of the offices had never been officially revoked following their closing. As a result, they continued to be listed in the post office guide. On 26 July 1939, the postmaster finally wrote Wells a letter, shown in Fig. 12, explaining the situation. The surviving letter recently turned up as a lot in Pennymead Auctions. The auction lot also included a copy of the Leeward Islands statutory order, reproduced in Fig. 13, that was issued following this strange incident. By that order, the offices were finally closed and deleted from the official listing on 8 September 1939.

Acknowledgments

I would especially like to thank Gayle Raymond for his groundbreaking research on all aspects of Anguilla postal history. Without the firm foundation provided by his work, none of the research that has followed would have been possible. Thanks are also due to Michael Oliver for

publishing the first comprehensive listing for the cancellations of Anguilla. Copies of letters from the Anguilla sub-postmasters were provided by Charles Freeland, and copies of the 1939 letter to Roger Wells and the Leeward Islands official order by David Druett of Pen-nymead Auctions. I would like to thank both of them for their help.

References

1. Raymond, G., "An Anguillian Idyll," *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, 2(5), p. 66.
2. Burdon, K.J., *A Handbook of St. Kitts-Nevis*, 1920, pp. 233-240.
3. Oliver, M.N., "Leeward Islands: Their Post Offices and Postmarks," *Leeward Islands: A Postal History Anthology*, British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, Monograph 15, 1997, pp. 13-14.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
ST. KITTS-NEVIS.
26th JULY 1939.

Sir,

I have the honour to make reference to your letter of March 1939, addressed to Miss E.H. Williams, making inquiries about the existence of certain Post Offices in Anguilla.

I beg to inform you that in the year 1927 the following Sub Post Offices were established in the Island of Anguilla in the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis -

"Blowing Point.
"Forest
"The Road
"East End.

The existing Office known as "Anguilla" was designated "The Valley", Anguilla.

The revenue Offices were used as Post Offices.

These sub Offices functioned for a short time only, and all business is now carried out at the branch Post Office at the Valley, Anguilla.

Statutory Rules and Order No 35 of 1934 under which these sub Offices were legalised has not been repealed, but consideration is being given to the amendment of same.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

David Druett

Postmaster.

Roger Wells Esq.

LEEWARD ISLANDS GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS.

1939, No. 18.

SUB-POST OFFICES.

THE POST OFFICE (AMENDMENT) RULES, 1939, DATED SEPTEMBER 8, 1939, MADE BY THE GOVERNOR-IN-COUNCIL UNDER SECTION 4 OF THE POST OFFICE ACT (CAP. 123).

1. **Short Title.** These Rules may be cited as the Post Office (Amendment) Rules, 1939, and shall be read as one of with the Post Office Rules, 1934, (S. R. & O. 1934, No. 35) hereinafter referred to as the Principal Rules.

2. **Amendment.** Schedule A to the Principal Rules shall have effect as if the words "Blowing Point, Anguilla", "East End, Anguilla", "Forest, Anguilla", and "The Road, Anguilla", in the fourth column were omitted.

Made by the Governor-in-Council the 8th day of September, 1939.

W. S. ARCHER,
Clerk of the Council.

ANTIGUA.

Printed at the Government Printing Office, Leeward Islands,
by S. COLKESIDE CARMICHAEL, Government Printer.—By Authority,
1939.

3359—300—9.39.

Price 1d.

Figure 13. Official Order Closing the Sub-Post Offices.

Is This the End???

If your mailing envelope is stamped:

PAST DUE

Then this is your **last copy** of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. We are sure you must have forgotten to send your annual dues payment. Please do so immediately, or contact our treasurer, **Tim Tweddell** if you are having some problem:

tweddell@intrepid.net

Figure 12. Letter Explaining Sub-Post Office Closures.

BVI Philatelic Society Celebrates 15th Anniversary with 9th Stamp Show

by Dr. Giorgio Migliavacca

The 9th Annual British Virgin Islands Stamp Exhibition is scheduled for Saturday May 13th and Sunday May 14th at Barclays Bank Road Town. The Millennium stamp show will attract visitors from Canada, USA, United Kingdom, the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic and Europe.

BVI-based collectors will contribute exhibits covering some 30 frames and including specialized displays of world, BVI and Caribbean stamps as well as the exhibition's main theme "Music on Stamps & Island Music".

Phone card exhibits will also be on display and collectors interested in participating ought to keep in mind that the deadline for entries is March 15, 2000.

The 1999 show was a truly remarkable success with an unprecedented number of overseas visitors. In fact the international meeting for the Silver Anniversary of the Italy & Colonies Study Circle, held in conjunction with the 8th Show, received wide coverage in Italian, European and even North American stamp magazines.

To begin the new millennium in grand style the organisers are hoping to attract some exhibitors from the USA. The exhibition theme is already covered by quite a few displays and therefore other exhibits can focus on a variety of specialties or themes. If you are interested please telephone 284 494 7789, fax 284 494 3510 or e-mail: issun@candwbvi.net.

"Exhibits will continue to reflect the high standards reached by the local collectors, some of whom have received gold medals, research and excellence awards at USA national and World Series stamp shows in the USA in 1997-99," says BVI Philatelic Society director, Mrs. Thelma Swain. "As usual we will also produce a lavish 80-page programme with many informative articles and features. Previous editions were awarded bronze and silver-bronze medals at international exhibitions," says BVIPS vice-president, Mr. Roger Downing.

The two day event will feature a bourse and flea market for stamp, coin and phone card collectors; a philatelic cocktail; a philatelic banquet and Awards Ceremony; a

stamp video festival; and the official announcement of the winners of the BVI Stamp Popularity Poll.

The BVI Philatelic Society is utilizing this year's and next year's stamp shows as major rehearsals for the 2002 show when the Society will host the international meeting of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. At least fifty collectors from all over the world are expected to attend that convention and there are indications that a selection of the Royal Collection focusing on BVI and Caribbean rarities will be on display.

But that's not all, in 2003 the BVI show will play host to the international meeting of the Disinfected Mail Study Circle for their 30th Anniversary. Members of the Society of Postal Historians are expected to join in the 2003 celebrations.

MILLENNIUM PUBLICATIONS

The BVI Philatelic Society initiatives for the year 2000 include the publication of the first ever Specialized Catalogue of British Virgin Islands Stamps, as well as its companion book of over 300 pages which will delve in all aspects of BVI Philately and Postal History. Both publications, printed on archival-quality paper, will have several colour plates, and hundreds of photos. The catalogue will provide compact, easy-to-follow, exhaustive technical data, some of which is the result of 30 years of research, making this attractively produced catalogue a standard reference for many years to come.

Specialists will be pleased to find an unprecedented number of detailed illustrations of positional and plate flaws, including substantial new discoveries and information.

The companion book (titled "The fascinating World of BVI Stamps") will include general and specialist information concerning BVI stamps, and is written for both the collector and the layperson. It includes historical notes, Postal History from 1600s to date, and valuable information for the thematic and specialised collector. Collectors with interest in Caribbean stamps will find both books indispensable and an invaluable source of

information on British Virgin Islands philately and related subjects — a must for every student and collector of West Indian stamps.

If you are interested in any of these events and/or publications write to:

BVI Philatelic Society,
P.O. Box 704
Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands
e-mail: issun@candwbvi.net

Dry Harbour, Jamaica — A Mystery Solved

by *Bill Atmore*

In his list of Type P11 datestamps,¹ Foster mentions a small circular datestamp for Dry Harbour in use circa 1873, but he states "recorded by the late Mr. Collett but never seen by the compiler and cannot be confirmed."

Two recent discoveries, by myself and fellow member Ray Stanton, confirm the existence of this instrument. The first, shown in Fig. 1, is as a dispatch mark, dated 16 December 1872, on the reverse of a cover from Dry Harbour to Brown's Town. The second, shown in Fig. 2, is as a transit mark, dated 8 June 1873, on a cover from Brown's Town to Falmouth.



Figure 1.

The diameter of the instrument measures approximately 22mm, which tallies with the measurement recorded by Foster. However, the type is not Type P11, as previously surmised, but rather Type 12, i.e. the town and colony name are placed in an arc at the top. Unlike the other Type 12 devices (Malvern and Newport), there is no sign of an index letter. Why a Type 12 should have been ordered, some 10 years after the other marks of this type, remains, for now, a mystery.



Figure 2.

Reference

1. Foster, T., *Jamaica, The Postal History 1662-1860*. Pp. 95-99.

1999 Contributors

We would like to thank the following members for their generous contributions to BCPSG during 1999:

Bruce G. Aitken
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Federico Borromeo
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Peter Colwell
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Jesse E. Glasgow
James H. Gordon
Glenn Gullickson
Jack Guyer
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John Seidl
Ms. Joy Sieminski
Dr. Norman D. Thetford
Guillaume Vadeboncoeur
Dale Wade

MILLENNIUM AUCTION

A JOINT SALE BY BCPSG and BWISC

at

Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London WC1 on 20 May 2000

The material in this Auction has been accepted from members either of BCPSG (the Group) or BWISC (the Circle) or both and will be offered on the following terms.

1. All lots may be sold with or without reserve and the seller may participate in the bidding either himself or by an agent.
2. The buyer to be the highest bidder.
3. Wherever it is possible the description of a lot will include an estimate of the price which it is expected to realise, and the lot will not be sold without the consent of the seller at substantially below 75% of estimate.
4. The Auctioneer has been appointed by the Auction Managers of the Circle and the Group. The bidding shall be under the control and at the sole discretion of the Auctioneer, who shall have power to settle all disputes and to re-open the bidding in the event of dispute. He may withdraw lots or group two or more lots together without assigning a reason.
5. The Auctioneer reserves the right to bid on behalf of sellers and prospective buyers but shall not be liable for any errors or omissions in executing instructions to bid.
6. Lots will be sold with all faults, imperfections and errors of description and neither the Circle nor the Group can be held responsible for the genuineness of any lot or of an individual item therein. Where however the buyer within 14 days after receipt of a lot (or such further time as the Auction Managers may allow) satisfies the Auction Managers that there is a substantial inaccuracy in the description and returns the lot in unaltered condition, the sale of that lot will be rescinded and the purchase price refunded to the buyer less any costs and expenses incurred by the Auction Managers in connection with the sale.
7. The Circle and the Group will have a lien for all charges on all lots sold or unsold. Payment in full for lots purchased shall (if so required) be made by the buyer before delivery, which shall be at the risk of the buyer and shall include cost of postage, packing and

insurance as appropriate. If the buyer does not pay for any lot within such period as the Auction Managers (in their sole discretion) may consider reasonable, the lot may be re-sold in any manner the Auction Managers see fit and the buyer shall pay the difference between his bid price and the net realisation on resale (after deduction of commission and other attendant expenses) but the buyer shall not be entitled to any surplus arising on re-sale. All bidding is in sterling but a bidder may by prior arrangement with the Auction Managers elect to be billed in US dollars at such exchange rate as the Auction Managers deem appropriate at that date. A collection charge to cover cost of collection will be raised for all payments in non-conforming currency, or for use of credit facilities as the case may be.

8. Sale Commission charged to the seller will be:

On each lot sold:	10p on the first £1 or lower realisation, thereafter 10%
On each lot unsold:	10p
On each lot withdrawn by the seller:	sale commission on 75% of the estimated value
On each lot unsold through failing to reach the seller's reserve:	sale commission on the reserve price up to £1 maximum

These conditions apply as between buyer and/or seller and every officer member and agent of either the Circle or the Group concerned on behalf of either with any aspect of the Auction Sale.

Note:

In view of the extra expense of holding a joint sale, it may be necessary on this occasion only to add 1% to the purchase price of every lot sold. A decision whether this small surcharge needs to be made will be announced immediately prior to the sale.

This document was correct at the time of publication. It is subject to change. The Official Terms and Conditions will be available at the auction.

How Computers Can Help the Postmark Collector

by David Horry

In 1996 I started to use a computer to help in the design of the series "The Unissued Stamps of King George VI," which was published by Murray Payne in "Sixth Sense," and will shortly be published as a book. The computer is invaluable for capturing the fine details of the intaglio process and controlling colour. But, how can the computer aid the collector? Many companies are now producing philatelic software for cataloguing and inventorying stamps. This software is generally user-friendly, and it can save a lot of time and energy.

My main interest is the postmarks of Trinidad and Tobago. For this purpose, I've found the computer wonderful for sorting out various postmarks which, to the naked-eye, are seemingly similar. *I've just hit 50 and my eyesight ain't what it used to be.*

The computer, therefore, has become a high-powered philatelic magnifying-glass with a memory and a print-out facility!

To get going requires several components. The first is a computer that will run the necessary software; I use Adobe Photoshop 5.00,[®] which is available both for PC compatibles and the Apple MacIntosh.[®] I use a PC, and the following describes the procedures for the PC, although the process is almost identical for Apple.

The second component, a scanner, is also essential. This is basically a high powered "copy camera" that scans images in microdots. 300 dots per inch (dpi) is adequate for these purposes, although you may scan at up to 1400 dpi but this is heavy on both memory and disk space.

A printer is required if you wish to print out your images. But, this is not absolutely essential, as images can be stored on the computers hard-drive or on floppy disks. Because stamps aren't usually very big, computer memory and disk space are not usually a problem. While all of this hardware is fairly expensive, prices are coming down.

With the introduction over, let's put this tackle through its paces. I'll take, for example, the Type XIII postmark of Port of Spain as originally described by Addis, Ramkissoon and van Winkle.¹

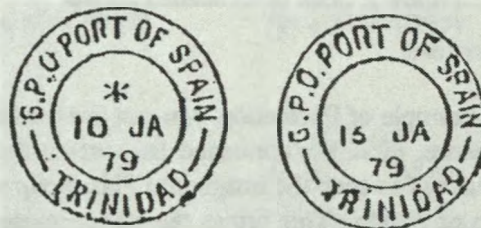


Figure 1. The Type XIII Postmarks.¹

They list two types of the Type XIII postmark of "GPO PORT OF SPAIN-TRINIDAD-" shown with hand drawn illustrations as seen in Fig. 1. These are not too helpful, considering Proud and Chin Aleong revealed there to be no less than ten of the species.² While Ramkissoon simply listed the 4mm and 6mm inner-arc types, Proud listed five different 4mm and a further five 6mm.

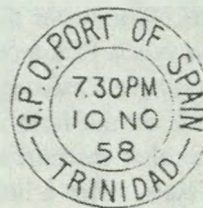


Figure 2. Typical Hand-Drawn Cancel Illustration.

As shown in Fig. 2, hand-illustrated postmarks can be pretty good, but they fail to define a postmark's real characteristics or *thumb-print*. Thus, it can be very difficult to separate cancellations of a similar nature, especially when over- or under-inking occurs, a common tendency for Type XIII cancels. Proud urges his readers to send for his printed, clear plastic sheets that can be overlaid onto postmarks to help identify them. This is a very useful way of doing things and you can make these yourself with a copy machine and transparent overhead sheets.

But the shortcomings of hand-drawn illustrations are still a problem to the postmark collector. Here is where the scanner and computer come into their own. It is now possible to lift the postmark, in its entirety, away from the "mother stamp" and leave a perfect image for study and comparison.



Figure 3. Scan of Cancelled Stamp.

The Procedure

With my example of Photoshop, you can use the following procedure. First, the command **Import** on the *Tool Bar*, is selected to scan the image into Photoshop with a resolution of 300dpi. This brings the stamp image onto screen. Make sure you have the image at a reasonable working size by utilising the **Magnifier** tool. Then, using **Filter** at the top of the screen, select **Sharpen**. This will make up for any loss in detail of the scan. The results of this step are shown in Fig. 3.

Separating the Postmark from the Stamp

Next, from the **Select** Menu at the top of the screen you choose **Colour Range**. This allows you to select the colour of the postmark. Remember that very few postmarks are actually *true black*. Pick around with the **Eye-Dropper** tool until you have a satisfactory, reversed-out image of the postmark on the little window. You can adjust the fuzziness to alter the intensity of the image, grow or shrink the pixels. After a little practice you'll get the desired effect. Then, press **OK**.

You now have a lot of *worms*, squirming around the edges of the postmark. This is technically called the *dotted selection border*, but worms is more descriptive. Go back to **Select** and click on **Inverse**. Then go up to **Edit** and select **Fill** with either foreground or background as long as it is white. The stamp disappears! On the *Tool Bar* select the **Lasso** tool, clicking it once. This gets rid of the worms, and you have a postmark all on its own as seen in Fig. 4a.

There will be traces of the stamp, depending on the accuracy of your picking with the **Eye-Dropper**. But,



Figure 4. Lifting the Postmark.



Figure 5. Postmark XIIIk (D105)
Reassembled from Two Stamps.

with a little skill and experience this can be minimized and cleaned-up, as shown in Fig. 4b, by using the paintbrush tool on the tool bar.

The process works best where there is good tonal and colour separation between the stamp and the postmark. The 4c KGVI Trinidad definitive is far easier to handle than the earlier 4c brown.

Eventually you can reconstruct postmarks from several stamps by dragging the images into one another. My result is shown in Fig. 5. You can also overlay different postmarks to accentuate their differences, an example of which is shown in Fig. 6a, or similarities. The differences become very apparent as images can be enlarged to 1600% using the **Magnifier** tool. I have found that a 200% enlargement is generally optimum for most jobs.

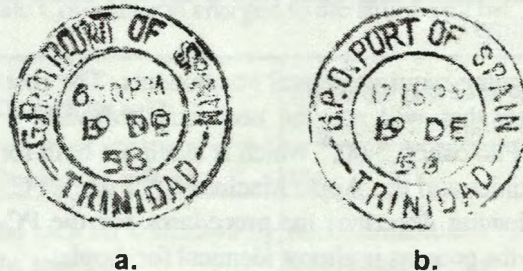


Figure 6. Overlaying Two Postmarks;
a. Types XIIIh and XIIIk, b. Two Type XIIIk

By using this technique, what appears to be two different postmarks to the naked-eye, due to either over or under-inking, can suddenly become one, as illustrated in Fig. 6b.

Using the above method, I have now added another Type XIII cancellation with 4mm arc, shown in Fig. 7, to the list identified by Proud. I am now able to show, in



Figure 7. New Type XIIIx.



Figure 8. Summary of the Twelve Type XIII Cancellations.

Fig. 8, all the Type XIII's I have discovered after sifting through a few thousand stamps.

It is worth remembering that the conclusions drawn may not be entirely accurate, as the final judgments have to be made by error-prone humans, rather than the computer itself.

Thanks to the computer, I recently discovered that there are two Type VII's for Cunupia, unlisted by Ramkissoon or Proud. I made the discovery, shown in Figs. 9a and 9b, in an idle moment while waiting for the removals men to shift me from Hong Kong to Shanghai. This little Trinidadian village had two Type VII's back in the forties. The only recorded date for this is 21 April 1941. If any one has further examples I would be pleased to hear from them.

I have a dirty-brown 1½d Jamaica Victory stamp with a very light mauve postmark — obviously a TRD (Temporary Rubber Datestamp) prevalent on that island. My astigmatic eyes couldn't decipher the name of the vil-

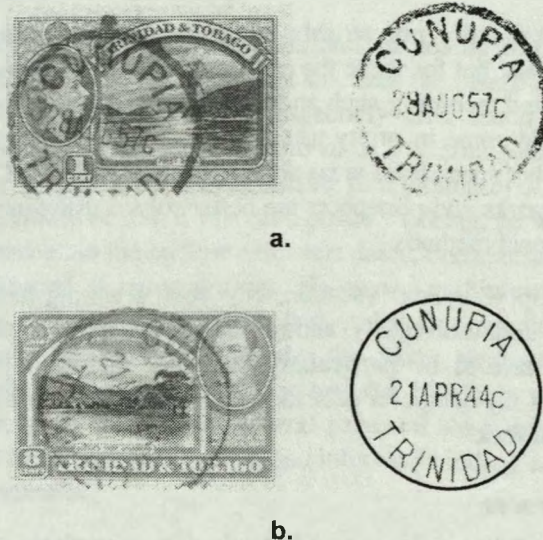


Figure 9. Recent Cunupia Discovery; a. Type VIIa; b. Type VIIb (New).

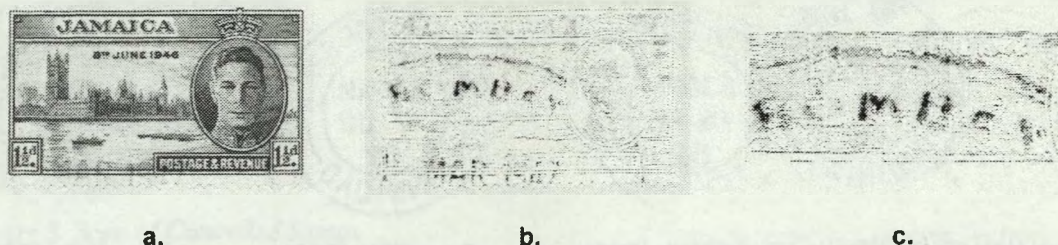


Figure 10. Solving the "Mauve Mystery;"
a. The Cancelled Stamp; b. "BOMBAY" Revealed; c. Enlarged View.

lage name, although the date, 4 MAR 47 was legible. After several efforts with various manifilers, I still couldn't discern this mauve oval mystery. Using the aforementioned method and 50 years to the day of its use, I discovered this was in fact B O M B A Y (O2*/36b), (Fig.10).

Meanwhile, back in Trinidad I have unearthed a new Port of Spain Type VII. This one didn't need a computer



Figure 11. New Port of Spain Type VII.

as the word gaps are enormous, as shown in Fig. 11. It is not listed by Proud and I have an ERD 4 October 49 and LRD 28 June 1960 with timecodes A C and D. There should be a B code.

I'm personally not terribly interested in "fly-specks" and flaws, but for these the computer is ideal for identifying and recording such anomalies. I should also think it would come in pretty useful to the Machin collector and other specialised areas although missing Crown CA watermarks and phosphors are better solved using more traditional methods.

So, skip your next vacation, buy your scanning hardware, and thoroughly annoy your spouse. And, you don't have to be particularly computer literate, I got most of my computer education from a sixteen year old: my son Jack.

References

1. Addis, E. F., Ramkissoon, R.A., and van Winkle, W., *The Town Cancels of Trinidad and Tobago*, BCPSG 1990.
2. Proud, E. and Chin Aleong, J., *The Postal History of Trinidad & Tobago*, Proud-Bailey 1997.

More on Scanning: Continued from Page 17

This is a pure waste of disk space because there is no color content in the image. Generally, for example, all cancels can be done in black and white. For the Journal, all scans or stamps are converted to 256-level gray-scale and inserted into the document at 300dpi. For covers, some scans look just as good when scanned and inserted at 196 dpi. Because of large file sizes, it will pay those experimenting with scanning to use the appropriate resolutions for the appropriate purpose.

Finally, for philatelists, enlargement of stamp and cover details is often very important. This is where you must remember about the invariant nature of the resolution. It has been noted that a good screen resolution is 96 dpi. Now suppose that you will enlarge your image 200%. After you have done this, the resulting scan will only have 48 dpi. You have simply stretched the poor dots. As a result, they have gotten farther apart. The image begins to lose its sharpness. If you were to expand to 400%, the resolution would drop to 24 dpi. Yuch — No Good!

The solution is to increase the scanning resolution in exactly the same ratio as the enlargement you plan to make. Why? Because after stretching you will have the same number of dots, but their density will only be half as much. Thus, for 200% use 192 dpi, and for 400% use 384 dpi, etc.

As those using scanners know, the scanner itself is not the end of the story. The scanner captures the image and places it into an image processor. There are many more of these in addition to Photoshop mentioned in Mr. Horry's article. It is this processor that allows you to manipulate and change the original scanned image. You may perform any number of complex operations to remove cancels from stamps, separate colors, enlarge images, change colors, contrast and brightness, crop to new sizes, and many more. To become proficient requires patience and practice. Good luck with your scanner!

Bahamas — Comparing the Ludington and Staircase Collections

by Charles Freeland

Last year, we had the chance to assemble the finest Bahamas collection ever formed - but no-one seized the opportunity. With one exception, neither at Spink's Staircase sale in April nor the Ludington sale in November was any single buyer prepared to shell out more than 15% of what each collection fetched. The exception, a buyer on the book in the Staircase sale, did spend over £120,000, but his purchases were spread over more than 70 lots, and two other bidders in the same sale spent around £80,000 on far fewer lots. Indeed, in each sale the lots on offer were spread around 60 or more buyers.

The two collections in total fetched almost exactly £1 million (including Spink's 15% premium). I would have judged each to have had approximately the same market value, but the Ludington suffered from a sense of *deja vu* and from the fact that there were no reserves. Fortunately, several BCPSG members were present to share in the opportunities.

I personally found the Ludington to be a more satisfying, balanced collection. As is well known, Morris started accumulating material in the 1930s and many of his rarest pieces were acquired before the war. For example, he was in a position to pick up the choicest items in the early Robson Lowe postal history sales, with the result that his postal history had enormous strength in depth. His special studies of the blockade covers and the Special Deliveries are well-known, but few who had not seen his display at the London International in 1970 realized what a wonderful array of other covers he owned.

The Staircase postal history was by no means ordinary, but most of it was acquired in the past twenty years, with many of the choicest covers ex Trevor Davis and Hugh Wood. The collection had been formed over many years by a discriminating and knowledgeable resident of Nassau, whose principal London agent was Mark Harvey. The collection was exhibited two or three years ago in the Far East and was subsequently discretely offered for sale by Stanley Gibbons, for a price of £600,000 if I was reliably informed. Much of the value in the Staircase was in the large multiples of rare

stamps, three of which fetched £74,000 in total. In addition, the used pair of the Special Delivery, one stamp without overprint, fetched a massive £23,000. Reading the notes that came with the Ludington special delivery collection, I found that Morris was not altogether happy with this variety and had rejected two examples as having traces of a second overprint present.

Comparing the two collections in detail, one finds more similarities than differences. Unlike his Bermuda, where several sections had been sold in their entirety, the Ludington Bahamas was a comprehensive assembly up to and including George VI. Both Bahamas collections were powerful in all aspects of the stamps and proofs. Although Staircase, as I have mentioned, had a few exceptionally pricy items, Ludington had many rare or unique pieces too. In the postal history, Ludington had far more covers in total, but both had quality in depth. If there was a weakness, I was personally disappointed that neither had very strong showings of commercial village or special delivery mail. One has to draw the conclusion that such material is exceptionally scarce. On the other hand, we had the opportunity in these sales to acquire a wonderful range of top quality Victorian covers. If you draw the conclusion that these must be common, you are wrong!

There were many spectacular and surprising prices in both sales, but the November sale was the one to attend as it was unreserved and especially after lunch there were bargains to be had at down to a quarter estimate. Morris had the habit of collecting four examples of each rare stamp or cover. For each postal marking, he would try to obtain the earliest and latest dates, one spectacular strike and an unusual usage. He owned multiple examples in areas in which he had undertaken special in-depth studies. For example, the early straight-line marks, the special deliveries and the blockade covers were each spread over several pages of the catalogue, and this was where patient and informed bidding earned its rewards.

The catalogues of both of the two sales will become classics for the Bahamas collector and will repay careful study.



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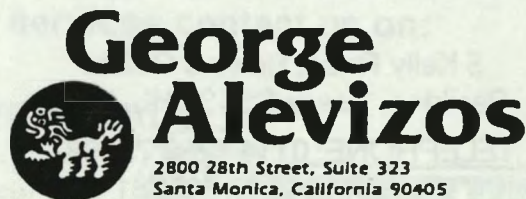
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AUCTION NEWS

The next sale has been put back till 16 March. I have had a lot of problems with my new computer software, having upgraded to WIN 98. Also this next sale is being printed entirely by me and I have encountered numerous unforeseen "snags."

Soon I hope to have a web site where you will be able to view my catalogues and also see material available for immediate sale by private treaty. I have purchased my domain name so look under www.pennymead.com in a few weeks, or, if I encounter problems (I am becoming a pessimist), in a month's time.

I hope to meet many of you at the BWISC/BCPSG joint London meeting on Sunday 21 May where I will have my stock and private treaty material for sale. I will also be able to accept consignments for future sales.

The next London room auction will be on September. To date I have received fine consignments of Bermuda key types and Cayman Islands covers. More consignments are needed — the sooner they are received, the sooner I can start advertising them.

Books about the West Indies: I have a large stock of out of print histories and guide books to the islands also a selection of antiquarian maps and prints. List available on request - please state interests.

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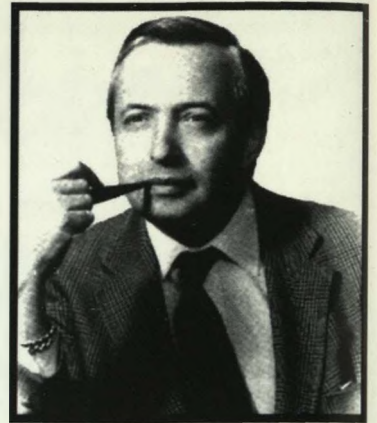
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