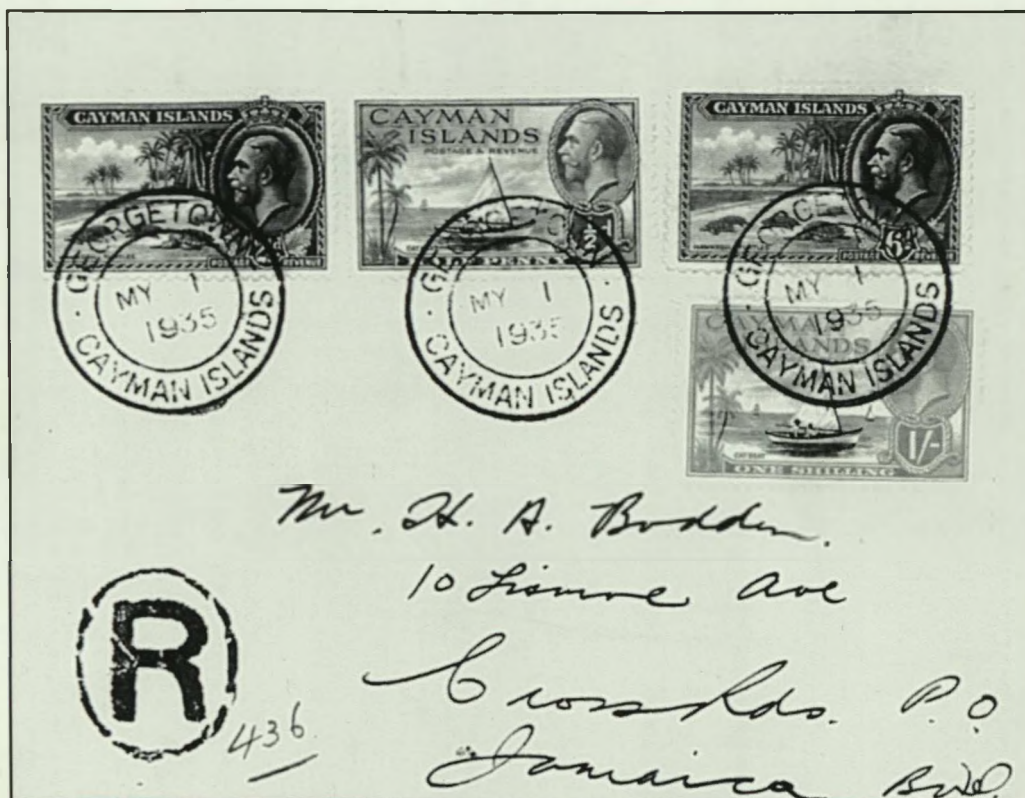


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*Interesting Cayman Islands King George V cover.
Richard Maisel authors definitive article on
Cayman Islands King George V Commonwealth issues of 1921-1935
beginning on page 3.*



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Cayman Islands:

King George V Commonwealth issues (1921-35)

By Richard Maisel

Of the USA

George V was the last monarch of the British Empire (1910-19) and the first head of state for the British Commonwealth (1919-36). During his reign over the Empire, most stamps issued by the Crown Colonies and dependencies bore traditional designs centering on the King's portrait. During his rule over the Commonwealth, these stamps took on an increasingly modern appearance with the portrait supplemented or replaced by pictorial designs incorporating local scenes. Four series of stamps were issued in the Cayman Islands in this period. The first of these, the 1921-26 series (*Figure 1A*), was a definitive with a traditional design. It was replaced in December 1932 by the Centenary series (*Figure 1B*), a larger-format commemorative issue with a transitional design. In May 1935 the Silver Jubilee series (*Figure 1C*), a commemorative, was issued along with the Pictorial series (*Figure 2*), a definitive, the latter incorporating stamps of two sizes and five early-modern designs.

This paper describes the history and printing of these four series, including the approximate date of each printing and the number of stamps of each denomination dis-

patched from the printer. Taken together, this study and that of James Podger, previously published in the BCPJ,¹ provide a detailed record of the printing of all Cayman Islands stamps up to the last one issued in the reign of King George V. The text is divided into six sections. Part I discusses the sources used in my research. Parts II-IV summarize the history and printing of the four series, and present summary statistics on the number of stamps of each denomination dispatched by the printers. They also contain estimates of the number of specimen overprints sent to the UPU. Appendix A contains a listing of the individual printings for each series, including the dispatch date of each and the number of stamps dispatched by denomination. Appendix B describes the deductive procedures used in estimating the number of stamps dispatched when direct data on dispatching was not available.

I. Research Sources

Requisition Books of the Crown Agents

The primary source of data for this article was volumes 1 - 4 of the Requisition Books of the Crown Agents Philatelic and Security Printing Archive, found in the

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CAYMAN ISLANDS: KING GEORGE V COMMONWEALTH ISSUES (1921-35)

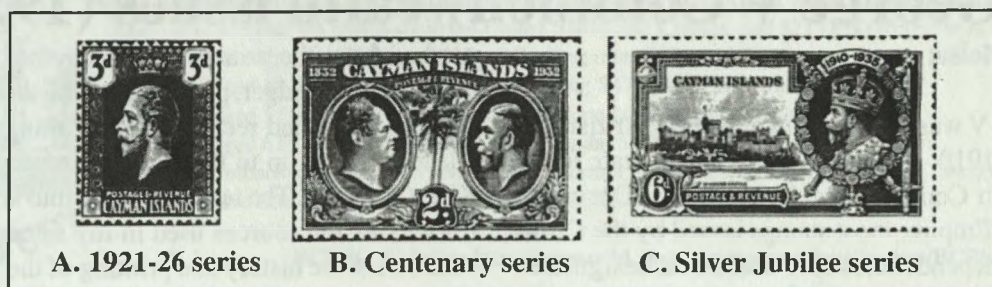


Figure 1. 1921-26 Series, Centenary & Silver Jubilee Stamp Designs.



Figure 2. The five designs of the Pictorial Series.

Philatelic Collections of The British Library.^{2,3} These volumes provided the following:

- Requisition number assigned to each order sent by the Crown Agents to the printer
- Designation of the series ordered for each requisition (*e.g.*, Centenary)
- Number of occasions on which stamps printed in response to a requisition were dispatched from the printer
- Date of each dispatch
- Number of sheets of each denomination included in a dispatch
- Number of stamps in each sheet dispatched.

A dispatch can be associated with a specific printing, so the information on the dispatching of stamps gives the

number of printings, a date that is the same as or shortly after the date of printing, the denomination of the stamps printed, and the number of adhesives of each denomination dispatched (sheet size times number of sheets). The meaning of a printing, as is explained in the last section of Appendix B, may be somewhat different for the Silver Jubilee series than the meaning usually associated with that term. The number of stamps dispatched is equal to or smaller than the number printed, as printed sheets containing flawed stamps were destroyed before they were dispatched.

The Requisition Books, however, lack certain information:

1. They do not cover the first requisition for the 1921-26 series.
2. The records for seven requisitions report dates

for two dispatches but do not specify the number of sheets by denomination for the individual dispatches (instead they give the total by denomination for the two dispatches combined).

3. The record for one requisition, with a single printing, does not have a date of dispatch.
4. None of the records has detailed information on specimen overprints.

De La Rue Private Day Books

The De La Rue Private Day Books, found in the Post Office Heritage Archives, provided the following missing data for the 1921-26 and Silver Jubilee series:⁴ (a) the first requisition for the 1921-26 series (item 1); (b) three of the seven requisitions in item 2, with the number of stamps in each dispatch by denomination; and (c) the date of the dispatch in item 3. In addition, the Private Day Books give, for both series, the number of specimens dispatched, again by denomination (item 4). The date given for a printing in the Day Books is the date on which De La Rue's invoice to the Crown Agents was posted.⁵

A comparison of the two sources⁶ shows them to be almost identical, so their data can be merged. The dispatch date given in the Requisition Books tends to be somewhat earlier than the invoice date given in the Private Day Books, so it may be closer to the date of printing.

Other Source Material

Extensive use has been made of the information found in the *Stanley Gibbons Empire Stamp Catalogue 1840-1936*.⁷ All dates of issue and catalogue values are from this work unless otherwise indicated. I have also referred extensively to the excellent book by Everard F. Aguilar and Philip T. Saunders, *The Cayman Islands: Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*.⁸

II. The 1921-26 Series

Overview

Production of the last Cayman Islands stamps with a traditional design began with the first printing of the 1921-26 series, on or shortly before 3 February 1921. Each denomination was the standard size (22½ by 18½mm) and had the same design, centered on a formal portrait of the king in profile.⁹ De La Rue printed them in sheets of 120 (12 x 10), perf. 14, though they were dispatched in sheets of 60 starting with the 11 November 1929 dispatch for Requisition 6381. These stamps were the first Cayman Islands series that did not feature a multicolony design, and the first to be printed in recess. As a result

they differ in appearance from earlier Cayman adhesives.

The 1921-26 series consisted of 14 denominations, ranging in value from 1/4d to 10/-. All except the 4 1/2d replaced the same values from the 1912 Postage and Revenue Series (including the surcharged 1 1/2d War Stamps). The 4 1/2d was a new denomination, introduced to pay the combined UPU 2 1/2d letter rate and 2d registration fee.¹⁰ It could also pay the Imperial Penny Post double letter rate and registration fee. Surprisingly, for a stamp with such useful functions, the 4 1/2d was never issued in any other British West Indian colony and never again issued in the Cayman Islands.

The series had a long and eventful history. As implied by its name, the 14 values were initially issued over a five year period -- specifically, 4 April 1921 (1 1/2d, 3d, 1/-) to 29 June 1926 (4 1/2d). In use for nearly 12 years when it was replaced by the Centenary series on 5 December 1932, it was reissued when those stamps were withdrawn on 5 May 1934, and saw a further year of service before being superseded for a second and final time by the Pictorial series on 1 May 1935.

As a result of its reissue, the postal history of the 1921-26 series can be divided into four distinct periods: first period of issue (4 April 1921 to 4 December 1932), interim period (5 December 1932 to 4 May 1934), second period of issue (5 May 1934 to 30 April 1935), and late usage (1 May 1935 or later). All printing for this series was done during its initial period of use and most of the stamps used in the second period of usage probably came from the last printing, Requisition 7452 dispatched in September 1932, three months before the end of the first period of use.

During the early 1920s, the watermarks used for British Colonial stamps were changed from the older Multi Crown and CA (MCA) to the newer Multi Crown and Script CA (MSCA). As a result, some denominations of the 1921-26 series were printed with the MCA, some with the MSCA, and some with both watermarks. The 1921-26 series was both line and comb perforated, some values receiving a line perforation, some a comb perforation, and some both. The early 1920s was also the period in which De La Rue changed from using the D12 forme for specimen overprints to the newer D16 forme. Both the D12 and the D16 overprints were used on the 1921-26 series. Table 1 shows the type of watermark, type of perforation, and type of specimen overprint found on each denomination of the 1921-26 series.

Continued on page 6

Table 1

Table 1: 1921-26 Series, Stamps and UPU Specimens Dispatched					
Value	Watermark	Stamps Dispatched	UPU Specimens ¹		Perf. ²
			Number	Forme	
¼d	MSCA	237,790	401	D12	C & L
½d	MSCA	213,750	401	D12	C & L
1d	MSCA	142,350	401	D12	C & L
1½d	MSCA	184,240	400	D12	C & L
2d	MSCA	65,515	401	D12	C & L
2½d	MSCA	191,635	401	D12	C & L
3d	MCA	26,316	400	D12	C
3d	MSCA	59,580	411	D16	L
4d	MCA	20,320	401	D12	L
4½d	MSCA	41,760	411	D16	C
6d	MSCA	29,290	401	D12	C & L
1s	MCA	14,636	400	D12	L
1s	MSCA	24,600	414	D16	C & L
2s	MSCA	19,510	401	D12	C
3s	MSCA	17,165	401	D12	C
5s	MCA	6,455	400	D12	C
5s	MSCA	13,020	414	D16	C
10s	MCA	3,815	399	D12	L
10s	MSCA	13,020	422	D16	L

1. Bendon, *UPU Specimen Stamps*, p. 69.
 2. Perforation: L = Line; C = Comb. Aguilar and Saunders, *The Cayman Islands: Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*, p. 49.

Quantities Dispatched

Table 1 also shows the total number of stamps dispatched and specimens sent to the UPU for each value of the 1921-26 series, by denomination and watermark. The specimens were dispatched from the first printing of each of the stamps listed in the table.

Although the sources do not indicate the type of watermark used in a printing, it is possible, given the date of dispatch and the date of issue, to determine the watermarks of the denominations dispatched, if one assumes that only one type of watermark was used for each denomination in a dispatch.

There was one problem encountered while generating the results reported in Table 1; the 15 February 1925 date of issue assigned the 5/- MSCA stamp in the catalogue.

This date of issue is about 3.5 years after the last invoice date for the 5/- stamp (25 August 1921, Requisition 119/20) and five days earlier than the next dispatch of this denomination (Requisition 4767). If the date of issue is correct then the previous dispatch of 3,090 5/- stamps on 25 August 1921 must have had the MSCA watermark. It seems unlikely that stamps shipped in August 1921 would not be used prior to February 1925. It is even less likely that the colony would have included 5/- stamps in Requisition 4767, dispatched in February 1925, if it had an unused stock of 3,090 5/- on hand. Thus I assumed the date of issue given in the catalogue was in error and the 20 February 1925 dispatch was the first shipment of the MSCA 5/- stamps. As a result the 25 August 1921 dispatch was included in the 5/- MCA total in Table 1. If the catalogue is correct then the correct totals would be 9,545 copies dispatched for the 5/- MCA and 9930 for the 5/-

MSCA.

It seems likely that there was a limited supply of remainders when the series was replaced in May 1935; however, at present no information about the disposition of any such remainders is available.

The quantities dispatched of some varieties of this series cannot be determined from their dates of dispatch and issue. These include the 3d MCA on orange-buff and on pale-yellow paper, the two shades of the 6d and the four shades of the 5/- MCA. Attempts were made to estimate the numbers dispatched of these varieties, based on several assumptions and the use of additional data; these attempts met with varying degrees of success. A reasonable estimate of 22,690 copies dispatched of the claret 6d and 6,600 of the deep claret 6d was generated, assuming homogeneity of color within a printing and an approximately equal survival rate for the two shades. A reasonable estimate of 840 copies dispatched for the 3d MCA on pale-yellow paper and 25,476 copies of the 3d MCA on orange-buff paper was made on the basis of a comment in Aguilar and Saunders. No satisfactory estimates was obtained for the four shades of the 5/- MCA stamp. Appendix B describes the procedures used in deriving the estimates described in this paragraph.

III. The Centenary Series

Overview

The Centenary series, as noted above, replaced the 1921-26 series on 5 December 1932. It consisted of 12 denominations, which replaced all values of the 1921-26 series except the 4d and 4 1/2d. The stamps were printed in recess, in sheets of 60 (10 x 6), by Waterlow and Sons, watermark MSCA, perf. 12 1/2. The series had a relatively short and simple history that ended in May 1934, when it was superseded by the 1921-26 series, thereby illustrating the adage that turnabout is fair play.

The design of the Centenary series broke the traditional mold that preceded it, though it did not quite reach the modern form that was to follow. Like the stamps of the earlier Cayman Islands series, all denominations were the same size and had the same design, which centered on formal portraits, in profile, of Kings George V and William IV. (This was the first stamp honoring the latter to be issued in the British Commonwealth.) But the Century series was unlike any earlier Cayman issue:

- It was the first commemorative series issued in the Cayman Islands and the first to honor a local event (the 100th anniversary of the founding of

the islands' legislature, known as the Assembly of Justices and Vestry).

- The stamps, which measured 28 by 42mm, were the first Cayman stamps that were other than the standard size (*i.e.*, 22 1/2 by 18 1/2mm).
- The design included local pictorial elements (a palm tree and turtles in the background).
- It was printed by a firm other than De La Rue.

Quantities Dispatched

Table 2 gives the number of stamps dispatched for each denomination of the Centenary series. There was a problem, described in Appendix B point 2, in identifying the series printed for Requisition 7243/3. In my analysis this Requisition was assigned to the Centenary series and is included in the summary statistics reported in Table 2. If 1921-26 adhesives were printed for this Requisition then the total 1/4d Centenary stamps dispatched would be 173,004 copies.

According to Aguilar and Saunders,¹¹ remainders from this series were destroyed, so the number of stamps circulated for some or all of the denominations was less than the number dispatched. No information is currently available about the denominations or quantities destroyed. No constant varieties have been recorded for the Centenary series.

Specimen overprints, type W8,¹² of all denominations of the Centenary series were sent to the UPU as part of the first printing. The number of UPU specimens dispatched is not recorded, but it was probably around 425 copies.

IV. The Pictorial and Silver Jubilee Series

Overview

The Pictorial and the Silver Jubilee series, whose histories were intertwined, were the last stamps issued in the Cayman Islands during the reign of King George V. The complex history of the Pictorial series begins on 1 May 1935, when all denominations were first issued. Comprising the same 12 denominations as the Centenary series, these stamps replaced the respective values from the 1921-26 series. The Pictorial series was the first Cayman Islands issue to employ different sizes and designs for different denominations: the 1 1/2d and 10/- were vertical (40 by 26mm), while the other values were horizontal (26 by 40mm). Five different designs were used, each incorporating a traditional portrait of King George V and a picture of some feature associated with the islands (map, booby bird, catboat, hawksbill turtles, conch shell and

Continued on page 8

Table 2

Value	Series		
	Centenary	Pictorial	Silver Jubilee
¼d	262,884	1,267,076	
½d	68,880	450,288	226,260
1d	44,580	462,872	
1½d	44,220	183,352	
2d	25,880	93,213	
2½d	43,440	139,430	94,140
3d	23,780	103,131	
6d	13,600	48,487	55,680
1s	11,020	34,611	55,200
2s	6,360	18,713	
5s	4,560	14,011	
10s	3,120	9,156	

palms). The stamps were printed in recess by Waterlow and Sons, watermark MSCA, perf. 12 1/2. The series was printed in sheets of 60, 6 x 10 for the two vertical stamps and 12 x 5 for the other values.

The Silver Jubilee, consisting of four denominations (1/2d, 2 1/2d, 6d, and 1/-), was the first of the Commonwealth-wide omnibus series. All four stamps were the same larger size, 43 by 22mm, and all had the same design, centering on a traditional portrait of the King and Windsor Castle. Stamps with this design were printed by three different firms and they were issued in 44 different colonies. The Cayman Islands Silver Jubilee stamps were printed in recess by De La Rue, watermark MSCA, perf. 13 1/2 by 14. They were dispatched in sheets

of 60, 10 x 6.

The Cayman Silver Jubilee series had a short and simple history. All denominations were issued on 6 May 1935, the 25th anniversary of King George V's reign, and all were withdrawn from circulation on 31 December of that year.

When the Silver Jubilee stamps were issued, the overlapping denominations of the Pictorial series (1/2d, 2 1/2d, 6d, and 1/-) were withdrawn from circulation. Figure 3 is a philatelic first day cover using the four superseded values of the Pictorial series. The cover shows that those four values were actually in circulation during the five-day period before they were withdrawn.

The four superseded values of the Pictorial series were reissued when the Silver Jubilee series was withdrawn from circulation. Afterward, the 1/2d, 1d, and 2 1/2d denominations of the Pictorial series were supplemented by the King George VI Coronation series from 13 May 1937 to 31 December 1937,¹³ making it possible to obtain for the first time mixed usage of two series of Cayman Islands stamps, both in period. All values of the Pic-

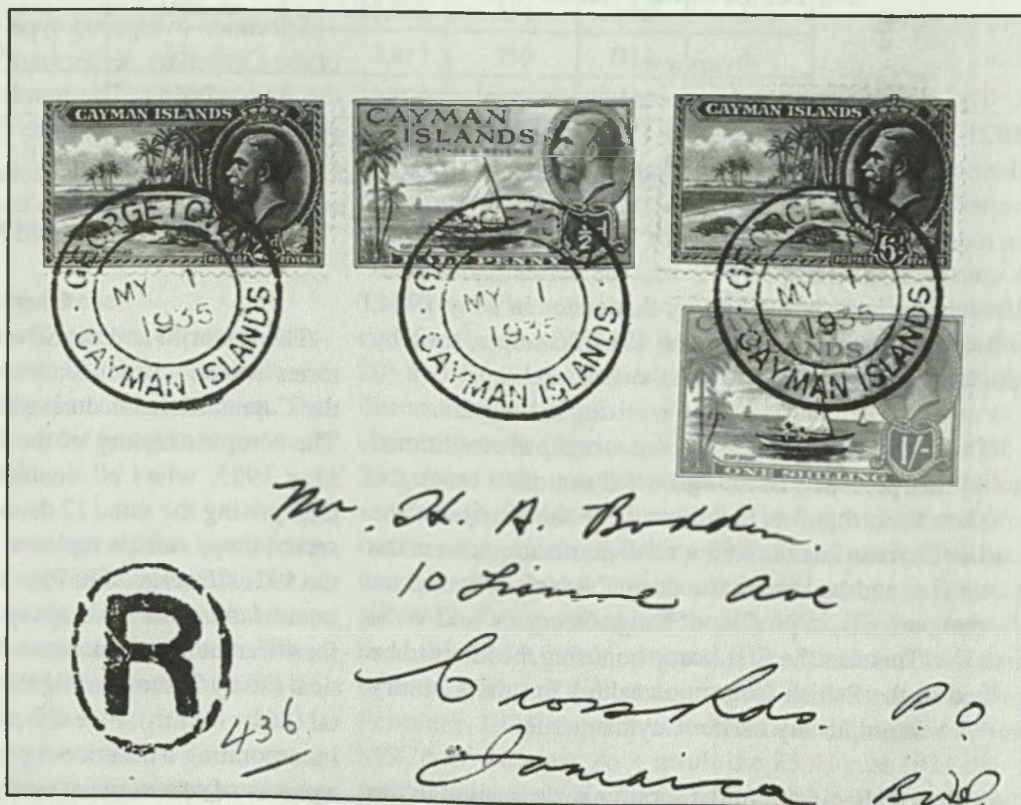


Figure 3: Pictorial series, denominations overlapping Silver Jubilee series used on cover, first day of issue. Courtesy of Champion Stamp Company Inc.

torial series were replaced by the 1938 George VI series on 5 May 1938.

Quantities Dispatched; Main Varieties

The number of stamps dispatched for each denomination of these two series is shown in Table 2. No information is currently available about remainders of the Pictorial series. According to both Aguilar and Saunders and Ainscough,¹⁴ remainders from the Silver Jubilee series were destroyed, so the numbers of stamps circulated for some or all values of that series may be less than those dispatched. No information is currently available about the denomination or number of these stamps destroyed.

Specimen overprints from the first printing of each series were sent to the UPU. The number sent was 421 (type D19 overprint)¹⁵ of each denomination of the Silver Jubilee series. The number sent for Pictorial series (type W8 overprint)¹⁶ is not recorded, but it was probably around 425 copies.

Pictorial Series—Flag on Catboat Variety

A constant plate variety of the Pictorial series, the flag on catboat variety (*Figure 4*), is known to collectors, though I could find no reference to it in the literature. The variety consists of a small flag-like marking at the top of the mast on the background catboat, which occurs in positions 11/1 and 11/2 of the 1/2d, 2d, and 1/- values. Assuming that only one center plate was used for the catboat design in the printing of these stamps, and the flag was in the plate when it was created, estimates for the number of copies dispatched for this variety would be: 1/2d, 15,010 copies; 2d, 3,107 copies; 1/-, 1,154 copies.



Figure 4: Pictorial Series, 2d Flag on Catboat Variety; Small Catboat at 800% magnification

Preliminary estimates of the number of copies dispatched for each of these plate varieties are given below.

- 1/2d -- Diagonal line by turret: ca. 522
- 1/2d -- Dot by flagstaff: ca. 261
- 6d -- Dot by flagstaff: ca. 90
- 6d -- Dash by turret: ca. 90
- 1/- -- Dot by flagstaff: ca. 92
- 1/- -- Dash by turret: ca. 92

These estimates assume the production of the Silver Jubilee series was organized according to printings, as that term is commonly understood. That is, all printing required for the stamps included in a dispatch was done on a specific occasion, dedicated to producing the stamps for that dispatch, and that dispatch only. This assumption may be unwarranted as explained in Appendix B, which also describes the line of argument on which the estimates are based.

Areas for Further Research

Though much detailed information is now available on the history and printing of the four Cayman Islands George V Commonwealth series, there are several areas in which more research is required:

1. Number and disposition of remainders of each series, by denomination.
2. Quantities dispatched for each of the four shades of the 1921-26 5/- MCA.
3. Quantities dispatched for those 1921-26 stamps that were both line and comb perforated by type of perforation.
4. Quantities dispatched for the plate varieties of the Cayman Islands Silver Jubilee stamps.
5. Number of UPU specimen overprints dispatched for the Centenary and Pictorial series.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank David Beech and Ron Vousden of The British Library and the staff of the Post Office Heritage, who assisted me in collecting the data used in this article. In addition, I would like to thank Joel Bromberg, who reviewed a draft of the article and suggested various editorial changes and the Champion Stamp Co. Inc., who provided the cover displayed in Figure 3.

Silver Jubilee Series -- Plate Varieties; Preliminary Estimates of Quantities Dispatched

The *Stanley Gibbons Catalogue* lists six plate varieties for the Cayman Islands Silver Jubilee series, two for each of the 1/2d, 6d, and 1/- stamps and none for the 2 1/2d.

*Appendices follow
beginning on page 10.*

Appendix A: The Printings

The detailed data on each printing of the four series are given in Tables 3 through 6. Several points of interest concerning the printings are listed below.

1. Some dispatches for each of the series, except the Silver Jubilee, contained partial sheets.
2. The stamps dispatched for Requisition 7243/3, on 28 January 1933 were described as "Cayman Islands Postage & Revenue Stamps," a designation used for the 1921-26 series. However, the Requisition Number and date of the dispatch are those associated with

the Centenary series. In addition the Requisition was listed in a section of the Crown Agents Requisition Books reserved for Waterlow and Sons the printer of the Centenary but not the 1921-26 series. As a result this Requisition is listed in Table 4, for the Centenary Series, and the quantities dispatched were included in the summary for the Centenary Series found in Table 2.

3. The Crown Agents Requisition Books list both Requisitions 7243 and 7243/3. This suggests there was a Requisition 7243/2 but I did not locate a Requisition with this number.

Table 3A

Table 3 (Part 1 of 2): 1921-26 Series Printings: Dates and Stamps Dispatched												
Requisition		119/20 ¹			84/21		118/21		4247	4767		5187 ¹
Invoiced		3/2/21	3/2/21	14/2/21	26/8/21	25/10/21	8/2/22	16/2/22	29/5/23	25/2/2	25/2/25	14/7/26
Dispatched					25/8/21	22/10/21	10/2/22	15/2/22	30/5/23	12/2/2	20/2/25	14/7/26
Value	Wmk.											
¼d	MSCA						118,270					
½d	MSCA						122,490					
1d	MSCA						88,650					
1½d	MSCA	177,120		7,120								
2d	MSCA							58,915				
2½d	MSCA							56,695		18,840		17,640
3d	MCA	19,800		6,516								
3d	MSCA								41,160 ²			
4d	MCA							20,320				
4½d	MSCA								41,760			
6d	MSCA							16,090				
1s	MCA		9,600	5,036								
1s	MSCA									18,000		
2s	MSCA							5,170		6,240		
3s	MSCA							4,565		6,000		
5s	MCA		1,440	1,925	3,090							
5s	MSCA										5,760	
10s	MCA					3,815						
10s	MSCA											4,800
Total		196,920	11,040	20,597	3,090	3,815	329,410	161,755	82,920	49,080	5,760	22,440

1. Quantities reported in these columns are based on the De La Rue Private Day Books; all other quantities reported are based on the Crown Agents Requisition Books.

2. The De La Rue Private Day Books record a quantity invoiced of 40,680.

Table 3B

Table 3 (Part 2 of 2): 1921-26 Series Printings: Dates and Stamps Dispatched												
Requisition		5669 ¹		6119	6381	6733	7057	7308 ¹		7413	7452	
Invoiced		8/12/27	24/12/27	6/3/29	11/11/29	1/10/30	23/7/31	24/3/32	8/4/32	13/7/32	21/9/32	23/9/32
Dispatched		7/12/27	22/12/27	5/3/29	11/11/29	30/9/30	23/7/31	24/3/32	6/4/32	12/7/32	20/9/32	23/9/32
Value	Wmk.											
¼d	MSCA			12,120	12,000	15,480	14,820	3,540	3,060			58,500
½d	MSCA			11,640	12,300	15,300	13,800	5,400		6,600		26,220
1d	MSCA				6,600	5,400	5,340	5,160		6,600	24,600	
1½d	MSCA											
2d	MSCA										6,600	
2½d	MSCA	12,360	6,600	11,640	24,960	13,020	17,880				12,000	
3d	MCA											
3d	MSCA				6,600	6,000	5,820					
4d	MCA											
4½d	MSCA											
6d	MSCA				6,600						6,600	
1s	MCA											
1s	MSCA										6,600	
2s	MSCA				1,680						6,420	
3s	MSCA										6,600	
5s	MCA											
5s	MSCA				660						6,600	
10s	MCA											
10s	MSCA	1,200 ²			660						6,360	
Total		13,560	6,600	35,400	78,660	55,200	57,660	14,100	3,060	13,200	82,380	84,720

1. Quantities reported in these columns are based on the De La Rue Private Day Books; all other quantities reported are based on the Crown Agents Requisition Books.

4. The last printing of the Pictorial series, Requisition 160/1, was dispatched and probably ordered in the long interval between the due date (12 November 1937) and the dispatch date (April 1938) of the first printing for 1938 George VI series, which replaced the Pictorial series. This suggests the long delay in fulfilling the first Requisition of the 1938 series may have led to shortages in the existing inventory of stamps and hence the need for the very late reordering of the Pictorial series. This hypothesis is consistent with the "very urgent" note found in the Requisition books along with the last Pictorial Requisition.
5. As a result of point 2 above, the date for the last dispatch of the Pictorial series, February 1938, is very close to the May 1938 date of issue for the 1938 George VI. The close prox-

imity of these two dates suggests there may have been a considerable inventory of the Pictorial series on hand when it was superseded by the 1938 series.

6. Most of the Cayman Islands entries in the Annual Index for the De La Rue Private Day Books are listed under Jamaica, as the Caymans were a Jamaican dependency prior to 1959.
7. Many entries for Cayman Islands adhesives in the Crown Agents Requisition volumes list Jamaica as the colony for Cayman Islands entries. The Cayman Islands identification for these dispatches will be found in the description of the series dispatched.

Text continued on page 14

Table 4

Table 4: Centenary Series Printings: Dates and Stamps Dispatched						
Requisition	7343/1 ¹	7243/3	7682	7733	7897	8062
Dispatched		18/1/33	9/3/33	10/5/33	21/9/33	23/2/34
Value						
¼d	86,580	89,880		20,760	65,704	
½d	56,820				5,460	6,600
1d	39,120				5,460	
1½d	37,620					6,600
2d	20,340		5,540			
2½d	43,440					
3d	18,240		5,540			
6d	10,320		1,120		2,160	
1s	7,680		1,180		2,160	
2s	5,700					660
5s	4,080			480		
10s	2,640			480		
Total	332,580	89,880	13,380	21,720	80,944	13,860

1. There were two printings for this requisition, one dispatched on 4/11/32 and one on 11/11/32. The Crown Agents Requisition Books do not indicate the quantities for the individual printings.

Table 5A

Table 5 (Part 1 of 2): Pictorial Series Printings: Dates and Stamps Dispatched										
Requisition	8148 ¹	8647	8732	8732/2	8812/1		9045/1			9105 ¹
Dispatched	27/3/35	13/7/35	28/8/35	28/8/35	18/10/35	5/11/35	4/3/36	17/3/36	18/3/36	7/5/36
Dispatched	1/5/35									8/5/36
Value										
¼d	86,820	13,200	24,360			50,040	155,220 ²			101,560
½d	45,000			10,800	19,260				28,220	
1d	28,200	7,920	10,980		18,540				27,760	
1½d	22,200	6,600	9,840		9,660			10,920		
2d	15,240	1,320	3,300		24,420					
2½d	19,800			10,680	10,680					
3d	12,360	2,640	2,220		12,420			6,660		
6d	7,800			1,560	10,680					
1s	6,600			1,620	10,980					
2s	3,900	2,520	1,320		3,300					
5s	2,640	2,040	1,020		2,040					
10s	1,740	2,040	1,080		1,080					
Total	252,300	38,280	54,120	24,660	123,060	50,040	155,220	17,580	55,980	101,560

1. There were two printings for these requisitions. The Crown Agents Requisition Books do not indicate the quantities for the individual printings.

2. These stamps were dispatched on two different occasions 4/3/36 and 17/3/36 but the Crown Agent Requisition Books do not specify the quantities shipped on each occasion.

Table 5B

Requisition	9119/1		9244/1		9372/1	9372/2	9781/1	9832/1	160/1	
Dispatched	1/7/36	3/7/36	29/8/36	16/9/36	27/1/37	27/1/37	30/4/37	2/6/37	2/2/38	17/2/38
Value										
¼d	124,000		120,960		240,000	240,036			110,880	
½d	59,016			61,080	103,380	123,532				
1d		52,600		54,780	100,980	100,572			60,540	
1½d		10,980		24,000		19,552		21,600	48,000	
2d	3,160			10,980		13,193		21,600		
2½d				10,980		60,890				26,400
3d			6,840			13,191		20,400		26,400
6d				3,300	4,380	10,927	4,320	5,520		
1s				3,300		6,591		5,520		
2s				1,080		4,373			2,220	
5s				1,080		2,011		1,080	2,100	
10s				1,080		2,136				
Total	186,176	63,580	127,800	171,660	448,740	597,004	4,320	75,720	223,740	52,800

Table 6

Requisition	8410	8410/2	8410/3	8410/4	8410/5	8410/6 ¹
Invoiced	11/3/35	21/8/35	21/8/35	3/10/35	17/12/35	4/3/36
Dispatched	23/1/35	14/8/35	14/8/35	30/9/35	20/11/35	
Value						
½d	124,500	22,020	0	22,020	26,400	31,320
2½d	81,000	0	0	6,600	6,540	
6d	22,380	0	10,800	16,500	6,000	
1s	21,180	0	10,980	16,500	6,540	
Total	249,060	22,020	21,780	61,620	45,480	31,320

1. The Crown Agents Requisition Books do not indicate a dispatch date for this requisition.

Appendix B:

Estimating procedures used for the 1921-26 varieties and the Silver Jubilee plate varieties

Shade Varieties of the 1921-26 6d

There were three printings of the 6d: from the first printing, 16,090 6d stamps were dispatched on 15 February 1922; from the second, 6,600 copies were dispatched on 11 November 1929; and from the third, 6,600 copies were dispatched on 20 September 1932. The date of issue for the claret variety in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue is 1 April 1922. Assuming homogeneity of color within a printing means that all stamps in the first printing would have been the claret shade and one or both of the remaining printings would have been the deep claret shade.

There are two estimates possible given this information and these assumptions: the first assumes either the second or the third printing but not both was of the deep claret shade; and the second assumes both the second and third printing were of the deep claret shade. If there were two printings of the deep claret, the numbers of the two shades dispatched would be approximately equal: 16,090 for the claret and 13,200 for the deep claret. If there was one printing of the deep claret, then many more of the claret would have been dispatched, 22,690 versus 6,600 for the deep claret. Today, it is easier to obtain a copy of the claret shade. Given the same rate of survival over time, the more likely estimates are 22,690 copies of the claret and 6,600 copies of the deep claret. This 3:1 ratio in quantities dispatched is consistent with the relative catalogue values of the two shades, which should be in a ratio opposite to that of the quantities dispatched. The claret shade has a catalogue value of £5.5, while the deep claret shade is valued at £19.

Paper Varieties of the 1921-26 3d MCA

Aguilar and Saunders report that seven panes of the 3d MCA in the first shipment were on the pale yellow-paper and the remainder of the shipment was 3d MCA on orange-buff.¹⁷ If we assume the second and last shipment of the 3d MCA were all on the orange buff paper, as suggested but not stated by Aguilar and Saunders; and the pane referred to by Aguilar and Saunders was a sheet of 120 stamps, as dispatched from the printer; then we would get an estimate of $120 \times 7 = 840$ 3d MCA on pale-yellow paper dispatched and 25,476 of the 3d MCA on orange-buff paper. These estimates are in a 1:30.3 ratio which is consistent with the opposite ratio of their catalogue values £50: £1.5.

Shades Varieties of the 1921-26 5/- MCA

No reasonable estimate of the number of copies dis-

patched for the four shades of the 5/- MCA was obtained. The first attempt was based on the report that one or two sheets of the blue green shade were included in the first printing of the 5/- MCA and none of this shade was in any of the later printings.¹⁸ That would give an estimate of 120 or 240 copies of the blue green shade dispatched out of a total of 6,455 stamps dispatched for the four shades. Such an estimate would make the blue green variety a rare stamp and should give it a market value much higher than those of the other four varieties. The £60 catalogue value of the blue green, however, is not much greater than the £55 for the deep green on pale-yellow paper and is less than the £85 for the deep green on orange-buff paper.

A second attempt to estimate the quantities dispatched for the four shades also produced inconsistent results. The sources record three printings of the 5/- MCA, consisting of 1,440, 1,925, and 3,090 copies invoiced on 8 February, 14 February, and 26 August 1921, respectively. The catalogue shows that one of the shades, deep green, was printed on orange-buff paper, while the other three shades were printed on pale-yellow paper. The issue date for the deep green shade on orange-buff paper is 19 November 1921. Given the information in the catalogue, if one assumes that the same paper was used for all stamps in a printing, then the third printing of the 5/- MCA stamp must have been the one and only printing of the deep green shade on orange-buff paper. Aguilar and Saunders¹⁹ also refer to the dark green color of the October shipment, which fits the invoice date of 26 August for the third printing. This gives an estimate of 3,090 for the quantity dispatched for this stamp. That estimate, however, would give the largest volume dispatched of the four shades to the deep green on orange-buff paper, which would suggest, assuming roughly equal survival rates for the four shades, that it should have the least market value. Exactly the opposite is the case: this variety has a catalogue value of £85, the highest of the four shades.

It should be noted that Fernbank²⁰ reports February 1921 as the last month in which the orange-buff paper was used. This date is inconsistent with the August date of printing, assumed above and the November date of issue, given in the catalogue. Further Aguilar and Saunders do not list the deep green on pale-yellow paper variety found in the catalogue.

The analysis of the 5/- stamp described above indicates that one or more of the following possibilities may be true: (1) at least one of the assumptions made in the analysis above is not valid; (2) some of the existing information about the four shades of the 5/- MCA is in er-

ror; (3) there is some ambiguity in the sources in the identification or designation of the shade of the stamps and/or the color of the paper.

Assuming equal survival rates but no homogeneity of shade for adhesives within a printing, the estimated copies dispatched might still be the opposite of their relative catalogue values, which would give estimates of 3,679 copies dispatched for the yellow green/pale yellow variety, 1,097 for the deep green/pale yellow, 1,033 for the blue green/pale yellow, and 646 for the deep green/orange-buff. These may be the best estimates obtainable at present; however, the assumption that the relative catalogue values of varieties of a stamp reflect the relative volumes dispatched, without supporting evidence, is questionable.

Plate Varieties of the Silver Jubilee Series

The Silver Jubilee series was printed in two stages, first using a vignette plate containing a picture of Windsor Castle. The vignette plate printed a sheet of 120 stamps divided into two panes (upper and lower), each 10 x 6. This sheet was then physically divided into two sheets, each containing one pane of the sheet of stamps containing the vignette. In the second stage of the printing a frame plate completed the design on the 10 x 6 sheets.

The master die for the vignette and frame plates were made by Waterlow and Sons but the stamps were printed by three different printers, each using their own plates. De La Rue printed the Cayman Islands series using two vignette plates. The first plate printed plate numbers 2A under one pane and 2B under the other. This plate existed in two stages. In one state no plate varieties were printed. This state will be referred to as the 2A'-2B' state. The apostrophes did not appear on the plate but are used in the discussion below to distinguish the first from the second state of this vignette plate. In its second state, referred to as 2A-2B, the 2A pane produced the Diagonal line by turret variety in two positions (10/1 and 10/2) while the 2B pane produced the Dot to left of chapel variety in position 8/3. The second vignette plate, referred to as the 4-4/ plate, printed the plate number 4 under one pane and 4/ under the second pane. The 4 pane printed the Dot by flagstaff variety in position 8/4 while the 4/ pane printed the Dash by turret variety in position 3/6.

There were six printings of the Cayman Islands Silver Jubilee series. Three of these printings (Requisitions 8410, 8410/4 and 8410/5) included the 2 1/2d stamp for which there are no reported plate varieties, which means these printings must have used the 2A'-2B' vignette plate. Assuming a standard printing means the same vignette plate,

2A'-2B', would be used for all denominations included in these three printings. This also means no plate varieties would be printed for any of the denominations in these three printings. All plate varieties would therefore have been made on the remaining three printings, listed below, which did not print the 2 1/2d stamp.

- Requisition 8410/2 - 367 sheets of 60 1/2d stamps
- Requisition 8410/3 - 180 sheets of 60 6d stamps
- 183 sheets of 60 1/- stamps
- Requisition 8410/6 - 522 sheets of 60 1/2d stamps

Given the information and argument above, the Dot by flagstaff and Dash by turret varieties found on both the 6d and 1/- stamps must have been made in the single printing of Requisition 8410/3 using the 4-4/ plate. About half of each denomination dispatched would have been printed by the 4 and the other half by the 4/ plate. Each of these plates produced one variety on each sheet of 60 stamps, which gives an estimate of 90 for each variety of the 6d and 91 or 92 for each variety of the 1/-.

These estimates compare reasonably well with their relative catalogue values. The relative catalogue values of the two 6d stamps are 1:1 (Dot by flagstaff: Dash by turret) and the relative estimated number of copies dispatched is also 1:1. The 1/- relative catalogue values for the two 1/- plate varieties are 1:1.06 while the relative estimated copies dispatched are 1:1.

The discussion and information given above locates two possible sources for the two plate varieties of the 1/2d, Requisition 8410/2 and 8410/6. However, both Requisitions 8410/4 and 8410/5 were dispatched between the dispatches of Requisition 8410/2 and 8410/6. Given the earlier argument, both Requisitions 8410/4 and 8410/5 used the 2A'-2B' plate, which did not produce plate varieties. Therefore Requisition 8410/2 must also have been printed by the 2A'-2B' plate and thus would not have printed the plate varieties on the 1/2d stamp. This leaves only Requisition 8410/6 as the source of these plate varieties. This gives estimates of about 261 copies of the Dot by flagstaff variety dispatched for the 1/2d stamp (one position per sheet on half the sheets) and about 522 copies of the Diagonal line by turret variety (two positions per sheet on half the sheets). The 1:2 ratio for estimated copies dispatched is almost but not quite in line with the 1.52:1 relative catalogue values of the two varieties.

It should also be noted that the argument given above is for the number of sheets printed. The estimates given in the text above are for copies dispatched which means

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they assume an equal rate of flawed copies destroyed for the sheets printed from each of the panes initially printed by the vignette plate. This assumption is probably not valid but the deviations from it would be small.

Complex Printings of the Silver Jubilee

Because the Silver Jubilee series employed a multicolony design, it may have been printed in a more complex way than the standard procedure assumed for the estimates given above. Only seven color schemes were used for this issue. De La Rue printed 56 different Silver Jubilee stamps for 14 colonies using these seven color schemes. As a result, the same color scheme was used for the stamps printed for many different colonies. Since the vignette was the same for all the stamps, it would have been feasible, and probably efficient, for De La Rue to have printed a large batch of the vignette sheets of a given color in one print run and then later used these vignette sheets, with the appropriate frame plates, for printing a number of different requisitions. This more complex way of printing would have been particularly effective in the first printings of the series, as De La Rue received the first Silver Jubilee requisitions for its 14 colonies during a short period of time (December 1934 to April 1935).

For example, the Cayman Islands, Ceylon, Fiji, and Mauritius all had their initial requisition for Silver Jubilee stamps dispatched in January and February 1935. The high-value Silver Jubilee stamp for each of these colonies, and in fact for all 14 colonies for which De La Rue printed the series, featured the same slate and purple color scheme. It would have been very efficient for De La Rue first to print the required vignette sheets for all the high-value stamps for its 14 colonies in a single printing using the slate color, then to draw on this stock of vignette sheets for the second-stage printings using the frame plates for the specific requisitions.

The printings of the Silver Jubilee series may in fact have been a combination of the two types of printings. The stamps for some dispatches, particularly the first ones to each colony, may have been printed by the complex method using a multicolony vignette printing, while later requisitions may have been fulfilled by a standard printing, with both stages dedicated to a specific dispatch.

Since no determination of the method of printing the Silver Jubilee series (standard, complex, or standard and complex) has yet been made, the estimates given in the previous section must be considered preliminary and must be used with great caution until verified by further research.

Endnotes

¹ James Podger, "Cayman Islands: The De La Rue Records," *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 37, No. 2 (Whole No. 183), June 1997, pp. 74-84.

² J. Martin, "Using the Crown Agents' Distribution Books," *The London Philatelist*, Vol. 108, No. 1265, May 1999, p. 139.

³ Peter Fernbank, *King George V Key Plates of The Imperium Postage and Revenue Design* (Banbury, Oxfordshire: West African Study Circle, 1997), p. 14.

⁴ The Centenary and Pictorial series were printed by Waterlow and Sons.

⁵ Fernbank, p. 13.

⁶ Richard Maisel, "Cayman Islands: There is still much to learn," *B.W.I. Study Circle Bulletin*, No. 187, December 2000, p. 90.

⁷ *Stanley Gibbons Empire Stamp Catalogue 1840-1936* (London and Ringwood: Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 1999), Vol. 1, pp. 117-18.

⁸ Everard F. Aguilar and Philip T. Saunders, *The Cayman Islands: Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks* (Folkestone: F. J. Parsons Ltd., 1962) [hereinafter A&S].

⁹ The design is similar to that of the 1915 King George V issue of New Zealand. See A&S, p. 47.

¹⁰ A&S, p. 48.

¹¹ A&S, p. 58.

¹² James Bendon, *UPU Specimen Stamps* (Limassol: James Bendon, 1988), p. 69.

¹³ A&S, p. 61.

¹⁴ A&S, p. 60; A. J. Ainscough, *Silver Jubilee of King George V* (Parbold, Lancashire: Ainwhel Developments [Phil], 1985), p. 35.

¹⁵ Bendon, p. 69.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ A&S, p. 50.

¹⁸ A&S, p. 50.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Fernbank, p. 43.



One more review from *The Stamp Show in London*

The following review of President Rob Wynstra's "Leeward Islands Village Mail: 1732-1932" at *The Stamp Show in London* last year was scheduled for publication in the January issue, but space problems prevented its use. We are deeply indebted to Mr. Oliver for his review, and offer an apology for the delay in publication.

By **Michael Oliver**

Of the United Kingdom

Every collector who attended the Exhibition with an interest in these islands should have viewed this exceptional exhibit. It must be the most complete collection formed on the subject including very rare items, many on cover, some unique.

It commences with a 1733 letter from English Harbour to London and concludes with a 1933 cover from Falmouth to Canada. (English Harbour was finally closed on 31 Dec. 1931, when it was served by the new SPO of Falmouth, less than two miles inland on the road to St. Johns.)

The exhibit comprises 137 entries plus 49 stamps or pieces depicting postmarks from every village (SPO), by my reckoning 61 in the period. The first frame showed 18th and early 19th century letters sent from the islands, including Anguilla, Barbuda and Virgin Gorda. The only island missing is Nevis -- I suspect a Mr. Federico Borromeo may have something to do with that! I noticed only one omission to completeness, a cover from English Harbour pre-paid with British stamps -- that is, if one exists. Nevertheless, this was compensated by an 1874 cover with the first CDS and another of 1885 with 8 x 1d (the double letter rate) cancelled A18.

Some rare and interesting early incoming letters and covers were included, such as Australia, via Marseilles and Southampton to Cleave Hall, Antigua and England to Gingerland, Nevis in the 1870s.

Dominica and St. Kitts pen cancellations were shown on stamps and on an 1880 cover from Dieppe Bay to England with the 1d internal surcharge added to the 4d overseas rate, probably a unique example when the internal surcharge was abolished a few years later. Examples of dates posted at SPOs added in manuscript clear of the stamps for cancellation at the GPO and also Federal stamps pen-cancelled at three different Dominica SPOs were shown. Commencing with the second SPO postmark for Portsmouth, Dominica in 1893, covers with all

the lesser used postmarks issued were shown. These included the very rare Anegada and East End (1906-10), the large St. Kitts code SP (1924), the TRDs of Cayon, Dieppe Bay and Old Road (1928), Barbuda "Official Paid" cancelling private mail, Anguilla rubber stamps of East End, Forest and Road (c. 1930) and the Montserrat rubber stamps of Harris and St. Peters, plus the first CDS of Cudjoe Head -- an exceptional accumulation.

The few other SPOs for which no more than a handful of examples are known included English Harbour (1921), Blowing Pt., Anguilla (1930) and Barnes Hill, St. James & St. Stephens, Antigua (1928-29) on stamps or piece. Congratulations to Rob on a well deserved Large Vermeil for a very fine exhibit. ☒

Saluting our Contributors!

By **Edward T. Tweddell**

Treasurer

We would like to thank the following Members for their generous donations to the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group during the year 2000.

Bruce G. Aitken

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Dr. Norman D. Thetford

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur

Dale D. Wade

New Leeward Islands discoveries

By Rob Wynstra
President

The last few years have certainly proved particularly fertile ground for those collectors with an interest in the postal history of the Leeward Islands. One large cover hoard and several previously unrecorded individual items have greatly enhanced our knowledge of this elusive area of British Caribbean postal history. Recent months have proved no exception, with at least two discoveries of importance.

Anglo-French Accountancy Mark on Dominica Letter

One of the long-established gems of Dominica postal history is a letter mailed from Dominica to France on Dec. 27, 1858. The letter, which is written in French, was headed at St. Joseph village and addressed to Dijon, France (Figure 1). The envelope was franked with a 6d lilac Great Britain stamp to pay the standard packet rate to England and a 1d rose-red Great Britain stamp as additional postage to France. The stamps were canceled

with the "A07" Dominica obliterator at the Roseau General Post Office. The letter shows both London and Calais transit marks and a Dijon arrival mark on Jan. 23, 1859.

Recently, however, another letter from the same correspondence has emerged which shows the first recorded use of an Anglo-French accountancy mark on mail from Dominica. The folded letter is headed at St. Joseph vil-

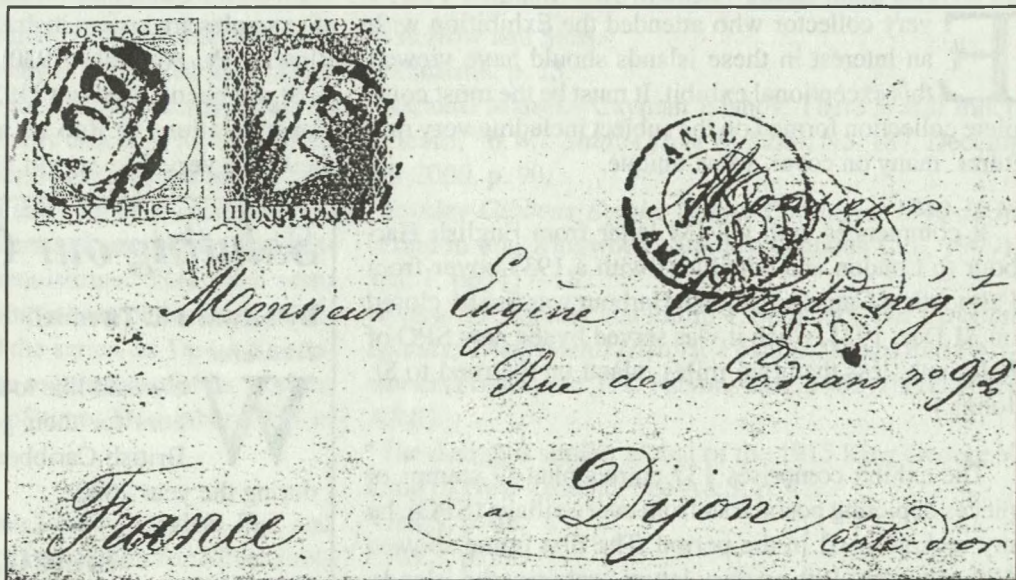


Figure 1

lage on Aug. 11, 1858 and is again addressed to Dijon, France (Figure 2). On the reverse is a Dominica double-

arc datestamp, which was applied at the Roseau General Post Office on August 12. Unlike the other letter, this one was not franked with Great Britain postage stamps and shows no British transit marks of any kind, most likely because it was sent by a French rather than a British packet.

The letter received its first transit mark on arrival at Calais on September 2. Because of the different currencies involved, the letter was handstamped with an Anglo-France accountancy mark that indi-

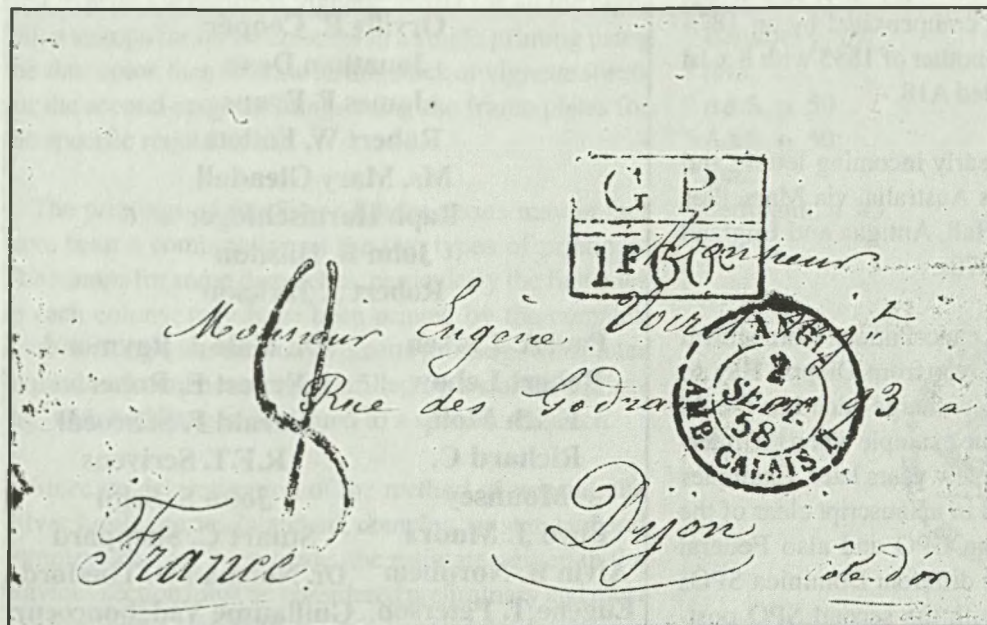


Figure 2

cated the rate from Dominica at the equivalent of one Franc 60 Centimes. Another handstamp alongside indicated a rate of eight Decimes from Calais on the northwest coast to Dijon in southeast France. The emergence of this new letter indicates the possibility that other items may still exist from the same correspondence, leaving open the hope for even more fascinating discoveries.

East End, Virgin Islands Temporary Datestamp

Among the most sought-after Leeward Islands postal history items are examples of the temporary rubber datestamps used at East End, Tortola in the British Virgin Islands from 1906 to 1914. The first of the two types used there was proofed at the London General Post Office on April 26, 1906 and sent out to the island soon afterwards to coincide with the opening of the rural office at East End on the main island of Tortola. The datestamp measured 29mm in diameter and had sans-serif lettering. It is recorded with an earliest date of Oct. 11, 1906 and a latest date of April 5, 1910, by which time the rubber was showing severe damage.

A replacement temporary rubber datestamp is known to have been in use by November 11, 1911. This second-type handstamp also measured 29mm in diameter. Unlike the previous mark, the island name on the bottom appeared in serif letters. The latest recorded date of use is March 30, 1914, which is about when East End was reduced from a sub-post office to a receiving station without a datestamp. To date, no examples of this second-type have been recorded on cover.

As recently as five years ago, even the first-type East End, Tortola temporary datestamp was known used only once on cover. Today, the number of known examples on cover has reached six, all of which appear to be commercial usages. The most recent of these was unearthed during Stamp Show 2000 in London.

The newly discovered example was used on October 31, 1907 on a 2 1/2d Virgin Islands postal envelope addressed to Brussels, Belgium (*Figure 3*). The stationery envelope paid the standard 2 1/2d rate in effect for countries outside the British Empire. A double-ring Road

Town, Tortola datestamp was applied at the General Post Office on the same day. The letter received a St. Thomas

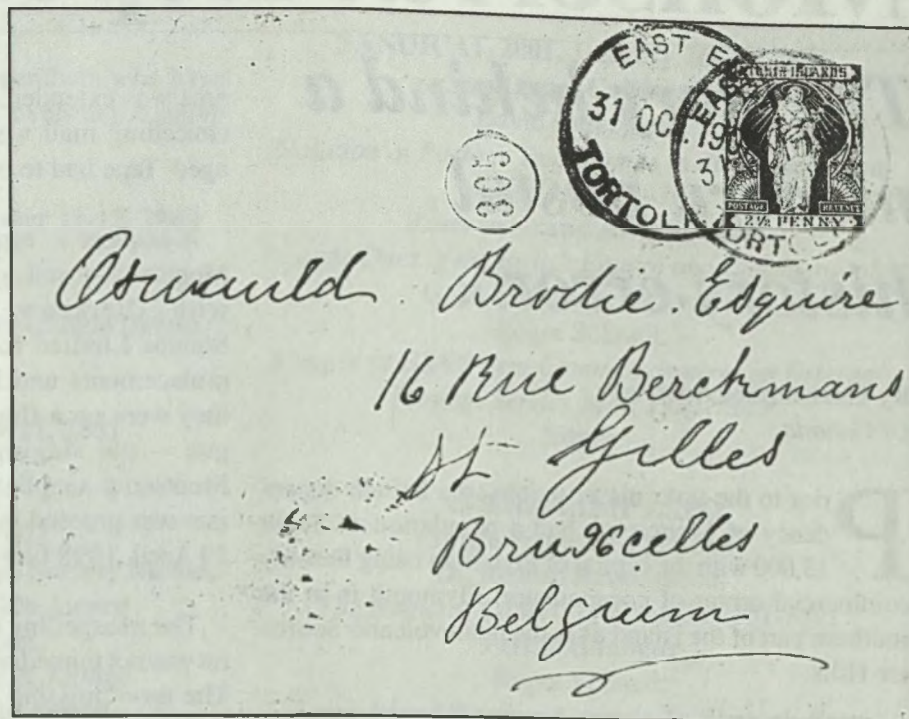


Figure 3

transit mark on November 1 and Brussels arrival mark on November 23. Including this new discovery, the recorded examples on cover to date are:

- January 7, 1907 on 2 1/2d VI postal stationery envelope to Dominican Republic.
- July 4, 1907 on 1/2d VI postal card to England.
- July 27, 1907 on 1d VI postal stationery envelope to England.
- October 31, 1907 on 2 1/2d VI postal stationery envelope to Brussels, Belgium.
- January 4, 1908 on 1d VI postal stationery envelope to local address.
- April 5, 1910 on 2 1/2d VI postal stationery envelope to Brussels, Belgium.

Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Charles Freeland, Michael Hamilton, Jay Frederick, and Chris Rainey for information included in this article. I also wish to acknowledge Michael Oliver for publishing the first comprehensive listing of Leeward Islands postmarks. ☐

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Montserrat Report

The story behind a modern postal history error...

By Christopher Anstead
Of Canada

Prior to the volcanic eruptions, the British dependency of Montserrat had a population of about 13,000 with the capital of Plymouth being the only commercial center of consequence. Plymouth is in the southern part of the island as is the main volcano Soufriere Hills.

The first recorded eruption began on July 18, 1995. A summary from the Montserrat Volcano Observatory for August 3, 1997 shows how quickly the situation deteriorated. "Pyroclastic flows from Soufriere Hills volcano on Montserrat have reached the capital city of Plymouth. Many homes and businesses can be seen burning from several miles away. Firefighters have been unable to stop these flames which threaten to consume the entire city. Flows in Gages Valley have also caused fires in Gages Village. These flows generated ash plumes which reached elevations of over 15,000 ft. (4500m). Ashfalls occurred in Isles Bay, Ole Towne, Salem and several other areas west of the volcano. In the wake of this event and a June 25 event which left 10 dead and nine others missing, the British government is considering permanently relocating all of Montserrat's citizens off the island."

Postal services retreated northward to safer areas, moving three times from one temporary location to another as the evacuation

area was extended. In the chaos two hammers used for cancelling mail were lost and the remaining one damaged. Tape had to be used to keep it usable.

A request to replace the hammers was made to the Montserrat postal agent in London. An order was arranged with Clerkenwell Rubber Stamps Limited for overnight replacements and before long they were on a flight for Antigua -- the staging point for Montserrat supplies. The hammer was proofed in London on 29 April, 1998 (see *Figure 1*).

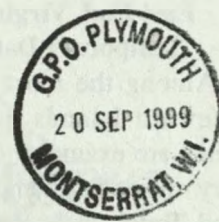


Figure 3: Hammer with spelling corrected

The misspelling of Montserrat was not immediately noticed. The new "missing T" rubber hammer was used alongside the surviving steel hammer. Their use together on the same piece of mail has been seen. An example of the surviving postmark from such mail is illustrated in *Figure 2*.

In time the spelling error was noticed independently in London and on the island. Clerkenwell Rubber Stamps prepared replacement hammers and they were dispatched. An example of the replacement is shown in *Figure 3*.

Earliest recorded date for the "missing T" cancellation is 16 SEP 1998. Latest recorded date for the "missing T" cancellation is 17 JAN 1999.

The first day of issue hammer was also lost in the post office's retreat. It was replaced at the same time as the regular hammer. The proof of the first day of issue with "missing T" is shown in *Figure 4*. First day of issue collectors may be rewarded with an examination of their covers during the "missing T" period.

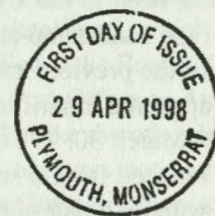


Figure 4: First day of issue proof strike

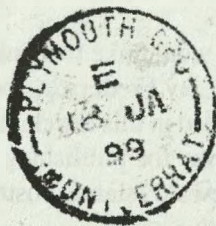


Figure 2: Surviving steel hammer used during "missing T" period

Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank David Lister for information provided. Mr. Lister is managing director of John Lister Ltd., philatelic agent for Montserrat (with two "T"s). ☒

BCPSG Exhibits and Awards

By Paul Larsen

Past President, Awards Chairman

Following is a listing of BCPSG members who have received philatelic awards of various levels at the stamp shows listed:

Mid-Cities Stamp EXPO, November 11-12, 2000

Grapevine, Texas

Peter Elias,

Saint Vincent - A Philatelic Sampler (Single frame)

Silver

ARIPEX 2001, January 19-21, 2001

Tucson, Arizona

Roger Schnell,

Classic Island 1788-1902

Grand Award, Gold, Postal History Society Medal,

Scandinavian Collectors Club Award

Dr. Reuben Ramkissoon,

Postal Stationery of Trinidad & Tobago

Gold, UPSS Marcus White Award

SARASOTA NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

February 2-4, Sarasota, Florida

Roger Schnell,

Air Transit Marketings British Empire Airmail Service

Gold, APS 1940-1980 Medal

SANDICAL 2001, January 26-28, 2001

San Diego, California

David Herendeen,

Evolution of Postage Due Stamps in the French Community, 1875-1930s

Reserve Grand Award, Gold

Postage Dues of the British Empire and Commonwealth

Gold, Philatelic 25 Award

Roger Schnell,

Usages of USA 3-cent Commemoratives on External

Foreign Service Mail 1932-1945

Silver

AMERISTAMP EXPO

(Single Frame Competition)

Dr. Reuben Ramkissoon,

The Numeral Cancels of Trinidad 1851-1891

Prix d'Honneur

Roger Schnell,

Faroe Island Wartime Airmails-To-Through-From

The USA

Vermeil

"Two Ocean Airmail" June 10, 1940 to Dec. 7, 1941

Silver

Don't forget to send in your membership dues for 2001!

There is an unusually high number of members who have yet to send their payments in for 2001. At the time of writing in February, these number approximately 50. The dues have not changed for many years, and membership in the society is very good value.

The labels on the envelopes have a code in the top right hand corner indicating each member's status. As example, if your code is 2000, then you have not paid and failure to do so will mean that this is your last journal. If any member disagrees with his or her code, please contact me.

Subscriptions are currently as follows:

USA Bulk mailing -- \$18

Elsewhere --\$23 or £15

Dollar payments should be send to me, and Sterling amounts to David Druett, addresses inside the front cover. I look forward to receiving you subscriptions.

Tim Tweddell

Treasurer

north4e@earthlink.net

Interesting BWI forgeries

By Mike Galinski
Of Canada

In the September 2000 journal, Peter Elias described an interesting St. Vincent forgery. This article will attempt to shed a little light on the origin of this and several other old time BWI forgeries. It may come as a surprise that the evidence of their source has been literally under collectors' noses for a long time!

This, and several others described here, appear to have been made from the cuts used to illustrate the early Scott catalogue. It would appear that at some point, someone with access to the cuts decided to put them to good use. There is no evidence as to just who it was. Scott is known to have distributed large quantities of dubious U.S. locals, so why not a few others too. There is evidence that at least one of the engravers who did work for Scott also produced forgeries, and all the items referred to here share the same crude style of engraving. All the cuts used had appeared in the catalog by 1880, and no later ones seem to have been used.



The following are Scott forgeries that are in my collection, or can be found illustrated elsewhere:

- 1) Antigua 4d keyplate in blue, Scott cut #413.
- 2) Montserrat Half Penny keyplate, color unknown. Scott cut #2228 with value tablet altered.



3) Montserrat 4d keyplate in mauve, Scott cut #2228 with value tablet altered.

4) Nevis Half Penny keyplate, color unknown. Scott cut #2265 with value tablet altered.

5) Nevis 1d keyplate in mauve, Scott cut #2265 with value tablet altered.

6) St. Vincent 1d Victoria in blue green, Scott cut #2683.

6a) Same in rose red.

7) St. Lucia undenominated Victoria in rose red, Scott cut #2667.

7a) Same in blue.

7b) Same in yellow.

7c) Same in violet.

7d) Same in black.

Notes on this list:

- 1,5,7-7d are in author's collection.
- 2,3,4 are illustrated in Robson Lowe's *Encyclo-paedia* VI.
- 6 Pierce-Messenger-Lowe, St. Vincent forgery type D.

• 6a- Illustrated in September 2000 BCPJ article by P. Elias.

• The Montserrat and Nevis keyplates must also exist in a 2 1/2d value as this is the original value of the cut used.

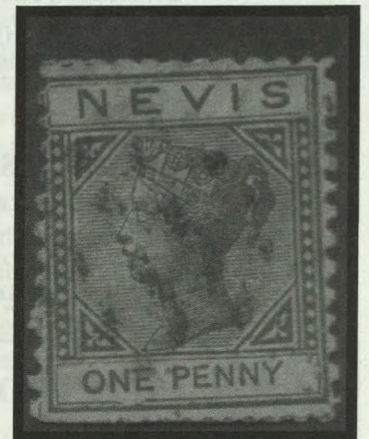
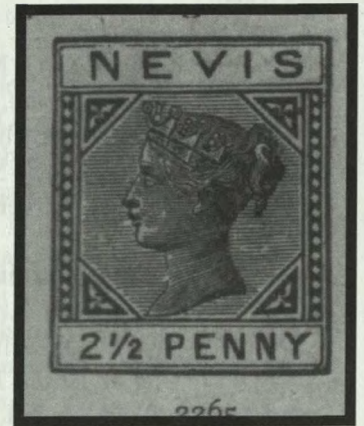
• All are perf. 11 1/2 which is slightly irregular.

• One is canceled with a large A inside diagonal bars.

• The St. Lucia items are canceled mostly with a replica of the oval killer used on British stamps, but with the two areas for numbers blank. A copy of 7d has the large A cancel and another has an oval of bars similar to the genuine A11 killer but with the center blank.

• The usual cancel on all the others is a small oval (or maybe a circle) of heavy bars.

• All the cancels are too indistinct to mea-



sure or reproduce.

• The cut numbers are the ones used in the 1891-92 catalogue. I have not determined if these numbers remained the same from year to year.

Without a doubt, there must be more than listed here. This series of forgeries is of great interest since few forgers in North America turned out Commonwealth material. There are also a couple of other forgeries which may be related. The author has a Grenada 2 1/2d keyplate forgery which appears to be cancelled with the same circle of bars, and the bogus Ireland keyplate issue attributed to Allan Taylor illustrated in Melville's *Phantom Philately* appears similar to the Nevis items. Also note that only BWI items have been discussed here. It would be reasonable to assume that other Commonwealth and foreign items exist.



You may e-mail the author at: micgal@supernet.ca

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NECROLOGY

HAROLD GORDON GOSNEY

Longtime member Harold Gordon Gosney, FRPSC, died December 29, 2000 at the age of 86. He was an early member of the BCPSG, joining when the society was being formed. I first met Harold at the North Toronto Stamp Club which he had joined in 1946. He set a record there: he exhibited for 52 consecutive years at the annual NTSC Exhibition. His wide philatelic interests included the De La Rue Key Plate issues of the British Empire with emphasis on Leeward Islands and the Bahamas.

Harold was also a member of the Malta Study Circle. From the topical standpoint, he produced studies of stamps that illustrated both history and geography of Canada. He also was a choir and Gilbert & Sullivan enthusiast. He produced an award-winning topical exhibit with the Gilbert & Sullivan theme titled "Never Mind the Why and Wherefore." His last article in the *Canadian Philatelist* (November-December 1996) was titled "Stamping Up Yonge Street." At the September 2000 meeting of the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada, Charles Verge, president of the RPSC, presented Harold with Life Membership, recognizing his 50 years with the RPSC. He had been a Fellow since 1981.

Harold was preparing an 80-page exhibit of the De La Rue Key Plate issues of the Bahamas for this year's Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's exhibition to be held in Dorval, Quebec in April. He had completed this apart from the title page and one other when he went into the hospital immediately after Christmas.

His widow, Alice, has enlisted my help to arrange to have his exhibit shown as he had hoped.

-- Tribute provided by Dr. Donald R.J. Welsh
of Thornhill, Ontario

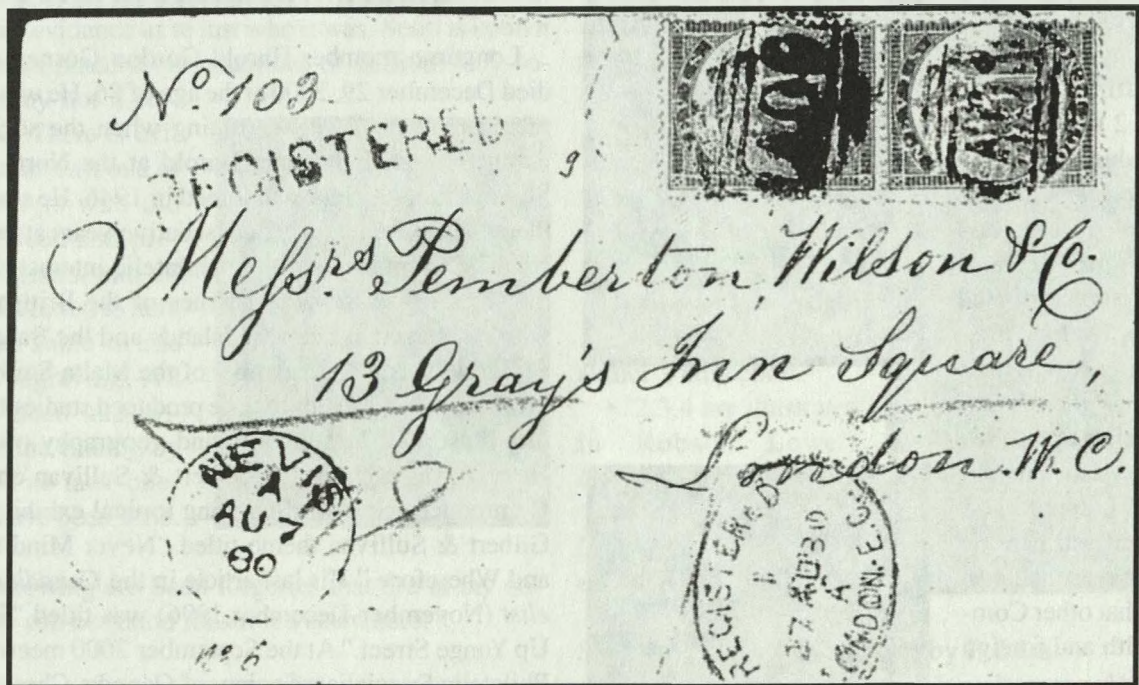
Nevis: an 1880 4d registration rate cover

By Charles Freeland
Of Switzerland

The cover illustrated shows a rare use of the 4d registration rate that was in effect in most West Indian nations until it was reduced to 2d for registered mail in about 1885. This was one of two examples of registered mail from Nevis at the 4d rate to have survived.

Several other 8d rate covers of the period are known, but all the others represent double rates to the U.S. or to

Barbados. The marvelous 1876 cover, once in the Charlton-Henry Collection, and currently in the firm grip of an Italian dealer, bears a 4d strip of four, making up the quadruple rate to Sanderson in Barbados. This is from the same correspondence as the cover that Frederico Borromeo displayed at the joint meeting in May 2000 in London, franked with a pair of 6d stamps and a single 4d. An illustration of this cover is in the booklet of his collection due to be published by the BWISC shortly. This will also contain a picture of the second of the two registered covers referred to in the first paragraph. ☒



Nevis 1880 4d registered cover

Publishing Schedule for BCPSG Journal

Following is a listing of important yearly dates for publishing of the *Journal*. The dates should remain the same year to year. While the deadline date is firm, date to printer and actual mailing date may fluctuate.

ISSUE COVER DATE	DEADLINE TO RECEIVE MATERIAL	JOURNAL TO PRINTER	ANTICIPATED MAILING DATE
January	November 15	November 30	December 30
April	February 15	February 28	March 30
July	May 15	May 30	June 30
October	August 15	August 30	September 30

Annual Report of the Treasurer

By Edward T. Tweddell

Treasurer

I am once again able to report that the finances of the society are in a very healthy state. The accounts for 2000 are laid out in the tables below. Our net profit for the year was \$6,500, compared to \$4,000 in 1999. The auction is represented by one net figure of \$579. Payments were made and receipts collected by both societies, in U.S. Dollars and U.K. Pounds, and the completed auction calculations were agreed upon by the two societies. The principal auction figures are shown below. Our share was based on the source of the lots.

The interest we earned this year showed an increase of almost 20% over 1999, thanks to favorable interest rates on our Certificates of Deposit, which now have a value of \$50,000. There is a paper loss of \$455 on our U.K. account because of a change in exchange rates, but as this account is used solely for U.K. receipts and payments, there was no loss in real terms.

The Robert K. Cooley Award will have a value of \$550 for year 2001. I should like to thank David Druett who handles the U.K. account, and Michel Forand who collects subscriptions from our Canadian members.

LIQUID ASSETS		
Fund	1 Jan. 2000	31 Dec. 2000
General Fund	\$24,805	\$30,420
Byron Cameron Fund	1,873	1,803
Ed Addiss Fund	7,535	7,929
Ed Addiss Publishing Fund	9,898	10,461
Robert J. Cooley Fund	10,545	10,550
TOTAL	\$54,656	\$ 61,163

CURRENT HOLDINGS	
Checking Account (US)	\$10,994
Checking Account (UK)	169
Certificates of Deposit	50,000
TOTAL	\$ 61,163

INCOME	
Subscriptions	\$ 7,420
Interest	2,860
Advertising	1,841
Donor Lots	1,431
Auction (Net)	579
Donations	497
VAT repayment	352
Sales	294
TOTAL	\$ 15,274

EXPENDITURES	
Journal	\$ 5,569
Bonnington Hotel	1,275
Awards	780
Exchange Rate Loss	455
Officers' Expenses	403
Website	224
Insurance	61
TOTAL	\$ 8,767

Net of Income over Expenditure = \$6,507

JOINT AUCTION FIGURES	
Sales	\$ 51,900
Commission	5,190
Expenses	3,453
Profit	1,737
BWISC (2/3)	1,158
BCPSG (1/3)	579

(Signed)

Edward T. Tweddell, Treasurer

Bogus overprint or revenue?

Is it a bogus overprint or a revenue? The postmark appears to be over the overprint. One suggestion is that it comes from the collection of Rev. Paul Freeland sold in Basel in 1977 which evidently contained "funnies," but I do not have a copy of that sale. Please let me know: David Druett (e-mail: Pennymead@aol.com).



President's Message

By Rob Wynstra

It's not too soon to mark your calendars for future annual meetings of the British Caribbean Study Group. The upcoming schedule will kickoff with the long-anticipated meeting in Tortola, British Virgin Islands in 2002. Preliminary planning is already under way for what promises to be a trip to remember for a lifetime. The original dates for this meeting, however, have been recently revised because of some scheduling conflicts for the Tortola show organizers. The confirmed dates for the 2002 meeting are now Thursday, October 31 through Monday, November 4, 2002 in Road Town, British Virgin Islands.

This special five-day gathering will take place in conjunction with the 2002 Tortola Stamp Exhibition, which is planned at the Barclay's Bank on November 2 and 3. The annual show in Road Town will be highlighted by an exhibition of major British Caribbean rarities from the Queen's Collection in London. The Keeper of the Queen's Collection will also be on hand for the festivities. This in itself represents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for BWI collectors. The show also will feature a number of other exhibits of West Indies material. Several frames also have been set aside for displays from members of the BCPSG.

Although the exact schedule is still being finalized, the stay in Tortola will include philatelic and sightseeing excursions around the island, social gatherings at the Botanical Gardens and at the homes of members of the local philatelic society, and a boat trip to the nearby island

of Virgin Gorda. We also will hold our annual general meeting and other group activities, including our traditional dinner. Accommodations are being arranged in a convenient hotel location at special rates. Roger Downing from the British Virgin Islands Philatelic Society is assisting with arrangements and is preparing a full agenda for members in attendance.

Further details on all the planned activities in Tortola, along with full information on accommodations, will be available in upcoming issues of the *Journal*. We expect a large turnout and would especially encourage our overseas members to join us in the British Virgin Islands for five days of philatelic fun and fellowship. Those planning to attend are encouraged to arrive early or extend their stay past the actual meeting dates so as to further enjoy the hospitality of our friends in the Caribbean.

Planning is also under way for the other group meetings over the next several years. The confirmed future meeting dates and locations are: CHICAGOPEX in Chicago, Illinois during early November of 2003; BALPEX in Baltimore, Maryland during September 3-5, 2004; and Washington 2006, FIP international exhibition, in Washington, D.C. during May 27-June 3, 2006. The 2005 meeting has yet to be scheduled but will be held in a location other than the U.S. Northeast. Once again, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Tortola or one of our other future meetings. ☒

Bits and pieces from here and there....

Jamaica registered covers wanted

Lynn M. Cohen of Orlando, Florida is looking for Jamaica registered covers from the following post offices: Aberdeen, Airy Castle, Albion, Alva, Amity, Appleton, Arntully, Ashley, Ashton, Belle Castle, Bito, Bushy Tree, Calderwood, Canterbury, Easington, East Laconia, Eaton, Ecclesdown, Edgewater, Edward Piece, Eleven Mile, Elgin Town, Elim, Epsom, Erin, Fishbrook, Flagman, Four Feet, Gibraltar Camp, Ginger House, Goshen, Halifax, Happy Grove, Hartford, Hordley, Knapdale, Leith Hall, Macca Sucker, Millbank, Muirton, Nonsuch, Quaw Hill, Raheen, Rat Trap, Ravensworth, Reach, Reading, Red Light, Redgate, Rest Store, Retirement, Rose Hill, Rowlandsfield, Rural Hill, Salmon Town, Schoolfield, Tobolski. If you can help, the address is 1407 Berwyn Road, Orlando, FL 32806-1818 and the telephone number is (407) 894-1424 and FAX is (407) 894-4906. ☒

Incorrect vessels listed on Cayman stamp?

Ivan Burges of Georgetown, Grand Cayman Island, recently wrote about the 6d value of the Cayman Islands definitive series released on 28 November 1962 (Scott #160, SG #172). He said that he had been informed by H.E. Ross that the stamp is incorrectly described as portraying the schooner *Lydia E. Wilson* when in fact the vessel is the *Kirk B.*

The *Kirk B.* is also illustrated on the 25¢ decimal currency issue, one of four stamps released on January 15, 1973 (Scott #309, SG #322). H.E. Ross has published a book on Cayman catboats entitled *Love's Dance - The Catboat of the Caymanes*. ☒

More articles for publication wanted!

We have two substantial articles on hand for July and the promise of more, but please keep writing! *Editor*

Membership Director's Report — By Tom Giraldi

New Members

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

New Applicants

Scott **HANSEN**, 473 Yorkshire Bl., #208, Dearborn Heights, MI 48127 USA.

Bruce M. **WALKER**, 16 N. Donside Rd., Bridge of Don, Aberdeen AB23 8PA, Scotland, UNITED KINGDOM

Change of Address

H. L. Arnould, 2222 Windrow Dr., Princeton, NJ 08540 USA

Richard Foden, 11 Chemin des Coprins, CH-1222 Vesenz, SWITZERLAND

David L. Herendeen, 1641-D 237th St., Harbour City, CA 90710 USA

Alistair Kinnon, 14 The Bury, Pavenham, Bedford, MK43 7PX UNITED KINGDOM

Millard H. Mack, 302 Compton Hills Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45215 USA

Frank Nelson, 2655 Albemarle Church Rd., Columbia, SC 27925 USA

Peter Newton, 1114 Nokomis Ave. South, Venice, FL 34295 USA

Paul Raynor, 1100 Harwood St. #806, Vancouver, BC V6E 1R7 CANADA

Dr. Norman D. Thetford, 935 Baker St., Mount Dora, FL 32757 USA

David Wilson, 1115 Challedron Rd., Great Falls, VA 22066 USA

Resignations

Winfield H. James

George King

Reginald Webb-Harris

Jewel Yoder

If any member has information, such as a change of address, to be included in the Membership Director's Report, please contact me, either by mail (see inside front cover of the *Journal*) or by e-mail, at TEG43@aol.com

It's time to elect three new Trustees for BCPSG

By Peter Kaulback

Secretary

At the end of this year the ranks of Trustees for the Group will have three vacancies. The terms for Marge Doran, David Druett and Ian Matheson, who took the position of the late Ron Wike, will shortly expire. On behalf of the members I take this opportunity to thank each person for their contributions, and trust that this will continue even if not as a Trustee!

Provision of some information on the governance of the BCPSG is probably in order, prior to requesting nominations for the upcoming vacancies. In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, affairs of the group are managed and controlled by a Board of Trustees (Article IV, Section 1). The Board of Trustees consists of nine elected members, all of whom must remain in good standing during their trusteeship, who are elected in classes of three.

Trustees are elected every odd-numbered year, and serve a term of six years, commencing on January 1 of the year following their election. The Officer positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, International Director, and Editor of the *Journal* are elected

by the aforementioned Board of Trustees and automatically become members of the Board of Trustees. Furthermore, any living Past President shall automatically become an honorary member of the Board of Trustees, provided that he/she remains a member in good standing of the Group (Article IV, Section 2). The current slate of Trustees is identified, along with the Officers, inside the front cover of the *Journal*.

In order to fill the three vacancies, nominations for the position of Trustee are solicited from the membership. Nomination can be accepted from any member in good standing. If there is someone that you would like to nominate please first check with the individual that they are willing to stand for election, and, assuming that they agree, then provide the name to me, along with the names of two other members who second the nomination. I will then make arrangements to collect biographical information and include the name on the ballot for an election if required. **Please ensure that all nominations are received by me before the end of July.**

Nominations should be sent to me either by mail (address inside front cover) or by e-mail to kaulbackpe@home.com. Thank you. ☒

'THE UNISSUED STAMPS OF KING GEORGE VI' BY DAVID HORRY

It must have been over 10 years ago when Horry, younger and slimmer then than now, first showed us some of his ideas at Stampex. Mild hysteria gripped us immediately, and spread rapidly to fascinated customers. It has yet to abate.

Philatelic books can, on occasion, be a bit on the dull side. This lavishly-illustrated casebound publication is certainly never dull and is replete with inspired absurdity, usually (apparently) justified by the text. There appears to be one 'main' creation per colony, with lots more in the surrounds. Exceptions include the Fiji 1½d: the exclusive story of the many dies is now revealed.

Horry's enjoyment of his own jokes is extremely infectious. It's backed up by his wonderful full-colour illustrations, making this a book which surely has appeal beyond the philatelic market and has a place on every coffee table. If you as a stamp collector have ever been shy about admitting to your hobby, this book justifies stamp collecting - its author's humour and creativity communicate enjoyment of the hobby in a universal fashion.

If you want to make your spouse laugh, this is about the only philatelic book we can recommend.

This book has 170+ pages and is available exclusively from **Murray Payne Ltd**, at £24.95, plus postage £2 Europe and £5 rest of the world.

This publication has a limited print run.

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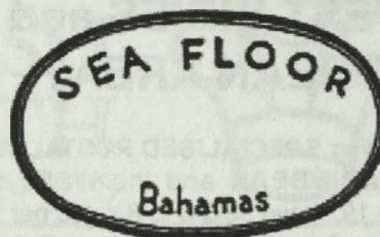
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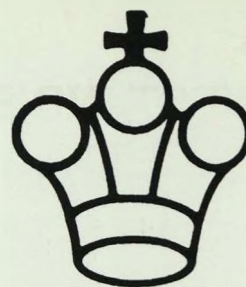
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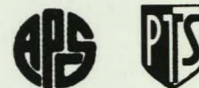
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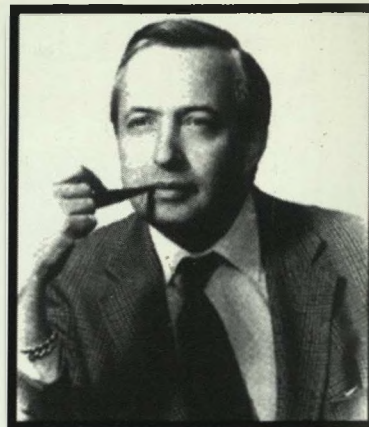
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