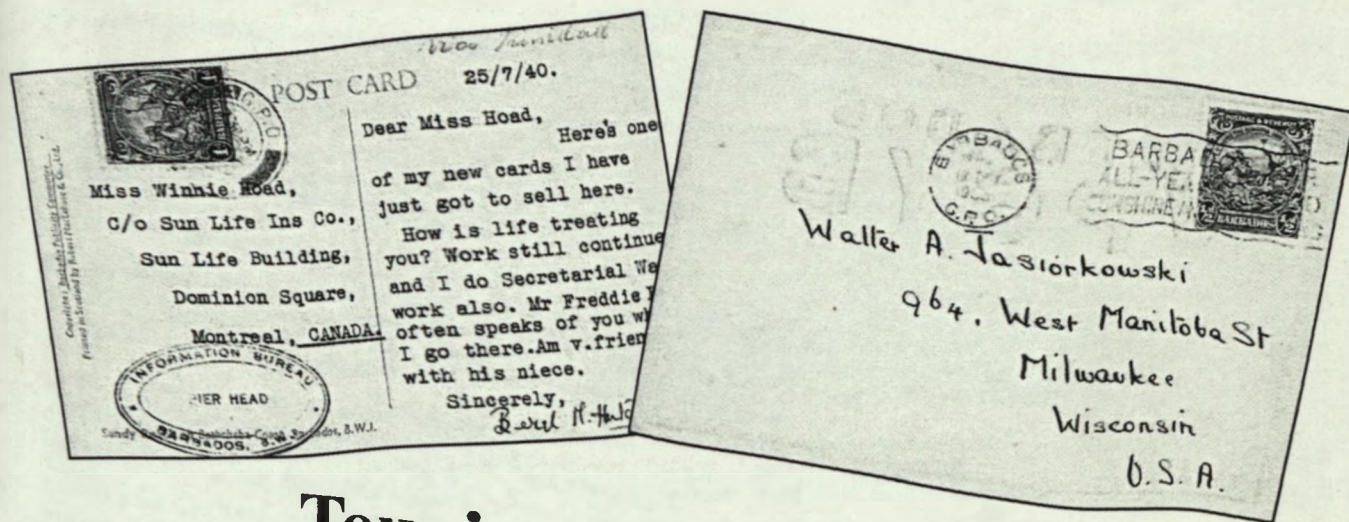


# BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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## Tourism and Philately in Barbados - 1932 to 1950







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## CONTENTS

### FEATURES

Tourism and Philately in Barbados - 1932 to 1950, <i>by Jerone Hart</i> .....	4 - 14
Phantom St. Vincent post office?, <i>by Peter Elias</i> .....	15
BCPSG Collectors Interest Information .....	15
The Empire Abstracts and Tables Part II, <i>by Richard Maisel</i> .....	16-20
Trying to answer a St. Vincent question, <i>by Wayne Menuz</i> .....	21-22
Letters .....	22
British Guiana: The KG VI and QE II Wrappers, <i>by Stephen D. Schumann</i> .....	23-24
Trinidad and Tobago War Tax overprints, <i>by John Davis</i> .....	25-26

### COLUMNS AND REPORTS

Officers and Trustees, Study Group Leaders & Others .....	2
BCPSG Exhibits and Awards, <i>Paul Larsen</i> .....	27
Membership Director's Report, <i>Tom Girdali</i> .....	28
President's Message, <i>Jack Harwood</i> .....	29
Our faithful advertisers .....	30-32

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# Tourism and Philately in Barbados - 1932 to 1950

By Jerone Hart  
Treasurer

## Introduction

One of the more interesting aspects of the postal history of Barbados between 1932 and 1950 involves the Barbados Publicity Committee, which was founded in 1932. The Publicity Committee was the forerunner of the Barbados Tourist Board. The Publicity Committee was extremely active before, during and especially after World War II in promoting tourism to Barbados. Although the main goal of the Publicity Committee was to promote tourism, its impact on philately between 1932 and 1950 is extremely interesting. The influence of this committee can be seen in such areas as the use of special slogan cancels on mails, the printing and use of special labels promoting tourism, the use of special cachets on tourist mails and the printing and sale of postcards at the two facilities operated by the committee at points of entry for tourist to the island.

The committee undertook an aggressive campaign to promote tourism that included the publication and distribution of various pamphlets throughout the Caribbean, North America (especially the U.S. and Canada), and in the



Figure 1

United Kingdom. In 1933, the committee opened the first of two Visitor's Information Bureaus at the points of entry for tourists to the island. The first of these facilities was situated at what was known as the "Baggage Warehouse." The Baggage Warehouse was one of two points of entry to the island for those who arrived by ship. Since

Bridgetown in 1933 was not a deep-water port (in fact, it wouldn't be until 1961 that the harbor at Bridgetown was dredged in order to provide deep-water docking facilities for large ships), cruise ships would anchor offshore and passengers were ferried by row boats and small power launches to the Baggage Warehouse where customs officials processed them as they entered Barbados. At the Baggage Warehouse, the Publicity Committee set up and operated the "Visitor's Information Bureau." The bureau

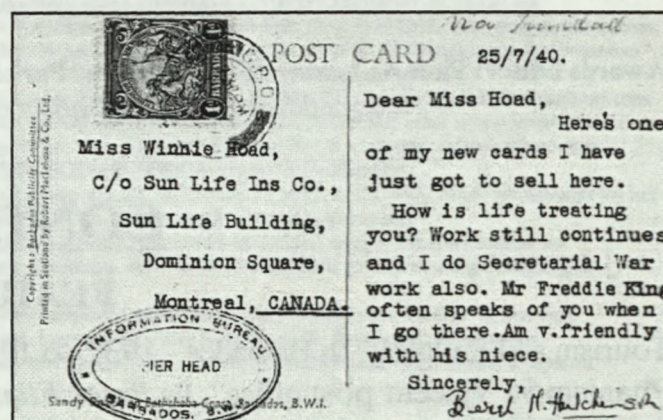


Figure 2

provided incoming tourists with information about various places to visit, information about hotels and restaurants as well as the various modes of transportation available on the island. The bureau also provided maps of Barbados that could be used by motorists, cyclists and walkers who wanted to explore the many different and interesting places around the island. In addition, the bureau sold postcards and stamps as well as providing tourists with an overseas posting box. The GPO collected this tourist mail during the day, brought it to the GPO in Bridgetown, canceled the stamps, sorted this tourist mail and prepared it for onward transmission.

By late 1935 or early 1936, because of the increase in the number of cruise ships stopping at the island, a second point of entry to the island was opened at what was called the "Pier Head." The Pier Head had customs facilities as well as a Visitor's Information Bureau quite similar to the one that had been established at the Baggage Warehouse in 1933. The Pier Head Visitor's Information Bureau offered the same information and services as the one located at the Baggage Warehouse, including the selling of stamps and postal view cards. Overseas mails were



also collected here from tourists, picked up daily and brought to the GPO for processing.

### Visitor's Information Bureau Picture Postcards

In an article by Anthony Shepard titled "The Information Bureau Cachets of Barbados" in the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* (Vol. 30, No. 1, W/N 154, March 1990, p. 22), Shepard tells us that the first Visitor's Information Bureau opened sometime in 1933 at the Baggage Warehouse and was staffed by a Miss B.M. Hutchinson, who was paid an annual salary of £150. Miss Hutchinson was responsible for meeting and greeting tourists as they arrived on the island and cleared customs. In addition to her duties of providing tourists with various types of information, she also sold stamps and picture postcards.

While going through my 25-year accumulation of material between 1925 and 1950, I came across an interesting item from Miss Hutchinson. The item is a picture postcard with a view of a beach with some bungalows and appears to have been made from a photograph (see *Figure 1*). The typewritten card was dated 25/7/40 (July 25, 1940) and was addressed to a Miss Winnie Hoad at the Sun Life Insurance Company in Montreal, Canada. The card is franked with the 1937 1d definitive, thus paying the surface rate for postal cards to Canada. There are several interesting aspects to this card. First, it would appear from the card that by 1940, Miss Hutchinson had moved from the Visitor's Bureau located at the Baggage Ware-

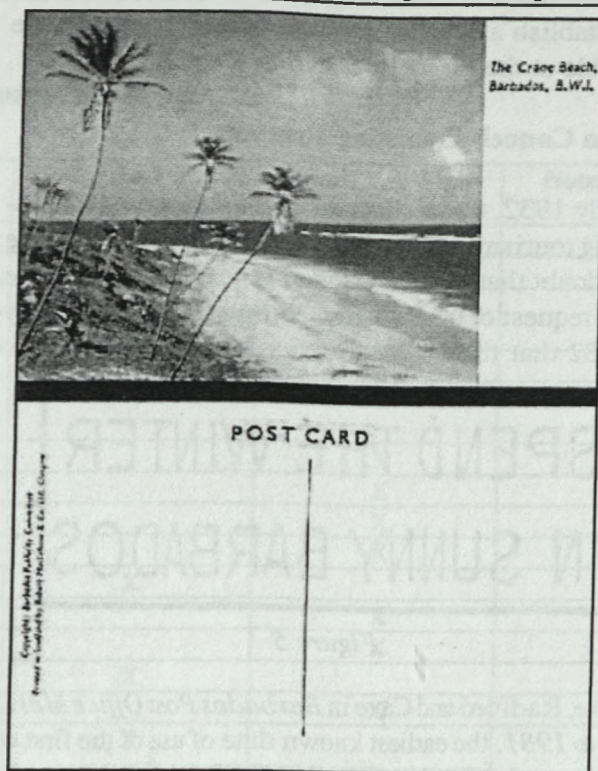


Figure 4

house to the one established at Pier Head. This card from Miss Hutchinson carries the cachet of the Pier Head Information Bureau. The next interesting aspect of this card is Miss Hutchinson's statement: "Here's one of my new cards I have just got to sell here." This statement seems to indicate that the Barbados Publicity Committee was having their own picture postcards produced to be sold at the visitors' bureaus and Miss Hutchinson had just received a new supply. If we look at the far left margin of the card, we see the following statement: "Copyright: Barbados Publicity Committee. Printed in Scotland by Robert MacLehose & Co., Ltd." (see *Figure 2*). Thus, the Barbados Publicity Committee was producing its own picture postcards, at least by 1940, and was selling these cards at the two tourist information bureau locations on the island.

Although over the years I have acquired quite a number of postally used picture postcards from this period, this is the only example that I currently have in my possession that was specifically printed for and issued by the Barbados Publicity Committee at the Visitor's Information Bureaus. However, in doing a search of the Internet and eBay, I came across two more examples (see *Figures 3 and 4*). Unfortunately, neither of these examples was postally used so there is no way of knowing the approximate date when they would have been available in Barbados. Note that both these cards carry the "Copyright" of the Publicity Committee on the far left side of the card. I am sure that other examples of different scenes or views must exist. It would be interesting to catalogue these cards

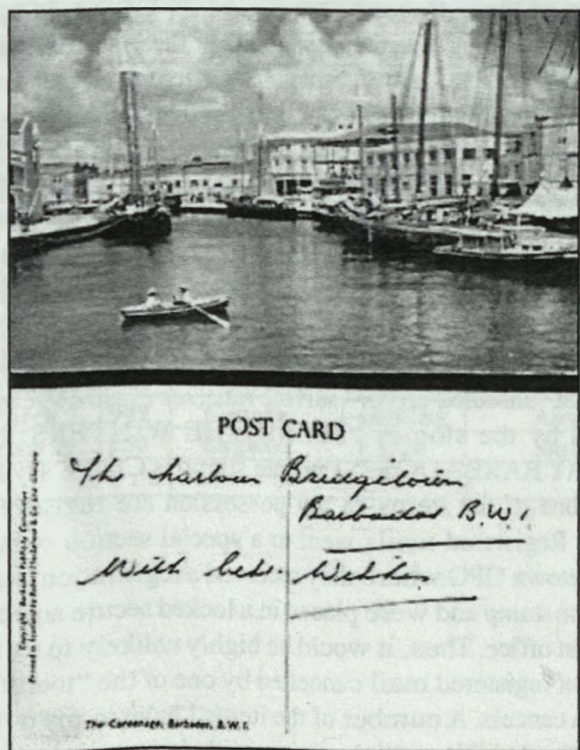


Figure 3



and establish a definitive list and times when they were available at the Visitor Information Bureaus.

### Slogan Cancels Promoting Tourism

In early 1932, two of three different slogan cancels promoting tourism in Barbados came into use. There can be little doubt that these two slogan type cancels were done at the request of the Publicity Committee for it was early in 1932 that this committee was formed. According to

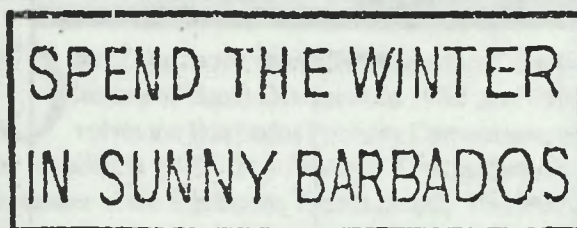


Figure 5

Clarke, Radford and Cave in *Barbados Post Office Markings to 1981*, the earliest known date of use of the first of these cancels "SPEND THE WINTER IN SUNNY BARBADOS" (see Figure 5) was February 9, 1932. The cancel was a machine cancel and was in two parts. The slogan made up one part while the date stamp made up the second part. This cancel was used from 1932 and was still in use as late as 1978.

The letters in the slogan were 4.5mm high. According to Clarke, the rectangle around the slogan can be found in three different sizes. Type I has a frame 50mm by 19mm; Type II has a frame size of 50mm by 18.5mm; and Type III had a frame size of 52mm by 18.5mm. During the period of its use (1932 to 1978) five types of date stamps



Figure 6

were used with the slogan part of the cancel. From 1932 to 1950, only one type of date stamp is known used with this slogan. Clarke lists the date stamp as being type (i) (see Figure 6). The date stamp is circular with a diameter of 21mm and the letters are 2mm high and elongated. The type (i) date stamp was in use at the GPO from 1926 to 1953. Black ink was used to apply this canceller to cards and covers.

On February 9, 1932, the second of these cancels also came into use. This second slogan cancel "BARBADOS FOR ALL-YEAR-ROUND Sunshine and Seabathing" (see Figure 7) had two wavy lines, one above and one below the slogan. Clarke states that this slogan was used between 1932 and was still in use in 1979. The length of the wavy lines at the top of the slogan can be found in 44mm and 48mm while the bottom line was 51mm. This slogan is found used with four different types of date stamps between 1932 and 1979. Clarke states that both the type (i) and type (ii) date stamps were used between 1932 and 1954 with this particular slogan cancel.

A third type of tourist slogan cancel came into use in 1963. This slogan "YOU NEED TOURISM: TOURISM NEEDS YOU" was used between 1963 and 1969 and is mentioned only in passing because it is outside the scope of this article.

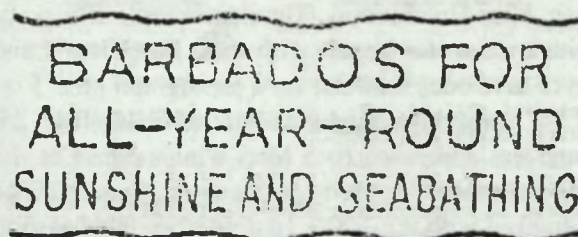


Figure 7

In going through my own collection of covers and postcards from the period of 1932 to 1950, I found 34 examples of these slogans (see Figure 8). Of the 34 examples I have in my possession, 20 of these items were addressed to the United States, four were addressed to Canada, seven were addressed to the United Kingdom and three were on local mail addressed to Barbados. A total of 32 items were sent by various surface rates while only two items, one to the U.S. and one to Canada, show the post World War II airmail rate of 1/-. Three of the 34 items were postcards showing the postcard rate and were all addressed to the United States. One interesting item, dated February 1, 1937 and addressed to Canada, shows the 1/2d "unsealed cover" surface rate (see Figure 9) cancelled by the slogan "SPEND THE WINTERS IN SUNNY BARBADOS." The date stamp is Clarke's type (i). None of the items in my possession are registered items. Registered mails went to a special section of the Bridgetown GPO where they received a registration cancel/date stamp and were placed in a locked secure area of the post office. Thus, it would be highly unlikely to see a piece of registered mail cancelled by one of the "tourist" slogan cancels. A number of the items I have in my own collection/exhibit are interesting in their own right and deserve mention here.



## Barbados Slogan Cancels Promoting Tourism: 1932 to 1950

Date of Cover	Destination	Rate	Surface/Airmail	'Barbados For .....	'Spend The Winter in Sunny Barbados	Notes
April 15, 1932	USA	2 1/2d	Surface	X		
Sept. 7, 1932	USA	2 1/2d	Surface	X		
April 17, 1933	USA	1d	Post Card Surface	X		
May 11, 1934	USA	2 1/2d	Surface	X		
Oct. 19, 1935	USA	1/2d	Post Card Surface	X		
Feb. 1, 1937	Canada	1/2d	Surface-Unsealed		X	
Feb. 3, 1937	USA	2 1/2d	Surface		X	
Feb. 6, 1937	USA	2 1/2d	Surface		X	
Jan. 3, 1938	USA	2 1/2d	Surface		X	
Sept. 30, 1938	USA	2 1/2d	Surface	X		
Dec. 28, 1938	USA	2 1/2d	Surface		X	
Jan. 6, 1939	USA	2 1/2d	Surface		X	
Jan. 22, 1939	Barbados	1/2d	Local Rate	X		
Feb. 17, 1939	USA	2 1/2d	Surface		X	
July 15, 1939	USA	1d	Post Card Surface	X		
Jan. 21, 1941	USA	3d	Surface		X	Censored Barbados
Feb. 5, 1941	Canada	2d	Surface		X	
March 7, 1941	USA	3d	Surface		X	
Feb. 17, 1942	England	2d	Surface	X		Censored Barbados
Feb. 11, 1943	USA	3d	Surface	X		Censored USA
Feb. 19, 1944	USA	3d	Surface		X	Censored USA
May 17, 1944	Scotland	2d	Surface	X		
Nov. 18, 1945	USA	3d	Surface	X		
July 25, 1945	England	2d		X		
May 8, 1947	Barbados	1 1/2d	Local Letter		X	
July 26, 1947	England	2d	Surface	X		
March 27, 1948	England	2d	Surface	X		
May 26, 1948	Barbados	1 1/2d	Local Letter	X		
June 30, 1948	England	2d	Surface	X		
July 9, 1948	Canada	2d	Surface	X		
Feb. 8, 1949	USA	1-Shilling	Airmail		X	
Feb. 28, 1949	USA	3d	Surface		X	
March 7, 1949	Canada	1-shilling	Airmail		X	
April 29, 1950	England	1 1/2d	Surface	X		

Figure 8



For example, two of the postcards are amateur radio operator postal cards and both were cancelled by the "tourism" slogan cancels: "BARBADOS FOR ALL-YEAR-

card rate to the U.S. The second card is dated October 19, 1935 and is also addressed to the U.S. (see Figures 12 and 13). A third postcard is dated July 15, 1939 and is a view card of the "Aquatic Beach Club" (see Figure 14). The card was addressed to the U.S. and was cancelled by

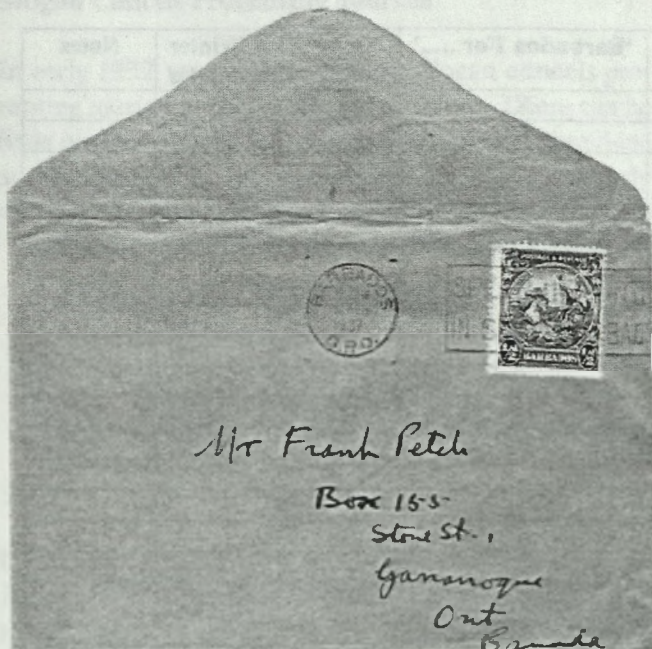


Figure 9

THE PIONEER AMATEUR RADIO TELEGRAPHY AND TELEPHONY STATION IN

# BARBADOS VP6YB

**Owner & Operator:** THOS. A. ARCHER.  
"Craigston"  
Aquatic Gardens, Barbados, B.W.I.

**Transmitter:** Crystal Controlled on 7090, 14180, & 14312 k/cs.  
Frequency generally used: 14312 k/cs.  
Input to Final Class C Power Amplifier 75 Watts.  
Modulation by Class B system 100%.

**Antenna:** 68-foot Herts. voltage feed.

**Remarks:** Your report has been checked with my Station Log and found to be correct. Thank you for your co-operation. 73.

Figure 12

the slogan "BARBADOS FOR ALL-YEAR-ROUND SUNSHINE AND SEABATHING" (see Figure 15). From examining the material in my own collection/exhibit, it would appear that these slogan cancels were ap-

plied more frequently to covers than to postal view cards. However, I will be the first to admit that over the years I have had a preference for covers more than postal view cards and it is entirely probable that just as many cards received these cancels as did covers.

"Land of Abiding Sunshine" BARBADOS "Paradise Isle of the Caribbean"

P. O. BOX 10 B.W.I. BRIDGETOWN

QSO. UR SIGS QSA. R.T. ON AT E.S.T.

# VP6FO

XMTR: LAFAYETTE P. B. 46 RCVA PATTERSON "PR 14"

REMARKS: *See cover for up, Kwik copy*

PSE QSL OM. TNX. LUCK ES 73 FRED S. OLTON, op.

Figure 10

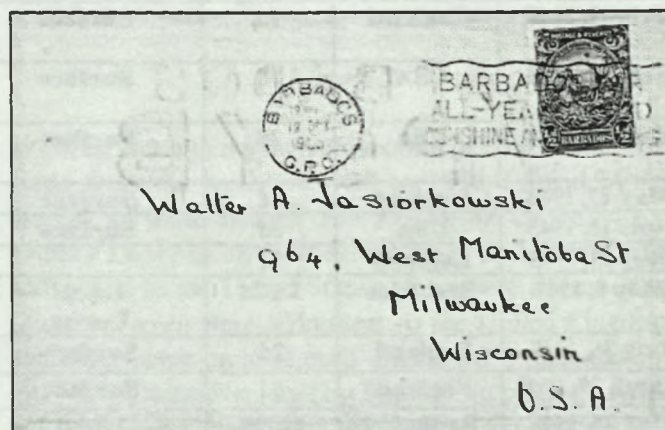


Figure 13

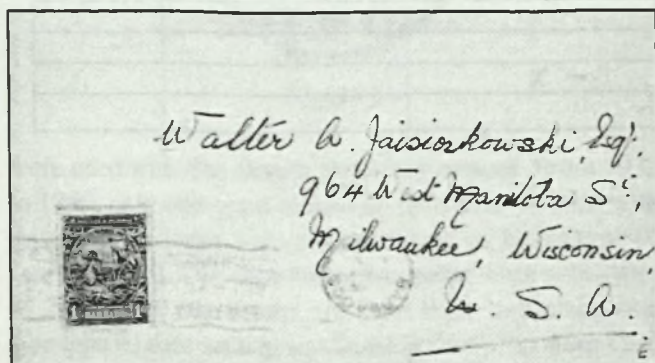


Figure 11

plied more frequently to covers than to postal view cards. However, I will be the first to admit that over the years I have had a preference for covers more than postal view cards and it is entirely probable that just as many cards received these cancels as did covers.

Although Clarke lists the earliest known date of use of both these slogan cancels as February 9, 1932, the earliest item that I have been able to find to date is April 15, 1932. The cover (see Figure 16) is addressed to the Steinway Company, the piano manufacturer, in New York City. The cover is franked by the George V "Seal of the Colony" definitive, thus paying the 2 1/2d surface rate for letters weighing one ounce or less to the United States.



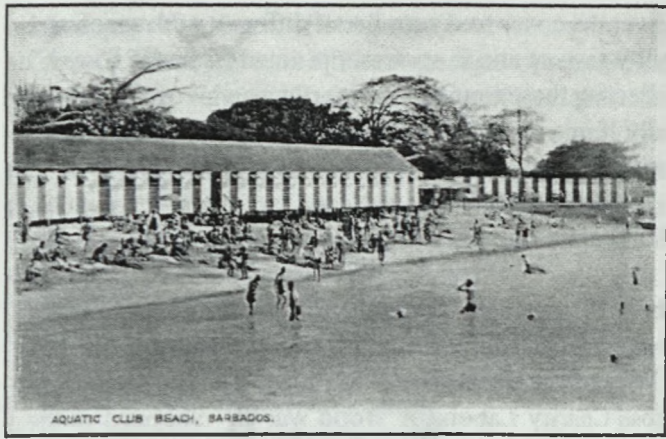


Figure 14

The date stamp portion of the cancel is Clarke's type (i). The strike of this cancel on this cover is especially nice in that the cancel is more to the left side and the full cancel ended up on the cover. In probably 70% of the items cancelled with these slogan cancels, the cancels are more

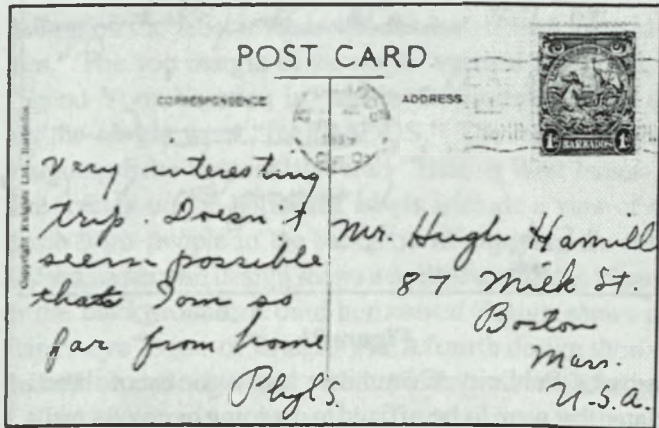


Figure 15

to the right side of the cover or card and only part of the cancel ends up on the item. I should also point out that in many cases where this cancel was used, they were underinked and thus are very light and difficult to read. Nice, clear readable strikes of these cancels are difficult and a challenge to find.

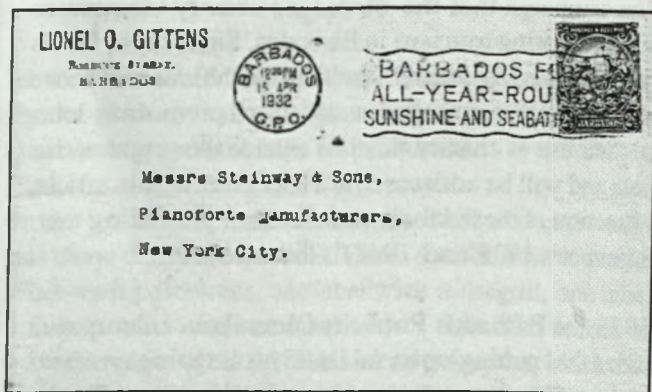


Figure 16

Adding unusual covers and destinations to one's collection or exhibit that have been cancelled by these slogan cancels adds a great deal of interest to the material of this period. For example, the first stamps of the George VI "Seal of the Colony" definitives were issued on January 3, 1938. Finding a nice example of one of these first day covers cancelled by a tourist slogan cancel and pay-

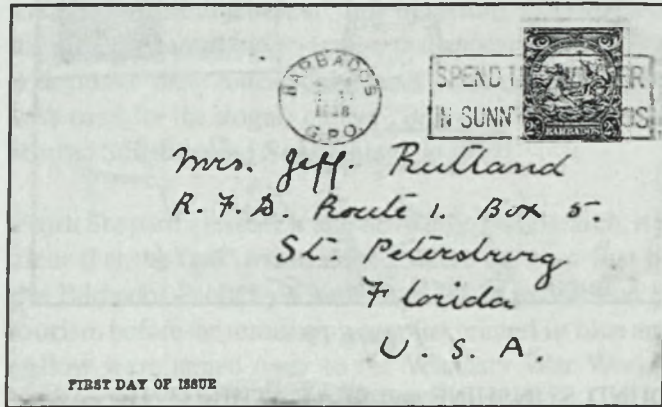


Figure 17

ing the proper rate is difficult and a real challenge. Such is the case with the cover in Figure 17, which has been cancelled by the "SPEND THE WINTER IN SUNNY

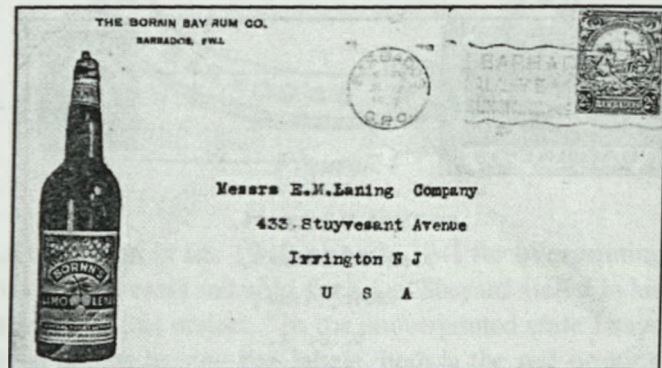


Figure 18

BARBADOS." The cover is the first day of the 2 1/2d definitive and is addressed to the United States, thus properly paying the 1938 surface rate for one ounce or less.

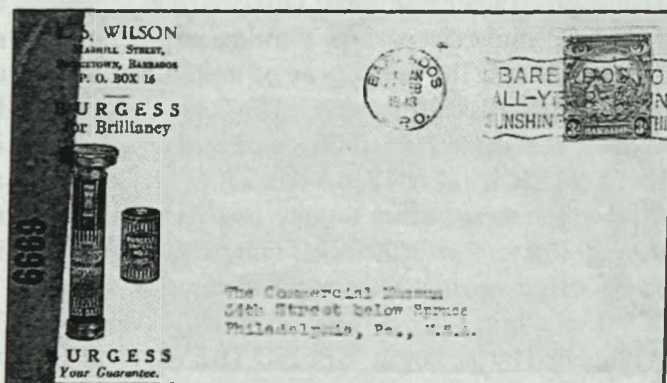


Figure 18a



The cover in Figure 18 is a nice advertising cover from the Bormn's Bay Rum Company. The cover is dated September 30, 1938 and was addressed to the U.S. The 2 1/2d definitive paid the surface rate and the stamp was cancelled by the slogan "BARBADOS FOR ALL-YEAR-

deliver the cover to a number of different addresses and finally gave up and in manuscript noted "Cant be fowrd." Collecting these tourist slogans can be a lot of fun, especially if one seeks unusual usages and unusual destinations.

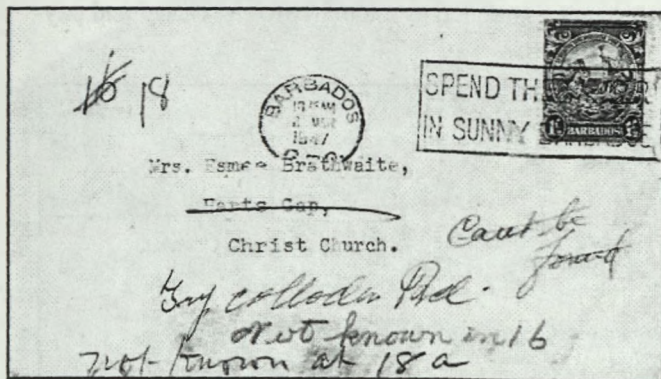


Figure 19

ROUND SUNSHINE and SEABATHING." The cover in Figure 18a, dated February 1943, is also an advertising cover canceled by the slogan "BARBADOS FOR ALL-YEAR-ROUND SUNSHINE and SEABATHING" and was censored upon entering the U.S. This cover

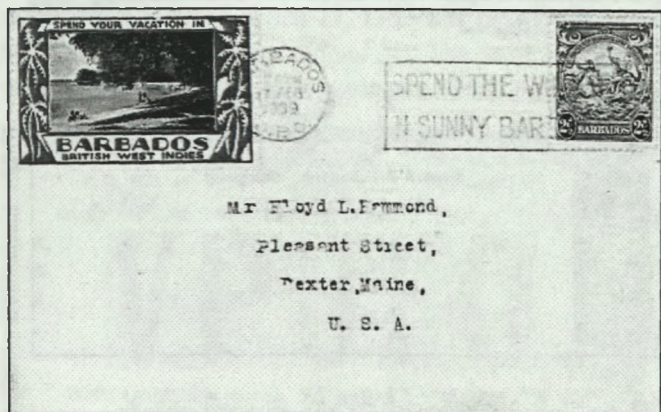


Figure 20

clearly demonstrates that despite the war, tourism was still being promoted in Barbados. This cover was franked by the 3d definitive that paid the wartime surface rate to the United States. The final cover of interest is a local cover. The cover is dated March 8, 1947 and is franked with the 1 1/2d definitive and canceled by the "SPEND THE WINTER IN SUNNY BARBADOS." It is more unusual to see these tourists slogans used on local mails than outgoing foreign mails (see Figure 19). This cover probably originated in Bridgetown and was addressed to Hart's Gap, Christ Church Parish. The 1 1/2d definitive was cancelled by the slogan "SPEND THE WINTER IN SUNNY BARBADOS." From the manuscript markings on the cover, it would appear that the postman tried to

### The Tourist Labels

About 18 years ago, Tony Shepard wrote an article in the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, (Volume 28, No. 4, W/N 149 of December 1988) titled "The Barbados Red Cross Charity Labels of World War II." Shepard in the article told the story behind these World War II charity Red Cross labels, including their origin. In 1938, The

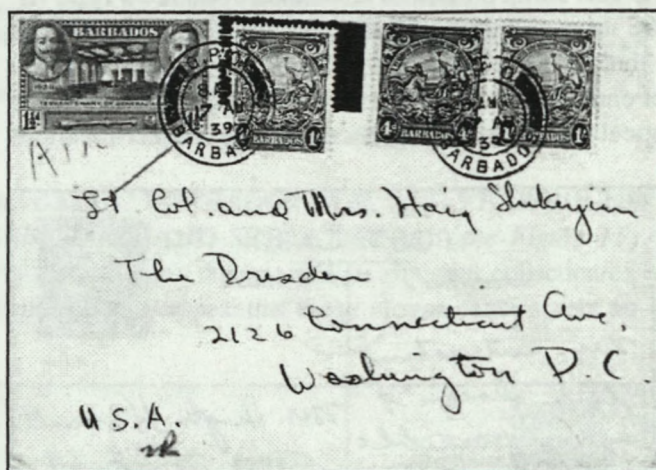


Figure 21

Barbados Publicity Committee had a series of labels printed that were to be affixed to outgoing overseas mails that would help promote tourism in Barbados. Sometime in late 1940 or early 1941, the remainder of these labels were given to the Voluntary War Workers Association in Barbados who had the labels overprinted with a bright red cross. These were then sold for a fee and the monies from the sale of these labels were donated to the British Red Cross in the United Kingdom to help with the war efforts. Although these labels had a short history prior to World War II, they, nonetheless, played an important role in the campaign that the Barbados Publicity Committee ran in promoting tourism in Barbados. Since these labels came to be used as charity labels during the war and hence had a different primary function from promoting tourism, their use as charity labels is outside the scope of this article and will be addressed at a later date. In this article, the function of these labels, as a means of promoting tourism between 1938 and 1941, is discussed.

In 1938, the Barbados Publicity Committee came up with the idea that putting colorful labels on outgoing overseas mails would help promote tourism for the island. The labels were printed on very white and very shiny unwater-



marked paper in sheets of 24 labels (four labels wide by six rows). There were six different designs or scenes that depict various views of Barbados. Five of the labels are in a horizontal format while one label is in a vertical format. In the top margin of each of the horizontal labels is the phrase "Spend Your Vacation in" and in the bottom

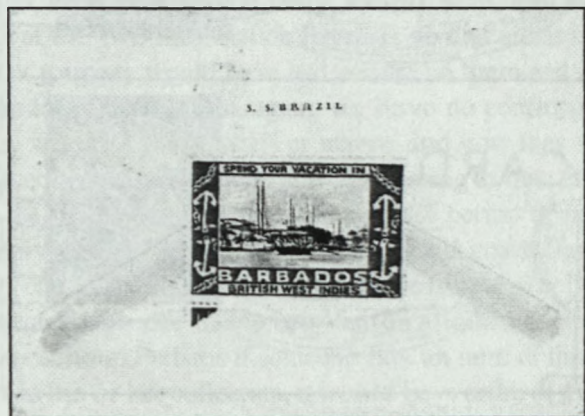


Figure 22

margin of the label it reads: "Barbados, British West Indies." The top margin of the single vertical label reads: "Spend Your Vacation in" and in the bottom margin it has the single word "BARBADOS." The left and right margins of the vertical label read "British West Indies." The scenes on the horizontal labels include a view of a beach with people in the background enjoying the sun and sea; a second design shows a sailboat with the island in the background; a third horizontal design shows a "bird's eye" view of Bridgetown; a fourth design shows the harbor at Bridgetown; and the fifth horizontal design

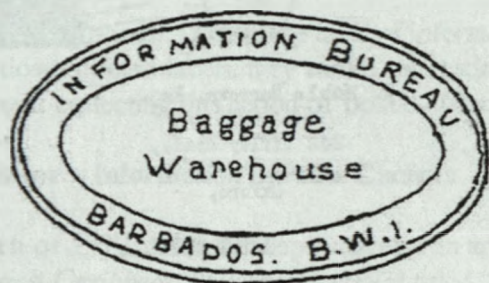


Figure 23

shows a windmill on the island. The single vertical design label shows tall palm trees with a path between the trees leading to some hills on the island.

On the horizontal format labels, the left and right margins show different symbols. These symbols include two labels with palm trees, one label with a seagull, one label with an anchor and one label with a fish. The scenes in the very center of all the labels were printed in black and white while the vignettes and outer frames were printed in yellow, red or blue, thus giving three different types of

colored labels. The labels were perforated 11. The complete sheets of 24 labels had small margins at the top and bottom and pretty wide margins on the left and right of the sheet. Both the left and right margins of the full sheet carried another two-line publicity statement that reads: "Visit Barbados, British West Indies, For All-Year-Round Sunshine and SeaBathing. See the Barbados Booklet, Issued by the Barbados Publicity Committee, Free From Leading Travel Agencies." It is interesting to note that a significant part of the message that appears in the sheet margins of these tourist labels is the same wording that was used for the slogan cancel "Barbados For All-Year-Round Sunshine and Seabathing" in 1932!

From Shepard's research and from my own research, it is clear that the "red" printed labels were used up first by the Barbados Publicity Committee for the promotion of tourism before the remaining supplies printed in blue and yellow were turned over to the Voluntary War Worker

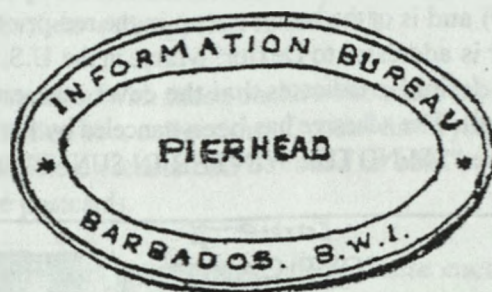


Figure 24

Association in late 1940 or early 1941 for overprinting with a red cross and sold for a fee. Shepard stated in his article on this subject, "In the unoverprinted state I have two covers bearing the labels, both in the red printing and I have recorded two more covers with the labels on them, again in the red printing." Unfortunately, at the time Shepard wrote the article, he did not give the dates of the

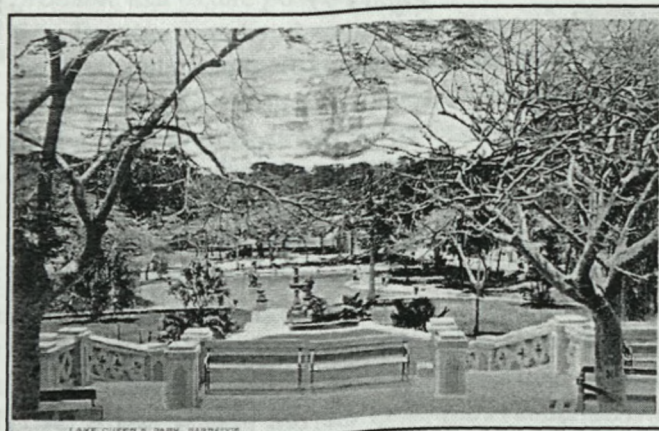


Figure 25



two covers in his possession or the dates of the other two covers that he had recorded as having the "unoverprinted" red labels affixed to them. Over the years, I have also acquired two examples of covers affixed with the unoverprinted labels in the red printing. The first of these

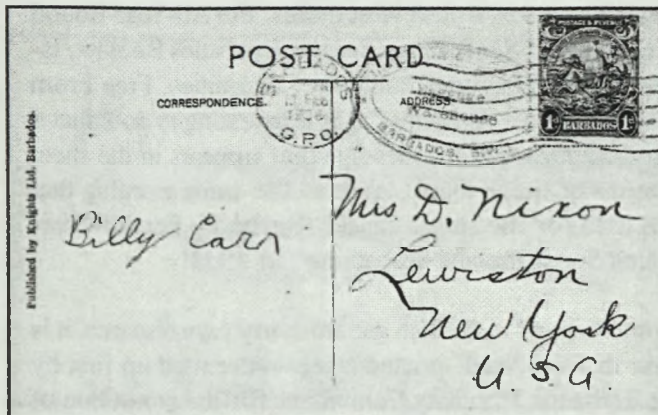


Figure 26

covers is dated February 17, 1939 and the label was affixed in the upper left-hand corner of the envelope (see Figure 20) and is of the beach scene in the red printing. The cover is addressed to Dexter, Maine in the U.S. and the 2 1/2d definitive indicates that the cover was sent by surface mail. The adhesive has been canceled by the slogan cancel: "SPEND THE WINTER IN SUNNY BAR-

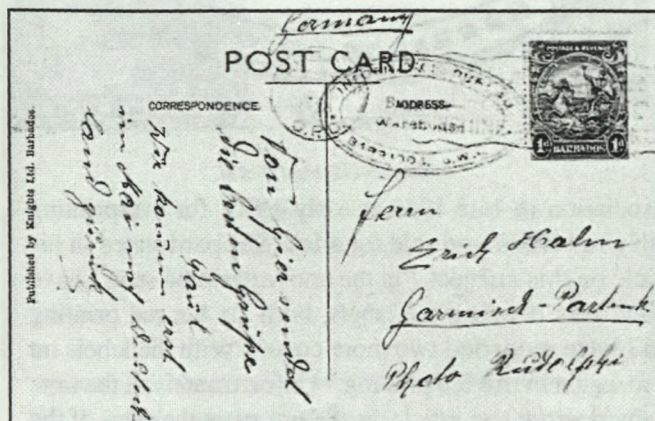


Figure 27

BADOS." The date stamp, Clarke's type (i), ties the label to the cover.

The second cover in my possession with the unoverprinted red label is dated August 17, 1939 and is addressed to a lieutenant colonel and his wife at the Dresden in Washington, D.C. The cover is an airmail cover with a franking of two shillings, 5 1/2d. The stamps are cancelled by a GPO double circle date stamp (see Figure 21). The tourist label was affixed to the back of the cover (see Figure 22). The label is also from the red printing and is the view of Bridgetown Harbor. Just above the label on the back flap of the cover is the ship logo "S.S. Brazil" indi-

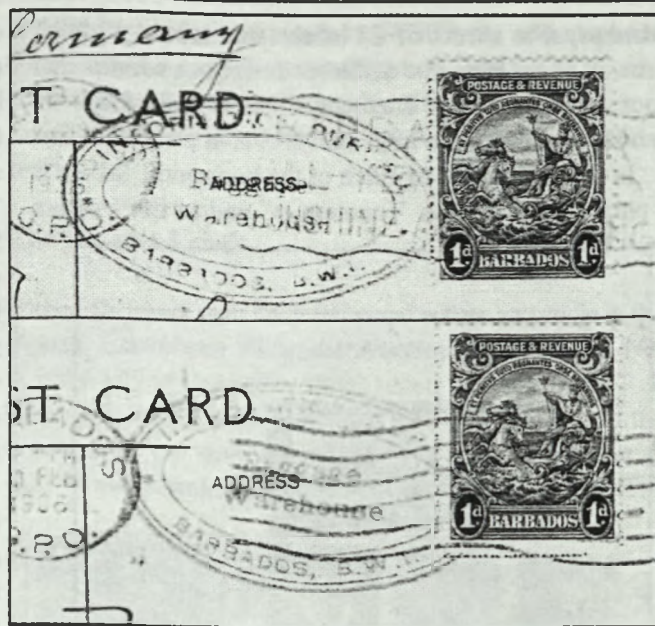


Figure 28

ating that the sender had probably obtained the cover off this passenger ship.

Thus, both of the covers in my possession are dated 1939. Since we do not know exactly when these unoverprinted tourist labels were issued by the Barbados Publicity Committee or exactly when they came into use, we can only rely upon examples on dated covers to get an approximation of when they first came into use. There are

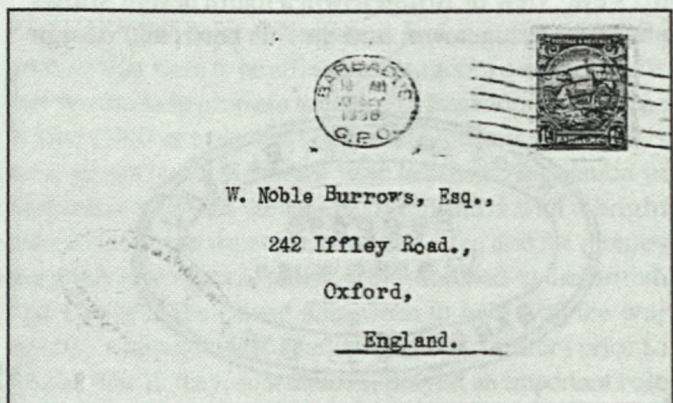


Figure 29

several other interesting issues about these labels that Shepard did not address, no doubt because of the lack of information.

First, there are the issues of who designed these labels and exactly where they were printed. Shepard in his article in 1988 stated that one source in Barbados "thought" that these labels had been printed in the United States, but he could not confirm this information. Despite my attempts to track down the designer and printer of these labels, these questions still remain a mystery. Although it



seems very likely that they would have been printed in the U.S. and shipped to Barbados, we may never find the answer. The next issue with these labels concerns their distribution by the Barbados Publicity Committee. Shepard, in his article in 1988, never mentioned how, where or to whom these labels were distributed. Again, it seems logical that these labels would have been available at the two Information Bureaus so that either staffers or tourists would have had access to them and affix them to the mails. But, again, we have no confirmation as to who got these labels or where and how they were applied to outgoing mails. It is interesting to note that in all the years that I have collected this period of postal history of Barbados, I have never seen a cover franked with one of these labels and at the same time also be hand-stamped with one of the two Visitor's Information Bureau cachets. Perhaps if someone has an item of this nature in his or her collection, it would be worthy of a brief

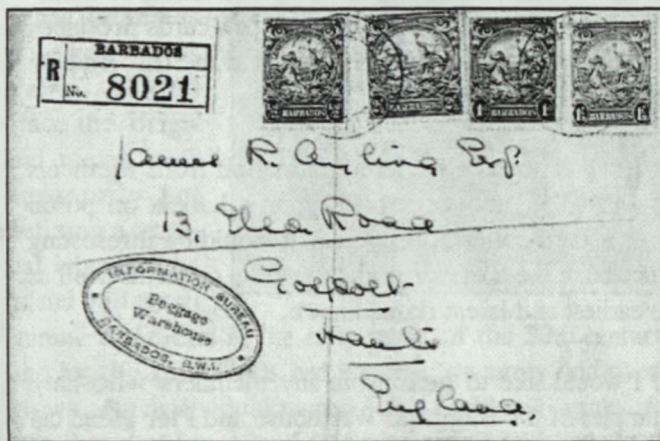


Figure 30

article in the *Journal*. Despite the lack of information on these unoverprinted labels, they make interesting items for anyone collecting this period of postal history.

### The Visitor's Information Bureau Cachets

In March of 1990, Anthony Shepard wrote an article for the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* titled "The Information Bureau Cachets of Barbados" (Vol. 30, No.1, W/N 154, March 1990, pgs. 21-23). In this article, Shepard discussed two cachets that were applied to mails posted at the Visitor's Information Bureaus located at the Baggage Warehouse and Pier Head (see Figures 23 and 24). Prior to 1961, the harbor at Bridgetown was not a deep-water port and thus incoming ships stopping at the island had to anchored offshore. Passengers wishing to go ashore were loaded into rowboats and power launches and taken ashore to either the Baggage Warehouse or later, Pier Head. Here passengers cleared Customs and then were greeted by the staffers at the Visitor's Information Bureau. The Bureau at the Baggage Warehouse was

opened in 1933 while the facility at Pier Head was opened in 1936.

The Visitor's Information Bureau provided tourists with a number of different services. First, they dispensed all kinds of information about hotels, restaurants and places to visit around the island. They provided tourists with transportation information. The bureaus also sold both postcards and stamps and a special overseas posting box was provided to post overseas mails. The mails posted at Information Bureaus was collected daily by a post office employee, taken to the GPO in Bridgetown, sorted, canceled and processed for onward transmission.

Mails posted at both Visitors' Information Bureaus were handstamped with the oval cachets in purple ink, indicating which one of the two bureaus the item had been posted. Exactly when these cachets came into use at the Visitor's Information Bureaus is unknown. The examples from the Shepherd article of 1990 were dated April 12, 1939 and May 6, 1940. Nor do we know by who or exactly when these cachets were applied to the mails.

Mails stamped with these cachets also make an interesting addition to a collection of postal history from this period. These cachets can be found on both covers and picture postcards.

Over the years that I have collected these cachets, the earliest use that I have found is on a picture postcard (see Figure 25) that was addressed to the U.S. and was cancelled on February 13, 1936 (see Figure 26). Another interesting example is also a picture postcard and is dated February 27, 1936 (see Figure 27), was addressed to Germany and was posted at the Baggage Warehouse. Upon close examination of both these items, it is apparent that the cards were stamped with the cachet before the postage stamp was applied to the cards and before the adhesives were cancelled at the GPO (see Figure 28). It is probable that picture postcards for sale at both Information Bureaus were handstamped in advance with these cachets, while mails brought into Barbados by tourists coming off ships were handstamped just before going off to the GPO in Bridgetown for processing and onward transmission.

Although it is more common to find these cachets used on picture postcards, examples on covers can also be found. Figure 29 shows the Baggage Warehouse cachet on a surface rate cover to England and is dated September 23, 1936. Another extremely unusual example on cover is dated January 25, 1939 (see Figure 30). The cover is a registered surface rate to England. Backstamps include the Barbados GPO registration date stamp and a



Plymouth (England) receiving date stamp of February 7, 1939. The flap of the cover also carries a "P & O" imprint in blue ink. This is the only registered item that I have encountered that carries the Baggage Warehouse cachet. My guess is that the cover was submitted to the clerk at the Information Bureau at the Baggage Warehouse by a passenger coming off a P & O ship. The passenger probably told the clerk that the cover had to be registered and paid the appropriate fee. Since postage

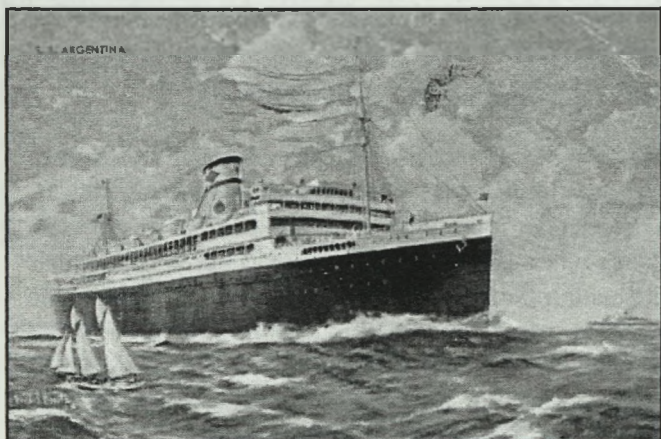


Figure 31

stamps were sold at the Information Bureaus, the clerk probably franked the cover with the appropriate rate and then submitted the cover to the GPO for processing.

Finally, in his article of 1990 concerning these cachets, Shepherd stated: "I have recorded the use of these cachets on items of mail up to 1940, always struck in purple." Again, Shepherd did not mention the latest date that he had recorded for the use of these cachets on the mails. In the years that I have collected these items, the latest date that I have recorded is March 10, 1941. The item is a picture postcard of the S.S. *Argentina* (see Figure 31). The card is addressed to New York and carries the cachet, in purple, of the Information Bureau at the Pier Head (see Figure 32).

Shepherd pointed out that these Tourist Information Bureaus were closed sometime at the start of World War II. In fact, he speculated that they were closed with the entry of the U.S. into World War II and did not reopen until sometime after the war was over and peace had been restored and the business of tourism resumed for Barbados. If that is indeed the case, then it should be possible to find examples of these cachets on mails dated as late as December of 1941. However, when the bureaus were reopened after the war, these cachets were no longer used on the mails. They seem to have just disappeared.

I would be interested in hearing from any members of

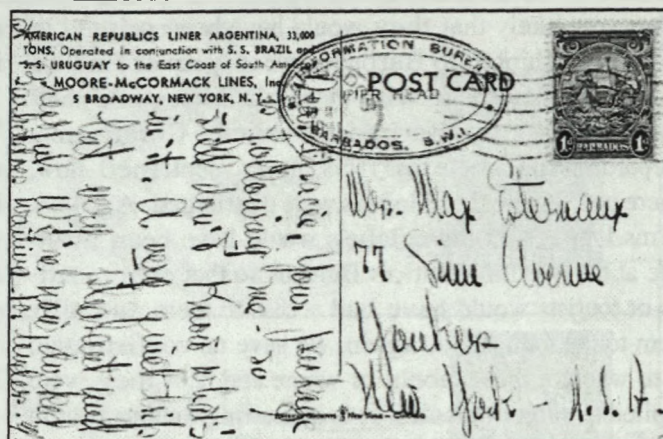


Figure 32

the BCPSG who have any of the following items in their collections:

- (1) Picture postcards that have the "Copyright: Barbados Publicity Committee." It would be interesting to establish a listing of the different types of view cards produced by the Publicity Committee and sold at the Information Bureaus.
- (2) I would also appreciate information from members who have the "unoverprinted" Tourist Labels on postal items in their collections. Again, it would be interesting to establish the number known used on cover as well as the earliest and latest dates known.
- (3) I would like to hear from any members who have examples of the Baggage Warehouse and Pier Head cachets used on cards or covers. I would like to establish the earliest known and latest known dates of use.

I can be contacted via email at: [jrh93@SBCglobal.net](mailto:jrh93@SBCglobal.net) or via regular mail at: Jerone Hart, P.O. Box 206789, Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520-6789 USA. Please accept my sincerest thanks in advance for all replies and information.

#### For further reading see:

Clarke, George L.W., Reynold Radford and Stephen Cave. *Barbados Post Office Markings to 1981*, The British West Indies Study Circle, United Kingdom, 1982.

Shepherd, Tony. "The Barbados Red Cross Charity Labels of World War II," *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 28, No. 4, W/N 149, December 1988, pgs. 117-120.

Shepherd, Anthony. "The Information Bureau Cachets of Barbados," *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 30, No. 1, W/N 154, March 1990, pgs. 21-23.



# Phantom St. Vincent post office?

By Peter Elias

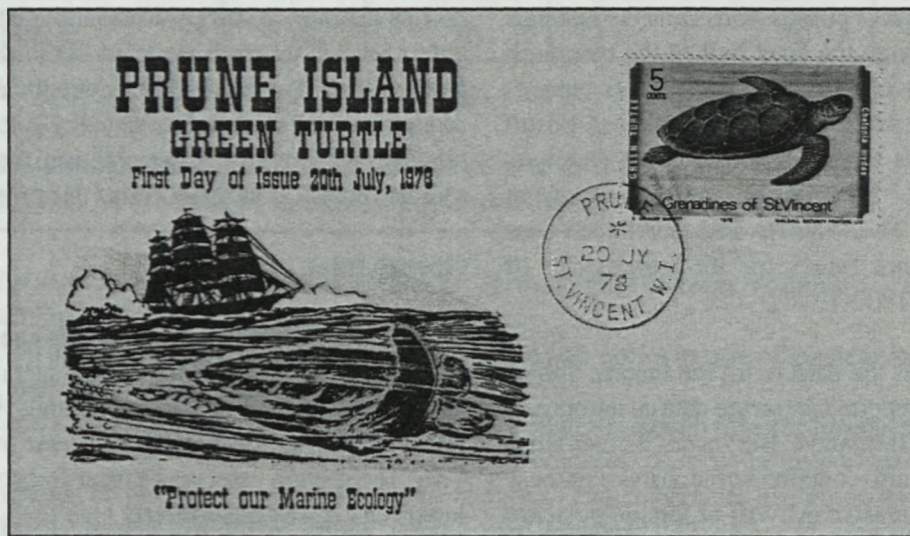
*St. Vincent Study Group Leader*

On July 20, 1978, St. Vincent issued a set of turtle stamps for the Grenadines of St. Vincent (Scott #157-160). On the scan nearby you can see that the first day postmark is "Prune Island." According to the St. Vincent Postal Corporation (successors to the St. Vincent General Post Office), there never has been a post office on Prune Island.

Prune Island is now known as Palm Island since the original name was apparently not befitting a tropical island. The island had a salt

mining operation in the early parts of the 20th century and by the mid-1960s had become swampy and overgrown. An individual named John Caldwell wanted to turn this swampy island into a paradise and leased the island from the Government of St. Vincent and planted about 1,000 palm trees. It took many years to remove landfills and swamp land. Today the island is primarily a

resort and nature preserve (see <http://www.gotopalm.com> for more details on the history and many great photos). The nearest post office to Prune Island would be on Union Island (which is one mile away). The postmark on the first day cover could either be 1) a temporary post office station on the day of the stamp issuance or 2) totally philatelicly inspired with no physical presence on the island.



I certainly have not seen ANY postmarks for either Prune Island or Palm Island other than the one on this particular FDC (I presume that the other three stamps in this series also have Prune Island first day postmarks). The St. Vincent Postal

Corporation has informed that these first day covers (which are unaddressed) were prepared by the St. Vincent Philatelic Services (an organization that is separate from the Postal Service) for promotional purposes. So basically, these "Prune Island" postmarks on the first day covers are purely philatelic in nature and did not see any actual "postal" usage.

## BCPSG Collectors Interest Information

The information most members provided us on their collecting interests when they renewed their dues is now available to the membership. If you would like to communicate with fellow BCPSG members who collect the same countries as you, please contact Bob Stewart and he will send you the countries you want.

You can email him at [stewart99@comcast.net](mailto:stewart99@comcast.net) or by mail at 7 West Dune Lane, Beach Haven, NJ 08008. If you have Microsoft Excel on your computer, he can email you the files for the countries you want.

The information includes nine collecting categories (all the reigns, postal stationery, postal history, postcards and

literature). If you did not complete the collectors interest survey on the back of the dues notice, it is still not too late to be included. You can email Bob your collecting areas and you will be included.

Remember this information is only for the use of the BCPSG members.



# The Empire Abstracts and Tables

## Part II

By Richard Maisel  
Of the USA

The British Empire Abstracts and Tables are two series of annual reports containing statistical data on British overseas possessions from the last half of the nineteenth through the first half of the twentieth century.<sup>1</sup> This is the second in a series of articles reprinting data from these reports on British Caribbean postal systems. Part 1 of this series appeared in the October-December 2005 issue.<sup>2</sup> It contained an overview of the material available in these reports and reproduced data from the British Empire Tables for the presidencies of the Leeward Islands (1900-1912).

This article reproduces the data from the Empire Tables for five colonies that reported separate data on letters and postcards (Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Honduras and Jamaica). It also contains some analysis of these data that shows an explosive growth of foreign postcard usage in the first decade of the twentieth century, starting around 1902-03.

### LETTERS AND POSTCARDS 1900-1912

It will come as no surprise to the readers of this journal that many more letters than postcards were carried in the mail to and from British Caribbean colonies during the

period 1900 to 1912 (Table 1) and that the number of these items posted increased over the same period of time (Table 2). The exact ratio of letters to postcards and the magnitude of the increase, particularly for postcards, may be somewhat larger than expected. For the five colonies reporting separate data on postcards and letters there were 12.4 letters handled for each postcard. There were almost twice as many letters per postcard for domestic mail compared to foreign mail and these ratios varied by colony. In particular, relatively few domestic postcards were mailed in the Bahamas and British Honduras during this time period.

### Growth rates

The number of letters and postcards handled by the post office in these five colonies grew at rate of 1.07 compounded annually between 1900 and 1911. That is, on the average it increased 7% each year over the previous year. The growth rate was higher for postcards than for letters and it was particularly high for foreign postcards (Table 2). Three factors may explain these results.

1. The marked increase in tourism during these years may explain the particularly high rate of growth for foreign postcards.
2. Innovations in the production and uses of postcards that occurred in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in-

**Table 1. Number of items handled in average year, 1900-12<sup>1</sup>**

Colony	Domestic Mail			Foreign Mail <sup>2</sup>		
	Letters	Postcards	Letters per Postcard	Letters	Postcards	Letters per Postcard
Bahamas	86,438	2,278	37.9	321,802	31,841	10.1
Barbados <sup>3</sup>	378,411	29,293	12.9	1,184,589	79,506	14.9
Bermuda	233,545	13,229	17.7	1,111,110	277,202	4.0
Br. Hond.	81,062	1,437	56.4	184,807	16,008	11.5
Jamaica	5,449,111	307,694	17.7	1,892,373	125,254	15.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,228,566</b>	<b>353,931</b>	<b>17.6</b>	<b>4,694,681</b>	<b>529,811</b>	<b>8.9</b>

1. Data from Tables 3-7 of this article.

2. Includes items dispatched from and sent to the Colony.

3. Data for Barbados excludes registered items.



**Table 2. Compound growth rates 1901-1911<sup>1</sup>**

Colony	Domestic Mail		Foreign Mail <sup>2</sup>		Total
	Letters	Postcards	Letters	Postcards	
Bahamas	1.12	1.26	1.07	1.19	1.09
Barbados <sup>3</sup>	1.03	1.07	1.04	1.22	1.05
Bermuda	1.00	1.07	1.07	1.36	1.09
Br. Honduras	1.05	1.02	1.05	1.17	1.05
Jamaica	1.05	1.22	1.10	1.27	1.07
Total	1.04	1.20	1.06	1.30	1.07

1. Data from Tables 3-7 of this article. Growth rates from mean 1900-1902 to mean 1910-12.
2. Includes items dispatched from and sent to the Colony.
3. Data for Barbados excludes registered items.

creased the use of postcards. These innovations included the growing availability of picture postcards; the change to a two panel face on one side of the card, one for address and the other for a message; and the practices of collecting picture postcards, and using them as greeting cards.<sup>3</sup>

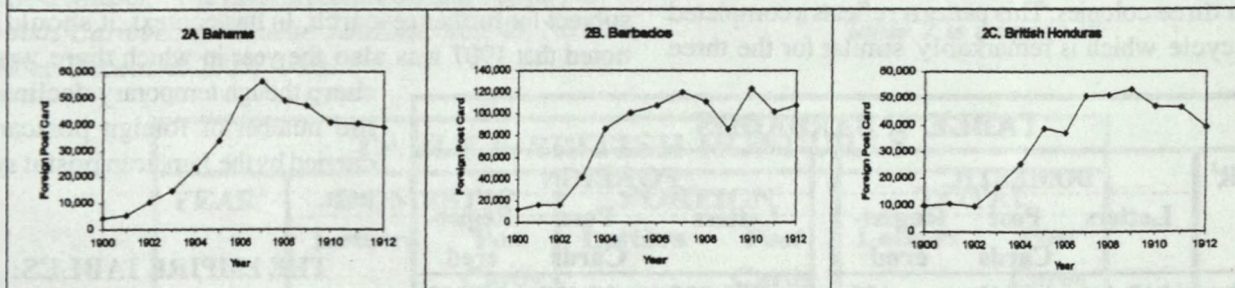
3. The lower quantities of postcards mailed facilitate higher growth rates as smaller increases create larger

growth rates at lower volumes.

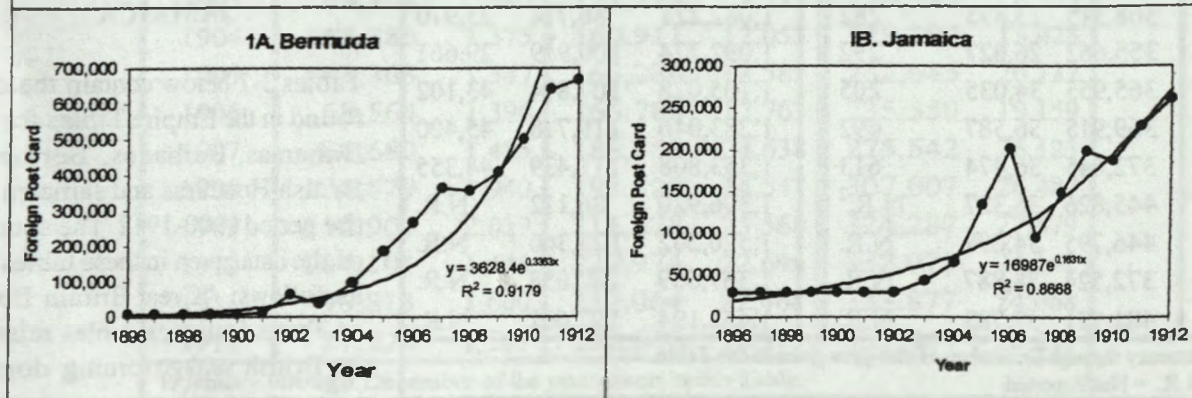
**Growth cycles in use of postcards in foreign mail**

Though the growth rate for foreign postcards was high in all colonies, there were important differences between them. The compound growth rates for Bermuda (1.36) and Jamaica (1.27) show an explosive growth rate typi-

**Figure 2A, B and C. Foreign post cards handled, Bahamas, Barbados, and British Honduras (1900-1912).**



**Figure 1A and 1B. Foreign post cards handled in Bermuda and Jamaica with trendlines. These graphs assume no growth in the period 1896-1900.**





cal for the initial stages of a growth cycle, while the somewhat lower rates for the Bahamas (1.19), Barbados (1.22) and British Honduras (1.17) are typical for a completed growth cycle (Table 2).

Figures 1A and 1B show the explosive pattern of growth in the number of foreign postcards handled by the postal systems of Bermuda and Jamaica along with their upwardly curved trend lines. (Note: Figures 1A and 1B assume there was little or no growth in the foreign postcards handled in the years immediately before 1900.) The rapid growth started in Bermuda in 1902 and in Jamaica in 1903 and continued in both colonies through to 1912, the last year for which data was available. There was, however, a major but temporary drop of about 50% in Bermuda in 1903 and in Jamaica in 1907. In all likelihood, the explosive growth rate for both colonies would have slowed down in period following 1912 because such high rates of growth cannot be maintained over long periods of time and World War I curtailed the tourist trade and limited the practice of collecting of picture postcards.<sup>4</sup> Gilmore, John *op.cit.*

Figures 2A, 2B and 2C show the pattern of growth for the other three colonies. This pattern reflects a completed growth cycle which is remarkably similar for the three

TABLE 3. BAHAMAS

YEAR <sup>1</sup>	DOMESTIC		FOREIGN		TOTAL	
	Letters	Post Cards	Letters	Post Cards	Letters	Post Cards
1900	44,115	306	197,828	4,371	241,943	4,677
1901	46,956	405	239,792	5,477	286,748	5,882
1902	48,812	381	217,269	10,300	266,081	10,681
1903	53,828	507	234,470	14,589	288,298	15,096
1904	54,544	804	264,305	23,508	318,849	24,312
1905	60,648	1,361	264,402	33,802	325,050	35,163
1906	72,323	3,060	292,535	49,920	364,858	52,980
1907	86,846	3,803	362,879	56,575	449,725	60,378
1908	89,719	3,480	368,663	48,909	458,382	52,389
1909	119,540	4,454	397,582	47,039	517,122	51,493
1910	144,646	4,231	425,307	40,611	569,953	44,842
1911	149,145	3,871	451,462	40,083	600,607	43,954
1912	152,572	2,953	466,927	38,745	619,499	41,698

1. 1900 - Jan.-Dec; 1901 - Jan (01)-March (02) x.8; all other years April of year given in the Table through March of the following year.

colonies. It begins in period 1902-03 period and ends in 1907. Thus in 1902-03, the rapid increase in foreign postcards occurred in all five colonies, which may indicate either the popularity of the new two part postcards adopted in Great Britain or a sudden increase in the tourist trade in those years or both. Why the growth in foreign postcards handled by the Bahamas, Barbados<sup>5</sup> and British Honduras postal system ended in 1907 is an interesting subject for further research. In this context, it should be noted that 1907 was also the year in which there was a sharp though temporary decline in the number of foreign postcards carried by the Jamaican postal system.

TABLE 4. BARBADOS

YEAR <sup>1</sup>	DOMESTIC			FOREIGN		
	Letters	Post Cards	Registered	Letters	Post Cards	Registered
1900	317,641	16,940	428	889,805	12,437	15,253
1901	355,289	20,503	476	987,337	16,806	18,360
1902	335,778	19,172	387	929,251	16,682	18,461
1903	331,223	19,506	342	940,405	41,801	19,277
1904	368,315	23,875	282	1,082,221	86,714	23,970
1905	355,662	26,627	292	1,092,774	100,919	29,661
1906	365,955	34,035	205	1,105,028	107,874	43,102
1907	369,915	36,587	492	1,283,046	119,718	45,400
1908	372,645	36,474	613	1,353,808	111,439	44,355
1909	445,826	36,327	N.R. <sup>2</sup>	1,396,920	86,112	N.R.
1910	446,795	34,098	N.R.	1,520,202	123,360	N.R.
1911	372,524	38,887	N.R.	1,367,669	102,058	N.R.
1912	481,771	37,783	N.R.	1,451,194	107,661	N.R.

1. January through December of the year given in the Table.  
2. N.R. = Not Reported

THE EMPIRE TABLES:  
DATA FOR THE  
BAHAMAS, BARBADOS,  
BERMUDA,  
BRITISH HONDURAS AND  
JAMAICA

Tables 3-7 below contain the data found in the Empire Tables for the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Honduras and Jamaica for the period 1900-1912. The sources of the data given in these tables are as follows: "Great Britain Board of Trade. Statistical tables relating to British self-governing dominions, crown colonies, possessions



and protectorates. London: His Majesty's Stationery Office: 1902, Part 27 (for the years 1900-02); 1905, Part 30 (for the years 1903-05); 1907, Part 32 (for the years 1906-07); 1910, Part 35 (for the years 1908-10); 1912, Part 38 (for the years 1911-12)."

Data for each year appears in several volumes of the Empire Tables. The data for 1905 found in Part 30 was compared to the 1905 data found in Part 32 and the 1910 data found in Part 35 was compared to the 1910 data found in Part 38. The information for each year was exactly the same in the volumes that were compared.

YEAR <sup>1</sup>	DOMESTIC		FOREIGN		TOTAL	
	Letters	Post Cards	Letters	Post Cards	Letters	Post Cards
1900	191,672	8,034	732,050	9,150	923,722	17,184
1901	235,608	7,275	671,650	9,461	907,258	16,736
1902	262,208	12,324	1,010,500	62,700	1,272,708	75,024
1903	227,896	8,060	985,972	35,724	1,213,868	43,784
1904	241,230	6,474	1,234,038	95,043	1,475,268	101,517
1905	265,975	11,180	1,098,953	186,496	1,364,928	197,676
1906	223,249	12,948	857,912	266,214	1,081,161	279,162
1907	224,132	16,807	983,253	364,616	1,207,385	381,423
1908	219,341	16,617	961,032	357,082	1,180,373	373,699
1909	232,793	16,906	1,218,254	405,979	1,451,047	422,885
1910	228,646	18,637	1,358,072	501,200	1,586,718	519,837
1911	238,266	18,200	1,597,918	642,591	1,836,184	660,791
1912	245,068	18,514	1,734,825	667,364	1,979,893	685,878

1. January through December of the year given in the Table.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> The electronic catalogue of the New York Public Library (CATNYP) gives the titles of the two series as: *The Commonwealth and the Sterling Areas; Statistical Abstracts*; and, *Statistical Tables relating to British self-governing dominions, crown colonies, possessions and protectorates*.

<sup>3</sup> John Gilmore, *Glimpses of Our Past: A Social History of the Caribbean in Postcards*. (Kingston, Jamaica: Ian Randle Publishers, 1995), np.

<sup>4</sup> Gilmore, *op. cit.*

<sup>5</sup> The data for Barbados excluded registered items.

<sup>2</sup> Richard Maisel, "The Empire Abstracts and Tables, Part I, *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 45, No. 4 (October-December 2005), 4-10.

Table 7 is on page 20

YEAR <sup>1</sup>	DOMESTIC		FOREIGN		TOTAL	
	Letters	Post Cards	Letters	Post Cards	Letters	Post Cards
1900	58,579	1,279	150,128	4,271	208,707	5,550
1901	61,842	1,281	147,291	4,591	209,133	5,872
1902	62,965	1,100	144,731	4,186	207,696	5,286
1903	69,193	980	151,124	7,775	220,317	8,755
1904	68,886	1,375	160,911	12,053	229,797	13,428
1905	67,365	1,547	165,280	18,585	232,645	20,132
1906	68,564	1,396	166,786	17,763	235,350	19,159
1907	86,680	1,485	188,862	24,638	275,542	26,123
1908	108,679	1,940	198,328	24,547	307,007	26,487
1909	112,909	2,019	211,378	25,560	324,287	27,579
1910	104,101	1,446	227,974	22,696	332,075	24,142
1911	96,813	1,600	237,064	22,468	333,877	24,068
1912	87,224	1,237	252,640	18,973	339,864	20,210

1. January through December of the year given in the Table.



TABLE 7. JAMAICA						
YEAR <sup>1</sup>	DOMESTIC		FOREIGN		TOTAL	
	Letters	Post Cards	Letters	Post Cards	Letters	Post Cards
1900	4,149,169	91,155	948,590	14,043	5,097,759	105,198
1901	4,177,532	99,169	1,094,307	19,052	5,271,839	118,221
1902	4,208,657	93,270	1,197,376	30,154	5,406,033	123,424
1903	4,219,974	95,988	1,334,542	44,209	5,554,516	140,197
1904	4,616,241	130,650	1,662,524	66,047	6,278,765	196,697
1905	5,015,652	186,212	1,856,386	134,801	6,872,038	321,013
1906	5,756,299	80,652	1,656,397	201,539	7,412,696	282,191
1907	6,318,563	189,540	2,033,754	95,145	8,352,317	284,685
1908	6,031,759	288,449	1,960,134	148,675	7,991,893	437,124
1909	6,658,198	689,413	2,620,500	197,916	9,278,698	887,329
1910	6,728,879	686,588	2,593,119	188,226	9,321,998	874,814
1911	6,471,143	682,861	2,729,315	227,966	9,200,458	910,827
1912	6,486,375	686,070	2,913,902	260,532	9,400,277	946,602

1. April of year given in the Table through March of the following year.

## Several articles in the pipeline

While we are still in need of research articles, several authors have provided material which will be in forthcoming journals. Your editor prefers to publish articles as soon as they arrive, but space limitations and length of articles determines how soon they are actually printed. Here are some articles you can expect soon:

*The Tobago A14 Handstamps and Their Forgeries*  
by Thomas Anderson and Edward Barrow

*War Tax Stamps of British Caribbean Colonies:  
An Overview*  
by Dr. Rene P. Manes

*British Virgin Islands World War II Airmail  
Routes and Rates*  
by Roger G. Schnell and Peter P. McCann

*The American and Canadian Providers of Philatelic  
Covers of the Empire Period (1890-1935) of the BWI*  
by Dr. Eric M. Bateson

*Forwarding/Shipping Agents of Trinidad Mail  
1857 - 1897*  
by Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon

## WANTED by Collector/ Exhibitor/Researcher

Wanted to buy -- commercial covers from Barbados, 1925 to 1950. Especially needed are covers showing unusual usages or destination and frankings with the George V (1925) and George VI (1938) Seal of the Colony definitive sets. Also looking to acquire Official Covers from the same period such as Post Office Officials, Colonial Secretary Officials or any other types of official mails.

Also seeking covers and/or postal cards that show the "Information Bureau" cachets. I am also seeking covers or cards that have the "unoverprinted" Tourist Labels as well as covers and/or cards with the Tourist Labels overprinted with the Red Cross used as charity labels during World War II. Finally, seeking singles, part sheets, or full sheets of the Tourist Labels in both the unoverprinted and overprinted states. Will either trade for or purchase items outright. Will pay fair prices.

If you have material that you no longer need or want, please send email to: [jrh93@SBCglobal.net](mailto:jrh93@SBCglobal.net) or send information to: Jerone Hart, P.O. Box 206789, Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520-6789.



# Trying to answer a St. Vincent question

By Wayne Menuz  
Of the USA

Some years ago I purchased a St. Vincent registration envelope from a British dealer that, at the time, posed many questions I could not answer. In the intervening years, I have tried to find out more about it, but to date nothing has turned up. With our knowledgeable cadre of readers, perhaps placing it in this short article one of them will be able to provide the answer.

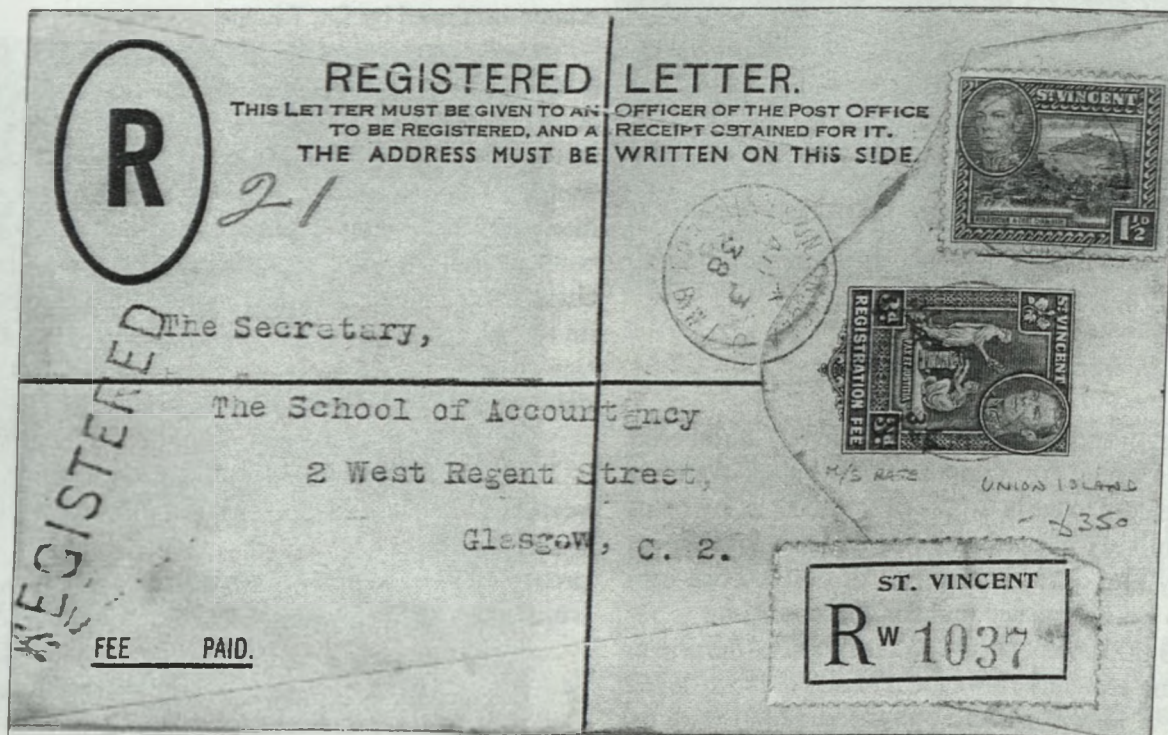
At first glance, it is just the 3d King George VI, G-sized registration envelope issued in 1938, listed in H&G as C6. It is cancelled "UNION ISLAND ST. VINCENT B.W.I AU 3 38." The 1 1/2d adhesive stamp is cancelled by a very faint impression of the same canceller. The envelope is handstamped at left with a black straight-line: "REGISTERED" with a handwritten 21 above it. These three markings were, I believe, applied at Union Island. There is a St. Vincent blue registration label on the front, which I think would have been applied at the Kingston Post Office on the main island of St. Vincent. On back is a single receipt CDS: "KINGSTON ST. VINCENT B.W.I. 4 AU 38." The envelope is addressed to Glasgow, presumably the city in Scotland and not one of the other towns with that name in the U.S. There is no Glasgow

receipt stamp, something that would not be correct for a registered article.

The use from Union Island in itself is rather uncommon, as it is a very small and sparsely populated island about 35 miles southwest of St. Vincent. The map shows Union Island at the bottom left quadrant, with its main town of Ashton.



Enlargement of revalued stamp.

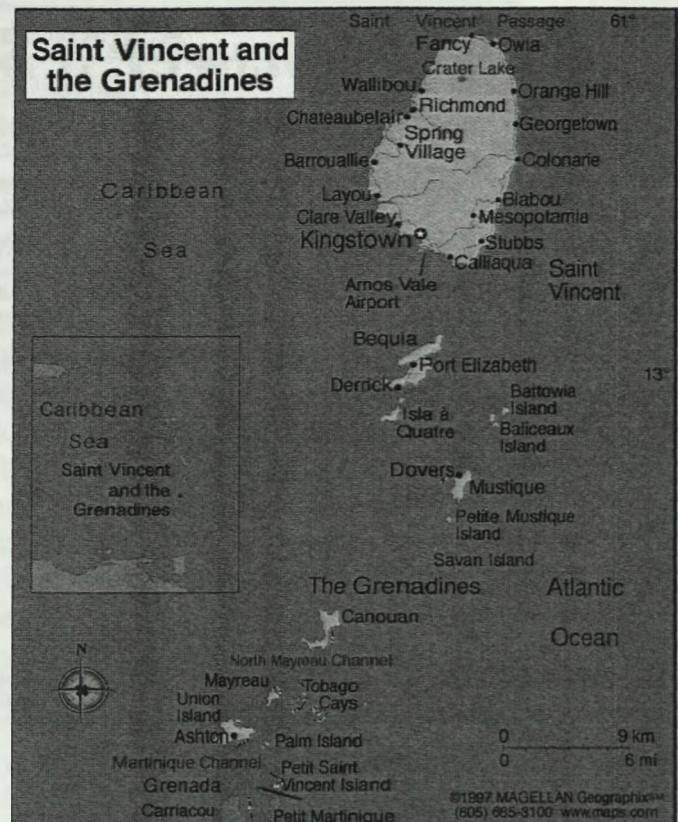


Registered cover from Union Island in 1938 poses unanswered questions.



The main feature of this registration envelope is not readily visible in a black and white illustration. The two 3d value tablets have been modified in manuscript by a red pen. Each of the 3d numerals has been struck through with a single stroke of the pen. Written above each in the same red ink is 3 1/2d. Shown here is a computer enhanced enlargement of the stamp (the red ink on the purple stamp precluded an unedited scan.) One's first thought is that this is some sort of postmaster's provisional. However, this would necessitate a combined postage and registration rate of 5d as there is a 1 1/2d adhesive stamp already applied. Was there such a rate in August 1938? Did the registration fee increase by 1/2d at that time?

The next registration envelope St. Vincent issued was in 1951 after it had converted from pence to cents currency. I do not know the registration fee schedule between the 1938 3d rate and the 1951 9¢ rate. Since this envelope was used in 1938, such a rate change would have occurred rather shortly after it was issued. Another question concerns the availability of 1/2d adhesive stamps. According to *Scott's Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, there was a March 1938 King George VI definitive issue that included a 1/2d denomination. If the stamp was theoretically available, was this a case of the Union Island post office not having any?



If any reader has an opinion, or can share any facts, I'd appreciate hearing from you. Wayne Menuz, 2854 Cherry Avenue, San Jose, CA 95225 waam@pacbell.net.

## Letters

### St. Lucia overprints

#### To the Editor:

I read with interest Dr. Seguin's article concerning the 1967 Statehood overprints of St. Lucia (Vol. 46, No. 1, January 2006). I have some examples of this issue and can add a few sheet numbers to the list printed in the *Journal*:

- One cent, overprinted in black, sheets 05714, 05724, 05885, 05972, and 05998.
- Six cent, overprinted in black, 03976.

Assuming overprinting on consecutively numbered sheets, this would give a print run of the black overprint on the one cent value in excess of 212,000; in my opinion, an unlikely number. The Saint Lucia government apparently authorized a print run of 300,000 one cent stamps to be overprinted and for the postmaster to release not 3,000 sheets, but over 5,000 sheets to the printer is stretching credulity. However, if sheets 03786 to 06762 (plus a few above and below these numbers) were re-

leased to the printer, we have a figure close to the 300,000 stamps mentioned by Dr. Ritchie.

Is it not possible that the sheets were not printed in strict numerical order but in manageable "blocks"? I believe that the one cent and six cent black overprinted stamps were not put to press consecutively either before, or more likely after the printing of the red overprints. The printer would not have wanted to change the ink for each different value of stamp. The known "errors of black overprint" on the one cent stamps are easily explained by just putting an overprinted sheet through the press again or by deliberately reversing the direction of the sheet.

The inverted overprint on the five cent value may have been a genuine mistake and I can add to the list as I have a used two cent stamp with an inverted overprint; again, probably a genuine error. The "special" cancellers were a nice touch by Mr. Mosden

Alister Kinnon  
Bedford, United Kingdom



# British Guiana: The KG VI and QE II Wrappers

By Stephen D. Schumann  
Member, Board of Trustees

Recently I came into possession of a small group of the above wrappers used, all of which were from a commercial correspondence from Sandbach, Parker & Co., Ltd. of Georgetown to the Royal Netherlands Steamship Co., in Willemstad, Curacao. (see Figure 1).

Sandbach, Parker & Co. Ltd. had been operating under that name in British Guiana since 1861, but the roots of the company can be traced back to the latter part of the eighteenth century, when James McInroy, Samuel Sandbach, Charles Stewart Parker and George Robertson immigrated to Demerara. They were importers and exporters, shipping and estate agents, mainly concerned with sugar, coffee, molasses and rum but also in "prime Gold Coast Negroes."<sup>1</sup> The company went through a number of transitions in the post-World War II era and was finally liquidated in 1972.

The Royal Netherlands Steamship Company (Koninklijke Nederlandsche Stoomboot Mij.) was founded in 1856, primarily for trade with the Netherlands East Indies. Over the years, the focus changed to the Americas, particularly after the independence of Indonesia and their ban on Dutch vessels. Both freighters and cruise ships called at ports in North America, South America and throughout the Caribbean, with agents being employed at almost every stop.<sup>2</sup>

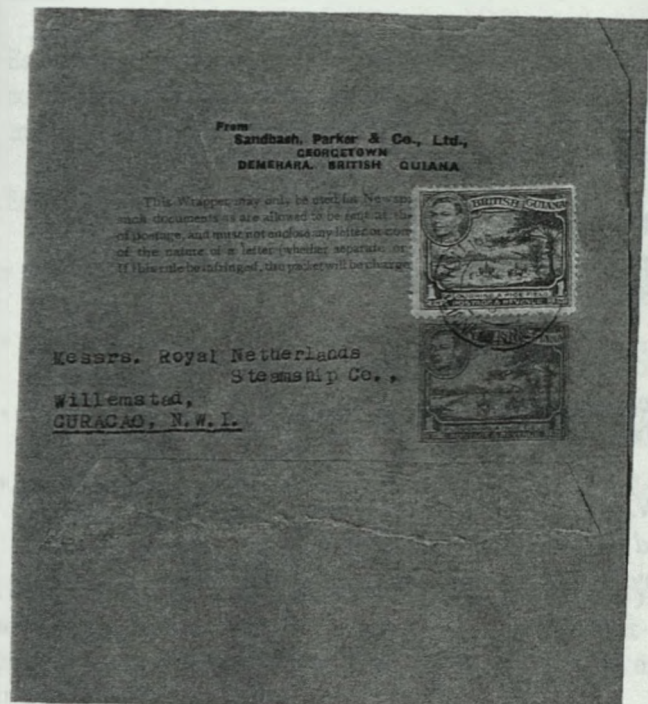


Figure 1

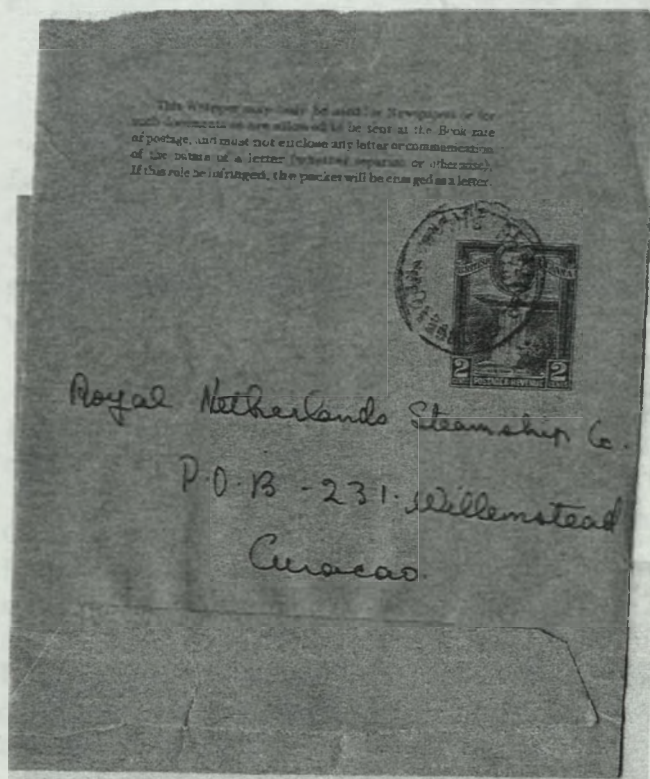


Figure 2

All of the one cent wrappers (six) have an additional one cent stamp added and seem to have been used in 1951 and 1960. At that time, the surface rate for printed papers to Curacao was one cent per two ounces or fraction thereof, a rate which went into effect July 1, 1940.<sup>3</sup>

Of the KG VI two cent wrappers (eight) (see Figure 2), only two have additional franking. One has a one cent stamp added (see Figure 3). This was perhaps mailed as late as 1960, when the newspaper rate was two cents up to two ounces and one cent for each additional ounce.<sup>4</sup>



The other has 28¢ in stamps added and "Second Class Air Mail" in manuscript (see Figure 4) and was sent to New York. At first glance, this would seem to be an overpayment of two cents as the second class airmail rate to the USA was seven cents per half ounce or fraction thereof.

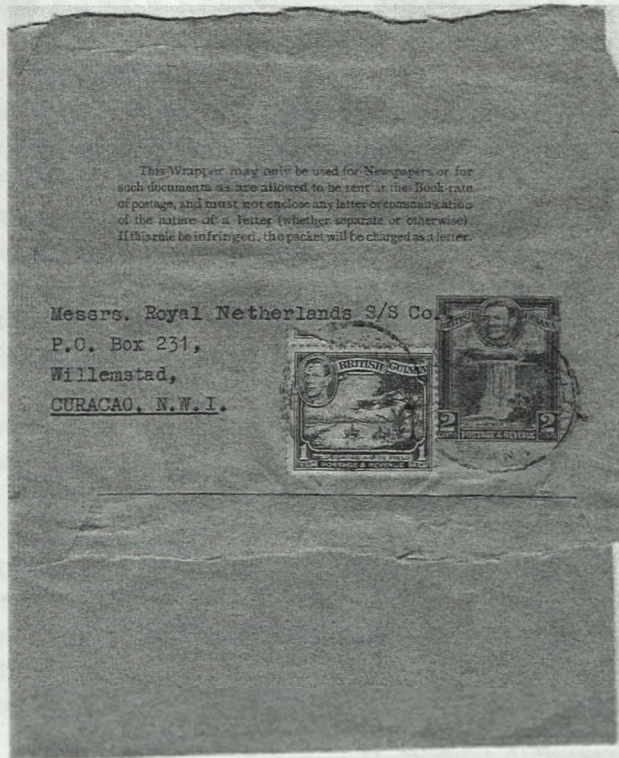


Figure 3

This 28¢ was correct for a two ounce newspaper, but if mailed at the newspaper rate, which was six cents per half ounce. In that case, 30¢ total would be correct for a 2.5 ounce newspaper.

The QE II one cent wrappers (three) all have a four cent stamp added for a total of five cents (see Figure 5). I have

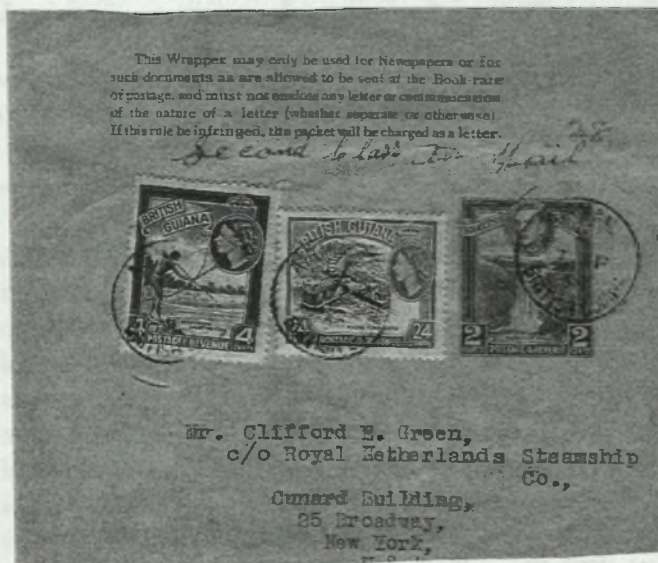


Figure 4

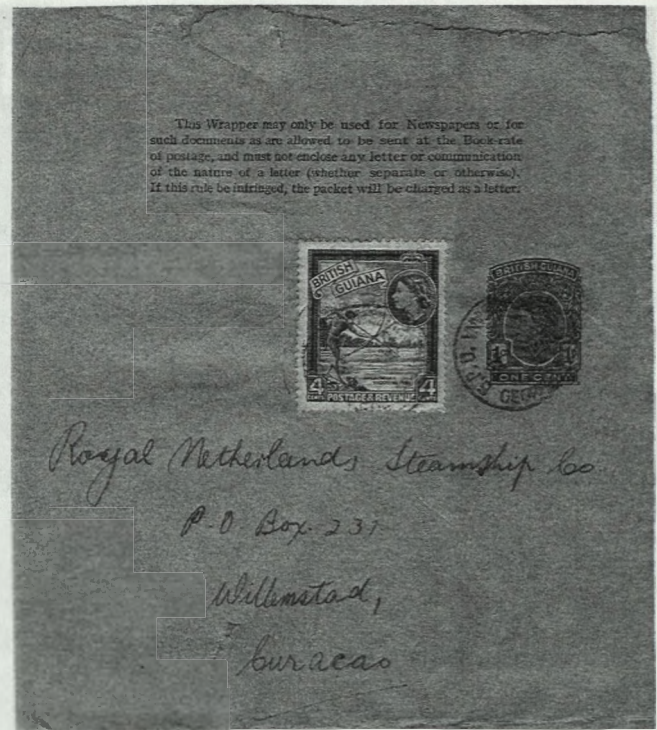


Figure 5

been unable to obtain information regarding the surface rate for newspapers but it would seem to reflect a rate of three cents for the first two ounces and two cents for each additional ounce. Of course, this is assuming that the newspaper in question continued to weigh 2.5 ounces.

Any additional rate information would be greatly appreciated. Of course, the real challenge remains to find the one cent wrappers used internally at that rate.

#### FOOTNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> J. Rodway. *History of British Guiana*. (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing Group, 1988).
- <sup>2</sup> Philip Cockrill. *K.N.S.M., Royal Netherlands Steamship Co.* (Bracknell, Berkshire, England: Philip Cockrill, 1981).
- <sup>3</sup> Edward Proud. *The Postal History of British Guiana*. (Heathfield, East Sussex, England: Edward B. Proud, 2000).
- <sup>4</sup> W.A. Townsend and F.G. Howe. *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana*. (Glasgow: The Royal Philatelic Society London, 1970).

#### Acknowledgments

Special thanks to Larry Goldberg for his invaluable suggestions in the production of this article.



# Trinidad and Tobago War Tax overprints

By John Davis  
Of the United Kingdom

## Reconciliation of the revenue received to the stamps issued

If it were possible, I would like to try and reconcile the amount of revenue received with the number of stamps sold. In the absence of any postal records remaining in existence, I can only present the information I have to hand, and to select that which best fits.

Estimating the amount of revenue received is relatively easy. At the Legislative Council Meeting on November 14, 1919, the Colonial Secretary reported, in answer to question put by Dr. S. M. Laurence, that the revenue from the sale of War Tax stamps was as follows:

1917:	£6,200.0.0
1918:	£6,380.0.0
Jan. 1, 1919 to Oct. 31, 1919:	£3,100.0.0
	<u>£15,680.0.0</u>

The War Tax was abolished on December 31, 1919, so it is reasonable to assume that the revenue for November and December 1919 would have been about £600. This makes the total revenue £16,280, and agrees with John De Vries' calculation in *BWISC Bulletin 117* for June 1983.

Estimating the numbers of stamps issued for the two denominations is more difficult, and requires assumptions and guesswork, but here goes!

Estimates exist from the following sources:

- *Bridger and Kay 1980 Commonwealth Five Reigns Catalogue*;
- *Ewens Weekly Stamp News* – various articles between 1917 and 1920;
- Douglas Armstrong – articles in *West End Philatelist*, June 1920;
- John De Vries – article in *British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin 117* for June 1983.

However, not all reports included quantities for every setting, and I am unable to reconcile the numbers overprinted for the eighth setting from John De Vries' own calculations.

To appreciate the following tables, (and the issue date of the Plate 2 - see below) I offer these comments:

Setting 8a of the 1d was where Setting 8 was re-set giving rise to the "Tax" spaced.

Setting 8b is where Setting 8a was re-set, with the "Tax" spaced corrected, and which was used for overprinting stamps from Plate 2, printed by De La Rue in sheets of 240 in the autumn of 1918 – See Colonial Stamp Book Volume 12, page 206.

I would be pleased to hear from members as to whether my calculations seem reasonable: otherwise, if you think they are not, please let me have alternative suggestions.

## Issue date of the 1d (rose-red?/other shades) from Plate 2 – Setting 8b

*Le Bulletin Mensuel de la Maison* for February 25, 1918 reported that stamps with the seventh War Tax overprint were printed in sheets of 240. This information was perpetuated by other philatelic magazines at the time, but was incorrect.

All stamps overprinted prior to Setting 8b were from Plate 1, and printed in sheets of 120 by DLR. Many color shades exist.

On September 13, 1918, the Crown Agents sent DLR Requisition 92/18, that included, *inter alia*, 4,000,000 1d stamps. These were printed in sheets of 240 from Plate 2, and 16,691 sheets (4,005,840 stamps) were packed on December 13, 1918. It is remotely possible that the stamps could have arrived in time for overprinting and issuing to the public before the end of the year.

There seems to be a general consensus that Setting 8a was issued on September 14, 1918, and it therefore follows that Setting 8b must have been issued sometime later.

Issue dates reported, with my comments are:

Gibbons SG 188a 1d rose-red – May 1, 1918. This may be rose-red, and may have been issued on May 1, but these stamps would have been from Plate 1 and not Plate 2. Bridger and Kay have the issue date of the rose-red in November 1918. If this information is also true, then again the stamps would have been from Plate 1 and not Plate 2. It is possible of course, that B & K's reference may have



been for the Plate 2, in which case, the issue date they have is too early.

Ewens has the issue date of the 1d rose-red from Plate 2, in November 1919. At least they have identified the Plate 2! However, I find this date difficult to accept as:

- With the stamps probably arriving in the previous December, it is doubtful if none were overprinted until the following November.

- In October and November 1919, the abolition of the

War Tax was being discussed, and took effect from December 31, 1919. It seems unlikely that the authorities would have sanctioned more overprints to be issued in November 1919, when the repeal of the War Tax was imminent.

My own personal feeling is that the 1d rose-red from Plate 2 was issued either late December 1918 or in January 1919.

I would be interested to hear from members on my conclusions.

½d	Quantity Highest recorded from B & K, Ewens and Armstrong	Quantity John De Vries	Quantity John Davis	Notes
2	240,000	120,000	240,000	Higher of the two
3	108,000	120,000	120,000	Higher of the two
4	240,000	120,000	240,000	Higher of the two
5	240,000	120,000	240,000	Higher of the two
6				
7				
8	240,000	480,000 (estimated)	720,000	There were possibly 3 overprintings of 240,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,068,000	960,000	1,560,000	
<b>Revenue</b>	<i>n/a</i>	<b>£2,000</b>	<b>£3,250</b>	

1d	Quantity Highest recorded from B & K, Ewens and Armstrong	Quantity John De Vries	Quantity John Davis	Notes
1	240,000	240,000	240,000	
2	240,000	240,000	240,000	
3	240,000	240,000	240,000	
4	240,000	234,000	234,000	The stone became damaged and the run was not complete, so accept De Vries
5	6,000	6,000	6,000	As reported by the PMG
6	240,000	240,000	240,000	
7	240,000	240,000	240,000	
8, 8a, 8b	720,000	1,440,000 (estimated at 6 x 240,000)	1,680,000	4 overprintings have been reported. Assume 3 at 480,000 and 1 at 240,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	2,166,000	2,880,000	3,120,000	
<b>Revenue</b>	<i>n/a</i>	<b>£12,000</b>	<b>£13,000</b>	

<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>£14,000</b>	<b>£16,250 (near enough to the £16,280)</b>
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# BCPSG Exhibits and Awards

By Paul Larsen  
Awards Chairman

Following is a listing of recent British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (BCPSG) member exhibit participants and awards.

**STAMPSHOW 2005, August 4-7**  
**Grand Rapids, Michigan**

Ivan Burgess  
*The History of the Cayman Islands Post Offices*  
Silver-Bronze

**Canada's 7th National Philatelic Literature**  
**Exhibition, October 14-16, 2005, Toronto, Canada**

Ivan Burgess  
*The History of the Cayman Islands Post Offices*  
Silver-Bronze

**VAPEX 2005, October 28-30**  
**Virginia Beach, Virginia**

Michael Nethersole  
*Barbados - Prestamp to End of Sterling Currency*  
(1769-1949)  
Gold  
*Trinidad - Lady McLeod to End of Sterling Currency*  
(1847-1936)  
Vermeil

Dan Walker  
*Barwani - A Princely Indian State*  
Reserve Grand Award, Gold

**CHICAGOPEX 2005, November 18-20**  
**Arlington Heights, Illinois**

Edward Waterous  
*Canton Postal History 1897-1949*  
Silver

Steve Schumann  
*New Zealand Postal Stationery to 1940*  
Grand Award, Gold, UPSS Marcus White Award

Reuben Ramkissoon  
*Development of United States Lunar Exploration*  
Gold, AAMS Gold,  
Space Topics Study Group Gold  
*Trinidad Connections of the Dornier DO-X Flights* (SF)  
Vermeil, AAMS Vermeil  
"Postage Stamp for a Day, The Trinidad World War I  
Red Cross Charity Label,"  
in the *American Philatelist* (December 2004)  
Vermeil

Paul Larsen  
*Barbados Seal Issues 1892-1935*  
Vermeil, BCPSG Medal

**FLOREX 2005, December 2-4**  
**Orlando, Florida**

Raymond Murphy  
*Jamaican Tourism*  
Silver, AAPE Creativity Award  
*Belgian Parcel Post Cancellations* (SF)  
Vermeil

**Sarasota National Stamp Show, February 3-5, 2006**  
**Sarasota, Florida**

Raymond Murphy  
*Jamaican Tourism, Foundation, Growth and Impact*  
Silver

John Cress  
*Australian Air Mail 1914-1928* (SF)  
Vermeil, AAPE Award of Honor

*Congratulations to all!*



# Membership Director's Report — By Tom Girdi

## New Members

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

## New Applicants

**George A. Ball**, P.O. Box 863; 305 River St., Leland, MI 49654-0863 USA. Philatelic interests: BWI. Sponsored by Thomas Girdi.

**Benjamin Bump**, 43 North Rd., Hampden, MA 01036 USA. Philatelic interests: British Honduras, Bahamas, Australia and Australian States, France and Colonies, Netherlands, and General. Sponsored by Thomas Girdi.

**Richard Thompson**, 45 Keighley Rd., Thatcham RG19 3XN United Kingdom. Philatelic interests: Montserrat and Leeward Islands. Sponsored by David Druett.

## Change of Address

Ric Cadenas, 25790 Mayville Ct., South Riding, VA 20152 USA  
 Jerry Kasper, P.O. Box 3470, Clovis, CA 93613-3470 USA  
 Fitz Roett, Suite 503, 1320 16th. Ave. SW, Calgary, Alberta T3C 3S6 Canada  
 Dale Wade, P.O. Box 491, Hayesville, NC 28904 USA

## Resignations

Denis G.J. Charlesworth

## Deceased

Graham Downey  
 Alex Sledzik

## Email changes

George Ball: gabbooks@yahoo.com  
 Benjamin Bump: benbump@hotmail.com  
 Richard Thompson: rmt63877@hotmail.com

*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 email, at TEG43@aol.com Thank you.*

## Generous donations appreciated

By Jerone Hart

*Treasurer*

During the 2006 renewal period, the following members have thus far made donations to the General Fund, the Addiss Memorial Fund or the Addiss Publications Fund. On behalf of the Officers and the Board of Directors, please accept our sincerest appreciation for your generous contributions above your membership renewals. These contributions, no matter how big or how small, are important for the future growth and health of the BCPSG.

**Peter Colwell**  
**James H. Gordon**  
**Barry Friedman**  
**Jerone R. Hart**  
**Bruce G. Aitken**  
**Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon**  
**Paul A. Larsen**  
**Bradley W. Brunsell**  
**Keith Moh**  
**Joseph W. Hickey**

**Barbara Armstrong**  
**Thomas Anderson**  
**Dale D. Wade**  
**Gerald F. Schroedl**  
**Stephen A. Hopwood**  
**Thomas F. Olson**  
**Capt. D.J. Podger**  
**Boyd Mudra**  
**Alvin B. Nordhem**  
**Jerald E. Haas**

**Charles Justin Adams**  
**Roy G. Bond**  
**Charles Lee Grassman**  
**Patricia Hoppe**  
**Ralph F.T. Scrivens**

**Paul Fletcher**  
**Guillaume Vadeboncoeur**  
**John Seidl**  
**Dr. Steven J. Berlin**  
**David Condon**

## Donation from the Belize Philatelic Study Circle

On behalf of the Officers and the Board of Directors of the BCPSG, we wish to thank the former Officers and Board of Directors of the Belize Philatelic Study Circle for their generous contribution to the BCPSG. Unfortunately, the Belize PSC recently became defunct and as a result, the group made a very large contribution to the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. Again, on behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors of the BCPSG, please accept our sincerest thanks for your generous contribution.



# President's Message

By Jack Harwood

Washington 2006 is upon us, and I hope you are planning to be there. It should be one of the finest international exhibitions ever staged. Our group will be well represented, so please mark your calendar to attend the following events:

**Hospitality Suite:** Friday and Saturday evenings, May 26 and 27, 8 - 11 p.m., at the Hamilton Crowne Plaza Hotel. Ask at the desk to be connected to the room of Howard Austin. Auction lots available for viewing Friday evening.  
**Executive Committee meeting:** 9 a.m., Saturday, May 27. Exhibition Hall meeting room (Room 142). All members are welcome.

**Annual Membership Meeting:** 1:30 p.m., Saturday, May 27, Exhibition Hall meeting room (consult show program for room assignment). Brief business meeting followed by a program on Early West Indies Merchants & Planters Mail, by Thomas "Tim" Anderson, followed by the Annual Auction, at approximately 3 p.m.

**BCPSG booth #2648,** approximately in the center of the society section (in the far right corner from the exhibition entrance). Please stop in to meet fellow members, and pick up a society lapel pin (if you don't already have one). This is also the place to make arrangements for dinner Saturday evening. There are no formal plans for a group dinner, but a number of members have expressed an interest in getting together. Come join a group.

If you are attending the exhibition, please consider volunteering to staff the society booth for an hour or two during your stay. Ed Waterous is coordinating the schedule, so please contact him at [ewwaterous@hotmail.com](mailto:ewwaterous@hotmail.com) to volunteer.

A sincere welcome to three new group Trustees: Mary Gleadall of Barbados; Peter Elias of Texas; and David Wilson of Virginia. Our thanks to each of them for their willingness to serve the group. And a sincere thanks to retiring Trustees Barry Friedman, Darryl Fuller and Derek Nathan for their excellent service to the group.

The Belize Study Circle has ceased operations, and donated \$928 from its remaining treasury to the BCPSG. In addition, several former BSC members have elected to join the BCPSG. We extend a warm welcome to them, and thank the BSC for its generous donation.

A bequest from the estate of the late James Stern, former BCPSG Trustee and active exhibitor of Cayman Islands postal history, has been received. This bequest provides a cash award of \$250 for each BCPSG member who is a first-time exhibitor at the National level, who exhibits

material from the British West Indies. If you have been considering exhibiting for the first time, you now have an additional incentive. We thank the Stern family for providing this bequest.

A listing of group members by collecting interests is now available. If you would like to contact members whose interests are similar to yours, email Bob Stewart at [stewart99@comcast.net](mailto:stewart99@comcast.net), or drop him a note at 7 West Dune Lane, Beach Haven NJ 08008, for a listing from your area of interest. Our thanks to Bob for the outstanding effort put into compiling our membership data base, and the collecting interests list.

We are still in need of an Advertising Manager. This position requires sending an occasional form letter to potential advertisers (any dealer who advertises BWI material in other publications), sending an annual invoice to current advertisers, and making sure the Editor has received each advertisement on schedule. If you are willing and able to take on this modest job, please contact me directly (contact information inside the front cover).

As always, we continue to need articles of interest for publication in this journal. You need not be a professional author. Plenty of help is available to anyone willing to write on any BWI subject. Each study group leader can provide guidance, and the Editor is also available to help. An interesting article almost always generates contact with other collectors, and can easily help you build your collection and knowledge of the subject.

Plans for our meeting on St. Vincent, May 19-26, 2007, are progressing well. Please put the dates on your calendar now, and consider joining us for a fascinating visit to the Caribbean. More details will appear in the next few journals. Among other things, we will offer escorted excursions to sights around the island, including post office visits and tours. St. Vincent has also agreed to issue one or more postage stamps commemorating our meeting! It should be a memorable trip. And finally, I look forward to seeing many of you in Washington. Come join the fun.





## STEAMSHIP LINES TO THE CARIBBEAN VOLUME 1

By Michael R. Rego

This book, the first of 4 volumes, covers 2 of the most important lines, the Royal Mail Line and Hamburg-American Line. The format details the history of each line, advertisements of the time, route structure, listings of offices and agents, any local stamps used, agents markings and ship markings, together with illustrations of some of the ships themselves and a Fleet List. This softbacked book of approximately 230 pages will be a welcome addition to every British West Indies collector's library. **PRICE: £36.00 (BWISC member's discount £4.00)**

This book is available now and can be ordered from **David Druett of Pennymead Auctions at 1, Brewerton Street, Knaresborough, N. YORKS, HG5 8AZ, U.K.**

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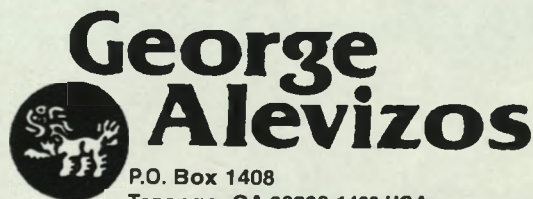
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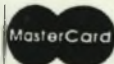
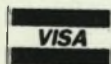
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