

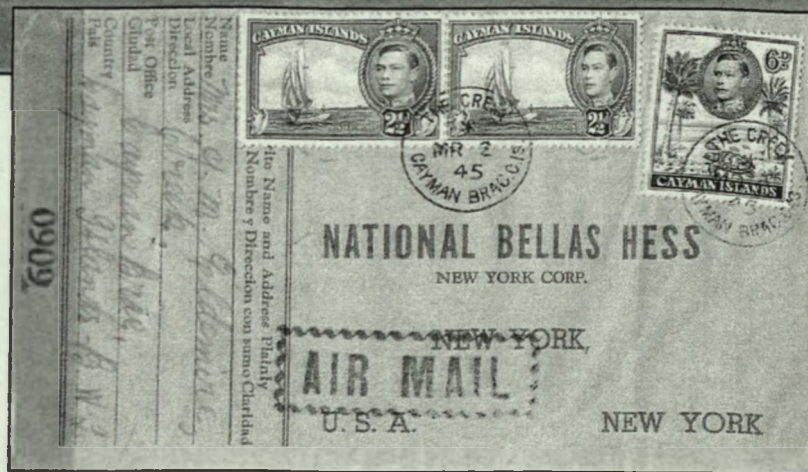
# BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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Vol. 46, No. 3 July - September 2006 Whole No. 220



World War II  
Cayman Islands  
Airmail Rates to  
the U.S.  
(See page 4)



The 1919 Peace  
Memorial in  
George Town,  
Grand Cayman  
Island



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### DEADLINES FOR THIS PUBLICATION

**January issue:** Deadline November 15, mailing December 30  
**April issue:** Deadline February 15, mailing March 30  
**July issue:** Deadline May 15, mailing June 30  
**October issue:** Deadline August 15, mailing September 30

# World War II Cayman Islands Airmail Rates to the U.S.

By Thomas E. Giraldi and Roger G. Schnell, MD  
*Of the USA*

Direct thru commercial airmail service from the Cayman Islands to the United States did not begin until November 1946. Although a U.S. Naval Air/Seaplane base was established in 1942 on Grand Cayman, the facility was not used to carry commercial mail. From 1940 to 1946, airmail from the Cayman Islands was sent by surface to Jamaica, and then onward by air to the United States. Official post office documents, denoting the airmail charges, have not been available. Thus, the authors have attempted to determine the airmail rates from a review of more than 40 airmail and airmail-registered letters in their possession.

Airmail service to the United States usually varied from approximately one week to several weeks during the period 1940 to 1945. The delay was due to irregular surface

transport from the Cayman Islands to Jamaica. The Cayman Islands were not situated on any important trade route or regular shipping routes. Mail was sent via sea transport on a "when available" basis. A registered letter (Figure 1), mailed from George Town, Grand Cayman on April 15, 1941, reached Jamaica on April 18, 1941, Miami, Florida on April 22, and Tampa, Florida, on April 23, 1941 -- a total of eight days later. A second registered cover (Figure 2) was sent from Cayman Brac on Sep-

tember 3, 1941, arrived in Kingston, Jamaica on September 12, Miami, Florida on September 13, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 15, 1941 -- a trip of 12 days. The airmail service from Kingston to the U.S.A. was FAM 5 via Miami. This service was on a regular schedule, and mail usually arrived in the U.S.A. within one or two days.

The airmail rates from 1940 to November 1943: a census of 11 airmail letters and three registered letters during this period revealed the following:

#### Rates

- 1 airmail letter at 1/1 1/2d rate (Figure 3)\*
- 4 airmail letters at 1/1d rate (Figure 4)\*
- 3 airmail letters at 1/ 1/2d rate (Figure 5)\*
- 1 airmail letter at 1/- rate (Figure 6)
- 3 airmail letters at 10d rate (Figure 7)

It is our assumption that the airmail rate was 1/1d based on the above, and the following registered letters.

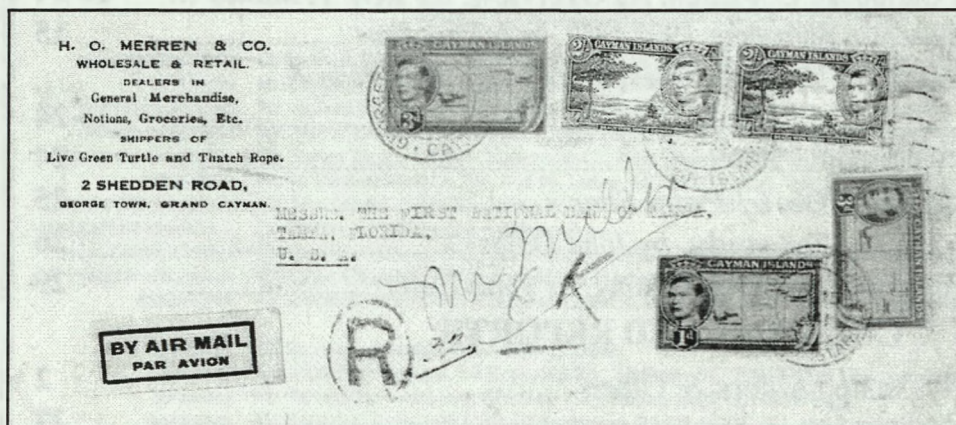


Figure 1

George Town, April 15, 1941 - registered to Tampa, Florida, 4/7d franking.  
Manuscript "OK" censor marking.

tember 3, 1941, arrived in Kingston, Jamaica on September 12, Miami, Florida on September 13, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 15, 1941 -- a trip of 12 days. The airmail service from Kingston to the U.S.A. was FAM 5 via Miami. This service was on a regular schedule, and mail usually arrived in the U.S.A. within one or two days.

1) April 15, 1941 registered letter at 4/7d via Kingston, Jamaica to Tampa, Florida (Figure 1), four times rate of 1/1d = 52d plus registration of 3d = 4/7d.

2) September 3, 1941 registered letter at 2/6d rate (Figure 2) via Kingston, to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, two times rate of 1/1d plus 3d registration -- overfranked one pence.

3) August 10, 1943 registered letter at 5/6d rate via Jamaica to New York City (Figure 8),

five times 1/1d rate, plus 3d registration -- letter underfranked two pence.

It is our assumption that minimum under- and over-franking was not unusual in an island country where supplies of appropriate values may not have been readily available, or the exact rate was not appropriately disseminated to the business community.

After November 1943, the rate data is more defined. There were 14 airmail letters to the U.S.A. in the period from November 1943 through May 1945 at the 11d rate (Figure 9). Additionally, a registered cover was sent at a 4/10d rate to New York City (Figure 10). This would be a 5 x 11d rate cover, or 55d, plus 3d registration, correctly franked at an 11d per ounce rate.

Since all Cayman Island airmail was sent by surface to Jamaica, and then by airmail to the U.S.A., a review of the Jamaica airmail rates was of some help. The authors have 10 letters from Jamaica to the U.S.A. from 1940 to November 1943, at the 1/- rate. From December 1943 to July 1945, eight letters show a reduced rate of 8d. This tends to substantiate the concept of a rate change for the Cayman Islands in November 1943.

Since government regulations were not available, it is hoped this retrospective study will provide some insight into the wartime Cayman Islands airmail rates to the United States. Furthermore, it is hoped that this article will provoke interest and comments from other collectors to help substantiate the data.

#### Reference

Giraldi, Thomas E. and Peter P. McCann. *The Postal History of the Cayman Islands*. Weston, Mass.: Triad Publications, 1989.

*The cover photograph of the 1919 Peace Memorial in downtown George Town, Grand Cayman, was taken by the editor in July 1985.*



Figure 2

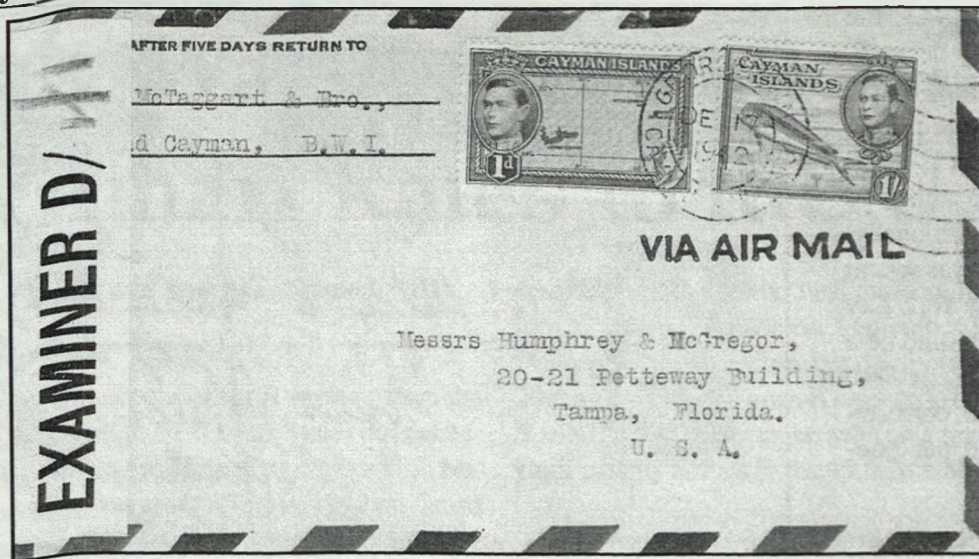
*Cayman Brac, September 3, 1941, sent to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.  
Franking 2/16 without censor markings.*



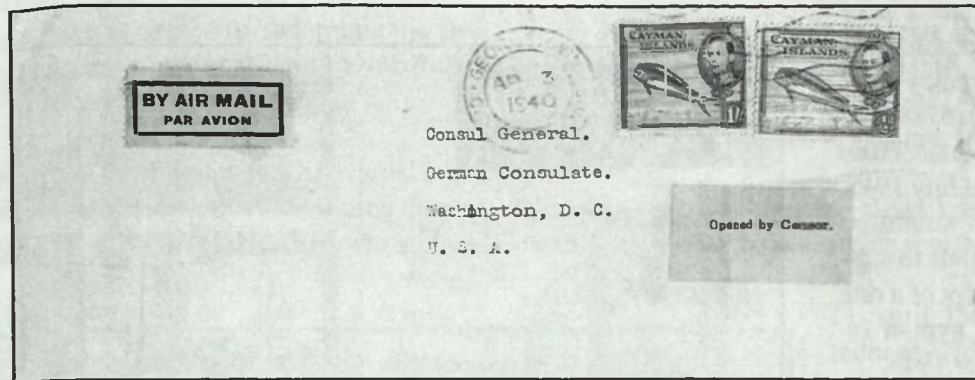
Figure 3

*Cayman Brac, July 28, 1943 to Vernon, British Columbia.  
Franked with 1/1 1/2d postage, crown handstamp censor 42 of Cayman Brac.*

*Illustrations  
4 through 10  
continue on the  
next page.*



**Figure 4**  
 George Town, December 17, 1942 to Tampa, Florida, 11d franking.  
 Resealing tape with D/41 censor of George Town.



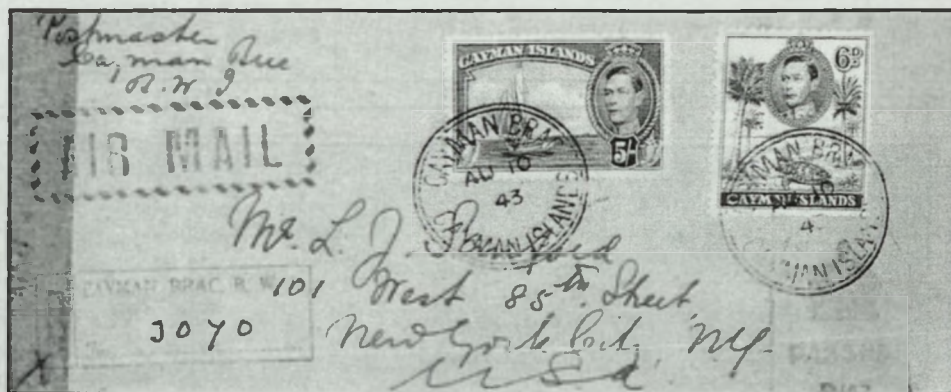
**Figure 5**  
 George Town, April 3, 1940 to the "German Consulate" Washington, D.C.  
 11- 112d franking. Printed apple green, "Opened by Censor" label.



**Figure 6**  
 Cayman Brac, May 13, 1940,  
 11- franking to Vernon,  
 British Columbia.  
 Handstamped,  
 "PASSED BY CENSOR"  
 marking.



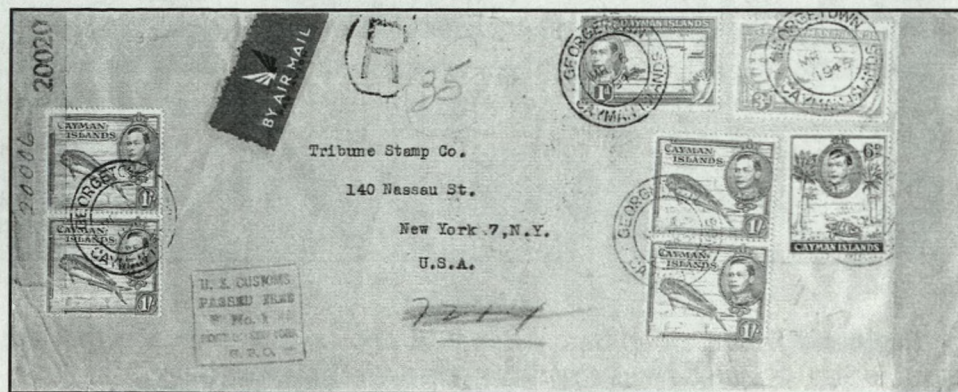
**Figure 7**  
 Cayman Brac, March 21, 1942, 10d franking, sent to Tampa, Florida, circular "Passed by U.S. Censor" marking.



**Figure 8**  
 Registered from Cayman Brac, August 10, 1943, to New York, 5/6d franking, with Cayman Brac crown handstamp censor mark.



**Figure 9**  
*The Creek, Cayman Brac, March 2, 1945 to New York. Franking 11d, with New York censor resealing tape.*



**Figure 10**  
*Registered letter from George Town, March 6, 1945 to New York, 4/10d franking with New York censor resealing tape.*



Table of Cayman Islands Airmail covers mailed during the 1940-45 period

DOM	Rate	Transit Markings & Dates	Destination & Arrival Markings & Dates	Addressee	Comments
2/7/1940	1/4d	Miami, FL Feb 13, 1940	Malvern, Jamaica, Feb 15, 1940	Lisa Hicks	Georgetown, GC; 1st Direct Flight to USA
2/12/1940	11d*	Miami, FL Feb 13, 1940	Brooklyn, NY, Feb 14, 1940	Lester Hoffman	" "
4/3/1940	1 1/2d	none	Washington, DC	German Consulate	Georgetown, GC
5/13/1940	1/-	none	Canada	Openshaw	Cayman Brac
12/11/1940	1 1/2d	none	New Orleans	Parsons	West Bay
2/4/1941	10d	Mobile, AL Feb 12, 1941	Tampa, FL	D. Kirkconnell	Cayman Brac
3/20/1941	1/1d	none	New Orleans	D. C. Parsons	West Bay, via Jamaica
4/15/1941	4/7d*	Kingston, Jamaica Apr 18, 1941 & Miami, FL Apr 22, 1941	Tampa, FL Apr 23, 1941	1st Nat'l Bank of Tampa	Georgetown, GC
9/3/1941	2/6d*	Kingston, Jamaica Sep 12, 1941 & Miami, FL Sep 13, 1941	Pittsburgh, PA Sep 15, 1941	Harry Huber**	Cayman Brac
3/21/1942	10d	none	Tampa, FL	D. Kirkconnell	Cayman Brac
7/26/1942	1/1d	none	NYC	Nat'l Bellas Hess	Georgetown, GC
8/18/1942	10d	none	Tampa, FL	D. Kirkconnell	Cayman Brac
12/11/1942	1/1d	none	NYC	Middleton & Co.	Georgetown, GC
12/17/1942	1/1d	none	Tampa, FL	Humphrey & McGregor	Georgetown, GC
2/4/1943	1/3d	none	Tampa, FL	Humphrey & McGregor	Georgetown, GC
4/15/1943	1/3d	none	NYC	Nat'l Bellas Hess	Cayman Brac
7/28/1943	1/1/2d	none	Canada	Openshaw	Cayman Brac
8/10/1943	5/6d*	Kingston, Jamaica Aug 24, 1943 & Miami, FL Aug 26, 1943	New York, NY Aug 26, 27 & 30, 1943	L. J. Sanford	Cayman Brac
10/5/1943	10/-*	Kingston, Jamaica ?, Miami, FL Nov 3, 1943 & Seattle Nov 14, 1943	Canada	Openshaw	Cayman Brac
11/11/1943	1/3d	none	Tampa, FL	Rayburn Bodden	Georgetown, GC
11/22/1943	11d	none	Houston, TX	Osmon Ebanks	West Bay
12/8/1943	11d	none	Houston, TX	OK Ebanks	West Bay
12/11/1943	11d	none	Binghamton, NY	Atlas Printing	Georgetown GC
12/21/1943	3/3 1/4d*	Kingston, Jamaica Jan 22, 1944 & Miami, FL Jan 24, 1944	Pittsburgh, PA Jan 26, 1944	Harry Huber**	Cayman Brac
1/15/1944	11d	none	Miami, FL	R. C. Yates	Georgetown, GC
2/4/1944	11d	none	Tampa, FL	Lloyd Connolly	Georgetown, GC
2/8/1944	11d	none	Ridley Park, PA	H. Bodden	Georgetown, GC
4/19/1944	11d	none	NYC	Nat'l Bellas Hess	West Bay
5/19/1944	11d	none	Tampa, FL	J. O. Bodden	West Bay
6/10/1944	11d	none	NYC	Nat'l Bellas Hess	Georgetown, GC
6/12/1944	11d	none	NYC	Nat'l Bellas Hess	Cayman Brac
7/31/1944	11d	none	NYC	Nat'l Bellas Hess	The Creek, Brac
7/31/1944	11d	none	New Orleans	Iris Thompson	Georgetown, GC
8/3/1944	11d	none	Pittsburgh, PA Sep 15, 1941	Harry Huber**	Cayman Brac
3/2/1945	11d	none	NYC	Nat'l Bellas Hess	The Creek, Brac
3/6/1945	4/10d*	Kingston, Jamaica Apr 5, 1945	NYC Apr 7, 1945	Tribune Stamp Co.	Georgetown, GC
5/8/1945	10d	none	Randolph, MA May 25, 1945	W. H. Lowd	Georgetown, GC
5/8/1945	9d	none	Randolph, MA	Mrs Lowd	Georgetown, GC
5/10/1945	1/1d*	Kingston, Jamaica May 21, 1945 & Miami, FL May 22, 1945	NYC May 23 & 24, 1945	Nat'l Bellas Hess	West Bay
5/15/1945	11d	none	NYC	Nat'l Bellas Hess	The Creek, Brac
		* Registered cover			
		** Famous name			

# War Tax Stamps of British Caribbean Colonies: An Overview

By Rene P. Manes  
Of the USA

## INTRODUCTION

There are two principal ways that a country can raise funds over and above the cost of required postage on mail deliveries. The first is to impose an obligatory or postal tax on the mail to help defray a particular cost or subsidize a special fund (Scott Catalogue uses category "RA" for these). One example of many hundred such postal taxes are Costa Rican stamps required in December to benefit children's causes. The second way, favored by many European nations, is to print special issues covering both postal fees and a supplement, the latter of which is devoted to a worthy cause. Use of these stamps called semi-postals (Scott Catalogue uses category "B" for these), is voluntary and splendid examples of this category are the semi-annual "pro juventute" and "pro patria" stamps of Switzerland.

## Twenty-five War Tax colonies

Over the years, Great Britain has never resorted to postal taxes or to semi-postals. During World War I, it did raise regular rates on mail at home, but in its colonies, a much less common form of required, supplementary charge was employed -- a War Tax (Scott Catalogue category "MR"). During that conflict, a provisional War Tax was temporarily levied as a contribution to the war costs of the Empire in 26 colonies.

Of the 20 dominions and colonies in the Americas then issuing postage, the only one not to levy a postal War Tax was Newfoundland, which was already contributing mightily in men and resources. The Leeward Islands Federation did not itself issue War Tax stamps, but its Legislative Assembly passed an ordinance instructing each of its five Presidencies (Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, and the Virgin Islands) to impose a half-pence tax on all correspondence addressed within the Empire.

In March 1915, Canada -- followed later in the year by New Zealand -- led the way in imposing a postal War Tax. In the rest of Britain's world-wide Empire, only six other colonies would levy war taxes. They were Ceylon, Gibraltar, Gilbert and Ellice Islands, Gold Coast, Malta, and St. Helena.

## Legal Origin: An Hypothesis

A comprehensive review of these stamps raises as many questions as it offers answers. The fact that so many colonies, large and small, never levied the tax suggests that it was not absolutely required by London. Was it adopted voluntarily by so many colonies as a result of the early initiatives of Canada and New Zealand, or is there an intermediate answer? Did the Colonial Office in London ask for a contribution to the Empire's war costs, but left it to each colony to choose the means by which its obligation would be met?

A leading authority on the World War I War Tax stamps was Douglas B. Armstrong, who discussed them in the *West End Philatelist* (Vol. 16, 17 - [1919, 1920]). In the extended series, Armstrong started with Canada and then, alphabetically from Antigua to the Virgin Islands, covering dates of issue, printing particulars, varieties, etc. He covered a total of 24 colonies. Unfortunately, appearing so soon after the end of the war, his discussion omitted some of the later War Tax issues. Also, Armstrong never directly addressed the legal origin of the postal War Tax.

In his section on Ceylon, he did mention that Ceylon's Legislature decided to raise taxes, including new levies on postal and telegraphic rates, "in order to pay on a deficit of £1,400,000 in the colony's contribution to the Imperial War Revenue." This statement could be interpreted to mean that postal taxes were simply one of many optional ways that each colony could elect to pay its indebtedness (*Figure 1*).

A survey of the War Tax stamps of the 17 British Caribbean colonies supports the latter explanation, namely that the postal War Tax was an elective way of making a required contribution, but that considerable discretion was allowed in its imposition. A first impression of sameness in these stamps is contradicted by the fact that, with respect to incidence, timing, implementation and printing, each colony seems to have gone its own, independent way.

## 1) Incidence or What Was Taxed

In every Caribbean colony, the War Tax was imposed by local authority. Most often, the War Tax was imposed by an act of the colony's legislative assembly. In British

Honduras and St. Lucia, it was imposed by order of the Governor in Council and in Grenada and the Turks and Caicos Islands, by Post Office War Tax Ordinance.

The amounts of tax were small, ranging from 1/2d to 3d, with exception of the Bahamas, which taxed one shilling on all incoming and outgoing packages (*Figure 2*). As a result, all of the regular issue, or non-variety, War Tax stamps are well within the reach of the everyday collector, the one exception being Cayman Islands Scott MR3 (Stanley Gibbons' #55), which today sells (or catalogues) for over \$1,000 mint or used.<sup>1</sup>

Armstrong quickly wearied of quoting the specific text of the tax order for each colony, but it is clear nevertheless that incidence varied widely from colony to colony. A brief enumeration makes the point. Barbados charged 1d on all mail requiring 1d regular postage. Trinidad and Tobago required 1/2d on postcards and printed matter and 1d on letters within the Empire; British Guiana required two cents on all correspondence within the Empire and the U.S.A. Bahamian charges were 1/2d on all postcards, 1d on all letters, 3d on bills of lading and one shilling on all incoming and outgoing packages. Jamaica, in addition to letter taxes, levied 3d on all telegrams and 3d on all packets sent within the Empire and all incoming packages regardless of origin.

Even in the Presidencies of the Leewards, which followed that Federation's instructions quite closely, there were variations. Antigua charged 1/2d on all mail addressed within the Empire except inter-island traffic, while Dominica charged the same 1/2d, but excepted both local mail as well as inter-island traffic from the tax. Dominica and the Virgin Islands also imposed a 3d levy on parcels. When the Virgin Islands decided to impose the Federation's recommended amount, it exempted mail to the Leeward Islands, but in February 1917, extended the War Tax to mail to the U.S.A.<sup>2</sup>

## 2) Timing of the War Tax

To compare and highlight the differences in timing of the War Tax by the colonies, the dates of the first and last issues will be used. Between the date of Jamaica's first issue in 1916 and that of Bermuda's first issue in 1918, a full two years elapsed. A total of nine colonies imposed the tax in the summer and fall of 1916; five during 1917, including the larger colonies of Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados; and three as late as 1918 (the Bahamas, Bermuda and British Guiana). The Cayman Islands allowed a one year law to lapse and went three months in 1918 without the levy before reimposing it.

At the end of the war, many colonies hastened to remove

the tax but others continued to issue new War Tax stamps in 1919 (Bahamas, Dominica, Jamaica, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos) and even in 1920 (Bermuda and the Caymans). Jamaica's tax expired in March 1920 and Bermuda, the last to tax, was the last to remove the levy, on December 31, 1920. When the tax had expired, several colonies, including the Virgin Islands and Bermuda, accepted War Tax stamps in the hands of the public as regular postage. These widely varying dates are further indication of the very considerable autonomy of each colony.

## 3) Implementation or How the Tax Was Collected

Initially in every colony, a supplementary, overcharged regular issue stamp was added to the required postage on mail or packages for delivery within the Empire (with the earlier-noted exceptions for local mail, inter-island mail, etc.). Scott lists 88 different War Tax (or "MR") issues, not counting varieties. Scattered among regular issues from 1916 to 1920, the author has counted 93 War Tax stamps in Stanley Gibbons, the major difference being due to Scott's ignoring or listing as varieties five of St. Vincent's War Tax stamps.

Most prolific were the Bahamas, issuing 14 different War Tax stamps, followed by Trinidad and Tobago (13), Turks and Caicos (13), and Jamaica (11), while Barbados and British Guiana got by with one stamp each. The words "war tax" have been used in the above discussion, but in fact, only nine colonies used those actual words on the overcharge. Six colonies chose instead to use the words "war stamp." St. Kitts-Nevis used "War Tax" on its first issue, then on its second, changed to "War Stamp." Finally, in British Honduras, the overcharge was a dramatic one word: "WAR" (*Figure 3*)!

Jamaica was the first colony not to use supplementary, overcharged postage for war tax purposes. On July 13, 1916, it introduced its first 1 1/2d stamp for the prepayment of combined postage and War Tax on letters. This stamp appears as Scott #62 or SG #59, and presumably was used for the combined purpose, making it, in fact, a war stamp. Less than two months later, on September 1, 1916, Jamaica added the overprint, "War Stamp" to this stamp, now catalogued as Scott MR5 or SG #71 (*Figure 4*).

Subsequently, under the guidance of Kingston, Jamaica, six of the Cayman Islands' seven war stamps were overcharged 1 1/2d and used as combined postage. In one other instance, combined postage was used by four of the Leeward Island Presidencies: namely, Antigua in July 1918; St. Kitts-Nevis in August 1918; Montserrat in March 1919 (by overprinting 1 1/2d stamps with "War Stamp") and Dominica in June 1918 (by overprinting a 2 1/2d stamp

with 1 1/2d) [Figure 5]. In all, it appears that only 11 British Caribbean War Tax stamps were used as combined postage.

In his introduction, Armstrong mentioned that in a limited number of colonies, "no distinguishing imprint was applied to stamps ... additional 1/2 or 1d stamps of the regular postage series merely being affixed to each letter or packet" (p. 4). He is probably not referring to any of the Caribbean colonies where overprints were used universally. It is true, though, that in British Honduras (from June 1916 to August of that year) and in the Virgin Islands, the War Tax was levied by ordinary postage until special stamps could be provided. A cover with such additional, regular stamps levied as a postal War Tax is an interesting collector's item.

#### 4) The Printing Process

Once each Colonial authority had acted to impose a postal War Tax, a decision remained regarding where to imprint the new stamps. Roughly half of the overcharges were commissioned to Messrs. De La Rue (DLR) in London, and half were printed locally (LOC).

Several of the larger colonies opted for local printing, notably Trinidad and Tobago, which produced all 13 of its issues locally, and Jamaica, which produced nine of 11 in Kingston. The smaller colonies which ordered overcharged stamps from De La Rue faced inevitable war-time delays. In his unit on St. Vincent, Armstrong specifically refers to "delays of London overprinted stamps due to the submarine menace." Some colonies simply waited for deliveries to arrive -- among these, Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, and Montserrat; or, like the Virgin Islands and Bermuda as noted earlier, used additional regular postage until overprints arrived.

Other colonies resorted to one-time local printing until a dependable supply of the overcharges could be relied on; such was the case with Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent. Local printing for the Cayman Islands was done in its parent colony, Jamaica. It is interesting and seems to testify to the relative latitude given to each colony that the De La Rue overprints were not of a standard form, but corresponded to the varying requests of each colony.

What has most captivated the interest of collectors in many war stamp issues are the varieties which are found, primarily in the locally printed overcharges. Armstrong asserted that Trinidad and Tobago "provided the most extensive range of varieties found in Colonial war tax stamps." Without a count of Trinidad varieties, this claim may be open to challenge by Jamaica. Aguilar in *The Philatelic Handbook of Jamaica, Vol. 2*, pages 35-41,

itemizes over 70 of the more common Jamaican varieties (double overprints, inverted overprints, misspellings, missed stops, etc.). A.N. Johnson in *Jamaica: A Review of the Postal History and Postage* mentions casually having "over 100 varieties of these stamps including one with the overprint on the reverse side." Prior comment on the inexpensive nature of these stamps does not apply to many varieties (Figure 6).

#### CONCLUSION

The author has had to rely on catalogues, on Armstrong's survey and the literature of a limited number of colonies, such as Jamaica and the Virgin Islands. The relatively few articles in the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* on these stamps have all focused on a single colony and especially on varieties of a single issue. Surely corrections and additions can be made to this attempt at a comprehensive study. Even with incomplete data, a compendium of World War I War Tax stamps seems warranted. They deserve more attention and should be viewed together, not as "back of the album" or scattered items in each colony, but rather as a cohesive collection, the product of a major historic event.

#### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Both Scott and Stanley Gibbons catalogues are referenced in this overview. Scott is easier to work with because of its classification system while Stanley Gibbons co-mingles war tax, semipostals, etc., with definitives. On the other hand, Stanley Gibbons usually provides more information on color, dates of issue, printer and varieties.

<sup>2</sup> Armstrong charges the Virgin Islands with being the last of the Leeward dependencies to adopt the war tax when in fact, Montserrat was the last to do so.

Figure 1



Canada  
Scott MR1  
SG 228

New Zealand  
Scott MR1  
SG 452

*Early War Tax stamps*

TABLE 1

	ISSUES					DATES		PRINTER
	Scott	StanGib	War Tax	War Stamp	WAR	First Issue	Last Issue	DLR = De La Rue LOC = Local
Antigua	3	3		x		9/1916	7/1918	DLR
Bahamas	14	14	x			2/1918	7/1919	LOC(5)/DLR(9)
Barbados	1	2	x			10/1917	--	DLR
Bermuda	2	2	x			5/1918	2/1920	LOC
British Guiana	1	1	x			1/1918	--	DLR
British Honduras	5	5			x	8/1916	-/1918	LOC(3)/DLR(2)
Cayman Islands	7	7		x		2/1917	1919/20	LOC(3)/DLR(4)
Dominica	5	5	x			9/1916	1919	DLR
Grenada	2	2	x			6/1916	9/1916	LOC/DLR
Jamaica	11	10		x		4/1916	4/1919	LOC(9)/DLR(2)
Montserrat	3	3		x		10/1917	3/1919	DLR
St. Kitts-Nevis	2	2	x	x		10/1916	8/1918	DLR
St. Lucia	2	2	x			6/1916	9/1916	LOC/DLR
St. Vincent	2	7		x		6/1916	1918	LOC/DLR
Trinidad & Tobago	13	13	x			4/1917	9/1918	LOC
Turks & Caicos	13	13	x			1/1917	12/1919	LOC(6)/DLR(7)
British Virgin Islands	2	2		x		10/1916	--	DLR

TOTAL: 88 93

*Deadlines**Deadlines**Deadlines**Deadlines*

*We've all got them, and this journal is no different! Deadlines for receiving material for publication (and that means in the editor's hands, not mailed) and the anticipated mailing date for each of the quarterly issues of this publication are now found at the bottom of page 3. Please take note of these dates!*

Figure 2

*Bahamas one shilling  
War Tax  
(one of three issues)*



Bahamas  
Scott MR4  
SG 95

Figure 5

*Other "combined" stamps*



Cayman Islands  
Scott MR1  
SG 53



Antigua  
Scott MR3  
SG 54

Figure 3

*The Three Overprints*



St. Lucia  
Scott MR1  
SG 89



Virgin Islands  
Scott MR1  
SG 78



British Honduras  
Scott MR5  
SG 120



Dominica  
Scott MR5  
SG 60



Montserrat  
Scott MR3  
SG 62

Figure 4

*Jamaica's combined regular and War Tax postage*



Jamaica  
Scott 62  
SG 59



Jamaica  
Scott MR5  
SG 71

Figure 6

*Obvious catalogued varieties*



Trinidad &  
Tobago  
Scott MR11b  
SG 186b  
(inverted)



Jamaica  
Scott MR5  
SG 71b  
(missing "S")

*Minor uncatalogued variety*



Trinidad &  
Tobago  
Scott MR8  
SG 74  
(broken "W")

# An Update to Tourism and Philately in Barbados: 1932-1950

By Jerone Hart  
Treasurer

Since the above article appeared in the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, (Volume 46, No. 2, April-June 2006, Whole No. 219, pages 4-14), I have heard from two of our members who contributed some interesting additional information on this topic.

sending this scan along to me.

The second interesting bit of information comes from Guillaume Vadeboncoeur in Canada who is one of our dealer members. I purchased a picture postcard of the S.S. *Uruguay* that was posted in Barbados and carries the handstamp from the Information Bureau at Pier Head. The card is dated May 6, 1940. Included with the card

was a photograph of the Information Bureau (see Figure 2). The back of the photograph carries a manuscript notation "Information Bureau, Barbados, Pier Head, 1983." It is hard to know if the facility in this picture changed much from the time that it was opened in 1935 or 1936 to when the picture was taken in 1983. Nonetheless, it gives us an idea of what the Information Bureau at Pier Head looked like in 1983. Many thanks to Guillaume for the interesting picture of this facility.

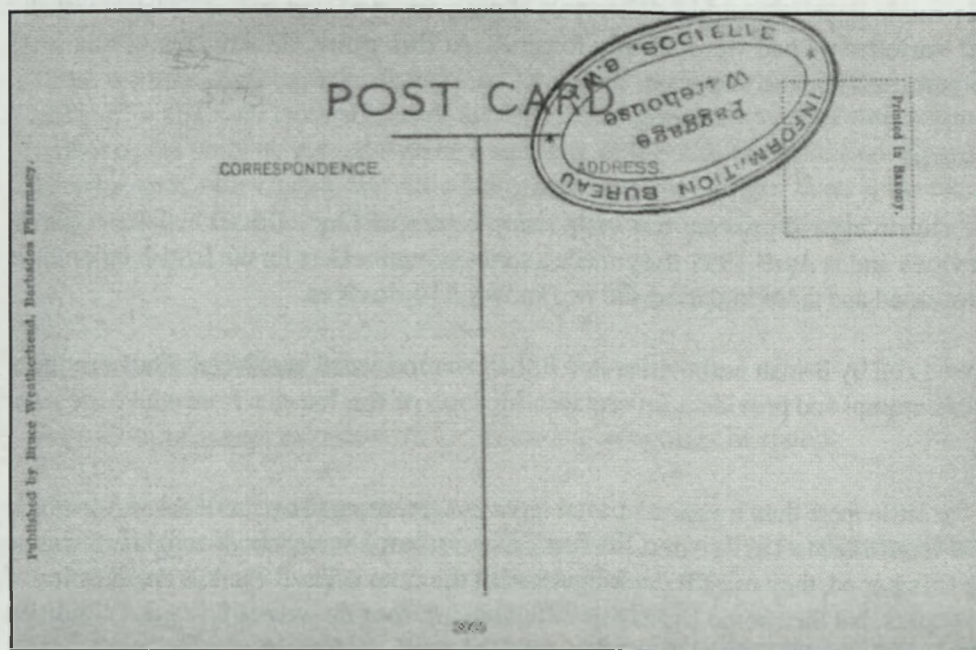


Figure 1

First, let me thank Tom Giraldi, our membership director. Tom sent me a scan of a lot of three Barbados postcards (view cards) that he had put up on eBay some time ago - a lot which I unfortunately missed! On page 13 of the *Journal*, I state: "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." One of the cards that Tom sold on eBay clearly indicates that picture postcards were indeed pre-hand-stamped in advance with the Bureau cachet at least at the Information Bureau located at the Baggage Warehouse (see Figure 1). Again, many thanks to Tom for

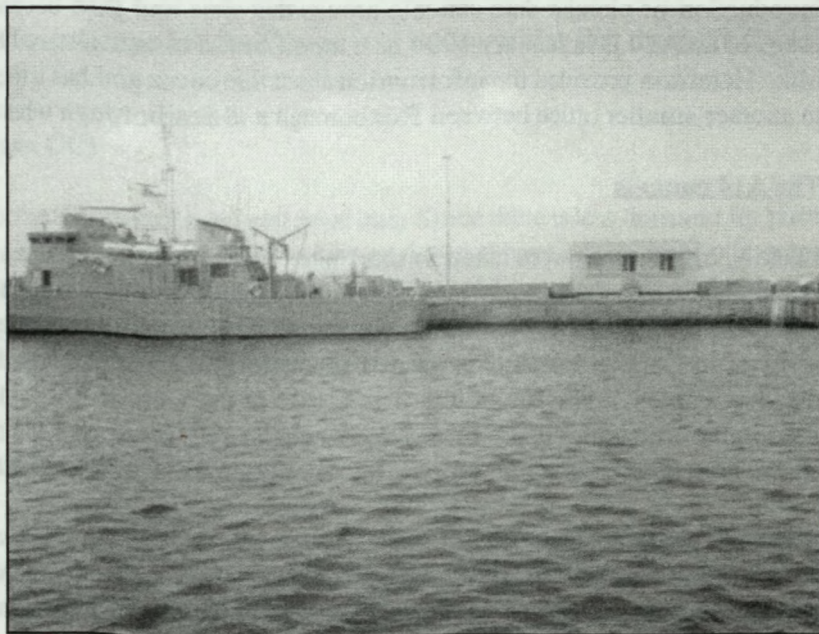


Figure 2

# The Tobago A14 Handstamps and Their Forgeries

By Thomas Anderson and Edward Barrow

*Of the USA*

This study was originally intended to catalog the varieties of A14 cancels that were used by the Tobago Post Office between 1858 and the early 1900s. The stamps personally accumulated suggested that there were more than the two varieties recorded in the literature. However, after extensive research and consultation with experienced collectors, we concluded that there were only two "A14" cancels, both which were produced in April of 1858. These two cancels made impressions that differ only slightly in appearance. The downside of this discovery is that all the so-called varieties we had were simply forgeries. At this point, the direction of this study changed to one of separating the genuine from the forgeries.

## The History of the A14 handstamps

Perkins Bacon is best known for engraving and printing the early stamp issues of Great Britain and her colonies. They also produced canceling devices and in April 1858 they made a series of cancellers for the British colonies in the Caribbean. Two sets were produced and these included the two known A14 devices.

In 1858 the Tobago Post Office was run by British authorities and British stamps were introduced. The purpose of the A14 devices was to cancel these stamps and provide a unique identification of the location from where the letter was sent.

The use of British stamps lasted for little more than a year as postal services were turned over to local authorities in 1860. Since stamps were not used from 1860 to 1879 (when the first Tobago stamps were introduced), there was no need for the A14 cancels. During this period, they must have languished at the post office.<sup>1</sup> There is the question of anything lasting 20 years in the tropics, but then some lightly used Trinidad numerals were still in good condition after 120 years in the tropics. And while records show that other colonies such as Jamaica required replacement "A01" cancellers, we have not found any record of replacement A14s ever being sent to Tobago. In 1879 the A14s were dusted off and extensively used on Tobago stamp issues up to the mid-1880s. Their use falls off with the introduction of circular date cancels around that time and then becomes exceptional past the mid 1890s. The last usage of an A14 is in January 1904 as a transit cancel on a registered envelope from Roxborough to Port of Spain.<sup>2</sup> Mike Hamilton provided the information about this cover and has a theory that the A14 might have been reallocated to another smaller office between Roxborough and Scarborough where it was used as a transit cancel.

## The A14 cancels

Luckily, impressions were taken in the United Kingdom before shipment and have survived. These provide the best reference for separating the wheat from the chaff.<sup>3</sup> It seems that proofs of the A14 cancels were taken at different points on their journey; by Perkins Bacon, possibly by the Crown Agents and by the GPO in London. The GPO archives in London actually have three impressions of A14s. The third one is undated, but by comparing it with the dated examples, it is apparent that it is a strike of the 14th of April A14 (and a much clearer one at that, hence it is used in the illustration). The first was sent on the 14th of April 1858 and the second on the 28th of April. Figure 1 shows both impressions plus an overlay. For the sake of clarity, the A14s are classified by the sending date.

The basic design of both devices is an A14 framed at the top and bottom by three parallel bars and on either side by two concentric arcs. This gives the cancel an overall oval shape. The lettering consists of straight lines with wide serifs at the baseline. The "1" has a large serif at the top that forms a right angle with the vertical stroke. The top angle of the "A" comes to a sharp point; the top angle of the "4" is blunt. The vertical stroke of the "1" and "4" and the right leg of the "A" are thick. Table 1 shows measurements taken from both proofs and full strikes on stamps.



Table 1: Dimensions of Genuine A14 Cancels

Canceller	Height	Width	Top Angle of "A"	Top Angle of "4"
April 14th, 1858	17.3mm	21.8mm	42 degrees	42 degrees
April 28th, 1858	17.5mm	22.5mm	37 degrees	43 degrees

The table shows that both devices are very similar but there are a few distinguishing features that can be used to separate the two (see Figure 2). The most notable one concerns the cross stroke of the "A." In the April 14th version, it is approximately at the same level as the cross stroke of the "4" while on the April 28th version it is noticeably lower than the cross stroke of the "4." Also the April 28th version is overall wider than the April 14th version. And on the April 28th version, the bases of the "A" and the "1" nearly touch.

There is also a small imperfection in the April 14th version which we had initially thought was the result of "wear and tear" – that is the cross stroke of the "4" to the right of the vertical stroke appears to be broken. But since this is visible on the proof we regard it to be a signature of the April 14th version. The April 28th version is seen much less than the April 14th version, the ratio being in the region of 1:20. There is no clear reason for this disparity, perhaps they were used for different purposes but this has not been ascertained.

### The Forgeries

#### Where forged A14s are found

Fake A14s have been recorded on the following categories of stamps:

1. Great Britain postage stamps.
2. Tobago fiscal stamps (watermark, Crown CC, which were authorized for postal use in 1879)
3. Later Tobago fiscal stamps (watermark, Crown CA)
4. Tobago postage stamps (both real and forged)
5. Stamps of other British West Indies colonies

#### **Great Britain Postage stamps**

Given the high catalogue value for Great Britain stamps used in Tobago, it is not surprising that there are forgeries. (See Figure 3 for examples).

#### **Tobago fiscal stamps (watermarked Crown CC)**

The first series of Tobago stamps was authorized for both postal and fiscal use. Since there is less demand for fiscally used stamps, forgers have an incentive to turn these into postally used examples and have a large pool of stamps to work with. Thus it is not surprising that the bulk of the forgeries we saw fell into this category. Most fiscal stamps were cancelled by hand and in ink, so typically the forger bleaches the ink out and then applies a forged cancel. However, complete removal of the ink is impossible and faint brown marks usually remain. (See Figure 4 for examples).

#### **Later Tobago fiscal stamps (watermarked Crown CA)**

After the first stamp issue, Tobago continued to issue fiscal stamps. At first the same colors were used but on watermark Crown CA paper; later new colors and a new value were added (the 4d lilac and carmine). Forged A14s were applied to these issues for two purposes; first, to pass off fiscals printed on Crown CA paper as their more expensive postally used Crown CC cousins; and second, to generate "fiscal-postally used" rarities, (i.e. the exceptional case when a fiscal is accepted for payment of postage).

**Tobago Postage Stamps (both real and forged)**

The most obvious reason for the application of a forged A14 cancel is to turn a lower value mint stamp into a higher value used stamp. For example, one 6d of the first issue (SG 3, Scott 3) can be turned into two used bisects (SG 7, Scott 7) with about 40 times the catalogue value. Similarly, stamps with heavily toned or no gum can be "improved" to become a more "respectable" used stamp. (See Figure 5 for examples).

There are also forged Tobago stamps with A14 cancels. But there is no reason to believe that any of these were ever brought to Tobago with the intention of passing them through the Tobago post office. In other words, if a stamp is found to be a forgery of a Tobago stamp, any cancel on that stamp is also a forgery.

**Stamps of other BWI colonies**

Forged A14 cancels have turned up on the stamps of other BWI countries. This may have been due to ignorance on the part of the forger or yet another attempt to make something esoteric for collectors. The example shows a forged A14 applied to a Grenada postal/fiscal. With this cancel, the numbers are improperly made: "1" has a slanting serif and "4" has an open-top style. By enlarging this stamp on a computer screen, we are able to make out the remains of a manuscript date, indicating that this stamp was used for fiscal purposes before being "faked" (see Figure 6).

Even though this study is about A14 cancels, this is perhaps a good time to mention that we also found a fair number of cancels supposedly from other islands applied to Tobago stamps. Figure 7 shows a selection of these, all of which, in our opinion, are dubious. We should also mention that we did come across a couple examples of Tobago CDS applied to cleaned fiscals. These cancels could either be outright forgeries or applied by favor later on (see Figure 8).

**A Closer look at the Forgers and their work**

Not all forged A14s are of the same caliber. Figure 9 shows an example of a high quality forgery. The cleaning has been done very well, but when the image of the stamp is enlarged, brown tones can be seen on the face of the stamp. The character, shape and size of the fake "A14" are very close to the April 28th cancel (see Table 2 below).

**Table 2: Comparison of Forged Cancel and Genuine A14**

Canceller	Top Angle of "A"	Top Angle of "4"
5 shilling fake (Figure 2)	35 degrees	41 degrees
April 28, 1858	37 degrees	43 degrees

The top angle differences are imperceptible. With the fake, however, the cross stroke on the "A" is higher than that of the April 28th (closer to the April 14th). Also the top of the "A" is blunted whereas on either genuine cancel, the top of the "A" is sharp. It is unlikely that this would be due to wear and tear as later examples of both A14s still show sharp peaks on the "A." And it is unlikely that the wear and tear would have been so even to leave such a clearly defined top.

Not all fakes were made with such attention to detail. Figure 10 shows an example of a bad A14 forgery on an 1879 one-penny rose. It is easy to see that this is not a genuine cancel; almost every feature is wrong. Each character is poorly formed. The "A" is too wide with convex sides. The "1" has a sloping serif at the top. The "4" is narrow and contains two curved lines and an open top. The cross stroke of the "4" is lower than that of the "A." There is also a fiscal cancel that is noticeable to the naked eye.

Not all forgers are anonymous. In some cases, the works of well-known forgers were purchased by philatelic societies who catalogued and produced reference specimens. There are four names associated with forged A14s: Sperati, Panelli, Madame Joseph and Fournier. These are discussed separately on following pages.

## Fournier

During the first half of the 20th Century, the demand for collectible postage stamps greatly exceeded supply. Fournier's solution was to openly produce and promote the collecting of facsimiles.<sup>4</sup> In Geneva, Fournier published a periodical, *Le Fac-Simile*. The cover of a 1912 issue of *Le Fac-Simile* has just been reproduced on the cover of the journal of the American Philatelic Research Library that contains the figure of bandaged beggar. Tyler quotes the caption for this image: "Why has this man become a beggar? Because he spent all his money on 'so-called' genuine postage stamps for he had heard that they were the best and most profitable investment. But when he wanted to sell his collection, it was found to contain many favor cancellations, forged stamps, etc. If he had spent only a little money for some facsimiles, then he would have had a more beautiful and cheaper collection with more rarities. Instead of becoming a beggar, he would have had his money in the bank and been able to drink his daily coffee in the Café Bauer on Unter den Linden as well as admire daily his facsimile collection purchased from – F. Fournier, Geneva." (*Philatelic Literature Review*: Third Quarter, 2005). Ironically, 100 years later, the work of Fournier (and other well-know forgers) is keenly sought after by collectors and, in some instances, approach and surpasses the price of legitimate stamps. The Fournier A14 comes very close to the real thing, (see *Figure 11*). The shape and size of the characters are fairly accurate, although the right leg of the "A" and the vertical strokes of the "1" and "4" are too thin. The parts of the cancel that should strike the collector as odd are the three bars above and below A14. These bars are too thin and not rounded to produce the oval shape of this cancel. The bar directly above the A14 actually protrudes beyond the double arc on the right side. Table 3 gives a comparison of the measurements of the Fournier with the genuine April 14th cancel.

**Table 3: Comparison of Fournier forgery with Genuine A14**

Canceller	Top Angle of "A"	Top Angle of "4"	Height	Width
April 14, 1858	42 degrees	42 degrees	17.3mm	21.8mm
Fournier (Fig. 6)	41 degrees	40 degrees	16mm	21mm

While the lettering on the Fournier is fairly accurate, the bars (and the overall shape) should not fool a well-versed collector.

## Sperati

Sperati, originally from Italy, set up shop in France at the time of World War I and became one of the finest philatelic forgers of all time. In 1953, the British Philatelic Association bought his entire stock and equipment and published examples of his work. This included three A14 cancels (see *Figure 12*).

The Sperati type "a" forgery has the opposite problems to the Fournier example. He captured the oval shape although the bars and arcs are a bit thick. However, the letters are not accurate; the top angle of the "A" and "4" are too narrow; the '1' has a small curved serif at the top, and the serifs on the baseline are far too small.

The Sperati type "b" forgery has similarities to the April 28th cancel, namely that the cross stroke of the "A" is lower than that of the "4." Also, the top angles of the "A" and "4" approach the genuine cancels. The baseline serifs of the "A" and "1" nearly touch, which is like the April 14th version. Two problems occur at the tops of the "A" and "1." The "A" in this forgery lacks the sharp point at the top; the "1" lacks the large overhanging serif at the top. These two problems are corrected in the Sperati type "c."

The Sperati type "c" forgery is the most troublesome of the three because the proof only shows part of the design. The tops of the letters are visible, and, in this case, they appear to be very similar to the real A14s.

Table 4 on the next page compares the three Sperati forgeries to the April 14th cancel.

Table 4: Comparison of Sperati forgeries with Genuine A14

Canceller	Top Angle of "A"	Top Angle of "4"	Height	Width
April 14, 1858	42 degrees	42 degrees	17.3mm	21.8mm
Sperati A (Fig. 7)	30 degrees	33 degrees	19mm	24mm
Sperati B (Fig. 7)	44 degrees	42 degrees	18mm	21mm
Sperati C (Fig. 7)	40 degrees	45 degrees	17mm	21mm

### Madame Joseph

The story of the Madame Joseph forgeries has entered stamp collecting lore. Madame Joseph was a pseudonym given to a French forger who was hired by a London dealer to produce forged cancels. The stamp dealer would use these cancels to turn mint stamps into higher priced used ones. There is an apocryphal story of a customer asking for a particular used stamp and being told that he did not currently have it but would tomorrow. That night the dealer would cancel a mint stamp and have it ready for the morning. The entire stock of cancels of this dealer came into the hands of Derek Worboys who has published a guide titled *Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks*. There is one Madame Joseph A14 recorded (see Figure 13). The overall shape of the cancel is close to the genuine article and the A is a good match to the April 28th A14. But it is easily spotted by the open-top "4."

### Panelli

There is a range of Tobago stamp forgeries attributed to Angelo Panelli and these have forged A14 cancels on them, (Figure 14 shows a typical example). The first warning should be that the stamp itself is forged, but also the "A" has a flat top and the top angle of the "A" and "4" are too narrow. Panelli is thought to have marketed the work of other forgers as well, so it is not certain if the Tobago forgeries are actually his work.

### CONCLUSION

In the course of writing this article, we have been astounded at the sheer number of forged A14 cancels we encountered. It may well be the case that, for the first issue, forgeries outnumber the genuine, especially with the high values. It has also been surprising to see the number of forgeries that litter the auction catalogs of reputable auction houses. In fact, when collectors come across Tobago stamps with A14 cancels, they should keep the phrase caveat emptor in the front of their mind: Let the buyer beware!

**Bibliography, Acknowledgments and Methodology****Books and Periodicals**

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Tyler, Varro E. *Philatelic Forgers: Their Lives and Works*. London: Robson Lowe, 1976.

Worboys, Derek. *Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks*. London: The Royal Philatelic Society London, 1994.

**Libraries and Archives**

David Beech of The Royal Philatelic Society London.

Elizabeth Culver of The British Postal Museum & Archive.

Ellen Peachey of The American Philatelic Research Library.

**Exhibit Notes**

Arnold (AE) Beach

Reuben A. Ramkissoon

**Philatelists With Whom We Conferred and Wish to Thank**

Federico Borromeo

Joe Chin-Aleong

Charles A. Freeland

Michael Hamilton

Reuben A. Ramkissoon

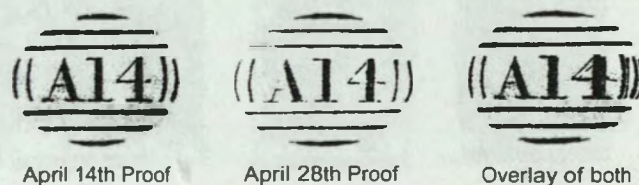
Mark Rowe

**Notes on Methodology**

Measurements – the measurements of height and width of cancels were made with a simple metric scale to the nearest millimeter. These measurements were made only on original impressions.

Angles – angles were measured by printing a greatly enlarged image of a stamp, using a straight edge to make a pencil line over sides of the A and 4, and finally using a simple protractor to measure the angle formed at the intersections of the pencil lines.

Overlays – These were done by floating images of one cancel over the other using Adobe Photoshop.

**ILLUSTRATIONS**

**Figure 1: The A14 Proofs (reproduced by kind permission of The British Postal Museum & Archive).**

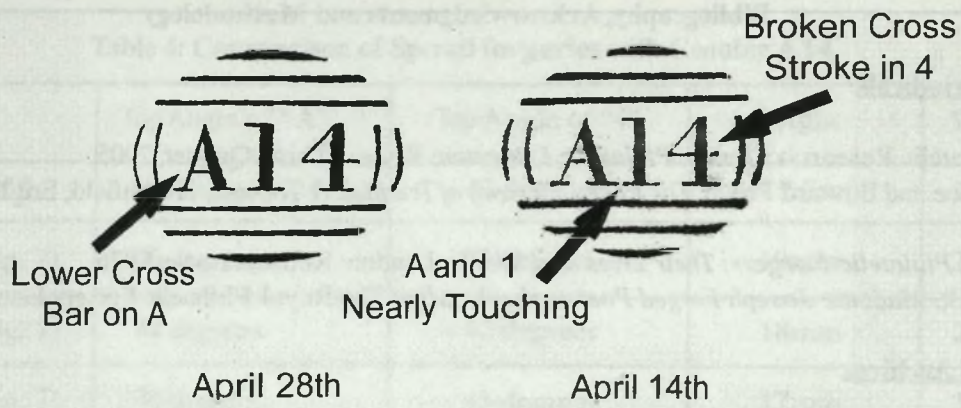


Figure 2: Enlargement showing the distinguishing features of each cancel.



Figure 3: Examples of forged A14 cancels on Great Britain stamps.

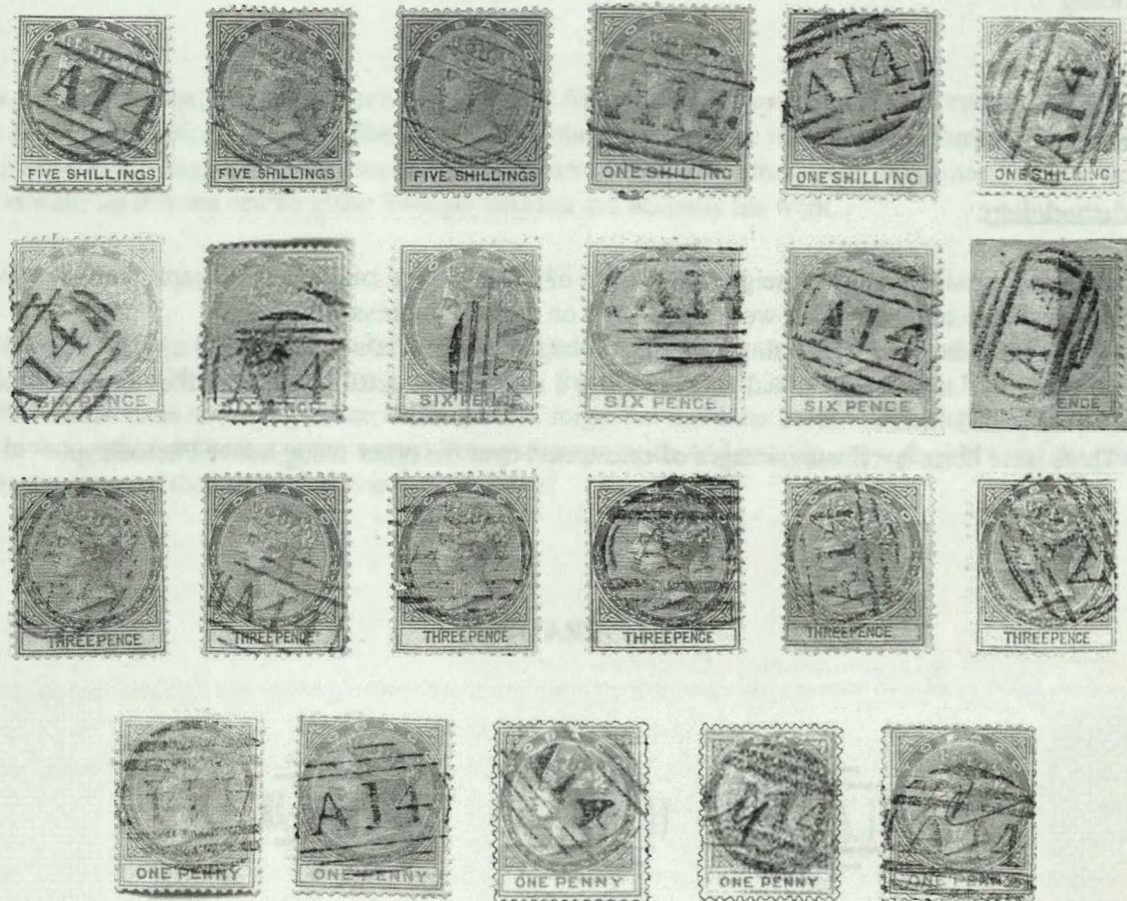


Figure 4: Examples of forged A14 cancels on Tobago fiscal stamps.



Figure 5: Examples of forged A14 cancels on Tobago postage stamps.



Figure 6: Forged A14 cancel on a Grenada postage stamp.



Figure 7: Examples of dubious BWI cancels on Tobago stamps.



Figure 8: Examples of dubious Tobago CDS on Tobago stamps.



Figure 9: Forged cancel on 5/- with Crown CC watermark.



Figure 10: Forged cancel on one-penny with Crown CC watermark.

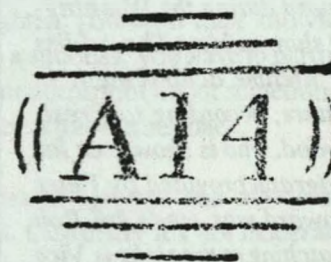
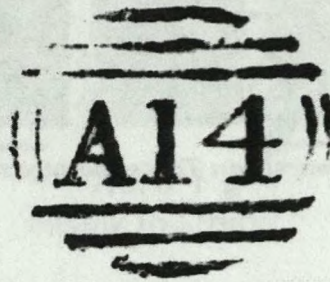


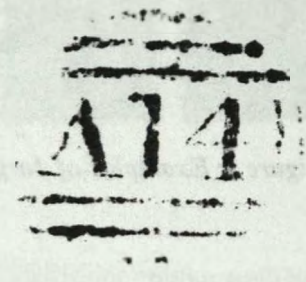
Figure 11: The Fournier forgeries.



Type A



Type B

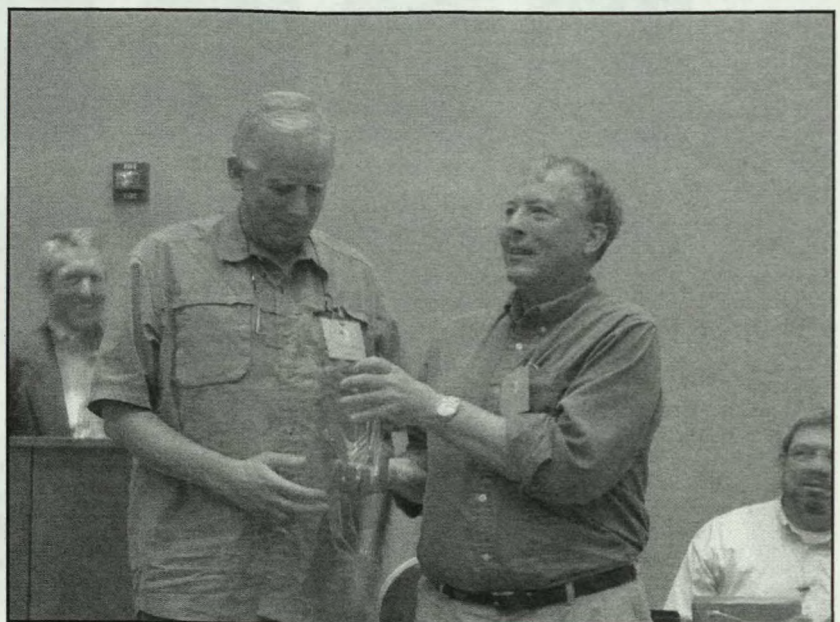


Type C

*Figure 12: The Sperati forgeries.**Figure 13: The Madame Joseph forgery (reproduced with kind permission of The Royal Philatelic Society London).**Figure 14: The Panelli forgery.*

## *Michel Forand honored at Washington 2006*

*Michel Forand of Ottawa, Ontario, was presented with a prestigious lifetime achievement award during the Washington 2006 stamp show in May. The Addiss Award was for lifetime achievement in philatelic literature, according to President Jack Harwood, who is shown at far left in this photograph provided by Peter C. Elias. The award was made by Rob Wynstra, and watching at the right is Vice President Ed Waterous. Much more about the BCPSG activities at Washington 2006 will be provided in the October issue of the Journal.*





## Some nice “finds” at Washington 2006

By Peter Elias

Trustee, St. Vincent Study Group Leader

I managed to squeeze in three days at the recent international philatelic exhibition, Washington 2006. I would have stayed a day or two longer, but unfortunately this little philatelic excursion was sandwiched between two business trips. While I did not see any St. Vincent-related exhibits at the show, I did manage to purchase several nice little covers and other sundry St. Vincent items for my collection.

First up is a 10¢ issue from the 1950s (Scott #184) that exhibits what the dealer called a “confetti” flaw. It is a circular unprinted area smack on the middle of the king’s head. This flaw is 5mm in diameter and appears to have been the result of a small circular piece of paper (a hole punch?) that was temporarily stuck either on the paper or the printing cylinder. While not a true “error,” it is an interesting visual “freak.”

The other item that I managed to acquire was a nice little stampless folded letter from November 1858 sent to London. It contains a “crowned circle” PAID AT ST. VINCENT marking. The dealer remarked that I was getting a “good deal” since he was about ready to mark it up another couple hundred dollars to make it closer in price to what it might bring in the United Kingdom. Needless to say, I paid below half of what the Gibbons catalog value is for this item.

My motto: “look and ye shall find.” Granted, I seem to do more looking than finding, but it does start with looking. While I bought other St. Vincent covers, these two items were my best acquisitions at the show and only ones of BWI significance. I did, of course, do other things at the show and have written two general “trip report” articles about Washington 2006. I will publish a short version in the July 2006 issue of *Stamping Around* and have submitted a longer version that will appear soon in *Global Stamp News*.

At the BCPSG annual meeting, I brought up the topic of Yahoo! Groups and suggested to all of the present study group leaders that they should consider creating Yahoo! Groups for their particular islands. I run the “stvincentstamps” group (at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stvincentstamps>). As of this writing there are 52 members listed, many of which are BCPSG and BWISC members.

The purpose of these groups is to facilitate discussions among the membership and any other people interested in that group (i.e., St. Vincent). Sometimes there is a flurry of messages, and sometimes nothing for a month. The groups are simple. To participate you simply send an e-mail to the group (i.e., [stvincentstamps@yahoo.com](mailto:stvincentstamps@yahoo.com)). All members will then receive either an individual e-mail (or a daily summary e-mail depending on your wishes). You can read the messages and reply if you wish (either to the individual directly or back to the group for everyone else to see).

The group site does also allow for uploading of photos (you get about 20 or 30 MB of disk space) as well as provide polls, etc. All mes-



sages are archived and can be searched. If you had attached a scan to your message, it will only be included in the e-mails that go out as individual e-mails (not the daily summaries) and the scans themselves are not archived in order to preserve disk space.

Did you see an interesting item on eBay or have a question about a cover, stamp, etc? Simply ask the group. There are many knowledgeable collectors that are willing to enlighten you with their knowledge. But for the group to be a success, you have to participate. Throw out a question or comment about something relating to your topic and see what comes back.

These discussion groups can be set to be “moderated” or not. Currently it’s not moderated (since I travel frequently and don’t always have the time to devote to this); but if I catch anyone “spamming” the group with messages that don’t pertain to St. Vincent or related matters (stock tips, cheap medicines, porn, etc), I will delete the message from the archives and also ban that member.

Best of all, Yahoo! Groups (as are MSN Groups) are free; take advantage of what they can offer and let’s all communicate about our particular philatelic passions!

# Help needed with World War I War Tax study

By John Davis  
Of the United Kingdom

I have for several years been researching the War Tax overprinted stamps that were issued during World War I by 17 of the colonies in the British West Indies. The intention is for a book to be published by the British West Indies Study Circle in due course. We hope to illustrate the book with color images of the stamps, covers, and other relevant material. I would like to invite members to help in this project.

First of all, it will be preferable to have scanned images of original material instead of scanning copies from auction catalogues and other publications. If any members have in their collections (or know someone who has) any essays, die proofs, imperforate proofs, or any other significant material of any of the War Tax stamps, I would be grateful if they would contact me.

The scope of the book will include, for each colony, the purpose for which it introduced a War Tax, correspondence between the colony and the Imperial Government, minutes of meetings, legislation, etc., that was required to bring the stamps into existence; also postal rates, period covered by the War Tax, revenue received, and how applied, etc. It would be appreciated if members with a specialized knowledge of particular colonies would contact me, as I would like to make sure that my book is complete, comprehensive, and the definitive work on the War Tax overprints.

In the past, when I have invited help, this has met with little response, but I have been told by others who have gone before, that as soon as I publish a book, the letters will flood in to tell me what is wrong with it. I would like to avoid this, by getting it right in the first place. I look forward to hearing from anyone who would be willing to help.

## Wants List

Dr. Walter Hess was the Colonial Surgeon to the British Government in the Bahamas during World War I, and an avid stamp collector. He serviced many philatelically inspired covers, especially in 1930, and plastered them with War Tax and Red Cross stamps, to commemorate first flights from Nassau to Miami, and then on to various destinations in the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Canada. Such covers were addressed to Dr. Hess himself, c/o the postmasters at these destinations, all of which

were returned to him marked "not known" or with other similar wording.

There are 32 known destinations, including Miami itself, and all covers have the postmark January 2, 1930, with the exception of Uruguay (January 9, 1930) Venezuela (April 30, 1930) and Brazil (November 26, 1930). I have covers to 24 destinations, but to complete the collection I need those to Argentina, British Guiana, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, Venezuela and Brazil. These are proving elusive. If any members have any such covers they would like to dispose of, please let me know.

My electronic mail address is as follows: john.davis9@dsl.pipex.com. My regular mail address is: Mr. John G.M. Davis, 8 Sympton Close, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5RB United Kingdom.

## **WANTED by Collector/ Exhibitor/Researcher**

Wanted to buy -- commercial covers from Barbados, 1925 to 1950. Especially needed are covers showing unusual usages or destinations 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 or send information to: Jerone Hart, P.O. Box 206789, Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520-6789.

# 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.

----  
**ARIPEX 2006. February 10-12**  
**Mesa, Arizona**

Reuben Ramkissoon  
*Tobago 1772-1906 Development of the Post*  
**Gold, APS Pre-1900 Medal**  
*400th Anniversary of the Discovery of Trinidad*  
*by Columbus (SF)*  
**Gold, Best in Class**

**Sandical 2006. January 27-29**  
**San Diego, California**

Paul Fletcher  
*The Postage Due Stamps of New South Wales*  
*and Victoria*  
**Gold, APS Research Medal**

**COLOPEX 2006. March 10-12**  
**Columbus, Ohio**

Edmund Bayley  
(Lit.) *The Stamps of Barbados, Vol. II*  
**Vermeil**

**Garfield-Perry March Party 2006. March 24-26**  
**Cleveland, Ohio**

Paul Larsen  
*Barbados Seal Issues 1892-1935*  
**Gold**

**TEXPEX 2006. April 7-9**  
**Dallas, Texas**

Peter Elias  
*4 rings - The History of Audi*  
**Silver-bronze**  
*My Life on Wheels (SF)*  
**Certificate, AAPE Creativity Award**

**MANPEX 2006. April 22-23**  
**Manchester, Connecticut**

Jerry Hart  
*Barbados: The Cancels and Postal Uses of the 1938*  
*Small Format Seal of the Colony Definitives*  
**Gold**

**Plymouth Show 2006. April 29-30**  
**Plymouth, Michigan**

John Cress  
*Australian Air Mail 1914-1928 (SF)*  
**Vermeil, American Air Mail Society Award**

Paul Larsen  
*Ubangi-Shari-Chad 1900-1938*  
**Gold, APS 1900-1940 Medal**

**WESTPEX 2006. April 28-30**  
**San Francisco, California**

Jerome Kasper  
*The Aerogrammes of Iceland*  
**Gold, Al Van Dahl Memorial Award (Best**  
**Scandinavia), United Postal Stationery Society**  
**Marcus White Award**

**Philatelic Show 2006. May 5-7**  
**Boxborough, Massachusetts**

Jerry Hart  
*The Indian Postal Administration of Aden 1843-1937*  
**Grand Award, Gold, APS Research Award**  
*Barbados: The Cancels and Postal Uses of the 1938*  
*Small Format Seal of the Colony Definitives*  
**Vermeil**

# 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

**Jack Philip Lipworth**, P.O. Box 55443, Northlands, Sandton 2116 SOUTH AFRICA. Philatelic interests: postal history and "Jamaica until the end of Queen Victoria." Sponsored by Thomas Girdi.

**Sheila Margaret Thomas**, 119 Coventry Road, Coleshill, B46 3EX, United Kingdom. Philatelic interests: Antigua, Leewards and Montserrat. Sponsored by David Druett.

## Change of Address

B. Reid Hill, P.O. Box 788, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 USA

## Deceased

Ken Watson

## Email changes

Derek Nathan: Derek@dmn.dircon.co.uk

*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.*

## OBITUARY

### KEN WATSON

William Kenneth Watson (Ken) passed away on March 5, 2006 at Cockermouth, Cumbria, England, after a lengthy illness borne with fortitude. A devoted husband, he will be greatly missed by his wife, Audrey, family and friends.

Ken was a very well-known and distinguished philatelist and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London. He served for many years on the Executive Committee of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association, and was possibly its longest serving chairman, having held the chair from 1974 to 1985.

The Yorkshire Philatelic Association presented him with a glass goblet appropriately inscribed. He was also a signatory of the Roll of Yorkshire Distinguished Philatelists.

Ken's main philatelic interests were in the Caribbean area, and he formed major collections of Jamaica, St. Kitts and London Coffee Houses.

Ken was one of the founding members of the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society, a member of the British West Indies Study Circle, and British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, as well as being a long standing member of a number of Yorkshire societies.

Ken was a credit to Yorkshire philately and will be long remembered, especially by West Indian collectors worldwide.

-- Submitted by  
Malcolm D. Watts

# President's Message

By Jack Harwood

I've just returned from the very successful Washington 2006 international exhibition. You will find photos and other reports from our annual meeting, auction and the show elsewhere in this issue and probably in the following issue, as well. Needless to say, it was a superb event, well attended, with something for everyone. The exhibits were breathtaking, the dealers and postal administrations were well stocked with nice material, and the crowds were large but manageable. More than 40 members attended our meeting and the subsequent display and talk on West Indies Merchant Mail presented by Tim Anderson. Most stayed for the annual auction, which saw more than the usual amount of interest and occasional spirited bidding. Members from around the world were in attendance, providing a rare opportunity to meet people we seldom are able to see. Altogether, it was an outstanding event, and the organizing committee is to be congratulated.

One of the primary accomplishments at our meeting was the finalization of plans for Peter Flynn's new book, *Intercepted in Bermuda*. The book will be published by the Collectors Club of Chicago, and should be available within a few months. BCPSG members will receive a 20% discount off the list price, and a flier with details will accompany one of your journals sometime before the end of this year. A draft copy of the book was available for viewing at the meeting. For anyone with interest in Bermuda mail censorship, the book will be must reading. It is destined to be a classic philatelic work.

We are still in need of an Advertising Manager. A listing of all BCPSG dealer members, divided into categories of those who advertise in the *Journal* and those who don't, plus a list of other dealers who regularly advertise BWI material for sale in other publications, is available for the new manager. This information should make the job quite easy. If you are willing to devote a few hours to helping your group, please let me hear from you. This is not an onerous task, but it is one that needs to be done.

Planning for our meeting in St. Vincent, scheduled for May 19-26, 2007, is well under way. A number of attendees at the Washington meeting indicated their intent to attend in St. Vincent, so we are expecting an interesting group. To get an idea of available activities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, please visit the Tourist Office web site at [www.svgtourism.com](http://www.svgtourism.com). I can tell you from personal experience that a fascinating visit is virtually guaranteed. The country is beautiful, the people are friendly,

and the activities are varied and interesting. If at all possible, you should plan to join the fun in St. Vincent in 2007.

Finally, your editor still needs articles of interest for publication in this journal. They may be long or short, covering any aspect of BWI philately. This is your journal, so please consider a contribution in your area of interest. Articles often result in contact with others who have similar interests, and bring to light otherwise unseen material. Your contribution is eagerly awaited!



## Help needed

### Jamaica SG 68b, first overprint setting

By John Davis  
*Of the United Kingdom*

Two years after the single line overprint ceased, a double overprint variety was discovered. As far as it is known, only about 75 copies exist. The variety was found in a complete sheet of 240, the upper two panes, and the first three rows of the lower two panes of which were normal. The impression on the fourth row was thick and heavy, and from that point downwards, a second impression began, and continued to detach itself from the first, until both stood out clear, distinct and definite.

What I have not seen recorded is whether the overprint on the last two rows (nine and ten) was the same as that on row eight, or whether the double overprint was even more detached.

I will be pleased to hear, via the editor, from experts in the field of Jamaican philately who may be able to help me complete the story.

## 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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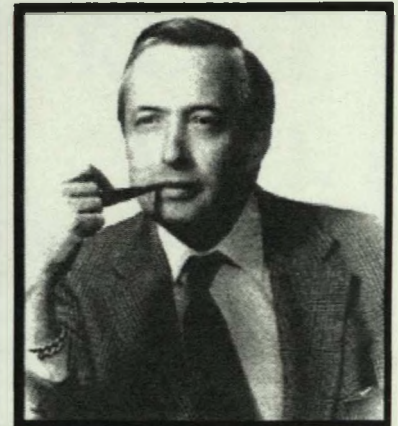
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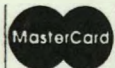
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