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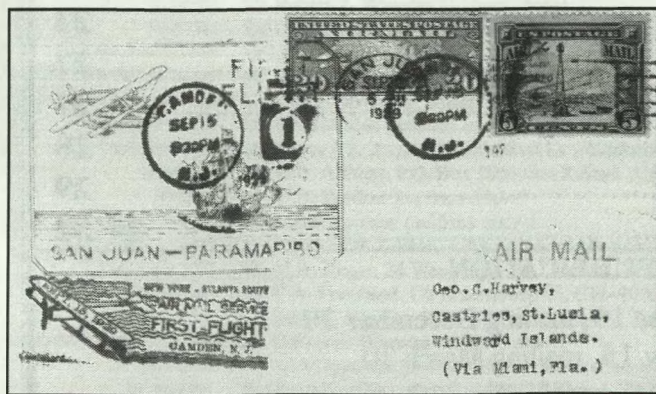
The first air mails of St. Lucia

By Alister Kinnon
Of the United Kingdom

These days practically all international mail goes by air, especially if the journey involves crossing water, but in the 1920s and 1930s this was not the case. For all practical purposes, airmail started in the United States where the distances between major cities meant that a significant time saving could be made by transporting letters by air instead of overland by train or motor vehicle.

However, the drawbacks of using airmail were the types of aircraft used and their navigation and bad weather capabilities. Development of aircraft was rapid in the 1920s and by the end of the decade, aircraft capable of regularly flying stages of 400 or 500 miles had been developed, even if they were restricted to flying in reasonable weather. The widespread lack of commercial airfields in developing countries led to the design of aircraft capable of landing on water, and one such aircraft was the Sikorsky S-38, a twin-engined amphibious biplane. It was this type of airplane which was used by Pan American World Airways (operating as the West Indies Aerial Express) to carry the first air mail to St. Lucia.

In 1928, the United States Post Office started awarding airmail contracts for specific international routes which were given numbers and these became known as "FAM" (Foreign Air Mail) contracts. FAM 6 was initially for the route from Florida to Puerto Rico, but in September 1929, it was extended to Paramaribo in Dutch Guiana and this is where the St. Lucia story really begins. The extension flight was publicized and covers from many parts of the United States and from points on the route were sent to be carried on it.



The cover above originated in Camden, New Jersey and was carried on the first New York to Atlanta flight as

well as the first flight to Saint Lucia. A cachet was applied to covers carried on this flight and on September 22, 1929, two Sikorsky S-38B aircraft left San Juan, Puerto Rico on the first mail-carrying flight to Paramaribo.



The cover above originated in Norwich, Connecticut. This cover is unusual in that most covers staging through Miami were postmarked there or at San Juan.

The aircraft flew only by day and so an overnight stop was made at Trinidad. After leaving San Juan, the aircraft called at St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands and St. John's, Antigua before arriving at La Toc, Castries, Saint Lucia at about 1330 hrs. to be greeted by the governor of the island.¹ The aircraft then went on to Trinidad. The mail-carrying aircraft was piloted by Charles Lindbergh (of trans-Atlantic fame) carrying three passengers: his wife; Juan Trippe, the president of the airline; and Mrs. Trippe.² About 2,400 pieces were off-loaded at Castries but so far only one cover routed via Castries to be transhipped there has been reported.



The cover above is addressed to Bogota, Columbia and off-loaded at St. Lucia. Mail for Trinidad and British Guiana was loaded before the aircraft departed. This mail had the stamps cancelled with a special handstamp made especially for the occasion, the datestamp being struck elsewhere on the cover.



The return flight left Paramaribo on September 25, and after an unscheduled overnight stop at Trinidad, collected northbound mail from St. Lucia on September 26. As shown in the illustration below, the pilot of this aircraft was Jack Tilton, as Lindbergh had flown off with his wife to South America on their honeymoon. The special cancel was used again on the northbound mail.



In the absence of adhesive air mail etiquettes in the period up to December 1929, the postmaster at Castries used his special handstamp with "1st" removed as a cachet on air mail covers.



On February 25, 1930 the New York, Rio and Buenos Aires Airline (NYRBA) called at St. Lucia on its first mail-carrying flight from Rio to America and picked up some mail. Covers from this flight are known as "out-law" covers as this airline was not authorized to carry mail into the United States. They were impounded by the



authorities before being sent on to the addressees. Through the 1930s, other air mail first flight covers between St. Lucia and many destinations are known and some have stories to tell of the trials and tribulations of the development of air mail at the time.

Throughout the 1930s, bigger, better and faster airplanes were developed, and often this development was driven by the increasing demand for reliable airmail services, the ultimate goal being trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific routes. However, shorter routes were also in demand and the increasing number of routes around the Caribbean gives a good illustration of this.

Following the first flights to and from St. Lucia by Pan American World Airways and NYRBA (New York, Rio and Buenos Aires Airline), other destinations were gradually included.

The Bahama Islands had an airmail service to Miami in 1929 and in January 1930 this was extended from Miami to other destinations via the new route networks. Covers from the Bahamas to various destinations, including St. Lucia, were prepared for the flight of January 2, but most were incorrectly dated January 1, 1929! They were re-handstamped with the correct date before dispatch.

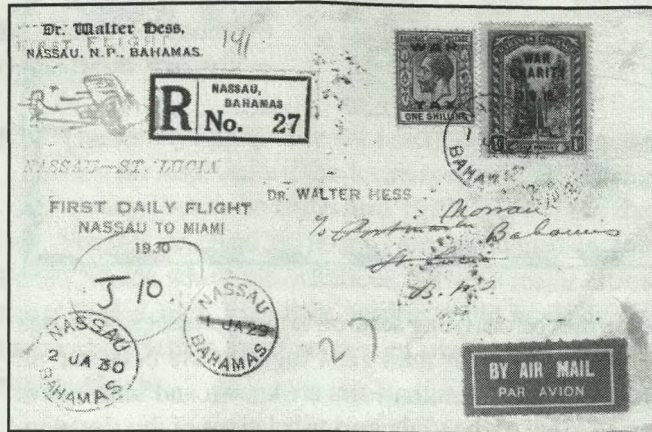
In February, March and April, NYRBA carried first flight covers from British Guiana, Haiti and Barbados. This latter flight was a route-proving flight, using one of their new Consolidated Commodore flying boats, piloted by Captain Sewell. A United States warship was making a courtesy call at Barbados at this time and most of the mail on this flight was addressed to the U.S.A., but some 44 items were addressed to St. Lucia.

NYRBA had intended a flight from Montserrat to St. Lucia on June 20 or 21, but bad weather prevented this. First flight covers were prepared but then held in the GPO at Plymouth until February 1931 when a British warship, HMS *Dorsetshire*, called at the island and the captain

Continued on page 6

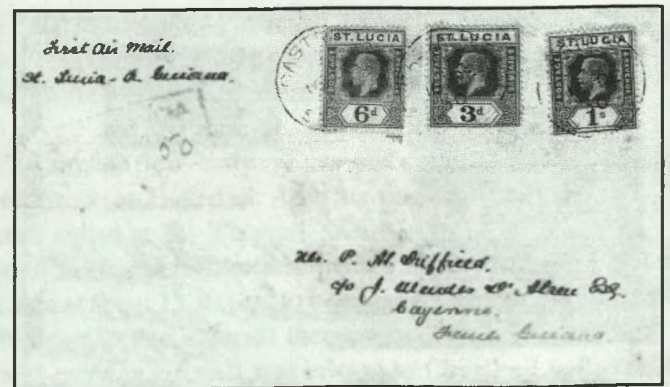
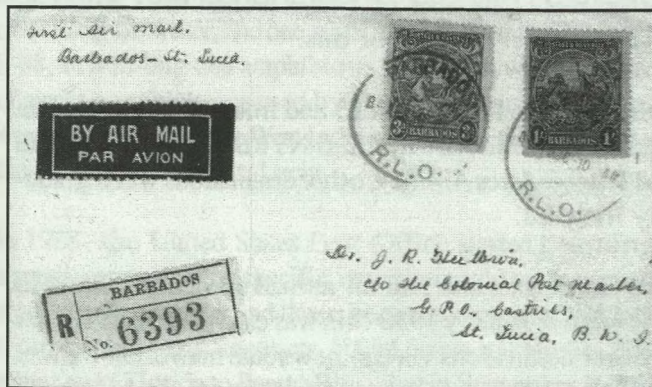
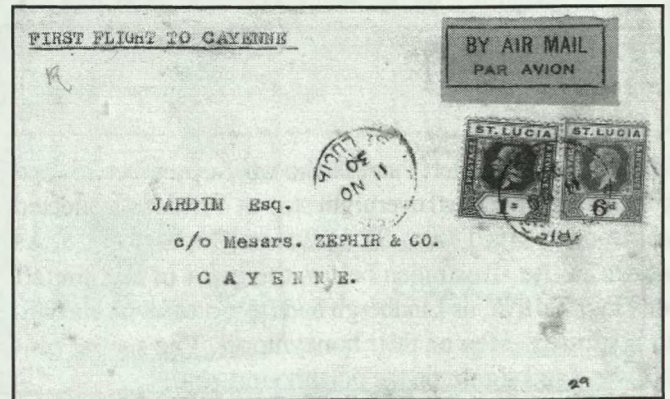
allowed his floatplane to carry these covers to the ship's next port of call, which was St. Kitts. Thus these covers became the first airmail from Montserrat.

Maturin. The covers below and on page 7 are from the Canal Zone to St. Lucia and from St. Lucia to Maturin, Venezuela.

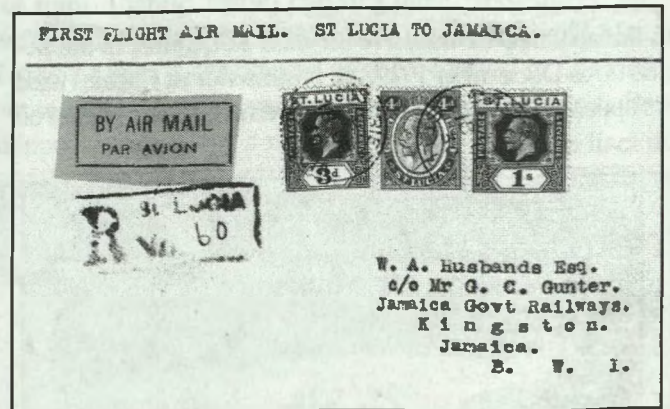


As mentioned above, the first airmail from Montserrat to St. Lucia finally left Montserrat on February 23, arriving *Continued on page 7*

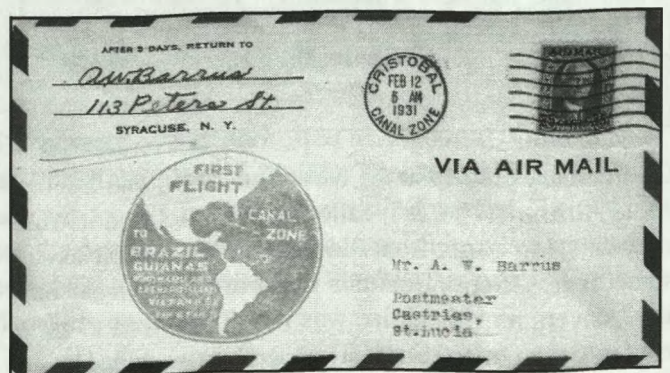
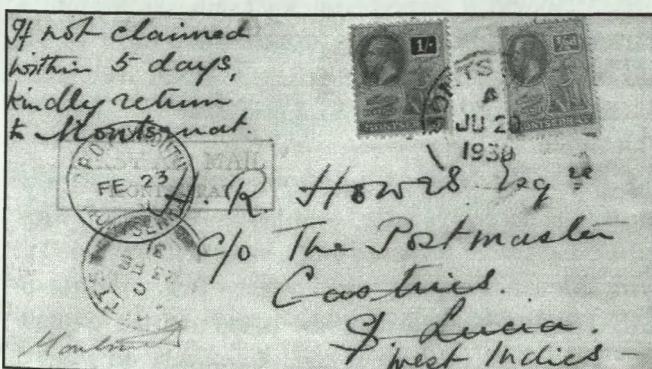
NYRBA was absorbed into Pan American in September 1930, so subsequent early covers were flown by that airline. First flight covers from St. Lucia to Cayenne, French Guiana, are known bearing two different dates. Covers dated November 11 were flown to Paramaribo to await the next southbound FAM 5 flight while directly flown covers are dated December 16 and have arrival date-



stamps of December 18. The return flight took place on January 8, 1931. The last first flight covers of 1930 were to and from Jamaica (via Miami).



The year 1931 saw what became known as the "completion of the Lindbergh circle" when airmail became possible along the Venezuelan coast between the Canal Zone and Trinidad, thus linking FAM 5 and FAM 6 routes via



Covers with postage due stamps of the Empire Period of the BWI

By Dr. Eric M. Bateson
Of Australia

D.C. Ford described his difficulties in attempting to obtain philatelic covers of the surcharge postage stamps from the post office in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad.¹ He concluded his article with the comment, "Can any member give me an idea as to the scarcity of these 'surcharge postage' stamps on cover? If my experience is anything to go by, the philatelic usage might be difficult and commercial usage somewhat elusive." The illustrations he used were all decimal issues.

I wish to answer his queries with reference to my own interest in covers, philatelic and non-philatelic of the Empire period of the British West Indies.² I have been collecting covers for years and have accumulated many with surcharge postage or postage due stamps from Barbados, British Honduras, Grenada, St. Lucia, and Trinidad. Each of these issued stamps were in £ Sterling currency.

In addition, I have scanned hundreds of auction catalogues saved over the past 20 years from several firms including Caribbean, Cavendish, Empire, Grosvenor, Hamilton, Harmers, London Stamp Exchange, Pennymead, Philangles, Phillips/Bonham, Sandafayre/Hunters, Shreves, Spink, Rainey, Stanley Gibbons, Temple Bar,

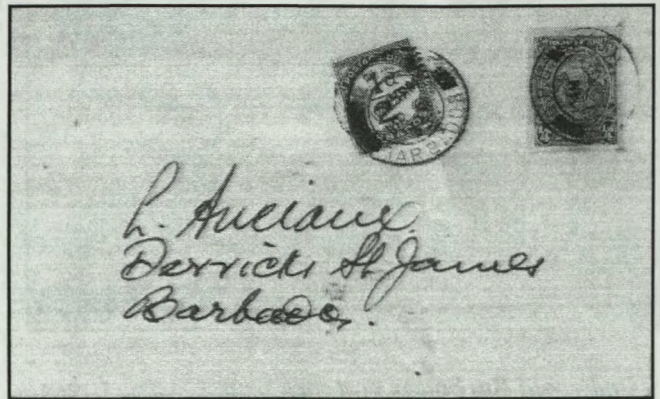


Figure 1

Local underpaid cover of Barbados with half-penny (SG #D1) postage due. Possibly philatelic.

Victoria, Yorkshire, and Western Auctions, searching for further examples of covers bearing these stamps.

I have used these two sources of information to make the following comments on covers bearing surcharge postage and postage due stamps of the five colonies which issued these stamps during the Empire period.

BARBADOS

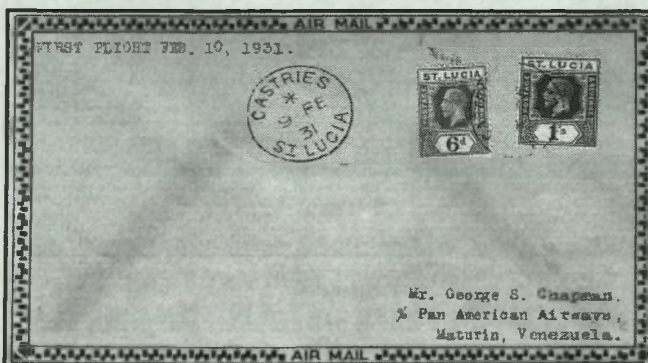
This island issued only two postage due stamps, a half-pence (SG #D1) in 1935 and a one-pence (SG #D2) in

Continued on page 8

The first air mails of St. Lucia

Continued from page 6

in St. Lucia some three days later. Changes in routes were made in subsequent years but no further first flight covers were produced until 1935.



References

¹ Private correspondence: Pan-Am and author.

² *Ibid.*

Further Reading

Grigore, Julius Jr. *NYRBA's Triple Crash and Outlaw Flight Covers and Its Postal Markings*. Balboa: Republic of Panama, n.d.

Kinnon, Alister. *More Early Air Mail of Saint Lucia (1930 and 1931)*, n.p., n.d.

O'Neill, Ralph. *A Dream of Eagles*, n.p., n.d.

Reinhard, Stephen, ed. *American Air Mail Catalogue*, Vol. 4. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Edwards Brothers, Inc., 2004[?]

Wike, R.G. *Airmails of Trinidad and Tobago*.

Thanks to Charles Freeland for the vintage post card image of St. Lucia on the cover.

1934. The latter was also bisected due to a shortfall of the half-pence value and then became SG #D2a. The bisected stamp is said to be rare on covers, although David Druett in his sale of the Oscar Davis Collection (No. 64, September 1997) included four examples, two on pieces

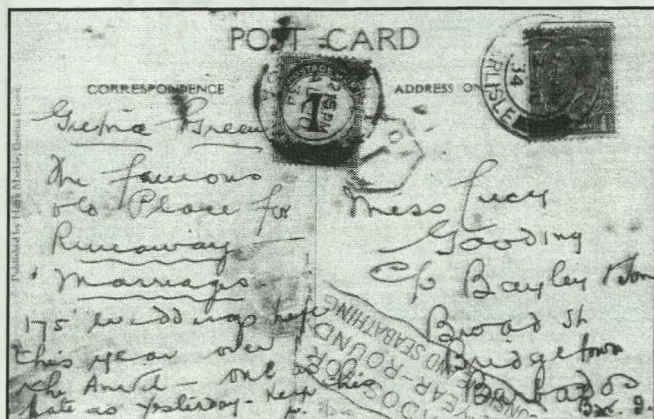


Figure 2

Underpaid Barbados post card from Gretna Green with a 1d postage due (SG #D2), addressed to a lady care of Bayley & Son, Broad Street, Bridgetown (a known philatelic dealer).

and two on wrappers. One was present in the Victoria Empire sale (11/2001), and another is illustrated in David Herenden's article.³ All these appeared to be philatelic. Another recent Victoria Empire sale (June 2006) had four



Figure 3

Underpaid cover from the U.S. to British Honduras. It received three postage due stamps, 1c, 2c, and 4c (SG #D1, 2, and 3). It appears contrived and therefore philatelic.

lots similar to those of David Druett's, two covers and two pieces which raised the possibility that they may be the same items from the Oscar Davis Collection.

Surprisingly, the two normal stamps are hard to find on covers. None were included in the Peter Langley Collection (Phillips, March 2001). Covers bearing only single examples of the half-pence (Figure 1) or the one-penny

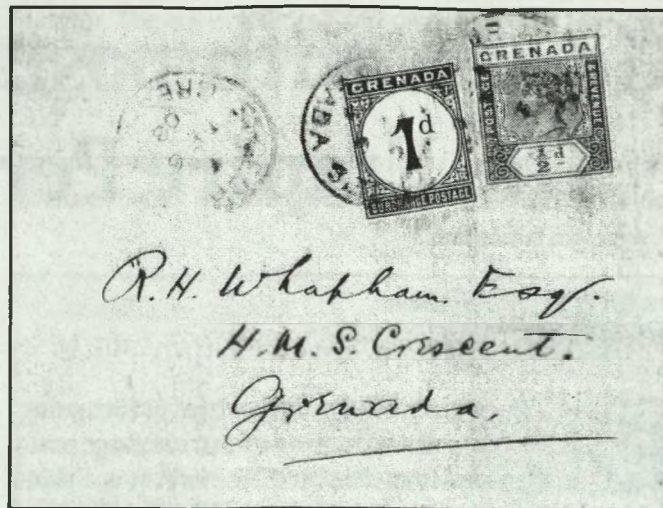


Figure 4

Underpaid 1902 cover of Grenada to HMS Crescent, with 1d surcharge postage (SG #D1). This cover is not philatelic.

(Figure 2) are illustrated and ones with blocks of four of the half-penny were included in the BWI Study Circle Millennium sale and in the Victoria Empire sale, number 13/2001.

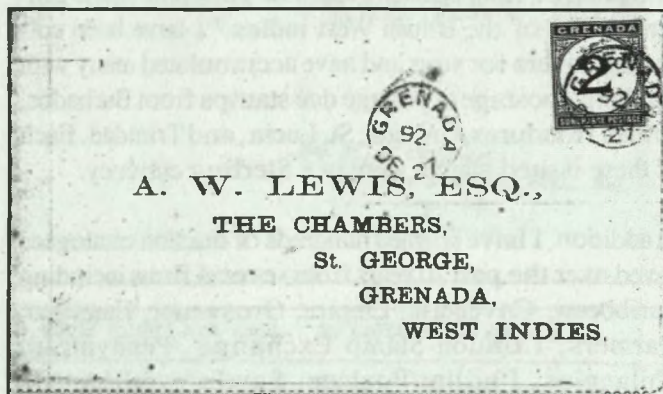


Figure 5

Grenada cover of 1892 with only 2d surcharge postage stamp (SG #D2) and no regular stamps. The cover was sent to a local solicitor, and is probably philatelic.

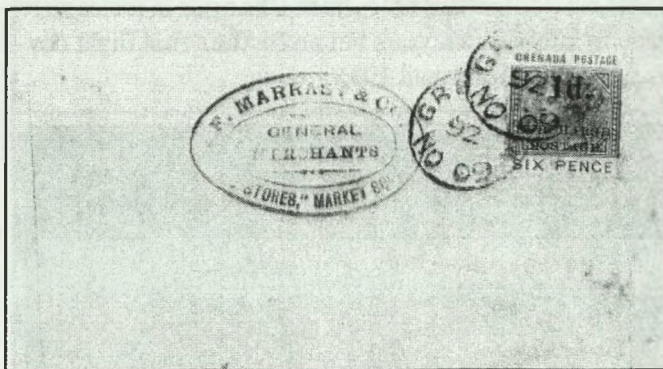


Figure 6

This Grenada cover has a provisional overprint, with SG #D4 to Marrast & Co. A typical philatelic cover.

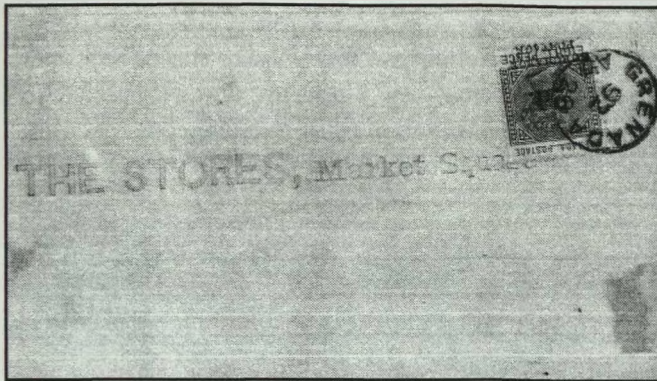


Figure 7

Similar to Figure 6, from Grenada, with SG #D7, but this time addressed to "THE STORES, Market Square."

BRITISH HONDURAS

Any of the three issued postage due stamps in the Empire period, 1¢, 2¢, or 3¢ (SG #D1, 2, or 3) are extremely rare on cover and none were noted in the Simon Richards

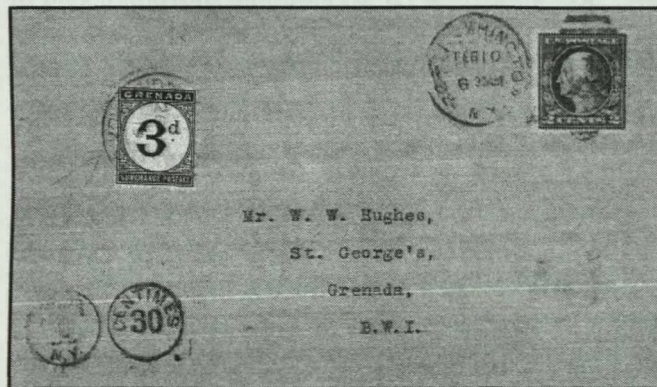


Figure 8

The cover shown here, from the U.S., and the cover in Figure 9 were both posted at 6:30 a.m. on February 10, 1919. This cover received the 3d postage due (SG #D9) stamp.

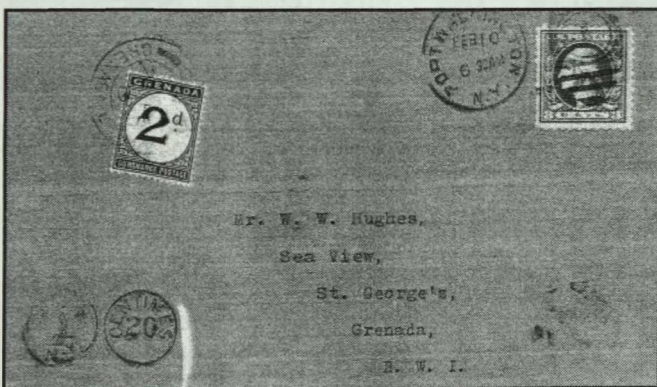


Figure 9

The cover shown here, from the U.S., and the cover in Figure 8 were both posted at 6:30 a.m. on February 10, 1919. This cover received the 2d postage due (SG #D9) stamp.

Collection (Spink, October 2005). Figure 3 shows an unusual example on a letter from the U.S. with all three stamps, making a total tax of seven cents, but without a tax charge in centimes. Therefore, it was probably philatelically inspired. Another cover from St. Kitts with all three of the postage due stamps was in the Pennymead Auction (No. 81, 2003). Two commercial covers, both with the two and four cent values, were listed by Argyll Etkin in their sale of November 25, 2005, and one with a four-cent in a direct sale of Chris Rainey.

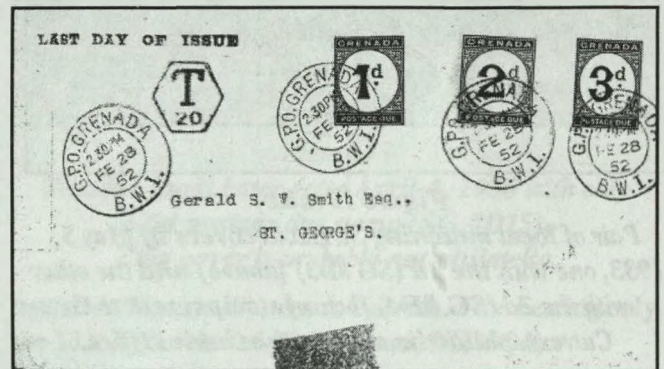


Figure 10

A "last day of issue" from Grenada with three values of postage dues, 1d (SG #D11), 2d (SG #D13) and 3d (SG #D14).

GRENADA

The postage due stamps of this colony fall into four eras:

(a) Surcharge postage with CCA watermark consisted of three values: 1d, 2d, and 3d (SG #D1 to #D3), which

Continued on page 10

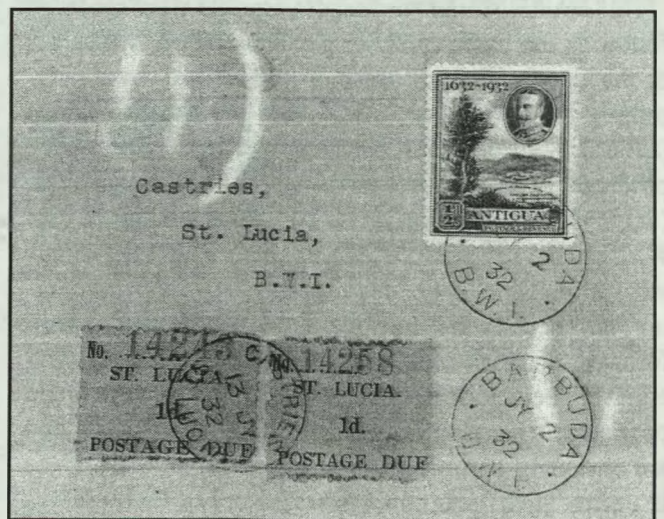


Figure 11

Typical St. Lucia philatelic cover of Pantone origin with "The Postmaster" erased, sent from Barbuda with a pair of 1d typeset postage due stamps (SG #D1).

are very uncommon on covers. They may be non-philatelic (*Figure 4*) or philatelic (*Figure 5*). Covers with the 3d value are rare. One example was included in the Harmer's sale of March 1984.

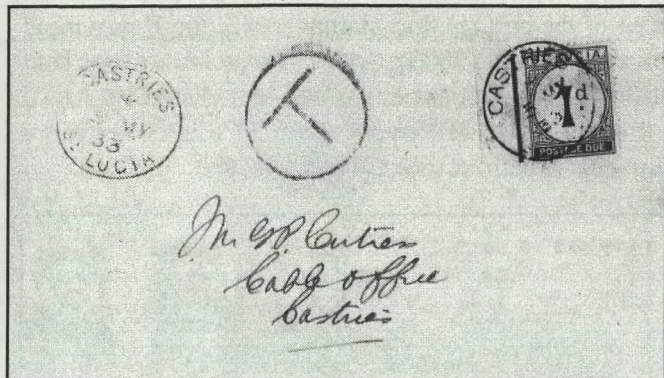


Figure 12 (a&b)

Pair of local matching St. Lucia covers of May 5, 1933, one with the 1d (SG #D3) [above] and the other with the 2d (SG #D4) [below] stamps, sent to G. Cutress, philatelic agent in the Cable Office.

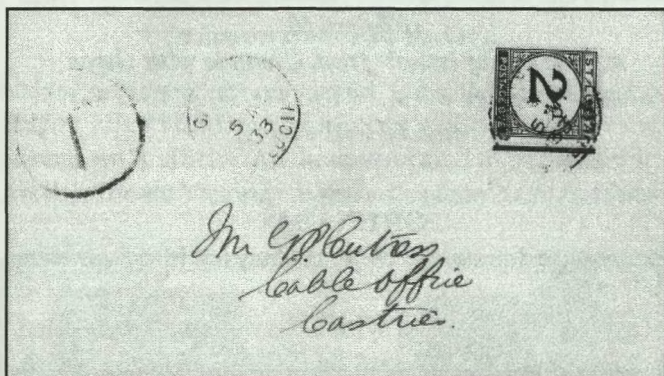


Figure 13

A half-penny underpaid post card from Natal to Trinidad which received a one-penny postage due stamp (SG #D2).

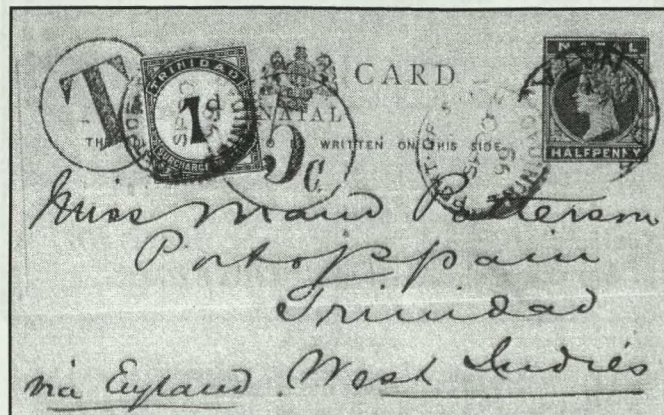
One of the rare 19th century non-philatelic covers.

covers are rare. In a price list, Hamilton included one with SG #D7 addressed to a local medical practitioner.

(b) The provisional surcharge overprints were produced following the basic type being exhausted on two values of the Queen Victoria issue of 1883. Two were overprinted: the 6d mauve (SG 34) and the 8d grey-brown (SG 35). Four different surcharge postage stamps were produced: two 1d values on the 6d (SG #D4) and the 8d (SG #D5) and, similarly, two 2d values on the 6d (SG #D6) and the 8d (SG #D7). The original Victorian stamps were printed in tete-beche pairs and following overprinting, the sheets were torn into horizontal strips. Therefore, tete-beche are rare and unlikely to be seen on covers. It has been reported that over 100 covers with single provisional overprinted were in existence in 1997³ and are obviously common. It has also been noted that the issue may have been unnecessary and all of their use was philatelic.⁴ My experience would confirm these observations.

The majority of the covers bearing the provisional surcharge issue were addressed by rubber stamp to "Marrast & Co./ "The Stores," Market Square, Water Street,

Demerara" (*Figure 6*) or more simply, "The Stores, Market Square," and often inverted (*Figure 7*) as on the cover illustrated by Herendeen.⁵ These are obviously philatelic and may be found in sets of four matching covers as were those illustrated in *Figure 6* and *Figure 7*. Non-philatelic



(c) Re-issue of surcharge postage with MCCA watermark in June 1906 consisted of three values: 1d, 2d, and 3d (SG #D8, 9, and 10) and are uncommon stamps on covers. Two examples (*Figure 8* and *Figure 9*) were both posted in the U.S. with the same time and date, and to the same address with different underpayments, suggesting they may have been philatelically inspired. The cover with the two-cent U.S. stamp received a 3d and the other with the U.S. three-cent stamp received a 2d surcharge postage. Covers with the 3d were in the Victoria Empire Sale, 11/2004 and also Empire Stamps Sale 10, November 2000. The latter has a comment that it is a scarce stamp on cover.

(d) The postage due issue of 1921 indicated a change of inscription and consisted of four values: 1d, 1 1/2d, 2d and 3d (SG #D11 to SG #D14) and are rarely seen on covers in the Empire period. One with three values is illustrated (*Figure 10*) but not the 1 1/2d which must be very rare on cover.

It should be noted that there were no covers bearing surcharge postage or postage due stamps in the Danforth Walker Collection (Shreves, 2003) but there were five, three with SG #D1 and two SG #D5 in the R.P. Towers Collection (Phillips, April 1999).

ST. LUCIA

There were two different issues.

(a) The local typeset issue (1930) had two values, a 1d (SG #D1) on blue paper and a 2d (SG #D2) on yellow paper. In the Empire era, philatelic covers bearing one or both values of St. Lucia are far more common than any of those of the other four British West Indian colonies. They were used to pay the tax on covers bearing low denominations from most, if not all, of the British West Indies (Figure 14), as well as Ascension, New Guinea, Papua, St. Helena and the Falkland Islands.

These covers were the brainchild of Charles Davies of Frodsham, Cheshire, England, a retired stamp dealer who used low denomination stamps from his stock, posted them in bulk to different correspondents in the relevant territories who then affixed the stamps to envelopes addressed by typewriter to "The Postmaster (subsequently erased), Castries, St. Lucia." The covers were then sent in bulk to the correspondents in the appropriate colonies who then posted them to St. Lucia. The postage due stamps were applied, neatly cancelled and returned in bulk to Davies.⁶ Hundreds of these covers exist.

Philatelic covers of other providers are known. Two examples are one with both values to G. Cutress of the Cable Office, and another to Moss Doorley of Government House with only a 1d stamp (Empire Stamps, June 1999 and De-



Figure 14

Underpaid cover to Trinidad from Canada with late usage in 1933. The postage due stamps are 2d (SG #D9) and 8d (SG #D16). The 8d may be almost as rare as the earlier 8d on cover.

cember 2001, respectively). Non-philatelic covers are rare. One from Barbados with only a 1d value was included in a recent sale (London Stamp Exchange, November 2000).

(b) The basic type, two values were issue in 1933, a 1d (SG #D3) and a 2d (SG #D4). They are uncommon on covers, and are usually philatelically inspired. An example of matching pairs, each with one of the two values is il-

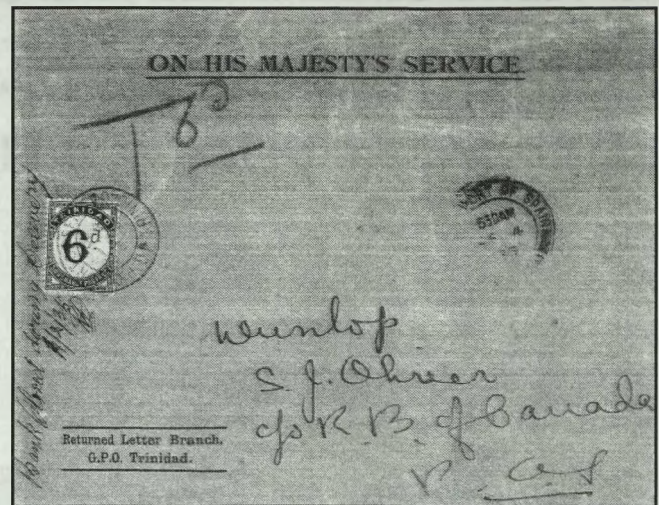


Figure 15

Trinidad local letter dated April 4, 1936 with only a 6d postage due stamp (SG #D15). This cover is probably not philatelic.

illustrated (Figure 12), also to Cutress. One bearing only the 1d has been noted (Pennymead, 53, 1994).

Trinidad

The surcharge postage stamps of Trinidad (and also Grenada) were the first of this type and basic design to be issued anywhere in the British Empire. Those of Trinidad were different because instead of a few low value stamps, the initial 1885 issue with watermark CCC consisted of nine values ranging from half-penny to one shilling, followed by eight values with watermark MCCA in 1905 and four with watermark MSCA in 1923 (SG #D1 - #D21). Therefore, it would be expected to find a plethora of covers, philatelic and non-philatelic, but this does not appear to be the case. Herendeen⁷ made several pertinent observations.

1. Only 10 covers from the 19th century have apparently survived, but thousands must have been produced. Two more covers from this period exist, one with a pair of the 1d (SG #D2) dated October 2, 1899 (London Stamp Exchange, March 2001), and a post card from Natal, also with the 1d stamp, dated September 20, 1899 (Figure 13).

2. The earliest known cover in 1885 is distinctive because it is the only one known with the 8d value (SG #D8).

3. There are only five known covers with the 1/- value (SG #D9).

He explains this contradiction because of the unpopularity of postage due stamps during this era, and my own observations would support this. I have only been able to collect a few covers with higher values of the surcharge postage stamps, all of late usage -- an 8d with an addi-

Continued on page 12

tional 2d in 1933 (Figure 14), a 6d in 1936 (Figure 15), and a 5d in 1942 (Figure 16). This absence of interest in preserving higher denomination postage due stamps on covers appears to have continued into the reign of King George VI.⁸

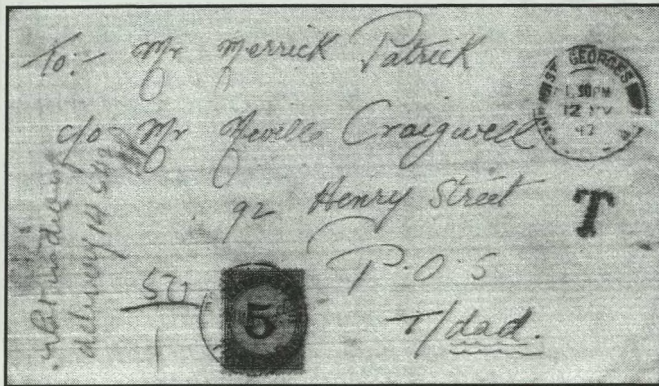


Figure 16

Local Trinidad cover with only a 5d postage due stamp (presumably SG #D14 and not #D6) due to late usage in 1942, and therefore suspected to be philatelic.

Gough reported a cover with a two-cent 1937 Coronation stamp and a 6d postage due stamp, and made the observation that 6d was not a usual rate for postage due purposes.⁹

CONCLUSION

With the exception of the provisional surcharge overprints of Grenada and the Panton covers of St. Lucia, the tax stamps of the British West Indies are uncommon on covers. This contrasts with the plethora of philatelic covers of this period.¹⁰ The names of their providers and particularly the four greats -- Iremonger, Kiderlen, Kinze, and Wilson -- have to my knowledge never been seen on philatelic covers bearing surcharge postage or postage

due stamps of this era of the British West Indies.¹¹ This indicates the lack of interest of commercial providers in commissioning philatelic covers and also the preservation of commercial and personal letters bearing these stamps.

FOOTNOTES

¹ D.C. Ford, "Trinidad Surcharge Postage," *BWI Study Circle Bulletin*, No. 201, (June 2004), 29.

² E.M. Bateson, "Stamps on Covers," *BWI Study Circle Bulletin*, No. 200, (March 2004), 8.

³ D.L. Herendeen, "British Caribbean Postage Due Stamps," *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 37, No. 2 (June 1997), 37-43.

⁴ R.W. Crouch, "The Postage Due Stamps of the World," *The Postage Stamp*, May 27, 1910 - February 24, 1912, quoted in Herendeen, *op. cit.*

⁵ *Ibid*, Herendeen.

⁶ H. Green, "Panton Covers," *BWI Study Circle Bulletin*, No. 169, (June 1997), 39.

⁷ D.L. Herendeen, "Trinidad: The Birthplace of the British Colonial Postage Due," *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 38, No. 3 (September 1998), 95-102.

⁸ Henry Pattiz, "Trinidad Postage Dues. Rarities on Cover," *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 42, No. 1 (January 2002), 3-13.

⁹ J.P. Gough, "Discovered! A Mixed Use of Decimal Definitive with Pence Due in the British Caribbean," *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 40, No. 2 (June 2000), 49-50.

¹⁰ E.M. Bateson, "The Providers of Philatelic Covers of the British West Indies in the Empire Period, Victoria, Edward VII and George V," *BWI Study Circle Bulletin*, in press.

¹¹ E.M. Bateson, "The Four Great Providers: An analysis of their philatelic covers of the Empire Period of the BWI," *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 45, No. 3 (July-September 2005), 17-23.

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 found at the bottom of page 3.

Please take note of these dates!

The Netanya Covers: A Cautionary Tale

By Thomas A. Anderson
Of the USA

- Both contained additional missent handstamps: a) Bonaire; b) Sri Lanka and Anguilla.

After reading Ben Ramkissoon's article, "Addressed to Anguilla But Missent to Anguilla," (BCPSG Journal, Vol. 47, No. 1 [January-March 2007, p. 21]) I bought a very similar cover that I had seen on eBay. My object was to find out a bit more about these strange covers. This article aims to shed more light on this subject. The cover that I bought and the one of which Ben had written had the following similarities:

After receiving my cover (Figures 1 and 2), I contacted the eBay seller, "jonathandean8" and expressed my concern over the similarities of the cover that I had purchased

- Both had return address: P.O. Box 710, Netanya 42106, ISRAEL.
- Both were addressed to small places: a) Bonasse, Trinidad; b) Anguilla.
- Both were addressed to a five digit post office box at places that probably could not have supported more than 50 boxes, if any.
- Both were addressed with the same handwriting, marked by a very distinctive upper case "J."
- Both had handstamps for "MISSENT TO GUYANA" and "MISSENT TO BERMUDA."

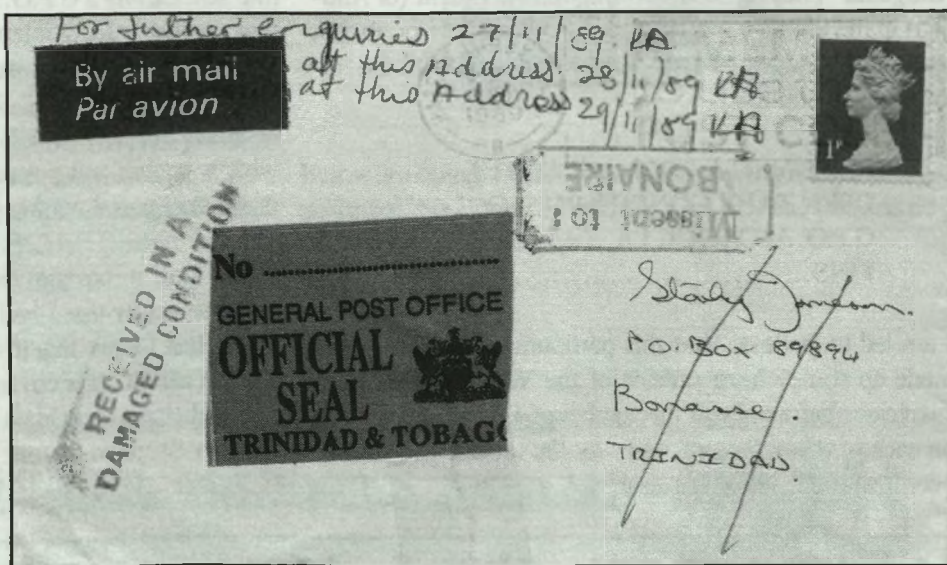


Figure 1

and the one that appeared in the January Journal. I asked if any other such covers were available. I added that I had become a serious collector of such material. To this, I received a very long email (signed Jonathan Dean), part of which explained the origin of what I now call the Netanya Covers.

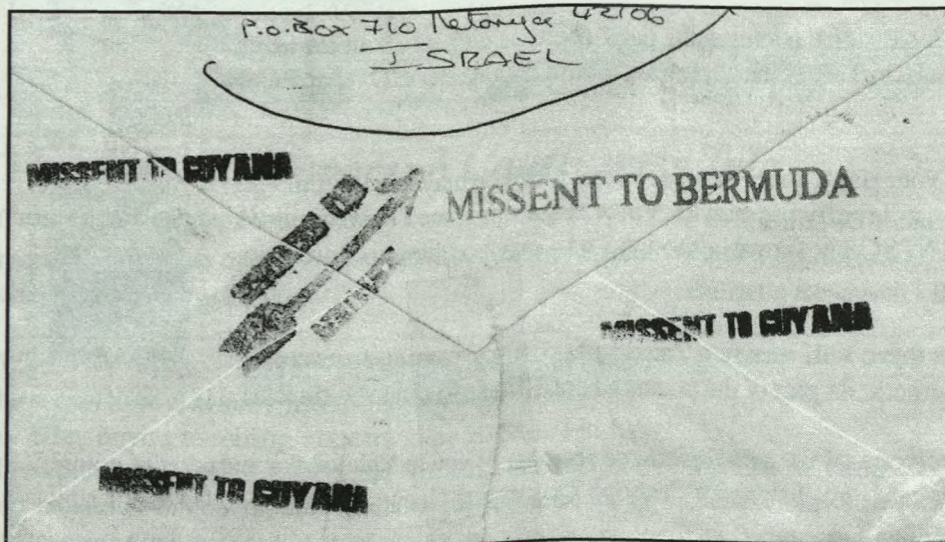


Figure 2

A collection of art and stamps was started by Jonathan Dean's great-grandfather. Jonathan Dean's aunt bought a collection of Official Seals, Postage Due, and Missent. In the 1980s and 1990s, the aunt began sending out thousands of empty envelopes to obviously "dead addresses" to ensure that they would be returned. Additionally, she sent them out underfranked and torn (see the repaired tear in Figure 1). The aunt's intent was to be able to

Continued on page 14

write a book on Missent Mail, and Damaged Mail.

The above is just a brief capsule of all of the information that Jonathan Dean wrote on the subject. It is obvious that Jonathan Dean knows the subject of covers very well. At the very least, the Netanya Covers were the product of a collector who contrived to collect as many legitimate handstamps as possible. But there is more to it.

Jonathan Dean wrote, "A collector sent me two others (handstamps) and suggested that they were unofficial and made by the postmasters of small post offices in Antiguilla" (*sic*). The misspelling of Anguilla (or Antigua) in the email could just be a keyboard error, except that I have images of two Netanya Covers with the following handstamps:

RECEIVED IN DAMAGED/WET
OPEN TAPE CONDITION
G.P.O. ANTIGUILLA
MNS.....

I am led to believe that this particular handstamp was made up somewhere outside of the West Indies. I had suspicions before about the number of MISSENT stamps on each of these covers, and why the letters might have been sent to Guyana, for example.

I collected images of 12 Netanya Covers that had been listed on eBay. These were addressed to the West Indies, Channel Islands, Kyushu Islands, India, Sri Lanka, Kenya, and New Zealand. This small sample shows a preference for the British Commonwealth and islands. This leads me to believe that there are a great number of West Indies-addressed Netanya Covers in existence.

Stamps, seals, and tape relating to damage are other subjects that were of interest to the aunt of Jonathan Dean. Figure 1 shows an example that purports to be the Official Seal of the G.P.O. of Trinidad & Tobago. This looks like something a G.P.O. might do. I have no information that would help to determine if the seal is genuine. Others of the Netanya Covers are stamped "DAMAGED BY WATER AND FIRE." Some of these covers have been burned, but they look like controlled burns – set alight with a match and put out immediately, leaving the address and postal marking intact and undamaged.

I was sent a message from a stamp dealer in Australia that the cover that I had purchased was a fake. I sent a reply that I knew that it was. He has since sent me information about other covers sold by Jonathan Dean as well as a published article on fake Disinfected Covers attributed to Stephen Darori. Stephen Darori is actually the

Continued next page

St. Vincent meeting in May - tour the island now!

By Peter Elias

St. Vincent Study Group Leader

As our members know, we will have our study group meeting in St. Vincent at the end of May. If anyone would like to see what St. Vincent looks like (at least through my eyes), I would be willing to make available CDs and DVDs of the island. I'd only ask a nominal fee of \$4 each for delivery in the U.S. and \$6 for delivery elsewhere.

I was in St. Vincent in 1993 and took many photographs back then, as well as about an hour and 20 minutes of video. I've transferred all of the photos and 8mm footage for CDs (for PCs) and DVDs (for TVs).

Payment can be made by cash (at your risk), check or money order, or you may use PayPal (go to info@stvincentstamps.com). I can't really use mint St. Vincent stamps since I have way too many! DVDs would be in the US NTSC TV format, although I can produce them in European PAL TV format if needed.

As a bonus, everyone who orders these will receive a Zazzle personalized stamp featuring a picture of St. Vincent's Fort Duvernette as part of the postage that I'll use to mail the disk(s).

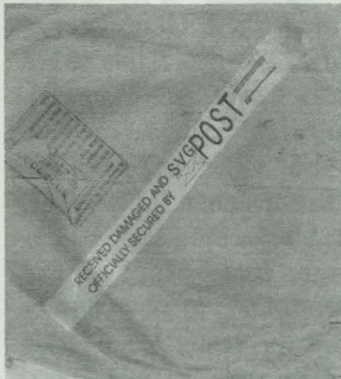
By the way, I'd like to remind everyone of the great resources that await you at Yahoo! for purposes of communicating. As I wrote here several years ago, I started a "Yahoo! Discussion Group" on Yahoo!. Go to this site: stvincentstamps@yahoogroups.com.



New Caribbean markings

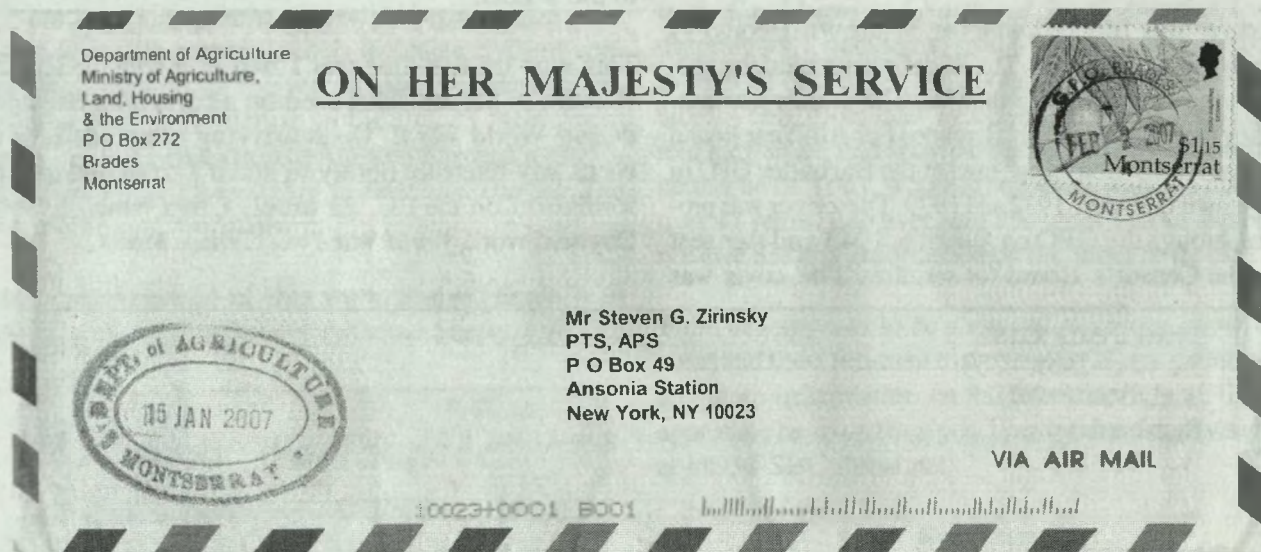
By Steve Zirinsky
Of the USA

At right are four new revenue stamps from St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The stamps, showing denominations of \$1, \$2, \$10 and \$200, are part of the "Pax et Justitia" series, which now numbers a total of 12 stamps.



At left, also from St. Vincent & the Grenadines, is tape I have not seen before. It is printed with the wording, "Received Damaged And Officially Sealed By ..."

Below is a cover from Montserrat showing a GPO Bradas postmark, no longer Plymouth. Can anyone provide details about the postmark?



The Netanya Covers: A Cautionary Tale

Continued from page 14

name of the payee that received the funds when I purchased my Netanya Cover.

Whoever this person is, Stephen Darori or Jonathan Dean, he seems to be genuinely interested in philately. His ratio of eBay buying to selling appears to be 10 to 1. He has been purchasing lots of covers and specialist guidebooks on philately. Of course, the cynic might say that he is purchasing "raw material" for what will become the next generation on Netanya Covers.

I would like to thank David Benson, Edward Barrow, Reuben Ramkissoon, and Ellen Peachy of the American Philatelic Research Library for their help in researching this subject.

Reference

William A. King. "G.B.: Faked Disinfection Cachets," *Pratique*, Volume 30, #2, 2005. *Pratique* is the journal of The Disinfected Mail Study Circle.

An interesting find at StampShow 2006

A Barbados World War II Cover: “Return To Sender”

By **Jerone R. Hart**
Of the USA

It would appear from the last two issues of the *Journal* that many BCPSG members who attended Washington 2006 did quite nicely in finding new and unusual material for their collections and exhibits. My latest “find” comes from StampShow 2006, the APS show held at Rosemont (Chicago, Illinois, this past August. Since I was exhibiting, I was at the show from its opening to its close and thus, had plenty of time to leisurely peruse dealer stocks. As most readers of the *Journal* probably know by now, one of my areas of interest in the Caribbean is Barbados between 1925 and 1950. While going through the postal history stock of one dealer, I came across the cover pictured in Figure 1.

The cover was franked with the 3d brown George VI definitive issued in 1938. The 3d definitive paid the wartime surface letter rate to the U.S. The stamp was canceled by the slogan cancel “Barbados For All-Year Round Sunshine And Seabathing” used at the Barbados GPO in Bridgetown between 1932 and 1979. The cover was processed through the GPO on August 6, 1943 and then sent on to the Censor’s Board for scrutiny. The cover was

opened and the contents were examined. It appears that the censor objected to something in the enclosure and rejected the letter. The cover was resealed (left side of the cover) using the censor’s label P.C. 90 “OPENED BY EXAMINER H/24” (see Figure 2). The censor then placed a label, P.C. 23, over the address that reads: “Return to Sender By the Censor For Reason Explained in Memorandum Enclosed in this Cover” (see Figure 3). By holding the cover up to a bright light, one can read the original address through the “Return to Sender” label. The cover was addressed to Mr. & Mrs. R.C. Jenkins, 82 S. Central Street, Haverhill, Massachusetts (USA). Unfortunately, the cover no longer contained the original contents or the censor’s memorandum so we will probably never know exactly what the censor found in the contents that lead to the letter being rejected and returned to the sender.

This was the first time that I had ever seen the P.C. 23 “Return to Sender” label used on a cover from Barbados during World War II. Upon arriving home I decided to check my reference library to see if I could find any information on the P.C. 23 label. I first turned to John Daynes’ work, *World War Two Censor Marks*.¹

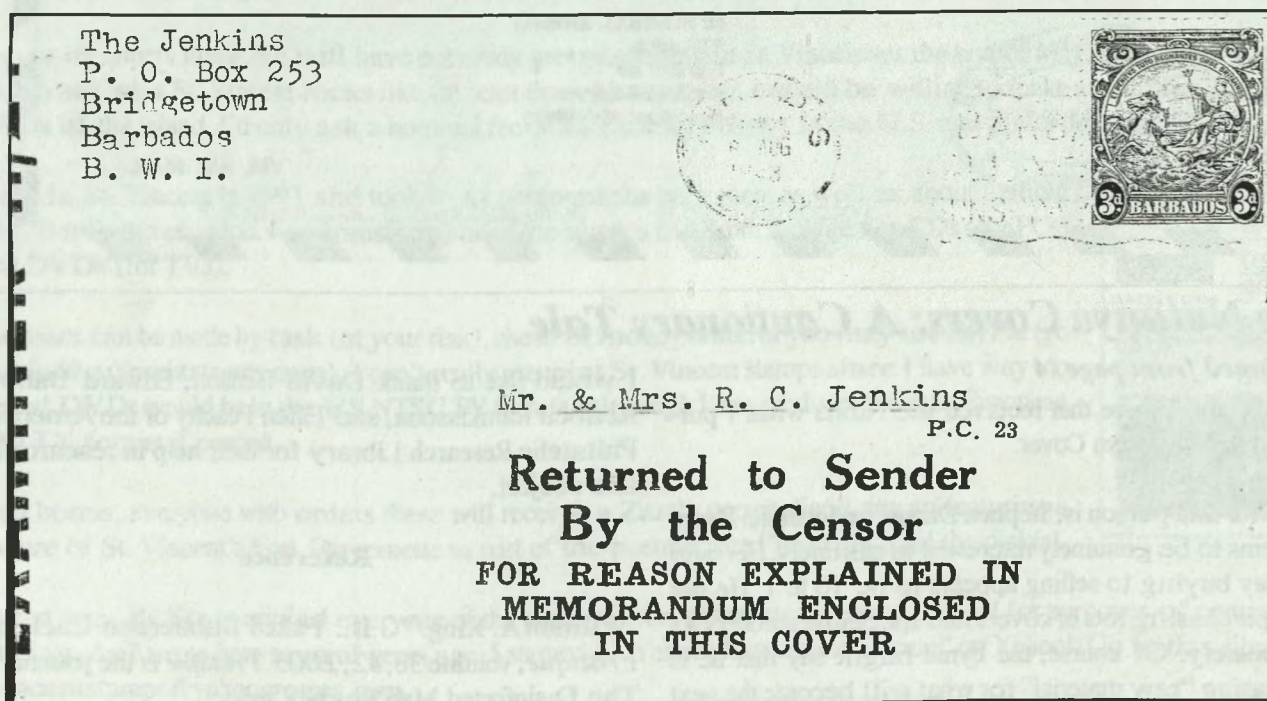


Figure 1

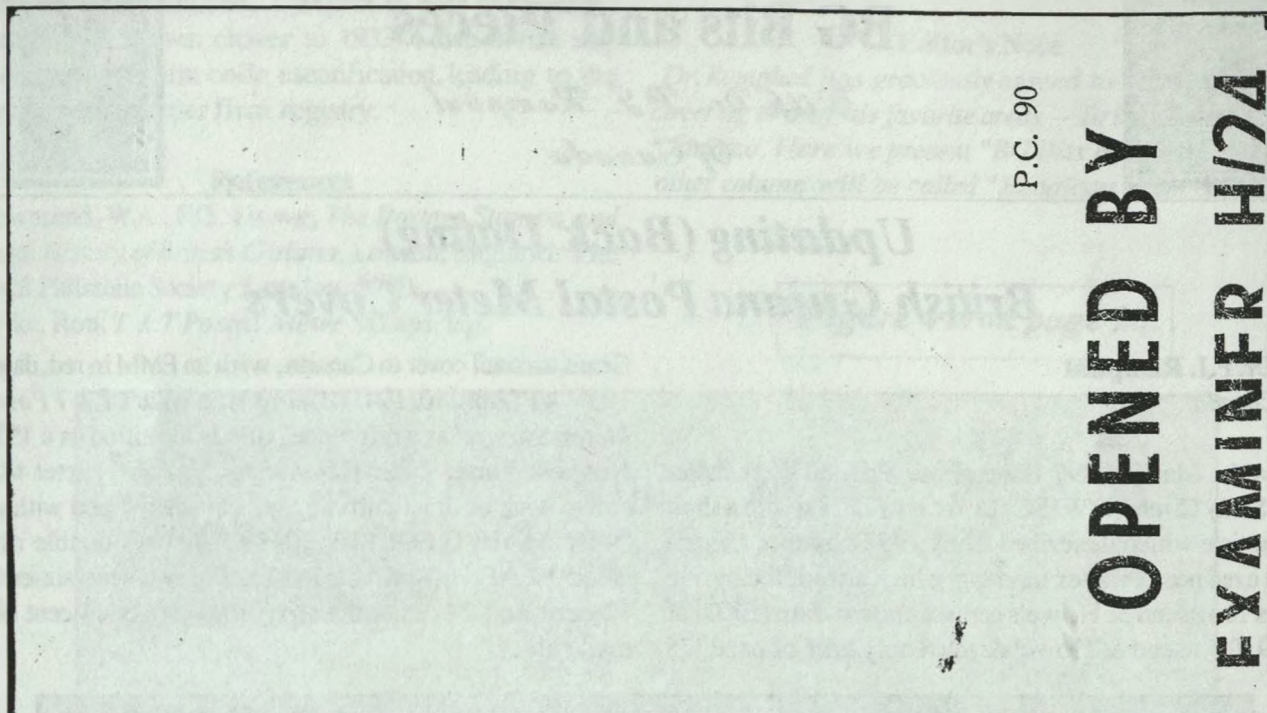


Figure 2

Although the book is mainly concerned with various military censor markings, there is a section beginning on page 85 that deals with censors' labels including civilian censors' labels used during the war. A look through this section turned up no reference to the P.C. 23 "Return to Sender" label. I next turned to Anthony Shepard's monograph, *The Postal Censorship in Barbados During The First and Second World War*.²

Beginning on page 24 of this work, Shepard deals with Post Office Re-Sealing labels. Although Shepard gives a

sorship Devices World War II. Canada and the Colonies in the Caribbean and North and South America. Out of desperation, I decided to send Chris a scan of the cover to see if he could give me any information on the P.C. 23 label. A few days later I received an email reply. Chris told me that he had shown the scan to Tony Shepard and neither he or Tony, who had collected wartime mails for over 40 years, had ever seen this label before and could not give me any information on the label or its use.

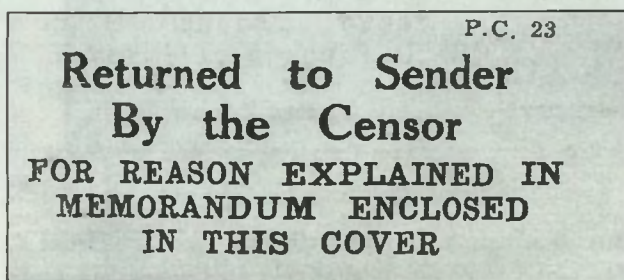
Thus, this appears to be a somewhat unique cover, censored and then returned to the sender. If any member has any more information on this label or its use, I would appreciate hearing from you. I can be contacted via email at jrh93@SBCglobal.net.

References

¹ Daynes, John A. *World War Two Censor Marks*, published by the Forces Postal History Society, United Kingdom, 1986.

² Shepard, Anthony. *The Postal Censorship in Barbados During The First and Second World War*, published by the British West Indies Study Circle, United Kingdom, 1984.

³ Miller, Christopher. *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices World War II. Canada and the Colonies in the Caribbean and North and South America*, n.d., n.p.



pretty comprehensive listing of the labels used to re-seal covers after being opened and examined by the censors in Barbados, there was no reference to the P.C. 23 "Return to Sender" label.

Over the past several months I have been in email contact with Christopher Miller, one of our U.K. members, on a different project concerning airmail rates from Barbados during World War II. Chris recently published a highly successful book titled *British Empire Civil Cen-*



BG Bits and Pieces

With Dr. P.J. Ramphal
Of Canada



Updating (Back Dating) British Guiana Postal Meter Covers

By Dr. P.J. Ramphal
Of Canada

In the March 1997 issue of the British West Indies Study Circle (BWISC) *Bulletin* #172, I wrote a short article which described a July 1954 cover to Canada with a red postal meter marking, which antedated by five years Townsend & Howe's earliest known date (EKD) of 1959. Townsend & Howe¹ devoted only half of page 375

Grant airmail cover to Canada, with an EMM in red, dated 10 IV 41 (April 10, 1941). Using Ron Wike's *T & T Postal Meter Stamps*² as a reference, this is identified as a 1931 Neopost Large Value, Key Letter N, Postal Meter Machine with decimal currency. It is backstamped with an "AIR MAIL G.P.O. BRITISH GUIANA" double ring dated 12 AP 41 (April 12, 1941). The two-cent, six-cent, 12-cent and 24-cent values pay the correct 44-cent airmail rate.

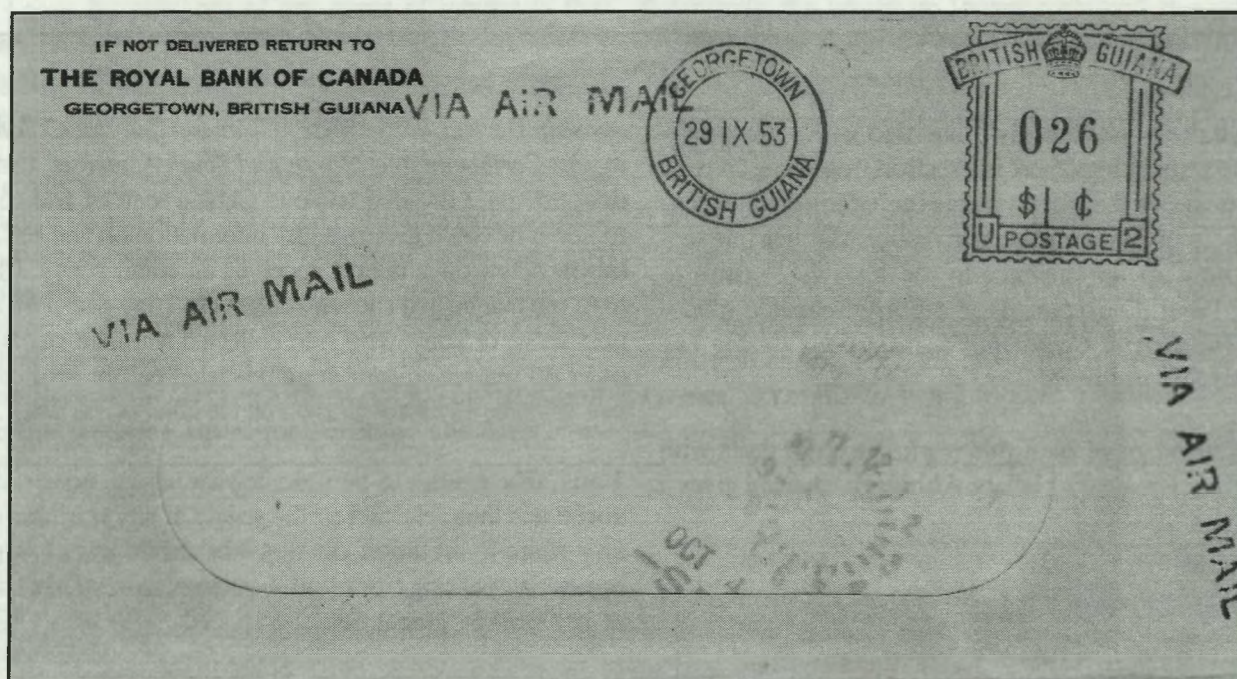


Figure 1

to postal meter machines. Since then, I have been fortunate to find four even earlier ones, three of which I will describe here.

Figure 1 illustrates the front of a Georgetown Royal Bank window envelope with a perfect Universal Postal Meter Marking, 26 cents, dated 29 IX 53 (September 29, 1953), and with a New York arrival datestamp of October 4, 1953. There are three red "VIA AIR MAIL" instructional markings on the front and one on the back of the cover.

Figures 2 and 3 illustrate the front and back of a T. Geddes

Figure 4 illustrates a small cream "WM. FOGARTY, LTD." corner cover, addressed to Canada via *Lady Hawkins*, dated 5 XII 36 (December 5, 1936) with a four-cent value, and with a Fogarty's advertising slogan. Interestingly, the slogan reads "FOGARTY's for MEN & WOMENS WEAR, Trinidad, Barbados, British & Dutch Guiana." This also appears to be a 1931 Neopost postal meter machine.

The last cover brings us to just three years after the 1933 PMG *Gazette* notice which authorized the use of and stated the regulations regarding use of postal meter ma-

chines in British Guiana. I expect to hear from some member who is even closer to 1933. I also invite any evidence of user firm code identification, leading to the development of a user firm registry.

References

¹ Townsend, W.A., F.G. Howe, *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana*. London, England: The Royal Philatelic Society London, 1970.

² Wike, Ron. *T & T Postal Meter Stamps*. n.p.

Editor's Note

Dr. Ramphal has graciously agreed to write a column covering two of his favorite areas -- British Guiana and Jamaica. Here we present "BG Bits and Pieces." His other column will be called "Jamaican Odds & Ends."

Figure 4 is on page 20.

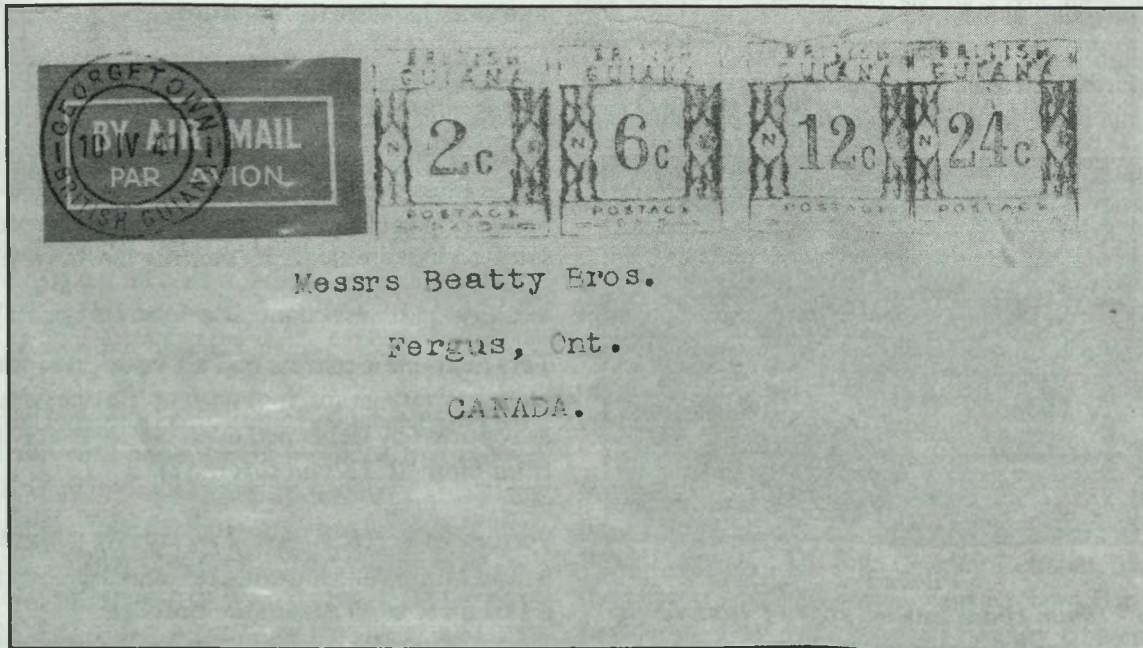


Figure 2

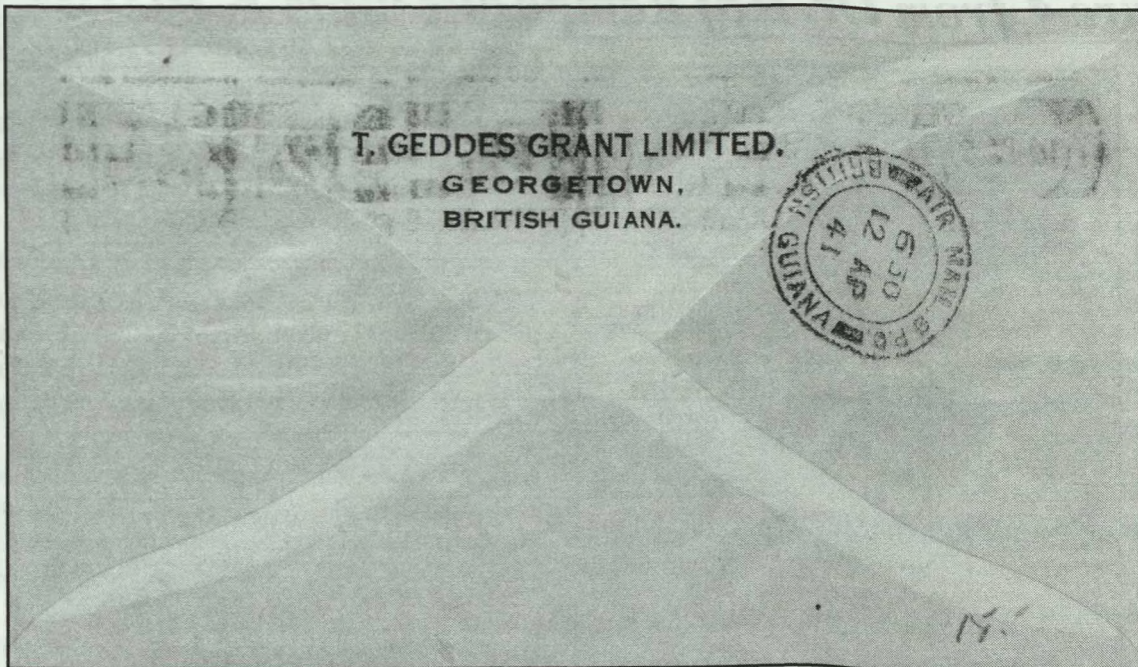


Figure 3

The 1921 Small Badge Plate Numbers of Barbados -- a man of differentiation?

By Patricia Capill
Of New Zealand

Edmund Bayley, on page 122 of *The Postage Stamps of Barbados*, quotes a 1934 article by Harry E. Huber on the 1921 "Badge" issue in *Stamp Collecting* as follows:

"For the farthing at least two plates were used, numbered 1 and 2; the numeral appearing outside the double mar-



Figure 1

Plate "1" 10mm space between edge of stamp design and inner marginal line.

ginal line, at the left, opposite the fifth horizontal row and usually cut off in trimming the sheets to size. It is quite probable that the large quantities of 1/2d, 1d and 2d printed also required the use of more than one plate."

I have not come across any other references to these plate numbers in philatelic literature.

However, recently I acquired a marginal block of the 1d red and discovered the distance between the edge of the stamp design and the inner of the two marginal ("Jubilee") lines was wider by 2mm than on all the other selvedge copies of different denominations I possess, including a 1d red selvedge copy bearing the elusive plate number "1."

This leads me to surmise that all values were printed from plate "1" (10mm spacing) with at least the farthing value as reported by Huber and now the 1d also being printed from plate "2" (12mm spacing?).

Further evidence is needed to support this theory and I would be grateful for members' assistance. Selvedge copies of these small stamps are quite plentiful.

Continued on page 22

Figure 4 from Dr. Raj Ramphal's "Bits & Pieces"

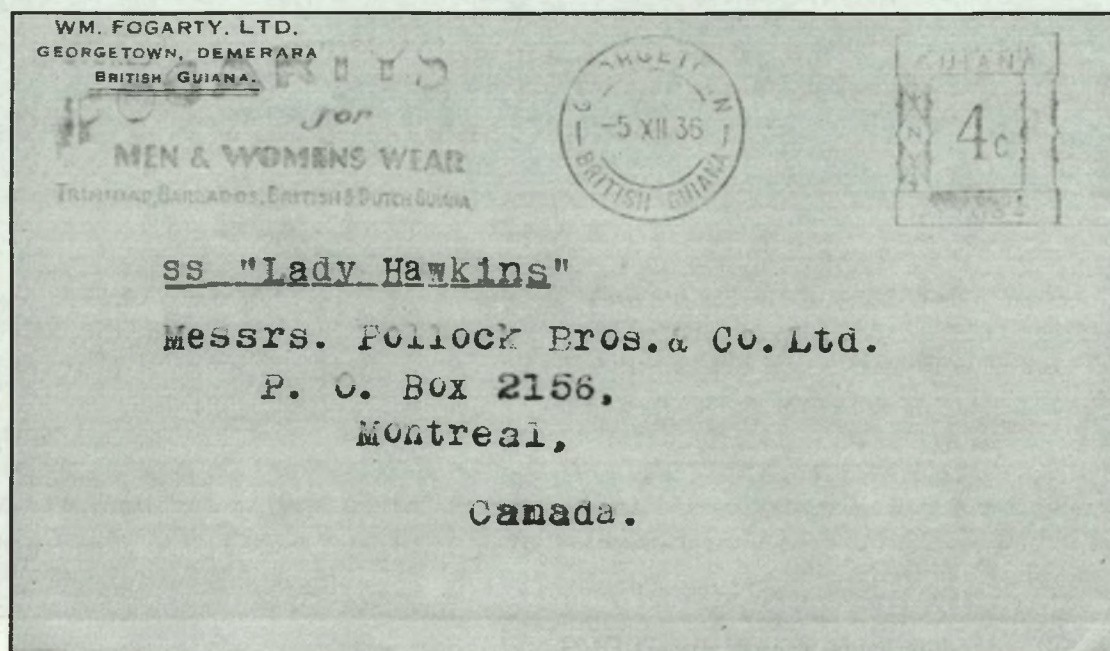


Figure 4

British Virgin Islands Quakers

By **Vernon Pickering**

Of the British Virgin Islands

In the early 1720s, Abednego Pickering, a Quaker immigrant with an English background, arrived in the BVI from Anguilla and established himself at Fat Hogs Bay. He was the only planter professing religious convictions.

In 1727, Joshua Fielding, a Quaker preacher, visited Virgin Gorda, then residence of the Deputy Governor of the Virgin Islands. Fielding visited Tortola shortly after and found that there were no churches.

In 1738, James Birkett, another Quaker, sailed to Tortola to organize religious meetings. Abednego Pickering had died in 1736, and his only son, John Pickering, became the leader of a small group of Quakers.

In 1741, John Pickering became the first Lieutenant Governor of Tortola and government residence was moved from Virgin Gorda to Fat Hogs Bay. A letter of Pickering to the Quakers in Philadelphia resulted in the visit of new missionaries. Thomas Chalkley arrived in Tortola in November 1741, but because of his old age and the stress of the trip, he died within a week of his arrival and was buried in the Quakers' graveyard at Fat Hogs Bay.

Quakers' religious beliefs prevented them from using weapons or engaging in war. When the war between Spain and Britain was sparked off, the Virgin Islands became a possible target of the Spaniards. In June 1742, John Pickering resigned from his post and Captain John Hunt, an enemy of Quakers, was appointed Lieutenant Governor.

In December 1742, two Quakers from Philadelphia arrived in Tortola; one of them, John Cadwallader, arrived in poor health and died after two weeks. Those attending his funeral were caught in a shower of rain from which his colleague, John Estaugh, was taken ill and soon died.

This sequence of sad events gave more strength to the Quakers in the Virgin Islands. Their numbers increased and meetings were regularly organized in Tortola, Virgin Gorda, and Jost Van Dyke.

Another visiting missionary, Samuel Nottingham, arrived in the islands in 1748 and found a very well organized group of Quakers. When he returned in 1759, members of the Quaker congregation were rapidly decreasing in

number, and most meetings had a poor attendance. The decline was caused by excessive discipline.

Nottingham had married Mary Hunt, the widow of Lieutenant Governor John Hunt, in 1752; he believed strongly in discipline and he proceeded to disown several members of the Quaker congregation. This resulted in a further decline of Quakerism, and by 1762, meetings were discontinued.

John Pickering died in 1768, about sixty years of age; he was one of the largest slave owners in Tortola, but because of his religious beliefs, he was very popular with his slaves.

During the 1750s and 1760s, Quakers in America and in England had already organized anti-slavery movements and societies; their position on this vital matter was also one of the major reasons for their decline in the Virgin Islands.

Famous British Virgin Islands-born Quakers include William Thornton, the architect of the Capitol Building, Washington DC; Dr. John Coakley Lettsom, founder of the London Medical Society; and Richard Humphreys, founder of what later became Cheyney University, the first black university in the USA.

Help!

The articles file is almost empty!

Once again, your editor desperately needs articles as soon as possible!

We've worked through the backlog of articles and need several more for the July issue!

Please send something as soon as possible!

NOTE NEW EMAIL:
eparker@hughes.net

The 1921 Small Badge Plate Numbers of Barbados

Continued from page 20

Summarizing what I possess:

- 10mm spacing: 1/4d, 1/2d, 1d plate "1," 2d, 2 1/2d, 3d, 4d, 3/-
- 12mm spacing: 1d (plate "2"?)

1) Does anyone have plate numbered copies? If so, what denomination and what millimeter spacing?

2) Could readers please check the size of the spacing on all selvedge copies they have, in all denominations?

3) Has anyone a copy with a plate number higher than "1" or "2"?

Please report your information to me at either: colinpat@wave.co.nz or post to 8 Asher Road, R.D. 5, Tauranga 3175, New Zealand.



Figure 2

Block of four, 12mm space between edge of stamp design and inner marginal line.

Advertising Rates for the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal for 2007

The following advertising rates will be effective as of January 1, 2007. All billing for advertising will be done in December preceding the year in which the advertisements will appear. Advertisers will be billed in December 2006 for advertising in the 2007 Journals. Advertising rates are based on (1) single-issue insertion or (2) a four issue (complete year, January through December) rate. The rates effective as of January 2007 are:

Type and size Ad	Cost/single Insertion	Cost/Year 4 Issues
1/4 page	\$30.00	\$100.00
1/2 page	\$75.00	\$250.00
Full Page	\$100.00	\$350.00
Back Cover	\$125.00	\$400.00
Single-Sided Insert*	\$80.00	\$300.00
Double-Sided Insert*	\$125.00	\$400.00

* The single-sided and double-sided insertions are stand-alone pages inserted into the Journal by the printer. The cost of the insertions also includes the cost of printing.

As can be seen from the above rates, there is a significant reduction in the cost of advertising on an annual basis as opposed to single insertions. The British Caribbean *Journal* is a good place to advertise material from this very popular area of philately. We distribute about 400 journals four times a year and the philatelic interests of our members range from beginning collectors to very advanced collectors and exhibitors. Our journals reach members in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, the Caribbean as well as many other countries of the world. For further information, please contact your Treasurer at jseidl@mindspring.com.

Barbados World War I Censorship Labels and Markings

By Barry Friedman
Of the USA

Previously Unreported Items

Anthony Shepherd's excellent 1984 monograph, *The Postal Censorship in Barbados During the First and Second World Wars*, is one of very few sources of the island's World War I markings. His type L2 OBC label appears to be the only label used in the British Empire with "Opened By Censor" printed in three

lines. The example in the monograph uses letters with serifs (*Figure 1*). The similar type shown here (*Figure 2*) uses block letters without serifs. A second example with block letters, posted from Brazil to Guatemala, is illustrated in the April 1999 *Civil Censorship Study Group Journal*.

Shepherd's type POW2 (*Figure 3*) has a double-lined outer circle, and at least six examples of this marking are known. A similar handstamp, but with a single-lined outer

Continued on page 24

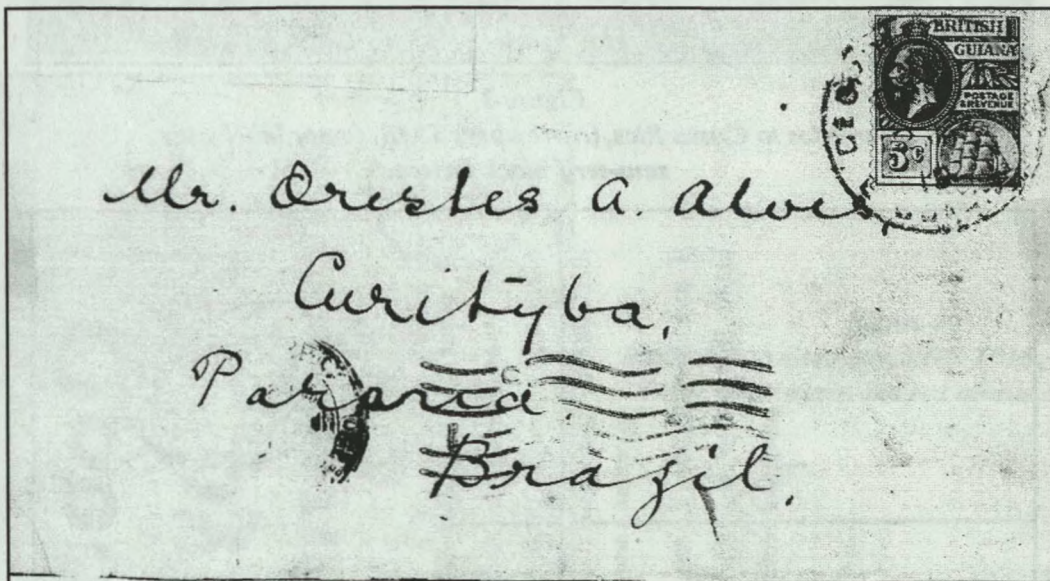


Figure 1
Barbados to Brazil, (May) 1919 with Shepherd Type L2OBC
censor label. Both sides of cover shown.

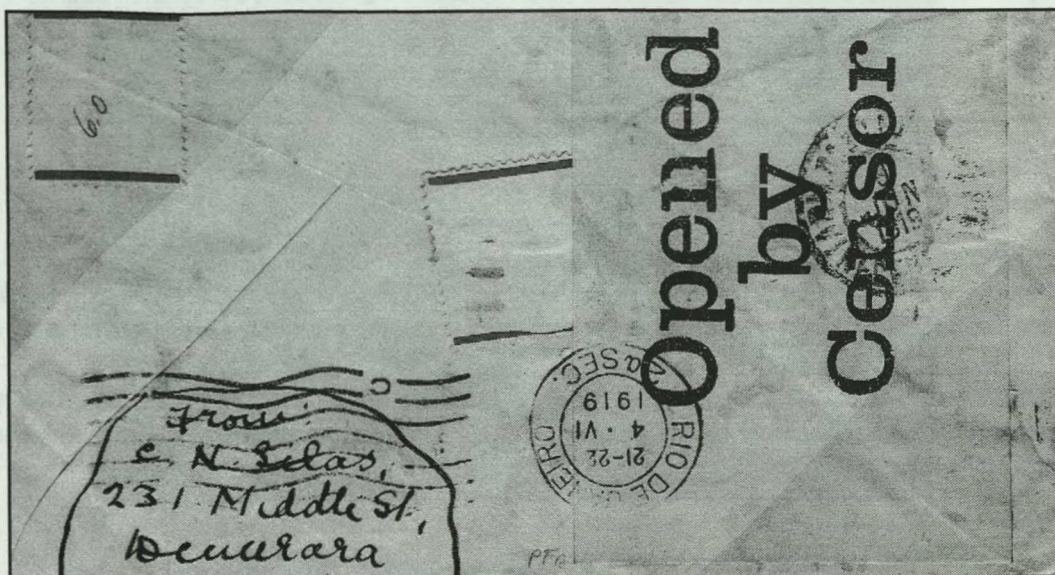
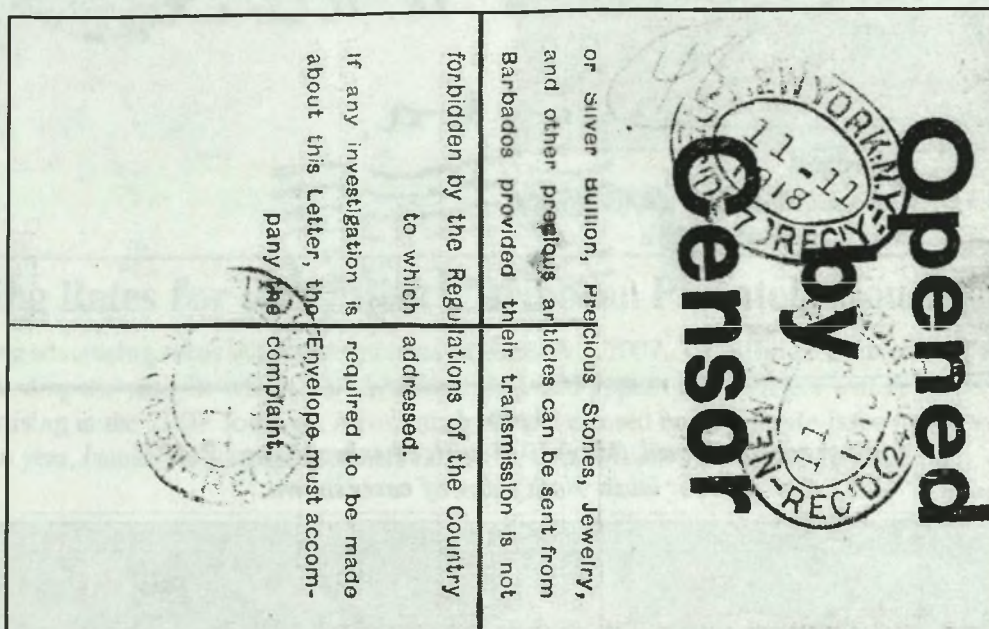




Figure 2
Barbados to Costa Rica, (November) 1918, censor label with sans-serif block letters.



Continued from page 23

circle, is illustrated here (Figure 4). The mark is struck in violet, and has a single star at each side. In addition to the handstamp, a red manuscript "P.C." (postal censor, or passed censor?) in a circle has been added at the top.

The handwritten marking was initially suspect. However, a second example recently appeared on the Internet auction eBay (Figure 5). Can any member show a cover with a similar marking, or confirm that this is, indeed, a censorship marking?

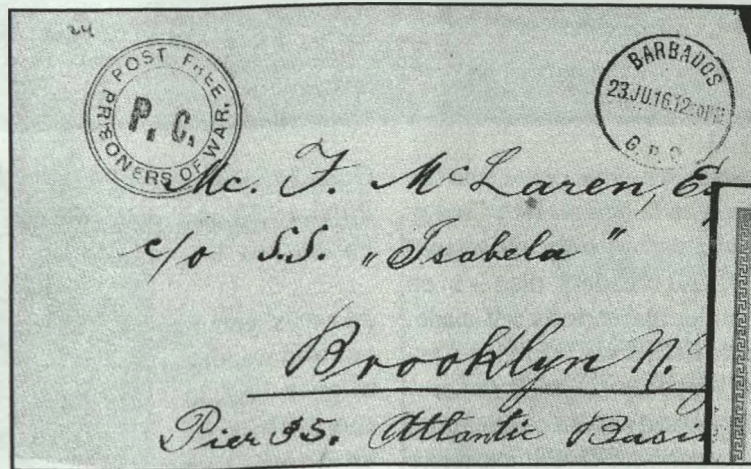


Figure 3
Barbados to New York, 23 JU 1916, with Shepherd Type POW2 violet handstamp.

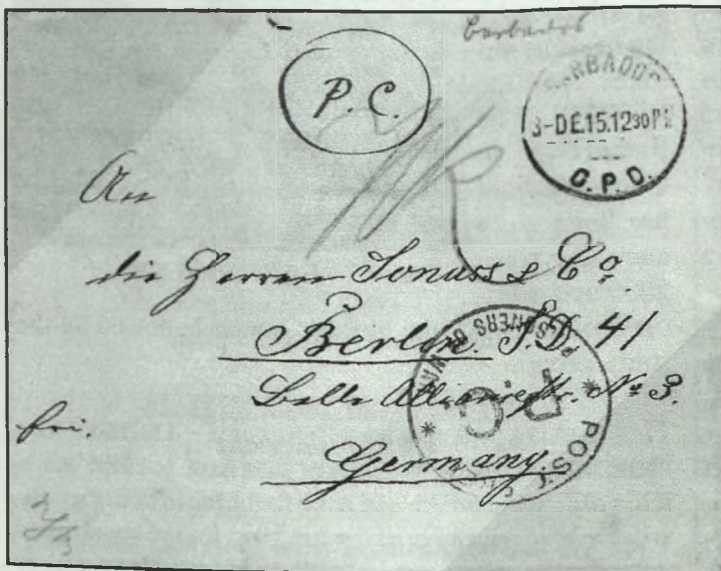


Figure 4
Barbados to Germany, 3 DE 1915, with violet POW handstamp and red manuscript P.C.

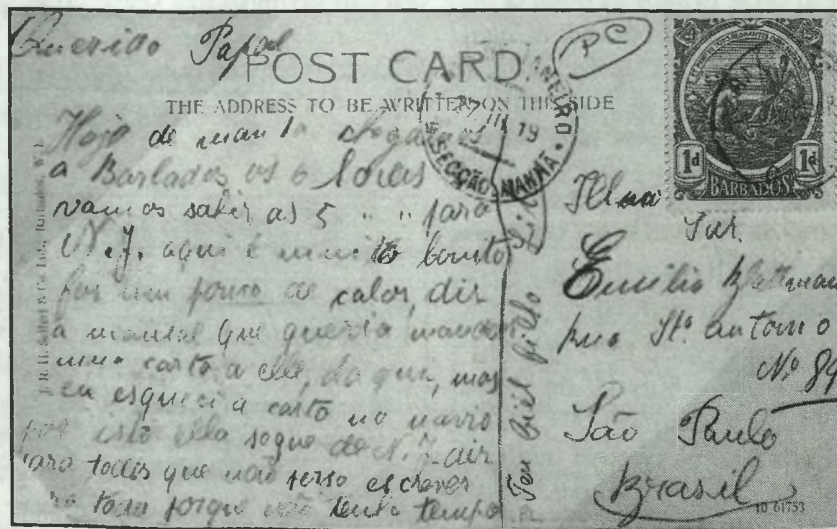


Figure 5
Post card Barbados to Brazil, 5 MAR 1919 with red manuscript P.C.

Robert J. Cooley

April 3, 1917 - January 23, 2007

It is rare indeed to meet a man who has come onto the stamp collecting scene so late in life as Bob Cooley did, and then take it by storm so quickly and so successfully. But Bob Cooley was no ordinary man -- even in his early days. Just out of Purdue and strictly self-made, he followed his early dreams to California. Hired by Carnation out of school, with his inventive, quick and creative mind he moved quickly upward in that corporation, traveling the world for the international division to make his company a household name.

Success followed success for Bob in his working life, so it is no wonder that -- in retirement -- once he discovered the wonders of early Great Britain stamps and covers, he would give all the time and effort needed to build one of the great collections of that era in our time. A fast learner -- with a comfortable ease in acquiring new friends and keeping old ones -- became a winning combination when he was determined to ask all the questions needed to play the vast catch-up game needed in what normally is a lifelong hobby. His lively personality always made him a standout at the stamp shows he attended.

From his dream home on California's remote Catalina Island, his dedicated drive for successful exhibiting grew, first with trial-and-error, and then to honing his new knowledge and skills and mounting a first-class exhibit of early Great Britain that received high awards in national shows and later in the International Class. His travels took him around the world as his trail of honors grew. And it was on a journey to Great Britain in quest of his hobby that a new -- and strikingly different area of interest caught his eye -- the Caribbean's Cayman Islands. Newly excited, he had another area of concentration to put his efforts on. The learning curve was high, but he was up to the challenge of building this into a first class collection also.

Bob Cooley's first major philatelic interest was to be "Great Britain Line Engraved Issues: One Penny and Two Pence Values 1840-1879." He exhibited the Great Britain nationally and internationally, achieving the Grand Award at StampShow 1992, the Champion of Champions at StampShow 1994, and a Large Gold at Bangkok '93. His "Cayman Islands: The Philately of Three Reigns" was awarded the BCPSG Cameron Trophy during the AGM at Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition 1994, and the Grand Award at ARIPEX 1994. He was awarded

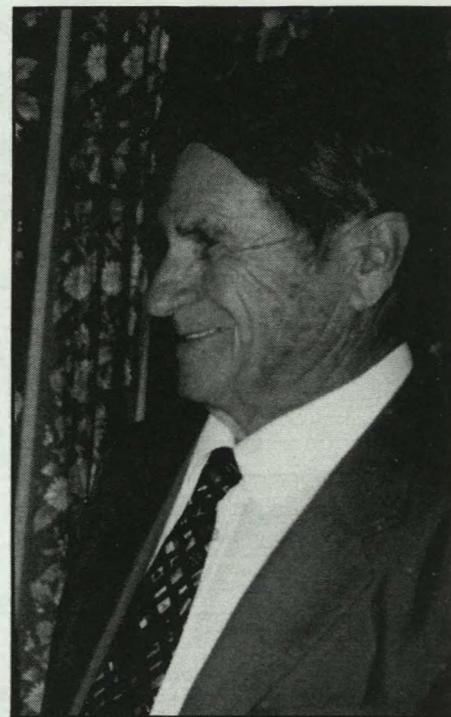
Gold Medals at Polska '93 and Philakorea '94.

Always generous and wanting to give back to the hobby he enjoyed so much, he provided a generous donation to establish an award recognizing lifetime service to the BCPSG. The Robert J. Cooley Award has been given annually since 2000 and is recognized as one of the highest honors bestowed by the study group.

This man is a person to be remembered -- a member who came into our stamp world later than most, but then "gave it his all" to our hobby and rose to the top in doing so. He will be long remembered for his great love of stamps, his outstanding collections, as well as his thoughtful generosity in giving us this yearly award.

We will miss you, Bob Cooley!

--Joan Larsen



BOB COOLEY

Your editor's request ...

In order to complete my "reference collection" of the BCPSG *Journal*, I need copies prior to July 1984, when I joined the society.

If you have any you'd be willing to "donate to the cause," I'd appreciate a call or email. I'll gladly reimburse shipping costs.

Everett Parker

(207) 695-3163 or email to eparker@hughes.net

BCPSG Exhibits and Awards

By Paul Larsen
Awards Chairman

Reuben Ramkissoon
Air Letters (Aerogrammes) of Trinidad & Tobago
1943-1988
Vermeil

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

SESCAL 2006, October 13-15
Los Angeles, California

Jerome Kasper
United States Aerogrammes
Gold, UPSS Marcus White Award

CHICAGOPEX 2006, November 17-19
Arlington Heights, Illinois

Duane Larson
Jamaica Issues of 1860-1921
Gold, BCPSG Medal
Reuben Ramkissoon
Development of United States Lunar Exploration
Gold, Space Topics Study Group Gold Award
The World War I Trinidad
One Fraction Red Cross Label (SF)
Single Frame Grand, Gold

FLOREX 2006, December 1-3
Orlando, Florida

Raymond Murphy
Jamaican Tourism - Foundation, Growth and Impact
Vermeil, BCPSG Medal, AAPE Award, American
Philatelic Congress Award

ARIPEX 2007, January 19-21
Tucson, Arizona

Reuben Ramkissoon
Air Letter Sheets (Aerogrammes)
of Trinidad & Tobago 1943-1995
Gold, APS 1940-1980 Medal
The Trinidad WWI Label
That Became a Postage Stamp (SF)
Gold & Commendation
"One of the best examples of a
one-frame exhibit ever put together."

SANDICAL 2007, January 26-28
San Diego, California

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!

From the (new) Membership Director

By Bob Stewart
Membership Director

My first report as Membership Director is found on page 29, and I would like to thank Tom Girdali for his help and guidance in getting me started. Thanks, Tom, and everyone in the BCPSG appreciates your 30 years of service!

Starting with the April *Journal* (this one), you will notice a change in the mailing label. In the upper right hand corner above your last name you will see your dues status. The year(s) you have paid through will now be listed. For example, if it shows "2007" that means you are paid up through this year. If you are a Life Member, it will show "LM" and if it is blank, your dues for 2007 have not been paid. Please contact me if there is an error in your dues status!

If you have any friends you think might be interested in joining our group, please send me their names and addresses and I will send them a complimentary copy of the next *Journal*.

My email address can be found on page two, but here it is again: stewart99@comcast.net.

President's Message

By Jack Harwood

As this is being written, preparations for our meeting in St. Vincent are nearly complete. At last count, at least 23 members, plus 17 spouses and guests, have made reservations. We expect to have an entertaining and fascinating visit. Steve Zirinsky tells me that the St. Vincent stamp issue being prepared to commemorate our visit is on schedule, with a first day of issue on May 21 or 22. This will allow members to obtain and use the stamps while on the island.

Twenty exhibit frames are in transit by ship to St. Vincent, and will be used in a stamp exhibition held jointly by the BCPSG and the St. Vincent Stamp & Coin Collectors Club. The exhibition will be widely publicized in the local media, and open to the public. We owe member Stephen Hopwood a tremendous "thank you" for providing shipping for the frames from his firm in Tampa to St. Vincent. Please feel free to bring along a few sheets to include in the exhibits. However, if your sheets contain rare or valuable material, you may want to consider good quality color photocopies rather than actual stamps or covers. If you are planning to attend, but have not notified me, please do so now. A final schedule will soon be sent to each member whose attendance has been confirmed.

For various logistical reasons, we have decided not to conduct an auction at our St. Vincent meeting. Instead, Auction Manager Howie Austin is considering a postal auction later this year. Whether it is held will be determined by the number of lots submitted. If you have material to place in the auction, please send it to Howie at this time.

U.K. member Steve Jarvis has recently completed a detailed Index of our journal from 1997-2006. This valuable tool can be found on our web site,

<http://www.bcpsg.com>

(click on "Our Journal" in the table of contents). If you are not a computer user, you should be able to use (and get help using) a computer at your local public library. If all else fails, contact me at the address on the inside front cover, and I will mail you a copy of the Index. This compilation is truly a labor of love, and we extend our thanks to Steve for the outstanding job he has done, and for providing this to the membership with his compliments.

After more than 30 years service as Membership Director, Tom Giraldi has asked to step down. We applaud Tom for his tireless efforts on behalf of the group in this and

many other ways. His tenure is probably unequaled in the 56 year history of the BCPSG. Bob Stewart, compiler and manager of our membership database, has been appointed to replace Tom. Bob's work with the database will complement the Membership Director's activities, so the transition should be without difficulty. We thank Bob for his willingness to take on this additional task.



The BCPSG Library has been transferred from Dan Walker to David Wilson, and David is now prepared to receive borrowing requests. Dan has served faithfully for a number of years, and we extend sincere thanks to him. David will now handle both the library and orders for publications. A listing of library holdings will be published in this journal from time to time. If the index mentioned above prompts you to seek a back issue of the *Journal*, David tells me he should be able to provide it.

Your editor is still in need of articles for future issues of this journal. The article in this issue by Barry Friedman is an excellent example of using a small number of items to tell a very interesting story, and ask some intriguing questions. You probably have a few items that can be the basis for an equally interesting article. Why not take a few minutes to put something together? The journal depends upon each of us. Please lend us your expertise.

Finally, our membership continues a very slow decline. If each member recruited only one new member each year, the group would grow tremendously. You can assist by speaking up at your local club meeting, displaying the latest several issues of the *Journal*, or suggesting membership to a fellow collector. A membership application can be found on the web site. Please don't be afraid to promote your society.

I look forward to seeing many of you in St. Vincent!

Membership Director's Report — By Bob Stewart

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 None!

Change of Address

Dr. Edwin J. Andrews, 13 Tullamore Dr., West Chester, PA 19382-7065 USA; email: afacinc@yahoo.com
Charles Freeland, Ob Batterieweg 45, CH-4059 Basel, SWITZERLAND; email: charles.freeland@hotmail.com
Reid Hill, P.O. Box 6305, Diamondhead, MS 39525 USA
Ellsworth Mink, P.O. Box 6781, Folsom, CA 95763 USA
Jeff Weiss, P.O. Box 298, Machias, ME 04654 USA
Jeffrey M. Dow, P.O. Box 3116, Florence, AL 35630 USA; email: imdcollectibles@yahoo.com.
Alvin B. Nordhem, 6201 W 119th St., #4214, Overland Park, KS 66209-2730 USA

John G.M. Davis, Birchams, 5 Angeline Close, Highcliffe-On-Sea, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 5BS UNITED KINGDOM

New email Addresses

Everett Parker: eparker@hughes.net

Ian Matheson: ian@cdi.biz

Deceased

Steward Jessop of the United Kingdom

Robert Cooley of the USA

New Life Members

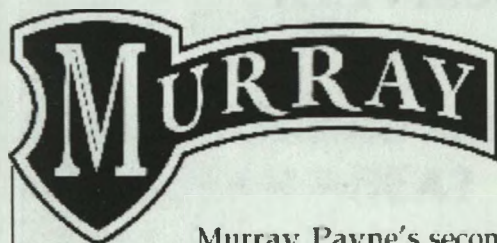
Gerald F. Schroedl, 4313 Wells Road, Knoxville, TN 37920-3926 USA; email: gschroel@utk.edu

Danny T. Swart, P.O. Box 2502, Cramerview 2060, SOUTH AFRICA; email: dannyswart@mweb.co.za

Resignations

Barbara Armstrong of the USA; Mel Feiner of the USA; Robert Johnson of the United Kingdom.

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 stewart99@comcast.net



British Commonwealth Auction No. 2

Murray Payne's second Postal Auction (no buyer's premium!) is scheduled to take place in March 2007. Properties so far received include Dr Peter Dawson's unmounted King George VI collection and part of Harold Green's Leeward Islands; the King Edward VII, King George V, and King George VI 10/-s and £1s.
Contact us now to ensure you receive a catalogue.



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#59i flaw



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"COLUMBUS"

Grenada CW 16
Perf 12½ x 13½



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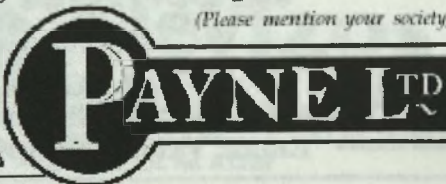
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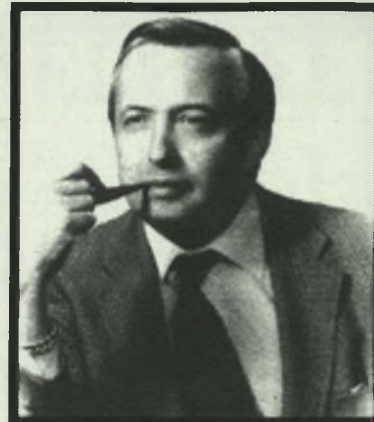
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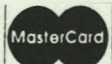
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