

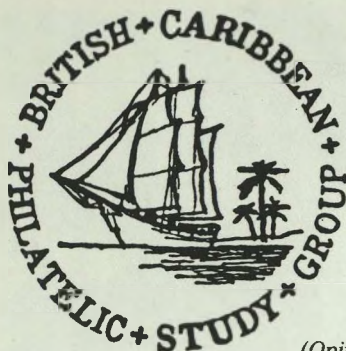
BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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Composite artist drawing, dated June 12, 1879, with hand-painted alternative value, name of colony tablets, brown and blue labels of proposed colors. See "Nevis Key Plates" beginning on page 4.



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The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group Officers and Trustees

PRESIDENT	Mr. Jack Harwood, 3241 Ringwood Meadows, Sarasota, FL 34235-7005 USA. Tele: (941) 379-4608; email: jharwood2@comcast.net
VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. Edward W. Waterous, P.O. Box 1105, Homewood, IL 60430 USA. Tele: (219) 769-2840; email: ewwaterous@hotmail.com
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EDITOR	Dr. Everett L. Parker, 719 Moosehead Lake Rd., Greenville, ME 04441-9727. Tele: (207) 695-3163; fax (207) 695-3163; email: eparker@hughes.net
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CAYMAN ISLANDS	Mr. T.E. Giraldi, 1305 Scottsdale Way, Modesto, CA 95355 USA. Tele: (209) 571-1345; email: teg43@aol.com
CENSORED MAIL	Mr. Edward T. Tweddell, 846 Silver Ln., Berkeley Springs, WV 25411-9321 USA
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GRENADA	Mr. W.D. Walker, P.O. Box 99, Lisbon, MD 21765 USA. Tele: (410) 442-1043; email: dan@insurecollectibles.com
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TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS	Dr. Peter P. McCann (<i>address above</i>)

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Editor: Dr. Everett L. Parker, 719 Moosehead Lake Rd., Greenville, ME 04441-9727 USA

Telephone: (207) 695-3163; FAX: (207) 695-3163; email: eparker@hughes.net

Please address correspondence regarding articles in this publication to the Editor.

Membership Director: Mr. Bob Stewart, 7 West Dune Lane, Beach Haven, NJ 08008 USA

Telephone: (609) 492-4379; email: stewart99@comcast.net

Please address membership questions to the Membership Director (this includes address changes).

Advertising Manager:

Vacant

Awards Editor: Paul A. Larsen, 14 Wilson Ct., Park Forest, IL 60466 USA; email: PALStamp@aol.com

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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

Notes on De La Rue

“Colonial” Key Plates of Nevis

By Federico Borrromeo

Nevis Study Group Leader

The true “Key Type” was first produced by De La Rue in 1879. In 1855 De La Rue was awarded the printing contract for producing, by means of a quick and cheap method, Great Britain stamps using typography (surface printing). In the same period, stamps were also supplied by Perkins and Bacon using recess printing, a much more costly process, although giving a much better result from an aesthetic point of view.¹ Some 25 years later, De La Rue turned their interest to producing stamps for the colonies. Three “Key Types” with the same taste and style, but slightly different designs, were produced during Queen Victoria’s reign. Nevis used only the first of these.²

- Key Plate I, the “Colonial” type (1879).³
- Key Plate II, known as “Postage & Revenue” (1889).
- Key Plate III, known as “Postage Postage” (1890).

Prompted by the UPU regulations, the “Uniform Key Type” system developed as a mechanism for supplying cheap stamps which could be used for different colonies. For reasons of economy, De La Rue suggested to introduce for a number of small colonies a type of stamps, similar in shape, design and color. De La Rue invented a very clever method where the stamps were printed in two different stages. The printing plate containing only the Queen’s portrait with blank country name and value tablets was used for every printing, and is called the “Key Plate.” A second printing device, with only the name of the colony and the value, was used as appropriate, and is called the “Duty Plate.”

It is easy to understand that the production needed to be done with much care, because this method obliged the printer to use a very high standard of accuracy. The stamps had to be produced with two different passages, exactly placing the duty plate and matching the color of the ink. It is also astonishing how the watermark was perfectly placed in the center of the stamp and how the perforation never intrudes into the design.

In relation to the admission of several colonies as members of the UPU, the Auditor General of the Leeward Islands wrote a letter dated May 15, 1879 to the Colonial Secretary. It is interesting to read a few passages of the letter:

“... It will therefore be necessary to provide 4d stamps for Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica and Montserrat. Nevis and Virgin Islands have already stamps of the denomination, and for all the Presidencies Stamps for 2 1/2d and a sufficient number of Post Cards will also be required for each Presidency. ... It will I presume be necessary to have the sanction of the Post-Master-General for the use of the new Stamps. ... I enclose a requisition for Stamps mentioned above estimated to be sufficient for six months. In making the estimate I have been guided by the number of letters passing through the Antigua Post Office as furnished by Mr. Gray. ... I beg to mention that the dies of the Postage Stamps for the several Presidencies at present in use are in the custody of the Crown Agents, except those of Nevis, which are in the hands of Nissen and Parker Stationers &c. of London.”⁴

Just one day after the letter of the Auditor General we have the following Requisition.⁵

Requisition No. 896 of 16 May 1879 for Adhesive Stamps, Antigua, Nevis, Montserrat & Virgin Islands.

Die for the production of Key-forme	£ 50
Key-forme of 60 multiples from above die	21
Overprint forme of 60 multiples to print the name	
Antigua and the duty 2 1/2d on Key-sheets	12

2 1/2d overprint forme do for Nevis	12
2 1/2d overprint forme do for Montserrat	12
4d overprint forme do for Montserrat	12
2 1/2d overprint forme do for Virgin Islands	12

The first British West Indies colonies to be admitted from July 1 were, in addition to Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, Virgin Islands, St. Kitts and Dominica. The proposed new rates were to be 4d per 1/2 oz. (or 15 grams) for letters, 2 1/2d for a packet not exceeding four ounces of commercial papers and a fixed registration fee of 2d, for both letters and packets.

The first stamp printed for Nevis was the 2 1/2d red-brown with a printing of 780 only, invoiced on November 7, 1879. As we have seen in the letter of the Auditor General of the Leeward Islands, this quantity was estimated to suffice for six months, less than five per day.⁶

The next consignment of 1,620 of that stamp was delivered at the end of May 1880, six months later, as a two year provision. Another consignment of the same denomination was despatched on August 10, 1882, 1,080 stamps printed on a paper with the new "Crown CA" watermark.

How were these particularly interesting stamps produced? As a rule a stamp is born from a first idea and many sketches. Finally, an artist's hand-painted proof, like the one dated June 12, 1879 (*Figure 1*), was prepared and the definitive design given to the engraver. Joubert de la Ferté engraved the Queen's head and the surrounding design; he had also prepared a first essay of that design many years before, in 1859.⁷

The Die

A "Die" was first prepared for the production of the Key Forme, a very expensive object costing £150 -- nearly £2500 in today's prices. The die is the original engraved piece of metal, usually steel, or other material from which reproductions are taken to form the plate or stone from which stamps are printed. The expressions "Die I," "Die II," etc. are used to denote the first and later states of the same die. Frequently, the later plates are characterized by slight alterations or retouches in the original die or a replica of it. Die I, Die II, etc. are also used to designate the stamps printed from plates produced from the above. In the plates it is possible to find "Die flaws," which are blemishes or unusual marks present on every stamp reproduced from that die. These can be used to recognize the different dies.

Master die proofs printed on glazed cardboard, 94 x 61mm exist in three states (*Figure 2*). The first, with black tablets, is dated July 23, 1879. A second, endorsed "Before Hardening," is dated July 25, 1879 and a third, endorsed "After Hardening," is dated July 29, 1879. Both the latter show cleared tablets. As these proofs are dated July 23, 25 and 29, 1879, and the "Day Book" entries of November 7 show separate invoices for each colony, the process to produce these stamps went on for nearly four months. The first die (Die I) produced plates number 1 and 2. A die master die proof (Die II) is known dated November 18, 1890, endorsed "Before Hardening," and produced plates 3 and 4.

The peculiar characteristics of each die, as described in the Stanley Gibbons catalogues, are the following (the most easily recognizable ones in italics):

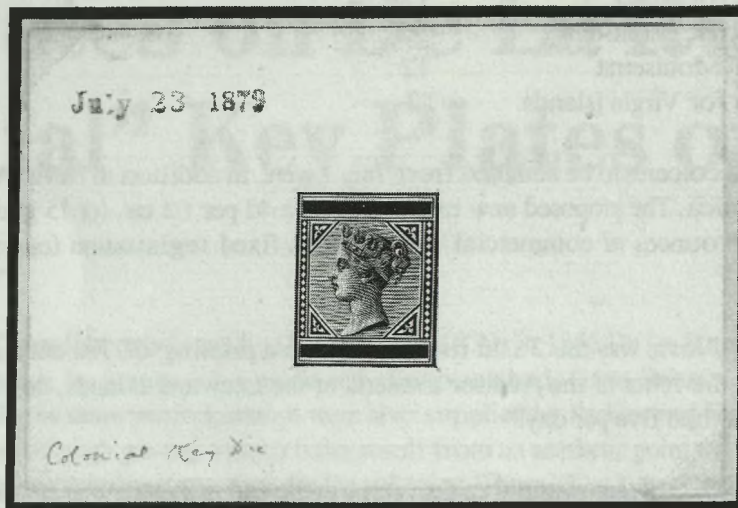
DIE I

- 1 - The ball of decoration on the second point of the crown appears as a dark mass of lines.
- 2 - Dark vertical shading separates the front hair from the bun.
- 3 - The vertical line of color outlining the front of the throat stops at the sixth line of shading on the neck.
- 4 - *The white space in the coil of the hair above the curl is roughly the shape of a pin's head.*

DIE II

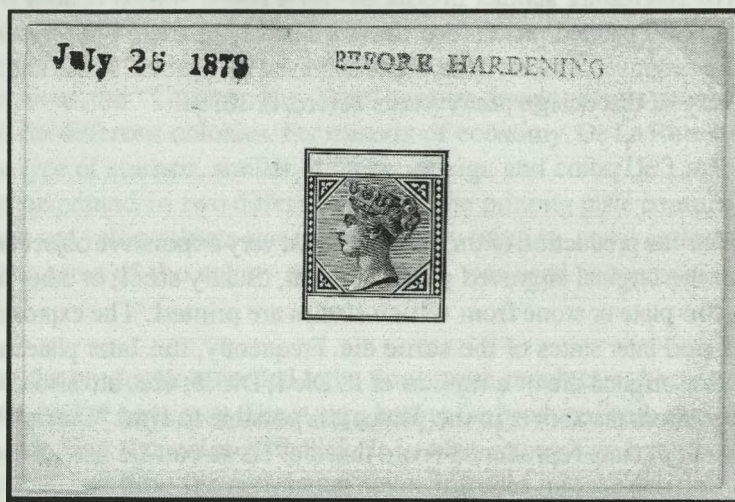
- 1 - There are very few lines of color in the ball and it appears almost white.
- 2 - A white vertical strand of hair appears in place of the dark shading.

Text continued on page 7

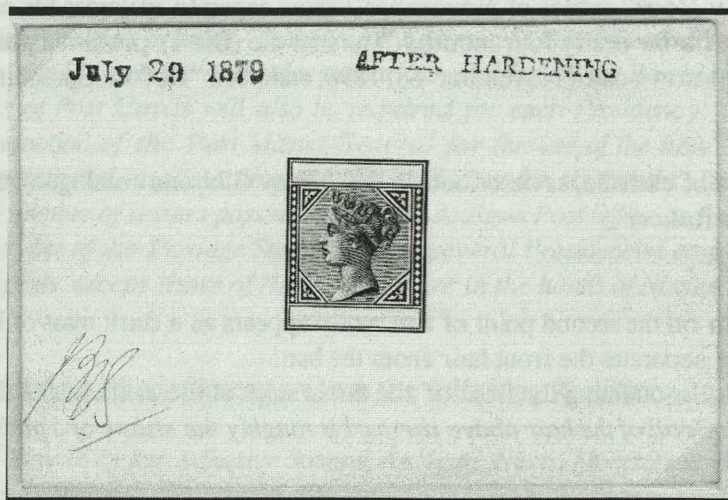


Master Die Proof of the Key Plate with uncleared tablets, dated July 23, 1879.

Figure 2



Master Die Proof with cleared tablets marked "BEFORE HARDENING" and dated July 26, 1879.



Master Die Proof of the Key Plate with cleared tablets marked "AFTER HARDENING" dated July 29, 1879, and initialed in pencil at foot.

3 - The line stops at the eighth line of shading on the neck.

4 - The white space is oblong, with a line of color partially dividing it at the left end.

Key Plate

The printing plate used to print the general design remained the same for the whole series. It did not bear any lettering and value. A small number of stamps on gummed CA paper, coming from these unfinished printed sheets, are known in shades similar to issued colors and perforated 12 or 14. Key Plate I contained one pane of 60 stamps only (*Figure 3*); Key Plate II was formed by two panes of 60 (6x10), printing at each passage 120 incomplete stamps (*Figure 4* and *Figure 5*).

Plate

The actual plate, of whatever material or construction, from which stamps are printed. When stamps of the same nature have been printed from two or more plates, showing slight differences of detail or arrangement, it is customary to refer to such stamps as having been printed from Plate 1, Plate 2, etc.

Plate Numbers

Numbers inserted in the plate margins, or selvages, from which stamps are printed, indicating the order in which the plates for those particular values were made. In plate 1, the figure 1 is inserted in a solid color circle just over position 2 and 5 and under position 56 and 59. In plate 2, the figure 2 is also inserted in a solid color circle, but only over position 2 and under position 56 in the left pane and over position 5 and under position 59 in the right pane.

Key Plate Flaws

Plate flaws are blemishes, or unusual marks, that are present on some stamps in a fixed position on the Key Plate. The variety "Top left triangle detached," also known as "Thompson flaw,"⁸ is found on the right pane of the sheet of 120 of Plate 2 only (*Figure 6*). Plate 2 was first put in use from the end of 1884.⁹ This flaw is found on all the other colonial stamps printed with that plate. On Nevis stamps, the "Thompson flaw" can be found on the following stamps:

Nevis Stamp	Number Printed	Dispatches	"Thompson flaw"
1/2d dull green	16,020	2	133 or 134
1d carmine	25,740	3	214 or 215
2 1/2 ultramarine	3,000	1	25
4d grey	16,080	2	134
6d chestnut	5,100	1	42 or 43
1/- violet	2,040	1	17



Figure 6:
Top left triangle detached (Plate 2, R 3/3 of right panel)

When Nevis stamps were withdrawn in 1890, there were in hand at the post office a lot of remainders, among which were the complete last printing of the 1/2d and 2 1/2d stamps, and the nearly complete printing of the 6d stamp. The Crown Agents sold the remainders to T. H. Thompson in 1892.¹⁰ The quantities were first given in *The London Philatelist*¹¹ and by Melville in his Nevis booklet. Figures for mint stamps that can be on the philatelic market are reasonably correct, but for used stamps these are only theoretical. The same calculations can be done for Antigua, Montserrat, St. Lucia and the Virgin Islands. The 2 1/2d ultramarine remainders included also 2,045 Plate 1 stamps. Most probably not all the stamps sold were postally used.

Text continued on page 10



Figure 3: Key Plate I containing one pane of 60 stamps only.



Figure 4: Key Plate II left pane.

2



2

Figure 5: Key Plate II right pane.

NEVIS NEVIS NEVIS NEVIS NEVIS NEVIS

HALF PENNY HALF PENNY HALF PENNY HALF PENNY HALF PENNY HALF PENNY
NEVIS NEVIS NEVIS NEVIS NEVIS NEVIS

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Figure 7: The Duty Plate for the 1/2d denomination. The Duty Plate prints the name and value or value only on those stamps requiring two separate printing operations. For Nevis, six Duty Plates were produced for the following denominations: 1/2d, 1d, 2 1/2d, 4d, 6d and 1/-.

Nevis stamp	Remainders	Last consignments (Plate 2)	Quantities sold	"Thompson Flaw"	"Thompson Flaw"
				Mint	Sold
1/2d dull green	7,227	10,020 + 6,000	8,793	60	73
1d carmine	5,872	9,720 + 10,020 + 6,000	19,868	48	165
2 1/2d ultramarine	5,045	3,000	0	42	0
4d grey	4,332	10,080 + 6,000	16,080	98	36
6d chestnut	2,944	2,100 + 3,000	2,156	25	18
1/- violet	1,457	2,040	583	12	5

Duty Plate

This is the technical name given to the plate which prints the name and value or value only on those stamps requiring two separate printing operations. In these cases, every value must have a separate Duty Plate (Figure 7). DLR indicates the Duty Plate as "Overprint Forme" or "Forme of 60 leads." For Nevis, six Duty Plates were produced for the following denominations: 1/2d, 1d, 2 1/2d, 4d, 6d and 1/-.

Duty Plate Flaws

A flaw which is peculiar of Nevis is the variety known as "Damaged I in Nevis" (Figure 8), being a characteristic defect of the 1d Duty Plate only. On Plate 1, it appears in Position 5, Row 10 (just over one of the two plate plugs). On Plate 2 the flaw can be found on both values of the sheet, also at Position 5/10: the stamp from the right pane has the plate number below, while the selvedge is blank under the stamp in the left pane.

Nevis 1d stamp	Number printed	Dispatches	"Damaged I" flaw
1d lilac, wmk. CC	15,780	3	263
1d lilac and lilac-mauve, wmk. CA	19,980	2	333
1d carmine, wmk. CA	56,040	7	934



Figure 8

Die I, Plate 1. Manufactured in November 1879

One pane of 60 stamps, no "Thompson flaw," "Damaged I in Nevis" occurs on 1d stamp only on Position 5, Row 10.

Plate 1 was used to print the following Nevis stamps (printing numbers in brackets):

- 2 1/2d red-brown (SG 24) watermark CC, printings of November 1879 [780] and May 1880 [1,620].
- 2 1/2d red-brown (SG 31) watermark CA, printing of August 1882 [1,080].
- 2 1/2d ultramarine (SG 29) watermark CA, printings of November 1883 [5,100], May and August 1884 [5,100 each].
- 1d lilac (SG 23), watermark CC, printings of May 1880 [4,980], October 1880 [5,400] and March 1881 [5,400].
- 1d lilac (SG 26) watermark CA, printings of January 1882 [10,020].
- 1d lilac-mauve (SG --) watermark CA, printing of August 1882 [9,960].
- 1d carmine (SG 27) watermark CA, printings of 1883, January, May and August 1884 [30,300 in all].
- 4d blue (SG 30) watermark CA, printings of January 1882 [10,020] and May 1883 [2,100].
- 4d grey (SG 31) watermark CA, printings of November 1883 [4,980], May and August 1884 [5,160 and 5,100].
- 6d green (SG 32), watermark CA, printing of May 1883 [1,020].
- 1/2d dull green (SG 25), watermark CA, printings of November 1883 [10,140], May and August 1884 [9,900 and 19,920].

Die I, Plate 2. In use by January 1886 (?) discontinued mid November 1890

Two panes of 120 stamps, "Thompson flaw" occurs in the right pane only, Position 3, Row 3. "Damaged I in Nevis" again occur in 1d stamps, in both panes, Position 5, Row 10.

With plate 2 were printed the following Nevis stamps (printing numbers in brackets):

1/2d dull green (SG 25) watermarked CA, printings of May 1888 [10,020] and March 1890 [6,000].

1d carmine (SG 27) watermarked CA, printings of May 1887 [9,720], May 1888 [10,020] and March 1890 [6,000].

2 1/2d ultramarine (SG 29) watermarked CA, printing of March 1890 [3,000].

4d grey (SG 31) watermarked CA, printings of May 1887 [10,080] and March 1890 [6,000].

6d chestnut (SG 33) watermarked CA, printings of October 1888 [2,100] and March 1890 [3,000].

1/- violet (SG 34) watermarked CA, printing of March 1890 [2,040].

On October 15, 1890, De La Rue asked for permission to renew the Key Plates invoiced in 1879 (Plate 1) and 1885-1886 (Plate 2), because 61,519 impressions had been taken and there were signs of wear. The new plates (3 and 4) were invoiced January 21, 1891 and the cost was divided over Cyprus (£7.1.8.), St. Lucia (£3.10.10.), Zululand (£3.10.10.), Nevis (£3.10.10.) and Montserrat (£3.10.10.). Although Nevis and Montserrat paid for these plates, none of their stamps were printed from them as their stamps were superseded from October 1890 by the new Leeward Island unified type. Also, the inclusion in the invoice of Zululand appears to be an error for Natal. On the contrary, the colony of Turks Islands was not included in the invoice although it continued to use the General Key Plate.¹²

Die II, produced end of November 1890 - January 1891.

The plates used are 3 and 4. The "Thompson flaw" is not present. No Nevis stamps were printed with these two plates.

Watermarked Paper

Key Plate colonial stamps were printed on watermarked paper, at first showing a Crown and letters "CC" (for Crown Colony) arranged so that they appeared in each stamp. From mid-1881 the letters were changed to "CA" (Crown Agents) (*Figure 9*), arranged exactly in the same way. The watermarked pattern was divided in four panes, each one enclosed in a single line frame with marginal inscriptions. Before printing, the large watermarked sheet of paper was gummed and split according to the size of the Key Plate in use.

Finally and synthetically stamps were printed as follows:

A: Using Plate 1:

1) A large sheet of watermarked paper containing 240 "Crowns," previously gummed, was divided into four smaller sheets.

2) The watermarked paper containing 60 "Crowns" was at first printed with the Key Plate showing the Queen's head, blank tablets and the number of the plate (1) inserted in a solid color circle printed four times, two at the top and two at the bottom of the sheet.

3) When dry, each sheet was passed through the press again to receive 60 impressions of the duty plate, in the identical color.

4) The sheet was subsequently perforated.

B: Using Plate 2:

1) A large sheet of watermarked paper containing 240 "Crowns,"

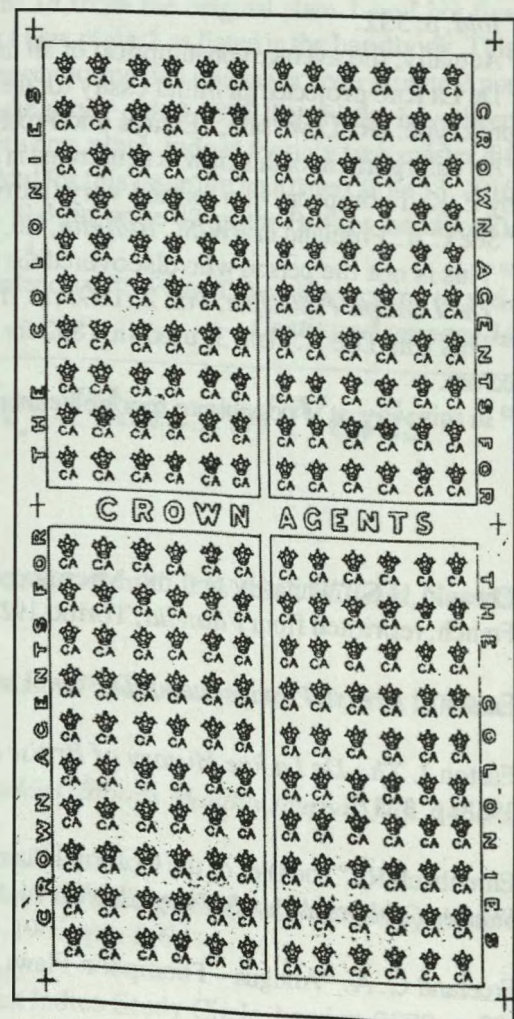


Figure 9

previously gummed, was divided horizontally into two parts.

2) The watermarked paper containing 120 "Crowns" was at first printed with the Key Plate showing the Queen's head, blank tablets and the plate number 2, inserted in four solid color circles placed on the four corners of the sheet. In this way it is possible to recognize immediately whether the sheet comes from the right or left panes.

3) When dry, the sheet was halved and overprinted, in the same color, with the Duty Plate containing 60 colony's names and denominations. In this way, two slightly different sheets were produced, one with the plate number at right the other at left. The "Thompson Plate flaw" was evident only on the right sheet, the "Damaged I in Nevis" on both sheets.

4) The sheet, as before, was then perforated.

ENDNOTE

I would like to thank Charles Freeland who provided critical reading over the first draft of this article and for suggestions for the final revisions. This article was first published in the BWI Study Circle Bulletin, No. 201, June 2004, and this revised and updated version is reprinted with permission.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Perkins Bacon was not a very reliable firm, commercially and financially speaking.

² Nevis stamps were not produced after 1890.

³ Also known as "Leeward Island" type or "Uniform Colonial," known latterly as "General Key Plate," showing name of the colony and denomination.

⁴ J. Easton, *The De La Rue history of British and foreign postage stamps, 1855 to 1901*. (London: Faber & Faber, 1958), p. 331.

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 332.

⁶ Actually, the average consumption of all the postage stamps sent to the island in 30 years was 40 per day.

⁷ De La Rue projected an initial essay for the "New Colonial Head" in 1859, but no stamps were produced from that prototype. (R. Lowe sale, "Essays and Proofs," November 23, 1966, p.5).

⁸ An enlargement of this flaw is illustrated in many Stanley Gibbons' catalogues under Montserrat. It was discovered by E. K. Thompson, who formed very fine collections of Antigua and Montserrat.

⁹ See C.A. Freeland in *BWISC Bulletin*, No. 181, June 1999, and *BWISC Bulletin*, No. 182, September 1999.

¹⁰ This is not the person who discovered the flaw.

¹¹ *The London Philatelist*, Vol. 2, 1893, p. 112.

¹² This was Die II, Plate 3, used in 1892 for the 2 1/2d, and in 1894 for the 1/2d and in 1895 for the 4d in the UPU colors.

¹³ In this way, it is possible to recognize immediately whether the sheet comes from the right or left panes.

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Montserrat Update

By Charles Freeland
Of Switzerland

I have been remiss as group leader for neglecting my duties, so I would like to take the opportunity of mentioning some elements of research into Montserrat philately that have taken place over the past few years or are ongoing. And your editor would, I am sure, welcome reports of any additional research that members are conducting.

I trust all serious Montserrat collectors have a copy of the Britnor handbook first published by the BWIS in 1965 and reissued in an updated version by the BWISC in 1998, supplemented with extensive color illustrations. In BWISC *Bulletin* 209 (June 2006) I issued a further update of this book together with new discoveries and information reported by BWISC or BCPSG members over the intervening period. The discoveries had nearly been all in the postal history field, with the main changes being several new postal markings and an update of the censor listings. I should also mention that Ted Proud's handbook of the postal history of the Leeward Islands published in 2005 contains a comprehensive listing of Montserrat postal markings that is more extensive than Britnor in its listing of Plymouth circular datestamps.

The current version of the Britnor book that is being offered by David Druett on behalf of the Study Group incorporates all the 2006 amendments, and now consists of

108 pages compared with the 104 pages of the 1998 edition.

There are, however, a couple of new pieces of information that postdate this last revision. In the original 1965 book, Len Britnor had reported the existence of a plate 2 of the 1916-29 Arms series and this report was carried over into the first three lines of page 40 of the 1998 and 2006 editions. Following a question about the existence of this plate from Peter Ford, Robin Davis, who is an experienced researcher in the Royal Mail archives, discovered that Britnor had misread an entry referring to the Leeward Islands keyplate in the De La Rue Day Book for March 9, 1925 under Montserrat, Req. No: 532, interpreting it as a reference to the Montserrat Arms design.

This misreading was confirmed by an entry in the Correspondence Book. However, the same Day Book entry refers to a 1d Arms type that does indeed refer to Montserrat. So there was a reprint invoiced on March 9, 1925, but it was the 1d from the original plate 1 and not five values from a new plate 2 as listed in the handbook. This discovery reassured me as I had never seen a plate 2 nor indeed any die proof dated 1925 that might have been struck to test a new plate. Indeed the only two master die proofs recorded for this issue are both dated June 13, 1916 (see Figure 10-3 on page 42 of the Britnor handbook).

In correspondence with Peter Tribe I have come to real-
Continued on page 14

Notes on De La Rue "Colonial" Key Plates of Nevis

Continued from page 12

1999), pp. 67-73.

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Oliver M. N. "The Leeward Islands. Notes for Philatelists," British West Indies Study Circle, London 2000, p. 30-50.

ize that some of the illustrations of postal markings in the original handbook that were carried through to the later editions were not very accurate. In 1965 there were none of the scanning aids that we now use and I suspect Britnor hand-traced many of the markings and they were then touched up by the printers, so minor differences of spacing resulted. One example that Peter cites is the Official Paid marking of the 1933-42 period that is rarely found cleanly struck. The illustration of a cover from his collection is a more accurate representation of the P7 mark than is shown in the handbook. Peter is also doubtful about the classification of the GPO registration labels and is working on a new classification which is to appear in the BWISC bulletin.

Mike Smith of New Zealand has asked me to alert members to the fact that the Montserrat Museum is keen to build up its early historical records, and in this respect members who possess or have access to documents or letters that contain interesting information about conditions on the island in the 18th and early 19th century are invited to supply photostats to the museum. To find out how best to do this please contact Mike at smithfamilycircus@xtra.co.nz.

For the serious Montserrat collector the auction scene has been rather quiet over the past few years, with the only significant offering of material being Spink's 2006 sale

of the Peter Jaffé collection. Indeed, it is now almost five years since the Frazer BWI was offered and over 10 years since the Barwick collection was sold at Harmers. Many of us keep an eye on eBay, but not much Montserrat of interest has been on offer recently and when it is competition can be fierce.

I should not close without drawing attention to the fact that Peter McCann, recently distinguished by his invitation to sign the RDP Roll, will be giving an illustrated lecture on Montserrat postal history in San Francisco on Wednesday evening, April 23, just prior to the opening of WESTPEX when we hold our next group AGM. I hope to be one of many Montserrat aficionados present.

Acknowledgments:

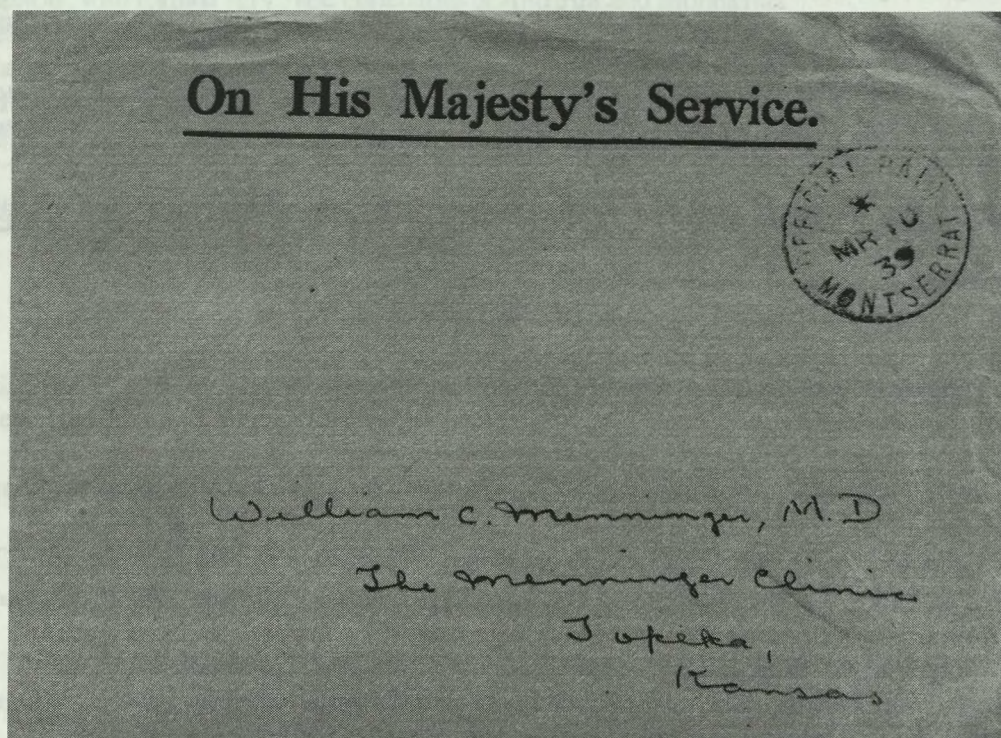
Robin Davis, Peter Ford, Peter Tribe

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The Montserrat Official Paid (P7) marking, courtesy of Peter Tribe.

Two different Regiments: The British West Indies Regiment and the West India Regiment

By **Mary Gleadall**
Of Barbados

It was with interest that I read the article "The British West India Regiment in East Africa, World War I" by Regis Hoffman (BCPJ *Journal*, Vol. 47, No. 4, p.13). I would like to add that The British West India Regiment (BWIR) and the West India Regiment (WIR) were two completely different regiments.

The British West Indies Regiment 1915 - 1919

During World War I, a regiment named the British West Indies Regiment was raised with volunteers from every island of the British West Indies. Its battalions served in France, Italy and the Middle East. This regiment was disbanded at the end of the war.

Badge of the British West Indies Regiment

The first volunteer contingent representing every island of the British West Indies, excluding Jamaica, arrived in England in October 1915 and began training in Sussex. By the end of 1915, some 2,500 officers and men had arrived in Britain and two battalions were ready for the field. Later, Jamaica offered a contingent of 2,000 men. By the end of the war there were 11 battalions totaling 397 officers and 15,204 other ranks. Of those, 185 were killed or died of wounds, over 1,071 died from illness, mainly pneumonia (probably the "flu pandemic") and 697 were wounded. During its short existence, the BWIR was awarded five DSOs, 10 MCs, 38 MMs and 21 other medals (*Figure 1*).

The West India Regiment 1795 – 1927

The West India Regiment (WIR) has a much longer history (*Figure 2*). The French Revolution of 1789 was followed by war with Britain in 1793. The British were very short of soldiers owing to other commitments worldwide, so in 1795 the British government approved the recruitment of slaves to be commanded by British officers. Two regiments, known as the West India Regiments, were

raised with a compliment of 1,000 men each. By 1800, twelve regiments had been raised, a formidable fighting force. The 2nd West India Regiment was formed in Barbados and throughout the years recruited mainly from there. They first saw action in the Carib War in St. Vincent in 1796 as the St. Vincent Rangers and then in the recapture of the islands from the French during the Napoleonic Wars. In 1815 after the Battle of Waterloo and defeat of the French, the regiments were reduced to two, the First and the Second. In 1819 the 2nd Regiment was



Figure 1
Badge of The British West Indies Regiment.

the first to be sent to West Africa to assist the British Army there.

Throughout the 19th century, one regiment kept the peace in the Caribbean with its vast distances stretching from Guyana to Belize and the other fought in West Africa in the many campaigns there. The 2nd Regiment was involved in the many punitive wars and expeditions, for example:

Continued on page 16



Figure 2

Souvenir sheet issued February 21, 1995 honoring Bicentenary of Foundation of West India Regiment. The 30¢ value shows a Private, 2nd West India Regiment, 1860; 50¢, Light Company Private, 4th West India Regiment, 1795; 70¢, Drum Major, 3rd West India Regiment, 1860; \$1.00, Privates in undress and working dress, 5th West India Regiment, 1815; \$1.10, Troops from 1st and 2nd West India Regiments in Review Order, 1874. (Courtesy Barbados Philatelic Bureau, artwork by Don Cribbs.)

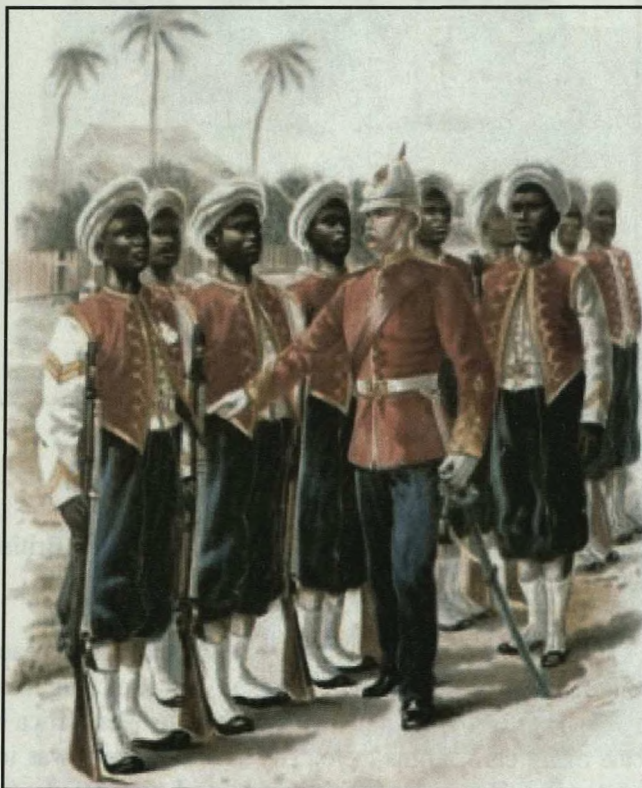


Figure 3

*Inspection of the 2nd West India Regiment, c. 1885
Rene Chartbrand, from Major M. Hartland's Collection*

**The First Ashanti War, 1823-24
The Cage Cote Expedition,
1849**

**The Badiboo War, 1860
The Quiah War, 1861-62
The 2nd Ashanti War, 1862-63
The Pram Pram Expedition,
1867**

**The Gambia Expedition, 1892
The Ashanti Expedition, 1895-96**

The above were not isolated skirmishes but actual wars and casualties were suffered on both sides. Two Victoria Crosses were awarded to men of the West India Regiments: one to Pte. Samuel Hodge of the 4th Regiment in 1868 and the other to Sgt. W. J. Gordon of the 1st in 1892. The 2nd Regiment saw action during World War I in East and West Africa and in Palestine. In 1920, the 2nd Regiment was absorbed into the 1st and the 1st themselves were disbanded in 1927. The Colours of the W.I.R. were handed over to King George V and now hang in Windsor Castle.

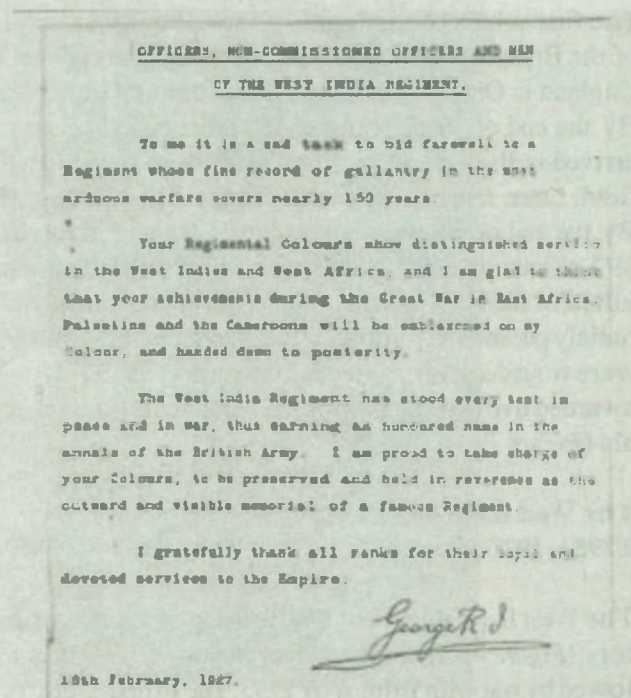


Figure 4

Letter from King George V dated February 18, 1927.

The colorful Zouave uniform, sanctioned by Queen Victoria in 1858, is worn to this day by the Barbados Defence Force Military band. In 1999, they were invited to perform at the Edinburgh Tattoo. W.I.R. Battle Honours: Dominica 1805, Martinique 1809, Guadeloupe 1810, Ashantee 1873 - 74, West Africa 1887, Sierra Leone 1898-99, Cameroons 1914-16, East Africa 1914-18.

With regards to the cover addressed to Mrs. Litchford, you can imagine my delight to find a photo of Rowland in Brian Dyde's book, *The Empty Sleeve*. Rowland Litchford was born in 1871 in Co. Carlow, Fenagh, Ireland. In the 1891 English census, we find him living with his widowed mother in Weston Super-Mere, Somerset and he describes himself as "Army Student." The photograph shown here must have been taken about this time. He married Ethel Vincent Rew in 1898 at St. George, Hanover Sq., London. Ethel gave birth to their son, Edward Rowland Litchford in August the following year in Jamestown, St. Helena. By 1901 we find the family living with Rowland's mother and Aunt Sarah Watson in Swanwick, Derbyshire. Rowland describes himself as "Army Officer, Captain 3rd W. I. Regiment."



Figure 5
Lieutenant R. Litchford at age 20
The West India Regiment, 1891
Photo: W.D. Cribbs

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New supplement to Cayman Islands book available

GRD Philatelic Media in Massachusetts has released a new book titled *The Postal History of the Cayman Islands (Supplement)*. The book, by Caymans' authority Thomas E. Giraldi, is an amplification of his 1989 edition which quickly became a leading reference on postal history of the islands.

The author has greatly expanded on the original work, and the book includes information gathered from specialized in the field of postal history and government records. Of special interest is the extension of the postal rates and the chapters on postage dues and forgeries.

The book is fully illustrated and contains previously unrecorded information. There are 13 chapters in addition to a Preface, Appendix, Bibliography, listing of auction catalogues and an Index.

The chapter titles are: The Early Post; Postal Services up to World War I; The Cancellations; The Postage Meters; Official Markings; Registration; Instructional Markings; First Air Mails; Postal Censorship during World War II; Postal Stationery; Fiscal History; Postage Due; Miscellaneous.

The Appendix provides information on postal rates from 1889 to 2001, and the Bibliography includes a listing of relevant references.

The book is priced at \$35 plus shipping, and should be ordered from GRD Philatelic Media, P.O. Box 181, Weston, MA 02493. The telephone number is (781) 899-1181, and there is an electronic mail address at PHBRIT@COMCAST.NET. Tom Giraldi may be reached at 1305 Scottsdale Way, Modesto, CA 95355.

The Antigua Monograph: An Update

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Mark Swetland has concluded that leaving the information he has accumulated over 40 years of collecting Antigua postal history and philately will be of no use to his heirs and it would most probably be thrown out as trash. Rather than risk this fate for all the data he has accumulated on Antigua, it seems preferable to donate all such data to the American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Before sending off this material, he is writing a series of articles on the material so that BCPSTG members may know that such material does exist and where it may be found. He estimates that as many as six articles will be written for the Journal when he completes his plans. He doesn't have a plan for the articles as such, so the exact number and subjects won't be known until the work is over!

By Mark W. Swetland

The late William G. Cornell had the desire to produce "The Antigua Monograph," a book that would be the definitive work on the postal history, stamps, post cards, postmarks and all other philatelic material of Antigua. Toward this goal, he produced an outline for such a book. His illness and death put an end to his ambition and no one has come forward with ambition equal to Bill's.

About the time of his death, my thought was to produce for myself a file of all the data I had collected that might be useful in creating such a book. I did create such a file, some 35 folders, each with a suitable title. The list of these folders follows below.

Since the data collected may be useful to another, my thoughts on where to file this list of folders received much study. A visit with our son, David, in State College, Pennsylvania last summer gave me the chance to visit the American Philatelic Research Library (APRL) in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. After talking with the librarians, I decided that this library would be the place to deposit my folders. I did consider other libraries, but this one seemed to have the most chance for future use by philatelists.

The list of folders:

Monograph - General; Monograph - Correspondence; Monograph - Outline; Antigua Maps; History of Antigua; Handstruck Markings; Disinfected Mail; G.B. Stamps used in Antigua; Q.V. Stamps, 6d.; Q.V. Stamps, 1d.; Q.V. Bisects; Key Plate Stamps; K.E. Stamps; K.G.V. Stamps; Tercentenary Stamps; Commemorative Stamps; Barbuda Overprints; Specimen Stamps; Revenue Stamps; Antigua Stamps used Abroad; Postal Stationery; Barbuda

Postmarks; Official Paid Postmarks; St. Johns Postmarks; Village Postmarks; Registration; Slogans; Postal Rates; Air Mail; Sea Mail; Official Ovals; Censored Covers; Military Covers; Postal Orders; Antigua Post Cards.

It is likely that the first two folders will have little data of interest to anyone other than myself. The remaining folders contain all the data I had accumulated on these subjects as of the mid-1990s when I compiled the list.

Anyone with the thought of producing the monograph today could use my folders, but with caution. Later articles on any of the subjects, and they do exist, would not be in these folders.

Note a major variation from Bill Cornell's list. His list covers all issues up to the time he produced it, including the Queen Elizabeth stamps and Leeward Islands stamps. My list stops with the Tercentenary issue as my collection covered only Antigua stamps and ended with this issue.

Bill left extensive files limited to articles and papers up to the Queen Elizabeth issues. Later files had a large number of Queen Elizabeth stamps in mint condition. His complete files were sold overseas to my best knowledge. Perhaps one of our members in England or on the continent may be able to tell us where Bill's files are today. These files will be of help to anyone writing the monograph as Bill conceived it, although one can still produce a valuable monograph if it ends with the Tercentenary issue.

I hope someone will take on the work of producing this monograph, one that would help all Antigua collectors. If I am still above ground, I am a willing helper in writing this monograph. If you seek this help, better not wait long. I enjoyed my 86th birthday last August 15!

St. Vincent's 1902 issue

By Roy Bond
Of the United Kingdom

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Bond continues his series on early St. Vincent philately. This is the second installment of the series.)

On May 9, 1901, the Crown Agents and De La Rue held a meeting at the Crown Agents headquarters at 12 Downing Street, London. The purpose of the meeting was to decide future stamp printing policy for the reign of the new King Edward VII. It was decided that colonies had three choices: 1) Universal Keyplate in two colors; 2) Special Keyplate belonging to the colony, in two colors; 3) Special plate belonging to the colony, in one color. This was summarized in a letter from the Crown Agents to De La Rue dated May 16, 1901.

De La Rue sent three specimen designs on May 20, 1901. The Crown Agents returned the approved designs along with a requisition to De La Rue to put the "Original Small King's Head" engraving in hand, at a cost of £200-0s-0d, along with the three universal keyplates at De La Rue's expense.

It was at this point that the St. Vincent government requested essays and cost quotations for a Coat of Arms issue (for the second time -- 1896 being the first) based upon the 5/- rose-red of 1880. Costs were quoted by De La Rue on August 23, 1901. After studying the quoted costs, the St. Vincent government instructed the Crown Agents to requisition stamps of the new Universal Keyplate design.

So on April 1, 1902, the Crown Agents requisitioned from De La Rue the following stamps:

1/2d	120,000
1d	120,000
2d (new value)	28,800
2 1/2d	24,000
3d	28,800
6d	14,400
1/-	14,400
2/- (new value)	14,400

De La Rue replied on April 3, 1902, acknowledging receipt of the order and stating that the 2d value should have an open duty plate and the 2/- value a shaded duty plate at a cost of £12-0s-0d each. This was agreed to by the Crown Agents on April 12. In fact, the 2d should have had the shaded duty plate and the 2/- the open duty plate.

June 1902 Issue

1/2d: Green on Purple

1d: Red on Purple

2d: Black on Purple

3d: Green on Purple

6d: Dark Brown on Purple

1/-: Red on Green

2/-: Mauve on Green

5/-: Blue on Green

The Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue on April 2, 1902, enclosing a letter from the St. Vincent government requesting that a 5/- value should be drawn up in the design of the 1880 Coat of Arms issue in mid-green or



1d value of 1902
issue

1/- value of 1902
issue

purple. De La Rue replied that this was impossible as the Crown of a new king now being used was the Tudor Crown, thus the whole thing would need to be re-engraved. So on June 20, 1902, the Crown Agents ordered 6,000 stamps of the value of 5/- from the Universal Keyplate design.

The Crown Agents ordered another 120,000 of the 1 value on March 30, 1903. On August 13, 1904, the Crown Agents ordered: 1/2d, 10,000; 1d, 100,000; and 1/-, 10,000. Total quantities ordered were:

1/2d value	130,000 (SG 76)
1d value	340,000 (SG 77)
2d value	28,800 (SG 78)
2 1/2d value	24,000 (SG 79)
3d value	28,800 (SG 80)
6d value	14,400 (SG 81)
1/- value	24,400 (SG 82)
2/- value	14,400 (SG 83)
5/- value	6,000 (SG 84)

The stamps were designed by Thomas De La Rue and printed in typography by De La Rue. They were issued in June 1902 and are watermarked Crown CA and perforation 14.



Treasurer's Report for 2006-2007

By John Seidl
Treasurer

The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group is in good financial health. As you will note in the financial statements, we had a small gain in 2006 and a deficit in 2007. There are several reasons to account for this swing and some actions that have been taken to bring 2008 performance closer to our goal of a break even operation. In 2006 we had a one-time contribution of \$5,000 and thus the significant difference in the Dues & Contributions line between the two years. In 2006, our largest expenses were the Bermuda Censorship book and items related to the BCPSG *Journal*. For 2007, our largest expenses were the annual meeting in St. Vincent and items related to the BCPSG *Journal*. For 2008 we expect the BCPSG *Journal* items to make up the majority of our expenses. The 2008 dues increase and better collections on BCPSG *Journal* advertising revenue will grow our income. We still need an Advertising Manager badly – please contact Jack Harwood to volunteer.

Our balance sheet remains strong with no liabilities beyond prepaid dues. Our money is invested with Smith Barney and is held in a money market fund (liquid) and certificates of deposit (designated long term donated funds). While this is a very conservative investment strategy it serves to protect our group from the volatility of today's markets. I welcome any questions around our finances and we appreciate your ongoing financial support of the group. Your donations will bring more color to the BCPSG *Journal* sooner and as a 501(c) your contributions may be tax deductible.

BCPSG Income Statement - 2006	BCPSG 2006 Balance Sheet
<i>Financial Statements in U.S. Dollars</i>	
REVENUE	ASSETS
Dues & Contributions	Current Assets
Book Sales (no revenue reported)	Cash
Net Revenue	Accounts receivable
	(less doubtful accounts)
	Inventory (books at no value)
	Accrued Bond/CD Interest
	Prepaid expenses
	Total Current Assets
EXPENSES	
Bermuda Censorship Book Expenses	Fixed Assets
Editor Stipend - BCPSG <i>Journal</i>	Long-term investments
Insurance	Total Net Fixed Assets
Miscellaneous - WA 2006 Application Fee	
Office Supplies	TOTAL ASSETS
Postage U.S.A.	
Postage International	LIABILITIES
Publishing Expense - BCPSG <i>Journal</i>	Current Liabilities
WA 2006 Awards	Lifetime Members
WA 2006 Hospitality Suite	Paid Forward Members
Web Site Expense	Total Current Liabilities
Total Expenses	
	Equity
Net Operating Income	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY
OTHER INCOME	
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets	
Interest Income	
Total Other Income	
Net Income (Loss)	



Treasurer's Report for 2006-2007

By *John Seidl*
Treasurer

BCPSG Income Statement - 2007	BCPSG 2007 Balance Sheet
<i>Financial Statements in U.S. Dollars</i>	
REVENUE	ASSETS
Dues & Contributions \$ 5,794.92	Current Assets
Book Sales 150.00	Money market - U.S. Account \$ 29,516
Net Revenue \$ 5,944.92	Cash - U.K. Account 729
COST OF GOODS SOLD	Accounts receivable 0
Cost of Goods Sold \$ 0.00	(less doubtful accounts) 0
Gross Profit (Loss) \$ 5,944.92	Inventory (books at no value) 0
EXPENSES	Accrued Bond/CD Interest 198
ABPS Dues in U.K. \$ 124.40	Prepaid expenses 0
Editor Stipend - BCPSG <i>Journal</i> 2,000.00	Total Current Assets \$ 30,443
Insurance 45.00	Fixed Assets
BCPSG Awards 442.48	Long-term investments \$ 21,156
Office Supplies 329.73	Total Net Fixed Assets \$ 21,156
Postage International 1,212.19	TOTAL ASSETS \$ 51,599
Publishing Expense (BCPSG <i>Journal</i> printing + U.S. Postage) 6,010.47	LIABILITIES
St. Vincent Meeting 2,344.57	Current Liabilities
BCPSG Library 96.97	Lifetime Members \$ 11,873
H. Austin - Washington 2006 1,004.97	Paid Forward Members 1,056
BCPSG Elections 205.86	Total Current Liabilities \$ 12,929
Membership Renewal 90.08	Equity \$ 38,670
Web Site Expense 34.00	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$ 51,599
Total Expenses \$ 13,940.72	
Net Operating Income (\$ 7,995.80)	
OTHER INCOME	
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets \$ 0.00	
Interest Income 2,899.97	
Total Other Income \$ 2,899.97	
Net Income (Loss) (\$5,095.83)	

The rare abbreviated "G/Cayman/R" marking

By Dr. Eric M. Bateson
Of Australia

I recently received a price list from Stanley Gibbons of London, and on examining the items for sale, came across stock #PO 6702845 which was a cover described as follows: "Cayman Islands. 1919 (FE 4) registered first day cover (under-)franked by 1919 War Stamp 1/2d green horizontal pairs x 1 tied by light strikes of type 5 cds with the very rare abbreviated G/Cayman/R boxed registration mark in blue crayon at upper left (known on this day only), London transit back stamp (10 Mar 19). Only three recorded by Giraldi and McCann (Figure 1)."

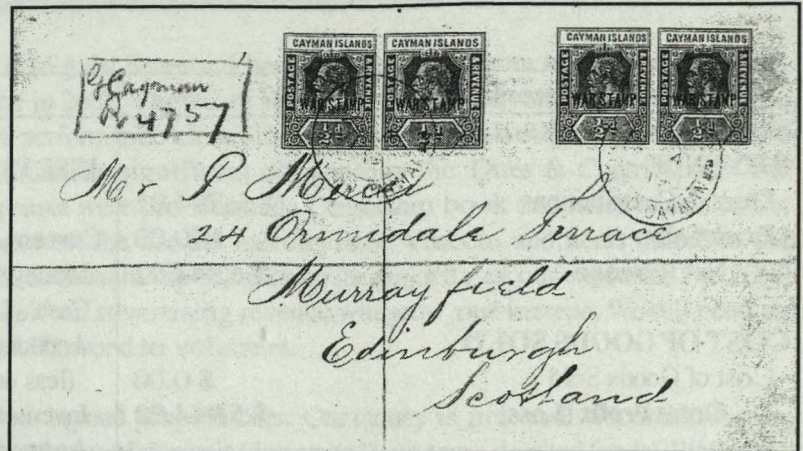


FIGURE 1: A cover advertised for sale by Stanley Gibbons of London with the rare G/Cayman/R mark.

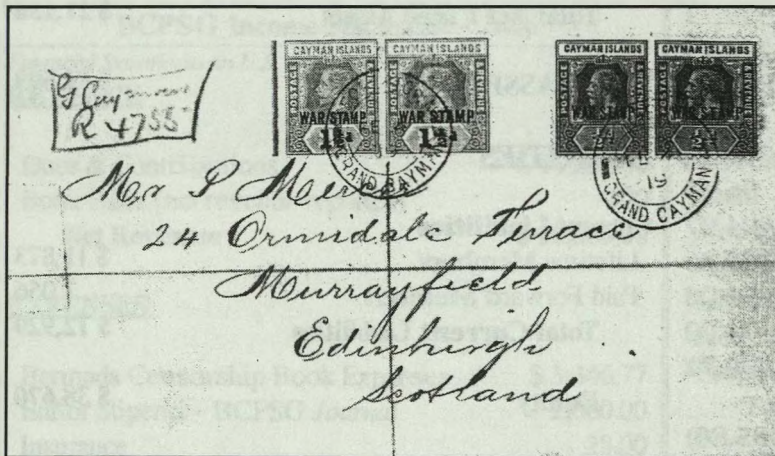


FIGURE 2: A first day cover from my collection with the same boxed registration mark.

In my collection I have a pair of Cayman Islands registered first day covers addressed to Mercer. One is identical, including the abbreviated registration mark in blue crayon with the cover in Figure 1 with only one pair of the 1/2d green war stamps, but with a pair of the 1 1/2d war stamps of the same issue (Figure 2). The older editions of the *Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840-1952* gave the date of issue of the 1 1/2d stamps as December 4, 1919, but has recently been amended to the same date as the 1/2d green stamp (February 4, 1919). The other cover of the pair has four of the 1 1/2d grey war stamps also postmarked on the first day of issue (March 10, 1920), but with an unboxed registration mark in blue crayon (Figure 3).

Tom E. Giraldi and Dr. Peter P. McCann in their book, *The Postal History of the Cayman Islands*, state that only three Cayman Islands covers with this abbreviated registration mark (Type R8) have been recorded. In a recent personal communication, Tom Giraldi said he can now only find one example in his collection. Obviously covers with this registration mark are rare. Mercer's covers also appear to be uncommon. I have only seen them bearing stamps of the war tax issue of February 4, 1919.

Acknowledgment

I wish to thank Pauline MacBroom of the Commonwealth Department of Stanley Gibbons of London for obtaining permission for me to use the illustration shown in Figure 1.

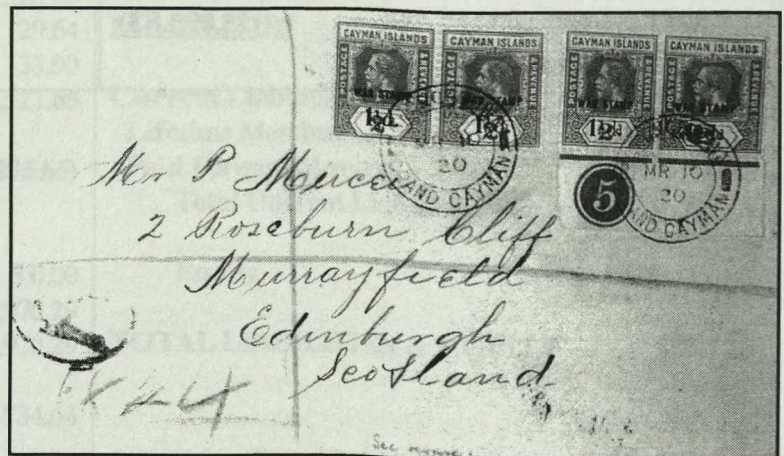


FIGURE 3: Another Mercer cover with an unboxed registration



BG Bits and Pieces

*With Dr. P.J. Ramphal
Of Canada*



In Defense of Postal Agents in Remote Outposts

Being in charge of a small post office or postal agency in rural areas of Jamaica and British Guiana presented many and varied challenges to the agents who ran them -- in some cases, even up to the time of independence in 1962 and 1966, respectively. This article attempts to defend what is often described as inefficiency and sloth in their work ethic. From my collection of these two former British Caribbean colonies, I hope to offer evidence of some of these special difficulties and circumstances which attended their labors and in so doing, I hope to dispel some of the bad image they have acquired.

In the GPOs in the capitals, Kingston and Georgetown and in the larger urban centers, the postal workers were part of Colonial Civil Service and had to meet all of the educational qualifications and other requirements of Civil Service. However, in the rural areas, a shortage of suitable candidates to run agencies led to surprising and varied choices. Often prosperous businessmen were the appointed postal agents, and in addition, were required to make room in their shops to house the post office. Midwives, dispensers, schoolmasters and the like were persuaded to assume the role. As a result, there was little uni-

formity in the physical appearance or size of these outposts, and agents ran them as a sideline to their other vocations. Two letters from postal agents in British Guiana provide an insight into their lives and times in the 1950s.

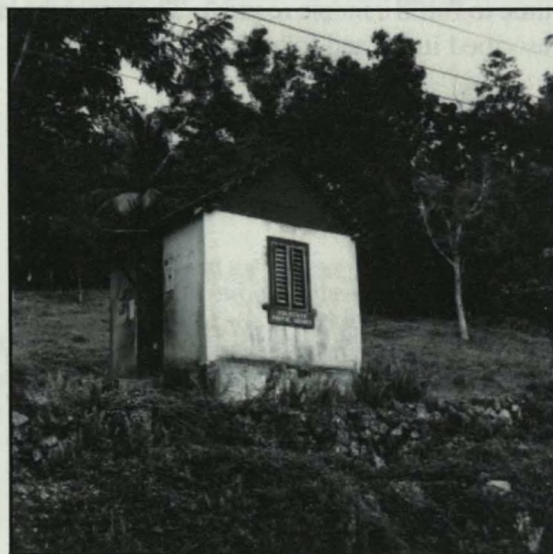


Figure 2: Colgate Postal Agency, 1965.



Figure 1: An unidentified rural Jamaican post office, circa 1900.

Figure 1 is an unused, undated, colored picture post card of what I believe is a turn of the century Jamaican country post office. (I have tried unsuccessfully to identify the post office pictured, and if any reader recognizes it or can otherwise identify it, please let me know.) I suspect that the open window with a ledge was the public's access to the postal agent, whose space in the shack could hardly have amounted to much more than a small desk with a locked drawer for post office valuables and paraphernalia.

Figure 2 (previous page) is a photograph of Colgate Postal Agency, taken by Ron Wong in November 1965, as he escorted renowned philatelist Reg Lant on a tour of rural Jamaican post offices. Not a great deal had changed in the size and appearance of the rural post office.

Figure 3 shows a British Guiana Air Mail Air Letter Form, franked with one-cent and eight-cent Queen Elizabeth II definitives, cancelled "PA Burisanowa, 29 MAR. 1955," and addressed to a Hastings, New York resident. It was written by the then-postal agent at Lumid Pau, Mr. J.A. Atkinson, also the local schoolmaster, who was explaining to the USA collector why it was taking him such a long time to fulfill a simple request. The text of the letter is transcribed in full and follows.

Lumid Pau,
Rupunnuni, British Guiana,
26th Mar. 1955.

Dear Mr. Brown,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated Nov. 8, 54, re Postal Agency at Lumid Pau. I presume that you would like your stamps cancelled with Lumid Pau's Post Mark; unfortunately I do not yet have the Post Mark for Lumid Pau. I am still using the Post Mark of Burisanowa, a former Postal Agency, situated ten miles from Lumid Pau.

It was I who asked the Post Master General to change the name of the Agency from Burisanowa to Lumid Pau, on account of the former place being too far from the actual place of business.

If you would like to wait until I have the new Post Mark to cancel your stamps please let me know; or alternately, would you like to have them cancelled with the old Post Mark?

In the meantime, I am withholding your stamped covers, until I hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

J. A. Atkinson

Here then is a postal agent trying to explain to a presumed irate collector, why a simple request had not been attended to months after it had been made. The explanation was that the new device had not yet arrived at Lumid Pau. In fact, Proud' declares the earliest known date of a Lumid Pau cancellation, to be July 12, 1958, a scant five and a half months before the agency was moved yet again

to Karandarnau on January 1, 1959, and there the Lumid Pau cancel was used until independence and afterwards, probably until 1967 when a Guyana handstamp reading "PA Karandarnawa" replaced it. It is also worth remem-

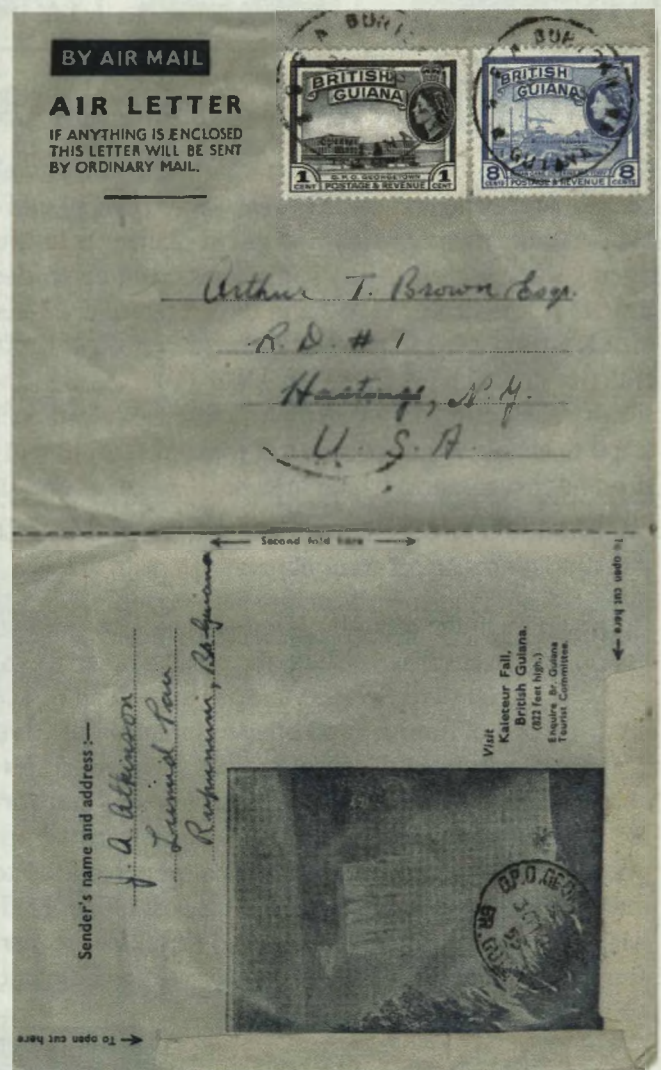


Figure 3: British Guiana Air Mail Letter Form to USA.

bering the postmaster general in Georgetown had to order the new handstamp from The Crown Agents in England, who would then commission its manufacture and then arrange for shipment to Georgetown. It would be a delight if a cover resides in a reader's collection addressed to Mr. Brown, postmarked either Lumid Pau or Burisanowa, which would tell us the final outcome.

Figure 4 is a philatelic cover franked with two pairs of 1948 Silver Wedding three-cent stamps and two 1937 Coronation four-cent stamps, all cancelled "Cuyuni River PA, 6 MY 65" and mailed to a California address. I acquired this and a few other covers from the remainder of Derek Nathan's marvellous collection. Derek was extremely helpful to me when I rejoined the philatelic fraternity about 15 years ago and he has been always most

helpful and generous with his time and advice for me. I did not know when I acquired it that it was an entire, containing a letter of exceptional interest, written by the postal agent, who was clearly answering specific questions posed by the collector. The letter is transcribed in its entirety as follows:

Travelling Postal Agency
Cuyuni River
6th May 1965

Vernon L. Ardiff
559 Sixteenth St.
Oakland, Calif. 94612
U.S. A.

Dear Sir:

As per your request I am now posting your letter and the necessary information you ask for.

I am a Trader in Gold & Diamonds on the Cuyuni River, as a result I must run a boat service and is therefore requested by Government to run the mail service, which has no schedule but must fit in with my movements as my business requires. The state of the river is much to do with my movements, like now that

the river is extremely dry I find myself crawling my way back and forth as this present trip has taken two months; when the river is high the run takes 4 to 5 weeks. I have (3) three boats in the river, one 1400 lbs., another 1200 lbs. and one 700 lbs. Their names are "Constitution No. 3," "Cuyuni Pride," and the "Early Bird" respectively.

They were all built by Mr. Oscar Smartt of Bartica.

When I leave Bartica I have to go as far as the Venezuelan Border which is the farthest westerly end of this country, hundreds of miles. I've also have to encounter, many dangerous rapids and waterfalls, also portages over which you have to haul your boat etc.!

I hope I have supplied the necessary information you need.

Yours truly,

Edward J. Levans
T. P. A. Cuyuni

REFERENCE

¹ Proud, Ted. *The Postal History of British Guiana*. Heathfield, East Sussex, England: Proud Bailey Co., Ltd., 2000.



Figure 4: A philatelic cover franked with two pairs of 1948 Silver Wedding three-cent stamps and two 1937 Coronation four-cent stamps, all cancelled "Cuyuni River PA, 6 MY 65" and mailed to a California address.

Minutes of the 2007 AGM

Submitted by John Seidl, Acting Secretary

Minutes of the 2007 AGM, 6:00 p.m., May 24, 2007, at the Villa, St. Vincent.

Attendees: E. Bayley, G. Booth, B. Brookes, D. Druett, P. Elias, C. Freeland, M. Gleadall, M. Hamilton, J. Harwood, M. Kerr, C. MacConney, R. Murphy, M. Nethersole, R. Paley, R. Ramkissoon, J. Seidl, B. Walker, E. Waterous, S. Zirinsky. **Guests:** A. Bayley, R. Bayley, E. DeFrietas, J. DeFrietas, F. Kajim. **Apologies for absence:** A. Povich, R. Wynstra.

The meeting was called to order by President Jack Harwood. The minutes of the Washington 2006 meeting were read, and approved as read.

Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer John Seidl. Discussion of our investment in the Bermuda censorship book followed. We would like to sponsor future such endeavors, preferably on a revenue sharing basis so that our investment is ultimately recovered. A financial statement was circulated, which pointed out that the group currently is operating at a loss. The statement will be slightly revised to include more detail, and presented in the *Journal* later this year. Our assets presently exceed \$60,000, including both operating funds and specific endowments. The question of whether our insurance policy covers literature held in the group library was raised, and the treasurer will investigate the matter. The report was approved subject to review/audit. Various sheets and pamphlets concerning St. Vincent postal rates and postal markings were distributed by the president and Peter Elias.

Future meeting dates were reviewed. Our 2008 meeting will be held in San Francisco in conjunction with WESTPEX, April 25-27. Steve Schumann will serve as liaison. Our 2009 meeting will be held in St. Louis, February 2009, in conjunction with St. Louis Stamp Expo. Our 2010 meeting will be held in London, England, in conjunction with the international exhibition. Ed Waterous will serve as liaison between the BCPSG and BWISC in coordinating the meeting.

The president issued a plea for more articles for the journal. Each Study Group Leader is asked to provide at least one or two articles per year from fellow specialists in each study group. Charles Freeland requested that a listing of collector interests be emailed to study group leaders. Membership Director Bob Stewart has that information available, and study group leaders are advised to contact Bob for the relevant listing.

Future use of color in the journal was discussed. The Executive Committee will explore this issue further with the Editor. The group currently has no Advertising Manager. A volunteer for this position is sought. The current Library manager, David Wilson, advises that he may want to step down within the next year or two. John Seidl volunteered to take on this position, and will coordinate transition whenever David desires.

There was no auction in St. Vincent due to customs and other operational problems. Auction Manager Howie Austin is now ready to receive lots for the 2008 auction to be held at WESTPEX. Lots should be posted to arrive by the end of 2007.

Group awards were presented as follows: Cooley Award for Lifetime Service to the BCPSG presented to Dr. Peter P. McCann. Addiss Award for Lifetime Achievement in Philatelic Writing was presented to Peter Flynn. Durin Award for the best article in BCPJ during the previous year presented to Ed Barrow and Thomas "Tim" Anderson for "The Tobago A 14 Handstamps and Their Forgeries" in the July 2006 issue.

International Director David Druett tendered his resignation as International Director, citing lack of communication and other problems. President Jack Harwood requested that David table his resignation until he and David could sit down to discuss the matters involved (David subsequently withdrew his resignation after resolving the matters in question with Jack.)

A series of other matters were raised. Charles Freeland requested that minutes from this meeting appear in BCPJ. Jack Harwood provided information on the group dinner. Peter Elias provided CDs of his St. Vincent exhibit for use by the local St. Vincent club. Jack Harwood collected departure information from all in order to coordinate airport transportation. Ed Waterous commented that we need to provide Ed Barrow with more content for the BCPSG website. The BWISC meeting will be held September 21-23, 2007. Mary Gleadall presented two books of interest to the group which she found in St. Vincent. Ed Waterous reminded everyone to be in contact with their Study Group Leaders. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m., followed by a presentation on Cayman Islands by Graham Booth.

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.

OKPEX 2007, November 1-3
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Reuben Ramkissoon
Air Letter Sheets (Aerogrammes) of
Trinidad & Tobago
1943-1995

Vermeil

Trinidad Connections of the 1931 Dornier DO-X
Return South America Flight (SF)
Vermeil

FLOREX 2007, November 30 - December 2
Orlando, Florida

Raymond Murphy
Jamaica in World War II
Silver

Reuben Ramkissoon
Air Letter Sheets (Aerogrammes) of
Trinidad & Tobago, 1943-1995

Gold

Trinidad Connections of the 1931 Dornier DO-X
Return South America Flight (SF)
Best Single Frame Exhibit
Gold

Dr. Peter P. McCann signs Roll

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was established in 1921 by the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain with the approval of King George V, who was the first Signatory. An invitation to sign the Roll is regarded as the world's premier philatelic honor.

BCPSG Past President Dr. Peter P. McCann was one of three philatelists elected to sign the Roll in 2007. Those selected to sign the Roll at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, held at Croydon on November 24 were: Paulo Comelli of Brazil; Dr. Ulrich Ferchenbauer of Austria; and Dr. McCann.

Dr. McCann is perhaps best known for his research into the postal history of the small islands in the Caribbean and in the South Atlantic. His exhibit of British Virgin Islands has achieved Gold at international exhibitions on a number of occasions. He is also author of over 35 articles on various facets of West Indies philately and was co-author of *The Postal History of the Cayman Islands* published in 1989. More recently, he was joint Editor of *Thirty Years of St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philately* published in 2006.

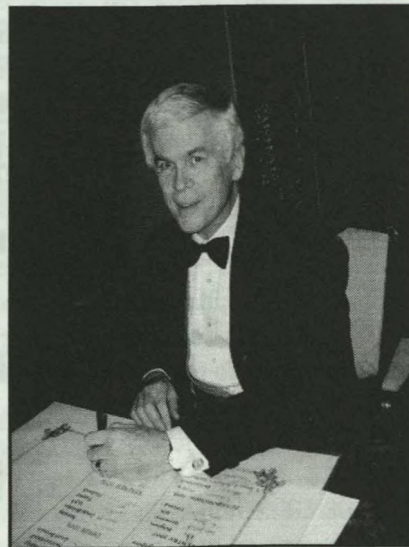
He has had a distinguished career in service to philately, most recently being elected in 2004 as a Vice President of FIP. He is also a trustee of the Philatelic Foundation, a

member of the Smithsonian Institution National Postal Museum Council for Philatelists and was President of the American Philatelic Society from 1999 to 2003. He has served as an international judge since 1993 and was chairman of the exhibits committee for Washington 2006.

He has received a number of awards including the Eugene Klein award for 1990 for the best book published by a member of the American

National Congress, the Phoenix Award for 1993 for service to philately and in 2006 was recipient of the Skavaril Award of the St. Helena, Ascension & Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society.

We offer our congratulations as well!



Peter P. McCann, Ph.D. signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

President's Message

By Jack Harwood

Three new group Trustees were elected to six-year terms effective at the beginning of this year. On behalf of the membership, I extend a warm welcome to Paul Larsen, Dr. Peter P. McCann, and Michael Nethersole. At the same time, sincere thanks are extended to Richard Maisel, Ian Matheson, and Dingle Smith, whose terms as Trustees have ended. They have served with distinction, and their time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

When you receive this issue, we will be within a few weeks of our annual meeting to be held at WESTPEX in San Francisco, April 25-27, 2008. San Francisco is one of the world's great cities, worth a visit on any occasion. Add one of the nation's premier national philatelic exhibitions, and you will have an opportunity for an exceptional experience. Formal group activities will commence with a dinner on Friday evening, April 25. All members and spouses or guests are invited. If you would like to attend the dinner, please contact Steve Schumann at sdsch@earthlink.net or call (510) 415-6158 for detailed information. Since we need to provide menu selections and attendance figures in advance, reservations are essential.

Saturday, April 26, the Executive Committee will meet at 9 a.m. Any member in good standing is welcome to attend. The general membership meeting, open to the public, will commence at 1 p.m., followed by the annual auction at approximately 2:30 p.m. Also of interest will be an 11 a.m. presentation on BWI philately by Study Group Leader Charles Freeland. Room locations for these events can be found in the WESTPEX show program.

Also, please stop by the BCPSG table at any time during the show. It's an excellent place to meet and greet other members, as well as a good place to rest tired feet.

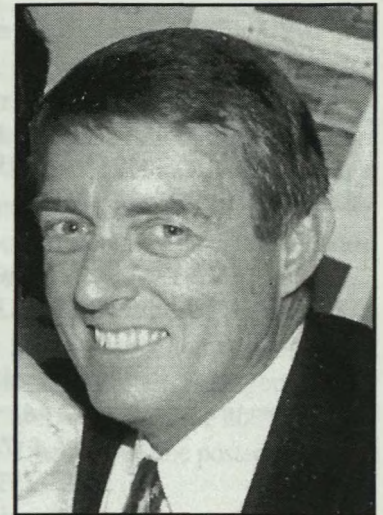
This year's auction is one of the finest in many years. Auction Manager Howie Austin has worked very hard to compile this catalog, complete with photos.

If you are unable to be on the auction floor, don't forget to submit your mail bids soon.

Study Group Leader and former Auction Manager Bill Charles Gompel has agreed to conduct an audit/review of our financial records. Our thanks to Bill for taking on this job.

As always, your continued efforts on behalf of the group are needed. The editor is constantly in need of new articles. Ongoing solicitation of new members is essential to the strength of the group. And we still need a volunteer to serve as Advertising Manager. Please don't hesitate to lend your support.

I look forward to seeing many of you in San Francisco!



Board of Trustees Election

The following members were elected to the Board of Trustees for a six year term, replacing Richard Maisel, Ian Matheson and Dingle Smith, who have served in that capacity for the last six years.

Paul Larsen
Peter P. McCann
Mike Nethersole

Thanks to the retiring board members for their service to the club and to the newly elected members of the Board.

Duane Larson
 Secretary

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

Dr. Douglas S. Files, 111 Kings Way, Apt. F44, Del Rio, TX 78840-2807 USA. Email: dougfiles@msn.com. APS member. Philatelic interests: island postal history, military postal history. Sponsored by Bob Stewart.

Eric W. Todd, 623 Ashley Street, Foxboro, ON K0K 2B0 CANADA. Email: Eric.todd@sympatico.ca. Philatelic interests: Cayman Islands. Sponsored by Tom Giraldi.

Change of Address

Fritz Roett, 806 Kincora Bay NW, Calgary, AB T3R 0A7 Canada.

Andre Dixon, 100 Uno Lago Dr., Apt. 202, Juno Beach, FL 33408-2396 USA. Email: andredixon@comcast.net.

New email addresses

David Cordon: dcordon@transact.bm

Regis Hoffman: rgmmhoffman@comcast.net

Marjorie Doran: cbuddy-4821@netzero.net

Danforth Walker: dan@insurecollectibles.com

Resignations

Edward T. Tweddell, USA

Neil Hunter, Canada

William Clark, USA

Deceased

Christopher Miller, United Kingdom

(Died December 1, 2007)

New Life Members

Robert Lemire, Deep River, Ontario, Canada

David Cordon, Warwick, Bermuda

There are still some members who have not renewed their dues. To see if your dues are still outstanding, please check your mailing label. If it shows 2008, your dues have not been paid. I sent reminder notices on March 1 to everyone who had not renewed. If I do not receive your dues shortly, this copy of the *Journal* will be the last one you receive. So if you have dues outstanding, please send us payment. Remember that you can pay with PayPal.

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

Payments to the BCPSG via PayPal

Payments to the BCPSG can be easily made via PayPal. PayPal is simple to use, quick and secure.

Payments can be made for subscription renewals, donations to the various funds such as the General Fund, The Admiss Memorial and Publication Funds and the Robert J. Cooley Awards Fund.

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- (4) You can pay using any currency, but you should specify that the payment from PayPal to the BCPSG should be converted into U.S. dollars. Payments made in other currencies must be converted into U.S. dollars and the BCPSG incurs an additional charge.

If you have any problems, please contact your Treasurer.

CAYMAN ISLANDS By Richard Maisel

The third of our occasional series devoted to Classic Collections, this describes Richard Maisel's superb Large Gold Medal collection. Lavishly illustrated in colour, this booklet relates the progression of Cayman Islands philately from the earliest use of the Jamaican stamps, through the development of first Queen Victoria keyplate designs up to the pictorial issues of the King George V period. **Price: £12.00 (Approx. \$22.80).** BWISC Members' discount £2.00 (Approx. \$3.80).

This book is available now and can be ordered from David Druett of Pennymead Auctions at 1, Brewerton Street, Knaresborough, N. YORKS, HG5 8AZ UK or via e-mail at Pennmead@aol.com, or via Telephone at 0044 (0)1423 865962 or Fax at 0044(0)1423547057. Please advise if airmail or surface mail is required

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By Michael R. Rego

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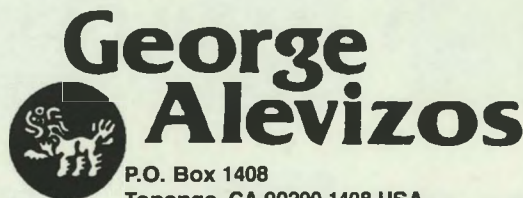
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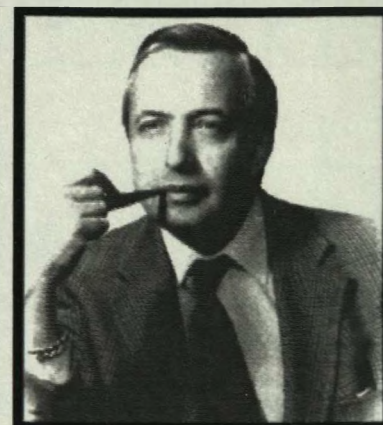
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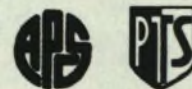
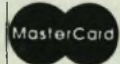
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