

# BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

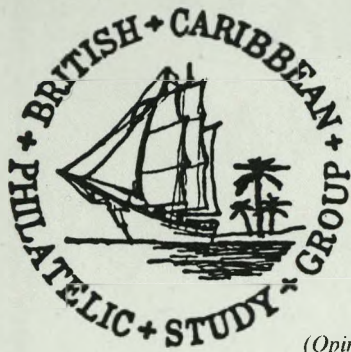
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## Anguilla's Emergency Mail Service, 1967-1980

See Dr. Reuben Ramkissoon's  
research beginning on  
page 4.





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### DEADLINES FOR THIS PUBLICATION

**January issue:** Deadline November 15, mailing December 30

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**July issue:** Deadline May 15, mailing June 30

**October issue:** Deadline August 15, mailing September 30

# Anguilla's Emergency Mail Service, 1967-1980

By Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon, FRPSL  
*Anguilla Study Group Leader*

## Introduction

This paper briefly recalls Anguilla's British colonial history from the 1950 overprinting of the definitive King George VI stamps of St. Kitts-Nevis marking 300 years of English settlement. Leeward Islands and St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla (St. C-N-A) postage stamps were simultaneously used in Anguilla until its secession from St. Kitts. That revolt story begins with Anguillans chasing a garrison of 17 Royal St. Kitts policemen off the island, and a Declaration of Independence (May 30, 1967), from the Statehood of St. C-N-A, as a member of the West Indies Federation. This was an echo of the 1825 Petition for Independence, as Great Britain had granted home rule to the Federation on February 27, but retained control of its foreign affairs and defense. A Statehood Temporary Rubber Datestamp (TRD) for Anguilla (*Figure 1*), received from St. Kitts on February 27 was placed in use (known struck in dark purple and black) from March 1 through March 28, when mail service was suspended, and all Anguilla mail was impounded by the central government in Basseterre, St. Kitts.

This 36-mile tiny, eel-shaped (i.e., Anguilla) coral streak island was represented by Peter Adams (spokesman for its 6,000 inhabitants), who flew to San Juan, Puerto Rico to make the Independence Declaration (there were then no capable overseas communication facilities on the island). His request to the British government to resume control of Anguilla and grant it special status of independence in the Federation was ignored, as were contacts with the United States Department of State. A cable "seeking guidance" sent to Secretary-General U-Thant of the United Nations brought no immediate response.

## Major political Events

The saga of the self-proclaimed secession of Anguilla on May 30, 1967 -- barely three months following the newly established Associated Statehood of St. Kitts (St. Christopher)-Nevis-Anguilla on February 27, 1967 -- could not be quelled, eventually bringing the force of the British Empire to Anguilla's sandy and sometimes rocky shores. On March 19, 1969, a British contingent transported by two frigates disembarked a small Land Force, known as the "Red Devils," and they established a base of operation named Camp Alamo (*Figure 2*) on Anguilla.

As the troops were landing on Anguilla's soil, two helicopters dropped several thousand propaganda leaflets (*Figure 3*) which carried a message of assurance that the Anguillan people would not be forced back with St. Kitts. The message urged a quick return to law and order so that life would resume a state of normalcy. Despite the large number of propaganda leaflets that were dropped, surviving copies are practically non-existent.

"The mouse had roared," law and order were restored within a day (March 20, 1969) without casualties or the loss of life. But the "Separation Movement" saw no signs of abatement, and the resolve of independence of Anguilla made in May 1967 continued to impose pressure for resolution. A number of political options were being explored with the United Kingdom, United Nations, the United States Department of State, as well as Caribbean leaders in council and counsel who had assembled in Trinidad. On April 1, 1971, A.C.W. Lee was appointed Her Majesty's Commissioner to Anguilla. The Anguilla Act of 1971 endorsed the Commissioner's (later the title was changed to Governor) appointment, and the first of the British troops left the island on September 15, 1971. But it would be another five years before a new Constitution was adopted in 1976, the government stabilized, and Anguillans could join in celebrating—at long last, in their own island's home—with the achievement of separation from St. Kitts. This memorable

achievement had indeed been accomplished (Anguilla Day), but it took 13 years! It was fittingly commemorated by a five-stamp-souvenir sheet, "SEPARATION FROM ST. KITTS," (Scott #428a) highlighting milestone achievements on the road to independence. The 1967 Airport Blockade (Scott #426) is depicted on the 35¢ value (*Figure 4*). In addition, the overprinting of 22 values (Scott #402-23) taken from selections of the 1977-78 definitives, 1980 Christmas, and the 1979 International Year of the Child commemoratives, completed the selection process (December 18, 1980).

### Major Postal History Events – A Mail Embargo

The short-lived Associated Statehood of St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla saw the introduction of temporary rubber datestamps (TRD) to mark the event. They were used at post offices throughout the three-island nation. The scarcest of these usages is from Anguilla, since its secession terminated the usage of the TRD within the month of March 1967 (*See Figure 1*).

#### ST. CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS-ANGUILLA: ANGUILLA (TRD)

<i>Date Received</i>	<i>First Day of Use</i>	<i>Last Day of Use</i>
February 27, 1967	March 1, 1967	March 28, 1967

On May 31, 1967, the Central Government on St. Kitts resorted to a mail embargo, impounding and stopping mail service to Anguilla. The Anguillan Postal Service took immediate steps on June 1, 1967 to overcome this severe threat to their life-line of communication by the following measures. Establishing a postal service required the immediate production of postage stamps and stationery, security and official mailing services, as well as dated and undated cancellation and instructional handstamps. The mail embargo created urgency in re-establishing mail routes, and resulted in obtaining emergency temporary addresses outside of Anguilla for mail delivery. These sites were in nearby island locations: Marigot, St. Martin (French), Phillipsburg, St. Maartin (Dutch), St. Thomas (U.S.V.I.), and more distant Puerto Rico (U.S.A.).

For a period, St. Martin required the purchase and use of French stamps (sold by the Anguilla Post Office, for its own right and history, this should be seen as truly an emergency act, implemented to assure the normal movement of mail. Dutch stamps were never sold by Anguilla Post, and all transactions were made in the prevailing East Caribbean currency, not in Francs or Guilders) for outgoing Anguilla mail routed via Marigot (*Figure 5*). Trial mailing dispatches utilizing 100 pieces of mail with Anguilla cds and postage paid handstamps (*Figure 6*) were successfully carried out (from June 30 to July 7), and were implemented on July 11 despite attempted efforts by St. Kitts calling for UPU non-recognition of Anguilla Post. Anguilla Airways was inaugurated during this transition period, with its first flight occurring between Anguilla and St. Thomas on August 4, 1967. This early connecting communication service became a lifeline for Anguilla's economic survival.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Emergency Mail Service</b>	<b>Implementation</b>
<b>June 1, 1967</b>	Utilized Anguillan-held post office box on neighboring French and Dutch islands, U.S. Virgin Islands.	Marigot, French St. Martin, Phillipsburg, Dutch St. Maartin, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.
<b>June 30 - July 7, 1967</b>	Test mail using emergency postage paid dated handstamp dispatches.	To addresses in U.S., U.K., Caribbean
<b>July 11, 1967</b>	Emergency Postage Paid handstamp	Put into general use.
<b>August 4, 1967</b>	First flight, Anguilla Airways to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands	To/From Anguilla/ St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

## Local / Regional AIRLINE HANDSTAMPS Cancel-Carried Mail

Another way Anguillians sought to ameliorate problems created by the mail embargo was to bypass the use of the post office for outgoing mail. Rather, they requested a designated friendly and co-operative airline's staff assistance for the carriage of their letters. Mail brought to the carrier's reception desk would be "cancelled" with an airline handstamp, usually struck in black or red, and then taken directly to the aircraft to enter the mail stream on arrival at the destination city.

*Examples of Airline Handstamped mail are listed:*

Date	Airline	Handstamp	Size	Color
August 4, 1967	ANGUILLA AIRWAYS	Type I, A, 25¢	67 x 9mm	red
	Anguilla - St. Thomas	same, Anguilla, 25¢	same	black
February 24, 1968	Anguilla	Type II, U.S., 10¢	67 x 9mm	red
May 28, 1970	VALLEY AIR SERVICE	Type I, 1-line	93 x 14mm	black
	U.S.A. - Anguilla			
May 16, 1971	U.S.A. - Anguilla	Type I, U.S., 10¢	93 x 14mm	black
February 25, 1971	Same, U.S.A. - Anguilla	Type I, U.S., 10¢	93 x 14mm	black
September 15, 1971	Same, Anguilla - USA	Type II, U.S., 11¢	42 x 5mm	red

The first of the successful emergency arrangements for airmail service was made between the U.S.P.S. in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands that utilized an ANGUILLA AIRWAYS handstamp (struck in black and red) to accept and cancel mail brought to its desk for delivery to The Valley, Anguilla (*Figure 7*). This service was inaugurated on August 4, 1967. This provision also prevailed in Anguilla, permitting mail taken directly onto the aircraft to be entered into the normal mailstream upon delivery to St. Thomas or Anguilla at the prevailing airmail rate of 25¢ per half ounce. Two types of handstamps are recorded, each of which consist of 9mm non-serif fonts, and readily distinguished from each other, the latter usage (February 24, 1968) being of less bold characters (*Figure 7a*).

Similar arrangements were operative for Valley Air Service of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. Covers recorded during 1970 (10¢ rate), and 1971 (11¢ rate) demonstrate two types of open single-line, bold non-serif font (*Figure 8*) [a large 93 x 14mm], and a much smaller (*Figure 8a*) [42 x 5 mm] handstamp. Later usages in 1976 show blue impressions of this handstamp. Also recorded is a two-line, straight-line handstamp, "VALLEY AIRLINES, LTD./ The Valley, Anguilla, W.I." (38 x 9mm) on an outgoing cover to Tortola, B.V.I. on October 22, 1976.

Letters continued to be carried even after the embargo crisis was over, shown in the following instances, and recorded during 1974:

April 21, 1974	WEST INDIES AIRLINES, INC.	Type 1, U.S., 13¢	75 x 25mm	black
	St. Thomas - Anguilla			
	WINDWARD ISLAND AIRWAYS, INTERNATIONAL	Type I, St. Maartin, 30¢	28 x 25mm	blue
April 23, 1974	AIR ANGUILLA INC.	Type I, Anguilla 50¢	34 x 4mm	blue
October 22, 1976	VALLEY AIRLINES, LTD. The Valley, Anguilla, W.I.	Two-line, straight-line	38 x 9mm	blue

*Moving the Mail:***Postage Stamps, Aerogrammes, Cancellation Date Stamps,  
Slogans and Instructional Handstamps**

On April 9, 1967, limited postage stamp stock at The Valley GPO was overprinted in black serified letters "INDEPENDENT/ ANGUILLA," and the names St. K-N-A were obliterated. On the first day of release, sale was restricted to mail presented for onward dispatch. On the same date, a limited number of aerogrammes (5¢ and 15¢) at The Valley GPO was also overprinted in black serified capital letters, "INDEPENDENT/ ANGUILLA."

**Table 1. GOVERNMENT OF ANGUILLA**

On instructions given by the Government of Anguilla, The Island Press Inc., of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, overprinted the entire stock of St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla Postage Stamps held in Anguilla.

The stamps were overprinted "Independent Anguilla" and the words "St. Christopher -Nevis-Anguilla" were blocked out. The stamps were overprinted in sheets of 25. The type form was defaced and then destroyed.

STAMP VALUE	NUMBER OF SHEETS	NUMBER OF STAMPS
1/2¢	122	3,050
1¢	112	2,800
2¢	170	4,250
3¢	144	3,600
4¢	138	3,450
5¢	99	2,475
6¢	103	2,575
10¢	164	4,100
15¢	128	3,200
20¢	112	2,800
25¢	103	2,575
50¢	7	175
60¢	4	100
\$1.00	7	175
\$2.50	9	225
\$5.00	9	225

Stamps of all the above values were placed on sale at the Anguillan Post Office on 4th September 1967.

POSTMASTER

The Overprinted stamps are ranked below in ease of acquisition:

Most Available    Least Available  
<2¢, 10¢, 3¢, 4¢, 15¢, 1/2¢, 1¢ & 20¢, 6¢ & 25¢, 5¢, \$2.50 & \$5, 50¢, \$1, & 60¢>

This issue is thus a 20th century rarity, and likely to grow in demand with the passage of time. The limited stock of St. C-N-A postage stamps (1/2¢ to \$5.00) shown in Table 1, (prepared from a Government of Anguilla notice posted by the Postmaster), and postal stationery (5¢ and 15¢) aerogrammes held by the GPO, The Valley, Anguilla were overprinted "INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA" by the Island Press (postage stamps) and Ace Printery (postal stationery) in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. These were placed on sale at the GPO, The Valley, Anguilla on September 4, 1967. Stamps were sold only as they were actually needed at the time of purchase (*Figure 9*), in order to allow for their maximum period of availability for postage until delivery of Anguilla's first definitive stamps. Note the very

small runs of the 50¢ to \$5 values (four to nine sheets of 25 stamps). Therefore, either mint or used sets are limited to 100 (4 x 25 sheets)—the shortest run being the 60¢ value.

There were no such stringent rules applied to the sale and usage of the aerogrammes, but used examples during the transition period are rarely encountered for the five-cent value (*Figure 10*). Mixed frankings with overprinted 5¢ Anguilla definitives and five-cent Nederlands Antilles stamps making up the 15¢ rate (*Figure 10a*) are even less frequently found; the 15¢ value (*Figure 10b*) is practically unobtainable. This degree of scarcity is surprising, in light of Postmaster Harrigan's statement that at least 2,000 of each aerogramme were overprinted, for a total of 4,040.

### Timeline

- 1967- First ANGUILLA definitive stamps issued. (St. K-N-A definitive issue overprinted "INDEPENDENT/ANGUILLA")
- 1968- Official mail from Administrator mailed through Anguilla, P. O. Box 1604, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.
- 1968- First Anguilla commemorative stamps issued.
- 1968- First Anguilla aerogrammes (5¢ and 15¢) issued.
- 1969- "INDEPENDENCE / JANUARY 1969" overprint on 1967 definitives; three-line unenclosed slogan handstamp introduced by Postmaster General G.K. Harrigan: "1967-69 / ANGUILLA'S INDEPENDENCE / FROM ST.KITTS-NEVIS"
- 1971- First H. M. Commissioner's commemorative stamps issued
- 1972- First H. M. Commissioner's definitive stamp issued
- February 12, 1976- "NEW CONSTITUTION 1976" overprinted issue of 1972
- December 22, 1980- "SEPARATION 1980" overprinted issue and souvenir sheet

### British Forces Mail Service

- March 19, 1969:** FPO 1046 / \* / opened: Camp Alamo, "Land Force, Anguilla."  
FPO 1046 / A / main FPO Antigua: served as supply base of forces in Anguilla.
- December 27, 1970:** FPO 1046\* closed on departure of British troops.
- December 28, 1970:** FPO 701 opened with arrival of the Royal Engineers.  
FPO 143: Two designated handstamps used by FPO 701
- 1971:** During the mail strike in Great Britain, mail services to / from the FPO were provided by the Anguilla Post Office.

Some insights relative to moving the mail during the difficult days of the mail embargo are gained from an examination of the rather limited number of surviving covers of the period. These are examples of Anguilla mail being routed for delivery via the French / Dutch island of St. Martin / St. Maartin, and St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

- An airmail (25¢) registered (60¢) cover dated December 19, 1967 to the United States (*Figure 11*) carries a pictorial (mermaids) address reading, "The Government of the Republic of Anguilla, P. O. Box 43, Marigot, St. Martin Island, French West Indies." While this option was considered, Anguilla was never an established independent Republic, or a Republic member of the British Commonwealth of Nations.
- A January 18 official airmail (25¢) cover from Office of the Administrator, Anguilla, lists a U.S. Virgin Islands address of P. O. Box 1604, St. Thomas. This letter was flown by Anguilla Airways, and dispatched for delivery to Uleta, Florida (*Figure 12*) from Charlotte Amalie, U.S. Virgin Islands.
- A 9d airletter from Great Britain dispatched on April 24, 1969 to the Postmaster at The Valley, Anguilla traveled as far as St. Kitts. A blue crayon line partially drawn over the address is accompanied by a (46 x 3.5mm) straight-line handstamp struck in black, "SERVICE SUSPENDED" (*Figure 13*). It was returned to the sender and received on May 31, 1969.



Incoming mail of the period for Anguilla's postmaster included correspondence from several Caribbean islands and other countries, such as an airmail registered cover from the Governor of Dominica dated December 21, 1970. The series of endorsements on the reverse side indicate the mail route (Roseau, Dominica – Basseterre, St. Kitts – Philipsburg, St. Maartin) and eventual arrival at The Valley on December 30, 1970 (*Figure 14*).

A similar airmail registered cover from Bridgetown, Barbados dated December 24, 1970 was also routed through Philipsburg, St. Maartin (*Figure 15*), while another airmail registered cover from Barbados dated January 4, 1971 was routed through Marigot, St. Martin.

A recent cover sheds some additional insights into the prolongation of mail delivery to private post office addresses in the contiguous French and Dutch islands of St. Martin and St. Maartin. *Figure 16* illustrates such a cover, from which it is apparent that Postmaster G. K. Harrigan maintained the pre-secession, pre-independence P. O. Box 43, Marigot, St. Martin address well beyond the transition period, probably with a view to ensuring the safe delivery of standing philatelic orders and safeguarding foreign stamp sales. Interesting also is a mis-sent routing from a Barbados November 3 dispatch to Curacao and Guadeloupe accounting for a 24-day delay before the communication did arrive in Anguilla on November 28, 1975.

### British Forces Mail Service

A few British Forces covers franked with a 4d Machin definitive and postmarked with the FPO 1046 cancellation datestamp addressed to Anguilla and St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands destinations are known with the Anguilla Airways Type I handstamp (*Figure 17*). These represent philatelic favor postmarked covers.

Date	Airline	Handstamp	Size	Color
April 23, 1969	ANGUILLA AIRWAYS Anguilla - St. Thomas	Type I GB, 4d same	67 x 9 mm same	black red

B.F.P.O. 643 was the military address of the Land Force Anguilla ("Red Devils") and with their establishment of Camp Alamo, services of FPO1046 began on March 19, 1969. With the departure of the "Red Devils" on December 27, 1970, FPO 1046 was closed. The arrival of the Royal Engineers (RE) on December 28, 1970 led to postal services from FPO 701, which was located at the former Camp Alamo site. This site now became a "tent city" for the 52nd Field Squadron (Airfields) Royal Engineers and certain other RAF and Army personnel. Two such covers are noted to Houston, Texas: an airmail cover (7 1/2d) from Lt. Col. Bruce Brown, Commander, RE (*Figure 18*); and from the Captain, RE, Second in Command, by a registered airmail cover with a blue registry label FPO DS (Detached Service; 701 in manuscript) [*Figure 18a*]. This is a rarely seen registry label, made so much the scarcer with the manuscript designation "701." FPO 143 (two such designated datestamps) were utilized by FPO701. While the FPO services were available to British personnel, during the U.K. mail strike, mail to/from the base was routed temporarily through the Anguilla postal service.

### U.S. Domestic Air Mail Routes and Rates

Incoming mail from the U.S. mainland and the adjacent Caribbean islands to Anguilla addressed "Anguilla Valley, St. Thomas, USVI 00801" (*Figure 19*) or "via St. Thomas, USVI 00801" (*Figure 20*) were delivered without postage due assessment during the 10¢ and 11¢ (*Figure 8a*) rate period (1969-1973). Few covers are known with this usage extending to as late as 1979 when the U.S. domestic air mail rate had been increased to 15¢ (*Figure 21*). This option was implemented on the basis of good relations between Anguillans and fellow West Indians working and/or living in the U.S. Virgin Islands. There was no formal arrangement honoring U.S. domestic mail rates during the emergency embargo period by the Central Government in St. Kitts.

*Continued on page 10*

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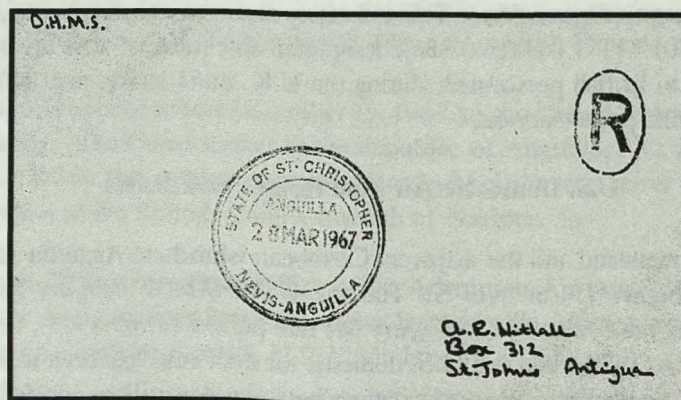


Figure 1

Last day of use (March 28, 1967) on O.H.M.S. cover to Antigua with the statehood temporary rubber datestamp (TRD) for Anguilla, received from St. Kitts.

## Illustrations for Anguilla article



Figure 2

Photograph of Camp Alamo, base of LAND FORCE ANGUILLA.

### Message to the people of Anguilla from the British Government

When Mr. Whitlock came to Anguilla on 11 March he made proposals under which Her Majesty would appoint a Commissioner to deal direct with you.

These proposals are in the real interests of the people of Anguilla. They would permit peaceful progress under an orderly Administration formed of people you can trust.

Mr. Whitlock came unarmed and was forced to leave the Island by a small group of people who used the threat of weapons to prevent him from discussing his proposals with you.

**It is not our purpose to force you to return to an Administration you do not want.**

Our purpose is to end intimidation so you can live in peace and express your opinions without fear.

Her Majesty's Government have therefore taken the necessary measures to appoint Mr. Lee as Her Majesty's Commissioner so that there can be peace, stability and progress on the Island. He comes as your friend.

Please co-operate with him and with the Police and Armed Forces who have come to assist him.

The quicker law and order is restored, the sooner you can resume a normal and peaceful life.

Figure 3

A recreated dropped propaganda leaflet assuring Anguillans they would not be forced back with St. Kitts.



Figure 4

A five-stamp souvenir sheet, "SEPARATION FROM ST. KITTS" (Scott #428a) includes a depiction of the 1967 airport blockade on the 35¢ value (Scott #426).

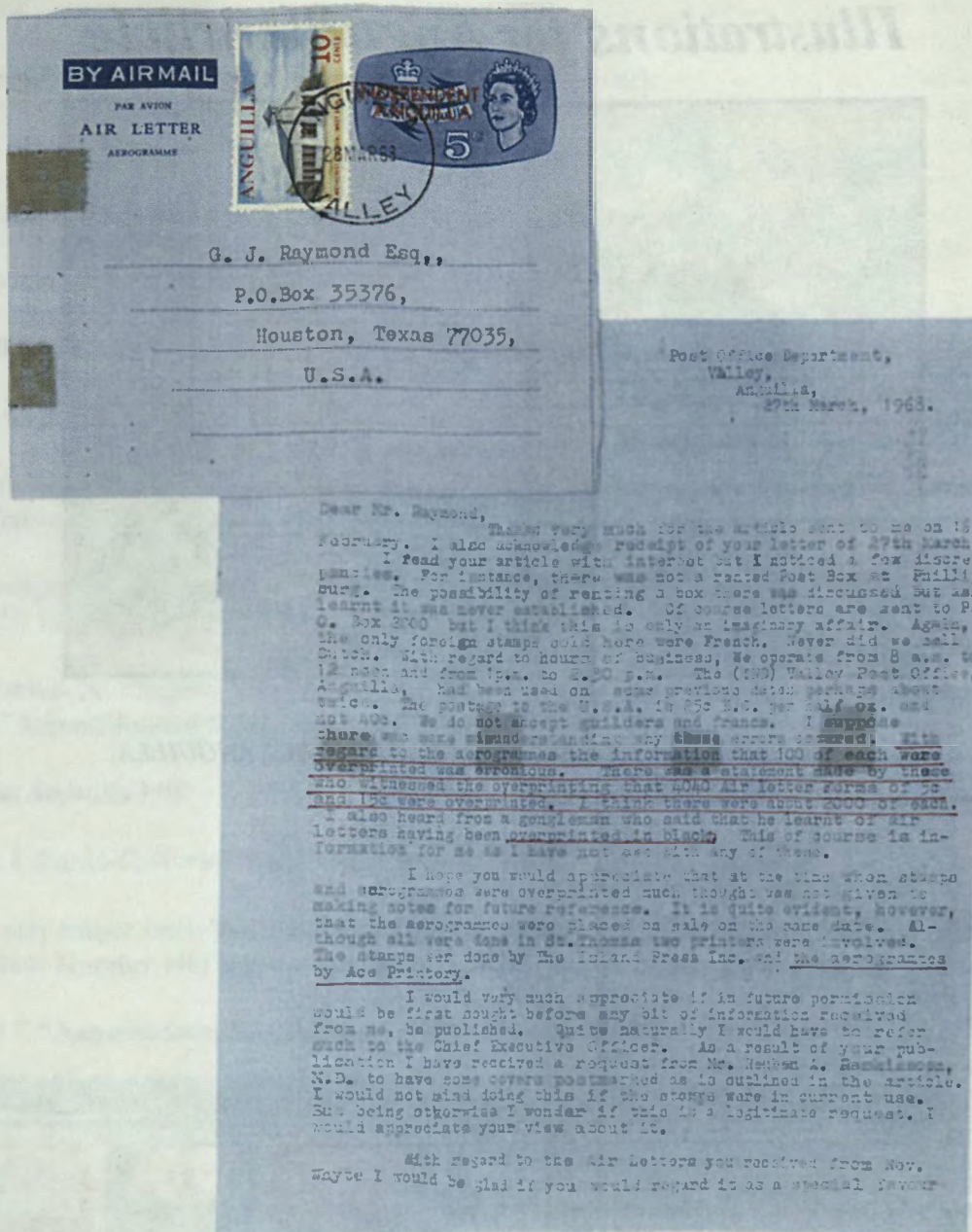


Figure 5

Air letter from Postmaster G.K. Harrigan (March 27, 1968) outlining Anguilla Post operations and related events during the transition period of governance on the island.

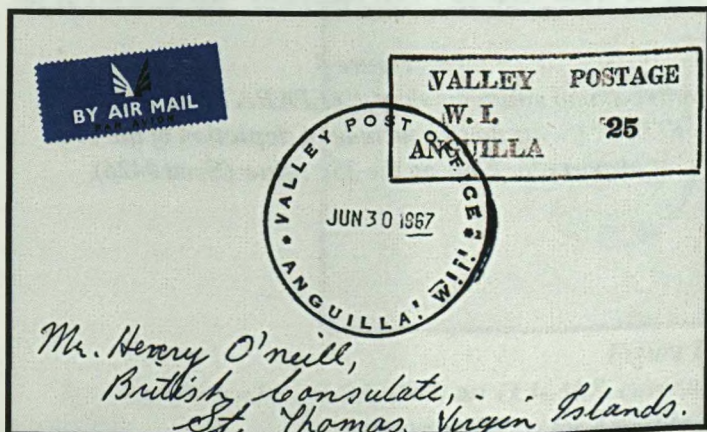


Figure 6

Trial mailing dispatched cover to the British Consulate, utilizing Anguilla cds and postage-paid handstamps. These trials were successfully carried out from June 30 to July 7, 1967.

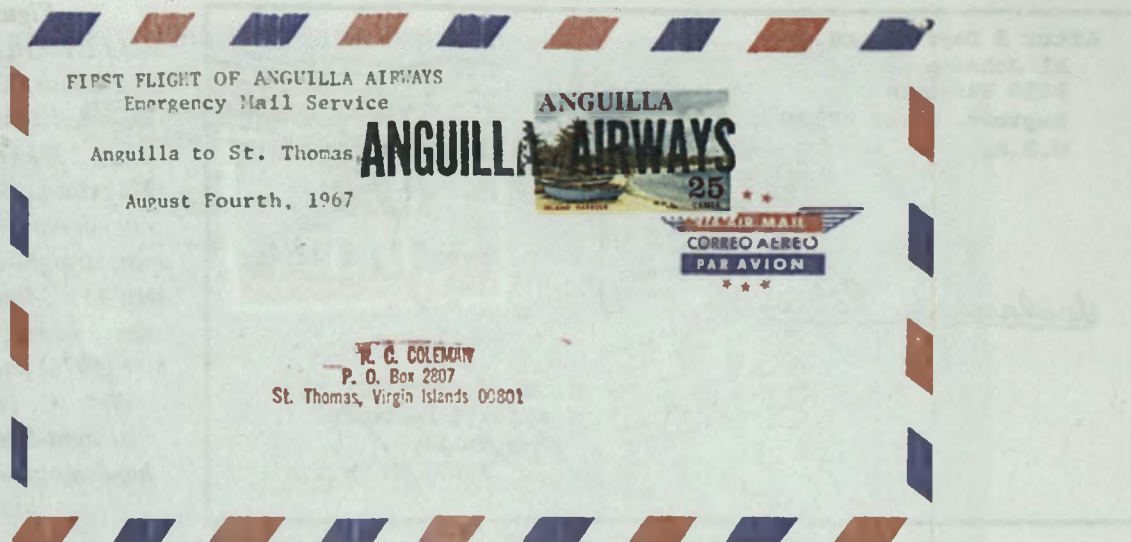


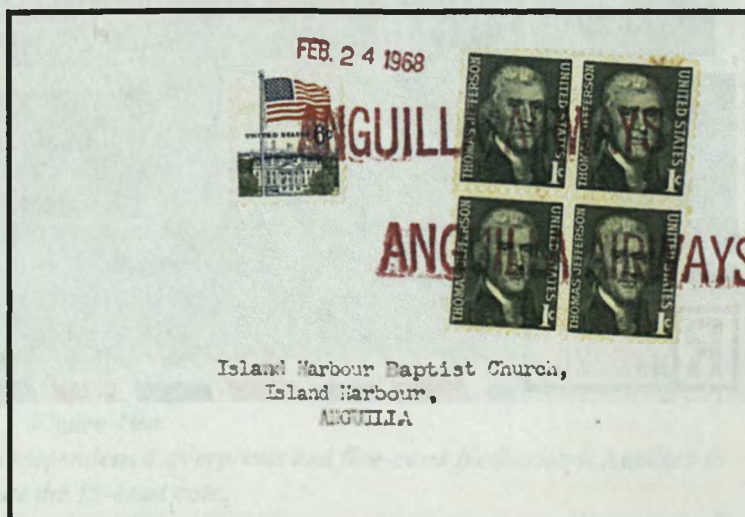
Figure 7

The first of the successful emergency arrangements for airmail service was made between the U.S. Postal Service in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. These covers show a Type I “ANGUILLA AIRWAYS” handstamp, struck in black (above) and red (below), to accept and cancel mail for delivery to Anguilla.



Figure 7a

Two handstamps are recorded, both of which consist of 9mm non-serif fonts; Type II is readily distinguished by its later usage (February 24, 1968) and less bold characters.



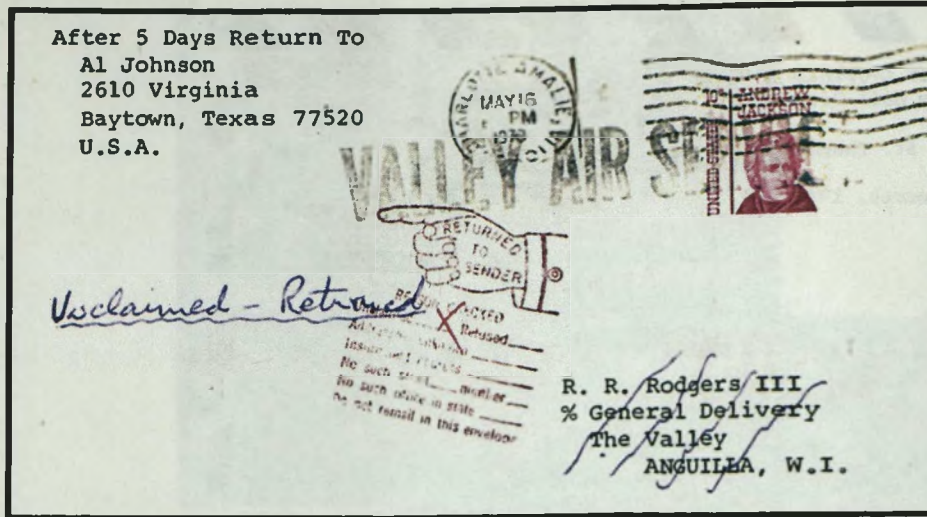


Figure 8  
"VALLEY AIR SERVICE" of St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. covers recorded during 1970 (10 cent), 1971 (11 cent), and 1976 pilot-endorsed (13 cent rate) demonstrate a large, open, straight-line bold non-serif 93 x 14mm handstamp struck in black (1970-71), blue (1976) and an intermediate size (46 x 5mm) straight-line non-serif handstamp also struck in blue.

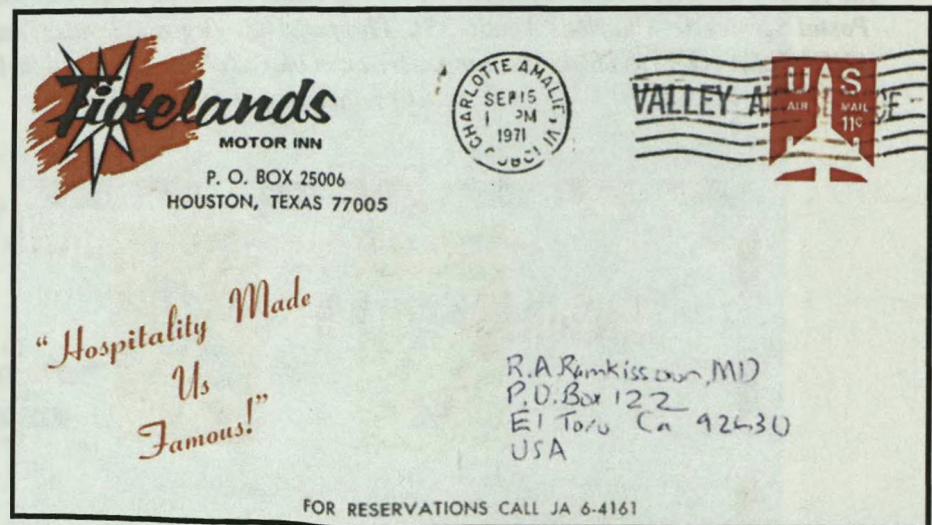


Figure 8a  
This figure shows a 1971 much smaller "VALLEY AIR SERVICE" handstamp of 42 x 5mm.



Figure 9  
Airmail registered cover to Los Angeles, California illustrates the sale of the overprinted "INDEPENDENT/ ANGUILLA" definitive stamps were controlled to allow their maximum availability until delivery of Anguilla's first definitive stamps.

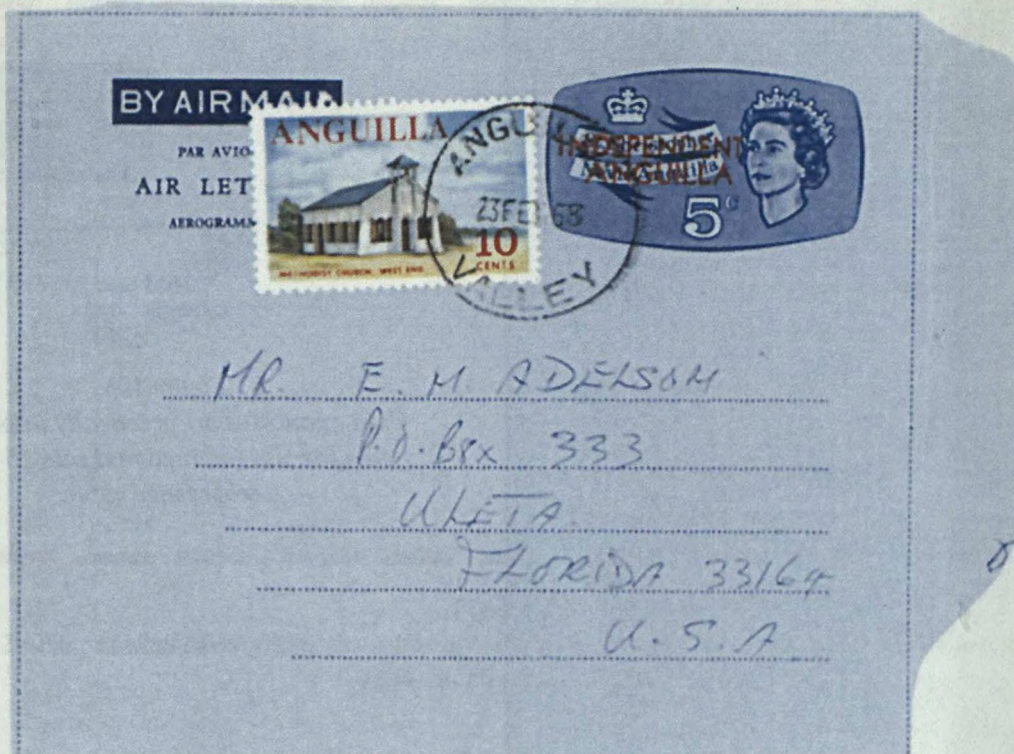


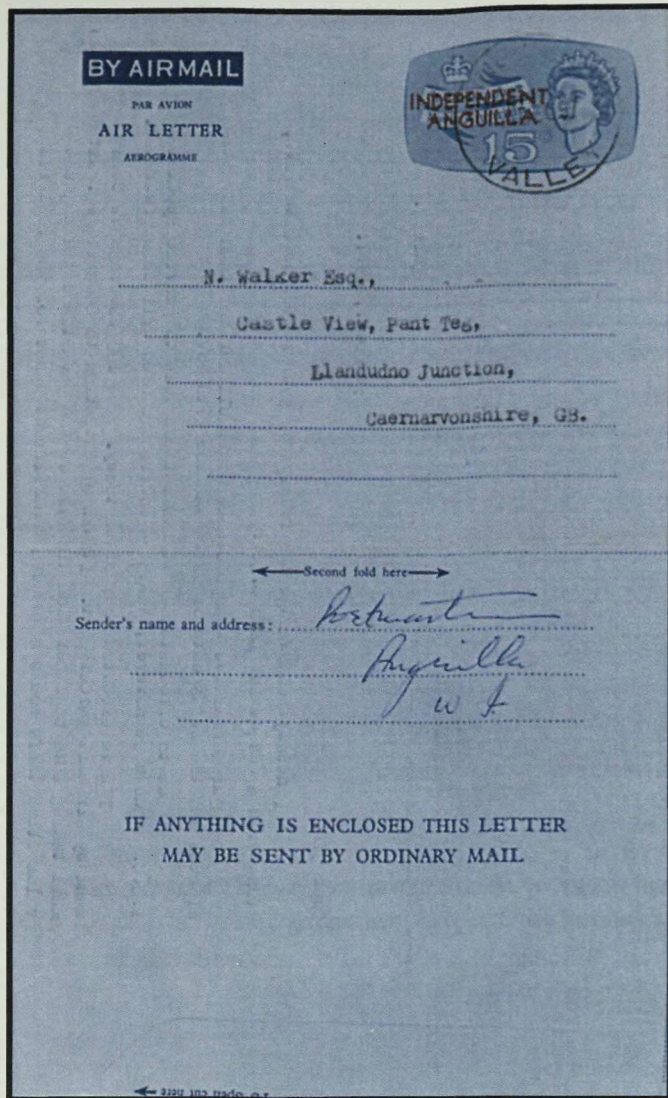
Figure 10

While there were no stringent rules applied to the sale and usage of the aerogrammes, used examples during the transition period are rarely encountered for the five-cent value.

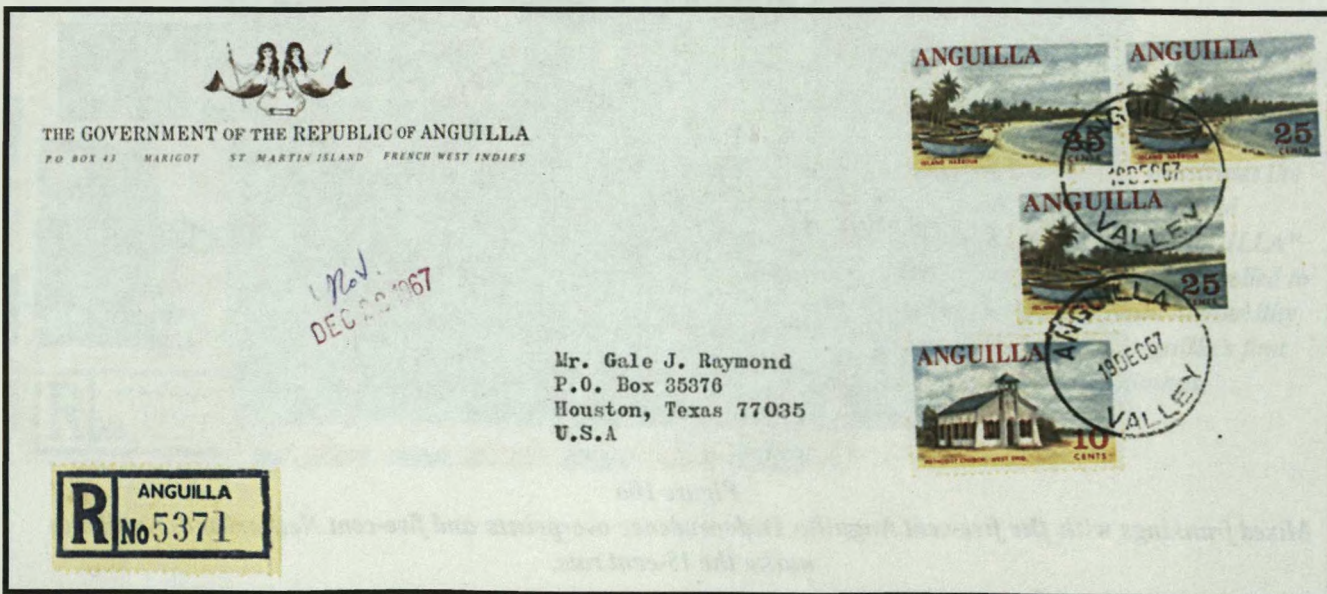


Figure 10a

Mixed frankings with the five-cent Anguilla Independence overprints and five-cent Netherlands Antilles to make the 15-cent rate.



*Figure 10b*  
 Used examples are practically unobtainable for the international rate 15-cent aerogramme value.



*Figure 11*  
 A December 19, 1967 cover from the "Republic of Anguilla," with a return address of P.O. Box 43, Marigot, St. Martin, French West Indies. This did not truly represent a Republic governance.



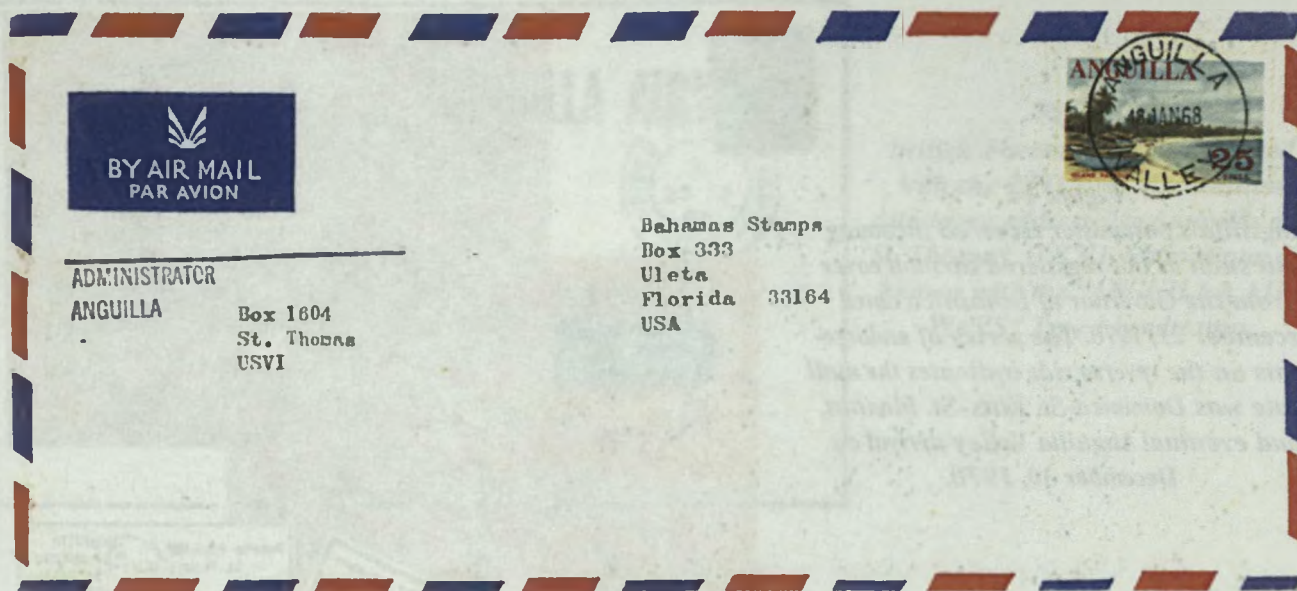


Figure 12

An official 25-cent airmail cover from the office of the Administrator, Anguilla, was mailed through P.O. Box 1604, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.

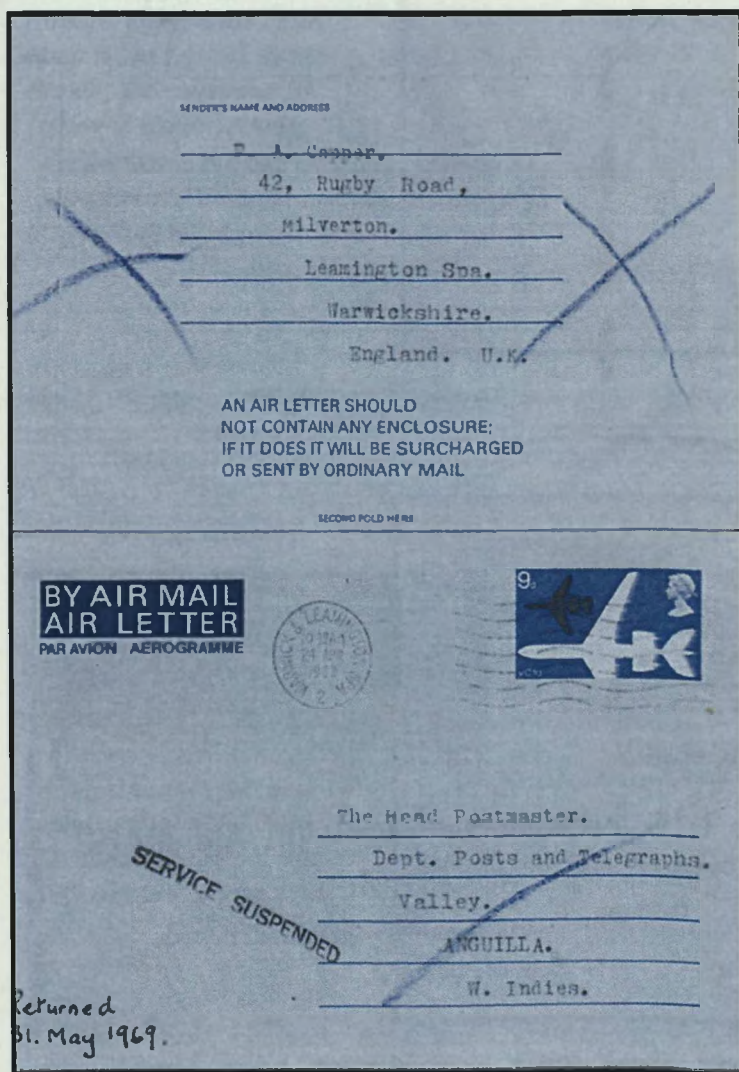


Figure 13

A 9d airletter (aerogramme) from Great Britain, dispatched on April 24, 1969, to the Postmaster at Valley, Anguilla, traveled as far as St. Kitts. A blue crayon line drawn over the address is accompanied by a straight-line handstamp (46 x 3.5mm), "SERVICE SUSPENDED" and returned to sender.

**Figure 14**  
 Anguilla's postmaster received incoming mail such as this registered airmail cover from the Governor of Dominica dated December 21, 1970. The series of endorsements on the reverse side indicates the mail route was Dominica-St. Kitts-St. Maartin, and eventual Anguilla Valley arrival on December 30, 1970.



**Figure 15**  
 A similar registered airmail cover from Bridgetown, Barbados dated December 24, 1970 was also routed through Philipsburg, St. Maartin.

**Figure 16**  
 A Barbados registered airmail cover to Postmaster G.K. Harrigan at a pre-secession, pre-independence address of P.O. Box 43, Marigot, St. Martin. Postmaster Harrigan maintained this emergency address in November 1975, well beyond the postal transition period to ensure the safe delivery of standing orders and safeguarding of foreign stamp sales.



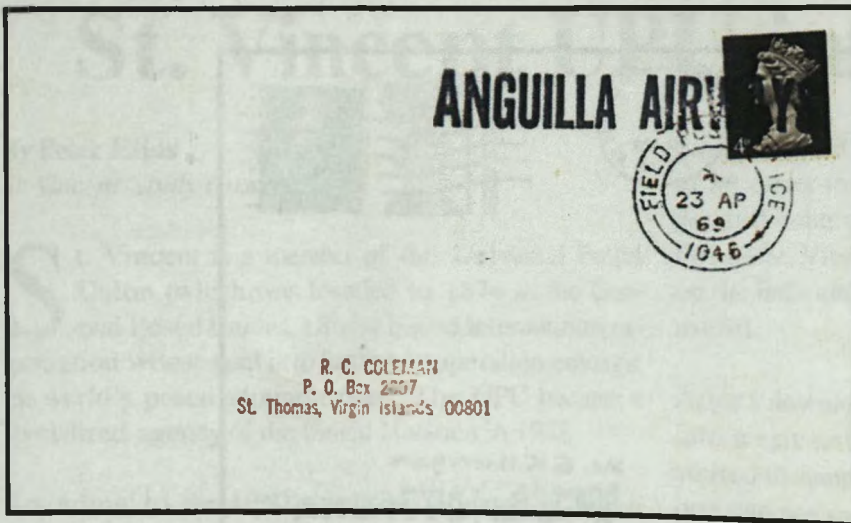


Figure 17  
British Forces covers postmarked with the FPO 1046 cancellation datestamp addressed to Anguilla and St. Thomas, U.S.V.I. destinations are known with the "ANGUILLA AIRWAYS" Type 1 handstamp.

Figure 18  
Airmail cover with 7 1/2d stamp from Lt. Col. Bruce Brown, Commander, RE (Royal Engineers) to Houston, Texas, dispatched through FPO 701.

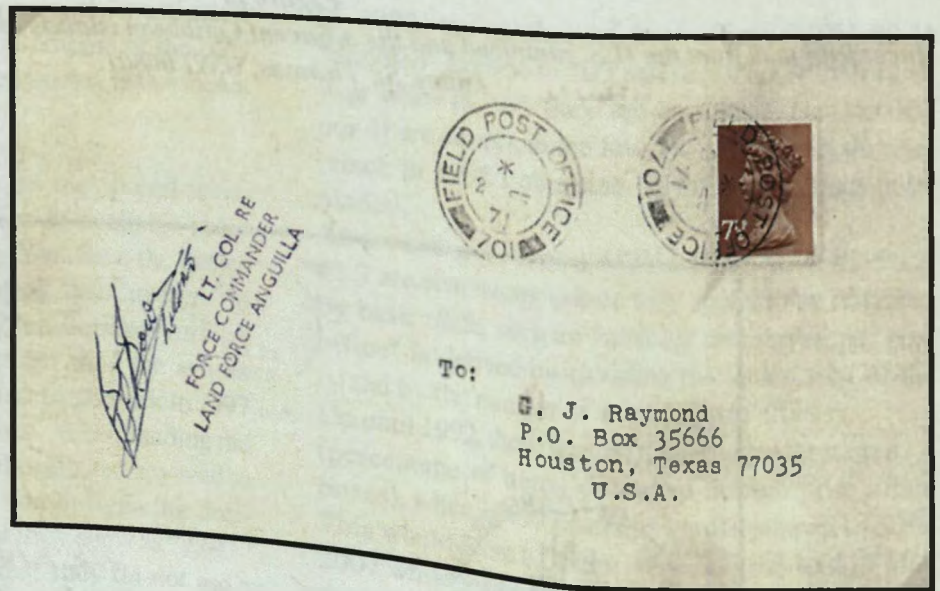


Figure 18a  
Airmail registered cover from the Captain, RE (Royal Engineers), Second in Command, with a blue registry label FPO DS (Detached Service), 701 in manuscript.



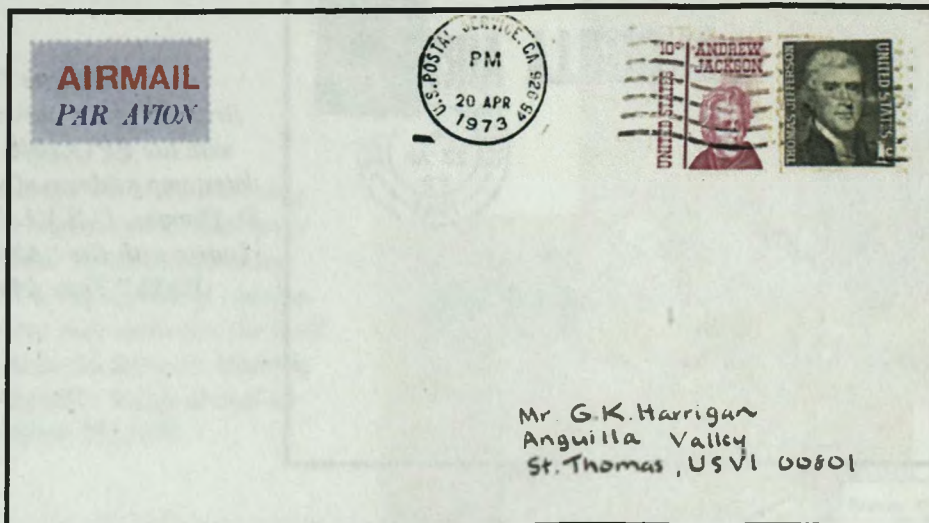


Figure 19

Incoming mail from the U.S. mainland and the adjacent Caribbean islands to Anguilla addressed "Anguilla Valley, St. Thomas, USVI 00801."

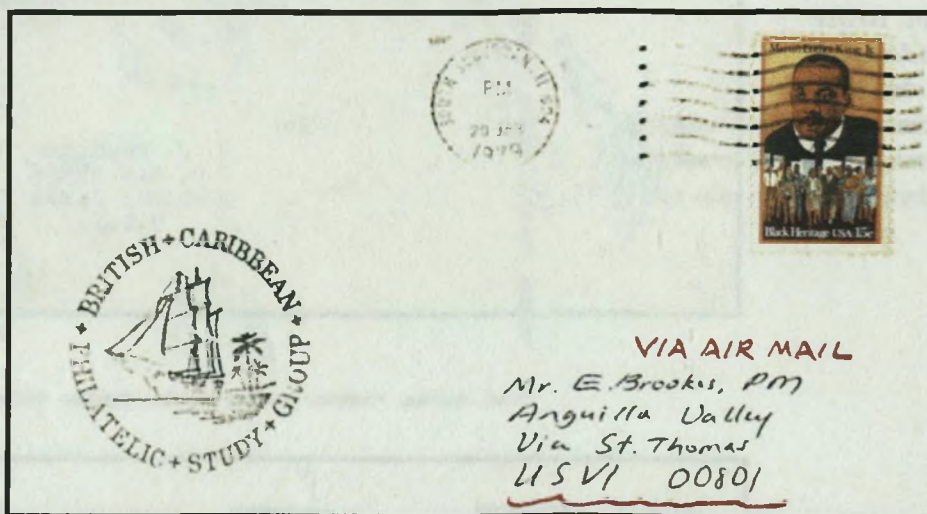


Figure 20

The same incoming mail addressed "via St. Thomas, USVI 00801" were delivered without postage due assessment during the 10-cent and 11-cent rate period (1969-1973). The U.S. domestic airmail rate was allowed as late as 1979 when there was an increase to 15-cents.

**EDITOR'S ENDNOTE**

I would like to have integrated the many illustrations into Dr. Ramkissoon's article, but with so many tables inserted in the text, it would have made reading much more difficult. Please accept my apology for placing all of the illustrations at the end of the article.

# St. Vincent UPU information

By Peter Elias

*St. Vincent Study Group Leader*

St. Vincent is a member of the Universal Postal Union (which was founded in 1874 as the General Postal Union), a Swiss-based international organization whose goal is to further cooperation amongst the world's postal administrations. The UPU became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1948.

According to the UPU's website (located at <http://www.upu.int>), "the UPU's objective is to develop social, cultural and commercial communication between people through the efficient operation of the postal service." One hundred ninety-one countries are presently members of the UPU; the only countries NOT members of the UPU are Taiwan and three former US territories (Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands).

When at the UPU's website, click on the "postal statistics" option to see what information is available about St. Vincent (or any other country). You have the choice of selecting various criteria, including last three or five years or choosing custom years. When I clicked on "last five years," nothing showed up (other than the area in kilometers and the population). I had to go back to 1997 or prior to see any useful information. When reading the information, one has to be careful though, as they tend to use a comma instead of a period for designating decimals, so when reading a number that they show as "2,647" it really means 2.647 for Americans; they do not use a separator for "thousands" (since this is a Swiss-based operation, they, along with Germans, tend to generally reverse the "decimal" and "thousands" separators in comparison to the USA).

The UPU receives postal statistics from the postal administrations, which are supposed to send them in yearly, so apparently St. Vincent has been a bit lax in getting current data to the UPU. I contacted Ms. Celene Jack of the St. Vincent Postal Corporation regarding the lack of recent UPU statistics and was told that they are in the process of getting updated information to the UPU (this was in August 2007, as of present, no new data is available at the UPU website).

I did a quick check on one of the other islands, St. Lucia, which did have information for 2002 – 2004, but I didn't check further back than that. In regards to St. Vincent, I looked up the statistics that are available at this time, and

have compiled them as shown in the accompanying graph in an easier-to-read format. Unfortunately, there is only general country-wide information about mail volumes. For us St. Vincent postal history specialists, having data on the individual village post offices would be immensely useful.

After I downloaded and compiled the basic information into a spreadsheet for 1984 to 1997, a couple of things started to stand out. While there were a couple of trends, one can see some information that appears to be totally incorrect (either reported incorrectly by the St. Vincent authorities and/or entered incorrectly by the UPU):

- In 1993, the number of post offices (UPU #3.1) "doubled" from 56 to 103 and stayed that way for one year when in 1995 they fell back to 41. Neither 103 nor 41 are correct, in the low 50s is the correct number (since in 1998 I obtained 56 different village post-marks).
- As a result of the above, UPU statistics #3.4, #3.5 and #3.7 are also wrong (since they appear to be obtained by basic math, such as "average area served per post office" is derived by dividing the square area of the island by the number of reported post offices).
- Up until 1992, there was no data reported for item #7.4 (percentage of items delivered through post office boxes), when in 1993 (and onward) it jumped to 30%. This would seem to make sense, as I was told in May 2007 while visiting St. Vincent that only a small portion of St. Vincent's population has home-delivery (primarily Kingstown, Georgetown, Belair-Gomea, Barrouallie and Union Island), and that the rest of the population either has a post office box or collects their mail at the post office.
- It appears though that the number reported in #7.6 (people having to collect mail) as 70% included post office boxes until 1994, then dropped sharply to 40%.
- Interestingly enough, starting in 1994, 10% of the population is all of a sudden listed as not having postal services available.
- Domestic letters (#8.5) dropped from the 20,000 range (1982 to 1992) to the 2,000 range in 1993 and 1994. This would appear to be a typo.
- For the few times it is listed, the amount of international letter post mail appears to be in the 160,000 to 200,000 range for 1989 – 1991; however, it was listed as one million in 1985 and only 78,500 in 1988. While that is of course possible, statistically it is not prob-

*Continued on page 22*

St Vincent Postal Statistics

UP#	Item (ND=no data, NA=not applicable)	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
2.1	Total # of staff	139	156	157	157	158	160	160	160	157	157	157	167	167	167	ND	90
2.2	Full-time staff	98	100	100	100	101	103	103	103	101	101	101	111	111	111	ND	83
2.3	Part-time staff	41	56	57	57	57	57	57	57	56	56	56	56	56	56	ND	7
3.1	Total # of permanent post offices	49	49	50	51	52	54	54	54	56	56	56	56	56	56	ND	7
3.4	Avg coverage area (in km <sup>2</sup> ) per permanent post office	7.92	7.92	7.76	7.61	7.46	7.19	7.19	6.93	6.93	6.93	3.77	3.77	9.48	9.48	ND	55
3.5	Avg # of inhabitants per post office	2,112	2,129	2,106	2,085	2,065	2,008	2,025	1,988	1,982	1,982	1,091	2,785	2,770	2,785	ND	15,714
3.7	# of post offices accepting financial transactions	10	10	10	10	10	10	8	8	ND	52	21	21	21	21	ND	7
4.1	Operating Revenue (in SDR)		408,042	468,424	ND	ND	557,857	564,783	ND	ND	ND	ND	1,978,506	ND	ND	ND	691,025
6.3	Number of letter boxes	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	ND	25
7.1	Avg # of deliveries per working days in urban areas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	ND	1
7.2	Avg # of deliveries per week in rural areas	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	ND	6
7.3	# of PO Boxes	1,082	1,592	1,592	1,592	1,592	1,592	1,752	1,752	1,652	1,652	1,652	1,652	1,652	1,652	ND	2,288
7.4	% of items delivered through PO Boxes	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	30.6
7.5	% of population with home delivery	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	ND	94
7.6	% of population having to collect mail	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	80	70	70	40	40	ND	3
7.7	% of population without postal services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	10	ND	3
8.1	Avg# of letter-post items mailed per inhabitant	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	16.36
8.2	# of dispatched domestic letter-post items	ND	ND	ND	ND	78,500	164,900	179,900	203,800	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	1,461,300
8.3	# of dispatched int'l letter-post items	ND	1,025,000	ND	ND	ND	ND	322,500	ND	250,000	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	338,300
8.4	# of inbound letter-post items	ND	945,000	ND	ND	ND	ND	20,000	21,000	2,900	2,900	2,000	ND	ND	ND	ND	807,700
8.5	# of domestic registered items	25,000	20,000	13,000	27,000	27,000	22,000	20,000	21,000	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	28,200
8.6	# of dispatched int'l registered items	30,300	32,000	30,000	26,000	26,000	26,000	24,000	25,000	ND	24,100	24,000	22,000	21,000	21,000	ND	25,300
8.7	# of inbound registered items	51,000	47,000	46,000	44,000	43,000	43,000	47,000	36,000	31,000	28,000	26,100	24,000	23,000	23,000	ND	21,400
9.5	# of ordinary int'l parcels	1,700	1,200	900	1,500	1,300	900	ND	1,400	900	1,200	1,500	1,200	1,100	1,100	ND	1,420
9.6	# of ordinary inbound parcels	13,000	12,000	13,000	12,000	9,000	8,000	16,000	11,000	9,400	17,000	15,000	8,300	9,100	9,000	ND	6,700
9.9	# of insured inbound parcels	1,400	1,500	1,600	1,400	1,100	1,000	600	1,200	1,100	900	900	800	ND	ND	ND	2,100

able. Other information that can be obtained from 1984 to 1997 data includes:

- Decline in outbound international registered letters from 30,300 in 1984 to 21,000 in 1996.
- Decline in inbound international registered letters from 51,000 in 1984 to 23,000 in 1996.
- A gradual decline in both inbound and outbound parcels from 1984 to 1997. This could be due to more package shipment companies that are now operating world-wide (such as UPS and DHL).
- Interestingly enough, there are only three letter boxes listed in all of St. Vincent, meaning that most likely one will have to go to the post office to drop off one's mail.
- The availability of post office boxes has been increasing from 1,092 in 1984 to 1,852 in 1997 (and over 3,000 in 2007 based on data gathered recently).

In digging through some old print-outs, I found a UPU statistical print-out dated December 31, 2001, which covered the years 1995 to 1999. While the data from 1995 to 1997 appeared identical, there was no data for 1998; however, data for 1999 was present, although currently it is NOT there anymore – reasons for this I do not know. My older print-out has basically the same data, but the UPU statistic codes that were assigned to some of them were slightly different at that time (although that might have something to do with why the 1999 data is not present), so I will offer a brief synopsis of the 1999 data:

- Full time staff dropped drastically from 111 (1997) to 83.
- Number of post offices listed incorrectly as seven (it should be around 56), causing the other statistical numbers in #3.4, #3.5 and #3.7 to be meaningless.
- The number of letter boxes jumped from three to 25.
- Home delivery was listed as 94%; although I am guessing it's meant to say that 94% of the entire population had access to postal services.
- Listed for the first time was that 16.36 was the average number of letter items posted per person.

• Domestic letter mail was at 1,461,300. This should at least prove to the stamp collecting world that there is a demand for many stamps on St. Vincent (even if it is just the lower value 10¢ or 20¢ values), under the assumption that



## BG Bits and Pieces

With Dr. P.J. Ramphal  
Of Canada



# A Postscript to The Guyana Independence Overprints Revisited

Here is a postscript to the Guyana Independence Overprints Revisited article, and all of the listed and some unlisted errors to be found in the Guyana 1969 Christmas issue.

I do believe that serendipitous experiences occur in stamp collecting far more frequently than in other hobbies. I visited London for the first 10 days of October to attend an important family celebration and while there, stayed at my brother's home. Before leaving, my sister-in-law

accumulate five examples which I had discussed in the last issue of the *Journal*, and within one month of publication, a sixth had fallen into my hands. I abandoned my half finished article intended for this issue, in order to share my good fortune with you.

Figure 1 (enlarged), shows SG #384 and #385, the 8¢ and 12¢ values of the first released London overprinted Guyana / Independence / 1966 stamps, on paper, tied by a circular Registration Branch GPO Guyana cancellation, dated 17 JA 67. The 8¢ stamp has a circular defect, suggestive of an ink bubble type of flaw, occurring on the oblique stroke of the third "N" of INDEPENDENCE which almost completely replaces that stroke. Most likely this is a one of a kind error and I submit it as a postscript to the article published in the previous edition of the *Journal*.



Figure 1

*The 8¢ and 12¢ values of the first released London overprinted stamps, on paper, tied by a circular Registration Branch GPO Guyana cancellation dated January 17, 1967.*

apologetically presented me with a box of stamps, which she had saved from her own mail while residing in Georgetown between 1965 and 1975. Altogether they were about a thousand, the majority from Guyana, and she was sure that I had them all and had no need for them. I assured her that I looked forward to scrutinizing them all and suggested that more likely than not, I would find an interesting cancellation in the lot.

The night after my return to Toronto, I did give them my attention. Sadly, there were no cancellations of interest to be found but there was a used copy of one of the Guyana 1969 Christmas stamps with an unlisted error and, against all odds, another flawed London overprinted Guyana / Independence / 1966 stamp. It had taken me 40 years to

Figure 2 (enlarged), is the second interesting stamp from that box, the 5¢ value of the Guyana 1969 Christmas four stamp set. The first "S" in CHRISTMAS is upside down.

This error is not catalogue listed, but I did previously possess a mint copy of it which had been included in a one page exhibit I had prepared a few years ago, which was titled, "All of the listed and some unlisted errors to be found in the



Figure 2

*The 5¢ value of the 1969 Christmas stamp set with the first "S" in "Christmas" inverted.*



Figure 3

*The full "normal" set of the 1969 Christmas set from Guyana.*

Guyana 1969 Christmas set." This set is unusual, printed in the United Kingdom specifically for Christmas but overprinted in Georgetown by the Guyana Lithographic Co. Ltd., "Christmas 1969" in two vertical lines on the right and left sides of both designs of the four value set. They were not put on sale before the overprinting was done. Figure 3 is the full normal set. Figures 4 to 6 display catalogue listed errors. Figures 7 to 10, to my best knowledge, display unlisted or unrecorded errors occurring in this set. I look forward to hearing from the readership of any additional errors that might exist. I need hardly say that I thoroughly enjoyed rummaging through my box. Thank you, Lady Lois, and thank you, Lady Luck.



Figure 4

*The omitted overprint, SG #511a, #512a and #513a. It is not known in the 60c value. These stamps come from sheets which escaped the overprinting process.*



Figure 6

*The last of the listed errors, SG #511b, a double overprint occurring only on the 5c value.*



Figure 7

*A broken "t" in Christmas on the 5c value.*



Figure 5

*The reversed overprint, SG #512b, found only on the 6c value.*



Figure 8

*A broken "h" in Christmas on the 60c value.*

**Illustrations continued  
on page 25**



## Barbados Arts Council members design stamps

The Barbados Arts Council was formed on December 6, 1957 with Hugh Springer (later Sir Hugh Springer) as its first president and chairman. Representation was accorded the various art forms including music, drama, dance, literary and visual arts. The aims and objectives of the BAC include the development of these various art disciplines and acting as a link between the government and people in matters pertaining to the arts.

At the third meeting held on February 26, 1958, it was decided to invited Karl Broodhagen to become advisor on matters relating to the visual arts. With his help and assistance and devotion of others, the Barbadian arts and cultural landscape was transformed. In the following years, several prominent artists became members of the BAC. Among them were Fielding Babb, Keith Blackett, Edmund Gill, Clifford Hobbs, Hubert Brathwaite, Maurice Drakes, Briggs Clarke, Oscar Walkes and Joyce Daniel.

Queen's Park was the first home of the BAC, but a facility was soon opened in Pelican Village, and that became the new home and art gallery. With little funding, the BAC depended largely on commission from sales in order to survive. A small annual government subsidy also ensured the longevity of this important organization.

Over time, special interest groups such as writers and dancers formed their own groups. Significantly, too, with the establishment of the National Cultural Foundation and its staff, the BAC was free to focus primarily on the vi-

ual arts. Today, several leading artists remain very active by exhibiting their works and also in various ways helping to develop the younger and emerging artists.

Works of four of these artists were selected as designs for the Christmas 2008 stamps and first day cover from Barbados. "Christmas Moon" by Alison Chapman-Andrews was selected for the 10¢ value; "Preparing for Christmas" by Virgil Broodhagen was selected for the 50¢ value; and "Christmas Candles" by Darla Trotman was selected for the \$1.40 value, and she also contributed "Poinsettia and Snow on the Mountain" for the \$3 value. "Star of Hope" by Bill Grace was selected for the cachet on the first day cover. The stamps are available from the Barbados Philatelic Bureau, Cheapside, Bridgetown BB11000 Barbados.

### Election of Officers

By Duane Larson

Secretary

The election of officers of the BCPSG was held by the Board of Trustees and the following individuals were elected to serve a two-year term, assuming their offices on January 1, 2009:

**President: Ed Waterous**

**Vice President: Duane Larson**

**Secretary: Mary Gleadall**

**Treasurer: John Seidl**

**International Representative: David Druett**

**Editor of the Journal: Dr. Everett L. Parker**

## Guyana Christmas

Illustrations continued from page 24



Figure 9

SG #511b, the double overprint with the first "s" in Christmas inverted.



Figure 10

All four values, mint, with the first "s" in Christmas inverted.

# BCPSG Exhibits and Awards

By Paul Larsen  
Awards Chairman

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

-----  
**Stampshow 2008, August 14-17**  
**Hartford, Connecticut**

Steve Schumann  
*New Zealand Postal Stationery 1876-1940*  
**World Series Prix d'Honneur**

Peter McCann  
*Montserrat: Postal history of a Caribbean Island*  
**Prix d'Honneur**

Paul Fletcher  
*The Postage Due Stamps of Australia*  
**Prix d'Honneur**

Jerome Kasper  
*Illustrated WW II British Military Airletters*  
**Best Illustrated Mail, Gold**

John Cress  
*Development of Australian Airmail 1914-1934*  
**Gold**

Reuben Ramkissoon  
*Air Letter Sheets (Aerogrammes) of Trinidad & Tobago 1943-1995*  
**Gold, BCPSG Medal Award**

Article  
*Postal History of Trinidad 1792-1898*  
**Gold**

Article  
*The Apollo 11 10-Cent Air Mail Issue: Analytical of the Stamp, Cachets and Cancellations, Parts I, II and III*  
**Vermeil**

Peter Flynn  
Book  
*Intercepted in Bermuda*  
**Gold**

Ivan Burgess  
Book

*The History of the Cayman Islands Post Offices*  
**Silver Bronze**

Millard Mack  
*Ohio's Mad River and Little Miami Rail Roads — Early Postal Markings of the Two Connecting Lines (SF)*  
**Vermeil**

**Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition 2008, September 5-7, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**

John Cress  
*Development of Australian Airmail 1914-1934*  
**Gold**

Reuben Ramkissoon  
*Trinidad Connections of the 1931 Dornier DO-X Return South American flight (SF)*  
**Gold**

*The Aerogrammes of Independent Anguilla (SF)*  
**Vermeil**

**MILCOPEX 2008, September 12-14, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Reuben Ramkissoon  
*The Development of the United States Lunar Exploration*  
**Gold**

**PRAGA 2008, September 12-14, Prague, Czech Republic**

Reuben Ramkissoon  
*The Trinidad WWI Red Cross Label that became a Postage Stamp (SF)*  
**Gold**

Peter Elias  
Book:  
*4-Rings - the History of Audi*  
**Vermeil**

# President's Message

By Ed Waterous

**G**reetings and best wishes to all for the year 2009. Please join me in welcoming our 2009-2010 Executive team. Elected by the Board of Trustees for the term are: Ed Waterous, President; Duane Larson, Vice President; Mary Gleadall, Secretary; John Seidl, Treasurer; David Druett, International Director; and Dr. Everett Parker, BCPJ Editor.

Jack Harwood, immediate Past President, led the Group well and faithfully for five years. Jack's term started under adverse conditions but quickly came around under his able leadership. Jack's superb organizational skills were evidenced often but most visibly by the success of our 2007 AGM in Saint Vincent. Jack, for your time and effort expended on behalf of the BCPSG and its members, a heartfelt thank you. We look forward to your participation in the Group for many years to come.

My years of membership in the BCPSG allowed me not only to meet many of you but also to count many of you among my friends. An active membership is what encourages an organization to thrive. The BCPSG is celebrating its 48th anniversary this year. The organization has come this far because of the dedication and hard work of many who preceded us. All of us must be involved actively in some facet of the organization's operation to ensure a vigorous and useful future for the Group. Some of the roles you may take are officer, trustee, study group leader, appointed office, library user, author – be it one paragraph or serialized monograph, auction consigner or buyer, or simply communicating regularly with other BCPSG members. I look forward to working with all of you in maintaining and growing the BCPSG as a friendly and outstanding philatelic organization.

For many years our *Journal* had a reputation as a place where serious philatelic research was reported. In recent years the Editor has struggled to get enough printable material to publish. In turn, the reputation of the BCPJ sagged. Under Jack Harwood's leadership the *Journal* has regained some of its lost stature. Our Study Group Leaders are key to our success in rounding up articles for publication. Members and their Study Group Leaders should be in contact. Working together we can find answers to our questions and publish the results. I thank you all in advance for your rededication to continue the renaissance of the BCPJ.

The worldwide web is the place where many stamp collectors browse and shop. We need to convert the web surf-

ers to members to grow. Duane Larson will head up an effort to upgrade our website. Our webmaster, Ed Barrow, has always responded quickly and efficiently to our requests for changes. Now I ask that Ed and Duane put their heads together and improve the web experience not only for members use but also for those who surf their way to the web site.



Our Annual Meeting will be held May 22-24, 2009 in conjunction with NOJEX, an APS World Series of Philately Show. The venue is the Crowne Plaza at Hotel Secaucus, New Jersey. BCPSG Activities will include a Friday evening informal dinner for members and their guests, a hospitality room and a Group auction to be called immediately following the Annual Meeting. Please plan on attending and exhibiting if at all possible. Details about hotel reservations and exhibit application can be found on the show website: [www.nojex.org](http://www.nojex.org). The Jimmy Stern Award is a \$250 cash prize for first time member exhibitors showing a medal winning multi-frame exhibit of British Caribbean material at a national level show. The award is to encourage members to experience the challenges and joys of showing their material in competition. Further details regarding group dinner and meeting schedule will appear in the April *Journal*.

Auction Manager Howie Austin needs your consignments now for the 2009 auction. Items from about \$10.00 to individual rarities are gladly accepted. Deadline for submission of lots is set for January 15, so you'd better hurry. In addition we need to be thinking about gathering material for the Joint BWISC-BCPSG auction sale. The sale will be held at the joint BCPSG-BWISC meeting in London to be held around the time of the London 2010 International Show in May. Set your sights higher and include more valuable items as the floor will be quite lively if the London 2000 joint auction was any indication.

# 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

**Brian Norman**, 2 Meadowbank, Primrose Hill, London NW3 3AY, UNITED KINGDOM. Email: brian@brian-norman.demon.co.uk. Philatelic interests: Cayman Islands, Leeward Islands used in various islands, King George VI, NH, and literature of the same. Sponsored by Dickon Pollard of Murray Payne, Ltd.

**Matthew V. Cassetta**, 4501 Arlington Bl., Apt. 524, Arlington, VA 22203-2771 USA. Email: rewestafrica@yahoo.com. Philatelic interests: BWI used and British Oceania postcards. Sponsored by Bob Stewart.

## Address Changes

Dr. Douglas Files, 19428 Via Del Mar #208, Tampa, FL 33647-3054 USA.

Charles Briggs, 200 West 60th St., Apt. 14G, New York, NY 10023-8506 USA.

Jeff M. Fussell, 1709 Ullrich Ave., Austin, TX 78756-1201 USA  
 Frederick Lutt, 9561 Daly Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45231-3615 USA

Keith H. Bayley, Kulim, Chelsea Gardens, St. Michael BB14022 BARBADOS

## St. Vincent UPU info.

### Continued from page 22

most mail uses stamps, not meters (although there are several postage meters authorized in St. Vincent for use by utility companies and banks, entities which would probably send out large amounts of monthly statements).

- International letter mail was at 338,300. This should also indicate a fair demand of stamps in the EC\$0.90 to \$1.10 range (at that time).

- Other statistics for inbound/outbound mail and parcels seem to be in line with previous data.

At the time of originally preparing this article (August 14, 2007), I informed both the UPU (in writing) and the St. Vincent Postal Corporation (via email) about these data discrepancies. At present (August 20, 2008) I am still looking forward to getting the updated and newer data for further analysis.

## New email addresses

**Charles Briggs**: charles.briggs@morganshotelgroup.com  
**Roy Bond**: rbond2@toucansurf.com

## Resignation

Robert Stein of the USA

## Deceased

**James H. Gordon** of the USA  
**Derek Nathan** 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](mailto:stewart99@comcast.net)*

## Derek Nathan: a remembrance

It was with great sadness, but not surprise, that I learned from Mary Nathan of the death of her husband, Derek. He was for a long time a giant in the British Guiana philatelic community, and a stalwart life member of both our BCPSG and our sister BWISC in the U.K., and I am sure other tributes will follow this one from those who knew him for longer than I did, and who worked with him in the upper echelons of our clubs, and who followed his illustrious exhibiting career more closely than I did.

I was only introduced to him in the early 1990s by David Atkinson, and he took me under his wing immediately and gave me invaluable time, attention and advice, like a father, with enthusiasm and protectiveness. My first face to face meeting with him took place about 15 years ago. I was visiting London and we had arranged to meet in central London. But at the prearranged time, circumstances beyond my control detained me in Maida Vale. When we eventually made phone contact, he was already in central London and gruffly demanded to know where I was. "Okay," he said, "I will be with you in half an hour; I have fetched some stamps to show you." He was as good as his word, and arrived soon after, pretending to be gruff and annoyed, but clearly as happy as I was, to be meeting after years of correspondence, and from a non-descript plastic shopping bag, proceeded to cover the dining table with his pages.

What to my wondering eyes did appear was his international gold medal winning BG exhibit complete with cotton reels and all. My astonishment could not have been greater, and I suspect he derived great satisfaction from my reaction at suddenly being in touching proximity to the Holy Grail of BC collectors. Derek died on November 11. I last saw him on October 9. We had arranged to meet as usual, but what he had not told me was that he was in hospital and nearing the end of a four year battle with a chronic illness. With his passing the greatest losers are his wife and children, but we Caribbean collectors are also losers, of his wit, counsel and his enormous knowledge. Wherever you are Derek, I hope there also is a BG black magenta.

-- Raj Ramphal

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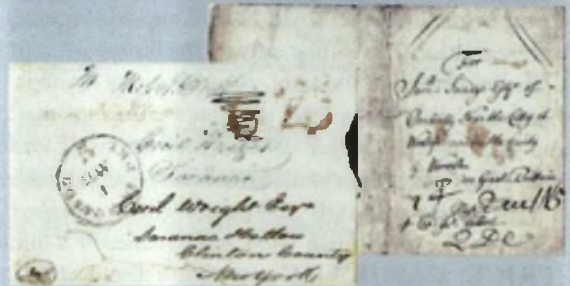
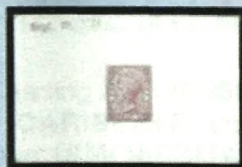
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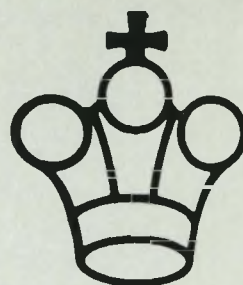
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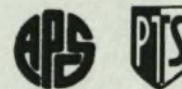
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