

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP
Unit No. 27 of the American Philatelic Society

Vol. 50, No. 2 April - June 2010 Whole No. 235



*World War I war tax overprinted stamps of
the British West Indies*



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British Caribbean Philatelic Journal

Vol. 50, No. 2 April - June 2010 Whole No. 235

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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 St. Lucia's first postage dues

By Hap Pattiz

Of the USA

Shown in Figure 1 is a block of four (numbers 7004-7005; 7014-7015), plus a single stamp (7016) [sheet 117: R4,5,6/ 1,2] showing doubled numbers on the three stamps at left, each being a corrected number of a first print of an incorrect number (7014 over 7004; 7015 over 7005; and 7016 over 7006). I acquired the block on an eBay auction where the variety was not described, but was noticed by fellow bidders who drove the price well above the opening bid to \$450 -- still a bargain for stamps which rightly catalogue well over £1,000 (Stanley Gibbons' D1h).

Also note that the haphazard perforating of the first printings (for the 1d. stamps to 12,000) left much of the "POSTAGE DUE" missing from the lower pair in the blocks and "POSTAGE DUE" at top and bottom of the single (7016).

In the January 2010 Victoria Stamp Company auction, the wonderful collection of British Empire postage due stamps assembled by David Herendeen was dispersed. Among a fine collection of St. Lucia dues was the cover shown in Figure 2, a commercial item from Barbados (April 13, 1932) to St. Lucia which was underpaid and received a pair of the St. Lucia 1d postage dues, the top

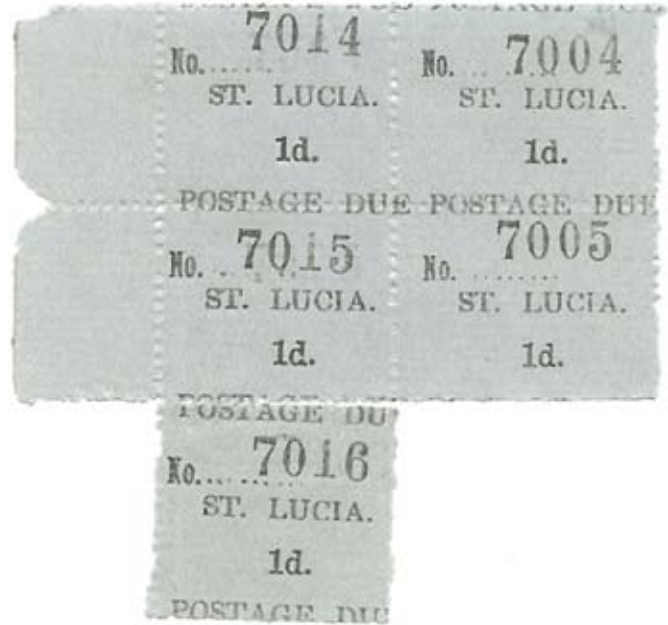
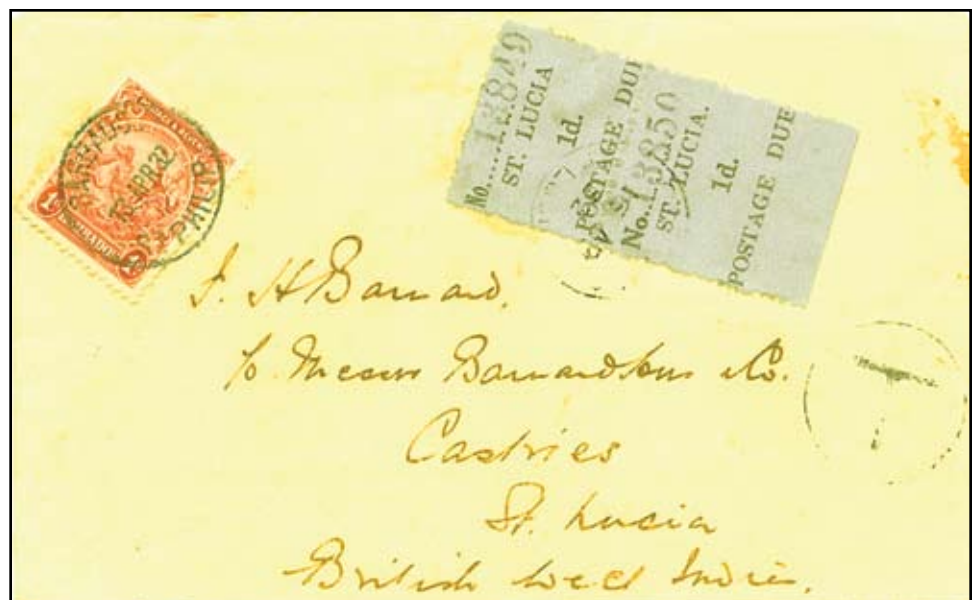


FIGURE 1

Left marginal block of four and single from left margin, 7014, 7015 and 7016, showing double numbers, with different numbers originally printed underneath in error (7004, 7005, and 7006) [S.G. D1h]. Sheet 117, Row 4 and 5, position 1 and 2 (from left) and Row 6, position 1: normally shown as S.117 R4-5/1-2; R6/1.

FIGURE 2

Lot 524 from Victoria Stamp Company January 30, 2010 auction (the Herendeen British Empire dues collection). Commercial cover from Barbados (April 13, 1932) to St. Lucia, underpaid, taxed 2d., with a pair of 1d. postage due stamps, showing missing stop after "St. Lucia" (R9/2) and large "No" (R10/2) [Sheet 231].



stamp showing no stop after "Lucia" (sheet 231, R9/2, S.G. D1a); while the bottom stamp shows the large "NO" (found on all stamps in the 10th row on the third printing, stamps over 12,000: S.G. D1b).

cover is stated as unknown on other covers. Shown here in Figures 3 and 4 are two other so-called "Panton" covers showing the same variety. (In addition, another "Panton" cover with this variety is known with 1d #20209.)

In the Victoria auction (Lot 524), the missing stop on

In the same auction, Lot 523 featured a strip of four of the 1d (Figure 5), showing a double overprint of 10448 in regular and small type. This, too, was described as the only example reported, with large and small font double. Shown in Figure 6 is another multiple showing the same large and small font double number. According to my records, there are at least six such doubles known.



FIGURE 3 (above) and FIGURE 4 (below)

Two of the three known "Panton" covers showing 1d. postage due with missing stop after "Lucia." Figure 3 shows a Panton cover from Rabaul, New Guinea (July 13, 1932), underpaid to St. Lucia, with dues of 3d. added: 1d. (19549, R9/2), showing no stop after "Lucia" (sheet 326). Also, 2d. (11169) on cover (S187, R9/6), received in St. Lucia on September 3, 1932. Figure 4 shows a cover from Rabaul, New Guinea (July 13, 1932) underpaid to St. Lucia, with postage dues of 2d. added: 1d (20149, R8/2), showing no stop after "St. Lucia" (sheet 335). Also, 1d (15929) on cover (S216, R9/4), received in St. Lucia on September 3, 1932.

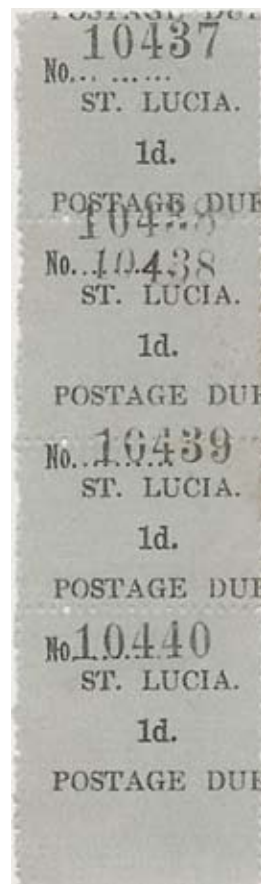


FIGURE 5
Strip of four (10437 to 10440) showing double numbers for 10438, large and small fonts. Also, 10440 has rare "small No." in 10th row (sheet 175, R7-10/2).

Also in the auction in Lot 521, Herenden's copy of the 1d triple overprint (in a pair) is also described as the only one known (see Figure 7). Figure 8 is another example of the triple overprint of one number. In addition, at least two other "triples" are known showing two different numbers on the same stamp (one being doubled).

It is fun for me to show some of the unique St. Lucia postage dues -- unique because each

Continued on page 6

stamp is individually numbered. I have been attempting for several years to put together a series of articles (and eventually a monograph) on these issues. Those articles are now on the way and will be appearing in subsequent issues of the *Journal*. If you, too, have some of these stamps in any form and want your material included in the articles as they appear and in the census of these stamps which I have maintained for a number of years, please write me:

Hap Pattiz
3615 Shady Oak Road
Studio City, CA 91604

My email address is: haplaw@roadrunner.com



FIGURE 6
Multiple showing large and small font for "No." (small at top, large at bottom). The number 11240 is doubled. It is believed there are at last six such doubles known.

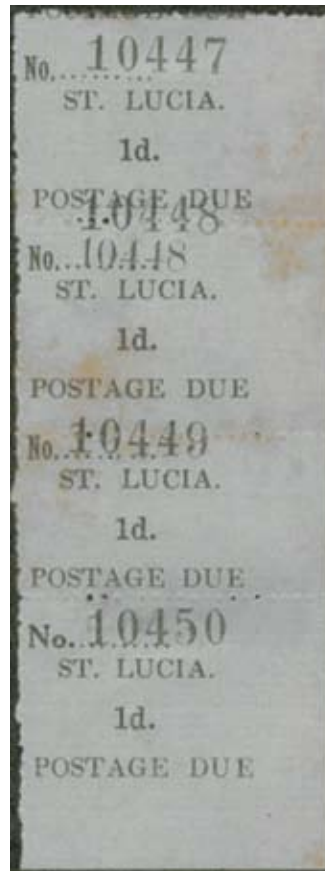


FIGURE 7
St. Lucia 1d. postage due with triple overprint (in a pair). Described in the Victoria Stamp Company auction as the only one known.

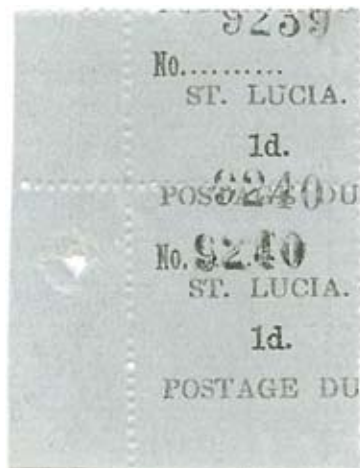


FIGURE 8
Another example of triple overprint of one number.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

In Dr. Eric Bateson's article (Whole No. 232), he illustrated three covers (Figures 1, 2, and 7) to "A. Clark, Leyton, Essex" and inquired as to his identity. Actually, the addressee on both covers was A. Church (Emerson deliberately omitted), the famous stamp dealer in Leytonstone (not Leyton). He is perhaps best known to BWI collectors for the 1886 cover to him (now split up, of course) franked with the unique strip of six Dominica 1d/6d green "thick bar" provisionals.

Let me also congratulate Dr. Bateson for uncovering S.G. Kimber as the identity of the notorious Sheriff of Southampton to whom many philatelic covers are addressed (Whole No. 234). I should, however, point out that his list of countries is incomplete as the Sheriff addressed many war tax covers to himself from the Cayman Islands.

Charles Freeland
Switzerland

War Tax overprinted stamps of the British West Indies

By John Davis of the United Kingdom

During World War I, due to a strain on finances and the cost of sending troops to join the allied forces, countries were forced to raise additional revenues for the war effort. Imposing a tax on postage was one such way of achieving this. Twenty-seven countries in the British Empire that adopted a Postal War Tax overprinted their stamps specifically for this purpose. Seventeen of these are in the British West Indies: Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Some countries, including Australia, Nyasaland, and Rhodesia, imposed a Postal War Tax but did not issue special War Tax stamps, and the only way of identifying the tax was by the increase in postage. Several countries provided retrospective funding by continuing the tax after the cessation of hostilities even though their War Tax stamps were no longer available.

The introduction to *Stanley Gibbons Priced Catalogue of War Stamps*, published in May 1916, (edited by Charles J. Phillips) reminds us that there were two distinct classes of War Stamps: those that were issued by our allies and neutral countries, and those issued by the enemy nations. It was stressed that with regard to the latter, it was illegal to buy, sell, or even have in one's possession such stamps, as every one purchased contributed a direct financial help



Figures 1 and 2

Jamaica (left) was the first colony in the BWI to issue War Tax overprinted stamps (April 1, 1916) and the last was Bermuda (Figure 2, right) on May 4, 1918.



Figures 3 and 4

Some countries continued to bring out new "War Tax" issues after November 1918. In the BWI, the Cayman Islands (left) was the last to do so in March 1920, and on June 1, 1920, Dominica issued a War Tax stamp without the words "War Tax."

to our enemies. Charles Phillips had already expressed his personal view in 1916, that he hoped we would never see stamps of enemy nations included in British stamp

"The first country to issue special War Tax overprinted stamps was Canada on February 12, 1915, and the last was Ceylon on November 18, 1918, one week after the signing of the Armistice."

catalogues, but thought that with so many soldiers of all ages from so many countries being involved with, as he put it, "this great European conflict," millions of people would want some kind of souvenir from the war. "What can be of greater interest than a good collection of War Stamps?" he asked. Presumably he excluded stamps of enemy nations from such collections. He compares the War Stamps from World War I with those issued

Continued on page 8



Figures 5 -7

Existing stamps in use, or stamps especially printed for the purpose, were overprinted with the words "WAR," (Figure 5, left) "WAR STAMP" (Figure 6, center) or "WAR TAX" (Figure 7, right), sometimes with the addition of a surcharge.

during other wars between 1890 and 1900: the wars between the northern and southern states of America, the Spanish-American War, and the wars in South Africa. "It is indeed difficult to imagine any stamps that ever have had, or ever will have, such historical interest as the stamps of the war of 1914-16," he wrote.

In 1915, Fred Melville, founder of the Junior Philatelic Society, now the National Philatelic Society (based in the United Kingdom) wrote, "If you are interested in War Stamps, War Postmarks, Censor marks, Prisoners of War letters etc., get *The Postage Stamp* every week. If you are serving with His Majesty's Forces at home and abroad write to *The Postage Stamp* and be enrolled on the roll of Philatelists in Khaki and Blue." Again in 1915, an exhibition of War Stamps with Tango Teas was arranged by Fred Melville at the Florence Restaurant, Rupert Street, from March 1-31. This was graced by many eminent philatelists, such as David Field, Ernest Phillips, Charles. H. Mekeel, Charles Nissen, Oswald Marsh, to name but a few. An orchestra played daily from 4 p.m., and teas were served in the Quirinal Room. It was reported that "Mr. Melville was the only one who braved the intricacies of the Tango, the Boston, and the Maxixe." A letter in *Stamp Collecting* (March 13, 1915) contained the following interesting comments: "The music was delightful—the dancing was divine." "The dresses! Oh the dresses! They were lovely specimens." "I actually saw a lady smoking!" "From what my husband tells me about the scraps of paper I saw it is 'the chance of a lifetime' but do all those nice people really collect stamps?" Could it be imagined today, dressing smartly for national and international stamp exhibitions, accompanied by one's wife, husband or partner, and retiring to an adjoining room for a tea dance?

The Preface of the 40-page stamp album *The Victory Album of War Stamps*, designed and arranged by Fred J. Melville, states: "History is written on every page of the Stamp Album, and the historical associations of a post-

age stamp collection have been vastly enhanced since 1914 by the issue of numerous stamps connected with the momentous events of the Great War. So fascinating and so intimate has been this connection between stamps and the war, that many collectors have formed separate collections of these historic 'scraps of paper.' The present work is designed to form a compact and convenient repository for a representative collection of all the special stamp issues of the war. These small 'scraps of paper' are official and telling records of these momentous times: the narrative they tell will be read with just pride by Philatelists of the British Empire and the Allied Nations: the collection will be a permanent register of the crimes and the follies of an unscrupulous and inhumane enemy, and a permanent reminder to our foes of the essential truth of the War - that Right, and not the might of aggressive militarism, must prevail."



Figure 8

St. Lucia packing label for shipping stamps.

The first country to issue special War Tax overprinted stamps was Canada on February 12, 1915, and the last was Ceylon on November 18, 1918, one week after the signing of the Armistice. The first colony in the BWI to issue War Tax overprinted stamps was Jamaica on April 1, 1916, and the last was Bermuda on May 4, 1918 (see *Figures 1 and 2 on page 7*). Some countries with War Stamps already in existence in November 1918 continued to bring out new issues. In the BWI, Cayman Islands was the last to do so in March 1920, but on June 1, 1920, Dominica issued its 1½d. on 2½d. War Tax stamp without the words "War Tax." (See *Figures 3 and 4 on page 7*.) Existing stamps in issue, or stamps especially printed for the purpose, were overprinted with the words **WAR**, **WAR STAMP**, or **WAR TAX** -- sometimes with the addition of a surcharge to change the value and to denote that the stamps paid both the War Tax and the normal

postage (See Figures 5 - 7 on page 8). The reason for this overprinting would have been to draw the attention of the world to the fact that the British Empire was at war, and so that the revenue from the tax could be identified and separately accounted for if required. The overprinting and



Figure 9

Much new material has been discovered over the years, such as double, inverted, and albino overprints, offsets on the backs of stamps, and others. This is an example of multiple misplaced overprints on Turks & Caicos Islands.

surcharging were applied either by De La Rue in London or locally for expediency (see Figure 8 on Page 8). There are many errors, listed and unlisted, especially with, but not necessarily limited to, local overprintings.



Figure 10

St. Kitts "WAR STAMP" imperforate proofs.

The intended application of the War Tax stamps for mail to be franked with ordinary postage stamps to prepay the basic postage, with the additional franking of a War Tax stamp to pay the tax. Some colonies permitted the use of War Tax stamps to prepay normal postage as well as the tax. Conversely, some colonies allowed the use of ordinary postage stamps to pay the War Tax. In practice, there was often confusion and misunderstanding, and the strict application of the War Tax regulations was not always adhered to. The stamps were sometimes used indiscriminately to prepay normal postage. It was often accepted that provided the new increased postage rates,

including the tax were prepaid, the authorities were not too concerned about deviations. Covers exist displaying only ordinary postage stamps, or only War Tax stamps, or both, in a variety of combinations and multiples. These are regarded as "philatelic" and despite being posted during the war period they had no regard to postal rules, destinations, and postage rates. Covers with proper use of War Tax stamps are not common, but philatelic covers and those not strictly conforming to the new regulations are plentiful -- and why not? One of the delights in collecting these, even if philatelically inspired, is knowing that every stamp purchased was a contribution to the war effort.



Figure 11

Antigua die proofs for the "WAR STAMP" issue.

Many philatelic covers were sent to collectors in various parts of the world, and it is quite common to see the same addressees appearing time and time again. "W. T. Wilson" of Birmingham, "Iris Buckland" of Toronto, and "Sheriff of Southampton" covers are such examples. These are often decorative, attractive and interesting, especially if accompanied by a variety of postal markings. It has been said, in defense of philatelic covers, that for some countries there would be very little postal history without them. Influential stamp dealers occasionally tried to persuade those in authority to change the design or color of the overprint, thereby increasing the demand for the War Tax overprinted stamps. The Governor of Bermuda was one, however, who objected to this practice and refused to bow to such pressure. Over the years, new material has been discovered such as double, inverted, and albino overprints, overprints and offsets on the back of stamps, different paper types and color shades, essays, die proofs and imperforate proofs from the De La Rue archives, material from the Madagascar Archives, etc. (See Figures 9-11 on this page; Figure 12 on next page) Modern catalogues now include references to stamps with watermark varieties (sideways left, sideways right,

Continued on page 10

inverted, reversed, and inverted and reversed), and this acknowledgment of their existence has naturally extended the scope for research. New watermark varieties are still being discovered. This takes the scope of "WAR TAX STAMPS" far beyond anything that was written 80 to 90 years ago. This, of course, is not surprising, as it is only as the hobby develops that the full depth of knowledge of it can be fully appreciated.



Figure 12

Bahamas "WAR TAX" specimen stamps from the Madagascar Archives.

Forgeries exist. There are specific notes in the catalogues warning collectors against these. The local overprints of the Bahamas King's Head designs that have for several years been regarded with suspicion are now regarded as forgeries. They were withdrawn from the Stanley Gibbons' 2008 catalogue. The local overprints on the Bahamas Queen's Staircase designs is now another area for caution. It should be noted that there were no references at all to any Bahamas War Tax overprint varieties in any of *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*. Readers must therefore draw their own conclusions.

Most countries repealed their War Tax legislation shortly after the end of the war, but some continued the tax until as late as 1922. Jamaica was a notable exception and did not abolish its War Tax until 1926. After the war, Postal War Taxes were often subsumed into general postage rates

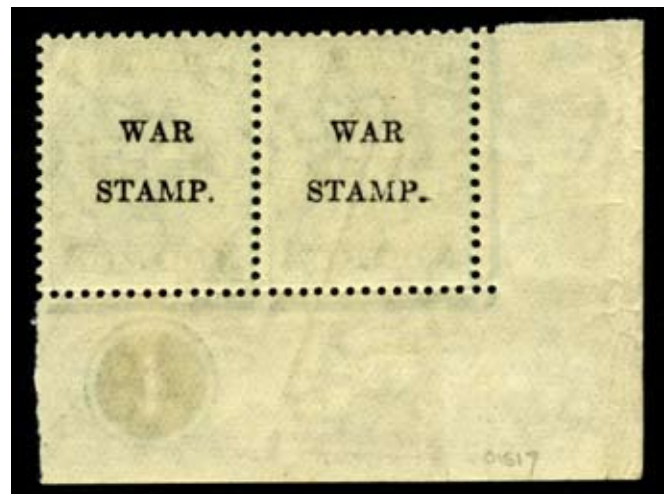


Figure 13

This variety is from Jamaica.

until legislations were repealed, so the need for printing more War Tax stamps was considered unnecessary. Ordinary postage stamps were then used to make up the full postage rate, which would still have included the War Tax element. War Tax stamps were generally allowed to



Figure 14

This Trinidad & Tobago variety includes two stamps which have no overprint.

prepay ordinary postage long after the war finished, and many late usage covers exist into the 1940s and possibly beyond. Inspirational philatelic use was made of surplus stocks of Bahama War Tax stamps in 1929-1930 to com-

Figure 15
First flight cover from Nassau to Miami, dated in 1930 and bearing War Tax stamps of the Bahamas.



memorate first flights, and first daily flights from the Bahamas to Miami, and then on to further destinations. The 1/2d War Tax stamps of Trinidad and Tobago were not invalidated for postal use until August 31, 1939. Up to three values of stamps were overprinted by each country, but the number of types of overprint varied from just one, to as many as eight in both Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Jamaica has over 40 listed errors and varieties, and an unlimited number of unlisted varieties.

War Tax stamps were avidly collected during the war in the hope and expectation that these were a sound investment, and would increase substantially in value after hostilities and production of these stamps ceased. In the event, their values did not necessarily increase as expected, and

dealers and collectors were left with stocks surplus to their requirements: hence the reason why many stamps can still be acquired at reasonable prices, and in complete sheets and panes. However, some stamps are rare and valuable. The numerous varieties, the availability of plate blocks, larger multiples, panes and sheets, and archival material provide the collector with an infinite scope for further research, collecting and displaying. Collectors who have not previously considered collecting War Tax overprinted stamps may like to reflect upon the wealth of material available to them to develop an interesting, fulfilling and fascinating collection of these stamps as a memory to those who gave their lives, and the human sacrifices made during the Great War 1914-1918.

Continued on page 12



Figure 16
Commercial cover to New York City from Nassau, Bahamas, dated December 6, 1948 with six half-penny "WAR TAX" stamps.

The book

Collecting War Tax overprinted stamps of the British Commonwealth since about 1995 has been my passion. My book was written to return something to the hobby of philately in appreciation for the enjoyment I have had out of collecting stamps for over 60 years. No one publication exists that embraces all the countries that issued War Tax overprinted stamps, and those that touch on the War Tax issues are usually limited in their scope. Although there were 27 countries in the British Empire that issued these stamps during World War I, my book is limited to the 17 colonies in the British West Indies. Volume II covering the other countries may follow in due course. The book, with just over 400 pages, and fully illustrated in color, is an extensive and detailed illustrated study of the history of the War Tax overprinted stamps of the British West Indies that were issued as a result of World War I, from their origins through to the repeal of the enacting legislation. But it is not just about War Tax overprinted stamps. It is a story about their creation and the important role they played in world history.

For each colony you are introduced to the reasons why the stamps were required, the details of the Laws and Ordinances, the dates when the War Tax legislation was introduced and repealed, the number of stamps sold, revenue generated, and how the revenue was applied to meet the costs of the war to help defeat the common enemy. Illustrated in color are all the basic stamps and many of the listed and unlisted varieties, together with examples of covers, essays, die proofs, imperforate proofs and specimens. Illustrations are also included of items from the Royal Philatelic Collection, reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen. Also for each colony there is a listing of the War Tax overprinted stamps in the Royal Philatelic Collection, and complete details of the extensive records of the De La Rue archives. The passionate and patriotic interest shown by dealers and philatelists is emphasized. They thrived on new issues, played a role in influencing authorities, and fuelled varieties, some of which may have been contrived to feed a ready market. Although much has been inspired by other philatelic commentators, original research from source documents has been necessary, and undertaken to support (or otherwise) earlier philatelic writings. Previously reported material, some of which is not correct, or conflicting, has now been expanded, developed, enhanced, corrected and extended to provide the reader with a fuller picture. Substantially more information is now available, and many new varieties have been, and are still being discovered.

The book includes the social aspect concerning the stamps, with extracts and references from both the na-

tional and philatelic press including comments from the general public. There are many such examples in the book. For instance, in Jamaica, a letter was sent to *The Daily Gleaner* in April 1916 suggesting that as a War Tax stamp had to be stuck on an envelope in addition to the normal postage stamp, one stamp should be stuck on the front and the other on the back, to give the Post Office a little more work to do. Harry Huber who was often in a self-congratulatory mood for believing he was responsible for influencing some of the Cayman Islands War Tax stamps, once said "I feel like sticking a feather in my hat" and "Oh, I'm getting many stars in my crown." It is not just a philatelic record of the War Tax overprinted stamps, their origins and their uses. It is an acknowledgment of the contribution made to the war effort from the sale of these stamps by collectors, dealers and members of the general public.

It is also a celebration of the human lives given, and the sacrifices made by so many during the war, and the gratitude for the debt that we owe to all those who served, so that we can live in freedom today.

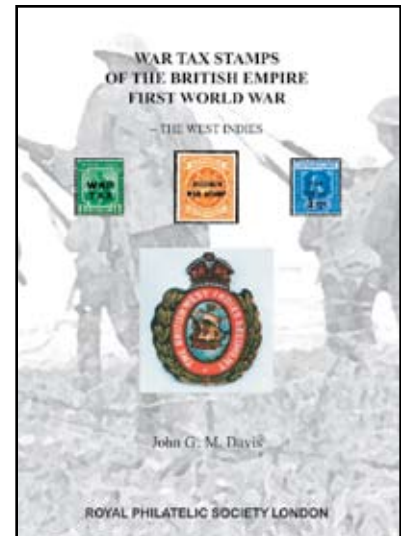
A part of the Foreword written by Charles Freeland FRPSL reads, "as readers will see, the value of the book lies in its scope, depth and, inevitably, weight. The meat of the book is the record of the detailed stamps from each territory, starting with the local context behind their issue, and following with the different printings, varieties and flaws on each issued stamp, examination of the surviving proof and essay material and their postal usages. It is difficult to think of any detail however trivial, that has been omitted."

The book was published by the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London. W1G 6JY. Price £60. Members of the BCPSG can obtain copies for £55. Postage is extra: U.K. £7, Europe £10, World £20.

Copies are also available in the United States from Phoebe A. MacGillivray, Victoria Stamp Co, P.O. Box 745, Ridgewood, NJ 07451.

Electronic mail is: VictoriaStampCo@aol.com.

Another version of this article appeared in the September 2009 issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*.



St. Vincent Postal Codes & Hub arrangements

By Peter Elias

St. Vincent Study Group leader

As of October 31, 2009, the St. Vincent Postal Corporation closed 32 (which is over half) of the “village” post offices on St. Vincent. The reason for the closures is mostly economic. Many of the smaller village post offices have relatively little mail volumes, yet contribute to high overhead expenses. To my knowledge, home mail delivery on St. Vincent was limited to the Kingstown area and one or two of the other larger towns. In other areas one had to go to the village post office to collect mail.

In place of the current system, the St. Vincent Postal Corporation has instituted a “hub & spoke” system, which according to their information will allow for home delivery of what they call “ordinary mail,” defined to be social mail, utility bills and bank and business statements. Some of the remaining post offices will be upgraded to allow for more services similar to what the head post office in Kingstown provides. Longer opening hours will also be a result of the new hub & spoke system.

Other reasons cited for the changes include less distance for mail vans to travel resulting in reduced fuel costs and quicker turn-around; stamps can be purchased at appointed retail outlets. Additionally, addresses in St. Vincent were previously addressed via the person’s name and village name. With the above changes, a new system of Postal Codes for St. Vincent & The Grenadines is being instituted. This will aid in sorting mail better; however, I do not believe that there will be any increased use of automated sorting equipment. When the BCPSG held its annual meeting on St. Vincent in May 2007, we only saw manual sorting and no postal sorting or postmarking equipment was noted.

The new postal codes consist of “VC” (the international abbreviation for St. Vincent) followed by four numbers. The first two of these numbers indicate the district, the last two the individual post office as follows:

VC01## will be for the Kingstown area;

VC02## will be for the Windward area (*i.e.*, the Atlantic side);

VC03## will be for the Leeward area (*i.e.*, the Caribbean side);

VC04## will be for the Grenadines islands.

Please see the chart nearby of the postal codes assigned to the various towns and villages plus whether or not they are one of the hub post offices. I will be writing a

separate article regarding the status of individual village post offices later.

POSTAL ADDRESS	POST CODE	POST OFFICE
Arnos Vale	VC0280	NO
Ashton - Union Island	VC0472	NO
Barrouallie	VC0350	YES / HUB
Belair	VC0282	YES / HUB
Belmont	VC0284	NO
Biabou	VC0260	YES / HUB
Buccament Bay	VC0370	NO
Byera	VC0214	NO
Calder	VC0264	NO
Calliaqua	VC0274	YES / HUB
Campden Park	VC0390	NO
Canouan Island	VC0450	YES / HUB
Chateaubelair	VC0300	YES / HUB
Clare Valley	VC0378	NO
Clifton - Union Island	VC0470	YES / HUB
Colonarie	VC0220	YES / HUB
Coulls Hill	VC0316	NO
Edinboro/Ottley Hall	VC0170	YES
Enhams	VC0270	NO
Evesham	VC0290	YES
Fancy	VC0200	NO
Georgetown	VC0212	YES / HUB
Greggs	VC0258	NO
Kingstown (Other)	VC0130	YES
Kingstown (General Delivery)	VC0120	YES
Kingstown (Post Office Boxes)	VC0100	YES
Lauders	VC0256	NO
Layou	VC0360	YES / HUB
Lodge Village	VC0160	NO
Lowmans WD	VC0254	YES / HUB
Lowmans LD	VC0150	NO
Marriaqua (Mesopotamia)	VC0292	YES / HUB
Mayreau Island	VC0460	YES / HUB
Mt. Grennan and Diamonds	VC0250	NO
Mustique Island	VC0410	YES / HUB
New Grounds	VC0252	NO
O'Briens Valley	VC0210	NO
Overland	VC0206	NO
Owia	VC0202	NO
Paget Farm - Bequia	VC0402	NO
Park Hill	VC0218	NO
Peniston	VC0374	NO
Peruvian Vale	VC0262	NO
Petit Bordel	VC0302	NO
Port Elizabeth- Bequia	VC0400	YES / HUB
Prospect	VC0272	NO
Questelles	VC0380	YES / HUB
Richland Park	VC0294	NO
Rillan Hill	VC0376	NO
Rose Bank	VC0310	NO

The Airmails of Barbados during World War II

Part 3: 1940

By **Jerone R. Hart**

Of the USA

Of the seven years studied in this survey, 1940 had the least number of covers with a total of only 10. Of the 10 covers, five were addressed to the U.S.; two were to the United Kingdom; and one each was addressed to Canada, Brazil and Trinidad. As a group, the covers from 1940 are extremely interesting and present some interesting frankings and rates.

There can be little doubt that the cover to Trinidad, dated November 27, 1940 was philatelic (*Figure 22*). The cover was carried on the BWIA inaugural direct flight between Barbados and Trinidad. What is perplexing is the 2d rate. All examples that I have seen of this First Direct Flight on BWIA between Barbados and Trinidad on November 27 all carry a 2d rate. The 2d rate was the surface rate for mails from Barbados to other United Kingdom countries including Trinidad. It is possible that this was a “favored” rate available only on this inaugural flight. I have never seen this rate used again on any airmail covers



FIGURE 22

November 27, 1940 BWIA inaugural direct service between Barbados and Trinidad. Unusual 2d rate; philatelic cover.

from Barbados to Trinidad after this date. Is it also possible that the GPO in Barbados on November 27 had not yet established an airmail rate and thus reverted to using the surface rate? A third possibility is that the GPO in Bridgetown was trying to establish something similar to the “All Up Airmail” scheme that had been phased in during 1937 and 1938 in the United Kingdom. Under the All Up Airmail scheme, first class letters went by air at the same rate as the rates for surface mail. However, the All Up Airmail system was suspended on September 2, 1939 with the outbreak of World War II and airmail rates for mails originating in the U.K. were initially established at 15d (1/3d) per ½ ounces of weight. Whatever the reason for this 2d rate on November 27, 1940, the rate was very short lived and does not occur again on any covers that I have seen from Barbados during this period.

The next single cover was dated October 23 and was addressed to Canada (*Figure 23*) and carries a rate of 14d (1/2d). I cannot confirm that this was the correct rate. If this was the correct rate during 1940, it was a major rate reduction from the 1939 rate of 27 ½d (2/3½d) to Canada. Indeed, to date, this is the only example of this 14d rate that I have seen to Canada between 1939 and 1945. Not until late 1948 did this 14d rate to Canada appear and can be con-

firmed with multiple examples. The cover does not appear to be philatelic and I believe that it was a mistake by the sender that post office officials did not detect and thus tax. It is also a possibility that the GPO in Barbados did detect these underpayments and because of the war allowed them to pass through the post office unchallenged.

A final single cover from 1940 was dated September 25 and was addressed to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (*Figure 24*). This cover carries a 27d (2/3d) rate. Although this is the only cover to Brazil for the whole survey

(there are several to Argentina during this period with a slightly different rate), this rate cannot be confirmed using additional covers in my survey population. However, I believe that this was the correct rate. I would further submit that this cover went from Barbados to Trinidad via surface mail since KLM had stopped service between Barbados and Trinidad on July 12 and the BWIA service did not start until November 27, 1940. At Trinidad, the cover then connected with service provided by PANAM to Brazil.



FIGURE 24

September 25, 1940 to Brazil at 2/3d rate.

American countries. The other two routes, again originating from Trinidad, used the famous "flying boat" type aircraft and followed a coastal route to Rio. Two types of service were offered on this coastal route. One service or route made only four stops from Trinidad along the coast before reaching Rio. The second service, which took much longer to reach Rio, made stops at 15 coastal towns between British Guiana, Surinam, French Guiana and the east coast of Brazil. All of PANAM's South American routes remained relatively unchanged throughout the period from 1939 to 1945.¹²



FIGURE 23

October 23, 1940, 1/2d rate to Canada. Possible rate reduction from 1939?

Although I cannot say with any certainty which of the three routes the cover above was carried on, it was back-stamped upon arrival in Rio and does provide a clue. The Rio backstamp is dated October 5, 1940. Thus, the cover took approximately 11 days to go from Bridgetown in Barbados to Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. This would seem to indicate that the cover probably went via the costal route that made 15 stops before reaching Rio on October 5. The next two covers from 1940 were addressed to the United Kingdom and were dated May 28 and July 27 (*Figure 25*). Both covers have rates



FIGURE 25

July 27, 1940, 1/2 rate "Via TRINIDAD." Rate was for airmail to New York and then by surface mail to England.

of 14d (1/2d). Both covers were also handstamped in purple with the unlisted straightline "VIA TRINIDAD."¹³ Since both of these covers have the 14d rate, I think it is safe to assume that this was a legitimate rate. This was a huge rate reduction over the 32d (2/8d) rate of 1939. However, I do believe that this rate can be easily explained. The 1939 32d rate was for all air service between Barbados and the United Kingdom. I believe that the 14d rate was for air service to New York and from New York to the United Kingdom by surface transport. I think this explains the huge difference between these two rates. As will be shown below, throughout the period between 1940 and 1945 there were

two distinct rates from Barbados to the U.K. One rate was based on all air service and the other was based on air to New York and then by ship to the U.K.



FIGURE 26

March 8, 1940 -- 3/2d franking to the U.S. It would appear that it was double rate (correct rate 3/- at 1/6d per half ounce) overpaid.

The final five covers in the survey for 1940 were addressed to the United States. As a group, they certainly make an interesting lot. One of the covers is dated March 8 and has a rate of 38d (3/2d). As can be seen from *Figure 26*, this cover was not registered and did not carry any auxiliary markings. I am completely at a loss to explain this rate other than to say that perhaps the sender franked the cover before going to the post office and thus overpaid the correct fee.

I believe that the correct rate should have been 32d (2/ 8d) at 16d for each half ounce or less of weight. Because of the size of the cover, it is conceivable that the cover weighed between ½ ounce and one ounce. Finally, one would be very hard pressed to declare that this cover was philatelic in nature.

Another cover addressed to the Canadian National Steamships in Boston is dated April 20, 1940 (Figure 27). This cover carries a rate of 18d (1/ 6d). I believe this cover was also over-franked by the sender before being dropped off at the post office. Based on the data from 1939,

the correct rate on this cover should have been 16d. As the war progressed, the base rate to the U.S. did increase to 18d (1/ 6d) but not until March/April of 1941. Another interesting aspect to this cover is that it was censored in Barbados. The cover was opened and resealed using the censor’s label “OPENED BY CENSOR.” This is Shepard’s Type L4 with black printing. Shepard lists the earliest known use of this label as being March 25, 1940.¹⁴ Although certainly not the earliest example of censored mail from Barbados during World War II, nonetheless, this cover does show



FIGURE 27

April 20, 1940 -- 1/ 6d franking, overpaid by 2d, correct rate should have been 1/ 4d per half ounce. Censored in Barbados.

the beginnings of the censorship process in Barbados; a process that greatly increased as the war progressed.



FIGURE 28

March 11, 1940 - 1/ 7d Special Delivery airmail rate to the U.S. Postage of 1/ 4d plus Special Delivery fee of 3d.

The next cover is dated September 12, 1940 and was addressed to the state of Delaware. This cover carries a rate of 16d (1/ 4d) [this cover also came from the Internet]. I believe that based upon the data from 1939, this was the correct rate to the U.S. in 1940 for ½ ounce of weight or less. The final two covers from 1940 are perhaps the most interesting of all the covers from that year. Both are “Special Delivery” covers and both were addressed to the United States. The first of these covers is dated

Continued on page 18

March 11 (*Figure 28*). The cover carries a rate of 19d (1 shilling 7d). On the left side of the cover, below the airmail label written in manuscript is “SPECIAL DELIVERY.” Since the first step in the airmail rate was 16d (1 shilling 4d) for ½ ounce of weight or less, the sender paid a fee of 3d for the “Special Delivery” designation. However, there is no indication that the U.S. postal service handled this piece of mail as a special delivery item. The cover carries no backstamps or receiving marks. Since the cover was not registered, the airmail rate was 16d (1/ 4d) and the additional 3d had to be the fee for special delivery service. The second cover, mentioned in Part I of this series (*see Figure 6 on page 8, Vol. 49, No. 4 [October-December 2009]*) and dated April 24 is also a “Special Delivery” cover that also carries a 19d (1/ 7d) rate. Again, there can be no doubt that the airmail rate was 16d plus 3d for the Special Delivery fee, making a total paid of 19d (1/ 4d + 3d = 1/ 7d). We know that this cover was handled by the U.S. postal service as a Special Delivery item from the addition of the two U.S. 5¢ Prexie issues that were probably placed on the cover upon arrival and processing through the Miami Post Office. The datestamp on the left side of the cover was applied in Miami and is dated April 26. The back of the cover has a New York receiving stamp of April 27. Thus, this cover took only three days to get from the GPO in Bridgetown to the post office in New York City. There can be little doubt that this cover received special treatment throughout its trek to New York. I should also point out that these two “Special Delivery” covers are the only two such covers out of the 244 in this survey spanning seven years, thus making it one of the scarcer special airmail rates originating from Barbados.

Finally, I find it interesting that so few airmail covers exist for 1940 from Barbados in comparison to the other six years in this survey. I suspect that because it was early on in the war, and the airlines began curtailing their services, routes and schedules. This would have had a major impact on the transmission of the mails by air from Barbados because 87.7 percent of the airmails originating from Barbados during this period (a total of 214 covers) were to overseas destinations outside the Caribbean. Only 12.3 percent (a total of 30 covers) were to destinations within the Caribbean. I also believe that by 1940, much of the business mail that would have been generated in Barbados to destinations in the United Kingdom and possibly to European locations would have been curtailed, or at the very least, greatly reduced, thus accounting for the drop in the number of airmail covers originating in Barbados in early to mid 1940. I also believed that as the war progressed and life began to stabilize and became somewhat normal under the circumstances, especially in places like the United Kingdom, mail from Barbados increased.

Summary of 1940 Rates and Destinations

Destination	Rate (Total in Pence)	Registered	No. of covers	Rate Justifiable?
Brazil	27d	No	2	Yes
Canada	14d	No	1	No
Trinidad	2d	No	1	Yes, First Flight Rate
United Kingdom	14d	No	2	Yes
United States	16d	No	1	Yes
	18d	No	1	No
	19d (Special Delivery)	No	2	Yes, 16d + 3d fee=19d
	38d	No	1	No

FOOTNOTES

¹² Boyle, *op.cit.*, 626-628 (see Vol. 49, No. 4, October-December 2009, footnote 4), 12.

¹³ George L.W. Clarke, Reynold Radford and Stephen Cave. *Barbados Post Office Markings to 1981*. British West Indies Study Circle, 1982.

¹⁴ Anthony Shepherd. *The Postal Censorship in Barbados During the First and Second World Wars*. London: B.B. Benwell & Company, Ltd., 1984, 25.

ERRATA

On page 15 of the January-March 2010 issue, the “Summary of Rates and Destinations” chart, similar to the one above, showed “1949” and should have been “1939.”

The philatelic covers of Sir Charles Belcher of Trinidad

By Dr. Eric M. Bateson
Of Australia

Recent analyses of auction catalogues^{1,2,3} listed the names of many dealers who were responsible for providing philatelic covers for collectors. Many of these dealers are well-known, particularly Wilson, Reverend Iremonger, Kinze and Kiderlen. However, from time to time I come across the names of little known providers whom one would not associate with the philatelic trade. Their covers are often only available for short periods of time, hence their scarcity.

One of these is Sir Charles Belcher of Port of Spain, Trinidad, and his role as a provider is the subject of



FIGURE 1

Belcher cover bearing several values of the 1925-35 seahorses issue of Barbados, cancelled August 7, 1936.

this article. According to the 1935 edition of *De Bretts' Peerage*,⁴ he was Australian by birth (Geelong, Victoria, 1876) obtained a law degree at Melbourne University, and subsequently held judicial appointments including several in British colonies in Africa. He became president of the West Indies Court of Appeal in 1930 and was knighted in 1931. His last known address was Alexander Street, Port of Spain.

In my collection, I have three covers addressed to Sir Charles bearing series of current definitive stamps of Barbados, Dominica and St. Lucia. A search through my large accumulation of auction catalogues failed to reveal any more. The covers have three features in common.



FIGURE 2

Another Belcher cover with several values of the Dominica definitive issue of 1923, cancelled August 13, 1936.

- The handwriting on the covers is identical, an indication that they were addressed by the

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same person, presumably Sir Charles or his assistant rather than by clerks in different post offices.

- The stamps on all three covers are from current definitive issues and were all cancelled in August 1936.

- The cover bearing values of the 1925-35 seahorses issue of Barbados was addressed to him in Trinidad (**Figure 1**). The other two with definitive issues of Dominica (**Figure 2**) and St. Lucia (**Figure 3**) were both addressed "Poste Restante" in Dominica and St. Lucia respectively.

It is most unlikely that a judge of the High Court would be a stamp dealer, so the covers must have been created for a personal collection for himself, a relative or friend. As a High Court judge of the West Indies, it can be assumed that he would go on circuit around the islands from time to time. One occasion could have been in August 1936 when he purchased the covers. It would be of interest to know if other covers exist addressed in his or other handwriting to Sir Charles.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Bateson, E.M. "The Providers of Philatelic Covers of the British West Indies in the Empire Period, Victoria, Edward VII and George V." *British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin No. 210* (September 2006), 14-20.

² Bateson, E.M. "The Four Great Providers: An Analysis of Their Philatelic Covers of the Empire Period of the British West Indies." *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 43, No. 3 (July 2005), 17-23.

³ Bateson E M. "American and Canadian Providers of Philatelic Covers of the Empire Period (1890-1935) of the BWI." *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 43, No. 3 (July 2005), 17-23.

⁴ "Debrett's Peerage." *Encyclopedia Britannica*. 2009. Encyclopædia Britannica Online, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/154757/Debretts-Peerage>.



FIGURE 3

A third cover, this with the St. Lucia pictorial issue of 1936, cancelled on August 8, 1936.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank Ms. Jenny Higgins, Reference Librarian, National Library of Australia, for her help with Debrett's Peerage.

I also wish to acknowledge the encouragement given by my wife, Winifred.

Joint BWISC/BCPSG Convention May 2010

On Sunday, May 9, 2010, the main Convention Day, a series of informal displays (no talking necessary) will be presented while the bourse is in progress, and these will be changed at intervals during the day. If possible, we would like to present a representative sample of the different colonies comprising the BWI, together with a suitable mix of stamp and postal history displays. The size of displays may be up to a maximum of 30 sheets.

I have been asked to coordinate the displays, and would therefore invite BCPSG members to contribute such displays. At present we do not know how much display space will be available and how many displays will need to be presented, so the final decision on what will be displayed will be made on the day of the convention, but every effort will be made to display all contributions if at all possible.

Peter Fernbank
email: pferbank@tiscali.co.uk



Treasurer's Report for 2009

By John Seidl
Treasurer

BCPSG Income Statement - 2009	BCPSG 2009 Balance Sheet
<i>Financial Statements in U.S. Dollars</i>	
REVENUE	ASSETS
Dues & Contributions \$ 9,250.50	Current Assets
Advertising Revenue 1,500.00	Money market - U.S. Account \$ 33,948
Book Sales 594.05	Cash - U.K. Account 1,578
Auction Proceeds 622.55	Cash - U.S. PayPal Account 3,485
Net Revenue \$ 11,967.10	Accounts receivable 0
COST OF GOODS SOLD	(less doubtful accounts) 0
Cost of Goods Sold \$ 0.00	Inventory (books at no value) 0
Gross Profit (Loss) \$ 11,967.10	Accrued Bond/CD Interest 92
EXPENSES	Prepaid expenses 0
ABPS Dues in U.K. \$ 124.00	Total Current Assets \$ 39,102
Editor Stipend - BCPSG Journal 2,000.00	Fixed Assets
Insurance 45.00	Long-term investments \$ 12,451
BCPSG Awards (Award payment & award expenses) 459.35	Total Net Fixed Assets \$ 12,451
Office Supplies 0.00	TOTAL ASSETS \$ 51,535
Postage International 1,324.31	LIABILITIES
Publishing Expense (Printing + U.S. Postage) 7,532.15	Current Liabilities
Annual Meeting Expenses 1,460.67	Lifetime Members \$ 9,234
Publication Expenses - David Wilson 30.56	Paid Forward Members 1,210
2008 Auction - Howard Austin 294.31	Total Current Liabilities \$ 10,444
Membership Renewal - Bob Stewart 100.62	Equity + Net Income/Loss \$ 41,109
Web Site Expense 34.00	TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY \$ 51,553
Total Expenses \$ 13,404.97	
Net Operating Income (\$ 1,437.87)	
OTHER INCOME	
Gain (Loss) on Sale of Assets \$ 0.00	
Interest Income 1,311.42	
Total Other Income \$ 1,311.42	
Net Income (Loss) (\$126.45)	

Membership Report for 2009

Following is my membership report for 2009. While our total membership was down for the year, I am more concerned about the renewals for 2010. As of March 1, we have about 70 members who have not renewed their membership. I will be sending out reminders shortly and hopefully, it will remind our members to renew.

The 2009 REPORT

Number of members January 1, 2009: 313

Removed members: 13 removed for non payment; nine resignations, two deaths. Total removed members: 24.

Added members: eight new members; four reinstatements. Total New Members: 12.

Number of Members December 31, 2009: 301

Breakdown of members as of December 31, 2009: USA, 178; Canada, 22; Caribbean, 20; U.K. 55; Other Foreign, 26.

We have 18 societies, etc., that receive complimentary copies of the *Journal*. I would like to thank John Seidl and Ray Stanton for all their help with the renewals. Without them the job would have been much harder!

Bob Stewart- Membership Chairman

Continuing our series on early St. Vincent

The King Edward VIII issues of St. Vincent

By Roy Bond of the United Kingdom

About the middle of July 1936 the Crown Agents put out an invitation to tender for postage and revenue stamps for Great Britain and its colonies throughout the world. The close date for tenders to be submitted was August 21, 1936. De La Rue sent their tender on the 10th August 1936. This appears to have been accepted, for in September a note was sent to the company listing a scale of charges for all the colonies and possessions worldwide.

On October 12, 1936, the Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue enclosing a requisition for the King Edward VIII series of postage and revenue stamps. This document ran as follows:

PRO RATA (A).

Pro rata charge for printing material
Common to all governments participating
£2.0s.0d

Cost of printing materials special to the
Government of St Vincent. ie border duty
dies, plates. £58.10.0d

Cost of printing the following quantities
of stamps

Inclusive of cost of paper.

210,000 of 1d stamps in VIOLET
£19.18.2d

210,000 of 1½d stamps in RED
£19.18.2d

120,000 of 2½d stamps in BLUE
£14.10.0d

TOTAL: £114.16.4d

Less 7½% £8.12.3d

TOTAL: £106. 4.1d

PLUS: Interleaving, parcelling in fifties,
Perforating specimens etc.
£4.11.2d

MAKING A TOTAL OF:
£110.15.3d.

The specimens were to be 416 copies of each value perforated with the word "SPECIMEN." However, there is no quoted delivery date from De La Rue on their acknowledgment. So there is no indication as to whether these stamps were ever printed.

Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue on December 14, 1936 saying:

"Enclosed a form of tender for a new issue 2s.0d., 5s.0d. and £1 of St Vincent stamps and you are invited to submit a quotation with a design to reach this office by Noon 30th December." However, on December 19, the Crown Agents again wrote to De La Rue saying, "With reference to our enquiry for a new issue of St Vincent stamps, I have to inform you that the date by which your quotation and designs are to be submitted to this office has been extended until Noon on the 6th January 1937."

In fact De La Rue responded with their quotation on December 13, 1936 quoting, "To cost of preparing dies and printing plates for the above new issues of stamps comprising the following values: 2s.0d., 5s.0d. and £1. Partly using existing dies etc. printed on white paper by the recess process in bicolour in sheets of 120 gummed and perforated, about £110. 416 additional stamps perforated with the word SPECIMEN also provided."

This was the last reference to these stamps, until October 28, 1937, when the Company was told, "No thank you."

Nuggets from the past ...

Jay Fredrick said in his President's Message, "When you are reading this, Stamp World London 90 will have faded into history. However, the glow of the memories of our pleasant experiences will live on forever!"

-- BCPSG Journal
June 1990



BG Bits and Pieces

With Dr. P.J. Ramphal
Of Canada



The Czech Connection of the Mahaica Hospital

Ten postcards from British Guiana's rarest set of twelve

While my British Guiana collection was growing, I began to take an interest in the cancellations found on many of the used stamps. Having spent the first 20 years of my life there, finding so many place names with which I was familiar stirred distinctly nostalgic feelings and I soon became an enthusiastic and devoted cancellation collector.

Once started in that direction, it was a short step to collect British Guiana postcards as an adjunctive interest, so to speak, putting a face to a place. I still experience a huge thrill on finding an obscure town featured on a postcard, as was the case recently when I acquired one showing the hospital and police station at 11½ Miles Potaro, as unpretentious a post office location as no other. Not surprisingly, there are balancing frustrations in being unable to find postcards of populous villages



Figure 1
Leper hospital, Mahaica. Julia ready to receive Holy Communion.

which had post offices. Mahaica proved to be one such place. It was, in my boyhood, and I suspect still is, one of the most prosperous and thriving of the many villages along the 69 mile arterial road from Georgetown to Rosignol. In addition, it was distinctly photogenic, situated on the bank of the Mahaica Creek shortly before that stream, which in most other parts of the world would be rightly called a river, emptied into the Atlantic Ocean. The creek was crossed by adjacent picturesque trestle rail and road bridges and also, there was the Mahaica market, the largest to be encountered along the East Coast Road, an almost compulsory stop for all vehicular traffic to or from Georgetown.

And if all of that did not provide ample subject material for postcards, there was the renowned Mahaica Hospital. But

for several years I was unable find any postcards of Mahaica, until 2003 when I acquired one, displayed here as Figure 1. Astonishingly, it was printed in Czechoslovakia and depicted a hospital room with a patient dressed to receive Holy Communion. I was so intrigued by the origin and subject of this card



Figure 2
Leper Hospital, Mahaica, Br. Guiana. The seashore at low tide.

that I wrote to Lady Patricia Rose, the widow of Sir David Rose, who had died in a tragic accident shortly after his appointment as Guyana's first Governor General, knowing that she had worked at the Mahaica Hospital in the 1970s as a physician. From her gracious reply and on pursuing leads suggested, I was able to put together this

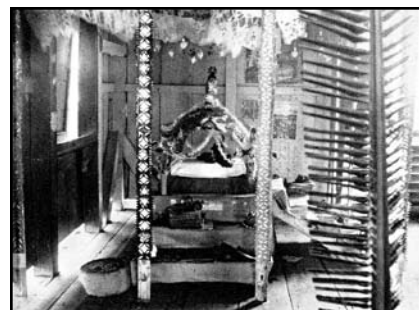


Figure 3
Leper Hospital, Mahaica, Br. Guiana. Hindu altar for East Indian patients.

short history of that institution which owed much to the dynamic role played there by her illustrious father-in-law.

In 1858 the British Guiana government purchased an estate near Mahaica,

ominously named Mosquito Hall, and built a fenced compound there which became known as the Leper Asylum. People from all parts of the colony, suffering from, or suspected to be victims of leprosy were rounded up and incarcerated there for the remainder of

Continued on page 24

their lives, segregated from the rest of the populace and provided with the bare necessities of food and shelter.

Some undetermined time later, this first settlement was destroyed by a fire and a new compound was erected where the present Mahaica Hospital now stands. Little changed after that in either the public attitude to the inmates (as they were then called), or in their treatment by the authorities, until in 1926, Dr. Frederic Gardiner Rose became the resident superintendent of the institution. He had, in 1904, won the Guiana scholarship, studied at Cambridge and St.



Figure 4
Convent of our missionary sisters in Mahaica, Br. Guiana. "I'm from Mahaica. Our nuns live upstairs. But I'm not allowed to go there!"

Figure 5
The Convent of our Missionary Nuns at Mahaica, Br. Guiana. Three siblings, Linda, Agnes & Olga, with doll. "We are going to Europe, if only by photograph."



Thomas' Hospital in London and returned, in 1916, to join the staff of the Georgetown Public Hospital, where he quickly became recognized as the leading local authority in pathology, microbiology, tropical infectious diseases and radiology. He played an important role in the erection of a new TB sanatorium at Best Village, on the Demerara River, opposite Georgetown.



Figure 6
Sisters of the Convent of the Immaculate Conception, Mahaica, B.G. Nine white doves send thousands of greetings to the mainland.

In 1926 he was appointed resident superintendent at Mahaica and thereafter devoted the rest of his life to the treatment of leprosy. He immediately changed the name from "Asylum" to the Mahaica Hospital and launched a fierce campaign to alter the public perception and prejudice towards his unfortunate patients.

While acquiring international repute as a treatment pioneer, he pressed the government for better funding and staffing of the hospital. A lifelong devout Catholic, he advertised in the Roman Catholic international press for nursing assistance, and in 1932 that call was answered by an Order of Franciscan Nuns in Moravia. Nine of them joined the staff of the hospital for three years before they were recalled, but did not leave until Dr. Rose was able to persuade the Sisters of Mercy, another Order of Nuns who were already working elsewhere in the colony, to take their places at his hospital. This explains the Czech connection to Mahaica and the postcards were clearly an attempt to bring the good deeds of the nuns to the attention to the home public. Proceeds from the sale of the postcards went to the missionary wing of the nursing order. Interestingly, while the Czech Sisters were still at Mahaica, Dr. Rose's eldest daughter, inspired by the work of her father and the nuns, joined that same Order to become a nun herself.



Figure 7
Leper Museum at Mahaica, Br. Guiana. The patients have prepared lunch, to which the children look forward.

World War II started just as she was finishing, trapping her in Moravia for the German and then the Russian occupations. Sister Alma was not able to return to the West Indies until 1968. I first corresponded with her, then had the privilege of meeting her in Toronto in 2006. She was in her 90s, frail but feisty and possessed of a remarkable memory. She had fetched her scrapbook with her, which she willingly allowed me to scan. About a year later she died in Germany, and I treasure the memory of our improbable meeting.

After Terence Dickinson's book, *British Guiana Picture Postcards* was published in 2005, I discovered that altogether there are 12 of these Czech postcards, each of which has a rarity rating of 9 out of 10, thus making this set of British Guiana postcards the most difficult of all sets to acquire. Some are black and white, some sepia, others green in color. I have one of them, shown in Figure 9, in both green and sepia, suggesting multiple printings. By a combination of luck and diligent searching and a Toronto

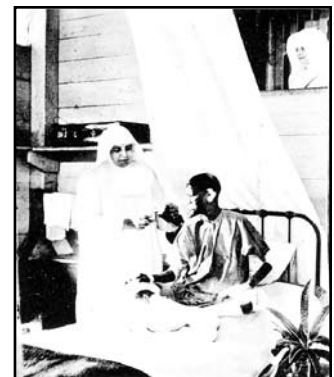


Figure 8
Leper Hospital, Mahaica. Montaz Ali, a badly afflicted patient, with Sisters Amadeou and Salvatorou.

dealer with a Czech connection, I now have 10 of them, all but two unused. The last was recently purchased on the Internet from France and displayed here as Figure 10. My thanks to member Charles Kennard for the assisting with the Czech translation as well as a wonderful website revealingly named <http://translate.google.com>. Of course, my quest continues for the remaining pair of this extraordinary set, as well as for any ordinary Mahaica postcard.



Figure 9
Catholic chapel at Mahaica, Br. Guiana. A view of our Bethlehem with obligatory donkeys.



Figure 10
The Convent kitchen at Mahaica, Br. Guiana. Black maid behind Sister Bouhumira who is holding a coconut and a bunch of plantains.

The postcards shown here have been reduced in size, and the descriptions translated to English as shown.

Barbados Study Group leader meets Prime Minister

Recently, Edmund A. Bayley, BCPSG Barbados Study Group Leader, and his wife, Rosalind, met with Barbados Prime Minister David J.H. Thompson, QC. The photo shown here was taken at the meeting. "Several weeks ago, I mentioned to the Private Secretary in the Prime Minister's office that I would like to give the Prime Minister a copy of my new book as I know that he is very interested in history (including postal history) and had bought a copy of each of my first two books. My wife, Rosalind, and I were duly summoned to the PM's residence, "Ilaro Court," Two Mile Hill, St. Michael on February 10 to personally make the presentation," Mr. Bayley, QC, SCM, FRPSL, wrote. The photograph at right appeared in the *Barbados Advocate News* on February 12. Mr. Bayley shares study group leadership with his brother, Keith.

For those who have not seen Mr. Bayley's new book, it is titled *The History of the Post Offices in Barbados*. Nicely illustrated and printed in hardcover, the price is £60 or US\$90 including the cost by Registered Surface Airlift from the author, P. O. Box #61, GPO Bridgetown, BB11000, Barbados. His email is gustav@caribsurf. This is the third book on Barbados written by Mr. Bayley. It contains 30 chapters with several Appendices and covers every aspect of the Barbados Postal System. Bayley has done research

both in Barbados and in London and quotes extensively and authoritatively from original sources. In this book, Bayley provides evidence of the establishment of the Imperial Packet Agency in the Caribbean in 1663 during the reign of King Charles II and has laid to rest, once and for all, the doubt which has existed among philatelists about the actual date of its establishment (some previous authors have suggested it was not established until 1688). His research has also broken new ground and reveals for the first time the creation of a virtual Inland Post in Barbados on July 1, 1848 using the local mounted police force to deliver the local mail, free of charge. This was almost four years before the establishment of the Inland Post Office on April 15 1852. Other chapters deal with the confusion caused by having the Imperial Packet Agency and the Inland Post Office operating at the same time; the difficulties experienced in trying to amalgamate these two post offices; and the reluctance until September 1881 of the local legislature to join the Universal Postal Union which had been established in October 1874. There are also chapters covering the G. P. O. and each of the district post offices, supported by old and more recent photographs. Other chapters cover the introduction of the first Air Mail Service in 1929 and furnish details of the postal rates (local, surface and air mail), and other aspects of the postal system such as registration, parcel post, money orders, letter boxes, late fees, and postal censorship during the two World Wars.



Edmund A. Bayley, Attorney-at-Law, (right) and his wife, Rosalind, met with the Barbados Prime Minister, the Hon. David J.H. Thompson, QC on Feb. 10.

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.

SESCAL 2009, October 9-11
Los Angeles, California

John Wynns
Canada: Confederation Issue of 1927
Reserve Grand, Gold, APS 1900-1940 Medal

ITALIA 09, October 21-25
Rome, Italy

Dr. Reuben Ramkissoon
The Trinidad WWI Red Cross Label that became a Postage Stamp for a Day (SF)
Vermeil

VAPEX 2009, November 13-15
Williamsburg, Virginia

Dan Walker
Grenada's War Tax Issue June 1, 1916-June 13, 1919 (SF)
Gold

CHICAGOPEX 2009, November 20-22
Arlington Heights, Illinois

Paul Larsen
Barbados Seal Issues 1892-1950
Gold

FLOREX 2009, December 4-6
Orlando, Florida

Raymond Murphy
Jamaica in WWII (SF)
Silver
Millard Mack
U.S. Relocation of Japanese Americans During WWII (SF)
Silver-Bronze,
Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award

SANDICAL 2010, January 15-17
San Diego, California

John Cress
Australian Air Mail - Bringing the Outback to the Modern World 1914-1934
Gold, AAMS Medal

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.

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President's Message

By Ed Waterous

The time for our annual meeting in London is almost at hand. Will you be there? If you have not yet reserved your place at the BCPSG-BWISC dinner on Saturday, May 8, please hurry. There will be a flurry of activity with the meetings sandwiched around the opening day of the LONDON 2010 Festival of Stamps. I hope to see you there for all of the festivities. The Joint BCPSG-BWISC Auction Sale will be called on Friday, May 8, at 1:00 p.m. You should receive a sale catalog with your *Journal*. Alternatively you can view the sale on the BCPSG website. Bid early and often. If you have any item you would like placed on the meeting agenda please contact me.

Future annual meetings are scheduled for January, 2011 at ARIPEX in Tucson, Arizona, and 2012 in Sarasota, Florida. Our next Caribbean location meeting is scheduled for 2013 with St. Lucia currently the frontrunner. Stay tuned for further details. The 2014 meeting will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, 2015 is unscheduled and 2016 will be at the U.S. International Exhibition in New York City. Our meetings generally run a lot more smoothly if there is a local representative to help with logistics. Perhaps you'd like to help with arrangements. If so, please contact me at your convenience.

Included with this Journal are reports from our Treasurer, John Seidl, and our Membership Chairman, Bob Stewart. We operated near breakeven as far as the money goes. We are not faring as well where the membership is concerned. Our numbers continue to dwindle. We must become involved in recruiting new people to join our group and invigorate the organization. New members are likely to have new ideas and enthusiasm. Let's each resolve to find one new member to join our group this year.

Research articles and other writing of interest keep a journal and the society uppermost in the minds of its members. The first few years I belonged to the BCPSG I eagerly awaited the arrival of each new issue of the *BCPSG Journal*. I am sure that many of you were the same way. The responsibility to keep the journal filled with interesting articles and serious research belongs to us. Don't delay preparing that article because you want to have every possible detail nailed down. You may find the answers you're seeking just by getting what you know in front of other collectors with similar interests. Keep the editor happy – help to provide a working backlog of articles so he is not always scrambling at the last minute to fill the pages of the *Journal*.

Howard Austin, our Auction Manager, informs me that this year will be his last at running our group auction sale. Howie, we thank you for your years of dedication and service to the BCPSG. If anyone is interested in taking on this job, please contact Howie or any BCPSG officer.



Deadlines Deadlines Deadlines

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

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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

Gary Watson, P.O. Box 126, Belgrave, Victoria 3160 AUSTRALIA. Email: gary@prestigephilatelic.com. Dealer/auctioneer. Sponsored by Steve Schumann.

Frederick Lutt, 9561 Daly Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45231-3615 USA. Email: frederick.lutt@zoomtown.com. APS SCC member. Collects Leeward Islands, KGVI stamps and postal history. Sponsored by Bob Stewart.

Richard Thompson, 45 Keighley Close, Thatcham, Berkshire RG19 3XN, UNITED KINGDOM. Email: rmt63877@hotmail.com. Collects Montserrat. Sponsored by Ray Stanton.

Address Change

William Ashley, P.O. Box 524, West Springfield, MA 01090 USA

Resignation

Raymond W. Ireson of Canada

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

Thank you SO MUCH to the following for recent donations!

The BCPSG would like to sincerely thank the following for their recent donations: **Norman Finnie**, U.K.; **Ralph Scrivens**, U.K.; **Stella Pease**, U.K.; **Dr. Steven Berlin**, Virgin Islands; **Peter Colwell**, U.S.; **Carl Faulkner**, U.S.; **Charles Grassman**, U.S.; **Joseph Hickey**, U.S.; **Patricia Hoppe**, Canada; **Sam Partain**, U.S.; **John Puzine**, U.S.; **Dietmar Thormann**, Germany; **Gerald Schroedl**, U.S.; **Ian Sellick**, U.S.; **John Suter**, U.S.; **Thomas Wooldridge**, U.S.; **Richard Hemmings**, Portugal; **David Pitts**, U.S.; **GuillaumeVadeboncoeur**, Canada.

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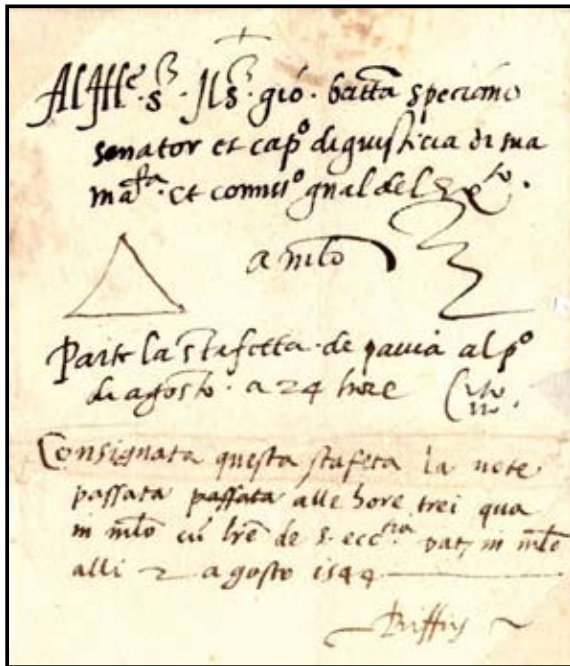


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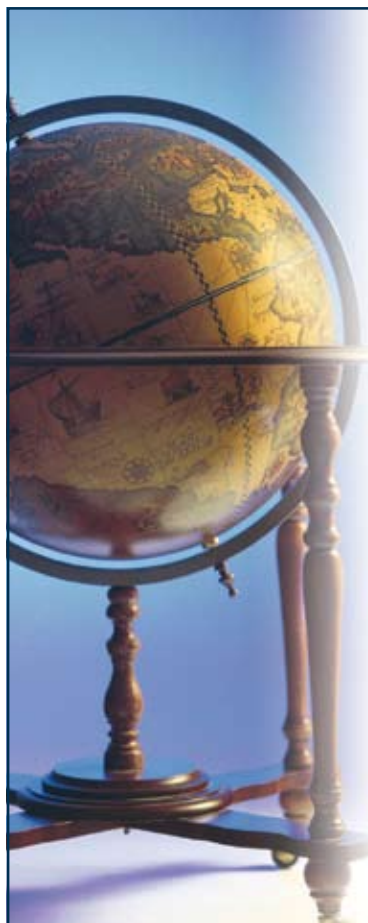
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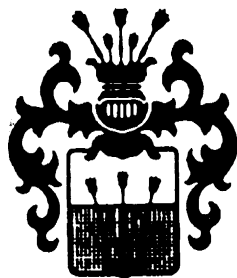
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