

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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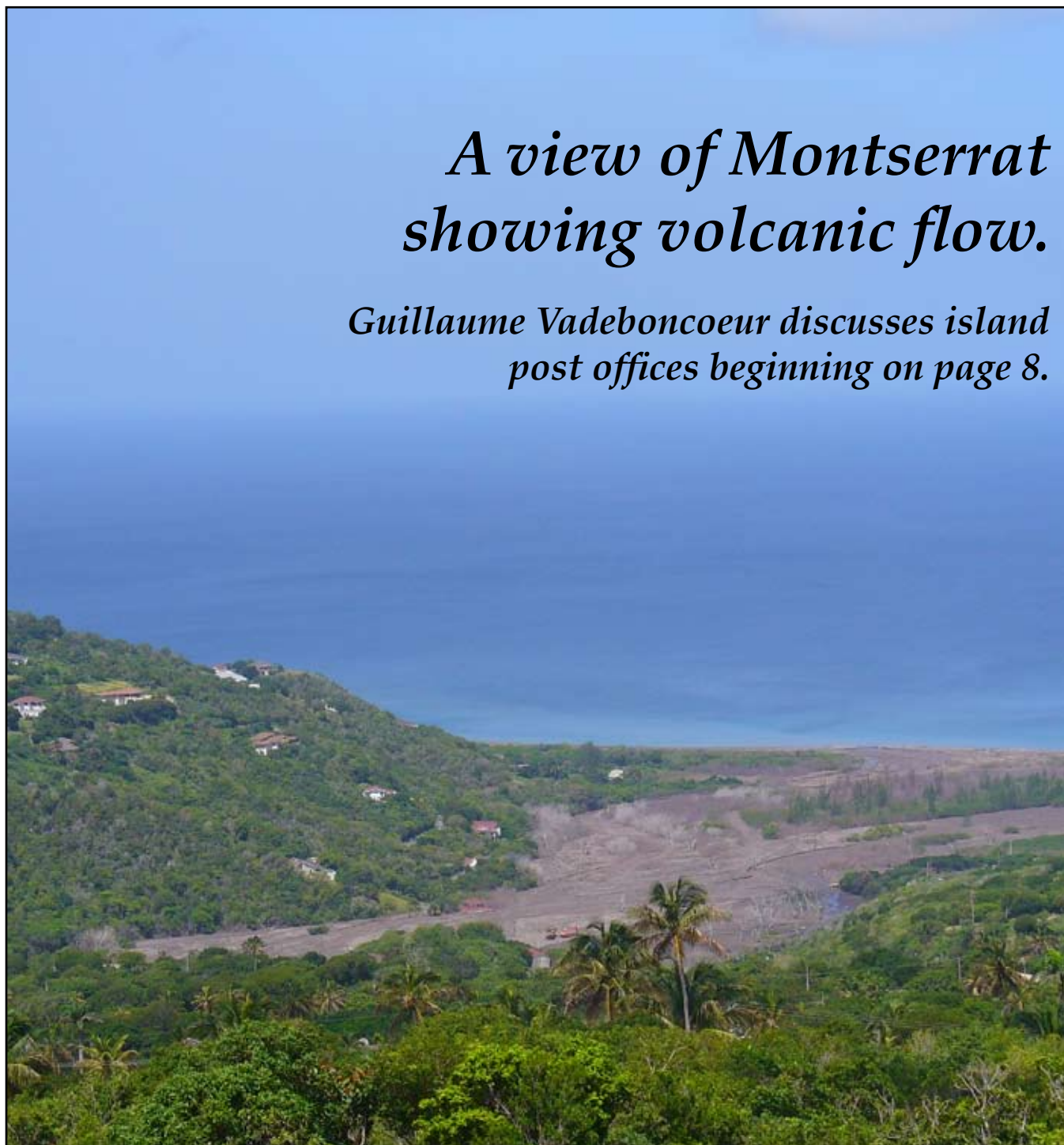
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Whole No. 238

*A view of Montserrat
showing volcanic flow.*

*Guillaume Vadeboncoeur discusses island
post offices beginning on page 8.*





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DEADLINES FOR THIS PUBLICATION

January issue: Deadline November 15, mailing December 30

April issue: Deadline February 15, mailing March 30

July issue: Deadline May 15, mailing June 30

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Postmarks of the BWI: *Antigua KGVI, 1937-1954*

By David Horry
Of China

The King George VI period would have been fairly uneventful but for the intervention of one A.W. Morley of Rochdale. On December 31, 1931 the post offices at Barnes Hill, Bethesda and Newfield (The Grange) were closed – by way of compensation several new offices opened the next day – namely Bendals, Cedar Grove, Falmouth, Gunthorpes, Johnsons Point, Old Road, Seatons and the very scarce office at Swetes.

However, in February 1939 the Barnes Hill postmark that had lain dormant for over seven years was suddenly resurrected and found on a letter addressed to 46 Carnforth Ave., Castleford, Rochdale – home of Mr. A.W. Morley. In April, similar events happened at Bethesda and Newfield. As far as is known, these three post offices were never re-opened and it seems likely that the three cancellers in question were held at the G.P.O. at St. Johns or possibly Falmouth.

Charles Freeland has the only three covers known. Barnes Hill (*Figure 1*) is recorded as being used 1929-31 but Bethesda (*Figure 2*) and Newfield (*Figure 3*) are only recorded posthumously – in the words of Ted Proud, April 7, 1939. There are two distinctive styles of handwriting involved.

These philatelic covers with favor cancels, *et al*, appear to be the work of A.W. Morley with the collusion of a local postal employee. The covers carry the correct surface mail rate to the United Kingdom. Only four or five items exist of each, but Newfield is noted as being used on October 9, 1939. I noted one other item



Figure 1
Barnes Hill sSC cover dated February 19, 1939.*
Courtesy of Charles Freeland.



Figure 2
Bethesda sSC cover dated April 7, 1939.*
Courtesy of Charles Freeland.

on display at Westpex in San Francisco; it was from Robert Wynstra. Charles Freeland states, "The inference

was that an insider had resuscitated the obsolete instruments to create his own philatelic usage.”¹ Thus, it would seem that Barnes Hill, Bethesda and Newfield do not legitimately appear within the KGVI period. Many thanks to Charles Freeland for his permission to share these items. Any further examples would be of great interest especially if used prior to 1932.

There are 17 legitimate post offices found within the KGVI period. Most of these used a small single circle with asterisk; namely All Saints, Bendals, Boleans, Cedar Grove, Johnsons Point, Old Road and Seatons (*Figure 4*). Falmouth is without asterisk. Pares is rare (*Figure 5*) as it closed on the last day of 1947 – its business was moved to nearby Parham. Montpelier is also a most elusive postmark as the office closed on the last day of 1943. It reopened nearby as St. Philips which used a little seen Birmingham strike (*Figure 6*), with Time Codes A & B until its closure at the end of 1947. Freetown then became the local office and used a small single circle with Time Code A. Gunthorpes, which closed late 1947, is very scarce (*Figure 7*).

Other Birmingham's were used at Grays Farm (*Figure 8*); Time Codes A & B and two at St. Johns from 1935 and 1944 respectively. Two Madame Joseph fakes exist dated March 21, 1942 and December 21, 1943 (*Figure 9*).² The Birmingham's were superseded by two New Birmingham's issued in June 1950 – they are almost identical (*Figure 10*) [there is also a forgery dated January 11, 1954!]. In 1963 Stan Durnin wrote in the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, “I also find an exact duplicate of



Figure 3
Newfield sSC TC A cover, October 9, 1939.
Courtesy of Charles Freeland.

this type (NB*[1]) being used from St. John's, with the sole exception that the outer ring measures 26½ mm. (as



Figure 4
Three small Single Circles:
All Saints, Parham, Old Road.

opposed to 27mm).³ That old bugaboo “ink-spread” is the prime suspect in considering the difference of ½mm, but I am of the opinion that these are separate strikes. (My nightmares consist of people and objects all in ½mm dimensions.)

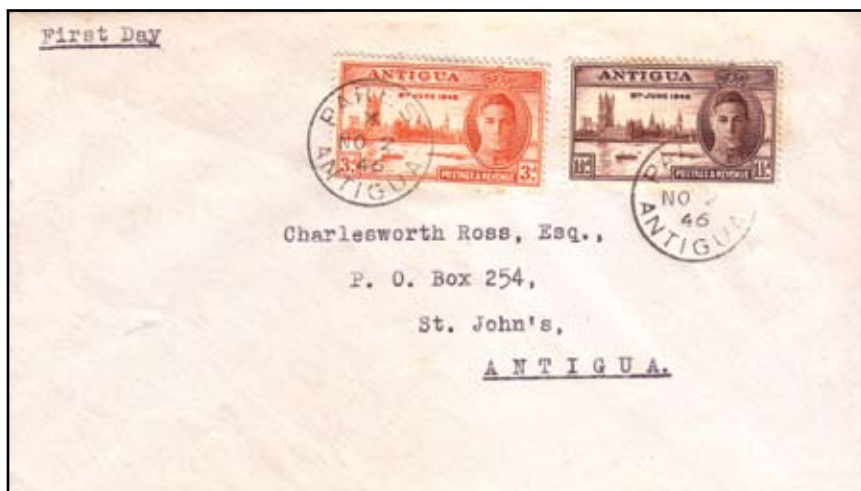


Figure 5
Pares, Antigua Victory First Day Cover, November 2, 1946.

St. Johns also has two Large Double Circles (LDC) found within the period. These are easily separated as one bears the inscription “ST. JOHN’S” and the other “ST. JOHNS.” The former was withdrawn in late 1938 (*Figure 11*). St. Johns also has a regular, oval registration mark (ERD 10 6 52 – LRD 12 11 56) which is quite difficult to find (*Figure 12*). Liberta has an unusual

Continued on page 6



Figure 6
St. Philips Victory First Day Cover, November 4, 1946.

medium Single Circle with asterisk, mSC* (**Figure 13**). There were no slogan postmarks or handstamps found within the period which ended on November 2, 1953 with the release of the QEII definitives.



Figure 7
Elusive small Single Circles Gunthorpes, Bendals and Montpelier.

Finally, the island of Barbuda used the stamps of Antigua at its post office at Codrington. Genuine commercial mail is very hard to find as most covers appear to be philatelic. The most common strike is the medium Single Circle (mSC), a very clean and clear instrument which saw service until early 1950 (**Figure 14**); it was later used in London to cancel to order covers bearing Barbuda



Figure 8
Grays Farm Birmingham May 17, 1951, TC A.

stamps! Naughty - naughty! It was superseded by a small Single Circle with asterisk (sSC*) in 1949 which was still going strong in 1968. The difficult one is the Official-Paid strike (mSC*) which was last seen in use in May 1941. (**Figure 15**).



Figure 9
St. Johns Birmingham B1 TC A - B2 TC A and the two Madame Joseph forgeries BF(1) and BF(2).

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Charles Freeland, personal correspondence.
- ² Thanks to The Royal Philatelic Society London for the use of the Madame Joseph images.
- ³ Stan Durnin, *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 3, No. 1, Whole No. 11, January 1963, 12-14.

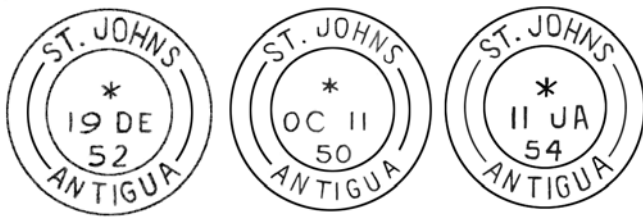


Figure 10

St. Johns, New Birmingham NB*(1) and NB*(2) (Castor & Pollox!) plus a forgery NB*F as per the American Philatelic Expertising Society.



Figure 13

Liberta's mSC* 2 11 49 Darwinistically different!

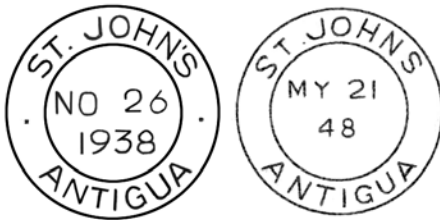


Figure 11

St. Johns Large Double Circles LDC:(1) LDC(2).



Figure 14

The elegant Barbuda mSC: June 21, 1939.



Figure 12

The scarce St. Johns Registered Oval 14 10 54.



Figure 15

Barbuda sSC* October 1, 1951 and Barbuda Official Paid sSC* May 12, 1941.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Due to a number of last-minute layout changes, the next installment of Tom Giraldi's Cayman Islands updates has been delayed until the April 2011 issue. We also had to hold a book review by Charles Freeland. Look for these in the next issue!

The current post offices of Montserrat (2010)

By **Guillaume Vadeboncoeur**
Of Canada

In July 2010 I had the opportunity to visit Montserrat for two days. This article outlines the resulting information gathered regarding its post offices. British Caribbean village postmarks always have been a field of interest with collectors. Montserrat is no exception. Key

Figure 1
St. Patrick's
September
11, 1968
(Riley cover)



information on Montserrat village postmarks is located in Britnor and Freeland,¹ Horry,² Proud³ and in articles from Durnin⁴ and Oliver.⁵ In my collection, I already had "sets" of village cancel covers prepared by collectors/dealers from 1968 (prepared by Robert Riley [see

Figure 2
Harris,
October
11, 1969
(Carson cover)



Figure 1]); 1969 (prepared by William Carson [Figure 2]); 1972 (prepared by Maurice A.W. Peters [Figure 3]); and 1980 (prepared by Colin Hinchcliffe [Figure 4]). My most recent "set" was thus from some 30 years ago.

Figure 3
Cork Hill,
October
23, 1972
(Peters cover)



Letters sent from Montserrat are becoming fewer and fewer. This is largely as a result of Montserrat's population being currently less than 6,000. It stood at approximately 12,000 before the eruption of the Soufrière Hills

Figure 4
Salem,
March
27, 1980
(Hinchcliffe cover)



volcano. In addition, the advent of email has obviously diminished the need to send letters throughout the world and Montserrat is not immune to this phenomenon. I only had the odd cover and stamp with village postmarks from the 1970s and 1980s, but nothing very recent. Thus, the choice was easy -- I had to visit each post office in Montserrat and obtain examples of the cancels in use (Figure 5). My wife quickly agreed to this as it also provided us with the opportunity to visit various parts of the island.

Figure 5
Davy Hill,
July 26,
2010
(Vadeboncoeur cover)



1) Montserrat Philatelic Bureau

The first logical stop was the Montserrat Philatelic Bureau. The Philatelic Bureau is located on the same premises as the Montserrat National Trust in the Oriole Complex in Salem on the western side of the island. I was greeted by Ms. Valerie James, Manager, and Ms. Sylvia White, two of the three employees of the bureau (Miss Glendena Taylor was on holiday). I took the opportunity to purchase examples of recently issued stamps as well as reinstate my standing order for new issues. Upon inquiring about post offices, Ms. James and Ms. White indicated that in addition to the General Post Office, there were six sub post offices on the island. They also confirmed that the Philatelic Bureau cancels its own mail. The cancelling device in use at the Philatelic Bureau

reads “G.P.O. BRADES” at the top, “MONTSERRAT, WI” at the bottom, and with a date line in the middle. There is a single outer ring, 34mm in diameter (*Figure 6*). Although the cancel reads Brades, the Philatelic Bureau is located in Salem. It is possible that this cancel was previously in use at the GPO before being transferred to the Philatelic Bureau. It should be noted that

Figure 6
Montserrat Philatelic Bureau cancel



as recently as 2007, the Philatelic Bureau was using a cancel which read “PLYMOUTH” although the town had been abandoned 10 years previously. Before heading out on my mission, I was informed that the sub post offices were only opened for a limited period of time on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. This was going to be a challenge due to our short time on the island.

2) General Post Office

The General Post Office is located within the Government Headquarters building complex in Brades on the northwest side of the island (*Figure 7*). The current Postmistress is Ms. Elsa Morgan. Two counter windows were open to serve customers. The postal clerk informed me that different cancelling devices were used for the different clerks/counter windows. He showed me his cancelling device and it had a number under the date line



Figure 7
Montserrat General Post Office

identifying him as the user (by number). After explaining at length the reason for my request for examples of each cancel, I was still not successful in getting each cancel. In order to obtain cancels from the GPO, I had to drop letters in the general mail box. I was not successful in

obtaining examples of each of the different cancels and more research is required in this area. My covers were postmarked by a cancel reading “G.P.O. BRADES” at the top, “MONTSERRAT” at bottom, a date line in the middle and with a small “5” under the date line (clerk/

Figure 8
General Post Office cancel



counter number), and a double ring (31mm in diameter). It showed an impression of another outer ring from the external part of the cancelling device (*Figure 8*). The cancels were applied in blue ink. I have also seen a 2007 cover with a small “4” under the date line.

3) Salem Sub Post Office

Salem has had a post office in operation since at least June 1931 – the date of the earliest recorded postmark. The current Salem Sub Post Office is located in a residential house off the main road (*Figure 9*). It does not have any sign identifying it as a post office. We needed the help of friendly Montserratians in order to locate it. The opening hours were not indicated, but it was not



Figure 9
Salem Sub Post Office

open at the time of my visit. I left my covers with the owner of the house. She indicated that her sister was the postmistress. The covers were postmarked with a cancel that reads “MONTSERRAT POST OFFICE” at top, “SALEM” at bottom, with a date line in the middle, and a double ring (31mm diameter). The cancels were applied in blue ink (*Figure 10*). This cancel is consistent with the devices used at the GPO and at sub post offices (with the exception of Davy Hill). The cancels were likely all ordered at the same time.

4) St. Peter’s Sub Post Office

St. Peter’s has had a post office in operation since at

Continued on page 10

Figure 10
Salem Sub Post Office
cancel



least October 1926 – the date of the earliest recorded postmark. As reported by Britnor and Freeland, the post office was closed in the early 1930s and reopened in late 1948. The current St. Peter’s Sub Post Office is located in a clearly indicated stand-alone building on the west side of the main road, across from a general store and gas station (**Figure 11**). The indicated opening hours were Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. It was not open at the time of my visit. I left my covers with the owner of



Figure 11
St. Peter’s Sub Post Office

the convenience store. The covers were postmarked with a cancel that reads “MONTSERRAT POST OFFICE” at top, “ST. PETERS” (*sic*) at bottom, a date line in the middle, and a double ring (31mm diameter). The cancels were applied in blue ink (**Figure 12**).

Figure 12
St. Peter’s Sub Post Office
cancel



5) Cudjoe Head Sub Post Office

Cudjoe Head has had a post office in operation since at least 1926 – the date of the earliest recorded postmark. The current Cudjoe Head Sub Post Office is located in a clearly indicated stand-alone building on the east side of the main road (**Figure 13**). The indicated opening hours were Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:30 a.m. to

7:30 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. It was not open at the time of my visit. I left my covers with a friendly Montserratian who was “liming” nearby (a local expression for hanging out). The covers were postmarked with



Figure 13
Cudjoe Head Sub Post Office

a cancel that reads “MONTSERRAT POST OFFICE” at top, “CUDJOE HEAD” at bottom, with a date line in the middle, and a double ring (31mm diameter). The cancels were applied in blue ink (**Figure 14**).

Figure 14
Cudjoe Head Sub Post
Office cancel



6) St. John’s Sub Post Office

St. John’s has had a post office in operation since at least November 1931 – the date of the earliest recorded postmark. The current St. John’s Sub Post Office is located in a residential house off the main road (**Figure 15**). It does not have any sign identifying it as a post office. Again, we needed the help of several friendly Montserratians in order to locate it. The opening hours were not indicated, it was not open at the time of my visit, and no one was at the house. I left my covers with a nearby resident. The covers were postmarked with a cancel that reads “MONTSERRAT POST OFFICE” at top, “ST. JOHNS” (*sic*) at bottom, with a date line in the middle, and a double ring (31mm diameter). The cancels were applied in blue ink (**Figure 16**).

7) Look Out Sub Post Office

Look Out is a new village, recently built following the eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano. The village is located on a ridge on the northeast part of the island bordered by Brimm’s Ghaut to the north and Cat Ghaut to the south. Ghauts (pronounced guts) are deep ravines



Figure 15
St. John's Sub Post office

that carry rainwater down from the mountain to the sea. There are currently 200 homes in the village, with plans to add another 250 homes and a community center. The community was depicted on a stamp from the 2001

Figure 16
St. John's Sub Post Office
cancel



Buildings issue (**Figure 17**). The Look Out Sub Post Office is located in a residential house in the middle of the residential area (**Figure 18**). We needed the help of local residents to find it as its location is quite hidden from the main road. The house has a small sign identifying it as a post office and listing the opening hours to be Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (**Figure 19**). The Look Out postmistress indicated this sub post office has been in operation since July 3, 2000. This



Figure 17
70¢ stamp depicting
community of
Look Out

was based on the date of the first entry in her post office ledger. The covers were postmarked with a cancel that reads "MONTSERRAT POST OFFICE" at top, "LOOK OUT" at bottom, with a date line in the middle and a double ring (31mm diameter). The cancels were applied in blue ink (**Figure 20**).

8) Davy Hill Sub Post Office

Davy Hill is the second new village recently built to accommodate the relocation of residents from the southern part of the island. It is located on the northwest side of

the island. The Davy Hill Sub Post Office is located in a two story commercial building adjacent to a grocery store (**Figure 21**). The indicated opening hours were



Figure 18
Look Out Sub Post Office

Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. It was not open at the time of my visit. I left my covers with the operator of the



Figure 19
Post Office sign and opening hours at Look Out

grocery store. She happened to be the postmistress of the Davy Hill Sub Post Office and unlocked it in order to store my letters away in a safe place. Based on information received from the Philatelic Bureau, the Davy Hill Post Office opened in or around January 2009. The cov-

Figure 20
Look Out Sub Post office
cancel



Continued on page 12

ers were postmarked with a cancel that reads “DAVY HILL” at top, “MONTSERRAT, W.I.” at bottom, with a date line in the middle and a double ring (31mm diameter). The cancels were applied in black ink (*Figure 22*). The cancelling device is different from the other sub post offices as the name of the village is inscribed at the top, the typeface is different and there is more space



Figure 21
Davy Hill Sub Post Office

between the two rings. This is consistent with Davy Hill Sub Post Office having been recently opened, thus requiring a new cancelling device.

9) Closed Post Offices

The eruption of the Soufrière Hills volcano in the southern part of the island led to the evacuation and relocation of residents. An exclusion zone has been established, and it is illegal to enter the exclusion zone. The exclusion zone was depicted on a stamp from the 2007 Cricket World Cup issue (*Figure 23*). The following post offices (or sub post offices), were located in the current exclusion zone and are no longer open: Plymouth General Post Office, Bethel, Dyer's, Harris, St. Patricks, and

Figure 22
Davy Hill Sub Post Office
cancel



Cork Hill (the latter is located in the “Daytime Entry Zone,” but the post office is no longer in operation).



Figure 23
\$3 stamp depicting
the Exclusion Zone

10) Future Post Offices

A new capital is being built at Little Bay on the north-west side of the island. Plans include construction of a sheltered harbor providing docking facilities for small cruise ships and cargo vessels. This will invariably include the opening of a new post office (likely relocation of the current General Post Office).

11) Post Mortem

At the end of the trek to the various sub post offices, I was left with limited confidence in the exercise as most of the letters were not left at the post offices because they were not open at the time of my visit. Throughout our stay the Montserratians were very helpful and jovial. You can also add honest and dependable to this list since letters from each of the sub post offices arrived safely. The addition of Look Out and Davy Hill to the list of sub post offices was a nice yet not completely unexpected finding. The current cancels from the sub post offices will be difficult to locate due to the limited volume of mail that is handled by each of them. Collectors may have to contact the sub post offices directly with self-addressed franked envelopes in order to do so. Many questions remain unanswered, such as confirmed dates for the opening of the new sub post offices, confirmed dates for the moves of sub post offices to their current locations and confirmed dates of introduction of the current cancelling devices.

I would appreciate receiving any comments or additional information regarding this article at guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca. Footnotes follow on page 27.

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Discovered after 127 years: Trinidad Type 0.6, Upright diamond shape, Numeral 16

By Nigel Mohammed
Of the USA

Numeral obliterations were introduced to Trinidad in 1851. They were used to cancel stamps at the 21 post offices established for the island's Inland Postal Service. Obliterators were also used on rare occasions to cancel stampless letters.¹ The first types of obliterator were used during the period August 1851 through July 1853. Over the next 40 years there would be nine distinct obliterations as classified by Sir John Marriott, and 36 numerals for the assigned post offices. The Trinidad town and village datestamps replaced numeral obliterations commencing in 1885.

The Type 0.6 examples² (*Figure 1*) were first introduced in March 1883 and are considered to be some of the rarer obliterations used in Trinidad. It consists of an upright diamond shape with a number in the center of the diamond. The numeral is surrounded by thick solid horizontal lines.

This type of instrument was officially used until July 1884, but like the other numeral obliterations, its usage extended well beyond this period. They had extended lives and were unofficially used during the early 20th century to cancel stamps and also for sealing mail bags. There were 27 confirmed and recorded varieties of the Type 0.6 numerals for the allocated post offices. Numerals 11, 14, 15, and 18 are assumed to exist but to date have not been reported in any known publications. Until now, numeral 16 was on that missing list. Numeral 16 surfaced in bold, dramatic form a few months ago. At the time of this publication it is the only known example.

Numeral 16 Discovered

Type 0.6, numeral 16, existence is confirmed by its distinct impression on a red wax seal. The seal is located on the bottom flap of a Type G registration envelope and is shown covering the words two pence (*Figure 2*). This exceedingly rare and elusive postmark came to light after 127 years. It was discovered in an internet auction in September 2010 and is now in the author's collection. Numeral 16 was assigned to the Chaguanas Post Office. Chaguanas is a tiny village located on the western side of central Trinidad.

Figure 2
Type 0.6,
Numeral 16,
Chaguanas
in wax.



Figure 1
Type 0.6 examples,
numerals 2, 9, and 26
(San Fernando,
Manzanilla and Erin)

The red wax imprint measures 20-21mm horizontally across the diamond. Its vertical height is extrapolated to measure approximately 27-28 mm. There are three thick horizontal bars above and below the number 16. Based on other examples of Type 0.6 cancellation strikes, it is most probable that there are four thick horizontal bars above and below the number 16. The fourth top and bottom horizontal bars in this strike are not clearly visible

Continued on page 14



Figure 3a, above, shows front of registered cover to Parker and Company, Strand, London. The 4a stamp (S.G. 110) is affixed in the upper right and is cancelled “Fe 6 1885” by a Type 0.9 obliterator. The envelope arrived three weeks later and is cancelled by a red oval London registration receiving mark, dated “27 Fe 1885.” Blue crayon “54” crossed out and replaced by “55.”



Figure 3b, right, shows reverse side of the envelope. One day after leaving Chaguanas, it arrived in Port of Spain, where it was cancelled by a Type 0.7a dated “Fe 7 1885.” Upon arrival at its destination, it was cancelled with a black oval registered receiving mark dated “27 Fe 1885” in the upper right corner. Sealed with red wax is the magnificent Type 0.6, numeral 16 marking.

as there was insufficient wax to make a complete imprint. Wax seals with imprinted datestamps were often used to seal envelopes and letters during Trinidad’s early postal history. Finding numeral 16 on wax is a fascinating and exciting discovery. As the sole example of this numeral type, it has an earliest known date of February 6, 1885 (**Figure 3, above**). This is confirmed by the Type 0.9 cancellation on the front of the registered envelope.

There is great intrigue about this rare postmark. More questions abound than there is documentation and proof. Why is it so rare? Was the obliterator lost or damaged? Why did the post office clerk not cancel the envelope with an ink version of the Type 0.6 strike? Why was it only used on the wax seal? Perhaps it was no longer officially sanctioned to be used as a cancellation device. Whatever the reasons, we finally have confirmation of this long awaited postmark and only time will tell if it is unique. If there are any other Type 0.6, numeral 16 (or 11, 14, 15, and 18) examples in your collection, please contact me at trinibuoy@yahoo.com.

ENDNOTES

¹ Lot 756, Sir John Marriott auction sale shows numeral 21 obliterator on 1870 O.H.M.S. envelope. Lot 2024, Ramkissoon auction sale shows numeral 1 on 1859 folded letter with red registration postmarks. Another example includes numeral 2 on 1857 letter to London.

² Aleong, Joe C., and Edward B. Proud. *The Postal History of Trinidad and Tobago*, Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd., East Sussex, 1997. This is Aleong and Proud Type K.

See also, Marriott, Medlicott, Ramkissoon. *Trinidad, A Philatelic History to 1913*, British West Indies Study Circle and British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, Spain 2010.

The Airmails of Barbados during World War II

Part 6: 1943

By **Jerone R. Hart**

Of the USA

The year 1943 showed a decrease in the number of covers in the survey from 52 in 1942 to only 44 in 1943 (a decrease of about 14 percent from the previous year). The largest number of covers, 23 in all (about 52 percent), were addressed to the United States. This was followed by nine covers (20 percent) to the United Kingdom and six covers (about 14 percent) to Canada. The remaining six covers were to destinations in Venezuela (three covers), and one each to the islands of Trinidad, Grenada, and St. Lucia. This decrease in the number of covers originating from Barbados in 1943 might reflect the harsh realities of the war. Europe was totally engulfed in the conflict and the U.K. was taking a pounding from German bombers; allied shipping and supply convoys in the Atlantic were being ravaged by German submarines; and the war in the Pacific proved to be a lot more difficult than the Allies had originally anticipated. In all probability, the conditions of war greatly impacted the flow and transmission of the mails around the world, including those to and from Barbados.

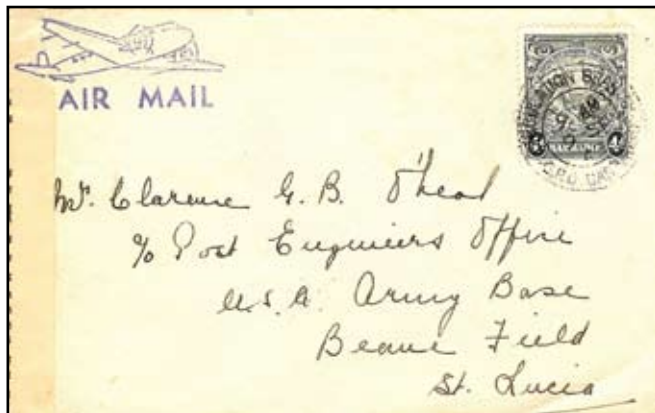


FIGURE 53

September 9, 1943: 4d per half ounce rate to St. Lucia. Cover censored before leaving Barbados.



FIGURE 54

September 3, 1943: 1 1/2d per half ounce airmail rate to Venezuela. Cover was censored in Barbados.

For the 1943 survey, there were three covers to Caribbean islands. The first of these was dated February 16 and was addressed to Grenada (seen on the internet). The cover carried a 4d rate and was censored before leaving Barbados. The 4d rate paid for airmail service between Barbados and Grenada on BWIA. Service on BWIA to Grenada commenced on January 16, 1943 and regularly scheduled weekly service began on March 11, 1943. The second cover to a Caribbean destination is dated September 9 and was addressed to St. Lucia (*Figure 53*). The address on this cover is particularly interesting in that it was sent to the "Post Engineer's Office, U.S.A. Army Base, Beane Field." Beane Field was an emergency airfield maintained by the U.S. Army during the war. The cover bore the 4d rate and would have been carried by BWIA weekly service to the island. The cover was also opened and censored before leaving Barbados. The final cover to a destination in the Caribbean for 1943 was dated September 20 and was addressed to Trinidad (seen on the internet). Like the two covers above, this cover carried the 4d letter rate and was flown via BWIA. However, this cover was not censored.

The 1943 survey also saw three covers addressed to Venezuela. The earliest of these was dated September 3 (*Figure 54*) and carried a rate of 1 1/2d (1/3 1/2d). The cover was censored in Barbados and was resealed using the censor's

Continued on page 16

label, Shepard's "Type L7" with black lettering on "duck egg green" paper.²⁶ The front of the cover also carries a Barquisimeto, Venezuela receiving handstamp of September 16, indicating that it took 13 days to transit from Barbados to its final destination in Venezuela. Since there is no indication on this cover how it was routed, I assume it went from Barbados to Trinidad on BWIA where it connected with either KLM or Pan Am service. In 1943, both airlines had routes from Trinidad to Venezuela. KLM's route would have carried the cover from Trinidad to the Dutch West Indies, making stops at Curacao and Aruba before going on to Maracaibo. At Maracaibo the cover would have been transferred to a local carrier for the last leg to Barquisimeto. Pan Am service would have taken it directly from Trinidad to Barcelona in Venezuela and then on to stops at La Guaira, Coro and Maracaibo before going on to Colombia. In all probability, since Maracaibo was a common stop for both KLM and Pan Am flights, this was probably the transfer point for local air service to the rest of Venezuela.

The next two covers to Venezuela are dated September 8 (*Figure 55*) and September 13 (seen on the internet). Both covers carry the 15½d (1/3½d) letter rate, both were censored before leaving Barbados and like the earlier cover, these two were also sent to the same addressee in Barquisimeto. What is most interesting about these covers is that all three were processed through the GPO in Barbados on three different dates (September 3, 8 and 13). All three have receiving marks on the front from the post office at Barquisimeto and all three of these receiving marks are dated September 16! How is it that these three covers were processed through the GPO in Barbados on three very different dates but all ended up being received on the same



FIGURE 55

September 8, 1943: 1/31/2d rate to Venezuela. Cover censored in Barbados. Barquisimeto receiving mark of September 16.



FIGURE 56

June 30, 1943: 1/4d airmail rate to Canada. Cover was forwarded to Halifax. Censored in Barbados.

rate of 16d (1/4d) and four out of the six covers were censored before leaving Barbados. One of the more interesting covers in this group was dated June 30, 1943 (*Figure 56*). The cover was censored in Barbados and was resealed using Shepard's Type L10 censor's label. According to Shepard, this was the last type of censor's label introduced during the war by the censoring service in Barbados.²⁷ The cover is also interesting because it was originally addressed to the town of New Glasgow in Nova Scotia, but upon arrival, it was forwarded to Halifax. Thus, for Canada, 1943 further verified the 16d (1/4d) airmail letter rate for a half ounce of weight or less, an airmail rate that was initially introduced in 1941.

The next group of covers, nine in total, was addressed to the United Kingdom. The earliest of these (*Figure 57, next page*) is dated March 11, was registered and censored in Barbados. This cover carried the very unusual rate of 19d (1/7d). Of the fee paid, 16d paid the letter rate and 3d paid the registration fee, for a total of 19d. The cover was censored and resealed using Shepard's Type L10 with preprinted number (#3631). The label on this cover has black lettering on a light green paper. Shepard states that this particular censor's number was seen on both outgoing and incoming mail from Spanish speaking areas. He then assumed that this particular censor was a specialist in the Span-

date at the Barquisimeto Post Office? Obviously, they were held at one of the transfer points somewhere along the route. My guess is that they were probably held at Maracaibo before going on to Barquisimeto. Nonetheless, based on data from the single cover to Venezuela in 1942 and the three covers from 1943, we can assume that the letter rate for a half ounce of weight from Barbados was 15½d (1/3½d). Two covers that are dated in 1945 further substantiate the rate of 15½d to Venezuela.

The year 1943 saw a substantial drop from 1942 in the number of covers addressed to Canada. The 1942 survey saw 15 covers to Canada while 1943 saw only six covers, a decrease of some 60 percent. Two covers were dated June 30, two more were dated September 30, and the final two were dated October 8. All six covers carried the same

ish language.²⁸ Although this may be true, none of the six covers in my survey to Venezuela had this type of censor's label. Indeed, the cover shown in **Figure 59** was not to a Spanish speaking country, but rather to the U.K. In the upper left corner of the cover at right, the sender wrote in pen, "Via Trinidad and the U.S.A. and then to England." At the top right and just under the 1/- definitive is a three-line purple handstamp that reads, "N.Y. AIR/ STEAMER/ ONWARD." Thus, the sender paid the 16d letter rate that got the cover from Barbados to New York via Trinidad by air. At New York, the cover was transferred to a ship for the final leg to the United Kingdom. Despite the fact this cover was registered, the only backstamps were from the Barbados GPO (dated March 11) and a transit handstamp of Trinidad dated March 13. Unfortunately, there was no arrival datestamp of the London GPO to tell us when the cover arrived in the United Kingdom. Despite the availability of this rate throughout the war, this is the only example I have seen. This gives credence to the idea that the majority of mail originating from Barbados and addressed to the United Kingdom during the war went by air and through New York.



FIGURE 57

March 11, 1943: Registered airmail to New York and then by surface mail to England. Censored in Barbados. Note the purple handstamp at the upper right, "N.Y. Air/ Steamer/ Onwards."

Three more covers to the U.K. for 1943 carried the standard 37d (3/1d) "Trans-Atlantic" rate. Of these three covers, only one was censored. One cover, dated November 21, was registered and censored and carried a rate of 40d (3/4d). The sender paid the standard letter rate for all air Trans-Atlantic service (37d), plus another 3d for the registration fee for a total of 40d (3/4d). However, the remaining four covers are somewhat problematic. Two of these have a rate of only 4d! Both covers were to the same address in the U.K.: "The Secretary, Committee of Adjustments, Central Depository, R.A.F., Colebrook, Bucks., England." The first of these (seen on the internet) was dated May 3, and was franked with a pair of the 2d definitives for a total fee paid of only 4d. In the upper left corner of the cover was a blue, two-line, airmail etiquette "BY AIR MAIL/ PAR AVION." There was no indication on the front of the cover that the deficiency (either 12d if by air to New York and then by ship to the U.K., or 33d if by all air via Trans-Atlantic service) was detected or recognized. Because this was an internet cover, there was no way to view the back of the cover to see if any additional information could be obtained about the routing of the cover or the time it took to be delivered.

The second cover was dated just 10 days later on May 13 (**Figure 58**). Again, the cover was to the same address in the U.K., was franked with a pair of 2d (for a total fee paid of 4d) definitives and carried the "BY AIR MAIL/ PAR AVION" label in the upper left corner. However, unlike the cover above, in the lower left corner of this cover is a manuscript marking in pencil "T4" with an additional mark I cannot decipher. Based on previous covers, I believe this manuscript marking is a postage due marking. If this is indeed a due marking, there is no indication that the deficiency and the penalty fee were collected. If we examine the back of the cover, we find one transit marking from Trinidad dated May 14. It is obvious that the cover went by air at least from Barbados to Trinidad. However, since there are no U.K. arrival markings, there is no indication of how this cover made the trek from Trinidad to the U.K. In the final analysis, I believe that both these covers actually did go by air to the U.K. despite the gross underpayment of the airmail fee, although I have no actual proof of this. I believe they went by air because of the address ("Central Depository, R.A.F.") and because it was wartime and any mail that might have been even remotely related to

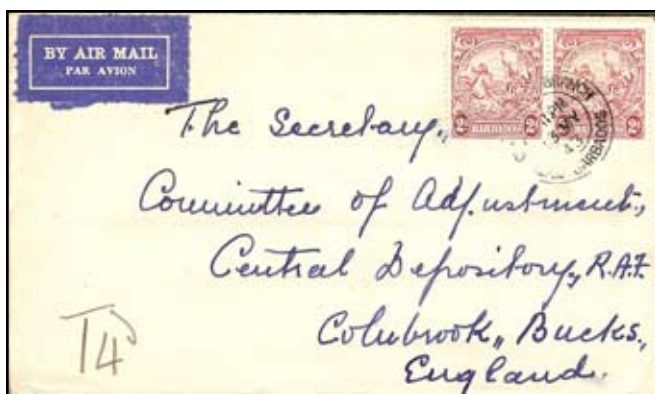


FIGURE 58

May 13, 1943: 4d franking, underpaid to England. "T4" appears to be a due marking; no indication underpayment was collected.

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the war effort would have created some sense of urgency. Nonetheless, both of these covers present postal history collectors with an anomaly that is not easy to explain.

The next cover is even more perplexing. It is dated November 24, 1943 (*Figure 59*) and is a Post Office Official. Under the air mail and registration labels and partially under the adhesive is preprinted "ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE." Just below the airmail label, in manuscript, is "Permit No 8466." Below this, again in manuscript and blue crayon, is "Trans Atlantic." In the lower left corner, reading vertically, is the manuscript designation "G.P.O. B'dos" that indicates that this was, indeed, a Post Office Official. Finally, at a slant, is the purple, straight-line handstamp "North Atlantic Service," indicating that the cover was to be routed by all air from Barbados to the U.K. by Pan Am service. The cover has a very unusual rate of 60d (5/-). The cover also has not one, but two very different addresses in two different parts of the U.K. The first address is to: "Mr. W.T. Wilson, Royal House, South Parade, Sutton, Coldfield, England." At the lower left of the cover is the second address that reads: "C/O British Philatelic Assc, 3 Berners Street, London W1, England." How is it that this cover came to have two very different addresses? Part of the explanation lies on the back of the cover (*Figure 60*). About in the center of the back is a circular, purple, signed approval handstamp of the "Currency Control Officer." Although this specific marking is unlisted by Shepard, there can be little doubt that the handstamp was used by specialized censors who were assigned to The Import, Export and Currency Control Board. The use of this "approval" handstamp from the Currency Control Board would indicate that the cover contained something of value. Since the cover was a Post Office Official, in all probability, it contained mint postage stamps of value for a collector in the United Kingdom. Since mint postage stamps were considered material of value, they would have been inspected and passed by the Barbados Currency Board.

Why then the two addresses? The first address in Sutton is obviously that of the collector. The second address is to the British Philatelic Association in London. Early on in 1940, the British Philatelic Association had concerns about the stamp trade and letters containing stamps for collectors. It would seem that one of their main concerns centered on such letters containing stamps and being censored through the regular censoring process by the post office. The BPA managed to enter into an agreement with the British Government and the British Post Office to have such letters and packets which were clearly marked indicating they contained collectible stamps forwarded to their office at 3 Berners Street where a special censor would examine the contents, seal the cover or packet and handstamp it, indicating it had been passed by a censor. There are many examples of this on covers originating in the U.K. to places like the U.S. (*Figure 61, next page*). Although there are many examples of the BPA censor's marking on U.K. outgoing mails, I have never seen these markings on incoming mails to the U.K. Indeed, the cover above shows no signs that it actually went to the BPA office in London, was opened, censored and then resealed before being forwarded to the addressee. I suspect that it was protocol during the war for philatelic bureaus of British post offices throughout the world to add the address of the BPA to the letters or packets if going to the U.K. and if they contained collectible philatelic material. Whether this incoming mail was actu-



FIGURE 59

November 24, 1943: 5/- rate via all air and Trans-Atlantic service to England. Cover is a Post Office Official. "On His Majesty's Service" partially hidden at top.



FIGURE 60

Back of cover seen in Figure 59. Note the Barbados Currency Control Office handstamp and the Trinidad transit marking. The cover likely contained something of value.

ally forwarded to the BPA and then censored is a different matter. At least for this particular cover from Barbados, it does not appear that it went through the BPA censoring procedure because it does not have any handstamps to indicate that it was examined.

Unfortunately, nowhere on the front or back of this cover is there any U.K. arrival marking, even though the cover was registered. Aside from the Barbados GPO registration marks and the Currency Control Officer's handstamp on the back, the only other mark is a Trinidad GPO registration transit marking of November 26. Finally, I am at a loss to explain the 60d (5/-) rate other than to say that the cover is philatelic. In reviewing more than 100 Post Office Officials (dating from 1925 to 1950) over the past 10 years, I have found that many of these covers were franked with issues that were requested by a collector and hence, the rate made little or no sense at all. I should also point out that these "requested frankings" were always greater than the actual rates in effect at the time. I suspect that in the case of this particular cover, the collector, Mr. W.T. Wilson, wanted a used 5/- definitive for his collection and thus requested that the cover be franked with this issue.

The final cover in the 1943 survey addressed to the U.K. is also extremely interesting. Dated May 23, it carries a rate of 192d (16/-)! The cover is a reused or "turned cover." The first use was from the U.K., as indicated by the 2½d George VI definitive on the top right side (Figure 62). The cover was addressed to "The Examination Secretary, University Offices, 46 North Bailey, Durham, England." What did this cover contain that weighed so much it warranted a 16/- airmail fee? If we turn the cover over and examine the lower left we see the explanation (Figure 63). The sender wrote in the boxed area, "Contains Examination papers & covering letters. Seal by J.C. Wippell, Principal of Codrington College, Barbados." Thus, it appears that the cover contained examination papers completed by matriculating students at Codrington College and were being submitted to the "Examination Secretary" at Durham University in England for the awarding of college degrees.



FIGURE 63

Reverse of cover seen in Figure 62. The note at lower left reads, "Contains Examination papers & covering letters. Seal by J.C. Wippell, Principal of Codrington College, Barbados."



FIGURE 61

April 4, 1940: Cover containing stamps of value and censored by the British Philatelic Association during the war. The BPA censored outgoing and incoming mails that contained stamps for collectors.



FIGURE 62

May 23, 1943: 16/- air mail rate. Cover originated in England and was sent to Barbados. Reused and returned to England. Cover contained exams from Codrington College.

Being somewhat curious about this, I turned to the internet to see if I could find any additional information on the relationship between Codrington College in Barbados and Durham University in England. Codrington College is an Anglican theological college located in St. John, Barbados and has a long and honorable history. It was founded from the estate of Christopher Codrington and opened in 1745. Initially, the college provided a preparatory education for those in Barbados who wanted to go on to universities in England. By 1830, the college began to only train students for ordination into the Anglican Church. In 1875 the college became affiliated with the University of Durham and awarded theological degrees to Codrington graduates until 1958 when it became affiliated with the University of the West Indies.²⁹ Thus, based upon this information, it would appear that this particular cover contained the qualify-

Continued on page 20

ing exams for degree candidates for the Class of 1943 of Codrington College, degrees that would be approved and awarded by the University of Durham upon the successful completion of the examinations.

Again, if we examine the front of the cover, just to the left of the address label is a manuscript notation in pencil "12R." It is obvious that the notation was the postal clerk's shorthand for indicating that the cover was 12 times the single rate. This means that this cover weighed more than 5½ ounces, but less than six ounces. The per half-ounce rate can be determined by dividing the total fee paid (192d) by 12 which equals 16d, the rate for each half ounce of weight. Thus, Mr. Wippell, the Principal of Codrington, paid the rate for mails going by air from Barbados to New York and then by surface transport. Unfortunately, there aren't any receiving marks to tell us when the cover actually arrived in England. So we do not know if, after reaching New York, the cover actually went by ship or by plane to England.

For 1943, the survey had 23 covers from Barbados addressed to the United States. Of these, 21 had paid rates of 18d (1/6d) while only one cover had a rate of 13d (1/1d) and one cover had a rate of 54d (4/6d). The earliest dated cover to the U.S. for 1943 was January 8, while the latest was October 31. Despite the fact that the rates for these covers to the U.S. in 1943 were not very exciting, as a group they are extremely interesting from several different perspectives. For example, of the 22 covers, only four were not censored. Eight of the covers were censored before leaving Barbados. One cover was censored in Trinidad, while three covers were double censored, first in Barbados and then in Trinidad. Two covers were double censored, once in Barbados and again upon arrival in Miami. Finally, four covers were



FIGURE 65

**March 9, 1943: 1/6d airmail rate to the U.S.
Censored in Barbados.**

A cover dated April 18, 1943 (*Figure 64*) was an Official from the Colonial Secretary to the "British Colonies Supply Mission" in Washington, D.C. and carries the 18d rate. The cover is oversized and measures 225mm x 103mm. Another cover dated March 9 is addressed to Chicago (*Figure 65*) and was censored and resealed in Barbados using Shepard's Type L10 (green colored paper with black lettering)³⁰ and the censor's number H/15. The back of the cover has a Chicago receiving datestamp of March 15, indicating it took six days to reach its destination. However, upon arrival in Chicago, the cover was readdressed to Niagara Falls, New York and then forwarded. What is interesting about this particular cover is the two bright purple handstamps at the lower left corner. The first of



FIGURE 64

**April 18, 1943: 1/6d airmail rate to the U.S. Official
from the Colonial Secretary, Barbados to the British
Colonies Supply Mission in Washington, D.C.**

censored upon arrival in Miami. Four of the covers were officials, three being from the Colonial Secretary's office and the fourth a Post Office Official from the Money Order Office in Barbados to the Postmaster in New York. A single cover dated September 8 and addressed to New Mexico (seen on the internet) carried a rate of 13d. Since the standard rate for the first half ounce of weight was 18d (1/6d), this cover was underpaid by 5d. However, it appears that the underpayment went undetected by the GPO in Barbados for the cover was not taxed for the deficiency. The tax should have been two times the deficiency (2 x 5d) for a total of 10d as a penalty for the underpayment.



FIGURE 66

**October 6, 1943: 1/6d airmail rate to U.S.
Cover censored upon arrival in Miami, censor's tape
on left side.**

these reads "S=204 ½" and the second reads "123V." In the years that this cover has been in my possession, I have not been able to find any information on these two markings. This is the only cover that I have seen from Barbados with these two markings.

The next cover is dated October 6 (*Figure 66, previous page*) and was franked with two of the 1d scarlet definitives and eight of the 2d carmine definitives for a total franking of 18d (1/6d). What is interesting about this particular cover is that it was censored upon arrival in Miami. It would appear from the data that 1943 saw an increase in the number of covers that were not censored in Barbados, but rather were censored upon arrival in the U.S. The next two covers to the U.S. in 1943 were double censored. The first of these two covers is dated January 8, 1943 (*Figure 67*) and was first censored in Barbados (censor's label on the left side of the cover) and then censored for a second time (censor's label on the right side) while in transit through Trinidad. Three out of the 22 covers addressed to the U.S. for 1943 were double censored, first in Barbados and then in Trinidad. I find it somewhat interesting that these covers would have been also censored in Trinidad so soon after being censored in Barbados. The second cover also shows double censorship dated June 6 (*Figure 68*). In this case, the cover was censored before leaving Barbados (censor's label on the left side of the cover) and then censored a second time upon arrival in Miami and resealed using a cellophane type tape with the censor's #7667 (right side of the cover).

Another interesting cover for 1943 (*Figure 69*) is dated June 19 and was addressed to the Chrysler Corporation in Detroit. The cover carries a rate of 54d (4/6d) and is a triple rate cover (18d per half ounce x 3 = 54d). The cover was censored before leaving Barbados and was resealed using Shepard's Type L10 censor's label with black lettering on light green paper.³¹ The censor's label was placed at a very strange angle because the cover was much larger than the label and if placed as usual, the label would not



FIGURE 67

January 8, 1943: 1/6d rate to U.S. Cover double censored. Censored in Barbados and again in transit through Trinidad.

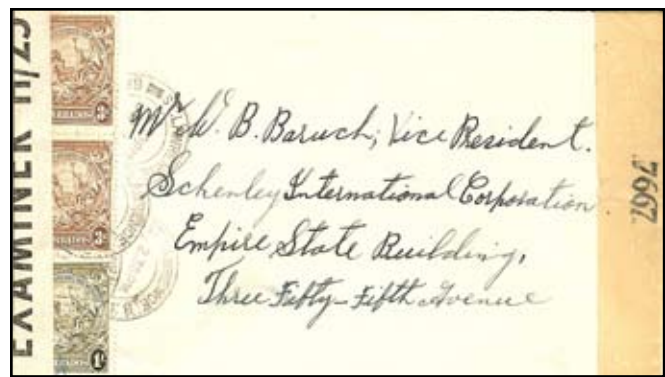


FIGURE 68

June 6, 1943: 1/6d rate. Cover double censored. Censored in Barbados and again on arrival in Miami.



FIGURE 69

June 19, 1943: 4/6d triple airmail rate to the U.S. Three times the 1/6d rate, thus the cover weighed between one and 1½ ounces. Censored in Barbados.

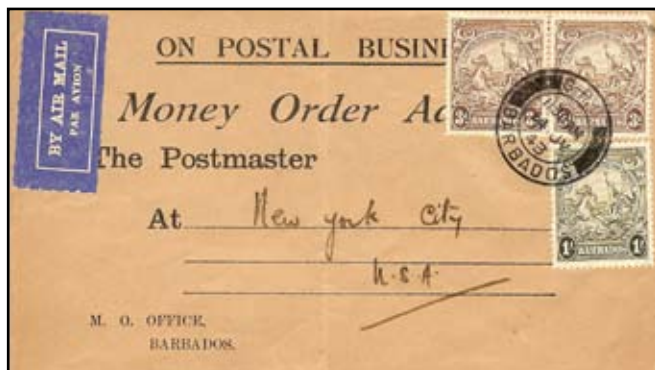


FIGURE 70

July 14, 1943: 1/6d rate. A Post Office (Money Office) Official to the Postmaster at New York.

have sealed the cover. It should be noted that triple rate covers, indeed multiple rate covers, especially during the war, appear to be very unusual if not indeed scarce.

The final cover of interest to the U.S. for 1943 is a Post Office Official from the "Money Order Office" and is dated July 14 (*Figure 70*). The cover was addressed to "The Postmaster At (preprinted) New York City, U.S.A." (in manu-
Continued on page 22

script). It carries the standard 18d rate. This is the only example of this type of Post Office Official I have encountered over the years used during the war. I suspect this cover carried correspondence relating to the issuing of money orders in Barbados which were cashed in New York City or money orders issued in New York City and cashed in Barbados.

Thus, although 1943 saw a decrease in the total number of covers in this survey, rates seem to have stabilized and there were far fewer examples of rates on covers that could not be sufficiently explained. Censorship greatly increased for covers originating from Barbados in 1943 with a sizable number of covers being double censored. Although the largest number of censored covers for 1943 were single censored before leaving Barbados, five covers were double censored. These five covers were all addressed to the United States. Double censored covers to the U.S. were censored in Barbados and Trinidad or in Barbados and Miami. The year 1943 also saw an increase in the number of covers that evaded censorship in Barbados only to be censored upon arrival in the U.S. at Miami.

Summary of Rates and Destinations for 1943

Destination	Rate (Total inPence)	Registered	# Of Covers	Rate Justifiable?
Canada	16d	No	6	Yes, 1 st ½ ozs.
Grenada	4d	No	1	Yes, BWIA service
St. Lucia	4d	No	1	Yes, BWIA service
Trinidad	4d	No	1	Yes, BWIA service
United Kingdom	4d	No	2	No, underpaid, one cover taxed
	19d	Yes	1	Yes-Air to NY then by ship 16d (letter rate) + 3d reg. fee
	37d	No	3	Yes, Rate for All air Trans-Atlantic Service
	40d	Yes	1	37d Trans-Atlantic Service + 3d registration fee=40d
	60d	Yes	1	No, Post Office Official over franked, Possibly philatelic
	192d	No	1	Yes, 12 x the 16d air to NY, ship to UK- Weight: 5 ½ to 6 ounces.
United States	13d	No	1	No, undetected short paid.
	18d	No	21	Yes, Standard rate for ½ ozs. Or less
	54d	No	1	Yes, Triple Rate (18d X 3=54d)
Venezuela	15 ½d	No	3	Yes, Standard rate for ½ ozs. Or less

ENDNOTES

²⁶ *Ibid*, 27-28.

²⁷ *Ibid*, 30-21.

²⁸ *Ibid*, 30.

²⁹ History of Codrington College: <http://netministries.org/sec/charmin?CM00856?frame=N>

³⁰ Shepard, *op. cit.*, pgs. 30-31.

³¹ *Ibid*, 30-31.

*Our friend Jerry Hart died on October 27, 2010 (see Bob Stewart's remembrance on page 28).
We will continue to publish the remaining two installments of Mr. Hart's Barbados articles and note with deep
appreciation his commitment to research that resulted in this series.*



Jamaican Odds & Ends

*With Dr. Raj Ramphal
Of Canada*



LONDON 2010: What I took away ...

The format of this issue's column will be somewhat different from the usual. I have chosen to address it and dedicate it to Mrs. Mary Kerr, confident that she would not object to my including the readership in what was conceived as a private communication. For those of you who do not know Mary, she is one of Canada's gifts to Barbados, and by extension, to all of us in the BWISC and BCPSG, of which clubs she has long been an enthusiastic and respected member, specializing in Barbados postcards and possessing a formidable collection of thousands, the most recent of which is 1932!

Mary and I had breakfast together in Bridgetown in January 2010, on the day before my return to Toronto, at which time she was booked to attend London 2010, but I was not. Within two months of that morning, illness forced her to cancel and my wife surprised me with a handsome birthday gift in the form of a 10 day travel package for two, at the time of London 2010. Mary had promised to give me a full account of her trip and when the attendance tables were reversed, I undertook to do the same for her. In September I received a scathing email from Mary reminding me of my unfulfilled promise. I was at that time struggling to find a suitable subject for this column and I almost immediately decided that this subject could fulfill two needs. So here Mary, with my abject apologies for my tardiness, is what I took away from London 2010.

London itself was wonderful (even the weather), full of nooks and crannies I had not entered before, including The Crypt, an aptly named moldy dungeon in which the joint club auction was held. From my viewpoint, the material offered was varied and splendid, the crowd pleasantly raucous, unfairly targeting auctioneer Simon Goldblatt for ribbing. There and at Spinks on a memorable Sunday, I met many philatelists with whom I had interacted over the years but never met, including the three Michaels (Hamilton, Medlicott and Rego), Ed Barrow, Charles Freeland, Steve Jarvis and Paul Wright, who helped greatly with my Jamaican Sausage questions, and not least of all, the larger than life, exuberant, David Horry. The Business Design Centre was big, bustling, friendly and relaxed. The West Indian exhibits were fewer than expected, but of high quality, capturing

many awards. Federico Borromeo's Nevis was overpowering. But confessionally, I spent most of my time at the bourse. In addition to what I bought, I took away from several English dealers the impression that, at least in Great Britain, philately is experiencing a resurgence in interest. Most gratifying of all, it seems to be a bottom feed -- youngsters attracted to topicals and thematics and conversant and comfortable in the cyberspace dimension of our hobby. If correct, this is great news for us all.

Part A: BG Bits and Pieces.

Figures 1a and 1b, the front and back of a postcard captioned "The Scotch Church, New Amsterdam," is by far the most nostalgic item I found at the show. I had known of its existence from Dickenson's book of British Guiana postcards but had never seen one before.



FIGURE 1a & 1b

Both sides of Scotch Church postcard



The photograph was taken from the grounds of Colony House, the New Amsterdam Supreme Court and Official Government

Rest House of Colonial times, which was situated opposite to the church. Running between them was the beginning of the arterial road that connected New Amsterdam to Skeldon, 47 miles away. The church was correctly named the Scots Church and beside it on the left side of the card and barely visible, is its cohort Scots School. I attended that Primary School from 1943 to 1947, under the tutelage of headmaster Mr. D.L. Boodhoo, a hard

Continued on page 24

but fair teacher of the old school, who gave me a fine grounding in the “three Rs,” which stands me in good stead to this day. As a bonus, the card was written from Rosehall estate, Reliance Canje and is correctly franked and handsomely cancelled Reliance and New Amsterdam “14th. DEC 1907.” I am uncertain if being exposed to the Scotch Church at such a tender age explains in any way my preference for single malts.

Figure 2 was reasonably priced and I had no hesitation in buying it. A pristine mourning cover with a Portuguese stamp, with a clear ship cancellation, “S.S. STUYVESANT, 19 MARCH 1936” and with a British Guiana



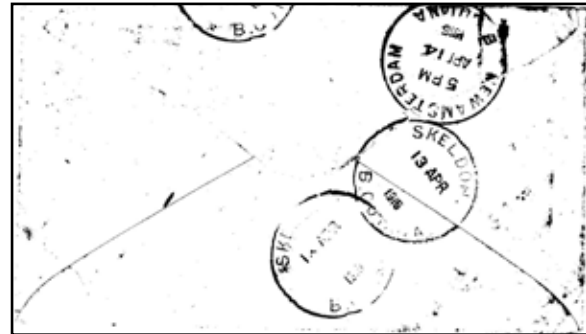
FIGURE 2
Mourning cover, front only

double ring “PAQUEBOT, 30 MR 36,” arrival cancellation, all of this on the front, the back being bare. It is addressed to “Excellency Snr, MANOEL FERNANDES” at his Georgetown address. He was for many years the Honorary Consul for Portugal and much mail to him has survived. No doubt he was familiarly called “Manny,” as were all the many, many Manoels I knew of Portuguese or Madeira extraction, in my BG days. He might also have been a stamp collector as I have a 1934 first day cover mailed to him at the same address.

Figures 3a and 3b display the front and back of a Surinam cover acquired from a European dealer. It is addressed to the editor of a Hindustan publication in San Francisco, bearing a Suriname stamp struck by a double ring “NICKERIE” cancellation dated “12-4-16.” Nickerie is a small settlement on the Dutch side of the Corentyne River, about 10 miles down river from Skeldon on the BG bank. Although no formal agreement seemed to exist between these two colonies, or between the British and Dutch Colonial offices, there can be no doubt that over a long period of time, the BG post office transmitted mail from Surinam starting at Skeldon or Banab, to Georgetown and thence overseas. At least some of this mail was brought to Skeldon by the Nickerie police



FIGURE 3a & 3b
Suriname cover, front and back, with Nickerie cancel.



launch. Figure 3b shows clear backstamps of “SKELDON” and “NEW AMSTERDAM” dated April 13 and 14, 1916 respectively. All of this in the middle of World War I, without censoring! I do have another cover of similar Nickerie origin, backstamped Skeldon, “31 DE 29,” New Amsterdam “1 JA 30,” and Georgetown “2 JA 30,” where it presumably caught the overseas bag to the U.S. Of some sociological interest, after the abolition of slavery, the Dutch planters of Surinam faced the same acute labor shortage as did their British counterparts in BG, and found the same solution in the Indenture System which brought large numbers of East Indians from India to both colonies. The majority were Hindoos and this might explain the interest in the Hindi publication.

Part B: Jamaica Odds & Ends

There is only one Jamaican Victorian bisect, SG #1d. Most other British Caribbean bisects of the era came into being because of short supply of a particular denomination, which shortage in turn related to late arrival of stocks from the Crown Agents, often weather related delays or losses at sea. In 1861 the pineapples were the current stamps, with the lowest denomination being the 1d, and when the Book Post rate was introduced, the most expedient solution was to authorize the use of diagonal bisects of 1d blue. This Book Post rate and practice was in effect from November 20, 1861 to December 1, 1872, SG #7 (the ½d claret) having arrived one month earlier. I have found little literature reference to the Book Post and would welcome feedback from the readership on its role. My first opportunity to buy one of these bisects on cover was about two years ago when Larry Grosman of

Sleeping Giant Stamps, the dealer who seeks most diligently for items of interest to me, gave me the opportuni-



FIGURE 4

O.H.M.S. cover with "Book Post" in manuscript

ty to buy a fantastic album of Falmouth (Jamaica) postal history which contained three of these choice covers, all cancelled by the Falmouth A39 obliterator. Regretfully I passed on the substantial purchase. The cover displayed (Figure 4), became available at the joint club auction in London and I was lucky to win it. It has both OHMS and "Book Post" in manuscript on the front and is addressed to the postmaster general's office, Spanish Town. It is cancelled by Goshen A43 obliterator, and beside that, a Spanish Town circular dater of "JU 9 66." On the back are circular daters of Goshen (June 8, 1866), Malvern (June 8, 1866) and Mandeville (June 9, 1866).



FIGURE 5
*Bisect
cancelled by
Buff Bay A32
obliterator*

Much to my surprise, after I had started to prepare this article, Larry, not knowing of my purchase, offered me yet another, which he kindly allowed me to display here as Figure 5. The bisect is cancelled by the Buff Bay A32 obliterator, and with a Spanish Town arrival dater ("JA-20-66"), beside it. Surprisingly, it is also addressed to the same W. A. Feurlado, now designated Chief Clerk to the postmaster general's office – Spanish Town. I wonder if this Book Post arrangement with the authorized bisect and contradictory OHMS endorsement applied only to government mail to the PMG in Spanish Town? I do not know the answer but I invite evidence or speculation from the readership. I also do not recall to whom the Falmouth covers were addressed.

My last two covers are very similar. The first one I have had for years; it is an airmail cover franked with a King George VI 1/- stamp, cancelled by a Kingston 1941 double ring and also a Gibraltar Camp circular double ring. Also on the front is a censor mark. The back is tattered. Its best feature was the Gibraltar Camp to Gibraltar destination. And here a word about Gibraltar Camp is needed. Early in World War II when the German blitz of Malta and Gibraltar was taking place, the British government evacuated a number of civilians from Gibraltar and settled them on an abandoned sugar estate, Mona, six miles outside of Kingston. They were housed in wooden army type barracks buildings on the Mona grounds and the evacuees remained there until 1943-44, when they were repatriated. Understandably the camp was named Gibraltar Camp. In 1948 the University of the West Indies opened its doors to the first batch of medical students at the same Mona site and they were housed and schooled in the same buildings as were the former



FIGURE 6

Camp Gibraltar cover with Kingston datestamp

evacuees, while the permanent buildings and dormitories were being built. I entered Mona in the ninth batch of students in 1956 and for about six weeks, I lived in one of those huts, No. 19 or No. 31. At London I could not resist buying the cover shown in Figure 6. A smaller, neater Gibraltar Camp cover, bearing the same 1/- stamp, cancelled as in the former cover, also censored, and on the back a magnificent Gibraltar arrival slogan marking, with the return address of the writer given as 29 Gibraltar Camp. It was only on my return to Toronto that I realized the recipient of the letter and from the handwriting comparison of the writer, were the same as my original cover. And I may have lived for a short while in the adjacent hut. Philatelic serendipity again!

Finally, although I am confident that the campus lore included Maltese as well as Gibraltar evacuees, I have searched diligently in the literature and have failed to confirm the Maltese contingent. Has anyone else? In the meanwhile I will continue my quest for a Gibraltar Camp to Malta destination cover. And this, Mary, I hope, makes adequate amends.

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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.

Minnesota Stamp Expo 2010, July 16-18
Crystal, Minnesota

Paul Larsen
*Caroline Islands to 1914:
The Spanish and German Periods*
Grand Award, Gold
*Leeward Islands Federal Judicial FEES
Revenue Stamps (SF)*
Gold, BCPSG Medal

BALPEX 2010, September 3-5
Hunt Valley, Maryland

Paul Larsen
*Caroline Islands to 1914:
The Spanish and German Periods*
Not for competition

Stampshow 2010, August 12-15
Richmond, Virginia

Michael Nethersole
*Barbados - Prestamp to End of Sterling Currency
(1769-1936)*
Gold, BCPSG Medal

Montserrat post offices in 2010
Continued from page 12

ENDNOTES

¹ Britnor, L.E. *Montserrat to 1965*, incorporating "Supplementary Information Compiled by Charles Freeland." (British West Indies Study Circle, 1998), 76-78.

² Horry, David. *The Encyclopaedia of British West Indies Postmarks – King George VI.* (Murray Payne Ltd., 2007), 227-229.

³ Proud, E.B. *The Postal History of the Leeward Islands*, Heathfield, England: Proud Bailey, 2005.

⁴ Durnin, Stan. "To Montserrat in Quest of Ink." *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 10, No. 1, February 1970.

⁵ Oliver, Michael. *The Leeward Islands – notes for Philatelists*, British West Indies Study Circle, 2000.

Cover photograph by Annelise Vadeboncoeur

*Trinidad Issues in Sterling Currency
(1851-1936)*

Gold

John Wynns

Canada: Confederation Issues of 1927

Vermeil

Edmund Bayley

*The History of the Post Offices
in Barbados*

(Book)

Gold

SESCAL 2010, October 1-3
Los Angeles, California

Jerome Kasper

SCADTA Postal Stationery (SF)

**Single Frame Reserve Grand, Vermeil,
UPSS Single Frame Award**

South Africa's UN Korean Forces Airletters (SF)

Silver

New Zealand Prisoner of War Aerogrammes (SF)

Court of Honor

Australia's Official Aerogrammes (SF)

Court of Honor

Research help needed

Roy Bond is seeking assistance with pictures of St. Vincent fleuron cancellations. He is attempting to put together a definitive list of the instruments used. More information on this request will be in the April 2011 issue. Contact him at rbond2@toucansurg.com if you can help.

**Please be certain to use the
Editor's *new* address:
Dr. Everett L. Parker
249 NW Live Oak Place
Lake City, FL 32055-8906
email remains the same:
eparker@hughes.net**

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

Barry W. Casanova, 12193 Woodford Dr., Marriottsville, MD 21104 USA. Email: bwcasanova@msn.com. Life member of APS, RPSC, BNAPS, Baltimore Philatelic Society. Collects U.S., Canada/ BNA, Britain and empire pre-1960. Sponsored by Danforth Walker.

Darrell Ertzberger, P.O. Box 16208, Arlington, VA 22215-1208 USA. Email: mteton@aol.com. Member of APS, ATA, CSA, MPOS and AAPE. Collects British Honduras. Sponsored by Dr. Peter P. McCann.

Brian Krittr, P.O. Box 558, Burtonsville, MD 20866 USA. Email: briankrittr@aol.com. Collects British Colonial, British Guiana, India, Romania, U.S. Sponsored by Mike Nethersole.

Address Change

Ellsworth Mink, 459 Ave. Sagrado Corazon #801, San Juan, PR 00915
Charles Briggs III, 105 Glen Rd., North Babylon, NY 11703-4411 USA

John Forrest, 14, The Laureates, Shakespeare Road, Guiseley, Leeds LS20 9BR UNITED KINGDOM
Joseph W. Hickey, 801 Gillaspie Dr., Apt. 41, Boulder, CO 80305-6549 USA
Gary Watson, P.O. Box 277, Victoria 3155, AUSTRALIA
A.E. Buzz Jehle, P.O. Box 2277, Bandera, TX 78003-2277 USA

Reinstatement

Conrad Fannon, 2721 SW 15th St., Apt. 202, Delray Beach, FL 33445 USA. Email: Conrad.Fannon@saintandrews.net

Deceased

Jerry Hart of the USA

Robert Fashingbauer of the USA

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

Our web site, www.bcpsg.com, now contains a members' area that includes past copies of the Journal. To access the site, you will need a login and password which can be obtained by contacting **Bob Stewart, Membership Chairman, at stewartlbi9@comcast.net.**

NECROLOGY

On Saturday morning, October 27, 2010, Jerry Hart, our past treasurer, lost a battle with lung cancer at age 64. Most of you probably knew of Jerry from his articles on Barbados in the *Journal* and the shows and auctions he attended. The BCPSG meant very much to Jerry. He was an avid and knowledgeable collector, especially of Barbados and Aden with his Aden collection being sold last October by Phoebe MacGillivray at Victoria Stamp Company. He was an engineer by profession.

Back a few years ago when I agreed to take on the task of moving our membership rolls into a database, Jerry was also starting as our treasurer. Over a period of about three to four months, we talked almost daily, trying to make sure we got it right and did not forget anyone. He was always there when I called and he made a difficult task easier and actually fun. Even though I never met Jerry personally, I felt that we became friends. The stories he could tell about his adventures tracking down the elusive item will be greatly missed.

With a society as large as ours with members all over the world, it's sometimes difficult to meet many of them personally. However, emails, telephones and the *Journal* enable us to get much more out of our membership in the BCPSG and allow us to meet members like Jerry Hart who have so much to give to us. Jerry never failed to respond to a request for knowledge by a fellow member. I know Jerry touched a lot of us and we will surely miss his input into the BCPSG.

Bob Stewart
Membership Chairman

President's Message

By Ed Waterous

May you all have a Happy New Year filled with peace and blessings from start to finish. The thoughts running through my mind right now reflect on the joys and sorrows of everyday life. There is no better time than right now to reflect on what you are doing or what you can do to help our BCPSG organization flourish.

The entire slate of officers is re-elected by our Board of Trustees to serve the Group for 2011 and 2012. Ed Waterous, President; Duane Larson, Vice President; Mary Gleadall, Secretary; John Seidl, Treasurer; David Druett, International Director; Dr. Everett Parker, Editor. My congratulations to all! It has been my pleasure to work with these folks for the past two years and I look forward to the next two years. I would also like to recognize the efforts of those members who perform tasks to keep the organization running as well as our authors, exhibitors and advertisers. Thank you all!

Former Treasurer, author and exhibitor, Jerry Hart, passed away recently after a battle with cancer. Our Advertising Manager, Bob Fashingbauer, has also passed away. Please remember these people, who have served us well, in your thoughts and prayers. We need a new Advertising Manager, and we are still seeking a Webmaster to keep our website interesting and helpful to those who collect the British Caribbean area. Recently I read an article saying that many societies receive the majority of their new members through their websites. This is the main reason why we seek someone who has good ideas and the skills to implement them. There are many very interesting philatelic websites. Check some of them out. The APS website has links to other websites. Kudos to Membership Director Bob Stewart who stepped in to keep the website updated until we find a permanent Webmaster.

No one has come forth expressing interest in the position of Auction Manager. Our Treasurer, John Seidl, volunteered for the job if we have no other responses. I am reluctant to give him an additional assignment because the Society needs new people to get involved and not depend solely upon the few very willing workers. One of my former managers called it "loading the donkeys." What he meant was that even though we seemingly had enough personnel to easily handle the workload if it was spread around, some people always seem to want to go through life riding on other people's backs letting them do all of the work. Let's not be one of those organizations

where just a few people are involved in helping the BCPSG move forward. Who's next?

Our Annual Meeting time is here. John Wynns, our liaison, has been very proactive in helping us get ready for the show. It promises to be a fun and interesting ARIPEX Show. We have a nice showing of exhibits plus immediately

following our annual meeting we're going to attend Dr. Peter McCann's presentation about Montserrat postal history. We'll have an informal dinner on Friday night.

I hope to see and talk to you at ARIPEX 2011.



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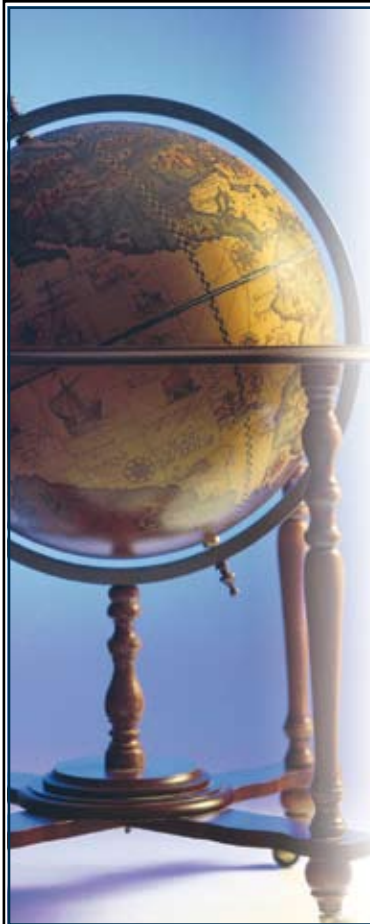
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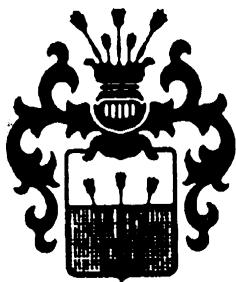
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