

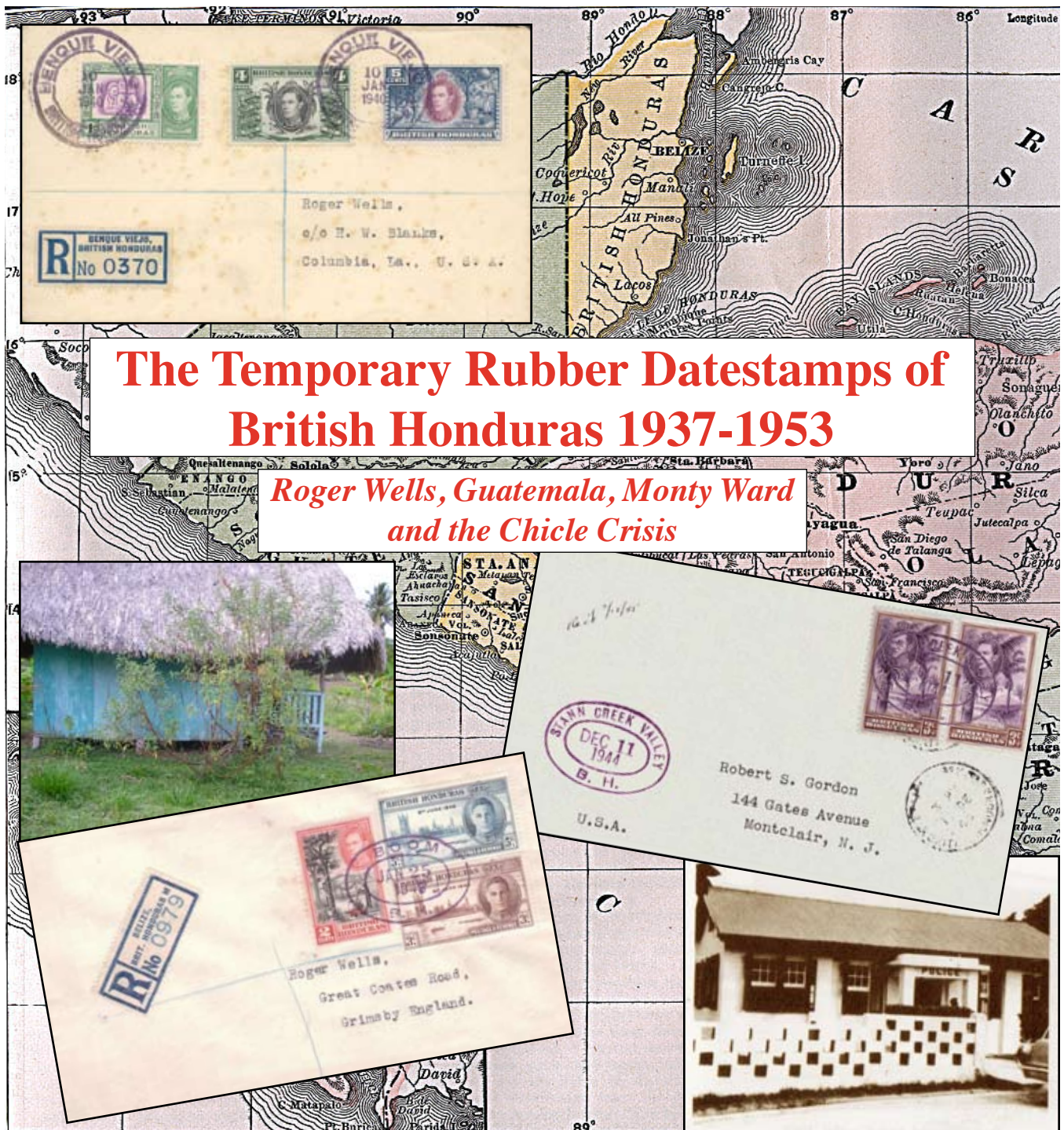
# BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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### DEADLINES FOR THIS PUBLICATION

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

**April issue:** Deadline February 15, mailing March 30

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

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

*Beginning a two-part series*

# The Temporary Rubber Datestamps of British Honduras 1937-1953

*(Roger Wells, Guatemala, Monty Ward and the Chicle Crisis)*

*By David Horry, an Englishman resident in Shanghai, China*

Recently, Ian Matheson asked me to look at Progreso TRDs from 1914 and 1927 to verify if they were the same (*Figure 1*), even though their sizes varied, and to give a more accurate drawing. This I did,

and I found that the TRDs were identical to the American Fruit Company which sailed from Belize to Mobile and New Orleans with cargoes of mahogany, bananas and pineapples (*Figure 3*).



**FIGURE 1**

*Progreso TRD sent to U.S.A. (Ian Matheson)*

but had a problem with the fleuron. It didn't appear to be a star as indicated by Addiss, but after careful Photoshop

This runs counter to the long standing idea that the Jamaica and British Honduras TRDs are related: "There is an obvious affinity between the TRDs of British Honduras and those of Jamaica. So that it is assumed that Jamaica was the source of supply, for the double oval types at any rate." *Simon Goldblatt, BWISC 82, September 1974.*

### Roger Wells

Roger Wells has always been a bit of a mystery. Initially he collected registered, philatelic covers from British Honduras and the Cayman Islands in profusion – it is estimated that he ordered postmarks in batches of 10 from his postmaster friends. Little else is known about him except that he lived at 9 Great Coates Road, Grimsby, Lincolnshire, United Kingdom and was an architect.

It would appear that Wells might himself have conducted this audit as the use of the Northern River sSC canceller at Maskall Bank, last used in October 1927, was resurrected on November 29, 1939 showing that only a dedicated markophilist would go to such lengths to gain



**FIGURE 2**

*Fleur-de-lys and cds markings.*



**FIGURE 3**

*These postmarks bear some resemblance to American cancellers with their three-tier dates and type styles.*

study, I determined it is a fleur-de-lys. This would indicate that it was manufactured in Louisiana, as that is the symbol of the state and New Orleans (*Figure 2*). These postmarks bear resemblance to many American cancel-



**FIGURE 4**

*Northern River sSC canceller dated November 12, 1939. (Nigel Roberts)*

this strike (*Figure 4*). If so, what was a Lincolnshire architect doing in British Honduras just after WWII had

been declared? There may be a family connection to one D.S. Wells, once of Tennessee, a mahogany baron and the founder of Wellsport, a town in the southern Toledo District whose post office closed back in 1913 (*Figure 5*).



**FIGURE 5**  
*Wellsport  
sSC Proud*

In late 1939 and early 1940, Roger Wells organized an audit of the village postmarks of British Honduras. Most of these were Temporary Rubber Datestamps: they were Agstat SC (Agricultural Station Stann Creek), Banana Bank, Benque Viejo, Boom, Caledonia, Caye Caulker, Commerce Bight, Double Head Cabbage, Gales Point, Gracie Rock, Guinea Grass, Pomona, Stann Creek, San Estevan, San Pedro, Seine Bight and 20 Miles Stann Creek (*Figure 6*), which makes 17 in all.



**FIGURE 6**  
*20 Miles Stann Creek, British Honduras cover, registered to Roger Wells in England.*

Wells also organized one envelope from each office to H.W. Blanks, Columbia, Louisiana, U.S.A. and another to Roger Wells c/o H.W. Blanks, etc. Ian Matheson and Nigel Roberts show that Blanks' covers are evident for eight offices: Agstat, Benque Viejo, Boom, Caledonia, Double Head Cabbage, Gracie Rock, Pomona and Stann



**FIGURE 7**  
*Benque Viejo cover from 1940, registered to Roger Wells and addressed to the U.S.A.*

Creek Valley (*Figure 7*).

It is not beyond the bounds of possibility that "Blanks" were also sent by Wells from a further seven offices: Caye Caulker, Commerce Bight, Gales Point, Guinea Grass, Monkey River, Mullins River and San Estevan, which haven't shown up, as yet.



**FIGURE 8**  
*Blanks Engraving Company in Dallas, Texas (U.S.A.) in 1940.*

Blanks opened an engraving company in Dallas, Texas, in 1940 (according to Goliath Marketing) (*Figure 8*). Was Wells involved in ordering the 21 new bTROs for the post offices of British Honduras? Why were these American-manufactured bTROs used in a British col-



**FIGURE 9**  
*Censored and registered to the Atlas Printing Company in Binghamton, New York.*

ony, which under normal circumstances would be arranged by the Crown Agents back in the U.K.? Because they were made of rubber, they were supplied with a water-based purple ink; used with an oil-based black ink they would quickly distort alarmingly. Ed Addiss and Ted Proud both give Barranco's post office opening date as 1946, but it is now known that bTRO covers emanate from Barranco for November 14, 1940 (Matheson)

*Continued on page 6*

and November 11, 1943 (BCPG auction February 2012) [Figure 9]. Similarly, San Pedro's bTRO now first appears on October 18, 1943, courtesy of Nigel Roberts, which brings the ERD forward by some three years (Figure 10). I would argue that the physical similarity of all the bTROs means they were made in one batch in early spring of May 1940, which means that All Pines, Bomba and Maskall would have ERDs brought forward some seven years. Considering that in the 1920s (as per Addis) All Pines had a population of 57; Bomba, 279; and Maskall, 160, there wasn't much call for a post office in these remote villages. It is possible that their bTROs were in place by May 1940 but hardly used.



**FIGURE 10**  
*San Pedro's bTRO dated October 18, 1943.*

### The Banana Republic of Guatemala and the Hurricane of 1941



**FIGURE 11**

*In 1936 (left), all is well, but in 1939 (right) "Belize" becomes part of Guatemala, philatelically!*

It would thus appear that some 20 offices had "Blanks" manufactured bTROs in place by May 1940. But two factors, one man-made, one natural, hampered their happy continuation. On September 3, 1939 Britain declared war on Germany after the invasion of Poland. British Honduras's neighbor, "The Banana Republic" of Guatemala, which had a large German population, assembled their troops on the border and threatened to invade the colony, claiming sovereignty over the southern region of British Honduras, with Britain otherwise occupied in Europe. They even issued an updated stamp on September 9, a mere six days after Britain's declaration of war on Germany, showing Belize (Belize) as part of Guatemala (Figure 11)!

Guatemala had an older view that the 1859 treaty of cession through which Guatemala would give up its territorial claims only under certain conditions, included the construction of a road from Guatemala to the Caribbean coast (see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caribbean>). Guatemala said it would repudiate the treaty in 1884, but

never followed up on the threat. The dispute appeared to have been forgotten until the 1930s, when the government of General Jorge Ubico claimed that the treaty was invalid because the road had not been constructed. Britain argued that because neither the short-lived Cen-



**FIGURE 12**  
*Barranco Post Office.*

tral American Federation (1821–39) nor Guatemala had ever exercised any authority in the area or even protested the British presence in the 19th century, British Honduras was clearly under British sovereignty even though it was jokingly known as "British Eastern Guatemala" in U.S. diplomatic circles (see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central\\_American\\_Federation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_American_Federation)) or "Central American Federation.")

In September 1941, the mother of all hurricanes destroyed the Commerce Bight Post Office (which opened in 1936) and likely extensively damaged Barranco, which looked much like a haystack (Figure 12), Benque Viejo, Pomona and others. Between 30 and 50 people died in what became known as the Central America Hurricane of 1941. The town of Cape Gracias was levelled by the hurricane's 120 m.p.h. winds; most of the buildings, including a weather station, were either severely dam-



**FIGURE 13**  
*Commerce Bight cancellation was apparently lost; this may be the only recorded sTRC on cover (Sherman).*

aged or destroyed. Along the coast, the storm brought a storm-surge six-feet high, which caused severe damage to coastal communities. There was also minor damage to the islands off the coast of Belize. In British Honduras, the forests sustained major damage; for example, in the Melinda region, high winds brought down over 10 percent of the large pines.



**FIGURE 14**

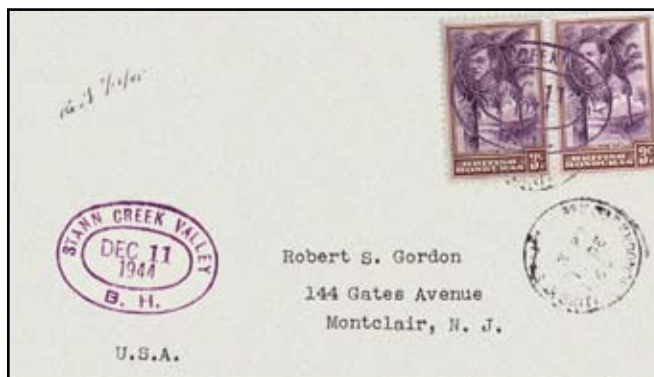
**Damage from the hurricane meant that Benque Viejo’s postal business had to be conducted from Cayo or was the Cayo sSC\* used at Benque Viejo as a relief canceller in 1942?**

Commerce Bight and its canceller were lost forever. It is assumed that the sTRC only recorded on a Wells cover (Figure 13) was the victim, but had it been stood down? It would seem to me that Commerce Bight could well



**FIGURE 15**

**Barranco’s mail might be using the Punta Gorda sSC\* and Pomona was using the Stann Creek M.O.B.**



**FIGURE 16**

**Stann Creek Valley markings on cover to Robert S. Gordon in U.S.**

have had a new bTRO in 1940 – why would it not? It has never come to light. If there was a Wells cover to H.W. Blanks from Commerce Bight, then it could well have existed.

The damage from the hurricane meant that Benque Viejo’s postal business had to be conducted from Cayo or was the Cayo sSC\* used at Benque Viejo as a relief canceller in 1942? (Figure 14). In which case Barranco’s mail might be using the Punta Gorda sSC\* and Pomona was using the Stann Creek M.O.B. (Figure 15) as a relief canceller, but again whether at Pomona or Stann Creek Valley is not entirely clear. The war prevented much mail to be found in the remote villages for 1940-1944, until the Richard S. Gordon’s covers of 1944. (In-



**FIGURE 17**

**Scottish lumberjack covers from Seine Bight (Nigel Roberts)**

identally, Gordon ended up in 1973 as a high-ranking officer in USAF intelligence) [Figure 16]. Otherwise, I can only find a few marooned Scottish lumberjack covers from Seine Bight (Nigel Roberts) within this period (Figure 17).

**Roger Wells and the Pacific**

Thanks to a John Jennison cover, I am now convinced  
*Continued on page 8*

that Roger Wells was in the Solomon Islands, on the island of Vanikoro in July 1943 (or possibly 1944: it's impossible to read and has no backstamp) – the letter is



**FIGURE 18**

**Cover addressed to Roger Wells at the Vanikoro Post Office in the British Solomon Islands.**

addressed to Wells at the Vanikoro Post Office (*Figure 18*). This startling piece of information puts him right in the theatre of war just as the Americans were beginning their sweep northwest through the British Solomon Islands in order to clear the Japanese out. To be on that island would mean that Wells would have to be a high ranking naval or air officer as this was the seaplane (PNY) headquarters of the American Forces. The 10/- Native House definitive was not issued until April 27, 1942 but the Australian Single Circle postmark was not in use at that point and the post office officially closed November 24, 1944, as per Proud.



**FIGURE 19**

**Registered cover from Funafuti to Roger Wells in England.**

In July 1943 the Americans used Vanikoro as their seaplane base, and there was Japanese submarine activity around the island. Was Wells on Vanikoro on July 8, 1943 (or 1944)? If so, he would have to almost certainly be in the Royal Navy as this was a highly-restricted area. Of course, Wells could have used an agent but this is most unlikely to have been a local.

Then, rather like British Honduras, American manufactured TRC postmarks appear for Honiara and Auki, in May 1946 and Tulagi, May 1947. These postmarks have the aforementioned three-tier dates. There are similar American-made TRCs for Beru, Butaritari, Funafuti (*Figure 19*) and Tarawa (1944) and Abemama plus Ocean Island (1945) in the Gilbert & Ellice Islands. Was Wells in some way behind these manufactures? They are all very much his domain. Wells also appears to show up in Aden camp in 1945 and I believe he was in the Gilbert & Ellice Islands in 1945 and Christmas Island (Pacific) in 1947, on Christmas Day.

### **Montgomery Ward closes down!**

It was in 1944 that an enormous hoo-ha broke out in Chicago at the post room of the mail order company Montgomery Ward. According to Wikipedia, Sewell Avery, the president of Montgomery Ward, who detested

**FIGURE 20**  
**National Guardsmen removing Sewell Avery, president of Montgomery Ward, from his office in 1944.**



interference, fought the government and the unions. In November 1942 he argued with President Roosevelt and the National War Labor Board over a closed shop for the United Mail Order, Warehouse, and Retail Employees' Union. Early in 1944, he refused to sign contracts with store employees. The War Labor Board ordered Avery to extend old contracts. Avery refused. On April 24 Roosevelt sent the National Guard to Montgomery Ward.

Avery defied Roosevelt's New Deal by refusing to pay \$30,000, as prescribed by the National Recovery Act. Despite this defiance, his vice president at Montgomery Ward, Frank Folsom, was appointed to FDR's National Defense Advisory Commission (1940-1941). During World War II, Avery would not comply with government orders to allow unionization efforts. As a result, National Guardsmen carried him from his office in 1944 (*Figure 20*). "To hell with the government!" he blurted out at the Attorney General, "You... New Dealer!" After they removed Avery bodily, they got rid of several other top executives and ran the company.



On May 9, 1944, the government returned Montgomery Ward to the management, but in December, labor problems struck again. The Congress of Industrial Organization (CIO) won an election in Ward's Chicago plant. Avery again refused a union shop. On December 28, 1944, the army seized Ward's Chicago catalog operations. The situation caused orders to pile up at the rate of 10,000 a day!

Could it be that Montgomery Ward was being used unwittingly as undercover agents for the receipt of coded messages in its post-room, including the Guatemala crisis in British Honduras? Montgomery Ward covers often have their sender's addresses removed (**Figure 21**).



**FIGURE 21**

**Montgomery Ward covers often have their senders' addresses removed. (Ray Stanton)**

Why? Was it in order to keep their agents' identities secret? There are indications that the Guatemalan Consulate in Benque Viejo may have had an "insider" mail to both Montgomery Ward and Atlas Printers (Binghamton, New York), as noted by Roberts (**Figure 22**). Is it possible that the CIA wished to keep their agents in Monty Ward's post-room to keep tabs on the Guatemalan situa-



**FIGURE 22**

**There are indications the Guatemalan Consulate in Benque Viejo may have had an "insider" mail to both Montgomery Ward and Atlas Printers in Binghamton, New York.**

tion? Or was this part of W.S. "Bill" Stephenson's (The Quiet Canadian) set-up that was designed to persuade Roosevelt that the Germans intended to invade Central or South America in order to provide a U-boat base against the oil fields of Trinidad and Venezuela?

According to Bill Macdonald in his book *The True Intrepid* (Timberholme), the British Embassy in Guatemala City had at least two Canadian female operatives,



**FIGURE 23**

**It was popular for young people in the late Victorian and Edwardian period to send each other envelopes with pre-arranged codes according to the position and colors of the stamps.**

placed by Stephenson, ostensibly looking out for Nazi sympathizers and other information. I have seen few KGV Montgomery Ward or KGV British Honduras covers; most emanate from the King George V period.

### **The British Honduras pictorial definitives and purple TRDs and codes**

It is my notion that the purple-inked TRDs of British Honduras were used in conjunction with the pictorial definitives of the colony to relay messages back to Chicago regarding the seasonal chicle crop. The purple TRDs stood out easily. Why else would British Honduras use American-derived postmarks throughout the colony? These coded envelopes were easily removed from the incoming masses of mail. Exact positions of the chicle could be noted via the various villages on its dispatch route and would be used employing the 2¢ stamp which showed a chicle baking pot. If so, then the 1938 definitives would have to have been carefully subject to MI6 scrutiny under the auspices of the Crown Agents.

In a recent article, "The Language of Stamps – Lovers' Codes," in *Stamp Magazine* (United Kingdom, March 2012), Ken Lewis shows how it was popular for young people in the late Victorian and Edwardian period to send each other envelopes with pre-arranged codes ac-

*Continued on page 10*

ording to the position and colors of the stamps (*Figure 23*). Was this practice taken up by professionals in service to their countries?



**FIGURE 24**

*Two rather odd British Honduras philatelic covers.*

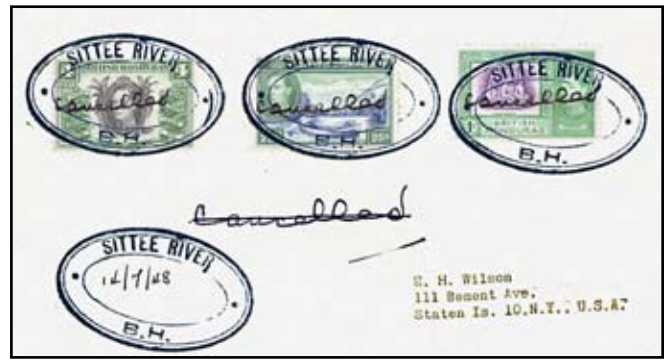
There are some odd British Honduran philatelic covers emanating from this period (*Figure 24*). Later E.H. Wilson covers have just the high-value stamps being used quite a bit (*Figure 25*). A later Sittee River cover shows the word “cancelled” scrawled across three stamps with another bearing the date “14 7 48” in manuscript (*Fig-*



**FIGURE 25**

*Cover to E.H. Wilson in New York, U.S.A., with high-value British Honduras stamps.*

ure 26). Does this mean that the stamps are cancelled or that there was trouble with the passage of all goods (4¢ down the river Matopan (25¢)?



**FIGURE 26**

*Sittee River, British Honduras cover to E.H. Wilson in New York dated “14/7/48” in manuscript.*

If Guatemala was threatening to cut off existing supplies of its own and British Honduran chicle, how would America fight WWII without chewing gum for their troops!? During WWI, chewing gum was an essential part of the GI’s rations. The situation would need to be monitored very carefully, which may be why Montgomery Ward was seemingly so important to Roosevelt.

**Wrigleys and the chicle crop**

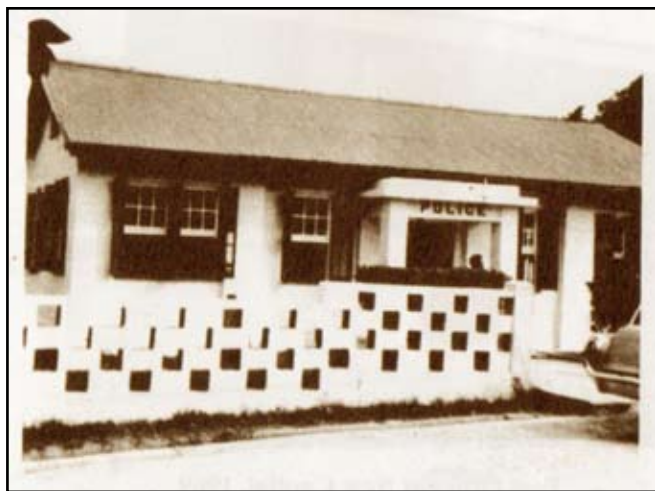
Chicle (natural chewing gum latex) is collected from July until February (the rainy season) from Sapodilla trees when the latex flow better. With a sharp-edged machete, chicleros make zig-zag cuts from the base of the tree trunk up to its first branches. The chicozapote drips down these grooves and is then collected in a bag. At this time some 5,000 chicleros performed their arduous artisanal work each season in the dense jungles of the Gran Petén region.

Jennifer Mathews says that the story of chewing gum as we know it started when Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, the 11-time president of Mexico, met with amateur inventor Thomas Adams during his exile in Staten Island, New York in 1869. This book takes its title from chicle, a natural latex produced by the sapodilla tree for protection against insect attacks, animal bites or even the chicalero -- a person who extracts chicle from the tree much like one



**FIGURE 27**  
*Ad for Wrigley's chewing gum.*

would tap a maple or rubber tree. Adams called his candy "Chicklets." Within a few years, candy maven William Wrigley got into the act, adding sugar and flavor to create Spearmint and Juicy Fruit gum (*Figure 27*). Wrigley also began a massive advertising campaign to introduce gum to the American public. In 1919, he sent a pack of chewing gum to every resident listed in United States' phone books.



**FIGURE 28**

*Example of post office and police station combined in one building at Benque Viejo (Proud).*

With production at a peak in the 1920s, U.S. companies were importing 85 million pounds of raw chicle annually. At the start of WWII, there were serious difficulties in maintaining supplies of chicle to Chicago, as well as the onset of sugar rationing. Twenty-two percent of U.S. chewing gum was sourced through Guatemala. The



**FIGURE 29**

*High-valued stamp with radio station cancel; example of full cancel.*

Guatemalans hiked up the export tax and consequently much of the crop began to be smuggled through Belize. The chicle from British Honduras is of the highest quality, which made it particularly desirable to the Americans even though it only accounted for around two percent of the market. So, by the early 1940s, around a quarter of all the imports of chicle came through Belize and a

lot of this was of higher quality than the Mexican product which was by now suffering severe problems due to previous over-production. Overall, the domestic consumption of gum was strained because of the 600 million sticks of gum that soldiers chewed every year, leaving little for domestic consumption. By 1944, Wrigley limited production for U.S. forces only. Juicy Fruit and Spearmint were no longer available to ordinary Americans! At the time, the only British military presence in the whole Caribbean was one infantry battalion, stationed in Kingston, Jamaica with one company detached to Bermuda under HQ Caribbean area command.

**Post Offices and the Radio Station**

According to Ian Matheson and Ted Proud, the village post offices of British Honduras were often in police stations or schools and manned by policemen and ex-British Army sergeants. This would have provided some of the necessary security for these remote offices (*Figure 28*). Many Wells covers have backstamps only as far as G.P.O. Belize and sometimes none at all. It is my contention that covers were passed on to the radio station in Belize and the information was forwarded by telegraph to interested parties. There are plenty of high value definitives with radio station cancels that could have been used to mail the envelopes back. Ian Matheson notes these were possibly fiscal (paying for telegrams), but I am not so sure and some might have been used for postage (*Figure 29*).

**Madame Joseph, Belize 1941-44**

The radio station at Belize must have been used by the British Embassy in Belize for the transmission of important information about Guatemala during the early part of the King George VI reign. If this information



**FIGURE 30**

*Three Madame Joseph cancellers that are found for Belize, dated March 1, 1941, March 21, 1942 and January 31, 1944.*

was supplied by philatelic covers received at the G.P.O., those covers would need to be destroyed or sent on as receipt. This might give a completely new insight into the use of the three Madame Joseph cancellers that are found for Belize dated March 1, 1941, March 21, 1942 and January 31, 1944. If there were too many to go in the diplomatic bags then why not create postmarks to be

*Continued on page 12*

used to disperse this highly sensitive material (*Figure 30*)?

I believe that Madame Joseph forged the 1935 Silver Jubilee for financial gain, but if MI6 had need of a forger in WWII for passports and datestamps, who better than

Kong, Malaya or Singapore. Why? If the cancellers were being used in the colony for similar purposes as described above, then they were either destroyed by embassy officials or they fell into the hands of the Japanese. They might not have existed at all as the Japanese were already in place.



**FIGURE 31**  
*San Estevan cancellations on cover addressed to Gales Point.*

Madame Joseph to do the dirty work for MI6? Was Madame Joseph turned in order to be a useful citizen? The MJ cancellers could have been sent out by diplomatic bag and then used at the radio station and/or embassy to return these sensitive covers without them having to have to go through the normal channels. I know this might seem far-fetched, but here are a couple of facts worth bearing in mind.

A) There are no Madame Josephs for this period from Jamaica or Trinidad & Tobago. Jamaica used the TRDs and purple ovals which were organized and disposed of within the island by Everard Aguilar and others, and Trinidad used Skeletons and ovals which were disposed of on the island, thus rendering MJs unnecessary.

B) There are no Madame Josephs for Rangoon, Hong

C) Madame Josephs are usually G.P.O.s and are usually found on high value definitives which are often associated with parcel post. The Belize Madame Josephs were returned to U.K. after the war via diplomatic bag and may or may not have been subsequently used, fraudulently, by George Rhodes, *et al* as per Warboys and Cartwright.

I know this is an extremely controversial idea and there may never be any absolute proof either way. But otherwise, why did MJ go to all the trouble of knocking out three hand-carved Belize cancellers in three years? Surely one canceller would have done the trick if financial gain was the motive. In my book it doesn't quite add up.

**The “Unrecorded” Hurricane of 1945**

George Hall, MP states in Hansard, “I regret to state that there have been two recent hurricanes in British Honduras. The first struck Belize on 31st August 1945. It caused five deaths, and serious damage to agricultural crops. A further severe hurricane struck the southern part of the Colony on 4th October 1945. It destroyed some 80% of the town of Punta Gorda and caused extensive damage to agricultural crops and to property, though I am glad to say that only one death was caused. A sum of money has been made available for the immediate relief of farmers in the Belize district and an appeal has been made to the public for subscriptions to a relief fund. No estimate is yet available of the sum which will be required for the relief of distress in the southern part of the Colony damaged in the second hurricane, but measures have been taken for immediate relief and for temporary housing, the position is well in hand. I am in communication with the Governor as to whether any further assistance is required.”

To add to the misery, in its constitution of 1945, Guatemala now stated that British Honduras was the 23rd department of Guatemala.



**FIGURE 32**  
*Only known use of a bTRO on cover addressed to Roger Wells in England.*

**The Post-War Roger Wells audit**

Roger Wells covers appear in late 1946 and early 1947. Was he there himself? I know not, but someone spent a month or two travelling round British Honduras getting cancels for all the post offices using pre-printed Wells covers – might it have been Aguilar? There is no sign of

cancellers for Gales Point and Guinea Grass and San Estevan appears to be using a London made sSC (*Figure 31*) using purple ink. A Wells cover exists for the Agstat but it would appear to be a total confection and is the only known use of the bTRO (*Figure 32*). By now, Benque



**FIGURE 33**

*Benque Viejo's bTRO was in bad shape and was replaced by a London-made sSC by May 30, 1947.*

Viejo's bTRO was in bad shape and was replaced by a London-made sSC by May 30, 1947 (*Figure 33*). John Jennison has a late 1948 RSW cover addressed directly



**FIGURE 34**

*A late 1948 RSW cover addressed directly to Roger Wells at G.P.O. Belize.*

to Wells at G.P.O. Belize (*Figure 34*).

### **The Guatemala situation, 1948-51**

In late February 1948, the Guatemalans threatened to invade British Honduras. The British Government ordered HQ Caribbean Area to dispatch troops (2nd Battalion the Gloucestershire Regiment) to the colony. Two companies from the Battalion landed in Belize City from HMS *Devonshire* on March 2. One company was deployed to the border and found no sign of a Guatemalan incursion, but the threat was taken seriously and it was decided to permanently station one company in Belize City. The Guatemalans again issued the "Belice" stamp, this time with an Airmail overprint. In late 1949, the British Honduras dollar was devalued which brought widespread unemployment in the colony.



**FIGURE 35**

*Cover addressed to J.N. Williams. This could be a Guinea Grass mailbag seal.*

A "YL2K" problem had to be resolved as the postmark daters of the bTROs only went as far as December 31, 1949. All the daters were changed from a double line to a single that could accommodate a 1950s date. Guinea Grass, which may well have been lost at the time, wasn't supplied with a separate dater until 1952 when it was finally altered – during the alteration it would appear that the Guinea Grass mailbag seal was used (*Figure 35*).

In response to a land reform law passed in Guatemala in 1952, which ended feudal work relations and expropriated unused lands and sold them to the indigenous and peasants, the Wrigley Gum Company refused to continue buying Guatemalan chicle. Since it was the sole buyer of Guatemalan chicle, the government was forced to create a massive aid program for growers. Wrigley made up their shortfall by introducing the production of synthetic latex for gum production, which was first developed towards the end of the war when they launched Orbit.

### **Roger Wells' last post and Pastor Williams 1951**

Roger Wells' last post in British Honduras was an audit of all the new and refurbished cancellers issued by 1951. New cancellers were required and old cancellers were in need of refurbishment, but a juggling act of offices was taking place. Offices that closed at this time were Agstat, All Pines, Banana Bank and Pomona. Although San Estevan had a new bTRO in 1948, only one copy has ever been recorded (Matheson, October 1948.) I believe that this canceller was sacrificed to make a new one! Benque Viejo's was no longer needed.

This is the only period when British cancellers were used at Benque Viejo, San Estevan and Monkey River. Instead of purple ink, black ink was being used; thus American intelligence had been stood down. It all went wrong again after the Treaty of Antigua (Guatemala)

*Continued on page 14*

in 1951. Seven new offices with new bTRO cancellers were at Baking Pot, Burrell Boom, Louisville, Placencia, Roaring Creek, Rockstone Pond and Sarteneja (*Figure*



**FIGURE 36**

*New bTRO cancellers were in use at Baking Pot, Burrell Boom, Louisville, Placencia, Roaring Creek, Rockstone Pond and Sarteneja.*

36). There were not enough bTRO stocks left to convert so Crooked Tree had a new style canceller (*Figure 37*).

Pastor J.N. Williams, P.O. Box 170, Belize issued a profusion of covers in 1951-1952. Many of these are curious for three reasons. Sometimes he is plain “J. N. Wil-



**FIGURE 37**

*Crooked Tree had a completely new style canceller.*

liams,” other times “Mr. J. N. Williams,” and latterly “Pastor J. N. Williams.” Maybe he joined the clergy midstream, or was this just a *nom de plume*? I believe he was agent to Wells, mopping up some of the unanswered questions Wells posed in September 1951. All the covers use one-cent stamps which should only be for printed matter. The majority of the datestamps have manuscript corrections/updates to the strikes, similar to the Wells covers of 1946-47. In 1951 Gale Raymond covers begin to appear. According to Charles Freeland, Raymond, a captain in the U.S. Army, was also involved in the CIA.

**The new QEII definitives, 1953**

Everard Aguilar in his quarterly *British West Indian Philatelist*, noted that when the new QEII definitives were



**FIGURE 38**

*The bTROs from around 1954 were replaced by New Birmingham cancellers which used black, not purple ink.*

released in September 1953, unlike other colonies, the old KGVII stamps remained on sale. The question is why? In 1954, the CIA-organized covert Operation PBSUCCESS overthrew the democratically elected president of Guatemala, Jacobo Buzmán. The Guatemala/chicle crisis now appeared to be over and the bTROs were from around 1954, replaced by New Birmingham cancellers which used black, not purple ink (*Figure 38*). Were Wells covers used as guides to a coded system of covers that in-



**FIGURE 39**

*Boom cover addressed to Roger Wells in England.*

formed the British and Americans of the goings-on in the remoter parts of British Honduras, where telephone communications were not established? Were the postmasters passing on this information via stamped addressed envelopes or was Roger just an innocent philatelist in search of a few village postmarks (*Figure 39*)?

**My thanks to Nigel Roberts, Ian Matheson, Ray Stanton, Bryan Jones, Robin Sherman, Ted Proud, John Jennison and The Royal Philatelic Society London for the use of the Madame Joseph images. My email is horry@talk21.com**

*Coming in October!*

*David Horry will conclude this two-part series with The British Honduras bTROs checklist.*

# Updating *The Postal History of the Cayman Islands* book

By Tom Giraldi

## Official Markings

(Concluded from the April 2012 Journal; first installment was in July 2010 issue)

### UPDATES/NEW USERS OF EXISTING TYPES

#### Savannah

TYPE 3, Blue  
49 x 71mm (L x W)



#### EKD

Known date:  
August 4, 2004

#### LKD

Seven Mile Beach  
Mail Damaged  
TYPE 3



Known date:  
Current 2006

Unclaimed Mail  
TYPE 1  
47 x 70mm (frame)



December 2005

June 28, 2007

West Bay  
Unclaimed Mail  
TYPE 1  
48 x 71mm (frame)



Known date:  
October 4, 2006

CAYMAN BRAC

EKD

LKD

Stake Bay Update

Air Mail

TYPE 2

April 2, 1946

TYPE 3

April 2, 1946

Miscellaneous Markings

TYPE 2

May 24, 2004

### Postal Censorship During World War II

The cover shown here was recently found, and is a second example of the War Fund label (Type 2). Date of use is August 1940. Thanks to Barry Friedman (from his collection) for the information.



*Special cacheted cover dated July 26, 2008, recognizing an "Olympic Flight to Beijing" during the 2008 Olympics.*





# The Barbados Tercentenary of Settlement Issue (Part 2)

By John P. Wynns  
Of the USA

In my first article about this stamp (*British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, January 2010, pages 4-6), I only found a black and white photo of the seven trial color die proofs in shades of carmine lake. A photo of the card showed up in the Auction Christoph Gaertner (Germany), May 8-12, 2012. **Figure 1** shows the card in color; the carmine lake die proofs are in various shades. The starting bid was 5,500 Euros. There were no bids.

I have found two shades of this stamp (**Figure 2**), a light and a darker carmine lake in blocks of four. A postal clerk at the General Post Office was very conscientious in canceling this cover (**Figure 3**) with a hand cancel after the machine cancel must have had the wrong day slug in the CDS and lined it out.

**Figure 4** shows an OHMS registered cover to the U.S. with a 10-cent U.S. airmail stamp for air mail service from New York to California. The backstamps show the fast air mail service in two days from New York to California in 1927.

The last cover (**Figure 5**) is a G.P.O. Official Service (handwritten "O.S." above registration label) with a top margin block of six. The stamp was withdrawn from



**FIGURE 1**  
*Barbados Tercentenary of Settlement issue color die proof card.*



**FIGURE 2**  
*The author's discovery of two shades of the stamp.*

sale on September 30, 1927 and this cover has an October 18, 1928 CDS on it. The GPO must have had a

number of these stamps still in stock for official use.

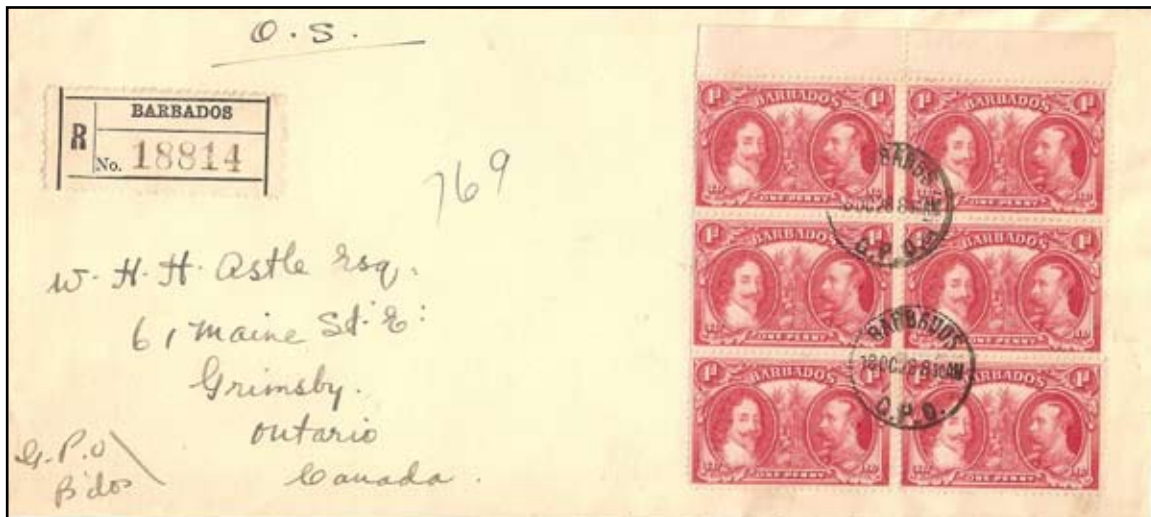
*Illustrations continued on page 18*



**FIGURE 3**  
*Hand cancel applied along with machine cancel. (Address upside-down.)*



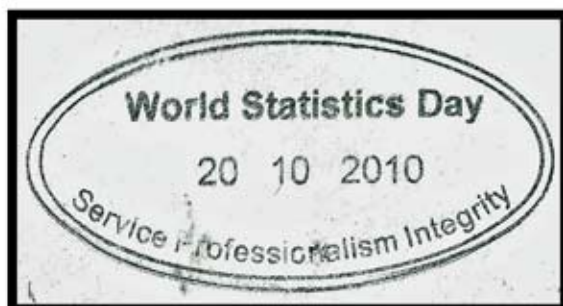
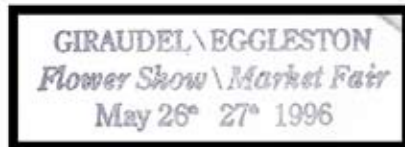
**FIGURE 4**  
*OHMS registered cover to the U.S. with a 10-cent U.S. airmail stamp for air mail service from New York to California. The backstamps show the fast air mail service in two days from New York to California in 1927.*



**FIGURE 5**  
*A G.P.O. Official Service (handwritten "O.S." above registration label) cover with a top margin block of six.*

# DOMINICA PROMOTIONAL SLOGANS

*Member Steve Zirinsky has provided illustrations of a number of promotional slogan cancels from Dominica. He said these were apparently in use at various times over the past several years.*



# Jamaica World War II Censor Notes

By Hap Pattiz

Foster<sup>1</sup> lists the censor tapes for Jamaica, including a tape he classifies as M-PCL 7a(b). When Miller<sup>2</sup> did his compilation on the World War II censors for the Caribbean (and related American areas), he excluded this tape from his listings for Jamaica, but noted that the tape had been used only in the Caymans.<sup>3</sup>

This tape is shown in Figure 1 on cover from Liguanea, Jamaica to Ann Arbor, Michigan, dated October 1, 1943. The tape has handstamped censor number 8830. Figure 2 is another cover also handstamped with censor number 8830, this one mailed from Linsterad, Jamaica to Kansas City, Missouri USA on April 14, 1943, but with the tape identified as L8 by Miller. At some point in 1943, a new printing of tapes with narrower fonts for the "P.C. 90" and for "Examiner D" was put to press. Likely many (most) of this tape was provided to the Caymans, but at least some were also utilized in Jamaica itself.



FIGURE 1 a & b

Cover from Liguanea, Jamaica to Ann Arbor, Michigan dated October 1, 1943. Censored in Jamaica, narrow "D" tape #8830 (Foster M-PCL 7a[b]). Reverse of cover is shown below.



FIGURE 2 a & b

Cover from Linsterad, Jamaica to Kansas City, Missouri on April 14, 1943. Censored in Jamaica, L8 #8830. Reverse side of cover is shown below.



## FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Thomas Foster. *Jamaica: West Indian Civil Censorship Devices in World War II: Handbook No. 1.* (Harrogate, England: Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society, 1976). See also *Handbook No. 2*, 1977. See illustration of M-PCL 7a(b) on p. 28.

<sup>2</sup> Christopher Miller. *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices in World War II: Canada and Colonies in the Caribbean and South America.* Civil Censorship Study Group, 2006.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, 6.

A book review

## *The Leeward Islands Notes for Philatelists* (2nd edition)

When M.N. Oliver's tome *The Leeward Islands Notes for Philatelists* was published in 2000, it was met with acclaim for its depth of research (e.g., see Rob Wynstra's review in BCPSJ Vol. 41, No. 3 [July 2001] where he described the book as a "must-have" publication). A second edition of this important book has now been published by the British West Indies Study Circle.

It's a given that there is always room for improvement in any publication, and that holds true with this second edition because Mr. Oliver has greatly expanded some of the sections. The main addition is Part IX (Registration Marks and Labels). This is an exhaustive analysis of the various registration markings and the two methods of printing which were involved. In addition to a general introduction to the use of registration (and illustrations of the four types -- two pre-1935 and two post-1935), there are illustrations of manuscript markings, labels applied on arrival and Virgin Islands SPO straightline handstamps. There is also an explanation and illustrations of 10 main registration types. From there, we are given a comprehensive review island-by-island of the known registrations markings. In addition to a useful chart for each island, there are illustrations.

A number of changes and additions have been made to Parts VI (Post Offices and Postmarks) and Part VIII (Maritime Mail Services). Many of these changes relate to new information recorded over the past decade. Appendix B (Postage Stamps-Priced Listing) has corrections and additions, and prices have been adjusted to reflect current sales prices. Appendix C (Postal Stationery-Priced Listing) has major price revisions. The availability of Robson Lowe's photographic records of the De La Rue archive before the sheets were cut down mostly into single items has made much of Appendix D (Proofs, Essays, Colour Trials, etc.) almost redundant (in the author's words...).

There is no question this book is a must for the collector who wishes to know more about the Leeward Islands and the islands of Antigua, Anguilla, Barbuda, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts and the Virgin Islands. The same caveat applies to this edition as it did to the first where Rob Wynstra pointed out in his review that buyers should be aware that some areas are not covered in the book. If, for example, you want to know about modern postal history of any of the islands, it is not here: the period of coverage is that of the Leeward Islands Federation. The Federal Colony was formed in 1871 and

shortly thereafter comprised five Presidencies: Antigua, Dominica (until 1940), Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, and the Virgin Islands.

A brief summary is given of the postal arrangements from 1840 for each of the islands. Tables covering all 70 post offices and their postmarks (170 are illustrated) include known dates open and periods of usage.

This book remains a hallmark for collectors of the Leeward Islands and will be an important addition to your philatelic library. It is priced at £42 (BWISC members enjoy a £6 discount). Contact David Druett at Penrynmead Books (he handles all BWISC books). See his advertisement on page 30.

-- Everett Parker

### *Still needing material!*

In reading the AGM minutes (pages 24-25), it was reported that your editor needs material for publication, and that's a very accurate statement! However, it concerns me that it was also noted that "some material submitted months ago has not yet been published." If you have submitted material for publication, and it is still not in print, please let me know.

There are several possible reasons for an article not appearing immediately: a need for additional research by the author (not often the case); several articles on hand for one island (would you really want to see an entire issue on only Barbados, as example?); or several articles on hand from one author. Bless his heart, Hap Pattiz has given me enough World War II Jamaica censorship articles for the coming 20 years! And they are being published, but we need more than one author per issue. I also have several Steve Zirinski island reports, and there is still another delightful article from the late Dr. Eric Bateson. I also just received Raymond Murphy's article on provisional censor tapes of Jamaica, and it's slated for the October *Journal*. And there is always the issue of space. If I have one or two pages available and your article is six pages in length, it will await another issue.

So please understand it's a big juggling act to get a cross-section of information from as many countries and authors as possible in each issue. If something you sent has not been published, please contact me. If you have something about our favorite places in the Caribbean, please consider writing NOW. I do need the material!

-- Everett Parker

## Roger Downing: The Philatelist Who Made a Big Difference

*The BCPSG received notification in early May that Roger Downing, one of our longtime members and a stalwart of British Virgin Islands philately, had died in Road Town on May 7, 2012. He was founder of Roger Downing and Partner Company Limited.*

*Below, Dr. Giorgio Migliavacca, president of the BVI Philatelic Society and a frequent contributor to these pages, offers a tribute to his longtime friend.*

----

I first met Roger Downing in 1983 when I arrived in the British Virgin Islands. His best traits were immediately apparent and mutual respect soon corroborated what was to become my most important and distinguished philatelic friendship in the Caribbean.

Two years later, when the BVI Philatelic Society was founded, he enthusiastically joined the group and was elected Secretary, a post he held until his death. Those who knew the role he was playing in Rotary and the National Parks Trust understood that the Society was on a solid footing because Roger was a great organizer, a person who believed in stamp collecting and a go-getter without equals.

As he became more involved in philately, his knowledge of stamp collecting grew steadily and impressively. He was not simply an enthusiast: he was serious, passionate, and eager to learn. Roger asked for opinions and advice and shared his -- he was not the jealous type. On controversial subjects he was a great diplomat and had the uncommon ability to avoid polemics and heated discussions.

From the very start of the BVI Annual Stamp Exhibitions at Barclays Bank, Roger distinguished himself as the indispensable organizer par excellence. We couldn't have asked for better, for Roger was simply the best. Bill Welch, editor at the time of *The American Philatelist*, once told me that the BVI Philatelic Society was contributing to the hobby in the entire hemisphere at a pace and level that put some of the bigger philatelic societies in bigger countries to shame. I must add that this was not flattery and that Roger was a significant component of our success story.

The Annual Stamp Exhibition became an appointment with the BVI community as well as with philatelists from all over the world. Roger, the organizer, was put through a very serious test in 1999 when the Italy and Colonies Philatelic Study Circle held their Silver Jubilee celebrations in the BVI in conjunction with the annual exhibition. It was a remarkable success and became the rehearsal for an even greater event. In fact, as a result of this event the foundations were laid for the 2002, 10th Annual BVI Philatelic Exhibition, when the

show had the great honor and privilege of featuring the Royal Philatelic Collection with a selection of British West Indies rarities exhibited by gracious permission of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The exhibition was held in conjunction with the quadrennial Caribbean general meeting of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, and produced headlines in the *London Times* and in stamp magazines all over the world.

In the meantime, in 1999, Roger and I had been to St. James's Palace to view the BVI portion of the Royal Collection. Additional research was carried out at the Philatelic Collections Department of the British Library. This augmented the already vast information I had gathered in 30 years which culminated with the publication in 2001 of the 320-page *British Virgin Islands Specialised Stamp Catalogue 1797-2001*. As editor in chief of this impressive volume, I must note the pivotal role played by the contributing editor, Roger Downing.

Meanwhile, Roger had exhibited his one-frame collection of early BVI stamps at major U.S. stamp shows winning, from his very debut on the exhibition scene, gold medals. This was simply a prelude to an even greater success which marked the pinnacle of Roger's philatelic achievements. In October 2008 he exhibited his six-frame collection of British Virgin Islands, Queen Victoria Stamps at "Americas 2008" -- an international stamp exhibition held in Los Angeles to mark the 50th Anniversary of FIAF (Inter-American Federation of Philately). The Jury awarded him a gold medal, something unprecedented at an international level for a multi-frame exhibit of BVI stamps.

Another major achievement of Roger Downing was the successful and highly skilled, highly professional supervision of the project that materialized in the creation of the well-known "Stamp Room" on the second floor of the Old Government House Museum in Road Town. Inaugurated in 2006, the "Stamp Room" features a complete collection of BVI stamps donated by the BVI Philatelic Society. The collection was formed by this writer



**Roger Downing**

# Recorded date of use of Trinidad cancel extended by one day

By Ed Barrow  
*Webmaster*

In the normal course of collecting town cancels extending the date of use of a cancel by one day is usually not worthy of mention. But when the cancel is only recorded for two days then perhaps it has earned at least a passing comment.

The cancel in question is one of Trinidad's modern rarities, the "Air Mail GPO" CDS. This is recorded by Proud as being used from 21st to 22nd December 1956. The cancel shown here adds a whole day to this total. Surprisingly this cancel escaped notice at the time of use and was only discovered by collectors some eight years after it was used. At that time local members of the Trinidad Philatelic Society approached the staff of the GPO for information and were told that the CDS was not authorized for cancelling stamps; rather it was intended as an internal instructional mark used by the Foreign Despatch Section. One function of this department was to bundle mail bound for countries that Trinidad had no direct links to: For example, mail to Russia would have to be bundled and routed through another city, say London. The tag on this bundle would bear a mark to show the source of the letters and it was in this capacity that the "Air Mail GPO" CDS was used.

Christmas 1956 proved to be an exceptionally busy time at the GPO, there was a shortage of 1¢ stamps which just happened to be the local card rate that year. The relief shipment of 1¢ stamps was delayed in the U.K.

and so with Christmas fast approaching, the postmaster authorized the 1¢ on 2¢ QEII overprint (SG 280, Scott 85). This issue went on sale on December 20, 1956. Not surprisingly this triggered a philatelic speculative frenzy with locals hoarding sheets and posting stacks of philatelic covers bearing the new stamp and international dealers frantically requesting supplies. It is thought that in the melee, the "Air Mail GPO" CDS was unofficially pressed in to service.



To be fair, the original discovery examples of this rare cancel were dated December 20, 1956 but for some reason this got overlooked by subsequent chroniclers and the established dates of use were set as the 21st and the 22nd of December. So the example shown here is really a re-discovery. It is not known how many examples of this cancel have been discovered, the original census by the Trinidad Philatelic Society was four, but undoubtedly more have surfaced. Nevertheless, it remains an interesting and rare Trinidad cancel.

## Roger Downing

*Continued from page 22*

and Roger Downing.

On a few occasions the BVI Philatelic Society expressed its gratitude to Roger, but I, personally, always had the impression that he deserved more than words. He was a very modest and unassuming person, and had a golden heart. I cannot recall one instance when he said he could not help organizing our events. Roger served as Secretary (1985-2012) and on a few occasions as Vice President with great distinction. In those capacities he helped members when they sought professional guidance and advice.

Roger saw our society go from strength to strength and he was a major component of the success story. He

enrolled new members, young ones especially; and I am confident that his genuine and jovial enthusiasm for the "hobby of kings" had a very positive influence on them. He believed firmly that stamp collecting has educational, therapeutic, and friendship-fostering qualities: Roger was one of the best ambassadors of the "king of hobbies" I have ever known.

On behalf of the board of directors and members of the BVI Philatelic Society I want to express our most sincere gratitude for the sterling service and valuable contribution Roger Downing made to organized philately in the British Virgin Islands. Roger was a true friend of philately. He will be sorely missed in so many ways.

# 2012 Annual General Meeting

## British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group

### February 4, 2012, Sarasota, Florida

**Members in attendance:** B. Bump, D. Cordon, M. Dosan, P. Ford, C. Freeland, M. Gleadall, B. Gompel, J. Harwood, D. Larson, P. McCann, M. Mead, J. Pare, J. Puzine, J. Seidl, E. Waterous, J. Watson.

**President's Welcome and Opening Remarks:** The meeting was called to order by President Ed Waterous at 10:15 a.m. He welcomed the members from far and wide and asked them to introduce themselves.

**Apologies for absence:** Peter Elias, Tom Giraldi, Paul Larsen, Nigel Mohammed, Everett Parker, Ben Ramkissoon, Steve Schumann, Bob Stewart, David Wilson.

Minutes of AGM of January 15, 2011 (Tucson, Arizona): The minutes were taken as read (proposed Jack Harwood; seconded Ben Bump, carried unanimously).

**Matters arising:** None.

#### Officers' Reports:

**Vice President's Report:** Duane Larson reported that the society was looking for a webmaster. Ed Barrow, the previous webmaster, was still functioning under protest and updated changes as needed. No study groups are using the site and they should be encouraged to do so. Charles Freeland suggested a link to the BWISC website. The BCPSG *Journals* are available on the site a year after publication. Jack Harwood suggested offering Ed Barrow a stipend of \$250 p.a. The key is source material, interesting covers, etc. Ed Barrow runs the Trinidad website already and has small children so his free time is limited. Suggestion to ask David Horry for articles.

**Treasurer's Report:** The 2011 Annual Financial Statements were circulated. John Seidl reported that Ray Stanton settles the U.K. account promptly at each year-end. Charles Freeland asked how the sales of the Trinidad book were going. It cost \$46 and is selling at \$67-\$80. The stock on hand is 105 books. Jack Harwood suggested writing off the cost of the book. This suggestion will be discussed at the next AGM. Ben Bump asked how lifetime members were accounted for. John Seidl replied the amounts were recognized when the cash is received. The Financial Statements showed net income of \$1,056.59. Proposed Bill Gompel, seconded Charles Freeland, carried unanimously.

**Secretary's Report:** Mary Gleadall reported that Nigel Mohammed was elected trustee to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Mike Nethersole last May. Nigel's term is until the end of 2013.

**International Director:** The U.K. dues are handled very efficiently by Ray Stanton.

**Auction Manager's Report:** There was no auction in 2011. Today's auction is very large with 472 lots. It will be run by John Seidl.

**Librarian's Report:** Dale Wade reported that he gets few requests for books. The Tudway Papers, concerning 100 years of sugar plantation correspondence between Antigua and Somerset, England are held in the library. Mary Gleadall volunteered to write a monograph on them. Dale can send emails with the publication list, computerized some. Peter Ford remarked that it was good to get as many as possible on the website and wondered about a joint effort with BWISC. The index of publications held in the library is on the website. User name: 4eyesonly. Bob Stewart is working with Dale.

**Editor's Report:** Everett Parker is short of articles but some material submitted months ago has not yet been published.

**Membership Chairman's Report:** Bob Stewart's report was circulated. There are now 301 members, thanks mainly to the sterling work done by John Seidl. Bob thanked both John and Ray Stanton for their help with the renewals.

**Publication Officer's Report:** Ben Ramkissoon wrote that no one has approached him regarding new publications. Peter Ford had a list of BWISC publications and 15-18 books are in the works: Bahamas, Antigua, Grenada. He is happy to publish study papers, etc.; they sell at \$18. Peter McCann's book on Leeward Islands was excellent. John Seidl gave a copy of the Trinidad book to the President and museum in Trinidad & Tobago. This book has earned high awards in literature competitions worldwide.

**Awards Chairman's Report:** Paul Larsen sent an email in which he stated that he has transferred his stock of



medals to Rob Wynstra who will be responsible for all aspects of the medal awards at national shows and our AGM venues. Paul will continue to purchase the annual special awards and suggested a congratulatory letter be prepared and sent to each recipient as an annual protocol. Regarding the Durnin Award for the best article in the *Journal* during the previous year, he suggested an outright \$100 cash award. The Jimmy Stern Award for a new exhibitor's debut exhibit has not been claimed for several years and member participation should be encouraged.

#### Future AGM dates:

2013, June 9-16: Cayman Islands, West Indies

2014, March 21-23: St. Louis Stamp Expo, Missouri

2015, May (late): Denver (ROMPEX). London, England International Show also being planned.

2016, May 28-June 4: World Stamp Show, New York.

#### Any other business:

There is a need for exhibitors: The \$250 Jimmy Stern Award is for first time exhibitors at any national show. Peter Ford felt there were too many foreign awards listed in the *Journal*. Peter McCann replied that all members exhibiting are listed even if exhibit is non-West Indian as these are national shows. There is a need for Palmares

reports from U.K. (Stampex), Australia and South Africa (Ian Matheson). Peter to co-ordinate this with Paul Larsen.

**Member recruitment:** We should all try to get one new member this year. John Seidl has electronic brochures that can be emailed to members.

**Awards:** Charles Freeland reported Durnin Award for Best Article in the *Journal* for 2011: Graham Booth for his article on Cayman Islands postal rates (\$100); Ed Addiss Award for lifetime writing: Eric Yendall; Bob Cooley Award for lifetime service: John Seidl (cash and trophy).

**Meeting adjourned** at 11:15 a.m. (proposed Peter Ford, seconded John Puzine, carried unanimously).

*Submitted by*  
Mary Gleadall  
*Secretary*

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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.

----

**ARIPEX 2012**

**February 24-26**

**Mesa, Arizona**

George Bowman

*Victoria: The English Mail TPOs, 1887-1917*

**Gold**

**ST. LOUIS STAMP EXPO 2012**

**March 16-18**

**St. Louis, Missouri**

Regis Hoffman

*Polish Refugees in Africa, WWII*

**Silver**

**G-P MARCH PARTY 2012**

**March 23-25**

**Cleveland, Ohio**

Paul Larsen

*Ubangi-Shari-Chad 1900-1938*

**Gold, APS 1900-1940 Medal**

**PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL**

**STAMP EXHIBITION 2012**

**March 29-April 1**

**Oaks, Pennsylvania**

George Bowman

*Victoria Barred Oval Cancels 1851-1856 (SF)*

**Single Frame Grand Award, Gold**

**PIPEX 2012**

**May 11-13**

**Portland, Oregon**

John Wynns

*Peru: 1897 Lima Post Office Issue (SF)*

**Gold**

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Many of us are involved in philatelic research ... it is the very essence of philately. But how many of our members are even aware that the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group maintains an extensive library for the use of its members?

Well over 100 titles are available for mailing to members, and these books, monographs, etc., cover all aspects of British Caribbean philately. You can find a detailed catalogue of available material at the BCPSG website,

<http://www.bcpsg.com>

You can also ask about specific titles, or learn more about borrowing by mail from Librarian Dale Wade, P.O. Box 491, Hayesville, NC 28904. He can be reached by electronic mail at:

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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

**John Hallam**, Kings Mill Farm, Kings Mill, Guernsey GY5 7JT, UNITED KINGDOM. Email: john@hallam.gg. Collects Bermuda, Tobago and general West Indies. Sponsored by Ray Stanton.

**Clayton Willey**, Fairlight, Main Road, Ansty, Coventry, CV7 9JA UNITED KINGDOM. Email: claytonwilley@btinternet.com. Collects World War I. Sponsored by Ray Stanton.

**Morgan Fitzgerald**, 4526 101st Terrace North, Pinellas Park, FL 33782 USA. Email: mfitzgerald004@tampabay.rr.com. Collects Antigua, Anguilla, Barbados, Bermuda, Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Trinidad & Tobago. Sponsored by Ray Murphy.

## Reinstatement

**Eric Yendall**, 1110 Second Ave., Ottawa, ON K1H 8E1 CANADA. Email: eric\_yendall@yahoo.com.

## Address Changes

Paul Fletcher, 89-97 Jones Street, Suite 25, Ultimo, NSW 2007, AUSTRALIA.

Andrew W. Mitchell, P.O. Box 265, Poquonock, CT 06064-0265 USA

## Resignations

Robert Anderson, Tim Shelton, Harris Leonard,  
Tom Sturkie, Jim Gerard, Lynn Cohen

## Dropped for non-payment of dues

Hugh McMackin, Paul Miller, Edward Heller,  
M. Braithwaite, James Allsop, Michel Galinski,  
Robert Schneider

## Deceased

**Roger Downing**  
of the British Virgin Islands

## Donations (Thank You!)

Courtenay McConney, James Podger,  
Dr. Steven Berlin, Ivan Burges

*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 [stewartlbi9@comcast.net](mailto:stewartlbi9@comcast.net).*

*Also, if you have friends who might be interested in joining, let me know and I will send them a complimentary issue of the Journal.*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our web site, [www.bcpsg.com](http://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](mailto:stewartlbi9@comcast.net).

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Recently added to my website are some very scarce pre-stamp covers from Montserrat and Nevis, also Trinidad QV plate number singles and blocks and Bermuda postcards.

See also my half price sale of non-philatelic books on the West Indies with many good guides and historical works. Busy adding a large whole world library of philatelic books with many scarce titles.



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# President's Message

By Ed Waterous

**W**HY DO YOU NEED THE BCPSG? It's a question that each one of us who collects some facet of the British Caribbean should ask ourselves. What does the Group offer us that makes our investment in a membership worthwhile? Let us examine what is available to us.

**Contact with others who have a similar collecting interest to ours.** Others may have the same collecting interests and lifelong friendships may be formed. The results of exchanging ideas and information with others of our own ilk can provide answers we have unsuccessfully sought on our own. The sharing of information may lead to a philatelic discovery, an improved exhibit, or even an article for publication to record our knowledge for the enrichment of our hobby.

**Fellowship and face to face meeting with our members at the Annual General Meeting.** One of the best ways to enjoy the BCPSG is to attend our annual meetings where many opportunities to meet other members are available. The annual meetings are held in various locations to provide opportunity for you to have a meeting near you. About every five years we schedule a meeting in the Caribbean. Our 2013 meeting is scheduled for the Cayman Islands.

**The BCPJ, our quarterly Journal,** publishes articles about the Group's activities, but more importantly, articles written and researched by our members for our benefit and to have a record of their work. The 50 year history of sharing research and knowledge is a legacy left to us by the pioneers of the BCPSG and continues with significant information, enhanced for the last several years with the use of color illustrations.

**Our Study Group Leaders** not only have significant knowledge and experience in their areas of expertise but also are willing to share their knowledge. This is one area where I see a failure on the part of our members to utilize this information channel. Many, many years of expertise are at your beck and call. If our Study Group Leader cannot answer your query, you should at least get a lead about where to pursue the information you seek. If you fail to get a response from a Study Group Leader, your president would like to hear from you directly.

**The BCPSG also maintains a library** to benefit the membership. This is another

underused avenue for your research efforts. If you haven't used the library, please give it a try.

**An annual auction** providing both an opportunity for sellers to pass on material they no longer need and for buyers to acquire items they can use for their collections. Don't be shy about using this option because much work goes into balancing the interests of both buyer and seller.

**Our website,** [www.bcpsg.com](http://www.bcpsg.com), carries our banner proudly and provides information about the BCPSG.

With these benefits included for your dues payment, you certainly get your money's worth. If you fail to take advantage of these opportunities to expand your horizons or to share your knowledge with fellow collectors, it is your loss. I have tried many times to increase participation in this organization. If you would like to make comments, suggestions or criticism, send me an email. For information about our June 2013 meeting in the Cayman Islands, refer to the BCPSG website.



THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP and  
THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE



**TRINIDAD**  
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by Sir John Marriott, KCVO, RDP, FRPSL, Michael Medlicott  
and Reuben A. Ramkissoon, FRPSL

This book was conceived by John Marriott to follow on from his original 1962 Study Paper; unfortunately he did not live to complete the work. With the help, not only of the two co-authors, but many other Trinidad collectors, our two societies have collaborated to publish this book. As the title suggests, the book covers the Trinidad-only period before the advent of Trinidad & Tobago issues. It details all Postage Stamp issues within the period, as well as the Postal Markings; the coverage includes Postal Stationery, Postage Dues, and Revenue and Official Stamps. The final chapter examines the 'D22' markings of Ciudad Bolivar, the 'TOO LATE' marks, Ship Letters, Military Mail and many other more esoteric aspects of Trinidad philately. There are five Appendices which include a listing of Trinidad Governors and Postmasters-General, details of the printings of all the Postage Stamps as well as a census of the Lady McLeod stamp with many of these illustrated in colour. And lastly, there is a long list describing many of the early Trinidad covers, pre-1860. Price: \$70.00. BCPSG Members' Price: \$63.00

This fine book is limited to 400 copies and your individually numbered copy can be ordered from:- Edward Barrow, 16704 Briardale Road, Derwood, MD 20855, Tel:- 301-816-1157 or E-mail:- e.barrow1@gmail.com. For members in Britain or Europe, orders should be sent to David Druett, Pennymead Auctions, 1, Brewerton St., Knaresborough, N. YORKS. HG5 8AZ. Tel:- 01423 865962 or Fax:- 01423 547057 or E-mail:- Pennymead@aol.com. Or log on to [www.pennymead.com](http://www.pennymead.com), where the book can be ordered with secure credit card check out facilities.

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[rxfire@frontier.com](mailto:rxfire@frontier.com)

### BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS

#### THE LOCALLY OVERPRINTED SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS OF BAHAMAS, 1916-17

by

*Peter Fernbank, FRPSL*

This Study Paper examines the Special Delivery agreement made between Canada and Bahamas in 1916. National Archive sources in both Canada and the UK have been investigated to provide an in-depth review of the Canadian and Bahamas Post Office procedures for dealing with such mail. There has been some misunderstanding regarding the full validity of Canadian covers with a Bahamas Special Delivery stamp affixed, and a grading system is provided for assessing such covers. Further sections define the three settings of the overprint for each position in the sheet, and go on to examine in detail the major errors that exist on this issue. This work sheds much new light on the subject and reveals that in the past there have been a number of misconceptions regarding this issue.

**Price:- £19.00 (approx US\$30.00).**

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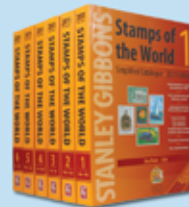
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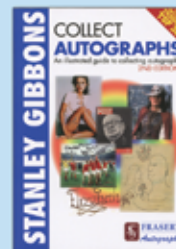
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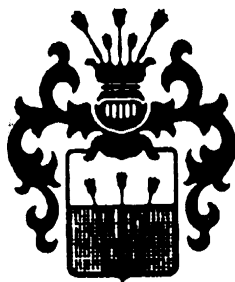
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