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January issue: Deadline November 15, mailing December 30

April issue: Deadline February 15, mailing March 30

July issue: Deadline May 15, mailing June 30

October issue: Deadline August 15, mailing September 30

Postmarks of the British West Indies: St. Vincent, KGVI 1937-1955

By David Horry
an Englishman resident in Shanghai, China

St. Vincent was known by the Caribs as Hairoun, Home of the Blessed. It was discovered by Columbus on January 22, 1498, the anniversary of the martyrdom of Saint Vincent. By 1719, French settlers grew coffee, tobacco, indigo, cotton and sugar on plantations worked by enslaved Africans. In 1763, St. Vincent was ceded to Britain, then restored to French rule in 1779. It was regained by the British under the Treaty of Paris in 1783 and was under British rule until independence. At the end of 1951, the island's population was estimated at 70,130, a substantial rise from 61,666 five years earlier.

Arthur D. Pierce first wrote of the postmarks of St. Vincent back in June 1945 in *The Jamaica Philatelist*. Peter Jaffe, A.E. Hopkins, O. Bowlby and John Forrest all added their three ha'pence worth in the 1950s, but the first reliable listing (GPO Kingstown not included!) was that of Joe Chin Aleong in his marvellous *West Indies Postal History Review* which ran from 1980 - 1994. Ted Proud's *Postal History of St. Lucia and St. Vincent* was published in 2006 and my *Encyclopaedia of British West Indies Postmarks, KGVI* dedicates six full pages to St. Vincent's cancellations.

During the King George VI period there were 22 district post offices, many of which offer scarce items for the postmark hunter (*Figure 1*). The villages tend to hug the coastline as the interior is mountainous and hardly populated.

Cumberland has a "Thimble" (Th) found within the period (*Figure 2*) -- it was first used in 1884 and continued use until around July 1939; it is almost impossible to find on KGVI stamps.

Figure 2
Very rare within the period Cumberland ssC.



The standard issue canceller was the small single circle (ssC) first issued in the Edwardian period -- those with



Figure 1
Map of St. Vincent Post Offices 1937-1955.

Time Code (usually "C") appear at Barrouallie, Bridgetown, Chateaubelair and Colonarie (*Figure 3*). All of these are scarce except for Chateaubelair. All these have a short underlined "T" in "ST." Orange Hill was first used just before the Great War and has a normal "T;" however the Time



Figure 3
Barrouallie, Bridgetown, Chateaubelair and Colonarie ssCs with TC C.



Figure 3a
The difficult to decipher Orange Hill sSC.

to fluff up the price of the higher values.

The most common variety of postmark during the period are the small single circles with asterisk (sSC*). They are to be found at Arnos Vale, Biabou (Bridgetown), Evesham, two at Georgetown, four at Kingston, Mesopotamia and Troumaca (*Figure 4*). It is noticeable that the dates are often inserted upside down at quite a few offices.



Figure 4
Arnos Vale sSC*(1), Evesham sSC, Georgetown sSC*(2),
Mesopotamia sSC*(1) and Troumaca sSC*(1).

The cancellers at Edinboro and Sion Hill were better managed as they were used extensively to cancel to order the 1937 Coronation issue and other omnibus issues (*Figure 5*); later strikes for these two villages are far more difficult to find.

The scarcer sSC*s are Barrouallie, Bucament, Cumberland, Lowmans (Windward), Lowmans Hill, New Ground (New Adelphi until December 1932), two from Questelles and Stubbs (*Figure 6*). The strike for Layou is slightly bigger than the average (*Figure 7*) and is also fairly unusual.

Continued on page 6

Code C has been rotated 90 degrees to appear as an upside-down horseshoe (*Figure 3a*) -- this is one scarce office.

There is also a common one for Kingston but beware of Madame Joseph forgeries dated “16 5 41,” “16 7 42” and “5 8 43” which were scandalously used in London



Figure 5
Edinboro and Sion Hill sSC*s CTO on
Coronation stamps.



Figure 6
Some scarce sSC*s from (clockwise): Stubbs sSC*(1), Lowmans Hill sSC*, New Ground sSC*(2), Questelles sSC*(1), Lowmans (Windward) sSC* and Cumberland sSC*(1) -- note some topsy-turvy year slugs.

The rare sSC*s are noted at Colonarie and New Ground (Figure 8) and I recently discovered the only Parcel Post sSC known – it is dated “4 3 39” (Figure 9). A pre-war parcel from St. Vincent must have been a real treat!



Figure 7

Layout sSC slightly larger than its other relatives.*

The only Birmingham style postmarks are for the Money Order Office ORD “14 5 49” (Figure 10) and Field Post Office 47 ORD “27 11 45” -- the latter I have no information on.



Figure 8

*The rare sSC*s from Colonarie and New Ground.*

Kingstown G.P.O. first had a machine canceller as early as 1937 -- initially it carried the slogans SP(1) “St. Vincent for Health and Beauty,” SP(2) “St. Vincent Arrowroot a Wholesome Food,” and SP(3) “Sea Island Cotton for Quality and Comfort” (Figure 11) -- all of these are very scarce: a seven line killer “K(1)” isn’t that easy to find either.



Figure 9

Rare Parcel Post sSC 4 3 39.

There is also a slogan postmark for the “Princess Alice Appeal” which ran late February to late March 1955 SP(4) and is scarce (Figure 12). A new Universal Electric Machine was installed on February 26, 1955 -- what fun



Figure 10

Birminghams for Money Order Office and Field Post Office 47, both rare.

they must have had that day in Kingstown!

Finally, look out for Paquebot markings which crop up quite often on the penny halfpenny red (and green) stamp. Shown here are Paquebot cancels from British Guiana, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Barbados (Figure 13). St. Vincent’s Paquebots are very hard to find indeed (Figure 14).

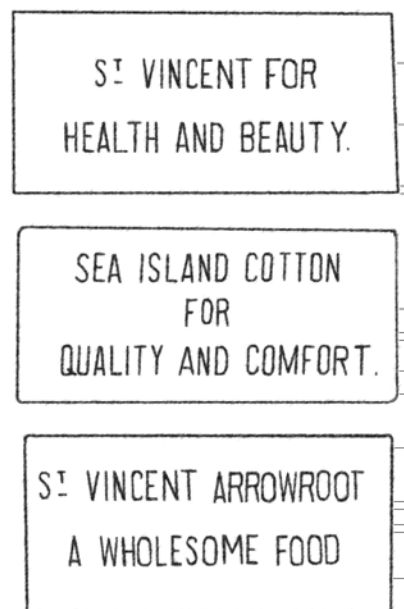


Figure 11

Three slogan postmarks from the late 1930s.

St. Vincent postmarks aren’t seen around much except for the ubiquitous Kingstown (Figure 15) and George-



Figure 12

The Princess Alice Appeal, 1955.

town small single circles. These are found with serif and sans-serif "I" in B.W.I. at the base. Questelles has the same -- with the older strikes having the serif "I."

Local stamp shows and fairs are probably the best place to look for them. However, like many West Indian islands, genuinely used pre-1950s covers are exceedingly difficult to find. When cancels do emerge, they can be somewhat scruffy as many of the village offices suffered from dry ink pads and these can take a bit of deciphering, but that's half the fun.

PAQUEBOT

PAQUEBOT

Figure 14

The elusive St. Vincent paquebots.



Figure 13

Paquebot cancels (clockwise) from British Guiana, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Barbados.

Figure 15
One of the ubiquitous
Kingstown strikes, sSC(3)*
with sans-serif "I" in BWI.



Nominations for Trustees

At the end of this year the Trustees for the Group will have three vacancies when the terms for Tom Giraldi, Bob Stewart and Stephen Schumann expire on December 31, 2015. On behalf of the members I take this opportunity to thank each person for their contributions, and hope that this will continue even if not a Trustee.

Provision of some information on the governance of the BCPSG is probably in order, prior to requesting nominations for the upcoming vacancies. In accordance with our Constitution and Bylaws, affairs of the group are managed and controlled by a Board of Trustees (Article IV, Section I). The Board of Trustees consists of nine elected members, all of whom must remain in good standing during their trusteeship, who are elected in classes of three.

Trustees are elected every odd-numbered year, and serve a term of six years, commencing on January 1 of the year following their election. The officer positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, International Director and Editor of the *Journal* are elected by the Board of Trustees and automatically become members of the Board of Trustees. Furthermore, any living Past President shall automatically become an honorary member of the Board of Trustees, provided that he remains a member in good standing of the Group (Article IV, Section 2). The current slate of Trustees is identified along with the Officers inside the front cover of the *Journal* and on our website.

In order to fill the three vacancies, nominations for the position of Trustee are solicited from the membership. Nomination can be accepted from any member in good standing. If there is someone that you would like to nominate please first check with the individual that they are willing to stand for election and assuming that they agree, then provide the name to me along with the names of two other members who second the nomination. I will then make arrangements to collect biographical information and include the name on the ballot. Please ensure that all nominations are received by me before the end of July. Thank you.

Mary Gleadall, *Secretary*

Supply and Demand Attributes of the Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers of Jamaica

By Dr. John K. Courtis, FRPSL

Why was Kingston, the capital of Jamaica, such an important sailing destination in the 19th Century? The geographic shape, depth and safety of Kingston Harbour are the simple reasons. Within the British West Indies, this harbor became a hub for sailing and steamships from Great Britain, Europe, the U.S. and elsewhere. Known as an “entrepôt” or trading post, Kingston was a base where ships from all nations were able to trade their cargoes rather than continue already tedious and long journeys. Kingston was a major coaling stop for steamships while Jamaica was one of the world’s leading exporters of sugar.

What has this preamble to do with post office postal stationery wrappers of Jamaica? The overseas destinations of wrappers can often mirror the type of business and other contacts

established during lengthy periods of high volumes of shipping and trading. There were 232 wrappers and 26 countries noted as non-Jamaican destinations on a sample of 326 wrappers.

Post Office Issues

The diademed profile of Queen Victoria, designed and printed by De La Rue and Co., London was the indicium used on the first issue on September 1, 1888. This ½d green key-plate issue (E1 using the H&G “E” catalogue numbers) had been adopted by Malta (1885), Natal (1885), Grenada (1886), St. Lucia (1887), Leeward Islands (1890), St. Vincent (1893) and Sierra Leone (1898). The use of key plate indicia on postal stationery copied their use by British Colonies on the definitive stamp issues.

In 1903 the head of King Edward VII facing left ½d green (E2) was issued followed in 1912 by the head of King George V in a redesigned frame in the unchanged newspaper mailing rate ½d green (E3). There was another change in design in 1938 with the issue of three values of the King George VI facing right indicium -- ½d yellow green (E4) and deep green (E5), 1d green (E6) and ½d orange (E7). The head of Queen Elizabeth II facing right was issued in 1954, ½d orange (E8) and 1d green (E9). Later that same year this latter issue was amended to replace the background lines around the Queen’s head with a greenish tint (E10).



Kingston Harbour in 1870 (From Wikipedia).

Portraits of the monarch were replaced in 1964 with the Jamaican Coat of Arms in 1d green (E11) and 1½d red (E12). When the postal rate for overseas use increased to 2d, a provisional was

created by adding a boxed purple handstamp “Postage Paid/Half Penny” to the left of the 1½d red indicium (E13, not shown). It is not clear what year this was issued. On September 8, 1969 decimal currency issues were released bearing the same Coat of Arms design in 1¢ green (E14) and 2¢ red (E15). New values were issued in 1979 also depicting the Coat of Arms: 5¢ blue (E16) and 9¢ green (E17). There were no further post office issues.

The indicia used on the wrappers of Jamaica are shown as illustration 2, the images having been copied with the kind permission of Jan Kosniowski from his forthcoming catalogue of worldwide postal stationery wrappers (2015). The number of each type listed on eBay over the past 11 years is shown in parentheses.

Supply on eBay

The author's database of images of used post office postal stationery wrappers has reached 35,000 worldwide examples. All but a handful have been collected from daily listings on eBay. Of this total, there are 326 examples of used post office wrappers of Jamaica and the distribution of these is summarized in Table 1. In all, there are 17 basic issues.

It must be noted, however, that while eBay is a large, growing and important market, it is not the only source of the wrappers of Jamaica. There are other important Internet sites such as Delcampe and American Philatelic Society as well as dealers and stamp bourses. There are traditional auction houses and there are dealers that sell directly to known customers. The eBay listings are used as a proxy of what is available on the international market.

More than one-third of extant wrappers are the QV E1 issue. The basic reason for this predominance is that this first issue lasted for 14.3 years before being replaced by the KEVII issue. This E2 issue lasted for nine years until it was replaced in 1912 with the KGV issue, which in

Illustration 2: Indicia Used on Wrappers of Jamaica



turn lasted for 26 years and explains the 53 copies of this issue. When the KGVI issues are added, these five issues account for 254 wrappers or 80 percent of the total and cover a period of 49 years. By contrast, the remaining wrappers, 20 percent of the total, cover a period of 41 years. The more recent issues are much harder to find than the earlier issues.

During the 11 years of record-keeping, there were two issues with no eBay listings: E13 and E17. Another eight issues appeared with a frequency of listing of less than one per year and these wrappers are elusive from this eBay source. The post office wrappers of the Coat of Arms issues are elusive used, especially the last two 1979 issues. Mint copies have been listed for sale, but only one used copy of the last issue, E17.

The demographics show that 94 (28 percent) of wrappers were addressed to locations within Jamaica while 232 (72 percent) of wrappers were addressed to 26 countries outside Jamaica. This range of foreign destinations is dominated by U.S.A. (125 wrappers), with the next closest country destination being the U.K. (42). Other countries in descending order are Germany (15), Canada (13), Holland (8), Switzerland (7), and Australia (6). *Continued on page 10*

Table 1: Distribution of Post Office Types of Jamaican Wrappers

H&G #	Indicium Details	Number listed	local	Overseas	Up-rated
E1	1889 QV ½d green	120	60	60	33
E2	1903 KEVII ½d green	22	3	19	10
E3	1912 KGV ½d green	53	7	46	19
E4	1938 KGVI ½d yellow green	32	1	31	1
E5	1938 KGVI ½d dark green	25	0	25	4
E6	1938 KGVI 1d green	3	0	3	0
E7	1938 KGVI ½d orange	7	1	6	5
E8	1938 QEII ½d orange	21	4	17	12
E9	1954 QEII 1d green background lines	9	1	8	4
E10	1954 QEII 1d green tint background	6	1	5	5
E11	1964 Coat of Arms 1d green	3	2	1	0
E12	1964 Coat of Arms 1½d red	15	13	2	2
E13	196? Coat of Arms extra ½d h/s on E12	0	0	0	1
E14	1969 Coat of Arms 1c green	3	0	3	2
E15	1969 Coat of Arms 2c red	6	1	5	5
E16	1979 Coat of Arms 5c blue	0	0	0	0
E17	1979 Coat of Arms 9c green	1	0	1	1
Totals		326	94	232	104

land (3), France, Brazil, Canal Zone, Turks Islands, St. Lucia and Costa Rica (2 each), and 14 countries with one example each: Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bermuda, Canal Zone, Colombia, Denmark, Haiti, Hong Kong, Nicaragua, Sweden and Switzerland.

Specimen wrappers were prepared for U.P.U. distribution to member countries, Jamaica having joined in 1877. E1, E2, E3 and E5 are known with specimen overprints. De La Rue black 92 x 9mm seriffed diagonal overprints sloping upward from left to right appear on the wrappers of the first three issues, but for E5 a smaller 41 x 4mm sans-serif "SPECIMEN" appeared sloping down from left to right.

Postal History Interest

Some interesting auxiliary markings can be found. A hexagonal "RETURNED/LETTER BRANCH/(date)/JAMAICA" was observed on five wrappers. A "TOO LATE" marking (*shown in Figure 3a-h*), several postage due markings applied in Jamaica, U.S. and U.K., several censor markings, a two-line "SUPPOSED to CONTAIN MATER (*sic*) PROHIBITED/ ? EXAMINATION" and a blue crayon "Missent" are also noted.

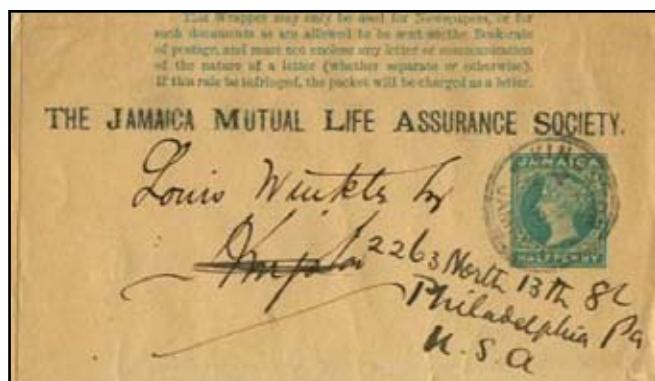


Figure 3a

E1: "The Jamaica Mutual Life Assurance Society."

Merchant and other handstamps were noted: a purple double oval "FINKE & Co., Kingston, Jamaica," purple oval "The Jamaica Society of Agriculture & Commerce," "If Undelivered Return to Holy Cross Church, Half-Way Tree, Jamaica," "Jamaica Christian Mission, Jamaica, B.W.I.," "Return to L. BARRINGTON SMITH" (stamp dealer -- this handstamp appeared on 10 wrappers); and double-oval "University College of the West Indies" together with straight-line "Via Airmail/ Newspaper Only" (*shown in Figure 3*). There were four unused copies of E14 First Day Issue and one unused copy of E15 First Day Issue (these were not included in the listing count). One cheeky handwritten note beneath the address on an E1 wrapper read: "I opened the paper to have a read. Hope you don't mind."

Eight examples of wrappers with special postal history interest were selected from the database are shown in Figure 3. These examples serve to demonstrate what can be found on eBay with astute routine monitoring and patience. The first four wrappers are the only recorded



Figure 3b

E1: "Job Printing."

cases of private printing: The Jamaica Mutual Life Assurance Society, Job Printing ... Send your Orders to the "Gleaner" Office¹ ..., Gleaner "Want" Column, and *The West Indian Collector*.

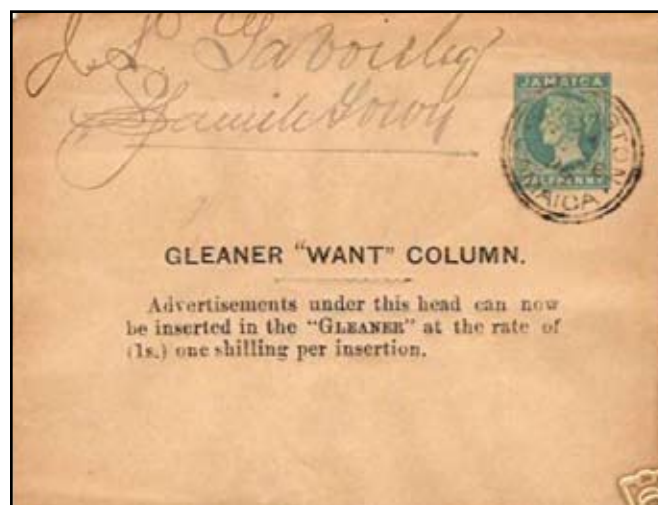


Figure 3c

E1: Gleaner "Want" column.

Wrapper number five shows the auxiliary marking "TOO LATE." The concept of a "Too Late" stamp is that it is an advice mark notifying that letters, etc., have been received too late for delivery by a certain time, or alternatively, it is the reason for a delay in mail delivery. In other words it has been applied to mail that had missed the cut-off. This wrapper bears an address to the chief town and capital Sav La Mar of Westmoreland Par-

ish. (Sav is the abbreviation of Savanna). The circular postmark reads "KINGSTON 45 JU 2 98 JAMAICA." Mail for the post towns was made up at specific times by the Kingston G.P.O. and "TOO LATE" markings



Figure 3d

E1: "TOO LATE" auxiliary handstamp.

appear on inland letters. Unlike "TOO LATE" straight line handstamps used in Barbados, Grenada, Zanzibar and Queensland, this marking is distinctive being a top



Figure 3e

E3: Registered usage and U.S. Customs handstamp.

semi-circle with sans-serif "TOO LATE" within (Courtis 2102). It is understandable why this marking could be applied to letter mail, but why it would be applied to a newspaper wrapper which is a lower class of discounted postage mail is an interesting question. This is the only incidence in the database of a Too Late auxiliary marking appearing on an extant wrapper of Jamaica. It sold to a sole bidder for the sum of \$19.20.

Several wrappers showed postage due "T" markings. Wrapper number six has two due markings. The first was an outgoing handstamp applied in Jamaica -- "T/ JAMAICA & CENTIMES 10" within binocular cir-

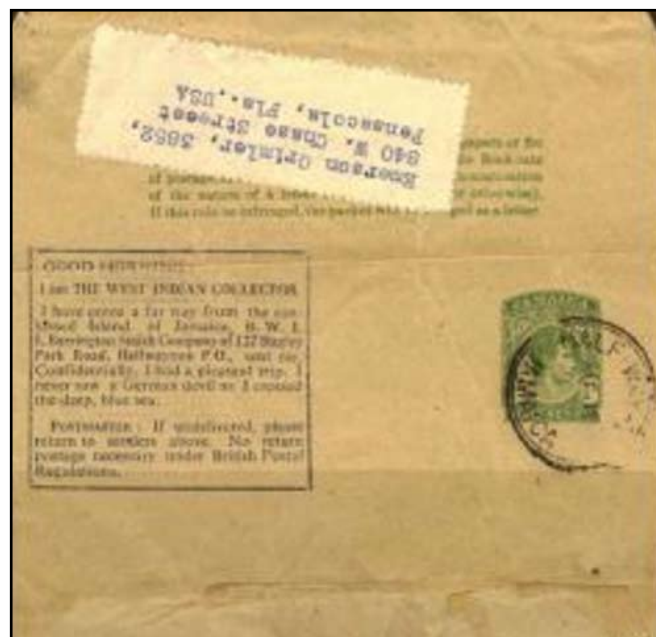


Figure 3f

E4: The West Indian Collector.

cles. The second was an incoming handstamp applied in the USA -- "Collect 2 Cents Due// G.P.O. N.Y." Other postage due markings can be found on E3 wrappers, for example, another with the same exit due Jamaican handstamp to the U.S. was paid with a 2¢ U.S. due adhesive;



Figure 3g

E3: "JAMAICA" and "CENTIMES 10" within binocular circles and U.S. "Due 2" handstamp and "Collect 2 CENTS/G.P.O. N.Y."

another to the U.K. with an incoming "2d/To Pay" handstamp was paid with a black GB 2d due. The appearance of postage due adhesive on wrappers is uncommon.

The seventh example is a registered usage bearing an etiquette of "Kingston R" with the 2d registration fee paid

Continued on page 12



Figure 3h
E7: “University College” and
“Via Air Mail” handstamps.

with a block of four 1927 KGV ½d green (Scott #101) and cancelled with a pair of oval Kingston Registration (only the year 1931 is readable from the Internet image). This wrapper also passed through U.S. Customs with an oval purple handstamp “Free of Duty.” There are other customs markings to be found on wrappers, mostly a circular “U.S. CENSORSHIP/Examined by” (and manuscript number). The last wrapper is an example of air mail usage and shows an attractive sender double oval handstamp bearing “University College of the West Indies” with a second two line handstamp “Via Airmail// Newspaper Only” superimposed.

Demand on eBay

Since March 2006, the author has hand-collected daily sales data of used wrappers that have occurred on eBay. As at the middle of October 2014, there have been 13,800 sales recorded in the database of which 99 refer to the post office wrappers of Jamaica. These sales are summarized in Table 2 per “E” type from lowest to highest realized price. The number of bidders per transaction is shown in parentheses. Number of bidders is not the same as number of bids, which is usually higher. An awareness of the number of bidders is helpful in determin-

ing the strength of the collector market. A useful rule of thumb is that an average score of 2.5 bidders per type of wrapper issue is a tipping point -- a score above 2.5 indicates a stronger collector interest and a score below 2.5 indicates a weaker collector interest.

The profile of all bidders shows that there was only one transaction with five bidders, four transactions with four bidders, seven transactions with three bidders, 23 transactions with two bidders and 64 sole bidder transactions. The one and two bidder transactions account for an overwhelming 88 percent of sales. The overall weighted average number of bidders calculated from the last column of Table 2 is 1.55. Not one post office type scored 2.5 and above. Nine issues scored less than 2.00. The implication is that none of the wrapper types of Jamaica have a strong bidder following on eBay.

Table 2: eBay Sales Transactions of Jamaica Wrappers (2006-2014)

H&G #	Sales Details (Ranked Low to High in USD) & Number of Bidders per Sale (in Parentheses) Post Office Issues “E” catalogue numbers	Total Sales	Mean Sale Price	Mean # of Bidders
1	0.99 (1); 0.99 (1); 0.99 (1); 1.00 (1); 1.01 (1); 1.54 (1); 1.60 (1); 1.99 (1); 1.99 (1); 2.74 (2); 2.80 (4); 2.99 (1); 2.99 (1); 3.00 (1); 3.00 (1); 3.18 (1); 3.32 (2); 4.64 (2); 4.99 (1); 5.35 (2); 5.68 (1); 5.99 (1); 7.00 (1); 8.52 (2); 9.25 (3); 9.99 (1); 10.60 (3); 11.50 (2); 12.99 (1); 13.46 (5); 14.99 (1); 5.00 (1); 19.20 (1)	33	5.90	1.52
2	3.00 (1); 3.25 (2); 4.99 (1); 6.00 (1); 6.95 (1); 7.00 (1); 12.50 (2); 17.99 (1)	8	7.71	1.25
3	0.99 (1); 1.00 (1); 1.01 (1); 1.63 (3); 1.99 (1); 1.99 (1); 4.26 (2); 5.89 (4); 6.50 (1); 6.50 (2); 7.99 (1); 10.49 (4); 25.00 (1)	13	5.78	1.77
4	0.99 (1); 1.60 (1); 1.61 (1); 1.99 (1); 1.99 (1); 3.00 (1); 3.45 (1); 3.81 (2); 4.99 (1); 9.99 (1);	10	3.42	1.10
5	2.85 (3); 3.26 (1); 3.26 (4); 3.90 (1); 7.50 (2); 9.00 (1)	6	4.96	2.00
6	No sales recorded	0		
7	2.99 (1); 10.49 (2); 11.59 (3); 21.50 (2)	4	11.64	2.00
8	1.99 (1); 2.30 (2); 4.14 (2); 5.76 (2); 5.90 (1); 8.35 (3)	6	4.74	1.83
9	0.99 (1); 6.95 (1); 14.00 (1)	3	7.31	1.00
10	0.99 (1); 2.25 (2); 4.00 (1); 6.10 (1)	4	3.33	1.25
11	4.99 (1)	1	4.99	1.00
12	0.98 (1); 2.75 (2); 2.99 (1); 2.99 (1); 2.99 (1); 7.50 (2); 7.99 (1)	7	4.03	1.29
13	No sales recorded	0		
14	6.50 (2); 8.90 (2)	2	7.70	2.00
15	4.00 (3); 4.99 (1)	2	4.50	2.00
16	No sales recorded	0		
17	No sales recorded	0		
Total sales of Post Office Types		99	32.16	1.55
Specimen Sales				
1	13.99 (1); 19.99 (1)	2	16.99	1.00
2	5.50 (2); 6.05 (2)	2	5.78	2.00
3	5.50 (3); 16.50 (4)	2	11.00	3.50
5	6.22 (1)	1	6.22	1.00
Total sales of Specimen Types		7	39.99	2.00

There are no realized prices especially worthy of note. Although no attempt was made to track individual items and their realized prices, the author's annotations indicate that two of the wrappers bearing private printing sold for \$9.25 (Mutual Assurance) and \$11.50 (Gleaner).

As mentioned earlier, the "Too Late" handstamp sold for just under \$20. Taken overall, the realized prices are quite modest with only two of the 99 recorded sales selling for more than \$20. The 13 issues that sold on eBay could have been acquired for \$76 on the basis of mean sales prices. The four specimen wrappers would have cost another \$40 based on mean sales prices. These realizations together with an overall weak bidder interest render the wrappers of Jamaica as one of the most inexpensive countries to acquire.

Conclusion

The deep water Kingston Harbour became a mecca for all manner of sailing and steamships that took advantage of this entrepôt to trade cargoes. Business contacts flourished and some of this is mirrored in the range of 26 overseas destinations noted on the wrappers of Jamaica. Newspapers contained information about commodity supplies and prices as well as advertisements placed in the *Gleaner* newspaper. Jamaica issued 17 post office postal stationery types in the 91 year period 1889 to 1979. The author's database contains 326 examples with 80 percent predominance covering the first five issues. By contrast, there were 10 issues with listings of less than 10 each in the 11 year record-keeping period. Two issues have never appeared (E13 and E16).

Some wrappers showed auxiliary markings and other handstamps such as postage due and censor marks. There were registered and airmail usages, and four wrappers contained private printing, always a popular collectible, especially for those seeking to exhibit. A number of merchant marks were also noted. The postal historian had a number of markings, upratings and routes to analyze.

There were 99 sales of Jamaica wrappers recorded. However, taken overall there was weak bidder interest and only two sales were for sums in excess of \$20. Four of the 17 types were not sold. All copies of specimen overprinted wrappers were sold with marginally higher bidder interest and realized amounts.

Footnote

¹ The Gleaner Company was a newspaper publishing enterprise in Jamaica. Established in 1835 by Joshua and Jacob De Cordova, the company's primary product was *The Gleaner*, a morning broadsheet published six days a

week (Wikipedia).

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Endnote

My sincere thanks to Allan Gory for his reading and commenting on an earlier draft.

Writer's Guidelines

Prospective authors are encouraged to submit articles for the *Journal*. We need a constant supply of material to fill these pages. The following are a few hopefully helpful hints to guide you in preparing a submission. These rules are not etched in the proverbial concrete, and you are encouraged to contact the editor (address and email on page 3) if you have a question.

- Electronic submissions are preferred, but not required. In sending a manuscript, whether typed and sent by regular mail, or by email, please follow these standard typesetting conventions: one space after periods or other punctuations, and indent paragraphs. No space need be left between paragraphs. Tables and charts should be prepared separately and not embedded in the text.
- If a file is sent by email, do so either as an attachment or "regular" email. You may also send material on CDs, disks, or Zip disk.
- Generally, scans used for web pages do not have sufficient resolution for use in print. Scan images at 300 dpi and at 100 percent (roughly the size of an average illustration in the *Journal*).
- If a scan is to be used as a color image, send it CYMK, not indexed color.
- Save the scan only as a jpeg or tiff image.
- Most important: send each scan as an attachment to your email and not embedded in the word processing document.

If you follow these simple rules, it will make your editor a happy camper!



Reading Other People's Mail

By Hap Pattiz



A World War II letter from a brother in Bermuda to Africa

The cover shown in Figure 1 is from Bermuda to Oran, North Africa (dated June 14, 1943). It is from one brother, Lieut. R.R. Curtis, RNVR, serving in Bermuda, to another, Lieut. J.W. Curtis, RNVR, serving in like capacity in North Africa.

In a rather long and breezy letter, Rog describes naval service on land in Bermuda, lamenting his limited time at sea, although he has bought a dinghy sailboat which he sails around the harbor (see Figure 2).

In his letter, he does indicate dating one or two of the young ladies acting as censors in Bermuda. And then he mentions his "caution" at such romantic endeavors for fear of being "saddled" with a lady in Bermuda!

Perhaps that reference is why this cover was reviewed by censor #2002 who is known to have been a supervisory censor agent -- presumably not one of the censors!

H.M.W/T Station
Daniel's Head
Somerset
BERMUDA

12th June 1943

My dear Jeff.

Just a fortnight ago I sat down (like this) to write you

a long letter but what with one interruption and another I didn't get very far with it and now I have decided to scrap it and start all over again. This time I shall refuse to be put off and have adjourned to my office where the interrupts are at least controllable rather than to house where of course anything may happen!



Figure 1

Cover to Lieut. J.W. Curtis in North Africa from his brother in Bermuda.
It is dated June 14, 1943.

Your last letter of 19th April took its normal month to arrive and I was very very tickled with some of your observations. Here in Bermuda it would be impossible to avoid the same sort of feelings but very more, if not positively risky to express them quite so freely! I have got on quite well with some of the American colleagues and went with one (a lieut j.g.) along to his men for dinner a few weeks back. That was quite an interesting experience. As you know we are only 600 miles from the States and most of the little luxuries (in this AND BOTTLES) come from there which is bound to influence our opinion of the U.S.A. very favorably!

I can't say I envy you your present location. It is warm enough here at times and inclined to be a bit

sticky when the South wind blows but invariably there is a breeze of sorts and today it is just perfect. It is really just like being in a ship in Mid-Atlantic (without the attendant dangers) and the air couldn't be much fresher when it gets here.

Before I forget it films. Hamilton is right out of 620's at the moment but I am keeping my eye open for the next shipment and will try and get you some when they arrive. I still have three rolls left out of the dozen or so I brought away with me but they need using pretty quickly as they are not "tropical pack." The last roll I used stuck badly in the camera and so I wouldn't advise you to try to get any from home unless they are especially prepared they don't stand up to the last. Also they are terribly scarce when I left home. You had to queue up at Kodaks at a specified hour of the day to buy one roll, and I only managed to get my packet of a dozen through a colossal wrangle involving Ethel! As it happened I needn't have bothered her as there was no shortage in New York and they were cheaper.

Last week I got back from Canada the roll of 620 Kodak colour film I took soon after I arrived here. I was wondering where it had got to but apparently the processing took a

long time. It is very difficult to get any idea of what they are like from the negatives which are in reverse colours - there is a lot of sea and sky which comes out a sort of dull yellow and a red flower comes out a flaming green. Unfortunately getting prints is rather difficult owing to the currency restrictions, and the negatives will have to go back to the States for the job.

Many thanks for getting the set of local stamps for me. How about some used ones too? Can you stick some on an envelope and put them in the post to me by ordinary mail - it wouldn't matter how long they took to come through? Maybe though you are not allowed to use ordinary shore mail. I haven't had a chance yet to get any more West Indian sets for you but I am still hoping. It is a bit difficult to keep the gum from sticking out here as there doesn't seem a really dry place anywhere.

I should love to see the ship complete with its decorations of puffing pot-bellied cherubs! I really do envy

you your ship as it isn't much fun being in the Navy in a shore job. However I can at least get out in the water when I want to now as I have bought a very nice little 14 ft. sailing dinghy. (Incidentally in reference to the boat in letters home the word after 'ft' is omitted as Mother would doubtless be scared to death at the idea of my sailing madly in and out of the coral reefs all around this bit of the coast). I have named her "So Why?" and she sails beautifully, perhaps I will enclose a photo of her pulled up on the beach as I don't think I will send it home just yet!

Swimming is in full swing and the water has just about got to the stage of warmth which is refreshing without being too tepid. I expect during the next two months it will get a bit too warm during the day but a swim before dinner is always pleasant especially as

baths are restricted owing to the water shortage. It seems amazing that Bermuda has gone on all these years without anything to improve its water supply -- roof catchments and large tanks are all well but if it doesn't rain regularly you find the water getting low.

Otherwise things are going along here much the same as normal. We have got into a more or less regular routine of playing

bridge once a week with a local person and one of the wealthy Hamilton merchants who live in the next parish. Fortunately the standard is not very high and Cox and I are both studying Culbertson to see if we can't make a bit more of it. Thursday I went down to "Mal-athas" for guest-night dinner and afterwards to play with the Surgeon 2 1/2 in a friendly match against some of the Dockyard officials. We took 3/- off the Contractor and NSO and 9d. off the Cashier and S.E.E. which gratified me enormously - it is a lovely feeling to take money off some of these highly paid civil servants!!

Last Saturday I went to the local open-air cinema to see "In Which We Serve" - have you seen it yet? I was quite impressed by the amount of trouble which must have been taken over it. There were some of the naval officer's blunders which crop up in most films like that and it really was rather stirring. I'm sure Noel Coward would be quickly promoted to Capt. D if he joined the

Continued on page 16



This photograph of a dinghy belonging to Lieut. R.R. ("Rog") Curtis was included in the letter sent to his brother in North Africa.

Manuscript "I.D." on U.K.-type censor tapes

By Hap Pattiz

Figure 1 is a cover from Venezuela mailed in June 1942, from Caracas to Havana, Cuba, and sent by air, but intercepted and censored in Jamaica by censor #3945, using U.K.-type censor tape CL5-1D, which has added a manuscript "I.D." (the code for Jamaica censorship) to the tape.

As stated in prior notes on Jamaica censorship, the addition of manuscript "I.D." to U.K. type tapes is quite rare (although more commonly seen on local Jamaica censor tapes, but even then quite scarce).

What is also interesting is that censor #3945 is also known working in Bermuda during this same period (from early 1941 through 1943) and was using the same censor tape there, so likely felt it appropriate to add the manuscript "I.D." to distinguish his service in the new location.



Figure 1
Cover from Venezuela to Havana, Cuba, intercepted and censored in Jamaica. Below, reserve side of the cover.

Reading other people's mail

Continued from page 15

Navy! Tuesday I also went to the pictures, over at Hamilton, but the attraction was not so much the picture, which was mediocre, as the girl I took, who is a very pretty brunette.

She is a censorette and I shall have to tread warily owing to another young lady being in the same line (of whom I have written before), but in any case I don't intend to press matters as I am very much against getting saddled with a spouse in Bermuda, it would be far too expensive!

I had letters yesterday from Jack (lucky beggar, family being at K.A. this time of the year). Auntie and Mother. Auntie said that John looked resplendent in his uniform (the first indication I had that he was definitely through) and had gone very old school tie, not telling a single dirty joke all the week end !!! I still haven't

heard a word from John since I came away but apparently he is going to write to me soon !!!! I wonder what sort of jobs John and Jack will get both connected with the same sort of thing I am afraid, and I will say I am too happy about their prospects.

Ah well I have got through this without too many digressions and I will not tempt providence by writing much more I have some 14 letters to answer, goodness knows when that will be done. I will try and get some films off to you but I can't promise as even if I can get them I still have to get an export permit to send them out.

Cheers and God Bless - my love as always

Rog

Further notes on Jamaica World War II Censors

By Hap Pattiz

Recently, I acquired an “outlier” which is shown in Figure 1. It is a relatively common cover from the U.S. (Columbus, Ohio) to Lima, Peru, and is dated December 23, 1945 -- after World War II was over.

had stopped by this date.

What happened? A guess -- the cover transited Jamaica where a leftover censor chop was irregularly added to the cover. Collectors may wish to look carefully for more examples of this use of such censor chops out of the normal course of use. I have not seen any others.



Figure 1a
Front of cover to Peru with mysterious circled “14” at lower center.

However, the cover shows the circled “14” which is the censor chop used in Jamaica. For a cover showing the normal use of this censor chop, see Figure 2.

According to Miller,¹ these censor chops were only used into 1942. So this cover from December 1945 is clearly beyond the normal use of the censor chop AND normal censorship in Jamaica



Figure 1b
Reverse of cover to Peru showing arrival backstamp.



Figure 2a
Normal use of censor chop during World War II.



Figure 2b
Reverse of cover to U.S. from Jamaica.

FOOTNOTE

¹ Christopher Miller, *British Civil Censorship Devices World War II, Section 6: Canada and Colonies in the Caribbean and North and South America*. Civil Censorship Study Unit, 2006.

Curious cover to U.S. from Venezuela during World War II

By Paul Raynor
Of Canada

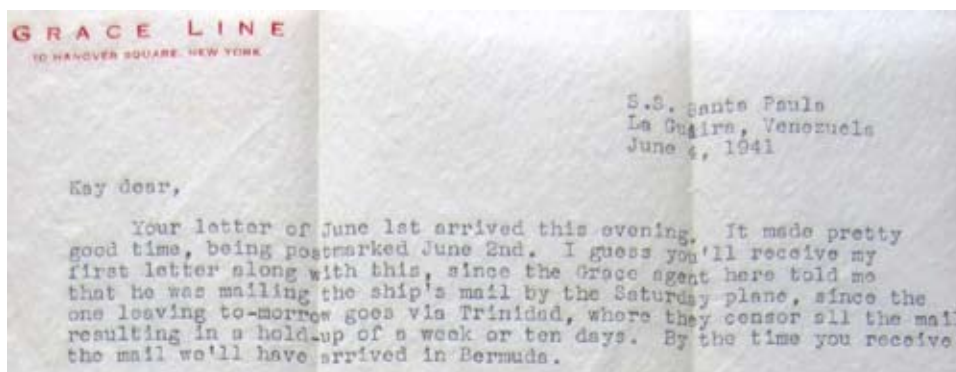
The 1941 cover shown here from Venezuela to the U.S. is curious in that it was censored in Jamaica rather than Trinidad. The cover has Jamaican censor tape and a violet four-line "POSTAL CENSOR/JAMAICA/

Guairita postmark is mostly illegible, but the Jamaica backstamp is dated June 10. The censor caused more than just delay. Dr. Weisl concludes by saying: "I hope if a censor reads this, he will properly blush for intruding on such very personal business."



A 1941 cover from Venezuela to the U.S. was censored in Jamaica rather than Trinidad.

PASSED/(5)" and a Jamaica double-ring datestamp on the reverse. The letter inside the cover provides the explanation for the routing.



Interesting extract from letter enclosed in cover shown above.

Writing to his wife from on board the ship *Santa Paula*, Dr. Weisl (the ship's doctor) says that sending letters via Trinidad meant long delays by the censor, so the purser would be putting the mail on the plane via Jamaica. The letter was written on a Wednesday (June 4) and sent on the Saturday plane (June 7). The La

The *Santa Paula* was one of four passenger and cargo ocean liners built at the beginning of the 1930s for the Grace Line (her sister ships were the *Santa Rosa*, *Santa Lucia*, and *Santa Elena*). In the late 1930s until the U.S. entered into World War II, when she was converted to a troop transport, the *Santa Paula* sailed from the U.S. to the Caribbean and South America.

Needing help with 1937 Curacao cover to U.S.



By Paul Raynor
Of Canada

Can anyone help provide more information about the postmark on this 1937 commercial cover from Curacao to the U.S.?

The stamp is cancelled with a violet two-line unframed "K.L.M. CURACAO/26 APR 1937," and the cover was backstamped at Maracaibo the same day. Apparently KLM's service to Maracaibo began in 1936, and direct flights to the U.S. did not begin until August 1938.



Please Help!

**Your editor is seriously in need of articles for this publication!
You have always come through before -- now we need to step up
and do it again. The situation is critical! I have one article in the file for
the April 2015 issue ... that's all.**

**I am uncomfortable unless I have at least a dozen articles available
for forthcoming issues.**

Please help create a backlog for me!

And please do it now!

Celebrating 60th anniversary of BWISC

By Charles Freeland
Of Switzerland

Founded in 1954, the British West Indies Study Circle's 60th anniversary went out on a high with a fantastic display of BWI rarities at the Royal Philatelic Society London on Thursday, November 6, 2014. Countless BWISC members came by during the afternoon, helping to shatter the RPS's attendance record with a total of 201 signed in, compared with the normal attendance, even for HM the Queen's displays, of some 100-125. One objective was to cover all the countries that comprise the BWI and it must have been the first time that frames of Anguilla and Barbuda were shown in the hallowed room. Among the 32 exhibitors were 13 from all corners of the planet, including BCPSG stalwarts David Horry (showing postmarks and oddities), Ian Matheson (British Honduras), Peter McCann (Montserrat), and Fitz Roett (Barbados). It was also nice to see Mary and George Gleadall among the attendees.

While there were far too many highlights to list, I must mention the spectacular frames brought by David Pitts, containing five Bermuda Postmaster stamps, covers from 1620 and 1628 and the famous Moncrieff cover among many other goodies and Simon Greenwood's British Guiana cotton reels, headed by two covers which far outshone those in the now notorious Feldman sale of June 2014. I doubt there has been an occasion when these huge rarities were displayed in one room, certainly not when the Circle last displayed to the RPS in March 1960, even though such historic names as Marriott, Townsend, Messenger and Toeg are listed among the exhibitors then. Added to that, visitors could marvel at three Dummer packet letters, two Lady McLeod covers (and a mint McLeod) and a wealth of rare provisional overprints, including Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Dominica, St. Christopher and Turks Islands rarities. As for the essay and proof material, words cannot describe the beauty and importance of some of the pages on show. There are now scans of almost all the displays on the bwisc.org website, together with an electronic version of the brochure expertly coordinated by Peter Ford.

The festivities had started on Wednesday evening when the Circle was invited to a reception generously hosted by Stanley Gibbons in their galleries, with a first opportunity to view some of the exhibits. The next morning everyone put up their exhibits at the RPS and then gathered in the hostelry next door for a liquid lunch. After the RPS afternoon displays were over, there were the regular drinks and nibbles and we then moved to the discrete but grand Naval Club in Mayfair where John Keegan had organized a splendid dinner much enjoyed by 60 members and guests. The following day a select group of overseas exhibitors were invited to lunch at Spink. No wonder a few of those involved have asked me when we plan to repeat it.

This was not the only event celebrating the Circle's 60th birthday. In April the regular annual auction, attended by 40 members, was extended to include 60 selected rarities comprising at least £250 in value and this boosted the total auction turnover to just beyond £50,000, bringing much needed income into the coffers. Also in April, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* produced a special BWI edition containing articles from several members on BWI topics. In September there was what has become the regular biennial display meeting at Stampex, which attracted 24 members. Although not specifically designed as an anniversary event, the Circle submitted three entries for the Rossica exhibition in Moscow of philatelic literature and related material, where Large Golds were awarded for our brilliant website managed by Steve Jarvis and for Peter Fernbank's magnificent book on the small GV key plates. Our third entry, Ian Jakes' new book on the Trinidad Red Cross label, won an honorable Large Silver for a softback. Credit for the last two must be shared with our publications supremo and editor Peter Ford. Roll on our 75th!



A distinguished group of philatelists gathered to celebrate with BWISC.

Note on British Guiana specimen stamps: 1905-07 and 1907-10 issues

By Richard Maisel

There are two major sources of information on British Empire Specimen stamps: Maurice Samuel's *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948*¹ and James Bendon's *UPU Specimen Stamps*.² Each of these books provides a large body of accurate data on the specimen stamps but, as is the case of all major detailed studies, there are sections of them that can be problematic. This note describes some difficulties encountered in using the listings in these works for the British Guiana issues of 1905-07 and 1907-10.

Note that during the period of time relevant to this note (1905-10), most British Colonial specimen stamps were produced in London by overprinting the term "SPECIMEN" on new stamps and then sending them to the UPU for distribution to member countries. New, as defined by the Colonial Office, meant a new denomination or a stamp replacing an existing denomination that had a different design or color. Changes in features such as perforation or the watermark did not qualify a stamp as new during these years. The remaining specimen stamps were not sent to the UPU but were placed in archives or used in presentations. Some of these non-UPU Colonial Specimens were overprinted in London while others were produced in the colony. Samuel lists both UPU and non-UPU Colonial Specimens, while the Bendon list is limited to those sent to the UPU.

The 1905-7 and 1907-10 issues

The philatelic literature lists a British Guiana 1905-7 issue consisting of 11 denominations ranging in value from 1¢ to 96¢ and a 1907-10 issue of six denominations ranging in value from 1¢ to 12¢ (*Table 1*). Each of the 11 denominations in the 1905-7 issue replaced a stamp of the same denomination and the same design but with a different watermark. Except for the 5¢ and 96¢ values, the color of the 1905-7 stamps was the same or similar to the one they replaced. Therefore, given the practice at that time, 5¢ and 96¢ specimen stamps were created for the 1905-07 issue and sent to the UPU.

The six denominations in the 1907-10 issue replaced values in the 1905-07 issue. These six stamps had the same design as those they replaced, but the colors of five of the 1907-10 denominations (2¢, 4¢, 5¢, 6¢, and 12¢) were different from the colors of the 1905-07 stamps

Table 1. Color by denomination, British Guiana: Issue prior to 1905-07, 1905-07 and 1907-10 issues. Shading shows changes in color from the previous issue*

Denomination	Issues prior to 1905-07	1905-07 Issue	1907-10 Issue
1c	Grey green ³	Grey-green	Blue-green
2c	Purple & black/red ³	Purple & black/red	Rose-red
4c	Dull-purple & ultramarine ¹	Dull-purple & ultramarine	Brown & purple
5c	Ultramarine ²	Dull-purple & Blue/blue	Ultramarine
6c	Dull-purple & ultramarine ³	Dull-purple & ultramarine	Grey & black
12c	Dull & bright purple ¹	Dull & bright purple	Orange & mauve
24c	Dull purple & green ¹	Dull purple & green	
48c	Grey & purple-brown ³	Grey & purple-brown	
60c	Green & rosine ³	Green & rosine	
72c	Dull purple & yellow brown ¹	Purple & orange-brown	
96c	Dull purple & rosine ¹	Black & vermillion/yellow	

* The data in this Table was taken from Stanley Gibbons Empire Stamp Catalogue 1840-1936 Volume 1, pages 79-80 (London and Ringwood: Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 1999 edition)

1. 1889 Issue
2. 1890-91 Issue
3. 1900-7 Issue

they replaced. Thus, following standard practice at that time, specimen stamps were created for these values and sent to the UPU.

The Samuel listing

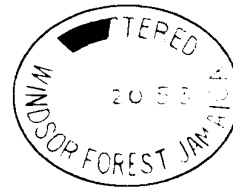
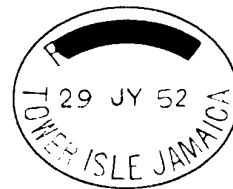
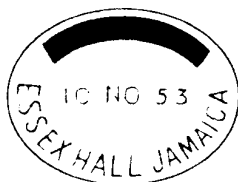
Samuel's book has a listing for both the British Guiana 1905-7 and 1907-10 issues but there are two problems in the listing for the 1905-07 issue. First, the list includes a 60¢ green and rosine, non-UPU specimen stamp, with a BG7 marking³) but he only lists five BG markings, designated BG1 to BG5.⁴ Thus the list of BG markings is incomplete or the marking on the 60¢ stamp is one of the five he has listed. The second problem is that the list does not include a 96¢ UPU Specimen, which as indicated above should have been produced and in fact is well known to collectors.

The Bendon listing

Bendon does not have separate listings for both issues but has a single 1905-07 listing that contains the seven

Continued on page 22

Jamaica Registered Ovals



By David Horry

These are just five of the Jamaica Registered Ovals issued in April 1950. They were issued under slightly mysterious circumstances as the London G.P.O., which normally supplied postmarks to the Colonies via the Crown Agents, could not fulfill the order due to a steel shortage. They did not come from the usual supplier and were consequently incorrectly marked as “REGISTERED” at the top. This mistake was corrected by covering the offending word with a lead amalgam and the cancellers were proofed in Kingston on April 1, 1950 and issued three days later.

The 28 recipient offices of the Registered Ovals (ROs) were generally small and remote and were often served by an aging Temporary Rubber Datestamp (TRD) which used purple ink. New black ink was not forthcoming and so many of the ROs started life using purple water-based ink – which was often a bit messy.

Gradually the black ink was introduced and the cancellers were hammered away by the postal staff of Jamaica. But the amalgam used to blot out the “REGISTERED” element began to break up and fall away; until it was either partially missing (as the Windsor Forest RO above) or completely vanished as per Aberdeen. Attempts were made to rectify this problem but were mainly in vain. Only the Williamsfield RO was used for dedicated registration purposes.

The Registered Ovals appear to have been withdrawn in their entirety sometime in 1954, but by the end of 1955 made a come-back but are only found sporadically at

most offices. Occasionally they were used beyond independence.

Some of these are very rare, such as Essex Hall, Flower Hill, Gordons Town, Hector’s River and Vineyard Town. Others such as Buff Bay, Lucea and Williamsfield are common. The rest are pretty scarce -- especially with purple ink.

Do you have any Jamaica Registered Ovals? If so would you please let me know? Just add any dates you might have and indicate with a “P” if it has PURPLE ink. Please either email it to me, with any scans you think might be helpful, David Horry horry@talk21.com or surface mail to the Editor. I am planning an article on the Jamaica Registered Ovals later in the year. Your contribution would be highly appreciated – please do not delay!

British Guiana Specimen Stamps Continued from page 21

UPU specimens known for the two issues.⁵ The use of a single listing, designated 1905-07 which is the same as 1905-07 designation usually given the first of the two issues is confusing and it can take some time to translate into the common usage.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Samuel, Maurice. *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948*. London: The Royal Philatelic Society, 1976.

² Bendon, James. *UPU Specimen Stamps*. Limassol: Self-published, 1988.

³ Samuel, *ibid*, 88.

⁴ *Ibid*, 87.

⁵ Bendon, *ibid*, 60.

Trinidad & Tobago Proofs and Essays needed

Do you have any Trinidad and Tobago Proofs or Essays? Ed Barrow is currently researching this area and would be grateful for any information.
Please send details to: e.barrow1@gmail.com

Tobago: The Philatelic Story of a Small Island

When one sets out to write a book, it's often best to select a topic on which there is not a lot of already published material. And that is the case with a new book by Peter C. Ford, Charles Freeland and Edward Barrow.

Titled ***Tobago: The Philatelic Story of a Small Island***, the book was published last year by the British West Indies Study Circle in the United Kingdom.

The authors note that Tobago is one of those colonies within the British Empire which has been largely neglected philatelically over the years, "and so the authors decided that this omission should be rectified by the publication of this book."

There is no question the men have accomplished their goal on two fronts: the work is comprehensive and exhaustive, and it is a study that hasn't been done in detail before. Perhaps the one drawback is that it covers only Tobago and not the subsequent stamps of Trinidad and Tobago. But there is hope that work will be published at a later date.

So not to be confused, one must understand the stamps of Tobago were used from 1879 through 1896, when they were replaced with those of Trinidad. The two islands became a state in 1962 and the independent Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on August 1, 1976.

In his Preface, Peter Ford noted that Tobago, although perhaps dwarfed by its neighbor, Trinidad, "nevertheless displays a remarkable diversity of avenues which the determined philatelist can explore."

Chapter 1 discusses the geography and history of Tobago, and it is noted it is a small island, 26 miles long and 6.2 miles wide. Of particular interest to those living in "southern climes" of the U.S. is the brief aside that while the climate is tropical, the trade winds blow consistently, "cooling the island so effectively that air conditioning is the exception rather than the rule."

The philatelic part of the book begins in Chapter 2 with a close look at early postal history and pre-stamp material. Like all dedicated postal historians, Ford, Freeland and Barrow thoroughly examine early straight line and double line marks and display in full color many rare early covers. There is also a census of early markings, including type, date of use, and destination. It is the most comprehensive listing of these early covers extant.

Chapter 3 covers Great Britain stamps used in Tobago, and the "A14" obliterations that were used to cancel them. Both stamps, covers and a census of covers are included. Chapter 4 delves into the stamp issues of 1879 and 1880, and this chapter is comprehensive in scope,

with not only stamps being illustrated, but also a die proof, sheet layout, specimens and covers. Early records are quoted to establish the necessity of the 1880 printing, and there is a section and checklist of 1881-1883 bisects, again, all illustrated in color with examples on cover.

This sets the tone for the subsequent chapters of the book dealing with the issues of 1882-84 and 1885-96 (Chapter 5); flaws (Chapter 6); provisional issues (Chapter 7); postal stationery (Chapter 8); and revenue stamps (Chapter 9). Chapter 10 is titled "Miscellaneous," and provides a look at circular datestamps, the inland posts (noting that charting Tobago's inland postal system requires "some caution"). Internal mail markings, Tobago coastal steamers (which delivered mail), use of stamps of Trinidad in 1900, postage dues and the treasury handstamp, and instructional markings are all covered here. Chapter 11 is a comprehensive treatment of forgeries and fakes. Appendix 1 covers historical footnotes, and Appendix 2 details postal notices. There is a listing of early postmasters in Appendix 3, and the various stamp printings and consignments are covered in Appendix 4. There is a comprehensive Bibliography and Index.

The hardbound book features an attractive and colorful dust jacket, and the cover itself is a nice green with gold lettering. The paper is a coated stock with no glare (as opposed to gloss text), and it is laid out in a pleasing manner with text large enough for tired eyes.

No price is shown on the book, but it can be ordered through David Druett, Pennymead Books, 1 Brewerton Street, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HG5 8AZ, U.K. His email is: pennymead@aol.com. If you collect BWI, you will need this book.

In 2010, our sister society, the British West Indies Study Circle (BWISC) published a reviewed edition of Sir John Marriott's 1963 tome on Trinidad, which only covered to 1913. The study circle intent is to publish a third volume covering the issues of the combined colony, as mentioned. Having all three will give one a complete encyclopedia of information.

-- Everett L. Parker

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BG Bits and Pieces

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



Skeletons from the Rupununi: Part 1

In this article, I intend to display the best examples I possess of Skeletons from the Rupununi, that area of British Guiana which was often also referred to as the interior, the savannahs or even as the bush, but for the most part I will stick to the savannah terminology when describing that vast but sparsely populated area of the central land mass that was formerly British Guiana and now is Guyana.

Technically, the Kanaku mountain range divides that area into north and south savannah sections but in this context that is not an important distinction. Lethem has long been the functional and administrative center of the Rupununi area and its history is inextricably intertwined

Melville family ranches, with a post office, an airfield, passenger flights to Georgetown almost daily, an abattoir and beef flown weekly to the capital.



Figure 1

Rare Good Hope Type 36 cancellations striking three QE 6¢ stamps on an air mail letter to the U.K.

with the history of a transplanted Scotsman, H.P.C. Melville, who after living and prospering as a gentleman farmer in Jamaica for many years, visited British Guiana in 1890, fell in love with what he saw, returned to Jamaica, sold his holdings there, then returned to Georgetown, spending only long enough in the capital to persuade the Crown Colony government to lease him extensive Rupununi acreage on which he planned to foster a cattle industry.

He soon married the daughter of a prominent Amerindian chief with whom he had several daughters. In time, when they got married, he settled 50 square mile ranch dowries on each of them, so that by the time I became familiar with Lethem in the middle of the 1950s, the Melville name was legend, the cattle industry was prospering with Lethem its epicenter, surrounded by



Figure 2

Rare philatelically engineered Good Hope Type 42 local cover to Scotland.

My first foray into the Rupununi was at Orinduik, situated on the Ireng River, where that river bordered Brazil. The Orinduik Falls were really a series of gentle rapids of delightfully cool sparkling water, not too far from the equator and with the advent of regular and cheap air fare from Georgetown, it was rapidly becoming the day picnic of choice for affluent Georgetowners. I was at that time a 19 year old biology high school lab assistant, enthusiastically engaged in forming a collection of local flora for my college herbarium, when I got very lucky on that first day at Orinduik and became the first person



Figure 3

Registered commercial airmail letter to well-known Chicago mail order house. Cancelled Lethem, September 27, 1960, T&H Type 36.

ever to have identified the shrub *Cassia rorima* growing in any part of B.G. other than on the slopes of Guiana's highest mountain, Mt. Rorima.

For that entire day, enthralled by the unspoiled beauty of the Rupununi which surrounded me, I determined to avail myself of every opportunity which came my way to see any part of B.G. which I had not previously visited. One memorable occasion was the week of the 1956 Easter school vacation when I accompanied two botanists on a week long trip to Lethem where, with our bicycles, we stayed at the Government Rest House and visited as many of the ranches as possible which surround Lethem.

On our last day we left Lethem a little earlier than usual as Good Hope, our destination, was a little farther than the previous days' excursions. As I recall, we arrived in good time for lunch and there, unexpectedly, I



Figure 4

Common Lethem RUP1958 (T&H) to Georgetown.

met a Melville granddaughter who I had once been introduced to at a Georgetown party and had found her to be most captivating. She, like all the other ranchers, entertained us lavishly and to our further mutual surprise, we discovered that we were both on a short list for interviews for medical school entrance in a month's time.

In due course we both succeeded and started our medical careers together in Jamaica a few months later. Some 25 years after graduation, we met at my home in Toronto for dinner and inevitably the conversation reverted to the one day of my life spent at Good Hope. I learned from her that her father, the Good Hope postal agent for many years, had died. Perhaps, in poor taste, I asked if possibly any Good Hope covers, cancelled by him, might have survived in her possession. She thought long before replying, "I think, quite unlikely."

However, some time later, this Good Hope cover, (Figure 1), which I cherish, did arrive. It was a letter written by her father to his daughter and son-in-law then residing in the United Kingdom, and he was the postal agent himself, and presumably conducted the postal transaction. It would have been fitting to start this chap-

ter at Orinduik had I possessed a good quality skeleton cancellation of that postal agency, but since I don't, I will start instead with the first ever Rupununi cover to enter my collection.



Figure 5

PA Dadanawa cover (ex-Nathan), the largest cattle ranch in British Guiana in the southern Rupununi. Reportedly one of the 10 largest spreads in the world, approximately 250,000 square miles.

Having described my few ramblings in the Rupununi, I will now display the best of my skeletons from that region of B.G. Had I an Orinduik Skeleton I would have started there, but unfortunately I don't, so I went to my next choice, Good Hope, from which I can display two different skeletons, both rare Good Hope cancellations.

Certification of election

To the Board of Trustees of the BCPSG.
The following have been re-elected as your Officers for 2015-2016:

President – Duane Larson
Vice President – Bill Gompel
Secretary – Mary Gleadall
Treasurer – John Seidl
International Representative – David Druett
Editor of the Journal – Dr. Everett Parker

The officers are elected for a two year term and shall assume their office on January 1, 2015.

Thank you
Mary Gleadall, Secretary
British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group

BCPSG Exhibits and Awards

By Paul Larsen
Awards Chairman

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

STAMPSHOW 2014,
August 21-24,
Hartford, Connecticut

John Pare
The Beginning of Air Service between Bermuda and the U.S. (SF)
Gold

David Pitts
Bermuda Post History from 1620 to the UPU
Prix d'Honneur

Dan Walker
Soruth: A Princely Indian State
Prix d'Honneur

MILCOPEX 2014
September 19-21,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

John Pare
The 3-Cent Wisconsin Statehood Issue of 1948
Vermeil, AAPE Award

SESCAL 2014
October 17-19,
Los Angeles, California

John Wynns
Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Issue of British Guiana

Vermeil, AAPE Award
Peru's 12 Centavos Issue of 1905 (SF)
Single Frame Grand Award, Gold

Jamaica: Postal use of the 1901 Llandovery Falls Stamp (SF)
Vermeil

Raymond Murphy
Official Mail of the Irish Provisional Government and the Irish Free State (SF)
Vermeil, ÉIRE Philatelic Association Best Single Frame Award, ÉIRE Philatelic Association Mercer Bowers Award

Jerome Kasper
Aerogrammes of Ethiopia
Gold

New Zealand Prisoner of War Airletters
(not for competition)

New stock is being added almost every day to my website. Recent additions have included a specialised collection of Bermuda postal stationery, Martinique covers, Trinidad Officials and postage dues in complete sheets and Cayman Islands postal stationery. Also regular additions of Caribbean postcards, old maps and prints and books.

Deadlines **Deadlines Deadlines**

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



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Membership Director's Report

By Bob Stewart

New Members

All new applicants listed in the last issue of the Journal have been accepted as members of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. Congratulations and welcome to the Group.

New Applicants

C. Melvern Fillmore, 10497 Washington Palm Way, Unit 3722, Fort Myers, FL 33966 USA. Email: fillmorem@comcast.net. Collects Bahamas, Bermuda and Turks & Caicos. One year free trial electronic membership, referred by John Pare.

Jeffrey P. Huether, 443 Turk Road, Geneva, NY 14456 USA. Email: jhmeloid@hotmail.com. One year free trial of electronic membership.

Lance S. Grandone, P.O. Box 235, Nokomis, FL 34274-0236 USA. Email: lancegrandone@gmail.com. APS member. Collects Commonwealth before 1950, Bermuda Key Plates pre-WWII. One year free trial of electronic membership.

Dr. John D. Cheesborough, 827 South Horner Blvd., Sanford, NC 27330 USA. Email: jdcheesborough@gmail.com. Referred by Jack Harwood. One year free trial of electronic membership.

Ronald Cameron, 756 Middle River Dr., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304 USA. Email: pete@fajohnson.com.

Reinstatements

Michael Hamilton, 5 Ernwell Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5NT UNITED KINGDOM. Email: Michael_dc_hamilton@compuserve.com

In my membership report for the October Journal, I mistakenly made an error showing Raj Ramphal was being dropped for non-payment. Raj did pay his membership renewal in June 2014 for two years. Please accept my apology for my error and any embarrassment I caused Raj, who is a valuable member of the study group.

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS

KING GEORGE V KEY PLATES OF THE IMPERIUM POSTAGE AND REVENUE DESIGN

by Peter Fernbank, FRPSL

This is a second edition; since its publication in 1997 this work has become the standard reference work for collectors of the issues of this King George V Universal key plate style. It was awarded the prestigious Crawford Medal by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately published in book form during the relevant period. This study encompasses the issues of all of the 17 colonies that employed this design with many illustrations in full colour. From a comprehensive examination of the De La Rue and Crown Agents archives it has been possible to produce a listing of every printing made of this key plate style. A wealth of additional information has been added to this basic framework that adds flesh to the bare bones of printing statistics. A4 size, hardbacked with dust jacket, (xx) + 488 pages.

PRICE: £49.00 (approx. \$80). BWISC Members' Discount – £5.00 (approx. \$8.00).

These books and others published by the BWISC can be ordered from:– David Druett, Pennymead Books, 1 Brewerton St., Knaresborough, N. YORKS. HG5 8AZ .Tel:– 01423 865962 or E-mail: Pennymead@aol.com. Orders will be dispatched with invoice and prompt payment is requested. Payment may be made by Credit Card. Orders from outside UK will be dispatched per airmail M Bag. This service requires a street address and is not available to PO Boxes. All books published by the British West Indies Study Circle are displayed on www.bwisc.org and on www.pennymead.com.

President's Message

By Duane Larson

Happy New Year! I hope you all have had a pleasant holiday season and have had all your philatelic dreams fulfilled. If not, you have the coming year to make them come true. Starting with your involvement with the BCPSG, it may be the right time to consider what you can do to help grow and improve our organization.

The Board of Trustees have re-elected the entire slate of officers to serve our group for 2015 and 2016. Duane Larson, President; Bill Gompel, Vice President; Mary Gleadall, Secretary; John Seidl, Treasurer; David Druett, International Director; Dr. Everett Parker, Editor. Congratulations! It has been a pleasure to serve with our officers and I look forward to the next two years of continued progress for the BCPSG. And also, a thank you is in order to those who serve our organization in other capacities, as well as our advertisers, authors and exhibitors.



Our Annual Meeting is coming sooner than we realize -- Denver, Colorado, May 15-17, is just around the corner! John Seidl is in the process of putting together a spectacular auction and it is not too late to send in your lots. And if you haven't sent in your exhibit applications, "get 'er done!" Hope to see you at the 2015 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show!

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

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



TRINIDAD A Philatelic History to 1913

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, where the book can be ordered with secure credit card check out facilities.

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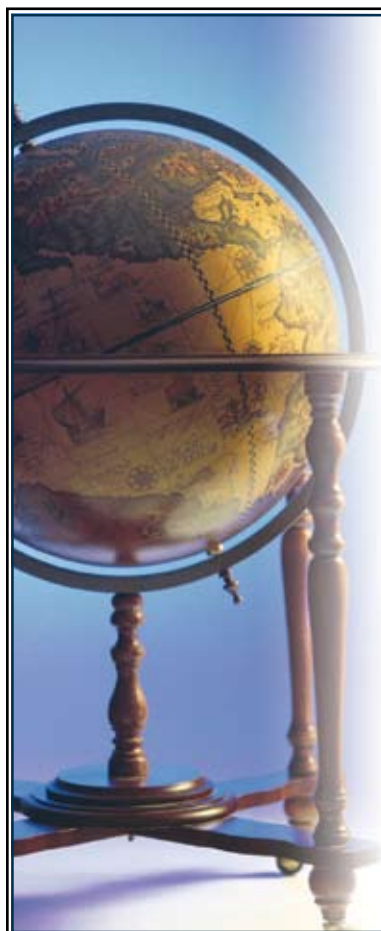
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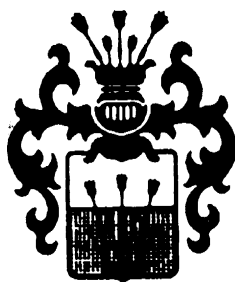
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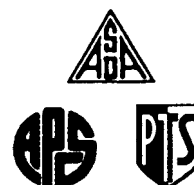
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