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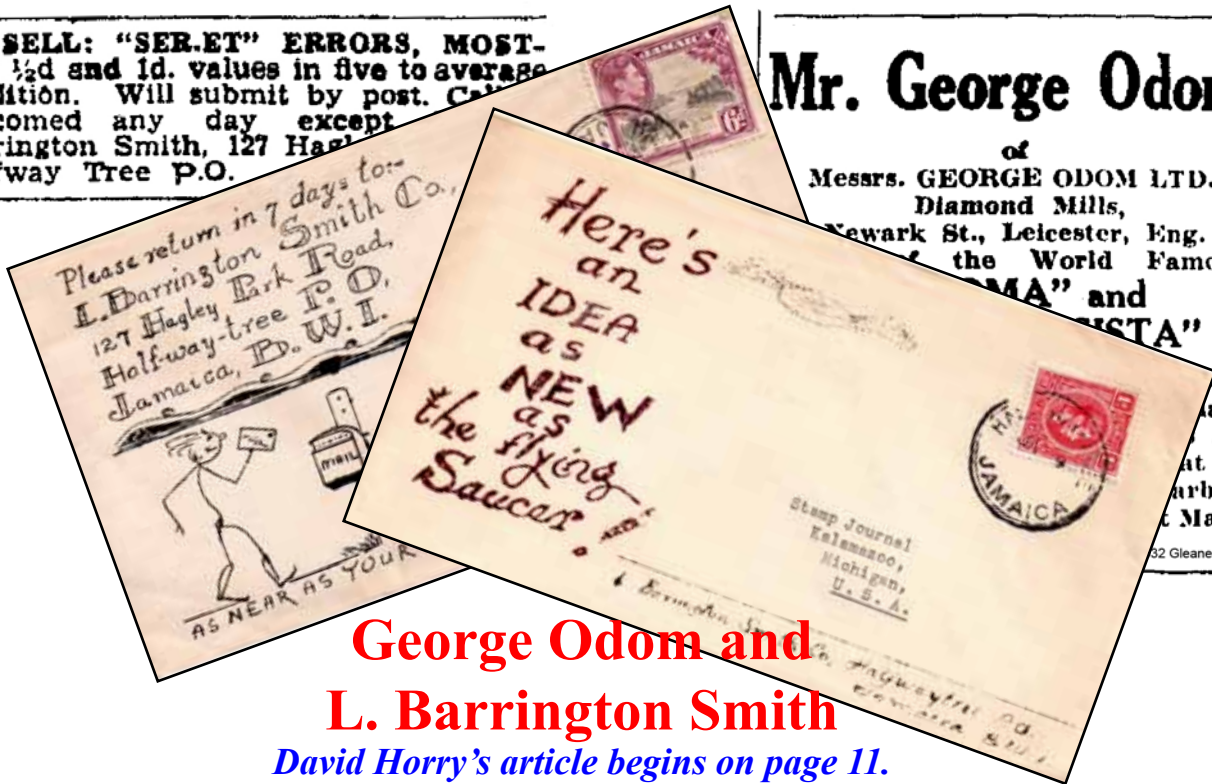
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Scarce Cayman Islands Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers

By Dr. John K. Courtis, FRPSL

Some years ago when I was a professor teaching at a university in Ontario, Canada one of my graduating students came to my office and said that he did not want to live in Toronto and work in a firm of Chartered accountants.

After a four year undergraduate honors degree and a one year Master's in accounting, the remark was out of character. Instead, he went to Laguna Beach in California and enrolled in a 10 week scuba diving instructor's course. With his certificate in hand he then visited his parents in Toronto and within hours the phone had rung persistently with offers of jobs at resorts in exotic locations. Why? Because these resorts wanted him to teach guests how to scuba dive in the morning and to then attend to the resort's accounts in the afternoon.

Within 24 hours he had secured a plum job in a resort in the Cayman Islands. He worked there for several years but eventually he had to resign the position because something in the water over time had caused him to lose his finger nails. It is against this background that I have a somewhat bemused interest in the post office postal stationery wrappers of the Cayman Islands, more so because of their difficulty to find.

On June 23, 1909, printed by De La Rue of London, 5,000 copies of the ½d green wrapper were issued, being the only post office postal stationery wrapper type. The indicium bears a similarity to the 1908 stamp issue with numeral within oval and crown at top.

In 11 years of daily record-keeping of listings of used post office postal stationery wrappers on eBay, only four wrappers of the Cayman Islands have been offered. Other philatelic outlets undoubtedly sold copies during this period, but nevertheless a historic listing rate of one every 33 months on average suggests that this is a wrapper that is elusive in

used condition. The quantity actually used by the public is unknown. Notwithstanding, the survival rate appears to have been low, perhaps in the realm of 1:500. Collectors with used copies are invited to add details to the census below. Each of these wrappers are illustrated for the record.

Census of Used Wrappers

This first wrapper (*Figure 1*) is addressed to "Chs Hahnel, 283 St. Vincent Street, Birmingham, England," and is postmarked with a double-ring "GEORGE TOWN OC ? 13 GRAND CAYMAN."



Figure 1

Wrapper addressed to Birmingham, England.

The postal rate for printed and commercial papers was ½d per two ounces for Empire countries, so the wrapper was correctly rated. Hahnel appears to have been a stamp collector. A return address three-line handstamp "Charles Hahnel, Ladywood, Birmingham" appears on the back of a January 10, 1914 philatelic U.S. cover to Austria auctioned by Robert A. Siegel. St. Vincent Street is in the suburb of (West) Ladywood. This first wrapper appears to have been philatelically-inspired. It sold on eBay for US\$76.50 with eight bidders.

Wrapper two (*Figure 2*) is uprated with a May 6, 1935 Silver Jubilee Windsor Castle & King George V ½d green and black common design (Scott #81).

There is a pair of double-ring cancels “GEORGE TOWN GRAND CAYMAN” but the date is unreadable from the Internet image. It is circa December 1935 and is addressed to Mrs. Lilian S.



Figure 2
Silver Jubilee issue on wrapper to Marion, Massachusetts in the U.S.

Draper, Marion, Massachusetts, USA and is badly torn across the address. The postal rate for newspapers for mailing to foreign countries was ½d per two ounces, but with a minimum of 1d. Hence, the ½d uprating made the 1d rate correct. This uprated wrapper sold for US\$72.92 with nine bidders.

The third wrapper (**Figure 3**) is addressed to Mr. B. D. Forster, 40 Wall Street, New York City, N.Y., U.S.A. There is a manuscript marking, “c/o Manhattan Co.” at lower left. The Bank of the Manhat-



Figure 3
Cayman Islands wrapper addressed to New York City with manuscript marking “c/o Manhattan Co.”

tan Company began business on September 1, 1799, in a house at 40 Wall Street. In 1853 the Manhattan Company became one of the original 52 members of the New York Clearing House Association. Mr. Forster undoubtedly worked at this address, now called the Trump Tower. A Spink Auction of New York auction catalogue shows “B. D. Forster” below Colonel Green’s name as an owner in the provenance of a New Zealand cover. If it is the same person, then the recipient of this wrapper is a stamp collector and the wrapper is philatelically-inspired.

The postmark is “GEORGE TOWN GRAND CAYMAN.” The date is unreadable from the Internet image. The ½d rate was for two ounces to foreign countries at this time. None of the datestamp information is legible, possibly because of wearing of the slugs. This wrapper sold for US\$221.17 with five bidders.



Figure 4
Wrapper addressed to Rev. Leonard Meister on Montserrat.

The fourth wrapper (**Figure 4**) is addressed to the ubiquitous “Rev. L(eonard) Meister, Montserrat, B.W.I.,” whose name appears on a large corpus of philatelic covers and postal stationery. The ½d rate for two ounces is correct. The postmark is identical to those that appear on the other wrappers and the date could be “JA 6 10.” The year 1910 is important in that it was in this year that Rev. Meister ended his term as the local Catholic priest in Montserrat, a position he held from 1905. After leaving Montserrat, Rev. Meister travelled to New Orleans via Trinidad and Cristobel and arrived in 1914.

There is philatelic evidence from covers addressed to him as a priest in Aberdeen, Mississippi (1915); Missouri (1917-18); Amarillo, Texas (1920); Leavenworth, Kansas; Delia, Kansas (1925); Kansas City, Kansas (1925); and Holyoke, Colorado (1926). His movements suggest he was transferred from one diocese to another (Bateson, 2006). It seems that while Rev. Meister was a priest and a stamp collector, at one time he was also a part-time stamp dealer for he placed an advertisement in *Mekeel's Stamp Weekly* in December 1915 seeking want lists from customers for Edwardian issues (Bateson, 2011). There is no record in the author's database of the Meister addressed philatelically-inspired wrapper having been sold on eBay.

Bidding Activity

There are many countries which can be typified where a single bidder or two bidders can account for 80 percent or more of the sales transactions on eBay over the past eight years. That is definitely not the case with the wrappers of the Cayman Islands. The rule of thumb is that a score of 2.5 bidders is the tipping point for determining strength of buying interest. Scores in many of the country-specific studies undertaken by the author are less than 2.5. For example, the score for Trinidad and Tobago is 1.96, for Jamaica it is 1.55, and for British Guiana/Guyana it is 2.06. For the Cayman Islands, however, the score is 7.3. This score is calculated by adding the bidder scores for the three sales: $8 + 9 + 5 = 22/3 = 7.3$. This is the highest bidder score recorded in any of the 40 studies published by the author. While the collector base might be small, the demand for a used copy of the wrapper seemingly sends bidders into spirited bidding.

Specimen Wrapper

At least three Specimen Cayman Islands wrappers appear in another of the author's databases. Only one sale was recorded, and that was for US\$19.99 with a single bidder. This "Specimen" overprinted wrapper is shown as *Figure 5*. These were applied in black by Da La Rue, London in the dimension 91.5- 93x 8.5-9mm reading from lower left to upper right. It was submitted to the U.P.U. for distribution to member countries in 1908.

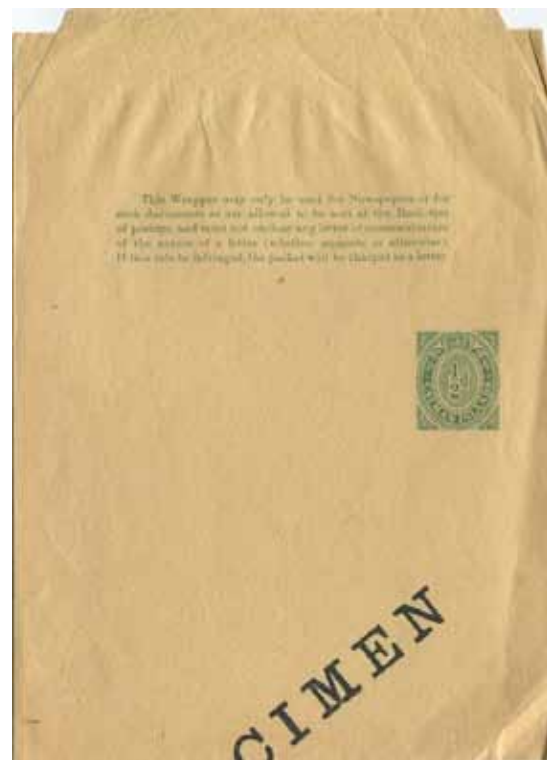


Figure 5
Specimen of postal wrapper.

Conclusion

There were four used Cayman Islands wrappers listed for sale on eBay in the past 11 years. Two of these wrappers were mailed to stamp collectors. One wrapper was mailed to a provider (part-time philatelic dealer) and it was this wrapper that did not sell. Only one wrapper was not philatelically inspired. Bidding interest was higher for these wrappers than for other countries and realized sums were robust. There was one sale of a Specimen overprint.

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Arthur Rowe Spurling A World War I Hero (Part 1)

By Hap Pattiz

Arthur Rowe Spurling (1896-1984), universally known as “Rowe,” was a genuine Bermudian war hero (*Figure 1*). But he did not start out that way. This is the first of two articles about him and what his letters home to his mother and sisters tell us about his war experiences and his family during World War I.

Rowe was born in Bermuda on May 19, 1896 to Arthur and Alice Spurling. He had three older siblings: his half-sister Ethel Helene Harnett from his mother’s previous marriage, and two sisters, Viola Gladys and Olive Mabel. His father passed away in 1912 while on a business trip to Canada. The family lived in their home known as Penarth (the name of a Welsh village) above Hamilton in Pembroke West.

Rowe’s military story

When World War I began in August 1914, Bermuda had a unit of the British Army, the 2nd Lincolnshire Regt., stationed on the island. This was backed up by a long-established local militia, the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps (BVRC), authorized in 1892 and manned from 1895. The militia had the task of providing supplementary security and defense for the naval ship yards, primarily at Ireland Island.

The BVRC and the Bermuda Militia Artillery (BMA) were both established by Act of Colonial Parliament in

1897. The BVRC was an all-white unit whose members were mostly recruited from local civilian gun clubs, while the BMA was a primarily black unit with white officers. Writing in the *BCPS Journal*, Charles Freeland, quoting Horst Augustinovic, indicates that the BMA saw considerable action with the Royal Garrison

Artillery in 1916 and 1917.¹ But Cedric Joseph in *The British West Indies Regiment 1914-1918*, when comparing the treatment of black and white units in World War I, indicated that the BMA, as well as other primarily black Caribbean units, were “never allowed to be actively engaged in the fighting on the Western front, whereas the white (i.e., BVRC) were.”² The Freeland article includes interesting information about covers to Bermuda from the Trimmingham brothers who were serving as officers in the BMA, indicating that Joseph’s statement about the BMA not being in action is incorrect.

On September 14, 1914 the 2nd Lincs were recalled to England, soon to be deployed to the front. In Bermuda there was a significant movement for the BVRC to join them in defense of King and Empire. But the loss of all the members of the BVRC to join the war effort would have stripped Bermuda of many of its young men and devastated the local economy. In response to “war fever” and local feelings, the Governor

Continued on page 8



Figure 1
Arthur Rowe Spurling wearing his RAF insignia.



Figure 2
BVRC First Contingent training at Warwick Camp, 1914.
Arthur Rowe Spurling is in the front row, second from left. From Wikipedia.

of Bermuda in December 1914 opened a list for volunteers from the BVRC and others for duty at the front. Initially, over 100 volunteers signed up. Not all BVRC members could leave Bermuda, but several of Rowe's friends who were already BVRC members had volunteered and Rowe joined them on February 11, 1915, under the command of Captain Richard Tucker.



Figure 3

Postcard from Quebec, Canada dated May 8, 1915, from Rowe to his mother in Bermuda, with Bermuda censor CM13 in violet. The first contingent sailed from Bermuda on May 7, stopping at Quebec on the way to England.

The volunteer unit, known as the Bermuda Contingent of the BVRC, trained at Warwick Camp until May 1915 (Figure 2). Not all the volunteers were fit for duty, but those who were ready for deployment, consisting of Capt. Tucker and 88 men, were accepted into the First Contingent, which embarked for Canada on May 7, 1915 (Figure 3), and thence to England.

The initial plan had been for the Bermuda Contingent to join the ranks of the 2nd Lincs. However, the regi-

ment had already left for the front, so the Bermuda Contingent joined the 1st Lincs at Grimsby Camp and, by special War Office dispensation, continued to serve as the BVRC unit within the 1st Lincs, bivouacking with the 1st Lincs in June 1915 for further training as machine gunners at Weelsby Camp in Grimsby (Figure 4). The work there was arduous but by the end of July the First Contingent was ready to move on. Rowe wrote home in mid-July to indicate that his troop was on its



Figure 5

"Field Service Post Card" with FPO "15 SP 15" datestamp, from Rowe to his mother in Bermuda; Bermuda censor CM13 marking in violet.

way to France which it reached about July 20, the first colonial unit to be so deployed.



Figure 4

Postcard from Grimsby Camp, July 31, 1915, from Rowe to his mother in Bermuda, with Bermuda censor CM13 in violet. From Weelsby Camp, Grimsby, training facility for the Lincolnshire Regiment, including BVRC. Rowe had crossed out "3rd Lincolns" and written in "B.V.R.C." Rowe indicates his unit is going to the front in two weeks.



Figure 6

Letter from Rowe in France to his mother in Bermuda. Note that in return address at upper right, Rowe is showing "989 BVRC/attached 1st Lincolns, BEF" (British Expeditionary Force). He talks about the water, and the heat: "It is very hot out here at present"

The First Bermuda Contingent regrouped with the 1st Lincs at Rouen and moved up to the front on August 19, 1915. Trained as machine gunners on the Vickers gun, they fought in the trenches as a unit in support of the 1st Lincs continuously for over a year (*Figure 5*). Trench warfare was a hazardous business and the Contingent suffered over 50 percent casualties during this



Figure 7

“Field Service Post Card,” reverse side, signed by “Rowe,” and dated “2-7-16,” indicating that Rowe had been wounded, admitted to hospital, and doing well. There is a Bermuda receiving mark dated July 23, 1916.

deployment. There were many wounded and nearly all those who were not wounded, including Rowe, fell sick, caused mainly by unclean water (*Figure 6*). During this period Rowe was wounded twice, first a minor wound to his hand on July 3, 1916, and then a more serious wound to his foot on July 13, 1916 (*Figure 7*). It was at this time that he was also buried in debris for some time before being rescued. With the decimation of its ranks, the Contingent had fallen below the level required for an effective fighting unit, so it returned to England. But it was reinforced by a second Bermuda Contingent by August 1916, comprising one officer and 33 other ranks, and the reconstituted Bermuda Contingent was retrained as machine gunners on the new Lewis gun. After retraining, the troops returned to the front, but by 1918 the Contingent had lost so many more men that it was merged into other units. However, by 1917 Rowe had moved on.

As a result of his wounds and because of a bout of influenza (the Spanish flu), Rowe was sent back to hospital in Leicester in July 1916 (*Figure 8*). The flu swept the world killing tens of millions, but Rowe recovered and returned to Grimsby. By then he had had enough of

trench warfare and volunteered to join the Royal Flying Corps, the precursor to the RAF. He was accepted by January 1917, and after taking leave to return to Bermuda for his sister Gladys’ wedding, began several rounds of intensive training in May 1917.

Rowe took to flying and plainly excelled. He was accepted as a pilot trainee and earned his commission (as a second lieutenant) and later his pilot’s wings. He was assigned to a bomber wing. At some point in 1918 -- perhaps on first deployment -- Rowe’s plane crashed but he survived and continued with his flying career.

On July 23, 1918, with his observer, Sgt. F.A. Bell, Rowe flew with his unit on a bombing run over German lines in his DH 9 light bomber. With no radar or other fancy instruments, the unit flew through cloud banks to mask their location. When Rowe emerged from the clouds, none of his flight was visible. Deciding to re-



Figure 8

Front of YMCA envelope from Rowe in Leicester, England, to his mother in Bermuda, dated July 30, 1916. There is a Bermuda CM15 censor marking in purple and a manuscript marking “Aug 20” indicating date of receipt in Bermuda.

turn to British lines, Rowe flew back into the clouds. When he emerged some time later, having flown what he thought was sufficiently far to get back behind his lines, he descended towards an airfield. But it was a German airfield and he was immediately attacked by a Fokker D-VII fighter. Evading it skillfully, Rowe spotted a squadron of at least 30 other German fighters below him and in a daredevil manner dived among them, shooting down three planes. The Germans regrouped and four or five Fokkers came at him, but with skillful flying and accurate shooting by his observer, two more Germans were shot down. The remaining enemy had had enough and fled (*Figure 9*).

Rowe was credited with five kills from this engagement, thereby becoming an air ace. Two days later he claimed another kill. For his rash but successful heroics, Rowe was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (a newly established award for the renamed RAF) and

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his gunner received the Distinguished Flying Medal (the equivalent award for a non-commissioned airman).

Rowe left active service on September 19, 1918 and later, after several bouts of illness, returned to Bermuda. On November 2, 1918 his award was announced in *The London Gazette* and he received his DFC from the Governor of Bermuda in person on March 3, 1920.

During his wartime service, Rowe was a steady correspondent to his mother and sisters. Early on, up to mid-1916, he received packages of clothes and food from home and an occasional sum of money, which was especially welcome as the costs of living in England were quite high. While in England, either in Grimsby or with his friends in the London area, Rowe wrote of his interests, including meeting young women, and of the loss of his mates in the fighting.

Throughout it all, Rowe was supported by the Bermuda Contingent Committee based in London. Bermudians joined the fight for God, King and Country through different avenues. Some volunteered for the British army, some for the Canadian forces, while some became part of the BVRC (Rowe was one of 136 to take this route) or BMA. All Bermudians served honorably and several achieved high distinction, among whom Rowe was prominent.

After the war, Rowe would have liked to have a plane in Bermuda so he could fly again, but there is no record of this ever happening. Instead, as World War II loomed, Rowe enlisted to help the war effort, first as a censor in Darrell Island air terminal and later in the Atlantic Ferry Service, where he rose to Squadron Commander. His service was again quite meritorious.

In the next installment, in the January 2016 issue of the Journal, we'll learn more about Arthur Rowe Spurling's personal story.

Footnotes for this Installment

¹ Charles Freeland, "Bermuda Military Mail During World War I: Additional Information," *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 32, No. 4 (December 1992), p. 121-123.

² Cedric L. Joseph, *The British West Indies Regiment, 1914-1918*. (Georgetown, Guyana: Free Press, 2008), p. 28.



Figure 9

Newspaper article dated September 9, 1918 from the Evening News describing Rowe's heroic encounter with German airplanes on July 23, 1918. It noted he flew into the clouds and lost the rest of the airplanes.

George Odom and L. Barrington Smith

By David Horry, FRPSL

Last October I first wrote about George Odom in the *Journal*. Many of his covers are found emanating from Jamaica and being sent to his mail order woollens business in Leicester. Since then I have learned a lot more about the man and his philatelic enterprises. He is shown in *Figure 1*.

George Crawford Odom was born in Peterborough on October 2, 1892. Before World War I he was apprenticed as a tailor in Royal Leamington Spa. His adventures started in India in 1912 when he travelled with 20-30 cases of samples between Bombay and Shanghai. When World War I broke out, he joined HMS *Triumph* in Shanghai and shelled the Germans in Tsingtau.

On return to Liverpool he became a Second Lieutenant in the Liverpool Regiment Machine Gun Corps. He probably served in Palestine, but he was transferred to the 50th Battalion Machine Gun Corps (*Figure 2*). It was known as "The Suicide Club." He was fortunate



Figure 2

*The Machine Gun Corps Emblem.
Image from The Machine Gun Corps
Research Database.*

to be taken prisoner on the-then Western Front at Soissons on May 27, 1918. He was awarded the Military Cross and was repatriated in December 1918 to his HQ at Belton Park, Grantham – the home of Lord Adelbert Salisbury Cockayne Brownlow. The Machine Gun Corps had a strong amateur cricket team, led by Major Black with Captain Lionel H. Tennyson. Peregrine Cust, Lord Brownlow's son and Lt. George C. Odom MC

THE DAILY GLEANER, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1948.

U.K. Textile Exporter Ends Visit Here

Leaving Jamaica today at the end of his tenth visit to the island is Mr. George Odom, head of George Odom Ltd., Diamond Mills, Leicester, England.

A big exporter of textiles, Mr. Odom has been in Jamaica since last year, interspersing his visit here with business visits to the South American republics, touring thirteen different countries altogether.



MR. GEORGE ODOM

He returned to Jamaica from British Honduras on New Year's eve, and has been here since taking on business appointments and the cricket matches, which was one of the principal reasons for his visit, as he was a keen cricketer in his younger days, and is now as keen a cricket fan "camp-following" English teams

to various parts of the world. He visited Jamaica as a member of Lord Tennyson's cricket party, in 1932.

Mr. Odom has an interesting story to tell of Guatemalan activity in British Honduras. He was actually in Jamaica when the recent Guatemala-British Honduras activity broke out, but was in British Honduras shortly before Christmas until New Year's Eve.

"GOODWILL" CEREMONY
On December 27, the Guatemalans staged a "goodwill" ceremony in British Honduras, sending over a plane filled with toys, and rafflemen to record the presenting of these gifts from "the children of Guatemala" to the children of British Honduras. It was a gesture on the part of Guatemala, who had secured the permission to do so from the British Honduras authorities, to show how friendly they were to British Honduras.

"But it seems now," Mr. Odom added, "that there was an ulterior motive as has since been shown."

Mr. Odom has been travelling various parts of the world, and particularly the Western Hemisphere for thirty-five years as he put it in search of the Almighty Dollar, and on this occasion he concentrated on the dollar areas while coming back to Jamaica every now and again for a rest in "a sterling area."

His firm has been exporting textiles to Jamaica for a long time and he has a large clientele in the island, including which are 200 tailors between Morant Bay and Montego Bay but he said "my business arrangements in Jamaica had to be limited, for in these days the sterling area takes second place to dollar areas."

His many visits to Jamaica has earned him a lot of friends in the island, and, in a farewell message he says: "I have been treated very well in Jamaica, and I am filled with thanks to all those who made my visit here so enjoyable. Your hospitality is unbounded."

Mr. Odom leaves for the U.K. via Miami and New York, today. He hopes to be back next year.

Figure 1
*George Crawford Odom shown in an article
in The Daily Gleaner, April 1, 1948.*

were in the side. They played at Victory London Road against Grantham Cricket Club in the summer of 1919, before being disbanded in 1920.

George Odom's first mention in the press appeared in *The Daily Gleaner* (Kingston, Jamaica) on February 16, 1922 in an ad: "Diamond" Surges and Suitings. Write for patterns of these World famed cloths" (*Figure 3*). The same ad ran fortnightly until August 1924, with the address listed as Halford Street, Leicester, England. A few more ads appear in February and March 1932 with his Newarke Street address.

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The first known George Odom handwritten covers are found in Sierra Leone in 1925 – more numerous are covers addressed to George Odom, Diamond Mills, Leicester, England in the 1950s and early 1960s. Odom latterly

sold 95 Harbour Street and 98 Harbour Street. He also sold 91 Harbour Street to 22-year-old Everard F. Aguilar, home to his famous stamp business which opened in early 1949.



Figure 3

Odom advertisement in The Daily Gleaner newspaper, December 21, 1922.

lived at “Garthorpe,” 28, Westminster Road, Leicester (Figure 4). George Odom was married in 1922 to Violet Gladys Holton. She died in October 1954 at the St. Francis Hospital, Leicester.



Figure 4

“Garthorpe” at 28, Westminster Drive, Leicester. (Photo courtesy David Brown.)

According to Odom, he first visited Jamaica in 1932, touring with Lord Tennyson’s Cricket XI. Jamaica was captained by Ernest A. Rae, a leading light of the Kingston Cricket Club and who served as president for many years. He and George became good friends. They are mentioned in *The Daily Gleaner* in 1952 as making a 4-1 bet on the MCC tour to WI that year at Lord’s. George Odom used Rae’s Bros. offices at 95 Harbour Street for “recruiting appointments” in late February to March 1932 (Figure 5). On April 18, 1935, Ernest Rae



Figure 5

Odom recruitment advertisement in The Daily Gleaner, March 1932.

By 1935, there is little evidence of Odom’s woolens business, no ads, seemingly no catalogues; neither is there any evidence he was supplying uniforms to the military under contract. In the 1920s, George Odom had also travelled the deserts of the Middle East and up West African rivers in a dug-out canoe – this is likely to have been in Sierra Leone where his first covers are found. He also was in the Gold Coast at the height of the “industrial diamond” boom. He was a member of the Pan-American Clipper Club for which he qualified after flying 100,000 miles with the airline. George Odom’s woolens business was a cover for intelligence services in Jamaica and the Caribbean. Did his registered envelopes contain bona fide orders for flannels or was it low-grade “chatter” relating to the activities of left-wing activists? Odom’s ceaseless travelling, often into potentially dangerous war zones -- Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras for example -- appear somewhat foolhardy for a provincial travelling salesman.

In 1935 as part of the Grantham Silver Jubilee celebrations, Leicestershire CCC played a match at Belton against Grantham CC. By then his export business had made George Odom a very wealthy woolens merchant. In 1935 he donated The George Odom Cup for an annual event between Leicester Golf Club and The Leicester Rotary Club. In 1936 he further donated a trophy in Jamaica for an eight team cricket competition at May Pen – the teams were mainly police and military elevens.

He also toured with Jamaican sides to Costa Rica before World War II in 1934, 1935 and 1937! I believe he was interested in the fortunes of another stamp dealer, James A. Westin, who had set up a British Government sponsored balsa wood plantation there. The idea was to avoid having to bring the balsawood cargoes through the Panama Canal from Ecuador, because the ships carrying the balsa were obviously riding higher in the water. The Canal was bristling with Nazi spies and informants. Balsa wood was the main component of the twin-seater de Havilland Mosquito bomber. Its greatest contribution was in creating a new form of aerial warfare – surgical strikes, many of them for propaganda purposes: it was also much used for photo-reconnaissance (*Figure 6*).



Figure 6

The Mosquito aircraft – balsa, aluminium and Canadian birch. (Photo courtesy of Siggy Wurger.)

One of the most celebrated “Mossie” raids occurred January 23, 1943 on the main Berlin radio station. Hermann Göring, head of the Luftwaffe, was about to deliver a speech celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Third Reich. The British newsreels gleefully reported afterwards that the “The Fat Field Marshal” had been delayed by an hour or so!” Göring enviously noted, “The British, who can afford aluminium better than we



Figure 7

“Captain Smye” cover, 1937.

can, knock together a beautiful wooden aircraft that any and every piano factory over there is building. There is nothing the British do not have. They have the geniuses and we have the nincompoops.” At this point, George Odom was also spending time at Colon, Panama: was he perhaps responsible for “The Captain Smye” covers that emanate at that time from the Panama Canal (*Figure 7*)?

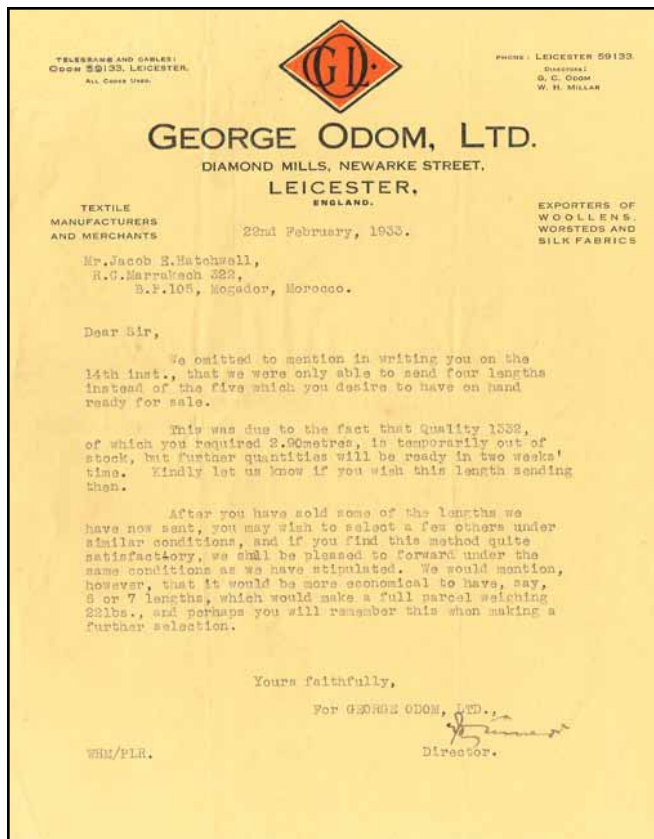


Figure 8

Letter to Jacob E. Hatchwell from George Odom Ltd., February 22, 1933, Centre de la Culture Judeo-Marocaine.

In 1940, Ernest Rae became Commandant of the Gibraltar Internment Camp, taking over from Major Henry Simms, who had retired. George Odom had a special interest in the Gibraltar Camp. Back in Leicester in 1935 his company was supplying one Jacob Hatchwell, a Jewish tailor on the island of Mogador, Morocco (*Figure 8*). Hatchwell’s relatives were evacuated from Gibraltar in 1940: half of the 1,500 Gibraltarians evacuated were Jewish. I believe George Odom was a frequent visitor to Up Park Camp.

In November 1939, a wedding photograph of L. Barrington Smith and his bride, Kathleen, ap-

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peared in *The Daily Gleaner*. Mr. Barrington Smith is seen as a thrusting young city businessman (*Figure 9*).

In May 1938, Leroy Smith was made a "Special Constable" when the Frome Riots spread to Kingston. The Kingston Constabulary were desperately short of officers as the whole island exploded (*Figure 11*). Sarah Thomas



Figure 9
L. Barrington
Smith's wedding
photo from
The Daily Gleaner,
November 16, 1939.

FASHIONABLE WEDDING AT HOLY CROSS
Mr. and Mrs. L. Barrington Smith, who were married on Saturday last at Holy Cross Church, Half-Way Tree, by the Rev. Fr. Eberle, S.J. The bride was formerly Miss Kathleen Dickson, of St. Andrew.
In the solemn stillness of the Holy Cross Church at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning last, Miss Kathleen Dickson walked up the aisle on the arm of her father, to be given away in holy wedlock to Mr. L. Barrington Smith, young city businessman.
Mr. Smith is son of Mr. and Mrs. William Smith, and the only daughter of Mr. C. H. Dickson, both of St. Andrew.
The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Fr. Eberle, S.J., priest in charge of Holy Cross. Miss Winnie Dickson, sister of the bride, was bridesmaid, and the bestman was Mr. C. Leo Preston. A large gathering of friends and relatives of both the bride and groom witnessed the nuptials.
Those present included Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Dickson, Mr. and Mrs. William Smith, Miss P. A. Smith, sister of the groom; Miss G. B. Preston, the Misses Douce, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Vivian Burrows, Miss V. Burrows, the Misses Christie, Mr. Bobby Dickson, brother of the bride, Miss Reima Dally, Miss Peggy Hart, Mrs. F. Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Preston and Mr. Joe Edwards.

However, back in 1933 black policeman Leroy Smith of 3 Love Lane, Kingston, was dishonorably discharged from the force for an over-zealous arrest and injury to a woman who also happened to be called Smith. In July 1934, someone bought the 127 Hagley Park Road property at auction. It can't have been Leroy Smith, he was without a job as he had been dismissed from his new job at a furniture store in Kingston (*Figure 10*). I believe it was George Odom who also employed the hapless Smith and his wife.

26 May 1934
NOTICE RE LEROY SMITH
This is to advise the Public that Leroy Smith is no more in my employ, and is not authorised to collect money on my behalf or to transact any other business for me or my firm.
C. C. CAMPBELL,
4 East Parade, Kingston.

Figure 10
Leroy Smith dismissal notice,
The Daily Gleaner, May 26, 1934.



Figure 11
Striking dockers at
Kingston, May 1938,
from
The Daily Gleaner.

and her 14-year-old son were killed and her other infant wounded in one incident, when Special Constable Smith was spotted by an incensed crowd. He became separated from the rest of the force. Police rifleman Rashford A. Lindo, with 10 rounds of ammunition, went to save the unarmed Smith from being lynched. Lindo stated that he fired warning shots but accidentally killed a mother and her son, and wounding a third person. He was discharged as, "He had the misfortune not to lift his rifle sufficiently" and was "operating in his line of duty and the defence of a colleague." Special Constable Leroy Smith also gave testimony. Leroy Smith then disappears from all *The Daily Gleaner* records. Rashford A. Lindo continued to be a policeman until the war when all police security matters were not allowed to be reported.

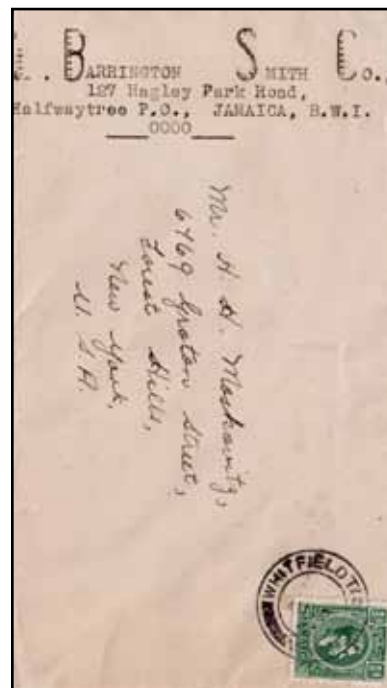


Figure 12
August 1946
cover to Forest
Hills, New York
with the
L. Barrington
Smith Co. logo
redesigned to
casually read
"B. S. Co." with
the letter "L"
hardly showing.

Thus, L. Barrington Smith of 127 Hagley Park Road was a front for a private security company working to The Jamaican Standing Defence Committee and the British Security Cooperation in New York. There is a clue given post-war by covers sent to one H. H. Moskovitz of

rohito and the U-boat menace: "Damn the Submarines" (Figure 13) and worse! (Figure 14). A middle-aged ex-machine gunner who saw action in France and Palestine and was taken prisoner at Soissons in 1918 for six months, fits the bill rather better! There are indications that George Odom was a reasonable draughtsman.



Figure 13

L. Barrington Smith "Damn the Submarines" cover to U.S., dated July 23, 1942.

Groton Street, Forest Hills with the L. Barrington Smith Co. logo redesigned to casually read "B. S. Co." with the "L" hardly showing (Figure 12). Dated August 1946 this was just after the BSC NY was disbanded.

As well as Leroy and his wife Kathleen, "L. Barrington Smith" employed Everard Aguilar and a Jamaican stamp dealer who had lived in California for many years, George Elliott. He had lived at 1 Holborn Road. George Odom ran the show – he also wrote a pre-war column in *The Daily Gleaner* and designed the "Patriotic Covers." It is hardly likely that a young black Jamaican businessman would have the resources to run a business that targeted stamp dealers all over America and the United Kingdom; nor would he have the motivation to blast out the "Patriotic Covers," shaking both fists at Hitler, Hi-

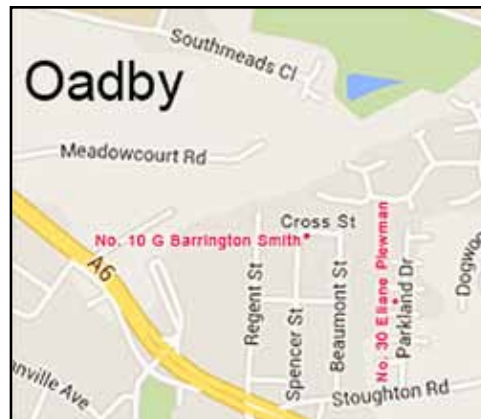


Figure 15

Simplified map of Oadby.

rington Smith of 10 Cross Street, Oadby did so, but unwittingly!

"Barrie" retired last year at the age of 85. George Odom's SOE agent, Eliane Plewman (1938-1939) lived at 30 Park-

land Drive, Oadby. This is just 100 yards from Barrie's house (Figure 15)! He has stated that he had never heard of Eliane Plewman, but I would be quite certain his father did! No other Leroy Smith is ever mentioned in *The Daily Gleaner*. The dates tie in well with George Odom's claimed 14 visits and Christmases to Jamaica between 1932 and 1945.



Figure 14

An L. Barrington Smith cover with cachet showing rats and "Blow Up Those Rats - Hitler Hirohito," May 1 (1944) to U.S.

In July 1946 a small ad in *The Daily Gleaner* asked for two young ladies to apply for secretarial posts – no experience required (Figure 16). However, on December 1, two small adjoining small ads indicate that L. Barrington Smith was closing – a mimeograph 10,000 and

Continued on page 16

stamps were put up for sale; the former is only Smith not Barrington Smith (*Figure 17*)! But in early 1947, the company was suddenly expanding -- maybe thanks to the Truman Doctrine of March 12, 1947 (*Figure 18*).

HELP: Two Young Ladies With Third year P.T. certificate to work in a mail order office. Knowledge of typing essential. Past office experience not necessary as the work will have to be learnt. Small salary to start. Apply in own hand writing enclosing references and a recent snapshot. L. Barrington Smith Co., Half-way Tree P.O. 5 July 1946

Figure 16

L. Barrington Smith advertisement for "Two Young Ladies" in The Daily Gleaner, July 5, 1946.

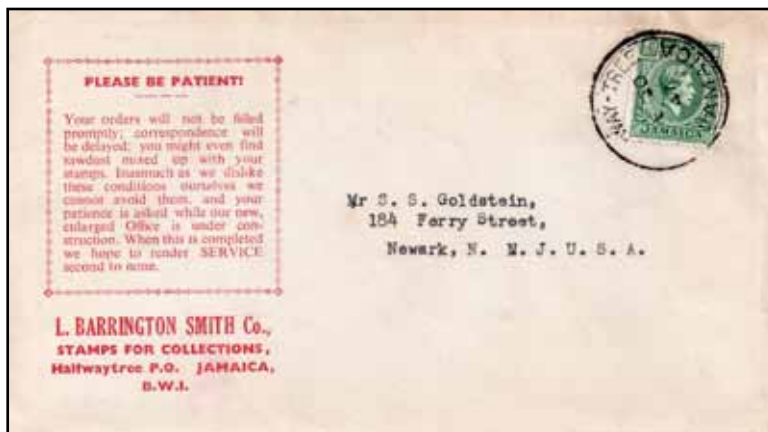


Figure 18

L. Barrington Smith "Sawdust" cover, September 30, 1947.



Figure 19

L. Barrington Smith letter to George Gunter, January 28, 1943. (Courtesy of Ewan Cameron.)

TO SELL: Model No. 99 Mimeograph duplicator just a few months old - All working condition. Complete with shading screens, stylus, 7 new cloth pads. Reason for selling: owner has no further use of same. No reasonable offer refused. Apply Smith, 127 Hagley Park Road, Half Way Tree

TO SELL: A Collection of 10,000 Different British Colonial and foreign pictorial stamps. I am prepared to submit sections on approval to responsible stamp collectors anywhere in Jamaica. Prices range from a few pence to several pounds each. No obligation to buy what I send. Barrington Smith, Half Way Tree P.O.

Figure 17

L. Barrington Smith advertisement "TO SELL" in The Daily Gleaner, December 1, 1946.

When I was in Jamaica recently, 80-year-old philatelist Patrick Smith, who is black, stated that L. Barrington Smith was a white man. The president of the Jamaica Philatelic Society, the erudite Mr. Ewan Cameron, 85, stated that he had never met L. Barrington Smith, but not for want of trying. He never answered the phone. He never came to meetings. He found a letter from Barrington Smith to the society's president, George C. Gunter (*Figure 19*).

"Re: Barrington Smith: I dug deep into my archives and found the somewhat ungracious letter sent to Mr. Gunter. I am puzzled why Mr. Gunter should bother writing to him at all unless Gunter had received complaints from other people who had written to LBS for material. But how then could anyone sane think one could carry on a business with that odd business philosophy (*Figure 20*)?" I believe this was Odom trying to preserve his anonymity. He himself was never a member of The Jamaica Philatelic Society. A final demand for payment in 1940 by L. Barrington Smith is also fairly incendiary (*Figure 21*).

In 1946, Herbert Butcher, later Sir Herbert Butcher, George Odom's nephew-in-law, visited Jamaica. He was the Independent Liberal MP for Holland & Boston, 1937 until his retirement in 1964 (*Figure 22*). In 1940, Butcher served on the Aliens advisory council, which mainly dealt with the placement of alienated European Jews.

Jamaica's New Constitution of 1946 ended MI6's responsibilities for the island and MI5 took over as Jamaica was now on the path to independence. Sir Harry Luke retired and George Odom took over responsibilities for Jamaica's internal security with the help of Everard F.

Aguiar, Norval Marley, Trevor Litteljohn (*sic*) and lawyer Douglas Tucker (*Figure 23*).

On October 10, 1949, an omnibus series of stamps was issued across the colonies from Aden to Zanzibar celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union. Mercury (Hermes, according to the catalogues),

Figure 20
L. Barrington Smith's application for membership in the Jamaica Philatelic Society, 1944.
 Courtesy of Ewan Cameron.

In 1948, George Odom claimed to have supplied 200 tailors between Morant Bay and Montego Bay. Were there that many, or is he referring to some other trade (Tinker, Tailor, Soldier ... etc.)!? Many of Odom's early 1950s Jamaica covers emanate from Up Park Military Camp and Palisadoes Military HQs (*Figure 24*).



Figure 22
Sir Herbert Butcher, December 1960 (he was Odom's nephew - in - law).
 (Courtesy of Walter Bird, National Portrait Gallery)



Figure 21
L. Barrington Smith incendiary final demand for payment, January 16, 1940.
 (Courtesy Peter Farrimond.)

the winged messenger of the gods, is depicted on the lowest value (*Figure 25*). Around his neck is a medalion inscribed with a strange symbol, which looked neither Greek nor Roman. Last year, I wrote to an old friend, Chris Street, who's up on the occult, and asked him what the symbol was. He informed me that it was the Sanskrit letter "om" signifying a "god." Why should a Roman god have a Sanskrit symbol around his neck (*Figure 26*)? It didn't quite add up so I forgot about it. Yesterday, I had a flash of inspiration!

Continued on page 18



Figure 23
Lawyer Tucker, Browns Town cover.



Figure 24
George Odom Palisadoes Camp HQ cover, September 11, 1952.

The Mercury medallion, as tiny as it might be, is clearly inscribed in Sanskrit “om,” or a “god.” Take the English/Sanskrit words and co-join them and it becomes “god”/“om,” which spells out “godom,” or



Figure 25
Mercury UPU 1½d stamp, 1949.



Figure 26
Mercury UPU 1½d stamp 1949 – detail of medallion.

“g.odom,” in full George Odom! No details have ever been published on the designer of this UPU omnibus issue. Eureka!

Next time out: George Odom and Lord Peregrine Brownlow – diamonds and guns.

Endnote

My thanks to Kathy-Ann Yetman, GPO Kingston; David Brown of Leicester; President Ewan Cameron of the Jamaica Philatelic Society; Patrick Smith, JPS; Paul Farrimond; Steve Jarvis FRPSL; and Peter Francis Horry.



L. Barrington Smith’s premises at 127 Hagley Park Road, Kingston, where who know’s what went on! This is a present-day view provided by Jeremy Francis.

TO SELL: “SER.ET” ERRORS, MOST-ly ½d and 1d. values in fine to average condition. Will submit by post. Callers welcomed any day except Sunday. Barrington Smith, 127 Hagley Park Rd., Halfway Tree P.O. 20 December 1941

Another most unusual advertisement from the December 20, 1941 issue of The Daily Gleaner. The ad appears to offer “SECRET” (“SER.ET”), which is most odd.

Auction alert!

Hap Pattiz reports he received a “heads-up” alert on a Caribbean World War II censored mail collection coming up at an October auction by H.R. Harmer in California. “An amazing group of all the censor stations -- with big groups of Bermuda and Trinidad,” he said. Members should contact Tom Mills at 1-800-782-6771 to request a catalogue.

St. Kitts World War II transit censorship

By Hap Pattiz

Shown here is an interesting cover from Saba in the Netherlands Antilles to Providence, Rhode Island in the U.S. It was mailed from Saba on March 9, 1945, but censored in transit in St. Kitts. This is indicated by the censor tape Type CL4 #282, but with the unusual added slash and "1" following the printed number. This altered form of censorship is noted in Chris Miller's book.

Interestingly, most transit mail from non-British territories had been censored in Antigua earlier in the war, but by 1945, most of the censorship stations had been closed.



Interesting cover from Saba in the Netherlands Antilles to Providence, Rhode Island in the U.S. The cover was censored in transit in St. Kitts.



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! The well is nearly dry on future articles. I am really 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!

The ill-fated West Indies Federation

By Raymond W. Ireson, FRPSC

On April 12, 1958, ten British colonies in the West Indies each issued a three-stamp set of commemoratives, all using a common design depicting a map of the Caribbean and a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II. There was an inscription at the top reading "The West Indies Federation, 1958" and the name of the colony at the bottom.

The 10 island colonies were Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, and Trinidad & Tobago. The federation was created by the United Kingdom on January 3, 1958, the intention being to create a political unit that would be independent from Great Britain as a single state -- similar to the Canadian confederation. However, before that would happen, the federation collapsed due to internal political conflicts.

The West Indies Federation consisted of around 24 main inhabited islands and approximately 220 minor offshore islands (some inhabited, some not) spanned across some 1,310 miles from west to east, and in the south it extended 920 miles. However, most of this area of approximately 7,829 square miles was taken up by open water. Even though the federation was spread over such a vast area, most of its provinces were contiguous and clustered fairly close together in the Eastern Caribbean, with the obvious exception of Jamaica. The largest island was Jamaica, located in the far northwest of the federation. To the southeast lay the second largest island, Trinidad, followed by Barbados, located at the eastern extremity of the group.

The climate in all the islands is tropical, with hot and humid weather, although the inland regions of the larger islands have more temperate climates. There are two seasons annually: the dry season for the first six months of the calendar year, and the rainy season (also known as the hurricane season) in the second half. Many of the islands fall within the traditional hurricane belt, with the exception of Trinidad (although very occasionally it experiences low latitude hurricanes).

The population of the federation at the time of its birth

was a little over three million, with the majority being of African descent. Minorities include Indians from the sub-continent (called East Indians), Europeans, Chinese, and Caribs. There was also a large population of mixed descent. In terms of religion, most of the population was Protestant. There were also significant numbers of Catholics and some Hindus and Muslims (both almost exclusively from the East Indian population).

Government

As with all British colonies, Queen Elizabeth II was the Head of State and the Crown was vested with the legislative authority for matters concerning executive affairs, defense, and financing. Her representative, Patrick Buchan-Hepburn, First Baron Hailes, was given the title of Governor-General. He was also given the power to veto any laws passed by the federation.



The Federal Parliament was bicameral, consisting of a nominated Senate and a popularly elected House of Representatives. The Senate consisted of 19 members who were appointed by the Governor-General after consulting with the respective

territorial governments. Two members represented each unit (with only one from Montserrat). The House of Representatives has 45 elected members: Jamaica had 17 seats, Trinidad & Tobago had 10, Barbados had five, and the remaining islands, two each.

The Government Executive would be a Council of State, not a Cabinet, presided over by the Governor-General, the Prime Minister and 10 other officials. There also would be a Federal Supreme Court consisting of a Chief Justice and five other Justices. The proposed site for the capital city was Chaguaramas, a few miles west of Port of Spain in Trinidad, but the site was part of a U.S. naval base (leased to the United States by Great Britain during World War II). In practice, Port of Spain served as the federal capital for the duration of the federation's existence.

The first election

In preparation for the first federal elections, two federation-wide parties were organized as confederations of

local political parties. Both were organized by Jamaican politicians, to wit: The West Indies Federal Labour Party (WIFLP), led by Norman Manley, and the Democratic Labour Part (DLP), led by Alexander Bustamante.

The platforms of these two major national parties were similar in many respects. Both advocated maintaining and strengthening ties with the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada (countries with which all the islands had strong cultural and economic links); but there were differences. Federal elections were held on March 25, 1958. Strangely enough, neither of the two aforementioned Jamaican politicians, nor the premier of Trinidad & Tobago, Dr. Eric Williams, contested the elections. This suggested that the leaders of the two most important provinces (Manley was Premier of Jamaica), did not see the federation as viable. It was apparent that they both preferred to remain in control of their respective island power bases.

The WIFLP won the election, taking 26 seats while the DLP carried 19 seats. Leadership of the WIFLP passed to Sir Grantley Adams of Barbados, and the DLP leadership passed to the Trinidadian, Ashforth Sinanan. The absence of the leading Jamaican politicians from any role at the federal level was to undermine the federation's unity. Sir Grandley Adams became the Prime Minister. A commemorative stamp issue of his native Barbados portrayed him when he still held that position.

Government Services

The federation had a number of units deemed to be common services for the entire federation. These were: The Federal Shipping Service, the Federal Supreme Court, the University of the West Indies, the West Indies Meteorological Service, and The West Indies Regiment. In addition, there were at least a dozen advisory services.

Federal Problems

The politics of the embryonic federation were wracked by struggles between the federal and provincial governments, and between the two largest provinces (Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago) and the smaller provinces.

The West Indies Federation had an unusually weak federal structure. For instance, its provinces were not contained in a single customs unit. Thus, each province functioned as a separate economy, complete with tariffs, largely because the smaller provinces were afraid of being overwhelmed by the large islands' economies. Also, complete freedom of movement within the federation was not implemented, as the larger provinces were worried about mass migration from the smaller islands.

Nor could the federal government take its component states to task. The initial federal budget was quite small, limiting the federal government's ability to use its financial largesse as a carrot. It was dependent upon grants from the United Kingdom and from its member states. The provincial budgets of Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago were both larger than the federal budget. This led to repeated requests for those states to provide greater financing to the federal government. These requests were not well received, as Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago together already contributed 85 percent of the federal revenue, in roughly equal portions. Furthermore, the office of the Prime Minister was a weak one. Unlike other Westminster systems with a Prime Minister, the West Indies Federation's Prime Minister could not dissolve Parliament.

Dissolution

Many reasons have been put forward to explain the demise of the federation. These include the utter lack of popular support, competing island nationalisms, the weakness of the federal government, prohibitions on federal taxation and freedom of movement, inadequacies in the federal constitution, political feuds between the influential leaders and the federal government, the overwhelming concentration of population and resources in the two largest units, geographic and cultural distances between the units, and the impact of the period of self-government that followed the promotion from Crown Colony system.

However, the immediate catalyst for the dissolution of the federation was Jamaican discontent. By 1961, there were a number of reasons for Jamaica's dissatisfaction with the state of affairs, the main ones being her share of the seats in the federal parliament was smaller than her share of the total population of the federation, it was believed the smaller islands were draining Jamaica's wealth, and many in Jamaica were upset that Kingston had not been chosen as the federal capital.

But far and away the most important reason for Jamaica's unhappiness was the federation's continuing colonial status. Jamaica had joined the federation because its leaders had believed that the West Indies would quickly be granted independence. Nearly three years after formation of the federation, that had not happened. Meanwhile, smaller British colonies like Cyprus and Sierra Leone had gained independence.

The West Indies Federation was legally dissolved by the British Parliament passing the West Indies Act of 1962.

2015 Annual General Meeting

British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group was held on Saturday, May 16, 2015 at the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, Denver, Colorado. Members in attendance: D. Cordon, G. Frantz, M. Gleadall, B. Gompel, M. Kluherz, D. Larson, R. Maisel, P. McCann, G. Migliavacca, S. Pacetti, J. Paré, F. Roett, J. Seidl, D. Walker, E. Waterous, M. Wozniak, S. Wozniak, J. Wynns.

President's Welcome and Opening Remarks: The meeting was called to order by President Duane Larson at 11:08 a.m. He welcomed members and exhibitors to the RMSS and the members then introduced themselves. Peter McCann was one of the five judges for the show. David Cordon, Darrell Ertzberger, Peter Ford, Gregory Frantz, Paul Larsen, Duane Larson, Richard Maisel, Giorgio Migliavacca, John Paré, Fitz Roett, Ed Waterous, and John Wynns all won medals at the show.

Apologies for absence: B. Ashley, I. Burges, D. Druett, P. Elias, P. Ford, C. Freeland, T. Giraldi, J. Harwood, E. Parker, B. Ramkissoon, S. Schumann, B. Stewart, D. Wade, D. Wilson, S. Zirinsky.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of March 22, 2014 (St. Louis): The minutes were distributed and approved (proposed Ed Waterous, seconded Richard Maisel, carried unanimously).

Matters arising: none.

Officers' Reports:

Vice President's Report: Bill Gompel announced he will take a more active role in future and will write a few articles as Study Leader of Bermuda for the *Journal*.

Treasurer's Report: John Seidl distributed the financial statements. Income exceeded expenditure by \$853 in 2014.

Secretary's Report: Mary Gleadall reported that one election was held in 2014 resulting in the society's officers being re-elected en bloc for a further two year term ending December 31, 2016. She attended the BWISC AGM in April in London and also the Diamond Jubilee celebrations held at the Royal Philatelic Society in November. Rare and exotic material was exhibited by several of our members as well as Study Circle members.

Auction Manager's Report: John Seidl reminded members that there was no auction during 2014 but that afternoon the 2015 auction would take place and he hoped everyone would participate as he already had many book bids.

Librarian's Report: The library received a gift of the second edition of the SG Belize, Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago catalog. Dale Wade received a few requests for old articles during 2014 and he is indexing and cross referencing all old BCPSJ articles and brief notes. He has constructed three-letter village postmark keys for most former British Western Hemisphere countries and is happy to email particular countries to any member who requests one.

Membership Chairman's Report: Bob Stewart was not able to attend. Presently we have 282 members which includes 20 complimentary and 36 electronic memberships. He analyzed the membership by country: Canada, 17; Caribbean area, 19; Australia, 7; New Zealand, 3; Europe, 12; Africa, 2; Asia, 2; U.K., 49; U.S., 171; total, 282. A positive trend is the increase in electronic membership which doubled, saving money in printing and postage.

Publication Officer's Report: Ben Ramkissoon was unable to attend due to his deteriorating health and regretfully submitted his resignation from all the society's activities (APS Rep., Publications Chairman, Anguilla, Trinidad & Tobago Group Leader). This was accepted with sadness and gratitude for his long and fruitful association with the society over the last 40 years. He will be kept current on activities through the *Journal* and will endeavor to contribute articles on BCP topics as able. Those present wished him and his wife, Connie, all the best.

President's Report: Duane Larson reported that 2014 had been a good year and the society was heading in the right direction. The treasury was in good shape.

Awards Chairman's Report: The Cameron Award (best British Caribbean Exhibit by BCPSG member) would be presented at the banquet that night. The Cooley Award (lifetime service to BCPSG), the highest award of the society (memento and cash total \$500) was awarded to Bob Stewart, Membership Secretary. The Addiss Award (lifetime achievement in writing/research around the topic of British Caribbean philately) was presented to Giorgio Migliavacca for his BVI catalogue and the Durnin Award (outstanding article for BCPSG *Journal*) was awarded to David Horry for various articles on British Guiana, Jamaica and St. Lucia postmarks. Commended Hap Pattiz and P.J. Ramphal. The Jimmy Stern Award, (\$500) for first time exhibitor at national level would be presented at the banquet.

Future AGM dates: 2016, May 28 – June 4, World Stamp Show, New York, New York. BWISC and Bermuda will share a table with us. We need to draw up a rota of volunteers to man the table over the eight days. An afternoon seminar on our islands of interest will be organized by

Continued on page 23

World Stamp Show – New York 2016

May 28 - June 4, 2016

By **Mary Gleadall**
Secretary

World Stamp Show-NY 2016 (<http://www.ny2016.org/>) carries on the rich tradition of the once-a-decade international exhibitions from the past 100 years held in the United States, typically on a year ending with “6” or “7,” honoring the anniversary of America’s first postage stamps issued in 1847. The Jacob Javits Convention Center, 655 West 34th Street, New York, NY 10001 is on Level 3, taking up 294,000 square feet. Well over 200,000 beginner through advanced stamp collectors, their families and friends are expected to attend this once-a-decade event. Admission is free throughout all eight days of the show. It is under the patronage of the American Philatelic Society with major support from The Collectors Club of New York and The Philatelic Foundation along with their members.

Highlights include: *Over 200 stamp dealers selling and buying stamps, covers, collections, postcards and a wide assortment of ephemera and philatelic items and supplies. *50+ postal bureaus, including the United States Postal Service and United Nations Postal Administration selling their latest issues. *The world’s greatest stamp rarities on display along with 4,000 exhibit frames of competitive ex-

Annual General Meeting

Continued from page 22

Richard Maisel and Colin Fraser. Duane will let us know as soon as possible the dates/times of our meetings as members may probably not be able to attend the full eight days. **2017**, November 17-19: CHICAGOPEX; **2018**, February, Eleuthera, Bahamas. David Druett suggested February to follow the Sarasota show. Jack Harwood has offered to organize the trip as he knows the island well. Direct flights from Florida. **2019** and beyond: WESTPEX (easy to get to, well attended), TEXPEX, PIPEX (Portland).

Any other business: a. 2016 dues: no increase; b. Trustees: need nomination suggestions by August; c. Maurice Wozniak urged we keep the website current with details of future meetings and timetables; d. Giorgio Migliavacca said there was a need for all the *Journal* to be digitized for the website.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. (proposed Ed Waterous, seconded Richard Maisel, approved unanimously).

Submitted by
Mary Gleadall, *Secretary*

hibits vying for medals and prizes. *60 specialty philatelic organizations covering every facet of the hobby, manning society tables and holding meetings and educational seminars -- almost all of which are open to the public. *First day stamp release ceremonies for new issues from the U.S., U.N. and several nations around the world. *Family friendly activities and events, including a large “Youth and Beginner Area.”

The BCPSG and the Bermuda Collectors Society will be sharing the society table from Saturday, May 28 through Saturday, June 4. Please consider volunteering to help at our table for short periods of a couple of hours.

The seminar on our British Caribbean islands is being arranged by Richard Maisel and Colin Fraser and will take place Wednesday, June 1 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please contact them if you are interested in helping with the seminar or the dinner.

The society dinner will be Wednesday, June 1 at a New York City restaurant. The Executive Board meeting will be Friday, June 3, beginning at 10 a.m., and the Annual General Meeting will be Friday, June 3, at 1p.m. More show information will be posted in the *Journal* and on the BCPSG website as it becomes available. See you all at NY 2016 World Stamp Show!

Hotels:The Marriott Marquis is the main official show hotel. WSS-NY 2016 has now signed a master contract with several hotels throughout the region reserving 1,275 discounted rooms throughout the eight days of the exhibition for show-goers. Prices are expected to range from \$139 to \$425 per night, offering a wide range of options with a variety of amenities. All are either within walking distance of the Javits Center or to public transportation getting you there.

Please click one of the following links for the hotel reservations page. For show attendees: <https://registration.experientevent.com/ShowWSS161/>. For dealers and postal administrations: <http://registration.experientevent.com/showWSS161/?flowcode=DEL>.

The reason for two different links is that it helps us track dealer reservations separately. The hotels and prices are the same for both links. The links for hotel reservations are also available on the World Stamp Show-New York 2016 website at http://www.ny2016.org/SubMenu/Hotel_Reservations.aspx?id=522.

If you need any assistance in making your reservation, please contact the Experient customer service at the following: via email: worldstamp@experient-inc.com. Telephone toll free: 800-967-8852 (domestic); international: 847-996-5832

Please check our website and the next *Journal* for details of which hotel our hospitality suite will be hosted in.

BCPSG Member Exhibits at ROMPEX

By Paul Larsen

Awards Chairman

Our members, whose entries accounted for 53 of the 190 frames in open competition at RMSS, contributed 28 percent of the total. This substantial amount of participation is one of the reasons why national shows are eager to invite specialty groups such as ours. It provides confidence for a show's expectation of some significant group exhibit participation.

It was interesting to note the unusual number of British Guiana entries as this colony's issues have seen very little exhibiting action for a very long time. It was good to see our Cameron Award winner, Richard Maisel, promoting a renewal of interest so more of us can see and appreciate BG material.

Another highlight for me was another Jimmy Stern Award presented to a first time exhibitor. We will all benefit from having more member-exhibitors. Peter Ford of the United Kingdom, the recipient, also showed British Guiana stamps.

The following table summarizes BCPSG member exhibits and awards:

Member	No. Frames	Exhibit Title	Award
Richard Maisel	8	Nineteenth Century Sailing Ship Stamps of British Guiana.	Show Grand Award, Cameron Award, Gold, BC Gold.
M. Fitz Roett	8	Barbados: the Line Engraved Issues of the 19th Century with Forerunners.	Gold, BC Gold, APS Pre-1900 Medal, Collectors club of Chicago Philatelic Exhibitors Award.
John Wynns	2	Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Issues of British Guiana.	Vermeil, BC Vermeil.
Darrell Eritzberger	5	British Honduras Postal Stationery	Gold.
Peter Ford	2	The De La Rue Definitive Issues of British Guiana (1876-1932).	Vermeil, BC Vermeil, Jim Stern Award, AAPE Novice Award.
David Cordon	5	A Study of Bermuda King George V "Key Plates."	Gold, BC Gold, APS Research Medal.
Duane Larson	3	Jamaica: the 1900-1901 Llandovary Falls Issue.	Silver, BC Silver.
Edward Waterous	6	The Bahamas Post to 1935	Gold, BC Gold.
Paul Larsen	3	Leeward Islands Federal Postal Stationery of the King George V Reign.	Vermeil, BC Vermeil.
John Wynns	1	Jamaica: Postal Uses of the 1901 Llandovary Falls Stamp.	Vermeil, BC Vermeil.
John Paré	1	The 1940 Bermuda Half-penny Provisional Issue and its Postal Uses.	Gold, BC Gold.
John Paré	1	The Development of Air Mail Service Between Bermuda and the U.S. 1925-1939.	Vermeil, BC Vermeil.
John Wynns	1	Barbados: 1927 Tercentenary Issue.	Vermeil, BC Vermeil.
Giorgio Migliavacca	7	The Diaspora of the Italian Prisoners of War Captured in Africa: 1940-1946.	Gold, Military Postal History Award.

Annual meeting brings several awards

The annual meeting of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group was held during the ROMPEX show in Denver, Colorado, May 15-17. Several awards were made during the AGM, which drew about 18 people. Awards presented by the group included The Durnin Award to David Horry for the best article published in the Journal; The Addiss Award to Dr. Giorgio Migliavacca for Lifetime Achievement in Philatelic Writing and Research; The Cooley Award to Bob Stewart for Lifetime Service to the BCPSG; and The Stern Award to Peter Ford for New Exhibitor's First Exhibit. In all, 13 BCPSG members exhibited at the annual show, with Richard Maisel capturing the ROMPEX Grand Award for "Nineteenth Century Sailing Ships of British Guiana." Mr. Maisel, a long-time BCPSG member, also captured The Cameron Award for the best BCPSG exhibit at the show. Congratulations to all!



Richard Maisel (right) receiving the Grand Award of Rocky Mountain Stamp Show 2015 from Richard Drews, chief judge at ROMPEX.



Duane Larson (left) presenting The Addiss Award to Dr. Giorgio Migliavacca.



Members attending the 2015 AGM in Denver.

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.

NAPEX 2015,

June 5-7

McLean, Virginia

Darrell Ertzberger
British Honduras Postal Stationery
Gold, BCPSG Award,
American Philatelic Congress Award

Bernie Beston
Ecuador -- The Postal Stationery
Gold

MINNESOTA STAMP EXPO

JULY 17-19

CRYSTAL, MINNESOTA

Regis Hoffman
Letters to the Stars
Silver, Women Exhibitors
Sterling Achievement Award

John Paré

*The 1948 Wisconsin Issue:
Production, First Day Covers, Postal Uses*

Gold, United Stamp Society

Statue of Freedom Award

*The 1940 Bermuda Half-Penny Provisional
Issue and Its Uses (SF)*

Gold

DID YOU KNOW?

Our web site, www.bcpsg.com, now contains a members' area that includes past copies of the *Journal*. To access the site, you will need a login and password which can be obtained by contacting Bob Stewart, Membership Chairman, at rstewart19@comcast.net.

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Wanted: KGVI and early QEII Bahamas/Jamaica postmarks. I pay good prices! Contact David Horry by email at: horry@talk21.com

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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

Dr. Peter A. Nickles, 47 Edgemere Road, Grosse Pointe, MI 48236-3708 USA. Email: panickesmd@comcast.net. Collects Leeward Islands. Sponsored by Bob Stewart.

Removal for Non-Payment of Dues

James Czyl, Ken Deaver, James Grimwood Taylor, B. Reid Hill, Courtney McConrey, Stephen Peters, Russell Sticher, John Tyacke, Richard Zurba.

Address Changes

Dr. Fitz Roett, 2738 17th Street NW, Calgary, AB T2M 3S4 CANADA
Ellsworth Mink, P.O. Box 9020813, San Juan, PR 00901 USA

Donations

Thanks to:

Donald Crider, Sam Partain, Richard Ward and Steven Berlin for your donations to the BCPSG.

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. If I do not have your correct mailing address, you will not get your copy of the Journal. 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.



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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS



NEVIS



'NEVIS – THE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY (1661–1890)' by Federico Borromeo, FRPSL and Charles Freeland, FRPSL. This is the first definitive handbook on Nevis to be published since the slim booklet by Fred Melville in 1910. Despite its small size, this island has attracted collectors from the earliest days. The book traces the pre-stamp history and examines the early Nissen & Parker issues in great detail and goes on to describe the evolution of the De La Rue printings. It also includes chapters on postal stationery, revenue issues and forgeries. This book is a must for all BWI collectors.

A4 size, hardbacked with dust jacket, (viii) + 208 pages. ISBN: 978-1-907481-19-2

Price: £35.00 (approx. \$52.00). BWISC Members' Price: £32.00 (approx. \$48.00).



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 cheque or credit card. Orders from outside UK for heavy books 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

I hope all of you have had an enjoyable, refreshing summer and now are ready for an exciting philatelic season. The highlight of our BCPSG year promises to be the 2016 New York World Stamp Show, May 28 to June 4, which will be the scene of our Annual General Meeting.

Plans are rapidly taking shape for our participation in the show with a society table, shared with the Bermuda Collectors Society and possibly the BWISC. In addition, we will host a seminar on Wednesday, June 1, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the show venue, coordinated by Richard Maisel and Colin Fraser. Multiple presentations, speakers and displays will be featured, and we hope this event will draw interest to the British Caribbean presence at this international event. Our society dinner will be held at a New York City restaurant the same evening and again, we will be inviting the Bermuda and BWISC clubs to join us.

Our BCPSG Executive Board Meeting will be held Friday, June 3 at 10 a.m. and our BCPSG Annual General Meeting follows on Friday, June 3, beginning at 1 p.m.

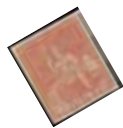
We will be needing volunteers to help man our table for all eight days of the show, so if you are planning to attend, consider helping at our table for a few hours. More show and hotel information will be posted on the BCPSG website as it becomes available.

I hope you will consider making plans now to attend our AGM at the 2016 New York World Stamp Show, for at least a few days, and participate in this exciting BCPSG event.



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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, Pennyead Auctions, 1, Brewerton St., Knaresborough, N. YORKS. HG5 8AZ. Tel:- 01423 865962 or Fax:- 01423 547057 or E-mail:- Pennyead@aol.com. Or log on to www.pennyead.com, where the book can be ordered with secure credit card check out facilities.



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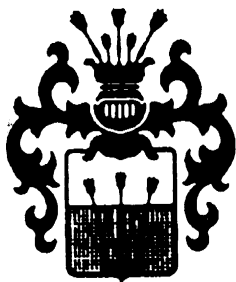
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