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## Grenada KGVI Post Offices





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**Editor: Dr. Everett L. Parker, 249 NW Live Oak Place, Lake City, FL 32055-8906 USA**

**Telephone: (386) 754-8524; email: eparker@hughes.net**

*Please address correspondence regarding articles in this publication to the Editor.*

**Membership Director: Mr. Bob Stewart, 7 West Dune Lane, Long Beach Township, NJ 08008 USA**

**Telephone: (609) 492-4379; email: rstewart19@comcast.net**

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**Telephone: (209) 571-1345; Email: teg43@aol.com**

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## CONTENTS

### FEATURES

Postmarks of the British West Indies: Grenada KGVI, <i>by David Horry, FRPSL</i> .....	4-6
Wrappers of Antigua, <i>by Dr. John K. Courtis, FRPSL</i> .....	7-10
Commander Eric David Bowie, RN, <i>by David Horry, FRPSL</i> .....	11-16
Interesting document may be circular letter, <i>by Charles Freeland</i> .....	17
Arthur Rowe Spurling: A World War I Hero (Part 2), <i>by Hap Pattiz</i> .....	20-23

### COLUMNS AND REPORTS

Officers and Trustees, Study Group Leaders & Others .....	2
World Stamp Show - New York 2016, <i>by Mary Gleadall</i> .....	18
Obituary: Michel Forand, <i>by Charles Freeland</i> .....	19
A philatelic literature review: <i>Nevis</i> .....	24-25
BCPSG Exhibits and Awards, <i>by Paul Larsen</i> .....	26
Membership Director's Report, <i>by Bob Stewart</i> .....	27
President's Message, <i>by Duane Larson</i> .....	28
Our faithful advertisers .....	24-32

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# Postmarks of The British West Indies: Grenada KGVI, 1937-1955

By David Horry, FRPSL  
An Englishman resident in Shanghai, China

Grenada, the Spice Island, is noted for the production of sugar, nutmegs and mace, cinnamon, ginger, cocoa and tourism: it is the most southerly of the Windward Islands and in 1946 had an estimated population of 72,650 of which 7,104 lived on Carriacou in the Grenadines.

In this article I will not deal with the Grenadines and make that the subject of another piece. The island is

Snug Corner, Birch Grove and Mount Rose to name but a few. The G.P.O. is at St. Georges (Fort Royal).

The first notable writing on Grenada postmarks came from one Alfred Charlton, *The Postal History and Postage Stamps of Grenada* which was published by Pemberton in 1955 -- this, however, excluded strikes from the G.P.O. Harvey O'Connor published "The Current Postmarks of Grenada" in the *British Caribbean Phila-*



Figure 1

*The early small Single Circles: Concord, Crochu and Grand-Roy.*

about 133 square miles. Reginald Courtney Cade described it in the *Handbook of British Colonial Stamps* as half the size of Middlesex. This handbook was very useful back in the 1950s as one of the only sources of Colonial Post Offices and thus postmarks.

The French had hold of Grenada, known then as Camerhogue, as early as 1650 but it was ceded (as La Grenade) to Britain in 1767 at the Treaty of Paris. Hence, of the 27 offices from the period, some bear evocative French names -- it is difficult to discard a stamp that bears the postmark "Morne Jaloux" or "Grand Anse" or "Piedmontagnes" or even "Crochu" (which means a hook).

According to Frances Key in *This Is Grenada*, there are two theories as to how the village of Perdmontemps (pronounced "Ped Muh Ta") got its name. One is that Fedon, leader of a slave revolt, came that way to attack St. George's and failing called it "Perdmontemps" or "loss of time." The other is that it is a corruption of "Piedmontagne" or "foot of the mountains." The English-named post offices are quite sublime: Happy Hill,

*telic Journal* in April 1969. There was an addenda by Eric Heyer for the same publication in August 1969. W. Danforth Walker and John A. Cronin looked at the whole issue again in the BCPJ in 1973 and 1979. Ted Proud issued his far more extensive *Postal History of Barbados and Grenada* in 2006. My *Encyclopaedia of British West Indies Postmarks, KGVI* pretty much brings everything up to speed.

Postmarks for the period look best on the larger KGVI definitives which ran from 1938 to early 1951. The small heads issued in 1951 are often too small to house a suitable postmark. However, there seems to have been a shortage of good ink at many of the post offices and postmarks

pre-1950 often appear to be dry and faint.

Within the KGVI period, the small single circles (sSCs) are the most numerous form of postmark. Three with time-code were first issued in the Victorian period, namely at Concord, Crochu and Grand-Roy (Figure 1) and all are scarce. There are two examples from Birch Grove (Figure 2) within the period and other scarce

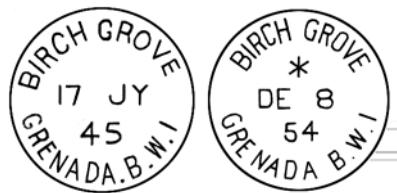


Figure 2

*These are small Single Circles  
– Birch Grove sSC(2) and  
sSC\*(4).*



Figure 3

These are small Single Circles: Dunfermline, Happy Hill and Snug Corner -- some sublime names.



strikes from Concord, Dunfermline, Grand Anse, Happy Hill, La Taste, Piedmontagnes and Snug Corner (Figure 3). The really tricky one is Mt. Rose sSC\* (Figure 4) whose office was opened in 1940 and closed around July 1946 -- like finding hen's teeth! A new office at La Taste replaced it on October 19, 1946. An Official Paid sSC\* is found throughout the period and is pretty scarce (Figure 5).



Figure 4

Mt. Rose sSC\* -- you won't see a lot of these!

Forged postmarks are not unknown on the higher values from both definitive sets, but especially the 10/- from the first issue, where genuine used copies are at a premium, Madame Joseph Birmingham's being the main culprits. (Figure 6). Koshier Birmingham's are found at all the larger offices and the scarce ones emanate from Corinth, Gouyave, Hermitage, Hope and Morne Jaloux (Figure 7). Rarer items come from Grenville (last recorded date



Figure 5  
Official Paid sSC\* found throughout the period.

May 14, 1937!) and Piedmontagnes last seen in 1949 (Figure 8). Examples from Corinth, St. Georges, Union and Woburn are far easier to locate (Figure 9). Open Birmingham's from Crochu and Hermitage are scarce whilst the Hope version is rare indeed (Figure 10).



Figure 6

Four Madame Joseph forgeries used on the higher values.

There is just one New Birmingham found within the period, inscribed "G.P.O. - Grenada B.W.I." The ERD is May 12, 1953 and LRD April 15, 1954 -- it is sur-



Figure 7

Birmingham's from Gouyave, Hermitage, Hope and Morne Jaloux.

prisingly rare (Figure 11). The Princess Alice Appeal of 1955 spawned Temporary Rubber Boxes (TRBs) at St. Georges and Sauteurs (Figure 12) with another possibil-

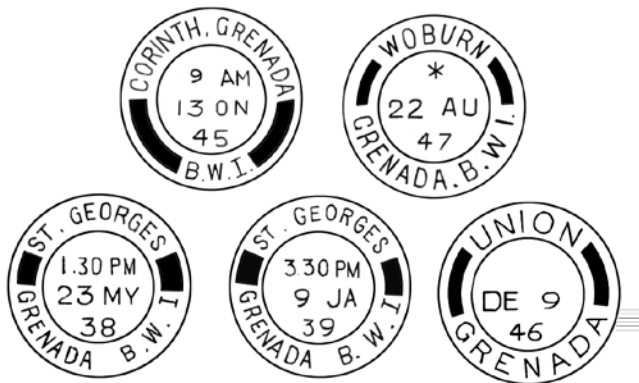


Figure 8  
Rare Birmingham's from Grenville and Piedmontagnes.

ity being at Gouyave; a small single line (1L) handstamp is noted from Piedmontagnes (Figure 13).

Like many other Caribbean islands, it is not so unusual

Continued on page 6



**Figure 9**  
*Birminghams from Corinth, St. Georges, Union and Woburn.*

to see Grenada postmarks on the stamps of other colonies. These were often applied as receiving marks on uncanceled stamps. Illustrated here is a fine St. Davids sSC\*(1) on a Trinidad & Tobago two-cent (**Figure 14**). Some years back it did take me a bit of time to realize that there was no Malvern in Grenada as this postmark is from Worcestershire! (**Figure 15**)

KGVI Grenada postmarks are not too difficult to find but the small offices pre-war are somewhat more difficult. Not much shows up on eBay but there are odd lots at the auction houses and fairs and the BPSC and BWISC auctions. One very surprising source for me was at 391, The Strand, back in the early 1990s, where someone had unwittingly decanted an entire on piece collection of KGV and KGVI postmarks into the front of house stockbooks and all priced at used catalogue! Good old Stanley Gibbons!



**Figure 10**  
*Open Birminghams from Crochu, Hermitage and the elusive Hope.*



**Figure 11**  
*The only New Birmingham G.P.O. – Grenada.*

**Figure 12**  
*Princess Alice TRBs for St. Georges and Sauteurs.*



**PRINCESS ALICE APPEAL**

**Figure 13**  
*Princess Alice TRBs for St. Georges and Sauteurs.*



**Figure 14**  
*St. Davids sSC\*(1) on Trinidad & Tobago 2¢, July 1941.*



**Figure 15**  
*Malvern, Worcestershire on Grenada halfpenny green, 1941.*

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# Wrappers of Antigua: Social Snippets, Supply and Demand

By Dr. John K. Courtis, FRPSL

**D**r. E. F. Sickenberger was a druggist and health inspector for the Board of Health of New Jersey. Messrs. P. Walter Thompson evolved into an international advertising agency with advertisements placed in 200 countries. *The Tropical and subtropical America* was a journal published in New York.<sup>1</sup> Theodore Presser started molding cannon balls, became a piano teacher, founded the Department of Music at Ohio Wesleyan University, published *The Etude* music magazine, and was the forerunner of the longest running U.S. music company. Rev. Leonard Meister was a Catholic priest and the local priest in Montserrat from 1901 to 1905; he was also a stamp collector and dealer. Hermann Meyer of Dömitz an der Elba, Western Pomerania, Germany was a postal stationery collector.

What could possibly tie together a health inspector, an advertising agency, a journal, a publisher of a music magazine, a priest and a stamp collector? The common denominator is that all received correspondence from Antigua post office postal stationery wrappers.

Antigua issued two wrappers in July 1903: a ½d green showing the Badge of the Colony and a 1d red of the same design, and these indicia are shown in *Figure 1*. The design follows the ½d grey-green and grey-black postage stamp issue of July 1903. There are “Specimen” overprint wrappers also of each of these denominations for U.P.U. requirements. The London printer De La Rue was responsible for all of these issues.

The island of Antigua is part of the Leeward Islands in the West Indies. Its capital is St. John’s to the north-west, because of the deep water harbor allowing shipping of all kinds. The population around 1900 (about when the crown colony of Antigua issued wrappers) was 35,000. Of this number, about 2,500 were Europeans who were the core of the literate group that were responsible for newspapers and other printed matter posted overseas taking advantage of concessional postage rates. This small group of users no doubt accounted for small print runs by De La Rue in London, although actual numbers

printed are unknown. (Printing quantities of Leeward Islands are known.) Antigua issued no wrappers during the reigns of KGV and KGI.

The postal arrangements of Antigua were controlled by the British Postmaster General from London until May 1, 1860. The island authorities set up an internal post in March 1841 between St. John’s and English Harbour, with Mr. Scotland as the postmaster. From 1858 Great Britain stamps were made available for use in Antigua. Prior to the 1903 issue of wrappers inscribed Antigua, local needs for post office wrappers were met by those inscribed Leeward Islands bearing Antigua postmarks.

## Supply

This is an eBay-based study of post office postal stationery wrappers listed since September 2003. The author has hand-collected daily all used post office wrappers listed for sale on the internet auction site eBay. There are about 38,000 worldwide wrappers in the database of which 22 are from Antigua: 16 examples of the ½d issue and six examples of the 1d issue. While it is tempting to comment that the ½d issue was intended for local Caribbean usage and the 1d for regions farther afield, as will be shown later, the evidence does not support that simple dichotomy. Obviously more wrappers than those listed

on eBay have appeared elsewhere over the past decade or so such as Delcampe, as well as offered for sale at bourses and listed in catalogues of traditional philatelic houses. What makes eBay an especially attractive outlet for wrappers is its policy of enabling the listing of items at prices lower than what would be economically worthwhile in dealer’s catalogues. An advantage for research stems from the fact that items are illustrated when listed, enabling their capture to a computer database, as well as the transparency that arises from revealing bidder and realized pricing information.

## Demand

Of the 16 available ½d green copies, 12 were sold at an

*Continued on page 8*



*Figure 1*  
*Post Office Postal Stationery*  
*indicia of Antigua.*

overall average price of US\$10.90 each. The range of realized prices was \$1 to \$39.99. The author made only one annotation at the time of collecting the sales figures and that was the \$23 for an uprated copy. The number of different bidders involved can be used to proxy the level of collector demand for an item -- although imperfect, the higher the mean bidder score the higher the demand. An arbitrary score of 2.5 has been used in a number of similar country-specific studies as a tipping point. A score above 2.5 implies a higher demand, while a score below 2.5 implies a weaker demand. The overall mean bidder score of 2.25 suggests that demand for this wrap-

per is not strong. The profile of bidder transactions is one transaction with five bidders, two transactions each with four bidders, one with three, three with two and five sole bidder transactions. Two-thirds of the sales transactions on eBay were of one or two bidders.

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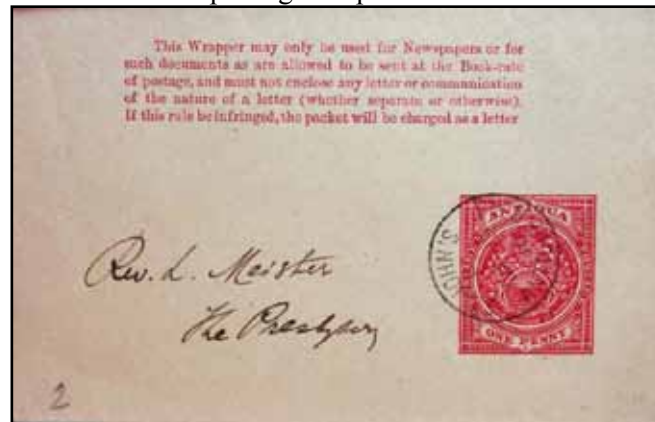
**Figure 2a**  
One of the two wrappers uprated.

### Postal History Interest

For collectors interested in destinations, there were four non-Antiguan countries listed as addresses for the ½d green: U.S.A. (9), Belgium (3), Great Britain and Bar-

bados (1 each). There were two wrappers addressed to Antigua, both to Rev. Meister. With regard to the 1d red, two wrappers were addressed to Germany and one was addressed to Montserrat. There were five wrappers addressed to Rev. Meister and these have been shown to be philatelically inspired but have been included in this database.

For the purpose of exposition, five wrappers have been chosen for brief comment, and these are shown as *Figure 2a-e*. Only two wrappers were uprated, both having been addressed to the same advertising agency in New York. The ½d uprating comprised a Leeward Islands

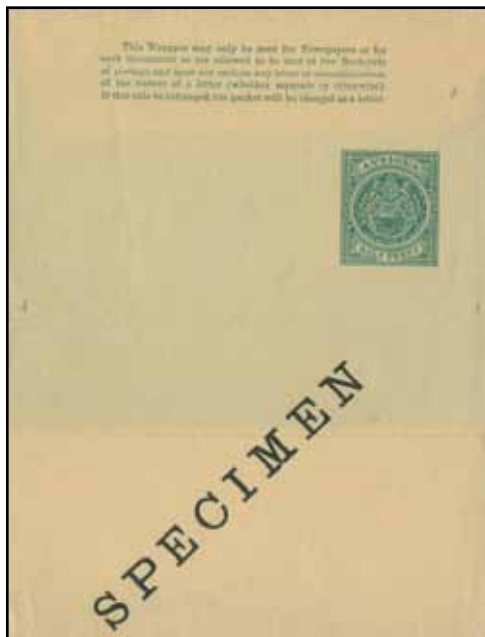


**Figure 2b**  
Wrapper addressed to Rev. L. Meister.

**Table 1: eBay Sales Transactions of Antigua Wrappers (2006-2015)**

	Sales Details US\$ (Ranked Low to High) And Number of Bidders per Sale	No. of Sales	Mean Sale Price	Mean Number of Bidders
1/2d	1.00 (1), 1.99 (1), 2.36 (2), 3.35 (3), 3.85 (2), 4.25 (4), 7.86 (2), 9.75 (1), 9.99 (1), 23.00 (4), 23.50 (5), 39.99 (1)	12	10.90	2.25
1d	5.01 (3), 9.99 (1), 9.99 (1), 11.52 (2), 14.50 (7) <b>Specimen Overprint Wrapper Sales</b>	5	10.20	2.80
1/2d	2.00 (2), 11.16 (2)	2	6.58	2.00





**Figure 2c**  
**De La Rue “Specimen” overprinted wrapper.**

stamp. The unclear cancellation makes reading the date difficult from the eBay internet image, but if it is 1912 then it is catalogued as Scott #47. The second wrapper is an example of one addressed to Rev. Meister, of which much has been written in the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, particularly by the late Dr. Eric Bateson.



**Figure 2e**  
**Five copies had The Antigua Standard handstamp applied.**

Wrappers three and four show the upward printed serifed “SPECIMEN,” but note the different angles of the overprint and layout vis-à-vis the indicium. The fifth wrapper is Leeward Islands but used in Antigua prior to their own issues and shows the purple handstamp “THE ANTIGUA STANDARD” of which there are five extant examples in the database.

**Postmarks**

Before Antigua issued its own wrappers in 1903, wrap-

pers inscribed “Leeward Islands” were used. An examination of Leeward Islands wrappers in the author’s database revealed 17/58 (29%) of the 1891 ½d green QV



**Figure 2d**  
**De La Rue “Specimen” overprinted wrapper.**

with an Antigua postmark. There were 14 with readable postmarks between July 1892 and July 1901: JY 12 92, NO 30 92, NO 1 93, AP 22 94, DE 21 94, FE 21 95, NO 11 96, AP 27 98, NO 9 98, OC 2 00, DE 19 00, FE 13 01, JY 3 01 and JY 31 01.

In 1902, Leeward Islands issued the two key-plate King Edward VII wrappers: the ½d green and 1d red. Of the former there were 13/21 (62%) with Antigua postmarks: MR 1 02, DE 21 04 (2 copies), MY 19 05, MR 31 07, AP 23 07, DE 21 08, JA 4 09 and JY 15 09. Of the latter there was only 1/6 (17%) with an Antigua postmark: NO 21 10.

An examination of the two Antigua issues showed seven readable postmarks for the ½d issue: NO 4 03, JU 4 04, JA 12 05, JA 15 05, JU 17 06, JN 7 07 and JU 21 09; and for the 1d red issue: AP 19 04 and MY 23 04. Only St. John’s was noted in the postmarks. (Reading postmark information from Internet images is akin to madness arising from staring at the sun too long.)

**Non-Post Office Wrapper**

Another database collected daily by the author is of non-post office wrappers listed for sale on eBay since March 2006. This database contains 5,100 examples of world-

wide private wrappers. Of these there are three wrappers from Antigua and they are included here as part of the record because of their elusiveness and because they shed insights into other users. One obvious omission is that there are no dedicated wrappers for *The Antigua Standard*. This was a weekly newspaper established circa 1872. There were another 10 or so newspapers and gazettes published in Antigua from time-to-time between 1827 and 1908. There are no post office wrappers and no non-post office wrappers bearing private printing related to newspapers or any other local business.

One wrapper is printed "On His Majesty's Service" and this is shown as **Figure 3**. There is a horizontal pair of



**Figure 3**  
*Antigua O.H.M.S. Wrapper.*

1938 ½d green King George VI and English Harbour (Scott #84) cancelled with a double circle "ST. JOHN'S A ? 11 42." The address is partly readable only; the first line "The Houses of Foreign and Domestic," the second line is unreadable and part of the third line reads "Washington DC USA." There is an initialed handstamp to the right, and given the 1942 date of the cancellation, it is possibly a "passed by censor" marking.

There are two wrappers addressed to Mr. J. R. O'Connell in Plymouth, Montserrat, West Indies, and both show a red handstamp "VIA AIR MAIL" beneath a two engine aircraft. There is a vertical strip of seven and two single 1966 4¢ dull violet and brown Martello Tower, Barbuda (Scott #171) stamps paying the 36¢ airmail fee. The double ring cancellation is "ST. JOHN'S 13 AU 70 ANTIGUA." There is no information about the sender or contents. This wrapper is shown as **Figure 4**. The wrap-



**Figure 4**  
*Antigua Private Air Mail Wrapper to Montserrat.*

per not shown to the same address bears 36¢ postage also and dated "22 AU 70." It is identical in all other respects.

### Conclusion

Antigua issued two wrappers in July 1903, a ½d green and 1d red showing the Badge of the Colony. Prior to this date the wrappers of the Leeward Islands were used by the St. John's Post Office in Antigua from 1891. Since September 2003 to the present (144 months) the author's daily accumulation of hand-collected images of used wrappers listed on eBay reveals there are 22 wrappers of Antigua out of a total database of approximately 38,000 worldwide images. This small proportion implies these wrappers are elusive but also reflects a small print run because of restricted demand from the minor literate population of the time. Of the wrappers listed, most were sold at an overall average realized price of \$10.50 and with a modest collector base of 2.4 bidders per transaction on average.

A different database of non-post office wrappers of about 5,000 images of worldwide wrappers revealed that there have been only three wrappers of this kind listed on eBay since March 2006, and of these there were only two different users -- one official, one private. There is no hint of private printing added to any wrappers of Antigua despite the presence of colonial businesses, a thriving sugar industry and several different newspapers and gazettes.

### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Stephen Conrad Stuntz, ed., *List of the Agricultural Periodicals Of the United States and Canada Published During the Century July 1810 to July 1910*. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1941). Reprint? The listing contains this entry: "Tropical and sub-tropical America, N.Y., m, Vol. 1, No. 1-5. January-June 1908." The "m" would likely indicate "monthly."

<sup>2</sup> E.M. Bateson, "The Rev. Meister Mystery: Who was he and what was his BWI connection?" *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 51, No. 4, October 2011), pp. 11-14.

### Acknowledgment

I thank Allan Gory most sincerely for reading and commenting on an earlier draft. The paper is clearer for his input.

*You may contact Dr. Courtis, FRPSL, at  
acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk*

# Commander Eric David Bowie, RN

By David Horry, FRPSL  
An Englishman resident in Shanghai, China

Over the past few years I have tried to move the “Madame Joseph” story forward but without much interest from other quarters. In 2013 I wrote that I believed Raoul de Thuin (pronounced “de Tween”) was the perpetrator of the wooden clichés on behalf of Sir Harry Luke, who lost his stamp collection during a bombing raid by the Italian Air force on Valetta, Malta in September 1940. De Thuin, who went by the name of “George,” owned the “Free French Philatelic Agency” during World War II.

According to James H. Beal in *The Yucatan Affair*, “de Thuin’s residence in Belize, British Honduras, is also seldom mentioned and presumed to be philatelically innocent.” Raoul de Thuin then moved north to Merida in Mexico, where he opened a Mayan artifacts emporium and continued his forgeries. This appeared to be in line with Brian Cartwright’s assertion that the forger was of French or Belgian nationality. Sir Harry Luke was a frequent flier to Belize during World War II and was also in Merida visiting the ziggurat at Chichen-Itza according to his book, *Caribbean Circuit*, published in 1950.



Figure 1  
Thought to be the work of Raoul de Thuin -- forged Trinidad bisect  
6d on cover. (Courtesy of Ed Barrow.)

I contacted Ed Barrow recently about his bisect Barbados cover (*Figure 1*). He had put up a website to find the perpetrator of this confection. He wrote me at the end of October, “Yes, I think my bisect is a ‘George’ cover. He seems to have had a passion for making bisects to fit oddball rates.” I believe it wasn’t he, but Sir Harry Luke who sought the oddball rates.

Neil Donen, a 1935 Silver Jubilee specialist, recently stumbled upon a major clue -- the name Eric David Bowie. “I came across Bowie quite by accident. I belong to an academic philatelic group and one of the group members gave me the City Stamp Shop (CSS) pre-sale ad with Bowie’s name on it some months ago as he knew I collected Silver Jubilee material. He had misread the ad which deals with the Coronation issue! It sat on my desk for a couple of months and when we decided to do a bit on the CSS because of an unusual backstamp on a Nauru cover, I took a

Continued on page 12



second look at the ad and saw Bowie's name. That started the ball rolling."

The name on the ad, in the tiniest type, is E. D. Bowie (b.1900), who ran "The City Stamp Shop, 1 St. Swithin's



Figure 3

Gordon Rhodes Coronation Somaliland cover, May 1937. (Courtesy of Roger B. West, Avion Philatelics.)

Lane, London EC4" -- noted on a newsletter dated May 1, 1937, requesting pre-orders for Coronation stamps (Figure 2). Gordon Rhodes, whose premises were at 17A Lime Street EC3, was just a few hundred yards away (Figure 3). Bowie was a Royal Naval Volunteer in World War I. He was an ordinary seaman. Bowie was personally known by many philatelists and dealers as a crook but appears to somehow have escaped the pages of philatelic history, until now (Figure 4).

According to Andrew Norris, formerly of Argyll Et-kin, Bowie was prosecuted for forgery of Silver Jubilee covers (Figure 5) "at the insistence of Robson Lowe." (Figure 6) This was after an altercation outside his St. Swithin's Lane's stamp shop. Each morning for several days, a small group of young men had been gazing at

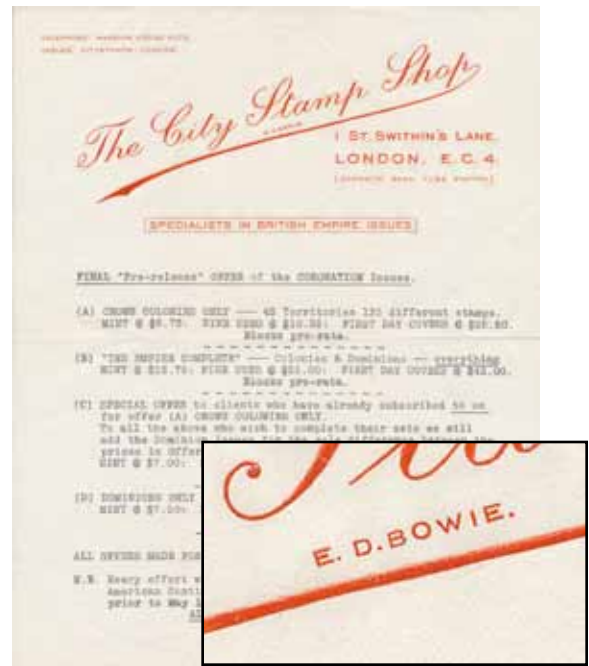


Figure 2

City Stamp Shop letterhead of E. D. Bowie. (Courtesy of Neil Donen.)



Figure 4

City Stamp Shop Silver Jubilee cover, May 1935, probably a forgery. (Courtesy of John Cooper.)



Figure 5

E. D. Bowie Esq., Gibraltar, May 12, 1937 Coronation FDC.



Figure 6

John Harry Robson Lowe.

Bowie's shop. Eventually he went outside to inquire what they were doing and if they would like to come in to buy some material. It transpired that the group, all who were fellow stamp dealers, led by Robbie Lowe, were only interested in his prices with a view to undercutting them. According to Ted Proud, Bowie set about Lowe and gave him a good kicking! Norris adds that Bowie had a terrible temper, rare, I believe, in the philatelic world.

Bowie may have had ties with Harris and Whitehurst of Birmingham and Smethwick, respectively, who were also successfully prosecuted for forgery. Each was jailed. He may also have had connections with Julian Clive's Broadway Stamp Company. Clive was an ex-Tangier MI6 operative. Bowie served his time and swiftly removed himself to Bermuda in 1938 (Figure 7). When World War II broke out, he went back to the navy where he served as a Lieutenant at the shore-based HMS Goshawk in Piarco, Trinidad. He also sold stamps (Figure 8). Ted Proud notes that at the end of the war Commander E. D. Bowie then tipped up in Malaya, where he bought substantial quantities of Japanese Occupation overprints from the estate



Figure 7

E. D. Bowie Bermuda censored cover, in his hand from St. George's, dated September 16, 1940.



Figure 8

Reverse side of cover from Lt. E.D. Bowie at Piarco, Trinidad in July 1943. (Courtesy of Ed Barrow.)

**JAPANESE OCCUPATION ISSUES OF BRITISH MALAYA & BORNEO**

★ 1948 ★  
**Scott Nos.**

**PACKETS**  
ALL DIFFERENT AND ALL IN SCOTT'S

No.	Price	No.	Price
10	\$ 1.00	11	\$ 1.00
12	\$ 1.50	13	\$ 1.50
14	\$ 2.00	15	\$ 2.00
16	\$ 2.50	17	\$ 2.50
18	\$ 3.00	19	\$ 3.00
20	\$ 3.50	21	\$ 3.50
22	\$ 4.00	23	\$ 4.00
24	\$ 4.50	25	\$ 4.50
26	\$ 5.00	27	\$ 5.00
28	\$ 5.50	29	\$ 5.50
30	\$ 6.00	31	\$ 6.00
32	\$ 6.50	33	\$ 6.50
34	\$ 7.00	35	\$ 7.00
36	\$ 7.50	37	\$ 7.50
38	\$ 8.00	39	\$ 8.00
40	\$ 8.50	41	\$ 8.50
42	\$ 9.00	43	\$ 9.00
44	\$ 9.50	45	\$ 9.50
46	\$ 10.00	47	\$ 10.00
48	\$ 10.50	49	\$ 10.50
50	\$ 11.00	51	\$ 11.00
52	\$ 11.50	53	\$ 11.50
54	\$ 12.00	55	\$ 12.00
56	\$ 12.50	57	\$ 12.50
58	\$ 13.00	59	\$ 13.00
60	\$ 13.50	61	\$ 13.50
62	\$ 14.00	63	\$ 14.00
64	\$ 14.50	65	\$ 14.50
66	\$ 15.00	67	\$ 15.00
68	\$ 15.50	69	\$ 15.50
70	\$ 16.00	71	\$ 16.00
72	\$ 16.50	73	\$ 16.50
74	\$ 17.00	75	\$ 17.00
76	\$ 17.50	77	\$ 17.50
78	\$ 18.00	79	\$ 18.00
80	\$ 18.50	81	\$ 18.50
82	\$ 19.00	83	\$ 19.00
84	\$ 19.50	85	\$ 19.50
86	\$ 20.00	87	\$ 20.00
88	\$ 20.50	89	\$ 20.50
90	\$ 21.00	91	\$ 21.00
92	\$ 21.50	93	\$ 21.50
94	\$ 22.00	95	\$ 22.00
96	\$ 22.50	97	\$ 22.50
98	\$ 23.00	99	\$ 23.00
100	\$ 23.50		

**TYPE COLLECTIONS**  
Limited to one of each type of overprinted stamp or block - only \$1.00

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**JAP. BORNEO**

**BRUNEI**

**NORTH BORNEO**

**SARAWAK**

**MAJALIS**

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In list of four showing the complete overprint.

**KELANTAN "SEALS"**  
**PENANG "SEALS"**  
**RARE ERRORS, ETC.**

Together with a fine range of small overprints and wafers etc.

**ALL POST UNRESERVED SALE.**  
Fully illustrated catalogue sent free on request.

Approvals To Serious Collectors. Remit by Money Order, U. S. Bills or Personal Check.

**COMMANDER E. D. BOWIE, ST. GEORGE'S, BERMUDA**  
CABLES: BOWIE-BERMUDA  
LESS THAN 2 HOURS BY AIR FROM NEW YORK

Figure 9

"Commander Bowie" Malayan ad, Bermuda, May 1948.

of a Chinese dealer. Some of the Malacca elements were forgeries. He may not have been aware of this at first.

Bowie returned to Bermuda in 1946 where he specialized in the sale of stamps of the Japanese Occupation of Malaya mainly to the North American market (Figure 9). He wrote a *Catalogue of the Japanese Occupation Stamps of Malaya*, published by E.D. Bowie, St. George's, Bermuda (Figure 10). He also expertized stamps, most of which appear to have been "right." Many bear his EDB "chop" on the reverse (Figure 11). He did by now sensibly cover himself with a guarantee against fakes (Figure 12).

In February 1961, he visited stamp dealer Everard F. Aguilar in Jamaica and personally sent "thousands of roses to The Queen on the occasion of the birth of Prince Andrew." (Figure 13) In 1963 he removed to The Jersey Rose Farm where he sold his stock, some 21 tea chests worth, to Harry Martin Jr. of the Empire Stamp Corporation, Toronto. Martin sold some of this material on to Bill Affleck, the Oshawa dealer, for \$5,000 in 1975.

By 1971, Bowie was back in Bermuda buying and selling  
*Continued on page 14*

stamps (*Figure 14*). Horst Augustinovic, the Bermuda philatelist and writer, notes, "His earlier fight with Robbie Lowe is really interesting. Between 1975 and 1980 I was involved in organising the five Bermupex exhibitions in Bermuda. Another committee member, Geoffrey Osborn, represented Robson Lowe in Bermuda and organised a two-day auction to be held in conjunction with the exhibition. We got a lot of publicity in the local press. I was associated with one of the local newspapers at the time and to my shock Commander Bowie stormed into my office one day and demanded that he be the auctioneer. He threatened to sue the entire committee, etc., etc., and behaved like a lunatic. It wasn't too long after that when I heard that he had been admitted to St. Brendan's Hospital, Bermuda's mental health institution." He is reported to have died just prior to 1980.

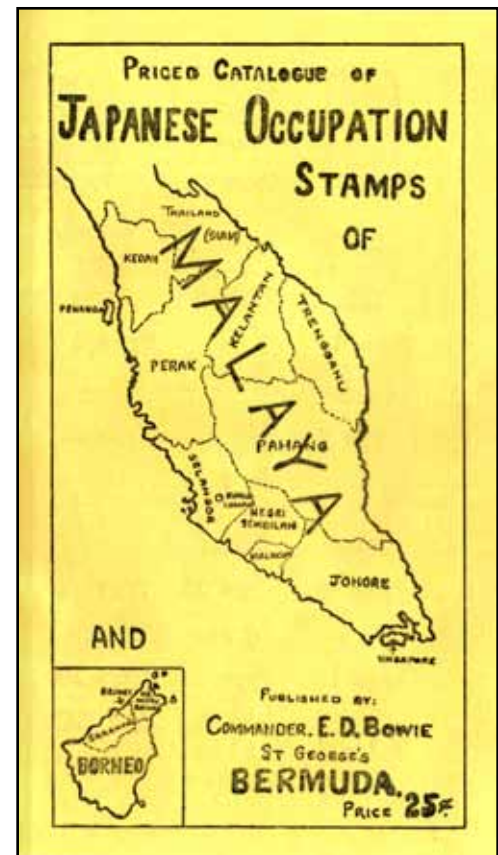
Bowie traveled extensively and always in style, traveling first class and favoring the finer hotels of New York such as the Waldorf Astoria on Park Avenue (*Figure 15*). His first recorded sailing was from Avonmouth to Bermuda, in first class, on April 2, 1935. He sailed on the Elders and Fyffes vessel *Canito* in the period when he went down to Puerto Rico. His next of kin was listed as his mother, Mrs. Ida Bowie, 123 Whitchurch Lane, Edgware. Here are other travels:



**Figure 11**  
*EDB chop found on reverse of Japanese Occupation stamps (computer enhanced).*

- On January 10, 1936, he sailed from Southampton to New York on the *Empress of Australia* of the Canadian Pacific Line, also in first class. He stayed at the fabulous Commodore Hotel at Grand Central Station, Midtown. His occupation was listed as philatelist. His address in the U.K. was "1, St. Swithin's Lane, London EC4." He stated that he was last in the U.S. (Puerto Rico) in April 1935. His next of kin was listed as his mother, Mrs. Ida Bowie, 123 Whitchurch Lane, Edgware.
- On April 29, 1936, E. D. Bowie, philatelist, headed off in plain old cabin class to New York on the *Berengeria* of the Cunard White Star Line. He was accompanied by philatelists Frank Godden of 359 The Strand and Richard Roberts of Gracechurch Street, London EC3. They were attending TIPEX, the Third International Philatelic Exhibition held at the Grand Central Palace, May 9-17, 1936. They stayed at the Waldorf Astoria, Park Avenue.
- On November 27, 1936, he sailed for Tangiers in first class on Union Castle Line's *Llandoverly Castle*. His address was "c/o W Aberfield, Fortune & Co, London." He was entered on the manifest as "Stamp Dealer" rather than philatelist.
- On February 5, 1937, he sailed from Gibraltar to New York on the *Conte di Savoia*. He noted he was last in the U.S. in 1920 and 1936. His mother was still residing at 123 Whitchurch Lane, Edgware. His given occupation was "philatelist." He stayed once again at the Waldorf Astoria in New York and stated he was in the U.S. for one month.

- On April 4, 1938, he sailed from Avonmouth to Bermuda on the Elders and Fyffes vessel *Bayano*, in first class. Again his occupation was listed as "philatelist" and his address was 123, Whitchurch Lane, Edgware. The ship was going on to Kingston but he was booked to disembark at Bermuda.
- On July 13, 1938, he sailed from Bermuda to New York on the SS *Acadia*. He stated he was last in U.S. (New York) in November 1937. His occupation was given as "philatelist," and he was visiting a



**Figure 10**  
*Commander Bowie Malayan catalogue, circa 1947. (Courtesy of Horst Augustinovic.)*

From many covers and "Pieces" on hand, it would appear that these Issues were used indiscriminately throughout Malaya, which opens up a very interesting field for the collecting of "Inter-Provincials" on much the same basis as the late South African Colonies, immediately after they were incorporated into the Union of South Africa. Finally, I shall at all times be pleased to have further information &/or offers of these stamps, which I consider one of the most fascinating groups of stamps ever issued, representing British history as they do, whether we like it or not!

*N.B. Figures in italics denote numbers printed.*

#### GUARANTEE

Every Stamp sold by me is guaranteed genuine in every respect, but if any should be proved to be otherwise, the full purchase price will be refunded to the original purchaser if claimed within six months of sale. Liability is limited to the amount of the purchase price.

#### HOW TO REMIT

From U. S. A., Canada, Central and South America: by Check on U. S. A. or Canada, or by International Money Order payable in Bermuda. U. S. or Canadian Bills can also be accepted, but should always be sent by Registered Mail.

**Figure 12**  
*Bowie's Guarantee against forgeries, circa 1947. (Courtesy of Horst Augustinovic.)*

friend, George Harrison, Packard Building, Hendricks and Eastwood Avenue, Pennsylvania. His next of kin was his mother, Ida Bowie was now at St. George's, Bermuda. • On December 13, 1938, he sailed on the *Monarch of Bermuda* from Bermuda to New York. He stayed 60 days at the Commodore Hotel. He was last in the U.S. in July 1938. • On August 7-9, 1939, he sailed from Bermuda to New York on the SS *Acadia*. He stayed at the Waldorf Astoria. The contact given was a friend, Mr. Brownlow Tucker, St George's, Bermuda. He was last in the U.S. in December 1938. • On August 27, 1942, he sailed from The Clyde to the U.S. on SS *Monterey*. He was a Royal Navy Officer (no rank -- list says "officers" at the top). All the passengers were Royal Navy. Next of kin was listed as his mother at St George's, Bermuda. His address in the U.K. was Woodside Park, Barnet, Herts. • On April 25, 1946, he traveled by air from Bermuda to New York with his mother. His occupation was given as naval officer. He left May 10, 1946. He was last in the U.S. in 1939 on "naval duty." (NB: this is incorrect as it was 1942! He had \$500.00 declared.

The list continues. • On May 4, 1946, he was on a Colonial Airlines flight from Montreal to New York. His address was St. George's, Bermuda. Occupation was given as naval officer. His temporary address in New York was Barbi-zon Plaza. A British Naval Identity Card was issued at RN Air Station Trinidad on July 22, 1944. His wife was listed as Mrs. Katharine Bowie, St. George's, Bermuda. He was last in the U.S. in August 1942. He stayed three days and was not visiting friends or relations. • On January 12, 1947, he traveled from Bermuda to New York. He had \$100.00 declared and stayed 10 days. • On May 14, 1947, he flew from Bermuda to New York with his wife. He had \$1,000 declared. • On August 30, 1948, he sailed on the SS *Amherst* from Bermuda to New York and arrived September 2, 1948. He stayed at "2 Petercooper Road, New York." He was the only passenger with a car on board. • On December 10, 1949, he sailed on the *Parthia* from Liverpool to Bermuda. His address was Little Barley End, Tring while in the United Kingdom. • On May 30, 1951, he was meant to be on TSS *Ocean Monarch* from Bermuda to New York, staying at the Barclay Hotel, but was crossed off the manifest as not on board. • On June 2, 1951, he flew from Bermuda to New York and stayed at the Barclay Hotel in New York City.

• On May 13, 1952, he flew from Bermuda to New York stayed at the King Edward Hotel. • On July 29, 1952, he was on a London to New York BOAC flight. • On October 2, 1952, he flew from Bermuda to New York. • From October through November 9, 1953, he sailed on the RMS *Media* from Liverpool to New York in first class with wife Katharine, an American citizen. His U.K. address was listed as Little Barley End, Tring. • On February 19, 1961 he went to Kingston, Jamaica for two weeks, according to *The Daily Gleaner* newspaper. He stated that he would be back to Jamaica in May 1961 but there is no evidence that he returned.

**COMMANDER DAVID BOWIE** left for his home in Bermuda yesterday after a fortnight spent here in connection with his plans to grow roses in the mountains on a large scale. He will return to Jamaica in May. Commander Bowie sent a magnificent floral gift consisting of many thousands of roses to the Queen on the occasion of the birth of Prince Andrew, and incidentally brought Bermuda into the news in so doing. He will probably make Jamaica just as famous for her roses in the years to come.

Figure 13

Bowie "Thousands of Roses to the Queen,"  
The Daily Gleaner, February 19, 1961.

### 31. Articles Wanted

Highest Prices Paid For Used Jamaica stamps what can you offer?  
Commander Bowie St Georges Bermuda  
No 397

Figure 14

Commander Bowie small ad in  
The Daily Gleaner, December 26, 1971.



Figure 15

The Waldorf Astoria Hotel, New York City.

I have run extensive checks on him in the United Kingdom and Bermuda and discovered links to George Crawford Odom and Jamaican stamp dealer and fellow rosarian, Everard Aguilar (*Figure 16*). Bowie may well have supplied the former with the Jamaican “Registered” Oval postmarks which have gained official status but were used by intelligence services in Jamaica during the Cold War period. It means that the “Madame Joseph” collection is actually a misnomer, as I have suggested before and that Ted Proud muted way back in 2005 in *The London Philatelist*.



*Figure 16*

*Newly discovered Aguilar Coronation cachet bears a resemblance to contemporary Bermuda cachets. It was not noted in my recent book, The Encyclopaedia of British West Indies Postmarks, Queen Elizabeth II - Coronation-Independence.*

All wooden clichés are “Madame Joseph” initially made to gain financial advantage on Silver Jubilee covers and secondly made under the instruction of Sir Harry Luke to restore his collection. All the metal types were probably inherited prior to 1935 by Rhodes/Bowie. This interesting breakthrough in the Madame Joseph story is certainly down to Neil Donen’s sharp eye: more intensive enquiry is proceeding in several quarters.

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 Website: <http://www.silverjubileestamps.com/assets/previous-articles-25-.pdf>

*Thanks are also due to Andrew Norris, Horst Augustinovic, Dickon Pollard, Ted Proud, John Cooper and researcher Peter Horry.*

*I welcome any further information regarding Commander Eric David Bowie or Gordon Rhodes.*

*Does anyone have a photograph of either of these gentlemen?*

*I can be contacted by email at: [horry@talk21.com](mailto:horry@talk21.com).*

## Important Note to Members!

**Members will please note that effective by April, your editor will be relocating back to Maine!**

**We have spent five years in North Florida, near the Georgia line. And while we love the rolling hills and fall foliage that is very unlike the rest of Florida, we cannot take the heat and humidity any longer!**

**As of this writing, we are still located outside Lake City, Florida. For that reason, until next April, it would be best to email me regarding current address if mailing something.**

**If we do not sell before, we will be relocating in early April.**

**Our email address will remain the same: [eparker@hughes.net](mailto:eparker@hughes.net)**

**By April 1 (or before), our new address will be:**

**Dr. Everett L. Parker  
 117 Cedar Breeze South  
 Glenburn, ME 04401-1734**



## Interesting document may be circular letter

By Charles Freeland  
Of Switzerland

A recent acquisition is a document embossed with the Barbados crest and signed by the Acting Colonial Postmaster, Wm. Trimingham (see illustration). Headed "General Post Office Barbados," it is addressed to the Postmaster Tobago and has the appearance of a circular letter as the letter is plainly written by a clerk, but the signature and a few corrections have been added by Trimingham. At the foot of the letter are affixed six 1882 Barbados stamps, two singles of the ½d and pairs of the 1d rose and 2½d ultramarine.

The circular (before corrections) reads as follows:

-----  
General Post Office, Barbados, 28<sup>th</sup> August 1882<sup>1</sup>

Sir

I have the honor to forward for your information two specimen of postage stamps of each of the following values – vizt (sic) two pence half penny, one penny, and half penny, which are about to be brought into use in this colony.

I have the honor to be Sir, your obedient servant,  
(space) Colonial Postmaster.

The Postmaster

Trimingham has amended the date to 18 September (1882) and replaced "are about to be" by "have been." He has added "Tobago" after the addressee Postmaster and "Actg" before his own title.

The first thought was that this was something to do with the introduction of the new UPU color scheme earlier in 1882, as both Barbados and Tobago became UPU members in 1881. However, it is hard to see how the Barbados postmaster would have had any responsibility for other colonies to adopt the scheme; indeed Tobago retained the "wrong" colors of the ½d and 1d until 1886. The wording suggests that is more likely that the circular acted as a forerunner for the (unoverprinted) Barbados specimen stamps that, according to Bendon, were circulated in October 1882 by the UPU. Both Barbados and Tobago were UPU members at this date so there seems to be no advantage in a bilateral specimen distribution but both countries together with Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent were members of the Windward Islands Federation, so it may have been as a courtesy to the fellow members to notify them of a wholly new stamp issue, very different from the preceding Britannias.



My thanks to Edmund Bayley, the author of the three volume definitive study of the stamps of Barbados, and to Ed Barrow, co-author of *Tobago: The Philatelic Story of a Small Island*, for their insights on this circular. Neither had seen anything similar but if any other member has one I would be interested to hear from them.

### Footnote

<sup>1</sup> According to Bayley, this is the date of issue in the island quoted by *The Philatelic Record*, although the stamps had been invoiced some months earlier on April 14, 1882.

### Bibliography

Bayley, E. A. *The Stamps of Barbados*. Cole's Printery, Barbados, 1989.  
Ford, Peter, Charles Freeland, and Ed Barrow. *Tobago: the Philatelic Story of a Small Island*. Winchester, Hampshire: BWISC, 2014.  
Bendon, J. *UPU Specimen Stamps, 1878-1961*, Oxford Book Projects, 2015.

# World Stamp Show - New York 2016

## May 28 - June 4

*By Mary Gleadall, Secretary*

**T**he World Stamp Show – New York 2016 will be held May 28 through June 4. Please visit the website: <http://www.ny2016.org/> for details. This is a major show and BCPSG members are encouraged and urged to participate with us. You may also contact President Duane Larson or myself for additional information about the venue and our activities.

### HOTELS

The BCPSG has chosen Fairfield Inn East Rutherford at a cost of \$139 per night and our hospitality suite will be there. The Fairfield Inn has free WiFi, microwave, fridge, TV, breakfast and parking available. Taxi fare is roughly \$40 to the convention center but public transport is nearby and affordable. It is advisable to book the hotel of your choice soon and can be accomplished using the following links. There are only a few hotels within one mile (walking distance) of the Jacob Javits Convention Center as many attendees booked early. So don't delay if you intend to attend.

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](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](mailto:worldstamp@experient-inc.com); **Toll Free:** 800-967-8852; **International:** 847-996-5832.

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

ple of hours.

Please check periodically for changes at this website: <http://www.ny2016.org/EventCalendar.aspx>.

Delta Air Lines has been appointed as “official air carrier” for this event. Special discounts are available for both domestic and international travelers. Rates vary based on flight origination and class of service selected. There are two ways to take advantage of this offer, either online or by phone. Online, go to <http://www.delta.com/meetings>, click on “Book a Trip” at the bottom then find flights to meet your needs. Near the end of your transaction enter the Meeting Event Code of NMMHB in the appropriate box and the discount will be applied. Try a different browser if you encounter a problem. If you prefer, call Delta Meeting reservations toll-free at 800-328-1111 Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Eastern. Also reference Meeting Event Code NMMHB. Please note that phone bookings will incur an additional service fee. Delta partners with Air France, KLM and 17 other airlines as part of the Skyteam global network, offering over 1,057 destinations worldwide.

The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group is organizing a seminar on West Indies philatelic and postal history on Wednesday, June 1, 2016 at the convention center. Invitations to attend are being extended to members of the BWI Study Circle and the Bermuda Collectors Society who will be attending the exhibition.

For convenience, the seminar will be held at the exhibition venue. No prior reservations are required. A copy of the program for the seminar can be obtained from one of the following: Duane Larson – email: [dlarson283@aol.com](mailto:dlarson283@aol.com); Richard Maisel – email: [xxjones@juno.com](mailto:xxjones@juno.com); Colin Fraser – email: [Fraserstamps@cs.com](mailto:Fraserstamps@cs.com).

The society dinner will be offered on Wednesday, June 1 from 7 to about 11 p.m. at a nearby New York City restaurant. The Executive Board meeting will be held on Thursday, June 2, from 10 to 11 a.m. (Show Venue – IE06). The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2 from 1 to 2 p.m. (Show Venue – IE06). More show information will be posted in the April *Journal* and on the BCPSG website as it becomes available.

## Michel Forand 1941-2015

Unless you were among an inner circle who knew Michel had contracted leukemia about 18 months ago, it will have come as a shock to learn that he passed away on September 22, 2015. It was typical of Michel, an intensively private man, that he had shared his health problems so sparingly.

So private indeed, that many of us knew hardly anything about his personal life. Michel was born of French Canadian parents in Montreal where his father owned a large manufacturing company. A talented linguist, he graduated from college where he majored in Spanish, but he was fluent in English as well as French. He lived in Ottawa for most of his life after becoming an employee of the Economic Council of Canada. Here he developed his extensive skills as an editor, proofreader, translator and indexer that he used to such advantage in the philatelic field. After the office was closed in 1992, Michel continued to work as a freelance consultant in the same field.

Michel collected Bermuda postal history until he sold his collection through Phoebe's Victoria Stamp Company in 1998. Nonetheless, he remained a Bermuda Collectors Society member and served for several years as a BCS Director while continuing to use his professional expertise in several areas of interest to Bermuda collectors. Initially, he was my co-author in producing *Bermuda Mails to 1865*, a modest 1995 book produced by the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group that gained several high medals in literature competitions, but more than that he was also the editor who laid out the book for publication.

Second, we are all indebted to him for compiling and keeping up to date (to 2013) the Index for *Bermuda Post* that you can access at the website <http://www.bermudacollectorsociety.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2013-bermuda-post-index.pdf> Index. In addition, he worked with me to compile a listing of books and auction catalogues relating to Bermuda philately that also appear on the website (<http://www.bermudacollectorsociety.com/archive/>).

Perhaps most significantly, in addition to having been the original author or co-author of six sections of the *Bermuda Specialized Catalogue*, Michel stepped up to become co-editor with David Cordon when the project seemed to have run into the sand. While David led on the pricing and scanning, he would agree that Michel was the traditional editor without whose professionalism in bringing the project to publication might have meant it would still remain only in our minds. It should also be

mentioned that many of the most important books on Bermuda philately published over the past 30 years have benefitted for Michel's editorial skills, including Peter Flynn's *Intercepted in Bermuda* and Myles Glazer's *King George V High-Value Stamps 1917-1938*.

Although Michel never edited the *Bermuda Post*, he had distinguished periods editing other journals. From June 1991 to December 1997 he acted as a proactive editor of the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, the BCPSG's quarterly publication, during which time he persuaded such luminaries as Morris Ludington to write substantive articles. In 1997 his second BWI publication appeared when he masterminded *Leeward Island – a Postal History Anthology* issued by the BCPSG to coincide with the Pacific 97 International. He also prepared an extensive index for the BCPJ running from 1984-1996. From 1991 to 1995 he edited the prestigious American Philatelic Congress book, and also edited certain Pacific journals.

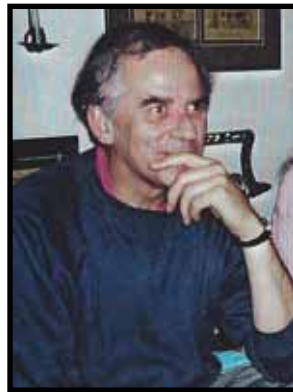
Michel had other philatelic interests, including Fanning Island and lighthouses. Indeed, his interest in lighthouses, which he researched extensively after his retirement, went far beyond the philatelic. His other love was philatelic literature and he retained much of his library until his death. He also, of course, had other interests, the principal

one being a lover of classical music and he owned a large collection of music CDs.

Although Michel did not write many articles, when he did the results were thoroughly researched and highly authoritative. For example, his early anthologies of Bermuda philatelic literature appeared in a series of articles in *Philatelic Literature Review* in 1992 and 2002, the forerunners of what now appears on the BCS website. His main BWI philatelic contribution was his 23-page article on the Bermuda postmaster stamps published in the 56th *Congress Book* in 1990 that is still often quoted as a key research source in the Bermuda philatelic literature. He also wrote one or two fine articles on Bermuda World War II censorship.

Michel will be remembered as a gentle giant, a friend to many and a serious philatelist and researcher, who apparently had no enemies even in the often contentious world of Bermuda philately. He did much more for Bermuda philately than many more prominent names ever did and we should be eternally grateful for that. He never married but is survived by three brothers and a sister, to whom we extend our deep sympathies.

-- A remembrance by Charles Freeland



**Michel Forand  
1941-2015**

# Arthur Rowe Spurling A World War I Hero (Part 2)

By Hap Pattiz

## Rowe's personal story

The correspondence which provided the background for this article (over 60 covers with enclosures) was sold by the Victoria Stamp Company. It coincided roughly with the sale of Rowe's DFC by Warwick & Warwick Auctions on August 12, 2009, along with other war memorabilia, for £12,650, over \$20,000 at the time. Rowe had been reluctant to talk of his wartime activities and his 12 grandchildren were too many to divide the material among them, hence the decision to sell the collection.



Figure 1

Cover from Grimsby dated August 8, 1916, from Rowe to his mother in Bermuda. Cover has a CM15 Bermuda censor mark in purple and manuscript date "Aug 8th" indicating when it was written.

Much of Rowe's correspondence refers to letters he had received from his family in Bermuda. Sadly these items were not in the archive, but would rate as philatelic treasures as little mail to the Bermuda Contingent has survived, perhaps not surprising considering conditions in the trenches.

Rowe corresponded extensively with friends and family at home. All these letters show interesting philatelic markings, including censor marks. These show that the Bermuda Contingent's initial deployment was a hard slog and no leave was available. He especially appreciated mail from his sisters Ethel and Gladys and asked for food and fudge. He was plainly badly paid but had received some funds from his family which helped cheer him for his birthday on May 19, 1916.

Rowe's luck ran out in July 1916. His three sets of wounds and shell-shock led to him being sent back to hospital in England. After his recuperation, he returned to Grimsby and on August 8, wrote about his companions killed and wounded (*Figure 1*). By then the Second Bermuda Contingent had arrived and Rowe was pleased to spend time with more of his old Bermuda friends.

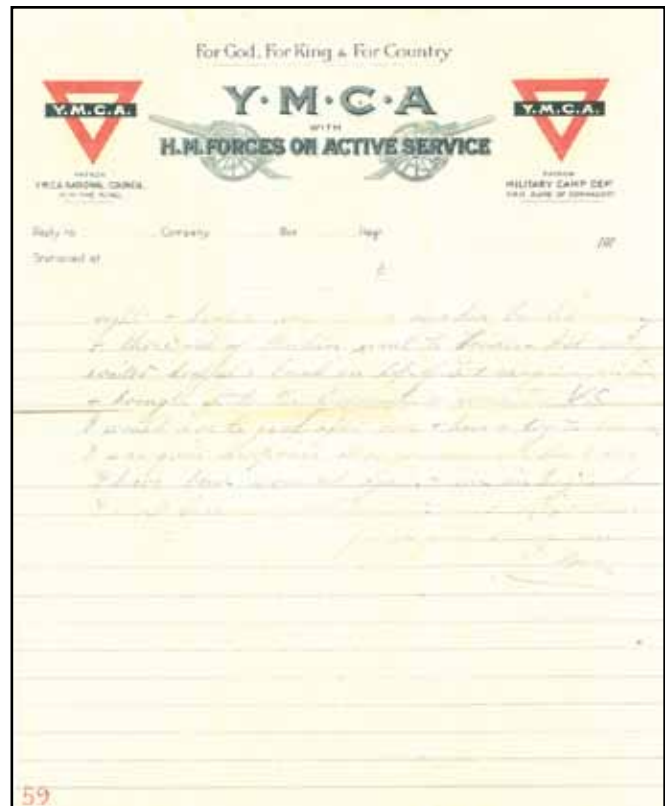


Figure 2

Letter from Rowe on YMCA stationery, recalling incident of Lt. Leefe Robinson shooting down a Zeppelin. (Image is of poor quality.)

He was eventually able to take some leave and found friends to stay with in London. But his ordeal at the front and his wounds left him weakened and soon he caught the dreaded Spanish flu. Like his colleagues he was discouraged by the lower pay scale for the Bermuda Contingent than for the soldiers from other colonies.

Camp life had its moments of excitement. Rowe wrote home about German Zeppelin attacks close to his camp and commented on the shooting down of one of the dreaded Zeps over London by the British aviator Lieut. Leefe Robinson, who earned the Victoria Cross (the highest

award in the British Army for exceptional valor), perhaps inspiring Rowe to join the RFC (*Figure 2*). Rowe wrote home about the terrible British weather, while also bemoaning again the loss of so many colleagues killed or wounded. In fact, five times more soldiers died from sickness than from war wounds, no doubt made worse by conditions at camp.



**Figure 3**

**Cover to Bermuda from Rowe, postmarked Denham, Uxbridge on May 21, 1917, to his mother. The cover has the CM15 Bermuda censor marking in purple.**

On the personal level, we read that Rowe had “met” a young lady, Muriel Taylor, and he had just learned from Gladys that his friend George Davison, who he believed was Gladys’ beau, had been wounded. This was news to those at camp.

As a fourth child with three older sisters, a father who had died in 1912 and no advanced education to speak of, Rowe was thought to have limited prospects for success. He joined the army as a private, and though he received honors in the trenches, it was not until he joined the air corps late in 1916 that he excelled. Rowe wisely had sought advice from his uncle, Stanley Spurling, a lawyer and member of the Bermuda Parliament, which perhaps led him at the end of 1916 to apply to join the RFC.

Christmas 1916 found Rowe spending more time in London, where the Taylors lived. But he now had a new lady interest in Dorothea J. McLean of Oak Park, Illinois. By January 1917 Rowe was busy training as an airman. Meanwhile, we learn that Gladys had announced her engagement to Aubrey Williams, a Canadian, displacing his friend George Davison.

Rowe’s change of focus allowed him an extended period of leave before he joined the RFC to start his training. He took this opportunity to go home to Bermuda via Canada to attend Gladys’ wedding to Aubrey Williams

on April 11, 1917, before joining the RFC in May. He whizzed through the training, proving to be a natural pilot and soon an air ace.

On his return from leave to attend his sister’s wedding at the end of April 1917, Rowe stopped in London (bringing back 50 pounds of sugar), then quickly moved to Denham training camp near Uxbridge in early May to start his RFC training (*Figure 3*). He liked his new title “cadet” and insisted it was used by family and friends. His high personal qualities emerged from the beginning of his cadet training, being one of only four (out of 500) cadets to head his sport and training team. Throughout, Rowe was becoming ever more interested in hearing from Dot McLean.

In double quick time Rowe was moved to another training camp in Reading (only 16 of 194 cadets did so). The course remained intense and the rain was persistent. By the end of July, Rowe had earned his 2nd Lieutenancy (provisional) and moved on to another training camp in Hendon (*Figure 4*). He was already flying, including two hours of solo flight. He was proud of his progress, encouraged by Dot. And he now wanted his title recognized (2nd Lt. A. R. Spurling).



**Figure 4**

**Cover to Bermuda from Rowe to his mother, postmarked “Denham, Uxbridge” on June 14, 1917. The cover also bears the Bermuda CM15 censor mark in purple and manuscript date “July 4th, 1917.”**

By October 1917 Rowe had completed his probation, was confirmed as 2nd Lt. (*Figure 5*) and had moved again to another training camp at East Harling, Norfolk. He had also earned his first class flying officer and pilot’s certificates. In his new position as an officer, Rowe asked that no further money be sent home but

**Continued on page 22**

warm clothes and fudge would be welcome. The rigors of training caused Rowe to go into hospital with flu by November. The completion of his training was delayed and he took some leave in London. The weather was nasty (black fog) and he was recuperating at the Taylors' and working for the Bermuda Contingent Committee. He was, of course, most pleased with his commission and with his rapid promotion compared with others in the Contingent.

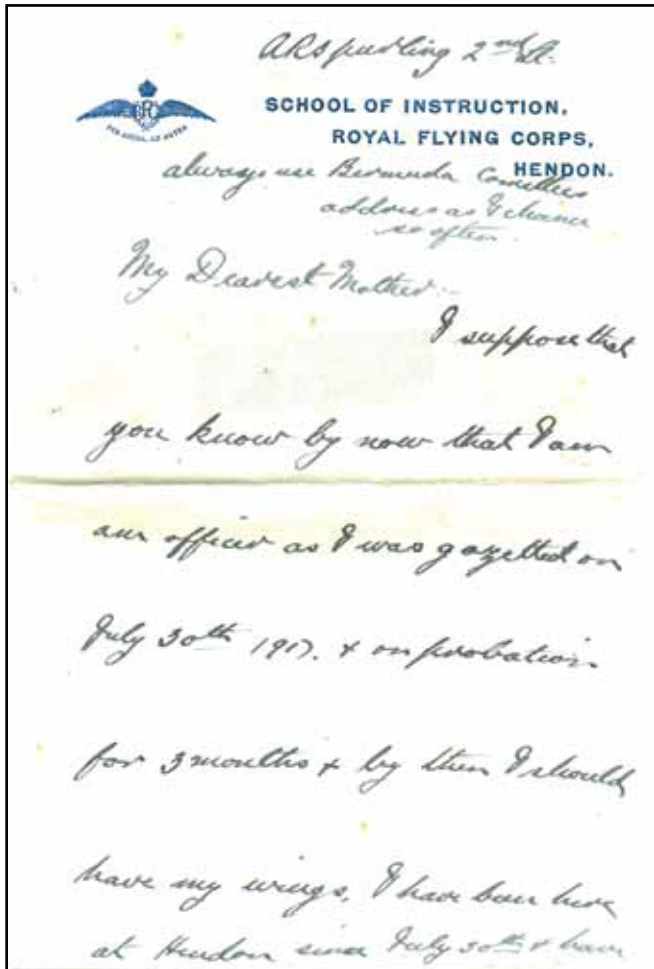


Figure 5

*The first page of a letter on military stationery, "School of Instruction, Royal Flying Corps, Hendon." Notice the manuscript mark at top, "ARSpurling, 2nd Lt." Rowe had been at Hendon since July 30 and was "gazetted" a 2nd Lieutenant on the same date. The letter was sent to his mother in Bermuda.*

Although his recovery continued, Rowe's medical condition required him to wait until May 1, 1918 to finish his training in gunnery at Turnberry, Scotland (Figure 6). On April 1, 1918 the RFC merged with the Naval Air Corps to become the RAF and on the same date Rowe gained his full Lieutenancy. Once the RFC had accepted him, Rowe's pay increased significantly and he began to send funds home to his mother (via the Contingent Com-

mittee or his uncle Stanley Spurling), which he could now well afford with his pay increased from 7/6d per day to 25/-.

By early July 1918 Rowe was in Turnberry, now staying in a luxury hotel for RAF officers, certainly luxury compared to "under canvas" in Grimsby. Again Rowe excelled and added a Persian blue kitten as a pet and flying companion.

By July 13, 1918 Rowe was again over France, now as the pilot of a two-seater DH9 light bomber in 49th squadron. By this time British planes were making frequent forays behind German lines, and this was the occasion that Rowe earned his DFC.



Figure 6

*Front of postcard from Rowe to his sister, Ethel, in Bermuda. The postmark is from Turnberry on July 8, 1918. There is no censor marking.*

Writing home about the award, Rowe expressed pride but also disappointment not to have been given the VC, like Leefe Robinson. He sent home newspaper reports and a letter of congratulations from his Commanding Officer, Major Banning. Rowe noted that he had been shot down (earlier in July?) and that, through all this, his kitten had flown with him. He also lamented lack of any word from Dot.

Meanwhile, Rowe's sister Gladys, now Mrs. Aubrey Williams, was living in Toronto. She was pregnant and looking forward to Christmas in Bermuda. Their sister Olive was now living and working in New York City. Gladys wrote home to her mother about her life and events and about Rowe's heroics, of which she was very proud. Less happily, she wrote about the spread throughout Canada of Spanish flu that was becoming a worldwide scourge.

Gladys was proud that Rowe had shown up his uncles and cousins who had derided Rowe and his prospects as a young man. She had also kept up with the two ladies

in whom Rowe had expressed an interest, Dot McLean and Muriel Taylor. They had told Gladys of their feelings, and intentions. This contact became especially important after Rowe's triumphs and even more so when shortly afterwards he became seriously ill.



**Figure 7**  
**Arthur Rowe Spurling wearing his RAF insignia.**

Rowe had been released from military duty on September 19 when the war was nearing its end (*Figure 7* shows him wearing his RAF insignia), but again the terrible Spanish flu struck him down. Muriel visited Rowe regularly, though sick herself, and spoke of Rowe's pet kitten "Fluffy," which Rowe intended to bring home to give to his mother. She also spoke of Rowe's desire to see his DFC decoration mentioned after his name.

As the war ended (November 11, 1918) Gladys wrote of her intended trip home before Christmas, of her former beau George Davison's recovery from his wounds in a London hospital, and of her personal views of Muriel and Dot; she preferred Muriel while he preferred Dot, but in the end, neither got him.

Gladys got home but despite having remained healthy until then, she caught the deadly flu and died on December 1. This tragedy was a crushing blow to the Spurling family; meanwhile Rowe remained near death in England. Fortunately, he recovered after two major operations by mid-March 1919 and wrote home about his convalescence by the sea.

Rowe finally returned to Bermuda, where he received his DFC from the Governor in Hamilton Council Chambers on March 3, 1920 and went into civilian life where he had some business success. He became an importer of mushrooms, established a taxi service and founded the Bermuda Paint Store in Pembroke that still bears his name.

Despite his early interest in women and his status as a war hero, Rowe lived at Penarth as a bachelor until 1948 when he married Ilys Darrell from a prominent Bermuda family. They had two children, Ilys and Arthur, who grew up at Penarth. Rowe's mother, Alice, died in 1952. In the 1970s the family moved to Guernsey, intending to return to Bermuda; but Rowe developed Alzheimer's, and was sent to England where he died in a convalescent home in 1984. His body was returned to Bermuda for a funeral at the Anglican cathedral in St. Georges and burial in Pembroke. His two children married and had large families of seven and five children.

There is much military interest and philately in these 60 letters, but there is also the story of one man's development from an unexceptional youngster to a national hero. The history of the Spurling family, especially of Rowe's half-sister Ethyl, is also prominent. More of the correspondence may well exist and I would urge any readers who may possess or have access to more of it during this period or who has further information about the persons mentioned to contact me (HAPLAW@ROADRUNNER.COM) or the editor.

***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!**

## New Nevis postal history book a must for both specialists and general collectors

There is no question the British West Indies Study Circle (BWISC) in Great Britain has published many excellent hardbound books over the decades. One outstanding feature of the books produced by BWISC is an attention to detail and quality of production and printing.

That benchmark of quality and attention to detail continues in a new book, *Nevis, the Stamps and Postal History 1661-1890*, written by two internationally known philatelists, Federico Borromeo, FRPSL, and Charles Freeland, FRPSL.

This is both a beautifully produced book and a serious academic study of an area that has been somewhat neglected in philatelic literature. It is the first tome on the subject in many years, and one of a very small number covering the Caribbean island's postal history.

In fact, as the authors point out in their Introduction, excepting the rather small booklet produced a century ago by Fred Melville (there were two edi-

tions, in 1909 and 1910) and the "Classic Collections" booklet published by BWISC in 2001, there are no handbooks devoted to Nevis philately. "It is true that many articles have been published in the specialized philatelic journals, but this is the first publication that attempts to cover all aspects of Nevis postal history and philately in a documented and exhaustive manner," the authors wrote.

Perhaps one of the reasons why there has not been much written is that after World War II, interest in the island's postal history seemed to decrease. Collectors who have focused their efforts on the island are few.

But that does not mean the island has little to offer the researcher. There are many aspects to a collection of Nevis: a range of pre-stamp marks, Crowned Circles (also used as provisionals), "Ship Letter" marks, Great Britain stamps used abroad, provisional issues, village manuscript cancels, essays, proofs, specimens, reprints (1931), stamps

### 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).



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overprinted "REVENUE," and a wide range of forgeries. Much of the material is not easy to find.

Perhaps one of the more significant attributes of the new book is a census of all known incoming covers within the period covered. In addition, there is a thorough review of all major auctions containing Nevis material.

There are several important appendices as well. Postal rates within the period covered are listed; consignment tables for stamps with printing figures are listed, and there is a discussion of the great Nevis collections (with mouth-watering illustrations of rarities in full color). There is also a thorough discussion of Nevis rarities with their provenances. There is an extensive bibliography and an index.

The book is produced on high quality non-glare paper. There are 222 pages, and there is a very attractive dust cover. The book is available for £35 (about \$56.50 US) plus shipping from Pennymead Books, 1 Brewerton Street, Knaresborough, North Yorkshire HG5 8AZ, United Kingdom. The email is: pennymead@aol.com.

-- Dr. Everett L. Parker

## We (still) need articles!

The situation is getting critical again as there is not enough material to fill these pages (and that's why we use filler such as this!).

Please continue to prepare and send items for publication, and please be patient as not all material can be printed at once!

The Editor

### *Nuggets from the past ...*

In the December 1970 *Journal*, Stan Durnin wrote about a visit to Antigua. He stopped at several post offices and provided examples of postmarks. He also photographed several post offices and the employees at each. Colin H. Bayley provided an article on Barbados maritime marks (illustrating several), and Eric H. Heyer discussed the foundering of the St. Kitts-Nevis inter-island ferry, the MV *Christena*. He wrote that he had traveled on the ill-fated ferry with fellow BCPSG members earlier.

Also, J.M.G. Adams sought information about a Barbados World War I prisoner of war camp, and it was noted that over 50 members attended Philympia.

### 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!*

# 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.

---  
**INDYPEX 2015**  
**October 2-4**  
**Noblesville, Indiana**

Peter McCann  
*Montserrat: Postal History of a Caribbean Island*  
**Gold**

## *Nuggets from the past ...*

In the June 1971 issue of the *Journal*, Gale J. Raymond wrote about visiting Anguilla's Forces Post Office. Gale noted that the British Army Base Commander, Lt. Col. Bruce Brown, had granted him access and special privileges at Camp Alamo. Also, Jack Arnell wrote about the grounding of the *Redpole* packet in Bermuda in 1827. Dr. John M. Lockie provided first flight figures for Trinidad and Tobago, and Byron R. Cameron discussed marine insurance fiscal stamps of Jamaica. R.C. Coleman and Dr. Ben Ramkissoon discussed independent Anguilla forgeries, and Lynn D. Wallace provided illustrations and discussion of Bermuda postage meters.

## **WANTED**

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

## **PLEASE ...**

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**you contact them!**

## *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!*

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

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

## **GRENADA**

Breaking extensive specialized collection. Over 200 items now listed on my website with pre-stamp covers from C18th, QV classic issues with mint multiples, fine array of village postmarks on cover plus postal stationery and revenues.



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# Membership Director's Report

By Bob Stewart

## New Members

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

## New Applicants

**Gary Wayne Loew**, P.O. Box 468101, Atlanta, GA 31146-8101 USA. Email: garywloew@gmail.com. Life Member of APS. Sponsored by Bob Stewart.

## Reinstatement

James Grimwood-Taylor

(My apology ... this renewal was not properly processed and Mr. Grimwood-Taylor was incorrectly shown as removed for non-payment of dues in the October 2015 issue.)

## Address Changes

**Robert DeKeyser**, 28 Chelsham Road, London SW46 NP, UNITED KINGDOM  
**Phoebe MacGillivray**, P.O. Box 335, Sharon Springs, NY 13459 USA

## Deceased

**Michel Forand**, Life Member

If any member has information, such as a change of address, to be included in the Membership Director's Report, please contact me, either by mail (see inside front cover of the Journal) or by email at [stewartlbi9@comcast.net](mailto:stewartlbi9@comcast.net). 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.

## BWISC to bring books to NYC

Several members of the British West Indies Study Circle (BWISC) will be attending the 2016 New York International Postage Stamp Exhibition from the United Kingdom. For those living in North America, this will present an opportunity for collectors to order books from BWISC without additional postage. Needless to say, the amount that can be carried is limited; therefore those wishing to order books should do so soon as it will be on a first come, first served basis. Please contact Peter Ford at [peterf@bwisc.org](mailto:peterf@bwisc.org).

## BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS

### ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF JAMAICAN PHILATELY, VOLUME 9 MILITARY MAILS

by Paul Farrimond and Raymond Murphy

This book is based on the original written by the late Derek Sutcliffe; it has been thoroughly revised and largely re-written. It continues the aim of presenting the Jamaica Encyclopaedia in a new softback format with many illustrations now in full colour. **WINNER OF GOLD MEDAL AND GRAND AWARD FOR LITERATURE AT CHICAGOPEX 2015!**

A4 sized, perfect bound, (viii) + 458 pages. ISBN: 978-1-907481-24-6

Price: £29.00 (\$45.00). BWISC Members' Discount: £3.00 (\$4.50).

This book 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](mailto:Pennymead@aol.com). Orders will be dispatched with invoice and prompt payment is requested. Members resident in North America can purchase this book from Ed Barrow at [e.barrow1@gmail.com](mailto:e.barrow1@gmail.com).



# President's Message

By Duane Larson

I hope every one of our members had an enjoyable holiday season and you are ready for a new year filled with exciting adventures in our hobby of philately, especially of the British Caribbean ilk. Speaking of exciting adventures, the 2016 New York World Stamp Show is rapidly approaching ... May 28 to June 4, and if you haven't reserved your room at the Fairfield Inn of East Rutherford, New Jersey (the BCPSG Show Headquarters), space is going fast! Fairfield Inn East Rutherford has rooms at \$139/night with free WiFi, breakfast, microwave and fridge in room and parking. It is 9.2 miles from Javits. Our Hospitality Suite will be located there for after-hours fellowship and libations. More Show and AGM information is posted on our website:

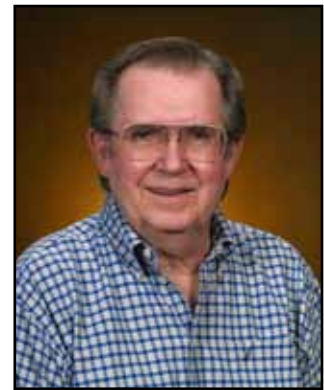
<http://www.bcpsg.com>

We are seeking volunteers to staff the club table that we are sharing with the Bermuda Collectors Society for the eight days of the show. If you are able to help for a couple of hours, please let me know the days and hours you would be available. Email me at [dlarson283@aol.com](mailto:dlarson283@aol.com) or call (708) 503-9552.

Three members -- Eric Todd, John Wynns and Maurice Wozniak -- have been elected to the Board of Trustees for a six year term from 2016 to 2021. Welcome aboard, gentlemen! They will replace Tom Girdi, Bob Stewart and Steve Schumann whom we thank for their service!

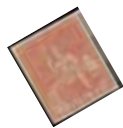
Lastly, Bob Stewart has offered to put member exhibits on our website if you would send him scans. This would enable other members and visitors to our website a chance to see a variety of British Caribbean exhibits that they might not normally see. If you are interested, contact Bob at [rstewart19@comcast.net](mailto:rstewart19@comcast.net)

See you all at 2016 New York World Stamp Show!



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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](mailto: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](mailto:Pennymead@aol.com). Or log on to [www.pennymead.com](http://www.pennymead.com), where the book can be ordered with secure credit card check out facilities.



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## BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS

# CAYMAN ISLANDS POSTCARDS

(and QSL CARDS)

'CAYMAN ISLANDS POSTCARDS' by Thomas E. Giraldi. This long awaited book is here at last. Tom has over many years collected information on all aspects of Cayman Islands philately and has written this catalogue which is and will remain a steadfast guide to the cards of these islands. Lavishly illustrated in colour it will be a book which collectors of BWI picture postcards will refer to as a standard work for many years.

A4 size, softbacked, perfect bound, (iv) + 210 pages. ISBN: 978-1-907481-10-9

Price: £16.00 (approx. \$24.00). BWISC Members' Price: £14.00 (approx. \$21.00).



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](mailto: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](http://www.bwisc.org) and on [www.pennymead.com](http://www.pennymead.com).

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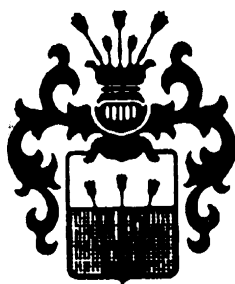
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