

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP
Unit No. 27 of the American Philatelic Society

Vol. 57, No. 2

April - June 2017

Whole No. 263

Hedley Adams Mobbs

A tongue-in-cheek look at stamps of the time...



*David Horry begins this
fascinating story on page 4.*





The *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* is published four times a year (January, April, July and October) by the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. It is available only by subscription through membership in the BCPSPG. Membership is based on the calendar year. Current dues are: \$30 per annum in U.S. funds for members in the United States, \$30 in Canada, and \$35 (£28) for those in other areas. Paperless memberships, where the *Journal* will be sent to you electronically, are available at \$15.00 or £12.

Life membership is available, with the following rates being applicable:

- Age 50 or less, \$450, U.S. and Canada; \$550, other countries;
- Age 51 to 60 years, \$400, U.S. and Canada; \$500, other countries;
- Age 61 and over, \$300, U.S. and Canada; \$400, other countries.

Payment terms are available, please contact the Membership Director or Treasurer for more details.

Membership application forms and additional information (including £ Sterling rates) may be obtained from the Membership Director, International Director or from our web page. Membership renewals and donations may be made through PayPal (www.PayPal.com), and follow the easy instructions).

BCPSG Website: <http://www.bcpsg.com>

(Opinions expressed in articles in this journal are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group or its officers.)

The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group

Officers and Trustees

PRESIDENT	Mr. John Seidl, 4324 Granby Way, Marietta, GA 30062 USA; email: john.seidl@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. Nigel Mohammed, 1900 Windette Dr., Montgomery, IL 60538 USA; email: trিনিbuoy@yahoo.com
SECRETARY	Mr. Eric Todd, 623 Ashley St., Foxboro, ON K0K 2B0 CANADA; email: eric.todd@sympatico.ca
TREASURER	Mr. Bob Stewart, 7 West Dune Lane, Long Beach Township, NJ 08008 USA; email: bcpseg@comcast.net
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR	Mr. David N. Druett, 1 Brewerton St., Knaresborough, N. Yorkshire, HG5 8AZ, U.K. Tele & fax (01423) 865962; email: pennymead@aol.com
EDITOR	Dr. Everett L. Parker, 117 Cedar Breeze South, Glenburn, ME 04401-1734 USA. Tele: (386) 688-1358; email: eparker@ne.twcbc.com
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	Mr. Edward Barrow (2017), 1 6704 Briardale Rd., Derwood, MD 20855 USA; email: e.barrow1@gmail.com
	Mrs. Mary Gleadall (2017), 394 Kanasgowa Dr., Brevard, NC 28712 USA; email: gleadallm@gmail.com
	Mr. Peter C. Elias (2017), P.O. Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427 USA; email: peter@pcelias.com
	Mr. Ivan Burges (2019), P.O. Box 1543, Grand Cayman KY1-1110 CAYMAN ISLANDS; email: ivanburges@yahoo.co.uk
	Dr. Peter P. McCann (2019), 8335 Abingdon Ct., University Park, FL 34201-2024 USA; email: ppm103226706@aol.com
	Mr. Steve Zirinsky (2019), P.O. Box 230049, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023 USA; email: szirinsky@cs.com
	Mr. Eric Todd (2021), 623 Ashley Street, Foxboro, ON K0K 2B0 CANADA; email: eric.todd@sympatico.ca
	Mr. Maurice D. Wozniak (2021), 1010 Berlin St., Waupaca, WI 54981-1919 USA; email: mwoz@live.com
	Mr. John P. Wynns (2021), 3518 Mission Rd., Unit 4, Tucson, AZ 85713-5682 USA; email: jwynns96@cox.net

Past Presidents of the Group are honorary members of the Board. They include: Mr. George W. Bowman, Mr. Charles E. Cwiakala, Mr. Paul A. Larsen, Dr. Peter P. McCann, Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon, Mr. W. Danforth Walker, Mr. Robert J. Wynstra, Mr. Jack Harwood, Mr. Edward W. Waterous, Mr. Duane Larson.

Study Group Leaders and Other Appointees

APS REPRESENTATIVE	Mr. Edward W. Waterous, P.O. Box 1105, Homewood, IL 60430-0105 USA; email: ewwaterous@hotmail.com
ATTORNEY	Mr. Thomas F. Olson, P.O. Box 937, Berkeley, CA 94701-0937 USA. Tele: (510) 558-6939; fax (510) 527-7152; email: kriegsmar@aol.com
AUCTION MANAGER	Mr. John Seidl (address above)
AWARDS CHAIRMAN	Mr. Paul A. Larsen (address on page 3)
HISTORIAN AND ARCHIVIST	<i>Vacant</i>
LIBRARIAN	Mr. Dale Wade, P.O. Box 491, Hayesville, NC 28904 USA. Tele: (478) 737-2373; email: pyrowade@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR	<i>Vacant</i>
PUBLICATIONS CHAIRMAN	<i>Vacant</i>
PUBLICATION ORDERS	Mr. David A. Wilson, P.O. Box 1135, Grand Falls, VA 22066 USA; email: wilsondajx@aol.com
PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN	Mr. Robert J. Wynstra, 1104 S. Garfield Ave., Urbana, IL 61801-4936 USA. Tele: (217) 367-9802; fax (217) 333-2614; email: wynstra@uiuc.edu
U.K. REPRESENTATIVE	Mr. Ray Stanton, The Old Rectory, Salmonby, Lincs. LN9 6PX United Kingdom; email: rjstanton@tiscali.co.uk
WEBMASTER	Mr. Edward Barrow, 16704 Briardale Rd., Derwood, MD 20855 USA; email: e.barrow1@gmail.com
ANGUILLA	<i>Vacant</i>
ANTIGUA	<i>Vacant</i>
BAHAMAS	Mr. Edward W. Waterous (address above)
BARBADOS	Mr. Edmund A. Bayley, P.O. Box 61, Bridgetown, BARBADOS; email: edmund@kent-chambers.com; Mr. Keith H. Bayley: stamps@sunbeach.net
BARBUDA	Mr. Robert J. Wynstra (address above)
BERMUDA	Mr. Bill Charles Gompel, P.O. Box 547183, Orlando, FL 32854-7183 USA; email: BGOMPEL@cfl.rr.com
BR. GUIANA/GUYANA	Mr. Bernie Beston, P.O. Box 5513, Bundaberg, WQ 4679 AUSTRALIA; email: berniebeston@yahoo.au
BR. HONDURAS/BELIZE	Dr. Ian Matheson, P.O. Box 10066, Fourways Crossing 2055 SOUTH AFRICA; email: ian@cdi.biz
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	Dr. Giorgio Migliavacca, P.O. Box 7007, St. Thomas, VI 00801-0007 USA; email: giorgiomigliavacca@hotmail.com
CAYMAN ISLANDS	Mr. T.E. Giraldi, 1305 Scottsdale Way, Modesto, CA 95355 USA. Tele: (209) 571-1345; email: teg43@aol.com
CENSORED MAIL	<i>Vacant</i>
DOMINICA	Mr. W.B. Ashley, P.O. Box 524, West Springfield, MA 01090-0524 USA; email: william_ashley@hotmail.com
GRENADA	Mr. W. Danforth Walker, 8403 Abingdon Ct., University Park, FL 34201 USA; email: danforthwalker@comcast.net
JAMAICA	Mr. Duane Larson, 2 Forest Bl., Park Forest, IL 60466 USA. Tele: (708) 503-9552; email: dlarson283@aol.com
LEEWARD ISLANDS	Mr. Michael N. Oliver, 7, Ancliffe Lane, Bolton-le-Sands, Lancashire LA5 8DS, UNITED KINGDOM; email: moliver7@btinternet.com
MARITIME MAIL	Mr. Simon Richards, Heathercombe House, Drayton St. Leonard, Wallingford OX10 7BG U.K.; email: Simon@sidebell.co.uk
MONTserrat	Mr. C.A. Freeland, Ob Batterieweg 45, CH-4059, Basle, SWITZERLAND; email: charles.freeland@hotmail.com
NEVIS	Mr. Federico Borromeo, Via Torquato Taramelli 32, 1-00197 Rome, ITALY; email: comneno@tiscali.it
ST. CHRISTOPHER/ST. KITTS	Mr. Robert J. Wynstra (address above)
ST. LUCIA	Mr. Guy Kilburn, 100 Mira Loma St., Vallejo, CA 94590-3434; email: guykilburn@hotmail.com
ST. VINCENT	Mr. Peter C. Elias (address above)
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	<i>Vacant</i>
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS	Dr. Peter P. McCann (address above)

British Caribbean Philatelic Journal

Vol. 57, No. 2 April - June 2017 Whole No. 263

© British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group

Editor: Dr. Everett L. Parker, 117 Cedar Breeze South, Glenburn, ME 04401-1734 USA

Telephone: (207) 573-1686; email: eparker@hughes.net or eparker@ne.twcbc.com

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: bcpsg@comcast.net

Please address membership questions to the Membership Director (this includes address changes).

Advertising Manager: Mr. Tom Giraldi, 1305 Scottsdale Way, Modesto, CA 95355-3255 USA

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

Please address advertising questions to the Advertising Manager.

Awards Editor: Paul A. Larsen, 14 Wilson Ct., Park Forest, IL 60466 USA; email: PALStamp@aol.com

Please address information about show awards to the Awards Editor.

CONTENTS

FEATURES

Hedley Adams Mobbs, F.R.S.A. L.R.I.B.A., by David Horry, FRPSL	4-11
HMS <i>Dragon</i> was an important ship in the Caribbean, by Ivan Burges	12-13
The Tudway Letters: Port of Entry Markings, by Mary Gleadall	14-16
Montserrat Musings, 1971, by Bob Stewart.....	17-18
New Cayman Islands missent mark found on eBay site, by Tom Giraldi	19
Antigua Auxiliary Markings, by Steven Zirinsky	19
Arthur Rowe Spurling of Bermuda: A World War I hero (Part 2), by Hap Pattiz	20-23
Antigua General Post Office Circular Datestamps, by Steven Zirinsky	24
Bradbury Wilkinson issues of Trinidad & Tobago, by Peter Ford	25

COLUMNS AND REPORTS

Officers and Trustees, Study Group Leaders & Others	2
Are YOU utilizing our BCPSG Library?	25
BCPSG Exhibits and Awards, by Paul Larsen	26
Membership Director's Report, by Bob Stewart.....	27
President's Message, by John Seidl	28
Our faithful advertisers	18, 25-32

DEADLINES FOR THIS PUBLICATION

January issue: Deadline November 15, mailing December 30

April issue: Deadline February 15, mailing March 30

July issue: Deadline May 15, mailing June 30

October issue: Deadline August 15, mailing September 30

Hedley Adams Mobbs

F.R.S.A. L.R.I.B.A.

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

Hedley Adams Mobbs F.R.S.A., L.R.I.B.A.
January 7, 1890 - October 10, 1970

The philatelic world was first introduced to my grandfather, Hedley Adams Mobbs (*Figure 1*) when KGVI specialists Murray Payne published *The Unissued Stamps of King George VI* back in 2001 (*Figure 2*). It featured unissued stamps of the period given to Mobbs by the King's Philatelic Keepers, Sir John Ruskington and Sir Burton Pedwardine.* It was a tongue-in-cheek look at the stamps of the time -- "that were a possible cause of embarrassment to His Majesty, due to their somewhat bizarre nature." The collection is "locked away in a bank vault in Zurich until January 2020."

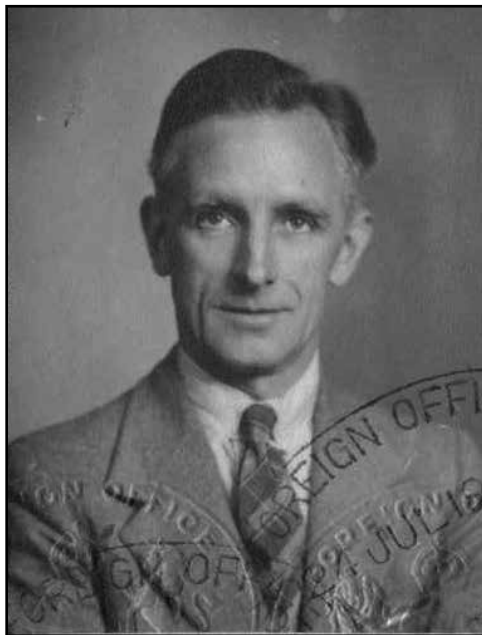


Figure 1
Hedley Adams Mobbs from Passport.

What was even more bizarre is, what was initially nothing more than an amusing fiction became a reality. There was indeed another Hedley Mobbs stamp collection which I did not realize existed until the late autumn of 2015. I only saw it once, when I was about 12: what happened to the so-called "Springthorpe Collection" I know not! What followed from this is that Hedley Adams Mobbs had led a secretive life working directly for King George VI as his batman at Rauceby, near Cranwell, Lincolnshire, since early 1919. My brother Peter and I approached MI5 for his records: they were subse-

* All these names were drawn from the villages of Lincolnshire.

quently released to The National Archive where we discovered things we never knew about him even though we all lived under one roof for 15 years! After 1919, the record had been destroyed.

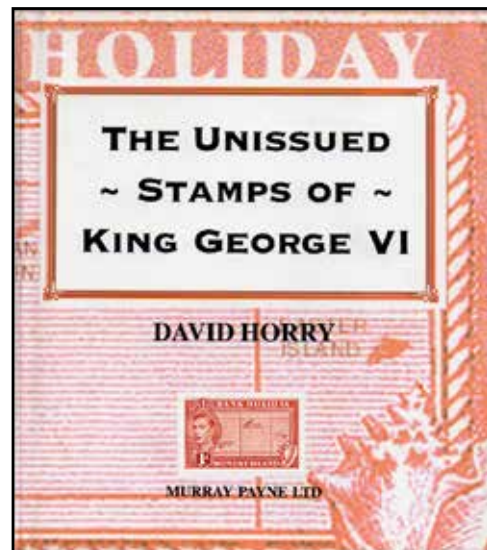


Figure 2
David Horry's The Unissued Stamps of King George VI (Murray Payne, 2001).

Hedley Mobbs came from wealthy farming stock at Oulton Broad, Suffolk (*Figure 3*). He attended Culford School, Suffolk where he showed signs of being a talented artist. He started life as an architectural draughtsman



Figure 3
The Mobbs family at Oulton Broad, Suffolk circa 1897. Hedley is at the far right.

working in Cambridge (*Figure 4*). He further played the piano, tennis, football and cricket.



Figure 4
The Mathematical Bridge, Queen's College, Cambridge by Hedley Mobbs, c. 1912.

During World War I, he joined the Suffolk Rifles (*Figure 5*). He was a crack-shot and became a sniper; in later years his marksmanship allowed him to compete at the highest level at Bisley. He was badly wounded on at least two occasions and invalided back to Nottingham where he was nursed by his wife to be, Lily Marsden. In 1917 he was sent to the King's Lancashire Military Convalescent Hospital at Blackpool where he met George Crawford Odom, who had been wounded at Soissons.



Figure 5
Hedley Mobbs, Suffolk Rifles, c. 1915.

Odom persuaded Mobbs to leave the army and join the nascent Royal Air Force. In February 1918 Prince Albert was appointed "Officer in Charge of Boys" and later Officer Commanding No. 4 Squadron of the Boys' Wing, something of a sinecure. He left Cranwell in August 1918. Lily Mobbs was to attend to the Prince as he suffered badly from shell shock after the battle of Jutland. In order to fulfill her duties she was required to be married, so Hedley Mobbs and Lily Marsden were married at Poulton-le-Fylde in October 1917.

During World War I George Odom was a machine gunner based at Belton House, Grantham -- the home of Lord Brownlow. His son "Perry" Brownlow ran the BMARCo machine gun factory and was later equerry to Prince Edward and Wallis Simpson. Odom was well acquainted with David Bowes-Lyon, the future Queen's brother (*Figure 6*). Likewise his MI5 record was removed and destroyed after 1919.

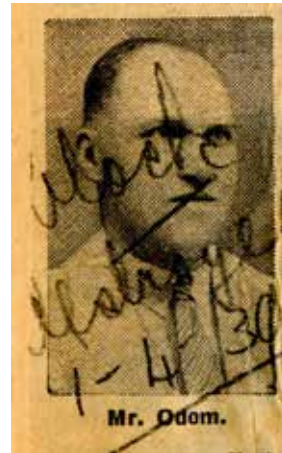


Figure 6
George Crawford Odom in the 1930s (From the Leicester Mercury)

In the early 1920s Odom, a tailor by trade, set up his own woollens and suiting business in Leicester: George Odom Diamond Mills. He spent many months of each year traveling and set up his own surveillance system in West Africa, Panama and the Caribbean -- Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy (*Figure 7*)! He was indeed the inspiration for both Pendel and Osnard in John Le Carre's *The Tai-*



Figure 7
George Odom Ltd. letterhead, 1933.

lor of Panama. A keen cricketer, philatelist and traveler, he worked independently of both MI5 and SIS (MI6). In 1928 Hedley Mobbs, by now a budding art deco architect, went to live in Leicester to design "homes for heroes." One of his customers was George Odom and he was the architect of his house at 28 Westminster Drive. They would attend the cricket at Aylestone Road and watch their particular favorite, George Headley, the great Jamaican batsman. In 1932 Odom traveled with Lord Tennyson's XI, touring Jamaica as bagman. Hedley Mobbs meanwhile moved back to Lincoln with the intention of setting up his own architectural practice.

By 1932 Hedley Mobbs had established himself as an architect in Boston, Lincolnshire. Why Boston? It would

appear that this may have been a proposed invasion area for the Germans at that time, based on the *Epilogue of The Riddle of the Sands*, by Erskine Childers. Mobbs and builder Fred Peck were responsible for many fine buildings in the old town and like Odom, became a leading Rotarian (*Figure 8*). In 1936 Herbert Butcher became Liberal MP for Holland with Boston. Mobbs was a

pledged to rescue the stricken Jewish children of Czechoslovakia. He helped find homes for a dozen refugees in Boston. Each of the refugees was "sponsored" for 100 guineas and arrived on several trains from Prague, organized by Nicholas Winton. Herbert Butcher joined the all-party Committee for Aliens -- a leading light in organizing the resettlement of Hitler's unwanted and persecuted Jews.



Figure 10
Eliane Plewman, SOE spy who worked for George Odom.

Pre-war George Odom employed and housed Eliane Plewman as a translator in his factory in Newarke Street, Leicester. She later became an SOE agent and died tragically in Dachau in 1944 (*Figure 10*). He also found employment for some of Hedley Mobbs' young Jewish charges. Hedley Mobbs later drew what has been revealed by local historian Bernard O'Connor as the SOE Headquarters at The George Hotel in Huntingdon (*Figure 11*). It is noteworthy that Hedley Mobbs, George Odom and Ian Fleming received no awards from

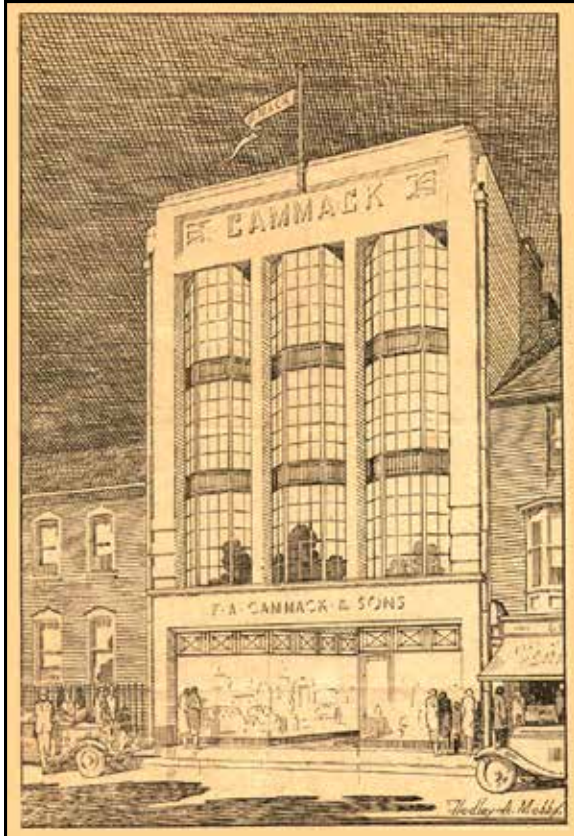


Figure 8
Cammacks of Boston, an art deco furniture store, designed by Hedley Mobbs.

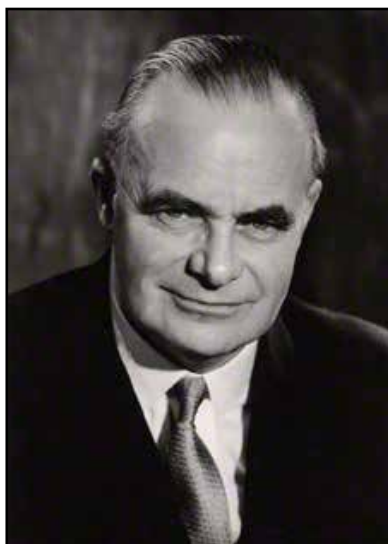


Figure 9
Sir Herbert Butcher MP – Odom's nephew.

life-long Liberal: his grandfather Adam Adams had stood for nearby Horncastle in 1906. Butcher was Odom's nephew-in-law and all three were extremely concerned over the rise of Adolph Hitler and the Nazi Party in Germany (*Figure 9*).

Hedley Mobbs, who became Secretary of The Boston Guardians in 1938,



Figure 11
The George Hotel, Huntingdon, 1953, Hedley Mobbs.

the British Government for their covert work during World War II. Machine Gunner Odom had received the Military Cross for his heroics during World War I at the Hohernzollern Redoubt.

After the war it was initially decided that although Great Britain would issue Victory stamps, the Colo-

nies would not. Then George Odom replaced Sir Harry Luke as design consultant to the Crown Agents. During



Figure 12
Antigua Omnibus Peace issue 1946.

the war Odom, under the guise of L. Barrington Smith, had produced the Jamaican “Patriotic Covers.” He was well aware of Hedley Mobbs’ talents as an architectural



Figure 13
The photograph of Parliament from the Crown Agents file.

draughtsman and via Herbert Butcher MP, his nephew asked Mobbs to take on the task. The theme insisted upon was “Peace,” not Victory (**Figure 12**), although

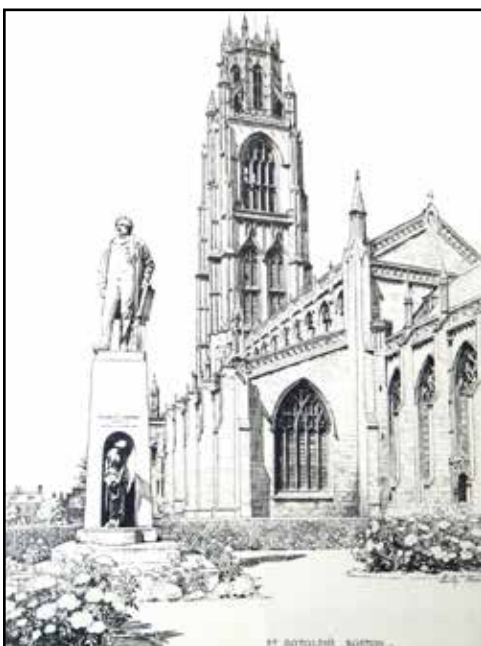


Figure 14
Boston “Stump” (St. Botolph’s), 1955 by Hedley Mobbs.

today these stamps are generally referred to as the latter. The image selected was a view of the Houses of Parliament from the South Bank of the Thames (**Figure 13**). Who took this photograph is unknown but Hedley Mobbs was quite happy working from photographs. There are no surviving sketches or information available from any quarter. I have enquired at the Crown Agents’ files at the British Library and the Royal Archives -- absolutely nothing. I believe that Hedley Mobbs was rewarded with this commission in thanks for his secret war efforts (and the standard 10 guineas design fee).



Figure 15
Jamaica High Value Royal Silver Wedding stamp, 1948.

Was Hedley Mobbs capable of the draftsmanship for such fine work? Here is his line drawing of Boston “Stump” (St. Botolph’s) commissioned by the owner of *The Boston Standard* in 1955. It is a masterpiece in the exact and distinctive style of the 1946 Peace Omnibus issue (**Figure 14**).

Never had a British stamp issue caused so much controversy as did the high values of The Royal Silver Wedding stamps issued in October 1948 (**Figure 15**). Stanley Gibbons were “nauseated by this racket.” Further stating: “Their face value is fantastically high and there is no postal necessity for the inclusion of 10s and £1 stamps in many of the sets.” However, the Crown Agents stuck to their guns and the Omnibus was issued with a face value of some £43. A disgusted Gibbons refused to supply them to their customers. The reality of the situation was that these high value stamps were in fact not intended for postage at all but were used as currency to pay the Crown’s agents in the field.

In Jamaica they were “laundered” by stamp dealers Everard Aguilar and L. Barrington Smith (George Odom!). In St. Lucia they were still in use as late as 1954 even though the KGVI £1 definitives had been demonetized. This further explains why the Falkland Island Dependencies had only a high value of only one shilling --

there were no agents thereabouts and were only used for postal purposes!

Mobbs' design was a montage created by photographer Dorothy Wilding (*Figure 16*) from two separate portraits of the Royal couple (*Figure 17*). This was a style that Mobbs often utilized when two sitters were involved. Here is a sketch in the same style; my twin brother Peter and I, drawn in 1955 by our grandfather (*Figure 18*).



Figure 16
Royal portrait photographer Dorothy Wilding.



Figure 17
Dorothy Wilding's composite photograph for the Royal Silver Wedding stamps, 1948.

The Universal Postal Union celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 1949 and decided once more to engender the wrath of philatelists by issuing a four stamp Omnibus issue for the Colonies. The designs were somewhat controversial as they eschewed the portrait of KGVI. Two values were printed by Waterlow & Sons and the other two by Bradbury Wilkinson. What was not realized is that all but the top value, were indeed "small ads" for Ian

Fleming's recently established "Mercury Service." And like the RSW high values, the stamps were used as currency across the Colonial Realm at a time of great strain on the £ - sinking fast against the dollar.



Figure 18
The Horry twins by Hedley Mobbs, 1955.

Hedley Adams Mobbs designed the lowest and highest values which were produced by Waterlow and the others were, I believe, the work of Christopher Tuddenham, a commercial artist and deputy manager of Mardon Son & Hall Ltd., part of Imperial Tobacco's Studios (Playing Card Division) over in Bristol. They were drawn while staying at the Tower Isle Hotel in Jamaica earlier in the year.



Figure 19
Jamaican low-value UPU stamp, 1949.

The lowest UPU value shows Mercury, wings-a-foot and helmet, in flight and holding a clarion (*Figure 19*). The medallion around his neck bears the Sanskrit letter "om" signifying "god." If one takes the second word



Figure 20
Detail from UPU stamp showing "God-Om" motif.

“god” and add “om,” the result is godom -- or might that just be G. Odom -- George Odom? (*Figure 20*). All of Everard F. Aguilar’s early 1949 Jamaican Temporary Rubber Datestamp (TRD) covers exclusively use this stamp. The two middle values appear to bear witness to the life of Ian Fleming!

umnist Noel Davenhill recently noted that it wasn’t a particularly good likeness. Sadly it isn’t as my mother, Dorothy, was perhaps used as the model (*Figure 23*).



Figure 21

The Royal Princesses on Royal Visit to Southern Africa, 1947.

In 1947 the Royal Family toured together to Southern Africa for the first time. The stamps issued for Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland were designed by Hedley Mobbs from photographs by Dorothy Wilding (*Figure 21*). In 1949 Prince Philip was made First Lieutenant on HMS *Chequers*. Later that year, Elizabeth’s father, King George VI, suggested she join her husband on Malta. After celebrating Prince Charles’s first birthday, the Princess flew to the island, arriving on her second wedding anniversary, November 20, 1950. Sir Harry Luke, back from three years travels in Central and South America, was back in Malta and on George Odom’s recommendation, commissioned Hedley Mobbs to design a stamp to celebrate the Princess’s visit. Again he used a photograph of Dorothy Wilding’s but was asked to age the Princess slightly as the photograph was around four years old (*Figure 22*). *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* col-



Figure 23
My mother, Dorothy Mobbs, 1945.

In 1950 Hedley Mobbs’ son, Fred, became Herbert Butcher’s agent in the 1950 General Election (Lib. Holland with Boston). In the summer of 1951, Hedley and Lily Mobbs sailed to Malta to be presented to Princess Elizabeth by Sir Harry Luke (*Figure 24*). The Great Philatelic Panjandrum also presented Mobbs with his

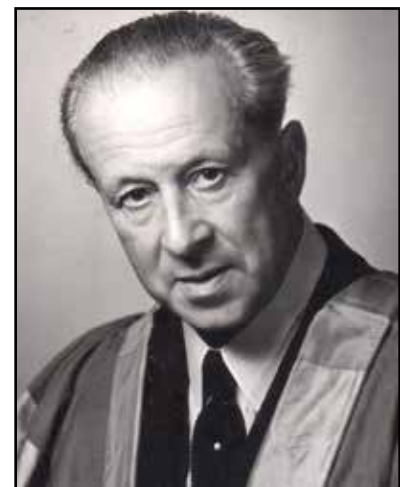


Figure 24
Sir Harry Luke.



Figure 22
Princess Elizabeth, Malta 1950.

new book titled *Malta*, but was not to tell the world where it came from. Inside is a curious inscription from my grandmother. “Hedley Mobbs - bought this book in Malta - 1951” (*Figure 25*).

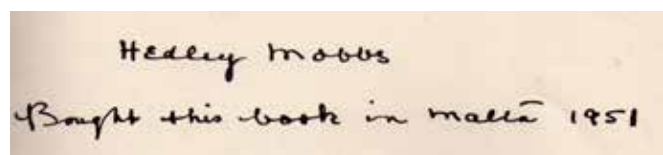


Figure 25
My grandmother Lily Mobbs’ inscription in Sir Harry Luke’s book Malta, 1951.

It would appear that Hedley Mobbs' career as a stamp designer ended at around this time. There are no surviving sketches or any record of his philatelic efforts. He never spoke to anyone of this, not even his close family, as he was sworn to secrecy by the Official Secrets Act (1939). He was working directly to King George VI along with George Odom and Sir Harry Luke.

And finally, a few unissued Caribbean gems from the Hedley Mobbs Collection, which have been appearing in the pages of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* for nigh on 10 years (*Figure 27*).

For further reading:

The World of Hedley Adams Mobbs,
available at www.horrywood.co.uk/

*My thanks to Brian Livingstone, Peter Horry,
Bernard O'Connor, Chris Street, Peter Stringer,
Stuart Babbington and Dickon Pollard,
Michael Sefi and Rod Vousden,
Caroline Sampson (David Wilson Library,
University of Leicester),
The Dorothy Wilding Archive, Hugh Jefferies,
Guy Kilburn
and Noel Davenport.*



Figure 26

*“The Empty Deck Chair,” Hedley Adams Mobbs
at Sleaford, an interesting photo-portrait
by H.V. Skinner, exactly as intended.*



Figure 27

Some Caribbean “unissued stamps” of KGVI from the Hedley Mobbs Collection.

A note from the author about Hedley A. Mobbs (or HAM)

The story of Hedley A. Mobbs is ostensibly true. However, in 2001 when I wrote *The Unissued Stamps of King George VI*, it was meant as a comedy and I needed a central character. So HAM was used as he had the right sort of background. It wasn't until early 2016, when my twin brother Peter was doing research on him for the family tree, that his MI5 file came to light. His connections to KGVI and George Odom were for real. The late *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* columnist Ken Lake stated that it was "the greatest philatelic fun to be had."

I began doing the "Unissued Column" in 2002 for Murray Payne and later for Gibbons in 2008. Readers had to make up their own minds. When Dean Shepherd became editor a few years back he added the "tongue-in-cheek" line to his brief introduction. He wanted to be sure readers knew that the stamps were not for real. However, at that point in time, the gods transpired against all this and I started to use examples that I felt bore some truth – in order to test my Hedley Mobbs' theories.

Brian O'Connor, the RAF Historian, after being shown the George Hotel drawing, told me this was the secret HQ of the SOE where agents often had their farewell dinner before going to Tempsford to be flown to their targets in France and often their deaths. Mobbs even bought the neighboring premises on behalf of the Trustees Savings Bank. My father, Leslie, became its first manager in 1952.

My brother and I had always had a feeling that HAM (as he liked to be known) might have been the artist/designer behind the Victory/Peace stamp. The Crown Agents gave no details of artists for their omnibus issues from 1946-1952. Suddenly it all began to chime with a vast amount of research on George Odom and Sir Harry Luke and two plus two started to make four. Philatelic mysteries like Madame Joseph and much else began to fall within these parameters.

So as Dickon Pollard of Murray Payne has already stated, "The propositions Horry offers are, almost without exception, preposterous! But as coincidence follows coincidence, one cannot avoid the conclusion that he is, indeed, onto something, and something very strange indeed, with significance well beyond the normal bounds of philatelic enquiry."

I began to write a book about George Odom and it has ended at 165,000 words!

Consular Mail - Top Secret OHMSS, from The Unissued Stamps of King George VI, 2001.



I discovered his warehouseman of many

years, Peter Stringer – who knew nothing of George's activities outside of tailoring. But he had always wondered why in 1949 he had gone to meet J. Edgar Hoover in Texas! My book had to be split in two and the second book is now mainly about Ian Fleming's unknown war. If you think the Mobbs book is implausible this comes in spades! I hope to finally publish *Ian Fleming's Labyrinth* and *George Odom - Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* this year. It reveals "The Madame Joseph Affair" in all its glory. I do not believe that Mobbs ever met Fleming, but they worked together via Odom the enabler. I hope eventually to get Mobbs the recognition he deserves. There is so much more to this story!



Hedley & Lily Mobbs c. 1960.



Hedley Mobbs' gravestone at Quarrington, near Sleaford, Lincolnshire, England.

HMS *Dragon* was an important ship in the Caribbean

By Ivan Burges

Commissioned in August 1918, HMS *Dragon* was a Royal Navy, Class D light cruiser. The ship visited the Cayman Islands in 1932, arriving just after a devastating hurricane struck the three islands on November 7-8. She eventually arrived off Cayman Brac on the morning of November 17. The Brac was by far the worst damaged island, with some 69 persons killed, and most homes wrecked. HMS *Dragon* brought urgently needed medical supplies, tents and fresh water. The *Dragon's* doctor and medical orderlies helped treat the injured and the ship subsequently carried four of the more seriously injured to Jamaica.

During the period from January through March 1937, HMS *Dragon* was the West Indies Guard Ship based in Bermuda. Several souvenir covers from various ports of call were produced during that period, including Bermuda, Jamaica, Mexico, St. Vincent and the Cayman Islands.

Another visit was made to Grand Cayman in January 1937 under happier circumstances. Unfortunately, during those times the Cayman's record keeping was vague, hence there is uncertainty over the exact dates of the visit. The Colonial annual report of 1937 noted the visit occurred during the sailing regatta held in January.



Figure 1

HMS *Dragon* cover to Scotland dated January 29, 1937.



Figure 2

HMS *Dragon* cover to New Jersey dated January 23, 1937.



Figure 3

Cover to U.S. commemorating the decommissioning of HMS *Dragon*, dated May 28, 1937. The circular datestamp canceling the stamp is dated May 27, 1937.

From a philatelic standpoint, two souvenir covers were issued. The first, by the recently formed Chamber of Commerce, and the second through the ship purser's office. The covers illustrated are: (*Figure 1*) as issued by the Chamber of Commerce and dated January 29, 1937, and (*Figure 2*) as issued by the ship as part of the series mentioned previously and dated January 23, 1937. Both covers bear the inscription visit dates as January 23-28, 1937.

Returning to the United Kingdom after the 1937 West Indies tour, HMS *Dragon* was decommissioned on May 28, and placed on the reserve list. The decommissioning was also commemorated by a souvenir cover (*Figure 3*).

In September 1939, following the outbreak of World War II, HMS *Dragon* was re-commissioned and saw extensive active service. In January 1943, she was transferred to the Polish Navy. Her end of duty came during the Normandy D-Day Landings (July 1944) when after being hit and permanently damaged, she was beached as a blockship for the protection of the Mulberry Harbour.

On May 16, 2016, the Cayman Islands Postal Service issued a set of stamps, including a souvenir sheet, under the title "Cayman Islands Historic Ships." The \$4.00 stamp on the souvenir sheet (*Figure 4*) featured HMS *Dragon*, whilst the first cruise ship to visit Cayman, the RMS *Atlantis* was incorporated in the sheet's design, and this ship will also be the subject of a future article.

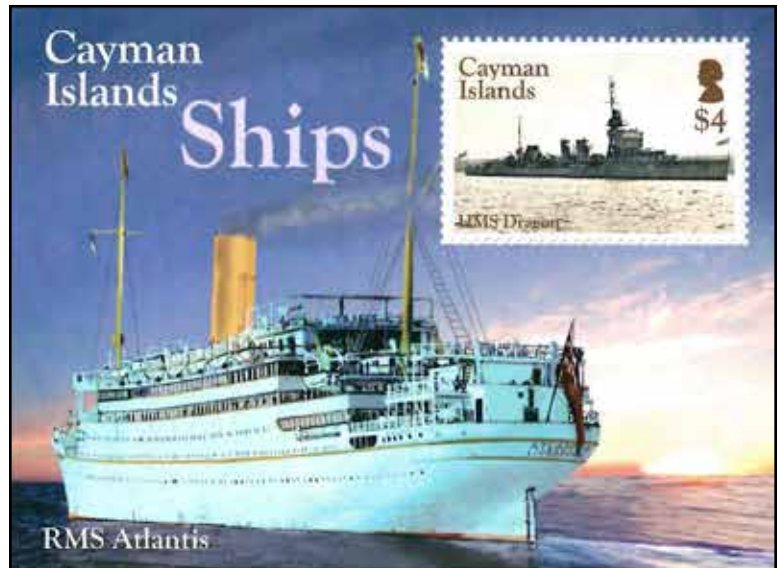


Figure 4
Cayman Islands 2016 souvenir sheet showing HMS *Dragon* and RMS *Atlantis*.



Figure 5
Undated photograph showing HMS *Dragon* in her full ceremonial finery at Plymouth, Devon, England.



Figure 6
The current HMS *Dragon* commissioned in 2012.

Souvenir covers from other HMS *Dragon*'s cruises, particularly those of 1933 and 1936, frequently appear for sale on internet web sites. The 1937 series is not as common as those earlier covers.

The undated picture (*Figure 5*) shows HMS *Dragon* in her full ceremonial finery at Plymouth, Devon, and *Figure 6* shows the current HMS *Dragon*, commissioned in 2012.

The Tudway Letters: Port of Entry Markings

By Mary Gleadall

The Tudway Family of Wells in Somerset, England owned a large sugar plantation in Parham, Antigua in the West Indies from 1679 until 1971. Sugar production had ceased in Antigua by 1940 when Bendals Sugar Factory closed. Lionel Tudway sold the plantations in 1944 to the Antigua Syndicate Estates which was ultimately acquired by the Antiguan Government. The Tudway Family received their final dividend payment in 1971, thus ending nearly 300 years of association with the island. Over the generations the 1,000 acre estate was divided into more manageable sections: Old Work, New Work and Parham Lodge.



Figure 1
Front cover "DEAL/SHIP LETTER" dated June 30, 1837.
(Private Collection)

The "Tudway Letters" first appeared on the philatelic market in 1972. These letters,

numbering around 1,400, cover the period from 1751 to 1858. Many have been sold but the majority, together

with the Tudway Family papers, are archived in the Somerset Heritage Centre, Taunton, England. These letters paint a vivid portrait of everyday life on an Antiguan sugar estate over a most interesting period of a hundred years and are one of the richest collections surviving for any West Indian estate and, as far as is known, easily the most valuable for Antigua.



Figure 2
Reverse of cover: "DEAL/SHIP LETTER" dated
June 30, 1837.
(Private Collection)

From a social point of view the contents of the letters tell the stories of the day but from a philatelic point of view, it is the outer front and back of these

Tudway Ship Letters with Port of Entry marks during period 1751 to 1858					
Bridgewater	3	Folkestone	2	Moorgate	2
Brighton	1	Holyhead	1	Penzance	1
Bristol	21	Isle of Wight	1	Plymouth	7
Cowes	1	Knightsbridge	3	Plymouth Dock	2
Deal	27	Lancaster	1	Poole	1
Dover	16	Lewes	2	Portsmouth	27
Dublin	1	Limington	2	Romney	2
Eastbourne	1	Liverpool	20	Southampton	1
Exeter	1	Margate	3	Torquay	1
Falmouth	18	Milford	2	Weymouth	2
TOTAL: 173					

stampless letters that are most interesting. The manuscript markings on the cover may include postal charges, ship and captain's name, dates to enable calculation time of voyage and even redirection if Tudway was in Parliament at the time of delivery (many Tudway gentlemen were Members of the British Parliament). British Port of

Entry marks were applied mainly to the Tudway letters that were carried by private ships and were used by most British seaports as well as small seaside villages. In contrast to Ship Letters many Packet letters did not have Port of Entry marks as they usually arrived at Falmouth and already bore an "ANTIGUA" handstamp. Stamped



Great Roads and Principal Cross Roads 1756

_____ Roads having daily (Monday - Saturday) postal service from London.

----- Extensions not served six days a week.

destination or transit country markings can also be found amongst the Tudway Letters.

Studying Figures 1 and 2, Attorney/Manager Thomas Dickson Foote's letter dated June 30, 1837 was carried "per Ship Jamaica." It was landed at the port of Deal where the "DEAL/SHIP LETTER" handstamp was applied. Note the rate was changed from 1s (shilling) 4d (pence) (1/4) to 1s 7d (1/7). The rate was calculated as ship letter 8d plus inland carriage 11d (the distance from Deal to Wells is 194 miles). The Single Sheet refers to the fact that this letter was entirely on one large sheet of paper (17 x 11 inches) folded in such a way that the address could be written on an outer piece of the document. It is interesting to note that by this period the monthly plantation returns were on preprinted sheets.

On the reverse we see the letter was sealed with wax and consisted of the June plantation returns for Old Work and New Work ("O & NW"). The letter had passed through London on August 22, 1837 (backstamped with London arrival circle "G/22AU22/1837"). Robert Charles Tudway noted that he had received the letter in Wells on August 23. This letter's journey had taken 55 days. Any ideas on the significance of "7/8"? During the hundred years covered by these letters (1751 – 1858) the ports of entry on previous page were identified from marks applied to the Tudway ship letters upon arrival in England.

Many of these ports of entry can be identified on the Royal Mail Routes map of 1756 (see previous page). In 1784 the post office reluctantly began to use the Mail Coach in postal transportation. This revolution could only take place because of the great improvement in the roads due to turnpike legislation between 1750 and 1773, and improvement in road construction techniques developed by Telford and MacAdam.

The first mail route, beginning August 2, 1784, was over the route to popular Bath and included a leg on to Bristol. This proved so successful that other mail routes were approved and in May 1785 mail coaches were running cross post between Bristol and Portsmouth. Mail coach services were extended to Leeds, Manchester

and Liverpool in the summer of 1785. Before October 1785 coaches were running to Gloucester and Swansea, Carmarthen and Milford Haven, Worcester, Birmingham and Shrewsbury, Oxford, Chester and Holyhead, Carlisle, Dover and Exeter.

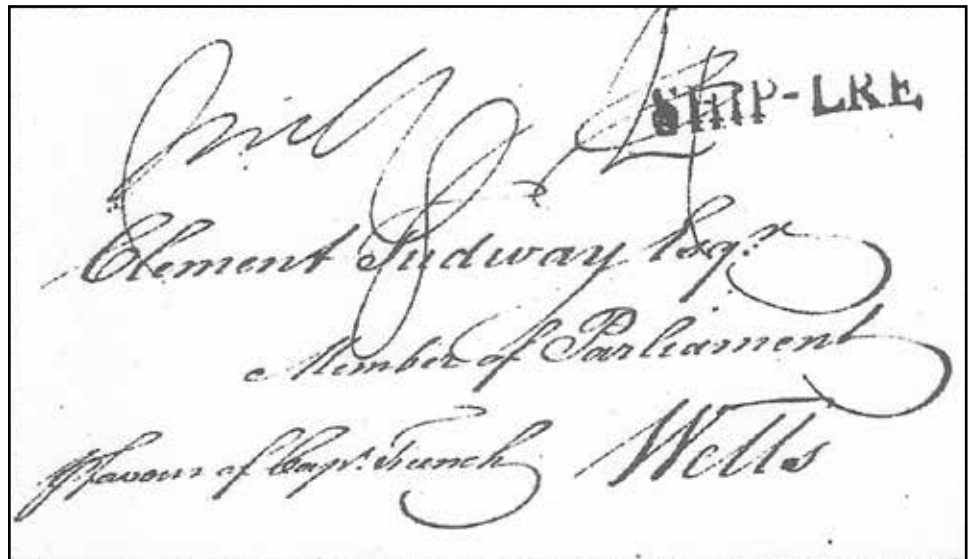


Figure 3
"SHIP-LRE" mark on letter dated June 10, 1778.
(Private Collection)

Occasionally ship letters are found without the Port of Entry mark. These letters needed to be identified as Ship Letters in order to establish the postal charge so the London Ship Letter Office issued a series of handstamps stating either "SHIP LETTER," "SHIP-LRE" or from 1801, an oval CROWN/SHIP LETTER. In the Tudway letters there are only two examples, both straight line SHIP-LRE (Figure 3).

Nuggets from the past ...

In the December 1997 *Journal*, Darryl Fuller reported on population trends in the Leeward Islands from 1871 to 1946, and presented actual population figures for each decade for Antigua, Barbuda, Redonda, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands. The total population of all the islands combined in 1946 was 108,838, and did not include Dominica, which was no longer a member of the Leeward Islands.

Also, Ron Wike reported on India postal stationery used in Trinidad and Tobago, and Dr. Reuben Ramkissoon discussed the King George VI registration envelopes of Trinidad and Tobago, and his research included newly found varieties.

Secretary Peter Kaulback reported 30 new members in the current quarter, with 21 new members in the previous quarter. Those were the days!

We left the airport and took a taxi to the hotel we had booked for three days. My first thought of Montserrat was how green and mountainous it was. The taxi ride went through Plymouth and both of us were very impressed with the town. It was well maintained and clean with a lot of interesting shops. We made plans to come back and spend some time exploring the capital.

We continued through town on our way to the Vue Pointe Hotel, which was on a cliff facing the Caribbean Sea. **Figure 1** is a receipt which shows how inexpensive it was, even in those days! The premises and the structure were meticulous and the food was first rate. Even the help was very friendly. The only drawback with the hotel and most of the beaches I saw on Montserrat was they were not up to par when compared to the beaches of Barbados and Antigua and the white sandy beaches we are use to on the island where we live in New Jersey.

The beaches had black sand and many small stones and boulders plus a lot of pink crabs. When the waves came in to shore and then receded, it caused the stones to bang into each other causing a loud clicking sound. The stones and wave action make it very difficult to get into the water and you had to time the waves to save your feet. After getting through the stones, the water is warm and clear except close to shore where it was cloudy black.

The biggest plus for Montserrat is the people. This was very evident the first day we were on the island. This was proven again the next day when we went back to Plymouth. One of the young employees from the hotel was on the other side of the street and as soon as he saw us he came over to see how we were doing and gave us some tips on where to go in Plymouth. While I was there I went into the post office and the love of stamps from my youth was rekindled.

One day we hired a cab to take us to Soufriere Hills Volcano which obviously was not active. We explored the site and toured the interior of the island which was very mountainous. As we got closer to the coast, on our way back to the hotel, the area was very lush and green compared to the volcano area.

The next day, I rented a motor bike and traveled the coast road until I got to the Fort Ghaut bridge with some old Victorian homes (**Figure 2**). I will never forget that area and I took pictures of everything there and everywhere else we went on the island to remember our time on Montserrat. It was too bad we only stayed on Montserrat for three days for it was not enough time to enjoy this little island.

On the last day we headed back to the airport and the same pilot was flying the plane back to Antigua. The takeoff was like the pictures you see of a launch from an aircraft carrier. The pilot took the plane away from the small terminal and entered the grass runway. He gave the engines full throttle and we headed down the runway. We came to the end the of the runway and the plane flew off the runway and dropped about 10 feet which my wife was not pleased with but obviously we made it back to Antigua.

Over the years we would look over the pictures we took and always talked about going back to Montserrat. The hurricane and the volcano hit Montserrat and we knew that everything we saw on Montserrat was gone. Well, bad luck hit again and we lost all the pictures we took in Montserrat when Hurricane Sandy destroyed our house. Later I was able to find the Montserrat postcard that showed the Fort Ghaut Bridge and houses. I have been to most of the islands in the Caribbean but nothing compared to Montserrat. If you ever get a chance to go to Montserrat, take it because you never know when the volcano will erupt again and destroy the rest of the island.

FOOTNOTE

¹ Dr. John K. Courtis, “‘Hope with a Harp’ Newspaper Wrappers of Montserrat,” *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, Vol. 57, No. 1, January 2017, pp. 15-17.

PITCAIRN ISLANDS STUDY GROUP



Our society is devoted to *all things* pertaining to Pitcairn Island, including its history, islanders, the HMAV *Bounty* mutiny (the mutineer descendants still live on Pitcairn), stamps and postal history. Our award winning journal, the *Pitcairn Log*, is published quarterly.

For information and a membership form, contact Dr. Vernon N. Kisling Jr.

P.O. Box 1511,

High Springs, FL 32655

Email: vkisling@ufl.edu.

Website: www.pisg.net

New Cayman Islands missent mark found on eBay site

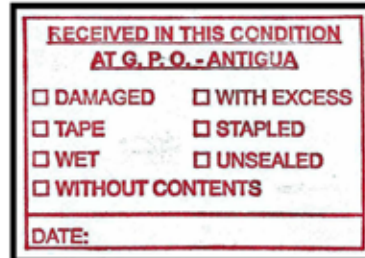
Bu Tom Giraldi

I recently discovered a new/unrecorded Cayman Islands "APO MISSENT MAIL" marking on eBay. The cover was originally sent from the U.S. to Iceland, but ended up at the Grand Cayman's airport branch post office. There are no backstamps. It has been in existence for almost a year or even longer without being discovered by anyone. Has anyone else seen this marking?



Antigua Auxiliary Markings

Steven Zirinsky has provided images of new and different postal markings from Antigua. He would be interested in knowing if you have seen additional markings. He can be contacted by email at: szirinsky@cs.com.



Arthur Rowe Spurling of Bermuda 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.

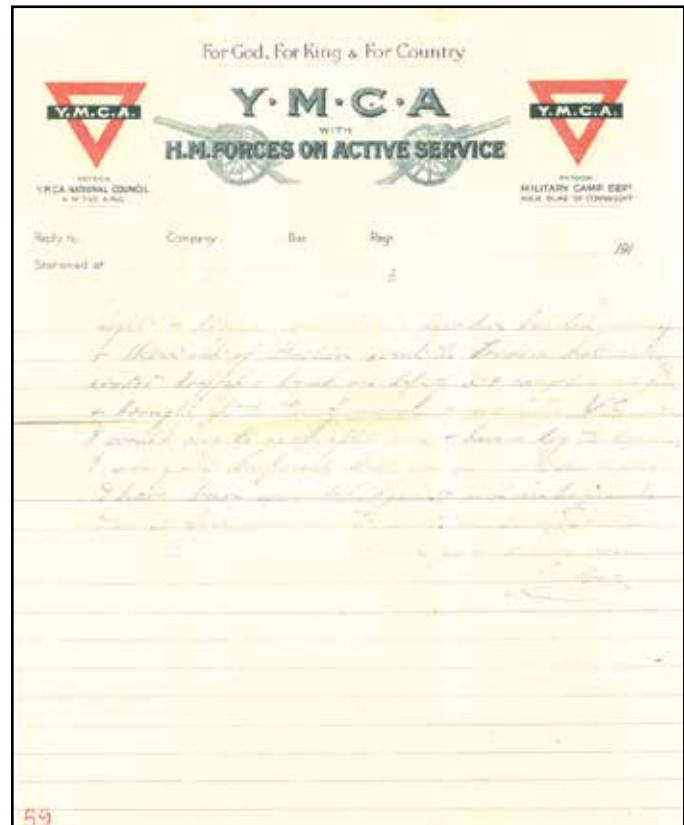


Figure 2

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

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.

He was eventually able to take some leave and found friends to stay with in London. But his or-

deal 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.



Figure 3

Cover to Bermuda from Rowe, postmarked Denham, Uxbridge on May 21, 1917, to his mother. The cover has the CM215 Bermuda censor marking in purple.

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.

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.



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.”

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 be 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).

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 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.

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 Committee 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. Writing home about the award, Rowe expressed pride but

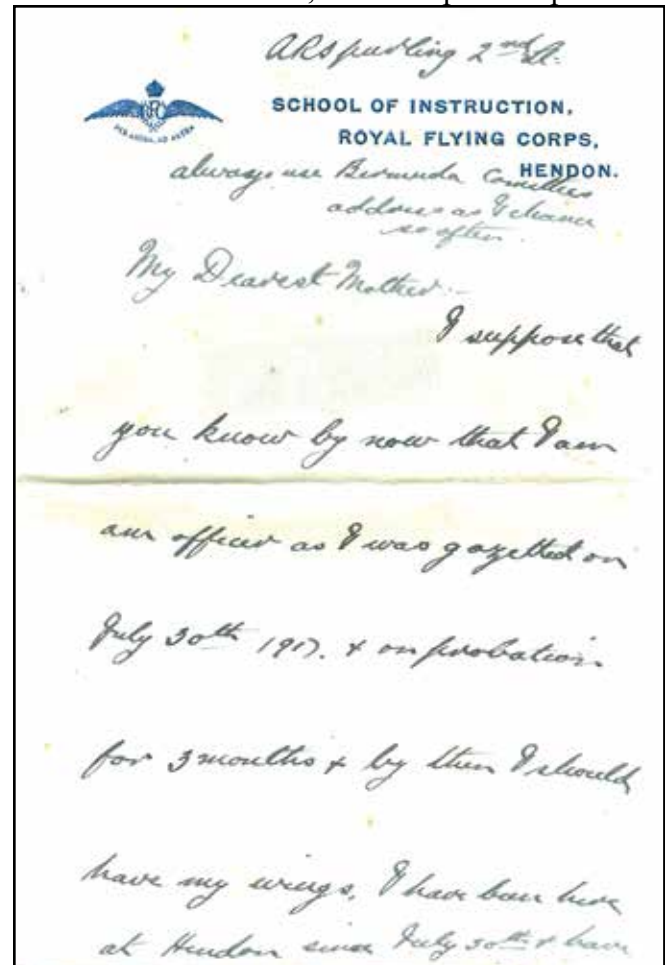


Figure 5

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.

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



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.

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.

Rowe had been released from military duty on September 19 when the war was nearing its end, 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 Mu-

riel 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. George's and burial in Pembroke. His two children married and had large families of seven and five children.

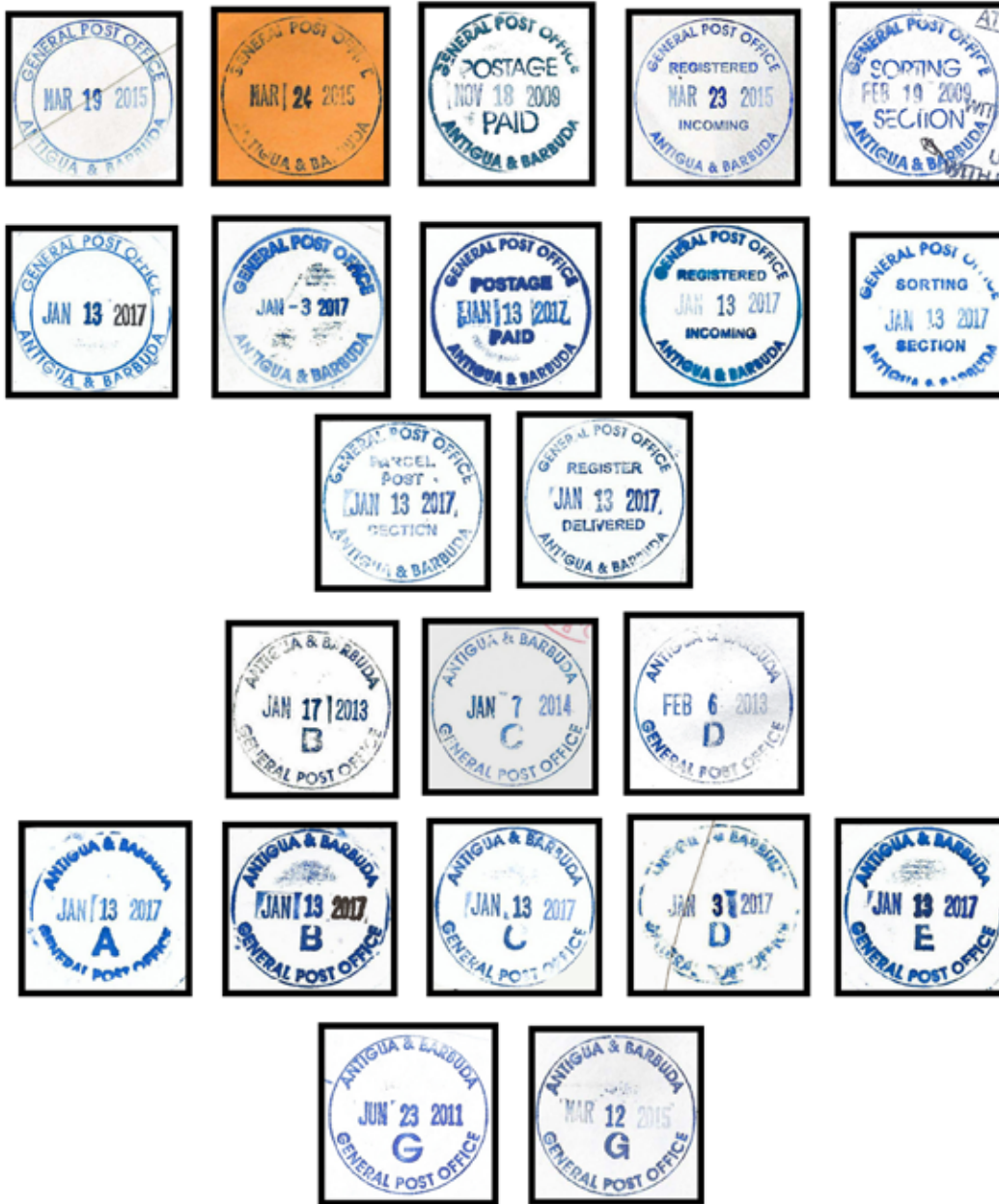
There is much military interest and philately in these 60 letters, but there is also the story of one man's development from an unexceptional youngster to a national hero. The history of the Spurling family, especially of Rowe's half-sister Ethyl, is also prominent. More of the correspondence may well 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@ROAD-RUNNER.COM) or the editor.

This two-part article was originally published in the January and April 2016 issues of Bermuda Post, and is reprinted with permission of and appreciation to the Bermuda Collectors Society.

Antigua General Post Office Circular Datestamps

Steven Zirinsky has provided images of circular datestamps from Antigua for 2012-17 (see page 19 for new auxiliary markings). He would be interested in knowing if you have seen additional markings.

He can be contacted by email at: szirinsky@cs.com.



We (still) need articles!

The situation is getting critical again as there is not enough material to fill these pages. Please continue to prepare and send items for publication, and please be patient as not all material can be printed at once!

The Editor

Bradbury Wilkinson issues of Trinidad & Tobago

After the success of our book on Trinidad and one on Tobago, I thought that to complete the trio, I would try to write one on the unified colony of Trinidad & Tobago. Information on the issues printed by De La Rue are easy to come by with the De La Rue Day Books and the Crown Agents Correspondence Books.

However, those later issues printed by Bradbury Wilkinson are more difficult. If any reader has blocks with either plate numbers or sheet numbers on the 1935 pictorial issue, KGVI or QEII issues, I would very much appreciate scans of these. If anyone knows where the records of Bradbury Wilkinson ended up after the purchase of their security printing business by De La Rue, I would be interested to know.

-- Peter Ford
peterf@bwise.org

Nuggets from the past ...

In the September 1996 *Journal*, Hugh James wrote about the "London Official" overprints of Jamaica and illustrated many flaws and varieties. Also, the late Michel Forand and Charles Freeland updated information on Bermuda mails to 1865. John Byz discussed the so-called "Reinhard covers" of the Cayman Islands, and Michel Forand returned with an article on the West India Packet Service and rates in 1768.

Are YOU utilizing our BCPSG Library?

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

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

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

The little society with the long name



St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society

Are you interested in the stamps or postal history of Tristan da Cunha, Ascension or St. Helena? If so, you are very welcome to join our society. Membership benefits include a quarterly illustrated journal, annual auctions, special interest discussion groups, etc.

A sample journal is available on our website, **www.shatps.org**, or a printed copy may be requested from Secretary Klaus Hahn, P.O. Box 14, D-71145 Bondorf/Germany, Email: **secretary@shatps.org**

annual membership dues: North America \$27, international \$32, paperless \$15

Have a change of address or need other help?

If any member has information such as a change of address to be included in the Membership Director's Report, please contact Bob Stewart, either by mail
(see inside front cover of the *Journal*)
or by email at bcpsg@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*.

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!

STEVEN ZIRINSKY

MEMBER PTS, APS, NZSDA, APTA

Stamps - Revenues - Postal History - Commercial Mail

Local Mail

Recent commercial mail, with local usages, including meters, governmental stampless, inter-island, and instructional markings from many of the Caribbean countries.

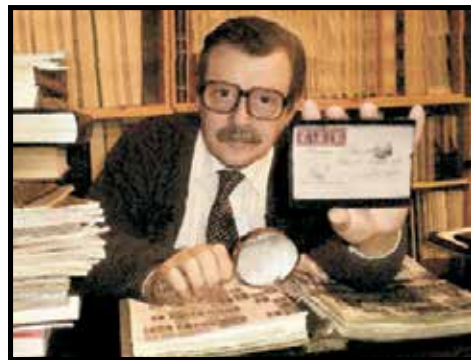


PO BOX 230049, Ansonia Station
New York, NY 10023 USA
szirinsky@cs.com (t):718-706-0616

www.zirinskystamps.com

@ZirinskyStamps

EXPERTIZATION WORLD CLASSICS



You can expect:

Detailed and Accurate

High Quality Certificates

*Fast Service * Reliable * Affordable*

Liane & Sergio Sismondo

P.O. BOX 10035
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13290-3301

U.S.A.
TEL. (315) 422-2331 * FAX (315) 422-2956
SISMONDO@DREAMSCAPE.COM

Membership Director's Report

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

Douglas Doyen, P.O. Box 432, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920 USA; email: doyensales@aol.com. Collects British Commonwealth, Member APS & RPSL.

James Durham, 3246 Castledale, San Antonio, TX 78230 USA; email: jsdurham4@gmail.com. He collects Jamaica and is looking to reach out to other members who also collect Jamaica.

R. Blake Hull, 98 Longwood Drive, Waterloo, Ontario, N2L4B7 CANADA; email: blakehull@rogers.co. Member of KWPS.

Roger Edghill, 26 Hayes Pierre Circle, Beaucarro Rd., Freeport, TRINIDAD, West Indies; email: redhill2014@gmail.com.

Terry Harrison, 7 Braemar Road, Lillington, Leamington Spa CV32 7EZ UNITED KINGDOM; email: editor@bwisc.org. He is editor of the BWISC *Bulletin*. Free Electronic Membership.

Constanze Dennis, Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, 2nd and 3rd Floors, 399-401 Strand, London WC2R OLT UNITED KINGDOM; email: cdennis@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk.

Address Change

Mr. Willard Allman, P.O. Box 626, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417-0626 USA.

Resigned

Dr. Douglas Files

New Email

Bob Stewart: bcpsg@comcast.net

Donations

And Thank You!

Keith Moh, James Watson, Terrance Gamble, John Puzine, Bruce Aitken, Steven Berlin, Colin Fort, Charles Grassman, Boyd Mudra, Paul Dondor, David Pitts, O. Allen Davis, Karl Groeber, Patricia Hoppe, Alan Wheeler.

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. 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.



President's Message

By John Seidl

Welcome to Spring where motivation for stamps changes from snow to pollen. Our group is strong with a very high renewal rate. We're already looking forward to our meeting and auction in November at Chicagopex. I hope to meet many of you there. If you'd like to help with the planning and execution of this event please just let me know.

Our biggest challenge as a group is creating more content for our journal. We all have so many time conflicts in our lives it's difficult to find time to dedicate to philatelic research. That said, we really need your help with articles for the *Journal*. We can work with you on finding content and finalizing articles but PLEASE consider contributing to our efforts. We'll take a short write up on a cover all the way to a multi-issue deep research effort around a topic of your choice.

Have you visited the BCPSG website lately? You can access and search past issues of the journal, learn about our meetings, awards and other activities of the group. It is also a recruiting tool for us. Print out a few copies of the application and bring them to your next local stamp club meeting. I'd also encourage you to visit the web site for the BWISC – also a great resource for a area of collecting. We need your items for our auction later this year. Items from \$10 to \$500 do well and attract bids. I still have that job also – just mail the items to me directly. A few final ways you can support the BCPSG is to support our journal advertisers. When you shop with them be sure to mention you saw their advertisement in our journal. The money they pay to advertise with us is our primary source of income after membership dues. We also greatly appreciate financial contributions from our members and you can donate your stamps that we will sell in support of the group. Thanks for your support and I'll see you in Chicago!



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.

BRITISH EMPIRE EXCLUSIVELY



REQUEST A CATALOGUE FOR OUR NEXT PUBLIC AUCTION.
PLEASE SPECIFY YOUR INTERESTS.

WANT LISTS INVITED FOR PRE-1935 MATERIAL.
REFERENCES PLEASE.

WE ARE BUYERS OF BETTER BRITISH COMMONWEALTH STAMPS,
POSTAL HISTORY AND SPECIALIST ITEMS.

Victoria Stamp Company



PHOEBE A. MACGILLIVARY

P.O. BOX 745, RIDGEWOOD, NJ 07451, USA

PHONE (201) 652-7283 FAX (201) 612-0024

Email: VictoriaStampCo@aol.com Website: VictoriaStampCo.com



BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS



ANTIGUA



'ANTIGUA - THE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY' by Charles Freeland, FRPSL and John Jordan. Coming so early in the alphabet Antigua has always been one of the most popular of the small Caribbean islands. It has an interesting mix of early stamps printed by Perkins Bacon and De La Rue including a number of rarities. On the postal history front Antigua is especially well endowed, with the Codrington and Tudway estate correspondences. There is also a rich variety of early postal markings, including some unique marks. The original inspiration for this book was the Antigua Monograph published in successive issues of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal over a 15 year period between 1973 and 1988. This book collates all this information, updates it and presents it in a most readable form.

A4 size, hardbacked with dust jacket, (x) + 299 pages. ISBN: 978-1-907481-25-3

Price: £37.00 (approx. \$52.00). BWISC Members' Price: £33.00 (approx. \$46.00).



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.

The British Commonwealth of Nations



We are active buyers and sellers of stamps and postal history of all areas of pre-1960 British Commonwealth, including individual items, collections or estates.

Want lists from all reigns are accepted with references

We are active buyers ...



L.W. Martin Jr.

CROWN COLONY STAMPS

P.O. Box 1198 • Bellaire, Texas 77402
Phone: 713-781-6563 • Fax: 713-789-9998
E-mail: lwm@crowncolony.com



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. 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.

Jamaica

in London



Our **April 26th British Empire & Foreign Countries auction** will present the remarkable **Donald Napier Collection of Jamaica Postal History**. Grosvenor holds regular specialised public auctions of stamps and postal history in central London, the heart of the international philatelic market, achieving consistently high results. Interesting West Indies material features regularly. Each auction is available to view, with additional illustrations, on our website, www.grosvenorauctions.com, and complimentary copies of the catalogue for this landmark sale will be available on request.

If you are considering the sale of the whole or part of your collection you will find our commission rates to be competitive and negotiable for valuable properties. Our charges are fully inclusive with no hidden 'extras' or unsold lot charges. Payments to vendors are prompt and reliable. We will work with you to ensure that presentation and results reach the highest possible expectations. Contact **Andrew Williams** or **Tom Margalski** at the address below for further advice and information.

GROSVENOR

399-401 Strand 2nd & 3rd Floors London WC2R 0LT United Kingdom

T: +44 (0)20 7379 8789 F: +44 (0)20 7379 9737 E: info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk

www.grosvenorauctions.com

The British Empire

A-Z 1840-1935 Mint and Used

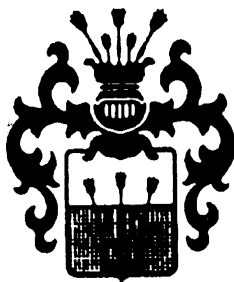
The Largest and Most Valuable Stock in America



WANT LISTS

For decades we have had the great pleasure of working closely with our clients in the formation of many fine private and international exhibition standard collections. I will be pleased to place our expertise at your disposal.

- 30 Volumes in all price ranges, individually stocked!
- You may acquire exactly those items that you need!
- Receive on approval (references please) or per quotation!
 - Scott or Stanley Gibbons numbers!
 - Prompt, expert service!



George W. Holschauer

COLONIAL STAMP CO.

5757 WILSHIRE BLVD., PH#8

LOS ANGELES, CA 90036

Ph: (323) 933-9435

Fax (323) 939-9930

eMail: gwh225@aol.com

Visit our Web Site: www.colonialstamps.com



CCNY, CSDA, IFSDA,
INTERNATIONAL
SOCIETY APPRAISERS

