

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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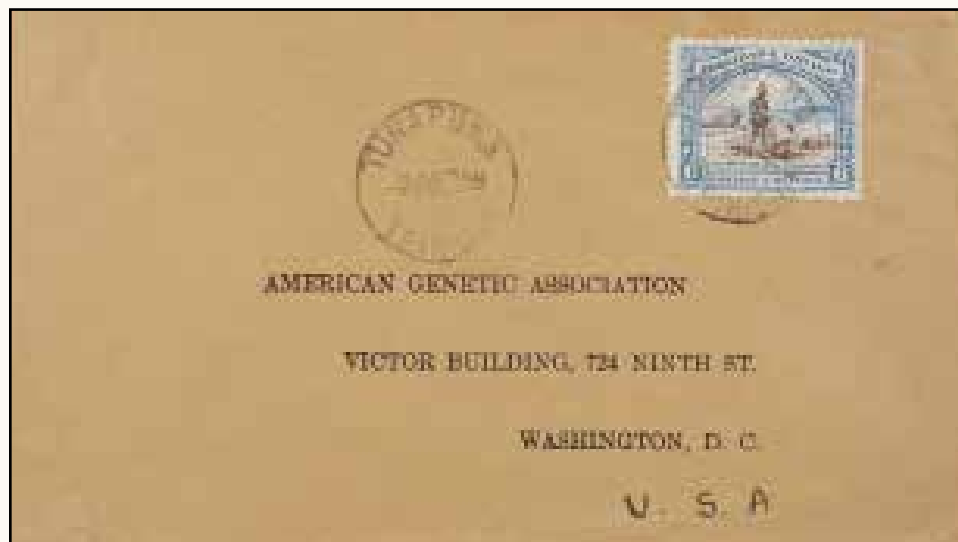
July - September 2017

Whole No. 264

Sir Walter Raleigh and the Discovery of Lake Asphalt stamp design



*The same design was used in 1935 (left) and 1938 (right). What's the story?
John Wynns explains it all beginning on page 16.*





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CONTENTS

FEATURES

The Venezuelan Crisis of 1902-03 seen through the window of Trinidad postal history, <i>by Edward Barrow</i>	4-9
Barbados Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers: Analysis of Supply and Demand, <i>by Dr. John K. Courtis, FRPSL</i>	10-15
Trinidad & Tobago: Sir Walter Raleigh and the Discovery of Lake Asphalt Stamp Design, <i>by John Wynns</i>	16-18
The M/V <i>Kirkland</i> in the Turks & Caicos Islands, <i>by David Horry, FRPSL</i>	19-20
A study of Guyana postmarks, <i>by Steven Zirinsky</i>	20-22
New Anguilla and Antigua Registration Labels, <i>by Steven Zirinsky</i>	23
Help needed to identify Jamaica flaw, <i>by Peter Ford</i>	25
Information needed on Hectors River Docket, <i>by David Horry, FRPSL</i>	26

COLUMNS AND REPORTS

Officers and Trustees, Study Group Leaders & Others	2
WSS-NY 2016 Frames Available For Sale	23
Charles Freeland: a true philatelist, <i>A tribute by Peter Ford</i>	24
Letters	26
BCPSG Exhibits and Awards, <i>by Paul Larsen</i>	27
Membership Director's Report, <i>by Bob Stewart</i>	28
President's Message, <i>by John Seidl</i>	29
Our faithful advertisers	23, 25-28; 30-32

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The Venezuelan Crisis of 1902-03 seen through the window of Trinidad postal history

By Edward Barrow

If you saw a newspaper article with a headline like that shown at the bottom of the page, you might think it was taken from a recent paper. The facts could be current and the tone of the politics about right. But you would be more than a hundred years off as the article would be describing what became known as the Venezuela Crisis of 1902–1903.

while its rival, Germany did, reluctantly joined the military alliance along with Italy.

The third player anxiously observing the unfolding events was an assertive U.S., led by President Theodore Roosevelt. He was suspicious of German intentions and keen to enforce the principals of the Monroe Doctrine. The U.S. was not against European military intervention



Figure 1

1901 envelope from Mexico to a German sailor on the SMS Vineta, sent care of the German Consulate in Port of Spain. (The two yellow stamps in the bottom right corner appear to be replacements for removed stamps).

On one side of this crisis was an unlikely chimera-like alliance of Britain, Germany and Italy. On the other was a bankrupt Venezuela in the midst of a simmering civil war and ruled by a military dictator, Cipriano Castro. It had defaulted on its international debt and Germany, being the largest creditor, was most willing to use force. The British Government, not wanting to sit back and be accused that it was not standing up for British interests

but it did not want Germany to use the dispute as a ruse to establish a permanent military base in South America.

President Roosevelt's sentiments were clear: "If any South American country misbehaves toward any European country, let the European country spank it."¹ But he also thought it prudent to have U.S. warships on hand, including a battleship squadron in Trinidad's waters under the

**VENEZUELA BANKRUPT - ECONOMY RUINED BY MILITARY DICTATOR.
EUROPEANS AND U.S. AT ODDS ABOUT HOW TO DEAL WITH CRISIS.
CASTRO ENRAGED AT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE
LARGE U.S. NAVAL FLEET ON HAND READY FOR ACTION**



Figure 2
Trinidad card sent with an Italian stamp cancelled by a "Rn. Nave Dogali" handstamp (1901). The Dogali was a cruiser in the Royal Italian Navy.

command of Admiral George Dewey, if the U.S. needed to intervene. These were not irrational fears; earlier in 1900 it was believed that the Germans had sent the cruiser SMS *Vineta* to Margarita Island, off the coast of Venezuela, to assess its suitability as a German naval base.² And while scholars disagree, there is evidence that the U.S. and Germany came very close to war during this crisis.³

This was the era of "Gunboat Diplomacy" where major powers used displays of overwhelming naval power to bend the wills of smaller nations. This often evolved shelling coastal towns, enforcing naval blockades and seizing ports and enemy ships; all these tactics were used in this

crisis. First the European Powers gave a final ultimatum demanding payment of outstanding debt.

When this expired a naval blockade of Venezuela was established in December 1902. The following month saw the capture of the Venezuelan Navy and the shelling of Puerto Cabello and Fort San Carlos. By January 1903 the effects of the blockade had forced Castro to accept arbitration. This process would play out in the coming months and resulted in an agreement which reduced Venezuela's debts but also forced it to use 30 percent of its custom duties from two major ports to settle its debts. With that, the unnatural European alliance fell apart and widespread war was averted.



Figure 3
Postcard showing the Italian RN Etruria and the USS Dubuque coaling at Curacao. The RN Etruria was a frequent visitor to Port of Spain during this period.

Trinidad & Venezuela Close Neighbors

At the closest point Trinidad lies less than 10 miles from Venezuela and can be easily seen on a clear day. Being so close and a stable part of the British Empire meant that it often has often a haven for Venezuelans escaping political chaos or a viable alternative for businesses looking for a safe port from which to do business. The fact that in the 1800s not an insignificant portion of Venezuela's mail passed through the hands of Trinidadian Forwarding Agents, and that for a number of years the British operated a post office in Ciudad Bolivar which used Trinidad stamps, both point to this interdependence.

Trinidad also hosted Venezuelan independence heroes Francisco de Miranda and Simon Bolivar during their

Figure 4
Self-addressed card to a sailor on the Italian RN Calabria in Port of Spain, 1902.



Figure 5
Self-addressed card to a sailor on the RN Giovanni Bausan in Port of Spain, 1902.

struggles to overthrow the Spanish Colonial Government. In a similar vein, Castro believed arms for Venezuelan rebels were coming through Trinidadian waters, and in June 1902 he seized a British merchant ship, the *Queen*. For the British, this was a tipping point in the conflict.

So how does this tie into Trinidad & Tobago postal his-

tory? Well, warships of this era ran on coal and Trinidad was conveniently placed and well stocked for resupplying the warships involved in the blockade. Since Germany and Italy did not have large empires, a stop in Trinidad must have been especially exotic for their sailors. This is witnessed by the many postcards they sent home or kept as souvenirs -- much more so than their British counter-



Figure 6
Stationery from the RN Calabria sent from Trinidad to Venice, Italy (1902).

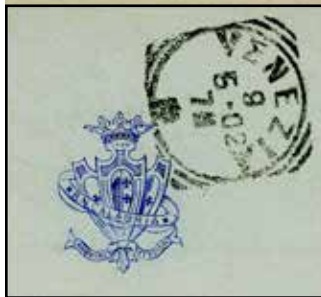
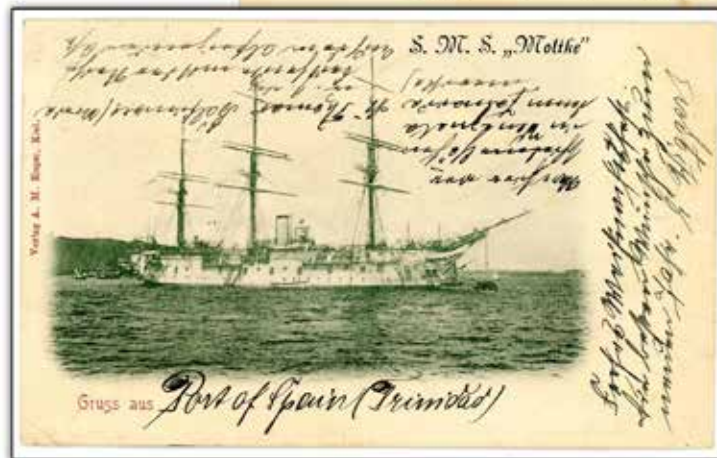


Figure 7
Brazilian postal stationery sent to a sailor on the cadet ship Grossherzogin Elisabeth, "c/o the German Consulate, Port of Spain." It must have missed the ship at Trinidad as it was readdressed to St. Thomas.



Figure 8
Postcard showing the SMS Moltke, sent from Port of Spain with a German stamp cancelled with Marine Schiffspost No. 12 cancel (1901).



parts. An American fleet of six to eight ships is recorded in the Trinidad newspapers as entering the Gulf of Paria on November 23, 1902 and proceeding to the coast off La Brea, in the south of Trinidad (probably Dewey's battle-ship squadron). But there is no evidence that sailors went ashore; perhaps because they were on alert for action.

Some of the warships involved in the crisis

The Venezuelan Crisis took place in the tense period that led up to World War I. It was a time of declining hege-

monic powers and assertive contenders, shifting alliances, and unpredictability in international affairs; not unlike now. In a large part the crisis served as an impetus for the Roosevelt corollary to the Monroe Doctrine.

This asserted the right of the United States to unilateral military intervention in the Western Hemisphere in "flagrant cases of such wrongdoing or impotence." The logic being that swift U.S. action would preempt any pretext for European involvement in its sphere of influence. This

Figure 9
An early Trinidad Court Card sent from a sailor on the SMS Panther with a German stamp cancelled with Marine Shiffspost No 47 cancel from 1902. This ship was involved in the shelling of Fort San Carlos.

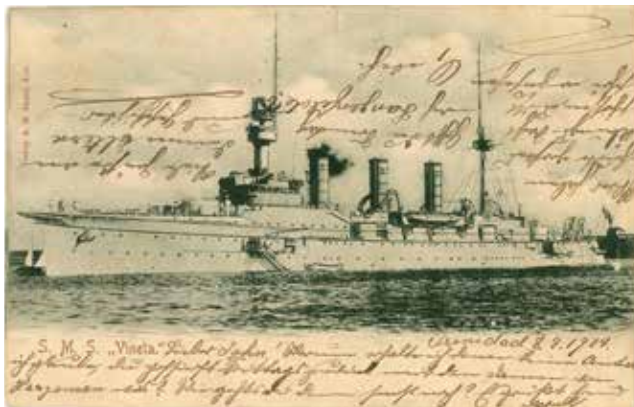
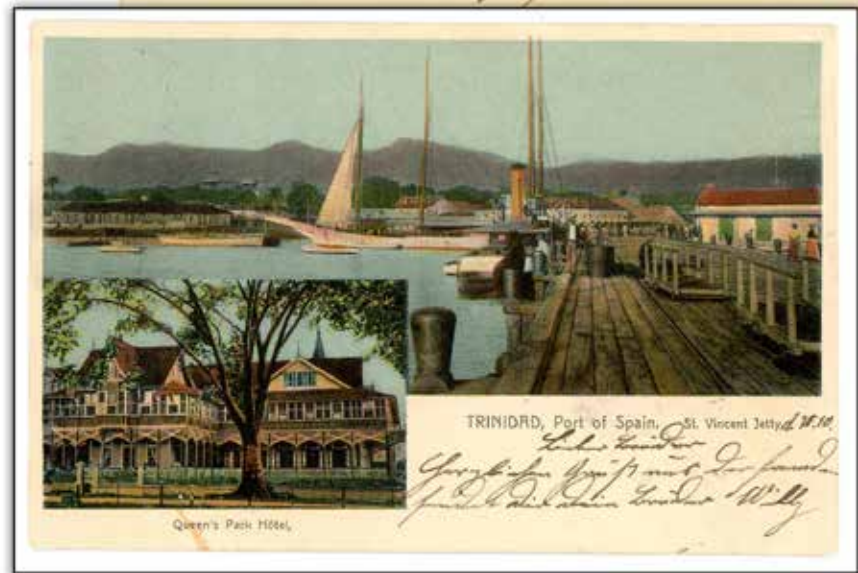


Figure 10
Postcard showing the SMS Vineta, sent from Port of Spain in 1904 to Hamburg, Germany.

marked a new regional policeman role for the U.S. and a new chapter in U.S. - Latin America relations. The new paternal role was portrayed by the U.S. as benevolent, but you could argue it was merely a veiled form of imperialism replacing the more blatant European type.

Footnotes

¹ Edward S. Kaplan, *U.S. Imperialism in Latin America: Bryan's Challenges and Contributions, 1900-1920*. (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Publishing Group [Praeger Publishers], 1998).

² There were also the recent German actions in China where a weak China had been pressured to grant territory to the Germans.

³ Seaward Livermore, "Theodore Roosevelt, The American Navy, and the Venezuelan Crisis of 1902-1903." *American Historical Review*, Vol. 51, No. 3, April 1946, pp. 452-471.

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"Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine, 1904," history.state.gov/milestones/1899-1913/roosevelt-and-monroe-doctrine.



Figure 11

Postcard of Brunswick Square, Port of Spain. The sender, a sailor on the SMS Moltke, addressed the card to someone in Brunswick, Germany, the place which gave the square its name. An 1898 2d Land-ling of Columbus stamp was used to pay the postage. Interestingly, during World War I the name of the square was changed to "Woodford Sq." This was part of a broader campaign to remove evidence of German influence in the British Empire.

<u>British Ships</u>	<u>German Ships</u>	<u>Italian Ships</u>	<u>U.S. Ships (in Trinidad waters)</u>
HMS <i>Tribune</i>	SMS <i>Panther</i>	RN <i>Calabria</i>	USS <i>Kearsarge</i>
HMS <i>Indefatigable</i>	SMS <i>Falke</i>	RN <i>Dogali</i>	USS <i>Alabama</i>
HMS <i>Fantome</i>	SMS <i>Vineta</i>	RN <i>Giovanni Bausan</i>	USS <i>Massachusetts</i>
HMS <i>Charybdis</i>	SMS <i>Gazelle</i>	RN <i>Carlo Alberto</i>	USS <i>Iowa</i>
HMS <i>Alert</i>		RN <i>Elba</i>	USS <i>Scorpion</i>
HMS <i>Columbine</i>			
HMS <i>Retribution</i>			
HMS <i>Quail</i>			
HMS <i>Rocket</i>			

Barbados Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers: Analysis of Supply and Demand

By Dr. John K. Courtis, FRPSL

Despite being classified as an Atlantic island, Barbados is considered to be part of the Caribbean. It is located east of the other West Indies islands and is the easternmost island in the Lesser Antilles. Its capital is Bridgetown. The island became an English colony in 1625 and two years later was a proprietary colony of Anglo-Dutchman Sir William Courten. Shortly afterwards, Barbados became a Crown colony and was divided into six parishes forming the framework for local government controlled basically by elected landowners.

In 1845 the number of parishes was increased to 11. As early as 1782 the sugar-producing planter class become dominant. They intermarried with British aristocracy and bought seats in Parliament. English settlers cultivated tobacco, cotton, ginger, indigo and sugar cane with the help of English, Irish and Scottish indentured servants and African slaves. Barbados eventually had one of the world's biggest sugar industries. In 1966 Barbados became independent from the United Kingdom.

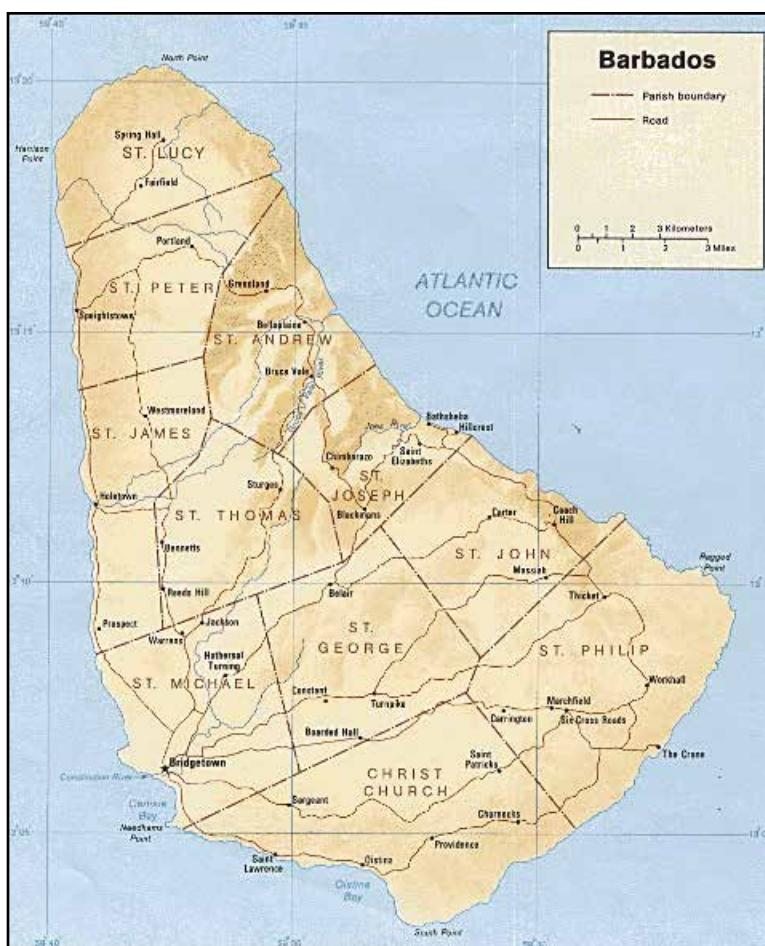
Post Office Issues

After the issue of postcards a year earlier, the first issue of wrappers of Barbados took place on October 2, 1882, being a ½d red-brown diademed profile of Queen Victoria (E1 using the Higgins & Gage "E" catalogue numbers). A total of 297,710 wrappers were printed by De La Rue & Co. in seven printings in the paper size 127x305mm.

In the same year, the 1d carmine (E2) was issued with a quantity of 102,710 of which 70,000 were overprinted ½d violet (E3) in 1893 due to a shortage of the ½d wrappers. These indicia are shown with thanks to Jan Kosniowski for kindly granting permission for them to be copied from his catalogue *Wrappers of the Whole World* (forthcoming 2017). Jan's catalogue documents the existence of a double print variety of E3.

In 1902 there was a design change to the Barbados Coat of Arms, this also being printed by De La Rue. There

were 179,010 wrappers produced in nine printings. There was a ½d brown (E4) as well as a "Specimen" overprint. On May 16, 1916, a ½d green King George V sideface in oval and coat of arms (E5) replaced the 1902 issue with a total of 344,980 wrappers in 13 printings. Of these, 376 were overprinted "Specimen" for UPU distribution to member countries and 157 wrappers were destroyed.



Map of Barbados showing parishes and main roads.

This design lasted for 22 years when on January 3, 1938 a new design was issued showing the Coat of Arms – a ½d green (E6) with 74,134 in seven printings. To meet an increase in postal rates, on March 12, 1943 a new 1¢ green (E6a) was printed, a total of 103,917 in 11 printings. The Higgins & Gage catalogue listings appears to be incomplete at this point and the 1d green is attributed E6a for convenience of exposition.

The format of the indicium changed to horizontal in October 1950 with the issue of the head of King George VI and a view of a sugar cane plantation being a 2¢ green (E7). The quantity printed was 60,000 but this issue was short-lived and is an elusive wrapper.



A change in monarch saw the appearance of Queen Elizabeth II and the same view of the sugar cane plantation and in the same denomination and color, 2¢ green (E8).

On September 24, 1965, a more stylized design appeared with the head of QEII facing left and a ribbon



bearing “BARBADOS” and the denomination above the ends of the unfurled ribbon. This issue marked a change in the printer from De La Rue to McCorquodale in London who had been awarded the contract. A 2¢ dark green (E9) with a total of 168,000 from four printings was overtaken eight years later in 1973 with an increase in the newspaper rate to 3¢ and the same QEII design (E10). A further increase in the newspaper rate in 1977 resulted in a 5¢ QEII dark green (E11) and sometime in the 1980s (exact date unspecified), an 8¢ dark green (E12).



The last two post office values appeared with a different design – a stylized flower on dark kraft paper – 8¢ black (E13). These wrappers were withdrawn within a few months because of complaints that the design was



difficult to see. The response was to issue the same design on July 24, 1987 on creamy paper and light greyish paper. Then in 1990 the same design was printed in 15¢ black on white paper (E14).

Supply on eBay

The author’s database of images of used post office postal stationery wrappers of the world is approximately 50,000. These images have been hand-collected daily from the Internet site eBay since September 2003. While eBay is not the only

source of used wrappers, the database is a credible proxy of what has been offered for sale on the international



market over this 14 year window of data-gathering. A total of 250 wrappers of Barbados are included in the database and it is this sub-population that is analyzed here. This is an eBay-based study. Table 1 is a summary of the frequency of appearance of each post office type.

The first issue, being the 1882 1/2d red-brown QV, is dominant accounting for nearly 50 percent of the total extant wrappers. However, based on the extant quantities in the database, the survival rate of Barbados wrap-

pers is 1 per 2,500 printed, or 0.004 percent. The next most prevalent quantity is E3, being E2 overprinted with the violet ½d. This issue accounts for 50 wrappers or 20 percent of the total. The remaining one-third of wrappers are spread across the other 16 “E” numbers, although eight or half of these post office types have quantities of no more than three with no copies of three types.

Postal historians seeking examples of different destinations were better served with 29 different countries identified on the addresses. There were 150 wrappers or 60 percent of the sample addressed to locations outside of Barbados. The dominant country was USA with 37 examples, followed by Canada with 19 wrappers. The other 63 percent of different destinations were spread

Table 1: Listing Frequencies of Barbados Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers on eBay: 14 years

H&G “E”	Post Office Issues	Total	Uprated	Within Barbados	Other Destinations
1	1882 ½d red-brown QV	119	9	48	71
2	1882 1d carmine QV	11	0	1	10
3	1893 ½d on 1d carmine QV	50	0	22	28
4	1902 ½d brown Coat of Arms	22	1	19	3
5	1916 ½d green KGV & Arms	11	0	3	8
6	1938 ½d green Coat of Arms	2	0	0	2
6a	1943 1d green Coat of Arms	6	3	3	3
7	1950 2c green KGVI sugar cane	0	0	0	0
8	1954 2c green QEII sugar cane	9	9	0	9
9	1965 2c dark green QEII	10	4	2	8
10	1973 3c dark green QEII	3	2	0	3
11	1977 5c dark green QEII	3	2	0	3
12	198? 8c dark green QEII	2	0	1	1
13	1987 8c black flower dark kraft	2	1	1	1
14	1987 15c black flower creamy paper	0	0	0	0
14a	1990 15c black flower white paper	0	0	0	0
	Total	250	31	100	150

The 1950 2¢ green KGVI and sugar cane plantation is an especially elusive wrapper with no appearance in used condition during the 14 years (a single instance of a mint copy was recorded). That there are no extant quantities recorded is odd as 60,000 were issued. Part of the explanation is that while the E3 overprinted wrapper was not replaced for nine years, the E7 issue was replaced in less than four.

The “golden age” of newspaper usage occurred in the last decade of the 20th century. By 1950 the use of wrappers (worldwide) had declined markedly. This reduction in demand for wrappers is reflected by the low frequencies for the last six post office issues mirroring the findings of a number of other country-specific studies which have also found the appearance of later issues elusive.

For collectors seeking uprated copies, the position is a challenge. Only 31 copies overall were uprated with no uprating shown for eight types, a single uprating for two types. Except for E1, upratings are uncommon.

as follows: Germany (19 examples), U.K. (15), Trinidad (10), Holland (9), Brazil and Guadeloupe (4 each), Belgium, Denmark and Puerto Rico (3 each), Austria, Dominica, Hungary, Martinique, Montserrat and Norway (2 each) and single instances to 12 countries: Antigua, Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Haiti, Israel, Montenegro, New Zealand, Surinam, Switzerland, Venezuela and West Africa (Accra). The interested collector can decide which of these constitutes an exotic destination.

Postal History Interest

There are a number of auxiliary markings on the wrappers of Barbados, namely, “TOO LATE” (six examples), “LATE FEE” (one example), “MISSENT TO GRENADA” (one example) and a postage due “T” in circle (one example). There were six examples of private printing added to E1 wrappers for the user “F. A. CLAIRMONTE.” These different auxiliary and private printing markings are shown in *Figure 1*. Not shown is one case of a wrapper addressed to Holland with a black single-line handstamp “BESTELLEN” on a copy

of E3. Also not shown is a copy of E4 with an oval merchant handstamp "LEACOCK & CO. SHIPPING & COMMISSION AGENTS BARBADOS" and an earlier E1 copy with the same merchant but different wording: "COMMISSION MERCHANTS & SHIP BROKERS." Another interesting handstamp is a black boxed "SURINAME VIA PLYMOUTH" on an E1 wrapper. This handstamp was crossed out in blue crayon together with the Surinam address and Amsterdam added.

From a previous study (Courtis 2012) only one example of a "LATE FEE" marking has been identified on the wrappers in the overall database. This "LATE FEE" wrapper is to a London address, and the straight-line sans-serif handstamp cancellation is tied to the 1d adhesive that was added to pay the fee. The "TOO LATE" example, on the other hand, can be found on six examples all bearing addresses within Barbados. None of these "TOO LATE" examples involved the missing of the deadline for shipping.

The "MISSENT TO GRENADA" handstamp on the E4 wrapper is the only recorded case of the use of this hand-

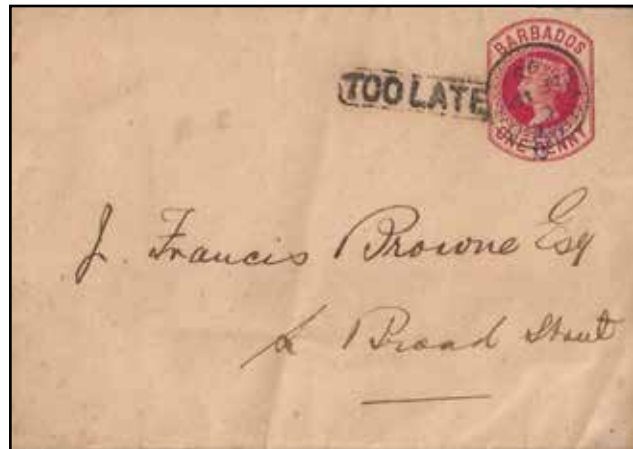
stamp on a wrapper and it sold for the highest sum of any eBay sale of Barbados at US\$155.50 with six bidders. Similarly, the postage due markings on the E5 example are the only recorded case of these markings on a late usage Barbados wrapper. There are two black handstamp "T" markings, a seriffed "T" within a circle and a different style of "T" within a heart. The postage due of ½d is paid with a bisect of the 1934 1d postage due adhesive (ScJ2) and tied with a double-ring "G.P.O. 9 AM 2 NO 34 BARBADOS." The indicium is cancelled with a double-ring "CHRISTCHURCH 2 NO 34 BARBADOS." (By chance the author identified a similar wrapper with due markings and a bisect postage due adhesive tied and addressed identically and listed on a dealer's auction web site for £1,650.)

Only one user of wrappers has been identified with private printing added to the post office stock. This printing was added after the user, F. A. CLAIRMONTE, bought the wrappers from the post office. This user had their name added to other envelopes as well. When Mr. Clairmonte died in 1893, the business was changed to Clairmonte Man & Co. and this appears on a wrapper

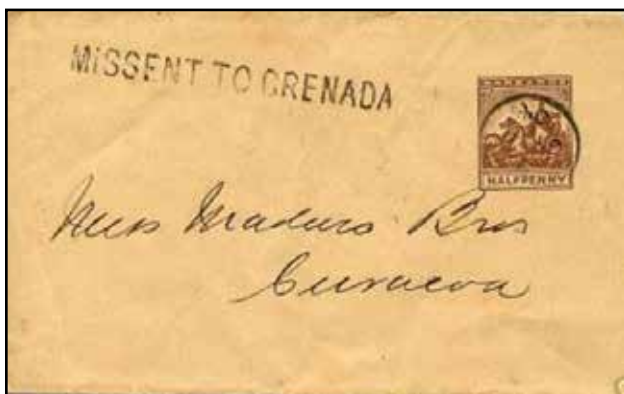
Figure 1: Used wrappers of Barbados with special postal history interest.



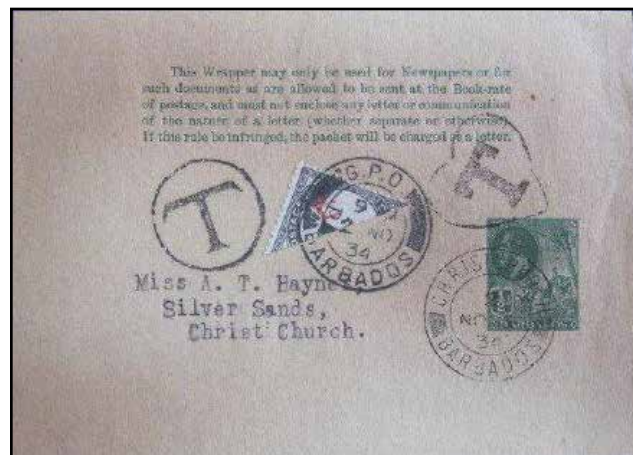
Sole example of "LATE FEE"



One of six examples of "TOO LATE"



Sole example of "MISSENT TO GRENADA"



Sole example of Postage Due "T" markings

not listed on eBay. This firm was commission merchants in Bridgetown and the agents of the Quebec Steamship Company. They exported cotton and imported spruce and pine lumber and cedar shingles.

The last wrapper illustrated is one of two examples of the penultimate wrapper issued, namely the 1987 8¢ flower on kraft paper showing a local address.

average bidder score was 1.94, implying the collector base is small. When compared against the overall average bidder score of 83 other country-specific studies, Barbados is positioned as 66th in the ranked array from highest to lowest. Interest in the “Specimen” overprints is marginally stronger with a score of 2.00 versus 1.94.

While average figures are a measure of central tendency they do not reveal the full story. For those collectors



Private printing added to post office stock

One of two examples of 8¢ 1987 flower

Demand on eBay

There are almost 20,000 sales transactions in a database hand-collected by the author daily since March 2006. Of these, 98 are sales of Barbados wrappers plus another seven sales of “Specimen” overprints. With six exceptions, the sales of Barbados wrappers were for amounts of less than \$20.

For those wrappers above \$20, one was for \$155.50 for the sale of E4 with the “Missent to Grenada” handstamp. Two E1 wrappers sold for \$54.50, each bearing the handstamp “Too Late” as did the wrapper that sold for \$38.00. Normally sales and listing are not matched but annotations made by the author against some sales figures allowed the matching of four of the six wrappers that sold for more than \$20.

The difference between the number of bidders and the number of bids has been discussed in previous articles about the wrappers of Caribbean nations. Also, the score of 2.5 bidders has been presented as a means of differentiating strength of bidder interest, the argument being that the higher the score the more involved are bidders in the process of acquiring copies from the eBay source.

While an imperfect proxy it nevertheless provides insight into collector market for this area of postal stationery. Only two of the 13 post office “E” types had scores above 2.5 but both were of one sale each. The overall

interested in the actual profile of bidder behavior there were three transactions with six bidders, two transactions with five bidders, four with four bidders, 14 with three, 30 with two and 45 sole bidder transactions (46%).

Conclusion

The 16 types of post office postal stationery wrappers of Barbados were issued over a period of 108 years from 1882 to 1990. While the first five issues account for 85% of extant examples in the database, the number of wrappers between 1938 and 1990 was 37 across 11 types.

Later issues are elusive and yet there is little evidence of bidder interest or high realizations for these wrappers when they do appear. This observation is mirrored with wrappers of other countries, especially Australia where latter decimal wrappers are scarce. The overall average sales figure for all wrappers was \$8.91. The “Specimen” overprints, however, revealed a willingness by bidders to pay a premium of more than double the realizations of the post office issues.

Scattered within the sub-population of Barbados wrappers are examples of auxiliary markings, explaining reasons for late delivery – too late, late fee, missent. Postage due, merchant marks, address changes and private overprinting were other examples. An analysis revealed 29 countries were destination addresses of which Accra in West Africa appears to stand out as an exotic location.

Table 2: eBay Sales of Wrappers of Barbados: March 2006 – December 2016

H&G	Sales Details (Ranked Low to High in USD) & Number of Bidders per Sale	# of Sales	Mean Sale Price	Mean # of Bidders
1	0.54 (1), 1.00 (1), 1.25 (2), 1.30 (1), 1.55 (1), 1.60 (1), 1.99 (1), 1.99 (1), 1.99 (1), 2.01 (2), 2.36 (2), 2.36 (3), 2.58 (1), 2.85 (3), 2.99 (1), 3.00 (1), 3.00 (1), 3.22 (2), 4.77 (1), 3.90 (3), 4.00 (1), 4.99 (1), 6.28 (2), 6.75 (2), 8.50 (6), 9.99 (1), 10.49 (2), 11.50 (2), 12.99 (1), 13.30 (6), 18.50 (2), 19.99 (1), 38.00 (3), 54.50 (3), 54.50 (3)	35	9.13	1.88
2	2.46 (3), 5.00 (1), 5.51 (2), 6.00 (1), 11.00 (2)	5	5.99	1.80
3	0.99 (1), 1.00 (1), 1.01 (1), 1.30 (1), 1.25 (2), 1.53 (1), 1.81 (2), 2.00 (1), 2.36 (3), 3.06 (5), 3.71 (3), 4.20 (3), 7.16 (2), 8.50 (2), 9.10 (2), 9.99 (1), 9.99 (1), 12.00 (1), 12.50 (2), 17.16 (2), 39.95 (1)	21	7.17	1.81
4	1.64 (2), 1.99 (1), 1.99 (1), 2.95 (3), 2.99 (1), 4.25 (2), 4.99 (1), 5.50 (2), 6.55 (2), 12.50 (4), 24.50 (1), 155.50 (6)	12	18.78	2.16
5	2.21 (2), 4.69 (2), 7.00 (2)	3	4.63	2.00
6	13.15 (4)	1	13.50	4.00
6a	9.28 (4), 9.99 (1)	2	9.63	2.50
7	No sales recorded	0		
8	0.99 (1), 2.37 (1), 2.99 (1), 2.99 (1), 2.99 (1), 2.99 (1), 3.75 (2), 6.00 (2)	8	3.13	1.25
9	4.99 (1), 5.00 (2), 5.95 (2), 6.50 (2), 11.50 (3)	5	6.78	2.00
10	9.50 (5)	1	9.50	5.00
11	11.03 (3)	1	11.03	3.00
12	3.99 (1), 4.80 (2), 8.00 (4)	3	5.60	2.33
13	4.99 (1)	1	4.99	1.00
14	No sales recorded	0		
	Total Sales of Post Office Issues	98	8.91	1.94
Specimen Overprint Sales				
4	6.25 (2), 9.95 (1)	2	8.10	1.50
5	6.00 (2), 14.99 (1), 17.50 (1)	3	12.83	1.33
6	34.00 (3), 41.00 (4)	2	37.50	3.50
	Total Sales of Specimen Overprints	7	18.52	2.00

One seeming anomaly is the absence of named ships on the wrappers, presumably because all mail was sent on the first available mail contract steamship.

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Higgins & Gage. *Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World*, Pasadena, California: Higgins & Gage, 1964.

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Acknowledgment

Allan Gory read and commented on the first draft and I thank him sincerely for his time and suggestions to improve the paper.

Nuggets from the past ...

In the September 1985 *Journal*, Robert W. Swarbrick wrote about modern "Unclaimed" handstamps of Jamaica, and Dr. Russell V. Skavaril discussed a small cachet used to promote the 1961 meeting in Bermuda between U.S. President John F. Kennedy and British Prime Minister Harold MacMillan. He said he searched for 13 years before finding a cover with the 35 x 50mm cachet.

Trinidad & Tobago: Sir Walter Raleigh and the Discovery of Lake Asphalt stamp design

By John Wynns

At the start of 1935 Trinidad and Tobago introduced a new currency, the West Indian dollar (100 cents = \$1). A new set of definitive stamps was released on February 1, 1935, printed by Bradbury & Wilkinson of London.



Figure 1

The six-cent stamp issued by Trinidad & Tobago in 1935 recognizing the discovery of Lake Asphalt.

The six-cent value pictures Sir Walter Raleigh and the discovery of Lake Asphalt in 1595. This six-cent stamp (Figure 1, Stanley Gibbons #233) was issued in sepia and blue. It was engraved and perforated 12 in sheets of 60. There are no plate numbers, only the Bradbury & Wilkinson imprint at the bottom of the sheet. In 1937 the perforation was changed to 13 x 12.5, and this became SG #233a.

It is interesting to learn how the image shown in Figure 1 came about. In a 1935 letter, A.G. Earle of The Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalt Co., Ltd. of London said the design was "used by this Company in the promotion of Trinidad Lake Asphalt." He added: "Mr. Vandeburgh, the Engineer at The Lake (in Trinidad), tells us that a Government Official noticed our picture in his office, and was so impressed by it that he recommended it for the new Stamp issue." The illustration, he added, "was drawn up by our Publicity Department in 1929, and has since then formed the background of our publicity and

propaganda." The letter is shown in Figure 2 and is reproduced with permission of Michael Hamilton.

In 1995 for the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Lake Asphalt (also called Pitch Lake), the company produced a poster showing the painting and a quote from Sir Walter Raleigh's diary (Figure 3). The six-cent stamp paid the UPU one-ounce letter rate as shown in Figure 4. This rate was valid until December 3, 1952.

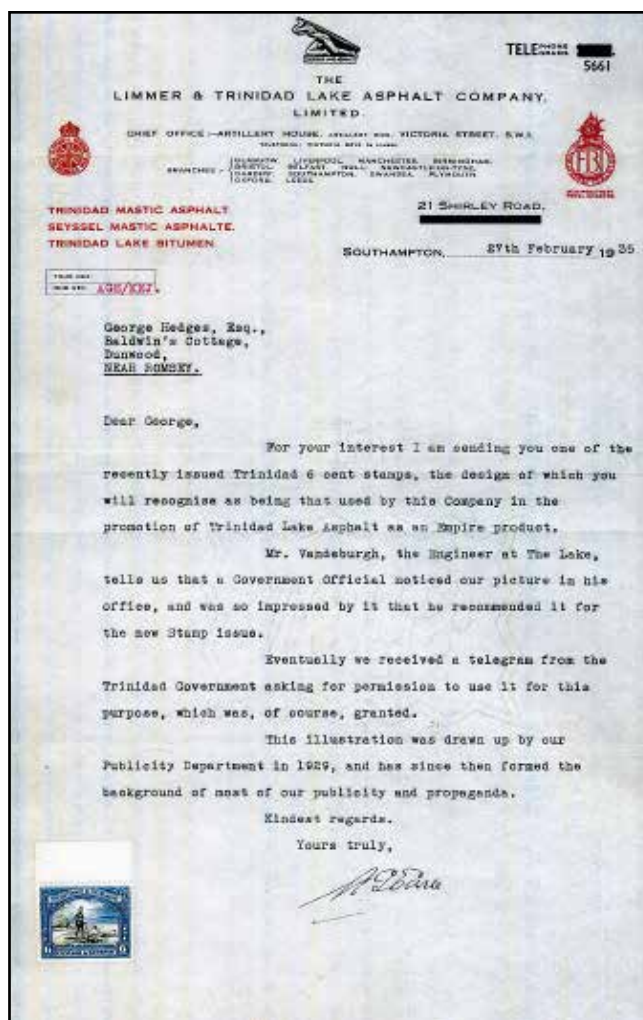


Figure 2

This 1935 letter from The Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, dated February 27, 1935, discussed how the image shown on the six-cent Trinidad & Tobago stamp came about.



Figure 3

This is a 1995 poster produced for the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Lake Asphalt.



Figure 5

The same center design of the 1935 six-cent stamp was replicated in the 1938 definitive series.

In 1938 a new definitive set was issued with a portrait of King George VI. The six-cent stamp design was changed to include the portrait (**Figure 5**, SG# 250). This stamp shows oil derricks and Lake Asphalt workers outside the central image. This six-cent stamp is shown in **Figure 6** on a 1941 censored cover to the U.S.

The 1953 Queen Elizabeth II definitive (SG# 272) used the same design for the six-cent stamp. **Figure 7** shows the stamp on a 1953 airmail cover to British Guiana. This amount paid the half-ounce airmail rate within the British West Indies (except the Bahamas). The QEII six-cent design was also used on an air letter, shown in **Figure 8**.

The story of Lake Asphalt is interesting in itself. The actual name is Pitch Lake, and it was created thousands of years ago by the process of subduction, when the Caribbean continental plate was forced under another plate. This opened fault lines that allowed oil from deep underground deposits to rise to the surface, where it collected in a volcanic crater. The air caused lighter elements of the oil to evaporate, leaving behind the heavy asphalt, a mix of oil, clay and water.

In 1595, Sir Walter Raleigh arrived in Trinidad in search of El Dorado, the fabled city of gold. He attacked Port of

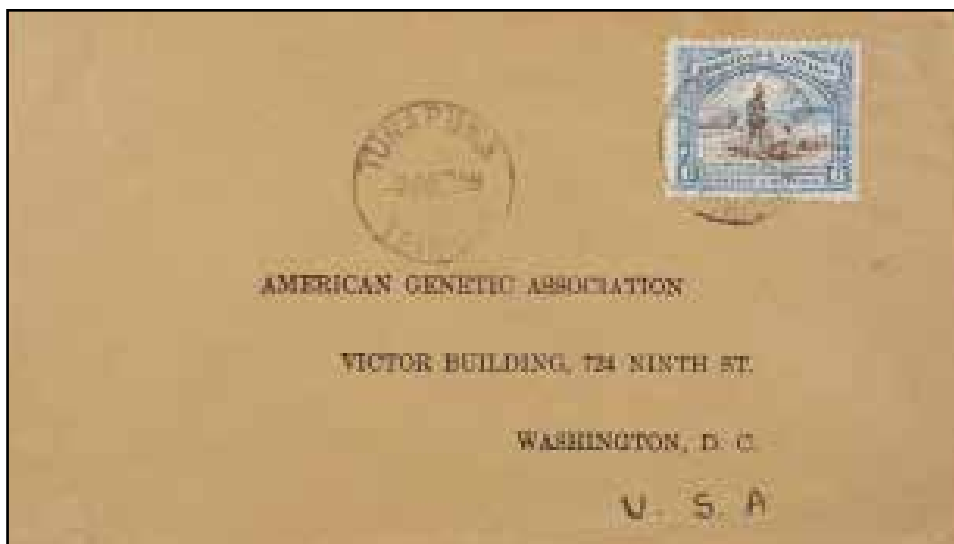


Figure 4

The six-cent stamp paid the international rate. This cover was posted to Washington, D.C. on July 8, 1935.

Spain with cannons, and sacked St. Joseph. While sailing across the Gulf of Paria, he reputedly smelled the tar, and put into shore at Terra de Brea. The Caribs led Raleigh to the pitch lake, and he realized that the substance was ideal for caulking his ships. He took several barrels home with him, and has since been credited with “discovering” the lake.

Mining of the lake started in 1867, and an estimated 10 million tons of asphalt has been extracted since. The lake is estimated to contain reserves of around six million tons, which would last 400 years at the current rate of extraction.

Items found in the Pitch Lake include Amerindian artifacts, fossilized remains from a prehistoric giant sloth, and a mastodon tooth. In 1928, a massive tree, estimated to be around 4,000 years old, suddenly emerged from the center of the lake, then sank back down, although a section was rescued for posterity. Some scientists think the Pitch Lake is similar to hydrocarbon lakes on Titan, Saturn’s moon, which could help to answer the question of whether they could support life.

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“The Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company, 1935” letter used by permission of Michael Hamilton, dealer in stamps, postal history, etc. www.michael-hamilton.com

Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Part 1, British Commonwealth. Ringwood, Hants, England: Stanley Gibbons, 1995.

Information about Pitch Lake (Lake Asphalt) taken from “The History of Pitch Lake in Trinidad,” USA Today online. Accessed May 1, 2017.



Figure 6
The King George VI six-cent definitive is shown on a 1941 censored cover.



Figure 7
The 1953 Queen Elizabeth II six-cent definitive on a commercial cover to British Guiana.



Figure 8
Unused QE II air letter showing the same design.

The M/V Kirkland in the Turks & Caicos Islands

By David Horry, FRPSL

I received the Turks & Caicos philatelic cover shown in *Figure 1* from Dale Wade. He pointed out that I had failed to record it in either of the Maritime sections of my Caribbean Postmark Encyclopaedias (KGVI & QEII). This item was addressed to “Gustav J. Lund, 65 O’Toole Street, Westwood, New Jersey, US America.” Lund wrote *The Paquebot Marks of the Americas* in 1984.

The cover is dated with a Kingston “Birmingham” receiving mark dated November 10, 1956. The name of the ship in question, the M/V *Kirkland*, was owned by Kirkconnel & Bro. The name was familiar but I could find no

Continued on page 20



Figure 1

*A philatelic cover to New Jersey with handstamp of the M/V Kirkland.
The vessel was used to carry mail and other products in the 1950s.*

M/V KIRKLAND
R. B. KIRKCONNELL & BRO

Figure 2

*The handstamp of the M/V Kirkland
probably first saw use in 1955.*

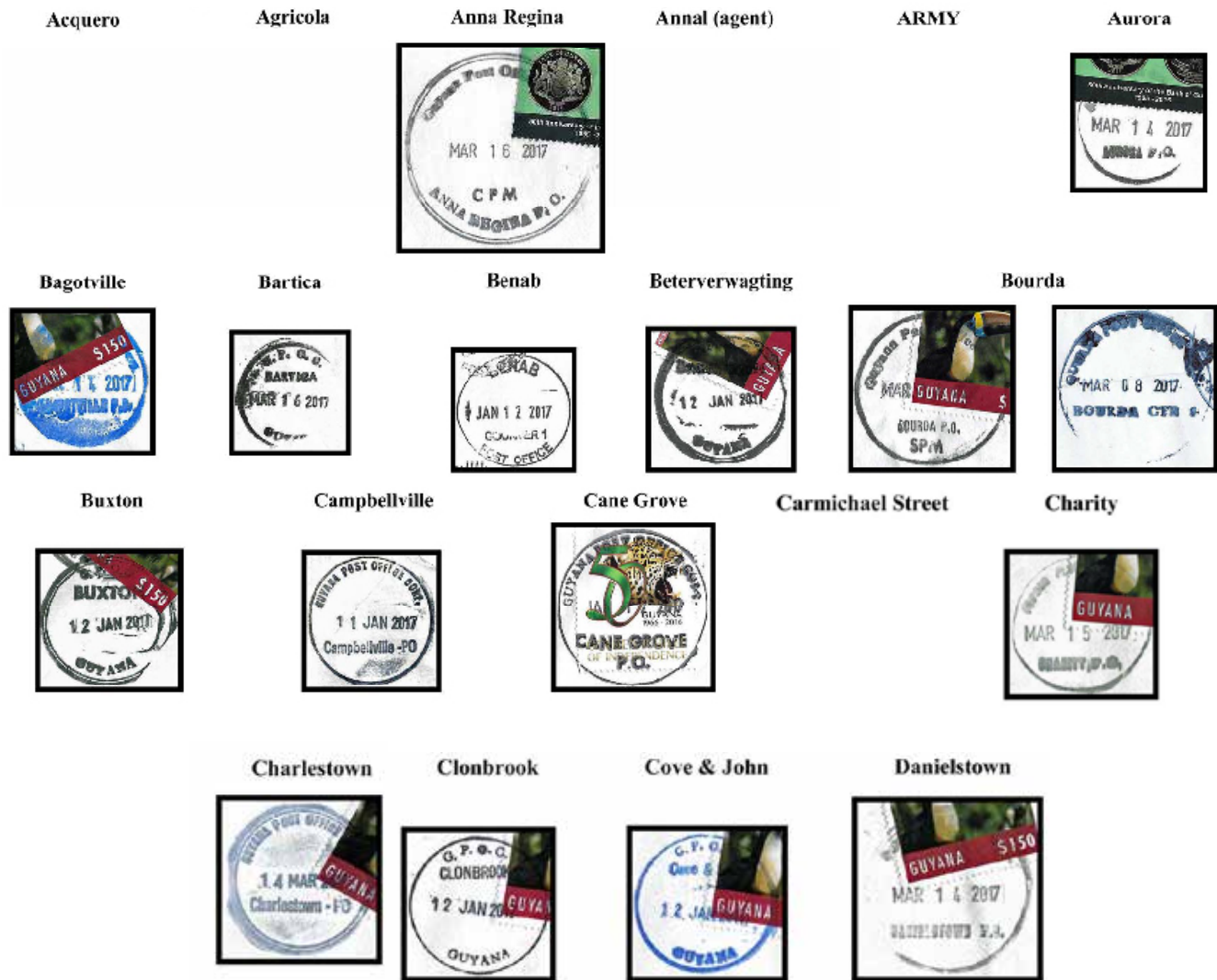


Figure 3

*The M/V Kirkland was used for, among other things, carrying mail between the
Turks & Caicos Islands and Jamaica. The vessel sank off Haiti in 1957.*

A study of Guyana postmarks

Steven Zirinsky has prepared an exhaustive collection of current postmarks of Guyana. He explained that while there are gaps, the information is extremely difficult to come by. Further additions will be made as material becomes available.



The M/V Kirkland in the 1950s ————— *Continued from page 19*

information. So I made straight for Caribbean Maritime expert Mike Rego, who did not disappoint. He dug out an entry in a Colonial report from 1958.

The Kirkland's handstamp was probably first used in 1955 when the boat came into service as a mail carrier between the Turks & Caicos Islands and Jamaica (*Figure 2*). She carried bulk supplies and salt on her outward passage, which occurred every three weeks.

She was around 300 tons (*Figure 3*) but came to a watery end on September 10, 1957, when she sank 15 miles

off the coast of Haiti. There were 11 passengers aboard, five of them were government officers, but no lives were lost. One can just imagine them huddled in the single lifeboat.

The *Kirkland* was replaced by her sister ship *M/V Kirksons*. From March 1956, air mail was routed every Tuesday through Nassau and in 1957 some 250,000 items were handled at the G.P.O.

My thanks to both Dale Wade and Michael Rego.

East Lapentence



Enmore



Eversham



Fellowship



Fort Wellington



GPO



Grove

Ituni

Kamarang

Kitty



Kwakwani



Leguan



Leonora

Lethem

Mabura (agent)

Mabaruma

Mahaica

Mahaicony

Mahdia



Matthew's Ridge

McKenzie

Melanie Damishana

Meten-Meer-Zorg

Mibicuri



New Amsterdam



Nigg



Number 51



Ogle



Parika



Plaisance



Port Kaituma

Providence



Queenstown

Reliance

Rose Hall Town



Rosignol



Sisters



Skeldon



Soesdyke



Suddie



Timehri



Tuschen



University of Guyana (Turkeyen)

Vreed-en-Hoop



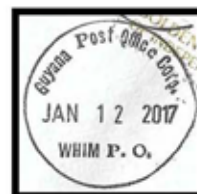
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Whim



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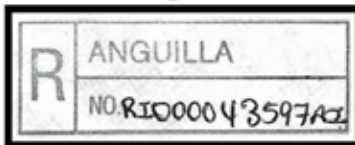
Weldaad



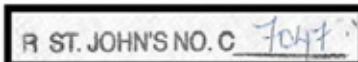
New Anguilla and Antigua Registration Labels

These are new markings as reported by Steven Zirinsky.

Anguilla



Antigua



WSS-NY 2016 Frames Available For Sale

While significant quantities of exhibit frames have already been purchased by U.S., Canadian, Japanese, Panamanian and Israeli philatelic organizations, a little more than 1,000 units used only once during World Stamp Show-NY 2016 remain available.

Each unit, which includes the required legs, provides two faces each that hold 16 standard sized exhibit pages. These ultra-durable frames are about half the weight of those used at most U.S. national and international shows over the past 30 years. The frames also come with new screws re-engineered since New York 2016 for easier setup and added security.

The cost is \$150/unit plus actual shipping from Bellefonte, Pennsylvania. Shipping costs may be avoided by arranging pickup from the American Philatelic Society in Bellefonte or at the August APS StampShow in Richmond, Virginia.

To arrange purchase or for additional information, contact Ken Martin at the American Philatelic Society at 814-933-3817 or kpmartin@stamps.org.

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Charles Freeland: a true philatelist

A tribute by Peter Ford

Charles Freeland came from a military family, both his father and grandfather having been of Field rank, his father most noted for his time as GOC, Northern Ireland. Born in 1941, Charles went to school at Eton and went on to St. Andrews University, where he read Economics. Shortly after leaving university, he joined the Bank of England in their Economics Department. Initially he was seconded by the Bank of England to the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) in Basel; in 1975 he joined BIS, rising to become Deputy Secretary-General of the Secretariat of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision (BCBS). He retired from this position in 2006. He played squash in his youth and also played bridge to a high level; his other passion was music and, having played the piano in his younger days, became an assiduous concert-goer.

His interest in philately started at an early age and he decided, for reasons unknown, to specialize in the British West Indies, collecting the stamps and postal history of all the colonies with the exception of Jamaica and Trinidad. He was a member of several specialist societies, most notably the British West Indies Study Circle (BWISC), the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (BCPSG) and the King George VI Collectors Society. He joined The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) in 1989 and was made a Fellow in 2003.

He was the President of the BWISC from 2011 to 2015 and served on the BWISC Committee for many years. Charles was also a Trustee of the BCPSG. Although he became a very specialized collector, he eschewed exhibiting, preferring to display his collection to the societies he belonged to. He was invited to display to the RPSL in 2007 where he showed a miscellany of BWI classic material.

Charles travelled a great deal in his profession and he always made sure that, if there was a BWI collector within easy driving distance, he would take the time and trouble to visit them and inspect their collection. As a result of this, he was able to pinpoint, more often than not, where a particular classic item was held and he grew familiar with the most important BWI collections throughout the world. Using this knowledge, he was able in 2014 to organize a display at the RPSL



Charles Freeland

to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the BWISC. This display contained some of the most important classic BWI material ever assembled under one roof. This was a display the likes of which will, in all probability, never be repeated.

His writing will be remembered, not only because of its quantity (he wrote for many journals) but for its quality. His writing appeared, not only in the journals of those specialist societies to which he belonged, but also in *The London Philatelist*, the journal of the RPSL and in the *Philatelic Literature Review* in the U.S.

He was consulted by many auction houses to offer his opinion on certain items but also, in some cases, to write a foreword to the auction catalogue.

There is little doubt that Charles Freeland was a giant of BWI philately; his incisive mind, prodigious memory and intense curiosity served to make him one of the foremost collectors of his age and many of us will feel a debt of gratitude to him for encouraging us to pursue our hobby to an extent we perhaps would never have done without his help.

Charles had been suffering from cancer for many years; in fact, it was a wonder he survived as long as he did. His sense of humor never deserted him. His son, Timothy, said that just prior to his death, he had put three spoonfuls of sugar into his tea, and when quizzed about the amount said, "Well, it won't kill me, will it?" He is survived by his wife, Eva, his children, Alistair, Olivia and Timothy and four grandchildren.

Help needed to identify Jamaica flaw

By Peter Ford
Of the United Kingdom

I have been approached by a member of the King George VI Collectors Society to see if I can find any new information regarding a flaw on the Jamaica KGV1 ½d (SG121). The flaw is illustrated together with the normal here but we were wondering if there were other examples around and perhaps it was possible to position it on the sheet. Paul Wright says it is not present on his sheets of Plates 1C-1D, 2A or 2C-2D. Perhaps it is on a sheet with other plate numbers. It may well have had a very short life and been retouched and again this retouch might show up under careful examination.

It was originally noticed by C. P. Rang writing in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in April 1950. He stated that the flawed example was used and had a year date of 1946



1/2d with flaw



1/2d "normal"

which would limit its occurrence to Plates 1 or 2 as Plate 3 did not appear until October 1948.

Any help would be very much appreciated, either with the plate number, plate position or the existence of a possible retouch. You can reach me by email at peterf@bwisc.org.

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

The little society with the long name



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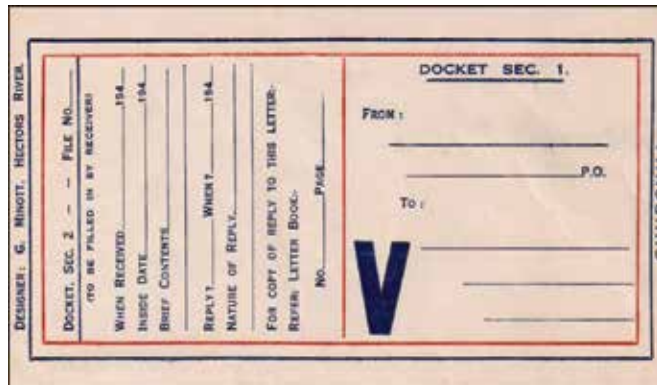
annual membership dues: North America \$27, international \$32, paperless \$15

Information needed on Hectors River Docket

By David Horry

Shanghai, China

I recently picked up this docket on eBay. It emanates from Hectors River in Jamaica and was designed by G. Minott sometime in the 1940s. It bears a large “V” (for “Victory,” presumably) and the word “CHURCHILL” to the right. I believe it to be associated with the post office but in reality have absolutely no idea of its purpose.



Have you seen anything like it before, or do you know what its purpose was? If you have any ideas, please contact me at horry@talk21.com.

LETTERS

To the Editor:

I was interested in Mary Gleadall’s article on the Tudway letters (*British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, April 2017, pp. 14-16). John Willem and I met up on one of his visits to the United Kingdom and continued to correspond mainly about the Tudway correspondence. I recall he visited our manse with a briefcase marked “Methodist Hospital”!

In the article on page 16 Mary asks about the significance of 7/8 on the letter (Figure 2) illustrated on page 14. I believe this means there were several letters for Tudway in one batch and the total sum for the whole lot was 7/8. I have come across this practice before.

She also illustrates a “SHIP-LRE” marking on one of the two covers so marked in the Tudway letters. I happen to have another ... perhaps the second?

Peter Brooks
Evington, Leicester
United Kingdom

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.

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BCPSG Exhibits and Awards

By Paul Larsen
Awards Chairman

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

ARIPEX 2017

February 17-19, Mesa, Arizona

John Wynns

Canada: Postal Uses of the 1927 Confederation and Historical Issues

Vermeil

Japan United States Treaty Issues of 1960 (SF)

Large Silver

Canal Zone: The 1926 Sesquicentennial Issue (SF)

Silver

TEXPEX 2017

February 24-26, Grapevine, Texas

Peter Elias

Introduction to Spanish Thermal ATM Postage Labels, Their Varieties & Usages

Large Vermeil, AAPE Creativity Award

SARASOTA NATIONAL STAMP SHOW 2017

February 3-5, Sarasota, Florida

Raymond Murphy

Non-Standard Censorship of Mail in the Dependencies Jamaica (Caymans and Caicos) [SF]

Large Silver, Auxiliary Markings Club Award

GARFIELD-PERRY MARCH PARTY 2017

March 23-25, Cleveland, Ohio

Paul Larsen

Leeward Islands Federal Postal Stationery of the King George V Reign

Gold, BCPSG Medal

French Equatorial Africa: Issues of 1936-1946

Vermeil

Duane Larson

The New 3 Cent Washington Definitive Issue of 1932 (SF)

Silver, Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award

PIPEX 2017

May 12-14, Portland, Oregon

John Wynns

Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee of British Guiana

Large Vermeil

Canada: The 1927 Confederation & Historical Issues Usage

Large Vermeil,

AAPE Award for Excellence in Presentation

Wings Over the Bahamas (SF)

Vermeil



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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

Arthur Munro, 205 East MacPhail Rd., Bel Air, MD 21014 USA. APS member, collects U.S. and Cayman Islands.

Address Changes

None this quarter

Resigned

Dr. Douglas Files, Raj Ramphal

Deceased

Mr. Charles Freeland

Donations

(And thanks!)

Jerald Haas, Arthur Snoke, Thomas Olson

Membership Expired

Richard Kaplan
Ellsworth Mink
Gary Stone
Maurice Wozniak
James Grimwood Taylor
Dan French
Gary Loew
Albert Matysek
Nigel Neil
Raymond Paley

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 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.

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 softbacked format with many illustrations now in full colour. **WINNER OF GOLD MEDAL AND GRAND AWARD FOR LITERATURE AT CHICAGOPEX 2015!**

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

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President's Message

By John Seidl

Spring is progressing into summer and that means some great philatelic opportunities are coming up. Perhaps the best is the American Philatelic Society's Summer Seminar on Philately June 25-30. In addition to the coursework, students have complete access to everything the APS headquarters and the American Philatelic Research Library have to offer. There is a great reference collection that includes some very nice BWI material and an amazing collection of publications and research materials. Even if you can't make it to the Summer Seminar, a visit to the APS in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania should be on every stamp collector's to-do list.



It is time to begin planning for the exhibits at the upcoming BCPSG annual general meeting to be held at the Chicagopex Show in Itasca, Illinois from November 17-19, 2017. As many of you know, this is one of the top shows in the country. We currently have frames available for the show, but this is for limited time only. It is important for exhibitors to send in their applications as soon as possible.

Your exhibits (both single and multiframe) are desperately needed to make this show a success. Delays in committing to the show could mean that your exhibit will be left out. The prospectus and application, along with details on the show and hotel accommodations, are available on the show's website at <http://www.chicagopex.org/chicagopexcurrent.html>. As usual, we will have the full range of group medals available for award, as well as the coveted Cameron Trophy for the best multiframe British Caribbean exhibit, which has not previously won the honor. Numerous group social events are also planned for the show. I hope to see many of you at the meeting – and, of course, we'll have our auction. Please send me your lots and, of course, make plans to be an active bidder as well. The deadline for submitting lots will be September 1.

Like any philatelic society we are a volunteer driven organization. Right now the biggest thing you could do to help would be to recruit new members. We continue to slowly lose members as we all age. The costs of the group are largely fixed and with fewer members to share those costs we now rely on donations to try and approach breaking even financially each year. Your donations and recruiting efforts are greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank those who have stepped up and committed to contributing an article for the BCPSG *Journal*. Please send those materials to Everett Parker as soon as possible – he will work with you on getting your content ready for publication.

See you in Chicago!

We desperately need a Membership Director!

If you peruse the listing of officers on page 2, you know that we have been without a Membership Director for some time. Our former director, Bob Stewart, assumed the role of Treasurer earlier, and has been holding down two positions at the same time. He needs relief from the duties of Membership Director.

If you are willing to help, please contact Bob at the address or email shown on page 2 to discuss the details of what is involved, or President John Seidl at the address or email shown on page 2.

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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).



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(and QSL CARDS)

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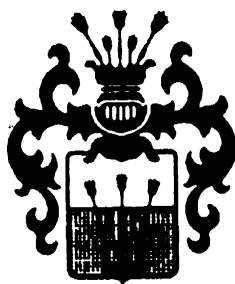
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