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The Cayman Islands was one of several Caribbean islands using postal wrappers. See the report by Dr. John Curtis beginning on page 4.



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CONTENTS

FEATURES

Caribbean Countries: Supplies of U.S. Postal Wrappers, <i>by Dr. John K. Courtis</i>	4-12
The British Guiana Queen Elizabeth II Air Letters/Aerogrammes, <i>by Nick Halewood</i>	13-16
St. Vincent Handbook 1899-1965: Additional Updates, <i>by Roy Bond & Russell Boylan</i>	17-21
Knutsford Park (Part 5): The Salt Gut-Boscobel "Discontinuity," <i>by David Horry</i>	22-25

COLUMNS AND REPORTS

Officers and Trustees, Study Group Leaders & Others	2
Vignettes of Barbados Britannia Covers, <i>by M. Fitz Roett</i>	26
Membership Director's Report	27
President's Message, <i>by John Seidl</i>	29
Our faithful advertisers	27-28, 30-32

DEADLINES FOR THIS PUBLICATION

January issue: Deadline November 15, mailing December 30

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July issue: Deadline May 15, mailing June 30

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Caribbean Countries: Supplies of Used Post Office Wrappers in the Decade Ending 2020

By Dr. John K. Courtis, FRPSL

There are 14 countries in the Caribbean region that issued post office postal stationery wrappers. Because of low survival rates, a relevant question is whether the supply of used wrappers coming onto the market has been declining in recent years. Some awareness of what has happened in the last decade will allow country collectors and postal stationery collectors to assess the likelihood and time involved in being able to complete their collections. Also, there is a relationship between scarce supply and higher prices so there might be a financial impact.

The figures in Table 1 are based on daily listings of used wrappers on the internet site eBay. These have been hand-collected by the author over the past decade. They represent different used wrappers; duplicates have been removed. Although eBay is not the only auction site or source of wrappers available to the philatelic market, it is large, growing, objective and transparent with many buyers and many sellers. It is available to anyone worldwide who is connected to the internet. It has 182 million active buyers and experienced more than USD\$10 billion in transactions in 2020. While the dominance of eBay may give way to emerging additional internet market sites, the internet as a source of philatelic material for collectors is seemingly here to stay.

Table 1: Annual Per Country Listings of Post Office Used Wrappers: 2011-2020

Countries	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Antigua	3	4	8	6	2	5	3	2	4	4	41
Barbados	17	30	35	31	31	30	43	30	28	45	320
Bermuda	42	56	55	46	47	36	34	26	39	66	447
Cayman Islands	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	8
Cuba	1	4	1	0	0	4	3	0	3	1	17
Dominica	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	3	0	17
Grenada	8	14	13	9	4	5	5	7	16	11	92
Jamaica	31	43	37	72	54	39	26	34	53	68	457
Leeward Islands	6	5	22	12	18	13	6	10	7	17	116
Montserrat	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	5
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	7
St Kitts-Nevis	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	3	3	10
St Lucia	2	3	9	8	5	11	5	4	7	15	69
St. Vincent	3	5	6	2	5	6	4	4	4	12	51
	116	166	189	193	172	153	131	121	171	245	1657

The total supply of wrappers for the 14 countries was 1,657. Three countries dominate the supply: Jamaica, 457; Bermuda, 447; and Barbados, 320. The remaining 11 countries account for 26 percent of the total and it is these countries that need to be examined for uncommon types and scarcity. Each country is examined using the information in Table 1. This information comprises used and different wrappers that were listed on eBay during the decade 2011 to 2020.

Antigua

In 1903 there were two types of post office wrappers issued by Antigua. The Badge of the colony appeared on 1½d green and 1d carmine. A regular supply of both appeared during the decade and a collector should have little difficulty in obtaining copies. The caution is that many of these wrappers bear names and addresses of cover providers, especially Rev. L. Meister.

Barbados

The supply of 320 copies of Barbados wrappers was regular and showed a marked increase in the last year of the decade. However, this quantity can be deceptive because six post office issues appear in the database with quantities of six or less. The availability of earlier issues significantly outweighs the availability of later issues. In 1882, two wrappers bearing Queen Victoria with diademed profile were issued, being the ½d red-brown and the 1d carmine. In 1893, this 1d indicium was overprinted ½d in violet. This was in response to the need for additional ½d wrappers when the stock of the red-brown ½d was depleted due to the post office reducing the selling price of newspaper wrappers to face value.

The shortage has resulted in the 1d carmine becoming a more difficult wrapper to find. Since 2003, there were 150 ½d red-brown in the author's database, but only 14 copies of the 1d carmine. These 14 represent a listing of one per 15 months on average. In contrast, the overprinted wrapper is easy to find, appearing almost weekly.

In 1902, the Barbados Coat of Arms ½d brown issue was released. This wrapper is not difficult to find. In 1916, the head of King George V and coat of arms appeared on a ½d green. This is more difficult to acquire because only 15 copies appear in the database. In 1938, the Barbados Coat of Arms again appeared for the ½d, and in 1943 for the 1d green. The supply of both of these is very low, only four used copies of the ½d and six of the 1d. A collector would likely prefer to obtain a mint copy of each as space fillers.

In 1950, the first of two horizontal format indicia appeared showing the head of King George VI and a view of a sugar cane plantation. While 60,000 of these were printed, there is no copy in the database, making this one of the scarcest wrappers of Bermuda. Kośniowski places a high catalogue value on this wrapper in both mint and used condition. By contrast, the 1954 design with the head of Queen Elizabeth should present few difficulties to the collector.

The head of Queen Elizabeth appears on the 1965 2¢ dark green and 1973 3¢ dark green. While the 2¢ appears regularly, the 3¢ is also an elusive wrapper with only four copies in the database. Two further similar indicia appeared in 1977, the 5¢ with only 10 copies, and the 198? (unknown year) 8¢ with only two copies. Both of these later issues are difficult to find.

The last issues of Barbados appeared in 1987 depicting a flower, the 8¢ black and the 15¢ black (See *Figure 1* on next page). Demand was much lower by this point, and there are only three of the 8¢ and one of the 15¢. It has been shown that for a number of countries later issues are often more difficult to find because of smaller quantities issued due to a shrinking demand for wrappers.

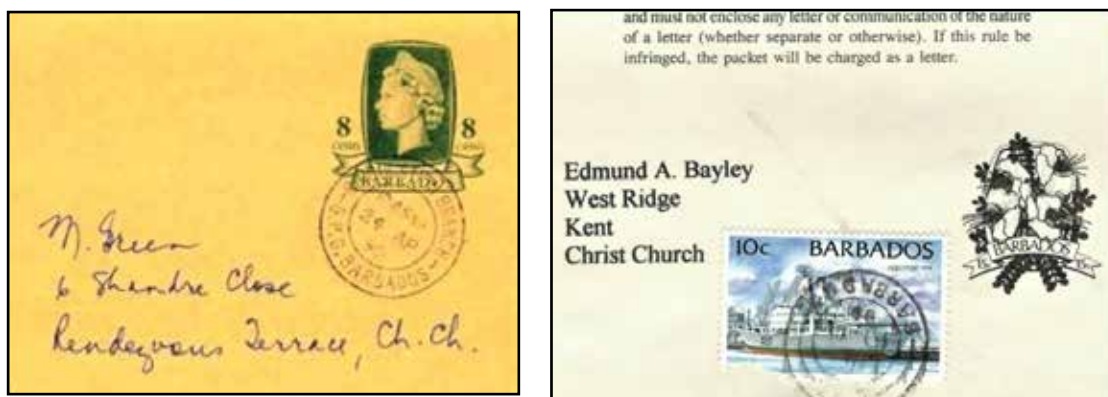


Figure 1
Barbados 198? 8¢ Queen Elizabeth; 1987 15¢ flower.

Bermuda

Early issues of Bermuda are difficult to find. The supply of the 1903 ¼d brown and ½d green were 13 and nine. The following issue in 1912, depicting the Caravel sailing ship, was the 1d brown. Only five copies of this appear and it is an elusive wrapper in used condition. The supply of the King George V issues in 1913 increased significantly. The ¼d brown and the ½d green have been listed regularly and should present little difficulty in acquisition. Likewise, the 1938 King George VI ¼d brown and ½d green are easy to acquire with a regular supply, especially the ½d green.

The 1940 provisional issue with black oval handstamp “BERMUDA ¼d POSTAGE PAID” is a scarce wrapper with only six listed since September, and none listed recently. The 1950 provisional issue with violet oval frank “BERMUDA ¼d POSTAGE PAID” to make up the rate to ½d, and ¾d frank to make up the rate to 1d, both appear regularly and easily acquired. The last of the King George V issues appeared in 1951, the 1d red. This wrapper has no example in the database and is scarce despite a low catalogue value in Kośniowski.

The Queen Elizabeth II issues commenced in 1953 with a ½d green, 1d black, 1½d red and 2d blue followed by a 3¢ black in 1970. The only “common” type amongst these is the 1d black. There were five of the ½d green, 16 of the 1½d red, and 13 of the 2d blue. The last issue, the 3¢ black has four copies in the database. Collectors will need to consider mint copies of these as space-fillers.

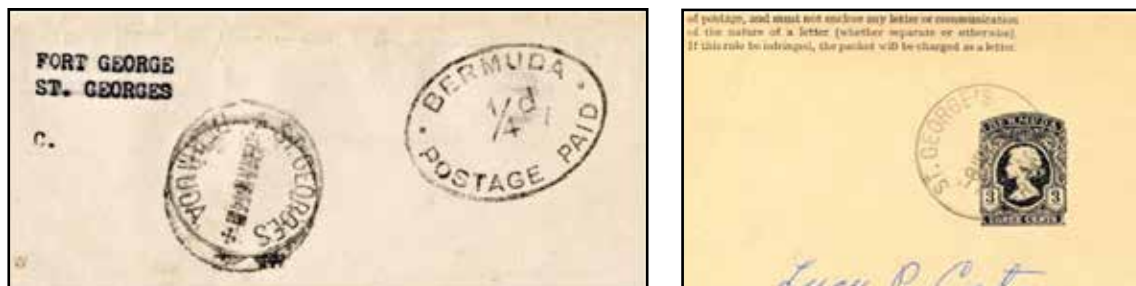


Figure 2
Bermuda 1940 provisional issue, left; 1970 3¢ black QEII.

Cayman Islands

The print run for the sole post office issue of the Cayman Islands in 1909 was 5,000. Only seven used copies appear in the database making these an elusive wrapper. Kościński has placed a high catalogue value on used copies and premiums are paid by collectors.



Figure 3
Cayman Islands, 1909.

Cuba

There were four post office issues of Cuba, two in 1899 under U.S. administration and two in 1910 when Cuba became a republic. The 1899 issues are moderately difficult to find, the 1¢ green with eight copies and the 2¢ red with 12 copies in the database. The position is much worse for the 1910 issues; there is no copy of either the 1¢ green or the 2¢ red. Kościński has high catalogue values on both of these.

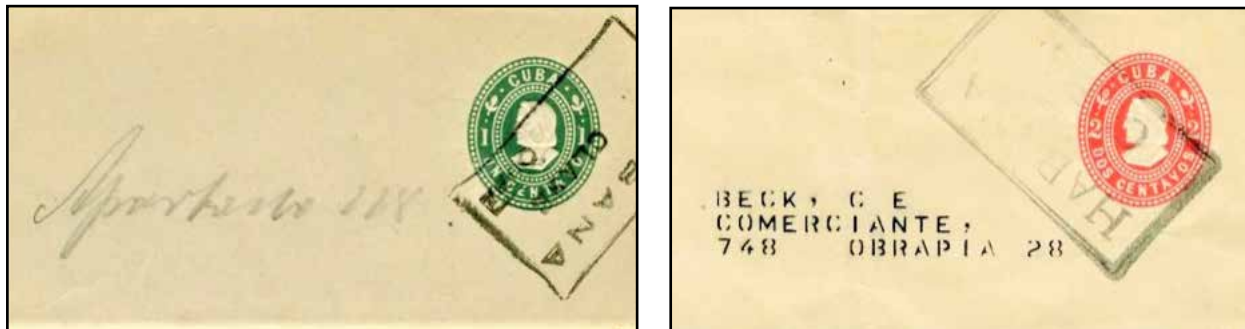


Figure 4
Cuba 1899 embossed head of Christopher Columbus, 1¢ green and 2¢ red.

Dominica

Three post office issues were printed for Dominica, the two 1903 issues depicting the view of Roseau from the sea, a ½d green and a 1d carmine. While the ½d green is listed from time to time and is available with

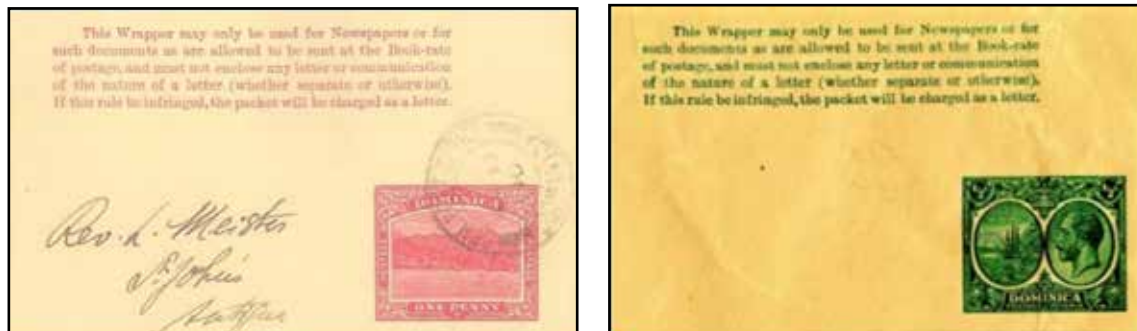


Figure 5
Dominica 1903 Roseau 1d carmine (left); 1927 two medallions.

patience, it is the 1d red that is elusive with a limited supply of six copies in the database. Rev. L. Meister wrappers can be found for both of these issues. There is no used copy of the 1927 two medallion issue but collectors can find the occasional mint copy. Scarcity of this issue is understandable given only 1,920 copies were supplied by De La Rue.

Grenada

There was a steady supply of Grenada wrappers with 92 listed during the decade. There were 15 post office issues, some of which are elusive. While the 1886 issues of Queen Victoria ½d green and 1d carmine are relatively straightforward, the 1½d brown and 2d blue are very difficult to find. There is no used copy of the 1½d and only two copies of 2d. In 1902, the ½d green and 1d carmine head of King Edward VII were issued and there are six of each in the database, so these, too, are elusive. In 1912, three issues of King George V were released: ¼d brown, ½d green and 1d carmine. There is no copy of the ¼d brown, four copies of the ½d green, and one copy of the 1d carmine. Collectors will need to consider mint copies as space-fillers.

In 1938, there were two issues depicting the head of King George VI, a ¼d brown and a ½d green. There is one copy of the brown and four copies of the green. In 1949, the change to decimal currency prompted the issue of the same indicia but showing cents. There were four of the brown and eight of the green. Mint copies will be needed as space-fillers.

The last issues of Grenada appeared in 1957, being the Queen Elizabeth II ½¢ light brown and 1¢ green. There is no copy of the light brown and eight copies of the green. Again, later issues are more difficult to acquire than early issues.

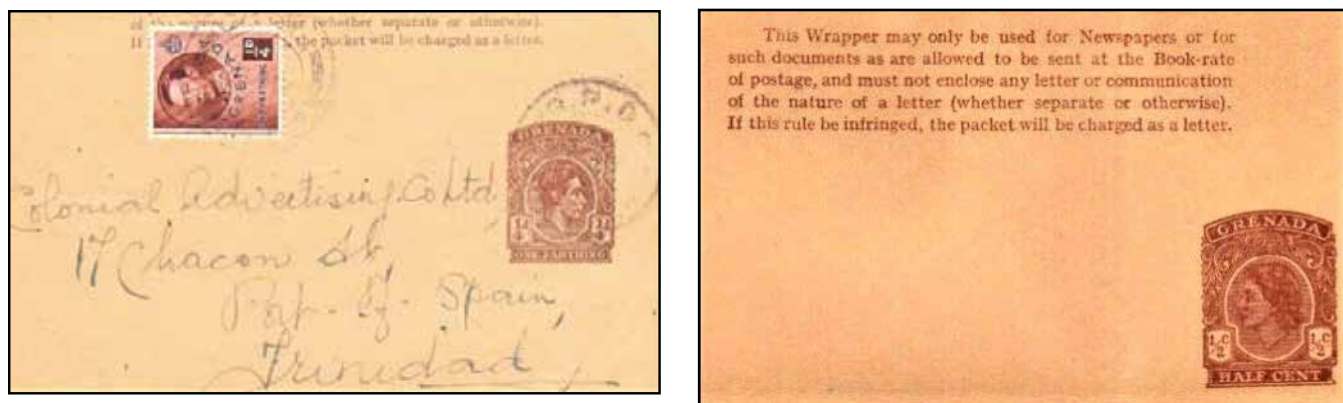


Figure 6
Grenada 1938 KGVII (left) and 1957 QEII.

Jamaica

The supply of wrappers of Jamaica over the decade was strong with 457 recorded. There were 15 post office wrapper types issued by Jamaica. The first issue of 1888 is the QV ½d green, and there are almost 200 copies in the database, so this issue is readily available. The 1903 ½d green issue of KEVII has 37 copies, so this too is easy to obtain, even more so the 1912 issue of ½d green KGV with 72 copies. In 1938, the first KGV issue appeared, a ½d green with a regular supply totalling 97 copies. In 1951, two further KGV issues appeared, a ½d orange (48 copies) and a 1d green. A few years later, this 1d green was changed with lines around the head replaced with a tint. The difference in background is usually apparent. There are 19 of each of the darker shading lines and the lighter tint.

In 1964 there was a radical change in design from monarch to the Coat of Arms. A 1d green (7 copies) and a 1½d red (16 copies) were issued and in 1969 the red was handstamped with a boxed "Postage Paid

Half Penny” of which only one copy appears in the database. These were reproduced in 1969 when there was a change to decimal currency. The “d” and “c” in the value oval is often difficult to read from internet copies, and given that caveat, there were 14 of each of the 1¢ green and 2¢ red. The last issues occurred in 1973 with a 5¢ blue and a 9¢ green Coat of Arms. These are hard to find, with four copies of the blue and no copy of the green, a very elusive late issue wrapper almost certainly issued intended for airmail usage.

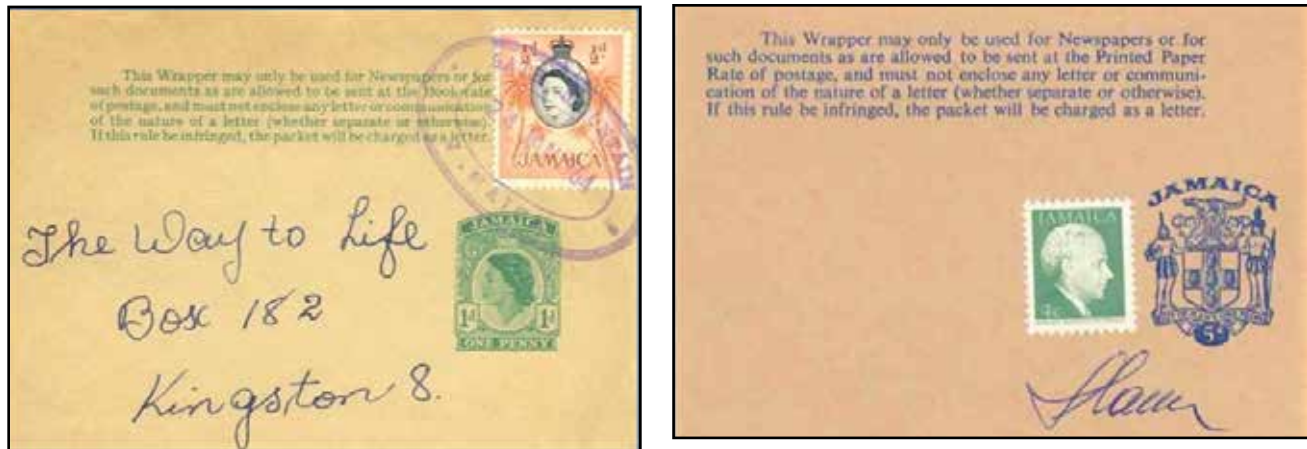


Figure 7

Jamaica circa 1957 tinted background (left), and 1973 Coat of Arms 5¢ blue.

Leeward Islands

There were seven Post Office issues of the Leeward Islands with a regular and generous supply of 116 wrappers during the past decade. The first wrappers issued in 1890 were the De La Rue key-plate QV ½d green and 1d red. There are many copies, 93 for the green and 29 of the red have been listed since 2003. These are straightforward to acquire. In 1902, the KEVII ½d green and 1d red were issued and there are 23 green but, surprisingly, only four of the 1d red. These wrappers are difficult to find.

In 1913, a ½d green KGV was issued but only two have been listed. The 1927 issue, also of GKV, is a new design of a ¼d brown with four wrappers listed. The final issue, in 1938, was a KGV ½d green. No copy of this has been listed on eBay, which is not surprising given a high catalogue value and only 14,400 printed. This wrapper may appear for sale on non-eBay sources.

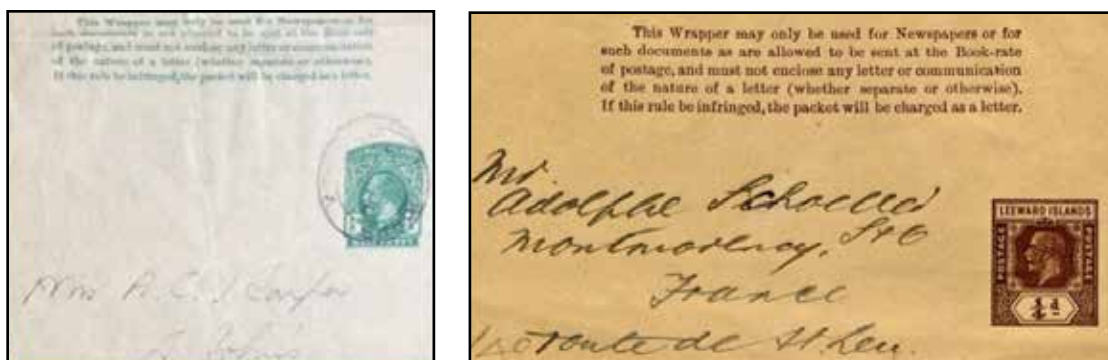


Figure 8

Leeward Islands 1913 KGV (left) and 1927 KGV new design.

Montserrat

There were two post office issues of Montserrat in 1903, a ½d green and a 1d carmine. Both depict the colony’s Coat of Arms. Three of the green and two of the red appeared on the listings during the last decade. Obviously, with such token numbers, collectors will be forced to acquire mint copies of these wrap-

pers. The two wrappers illustrated are addressed in the same hand to the same person – a cover provider?



Figure 9

Montserrat 1903 ½d green (left) and 1d carmine.

Puerto Rico

Only one post office type was issued, a U.S. 1¢ green indicium overprinted “PORTO RICO.” Seven copies appeared in the last decade to add to the two copies listed between 2010 and 2003. Collectors will likely seek to acquire a mint copy, although these too are not easy to find.

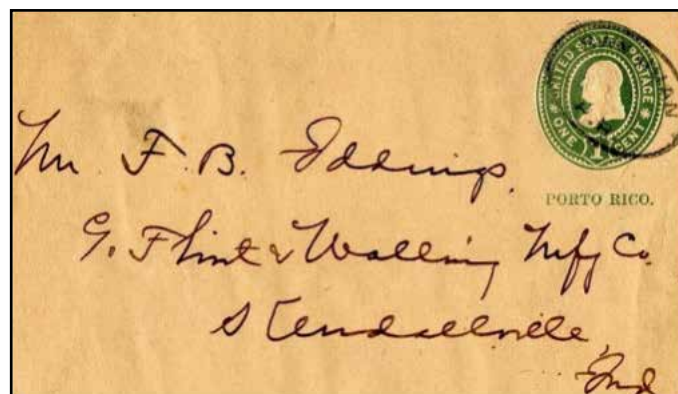


Figure 10

Puerto Rico 1899 overprinted on U.S. 1¢ green.

St. Kitts-Nevis

There were two post office wrapper types issued in 1903 for St. Kitts-Nevis. The ½d green depicts Christopher Columbus and the 1d carmine depicts a Medicinal Spring. Ten copies have been listed, six of which appeared in the last two years of the decade. There are five copies of each. The collector of this country



Figure 11

St. Kitts-Nevis 1903 ½d green (left) and 1d carmine.

will likely need to acquire mint copies.

St. Lucia

The first post office issue of St. Lucia was the 1887 key-plate issues printed by De La Rue, London, the QV ½d green and 1d carmine. Of the 69 St. Lucia wrappers listed during the decade, plus those listed prior to this after 2003, 31 in the database were the green and 21 the carmine. Although these numbers are not copious, the supply is routine and absorbed by collector demand. In 1904, QV was replaced by the key-plate issues of KEVII. There were eight (green) and seven (red) of these respectively, such low numbers being more difficult to find than the QV issues.

In 1912, there were two KGV issues, ½d green and 1d carmine, and in 1913 the color of the 1d was changed to brown. All of these issues are hard to find. There are five of the ½d green and two of the 1d brown, but no copy of the 1d red, another very elusive wrapper.



Figure 12

St. Lucia 1912 ½d green KGV (left), and 1913 1d brown KGV.

St. Vincent

Two post office issues appeared in 1893, the key-plate QV ½d green and 1d scarlet. Included in the supply of 51 wrappers for the decade, together with those listed in the prior period to 2003, were 46 of the green and 13 of the 1d red. The higher denomination is more difficult to find. In 1902, the QV was replaced with the KEVII ½d green of which there are eight copies. In 1913, the KEVII ½d green was replaced with KGV. No copy of this wrapper appears in the database. Two years later, in 1915, the last issue appeared, a different design of KGV ½d green of which there are four copies.



Figure 13

St. Vincent 1902 KEVII ½d green (left) and 1915 KGV ½d green.

Summary

While a macro approach can be useful in picking up overall trends in supply, perhaps of more importance is to drill down into country supplies to identify particular post office wrappers that are very difficult to acquire. If stamps were being considered, traditional rarity scales would be applied and anything seen only once or twice would qualify for the RRRR rating. With postal stationery in general, and postal wrappers in particular, claims about scarcity and rarity need to be approached with utmost caution because of the possibility of hoards of wrappers coming onto the market and completely changing the known quantities of extant wrappers of particular types. It is more prudent to discuss low survival rates in terms of elusiveness and difficulty in acquisition. Table 2 summarizes the post office types with no appearances or one or two appearances in exactly 17½ years. There are 21 wrapper types in the list. Even though the author has been studying this area of postal stationery for 20 years, it was a surprise to identify so many wrapper types with two or less appearances in such a long data-gathering period. Of course, some of these types may appear on other markets, especially traditional auction houses that deal in high-end philatelic material.

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Table 2
Elusive Wrappers with low Database Counts

Country	Description of Wrapper type	Database Count
Barbados	1950 2¢ green KGV & view of sugarcane plantation	0
Barbados	1977 QEII 8¢ dark green	2
Barbados	1987 flower 15¢ black	1
Bermuda	1951 KGV red	0
Cuba	1910 1c green Enrique Villuendas	0
Cuba	1910 2c Serafin Sánchez	0
Dominica	1927 ½d two medallions, ship & KGV	0
Grenada	1886 1½d brown QV	0
Grenada	1886 2d blue QV	2
Grenada	1912 ¼d brown KGV	0
Grenada	1912 1d red KGV	1
Grenada	1938 ¼d brown KGV	1
Grenada	1957 ½¢ light brown	0
Jamaica	1969 1½d Coat of Arms with boxed handstamp Postage Paid // Half Penny	1
Jamaica	1973 9¢ green Coat of Arms	0
Leeward Islands	1913 ½d green KGV	2
Leeward Islands	1938 ½d green KGV	0
Montserrat	1903 1d carmine	2
St. Lucia	1912 1d carmine	0
St. Lucia	1913 1d brown	2
St. Vincent	1913 ½d green KGV	0

The British Guiana Queen Elizabeth II Air Letters/Aerogrammes

By Nick Halewood

An air letter form or aerogramme is a sheet of thin, lightweight writing paper of a standard size that can be folded into four and sealed with gummed flaps. Because of its size, weight and lack of enclosure, it can be sent via airmail at a special low rate. The first ones needed postage stamps to be applied (formular type; Figure 1), but later ones bore an official postage stamp imprint (indicium¹).

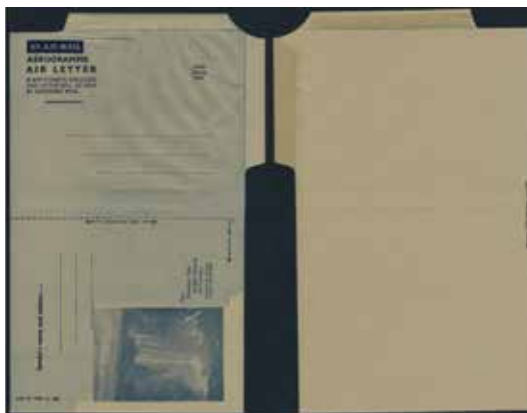
The use of the term aerogramme was officially endorsed at the 1952 Universal Postal Union Congress in Brussels. Thereafter, the term air letter went out of use. As in other countries, aerogrammes were introduced in British Guiana before World War II but became very popular as a result of that war. As a rapid means of communication between military personnel and their families, they were relatively cheap and offered needed privacy.

For British Guiana, air letter forms/aerogrammes were issued in two denominations, 6¢ and 12¢. The indicia were in the same designs as the respective postage stamps. At first the indicium for the 6¢ aerogrammes was blue, but later it was changed to green, like the issued 6¢ postage stamp. The indicium for the 12¢ aerogrammes also underwent a change. At first, it was monocolored (brown), but later it became bicolored, black and brown, like the issued 12¢ postage stamp. Below is a table listing the colors and dates of issue of the four types:

Value	Paper Color	Indicium Color	Overlay Color	First date of issue
6¢	Grey	Blue	Blue	January 25, 1956
6¢	Blue	Green	Green	June 13, 1962
12¢	Grey	Brown	Brown	December 1, 1958
12¢	Blue	Black & Brown	Brown	August 1, 1960

All four types were printed on Wiggins Teape unwatermarked Imperial Air Letter Paper by McCorquodale & Co., Ltd., of Wolverton, U.K. The 6¢ aerogrammes were for inter-regional use; *i.e.*, to British Honduras and designated Caribbean countries, and the 12¢ ones for use to designated countries outside the Caribbean region, including the U.S.A. and the U.K. Later, due to rate increases, both denominations had to be supplemented with postage stamps. At least the 6¢ ones appear to have been sold over the counter with a 6¢ adhesive already attached. If they were, presumably there was a shortage of 12¢ ones.

The figures show the types of aerogrammes used in British Guiana during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II:



*Figure 1 (left)
British Guiana
aerogramme,
Formula type.*

*Figure 2 (right)
British Guiana 6¢
blue aerogramme,
one uprated to
12¢.*

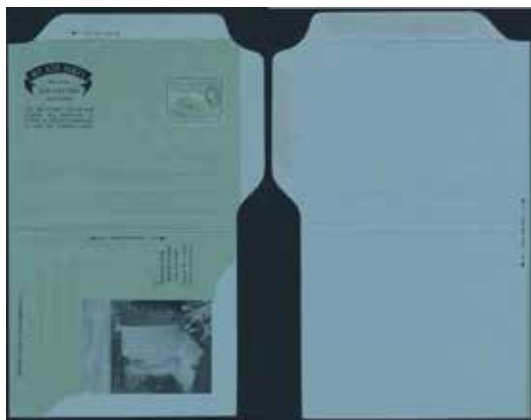


formular (*Figure 1*); 6¢ blue (*Figure 2*); 6¢ green (*Figures 3-5*); 12¢ brown (*Figures 6-7*); and 12¢ black and brown (*Figures 8-14*). Also shown are some production errors.

FOOTNOTES

¹ A marking or imprinted stamp, instead of a postage stamp, indicating that postage has been prepaid by the sender.

² Figure 14 – A piece of white paper is inserted to indicate the edges of the overlapping rolls of paper. As can be seen, the actual point of attachment was not in the center of the overlap.



*Figure 3 (left)
British Guiana 6¢
green aerogramme.*



*Figure 4 (right)
British Guiana 6¢
green aerogramme,
black missing.*



Figure 5

British Guiana 6¢ green aerogramme, green missing.



Figure 6

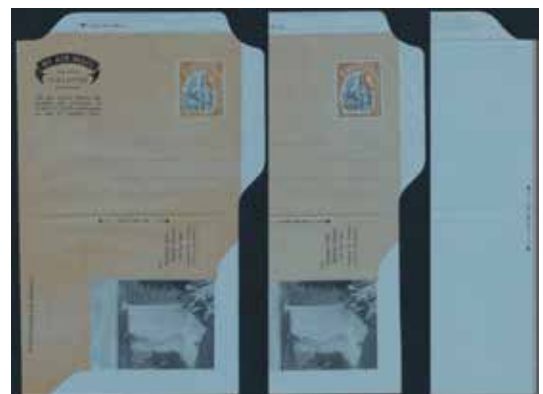
*Lithographic proof of 12¢ brown indicium, black on smooth chalk-surfaced paper.
Printed by McCorquodale.*



Figure 7

British Guiana 12¢ brown aerogramme.

*Figure 8 (right)
Twelve-cent
black & brown
aerogramme, two
shades.*



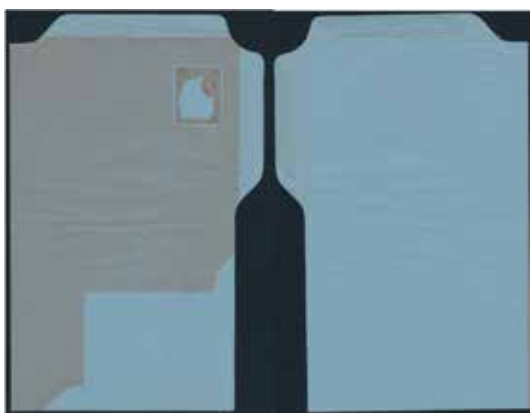


Figure 9

Twelve-cent black & brown aerogramme missing black.

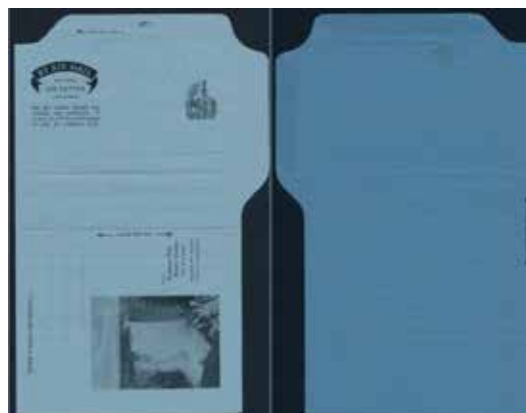


Figure 10

Twelve-cent black & brown aerogramme missing brown.



Figure 11

Twelve-cent black & brown aerogrammes with poor color registration.



Figure 12

Twelve-cent black and brown aerogramme with pre-printing fold.



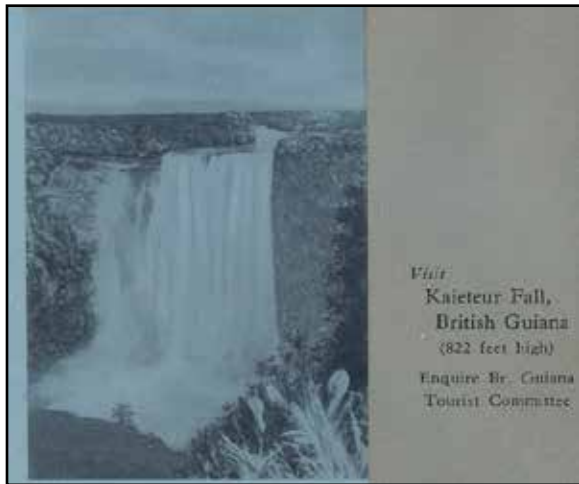
Figure 13

Twelve-cent black and brown aerogramme, only partially printed.

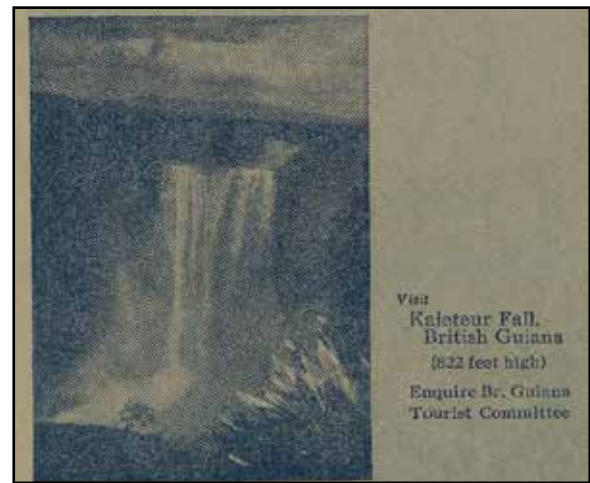


Figure 14

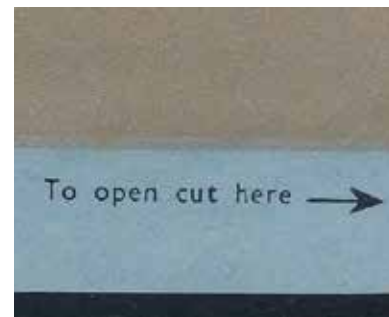
Twelve-cent black and brown aerogramme printed on "paper join" -- see footnote 2.



6¢ blue and 12¢ brown.



6¢ green and 12¢ black & brown.



On all four types there was a photograph of Kaieteur Fall and a message from the British Guiana Tourist Committee, which both ended up on the back when an aerogramme was folded. Two different photographs, taken from the same vantage point, were used. The first was used for the 6¢ blue (1956) and 12¢ brown (1958), and the other, a clearer one, for the 6¢ green (1962) and 12¢ black & brown (1960). The spacing of the messages with the two photographs was also different.

St. Vincent Handbook 1899-1965

Additional Updates

By Roy Bond & Russell Boylan

Back in 2017, the British West Indies Study Circle (BWISC) published a substantial book by the late Charles Freeland, Roy Bond and Russell Boylan titled *St. Vincent Handbook 1899-1965*. The purpose of the book was to supplement the outstanding handbook on St. Vincent philately by Pierce, Messenger and Lowe, published by Robson Lowe in 1971. Annually, the authors update the handbook with new information that has come to light. What follows is a listing of updates, changes and additions reported since the last update was published in the January 2021 issue of the *Journal*. An earlier update was published in the January 2019 issue.

Section 9.2, 1961 Issue

Specimens

In 1961 De La Rue bought Waterlow & Sons, Ltd. from Purnell, so in September 1961 De La Rue took over the printing of the St. Vincent definitive stamps. However, rather than using the existing Waterlow working plates, they made up fresh working plates from the Waterlow master plates. From these new plates they took a set of Specimen stamps for all the lower values, with the exception of the 15¢ value, for their own archives (See Figure 9.2.5).

Chapter 10

The following write-up is to be added directly after page 136, Chapter 10, Section 6 on Aerogrammes.

Section 10.6.2

To follow on from the bottom of page 136, the authors have added this very useful write-up originally created by Joe Chin Aleong and Vincent Duggleby for the March 1993 edition of the WISPHR, No. 32. To give an earlier background to the use of Air Letters, as they were originally called, we must go back to the Autumn 1944 issue of the *Government Gazette*, wherein a notice was given advising that as of September 16, 1944, special Air Letter forms for communicating with members of the Armed Forces would be available to the general public at a rate of 6d.

We have not seen any of these forms issued from St. Vincent, but they were modeled on the design as those of the Armed Forces Air Letter scheme introduced by the British Government in April 1943 and adopted by Trinidad in July 1943 and by Barbados in November 1943. In a notice of November 17, 1944, it advised of a rate increase to 8d on all air forms to anywhere in the British Empire. One of the earliest air letters seen, showing the 8d rate, is dated "21 JA 1946."

From early in 1947, the St. Vincent Post Office supplied an Air Letter form free of charge with a 6d stamp, it now being the rate for Air Letter forms. These Air Letter forms were ordered from The Advocate Co., Ltd. of Barbados, and on March 5, 1948 an order for 6,000 forms at a rate of \$40.06, which was approximately the number used in a year at that time (1,563 were dispatched in the third quarter of 1948 to Trinidad for onward transmission). By 1951, the usage rate had increased so that from January 1 to June 15,

1951 a total of 4,893 forms were dispatched to Trinidad. On January 10, 1949 the Secretary of State for the Colonies advised the Administrator by circular telegram that European countries were now accepting Air Letters and that the French Administration had notified its acceptance from December 1, 1948. After contacting the Postmaster General of Trinidad, however, the Colonial Postmaster advised that the restriction of the Air Letter service to Empire countries was to continue.

Of the 6d postage on Air Letter forms, the St. Vincent Post Office had to pay Trinidad 4d (8¢ EC\$) as the forms were forwarded through Trinidad, for onward transmission. On November 7, 1951 the Postmaster General of Trinidad advised that the charges will be increased to 9¢ (EC) for forms to the United Kingdom, Canada and the U.S.A. and to 11 cents (EC\$) for forms to other destinations. After consulting with the postmasters of St. Lucia and Grenada, who advised that they had to accept the Trinidad proposals, the acting Colonial Postmaster of St. Vincent decided that nothing could be done but to accept the increased charges but at the same time did not increase the postage rate on Air Letter forms.

The St. Vincent Post Office continued to order Air Letters from the Advocate Co., Ltd. until 1955, the last order being on November 15, 1955 for 1,000 forms to be sent by air freight (except for an emergency order of 2,000 in December 1956). These forms were printed in black on green paper and have "P.O. 876" under the bottom line (towards the right) of the rectangle containing the address portion of the front of the form. Most of those seen were used in January 1952 to Liverpool.

Other Air Letter forms are known used from St. Vincent during this period, especially the "Apsley" Air Letter in dark blue on grey and on grey blue. These have been seen used from November 11, 1950 to August 22, 1955, but were not supplied by the St. Vincent Post Office. On March 29, 1954 the Acting Administrator advised the Crown Agents of the initial local requirements of the new stamp issue (1955 QEII definitives) and added, "Grateful if you would also obtain tenders for an Airmail Letter Form with 12 cent stamp imprinted. Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd., New Malden, Surrey, supplied this Colony in June 1953, with a specimen Form they designed for Ethiopia. Local requirements are about 12,000 Forms per annum at present and may increase to 33,000 per annum if a proposal to extend their use to the U.S.A. is adopted."

The Crown Agents replied on June 18, 1954, enclosing a quotation and sample from Waterlow & Sons, Ltd. for printing 40,000 and 90,000 St. Vincent Air Letter Forms bearing a 12¢ stamp and went on, "Although it might be possible to obtain cheaper quotations from other suppliers, the quality of the forms would not be up to the standard of those of Messrs. Waterlow and, as they are the printers of your new stamps, it would be convenient to place the order with them both from the point of view of delivery and security. No 12 cent stamp is included in the range of your new issue, but it is assumed that the 12 cent stamp appearing on the Forms should be in the same design as the lower values of the new issue. The quotation for '40,000 Air Letter Forms on blue Air Mail paper, size and quality as our sample attached, lithographed wording in blue and value stamp in one colour (two printings in all) gummed' was at 51/3 per 1,000 while for 90,000 the rate was 45/9 per 1,000 with packing and delivery extra at cost."

On November 3, 1954 the Administrator replied, "In view of the fact that the forms are not required for release before the 1 September 1955, with the new issue of stamps, it is suggested that you should invite quotations for the forms from Bradbury Wilkinson, who were previously suppliers of stamps to this Government." On November 26, 1954 the Crown Agents stated they: "Were able to obtain quotations from Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd., for production of the forms because this firm is also printing the new stamps and therefore are in a position to know exactly what is involved. It is not possible, however, to obtain quotations from other printers until the new stamps are actually printed and specimens can be forwarded to the other firms in order that they also can see what is involved. At this stage, however, the

Crown Agents can say that Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson will produce probably the most attractive form, but also the most expensive. Messrs. McCorquodale & Co. Ltd., who print the British G.P.O. forms, are the cheapest suppliers, but the reproduction of the stamps on their form is not of the same quality of either Bradbury Wilkinson or Waterlow. In the circumstances, unless you advise to the contrary, the Crown Agents will note to ask both Bradbury Wilkinson and McCorquodale for quotations for the Air Letter forms as soon as the new stamps are available.”

In his reply of December 11, 1954, the Acting Administrator said, “As the forms are required for release at the same time as the issue of the new stamps, I should be grateful if an order could be placed with Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd. for the supply of 20,000 forms. After the new stamps have been released, Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson and McCorquodale may be asked to submit quotations for the future supply of Air Letter Forms.”

Contrary to what they stated in their letter of November 26, 1954, the Crown Agents in their letter of March 8, 1955, forwarded two quotations for a new 12¢ Aerogramme, submitted by Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. and McCorquodale & Co., and went on “Specimens of Bradbury Wilkinson’s recent productions for other Colonial Territories are attached. McCorquodale recently introduced a new method of die-making and no specimens of their printed forms are available. As stated in Crown Agents letter of 26 November, however, their reproduction of the stamp is not likely to be of such high quality as those of either Waterlow or Bradbury Wilkinson. No doubt you will compare the attached quotations with that of Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, sent under cover of Crown Agents letter of 18 June 1954, and state which should be accepted. Colour proofs of the new stamp issue have not yet been approved, but are expected in the near future. It will be necessary, of course, to wait until the colors of the stamps have been decided before choosing a colour for the 12 cents value to be used on the Aerogrammes. It is assumed that the Crown Agents may use their discretion in this matter, although it may be stated that the preference is for a dark colour, such as purple, which will stand out clearly on the blue background of Airmail paper. It will be seen from Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson’s quotation that it would be proposed to print the text matter in the same colour as the stamp in order to save an extra operation.”

The quotation from Bradbury Wilkinson dated 16 February 1955, was as follows:

To engrave value 12 cents in words on soft steel die to be supplied to us and make up necessary lithographic printing plates, £ 61 12 6.

To supply Air Letter Forms printed by lithography, with a reproduction of the 12 cents stamp and the text matter all in 1 colour, with a blueground tint all over pages 1 and 4 using paper as specimen herewith cut to shape size 9.15/16” x 8.5/16”

40,000 Forms @ £3 5s 0d per 1,000 £130 0 0

90,000 @ £2 7s 6d per 1,000 £213 15 0

Gumming on 2 flaps @ 12s 6d per 1,000 Forms

The quotation from McCorquodale & Co. Ltd. dated 24 February 1955 was as follows:

40,000 Air Letter Forms 8.1/8” x 10.1/8” printed and cut to shape

To with facsimile of new St. Vincent 12 cent stamp on Imperial

90,000 Air Mail Blue Paper gummed per 1,000 32/6

Cost of dies £25/10/-

The Acting Administrator on April 13, 1955 confirmed the direction given in his letter of December 11, 1954, that the order should be placed with Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd. leaving the question of color

to the Crown Agents' discretion and asked to see a specimen of Messrs. McCorquodale's work under the new system when available.

On June 15, 1955, the Crown Agents sent two copies of an Advice of Order Placed for the aerogrammes and added "the stamp on the aerogramme will be printed in a dark colour and as a result it will be possible for the text to be in the same colour. As only one printing will now be required it has been possible to obtain a reduction in the price per thousand of these aerogrammes, from 51/3d to 42/6d." The Acting Administrator sent the following telegram on August 31, 1955: "Grateful to know when supply of Aerogrammes can be expected as required for release with New Stamps Issue on 16 September 1955 (Paragraph 2 of my letter of 11 December 1954 refers)."

On September 3, 1955, the Crown Agents replied: "Regret unable to deliver Aerogrammes in time for release on 16 September. Production delayed by shortage of necessary paper and Waterlows can now only promise delivery by end of September. Whilst release with New Stamp Issue is desirable, it is not essential and it would be in order for you to release at a later date." Another telegram to the Crown Agents on October 5, 1955: "Due to Hurricane Janet, present supply of Air Letter Forms will soon be exhausted with no hope of a further supply in a hurry. Grateful if you supply 2,000 forms by air as soon as possible." This was replied to on October 7, 1955 with "Unable to fly any Aerogrammes. All shipped S. S. Sudbury Hill due St. Vincent early November." As a result the Colonial Postmaster contacted the Advocate Co., Ltd., on November 14, 1955 and confirmed an order for 1,000 Air Letter Forms to be sent airfreight on the 17th. The invoice of 30 September 1955 from Waterlow & Sons Ltd. is as follows:

Preparing original material £23
Aerogrammes gummed 8.3/8" x 10.1/8" printed on Blue Air Mail paper to bear a lithographic reproduction of the design of the new St. Vincent Postage Stamp issue, 42/6 £43 2 -
Lower values with the value shown as Twelve cents in 1,000 Letters, printing and stamp in black in packets of 100.
370 Additional specimens supplied 15 10
Packing in 1 case lined waterproof and delivery f. o. b. London £ 3 5 - £70 2 10
 (Note: the invoice is inaccurate as 42/6 times 20 is not £43 2 -, but is £42 10 -)

On October 13, 1955 the Crown Agents wrote confirming the shipment of the new aerogrammes by the S. S. Sudbury Hill, asked for their issue date and sent specimens of aerogrammes produced by McCorquodale employing their new die manufacturing process. The specimens consisted of a Bermuda 6d and a Cyprus 25 mils. The Crown Agents were advised by the Administrator on November 15, 1955 that the issue date of the new aerogrammes would be December 5, 1955 and the specimens of aerogrammes from McCorquodale were returned.

A Post Office Notice was published in the *Government Gazette*, the *Challenge* and the *Vincentian*, reading: "It is hereby notified for general information that Air Letter Forms with 12 cents stamp imprinted will be released 5th December 1955." The forms were duly issued on December 5, 1955 and are known cancelled on that same date.

On January 13, 1956, the Colonial Postmaster advised the Administrator that 13 aerogrammes were found short from seven packets opened and checked by the deputy Postmaster and himself. On May 9, 1956, the Colonial Postmaster advised the Minister of Communications and Works that the 20,000 forms received in December "was regarded as well over a year's supply. Largely due to the exodus to the U.K., however, the rate of sale of Air Letter Forms has trebled within recent months. At present the Treasury stocks plus those at the G.P.O. total 6,600 only, and at the current rate these will only last 2 months."

As a result a telegram was sent the next day to the Crown Agents ordering 20,000 forms from Waterlow with 3,000 to be sent by air freight by end of June or early July. The 3,000 were despatched by air about the middle of June and the balance of 17,000 were shipped by the SS *Novelist*, which sailed on July 13, 1956.

Another indent was placed on September 3, 1956 for 25,000 forms, and 3,000 were sent by parcel post on November 13, and 23,000 (an excess of 1,000) were shipped by the SS *Trader*.

Seemingly, however, the usage rate had increased again so that this last order was not in time to prevent an emergency order of 2,000 forms from the Advocate Co., Ltd., in December 1956. We conclude with a summary of the forms ordered to 1960 (right). From the quantities sold, one would not expect these first Air Letter Forms to be so difficult to obtain commercially used as they are.

ST. VINCENT AIR LETTER FORMS			
DATE	QUANTITY	SUPPLIER	COST
Feb. 25, 1948	6,000	Advocate Co. Ltd., Barbados	\$ 40.06
Oct. 4, 1948	6,000	"	\$ 39.10
July 30, 1949	6,000	"	\$ 38.98
March 7, 1950	6,000	"	\$ 62.74
Nov. 11, 1950	6,000	"	\$ 64.94
June 16, 1951	6,000	"	\$ 75.11
Mar. 22, 1952	4,000	"	\$ 50.88
Jan. 29, 1953	10,000	"	\$ 119.76
May 11, 1954	4,000	"	\$ 53.82
Nov. 15, 1955	1,000	"	\$ 13.46
Dec. 19, 1956	2,000	"	\$ 23.92
Dec. 11, 1954	20,000	Waterlow & Sons Ltd.	42/6 per 1,000
May 10, 1956	20,000	"	57/6 per 1,000
Sep. 3, 1956	25,000	"	57/3 per 1,000
Jan. 15, 1957	40,000	"	56/6 per 1,000
Aug. 26, 1957	15,000	"	64/6 per 1,000
Jan. 20, 1958	40,000	"	64/6 per 1,000
Nov. 27, 1958	40,000	"	58/6 per 1,000
Mar. 17, 1959	40,000	"	58/6 per 1,000
Nov. 24, 1959	40,000	"	61/- per 1,000
May 16, 1960	30,000	"	61/- per 1,000

The following input is to Chapter 16 page 211 and is with reference to the PML write ups on pages 40, 42 and 43. It is designed to clear up a certain amount of confusion with respect to the Color Trials that are available for the 1/- "pink" stamps of June 1872 (SG#17), August 1873 (SG#20) and 1875 (SG#21). The authors have referred back to the Napier and Bacon book of St. Vincent stamps dated 1895 and printed by Stanley Gibbons to find that there is in fact no confusion in that worthy volume whatsoever.

CHAPTER 16

Section 16.1

In the Perkins Bacon archives of 1894 there was, with reference to the issue of June 1872, a single copy of the first issue of "pink 1/- stamps" that is in fact a copy of the Rose Red of SG#17, stapled to a complete sheet of stamps printed on plain thick white paper, unwatermarked, un gummed and unperforated. In the top border there was written in ink, "Patterns for colour. Postage Pink, small quantity of Drop carmine-lake about ½ oz. for 300 sheets." So as far as Perkins, Bacon & Co. were concerned, the color of both SG#17 and SG#20 issues was carmine-lake. There was no other "Pattern for Colour" for either SG #20 or SG#21; however, there is the comment in the same file that states for the 1875 issue, generally referred to as claret that "A drop of Deep Yellow to be added." Though how Perkins, Bacon & Co. staff thought that this would lighten the shade of these stamps is quite puzzling. This plain thick white paper sheet was somehow released to the public, quite possibly during the 1922 sale of St. Vincent stock material when Perkins, Bacon & Co. moved from Fleet Street to Bunnhill Row in Clerkenwell to larger premises. As to whether Perkins, Bacon & Co. sold the sheet intact or whether it was cut up prior to sale is not recorded. However, this is without doubt the source of these individual colour trials that St. Vincent collectors come across from time to time.

Knutsford Park (Part 5) The Salt Gut - Boscobel "Discontinuity"

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



Figure 1: Map of area around Salt Gut/Boscobel, Jamaica.

Salt Gut Residents Rejoice At Opening Of Post Office.

A PUBLIC UTILITY THAT THE VILLAGE LOST SOME FIFTY YEARS AGO

BIG FORMAL FUNCTION

RETREAT, Dec. 5.—The dreams of fifty years became a reality yesterday when in the presence of a large number of people Mr. G. A. Rock, Government Electrical Inspector and Inspector of Post Offices, declared the Post Office at the little village of Salt Gut opened. No sooner than were the words spoken a rush was made to buy stamps, and for quite a while the new installed P.M., Miss Louise Lindo, was kept busy at the desk.

Salt Gut is on the main road leading from Port Maria to St. Ann's Bay and is about 3 miles west of the busy shipping port of Oracabessa. Until a couple years ago, Salt Gut was an extremely busy banana centre, but when operations were transferred to Oracabessa its glory passed away. In the same way, it came out in the addresses made, that some fifty or sixty years ago there was a Post Office in the village.

Mr. Rock arrived at about 11 o'clock and at once got busy to install the necessary fixtures for the opening that was scheduled for 1 p.m. When the appointed hour came all was ready. Over one hundred adults and a goodly number of juveniles assembled in front of the building and many were the witticisms that were exchanged.

Among the gathering could be seen Mr. R. C. Beckford, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Buckley, Messrs. N. L. Marsh, M.P.B., I. S. Magnus, Christie Magnus, E. L. Culleton, John McGregor (Snr.), Augustus Philipotts, Ashley Lindo, Astor Philipotts, Ruel Lindo, W. Goffe, Cecil Fyffe, Frank Walter, A. G. Grizzle, Vivian Beckford, B. L. Thompson, A. Mosquito, Herman Norton, H. G. McGregor, L. C. A. Thomas, O. B. Haynes, A. Musgrave Gayle, Arthur Hunter, Mrs. Atonette Satherswaite, Mrs. Wong, Miss R. May Fyffe, Miss Ceta Bloomfield, Miss Blanch Culleton, Miss Ina Culleton, Miss Joyce Culleton, Miss A. Rowe, Miss Florence Lopez, Miss D. Lindo, Miss N. Williamson, Miss N. Evans (P. M. Lodge).

"PLACED ON THE MAP"

Mr. Beckford, Convenor of the function, here expressed his pleasure at seeing such a large number of people out, at what was really a "red letter day" for the village, inasmuch as Salt Gut was now placed on the map.

Mr. Beckford went on to show the history connected with the movement of getting this Post Office. Some little while ago—early in January—Mr. Christie Magnus and he discussed the matter, and decided to make an effort to secure the office. They in turn discussed the matter with Mr. H. A. Buckley. Mr. Buckley in turn approached Mr. U. L. Marsh, M.P.B., who saw the Postmaster in Kingston and placed the proposition before him. The Postmaster promised to consider the matter if placed before him in the form of a petition. In the course of a week or two, the petition, by the jealous work of Mr. Beckford and Mr. Peart, was signed by some three hundred residents and forwarded to the Postmaster with the result as seen to-day.

Mr. Beckford went on to show that he had seen the handicap in trade and medical attendance for want of an office and telephone station in the village, as many people were some eight miles from the nearest telegraph station, Oracabessa or Retreat. His one regret was that the telephone had not yet been installed, but that would come he hoped at no distant date. After calling on all the people to support the office, he called on Mr. Buckley to preside.

Mr. Buckley said he had taken more than passing interest in the opening of the Post Office as personally he would be well served by it, and when the telephone was installed he would be saving about 2/- on every telegram sent or received. He foreshadowed a great success for the office as it would serve about 5 or 6 very populous districts.

Mr. Buckley went on to show how Messrs. Beckford, Christie, Magnus and he were quite willing to put up the necessary guarantee if required, and Mr. Percy Lindo, proprietor of Union property, by his large heartedness, had undertaken to be sole guarantor if necessary. (Here Mr. Rock pointed out that the Government did not now require guarantors).

Continuing Mr. Buckley said he did not know if Mr. Rock was personally responsible for the appointment of the P.M., but if he were he had done excellently, as he had brought a lady whose geniality had already won them all, and expressed the hope, that she would continue to be a popular Postmistress here for a number of years.

OTHER SPEECHES

On the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. N. L. Marsh was asked to speak.

Mr. Marsh pointed out the part he had taken in helping to obtain the office, and joined with the previous speakers in wishing the office much success.

Mr. Gayle traced the development of telegraphic communication in the island since its establishment in 1859 and stressed the point that the installation of a telephone at the office was a necessity. He also pointed out some of the various civilising influences in a community—postal facilities being an important one.

At this stage Mr. Rock informed the gathering through the Chairman that this was the 147th P.O. he had opened since his connection with the service (loud cheers). Other speakers who emphasised the necessity of the office, and exhorted the people to support it, were: Teacher L. C. Thomas, Mr. Ruel Lindo and Mr. John McGregor.

Mr. O. B. Haynes moved the vote of thanks to Mr. Buckley for presiding, Mr. Beckford for the active part he played as also to those associated with him, and to the ladies for gracing the function with their presence.

Mr. A. Philipotts, known locally as "Captain Gus" seconded the vote of thanks.

Mr. Rock was asked if the public would get stamps to buy after the arrival of the Mail at 7 p.m. The Supervisor informed the gathering that stamps would be sold or could be sold at any office up to 7.30 p.m., but not after that hour according to the regulations—though a courteous P.M. may find it possible to do so. The information was well received.

Mr. Rock asked to be excused at this stage as he had to go on to Port Antonio. If the speeches were enjoyed—the contents of a large number of bottles were as much enjoyed, and on a whole an enjoyable afternoon was spent.

Quite a large crowd was in the village when the mail arrived and several loud "hurrahs" rent the air. So another mile-post has been reached in the good work being done by the Postmaster for Jamaica.

In 1894, the post office at Salt Gut (A74) (St. Mary) closed its doors. It had served its residents since 1770, when it was a minor port at the mouth of the Gut River. At that time it handled mails from both Gayle and Guy's Hill (Figure 1).

Salt Gut, was once a thriving banana port until the trade was moved to Oracabessa. However, some 40 years later, on December 4, 1934, the Salt Gut Post Office sprang to life once more. Three days later *The Daily Gleaner* astonishingly managed to deliver just shy of a thousand words of copy on the matter (Figure 2).

Figure 3
Salt Gut LDC.



Salt Gut used a Large Double Circle (LDC) [Figure 3], which was noted from May 17, 1935 (Proud) to October 10, 1938 (Potter), somewhat "philatelic" in both instances.

Figure 2: The Daily Gleaner, December 7, 1934.

The name of the Post Office at Salt Gut, in the Parish of St. Mary, has been changed to Boscobel.

W. A. CAMPBELL
Actg. Postmaster General

1 February, 1936

Figure 4: Boscobel is born.

On February 1, 1936, the acting Postmaster General announced Salt Gut had become Boscobel (**Figure 4**). In late 1938 the office moved a couple of miles



Figure 5

The Boscobel Post Office in May 2015.

east to the village of Boscobel (**Figure 5**). It boasted one of the very first “Birmingham” postmarks issued in Jamaica,¹ on July 18, 1939 by the Crown Agents, just prior to World War II (**Figure 6**).



**Figure 6
Boscobel B***

The earliest known date of use for “Boscobel” is noted by Tom Foster as September 25, 1939 (**Figure 7**). He also noted that “BOSCA-BEL” was indeed a spelling error. Further, the local postmaster insisted that no TRD had been issued in 1934-5.

BOSCOBEL. St. Mary Parish. T-38
Post Office opened Sept. 1939. (Formerly AIRY-CASTLE.)
TRD (S/O) (M) States no TRD - Name changed to Boscobel
B1 (with change to Boscobel) (with change to Boscobel) (with change to Boscobel)
P/O Post Office

Figure 7

Tom Foster’s notes on the Boscobel Post Office.

In this author’s KGVI West Indies postmark tome of 2008 (BWISC), I rated Boscobel B* as “scarce.”



Figure 8

The author at Ian Fleming International Airport, once Boscobel Aerodrome.

In 2015 I visited this remote office, nearby what is now the booming Ian Fleming International Airport at Oracabessa (**Figure 8**).

So, just what was going on at Salt Gut back in the late 1930s? Post offices in Jamaica were fairly resilient to change, so there has to be a reason why it moved to become Boscobel/Boscabel.

By 1939, industrial quantities of aluminum had been discovered by Sir Alfred DaCosta in the topsoil of his farms at Linton Park and Lydford. He sent out soil samples for analysis, as his newly introduced cattle were mysteriously dying. It was a combination of both aluminum and radium. These elements exist together and were essential to the war effort for weapons development. With no telephones or telegraphs available, postmarks were at that point in time the only means to give authenticity to correspondence with the rest of the island. Linton Park had no forwarding office; mails were sent directly to Kingston via motorbike courier.

A locally made Linton Park Single Line TRD was issued in September 1940 and used until October 1941. The Linton Park “Birmingham” (B) never arrived and so an improved TRO was issued in November 1941. A permanent but locally made “Horseshoe Birmingham” (HB) was finally issued for Linton Park on May Day, 1943 (**Figure 9a and 9b**).



**Figure 9a
Linton Park TRD,
September 24,
1940.**



Figure 9b
Linton Park postmarks, 1940-1943.



Figure 11: *In 1921, Marcus Garvey designed the Pan-African Flag.*

Marcus Mosiah Garvey, the father of Black Pan-Nationalism, was a major supporter of the Sinn Féin movement (**Figure 10**). From an early age he lived at St. Anns Bay on the northern coast of Jamaica, but a few miles distant from Boscobel and Linton Park. In his youth he worked at his godfather's printery in the town. In 1904 a second branch was opened at Port Maria and Marcus commuted every day for a year, passing through Ocho Rios, Salt Gut, Boscobel and Oracabessa.



Figure 10
Marcus Garvey.

He then moved to Kingston and in 1907, after the earthquake, went to Costa Rica to work for The United Fruit Company as a timekeeper. In 1911 he opened his first bilingual newspaper there and then moved on to Panama and then London. Post-World War II he sailed for New York, where he became a key agitator for Black rights and set up the Black Star Shipping Line. He was deported back to Jamaica in 1927 after serving jail time in Atlanta on trumped-up mail fraud charges.

The journalist Charles Mowbray White, who interviewed Garvey, asserted that he proposed the colors red, black and green for the following reasons:

“Garvey explained red because of sympathy for the ‘Reds of the World,’ the green for his sympathy for the IRA and the black for the Negro Diaspora.” Another version is that the red was for the “Redlegs” (poor Irish Caribbeans, mainly living in Barbados and Jamaica) the green for Jamaica, and the black represented the Pan-African Negroes (**Figure 11**).

It is important to note that via “The Goldschmidt Process” (Germany, 1897), powdered aluminum, if added to bomb materials, made termite, a cheap and very effective incendiary weapon. In 1923, the IRA had discovered this and in 1939 had used some four hundredweight of termite to enhance their deadly 1939-40 bombing campaign in Coventry, London and Manchester (**Figure 12**). At this time, had become a scarce commodity, so the question was, where exactly was it being sourced from and by whom?

In January 1940 Marcus Garvey had suffered a debilitating stroke at his home near Marble Arch in West London.

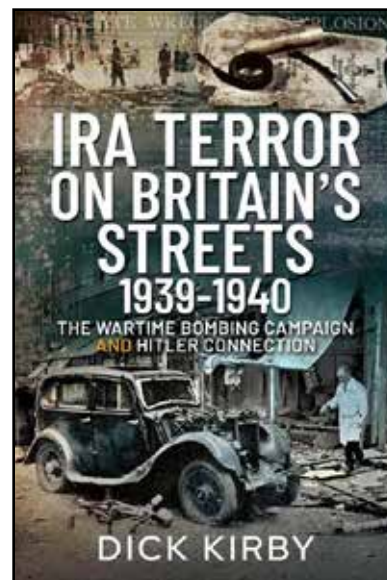


Figure 12
The incessant IRA bomb campaign had centered around Oxford Circus and Regent Street.

By March, the IRA ran out of supplies of aluminum and the hostilities ended. Was it perhaps the IRA who persuaded philatelist Robson Lowe to leave 93 Regent Street in 1940, and not the Luftwaffe (*Figure 13*)?

Figure 13
Announcing The
Regent Catalogue
by Robson Lowe,
1934.



In 2014, I was contacted by an old Yorkshire colleague who I worked with from 1980-1984 in Howland Street, London. I last saw him at lunch in late 2002 in Sydney, and he asked if I had seen the following information from a book by David Edgerton. “In 1936, a British research programme based at Fort Halstead (Biggin Hill) in Kent under the direction of Dr. Alwyn Crow started work on a series of un-guided, solid-fuel rockets that could be used as anti-aircraft weapons. In 1939, a number of test firings were carried out in the British Colony of Jamaica, on a purpose-built range.”²

This small, but beguiling detail appears to dovetail rather neatly into what is laid out here. *The Daily Gleaner* pointedly makes no mention of “rocketry” in Jamaica in 1939. But a Julian Chapman Scholarship via The Royal Philatelic Society London paid for the author to travel to Goldeneye, St. Mary’s, Jamaica to investigate. *Figure 14*, below, is a map of the region.

To be continued

FOOTNOTES

¹ This was a batch of 17 “Birminghams” issued in Jamaica on that date: Alderton, Balaclava, Boscabel, Brainerd, Bushy Park, Dalvey, Devon, Gordon Town, Islington, Jackson Town, Lucky Hill, Middle Quarters, Mount Regale, Port Antonio, Southfield, Thompson Town and Warsop. A further batch included Black River, Ginger Ridge, Glengoffe, John’s Hall, Knockpatrick, Linton Park and Lydford was lost at sea due to hostile enemy action. It would now appear that these were the two dozen most strategically placed post offices in Jamaica.

² David Edgerton, *Britain’s War Machine: Weapons, Resources and Experts in the Second World War*, Penguin Books, 2012, p. 42.

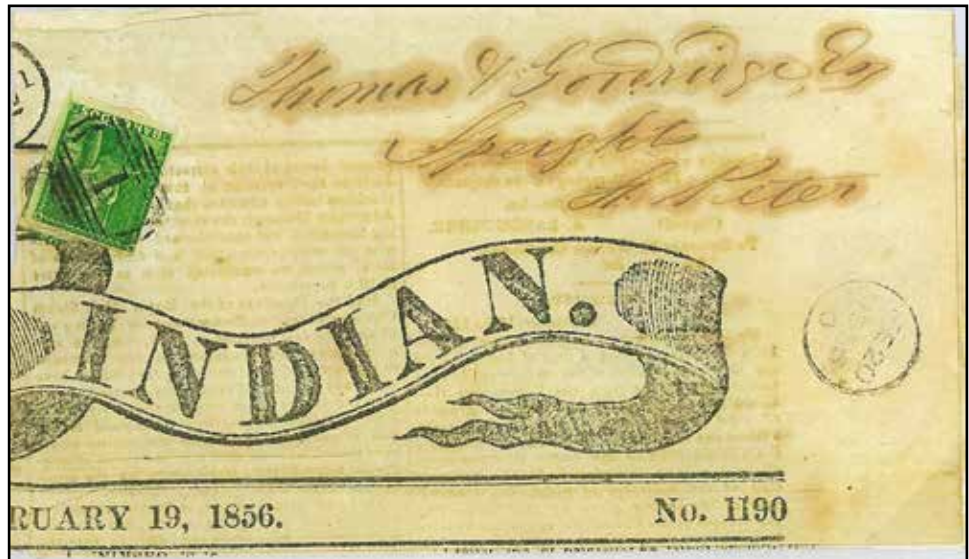


Figure 14
“Flemingland” with its own “airport” at Boscabel, HQ at Labyrinth Post Office and
David Brown’s secret VAK1 Tractor Assembly Plant at “Huddersfield” near Salt Gut.

Vignettes of Barbados Britannia Covers

By M. Fitz Roett

No covers are known franked with the ½d yellow-green printed on blue paper. However, two items have survived with the stamp printed on white paper, but which originated from a blue paper printing. This half front of the West Indian newspaper of February 19, 1856, is addressed to the parish of St. Peter and franked with a copy of the ½d yellow-green. Note the receiving postmark of the following day. It is correctly assessed at ½d which is the rate for locally printed newspapers per the Post Office Act of 1851. No other example of any ½d Britannia paying the newspaper rate is recorded.



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President's Message

By John Seidl

I hope everyone is having a less chaotic year than my wife and I seem to be having. Our four parents, all well into their 80s, are still with us, which is a blessing. That being said, all are having major health concerns at seemingly the same time and this has been a challenge. Then add in my sister-in-law losing a two year fight with cancer and leaving behind a couple of children AND my own son becoming a father and you can now imagine how this year has been progressing.

On a philatelic front I have the honor of teaching one of the classes for the American Philatelic Society's Summer Seminar this year. My topic is "An Introduction to the History of the Russian Posts" covering 1703 to today. Here is a country with a complex history and the philatelic story to support it. I've learned so much pulling together the material and hope to participants will feel like they learn something too. I've always thought the best way to REALLY learn something is to be tasked with teaching it to someone else and this experience has been proof of that belief.

I'd encourage each of you to think about how you can add a new dimension to your philatelic interests. Add a new island, go deeper into postal history and covers, consider what is going on with modern day material for your favorite country. I have to give a shout out to Steve Zirinsky (www.zirinskystamps.com) here as he is doing more to capture, document and preserve modern postal history from the British West Indies than anyone else I know. His work is outstanding both in terms of the research he's conducted and the stock he captures for his web store.

No real updates on the merger for the BCPSG and the BWISC but I can still see it happening as we just don't have the volunteers or authors contributing time and content to keep both groups going independently. Even the combined entity will continue to have the challenges of an aging membership demographic and a lack of support from members to maintain viability over the long haul. It's not too late to step up and help us out – feel free to contact me if you have any questions. John.seidl@gmail.com or 404-229-6863.



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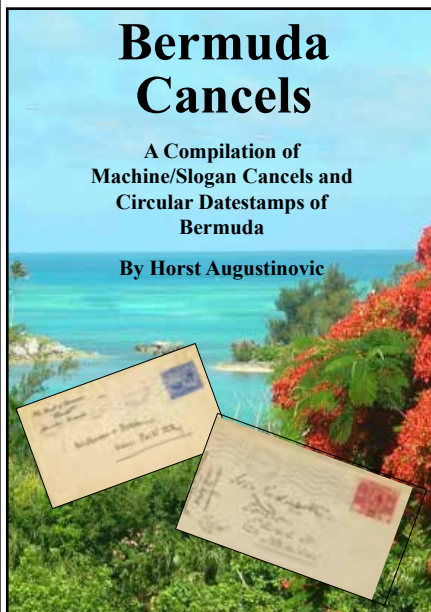
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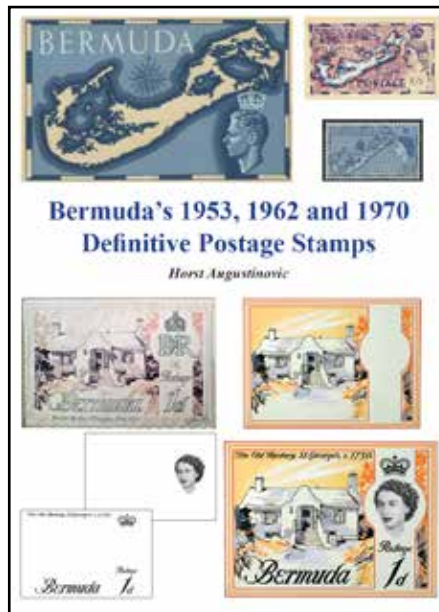
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