

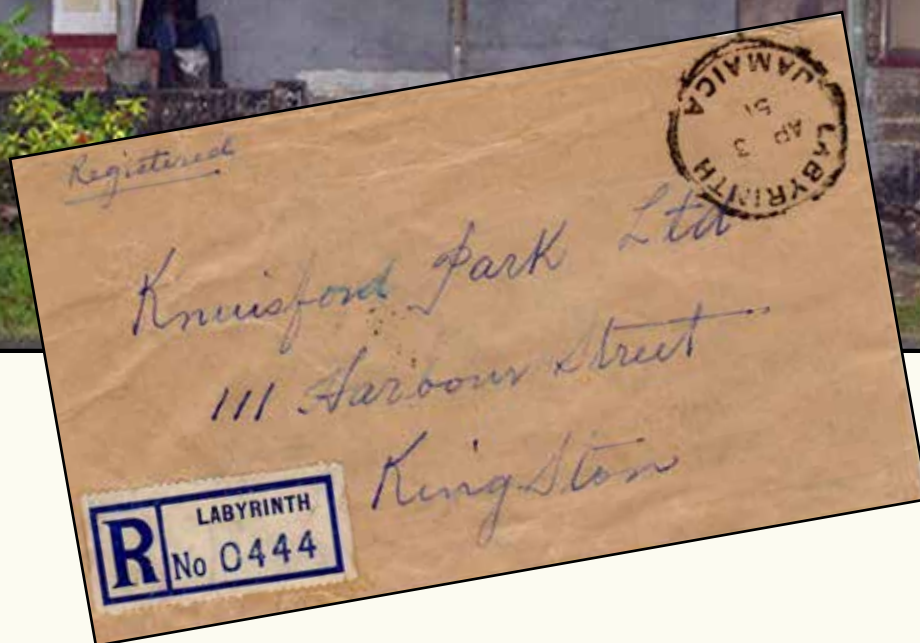
BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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

Vol. 63, No. 1

January - March 2023

Whole No. 286



*Cover from Labyrinth Post Office to Knutsford Park.
See David Horry's report beginning on page 8.*



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

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British Caribbean Philatelic Journal

Vol. 63, No. 1 January - March, 2023 Whole No. 286

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DEADLINES FOR THIS PUBLICATION

January issue: Deadline November 15, mailing December 30

April issue: Deadline February 15, mailing March 30

July issue: Deadline May 15, mailing June 30

October issue: Deadline August 15, mailing September 30

This is the last issue of your *Journal*, and that's not the way it should be

This is the final issue of the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* and it comes about because of a largely unknown merger. Members, at least some, supposedly have been asked to approve the merger with the British West Indies Study Circle in Great Britain.

The merger had been quietly talked about by a few society officials who believe declining membership numbers and a clear inability to get members to take on key roles in running the organization would otherwise soon see the BCPSG dissolved.

The hope was that with a merger with what apparently is a larger organization would relieve key officers from their responsibilities while continuing to offer BCPSG members a journal, albeit different.

Some believe the quality of articles in the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* has slipped over the past couple of years or so. As editor of this publication for 20 plus years, I would agree with that assessment. We don't have the number of writers or quality of articles. But that is not the editor's fault; it is more of an indictment of philatelic societies in general. Few members want to do anything anymore, write anything, attend meetings or shows.

Interestingly, it is apparently different on the other side of the Big Pond, which is to say England. The BWISC is a long-standing society with more members than our group, and people who are willing to take on tasks and attend meetings.

The problem the BCPSG was facing was a declining membership, lack of participation by most officers, a vastly overworked president who is holding at least three key jobs, a lack of meetings and activities at stamp shows, and a lack of writers.

It is difficult to understand the drastically declining membership over the past few years. In 1986, we added 45 new members, according to the published secretary's reports. Four years later, in 1990, 24 new members joined, with 28 in 1995. In 2000, we added 27 new members, and it was in this era that the decline started. In 2010, there were only 13 new members, falling to five in 2020. In 2021, we added seven. In 2022, published secretary's reports

show we added two new members and four members died. It is clearly not just a BCPSG problem. We see declining memberships in many societies.

Clearly, it is an issue of changing demographics. But that does not answer my opposition to a merger with the BWISC. Personally, I have nothing against that society, and wish them well in their endeavors.

However, a merger between the two is not in the best interests of the BCPSG. From what little I have been able to learn from "negotiations" (there was no BCPSG committee I know of investigating the potential merger, and my opinion was not sought), the BWISC will take over all of our finances, there will no longer be a *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, but rather some undetermined generic (?) publication which may or may not be similar to their journal.

It is here that the waters get muddy. The British society's journal is published in the "British style," which is to say a larger page size than ours. Our *Journal* is published in the 8.5 x 11 inch format. From what little I have learned, the "new" journal, which will cover the entire Caribbean and not just British territories, will be published in "U.S. letter size." If there are two separate journals, one for U.S. (is that all of North America?) members and another for elsewhere, one might wonder how long that will last. One would also assume, since it will be edited and published in the United Kingdom, that "British English" will be used, along with metric measurements and a host of other differences.

Interestingly, too, all of this society's funds would be transferred to the British society, and life memberships would be valid for only 10 years. Hence, if you recently became a life member, it would not be for your lifetime but a decade.

Despite comments that an overwhelming majority of BCPSG members agreed to the merger, my understanding is that most members know nothing of the vote. No ballot was distributed and no tally announced. Clearly, it is not in the best interests of our group to merge.

-- Dr. Everett L. Parker

Touring the British Caribbean

Antigua offers interesting areas for philatelists to explore

By Noel Davenhill

Did you know that the small island of Antigua in the Caribbean was named after a church in Spain? It's true: the low-lying island was discovered in 1493 by Christopher Columbus, who named it *Santa Maria de la Antigua* after a church in Seville, Spain.

The island's low rainfall and warm sunshine made it ideal for growing sugar, which was Antigua's main industry before being surpassed by booming tourism from the 1960s.

British colonization in 1632 was briefly threatened by France in 1666 until sovereignty was secured by the Treaty of Breda. In 1871, Antigua became the administrative center of six island groups (presidencies) in the new Leeward Islands Crown colony, which included the (British) Virgin Islands, Montserrat, St. Christopher, Nevis (renamed St. Kitts-Nevis) and, until 1940, Dominica.

The colony was dissolved in 1956 in preparation for establishing the short-lived West Indies Federation. In 1967, Antigua joined many former Leeward Islands presidencies and neighboring Windward Islands colonies in attaining Associated Statehood with Britain. Independence in 1981 led to the newly named state of Antigua and Barbuda, a former dependency located 26 miles to the north.

Early Postal Service

Before the arrival of stamps in 1858, a Crowned Circle "PAID AT ANTIGUA" handstamp was used at the post office in the capital, St. John's, which was opened in 1850. In 1857, another post office was opened in English Harbour, which used a Crowned Circle "PAID AT ENGLISH-HARBOUR-ANTIGUA" handstamp.

British stamps used in Antigua from May 1858 may be identified by the "A02" (St. John's) or "A18" (English Harbour) barred oval cancellation. The withdrawal of British stamps in April 1860, when Antigua's postal service became the responsibility of local authorities, left Antigua without

stamps for two years until an unwatermarked 6d Victorian portrait, printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co. was issued in 1862 for the prepayment of letters to Britain. Until then, the Crowned-Circle "Paid" handstamps continued in use for outgoing mail. The Small Star watermark introduced for new printings from 1863-67 included a 1d denomination for local letters.

Due to unethical practices by Perkins, Bacon & Co., the Crown Agents delivered the company's plates to De La Rue for reprinting both denominations with Crown CC watermarks in 1872. Additional 2½d and 4d values from key plates used for several colonies were released in 1879. Along with additional ½d stamps, they were reprinted in 1882 on Crown CA watermarked paper.

A new 1/- mauve was introduced in the 1884-87 printing, which included color switches for the 2½d (red-brown to ultramarine) and 4d (blue to chestnut) in 1887 due to UPU regulations. Final printings of engraved 1d and 6d values were also released.

General Issues

In response to a request from the federal colony's governor, individual stamps from Antigua and other presidencies were withdrawn and replaced with a uniform Leeward Islands series on October 31, 1890. The significant loss from philatelic sales led to the restoration of distinctive stamps, sold concurrently with the general issue.



One-penny stamp featuring profile of Queen Victoria.

Antigua issues resumed in 1903 with 10 larger format bicolored stamps from 1/2d to 5/-. Denominations to 2/6 feature the island's Coat of Arms in an elaborate framework, while the 5/- stamp portrays King Edward VII in an equally attractive frame. All were printed by De La Rue with Crown CC watermarks.

New printings (with a Crown CA watermark) of the 1/2d to 2/- values were issued from 1908-17. The three lower values were now produced in single colors (1/2d green, 1d red and 2 1/2d ultramarine), and in 1913 the 5/- was modified to portray King George V.



Queen Victoria on half penny Antigua stamp.

A tax on correspondence in 1916-17 required "WAR STAMP" overprints (black and red) on 1/2d values. The levy was extended in 1918 with a one-off 1 1/2d orange produced solely for the overprint. Leeward Islands stamps were not overprinted.

New definitives to £1 featuring a medallion portrait of King George V and the territory's emblem were released between 1921 and 1929. The design resembles several contemporary De La Rue British West Indies stamps. For details of Crown and Script CA watermark variations and several color changes, refer to the Stanley Gibbons catalogues.



King George V featured on Antigua stamp.

First Commemorative Issue

The 300th anniversary of British occupation was marked in 1932 with 10 pictorials from 1/2d to 5/-. Two of the designs depict Government House and

the Old Dockyard in English Harbour. Also depicted are Nelson's flagship *Victory* departing for Trafalgar, and the vessel *Conception* (5/-) on which Sir Thomas Warner, Antigua's new governor, brought British settlers from St. Kitts in 1632. The image is flanked with two airplanes, indicating a new era of air transport.

Omnibus Silver Jubilee in 1935 and Coronation stamps in 1937 were sold alongside matching Leeward Islands issues. Waterlow & Sons, printers of the recent Tercentenary series, was responsible for 1938-51 King George VI pictorials, which included values from 1/2d to £1. The four designs used for the set depict the renamed Nelson's Dockyard, a view of English Harbour, an aerial picture of St. John's Harbour and the nearby historic Fort James.



King George VI was next featured on Antigua stamps.

Higher denomination Leeward Islands stamps were sold throughout the federation, questioning the need for the 10/- and £1 values for Antigua and other presidencies, which were added in 1948.

Omnibus Victory, Royal Silver Wedding and the 75th anniversary of the UPU issues were released between 1946 and 1949, followed in 1951 with 3¢ and 12¢ "minibus" denominations marking the inauguration of BWI University College in Jamaica, introducing decimal currency to the Leeward Islands.

Queen Elizabeth II

Five months after the 2¢ Queen Elizabeth II Coronation stamp, King George VI designs with the new portrait of the Queen appeared from November 1953, with color changes. Antigua's dependency, Barbuda, is represented by the iconic Martello tower (8¢, 48¢), believed to have been built for defense purposes in the early 19th century. A 1/2¢ for posting local printed matter was added on July 3, 1956 when Leeward Islands stamps were withdrawn after the federal colony was dissolved.

Federation and Beyond

In 1958, a three-stamp “minibus” series for the formation of the ill-fated West Indies Federation preceded Ministerial Government inspired “COMMEMORATION ANTIGUA CONSTITUTION 1960” overprints on 3¢ and 12¢ definitives.

New stamps in 1961 and 1962 marked a major



Antigua took part in a British Commonwealth omnibus issue featuring the West Indies Federation in 1958.

restoration of Nelson’s Dockyard and Antigua’s first stamp in 1862. Both issues include similar views of the iconic dockyard and acclaimed Anni-soni portrait. The Royal Mail Ship (RMS) *Solent* appears on the centenary stamps.

De La Rue’s acquisition of Waterlow’s stamp printing department led to Block CA watermarks in 1963-65 for 1/2¢ to 24¢ definitives. A 15¢ on 12¢ surcharge was required in 1965 for local airmail postage. Regular omnibus issues commencing with Freedom from Hunger in 1963 to UNESCO anniversary in 1966 were augmented with additional “minibus” stamps marking Shakespeare’s 200th anniversary, Caribbean Royal Visit and World Cup Football Championship.

The Anni-soni portrait accompanies striking images of prominent Antigua landmarks on 16 definitives issued in 1966. Bradbury, Wilkinson’s engraved designs include stylized photographic images of Nelson’s Dockyard, GPO buildings (old and new), an airport terminal, Court House, Shirley Heights and St. John’s cathedrals. Barbuda was acknowledged with the dependency’s own Government House and Martello Tower.

Perforation changes for the 1/2¢ to 10¢ values in 1969 were rapidly followed with “glazed paper” printings of most denominations. The 4¢, delayed until 1970, is relatively scarce. Sufficient supplies

of original stamps for the 20¢ on 25¢ surcharge in January 1970 questions the need for additional printings in 1969.

Associated Statehood

Brightly colored symbolic images on four stamps marking Associated Statehood in 1967 heralded a notable increase of inappropriate themes initiated by the appointment of a U.S.-based philatelic corporation. Several other postal organizations sadly followed suit by replacing the Crown Agents’ conservative policy with numerous, often inappropriate stamps.

Small format 5¢, 10¢ and 25¢ coils featuring the new Coat of Arms, issued in 1970 for use in vending machines were subsequently reprinted on glazed paper. Seventeen definitives from 1/2¢ to \$5, printed by Questa Colour replaced the fine architectural series after just four years of perforation and paper changes.



This 1967 stamp was part of a set recognizing the “State of Antigua” in 1967.

Designs include a diverse range of navigators, royalty and the pirate Edward Teach (Blackbeard) alongside their vessels. Also shown are a Carib canoe and several more modern ships.

It was no surprise to encounter watermark changes, whiter paper and a \$10 on 75¢ surcharge from the new corporation. Subsequent Barbuda Mail overprints on stamps to \$10 inscribed “REDONDA” (a tiny rock without a post office and even worse, no people) prompted the closure of my Antigua collection.

Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Knutsford Park

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

Marcus Mosiah Garvey, the son of a stonemason, was born at St. Ann's Bay, Jamaica in 1887. In mid-1910, Garvey traveled to Costa Rica, where an uncle had secured him employment as a timekeeper on a large banana plantation in the Limón Province, owned by the United Fruit Company (*Figure 1*).



Figure 1
Marcus Mosiah Garvey, 1924.

Shortly after his arrival, the area experienced strikes and unrest in opposition to the UFC's attempts to lower wages and cut the workforce. He became increasingly angered at how they were subjected. In the spring of 1911, he launched a bilingual newspaper, *Nation/La Nación*, which criticized the UFC and upset many of the dominant strata of Costa Rican society in Limón (*Figure 2*). His coverage

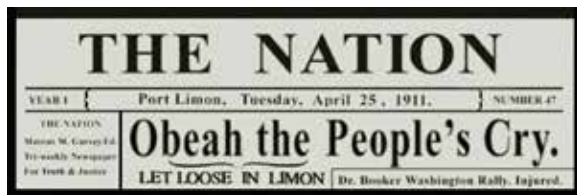


Figure 2
The Nation (Nation/La Nación) newspaper, Port Limón, April 25, 1911.

of a local fire resulted in him being brought in for police questioning. After his printing press broke, he was forced to terminate the newspaper. He then returned to Kingston -- a marked man.

The Black Star Line (1919–1922), a shipping line, was incorporated by Marcus Garvey and other members of his Universal Negro Improvement Association (*Figure 3*). It was based on the UFC's White Star Line. And their first ship was named



Figure 3
The Black Star Line, circa 1921.

the *Yarmouth*. This shipping line was created to facilitate the transportation of goods and eventually Afro-Americans throughout the African global economy. The Black Star Line became a key part of Garvey's contribution to the "Back-to-Africa" movement (*Figure 4*).

Since 1758 there had been a diaspora of Jamaicans, Bajans and St. Lucians, in Shanghai's Sherbro District, a large protectorate of Sierra Leone (*Figure 5*). Workers' prospects in post-war Jamaica were no



Figure 4
Ghana 5/- commemorative stamp depicting The Black Star Line, March 1957.

better than they were in 1838, when emancipation had been declared in the colony. The sugar cane business was in serious decline and profits from the banana business were grim as the UFCo moved its

headquarters to New Orleans from Kingston in 1920. Moreover, “Panama” disease was becoming the scourge of banana crops worldwide.

George Crawford Odom was originally employed as a Crown Agent in 1921 to monitor the large population of Germans (Germaicans) resident in Jamaica; George had been a POW in France in 1918 (Figure 6). He was a liberal, wishing to repatriate



Figure 6
George Crawford Odom, courtesy of the Leicester Mercury archives.

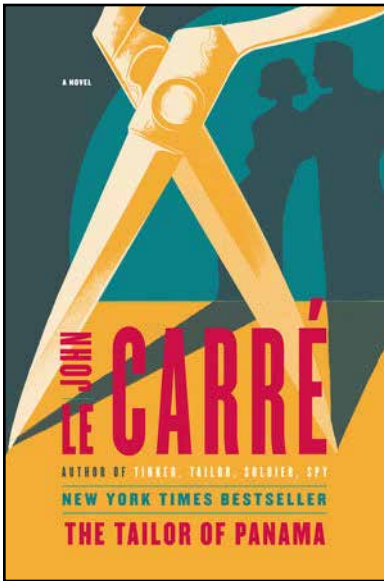


Figure 7
Cover of *The Tailor of Panama*, by John Le Carré, A.A. Knopf, 1996.

Garvey and all West Indians back to their homeland, which was also encouraged by the largely Caucasian Legislative Council in Kingston.

While in New York on business, Marcus Garvey was “framed” by the United States Post Office for mail fraud and imprisoned for five years. This was in regards to a Black Star Line leaflet he had mailed to his customers at about that time. George Odom, a Savile Row master-tailor from Leicester, helped set up contacts via remote post offices and their postmarks all over Jamaica (TRDs) and British West Africa (Skel-etons). Graham Greene christened

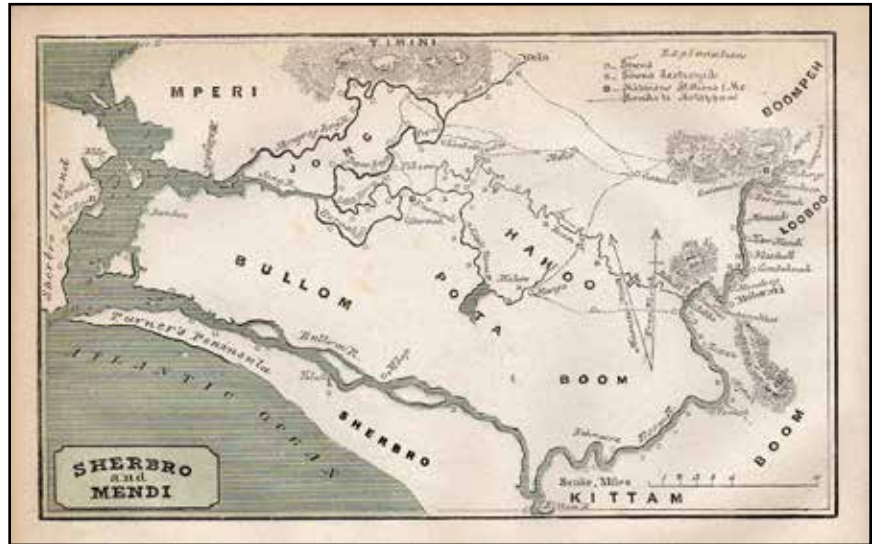


Figure 5
Old Map of Sherbro District, Sierra Leone.

him, “The Tailor of Panama,” and John Le Carré wrote the book (Figure 7). There are literally thou-

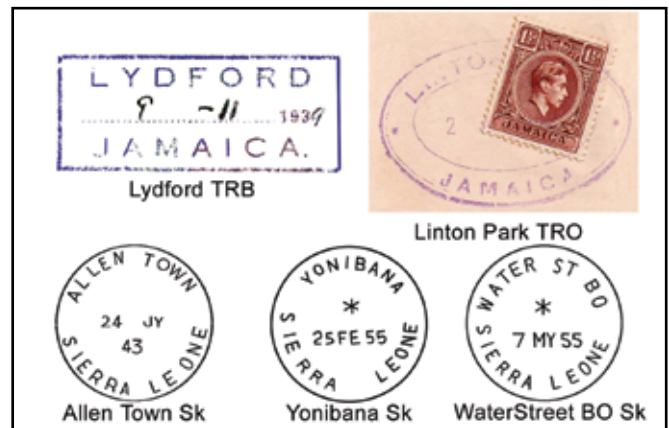


Figure 8
Jamaica TRDs & Sierra Leone “Skeleton” postmarks.

sands of covers from Sierra Leone (Sherbro), Gold Coast (Ghana), Nigeria and The Cameroons (Figure 8). Odom died in late December 1959 on his way to the Bridgetown Test Match.

In the late 1930s, Marcus Garvey became a Roman Catholic and moved to Marble Arch in London. In January 1940, he suffered a stroke which left him all but paralyzed. His secretary, Daisy Whyte, took on responsibility for his care. George Padmore, the Trinidadian Marxist, spread rumors of Marcus Garvey’s death. This led to many newspapers publishing premature obituaries, some of which he was already aware. There was reportedly one from *Chicago Defender* by his deathbed at 53 Talgarth Road, West Kensington in June of that year. He was

interred in a vault in the catacombs of the Chapel of the Cemetery Kensal Green.

His body was finally returned to Jamaica on November 10, 1964 (*Figure 9*). Jamaican SOE

Figure 9
Marcus Garvey
Jamaican
commemorative
stamp, 1964.



Ian Fleming refused to have the body repatriated. Marcus Garvey had to wait for Fleming to die on August 12, 1964, before his “repatriation” was ap-



Figure 10
Knutsford Park Racecourse between World
War I and World War II.

proved. On November 22, 1964 his remains were removed to the King George VI Memorial Park, Kingston, Jamaica. It is today known as “The National Heroes Park,” and once home to Knutsford Park Racecourse (*Figure 10*).

By 1930 Garvey’s attention had drifted to the coming of the Rastafari, an “African messiah.” The “messiah” was to be Emperor Hailie Selasie of Ethiopia. Garvey’s “Rastas” remained in Jamaica to develop the Rastafarian Ganga-cult. In 1928, Garvey went to Geneva to argue his case. Ian Fleming followed him at the request of Conrad O’Brien-french, a British intelligence officer. Ffrench went to Jamaica in 1927 to keep tabs on Garvey, and



Figure 11
Professor Pickering's Woodlands
Observatory, Mandeville, Jamaica, 1911.

based himself at Professor Pickering’s Observatory in Mandeville (*Figure 11*). Ffrench then took over from Forbes-Dennis at Kitzbuhel, just 50 miles from the Berchtesgaden, to run covert British Intelligence in Austria (*Figure 12*).

Professor William Pickering’s right-hand man was American ornithologist Jimmy Bond, who was educated at Harrow School. He was arrested in Haiti in 1924 for spying on local Germans. He claimed to be bird-watching and was soon released. In 1963 ornithologist Bond finally met up with Ian Fleming at “Goldeneye” (*Figure 13*).



Figure 12
Conrad O'Brien-french.

In 1917 the Pan-American UNIA flag was designed by Garvey; the red represented the “Irish



Figure 13
The real James Bond ornithologist (left) and at
“Goldeneye” with Ian Fleming, circa 1960.

Figure 14
Garvey's Pan-
American "UNIA"
flag.



Red Legs" of Barbados; the black represented the "Oppressed Black African People" and the green represented the "Green Fields" of Jamaica (**Figure 14**). The Ghana flag echoes the "UNIA" red, gold and green with Garvey's "Black Star" central to the design. (**Figure 15**).



Figure 15
The National Flag
of Ghana, adopted
in 1957.

Marcus Garvey's Catholic conversion gave him an insight into the deadly bombing campaign carried out by the Irish Republican Army in Coventry, with the certain knowledge of the "neutral" de Valera Government in Dublin. On August 25, 1939, a bicycle carried bomb exploded in Coventry City Centre, killing two civilians and injuring several more. Coventry Cathedral was reduced to ruins.

It was discovered by Admiralty forensics that high-grade, powdered aluminum was present in the residue of the device. Additions of small amounts of this powder (Thermite), increased the explosive ability of a bomb or shell by as much as 25 percent! The German armed forces had used this technology since before World War II. Ian Fleming at The Admiralty passed this top secret information on to the other services. Britain and Canada resourced and refined even greater amounts of aluminum from all over Jamaica. Many new post offices sprang up all over the island marking out these settlements. (**Figure 16**).



Figure 16
Caribbean stamps featuring bauxite mining.

It was a no-brainer as to where the aluminum was being covertly sourced: Marcus Garvey, who knew the Boscobel area well, appeared to be the main suspect. The IRA bombers, James McCormack and Peter Barnes, were hanged in Winson Green Prison in Birmingham, on February 7, 1940.

Why did the Luftwaffe destroy Coventry? Because

Churchill was prepared to sacrifice the intelligence he had received on the Coventry attack? Hardly, as has been since proven, the forensic evidence was sub-rosa. This was wholly unexpected, but in my opinion, it was a vengeance attack at the request of Éamon de Valera to Hermann Goering. It was "The Devil's Deal," which had been instigated by Jim O'Donovan, Marcus Garvey & Co. (**Figure 17**).

Post-World War II Knutsford Park, 111 Harbour Street, Kingston, Jamaica, under the TRD marcoph-

ilatelists Everard Aguilar LCC Nicholson, was still the intelligence center island-wide, with George Odom and Ian Fleming keeping

an eye on the dawn of the Cold War from, the old post office over at Labyrinth, St. Mary's (cover). Shown in **Figure 18** are West African stamps honoring Marcus Garvey.

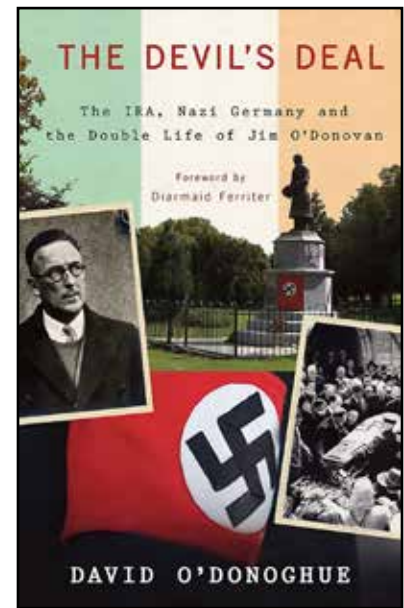


Figure 17
The Devil's Deal book,
New Island Books, 2010.



Figure 18
West African stamps featuring
Marcus Garvey.

My thanks to Andrew Lycette.

Airmail from Bermuda

By Juan L. Riera

Recently I acquired a beautiful air mail cover from Bermuda, with a cancellation that has a slightly unreadable date. It was mailed to: "Mr. Milton Anhalt, 153-34 Powells Cove Boulevard, (Beechhurst) Long Island, New York, NY, USA."

The address nowadays would be addressed to Queens, NY 11357 with the introduction of Zip Codes and changing references to geographic areas. The cover, shown in Figure 1, was sent from The Castle Harbour, Bermuda. Looking into the cover's origin, the hotel was referred to as the Old Castle Harbour Ho-



Figure 1

Cover from The Castle Harbour Hotel in Bermuda.

tel. The original hotel closed in November 1984 for renovations, reopened as the Marriott Castle Harbour Hotel in June 1986, and finally closed permanently in 1999.

The stamp is Scott Bermuda #164, released December 8, 1953. It is a £3 violet stamp. The address mailed to was a brand new home built for Mr. Arnhalt in 1955. It is interesting to muse if this letter arrived at his newly built home or at his previous home at the same address.



The Castle Harbour Hotel in Bermuda.

The route this cover would have taken was FAM-17 awarded jointly to Imperial Airways and Pan American Airways, due to the fact that Great Britain insisted on reciprocity when granting airmail concessions to its colonies.

The first airmail flight on this FAM contract from Hamilton by Imperial Airways was on June 15, 1937, using a Short Empire S-23 flying boat piloted by William Neville-Cumming. Initially these flights departed from Darrell's Island, a small island within the Great Sound

of Bermuda until replaced after World War II by new land-based facilities at Kindley Field, now known as Bermuda International Airport.

Initially these flights would take mail to Port Washington, Long Island, New York. In the late 1930s, prior to the opening of the Marine Air Terminal at LaGuardia Airport, opened in 1939, Port Washington was Pan American's New York Base for seaplanes/flying boats operations, for which Manhasset Bay was ideal -- most commonly or predominantly their *Yankee Clipper* Boeing B-314 flying boats. Common destinations were London, Southampton (United Kingdom), the Azores, and Bermuda. As seaplanes and flying boats were phased out for airmail service, the Pan Am operations were transferred over to the land-based part of LaGuardia airport.

On March 16, 1938, Pan Am inaugurated flight service between Baltimore and Hamilton as part of FAM-17, piloted by Rod Sullivan on a Sikorsky S-42. It probably departed from an airport with marine aircraft facilities used by a Martin aircraft factory.

And what was Mr. Anhalt doing during this period that FAM-17 was being started? On July 2, 1937 there is an article, with a photo, on page 25 of the *Nassau Daily Review-Star* of Mr. Anhalt being installed as a Noble Grand of the Hempstead Lodge of Odd Fellows. The newspaper was published in Freeport from 1937 to 1941 and in Hempstead from 1941 to 1953 and ceased publication in 1954, about the time this cover was sent.

Pretty interesting cover from FAM-17 if you ask me. Should you have any questions or comments feel free to contact me at: Juan L. Riera, P.O. Box 522942, Miami, FL 33152. My email is: juanr377@gmail.com.



A view of the Castle Harbour Hotel from the air gives an impression of its size.



A view of the Castle Harbour Hotel from the water.

Overprinted Private Postal Wrappers of Caribbean Countries

By Dr. John K. Courtis, FRPSL

Contemporaneously with post office issues of postal stationery wrappers were those of a private nature. These private wrappers are not postal stationery as such because, instead of a prepaid indicium, their postage was paid by stamps or meters. This raises the immediate question of what would motivate the use of a private wrapper and not a post office one. An overarching reason is that a user has a need for particular specifications regarding paper size and strength. Wrappers contain a variety of newspapers and printed matter. Some enclosures are bulkier and heavier than can be enclosed conveniently and safely within a post office issue.

Moreover, the prepayment of post office issues is typically confined to the lowest weight scale for domestic and non-domestic destinations. Where payment for higher weight scales is required, uprated wrappers show additional postage. Users with specific requirements for mailing items in this concessionary class of postage may decide to use their own private wrappers, with or without overprinted details of sender. Overprinted private wrappers fall within the realm of postal history and are studied for rates, routes, postmarks, auxiliary markings and destinations. At the present time they are ignored as a separate category of philately, but the potential exists for them to be included as a sub-class of postal history.

The purpose of this paper is to identify those private overprinted wrappers of the Caribbean region that have been included in the author's database. This particular database was commenced in March 2006, and after 16 plus years of daily hand-gathering these listings on the auction platforms of eBay and Delcampe, there are about 11,000 used private wrappers. Not all are overprinted, but of those that have been examined, there are 4,730 illustrated across 216 countries and postal entities. Of these, there are 44 different users identified across nine Caribbean countries and these examples will be examined below.

It is of interest to compare the number of extant used post office issues for a country with overprinting against the number of private overprinted wrappers. Unlike post office issues, which are a function of warrants determined by the user country's anticipated postal needs (a macro approach), private wrappers are determined only by the user's choice of print run (a micro approach). The *a priori* belief is that the number of overprinted private wrappers exceed the number of overprinted post office wrappers. Table 1 summarizes the number of post office wrappers in the author's database for each of nine countries, together with a count of the number that are overprinted, and these can then be contrasted with the number of overprinted private wrappers. Private wrappers can be considered as any type of wrapper that is not a post office issue, and therefore they include official wrappers.

The list was based on the appearance of at least one overprinted private wrapper, and this accounts for the inclusion of the Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands in the set of nine countries. The total number of post office issues with overprinting is about one-half percent of the total in the database, which reflects their elusive nature. The number of private wrappers with overprinting is almost three times higher, but even so, with such small numbers in both groups, little can be said other than overprinted wrappers are not common. A caveat is that the illustrated overprinted private wrappers illustrated in Figures 1-9 are internet images and some loss of quality is to be expected.

Table 1 – Count of Overprinted Post Office and Overprinted Private Wrappers

Country	Database P.O. Wrappers	Overprinted PO Wrappers	Overprinted Private Wrappers
Antigua	29	0	2
Bahamas	0	0	1
Barbados	413	8	9
Bermuda	616	2	3
British Guiana	1,013	2	12
Belize	20	0	3
Jamaica	611	4	10
Trinidad / Trinidad & Tobago	914 / 121	2	3
Turks & Caicos	0	0	1
	3,737	18	44

Antigua

The two examples for Antigua are both official “On His Majesty’s Service” (OHMS) and are dated before the Elizabethan era. While they may appear to be the same, the left-hand side wrapper is in upper case while the right-hand wrapper is in lower case. The left wrapper is postmarked at St. John’s “SP 3 31” and is tied to Antigua 1921 ½d green St. John’s Harbour (Scott #42) and Leeward Islands 1921 1d carmine King George V (Scott #63), paying the overseas rate to the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

The right-hand wrapper also pays 1½d (the third stamp is not shown), with three copies of 1938 ½d green English Harbour (Scott #84) cancelled with double-circle St. John’s “MY 3 44” addressed to Anglo-American Caribbean Commission, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. The oval cachet reads “SECRETARIAT 3 MAY 1944 LEEWARD ISLANDS” and is initialed.



Figure 1
On His Majesty’s Service (upper, 1931 and lower, 1944).

Bahamas

There are several wrappers in the database from the Bahamas but only one (next page) with overprinting: “Hotel Royal Victoria, with H. E. Bemis, Manager.” It is postmarked “NASSAU JA 14 99 NEW PROVIDENCE” and paid with a horizontal pair of 1884 1d carmine rose Queen Victoria (Scott #27). The Royal Victoria Hotel was built by the government in 1861 at a cost of £20,000 to the colony. They started a tourism business as a means of providing revenues for the colony and it was successful in attracting tourists from England, Canada and the U.S. The hotel comprised a substantial stone building, four stories high, surrounded by a piazza 10 feet wide, and forming a 900 foot covered promenade. It contains 121 bedrooms with lofty ceilings and accommodating 200 guests. It is situated on an elevated site, with a view of the city of Nassau and a large portion of the island (<https://bahamianology.com/built-by-government-royal-victoria-hotel-for-sale>).



Figure 2
Bahamas: Hotel Royal Victoria

Barbados

In addition to the two private wrappers shown in Figure 3, there are another four *Barbados Advocate* wrappers, four Official OHMS or On Service, 11 examples overprinted “Printed Circular” and a single Royal Bank of Canada. The *Barbados Advocate* wrapper was normally folded so that internet images show only sender address details. In the left-hand wrapper illustrated in Figure 3, there is a fourth line which is not shown reading: “The Only Daily Paper in the Island.” In Figure 3a, the second line ends “Mondays.” Three other examples in the database end “Sundays.” There are, therefore, two varieties of this overprinted private wrapper. A typical postmark is “G.P.O 22 AP 47 BARBADOS,” addressed to Manchester, England.

The right-hand wrapper is headed “Prices Current Only,” a common enclosure of this class of mail. There is a circular postmark “BARBADOS AU 25 (18)64.” The familiar boot heel cancel appears on Britannia, likely 1861 1d blue (Scott #16). It is addressed to Annapolis, Nova Scotia on what appears to be a pre-printed address, as well as a directional via Halifax, Nova Scotia. The illustration also shows the enclosure.

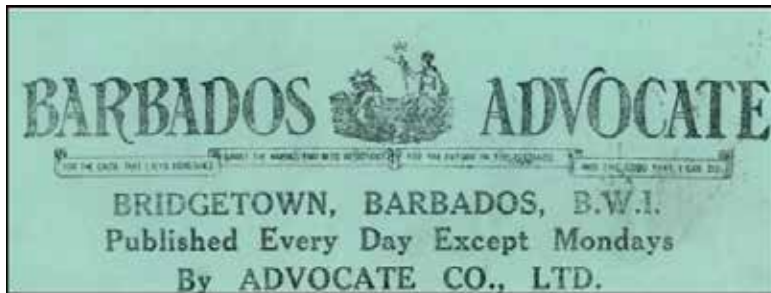


Figure 3a
Barbados Advocate; “Prices Current Only.”

Two official examples are shown in Figure 3b. The left-hand wrapper is from the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies. It is postmarked “BARBADOS 25.DE.10 OFFICIAL PAID” with authorizing signature of Francis Watts, and addressed to Blackheath, S.E., England. Sir Francis Watts was appointed analytical chemist in Antigua in 1889, but experienced an earlier association with the islands as chemist to the Montserrat Company, Ltd. He was transferred in 1898 to Jamaica for a brief period, but returned to the Leeward Islands as Government Chemist and Superintendent of Agriculture.

In Figure 3b, the right-hand wrapper is headed “On Service,” and below, “Wil. C. Phillips, Clerk General Assembly.” The postmark reads “BARBADOS JY 15 96” and the wrapper is addressed to The Common Room, Harrison College, City.



Figure 3b

Imperial Department of Agriculture; General Assembly.

Bermuda

The only overprinted private wrappers of Bermuda in the database are “Official” and close inspection is needed to detect their difference. The left-hand wrapper in Figure 4 is sans-serif and the line beneath shows an unremarkable gap. “Official Gazette” is printed beneath the address details, which is the ubiquitous Booker, Arts & Crafts Shop. The right-hand wrapper is serifed and there is a large gap to the underline. There is one further variety (not shown) where the right-hand wrapper appears with a heavier font and the gap is unremarkable. Both illustrated wrappers are postmarked “HAMILTON 27 JAN 47” and “10 JAN 50” respectively.

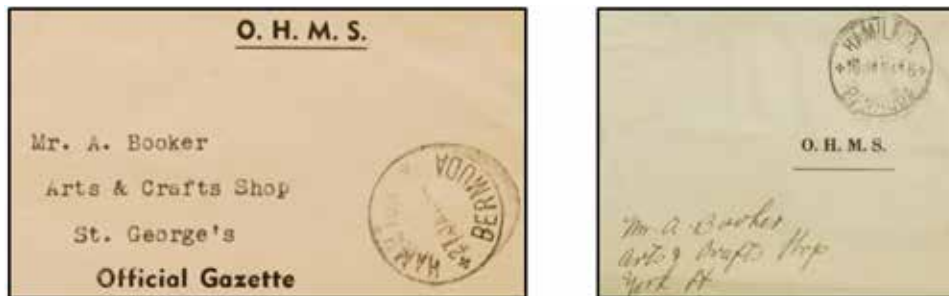


Figure 4

O.H.M.S. Official Gazette, serif and line beneath varieties.

British Guiana

There are 12 examples of overprinted private wrappers of British Guiana. Four have been selected for illustration; the other eight are: “Argosy” Office Connected (2), Booker Bros. & Co. Prices Current, Christmas Tide, Daily Chronicle (3) and the Southern Cross.

The *Daily Argosy* was a newspaper published in Georgetown, Demerara from October 2, 1880 to March 30, 1907. It then became *The Weekly Argosy* but continued for only a short period until October 24, 1908. The newspaper has been described as representing the planter interest in British Guiana. *The Mackenzie Miner* wrapper also shows: “with the compliments and wishes of the Demerara Bauxite Company, Limited, Georgetown.” The backstory of this wrapper would make a contribution to the economic history of this town 75 miles up the Demerara River from Georgetown. Mackenzie was one of the world’s largest suppliers of bauxite and in World War II it was the primary supplier of bauxite to the allies. The Demerara Bauxite Company was incorporated in 1916. The *Daily Chronicle* newspaper held its centenary in 1903 in Georgetown.

The *Daily Argosy* is postmarked Georgetown “20 DE 34” on a 1923 two-cent deep violet King George V (Scott #193). The wrapper is addressed to Wooster, Ohio, U.S.A. The *Weekly Argosy* is postmarked

Georgetown “26 SP 23” on a 1907 two-cent red seal of the colony (Scott #172). The wrapper is to a Barbados address.



Figure 5a

Newspapers: The Daily Argosy and The Weekly Argosy.

The Mackenzie Miner is cancelled Georgetown but it appears to be void (a common war-time practice, especially for a sensitive commodity), relying on the date of the enclosure. The cancel is on a 1938 2¢ violet and black Kaletour Falls (Scott #231) and the wrapper is addressed to Toronto, Ontario, Canada. *The Daily Chronicle* postmark is unreadable but is on a 1907 6¢ grey and black coat of arms (Scott #182). It reads “proprietors Estate of C. K. Jardine, Dec’d.” This is the only case where such wording has been observed on a wrapper.



Figure 5b

The Mackenzie Miner and The Daily Chronicle.

Belize

There are no overprinted private wrappers for British Honduras, but there are three for the country name change to Belize. The left-hand wrapper in Figure 6 is an overprinted plain wrapper around a copy of the newspaper. Located beneath the wrapper and attached to the paper itself is an address label and postmark “Belize City 17 MY 91” on August 8, 1990 25¢ Hawksbill turtle (Scott #946).

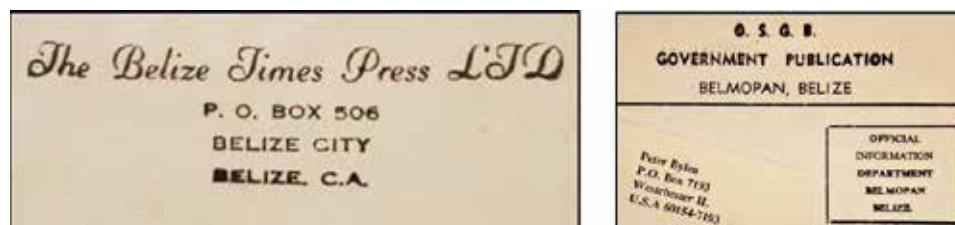


Figure 6

The Belize Times Press LTD.; O.S.G.B. Government Publication.

The right-hand wrapper is an official O.S.G.B. (On Service Government of Belize) and appears to have passed through the mails without attracting additional postage. The wrapper is addressed to Westchester, Illinois, U.S.A. The overprinted private wrapper not shown is Amanda Press, addressed to Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Jamaica

There are 10 overprinted private wrappers in the database for Jamaica, of which five are illustrated in Figures 7a,b,c. Other examples are Barrington Smith (stamp dealer), Fred N. Martinez, Prisoner of War, On His Majesty's Service, and On Her Majesty's Service for the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations.

The left-hand wrapper in Figure 7a is an Official but without the heading of OHMS – the 1890 ½d green Queen Victoria stamp (Scott #02) is overprinted "OFFICIAL." It is postmarked Kingston "JU 8 93," transit from Bristol to Hallatrow "AU 24 93," readdressed and transit ex-Bristol to Burnham, Somerset. The right-hand wrapper for *Tropical Life* was published by L. Barrington Smith, Printers and Publishers. It is postmarked Half-Way Tree "AP 18 41" on a 1938 ½d blue green King George VI (Scott #116) and addressed to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA.



Figure 7a
Public Gardens & Plantations; Tropic Life.

The "On Her Majesty's Service" wrapper in Figure 7b shows a postmark Kingston "MY 31 61" on a 1956 8d red orange and bright-ultra Queen Elizabeth II Blue Mountain Peak (Scott #167). It was addressed to Downington, Pennsylvania, and there is a straight-line over-inked arrival "JUN 7 1961." The right-hand wrapper is overprinted "Mr. P. J. Fernandez, Exchange Superintendent", and there is an American Philatelic Society (APS) number 13655. Mr. Fernandez was the Honorary Exchange Superintendent for the Jamaica Philatelic Society and his role appears in the *Jamaican Philatelist*. The postmark is Kingston "JA 11 41" on a 1938 1d carmine King George VI (Scott #117) and the wrapper is addressed to Binghamton, New York.



Figure 7b
On Her Majesty's Service; Mr. P. J. Fernandez, Exchange Supt.

The wrapper shown in Figure 7c is overprinted "Catholic Opinion, a weekly publication." It is postmarked Kingston "FE 11 41" and addressed to "The Queen's Work." *Catholic Opinion* is the Archdiocesan of Kingston's response to the call to "utilize the available means of social communication for catechesis, evangelization, information and education, guidance and inspiration in the behaviour of individuals, families and society at large" (www.kingstonarchdiocese.org/ministry/catholic-opinion).

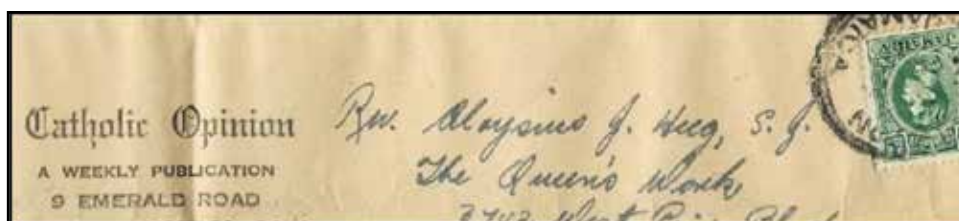


Figure 7c
Catholic Opinion.

Trinidad/Trinidad & Tobago

There are three wrappers recorded for Trinidad/Trinidad & Tobago with overprinting on private wrappers and two are illustrated in Figure 8. The other wrapper has “Travel Trade Sales Guides” printed in green.

The left-hand wrapper is “The West Indian Illustrated,” the only process-engraving establishment in the West Indies. It is postmarked Port-of-Spain “AU 18 1900” on an 1896 1d lilac and red Queen Victoria, Type 1 (Scott #76). It is addressed to Broadway, New York. The right-hand wrapper is an official O.H.M.S. for the Editorial Department, Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, with authorizing signature C. Errens. Its journal *Tropical Agriculture* commenced in 1924. The postmark is unreadable but appears on a 1922 Trinidad and Tobago horizontal pair 1d brown Britannia and King George V (Scott #22). It is addressed to Zurich, Switzerland. (As an aside, the top of the “S” is shorter and thinner than in all other versions of “S” in OHMS wrappers).



Figure 8

“The West Indian Illustrated”; O.H.M.S. Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.

Turks & Caicos Islands

Only one example of an overprinted private wrapper appears in the database for Turks and Caicos and this is shown in Figure 9. The *Free Press* newspaper was published bi-weekly. The postmark is Turks Providenciales “JU 5 96” on 1995 two-cent horizontal pair showing the American Redstart (Scott #1155) paying the airmail rate to the U.S., the address being West Palm Beach, Florida.



Figure 9

Turks & Caicos Free Press Ltd.

Summary

Overprinted private postal wrappers contain sender information and details of return address where enclosures can be sent in the event of non-delivery. The overprinting adds clarity and direction to the efficient operation of the postal delivery process. When logos, illustrations and additional product information are

added, the wrappers can become attractive and interesting. They are uncommon with low survival rates. They possess potential for back-story research and write-up, they add interest for country collectors looking for examples of mail in this concessionary class of mail, and they are studied by postal historians for rates, routes, postmarks, auxiliary markings, upratings and destinations. Non-philatelists can use them as a supplement to a business directory regarding organizations that were included in society during different periods. Some overprinted wrappers were used during the 19th Century and some may be the sole survivor of that user.

The daily gathering of these wrappers commenced in March 2006, mostly from the auction platform eBay, but also from sellers' stores, Delcampe, and collectors who offered items to be included in the database. About 11,000 images were collected to the present, and of these, 44 were identified for examination across nine countries. This article examined these across nine Caribbean countries, and 23 were illustrated. There were 10 official OHMS overprinted wrappers, eight with newspaper mastheads, and a smattering of philatelic, religious, prices current, hotel and agriculture – a heterogeneous mix. The topic of overprinted private wrappers has been understudied but warrants more consideration by collectors as a potential sub-class of postal history.

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Bermuda Post Offices: Warwick

By Steve Zirinsky

Warwick Parish is one of the nine parishes of Bermuda. It was named after Robert Rich, Second Earl of Warwick (1587-1658). Warwick is located in the western part of Bermuda between Southampton and Paget parishes. Nowadays, Warwick Parish is famous for its spectacular South Shore beaches. It is also one of the most densely populated of Bermuda's nine parishes. The Warwick Post Office has 780 boxes. Below is a photograph of the post office exterior and some of the postal markings now in use.



Used at
Philatelic Bureau



Not used (frozen)



Used on
Incoming mail



Used on
Outgoing mail



Not used (frozen)

White Hall makes the cover in Trinidad & Tobago

By Dan Maddalino

White Hall was a private residence, which now houses government offices. Its appearance on a 1960 five-cent postage stamp of Trinidad & Tobago (Scott #91, shown in *Figure 1*)¹ certified its importance in this nation's history.



*Figure 1
Trinidad &
Tobago stamp
showing view of
White Hall.*

Near the end of the Gilded Age, roughly 1870 to 1910, deep international economic inequity, greed, and corruption fueled a financial panic which caused economic depression world-wide. This, then, led to increased European migration to the British Caribbean, especially from Poland, Russia, Italy, and Greece. These immigrants were lured by the economic opportunities available.² One of these Greek fortune seekers was Joseph Leon Agastini (1839-1906).³

Joseph Agastini developed a thriving coco processing business with strong international sales from the island of Trinidad. He, along with six other prospering entrepreneurs, built large, opulent residences on Maraval Road, Port of Spain (Trinidad's capital) beginning around 1900. In 1904, Mr. Agastini started construction on what would be one of Port of Spain's grandest homes. He expected the project to take about four years. Unfortunately, he died unexpectedly in 1906. Completion of the project, and its

mortgage, turned into an unsustainable burden on his family after the international coco market collapsed. The home (named "Rosenweg," or Path of Roses) had been completed in 1908 (*Figure 2*), but the Agastini family had to foreclose and leave their home.⁴

American industrialist Robert Henderson bought Rosenweg and renamed it "White Hall" after seeing the sun gleam brightly off its white Barbadian coral building blocks.⁵ The Seigrt family purchased White Hall from the Hendersons and occupied it until the outbreak of World War II.⁶ The occupation of White Hall by the U.S. Military effectively ended private ownership of this grand residence.⁷ White Hall currently houses the Office of the Prime Minister.⁸

Philately came to White Hall in 1948. The structure, by now, had been taken over by several government services and departments. However, some of its larger indoor spaces were rented out for events.

The First Caribbean Intercolonial Stamp Exhibition was held at White Hall from May 6 to May 9, 1948



*Figure 2
Postcard from the 1970s showing White Hall.*

(**Figure 3**). This three-day philatelic exhibition was hosted by the recently reorganized Trinidad Philatelic Society and was celebrated by an illustration of White Hall on its cacheted cover. The souvenir cover can be found with a variety of then-current Trinidad and Tobago postage stamps sent to many international destinations. The cover shown here is franked with the one-cent Scott #50, two-cent #51, and three-cent #51a.⁹ Its destination is Buenos Aires, Argentina. Of special note is the skeleton CDS showing the “wide-E” variety: “WHIT EHALL.”

On September 24, 1960, White Hall finally reached the status of a national heritage site and was recognized with a stamp and first day cover (**Figure 4**).

It would be 47 years, then in Trinidad and Tobago’s post-colonial era, before a second postage stamp honoring White Hall (Scott #826) would be issued.



Figure 3
Stamp Exhibition souvenir cover.



Figure 4
White Hall FDC, September 24, 1960.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Jay Bigalke (ed.), *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, Volume 6B. (Sidney, Ohio: Amos Media: 2022) p. 181.

² Internet: <https://www.schoolhistory.co.uk/thegildedera>. Accessed September 30, 2022.

³ Internet: <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/189515564/joseph-leon-agastini>. Accessed October 1, 2022.

⁴ Internet: <https://www.nationaltrust.tt/location/whitehall>. Accessed September 21, 2022.

⁵ Internet: <https://www.citizensforconservationtt.org/homr/sites/white-hall-rosenweg>. Accessed September 21, 2022.

⁶ Internet: <https://www.undecott.com/project/white-hall>. Accessed September 21, 2022.

⁷ Internet: <https://www.gpsmyciti.com/attractions/>

white-hall/44562. Accessed September 22, 2022.

⁸ Internet: national trust.

⁹ *Op. cit.* Bigalke, *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, p.181.

¹⁰ *Op. cit.* Bigalke; *Scott Standard Postage Stamp Catalogue*, p. 192.

Stamps, covers and postcard are from the collection of the author.

Barbados postal markings

By Peter Kaulback

In my collection, I have some examples of Barbados postal markings to which I have not seen previous reference. The following markings are not included in the superb reference book, *Postal Markings of Barbados to 1981*, although I suspect that some were in use before that time. I have suggested identification numbers consistent with those used by Clarke, Radford and Cave in Section 12 (Postmaster General's office) and Section 11 (GPO Sundry Departments) that may be appropriate designators for these markings.

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE

**POSTMASTER GENERAL
BARBADOS, W. I.**

Two lines, 50mm and 35mm, with letters 2.75mm high. Comma after "Barbados."

**POSTMASTER GENERAL
BARBADOS W. I.**

Two lines, 45.5mm and 26.5mm, with letters 3mm high and 2.25mm high respectively. No stop or comma after "Barbados."

ON POSTAL SERVICE

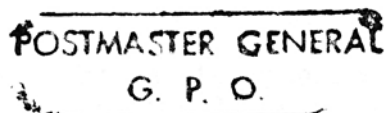
Letters 4mm high in single line 53.5mm long.



Double ringed oval, outer ring 51mm by 34mm made of two lines; inner ring 39mm by 21mm. Letters 3mm high.

**POSTMASTER GENERAL
G. P. O, BARBADOS**

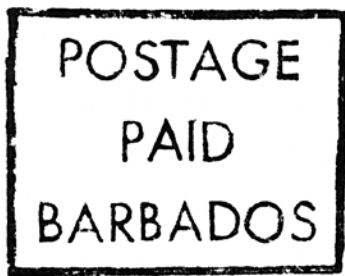
Two lines, 63mm and 42mm, with letters 4mm high and 3mm high respectively. Stop after the "G" and "P" and comma after the "O" of GPO.



Two lines, 48mm and 18mm, with letters 3.25mm high. All examples of this mark that I have seen show the frame lines at top and bottom 13mm apart.

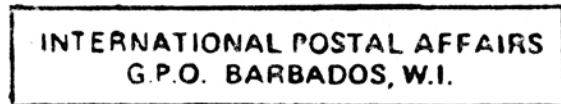


A double-ringed oval, outer ring 45mm by 32mm with line of 1.75mm width and inner ring 33mm x 20mm. Letters 2.25mm high.

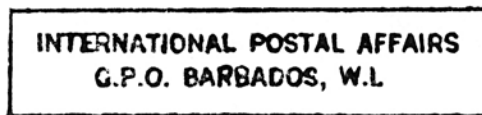


Lines of 31mm, 15mm and 36mm respectively, letters 5mm high, enclosed in rectangle with outside dimensions of 35mm high by 44mm wide.

GPO SUNDRY DEPARTMENTS



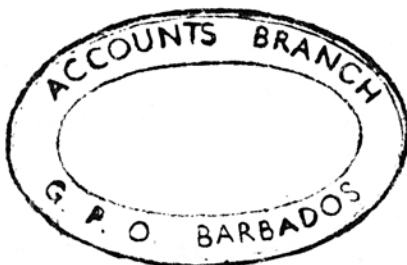
Two lines, 66mm and 42.5mm in length with letters 3mm high, enclosed in rectangle 72.5mm wide by 13.5mm high.



Two lines, 55mm and 38mm in length, with squared letters 2.5mm high, enclosed in rectangle 63mm wide by 13.5mm high.



Double ringed oval, outer ring 52mm by 31mm, made of two lines of equal thickness; inner ring 32mm by 19mm, with serif letters 2.5mm high.



Double ringed oval, outer ring 53mm by 34mm made of two lines; inner ring 40mm by 20mm, with letters 3mm high.

None of my double-rings have dates within them, although all of them are of recent usage (1988). Most are initialled by an appropriate postal official. I hope that identification of the foregoing postal markings may be of interest to fellow Barbadian enthusiasts.

This article is reprinted from the December 1988 issue of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal.

Royally Inspired Health Destination: The Princess Hotel

By Juan L. Riera

Until the early 1880s, a quarter of the population of Bermuda was composed of naval forces of the Royal Navy Base and the Army garrison that protected it. Coincidentally, the major economic activity was military spending, not agriculture or tourism. Local authorities were interested in stimulating tourism for wealthy Americans, which required U.S. investments, as well as widening the channel into St. George's for the ever increasing size of ships. Foreign investment required approval from London that considered approval a pretext for foreign intervention, while a widened channel made invasion a greater possibility. Due to increasing budgetary restraints and attempts for military reorganization,

there was an insistence that Bermuda raise part-time military units for self-defense, allowing for the redeployment of professional military forces.

In 1883, Princess Louise, the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria, while residing in Canada where her husband, the Duke of Argyll, was Governor General, was induced to spend the winter in Bermuda for health reasons. While there the Princess hosted dances for young military officers at which wealthy Americans would bring their daughters for possible aristocratic marriages. This led to the island becoming a winter tourist destination for health. Bermuda becoming known as the Isles of Serenity. This led to the Princess Hotel being constructed in 1885 by U.S. investors, the name being inspired by Princess Louise, along with the promise of local military forces being raised by local governmental officials. The formation of the Bermuda Volunteer Rifle Corps in 1894 and the Bermuda Military Artillery in 1895 were slow in coming, but fulfilled military requirements.

Initially, the four story hotel had 70 luxurious rooms, each with gas lights, hot and cold running water, and large mirrors that allowed fancy self-dressing by the wealthy guests. The hotel also had an expansive shady veranda and staff that dressed in

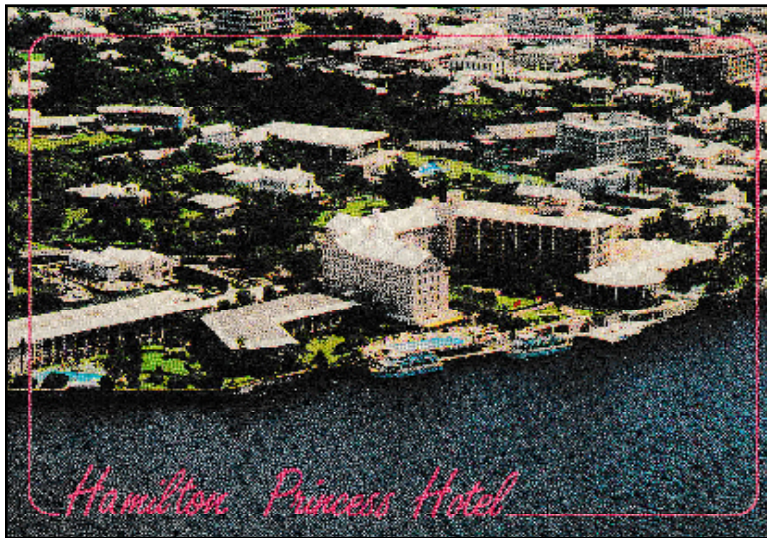
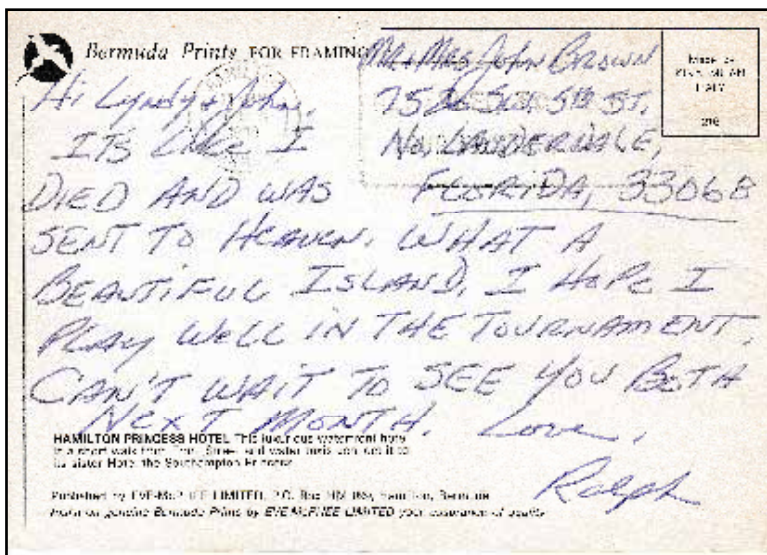


Figure 1

Postcard showing the Princess Hotel on the waterfront in Hamilton, Bermuda. The address side of the card is shown below.



Continued on page 28

Membership Director's Report

Peter Colwell

Because this is the last issue of our journal, there is no membership report.

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Royally Inspired Health Destination ————— Continued from page 26

white jackets and waved pink handkerchiefs to greet luxury liners. The property was developed by Harley Trot, a leading businessman at the time with military contracts and a company of steamship agents. The idea was that wealthy Americans would summer in the Berkshires and winter in Bermuda. Guests in the late 19th and early 20th centuries included the likes of Mark Twain, who spent long periods of time in Bermuda after his wife's passing. After World War II, James Bond novelist Ian Fleming often visited the hotel. It also served as an inspiration to Ian Fleming for a scene in the movie "Dr. No."

The hotel is philatelically interesting in that during World War II about 1,200 British censors were based in the basement reviewing mail, radio, and telegraph communications. The postcard I recently acquired (*Figure 1*) is interesting in that it does not have a stamp. It was possibly removed or went through postal channels without a stamp. There is a light postmark in the left upper side of the postcard. The hotel has gone through a number of name changes and is now known as the Hamilton Princess Hotel and currently caters to business travelers. It also has a sister hotel known as the Southampton Princess. The postcard was published by EVEMcPHEE LIMITED of Hamilton, Bermuda.

Nuggets from the past ...

In the April 1977 *Journal*, Col. James T. DeVoss discussed early postal history of Panama used at Jamaica. His research was augmented by several illustrations. Also, Mike Wilson explored postal markings of the Turks & Caicos Islands, and Walton Van Winkle wrote about early Trinidad postal history. Malcolm Watts provided examples of numerous postal markings in use in Nassau, Bahamas, and included an updated listing of all post offices in the country.

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President's Message

By John Seidl

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable holiday season and the chance to spend time with family and friends. Last year was an extremely difficult year for me personally but support from family and friends carries the day.

I am happy to report that the BCPSG vote to merge the BCPSG and BWISC and form the new West Indies Philatelic Study Group was almost unanimous in favor of the merger. The BWISC membership has also voted in favor of the merger. This January issue of the BCPSG journal will be the last and the first issue of the new WIPSG journal will be in March of 2023. Your BCPSG dues payments will be honored by the new group. For many of us who belong to both groups already your membership will be extended based on your total dues payments.



We hope that everyone will continue to contribute to the success of the WIPSG by contributing articles and volunteering to take on society roles. The combined expertise of the two societies will take our hobby forward into the future. The success of any philatelic society is directly related to the participation of the membership. Please consider volunteering to support the new society.

Once the merger has been officially confirmed by the BWISC a press release will be produced to make the philatelic community aware. Of course, having our membership help to spread the word, will be the strongest start we can hope for.

Thank you to everyone who has supported, contributed to, and participated in the BCPSG over the years and look forward to working together in the WIPSG.

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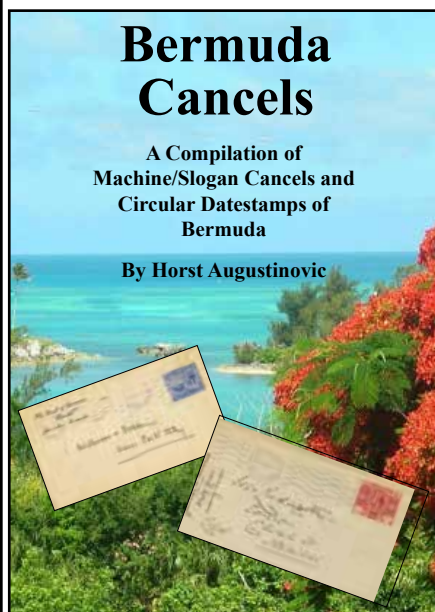
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