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# BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

(Affiliated British Philatelic Association & Philatelic Congress  
of Great Britain)

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**OBJECTS:** TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the British West Indies.

TO establish contact with correspondents throughout the British West Indies comprising the following colonies and dependencies:

ANTIGUA

BAHAMAS

BARBADOS

BERMUDA

BRITISH GUIANA

BRITISH HONDURAS

CAYMAN ISLANDS

DOMINICA

GRENADA

JAMAICA

LEEWARD ISLANDS

MONTSERRAT

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

ST. LUCIA

ST. VINCENT

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

VIRGIN ISLANDS

TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features (including 'Opinions' Service, and a 'Wants' Section) which it is hoped will widen the knowledge of members. It is emphasised that EVERY member will always be in 'the picture' no matter where he (or she) resides.

TO operate a SALES CIRCUIT to enable members to dispose of their surplus material.

**MEMBERSHIP:** TO be WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all interested in the stamps or postal history of the above-mentioned colonies and dependencies whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription to be 10/6d (\$1.50 non-sterling countries) payable 1st FEBRUARY. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. STUDY CIRCLE" and it will be appreciated if remittances from non-sterling countries are made by sterling draft drawn on LONDON or International Money Order.

## OUR PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

This time, last year, I was enjoying that wonderful summer and mentioned in my paragraph that I had hardly looked at a stamp for several months. What a difference this year when, for many a day, I have watched the rain beating on the windows and have been only too glad to get out an album. At the same time I have hoped that the postman might deliver an Exchange Packet that I could go through for scarce postmarks. One I very much want to complete my set of Jamaica Railway marks is that of IPSWICH. Has any member ever seen a copy of this? There are only 40 of these marks, not 44 as stated in the Handbook. The following should be deleted: BERNARD LODGE, INVERNESS, NEW WORKS and WINDSOR CASTLE SIDING. Writing of postmarks, I have a Jamaica 3d. pine with the diamond shape postmark, with thick bars and 285 in the centre which, I believe, is KILRUSH. You occasionally find Jamaican stamps with the FALMOUTH, PLYMOUTH and SOUTHAMPTON postmarks, but any Irish mark must be very rare and would more likely to be 156 CORK or 186 DUBLIN. Since KILRUSH is only a tiny fishing harbour at the mouth of the Shannon in County Clare, I often wonder what story, if any, is associated with this postmark. All being well, I hope to attend our meeting on October 27th and will look forward to seeing some more interesting displays from our members.

G. W. COLLETT.

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DEAR MEMBER,

Although the weather this summer has in general been most disappointing we trust you have had an enjoyable holiday and are now looking forward to spending many evenings with your stamps. In our experience, and probably yours, the philatelic season is all too short. What with attending meetings of our local societies, mounting items we had every intention of doing last season, re-writing etc., we never seem to be able to catch up, but in spite of all this our interest never fails to revive as autumn approaches. Once again we are glad to record an increase in membership, which now totals 162, which includes the following from overseas: Major W. F. Tongue (Australia), W. Butler and H. M. Daggett (Canada), E. F. Aguilar (Jamaica) and Dr. A. Kaplan (South Africa). We are always pleased to have news of our members overseas and take this opportunity of congratulating Mr. P. T. Masters of Melbourne, Australia, on his election as President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. This Society recently held a medal competition, and Mr. Peter Jaffe is also to be congratulated on being awarded a silver medal for his entry of Grenada. Another item of welcome news is that our member Dr. B. de Burca has left hospital and resumed his practice.

## Geographical distribution of membership.

### LONDON (29)

### PROVINCIAL (92)

Cheshire	1	Hertfordshire	3	Staffordshire	1
Cornwall	1	Kent	6	Suffolk	2
Derbyshire	4	Lancashire	4	Surrey	14
Devon	4	Middlesex	8	Sussex	6
Dorset	1	Norfolk	2	Warwickshire	3
Essex	4	Northants	2	Wiltshire	3
Gloucestershire	2	Northumberland	2	Yorkshire	2
Hampshire	6	Shropshire	2		
Northern Ireland	1	Scotland	7	Wales	1

### OVERSEAS (41)

Australia	5	B.W.I.	5	Canada	6
New Guinea	1	South Africa	4	U.S.A.	20

## AUTUMN MEETING

It will be most helpful if all those who hope to attend on the 27th instant will advise the Hon. Secretary in order that the necessary arrangements can be made for tea. Please do not forget to bring along some sheets and a note of any problems you may have.

## SALES CIRCUIT

Whilst it is not practicable to circulate the envelopes to members overseas any surplus material they care to send me will be most welcome. The proceeds of any sales, less commission, will be remitted by International Money Order to those residing in the sterling area. I understand that a number of members in non-sterling countries transact business with our advertisers and I shall be pleased to pay over any proceeds to be held to a member's credit. I would emphasise that such payments can only be paid to any one of those who take space in our bulletin.

ROSE TITFORD.

Advert

**THE PHILATELIC MAGAZINE**

**HARRIS PUBLICATIONS, LTD.**

## STAMP COLLECTORS' ANNUAL 1957

Many members will be aware of this excellent publication. In addition to many interesting articles, it includes a review of the Stamp Market for 1956, Guide to the World's Philatelic Literature and a Directory of Philatelic Societies and Exchange Clubs. In our opinion it is worth much more than the modest 3/6d asked by the Publishers, Harris Publications Ltd. of 29 Buckingham Street, Strand, W.C.2. It will be appreciated if those members who wish to secure a copy will send an order without delay to the Hon. Secretary accompanied by a remittance for 3/8d to include postage. By so doing a small discount will accrue to the Circle's funds.

### THE DE LA RUE STAMP CENTENARY EXHIBITION

held at 41, Devonshire Place, London, W.1.  
6th to 18th June, 1955

Captions of items covering the British West Indies continued from p. 40  
(Bulletin No. 10)

**TOBAGO.** On June 29, 1880, the Crown Agents ordered ½d., 1d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- stamps bearing the words "Tobago Postage," requesting that a distinction in colour should be made where the values are the same as the revenue stamps, already supplied. The £1 denomination of the initial issue of August 1, 1879, shown, was therefore altered by hand, and submitted with the De La Rue tablets for colour on June 30th. The essay was approved, as were the colour submissions for the other values, on July 2, 1880. Essay submitted on September 3, at the request of the Crown Agents, showing a key-plate blank duty die proof, with the duty drawn by hand. On September 7 the Crown Agents approved the design, requesting the Company to use the overprint plate of the similar design for Dominica, which was done.

**TRINIDAD.** A sheet abstracted from an old register of stamp specimens circa 1860 1d. lake perf. 10½ x 11 with "specimen" in MS., 4d. perf. 12½ with "specimen" in MS., 6d. and 1/- mauve, perf. 13, overprinted "specimen" and 1/- bluish slate, perf. 12 with "specimen" in MS. Three specimens cut from the Company's Private Dav Book dated April 28, 1863. (1d.) 4d., and 6d. with "specimen" in MS. **1882.** Essay and colour scheme submitted for printing by the letter-press process, similar to the 5/- value produced by this method and issued in 1869. These were approved by the Colonial Secretary on June 26, 1882. The specimens for the scheme of colours are Barbados stamps with blank value tablets. All are overprinted "specimen". **July 29, 1895.** Initial essays for proposed new issue based on instructions of the P.M.G. and two photographic essays of finished vignette with the approved frames drawn in black and white submitted to the Crown Agents on October 28th. **March 1905.** A trial strip of twelve of the 6d. of the 1904-5 issue printed on Multiple Crown CA paper to test the possibility of removing the written cancellations by means of neutral potassium oxalate.

**TURKS ISLANDS. September 25, 1883.** New scheme of colours proposed to the Crown Agents on September 25, 1883, to conform with Postal Union requirements. Also new key-plates suggested to replace the 1d., 6d. and 1/- denominations printed by recess to obtain security from forgery. The colours were approved by the Commissioner on January 23, 1884, but the change of design was rejected. Following a complaint from the Colony that the colour of the 1d. copper-plate stamps was not fast, the Company submitted the appendix shown suggesting that letterpress would overcome this defect if adopted for the 1d., 6d. and 1/-. The Crown Agents wrote on January 3, 1894, that they would refer the matter to the Colony, but nothing eventuated. The specimens shown have the name arid value hand painted.

**TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS. 1928 issue.** Complete set of colour proofs on Multiple Script paper proved from the ½d. die.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS. 1880.** Following the receipt of an order dated May 28, 1880, for fifty sheets each of 1d. and 2½d. values, it was pointed out on June 7th that the 1d. was lithographed from a stone, and that the use of the Leeward Islands "key" plate would not only be much cheaper but would result in a stamp far superior in quality. The two specimens shown accompanied the Company's letter to emphasise this difference, and the suggestion was approved by the Crown Agents on June 8, 1880. **January 31, 1883.** Appendix submitted to the Crown Agents on February 28th showing the existing colours of the 1d. and 2½d., also proofs of March 12th submitted in the colours suggested by the Crown Agents of which they chose the yellow for an initial order for 5,000 ½d. stamps ordered on January 31, 1883. Colour proofs of the 1/- value in yellow, red and brown submitted on December 4, 1888. The brown shade was approved on December 10th. **July 1898.** Re-engraved blank duty die proof with the following note in MS.: "Die re-engraved, previous one cracked after hardening." Approved colour proofs of George V issue of the following values; 1d. rose-carmine. 1d. bright violet, 1½d. rose-carmine and 1½d. light brown. **April 15, 1952 issue.** The original rough and final sketch of the frame, twice the actual size.

**WINDWARD ISLANDS. April 10, 1890.** Appendix submitted with fourteen specimens with duties drawn by hand. (Values ½d.-£1).

## COLOUR SCHEMES

**ANTIGUA. September 26, 1883.** Colour scheme proposed on September 26, 1883, to accord with the International Postal Convention colours, and as a fitting opportunity for discarding the old 1d. and 6d. plates and employing the improved system of surface-printing them as the other values. The letterpress 1d. and 6d. and the copperplate 1d. brown specimens are of perf. 12. and the others perf. 14,

**BAHAMAS. November 20, 1883.** On January 19, 1884 the Colonial Secretary approved the scheme. The Crown Agents confirmed that the Colonial Government approves the 1d., 4d. and 6d. to be printed by the surface system in one fugitive ink, not

double as inadvertently stated by them in a letter dated April 5, 1884. All are perf. 12 except 1d. lake and 1/- green.

**BRITISH GUIANA. July 25, 1883.** Existing and proposed scheme of colours submitted to the Crown Agents on July 25, 1883, to bring them into line with those established by the International Postal Convention. Whilst the perforation of the existing colour specimen is 14, except the 12 cents, which is imperf., that of the proposed colours from blank duty dies is in each case perf. 12.

**BRITISH HONDURAS. July 25, 1883.** Colour scheme proposed and submitted on July 25, 1883 to align with the alteration in the colour of the 1d. in conformity with the requirements of the International Postal Convention. The proofs of the proposed colours are all perf. 12.

**DOMINICA. July 31, 1883.** On July 31, 1883, this scheme of proposed colours, to conform with the requirements of the International Postal Convention, was submitted to the Crown Agents and approved in the following October, subject to stocks of existing colours first being exhausted. All perf. 14, except the 1d., 6d. and 1/- of the existing colours which are perf. 12½.

**MONTSERRAT. September 26, 1883.** When submitting the proposed scheme of colours shown to the Crown Agents on September 26, 1883, necessitated by the change of colour of the 2½d. established by the International Postal Convention, the Company pointed out that as the 1d. could not be brought nearer the agreed shade by copper-plate printing, it was an opportune time to change to surface printing by the key-plate system for the 1d. and 6d. copperplate stamps. Proofs of perf. 12 are the two 6d. proposed for colour and the blank duty 4d. mauve.

**ST. VINCENT. September 21, 1883.** Scheme of colours proposed to the Crown Agents on September 21, 1883, to align with the change necessary for the ½d., 1d. and 2½d. stamp colours in accordance with requirements of the International Postal Convention. It met with the approval of the Crown Agents on November 29, 1883, but the 3d. value was never used in this colour, the THREE PENCE being overprinted in black on the 1d. value printed in mauve. Most of these specimens are perf. 12, including 1d. drab, 6d. green, 1/- orange and the 5/- carmine-lake.

**TOBAGO. August 1, 1883.** Proposed scheme of colours submitted on August 1, 1883, to meet the requirements of the International Postal Convention at the request of the Crown Agents. (Concluded)

## NOTES AND QUERIES

It will be appreciated that our Bulletin constitutes the vital link between us and is mainly dependent upon a steady flow of contributions from members. These may either afford information or raise points upon which enlightenment is sought, and it will be helpful if S.G. numbers are) quoted wherever possible. ALL contributions should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary.



## **BAHAMAS MODERN POSTMARKS**

"With the publication of 'Postage Stamps and Postal History of the Bahamas' (Gisburn), there seemed little else that could be said about the postmarks of these islands. Yet the very existence of this book prompts further research and spurs on even the average collector to study his own copies a little more closely. Altogether at the present time there are about one hundred offices in the Bahamas, so there is plenty of scope for trying to form a collection of the various postmarks. Anyone, however, who has tried to do so will have realised that to obtain even half of this number in reasonably good condition is no easy matter; whilst the completion of such a collection is well nigh an impossible task. A letter I received recently from a friend in Nassau, however, throws some light on this difficulty. In many of the outer islands the office of Postmaster is held by the resident commissioner. Doubtless in some cases the actual stamping of mail is left to a subordinate, who may not be always too particular, with the result that many of these outer island postmarks are almost illegible. In some instances there is no postmark at all on the envelope. To quote a case in point. My friend's maid receives letters fairly regularly from her father, who lives on Berry Island, but these, I learn, are never postmarked. As far as I can gather, there is no resident commissioner in that island so that it is reasonable to assume there is no one sufficiently responsible to act as Postmaster. Incidentally the same friend informs me that when the mail boats arrive at some of these outer islands the mail is taken to different settlements by anyone who happens to be going that way. Apparently in such cases there is no special official responsible for this duty. Reverting to the subject of postmarks, there is an interesting variety of the NASSAU postmark which occurred during the 1920's. One of the handstamps was damaged but remained in regular use from at least 1921 to 1926, as I have seen several examples of it during this period. The variety consists in breaks in the circle as follows:-

- (a) above the space between the first and second 'S' in 'NASSAU.'
- (b) above the space between the second 'S' and the 'A.'
- (c) below the letters 'AH' in 'BAHAMAS.'

Some of the letters also are damaged, the most noticeable flaws being:-

- (d) the lower portion of the first stroke of the 'N' is missing.
- (e) the lower portion of the last stroke of the first 'A' in 'NASSAU' is missing.
- (f) the top of the first stroke of the 'H' in 'BAHAMAS' is missing.

Obviously there was at least one other handstamp in use at the Post Office during this period as the normal Nassau postmark is found just as frequently in these years. Apart from the electrical postmarks used on most of the letters from the G.P.O. at Nassau, there is still in use a handstamp which is similar to the normal one of the 1920's, but which differs from it in the size of the letters. It still consists of a single circle 25mm. in diameter, but the letters are larger, being 4mm. high instead of 3mm.

Whilst these notes add only very little to what has already been written on the subject, it is the gradual accumulation of such pieces of information that builds up all philatelic knowledge. Possibly other members may be stimulated to add their quota to the general knowledge of these postmarks."

(Contributed by Mr. L. E. Britnor).

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## BRITISH GUIANA

"I was most interested in Mr. Hosking's article in Bulletin No. 10, p. 31, and have yet to see the 'T.P.O. North West Str' cancellation, though I saw a reference to it in a philatelic journal some time ago. Neither have I seen an example of the modern 'Mobile N.W.D. Agency' mark. I have always understood that the launch was primarily used for medical purposes and shall be interested to know if this is so. The code cancellations are also very interesting, but at present I only have examples of E4C on S.G.98 and AH (Airy Hall) on S.G.127 with the 'H' of 'AH' off stamp, but an unmistakable strike. This latter cancellation I believe to be decidedly scarce."

(Contributed by Mr. F. G. Howe).

## GRENADA

"I was very interested to see in the current edition of the Commonwealth King George VI Catalogue that the second printing of the 10/- value with the blurred vignette has at last been listed. The variety has long been known to specialists and is very easily distinguishable from the fourth printing both on account of the blurred lines of the vignette and the cold deep carmine of the frame. It would appear to be very rare, although it has been possible hitherto to obtain a copy at the price asked for the fourth printing as few people have bothered to separate the two. Some years ago a well-known firm was asking £6 for a mint copy. I do not, however, agree with the description. This stamp was issued at the same time as that with the rare perforation and, to my mind, the two stamps are otherwise identical in appearance, although it is very difficult to describe a shade when looking at one particular stamp. I have a copy with the rare perforation with the frame in a deep dull carmine-rose, similar to C.W.25a, although I consider this shade is more accurately described by Gibbons as claret. Another doubtful description is that given to C.W.25, regarded as the first additional printing. I have blocks of both this and the first printing, and both the frames and vignettes appear to be similar and, here again, I prefer Gibbon's description of the vignette as being pale blue. I have always thought that this additional printing was line perforated and, in fact, persuaded Gibbons to amend their description from comb to line perforation. My block of four and two singles certainly appear to be line, and this particular stamp was so described in the issue of 'Stamp Collecting' dated 7th March, 1952. Finally, I am surprised a stamp is still listed as C.W.25c. This stamp is not a separate printing at all and can be either from the fourth or the sixth printing which have been some time in the colony and suffered much discolouration due to atmospheric influence. I shall be glad to know whether any member can throw more light on this matter."

(Contributed by Mr. E. J. Anning).

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## ST. CHRISTOPHER : THE MOTHER COLONY

(Continued from Bulletin No. 10, p. 38).

"**THE ADHESIVES:** Stanley Gibbons' catalogue list of these is sufficiently comprehensive to warrant the omission of the stamps being mentioned in detail here - value for value. These notes will therefore

provide general information and emphasise anything which may afford interest to the specialist. The stamps were typographed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., wmk. CC., perf. 12½; the first two, 1d. and 6d., were issued on 1st April, 1870, though there is just a possibility that they may have been put into use immediately on receipt of the consignment on February 14th, 1870. I have seen it recorded that the 1d. was employed for the local rate and for newspapers, and the 6d. for letters to Great Britain; but I have a 6d. used on cover (JY 13 76) from St. Christopher to Barbados, whereas another letter to Great Britain bears ten 1d. stamps (DEC 27 1874). In the 1d. value, where three shades are listed (dull rose, magenta and pale magenta) it is the dull rose which is by far the scarcer; it also appears (infrequently) with sideways watermark. The green and yellow-green of the 6d. I do not consider to be markedly different in shade. In the CC, perf. 14 stamps (1875-76) again the same two values; the 1d. magenta is known bisected diagonally or vertically for use as ½d.; the 6d. is recorded imperforate between, in a pair. As the need for a 2½d. rate did not arise until after July 1st, 1879 - when St. Christopher joined the U.P.U. - it is difficult to understand why the 1d. should have been bisected (in order to provide a ½d. value); the first real evidence for a halfpenny stamp was the introduction of the ½d dull green in 1882 for a reduced rate for newspapers. The *Gazette* of March 11th, 1882, lists the rates to certain islands as follows:-

### **POST OFFICE NOTICE**

'AFTER this date the Postage to the under-mentioned places will be reduced to:

Letters per ½ oz., 2½d. Post Cards, each 1d.

Newspapers, Printed Papers, Books, etc., per 2 oz., ½d.

Commercial papers same as printed papers, except that the lowest charge for each package is 2½d.

Patterns same as printed papers, except that the lowest charge for each packet is 1d.

### **Names of the Places**

Antigua, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Montserrat, Nevis, Tortola, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Saint Martin's, Saint Thomas, St.Croix, Crab Island, Porto Rico. March 11th, 1882.'

It is concluded from the above notice that the 1d. postal card was issued on or about March 11th, 1882.

As the 1d. stamps could not have arrived much before June 1882, it may be that the use of cut 1d. stamps was officially allowed during the period from March to June. To return to the 2½d. and 4d. of 1879 (S.G.9 and 10), only minor shade variations occur here; the 4d. is known with sideways watermark. The change of watermark from Crown CC to Crown CA took place in 1882, the perforation remaining 14. The 1d. dull magenta (S.G.I 2) is a scarce stamp unused and not common used as this shade had a comparatively short life; the 1d. carmine-rose, its more common brother, having made its appearance about March 1884. In the carmine-rose there is a particularly deep shade; the only major 'variety' is a malformed 'E' in the word 'ONE' of the value occurring on the sixth stamp of the sheet of 20; in this the right limb of the 'N' of 'ONE' is also slightly thinner. The 1d. occurs bisected. Of this series other scarce stamps are the two shades of the 2½d (pale red-brown and deep red-brown) and the 4d. blue in unused state. All the values come either with white or yellowish gum. The ½d. is recorded with sideways watermark. The sheets of 20 of this issue (5 x 4) each bear the Plate Number in white on a solid circle of colour within a circle, with De La Rue's current (reference) number (e.g. 40) in colour in an oblong box with indented corners (quite distinct from the Plate Number mark). All the ordinary (unsurcharged) stamps were printed from one key plate of 20 cliches (four horizontal rows of five), the values being printed, from separate plates, in a blank horizontal space at the lower part of the design, so that the panes (sheets) of all denominations are of the same size with the stamps arranged in exactly the same way."

(To be concluded).

(Contributed by Miss Rose Titford).

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### ST. KITTS-NEVIS

" With reference to the note by Mr. G. W. Groves (Bulletin No. 8, p.10), I find that the Duplex 'DB,' 'OR' and 'SP' were still in use in 1923, although my copy of the latter is in the month of January. I make the c.d.s. of these duplex marks to have an outside diameter of 19½mm. The large single c.d.s. (non-duplex) I have only seen for 'SP' dated 1924 and 1925. The

diameter of the c.d.s. is 25½mm. and 'SP' 3½mm. high (duplex type 'SP' 2½ mm. high). All lettering is proportionately larger than the duplex type and the colour black. Should not the list also include 'CA' = CAYON?"

(Contributed by Dr. H. Vivian Brown).

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### **ST. LUCIA**

"The earliest date recorded for the 'M' (Mucoïd) cancellation is 1893, but I have this on a Q.V. 2½d Die I dated 25th May, 1889. This brings it into line with Dennery, Soufriere and Vieux-Fort. Can any member provide an earlier date than 1891 for Labourie? Among the Castries cancellations a St. Lucia 'A' has been recorded, and it would be interesting to know who possesses this now. So far I have not seen a record of a Castries 'B' but I have two examples, both of which are dated for January, 1903, and are on 1s. stamps. Postage rates on letters over the 300-mile radius still require elucidation. The 4d. was introduced on 14th December, 1881, and the latest date which I have for this rate is 25th November, 1888. The earliest and latest dates for the 2½d. rate in my collection are November, 1891, and 24th June, 1898, and the earliest date for the 1d. rate 6th January, 1899. Can anyone help in approximating these dates?"

(Contributed by Dr. B. de Burca).

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### **ST. VINCENT**

"I am anxious to have assistance in allocating the Perkins, Bacon St. Vincent adhesives to printings as has been done in the case of GRENADA. I have an unproven view that the position of the small star watermark is more important in the case of St. Vincent (which used plates of 60 and 30 subjects for the low values) than in the case of GRENADA, which used a nearly square plate of 120 subjects. In the case of the one penny black the final printing was, I believe, perforated by the 'A' machine, while the two previous ones were probably compound (A x B). Conclusions based on dated copies, perforations and watermark star position, may enable the dates to be established. The late Mr. Adams mentions on p. 60 (Bulletin No. 5) the 'U.P.U.' December 1881 issue which follows the 1881 provisionals. These Perkins, Bacon (not De La Rue productions) have the star watermark upright. I possess a Four Pence dated December 9th (red St.

Vincent c.d.s.), and have never seen a postally used 4d. provisional cancelled after December 3rd, although specimens cancelled 'A10' in black may be used on following days. As Mr. Adams mentions on p. 48 (Bulletin No. 4), some of the remainders sold in March 1883 were cancelled by favour later. The numbers given for the One Penny on Six Pence (630 and 36 remainders) apply to the 4d. on 1s. value, and I am of the opinion the 720 should read 1720 for the One Penny on Sixpence bright green. Evidence from dated postmarks suggests that the De La Rue 4d. dull blue, perf. 12 came into use late in 1883. Perhaps some members can give some information as to the date of issue. The major philatelic problem is the method used in making the 2½d. and 5d. values S.G. type 1. Two points occur to me: First, were electrotype methods employed and, if so, did De La Rue make new plates for the other values? Second, is the lettering on the Fourpence yellow a clue pointing to fresh plates first used for this stamp? To those members who may possess mint blocks this problem may have some attraction. Two further questions relate to the cause of the lines on George V portrait stamps which suggest hair cracks in a thin printing plate and the method of plate making in the Uganda window stamps."

(Contributed by Mr. P. J. Jaffe).

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## **TRINIDAD**

### **Parcel Post**

" Many members are, no doubt, familiar with the PARCEL POST - TRINIDAD single line circle date stamp, diameter 24½ mm. The establishment of parcel post services in the colony is recorded in the Postmaster General's report for the period up to December 1888. It is stated that the Foreign parcel post was established in 1885 and was growing rapidly. In 1888 the increase was 12% over the previous year the number of parcels dealt with being 3,675. The Inland parcel post was established in 1887. Parcels not exceeding 11lbs. in weight could be transmitted to all the more important District Offices and a maximum of 4 lbs. to the small outlying Offices served by foot or horse messengers. In 1888 the number of parcels forwarded from Port of Spain to Branch Offices was 1,006. For the accommodation of Private Box Holders and also to provide additional

space for the Foreign and Inland parcel post a new wing was added to the G.P.O. Port of Spain in 1887. The earliest date I have seen so far is JY 16 90. I shall be glad to know if any member possesses or has seen an earlier one."

(Contributed by Mr. J. B. Marriott).

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(Bulletins Nos. 8-11)**

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## **THE HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH**

I would first like to echo the sentiments expressed elsewhere to the effect that it is hoped that members have had an enjoyable holiday. During a short tour in Devon and Cornwall in August I had the pleasure of meeting one of our overseas members - Mr. Jordan C. Churchill - who returned to the U.S.A. a few days ago. Such meetings afford me immense pleasure since they provide the opportunity of ascertaining what our Circle means to those who reside so far away. Now and again I glance through journals of other societies and was most interested in an editorial comment in the August issue of "Maple Leaves" the journal of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain. It referred to the fact that many contributors to 'Letters to the Editor' received direct replies to the questions they raised. It was pointed out that whilst there was no harm in this it would be appreciated if copies of such correspondence were sent to the Editor in order that the discussions could be completed in their columns for the benefit of other readers and so 'make the journal the full record it should attempt to become'. I am in wholehearted agreement with this view. Occasionally I receive letters from members for onward transmission to other members and, with one exception, they have been un-sealed thereby enabling me to take a copy before sending them on. When doing so I have included a request that the reply be sent to me in order that I can make a copy before forwarding to the original correspondent. I feel sure that all members will readily appreciate that any matters discussed by direct correspondence which is not made available for publicity in our Bulletin cannot but undermine the primary object of our Circle. In conclusion may I request that all members who have intimated that they intend to send in material for our Sales Circuit will do so as soon as possible.

P. T. S.



## AUCTION GLEANINGS

**H. R. HARMER LTD.** Sale. June 4th & 5th. **British Guiana:** 1850 circular 8c. green. S.G.4 cut to shape but showing portions of the circular frame and lightly postmarked. **£52/10/0**; **Cayman Islands:** 1917, War Stamp, 1½d on 2½d. deep blue, the rare type. S.G.55. o.g. **£8/10/0**. Sale, June 25th & 26th. **British Guiana:** 1938-50. \$1. perf. 14 x 13, S.G.317a, part o.g., **£11**; **Grenada:** 1938-50, 10/-, perf. 12, S.G. 163c, o.g. faint gum crease, **£16**. **Total sales for the season amounted to £327,522 the second time in the firm's history that the £300,000 figure has been exceeded.**

## MISCELLANEA

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**BULLETINS:** Copies of back issues are available as follows:- 1954 No. 2 (1/6d.), 1955 Nos. 4-7 (1/3d) and 1956 Nos. 8-10 (1/-). Orders should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, accompanied by the appropriate remittance.

**OPINIONS SERVICE:** Facilities are available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. group. A fee of 1/- per stamp is charged. Members wishing to take advantage of this service should send the stamp(s) to the Hon. Secretary, enclosing the requisite fee and stamped addressed plain (or registered) envelope. Every endeavour will be made to return the stamp(s) within seven days.

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(NOTE: S.G. Nos. except where otherwise stated.

C.W.= Commonwealth M=mint U= used)

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