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BULLETIN No. 20

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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

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

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Miss ROSE TITFORD, J. J. TURNER.

Hon. Auditor: A. J. BRANSTON.

OBJECTS: TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps of the British West Indies comprising the following colonies and dependencies:

ANTIGUA	CAYMAN ISLANDS	ST. LUCIA
BAHAMAS	DOMINICA	ST. VINCENT
BARBADOS	GRENADA	TRINIDAD &
BERMUDA	JAMAICA	TOBAGO
BRITISH GUIANA	LEEWARD ISLANDS	TURKS & CAICOS
BRITISH	MONTSERRAT	ISLANDS
HONDURAS	ST. KITTS-NEVIS	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.

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) due 1st FEBRUARY. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. STUDY CIRCLE".

Do not fail to read the details of the varied material offered by our advertisers whose support is much appreciated. If you have any 'wants' they will welcome a list of them, mentioning the B.W.I. Study Circle Bulletin.

Dear Member,

We extend a very warm welcome to the following who have enrolled since our last issue:- R. H. Austin, L. G. Capes and J. H. Colvin. Both Mr. Austin and Mr. Capes attended our autumn meeting and we look forward to having the pleasure of their company at future meetings. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate two of our members - Mr. H. Douglas Bessemer and Mr. A. J. Stevens, M.A. - on being invited to share an afternoon exhibition at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, held on October 23rd, 1958. Mr Bessemer's display covered Leeward Islands, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and included many choice items. To provide a contrast Mr. Stevens showed a selection of pages from his very fine collection of Cape of Good Hope.

Geographical distribution of membership.

LONDON (36)

PROVINCIAL (117)

Bedfordshire	2	Essex	5	Nottinghamshire	1
Buckinghamshire	1	Gloucestershire	4	Shropshire	2
Cambridgeshire	1	Hampshire	4	Somerset	2
Cheshire	2	Hertfordshire	4	Staffordshire	1
Cornwall	1	Kent	4	Surrey	16
Derbyshire	5	Lancashire	6	Sussex	4
Devonshire	6	Middlesex	4	Warwickshire	3
Dorset	1	Norfolk	2	Wiltshire	3
Co. Durham	1	Northamptonshire	1	Yorkshire	17
		Northumberland	1		
Isle of Man	1	Northern Ireland	1	Scotland	8
		Wales	3		

OVERSEAS (44)

Australia	4	B.W.I.	5	Canada	7
Lebanon	1	New Guinea	1	U.S.A.	23
Tasmania	1			South Africa	2



From the plan included in the prospectus of the above Exhibition published in November, 1958,* it will be observed that space has been set aside for Society exhibits which, incidentally, will not be eligible for competition. Provincial application has been made on behalf of our Circle for two frames (32 standard album pages) and members, including those who intend to show individually, who are willing to give their support by loaning **not more than three pages** of material of high standard are requested to advise our Hon. Secretary as soon as possible.

* Obtainable from Organising Secretary, 41, Devonshire Pl., London. W.1,

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we record the death of our member, Mr. W. Jones which took place on July 23rd, 1958. He regularly attended our autumn meetings bringing with him interesting items from his collection for our enjoyment. His enthusiasm for the stamps of the B.W.I. was most marked and we shall miss him very much as will the Woolwich & District Philatelic Society of which he was President. Our sincere sympathies are extended to his widow in her sad bereavement.

P.T.S.

STAMPEX 1959 at Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1, 13th-21st March

Once again our Circle has been invited to provide an exhibit which will comprise three frames and the pages selected will cover Bahamas, Cayman Islands and St. Christopher. No less than seven of our members will be providing individual displays so that collectors of the B.W.I. group cannot fail to see something that will interest them. Each year this Exhibition goes one better and we hope that as many members as possible will pay at least one visit. Details of outstanding items on our Circle's contribution and members' individual exhibits will be included in our April issue.

AUTUMN MEETING

This was held at 41, Devonshire Place, London, W.1. on Saturday, 25th October, 1958, and was attended by 20 members and 4 visitors. The Hon. Secretary opened the proceedings by expressing on behalf of all present their pleasure at having our President with us. Mr. Collett then took the chair and said how glad he was to be able to preside once again. The Hon. Secretary then referred to the establishing of a library and announced the names of the principal guests who will be attending the Dinner following our Fifth Anniversary Meeting to be held on April 4th next. The Chairman of the Publications Sub-Committee, Cdr. G Bridgmore Brown, then gave a report of their activities emphasising that the collating of information was necessarily slow but that data on the stamps and postal history of Barbados had reached an advanced stage. He concluded by stating that it was hoped that the day was not far distant when his committee would be in a position to decide the best method of publication. Mr. Crow then made a few remarks in regard to the Sales Circuit and stated that material was extremely slow in coming in but that as soon as sufficient was available further packets would be circulated. The meeting was then devoted to displays by members and the following are some of the interesting items that were shown:

Mr. A. E. Beach: **Tobago**. Printing flaws on various issues, a large number being constant. These included a complete pane of the 1886 ½d. (S.G.20) showing position of these flaws and several large multiples of the 1d. (S.G.21) showing a marked constant flaw

in the control numeral 1. Mr. B. B. Benwell: **Barbados**. An extremely fine selection of very early dated pre-adhesives. Among these were BARBA (seriffed caps) dated September 20 1793; BARBADOES with date below (seriffed caps) Dec 1800; single line BARBADOES (seriffed caps) circa. 1801-1814. These were followed by a very interesting group of the 'Boot-heel' postmarks Nos. 1-11. Cdr. G. B. Brown: **Bermuda**. One of the earliest maps of Bermuda dated 1626 taken from a folio book which was only a few years after the Company of Adventurers were given permission to colonize Bermuda. The outstanding interest in this map, which incidentally is not cartographically very accurate, lies in the fact that it is divided into lots of land and on each one appears the name of a shareholder of the Company and in many cases these names have been perpetuated in the parish names of to-day. Mr. L. G. Capes: **Barbados**. A selection of first issues, including a very fine example of the 5/- dull rose (S.G.64) o.g. Mr G. W. Collett: **Jamaica**. The J and K types of the 'A7U' obliterator first used for Richmond and then for Balaclava. The 'A55' used for Mile Gully and Moneague this being a scarce obliterator. An item of unusual interest was a cover from the U.S.A. dated 1891 addressed to London bearing the handstamp in black 'Missent to Jamaica, B.W.I.' This mark was sent out to Jamaica about 1840. Mr. J. B. Marriott: **Trinidad**. An example of the Lady McLeod on cover cancelled by skinning one corner, an unusual method no doubt used when pen and ink were not available. A selection of the pin perms. of 1859 including pairs also the 4d, and 6d. imperf. and 1d. and 1/- rough perf. with 'CANCELLED' which were distributed to the Rowland Hill family. Mr. P. T. Saunders: **Cayman Islands**. An interesting cover bearing singles and blocks of four of ½d. and 1d. Q.V. dated. 7 JUL 01. Imprint pane of 25 2½d. K.G.VI (S.G.120) showing numerous retouching to the shells in the design. Mr. E. V. Toeg: **Leeward Islands**. An unusually interesting pre-adhesive of 1842, being a letter sent from Kingston, Jamaica, to Liverpool via Falmouth without date in centre and very late usage. The cover is endorsed 'PACKET' with packet letter charge '1/-'. According to Mr. Alan Robertson the similar type of packet mark for Jamaica, which should have been used for this letter was lost in the early 1830's and the Leeward Islands packet mark was applied as the nearest substitute. By 1842 the importance of Falmouth as a receiving port had virtually come to an end.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

As announced in our last two Bulletins this will take place at 41, Devonshire Place, London, W.1., on **Saturday, April 4th, at 2.30 p.m.** It will, as usual, be followed by a Dinner (**dress informal**) at Lords Tavern, St. Johns Wood Road, N.W.8 (7 for 7.30 p.m.). The principal guests will be Miss Eileen Evans, Public Relations Officer, The British Philatelic Association, and His Excellency Dr. Luis F. Thomen, the Dominican Ambassador. The charge will be 20/- per head (excluding wine but including gratuities) and those wishing to attend should send the appropriate remittance to reach the Hon. Secretary **not later than March 21st.**

A VISIT TO LEEDS

Some months ago Mr. Fred Myers, our Committee member in the North, decided to arrange a regular 'get together' of our members in that area. From the first it proved an instant success and his initiative has resulted in the enrolment of a number of new members. In response to an invitation to attend and give a display at one of their meetings our Hon. Secretary accompanied by Committee member Miss Rose Titford - journeyed up to Leeds on September 27th, 1958, where they were joined by Mr. A. J. Branston our Hon. Auditor. Some 20 members were present and the Chairman, Mr. F. R. Fordham, extended a warm welcome in his introductory remarks. Mr. Branston commenced his display with an interesting selection of **Bahamas** the emphasis being on printing varieties occurring on the 'Staircase' issue (S.G.58 & 59) and the K.G.V. Red Cross overprint (S.G.100a). An interesting point in regard to the Seal issue of 1930 was mentioned in connection with the design employed. The actual seal shows an entirely different ship to the one appearing on the stamps which is a modified version. Miss Titford contributed a selection of the first issues of **Bahamas** commencing with plate proofs of the 1d., 4d, & 6d.; the 1d. no wmk. on thick paper (S.G.1) used: the various perforated issues in the Perkins Bacon prints including S.G.7 and the scarce shades of the 6d. (S.G.19a & 28a) used. Next she showed a series of pre-adhesives of St. Christopher including a very clear strike 'ST. KITTS PAID' dated My 29 1855. Of the adhesives mint blocks of four of the 1d. CC 12½ (S.G.2) and CC 14 (S.G.6) were shown which are rare in multiples. Our Hon. Secretary followed with a varied selection of Cayman Islands including Jamaica used in **Cayman Islands**, mint and used of a number of issues, specimens and postal stationery.

THE DE LA RUE STORY

The philatelic season of 1958/59 can be said to have started off well by the De La Rue Exhibition held at 84/86, Regent Street, London, W.1. on September 12th which was opened by Mrs. Pandit, High Commissioner for India. This Exhibition was organised by De La Rue and Co. in collaboration with The Royal Philatelic Society, London, and remained open to the general public for the following week and is now on a world tour under the direction of Mr. G. Leslie Newman, the company's Archivist. The main purpose of this exhibition was to link it up with the publication of Mr. John Easton's new book entitled "The De La Rue History of British & Foreign Postage Stamps,"* The exhibits in the frames illustrated the outstanding stamp production of this famous firm and we are sure many of our members enjoyed seeing the sections devoted to British West Indian material. Due to the destruction of a portion of the firm's archives in World War II many of the records are incomplete but the data given

by Mr. Easton will clear up many problems which have, up to now, puzzled a number of collectors. It is profusely illustrated and exceedingly well produced and is a 'must' for the philatelist's bookshelf.

R.T.

* Published on behalf of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, by Faber and Faber Limited, 24, Russell Square, London. W.C.1. 872 pages : Price 75/- net.

BRITISH PHILATELIC ASSOCIATION

Convention held at Birmingham on October 18th, 1958

Nearly 150 people attended this convention which proved a great success and the material loaned by members of the various study circles attracted great interest. Our Committee member, Miss Rose Titford, in a short speech drew attention to some of the outstanding items in our Circle's contribution. The following is a resume of the material displayed: A choice selection of **Antigua** which included the Crowned Circle on a dated cover of 1853: the Antigua fleuron on cover dated 12 MR 1822: G.B. 6d. used at St. Johns with the 'A02' obliterator; plate proofs in black and in colour; fine groups of the issued stamps featuring the re-entries and examples of the later issues (Mr. C. Hardeman Smith). A 'pot-pouri' of early **Bahamas** and **St. Christopher**. The former included plate proofs in singles and blocks of 4 also mint and used examples of both the Perkins, Bacon and De La Rue printings. St. Christopher was prefaced by several interesting types of pre-adhesives followed by mint and used adhesives including mint blocks of 4 of the 1d. S.G.2 and S.G.6 (Miss R. Titford). An interesting selection of **Cayman Islands** comprised a cover to Kingston bearing horizontal pair of Jamaica ½d. green, 1885 cancelled with the first Georgetown cancellation 'Grand Cayman/Dec. 22, 1891/Post Office'; blocks of 4 and singles of S.G.1 and S.G.2 on cover addressed to London dated 7 JY 01: S.G.12 on cover with the rare third Georgetown cancellation Type B (the only such cover known); the ½d. on 5/- provisional on cover and examples of the Rural Post cancellations (Mr. P. T. Saunders).

DISPLAYS

**To The Maidstone and Mid-Kent Philatelic Society
on 27th October. 1958**

**To The Luton and District Philatelic Society
on 18th November. 1958**

Our Circle was represented by our Hon. Secretary and Miss Rose Titford at both these displays when they showed a selection from their collections of Cayman Islands, Bahamas and St. Christopher respectively. Miss Titford also showed a number of pages of Jamaica T.R.D.'s kindly lent by our member Mr. A. A. Hershman.

STAMP COLLECTORS' ANNUAL 1959

This unique publication is now available at 3/6d (plus postage 4d) and continues to offer outstanding value for money. As usual it contains a variety of interesting articles, a completely revised 'Directory of Philatelic Literature' and List of active Philatelic Societies, Specialist Groups and Study Circles.

NOTES & 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. **In this connection it is essential that all communications are addressed to the Hon. Secretary in order that publicity can be given in the Bulletin subject to the Editor's discretion.**

BAHAMAS

"With reference to my notes in Bulletins No. 17 and 18 I would like to correct a few printer's errors and add some fresh information:

Bulletin No. 17. p. 16. (c) should read 'The earliest date I have on a stamp is 13.10.1911 and on cover dated 8.10.1911 the postmark shows **no** sign of damage-'

Bulletin No. 18. pp. 33/34.

Type 11 should read:- NASSAU, NEW PROVIDENCE. I have a cover dated 6.9.1895.'

Type 13 should read:- 'ACKLINS ISLAND. I have a cover dated 18.10.1930.'

Type 14 I have now established that LONG CAY (with 'G' inverted) and SAVANNAH SOUND were using this type in 1954.

Type 22. After MOSS TOWN is MOUNT THOMPSON there being no comma after 'MOUNT'.

Mr Ludington referring to this type in Bulletin No. 16, p. 5 implies that 'NASSAU' went out of use in 1946. Surely this is not so since it appears to be still the current handstamp postmark although there seems to have been two examples of this type; one with letters 4mm high as an earlier one with letters 3.5mm high. Perhaps some other members can comment on this point?

T.R.D.'s Single line boxed rectangle (50mm x 27mm). I have DEEP CREEK, ANDROS (to differentiate from DEEP CREEK, ELEUTHERA which uses type 22).

I would like to make the following amendments:

Type 5. The 'B' cancellor. On evidence produced by our member - Dr. J. D. Riddell - there are definitely two different cancellors and possibly more and it would seem that there is need for further investigation.

Type 6. Earlier dale used as backstamp - 30.12.1890.

Type 14 NASSAU-type with two letters in date. I have a cover dated 8.5. 1926.

Type 19 LOWER BOGUE and WEST END both in use in 1930.

Type 22 Add CEDAR HARBOUR and SWEETINGS CAY. ROCK SOUND without circle - Gisburn's type 24 - I have a cover dated 6.10.1924.

T.R.D's Double circle (37mm). Add FOX TOWN and LOWE SOUND.

Paquebot Marks. I have the Kingston, Jamaica paquebot (Stubb's number B.194) used on 1½d. K.G.V.

With regard to the note in Bulletin No. 18. p.32. on the E.R.P. cancellation I have an example of this on the 1d. K.G.V. Wmk. Mult. Crown CA and on 3d. War Tax black and brown dated 30.11.1929. It seems reasonable to suppose that it may be found on all values. I am afraid that Mr. Britnor is incorrect in stating in Bulletin No. 18. pp. 34/35 that the damaged cancellor was in perfect condition up to October 1917. If he refers to Bulletins No. 16 and 17 he will note that both Mr. Ludington and myself state that it was damaged in 1911 although it is correct to say it was damaged in stages. The first was the break in the circle below 'AH'. The earliest date I have seen is 13.10.1911 and the latest undamaged 8.10.1911. Next was the missing top of the first stroke of 'H' my earliest example being dated 21.7.1912. Then came the missing lower portion of the first stroke of 'H' which seems to have developed in 1919. Finally the breaks in circle over NASSAU which occurred sometime during 1920. I have on the ½d. (S.G.117) part of the postmark with 'N' of NASSAU reversed and misplaced.

Although most stamps and covers after 1911 that have the NASSAU cancellor show some of the above defects it is possible to get specimens which are perfect and it would seem, therefore, there were at least two cancellors in use."

(Contributed by Mr. L. R. Coasby.)

BARBADOS

"With reference to Mr. P. Jaffe's queries in Bulletin No. 15 pp. 52/3 and Mr. H. Bayley's answers I would like to make the following comments:

- (a) Presumably the query relates to the inland cancelling mark known as the 'Boot-heel' which was used in conjunction with a circular postmark containing the word 'BARBADOS' in the upper portion together with the official number of the parish, month, day and year in three horizontal lines, the circle being about the size of a 6d piece. There should be no difficulty in distinguishing the numerals in the postmark as I consider Mr. Bayley's identification of the '6' and '9' to be correct.
- (b) The third post and cancelling mark appears to have been a 'Duplex' mark. I have a cover bearing three distinct cancellations uniform in all respects which would have not been the case if applied separately. The letters 'A' to 'D' denoted the hours of posting which were 'A' 9.a.m., 'B' 10.a.m., 'C' 2.30.p.m. and 'D' 3.30.p.m. Although Mr. Bayley says the inverted 'S' is quite common on the 1d. value of the 1882 issue I have not seen an example. What did the 'S' stand for or was it an error?
- (c) I have '4' (St. George), '6' (St. Joseph) and '11' (St. Lucy) with and without the numeral but like Mr. Bayley I have never seen examples of '2' (Christchurch), '8' (St. Thomas) or '10' (St. Peter) with the numeral in the postmark used from 1885 to 1907."

(Contributed by Mr. F. R. Fordham.)

BARBADOS

"With reference to Mr. Britnor's note in Bulletin No. 10. p. 31. this oval 'Ship Letter' mark was sent out to Barbados by the General Post Office, London, on December 14th, 1878. It seems to have been used to back-stamp covers on which the senders had written next to the address 'per s.s. . . .' and I have it on cover dated 9th March, 1887. The next mark 'Posted on Board' was sent out on February 16th, 1905, and is still in use. Nowadays these 'Ship' letters are treated as 'Paquebot' letters. If the ship has a rubber stamp this is placed on the cover by the ship's purser but not on the stamp. On arrival at the G.P.O., Barbados, the 'Posted on Board' mark is used to cancel the stamp while the date postmark is placed on the cover."

(Contributed by Mr. H. Bayley, Barbados)

BRITISH GUIANA

"The latest list of P.O.'s and P.A.'s open in British Guiana published by the P.M.G. in April 1957 showed a number of changes from that appearing in the previous Post Office Guide issued in 1954 and may be summarised as follows:

LETHAM promoted from P.A to P.O.

In 1954 Guide but omitted from 1957 list: AKAIWONG, AURORA LANDING, BURISANOWA, ISSENERU, KARANEMBO, KURUPUKARI, MORABISI, SCHEPMOED, YUPUKARI and ZEELANDIA.

Additions in 1957 list: ARUKA RIVER, CALEDONIA, CRABWOOD CREEK, LUMID PAU, RELIEF & SUPPORT, TAPACOOMA LAKE, WARAMURI and WESTERN HOFF ISLAND.

A correspondent in the colony informs me that the following changes have taken place since April 1957:

At No. 73 (Hong Kong) on the Corentyne Coast a P.A. was opened on 15th June 1957.

KAMAKUSA P.A. closed on 1st April 1958.

POMEROY CITY P.A. opened on 15th April 1958. For those who raise their eye-brows at the 'City' in this latest P.A. it may be worth mentioning that Pomeroy is the name of an American company which is at present laying a railway line in the transport-starved North-West District and the 'City' is their base-camp!"

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

GRENADA

"Can any member give me any information regarding the use of a 'R.M.S.P. Co. Grenada Agency' mark? There are apparently two types; one with 'Royal Mail Steam/Packet Company' between two ovals and 'Grenada/Agency' in serif capitals across the centre. The other has 'Royal Mail/Steam Packet Company' inside a double oval with 'Grenada/Agency' in smaller sans serif capitals across the centre. What was the purpose of the mark and when was it used? Were there any other R.M.S.P. Agencies in the B.W.I. using a similar mark?"

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

GRENADA

King Edward VII - Postal Stationery

1902 – POSTCARDS - Printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

HALFPENNY – Green - Medium Light Buff Card - Size 4½" x 2-15/16"

ONE PENNY - RED (Carmine) - Medium Light Buff Card - Size 5½" x 3-1/2"

Both items exist overprinted 'SPECIMEN' in Black.

The Halfpenny Card is similar to the Queen Victoria and is not inscribed 'UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE' as in the case of the ONE PENNY Card.

1902 - NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS - Printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

HALFPENNY – GREEN - Light Buff Paper - 4-15/16" wide.

ONE PENNY - RED (Lake) - Light Buff Paper 4-15/16" wide.

Both items exist overprinted 'SPECIMEN' in Black.

1902 - REGISTERED ENVELOPES - Printed by Messrs. Thos. De La Rue & Co.

TWO PENCE - BLUE - Size 'F' 5-3/16" x 3-1/4"

'G' 5-15/16" x 3-7/8"

Both items exist overprinted 'SPECIMEN' in Black.

As in the case of Q. Victoria Registered Envelopes the Stamp is printed on the flap.

The above is the complete listing of King Edward VII Postal Stationery, and is all known to exist.

(Contributed by Mr. B. E. Johnson.)

Mr. Johnson is now endeavouring to collate K.G.V. Postal Stationery, and will be pleased if information in this connection is sent to him c/o of the Hon. Secretary. - Ed.

JAMAICA

RAILWAY POSTMARKS

"The late L. C. C. Nicholson included in the Jamaica handbook, pp. 224/5, an article on the railway postmarks of this Colony and added illustrations of two types of 'station name' postmarks and one T.P.O. postmark. The first type of such postmarks included the words '**Jamaica Railway**' whilst the second type had the words '**Jamaica Gov't Railway**'; both cancellations being of the circular date stamp type measuring 31mm. in diameter and usually being found in blue ink though some early marks are known in red ink. Some stations used both types of cancellations, the station name being at the bottom of the postmark, but since the handbook was published a third type of cancellation has been noted, similar to the second type but with the word '**Government**' in full. Our President informs me that when the handbook was compiled not enough was known regarding these postmarks and apart from this third type being omitted the list of station names recorded contains four names - **Bernard Lodge, Inverness, New Works and Windsor Castle Siding** - which should be deleted. I have seen cancellations for **Chapelton, Grange Lane, May Pen and Spanish Town** in this third type, and in the case of **Grange Lane** I have one example showing '**Gov't** abbreviated and

another with the word in full. I also have a note of seeing in the past a station name postmark where the word '**Railway**' was expressed in the plural, but unfortunately I cannot now find a specimen to quote chapter and verse.

Since Mr Nicholson described the first T.P.O. cancellation which came into operation in 1913 various other types have been used. The type illustrated in the handbook, a single ring postmark, appears to have been in use from 1913 to 1924 and then from 1927 to 1936. As far as I can ascertain this postmark was followed by a double ring type which does not seem to have had a very long life, the only copies seen being for 1936 and 1937. Then came T.P.O. No. 1, T.P.O. No. 2, T.P.O. No. 3 and the latest types have a star (or asterisk) in place of a number. I have not seen any strikes of T.P.O. No. 1 bearing the year of origin and some, but not all, strikes of T.P.O.'s No. 2 and 3 are also without the year. Mr. H. S. Hughes writing in G.S.M. for April 1945 mentioned that T.P.O. No. 1 was used on mail carried from Kingston to Montego Bay, whilst T.P.O. No. 3 was used on mail carried in the opposite direction. Mail carried between Kingston and Port Antonio was cancelled T.P.O. No. 2 without discrimination as to direction, it may well be that the latest T.P.O. with a star has superseded the numbered postmarks but I have no confirmation of this fact. I should be very pleased indeed if any members can furnish further information regarding these postmarks. Incidentally, it may be thought that these station name postmarks are of sufficient interest for an effort to be made to compile a complete list showing which stations used which marks."

(Contributed by Mr. W. K. Watson.)

JAMAICA

"I have a cover (see illustration) addressed to Francis A. Channing, M.P., House of Commons, London, England, which was posted in New York on January 17th, 1891. It was evidently missorted in the mail and found its way to Jamaica where, on arrival, it was backstamped with the usual squared circle postmark of Kingston dated 23rd January, 1891, and received the 'Missent to Jamaica, B.W.I.' strike on the front. On arrival in London it was backstamped 'London 14 Feb 91.' Our member - Mr. L. E. Britnor - has a cover sent from Trinidad to a Miss E. B. Wood at Hamilton, Bermuda, which is postmarked Trinidad 9th August, Kingston 20th August, and St. Thomas 28th August, 1873, respectively. In addition it bears the strike 'Missent to Jamaica' in blue pencil. It is noteworthy that there is no 'B.W.I.' and possibly this was added at a later date which would account for it appearing on my cover. If any other member possesses a cover with either of these strikes it will be appreciated if full details are sent to our Hon. Secretary."

(Contributed by our President.)

JAMAICA

"I have recently purchased a 5 Centavo stamp of Colombia, South America on piece bearing a Kingston, Jamaica Paquebot postmark. It is a double ring cancellation the outside ring measuring 28mm. I can find no record in any Jamaican handbooks and shall be obliged if any member can let me have any information about it."

(Contributed by Mr. J. D. Chorlton.)



LEEWARD ISLANDS

"I was very interested to read Mr. G. L. Pilkington's remarks relating to St. Kitts in Bulletin No. 18 and have also considered the notes of Messrs. G. W. Groves and P. W. Hosking in Bulletins Nos. 8 and 16 respectively. The following information relates only to the general issue of stamps of the Leeward Islands and not to the individual issues by Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts and the Virgin Islands and is obtained from an examination of my collection:-

1. ½d S.G.1. Vertical pair: with duplex cancellation 'A12' of the upright oval type and c.d.s, with 'St. Kitts CA JU 02' - the day of the month being undecipherable.
2. ½d S.G.1. Single copy: the c.d.s. contains 'St. Kitts SP JU 18 01': there is also a small-portion of the other half of the duplex handstamp.
3. 1d S.G.2 Single copy: the c.d.s. contains 'St. Kitts SP DE 27 00'; in this case there is only the suspicion of the other half of the duplex handstamp. According to Mr. G. L. Pilkington 'St. Kitts CA' refers to 'CAYON', which I think is correct. This being so, Mr. G. W. Groves' information is incomplete, and therefore 'CAYON=CA' should be added to the villages and abbreviations mentioned by him. More common perhaps than the abbreviated village postmarks applied by a duplex handstamp, is the duplex cancellation similar to that mentioned above but which does not contain two letters above the date. I have the following examples illustrating this on covers sent to England:-
4. S.G.3. with duplex cancellation 'A12 ' of the upright oval type with c.d.s. on its left containing 'ST. KITTTS C JY 26 92'.
5. S.G. 3. with duplex cancellation of similar type to that in 4. above except that the c.d.s. contains 'ST. KITTTS C DE 13 93 '.
6. S.G.4. with duplex cancellation of similar type to that in 4. above except that the c.d.s. contains ' ST. KITTTS MR 25 02': this is a Registered Cover.
7. S.G.24. with duplex cancellation of similar type to that in 4. above except that the c.d.s. contains 'ST. KITTTS C OC 29 02'.
8. S.G.17, 18 and 19 with duplex handstamps of somewhat similar type to that in 4. above except that the c.d.s. contains 'NEVIS A DE 29 05'. The latest St. Kitts duplex handstamp of the type mentioned in 4. to 7. above that I have is on a piece with S.G.78. 1½d and the c.d.s. portion of the duplex handstamp contains 'ST. KITTTS C 8 OC 27'. It is interesting to note that the Nevis duplex handstamp mentioned in 8. above differs from the St. Kitts duplex mentioned in 4. to 7. above although in use at about the same period. The St. Kitts 'A12' (killer) part of the duplex is approximately 28½mm long and 20mm wide across its centre and has three horizontal bars at each end whereas the Nevis 'A09' (killer) portion of the duplex is approximately 23½mm long and 18½mm wide across its centre and has four horizontal bars at each end: the c.d.s. in each case appear to be 21mm and 20½mm in diameter respectively. All NEVIS 'A09' handstamps of the upright oval type in my collection (duplex and non-duplex) appear to be four bar cancellations whilst all St. Kitts 'A12' cancellations of a similar shape appear to be three bar cancellations.

A number of questions come to mind in relation to 4. to 8. above as follows: -

- (a) What does 'C' denote in 'ST. KITTTS C' in 4. to 7. above?
- (b) Likewise 'A' in 'NEVIS A' in 8. above?
- (c) Likewise 'A' in 'ST. JOHN'S A', 'C' in 'ST. JOHN'S C', 'A' in - 'MONTSEERRAT A', 'A' in 'TORTOLA A' and 'B' in 'TORTOLA B'? These

I have found on looking through my collection. Those which appear to be common are 'ST. KITTS C', 'ST. JOHN'S C' and 'MONTSERRAT A', and not so common 'NEVIS A'.

- (d) Am I correct in saying that the ST. KITTS 'A12' upright oval type cancellation is invariably a three bar cancellation and that the somewhat similar NEVIS 'A09' cancellation is always a four bar cancellation?
- (e) As I have only found duplex cancellations on Leeward Islands stamps used in NEVIS and ST. KITTS, I have assumed that duplex handstamps were not used in Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands: is my assumption correct?"

All three previous correspondents refer to abbreviated village marks which are contained in a c.d.s. and I believe these abbreviated village marks were only employed in ST. KITTS. These abbreviated village marks of ST. KITTS must be distinguished however from the c.d.s. used in the other islands and also in ST. KITTS which spell out the name of the village or small island in full around the circumference of the c.d.s.

I have the following c.d.s. with abbreviated village marks from ST. KITTS:-

- 9. S.G.23 1d with c.d.s. containing 'ST. KITTS SP 14 03'.
- 10. S.G.24. 2d with c.d.s. containing 'ST. KITTS SP JY 1 03'.

Some further questions I would like to raise are:-

- (f) Am I correct in saying that the abbreviated village marks are only to be found on stamps from ST. KITTS?
- (g) Apart from the four abbreviations mentioned by Mr. G. W. Groves and 'CAYON=CA' mentioned by previous correspondents and by me earlier in these notes, are there any other abbreviated village marks known to have been used in ST. KITTS or in the other islands forming the group known as the Leeward Islands?"

(Contributed by Mr. E. V. Toeg.)

ST. VINCENT

"At the display given by our Circle to the Kingston-upon-Thames Philatelic Society reported in Bulletin No. 19, p.43 I was shown a used copy of the 2½d. on 1d. lake provisional (S.G.37), with a clear serif to the larger '2' of the surcharge. The postmark was 'KINGSTON-C-AP-13-86' though the second figure of the year was rather indistinct. It is the only example I have seen and in order to establish whether any others exist it would be helpful if collectors of this colony would carefully examine their copies of S.G.37. Incidentally since the same overprinting was evidently used for S.G.39, 45, 55b and 56 I suggest that copies of these should receive similar scrutiny."

(Contributed by Mr. G. W. Groves.)

TOBAGO

"I recently acquired a copy of the provisional ½d. Postage on Fourpence fiscal (S.G.33) overprinted SPECIMEN. This overprint is in red serif letters reading upwards on the stamp and measures about 20mm x 5mm. It is quite unlike any other Specimen overprint I have seen and appears to be underneath the surcharge. I shall be glad if any other member can provide further information."

(Contributed by Mr. A. E. Beach.)

COMMAND PAY OFFICE CACHETS

"In the philatelic press one frequently reads of the various Field Post Office cancellations to be found on mail from various theatres where British troops are stationed, but far less frequently is any mention made of the overseas stations where permanent offices are established. A short time ago I obtained several covers all addressed to the Regimental Paymaster at Devizes, and detailed below are the cachets which apply to Bermuda and Jamaica.

BERMUDA. 31st January 1957, bearing 1s. 3d. Q.E. II Die II with machine cancel 'HAMILTON BERMUDA 1-AM.' In lower left in violet ink - 'CERTIFIED OFFICIAL . . . COMMAND PAYMASTER BERMUDA.'

JAMAICA. 22nd June 1956. 1s. and 6d. Geo. VI double ring c.d.s. with thin inner bars 'KINGSTON JAMAICA.' Handstruck "By AIR MAIL" and oval handstamp 'COMMAND PAY OFFICE JAMAICA' with two stars with JUN 1956 in the centre.

July 1956. Two official covers each bearing similar stamps to above, also the c.d.s. and cachets on the face framed BY AIR MAIL and rectangular framed 'COMMAND PAY OFFICE ' date ' JAMAICA' both in violet. On the reverse is an oval undated handstamp 'A.P.O. JAMAICA.'

April 1957. 2½d. Q.E. with 'KINGSTON' slogan cancel 'SPEND YOUR VACATION SUMMERLAND JAMAICA' 24 APR 4¾PM 1957 with two strikes of the framed 'GARRISON POST OFFICE' date 'JAMAICA.'

4 May 1957. O.H.M.S. envelope bearing Q.E. 1s. 6d. pictorial with above slogan cancel and framed BY -AIR MAIL.

April 1957, and July 1957. O.H.M.S. entries one bearing 2d. and ½d. Q.E. values with c.d.s. thin inner bars and the second the 2½d. value with double ring c.d.s. with thick bars, both 'KINGSTON JAMAICA.' Framed cachet 'H.Q. R.A.O.C. CARIBBEAN AREA,' date on centre line.

June 1957. Q.E. values 1s. and 6d. with c.d.s. thick inner bars 'KINGSTON' framed 'BY AIR MAIL' in 15 violet, and 'GARRISON POST OFFICE,' date, 'JAMAICA' struck in black.

Perhaps some other members can follow these cachets with mail used when the forces were recently sent from Bermuda to Bahamas."

(Contributed by Mr. R. Ward.)

COMING EVENTS

January 22nd - Display to Orpington Philatelic Society.

March 13th-21st - STAMPEX.

April 4th - Fifth Anniversary Meeting and Dinner.

„ **23rd** - Display to the Caledonian Philatelic Society.

„ **25th** - Display to Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies Convention at Brighton.

June 9th-12th - 41st Philatelic Congress at Torquay.

September 15th - Display to Eastbourne and South Downs Philatelic Society.

PHILATELIC SOCIETIES' YEAR BOOK

The 1958-1959 edition is now available from The British Philatelic Association, 3, Berners Street, Oxford Street, London, W.1. Although the price has been raised to 2/- (postage U.K. 4d., abroad 3d.) it presents remarkable value. It cannot fail to be of interest to most collectors and is an absolute 'must' for all Society Secretaries.

BOOK REVIEW

WITH A CARIB EYE by Edgar Mittelholzer. Published by Seeker & Warburg, London. Price 18s.

Since the end of the last war the West Indies has produced a striking number of poets and writers. A lot of them, this author included, have come to reside in this country, if only for the fact that the opportunities for their talents are so much better here than at home. Many of these writers complain, and justly so, that till recent years books dealing with the West Indies have almost entirely been written by "foreigners" whose literary efforts have resulted from fleeting visits paid to the islands. Edgar Mittelholzer is certainly no foreigner - born and bred in British Guiana, he has brought his personal knowledge of these parts to bear in his descriptions of not only his home land, but also Trinidad and Barbados. He also writes briefly of visits to St. Lucia, Grenada and Jamaica. He not only recounts his journeys between these islands, but compares one island to another, and gives details of the different patterns of society and ways of life, which he found in his travels.

Here again the philatelist should find much interesting background information.

(Reviewed by Mr. W. K. Watson.)

THE HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

By the time this issue reaches you another Christmas will have gone by and I trust you will have spent a happy time. Glancing through the current issue of the Strand Stamp Journal (House Magazine of H. E. Wingfield & Co.) the other day I was particularly interested in my good friend, Gerald Erskine's editorial note in regard to the lack of information in societies' programmes as to the method of display of material by visiting speakers. It is my invariable practice in responding to an invitation to our Circle to give a display to ascertain this information and even though it may be considered a rather dogmatic attitude to take I always decline when I learn that the sheets have to be passed round. To my mind it is a most unsatisfactory method and its discontinuance would be advantageous both to the speaker and members of societies. On a number of occasions I have received enquiries as to whether the formation of a library had been contemplated and as you observe in our 'shop window' our Committee member, Miss Rose Titford, has volunteered to fill the office of Hon. Librarian. Unhappily books on the stamps of the British West Indies are not numerous and quite a few have long since been out of print. However, it has been possible to acquire a few and the titles together with details in regard to their loan to members will be included in our next issue. Meanwhile I shall be happy to purchase any such publications on behalf of the Circle and if any members feel inclined to send any by way of gift so much the better. In conclusion I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a happy New Year and hope that some of those items that have proved very elusive will come their way in 1959.

P.T.S.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that these are due on 1st February and prompt payment will be much appreciated. Much time and expense involved in sending out further reminders is saved if payment is effected by Bankers' Order. Any member who has not already adopted this method, and is willing to do so, can obtain the appropriate form on application to the Hon. Secretary.

MISCELLANEA

BULLETINS: Copies of back issues Nos. 8-19 are available at 2/- each post free. 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 and members wishing to avail themselves of this service should send the stamp(s) to the Hon. Secretary enclosing the requisite fee and a stamped addressed plain (or registered) envelope. Every endeavour will be made to return the stamp(s) within fourteen days.

AUCTION GLEANINGS

ROBSON LOWE LTD. SALE, 29th October, 1958. **Antigua:** 1862, die proof in black on thick card, **£36**; 1862, no watermark, perf. 11 to 12, 6d blue-green, traces of original gum, centred to lower right, with Sefi No. 2 re-entry, slightly stained, with R.P.S. cert., **£75**; 1872, wmk. CC. perf. 12½, 1d, scarlet, a mint marginal block of 4, the only known example, **£52**; **St. Vincent:** 1880, 5/- rose-red with much original gum, centred rather to right, **£29**; 1881, "4d" on 1/-, part original gum, shows variety blunt nose to "4", excellent colour, centred a little low and a corner rounded, **£41**; 1893, 4d olive-yellow, mint and a little off centre, **£19**.

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