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BULLETIN No. 33 APRIL 1962

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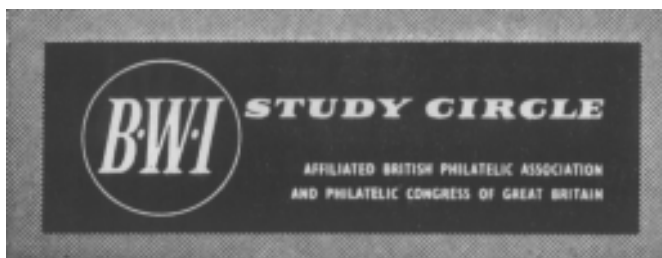
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1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps of the British West Indies comprising the following colonies and dependencies:

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

2. 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.

MEMBERSHIP

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

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 £1 (\$3.00 non-sterling countries) due 1st FEBRUARY. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. STUDY CIRCLE".

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NOTES AND QUERIES

Supply of material for future issues of the Bulletin is very short and I am in urgent need of more articles. I should also like to remind members again that I would appreciate receipt of copy not later than six weeks prior to publication. Members who require urgent replies to their queries should address their letters to the Hon. Secretary, who will endeavour to answer by return post.

BAHAMAS

The number of 1-Pd. QV (SG 57) bearing out-island c.d.s. of 1887 and 1888 in collections offer rather a puzzle. One example in my own collection shows a very slight indication of "cleaning," yet bears an apparently genuine complete c.d.s. of HARBOUR-ISLAND (B/4MR/87). What possible postal use was this value at that time, particularly from the out-islands? To my knowledge, few if any, 1-Pd. stamps were ever issued in that period to the out-islands, or even today, for that matter! Others I have seen (SG 57) bear apparently genuine c.d.s. of that period, of BIMINI & MANGROVE-CAY, 1888. One example of that stamp in my collection is cancelled solely in pen, "NASSAU, N.P., 2/11/85." So worded, this is a puzzling endorsement, but may have been a normal form of revenue cancel. It would hardly have been a postal cancel from Nassau, particularly on this value. Is it unreasonable to suspect that some unscrupulous Nassau clerk of the period purloined the 1-Pd. stamps from deeds, bills of lading, etc., and datestamped them, after cleaning, with out-island c.d.s. handily available at the G.P.O.? Other theories and information would be welcomed, as the 1-Pd. stamps so datestamped are invariably priced on a "postally-used" basis, quite steeply.

News in Nassau newspapers of a recent new P.O. Branch in Nassau proved to be ill-phrased. The new facilities adjoin the G.P.O., and are merely stamp-windows, in an attempt to thin down somewhat the endless lines of stamp-purchasers inside the G.P.O. Despite increasing needs, no new sub-p.o.'s are known to have opened in the Bahamas in recent months. Few p.o.'s still use TRDs, rarely issued now at all.

Re "WILSON CITY," all evidence indicates pointedly that "SPENCERS POINT" was the sole p.o. to have served there. Reportedly a

New York man is offering in Nassau to pay £100 for an example of a WILSON CITY postmark! At such a fantastic figure, he apparently feels quite safe in the offer. Unfortunately, it is rather likely someone will come up with an example for him - "made to order"! If in fact such a p.o. did ever exist (evidence exists to the contrary) its c.d.s. should or could be preserved struck in the London G.P.O. Record Room. Has any reader yet searched the records there (c. 1906-07)?

G. J. Raymond.

BRITISH HONDURAS

Hurricane "Hattie" on 31st October, 1961, inflicted damage to British Honduras from which it may never recover. Hundreds of lives were lost, with many many more still listed as "missing." Postally, Belize and Stann Creek p.o.'s were only briefly out of service, and re-opened using their previous datestamps. Reports are still not in from some coastal towns hardest hit; MULLINS RIVER was completely washed away. Only pieces of three buildings survived the 18-foot flood, where previously stood **300** homes. The site is now as smooth as a clean beach. Most former residents have left permanently, those few remaining are sleeping on sea-weed under the open sky, all possessions gone. They can pick up any mail at the Police Station, Stann Creek, 9 miles away. At last report, it is not likely the p.o. will be re-opened. The British Honduras G.P.O., Government House, and most government offices are being moved to a new townsite some 40 miles inland, name as yet unknown. However, it is likely a village will remain at the port, Belize.

G. J. Raymond.

BRITISH WEST INDIES

1765 Tax Stamps in the West Indies

Early in 1765, Grenville's Stamp Act (5 Geo. III, c.12) was passed "For granting and applying certain Stamp Duties, and other Duties, in the British Colonies and Plantations in America, towards further defraying the expenses of defending, protecting and securing the same."

BRITISH WEST INDIES (contd.)

Taxes, in many cases of equal magnitude to those in force in Britain, were to be imposed on various types of legal and commercial documents, on newspapers and pamphlets, and on the advertisements therein, on almanacs, and on playing cards and dice, and their collection was placed under the management of the Commissioners of Stamps in London.

The Act was to come into force on November 1st, 1765, and care was to be taken that the Colonies were sufficiently supplied with stamped vellum, parchment and paper, and an Officer was to be appointed for distributing it in the Colonies.

The reaction of the American Colonists to this threat of "Taxation without Representation" was immediate - protest meetings were organised, petitions were sent to Britain, and the arrival of consignments of stamped paper at many ports on the American mainland was attended by severe rioting. Some of the consignments of stamped paper were seized and burnt; others had to be put back on board ship or to be placed in military custody, and many of the Distributors appointed in America were forced to resign their Offices by threats of personal violence and of the destruction of their property. The refusal of the Colonists in those parts of the Continent which were later to form the U.S.A., to use the stamped paper was almost unanimous - many of the ports were closed because ships were not permitted to leave without stamped clearances, and Courts of Law were obliged to suspend operations because no legal documents were valid unless executed on stamped paper. Trade with Britain was severely curtailed.

Opposition to the measure was less intense in Canada and in the West Indian Islands, probably because the former was newly conquered territory, still under military control, and the latter area was enjoying greater prosperity than the mainland.

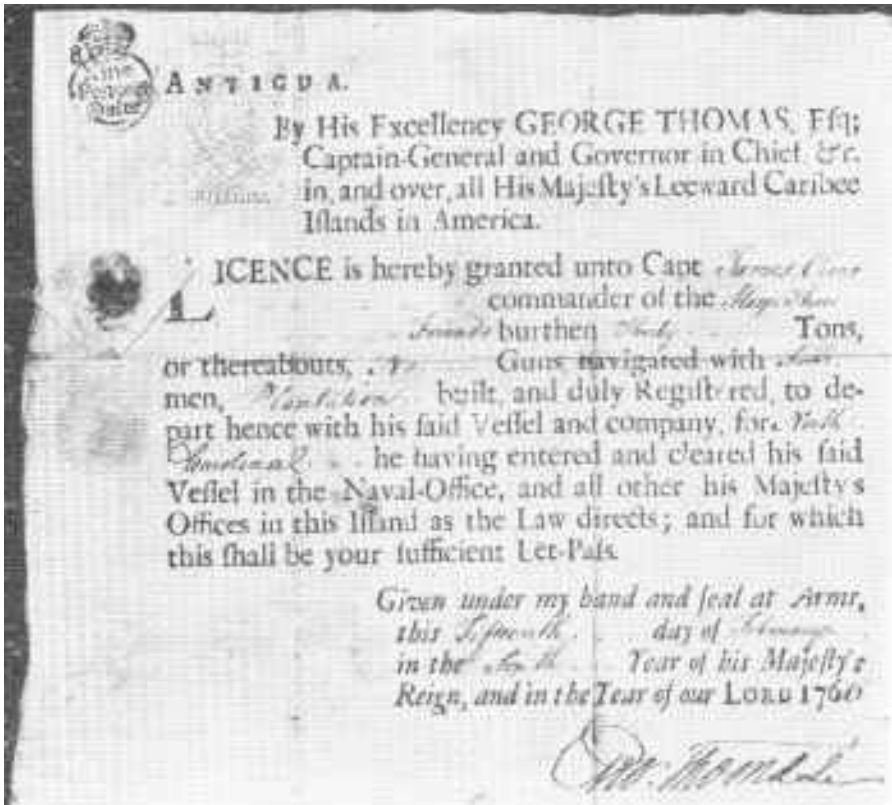
In the meantime, there had been a change of Government in Britain, and during the first two months of 1766, many Papers concerning the disturbances in America, and many Petitions praying relief from what was felt to be excessive and unjust taxation were laid before both Houses of Parliament.

Among the former were instructions to the Governor of the Bahama Islands to see to the distribution of stamps until a Distributor should be appointed, and a copy of a letter, dated December 5th, 1765, from Mr. Tuckett, Distributor of Stamps for St. Kitts and Nevis, addressed to Governor Thomas at Antigua.

There was also a Petition from Stephen Fuller, Agent of the Island of Jamaica, "Setting forth that in the year 1760, there broke out two Rebellions in the said Island, which threatened not only the destruction of the inhabitants,

but the loss of that valuable Colony to Great Britain; and that after the said Rebellions, the Assembly of the said Island thought proper, in order to defray the expences that increased on account thereof, to lay a Tax by way of Stamps, which Tax was laid in the year 1760, and continued till December, 1763, when that Law was suffered to expire, on account, as the Petitioner is informed, of its being unequal and burthensome, as it certainly was in a high degree; and that the Petitioner most humbly conceiving that the Act for imposing certain Stamp Duties in the British Colonies and Plantations in America will be attended with the same inconveniences, if not greater (on account that the Forfeitures and Penalties incurred may be sued for and recovered in any Court of Record, or in any Court of Admiralty or Vice-Admiralty in the Island, at the election of the Informer or Prosecutor), prays such Relief in the Premises as to the House shall seem meet."

In the Commons, Pitt made one of his most famous orations, wholeheartedly supporting the Colonists, Burke made his maiden speech, and Benjamin Franklin was among those examined by a Committee of the House. When



BRITISH WEST INDIES (contd.)

asked "Do you not think the people of America would submit to pay the Stamp Duty if it was moderated?" he replied "No, never, unless compelled by force of arms!" Many Debates continued until the early hours of the morning, until, finally, on February 24th, 1766, a Resolution to Repeal the American Stamp Act was passed. The news was received with great joy in America, but great damage had been done to Anglo-American relations, and later attempts again to impose taxation without the consent of the Colonists led to the inevitable explosion.

The Stamps

The stamps created for denoting these Duties are of two types, those printed from engraved copper plates on sheets of paper upon which newspapers, pamphlets or almanacs were to be printed in the Colonies, and those embossed from steel dies upon sheets of parchment or paper upon which legal or commercial documents were to be engrossed in the Colonies; most of them are inscribed "AMERICA" Because so few were used, they are now of considerable rarity, particularly on original documents. Most of those surviving are either proofs of newspaper or almanac tax stamps, or are embossed stamps cut from sheets of unused stamped parchment or paper which were returned to Britain after the Act had been repealed. By courtesy of Mr. S. R. Turner, we illustrate the 5/- stamp on a Clearance Certificate for a Sloop departing from Antigua on February 15th, 1766 (Fig. 1). It will be noted that the "ANTIGUA" handstamp is very similar to that used as a postal marking.

In 1876, an American citizen, Mr. Lyman H. Bagg, was permitted to examine and record a number of proofs and proof sheets of the 1765 newspaper and almanac tax stamps which remained in the archives at Somerset House, but it was feared that no records of the embossed stamps survived. However, in 1958, the original "Register of the Dies or Stamps used in the Service of the Stamp Revenue for America & the West India Isles, &c." was discovered there. The Register contained impressions from dies created for the stamping of all the values specified in the 1765 Act, taken on the days in 1765 or 1766 when Thomas Major, "His Majesty's Engraver of Stamps," delivered the completed dies to the Stamp Office, before they were put into service for stamping the sheets of parchment or paper for use in the Colonies. Some of these stamps had never previously been recorded, including several inscribed "AMERICA CONT. &c.", and one, a 3/- value, inscribed - W. INDIA." (Fig. 2).



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Examination of the original Act has revealed that while most of the Stamp Duties were to apply "throughout all the British Colonies and Plantations in America," in three instances, (1) Probates of Wills, Letters of Administration or Guardianship for any Estate above the value of £20, (2) Deeds concerning the Grant, Conveyance or Consignment of land, (3) Deeds concerning any Grant, Appointment or Admission to any Public Office or Employment above the value of £20 per annum, certain taxes were specified to apply "within the British Colonies and Plantations upon the Continent of America, the Islands belonging thereto, and the Bermuda and Bahama Islands," while higher rates (mostly double) for the same taxes were to apply "within all other parts of the British Dominions in America" (i.e. to those West Indian Islands which were enjoying greater prosperity than the Mainland, Bermuda, or the Bahamas).

For instance, in the case of a Grant of Land not exceeding 100 acres, the tax payable within the American Continent, etc., was 1/6, and a suitably inscribed stamp of this value exists in the Register, but the tax payable "within all other parts of the British Dominions in America" was 3/-. Now, this 3/- rate is the only such single rate specified in the Act, and it must be because it applied only to the area mentioned, that the stamp created for its collection is inscribed "W. INDIA."

It is a very beautiful stamp, showing the early Arms of King George III (which also incorporated the Arms of France and Hanover), and as far as is known, no example has been recorded other than at Somerset House.

The Accounts

The following unpublished Crown Copyright material in the Public Record Office has been reproduced by Permission of H.M. Stationery Office.

In 1772, the final accounts of the American Stamp Duties was prepared. The expences incurred in putting the Act into execution were nearly £7,000, while the produce, paid into the Exchequer, was only £4,000.

The first page of these accounts is the most interesting as it gives particulars of the value of the consignments of stamped paper sent to the various Distributors in America, of the cash remitted by them to this country (if any), of the value of the stamped paper returned to this country after the Repeal of the Act, and of the remaining balance which was still unaccounted for. The extracts concerning the West Indies are as follows:

<i>Distributors' Names</i>	<i>Districts</i>	<i>Consignments</i>			<i>Cash</i>			<i>Returns</i>			<i>Balances</i>		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Willm. Otley	Antigua	7,761	18	11				5,486	8	10¾	3,275	10	0¼
	Bahama	1,986	0	8¼				1,986	0	8¼			
Willm. Whitehead	Barbados	11,855	12	11	500	0	0	10,775	18	5	579	14	6
John Slater	Bermudas	1,986	0	8¼				1,199	4	2¼	786	16	6
Robt. Seaman	Grenada	3,975	5	9				3,219	1	8½	756	4	0½
John Howell	Spanish Town, Jamaica	15,781	2	4	2,097	2	0	5,953	12	4½	7,730	7	11½
Willm. Tuckett	St. Kitts	7,820	4	11	8	13	6	4,100	3	11	3,711	7	6

The presence of fractions of a penny in these accounts is undoubted due to the inclusion of the small charges which were made on the vellum skins or sheets of paper, in addition to the Stamp Duties, and it also appears that the value of the Bonds to be put up by the various Distributors was included under the heading "Consignments." The table is of some value in indicating the relative prosperity of the different Islands in 1765.

No Distributor was ever appointed for the Bahamas, and all the stamped paper, which had been placed in the custody of the Governor, was returned to this country. A letter from Governor Pinfold, dated Barbados, February 24th, 1766, stated that the inhabitants of that Colony had punctually complied with the Stamp Act.

The balances which were unaccounted for, were finally written off on December 23rd, 1774.

Marcus Samuel.

JAMAICA

As a result of my query in the October Bulletin, No. 31, re the Inland Postage Rates, Mr. W. K. Watson has shown me a very similar cover of the same period, C.1830, bearing a similar inscription, viz. "Little River P.O." and "Postage Paid 1/3d." All these m/s markings have obviously been made by the same writer, presumably the Postmaster at Little River.

Unfortunately so far neither Mr. Watson nor I have been able to explain satisfactorily this Postage Rate.

In connection with this I have another entire inscribed "Green Ponds" and "Pd. 7¼d," in m/s., it also bears the Jamaica fleuron, 8 May, 1820. It came per "Lady Wellington" Packet, bears the Glasgow receiving mark, 24 June, 1820, and was charged 2/11½d., including the Scottish ½d.

This 7½d. rate appears to be half of the 1/3d. rate of the Little River letters.

Both Mr. Watson and I would be very grateful for any further details of similar charges, and any explanations or suggestions.

L. E. Britnor.

MONTSERRAT

Mail Service, 1842-84

The following information, which has been gleaned mainly from the perusal of letters in the G.P.O. Records, throws some interesting light on the postal arrangements for Montserrat during part of the 19th century. Where it seems appropriate actual quotations have been given.

When the R.M.S.P. Co. began operating in 1842 Montserrat was served regularly by the new Service. Under a fresh arrangement, however, which came into operation about the end of 1852, the Island lost the direct service of the steamers, and the mail was brought to and from St. Kitts by means of sailing craft (*vide*. Petition to Earl of Kimberley, 23rd February, 1874).

From 26th September, 1864 to 31st December, 1879, Frederick Slater Cassin, of Antigua, held a contract to convey mails between St. Kitts, Nevis and Montserrat, in sailing vessels, twice a month. For this he received a subsidy of £490 a year from the Post Office.

MONTSERRAT (contd.)

Extract from letter from Jos. Sturge to Sir M. Hicks Beach, Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies:

"Prior to 1st January, 1880, there was maintained the uncertain and unsatisfactory fortnightly sailing service."

Between 1865 and 1884 various members of the Sturge family (who constituted the Montserrat Co., Ltd) made strenuous efforts to have the service improved; but most of their petitions were rejected, either by the R.M.S.P. Co., on the grounds that it would make the time schedule too tight, or by the P.M.G. on the score of expense.

In 1875 there was a proposed new contract for the Packet ships to call at Montserrat outward on the voyage starting from St. Thomas on the 26th of the month, and homeward, starting from Barbados on the 1st of the month. In connection with this the following is part of a letter from the P.M.G. to the Treasury, dated 23rd June, 1875.

"As regards the cost of the proposed service, I beg leave to state to your Lordships that, considering the very small amount of sea postage derived from the correspondence with Montserrat - estimated at about £137 a year - and the expense already incurred by this Department in maintaining the Mail Service to and from that Colony I cannot recommend that the offer of the company be accepted, or, at any rate that any portion of the additional £500 a year should be paid from imperial funds."

In a further letter from the P.M.G. to the Treasury, dated 20th September, 1878, it is stated:

"For your Lordships' information I think it right to add that the sea postage derived from the correspondence of Montserrat amounts to only about £200 a year."

Clauses 6 and 7 of the new Contract with the R.M.S.P. Co., drawn up on 12th August, 1878, provided that their vessels should call off Montserrat to deliver and embark mails on each voyage from Barbados to St. Thomas and from St. Thomas to Barbados, at an additional charge of £500 per annum. This took effect as from 1st January, 1880, the monthly call of the steamer being interspersed with a sailing boat service.

On 15th August, 1879, the President of Montserrat, Neall Porter, wrote to the Colonial Secretary stating that he had arranged for the conveyance of mails during 1880 by the Sloop "Gwendoline" (12 tons, comparatively new, owned and commanded by Mr. Richard Thornbill) for the sum of £90 - the only other tender was one for £320.

Extract from a letter from the Montserrat Co., Ltd. to the P.M.G. written on 13th March, 1884.

"Understanding that a new Contract is under negotiation for the West Indies Postal Service, we take the liberty of calling your Lordship's attention to the importance of securing for the island of Montserrat a fortnightly call from the mail steamers instead of a call monthly as at present.

"The experiment of calling monthly has now been tried for several years and has proved most successful. The delay to the mail steamers has proved to be quite trifling and the island has benefited thereby very much, while we believe the Steamboat Co. must themselves have secured a satisfactory business.

"The alternative fortnightly sailing service has on the other hand been of the most unsatisfactory character. The voyage from St. Kitts, a deadbeat to windward, is so protracted that the mails are delayed 24 and sometimes even 36 hours on a voyage which only occupies the steamer 4 hours."

The P.M.G. sent a copy of this letter to the Treasury on 17th April, 1884, together with the following observations:

"Owing to the representations then made "(this phrase refers to correspondence c. 1878)" on behalf of the Colony a clause was introduced into the Contract with the R.M.S.P. Co., requiring them to call at Montserrat once a month, on the voyage of the Packet between St. Thomas and Barbados for an additional subsidy of £500 a year over and above the general subsidy for the Mail Service. The Colony, on its part, agreed to provide an alternative service once a month by means of a sailing vessel The application now made by the Montserrat Co. is to have the contract service doubled at the expense of the Imperial Revenue, the monthly sailing service which now alternates with the monthly call of the Packet, so as to give Montserrat a fortnightly Mail Service, not being considered by the Colony to be satisfactory.

"Looking at the question from the Postal point of view I am unable to support the application. The amount of sea postage derived from the correspondence with the Island of Montserrat is now about £80 per annum and the contribution payable by the Colony towards the additional loss sustained by the Imperial Revenue in reducing the postage on its entry into the Postal Union is about £60 per annum. Thus the receipts are about £140 a year as a set-off against the special expenditure of £500, over and above the proportion which may be set down to Montserrat in the cost of the main line between this country and the West Indies."

On 24th April the Treasury replied, rejecting the proposal.

MONTSERRAT (contd.)

Post Office Telephones, etc.

	1955	1956	1957	1958
Revenue	42,759	13,548	17,840	33,460
Expenditure	7,337	8,028	11,610	10,933

(The amounts given above have been converted to £ sterling)

L. E. Britnor.

ST. VINCENT

Abbreviated Cancellations on Cover

Further to Mr. V. N. F. Surtees' enquiry regarding St. Vincent abbreviated cancellations (Bulletin No. 29 pages 35-37) I should like to report an interesting cover sent from Queensland to Georgetown. This bears three Queensland 6d. adhesives and is cancelled with the Queensland c.d.s. AP 10 76. On arrival at Georgetown it was franked with an abbreviated "G" stamp JY 21 76 on the cover. I have not seen any other external early covers franked in this way with an abbreviated c.d.s. but some other Members may have done so.

I have in my possession two covers showing the use of the "UE" c.d.s., one of these is that mentioned by Mr. Surtees, but the other one is not well known. These two covers are very similar both bearing two 6d. green adhesives, one addressed to Cork and the other to Croydon. In my opinion the "UE" mark is the rarest of all the St. Vincent abbreviated cancellations and I have never seen any other instance of its use apart from these two covers.

E. K. Lickfold.

St. Vincent Cancellations

In response to Mr. Jaffe's hope expressed in Bulletin No. 31 that comments might be assembled about Georgetown cancellations. I would like to add the following suggestions which I in turn hope will bring forth further information on this interesting but obscure subject.

Firstly as to the upright A10 in red. This occurs over-stamped on the 1d. (No. 17b), the 1/- (No. 19) and the 1/- (No. 20) in addition to those stamps referred to by Mr. Jaffe. I therefore feel that its appearance at Georgetown may well have dated from about 1873 and that it possibly arrived at the same time as the "G" datestamp and (?) the small-lettered GB/40c obliterator.

As regards Mr. Jaffe's suggestions that the 4d. blue of 1881 and the 1d. on half of sixpence deep green with the GB/40c handstamp might have had a Georgetown origin. I think for the following not wholly convincing reasons that the answer to the first question is "No" and that to the second is "Yes."

The 4d. of 1881 in the few specimens I have seen is cancelled with the GB/40c with the large "C" which I will call "type 1" whilst the 1d. on half of 6d. (now in my possession) is cancelled with type with the small "c" which I will call "Type 2."

Type 1 first appears on the 1d. black of 1871 on which it is common but it gradually becomes scarcer until it reappears (nicely cleaned up) commonly on the 1/- vermilion compound perf and not rarely on the 6d. yellow green perf 15 and the 4d. deep blue of 1877.

It occurs on the 1d. olive-green and 1/- vermilion of 1880 (very rare) and continues getting dirtier and dirtier into the 1882-4 issue after which it seems to disappear.

One would naturally place at least one of the GB/40c handstamps at Kingstown where it would have been most needed in the early days but this does not prove that it remained there. The "G" cover of 8 Feb 79 and presumably those of 9 Apr 79 and 28 Apr 80 which I have not seen at least show that it was at either Kingstown or Georgetown but I can only instance further evidence from 3 covers struck with type 1 about this period (one in my possession dated 27 Sept., 1879 and two sold at Harmers on 20th April, 1955). None of these 3 covers have any indication of a village origin and all seem to bear the small datestamp without code letter. This datestamp appears on other covers used with the "squat" A10 and (unless there were more than one) must I think be assigned to Kingstown. It also appears overstepping the "G" datestamp on the above cover of 8 Feb 79 which was almost certainly applied there.

As it is most improbable that any cover would have left its Post Office of origin without a datestamp I feel that the evidence that Type 1 (with the above datestamp) remained at Kingstown and that it probably finished its working life there but even changes in postal rates do not explain why it faded out on the higher values after 1880 and it could have passed to a village where these were not in use.

Type 2 is never very common but it appears on the 1d. and 6d. of 1872/3 in red. Apart from occasional usage on the 1d. denomination it seems to peter out until it reappears in about 1880 when it turns up on the above provisional and more commonly on the 1d. olive-green both in red, only to

ST VINCENT (contd.)

vanish again until it reappears fairly commonly on the 1d. rose-red issue then struck in black.

During some period roughly 1879-1882 Kingstown seems to have put away the red pad - at any rate I can find no trace of it on the many stamps almost certainly used there during that period and it is unlikely that the red pad would be reserved solely for use with Type 2 when Type 1 which I believe to have remained at Kingstown during this time is always struck in black.

It therefore looks as though Type 2 was somewhere other than Kingstown and Georgetown is the most likely answer. Most villages gradually adopted black ink in the early 1880s but Georgetown was still using red in 1884 ("G" cover in my possession) and the usage of Type 2 on the 1d. rose red issue may well explain why - as Mr. Jaffe points out - the full Georgetown datestamp only doubtfully appears before about 1891. If the above assumptions are correct I feel that Type 2 may well have been at Georgetown in the 1880s and might have been there since about 1873.

One last question - has anybody got Type 1 in red ?

J. L. Messenger.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO CODE LETTERS

With reference to Bulletin No. 29, page 23, I believe Miss Titford has hit upon the solution regarding code letters which could equally apply to Trinidad. I quote from a letter written to me by Mr. H. E. Box, Hon. Sec. Trinidad Philatelic Society:

"I have been able to contact Mr. J. Fernandes, Acting Postmaster-General of Port of Spain, Trinidad, and he tells me that the letters following the dates on certain postmarks refer to mailing times at the respective post offices, i.e., "A" - first sorting and bagging; "B" - second; and so on, irrespective of the actual time of day. This explains why smaller post offices do not go beyond "B" or "C," whereas larger ones may go to "E" because of the greater number of clearings per day."

J. Elson.

HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Although it was announced in the January Bulletin that a List of Members would be included in this issue it is regretted that this will have to be postponed until July. Notwithstanding the fact that the date when subscriptions fall due appears in our 'shop window' in every issue and the special reminder included in our last issue many were outstanding at the time of going to press. In accordance with our established practice not to carry any 'dead wood' the name of any member whose subscription has not been paid by May 1st will be reluctantly removed from the roll. As many members will be aware the 44th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is to be held at Worthing from 12th - 15th June. Since this occurs during Whit week I trust that those of you who are going to attend have already made arrangements for accommodation. Our Circle is contributing 24 pages to the Exhibition and our Vice-President, Dr. R. H. Urwick, has been invited to add his signature to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. I am sure all members will wish me to extend our congratulations to Dr. Urwick on this well merited distinction. Our customary meeting will take place on the Thursday evening and information as to the time and location will be obtainable at the Congress Office in the Assembly Hall. Those who hope to take part (and I hope there will be many) are reminded to bring along some pages for display and a note of any problem for discussion. It always gives me much pleasure to be in a position to conclude my remarks by recording the names of new members and, on your behalf, I extend a warm welcome to the following: J. A. Clapp, Jr. (U.S.A.), W. G. Cornell (U.S.A.), Major W. F. Ellis, F. M. Johnson, A. Kershaw, D. McCaughey (Northern Ireland) and E. K. Thompson.

P.T.S.

MISCELLANEA

INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

Unfortunately in Bulletin No. 32, page 6, Mr. Michael's name was not included in the list of awards at Budapest. Our sincere apologies are extended to him for the omission.

BUDAPEST 1961 EXHIBITION

A. L. Michael Gold Medal Hungary

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 avail themselves of this service should send the stamp(s) to the Hon. Secretary, enclosing the appropriate fee and an addressed envelope (stamped additionally for Registration or Recorded Delivery). Every endeavour will be made to return the stamp(s) within fourteen days.

Bulletins: Copies of back issues Nos. 8-32 are available at 4/- each, post free. Orders should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary accompanied by the appropriate remittance.

THE LIBRARY

Current Literature

ANTIGUA CELEBRATES THE RESTORATION OF NELSON'S DOCKYARD.

A. G. K. Leonard. S.C. 17/11/61 (No. 2507).

BRITISH HONDURAS. Hurricane Hattie Overprints. P.M. 26/1/61. (No. 1213).

*DESIGN AND MANUFACTURE OF POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE COMMONWEALTH. John Easton. S.C. 5/1/62 (No. 2514), 19/1/62 (No. 2516).

DOMINICA. Stamps and Postal History of Dominica. Eric Glasgow. P.M. 22/9/61. (No. 1204).

JAMAICA. James Wale, Postmaster of Jamaica. Sydney Raine. P. Jan. 1962.

PLATING STUDIES. (*Special reference to Br. Guiana 1860/75*). W. A. Townsend. Py. NOV./ Dec. 1961. (No. 99).

**(includes references to B.W.I. designs).*

Additions to Library

GRENADA. The Postal History and Postage Stamps of Grenada, by Alfred Charlton. 1955. 7½" x 10". 51 pp. Ills. p. c.

THE ST. LUCIA PHILATELIST. Number 2: 1949.

Should members have any books on B.W.I. subjects which are surplus to their needs I shall be delighted to have them for our Library which is building up, albeit slowly.

Rose Titford, Hon. Librarian.

REVIEW

THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*

From the little which has been published on the stamps of the Cayman Islands in nearly half a century it would seem that they, in common perhaps with one or two others of the British West Indies group, are among the 'Cinderellas' of philately. In the case of Caymans this could be due to the fact that their first stamps were issued at the beginning of this century when so many of the adhesives at this period were being typographed by De La Rue & Co., leaving behind the more aesthetic beauty of some of the Perkins Bacon productions and the classic imperforates. Further, inspection from the catalogue may leave little to the collector's imagination as to 'what is there to collect' in the early stamps of the Caymans (at one time the reviewer had these thoughts). There is, however, a great deal more in the philately of the Cayman Islands than a first sight suggests and one has only to glance through the pages of this new work (so long overdue and so welcome) to appreciate the interest and scope afforded to those taking up this country.

The 20 chapters in the book cover a lot of ground and light is shed on many aspects hitherto untouched by previous writers on the subject. The opening chapter on the early history of the island serves as a most interesting background for what follows and the reason for so few pre-adhesives (none are known to exist in private collections) is explained in the third chapter.

To do justice to a book of this character one really needs to dissect nearly every chapter, because in the main every section is 'full of meat,' so the reviewer suggests it preferable to list all the chapters for the guidance of the purchaser (and it is the best 'buy' in specialist books for years) and hopes for the indulgence of the Bulletin's Editor in permitting the review to be left in toto.

Chapter 1, History. Chapter 2, Geography, Climate, Administration, Communications, etc., etc. Chapter 3, Preadhesives: Jamaican Stamps used in the Cayman Islands and Jamaican Stamps overprinted "CAYMAN ISLANDS." Chapter 4, The Post Offices. Chapter 5, The Issued Stamps - Queen Victoria. Chapter 6, King Edward VII. Chapter 7, King George V. Chapter 8, King George VI. Chapter 9, Queen Elizabeth II. Chapter 10, The Commemorative Issues. Chapter 11, The Provisionals (Surcharged and Manuscript). Chapter 12, The Farthing Stamp. Chapter 13, The Rural Posts. Chapter 14, The War Stamps. Chapter 15, The Obliterators. Chapter 16, Registered Post. Chapter 17, Air Mail. Chapter 18, Postage Due. Chapter 19, Postal Stationery. Chapter 20, Miscellanea.

REVIEW (contd.)

The whole book is well illustrated and the chapter on the obliterations includes an illustration of every type known to the authors. The chapter on Registered Post is entirely new research by Mr. Saunders and his classification of the types of registered labels employed, both printed and facsimile, and so well illustrated is an interesting and novel feature and one which we do not remember seeing before in any specialist handbook.

A useful aid for many collectors is the inclusion of Scott's catalogue numbers in addition to Stanley Gibbons; and in the case of King George VI and Q.E. II issues Commonwealth catalogue numbers are also quoted. In almost every case, where such are known, details are given as to printings, quantities, "Specimen" stamps, varieties, etc., and what is of great importance and value to amateur and professional alike is the guide to market value of stamps of some of the earlier issues on cover.

The authors should be warmly congratulated on striking a new note in their approach to the compilation of this book.

'Caribbex.'

*THE CAYMAN ISLANDS. THEIR POSTAL HISTORY, POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTMARKS. By E. F. Aguilar and P. T. Saunders. 1962. 8 1/2" x 5 1/2" cloth bound. 111 pages, Ills. Price 42/- (\$6) post free. From P. T. Saunders, Caymans Cottage, Ridgmont, Bletchley, Bucks., or E. F. Aguilar, P.O. Box 406, Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies, for American, Canadian and Caribbean subscribers.

The Postal Markings of Barbados

The first supplement to Paper No. 2 has now been published and copies may be obtained from the Hon. Sec.

In Supplement No. 1 the authors have endeavoured to bring up to date the original Paper by the inclusion of new postmarks, and to amend and correct any ambiguities. The Supplement consists of seven pages, fully illustrated, and punched so that it may be inserted in the original binding. Published by the B.W.I. Study Circle price 4/- including postage (Canada and U.S.A. 75c.) Reduced price to Members of the Circle 3/- including postage (Canada and U.S.A. 50c.).

Many members of the B.W.I. Study Circle have assisted in the production of this paper, and the following have given most helpful advice: Cmdr. G. Bridgmore Brown, Dr. R. H. Urwick, J. B. Marriott, A. E. Beach, and G. W. Groves, whilst C. E. Patrick, has provided all the necessary stencils and ran off the copies and B. B. Benwell was responsible for the typing, drawings and maps, and has supervised the whole of the production.

OBITUARY

It is with sincere regret that we record the sudden passing on February 1st, 1962, of Mr. Cyril George Alterskye. Mr. Alterskye was a founder member of our Circle and specialised in the stamps of Montserrat, some portions of his collection having been loaned to the Circle for inclusion in combined displays of past years. He was a professional philatelist of many years standing and an acknowledged expert of the stamps and postal history of Egypt.

Mr. Alterskye had an all-round appreciation and understanding of a great many countries and was a delightful enthusiast when discussing some obscure point with a fellow collector or dealer.

A charming and modest personality, he will be greatly missed by his amateur and dealer friends alike. To his widow and to his son we tender our very sincere sympathies.

R.T.

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