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BULLETIN No. 50 SEPTEMBER 1966

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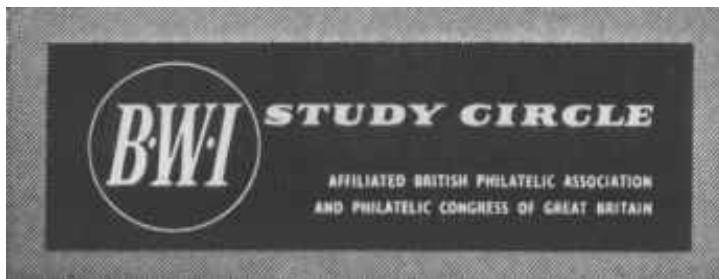
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1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of:

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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.

is 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".

AUTUMN MEETING

This will be held in the British Philatelic Association Boardroom at 446 Strand, London, W.C.2, on Saturday, October 8th, 1966, at 3 p.m. It is hoped that a display of CAYMAN ISLANDS will be given by Mr. R. A. G. Lee but in the event of this not being possible our Founder has expressed his willingness to bring along a selection of pages from his collection of DOMINICA.

DISPLAY

THE 48th PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN BRIGHTON, 14th-17th JUNE, 1966

The Circle was officially represented by the President, Vice-President W.A. Townsend and A. J. Branston, the Honorary Auditor. A number of other Circle Members also attended for the whole or part of the four days.

For the first time, the Congress Exhibition consisted of invited displays by Members of Congress who had won awards at International Exhibitions, each exhibitor being allotted three frames containing 6 sheets each. Circle members who displayed were Messrs. G. W. Groves, R. A. G. Lee, K. J. A. O. Manning, J. D. Todd, W. A. Townsend and R. Ward, but not all of them displayed British West Indies material.

Three interesting papers were presented, "COLLECTING TODAY" by George South, Honorary Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society, London; "READING AND WRITING" by W. A. Townsend, one of our Vice-Presidents, and "RULES FOR COMPETITIVE EXHIBITIONS" by O. Winter. All three papers provoked considerable discussion.

DISPLAY (contd.)

Having regard to its position as official representative on the Federation Internationale de Philatelic (F.I.P.), Congress approved a resolution instructing the Executive Committee to draw up general rules for national exhibitions to be held in Great Britain under the patronage of Congress.

The usual British West Indies Study Circle was held on Thursday evening, June 16th, the chair being taken by our President. Though the attendance was smaller than usual, a number of interesting items were passed round.

A. H. LATHAM showed a number of Jamaica covers, including the Crown and Oval Type Ship Letter for 1814 and Type S.C. (Ship Letter at bottom) for 1848; the boxed "Commercial Rooms Kingston Jamaica" for 1820 and one of 1824 but unboxed, a straight line "Commercial Rooms" dated 1827 and a later circular mark "Commercial Buildings Kingston Jamaica." He continued with a number of examples of Unclaimed markings ranging from 1843 to 1904 and various Returned Letter Branch covers between 1891 and 1958.

J. A. BIRCH showed many of the sheets from the exhibit of St. Thomas marks which gained him a Silver Medal at SIPEX, including the British obliterations "C.51" on stamps and covers and "D.26" (Spanish Mail Packet).

W. A. TOWNSEND provided a full display of the parish cancellations of Barbados commencing with the barred oval obliterations and the "bootheels," and following with the parish number plus the name in full circular date stamps. Nearly all the numbers were represented in each type. Later extended named circular date stamps completed the display.

G. W. GROVES showed apparently "imperforate" single examples of each of the three shades of the 1d, and 6d. of the 1863-67 issue of Antigua (SG. 5-10 inclusive), each example having wide margins on one or more sides, some including part of the design of adjoining stamps. He said that there had been discussion about these "imperforates" off and on for many years but he considered, and K. J. A. O. Manning supported his view, that conclusive evidence had yet to be produced that these stamps were issued to the Colony in an imperforate state.

BAHAMAS

The Fournier and Palletti forgeries. Details of the actual forged material of these two "infamous" gentlemen is desired. Fourniers price list gives an excellent picture of the background on which these emissions were made. The loan of actual "items" is however much desired so that precise descriptions allowing easy recognition to be made. This information will be used in the form of a Circle Handbook.

A. J. Branston

BARBADOS

I am indebted to Mr. K. Harrop for informing me that in a recent Auction purchase he noticed that a copy of S.G.188 had completely been re-entered giving a darker appearance to the colour. Can any member give further information on this variety?

Basil B. Benwell

Regarding the list of the "Registered Envelopes of Barbados" in Bulletin 49, I am able to add a few, although they may only be differences of opinion on colour. Using the key, they would be:

<i>Imprint Type & Colour</i>	<i>Value & Colour of Stamp</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>Additional Notes</i>
1 Blue	4 Olive Grey	11½ x 6	QV Cameo	Flap on Left - R with circle in Blue
2 Red	2 Bluish Violet	5¼ x 3¾	"	Flap on Right Circle in Red
4 Red	2½ " "	"	1912	"
"	3 " "	6 x 3¾	"	"
"	3 " "	"	1938	"
"	3 " "	9 x 4	"	"

There are a great many variations in colour, especially in the Cameo Head group, but those listed above are very definite variations. In each case, the crossed lines are the same colour as the imprint.

BARBADOS (contd.)

I assume this list of material is the first to be published and hope that it will be enlarged upon.

R. C. Mounsey, Jr.

Concerning the use of B.W.I. hand-struck stamps as transit marks, the most interesting that I have come across are those of Barbadoes used on letters from Sierra Leone to England. The letters were sent with slavers and general cargo ships to Barbadoes where they were picked up by the packet boats or private vessels. The following are noted:

<i>Sierra Leone</i>				<i>Arrival Date</i>
<i>Date</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Type Hand-struck</i>	<i>Date Stamp</i>	<i>in England</i>
9.11.1819	2/2	Barbadoes PG1	DE28/1819	12.2.20
23.3.22	2/2	Barbadoes PG2	30 AP 30/1822	17.6.22
11.2.40	2/	Barhadoes PH	IMY/1840	17.7.40

Ralph E. Group

BRITISH WEST INDIES

Mr. Ralph E. Group has provided me with a complete Index of the Postmasters of the West Indies for the period 1760 to 1854. The index compiled from the "Commission Book 1759-1854" at the G.P.O. Records, includes the postmasters name, date of appointment and details the pages to which reference is made.

This list is too long for publication in the Bulletin but if any member requires any information it will be gladly sent on request.

Basil B. Benwell

MAIL BOAT SERVICE - continued from P.110, Bulletin No. 49.

When war broke out again in 1803 the Guiana Settlements and St. Lucia were recaptured by the British. As a temporary expedient St. Lucia was

included in one of the Packet Boat Routes; but this was abandoned after a while, their Mail being left at Martinique, "from whence they find their conveyance by the first opportunity that Offers." Arrangements were also made for the resumption of the Mail Boat Service to the Guiana Coast. Details of this were summarised in a document prepared by Freeling in 1806, a brief resume of which follows:

4 July 1804. Letter to the Postmaster of Demerara - the P.M.G. had accepted Tender by Messrs. Kentish & Nephews of Antigua for the hire of a Mail Boat to convey Letters twice a month between Barbados and Demerara at a cost of £1,296 per an. This firm has also asked to tender for a Mail Boat to Surinam. In the meantime Letters for Surinam would be sent to the Postmaster of Demerara to be forwarded by the first opportunity.

5 July 1804. Mr. Casey, Postmaster of Surinam, requested to submit plan for a Mail Boat to Surinam.

19 July 1804. Freeling to P.M. of Barbados ordering a Boat to be sent direct from Barbadoes to Surinam and to bring back Replies to the Letters. A temporary Boat to be engaged for that purpose until a final arrangement can be made for the conveyance of the Mails to that Settlement.

21 Nov. 1804. Freeling to the P.M. of Barbadoes approving his having engaged a temporary Boat for Surinam at 960 Dollars p. month for three months certain - observing however that the Terms were very high.

1 June 1806, Freeling to Mr. Kentish, on the complaint of Mr. Casey that no mail Boat had been at Surinam for the last six months.

Then follows a list of the Boats used, with their dates of sailing, between June 1805 and August 1806, compiled from the returns submitted by the P.M. of Barbados. Boats on the Surinam Service: "Elizabeth," "Francis Freeling" (lost in September, 1805), "Mary," and "Harmony," as well as H.M. Brig "Pert" and H.M.S. "Emperor," used in emergency; employed on the Demerara Service: "Reasonable," "Two Brothers," "Baxter," "James," "Mary," and "Lord Lavington," as well as H.M.S. "Lilly."

The document concludes with some observations on the two services:

Surinam. It appears from the foregoing statement that no regular Mail Boat existed for Surinam from Sept. 1805 to Feb. 1806, occasioned by the uncertainty of the fate of the "Francis Freeling," and that during the above period the Mails were forwarded from Barbadoes as opportunities offered by King's Ships. A regular Mail Boat was again introduced in February last, but one Boat does not appear to be equal to a Monthly Communication between Barbadoes and Surinam.

BRITISH WEST INDIES (contd.)

Demerara. The Service of Demerara seems to have been tolerably well performed, but one Boat is not equal to convey the Letters "twice a month" to and from Barbadoes and Demerara as stated in Mr. Freeling's Letter to the Postmaster of Demerara of the 4th July, 1804.

The War produced special difficulties for the P.M.G.; in the two years up to June, 1805, no less than five of the Mail Boats had been captured. Incidentally the "Harmony" also was captured at the end of 1806. One idea considered was that of insuring these vessels; but it was turned down on account of the very high premium required. As soon as either Packets or Mail Boats were hired by the Post Office, Naval Officers valued them, and the Post Office undertook to pay the owner the value of any vessel captured.

The assistance of Rear Admiral Cockrane was sought to afford as much protection as possible to the Mail Boats in the West Indies. It was suggested that "the Commanders should report themselves to the Senior Naval Officer at every Port at which they arrive, and when they are about to depart, both for the information of such commanding Officer, and for the sake of receiving such protection as it may be thought advisable to afford the Mail Boats when active duty will not allow of her waiting convoy."

By 1805 deep concern was being felt by the P.O. authorities regarding the safety of the Mail Boats in time of War; no less than five had been captured in the West Indies in the preceding two years, involving claims amounting to £4,763. In a letter of 22 June 1805 (P.M.G. Reports, Vol. XXIV, No. 89L) Freeling discusses various proposals which had been made to minimise the losses:

- (a) To increase the number of Mail Boats by five, at a cost of £5,000 per ann.
- (b) Engaging larger vessels so that the probability of capture would be reduced.
- (c) Trying to effect an insurance on the Mail Boats, even at a 50% premium. It was doubtful if Lloyd's underwriters would have been prepared to accept the risk in view of the history of these vessels in recent times. A similar matter had been discussed earlier in connection with the Packet Boats, but it had been decided that the expense would have been too great.

After careful consideration no change in the system was adopted at the time.

In a further letter from Freeling to the P.M.G., dated 23 May 1807, (P.M.G. Reports, Vol. XXVII, No. 46E) he drew attention to a letter received from Rear

Admiral Cockrane "on the subject of affording as much Protection as possible to the Mail Boats in the West Indies. . . . It may be very proper that the Commanders of these Boats should report themselves to the Senior Naval Officer at every Port at which they arrive, and when they are about to depart, both for the information of such Commanding Officer, and for the sake of receiving such protection as it may be thought advisable to afford the Mail Boats when active duty will not allow of her waiting convoy. It may be necessary to add that in all our Contracts for Packets the Post Office takes upon itself to pay for any Vessel which may have been captured, but that these vessels are always valued by the Inspector of Packets."

In 1807 the former Dutch Colonies of Surinam, Demerara, and Berbice again complained about their poor mail service, and in reviewing the situation Freeling referred to his former report (see Bulletin No. 49, pp. 105-107). In a letter of 24th January (Box File 21, No. 270) he reports that the "Harmony" had been captured towards the end of 1806, and agreed that one Mail Boat was not sufficient for a twice monthly service between Barbadoes and Demerara, ... "but as before stated the Boats being employed promiscuously in each branch of the Service as they may happen to be at Barbadoes, an additional Schooner could not fail to improve the Accommodation of the whole, . . . Deficiencies are due to Contingencies and the number and superior Force of the Enemy Cruizers with which the Navigation of these seas is Infested."

On 25 June 1807 (Packet Report Books, 1807-12, No. 14a.) St. Vincent complained of delays in mails due to existing arrangements, and suggested "that the Jamaica Packet instead of touching at St. Lucia as it now does, should touch at St. Vincent and Grenada, proceeding from the latter to her Destination, and that the Leeward Island Packet should touch at St. Lucia on her way to Dominica." After consultation with the Packet Captains the suggestion was turned down because "no great detention would arise from the Leeward Islands Packet touching at St. Lucia **if convoyed through the Islands**, otherwise there would be great danger in passing to Leeward of Martinico as they are frequently becalmed under that Island:" and "the Jamaica Packet may touch at St. Vincent with as little delay as touching at St. Lucia as at present, but to go from St. Vincent to Grenada the delay would be great owing to Calms and Currents under the Islands."

On 2 April 1809 Berbice again complained of irregularities in receiving its mail from Demerara. Mr. Williams, the Postmaster of Demerara, had initiated a local post of his own to Berbice, but the experiment did not work satisfactorily. It was arranged, therefore, that a separate Bag for Berbice would be made up in

BRITISH WEST INDIES (contd.)

London, and left at Barbadoes. As there was no direct Mail Boat service between Barbadoes and Berbice, and no Deputy Postmaster at the latter place, the Governor was to make himself responsible for the postage and to collect the Bag from Barbadoes in a Schooner belonging to Berbice. This arrangement operated from the first Mail of November 1809. (Packet Report Book, 1807-12, No. 145a.).

L. E. Britnor

GRENADA

The Belgian Relief Fund Labels, Rough Perf 113, are believed to have been issued on the 7th March. 1915. Information is required regarding size and make up of sheet, has any number multiples of this label, and were they issued tete-beche as the Red Cross Labels.

Grenada Postal Stationery - Full details will shortly be given of all Queen Elizabeth II Stationery, in the meantime has any member seen a Half Cent Wrapper or a Stamped Envelope. (These exist for King George VI).

Bryan E. Johnson

JAMAICA

I find I have in my collection a 5d. grey and orange yellow (S.G.41) with a clear strike dated AP 11 07 but the name of the town does not show. I note that in Gibbons catalogue the date of issue is given as 24.4.07 and no doubt other members will be interested to learn of its earlier use.

Paul A. Dorn

MONTSERRAT

I would like to record some proof material which I have seen recently as these items are not included in the Study Circle Paper No. 4 Montserrat by Mr. L. E. Britnor.

The 1932 Tercentenary Set of stamps consists of 10 values from the ½d. to the 5/- in 10 different colours and is printed in recess by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. on paper watermarked multiple script CA. The find consists of 10 die proofs each being of the 1d. value in the 10 different colours of the Tercentenary Set as issued on thin ungummed wove paper watermarked multiple script CA. The die proofs are imperforate and the paper extends up to about 2 millimetres on each side of the design. There is of course no endorsement of any kind on these die proofs and an unusual feature is that they are pulled on watermarked paper.

Messrs. De La Rue & Co. printed comparatively few British Colonial stamps by recess although this method of printing was adopted by them frequently in executing numerous orders for foreign stamps.

Members of the Study Circle will be familiar with Messrs. De La Rue & Co's die proofs on white glazed card. These proofs are pulled from a die employed when the surface printing method is used: many of such die proofs have some kind of endorsement.

E. V. Toeg

NEVIS

THE NEVIS STAMPS AND THEIR DESIGN by J. B. Brown, Postmaster of Nevis. Reprinted from the Stamp Collectors Magazine, 1st January, 1867 (page 11). Contributed by Mr. R. Ward.

The device on the Nevis postage stamps is a fac-simile of the great seal of the colony, a stream of water, which, falling to the ground, forms a pool, wherein which a sick female is reclining, supported with one hand by a companion who extends the other to the presiding genius, or nymph of the stream, for a bowl which the latter is filling from a pitcher of water drawn from the stream.

NEVIS (contd.)

There are, at about a quarter of a mile from the principal town (Charlestown) certain mineral springs, called the "bath springs." Many years ago, the proprietor of the land where some of these springs are situated, opened two of tepid and one of hot water; over the latter and one of the former, rooms were erected and fitted up for the convenience of invalids: while to the other tepid spring a pipe was affixed for drinking purposes. An hotel, of almost palatial dimensions and of very imposing appearance, called "Bath House" with several outbuildings etc. was erected and the surrounding grounds laid out in gardens.

There are numerous other small springs in the vicinity, and scattered over the leeward parts of the island; but just below the drinking spring of the bath house, a spring (the most considerable of that nature in the island) issued from the side of the hill, forms a huge pool, and runs in a continuous stream called the "bath stream" deepening and widening as it flows, till it expands into a large pond on the seashore, about 500 yards from its source. This spring is not enclosed, nor covered, and is used by those who cannot pay the fee of sixpence charged at the Bath House, and also serves as a washing place. Although the spring is extremely hot, the stream varies in heat, and in some places is cold.

The baths have been of high repute; and the island was much resorted to by invalids when the hotel was properly kept. The extraordinary powers and unfailing efficacy of the Nevis baths have been long well known in the medical world, and have been celebrated in every treatise descriptive of the colonies. Mr. Osborn, in his "Guide to the Madeiras, West Indies &c." says:-

"Nevis is celebrated for its mineral springs. The . . . Bath House is situated on a rising ground, and commands a view of the town, the adjacent country and the sea."

It will be seen that the baths have always been the great institution of the colony, hence the device on the great seal.

I have been informed by the Honourable George Webbe, F.R.A.S., Treasurer &c., an old inhabitant, and a gentleman who was for many years Chief Justice, and who three times administered the government, and by the Honourable John A. Iles, Colonial Secretary, also an old public officer, that the great seal of the colony was made thirty or forty years ago, after a design by

Mr. Colquhoun, the agent for this island in England, who submitted the device for the approval of the Government, intimating that it was meant to represent the healing virtues of its celebrated baths.

The stamps were first introduced into this colony, under the administration of Mr. Musgrave (the present Governor of Newfoundland) in 1861. The one shilling stamps are used to prepay postage to England, and with a sixpenny, fourpenny or penny stamp, as the case may be, in transit through England; on heavy letters inter-colonially and on book packets. Sixpenny stamps are used to prepay the registration fee on letters, the postage on books over 8oz. and under 12oz. &c. Fourpenny stamps are used to prepay postage on letters inter-colonially, and to America. The penny stamps serve to prepay the postage on newspapers, prices-current, soldiers' and seamen's letters and books under 4oz. These are the principal uses to which the stamps are put; they are also used one with another to represent values not represented by either.

To the above remarks of Mr. Brown, we will add a few of our own.

All the stamps of this island are printed on plain woven unwatermarked paper, and perforated; but there are specimens of most values to be found on blue tinted paper; while the majority are on pure white.

Moens, in his list, give "4d., sur bleute," a stamp we have never met with; but we have in our own collection, the one penny and the shilling on unmistakable bluish paper.

Proofs of the die, before it was finally approved or finished in its present state, also exist; these latter are of the very highest degree of rarity. We are acquainted with a proof in orange of the fourpence, and one in green of the shilling, of a different tint to that adopted for the stamp, and showing small differences in the details of the engraving; these proofs are on thick white paper, unwatermarked.

The dies were engraved, and the stamps are printed, in London, by the same firm as produces the new Shanghai stamps, and to whom, we believe, the chosen design for the Virgin Islands is due - viz. Messrs. Nissen and Parker.

R. Ward

MISCELLANEA

OPINIONS SERVICE

Facilities are available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. Group. A fee of 2/6 (35c.) 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.

PUBLICATIONS

The following paper just published by the Circle is available from the Hon. Secretary: Paper No. 4. "MONTSEERRAT" by L. E. Britnor. Price 20/- (\$3.15 non-sterling countries) *post free*.

BULLETINS: Copies of back issues are obtainable from the Hon. Secretary as follows:

- No. 1-7 (reprinted in current format in one cover) 12s. 6d. (\$1.75) *post free*.
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NOTE: Issues including articles on any specific colony will be gladly supplied.

Our advertisers - Stanley Gibbons Auctions Ltd. - advise us that their sale on September 22nd and 23rd, 1966 includes a strong section of ST. LUCIA (over 150 lots) also ST. VINCENT. Any member who wishes to receive the sale catalogue is invited to apply for a complimentary copy.

If you apply please mention the B.W.I. Study Circle Bulletin

HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Member,

Whilst my move to my new home was made without any difficulties arising I find I was somewhat optimistic in thinking that an easier life was immediately in prospect. With many jobs to do inside and out not to mention the garden which had been untended for more than two months my time has been fully occupied. In consequence there has been a delay in my responding to a number of letters but I know the writers have fully appreciated the position.

With the June Bulletin I sent to each home member a stamped postcard bearing a questionnaire concerning our Annual Dinner. Of the 130 that were distributed so far only 55 have been returned. If you find you have not returned the one sent to you I shall be most grateful if you will do so as soon as possible since I feel it would be preferable if the final decision in regard to this function was arrived at on a higher poll.

You will have no doubt seen in the philatelic press a note of the passing of Mr. L. J. Gilbert-Lodge, formerly Hon. Secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. In the early years of our Circle he extended to me much encouragement and on his retirement became a member and only resigned when he disposed of his very fine collection of ST. VINCENT. His knowledge of this and other West Indian colonies was extensive and those of our members who purchased items from his collection will give a constant reminder of him.

If, by chance, you have a relative or friend residing in Herefordshire who collects stamps of any country I shall be most grateful if you will let me have his (or her) name and address. At present no philatelic society exists in this county and it is my hope that in due course one can be brought into being.

On your behalf I extend a warm welcome to the following who have been enrolled as members since our last issue: J. H. Byl (Hertfordshire), W. C. Nixon (Eire), Brigadier A. G. Peart (Warwickshire) and N. C. Giraud-Saunders (London).

P.T.S.

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