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BULLETIN No. 52

MARCH 1967

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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.

3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only).

4. To publicise 'wants'.

5. To furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription to be £1 or the equivalent in local currency, due 1st February. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

ANNIVERSARY MEETING

THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY MEETING

This will be held in the Board-room of the British Philatelic Association at 446 Strand, London, W.C.2 (opposite Charing Cross Station - Southern Railway), on Saturday, **April 8th**, at 3 p.m. It will be appreciated if you will bring a few sheets for display and a note of any problem you would like to have brought up for discussion.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Supply of material for future issues of the Bulletin is again very short. I would like to remind members that articles written for publication in the Bulletin may be accepted for judging in the Gilbert W. Collett Memorial Trophy award.

To overseas as well as country members, the Bulletin is the only means of contact with the Circle and it is therefore essential that we maintain a lively and interesting Publication. May I therefore urge members, particularly those who have never contributed, to send in articles or short notes on their particular interest for inclusion in future issues of the Bulletin. I would appreciate receipt of copy not later than 6 weeks prior to publication.

Editor

BERMUDA

In case some members are unaware of the fact I would mention that the additional 1/6 definitive value released on November 1st, 1966, has appeared on both vertical and sideways watermarked paper.

R W. Bush

BRITISH WEST INDIES

Further to my note in Bulletin No. 51, p. 130, the following 6 pages are reprinted in full from the book belonging to Mr. M. H. Ludington entitled GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO A POSTMASTER IN THE BRITISH WEST INDIES. Further pages will be reprinted in future issues of the Bulletin.

Editor

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* The page numbers in the original text vary from those in this reprint. Consequently the revised page numbers have been included in parentheses alongside the original text, page numbers.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

TO A

POSTMASTER

IN THE

BRITISH WEST INDIES

PART I.

POST OFFICE AND LETTER BOX.

1. - A Room of sufficient size must be set apart solely for the purpose of conducting the Duties of the Post Office, and must be properly fitted up according to the directions of the Surveyor.

Separate Room for Office

2. - The words "Post Office," in large and conspicuous characters, must be exhibited outside the building, so as to attract public attention.

Post Office

3. - A Letter Box, *opening to the public Street or Thoroughfare*, must be fitted up in the Office, and on the outside must be legibly inscribed –

Letter Box

"Letter Box,
"For Unpaid Letters only."

This Box must be kept always open for the reception of letters, except during the time allowed for preparing the Mails for Despatch, which is regulated by special Instructions.

4. - The Office is to be kept open from 8 A.M. to 8 P.M., every day except Sunday.

Hours of Attendance.

5. - In the event of a mail arriving on Sunday, or too late to be delivered on Saturday, the Letters must be delivered during the intervals between the hours of Divine Service.

Delivery on Sunday

The hours of delivery when a Packet arrives on other days are fixed by special Instructions.

6. - The Office must not be removed without the sanction of the Surveyor.

Removal of Office

PART II.

DESPATCH AND RECEIPT OF MAILS.

§. I. *Despatch of Mails.*

For England

7. - In despatching a Mail for England, care must be taken to keep the *Paid* separate from the *Unpaid* Letters.

The *ordinary Paid* Letters are also to be separated from the *Soldiers' and Seamen's* Letters.

And the *Unpaid* Letters for London, from those *for other Places* in the United Kingdom.

Letter Bill.

The number of each of these Classes of Letters, and the Amount of Postage marked upon them, are to be, severally, ascertained, and entered in their proper places, in the first Column of the Letter Bill headed "*Postmaster's Account.*"

Each Class of Letters is then to be enclosed, separately, in strong paper, bound round with twine, and placed in the Bag for *England*, which must be firmly tied, and secured with wax, bearing a clear impression of the Office Seal.

The *total of Paid* Letters must be entered in the Book of *Mails despatched*, and thence transferred to the *Quarterly Account of Paid Letters sent to England* (Inner Voucher to Voucher No. 2).

Mail for a British Colony

8. - In making up a Mail for a *British Colony*, the *Paid* Letters must, in like manner, be separated from the *Unpaid*, and the *Unpaid for the delivery of the Office* to which the Mail is sent (in the event of its being a "*Forward Office*," must be separated from those sent as "*Forward.*"

If the Office, which despatches the Mail, is itself a "*Forward Office*," a further separation must be made of the *Letters Paid at that Office* from those *Paid at other places*, and sent there in transit to their destination.

Letter Bill.

The number and amount of the different Classes of Letters must be taken and entered in the first Column of the Letter Bill, against the several items to which they refer.

* Note.- The object of establishing "*Forward Office*" was to diminish the number of Bags and Accounts: thus, The Packet from *St. Thomas* reaching *Grenada* several days before the Packet is despatched to *Jamaica* and the Westward, all the Offices between *St. Thomas* and *Grenada* are instructed to send as "*Forward*" to that Office Letters for *Jamaica*, *St. Jago de Cuba*, *Havana*, *Vera Cruz*, &c., instead of making up for each of those places a separate Mail and Letter Bill.

In the same manner, *St. Thomas* is itself a "*Forward Office*" for Letters sent from every place between it and *Grenada* to *Bermuda* and *Nassau*.

The Letters, together with the Bill, are then to be enclosed in strong paper, and placed in a Mail Bag, which is to be tied and sealed in the same manner as described for the Mail for *England*.

The amount of Letters *Paid* at the Office which despatches the Mail, and of *Unpaid* Letters for the delivery of the Office to which the Mail is sent, are to be entered in the Book of Mails *despatched*, and thence transferred to the "*Sent side*" of the *Quarterly Inter-Colonial Voucher* (Inner Voucher to Voucher No. 3.)

"*Forward Letters*" are not to be noticed in any way either in the book or Voucher.

9. - The same instruction, so far as it relates to *Paid* Letters, is applicable to a Mail for a Foreign Port, to which however, *no Unpaid* Letters can be forwarded. **Mail for a Foreign Port**

10. - One of the printed Leathern Labels, supplied for the purpose, is to be affixed securely to every Mail Bag despatched. **Leathern Labels to Mail Bags**

11. - A List of Mails despatched must be signed by the Postmaster, and delivered to the Admiralty Agent, and the Signature of that Officer is to be obtained to a *Duplicate List*, which must be retained in the Office. **List of Mails Despatched**

§. II. *Receipt of Mails.*

<p>12. - On the arrival of a Mail, the Postmaster must sign the List presented by the Admiralty Agent, for all Mails which he receives.</p>	<p>List of Mails Received</p>
<p>He is then to examine every Bag to ascertain that it is properly secured, sealed, and labelled, and must report immediately to the Surveyor any instance which he may observe to the contrary.</p>	<p>Bags to be examined</p>
<p>13. - The Postage on the <i>Unpaid</i> Letters from <i>England</i> must be carefully told up, and the amount compared with the entry in the Letter Bill.</p>	<p>Mail from England.</p>
<p>If it agrees, it is to be carried out into the second Column.</p>	
<p>But, if the Amount does not agree with the entry in the Bill, the letters must be told up as many times as may be necessary to ensure accuracy, and the correct amount entered in the second Column, and certified by the Signature of the Clerk or Assistant, if the Postmaster have any.</p>	<p>Letter Bill to be checked and returned to London.</p>

The Amount, according to the *Postmaster's computation*, must be entered in the Book of *Mails received* and thence transferred to the *Quarterly Account of Unpaid Letters received from England* (Inner Voucher to Voucher No. 1).

As the Paid Letters form no charge against any Person in *England*, they are not noticed in the letter Bill from London, and require no notice on the part of the Postmaster. The Letter Bill is to be signed, stamped, and returned to London by the First Packet.

(*For instructions as to Registered Letters received from England, see page 32.*)

Mails from Colonies or Foreign Ports

14. - The Letter Bills accompanying *Inter-Colonial* Mails, whether from *Colonial* or *Foreign* Ports, must be checked in like manner, and the Amounts entered in the second Column.

The Amount *Paid* at the Office from which the Mail is despatched, and of *Unpaid* Letters for the delivery of the Office which receives it, must be entered in the Book of *Mails received*, and in the "*Received side*" of the *Quarterly Inter-Colonial Voucher* (Inner Voucher to Voucher No. 3.)

The entries in the second Column of the letter Bill must be certified by the Postmaster's Signature, and the Bills carefully kept until the end of the Quarter, and then sent to *England* with the *Quarterly Accounts*.

Letter Bill Missing

15. - If, on the receipt of a Mail, the Letter Bill should be missing, the *Unpaid* Letters must be carefully selected from the *Paid*, the Amount of Postage chargeable on the *Unpaid* Letters accurately told up, and the Postmaster must charge himself with the Amount in the and *Book of Mails received* and in the *Quarterly Voucher*.

If the Mail be from *England* no account of the *Paid* Letters will be necessary, but if from a Colony or Foreign Port, the Amount of Postage on *Paid* Letters must also be entered against the *Despatching Office*.

The greatest care must be taken to insure accuracy in the Amounts, which are to be checked by the Clerk or Assistant, if the Postmaster have any.

When the Mail is from *England*, the Postmaster is to report the circumstance by the *first* Mail to the Secretary of the *General Post Office*, and state the Amount with which he has charged himself for the *Unpaid* Letters; and when from a Colony or Foreign Port, he is to inform the *Surveyor* of the circumstance and also of the Amount with

which he has debited himself for the *Unpaid* Letters, as well as the Amount of the *Paid* Letters which lie has entered against the *Despatching Office*.

16. - When all the Bills have been checked, the Letters are to be stamped with the dated Stamp on the sealed side, and prepared for delivery with as little delay as possible.

Letters to be stamped previous to delivery

17. - In a "*Forward Office*" the Letters received from other Places in transit must be assorted, in readiness to be forwarded to their several places of destination.

Forward Letters

18. - The Monthly Journal of the Receipt and Despatch must be made out by the Postmaster to the 5th of each month, and transmitted to London by the first Packet after that date.

Monthly Journal of Mails received and dispatched.

PART III.

RATING LETTERS.

19. - The Rate of Postage to which a Letter is liable must be clearly marked upon it, in such a manner as to interfere as little as possible with the direction.

Rates of Postage to be plainly marked.

Unpaid Letters are to be marked with *Black* Ink.

Paid Letters with *Red* Ink.

No Postage is, however, to be marked on *Unpaid* Letters to Countries *passing through the United Kingdom*.

Exception.

20. - The *British and Colonial* Rates of Postage upon Letters forwarded either by *Packets* or by *Private Ships* are charged by weight as follow:

Ordinary Scale of rates

Not exceeding ½ an Ounce in weight. One Rate
 Exceeding ½ ounce, but not exceeding 1 oz Two Rates
 " 1 ounce " 2 oz. Four Rates
 " 2 ounces " 3 oz. Six Rates

and so on; an additional *two* Rates being charged for every additional ounce and a fraction of an ounce being charged as an additional ounce.

21. - The *British and Foreign* Rates on *Paid* Letters to *France* and to *Foreign Countries passing through France*, are to be marked separately, in *Red* ink in the left hand upper corner, thus:

British and Foreign Rates on Paid Letters to, and through, France

s. d.	
1 8	British
<u>0 5</u>	Foreign
<u>2 1</u>	
	A.B
	Paris

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1966

1965			INCOME	1966		
£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
219	4	11	Cash at Bank.	190	17	5
183	15	0	Advertisers	191	0	0
47	15	0	Dinner Account	45	2	0
3	9	4	Donations and Opinion Fees	5	14	10
100	0	0	G.W. Collett Trophy per Gerald Collett, Esq.	-	-	-
19	6	9	Sale of back issues of Bulletin	22	10	0
202	8	3	Subscriptions	205	12	0
6	0	0	Subscriptions paid in advance	13	18	11
£781 19 3				£674 15 2		

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
247	3	5	Cash at Bank	224	0	9
	11	4	Donations	5	5	2
			Sales:			
			Bulletins No. 1-7			
			(Special Reprint)	5	0	0
			Paper No. 1	5	12	0
			Paper No. 2 and Supplement	2	2	6
			Paper No. 4	146	3	11
			Postal History Society Paper	5	1	0
34	18	0		163	19	5
50	0	0	Transfer from main A/c.	-	-	-
£332 12 9				£393 5 4		

I have examined the above Statement of Accounts and certify it to be correct and in accordance with the Books and Vouchers produced to me.

ALFRED J. BRANSTON,
Hon. Auditor.

20th January 1967

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1966

1965			EXPENDITURE	1966		
£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
3	10	0	Advertising	4	0	0
-	-	-	Bank Charges	3	7	6
11	6	10	Books, Catalogues, etc.	10	5	3
	10	0	Cheque stamps	5	0	
100	2	0	G.W. Collett Trophy (Tudor Dishes)	-	-	-
14	6	7	Ditto (Engraving)	-	-	-
55	11	1	Dinner Account	54	11	0
7	14	0	Entertaining, Hire of Meeting Room, etc.	7	17	6
3	2	2	Gratuities	10	0	
36	16	1	Postages	44	11	1
263	16	9	Printing and Blocks	230	19	0
			Subscriptions:			
			British Philatelic Assoc.	£	s.	d.
				3	3	0
			Philatelic Congress of G.B.	3	3	0
			Philatelic Exhibition Fund	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>
16	0	0		11	11	0
1	0	0	Subscription (member) refunded	-	-	-
8	8	1	Stationery	24	5	2
18	18	3	Telephone and Travelling Expenses	20	15	1
50	0	0	Transfer to Publications Account	-	-	-
190	17	5	Cash at Bank	261	17	7
<u>£781</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>£674</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
-	-	-	Bank Charges	10	6	
-	-	-	Cheque Stamps	5	0	
34	13	0	Paper	-	-	-
2	4	0	Photographs	-	-	-
-	-	-	Postage	12	10	5
53	0	0	Printing	58	9	0
-	-	-	Refund to Members <i>re</i> Postal History Society	9	8	9
			Paper			
-	-	-	Sundries	4	12	0
18	15	0	Typing	-	-	-
224	0	9	Cash at Bank	307	9	8
<u>£332</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>£393</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>

PHILIP T. SAUNDERS,
Hon. Treasurer.

BRITISH WEST INDIES (contd.)

MAIL BOAT SERVICE - continued from Bulletin No. 51, page 135.

ERRATUM: Bulletin No. 51, Page 131, line 1 of article:- Date should be 1809, not 1890.

Following the establishment of the special Packet Service to Demerara, a detailed check was kept on these voyages, and on 31 July 1812 this was published for the first year of operation (Box File 21, No. 222):-

When the Demerara Packets were established the average Voyage out and home was computed at three months.

Packet	Sailed	Returned	Observations
Snake	19 Sep. 1810	11 Jan. 1811	detained 12 days at Berbice by the loss of 2 Bower Anchors, and want of water to get over the Bar
Gleaner Gun Brig	29 Oct.	22 Feb.	having no journal, the cause of exceeding the time cannot be stated.
Dispatch	27 Nov.	27 Feb.	exactly 3 months.
Winsor Castle	28 Dec.	18 Mar.	18 days within time.
Lord Hobart	9 Mar. 1811	3 July	(mentioned in Lord W. Bentinck's Letter) lost about 15 days on the coast of Surinam; 6 weeks from Martinico.
Dispatch	26 Mar.	1 July	met with no obstructions on the Coast of Guiana, but detained over time, 3 days at Barbadoes and 2 days at Martinico; Voyage 5 weeks and 3 days from the latter Island.
Princess Elizabeth	24 Apr.	25 Aug.	had above 7 weeks voyage out, and detained 6 days at Demerara beyond time for Berbice Mail being driven past that Place by a Thunder Gust, 6 weeks from Martinico.
Carteret	19 May	30 Aug.	was not obstructed on the Coast, but detained at Demerara about 3 days for Water over the Bar.
Diana	20 June	21 Sep.	3 months.
Eliza	20 July	13 Oct.	12 weeks only.
Manchester	20 Aug.	25 Nov.	met with no obstruction.
Carteret	17 Sep.	8 Jan. 1812	excess 3 weeks, occasioned by 7 weeks passage From Martinico.

The Guiana Coast appears now tolerably well known, but requires to be carefully approached.

It should be noted, in passing, that this Service lasted until after the end of the Napoleonic War, when the Guiana Coast was again served by the Mail Boats - *vide* Packet Reports. No. 209B, of 8 June 1816 which states:

Surinam has been returned to the Dutch.

Re-establishment of the Mail-Boats from Barbados to the remainder of the Guiana Settlements. Mr. Kentish to tender for 2 Mail Boats to be ready to go from Barbados with the Mails made up here (G.P.O., London) on 3rd July, and continued on the first and third Wednesdays in each Month for Demerara, Berbice. and Essequibo.

Instructions also sent to the Agent at Falmouth and the Postmaster at Barbados.

Up till 1810 the Contractors for the Mail Boats had been paid as follows:- (Packet Reports. No. 179A, 4 August 1810)

The Postmaster at Barbados paid for one:

" " Antigua paid for one or two, depending on the Revenue from his office.

The remainder were paid for by Treasury Warrant. Freeling suggested that in future they should all be paid for by Warrant, and this suggestion was approved by the P.M.G., Sandwich and Chichester.

During the War it was often possible to forward Mail from Barbados to some of the Leeward Islands, particularly Antigua, by a Ship of War, thus saving time. This, of course, could only be done provided the Captain was willing to take charge of them, for there was no power to compel him to do so. (Packet Minutes. 1811-12, p.20).

By 1811 St. Lucia had been recaptured from the French, and on 29 March Major General Wood petitioned that "the Jamaica Packet might touch there with the Mails as formerly, on her way from Martinique, or that a regular Mail Boat may be allowed as at other Places where the Packets do not arrive." (Packet Report Book 1807-12, p.730). Freeling asked the Falmouth Packet Agent to obtain the opinions of the Packet Captains on this point; they asserted that owing to "strong currents and calms under the high lands of that Island" the Packet would be delayed a minimum of 3 days. The granting of a Mail Boat was also turned down on account of expense, about £800-£1000 per an.,

BRITISH WEST INDIES (cont)

whilst the postal revenue from St. Lucia had only been £215 8s. 6d. in the previous year. The report concludes "The Letters for St. Lucia are at present forwarded to Martinique from whence they find their conveyance by the first opportunity that offers - but if it is more convenient to the petitioners to receive theirs from Barbados, an Order shall be given to that Effect." By 1814, however, St. Lucia evidently had been granted her wish, as Packet Minutes, 1814-16, pp. 19-21, of 11 Oct. 1814, states "The Jamaica Packet on her outward bound voyage calls at Barbados, then at Martinique and St. Lucia on her way to Jamaica." The letter, from Freeling, continues:-

"This application is for the Jamaica Packet to proceed to St. Vincents after Martinique is taken possession of by France,

As the late Treaty with France stipulated that St. Lucia shall not be ceded I presume the request cannot be complied with, without detriment to the correspondence of that Island.

It may be necessary to state here that St. Vincents, with other Islands to the Windward, is supplied by Mail Boats from Barbados twice a month, being the Mails of the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from hence.

The second request that the Surinam Packet may call at St. Vincents when Martinique is given up can be effected without detriment to the Public Service and with essential advantages to that Island.

If your Lordship should approve of the Surinam Packet touching at St. Vincents the necessary orders can be issued and the applicants told how far their application can be complied with."

Approval for Freeling's suggestion was given by the P.M.G.

On 20 May 1813 (Packet Reports, No. 54B) James Pairman, the Deputy P.M.G. of Barbados, wrote to Freeling about a suggestion he had received from Governor Ainslie of Grenada for improving the communication with that Island. He referred to the existing arrangements: ". . . on the arrival of a Leeward Island Packet at Barbados, two Mail Boats are dispatched, one with the mails for Tobago, St. Vincent, and Grenada; the other to St. Vincent and Grenada. In this way the Mails for the last mentioned Islands would reach them nearly a week sooner than by the present mode, and those for Trinidad, on the other hand, in consequence of the Boat having to stop at Tobago, would be delayed only two days. The meeting of the two Boats would at the same time be expedited."

The plan was referred to Thos. Kentish, who agreed with it, and added "in case of only one Boat being at Barbados for her to take the lone Route to Tobago - as usual." It was also found that the new arrangement would not involve additional expense, and was consequently adopted.

During this period (1810-16) a slight change in the Packet arrangements occurred affecting Tortola. The Packet had stayed 48 hours at Tortola and only 24 hours at St. Thomas. As the revenue from these two places amounted to £64 13s. 11d. and £102 7s. 10d, respectively, it was finally agreed to reverse the times for these two Islands. (Packet Minutes, 1811-12, p.57, 8 July 1811).

L. E. Britnor

DOMINICA

I recently acquired a lower right marginal copy of S.G.30 with the lower left segment of the plate number comprising both the outer circle and the relevant portion of the solid grey circle in albino. I will be interested to know if any member has seen a similar defect in any other denomination of this or any other colony.

P. T. Saunders

JAMAICA

Jamaica T.R.D.s!

With reference to the note by Dr. Blackburn in Bulletin No. 51 I would mention that the BROAD LEAF TRD is known used on 23 JY 49 also and the DUMPHRIES TRD is also recorded on 6 SP 46.

R. Topaz

MONTSERRAT

MONTSERRAT HANDBOOK

On page 140 in Bulletin No. 51 Mr. F. D. Fitzgerald refers to:-

- (a) The dropped overprint which is an interesting variety on S.G.1. I think that there are two states to this variety. I have S.G.1 in pair with the overprint partially; dropped and therefore irregular. Continuing this in the second

MONTSEERRAT (cont'd.)

state is the example mentioned by Mr. Fitzgerald. In mentioning that this variety is in two states I would like to make it clear that I do not think that the first state gradually developed into the second state, as is the case with so many modern varieties: it is, however, convenient to speak of two states, although there is in my opinion no direct connection between them. I have never been able to discover how many sheets were overprinted in the second state, but owing to examples being rarely seen I think that possibly only one sheet of 120 stamps was overprinted in this manner. I would regard the second state as a rarity, but possibly of interest only to the specialist.

- (b) I have singles and also blocks of four of S.G.1 with watermark inverted and reversed. This is a recognized watermark variety, but I do not regard it as a rarity. Likewise, I regard S.G.1 with watermark reverse as a recognized variety but it is also not rare.
- (c) S.G.78 1/- on "olive" back. I cannot comment on this as I have only examples with normal backs.

E. V.Toeg

MISCELLANEA

SUBSCRIPTIONS

These were due on **February 1st, 1967**. Many members effect payment by banker's order and the appropriate form can be obtained upon application to the Hon. Secretary/Treasurer.

PUBLICATIONS

The following paper 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*.

WANTS

BRITISH GUIANA:

Q.E.II 2c. Newswrapper issued 25.1.1956

1c. ,, ,, 27.6.1956

} MINT preferred but used accepted.
--

If any member can supply please advise the Hon. Secretary.

OPINIONS SERVICE

Facilities are available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. Group. A fee of 5/- (70c.) per stamp or 7/- (\$1) per cover is charged. Members wishing to avail themselves of this service should send the stamp(s) and/or cover(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 item(s) within fourteen days.

BULLETINS:

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HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

DEAR MEMBER,

Most of us have probably visited one of the major philatelic exhibitions and have greatly appreciated the opportunity to view pages from a wide variety of collections. As you are no doubt aware the sponsoring organizations make various awards upon the recommendation of the panel of jurors. Whilst the basis on which the judging is made is not disclosed there is little doubt that due consideration is given to the material, condition, presentation, general interest and evidence of research. There are no restrictions on entries provided they comply with the rules laid down and competition for the main awards is invariably very strong. Whilst it can be assumed that each exhibitor has a good knowledge of his (or her) subject the inescapable fact remains that an entry which includes rare and outstanding items has, in most instances, involved a substantial financial outlay. Usually one section of the exhibits is devoted to literature and this is where, in my humble view, an entirely personal achievement presents itself since, up to the time of publication, outlay is confined to out-of-pocket expenses. I know from personal experience that compiling a work covering any group of stamps calls for the utmost patience in research (often frustrating as well as rewarding), collating facts, checking and re-checking. Then comes the writing up of all the notes in chronological sequence, submitting "copy" to the printers, reading and checking proofs and finally its being put to press. Time, above all else, is the predominant factor and up to two years or more may well be involved in such a project. Having said this it gives me the greatest pleasure to express, on behalf of you and all other members, my sincere congratulations to Leonard Britnor on his being awarded a Silver Medal for his book "MONTSERRAT" at the British Philatelic Exhibition held in London in November, 1966.

I take this opportunity to remind you that the 49th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at the University Arms Hotel, CAMBRIDGE, from 29th May to 3rd June. A varied programme has been arranged, both social and philatelic, and all who attend are assured of an enjoyable time.

In accordance with custom an up-to-date list of Members will be included in the June Bulletin and if there have been any changes in your main or ancillary interests do please let me know not later than April 8th next so that the necessary amendments can be made.

An overseas member has written to say how much he regrets the long time it takes for our Bulletin and other philatelic publications to reach him from the U.K. He adds that he often sends orders by airmail in response to advertisers but invariably has his remittance returned. The only way to overcome this difficulty is to despatch the Bulletin by Second-Class Air Mail. Any member

who wishes his Bulletin sent this way should notify me as soon as possible, enclosing a remittance for six shillings (or equivalent in local currency) to cover the additional cost for 1967. Commencing in 1968 it will be in order to add eight shillings (or equivalent in local currency) to the subscription due on February 1st each year,

I regret to say that only two members have been good enough to write to me in response to my invitation to offer suggestions the adoption of which might lead to a better attendance at our meetings. One of these - also resident overseas - raises a good point in stating that if our meetings were arranged to coincide with an Exhibition it would enable members to cover the two events. Since it so happens that our Anniversary Meeting is to be held on April 8th the day following the opening of STAMPEX I hope it will be possible for those members who are going to this Exhibition to find time to make the short journey to the Strand.

I conclude with the most encouraging news that the number of new members enrolled since my last report is sixteen. It is with pleasure that I record their names and extend a warm welcome to them on your behalf: Elmer C. Belts Jr. (U.S.A.), William G. Bogg (U.S.A.), R. W. Bush (Devon), W. A. B. Campbell (Northern Ireland), I. P. Chard (London), Paul J. Edwards (U.S.A.), James F. Evans (U.S.A.), Robert W. Grimble (U.S.A.), Thomas E. Moseley (U.S.A.), Gilbert N. Plass (U.S.A.), J. Shaxted (Essex), John H. Shepard (U.S.A.), Henry M. Spelman (U.S.A.), Miss M. Grace Sweeney (U.S.A.), T. H. Tse (Hong Kong) and L. A. Woodhead (Middlesex).

P.T.S

TRINIPLEX 1967

The TRINIDAD PHILATELIC SOCIETY is organizing an Exhibition to be held in the Ball Room at Queen's Park Hotel, Port of Spain, Trinidad, from 12-14th May this year to celebrate its Silver Jubilee.

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