



## **STUDY CIRCLE**

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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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**BULLETIN No. 75    DECEMBER 1972**

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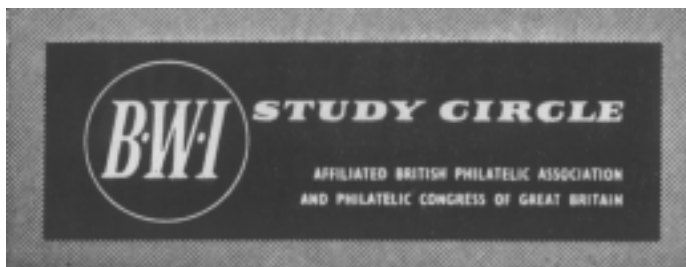
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## **OBJECTS**

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

ANTIGUA • BAHAMAS • BARBADOS  
BERMUDA • BRITISH GUIANA • BRITISH  
HONDURAS • CAYMAN ISLANDS • DOMINICA  
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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.
3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear post both ways.
4. To publicise 'wants'.
5. To furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription is £1.50 or the equivalent in local currency, due 15th February. If remitting in currency please add 40c to cover collection charges. Alternatively a draft for £1.50 DRAWN on London is acceptable. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

## PROGRAMME, 1973

**Jan. 17th, 6 p.m.** - British West Indies generally.

**Mar. 1st, 6 p.m.** - Mr. R. H. Austin - Bahamas.

**April 14th, 3 p.m.** - Annual General Meeting.

*Members are requested to bring up to 9 pages for the meeting on January 17th.*

The January and April meetings will be held at the "Large Oak Room," National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1.

The March meeting will be held at "The George" public house, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2.

## DISPLAY

Twenty members and one visitor attended the memorable display of Trinidad by one of our Vice-Presidents John B. Marriott which took place on the 30th September, 1972. It was indeed a privilege and a great pleasure to be able to see a portion of this wonderful gold medal collection of many years standing and in addition Mr. Marriott talked as the sheets were handed round and he dealt skilfully with all the questions which were put before him during the afternoon.

The display consisted of Trinidad up to 1882, and was mainly concerned with stamps from the era of recess-printing. Additional pages covering material from the period prior to the issue of the first postage stamps, the Lady McLeod, the lithographed issues and the first surface-printed 5/- denomination were included to complete the picture.

The first of the sheets handed round showed the earliest recorded Trinidad postal marking. This was a date stamp of "MAY 30 1806" similar to the later fleuron date stamps but without the fleuron device at the bottom. There were also examples of the two sizes of fleuron date stamp and a letter dated New Haven April 19th, 1848, which showed the "TRINIDAD/SHIP LETTER" in two lines, the arrival date stamp being "TRINIDAD MY 31 1848."

The Lady McLeod was represented by the unused example (with gum) formerly in the Sir William Avery and T. Charlton Henry Collections, and a used example pen cancelled on cover sheet dated 14th September 1847 in manuscript.

A full range of the first Perkins Bacon Britannia type followed, together with die and plate proofs and a photostat of the announcement of the start of the Inland Postal Service. This appeared on the title page of The Trinidad Royal Gazette of 13 August 1851, the notice being dated 6th August 1851.

Pages showing the shades characteristic of the various printings were then passed round. Another photostat, this time of the second page of the Post Master General's Report for the year 1861 (and covering the period 1852/61) showed the numerals allocated to the original 21 Post Offices and this was followed by examples of the types 01a, 01b and 02 numeral cancellations.

A comprehensive selection of the lithographed issues followed - these were produced locally in Trinidad to meet shortages of the Perkins Bacon stamps which occurred from time to time during the period 1852 to 1860. The first printings were marvellous examples of lithography, so good in fact that they were originally described in error as being from copper plates. However, the impressions deteriorated rapidly in later printings owing to imperfect clearing of the stone.

Covers were shown from all the five issues and there were also a number of pairs and strips. Special mention should be made of a superb corner copy of the first issue on yellowish paper on cover, a brilliant marginal example in the bright blue of the third issue (a great rarity on cover), a strip of four of the grey shade used on cover with (1d) compound pin perforation 13½, 14 x 12½ and, finally, a single of the last printing in red on a local letter (another great rarity on cover).

The later Perkins Bacon issues of 1859-61 then followed, including 4d, 6d, 1/- die proofs and also examples of these denominations used on cover; pin perforated 12½ stamps including the matchless unused set and a pair of 1/- used on a quadruple rate cover to Scotland; pin perforated 13½, 14 6d imperforate between vertical pair; clean cut perforation set with manuscript "Specimen," unused blocks of four and two (1d) imperforate between horizontal pairs: rough perforation unused in remarkably fresh condition and the set of four denominations obliterated "CANCELLED" between bars presented originally to the Rowland Hill family.

The De La Rue printings from the Perkins Bacon dies and plates began with the set of four die proofs in delicate colours on glazed card: (1d) and 6d compound perforation 11½ 12 x 11; 1/- perforated 13 mint; "Specimen" and "Cancelled" stamps of the period 1863 to 1882 and a number of imperforate examples of the 1863-75 issue; covers of the 1863-75 issue including some showing the "TOO LATE" hand stamp and others showing multiple frankings; the 1869 De La Rue surface printed 5/- stamp was represented by an essay, a die proof in colour, an imperforate pair and issued stamps including a block of four; 6d perforated 14 x 12½; HALFPENNY CA watermark mint block; 1d on 6d manuscript surcharge in black, a bisect used with a pair on piece.

The Postal Stationery was represented by the very rare first Inland Post Card used. There were also examples of Trinidad stamps cancelled D22 at Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela and also others obliterated with the French Anchor and dots mailboat cancellation.

This concluded the fifty sheets handed round but there was some additional material of the 1863-75 issue displayed on two frames. This consisted of unused and used blocks and multiples, and also pages showing the remarkable range of shades of the



various printings of the 4d and 6d denominations, allocated as far as possible to their respective printings.

Mr. W. A. Townsend proposed a sincere vote of thanks to Mr. Marriott for his remarks and display and mentioned some of the items which particularly appealed to him and also the fact that Mr. Marriott is the Curator of Her Majesty the Queen's collection which speaks for itself. Mr. A. H. Latham seconded and all present signified their approval and appreciation for a wonderful show by prolonged applause.

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## FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION

A "History of the Sailing Packets to the B.W.I.," by our member L. E. Britnor will be published shortly under the auspices of the Study Circle. It covers the period from the Dummer Packets, 1702, to the end of the Sailing Packets, 1842. The material for this book has been compiled painstakingly and with great skill mostly from original documents in the G.P.O. Record Office and it contains numerous illustrations and maps. It will have a hard-back binding with lettering on the front and on the spine.

The price has not yet been fixed, but it is anticipated that it will be in the region of £4.00 with postage extra, if ordered by members of the Study Circle in advance.

Copies may be reserved from now on (without payment) upon written application to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. I. P. Chard, 48 The Shrublands, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 2BW.

Please note that as Value Added Tax will be introduced on the 1st April, 1973, this tax will have to be taken into account for orders after that date.

It is hoped, therefore, to make a further announcement about the price in the next Bulletin.

*E. V. Toeg.*

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## OPINIONS SERVICE

Facilities are available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. Group for which a fee of 40p (.\$1.00) per stamp or cover is charged.\* Members wishing to take advantage of this service should send the stamp(s) or cover(s) to the Hon. Secretary enclosing a remittance for the appropriate fee together with an addressed envelope (stamped additionally for Registration or Recorded Delivery). Every endeavour will be made to return the item(s) within fourteen days. **All stamps or covers submitted are accepted entirely at the senders' risk and neither the Circle nor any of its members, collectively or individually, can be held responsible for the loss or damage of any item or for any opinion expressed.**

*\*In instances where it is necessary to consult more than one specialist anv additional postage will by charged to the sender.*

## ANTIGUA

### THE POSTAL HISTORY OF ENGLISH HARBOUR



I propose to make some remarks on this matter first raised by Mr. George W. Bowman on pages 5-13 of Bulletin No. 72 March 1972 and subsequently again referred to by him and Mr. R. G. Carr on pages 32 and 33 of Bulletin No. 73 June 1972.

The four types of cancellation illustrated above are all known by me to exist and I propose to write about each in turn.

**Type 1.** According to Mr. L. E. Britnor the Crowned Circle Paid At English Harbor handstamp was first sent out from G.P.O., London on 10th December 1857 when the branch post office of G.P.O., London was opened at English Harbor and I believe that this handstamp ceased to be used during May 1858 when contemporary Great Britain stamps came into use.

I, personally, have seen two examples of this handstamp (both in red or red brown) on entire or cover but I now regret that I did not note the dates of despatch and/or their arrival dates. One cover or entire is in the collection of Mr. A. W. Morley and the other is in the collection formed by our late member Mr. K. J. A. O. Manning who passed away just over a year ago. In the course of conversation with various persons from time to time I have heard that there may be one or two examples of this handstamp on piece but I have never seen any on piece. This handstamp is very rare as one would expect because of its short life as a cancellor and it should be noted that it has a single circle only whereas the Crowned Circle Paid at Antigua handstamp applied at St. John's has a double circle.

With regard to Mr. Bowman's 7 and 10 in Bulletin No. 72, I was referring to the Crowned Circle Paid At Antigua in my article (not the Crowned Circle Paid At English Harbor) and my remark was intended to suggest that there seemed to be more than one of these handstamps in use at the same time as I had noticed some small variations of this strike.

**Type 2.** The first occasion on which this obliterator was used was in connection with the contemporary stamps of Great Britain. I have it on an 1856 six pence lilac and Stanley Gibbons list it as also to be found on the one shilling green; it is very rare on the six pence lilac and I have never heard of an example on the one shilling green which is unpriced incidentally in the catalogue. This obliterator had a long life (I have 15 different line engraved stamps and 2 surface printed stamps cancelled by it) and it was certainly in use in December 1885. There is an illustration of a cover (which I will refer to again in these notes) on page 88 of Bulletin No. 122 November-December 1962 of the Postal History Society showing two very clear examples of the "A18" obliterator cancelling the stamps which was the correct use of the obliterator. Our member Mr J. A. C. Farmer has shown to me Leeward Islands SG.3 2½d with an "A18" obliterator and he stated that the late Mr. K. J. A. O. Manning doubted whether the obliterator was genuine. Having now seen this item I am of the opinion that this "A18" obliteration is forged.

I have never heard of or seen an "A18" duplex and I feel certain that such a canceller was never made and sent out by G.P.O., London to Antigua.

**Type 3.** This circular type handstamp was apparently not used to cancel the adhesives but seems to have been used as a backstamp. I have 3 examples of it, each being on cover and the dates are 10th February 1872, 11th February 1875 and 12th February 1877. Part of the date is inked in on the second example and the whole of the date was inked in on the third example. In the case of each cover the adhesives are tied to the cover by the "A18" obliterator. This circular shaped handstamp is rare and only a few examples of it are known. Answering Mr. Bowman's 14 it is not Robson Lowe standard type (PN) but although also not Robson Lowe standard type (PO) it is more likely this latter type.

**Type 4.** I now refer to the Article entitled "English Harbour. Two Antigua Covers" by the late Adrian Hopkins on pages 87-90 of Bulletin No. 122 November-December 1962 of the Postal History Society. The cover illustrated in the top half of page 88 is now in my collection and shows what I believe to be the only two surface printed stamps cancelled with an "A18" obliterator. However, what is more interesting is the fact that an English Harbour circular date stamp was also used to tie one of the adhesives to the cover. The same procedure was adopted in the case of the second cover which was described in the same article as being in my collection. So far as I know these are the only two examples on cover of this circular date stamp. For those who cannot easily refer to the Postal History Society Bulletins I quote the dates of these two similar circular date stamps as 14th December 1885 and 17th December 1885.

The late Major Hopkins was also puzzled about the date of the closing down of the post office at English Harbour. He also knew about the last mail steamer calling at English Harbour and this information was contained on page 78 of Bulletin No. 121 September-October 1962 of the Postal History Society. Mr. R. G. Carr who quoted

from page 180 of the 1935 Regent Encyclopaedia will note that the following quotation from the Postal History Society's Bulletin No. 121 contains some additional information:-

**"FOR THE ANTIGUA RECORD**

The last mail steamer called at English Harbour on 17th May 1878. Reference Antigua New Era May 14th, 1878."

As the Antigua New Era published this factual information three days before it was supposed to take place I can only assume that being a weekly or monthly it was trying to anticipate an event which would occur before its next issue.

I refer to the quotation from page 180 of the 1935 Regent Encyclopaedia that "In spite of this the 1d CC 14 exists postmarked at English Harbour 23.2.81, in an entirely different type." One of my two covers with Type 4 has eight 1d CC 14 stamps. The reference to an entirely different type of postmark most probably refers to Type 4.

Referring to Mr. Bowman's 16 and 21 the two covers I was referring to included one that belonged formerly to Dr. R. H. Urwick which is illustrated in Bulletin No. 122 of the Postal History Society already mentioned. Both the covers have Type 4 which is the first type English Harbour circular date stamp. The circular shaped handstamp which I referred to was Type 3.

Mr. Carr mentions that the Rev. R. B. Earée considered that the "A 18" obliterator was used in Barbuda. With all due respect to the Rev. R. B. Earée when he wrote there had never been a postal marking for Barbuda - in fact Barbuda's first postmark was introduced in 1922.

I agree entirely with Mr. S. Goldblatt's remarks on page 60 of the Study Circle's Bulletin No. 74 September 1972 and I hope that someone will illustrate any new type of English Harbour postmark used in the 20th Century or be able to confirm the use of Type 4 since 1900.

*E. V. Toeg.*

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## **BAHAMAS**

*The Bahamas 1967 regular issue on white "woodfree" paper. Some notes on the extent of its use.*

Readers will be aware that although printing orders for the stamps of Bahamas are handled by the Crown Agents the stamps themselves have since August 1967 been distributed to the philatelic trade by the Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation of New York. The contract with the Bahamas Government is for a five year period with an option for a further five years, the commemorative sets are limited to four per year. It appears that the Corporation have exercised their option for the extended period.

A new regular issue came into use in May 1967 and each of the 15 denominations was printed on what may be described as 'toned' paper. During 1970 it was noticed that some values were appearing on white "woodfree" paper the effect of which is to give the stamps quite a different appearance. The first to be noticed was the 1c value and later other values came through on commercially used covers; some with outstanding difference in colour as well as paper.

Mr. O. J. Urch of Urch Harris & Co. Ltd., of Bristol in his firm's monthly "W. H. Stamp Digest" (see Stamp Collecting 28 July 1971) gives a full account of his trip to Nassau in April 1971 to investigate this "woodfree" printing. The firm's correspondence with the Postmaster at Nassau had failed to produce results and the New York distributors to the trade had no supplies of the reprints.

The day before this 1967 issue was due to be withdrawn and replaced by the current regular issue Mr. Urch visited the Head Post Office at Nassau. Here he ascertained that all the 15 denominations except 4c, 12c and each of the three dollar values on the "woodfree" paper were on counter sale and that these other five values were available there for the asking. He placed his order for all except the 3c, 8c and 15c, values which he considered were well matched to the original printings: in due course he received his supplies in the normal way.

Before he left Nassau Mr. Urch ascertained that no other copies of the 4c, 12c, \$1, \$2 or \$3 had been sold and that consequently his order represented the "total quantities sold." These are:-

4c	1,600
12c	1,520
\$1	1,500
\$2	1,220
\$3	1,220

This 'set' of the 12 values was subsequently distributed to the Firm's new issue customers and given catalogue status in their 1972 Edition Commonwealth Catalogue (103 to 114). This firm and Messrs. M. and N. Haworth of Clitheroe, Lancs, claim to be the only dealers in the world to supply all 15 values through their New Issue Service.

Stanley Gibbons in their 1973 British Commonwealth Catalogue (published 31 July 1972) give catalogue status to all the 15 values printed on "whiter" paper. The 15c denomination is priced unused considerably higher than the \$2 and \$3 whilst the 8c denomination carries the same price as both these dollar values. Next in order of pricing are the \$1, 4c and 3c values. No price for any of the above is quoted for used copies. A footnote includes the information that the 4c, 12c, \$1, \$2 and \$3 were released "only a week or two before the issue was withdrawn." 1970 is given as the date of issue for all other values.

New plates were used for all of the "woodfree" stamps and thus they can be readily identified by those who are fortunate enough to possess marginal copies with plate numbers. Under an ultraviolet lamp however there is no possibility of mistaking the "woodfree" paper; all values show up with a fluorescence that is quite startling when compared with the dull dirty greyish look of the original printing. This of course applies to used as well as mint copies.

If an ultra-violet lamp is not available, good natural daylight is essential for sorting and distinguishing commercially used copies with untropicalised examples of the earlier toned paper printing available for comparison. It is not a task that can be undertaken satisfactorily without considerable patience and in some instances repeated re-examination.

Used examples of the 3c, 4c and 15c are probably more difficult to distinguish than any of the other values that have turned up on commercial mail but with a little experience the clear difference between the two papers and colour shades in the printing is unmistakable. In the absence of an ultra-violet lamp it is the 12 cent value in mint condition that possibly needs the closest study but the difference in the green colour is most noticeable when examined alongside the earlier printing. The only used examples of this value known to me are those 'philatelically' used.

For used copies the 1973 Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Catalogue prices only the 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 22c and 50c stamps and their prices indicate that they are all relatively common. From material handled by me this applies particularly to the 1c, 2c, 5c and 50c denominations. Other than the 1c and 50c with dates from July and October 1970 respectively all have 1971 postmarks.

The 3c value in spite of the price quoted for mint copies was extensively used on local mail in Nassau. The postmarks (mainly machine cancellations) on those I have seen date from April to November 1971. Unfortunately many copies lack dates on those cancelled by machine but it is clear that this denomination as a used stamp is relatively common. It should not command a high price.

It was in October 1970 that the existence of the 4c stamp on the whiter paper first came to my notice. Quite clearly this denomination was on sale in October 1970 or earlier. The used examples in my collection with 1970 dates appear with cancellations other than Nassau although in 1971 the postmarks from there are dated as late as October. The G.P.O. at Nassau must clearly have been mistaken in advising Mr. Urch that the 1,600 copies sold to him in April 1971 comprised the initial if only sale of this particular value.

The 8c denomination covered the inter-island minimum Air Mail postage rate. From the used copies I have seen it appears that the whiter paper printing was distributed widely to out-island sub post offices. Examples I have, bear dated postmarks between early April and December 1971 from Mangrove Cay, Inagua, Freeport, Governors Harbour, San Salvador and Man-of-War Cay. Mint copies are priced as being of equivalent value to the \$2 and \$3 denominations. In due course this 8c stamp postally used may prove to be relatively common compared with the value now placed on mint examples. Messrs. Haworth in November 1971 said they thought used copies are probably worth a little less than mint ones.

The existence of the new printing for the 15c stamp was first recorded by me from two copies franking a package from Nassau received on 4 April 1971. About the same time a mint copy came into my possession. From the dozen or so used copies I have seen it would appear that machine cancelled examples postmarked in the earlier months of 1971 cannot be scarce. At present mint examples command a higher price than any other of the 14 denominations.

As regards used examples of the 12c and each of the three dollar values I have only seen copies cancelled to order and thus I can offer no comments except that no used copies of the 12c denomination on the whiter paper have turned up in the commercial mail on which these notes are based. This stamp may well turn out to be scarcest of the cent values, if unlike the 4c value, no examples other than the 1,520 sold to Mr. Urch appear on the market at some future date.

It must be recorded that these notes are written in September 1972 before the publication of the 1973 edition of either Stanley Gibbons Elizabethan or the Commonwealth Catalogues. Each or either of these publications will, I hope, provide some rethinking and reliable up to date information and pricing and so add to what has already been said about these interesting stamps. Obviously complete sets either mint or used must be scarce and had it not been for the persistence and enterprise of Mr O. J. Urch collectors might well have been deprived of the true story of these re-prints and some values might never have seen the light of day. Is it too much to hope that the Postmaster at Nassau will one day produce conclusive evidence of the destruction of the remainder of these re-prints?

*R. H. Austin*

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The following list of Post Offices has been submitted by Mr B. G. Lythgoe who states that it is correct to June 1972.

**ABACO**

**Marsh Harbour (D.P.O.)**

Hope Town  
Man-O-War Cay  
Great Guana Cay  
Dundas Town  
Crossing Rocks  
Cherokee Sound

**Green Turtle Cay (D.P.O.)**

Cooper's Town  
Fox Town  
Cedar Harbour

**Sandy Point (D.P.O.)**

Moores Island

**ANDROS**

Mangrove Cay  
Deep Creek  
Kemps Bay  
Long Bay Cays  
Pleasant Bay  
Driggs Hill  
The Bluff (D.P.O.)

**Fresh Creek (D. P.O.)**

Behring Point  
Staniard Creek  
San Andros

**Nicoll's Town (D. P.O.)**

Lowe Sound  
Mastic Point  
Bullocks Harbour (Berry Islands)  
Owens Town

**BIMINI**

**Alice Town (D.P.O.)**

**CROOKED ISLAND**

**Colonel Hill (D. P.O.)**

Fairfield  
Landrail Point  
True Blue  
Church Grove  
Major's Cay

**ACKLINS**

Chester  
 Lovely Bay  
 Pompey Bay  
 Snug Corner  
 Spring Point  
 Binnacle Hill  
 Salina Point  
 Long Cay

**ELEUTHERA****Governor's Harbour (D.P.O.)**

Gregory Town  
 Alice Town  
 Hatchet Bay  
 James Cistern  
 North Palmetto Point  
 South Palmetto Point  
 Savannah Sound

**Rock Sound (D.P.O.)**

Tarpum Bay  
 Deep Creek  
 Green Castle  
 Wemyss Bight  
 Bannerman Town

**EXUMA****George Town (D.P.O.)**

Williams Town  
 Forbes Hill  
 The Ferry  
 Rolle Town  
 Moss Town  
 Mount Thompson  
 Steventon  
 Rolleville  
 Barratterre  
 Farmer's Cay  
 Black Point  
 Staniel Cay

**CAT ISLAND**

Arthur's Town (D. P.O.)  
 Bennetts Harbour  
 Industrious Hill  
 Orange Creek

**The Bight (D. P.O.)**

Devils Point  
 Knowles  
 Old Bight  
 Port Howe

**GRAND BAHAMA****West End (D.P.O.)****Freeport (D.P.O.)**

Eight Mile Rock  
 Smith Point

**High Rock (D.P.O.)**

McLeans Town  
 Sweetings Cay

**HARBOUR ISLAND****Harbour Island (D.P.O.)**

Current Island  
 Spanish Wells  
 The Bluff  
 Upper Bogue  
 Lower Bogue  
 Little Bay, Current Island

**INAGUA****Matthew Town (D.P.O.)****LONG ISLAND****Clarence Town (D.P.O.)**

Deadmans Cay  
 Lower Deadmans Cay  
 Burnt Ground  
 Grays  
 Sam McKinnons  
 Mortimers  
 Roses  
 Salt Pond  
 Scrub Hill  
 Simms  
 Seymours  
 Stella Maris

**MAYAGUANA****Abraham's Bay (D.P.O.)**

Pirates' Well

**RAGGED ISLAND****Ragged Island (D.P.O.)****RUM CAY****Rum Cay (D.P.O.)****SAN SALVADOR****Cockburn Town (D.P.O.)**

United Estates



**NEW PROVIDENCE**  
General Post Office  
Mackey (Ernest) Street  
Grant's Town  
Fox Hill  
Gambier

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## **BARBADOS**

I recently acquired a cover bearing a strike of the Colonial Postmaster/Barbados B.W.I. handstamp (Benwell & Britnor type M12b) with a c.d.s. of 7 June 1945. This is four years earlier than the previous earliest known date of 2 July 1949 mentioned in the June 1969 issue of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal.

*Tom Giraldi*

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### **RED CROWNED CIRCLE**

Can any member provide me with the latest known date of use of this mark in 1858.

*S. Caw*

### **WHY NOT COLLECT BERMUDA?**

Apart from the Perot stamps which were a local issue and which are so scarce that few collectors can possess one, Bermuda, although one of the older British colonies, only entered the adhesive stamp-issuing world in 1865. It was a result of the Act of 1864, no 28, which was quite comprehensive and which inter alia, enacted rates of postage:

Inland: Letters and Parcels 1d. per ounce

Newspapers free

Books 1d. per volume.

to B.W.I. and British North America: 6d. per half ounce, to United Kingdom: 1/- per half ounce.

Thus there was a requirement for stamps of at least three denominations, 1d., 6d. and 1/-. By 1865 Perkins Bacon were out of favour with the Crown Agents and De La Rue were taking over the printing of stamps for the Colonies more and more, so the first Bermudan stamps supplied by the Crown Agents were printed by De La Rue. That meant, of course, that they used the process they favoured, surface printing, following the superb engraving work by Jean Joubert. Production problems were not unknown so that, although the printing was generally of a high standard, well-centred copies are quite scarce.

In 1866 a 2d. stamp was issued.

In 1872 the postage rate to British North America was reduced to 3d. per half ounce. When requesting a supply of 3d. stamps the Colonial Secretary of Bermuda added "Also we should prefer the effigy (of Her Majesty) to be in a different style, viz:- one representing Her Majesty at her present age in her ordinary head dress of ceremony all of which may be copied from any good recent engraving or photograph." Probably he had in mind a stamp recently issued in Newfoundland; but whilst no record exists regarding what happened to the suggestion, 10,000 3d. stamps bearing the usual Queen's head were supplied five months later. In less than 12 months the stock was exhausted and the Postmaster General of Bermuda was authorised to issue one shilling postage stamps as threepenny stamps with a distinct surcharge on them.

A few 1d. stamps were also surcharged THREE PENCE but these are considered to be essays and were not originally supposed to have been issued although, in fact, some apparently passed through the post genuinely. Forgeries, some of them dangerous, of both these rarities exist.

In 1875 stocks of the 1d. value were exhausted so, only 12 months after the first provisionals, it was necessary to resort to the same procedure again: 2d., 3d. and 1/- stamps were overprinted 'One Penny.' Much of the type used was worn and contained damaged letters, breaks and missing serifs. Rarities are the varieties of 1d. on 2d. and 1d. on 1/- with the Full Stop missing; there are dangerous forgeries of them too.

In 1872 the rates on letters to foreign European countries were made uniform at 8½d. per half ounce. Bermuda had no halfpenny stamp but the situation was relieved four years later by an increase in the rate to 9d.

Discussions between the United States and Bermuda ended in a Postal Convention, operative from 1st October 1876, by which the postage rate from Bermuda to the U.S.A. was to be reduced to 2½d. per half ounce. However Bermuda still had no halfpenny stamp so the rate for all half-ounce letters was 2d. until a halfpenny stamp was eventually issued in 1880. In the intervening four years the Bermudan Post Office lost 1d. on every half-ounce letter to the U.S.A.

Late in 1876 the rate on letters to the U.K. by some routes was reduced to 6d. per half ounce, and on 1st April 1879 the rate by all routes was reduced to 4d. per half ounce. Thus a 4d. stamp was very desirable: this was issued in 1880 on the same day as the ½d. stamp.

Until this time stamps had been printed on paper watermarked Crown CC but during 1882 De La Rue & Co. started using paper watermarked Crown CA and as further supplies of stamps were required they were supplied on paper with the new watermark. The 1d. stamp was the first, in 1883, and although used in the same year, the change was not noticed until 1886. Other values followed, sometimes printed in different colours, and a 2½d. value was introduced in 1884 essentially for the letter rate to the United States. It was also very useful for the 2½d. per half ounce rate to England prevailing from 1st January 1894.

Apart from the overprints many of the above stamps are very reasonably priced even now and they can make one or more interesting pages. Covers which illustrate the various rates of postage mentioned above are attractive.

Late in 1900 it was decreed that newspapers which had previously been conveyed free on the island should be charged at the rate of ¼d. per two ounces as from 1st January 1901. This did not allow much time for the production of a ¼d. stamp so De La Rue were instructed by the Crown Agents to overprint some 1/- stamps printed in a distinct colour; grey was chosen.

The first consignment was put on sale on 11th January 1901 and the 1000 sheets (240,000 stamps) were sold within 24 hours; they were mostly bought by speculators! Until a new supply was obtained newspapers were conveyed free, as before, but in March 1901 a further 486,000 stamps arrived and in September 1901 488,000 more arrived: these lasted until 1908! Even to-day, over half a century later, mint blocks of these stamps are easy to find and are inexpensive.

In 1902 the first of the "Dock" type was issued and others followed until the 4d. value in 1909. During the eight years of currency these issues appeared in three forms, with watermark Crown CA, watermark Multiple Crown CA and lastly in Universal colours. None of the three was issued for long and it is not surprising, therefore, that covers bearing the stamps are scarce. The design, regarded as inartistic, was unpopular; before many years a desire for a change was expressed.

In 1909 a committee was appointed to organise celebrations to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the wreck of a ship and the landing from it of Admiral Sir George Somers near St. Georges in July 1609. One of the committee's proposals was the issue of a special set of stamps to be valid only during the celebrations. The idea was not looked upon with favour but it led to the suggestion that there should be a new permanent issue and so there evolved the "Ship" type, a very pleasing design indeed. It formed the general issue, up to 1/- value, from 1910 to 1936.

In those 26 years there was a change of watermark, there were shades of most values in both watermarks and changes of colour of a few values.

Most interesting of all, however, is the ingenious method used for the production of the stamps: De La Rue used the line-engraved process, but with a difference. Although several values of stamps were involved they only produced one steel plate with 120 impressions (without value) in the orthodox way. Then they took lead impressions from the steel plate, under hydraulic pressure. Each lead sheet obtained was immersed in a battery so that copper would be deposited and thus copper plates grown on them; afterwards the lead was removed leaving impressions in the copper. Duties indicating the value of the stamps were carefully engraved in the blank space of each stamp and then the plates were ready for use.

In any process where the engraved impression is transferred to a contacting medium, a small amount of definition of the engraving is lost at each transfer. Even the stamp productions of Perkins Bacon which involved two transfers are not quite so well defined as die proofs. By now De La Rue were extending the process by a further two transfers first onto lead and finally onto copper. Thanks to the extremely high quality of work the final results were quite acceptable but it cannot be denied that many of the edges of the lines of ink in the common design are not very sharply defined.

The extension of the process had the advantage that once the steel master plate had been made, there was a saving in labour for the production of the copper plates from

which the stamps were printed. But despite all the care taken in making the master plate, it was necessary to make fresh entries with the transfer roller on it before the lead impressions were taken; there are also some retouches. The features of these fresh entries and retouches appear on stamps of all values. There are several retouches on the copper plates also: these, of course, do not repeat on stamps of other values and printed from other plates.

Even this is not all. Stamps of the four values most commonly used ( $\frac{1}{4}$ d.,  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) were produced in sheets of 120, the lead sheets used having 120 impressions on them from the steel master plate. But stamps of the other five values (2d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 1/-) were printed in sheets of 60, the lead sheets having only covered the left hand vertical half of the master plate and so having only 60 impressions on each of them. Thus the numbering of stamps having the same master plate retouch in the two sizes of sheets will be different: for example No. 10 in a sheet of 120 corresponds to No. 4 in a sheet of 60, and No. 80 in a sheet of 120 corresponds to No. 38 in a sheet of 60.

Some of the copper plates of the commonly used values were replaced during the 26 years of issue of the stamps, there being four plates of the 1d. value in this way. Each of them had retouches.

Finally, when a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp was required in 1934, De La Rue started again and used a re-engraved die with the figures of value included. Thus the stamps were printed from a plate bearing 120 impressions made by the transfer roller. The improvement in appearance and clearness of the lines is readily seen: and there is no variety!

The issues of the "Ship" type are fascinating: they include two watermarks, shades and changes of colour, fresh entries and retouches on the master plate and retouches on the printing plates. Truly, a most interesting hunting ground for philatelists)

(To be concluded)

*J. C. Loach*

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## **GRENADA**

I have an E.L. from Grenada to Scotland on which is struck what would appear to be an hitherto unrecorded straight line handstamp.

I cannot recall having seen a similar mark and it is not recorded in Charlton's handbook. The mark measures 36mm by 4mm and is in capitals with serifs all in the same case.

The letter is dated 19th November 1785 and is complete with the bill of landing referred to in the body of the letter. It would appear, therefore, that this mark had a very short life sometime in the early part of the year 1785. I have an E.L. of the known First type "Charlton's A1" dated 17th January 1785, and I know of a crown in circle mark Charlton's A2 dated 25th January 1786. It will be interesting to know whether any member has a similar mark or can limit the use by reference to copies of Charlton A2.

I suppose it is possible that two or more marks could have been current at the same time, but there is considerable evidence against this suggestion. The other recorded marks do not appear to overlap. Is there any evidence that two or more straight line marks of other islands in the group were in use at the same time? I have in mind the two types of straight line strikes used in Antigua and St. Kitts which Mr. Britnor tells me were not specifically noticed until the Codrington correspondence came on the market.

*C. M. Payne*

## LEEWARD ISLANDS

On the 12th May, 1970, Robson Lowe Ltd. sold a Leeward Is. stamp under the following description:-

"1890 1d. surcharge "½/PENNY" in two lines, possibly bogus but the surcharging is well executed and this could be an essay for a 1902 provisional."

The auction realisation (£12) shows that at least two would-be buyers had faith in the authenticity of the essay: the stamp, which was lot 500, is illustrated in the catalogue at page 39.

There have now reached the London market four more stamps whose origins are at least equally obscure. They are as follows:-

(1) 1890 ½d. surcharged FARTHING in sans-serif block capitals, measuring about 14¼ x 2 mm. above a bar 18 mm. in length. The surcharge is struck in black above the value tablet.

(2) 1890 ½d. overprinted O.S. in black. The overprint resembled Type 103 of New South Wales, except that a square stop follows each letter. The letters are about 4½ mm. in height and the overprint measures almost 16½ from the beginning of the O to the final stop.

(3) 1890 2½d. bearing both the FARTHING surcharge and the O.S. overprint described above.

(4) 1890 1d. overprinted "Service" in a type which resembles Type 01 of India.

The type-settings of these four stamps in no way resemble the Robson Lowe essay, but are just as clearly and cleanly printed. They are thus neither obviously spurious, nor obviously genuine.

One has few clues in the British West Indies themselves, perhaps. Nowhere was "Service" ever used on "Official" stamps in these parts, although British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad all had their "official" issues in the 19th century, and the 1894 issue for Trinidad was of course overprinted OS. As for the ¼d. rate, only Barbados used it before 1900, beginning with the well-known crowned circle provisionals. The surcharge described is not unlike Type 12 of Bermuda, which dates from 1900, but is not of identical type. There is nothing to indicate that the printing was, or was not, carried out by De La Rue, except insofar as one may draw a negative inference from the absence of any mention in Easton's immensely detailed history of that concern.

May I throw the debate open to the pundits, as always. Someone may have seen a clue in the Leeward Islands Gazette: someone may have read of the conception and

birth of the 1909 ¼d. stamp: or someone's great-uncle may have watched a "master-forger" actually creating bogus stamps!

Whatever the solution - and I hope one will be found - the last word has still to be written on Leeward Is. Victorian stamps.

*S. Goldblatt.*

## ST. KITTS-NEVIS

An example of S.G. 17 in my collection appears to be overstruck with the words "COLLECT POSTAGE," a 2-line handstamp in block capitals. Is this to indicate that the stamp was used for the collection of postage due? And, if so, why use a 2½d. stamp?

*S. Goldblatt.*

## TRINIDAD

It may be of interest to record the finding of numeral 11 of Type 04 on a 1d. stamp of the 1876 issue. Mr. Marriott has noted that this numeral appears occasionally on 1901-09 issues.

A further addition to Mr. Marriott's listing is numeral 22 of Type 06. The strike is a poor one, but unmistakable; it is on a copy of S.G.127.

Trinidad postal markings are seldom colourful, and members may be amused by a fairly modern cover in my hands. It set off from Port of Spain for Havana on 10.9.34, addressed to a well known insurance office, but it came to grief in Cuba a fortnight later: back and front of the cover are decorated in garish violet with a picture of a wrist and hand with pointing finger, adorned with information, "Habana Devuelta al Remitente Lista Retournee a L'Envoyeur" (Returned to sender), as well as a wealth of other back and front stamps: for instance, "Cumplido en Lista No reclamdao Non reclame" (not claimed) "PREGONADO" (whatever that means) and a reminder in Spanish that the centenary of Finlay's birth took place in 1933, and he rid the world of yellow fever.

Port of Spain was not to be outdone, and when the cover arrived back in Trinidad 3 months later, the postal authorities produced their finest crimson ink. The strike reads, "RETD. LTR. OFFICE TRINIDAD in a 24 mm. circle, the interior showing the date 10.1.35 between two arcs of a 16 mm. circle, the arcs being hatched with fine horizontal lines. Cancellations of the Swiss or Bridge type were in normal use in Trinidad in the '20's and '30's, and are unimpressive when struck in black; full credit then to the G.P.O. for the imaginative and artistic envoi which they added to this Cuban phantasmagoria.

*S. Goldblatt.*

# TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

I was most interested to read Mr. Goldblatt's list of Post Offices in Bulletin No. 71.

As regards Turks and Caicos Islands, as far as I am aware there is only the G.P.O. on Grand Turk and two S.P.O.'s: one at Cockburn Harbour and the other at Salt Cay.

There are an additional four Postal Agencies but mail from them is not distinctively marked and is cancelled at Grand Turk; they are situated at Middle Caicos, Providencials and two at North Caicos. I presume that the agency at Providencials is the successor to the office that gave rise to the mysterious "Blue Hills" mark mentioned in Bulletin No. 44.

M. R. Wilson.

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## AUCTION GLEANINGS

### STANLEY GIBBONS AUCTIONS LTD.

#### Sale of February 17th and 18th, 1972

- Cayman Islands:** 1932 Centenary, 10/-, S.G.95, corner block of 4 (1 short perf. at foot), O.G. £102
- Grenada:** 1891, 2½d. on 8d. "triple surch." S.G.47e, two inverted (from tête-bêche pair), used, R.P.S. cert. £38
- St. Kitts:** 1950, Tercent'y, 1½d. error "St. Edward's Crown" K.G. VI Cat. S13b, in corner control block of 4 (with 3 normals), error centrally placed on one stamp, o.g. £25
- Trinidad:** 1855 (Mch.) Litho, (1d.) greenish blue, S.G.15, (two tiny natural paper flaws) numeral "1" bar canc., on portion of cover (July 1855) to Europe, various transit marks inc. red England per "Aachen" double circle date strike and MS "¼"rate £62

#### Sale of April 19th-21st, 1972

##### BOOKLETS

- British Guiana:** 1944, 24c., white stitching *School Supplies* ad. with 8 at 2c. and 8 at 1c. £14
- Jamaica:** 1921-29, complete booklet with tissue adverts. £36
- Jamaica:** 1938, light blue cover stapled at r., 18 at 1d. scarlet, 12 at ½d. blue-green, o/s back cover "Air mail Rates" £16
- Jamaica:** Ditto, stapled at left £15
- Jamaica:** Ditto, light yellow cover, stapled at left, back cover blank £15

<b>Antigua:</b> 1863-67, 1d. dull rose, S.G.6, vert strip of 4, o.g.	£27
<b>Bermuda:</b> 1874, 3d. on 1/-, S.G. 14, light canc, R.P.S. cert.	£65
<b>Dominica:</b> 1923-27, £1, S.G.91, marginal, o.g.	£22
<b>St. Christopher:</b> 1883, Nevis 4d. orange with black Revenue ov'pt., diagonal handstamp St. Christopher reading downwards, in violet in 2 lines, complete sheet of 12, (sl. toning)	£22
<b>St. Lucia:</b> 1949-50, 12c.perf. 14½ x 14, S.G.153, o.g.	£32
<b>St. Vincent:</b> 1823. Pre-adhesive with large Fleuron on reverse ms. 4/8 on front	£19
<b>Trinidad &amp; Tobago:</b> 1960-65, 60c perf 14, S.G.295a, marginal block of 4, o.g.	£34

## H. R. HARMER LTD.

### Sale of June 5th to 8th, 1972

#### Bahamas

1901. Plate proof of the centre vignette (Queen's Staircase) in blue on thin card, block of 4 (a little creased)	£60
1918 (June-July) War Tax )d., var. wmk. sideways, S.G.107a, mint from top of sheet with Plate No. (faint horiz. crease)	£39
1921-29, £1, S.G.131, part o.g., block of 4	£65
Ditto, another from lower-left corner of sheet with Plate No., large part o.g.	£90
Ditto, another from lower-right corner of sheet with Plate No., large part o.g.	£90
1942. Landfall 4d. a part o.g. horiz. pair, left stamp var. "COIUMBUS," Comm. S10a, central slightly to upper left	£40
Special Delivery, 1916, 5d. black and orange, var. ovpt. double, S.G.S1a, part o.s. (faint vert. gum crease). R.P.S. cert.	£48
Special Delivery, 1916, 5d., var. ovpt. double, one inv., S.G.S1b, part o.g. (a little soiled at top and minute gum thin). R.P.S. cert.	£62.50

### Sale of July 3rd and 4th, 1972

<b>Bahamas:</b> 1863, CC, 4d. rose, imperf. Imprimatur, unused (close at top)	£30
<b>Barbados:</b> 1873, 6d. or.-verm., unused block of 9 from left of sheet, var. Imperf., S.G.60b (a little stained and creased)	£32
<b>Barbados:</b> 1875-78, 4d., unwatermarked Plate Proof, block of 4 from bottom of sheet.	£14
<b>Bermuda:</b> 1938-53, 12/6 grey and yellow, S.G.120b, centred slightly to lower left. R.P.S. cert.	£44
<b>Cayman Islands:</b> 1921-26, 4½d., Plate Proof in blue on ungummed unwatermarked paper, block of 12 (2 x 6) from top of sheet (some heavy creases and a little soiled)	£50

*Rose Saunders.*



## HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Member,

I have pleasure in announcing that Miss B. J. Collinson has agreed to act as a Public Relations Officer for the Circle following a decision in Committee to create this post. Mr. Freeland has agreed to give some help to the Circle in regard to advertising in the Bulletin.

Our congratulations are extended to Mr. Minoru Ishihara who was awarded the Vermeil plus special prize in BELGICA 1972 for his St. Vincent collection.

I have received a supply of prospectuses for the Stampex 1973 Trophy Exhibition. Any member who feels that he has any interesting material to show at Stampex may obtain a prospectus from me or direct from Stampex, 27 John Adam Street, London, WC2N6HZ.

I welcome some new members to the Circle, they are Dr. Joan Harper of Colwyn Bay, Wales who specialises in British Honduras; Mr Robert F. W. Cook, of Harrogate, Yorkshire who specialises in St. Lucia, St. Kitts and St. Vincent; Mr. John Horsfield of Cambridge who has interests throughout the entire group of Islands; Mr. Vincent Duggleby of London who specialises in St. Vincent, and Mr. George L. W. Clarke of Barbados who specialises in the postmarks and Postal History of Barbados.

Following a Committee meeting of the Circle it was decided that a list of members be published once every two years and that this list should include the addresses of the members so that members may be able to communicate with one another more easily. However, it is appreciated that some members may not want their addresses disclosed or may wish to have "care of" addresses shown. Any member who wishes to have his address excluded from the list should get in touch with me within the next few months. The new list will not be issued until the middle of 1973.

*Ian Chard*

Congratulations are offered to the following members who gained awards at the British Philatelic Exhibition, 1972.

British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group Award and Silver Medal: Miss B. J. Collinson.

Silver & Bronze Silver Medals: B. B. Benwell.

## BULLETINS

Copies of back numbers - some being XEROX copies - are obtainable (subject to being in stock) from the Hon. Librarian as follows:

Nos. 1-7 (reprint in one cover), 75p (\$2.00).

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