



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

Founder:

P. T. SAUNDERS, F.R.P.S.L.

President:

E. V. TOEG

Vice-Presidents:

J. B. MARRIOTT, F.R.P.S.L., R.D.F.

W. A. TOWNSEND, F.R.P.S.L., R.D.F.

BULLETIN No.99 DECEMBER 1978

Advert

RICHARD BODILY

Advert

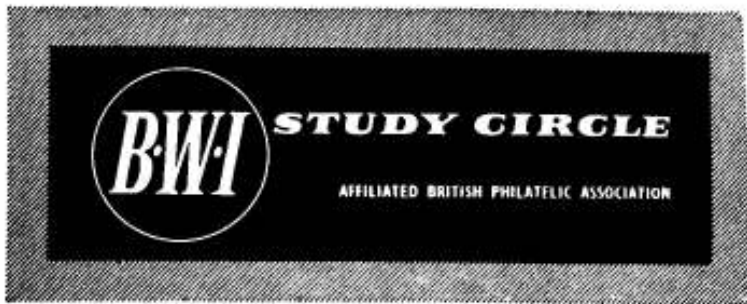
JAMES BENDON

Advert

ROBSON LOWE LTD.

Advert

BRIDGER & KAY LTD.



- Acting Hon. Secretary :* **I. P. CHARD**
48 Shrublands, Potters Par, Herts. EN6 2BW
Tel. Potters Par 54491
- Hon. Treasurer :* **S.A.BAKER,**
15, Emmott Avenue,
Barkingside, Ilford, Essex, IG6 1AL
Tel: 01-554 8127
- Hon. Editor :* **M. SHEPPARD**
6 Copsleigh Close, Salfords, Surrey RH1 5BH
Tel. Redhill 63936
- Hon. Librarian:* **S. E. PAPWORTH**
Tir Nan Og, Pembroke Road, Manorbier,
Dyfed, SA 70 7SX.
- Committee :* **B. B. BENWELL, F. D. FITZGERALD, O.B.E.,**
S. GOLDBLATT, A. H. LATHAM,
J. C. LOACH, F.R.P.S.L.
- Hon. Auditor :* **A. J. BRANSTON, F.R.P.S.L.**

OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the **British West Indies** and in addition **BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS.**
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. List supplied on application.
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 **£2.50** or the equivalent in local currency, due **1st January**. If remitting in currency **please add 40c to cover collection charges**. An International Money Order or Draft drawn on London is acceptable. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.

PROGRAMME 1979

1979

Wed., Jan. 17th, 6 p.m.

Nine pages from members.

Thurs. Feb. 15th, 6 p.m.

Nine pages from members.

Wed., Mar. 21st, 6 p.m.

John B. Marriott, Trinidad.

Sat., Apr. 21st, 3 p.m.

A.G.M. and Auction.

All meetings will be held at Stanley Gibbons Auction Room, Drury House, Russell St., London, W.C.2.

VISITS TO OTHER SOCIETIES

1979

Mon. Feb. 5th 6 p.m.

Civil Service P.S.

8, St. James' Square, SW1

Simon Goldblatt & Basil Benwell

DISPLAY

On 30th September, 1978 Mr. L.E. Britnor displayed a selection of pages from his very extensive and eruditely written up postal history collection of the British West Indies to eleven members and two visitors. A summary of the bulk of the pages displayed and of his accompanying remarks is set out below.

Mr. Britnor first dealt with the conveyance of mail from the seventeenth century down to the commencement of the mail service by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. to the West Indies at the end of December, 1841 when the "Thames" left Falmouth on her maiden voyage. He showed most, if not all, of the entires and covers illustrated in his book 'British West Indies Postal Rates up to 1900' and also supplemented these with additional entires and covers and also a number of original Post Office Notices and photo copies where the originals were not available.

Mr. Britnor explained the difference between Ship Letters and Packet Letters by saying that Ship Letters were carried by private ship, originally with no markings, but that from about the mid 1760's a Ship Letter mark was impressed at the port of arrival whereas Packet Letters were letters carried by a boat under contract with or in the service of the Post Office. The earliest Packet service was run by a Mr. Edmund Dummer between 1702-11 but his service was short lived due to a series of maritime disasters of one kind or another resulting in his bankruptcy.

Mr. Britnor stated that there is now evidence of the first signs of a fresh Packet service, started shortly after 1745 but it was spasmodic although it did result in a regular Post Office Packet Service to the West Indies commencing in 1755. He also stated that the only certain way of telling whether a letter travelled as a Ship Letter or as a Packet Letter prior to the introduction of marks is to study the rate charged and this usually provides the answer.

The following letters illustrate various methods used in conveying British West Indies mail and the postal rates charged:

1. Entire Letter from Jamaica to London dated 11th January, 1678/79 showing no postal marking and no postal charge. This item was carried privately; in the early days

personal arrangements had to be made, for example, by handing a letter to someone who was travelling.

2. 1695 Entire Letter from Jamaica to London handed to the Captain of a Merchant ship with the directive “p ye Tyger/Q.D.C.” (Qnam Deus Conservat); charge “1N8” in manuscript, should have been “1N6” - a double letter, hence 2 x 9d, the Ship Letter rate. The Entire was re-directed to Salisbury, 2 x 3d. Hence originally “1N8” which was deleted and “In all 2N” (2/-) substituted therefor.

3. 1708 Packet Letter from Jamaica to London, being one of the very few letters known to have been carried by Edmond Drummer on one of his packet boats, in this case the Packet Frankland. The directive was “p the Franklin pacquet Q.D.C.”, charge: “1N6” in manuscript being the rate for a single letter at the time.

4. 1758 early Packet Letter from Jamaica to Bristol with no mark of origin. Charge “1N6” in manuscript deleted and “In all 1N10” substituted therefor, consisting of the Packet rate at that time to London 1/6d and London to Bristol 4d.

5. Letters carried by Warship in the normal course of duty were treated as Ship Letters. An example of such a letter in 1700 from Jamaica to Edinburgh was endorsed “per His Majesty’s Ship Dreadnought”; charge: “In all 10” in manuscript consisting of the Port of arrival to London 3d., London to Edinburgh 6d and the Master’s gratuity 1d.

6. 1704 Ship Letter from Jamaica to Edinburgh; charge: (4d deleted), Master’s gratuity 1d, from Port of arrival to London 3d and London to Edinburgh 6d, hence “In all 10” in manuscript.

7. 1769 Ship Letter from Jamaica to London handstamped “DEAL/ SHIP LRE”, charge: “4” in manuscript consisting of the Master’s gratuity 1d and Deal to London 3d. This must be one of the earliest letters handstamped with a Ship Letter mark as it was not until the late 1760’s that such marks were issued to assist Postal Clerks to assess the correct charge.

8. 1775 Packet Letter from Jamaica to Edinburgh, charge: “1N” (1/-) in manuscript deleted and “1N6” substituted therefor consisting of the Packet Letter rate to London 1/- and London to Edinburgh 6d.

9. 1778 Packet Letter from London to Jamaica, charge: “1N” (1/-) in manuscript. As this letter was pre-paid the POST PAID handstamp and the charge “1N” are both in red.

10. 1787 Ship Letter from Grenada to London handstamped “DOVER/ SHIP LRE”, charge: “5” in manuscript consisting of the Master’s gratuity 1d and Dover to London 4d.

11. When short of Packet boats the Post Office occasionally hired a ship from the Navy and letters carried by such ships are treated as Packet Letters and charged accordingly. An example of such a letter posted in 1798 from Jamaica to Hillsborough, Nr. Dublin was shown, charge: “2/6” in manuscript consisting of the Packet Letter rate to London 1/8d, London to Dublin 8d and Dublin to Hillsborough 2d.

12. 1799 Packet Letter from St. Kitts to London handstamped with the two line ST KITTs/MAY 22.99, charge: “1/8” in manuscript being the normal Packet Letter rate in London at the time. It should be noted that dated postmarks were introduced

in the British Weal Indies in 1799 following a petition from Lloyds underwriters as a result of an insurance fraud.

13. An Act of 1795 established a privileged 1d rate for single letters sent by Packet by or to a serving sailor or soldier provided the 1d was pre-paid. An example of this type of letter to Jamaica in 1801 was shown with the 1d pre-paid.

14. 1807 Packet Letter from Liverpool in Tortola via Falmouth, charge: “6½ bits” on delivery at Tortola - one bit was approximately equal to 4d sterling.

15. 1820 Packet Letter from Jamaica to Ayr, Scotland, charge: “2/11½” in manuscript consisting of the Packet Letter rate to Falmouth at that time 1/3d, Falmouth to Ayr via Bristol 1/8d and an additional ½d was charged in accordance with the handstamp showing this amount for transporting the letter by mail coach across the border into Scotland. This Scottish additional “½” was levied on each letter between 1813 and 1840 only.

16. 1833 Packet Letter from Jamaica to London carried by H.M.S. Reindeer, charge: “6/6” endorsed in manuscript being the charge for a triple letter at that time. The reason for mentioning this item is that the control of the Packet boats was transferred to the Admiralty in 1823 and as contracts for the former Packets expired the Admiralty replaced them with Naval vessels.

17. 1838 Packet Letter from Jamaica to London carried by the local steamer “Echo” from Jamaica to St. Thomas where it was transferred in the sailing Packet “Goldfinch”, charge: “2/2” in manuscript and also JAMAICA PAID handstamp, both in red denoting pre-payment of postage.

18. 1838 Packet Letter from British Guiana to London, charge: “2/2” in manuscript consisting of the Packet rate at that time to Falmouth 1/3d, inland rate Falmouth to London 1/-, less 1d. Under the Post Office Notice of January, 1817 (No.1) postmasters were directed to add to the Packet Letter rate a sum of 1d less than the Inland Charge from their office to Falmouth.

19. 1838 Packet Letter from Montserrat to London, charge: “2/2” in manuscript deleted and “4/4” in manuscript substituted therefor as this was not a single letter but a double letter. The amendment in the charge was officially recognised by the impressing of a red Crown over the deleted charge.

20. 1839 Packet Letter from Montserrat to London handstamped with a boxed PACKET LETTER in red, charge: “2/2” in manuscript being the normal Packet Letter rate to London at that time. This particular letter is known as a “Loose Letter” as it was handed direct to the Packet Captain and received the boxed “PACKET LETTER” mark on arrival in England.

21. Ship Letter posted 17th December, 1841 from London to Jamaica carried by the “Tweed” starting her maiden voyage from Southampton on the following day. “Tweed” was to begin duty in the West Indies as one of the local connecting packet steamers in the new service about to be started by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

22. Packet Letter dated 5th February, 1842 from Jamaica to Falmouth carried by R.M.S.P. “Thames” on its first return journey lasting 57 days.

23. 1847 Packet Letter from Barbados to Grenada “p. Thames”, charge: “4” in manuscript denoting the inter-island rate.

24. 1852 Cover from Barbados to Philadelphia, with a Crowned Circle Paid at Barbados handstamp in red, the red colour denoting pre-payment of 1/- postage also shown in manuscript in red. In addition an American circular mark with Steamship 10 cts denoting the further charge for onward transmission from the American port to Philadelphia.
25. 1861 Packet Letter from Glasgow to Trinidad with Great Britain 1856 6d lilac being the full postage which was pre-paid. The "1d" accountancy handstamp in red indicates that the 1d was to be credited to the Trinidad Postal Authorities and that 5d. was to be retained by G.P.O., London.
26. 1861 Letter from Dundee to Jamaica with Great Britain 1856 6d lilac being the full pre-paid postage with "1d" accountancy handstamp in red indicating that 1d was to be credited to the Jamaica Postal Authorities and the balance of 5d would be retained by G.P.O. London.
27. 1863 Entire from Bahamas to Paris with two Bahamas 4d stamps cancelled by a manuscript date and the A05 obliterator as well due to the letter not being a local one. The PD mark indicates that the full postage has been paid to destination Paris. There is also a red crayon "7" accountancy mark indicating that 7d was to be credited to the G.P.O., London and the balance of 1d retained by the Bahamas Postal Authorities.
28. 1867 Packet Letter from Dominica to St. Andrews, Scotland with a Crowned Circle Paid at Dominica handstamp in red - the handstamp being in red denotes pre-payment of the postage. There is also in manuscript "11 - 1" in violet which indicates the division of the 1/- postage paid, 11d being credited to G.P.O. , London and the balance of 1d to be retained by the Dominica Postal Authorities.
29. 1868 Entire from London to the Danish island of St. Croix franked with Great Britain SG101 1/- green plate 4.
30. 1869 Entire from Glasgow to Antigua franked with Great Britain SG.101 1/- green plate 4 with "1" accountancy mark in red crayon denoting 1d to be credited to the Antigua Postal Authorities and by implication the remaining 11d to be retained by G.P.O. London. It is interesting to note that this letter was posted in Glasgow on 16th March, 1869 and reached Antigua 16 days later on 2nd April.
31. 1883 Letter by Book Post from Nevis to St. Kitts, charge: ½d.
32. 1888 Cover from St. Kitts to Nevis franked with St. Christopher 1d on 2½d ultramarine SG.28 indicating the inter-island ordinary letter rate at that time.;
33. 1892 Cover by Book Post from St. Lucia to Dominica franked with two examples of St. Lucia ½d on half 6d SG.54.

Mr. Britnor then displayed some entires and covers in connection with British Post Offices in foreign ports in the Caribbean area and said that comparatively little has been written about this subject and that there is little direct evidence about its beginnings. He went on to say that an Act of 1827 set out rates to Cuba and San Domingo. In 1841 handstamps of the double arc type with serif capitals were sent out to several offices and he showed examples of entires with handstamps of the type mentioned from St. Jago-de-Cuba, La Guayra and Porto Cabello.

From 1843 onwards various Conventions were signed between Great Britain and France regarding mail conveyed by British Packets from the West Indies to France (or beyond) via London.

Hence, special marks were applied, e.g. a boxed “COLONIES/&c ART 13” in red and various accountancy marks. Examples were displayed: first, an 1845 Packet Letter from Trinidad to Bordeaux via London and Boulogne with a red boxed “COLONIES/&c ART.12” and rated “40” in manuscript. Then an 1847 Packet Letter from La Guayra to Bordeaux via London and Boulogne with a red boxed “COLONIES/&c ART.13” and rated “40” in manuscript. This was followed by an 1856 Packet Letter from St. Thomas to Bastia, Corsica via London, Calais and Paris with a red boxed “COLONIES/&c ART.18” and rated “30” in manuscript. Another example was an 1858 entire from Porto Cabello to Bordeaux via Guayra Franca, London, Calais and Paris.

This item has also a black boxed “GB/1F60” accountancy mark and is handstamped in black with a rating of “16”.

From time to time various other marks were sent out from London to be used in British Post Offices in the Caribbean ports, e.g. the Crowned Circle type of mark. An example of this was shown on an 1861 entire from San Juan, Porto Rico to New York via Jamaica which was handstamped with a red Crowned Circle “PAID AT SAN JUAN PORTO RICO” sent out from England on 25th May, 1844. Another type of mark was displayed on an 1881 entire from Jacmel, Haiti to Paris via London and Calais. This item has a “JACMEL UNPAID” c.d.s. with “C” and “FE 8/81” sent out from England on 30th October, 1879, also a blue accountancy mark “T/1.10” and it is handstamped with a rating of “16” in black.

Between 1865-81 Great Britain adhesives were used in several ports for prepayment of postage and obliterations were sent out accordingly. The first type was the horizontal oval with three bars above and three bars below the code letter and numeral. The second type was the vertical oval with four bars above and four bars below the code letter and numeral. A third type, which came later, was the vertical oval with only three bars above and three bars below the code letter and numeral. Mr. Britnor showed a few examples of each of the three types of oval obliterations.

At the end of Mr. Britnor’s display, Mrs. B.J. Scott thanked him sincerely for a most varied and interesting show and talk and mentioned that it was very appropriate that this should be Mr. Britnor’s 200th display to a philatelic society which was greeted with enthusiasm by all those present.

NOTES & QUERIES

ANTIGUA

ANTIGUA AND OTHER FISCALS

Please count me among the sceptics when it comes to postally used fiscals of Antigua, whether the putative cancellation is A02 killer, possible c.d.s., or unidentified mystery.

Whether by reading of articles or oral tradition, perhaps from someone such as the late Ken Manning, I cannot say - it has been drummed into me from somewhere that the ‘POSTAGE & REVENUE’ overprint on the 1d is bogus, and well-known as such, and that there was neither warrant nor precedent for the postal usage of any Antigua fiscal stamp. I do not assert that the contrary cannot be; only, that I should need a high degree of proof or persuasion.

After all, one has ample experience of forged killers on BWI fiscals. They abound in Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Tobago, as does the forged c.d.s. in Grenada, to name the more prominent offenders, albeit each of these (even St. Vincent) can boast some fiscals that have seen genuine postal use (or cancellation, shall we say?). I should add that I have seen more than one example of an Antigua 1d, with and without overprint, and with an A02 killer that I judged an obvious forgery, though I have not measured any such strike. Certainly my philosophy on fiscal stamps, including all catalogued postal fiscals, is that a postal cancellation is assumed to be a forgery until demonstrated otherwise.

Putting the other side of the story, a genuine cancellation is met with relatively often with fiscals of Montserrat and Dominica. The former had no official warrant for postal use, but fiscals are found on piece or cover and were cancelled 'by favour'. In the latter case there was quite a lot of healthy use, and rather more philatelic use, of the postal fiscals; but I also have one of the Leeward Is. general Q.V. fiscal issues with a genuine Dominica c.d.s. That might have given the postmaster at Roseau some explaining to do, if it had come to the attention of higher authority.

Then one also finds Trinidad using its Revenue stamps for postal purposes, and I have met this a number of times on both low and high values: even, I think, on a 5/- 'FREE FEE' stamp, and goodness knows who paid or accounted for that! Look particularly, here, for the village strikes on lower values, including Chaguanas, Arima, and the steamer T23.

Oddly enough, I cannot recall meeting SG.66-69 of British Honduras, the REVENUE overprints, used fiscally, or bearing a forged postal cancellation. I mention one other island in this medley. Barbados. Most of us have met the 1882 1d. bearing an elegant diagonal 'Revenue' overprint; we have been shown it bisected in that state; we have seen the bisected halves with halfpenny surcharge; and each of these turns up with cancellations from time to time. Genuine? Some are obviously not. The rest? I am not knowledgeable enough to express a view; but they seem to me to stand a much better chance than their second cousin in Antigua.

Simon Goldblatt

Further to the data on Antigua Postal Fiscals in Bulletin No.97, June 1978 the following stamps exist based on my collection:

Crown CC Die proof in black on card - value tablets blank 6d cancelled A02 how can this be postal use?

Fiscally used 1d, 2d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 4/-, 5/-, 10/-

Unused 1d, 2d, 2d pair, 2d lower left corner pair, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 3/-, 3/- pair, 4/-, 4/- upper right corner pair with control number 38 in blue.

Crown CA Fiscally used 1d, 3d, 1/-

Unused 1d, 3d, 1/-, 10/-

On both issues values are in blue on the 1d to 6d and in red on the 1/- to 10/-.

There may be still more values, at least the Forbin catalogue lists a 3d value watermarked CC. My only examples of the 3d are the CA.

Mark Swetland

Mr. M. Medicott's remarks in Bulletin No.94 and Mr. G.F. Bowman's comments and illustrations in Bulletin No.98 prompt me to add my contribution on the subject of Antigua fiscal stamps. I consider that Mr. Medicott's registered front to England dated 1882 is incorrectly stamped at 1/10d as the rate at that time was 4d per half ounce for a packet letter. I think that the other characteristics mentioned by him are genuine as will be seen from the description of two wrappers from my collection. The first wrapper is addressed to Messrs. James Ewing & Co., Glasgow and was dated in manuscript 10.1.81 on its face. It was franked with one example of the 1879 four pence blue SG.20, well tied by an A02 barred vertical oval in black and in addition the face of the wrapper was impressed with an Antigua 21mm c.d.s. with JA 10 81 in its centre; on the reverse is a 21mm Glasgow Sorting Tender c.d.s. dated JA 30 81.

This missive would have travelled as a packet letter and is in my opinion correctly stamped at 4d per half ounce. The other wrapper is also addressed to Messrs. James Ewing & Co., Glasgow in the same handwriting and was franked by two examples of the 1879 four pence blue, each stamp being tied by an A02 barred horizontal oval in black and in addition there was an Antigua 21mm c.d.s. with FE 26 80 in its centre. This item has in addition a straight line unboxed REGISTERED in black capitals approximately 38 x 5mm with an unusual characteristic in that the first four letters of the word are not so tall as the remaining six letters; the sender has also marked the letter "Registered" in his handwriting. On the reverse is a clear Glasgow Sorting Tender mark set in an oval frame and surmounted by a crown and dated MR 15 80 in its centre. In my opinion this wrapper appears to be incorrectly stamped as the rate at the time was 4d per half ounce plus 2d registration fee. I should say that the reason why I consider that both the above wrappers are genuine is that the addressees Messrs. James Ewing & Co. received letters over the years from Antigua and, apart from seeing James Ewing & Co's., correspondence from time to time, I have another James Ewing & Co., wrapper dated in 1875 in my collection in support of this. I would, however, be very interested to learn whether the straight line unboxed REGISTERED in capitals referred to by Mr. Medicott is the same type as mine and in particular whether the capital letters are serified or not.

Now I deal with the fiscal stamps of Antigua which I agree are most imposing. In my opinion these stamps were only intended for Revenue use and were therefore not strictly available for payment of postage. The odd fiscal stamp turns up occasionally which has been postmarked; when this happens the fiscal stamp has been cancelled by favour. I have a one penny with watermark Crown CA perf.14 postmarked with a 24mm Antigua c.d.s. dated OC 6 97 and similarly the fiscal stamps of Montserrat can be found occasionally treated in the same manner as they were not permitted to be used for the purpose of postage. Mr. Bowman's one penny fiscal stamp illustrated in Bulletin No.98 in my opinion has a bogus overprint.

Antigua, unlike a number of West Indian islands, never appears to have run short of postage stamps and therefore required no provisionals.

If any overprinting had proved to be necessary due to shortage or for any other reason surely postage stamps would have first been overprinted as provisionals rather than revenue stamps. In any event Mr. Bowman's fiscal did not have its face value altered and I have never heard of the need for additional one penny postage stamps in Antigua as normal supplied consigned from England were always at

hand. The part c.d.s. on Mr. Bowman's fiscal stamp Fig. 1 may well be genuine and when complete would probably be the type of c.d.s. shown in his Fig. 2, but it would be a postmark applied by favour only.

I feel certain that the unattractive killer obliteration in Fig. 1 must be bogus. When fiscal stamps were used for revenue purposes, they would be used generally on commercial documents of one kind or another, and would be cancelled, for example, by a date in manuscript, but not by a handstamp used for postal purposes

E.V. Toeg

BARBADOS

POSSIBLE FIRST WORLD WAR CENSORED COVERS

Two postal items have recently come into my hands which are very interesting in so far as they could have been censored in Barbados during and just after the first World War.

Item 1 is a picture postcard from Bridgetown, Barbados to East Adelaide, South Australia. This card was franked with a ½d value adhesive and is postmarked GPO Barbados 5.8.1915; no other postal markings are on the card which could give a clue to its route to Australia. Also on the address side is a straight line handstamp "PASSED" struck in purple ink; this mark measures 36 x 9mm. Has any member seen an example of this mark on a Barbados cover or of any other country?

The view side of the card depicts Bishop's Court, Barbados, the least war-like theme to require a Censor's attention one would think.

Item 2. This is a registered cover from Para, Brazil to Georgetown, British Guiana, was posted on the 4.2.1919 and is endorsed "Via Barbados". It arrived in Barbados on the 11.2.1919 and was transit marked with the GPO Registered Letter Office (RLO) Barbados date stamp for 11.2.1919, arriving in Georgetown, British Guiana where the GPO Registration B.G. (British Guiana) was applied on 20.4.1919.

The cover received the Censor's attention and was opened and resealed with a white paper label bearing the printed legend "Opened by Censor" in black letters. This label was tied to the cover by three blobs of sealing wax of which only traces remain, an unfortunate occurrence as these seals if intact would possibly have borne the impression of the arms of the Post Office in which the censoring was carried out.

**Opened
by
Censor**

When I showed this cover to Mike Rego, an avid British Guiana postal historian who owns several British Guiana censored covers of this vintage, he said that he did not have this type of Censor's label used on any of the covers he owned nor had he seen any. He did however divulge an interesting piece of information concerning the

addressee, a Senhor Marroel Fernandes, this gentleman being the Consul for Portugal in the colony during the period in question.

Enigma surrounds the cover - where was it censored and why nearly three months after the end of hostilities was it necessary to be censored at all? Any help in solving these queries would be very welcome.

Anthony Shepherd

I have a cover cancelled by a Worthing Post Office, Barbados double ring c.d.s. with P.O.3 dated September 1977. I understand that Ben Ramkisson reports in the B.C.P.S.G. Journal that he has seen c.d.s' with P.O.1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and that Bruce Walker, also reporting in the Journal, has seen P.O.2 and 3. Have these numeral cancellations any significance?

William Hall

B. W. I.

DE LA RUE PRINTING AND INVOICING

Until John Marriott raised the question in Bulletin 98 page 59, it had not occurred to me to wonder whether there was a material difference between De la Rue's dates of printing and invoicing.

From the commercial standpoint it seems unlikely. Here was a thoroughly businesslike concern, anxious to capture the bulk of the 19th century stamp production market, and advocating, and practicing, economy for the smaller countries and colonies as stepping-stones along the way. Their invoice was their charge; it would make little sense to the family owners to carry out work and not ask for prompt payment. There are other considerations. The control by Crown Agents over security paper would have made it at least awkward for De la Rue to print stamps which had not been requisitioned, and hold them in reserve; and we know from correspondence how punctilious De la Rue were in their carefully-nurtured relationship with Crown Agents. In any case, for De la Rue to hold reserve stocks could be wasteful, for needs, rates, and colours changed, and the re-order might not come.

Perhaps Easton answered the question by inference when he cited a contrary, and inferentially unusual, case at p.609 of his De la Rue history: "The colour scheme" (for Virgin Is. SG.43-50) ". . . was approved on September 27th and the firm promised delivery in approximately eight weeks. On October 19th they were asked not to charge the stamps before January 1st next, and the invoice is therefore entered in the Day Book at December 31, 1898."

I appreciate that John Marriott is concerned primarily with a date 30 years earlier, at a time only shortly after the introduction of security paper for the colonies, but do not suppose that this alters the basic argument. The date is obviously far more relevant to his other main question, on reversed watermarks, and I have nothing tangible to offer here. Reviewing the basic data, De la Rue had by this time taken over the Perkins Bacon printing plates for Bahamas and St. Lucia within the West Indies, and, inter alia, Ceylon, Natal, St. Helena, and Western Australia outside. Certainly one finds reversed watermarks scattered amongst the earlier issues of each of these colonies; beyond this, I have no idea whether these are characteristic of particular printings. This takeover of plates may be relevant, because it has been suggested that when De la Rue were

printing from 'foreign' plates, they sometimes experimented with using the rougher side of the paper in an attempt to obtain better definition and colour. If so, the process of experiment went on a long time, and not only with 'foreign' plates, but with any plates of other than the standard size. Witness here their experiments with their own 'mini' plates created for Gambia and Virgin Is., in the middle or late 1870's, where the watermark appears 'every which way'. St. Vincent has already been cited, with its sheet size of 30 stamps; and Turks Islands had a similar format, leading to a similar history for at least the 1d. orange brown, SG.55, which I only remember seeing with watermark reversed.

My purely subjective impression is that De la Rue were not unduly sensitive to the way in which the paper was fed into the press until well into the 1880's, and that where, with small plates, the paper needed to be cut, the results could be somewhat capricious. For all that, if a batch of paper, uniformly manufactured, was uniformly handled by the printers, so as to produce a uniformly reversed watermark, it is obviously a valuable characteristic for identification of the particular printing. De la Rue are by no means the only printers to whom the comment may be applied.

Simon Goldblatt

I recently spoke to Gibbons catalogue department about some Falkland listings and I was told that the changes I had noticed were the result of the Falkland's Study Circle's findings and their liaison with Gibbons. I was somewhat surprised to learn that apparently our Society has no such links.

I am sure that many members can think of areas where the catalogue listings could be improved. From my collections I would suggest that improvements could be made in the later George V issues of St. Lucia and Turks & Caicos. While I appreciate that the variety of shades listed by Bridger & Kay may be too detailed for a general catalogue such as Gibbons, there are several major shades which would I feel be of interest to philatelists in general.

What do members think?

David Birley

BWI AIR MAILS

I would be most grateful for any further information on the following:

1. St. Kitts Nevis. My cover is addressed to Demerara, BG and bears the two line black handstamp. "Air Mail First Flight" and 1/-, 3d and 1½d stamps. The point that interests me is that all the stamps have the c.d.s. St. Kitts c 21st September 1929 and the cover is backstamped in transit at Port of Spain on 22nd. Whereas, according to Field the first flight left St. Kitts on the 22nd and covers were cancelled on arrival in Antigua on the 23rd. It would seem too much of a coincidence that Field should be misinformed as to both date and transit mark.

2. Bahamas. I have a cover with the three line handstamp 'First Daily Flight Nassau to Miami' in red, Field No.5, and it is addressed to Dr. Walter Hess c/o Postmaster Barbuda. The front also bears a red handstamp "First Flight Nassau-Barbuda" with a picture of a plane. The front is cancelled 2nd Jan 1930 and the cover bears the following backstamps:

Miami Jan 2nd, San Juan Jan 4th, St. John's Antigua Jan 5th and Barbuda Jan 17th.

I have not been able to find any reference to the Nassau-Barbuda cachet. A 'flight' which takes fifteen days to cover such a short distance seems a fairly advanced instance of philatelic marketing!

3. Jamaica. I note on my example of the first air mail to Miami, David Field No.1 that the year in the Kingston datestamp has been reversed and thus reads Æ for 30. Other examples I have seen have had the date the right way round.

4. St. Lucia. My cover would seem to be David Field No.2 and is addressed to Chicago. However, there are no transit marks on it and the only cancellations are three strikes of the Castries 1st Air Mail but no date. From reading Field I am not sure whether the date was incorporated in the special postmark or not.

David Birley

JAMAICA

(1) CANCELLED I have several Jamaican stamps (all post World War II) bearing part strikes of a CANCELLED handstamp, and I have recently obtained a cover on which the KG.VI stamps are obliterated and 'tied' with this mark. The cover bears no other markings. All my examples of this CANCELLED handstamp are struck in black. Letters are upper case, with serifs, 4mm high, and are in a 'box' with straight lines top and bottom and curved lines at sides. The overall measurement is 50 x 7mm. Any information members may have as to the purpose of this mark and its place of application would be greatly appreciated.

(2) LUKES RIVER My cover on which a mark from this office possibly appears was sent from CONSTANT SPRING on 4 Oct. 1923, the typed name and address being Mrs. R. GRANT, LUKES RIVER P.O. On the back is the Kingston British Empire Exhibition machine mark, also dated 4 Oct. 1923. There is also "UNCLD" in red crayon manuscript and a "Returned Letter Branch/Jamaica" purple handstamp 6 Dec 1923. The 'mystery' is a c.d.s. of the normal "double ring" type in poor condition. Identifiable features are (1) the diameter which is a little over 26mm and (2) the normal 2-line date 4 OC/23. The bottom part of the mark, where "JAMAICA" should appear, is almost completely blank but at upper right the word is certainly "RIVER", as several letters are clearly identifiable. At upper left we are faced with a blank except for what might be a "U", temptingly in just the right place to produce a symmetrical "LUKES RIVER".

My problem is that I have been unable to trace any information on the existence of a Post Office or Agency at Lukes River. The BCPSG Chronological History of Jamaican P.O's does not mention it, nor do Anguilar's Handbooks. It does not appear in the latest Jamaican Post Office Guide, and therefore is certainly not in existence now. However, my cover is printed "VICTORIA LEAGUE OF JAMAICA" and one might surmise that it contained a letter from this organisation to a member who had registered the address stated. Incidentally, I have been unable to trace LUKES RIVER on a large scale tourist map of Jamaica which I have.

Is it possible that I have a mark, albeit poor, from a hitherto unrecorded Jamaican post office?

Tony Lewarn

The post office at Malvern, Jamaica opened in 1862 and was later closed (Obliterator A50 was used there). I have a cover cancelled with a TRD for February, 1976 and would like to know if this is a case of the office reopening or a new office coincidentally with the same name?

I also have queries on three cancellations. The first, on a Q.V. 3d. Crown CA stamp, looks like a single ring cancellation for Montego Bay dated 6th February, 1904. I say looks like a single ring because the ring is very thick and could be a worn double ring. The diameter is 22mm internal and 26mm external. I have not seen another cancellation like it. Can anyone help with information on this type and confirm that blue ink was used in Montego Bay?

The second is a part cancellation, "SPANISH TOWN" on a G.VI 6d stamp, wmk. MCA. It looks like the bottom half of a Returned Letter Branch stamp without "Jamaica" at the bottom. Is this in fact a fiscal cancellation?

The third, struck on a ½d War Stamp - De la Rue overprint, is again a part cancellation in 4 lines KING/MAY/11-/JAM. Obviously the top line is "KINGSTON" and the bottom line "JAMAICA". If the second line is the only one with the date, what is the third one? Could it be the time of posting? If the second and third are the date, then where would the year go? There is no ring around the outside of the letters. My final query concerns a copy of the 2½d Tercentenary Issue with the plate No.1B in the bottom margin. I had always believed that only 1A occurred on the 2½d and 1B on the other three values.

Malcolm Mattick

MONTSERRAT

MONTSERRAT MISCELLANY

Firstly may I thank Mr. Toeg for his excellent and most informative articles on the early issues. I was particularly interested in his comments concerning SG.7b the 1d rose red. Some time ago I acquired a mint block of 10 which was described as being rose red and appeared so when compared to other examples and the Antigua printing. However, I am now in doubt and would welcome his opinion when next we meet. I would also be glad of any information on the retouches on the overprints; does the Hon. Librarian have any literature relating to them?

Of the Edward VII issues I am finding the 1903 1d with inverted watermark most elusive - is it uncommon, or have I been unlucky in my searches?

I am sure much information has been added since Leonard Britnor wrote his handbook, but some of the following points may be of interest.

I have a copy of the 1½d tercentenary bearing a type C8c cancellation of Harris dated JU 22 32 which would seem to pre-date Britnor's EKD.

On the War Tax issues I note the following:

1. The red overprint SG.60 there would seem to be three printings differing in shade of overprint.
2. SG.61 exists on thin and thick paper.
3. SG.61A exists with inverted watermark
4. SG.62 Mr. Britnor states that there is a long fraction bar, this occurs on stamps 1, 4, 7 and 10 in the 9th horizontal row.

5. In the second horizontal row stamps 6, 9 and 12 have a shortened top loop of the 'S' thus S instead of S. This is illustrated on the bottom right hand stamp of figure 2, p.52 of the handbook.

On every third stamp of even numbered horizontal rows the fraction bar is slightly shorter than normal.

David Birley

ST.LUCIA

ST. LUCIA - AN ODD POSTAL FISCAL (to say nothing of St. Christopher)

The stamp to be described is presumed to be a faked variety - worth describing, all the same. Start with a copy of SG.1, the first 1d postal fiscal; picture a nicely misplaced genuine overprint, so that "One Penny Stamp" appears in red, low right of the stamp and partly off it, with a corresponding portion showing of the neighbouring overprint to the left; add a pen-cancel; so far, so good.

The element added by somebody is a creditable, sensibly placed "One Penny Stamp" in black. So to the inquest, if one is going to fake a variety, why choose a pen-cancelled stamp? Why not in any case remove the cancellation, as a faker generally does? Why not do the second strike in red, and so simulate the catalogued variety? Strange things do happen in the world of local overprints, though, don't they? I wonder if it's worth my having an extra careful look to see whether the pen-cancelled comes over or under the black surcharge.

The difference between type set overprints, as above, and hand stamped ones is that the latter always give real hopes of finding a good variety, even though the catalogue is silent. Take the various "Saint Christopher" overprints on Revenue stamps of Nevis, of which (rather capriciously) only SG R1 and R2 are accorded catalogue status. Undoubtedly genuine double overprints exist, so always keep a weather eye open. And more than that: I can dig out from my oddments drawer a perfectly authentic unused copy of R1 with overprint inverted. A bit soiled, and a bit torn, of course; but why should mine be the only example extant? Someone may possess, or acquire, another in pristine mint state. Sorry, I digress. My theme is a type set variety, so I shall say nothing of St. Kitts!

Simon Goldblatt

I recently acquired a page from an old album with examples of the 1921 issue cancelled Castries St. Lucia 19 May 1927 (same date on all examples) in three lines in violet. The note at the top of the page states that this was a temporary postmark used when the Post Office in Castries was burnt down. I have also been told that it was used on parcels for some time. I would be very grateful for any information on dates and usage.

David Birley

TOBAGO

I have recently noticed two postal stationary cards that left Tobago in 1891. Their only Tobago marking was a Tobago c.d.s.; but in each case the sender was writing from a Moriah address, and his message bore a date a couple of days or so before the G.P.O. strike. Can we learn something from this?

Simon Goldblatt

TRINIDAD

TRINIDAD, SOME EARLY TOWN AND VILLAGE DATE STAMPS.

Further to Simon Goldblatts article on the scarcity of Trinidad date stamps (Bulletin No.78) and Michael Medicott's own conclusions in Bulletin No.95, may I offer the following list with scarcity ratings which are entirely my own opinion resulting from a side line interest.

E.K.D.			L.K.D.		
1888	Arima	MC	1888	Manzanilla	S
1887	Arouca	MC	1910	Guapu	VS
1911	Basseterre	S	1890	Maraval	VS
1891	Belmont	C	1907	Matelot	N
1936	Biche	S	1894	Matura	S
1891	Blanchisseuse	VS	1889	Mayaro	MC
1901	Brasso	S	1908	Mayo	VS
1908	Brasso Piedra	VS	1889	Monos	VS
1911	Calcutta Settlement	N	1889	Moruga	S
1887	California	C	1887	Mueurapo	UC
1922	Canaan	VS	1912	New Town	UC
1906	Caparo	UC	1888	Oropouche	S
1892	Cap de Ville	VS	1912	Penal Rock Junction	VS
1886	Carapachaima	UC	1912	Point Fortin	VS
1889	Carenage	S	1909	Poole	VS
1887	Caroni	C	1892	Port of Spain	MC
1889	Caura	S	1888	Prince's Town	MC
1886	Cedros	MC	1915	Rio Claro	S
1902	Chacachacare	VS	1898	Rose Hill	S
1888	Chaguanas	MC	1887	St. Ann's	S
1890	Chatham	VS	1886	St. Joseph	MC
1888	Claxton Bay	C	1889	St. Juan	MC
1885	Couva	MC	1900	St. Julien's	VS
1898	Cumuto	UC	1888	St. Madelaine	S
1888	Cunupia	UC	1887	St. Mary's	UC
1890	Dabadie	VS	1911	St. Mary's Village	N
1888	Diego Martin	S	1885	San Fernando	MC
1896	Elswick	VS	1907	San Raphael	S
1890	Erin	UC	1896	Sangre Grande	MC
1902	Five Islands	VS	1918	Sans Souci	S
1912	Flanagin Town	VS	1888	Santa Cruz	S
1909	Fyzabad Settlement	N	1906	Sipara	S
1890	Gasparillo	VS	1900	Tabaquite	S
1887	Gran Couva	UC	1913	Tableland	VS
1913	Grande Riviere	N	1912	Tacarigua	S
1898	Guaico	VS	1888	Toco	UC
1902	Guanapo	S	1906	Todd's Road	S
1896	Guayaguayare	S	1887	Tortuga	S
1889	Hicacos	VS	1890	Tumpuna	VS
1913	Indian Walk	N	1886	Tunapuna	MC
1901	Irois Forest	S	1915	Upper Guiaco	S
1888	La Brea	MC	1909	Upper Santa Cruz	VS
1911	La Lune	VS	1887	Williamsville	C
1888	Laventille	VS	1891	Woodbrook	C
1903	Longdenville	VS			

MC = Most common: C = Common: VS Very Scarce: UC = Uncommon:
S Scarce: R = Rare

TRINIDAD, DATE AND OTHER HAND STAMPS.

E.K.D.

1882	Trinidad 19-20½mm	Common
1889	Trinidad 21½mm	Uncommon
1892	Parcel Post	"
1893	Registration	Common
1913	Registration G.P.O.	Most common
1906	G.P.O. Port of Spain	"
1899	T.P.O. Arima Section	Scarce
1913	General Post Office	Uncommon
1897	Trinidad Official Paid	Rare
1869	Trinidad (double arc)	Most Common
1875	Trinidad M.O.O.	Very Scarce
1871	Trinidad Paid	Scarce
1863	P.O. San Fernando Arms Seal	Very Scarce
1878	San Fernando M.O.O.	Rare
1898	Registrar General (fiscal)	Uncommon
1909	Coastal Steamer	Very Scarce
1905	Coastal Steamer Route No.1	Rare
1905	Coastal Steamer Route No.2	Rare
1917	S.S. St. Patrick	Very Scarce
1910	Cedros Line S.S. Naparina	Very Scarce
	Gulf Steamer - Trinidad	Very Scarce
1930	Paquebot - Trinidad	Very Scarce
1886	Mail Steamer Monos Route	Very Scarce
1893	Mail Steamer Cedros Route	Very Scarce
1863	Too Late For Bag	Very Scarce
1863	Too Late	Scarce
1863	Registered	Very Scarce
1883	'R' (in oval)	Uncommon
1895	A.G. Show P.O.	Very Scarce
1915	Ye Olde English Fayre - Trinidad (charity)	Very Scarce
1923	Cancelled (in red)	Uncommon
1915	Military Camp - Trinidad BWI	Rare
1916	Post Free - Prisoners of War	Rare
1918	Passed by Censor	Very Scarce
1917	'T' (postage due)	Uncommon
1941	Received From - H.M. Ships	Rare

Acknowledgements:

Correspondents: J.B. Marriott, FRPSL

S. Goldblatt, E.B. Renshaw, R. Wyke, C.R. Ottley and Harry Hayes.

References: Trinidad. Handstruck Stamps & Cancellations by J.B. Marriott

London Philatelist No.748 1955

T.P.S. Bulletins 1960 - 1974

B.C.P.S.G. Journals

B.W. I .S.C. Bulletins

Caribbeana Journals

Billig's Philatelic Handbook Volume VII

John de Vries

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

As I write those notes, I have to hand John de Vries's article in Bulletin No.93, pp 35-6, and also a square-shaped package (not quite square actually!) whose cardboard

outer lining measures about 280 x 270mm. Each cardboard lining has a label, whose wording should interest most of us. Here is one of the legends:-

‘TRINIDAD’ “ & Tobago” Reqn. “97/16”
‘Postage & Revenue’ STAMPS
‘50’ Sheets of ‘120’ Set.
Duty ‘½d’

“H. Minty”
Crown Agents’ Inspector

Date “3/1/17”
“MC”

“OK HB 2/2/45”

For identification purposes I set out the printed parts of the label without punctuation, the hand-stamped parts in single inverted commas, and the handwritten parts in double inverted commas. Initials and name may not be accurately copied.

Has the penny dropped? I have been quoting from some of the original packaging for the first ½d WAR TAX stamp, SG.177.

As if this were not enough in itself, an unbelievable amount of the original consignment has survived more or less intact. My count recorded 99 sheets - and if I missed one sheet as is very possible, there are two complete packets. Accepting that the final figures which John quotes were reliable information from the Postmaster (as we all know, not always the case, by a very long chalk) that is just on 10% of the entire delivery. Not bad, for a common stamp

One will notice that Gibbons give a May 1917 date for this issue; and this may need re-appraisal now that we see that the stamps passed their CA inspection at the very beginning of the year.

The final note, with its 1945 date, is written in pencil. Naturally one wonders whether this was made by a post office official, so that the stamps were still in official stock at the end of World War II. One of the other labels (which otherwise bear no 1945 annotation) shows the number of sheets, originally 50, later revised to 48, then 126, and finally 73, showing a series of sheet checks, but with no indication as to date. One lining - there are four in all - is dated 2/1/17, so that inspection was carried out during both days, one supposes.

Delightful as it would have been to find a hoard of SG.177a in such promising source material, there are no obvious printing varieties (but don’t take this as the last word, with almost 12,000 stamps to examine). What is significant in this connection is the number of under-inked overprints: amongst this batch they are the rule rather than the exception. Maybe a quarter of the whole show satisfactory overprinting throughout, whilst a substantial number are properly overprinted only in the outside vertical rows, with the ink on columns six and seven very dry, and not easily readable.

I could describe condition as unmounted mint, but this would be misleading. It is wholly consistent with 30 years in the tropics. Let us try a modern flavour: “chocolate mint crisp”

An informed source, close to the original owner of these War Tax stamps, assures me that they were purchased from the G.P.O. Trinidad during World War I, while still current. So don’t let me start a hare; the 1945 marking is a piece of private accountancy.

Simon Goldblatt

NEWS ROUNDUP

Next year the Study Circle will celebrate its Silver Jubilee and it has been decided, if suitable arrangements can be made, to hold a one day open convention next May, at an Hotel in Brighton, on the South Coast.

Preliminary proposals included invited displays, facilities for members to meet and talk, a dealer's bourse and a bring and buy table where a nominal commission would be charged. No formal arrangements would be made for lunch, but this would be available for those so wishing and during the afternoon it is hoped that light refreshment would be served at no charge. Further and final details will be published in the March, 1979 Bulletin.

We have just received a brief report of the meeting held by the Trinidad Philatelic Society which was held at the National Liberal Club on Saturday 16th September.

The T.P.S. meeting in London on Saturday 16th September was quite successful. Approximately forty people attended at some time during the day and it is felt that the main objective of the meeting, which was to get known to one another personally, was accomplished, although, as was to be expected, the date was not suitable to everyone.

Those present from Trinidad were the President Mrs. Matthews, the Secretary George Beeby-Thompson and Keith Davidson, while Edmund Bayley from Barbados was also there. Study Circle members present included Basil Benwell, Leonard Britnor, Simon Goldblatt and Charles Loach who came all the way from Derby to attend. Dr. Geoff Ritchie represented the Roses. It was also a great pleasure to see several T.P.S. members who had lived in Trinidad but had now returned to the U.K.

The President gave a talk on Trinidad and slides of the Island were shown. The minibition was not as extensive as hoped as only eight frames were available for display purposes, but this was made up for by the quality of the exhibits shown by Messrs. Goldblatt, Walker and Bayley among others. In the afternoon the floor and mail auction was held.

We feel sure that most members who were at Drury House on Saturday 30th September will agree that it was one of the most enjoyable meetings held there for some time.

It was a great pleasure to see Gerald and Bunny Scott again and to welcome Edmund Bayley over here on holiday from Barbados.

Before Leonard Britnor commenced his display, Victor Toeg was able to present to him the Collett Memorial Trophy awarded earlier in the year for his work, "British West Indies Postal Rates up to 1900", and which at that time was not available. In making the presentation Victor Toeg said that it was an award Leonard richly deserved, not only for the many hours of research and effort, but also because it was an invaluable work of reference for extending our knowledge on postal rates in the British West Indies. Victor concluded by saying that Leonard had, over the years, contributed much to our understanding of the postal history of the B.W.I. with the various publications of which he had been the author or co-author and that this was the second time that he had been presented with the trophy, a beautiful silver dish embossed with the Tudor Rose of England.

Mike Wilson writes that he has retired from the Royal Navy and now works for the Navy as a historian in the Naval Historical Branch. Mike also sent details of variations

that have been found on two of the overprints to mark the Queen's Silver jubilee visit to the W. I. which were published in the Stamp Magazine.

The souvenir sheet for Dominica exists in two forms. The original printing has the overprint 'Royal Visit W.I. 1977' on the stamp and the second printing from another printer has the overprint on the sheet itself and part on the stamp. The other variation occurs on the stamps issued by Montserrat to commemorate the visit. Three of the definitive values were surcharged locally and can be found with thick or thin bars obliterating the basic stamp value.

The venue for BERMUPEX '79 is the Castle Harbour Hotel, Tucker's Town, Bermuda and this will take place on the 17th and 18th of February. On the two days prior to the exhibition Robson Lowe International Ltd., will be holding auctions of rare stamps. Further details and entry forms may be obtained from Jack Arnell, Exhibition Chairman, at Bermupex, P.O. Box 937, Hamilton 5, Bermuda and enquiries for tour packages to D.F. Long & Co., Travel House, Mornington Crescent Station, London, NW1 2JD.

News of future Roses P.S. activities include a display of Grenada by Tony Shepherd on 22nd January, 1979 and a display of Bermuda by Richard Heap on 21st April, 1979

Richard Heap advises that a four page supplement to his article on Bermuda Censor Marks of World War II in Vol.2 of the Roses Handbook is available on application to him.

The Roses P.S. have just published a new handbook entitled "St Lucia. A Philatelic History" by Geoffrey Ritchie, a copy of which has very kindly been presented to the Circle Library. The book which is soft-backed runs to 114 pages & 32 chapters and comprehensively covers just what its title implies. Copies may be obtained from the author at 16 Stray Walk, Harrogate, N. Yorks, HG2 8HU. Price £5 + 35p p&p. U.S.A. \$14 (airmail).

Those of you who have the 1979 Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth catalogue may have missed the acknowledgement to member John de Vries. As a result of research notes on Tobago issues from 1880-1896, published in the Bulletin and made available to Stanley Gibbons, a number of corrections have been included in the new catalogue.

On Wednesday 11th October we had the pleasure of attending a reception at 41, New Bond Street when the directors of Harmers of London Ltd. were hosts to some thirty representatives from the press, B.B.C. and philatelic journals. We had been invited to see some of the star items in the Sir Henry Tucker Bermuda collection before they were sold on the following Tuesday, October 17th.

The sale itself was almost an historical occasion for rarely does a one country collection of such magnitude come on the market. There was a keen sense of anticipation amongst those present and this was particularly evident during the morning session when the "Postmaster's Stamps" came up. The total realisation for the London sale, with New York still to come, was £400,357.

May we offer our congratulations to the following Circle members to whom awards were made at the International Exhibition "CAPEX" held in Toronto last June and the more recent British Philatelic Exhibition in London.

CAPEX

W.K. Watson, Jamaican Packet Mail 1755-1858. Large Silver Medal.

F.E. Collins, French Indo China 1862-1902. Silver Medal.

B.P.E.

B.A. Brookes, St. Christopher Early Postal History. Silver Gilt Medal, BCPSG Award, Postal History Award.

J.L. Messenger, St. Christopher The Issued Stamps. Silver Gilt Medal.

Mrs. S.M. Pearse, Adhesive Stamps of Antigua 1862-1918. Silver Medal.;

R.J. Edmondson, Cayman Islands. Bronze Silver Medal

D.G.J. Charlesworth, Jamaican Early Postal History. Bronze Silver Medal.;

L.E. Britnor, (Literature) BWI Postal Rates up to 1900. Bronze Medal.

It is with sincere regret that I have to report the death of Eddie Adelson. I had not known Eddie for very many years and then only through his letters to me. Nevertheless, in that short time I soon found him to be a generous and warm hearted person. He was an inveterate world traveller and his stamp table was to be found at many of the major exhibitions in the United States. Eddie's colourful personality always enlivened the philatelic scene and he will be sadly missed by his many friends and acquaintances.

Michael Sheppard

B.W.I. AUCTION - No.7

Material accepted for inclusion in the Auction will be offered for sale on the following terms:

1. All lots may be sold with or without reserve and the seller may participate in the bidding either himself or by an agent.

2. The buyer to be the highest bidder.

3. Wherever possible the description of a lot will include an estimate by the Circle of the price which it is expected to realise, and the lot will not be sold without the consent of the seller at substantially below 75% of estimate.

4. The Auctioneer will be appointed by the Auctions Sub-Committee designated by the Circle to organise the Auction Sale. The bidding shall be under the control and at the sole discretion of the Auctioneer, who shall have power to settle all disputes and to re-open the bidding in the event of dispute. He may withdraw lots or group two or more lots together without assigning a reason.

5. The auctioneer reserves the right to bid on behalf of sellers and prospective buyers but shall not be liable for any errors or omissions in executing instructions to bid.

6. Lots will be sold with all faults, imperfections and errors of description and the Circle cannot be held responsible for the genuineness of any lot or of an individual items therein. Where however the buyer within 14 days after receipt of a lot (or such further time as the Auctions Sub-Committee may allow) satisfies the Auctions Sub-Committee that there is a substantial inaccuracy in the description and returns the lot in unaltered condition, the sale of that lot will be rescinded and the purchase price refunded to the buyer less any costs and expenses incurred by the Circle in connection with the sale.

7. The Circle will have a lien for all charges on all lots sold or unsold. Payment for lots purchased (including collection charges where payment is made in local currency)

shall be made by the buyer before delivery, which shall be at the risk of the buyer and shall include cost of postage and registration where sent by post. If the buyer does not pay for any lot within such period as the Auctions Sub-Committee (in their sole discretion) may consider reasonable the lot may be re-sold by the Circle in any manner the Circle see fit and the buyer shall pay the difference between his bid price and the net realisation on re-sale (after deduction of commission and other attendant expenses) but the buyer shall not be entitled to any surplus arising on re-sale. A buyer resident in the dollar area must pay for lots bought either in dollars at the controlled rate of exchange with the addition of 50 cents to cover collection charges or by draft drawn on London.

8. Sale commission charged to the seller will be:

On each lot sold: 10p on the first £1 or lower realisation, thereafter 10%.

On each lot unsold, 10p.

On each lot withdrawn by the seller, sale commission on 75% of estimated value.

On each lot unsold through failing to reach the seller's reserve sale commission on the reserve price.

These conditions apply as between buyer and/or seller and every officer member and agent of the Circle concerned on behalf of the Circle with any aspect of the Auction Sale.

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. All correspondence please to Michael Sheppard at 6 Copsleigh Close Salfords, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5B11, England, Telephone 91 63936.

2. Do not send any material for sale UNLESS it can be sent as an ordinary letter. For all bulkier items write or telephone Michael Sheppard first to find out whether these can be accepted.

3. Stamps and postal history items are equally welcome but, in the interests of both buyers and sellers, the Sub-Committee will not be accepting material for sale unless it has in their opinion some potential interest to members of the Circle.

4. MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CATALOGUE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MARCH, 1979 BULLETIN MUST REACH MICHAEL SHEPPARD BY 31st JANUARY, 1979 AT LATEST.

5. The Auctions Sub-Committee will be grateful for any specialised information which you include with your material for sale and for any personal assessment of its value, although no undertaking can be given that the Auction estimate will coincide with your own assessment. Remember that the more care you yourself take with the selection of items for sale, the better the realisation to be expected.

6. The Auctions Sub-Committee will not be responsible for the loss of or damage to items in their custody but unless you instruct to the contrary your material for sale will, if practicable, be held insured while in the hands of the Sub-Committee and the small cost will be divided rateably between the sellers.

7. Please do not write asking for lots to be sent for viewing by post as the Auctions Sub-Committee are not equipped to offer this service! However, a 'xerox' copy could be sent to you provided that with your request you enclose an SAE. together with an additional 7p stamp to cover cost.

Advert

E.V & L. TOEG

Advert

CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

Advert

F. W. COLLINS

Advert

TIM CLUTTERBUCK & CO., LTD.

Advert

ARGYLL ETKIN LTD.

Advert

NEW ENGLAND STAMP COMPANY

BULLETINS AND STUDY PAPERS

Copies of a few early back issues and consecutively from No.53 (June, 1967) are obtainable from the Hon. Editor as follows:

Bulletins per copy	60p
'Cordex' Instantaneous Self-Binders each holding 20 issues	£1.50
Issues containing notes on specific colonies gladly supplied where available.	

THE HISTORY OF THE SAILING PACKETS TO THE W.INDIES

by L.E. Britnor (U.K. & Europe) . . .	£7.00
(U.S.A. etc.)	£7.50

BWI POSTAL RATES TO 1900 by L. E. BRITNOR

(U.K. & Europe) Softback . . .	£3.20
Hardback . . .	£4.25
(U.S.A. etc.) Softback	£3.30
Hardback	£4.50

Note: Prices include postage, packing and VAT where applicable

OPINIONS SERVICE

(Home Members only)

Facilities are available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. Group for which a fee of 75p 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 sender's 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 additional postage will be charged to the sender.