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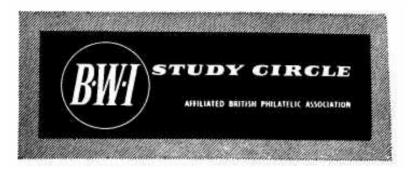
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OBJECTS

- 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 $\pounds 2.50$ or \$ 6.50 USA due **1st January**. The latter rate includes airmail postage of bulletins and collection charges and is subject to changes from time to time as determined by the Hon. Treasurer. An International Money Order or Draft drawn on LONDON is acceptable. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

PROGRAMME 1980

Thurs., Mar. 6th, 6.00 pm.Nine sheets from members.Sat., Apr. 19th, 2.30 p.m.A.G.M. and Auction.

The meeting on March 6th will be held at the Law Society's Building, Committee Room A, 2nd floor, 113, Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2. The A.G.M. and Auction will he held in the Margaret Room at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, WC1B 4BH.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Fri., May 9th, 6 p.m.

Wise and Cheese Party. The Thackeray Room, Kingsley hotel, Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SO.

Sat., May 10th, 10.30 a.m. Joint Meeting of B.C.P.S.G., B.W.I.S.C and Roses C.P.S. The Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, WCI 4BH.

VIEWING OF AUCTION LOTS

Members wishing to view auction lots may do so at the office of the British Philatelic Federation, 1, Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HE, on Thursday and Friday 17th and 18th April from 11 am in 3.30 pm. We do not know at this stage to which part of the building the B.P.F. office will be situated and would suggest that members enquire at the door of the National Liberal Club or phone the B.P.F. office on 01-930 5254.

DISPLAY

Ten members attended on Saturday 6th October, 1979 in Room 10 at the National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE when our President Mr. E. V. Toeg gave a display and talk on his collection of Montserrat.

A summary of the main items on display now follows:-

Great Britain stamps used in the island.

Examples of the 1856 pale-lilac cancelled with the obliterator A08; also two pairs of the 1d rose-red from plate 56 which appear to have paid postage on the same missive on account of the position of the A08 obliterations on these stamps.

<u>1876 set</u>. The 1d red overprinted "CANCELLED" and "SPECIMEN", a number of mint blocks including an irregular block of 38 stamps. A fine 1881 cover to England demonstrating the 4d rate and a 1d bisected on an 1883 cover to Dominica.

Mint and used multiple with inverted and reversed watermarks and three examples of the inverted "S" variety mint and used in multiple pieces. Examples of this stamp with the misplaced overprint and also examples of the two re-entries.

The 6d green was shown overprinted "CANCELLED" in two different types. Mint corner blocks including a right marginal corner block of 12 were followed by a pair of the 6d on an 1878 cover to London and a 6d bisected on an 1883 cover to St. Kitts.

The inverted "S" variety in a mint strip of three and an example on a used stamp were exhibited followed by a mint marginal corner block of 12 showing the inverted "S" variety and the Morton Evans re-entry also a mint block of four with the second inverted "S" variety and the malburin flaw. A study of the known re-entries was then shown including the very rare re-entry on stamp 10/12 on the sheet.

The 6d blue-green in mint block of four was also exhibited together with the Morton Evans re-entry on a single of this stamp.

<u>1880 set.</u> The 2¹/₂d red-brown was displayed imperforate with two different types of overprint "CANCELLED" and two different types of overprint "SPECIMEN" followed by an imperforate plate proof and a used vertical pair of the issued stamp.

The 4d blue was shown imperforate with the overprint "CANCELLED" and also perforate with the overprint "SPECIMEN"; and in addition there were mint blocks of four and six displayed.

<u>1883 Colour trial.</u> The rare 1d sepia-brown perf. 12 was also exhibited with a history of a proposed scheme, of colours submitted to the Crown Agents which was eventually approved, but not as regards the adoption of the 1d sepia-brown as the design and colours of a new 6d stamp which was not proceeded with.

<u>1884-85 set.</u> First, an Imperforate plate proof of the ¹/₂d dull green and perforated stamp overprinted "CANCELLED" in violet. Next, an imperforate plate proof of the 1d red, the inverted "S" variety in a mint block of six and also a single used stamp with this variety. The two re-entries were also displayed. The 1d rose-red then followed with a mint pair and a block of four used, both an unused example (without gum) and a used example of the inverted "S" variety and an 1887 cover to Colchester franked with a vertical strip of four. Examples of one of the re-entries were also shown.

The $2\frac{1}{2}$ red-brown was displayed in a mint block of four, a strip of three and a used pair. An imperforate plate proof of the $2\frac{1}{2}$ ultramarine was followed by a perforate stamp overprinted "SPECIMEN".

The 4d blue was represented by a mint marginal block of four believed to be the only mint block of four of this stamp. There were several used examples of this stamp including two stamps each struck with the c.d.s. Plymouth to Bristol T.P.O. with star and date in centre. The Sperati reproduction of the stamp was also shown in its many facets. An imperforate plate proof of the 4d mauve was followed by the perforate Stamp overprinted "SPECIMEN" and an 1888 cover to England franked with this stamp.

<u>1884 1d red perf. 12.</u> This experimental 1d only had a small printing and a mint block of four was displayed together with used examples of the inverted "S" variety including a remarkable bisect of the stamp on piece showing the variety.

There was a lovely looking mourning cover to Scotland with a horizontal strip of four, a "prices current" cover with a bisect of the stamp surcharged $\frac{1}{2}$ in black and a cover with a bisect surcharged $\frac{1}{2}$ in red. The two re-entries on this stamp were also displayed.

Early postal stationery. The 1¹/₂d die, proof in black on glazed card dated September 1st, 1879, was shown together with an 1880 commercially used single card with 1¹/₂d printed thereon. Finally, a beautiful Essay for a 2d registration fee stamp comprising a hand painted drawing dated 22 July 1882 on tracing paper in blue with crown in centre and with its details picked out in black or Chinese white.

<u>Queen Victoria Fiscals.</u> Trial pulls on semi-transparent paper comprising a group of six units from the lithographic stone, in drab and in very pale lilac of the large format 1d stamp followed by multiple pieces of the 1d carmine lake and complete sheets of twelve, stamps of the 1d aniline rose, and 1d carmine.

Mr. Toeg then stated that he would only be showing proofs and specimen stamps relating to post 1900 material.

<u>1903 set.</u> First, progressive die proofs of the frame and name but with uncleared surrounds and value tablet of the stamps with the device of the Colony in the centre followed by a progressive die proof and an original die proof of the vignette on that stamp design; also original die proofs BEFORE HARDENING and AFTER HARDENING of all values from the ¹/₂d to the 2/6d. Next, imperforate colour trials of the half penny value stuck down on card and an imperforate plate proof of the half penny. Original die proofs BEFORE HARDENING and AFTER HARDENING of the frame, name and five shillings with blank vignette were followed by colour trials of the five shillings value.

Finally, the specimen stamps of the whole set.

<u>1908-13 set.</u> The specimen stamps of the whole set.

1914 Five Shillings. A specimen stamp of this value.

<u>1916-23 set.</u> Progressive die proofs of the frame, King's head and general design with uncleared surrounds and value tablet in an unfinished state. Next, die proofs of the $\frac{1}{2}$ to the 5/-. Finally, the specimen stamps of the whole set.

<u>1917-18 War stamps</u>. Specimen stamps of the two $\frac{1}{2}$ d War stamps, followed by the specimen stamp of the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d War stamp.

<u>1922-29 set.</u> Original die proofs BEFORE STRIKING and AFTER STRIKING of the ¹/₂d, ¹/₂d, ⁴d, ⁵d, ³/- and ⁴/-, an original die proof of the ¹/- value AFTER STRIKING; an imperforate plate proof of the ¹/₂d value which was approved for colour on 8th October, 1928. Die proofs pulled from the finished dies on thin card of the ¹/₄d, ¹/₂d, ⁴d, ⁵d, ³/- and ⁴/- values to test the accuracy of the registration of the frame die and the value die - these were stated to be very rare by Mr. Toeg and he did not think that they are cut down die proofs. An example of the very rare imperforate 1d carmine overprinted "SPECIMEN" with Samuel type D9a was next shown followed by the specimen stamps of the whole set.

An unusual specimen overprint in large serifed letters placed diagonally from bottom left to top right on the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/6d and 5/- values was also exhibited. This was thought to be the result of a local handstamp on the above mentioned values.

<u>1932</u> Tercentenary set. The master die proof in black with both value tablets blank recess printed by De La Rue & Co., on thick wove unwatermarked paper was shown followed by a die proof of the 6d value in trial colour bright blue on thick wove unwatermarked paper 44 x 27mm. Then a die proof of the ¹/₂d value in trial colour dull blue on similar type paper 86 x 57mm and a further die proof of the 6d value in trial colour bright blue on similar type paper 73 x 42mm.

Die proofs of the 1d value in the ten different colours of the issued stamps from the $\frac{1}{2}$ to the 5/- were then displayed followed by the specimen stamps of the whole set.

1935 Silver Jubilee set. The specimen stamps of the whole set.

1937 Coronation set. The specimen stamps of the whole set.

1938 set. The specimen Stamps of the whole set.

1946 Victory set. The specimen stamps of the whole set.

Mr. C. J. Barwick who had made the journey from Macclesfield in order to attend the display and talk, very kindly proposed a most sincere vote of thanks.

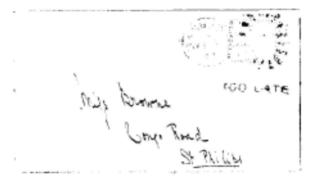
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BARBADOS

At the "CAPEX" exhibition in South Africa last July I acquired a Barbados cover because of the TOO LATE mark struck on the front. This particular mark is not included in the handbook by Messrs Britnor and Benwell and was not to be found in the limited Barbados literature at my disposal. I therefore deemed it advisable to obtain a certificate for the item.

The B.P.A. certificate reads as follows:

"Barbados cover 1875-78. Cover bearing 1d. grey-blue wmk. crown CC perf 14 (S.G.74) is genuine. The hand-stamp "TOO LATE:" was cancelled by a blue crayon line, subsequently removed.



I am sure there are members far more knowledgeable than I who could enlighten me regarding the handstamp in question.

Hyman N. Nathanson

BRITISH HONDURAS

Members may be interested to know of the following additional British Honduras cancellations to those that have appeared in the Bulletin:

Single oval (in violet) 42 x 48mm. LOUISVILLE/14 DEC 1959/ BRITISH HONDURAS Double ring (black or v. dark purple) 32 x 20mm. SAN PEDRO / MAY / 7 / 1936 BRITISH HONDURAS.

Large double ring with outer frame line (purple/black) 44 x 31mm. CROOKED TREE / SEP 6 1951 / B.H.

Goldblatt.'s type 10. SITTEE RIVER / B.H. with small asterisks, no date. Outer oval 50mm., inner oval 37mm.

HOPKINS, S.C./B.H. Date (in centre) same size as Sittee River cancellation above.

Type 10a (?) Double oval with frame line. Outer oval 48mm. inner oval 36mm. SAND HILL / 11 AUG 1961 / BRITISH HONDURAS.

O. N. D. Phillips

In the June, 1979 Bulletin, Simon Goldblatt said that he has no knowledge of a British Honduras double circle type postmark of MASKALL. I can report one on SG. 128, the 2ct, of 1927. The strike is in black ink, and most of the left half of the cancel is clearly struck on it. It appears that the town name may be followed by another word or letters as MASKAL(L) is positioned from about 9.30 to 12 o'clock, while BRITISH HONDURAS is in the normal position at the bottom. Since the left half of the date is all that remains, it is impossible to give the date of use other than JA-2-19--.

Fred. F. Seifert

BRITISH HONDURAS WORLD WAR II CENSORSHIP

The following represents notes to the chapter by Trevor S. Bates in The Roses Caribbean Philatelic Handbook No. 2, WEST INDIAN CENSORSHIP DEVICES, pp. 98-102. For convenience I am following his classifications although these will no doubt be revised with the publication of Bill Broderick's forthcoming publication on Civilian Censorship.

1. Label Type L2

My example dates JU 6/45, sender Santiago Castillo, Belize to New Rochelle, surface, 6c rate, (private mark?) "ENGLISH LANGUAGE."

<u>2. Label Type L2A</u> (Unlisted by Bates) (Illustration No. 1) Date undecipherable, sender Guy N. F. Nord, Belize to Huntington Park, Ca., airmail, 20c rate.

3. Handstamp Type H2

FE ? 43, sender Santiago Castillo, Belize to NYC, surface, 6c rate, (private mark?) "ENGLISH LANGUAGE," similar grey-blue strip of paper, with addition of censor's intials, "G.E." (Illustration No. 2).

4. Label Type L3

The printed code and number are underlined by a single, heavy line (not two printed lines). Additional numbers recorded 8171 (A in manuscript), 8172, 8173, 8174, 8174 (B in manuscript) LKD: 4/24/44.

5. Label Type L4

Additional numbers recorded 8171, 8174. EKD:12JA44. LKD: 10JA45.

6. Label Type L5

Additional numbers recorded 8171 (A in manuscript), 8171 (B in manuscript). EKD: 15MY43. LKD: 25MY43.

7. Label Type L6

The code letter and number in manuscript are underlined by a single heavy line (not two printed lines). Additional numbers recorded 8174 (Illustration No. 3.) EKD: 14OC44. LDK:31JA45

8. Brown tape labels

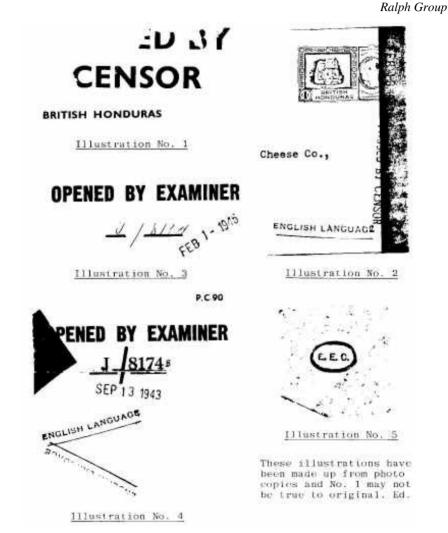
Locally produced provisional labels. Manuscript numbers 8171 (24MR45), 8172 (15MR45).

Other

The 'V' marking in purple was definitely applied in British Honduras and is not a U.S. marking. I think it was possibly a marking used exclusively by the Royal Bank of Canada. If not then it and the "ENGLISH LANGUAGE" markings were applied at the

post office counter on instruction to the clerk. Notice the "V" utilizing this latter marking in illustration No. 4.

Illustration No. 5 is an "E.E.C." marking in purple. I suspect this is British applied at Bermuda or Trinidad, but cannot locate a reference. It is on the reverse of a 17MR43 Belize to Wilmington, Del., 31c airmail rate, with U.S. tape, "EXAMINED BY/2231. What does "E.E.C." signify?



B.W.I.

Robert. Stein reports that he has a clear strike of the MONTSERRAT/OFFICIAL PAID c.d.s., Britnor's type P4, dated 23 JY 1908, seven years earlier than Britnor recorded, on

Leeward Is. SG.40 2¹/₂d. keyplate issue. He also mentions that the article on Anguilla in Bulletin No. 100 fails to record the St. Kitts c.d.s. with control letters "AN" and reports that he has this mark on Leewards SG. 38 dated 9.17.12 and SG. 48a dated AUG 14. 20 and DE 31.19.

WATERMARK VARIETIES

It has been in my mind for some time to issue a check list of abnormal watermark orientations in order to stimulate members to pool their knowledge in this largely unexplored area. I have, however, waited until the appearance of the Bridger & Kay Five Reigns catalogue because there is little point in duplicating information already appearing there, quite apart from the fact that an exhaustive listing would be highly unpopular with our Editor. The list that appears below, therefore, omits items which are recorded in Bridger & Kay. It also disregards Perkins Bacon issues (whose operators did not take too much trouble to insert the paper correctly), as well as stamps issued after the reign of George V. In individual colonies, I make no attempt to list Jamaica and Trinidad (as I do not collect them), the Queen Victoria issues of St. Vincent (which were comprehensively dealt with by Vincent Duggleby in Bulletin No. 97) nor, of course, the Grenada tete-beches.

I should add that my listing includes a number of items I have seen reported only once by sources open to doubt. In particular, confusion can arise between inverted and reversed and inverted or reversed orientations, so I have marked such items with an asterisk. I would appreciate confirmation of these items as well as additions to the list.

Members may be interested in a few general conclusions that can be drawn from the study of watermark varieties:-

1. There is still a good chance of finding unrecorded varieties on stamps with only one type of paper, as few people have bothered to examine them closely for watermarks.

2. If you find an unrecorded variety on a stamp which can appear on more than one type of paper (as I did recently with Antigua S.G.36, for example), you can be fairly certain that only one sheet exists.

3. Sideways watermarks are a fruitful field for examination (they can often be found facing left or right.). More research needs to be done in those G.V. script sets of St. Kitts, Dominica and Bermuda (centenaries)

4. It is always worth looking at a reversed or inverted and reversed watermark to see if the stamp has been printed on the gummed side (a spectacular error).

5. Prices are highly random, which means that knowledge will pay off.

Finally a question. Can anyone explain why De La Rue issues of Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Jamaica and Turks & Caicos are riddled with watermark varieties while others (e.g. Dominica, St. Lucia) are almost free from them ?

B.W.I. WATERMARK VARIETIES

(additional to those in B & K's Five Reigns 1980)

S.G. Nos. in brackets, inverted = i, reversed = r, inverted and reversed = i + r, sideways = s, * = single unconfirmed sighting.

= 5, $=$ single unc	sommed signing.
ANTIGUA.	2½d (22) i*, 1d (24) i, 1d (25) r, i + r, 6d (36) i, 1/- (57) i.
BAHAMAS.	3/- (71) i, 1d (78) i, 1d (102) i, 1d (105) r, 1d (107) i + r, i*,
	3d (108) i, 3d (111) i, 1d (112) i, r, 3d (116) i + r.
BARBADOS.	¹ /2d (89) i, ¹ /4d (105) i, ¹ /2d (146) i, r, 1d (147) r, 2 ¹ /2d (149) i,
	¹ / ₂ d (185) i, i + r, 2 ¹ / ₂ d (190) i, 3/- (196) i, i + r printed on gummed
	side, 1d (197) i, ¹ / ₄ d (201) i, r*, ¹ / ₂ d (202) i + r, 1d (203) i, 6d (208) i,
	2/- (210) r, i + r, 1/- (215) i, 2d (221) i + r.
BERMUDA.	6d (10a) i, 1d (46) i + r, 2d (68) i* sideways to right, 2/6 (89a) i*,
	1/- (29a) r.
B. GUIANA.	8c (199) i.
B. HONDURAS.	4d (20) i, 2c/6d (25) i, 2c/1d (37) i, 3c (53) i, 10c (132) r, 4c (PD3) i.
CAYMAN I.	3d (60) i + r, 1/- (63) i, 2 ¹ / ₂ d (74) r, 3d (75) i, i + r.
DOMINICA.	Various values of 1908-14 set: inverted sideways - more information
	needed.
GRENADA.	1/- (98d) i, Bridger & Kay's listing of the 1/script watermark
	inverted may be a misguided attempt to record this variety.
LEEWARD I.	2 ¹ / ₂ d (3) i, 3d (51d) i.
MONTSERRAT.	4d (5) i, r, 2 ¹ / ₂ d (10) i, 1d (15) i.
ST. CHRISTOPH	ER. 4d (10) i, 4d (17) i, 6d (19) i, 1/- (20) i.
ST. KITTS-NEVI	S. 1½d (26) r.
ST. VINCENT.	1d (68) i, 1d (109) i + r, 5/- (119) i*, 1d (122) i, 1d (129) i.
TOBAGO.	6d (3) i, 4d (10) i, 1/- (12) i.
TURKS & CAIC	OS. 1d (102) i, 2d (103) i, ¹ / ₄ d (115) i, ¹ / ₂ d (117) i*, i + r, 1/- (124) i,
	6d (160) r.
VIRGIN I.	2½d (37) i, 1d (78a) i.

Note: This check list has been assembled from a wide variety of sources and I am indebted to a number of members who have helped in its preparation.

Charles. A. Freeland

FURTHER THOUGHTS ON PICTURE POSTCARDS

<u>Scarcity</u> When I wrote previously about picture postcards, I was trying in a rather clumsy way to assess the relative scarcity of B.W.I. cards as between one colony and another. Subsequent experience does little to alter the original assessment of comparative scarcity, except that the initial famine in British Honduras has been succeeded by a somewhat more plentiful crop. There are now comparatively few colonies for which I could not have acquired 100 cards (including duplicates) had I been willing to buy everything offered at whatever the asking price: in Bermuda, Jamaica and Trinidad, the tally would exceed 1,000 - indeed, nearer 2,000 in the case of the first two. The islands which come nowhere near the figure of 100 are these; ANGUILLA (0); BARBUDA (1); CAYMAN I. (about 30); NEVIS (about 30);

TOBAGO (about 20); TURKS I. (about 40); VIRGIN I. (about 20, all used!). One single treasure trove accounts for more than half the last figure, which much underplays the rarity of these cards.

<u>Prices</u> At a time when major dealers may be charging up to £25 for a single unused card of the Falkland I., there are distinct signs of an increase in prices for B.W.I. cards. Leading the field are postcards of St. Vincent: before long individual unused cards will be fetching £5, and used cards obviously command a premium. What is becoming noticeable - and rightly so - is the distinction which dealers are beginning to make between one card and another. No longer will one find a uniform price of 10p in the "Foreign Topographical" section nor, indeed, a uniform price for the cards of a specific island. Instead, the dealer makes a careful assessment of the quality of the picture side, and prices his card accordingly. So, even in the commonest B.W.I. colonies, one can expect to be asked between £1.50 and £2.50 for a good-class card, such as a lively street scene, or an animated study of a local personality. If one picks and chooses, these cards are well worth the asking price, and will, I think, climb much higher. Those who doubt my words should ask around for cards of Ascension or Seychelles - each of which is about as scarce as a middle-range West Indian island - and they will see the gap which presently exists in comparative market prices.

Used cards must be assessed, for premium value, on their philatelic merits. None of us needs to be told what a good maritime mark, an out-island origin, a Jamaica TRD, and so on, would add to the value of any particular card. Except in the case of Jamaica, Bermuda, and Trinidad (and frequently one need make no exception even for these) it is quite uncommon to find a B.W.I. postcard of the 1930's or earlier priced at under £l, where it is used and still bears its original stamp.

<u>Cards to pursue</u> Before I come to purely subjective judgment, I must mention some real high-flyers. A St. Vincent p.p.c. with the rare "Ship Letters St. Vincent" c.d.s. has been sold for over £300. Virgin I. p.p.c.'s with the almost equally desirable black Crown Circle "Paid at Tortola" are known, and would be worth about £250 at today's prices. A St. Lucia postcard franked with the Crown Circle of that colony (c. 1904) would be worth about £150. Few of us will get the offer of cards similar to these, so I turn to the cards within everybody's reach, when they can be found.

(i) <u>Events</u>. I have a particular fondness for cards which celebrate events. Instances are as follows:

Antigua Arrival of a new Governor; a Royal visit; arrival of a battalion of troops in transit.

Barbados The Trafalgar Day Centenary celebrations, pictured in cc. variety of different cards.

Jamaica The 1907 earthquake, which inspired a large number of contemporary cards. (Note how the same views are used over and over again in different sets of cards produced for different sellers, often by different printers). Coronation Day for Edward VII. Arrival of a new Governor. etc., etc.

Montserrat The special 1935 Silver Jubilee card.

Nevis The marriage of Nelson. (not contemporary!!)

St. Lucia Arrival of Boer prisoners-of-war; Coronation Day 1911; parade of Volunteers. etc., etc.

St. Vincent. The 1902 volcanic eruption and its effects.

Trinidad The riots of 1903.

(ii) <u>Philatelic Associations</u> Those who follow B.W.I.S.C. auctions will remember the "Llandovery Falls" card of Jamaica. In the same category and country comes a card showing the Abolition of Slavery view which figured on the unissued 6d stamp (but one needs the stamp as well, does one not?). Trinidad produced a special card to go with the 1916 Red Cross stamp; this is a rarity nowadays. Apart from these specialities, what can be much better than a card which is duly stamped and postmarked from the place shown in the view on the picture side? The capital towns are not too uncommon, but what about the actual Post Offices? I think that G.P.O. Nassau, and St. George's, Grenada are the only ones really likely to turn up.

Even as unused items, postcards which show a view of a Post Office seem to me to have more impact than privately-taken photographs, especially when one seeks a view of a building as it used to be. I also fall readily for cards portraying the local postmen. There is a general Commonwealth series which includes cards for Barbados, British Guiana and Trinidad, a French-produced series which includes Trinidad, and most of the colonies show one of their own postmen somewhere, with Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda and Jamaica liable to be easiest to find. Still one of my favourite cards is my Antiguan village postman seated on a donkey.

Last in this group are the stamp cards, that is, cards depicting stamps of a particular country. There are several sets, all of which are popular with postcard collectors generally, and a clean item now sells at £4 to £5. In the B.W.I. only Barbados, British Guiana and Trinidad are featured, so far as I know; I should be glad to learn that I am wrong about this.

(iii) <u>Animating a Stamp Collection</u> Some of the cards discussed in the last section would qualify under this head. There are two further groups I strongly recommend. The first comprises map cards, a postcard category which is sometimes quite expensive. In the B.W.I. one can find cards of the West Indies as a whole, and one should not find Bahamas, Barbados or Bermuda too difficult. A well-known geographical series certainly includes British Guiana, Jamaica and Trinidad, and I have very local products for St. Lucia and St. Vincent. I suspect that Dominica and Grenada can both be found, but of some islands no map cards are likely to exist for the 1930's or earlier.

My second group is more diffuse. Where one features the postmarks of a particular village it is gratifying to show a view of the village itself. In most colonies the task of assembling such cards is far more difficult than finding the actual postmarks. I have a full set for St. Lucia, and could assemble one for Bermuda. Otherwise I should be struggling to find more than a handful of views for any particular island.

(iv) <u>Quality cards</u> My previous article gave some guidance on differences in quality between one card and another. As a golden rule, once outside the bounds of your particular theme, go for the card of good quality, not the medium or poor one. If you tire of such a card, someone else will always want to take it off your hands. Buy your cards clean and not soiled, if possible fresh and uncreased, and pay the necessary premium; in other words, select them as you would a stamp.

As to subject, look for the interest factor. A busy street scene of, say, Orange St., Kingston, or Frederick St., Port of Spain, with a tram car in the foreground or middle distance, will always win approval - and none the worse for being in black-and-white, not colour. Look for the oldest inhabitant of Belize, or Bajan women gossiping; the policemen of Bermuda, or salt-raking on Grand Turk; village cricket in Antigua, Booker's Stores in Georgetown, B.G.; a carnival in Roseau, or the mail boat in St. George's harbour, Grenada; the horseracing in St. Kitts, the regatta in Belize; the humorous cards of Jamaica, the cards of shipping lines that served the West Indies, often with mail boats portrayed or inset, the satyrical series on sugar-growing, featuring native doggerel. All these cards, and many similar, have a story to tell and will add to the pleasure you derive from your stamps. Above all, don't rely on my recommendation and my taste, but cultivate your own.

<u>Choosing a Country</u> Perhaps some of you will be tempted to collect the cards of a particular colony, as an adjunct to philately. If so, which should you choose?

First let me award the wooden spoon. It goes to Cayman I., and I hope that collectors of the stamps of these islands will forgive me! I have yet to see a quality card originating from here, and that includes the series portraying local residents indulging in amateur theatricals. This is a sad comment, because Cayman I. is the one place from which a good quality card could rival the Falkland I. in value.

Next I exclude all the other scarce islands, simply because they are scarce. One can gratefully acquire cards from Virgin I. or Caicos, when they turn up, but one cannot set out to collect them. The supply just does not exist.

In the Leeward Is. group, Antigua is outstanding. It has some quite charming cards and gets right away from the uniformity of subject matter which tends to affect each of the other islands in the group. But don't be too easily tempted. Good cards are scarce, and the search will be very frustrating.

St. Lucia, St. Vincent, British Honduras each have their appeal, the latter not least because, amongst cards of animation and interest, it sometimes produced cards of appallingly low quality. In Bermuda, almost every card carries the message, "this is a haven for tourists" and collectively they tend to over-sell the attractions of the island. This is almost as true of the Bahamas, especially with the products of Sand's Studio, which tended to dominate the market. Grenada has slightly more promise than performance; British Guiana will plumb the depths more often than it scales the heights.

This leaves me with three colonies, and no one could be criticised for choosing either Jamaica or Trinidad, each of which I am reluctant to discard. Their cards are fairly plentiful, and good cards among them, with a wide variety of subject matter and interest.

In the end, though, I plump for Barbados. Perhaps I am swayed by the court cards which I described in my earlier article; but even without these I think the colony gets its balance right. It has its event cards, its skipping cards, its postal cards, its stamp cards; has its street scenes, its horse trams, its local characters and tradesmen; it has its monuments, and its busy wharves, its industries and its public buildings; it has its tourist attractions and its quiet retreats; and above all (unlike Trinidad) the low-grade

cards that one feels forced to buy simply because one has not already got them, are comparatively few. Cards are not plentiful, but they do turn up; and a fair proportion come used, with their stamps still intact. With patience, application, and a little luck, you will build up quite a comprehensive picture of Barbados in the early part of the century before I, with my predilection for Virgin Islands, have found my first unused card.

<u>Modern Cards</u> This commentary is not about modern postcards, but don't let me disparage them. The postcard of our own era supplies the need of the tourist for holiday stationery and cheap souvenirs. Serious collectors are few, and world-wide exchanges - which were commonplace in 1905 - no longer take place so you could do far worse than revive the old fashion. What I have to say about old cards has little application to the new ones: it should not prove too difficult or too expensive to organise a useful supply of contemporary cards from your chosen island or islands, and lay down a collection for the future. You may not see them appreciate much in value, but your children certainly will; and you will enjoy them all the more for having your stamp collection from the same area.

Starting from this base it will also make sense to track back in time, even if your chosen country is Tobago or Montserrat; for while a dozen old cards, acquired over several years, would not make much of a collection in themselves, they would certainly enhance and embellish a collection of more recent times. And you can guess what comes finally: if I were going to collect postcards of Cayman Islands, this would be the only way to go about it.

Simon Goldblatt

JAMAICA

On Mr. Mattick's first query (Bulletin 99) 1 can confirm that his MONTEGO BAY in blue is a double ring. The BCPSG listing of Jamaica postmarks quotes:

Mark No. 13. Double-ring. Diameter 26m	m with dots.
EDK	LDK
Black 28 MR 94	14 OC 12
Blue 28 DE 03	15 MR 04
Green 15 FE 05	

By 1904 this canceller had considerably deteriorated. My own example in blue has the appearance of a heavy ring, as did the others I have seen.

I think the, third query relates to a portion of a machine cancel. My own example is:

KINGSTON	
JUL 15 25	
001 10 20	
3 – PM	
JAMAICA	
JIMMINICI	

I do not know the period of usage of this mark. The D.L.R. "WAR STAMP" was issued in October 1919, so Mr. Mattick's example may well be of earlier date than mine. Incidentally a similar format "KINGSTON / date / time / JAMAICA" was also used in machine cancels with the British Empire Exhibition 1924 slogan and with "COME TO / JAMAICA BWI / THE IDEAL / TOURIST RESORT"

I was interested in Mr. Birley's third point (Bulletin 99), that he has seen examples of the first flight covers to Miami with the KINGSTON date stamp DE 10 30 - year in normal upright position. Like his example, my own has the year inverted. Existence of the year date upright indicates that either:

(a) the year plugs fell out while the batch of covers was being cancelled and were replaced in an inverted position, or (b) the inversion was noticed and corrected during the cancelling operation, or (c) more than one instrument was used for cancelling these FFC's.

The canceller on my cover has index 3B. The problem could be clarified if members with similar covers would let Mr. Birley know the index of the Kingston mark and whether the year is upright or inverted. Obviously the existence of cancellers with index number other than 3 would prove that more than one instrument was used to cancel these covers.

Anthony Lewarn

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

A COMMENTARY ON SOME OF THE 'POST INDEPENDENCE ISSUES' 1962-78.

If you collect stamps on a modest budget then certainly the whole of the post independence issues of Trinidad & Tobago can be obtained for a very modest outlay. Looking at the special issues there appears to be many aspects which might satisfy both the beginner and the specialist. However, for my own part a little bit of everything is represented, superb designs, national identity and philately too.

When I was corresponding from Trinidad I often wished the recipients had looked at the stamps they received and perhaps we would have been spared such comments as 'Do you live in trees, do you have knives and forks, where abouts in Africa is it!'

The development of communications in Trinidad is well represented by the 125th Anniversary of Trinidad's First Adhesive Stamp (S.G. 413-5), 50 Years of Airmail in Trinidad & Tobago (S.G. 503-6), Completion of the Satellite Earth Station at Matura (S.G. 403-5), the latter no doubt supporting the 'Moon Landing' issue (S.G. 361-3), I say tongue in check.

But what about Carnival, - it's said that if you have not played 'mas' you haven't lived. I can vouch for Carnival being a sole Trinidad experience, from visiting the Calypso tents j'ourvet, and two days of bachannal in Port of Spain. Yes, the issues representing Carnival will always have a special meaning; look at S.G. 322-7, 371-5 and 465-6; imagine the other one million people enjoying the spectacular.

Carnival is one sport, which leads me naturally to the issues of the Mexico Olympics (S.G. 334-8), Munich (S.G. 422-6) and Hasely Crawford's gold medal in the Montreal Olympics (S.G. 501). Trinidad are to be congratulated in commemorating

their athlete in this way, as many larger countries treat their athletes (philatelically) with indifference. Cricket – 'I like it' (S.G. 474-5).

Apparently some philatelists were not enamoured at the issued size of the local Animals (S.G. 392-6), but then again it's as one sees it. I remember all too well attending a Mayaro beach party, where my wife in a squeamish moment thought there was a dead cat in our host's refrigerator, later to prove a local delicacy, 'Agouti'. I can not say whether or not it tasted like cat, but can compare it with hare. Butterflies (S.G. 407-12), handsome stamps, possibly the most representative and true colour I have ever seen. Trinidad and the printers, Harrison's, are to be congratulated. Orchids (S.G. 512-5), these stamps do not somehow capture the experience of sitting on the veranda engulfed in the scent of the orchids which abound in Trinidad.

The Independence issue Buccoo Reef (S.G. 300) courtesy of the Hotel Normandie, an unfortunate but none the less interesting error and one which caused much furore amongst local philatelists. It was established that the design was taken from a fictitious mural situated behind the bar of a local Hotel in Port of Spain. Nevertheless if one visits Tobago and enjoys the pleasure of a swim or underwater dive on the Buccoo Reef then this would outweigh the stamp design inaccuracies. The Hilton Hotel (S.G. 302), affectionately referred to by my daughter as the 'cafe on the hill' is only one of the many Hotels on the Islands. Caribbean hotels could prove a good theme for anyone with the inclination.

Trinidad's national activities are well represented by CARIFTA (a sort of a mini EEC) and numerous conventions. Of particular note I draw attention to the '125th Anniversary of San Fernando' (S.G. 385), note the hill in the back ground. I understand this is being quarried at such a rate that this stamp may be the only memorial after the hill has gone.

Again congratulations are due on the Anniversary of Independence issue, 'Captain Cipriani and the local medals of Merit' (S.G. 397-8, 417-20, 440-3). Do not, as I almost did, lose sight of the issue commemorating the 2nd Commonwealth Conference of Postal Administrations, (S.G. 445-6), the 40c value showing the mis-spelling 'Chagaramas', locally spelt Chaguaramas, the site previously being an occupied U.S. forces base. Before the present Port of Spain harbour this Western coast provided the natural harbour for the ships of the main.

How proud the Seigert family must be to see their and Trinidad's achievements portrayed by the 'Angostura' Anniversary issue (S.G. 468-71). There are those who swear by a glass of soda water and several drops of Angostura Bitters to cure many ills. Equally of course there are those who would substitute the soda water for gin, which, I might add, Angostura also make.

Not so much a cure but an invaluable contribution (S.G. 459-60) commemorating Dr. Joseph Lennox Pawan's isolation of the Rabies Virus. Other noted Trinidadians' achievements being represented (S.G. 454-5), Harold and Kwailan La Borde's voyages.

There are other special issues representing world affairs, natural resources, birds, Christmas etc. Possibly some other collectors have stories behind their stamps.

Philatelic Lip - look for postally used copies of the 5c values, even better on cover. Most 5c. values are used fiscally on receipts. Equally the printing quantities of the special issue higher values are philatelically small. Now is the time to buy, - the price will never be as inexpensive again.

John de Vries

TURKS & CAICOS

AN INTERESTING PAIR.

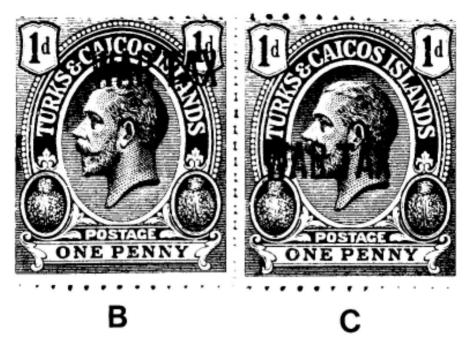
The War Tax stamps of the various Island Colonies in the British West Indies, issued during the later stages of the 1914-18 War and just after, are interesting philatelically not the least because so many of the overprints were produced locally, and so being, without the professionalism of the usual London stamp printers, open the way for many different, studies by collectors.

Regarding those produced for the Turks and Caicos Islands by the local Government Printer the first question is how were they printed? (The second question, that of numbers printed, is another problem again!) I have always understood that they were printed in 'half panes'. But what do we mean by that? The original 1d stamp was printed in sheets of 120, whilst the 3d was printed in sheets of only 60. So, do we assume that the overprints were done 60 at a time, and thus the whole of a 3d sheet could be dealt with at one operation? Judging from the fact that there are many fewer recorded errors in the 3d, especially those of a nature such as the error discussed in this article, I feel that this is an assumption that can be made. Meanwhile I will continue to refer to 'half panes', i.e. 60 stamps arranged in six columns each of ten stamps, when referring to the 1d stamp.

Why not overprint the whole sheet at once? I can only assume that this was because of limitations on the size of the local printing press, or a shortage of type with which to make up the overprints. Judging from the number of errors that can be found with K for X, or an inverted V for A, etc. I feel that the answer is probably a combination of both factors.

Now look at the pair of 1d overprints shown in the illustration and which give rise to the title of this article. Assuming the 'half pane' theory to be correct then the stamps would be from columns 6 and 7 of the sheet, accounting for the fact that stamp C has the overprint centre and to the left, whilst stamp B has the overprint towards top and to the right. But look more closely. Stamp A, unfortunately missing but to the left of B, has the overprint centre and to the right, so far to the right that the X of TAX appears on stamp B. So here we have not two but three different positions of overprint. Either the 'half pane' theory is wrong or there must, be another explanation for the overprints illustrated.

Discussing this recently with some fellow members of the Study Circle the following explanation was suggested. The print on stamp C is part of the normally overprinted right hand 'half' pane', and the stamps to the right or it would have similar overprints. However, we must consider that the left hand 'half pane' was first overprinted so as to give the overprint on stamp A, the overprint being incorrectly positioned on the sheet so as to omit column 6. This would occur if the left hand Selvedge had been included, which being smaller than a stamp would account, in part



at least, for the overprints being so far to the right on each stamp. Noticing the error of one column of stamps, including stamp B shown, the printers would have subsequently put that 'half pane' through the overprinting process again, the overprint now differently positioned as on stamp B, while stamp A and those to the right of it, would have a double overprint. One of these double overprints would be in a position similar to the one on stamp B, the other positioned as originally printed on stamp A.

Incidentally, this gives the true double overprint with two distinct overprints on the one stamp. Some examples quoted as "double overprint" offered by Dealers are merely a doubling of the same impression by jump or judder during the printing process and to my mind should by referred to as "overprint doubled".

In 1976 Harmers offered for sale a half sheet of the 1d with the January 1917 overprint. It showed a double overprint at the bottom with one inverted, with both overprints misplaced. This resulted in the last of the six columns of stamps having the upright overprint omitted. It seems to me that this is a similar case.

So, an interesting pair showing as it does parts of three different overprint positions. What a pity that stamp A has been removed! Can anyone confirm this explanation or offer a better one? Does anyone have a larger block which will help to confirm or refute this explanation?

I am indebted to Simon Goldblatt, Basil Benwell and Stirling Baker for their help. Michael Wilson

MEMBERS SMALL ADVERTISEMENT

Advertisement rate: 5p per word; minimum charge 50p. Copy to the Editor six weeks before publication. TRINIDAD & TOBAGO. PLATE CONTROL NUMBERS WANTED 1883-1922 ISSUES. John de Vries, 54, Sleaford Road, Boston, PE21 8EU.

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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. The 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 loss or damage of any items or for any opinion expressed.

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

NEWS ROUNDUP

Would members please particularly note the different places for the forthcoming meetings and special events. See programme box for details.

At the time of writing, seventy members and guests have notified us of their intention of attending the Wine and Cheese Party. If you are thinking of coming may we suggest that you send in your application immediately as numbers are limited. You will be assured of a warm welcome and the opportunity to meet other members, including many from overseas. The cost is $\pounds 2$ per person.

A recent contact with Fred Seifert indicates, as ever, that he is fully occupied. Fred recently flew to Houston to serve as chief judge of 'HOUPEX'79', and in October attended the BCPSG annual meeting at 'NOJEX' in New Jersey, where he also served as a judge. Present plans include a visit to 'LONDON 1980', where many of us will look forward to renewing an acquaintance first made at 'PHILYMPIA' in 1970.

'LONDON 1980' will open to the public from 1 p.m. Tuesday 6th May and will remain open until 8.00 p.m. On other days the exhibition will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., except on the final day, May 14th when the Exhibition will close at 6.00 p.m. 'LONDON 1980' will also open on Sunday, 11th May from 11.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Cost of admission will be £1.50 and with a reduced rate of £1.00 after 5.00 p.m. each day. On the opening day however, admission will cost £3.00. A season ticket costing £10.00 will also be available.

In addition to the BCPSG sponsored meeting and our own Wine and Cheese Party, Alfred Branston has now sent details of further BCPSG sponsored events:

Thurs., May 8th. All day visit to Blenheim, birth place of Winston Churchill, with lunch at Woodstock.

Fri., May 9th. p.m. Visit to Victoria and Albert Museum. Costume and other art subjects. Tea at the Rembrandt Hotel.

Mon., May 12th. Visit to Harrods with an English tea as a special. American P.S. activity:

Wed., May 7th. Writers breakfast, Commonwealth Institute, High Street, Kensington.

Alfred Branston, of 11, Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, CM1 4DH, is now making a list of all those who are interested in the Joint Meeting and the above activities. They will also receive a London Welcome News Letter in the early Spring of 1980.

After over forty years of collecting stamps and postal history, Bob Topaz has decided to give up most of his collecting interests and go into stamp business. Bill Bogg of the New England Stamp Co. of Naples, Florida and Bob Topaz have joined forces to form a company called New England North. They will operate from the Boston, Mass. area and specialise in postal history items, covers and stamps. Bill Bogg will continue to operate his New England Stamp Company in Naples, Florida. The address of the new company is New England North, Box 216, Waban, Mass. 02168, U.S.A.

Jack Arnell, Chairman of 'BERMUPEX '80', writes that the exhibition will be held at the Castle Harbour Hotel (the site of 'BERMUPEX '78') on 15-16 November 1980. He

is fairly certain that the exhibition will be preceded by a Robson Lowe auction on 13-14 November, as in the past.

A brochure is being prepared and this and other information will be available from: Mrs. Heidi Augustinovic, BERMUPEX '80, P.O.Box 937, Hamilton 5, Bermuda.

There will almost certainly be a package tour out of London including BERMUPEX and New York for the A.S.D.A. show the following week.

Harmers of London announce that, following negotiations with Lloyds underwriters, benefits applicable to their Stamp Collectors Insurance scheme have been improved from the 1st January, 1980

Every collector's policy will automatically incorporate transit insurance cover up to $\pounds 12,500$ (or sum insured if less) the existing limit is $\pounds 10,000$.

Additional premiums and the need to make special requests are thus normally avoided. Furthermore postal transits under $\pounds75.00$ may be sent by ordinary post.

The level at which underwriters require advice of individual valuable items is being raised from $\pounds750$ to $\pounds1,000$.

Scheme limits were last raised at the beginning of 1978, since when there has been a marked up-turn in stamp values.

The BCPSG are proposing to produce a handbook on British Honduras, and have asked Bob Topaz and Ed Addiss to gather the necessary information. Bob Topaz has proposed that Simon Goldblatt, Gale Raymond, Ed Addiss and he be co-authors plus as many contributors as can be gathered together. Would all those who are willing to share whatever information they have please get in touch with Bob at 34, Maryellen Road, Waban, Mass. 02168, U.S.A.

Michael Sheppard

NEW MEMBERS

AYRE J. G., 20, Lonsdale Rd., Roker, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear.
Interest: Not yet known.
DREWETT S., 23, Cleeve Rd., Knowle, Bristol BS4 2JR.
Interest: Not yet known.
ELLIS, Robert M., White Herons, Fairmile Park Rd., Cobham Surrey.
Interest: Barbados.
FULLERTON, J.S., 32, Gibbon Rd., Kingston on Thames, Surrey. KT2 6AB.
Re-instated member.
FORAND Michael, 4-33, Rue Deschamps, Vanier, ONTARIO, KIL 5Z9, Canada.
Interest: Bermuda 1865-present. Barbados pre 1932, Tobago
KILBRIDE Joseph Anthony, 13, Wrose Ave., Swain House, Bradford, BD2 1HP. West
Yorks.
Interest: Bermuda, Granada.
MIDDOUR, E.S., 4714, Mildred St., Corpus Christi, Texas 78411, U.S.A.
Interest: Barbados.
NEIL Nigel Russell Jardine, c/o North of Scotland Archaeological Services, Binscarth
house, Finstown, Orkney, Scotland.
Interest.: Barbados to self government.

- PAYNE, Richard Charles Arthur, Anso Corner Farm, Hempstead, Saffron Walden, Essex. CB10 2NU. Interest: Jamaica.
- SHAPIRO, J. I, 7, Fontwell Close, Harrow Weald, Middlesex, HA3 6DF Interest: Bahamas, particularly 'staircase issue'.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

BELCHER, Stephen John, Cpl., R.A.M.C., British Military Hospital, Hong Kong, B.F.P.O.1.

HENDON, James, P.O.Box 308, London, SW1Y 6NB.

CAWSTON, Basil, 560x, Bahia Cirle, Ocala, Florida, 32672, U.S.A.

CLEMENTS, Richard, 5, Forest Oak Close, Cyncoed, Cardiff, CF2 6QN.

DEAKIN, Frank H., "Ollerton", Ilington, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 9RR.

FREELAND, Charles A., Chr Merianstr 5, 4142 Munchenstein, Switzerland.

JANE, Charles W.E., c/o Ernest Batley, P.O.Box 8350, Nassau, Bahamas.

JEFFERSON. I.W., Major, Feoffee Cottages, Tallinton, Stamford, Lincs., PE9 4RU

LIMRICK, Brian, 11, Chestnut Drive, Yeovil, Somerset, BA22 2NL.

NOTTINGHAM, Douglas William, "Rebmevon", 40, Meadowbank Walk, Stafford, ST16 1TA.

WINAND, C.P., The Old Malt House, Broughton, Hampshire.

CHANGE OF INTEREST

JANE, W.E. Special interest is now Antigua only.

RESIGNED

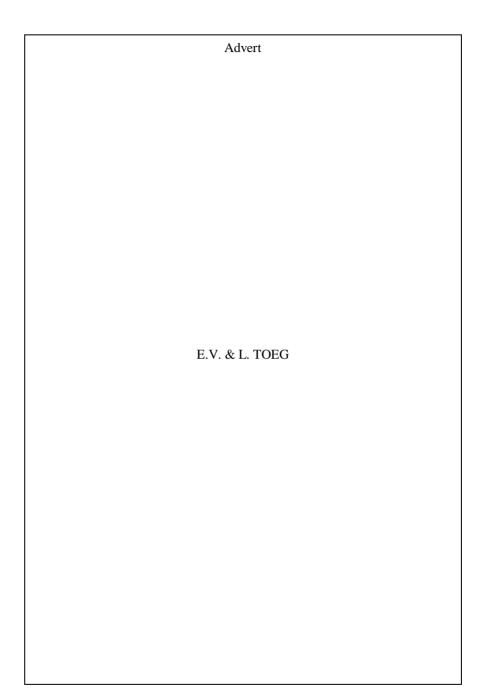
LACEY, Peter: RANSOM, Mrs. H.S.: WILKINS, S.

The following members have not paid their subscriptions fox 1979 and are therefore dropped from membership:

CASSIDY, M.: MADGWICK, G.: PATON, C.: ROWCLIFFE, C.: TAYLOR W.: WRIGHT, G.A.: YATES, Mrs. A.

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