



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 108 MARCH 1981

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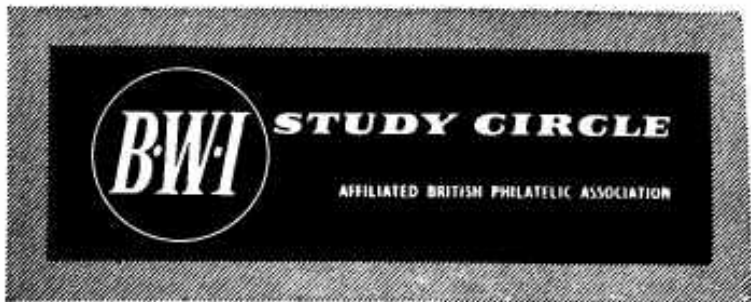
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OBJECTS

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 **£3.00** or **\$8.00** 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".

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PROGRAMME 1981

Wed., March 11th, 6.00 p.m. Ian Chard. Bermuda.
 Sat., April 25th, 2.15 p.m. A.G.M. and Auction.

THE MEETING ON MARCH 11th WILL BE HELD IN Committee Room A,
 The Law Society Building, 113, Chancery Lane, London, WC1A 1PL. THE A.G.M.
 & AUCTION WILL BE HELD IN The Margaret Room, Bonnington Hotel,
 Southampton Row, London, WC1 4BH.

IMPORTANT: Owing to the very large number of lots to be offered at the Auction on 25th April the Meeting will now commence at 2.15 p.m. and not 2.30 p.m. as stated in earlier Bulletins.

Details of the arrangements for viewing Auction lots will be found in News Roundup. It will also be possible to view lots for about 15 minutes immediately before the sale.

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Currently the Circle has two publications in hand namely DOMINICA by the late P.T. Saunders, edited by L.E. Britnor and BARBADOS POST OFFICE MARKINGS by George Clarke and Reynold Radford. It is hoped that both publications will be available during the latter part of this year. Further details will be published in future issues of the Bulletin

DISPLAY

Seven members and one visitor attended the meeting held at 6 p.m. on Thursday 20th November, 1980 in the Committee Room A, The Law Society Building, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL and some of those attending showed "nine pages", details of which are summarised below:-

Mr. I. P. Chard showed some attractive Bermuda items relating to the St. George's Post Office with early marks on adhesives on and off cover in accordance with the classification of cancellations devised by Maurice H. Ludington, He displayed an example of the bar cancellation K1 on the 1/- CC wmk, perf. 14; three examples of bar

cancellations K2 B/1 on stamps with CC wmk. perf. 14; also a cover dated 12th December, 1877 showing bar cancel-14; and two examples of bar cancellation K2 B/14 on 1d and 6d stamps with CC wmk. perf.14; also a cover dated 12th December, 1877 showing bar cancellation type K2 B/1 with handstamp date stamp type H3. He also showed examples of duplex cancellations numeral 2 type K3 (1) on five 1d stamps and two covers dated 25th August 1880 and 3rd June, 1886 respectively with the same type of duplex cancel.

There then followed two further covers dated 12th August, 1880 cancelled by duplex K3 (1) and 7th October 1880 cancelled by duplex K3 (2); and a further cover to England with two 1d rose-red stamps cancelled by handstamp type H5.

Finally, a postcard used locally from Hamilton to St. George's with the stamp cancelled by duplex cancellation K4 (1) numeral 1, i.e. Hamilton, but with St. George's handstamp type H4 as an arrival mark.

Mr. M. Wilson showed "nine pages" of the Silver Jubilee issue of the Turks & Caicos Islands. The first page showed a set of the "Specimen" stamps perforated with 70 holes by the printers Waterlow & Sons. On the next few pages he exhibited some constant varieties on the vignette which Mr. Lucas of Sussex, who has done a lot of research on all the Silver Jubilee issues, calls the Printer's secret marks. With the British West Indies printings the "extra flagstaff" is well known, but the term implies that these marks were put on deliberately. Why? And why in these odd forms? And why to just a few stamps.

It appears that the vignette was printed in two panes of sixty side by side, the panes being separated before the frames were added. The first two marks appear on stamps Nos. 59 and 60. Stamp No. 7 also shows an error which is on half the printing, i.e. one pane and not on the other pane. Similarly there is a mark on stamp No. 11 but this only occurs on the vignette pane that does not have the mark on stamp No.7. There is also a mark on stamp No.22. A used example of the 6d displayed the markings (kite and log) of stamp No.60; the 1/- value showed similar marks. Mr. Wilson also exhibited some frame errors but these are not constant. He ended by including a set on a First Day Cover.

Barbados appears to be a very popular island so far as its stamps are concerned as the rest of the evening was taken up by three members giving displays of different aspects of the island's stamps.

Mr. B. B. Benwell showed a varied and interesting selection of maritime marks. First, a 1905 Ship Letter mark to Surrey and a boxed rectangular "Posted On Board"; Next, two covers of 1891 and 1900 respectively each with oval Barbados Ship Letter handstamps; then three covers from R.M.S. Ladies Nelson, Drake and Hawkins with the differing marks of those ships (space does not permit a full description of these marks nor of the later marks shown by Mr. Benwell); a cover from the S.S. Voltaire with its marks; a further cover from the Empress of Scotland with its particular mark; there was also a cover to England dated 25 Jan 1939 from M. S. Cordillera of the Hamburg-Amerika Line. Finally, a cover being consignees mail to London marked "Consignee p. R.M.S. Solent and Trent" in manuscript.

Mrs. B. Scott gave a showing of Barbados Parish numbers and displayed postcards depicting some of the Parish post offices. First, a cover with a "1" in bars cancel;
Continued on page 4

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 10th DECEMBER 1980

1979	INCOME	1980	1979	EXPENDITURE	1980
£344.20	Advertisers	£361.80	£ -	Bank charges	75
64.61	Bulletins (Sale of back issues)	40.80	35.00	Books and Periodicals	3.50
17.62	Cordex Binders	30.50	120.00	Hire of Rooms etc.	106.50
3.50	Collections at Meetings	4.30	22.50	Insurance	30.00
27.00	Donations	15.20	196.10	Postage	244.11
6.00	Opinion fees	6.00	767.74	Printing & blocks - Bulletins	933.41
735.52	Subscriptions	762.97	4.21	Stationery	6.40
104.34	Subscriptions paid in advance	81.44	10.00	Subscriptions	16.06
11.16	Sundry receipts	-	6.50	Subscriptions (Refund members)	2.50
270.88	Auction profit	294.39	66.03	Sundries	7.80
69.12	Auction profit Brighton Convention	-	5.95	Telephone	4.15
-	Wine & Cheese Party	191.50	-	Wine & Cheese Party	424.91
906.29	Cash at Bank	1326.21	1326.21	Cash at Bank	1335.02
£2560.24		£3115.11	£2560.24		£3115.11

PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

234.35	Sales of Paper No. 5	36.50	5.50	Printing costs - Paper No. 5	-
20.75	Sales of Paper No. 6	72.30	180.00	Printing costs - Paper No. 6	-
130.96	Cash at Bank	193.03	7.53	Postage	11.04
			193.03	Cash at Bank	290.79
£386.06		£301.83	£386.06		£301.83

Audited and found correct
Signed: A.J. Branston

11th February, 1981

Signed: S.A. Baker
Hon. Treasurer

followed by a picture of the St. Philip P.O. on a postcard; then a bisect of 1d blue on piece with bootheel "4" obliteration; a postcard showing the St. John P.O. with examples of "5" in bars cancels from that parish; a postcard of St. Joseph P.O. with a double c.d.s. St. Joseph Barbados "6" and date in centre; a postcard of St. James P.O. with examples of bootheel and circular date stamps showing "7"; a postcard of St. Thomas P.O. with an example of the c.d.s. St. Thomas Barbados and date in centre; postcards of St. Andrew P.O. (Parish No.9) and St. Peter P.O. (Parish No. 10) with an example of the c.d.s. St. Andrew with "9" and date in centre; and a postcard of St. Lucy P.O. (Parish No.11) together with a modern cover showing a double c.d.s. - St. Lucy - Barbados and date in centre.

Mr. D Bailey showed a study in some depth of the perforations, shades, varieties and the various printings of the King George VI definitive set from 1938 onwards. The stamps displayed were the ½d green, 2½d ultramarine, 3d brown, 3d blue and 4d black. He also showed the 1946 Victory set with both the 1½d and 3d values in blocks of four mint and each block displayed a different extra flagstaff variety.

NOTES and QUERIES

BAHAMAS

THE QV 2½d. WITH THE VARIETY "LARGE 2 WITH DROPPED FOOT"

Naturally I was most interested to read in Bulletin No.106 of another example of the Bahamas Queen Victoria 2½d. with a large 2 with a "dropped" foot similar to the SG. recorded variety in Antigua, and especially to note its position.

On 19th April, 1980 I wrote to Stanley Gibbons - "I thought you might be interested to know I have an unused Bahamas S.G.51 with the foot of the large '2' slanting downwards similar to the Antigua 2½d. stamps 19a, 22a and 27a".

Their reply stated - "We do not feel the variety you describe of Bahamas S.G.51 merits separate listing in the British Commonwealth Catalogue. The stamps were printed in two operations and although the figures of value may be out of alignment this is not in the same category as the item of Antigua which is the result of damaged type".

I then wrote saying that I did not understand their letter and pointed out that I had only referred to the foot of the large '2' of '2½' slanting downwards in a similar way to the variety in the Antigua 2½d, stamps.

A further reply from Stanley Gibbons stated "we misunderstood your previous letter" and added "to evaluate (Bahamas) S.G.51 we would prefer to see the stamp".

Accordingly I sent the Bahamas 2½d. stamp to Stanley Gibbons together with mint and used examples of Antigua S.G.27a and of the same stamp with the font of the large '2' tilted upwards. These were later returned with the following, comments:

I agree with you that the first stamp. . . at the top left is the variety S.G.27a ... As for the stamp of the Bahamas this in my opinion is not something which can be connected

with the listed stamp (i.e. the Antigua stamps) We have found no evidence to suggest that a similar variety occurs on the stamps of Bahamas”.

With two examples now known - one in a known position - it seems to me that it is quite possible for the same duty plate to have been used for the Antigua and Bahamas stamps.

Frederick Fitzgerald

BARBADOS

I was recently shown a copy of the 1876 ½d. bright green stamp S.G.72 cancelled with an open “bootheel and overstruck, as shown in the illustration, with the word “SOVEREIGN”. One would expect this to be the name of a ship, but I have been told that although there was a vessel of this name sailing in another part of the world, she was not in West Indian waters during the latter part of the nineteenth century. If any member has knowledge of this mark would they get in touch either with Michael Hamilton or myself.



Michael Sheppard

BRITISH GUIANA

On page 213 of “Townsend and Rowe” is mentioned an 1835 E.L. from Berbice to London, bearing a handstruck ‘6’ in black. This has now come into my possession. The letter is dated “Berbice, 3rd December, 1835”, and arrived in London, via Deal, on January 18, 1836. I show an illustration of the ‘6d’ mark in case any member can suggest what it might be. It is curious that the ‘d’ comes before the ‘6’. The rate mark of 1/4 doesn’t help; it represents 8d, maritime charge plus 8d. Deal to London.



Michael Webster

BRITISH HONDURAS

I have recently learnt that in the November, 1967 issue of the Stamp Magazine, there was a short note stating that a Miss J. Morrison of Dufftown, Banff, had submitted a mint copy of the British Honduras 2c. Hurricane Hattie stamp which showed the base of the ‘T’ in British with a distinct tail and the Queen with a second ear-ring directly below normal. The note asked for confirmation. As there was not a 2c. stamp in the Hurricane Hattie issue perhaps a typographic error was made and it should have read 25c.

Can any member confirm this find?

O.N.D. Phillips

BRITISH WEST INDIES

HOW TO ARRANGE AND WRITE UP A STAMP COLLECTION?

Can somebody please tell me how?

I remember my first stamp album. It was a red "Strand". It had illustrations and country headings at the top of each page, and it came with a packet of new, shining, brightly-coloured Abyssinian stamps. I couldn't wait to stick them in. So I did. They looked splendid. I was 7 years old and very proud of myself.

That evening my parents told me that you do not stick stamps into albums by means of their own gum. I thought stamp collectors must be very fussy people.

Still, I got on well for a while after that. Stamps arrived. Each went on its allotted page, next to the one before. No problems. Then came some holidays in Italy, and a Coronation at home. I found that my album, even with extra pages at the end, could not cope with four British first-day covers and the unending flow of new Italian issues. Yet my pages of Peru and Venezuela were still completely blank. It was time to move on.

My loose-leaf album was an ideal solution. It was all so simple. You got your set of current Ascension stamps, put them in a pattern which pleased you, and merely hinged them to the page. The page was complete for all time.

Only, when you didn't have the top value of a set, should you leave a space for it? And when the stamps were of different shapes and sizes did they have to stay in order of value? Did every set you got have to have a page of its own? And one page only? What did you do with your Coronation stamps? Mount them in their own countries, or assemble them as a group?

You resolve these problems to your own satisfaction, and even begin to feel complacent about them. Then you pass a stamp shop and discover that Ascension has issued some new colours and some new perforations. What does one do now?

Readers will recognise the primary (infective) stage of philatelicitis, and the secondary active period of the disease in its uncomplicated form. This stage usually lasts a few years, and then becomes symptomless. You put your stamps away in a box - the four albums, the variety of loose packets and envelopes, the two catalogues, the odd covers that you have preserved - and you forget them. You have arranged your collection neatly in a cupboard and written it off. So you believe.

In reality the tertiary stages of philatelicitis (when the disease attacks the intellect) are germinating all the while, though it may take twenty years or more for the new symptoms to appear. When they do appear, it is in the intense and often incurable form, known as specialisation. Did you think that arrangement and writing-up caused problems in your early days? You must be joking!

Stamps with shades. Stamps with margins. Stamps with plate numbers. Stamps with different printings. Stamps in pairs. In blocks of four. In blocks of irregular shape. In large multiples. In sheets that will just fit on an album page. In sheets that just won't. Stamps that are used. Stamps on cover. Covers of the wrong shape. Covers of the wrong size. Covers where you want to see both sides at once. Covers that are so tatty you don't want to see them at all: but you can't bear to part with them. Postmarks.

Postmarks! Postmarks!! Postmarks!!! Proofs. Essays. Maps. Articles on stamps. Photographs. Newspaper cuttings. Complete newspapers. Acts of Parliament. Originals or copies of philatelic archives.

And so on. Where does it end?

I must have tried just about everything. Loose leaf albums of every shape and size. Plain leaves and fancy. Leaves for spring-back albums; for two pegs; and four pegs; for 22 rings; for keeping in their own protective plastic. Leaves with reinforcement; two leaves stuck together; linen-hinged; with and without lacing; leaves with gold edging and rounded corners. Hinges; plastic mounts; pre-cut individual ones; D.I.Y. ones; black ones; colourless ones; photographic corner mounts; hinges cut in half; in thirds; in quarters. Writing in pen; writing in pencil; typing; writing in different colours; underlining; not writing at all. Covers on album pages; mutilating the pages; covers in albums of their time; covers in drawers; covers in shoe boxes. Stock books of all sizes and qualities. Books for duplicates. Books for multiples and 'pieces', Books for stamps awaiting an album space. Books for a country. Books for postmarks. Pages for reconstructed streets; for partial reconstructions. Pages for single stamps. Pages with 60 stamps or more on them. Arranging by the catalogue. Arranging by chronology. Arranging by shades and printings. Arranging by types of postmark. Arranging by location of postmark. Leaving spaces for acquisitions to come. Not leaving spaces. Slipping stamps into pre-arranged plastic mounts. Changing them round. Printed labels; blank labels; gummed ones; removable ones; big ones; small ones. Taking everything off the page, and trying again; throwing the page away, and starting all over, Packets; packets holding packets; packets holding packets holding packets. And boxes of all shapes and conditions holding items to sorted 'one day'.

I have an elderly Imperial which has been through about six changes of policy. Used for best copies; then for best duplicates; then for all duplicates; then a haven for damaged stamps; then stripped; then for best spare copies; then combed for stamps with postmarks, or better varieties that shouldn't be there. Confined to unused stamps; converted to used stamps only; unused and used, mixed. Nowadays it's looking quite nice and full. Unfortunately the album has fallen to pieces. I shall have to re-mount the contents one fine day!

Nowadays I never put used and unused stamps on the same page. Unless, of course I feel like it: which I usually do. And at least I keep my postcards in separate albums. At least, I would do, if they didn't go so nicely with the stamps much of the time. And as for my Virgin Islands, I know just how I should like to arrange my 1d. green collection - if only I could tell which printing was which. So my very best album pages are still staring blankly at me.

I have read the same books on the subject of arrangement as you have. And it must be so easy, Everybody else's collection looks so clean, so neat, so composed, so collected, if you know what I mean. Mine just stays in disorder. Given the widest possible choice of accessories, I have exercised every choice there is. There must be a right way and a wrong way of arranging things, but can somebody please tell me how?

Actually there was a ray of hope the other day. I picked up a "Strand" album that had got into circulation, and flicked through the pages. They looked tidy, attractive and fresh. It seemed an ideal way to collect stamps. I really must dig out that old red "Strand" of my own, and see whether I can't do something with it.

Simon Goldblatt

John Challis may care to know that Major Hopkins saw the end of an ebony ruler being used in Antigua as a cancel. We know, thanks to Simon Goldblatt, where the Br. Honduras rings (3) were used (San Estevan B.100).

Peter Jaffe

It is not at all unusual to find a stamp of one B.W.I. island having a cancellation of another B.W.I. island - applied to an uncancelled stamp on arrival. I have a Bermuda ½d. S.G.41 with a "Street Letter Box-Jamaica" cancellation dated JY 2 09. This seems to indicate the communication must have been posted in Jamaica. Maybe the stamp was taken to be Jamaica S.G.38b? Only a curiosity of course.

Of late I have been interesting myself with another cancellation - A91 on Virgin Islands stamps. On three different occasions I have noticed a Virgin Islands stamp being offered cancelled A91 and this stated to be a mail boat cancellation in "postal auction" catalogues. In one case, despite my writing, the offer appeared in three separate successive catalogues. A91 is of course commonly found on Virgin Islands stamps during the 70's and 80's. In "The Numeral Cancellations of the British Empire", published by Robson Lowe Ltd. in March 1958 and reprinted May 1960, it is recorded that this was used as follows: Cunard Line 1859 - c.1870, Virgin Islands from c.1870 and at Southsea, Hants, England, 1887.

Frederick Fitz-Gerald

W.I. MARITIME CANCELS

Six concentric circles, dia. 22mm. overall, has long been accepted as used at the transit station at Charlotte Amalie on St. Thomas D.W.I. (c.f. Britnor, P.H. of B.W.I. Chapter 4, established 1841)

This transit station has been in service for such a long period that there must surely be other cancels or transit marks used during that time. Though seen on loose stamps only occasionally, any covers must be exceedingly rare. If any member has any, details of all marks carried from origin to destination would be most revealing and instructive. On loose stamps I have recorded this target cancel, in time, from SG.27 to 48 for Dominica.

Does anyone know the actual period of operation of this transit station?

H. Vivian-Brown

DOMINICA

In a P.11. Auction of January 1980 there appeared an item - picture post card franked Leeward Islands 1d. and cancelled with a double ring date stamp reading:

SEA POST OFFICE/DOMINICA (presumably date in centre) 1908, day and month not given.

Any information on this c.d.s. (previously quite unknown to me) would be appreciated. Period and place of use, Official Post Office issue or private ship?

H. Vivian-Brown

JAMAICA

I was most interested in Mr. Swarbrick's "Jamaica Miscellany", Bulletin No.106. The following comments may be of some help:

LONG ROAD T.R.D. Neither the AGUILAR handbooks nor the listing of Jamaica postmarks published by the B.C.P.S.G. in the 1960's refer to a T.R.D. for this office. On page 98 of AGUILAR, volume 1, the comment appears, "O.P.M. states no T.R.D." It is clear that a T.R.D. was produced (from which proof or favour strikes were made, probably at the G.P.O.), but it would seem that the double-ring steel die arrived in time for the opening on 28 December, 1938.

AEROGRAMS, A provisional listing compiled by the late Thomas Foster as of mid-1969, and published in the B.C.P.S.G. Journal of October, 1971, gives details of eleven types (excluding the "scenes" in the Tourist Publicity issue). The list can be extended by inclusion of the "revalued" issues where various forms were sold with adhesive stamp affixed to cover increased postage rate.

PORT ANTONIO. Blotch above date, I have five examples of this, one of which is an almost perfect rectangle of nearly solid colour, about 9.5 x 2.5mm. in size. However, I cannot detect a number within the bar or blotch on any of my copies, and I can only suggest that due to wear the number became obliterated by solid "blobs" of ink. Its appearance in Mr. Swarbrick's example provides a reason for the existence of the blotch. Incidentally, I have a fine clear strike of this instrument used as an arrival mark on a p/s card, but this shows no trace of the bar or blotch. The "year" plugs are also missing, but it is confirmed as 1902 by other markings, I do not know if this state of the mark has been previously recorded.

Anthony W. Lewarn

MONTSERRAT

I found Mr. C. J. Barwick's remarks on pages 81 and 82 in Bulletin No. 103 on his visit to the Portuguese Mint most interesting.

With regards to the 1903-08 issue, these stamps could possibly be regarded as specimen stamps as a normal set may have been sent to the Portuguese Government by the Universal Postal Union as examples of the new issue but without any specimen overprint. If, however, they should ever leave the Portuguese Mint Collection it would not be possible to distinguish these particular stamps from a normal mint set of the

1903-08 issue especially as they are hinged on to an album page. To justify my suggestion above I would like to mention something very similar which I know to be correct. When I previously owned a collection of the Leeward Islands it contained the 1897 Diamond jubilee set with all values having the ULTRAMAR overprint but without the SPECIMEN overprint. If the word 'ULTRAMAR' had not been applied to those stamps on receipt in Lisbon there would be no way of distinguishing them from the normal mint stamps.

Mr. Barwick also asked for comments concerning the perforated specimen stamps of the 1935 Silver Jubilee issue in view of the fact that he has a set with a straight line diagonal perforation and not the type PD1 arc perforation as recorded in Mr. L. E. Britnor's book.

I think that with all respect to Mr. Britnor his book is incorrect when it stated that the Silver Jubilee set is perforated 'SPECIMEN' with type PD1. The set of stamps was not printed by De La Rue & Co. and the arc perforation type PD1 was not applied to this set. The set was in fact printed by Waterlow & Sons and accordingly received their punched diagonal line 'SPECIMEN' type W8 consisting of 70 holes reading from the bottom left upwards towards the top of the stamps.

Marcus Samuel in his book entitled Specimen Stamps of The Crown Colonies 1857-1948 confirms that this is so. On the other hand the Antigua Silver Jubilee set being printed by De La Rue & Co. received their type of 'SPECIMEN' type D19 (formerly PD1). The examples in the Portuguese Mint Collection and in Mr. Barwick's Collection are therefore normals.

E. V. Toeg

ST. CHRISTOPHER

ST. CHRISTOPHER MISCELLANY

I consider there was a second sending of the 2½d brown Crown CC, since I have two copies of the stamp unused in quite different colours. Maybe some 4,000 were sent by De La Rue in 1880-81, and not in L.P. list.

I recognise three states of the improvised obliterator. First, three lines of date slugs reversed. Second, only the middle line. Third, the non-reversed combination of May and July, variously known as AWJY and AMJY. I believe all three were used in Basseterre, in succession.

Regarding the Crown CA sixpence (to match up the G.B. 6d, of May, 1882), the scarce 1890 print is much darker than the 1891 print. Has anybody a used copy of the first.

The Crown CA pale one shilling with inverted watermark is from 1886 printing - evidenced by the Specimen. Of the two brighter shades the 1890 deep in colour, the 1891 intermediate. The last is scarce used.

I wonder if the ink line provisionals can be "plated" by means of watermarks, or short ink lines to right or left?

Peter Jaffe

ST. VINCENT

I was recently able to acquire what appeared to be an unsorted selection of St. Vincent 1d blacks which I think casts some light on the cancelling practice on the island during the period 1872-1880 and may be relevant in working out what printings had what watermarks. In all there were 58 copies of the stamp, S.G.18 (25 of them had the watermark upright, and 33 the watermark sideways.

Upright watermark: GB 40c in black on 14 copies (12 medium to thick paper; 2 copies on thin paper).
A10, heavy black horizontal on 3 copies, including one pair (all thick paper).
A10, light clean struck horizontal black on 3 copies (thick paper).
A10, vertical in red on 5 copies (medium paper)

Sideways watermark: GB 40c in black on 5 copies (1 on thick paper, a pair on medium paper and 1 on thin paper)
A10 heavy black horizontal on 5 copies (4 medium to thick paper, 1 on thin paper).
A10 heavy red horizontal on strip of 3 (medium to thick paper).
A1 in red, so smudgy as to be indecipherable, but probably horizontal on 8 copies (2 medium to thick paper, 6 on thin paper).
A10 vertical in red on 2 copies (medium paper).
'K' in red 1875/76 on 5 copies (medium paper)
'K' in black on 1 copy (thin paper) (Oct 1878)
'St. Vincent' in red 1876 on 3 copies (medium paper).
'St. Vincent' in black on 1 copy (thin paper) (March 1879).

My judgement of thick, medium and thin paper must be, to a certain extent, subjective, but an examination of a number of copies will be sufficient to establish relative types of paper used. It will also be clear that no dated cancels turned up on the upright watermarked paper. Although I have one or two in my collection they are decidedly scarce. Additionally there were no examples of the horizontal red A10 on the upright watermark. Obviously such evidence has to be viewed with caution, but the possibility of allocating both watermark and paper thickness to specific printings of the 1d black with a greater degree of certainty than hitherto, would seem to be presented.

Vincent Dugleby

TOBAGO

Since writing in Bulletin No.103, p.88 on the 1886-89 surcharges, Michael Webster has now been able, with certainty, to plate his unique block of 15 (5 x 3) ½d. on 6d. stone. He writes “. . . I have now been able to plate it by the G.O. flaw on position 10, and it covers positions 8-12, 14-18, 20-24 on the pane . . .” The previously reported positions were 8-12, 2-6 and 8-12 of a corrected version of one of the other settings.

With this Bulletin being prepared within a few days of Christmas, Charles Freeland and your Editor thought that members may be interested in the transcript of a letter written on Christmas Day in Tobago 145 years ago.

Tobago
Kings Bay House
25 Dec 1835

Dear James,

My loss of which I informed you in my last by the swamping of the sloop Fairy Queen, I am very sorry to say, can in no way be remedied, The vessell has gone to pieces and so must the box containing my clothes - as the articles will all be scattered in different places on the beach they will be a G- -d send about this time (Christmas) to some negroes - one half of the wrecked vessell has been got up and towed to Scarbro but it contained only a few of the heavier articles. Another sloop belonging to a Captain Brooks has since gone down - our old standards do not recollect ever having witnessed such a generally wet and boisterous season as this has been, but I hope it is now nearly over - the question is in every persons mouth “when will the rain stop” and I wish sincerely that I could get it answered as I suppose I have been more exposed to its influence than any other individual in the island. The roads for the last six months have been in such a state that both of my horses have been quite knocked up and I have been obliged to borrow from Mr. Napier.

If Dr. Stirling has not left Glasgow by the time this reaches you let him know that we have had unusual sickness to Leeward for 3 weeks past. A pretty and accomplished lady Mrs. Ra . . . is one of its victims. I am not sure that her most intimate acquaintance Mrs. Jarvis will share the same fate. I rode to town yesterday to see Dr. Douglas who has been seized with fever of a particularly low and insidious nature and I fear the result but you will be as well not to say so to any of his friends as it will only create anxiety. As I understand he (Dr. Stirling) gets an Island Newspaper he will see the other deaths in the Obituary. One of my ship mates, a Ploughman is dead and I amputated the leg of another on Saturday last in consequence of very extensive injury received in cutting and hauling wood (McLelland is his name). I had no medical assistant and he is doing very well. I have been highly delighted and amused with the celebration of Christmas here amongst the Niggers - last night being Christmas night all the Estate Negroes as is wont had the Manager’s house thrown open to them to dance in, and they tripped it till day light this morning with more propriety, decorum and grace than could have been observed by the labouring classes at home. Some of their sable Ladyships are extra handsome and dance the Scotch reel with a nicety, neatness

and grace that would do honour to the best teachers at home. Their gay plumage amused me highly. All of the men sported dress coats of the first cut and I observed four of them with spy-glasses quizzing their fair partners. You would fancy some of them courtiers of the first order who could boast of greatness of birth and a multitude of accomplishments. Mr. Napier, Mr. Redknap and myself led our respective queens down several country dances. The hands of my goddess were encrusted with ten huge and sparkling rings only surpassed in brilliancy by the lustre of her eyes. As they dance tonight again in the hall in which I now write I may have some of their charms to observe in my next to you. As I am not sure where Dr. Stirling may be I will not write him by this packet. I expect to hear from you by the Mary-Anne from Leith.

With the compliments of the season to yourself and all friends.

I remain, Dear James, Yours

N. Howie

Addressed to James Howie Esq., Master?, Glasgow.

Dated Dec 25 1835

Tobago Fleuron Jan 10 1836

Glasgow receiving Feb 18 1836

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

I recently had the opportunity to examine an early Trinidad letter and I feel that the correspondence may be of interest to members. The letter, which shows a faint "PORTSMOUTH/SHIP LRE", English transit marks and appears to be rated '1/1' reads as follows:

"Dear Uncle,

I am truly happy to the salation of our glorious and unequalled success in the present expedition against Trinidad. The business will be fully and more satisfactorily mentioned in the published report, which will come to England as the Vengeance has been left to take care of the bay in which the ships were burned while the Admiral and General have made the town surrender. It is really pleasing to think that all this mischief has been done to the Enemy without much bloodshed. All that I can hear of it being a Captain in the army being shot by our own V.guards in not knowing the Parole (?) and some men hanged for ill using the inhabitants. I could wish that I could give a more full detail of the business but our information is so circumscribed. This letter will come to England by Captain Hurst of the Zebra, one of my most sincere friends. The ship we have saved from the flames is the St. Thomas a fine 74, those which were burned were an eighty gun ship which bore the Flag, two seventy fours and a frigate. My best compts. to all friends and believe me to be your truly affectionate and dutiful nephew,

N. Forbes,

Vengeance, Trinidad, Feby 20th 1797.

Paul Skinner

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO. GEORGE V \$1.20 ISSUE?



Can any member please provide information on the item shown. The type is similar to that given for the issues of George VI (January 1940) and the Elizabethan issue (January 1955).

The striking difference is the item contains a recess printed portrait of King George V. Additionally, top left above the Palm trees, is engraved the word Revenue.

The stamp appears to be in the style recess printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson, paper security watermarked multiple crown CA script upright and comb machine perforated 12.

My questions on the item are;

- 1) When was it issued?
- 2) Are there additional values (say) \$4.80?
- 3) Was it intended as the higher value to the 1935 Pictorial Views?
- 4) Are any values known used on Registered or Parcel packets?

John de Vries

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

TURKS & CAICOS WAR TAX OVERPRINTS

May I add a little information that will, I fear, complicate the problems posed in Bulletin No. 104 and 106. I have a strip of twelve of S.G.143. It has margins at either end which show a vertical marginal marking which, I believe, shows that the strip is from row 6. The first seven stamps received an overprinting between the value tablets and sloping down slightly from left to right. The right hand six stamps received a separate overprinting resulting in a double overprint on stamp 7. The lettering similarly slopes down left to right. The double overprint overlaps to a limited degree. Interestingly stamp one and also the "second" impression on stamp 7 both show the inverted K for X referred to in the footnote in S.G. under the January printing (not the October printing). That poses another problem!

To make matters worse (or more interesting) I have a further item, again S.G.143, but this time a strip of four, not marginal. Stamps one and two are without overprint, stamp three has the inverted K for X and stamp four is normal. No sign of a double overprint anywhere, thank goodness! Who can come to the rescue with a satisfactory explanation?

Patrick H. Williams

Our thanks to Simon Goldblatt, Basil Benwell and Stirling Baker who helped Michael Wilson with his original article and also to William Hall, D.H. Vernon and Patrick Williams whose further contributions have helped to keep the pot boiling. Ed.

NEWS ROUNDUP

“BERMUPEX 80” was a great success and the Grand Award winner, and by far the most significant exhibit, was Morris Ludington’s 15 frame (240 pages) Bermuda which showed more postal history than probably has ever been seen before. There were several other Bermuda exhibits by non-residents in the Silver category and a B.W.I. which took a Vermeil. Jack Arnell showed B.N.A. Transatlantic Mail and got a Vermeil with Felicitations and the Postal History Award. He also received an A.P.S. Gold Award with Felicitations at “STAMPSHOW 80” for his book, ATLANTIC MAILS, published by the National Postal Museum, Ottawa.

After a recent business trip to Hong Kong, when a well known Study Circle member found time for a stamp session with Michael Webster, another Trinidad collector was moved to write that this was taking Philately a bit Far (East)”.

When writing the captions for the photos taken at the Wine and Cheese Party, held during “LONDON 1980” week, we regrettably received wrong information. We now understand that the ladies to the left and right of Geoffrey Ritchie are Mrs. G. Ritchie and Mrs. K. Watson. Our apologies to all concerned.

Peter Jaffe tells us that on a visit to Australia, Mr. T.V. Roberts showed French Mailboats - including a brave show of Trinidad 4d grey, and selected Australasian items - including pen cancels to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in November last, before a visit to the Barrier Reef. Peter Jaffe also writes that John Challis may care to know that Major Hopkins saw the end of an ebony ruler being used in Antigua as a cancel. We knew, thanks to Simon Goldblatt, where the British Honduras rings (3) were used (San Estevan B.100).

Recent issues from St. Vincent and Grenadines include a four value set plus a souvenir sheet showing St. Vincent on the map and a very attractive set of Christmas stamps designed by Miss Jennifer Toombs, which we feel puts many other Christmas issues in the shade.

Members wishing to view lots, which will be on sale at our Annual Auction on Saturday 25th April, may do so at the office of the British Philatelic Federation, 1, Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HE, on Thursday and Friday 23rd and 24th April from 11 a.m. to 3.30 p.m.. We are not sure of the room number, so would suggest you enquire at the door of the National Liberal Club or phone the B.P.F. office on 01-930 5254. Once again may we offer our thanks to Mrs Joan Lewis for her help in allowing us these facilities.

A member recently very kindly wrote that “I do think that the subscription at three pounds, which includes the splendid bulletins, is the most incredible value. Long may those of you who are able and kind enough to afford the time continue with the good work. I am sure it is very much appreciated by all members”. May we use this as an excuse to ask for articles and small items for the Bulletin. For several years we have been in the fortunate position of having enough copy, but now the cupboard is bare, and contributions are urgently needed for future issues.

In the last issue of the Bulletin, in News Roundup, it was stated that Ian Chard has been asked to go ahead with arrangements for a Convention to be held at the Lord Leicester Hotel in Warwick on the 16th May. Unfortunately there is a clash of dates which would prevent some of our northern members attending. It had now been decided to have the Convention later in the year and at another venue, as the Lord Leicester is unable to offer a suitable date.

Michael Sheppard

FROM THE SALE ROOM

STANLEY GIBBONS AUCTIONS. Sale of 23-24 Oct., 1980

BAHAMAS 1902 1d. to £1 (S.G.60.80) some creasing on 6d. value otherwise fine o.g.	£ 525
BARBADOS 1873 July 26 Soldier's envelope to Ireland bearing perf. (1d.) blue tied by Barbados c.d.s. with extra strike to same beneath, backstamped Ballyconnell Aug. 14, soiled & heavily creased but rare.	£ 400
CAYMAN ISLANDS ½d. on 5/- surcharge double (S.G.18b) thinned perf. at top, large part e.g., a great rarity being one of the four known examples.	£6,750
1920 Jan. 5 1d, Postal Stationery envelopes to Bermuda bearing additional ½d. green "cut out" (from N. wrapper) tied by Georgetown Type V c.d.s., a few stain spots in places but an unusual and undoubtedly rare cover,	£ 270
GRENADA 1863-71 6d. orange-red (S.G.7) horiz, pair, centred well to left, reinforced perfs. , small stain & corner crease, part e.g.	£ 625
MONTSERRAT 1876 1d, bisect (S.G.1a) on cover to Dominica, tied by good AOB cancel with Montserrat Paid Ju 14 83 c.d.s. alongside and Dominica June 17 c.d.s. in bottom corner, although horizontal and vertical crease a very fresh and handsome cover.	£1,050
1908-13 5/- (S.G.47) block of 4 with central NO 27 1911 c.d.s. on registered front to Antigua, filing creases, very fine.	£ 550
ST. LUCIA 1863 6d. on (4d.) indigo (S.G.10) fair perfs., hinge remainder and some ink deposits on reverse, part e.g.	£ 825
ST. VINCENT 1863-68 Perf. 14 to 16 1/- (S.G.9) horiz. pair, hinge remainder, part e.g., fine.	£ 425

HARMERS OF LONDON. Sale of 11-12 Nov., 1980.

ANTIGUA 1867 envelope to Brooklyn, New York with fine strike of Crown Circle, "PAID/AT/ANTIGUA", overstruck at bottom by New York Steamship marking, on reverse St. Thomas and Antigua dated markings of 1867, cover a little soiled or stained.	£ 300
BARBADOS 1852-55 1d. deep blue (S.G.4), a mint or part o.g. block of fifteen from the left of the sheet with good even margins, negligible faults, of superb appearance. Ex Burrus.	£ 155
Postage Due: 1934-47 1d. bisected and used on Post Office returned letter wrapper, a few faint stains but fine.	£ 220

BERMUDA 1910-25 2/- purple and blue on pale blue from bottom of sheet, variety watermark reversed, e.g., a little stained, otherwise fine. Rare.	£ 460
1910-25 £1 purple and black on red from bottom of sheet, variety watermark inverted, e.g. centred somewhat to upper-right, otherwise fine. Rare.	£ 750
CAYMAN ISLANDS 1907 ½d. on 1d. carmine, a pair and a strip of three, all neatly cancelled on Registered cover to Christchurch, England, Jamaica and Birmingham transit Registration markings, three stamps slightly overlapped by Birmingham Registration label, the cover with a few faint stain spots and a trifle soiled, otherwise fine.	£ 500

NEW MEMBERS

- AILWOOD, B, Ia, Hardwick Rd., Maxton, Dover, Kent, CT17 9QL.
Interest: Barbados.
- BURKE, P.W.C., 33, York Rd., Croxley Green, Herts., WD3 3DW.
Interest: not known.
- DOLPHIN, J.M., The Old Vicarage, 64, Highgate Rd., Walsall, Staffs.
Interest: Barbados, Cayman Islands.
- ELLIS, Stephen, 2, Anvil Rd., Claverham, Bristol, BS19 4LZ.
Interest: not known.
- HAMILTON, Michael, 10, Gate St., Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2. (Dealer).
Interest: St. Vincent.
- MILLINGTON, Andrew, Claverley, c/o Dept. of Geography, Fourah Bay College, Freetown, Sierra Leone.
Interest: British Honduras, all aspects.
- NICHOL, Alan William, 35, North Shore Rd., Hayling Island, Hants.
Interest: Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda.
- THORN, R.H. , c/o City Electrical Factors Ltd., 1, Station Rd., Kenilworth, Warks.
Interest: not known.
- TYLER, John Stuart, 118, Park Lane, Cottingham, Yorks., HU16 5RX.
Interest: Antigua.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- JANE, Charles, P.O. Box 969, Antigua, West Indies.
- MEDLICOTT, Michael G., 7, Glebe Avenue, Enfield, Middlesex.
- NATHANSON, Hyman N., c/o B. Nathanson, 450½ Ontario St. Toronto, Canada.
- PAYNE D.D, Cordison Ball, Yarningale Lane, Yarnigale, Claverdon, Warks.

INTERESTS

- BURDEN, P.1. All B.W.I. islands used and postmarks of Barbados, Jamaica, St. Vincent.

RESIGNED

- RENSHAW, Brian.

The following members have not paid their subscriptions for 1980 and are therefore dropped from membership.

- BELCHER, S.: BENDON, J.: BRANDON, R.: BROOKES, Mrs. P.F.: BURNS, T.:
HARRIS, M.: LESSING, W.B.: MORGAN, P.: WALTER, S.: WARREN, D.:
WRIGHT, P.G.:

Advert

E.V. & L. TOEG

Advert

CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

Advert

F.W. COLLINS

Advert

NEW ENGLAND STAMP COMPANY

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Copies of a number of early back issues and consecutively from No. 68 (June 1971) are obtainable from the Hon. Editor as follows:-

Bulletins per copy	65p
'Cardex' Instantaneous Self-Binders each holding 20 issues	£1.60
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) (U.S.A. etc.)	£8.25 £8.75
BMI POSTAL RATES UP TO 1900 by L.E. Britnor (U.K. & Europe) Softback	£3.30
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(Non 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 items 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.