

ISSN 0953 - 8720



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

Founder:

P.T. SAUNDERS, FRSL

President:

E.V. TOEG, FRSL

Vice-Presidents:

J.B. MARRIOTT, CVO, FRSL, RBE

P. JAFFÉ, FRSL, RBE

BULLETIN No. 168 MARCH 1996

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation

Hon. Secretary: **MICHAEL B.
NICHOLSON**

Hon. Treasurer: **CRISTOPHER F. MAY**

*Hon. Membership
Secretary* **S.A.SHARP**

Hon. Editor: **DENIS
CHARLESWORTH**

Hon. Librarian: **DEREK M. NATHAN**

*Hon. Public
Relations Officer* **PETER FORD**

Committee: **S. GOLDBLATT, M. HAMILTON, D. MITTON & M. WILSON**

Hon. Auditor: **J.A.C. FARMER, F.C.A.**
*North American
Representative:* **W. CLARY HOLT**

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 (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.**
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. TO loan books from the Circle library (**home members only**). Borrowers bear postage both ways. **List supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an s.a.e. (9" x 6½") - 2nd Class postage for 150gm rate required.**
4. TO publicist 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
5. TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in para 1 above.

MEMBERSHIP&SUBSCRIPTION

MEMBERSHIP - Is WORLD WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £7.50 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £10 for members who reside elsewhere.

Subscriptions (dues) are payable on 1st January each year and, subject to what is mentioned below, in sterling (by personal cheque or Standing Order drawn on a U.K. Bank, a Banker's Draft, International Money Order, Postal Order or local currency notes - no coins will be accepted - e.g. dollars, marks, francs etc.).

Members residing in North America (Canada, USA, and the Caribbean) who do not pay their Subscription (dues) in sterling should pay by sending to the North American Representative (see above for address) a cheque for USA \$15 made payable to "BWISC". Other overseas members who pay their subscription by cheque drawn in a foreign currency or on a foreign bank MUST add the equivalent of £3 sterling partially to cover exchange and bank charges. The overseas rates quoted include an element to cover postage of the Bulletin by Air Mail.

IN THIS ISSUE

Programme		1
1995 Accounts of the BWISC		2
Auditors Report		2
BWISC Bulletins	- <i>Peter Ford</i>	3
Philatelic Literature Wanted	- <i>Simon Kelly</i>	3
Bermuda- Background to the Military Bases set of stamps		
	- <i>Karla M. Hayward</i>	4
Bahamas 1d.	- <i>Hugh James</i>	6
Bermuda - American Forces Postal Services	- <i>Don Butt</i>	6
Dominica	- <i>Ian Small</i>	7
Grenada	- <i>Mark Rawlins</i>	7
Guyana 1966-68 Independence Issue - 1c.	- <i>David Atkinson</i>	7
Jamaica - Camp Gibraltar	- <i>Frank Bennett</i>	9
Jamaica	- <i>E.D. Humphrey</i>	9
Jamaica Perfins	- <i>Hugh James</i>	10
Leeward Islands - Edward VII Keyplate Flaws	- <i>Peter Brooks</i>	11
Leeward Islands - Edward VII Damage	- <i>D.H. Vernon</i>	12
More Musing on Manuscript Cancels	- <i>Simon Goldblatt</i>	13
St. Lucia - KG.V 3d Plate 5	- <i>Peter Fernbank</i>	16
Princess Alice Appeal	- <i>Hugh Denham</i>	17
Trinidad and Tobago	- <i>John M. Cooper</i>	17
Book Issue - Bermuda by Air		18
Book Review - The PECO Picture Postcards of the West Indies		18
Miscellaneous W.I. queries	- <i>Leslie Goodwin</i>	19
Leeward Islands - KEVII head plate flaw	- <i>Tony Farmer</i>	19
Trinidad and Tobago - Censorship	- <i>Ron Wike</i>	20
St Lucia Steam Conveyance	- <i>Ian Jakes</i>	22
STAMPEX Meeting - January 1996		24
CAPEX 96 - BCPSG Meeting		24
Subscriptions		24
Membership Listing		24

PROGRAMME

1996

Saturday 27 April 2.15 p.m. AGM followed by annual Auction.
Venue: The Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London. WC 1

Saturday 14 Sept 10am-6pm. WIPEX. Details in June Bulletin
Venue: The Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London. WC 1

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Income and Expenditure Statements for the year ended 31 December 1995

<u>1994</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1995</u>
£		£.p
2172	Subscriptions	2080.50
947	Publications - net surplus less postages	768.81
1216	Auction and Miscellaneous donations	1255.69
4	Opinion Fees	48.00
-	Convention (net surplus)	110.34
<u>300</u>	Interest received, less tax reserve	<u>192.17</u>
<u>£ 4639</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>£4455.51</u>
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
1329	Bulletins : costs less advertising	1296.66
734	: distribution & editorial costs	<u>882.70</u>
53	Library : acquisitions	109.00
60	: insurance	61.25
44	: Librarian's expenses less recoveries	<u>27.32</u>
166	Meeting room hire less collections	174.75
120	ABPS - Affiliation Fee	132.00
199	Officers' Administration: stationery, postages, telephone, photocopying etc., less recoveries	245.73
589	40th Anniversary Exhibitions (net expenditure)	-
911	'Dominica' Book Promotion	-
<u>56</u>	Miscellaneous	<u>101.99</u>
<u>£4261</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>£3031.40</u>
<u>378</u>	SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE for the year	<u>1424.11</u>
<u>£4639</u>		<u>£4455.51</u>
	<u>BALANCE SHEET as at 31 DECEMBER 1995</u>	
	<u>ACCUMULATED FUND</u>	
11748	Balance at 1.1.1995	12125.93
378	<u>Add</u> Surplus for the year	1424.11
<u>252</u>	Dollar conversion reserve	<u>331.02</u>
12378		13881.06
<u>(5970)</u>	<u>Less</u> Stocks of Publications at cost	<u>(5311.64)</u>
<u>£ 6408</u>		<u>£8569.42</u>
	<u>REPRESENTED BY:</u>	
8609	Cash at banks, building society	10659.54
<u>523</u>	Sundry Debtors	<u>167.58</u>
9132		10827.12
(134)	<u>Less</u> Taxation Reserve	134.30
<u>(2590)</u>	Subscriptions received in advance	<u>2123.40</u>
<u>£6408</u>		<u>£8569.42</u>

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the year ended 31 December 1995 are in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle at that date, save that the Stocks of Publications, whilst valued at cost as consistent with previous accounts, may not have a market value of the sum stated on that date and in the Balance Sheet have been treated as having a nil value.

For a period the Study Circle adopted a subscription policy that by paying for five years in advance the sixth year was given free; and it is therefore under an obligation to provide a service to those members, the cost of which liability cannot be quantified accurately but at current subscription rates is £100; similarly subscriptions have been received in advance at previous subscription rates where the liability at current rates would be £398. There are three honorary life members.

In all other respects the finances of the Study Circle appear to be sound.

J.A.C. Farmer, FCA, FRPSL 23rd January 1996.

BWISC BULLETINS

The recent sale of past issues of the BWISC Bulletin has been successful in two ways. First, the sale of some 1500 copies of the Bulletin has reduced the storage problem somewhat; and secondly, the receipt of almost £300 is, of course, a most useful addition to Circle funds. Since the beginning of the year, I have endeavoured to compile an inventory of Bulletins and have been surprised at what lay hidden away in those great bundles. Some issues, particularly the early ones, are quite rare and I intend to offer them for sale by auction to the membership. Bulletins available are listed below. Those with less than 10 copies have the number held in brackets. Members wishing to purchase them should write to me (*address at front of Bulletin*) stating what they are willing to bid for each issue (minimum 75 pence), and those members placing the highest bids received by 30th June next will be informed of their success shortly after and will be invoiced for the amount bid. If there are equal bids, the earliest received will be successful.

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY WITH YOUR BID.

BULLETINS AVAILABLE.

20* (1), 24* (2), 27* (1), 42(1), 50(1), 53 (1),
55 (5), 56, 57, 58 (1), 59 (1), 61 (3),
62, 63 (1), 64 (1), 65 (5), 66 (1), 69(8),
70(9), 71(10), 72, 73 (3), 74-104, 105 (9),
106 (5), 107 (10), 109-134, 135 (1), 137 (2), 139,
140(9), 141, 143-155, 156(10), 157-161, 162 (10),
163 (10), 164-165

**THESE ARE PHOTOCOPIES ONLY*

During the recent sale of Bulletins, I was quite often unable to supply all those required simply because I could not find them. I think I have contacted those involved, however, if anybody was not provided with any particular issue listed as having in excess of 10 copies, please contact me and I will send them one.

Peter Ford

PHILATELIC

LITERATURE

WANTED

British West Indian Philatelist (Aguilar): Vols 4 & 5. British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin: Nos.22, 30, 31, 32, 33, 35, 36, 39, 52, 53 & 54. British Postmark Society Quarterly Bulletin: Vols 19 (1-4), 25 (1), 30 (1-4). Postal History, Bulletin Postal History Society: Nos. 1-7, 10, 12, 14, 16-30 & 33. Also list of duplicates.

Please contact Dr. Simon R.A. Kelly,

BERMUDA - Background to the Military Bases set of commemorative stamps issued on 4th December 1995.

Because of its mid-Atlantic location, Bermuda might appear to have been well situated for an existence of isolation throughout its history, or at least until the advent of the steamer and the airplane. Yet from earliest settlement until just recently, Bermuda has been of strategic importance to Great Britain, the United States and Canada. Eighteenth century fortifications, the Royal Naval Dockyard, the US Naval Air Station and Annex as well as the Canadian base at Daniels Head, provide physical reminders of Bermuda's defensive significance to both its colonial parent and its seemingly remote new-world neighbours.

These various military installations located around the island allude to great and historic shifts of power. The British Dockyard, established in 1809 at the westernmost end of the Island, evokes Great Britain's unsurpassed 19th century naval supremacy. Its closure in 1951 signalled the waning of Britain's might just as the opening of the US bases in 1941 augured the emergence of this nation as a new world power at the end of World War II. Closure of the US Naval Air Station in August 1995 followed another historic change: the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the end of the Cold War.

This stamp issue, highlighting Bermuda's military installations, celebrates the hope for peace engendered by recent historical developments while it commemorates the Island's small but vital place in the old world order.

- .20c In 1941, the United States Navy leased Ordnance island in St. George's Harbour as part of its war time defense measures. The small island, abutting the Town of St. George, was engineered to serve as a submarine support facility because of its proximity to the open sea and Fort Bell, the US Army installation across the Harbour. However, by 1944 enemy submarine activity had ceased in the North Atlantic and in 1945 the facility closed and the island returned to its owners.

- .25c The British Admiralty ordered the establishment of a naval dockyard at the westernmost end of Bermuda in 1809 and proceeded to construct a facility, throughout most of the 19th century, that was to become known as the "Gibraltar of the West." The Dockyard was designed to serve as a strategic outpost for the British Navy following the loss of its North American colonies in the late 18th century. By the end of World War II, British Imperial power

had waned and as a result of post-war retrenchment, the Dockyard gates were permanently closed in 1951.

- .60c The United States Army acquired land at Longbird, St. David's and Cooper's Islands at the eastern end of Bermuda in 1941 as a war-time defense measure. Known originally as Fort Bell and Kindley Field, the installation was designed to support the coastal defense systems of the US and to provide a landing field for American military aircraft flying to Europe. It continued in the post-war period to serve as a refuelling and servicing stop, initially under the US Air Force and subsequently the US Navy. At the end of the Cold War and as a result of military drawbacks, the facility was decommissioned in June and closed on 31st August, 1995.

- .75c A portion of the civilian flying boat port built at Darrell's Island in 1937, was converted by the British Air Ministry into an important stop over for trans-oceanic flying-boat traffic during World War II. The Royal Air Force manned the facility to ferry American Catalina flying boats to the UK and also to maintain a regular air link to Europe. The RAF withdrew at the end of the War and the flying-boat port reverted to commercial use until its closure, which followed the introduction of full civil airline facilities at Kindley Field.

- .90c The United States Navy acquired Morgans and Tucker's Islands and a large tract of land at King's Point in the Great Sound in 1941 as part of its war-time defense measures. Designed as a naval seaplane station to assist in anti-submarine warfare, the facility continued to serve as a naval operating base in the postwar period. The base was decommissioned by the US Navy in April 1993, as a preliminary, to the closure of its main base at St. David's Island in 1995.

- \$1.00 The Royal Canadian Navy, leased some fourteen acres of former British Admiralty lands at Daniel's Head towards the western end of Bermuda in 1963. The installation was established as a signals intelligence unit to support the Canadian Forces and to aid in search and rescue operations. Due to changes in international relations and with increased fiscal constraints, the Canadian Government closed the site in December 1993.

Karla M. Hayward (Assistant Archivist) Bermuda Archives

BAHAMAS 1d.

Never show off your philatelic knowledge (or lack of it) to a young collector.

A young visitor asked to see a Penny Black and later while skimming through my old New Ideal British Empire album he saw a Bahamas 1d, SG.8 ostensibly mint but bearing a copper plate ink "cancellation" I.P. as depicted below.

I. P.

What's that he asked. I didn't know when I mounted the stamp more years ago than I care to remember but my father suggested (to keep me quiet?) that it was the abbreviation for Interinsular Postage. To this day I still don't know.

Can anyone help me to restore my reputation, please

Hugh James

BERMUDA - American Forces Postal Services

Since my article on A.P.O.802 in Bulletin No.161, a further example of the Type 3 cancellation has been obtained.



The date of APR 13 / 2 PM / 1942 overlaps my example of the Type 4 machine cancellation by nearly one month and therefore now narrows the change from A.P.O.802 to A.P.O.856 (Bulletin 164) as sometime between the 13th and the 21st April 1942.

Don Butt

DOMINICA

Both the Robson Lowe Encyclopedia and Victor Toeg's book tell me that the "Small O in One" variety of the 1916 War Tax overprint occurs ten times in the sheet. However, the positions on the sheet are not known. Perhaps I am missing the point, but how do we know there are ten of them? As to positions, I can confirm that one of them is on the fourth stamp of the bottom row of the sheet: I have a corner block of four which proves this.

I would also be pleased to hear from any members who have been Studying the 1938-47 definitive issues of Dominica. There are a number of interesting printing flaws and a variety of colour shades from the different printings. If anyone has researched this issue, or has any articles that they are willing to copy to me, I would be very pleased. I am interested in buying anything anyone has available for sale in connection with this issue and can be contacted at my home address of

Ian Small

GRENADA

Further to the articles in BWISC Bulletins 164/165 - Grenada KGVI.

I have two used copies of the 3d perf.12½, one with the line through both sails, unfortunately both postmarks are indistinct. A further variety on the 1½d perf.12½ is a tuft of hair on top of the head of King George, again postmark is indistinct, so I am unable to help with dates.

Mark Rawlins

GUYANA 1966-68 Independence Issue

1c. Multiple Crown CA Block Upright Watermark. (SG 393a).

This stamp is one of the rarities of the QE II issues. It was never officially released in British Guiana on paper with this watermark. However stocks held by the Crown Agents were overprinted GUYANA INDEPENDENCE 1966 in three lines in London and released in Guyana on 28 Feb 1966. Subsequently a further batch was overprinted locally in Guyana in Feb 1968. According to the Commonwealth Catalogue one sheet of 100 stamps

escaped the overprint presumably in Guyana as they list the variety under the local overprints. Gibbons list it under the London overprints.



The illustration shows a horizontal used pair of these stamps which has been loaned to me by Dr. Ramphal of Toronto. These are from the London overprinting and are cancelled by a Georgetown GPO slogan of 3pm 5 Sep 1967. Obviously a sheet of paper has become interposed during the overprinting resulting in the Left hand stamp receiving only part of the overprint and the Right hand stamp none. From the angle of the cutoff it seems probable that other unoverprinted examples could have occurred from this sheet.

The MCA Block Upright watermarked paper used for the stamps overprinted locally in Guyana in Feb 68 came from a special printing of the lower six values in late 1967 because of an acute shortage of these values in Guyana. They were sent out to Guyana and overprinted locally in Feb 68. This emergency reprinting was done on various papers. For the 1c. there were probably two, a white and a dull white easily distinguishable.

I have in my collection a mint and used (GPO Georgetown 14 Mar 68 cds) example of the overprint omitted on white paper, and a marginal mint pair (R5 10 and R6 10) on dull white paper. This latter is similar to the colour of the London overprint and could have come conceivably from that sheet.

It thus appears that there are at least one and possibly two sheets together with a part sheet of this variety and that Gibbons and Commonwealth are both right in their listings.

I am at present studying the Guyana Independence Issue and would be pleased to hear from any member who has any sheets or large multiples of this issue.

David W. Atkinson.

JAMAICA - Camp Gibraltar

In response to the article by David Atkinson regarding Jamaica - Camp Gibraltar in Bulletin 167 (December 1995), there was a registered envelope in the Cavendish Auction of 9th December 1995, dated 24th January 1942 with a manuscript 'Camp Gibraltar' on the registered label.



The catalogue description reads as follows: Jamaica's Gibraltar Camp-Registered cover to Gibraltar; 24th Jan 1942 env. (from an internee) regd. from Kingston via New York with Jamaica 4d (3) and 3d on the reverse, having an unusual 'R' label with m/s 'Camp Gibraltar' on the front with a fair 'GIBRALTAR/CAMP' cachet; censored with an 'A16022' label.

Frank Bennett

JAMAICA

As a new member and a Jamaican collector I would welcome information on a couple of points.

Firstly what is the relative scarcity of War Stamp overprints with an inverted watermark.

Secondly I have a marginal block of 6 of SG.75 from the right side of the right hand pane. The three marginal copies being the 'No Stop' variety. I understand that these stamps come from the May 1919 printing and the varieties are stamps 36, 42 and 48 of the pane (row 6/12, 7/12 and 8/12 of the sheet). It is my understanding that monthly printings were of the order of 220-250 sheets of this value and that only a minority of the printing show this variety. Is it known how scarce it is?

E.D. Humphrey

JAMAICA PERFINS

Regarding Simon Goldblatt's request for more information on BWI Perfins in Bulletin No.167, 1 can contribute a little information concerning Jamaican Perfins. I have come across only three different types of what can be grouped under the generic heading of Jamaican Perfins. These are as follows:

1. JAMAICAN TELEPHONE COMPANY.



This 22 hole perforator was set up with multiple perfins to perforate several stamps at a time presumably based on the size of the then definitive stamps. As a result when the larger stamps of the 1919-21 pictorials were released they were often seen with more than one perfin or part of a perfin per stamp.

The JTC perfin is known on SG.61 but I have found it only on SG.80 so I presume that it was phased out in the 1920's. All the copies I have seen are normal so far as the position of the perfin is concerned but the SG.61 copy has the top centre pin of the 'T' missing, although it is present in all my copies of SG.80.

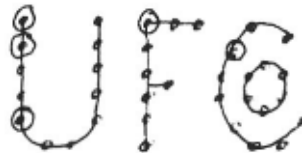
2. UNITED FRUIT COMPANY.



NORMAL
PERFIN



3 PINS MISSING



5 PINS MISSING

UNITED FRUIT COMPANY.

This 36 hole perforator differs from the JTC perfin mentioned earlier in that the perfin seems to occur singly. My earliest use is again on SG.80 where I have it in three different states:

Normal - Horizontally

Sideways - 'U' at the bottom

Sideways reversed - 'U' at the top but perforated from the back of the stamp.

On these all 36 pins are present. (Illustration - Normal perfin) On the 1921 - 29 Pictorial I have it in the following positions:

Normal - SG.91

Sideways - 'U' at the bottom - SG.92

Sideways - Sloping from top right to bottom left - SG.92

Sideways - Misplaced off the right hand side of the stamp - SG.92

Sideways - Sloping from bottom right to top left - SG.92

Sideways reversed - 'U' at the top, punched from the back, various angles - SG.92

On all of these three pins are missing, one each from 'U', 'F' and 'C'. (Illustration - 3 pins missing)

On KGV1 definitives I have it:

Inverted - SG.123

Normal - SG.124

Sideways reversed - 'U' at the top, punched from the back - SG.126

Sideways reversed - 'U' at the bottom, punched from the back - SG.130

On the New Constitution issue I have but one copy:

Sideways - SG.134

All the KGV1 perfins have five pins missing. (Illustration 5 pins missing)

3. BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.



Not a true perfin because the perforator takes the form of a nine hole diamond.

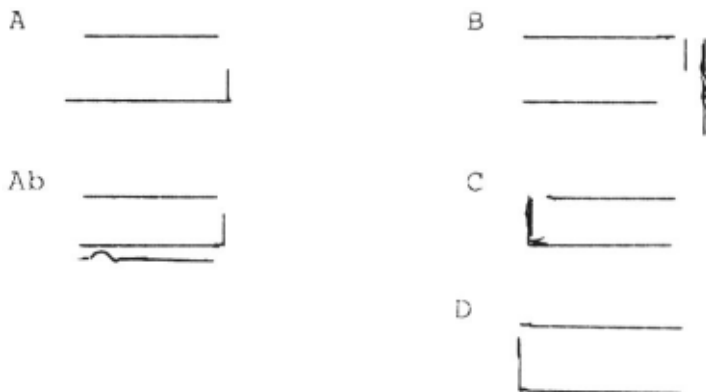
I have it only on SG.133 and SG.133a but in Bulletin No.157 June 1993 Bob Swarbrick reported that the Bank used it on values of 6d. and above and that he had it "on the 6d Port Royal and 6d. KGV Priestman's River" and "that the most common value would seem to be the KGV1 1/- value".

Hugh James

LEEWARD ISLANDS - EDWARD VII KEYPLATE FLAWS

A note in the Leeward Islands Encyclopaedia (p.207) refers to the Edward VII keyplate variety 'Inner frameline of name tablet broken at top right corner; 2d., 6d., 1/- pos.2-6, 9-12 left pane and pos.1, 2 right pane' in the

1905-8 issue with a further note that the same variety is found on the 1907-11 issue. It seems probable that this Flaw (A) is found on all values, certainly of the later issue. The width and nature of the break varies from position to position with one (1/3LP) particularly distinguished by further damage to the bottom of the thick frame line below the A of ISLANDS.



If this flaw is worth mentioning in the Encyclopaedia then there are similar constant flaws affecting the frameline of the name tablet that may be of interest.

One shows a considerable break at the bottom right with damage to the adjacent frame line and a minor break at the top right (B). Another shows a break at the top left (C) and slightly different is a minor break at the top left (D).

I would be glad to know the sheet positions of B, C and D and have confirmation of the A flaws.

Peter Brooks

LEEWARD ISLANDS - Edward VII Damage

With reference to the article by Michael Spavin on pages 83 - 85 of Bulletin 167 (December 1995), I have the Edward VII flaw on single copies of the British Honduras 20c and the Sierra Leone 1907 5d values. On the latter, the broken frame in the name tablet is most marked, about ¼ of it being missing.

In Duncan Murchies' auction list for 7th February, he has a Cayman Islands 4d used with clear signs of the broken frame but the other flaw appears to be missing and the design here is intact (as far as can be seen from the illustration).

D.H. Vernon

Advert

FREDERICK P. SCHMITT

Advert

ARGYLL ETKIN LTD

Advert

CHRIS RAINEY

Advert

STAMP INSURANCES SERVICES

Advert

WILLARD S. ALLMAN

Advert

PETER SINGER

Advert

BRIDGER & KAY (GUERNSEY) LTD

Advert

Murray Payne Ltd

MORE MUSING ON MANUSCRIPT CANCELS - TO SAY NOTHING OF NEVIS / ST. KITTS REVENUES

Apart from graphology, how else can we tell that a date written on a 19th century stamp denotes postal and not fiscal usage? Here are some points to consider.

The date itself may tell a tale. Long ago, I seem to remember, Peter Jaffé reminded us that the early 1d of Dominica were only allowed to be used for fiscal purposes for a very limited period. What, I wonder, was the position in Antigua, once fiscal stamps were made available there? Has anyone investigated?

In a number of cases, the date is accompanied by a killer, or other postal marking. This will often demonstrate both postal usage and village origin; of course, the postmark must be looked at carefully, lest it should be a fake.

Style is of obvious importance. The bold diagonal dating of St. Kitts stamps, known on a number of surviving covers, has become familiar to most of us, who accept this style as a genuine village cancellation, almost without further scrutiny or thought. Is there any surviving evidence of an instruction to postal officials to cancel by this method? It may be significant that from about the beginning of 1882 to mid-1886, one sees the date running from top left to bottom right in (almost?) every case: before and after this period the method varies.



Nevis acted rather contrarily. My experience of the late 1870's to early 1882 shows dates top left to bottom right; my examples from mid-1883 onwards run from lower left to upper right.

In the case of the 1d with Revenue overprint that I illustrate, opinions may differ: for my part, I rate the date as a postal cancellation, not least because I have similar writing on 1d postal stamps, dated 1876 and 1877.



This leads me on, or back, to the availability of Revenue stamps for postal use. There seems to be little that is known generally about the attitudes of the postmasters and their staff in St. Kitts and Nevis - I use the word staff rather loosely here - and I sometimes wonder idly how far they shared the entrepreneurial instincts of their counterparts in Grenada or, perhaps, Dominica or Turks Islands. Sticking with St. Kitts and Nevis, the many, diverse fiscal issues may be found in any of the following categories:-

- 1) as straightforward unused stamps, often with gum;
- 2) pen-cancelled, or struck with cachets, in the course of evident fiscal use;
- 3) apparently unused, but with date chemically removed;

- 4) bearing date cancellations in village style;
- 5) bearing killer or c.d.s. cancellations which appear to be genuine;
- 6) bearing killer or c.d.s. cancellations which are suspect or bogus;
- 7) in addition there are stamps from which the Revenue overprint is erased, with varying degrees of success,



The first three categories need no special comment, Category (4) gives ample scope for debate and I illustrate four key-type stamps with hand-written dates for consideration. As a matter of instinct alone, I give cautious approval to one SG.R1, and class the other three stamps as fiscal: but do we really know the answers?

One needs to know more about the procedures adopted for accounting between the two islands for stamps of Nevis appropriated for use in St. Kitts. This might help to establish whether fiscals or postal fiscals were distributed to village offices, and when. Does any member have access to official documents?

Category (5) takes one outside the catalogue listings. For instance, I have the Nevis key-type Revenue 6d with CC watermark, which has a wholly convincing 'A09' cancellation. To be fair, unless usage pre-dated authorization of fiscals for postal use (which was when, and in what terms?) or unless the sale and usage were simultaneous, and watched by the postal official, there would be no way of distinguishing the stamp from F8. I have 'A09' cancellations on R1 and R2 which are difficult to reject: 'cancelled by favour' is the obvious, but not the only, explanation. Is there any official basis for cross-usage of the Revenue issues within the two islands?

Catalogue treatment of the Nevis stamps is confusing. Until recently SG.F1 was listed together with a reference to re-touches. These belong to the stamps which bear a local 'Revenue' handstamp, and the reference has now been removed in order, I do not doubt, to give present-day catalogue status only to the special printing of the 1d, 4d, 6d and 1/- values with a 'London-based type-set 'Revenue' overprint. If logic is followed, the reference to F1 needs to be deleted altogether, because the 1d overprinted in London is in a virtually uniform shade of rose. Unsurprisingly, the overprint illustrated in the catalogue is the local one, not the neater type-set version.

The point should be made that the Revenue overprints which we are now invited to treat as mere fiscals are of far more intrinsic interest than F2 to F5. On the true F1, which is SG.15 as a basic stamp, the overprint is struck horizontally, diagonally, vertically, inverted, double, or even treble, almost at random, both with and without full stop, the former being scarce. Sometimes the overprint seems to be in blue-black, rather than black.

On the higher values - as I have seen them - the handstamp is more carefully struck. Note, for good measure, that the local overprints are not necessarily on the lithographed issues. Morley records the handstamp with stop on the litho. 1d and 4d, the engraved 1d and 6d - all of which I have come across - and the handstamp without stop on engraved 4d, 6d, 1/-, and litho. 1d, 4d and 1/-. Certain of these I have yet to find.

Given that all the above made use of an original stock of stamps issued and held for postal purposes, there is every reason for collecting them. Except for F1, which is not too difficult a stamp, they are all far rarer than the remaining postal stamps, or than F2 to F5: but here I refer to the London printing unused, or fiscally used, because copies in my category (5) are few and far between. I have seen just one convincing example of F2, and have pointed out in the Bulletin before, that the catalogue quote for used examples can refer only to my category (6).

Before I leave category (5) I must mention a persuasive, strong 'A12' killer on a Nevis key-type Revenue 1/-, overprinted two-line "Saint Christopher" in black. As R3 to R6 of St. Kitts, together with the 5/- value, are found with cancellations assumed to be struck par complaisance, it is clear that postmarks are no more reliable than pen-marks as a guide to the postal validity of fiscal issues; hence my eagerness to see a clear statement or re-statement of the contemporary official position, if anyone still knows it

A further point that the catalogue does not make clear is that F2 to F6 are litho. stamps. This is significant in one respect. The 1/- value is in deep green, and no. 9 shows the 'cross on hill' variety. May it not follow that the few examples of SG.21 which exist with 'cross on hill' have come from the Revenue printing, from sheets that escaped the Revenue overprint? Issue figures recorded for F5 are 1008, that is, 84 panes, part of which were later handstamped for St. Christopher. As I like round numbers, why not postulate that 100 panes were printed at this point from the lithographic stone, leaving a possible 16 copies of SG.21 with 'cross on hill'?

Leaving category (6) with the comment that, in my experience, 90% of the 'postmarks' on Nevis and St. Kitts Revenue stamps belong here, we move on to category (7). Am I alone in having problems with the 'A09' killer? I say this, because I have a category (7) 1/- with a killer, where the debate is over whether or not 'Revenue' has been removed! (How can one be in doubt? - well, that's another story) More input from others is needed; because, if we could show pen-cancellation, there is something more than a mere identification of fraud on the post office - an indication, in other words, that the 1/- overprinted 'Revenue' was never available for postal use. On this, for my part, I have suspended judgment



I can provide one extra clue to certain of the points raised in these comments, by asking one further, final question. How can St Christopher R3 have acquired a Crown Circle PAID AT NEVIS cancellation? If you don't believe this can happen, please see my final illustration.

Simon Goldblatt

ST. LUCIA - KG.V 3d Plate 5

In bulletin 157 of June 1993, I queried the existence of the St. Lucia KG.V 3d printed from plate 5. The De La Rue records confirmed a printing of this value in July 1917 during the era of plate 5 but the *Colonial Journal* of the time did not mention it, Ritchie's *St. Lucia - A Philatelic History* does not record it, and it was not present in the Royal collection.

I recently managed to obtain a block of this 3d value adjacent to the central interpane margin. When compared with a strip of the 1/- from the same sheet position there are many similarities in the marginal markings. The marginal rule across the centre gutter tapers to the left, the vertical rule has a slight "bump" on the outer edge level with the "V" of "Revenue" (both characteristic of sheets of plate 5 from other colonies that I have) and the registration piece impression (in the top margin) on both pieces is identical. The 1/- is on pale blue-green paper with pale olive back, and the only printing made on this paper shade was for the July 1917 printing from plate 5. It thus confirms the 3d value belongs to the same printing, and is a good illustration of the point that values printed from the same setting of the key plate usually share identical printing impressions and characteristics.



- A. Registration piece impression
- B. Marginal rule tapers to the left
- C. Bulge in marginal rule

This Pl.5 printing of the 3d is in a reddish purple shade on lemon-yellow backed paper (but not the true lemon shade), which again is correct for the period. For the record I have two later printings of the 3d, from Pl.6 and 8, that are virtually indistinguishable in ink and paper shade. The paper in both cases has a yellow-buff back with matt gum.

Peter Fernbank

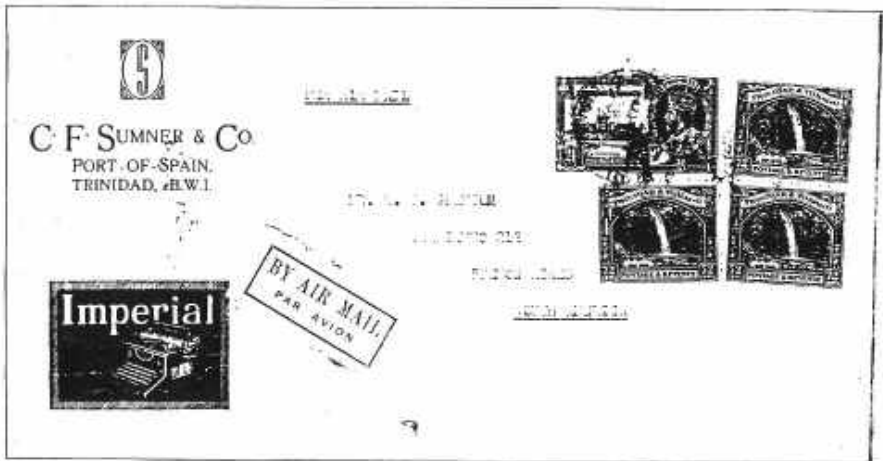
PRINCESS ALICE APPEAL

With regards to the articles about the Princess Alice Appeal handstamp - M. Michel Bilhaut (Bulletin 164) and Stella M. Pearce (Bulletin 167), I have a cover carrying a purple handstamp apparently identical with that illustrated on page 72 (Bulletin 167), addressed to the UK. The stamp is Leeward Is QEII 5c, and is cancelled at Roadtown (BVI) on April 1[?0] [?55].

Hugh Denham

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

This week I have bought an Airmail cover which may be a correct rate but I am not sure. Could any member please help?



The item concerned is from Port of Spain Trinidad to Buenos Aires Argentina at a rate of \$2.40 which was dearly very expensive in 1935. I suspect about 10/- Sterling. Was this a double or triple rate cover?

The 72c stamp of which there are 3 is the top value from the 1935-7 set in the new currency. SG.238.

Any comments would be greatly appreciated!

John M. Cooper

BOOK ISSUE - Bermuda by Air

The *Bermuda Catalog Project* announces the release of ***Bermuda by Air: A Handbook and Catalog of Bermuda Aerophilately***, authored by Charles E. Cwiakala and edited by Robert W. Dickgiesser.

The comprehensive reference lists not only the complete data encompassing all of Bermuda's air mail postal history from 1919 to the present day, but includes substantial amounts of aerophilatelic support and other information, allowing the work to be considered an authoritative reference for the aerophilatelist.

All aerophilatelia associated with Bermuda is listed, numbered, and priced, many of the entire being documented in the philatelic literature for the first time. The listings begin with the 1919 U.S. navy's exhibition flights over the island, and continue through the 1995 first flights by *KIWI Airlines*, *USAir*, and Germany's *Condor Airlines*.

Data is presented for many of the lesser-known but notable flight events including: the American, Canadian, British and French pioneer flights of the 1920s-1930s, the various *PANAM* and *Imperial Airways* commercial survey flights of the 1930s-1940s, and the World War II military flights of the famous Royal air force Trans-Atlantic bomber ferry carriages. A chronological index of all flights associated with Bermuda allows the reader to easily reference items in question.

The book is a 160 page, 8½ x 11" format, hard-bound work with close to 100 illustrations.

Price per handbook including postage and handling: USA \$66, Canada \$69, Mexico \$70, Overseas \$72 (£47).

All orders to: Robert W. Dickgiesser, P.O. Box 475, Derby, CT 06418-0475. U.S.A.

BOOK REVIEW

The PECO Picture Postcards of the West Indies

The *PECO Picture Postcards of the West Indies* edited by Joe Chin Aleong 64 pages, softbound (175mm x 213mm); published and distributed by the editor at P.O. Box 128, San Fernando, Trinidad, West Indies. Priced at £6 (including postage and packing).

This handbook is about the picture postcards printed by the Photogelatine Engraving Company Limited of Canada (PECO), or assumed to have been printed by them for the time being, during their main period of use 1933 to about 1955.

The book begins with a brief outline about the history of the company and gives details on the various formats of card backs used. The listing of the postcards

is by country and gives details of serial number, type of back, description of view and earliest dates of use when known. The book listing covers the British West Indies area less British Honduras, Turks and Caicos and Tobago. Some countries are represented more fully than others, but no doubt time will make changes to this when other items are found.

The editor, Joe Chin Aleong, and his enthusiastic band of able and renowned contributors are to be congratulated on this well layed out and presented booklet which will be of great use to all who collect the postcards of this area.

Denis Charlesworth

MISCELLANEOUS WI. QUERIES

I have two items upon which I should welcome further information and help:-

1) St. Lucia Manuscript mark.



Cancel on the 1d St. Lucia
CB 3/10/89 in manuscript
Is this a village cancellation?
If so, which village?

2) Leeward Islands Flaw - KGVI 1d Die B - Scarlet shade (1944 printing?)



The tops of the letters D IS of LEEWARD
ISLANDS have been shaved and the first
S in ISLANDS has a break at the foot.
Have these flaws been noted before?

If any member can give me any information about the above I should be most grateful.

Leslie Goodwin

LEEWARD ISLANDS - KEVII head plate flaw

In response to Michael Spaven's article (Bulletin 167) on the KEVII head plate flaw which I confirm as Row 1 Stamp 3 Lefthand Pane of Plate 1. In addition, I have the following examples: British Honduras 10c, 25c, Cayman Islands 2½d, Fiji ½d, Leeward Islands 1d, 2½d, Grenada ½d, 1/- and Sierra Leone ½d.

Tony Farmer

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - Censorship

The September 1995 Bulletin illustrated a censored cover from Trinidad which had a handstamp classified as Renshaw type TR/1B applied in Trinidad, claiming to extend its period of usage by 6 months. The Roses Book from which the reference was taken is now well out of date with respect to Trinidad and Tobago Censorship. The type illustrated as TR/1B has actually two varieties dependent on the size and positioning of the crown. These are illustrated in my book "British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II, Trinidad and Tobago" published by Chavril Press in 1993, classified as TR CH 4A and 4B. Handstamp TA CH 4A is known without number and with numbers 2 to 7 inclusive, 4B is numbered 8 to 16 inclusive.

The last recorded date of these handstamps is 25 January 1943, some ten months after that illustrated in the September article. By this time they were being used on postcards and unsealed or official. The use of plain brown tape with the various handstamps was finally superseded by the TA CL 3 labels (Renshaw's type TR/3) in October 1942, although variants of the TA CL 2 (Renshaw's type TR/2) labels were also used concurrently from January 1941.

The TR CH 4 handstamps were phased out in on unsealed letters and postcards with the introduction of the undated "IC TRI" marks TR CH 9B and 10B and the lozenge handstamp TA CH 15 which had been introduced earlier for "Transit" censored postcards.



Type TA CH 1 5A on a "transit" (or intercepted) postcard of August 1942.

Enroute via PAA. Douglas Clipper
Fast, comfortable, twin-motored, 21-passenger
clippers on many of the swift, regular schedules
American Airways in South America.



I don't
Landed here. ~~Beautiful~~
~~flight~~. Beautiful
flight. Beginning
to feel tropical
heat. On our way
soon -
Love
Chuck

Mrs. C.H. Fredrickson
1785 S.W.
Apt #
Miami



PAR AVION • VIA AIR MAIL • CORREO AEREO
PAN AMERICAN AIRWAYS SYSTEM
1943



Above illustration (front and reverse) showing late use of TR CH 4B on a Pan-American Airways postcard dated Port of Spain, Trinidad 18 January 1943.

Ron Wike

ST. LUCIA STEAM CONVEYANCE CY. LTD.

Further to the September issue No.166 of the bulletin some information regarding the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Cy Limited might be of interest to members.

In December 1866 a certain Captain Thomas Shugg crossed the Atlantic in his small steam ship "Penelope" to St. Lucia and obtained a subsidy of £150 per annum from the public treasury to help with the upkeep of his steamship which was used to carry goods and passengers along the west coast of St. Lucia between Gros Islet and Vieux Fort. In return for this subsidy, he carried the mails free of charge.

In 1868 the "Penelope" was wrecked and Captain Shugg died later the same year. The steamer was badly missed especially as there were few roads thus making overland travel very difficult on this mountainous island.

Hence the formation in 1869 of St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Company Limited who were given a subsidy of £250 per annum to carry on the work of the "Penelope". The Company obtained its first ship the "Aide" in 1870 and a second ship the "Creole" in 1873.

The Company issued "postage stamps" for internal use on the island of St. Lucia.

The First Issue - In October 1871 the Company was using imperforate provisionals, consisting of labels either plain white with a blue frame or of plain blue woven paper and in each case without any other design. These had been struck before use to validate the stamps with the Company's "seal", a double ring circular shape bearing the Company's name between the double ring. An impression of approximately one half of the Company's "seal" appeared on the face of each stamp. The stamps were cancelled with an ink cross. The stamps were probably of a one penny value - this was the local post office rate for letters at that time.

The Second issue The blue colouring of these provisionals was continued on the 1 penny value of the properly designed lithographed stamp printed in Paris which came into use together with the 3 penny Mauve and the 6 penny Purple on a date unknown, probably 1872. There is mention of these 3 stamps in the "Gazette des Timbres" on 15th May 1873, although it was 1882 before the existence of these stamps was officially confirmed.

The imperforate stamps were of a sailing ship design and remind one of a miniature version of a Captain Webb match box label. The sailing ship on the stamps certainly does not depict the "Penelope", the "Aide" or the "Creole" which were all steam ships.

There are nine varieties of the 1 penny value, and 6 of the 6 penny value. No copies of the Second Issue of the 3 penny value have been seen for inspection, although they are rumoured to exist.

The Second Issue can be distinguished from the Third Issue by being lithographed in Paris on unsurfaced paper rather than on chalk surfaced paper and having brown

cracked gum rather than shiny white to yellowish gum which can also be cracked. The colours of the Second Issue are blue, mauve and purple respectively and the Third Issue are bright blue, bright rosy mauve and bright purple respectively.

The statement in the June 1995 Bulletin that the definitive issue by the Company of circa 1873 consists of a 1 penny stamp, twelve known examples and a 6 penny stamp six or seven known is a reference to Mr. Percy de Worms article in "The London Philatelist" concerning known used examples. An oval cancellation stamp was used. This oval cancellation stamp is similar (apart from the shape) to the circular Company "seal" used to validate the provisional first issue of stamps. Unused examples of the 1 penny and 6 penny are not very common; used or unused copies of the 3 penny possibly unique.

The Third Issue - These consist of the 1 penny, 3 penny and 6 penny values identical in design to the Second Issue, although the stones on the 1 penny value were re-arranged from the printing of the Second Issue. They are not known used and are all relatively common in unused condition. They can often be purchased in blocks or pairs.

The 9 varieties of the 1 penny value are therefore re-arranged in different positions on the sheet from those of the Second Issue. The Third Issue of the 6 penny value are in the same position on the sheet as those of the Second Issue. No comment can be made concerning the position on the sheet of the six varieties of the 3 penny value since no sheet of the Second Issue has been seen.

2000 sheets (consisting of 6 rows of 12 stamps in each sheet) were found in wrappers in Western Europe in the 1930's. On balance these were printed in the late 1880's and never sent to St. Lucia.

The St. Lucia Ordinance of 28th October 1887 stated that "the Company shall not carry any letter except letters sent through the Post Offices, or consignee letters to be delivered along with goods to which they refer." The Post Office in St. Lucia was getting organized to deal properly with all the mails and was sorting out the competition. The St Lucia Steam Conveyance Cy. Ltd. went into liquidation in 1890.

Outstanding queries to be answered hopefully by B.W.I.S.C. members:

1. Why are there two distinct shades of both the 1 penny and 6 penny value of the Third Issue? This sounds like two separate printings. Why should two separate printings be necessary, neither of which were sent to the colony? Was there a second printing in the 1930's to supplement the old stock?
2. Why were the stamps printed in Paris rather than in London? What was the Company's connection with France?
3. Why were three denominations of stamps required? What were the 3 penny and 6 penny stamps used for bearing in mind that the Company was restricted to mail delivery solely on St. Lucia?

My 3 penny stamp referred to in the September 1995 bulletin is of the Third Issue.

Ian Jakes

STAMPEX MEETING - January 1996

A meeting of the Study Circle was held on Saturday 27th January at the Stampex Show held at the new Stampex venue 'The Business Design Centre', 52 Upper Street, Islington, London. The meeting was attended by 19 members and 1 visitor. Details of the two displays given by Brian Brookes and Brian Rogers will be in the next issue of the Bulletin.

CAPEX 96- BCPSG Meeting

Michel Forand informs us that the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group will be holding a meeting at CAPEX 96 in Toronto, Canada on Tuesday 11th June at 2 pm. to which any of our members over for the show are most welcome to attend. CAPEX 96 is being held from June 8th to the 16th in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

Anyone wanting further information should contact either Michel at or John Tyacke at

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Would members who have not yet paid their 1996 Subscriptions please pay the Hon. Treasurer, Chris May or North American Representative, Clary Holt, without further reminder.

'D96' on the address label for this bulletin indicates that five years membership ran out in 1995 or that members had not paid the annual subscription in Sterling by Mid February. Members who have paid since that date or in U.S. dollars should ignore this reminder.

MEMBERSHIP LISTING

New Members

Forrest, J.
Gilbespie,
P.I.H.
Hathaway,
K.J.
Kinns, Dr.P.

Norris, A.
Pugh, D.M.

Address Change

May, K.
Watson, W.K.

Address Correction

Duggleby, C.V.A.

Resigned

Nailer, R.H.

Deceased

Parker, C.A.

THE OPINION SERVICE

Members who wish to take advantage of this service should first apply to the Hon. Gen. Secretary for one (or more) "Application for Opinion" form(s). Please note that each item submitted requires its own individual form.

The member should then complete and send the form(s) with the item(s) concerned to the Hon. Gen. Secretary enclosing the remittance fee of £4.50 per item together with a return addressed envelope, stamped additionally for either Registered or Recorded Delivery. Every endeavour will be made to return the item as soon as possible, ideally within 14 days.

All stamps and covers are submitted entirely at the Owner's risk and neither the Study Circle nor any of its Members, either collectively or individually can be held responsible for the loss or damage of any items.

Members are reminded that this is only an OPINION SERVICE and does not give an Expertise Certificate. This service is available ONLY to those members with a UK address.

MATERIAL WANTED FOR THE JUNE AND FUTURE BULLETINS PLEASE

Advert

HARMERS of LONDON