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**STUDY CIRCLE**

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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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**BULLETIN No. 172 MARCH 1997**

## BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

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<i>North American Representative:</i>	<b>W. CLARY HOLT</b>

## 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.

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## PROGRAMME

**1997**

**Saturday 26 April**                      2.15 p.m.                      **AGM** followed by Annual Auction.

Venue: The Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London. WC 1

**Friday 12 and Saturday 13 September 1997**                      **Convention.**

Venue: The Regent Hotel, The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa.

**DETAILS OF THE CONVENTION WILL BE IN THE JUNE BULLETIN**

**MATERIAL FOR THE JUNE AND ALL FUTURE ISSUES WANTED PLEASE**

## **MICHAEL BURROWS NICHOLSON 1935 -1996**

The Circle's General Secretary, Michael Nicholson, suffered a brain haemorrhage during the night of 18th November 1996 and never recovered consciousness. He was attending to his stamp collection at the time, so that we can only hope that he died a happy man.

Michael had made a speciality of the study of the Diamond Jubilee issue of British Guiana and especially the overprints. He had come to a number of conclusions about the overprinting, the settings, the order in which the overprints were done and the errors involved, which were not in line with accepted thinking, and was formulating his ideas with a view to publication, work which must now be done by another hand sometime in the future.

Michael was a gentleman, in every sense of the word, and would never let a harsh word pass his lips. He was always tolerant of the shortcomings of others and furthermore was extremely generous, yet a good businessman and a formidable advocate.

Our sympathy goes to Helen and their close-knit family, whom we hope will adjust to this untimely loss. We also will miss him very much.

Derek Nathan

## **NEWCASTLE '96**

The display and meeting of ABPS at Newcastle on 30th November and 1st December can only be described as an outstanding success.

Despite competing for time at this weekend with the Society of Postal Historians and the Centennial of the Collector's Club in New York, the majority of the Philatelic establishment attended and were rewarded with a series of stunning displays and events.

The main emphasis was on Aerophilately and an outstanding series of entries were on show, including a considerable tranche of the Royal Collection of Air Mails, the first time such a selection has been seen in this Country outside London.

There was also an inter-Federation competition of three 32-page displays, in which 14 Federations competed. The material on display here was mouth-watering.

Of more interest to our members, perhaps, was the area devoted to specialist Societies. This was, it has to be admitted, rather disappointing, tucked away in a basement, inadequately signposted even if one got as far as the cloakrooms, and the amount of passing trade engendered was minimal. It was a very determined individual who fought his way to this area, and an even more persistent one who got to virtually the last stand in a long thin room, allocated to the Study Circle.

I am very grateful, therefore to the team of Peter Ford, John Ayre, Mike Rego, Tony Shepherd, and David Druett who manned the table throughout the day and signed on two new recruits to the Circle. I am also grateful to Dennis Mitton, Simon Greenwood and David Druett who loaned 16 pages each to enable us to mount a wide ranging display of our goodies.

The Study Circle also held a Provincial Meeting, attended by most of the above, but, sadly, no one else, who were treated to a display by Tony Shepherd of Guadeloupe. We know Tony has magnificent collections of Grenada and Barbados, but being able to show a subsidiary interest of this quality is remarkable. Much of the material, starting in 1786, emanated from the British Postal Agent or was carried by British ships, so the purists were satisfied, but probably the most interesting covers were those which travelled between the islands which were part of the Guadeloupe group, Marie-Galante, Saintes and St Martin amongst them. A stunning display.

There were Workshops, Seminars and social events, all of which added up to a satisfactory weekend. Perhaps when the equivalent event goes to Brighton in two year's time there may be more of our members supporting the Study Circle.

Derek Nathan

## **WANTED**

Mr. M. Hambro of Arnehjellen 1, 6013 Alesund. Norway. Tel. No. 701 50672 after 6 p.m. is after early postal history of the Danish West Indies before 1820.

# ACCOUNTS

## Income and Expenditure Statements for the year ended 31 December 1996

<b>1995</b>	<b>INCOME</b>	1996
£		£. p
2080	Subscriptions	2469.00
769	Publications - net surplus less postage	7.10
1256	Auction and Miscellaneous donations	862.40
48	Opinion Fees	13.50
110	Convention (net surplus)	
192	Interest received less tax and tax reserve	<u>227.34</u>
<b>£4455</b>	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>£3579.34</u></b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
1296	Bulletin: costs less advertising	1293.00
883	: distribution and Editorial expenses	783.39
109	Library: acquisitions	90.00
61	: insurance	61.25
27	: librarian's expenses less recoveries	4.96
175	Meeting room hire less collections	156.23
132	ABPS Affiliation Fee	140.80
246	Officers' Administration : stationery, Postage, telephone, photo- Copying etc. less recoveries	155.50
-	WIPEX'96	225.85
102	Miscellaneous	50.00
<b>£3031</b>	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b><u>£2953.52</u></b>
<b>1424</b>	<b>SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>625.82</b>
<b>£4455</b>		<b><u>£3 579.34</u></b>

### Balance Sheet as at 31 December 1996

<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>		
12126	Balance at 1.1.1996	13550.04
1424	Add Surplus for the year	625.82
331	Dollar conversion reserve	260.41
<u>13881</u>		<u>14436.27</u>
<u>(5312)</u>	Less Stocks of Publications at cost	<u>5651.55</u>
<b>£8569</b>		<b><u>£8784.72</u></b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>		
10659	Cash at Banks and Building Society	10620.42
<u>168</u>	Sundry Debtors	<u>263.33</u>
10827		10883.75
(134)	Less Taxation Reserve	134.30
<u>(2124)</u>	Subscriptions received in advance	<u>1964.73</u>
<b>£8569</b>		<b><u>(2099.03)</u></b>
		<b><u>£8784.72</u></b>

## AUDITOR'S REPORT

I hereby certify that the Income and Expenditure Statements for the year ended 31 December 1996 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 £37.50; similarly subscriptions have been received in advance at previous subscription rates where the liability at current rates would be £234.50. 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

8 February 1997.

# MEMBERSHIP

## New Members

Bell, R.  
Boyd, D.  
Butterworth, S.W.  
Dickinson, N.  
Green, M.  
Mapleton, M.J.  
Napier, D.E.  
Oldham, J.  
Reed, I.  
Riggall, J.S.  
Southgate, C.N.

## Change of Address

Braithwaite, M.B.  
Harris, A.C.J.  
Tyler, J.S.

# Subscriptions

Address labels for this and subsequent bulletins should contain the date to which your annual subscription (dues) has been paid e.g. 31-12-97. This information has been updated for remittances received by mid-February. If you have not yet paid your 1997 subscription (dues) please send your cheque to Chris May or Clary Holt.

Steve Sharp

# AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

**ANGUILLA** Further to the information given in the December Bulletin No. 171 the date of issue for the '**Battle for Anguilla**' and the '**Centennial of Modern Olympics**' commemorative sets was 12th December 1996. The Christmas 1996 set has been cancelled.

**BERMUDA** Commemorative stamp issue Release date - 12th February 1997

**HONG KONG'97** Values - 30c, 65c, 80c, \$2.50  
Design Nick Shewring Printer - Walsall Security Printers  
Process Lithography Stamps per sheet - 50 (2x25)  
Paper C.A. Spiral Watermark

The set is a reprint of the Lighthouses and Navigation issue with the Hong Kong '97 Exhibition Logo reproduced on each design. The denomination on the North Rock Beacon stamp has been revised to \$2.50 in order to reflect the new registration fees introduced on 1st August 1996.

## **BRITISH GUIANA PICTURE POSTCARDS**

It is hoped to publish a listing of all British Guiana picture postcards which were either on sale in the colony or relevant to the colony up to independence. Would anyone who thinks that they may have unusual material they could let me see (or have copies of) please communicate with me. I can be contacted by post at 'The Old Rectory', Fenny Bentley, Ashbourne, Derbyshire. DE6 1 LD. I can also be contacted by telephone on (01335) 350568, or by fax 01335 350445 or by e mail 106334,1043@compuserve.com All communications will be gratefully acknowledged.

Terence Dickinson

## **STAMPEX - January 1997 Meeting**

A society meeting was held during STAMPEX on Saturday 25th January at the Business Design Centre in London. About fifty members and visitors to the show gathered to see two excellent displays our Vice President Sir John B. Marriott (Trinidad) and Simon Goldblatt (Postmarks and Postcards).

Details of the displays will be given in the next issue of the Bulletin.

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*The following article 'Our Stamps Tell Our History' by Colville L. Petty is reprinted by kind permission of the author as well as the Editor of Anguilla Life Magazine.*

## **ANGUILLA - OUR STAMPS TELL OUR HISTORY**

The history of Anguilla's domination by St. Kitts (St. Christopher) and of its struggle for constitutional and political advancement is reflected in the history of its stamps. Anguilla was settled by the English in 1650 and for over 150 years all executive, legislative and judicial powers were vested in a Deputy Governor (and Council). The omnipotence of the Deputy Governor disappeared in 1825 with the creation of the legislative union between Anguilla and St. Kitts. From that time until the second half of the twentieth century most laws affecting Anguilla were made by the St. Kitts legislature, where Anguilla had one representative.

The Central Government in St. Kitts also determined administrative policy including the issuing of postage stamps. When the Presidency of St. Kitts (and Anguilla) issued its first set of postage stamps, in April 1870, they were inscribed 'Saint Christopher', but not 'St. Christopher and Anguilla' despite the legislative union.

The Presidency of St. Kitts (and Anguilla) and the Presidency of Nevis



were united in 1882 to form the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis. Under this new constitutional arrangement, Nevis continued to issue its own stamps (which it started in 1861) and St. Kitts did likewise. Anguilla was the Cinderella. It was regarded as a dependency of St. Kitts, was not allowed to issue stamps and did not appear on those of St. Kitts.

During the 1870's, postal communications between Anguilla and St. Kitts were by schooner such as the *Spring Bird*. Some years later a more regular schooner service, subsidised at the rate of £16 a year, was put into operation. In fact Anguilla's Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 1874 allocated £23.16.0 for a packet service and £100 for paying the President of the Vestry, Treasurer and Postmaster.

Anguilla's postal services lagged behind those of St. Kitts for it was not until June 1890 that the island's first date stamp, supplied by London, was introduced at the Post Office situated in the Court House on Crocus Hill. According to Peter Belfast, writing in the *Gibbons Stamps Monthly* of November 1954:

It was a . . . "date stamp with St. Kitts at the top of the circle and 'AN' above the date".

When St. Kitts and Nevis combined their issues of stamps which were inscribed "St. Kitts-Nevis", in 1903, Anguilla was omitted from the inscription in keeping with its omission from the title of the Presidency. It meant therefore that the stamps used in Anguilla were those inscribed 'St. Kitts-Nevis'. (These were used concurrently with the stamps of the Leeward Islands.)

The failure of the authorities in St. Kitts to recognise on postage stamps the existence of Anguilla caused a group of Anguillians living in the United States to write, in 1926, to the St. Kitts Government requesting that Anguilla be inscribed on the stamps along with St. Kitts and Nevis. The matter was discussed by the Executive Council in St. Kitts and the minutes of the meeting of July 28, 1926 stated, in part, as follows:

*'The Administrator submitted to the Council a letter from a Committee of certain natives of Anguilla, stating to be representative of over 500 Anguillians, temporarily residing in the United States, asking that the name of the island of their birth be included on the postage stamp of the St. Kitts-Nevis Presidency.*

*The Council saw no reason why the island of Anguilla, forming part of the Presidency of St. Kitts and Nevis should not be mentioned on the*

*Presidency's postage stamp, and recommended the request of the applicants to the favourable consideration of Government.*

Although the Executive Council looked "favourably" at the request, no effort was made to grant it. The postage stamps question was raised again in 1938 when the Moyne Commission visited Anguilla. John Richard Gumbs, in a memorandum to the Commissioners, pleaded:

*'Please favour us and give us a postage stamp of our own .... If there be a difficulty in obtaining a worthy photographic scenery for such a purpose, I may mention: Some of the best undeveloped and untrained sailors, fishers and agriculturists to be found, live here among us. Maybe we could afford the picture of a fisherman casting his Net.'*

Gumbs' appeal was ignored. However, ten years later, Anguilla appeared on a postage stamp for the first time. It did not appear as part of the title of the Presidency of St. Kitts-Nevis. Instead, a map of Anguilla (with Dog, Seal, Scrub and Anguilla islands) was depicted on a set of two St. Kitts-Nevis stamps, of ten shillings and £1 denominations, issued September 1, 1948. Anguilla's second appearance on a postage stamp was on November 10, 1950 when the St. Kitts Government released a set of overprints to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the English settlement of Anguilla. The set of six stamps, was over-printed with 'Anguilla Tercentenary 1650-1950'.

It was in 1952, some 80 years after St. Kitts had issued its first postage stamp, that 'Anguilla' appeared on a stamp as part of the inscription of that title of the Presidency of which it was a unit. That year the Presidency experienced constitutional reform which, among things, introduced adult suffrage and changed the title of the Presidency to the Presidency of St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla. As a consequence the twelve definitives of 1952 carried the inscription 'St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla'. The only stamp which depicted anything Anguillian, was the \$1.20 denomination showing the salt pond at Road Bay. The same set, of twelve stamps, was reissued in 1954 but with a portrait of Queen Elizabeth II (who succeeded her father, George VI, when he passed away in 1952). In 1956 a half cent stamp was added to the set, and in 1957, the Sombrero Lighthouse on the 8 cent and a map of Anguilla and its offshore cays on the \$2.40 stamp were issued.

The Anguillian people had to wait a long time for such recognition because the stamp policy of the St. Kitts Government had been aimed primarily at highlighting St. Kitts and Nevis but never Anguilla. Anguilla

was a mere footnote of that policy and all other policies relating to the development of the three islands.

The Anguillians' discontent with their island's neglect and the general attitude of the St. Kitts Government towards them, had resulted in several petitions for separation. The most noteworthy were those of 1825, 1872 and 1958. When they had concluded that they could take no more they expelled the St. Kitts policemen from the Island on May 30, 1967 and freed themselves from St. Kitts' stranglehold. A few weeks later, on July 11, they voted overwhelmingly in favour of secession and independence from the Associated State of St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla which had been created on February 27, 1967 against their wishes. The Anguillians took into their hands the control of their own destiny.

Once Anguilla had unilaterally broken ties with St. Kitts, all communications, postal and otherwise, were disrupted. To overcome some of the difficulties the Peace-Keeping Committee of 15, established to manage the island's affairs, made arrangements with Anguilla's neighbours for the routing of mail via St. Maarten or St. Thomas. Incoming mail had to be addressed 'Anguilla via St. Thomas' or 'P.O. Box 43, St. Maarten'. The stamps used on outgoing mail were from stocks inscribed 'St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla' held at the Post Office in Anguilla.

The practice of using these stamps did not last long because the Anguilla Council arranged for the obliteration of the inscription 'St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla' from the 1963 definitives and its replacement by the words "Independent Anguilla".

The work was undertaken in St. Thomas by Island Press Inc. These overprints were released on September 4, 1967. Their historic value and relative scarcity eventually resulted in an astronomical rise in their market value. The selling price of a full set of sixteen, in mint condition, is around EC\$30,000.

The first definitive set of postage stamps ever issued by Anguilla went on sale on November 27, 1967 and the first commemorative set, which depicted Anguillian boats including the *Warspite* and the *Atlantic Star* on May 11, 1968. The definitives which were released in three batches, portrayed the Sombrero Lighthouse, the Mahogany Tree, St. Mary's Church, The Valley Police Station, an old Mount Fortune plantation house, The Valley Post Office, the West End Methodist Church, Wallblake Airport, Sandy Ground, Island Harbour, a map of Anguilla, the Hermit Crab and Starfish, Spiny Lobster, Hibiscus and a local scene. Thereafter, several commemorative sets with the inscription 'ANGUILLA'

were released. The artwork and marketing were handled by John Lister limited of London.

On January 9, 1969 the Anguilla Council released a set of commemorative stamps as an assertion of the people's determination to be independent of St. Kitts. The set comprised the Anguilla 1967 definitives overprinted with "Independence January, 1969". Some weeks later, on March 19, 1969, Anguilla was invaded by British forces which put an end to its unilateral declaration of independence. Even though the British had taken control, Anguilla's stamps continued to bear the inscription 'ANGUILLA'.

The British Government's control was further tightened by the Anguilla Act and the consequential Anguilla (Administration) Order, which came into force on August 4, 1971. This Order made provision for a Commissioner to work in consultation with the Anguilla Council in the exercise of the administration of the Island. A consequence of these constitutional changes was the removal of the inscription 'ANGUILLA' from the postage stamps and its replacement by 'H. M. Commissioner in Anguilla' along with the Royal Cypher ER. The first commemorative stamps to bear the inscription 'H. M. Commissioner in Anguilla' along with the Royal Cypher were issued on November 29, 1971. The designs depicted paintings by some of the old masters (Raphael, Botticelli, Murillo and Durer). The first 'H. M. Commissioner in Anguilla' definitive issue was released on October 30, 1972 and highlighted various aspects of life in Anguilla as well as the Brown Pelican and Man-O-War.

Anguilla experienced further constitutional change in 1976 with the coming into force on February 10, 1976 of the Anguilla (Constitution) Order, which introduced a Ministerial System of Government. To mark this historic development, the 1972 definitives were overprinted with 'New Constitution 1976' and released as a commemorative set on February 10, 1976. To a large extent, the history of Anguilla's stamps runs parallel to the island's constitutional and political history.

Anguilla was formally separated from the Associated State of St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla on December 19, 1980 and became a separate British dependent territory. The realisation of the dream of generation after generation of Anguillians was marked by a special set of stamps, released on December 18, 1980, depicting the 1825 Petition for Separation, the ballot paper used in the 1967 Referendum, the 1967 Airport Blockade, the three dolphins flag and a celebration scene. The stamps were captioned 'Separation from St. Kitts'. In addition, the 1977 definitives were overprinted with 'Separation 1980'. These two

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separation Issues were the last stamps to be inscribed 'H. M. Commissioner in Anguilla'. Thereafter all stamps, commencing with the 1981 Easter issue, carried the inscription: 'ANGUILLA'. At long last the Anguillian people had won the legal right to issue their own postage stamps.

The history of Anguilla's postage stamps is an important aspect of the history of a people's struggle for freedom and self-realisation. To collect these stamps is to preserve, honour and glorify that history.

Colville L. Petty

Colville Petty, OBE, holds a B.Sc (Government) Degree from the University of the West Indies and a M.A. Degree from Norwich University. He is the author of 'Anguilla-Where There is A Will There Is A Way'; 'A Handbook History of Anguilla', 'A School and its Community', 'The East End School 191 7-1974' and, with Nat Hodge, 'Anguilla's Battle for Freedom 1967.

## ANTIGUA MANUSCRIPT MARKINGS

Michael Medlicott has made a big contribution to our pool of knowledge with his dates for Antigua village offices. Thank you, Michael.

Now another member, Ray Stanton, has forged another firm link in the chain. The enlarged illustration contains the full rubric " 8 = 8 = 87 St - Philip ". I reproduce with it, for convenience, two of the stamps we have looked at before. No graphologist is needed, to say with confidence that 15 = 8 = 88 has to be St. Philip and that 22.1.90 is in a different hand (not necessarily, of course, a different office).



To add to the evidence, I have re-discovered a complete page of my own upon which I have assembled a further seventeen stamps, all with pretensions to come from a village office. If we call this page 'B' - for possible future reference - and number the stamps consecutively, there are proving cancellations, or probable traces of these, on B2 to 5, B7, B11-12, B15-17. In case the dates are difficult to read, these are as follows:- B1 - 10/3/82, B2 - 5/7/87 (c.d.s. same day), B3 - writing is unreadable, probably not part of a date, so capable of being part of an address, with no village connection. B4 - 118187 (c.d.s. AU 4 87). B5 - 4/3/86, B6 - 7/6/76 (nice and early), B7 (probably treated by bleaching), - 20/9/86. B8 - 8/10/90, B9 - 6/9/90, B10 22/4/87, B11 - 9/9/87, B12 - 1/11/88 (c.d.s. JA 12 88): as this is the 2½d value, the presumed candidates are All Saints, St. Mary's, St. Peter's. B13 - 24/8/88, B14 25/8/88, B15-10/7/89, B16-29/11/94 (c.d.s. the same). B17-4/7/90.

There are many different hands and inks here, as well as different styles. One certainly does not see the uniformity and discipline noted in St. Kitts. However - to answer a query of my own and of other members - I now realise that there would have had to be a general instruction (it would not need to have been communicated in any formal manner, though) from GPO to its village outposts. The sub-office representative would, at the least, have been told to ensure that the date (if nothing else) was boldly and legibly written across the stamp. Only in this way could the headquarters office be sure that letters were being franked with unused stamps, and not with stamps that had already seen fiscal usage. Post Offices in those days used to be very wary of the possibility of fraud.





I am not going to speculate further on the allocation of B1 to 17 between one or another of the village offices, except to suggest that most of the candidates will be represented here. Some comment on shades and writing characteristics may be of more interest.

Our 1888 St. Philip is in a rather pale rose shade, which closely matches B13 and 14. B17 is not fresh; in its original state it too could have been a good colour match. The 1887 St. Philip is a deeper version of the same general hue, and is akin to B10 and 11. The shade being discussed is not very different from the 1d CC B1, with a hint more red in it. Of the other 1d CA values, most belong to the carmine family; in the case of B2 and B15 classification is more debatable, and some eyes would detect an affinity with the tribe of St. Philip. By contrast '22.1.90 SP' is unequivocally carmine family: its closest affinity is with B8 and 9.

Now to handwriting. It would not surprise me if B13 were the same hand as B1, showing traces of ageing, six years later.

B2 has a spiky '5' and a casual, cursive '7' which I cannot marry to any of the others. Neither is there a kinship between B5, with its vertical separating lines, or B14, with its hasty, ill-defined numerals, and any of the rest. I should suggest that B7 and B8 belong together, as perhaps do B4 and B11, even possibly making a foursome with B9 and 17. I

wonder, too, whether the writer of B6 may have been writing in the style of B10, eleven years on.

On B3 no comment can be made. B12 is drowned by its postmark. B15 is another stand-alone, and B16 is rather devoid of character for my purposes.

Tracking back to my previous list, the '5' on 1/5/94 ties in with B2, and 10/8/89 could turn out to be B14 in less of a rush. With time even to under-line. 14/9/92 is a possible partner for B 12 - this is a tentative, not a confident, proposition.

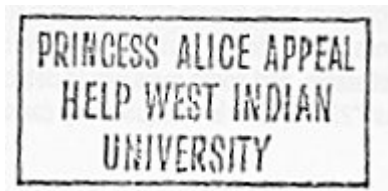
In summary, then, I would argue for at least eight different hands, and am content to be told that there are nine or more. Michael and I would have no reason whatever to limit the writers to one per sub-office, despite the traditional longevity (and inactivity?) of many of the officers; but between his submissions and Doug Nottingham's and my own, we have possibly uncovered a good part of the range and it remains for more of our members to dig out the odd manuscript 'St. Paul's' or 'St. Mary's' to make sure we all stay firmly on the rails.

Simon Goldblatt

## THE PRINCESS ALICE APPEAL

With reference to Michel Bilhauts letter on page 2 of bulletin No. 164 and the Stella Pearse reply on page 72 of bulletin No.167 regarding 'The Princess Alice Appeal' each under the heading Antigua.

On browsing through the 'Barbados P.O. Markings' by Clarke, Radford and Cave, I noticed on page twenty five the following item depicted.



The letters are 5mm. high, the lengths of the three lines are 46mm., 43½mm. and 35½mm. respectively. The rectangle measures 50mm. x 23mm. Only used in March 1955 With types (ii) and (iii) datemarks.

The cachet would appear to confirm the final paragraph of the letter from Mrs. Pearse when she assumed that the handstamp served merely as an advertisement to remind possible overseas donors of the need'.

The question is; was it to help the University or to help the University help the hurricane Victims.

Frank Bennett

## ANTIGUA HANDSTAMP.

Recently I have been contacted by Derek Lilley of *'Caribbean Philatelic Auctions'* to see if I can explain the handstamp / imprint (shown below) of "Antigua" across a Barbados 2½d stamp (SG. 119).



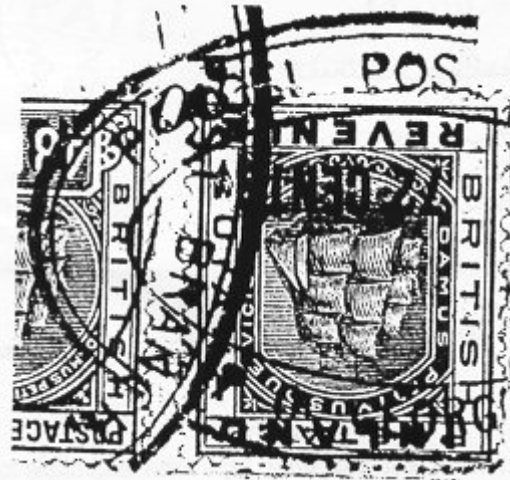
The postage stamp is cancelled with a Barbados square circle, dated NO 4 98 Code B, and has a violet ink, diagonal 'Antigua' across it. Both Derek and I originally thought this was a maritime marking, however I have spent some time going through various shipping fleets, Royal Mail line, French Line, HAPAG, KNSM, United Fruit and smaller shipping companies etc., but have not been able to confirm that the diagonal 'Antigua' belongs to a vessel.

I therefore seek the opinion of our members as to why a Barbados postage stamp should carry an 'Antigua' handstamp.

Michael Rego

## BRITISH GUIANA - "Pass the Parcel"

Townsend and Howe left so little room for wholly new postmark discoveries, that one tends to think there is none to be found.



We can surely all be forgiven for the latest omission: who would look for a new postal cancel on \$1.20 worth of stamps? The illustrated piece has lain quite neglected in my fiscal drawer for years.

Still, there it is, loud and clear, struck twice for emphasis (in violet, of course): 'PARCEL POST BRANCH G.P.O. GEORGETOWN'- and possibly 'B.G.' at the end to complete the balance.

Twice \$1.20 is \$2.40, which helps explain SG.251. Maybe we should all look again at our discarded copies of this overprint, in case this hitherto unnoticed cancellation survived for occasional use in the present century.

Simon Goldblatt

## BRITISH GUIANA

The envelope illustrated below was recently found in a dealers bundle of \$1.00 covers!! There are at least three features which distinguish it. It was mailed in 1954, thus antedating by five years, Townsend and Howe's earliest known postal meter machine cancellation. Secondly, the code letter 'S' is not listed by them, indicating another, as yet unidentified user firm, and finally, the slogan 'Prevent TB with BCG,' is the same as T & H's Gem 24 - for which they could give no precise date other than to say 'Seen on KGV1 issues'.



It seems a reasonable assumption that the post office would have been responsible for incorporating this slogan in the meter design, and would arguably, have done so, at a time when the GPO electrical machine cancel was proclaiming the same message.

Raj Ramphal

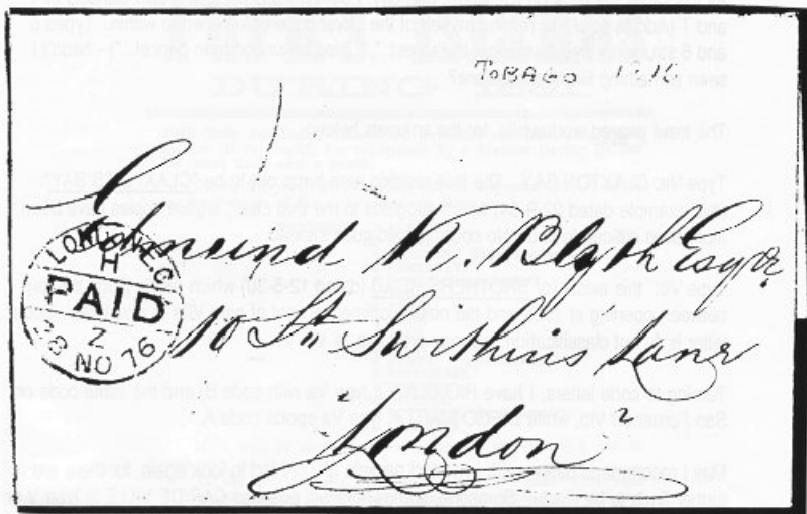
**BERMUDA - KGVI 2/6d Keyplate SG.117 Head Plate Flaw 17a Gash in chin.**

In Bulletin 145 for June 1990 I reported finding an example of a retouch or, as Mr. Baldwin more correctly termed it in Bulletin 147, a hand-painted repair to this flaw on the March 1943 printing. Mr. Dickon Pollard of Murray Payne Ltd. some months ago showed me another example which appeared to me to be similar in all respects to the one I previously reported.

It now seems reasonable to expect other examples might be found; and possibly this was not the only unit which was retouched on sheets of that printing.

Patrick Williams

**TOBAGO**



I cannot imagine those following in the footsteps of Henry D. Hicks and 'Beaver Creek' will be frantically rushing around to find such an entire as this. Like it or not this pre-stamp letter headed 'Tobago November 6 1876' is from the rarer 1875-78 Type CC2 PAID AT TOBAGO period but without the Crowned Paid.

It would merit no mention except for the fact that it is rated '1/-' in red crayon supported by bold LONDON PAID arrival. c.d.s. for NO 28 76. Not only is the anticipated PAID AT TOBAGO missing, but also the supporting black TOBAGO dated double-arc which can only mean that it was taken to the steam packet very late and travelled as a 'loose letter' outside the sealed GPO bag.

Collectors are expected to frown and show a slight lack of enthusiasm, as I do too, but finding a similar entire used during the Crown Paid periods for any of the other West Indies islands has so far eluded my attentions.

Michael Hamilton

## TRINIDAD UPDATE

Pleasant surprises sometimes await those who have the discipline sporadically to sort out the accumulation of years. With myself, I confess, the urge to do so is rare: there is comfort in an untidy miscellaneous jumble.

All the same the urge bit me when, one day, I picked up B.C.P.'s 'Town Cancels of T and T (Addiss et al.) to remind myself of the storehouse of knowledge within. Types 5 and 6 struck my eye ('amongst the rarest..', '..also an uncommon cancel...') - hadn't I seen something like these before?

The trawl proved worthwhile, for the snippets below:-

Type Va: CLAXTON BAY. The true reading here turns out to be "CLAXTON'S BAY" (this example dated 22-9-34) which suggests to me that clear, legible copies have been more than difficult to find. No code; a solid quad instead.

Type Vb: this exists for BROTHERS ROAD (dated 12-5-30) which nicely plugs the gap between opening in 1925 and the noted commencement of type VIIa in mid-1936. Code letter is A, but classification, we may presume, is VR.

Turning to code letters, I have RIO CLARO, type Va with code B, and the same code on San Fernando VIb, while DIEGO MARTIN type Va sports code A.

May I recommend others with unsorted packets of Trinidad to look again, for there are further finds to be made. Someone, somewhere will possess CAP DE VILLE in type V or VI wouldn't you say? Or CUNUPIA, come to that? Other possibilities are HICACOS, IROIS FOREST (yes, I've noted the alternative spellings), LAVENTILLE, perhaps MAYO, and almost certainly ROSE HILL. As a final choice, I would name ST. MADELAINE (spelling again!).

I have made the point before that this period of the reign of KGV is a surprisingly little known area for postmark study. In Trinidad, despite the strenuous efforts of Joe Chin Aleong, of the late Ed Addiss, of Ben Ramkissoon and Walton Van Winkle, there is still a lot of work to be done.

Simon Goldblatt



## TURKS ISLANDS - Mail Route 1891

The following copy of a poster (original size 12 x 9 inches) will be of value to members who, like me, take an interest in the routes and times of steamers taking mail to and from the West Indies at the close of the last century.

No. 49.



**MAILS**  
FOR  
**Turk's Islands**  
**DURING 1891.**

---

THE Mails for Turk's Islands are forwarded via Londonderry and Halifax (Nova Scotia), for conveyance by a Steamer leaving Halifax for Grand Turk once a month.

During the year 1891, the Mails will be despatched from London on the evenings of the undermentioned dates:—

THURSDAY,	1 JANUARY.
"	29 JANUARY.
"	5 FEBRUARY (Supplementary).
"	26 FEBRUARY.
"	5 MARCH (Supplementary).
"	2 APRIL.
"	30 APRIL.
"	4 JUNE.
"	2 JULY.
"	30 JULY.
"	6 AUGUST (Supplementary).
"	3 SEPTEMBER.
"	1 OCTOBER.
"	29 OCTOBER.
"	5 NOVEMBER (Supplementary).
"	3 DECEMBER.

Mails will be made up in Ireland on the following day in each case.

As the Steamer running from Halifax to Grand Turk calls at Bermuda on each voyage, correspondence for Bermuda is also sent by this route when specially superscribed to be so forwarded; but the regular Mail Service to Bermuda via Queenstown and New York is maintained as heretofore.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
25th November, 1890.

By Command of the Postmaster General.

[118] [4 11] Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by W. F. Gowers & Son, Ltd., Progress House, Old Bailey, London, E.C.

It is of interest that the mails from Great Britain to Halifax, and thence on to Bermuda and Turks Islands, went via Londonderry in Ireland. It is unfortunate that the name of the company providing this four-week service is not shown.

Michael Wilson

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## TO OUR NORTH AMERICAN MEMBERS

Recently two copies of "DOMINICA - Its Postal History, Stamps and Postal Stationery to 1935" were entered in a Philatelic Literature Exhibition in Canada. We were given the option of having these copies returned; this we have done. They will be returned to Clary Holt. To save any more expense of postage across the Atlantic, we have decided to offer these (second-hand) copies at a special price of \$45 plus postage. It will be on a first come, first served basis. Write to Clary (address on inside of front cover) but do not send any money; Clary will invoice the successful purchasers.

Peter Ford

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