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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 (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.).

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PROGRAMME

2001

Saturday 28th April 2001

Venue:

Annual General Meeting and Auction

Bonnington Hotel, London.

PLEASE NOTE: A display will be given by Derek Nathan and Simon Greenwood of British Guiana to Members and visitors at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 14th December 2000 at 1.00pm.

**MATERIAL WANTED PLEASE FOR
THE DECEMBER AND ALL FUTURE
ISSUES OF THE BULLETIN**

INFORMAL DISPLAYS AT JOINT BWISC/BCPSG MEETING

In the March 2000 Bulletin I requested members to contact me if they wished to provide an informal display at the joint meeting of the two societies on 21st May 2000 and I am delighted to report that I received an excellent response to my request. I had hoped to receive more displays from the United States but the problem they had was their concern about the Custom Authorities and looking after pages away from the meeting. Both of these problems were fully understandable.

I had requested that the members who intended to display should provide me with some details of their display so that I would not have to make any notes which I would not be able to transcribe when I came to prepare this report. More importantly I included items of particular interest that were not apparent to me. Fortunately most members supplied me with this information for which I am most grateful.

Displays were given as follows;

JAMAICA (Bill Attmore)

This display was solely Queen Victoria commencing with the Pines showing working proofs of the 1d, 2d, 6d and 1s. values with a mint block of 9 1860 1d blue and a cover with three 1d stamps. Blocks and shades of the 6d value and two early registered covers followed. The display then showed the loss of the A75 and the redistribution of the obliterations. The 1863 3d ship letter rate with Jamaica Ship Letter mark on cover and the One Shilling Packet rate followed. A double bisect cover, in 1874 ship letter plus 2s and 5s proofs preceded an 1875 soldiers letter from the Royal Artillery. Covers showing the A37 and B obliterator with a manuscript 37 on stamp used during the handover period were shown. The display concluded with Plate Proofs of the new colours of the 1883-85 stamps.

JAMAICA (Paul Wright)

This display chronologically followed by showing the Key Plate and Official stamps of the 1889-91 period. There were six stamps following the adoption of the De La Rue of the key plate system with the Postage and Revenue 1d, 2d and 2½d issues. The Official overprints showed the altered colour printings of the 1d and 2d values together with the existing Half Penny laureated head. The display featured proofs, mint and used stamps tracing the succession of plates and printings and various flaws in the Official overprint.

JAMAICA (Duane Larson)

Co-incidentally this display entitled Jamaica Gems (which they were!) again followed on from the previous display by commencing with the Llandoverly Falls issue with Die Proofs in original and finished states, a bi-coloured essay, a

specimen and the issued stamp used in the Caymans. The 1919-21 pictorial issue was represented by colour trials and further colour trials overprinted specimen with proofs of the 4d central vignette, the 6d Port Royal vignette. The 1919 unadopted 6d Abolition of Slavery stamp was shown with both types of watermark. Both sets of pictorial issues were displayed with specimen overprint.

GRENADA (Dan Walker)

Despite Dan's main Grenada exhibit being in the other show he was able to produce a display of the War Tax stamps. The Government overprint was shown with local specimen, a manuscript Tax of unknown status. Forged inverted and provisional overprint plus a genuine Plate 1 sheet of 120. The varieties of the small A from positions 29 and 48 were followed by an inverted overprint on a 17th. October 1916 cover, also the issued stamp on covers and postcard. The 1916 London overprint was shown with different printings. The stamp was shown used on covers from Snug Corner and Victoria. The display concluded with a Registered Postal Stationary Card with a manuscript War Tax mark.

(I have never seen any other Grenada or any other colony using a manuscript War Tax mark. If other members have such items in their collections then it would possibly help establish that either there was a shortage of War Tax stamps in the colony or at a particular Post Office).

BAHAMAS (Peter Fernbank)

A display of the King George V Kings Head definitive issue opened with a specimen set with each stamp showing a Plate 1 and seven of the eight values showing damage to the M and N of the specimen overprint. Plate number examples from the original 60 set plate 1 demonstrated the wide margin on the right hand side present on this sheet format. After 1918 plate 2 was introduced and used combined with plate 1 and the change in the sheet format was shown with interpanneau examples showing the plate 1 and 2 numbers. This was followed by examples of the three different War Tax overprints including the scarce 1918 one shilling value in a plate block and on cover. Specimens of the Script CA issue were followed by plate number examples in blocks and singles, some of which demonstrated the guillotining of sheets into 60 set panes.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (James Podger)

The display commenced with a 1902 cover with a first series 2½d stamp and a second series cover with the same value. The one farthing PSC used during the second manuscript period complimented a 1908 postcard used to Wales. The one halfpenny on 1d used on cover preceded the farthing PSC both uprated and another with a GB postage due mark. A rural post cover from East End to Georgetown plus another from Georgetown to Gun Bay were followed by covers with Jamaican Red Cross stamps with both types seen. Covers

between 1918 to 1926 were shown. Of particular interest was a 1920 cover with a wax seal of Cayman Brac, Cayman Islands on the back. A size G formula registered envelope showed on the reverse a Jamaica machine cancel, which was supposed only to be used on mail from Jamaica. A 1927 cover with a 1922 1d stamp used as a postage due was seen to be mailed on the first voyage of the SS Cimboco being the first regular mailship between the Islands and Jamaica.

CAYMAN ISLANDS (Dave Mackman)

This display firstly concentrated on the 1908 Farthing issue. A copy of the original design and a specimen was followed by examples of the four printings plus covers showing the varieties 'white dot or mark under A and N'. Blocks of 12 and 40 showed other flaws including the 'white dot in frame' (R3/1). A further variety 'white dot under 3' on specimen stamp was noted. This part of the display concluded with a layout of the plate using blocks of 4. Also a used PSC. The second part of the display showed all three types of the Rural Post cancel mainly on cover including Type 1 used in black and with registered mail. Type 2 in black was also seen on cover used in black. Type 3 was displayed on cover and on stamp.

Note: Further Displays were also shown - details in a later bulletin.

Dennis Mitton

PHOTOGRAPHS OF JOINT MEETING & SOCIAL EVENING



Study Circle Committee line-up
L-to-r: Denis Charlesworth, Steve Sharp,
Simon Goldblatt (standing), Peter Ford,
Derek Nathan, Peter Boulton and Ray
Stanton.



Enjoying a drink and chat before the meal at Poon's

Photographs courtesy of Tony Farmer

MAIN DISPLAYS AT JOINT BWISC/BCPSG MEETING

Dave Herendeen, editor of the BCPJ, presented the first display of the morning session. His talk was entitled 'The Postage Due Stamps of the British Caribbean.'

He noted that although only six of the island colonies had issued postage due stamps, those that were issued formed an important basis for many of the dues throughout the British Empire. Specifically, he noted that Trinidad was the first of all the British colonies to issue postage dues (1884). He further defined two De La Rue keytype postage due designs: the Curvilinear Keytype, used in Trinidad, and the Rectilinear Keytype introduced in Grenada in 1892. These two simple designs were used by more than 20 British colonies and territories over the next century.

His colourful slides went on to review the postage dues of the six islands as new issues were introduced to account for watermark changes and the introduction of decimal currency. He discussed a new theory to explain the introduction of the provisional overprinted postage dues of Grenada in 1892. Rather than being philatelic contrivances, as has been previously assumed, there is now strong evidence that they may have been used for an early form of business reply mail. Many of the items illustrated by his slides were from the De La Rue archives. These included large die proofs of various frames, trial colour proofs from the day books, and one of his own favourite items: the 'missing link' essay of Grenada. This is one of two known examples that establish the link between the two Keytypes. He also showed his latest acquisition, the 1c inverted centre of Barbados that has been chronicled in the BCPJ. He contrasted this with the 8d doubly printed Trinidad postage due in the Royal Collection. He noted that the two items verify that De La Rue has printed postage dues both by laying down complete plates, and by printing the frames and duty values in two separate passes. An open research topic is to determine, by scouring the archives, if there are records indicating which issues were prepared in which manner.

The second morning display by Peter McCann – 'Postal history of the British Virgin Islands' will be in the December issue.

Federico Borromeo presented the afternoon display. He began by giving details of the island of Nevis and its history from when it was discovered by Columbus on 11 November 1493 through to the 1860's. An overview of Nevis philately stating what was available, what was rare and what was still to be discovered and then a very thorough display of the stamps and postal history of the island up to the 1930's followed this.

The first stamps were noted for the originality of their design and early collectors soon started to reconstruct the plates that were printed in sheets of 12. The stamps printed by Nissen and Parker were introduced in 1861 and stayed in use until 1884. They were either engraved or lithographed but less than 60 complete covers survive, and some stamps are unknown on cover. The covers with the stamps of the second Issue, the Victorian 'Key plates' are even more rare, with only 16 non-philatelic items known. The philatelic-inspired material is restricted to provisional and bisected stamps. A Nevis collection can contain all aspects of philately, with a wide range of prestamp marks, the 'Crowned Circle', also used as a provisional in 1882, 'Ship Letter' marks, Great Britain stamps used abroad, engraved, lithographed and surface printed stamps, provisional

issues, village manuscript cancels, as well as essay, specimen and proof material, and also many forgeries.

Some of the more important and rare items include covers of the 17th century, covers of the 18th century and items with the 'Ship Letter Nevis' handstamp and the only one known cover with the straight-line 'NEVIS SHIP LETTER' handstamp; this being struck in red. Also scarce are examples with Great Britain stamps 'Used Abroad' as well as the Crowned Circle 'PAID AT NEVIS' handstamp. The early stamps on cover (non-philatelic) are all very rare. Those known included the 4d lake and 6d grey engraved of the 1st issue, 4d orange engraved of the 2nd issue, is blue-green or yellow green engraved, 1d lithographed brown lake or vermilion and the 4d orange and 6d grey lithographed.

Federico went on to state that Nevis postal history started in the 17th century, the first known documents date back to 1662. Financial arrangements were done privately as the ship captain's fee was not instituted until the 1670's and the fixed English rates to and from the Caribbean were not established until 1703. One cover shown is marked on the back with the first very small 'Bishop Mark'. Eighteen covers have been recorded from the 18th century and 94 from the 19th, with or without handstamps. Among handstamps used are a two line 'NEVIS/date', the very peculiar 'Ship (excised) Letter Nevis' and Crown, a double arc datestamp, the 'Crowned Circle' and the straight-line 'NEVIS SHIP LETTER'. The cover shown dated 6 May 1753 is a Ship Letter endorsed 'per Friendship' and 'Cap.t Ch(arles) Payne' and backstamped with a Bishop mark. Rated 4 pence, being the British Inland Postage of 3d plus the captain's gratuity of 1d.

A handstamp introduced in a few islands under British control in 1799 shows the 'two line with date'. In Nevis it is found mostly under-inked and faint, but it had a long life, discarded only in 1837 when it had deteriorated so much that it was often used without the lower part of the date. This handstamp is almost always on the reverse of the envelope and it was also used on incoming mail. A cover shown dated 30 July 1818 is a triple Packet letter which arrived at the Falmouth Packet Station in England and was handstamped with circular dated 'Leeward Island/F' in very light green. Initially charged at 4s.4d, the rate was altered later to 6s.3d.

Another cover shown was to Madeira in 1837. It is a prepaid single Packet letter rated 3s.10d, probably a combined rate for both the Packets to London (2s.2d) and from there to Madeira (1s.8d), with the additional figure '40' as a local delivery charge in Portuguese currency. It is backstamped with the two lines 'NEVIS/date' without the lower part of the date.

Next shown are two examples of the oval handstamp for Ship Letters with the crown in the middle. In Nevis, it is only known used with the word 'Ship' excised as a normal stamp of origin, probably for Packet Letters.

The Glassco collection contained another prepaid envelope struck in red with the circular datestamp. It is known from 1845, usually struck in red (12 recorded copies). It was sometimes used in that colour, instead of black, on unpaid letters.

The Crowned 'PAID AT NEVIS' handstamp was usually struck in red in the preadhesive period, between 1855 and 1862, and latterly as a provisional in 1882, but there are two items known to be struck in black. The first is dated November 1870 and bears also a 4d stamp that looks to have been applied posthumously. The second is dated 18 April 1871,

the cover being prepaid 4d in Nevis, and rated 1d, as a local fee, in Barbados. The handstamp, struck in black, was used most probably because of a shortage of 4d stamps, but it is difficult to imagine that such a shortage in 1871 lasted until August 1874. A printing of 20,000 stamps of the first engraved 4d orange having been sent in December 1866 and the next consignment arrived at the end of August 1874.

An envelope dated 27 January 1862 and sent to St Kitts highlights another unsolved problem. It was cancelled with the 'Crowned Circle' handstamp. The reason that this obsolete 'Crowned Circle' was used is not known as stamps were available on the island from 1861. Probably the printers distributed the stamps to London dealers in 1861, before the stamps were actually sold by the Nevis post office in early 1862. Many years later, again for a very short period, presumably during January 1882, the Post Office ended up with no stamps at all. In consequence the 'Crowned Circle' handstamp was resurrected and was used in red. Only two covers are known, one dated 11 January to London, and another dated 25 January to Curacao. British stamps were used in Nevis, for a short time, from May 1858 until May 1860. The denominations used were the 1d red, the 2d blue, the 4d rose (6, 2 and 8 copies recorded respectively), and the 6d mauve known on five entire covers. One of the covers, dated 12 Jan. 1860 to London, also received a red 'Crowned circle' handstamp with the stamp placed over it.

In 1861 the postal authorities in Nevis decided to have their own stamps. They did not use the common option of having stamps with the image of the Queen and issued stamps that could be regarded as the first stamps in the world of tourist propaganda. The printers chosen were Messrs. Nissen & Parker of London. The stamps during this classic period were printed both in recess and lithography by Nissen & Parker and from 1879 in typography by De La Rue.

Essays of only two or three single stamps are recorded; these had the design slightly different (stars in the corner incomplete), in black and rose, and are in the Royal and Barnard collections. More readily available are the beautiful plate proofs and colour trials in complete sheets of twelve, on thick white or toned card or paper. All these proofs show marvellous colours and the extraordinary delicacy of the printing. The quality of the normal production stamps, however, was very poor probably because a grey paper of very low quality had been used.

The stamps exist overprinted 'Specimen' from both printer's files. The Nissen & Parker specimens, overprinted in Prussian blue, were included in Edward Pemberton's notebook (now with the Royal Philatelic Society); these were made, most probably, in 1869 with the manuscript note "Philbrick has". Other specimen stamps probably come from the De La Rue archives; the firm kept a record of the previous stamps when the supply was transferred to them, or when the original plates were handled from other printers. The diagonal word 'Specimen' has the identical handwriting that appears on some stamps of the Bahamas and other Colonies.

It happened that the paper of many stamps of that period showed a bluish tinge; possibly, a small portion of prussiate of potash was mixed in the water used to make the hand made paper. One or more stamps in the sheet may show a bluish area or patch. Initially this gave rise to a theory that there was a first printing on blue paper. Whichever, the stamps printed on blued paper are very much more rare than the normal ones.

Whilst the 1d dull lake and 1s green of the first consignment on grey paper perf.13 are not known used on cover, three each on letters are reported for the 4d and the 6d. Also

rare are the unrecorded perforation errors found on the 1d stamps caused, it is believed, by the sheets passing twice through the perforation machine. The 6d grey stamp was never reprinted engraved, however the 1s green had three more printings on white paper, perf.15, in December 1866 (blue green), and in June and December 1876 (yellow green). Of the only two covers with the 1s blue green, one of them bears also a small handstamp, struck on arrival with an 'R' in the middle and a small crown. Thus far, the significance of this handstamp is unknown, but it has been seen on a 'Ballon Montee' cover from Paris to London; on that cover, the address has been erased and the cover redirected in London, and this could possibly be its purpose. Examination of a complete mint sheet shows, in the Position 9, the 'Cross on hill' variety. Finally, the rare 1s yellow green stamp on 'Laid' paper was probably from the consignment of the 80 sheets (960 stamps) of the June 1866 printing, the printers probably added four sheets (48 stamps in all), printed on laid paper to fill the order for 1,000 stamps in all. This can be inferred this by plating the 17 recorded copies. Robson Lowe in his Leeward Islands Encyclopaedia catalogues this stamp overprinted locally in 1878 with 'Revenue' and fiscally used.

A second engraved printing of the 1d, again supplied by Nissen and Parker, was sent to Nevis on 18 Dec. 1866 arriving around 20 Jan. 1867 and consisting of 20,000 stamps in dull vermilion. The colour of the 1d and 4d stamps (now brown red and orange) was obviously changed to remove the confusion arising from the previous colour similarity of the two stamps. Also the paper changed to white paper and the perforation was altered from 13 to 15. It is surprising to see how poor the quality was of the first printing compared to the plate and colour proofs. No cover of the 1d denomination has come to light, whereas the 4d is represented by nearly 22 known items. In June 1871 the first printing of 12,000 lithographic 1d stamps in the rosy lake colour had been despatched and arrived around the end of September. Eight transfers were done from the steel plate, and they prepared a stone with two rows of four sheets. Two long imperforated sheets, each consisting of 4 panes of 12 in two slightly different shades, were still intact in 1971. The same stone, presumably, was used also for the 1872 and 1873 printings.

A lithographed 1d plate proof of transfers 5 and 6 shows the relevant minor flaws in Positions 7 (transfer 5) and 3 (transfer 6); there were printed se-tenant in sheets of twelve, in issued colours and on ungummed thin wove paper.

There were two lithographed printings of the 1d, one perf.15 (June 1871) and one perf.11½ (February 1878); neither was on watermarked paper. There was a single printing in Feb. 1878 of each of the 4d, 6d and is perf. 15, again on unwatermarked paper. Lithographic stamps off cover are fairly common, but this is not true for stamps on cover. Three covers are known with the 1d bright vermilion perf.11½. The 4d is known on 12 items. Only two covers are known with the 1d vermilion perf.15, and only one with the 1d brown lake, also perf.15. This stamp is somewhat of a mystery. The vertical pair on cover shows position 6 and 9, and belongs indubitably to one of the earlier consignments of brown red shades. Actually the stamp in position 6 has a very distinguishing white flaw, a comma between E and V of Nevis. There are three possible explanations for this:

- 1 They were rescued from the stock of stamps that remained on the island from 1872 or 1873 and the consignment of November 1878 was of bright red stamps only, or
- 2 a number of sheets were still in the hands of Perkins and Bacon and the consignment of November 1878 consisted only of old stamps, or
- 3 the consignment of November 1878 comprises a share of old and new stamps.

Only 100 sheets (1,200 stamps) of the 6d grey lithographed were printed in 1866. One rarity is a mint sheet from the Royal Collection; another is a cover dated 21 Jan. 1884 to Berlin. The 4d blue stamp paid the registration fee and the 6d the UPU postage to Europe. This is the only cover known with the 6d lithographic stamp and also it is the only known mixed franking with Nissen & Parker and De La Rue stamps. The 4d blue stamp is also rare on cover, with only two other covers reported. A few other mixed frankings are known, but unfortunately only on piece.

There have been two printings of the 1s in lithography. In February 1878, 1,200 stamps in the deep green shade were delivered and in November of the same year, 2,400 stamps in the light green shade. On doing the first transfer, the scratch on the original steel plate (the 'cross on hill' on stamps of Position 9) was retouched and almost removed. In a very few over-inked stamps this variety is still visible. In the next printing of light green shades no retouches have been made. Perforation errors of this issue exist. There is a vertical strip of three of the 4d and the horizontal strip of three of the 1s imperforated between which are well known, but the 1d imperforated at right and at bottom, remains almost certainly unrecorded thus far.

The next stamps of Nevis were the Uniform Key Type. The proposed new rates were to be 4d per ½oz for letters, 2½d for a packet not exceeding 4oz of commercial papers and a Registration fee of 2d, for both letters and packets. The requisition for the production of Key-forme, multiples from dies, overprints and so on is dated 16 May 1879. The first stamp printed was the 2½d with a printing of 780 only. It was invoiced on 7 November 1879 and was printed on watermarked paper 'CC'. From January 1882 they were printed on 'CA' paper.

A die proof master with cleared tablets marked 'AFTER HARDENING', is dated 29 July 1879 and initialled in pencil at foot. Three Keyplate Colour Trials with blank country names and value tablets, on gummed paper watermarked 'CA' are in colours which could be those for the 2½d red brown of August 1882, the 2½d ultramarine and the 4d grey of November 1883.

From the De La Rue archives come three 'Die Proof' of the 2½d, 1d and 1s. All are on thick card and bear hand-written indications, in pen and pencil.

One very interesting item, if it is not a fabrication, could be a 6d colour essay. The De La Rue stamps were produced with a method requiring two separate printings and two plates. The 'Key Plate' prints the general design, the 'Duty Plate', separate and variable, bears the name of the Colony and the value. The great ability of the printer was in matching the colours and the accuracy of the two separate operations. The 6d is watermarked 'CA', perf.14 with most of its gum and it appears to be a colour proof of the ½d dull green without the Colony name and value tablets. Over these blank spaces are pasted two very thin strips of paper with 'NEVIS' and 'SIX PENCE'.

From 12 December, the UPU required the exchange specimen stamps between the member nations. All stamps distributed in that way were overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. The overprint 'Cancelled was struck on stamps preserved for reference purposes and applied to prevent their postal use.

Between Nov. 1879 and March 1890 there were eight issues of the typographed stamps printed by De La Rue, all in sheets of 12 (3 x 4). Only two of the denominations were printed on 'CC' paper, the 2½d (not known on cover), and the 1d lilac (there are believed

to be three covers). Philatelic covers exist, mainly prepared with bisects; however, commercially used covers with De La Rue stamps on 'CA' paper are rare. Of the 4d blue, only three covers are recorded, ½d dull green as a franking complement on two postcards (more could possibly exist), just one with the 1d carmine, and three each for the 4d grey and 1s violet. Philatelic covers account for around 30 items while another two covers exist with stamps overprinted 'Revenue'.

The 1d bisected usage arose out of necessity for when Nevis joined UPU in July 1879 a new rate in which a ½d was required was that for a packet non-exceeding 4oz of commercial papers. There is evidence that several islands in the Caribbean introduced ½d rates for Book Post and a 2½d inter-Antillean rate for a single letter, at least for a few years. Unfortunately very little documentary evidence of the reason for these rates has been found so far.

On September 1883, the Nevis Postmaster officially authorised this provisional local issue. 1d mauve stamps, watermarked Crown CA, were surcharged with a handstamp reading 'Nevis ½' in violet or in black. These were intended to be used bisected, as there was a temporary shortage of stamps for printed matter. Although these stamps have a legitimate status most of its use, as already said, seems to be philatelic. This may also be the reason that mint surcharged stamps are very rare indeed. On the two panes of 60 stamps of the De La Rue stamps there are two different constant defects. The variety known as the 'Top left triangle detached', found in the right pane only, at Row 3 Position 3, and 'Damaged I' found in both panes at Row 10 Position 5. If one considers that only 1/120 of the printing shows the 'Triangle detached' variety the surviving stamps must be very rare. The 1s with a mere 2,040 stamps printed, only 17 items would exist, and the 6d chestnut of 1888, with 5,100 stamps printed only 42.

Two items exist with manuscript cancellations. These are also found in Dominica and St Kitts. As postage stamps were used on a variety of commercial and official documents in order to collect revenue, these pen-cancelled stamps could come from that source. Some stamps are both cancelled by pen and by 'A09' or the 'Crowned Circle' handstamps, an evident postal use. It is believed that travelling postmen were collecting mail from individuals, large estates, or Police stations in the most important Parishes. No organised village post office has been reported in Nevis prior to 1948, and the cancellation was probably a sort of a guarantee against pilfering or a check on the travelling postmen. In any case there are two curious philatelic envelopes sent to London the same day that arrived on 18 September 1889 correctly rated 4d. The first one is franked with a single 4d stamp overprinted 'Revenue' the second one with a pair of the 1d lithographic stamp overprinted 'Revenue' and a pair of the 1d De La Rue overprinted 'REVENUE'. It appears the Nevis postmaster allowed the letter to go through without taxation, but refused to cancel the stamp. Nothing irregular was seen at the E.C. (East Central) district office in London where the stamp was cancelled with the 'Hooded Circle' with figure 3 and code N or H.

Nevis stamps enjoyed an enormous popularity, and were in consequence wildly and widely forged. The mass production of some early fakes, notably by the Boston Gang, is very poor. Otherwise some forgeries are incredibly clever, like those of de Sperati, and Smeets. The quality of the Fournier production is coarse, not at all deceiving, but is of a pleasant appearance. The de Sperati forgeries are today very rare and much sought after. He produced a 'die' proof in colour signed in front and backstamped 'Sperati Reproduction' at the back and Lucien Smeets prepared two extremely clever forgeries. These were manufactured by bleaching out the design of another Colony's issue and the

forged stamp printed on the original paper watermarked 'Crown CA' and perforated 14. Strangely the 'used' one is cancelled by a good imitation of the 'B' in oval of bars of the Bahamas. Genuine stamps show the slight difference between shades. The Fournier forged stamps of Nissen and Parker were printed in small sheets with two stamps or in complete sheets of twelve like the genuine one but perforated 14¼ instead of 15. Apart from the Sperati masterpieces, these are the best Nevis forgeries. All the four denominations are known. There is an impressive complete 'mint' sheet of 12 and a group of 'used' stamps bearing 'A09', 'A03', indecipherable handstamps and a Guatemala cancel probably added later by somebody else.

The 'classic' period of the Nevis postal history closes in 1931 when Mr. Bradbury presented the original steel plates to the Royal Philatelic Society. On 15 June 1931 Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co. sent a letter to Mr. Bradbury, at the Royal Philatelic Society, enclosing 3 prints taken from the Nevis original plates for judging the quality. It is not clear why and how these plates were in the hands of Mr. Bradbury. In any case, after having been restored, reprinted and finally crossed out on 31 July, the plates were presented to the Royal Philatelic Society on 10 December. The reprints were taken in black and only 50 sheets were printed. There have been also a few sheets of spoilage, 4 for the 1d and 5 each for the other denominations.

Federico ended by stating that Nevis is a fascinating Colony having a philatelic history that covers almost all aspects of the hobby. Although much of what is described and shown in the display is rare and valuable, there are many other, less elusive items that can be obtained at very little cost.

Simon Goldblatt proposed the vote of thanks for this wonderful displays and those present enthusiastically endorsed his sentiments.

'THE LEEWARD ISLANDS - Notes for Philatelists'
by MICHAEL OLIVER, FRPSL

Hardbound, B5 300 pages

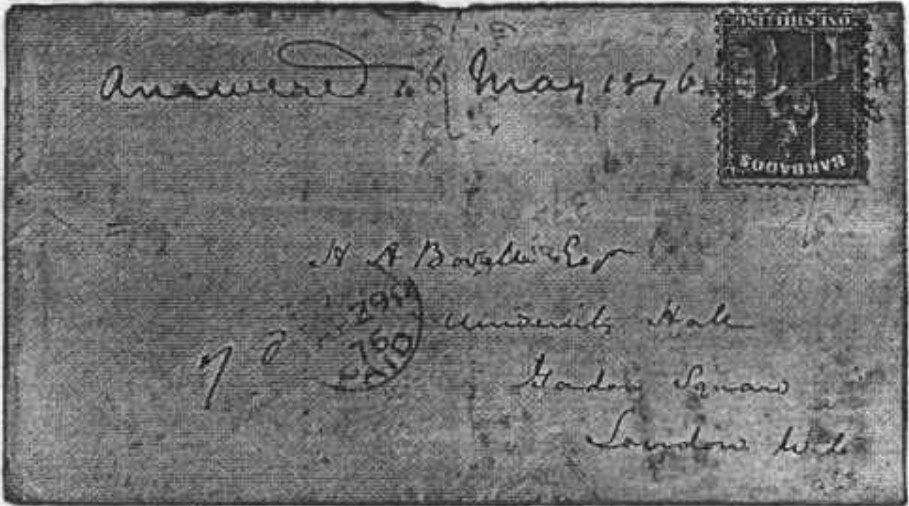
The author writes on subjects which have either not been covered before or where much new information has been unearthed since they were last written about. Subjects covered include postal markings, postal stationery, and maritime markings. This book contains numerous illustrations many in colour and a useful colour chart for sorting out those Federal Issues.

Price: UK-£56.00; Europe & overseas-£59.00; US-\$100.00

**Contact Peter Ford, 22 Tudor Way, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 4AS, UK or
Clary bit, P.O. Drawer 59, Burlington, North Carolina 27216. USA
E-mail enquiries to; pccford@hotmail.com**

BARBADOS - ST. THOMAS "8" POSTMARK

At the late Jack Challis sale at *Phillips* I was able to secure the following (undescribed) cover bearing SG71 which has a clear Parish numeral Bootheel M2 "8" St. Thomas postmark, and a less clear Barbados 8 April 10 1876 postmark on reverse.



A few years ago, I would not have realised its "scarcity", but thanks to Michael Hamiltons excellent article on Parish Bootheels in March last year in the BCPSG Journal where an "8" Bootheel is conspicuous by its absence from his Table 2, I am now a little more knowledgeable, Michael has subsequently advised me of the cover's uniqueness, but I do wonder if any other members may have come across any other examples on cover.

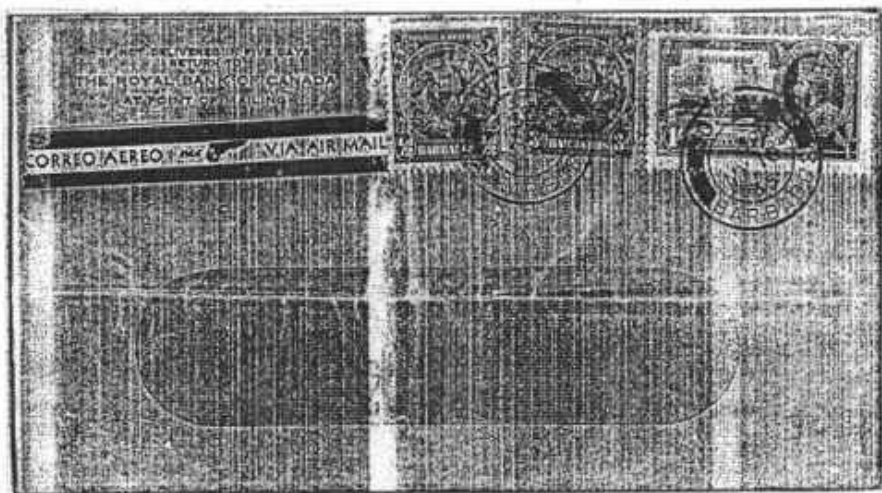
May I take this opportunity of saying how grateful collectors like myself are to people like Michael Hamilton and Charles Freeland in being so willing to share their knowledge through their contributions to the Bulletin.

Peter Longmuir

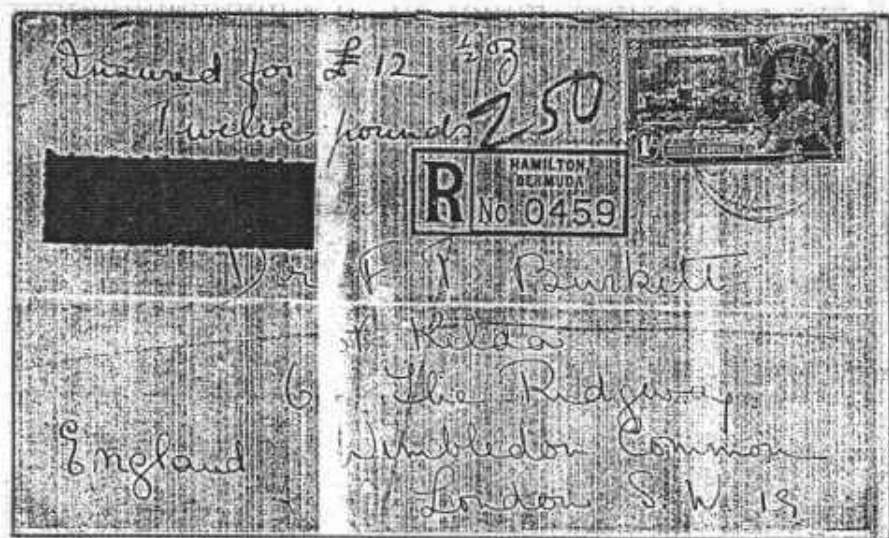
BARBADOS & BERMUDA

I specialise in the Postal History of the 1935 Silver Jubilee Issue and have two covers that need explaining.

1. This cover (on next page) is from Barbados and is a 'window' envelope sent Air Mail at 1/3½d. What would be the Country of destination?



- 2 The second (shown below) is a registered cover with label "Insured Valeur Déclarée". Endorsed £12 and 1/2oz. Is this the correct rate? What was the cost of extra insurance for value in 1935 for Bermuda?



If any member could help, it would be appreciated.

John Cooper

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CAYMAN ISLANDS - NEW ISLAND POSTMARKS

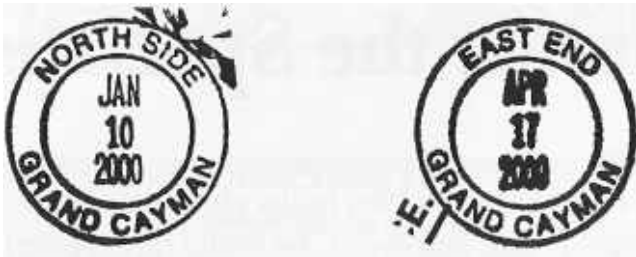
In order to avoid any Y2K problems the Cayman Islands Post Office introduced, unannounced, a new manual postmark (Type 16) for use in most of its offices.

Owing to the holidays the first day of use of the postmark should have been the 4th January 2000.

I have a cover with that date bearing the new George Town postmark. However I have not seen examples from other offices with that date.

Copies of the new postmark have been obtained from the following offices:

Airport, Bodden Town, East End, George Town, Hell, Northside, Savannah, West Bay, Creek Spot Bay, Stake Bay, Watering Place, West End and Little Cayman.



The Breakers, Gun Bay and Old Man Bay sub-offices, plus the Seven Mile Beach Post Office were either not issued or are not using the new postmark as at 1 May 2000.

Why is not known.

Ivan Burges

JAMAICA - THE ARMS ISSUE

This article gives a simple demand curve for these stamps. Not so very long ago I acquired a ½d 'sere' error with an inverted watermark and I wondered how many were printed. Now that Gibbons list (and price) inverted watermarks it is possible to make an estimate. Because a whole lot of simplifying assumptions have to be made the estimate could be quite wide of the mark. If anyone has further information or can suggest an alternative approach I would be very pleased to hear from them.

Philatelically I am making the assumptions that the same proportion have survived of each value and that the same proportion of each were used. Clearly this will not usually be the case, but I had to start somewhere. I have concentrated on 'sere' errors and inverted watermarks: the basic stamps, particularly the low values, are too numerous to fit the same pattern.

Technically, I have used the simple demand curve of economics i.e. that price times quantity is a constant. I have ignored more sophisticated techniques such as logarithmic curves. Nor have I considered external factors such as incomes.

The following table concerns 'seret' errors. I have taken the quantities from the Encyclopaedia of Jamaica Philately Volume 1. The same ones appear in the 1928 handbook. I have taken the mint prices from Stanley Gibbons Part I catalogue of 2000.

VALUE	WATERMARK	QUANTITY PRINTED ('SERET')	PRICE £ (UNUSED)	QUANTITY x PRICE
½d	CA	10,142	40	405,680
1d	CA	20,477	32	655,264
2½d	CA	5,739	60	344,340
5d	CA	98	600	58,800
½d	MCA	5,104	40	204,160
5d	MCA	5,133	60	307,980

Note: It is not certain that the error was present in all the CA printings. If we exclude the less certain (½d and 2½d only) we get the following figures

½d	CA	10,303	32	329,696
5d	CA	50	750	37,500

These figures confirm that the 5d was a special case. With fewer than 100 of each printing we knew that anyway!

For the other values, I am inclined to think that all printings of the ½d included the 'seret' error. The price times quantity figure of 204,160 is so far below the others to suggest this was the case. The 1d value with a high price quantity figure of 655,264 would suggest that either the Gibbons price of £32 does not accurately reflect supply and demand or that my simplifying assumptions are incorrect. Many of us probably have doubts on the first point. If the latter is the case, I do not need to be told that I am up a paddle without a creek!

From the above figures I tentatively suggest that the demand curve for 'seret' errors (½d, 1d and 2½d values) is of the form

Price x quantity = 400,000 to 450,000

I would go for the lower value if we assume that the 1d value is in some way abnormal, but the higher one, otherwise.

For the 5d, I feel I can be more confident in suggesting the demand curve is

$$\text{Price} \times \text{quantity} = 48,000$$

Until now I have assumed that the same collectors have been chasing the different copies of the variety (low values: the 5d is another matter). This must be the case. I cannot imagine more than the odd collector who is (say) passionate about the ½d 'seret', but would not touch the 1d with a barge pole! If the ground above is a little unsound, the next step represents a leap into quicksand!! I am suggesting that the same collectors pursue inverted watermarks as pursue 'seret' errors (for the Arms issue). Fanciful though this is I have no information to the contrary. No doubt there are those who collect 'serets' but not inverted watermarks (and *vice versa*). Perhaps, they cancel each other out (approximately). Anyone making a study of the Arms issue would have an interest in both, and this is where core demand would come from.

Working back from my demand curve for the lower value 'serets' using the Gibbons price of £30 for an unused inverted watermark I would suggest that 15,000 copies of inverted watermarks were produced of the ½d CA value. (I have used my upper figure of 450,000). As the issue was printed in 240 stamps per sheet, this would give (approximately) 62 sheets of inverted watermarks of the ½d value. To return to the inspiration for this article my ½d 'seret' with an inverted watermark must be one of 60 printed (with an "if", "but" and a "maybe"!). Are others known to exist?

I will finish with a look at the 5d. This was not printed in as large quantities as the other values. The total prints (not just 'serets' were 23,520 for the CA and 12,000 for the MCA watermarks. The corresponding table for them is given below.

VALUE	WATERMARK	QUANTITY PRINTED	PRICE £ (UNUSED)	QUANTITY x PRICE
5d	CA	23,520	15	352,800
5d	MCA	12,000	48	576,000

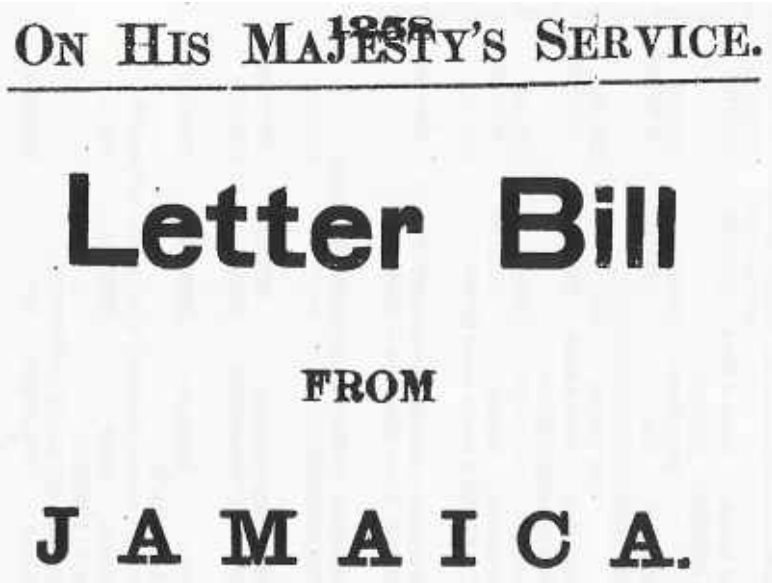
This fits in well with my suggested model for the demand curve. The 5 shilling value also fits in well (the figures being 13,680 printed £40 unused price and the product 547,200). The 6d does not fit, but more were produced (174,480, the price of £12 gives a product of 2,093,760). The model may have some justification.

Finally, repeating the leap into quicksand, the 5d CA exists with inverted watermark. From the model - price x quantity 48,000 and a price of £75 unused we can estimate the quantity as 640 stamps printed, (say) two to three sheets. This gives an estimated 3 (maximum) of 5d 'serets' with inverted watermarks. What a tantalising prospect!

Malcolm Mattick

JAMAICA - An Item of Postal Stationery

The following is a description of an item of postal stationery that has come into my possession. Does anyone know anything about it?



The envelope measures 9" x 4" (22.9cm x 10.4cm). The heading (in black) is

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE. The capital letters are 5mm high, while the remainder are 4mm high. The length is 10cm.

This has been overprinted in blue (almost blue-black).

1258
Letter Bill
FROM
JAMAICA

(It is not impossible that the overprinting is the other way round)

The '1258' is actually across the 'JEST' of MAJESTY'S'. The rest is below.

The dimensions are: 1258 - 3mm high, 1.4cm line length.

Letter Bill - Letter height L, B 1.2cm; t, t, i, l, l 1.05cm; e, e, r 8-8.5mm; 8cm line length,

FROM - 4mm high, 1.8cm line length. JAMAICA 7-8mm high, 8.6cm line length

Clearly this envelope has never been through the post.

Malcolm Mattick

JAMAICA

Updates to “The Postal Markings of Jamaica” - Part 4

The following are updates for the book “The Postal Markings of Jamaica” by Ian Potter and will be put into the bulletin in instalments in this and future issues.

Note: Changes and new items are in bold type.

Cancel No.	Name	Code	Size	Lettering	Ink	E.K.D.	L.K.D.
1720.145	CENTRAL SORTING	O3/41	50mm x 35mm	Serif capitals	Violet or Black	22/09/1985	22/08/1997
			Reads “CS.O. /KINGSTON JAMAICA”.				
1720.54	CENTRAL SORTING	O3/41		Serif capitals	Blue	12/03/1990	27/10/1994
			Reads “MAIN REGISTER SECTION / C.S.O. KINGSTON JAMAICA”.				
1720.60	CENTRAL SORTING	O3/41	56mm x 40mm	Serif capitals	Violet & Black	26/11/1991	17/12/1996
			Reads “RETURNED LETTER BRANCH / C.S.O. JAMAICA”.				
1720.61	CENTRAL SORTING	O3/41	49mm x 32mm	Serif capitals	Various	14/03/1996	09/10/1998
			Reads “CENTRAL SORTING OFFICE / JAMAICA” “CE” of OFFICE is level or below the date				
1720.62	CENTRAL SORTING	O3/41	56mm x 41mm	Serif capitals	Various	25/06/1996	20/01/1998
			Reads “CENTRAL SORTING OFFICE! KINGSTON JAMAICA” Known Black, Blue & Violet				
1720.63	CENTRAL SORTING	O3/41	56mm x 42mm	Serif capitals	Blue	22/08/1997	
			Reads “CENTRAL SORTING OFFICE / JAMAICA”				
1720.64	CENTRAL SORTING	O3*W/37e		Serif capitals	Violet	20/03/1998	28/01/1999
			Reads “CENTRAL SORTING OFFICE / JAMAICA W/.” with asterisks.				
1780.17	CHAPELTON	M.S.R.DA			Black	24/10/1996	
			Reads “CHAPLETON” with “L” before the “E”.				
1910.07	CHATHAM	O3PA/41j	49mm x 34mm	Serif capitals	Violet	14/03/1991	
			Reads “CHATHAM POSTAL AGENCY / JAMAICA”.				
1810.08	CHATHAM M.S.R.DA	M.S.R.DA	Renumber 1810.07 in book				

Cancel No.	Name	Code	Size	Lettering	Ink	E.K.D.	L.K.D.
1840.08	CHESTER CASTLE	O3*POWI/37je		Serif capitals	Blue	25/09/1998	
187007	CLAREMONT	M.S.R.	13.5mm dia.	Small	Black	29/07/1953	12/12/1985
1900.03	CLARK'S TOWN	D. Ring	27mm dia.	2.5mm high	Black	08/02/1912	03/09/1937
2020.06	COKA	O3/41		Serif capitals	Black	01/08/1998	
2080.02	COMFORT CASTLE	O3/41	49mm x 33mm	Serif Capitals	Various	04/06/1977	13/05/1999
2140.04	CONSTANT SPRING	B3			Black		
2140.06	CONSTANT SPRING	Mach-MSR			Black	30/08/1968	??/09/1997
2140.08	CONSTANT SPRING	O3/41	49mm x 34mm	Serif Capitals	Various	07/02/1980	20/10/1997
2210.05	CORNWALL	O3*PAWI/37je		Serif Capitals	Black	12/05/1997	
2210.06	CORNWALL	O3/41		Serif Capitals	Black	12/08/1998	
2290.02	CRAWFORD	M.S.R.			Black (See note)	26/09/1973	10/08/1998
2310.03	CROFTS HILL	O3/41		Serif Capitals	Blue	14/04/1997	23/04/1998

IMPRESSED DIE REVENUES OF THE LEEWARD ISLANDS

At the close of my article in the June Bulletin I mentioned that my attention had been drawn to a new source of information on these interesting and grossly under-researched stamps. This is the recently published listing of British Colonial impressed duty stamps by William A Barber of Chesapeake Bay, USA. The book was compiled on the basis mainly of information gathered by advanced collectors of revenues, many of whose names were new to me, and who are not BWI specialists. Although there is some overlap with the information I had collected from joint Study Circle sources, it is interesting to note that the listings differ quite significantly. In particular, the Barber listings contain several modern usages that I had not seen reported but omit several of the older items that I mentioned in my June article. Bill Barber has generously allowed me to report and illustrate his findings in the bulletin in the hope that it will bring more data to light (and encourage members to buy his book, which deals with all the territories covered by the Circle, including nine pages of Jamaica and four of Trinidad).

Working through the islands in alphabetical order, the *Antigua* page lists two sets, the first dated 1886-1910, with eight values (1d, 2d, 3d, 6d, 2/6, 4/-, 10/- and £1). The two illustrations Barber supplies (Figs 1 and 2), and the fact that this listing includes a 2/6d value, demonstrates that this is not the same as the sixteen value set of 1870 that I recorded in June. However, this could be a mix from the 1870 set and a more modern one (see Montserrat below). Barber owns a 1d on a bill of lading dated 1890. He also lists a modern set (Fig 3) in dollars and cents consisting of thirteen values from 1c to \$500. The dies, he states, were made by the Royal Mint and inspected by the Inland Revenue on 23 Sep 1966 before being shipped to Antigua. The date range given is 1966-75. (His date ranges start from issued date, if known, and end with the latest observed dated example).



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

For **Dominica**, Barber does not list any early issues but illustrates a 4c cheque stamp (Fig 4) which he dates as 1950-70. His copy is cut from a cheque with no date apparent.



Fig.4



Fig.5

Barbers most surprising entry is a 2/- **Leeward Islands** Fees stamp (Fig 5), which he dates from 1941. I have not seen this issue recorded anywhere else and it is of course not covered by Victor Toeg's book, which was restricted to adhesive Fee stamps.

Another surprising entry is for **Montserrat**, where nine values are illustrated (Figs 6 to 14). Those pictured contain five of the eight denominations that I mentioned in my June article as being in the A.B.Kay set at the British Library, but there are three additional values (namely ½d, 2d and 4/-) and two separate 5/- values in different designs. This leads one to conclude that values from two different Sets are included. From observation, Figs 11 and 13 belong to the same (earlier) issue, corresponding to the A.B.Kay set in the British Library. In fact, Fig. 11 is identical to the 1/- that I illustrated in June. I would judge the other seven values to belong to a later set, probably the 1925 set that I speculated as existing when I prepared the June article. A different 1/-, with "earring" & surrounding the crown, as in illustrations 6-10, 12 and 14, surely exists, and there were very probably additional higher values too.

Still on **Montserrat**, I have recently found buried in my records a photostat of the 6d also mentioned in my June article. This was taken from the award-winning collection previously owned by Victor Toeg. Since it is a colourless impression, and a poor quality photostat, it is not easy to see the design, but I can tell that Sixpence is on one line so it is clearly not the impression in Fig 10. Moreover, it is dated 11th Jan 1896. This confirms my belief that the Kay "set" of eight values was current in the 19th century, and was replaced by new designs in 1925 or shortly thereafter.



Fig.6



Fig.7



Fig.8



Fig.9



Fig.10



Fig.11



Fig.12



Fig.13



Fig.14

There is nothing new for **Nevis** in the Barber listing, which contains the same four stamps historically recorded, but he mentions in correspondence to me that he has the 1/- dated 12/10175. What is a novelty, however, is that Barber illustrates a **St Christopher and Nevis** £1 in vermilion (Fig 15) with a 1940 date. Its design bears a close resemblance to the 6d St Christopher and Nevis on my Montserrat essay that I illustrated in June, and also to the Montserrat set with “earrings” round the crown referred to above. This I suspect is another twentieth century product. In addition, at the BWISC/BCPSG meetings at the Bonnington Hotel, I was shown a colourless stamp from St Christopher on a fine indenture. I cannot at the time of writing recall who showed this to me but I would like to see a clear photostat to try to determine from what stable it comes.



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

I should add that the Barber listing also contains a **St Christopher Nevis and Anguilla** 5c (Fig 16) that he dates as 1968(?). This indicates that a dollar and cents set was made too.

Finally, to Simon Goldblatt's likely disappointment, Barber lists no **Virgin Islands** examples, but at the rate at which I have been coming across new sources of these revenues, I would not be at all surprised if one were to turn up soon. Having said that, I am still working from a very small sample provided by two or three of our members and I would urge those who own any of these curiosities to report them to us, preferably using my contact points in the June bulletin.

Reference: Impressed Duty Stamps of the British Colonial Empire, W.A. Barber, 1998

Charles Freeland

PRINTERS

Our printer of many years "Maiden Print & Copy Centre" has been acquired by Colourflow Ltd. We wish the Maiden team of Mark and Ann Towers and Martin and Mama Warner all the best for the future. The new business will be run by Mike Hopton and John Hines. We wish them well and look forward to the future.

BOOK REVIEW

'THE LEEWARD ISLANDS - Notes for Philatelists'

by Michael Oliver, FRPSL

Published by and available from the British West Indies Study Circle

Hardbound, B5 300 pages. Price: UK-£56.00; Europe & overseas-£59.00; US-\$100.00. Contact Peter Ford or Clary Holt (North American members). For addresses see inside front cover.

This book deals primarily with the postage stamps and stationery of the Federal Colony of the Leeward Islands of the period from 1890 to 1956 when the Federal Colony was dissolved. The definitive issues of the entire period were printed by Thomas De La Rue & Co with the exception of some printings of the early 1939/1945 War years when the De La Rue works suffered severe bomb damage. Throughout the entire period of issue the Colony retained the Key & Duty Plate design.

The book is not just another in a series of informative books on the postal history of the Leeward Islands but rather the product of intensive research into all aspects of the subject. It brings together what has already been written, updating and correcting this information where necessary and including additional items amongst which is the authors own Priced Listing of the individual stamps issued by the Federal Colony - this listing also includes his valuations of the major flaws and varieties.

The result of this is to have all the available information in one volume, very well indexed and illustrated, thus eliminating the need to search through other books, magazine cuttings and notes to find that important fact which eludes us. The Notes that make up the book are so all-embracing that the dustcover to the book needs a brief synopsis to enable an appreciation of the scope and limitations to be made.

This is a wonderful book - one that collectors have awaited for a long time. All those involved in its production deserve our thanks and a copy should find a place on every Leewards bookshelf.

Harold Green

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

RECENT MONOGRAPHS

(All prices include surface postage)

Leeward Islands: A Postal History Anthology (1997) 74p £13
Ludington, ***Postal History of Blockade Running Through Bermuda,***
1861 - 1865 (1996) 51p £13

Forand & Freeland, ***Bermuda Mails to 1865*** (1995) 124p £13
Devaux, ***Early Air Mails of Saint Lucia*** (1993) 26p £6.50

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AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

Anguilla



The postmark for Anguilla that has been “VALLEY” has been corrected after many years to read “THE VALLEY”. A typical example is shown. - 28mm Die.

Anguilla web site - www.gov.ai/angstamp Its well worth a visit.

To launch the recent Cricket issue of 5 May, the Anguilla General Post Office in collaboration with the Anguilla Cricket Development committee organised a cocktail evening. The guest speaker for this event was the Rev. Wesley Hall, GCM, HEM, JP - one of the greatest West Indian fast bowlers of all time. Twenty of the first day covers were autographed by Wes Hall, Cardigan Connor and Lanvil Harrigan. These were sold for US\$100.00 and were all taken. However covers autographed by Connor and Harrigan only are still available (at time of going to press) and are being sold for US\$20.00. A must for cricket fans.

Commemorative Set - HRH PRINCE WILLIAM 18th BIRTHDAY

Values	30c, \$1, \$1.90, \$2.25 Souvenir sheet - \$8.00
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