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STUDY CIRCLE

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BULLETIN No. 188 MARCH 2001

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

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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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NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS

St Lucia Group Leader

Alister Kinnon

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PROGRAMME

2001

Saturday 28 April

2.15pm.

Annual General Meeting and Auction

Venue:

The Jack Frame Room

The Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London.

21-22 September

Biennial Convention

Venue:

Manor House Hotel, Avenue Road, Royal Leamington Spa

Speakers:

Andrew Robertson - Turks and Caicos Islands

Stefan Heijtz - Barbados Postal History

NEW! THE LATEST FROM BWISC PUBLICATIONS!

`NEVIS' by FEDERICO BORRAMEO

The latest in the 'Classic Collections' series, this booklet is based around Federico's display at the Bonnington Hotel last May. For those who were lucky enough to witness this display, the booklet should provide a lasting memento of what was a very memorable event. For those who weren't, it will enable them to taste the flavour of the occasion. Despite the addition of 4 extra pages we have managed to keep the price down to the level of the first of the series.

Price: UK-£13.00; Europe & Overseas - £15.00; US - \$24.00

BWISC Members Discount - £2.00 (US \$4.00)

Contact Peter Ford or Clary Holt (North American members)

Addresses inside front page of Bulletin.

E-mail enquiries to: pccford@hotmail.com

A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The division of the membership into Study Groups seems to have been reasonably accurate, as I have only received half a dozen requests for adjustments and one or two replies from those of us who had not previously done so.

Quite a few of the Group Leaders have sent me copies of newsletters and other communications which they have circulated and they show a diversity of approach which I find stimulating and encouraging. I imagine that there have been others that have not been sent to me and I hope that these are just the first tentative efforts and not the last we shall hear.

In order to encourage face-to-face cross-fertilisation between Group members I should like to suggest that Group meetings are encouraged to take place at Leamington on either the Saturday evening or Sunday morning. Rooms can be arranged, although in the case of the smaller Groups, the leaders' rooms are probably best.

On the subject of Leamington, we have been able to arrange for the two major displays to be given by speakers hitherto not well-known to most of our members. Saturday morning will be by Andrew Robertson, who is writing a definitive book on Turks and Caicos Islands. Many of us are very grateful for the work that Andrew's father Alan did on Ship Letters. Saturday afternoon will give an opportunity for Stefan Heijtz to let us see again the Barbados Postal History which won the top prize at last Autumn Stampex. Stefan will be bringing his collection over specially from Sweden for the event.

The more perceptive among you may have noticed a change in format in the Bulletin. Double the size means that double the number of contributions are needed to fill it, and while the Group Leaders have been asked to ensure that a flow of articles appear on the Editor's desk, the problem remains as to where that desk will be. Your Committee have not only put out a general plea for help, but have also approached a number of distinguished members to fill the position. One member did show an interest, but his ideas as to the way forward, and those of your Committee, were not compatible, so we are still without an Editor for the June Bulletin. It may not appear at all if one of you does not come forward pretty soon to head up the Editorial Committee. Journalistic experience would help, but is not indispensable.

Denis Charlesworth has carried out the work for a number of years, efficiently, quietly and without fuss. We shall miss his hand on the tiller and wish him a long and fruitful retirement.

Derek Nathan

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION DATABASE

The database for holding the details from the Membership Information forms is nearing completion. However, completion is delayed because there are still a number of members who have not yet sent in their forms. To those members, I can only repeat the request in the previous bulletin to do so as soon as possible.

At a certain point it will be necessary to publish the revised List of Members, even though it may contain lots of empty spaces! In the absence of further information, the minimum entry will be the member's name and address. There are a few members who have indicated on their forms, that they do not wish their address to be publicised for personal reasons. These requests will be honoured, but only if I know about them! In the absence of further information, it will be assumed that members who have not returned their forms will have no objection to their addresses being published in the List of Members.

Please keep me informed about any changes in interests, address etc. After the List of Members is published, any further changes will be entered in the Bulletin.

Peter Boulton

THE LEAMINGTON CONVENTION 2001

A glance at the calendar shows that the year 2001 ends in an odd number instead of an even number, which means that it is the year for our biennial Convention. This year it will be held at the Manor House Hotel, Royal Leamington Spa on the earlier dates of Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd September.

Arrangements are still in progress, but the general format will be similar to previous Conventions with a wine and cheese reception on the Friday evening. This has been very successful in the past and enables old acquaintances to be renewed and new ones to be made. The main events are held on the Saturday. There will be two main speakers to provide the formal displays. In addition, there will be informal displays by members who are requested to bring up to 30 pages with them. These will be shown in the display frames for short periods during the day before being returned to their owners. An informal buffet lunch will be provided.

There will be a Bourse as before and members will be able to browse over dealers' stocks and our own Members' Approval table, ably run by Simon Goldblatt and his helpers.

More detailed information and a booking form will be sent out in June, hopefully with the next issue of the Bulletin. If you have not been to Leamington before, why not try it this year?

Peter Boulton

SOTHEBY'S SALE - 25th AND 26th APRIL 2001

We have been notified by Richard Ashton of The Postage Stamp Department at SOTHEBY'S that they have been instructed to sell an archive of pre-stamp mail. It comprises a series of entire letters from the island of Montserrat between 1790 and 1810, together with a few from nearby islands including Antigua, Dominica, St Kitts, St Lucia and St Thomas. Each of the letters relates to plantation affairs, and for the most part, have postal markings of despatch.

The importance to collectors of the area is that it more than doubles the known examples for Montserrat during this early period. Virtually each of the items predates the currently 'earliest known' examples, often by as much as two years.

Members who might require a copy of the catalogue for the sale on the 25 and 26 April or to arrange private viewing should contact Jane Hatton on 020 7293 5225 or e-mail: jane.hatton@sothebys.com.

Editors Note:- Richard Ashton has kindly sent me notes and details relating to the above items. (17 - A4 pages in total) A copy will shortly be sent to the Librarian as well as the respective Group Leaders for Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, St Kitts and St Lucia.

BAHAMAS

KEVII 6d Value (SG.74) - Numbers Printed



Ewen's Weekly Stamp News No. 634 (18 Nov 1911) reported the numbers printed of the Edwardian King's Head (and Queen's Staircase) series on watermark Multiple Crown CA paper. The total quoted for the 6d value was 6,240 (104 sheets of 60 set), and the firm observed that "It is very evident from this table that the 6d is going to be the rarity of the set".

This total seems to have been accepted by the philatelic community and is still widely quoted. The 6d value attained a catalogue value of £75 at one point, but there never seemed to be any great difficulty in obtaining copies and the current catalogue value better reflects this, having settled back to £16.

The total quoted by Ewen's was quite correct at the time of publication, but it should be noted that there were two subsequent printings, amounting to a further 12,300 stamps (205 sheets of 60), prior to its replacement by the King George V series in May 1912. The three printings of this value recorded in De La Rue's Private Day Books were as follows:

Volume/Page	Invoice Date	Reqn. No	Quantity Despatched
AA5	06 Jul 1911	39/11	6,240 (104) sheets
AA89	08 Nov 1911	97/11	6,000 (100 sheets)
AA151	15 Mar 1912	16/12	6,300 (105 sheets)

Peter Fernbank

BARBADOS - 1897/98 Diamond Jubilee

A recent item in a dealer's sale list was the White Paper 2/6d (SG.124) with a c.d.s. of NO 25 97 predating the Part 1 issue date of Dec 97. Edmund Bayley's book also indicates an apparent sale date of mid December 97.

This prompted me to look at my own collection, where I found both the 5d and 8d with the same clearly dated postmarks of NO 25 97. I also came across a 2½d with a St Peter cancel dated NO 27 97.

I have now traced two articles in SG. Monthly Journal of 31 Dec 1897 and London Philatelist Vol.XV11 1908, the former indicating an issue date of 16 November (information supplied by the Barbados Philatelic Society), and the latter the first delivery of the stamps (from De La Rue) on 15 November. This would seem to indicate a quick response to their receipt in Barbados if they were indeed issued the following day, although they were required urgently.

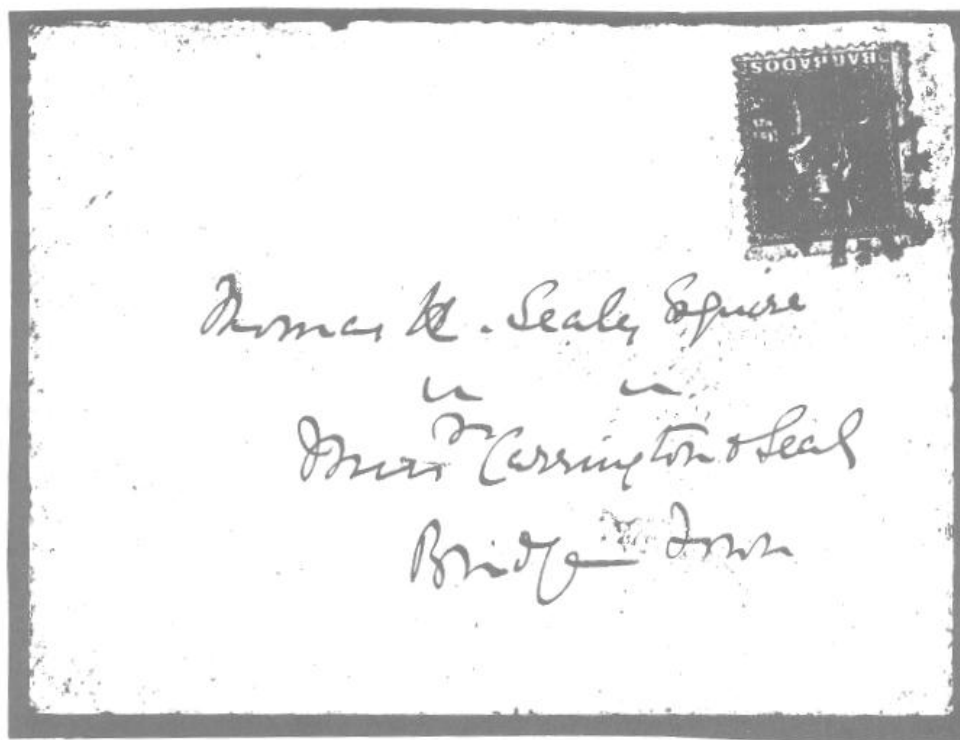
Accordingly, in order to try to establish the actual first day of issue, I would be very grateful to learn if any readers have examples dated either 16 November or prior to my own examples.

The S.G. Catalogue Editor is aware; he similarly awaits any further information.

Peter Longmuir

BARBADOS - St. Thomas #8 Bootheel Cover

The article by Peter Longmuir in the BWISC Bulletin No.186 of September 2000 requested information concerning other St Thomas bootheel covers.



I am pleased to say that I have a local cover addressed to Bridgetown dated December 22nd 1873 franked with a copy of the (1d) Blue SG.48 and cancelled by the #8 bootheel. Incidentally, these local rate covers are elusive - I have recorded only one other (Ex. Shilstone, Sheppard) for SG.48.

On a personal note, the great niece of the addressee on Mr. Longmuir's cover was one of the bridesmaids at my sister's wedding!!

Fitz Roett

BARBADOS

In the September 2000 Bulletin (No. 186) Mr. John Cooper is seeking help on the destination of the window envelope bearing the postal rate of 1s 3½d and postmarked at G.P.O., Barbados on "MY 10 35". I will give some background of the Barbados Postal Rates during the period that should be of assistance in narrowing down its probable destination.

In 1931, a Post Office Notice appeared in the Official Gazette informing the public that they could take advantage of the Air Mail Service between the U.S.A. and certain West Indian Islands by Pan American Airways Inc. which had commenced from September 22, 1929. Air Mail letters were sent by Ordinary Mail to St. Lucia and then onward by air. The Air Mail for the North closed at 4pm. each Friday and for the South at 11a.m. each Tuesday. It then gave a schedule of rates, none of which match the rate of Mr. Cooper's letter. The mail service with St. Lucia was infrequent and irregular and connection could not be guaranteed, the mail being carried mainly by sailing schooners, except for the fortnightly service by the "Lady Boats". The Post Office therefore set up a new Air Mail Service by post to Trinidad and then onward by air. This came into force as from January 2, 1932. But here again, the schedule of rates charged do not match the rate of Mr. Cooper's letter. The Air Mail rates were amended as from December 1, 1932 due to the fluctuation of the American Currency with sterling. None of the rates still match that of Mr. Cooper's letter. However, the Air Mail rates were revised again as from August 1, 1933, with a new postal rate of 1s 3½d per ½ ounce for air mail letters sent to the following seven (7) destinations only:

(1) Canal Zone; (2) Curacao; (3) Dutch Guiana; (4) Ecuador;
(5) French Guiana; (6) Panama; and (7) Venezuela.

The Post Office Annual Report for 1935 shows that in that year 2,765 unregistered letters were sent by Air Mail via Trinidad and none via St. Lucia, but unfortunately, it does not give the breakdown of their destinations. For an indication therefore, I have therefore turned to the number of ordinary mails despatched that year in the hope of narrowing down the probable destination. In 1935, 2,729 ordinary mails were despatched to "Other Places", i.e. "Other than Europe and the British Empire". Of these 11% went to Canal Zone; 7% to Dutch West Indies; 9% to French West Indies; 8% to Panama; and 17% to "Other Places" including Ecuador and Venezuela. Although, it is impossible to say with any degree of certainty, Mr. Cooper's letter was probably posted to Canal Zone or Venezuela. This is as close as he will ever get to solving the destination, in the absence of any back stamping of the letter by its country of destination. However, if I had to make a guess, I would say that Venezuela would be the most likely destination.

Edmund A. Bayley

BARBADOS - The (½d) Stamps 1852 to 1858

INTRODUCTION

For a number of years, we have been preparing a listing of the pre-stamp and Britannia covers of Barbados. With the advent of the home-based computer, the task has been simplified enormously, since the database can be sorted, rearranged, modified, etc. at will. In addition, as more covers are being illustrated in current sale catalogues the tendency to list the same cover more than once is on the decline. However, the problem of correctly ascribing covers to collections auctioned forty or fifty years ago still remains.

The listing of the covers franked with the Britannia issues is being undertaken for a number of reasons. These include: (i). An attempt at determining the date of issue of the catalogue listed shades, where appropriate or if unknown, and (ii). Establishing the relative scarcity of any particular stamp on cover. This brief article deals with the regularly issued imperforate (½d) stamps for the years 1852 through 1858.

FIRST ISSUE

The first issue was printed on blue paper and placed on sale April 15th., 1852. It is well known that the blueing of the paper was quite unintentional on the part of the printers, Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. Details are given in the Barbados handbook by Bayley ⁽¹⁾. Suffice to say that when the reason for the blueing became known, appropriate steps were taken and the blueing gradually disappeared. It should be pointed out, however, that as late as 1870 some stamps were still being printed on blue paper e.g. SG.44a.

TABLE 1. 1852 -'55. BLUE PAPER. IMPERFORATE. (½d) VALUE

A. STAMPS PRINTED AND INVOICED

SG. No	Sc No.	Colour	Printed: Week Ending	Total Printed	Quantity Good	Total Good	Invoiced	Quantity	Delta
1	1a	Yellow-green							
2	1	Deep green							
?	?	Deep yellow green							
?	?	Blue-green							
			Aug. 19 1854	?	66,000		Feb. 18 1852	30,000	
			Aug.26 1854	?	35,750				
				?			Sept. 13 1854	50,000	
						101,750	Sept..28 1854	50,000	1,750
			May 12 1855	33,550	?				
			May 19? 1855	17,160	?				
						50,050	May 25 1855	50,000	50

Table 1 gives the details regarding the various printings of the (½d) on blue paper. Much of the information has been taken from the Perkins

Bacon Records Vol. 2 ⁽²⁾. It will be noted that, in all, there were four consignments sent to the island. The delta refers to the difference in the number of good stamps printed and those invoiced. A question mark is given for the stamps printed the week ending May 19, 1855, since the date given in the Perkins Bacon Records is May 12. The published date may be incorrect. Also given in Table 1 are the catalogue listed shades of yellow-green, SG.1 and deep green, SG.2, together with the corresponding Scott numbers. It is interesting to note that, unlike Gibbons, Scott lists the deep green stamp first. Bayley also states that additional shades known are deep yellow-green and blue-green.

TABLE 2. 1852 - '55. BLUE PAPER. IMPERFORATE. (½d) VALUE

Cover	SG No.	Date	Destination	Qt'y	Collection	Comments
1	2	JY 22, 52	Bridgetown	2H	Hurlock I, Burrus, Brassler, Gallagher	Fitzthomas. Cancelled "2". With "Too Late".
2	2	AU 04, 54	Bridgetown	2H	Brassler	Cancelled 11". Chapman and Eversley.
3	2	AU 05, 54	Demerara	2H	Mrs. C-H, Benwell, Hackmey	Verbeke. MS "4". Not in good condition.
4	2, 4b	SE 11, 54	Newfoundland	2V, LH	C-H I, Amundsen, Cartier, E. Bayley	Boyd
5	2	SE 05, 55	Trinidad	1	Hurlock II, Lickfold	Slightly creased

The covers of this issue that we have recorded to date are shown in Table 2. The first listing is for a local cover bearing copies of the deep green stamp and dated July 22, 1852. It follows from this date that the first printing **MUST** have been in the deep green shade. This is at variance with Bayley who states on Page 18: "We know that the first printing was in the shade of yellow-green, and we may assume that this was followed by the deep yellow-green, the deep green and finally by the blue-green". Further proof that the first printing was in the deep green shade is provided by the second and third covers in the listing, both of which are dated PRIOR to the arrival of the second consignment of September 1854. It is interesting to note these covers are dated at the start of the period when there was a shortage of (1d) stamps and the bisected (2d) was in use.

The later consignments provide a problem as, so far, we have recorded no covers dated between October 1854 and May 1855. The last cover listed appears to be an enigma. We have not examined it, but wonder what the rate would be. It is our understanding that the printed matter rate to Trinidad at that time was 1d., so why the apparent ½d rate? Is this an example of an underpaid cover or is there a stamp missing? Comments from readers would be welcome. The question remains, though, from which consignment did the stamp originate?

Let's examine some of the pertinent information. Gibbons gives no price for the yellow-green in unused condition, while Scott lists it at a very high price. To date, we have been unable to document any examples of the yellow-green in unused condition. The mint stamps in the deep green

shade are reasonably plentiful, but all seem to have originated from the remainders. A mint block is shown in Figure 1. Both the yellow-green stamp and the deep yellow-green printed on blue paper are rare stamps,



Figure 1

and in used condition, far scarcer than the deep green stamp, SG.2. In our experience, the relative scarcity of the stamps are, as follows, with the scarcest being listed first: deep yellow-green, yellow-green and deep green. From these personal observations, we would thus expect that the numbers of each printed should reflect our experience.

Hence, based on the above, we put forward the following hypothesis:

First consignment:	Deep green
Second consignment:	Deep green
Third consignment:	Deep green
Fourth consignment:	Deep yellow-green and yellow-green

The second and third consignments were printed only days apart. (In fact, Table 1 shows that stamps of the third consignment included those which were left over from the second consignment), so we would expect that the shade would be more or less uniform. To conform to the observed relative scarcity of the two shades, the second and third consignment would have had to have been printed in the deep green shade. For this reason, we would suggest the stamp on Cover 5 originated from the second/third consignments. Incidentally, we have not yet been able to find the blue-green stamp in either unused or used condition. The only reference to this (apart from Bayley's) is the Sir James Marshall sale (3) where mint singles were offered as Lots 10 and 11. A note in the sale catalogue states that these two lots are the only examples which the auctioneers had seen of the blue-green shade. We invite readers' comments on the existence of the blue-green stamp in used condition. Until proven to the contrary, we are inclined to suggest that the shade probably originated from the remainders.

SECOND ISSUE

The second issue are those stamps printed on white paper. Details regarding the quantities printed and invoiced are given in Table 3. In addition to the listed shades of yellow-green, SG.7 and green, SG.8, Bayley states that stamps are also known in deep yellow-green and pale yellow-green. However, he says on pg.27: "The two unlisted shades probably came from the stamps included in the Great Find of 1887".

TABLE 3. 1855 - '58. WHITE PAPER. IMPERFORATE. (½d) VALUE**A. STAMPS PRINTED AND INVOICED**

SG. No	Sc No.	Colour	Printed: Week Ending	Total Printed	Quantity Good	Total Good	Invoiced	Quantity	Delta
7	5a	Yellow-green							
8	5	Green							
?	?	Deep yellow-green							
?	?	Pale blue-green							
			Aug.22 1857	?	22,000				
			Aug.29 1857	?	78,100				
				102,520		100,100	Sept.11 1857	100,000	100
			Nov.6 1858	?	44,000				
			Nov. 13 1858	?	56,100				
				101,640		100,100	Nov.24 1858	100,000	100

TABLE 4. 1855 -'57. WHITE PAPER. IMPERFORATE. (½d) VALUE

Cover	SG No.	Date	Destination	Qt'y	Collection	Comments
1	7	FE 19, 56	Speightstown	1	Shilstone, O. Davis, MFR	"West Indian" newspaper for Feb.19,1856
2	7	FE 13, 57	St. Michael	2H	Hurlock I, Olive Blossom, Creed, MRF	Fancy "Too Late" -slightly cut into at top
3	7	OC 06, 58	Trinidad	2H	Caspary	
4	7	NO 12, 58	St Lucia	4H	MFR	On piece only, but with clear datestamp
5	7	DE 21, 58	Trinidad	2H	Caspary, Lickfold, Olive Blossom, Hackmey	Fault top left
6	7	FE 27, 60	St Lucia	2 x 2H	Sir J. Marshall, G.P. Bailey, Burrus	
7	7	MR 03, 60	Local	1	O. Davis	Mrs. Mends. Visiting card.
8	7	MR 06, 60	Trinidad	2H	Mrs. C-H, Hart, Nathanson, Sheppard.	Campbell. Intermediate shade, top touched.
9	8, 10	SP 11, 58	Dominica	2x2H,1	Hart, Nathanson	Leathern. (1d) - Masters gratuity? MS. "8". Fabien
10	8	FE 21, 60	Trinidad	4H	Yardley, Messenger, Hackmey, Brassler, MFR	
11	8	JA 03, 61	Trinidad	2H	Urwick, Wheeler	Fabien
12	8,12a	?	?	1, 1	Urwick	On piece - Lot 153

The covers of this issue we have recorded to date are given in Table 4. The first two listed are dated February 1856 and February 1857, respectively. It will be noted that both of these dates are PRIOR to the first consignment, which was invoiced in September 1857. It follows, therefore, that a portion of one or more of the so-called printings on blue paper must have contained stamps printed on paper that showed no blueing. These covers support the view that the yellow-green shade on blue paper probably originated from the fourth consignment. The 1856 newspaper item and the 1857 cover are shown in Figures 2 and 3, respectively. Finding stamps from supposedly blue paper printings, whose paper show no traces of blueing, is not too surprising. For example, a number of copies of the (1d) on cover are known, the earliest



Figure 2

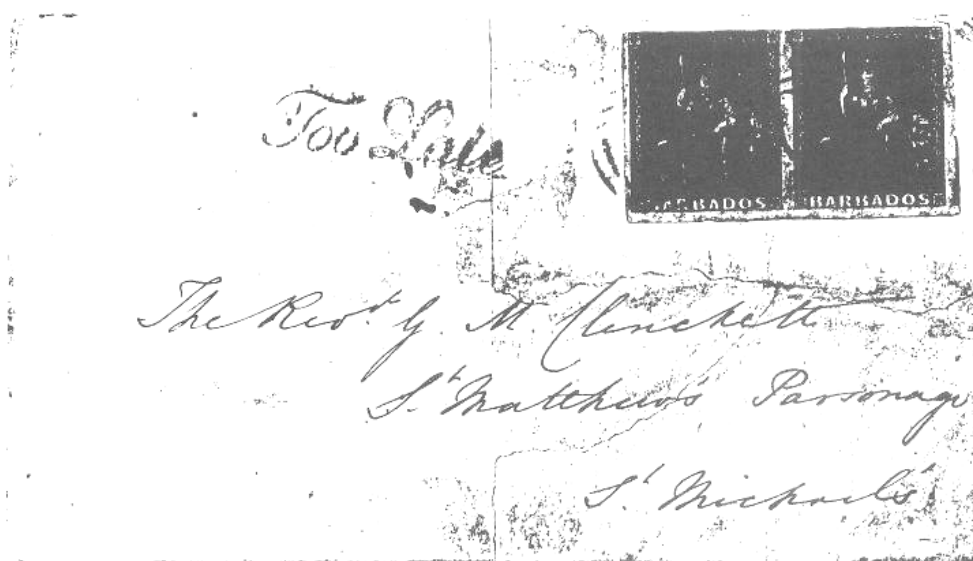


Figure 3

of which is dated February 20 1855 and is in the Royal collection. A listing of such covers we have so far recorded is given in Table 5. Cover records indicate that in some instances, stamps from the so-called blue paper printings can be found used after June 1856 when the first white paper printing of the (1d) occurred. In these cases, the paper can be either blue or white, thus proving that the later printings of the (1d) also contained stamps on both papers.

A used strip of four of the (½d) yellow-green/white paper on dated piece is shown in Figure 4. The date of November 12 1858 seems to confirm that the consignment of September 1857 was in the yellow-green shade. The shade of the strip is the one most commonly encountered in the

TABLE 5. 1855 - '57. WHITE PAPER. IMPERFORATE. (1d) VALUE

FIRST CONSIGNMENT INVOICED: MAY 9, 1856

COVERS ON WHITE PAPER DATED PRIOR TO FIRST INVOICE DATE

Cover	SG No.	Date	Destination	Qt'y	Collection	Comments
1	9	?? ??, 55	Bridgetown	1	R. Lowe - 80/09/09	Cancelled "10". Blue paper in Hackmey Jones.
2	9	DE 12, 55	Antigua	1	MH - Sale 51	Fabien. A little toned
3	9	MR 07, 56	Trinidad	1	Mrs. C-H, Hart, Wood	Printing flaw
4	9	MR 07, 56	Trinidad	1	Mrs. C-H, Hart	Barrett. MS "4" deleted-
5	9	MR 12, 56	Jamaica	1	Messenger, Hackmey, Wood	"10" added.
6	9	MY 06, 56	Trinidad	1	Mrs. C-H, Hart	Heavy cancel
7	9	MY 27, 56	Dominica	2	Mrs. C-H	Davies. Cut into, stained
8	10	?? ??, 55	Local	1	Urwick	Lot 156 - bright blue
9	10	FE 06, 55	Philadelphia	1	Messenger, Hackmey	Cancelled "11". Blue paper in Hackmey
10	10	MY 01, 55	Bridgetown	1	Messenger, Hackmey	Cancelled "10". Blue paper in Hackmey
11	10	MR 12, 56	Jamaica	1	Messenger, Hackmey	Barrett. MS "4" deleted -
12	10	MY 12, 56	Dominica	1	Wheeler	MS "10" added Davies. MS "4"

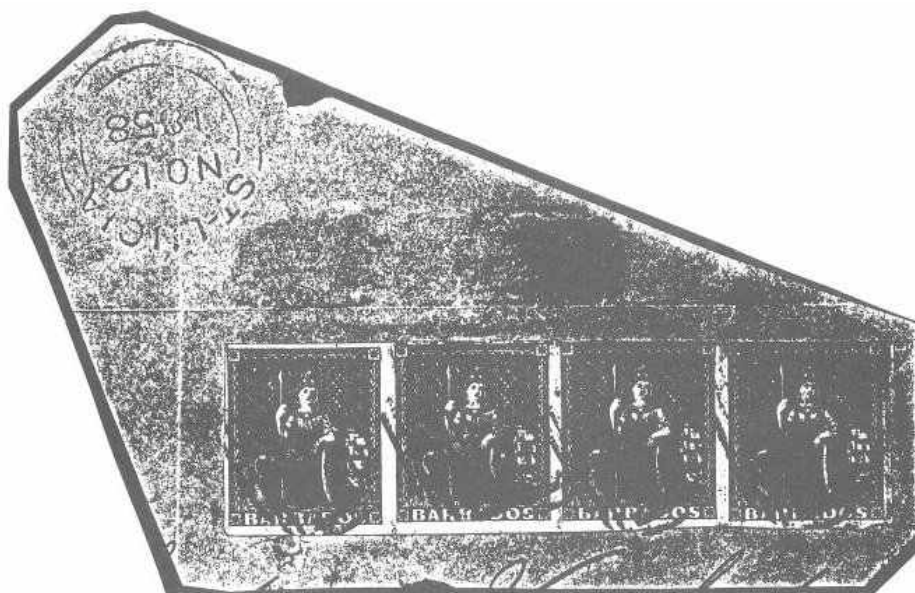


Figure 4

white paper printings and is slightly different (more yellowish) from that of the Figure 2 item and the Figure 3 cover. For this reason, we believe the strip is from a different printing. That the yellow-green shade originated from the first white paper printing agrees with Bayley's observation and is further confirmed by the Caspary cover - Table 4 Cover 3. In our experience, the shade of SG.7 in used condition never seems to vary.

The second and last consignment was invoiced in November 1858 and Bayley ascribes this printing to the stamps issued in the green shade. It appears that this is true, but there are certainly more than one shade. Much of the printing is in what we call yellowish-green, for want of a better description. This shade is certainly green by comparison to the yellow-green stamp of the previous printing, but is **NOT** the true green colour. In our experience, the green stamp is rare. We have seen some sale

catalogue describers use the term "intermediate shade" e.g. the Hart Collection - Lot 46 ⁽⁴⁾ - Table 4 Cover 8 - to characterize the yellowish-green stamp. An example of the yellowish-green stamp on cover is shown in Figure 5. It should be pointed out that, over the years, the auction catalogue describers have not always agreed on the colour of the stamps on cover. This has no doubt resulted in some confusion.



Figure 5

The stamps on the Figure 5 cover were described as yellow-green, SG.7, in the Messenger ⁽⁵⁾ and Brassler sales ⁽⁶⁾, but as green, SG.8, in the Hackmey ⁽⁷⁾ catalogue. It would be worthwhile examining Covers 5 and 6 to determine whether they are indeed SG.7. Cover 5 is interesting as it is dated shortly after the arrival of the second consignment. Is the stamp on Cover 7 also in the yellowish-green shade? Cover 7 also provides an intriguing question regarding the rate. At this time, the newspaper rate was a ½d and the letter rate was 1d. Was there a special, and as yet unproven, assessment of (½d) for postal cards?



Figure 1

A mint block of the deep yellow-green on white paper is shown in Figure 6. With this stamp we concur with Bayley's observation, for we have not yet found a used copy. Fortunately, the illustrated block possesses a marginal marking, which confirms that the piece is from Plate 2. (Regrettably, the identifying characteristics of Plate 2 do not show up well in the xerox, but are clearly visible with the magnifying glass). Thus it should be listed with the 1861-70 rough perforation issue. Bayley does list a yellow-green imperforate variety with this

issue, but not the deep shade. This stamp occasionally shows up in auction catalogues e.g. the Shilstone ⁽⁸⁾ Sale - Lots 1105 and 1106.

CONCLUSIONS

This brief article has attempted to allocate the various listed shades of the issued imperforate (½d) stamps for the years 1852 through 1858 to the appropriate printings. Unfortunately, owing to the lack of dated covers this has not been completely possible. However, based on experience, a probable scenario has been put forward. It is entirely feasible that several covers remain to be listed. The author requests such information be forwarded to him, with the hope a follow-up article could be printed and some of the theories either proven or discarded. Any readers having additional information which would shed further light on the proposals and / or hypotheses put forward in this article would be welcomed.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to acknowledge the help of Mr. Michael Hamilton in providing a listing of the covers he has recorded and in checking the manuscript.

REFERENCES

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- 2 "Perkins Bacon Records: Volume Two" - Percy de Worms. Royal Philatelic Society London. (1953).
- 3 "Sir James Marshall Collection" - Robson Lowe Ltd. (London) May 7th., 1947.
- 4 "Ralph Hart Collection" - R. Maresch and Son, Toronto, Canada (1978)
- 5 "J. L. Messenger Collection"- Robson Lowe (London) Ltd., March 1983. (Sale was cancelled).
- 6 "Norman Brassler Collection" - Christie's Robson Lowe (New York). December 1987.
- 7 "Joseph Hackmey Collection" - D. Feldman S.A. (Geneva). April 1986.
- 8 "Herbert Shilstone Collection" - Robson Low Ltd. (London), June 1977.

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CAYMAN ISLANDS - Early Incoming Mail

Quite often collectors do not hold incoming mail to be of much account, if only for the reason that it bears no stamps of the country they collect. In certain circumstances however, incoming mail can be of considerable interest. Specifically, in the case of the Caymans, it allows the collector to obtain impressions of early postmarks (as receivers) on full cover, something which is not easy for covers from these islands. Also, as we shall see, they can illustrate aspects of the local history of their period.



Figure 1

Over many years I have managed to collect details of ten incoming covers dated from 1885 to 1895. All except the first and the third have an impression of either the first or second Georgetown date stamp as a receiving mark. That the earliest cover is not so marked is to be expected as the first date stamp, Georgetown Type 1, (figure 1) did not come into use until mid-April 1889. However, it is interesting to note that the second earliest cover, dated 1890, also bears no impression of Georgetown 1 as receiver.

This could be due to the Postmaster not yet having received the instruction to do so, or by oversight on his part. The first nine covers fall into two groups: those addressed to members of the Webster family, and those addressed to Mr. F.S. McTaggart.

The earliest cover is from London to W.B. Webster Esqr., Grand Cayman Island, near-Jamaica, West Indies, and is marked "via Southampton". It is franked by four 1881 1d lilacs cancelled MR 2 1885 and has a Kingston transit mark on the reverse.

The second letter of the Webster' group is from Jamaica and is franked by an 1889 1d cancelled by the Shooters Hill c.d.s for 14 Nov. 1890. It is to James S. Webster, Bodden Town, Grand Cayman c/o W.H.B. Hitchins, Kingston, but with the reference to Mr. Hitchins crossed out. Until the opening of the Post Office at Georgetown, on or about 12th April 1889, transfer of mail between Grand Cayman and Jamaica was arranged with the help of forwarding agents and friends. However, after the conclusion of official arrangements on 13th April for exchange of mail between Grand Cayman and Jamaica, whereby masters of schooners sailing between the islands were paid 1d per letter by the Jamaica postal administration, transfer of mail was organised by the postal authorities. Mr. Hitchins was a well known forwarding agent and it seems that the writer of the letter had, by habit, marked the cover to go via him, before realising it was now unnecessary. Use of such agents did, however, continue for many years for mail sent outside the official postal routes.

The third cover is a printed merchants' envelope from Jamaica to Mr. J.S. Webster, Grand Cayman. It is franked by a 2½d Jamaica (a 1d would have done) cancelled "Lucea JU 15 92" and has a fine strike of Georgetown 1 dated JUN 24 1892 as arrival. It also bears the sender's cachet "L. Sanftleben & Sons, Lucea and Montego". It has faults - pieces missing from top and right, half the back missing, and a few stains. Surprisingly, it is still an attractive cover, and is certainly unusual.

The fourth cover is to W.B.(R?) Webster Esq., Bodden Town, Grand Caymans, and is backstamped by Georgetown 1 dated APR 29 1893. The fifth is from Manchester to Webster & Sons, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, B. West Indies, and is marked "Via Southampton". It is underfranked by a 1887 ½d vermilion cancelled "Manchester 6 JY 93" and has a light Georgetown 1 on the reverse dated AUG 16 1893.

We can only speculate how this remarkable group of five early covers has survived. As merchants, who must have ordered goods from several overseas sources, the Websters may have kept the envelopes, which probably contained bills, out of interest for the stamps. It will be noticed that where a town is given in the address, it is either Georgetown or Boddentown. This was because they resided in Boddentown, but their store was in Georgetown - in 1910 it is known to have been in New Road, Georgetown. In the mid-1890's the store was called "Webster & Sons", but by 1910 it was "Webster, J.S. & Co." The father, W.B. Webster was a man of some influence in both Georgetown and Boddentown, being at one time Senior Justice of the Peace. James S. Webster followed his footsteps being at various times Justice of the Peace and Clerk of the Court.

The "McTaggart" group comprises an official form and three O.H.M.S. cards which were essentially marriage certificates. These were sent from Spanish Town, Jamaica, where details were recorded, to the keeping of Mr. Frederick S. McTaggart in Georgetown. He came over from Montego Bay Academy in 1860 to teach in the Presbyterian Church School in Georgetown. He also took services at the church in the absence of the minister. This led to him being incorrectly addressed on one of the above cards as "Rev.". He was later described as a "catechist or evangelist". In 1910 the Commissioner, Mr. George Hirst, was appointed Registrar General of the Cayman Islands. The same year he had a strong room built next to his office in which to store the certificates, plus other official documents and the surplus stock of postage stamps. It is not known how the certificates 'escaped'.

The first of this group (figure 2) is an official vaccination service form and is franked by a ½d thin "official" at the bottom left. The adhesive is cancelled by the "A76" barred oval of Spanish Town overstruck by Georgetown 1 dated AUG 7 1890. This is the earliest known date for an impression of Georgetown 1 on an incoming cover. It is to Mr. Robt. J? Cole, Prospect & Sth? Sound, o/c (sic), Mr. F. McTaggart, Grand Cayman.

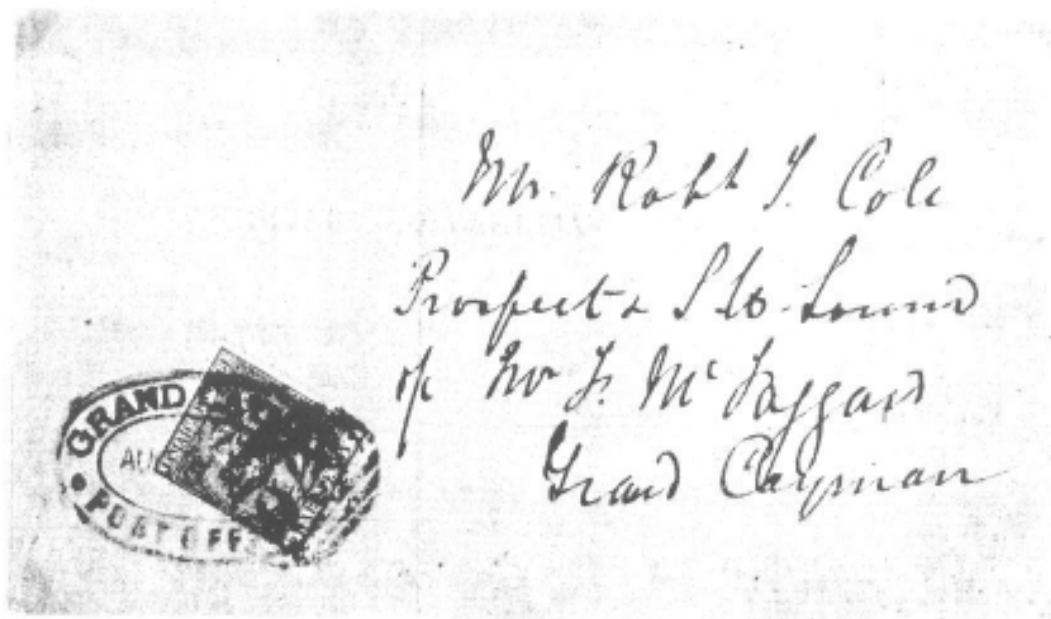


Figure 2

The last three of the "McTaggart" group are Marriage Registration Form cards from Spanish Town addressed to Mr. McTaggart at Grand Cayman P.O.. All are franked by a (½d) thick "official" and bear a very clear impression of Georgetown 1 as receiver which seems to show particularly well on these cards. On the earliest (figure 3), the Georgetown date stamp is for NOV 24 1891. On all the cards "Rev." is printed before the space for the addressee's name, and in this first example has not been crossed out. The next card is very similar but dated JAN 9 1892, and the title "REV." is crossed out and replaced by "Mr". The last of the three is dated MAR 8 1893 and is to Mr. Frederick S. McTaggart. Unfortunately the card is badly creased by two folds so that the back has been covered with linen to support it.

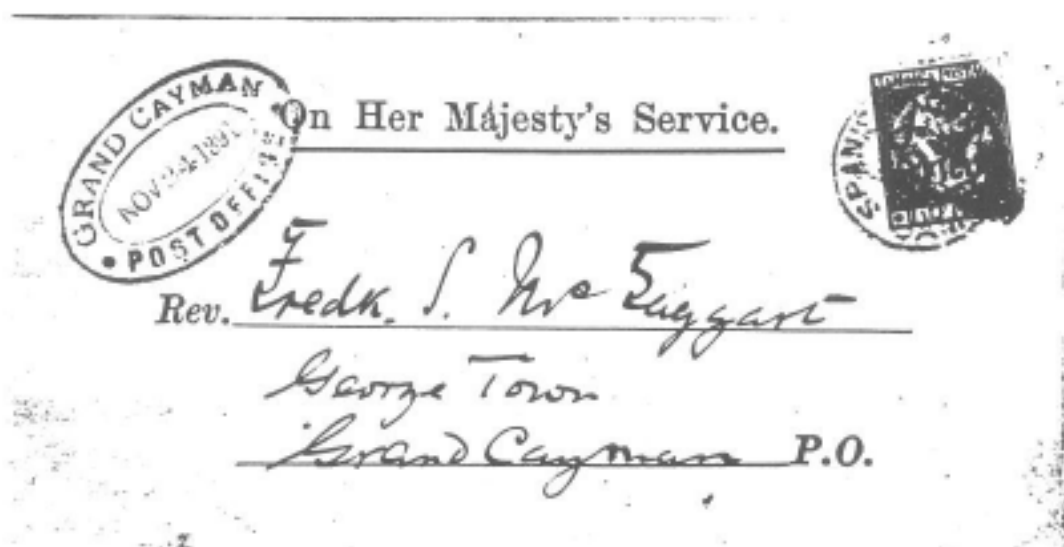


Figure 3

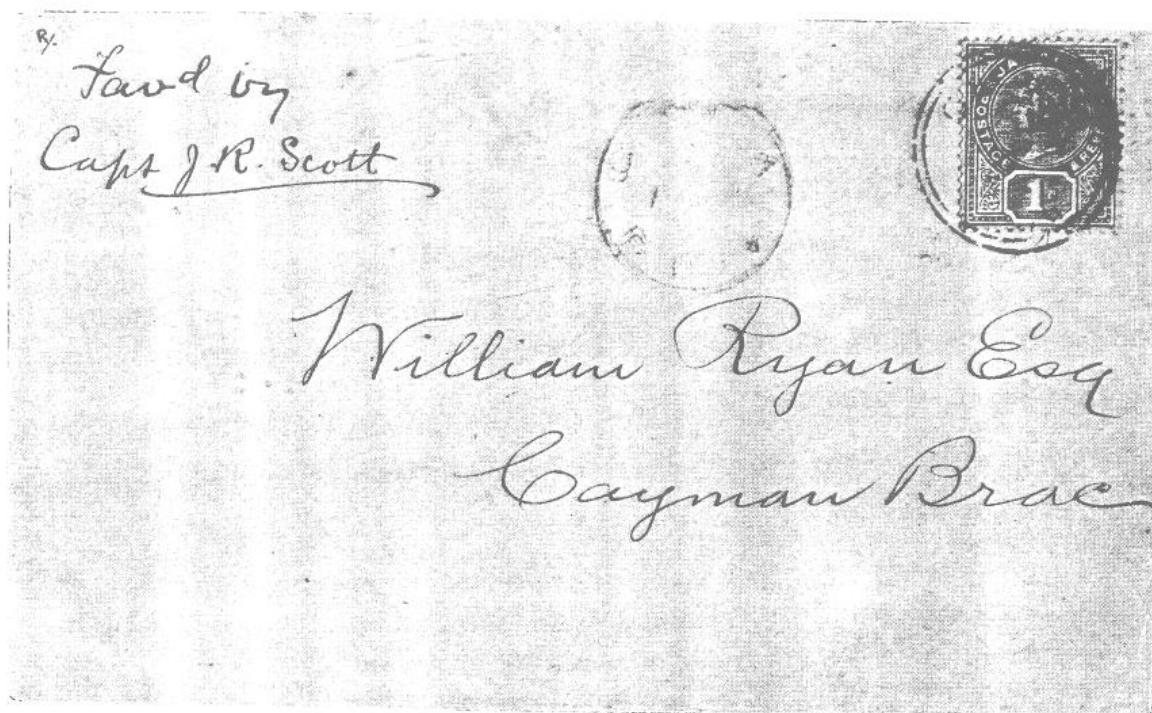


Figure 4

The last cover (figure 4), which does not fall into either of the above groups, is probably the best known incoming cover to the Caymans. Previous owners include Watkin, Meredith and Hart. It is from Lucea, Jamaica to Cayman Brac bearing a 1d cancelled by a rather unclear Lucea C.D.S. dated AU 14 96, and is backstamped Kingston AU 15 96. It is to William Ryan Esq. Cayman Brac and has "Fav'd by Capt. J.R. Scott" written on the top left. There is a faint impression of Georgetown 2



Figure 5

in bright purple dated AU -- -- on the front as transit mark. A fine impression of the Georgetown 2 mark is shown in figure 5. As there was no post office on Cayman Brac at the time, there was no official postal service to the island. The note on the front refers to one of the Scott brothers who owned several schooners based at Cayman Brac, and the one commanded by J.R. Scott carried the letter there from Georgetown, and doubtless he ensured that it reached Mr. Ryan.

References

"Notes on the History of the Cayman Islands" by George S.S. Hirst published privately by The P.A. Benjamin Manf. Co., Kingston in 1910 has been of great help in compiling this article. The illustrations of the Georgetown datestamps are from "The Cayman Islands" by E.F. Aguilar and P. T. Saunders. Printed by F.J. Parsons (Kent Newspapers) Ltd. Folkestone Kent in 1962.

John Byl

CAYMAN ISLANDS

I recently supplied information on Cayman Islands postage stamps featuring Schooners (Turtlers) which hopefully will be included in a book currently being written by H.E. Ross.

"Ross" as he is known, informed me that the 6d value of the definitive issue of stamps released on 28 November 1962 (SG.172: Scott 160) is incorrectly described as portraying the schooner 'Lydia E. Wilson'. In fact the schooner illustrated on that stamp is the 'Kirk B'.

The 'Kirk B' is also illustrated on the 25 cent Decimal Currency issue (one of four stamps) released on 15 January 1973. That stamp (SG.322: Scott 309) illustrates a 25 cent coin which features a schooner, again identified by "Ross" as the 'Kirk B'.

H.E. Ross has published a book on Caymans' Catboats entitled; Love's Dance - The Catboat of the Caymanes. Catboats have been illustrated on several Cayman stamps.

Ivan Burges

JAMAICA

This article is prompted by reading Richard Maisel's article in Bulletin No.187, (December 2000) entitled "Cayman Islands Philately - There is still much to learn" it was the illustration Figure 1 which caught my eye. This was a registered cover from the Caymans to Baltimore.

I have a somewhat similar cover from Montego Bay to Jackson, Michigan, dated 15th January 1906. There must be many registered covers from the West Indies Islands to the USA in members collections. No doubt all are slightly different, but I suspect that there are many similarities.

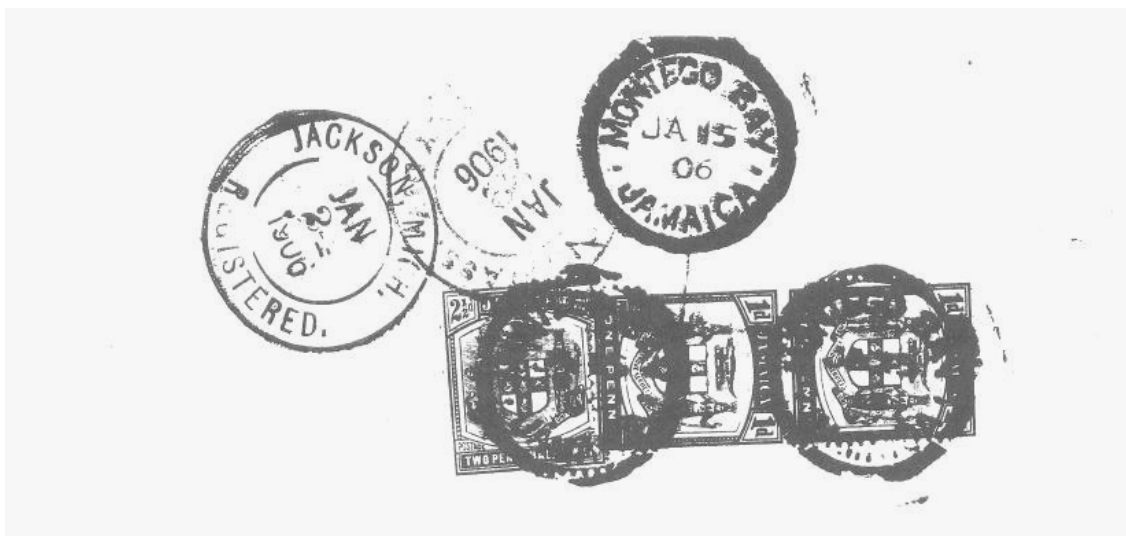
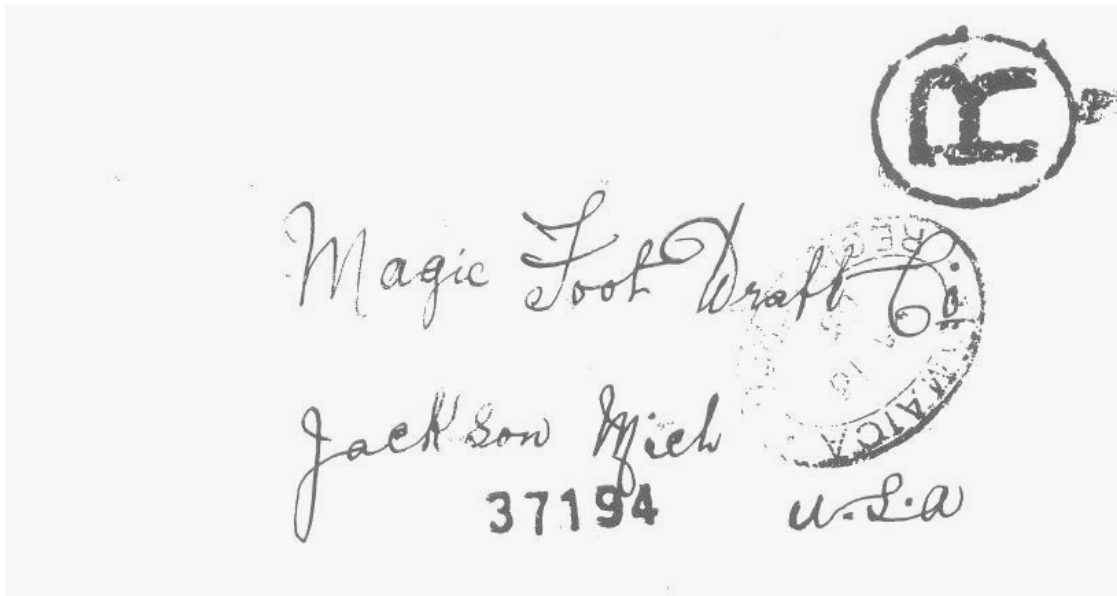
What particularly caught my eye in the original article was the arrival mark: "Baltimore MD Feb 9". The year isn't clear but from the article I gather it is the late 1920's.

My arrival marks are about 20 years before this and the details are: "Boston, Mass. Registry Div. Jan 22 1906" and "Jackson, Mich. Registered Jan 24 1906".

They appear to be of identical type to the Baltimore mark. No doubt all this is very standard (and well documented?).

The technical details of the cover are: Ordinary envelope (5.3/8" x 3.1/8") not registered. On the front are two registered marks "R" in an oval

(Nicholson type R12) and "Jan 16 06" in an oval frame (Nicholson type 5). The registered number, in blue, is 37194.



The stamps (2 x 1d, 1 x 2½d Arms) are affixed to the reverse. They have been cancelled with a well worn double ring postmark with dots (Potter type 5.620.14), making it look like a single ring.

All the above marks are in black. The arrival marks are in violet and are circular (diameter 1.1/8").

While I doubt if any of this is new, there must be a lot of material for the study of arrival marks on West Indies mail. Richard Maisel is correct: there is still much to learn, certainly by me and no doubt by others.

Malcolm Mattick

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CHRIS RAINEY

Advert

FREDERICK P.SCHMITT

JAMAICA - Temporary Rubber Date Stamp

Can anyone help with the following please?

I have just acquired a TRD, oval, in violet and dated 1993. The Post Office is " SECTION". I think the month of use was July.

Malcolm Mattick

LEEWARD ISLANDS - Notes for Philatelists

In response to the observations by Mr. Ford in Bulletin No. 187 regarding the dates of some postmarks, I apologise if I have not made myself clear.

- P.134 The footnote refers to the St. Mary's cds (A46) when temporarily transferred to Bolans in 1932. One of the four examples seen is a cover with a Bolans registration label.
- P.134 A50. Unfortunately there is a printing mistake in that 31 Mar 1937 should be at the top of the box. However, I do give 26 May 1948 as the EKD when the SPO had re-opened.
- P.138 TABLE B2. All the TABLES give the EKD and LKD known to me at the time of compilation for each postmark listed. Clearly B1 must have been in use later and B2 earlier than I have seen when the Barbuda SPO remained open throughout.
- P.144 M31. I had discounted the Jan 1940 in blue when addressed to Wells. With a loose stamp postmarked 1940, it appears that (1937) should be (1940).
- P.153 V31. Two more examples dated 1933 have come to light since publication and the date of closure has been changed to 1933.

The London Stamp Exchange offered major postal history collections of all Presidencies for sale by tender in March 2000, comprising some 400 x A4 sheets of photo-copies. Unfortunately, there was not time to study these in detail and fully amend the book to meet the already delayed printing. A few dates (and possibly one or two new postmarks) in the TABLES of Part VI were, therefore, out of date on publication.

Michael Oliver

**MATERIAL URGENTLY WANTED FOR THE JUNE
AND ALL FUTURE BULLETINS PLEASE SEND TO
PETER FORD BY MAIL OR E-MAIL – SEE INSIDE
FRONT COVER FOR ADDRESS DETAILS**

LEEWARD ISLANDS - The 1902 Provisionals

One aspect of the printing that Ian Jakes (Bulletin No.187) did not mention and which I suspect had some effect on the result is that how were the panes, when the selvages had been removed, secured in the press to overcome curling on exposure to the atmosphere after up to 12 years storage in the islands?

Referring back to Bulletin No. 179, Ian is incorrect in his assignment of the Plate Nos. used. Except for 200 sheets of the 6d from Plate 2, all 4d, 6d and 7d were printed from Plate 1 only. Whether or not the gum was brown (toned) was entirely due to local storage conditions. All stamps left England with white gum.

The Provisionals were issued at all Island GPO's on 11th August 1902 and remained on sale until stocks were exhausted.

Michael Oliver

ST LUCIA - King George V 3d Plate 5

In Bulletin No. 157 (June 1993) I asked if anyone could confirm that the St Lucia 3d value (SG.82) had been printed from Plate 5. There was no example from this plate present in the Royal Collection. Richie made no mention of it in his publication "St. Lucia - A Philatelic History" and Lockie's article "St Lucia Plate Numbers" in BWISC Bulletin 86 of September 1975 did not record it. Despite this apparent lack of evidence for its existence I suspected that the July 1917 printing of this value must have originated from plate 5.



In Bulletin No.168 (March 1996) I showed interpanneau examples of the St Lucia 3d and 1/- values that demonstrated identical imperfections in the key plate marginal rule imprints. This strongly suggested that they were from the same requisition and were thus printed at about the same time and from the same key plate. Since the 1/- value was on pale olive back paper, and there was only one printing on this paper shade (from plate 5), the inference was that the printing of the 3d value must also have emanated from plate 5.

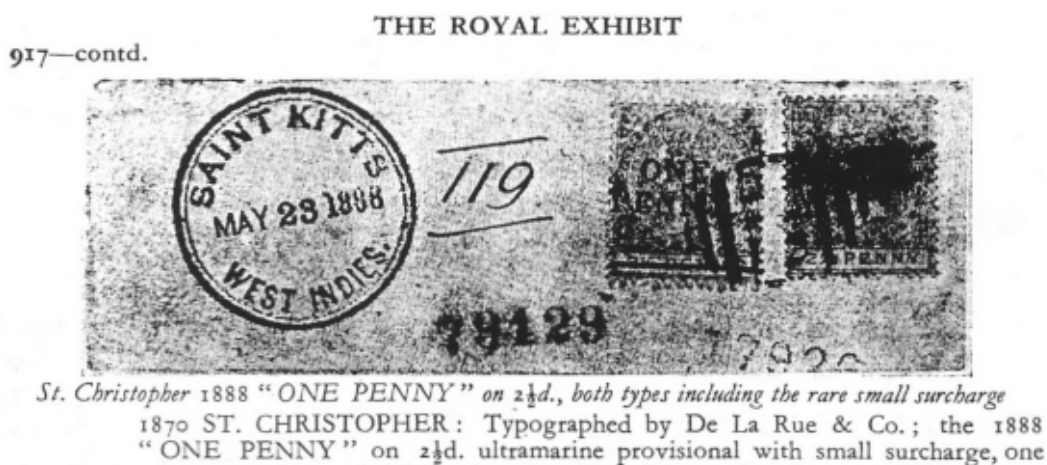
At Philatex recently I finally found a copy of the 3d plate 5 (illustrated) that has confirmed my earlier prediction.

Peter Fernbank

SAINT KITTS and Sacred Cows

My title is chosen because I am told that forgeries of the Bundi sacred cow issues exist with genuine Official overprints. A pedigree does not always prove lineage.

I was browsing through a 1950 London Exhibition catalogue, when my eye was caught by the illustration reproduced here; but let me take the reader first to the caption, "St. Christopher 1888 "ONE PENNY" on 2½d., both types including the rare small surcharge". Well, a stamp with a five figure rating in the catalogue, and nice work if you can get it, which is more than I have done. It figured in the Royal Exhibit, after all.



This illustration, though: had I seen the date stamp before? Well, no. Have you? Clearly a temporary mark; may have had a short life, and I'm not saying that it's wrong. What it did do was to set me looking closely at the rest of this piece. We are looking, surely, at evidence that the envelope was registered on its travels at three different locations. One numeral is presumably the original office of despatch, and perhaps a more erudite member can suggest which number was put where.

Then comes the crunch: a penny stamp and a penny stamp. Full stop. Enough to pay for registration - and, indeed, as we have now all learned with gratitude, for a local journey around the Cayman Islands at a certain period. What we all realise on reflection is that for only 2d that envelope had not paid its registered fare to move out of St. Kitts. No blue crayon markings, it seems -anyone, any views on that?

So it's back to the stamps, with the caveat that it is always hard to judge from a photograph, never mind a photocopy down the line. I have no immediate reason to distrust the left hand stamp, and have no means of saying that its right hand partner did or did not share the A12 killer strike. What achieves no credibility at all with me is the smeary mark that sits

right on top of the precious small ONE PENNY surcharge. In my eyes, that kind of treatment is wrong until proved to be right - and so too is the surcharge.

The Royal Collection was thoroughly reappraised under the stewardship of John Marriott and I presume that the solecism, if such it be, was spotted then, if not before. Yet even if sensitivity to postal rates has increased greatly during our own collecting days, one is bound to wonder why a piece of this character at a 2d rate survived the scrutiny of an expert eye at any point in its life. Have I missed something?

Further comment from others would be welcome, not least, about the Saint Kitts handstamp. Also, on the more general theme; for while some of us may feel that expert committees tend to be over-critical of certain of our presumptive treasures, do we not in turn tend collectively to abandon criticism once an item has worked its passage and earned its master's ticket?

Research moves on; knowledge expands; the resources of science increase. If we take a fresh look at the opinions of our predecessors, are there sacred cows that we should no longer worship, or discarded items that we should treat with a new respect? Anecdoted evidence is invited from those who have seen the mighty fallen or the meek uplifted.

Simon Goldblatt

ST VINCENT - "Blood" on his hands

A red ink mystery on St Vincent

The double-arc St Vincent cds was proofed in London on 21 July 1842 and was subsequently used to cancel packet mail (ERD 2 November 1842) until the late 1850s. The marking is found in black for the whole period barring just over six months between November 1844 and April 1845. Several theories have been advanced such as an indication of pre-payment, but if so why have no concurrent black examples been found? The answer does not appear to lie in the postal regulations at the time, and it was while revising my list of the early St Vincent postmasters that I came across what might be described as an extraordinary coincidence.

Nassau William Forster, who had been Postmaster since May 1829, died on 11 July 1844. The following day his widow, Mary Forster, was provisionally appointed Postmistress (Government Gazette Vol 27, No 1426). However, despite a petition from the inhabitants, her appointment was not confirmed and on 26 October James Jenkins took over as Postmaster. It so happened that the 26th was the day that the Packet (RMS City of Glasgow) left for St Thomas with mails en route to England and we know from an entire dated 25th (Sharp collection) that the double-arc was struck in black - presumably by Mary Forster on her last day in charge. The next recorded entire, dated 26 November (my own collection) is struck in red and this practice continues until 10 April 1845 (Jaffe collection).

What a coincidence that the following day on 11 April, James Jenkins was transferred to Jamaica and replaced by Frederick Dunbar Sutherland (Blue Book 1845). Thereafter, lo and behold, black ink was re-instated for the cds. Let your imagination run! Did Mary Forster retain the black pad? Was it some sort of protest? Was it done to symbolise "blood on his hands"? Why did no-one tell Mr. Jenkins of his mistake? (On second thoughts since he had to seal the mail bags himself it might have gone unnoticed locally). A reprimand from

London might not have come until he was about to leave anyway. We may never know the answer, but you must admit it is a jolly good story.

Vincent Duggleby

"AIRMAILS OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO" BOOK AWARD

Ron Wike's "Airmails of Trinidad and Tobago" has received a prestigious award from the American Air Mail Society (AAMS). The George D. Kingdom Literature award is given annually to the best overall aerophilatelic catalogue, book, monograph or pamphlet published in a calendar year subject to the criterion that the item is not published by the AAMS itself. The judges found the book "exceptional in content, quality of illustrations and fine production The publication is a must for every aerophilatelist's reference library". The plaque has already been presented to Ron's widow, Edna.

This book, published early last year has been receiving many accolades. The following is quoted from the Bulletin No. 115 (October 2000) of the International Federation of Aerophilatelic Societies:

"The above book represents a perfect example of a result of deepest interest in aviation and airmail history. The author's research is thorough and always based on original data. His appreciation of aerophilatelically important events points to an intimate knowledge and understanding of the subject and happens to be right in every respect.

This is an aerophilatelic work of importance not only for students of Caribbean Aerophilately but also for anybody who is interested to see how this kind of effort can reach the level of scientific study, independent of the size of the territory it is concerned with.

Those who insist on judging an aerophilatelic effort by the geographical or political importance of the country it covers, should think again.

We regret very much that the author passed away a short time before publication of this brilliantly written and most professionally published book".

With these gratifying words ringing in our ears, I have decided to enter this publication into the SEVENTH NATIONAL PHILATELIC LITERATURE EXHIBITION of New Zealand. This exhibition, which is held every 2 years, attracts entries from leading philatelic authors and should attract interest (and sales) from collectors from both the Caribbean and Aerophilatelic camps.

Peter Ford

THE E.B. PROUD POSTAL HISTORY SERIES

I have found time at last to dip into Ted Proud's recent publications on Bahamas, British Guiana and British Honduras. I have yet to see the work on Trinidad, on which others may care to comment. My personal perspective is, of course, on village marks to about 1936, with which I have a measure of familiarity, and my observations will be largely confined to these. It should be remembered that each work contains a wealth of detail apart from these marks, much of it either not previously published or not readily accessible elsewhere.

There are pluses and minuses about presentation and text. One would expect no less from an author who has evolved a strong personal style and who has either owned or has handled a very large amount of material from the

territories with which he deals. Very much on the plus side is that the reader, having worked his way through head office markings, can turn up any other office by name, will find it listed in alphabetical order, and will see laid out, ordinarily in chronological order, the marks that are ascribed to that office. Yet confusion can arise from seeing the same mark turn up in different places. A good B.G. example is Naamryck, where the illustration for a mark categorised as D4 becomes (with form and date unchanged) a D1 classification for the office of Parika, and then, again as D1, for Mackenzie, with a misprinted reference to Mackensie (City) in accompanying text.

This leads to a minus in principle; for the author rejects reference to previous pioneering research and type classification in each of the three territories, and substitutes his own coded numbering system which disregards any linkage to sibling marks. Thus in Bahamas a Ludington / Raymond type 7 can turn up as D2 (or D3 or 134) at Steventon, D4 (or D6 to D8) at Colonel Hill, and other D numbers in between for other offices. The logic of beginning many out-island offices at D2 is, presumably, to allow for the discovery of an earlier date stamp of an earlier type. I find this a bit rich for Crooked Island, for example, still apparently a one-off example after about 30 years on the stocks (and, sadly, illustrated without its central date).

The D classification breaks down for a different reason in British Honduras: for the reader who turns to D1 for Benque Viejo, Guinea Grass, Orange Walk (Old River) or Rock Dondo, meets temporary marks that have no element of date - D is for "date stamp" - about them, and will have no appreciation of how imaginative is the reconstruction of the last of these four marks. It may turn out to be correct that there is a Rock Dondo mark of this character. As the owner of the item that has inspired the entry, I treat it as a matter for future research and proof.

It is particularly to be regretted that the collector who relies on Proud alone for British Honduras, may have little or no idea that most of the marks illustrated are provisional rubber instruments which readily warped, deformed and distorted when used more than occasionally or coated with unsuitable ink; and will not readily grasp both the fascination and the difficulty of acquiring anything close to a broad representation of the TRD's. As the reader gains experience he will come to prize far more than does Ted Proud the small fragments of these marks that are all that turn up on an ordinary loose stamp.

Again, logic is not easy to follow. Bomba allows for the discovery of a fresh TRD between D1 and D3, whereas a single D1 "Bermudian Landing" is illustrated, when I have drawn attention on more than one occasion to the instrument that reads "Bermudian's Landing". So which of the two is earlier?

I would have wished to see the text distinguish far more clearly between those ascriptions for which Proud had absolutely solid evidence and those which were only thinly supported. In the former category, his attribution of the two A06 killers to Orange Walk and Punta Gorda, and of the C killer to Corozal, were supported by cover after cover; but who will view with any confidence the dumb killer illustrations identified as K4 for Belize, K1 for Monkey River, and K2 for Stann Creek, in trying to make sense of a heavy killer cancel on, say, a 3c Q.V. key type stamp?

If nothing else, it is silly to suggest a fancy valuation for this type of dumb cancel on a single stamp - and when it comes to valuation, I would far rather trust the experience that we have of our own Circle auctions, than the hit-or-

miss suggestions for cancellation on stamp (multiplied by an arbitrary ten for the average cover) to be found in Proud's listings. What would our members prefer to pay? £4 for Banana Bank (D1 or D2)? Or £15 for Barracks? £10 for an A06 (larger type) on a late QV low value? Or 50p for the Punta Gorda mail bag seal (K2). The latter is an obvious error or omission, but it shows how critically valuation should be approached.

In fairness, a much better shot is made at valuation in B.H. than in B.G. Compare, for example, Sisters with its classification of D3 at £4, D4 at £2.40, D5 at £2.40, D6 at 80p, with the next entry, Skeldon, where D3 in its much scarcer state, protective comers removed, is valued at the same £8 as the original version, while the pretty common D5 is given a £12 rating. Need I go on? Well, perhaps! Set these prices against £1 for Maccaseema or £10 for Railway P.O. (same as code mark 'R')! £6 for Fredericksburg and £24 for 'Wakenaam 1'? We'd have to work overtime; but £30 for 'Wakenaam 2' might be realistic, while £2 for Baracara - contrast p.287 with p.141 - would be a gift.

Bahamas valuations are just as erratic. Note the entries for Inagua at K1 and D1 (£7.50 for a '27' and £60 for an 1884 date stamp, late in that year) then see how often you find his D2 Fox Hill for 60p. Or, come to that, Behring Point in the 1920's or 1930's for 50p. The point needs to be made that availability, and therefore value, varies with the period of use, so that the same mark will have a wide range at different periods. Yet I must not be too critical. The Marlin's head of Cat Cay is valued at a realistic £10, and I have just been looking at a U.S. catalogue of the late '90's which illustrated, in colour, an example on 1½d brown (by far the commonest value) and quoted \$100-150. Before 15% premium! Perhaps the owner even sold it - some people have all the luck!

I do not want to detract from the true merit of the three publications. There is a mass of helpful information. Most of this is accurate. The illustrations of local scenes and activities are animated. Where marks have been hand-drawn or improved, as opposed to being photocopied, the work is carefully done. The layout is sensible and easy to read. Publications of this character are costly, but the cost is easily recouped by one or two lucky finds. Moreover, though I could add a morsel of further information to each of these three works, each of them has in its turn produced some information new to me, setting me a few rungs back down the ladder towards completion of the relevant village or out-island marks, which in turn I have begun to remedy.

In summary, these are works to "buy or borrow" if they fall within your area of interest, but they should be used together with, not in substitution for, the prior art: use them, indeed, as appendices to the work of Raymond and Ludington, Townsend and Howe, Addiss and his commentators, gaining your perspective on scarcity (and value) from a careful appraisal of each, and from your personal experience. Moreover, leaving aside 'earliest' and 'latest' recorded dates, do not assume that the last word has been written on the marks themselves. Where big date gaps occur in the records for offices known to be open, it is likely that unrecorded marks exist; and sometimes they come to light - even now.

Meanwhile there is work to be done on the next, more recent generation of postal markings. In this context, our auction in 2001 will throw a little light on the popularity (or otherwise) of the rather flamboyant temporary postmarks in use in many village offices of Guyana over the past few years. Research is something of a treadmill, but the scenery or backcloth keeps changing.

Simon Goldblatt

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