

ISSN 0953-8720



**STUDY CIRCLE**

FOUNDED  
27 JANUARY 1954

## Golden Jubilee Edition



Trinidad 'Too Late' Handstamps Figure 5  
By Michael Medlicott

BULLETIN No. 200 MARCH 2004

## **BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**

Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies

### **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.
- 4 TO publicise '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 paragraph 1 above.

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**PROGRAMME OF SOCIETY EVENTS**
**York Stamp Fair**

Our thanks to Allan Leverton for looking after our table of BWISC publications at the York Stamp Fair in January and also to Chris Rainey and Trevor Davis, the organisers of the show, for letting us have the table for free.

**AGM & Annual Auction**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2004 at Grosvenor Auctions premises at 399 – 401 Strand (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of Stanley Gibbons), London WC2R 0LT. Viewing from 1:15pm, AGM commences 2:15pm.

**Golden Jubilee 2004**

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2004.

The Circle will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2004 and is planning a two-day event at the Royal Philatelic Society on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and at Spink on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>, with a dinner on the intervening evening. See details on page 5.

**PEOPLE**
**Charles Freeland Honoured**

Congratulations to our Vice-President, Charles Freeland, who has been elected as a Fellow to the Royal Philatelic Society of London. A well deserved honour for his encyclopaedic knowledge and contribution to philately.

**Peter Kaulback**

Peter Kaulback, the President of our sister organisation, the BCPSG, died suddenly on Friday, January 2. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Elizabeth, daughter Caroline and sons Simon and Marcus.

**Study Group Leader – St Vincent**

I am please to announce that Peter Elias has volunteered to become Group Leader for St Vincent, he holds the same post for the BCPSG. He has specialized in collecting all aspects of St. Vincent philately since his teens, about 1975. Peter actively uses the internet to exchange information and he has created a "Yahoo! Group" with about 20 members. He also has a web site at [www.stvincentstamps.com](http://www.stvincentstamps.com). Further details can be found in his newsletter on [www.bwisc.org](http://www.bwisc.org), his e-mail address is [info@stvincentstamps.com](mailto:info@stvincentstamps.com) and snail mail at PO Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427 USA.

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT****E. V. TOEG**

I have needed no reminding that during 2004 the Study Circle will be celebrating the first half century of its existence, and what an existence it has been so far!

Although not quite being a Founder Member, I have nevertheless seen all the ups and downs over the years and, I am glad to say, mostly the ups have prevailed. The life blood of our Study Circle is contained in the Bulletin published quarterly and it was the intention of our Founder Philip Saunders that knowledge and information should pass between members through the Bulletin and not by personal contact. Philip's reasoning, at the time, was based upon the firm belief that if members got to know each other, they would by-pass the Bulletin and gradually the Study Circle would disintegrate. Happily, this did not happen as members became acquainted and, in fact, many friendships have developed gradually over the years and continue to do so. However, all this did not occur overnight and the Bulletin which started by being small enough to carry around in one's pocket, gradually, in a series of steps, increased its size until today the format is that of any of our hobby's leading philatelic journals. Of course, the Bulletin like any other philatelic journal needs notes, articles and information to fill its pages and your contribution in this respect is of paramount importance. The Bulletin is only as good as the members want it to be, so please assist its editor who is always on the lookout for material.

From time to time, jobs of one kind or another become vacant and require volunteers to fill them; please do not adopt the view that 'I never volunteer' if you really want the Study Circle to succeed.

Taking the long view, I think that the Study Circle will make startling progress in the years ahead, particularly as illustrations in colour have been introduced in this Bulletin for the first time.

In conclusion, I would like to wish the Study Circle and its members every success in the next fifty years, and to remind members that the more you put into the Study Circle, the more rewarding it is likely to be for you - that at least is how I have found it to be, and it has brought me many happy years.

**Membership Trend**

Year	Members	Year	Members	Year	Members
1954	0	1964	206	1974	289
1984	379	1994	330	2004	325



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**FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF BWISC****BY DEREK NATHAN**

It seems unlikely that any of our members remain unaware of the celebrations due to take place next October 30th and 31st to commemorate our golden jubilee, but I may be able to add a little additional information.

The Study Circle is probably more active now than it has been through its fifty year history. Not quite so many meetings as of yore, perhaps, but our publications side, under the guidance of Peter Ford, is going from strength to strength.

After much consideration, your Committee has decided that Central London is the venue most likely to be found convenient by most members – and let me stress that only one committee member lives in Central London – and that immediately following next Autumn's Philatex would be the best date.

On Saturday 30th, we shall meet at the Royal Philatelic Society's rooms at 41 Devonshire Place, W1, where we expect to be treated to a major display by a Large Gold medal winner, Joseph Hackmey RDP on Barbados and by Michael Medicott on his hitherto unseen Revenues of the Caribbean.

After a snack lunch, the afternoon will be devoted to standing displays from all the territories we represent, with the addition of one or two extra items I'm keeping quiet about.

In the evening, we have booked the entire basement of Getti's, the Italian restaurant at the corner of Devonshire Street and Marylebone High Street, for an informal dinner.

On Sunday, we shall be moving to a venue which will allow us to trade and some of our favourite dealers will be setting up shop. We have settled on Spink's Auction room in Southampton Row, opposite the Bonnington. But this is not all. Simon Goldblatt and Charles Freeland are setting up the Golden Sale when really worthwhile items from each of our territories will be sold. And I mean worthwhile. There will be a minimum value for all lots and I know of one item being offered with a catalogue value of £12,000.

Members from outside London will be pleased to read that **Dennis Mitton** is looking into hotel accommodation for them. Dennis would like to hear as soon as possible from members who think they would like help in this respect, so that he can make some bookings, subject to confirmation. He can be reached at 01293 883080, or at 1, Denmans, Pound Hill, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 3SJ.

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As stated above, on Saturday the 30<sup>th</sup> we are having displays by members covering all territories and associated philatelic subjects, there will be some 45 frames available.

Displays can be between 12 up to 60 standard size sheets and members wishing to participate please contact me as soon as possible with a brief description of your subject and number of sheets. Depending upon your support and final arrangements for the day we are considering that a few can be formal presentations - less than 10 minutes each. Members who have not displayed before are most welcome to enter - 12 sheets plus a few minutes talk to expand upon your subject will receive equal consideration. When responding please let me know whether or not you wish to present your display.

**Michael Oliver**, 7 Ancliffe Lane, Bolton-le-Sands, Lancs. LA5 8DS

Tel: 01524 825 038, E-mail: mmf25go@aol.com

**JUBILEE BULLETIN****BY STEVE JARVIS**

Our President has highlighted that this edition is our first excursion into colour illustrations. It is also our first attempt at printing the bulletin ourselves, so please be sympathetic if we make some mistakes. To commemorate this special event, we have increased the size to 40 pages and included two articles that present strongly in colour. I am always on the look out for more articles, half to one page are always useful, to help me structure and balance each publication.

Please provide pictures in as high a quality as possible, for scans of covers 300dpi is suitable but stamps at 600dpi help me to provide enlargements that aren't too fuzzy.

The June bulletin will be printed at the beginning of May, articles for inclusion should be submitted at the latest early April.

## Bill Atmore Remembered by Steve Jarvis & Paul Wright

Bill Atmore has died at the tragically young age of 39. He was a serious student of Jamaican philately and his knowledge and wisdom will be sorely missed. We first met Bill, introduced by Mike Hamilton, at one of the many Jamaica sales held at Cavendish in the 1990s.

*Steve recalls:* I was immediately impressed with his single minded approach to acquisitions. Not for him the accumulation of run of the mill stamps or covers, they all had to be top notch and have significant visual impact, estimates were ignored, he knew what he wanted, knew top items would always resell and was a heavy-hitter on those lots targeted. I vividly remember being out-psyched by him at the Vokins sale where we started competing for a double bisect on cover, I gave up at an early stage (well, 50% over estimate) knowing from his body language that he was determined to have the cover. I often wonder how high he would have gone.

From that time the three of us were in regular touch by e-mail and always huddled together at BWI meetings. Bill was a particular expert on the early cancellations on adhesives and he was always our first port of call whenever we wanted some information or advice. He offered his knowledge liberally, producing a series of occasional newsletters entitled "Land of Wood and Water" and contributing articles to the BCPSG Journal, in particular 'Temporary Adhesive Cancelling measures 1860-1886' & 'Dry Harbour A Mystery solved'.

*Paul has similar memories of his style:* In his collecting approach I would single out his self-disciplined, meticulous and exacting approach, adding perfect single items rather than splurging in all directions as too many of us do. And he always wanted to learn everything there was to learn about each item. He carried this approach to his research, concentrated in C19th postal history, especially on early registration, the early use for cancellation of date-stamps and manuscript provisionals and his scarcity listings of single ring and squared circle cancellations. He also wanted to reach the people behind covers - for example, researching Major Kent. Jackie, his wife, tells me that she shared some of this background research work, indeed, when he died they were working to find out more about a letter from a Jamaican nurse who came to London for training in the C19th.

Our thoughts are with his wife Jackie and their young daughter Evelyn at this time.

## BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

RECENT MONOGRAPHS  
(All prices include surface postage)

Leeward Islands: A Postal History Anthology (Pub-1997) 74p. £13

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**April 8** auction will feature the second and final portion of the **Mike Oliver Leeward Is.**  
including key plate varieties and many covers  
also further selections from **Dan Walker's Grenada** postal history  
and **Peter McCann's Virgin Is.**  
plus useful bits and pieces from the other islands.  
Currently on my website I have for sale a large batch of **maritime covers**  
all with a **Bermuda** connection including **Lady Boats** and a wreck cover  
also **Grenada** covers  
all of which are individually priced and for immediate sale.  
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each week for nine months, 1928-30, letters needed a late fee of 10c £250
- BRITISH GUIANA 1931** A 2c p.s. envelope uprated 4c, sent to Dutch West Indies,  
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- TOBAGO 1815** A large part outer letter sheet sent from Dominica to Edinburgh with,  
on reverse a fair strike of Tobago large fleuron datestamp. £250
- TRINIDAD 1917** A cover to Port of Spain headed "O.H.M.S." bearing 1914 Red Cross Society  
One Fraction charity stamp, cancelled "San Fernando / Trinidad", with arrival mark alongside.  
on reverse, the very large, clear cachet "Oranges, Limes and Home Made Preserves /  
Gift / from Trinidad" etc. in red. £450
- ST. VINCENT 1866** 4d deep blue, perf 11 to 12/1/2 block of four, a very scarce multiple. £1,500
- ST. VINCENT 1824** An entire letter from St. Vincent to England, charged 2/4,  
backstamped with very fine "ST. VINCENT" fleuron datestamp. £500
- JAMAICA 1917** A cover to USA, franked 21/2d, opened and re-sealed with the label  
"Opened by an Officer / of the Post Office by / Express Warrant of / the Governor". £85



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**STAMPS ON COVERS****BY ERIC BATESON**

I collected used stamps of the British West Indies when living in Jamaica many years ago and on a visit to Curacao saw covers on sale in the tourist shop in Willemstadt airport. They were of the Netherlands Antilles and I could not resist buying some. I was impressed and decided that collecting stamps on covers would be more interesting than collecting used stamps. My favourite dealer in the UK (E H W and Co) from whom I had purchased used stamps for many years was concerned that I was making my hobby unnecessarily difficult. I also realised that collections of covers require more storage space than stamps so I decided to limit my interest to the pre-George VI issues of the British West Indies and Bermuda.

By their nature philatelic covers bearing sets or part sets of stamps have to form the basis of this type of collection and I was not discouraged by the derogatory comments that they were 'only philatelic' and worth little more than the value of the corresponding used stamps. In two previous publications (see end note) I have tried to show that this is not correct when applied to older issues which are not only desirable but also relatively valuable.

In this article I wish to illustrate the difficulties I have encountered in collecting stamps on covers. Initially I collected only 'classical' philatelic covers addressed to the well known names of Kiderlen, Wilson, Forbin etc. but soon realised I would have to include commercial and postal history items. It is possible to collect most commemorative issues as complete sets on a single or on matching sets of philatelic covers (Figure 1) but complete sets of definitive issues are only rarely available (Figure 2) due to the subsequent issues of different shades, colours, papers watermarks or perforations.

It is possible to obtain a philatelic cover which on superficial examination appears to bear a complete set of a definitive issue but on closer examination shows this is not the case (Figure 3). This cover bears the 1907 series of the Leeward Islands but the 1d carmine rose, SG38a, is missing. The pictorial stamps of George V often appear to be complete on philatelic covers (Figure 4) but the later perforation changes are always absent and are very elusive on covers.

The next best thing to complete or near complete sets of stamps on a cover are those bearing a large number of an issue. Figure 5 shows a cover bearing twelve values of the 1923 series of Dominica. It has taken seven non-matching covers to collect the remainder of the set except for the one pound value, which is rare on cover for all series of definitive stamps.

In many instances it is not possible to find a cover bearing a large proportion of a stamp issue and the set has to be completed by several non-matching covers (Figure 6). Generally there is no problem with commemorative issues but there are exceptions. I have never seen the complete set of the 1920 Victory set of Barbados on a single cover. I have one with four values (Figure 7) and four other values on covers but still require ones with the 2½d, 2s and 3s stamps.

Then there are frustrating covers in which one or more stamps in the same series are replaced by a stamp or stamps from different issues to create the impression of completeness. An example (Figure 8) of a cover of the dry dock stamps of Bermuda. The 2d green replaced by the 2d caravelle issue and a 6d Queen Victoria stamp has been included to extend the set. Another example (Figure 9) of the lower values of the 1981 issue of British Honduras. The 1c stamp has been replaced by the 1c / 1d surcharge issue of 1891. To aim for a more complete collection, covers bearing the early issues are required including the Queen Victoria portrait stamps of Bermuda and Jamaica, the Britannia issues of Barbados and Trinidad (Figure 10) and the ship issues of B Guiana (Figure 11) which are readily obtainable but are rarely philatelic. Those bearing stamps of the other West Indies may be only sporadically represented in a collection.

Covers bearing postage due, fiscal, revenue and official stamps should be included. Some of these are quite rare. An example bearing official and also war tax stamps of Trinidad is shown in figure 12. This extremely philatelic cover is the only example I have seen bearing any of the official stamps of Trinidad. I note these stamps on covers are not priced by Stanley Gibbons.

The stamps of the Leeward Islands also provide further scope and it is possible to collect covers from the different islands bearing the same stamps, which so far I have limited to the 1d surcharges of the Queen Victoria tablet and the Silver Jubilee sets. It is also possible to expand a collection with the postage due issues of St Lucia (SGD1 and 2) posted to St Lucia from other places. In conclusion I have tried to present an alternative way of collecting used stamps which may be called 'stamps on covers'. I hope this article will stimulate interest in other philatelists.



## REFERENCES

1. Bateson Eric M (2002); *Unashamedly Philatelic*; *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, vol 42, No 4, p 6-15.
2. Bateson Eric M (2003); *Desirably Philatelic*; *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*. In press.

## ILLUSTRATIONS



Figure 1 – Br. Honduras.  
Belize Relief Fund. Complete set on cover to the Philippine islands, Aug 1939.



Figure 2 – St Vincent  
Victorian tablet type complete set on a Kiderlen cover, 29 Mar 1899.



Figure 3 – Leeward Islands.

A Cliquet cover from the British Virgin Islands 4 Mar 1914 bearing Edwardian tablet single colour issue of 1907 less the 1d carmine-rose, SG38a.



Figure 4 – St Lucia

Sir Charles Belcher cover from, 8 Aug 1936 with the complete pictorial issue of George V perf 14 but without the three later low value stamps p 13x12 or 12x13.





Figure 5 – Dominica

Another Sir Charles Belcher cover, 13 Aug 1936, with the twelve of the 1923 series of Dominica leaving covers bearing the remaining eight values to complete the issue.



Figure 6 – Grenada

A 1901 cover, per SS Grenada to New York with two of the tablet set, the 1d and 2d issued separately in Sept. 1899. The 2d value is rarely found on a cover.



Figure 7 – Barbados.

A registered (9 Mar 1930) cover with four values of the Victory set.



Figure 8 – Bermuda

A philatelic cover from Flatts with a series of dry dock stamps but with 2d value replaced by the corresponding Caravelle stamp and a Q. Victoria stamp added for good measure.



Figure 9 Br. Honduras

A Leo Stein cover with a series of Q. Victoria tablet stamps but with the 1c replaced by the 1c / 1d of the London surcharge issue of July 1888.



Figure 10 – Trinidad

An example of an early cover to Edinburgh dated 27 Nov 1876 bearing a pair of is chrome yellow SG78 stamps.





Figure 11 – Br. Guiana  
Another example of an early cover to London  
with a single 24c yellow green, perf. 15 dated 22 Dec 1875.



Figure 12 – Trinidad  
A Rufener cover to Berne of 10 Feb 1919 with 2d blue green, SG015b  
and a block of four 1d rose red SG09 and three war tax stamps.

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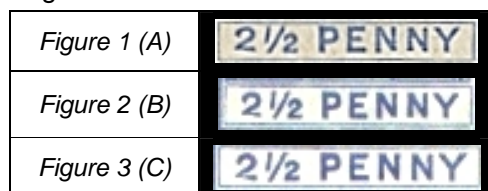
## ANTIGUA

### QV 2½D SLOPING 2

BY CHARLES FREELAND

Gibbons' catalogues list three different varieties of the sloping 2 on the 2½d values printed from the QV general keyplate. The three varieties are illustrated on page 2 of the handy Commonwealth 1840-52 catalogue issued in September 2003. They are also illustrated in the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia Vol VI (Leewards Islands). Both of these sources identify different flaws on three positions of a 120-set sheet and imply that each was present through the life of the plate, starting with the 2½d red-brown with CC watermark in 1879, carrying through the change to single CA watermark in 1882 and finally to the 1887 change of colour to blue to conform with the UPU standards. The Queen Victoria keyplates were finally replaced when the Arms type was introduced in 1903.

The three positions listed are pos 37 on the left pane and pos 13 and 37 on the right pane (which I will call LP37 and RP13 and RP37). On flaw A, reported as LP37, the slope of the 2 is not very pronounced, having the appearance of a chip out of the base of the figure 2 on the left hand side (Figure 1). This is reminiscent of the sloping 2 flaw on pos 60 of the Bahamas 1884 QV 2½d (SG50-2). In addition, Type A shows the base of the NNs in 'Penny' clipped, with three of the four legs shorter than normal.



The other two flaws illustrated (types B and C) quite clearly slope downwards, and there is little difference in the appearance of the 2; but whereas type B positioned at RP37 has the same clipped NNs in Penny as type A, type C positioned at RP13 has the legs normal (Figures 2 & 3).

Robson Lowe on page 20 of the Encyclopaedia sets out his reasoning for the occurrence of this flaw, namely that De La Rue made up a stereo of 24 units (6x4) for the duty tablets that was repeated two and a half times on each pane of 60. However, the large 2 on the first stamp in the third row of the stereo (i.e. pos 13) was damaged, affecting not only pos 13 on each sheet but also pos 37 (the first stamp in the seventh row). The four clichés (two on each pane) were repaired but, while the repair on LP13 was perfect, the other three were not and so Lowe postulates three states of the repaired 2, differing according to their positions on the 120-set sheet.

This is an ingenious explanation but unfortunately it does not hold up for several reasons. First, the appearance of repeated flaws on a pane or sheet is unusual to say the least – when one thinks of the other duty plate flaws that occur on BWI keyplates field (the malformed CE on Dominica and Tobago 4d, the sloping 2 on the Bahamas 2½d, the many constant Leeward Islands flaws etc) one only finds a single position on each pane showing the flaw.

I find it intuitively strange that De La Rue should prepare a stereo of 24 units for the Antigua 2½d only – if a stereo were needed, the usual size was 12 units.

Second, we know for a fact that plate 1 of De La Rue's general key-plate was printed in sheets of 60 (60-set in the jargon). Since the flaws can be found on the 2½d red-brown with CC watermark and from the early printings with CA watermark printed from plate 1, they cannot have been present in the fashion described by Robson Lowe. Moreover, even when the 120-set headplate was introduced for plate 2, the duty plate remained 60-set. More of this later.



Figure 4



And here is a third, more material, factor. Illustrated in Figure 4 is a positional block in my collection (ex Toeg) from the upper left-hand pane of the Antigua 2½d blue. This block contains a clear example of the sloping 2 flaw at LP13, which is not one of the three positions recorded by Gibbons and Lowe.

So are there four different positions with flaws? Actually no, **I believe there are only two but each can be found showing different states.** Let us examine the evidence in more detail.

To start with, we need to remind ourselves of the printing process. De La Rue introduced the concept of the keyplate in order to reduce costs for the customer. The task requiring most skill and hence expense was the engraving of the head, but sharing the cost (£21 for the general keyplate used for the Antigua series) between several colonies meant that all they would have to pay would be their share of this (i.e. about £3 to £5 per colony).

They also had to pay for their own duty plates at a cost of about £12 for each duty. The stamps themselves would then be printed in two passes through the press, first the general head plate and then the relevant duty plates.

In identifying duty plate flaws on two different panes, Robson Lowe and the catalogue editors were evidently confused by the fact that plate 2 of the general keyplate was printed in two panes set-tenant, i.e. 120-set. This was a change from plate 1 that, as mentioned, was printed 60-set. The two panes of plate 2 stamps were separated after printing but can be identified by the marginal markings including the central gutter margin and by the positioning of plate plug 2, which appears above stamp 2 and below 59 on the left pane and above 5 and below 56 on the right pane.

In bulletin 182 I illustrated from a rather poor photocopy De La Rue's file copy of the die proof for plate 2, that was sold in the April 1976 sale of De La Rue archive material (subsequently in Mark Swetland's collection). I now have a far clearer photostat of this important proof, so I am illustrating it again (Figure 5). The annotations on this proof (confirmed in the De la Rue day books) establish that plate 2 was printed 120-set. This explains why the popular detached triangle flaw, examples of which have occasioned strong competition when offered in the Circle's annual auctions, only appears on the right hand pane (at pos 15).

In confirmation of the above, recent research by Robin Davis in collaboration with the author examines the usage of De La Rue's general key-plate in ten countries. As a result it experienced considerable wear and in the mid-1880s a second plate was introduced. The archives clearly establish that whereas plate 1 was 60-set, plate 2, which Robin Davis' researches indicate was engraved in November 1884, first used in March 1885 for the Natal revenues, and subsequently adopted by the other key-plate users, including six BWI countries (Antigua, Br Virgin Is, Montserrat, Nevis, St Lucia and Turks Is), was 120-set. However, the duty plates for the individual countries remained 60-set throughout their life and these plates were never replaced.

We know that the duty plates were 60-set not only because of the De La Rue records but also by annotations on surviving duty die proofs (Figures 6 and 7). The duties for the Antigua 2½d and 4d from the De La Rue archives are now in Simon Greenwood's collection, but they have been removed from their archive sheet so neither of these has an annotation that the plate was 60-set.

Figure 5



Figure 6



Figure 7

The fact that the duty plate remained 60-set throughout its life means that there **could only have been two sloping 2 flaws (on positions 13 and 37), and the flaw states must at any point in time have been the same on both panes**. And there is no reason why damage to the two different positions on the plate occurred at the same time. I believe it is sheer coincidence that each flaw affects the 2. Consider, for example, three less prominent flaws in the duty tablets that are constant on all panes of the 2½d, both left and right, that I have examined. These are the extended left leg to A on the first stamp on row 5 (pos 25 in each pane), the white patch in the middle of the large 2 on the third stamp of row 6 (pos 33) and the sloping duty tablets on the fourth stamp on the bottom row (pos 58).

Now let us look more closely at the evidence to hand of the actual occurrence of the flaws on 13 and 37. In addition to the block illustrated, I own a right hand pane of the ultramarine stamp and a RP13 in a positional block. These confirm Gibbons findings for their types B and C. RP13 slopes strongly, is very thin at left and the two Ns are straight. RP37 has a slightly different slope with the lower stroke of the 2 less thin, but the Ns are uneven. But where then is type A? The answer is: not on this pane. I have a photostat of Mark Swetland's collection and he owned both panes of the ultramarine stamp. But this is where the plot thickens. Mark's RP is identical to mine but his LP13 and LP37 differ from both his and my RP13 and RP37. His LP13 looks like a perfectly normal 2, ie the base of the 2 is horizontal, while on his LP37 the base of the 2 slopes but in a less pronounced fashion than our RP13 or RP37. The two Ns are clipped. Those of us present when Stella Pearse displayed Antigua at Honiley last October might have noted another left pane and, lo and behold, it shows the same flaw states as Mark's. One of these two panes is the likely source of the Lowe and Gibbons' listings (i.e. no flaw on LP13 and the less pronounced type A version on LP37).

I appeal therefore for anyone owning a left hand pane to check its flaws, because logic would suggest (and my Figure 4 demonstrates) that some left hand panes must have contained different flaw states. What can we conclude from all this? Without further sightings, I am not yet sure, particularly as inking differences can change the appearance of flaws. But let me lay some additional facts on the table.

Take a look at Figure 8, that shows a large patch of missing ink on a 2½d ultramarine. It looks very like a confetti flaw, but can it be a coincidence that it affects the very area where the sloping 2s occur? Conceivably, this could be a sign of damage to the plate during



Figure 8

one of the printings of the ultramarine stamp that was imperfectly corrected. This might explain the absence of any flaw on Mark's LP13 and the appearance of a type C flaw on our two RP13s. Let us also take into account the earlier printings of the red-brown stamps with CC and CA watermark. Both watermarks can be found with sloping 2s. Moreover, some have the Ns aligned while others do not. However, a close look at my records reveals an interesting fact – on all eleven examples of the **CC watermark** the NNs appear normal, whereas on my pictures of the **CA watermark** most of the NNs are clipped but on about a quarter of the sample they are straight.

What I would like to suggest at this point – pending further sightings of positional blocks – is that the pos 37 flaw appeared from the outset when the NNs were normal but at some point around the time when the watermark was changed in 1882 the base of the NNs was damaged. The flaw may then have been (imperfectly) repaired but this broke down over time. As for the flaw on pos 13, it looks as if the flaw was not present at the outset (hence the undamaged state on the Pearse and Swetland sheets) but occurred during one of the early printings of the 2½d ultramarine, as evidenced by my confetti-like flaw. On pos 13 the NNs were apparently never damaged, but the repair to the 2 was not well done and by coincidence shows characteristics similar to the flaw at pos 37.

In order to take this study further, I would be grateful to receive members' comments from the perspective of their holdings. I would particularly appreciate reports/illustrations of the state of either flaw in positional pieces (I do not expect to receive reports of many positional blocks of 2½d red-brown printings, though I believe one does exist). I would also like to hear of the states (i.e. Gibbons A, B or C) of the 2½d red-brown in either watermark. And has anyone else seen an example of this pronounced confetti-like flaw on the 2½d blue? Please send your findings/observations/abuse to me at [charles.freeland@bis.org](mailto:charles.freeland@bis.org) or to the editor.

My thanks to Frederico Borromeo, Robin Davis, Peter Fernbank, Stella Pearse, Mark Swetland and John Taylor for their input on this matter.

**References:**

1. Stanley Gibbons *Commonwealth and British Empire 1840-1952 catalogue*, 2004
2. Robson Lowe: *The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps Vol VI, Leeward Islands* (Christies Robson Lowe 1990)
3. *The Queen Victoria General Key-Plate, Plate 2 and the detached triangle flaw* (article by Robin Davis and the author for publication in the *London Philatelist*)
4. *Plates 1 and 2 of the QV General Keyplate* (article by the author in *BWISC bulletin* 182, Sept 1999)

**JAMAICA****'A79'(H) missing '7' used as an emergency killer at Mount Charles 1875****by Michael Hamilton**

The 'A79' (type H) obliterator (Figure 1) was allocated to the Richmond Post Office on its opening date of 1st November 1863. Examples on loose 2d, 3d, and 6d Pine watermark issues are very rare and were priced at £320 each in the 1981 Topaz pricing guide (published by the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal). Only one cover with the 'A79' (type H) postmark is currently recorded for FE 2 1866 with 6d pine backstamped Richmond cds to Ontario, Canada (as illustrated in Ian Woodward's 'Exploring Jamaica Through Obliterators' handbook).

Shortly after 2 FE 1866 it would seem certain that this 'A79' instrument became damaged as later strikes are found as 'A 9' with the figure '7' missing. Strikes of the damaged 'A 9' would therefore be expected to be found on loose Pine watermark stamps but none have ever been recorded. Instead these missing '7' strikes are only found on 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/- Crown CC issues (Topaz valuation £270 each) issued period 1870-72 being a minimum of four years later than anticipated.

As no examples of 'A 9' are found on loose Pine adhesive it would seem plausible that the damaged instrument was immediately forwarded to the G.P.O., Kingston for replacement.

The Richmond Post Office was re-supplied with a further new 'A79' obliterator (type J) in a differing format (Figure 2). Nicholson states that this instrument was sent out in 1865, and if correct, it proved to be a convenient coincidence that 'A79' (H) was replaced by 'A79' (J). The earliest positive use of 'A79' (J) is on cover dated 27 FE 1886 (Ex Hart collection) but both the Derek Sutcliffe files and Ian Potter handbook supply 7 AU 1866 as the earliest date of use (only five months later than the intact FE 2 1866 'A79' (H) cover). This 7 AU 1866 cover has not been seen by me but the date would seem to be correct as strikes of the 'A79' (J) are recorded on loose 1d, 6d, 1/- Pine watermarked stamps.

A recent acquisition shows the damaged 'A 9' cancelling 2 x 1d CC watermark on cover (Figure 3) to N.G. Prideaux in Four Paths.



Figure 1



Figure 2

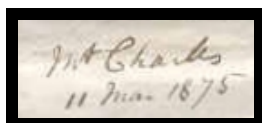


Figure 4



Figure 3

Details of the Prideaux correspondence can be accessed via the internet. This cover shows 'Kingston C3/MR 11 75' transit cds on face and is backstamped very poor Four Paths 'MR 15 75' receiving cds. The flap has contemporary manuscript endorsement of 'Mt Charles 11 Mar 1875' (Figure 4).

The Mount Charles Post Office was opened in September 1874 and the earliest date of use of its Type P11 cds is given as 27 JY 1877 (per Potter). It is known that the 'A80' (type K) obliterator was employed at Mount Charles as this is recorded on one cover only dated 24 FE 1884 bearing 4 x 1d blue addressed to Tenbury (Hooton Mitchell and Nat Surtees (lot 152) collections).

The manuscript endorsement of 'Mt Charles 11 Mar 1875' would indicate that the office was without despatch cds and presumably without its own obliterator in its first months of activity.

My conclusions are that 'A79' (H) suffered damage shortly after 2 FE 1866 and on its return to Kingston was left in a drawer for eight years until it was required as an emergency temporary re-allocation measure at the Mount Charles office which opened without both killer numeral and despatch cds. If the damaged 'A 9' was used just once or twice prior return to Kingston we would have two periods of use being Richmond (1866) and Mount Charles (1874-75). But if the damaged 'A 9' (H) was not used at Richmond we are left wondering how the office cancelled its mail until the replacement 'A79' (J) was to hand.

This extraordinary incidence of a damaged killer being pressed into service certainly takes us into virgin territory and gives us hope that a proving entire for the even rarer 'D' emergency obliterator may turn up in the not too distant future.

If anyone has a damaged 'A 9' on **PINE**, please let the Editor or Mike Hamilton know.

## LEEWARD ISLANDS

### ADHESIVE FEES STAMPS

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

Victor Toeg's article in Bulletin 199, and Ian Jakes' previous piece in the London Philatelist may have sent several of us dusting off seldom opened albums.

A very large parcel of the MCA/MCB perfins was recently offered by a small provincial postal auction - in several successive sales, indicating either that the auctioneer's mailing-list was inappropriate to the lot, or that there is very limited interest in the subject. Perish the latter thought.

Clearly, good stocks of at least the lower values exist, but are probably not widely dispersed. Opportunities for serious study and ground breaking finds still exist; for example, the CA over Crown watermark is known in both its wide and narrow (CA) forms, but has yet to be recorded in both forms on all the appropriate values. As much of the material available is best collected for its cancellations, indicating the Presidency and purpose of use, it remains on document or piece, making precise watermark detection difficult.

The manuscript cancellation with the initials 'W.H.C' is familiar to me, and I can add the following in the same hand to Ian Jakes' specimen:-

- on six pence lilac and blue 11.4. 95
- on two shillings lilac and red 8. 8. 95

and in a quite different hand, and not quite certainly 'W.H.C'.

- on six pence lilac and blue 7.6. 94

The last copy, in a distinct hand, may indicate that W.H.C were the initials of a firm or an office rather than an individual. Other initials in manuscript known to me appear as 'EJC', 'HD', 'RHB', 'ELS', 'WMF' and 'CC'. (I say 'appear as' to indicate possible ambiguity). The earliest manuscript date in the collection is 12 October 1882, on a five shillings lilac and red.

Turning to the MCA/MCB perfins, I can add to the One Penny Queen Victoria Leewards Postage & Revenue issue the Six Pence and One Shilling values (MCA) the One Shilling (MCB), and the King Edward VII One Shilling (MCA). Could it be that all four revenue duties to the Five Shillings will eventually be found from both reigns with both perfins on the Postage & Revenue issues?

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

### THE 'TOO LATE' HANDSTAMPS

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

#### 1. *Historical Note*

Stamps and covers from Trinidad and Tobago bearing 'TOO LATE', 'LATE', 'TOO LATE FOR BAG' and 'LATE FEE PAID' markings have attracted collectors' attention since early philatelic times. On loose stamps some markings are plentiful, whilst others are of the greatest rarity; anything on cover is scarce to rare – the main Marriott sale on 19 September, 2001 (1) contained just four 'TOO-LATE' covers (lots 713, 714, 715 and 721), and one boxed 'TOO LATE FOR BAG' cover (lot 722) mailed on board the Cedros Steamer for London, which was knocked down for £2,100 plus premium.

Bacon was at his most contemptuous when describing the TOO LATE stamps and dismissed them (2) thus: 'Various stamps of certain of the preceding issues are to be met with surcharged 'TOO LATE' in black or red block letters, and with the same surcharge double or inverted. No such stamps were ever sold to the public in Trinidad. The varieties are entirely devoid of Philatelic interest, and owe their existence to obliging post office officials, the surcharges being nothing more than griffes de complaisance, made for the benefit (?) of collectors'.

That Bacon's hauteur was not shared by collectors at large is reflected in Bright's contemporary catalogue (3), which listed ten stamps perf. 12½ surcharged in black, and six in red, at prices between ten shillings and two pounds. When compared with their list price of just £15 for a used Lady McLeod, it seems that the 'TOO LATE' stamps were in reality objects of desire.

The earliest reference to the 'TOO LATE' stamps known to the writer appears in Dr. Gray's Catalogue of 1875 (4), and is worth quoting at least in part if only to illustrate the curiosity which they obviously aroused in the minds of contemporary collectors:– "All the current stamps are found with the words TOO LATE printed diagonally across the face..... It is conjectured that those values are surcharged from time to time of which there happen to be the most in stock, and that once so surcharged they are sold at a low uniform rate, irrespective of facial value, which rate represents the extra fee claimed by the post-office on 'too-late' letters, and paid by the public by means of these surcharged stamps. How far this somewhat far-fetched hypothesis is right or not, we cannot say." Indeed.

Before the introduction of the handstamps, probably in the 1860s, postmasters must have seen the need to indicate the reason for delays to letters. Figure 1 shows an entire written in Guapo on 9 November 1861 to Chas. Fabien in Port of Spain, and posted in La Brea; the La Brea postmaster has annotated the face in manuscript 'too late for bag on the 9th' and the supporting circular datestamp (Marriott type 0.2.'20') shows despatch by the following week's mail on 14th November. Michael Hamilton records three other such covers with manuscript markings in the years 1856 to 1861.

The writer has traced no date for the introduction of the Late Fee system itself, but the book (5) by Joe Chin Aleong and Prouds quotes several helpful references in Post Office notices:–

- in a footnote to a table of the West India Packet Service 1885,

"The hours for closing the Outward Mails will remain as at present, viz.. Letters bearing ordinary postage, up to 1.30p.m., with late Fee affixed up to 3p.m." (p.79)

- the new arrangements for late fees coming into force at the GPO on 20 August 1896,

"Late Fees on English Mail Day.

Letters and other postal matter with ordinary postage may be posted at any pillar box in Port-of-Spain and at the General Post Office up to 2.30p.m.

Note:– Letters, & c., posted in pillar boxes in Port-of-Spain after 2.30 p.m. on English Mail day will not go forward that mail.

Letters and Postal articles with late fee of 1d at General Post Office only, up to 3 p.m.

Letters (but not other postal articles) with late fee of 2½d, at General Post Office only, up to 3.30 p.m.

Letters (but not other postal articles) with the late fee of 5d, at General Post Office only, up to 4p.m.

All posting boxes will be closed at the General Post Office at 2.30 p.m on the Outward English mail day and all late fee letters and local letters between that time and 4 p.m. should be handed to one of the counter clerks.

From 3.30 p.m late fee letters will be received only at the stamp window, in private box department". (p.95).

Further changes to rates and times were introduced on 31 January 1903 (chronicled on p.104), so that it is apparent that the scale of fees was based on the time of presentation of mail for postage, but may also have related to the type of article (inland letter, overseas letter, registered articles, etc.) No reference has been unearthed to verify this second supposition, or the basis for calculating the scale of fees.

## 2. The Handstamps

The markings fall into four categories:-

- a) 'TOO-LATE' (with or without hyphen)
- b) 'LATE'
- c) 'TOO LATE FOR BAG'
- d) 'LATE FEE PAID'

with the first three originating in the nineteenth century, whilst the fourth is not found before the 1930s.

### a. 'TOO-LATE'

This is much the most plentiful, and complex, category. Such is the clarity and intensity of a few examples that it is compelling to suppose that Types TL.1 and 2 are overprints rather than handstamps, and it may be that they are bogus and deserve Sir Edward Bacon's opprobrium (see figure 2). Of the two examples illustrated, one is the (1d) lake of 1863; the second is the 1/- chrome-yellow of 1872 and also bears a fully dated cds of 9 AU 1874.

Hence

TYPE TL.1.	overprint?	27 x 3.75mm	oval 'O's	hyphen	Black
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Figure 3 shows a second type with the characteristics of an overprint, this time in reddish-purple on a 6d perf. 14 bright yellow green;

Hence

TYPE TL.2.	overprint?	26 x 3mm	round 'O's	hyphen	Red-purple
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Figure 4 is an inter-colonial cover, formerly in the Marriott collection, from Port of Spain on 27 January

1877 to Georgetown, Demerara (arrival 2 FE), showing the commonest type of TOO-LATE handstamp, with squarish 'O's and a full hyphen. It can be found, quite scarcely, on cover, both cancelling the late fee adhesive and away (as in this case) from the adhesives. All the covers examined show it struck away from the adhesives where a single stamp collects the consolidated (postage plus late fee) rate, or where the cover is inbound (eg Marriott lot 721). Conversely, it cancels an adhesive where it clearly collects the late fee alone (e.g. Marriott lots 713-5). Whilst the consistency of the few covers available for inspection may prove this rule, it is hard to explain the usage, albeit rare, of this handstamp to cancel SG87, the 5/- rose-lake of 1869. Hamilton records 16 covers and one dated piece, the earliest dated 9 JY 1867, the latest being the cover at figure 4 (including type TL.4).

Figure 5 (front cover) shows a remarkable OG block of 9 of SG69c, the (1d) scarlet perf. 12½ with cc watermark, each stamp precancelled with the same TOO-LATE handstamp, so precisely aligned as to suggest some form of stereo or roller cancel. This block, originally part of a larger block of 21, was the subject of an article in Stamp Collecting over the by-line 'P.H.' (6).

Hence

TYPE TL.3.	cancel/ precancel	28.5 x 4mm	squarish 'O's	hyphen	black or red
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Figure 6 is the type apparently listed by Chin Aleong/Proud under Port of Spain as type I3. Of the same size as type 3, it is clearly distinguishable by its oval 'O's. Both handstamps were in use at Port of Spain from the 1860s to around 1880.

Hence

TYPE TL.4.	cancel	28.5 x 4mm	rounded oval 'O's	hyphen	black or red
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Figure 7 shows the 5/- of 1869 cancelled by the first of the no-hyphen types in conjunction with the Trinidad double arc cds for NO 26 1874.

Hence

TYPE TL.5.	cancel	27.5 x 4.5mm	rounded oval 'O's	no hyphen	black
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These early types were succeeded at the GPO some time in the 1880s by one or more instruments reading 'TOO LATE' (no hyphen). As in figure 8, they are always placed away from the adhesives, and in all the examples seen by the writer, show no evidence of having collected a fee. It would appear, therefore, that the Late Fee system was abolished about this time, and the postmaster reverted to the earliest practice of using the mark to show why an item of mail had suffered delay.

Hence

TYPE TL.6.	cancel	26.5 x 3.75mm	squarish 'O's	no hyphen	black
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Some six other distinctive TOO LATE with or without hyphen handstamps have been identified to date, probably belonging to San Fernando and smaller offices. Chin Aleong / Proud show an instrument very similar to type 3, and assign it to San Fernando as I4, with a single date of use of 7 January 1911. A remarkably similar type for 7 June 1885 is assigned to Princes Town. In the modern era, they also identify a very distinctive type measuring 33 x 5.5mm for Erin. These are tentatively designated as types TL. 7, 8 and 9, but not illustrated here in the absence of the primary evidence.

Figure 9 illustrates a cover mailed in Cedros on 24 November 1884 to Port of Spain, showing a large no hyphen TOO LATE handstamp (shown on p. 292 by Chin Aleong/Proud and designated I4) which collected no late fee, and which has also been seen on loose adhesives.

Hence

TYPE TL.10.	cancel	34 x 5.5mm	tall squarish 'O's	no hyphen	black
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Figure 10 shows a halfpenny newspaper wrapper from Couva to Port of Spain dated 19 June 1893 bearing a hyphenated TOO-LATE handstamp evidently belonging to Couva P.O. and used independently of any fee.

Hence

TYPE TL.11.	cancel	29 x 4.5mm	oval 'O's	hyphen	black
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The final illustration of the TOO LATE group of handstamps is figure 11, showing a red strike ex-Marriott on a 1/- perf. 14 chrome yellow. Sir John Marriott's notes say of it "same instrument seen inv. diag. under D22 on p. 12½ cc 1d." It is by no means improbable that it was originally assigned to the British P.O. in Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela, which used Trinidad stamps, and was returned to GPO Port of Spain when the former office closed. Figure 11 also shows the same instrument struck in black on the 1869 5/-; both examples show characteristic breaks in the second 'O' at 11 o'clock and 4 o'clock.

Hence

TYPE TL.12.	cancel	34 x 5.5mm	squarish 'O's	no hyphen	red/black
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#### **b. 'LATE'**

On loose adhesive, it is usually impossible to determine whether the single word 'LATE' is actually part of 'TOO LATE' or not. One of the only two indisputable examples known to the writer is on the cover illustrated as figure 12. This is an envelope from Port of Spain to Paris 27 AP 1881 (arrival 14 mai), also showing red '3' in manuscript, suggesting 4d postage and 4d Late Fee – the latest cover of the early period so far seen on which a fee was levied. The cover is also interesting in that it shows the error of date '1818' for 1881 in the Trinidad double arc datestamp. This was one of two similar instruments in use concurrently, one of which shows the error of year on this date only (and can be distinguished from its twin by indented damage to the outer arc at 5 o'clock), the second correctly showing 'AP 27/1881'.

Hence

TYPE L.1.	cancel	17.5 x 5.25mm	black
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Chin Aleong/Proud show a second, smaller LATE hanstamp used in 1882, designated Port of Spain I 4, which yet bears a striking resemblance to the second word in their TOO-LATE type I 3. In the absence of the primary documents (covers), it is tentatively designated type L.2.

### **c. 'TOO LATE FOR BAG'**

These 'TOO LATE FOR BAG' handstamps, of which five separate types are identifiable, are invariably used without evidence of any fee and are, therefore, purely indicative. All are of the greatest rarity.

Hamilton records two covers (29 MR 1859 & 23 JY 1860) bearing an unboxed 'TOO-LATE for BAG' handstamp in serified type which is designated TLFB.1.

Chin Aleong/Proud illustrate (p.242) a boxed instrument for Port of Spain, designated type I 7. In the absence of primary evidence, it is tentatively allocated type TLFB.2. for the purposes of this article. They evidence a single date of use of 16 January 1931.

Predictably, San Fernando evidently possessed a companion instrument, illustrated on p.452 and designated type I.6. It is larger than the GPO handstamp, and given a single date of use of 26 November 1930; one partial strike on loose adhesive dated December 1882, believed to be from the same instrument is known to the writer. Without a proving cover to hand, this instrument is tentatively allocated type TLFB.3.

Figure 13 shows a One Penny postal card used from Scarborough, Tobago to Cedar Hall, Antigua dated 15 April 1896, with a bounced strike of an unboxed 'TOO LATE FOR BAG'. The same instrument is illustrated by Chin Aleong/Proud as I.3. sent out on 27 February 1882, and recorded used in JY 1887.

Hence

TYPE TLFB.4.	cancel	49.5 x 3.5mm	unboxed	black
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The fifth and last type, referred to at the beginning of this article, is the instrument used on board the Cedros Steamer, struck on Marriott's cover (lot 722) of 9 May 1872 in conjunction with cds type O.7. '23'. It is also known to the writer on loose adhesive in conjunction with the same cds dated 16 March 1878, and Hamilton records one other cover dated NO 13 1873 to Santa Cruz.

Hence

TYPE TLFB.5.	cancel	47 x 11.25mm	boxed	black
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### **d. 'LATE FEE PAID'**

Only one 'LATE FEE PAID' instrument is known, and is illustrated in figure 14. It is by no means common, but is more frequently found on cover than any other instrument, and apparently marks a return to the system of charging a Late Fee for acceptance after normal closure of the mails, probably in the 1930s. Chin Aleong/Proud list it as Port of Spain I.2.

Hence

TYPE LFP.1.	cancel	41.5 x 3.5mm	unboxed	violet
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### **References**

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2. *The Postage Stamps, etc., of the British Colonies in the West Indies.*  
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4. *The Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps.* – Dr John Edward Gray. 6th edition, 1875.
5. *The Postal History of Trinidad & Tobago.* – Joe Chin Aleong & Edward B. Proud. 1997
6. *Stamp Collecting Magazine*, – 27 February, 1953 p.829.
7. *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana* – W.A. Townsend & F.G. Howe. RPSL 1970

**Note:** All illustrations are of items in the writer's collection.



### 3. The adhesives

Whilst random strikes of the other groups may catch an adhesive, only the 'TOO-LATE' hand-stamps were systematically used to cancel them, and that exclusively on the Britannias printed by De La Rue from the Perkins Bacon plates within the timeframe 1862-1880 and the 1869 5/-. Quite large numbers of loose adhesives survive, as do a handful of covers (probably less than 20), making them an available and fascinating area to collect.

The following is a check-list of adhesives based on the writer's collection, simplified as to shade and watermark variety, cancelled 'TOO-LATE' at Port of Spain and San Fernando

**Table 1: Check-list of adhesives**

TYPE	DIMENSIONS (mm)	CHARACTERISTICS	COLOUR	FIGURE	P.O
TL 1	27 x 3.75	OVAL 'O's HYPHEN	BLACK	2	?
TL 2	26 x 3	ROUND 'O's HYPHEN	RED- PURPLE	3	?
TL 3	28.5 x 4	SQUARISH 'O's HYPHEN	BLACK/ RED	4/5	P.O.S
TL 4	28.5 x 4	OVAL 'O's HYPHEN	BLACK/ RED	6	P.O.S
TL 5	27.5 x 4.5	ROUND OVAL 'O's HYPHEN	BLACK	7	P.O.S
TL 6	26.5 x 3.75	SQUARISH 'O's NO HYPHEN	BLACK	8	P.O.S
TL 7	27.5 x 4(1)	SQUARISH 'O's HYPHEN	?	—	SAN FERNANDO
TL 8	27.5 x 4(1)	SQUARISH 'O's HYPHEN	?	—	PRINCES TOWN
TL 9	33 x 5.5(1)	SQUARISH 'O's NO HYPHEN	?	—	ERIN
TL 10	34 x 5.5	NO HYPHEN	BLACK	9	CEDROS
TL 11	29 x 4.5	OVAL 'O's HYPHEN	BLACK	10	COUVA
TL 12	33 x 5.5	SQUARISH 'O'S NO HYPHEN	RED	11	CIUDAD BOLIVAR
L 1	17.5 x 5.25	—	BLACK	12	P.O.S
L 2	14 x 4(1)	—	?	—	P.O.S
TLFB 1	?	UNBOXED SERIFED TYPE	BLACK	—	?
TLFB 2	38 x 9.5	BOXED	?	—	P.O.S
TLFB 3	47 x 12	BOXED	BLACK	—	SAN FERNANDO
TLFB 4	49.5 x 3.5	UNBOXED	BLACK	13	SCARBOROUGH
TLFB 5	47 x 11.25(2)	BOXED	BLACK	—	CEDROS STEAMER
LFP 1	41.5 x 3.5	UNBOXED	VIOLET	14	P.O.S

**NOTES.**

(1) Measured from Chin Aleong/Proud illustration

(2) Measured from Spink Marriott illustration

All measurements must be considered approximate; strikes tend to swell or curl as the instrument ages, and often lack definition and completeness.

Bright (3) also listed and priced SG71 in black and SG73 in red, but listed none of the values perf. 14. To find SG79, the extremely rare compound perf 14 x 12½, is theoretically possible – it was issued in 1880 – but is somewhat less than likely. All the others must surely exist. All values are to be found unused OG, with the exception thus far of the 5/-. As to scarcity, the 1d and 6d are plentiful, the 1/- much less so, especially in the various shades of purple/mauve, the 4d is quite scarce, and the 5/- distinctly rare.

#### 4. Tentative check-list

**Table 2: Check-list of markings**

SG	FACE VALUE	PERF.	COLOUR	BLACK TOO-LATE	RED TOO LATE
69	(1d)	12½	Red	✓	
70	4d	12½	Purple	✓	✓
71	4d	12½	Grey	–	–
72	6d	12½	Green	✓	
73	1/-	12½	Mauve	✓	–
74	1/-	12½	Yellow	✓	–
75	(1d)	14	Red		
76	4d	14	Purple	✓	–
77	6d	14	Green	✓	✓
78	1/-	14	Yellow		
79	6d	14 x 12½	Green	–	–
87	5/-	12½	Rose-Lilac	✓	

#### 5. Scarcity

Estimating scarcity is akin to speculating in gold; fresh finds in rival mines are always likely to upset the calculus. Nothing much to the writer's knowledge, has been written on the 'TOO-LATE' markings since the sermonising of the nineteenth century. In the hope, however, of drawing the return fire of the like of Joe Chin Aleong, Ben Ramkissoon, David Druett and Simon Goldblatt – and having consulted Michael Hamilton whose help is gratefully acknowledged – the following is a tentative estimate of scarcity (but see the note on adhesives in paragraph 3 above) of the handstamps:–

**Table 3: Scarcity**

TL.1.	VR	– known on adhesive only
TL.2.		
TL.3.	C	– on adhesive; S on cover
TL.4.		
TL.5.	ER	– known on adhesive only
TL.6.	S	– known on cover only
TL.7.	C	– on adhesive; ER on cover
TL.8.	ER	– identified on cover only
TL.9.	ER	– identified on cover only
TL. 10.	VR	– identified on covers only (2-3 philatelic)
TL. 11.	ER	– known on cover only
TL. 12.	VR	– on adhesive only
L.1.	ER	– known on cover only
L.2.	VR	
TLFB.1.	ER	– known on cover only
TLFB.2.	VR	– known on cover only
TLFB.3.	VR	– on cover and adhesive
TLFBA	ER	– known on cover only
TLFB.5.	ER	– on cover and adhesive
UP. 1.	S	– on cover only

This table uses Townsend & Howe's notation for British Guiana (7):–

ER = Exceedingly rare (1 or 2 known)	S = Scarce (up to 25 known)
VR = Very rare (up to 5 known)	RC = Rather common (up to 50 known)
R = Rare (up to 10 known)	C = Common – numbers relatively meaningless
VS = Very scarce (up to 15 known)	VC = Very common – numbers relatively meaningless



Figure 1



Figure 4



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 6



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 7



Figure 11



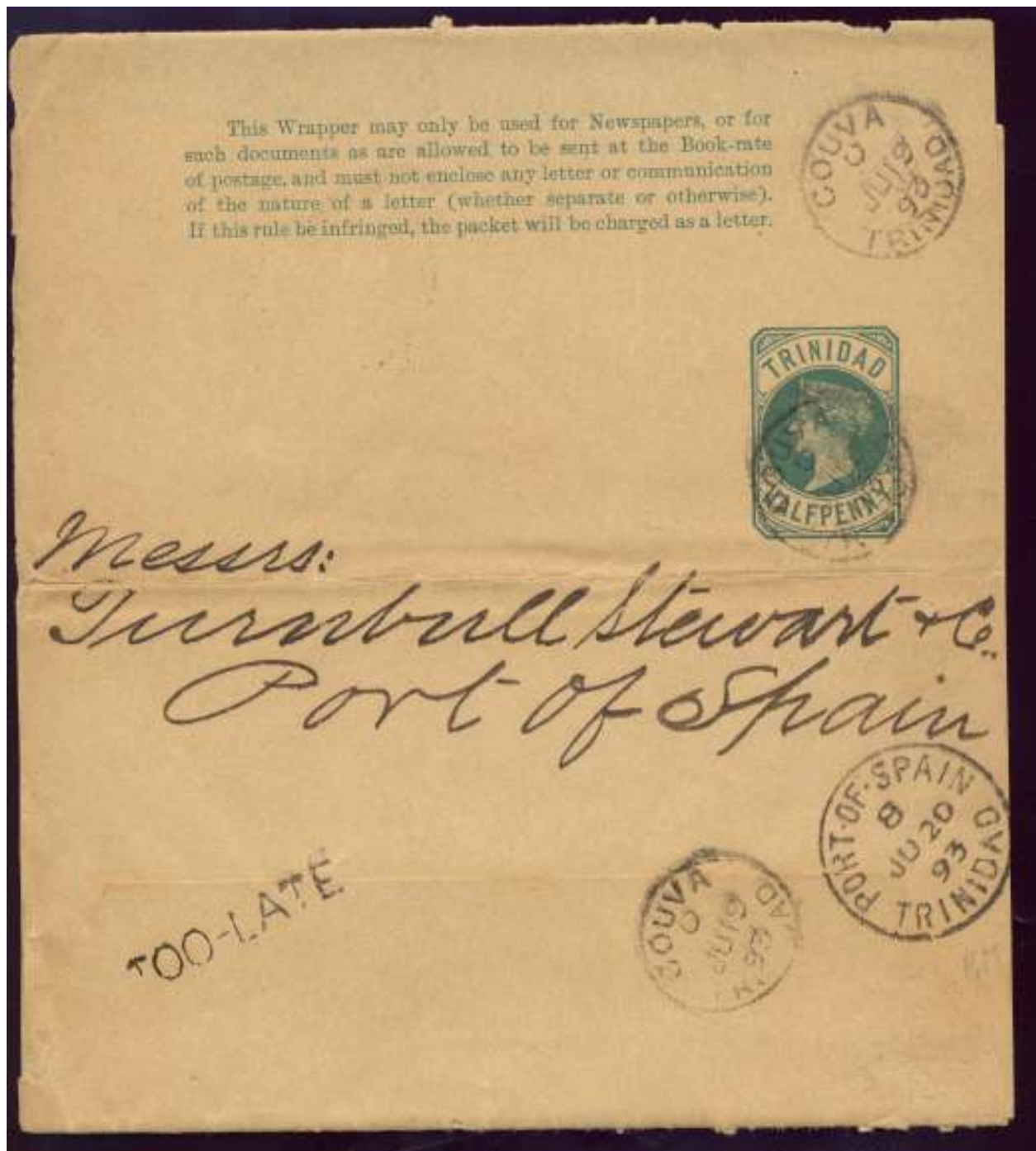


Figure 10



Figure 12



Figure 13



Figure 14

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**AUCTION UPDATE****BY CHARLES FREELAND****Grosvenor 19-20 November**

The half-yearly Grosvenor sales are rapidly becoming events for the BWI collector to keep an eye on. This was by some way the largest the house has held both in terms of the number of lots (over 2,500) and the hammer total (about £1.3m, plus 15% buyers premium). The latter was boosted by a single amazing lot of reconstructed 1840 GB plates, but even without them the total exceeded £1m.

There were two main sources of BWI in the sale, Simon Goldblatt's Imperials of used stamps of the world and many selected items from the Argyll Etkin stock. Simon's material was "straight" in character although it did include many elusive used items. Most fetched fair to good prices for the wholesale market but some were cheap indeed. Perhaps they could have done with more sympathetic lotting. The Argyll pieces, mostly proof material, were reserved high and in many cases fetched more than their reserves. I thought the Montserrat did particularly well, with the 1903 duty tablet die proofs fetching £220 each and the 1932 colour trials £300 each. But the Nevis imperf transfers were over-reserved and unsold. I noted with gratuitous satisfaction that the group of used Bermuda provisional postcards that the firm had acquired in the Ulrich sale for a song (I know as I was the underbidder) also did not find buyers at some way below Argyll's retail prices.

Now that Grosvenor has its own auction room I assume we can expect more frequent sales.

**Coming events**

Another major collection, Graham Hoey's Bahamas, comes up at Cavendish on 5 March. Graham's eyesight is sadly waning and he has decided to retain only his postal stationery. The collection is almost entirely stamps and proofs, with a scattering of early covers and a few lots of out-island markings. The principal strength is in plate flaws, watermark varieties and proof and specimen material, and the multiples include a significant number of plated pieces, including plate proofs. The proofs for the Edwards and staircases are especially notable in their range and quality. However, while the issued stamps are pretty complete, this may not be the opportunity to acquire some of the rarest single stamps, for example there are no compound perfs in the sale. Cavendish have taken the trouble to reproduce Graham's scholarly write-ups in many of their descriptions and the information provided on the proofs in particular extends what has appeared in print before.

Another important event for those with deep pockets will be the Spink sale on 5 May, where a marvellous range of BWI soldier's letters ex Gerald Sattin's collection will be on the block. Many of these are spectacular usages and they cover most of our colonies.

David Druett's ad on page 7 announces some more goodies from Grenada, Leeward Is and Virgin Is in a mail sale on 8 April. In addition, before the next bulletin appears, Spink will have offered the Frazer Virgin Islands, although it has twice been postponed. Those still after a missing Virgin should reserve the afternoon of 20 May.. Finally, if you are a regular at the monthly Bonhams sales, the stamp department and auction location has now moved to Knightsbridge (a smart location convenient for Harrods fans) at Bonhams offices in Montpelier Street, London SW7 1HH.

**AUCTION UPDATE - JAMAICA****BY STEVE JARVIS**

Jamaican collectors experienced a serious attack on their bank accounts late last year when, like London buses, three auctions containing serious items came along in quick succession.

The Spink auction contained 46 stamp lots including no less than four pine 1s with dollar variety (used). However, the star item, in my opinion, was a previously unrecorded 1890-91 2½d on 4d. provisional, a horizontal strip of four with interpanneau margin at right, variety surcharge double; which achieved double estimate at £900, the underbidder, Paul Wright was most disturbed at missing out on this fine addition to his Vendryes collection. The 1s black on green blk 4, dollar achieved over SG Cat at £1000 and 1916-20 War Stamps 1917 (March) 3d. purple on yellow showing overprint sideways (almost complete), fine mint. S.G. 75d, achieved an amazing £1500 against a Cat of £300 and estimate of £80-£100.

The 1st instalment of the Ted Proud (London Stamp Exchange) collection of Jamaica was held at the National Liberal Club consisting of 98 postal history lots. I timed my arrival for the lunch break, calculating (using Proud estimates) that Jamaica should commence at about 2:30, much to my chagrin, Jamaica had been processed some time earlier. All was not lost, due to the very high reserves and what seemed a small number of room bidders, all but two of my targets had been unsold and I was able to purchase at reserve. However, I missed out on the 1762 s/l. 'Kingston' (earliest recorded Kingston mark) which sold for £650. Top prices went for the 2 Transit covers from South America at £1300 & £1400, both well over reserve. (The next instalment with 130 lots is on 12<sup>th</sup> March).

The 3rd sale was the Ken Watson sale at Cavendish, consisting of 75 postal history lots. This sale was full of character items, as might be expected from this long time connoisseur of Jamaican collecting. A 1711 Dummer letter sold for £800 (I can't work out why so cheap when the one at Swarbrick sold for £4,620). The 1839 "BLACK RIVER" mark (unrecorded by Foster) was seriously under estimated at £100, fetching £850, I had hopes of picking up a bargain but was soundly outbid. The rare 'B' oblit on 1880 postcard with 'DUNCANS/JAMAICA' cds fetched £700 against an estimate of £150 and the 5 lots featuring postcards relating to the 1907 Earthquake realised £1820 against estimates of £680.

The following interesting item was tucked away in lot 554 near the end of the section:



A cover from Ginger Ridge with v. fine "R" in circle matching an previously unrecorded intaglio "GD" in double circle mark obliteration which made £300 (est £100).

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