

Figure 1

**Nevis Key Plates
By Federico Borromeo**

Composite artist drawing,
dated 12 June 1879,
with hand-painted alternative
value, name of Colony tablets,
brown and blue labels of
proposed colours.

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
Golden Jubilee 2004

Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st 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 30th October and at Spink on Sunday 31st, with a dinner on the intervening evening.

On Saturday the 30th 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 Michael Oliver 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

Dennis Mitton has identified the following suggested accommodation:

- The Bonnington, Southampton Row, London WC 1, Tel. 0207242 2828
e-mail sales@bonnington.com. If you mention Spink when booking, you may get a discount.
- The Grange, - same address as above, Tel. 02077233 7888
e-mail holborn@grangehotels.co.uk
If you quote Spink ID No 12626 when booking, you may get a discount
- Bedford Hotel, Southampton Row, London WC1B 4HD, Tel. 0207 636 7822
web site www.imperialhotels.co.uk

All these hotels are very close to Spinks. The committee cannot be responsible for any bookings or complaints arising from members relating to their stay. The price guide is £90 per person for room and breakfast.

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2003

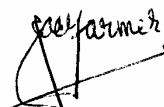
	£'s	2003	£'s	2002
INCOME :				
Subscriptions		3,157		2,625
Publications – Net surplus less postage	14		268	
Less: <i>Publication advertising</i>			(150)	
<i>Depreciation of printer</i>	(470)	(456)	-	118
Auction and other donations		1,083		724
Opinion fees		225		-
Interest received less tax		(13)		20
TOTAL INCOME		3,996		3,487
EXPENDITURE :				
Bulletin Costs less advertising	1,649		2072	
Bulletin printer repairs	376		-	
Distribution and editorial expenses	880	2,905	889	2961
Library - Cost of removal		-		220
Meeting room hire		335		230
Wipex 2002 – net cost after recoveries		20		256
ABPS affiliation fee		135		133
Officers administration – Stationery, postage, telephone etc		294		132
Miscellaneous		-		58
		3,689		3,990
SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE		307	£'s	(503)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2003

ACCUMULATED FUND				
Balance at 1st January 2002		18,049		18,552
Add: Surplus for the year		307		(503)
Dollar conversion reserve		79		232
		18,435		18,281
Less : Stocks of publications at cost		(16,359)		(14,700)
		2,076	£'s	3,581
REPRESENTED BY:				
Printer (net of depreciation)		1,880		-
Cash at banks		2,394		5,999
Debtors - amounts due to us		475		537
		4,749		6,536
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,355)		(2,583)	
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	(318)	(2,673)	(372)	
		2,076	£'s	3,581

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2003 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me ; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2003 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date, save that the Stocks of Publications, whilst valued at cost as consistent with previous accounts, are unlikely to have a market value of the sum stated on that date and therefore in the balance sheet have been treated as having a nil value. In all other respects the finances of the Study Circle appear to be sound. There are two honorary life members.

 J.A.C. Farmer, F.C.A., FRPSL, Honorary Auditor

**MINUTES OF THE 49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC
HELD AT 2:15 PM SATURDAY 24TH APRIL 2004**

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

Peter Ford welcomed all members to the meeting and hoped that they would all again be present in the Autumn for the 2004 Golden Jubilee Celebrations, he thanked James Grist and Grosvenor Auctions for letting us use their premises.

2. Apologies for Absence

Peter Boulton and Michael Hamilton.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

Published in Bulletin No. 197, June 2003, pages 4-9

4. Report by the Hon. General Secretary (Peter Boulton)

Last year's programme of events included the AGM and members auction on 27th April 2003. This was fully reported in the Bulletin for June 2003. The highlight of the year was our biennial convention, which was held at the Honiley Court Hotel, near Leamington and was very successful. The event was admirably reported and described in the December 2003 Bulletin.

Our main event for the current year is the Golden Jubilee to be held on 30th & 31st October. The arrangements will be reported by Derek Nathan and further details should be published in the June Bulletin.

The membership now stands at a total of 329, of which 216 are UK members and 113 are overseas members. This is only one less than last year's total. Five members died during the year and 10 members were removed due to failure to pay their subscriptions, even after reminder letters. However, we have now gained 12 new members. The membership database is working satisfactorily and is continuously being updated. Changes of addresses etc. and new members are now recorded in each issue of the Bulletin. A total of 45 amendments have been received following the publication of individual member's details on the back of the address label for the March issue of the Bulletin. Members are urged to let me know about any change of address as soon as possible, otherwise they may miss an issue of the Bulletin.

I should like to propose a vote of thanks to our member, James Grist of Grosvenor Auctions for kindly allowing us to use this room for our meeting.

5. Report by the Hon. Editor (Steve Jarvis)

The bulletin continues to thrive, thanks to the excellent contributions from members. I hope I have managed to include sufficient variety to stimulate the varied interests of our membership. Please keep the articles flowing.

Readers probably noticed that the Jubilee edition contained colour for the first time, Peter Ford & I needed to undertake all the printing to make the exercise economically viable and I was much relieved when I finally delivered the packages to the Post Office. I think the worst job was sticking about 1000 stamps on the envelopes, my tongue was very sore after the first evening until I worked out a better procedure for the subsequent sessions. I now fully appreciate the work previously undertaken by Michael Oliver, to whom I again say 'thank you' for the work undertaken during 2003.

My thanks also to other unsung heroes, Charles Freeland & Derek Nathan, for their excellent proof reading work. Some of my oversights would have been quite embarrassing, had they reached the published edition!

My plans for the forthcoming year are less radical, involving refining production techniques and including colour illustrations wherever viable.

The web site continues to evolve and I thank Peter Fernbank for his sterling work converting old bulletins to electronic format. Peter has now reached edition 50, another Jubilee. The web site has now been transferred to an improved service, so hopefully the poor response time previously experienced has been overcome.

6. Report by the Hon. Treasurer (Ray Stanton)

I am pleased to be able to report that the Income statement for the Study Circle for the year ended 31st December 2003 shows a surplus of £307 following the deficit of £503 last year.

This is due to a combination of factors. The main two were effect of the increase in subscriptions and a substantial donation from a member added to the auction realisation, whilst the Leamington meeting was not only self financing but actually produced a small surplus. This overall surplus is all the more creditable given that publication sales in 2003 were practically nil. Sales in 2004 via the new arrangements with David Druett are expected to be much more substantial.

Expenses were similar in many instances to previous years. Although bulletin costs were similar to last year, the 2003 cost does include the repair costs of the bulletin printer which will be mainly of benefit to 2004. Similarly the surplus has been sufficient to enable a charge for depreciation of the new publications printer to be made even though the printer only came into use at the very end of the year.

Last year we asked for pledges from members in the unlikely event that the purchase of the new publications printer caused the Study Circle finances to be overextended. You will be pleased to know that pledges have been received, which if called upon, would cover the cost of the printer.

I would like once again to thank Tony Farmer for auditing the accounts for the Study Circle in his usual professional way.

7. Report by the Hon. Librarian (Ian Jakes)

There has been a loan of 27 books to 10 Members during the year. This compares favourably with the loan of 10 books to 5 Members during the year ended April 2003. Two Members provided information for the scrap books in the year in addition to information provided by the Hon. Librarian. This compares with no Members providing information for the scrap books in the previous year.

All Members are urged to make the best use of the Library and to provide new information for storage in the Library. There is a wealth of information in the Library. If you do not know the name of the book or other publication containing the information which is required the Hon. Librarian is quite willing to investigate any points raised and to provide such information as is contained in the Library. This year one Member requested information which was not in the Library. The Hon. Librarian provided the name and address of the organization holding the information requested and provided an internet address. Personal visits to the Library can be arranged by prior appointment with the Hon. Librarian.

Information concerning the philately of British Honduras has been improved by the acquisition of a new book "The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps Volume 5 Bermuda British Honduras" published in 1973 by Robson Lowe Limited (Library reference 2.8.1.2 location AI). Another new book has been ordered for the Library and will be received shortly. This is "Danish West Indies Mails 1754 to 1917 Volume 1 Postal History" Second Edition by John L. Dubois published in 2004. This new book covers every imaginable aspect of Danish West Indies postal history. The story of Danish West Indies philately is a keystone in the story of Caribbean philately and includes postal services provided by the British, French, German, Spanish, Danish, United States and others. Ranging from the early British packet mails to later steam ship letters to the U.S. there is something here for every collector and postal historian. Please contact the Hon. Librarian to borrow this new book.

The Hon. Librarian has provided information to Simon Goldblatt on a stamp to be included in the 50th Anniversary Auction. Other details are top secret!

Copies of B.W.I.S.C. bulletin articles from 1954 to 2003 concerning Cayman Islands philately including an Index was sent to Cayman Islands National Archive pursuant to their request on 19th April 2004. This information could itself form a book for future publication by B.W.I.S.C.

Finally, the Hon. Librarian has received a letter from David Rennie who is the regular book reviewer for the "Philatelic Exporter" inviting us to send new books published by B.W.I.S.C. to him for review.

8. Report by the Hon. Publications Officer (Peter Ford)

The last year has been particularly frustrating on the publications front. I had very much hoped to have had the latest volume of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia published by year's end. However, my black and white laser printer decided that it had had enough and needed a service. It was decided by the Committee that our eventual ends would best be served by returning the printer to the UK (where the service would be much cheaper) and purchasing a colour laser printer. This would allow our Bulletin editor to take over the old printer and print those pages of the Bulletin in black and white whilst the colour printer could do the others. The results of this were first seen when our 200th issue appeared in March. The purchase of an expensive printer, however, would not have been possible without the promise of the financial assistance from members. It was with this in mind, that we asked for a pledge in the June Bulletin; this appeal was very well subscribed to and I would personally like to thank those who pledged money for their support.

However, I digress. I have now published Volume 9 of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia and have in the pipeline some six new publications. Unfortunately, all our efforts to find the missing papers of Sir John Marriott have failed, and so I have decided not to publish the Trinidad handbook as originally intended. Nevertheless, I thought that, to miss an opportunity to produce a new definitive handbook on such an important colony as Trinidad, would be an opportunity missed. So I have recruited the services of that Trinidad specialist, Dr. Ben Ramkissoon to write the missing chapters; the book will eventually be published under joint authorship. I intend this to be a really special publication covering the period up to the end of the 'Trinidad' only issues. The beginning of 2006 is my intended publication date. Other publications in preparation are one on British Guiana Postcards, one on Barbados Revenues, one on Bermuda Censorship as well as another volume of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia on Airmails. Mike Rego's Steamship Lines book should also appear eventually.

Another change during the year has been the change of our storage and distribution arrangements. Mike Spaven decided to sell his house and move into smaller premises. I would like to express the thanks of the membership to Mike for his help over the past few years. All this made new arrangements necessary. David Druett of Pennymead Auctions has very generously volunteered to take over the job. He has made great advances in exposing our books to a wider audience through his experience and, together with his ability to accept credit cards, should make for increased sales in few the next years. One small problem has, however, occurred since he took over. His father, in whose house some of the publications are stored has had a fall, and it seems as though David may have to sell it. This presents us with a small storage problem. We need to ask for volunteers to provide us with a small amount of storage space. The space just needs to be warm and dry; any assistance, however small, will help. Please, anyone willing to help just contact me (*Space was offered at the meeting*).

Meanwhile, I hope to be able to produce a minimum of two books or booklets each year in order to keep our Study Circle at the forefront of specialist societies, providing us with a small income and publicising our society to encourage new members.

9. Report by the Hon. Public Relations Officer (Anthony Wilkinson)

None provided.

10. Report by the Chairman of the Committee (Peter Ford)

The last year has been an exciting one for the Study Circle. Last year's auction was most successful with takings up slightly on the previous year's record with the number of lots sold also up on the previous year. For this, we have to thank not only our excellent auctioneer, Simon Goldblatt, but also his willing helpers. This year's auction will, I am sure, be helped by the excellently produced catalogue. After the hot summer weather, in September, we held a most successful Convention in what can only be described as ideal surroundings. We were entertained by two most informative displays, one on 'Antigua' by Stella Pearse and one on 'Imperium GV Key Plate Issues' by Peter Fernbank. The members' table was very successful taking some £3,000 on the day and our regular dealers who were present were, I believe, happy with their day. In addition, I think that all those who attended had a very enjoyable day.

During the last year we unfortunately lost some of our longest-serving and best-known members. Just before the Convention, we learned of the passing of Clary Holt. Clary and his wife had been regular attendees of our Conventions and Clary had been our North American Representative for many years. On behalf of the Study Circle, I wrote to Clary's widow expressing our condolences. Also earlier this year we lost Bill Atmore who was a keen student of Jamaican Philately. Bill was only 39 and will be sorely missed.

I cannot omit from my annual report, the improvements that have been made to the Bulletin which, under the editorship of Steve Jarvis, has gone from strength to strength culminating in the last issue, the 200th, within which we introduced colour for the first time; also, it was the first we had produced ourselves. Steve has obviously got the bit between his teeth and we are expecting more of the same in the future, provided, of course, he receives sufficient articles from the membership. Steve has also been the prime mover behind our website. He has been responsible for updating it on a regular basis and it is a source of information for everybody and, I am certain, is helpful in recruiting new members. Thank you, Steve!

We can, I am sure, look forward to another successful year, the highlight of which will be our Golden Jubilee weekend in October. I would like to encourage all members to make an effort to attend. We have two cracking formal displays in prospect and it should overall be a very enjoyable weekend with the opportunity for those who have not attended any of our functions before to put faces to those names that are familiar to them. Details will be in the report to follow and also in the June Bulletin and, of course on our website.

You have heard from the officers of the Circle about the membership numbers, the improvements that have been made to our Bulletin, the healthy state of our budget, the usage of our library and the progress of our publications empire. All of this good news would not be possible without the work and the efforts of your Committee. As Chairman, I would like to thank all of the Committee, for without their support the Circle would not function.

11. Report by Derek Nathan on Arrangements for the 2004 Golden Jubilee

I am confident that arrangements are progressing smoothly, if slightly altered from those published previously.

Saturday 30th October. At the Royal Philatelic Society's rooms 41, Devonshire Place, W1.

10 am	Opening address by the President or Chairman.
10.10 – 10.40	Ten frames of informal displays, with very short remarks, if volunteered
10.40 – 11.10	Ten further frames similar
11.20 – 11.30	Coffee and biscuits
11.45 - 12.30	Michael Medlicott to show 10 frames of BWI Revenues, Chairman to arrange vote of thanks.
12.40 - 13.45	Lunch, informal, at a local hostelry or elsewhere
13.50 - 14.50	Joseph Hackmey RDP, to show Grenada or Barbados, 10 frames, Chairman to arrange vote of thanks.
15.00 - 15.40	Ten frames informal displays
15.45 - 16.10	Tea and biscuits
16.15 - 16.50	Ten frames informal displays.
16.50 - 17.00	Closing remarks. Michael Oliver has assured that the 40 frames of informal displays have been over-subscribed, and that a little tactful pruning will be necessary. These will not cover all our territories but a very good selection.
19.00	at Getti's Restaurant, corner of Devonshire St and Marylebone High St, we have reserved the entire basement area. This will take up to 70 diners, at a pinch, so an advance list of those wishing to come, and, I suggest, a small deposit should be arranged. No finishing time has been mooted, but the restaurant may wish to be consulted on this!

Sunday 31st October at Spink's Auction Room, opposite the Bonnington.

My contribution here is more limited. I have arranged for Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Queen's Collection to speak to us about his various responsibilities, but no details have been arranged. There will be a prestige Auction, which Simon and Charles are arranging, there will be, I believe,

attendance from a number of dealers, but I have had no contact in this direction. I understand that Nigel is coping with this.

Publicity has yet to appear but the Committee are actively pursuing with a number of publications.

12. Election of the Chairman of the Committee

Peter Ford was re-elected unopposed.

13. Re-election of Officers

The President, Vice-Presidents, Hon. Officers and Messrs. N. Chandler, M. Hamilton and D. Mitton have all agreed to continue as members of the Committee and there are no other nominations. Consequently, all are automatically re-elected.

14. Re-election of the Hon. Auditor

Mr. J.A.C. Farmer has agreed to stand and there are no other nominations. Consequently, he is automatically re-elected. Ray Stanton proposed a vote of thanks to Tony for the good work which he has done as auditor, and this was agreed by the meeting.

15. Other Business

None.

AUCTION REPORT – 2004

Should we begin this report with news of the twelve members, at least, who hankered after lot 496 (sold for £140)? Or the disconcerting run of 13 lots (from 55 to 67) without a sale –probably a circle record, and one we hope will never be matched? It is better and more appropriate to begin with a warm vote of thanks to Grosvenor Auctions for allowing us to use their auction rooms, and giving us such a warm welcome there.



The setting, immediately above Stanley Gibbons in the Strand, could not be more apt. The accommodation was tailor-made for our purpose and there was space and comfort for all those attending, some 45 in total. So a hearty thank you to James Grist and his colleagues. Let us hope that this happy relationship will last for many years to come.

With the auction no longer restricted to 500 lots, for there is no longer a strict deadline for closure, it was quite a surprise to see our auctioneer finish at his customary time of 5:35pm. The increase in tempo, to 260 lots per hour, caught one or two members unawares, scurrying back to their seats from too leisurely a feasting on coffee and biscuits on offer; but the auctioneer has promised to conduct our Golden Jubilee auction – now less than 6 months away – with the gentle pace and solemnity that such a prestigious event deserves.

Given the insistence of our auction team that they aim to get their valuations right, one might suppose they would hang their head in embarrassment when lot 99, estimated at £30, opened and sold at £230. Not a bit of it! "It's swings and roundabouts" claimed the auctioneer afterwards, "this was actually part of an entire BWI collection furnished by a member for sale; we calculate that, for the lots that sold, the difference between our total estimates and actual realisations was exactly £1".



This smacked of sophistry, and no similar excuses were offered for the other two lots that went wild in Barbados – lot 176 (est. £20) where a room bidder at £105 trumped the three-figure bid on the auction book and, more notably still, lot 106 (est. £35), where bidding opened on £75 at the top of the book, and was fought up to £200 in the room. In the event quite a lot of material sold significantly above estimate, so that the sale total of close to £14,000 represented an uplift of more

than 5% above the corresponding estimates. At a time when both the US dollar and – according to the auctioneer – the auction book were weak, the results speak volumes for the current buoyancy of demand for philatelic material of character.

About 60% of the lots were sold on the day of the sale and, except for the blip in Bahamas mentioned earlier, and less noticeable stutters in British Guiana, Cayman Is., and Dominica, there was hardly a quiet passage for those present, until we reached the French accountancy marks (which were actually British) that our membership does not yet hold in much esteem.

Among the other lots to sell briskly was 274 (St Joseph on Leeward QV 1d) at £52 against est. £18; the forgeries of lots 74, 401, 402, Biabou on SG46 (£100, est. £38) and that delicious Revenue £1 of St. Vincent, lot 493, which quadrupled its £25 estimate. The demand for items outside the mainstream is increasing, so take note of the £46 realised by the Jamaica Mercury, lot 312, and the home-produced postcards, lot 335, at £110.



Whether or not because colour illustration brought out character in a way mere description could not achieve, our three most valuable covers were well supported. The curiously appealing lot 424 fetched a healthy £30 above its £190 estimate, the early St. Kitts letter, lot 422, realised half as much again (£340, est. £220), and the seductive lot 516 of Trinidad sold at £520 to the higher of two bidders on the book. One sensed that some of those present would have readily competed, had the bidding started at a lower level.

Does catalogue illustration boost sales? Of twelve items on the front cover, two are still in hand. All 22 of those centrally illustrated found a buyer. Yet on the back cover, 10 out of the 41 lots shown there were left unsold. Clearly we all appreciate the introduction to the catalogue and its contents. On the end-paper the jury is still deliberating.

The auctioneer's assertion that the book was weak should be taken with a pinch of salt. Out of the 365 lots sold, 195 went to 'A' numbers, whose bids are already entered on the book, so those who were present were marginally further from achieving parity than they have been in previous years. One tradition of our annual auction is that we are entirely open about the existence or otherwise of a book bid, as each lot comes up for sale. Book limits are never disclosed until they are beaten, unless there are book bids at the same level; for there the buyer is entitled to know that the limit has been reached against competition.

At the same time the room bidder knows that she or he can enter the bidding at the lowest available level, and on occasions this year, there was some lively competition between the friends and rivals in the room, starting at the three-quarter estimate level, and carrying the contest up to perhaps double that, or even to double estimate.

Jamaica has been quiescent for a number of years. This time it shows signs of stirring, perhaps because we have screened off the supply of numeral postmarks for which demand has been dwindling (but it will return!). Antigua, Nevis, St. Christopher, St. Kitts-Nevis, all look healthy. Barbados & St. Vincent continue to lead the pack. This said, all our territories have their loyal supporters, and if you pick any one of them and go for quality, go for character, go for rarity, we continue to believe that you will not go wrong. Modest or high-flying these are the types of items that we aspire to offer from our members to our members year after year. If an overall verdict is to be given, it is that the 2004 auction has come up to standard. We are just, but only just, satisfied.

Results are published on the enclosed flyer and on our web site.

Unsold lots are identified by 'UNS' and those followed with a value below are available on a **first come first-served basis**, at that price.

Orders, please by letters, fax or phone to Simon Goldblatt – we have yet to persuade him to use e-mail.

For any member offering to buy at least three lots to a value of £40 or more the choice is available of 5% discount or credit card payment free of charge. Discount will be given to a qualifying order, even when part of the lots ordered has already been sold.

RESEARCH INTO WAR TAX OVERPRINTS**By JOHN DAVIS**

Continuing with my researches, I would be pleased to hear from any members who may be able to help.

Dominica

½d green – Local overprint – SG56. Is it known where the stamps were overprinted?

½d green – SG57.

3d purple/yellow SG58

Are the precise issue dates known?

1½d on 2½d Orange SG59

Montserrat

1½d black and orange SG62 – I have seen the two essays, but I would like to know if die proofs and imperforate proofs exist?

½d green issued 8 August 1917

½d deep green issued October 1918 according to Gibbons

Am I correct in assuming that the ½d stamps packed by De La Rue in May 1918, requisitions 25/18, 29/18, and 40/18, and overprinted WAR STAMP in both red and black, were all printed in the "green" shade? (SG60 and SG61).

On 12 August 1918, requisitions 61/18 and 68/18, ½d stamps were packed with both the red and black overprints. As Gibbons only list the red overprint as being in the "green" shade, with the ½d in the deep green shade being issued in October 1918, this raises the following questions:–

Was the batch packed from requisition 61/18 with the black overprint only, in green, deep green or a combination of both?

Were the stamps with the black overprint, packed from requisition 68/18 that contained stamps with both black and red overprints, in the green, or deep green shades, or a combination of both?

Is it known if examples with the red overprint, exist in the unlisted deep green shade?

St Kitts-Nevis

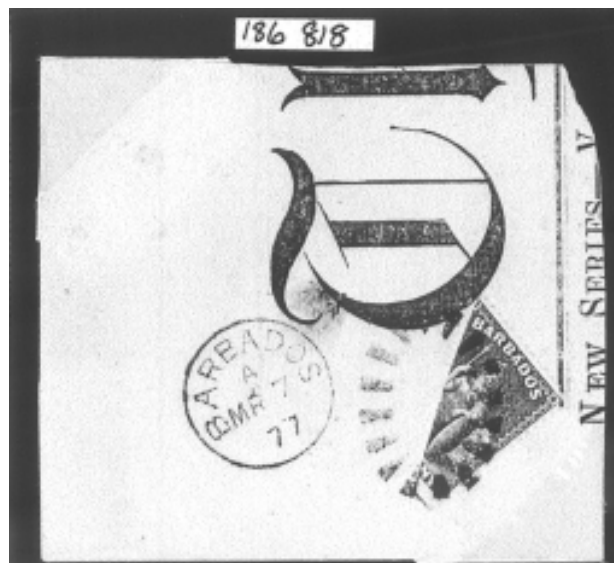
½d War Tax. Is the precise date of issue known?

There were two DLR printings of the ½d War Tax stamp. one in 1916 and the other in 1917. Is it known if both printings contained a combination of both the dull blue-green and deep green shades, or was the first printing in dull blue-green and the second in deep green as suggested by Ewens, or what?

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Following the SG catalogue additional footnotes relating to the Britannias bisected on piece I am pleased to report that the Royal have recently issued a certificate for my 73a, having done so on a dated piece from an identifiable newspaper "in certain circumstances".





peter singer



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- CAYMAN ISLANDS 1912** A cover to Georgetown franked 1912 2d grey, neatly cancelled by the small boxed "EAST END / Grand Cayman / RURAL / Post Collection" in violet, Georgetown cds, backstamped at Boddentown. **£1,500**
- GRENADA 1929** A proof of the De La Rue Registration Envelope, size G, printed in black, endorsed "Grenada 2580, appd. (initials) 12/1, G size". **£475**
- JAMAICA 1919** A cover (stains) to Kingston, franked 1919 11/2d green, cancelled by "JAMAICA RAILWAY / MAGGOTTY" cds in blue, backstamped "TPO / JAMAICA". **£250**



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NEVIS

NOTES ON DE LA RUE 'COLONIAL' KEY PLATES

BY FEDERICO BORROMEO

The true 'Key Type' was first produced by De La Rue in 1879. In 1855 De La Rue had been awarded the printing contract for producing, by means of a quick and cheap method, Great Britain stamps using typography (surface printing). In the same period, stamps were also supplied by Perkins Bacon using recess printing, a much more costly process, although giving a much better result from an aesthetic point of view ¹. Some 25 years later, De La Rue turned their skills to produce stamps for the colonies. Three 'Key Types' with the same taste and style, but slightly different designs, were produced during Queen Victoria's reign. Nevis used only the first of these ².

- Key Plate 1, the 'Colonial' type (1879) ³
- Key Plate 2, known as 'Postage & Revenue' (1889).
- Key Plate 3, known as 'Postage Postage' (1890).

Prompted by the UPU conventions, the 'Uniform Key Type' system developed as a mechanism for the economical production of stamps which could be used for different colonies. De La Rue invented an ingenious method whereby stamps of the same basic design were printed in two different stages. A common printing plate containing only the Queen's portrait with a blank country name and value tablets (the 'Key Plate') was used for every printing. A second plate, showing only the name of the relevant colony and the value (the 'Duty Plate'), was used for each separate denomination for each colony.

Since the stamps had to be produced in two different passages, exactly placing the duty plate and matching the colour of the ink, the registration required a very high standard of accuracy. It is astonishing how the watermark was perfectly placed in the centre of the stamp and how the perforations hardly ever intrude into the design.

When several of his territories applied to join the UPU, the Auditor General of the Leeward Islands wrote a letter, dated 15 May 1879, to the Colonial Secretary. The text includes the following interesting passages:

*" ... It will therefore be necessary to provide 4d stamps for Antigua, St. Kitts, Dominica and Montserrat. Nevis and Virgin Islands have already stamps of the denomination, and for all the Presidencies Stamps for 2 1/2d and a sufficient number of Post Cards will also be required for each Presidency.....It will I presume be necessary to have the sanction of the Post-Master-General for the use of the new Stamps.....I enclose a requisition for Stamps mentioned above estimated to be sufficient for six months. In making the estimate I have been guided by the number of letters passing through the Antigua Post Office as furnished by Mr. Gray.....I beg to mention that the dies of the Postage Stamps for the several Presidencies at present in use are in the custody of the Crown Agents, except those of Nevis, which are in the hands of Nissen and Parker Stationers & c. of London"*⁴.

¹ Perkins Bacon was not a very reliable firm, commercially and financially speaking.

² Nevis stamps were not produced after 1890.

³ Also known as 'Leeward Island' type or 'Uniform Colonial', known latterly as 'General Key Plate' showing name of the colony and denomination.

⁴ Easton J., *The De La Rue history of British and foreign postage stamps, 1855 to 1901*, Faber & Faber, London 1958, p. 331

Just one day after the letter of the Auditor General we have the following Requisition ⁵:

Requisition No. 896 of 16 May 1879 for Adhesive Stamps, Antigua, Nevis, Montserrat & Virgin Islands.

Die for the production of Key-forme	£50
Key-forme of 60 multiples from above die	21
Overprint forme of 60 multiples to print the name	
Antigua and the duty 2½d on Key-sheets	12
2½d overprint forme do for Nevis	12
2½d " " " " Montserrat	12
4d " " " " "	12
2½d overprint forme do for Virgin Islands	12

The first British West Indies Colonies to be admitted from July 1st were, in addition to Nevis, Antigua, Montserrat, Virgin Islands, St. Kitts and Dominica. The proposed new rates were to be 4d per ½ oz (or 15 grams) for letters, 2½d for a packet not exceeding 4 ounces of commercial papers and a fixed registration fee of 2d, for both letters and packets.

The first stamp printed for Nevis was the 2½d red-brown with a printing of 780 only, invoiced on 7 November 1879. As we have seen in the letter of the Auditor General of the Leeward Islands, this quantity was estimated to suffice for six months, less than 5 per day ⁶. The next consignment of 1620 of that stamp was delivered at the end of May 1880, six months later, as a two years provision. Another consignment of the same denomination was despatched on 10 August 1882, 1080 stamps printed on a paper with the new 'Crown CA' watermark.

How were these particularly interesting stamps produced? As a rule a stamp is born from a first idea and many sketches. Finally, an artist's hand painted proof, like that one dated 12 June 1879 (Figure 1 – front cover), was prepared and the definitive design given to the engraver. Joubert de la Ferté engraved the Queen's head and the surrounding design; he had also prepared a first essay of that design many years before, in 1859 ⁷.

The Die

A 'Die' was first prepared for the production of the Key Forme. This was expensive, costing £ 50, nearly £ 2,500 in today's prices. The die is the original engraved piece of metal, usually steel, or other material from which reproductions are taken to form the plate or stone from which stamps are printed. The expressions Die I, Die II, etc. are used to denote the first and subsequent states of the same basic die. Frequently the later plates are characterised by slight alterations or retouches in the original die or a replica of it. Die I, Die II, etc. are also used to designate the stamps printed from plates produced from the above. In the plates it is possible to find 'Die Flaws', which are blemishes or unusual marks, present on every stamp reproduced from that die. These can be used to recognise the different dies.

Master die proofs printed on glazed cardboard, 94 x 61 mm, exist in three states (Figure 2). The first, with black tablets, is dated 23 July 1879. A second, endorsed 'BEFORE HARDENING', is dated 25 July 1879 and a third, endorsed 'AFTER HARDENING', is dated 29 July 1879. Both the latter show cleared tablets. As these proofs are dated 23, 25 and 29 July 1879, and the 'Day Book' entries of 7 November show separate invoices for each colony, the process to produce these stamps went on for nearly four months. The first die (Die I) produced Plate numbers 1 and 2. Master die proofs struck from Die II are known dated 18 November 1890, endorsed 'Before Hardening'. This die produced plates 3 and 4.

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 332

⁶ Actually, the average consumption of all the postage stamps sent to the island in 30 years was 40 per day.

⁷ De La Rue projected an initial essay for the 'New Colonial Head' in 1859, but no stamps were produced from that prototype. (R. Lowe sale, Essays and Proofs, November 23rd, 1966, p.5)



Master Die Proof of the Key Plate with uncleared tablets, dated 'July 23, 1879'.



Master Die Proof with cleared tablets marked 'BEFORE HARDENING', dated 'July 26, 1879'.



Master Die Proof of the Key Plate with cleared tablets marked 'AFTER HARDENING', dated 'July 29, 1879' and initialed on pencil at foot.

Figure 2

The peculiar characteristics of each die, as described in the Stanley Gibbons catalogues, are the following (the most easily recognisable ones in *italics*):

DIE I

- 1 - The ball of decoration on the second point of the crown appears as a dark mass of lines.
- 2 - Dark vertical shading separates the front hair from the bun.
- 3 - The vertical line of colour outlining the front of the throat stops at the sixth line of shading on the neck.
- 4 - *The white space in the coil of the hair above the curl is roughly the shape of a pin's head.*

DIE II

- 1 - There are very few lines of colour in the ball and it appears almost white.
- 2 - A white vertical strand of hair appears in place of the dark shading.
- 3 - The line stops at the eighth line of shading on the neck.
- 4 - *The white space is oblong, with a line of colour partially dividing it at the left end.*

Key Plate

The printing plate used to print the general design remained the same for the whole series. It did not bear any individual lettering and value. A small number of stamps on gummed CA paper, from unfinished printed sheets, are known in shades similar to the issued colours and perforated 12 or 14.

Plate

The actual plate, of whatever material or construction, from which stamps are printed. When stamps using the same basic die were printed from two or more plates, showing slight differences of detail or arrangement, it is customary to refer to such stamps as having been printed from Plate 1, Plate 2, etc. An important distinction between the plates was that Key Plate 1 contained a single pane of 60 stamps only (Figure 3) whereas Plates 2, 3 and 4 contained two panes of 60 (6x10), printing at each passage 120 incomplete stamps.

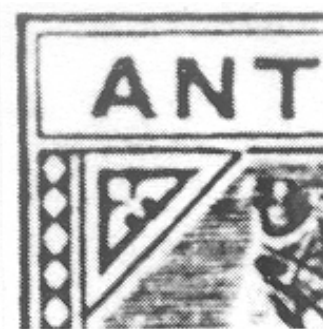
Plate Numbers

Numbers inserted in the plate margins, or selvedge, from which stamps are printed, indicating the order in which the plates for those particular values were made. In Plate 1 the figure '1' is inserted in a solid colour circle just over positions 2 and 5 and below positions 56 and 59. In Plate 2 the figure '2' is also inserted in a solid colour circle, but only over position 2 and under position 56 in the left pane and over position 5 and below position 59 in the right pane (Figures 4 and 5).

Key Plate Flaws

Plate Flaws are blemishes, or unusual marks, that are present on some stamps in a fixed position on the Key plate. The variety 'Top left triangle detached' also known as the 'Thompson flaw' ⁸ is found on the right pane of the sheet of 120 of Plate 2 only (Figure 6). Plate 2 was first put into use from the end of 1884 ⁹. This flaw is found on all the other colonial stamps printed with that plate. On Nevis stamps the 'Thompson flaw' can be found on the following stamps:

<u>Nevis stamps</u>	<u>Number printed</u>	<u>despatches</u>	<u>'Thompson' flaw</u>
½d dull green	16,020	2	133 or 134
1d carmine	25,740	3	214 or 215
2 ½ ultramarine	3,000	1	25
4d grey	16,080	2	134
6d chestnut	5,100	1	42 or 43
1s violet	2,040	1	17



Top left triangle detached
(Pl 2 R.3/3 of right pane)

Figure 6

⁸ An enlargement of this flaw is illustrated in many Stanley Gibbons catalogues under Montserrat. It was discovered by E. K. Thompson, who formed very fine collections of Antigua and Montserrat.

⁹ See C. A. Freeland in *B.W.I.S.C. Bulletin*, No. 181, June 1999 and *B.W.I.S.C. Bulletin*, No. 182, September 1999.



Figure 3

Key Plate 1
Containing 1 pane of
60 stamps only

Figure 4

Key Plate II
left pane.





Figure 5

Key Plate II
right pane.

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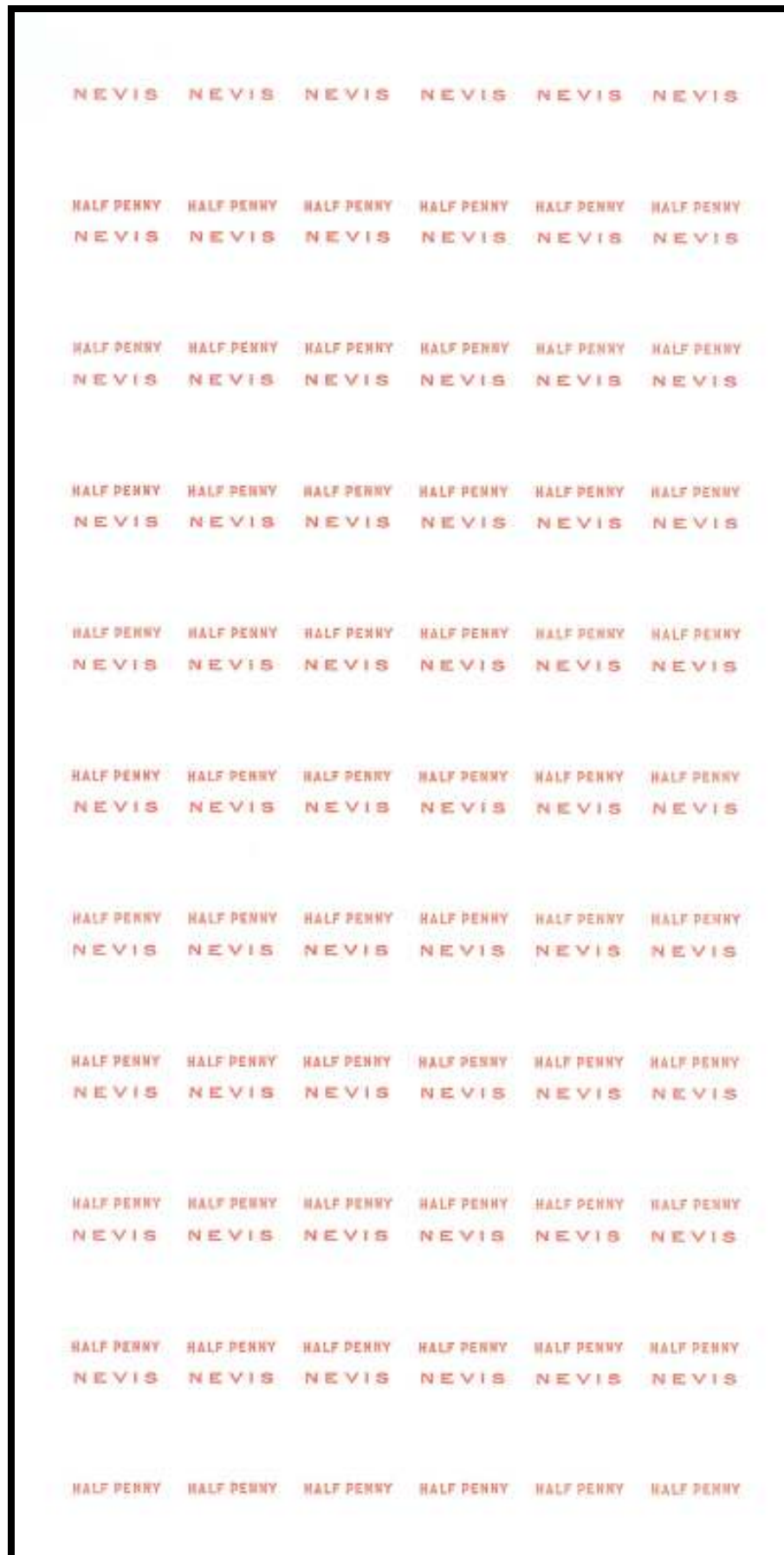
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Figure 7

The Duty Plate for the ½d denomination.

The Duty Plate prints the name and value or value only on those stamps requiring two separate printing operations. For Nevis six 'Duty Plates' were produced for the following denominations: ½d, 1d, 2½d, 4d, 6d and 1s.



When Nevis stamps were withdrawn in 1890, there were in hand at the Post Office a lot of remainders, among which were the complete last printing of the ½d and 2½d stamps, and almost the whole of the last printing of the 6d stamp. The Crown Agents sold the remainders to T. H. Thompson in 1892¹⁰. The quantities were first given in 'The London Philatelist' ¹¹, and by Melville in his Nevis booklet. This allows us to make an estimate of the number of mint stamps that can be on the philatelic market, but for used stamps one can only guess from the sheets sold over the counter. The same calculations can be made for Antigua, Montserrat, St. Lucia and the Virgin Islands.

The 2½d ultramarine remainders included also 2,045 Plate 1 stamps.

Nevis stamps	remainders	last consignments (Plate 2)	Quantities sold	'Thompson' flaw mint	'Thompson' flaw sold
½d dull green	7,227	10,020 + 6,000	8,793	60	73
1d carmine	5,872	9,720 + 10,020 + 6,000	19,868	48	165
2½d ultramarine	5,045	3,000	0	42	0
4d grey	4,332	10,080 + 6,000	16,080	98	36
6d chestnut	2,944	2,100 + 3,000	2,156	25	18
1s violet	1,457	2,040	583	12	5

Most probably not all the stamps sold were postally used.

Duty Plate

This is the technical name given to the plate which prints the name and value or value only on those stamps requiring two separate printing operations. In these cases every value must have a separate 'Duty Plate' (Figure 7). DLR indicates the 'Duty Plate' as 'Overprint Forme' or 'Forme of 60 leads'. For Nevis six 'Duty Plates' were produced for the following denominations: ½d, 1d, 2½d, 4d, 6d and 1s.

Duty Plate Flaws

A flaw which is peculiar of Nevis is the variety known as 'Damaged I in Nevis' (Figure 8), being a characteristic defect of the 1d Duty Plate only. On Plate 1 it appears in position 5, row 10 (just over one of the two plate plugs).

On Plate 2 the flaw can be found on both values of the sheet, also at Pos. 5/10: the stamp from the right pane has the plate number below, while the selvedge is blank under the stamp in the left pane.



Figure 8

Nevis 1d stamp	Number printed	despatches	'Damaged I' flaw
1d lilac, wmk. CC	15,780	3	263
1d lilac and lilac-mauve, wmk. CA	19,980	2	333
1d carmine, wmk. CA	56,040	7	934

¹⁰ This is not the person who discovered the flaw.

¹¹ Vol. 2, 1893, p. 112.

Die I, Plate 1. Manufactured in November 1879

1 pane of 60 stamps, no 'Thompson flaw', 'Damaged I in Nevis' occurs on 1d stamp only on position 5, row 10.

Plate 1 was used to print the following Nevis stamps (in brackets the printing):

- 2½d red-brown (SG24) wmk. CC, printings of November 1879 (780) and May 1880 (1,620)
- 2½d red-brown (SG31) wmk. CA, printing of August 1882 (1,080)
- 2½d ultramarine (SG29) wmk. CA, printings of November 1883 (5,100), May and August 1884 (5,100 each)
- 1d lilac (SG23), wmk. CC, printings of May 1880 (4,980), October 1880 (5,400) and March 1881 (5,400)
- 1d lilac (SG26) wmk. CA, printings of January 1882 (10,020)
- 1d lilac-mauve (SG--) wmk. CA, printing of August 1882 (9,960)
- 1d carmine (SG27) wmk. CA, printings of 1883, January, May and August 1884 (30,300 in all)
- 4d blue (SG30) wmk. CA, printings of January 1882 (10,020) and May 1883 (2,100)
- 4d grey (SG31) wmk. CA, printings of November 1883 (4,980), May and August 1884 (5,160 and 5,100)
- 6d green (SG32), wmk. CA, printing of May 1883 (1,020)
- ½d dull green (SG25), wmk. CA, printings of November 1883 (10,140), May and August 1884 (9,900 and 19,920)

Die I, Plate 2. In use by January 1886 (?) discontinued mid November 1890

2 panes of 120 stamps, 'Thompson flaw' occurs in the right pane only, position 3, row 3. 'Damaged I in Nevis' again occurs in 1d stamps, in both panes, position 5, row 10.

- ½d dull green (SG25) wmk. CA, printings of May 1888 (10,020) and March 1890 (6,000)
- 1d carmine (SG27) wmk. CA, printings of May 1887 (9,720), May 1888 (10,020) and March 1890 (6,000)
- 2½d ultramarine (SG29) wmk. CA, printing of March 1890 (3,000)
- 4d grey (SG31) wmk. CA, printings of May 1887 (10,080) and March 1890 (6,000)
- 6d chestnut (SG33) wmk. CA, printings of October 1888 (2,100) and March 1890 (3,000)
- 1s violet (SG34) wmk. CA, printing of March 1890 (2,040)

On 15 October 1890 De La Rue asked for permission to renew the Key Plates invoiced in 1879 (Plate 1) and 1885/1886 (Plate 2), because 61,519 impressions had been taken and there were signs of wear. The new plates (3 and 4) were invoiced 21 January 1891 and the cost was divided between Cyprus (£7. 1. 8.), St. Lucia (£3. 10. 10.), Zululand (£3. 10. 10.), Nevis (£3. 10. 10.) and Montserrat (£3. 10. 10.). Although Nevis and Montserrat paid for these plates none of their stamps were printed from them as their stamps were superseded from October 1890 by the new Leeward Island unified type. Also the inclusion, in the invoice, of Zululand appears to be an error for Natal. On the contrary, the colony of Turks Islands was not included in the invoice although it continued to use the General Key Plate ¹².

Die II, produced end of November 1890 / January 1891.

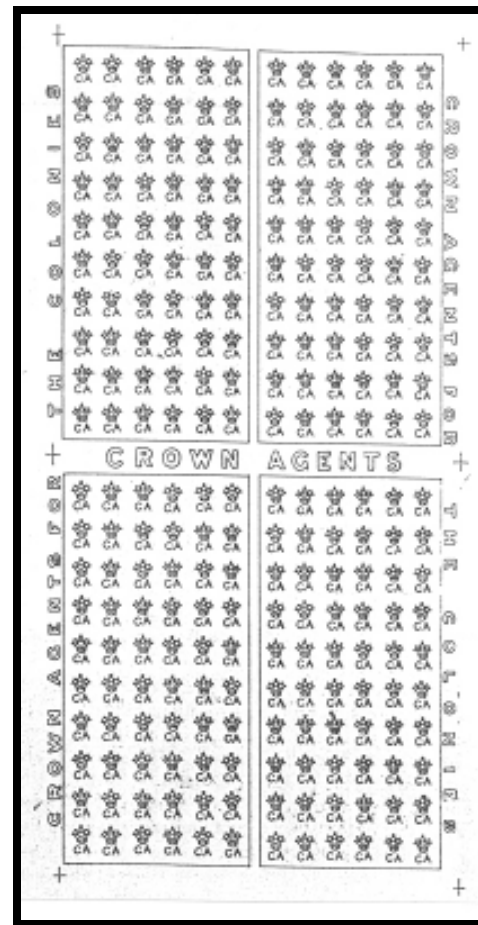
The plates used are 3 and 4. The 'Thompson flaw' is not present. No Nevis stamps were printed with these two plates.

¹² This was Die II, Plate 3, used in 1892 for the 2½d, in 1894 for the ½d and in 1895 for the 4d in the UPU colours.

Watermarked Paper

Key Plate colonial stamps were printed on watermarked paper, at first showing a Crown and letters CC (for Crown Colony) arranged so that they appeared in each stamp. From mid 1881 the letters were changed to CA (Crown Agents) (Figure 9), arranged exactly in the same way. The watermarked pattern was divided in four panes each one enclosed in a single line frame, with marginal inscriptions. Before printing, the large watermarked sheet of paper was gummed and split according to the size of the Key Plate in use.

Figure 9



Finally we can conclude that the stamps were printed as follows:

A - Using 'Plate 1'

- 1 A large sheet of watermarked paper containing 240 'Crowns', previously gummed, was divided into four smaller sheets.
- 2 The watermarked paper containing 60 'Crowns' was at first printed with the Key Plate showing the Queen head, blank tablets and the number of the Plate, 1, inserted in a solid colour circle printed four times, two at the top and two at the bottom of the sheet.
- 3 When dry, each sheet was passed through the press again to receive 60 impressions of the duty plate, in the identical colour.
- 4 The sheet was subsequently perforated.

B - Using 'Plate 2'

- 1 A large sheet of watermarked paper containing 240 'Crowns', previously gummed, was divided horizontally into two parts.
- 2 The watermarked paper containing 120 'Crowns' was at first printed with the Key Plate showing the Queen head, blank tablets and the Plate number 2, inserted in four solid colour circles placed on the four corners of the sheet ¹³.
- 3 When dry, the sheet was halved and overprinted, in the same colour, with the 'Duty Plate' containing 60 colonies names and denominations. In this way two slightly different sheets were produced, one with the plate number at right the other at left. The 'Thompson' Plate flaw was evident only on the right sheet, the 'Damaged I in Nevis' on both sheets.
- 4 The sheet, as before, was then perforated.

I would like to thank Charles Freeland who provided critical reading over the first draft of this article and for suggestions for the final revisions.

¹³ In this way it is possible to recognise immediately whether the sheet comes from the right or left panes.

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ST LUCIA

War Tax Plate – Bent Leg of 'X' Flaw

By Peter Fernbank

In Bulletin 190 (Sept. 2001) I detailed examples of a bent lower right leg of the 'X' in WAR TAX on row 1 stamp 6 of the right pane. This general purpose overprint plate was known by De La Rue as the 'St Lucia Overprint Plate' and was used between 1916 and 1919 for a number of different colonies. The earliest date I had for its occurrence was February 1918, and I asked for further information from members in an attempt to define at what stage in its life the plate developed the flaw.



Two members have since contacted me with information that has quite accurately dated the origin of the flaw. Before proceeding further I should point out that in the list of printings for the seven colonies that used this plate previously given I missed one out (it was in my original list but somehow got lost in the sorting process!). This was:-

PACKING DATE	COLONY	Reqn.	Value	Quantity	Set (Sheets)	Remarks	CS FOLIO
31 Dec 1917	Malta	109/17	3d	991	240 379 Specimens.	"King Edward series sent from Colony to be overprinted 'War Tax' also to be regummed if possible".	167

This proved to be an important omission since David Ball has sent me details of an example of this Malta overprinting of the 3d (SG 93) that shows just a suspicion of a deformed leg of 'X'. He also has a copy of the Malta ½d without the flaw and a copy with it. The example without it must originate from either the first printing of this value in October/November 1917, or that of 1st February 1918 (I suspect the former). John Davis has also informed me that he has a right pane of the Grenada 1d SG 119a, from key plate 2, which has a slightly bent leg.

Summarising the later printings:

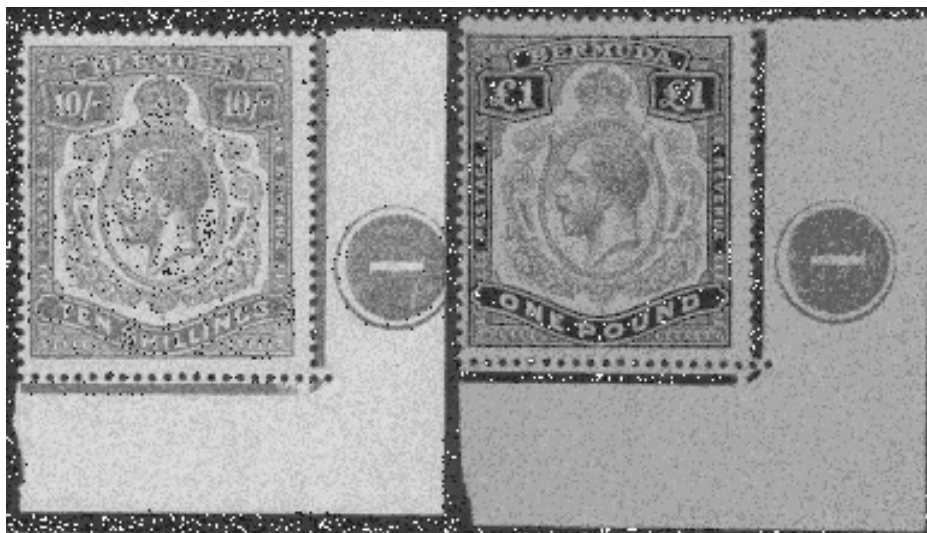
PACKING DATE	Colony	Reqn.	Value	State of flaw
22 Oct 1917	Malta	78/17	½d	} Not present
3 Nov 1917	Malta	78/17	½d	} Not present
31 Dec 1917	Malta	109/17	3d (KE7)	Suspicion of bent leg
1 Feb 1918	Malta	113/17	½d	Probably as above
12 Feb 1918	Grenada	118/17	1d	Slightly bent leg
22 Feb 1918	Gilbert & Ellice Is.	127/17	1d	Flaw fully developed
21 Mar 1918	Barbados	7/18	1d	Probably present
4 Apr 1918	Barbados	7/18	1d	Probably present
14 May 1918	Bahamas	21/18	½d, 1d, 1/-	Flaw fully developed
6 June 1918	Bahamas	27/18	½d, 1d, 1/-	Flaw fully developed
9 Jan 1919	Malta	82/18	½d	Probably present
15 Jan 1919	Barbados	107/18	1d	Probably present

From the information gathered so far we can make a number of deductions.

1. The flaw was not present of any of the War Tax printings from St Kitts or St Lucia, which were all made before August 1917.
2. It was not on the August 1916 printing from Grenada (made from key plate 1). I recently obtained a half pane from this position without the flaw.
3. It was not on the August 1917 printing from Barbados (SG 197 – the bright red shade) but should be present on the three printings made after February 1918 – the pale red shade. I have yet to see a copy of the flaw on the Barbados issue and would welcome confirmation of its existence.

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TRINIDAD

SURCHARGE POSTAGE

By D. C. FORD

In 1966 I was employed in Trinidad. I thought that it might be useful to obtain a used set of the postage due stamps, which were entitled 'SURCHARGE POSTAGE', instead of postage due, as in other Commonwealth countries.

At that time the main Post Office building was in central Port of Spain, dating back to the long past Colonial era, with an extremely high vaulted roof, echoing tessellated floor and the general feeling that if anything happened tomorrow, that would be pretty quick.

I asked about the postage due stamps and was informed that a lady supervisor would attend to me shortly. Eventually a very frail looking white Trinidadian lady, of advanced, but indeterminate years asked me what I wanted. It was like being at one's first day at primary school, with the Head Mistress under pressure and standing for no nonsense.

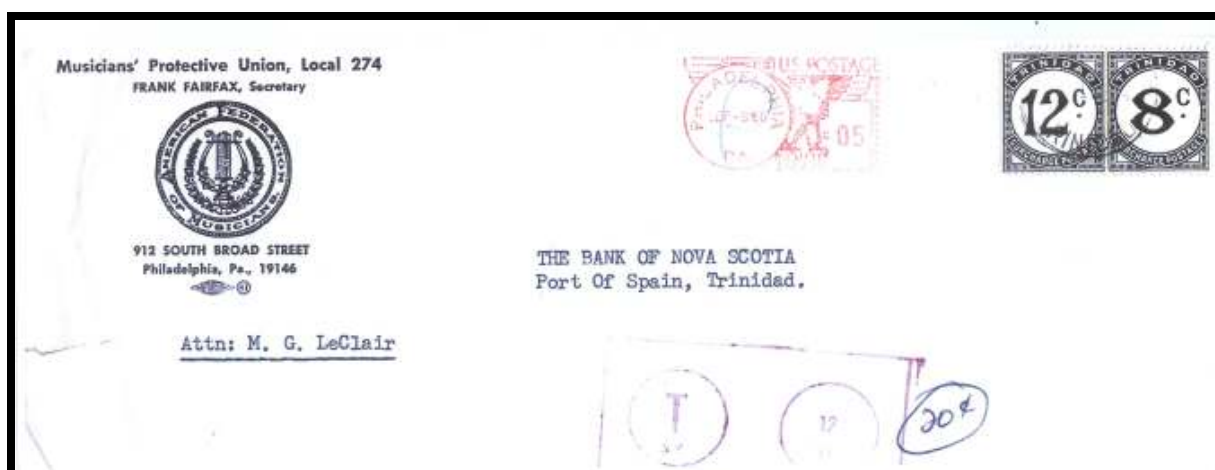
I explained to her what I wanted, whereupon she informed me that the stamps were not issued for the public, merely for the benefit of the postal staff to collect any postage due. I asked that if I put an unstamped packet in the post, would she arrange for at least one of each value to be affixed and cancelled. She would not hear of it.

As I recall, and I was younger then, she said, "Young man, I am not prepared to help you with this nonsense", turned on her heels and slowly, majestically, departed, down the length of the building, away from me.

Now this put me in a quandary. Not having any influence in the Post Office, or knowing any complaisant postal clerk, I had reached an impasse. Fate now took a hand. Over the next few months I managed to obtain from the incoming mail of the Bank, covers bearing all the values issued, with the exception of the 2 cent stamp, which I finally acquired on piece.

I illustrate these items for the benefit of readers. However in view of my experience, can any member give me an idea as to the scarcity of these 'surcharge postage' stamps, on cover. If my experience is anything to go by, philatelic usage might be difficult and commercial usage somewhat elusive.





TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

THE 'TOO LATE' HANDSTAMPS

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

Following further discoveries and feedback from members, Michael is preparing an update to his article in the April Bulletin. Meanwhile a couple of typographic errors in the previous article have been noticed:

- The contents of 'Table 1 Check-list of adhesives' and 'Table 2 Check-list of markings' were transposed.
- The last entry in Table 3 should read Type 'LFP 1' not 'UP 1'

AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND**

It has been another quiet period for the BWI collector, with only one sale of note, the Bahamas offered by our distinguished member Dr Graham Hoey.

**Cavendish 5 March**

Graham's Bahamas offered an opportunity for the connoisseur to bid for some choice items that had not been on the market for 40 years. Graham was especially fond of the Chalon 1d, probably because of the wealth of plate flaws, and most of his many 1d pieces could be plated. But he had also acquired choice material from the more recent Staircase and Ludington collections. Condition in general was very good. All in all, an opportunity for the lover of classic stamps and proof material (his postal history was weak except for some useful village postmark covers).

I was on the telephone and rely on my spies to inform me that five of the Circle's Bahamas specialists, Peter Fernbank, Simon Kelly, Phil McMurdie, David Wilson and Hugh Wood were in the room, together with the keyplater John Sussex (who has apparently moved from the QV/KE period to the two later reigns).

The first excitement came early on with the plate proof blocks of the 1d in black – all well above estimate with the block of six at £1,500 (all prices plus 17.25% premium). In fact, the many rare proofs throughout the sale went well, with the gorgeous 6d violet block on the front cover going to Wood at £4,000. Later on, there was keen competition among our members for several of the KE/GV die proofs of the value tablets, which had been missing from the Staircase and Ludington sales. The two King Edward essays might have done better if their estimates had been lower (indeed one did not sell) and the same applied to the 1920 Peace issues. The staircase essays and colour trials fetched good prices on the whole.

So far as the stamps were concerned, the collection was a little unbalanced in having much duplication among the less rare items, but it was missing some key early stamps. Clearly, Graham did not have the financial resources to buy the rarities in the quality he demanded, and he was unlucky to be competing with Sands and Ludington. Hence, for the classic Chalon heads prices were often reasonable if they sold at all. The best items were the very pretty 1d SG1 mint and the mint block of the 1863 6d with inverted watermark, both at £2,400. Demand for the early De La Rue specimens depended a lot on condition, with the 1862 imperf 4d "Cancelled" the pick at £1,500 and 4d SG35 with D8 "Specimen" at £1,100, but several others went far cheaper.

In the 20th century there were many specialist keyplate pieces with plate flaws that aroused strong interest, but the staircase plate flaws were far less sought after. Does everyone have their double tree trunks complete? I doubt it. However the rare plate plugs on the staircase 1d values went too high for me. In the GVI and QE periods there were no real surprises, nor among the village and airmail covers with which the sale closed.

All in all, Graham did ok, given that the weak dollar will have affected US bidders, but in today's market he must have felt there might have been more in it.

Upcoming events

This bulletin goes to press a few days before Spink's sale of Gerald Sattin's soldiers letters, but the catalogue is a testament to a superb collection with amazing BWI finds, copiously researched. An interesting-sounding event announced earlier by Spink containing Crowned Circles and GB used abroad has been put on hold, but at the same time we have been promised a feast of BWI at Spink on 21 October.

PUBLICATIONS**BOOK REVIEW****BY BOB SWARBRICK****Jamaica "The Military, Censorship and Patriotic Mail" By Derek Sutcliffe**

When I was asked to review the up-dated addition to the Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately series, Volume 9, "The Military, Censorship and Patriotic Mail" I was quite excited, as my friendship with the joint author goes back very many years to the time he lived in Huddersfield. and we had regular Sunday evening sessions comparing notes on our shared interest in the Postal History of Jamaica, and in particular, the military mail. Our collections grew over the years, but whereas Derek's interest was more research orientated, mine relied heavily on his earlier work, published by the now sadly defunct Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society.

Although this work has stood the test of time, it had become obvious that, with so much new material having been recorded, an up-date would become a necessity, nay a priority. This is a vastly superior publication and one I can, most heartily, recommend. Jamaican collectors are becoming a much pampered bunch with such useful additions to their library, although I would suspect this book will have a much wider appeal outside the confines of the West Indies.

To return to the book, I was pleased to note, for example, a list of naval vessels which carried the mail, and which were pressed into use in times of war to act as Packet boats. Also pleasing was to note that earlier suppositions, where proved to be incorrect, have been edited out. All too often when a statement is made in a book, it is almost as if the words are etched in stone, to become, in the passage of time, fact. The quality of the illustrations is, in the main, excellent, although I would have liked to see a better example of the locally produced Censorship label (page 09-06-4) illustrated.

All in all, I think the Editor, the joint authors and the publisher are to be warmly congratulated on an excellent effort, but, Oh! Dear, that wretched spiral binding, if I was allowed a single thing to 'gild the lily' I would ask the book to be dispatched with the 'teeth' opened!

JAMAICA POSTAL MARKINGS**BY TED PROUD**

Further to our previous correspondence, members of the BWISC have been very helpful and have supplied many of the missing marks, the only remaining ones still required are TRDs from the following offices: Browns Hall D1; Jones Town D1; Junction D1 Manchioneal (1950s) D9; Mocho D3, D4; Murrays' Piece D1; Old Harbour Bay D1; Rock Hall D2; Warsop D1. The book should be published by the end of the year. The retail price will be about £50 and members may have it at a pre-publication price of £35 plus postage and packing (£5 inland; overseas according to weight), providing the order with payment is received by 30 June. Payment should be in favour of Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd and send to P O Box 74, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8PZ.

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Revisions to contact details should be provided to the Hon. Secretary, Peter Boulton, address inside front cover.

In this issue and in future, membership updates will be issued as loose booklet style inserts for the membership booklet.

LIBRARY

Lists supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required.

Additions to the library concerning British Honduras

The library has acquired "The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps Volume 5 Bermuda British Honduras" by Robson Lowe Limited published in 1973. The library reference is 2.8.1.2 and its location is A1. Whilst this book adds little to our knowledge of the philately of Bermuda which is very adequately covered in the Postal History and Stamps of Bermuda by Luddington (library reference 2.6.4.3 location A1) it does add to information in the library concerning the postage stamps stamp booklets-and postal stationery of British Honduras up to and including the reign of King George VI.

The library has a fairly complete run of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. I would like to draw our members' attention to Ian Matheson's important series on registration labels, handstamps and manuscript markings of British Honduras contained in Journal numbers 209 (October - December 2003) and 210 (January - March 2004). The information in these Journals complements the information in the newly acquired book and together they plug a gap in the library's records concerning British Honduras philately.

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