

Star Item from the Jubilee Auction



British Guiana 1851 4c 'cotton-reel' on a wrapper from Georgetown
Realised £20,000

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
Annual General Meeting and Auction 2005

Saturday 23rd April 2005 at Grosvenor Auctions premises in the Strand.

Please supply lists of auction items to Simon Goldblatt.

Biennial Convention

To be held at the Corus hotel, Honiley, Warwick on Saturday 30th September and 1st October 2005.

Revenue Society of GB

David Springbett has suggested having a joint meeting with the Revenue Society of GB, of which he is President. Timing has not yet been decided but those interested should contact Peter Ford

SUBSCRIPTION

Please view the bottom right of the mailing sheet to check if your subscription has been paid.

Please return subscription for 2005 with updated personal details.

OFFICERS & GROUP LEADERS

Phil MacMurdie has been appointed Hon. Public Relations Officer.

Charles Kennard has taken over as British Guiana Group Leader (charles_kennard@hotmail.com).

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GOLDEN JUBILEE EVENT

Our 50th anniversary event opened at the prestigious Royal Philatelic Society premises in London with a welcome from Chairman Peter Ford. His brief introduction referred to the organisation's birth on 27th January 1954 and reassured us that the Society was still in robust health. He told us that, unfortunately, Vice-President Derek Nathan was recovering from an operation and was unable to attend, but President Victor Toeg would be giving a closing speech at the end of the day.

Member's Displays

Michael Oliver had organised and was Master of Ceremonies for the Members' displays; it is planned to provide selected extracts from the presentations in this and future bulletins.

John Davis War Tax

John initiated the displays with 48 sheets representing all 17 countries.

He emphasised that not only did the topic provide plenty of scope for study with many varieties and plating opportunities, but it could also be fun, citing destination covers from Jamaica to Japan and Finland, and a Bahamas to Bethlehem Christmas card.

John showed a selection of watermark varieties (sideways, inverted, reversed, missing letters), double and triple overprints, complete panes and the Jamaica ½d overprinted on the reverse in corner plate block of 4.



Charles Freeland – Anguilla

Charles introduced his one frame display by stating that this was probably the only display of Anguilla postal history that members would ever see, due to the restricted amount of material available. There may be 19th century entires available, but he had never seen any. Although part of the Federation of St Kitts-Nevis, it was in fact 70-80 miles away and just off the coast of St Maarten. The postmark interest commences in September 1900 with the 'AN' cancel which is quite difficult to find clearly struck; as is the next cancel, the large 'A' used in the short period of 1924-27. Also shown were the four Village TRDs of 1928-31, a Boxed 'Official Anguilla' of 1932 and WWII Censor markings.

Geoffrey Osborn – Bermuda

Geoff displayed covers from the Queen Victoria era. Interesting destinations were New Zealand and Gibraltar. As well as the normal routes to the UK via Halifax, scarcer covers via St Thomas and some via the USA (faster but at a premium rate) were also shown. An interesting, incoming, disinfected cover from Trinidad via Turks was described. Various 'Paid' date-stamps and numeral cancels were displayed. Finally, Geoffrey described his research into a 1½d Soldiers and Seamen's rate that was approved for a short period between 1st October 1891 and 31st December 1891.



Ian Jakes – BWI Overprints

Ian highlighted the Dominica 1d on 6d Emerson cover and read to us the letter enclosed in the envelope (dated 11th June 1886) from W H Porter, Treasurer to Dominica. The letter was addressed to Churchill Emerson, a stamp dealer, and stated that Porter had purchased 12 copies of the 1d on 6d green error. 10 of these were placed on this cover and Emerson was asked to remove one and return the entire to Porter.

Ian also read out a letter from the Governor of Jamaica to the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, dated 18th August 1893, stating disapproval for the practice of overprinting.

Federico Borromeo – Trinidad

Federico and Michael Oliver gave a joint presentation of Federico's material. The display consisted of an extensive study of the early stamps. Federico had listed 35 covers of the Lady McLeod issue and had undertaken a comprehensive study of the printings, describing their individual characteristics. A similar study had been undertaken of the Britannia issue. The information was enhanced by the display, which included spectacular blocks and high quality covers. The display concluded with some village cancels and transatlantic mail covers.

**Tony Farmer – Leewards Islands Classics**

Tony's display was a small selection of "classics" from his extensive collection:

(Ed. note: Many thanks to Tony for providing the following handout listing his material).

- Fourteen of the thirty hand-painted essays for Blank 'Postage & Revenue' before hand-painting Name and Duty, including the 'ISLANDS' error.
- Broken M variety in SPECIMEN overprint (Row 7 stamp 5 [No.41]).
- One of the four known blocks of four of the 1897 Sexagenary overprint on 5s.
- One of the two known blocks of four QV 1d shift and the only known example used on front.
- KEVII 2½d. wide 'A' and 1s. dropped 'R'.
- Head Plate flaws (common to other Colonies): 'Spaven Flaw' and broken inner top right frame line.
- KGV 1928 Introduction of the Large Key Plate 10s. and £1 Die Proofs: and Nos. 12 and 24 crown and scroll flaws in matched pairs and specimens.
- 1929 September First airmail flights: South (22/9/29) and North (25/9/29).
- KGV 5s. Damaged plates: Row 3/5 Left Pane and its correction: LP Row. 3/4 LEE; LP Row 1/3 damaged S: LP Row 6/1 Extra leaf flaw.
- 10s. and £1 Nos.49 and 60 flaws with some additional flaws.
- 1951 £1 Plate Number singles for 'inverted' and 'sideways' watermark and the Plate Number block of the 'Albino' print
- 1½d. Airmail Envelope 'Aberdeen Opaque' paper.

Brian Brookes – St Kitts

Brian described the early history of the Island. Letters were transported by Private Ship until 1779 except for the Dummer service, early in that century and 8 year period from 1744/5, when a packet service existed. Brian showed a 1746 cover from England to Sandy Point with the unique 2 line 'St. Chris / tophers'.

In 1779, the straight line 'ST KITTS' marking was introduced. This was illustrated by a cover sent by mistake from England to St Christopher, where the marking was applied, redirected to Falmouth, where it received the s/l Falmouth marking and was finally forwarded to Madeira.

Another cover of 1780 from Antigua, via St Kitts to England showed the impressive 'ST*KITTS*' s/l mark in **Red**.



We were then treated to a selection of fine covers, depicting single, double and triple rates with straight line marks for the period 1779 to 1799, 2 line dated handstamps in use from 1800 until 1805, when it was replaced with the large fleuron, which continued until 1809.

Brian Cartwright - Madame Joseph.

'Madame Joseph' was a stamp dealer of French origin with a shop in Irvine Street, just off Trafalgar Square. She had produced, in France, wooden carved implements resembling actual British Commonwealth cancellations (the exception being No 168 which is PAK-HOI-CHINE for French PO in China), which she applied to unused or mint stamps to provide 'fine used' examples.

This horde passed down (by purchase of stock it is presumed) to the stamp dealer Gordon Rhodes whose business at 17A Lime Street is listed in Kelly's directory from 1935 to 1960. As there are many 1935 Silver Jubilee implements, it is thought this is the date that Rhodes began serious production of forged cancellations. Rhodes employee Cecil Jones, who took over the business on Rhodes death.

Apart from the selection of wooden implements, there are a number in copper or zinc, which it is thought were produced for illustrating a book or catalogue and came into Madame Joseph's possession. Madame Joseph also offered the 'hire' of her implements to certain members of the trade so they could apply their own cancellations.

Derek Worboys, a retired stamp dealer, learnt of the existence of the horde (some 400+ implements), at Stampex 1993 and through his efforts, and a not insignificant amount of cash, he ensured the horde was safely deposited in the museum of the Royal Philatelic Society.

In 1994 a book illustrating the 'pulls' from all these implements was published jointly by the Royal and British Philatelic Trust. An updated and fully colour illustrated version of the book is due to be printed in the next few months.

All of the BWISC areas of interest were represented in the frames, some countries by a single sheet others by a few sheets with a selection of differing types.

Alister Kinnon – St Lucia

Alister treated us to a single frame selection depicting Postage Due items of St Lucia. The display was introduced with an interesting Maritime Cover, mis-sent to Grenada with a Rubber Postage Due mark applied in St Lucia. This was followed by five covers with various 'T' marks.

The locally printed type-set Postage Due of 1930 to 1933 was shown in a complete sheet of 60 of the 2d (2nd printing) and a partial sheet of the 1d (1st printing) showing how they were filed in a ring binder in the Post Office. The sheets were numbered in batches as required, which means that later printings may have lower numbers than earlier printings. Due to printing constraints some stamps have a wider 'No.', Alister described the circumstances that applied to each printing.

The display concluded with examples cancelled by favour on 26 Nov 1948 in Soufriere (15 years after withdrawal).

Further displays

... were provided but not described by Simon Greenwood, Robert Johnson, Peter Longmuir, Alan & Stella Pearse, James Podger (see Page 22), Andy Soutar & Paul Wright. It is hoped to report details of some of these displays in future editions of the Bulletin.

Synopses from the formal displays will appear in the March Bulletin.





Michael Medlicott



Joseph Hackmey

Victor Toeg

The first day concluded with a speech from our President who has been a member since the earliest days. His speech commenced with an amusing story with the punch line 'many hands make light work' which he thought symbolised the work ethic of the Society.

Victor paid tribute to the organisers of the meeting, and thanked all the contributors to the day but particularly Derek Nathan and Michael Oliver. Vice-Presidents Charles Freeland and Simon Goldblatt were congratulated on their work in preparing for the auction. Victor was pleased with how well the Society continued to thrive and highlighted: the publications being undertaken by Peter Ford; the annual auctions and members' approval tables run by Simon Goldblatt; and the bulletin, now in colour, with excellent contributions from members and edited by Steve Jarvis. Victor reminisced about the original 10 founding members. He remembered fondly Len Britnor, who was colour blind and hence collected covers rather than stamps, and Basil Benwell who was a master printer and made a significant contribution to the early days of the bulletin. Victor also wished to emphasise the work undertaken in the early days by Rose Titford, who effectively ran the Society on a day to day basis and married our Founder, Philip Saunders.

**Dinner**

An enjoyable dinner was held at Getti's restaurant and it was particularly pleasing that Derek Nathan was able to attend.



Sunday was a more relaxing day, with time to chat with friends and to browse the bourse prior to the eagerly awaited auction.

Dealers

As well as the usual stalwarts of David Druett and Michael Hamilton plus the Members table, some fine material was also on offer from David Loffstadt, John Taylor and George Holschauer.

Dealers and collectors appeared to enjoy a mutually beneficial day, with John Taylor heard to remark "what a good idea to bring specialist collectors together like this".



War Tax Workshop



John Davis conducted the work shop which was enthusiastically attended.

It is hoped to include a report in the next Bulletin.

Michael Sefi – Keeper of the Queen's Collection

Michael Sefi provided a slide show, explaining that they were endeavouring to use digital photography to utilise more sophisticated presentation techniques but replicating the true colour was proving quite difficult.

The collection started in 1856 and Michael explained the interest of various members of the Royal Family since that time and particularly King George V. The King was interested in the technical aspects of collecting (perforations and plating) but not watermarks and followed the continental approach to collecting. The collection is restricted to GB and Commonwealth and a significant part of the collection is devoted to the Postal reforms of 1840/41. Michael treated us to selected exceptional images illustrating this theme, including an experimental printing of the 1d in **blue**.



Colour trials of the Seahorses were shown and the early Mauritius Post Office issues, followed by high value Kenya issues and the Western Australian swan with inverted frame.

Michael apologized for the paucity of BWI items in his presentation but was able to show us the original watercolour for the Britannia design and the Jamaica Abolition of Slavery stamp without SPECIMEN overprint.

Conclusion

Our thanks to the Royal Society and Spinks for allowing us to use their premises for this auspicious occasion. There were circa 50 attendees on each day and the consensus was that we should not wait another 50 years before holding a similar event and perhaps our Diamond anniversary in 10 years time would be an appropriate occasion.



Informal Displays



Informal Displays



Peter Ford, Peter Boulton,
Derek & Eugenie Sutcliffe



Michael Oliver & Brian Cartwright



Getti's Restaurant



Getti's Restaurant



Getti's Restaurant



Getti's Restaurant



Getti's Restaurant



Getti's Restaurant



Getti's Restaurant



Getti's Restaurant



Members' Table



The Auctioneer



The Auction

Federico Borromeo – Trinidad Display Extract

Earliest recorded Date - 28 April 1847



To Port of Spain, cancelled with nine small pen strokes.

The 'Lady McLeod', locally printed, was only valid for the prepayment of the carriage of one letter by the vessel of David Bryce between Port of Spain and San Fernando.

The rate was 1 bit, the same was worth 5 centimes the equivalent of 2½ pence.

All those, however, who made large use of the service were charged two pence.

Earliest franked cover from Trinidad dated - 27 Aug 1851



From Port of Spain to Bristol. Delivered on 24 Sept, after 29 days at sea.
1d purple-brown for the local fee, charged on arrival 1s.

BWISC – Golden Jubilee Auction Report

The climax of the 50th Anniversary celebrations was the widely anticipated and eagerly awaited "Golden Jubilee Sale". The society had produced one of the finest privately produced auction catalogues of any specialist society, doing justice to the prestige of the occasion and the honour of being allowed to use the superbly appointed facilities of Spink Auctioneers of Southampton Row, London. The event was well attended with a busy auction room awaiting the sale, in addition to the plethora of bidders who, unable to attend had left book bids. Our resident society auctioneer Mr Simon Goldblatt presided in his ever accommodating and relaxed manner with able support being provided by Peter Boulton, Ray Stanton and Janet Sharp.

Proceedings started ominously slowly with six of the first twelve lots failing to find a buyer, however it was not a case of unlucky thirteen.

Lot 13 proved to be the highlight of the event as the exceptional British Guiana 1851 4c "cotton-reel" on a wrapper from Georgetown, estimated at £5,000 to £5,500 was fiercely contested over 35 bidding steps until finally realising £20,000, 4 times the reserve. This must surely be the highest realisation at any specialist society sale. This certainly sparked the event into life lot 15, the British Honduras missing N in "REVENUE" also exceeded the reserve (£700), realising £1450. Throughout the sale lots were consistently hitting their estimates, which certainly gives confidence that such estimates are realistic in the first place. Other highlights were lot 20 the exceptional Cayman cover, with the provisional "pd ¼" manuscript marking, realising £5,700 against a £3,000 reserve. Lot 26 the Jamaica 2½d on 4d study attracted keen competition from both the room and the book before finally settling at £3,200 another excellent realisation having been estimated at £1,000.

In all the society can be rightly proud of the sale which is likely to have been the highest realisation of any specialist society in an auction and one that certainly throws the gauntlet down to others.

IN SUMMARY:

Total Realisation £68,600: 37 out of 50 lots sold - 13 remaining unsold, thus still available.

Of the 37 lots selling:

14 lots sold on the book all to different bidders

23 lots sold in to room to 13 different bidders.

LOT	Realisation	Estimate
1	620	500
2		
3		
4	650	650
5	1,200	950
6		
7	680	600
8	520	500
9		
10		
11	580	580
12		
13	20,000	5,000
14		
15	1,450	900
16	1,000	1,000
17	1,200	700

LOT	Realisation	Estimate
18	750	750
19	1,850	1,500
20	5,700	3,000
21		
22	800	550
23	900	500
24	1,000	700
25		
26	3,200	1,000
27	1,000	800
28	1,200	1,200
29		
30		
31	550	550
32	600	600
33		
34	600	600

LOT	Realisation	Estimate
35	800	750
36		
37	850	500
38	700	700
39	750	600
40	4,800	4,800
41	1,600	950
42	1,500	1,200
43	500	500
44	800	800
45	1,250	1,200
46	1,600	1,600
47	1,800	1,450
48	4,500	4,500
49	600	600
50	500	500



King George VI

Feb 1958 - 1960 11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042

MS 1059	1843-44 25th Universal. VFLM sheet of 100/12	1843
SL. Linné		
MS 106	1618 of 16 numbered. VFLM (rubbed) sheet of 18 from 16 th (sheet 5 used). Plate 3 at back, almost complete	1818
MS 108	1835-46 27- plate and paper. VFLM "blank" Plate sheet of 4	1835
MS 110	1843-1st leaf 16. VFLM sheet of 4 plates almost	1843
SL. Linnaeus		
MS 106-77 1840-42 etc, natural volume only - 16 sheets, no 78. VFLM Plate book of 4	1840	
Turner & Cochrane		
MS 1018	1857 Copenhagen set of 3 plate 16a illustrated	1857
MS 102	1857 3d Copenhagen. VFLM, complete set of 4, glass attached to workings due to paper loss	1857
MS 1028-9	1848 Silver working. VFLM sheet of 4, 1st 100- as 110 with some loss but Plate no. 16. Lightest of 400 numbered sheets	1848

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MARITIME

FYFFES LINE SHIPMARKS – ‘OCEAN MAILS’

BY MIKE BOX

Fyffes is a name associated with bananas. The Fyffes line carried that fruit from the West Indies to Bristol, and Ship Letter marks carrying the Ocean Mail mark, usually with the ship's name, can be collected dated from the 1920s to the 1940s. They are larger than is usual for such marks and struck in bright violet. I first met the banana boats as a small boy living down channel from Avonmouth (Bristol) in the 1930s, and latterly I have built up a collection. They are relatively scarce marks, perhaps one for every 20 Lady-boat marks recently written up here.

A useful reference book is 'Ocean Mails' by Philip Cockrill, which is a comprehensive list of ships' marks and names by shipping line, with very many illustrations of the ship letter marks they used. He also covers Paquebot marks. Unfortunately, the book is not dated, but the latest mark illustrated is for 1933, which would seem to be the cut-off date. Thus any ships added to a fleet after that date would not be listed by him. Cockrill lists the following seven ships under Fyffes line:

Ariguani*, Bayano*, Carare*, Camito, Cavina*, Coronado, Patuca

I have indicated *, the ships whose marks are included in my list of covers. I also have a postcard carried on SS Chaniguanola in 1927 bearing the standard type 'Ocean Mails' mark of this line, although not listed by Cockrill. I list the covers in my collection below. The ships' names sound as if they are place names, but if this is so I have not been able to find them.

I have seen other covers described for sale, but do not believe that any significantly extend either the dates or the ports of origin. One cover included in an early BWISC auction was dated 1934 and was carried from Barbados on the Patuca, which is not in my collection.

It would seem that Fyffes traded with a group of southern ports including British Guiana and Barbados, and with Jamaica and Turks and Virgin Islands. It should be remembered that most post carried will have been sent by passengers and their preferences will have affected the frequency of letters from different ports. I saw a recent travel write up of 25 day round trips offered by the Geest line on their banana boats, including a far wider range of ports, but we now import far more bananas than in the 1930s.

The covers listed are all from the 1920s and mainly the 1930s. The line lost ships in the 1939-45 war and the trade was slow to resume. Transatlantic air mail then took over from ship mail as it was so much quicker. There may be later ship letters, but I have not seen any later than 1940. Items in the collections of members may extend our knowledge.

Date	From	Ship Mark	Other Marks
1931	Barbados	Ocean Mails / Ex / SS Bayano	Bristol date & postmark
1932	Barbados	Ocean Mails / SS Cavina	Port of Spain / Trinidad cds & Buy Trinidad
1934	Barbados	Ocean Mails / Ex / SS Bayano	Bristol date & postmark
1936	British Guiana	Ocean Mails / SS Cavina	London Paquebot & Bermuda cds
1927	Columbia	Ocean Mails / Ex SS Changuinola	Avonmouth ship letter
1930	Jamaica	Ocean mails	Kingston cds
1936	Jamaica	Ocean Mails / SS Cavina	Kingston, Jamaica cds & Paquebot
1936	Virgin Is	Ocean Mails / SS Cavina	Kingston, Jamaica cds
1937	Jamaica	Ocean Mails / Ex SS Carare	Paquebot Kingston cds
1937-9	Jamaica	Ocean Mails / Ex SS Carare	Paquebot
1930	Trinidad & Tobago	Ocean Mails / Ex / SS Bayano	Bristol cds
1932	Trinidad	Ocean Mails / Ex SS Carare	Port of Spain cds
1934	Trinidad	Ocean Mails / Ex SS Ariguani	Port of Spain cds
1935	Turks & Caicos	Ocean Mails / SS Bayano	Bristol cds Paquebot / Posted at Sea
1929	?	Ocean Mails	Bristol Paquebot
1935	?	Ocean Mails / Ex Ariguani	Bristol Paquebot Posted at Sea



Editors contribution

1939 Mar	Jamaica	Ocean Mails / Ex SS BAYANO	Bristol cds Paquebot / Posted at Sea
-------------	---------	----------------------------	---

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BARBADOS

DIAMOND JUBILEE 1897-98 USED LINE CANCELS

BY PETER LONGMUIR

Illustrated are Jubilee ¼d and 2½d stamps, each with slightly different line cancels. In addition, the 2½d has a St. Joseph 6 Parish cancel dated May 17 1899, which appears to be a receiving mark, as it is clearly on top of the 6 lines cancel. Can someone please identify these line cancels for me, neither of which can be seen in the Barbados Post office Markings handbook.

Please E-mail Peter at pl003d5765@blueyonder.co.uk or send details to the Editor.



CAYMAN ISLANDS

KING EDWARD VII POSTAGE & REVENUE KEY PLATE 2

BY PETER FERNBANK

James Podger's and Kevin Darcy's excellent article in bulletin 202 on the King Edward VII plate 2 printing of the Cayman Islands 1d and 6d values raises some interesting questions regarding the format of the Imperium style key plate 2, which is generally regarded as a 240-set plate comprising four panes of 60.

The article states that plate 2 examples of the Cayman's 1d and 6d values appear with a plate number in the top margin only, with the bottom margin blank, and that no examples have been seen with the plate number in the lower margin. These two values appear to be from the only printing for Cayman Islands made from plate 2. As such this represents an important example of the use of only one half of the supposedly 240-set plate 2 - De La Rue would hardly have printed 240-set sheets and discarded the lower halves, whilst the Crown Agents, who provided the paper, would certainly not have sanctioned such profligate waste.

The size of plate 2 is apparently confirmed by De La Rue's Colonial Stamps book (Fig. 1), which records the making of both a 120-set (Plate 1) and a 240-set (plate 2) Postage and Revenue key plate. There appears to be no known example of a complete 240-set sheet from plate 2 for any colony, and again it is generally accepted that the 240-set sheets were cut in two prior to receiving the duty plate imprint. Michael Oliver illustrates a 240-set sheet in his Leeward Islands book¹ (referred to in the article) but he has recently confirmed to me that the illustration actually consisted of two 120-set sheets placed together in order to demonstrate the format of a 240-set sheet.

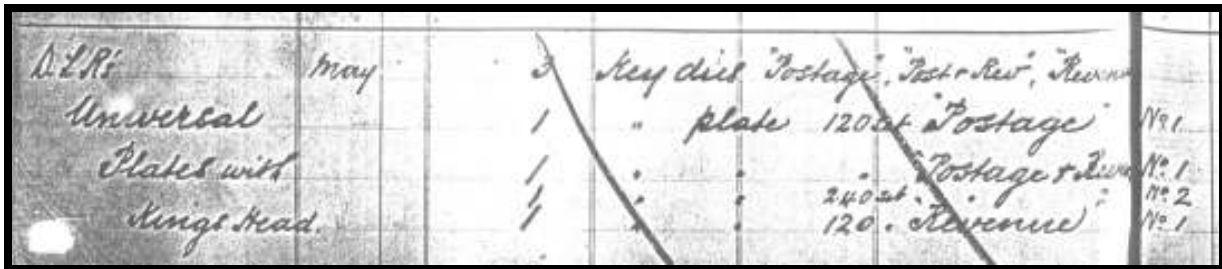


Fig. 1 - Colonial Stamps, Vol.8 folio 241 (May 1901).

Could the lack of lower margin plate 2 numbers on the Cayman's 1d and 6d be explained by the earlier retirement of the lower half of plate 2? The fact that it had not been retired can be demonstrated from a special printing made for the Gold Coast in January 1915. They placed an order with De La Rue² for of one sheet each of the King Edward VII 5/- and 10/- values, in order that the king could be supplied with a plate block of four (by an oversight these two values had not been supplied to him when the issue was current). The corner plate blocks of these two values in the Royal Collection are bottom margin copies from plate 2³, proving conclusively that the lower half of the plate survived to the end of the Edwardian period.

My copies of selected pages from the Colonial Stamps books contain quite a number of printings for various colonies using the King Edward VII Imperium style key plate. Although the 'set' (sheet size) column is missing from the original microfilm in a number of cases, on others it is present. In

some of those cases where it is missing a note is provided elsewhere on the page either stating the 'set' size of the sheets to be supplied, or providing the number of stamps and sheets supplied from which the sheet size can be deduced. Within these printings there is not a single case where the size of the paper issued for printing was 240-set; they are all 120-set. Most of the printings for the BWI territories were relatively small, hardly warranting the use of a 240-set plate, but even the relatively large printings of this design for Straits Settlements (up to 5,000 sheets for each value) were provided with 120-set sheets of paper. However, various values of other designs within the Straits series, for much larger quantities, were supplied with 240-set sheets of paper.

All this leads me to strongly suspect that plate 2 actually consisted of two separate 120-set plates, both numbered 2. The upper half had plate numbers in the top margin, lower margin blank, whilst the lower half had plate numbers in the lower margin, top margin blank. Each half could be used separately for a particular printing, as in the Cayman Islands case above, where it would seem that only the top half was used.

But what about the mention in the Colonial Stamps book of a 240-set plate being made – surely this is conclusive evidence? Alas, no. The Colonial Stamps book also contains a similar note for the first King George V plate of this design (plate 1 – see Fig. 2). Until comparatively recently plate 1 was also regarded by philately in general as a 240-set plate. I first began to suspect that this might not be the case by the absence of top margin plate number copies for the only Virgin Islands printing of all values printed from plate 1 (1913); only bottom margin plate numbers seemed to exist. Once again, De La Rue would hardly have printed 240-set sheets and discarded the upper halves!

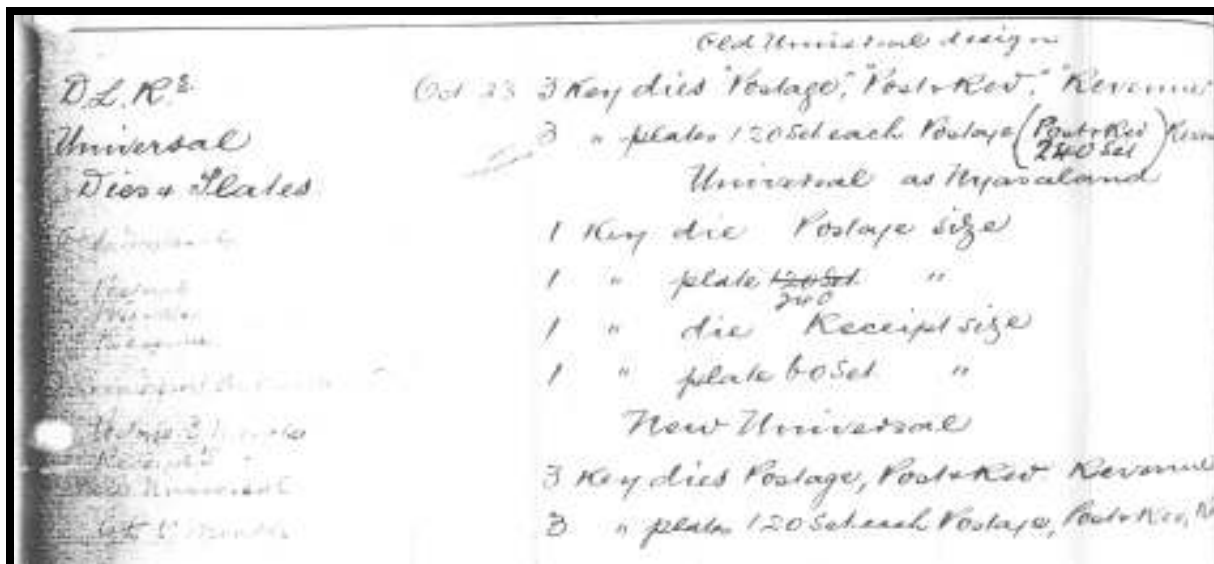


Fig. 2 - Colonial Stamps, Vol.11 folio 123 (23 Oct. 1911).

I was eventually able to establish⁴ that plate 1 actually consisted of two separate 120-set plates, both numbered 1. The upper half was originally made with plate numbers in both top and bottom margins, (those on the bottom margin were removed after four months in use leaving the lower margin blank). The lower half had plate numbers in the lower margin, top margin blank, and I have subsequently identified these two separate plates as plates 1a and 1b. In this case there are identifiable differences between the two plates, chiefly in the corner marginal rules, but also the die proof from De La Rue's Striking Book exists which clearly shows that two separate groups of 120 leads were made, struck four weeks apart. The two plate 1s were used separately, but could also be used combined to print 240-set sheets (but were only used in this format for the very large Ceylon printings). There are other examples known where De La Rue's statement regarding the size of a plate has subsequently been shown to represent two separate plates combined together on the press.

For the King Edward VII issue a die proof exists showing that a set of 120 leads was struck on Oct. 31st (1901), followed two days later by a set of 240 leads. I believe there is a distinct probability that the 240 leads were used to create two 120-set plates, both numbered '2' (plates 2a and 2b?), rather than a 240-set plate. The practise adopted in making two 120-set plates, both numbered '1',

for the King George V issue may well have followed a precedent created in the making of the King Edward VII plate 2. Either one plate or the other, but not both, was used for each plate 2 printing. An important inference to be drawn from this is that plate number copies of the same value from both top and bottom margins must originate from different printings. Whether it was intended that the two plates could be mounted together on the press to print 240-set sheets may perhaps never be known for certain, but I have doubts that 240-set sheets were ever printed.

Postscript

In James' and Kevin's article reference was made to the high price (\$80) achieved for the Cayman's 1d plate 2 block of four featured in the sale of Charles Freeland's Cayman's collection. This was originally purchased in our Study Circle auction for £5.50 where I was the vendor, blissfully unaware of the scarcity of this value from plate 2. Well done Charles, there are rewards for philatelic knowledge!

References

- 1 The Leeward Islands - Notes for Philatelists, p.46, M. N.Oliver, The British West Indies Study Circle, 2000.
- 2 Colonial Stamps, Volume 12, p.41.
- 3 Illustrated in The Postal Services of the Gold Coast, Photographic Plate 2 (following p.16), Michael Ensor, West Africa Study Circle, 1998
- 4 King George V Key Plates of the Imperium Postage & Revenue Design, pp 57-60, P.E.Fernbank, West Africa Study Circle, 1997

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| BRITISH GUIANA 1938-52. \$3 red-brown, perf 12½, both shades in corner plate blocks, and perf 14 x 13 left margin block (SG 319 a/b) all fresh unmted mint. | £220 |
| BRITISH GUIANA 1937. The Coronation set in vertical strip of 3 with right margins showing guide cross, perforated SPECIMEN in half-circle. Un-mounted, BPA Cert. (1999) | £250 |
| CAYMAN IS. 1926. A part of Customs Declaration Form for 5 lb. parcel, franked 2d & 2s (SG 73, 80) cancelled 'Cayman Brac' type II cds. | £250 |
| CAYMAN IS. 1978. 'Fish' set, the 15c 'Seargent Major Fish' and 20c 'Parrott Fish' prepared but never issued, each an unmounted mint right margin copy, 1B plate number. | £375 |
| JAMAICA 1919. The 1½d green (MCA) showing major re-entry (SG 80a), used with light cds. | £45 |
| LEEWARD IS. 1947. The 6d purple & deep magenta, mint (faint hinge mark) with variety "broken second E", (SG 109ba). | £150 |
| ST. KITTS 1848. An entire to London with "ST KITTS" double arc datestamp on reverse. | £75 |
| ST. KITTS-NEVIS 1943. The 5s grey-green perf 14 on surfaced paper showing 'break in oval', (SG 77ad), one blunt perf, otherwise fine fresh unmounted mint. | £300 |
| ST. LUCIA 1969. Easter 10c - a fine partially hand-painted essay - a painting by Caracci, mounted on card & dated 12.6.68. Possibly an unadopted submission from De La Rue. | £225 |



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Postcard using two 1/2d's to pay the correct postage rate to South Africa.



Postcard using the 1d to pay the correct postage to South Africa.
Cancelled Boddentown NO 11 10 with Georgetown transit cancel NO 11 10

JAMAICA / MARITIME

Captain Lorenzo Dow Baker, co-founder UFCo.

By Michael Hamilton

Details of the history of the United Fruit Company are found in the Philip Cockrill 'Series Booklet No.28' entitled 'The History, Ships & Cancellations of the Great White Fleet'. A chronology of the most relevant events in the history of the United Fruit Company are also available on the internet at www.unitedfruit.org

The actual history of the UFCo does not start until its foundation in 1899, but the "legend" of the Company goes back to May 1870 when Captain Lorenzo Dow Baker, a well-known Yankee sea captain and owner of the two-master schooner "Telegraph" arrived in Jamaica from his home port of Wellfield, Massachusetts and filled spare deck cargo space for his return trip to New Jersey with 160 stems of bananas purchased at 14 cents each. On arrival in Jersey City he found they readily sold on the quayside at \$2 per stem, and so began Captain Baker's interest in the banana industry.



Captain L. D. Baker

Six years later, in 1876, Captain Baker joined forces with Andrew W. Preston from the Boston firm of Seaverns & Co. to found the Boston Fruit Company. Preston, a business man of great integrity with all the old world charm associated with Boston in those days, took charge of all the tropical operations while Baker controlled the management in Boston.

Some twenty years later Minor C. Keith came on the scene; another tough character, born in Brooklyn. Keith had become a railroad builder having recently completed the railroad from San Jose to Puerto Limon for the national government in Costa Rica. Finding that the little number of passengers made the train unprofitable, Keith decided to use it to export bananas from the plantations he had created in the early 1870's. On a business trip to New York to settle debts resulting from the bankruptcy of the firm he had supplied the fruit to, Keith decided to explore the possibilities of forming a Company that controlled the complete marketing process from growing, transporting, through to selling of the actual produce, and travelled down to meet with Andrew Preston representing the now prosperous Boston Fruit Company.

The three men, each giants in their own field, evolved plans to form a new Company, and on the 30th March 1899 co-founded a new firm, to be called the United Fruit Company, with assets of some 213,000 acres of land in the Central American Republics, some 110 miles of railway, a small fleet of ships and approximately \$11,000,000 in capital.

Captain Baker's initial 160 stems of bananas turned into 17,000,000 stems being shipped annually for consumption in the USA by 1899; and no country has equalled the record 26,900,000 stems shipped from Jamaica in 1937. Not only did the United Fruit Company build the economies of many smaller nations but it significantly contributed to postal history. The UFCo was hired by the government of Guatemala to manage the country's national postal service in 1901, but its part in philately will always be remembered through its decorative and colourful steamship cachets which all collectors will be familiar with.

A recent acquisition now ties Captain Lorenzo Dow Baker into Jamaican postal history. The cover illustrated (Fig.1) is postmarked Bowden JA 20 1898, and the two page enclosure (Fig.2) to "My dear Husband" from "loving wife Martha" nicely show that Baker was then managing the Jamaica division of the Boston Fruit Company from that village.

Whether more correspondence to Capt. Baker will be found remains to be seen; but a photocopy (Fig.3) from my records shows an envelope from 'L.D. Baker & Co., Port Antonio' posted with QV 4d tied Lucea "A49" on DE 8 1882 to a David Baker in Auburndale, Massachusetts - possibly in the hand of the great man himself. The QV ½d Post Card (Fig. 4), without text and postmark, serves as an additional reminder that there is possibly a feast of associated material just waiting to be found.

Figure 1



Figure 2

Boston, Fruit, Company,
U. S. MAIL,
BOSTON, JAMAICA, 1895.
Borden, Jamaica, Jan 21st 1895

He was anticipating so much pleasure
in Joshua's company this week.
I have given him plenty of food and
am giving him plenty of medicine until
his last week before the noon he will.
To morrow if he is no better, I will send
for Dr. Byland but I trust he will
be much better. I am well as usual
The boy is invaluable to me now, and
Joshua has such a help to us Sunday night.
but I was afraid he would get pulled down
again, but he is bright and cheerful, and
is well, but before he got home had a
touch of John's complaint.
I trust you are well. The weather now
is cold and rainy for this time of the year
and there is much or less sickness about.
With much love
Your loving wife
Bertha.

Boston, Fruit, Company,
U. S. MAIL,
BOSTON, JAMAICA, 1895.
Borden, Jamaica, Jan 21st 1895
Thursday

My dear Husband

I intended to have
written you last Tuesday but John was
taken quite ill towards night with bilious
colic, and has not been able to go out
of the house since. He is considerably better
to day, but of course very sore from having
so much pain, and has had some
fever since yesterday afternoon, but I
think he will not have any more to
speak of unless he is to have a settled
fever which I do not think he will.
Joshua and I were up most of the night
with him Tuesday night, soaking in
foot and trying to relieve the pain which
seemed very obstinate. I am so glad
to say that Joshua is getting along nicely.
It is a great disappointment to have to be
sick just at this time.

Figure 3

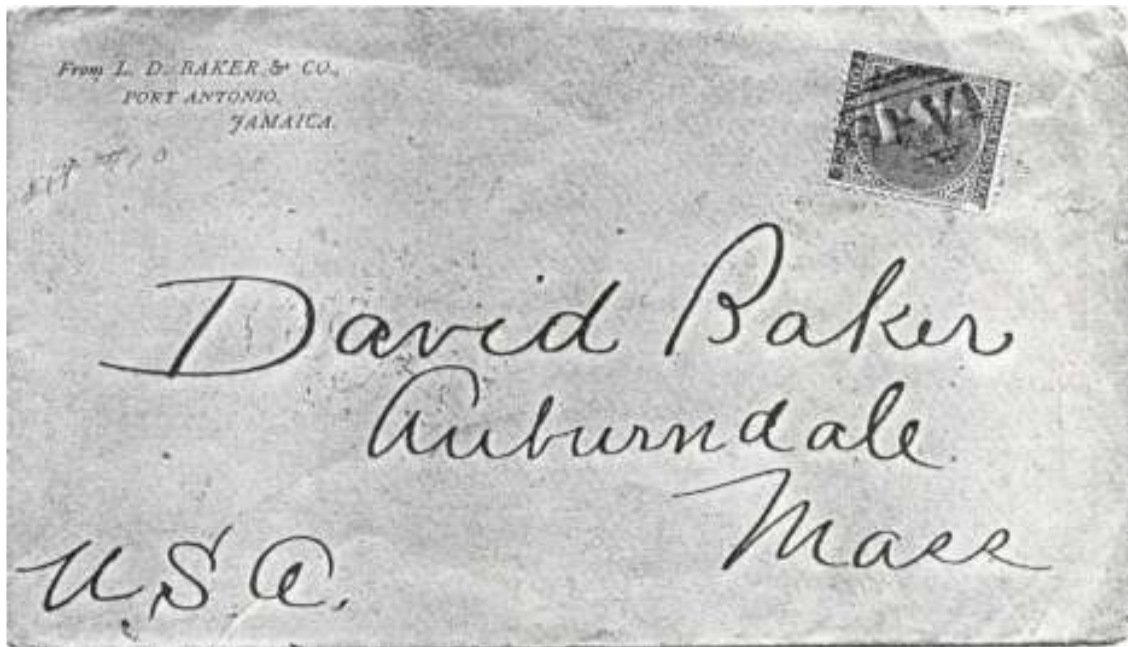


Figure 4

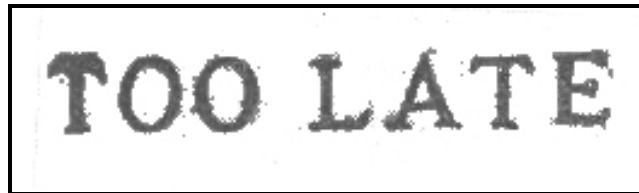
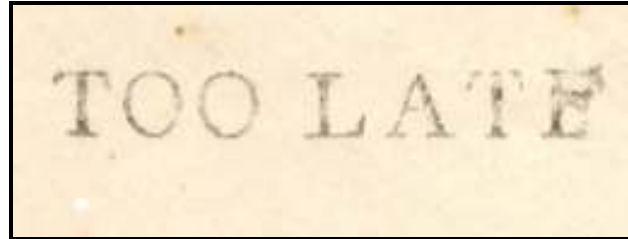


JAMAICA**'TOO LATE' TL3****By Michael Hamilton**

I believe that the Foster handbook Page 120 did not pay sufficient attention to the typeset in TL3 for the examples seen in the period 1843 to 1868.

The TL3 description noted that the "E" may have been damaged, but I think that the cover below shows a second, non-listed instrument. Please compare this strike with the fine illustration taken from Foster p121 on an 1851 entire.

The other letters also show significant differences. Perhaps we should refer to this type as TL3a and try to discover the date ranges of these two strikes.

Foster TL3 (1851)Alternate TL3 (1867)Figure 3

1867 internal cover to the Hon. Richard Hill in Spanish Town
with QV 1d blue pmk'd "A01" (not tied and thought not to belong)



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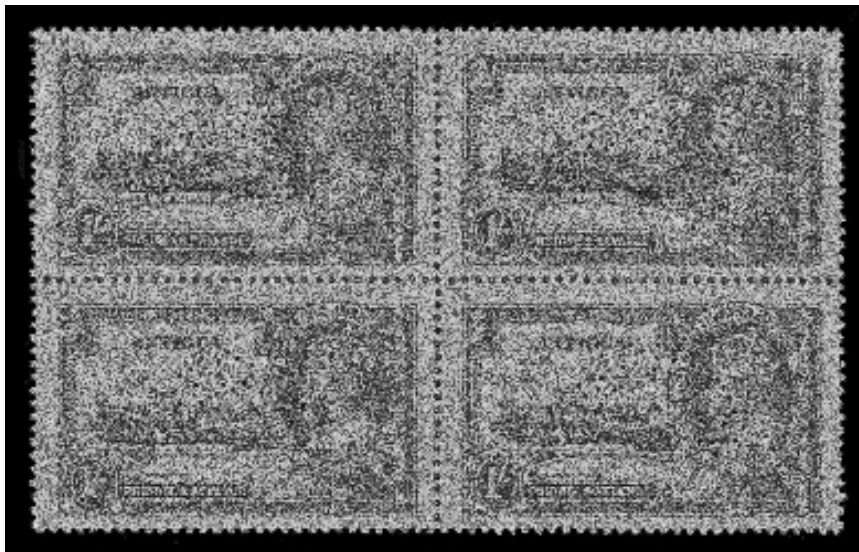
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LEEWARD ISLANDS

DO YOU HAVE ANY LEEWARD ISLAND POSTAL STATIONERY?

DARRYL FULLER

I am hoping that members of the study circle can assist my research into Leeward Island postal stationery. We currently know what stationery was issued and how many of each was printed, as detailed in Michael Oliver's excellent book. What I need assistance with is the period of use – earliest and latest known usage, where posted and destination.

In addition to the above information, I believe that it would be an opportune time to take a census of Leeward Island postal stationery. Censuses are often taken of known rarities and postmarks to establish relative rarity. With stamp rarities this is often done using auction catalogues, however, this is not possible for Leeward Island postal stationery. I don't know whether this has been done before for an entire Colony's postal stationery but I believe that it is feasible for the Leeward Islands with only about 60 different items of stationery.

The main reason I would like this information is to establish survival rates for stationery. A good example of the number printed not being a good guide to relative rarity are the 1922 KGV size F registered envelope versus the 1938 KGV 1/2d wrapper. The size F registered envelope had the lowest printing of any Leeward Island stationery item with only 307 printed and all sent to the Virgin Islands. This last fact may have aided their survival because I have records of six used copies, a survival rate of about 1 in 50. The KGV wrapper is a different story having the highest printing of any KGV stationery item. Yet I have only recorded two full copies used and a large part copy. A survival rate of about 1 in 10,000.

I would ask members to submit their information in the following format:

H&G or Oliver Listing Number	Mint/Specimen	Usage Where Posted	Date Posted	Destination
B1	2 mint / specimen	St Johns- Antigua	15 DE 1893	London
		Montserrat	1 JY 1899	New York, USA

All of the information received will be treated as confidential and I will only use the information in aggregate. I will publish the results of my research when collated.

Therefore I would greatly appreciate it if anyone who has any Leeward Island postal stationery would send me a listing as per the above example. I appreciate that for some members it will be a large task and I am happy to send them a pro forma to fill in, either by mail or e-mail.

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated and any information or request for further details can be sent to me as follows:

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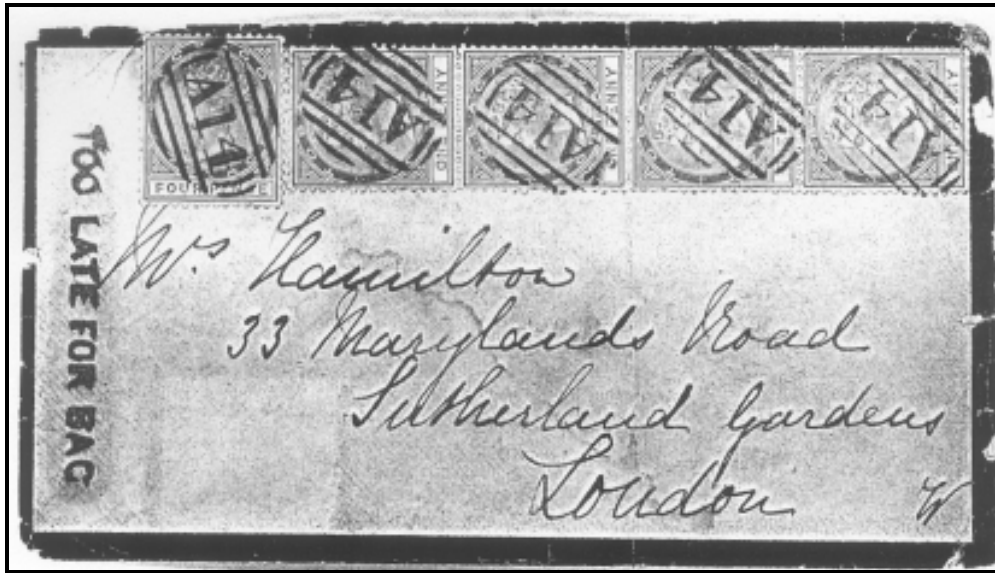
Author	Title	Price (Member's discount)
Deakin HF	Advanced Barbados Philately	£13 (£2)
Toeg EV	Dominica Postal History, Stamps, Stationery to 1935	£25
Jarvis & Sutcliffe	GB Stamps Used in Jamaica	£38 (£6)
Oliver MN	The Leeward Islands. Notes for Philatelists	£53 (£8)
Toeg EV	Leeward islands Adhesive Fee Stamps	£10
Britnor / Freeland	Montserrat to 1965	£16 (£2)
Borromeo F	The Philately of Nevis	£13 (£2)
Wike RG	Airmails of Trinidad & Tobago	£25

TOBAGO

'TOO LATE' marking

By Simon Goldblatt

Those who know my relative lack of enthusiasm for covers may be surprised to see me singing the praises of a rather careworn mourning cover from Tobago to London. How else, though, could one learn about the use of a mark which is much too long for representation on a single adhesive and which was not intended to be struck on the stamp anyway?



No philatelic artifice was applied to this cover. A single red London backstamp, dated AP 4 87, implies that the letter left the West Indies the previous month. I picture the bereaved sender separating from his small store of stamps the strip of four 1d Venetian red (why 'red'?) The Venetians must have had an interesting sense of colour – but that's for another occasion) lining them up as may be to the mourning band, so as to leave room for the address, writing in name and address, walking the sad missive down to the Scarborough post office, and placing it on the counter for the cancelling despatch. Whereupon, the dialogue – “you’ve missed the bag”, or some such; for people die at most inconvenient times – followed by, “oh, dear, I do want this to reach her, what do I do?” - “You’ll have to pay four pence more”,

A major forfeit in those days, but a small price to have paid in our enlightened eyes for this delicious ‘TOO LATE FOR BAG’ hand-stamp.

For the totally cautious, the strip is just arguably tied in two places, and the 4d grey gently suffused with oiliness that has seeped from the ink spread by the rubber of the instrument. This ink seems to correspond well with the tone of the killers on the 1d stamps, while a fresher, much blacker strike cancels the 4d one. Does one infer that this latter was first paid for, affixed, and firmly struck, and then there follows a hunt for a decayed, dusty, seldom-used device, to proclaim the purpose of the charge, and sully the ink pad for its future use?

My only other comment is to draw attention to the boldness and thoroughness with which the ‘A14’ killer is used. For those of us who look hopefully from time to time at weak and faltering strikes on the 1879 CC issues, wondering whether the usage could be right, here is a welcome refresher course. When you look at genuinely used stamps of the period, how can you be left in any doubt?

TRINIDAD

'TOO LATE' markings

By Michael Medlicott

The quickest way to render research obsolete is to publish it.

Even before the arrival of the Jubilee edition (No. 200, March 2004) of the Bulletin, fresh finds have added to the already long list of TOO-LATE cancellations, and acquisitions at Proud-Bailey's March auction now permit illustration of two more of those previously listed.

These are:-

TYPE TL.7.

Figure 1 shows the cover (front only) recorded in Chin Aleong/Proud ⁽¹⁾ from San Fernando (JA 7 11) to London. 'TOO-LATE' is struck away from the (missing) adhesive, suggesting that it collected no fee, and was simply indicating why the item missed the post. The 'L' of 'LATE' shows considerable damage, and may be useful in identifying strikes on loose stamps from the earlier period when the handstamp collected a fee and cancelled the relevant adhesive. To date, this is the only piece of registered mail the writer has seen cancelled 'TOO-LATE', and it is the only recorded cover bearing type TL.7.

TYPE TLFB. 3.

Figure 2 shows a cover from San Fernando (27 DEC 30) to New York City, which extends the period of usage (see Bulletin No. 200 p. 24) to forty-eight years; more covers are sure to be found, but for the moment its scarcity rating remains VR (up to 5 known).

Turning to the fresh finds which necessitate alteration of the previous check-list, - see below for a full amended version – it is apparent that the type TL.4 illustrated as figure 6 in Bulletin No. 200 is in fact a scarce and distinct variant of the common handstamp, and that there is more than one sub-type. The more common type TL.4 is now designated TL.4(a) and illustrated as figure 3. The scarce variant referred to above is now designated TL.4(b), and illustrated as figure 4; it differs from TL.4(a) in that the 'O's are closer together and the gap between 'TOO' and 'LATE' is wider. Equally scarce, and previously unrecorded, is type TL.4(c) in a distinctive heavy typeface with tall oval 'O's, illustrated as figure 5.

Hence

TYPE TL.4 (a)	CANCEL	28.5x4 mm	ROUNDED OVAL 'O's	HYPHEN	BLACK OR RED
TYPE TL.4 (b)	CANCEL	28.5x4 mm	CLOSER OVAL 'O's	HYPHEN	BLACK
TYPE TL.4 (c)	CANCEL	28.5x4 mm	TALL OVAL 'O's	HYPHEN	BLACK

Figure 6 shows the copy of the 1869 5/- cancelled with the Port of Spain no-hyphen type TL.5 in black (previously illustrated in Bulletin No. 200) in conjunction with Trinidad double arc cds for NO 26 1874. Fresh finds require that this be redesignated TL.5(a), with figure 7 designated type TL.5(b), and figure 8 designated type TL.5(c).

Hence

TYPE TL.5(a)	CANCEL	27.5 x 4.5 mm	ROUNDED OVAL 'O's	NO HYPHEN	BLACK
TYPE TL.5(b)	CANCEL	28.5 x 4.0 mm	OVAL 'O's	NO HYPHEN	RED
TYPE TL.5(c)	CANCEL	30.0 x 4.5 mm	SQUARISH 'O's	NO HYPHEN	BLACK

The next addition is at figure 9 and cancels a Perf.14 1/- chrome-yellow in conjunction with a Trinidad double arc cds for ?/9/1878, and is designated type TL.13

Hence

TYPE TL 13	CANCEL	? x 5.75 mm	Tall squarish 'O's	Hyphen	black
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Figure 1



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 2



Figure 6



Figure 7



The original article in Bulletin 200 elicited helpful responses from several distinguished Trinidad collectors. David Druett sent, as well as photocopies of his holding, copies of three articles in Stamp Collecting from the period 1953-55⁽²⁾, which debated the authenticity of the TOO-LATE handstamps. Having reviewed the articles in the light of the evidence since uncovered, the writer remains firmly of the opinion that all four values of the De La Rue Britannias were legitimately handstamped TOO-LATE on cover to acknowledge collection of a late fee equal to the relevant newspaper or letter rate; at some time (probably early 1870's) 6d. was the sole late letter fee. This does not, of course, explain the existence, albeit rare, of the 1869 5/- handstamped TOO-LATE; the probable explanation for this appears in an editorial in The Philatelist of February 1872, which records the receipt direct from the Trinidad Postmaster of "five pounds worth of all values so surcharged". Thus they may have been unofficial local specimens for the philatelic press, although the same Postmaster states "We never had any 'TOO LATE' stamps struck off, but substitute the sixpenny stamp – sixpence being the fee on all 'late letters'" (presumably in 1872). The argument is probably best settled by concluding that legitimate postal use was almost certainly supplemented by supplies of favour cancelled stamps.

Federico Borromeo's contribution to the debate includes the illustration of two splendid covers

- Dec 10 1872 Port of Spain to London, franked with a pair of the 1/- yellow, the right-hand stamp carefully tied by the '1' roller cancel, its left-hand twin tied by two perpendicularly opposed strikes of TOO-LATE type TL 4 (a)
- Oct 26 1874 Port of Spain to Martinique paid at 11d. rate made up with 4d. grey, 6d green and 1d red. The middle of the three stamps is the 6d., tied by two perpendicularly opposed 'TOO-LATE' strikes which have also caught the 4d and 1d values at the edges.

Intriguingly, he also has a distinctive TOO-LATE instrument with slightly spaced capitals 3.5mm high cancelling a loose 6d. adhesive which is also cancelled by Marriott type 0.2 '16' for Chaguanas. In the list of markings, this has been designated TL.14.

Finally, a vestigial 'TOO LATE' strike has been identified on a loose 1d. adhesive cancelled by Marriott type 0.4. '15' for St.Mary's Tacarigua, which is listed as TL.15.

Among the errors which crept into the finished article in Bulletin 200 were a number of missing ticks from the check-list of adhesives found with TOO LATE handstamps. The following is a correct list:-

Table 2: Check-list of adhesives

SG	FACE VALUE	PERF.	COLOUR	BLACK TOO-LATE	RED TOO LATE
69	(1d)	12½	Red	X	X
70	4d	12½	Purple	X	X
71	4d	12½	Grey	-	-
72	6d	12½	Green	X	X
73	1/-	12½	Mauve	X	-
74	1/-	12½	Yellow	X	-
75	(1d)	14	Red	X	X
76	4d	14	Grey	X	-
77	6d	14	Green	X	X
78	1/-	14	Yellow	X	X
79	6d	14x12½	Green	-	-
87	5/-	12½	Rose-Lilac	X	X

The updated check-list of markings in full, now follows:-

TYPE	DIMENSIONS (mm)	CHARACTERISTICS	COLOUR	P.O.
TL.1	27.0 x 3.75	OVAL 'O's: HYPHEN	BLACK	P.O.S
TL.2	26.0 x 3.0	ROUND 'O's: HYPHEN	RED-PURPLE	P.O.S
TL.3	28.5 x 4.0	SQUARISH 'O's: HYPHEN	BLACK/RED	P.O.S
TL.4(a)	28.5 x 4.0	ROUNDED OVAL 'O's: HYPHEN	BLACK/RED	P.O.S
TL.4(b)	28.5 x 4.0	CLOSER OVAL 'O's: HYPHEN	BLACK	P.O.S
TL.4(c)	28.5 x 4.0	TALL OVAL 'O's: HYPHEN	BLACK	P.O.S
TL.5(a)	27.5 x 4.5	ROUNDED OVAL 'O's: NO HYPHEN	BLACK	P.O.S
TL.5(b)	28.5 x 4.0	OVAL 'O's: NO HYPHEN	RED	P.O.S
TL.5(c)	30.0 x 4.5	SQUARISH 'O's: NO HYPHEN	BLACK	P.O.S
TL.6	26.5 x 3.75	SQUARISH 'O's: NO HYPHEN	BLACK	P.O.S
TL.7	27.5 x 4.0	SQUARISH 'O's: HYPHEN	BLACK	SAN FERNANDO
TL.8	27.5 x 4.0 ⁽¹⁾	SQUARISH 'O's: HYPHEN	?	PRINCES TOWN
TL.9	33.0 x 5.5 ⁽¹⁾	SQUARISH 'O's: NO HYPHEN	?	ERIN
TL.10	34.0 x 5.5	NO HYPHEN	BLACK	CEDROS
TL.11	29.0 x 4.5	OVAL 'O's: HYPHEN	BLACK	COUVA
TL.12	33.0 x 5.5	SQUARISH 'O's: NO HYPHEN	RED/BLACK	CIUDAD BOLIVAR
TL.13	? x 5.75	TALL SQUARISH 'O's: HYPHEN	BLACK	P.O.S
TL.14	? x 3.5	SPACED LETTERS: HYPHEN	BLACK	CHAGUANAS
TL.15	? x 3.5	?	BLACK	ST. MARY'S (TACARIGUA)
L.1.	17.5 x 5.25	-	BLACK	P.O.S
L.2.	14.0 x 4.0 ⁽¹⁾	-	?	P.O.S
TLFB.1	?	UNBOXED SERIFED TYPEFACE	BLACK	?
TLFB.2.	38.0 x 9.5	BOXED	?	P.O.S
TLFB.3	47.0 x 12.0	BOXED	BLACK	SAN FERNANDO
TLFB.4	49.5 x 3.5	UNBOXED	BLACK	SCARBOROUGH
TLFB.5	47.0 x 11.25 ⁽²⁾	BOXED	BLACK	CEDROS STEAMER
LFP.1	41.5 x 3.5	UNBOXED	VIOLET	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.

References(1) *The Postal History of Trinidad & Tobago – Joe Chin Aleong & Edward B. Proud. 1997*(2) *Stamp Collecting, Feb 27 1953 p. 829; Apr. 24 1953; May 20 1955 p. 319*

VIRGIN ISLANDS

NEW MULTIPLE CROWN CA WATERMARK VARIETY

By JOHN DAVIS

One or two members are aware of an unusual watermark variety that I discovered a few months ago, and I thought all members would be interested in this new "find".

British Virgin Islands WAR STAMP overprint on the 1d scarlet from Plate 6 packed by De La Rue in January 1919, the "A" of "CA" sideways. I have two blocks (block of 6 illustrated to right and a block of 30 with plate number top right) where the variety is in the 4th column of the right hand pane. In one block, the variety is actually on the stamp, and in the other block, it is in the bottom margin.

Several reports have been published on watermark varieties (faulty dandy roll) such as mine, but I think mine is quite distinctive and the best so far, - but I would, wouldn't I?

The dandy roll for the Multiple Crown CA watermark had been in use since 1903, and De La Rue were informed in 1920 that it was in need of repair. Perhaps it is therefore of no surprise that late in its life, faults occurred resulting as watermark varieties.

I have looked at all my other War Stamps from all countries, but as far as I can tell, I have no others. The variety is of course not restricted to the War Tax stamps.

As the dark winter evenings approach, members may like to spend some time researching their stamps for similar varieties.



peter singer



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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****Victoria Stamp Company 9 October**

The first event in a very busy quarter (culminating in our own sale of 31 October reported on elsewhere), Phoebe's sale was based around the Nashville collection of used stamps and covers. Though its main focus was elsewhere, strong prices were achieved for the BWI items. All were overshadowed however, by astonishing results for the two St Vincent 1/-s pictured on the front cover of the catalogue – \$65,000 for the compound perf and \$52,500 for the imperf, each plus 15%. Enough said!

Spink 21-2 October

This blockbuster sale will have presented a challenge to many members in deciding what to go for. It included important collections of Antigua, Bahamas, Grenada and St Vincent, with choice selections of St Lucia, Trinidad and BWI booklets. Surprisingly, the room was never very full, though our members Roy Bond, John Davis, Simon Goldblatt, Michael Hamilton, Phil McMurdie, Michael Medlicott and David Wilson attended at least part of the time, as did the usual suspects among the dealer and agent fraternity. The hammer total of £700,000 (all prices plus 15%) was respectable but not overwhelming, with many bargains slipping through, although there were as ever these days top prices for outstanding material. These results confirmed that we are not reliving the late 1970s when the prices of even average stamps went sky-high, but there are plainly some new heavy hitters and a number of dealers advising the dreaded "investors" playing at the top of the range. By my count there were over 120 different buyers, and some of these were acting partly for others. So the spread of interest for the BWI remains broad and Spink's prices list will repay careful study.

The Mayer Antigua (hammer total £185,000) was to my taste the most interesting section. Based largely on the outstanding collection formed by our member Mark Swetland, a lot of the material was fresh on the market and eagerness for the unfamiliar led to strong prices across the board. Most of the rare 18th century covers and a few important keyplates owned by Mark were not present, but it appears that they were "in a different house" and may come up later. The splendid range of 19th century markings and frankings all sold for good prices, with Taylor usually ending up with the spoils. The 1836-7 Post Paid in two lines has not yet to my knowledge been offered on the open market so the price of £1,200 to Taylor established a benchmark. The rare 4d GB usage to Jamaica went for £2,600 (acquired by Mark in 1982 for £180!). Among the issued stamps, the 1d die proof fetched £3,200 and there was a strong bidder for the lovely range of mint blocks, headed by the block of ten SG1 at £6,500 (ex-Toeg, where it fetched £4,200 plus 10%). The trial compound perf 1d of 1863, one of two in the Hopkins brochure and not on the market since, went for £1,200 to one of our members. Another member scooped up the beautiful newspaper franked with an Antigua 1d used in St Christopher for £4,200. Among the lesser items, the early specimens and the 1886 2½d specimen with sloping 2 all fetched £4-500 each and Kinns acquired the GV 2d sideways watermark for £700.

The Fane Solomon Bahamas (£236,000) was far more patchy with a lot of bargains. One reason for this was that many of the single items had been acquired within the past five years from the Staircase or Ludington sales, another was the considerable duplication and lower overall quality. Nonetheless, the spectacular rarities went very well, the red markings of the straightline Bahamas and the Bahamas Ship Letter for £8,000 and £8,500 respectively. The unusual usage of the GB embossed 6d from Bahamas sold at lower estimate of £4,000. The good range of proofs and colour trials were almost all cheaper than in recent sales, notably Graham Hoey's fine lot at Cavendish, and some of our members were left wondering whether they should have waited. There was an excellent range of GVI and QEII but nothing that has not been offered recently. Philip Kinns was a strong bidder on the GVI ½d watermark varieties so watch out for a catalogue increase.

The Cyril Bell Grenada (£73,000) contained some glorious revenues but the issued stamps were less distinguished. There were a number of valuable covers and stamps that had featured in the Dan Walker sale in June 2003, which I doubt were Cyril's because he did not collect covers. They sold for prices very similar to Shreves. The most expensive was the manuscript postage unused at £14,000, acquired as we later heard by Joseph Hackmey. There was a good range of early stamps which aroused little excitement, but our members were waiting for the revenues where I expected

the action to hot up. But it was a case of the dog that did not bark and some happy faces were seen. I was especially pleased to secure the mixed lot with the 1949 \$5 revenue, a great rarity ex Bryan Johnson, and Michael Medlicott and Michael Hamilton each acquired extensive mixed lots. For the record, lot 3070 described as having the rare Carriacou cancellation was condemned by Michael H as a Barbados cds. An item I have not seen before was the GV 1/- MSCA with inverted and reversed watermark.

The St Vincent (£106,000) consisted of the bulk of a collection that had been marketed unsuccessfully in London around five years ago, but it was missing some of its choicest items. The reserves ranged between very high and too high and inevitably the results were rather flat. The famous 4d/1/- provisional cover ex Seybold and most of the Polignac covers were unsold and the only genuine competition was for the rare early blocks, mostly bought by the same collector for multiples of Gibbons prices. The second imperf 1/- vermilion to be offered in October was a fraction of Phoebe's price at £8,500. The St Lucia (£28,000) may have belonged to the same consignor as the reserves were also high, but this fared better with most lots selling around lower estimate. But the "big" cover, the 6d green with Crowned Circle, did not attract a bid. Finally, the comprehensive selection of booklets that I referred to in my last article were keenly chased, with the British Honduras 1920 the plum at £2,600 in the hammer total of almost £20,000.

Future events

There are three major events ahead. First, on 25 November Cavendish are offering the Michael Jackson Falmouth Packet Mail, which contains a few choice examples of BWI markings. I will report on the results in my next auction, but the estimates of several look extremely enticing so this is sure to be an exciting and probably expensive sale.

Sothebys will sell the Sir Gawaine Baillie BWI from 16-8 February. The spectacular results achieved for his GB collection will ensure intense interest as the provenance "ex-Baillie" is already much sought after. The good news is that Sothebys have reverted to a 15% buyers premium, the less good news is that the BWI coverage is not as extensive as the £3.5 mn achieved for the GB had led one to hope and does not begin to rival, for example, the Charlton Henry assembly. As mentioned in my last column, Baillie only collected mint stamps, specimens and proof material. I have been privileged to view some parts of the collection and the quality is very fine, but there are some key stamps missing and I was told that Baillie only started collecting proofs fairly recently so their coverage is patchy. So for some islands, such as Antigua, the offering will not extend much beyond the basic stamps plus a few nice blocks. Specialist highlights to save up for include blocks of 12 of Bahamas SG 1 and SG 6 plus many proof pieces ex Staircase or Ludington, seven Barbados Perkins Bacon die proofs including the 6d in rose, the Bermuda QV 1/- imperf horizontally in irregular block of 5 and a beautiful handpainted 2½d essay, Br Guiana GV 4c imperf between in a pair and a block, Jamaica the unissued Slavery 6d and the 1/- inverted frame, and Tobago 2½d on 4d double overprint in block of 8. There are also plenty of rare mint stamps including excellent selections of British Honduras and Turks Islands provisionals. So I expect nearly all members will find something to tempt them in this sale, although I doubt anything will be cheap.

The third event of note is almost the exact opposite, a minority event at Grosvenor on 10 March. The "Apollonia" Bermuda GVI, the most comprehensive I have seen since Dickgiesser's, is conservatively expected to raise £200,000. It contains many choice items ex Ludington and Dickgiesser and if you are looking for almost any high value flaw, it is here in a positional block, and often more than one. The Nov 1941 5/- used plate block is one of the few key items missing, but there is a mint block from the same position without the side margin, plus a single with chin flaw. There are also two blocks of the disputed Nov 1941 10/- printing and two pieces of the line perf 10/- with sequential sheet number. The Ludington haul includes the line perf 2/6 block of 20. Other highlights include die proofs for each value struck in 1918 or 1920, for the head plate and for the head and laurel leaves. There is a separate stock book for each of the high values – how they will be broken down remains to be seen but with a full day allocated for the event we will hopefully not witness the cavalier treatment meted out to the Dickgiesser keyplates by Cherrystone.

In this respect we are delighted that Stuart Billington has joined the Grosvenor team where his Bermuda contacts are evidently already proving useful.

Stock Items For Sale

ANTIGUA	<u>1948</u>	1974 10c SG381a Wmk error	£40
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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.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**IAN JAKES.**

Library lists can be 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

"Bahamas the locally overprinted special delivery stamps of 1916-1917 by M H Ludington" (donated to the library by Peter Fernbank) (library reference 2.3.8 location A 1).

'The Queens Stamps - Travelling Exhibition - 2002 Jubilee Celebrations' (donated to the library by Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Queens Collection) (library reference 10.58 location B4).

If any member has a book which is not already in the library and which is surplus to requirements, perhaps that member will consider donating it to the library.

Peter Fernbank has continued scanning early editions of the bulletin, he has now reached edition 72, of which 60 are on our web site. Peter is at present bringing the index of bulletins up-to-date, an updated listing will be published in the new year.

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