

Fyffes Line Shipmarks



1936 Letter from Turks Islands to Lundy

From Peter Marshall on Page 4

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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.
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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.

April Auction 2005 – Lost Vendors

By the time this Bulletin reaches you, each seller should have received a list showing the items and lot numbers belonging to that seller's code.

Unhappily, my records are chaotic this year, largely owing to my change of home in the autumn; and there are several sellers for whom I have a code letter and list of lots, but no current identity!

If you are a seller this year and have not received your list please, please let me know, telling me of any lot or lots that you think are yours.

Thank you all – Simon Goldblatt (contact details inside front cover).

Biennial Convention

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

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.

MEMBERS

I am pleased to report that Brian Cartwright has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society.

MARITIME

FYFFES LINE SHIPMARKS – ‘OCEAN MAILS’

BY PETER MARSHALL

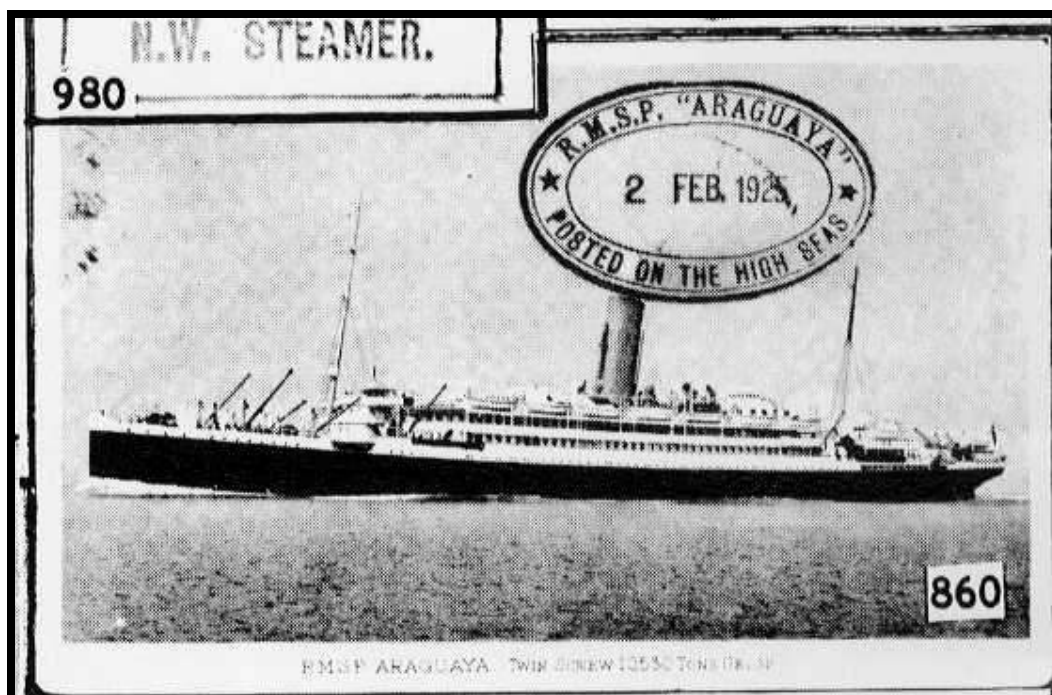
Peter has supplied the following update to the Mike Box listing in the previous Bulletin.

Date	From	Ship Mark	Other Marks
8 Sept 1932	Turks & Caicos	m/s Via Jamaica / SS Bayano	Registered to England
27 Feb 1935	Turks & Caicos	OCEAN MAILS / EX / SS BAYANO	GPO Barbados to USA
21 May 1936	Jamaica	OCEAN MAILS / SS CAVINA	Kingston Paquebot to USA
12 Sep 1935	Turks Islands	OCEAN MAILS / SS CAVINA	Turks Islands cds Typed 'PER PAQUEBOT'
18 ??? 1936	Turks Islands	OCEAN MAILS / SS CAMITO	Lundy to North Devon 11 th Nov 1936 at the airport and 20 th on Lundy (Photo front cover)

RMSP ARAGUAYA – POSTED ON THE HIGH SEAS

BY PETER MARSHALL

Peter also offers these two items for interest.



From BWI Auction Catalogue



Cachet in blue

WAR TAX WORKSHOP (JUBILEE EVENT)**BY JOHN DAVIS**

The Workshop on 31st October was enthusiastically attended by a select gathering of our members. Unfortunately, we were competing against a background of private treaty and dealers' tables, and auction viewing, but nevertheless, interest was stimulated for the allotted 90 minutes.

Material contributed included Bahamas, Cayman Islands, Grenada, Jamaica, and St Vincent.

- **Bahamas** – beware all overprint varieties, even if supported by a Certificate.
Some believe all those on the keyplates are fakes (more of this in a coming bulletin)
- **Cayman Islands** – SG 56a and 59a now removed from the catalogue. (the BVI Plate was NOT used for these over-printings)
- **Grenada** – De La Rue overprint, missing perf pins present in the 6th column of the lh pane.
- **Jamaica** – over-inking and blemishes with the De La Rue overprints – ½d and 3d.
- **St Vincent.** I proudly showed my latest acquisition. SG 126 with watermark inverted and reversed; a hitherto unrecorded variety, and therefore the only known example. Then Charles Freeland opened his album, and said 'I seem to have one as well'. I might have guessed!!

The Workshop proved that there is still much to learn about the WAR TAX issues, especially with regard to legislation, De La Rue printings, more unlisted varieties etc., and that records require constant reviewing and updating.

There is still plenty of scope to develop and broaden the interest in the WAR TAX stamps beyond the basic stamps, and listed varieties.

I am grateful to all members who supported, and contributed to the Workshop, and for helping to foster the continued research into these interesting issues.

ANTIGUA**MANUSCRIPT CANCELLATIONS****BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT**

Michael Hamilton has drawn my attention to George Bowman's seminal article (Bulletin No. 72, March 1972) entitled "The Postal History of English Harbour", which was in fact a significant attempt to draw together available data on the early development of Antigua's inland posts. The article must have been one of Michael Oliver's sources for his admirable "Leeward Islands Notes for Philatelists" (pub. BWISC 2000).

The latter affirms that four P.O.'s – All-Saints, St.Peter's (renamed Parham), St.Mary's (renamed Old Road) and St.Paul's – all opened around 1875, but that no datestamps are recorded until late in 1898. The long gap in time (1875-98), during which more P.O.'s were opened, is filled by manuscript cancellations, some of them overlaid with GPO handstamps, some ambiguously alone, most of them frustratingly anonymous and impossible to ascribe conclusively to one or other of the village P.O.'s.

Unpublished notes by Rob Wynstra record manuscript cancellations showing:

- date + "SP" (originating in either Parham (St.Peter's) , English Harbour (St.Paul's) or Newfield or Freetown (St.Philip's)) all from 1890
- one cancellation showing date + "St.Ph." for 7 September 1890 (probably originating in Newfield or Freetown, St.Philip's)
- and one cancellation showing date + "St.Philip" for 8 August 1887.

The last is also of interest in that an "equals sign" ("=") replaces the usual dots, dashes or obliques in the date, thereby identifying the origin of other similar "date only" manuscript cancellations.

Only a proving cover, or a manuscript cancel on loose adhesive specifying the P.O. of origin, as was common practice in Dominica or occasional practice in St.Christopher, can make a truly reliable connection. So far as I am aware, except for the one St.Philip's mark, until now such desirables from Antigua have eluded captivity. Now, however, a copy of SG 13x has turned up cancelled in black pen "8.7.75 / Parham" with a line separating date and word. (The day numeral is either an "8" corrected to "7" or the reverse.

This little gem of a find bears out Oliver's opening date for Parham and is probably the earliest recorded evidence of the Antigua inland posts, always leaving aside the transfer of mails from English Harbour.

ANTIGUA

1921-29 KGV SCRIPT 2D GREY WATERMARK SIDEWAYS

BY CHRIS MAY

As an Antigua collector, I have long been looking out for a copy of SG70a. Rather like No. 9 buses, I have now come across what appears to be a severed pair tied by the postmark. This postmark of St. Johns clearly dated NOV 4 (19)25 might enable Circle members to help establish how widespread is this variety, as, if other used copies show a range of dates, it could indicate that several sheets exist.



At the same time as Chris submitted this article, another copy appeared at the Oct 2004 Spink sale of Frederick Mayer collection, estimated at £150-£180, it sold for £700, giving Chris a splendid early Christmas present. This item was dated 14 Dec 1925.

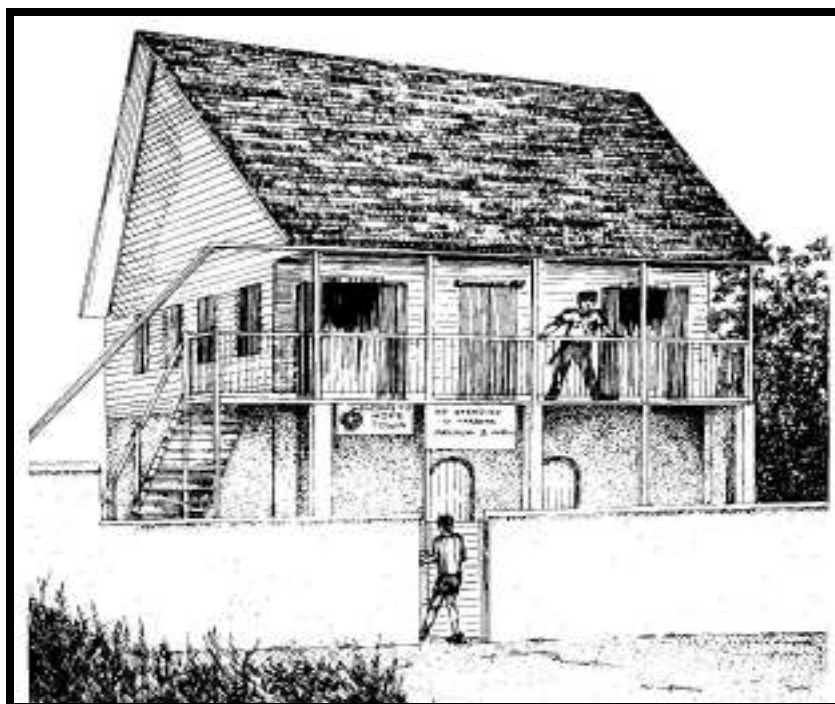
Charles Freeland also reports knowledge of one dated 24 Oct 1925.

BAHAMAS

HOPE TOWN POST OFFICE

BY MICHAEL REGO

Hope Town is situated on Great Abaco Island on a narrow strip of land facing both the Caribbean and Atlantic seas. The first post office here was opened on 20 March 1865, and was connected via the government lighthouse yacht which carried the mails 4 times a year, April, July, October, January, from GPO Nassau to the Out-Islands.



Hope Town post-office

The Abaco mail route was re-established in 1867 with a fast-sailing vessel of at least 20 tons burden, on a fortnightly mail schedule, and in a Postmaster's annual report for 1882 he gives the northern mail boat route to Abaco islands as having three post offices, namely; Cherokee Sound, Hope Town, Green Turtle Cay. During this period the fortnightly schooners employed were, Brothers (1867-68), Quick (1875-76), Admired (1878-82).

The two-storey building (illustrated by Laurie Jones) was erected by the government circa 1890, and typically was a multi-purpose building, housing not only the post office, but the local police station with jail below and a Commissioner's Office. The building design incorporates two cisterns which were erected as a public water supply for use during periods of drought.

On 1 December 1928 domestic parcel post was established and all the district post offices, and Money Order Offices commenced from this date.

Bahamas Airways was founded in 1936 with four aircraft, with the purpose of making monthly flights from GPO Nassau to Cat Cay and Bimini, fortnightly to Marsh Harbour, Hope Town, Green Turtle Cay, West End, weekly to Harbour Island, Spanish Wells, Governor's Harbour, Rock Sound. I am unsure when this service ceased as on 9 September 1948 British South American Airways (BSAA) bought out Bahamas Airways, and later in the following year BOAC took over BSAA, with Bahamas Airways forming a subsidiary of BOAC. However a decade later in April 1959, BOAC sold its 80% shares in Bahamas Airways to Skyway Bahamas Holding Company, only to find in December the following year BOAC had bought back its 80% share stake in Bahamas Airways. In October 1970 Bahamas Airways went into voluntary liquidation.

In August 1948, the Legislature passed an Interinsular Mails Act which required a weekly mail service to most of the Out Islands, and a greatly improved mail service commenced the following year using motor vessels between GPO Nassau and the majority of the Out Islands.

Since the Commissioner's headquarters was moved in 1959 from Hope Town to Marsh Harbour, the Hope Town office found a new use and meetings for the local Board of Works convene there. The post office building is situated inside Hope Town Harbour, facing the main Public Dock (the principal landing place), where the mail schooners and later, the motor-boats came directly from GPO Nassau.

By 1960 mails were still despatched weekly from Nassau by fast motor vessels to the majority of the Out Islands, and in addition, mails were dispatched by air twice a week to Bimini, West End, Green Turtle Cay, Hope Town, and Man-O-War Cay.

Sources; (i) Illustration by Laurie Jones. (ii) Book "A Guide and History of Hope Town" by Steve Dodge and Vernon Malone. (iii) Book "Bahamas Early Mail Services and Postal Markings" by Morris Ludington. (iv) Annual Report "Colonial Report for Bahamas 1928" by HMSO.

BRITISH GUIANA

EXPRESS DELIVERY

BY GRAHAM WILLIAMS

Collectors of BG postal history will have come across express delivery mail. As Townsend & Howe ("T&H") note at page 364 express mail can be found from the 1930s (the earliest cover in my collection is dated 27 November 1933) with a variety of labels and from the 1950s a series of elusive handstamps. However T&H were unable to establish when this service started.

I have recently acquired the Argosy Handbook and Directory for BG for 1910-11. The information on postal services notes the existence of the express delivery service:

Delivering Offices – In Georgetown and at New Amsterdam, and at every postal telegraph office, Inland letters and Parcels can be specially delivered immediately on arrival at the Post Office.

The cost for this service was 6 cents for every mile or part from the office of delivery. In addition it is noted that an additional flat-rate fee of 10 cents was payable. According to the Handbook this fee was set by the Court of Policy on 9 August 1898.

Are any members able to comment on whether this service was operated before 1898? Have any members examples of express delivery mail from before the 1930s?

POSTAL DELIVERIES WITHIN GEORGETOWN**BY GRAHAM WILLIAMS**

Derek Nathan's article in Bulletin 193 (June 2002) discussed this subject. Whilst I am unable to help with any of Derek's queries, I have recently acquired a cover from Curacao to BG. It arrived in BG on 23 Nov 1942, which Derek notes was the date of the last re-organisation of Routes. The cover bears a boxed 3 line violet cachet reading: 'From PROMPT AND SAFE DELIVERY ask / your Correspondents to include *your Georgetown* / Route No. 3 as part of your POSTAL ADDRESS.'

Derek notes that this cachet exists for Routes 15 and 18. This latest find supports the view that the cachet was used during the reorganisation of the Routes in 1942 and was applied to mail destined for all 18 Routes. This leaves another 15 cachets to discover!

CAYMAN ISLANDS**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION****BY TOM GIRALDI**

Can any member please help me with the following information:-

- What were the external Parcel Post rates for Cayman in 1921? I have the same as Jamaica for 1921 in my Table of Cayman Postal Rates but do not know the PP rates.
- Does anyone know when Jamaica/Cayman started collecting Post Due fees? Did they stay the same all the way to the present? Cayman no longer collects these actively. I have a couple of covers from the early 1980's that are due, but not sure they are genuine. Any help appreciated as we are getting along with the Cayman book update.
- Does anyone have any tables on the GB postage rates to Cayman by 1st & 2nd Class Airmail & Surface Mail back in the 1980's?

Replies to Tom at TEG43@aol.com or to the Editor and I will forward.

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

THE SCANDAL

BY IAN JAKES

ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES IN 1907/8 CONCERNING THE WITHDRAWAL ISSUE AND SALE OF POSTAGE STAMPS

Introduction

Further to my note in the September 2004 bulletin, I have now received a copy of the correspondence (consisting of 53 sheets) from the Cayman Islands National Archive relating to the above allegations. I also have permission for publication of these records in our bulletin. In order to make full sense of the correspondence and to reach a balanced view on 'The Scandal,' I consider it necessary also to read 'The Cayman Islands – their postal history postage stamps and postmarks' by Aguilar and Saunders ('Aguilar'). Aguilar expressly states that the book has purposely omitted reference to 'The Scandal.' Aguilar, therefore, gives an alternative view of events in 1907 and 1908. I have also found it helpful to make reference to 'Stamps of the Cayman Islands' by Fred. J. Melville ('Melville') and 'Founded upon the Seas – A History of the Cayman Islands and Their People' by Michael Craton ('Craton'). These books and the correspondence may be borrowed by members from Hon. Librarian. The reader also needs to know the background of the firm 'Whitfield King & Co.,' making the allegations and of the persons accused of 'The Scandal.'

'The Complainant' in 'The Scandal.'

'Whitfield King & Co.' was a firm of stamp dealers in Ipswich England who between January 1907 and January 1908 wrote no fewer than 19 letters to The Postmistress Cayman Islands, requesting to buy Cayman Islands stamps at face value. The records show that the firm was frustrated in its attempts to purchase all the stamps which it requested.

'The Accused' in 'The Scandal.'

'Gwendolyn A. Parsons' was the Cayman Islands Postmistress in 1907 and 1908 during the whole period of the alleged scandal.

'Hon. Edmund Parsons' Craton states that he was the last Custos (1888 – 1898) i.e. the person in charge of public affairs. Craton continues 'From 13 April 1889, Edmund Parsons was officially Postmaster as well as Treasurer and Recorder' and 'He presided over the revision and reprinting of the local laws and made minor reforms in the systems of tax and customs collection and public accounting'. Aguilar states that Edmund Parsons was relieved of his duties as postmaster in 1896. Whitfield King & Co. asked the Colonial Office in London whether he was related to Gwendolyn Parsons without obtaining a reply to the point. In a letter to the Colonial Office dated 20th February 1908 Whitfield King state *'...on October 15th 1907 we wrote to thirteen different people, business people, at Grand Cayman enquiring if they had any of the surcharged postage stamps for sale and at what price. We never received replies from any of these people, but a Mr Edmund Parsons replied to the letter we sent to Messrs. Bodden Brothers. Now the Postmistress's name is Parsons and her predecessor in office was a Mr. Bodden, this may be only a coincidence, but this is worth enquiring into, as it is very strange that this should be the only reply, we received'*.

'W.M. Cochran' who according to Whitfield King in the same letter dated 20th February 1908 to the Colonial Office *'... no doubt was acting as agent for the (Cayman Islands) Commissioner and who is the same person who advertises in the "Daily Mail" "the three provisional stamps for 15/-, which have a face value of 2d ...'*

George Stephenson Shirt Hirst – He was appointed Cayman Islands Commissioner in March 1907. He was in charge of public affairs including the post office. Craton states 'Hirst was a qualified doctor. He was expected to combine the duties of government medical officer with those of Commissioner, President of the Council, Chief Justice and (later) Registrar General Hirst was a difficult man in many respects. A British chauvinist who could be both irascible and tactless tensions and opposition to Hirst gradually increased....' An enquiry by the Governor of Jamaica concluded 'The most serious allegation made against the Commissioner is that he drinks to excess. He has in fact the appearance and odour of a 'Soaker.'

The Initial Allegations

The allegations are contained in three lengthy and rambling letters from Whitfield King & Co, addressed to The Under Secretary of State Colonial Office, Downing Street, London S. W. dated 31st January 1908, 20th February 1908 and 4th March 1908 following the publication at the end January 1908 in the magazine 'Truth' of a long article under the heading of 'The Colonial Postage Stamp Scandal,' referring to the issue of provisional stamps for the Cayman Islands. No copy of 'Truth' has been seen by me. Whitfield King & Co. alleges in its letter dated 31st January 1908 that *'from the information in our possession we have reason to believe that the case is far more serious than the article would indicate....'*

The allegations were:

1. After March 1907 when the King Edward VII Postage – Postage design 6d Olive and Red and 1/- Violet and Green were issued, it was not possible to purchase the withdrawn issues including the 6d Brown and 1/- Orange at face value but they were available at a premium.
2. A situation was engineered so that the provisional surcharge stamps could be issued and then sold at a premium. Whitfield King & Co. suspected that the '½d and 1d 'POSTAGE-POSTAGE' stamps were purposely withdrawn. They point out that first the penny stamps were overprinted 'One halfpenny,' afterwards a quantity of 5/- stamps were overprinted '½' and '1D' and after that Whitfield King & Co. were invited to make an offer for some ½d and 1d stamps as part of two large parcels of stamps having a face value of £670 or thereabouts including five sheets of the surcharges, one sheet of 'One halfpenny' on penny and two each of the '½' and '1D' on 5/-.
3. No stamp dealer was able to purchase the surcharge stamps at face value.
4. Stamps withdrawn by the Cayman Islands Commissioner were not destroyed or placed on sale again at the post office at face value. It is implied that this conduct and the number of new values then recently issued or about to then be issued and proposed further changes in colours of the then existing denominations was nothing more than a money making measure for the benefit of a few individuals and mentions that Government Officials in the Gambia have speculated on surcharged stamps of that country.
5. Whitfield King & Co. were offered withdrawn stamps at a premium privately by W.M. Cochran as agent for the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands.
6. Orders for stamps at face value were purposely delayed until new issues were available. Sales of withdrawn stamps were stopped to stamp dealers evidently with an intention of creating 'a corner' and sending up the market value.



N.B. There was no mention of the 2½d on 4d issued on 12th February 1908 because Whitfield King & Co were not aware of the existence of this new surcharge until 5th March 1908.



The Documentary Evidence To Support The Allegations

1. Numerous copy letters from Whitfield King & Co. to the Postmistress, Gwendolyn Parsons, requesting purchase of Cayman Islands stamps at face value, which were not processed, or only processed in part. In one such letter dated 31st August 1907 Whitfield King & Co. state *'We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 7th instant which we have read several times but are still unable to understand in what manner it is a reply... (.sic) as to why 6d brown and 1/- orange cannot be supplied at face value.'* Unfortunately the letter from Gwendolyn Parsons dated 7th August 1907 appears to have been lost. There is also a letter from Whitfield King & Co. addressed to the Cayman Islands Commissioner dated 10th December 1907 asking *'how many you have of each (withdrawn stamp) and whether it is proposed to sell them, if so, at what price.'*
2. Letters dated 30th May 1907, 18th September 1907, 11th October 1907, 9th November 1907 and 12th November 1907 from Gwendolyn Parsons to Whitfield King & Co., the relevant parts of which read
 - a) In the letter dated 30th May 1907 *'I regret to say that the old issue has been withdrawn from circulation and cannot now be supplied by the Post Office at face value. I have also to beg that when sending us the W. K. & Co. B. Notes you will not send us a larger than £5 each as it's very difficult for us to get credit for a large amount.'*
 - b) In the letter dated 18th September 1907 *'No the old 6d Brown and 1/- Orange have not been destroyed nor are they likely to be, neither are they on sale at face value.'*
 - c) In the letter dated 11th October 1907 *'I do not know what the Commissioner intends doing with the old stamps as he has not told me. I know though that he will not sell them at the face value.'*
 - d) In the letter dated 9th November 1907 *'The Commissioner has taken over all the old issues of stamps and I think it would be best if you would write to him and find out at what value he would be willing to sell them. I haven't heard him say so I don't know what he intends doing with them.'*
 - e) In the letter dated 12th November 1907 *'I beg to say that I cannot supply any more than the 2 sheets (10/-) enclosed of the surcharged stamps. We have only 40 sheets printed and the demand for them has been very great as I think I have said before, therefore we are brought down to only a few sheets for the use of this office.'*

Queries

- (a) Is the supply of these surcharge stamps intended to pave the way for the purchase by Whitfield King of other stamps at a premium?
- (b) If there were only a few sheets for use at Grand Cayman what happened to the rest of them since they do not appear to have been issued from any other office.
3. An unsolicited letter from Edmund Parsons to Whitfield King & Co. dated 30th November 1907 the relevant part of which reads *'Your letter of the 15th October last to Bodden Bros. of this Island Re Postage Stamps was referred to me by them. In reply thereto I beg to say that the issue 1d stamps overprinted ½d has been exhausted, and a small quantity of five shillings stamps overprinted ½d and 1d has been issued, I managed to secure five sheets of the unused ones, before the sale of them was stopped. If you like to them please say what you pay for them. There is four sheets 1d and one Sheet of ½d'*
4. An unsolicited letter from W.M. Cochran to Whitfield King & Co. dated 9th December 1907, the whole of which letter reads:-

'Sirs,

Grand Cayman

B. W. Indies

December 9th 1907

I am in a position to dispose of the whole of the remainder of the issue of stamps withdrawn from circulation in March 1907. viz:- ½d, 1d, 2½d, 6d, and 1/-, also the whole of the remainder of the original 1d stamps (Queen's Head) issued by this Government. The face value of the two parcels is £670 or thereabouts, to be disposed of in one lot.

In addition there are a few sheets of surcharged stamps, viz:-

1 sheet 1d surcharged one half-penny

2 sheets 5/- surcharged ½d (19 sheets originally)

2 sheets 5/- surcharged 1d (15 sheets originally)

None of these surcharged stamps have been issued to stamp dealers.

I remain, etc.

(sd) W.M. COCHRAN.

5. A letter from Gwendolyn Parsons to Whitfield King & Co. dated 24th January 1908, the relevant part of which reads 'I ... beg to say in reply, to your letter of December 27 that it's impossible for me to procure even one copy of the provisional stamp asked foras they have been out of issue for some months now.'
6. Advertisement printed in the 'Daily Mail' Over-Sea Edition dated 25th January 1908 which reads 'Cayman Islands. ½d surcharge on 1d, ½d surcharge on 5s, 1d surcharge on 5s: all unused. 15s the set; these will be the rarest surcharges in the world, as very few were made: cash with order. Also halfpenny and penny issued in March 1907 and withdrawn in July 1907: all unused 3d and 6d each respectively. Also complete sets current issue -½d to 10s inclusive (face value 17s 6d) for 22s 6d; cash with order. Cochran, Grand Cayman, B.W.I.
7. A letter from George S.S. Hirst Cayman Islands Commissioner dated 29th January 1908 to Whitfield King & Co. in reply to Whitfield King & Co's request to buy withdrawn stamps, the relevant part of which reads 'The postage stamps referred to..... are in the hands of the Governor of Jamaica, to whom you must cable any offer to make.
8. The stamps for sale are:-

1	81 sheets at ½d	20.5.0
2	295½ sheets at 1d	145.15.0
3	88 ⁵ / ₆ sheets at 2½	111. 0.10
4	40 ⁴¹ / ₆₀ at 6d	122.1.0
5	45 ²³ / ₃₀ at 1/-	274.12.0
6	odd stamps	14.3½

I have etc.

(sd.) GEORGE S. S. HIRST

Commissioner '

N.B. These appear to be the same stamps offered to Whitfield King & Co by W.M. Cochran in the letter dated 9th December 1907 less a few surcharged stamps. The surcharged stamps had not been withdrawn and were, therefore, not stamps to be sent to the Governor of Jamaica.

The Investigations

Following Whitfield King & Co's complaints contained in their letters to the Under Secretary of State Colonial Office dated 31st January 1908, 20th February 1908 and 4th March 1908, there is a reply to Whitfield King & Co from Downing Street dated 3rd March 1908 signed by R.L. Antrobus, the relevant part of which reads 'I am to state that Lord Elgin is asking the Governor of Jamaica for a report in the matter.' On 13th March 1908 Lord Elgin wrote to The Governor of Jamaica as follows:-

*Downing Street
13th March 1908*

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you copies of correspondence with Messrs. Whitfield King & Company, on the subject of certain recent issues of stamps in the Cayman Islands.

I shall be obliged if you will send me a report on the matters touched on in this correspondence.

I have etc.

(sd)ELGIN

Additional Allegation

On 5th March 1908 Whitfield King & Co. wrote to The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies the relevant part of which reads *'Since writing to you yesterday a correspondent informs us that he has just received a letter from the Cayman Islands franked with a 4d stamp overprinted 2½d the postmark being 12th February 1908... .. In the Commissioners letter to us dated January 29th it would appear that there are still in existence ordinary 2½d stamps of the value £111. 0.10 which were withdrawn, and as these stamps are of the current type and still available for postage, this fresh issue of surcharged stamps is as unnecessary as the previous issues of ½d and 1d stamps.*

Additional Evidence to Support the Original Allegations

On 14th March 1908 Whitfield King & Co wrote again to the Under Secretary of State, the relevant part of which reads *'We find that in 'Ewen 's Weekly Stamp News' dated January 4th the following paragraph occurs. -*

Cayman Islands During Christmas week we had altogether about 1500 of the provisionals offered to us from various sources and should we secure any of them preference will be given to New Issue clients and secondly to collectors booking orders; preference being given to regular buyers '

The stamps referred to are five shilling ones overprinted ½d and 1d, and as this constitutes nearly half the entire issue, we respectfully suggest that Messrs. Ewen be asked to give the names of the people who offered the stamps and the prices they asked for them.

Additional Investigation

The correspondence which I received from the Cayman Islands National Archive ends with a letter dated 21st April 1908 from the Colonial Secretary's Office Jamaica to the Cayman Islands Commissioners asking the Cayman Islands Commissioner for his comments on Whitfield King & Co 's allegations, including the matters referred to in the letters dated 5th and 14th March 1908.



This 'Ripping Yarn' will be concluded in the June Bulletin

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British Guiana/Guyana

SG 814a	1981-82 36c perf 12 x 14.	SG 844a	1983 CLR 4c deep violet. VFUM Imprint	
	VFUM imprint block of 4		block of 4	210
SG 814a	1980 (Feb.) 48c perf 12x.	SG 844a	1981 CLR 8c red/pink masses. VFUM	224
	1981 (June) 48c perf 14 x 10. VFUM	SG 844a	1981 CLR 8c. VFUM	224
	Imprint blocks of each	SG 856	1985 3c wmk Black GA. VFUM Plate 1-1	
SG 815	1982 (March) 60c. VFUM top marginal		and Imprint block of 24	243
	block of 4	SG 856	1983-87 Independence 1c-5c watermark	
SG 815	1980 (Feb.) 60c. VFUM Imprint		Black GA wmk watermark (14). VFUM set	
	block of 4		of blocks of 4 for some Plate blocks	228
SG 818a	1980 82 5c perf 14 x 13. VFUM Imprint	SG 858	1983-87 Independence 1c-5c wmk. Black	
	block of 4		GA. 10x5 (11). VFUM set of blocks of	
SG 821	1984-85 collection of singles and blocks		4 for some Plate blocks	233
385	(for Plate blocks). VFUM. CLR singles	SG 820a	1987 Independence 1c. 8x11 wmk. VFUM	
	etc 82 and 83. Black GA set complete in		example with created overprint	226
	blocks of 4	SG 822a	1987 Independence 3c. 8x11 wmk.	
SG 841a	1981 CLR 40c. VFUM		VFUM postmarked block of 4 with '1987'	
SG 841a	1981 CLR 4c violet. VFUM corner		for 'GU/PAW' error	212
	block of 4	SG 822a	1987 3c Independence local opt. VFUM.	
SG 844a	1983 CLR 4c deep violet. VFUM Plate 4		wmk. 10x11 wmk. overprinted by 8c	223
	block of 4			

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JOSEPH HACKMEY GRENADA (JUBILEE DISPLAY)



Joseph introduced himself as a member of over 20 years standing but this was the first meeting he had attended. He started collecting Barbados in 1979. When the Messenger collection came up for sale in 1982, he contacted Robson Lowe and asked to purchase the Barbados collection intact but was informed that he would also have to purchase the complete Grenada collection as well, thus started his interest in Grenada. During the 1980s, he won several top awards but became irked by the frequent description of his display as the Messenger collection, despite it only forming about 30% of the material. As a result, Joseph sold both collections and has been rebuilding

the Grenada from individual purchases since the early 1990s. Recent Grenada sales have been the Dan Walker collection, where prices were 3 to 4 times his expectation and the Cyril Bell sale at Spink where he was pleased to have obtained the unique unused 1883 Revenue 1d orange with manuscript 'postage'.



The display opened with a short history of the Island. Possession transferred between Spain, Britain and France until 1783, when the Treaty of Versailles finally transferred the Island to British control. The British introduced sugar and a large number of slaves from Africa.

The pre-stamp pages commenced with the earliest known letter from GB to Grenada and this was followed by various Grenada (and Carriacou in the Grenadines) covers with Grenada markings.

The 1850s period was represented by Crowned-Circle handstamps and GB Used in Grenada covers with A15 obliterator (including a 4d Inter Island rate to Trinidad (Figure 1) and a 2d underpaid 6d rate to London). Unfortunately Joseph realised that had omitted to include either of his covers with the rare 1s green.

Grenada's own first issue was in 1861, consisting of the 1d & 6d Postage stamps. The 1d is listed by SG in bluish green as SG1 and green as SG2, the former is extremely rare mint whereas SG2 is common. In Joseph's experience SG1 is known on no more than 5 covers (paying the local rate) and only 5 unused copies exist. The shades can be distinguished quite easily when seen together. However, he knows that certificates have been incorrectly granted. The 6d rose was shown unused and on covers (paying the packet rate to UK) followed by the 6d lake-red in a block of 6 (the largest known) and a block of 4. This issue was either a perforation trial (being perf 11 to 12½ rather than 14 to 16) or an unissued stamp.

The second issue (1863-71) was represented by a series of covers showing the various rates (Figure 2), and fine blocks illustrated the 1873 issue (when the paper was changed from small star to large star and the colours become more vivid). In 1875, there was a shortage of Postage stamps. This problem was overcome (for the next 8 years) by the usage of the Revenue stamps overprinted in various forms with 'POSTAGE'. The next several sheets illustrated the many overprint varieties that inevitably exist (Figures 3, 4 & 5), an amazing strip of 4 of the Dec 1875 1d Green perf 15 and double impressions.

Joseph's tour-de-force were his bisects on cover. The 1s 1½d rate was the correct rate to France, covers bearing other rates are fakes (Figure 6 & 7). The 1881 issue was shown with large blocks from the Yardley collection, a lovely cover with multiple adhesives and lots of overprint varieties.

Joseph's display peaked with the 1883 overprint on the Revenue stamps, firstly where the 1d stamps were overprinted twice to enable them to be cut in half and secondly with 'POSTAGE' added in manuscript, either in black or red (the latter being more difficult). Figure 8 shows the only known cover bearing this adhesive.

The De La Rue printings and later Revenue overprints were equally well represented by covers, mint stamps and varieties. Joseph found the mixed adhesive covers (such as Figure 9) particularly rewarding. His collection finished with the 1891 issue which included 2½d on 8d surcharge double, one inverted.



The display concluded with an extensive discussion of 19th Century postal rates and a vote of thanks given by Andy Soutar.

Figure 1



23 Feb 1858 – 4d Inter Island rate to Trinidad

Figure 2



9 January 1869 – 6d pair paying the packet rate plus 1d x4 for Registration

Figure 3



1881 – ½d 'OSTAGE'

Figure 4



1881 – No Hyphen

Figure 5



1881 – No Stop & PENCEF

Figure 6



9 December 1876 – 1s1½d rate to France

Figure 7



2nd August 1878 – 1s1½d rate to France

Figure 8



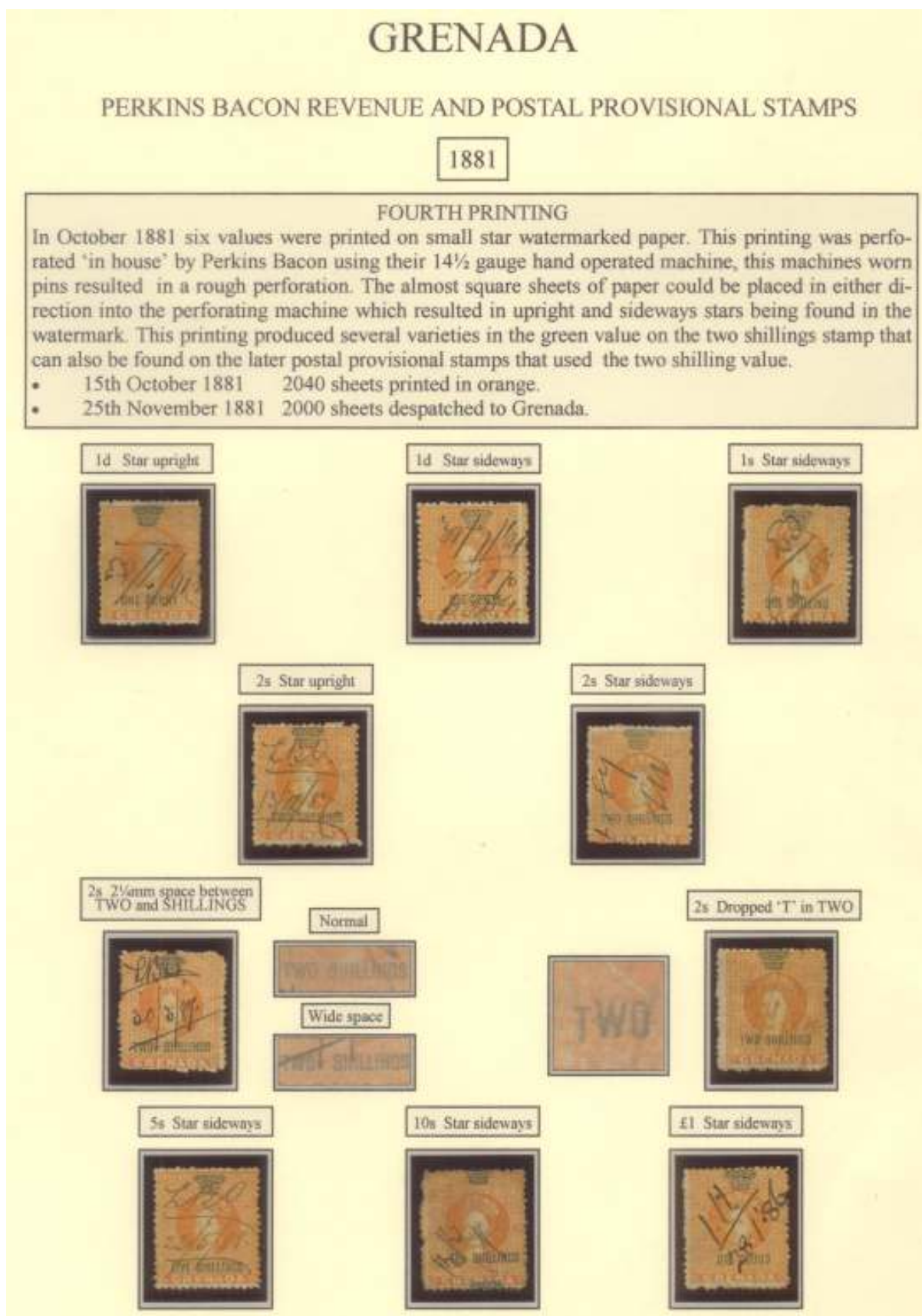
2 March 1881 – 1d orange Revenue with m/s 'postage'

Figure 9



13 May 1887 – 4d Postage plus 2d Registration to Moscow

ANDY SOUTAR (JUBILEE DISPLAY EXTRACT)



Spring Auctions

10 & 11 March 2005

The Apollonia collection of Bermuda King George VI Key Plates consists of over 750 lots containing most of the rarities from this area, including three of the rare "Prague" covers. This collection will be auctioned by Grosvenor on 10 March. The British Empire and Foreign Countries auction, which is to be held on the following day, 11 March, features strong sections of Bechuanaland, Hong Kong, Mafia Island and Sarawak.

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MICHAEL MEDLICOTT REVENUES (JUBILEE DISPLAY)

Michael Medlicott displayed 120 sheets of BWI Revenues, his first display since he began collecting stamps in 1948, inspired by the holdings of a friend who was the descendant of generations of planters and collectors in Barbados. His subsequent interest in Revenues, of some twenty years' standing, was sparked by the singular beauty of some of Waterlows' and Perkins Bacon's productions, by the realisation that many discoveries remain to be made, and hence world-class rarities are still affordable, and by the window they open on to the social history of the West Indian Colonies.



The earliest item displayed was a 1773 Grant of Land and Conveyance of 67 acres between the Carapan and Ribishie Rivers in St. Vincent, the documents still attached to the original plaster cast of the Pax et Justitia Great Seal of the Colony, later used in postage stamp design. Whilst not a document on which revenue was levied, it dates from the years in which the impressed taxation stamps were introduced into the North American Colonies, helping to spark the War of Independence; these same stamps, sadly not available for display, were introduced into the West Indian Colonies, largely without protest.

ANTIGUA was represented by the handsome tall Stamp Duty issues of 1870 (CC watermark) and 1876 (CA watermark) with CC specimens cut down for exhibition purposes (two pence to ten shillings, ex-Marcus Samuel), complete sheets of four rows of ten of the CC Two Pence and Four Pence; the Two Pence and Four Pence show the position of the constant 'cracked cog' flaw at row 4, stamp 5, and the two pence also the shaved 'P' in the lower value tablet at row 4, stamp 9. Plate proofs and inverted watermarks were included; postal use was exemplified by credible upright oval AO2 obliterators on the One Penny CA, with an 1897 cover showing the same stamp refused for postal duty, supporting the view that it was probably accepted for inland use during a shortage of One Penny postage stamps, but never authorised for overseas mails. The Antigua Impressed Stamp Duties, found on Bills of Lading and other dutiable documents were exemplified by a set of 13 proofs in values to the Five Pounds. An indenture, bearing thirteen copies of the Five Shillings Stamp Duty, numerous Leewards Fees stamps including strips of the One Pound, as well as Impressed Duty Stamps completed the Antigua section.

BARBADOS was a late entrant among Revenue issuing Colonies, although it is known to have used the America impressed issues of 1765. For so prosperous an island it was quite frugal, preferring to forego the expense of special revenue productions in favour of over-printed postage stamps, which began to appear in 1916. The display included a full range, from the scarce Four Pence with gold on silver overprint and Two Pence 'Revenue Only' (120 of each were sold) to the ubiquitous special London printing of the One Penny in purple (4,586,880 sold) which is known postally used. In the same year (1916), Great Britain embossed and perforated adhesives were overprinted 'BARBADOS' and issued with duties from Three Pence to One Hundred Pounds, only 60 of each of the highest values being printed; a complete used set was shown, together with a remarkable registered cover of 16 March 1948, with a well-tied example of the Five Shillings, and the annotation 'Found in ordinary mail'.

DOMINICA comprised a small display of the DLR postage stamps overprinted 'REVENUE' in London, including a perforated colour trial in lilac and black of the One Penny, and a commercial cover to England bearing both the CC and CA One Penny stamps.

GRENADA, in deference to Joseph Hackmey's distinguished display in the afternoon, was confined to a selection of examples of the One Pound Great Seal Revenue, including imperforate colour trials overprinted SPECIMEN and used singles and multiples of the issued stamp on CC, CA and Script watermarked papers.

JAMAICA began with the JUDICIAL overprints on QV postage stamps and included the One Shilling 'dollar for S' variety on both CA and MCA papers; the former, part of a multiple of three, was found not so long ago in a dealer's junk box to which he consigned all Revenues.

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



The One Penny Revenue (SG F1-3) was shown unused with all three watermarks, the CC in a corner block of eight, and used on a typical document, a surgeon's receipted invoice for attending Falmouth Estate in 1872 for a fee of 3 Guineas.

The Board of Inland Revenue in London exercised control over the stamps of Jamaica 1855-62, and lodged a Specimen sheet of each issued stamp at Somerset House. The high value postal fiscals of 1858 (SG F7-9) were shown overprinted SPECIMEN, the One Shilling in a block of four, the Five Shillings in a S.W. corner block of 8 with current number 4 (Figure 1), and the Ten Shillings in a right-hand marginal block of 8. The One Shilling with manuscript 'Specimen', the only value so recorded by Samuel, was included, as were the One Shilling and Five Shilling duties used on commercial covers.

Telegraph stamps, perhaps not strictly Revenues, were represented by Specimens and a telegram form used in Savannah-La-Mar on 16 February 1900; although never officially sanctioned for postal use, the Three Pence value is by no means rare on postal cover.

The **LEEWARD ISLANDS** Impressed Stamp Duties were represented by an artist's essay drawn from a full set of essays for 12 duties to the Five Pounds; they have not been recorded on document, and were perhaps never issued because of the dilemma as to where among the islands the press should be kept. The QV Fees adhesives, however, were fully distributed to the islands, including Nevis, and were shown as colour trials, unused to the One Pound, and used in the Virgin Islands. The E.VII issues were represented by a photographic essay, 1902 Die Proof, plate proofs and MCA values used in the Virgin Islands. All issues from all reigns are rare unused and were clearly never remaindered. Finally MCA and MCB perfins were shown on QV and EVII Fees and combined Postage & Revenue issues.

MONTSERRAT'S 1870 Revenue issue represents Harrison's earliest contract for a West Indies issue, and a number of sheets survive on horizontally laid paper. A single on vertically laid paper, probably drawn from a proof sheet, and credible postally used examples were shown. De La Rue took over the contract in 1880 and issued a single One Penny value in tete-beche format, probably in two panes of 60, similar to the Grenada Revenue and Postage issues, which it resembles; the only recorded tete-beche pair was included in the display.

An eclectic selection of **ST KITTS NEVIS** issues included complete panes of SG R3-6, the One Penny, Three Pence, Six Pence and One Shilling values, each showing the damaged 'T' at position 1 / 2, with a possibly early sheet of the One Penny showing neither the damaged 'T' in the overprint, nor the distorted 'E' in the duty tablet, recorded by Gibbons as SG136 on the Postage issue, and manifestly constant also on the overprinted Revenues. The Five Shillings ochre, not authorised for postal use, was shown used, unused in block of four and with plate number, the last showing dropped final 'S' in the duty tablet, exactly as found in the Tobago Five Shillings, indicating common usage of the duty plate.

The Nevis Postage issues overprinted for Revenue use in St. Christopher, were represented by complete panes of 60 of the Four Pence blue and One Shilling purple, both Plate 1 (Morley 5616, 5617; B&H 22, 23), the latter being a special printing in a distinctive shade.

In 1948, an unknown artist produced four handpainted essays for Savings Stamps for Bradbury Wilkinson, who produced from them, finished perforated proofs perfined 'SPECIMEN'; both the essays and the proofs were shown, but the stamps were never issued.

The complexities of **ST LUCIA** Revenue and Stamp Duty issues were illustrated by a selection of the London overprints and of the local overprints/surcharges in all five lengths, double and triple, including the double stamp duty, one red one black, the example which prompted Gibbons' current footnote. More notably, a range of commercial covers showing acceptance for postal duty spanning the years 1886-1893 was shown.

To **ST VINCENT** belong some of the most fascinating, rare and high duty issues, despite the island's tiny administrative base in the nineteenth century. Only single examples are known of some of the high values – hardly surprising when it is known some of the Twenty-five Pound (Figure 2) issues and the Fifty Pound issue had print runs of only 10-15 copies in the first place. The display covered the early Perkins Bacon issues with cursive overprint, unused, used (some in multiples) and on document, and the Five Shillings with seriffed overprint and surcharged One Pound.

The De La Rue high values commenced with their File Copy of September 1886, and ran through the basic Five Shillings in all its shades with unused, used (some in multiples), and higher values up to the Twenty-five Pounds surcharge.

TRINIDAD included unadopted essays for the Two Pence, Two Pence Halfpenny, Five Shillings and Ten Shillings FEE stamps, with colour trials and the issued stamps in unused and apparently postally used form, with an unadopted essay showing On/HMS and a range of FREE FEE issues, for use on documents connected with criminal prosecutions where no fee was payable. KGV issues were represented by the common Four Cent brown, refused for postage on a commercial taxed cover; by an imperf proof on watermarked paper of the Four Dollars 80 cents; by a NW corner block of four of the One Dollar 20 cents mint (Figure 3); and by both values used on fragments of Court documents. Portions of the 15-inch long Duty on Opium label were shown in red and shades of blue, typifying the duty levied on proprietary medicines, in this case tincture of laudanum. Finally came impressed die proofs for the One Shilling and Five Pounds Stamp Duties.

BRITISH GUIANA, which produced some of the most aesthetically pleasing issues of anywhere in the Empire, occupied the final frame and a half.

Two of the three known values of Medicine Duty were shown, the 16/128 Cents a new discovery, both remarkable survivors which had probably originally sealed packages of such medical necessities as Tonic Blood Purifier, Flatulence Capsules and Blood Stopping Powder. The beautiful Waterlow Summary Jurisdiction stamps, issued to Magistrates' Courts throughout the judicial districts of Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice, began with a pen and ink wash artist's essay (Figure 4), intermediate die proofs of both the design and the duties, 1865 plate proofs on stout card, and specimens of the first and second transfers, finishing with the unused range of issued colours in their original soft tones. De La Rue took over the contract in 1882, and their die proof of Waterlow's die was shown together with four values in plate proof form, and the 1882-1901 issued colours including the One Dollar yellow, a major rarity. The equally beautiful Waterlow Inland Revenue issues began with imperf proofs and specimens and a proof set in the unissued perf.12, together with a Licence for a Fowling Piece bearing a Four Dollar value. The display concluded with De La Rue die proofs and specimens for the 1889 key type Revenues.

The speaker regretted the breadth of his subject, which had made his display an eclectic tour d'horizon able to satisfy no one, but perhaps capable of whetting an appetite or two for collecting Revenues.

BWISC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM DAVID DRUETT AT PENNYMEAD AUCTIONS.

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
Dickinson T	British Guiana Picture Postcards	£28 (£25)

GRENADA

THE AMYAND CORRESPONDENCE FROM 1764-1766

BY TIM PEARCE

Sir George Amyand, Bart, was a banker, London merchant and director of the East India Company. He held the franchise to supply the British Garrison in Minorca and was wealthy enough to lend the government £924,000 to finance the Seven Years' War (1756-63). This would have had a purchasing power of over £85 million today.

He was born on 26th September 1720, the son of Claudius Amyand and Mary Rabache, French Protestants who had fled the persecutions under Louis XIV. Claudius became a naturalised Englishman in 1699 and was later sergeant-surgeon to George II.

George Amyand married Anna Maria Korten in April 1746 and they had four children: George, born 1749, who became the 2nd Baronet and was MP for Herefordshire 1774-1796 and 1802-1807; John who was MP for Camelford 1774-1789; Anna Maria who married Hugh Elliott, afterwards 1st Earl of Malmesbury; and Harriet, born in Barnstaple on 2nd May, 1761, who married James Harris, ambassador to Russia.

Sir George, himself was MP for Barnstaple from 1754-1766 and was created Baronet on 9th August 1764. He was in 1759 one of the executors of Handel's will. He died at Tonbridge or Tunbridge Wells in 1766 and left at least £160,000 at his death. This would have had a purchasing power something over £13 million now. The title became extinct after the death of the 5th Baronet in 1962.

The correspondence from Grenada concerns the possible purchase of an estate in the north of Grenada (Sauteurs) owned by Lataste and Jeyfons. Following the transfer of the island from France to Britain in 1763, the French proprietors were all anxious to sell. The agent was John Harvey who was also perhaps acting for a Mr Rucker. There are references in the later letters to Sir George Amyand's illness. It appears that Harvey acquired the property himself and is looking for another for Sir George in 1766. The La Taste estate, however, is certainly in the possession of the second Baronet by 1771.

1. The first letter of the series is also the first recorded letter from Grenada. Dated 26th April 1764, it was sold at the Shreve sale of Dan Walker's collection in New York on 27th June 2003 for \$1050. It is addressed to George Amyand, Esqr. MP/ Lawrence Poultney Hill/ London/ pr favour of/ Patrick Maxwell Esqr/ QDC (Whom God preserve) and is from John Harvey. It is marked Ship Letter in manuscript and is illustrated on p48 of the Shreve catalogue.
2. The second letter was written on 14th October, similarly addressed, but I have not seen this letter and do not know its present whereabouts or who wrote it.
3. Harvey wrote to Sir George again on 30th March 1765 but this is only known from a letter later in the year. It is not known whether this letter has survived, but it would seem likely that it refers to the estate mentioned in the next letter, which Harvey has apparently bought and is selling on to Sir George.
4. On 16th April 1765, the agent of Lataste and Jeyfons, possibly Mr Jeyfons himself, also wrote to Sir George at the same address. This letter is in French and is unsigned. It refers to an estate called Briennes in the Sauteurs district, 'now known as St Patrick's'. The estate is described as one of the most beautiful on the island not only for the high quality of the soil but also the beauty of the sugar grown there, though they concede that the buildings need repair and there are too few slaves and too little livestock. The rest of the letter appears to be concerned with acreage and with financial details. (sold by Cavendish 14th March 1998, estimate £250).
5. The next letter from John Harvey to Sir George was written on 20th August 1765 and marked Ship in manuscript. Harvey has received a letter from Sir George on 1st May. He has been away in Antigua and the letter was waiting for him on his return to Grenada. He refers to the settlement of an affair between Mr Rucker and the Chevalier Francisque. He then goes on to the business with Lataste and Jeyfons: 'I explained everything so fully to you in my long letter of 30th March that I have little more to say about it.' He goes on to detail the composition of the estate, enlarging on the information in the letter in French of 16th April, which Sir George

can hardly have received by 1st May. One does wonder if the letter of 30th March went astray. He points out that he has given Mr Jeyfons Sir George's address, which accounts for the letter from Jeyfons (#4). He goes on to refer to the proposed financial arrangements, including discounts for cash, and the various competing offers, but he also adds that if Sir George decides not to buy then Mr Rucker will and they will go into business together on 'all the 4 separate estates'. He concludes: 'I have stopt executing the Deeds for you until I am certain whether you take it or Mr Rucker joins me in the estate.' It is now sixteen months, possibly more, since Harvey acquired the Lataste and Jeyfons estate and the impression of this letter is that it is becoming a millstone to him.

6. Harvey wrote again in October. The letter has no postal markings and was carried free as addressed to an MP. Dated 2nd October 1765, it says simply: 'I have sent you in the box with Mr Rucker's lease and release a scroll copy of the deed Mr Horn has ready for me to execute to you if my alterations are requisite. I beg your counsel may mark them out to Mr Horn and he will readily do it.' This is somewhat opaque but would suggest that Harvey has received instructions from Sir George though this could not be a reply to his letter of 20th August, which did not arrive until 29th October. (No postal markings)
7. Sir George replied to the August letter on 6th November. Harvey does not reply to that until 8th February 1866 and in it notes that he is 'rejoiced to find you so well recovered of your late dangerous illness' Sir George has apparently given up on the Lataste and Jeyfons estate and Harvey is now looking for another for him. He refers to a comparable estate called, perhaps, Montrechevery, (though his handwriting in this letter is much harder to read than formerly), which has been sold very recently and regrets he did not have Sir George's letter sooner. It has been bought by a Mr Melville, who is a cousin of 'The General'. He points out that a purchase will be difficult as no Frenchmen will wait for answers if other offers are forthcoming. He asks for 'a proper power to strike immediately when a good opportunity happens.' He refers to a possible estate in Marquis (St David's), the owner of which has gone to London to sell it.

This is the first letter to be marked up as having been seen by Jonathan Price at the time of his examination in the case of Amyand v Amyand before P.Holford. Some passages are marked, especially those referring to Sir George having given up the Lataste and Jeyfons estate and that is presumably what the dispute was about. Some of the earlier letters are similarly marked but do not have the note appended. (No postal markings)

8. The next known letter was written on 16th April 1866, but I have not seen it nor do I know its present whereabouts. It is marked DEAL/SHIP-LRE.
9. The last letter is a copy and was also seen in the legal case mentioned above. It was dated 16th June 1766, continued on 26th June and finished on 4th July. It travelled on the St George and the original travelled on the Hankey, though somewhat oddly both ships have a Captain Tobin. It is stamped DOVER/SHIP LRE and rated 1/3. The Bishop mark arrival stamp is 27/AV.

Harvey has received a letter from Sir George written on 25th March, presumably a reply to his of 8th February and also a letter from Mr Waldo 'with the Lease and release for the Lataste and Jeyfons estate'. It does seem as if Sir George had not actually given up the first estate though Harvey has to insist that he must do so. He comments again on Sir George's health. 'It rejoices me to hear your health is vastly better, I hope and wish you may recover your eyesight and have your state of health as perfectly confirmed as ever it was before.' This was obviously wishful thinking as Sir George certainly died in 1866, though I do not know the death date.

On 26th June, Harvey adds to this copy 'As I have had none of your favors since my last only confirm the above and to assure you with great truth that I remain very sincerely etc.' It may be that this is a copy of the letter of April 16th to which he could have expected a reply in June.

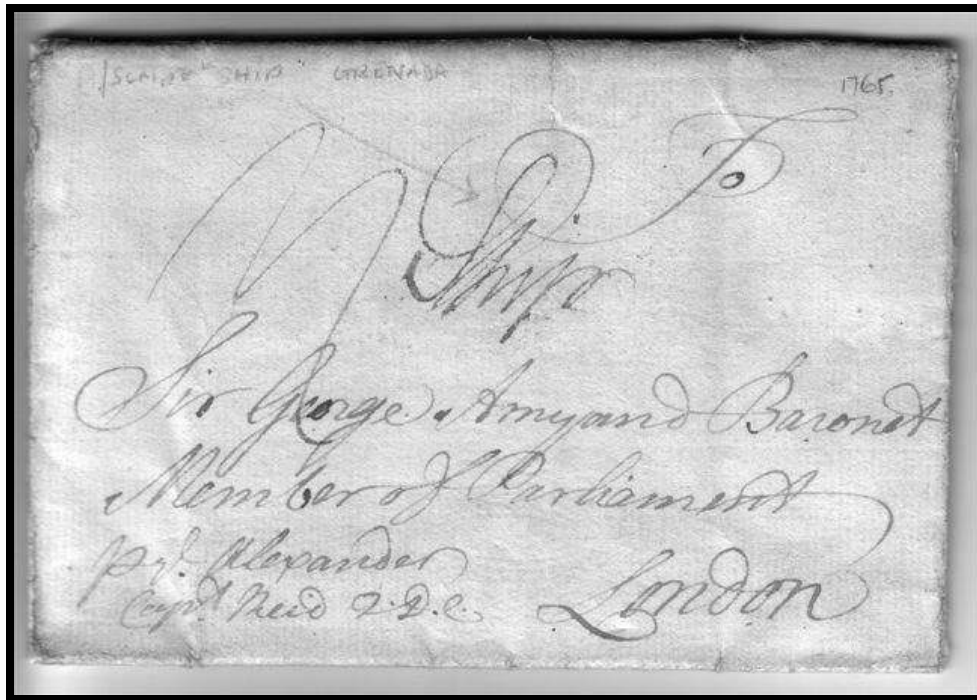
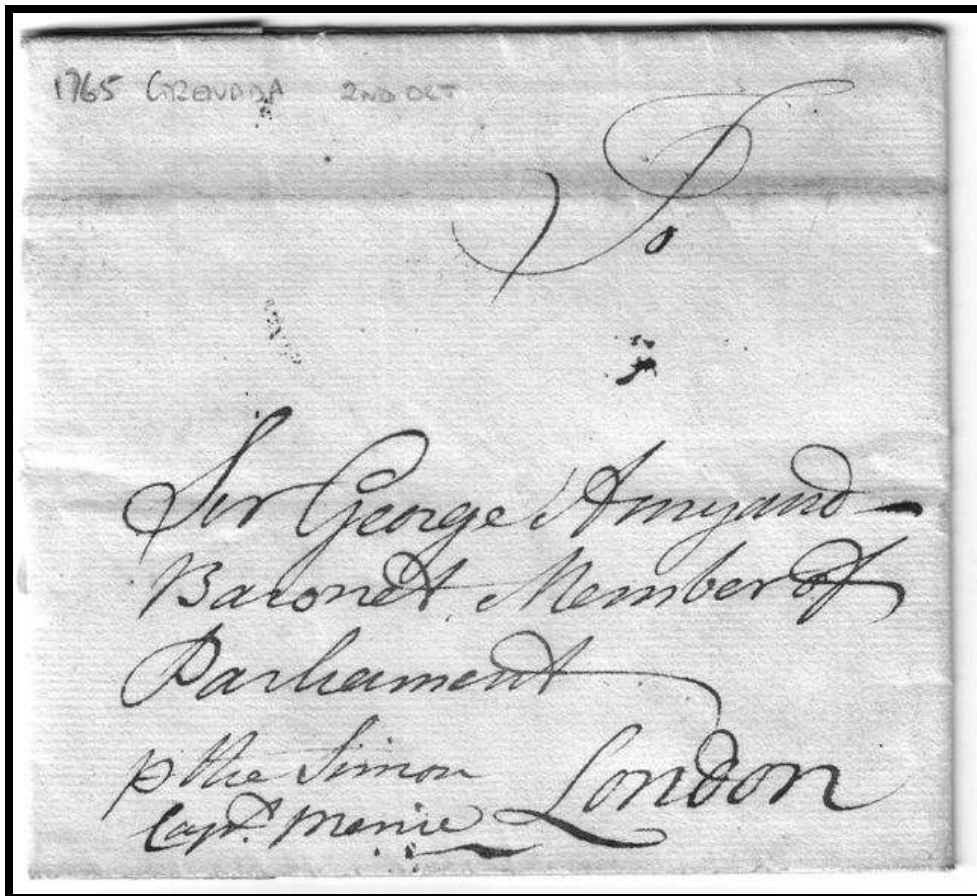
On 4th July, he writes a further paragraph in which he seems to propose that Sir George should keep his lease of Lataste's estate until its termination and that it will be run to Sir George's profit as part of the combined estate of Harvey and Rucker. This paragraph is marked as having been seen in the lawsuit.

With only one end of the correspondence and not all of that, it is hard to be clear about the whole affair. There is an extensive archive of the papers of the 2nd baronet, who took the name Cornwall in 1771 on his marriage to the heir of the Moccas Court estate in Herefordshire. These are in the Herefordshire Record Office. It would also presumably be possible to search for Sir George's will and the records of the subsequent lawsuit Amyand v Amyand.

26th April 1754

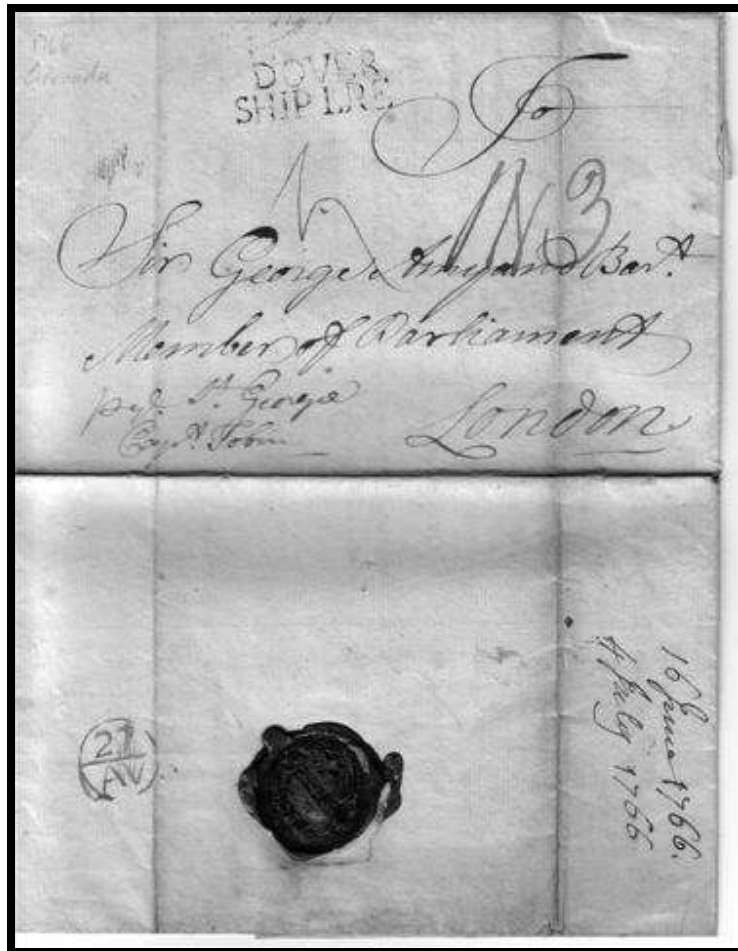
I have five of the nine known letters.

16th April 1765

20th August 17652nd October 1765



8th February 1766



16th June 1766

JAMAICA

MILITARY MAIL

BY STEVE JARVIS

Volume 9 of the Encyclopaedia of Jamaica, written by Derek Sutcliffe, deals with the Military Mail and provides an update to his book published by the Roses Society. The publication of any book stimulates collectors to delve into their collections and inevitably new discoveries appear, it also helps identification of items reported but not previously accurately recorded. Thus, I was recently able to spot an item for sale on EBAY that I would normally have ignored but by reference to our book I was able to realize the significance and outbid another Study Circle member to secure the item below.



Derek comments that Tom Foster reported the existence of one post-war RAF cover posted at Malvern and endorsed 'O/R RAF JAMAICA' but other details were sketchy and no image was available. The above item is therefore the second recorded in this category (with the same date as Foster's cover).

JAMAICA

'TOO LATE' TL3

By Michael Hamilton

Further to the article in the previous edition, Dick Hemmings, Portugal has sent the attached TOO LATE which is clearly TL3a on entire from Kingston 24th March 1866.



ST CHRISTOPHER

MANUSCRIPT CANCELLATIONS

By Michael Medlicott

Robson Lowe (The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Vol. VI, Leeward Islands) asserts that manuscript cancellations were applied from 1875 at sub-post offices; and the work of Rob Wynstra and others has served to identify individual hands with specific offices.

The stamp illustrated at figure 1, a One Penny dull rose with watermark sideways and reversed (unlisted by SG), however, indicates that the sub-offices were open in time for the issue of the first adhesive stamps on 1 April 1870. The writing is in the hand normally attributed to Old Road, and a second example has surfaced dated 28/5/70, substantiating this early usage. Because the GPO at Basseterre was using dumb cancellations or obliterators at this juncture, it is not normally possible to identify stamps drawn from the first consignment of 13,400 stamps, invoiced by De La Rue on 14 February 1870. It is of interest, therefore, to note that the sideways watermark (in this instance reversed as well) is definitely attributable to the first parcel of stamps. Lowe records no covers bearing the One Penny before 1874; can anyone else?



The second figure shows the One Penny carmine-rose (issued February 1884) in bisected form (SG13a) neatly cancelled 13/5.85. within its triangular confines in the Dieppe Bay hand. T.V. Roberts had a similar example in the same hand dated 7/5/85, and I believe a locally addressed cover to Lodge Estate exists dated 30/4/85, but I have not seen an image of it and do not know if it can be attributed to a specific sub-office. Such items are easy meat for the forger's grubby hand, but I believe the illustrated example and the ex-Roberts one are perfectly genuine.



TRINIDAD

EARLY COVERS

By Peter Ford

It is intended that the BWISC will at some date in the near future publish a definitive work on the Stamps and Postal History of Trinidad. Part of this work may well contain an Appendix listing all known covers of Trinidad up to and including the 1861 issue of rough perforated 14 to 16½ stamps (the (1d), 4d, 6d and 1s). Federico Borromeo has, as part of his study of these early issues, decided to reclassify the stamps at variance with the numbers given in Gibbons catalogues. We have omitted the Lady McLeod issue as covers from that issue are well documented.

The list is available for download from our web site at www.bwisc.org.

In order to make the final published listing as complete as possible we appeal to anyone to submit additional items to me for inclusion.



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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****Cavendish 25-6 November**

The "Culford" collection of Falmouth packet mail formed by Michael Jackson, the postal history dealer who sadly died early last year, contained a sprinkling of superb BWI preadhesive markings on fine covers. I was not present but spent a few minutes on the phone while the BWI section was called. It was no surprise to see top prices for the highlights, but as often happens the effect was to create strong bidding for the less outstanding items too. The two Montserrat covers were an example – the outstanding 1804 horseshoe sold at Sothebys for £1450 in 2000 went for £3800 (all prices plus 15%), but the far commoner straight line Montserrat, of which more than 20 are recorded, soared to £2800 (£620 in the same Sothebys sale). Other notable prices were £3400 for the marvelous Jamaica "Paid to England" and £2600 for the superb Trinidad horseshoe, while the two fine Leeward Is F marks sold for £550 for the 1810 dated mark (ex Antigua) and £500 for the 1839 undated mark (ex Grenada). However, the price for the magnificent straight line Bahamas ERD of 1802, albeit 5 times Cavendish's estimate, was at £1600 well below the £2900 reached in the Staircase sale. In addition, to your reporter's delight, the few straight line Barbice marks attracted little competition, perhaps because they were lotted under the Latin American section. It was difficult to judge from afar whether the bidders were predominantly BWI or Falmouth packet collectors but the overall results must have comforted the beneficiaries of the estate.

Harmers 14 December

This all-world sale contained a small but select section of early Barbados covers. I had given a few modest bids to a trusted member, but on this occasion a combination of travel delays meant he was unable to reach Harmer's remote premises in time. The lesson is to rely on Mary or Tony if you have serious intentions. As it happened, on this occasion no harm was done because Joseph Hackmey showed up and bought all the best items. These included one complete steal, the used 1½d formula postcard ex Colin Bayley that David Druett sold for £2000 plus in 1995. This went for only £340 (all prices plus 15%). The 1854 bisect to St Lucia ex Charlton Henry was also cheap at £1300, although its quality was not up to the usual Henry standard and several others have been offered over recent months. Other notable items were an 1861 5d rate to St Lucia at £2100, a Poole officers' 6d rate, with some defects, which went for £1200, an 1870 soldiers rate at £1800 and two 7d rates each bearing an imperf 1d and 6d to London (£1300) and Philadelphia (£650). In terms of quality, the prettiest was the 1872 5d rate to Philadelphia which went for £260.

Future events

By the time this appears we will have experienced the thrill of the chase at the Sotheby's Baillie sale, which will be a leisurely affair over three days. The Apollonia collection of Bermuda GVI keyplates at Grosvenor, on 10/11 March, now known to belong to David Sellman, a dentist from the shires, will also be upon us. It will be interesting to see whether the market can absorb three Prague covers at one sitting. Phoebe MacGillivray's next Victoria sale in the spring will feature the Carl Cammarata Cayman Islands Postal History with over 120 covers including Jamaica ½d pair cancelled SG Z1 (one of only 5 recorded) and Jamaica 1d cancelled boxed Cayman Brac, SG Z22. Nearly all of the covers are commercially used and Phoebe is sure this will generate considerable interest among the affluent Cayman Is postal historians. A second highlight will be the Derek Nathan (who is he?) British Guiana Postal Stationery. Derek's collection, as we well know, is very comprehensive and includes essays, die proofs, colour trials, etc. I have also heard rumours that the Allan Steinhart collection will be offered by Bennett in the spring, an enormous postal history offering of primarily Canadian interest but reportedly with several Caribbean origins/destinations too. Finally, David Parsons gave me a sneak preview of the catalogue proof for the British Empire at Spink on 9-10 March. This is a large sale with several highlights for the BWI specialist, most notably two interpanneau blocks of the 1866 British Honduras, one of them being the defining vertical block of the 1d and 1/-. I spotted no concentrated collection of BWI but a comprehensive section of Crowned Circles appeared to include all the rarest BWI marks including the three Bermudas, the Antigua Harbor that looked like the one that David Druett sold a few years back and the early Virgin Is ex a Cavendish sale. There will also be a useful-looking range of Turks Islands provisionals and strength across the BWI. David also warned us to keep our eyes skinned for an announcement of a major name sale at Spink from 7-10 June. This apparently will contain much spectacular BWI.

EBAY AUCTIONS**BY CHARLES FREELAND**

As space remains I will take the opportunity to comment on a medium I only discovered quite recently, but which is extensively used by many members, especially those across the pond. Those not using ebay have some misconceptions about its safety; there are several built in protections for both buyers and sellers and there are (sometimes!) excellent quality items. I have bid unsuccessfully on an immaculate ex Charlton Henry sheet of Virgin Is 1/- SG18 and a St Vincent 1881 4d cover that opened at \$10 and closed at \$1360. Some dealers, including Gibbons, have put up top quality material although not always at attractive estimates. Also some reputable US auctioneers load up the whole of their next sale. But there is a mass of junk there too, eg modern wallpaper, outright forgeries and badly damaged stamps. Revenues are keenly sought after and minor varieties, postmarks and postal stationery seems to sell well, but you can occasionally find good quality straight stamps at astonishingly cheap prices as the sellers often do not know their value.

There are a number of traps on ebay as I have already found to my cost. Most important is to look very carefully at the scans (nearly all lots are scanned and I will on principle not bid on a stamp that does not have clear scan), because faults are often not described and there are plenty of fakes and forgeries. Equally important, be aware that a scan does not create a perfect image, and do not bid for minor varieties based on what you think you can see. Third, be aware that the colour can be very misleading – one of my first mistakes was to bid for a St Lucia first issue thinking it was the 4d indigo and finding on arrival that it was the 1d black. Another thing is to check the postage cost and payment method as this can significantly affect what you pay in the end. I once had to make a Western Union transfer to Peru, having decided not to send cash, but the result was costly and slow. There is no ebay fee for a successful bid (ebay only charges sellers) but some items have a buyers' premium or an additional fee for payment costs, so look at the small print.

The principle on which ebay works is quite clever, there is a transparent "feedback" system under which only those who have an honest track record can survive for long. Feedback is provided by both parties after each trade has been concluded and unless a seller has 99% record he will struggle. It is actually easier to return lots under ebay than under many postal auctions, let alone public auctions. Of course there are some costs in doing so and if you abuse it you will get negative feedback and will be cut out. Another protection is the Paypal system that almost all sellers use. This enables buyers to pay through a credit card without the seller obtaining your CC details and with an additional performance guarantee up to \$500 per payment. Both Paypal and ebay itself have fantastically good software but ebay can get very slow in the afternoons when the US comes in, particularly at weekends. There are several ebay sites, ebay.com in the US, ebay.co.uk for the UK, ebay.de for Germany, ebay.ch for Switzerland etc. With some trades it makes sense to go on your national site only, ie if you are selling a car, but this is not a constraint for stamps that can be mailed cheaply anywhere and the content of the UK and US sites is not very different.

Using ebay can be quite slow and those not in full time employment have a significant advantage. Equally, it is a big disadvantage to collect 18 countries as I do. But I have learned to scan through the dross quite quickly, even at the risk of missing things as some of the main index descriptions give no idea of content. It takes time to click into view each lot of "early Antigua stamps", but there are of course search facilities which can speed your task, though again at the risk of overlooking things. For example, a search for "inverted" will bring up all the descriptions of inverted watermarks and inverted overprints, but not those where the seller has used a different term such as inv or upside down.

Finally, regarding bidding, there is no disclosure of the amount of your maximum bid to other bidders but there is disclosure of the password of all high bidders at any point in time and people get to know the names behind the passwords. For many reasons bidders like to come in late so as to disguise their interest but this can be dangerous as happened to me once or twice when I missed the deadline by a few seconds.

This has been written from the buyers perspective only, someone else may like to describe a seller's perspective.

MARYLAND FORGERIES**BY CHARLES FREELAND**

Those who keep an eye on ebay will have noticed references to a modern category of computer-generated forgeries that are being offered at £2.99 apiece. My search revealed 87 different examples on offer, about 20% of them from the BWI. The "Maryland" forgeries, so-called because they originate from the state of Maryland adjoining Washington DC, look rather attractive but are not going to fool anyone because they are on ungummed computer type paper, are clean cut perf about 11 ¼ and have no "substance". My example of the Bermuda 12/6 has a selvage, a nice touch, but no jubilee line. Moreover, the person marketing them in the UK, Roger West of Phoenix Auctions, has hand-stamped the reverse of each with "forgery" in green. I was told they have been scanned in from auction catalogue illustrations rather than from actual stamps. Among those I have seen offered are the Bahamas QV and KE pound, the Bermuda GVI 12/6 and the Cayman Is 1935 10/-, all handsome stamps and ones that many beginners cannot afford so there may be a market for them in the same way that Spiro sold his replicas as space fillers and reportedly not intended to deceive. However, there are also a number of low values too where the original stamps could be acquired for less than £2.99, which presumably shows the stamps have been produced as a demonstration of the forgers' art rather than a serious attempt to make money. Nonetheless, we often now see Spiros offered as the genuine stamp, so there is still a danger of the Marylands one day being sold as genuine.

The ability of a modern forger to sell his or her products at higher than cost is presumably a reflection of the high prices that forgeries now bring, in turn a reflection of the desire of serious collectors – myself among them – to build reference collections. The most bizarre item currently on offer is the 1d St Lucia Nazi "Liquidation of the Empire" bogus stamp – when the market begins to create forgeries of forgeries, perhaps we should stop and wonder what is going on! However, Robson Lowe must be turning in his grave.....he would have been among the first to see the dangers and call on the trade to remove these undesirables from the market. However attractive they may be and however much you strive for "completion", I believe as a responsible society we should protect the new collectors of the future and not reward the forgers because this will only provide an incentive for others to copy them. I would therefore urge our membership to refuse to buy these products – yes I did acquire one for "study purposes" but that will be it as far as I am concerned.

To see a list of those available, all you need to do is to log onto ebay and search under Maryland.

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EDITOR & WEB-MASTER'S REPORT**STEVE JARVIS**

Peter Fernbank has continued scanning early editions of the bulletin. He has now reached edition 75, of which 70 are on our web site. Peter has also brought the index of bulletins up-to-date (Bulletin #202). An updated listing is now available for download from the web site or printed copy by application to the Hon. Editor at £2.00 or \$US4.00.

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