

Warwick Convention – Formal Display Speakers



Alan Becker & Brian Brookes

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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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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION
AGM & Auction

... is to be held at Gosvenor Auctions premises in the Strand on 6 May 2006.

Details of auction lots to Simon Goldblatt (contact details inside front cover) or Nigel Chandler (OESYPUM@aol.com) by 10th January 2006.

Philatex 2006

at the Horticultural Halls, Greycoat St London SW1.

To include a BWISC Meeting – details to follow.

Members' Displays

- James Podger won a small vermeil in the national class with a special prize & the BCPSG award for an 'outstanding exhibit of British West Indies material' at Autumn Stampex for his 3 frames of QV and KEVII Cayman islands.
- Alan Rigby also exhibited 8 frames in the International class at Stampex, showing the 1938 issue of St Kitts-Nevis, and in addition to the vermeil medal he was awarded the Windsor Plate for the best display of 20th century material. Alan will be giving his display of St Kitts-Nevis 1861 to 1954 in the new year at Blackburn on 21st February and at Chester on the 16th March. His extended display includes the Leeward Islands, used in St Kitts, he would be willing to display in the London area (with enough notice) if any society is interested (as well as closer to home at Bolton, Lancs). He also informs me that he has been accepted to display at Washington (USA) in 2006.
- Alister Kinnon is displaying 'Aspects of Saint Lucia' at the National Philatelic Society on Saturday 11 March 2006.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On the last weekend of September we held our biennial Convention at the Honiley Corus Hotel; details of the events there are recorded elsewhere in this Bulletin. Nevertheless, I must add my personal thanks to the many members who worked hard to make the day a success. Firstly, our Hon. Secretary, Peter Boulton deserves a special vote of thanks as it was he that bore the brunt of organising the whole event. Peter does everything from the initial booking of the weekend, negotiating room rates for members as well as the Convention Room, to liaising on the actual weekend which room we are to have, arranging tables, making name tags available, taking the door money and selling raffle tickets. Also, we have to thank our dealer members, without whom the day would not be a success. And lastly, the members who attended; all deserve our thanks.



We have had many things over the last year or so to feel proud of; however, recently something else has occurred to please us. Our member, Chris Harman has been elected as President of the Royal Philatelic Society. This is a singular honour for any philatelist and Chris is only the third member of the BWISC to be so honoured. The previous two were Bill Townsend and, of course, John Marriott. May we wish Chris much success in his tenure of the Presidency.

Whilst talking about the Royal Philatelic Society, I recently received the latest membership listing and, having an odd idle moment or two, I looked to see how many of our members were also members of the Royal. It seems that we have around 35 Fellows and a similar number of Members. For anybody who is considering joining the Royal, all I can say is that it is well worth it. I attended a viewing of a small part of the Queen's Collection in early September, an event only open to Members and Fellows, and a report on the magnificent display of St. Vincent, the Virgin Islands and Dominica will follow in the March issue of the Bulletin.

BWISC CONVENTION 2005 - WARWICK

The regular Convention was held at the Corus Hotel, Warwick, on the weekend of 30th September / 1st October 2005. Members arrived through the afternoon and by tea time an informal session had materialised in the reception area, exchanging experiences and various research notes.

After a quick freshen up, we assembled for the traditional wine and cheese party, Peter Ford welcomed new friends and old and he was pleased that Dingle Smith and his wife had joined us, all the way from Australia (although it was the Ashes cricket tour that had been the main attraction). Peter also presented the Editor with two bottles of bubbly to share with his wife, in recognition of the awards received by the Journal this year from the Association of British Philatelic Societies and the American Philatelic Society.



Dingle Smith



The cheese and wine being exhausted we retired to the dining room where a large table had been reserved for the 22 members staying at the hotel. Everyone agreed that the food, wine and service were excellent and eventually we staggered into the bar for some serious philatelic therapy. After we were comfortable, Michael Hamilton opened his private bourse and quickly several collectors had acquired little bundles to take back to their room. The rest of the evening is a bit foggy except that I remember falling into bed at about 2am. I believe Michael was even later and he mentioned the next morning that he had spent the early hours chasing some of his stock around the hotel car park and then had to clean them up.

After a leisurely buffet breakfast on the Saturday morning, Peter Ford formally opened the convention and the scrums at the dealers tables intensified. The tea and coffee machine at one end of the room was in regular use and by mid morning any remaining hangovers had dissipated. Late morning brought the eagerly awaited display by Brian Brookes on St Christopher (report later), those who had attended the Jubilee celebration had already sampled the hors d'oeuvre. Luncheon was followed by more exploration of the dealers' stocks (Allan Leverton, Chris Rainey, Michael Hamilton, David Druett, Derek Lilley), the members' table and Society publications. Allan Leverton gave an informal talk on the Bermuda Prague covers (see later article by Fred Lang) and Alan Becker gave his formal display of St Vincent (to be featured in the March Bulletin). The prize draw was made by Stella Pearse and to everyone's great amusement, she drew out her own number; the Members insisted that she accepted the prize.



Throughout the day Dennis Mitton had organized the Members informal displays and some of these will be featured in this (see later for Richard Hart's Jamaica Railway; Graham Booth's Caymans; and Dave Richards' French Maritime Mail) and forthcoming Bulletins. (The BWISC web site contains more scans from these displays).

At 5pm Peter Ford closed the Convention, thanking Peter Boulton for the usual efficient organisation of the event.

The evening followed a similar format to the previous night except that we were all able to share our acquisitions of the day.

NEW!**NEW!**

STEAMSHIP LINES TO THE CARIBBEAN: VOLUME I

by Michael R. Rego

This book, recently published, is the first of 4 volumes covering the Steamship Lines which served the Caribbean from the earliest days up to more modern times. It covers 2 of the most important lines, the Royal Mail Line and Hamburg-American Line. The format details the history of each line, advertisements of the time, route structure, listings of offices and agents, any local stamps used, agents markings and ship markings, together with illustrations of some of the ships themselves and a Fleet List. This is all supplemented by a comprehensive Fleet Index at the back. There are 20 colour plates with illustrations of covers. This softbacked book of approx. 230 pages will be a welcome addition to every British West Indies collector's library. **PRICE: £36.00 (BWISC member's discount £4.00)**

This book is now available and can be ordered from David Druett of Pennymead Auctions at 1, Brewerton Street, Knaresborough, N. YORKS, HG5 8AZ, UK or via e-mail at Pennymead@aol.com, or via Telephone at 0044 (0)1423 865962 or Fax at 0044 (0)1423 547057. Please state that you are a member of the BWISC so as to obtain members discount. Also advise if airmail or surface mail is required for overseas orders.

NOTE: Post & packing are extra. Orders will be dispatched with invoice and prompt payment is requested. Payment by Sterling cheque or US or Canadian dollar check can be accepted. Credit cards accepted (not AMEX). Also payment may be made in Euros (cash only).

CONVENTION FORMAL DISPLAY

ST. CHRISTOPHER

BY BRIAN BROOKES

Having given us a brief taster of his St Christopher collection at the Golden Jubilee meeting, Brian treated us to the full main course at the Convention, encompassing the period from 1600 to 1890.

The display commenced with his earliest letter from Nevis 1661, which would have passed through St Kitts, followed by the earliest incoming (1689) from Holland; a merchants' letter dated 1716; a cover carried by the short-lived packet service which operated with 6 vessels between 1745-55; a 1745 cover bearing the only known 2 line ST CHRIS / TOPHERS; and a 1762 ship letter from St Kitts to GB and privately forwarded to Madeira.



1661



1745 2 line ST CHRIS / TOPHERS

After this fine assembly of historical letters, Brian led us through superb examples of all 11 types of the straight line St Kitts marking with no less than three of the 1st type!



1779 – Type 1



1785 – Type 3

As a result of insurance fraud in the 1780s-90s it was decided to have dated postmarks, two different styles were shown. After 5 years these were changed to a large fleuron but these are always poor strikes.



1801 – Type 1



1804 – Type 2

The Postal History section was completed with a wide selection of small fleurons, small dated types, paid marks & the Leeward Is 'F'.

The adhesive stamps were equally well represented (but unfortunately the Editor didn't have sufficient time to take scans of this section). All the GB Used in St Kitts adhesives were shown off cover (with A12 obliterator) plus the 6d on cover. Brian had seen a 4d and a 1s on cover to Australia but never seen a 1d on cover.

St. Christopher's own adhesives were introduced with die proofs before & after striking of the 1870 issue, ink recipes with De La Rue dummy stamps and an imperf plate proof of the 6d.

Throughout the display specimens by DLR, including strips, figured prominently. Brian explained their use for various purposes (GPO,

DLR file copies and for Exhibitions). The 1d and 6d were shown in sheets marked cancelled. The first issue concluded with blocks and both the 1d and 6d stamps used on cover; Brian described the 6d as 'easy' but the 1d on its own difficult.

The 1875 to 1881 line perf 14 was represented with sheets of 1d & 6d and used on cover to various destinations, including a 6d pair to Demerara, one to Turks Is., and a cover bearing 1d x 4.

The CA issues included a magnificent cover to Barbados with a block of 11 of the 1886 1s, the 1884 4d on 6d surcharge double, a 4d on 6d with full stop, and an 1885 ½d inverted surcharge.

The feast continued with the 1886 overprints – 2 x 1d on 6d with inverted surcharge, used on cover, and the 4d on 6d with 1 stamp taken from sheet.

The 1888 overprint, of course, contained a used 1d on 2½d without bar, a full sheet of the 1d on 2½d and 3 used copies showing the surcharge inverted (with bar).

From mid Nov to 5 Dec 1889, the Island ran out of certain values of stamps and they needed to bring back into use the 'St Kitts Paid' in black. Brian showed us covers with the earliest example dated 17 Nov and the latest dated 5 Dec. In 1890 the Island ran out of 1d adhesives and received permission to use Antigua stamps (1920 sent). Brian showed two examples: on St Christopher Advertiser dated 13 Mar 1890, and a strip of 4 plus 4d x 2 on cover, to make up the 1s rate.

Police carried the post around the Island, and Brian concluded his display with a section of the manuscript marks employed as a consequence followed by a selection of the Revenue stamps.

Peter Fernbank gave the vote of thanks.



1838 St Kitts Paid with 'Leewards F'



BAHAMAS

EIGHT MILE ROCK – MANUSCRIPT CANCELLATION

BY PHIL MACMURDIE

Eight Mile Rock is the largest settlement on Grand Bahama Island, outside of Freeport/Lucaya, and is named after the eight miles of solid rock contained there.

The 'town' is actually a string of settlements, each of which takes the name of the family who settled and still inhabits the land. Jones Town, Martin Town, Pinedale, Hanna Hill, Bartlett Hill, Wildgoose, and Hepburn Town are a few of the sub-settlements. Their respective families are chiefly descendants of freed slaves who now own the land because their families have inhabited it since the mid-nineteenth century.

The post office situated at Eight Mile Rock – situated upon the island of Grand Bahama was opened by 1810 (Ludington).

Handstamps Recorded

EKD

LKD

Ludington (Type 3) and Proud (D2) CDS

12-Sep-1904

26 Jul 1929

This was for Grand Bahama.

The post office was re-named Eight Mile Rock during late 1929.


Luddington (Type 5), and Proud (D3)

15-Aug-1930

4-Dec-1943

This leaves a window of twelve months without any recorded cancellations. The example illustrated opposite is a rather soiled 'Montgomery Ward' cover from Eight Mile Rock to Chicago. The three 1d Script CA George V stamps have been pen cancelled and dated 19 Aug 1930 and initialled. The initials look like 'GRB' which could possibly have been the local postmaster. Whilst not within the window where nothing is recorded, it does suggest that the new 'Eight Mile Rock' handstamp may have gone missing.

To my knowledge no manuscript cancellation has been recorded for this office so I would welcome any further comments and observations.



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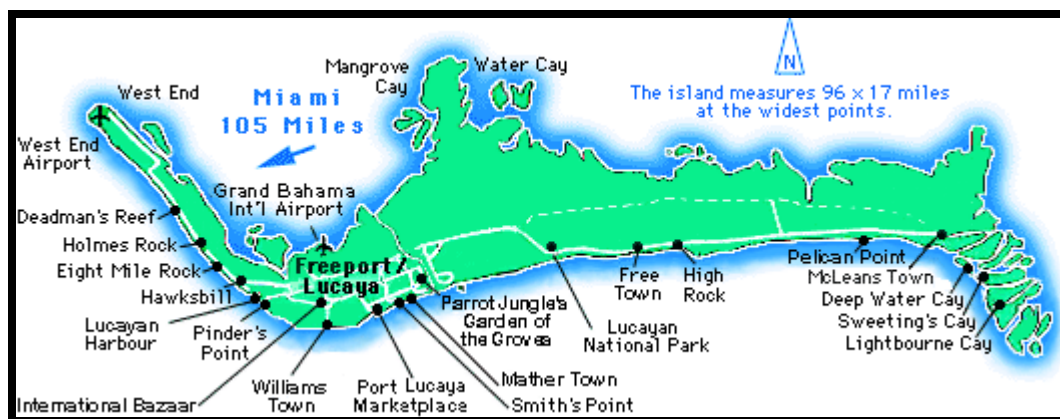
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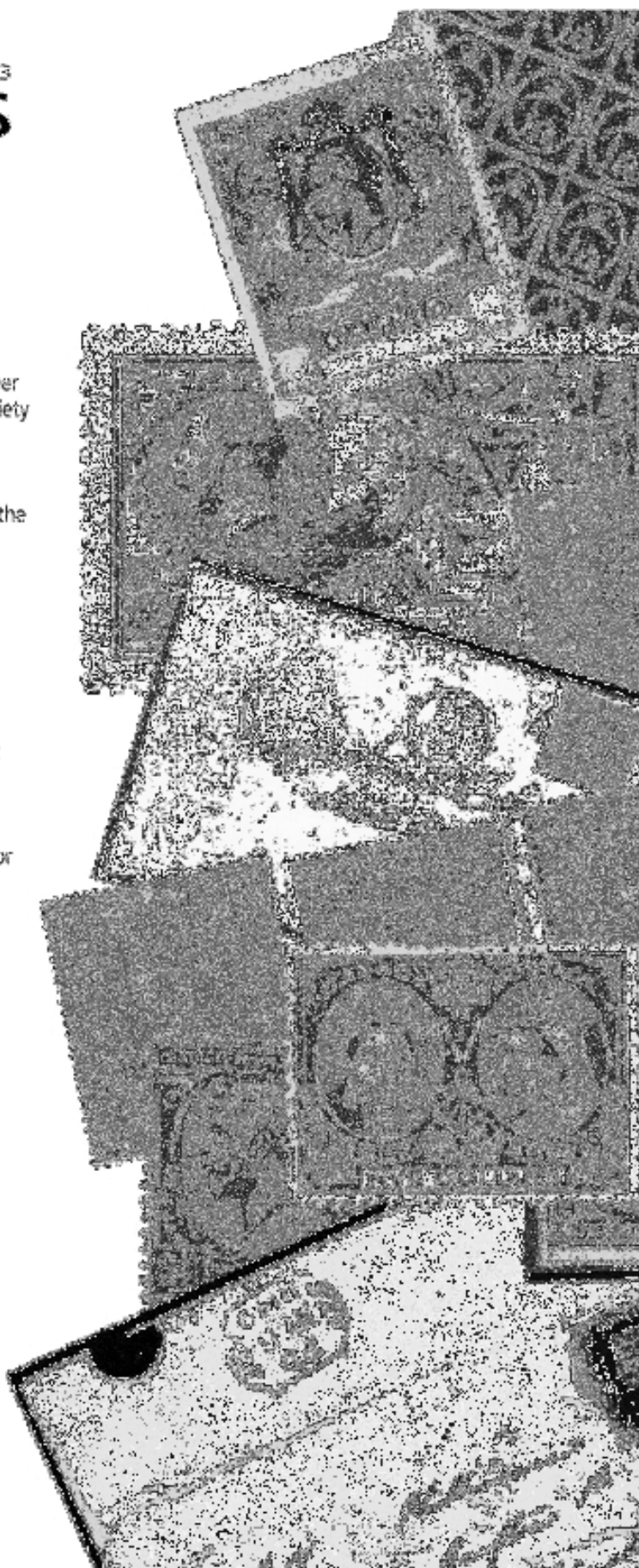
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BERMUDA

Known Prague Covers, History & Auction Details

By Fred Lang

The 12/6 GVI keyplate stamps on covers to Prague have become one of the most unusual and controversial items in Bermuda Philately. They are certainly genuine postal items. The number of covers is not known for certain, but exhaustive research has revealed that probably only 10 covers were mailed despite the fact that the manuscript numbers written on the face go up to 17.

Collectors and dealers alike use the term '*Prague Lemon*' to describe the shade of the GVI 12/6d stamp on registered covers dated (Wednesday) 18th June 1947 and with a Prague arrival date-stamp of 23rd June 1947. Each cover is addressed to Karel Basika, a Czech collector of Br. Commonwealth stamps and airmail covers. It has long been believed by some students in Bermuda philatelic circles that there was indeed one sheet of 12/6 stamps, part of the 1946 '*Lemon yellow*' printing, which is brighter yellow with a 'Bluish Greenish-Grey Head' (*sometimes described as Greyish Green or Greenish Grey*) amongst the 1946 '*Lemon Yellows*' despatched to Bermuda.

Alternative theories are based on the possibility that the Prague lemons originate from either the 1940 or an earlier printing, which was chemically or artificially altered. It will probably never be known with any certainty how these stamps have a brighter yellow frame and bluish grey head plate. They most probably originate from one single sheet of the '*Lemon Shade*' which for reasons unknown absorbed the inks in such a way that when printed was much brighter than the remainder of the June 1946 printing. The despatch date, 18th June 1947, was about the time when the '*Lemon Yellow*' printing became available.

The late Morris Ludington was of the opinion that the Prague Lemons were stamps from the July 1939 and/or the August 1940 dispatch printed on unsurfaced paper. Wilson C. K. Wong published a Study Paper for the KGVI Collectors Society and stated that the Prague Lemons were chemically induced forgeries. His opinion has gained some acceptance among certain collectors and dealers. For example, page 39 of the Commonwealth King George VI Catalogue, 18th Edition, note 15b, states 'The Prague shade, previously listed, has been proven to be spurious'.

Bearing in mind that the cost of a 12/6d stamp was a significant amount of money in 1947, it is unlikely that someone would chemically alter these stamps to make them look unique. Doing this would require a comprehensive knowledge of both chemicals and chemistry, while the associated costs would be prohibitive and in essence a complete waste of resources. I personally believe Wilson Wong's theories were both correct and incorrect and his findings of chemically induced fakes and forgeries were based solely on his analysis and some conjecture.

Dr Myles Glazer, a chemist and distinguished philatelic researcher, contends that the existing evidence for the 'Prague Lemons' being chemically induced forgeries is not conclusive and can be otherwise interpreted as physio-chemical phenomena. This interpretation was discussed in great detail in his comprehensive study paper published in the March 2002 edition of Bermuda Post, the journal of the Bermuda Collectors Society. Glazer maintained that until strong evidence of chemical induced forgeries can be objectively validated, the status of the 'Prague Lemons' is pure conjecture.

Glazer performed extensive chemical analysis on the paper coating of the same Prague Lemon that was x-rayed by Robert Kugel (cover No 5, Reg. No. 6743, ex Wilson Wong). In summary, the analysis consisted of examination under an ultraviolet lamp in addition to scanning electron microscopy. The results showed that the existing coating is not the result of removal and replacement of the original chalk coating but is the original that was applied by Samuel Jones and Co. Ltd. The particular '*Prague Lemon*' that was examined by x-ray and other non-destructive analytical techniques is a genuine philatelic entity. The proof of the results is technical, and the author welcomes enquiries from anyone who is interested in a detailed explanation.

Fred Bentley Kettle

Kettle was a prominent and keen KGVI collector who lived in Bromsgrove Cheshire. He was one of the few collectors to discover the '*Lemon Yellow*' shade and recognise its scarcity. He undertook a comprehensive study of both the June and Dec 1946 printings, and wrote articles regularly for Stanley Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

Kettle made a business trip to Hamilton some time in the early part of 1951, and went to see his dealer friend Donald Gibbons of the 'Smoke Shop' in Front Street Hamilton. A 'High Class Tobacconist' and well known stamp collector and dealer, Gibbons supplied substantial quantities of stamps to the UK and US markets, and on demand sent covers to collectors and dealers worldwide. He informed Kettle that a few years earlier he had sent covers to Prague with unusual shades of the '*Lemon Yellow*' and that philatelist Harry Ragg might still have some or all of them. Kettle went to see Ragg and to his surprise found eight covers which he purchased for circa £3 each. On returning to England, he sold or swapped six covers with a friend of long standing, F.E. Metcalf of the Commonwealth Stamp Co in Liverpool. He retained one cover for himself, cover 17, Reg. No 6737, which bears his signature in pencil (see illustration)

Ragg related the story thus: he had been the Office Manager for Hayes & Co Agents in Hamilton. One day the firm required some 12/6d stamps to place on shipping documents in preparation for Customs clearance and so he sent a junior clerk down to the Treasury (which sold stamps to shipping companies as well as to the Post Office) to obtain a quantity. The purchase is said to have consisted of 16 '*Prague Lemons*', some from the bottom left side of the sheet, which for some reason had been mixed in with a part sheet of the June 1946 despatch of the lemon yellows.

Upon return to the office, the clerk began to stick the '*Prague Lemons*' on some documents. Ragg noticed the unusual shade and told the clerk to cease preparing the shipping documents and to return to the Treasury to obtain more stamps, but this time the clerk was given '*Lemon Yellows*'. Ragg went to the Treasury himself to look for more '*Prague Lemons*', but was unable to find any. He was informed that the Treasury did not differentiate between shades and were not particular about whether they handed out later or earlier stocks. Apparently before the Post Office received their supply of the so-called '*Lemon Yellows*' some had already been handed out to Hayes & Co.

Ragg removed the few '*Prague Lemons*' from the shipping documents and went to his dealer friend Donald Gibbons to show him the unusual shade. Gibbons, seeing an opportunity of helping one of his old European Customers and obtain some Czech currency while also making a profit for himself, agreed to mail ten covers while retaining the bottom marginal block of four and two singles (the block of four was purchased some years later from Gibbons by Sir Lacon Threlford).

Karel Basika was in the habit of supplying self addressed envelopes to Donald Gibbons in advance of potential orders and Gibbons held some of these. So Donald Gibbons placed the remaining ten copies on the covers and sent them registered to Basika in Prague on Wednesday 18th June 1947. The covers were typed up in the Eastern European Format as outlined below:

Mr./ Karel BASIKA, / P R A H A 1 / Karlova 2., / CZECHOSLOVAKIA, / E u r o p e.

Karel Basika

Karel Basika (born: 25 October 1903, died: 28 January 1968) was a bank clerk by profession who from a young age had devoted his life to philately. Already in 1920 he co-operated with Jaroslav Lešetický in an official philatelic capacity. He collected the stamps of Czechoslovakia, the British Commonwealth (especially Queen Victoria), Monaco and Australian Air Mails. He was a jury member at many philatelic exhibitions, expertiser and publisher. He acted as chairman of the jury section and of the SČF expert commission. It would be hard to find someone who has done as much for the philatelic community as he did. His last commission as a jury member should have been at the Prague international exhibition of 1968, but unfortunately he died some months earlier. He also wrote many specialised publications including a book '*Hundred years of stamps*', published in 1940 and 1946.



The ten Prague Lemon covers all bear arrival stamps of 23rd June 1947 and Basika received them on Tuesday 24th June 1947. By prior arrangement Basika received some US dollar bills (which were valuable to him as there were strict currency controls in Prague at the time), retained one cover for his own collection and duly returned the remaining nine covers by post in a single envelope to Donald Gibbons. Harry Ragg also gave one of the covers to Gibbons for his services.

Important Details Overlooked by Previous Students Investigating Prague Covers.

All the envelopes are of a continental airmail type, made from very light and flimsy paper and are possibly pre World War II. They were very likely manufactured in Czechoslovakia as inside each envelope 'PAPEKO' (Czech for Paper) appears at the High "V" part of the inside peak. The printed airmail symbol at top left does not indicate 'Air Mail/Par Avion' as per UK or US norms, but indicates 'Letadlem' (Czech for 'Airmail') and Par Avion (by air).

Each cover bears a fine red crayon cross, which was the norm for registered mail in Eastern Europe and is overlaid by crosses in blue crayon which were done in Hamilton when the covers were handed over the Post Office counter for registration, as per normal practice. Each also bears hand written numbers; these were until recently thought to indicate the sequence of covers posted in Hamilton but this is not correct. From subsequent enquiries in Prague, it has transpired that registered mail arriving at the Prague Letter Office of Registration was initially recorded by hand numerical entries (the numbers on the known Prague covers are in a continental style) into the 'Letter Registration Ledger', and this was done on a daily basis. Hence the random numbering on the covers. The following Numbers are known: 4, 5, 6, 8, 13, 14, 17.

Notes from a page in the Morris Ludington Collection

12s.6d. Gray and Yellow on plain unsurfaced Paper (CW. No. 15bb).

Like the 1938-1940 printings, the yellow ink has a heavy iron content. The yellow ink on the 1942-1946 printings on substitute paper has practically no iron, but is heavy in Strontium, not found on the stamp below.

Strontium: (Named after Strontian, a town in Scotland). Isolated by Davey by electrolysis in 1808, however, Adair Crawford recognized a new mineral (strontianite) as differing from other barium minerals in 1790.

Forms: Strontium is found chiefly as celestite and strontianite. The metal can be prepared by electrolysis of the fused chloride mixed with potassium chloride, or is made by reducing strontium oxide with aluminum in a vacuum at a temperature at which strontium distils off. Three allotropic forms of the metal exist, with transition points at 235° and 540°C.

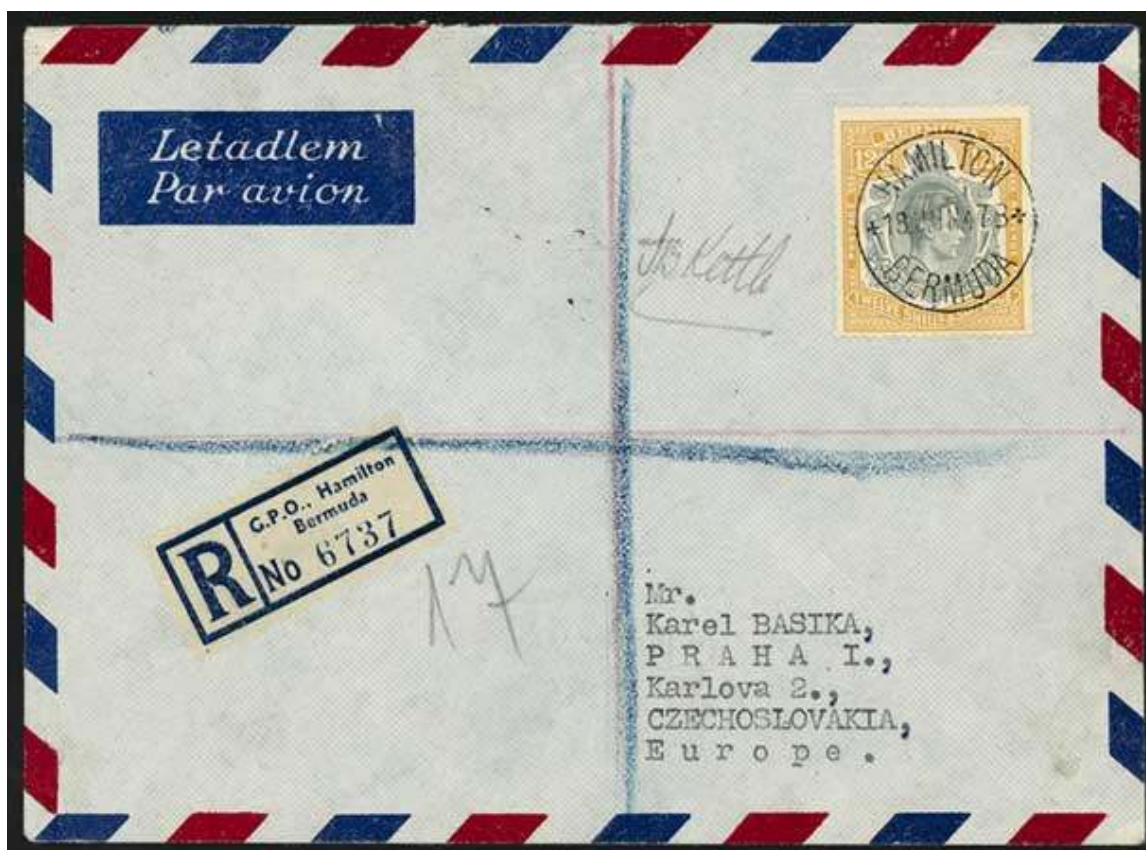
Properties: Strontium is softer than calcium and decomposes in water more vigorously. It does not absorb nitrogen below 380°C. It should be kept under kerosene to prevent oxidation. Freshly cut strontium has a silvery appearance, but rapidly turns a yellowish colour with the formation of the oxide. The finely divided metal ignites spontaneously in air. Volatile strontium salts impart a beautiful crimson colour to flames, and these salts are used in pyrotechnics and in the production of flares. Natural strontium is a mixture of four stable isotopes.

The 1939 and/or 1940 printings were on sale at the Hamilton P.O. in 1946 and it seems likely that one or more sheets, without chalk surfacing, and with the frame yellower than usual, went on sale in 1947. Note that the paper is similarly toned indicating a long period of storage in Bermuda.

Editors Note: My thanks to Charles Freeland for his review of this article and the provision of supplementary information.

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Dickinson Terence	British Guiana Picture Post Cards	£28 (£3)
Jarvis & Sutcliffe	GB Stamps Used in Jamaica	£38 (£6)
Oliver MN	The Leeward Islands. Notes for Philatelists	£53 (£8)
Rego Mike	Steamship Lines to the Caribbean: Vol 1	£36 (4)
Toeg EV	Dominica Postal History, Stamps, Stationery to 1935	£25
Toeg EV	Leeward islands Adhesive Fee Stamps	£10
Wike RG	Airmails of Trinidad & Tobago	£25



Known Prague Covers with the following Hamilton Reg Nos .

Noted by Allan Leverton KGVI Collectors Society Issue 2 – 14 December 2004 :-

Reg		
6735	# 13	Ex Robert Dickgiesser, David Sellman
6736		Whereabouts Unknown
6737	# 17	Ex Fred Bentley Kettle, David Sellman - now property of the author.
6738	# 14	Ex Donald Gibbons, Morris Ludington, David Sellman
6739		Whereabouts Unknown
6740	# 6	Ex Wilson C.K.Wong
6741		Whereabouts Unknown
6742		Whereabouts Unknown
6743	# 5	Ex Wilson C.K. Wong
6744	# 8	Ex Wilson C.K. Wong

Note this shade is a rarity mint and the Commonwealth Stamp Co. have only ever seen one mint copy, as per a letter to Sir Lacon Threlford dated 28 Sept 1952.

A single copy (one of the two known mint singles) appeared in a Stanley Gibbons Auction on Wednesday 11th November 1998. The description read as follows:-

Lot No 103 -- 12/6d in a Greenish Grey and Pale Yellow shade with the greenish tinge to the head and a paler yellow frame than most 'Lemon' shades and possibly the stamp which gave rise to the previous 'Prague' Shade (CW15bb): fine u/m and with the normal ivory hint to the gum of this rare issue most of which were fiscally used.' Estimate £700, sold for £920.

This fine used example dated 18 JUN 47 and recently seen by the author was once the property of Fred Bentley Kettle who purchased it from Donald E. Gibbons sometime in the late 1950s. It is believed this stamp was removed from a Prague Cover, Reg. No. unknown.



Registration No 6735 Auction History

<u>17 Jun 1970</u>	<u>Harmers, London, G Bridgemore Brown collection.</u>	
Lot 1356	a few perfs a trifle soiled	Real £80
<u>26 Oct 1999</u>	<u>Cherrystone New York, Robert Dickgiesser Collection.</u>	
Lot 164	1947 12/6 June 1947 the Famous 'Prague' shade grey and yellow, a single affixed to airmail envelope registered to Prague No 6735 with No '13' in crayon, cancelled by Hamilton c.d.s, the stamp with trace of slight bend very fine and very rare.	Est \$1,500
	(Purchased by David Sellman)	Real \$8,000 +10%
<u>10 Mar 2005</u>	<u>Grosvenor Auction London 'Apollonia' (Sellman) Collection.</u>	
Lot 678	The famous 'Prague' 12s 6d grey and yellow shade cancelled by fine Hamilton c.d.s. on an airmail cover to the stamp dealer, Karel Basika, in Prague, number '13' at left with registration label no. '6735', backstamped June 23 arrival.	Est £3,500 - £4,000
		Unsold

Registration No 6737 Auction History

<u>17 Sept 1968</u>	<u>North Western Philatelic Auctions Ltd, Liverpool</u> <u>-- The Bentley Kettle King George Sixth Collection</u>	
Lot No 64	1947 12/6 No 15b fine used on Cover Dated 18th June '47	Est. £5
	Unable to trace Purchaser	Real. £6.12.6
<u>13 May 1975</u>	<u>Harmers London</u>	
Lot 563	12/6 Bluish-grey sand pale yellow , the scarce 1947 issue, lightly cancelled on registered Airmail cover to Czechoslovakia, a little off-centre, a few blunt or faintly soiled perfs, otherwise fine	Est. £100
		Real. £100
<u>18 Mar 2004</u>	<u>Colonial Stamp Co Auction California</u>	
Lot 395	1947 12/6 Yellow and Grey KGV1 Keyplate, the B&K 15bb 'Prague' printing tied by 'Hamilton' cds to a registered cover to Karlova, Czechoslovakia No '17' in crayon and signed by F.B. Kettle, while contentious in some quarters only 8 to 10 are accounted for. The Dickgiesser cover realised \$8,000. Dr Myles Glazer has proven by x-ray analysis, that it is not chemically altered but emanated from a pre 1940 printing with a different kind of paper coating, a Great KGV1 Rarity! with Brandon Certificate.	Est. \$8000
		Real. \$3,750 +10%
<u>10 Mar 2005</u>	<u>Grosvenor Auction London 'Apollonia' (Sellman) Collection.</u>	
Lot 680	the adhesive with light horizontal creasing	Est £3,500 - £4,000
		Sold post-sale for £3,000 plus 15%

Registration No 6738 Auction History

22 June 1999	<u>The Morris Ludington Collection, Spink London</u>	
Lot No 633	June 1947 – The Famous 'Prague' shade. Grey and Yellow a Single affixed to a 1947 (18 June) airmail envelope registered No 6738 to Prague and cancelled by Hamilton c.d.s. numbered '14' at lower left. The adhesive with a horizontal crease and slight surface scruff. B.P.A. Certificate (1969, as CW 15BB). The debate over the validity of the above shade has been raging for almost fifty years. After the discovery of the 'lemon' shade in the early 1950's, a number of airmail covers bearing 12/6, values addressed to the well known CZECH stamp dealer Karel Basika appeared on the market and at first were thought to be the 'lemon' shade. Subsequent examination of later printings, together with detailed studies of the 'Prague' covers disproved these theories. Of the fifteen or so covers which are thought to exist, significant differences between the colours of the 'Prague' stamps which have turned up, cast serious doubt over their authenticity, and are now thought to be changelings. Whatever the explanation, these covers are of great philatelic interest and desired by all Key Type collectors.	Est. £1500- £2000
	(Purchased by David Sellman)	Real £1,955 +17.5%

10 Mar 2005	<u>Grosvenor Auction London 'Apollonia' (Sellman) Collection.</u>	
Lot 679	the adhesive with light horizontal creasing	Est. £3,500 - £4,000
		Unsold

Registration No 6740 / 6743 / 6744 Auction History

23 Oct 1990	<u>Wilson C.K. Wong, Christies Robson Lowe London</u>	
	Remarks for the three covers read as follows Note : The 'Prague' shade was originally thought to be a very rare shade grey-green and yellow (CW15bb) and less than twenty covers are known to exist. However, the fact that the stamp on cover No '5' is significantly different from those on all of the other covers, which are similar to each other, casts some doubt on their status. It is possible that the stamp on cover No '5' is either a climatic changeling or a fake and those on the other covers are a genuine rare shade, perhaps the only surviving examples of the supposed destroyed April 1946 printing. Whatever the explanation, the covers are not only of great Philatelic interest, but are also very rare and highly desirable.	
Lot 125	June 1947 The Famous 'Prague' shade Grey and Yellow, on 1947 (18th June) airmail registered to Prague No 6743 cancelled by 'Hamilton' c.d.s. Numbered '5' in lower left corner and with Prague arrival backstamp. Fine CW 15bb	Est £1,500
		Real £1,320 +10%
Lot 126	A virtually identical cover as last No 6740, Numbered '6' in Crayon in lower left corner and Fine B.P.A. Certificate (1981). This cover was lot 564 in the Harmers sale of 13 May 1975 but unsold. It was reoffered in Oct. 1975 and probably bought by Allan Leverton for Bridger & Kay (who offered one retail for £300 in 1976)	Est £1,500
		Real £1,320 +10%
Lot 127	A virtually identical cover as last No 6744, Numbered '8' in Crayon in lower left corner and Fine B.P.A. Certificate (1981)	Est £1,500
		Real £2,200 +10%
	(This cover sold for \$11,000+10% in Victoria Stamp Auction 31st January 1997, later offered retail £3,250 by David Brandon in 1999)	

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(probably discussing hurricanes in the Cayman Islands?)



Friday night dinner



The Bourse

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Manuscript Provisional 'Pd ¼' 8 Oct 1908 (1 of only 2 known)



½d on 5s Salmon & Green



½d double



2½d on 4d



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Ligne A - Colon to St Nazaire



Ligne D – Port of Spain to Colon and then Bordeaux

CONVENTION DISPLAY– ST. LUCIA 1967 STATEHOOD ISSUE**BY ALISTER KINNON**

Authorised overprints and air stamp, and other items produced by others for Mr Mostyn including error of colour and overprint items. The 1c and \$2.50 values were all bought in advance by Mr. Mostyn and were not available at the Post Offices.



Suggested Ovpt



Ovpt in Red



Ovpt in Red

Unauthorised ovpt
in black and blue

Ovpt in Black



Inverted ovpt



Postage Due



Inverted ovpt

Inv ovpt
in redDouble ovpt in black
one invertedInverted ovpt
in redDouble ovpt
in red

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Peter John Jaffé, OAM, RDP 1914 - 2005**Excerpts from an article by Geoff Kellow to be published in 'Philately from Australia'**

The Study Circle lost one of its most outstanding members with the passing of Peter Jaffé in September at the aged of 92. He served as BWISC Vice President from 1993 to 1999.

Peter emigrated to Australia in 1951 and joined The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1954.

Peter is best known for his St Vincent collection but his special areas of interest were the British West Indies and Perkins Bacon issues in general. – His Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and Turks Islands are outstanding.

St. Vincent was first exhibited in 1963 but after significant acquisitions in the 1980s, the display achieved Large Golds at several International Exhibitions culminating in qualification for FIP Class d'Honneur at Helsinki (1988), Class d'Honneur at Philexfrance (1989), London (1990), New Zealand 1990, Espana 1992, Pacific 97 (San Francisco) and Israel (1998). It is the most decorated Australian exhibit of the modern FIP era.

The Traditional collection being out of competition, Peter turned the clock back and returned to the postmarks and postal history. Largely independent of the Large Gold exhibit, the postal history exhibit won a Gold Medal at London in 2000. Its coverage is no less impressive than the Traditional exhibit; it contains probably 90% of the recorded abbreviated datestamp covers.

Peter was not purely a collector, his supporting material that has never been exhibited was equally impressive and enabled him to publish many articles and contribute his knowledge on expert Committees. At Hafnia the collection was awarded the FIP Medal for Research, a rare achievement, and the only Australian exhibit to have been so honoured.

There can be no question that the Jaffé St. Vincent constitutes one of the greatest collections ever formed.

Peter joined the RPS London in 1955 and was elected a Fellow in 1962, he was President of the RPSV twice, in 1972 and 1979. The Presidential display the first time was St. Vincent - no surprises - but in 1979 it was New Hebrides.

In 1992 he was elected to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and signed the Roll at Congress at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He was the 14th Australian to sign.

In 2002 Peter was awarded an OAM (Medal in the General Division of the Order of Australia) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for Services to Philately. He became the fourth Australian to be so honoured.

Spoken by Simon Goldblatt QC at the Remembrance Service:

My friends, we are gathered here to say our goodbyes to Peter Jaffé. Not I hope to mourn for his passing, for we all have our life spans and his life has been a full and a rich one. His last few months were a sort of twilight of that life. A period through, which no one could pass with serenity or content. But I want to take you back before the dusk to look at something of the life of a remarkable man. And that's the life we're here to celebrate and give thanks for today.

I feel barely qualified for the task. Except for one small coincidence, that my connection with the Jaffé family, tenuous as it has been, goes back possibly longer than the connection of anyone else in this room. Because in the early years of the war, I went to school and there three or four years my senior, was Peter's brother Michael, younger than Peter by ten years, sharing that part of the Jaffé genes that produced the collector, the aesthete, the gentle interest in culture; and some 30 years perhaps after Michael left the school (and his way and mine never crossed thereafter). I came to know Peter in the world of philately, within which, when I first knew him, he was already a legend and inside which, he became eventually a giant of that curious leisure time hobby that can captivate and even obsess.

Further details are available on the BWISC web site.

That was only a part of Peter's life. You've heard him described early in this hall as multifaceted and it occurred to me that when one thinks of facets, one thinks perhaps of a cut diamond, which has facet after facet and when you turn it you see each facet in a slightly different light. So that the Peter who means much to me was probably a slightly different person, from the Peter who has touched the lives in some way, and will be remembered for it, of everybody in this room, I imagine; because each of us has seen a different facet probably in Peter through a different light.

What was Peter and his essence? I don't think any of us could describe it. But he was a gentle person, an upright person, naturally courteous, naturally diffident and self-deprecating in a way that to me meant that for his self confidence he needed a companion, a partner, a colleague, a collaborator or a near listener. Someone to whom he could relate, probably on a one to one basis, because I always thought that with his hesitant manner and his careful speech and the long pauses in between, there was something in Peter which made this one to one communication of the essence and made it difficult for him to relate to people in the mass. He would relate to you as an individual. If he was going to communicate with the mass it had to be somehow on paper and we've seen of these – or will see if we haven't yet had time to read them – these delightful passages of experience of Peter from his associates, from his family, from his grandchildren the way in which this comes across; the different ways in which this comes across.

I see Peter as someone who was always cautious about what he would reveal of himself and of his thinking to the outside world. And when you read these little episodes you will see that this was a person many of whose utterances were Delphic oracular. You could write them down and spend minutes, hours, days afterwards trying to work out exactly what Peter was trying to say and that in a sense was the reaction that he intended. I think Peter was very conscious that knowledge was in a sense power and he wanted people to deserve the power that they would gain by sharing his knowledge. So you had to work to keep up with Peter, who was a fine intellect, a profound thinker, but a very careful disseminator of that knowledge; and then we've heard of the twinkle in his eye and twinkle there was.

Let's think about him for a moment as stock broker. I remember him saying to me once in his characteristic way.

'You know, Simon; they say a good stock broker will get through all his clients' money in twenty five years. A bad one will do it in half the time.'

And yet you know I think that Peter must of been a first class stock broker, because I suspect that many of his clients still retained their resources at the end of Peter's stock broking days.

Peter appreciated almost everything that had culture and beauty behind it. With one exception, he had no feel for the language of music. Some of you may find difficult to understand, that there are a few of us to whom music and cigarette smoke are equally intrusive in our lives. Peter valued the peace that came, and we have seen it in this selection of illustrations, the peace that came from silence, from the non intrusion, from the ability to sit back and ponder and to live within oneself.

And for more than fifty years of his life he had as that major companion his wife Patricia, without whom I think, Peter might have well drifted through life instead of becoming the imposing figure that I think we most of us carry in our minds. Patricia, always her own person, mother of four children, but to me perhaps a more adoring wife of her husband than anyone else in my experience. So if we think of Peter and I hope we will remember him often, let us think of the woman behind him, without whom, his life would probably not have obtained its memorability in our eyes.

And you know, thinking of Peter, I was reminded of the times when one used to find that magazine, 'The Readers Digest', scattered in waiting rooms for one's diversion and there was a regular feature there, 'My Most Memorable Character' and I wonder how many of us could see Peter, to whom we are saying goodbye, figuring somewhere within that theme. For that reason I'm proud and grateful to been able to share this remembrance service with all of you and I hope you will carry some thoughts of Peter away with you for the rest of your lives.

JAMAICA

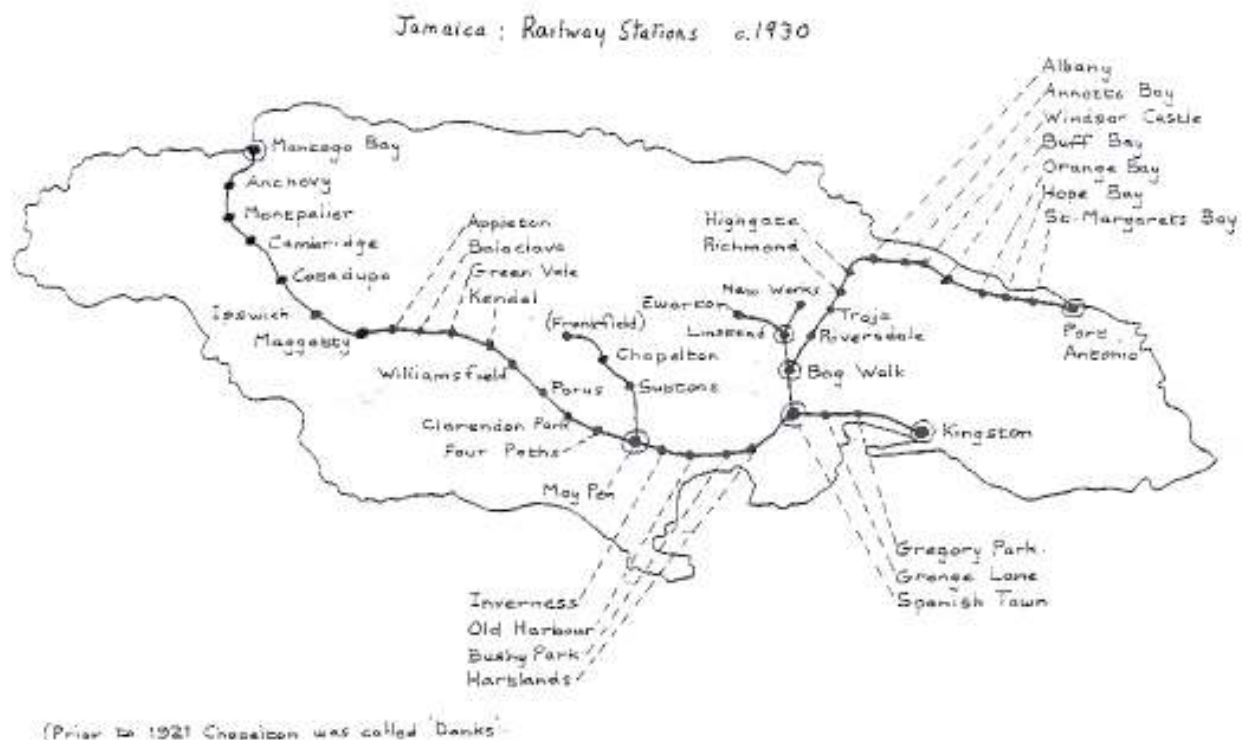
RAILWAY STATION POSTMARKS

BY RICHARD HART

One of the pleasures of collecting the big blue Jamaica Railway Station Postmarks was that they could be found on large stamps such as the 1d Llandoverly Falls, the 1½d Contingent and the 6d Port Royal Harbour.

Prompted by the arrival of *The Postal History of Jamaica* by E B Proud I got round, at last, to studying closely the album of railway station postmarks that formed a small part of the Amaryllis Collection of Jamaica. Having the benefit of extremely short sight I am able to study difficult marks more easily, pick out features that can be overlooked and reassess the Amaryllis dates and marks that do not seem to have appeared in the Literature.

Sir Mortimer Wheeler remarked, I believe, that an archaeological excavation had no value until it was properly published. The same could be said for a collection of postmarks.



I illustrate some of the better marks and label them with simple abbreviations that are easier to handle than the traditional typology which I find irritatingly inconsistent (see e.g. *Jamaica Railway Town Cancellations Part 2* Topaz, Seifert & Cwiakala, B.C.P.S.G.J. undated (Topaz et al)).

JR indicates the earliest styling (issued 1901): JAMAICA RAILWAY (at the top) and place name in the lower part of the circle. The JR lettering is bold and somewhat squat as in early JR(ST) cancellers that were issued shortly after the Government had taken over the Railway from the American company that had, by 1896, extended the network to some 200 miles.

By 1924 forty one railway stations had, for a while at least, served as post offices or postal agencies. In about a fifth of these locations the postal work had been completely transferred from the local offices.

Most cancellers were approx. 32mm in diameter and had a central dating unit that could be removed (and replaced inverted quite often!). Months and years were neatly shown apparently by slugs but dates by numbers on bands that shifted horizontally so that occasionally parts of three 'dates' appear on the same strike. The stations were also supplied with a distinctive lightish blue ink.

From 1903 some circular date stamps JR(ST) included the word STATION in the outer component of the canceller. Various small crosses and small arcs in the case of -MAY PEN- divide the two parts of the legend on the outer circles of some marks. These I relate to the individual stations as it seems pointless to invent a typological code for them.

As early possibly as 1903, certainly by 1910, it must have become obvious that the Railway would remain Government controlled for the foreseeable future. By this time replacement cds marks V'T. read JAMAICA GOV'T. RAILWAY



JR Hartlands



VT. +Buff Bay+

V'T. Orange Bay
T.P.O. Oct 2 1913

In about nine circular date cancellers (GNT), issued from 1921, the word GOVERNMENT was not abbreviated. These marks are somewhat elusive and the Spanish Town mark of 1920 (illustrated below) may be the sole surviving complete strike. This particular version is unusual in that the "top" reading has an additional 'S' on RAILWAYS. The dating unit is not only difficult to read it is also inverted. The -MAY PEN- GNT mark also reads JAMAICA GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS at the top.

V'T. & GNT and very late JR marks have striking tall thin lettering.

For short periods in 1906 and 1907 an unsatisfactory red ink was used at a few stations. Impressions were usually poor but not as messy as the impressions created by the dark violet ink issued in the last few months that railway station postmarks were applied.

Additional wording 'BAGGAGE DEP'T' or 'BAGGAGE OFFICE' is found on marks applied at Kingston 1903-1912. On these strikes the tiny decorative crosses separating the top and bottom wording of the outer ring appear.

A major development was implemented on 1st September 1913. Sorting Carriages were added to trains on the main routes: Kingston to Port Antonio and Kingston to Montego Bay. Shortly afterwards, a temporary rubber rectangular cachet was supplied with T.P.O. boxed and with the letters 14 mm high. Amaryllis claimed the ORANGE BAY example illustrated above had the EKD travelling post office mark. Before this T.P.O. cachet was applied letters posted on train postboxes had received no special mark. The system of clearing the railway station postboxes ten minutes before a train was due and using the special

station postmark ceased on 31st December 1924. A special effort appears to have been made by collectors to acquire covers postmarked with this date. However, the cancellers were left at the stations for dating rail tickets although postmarks crop up intermittently and may have been used for some official railway business.

V'T.
ALBANY
MAR 14 1919JR (?one of three
versions)
CAMBRIDGE
AUG ? 1905V'T
+KINGSTON BAGGAGE OFFICE+
DEC 20 1911JR(ST)
+KINGSTON STATION+
JUN 1 1904

A Second 'Jamaica Government Railways' cds

Close examination of the distinctive blue cds marks formerly part of the Amaryllis Collection has not only revealed a wider range of dates for various marks but has also revealed a mark not previously recorded 'JAMAICA GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS SPANISH TOWN' Fig.2 (i.e. with the extra 'S' previously only recorded for MAY PEN Fig.1).

I would be interested to hear of any other examples of this Spanish Town mark and of any marks using the plural form, 'RAILWAYS'.

Editors note: This mark is not even recorded in the recent Proud book, however, Mike Hamilton informed me that **three** Spanish Town plural form marks were in the Swarbrick collection (also illustrated).

Hart Collection:

Fig. 1

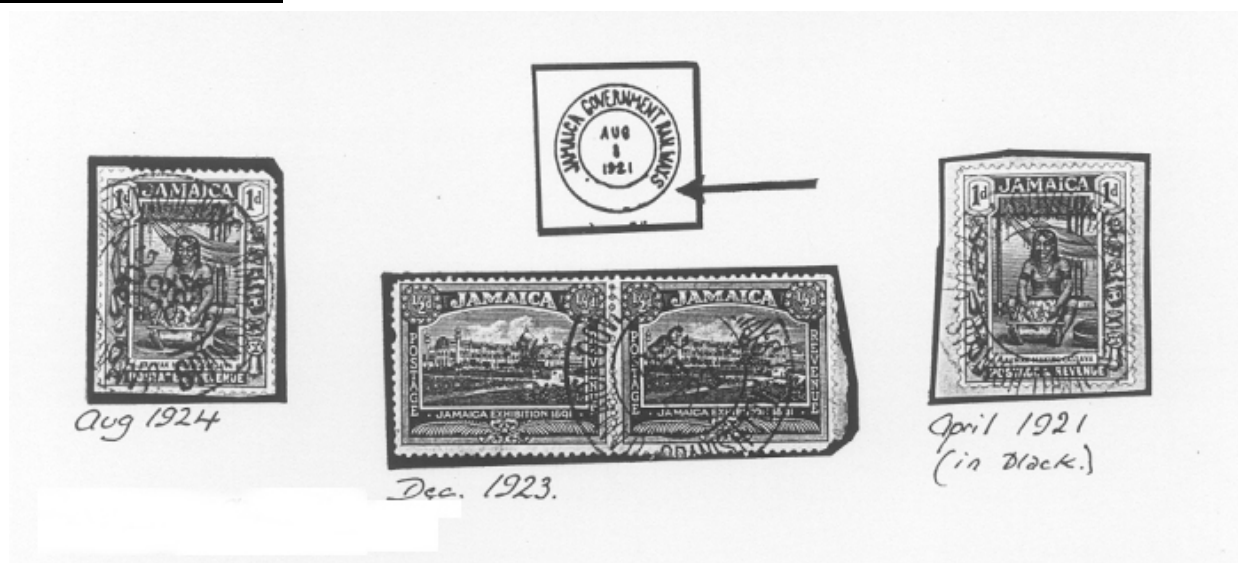


GNT(S)
MAY PEN
? ? 1923 (inverted)

Fig. 2



GNT (S)
+SPANISH TOWN
(possibly MAR 20) 1920 (inverted)

Swarbrick Collection:

JAMAICA PROVISIONAL / BAHAMAS WAR TAX OVERPRINTS**BY BOB SWARBRICK**

I have read with interest Phil MacMurdie's article in the September 2005 Bulletin on the Bahamas War Tax overprints, and I was particularly drawn to his 'Conclusion' presenting his opinion on the question of forgery. I heartily agree with his opinion, and would offer the following comment for further discussion.

Some years ago, whilst researching the Jamaica Provisional issue of 1890, I was most fortunate to meet a man who had worked all his life with printing presses similar to that used to produce this issue. Under his guidance, I was able to better understand the process of overprinting, and we discussed at some length, the so called Third Setting. We also examined, for the same reason, the 'Official' overprints, since it is a commonly held belief they were produced on the same press. I showed him the large number of varieties listed in the catalogue, and asked his opinion on their status. He was quite adamant that some, and in particular, the so called 'Blind Official' could not have happened accidentally, and that to attempt to reproduce it, whilst being very simple, would necessitate the removal of the letter 'l's, and spacers introduced in their place, otherwise the line of type simply fell out, in particular, the letter 'C' was unsupported!

That somebody had access to the type would seem probable and, with little knowledge, was able to create these fantasies, and it would seem equally possible that the same occurred with the War Tax issues. My printer friend's comment was that he wasn't much good at his job if so many mistakes had occurred, and since we know that the Government Printer, Camille Vendryes, was an expert in his field, I have always questioned the validity of these issues, and also the War Tax varieties. May I suggest there is much food for thought. In fact, I offer some further comments!

When, all those years ago, we set up some type in an effort to reproduce the errors, we did this because it was simple to 'play around' with a single word, with a known list of varieties, and, as it is generally accepted that Vendryes was responsible for both this issue, and the Provisional issue 2½d on 4d, it was felt that anything we learned would equally apply to this, but the real purpose was to attempt to learn more about the status of the so called 'Third setting' which has been in contention for years.

Philatelists are strange people, we need errors and varieties to make our hobby interesting, and as a result will often turn a blind eye to how and why these varieties exist in the first place. Imagine any collection of virtually any country in the Empire that found it necessary to produce a new value in 1890, to meet the demands of the UPU reduced postal rate without these errors, life would be dull indeed. Even worse, perhaps, would be a collection of WAR STAMPS, each a cloned copy of its neighbour.

It is a sad fact of life, where a need exists, somebody will supply the answer, and so often, the resulting flights of fancy have now, with the passage of time, achieved a degree of respectability! To return to the Provisional issue, the Printer was a craftsman, good at his job. Although working under pressure, he produced an acceptable job with only one minor error, the so called dropped 'H' in the Second setting, which is, in reality, caused by the letter 'H' inserted inverted, easy enough to do when working in bad light. Why then did he go 'bananas' with the Official overprint? What applies to this issue also applies to the Provisionals, the 4th setting only appeared in 1924, about the same time as the 3rd setting of the Provisionals (although it is said used copies exist dated earlier). Could it not be just possible that these were all philatelic concoctions?

Examining the facts, particularly as they apply to the Provisional issue, raises serious doubts about the issues' status. The shade variety of the stamp overprinted was not available in 1890. It is a fact that if it were possible to remove the overprint from a stamp, the result would be worth more in monetary terms if left unadorned, why?

These so called errors are quite easy to produce intentionally, but most difficult to reproduce unintentionally, i.e., by loosening the clamps holding the type in place, to allow odd letters to drop out., this even more so with the WAR STAMP issues produced in 1916. What is, perhaps, more difficult to understand is why the quality of workmanship had deteriorated to such a degree to allow all these oddities to be released onto the philatelic market, to be so eagerly snapped up, and given pride of place in our collections!

These are, of course, only thoughts and will hopefully inspire somebody to comment adversely or otherwise, and perhaps engender some debate on the question of the forger's work.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

WAR TAX OVERPRINTS

BY JOHN DAVIS

1. Reconciliation of the revenue received to the stamps issued

If it were possible, I would like to try and reconcile the amount of revenue received with the number of stamps sold. In the absence of any postal records remaining in existence, I can only present the information I have to hand, and to select that which best fits.

Estimating the amount of revenue received is relatively easy.

At the Legislative Council Meeting 14th November 1919, the Colonial Secretary reported, in answer to question put by Dr S M Laurence, that the revenue from the sale of War Tax stamps was as follows:-

1917	£ 6,200. 0. 0
1918	£ 6,380. 0. 0
1 st January 1919 to 31 st October 1919	£ 3,100. 0. 0
	<u>£15,680. 0. 0</u>

The War Tax was abolished on 31st December 1919, so it is reasonable to assume that the revenue for November and December 1919 would have been about £600.

This makes the total revenue £16,280, and agrees with John De Vries' calculation in BWISC Bulletin 117 for June 1983.

Estimating the numbers of stamps issued for the two denominations is more difficult, and requires assumptions and guesswork, but here goes!

Estimates exist from the following sources:-

- Bridger and Kay 1980 Commonwealth Five Reigns Catalogue
- Ewens Weekly Stamp News – various articles between 1917 and 1920
- Douglas Armstrong – articles in West End Philatelist June 1920
- John De Vries – article in British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin 117 for June 1983

However, not all reports included quantities for every Setting, and I am unable to reconcile the numbers overprinted for the 8th Setting from John De Vries' own calculations.

To appreciate the following tables, (and the issue date of the Plate 2 - see below) I offer these comments:-

Setting 8a of the 1d was where Setting 8 was re-set giving rise to the "Tax" spaced.

Setting 8b is where Setting 8a was re-set, with the "Tax" spaced corrected, and which was used for overprinting stamps from Plate 2, printed by De La Rue in sheets of 240 in the Autumn of 1918 – See Colonial Stamp Book Volume 12 page 206.

I would be pleased to hear from members as to whether my calculations seem reasonable: otherwise, if you think they are not, please let me have alternative suggestions.

½d	Quantity Highest recorded from B & K, Ewens and Armstrong	Quantity John De Vries	Quantity John Davis	Notes
2	240,000	120,000	240,000	Higher of the two
3	108,000	120,000	120,000	Higher of the two
4	240,000	120,000	240,000	Higher of the two
5	240,000	120,000	240,000	Higher of the two
6				
7				
8	240,000	480,000 (estimated)	720,000	There were possibly 3 overprintings of 240,000
TOTAL	1,068,000	960,000	1,560,000	
Revenue	n/a	£2,000	£3,250	

1d	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity	Notes
	Highest recorded from B & K, Ewens and Armstrong	John De Vries	John Davis	
1	240,000	240,000	240,000	
2	240,000	240,000	240,000	
3	240,000	240,000	240,000	
4	240,000	234,000	234,000	The stone became damaged and the run was not complete, so accept De Vries
5	6,000	6,000	6,000	As reported by the PMG
6	240,000	240,000	240,000	
7	240,000	240,000	240,000	
8, 8a, 8b	720,000	1,440,000 (estimated at 6 x 240,000)	1,680,000	4 overprintings have been reported. Assume 3 at 480,000 and 1 at 240,000
TOTAL	2,166,000	2,880,000	3,120,000	
Revenue	<i>n/a</i>	£12,000	£13,000	
TOTAL REVENUE		£14,000	£16,250 (near enough to the £16,280)	

2. Issue date of the 1d (rose-red? / other shades) from Plate 2 – Setting 8b

Le Bulletin Mensuel de la Maison for 25th February 1918 reported that stamps with the 7th War Tax overprint were printed in sheets of 240. This information was perpetuated by other Philatelic magazines at the time, but was *incorrect*.

All stamps overprinted prior to Setting 8b were from Plate 1, and printed in sheets of 120 by DLR. Many colour shades exist.

On 13th September 1918, the Crown Agents sent DLR Requisition 92/18, that included, inter alia, 4,000,000 1d stamps. These were printed in sheets of 240 from Plate 2, and 16,691 sheets (4,005,840 stamps) were packed on 13th December 1918. It is remotely possible that the stamps could have arrived in time for overprinting and issuing to the public before the end of the year.

There seems to be a general consensus that Setting 8a was issued on 14th September 1918, and it therefore follows that Setting 8b must have been issued sometime later.

Issue dates reported, with my comments are:-

Gibbons SG 188a 1d rose-red – 1st May 1918. This may be rose-red, and may have been issued on 1st May, but these stamps would have been from Plate 1 and not Plate 2.

Bridger and Kay have the issue date of the rose-red as November 1918. If this information is also true, then again the stamps would have been from Plate 1 and not Plate 2. It is possible of course, that B & K's reference may have been for the Plate 2, in which case, the issue date they have is too early.

Ewens have the issue date of the 1d rose-red from Plate 2, as November 1919. At least they have identified the Plate 2! However, I find this date difficult to accept as:

- With the stamps probably arriving in the previous December, it is doubtful if none were overprinted until the following November.
- In October and November 1919, the abolition of the War Tax was being discussed, and took effect from 31st December 1919. It seems unlikely that the authorities would have sanctioned more overprints to be issued in November 1919, when the repeal of the War Tax was imminent.

My own personal feeling, is that the 1d rose-red from Plate 2 was issued either late December 1918, or January 1919.

I would be interested to hear from members on my conclusions.

MARYLAND FORGERIES

By Simon Goldblatt

At one level I have nothing to contribute to the debate between Charles Freeland and Roger West on this topic. I have not seen these productions, do not use the internet, nor possess a computer. I suppose that, given the ease with which accurate reproductions can be made nowadays of items such as stamps, one is tempted to ask oneself whether the creation of a modern forgery would serve any real purpose for collectors or philatelists, but there is seldom a point in enquiring into individual tastes.

What struck me instead was the way in which attitudes to forgeries have changed since I was young. There used to be great uneasiness amongst those who did no more than produce illustrations for a stamp catalogue; and it was standard practice to incorporate a white line or white arc into even a black and white reproduction of a stamp, so that nobody could misinterpret the illustration as an attempt to forge the stamp.

This wariness perhaps stemmed from a decision under the Post Office (Protection) Act of 1884; for in 1896 the proprietor of the Bazaar, The Exchange and Mart was held to have committed a criminal offence by acquiring from the Continent a die intended to be used to illustrate a current Cape of Good Hope stamp in a publication for sale to collectors. The legislation criminalised in various ways the making, using and even holding of a fictitious current stamp, so that once a stamp was demonetised, the danger of infringement disappeared. Of course demonetisation would not always be easy to find out.

Then there were and still are the offences of forgery – and, as we all know, you could be sent to prison for up to 14 years for steaming an uncanceled stamp off one used envelope, and sticking it for use upon another. The very different language of the Forgery legislation is tracked by Stamp Duties Management Legislation; and I freely confess that I do not know how apposite it is as regards modern ways of making a reproduced stamp appear to be genuine. On one view, were Roger West to choose the wrong item to simulate, he might find that the equipment used for the exercise was open to seizure, apart from any other potential embarrassment. But maybe he is safe, for I think that the statutory language would have to be stretched for the purpose.

Moreover, it seems that the fashion for prosecuting those who reproduce or illustrate stamps (let alone for pursuing the collector of, or dealer in, forgeries) has disappeared. Police, and even inland revenue or Customs & Excise, have other things on their minds, and notwithstanding the many, many thousands who must hold forged stamps, if prosecuting statistics need to be improved, the errant motorist is an easier target.

So it has become the practice to assume that forgeries may be bought and sold, collected, publicised, and freely created without the risk of entanglement with the criminal law. If this sounds reassuring, I add one note of caution. If the modern-day forger, who prides himself on the quality of his product, does this work too well, it just might attract the attention of unsympathetic powers-that-be. And maybe there will be a present-day judge who will follow the mind-set of his 1896 predecessor, and say:-

“If any person, whether a stamp-collector or not, were at liberty to import dies” [or use copying apparatus] “for the purpose of making fictitious stamps simply for the purpose of curiosity or antiquarian interest, it is obvious that the mischief of the Act would arise”

In essence, then, whether Charles is right, or Roger is right, over the quality and status of a Maryland forgery, there is something to be said for consigning forgery to history, and confining our enthusiasm to the products of the forgers of times past.

As a footnote, there was another court decision which held that a stamp could be treated as forged or fictitious even if apparently cancelled. I am not sure that the judges who decided that (one of whom was Rufus Isaacs, later Marquis of Reading) knew much about philately, but that did not necessarily make their decision bad law.

AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****Spink 26-7 October**

Last quarter's column previewed Simon Richards' collection of Br Honduras, deemed important enough to merit a slim name sale catalogue that was the first to be produced by a major auction firm for this colony. Comparing its contents to lot 12 in the Gibbons "Classics of the British Empire" sale of 4 October 1973, which included the bulk of the Tucker Gold medal collection, reveals that Simon had added little of substance to his father's generous present. The Tucker provenance was liberally scattered throughout the catalogue and it is evident from the full-page description in the 1973 catalogue that lots 1-3, 8, 11, 80-84 and 97-100 in the Richards sale were also ex Tucker. In fact, Gibbons did not offer the whole Tucker collection in that single lot; the 1973 catalogue contains two other major items and other Gibbons catalogues of the 1970s offered specialised Br Honduras lots described as ex Tucker.

I was not able to attend the sale but was one of five active telephone bidders. Simon Greenwood, who was present, told me that the room was sparse with only Mark Harvey, the regular agents and a couple of other bidders. Although there were only 119 lots the hammer prices totalled £335k representing an excellent return on the £16k paid for lot 12 (plus a number of other lots, some ex-Sussex, that could not have cost more than a few hundred pounds each). The highlight was of course the two 1866 interpanneau blocks at £122k and £68k respectively (all prices plus 15%), the rarer 1d and 1/- block being subject to a room notice (ignored, it seems) that one of the pennies was torn. However, these very strong results were reproduced throughout the sale for the many choice singles, blocks and proofs. We have become accustomed this year to seeing rare BWI in fine condition fetching close to Gibbons prices, but £15k for the 1872 strip of 1ds imperf between (Gibbons cat £7k for a pair), £2.3k for the better copy of SG25c (cat £1.5k) and £4.5k for SG44a (cat £3,250) appear over the top. Such mark-ups were not confined to four figure rarities, SG 49b went for £420 (cat £350) and SG67b in pair with normal £480 (cat £475). My own aspirations were for some of the rare blocks but when the relatively common SG1 and SG2 blocks went for around £1k each, the writing was on the wall. The unique blocks of SG 15 and 16 fetched £2.7k and £2.3k and the 1d of this set cost £750 (cat £260). Even without premium, few of the blocks went for less than full Gibbons. There were also no bargains among the imperfs and proofs. Others may be tempted to sell into this strong market but how many of us own the requisite material?

This outstanding sale was preceded by an extensive Br Empire sale that featured the final portion of the "Dallas" collection sold by Sothebys in 1990. Plenty of Asian and African high values contributed to a total of over £800k. The BWI was patchy but included useful Bahamas, Bermuda and St Vincent. The Barbados 1916 3/- deep violet used with inverted watermark fetched a healthy £290 and a St Vincent 4d on 1/- unused with an (undescribed) blunt nose variety was £750, but the outstanding BWI stamp was a nice part og copy of the St Vincent 1861 6d yellow green at £5.2k.

This sale took place at a time when those trying to build serious collections have been concerned by rumours of speculative buying on the back of expectations that stamps will become eligible to form part of tax-deductible private pension portfolios. In the speculative boom of the 1970s much of the attention was on the "gilt-edged" high values of the Empire, which were sufficiently numerous for those marketing them to make up sizeable portfolios quite easily, but this time the focus is on truly rare pieces in all categories, including covers, blocks and proof material. The interest seems to start around the four figure mark and escalate above five figures. The results of the Richards sale fully bore out those concerns and it is plainly going to be more difficult in future for those with limited budgets to compete with the pension planners...until the latter decide to sell on the realisation that rare stamps in a vacuum do not often make for a great investment.

Coming events

After some months of speculation, there is at last confirmation that the Peter Jaffé collections of BWI will be sold by Spink over the next couple of years. Not all members will be aware that our former Vice-President had amassed important collections beyond his world-famous St Vincent. Two in particular, of Barbados and St Lucia, were major collections which won high international awards. Peter also owned many important pieces from the other BWI territories, and was reputed to have never released a stamp. So we are in for a feast of rare material, and plenty of specialised studies. Spink's programme contains five separate sales over eighteen months as follows; first up on 2 March 2006 will be the main St Vincent exhibit collections and this will be followed by single

country sales for Barbados (9 November 2006) and St Lucia (March 2007) and for the other BWI Colonies (28 September 2006, though apparently this date might change). A final round-up sale in the Spring of 2007 will feature a second section of St Vincent, containing the 20th century material, the massive study collections and some of the duplicate rarities from the exhibit collections.

I have seen Peter's exhibits of Barbados and St Lucia as well as tantalising glimpses of his other islands, and can confirm that they each contain important pieces. We know of his interest in the Perkins Bacons "Cancelled" stamps but he also possessed many PB die proofs, large multiples of the early issued stamps and important covers. Spreading this feast over 18 months will help to manage our budgets and for BWI enthusiasts these sales will be eagerly anticipated. It is good news that there has been no lengthy delay in bringing these unique collections to public auction.

I will have much to report on next quarter as the November sales look rich ones, with Argyll Etkin, Feldman, Phillips and Victoria (already previewed) just four which contain strong BWI interest.

BOOK REVIEW

TERENCE DICKINSON'S BRITISH GUIANA PICTURE POST CARDS BY CHARLES KENNARD

Pictures can convey so much, so imagine a book with a myriad of images that capture the spirit and essence of enterprise, and the way of life of the bygone colonial era, this is Terence Dickinson's book British Guiana Picture Postcards.

British Guiana (now Guyana), sits on the Atlantic coast of South America surrounded by Venezuela, Brazil and Surinam. This country was the venue for Sir Walter Raleigh's doomed quest for El Dorado, in the 16th century, and the scene for Conan Doyle's book the Lost World. British Guiana still holds the accolade of producing the world's rarest stamp, the 1856, 1c Magenta, of which only one copy is known to exist.

Today Guyana is perhaps more well known for it's Rum, Demerara Sugar, and the ill fated exploits of the Rev. Jim Jones and the mass suicide of his followers, The People Temple at Jonestown, in Guyana's North West District in 1978.

Dip into this book and a rich tapestry of imagery unfolds. The volume represents over 20 years of collecting, and lists over three thousand postcards, which were printed before British Guiana's Independence on 26th of May 1966.

There are over 350 post card illustrations, and every known publisher of post cards is represented, from the colony's early publishing houses like the Argosy, and the Berbice Gazette, producers of the first newspapers, to the later entrepreneurial companies and individuals like Smith Bros and Co. (The Whiteleys of Demerara) and the von Ziegesar family.

There are post cards of places like Uitvlugt (translated into English as 'flight out') Beterverwagting ('better expectations') place names of the original Dutch sugar plantations and the colony's original settlers.

There are snap shots of the major industries and endeavours of the time, rum manufacturing, rice growing, logging, sugar cane cultivation, gold and diamond mining.

We see postcards of the original inhabitants the Amerindians, and the early immigrants to the colony, the Chinese, Portuguese and Indians that came to British Guiana as indentured labourers after the abolition of slavery in the West Indies in 1834, though they didn't start to arrive until 1838 and stopped when the system was abolished in 1920.

This book will appeal to a wide spectrum of people from Philatelists, Historians, Guyanese, and of course Post Cards collectors, it represents a real labour of love for the author, and the information contained in the book will be invaluable to any collector. As well as the 350 postcards images, there is an equivalent number of scans showing the backs of the post cards, so allowing the collector, to differentiate, from the different print runs that were done of the various sets, and where possible the book also lists the earliest known dates of use.

At £28 (BWISC members' discount £3.00) plus p&p this books represents excellent value and can be purchased from David Druett at www.pennymead.com (1, Brewerton Street, Knaresborough, N. YORKS, HG5 8AZ, UK or via e-mail at Pennymead@aol.com, or via Telephone at 0044 (0)1423 865962 or Fax at 0044 (0)1423 547057). Please state that you are a member of the BWISC so as to obtain member's discount. Also advise if airmail or surface mail is required for overseas orders.

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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.

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.

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

Peter Fernbank has continued scanning early editions of the Bulletin. He has now reached edition 79, which are all now 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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HARMERS

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Philatelic Auctioneers, Experts and Valuers

The “Apollo” Collection of All World Stamps and Postal History November 22nd 2005



CAYMAN ISLANDS: 1908 2½d. Handstamped Surcharge on 4d., a fresh example with interpanneau margin at right, unmounted mint, fine. Catalogue value £1,500. From our November 22nd auction.

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