



STUDY CIRCLE

Convention Informal Display by John Davis



Turks & Caicos – Double overprint, one inverted

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies

OBJECTS

- 1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
- 2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
- 3 TO loan books from the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways.
- 4 TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
- 5 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in paragraph 1 above.

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION
AGM & Auction

... is to be held at Gosvenor Auctions premises in the Strand on 6 May 2006, commencing 2:15pm.

The auction (catalogue enclosed) consists of 600 plus lots, the auction team is pleased to be able to offer these lots as much of the material is fresh and has never appeared in auctions in this country for many, many years if ever. Bids can also be accepted up to the day before the auction by email to oesypum@aol.com Please ensure **BWISC Auction 34** is in the subject box.

Philatex 2006

... at the Horticultural Halls, Greycoat St London SW1.

To include a BWISC Meeting in Room 33 on Saturday, 28th October 2006 from 15.00 to 17.30.

The displays are:-

- Alan Rigby – St. Kitts-Nevis
- Derek Seaton – Early Jamaica

Washington 2006 (27 May to 3 June)

BCPSG is holding its meeting at Annual meeting at 13.30 on the Saturday and BWISC members will be welcome. Also meetings will be held by the Bermuda Collectors Soc (over the first weekend), by the Collectors club on the Monday and the Royal Philatelic Society on the Wednesday, plus plenty of other events on special topics.

Members' Information

Congratulations to Nigel Chandler James Podger, Richard Maisel, Peter Sargent and Trevor Davis who have been appointed Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

A request for information from David Clover, Information Resources Manager/Librarian, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London, 28 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DS telephone: 020 7862 8840; e-mail: David.Clover@sas.ac.uk:

I am hoping you may be able to assist with an enquiry. I am trying to trace the descendents of Harold E Box, who was a member of the British West Indies Study Circle and lived in Trinidad. His death was noted in the BWI Study Circle Bulletin of June 1973, and made reference to his wife and daughters. We have an album of photographs in our collection taken by Mr Box and gifted to the British West India Committee. I know many years have passed since then but any help you could provide in the matter would be much appreciated.

REPORT ON A DISPLAY AT THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON**BY PETER FORD**

The Queen's Collection is just a collection of stamps; this is not to dismiss it as inconsequential. However, it is a collection of (mostly) essays, proofs and stamps, mint and used, with very little by way of postal history. But what a collection! On 15th September last, Fellows and Members of the RPSL were treated to a display of Virgin Islands, Dominica and St. Vincent. The present Keeper of the Queen's Collection, Michael Sefi says that while the Virgin Islands were last displayed at the Royal in 1966 and St. Vincent was last shown in 1934, Dominica has never been shown there before. We were obviously in for a treat and I will attempt to describe as much of it as I can.

The book published in 1952 and written by Sir John Wilson, the then Keeper of the Queen's Collection, lists all items that were in the Collection. However, there have been many acquisitions since, particularly from the sale of the De La Rue Archives in the late seventies. It is very difficult to describe this Collection without overusing superlatives. Needless to say, there are sets of all issues in abundance, but I will try to mention the exceptional items.

The **Virgin Islands** began with proofs of the Waterlow dies of the 1866 1d and 6d, prepared for Nissen and Parker, proofs both on white wove paper and white card in various colours. As well as this, there were displayed complete sheets of 25 of the 1d, 4d and the 6d. The 1d was normally perforated 12; however there was also an unused copy perforated 15x12 displayed. There followed proofs of the 1s with the double-lined frame on white, toned and blued paper, one of which was without the 'Virgin'. Whether this is an issued error, a proof or printer's waste is a question, arguments over which rage to this day! The 1s with the coloured border was shown in a sheet of 20, stamp No. 11 displaying the error of the long tail to the second 'S' of 'ISLANDS'; also a complete sheet of the 1s with the single frame line was there with the same error on stamp No. 11.

In 1879, the contract for the production of Virgin Islands stamps was handed over to De La Rue and they commenced by producing a 1d using the Nissen and Parker plates and subsequently went over to the much-used keyplate design, both on paper watermarked Crown CC. However, they soon went back to the older designs. The first of these De La Rue issues was represented by a sheet of 24 of the 1d green (4 rows of 6). Plate blocks of the 1883 ½d (Plates 1 & 2), 1d (Plate 1) and 2½d (Plates 1 & 2) were shown. The 1887 litho-printed stamps had a sheet of 24 of the 1d (4x6 again) and one of 24 of the 4d (3 rows of 8). There were proofs of the 1s in carmine, brown and yellow, together with 2 sheets of 24 (3x8) in brown and dark brown. The 4d on 1s surcharge was made all the more interesting with the inclusion of a double overprint. The 1899 issue in a new design included 6 colour trials of the ½d together with the 2 well-known varieties of the 'HALFPFNNY' and 'HA(reversed L)FPENNY'. The KEVII keyplate set was shown with Plate pairs and specimens. The KGV keyplate set had plate blocks of the ½d (Plates 1, 6 & 8), the 1d (Plates 1, 5 & 6), 2d and 2½d (Plate 1), these with the Mult Crown CA watermark; also represented were the Script CA issue with Plate 10 blocks of both the ½d and 1d. Plate blocks of the War Stamp issue were also there.

The new 1922 KGV issue showed one of the later acquisitions with a brilliant essay in brown and turquoise of the 2½d mounted on card (106x85mm), annotated at top right '1st Febr. 21.' and at bottom left 'Dupl.'. Plate 1 blocks of 4 of the set of 4 were shown. The Script CA set were shown in detail with specimens of all the values. Later omnibus issues were displayed with, of particular interest, Waterlows unadopted hand-drawn designs for the Coronation issue of 1937, as well as colour trials for the adopted design.

Next came **Dominica**, the display beginning with essays of an unadopted design not dissimilar to the St. Lucia 1860 issue. The first 1874 issue of the Victorian keyplate design were represented by essays, die proofs, blocks and specimens; this included a variety not listed, a malformed 'S' on the 6d. The 1877-79 issue included a vertical bisect of the 1d on piece as well as the 4d with the malformed 'CE'. The red surcharged ½d was there in a vertical strip of 10 unsevered pairs. Both 1886 provisionals, ½d on 6d and 1d on 1s, were shown in complete settings with Current No. 1. Also displayed were the 1d on 6d error with the thin bar used as well as the double surcharge of the 1d on 1s unused. The 1887 1d was shown with another unlisted variety a large 'O' in the 'ONE' of 'ONE PENNY'; there were also examples of the 1d, 6d and 1s stamps overprinted 'REVENUE' being used postally.

The next delight came in the form of an essay of the 1923 3d (stamp-sized) in blue and olive on card (87x112mm), marked in manuscript '28th June 1922' in the top right corner and 'Dupl, Border

green, Medals blue in Design' in the bottom left. The surprising thing about this essay is that the King's Head was on the left with the Seal of Dominica on the right, the exact opposite to the issued design. Accompanying this was another essay at, I would say, a quarter size of the stamp in bright blue and sepia of the adopted design with the head on the right and the ship medallion on the left. It had in m/s 'Duplicate + 4-1-26' with the '4' crossed out in pencil and the figure '7' in its place.

St. Vincent began with the Perkins Bacon essays and proofs of the 4d, 6d and 1s of 1861. The frame containing the 1881 provisional issue included the ½d on half 6d with the fraction bar omitted. The 1882 set printed by De La Rue from the original Perkins, Bacon plates were represented by a block of 4 of the 1d and the 2½d on 1d lake, as well as a corner marginal block of 4 of the 4d. The 1885 provisional 1d on 2½d on 1d was shown with three obliterating bars, a stamp considered by Gibbons to be a proof. On the next frame there appeared a cover franked with no less than three of the Crown CA 5s!

The 1892 provisional 5d on 4d appeared in a block of 6 with the double 'EN' adjacent to the bottom margin. The Queen Victoria keyplate issue was present with the ½d in a corner marginal block of 4 (Plate 1) and the 2½d (Plate 3). Jumping to the later issues, there were three fine essays, the first of which was the 'Pax et Justitia' issue. This was of the 5s value in deep green and red-brown marked 'C' at the top left and 'Febr. 21st 12' at the top right on card (110x80mm). Unseen by those present but mentioned in a caption, on the rear in manuscript was written 'CA56/192 APPD MARCH 30 1912 BY ADMINISTRATOR'. This was followed by a similar essay of the 3d definitive in green of the issue of the King George V head; the top left showed the letter 'A', the top right read 'Febr. 21st 12' and, 'ADMINISTRATOR FOR VALUES UP TO 1/- ON MARCH 30 1912' was apparently on the back in manuscript. This was also on card (110x80mm). Lastly shown, was an essay of an unadopted King's Head design on the same size of card, marked 'B' at top left and 'Febr. 21st 12' at top right with, we were told, in m/s on the reverse 'CA56/192 REJECTED 897'.

I have not attempted to list everything on show but to highlight those unusual items of interest; nevertheless, this was a most interesting display especially for those who collected these colonies and I have only scratched the surface of what was on offer. Many members of the BWISC were present; perhaps it had something to do with the fact that STAMPEX was on at the same time. I only wish that we were able to illustrate the rarer items, but I think that this would have pushed our luck perhaps too far! It certainly showed one of the benefits of being a member of that august body Royal Philatelic Society, London.

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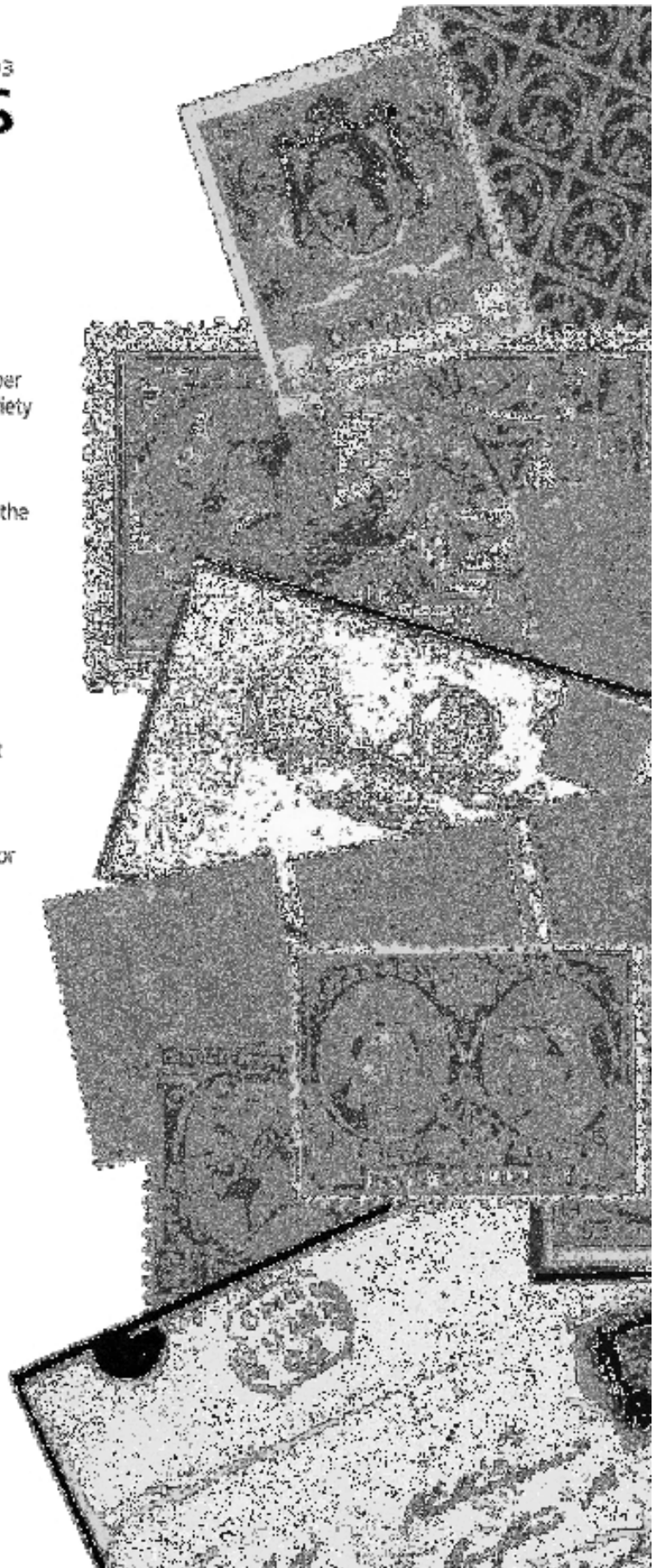
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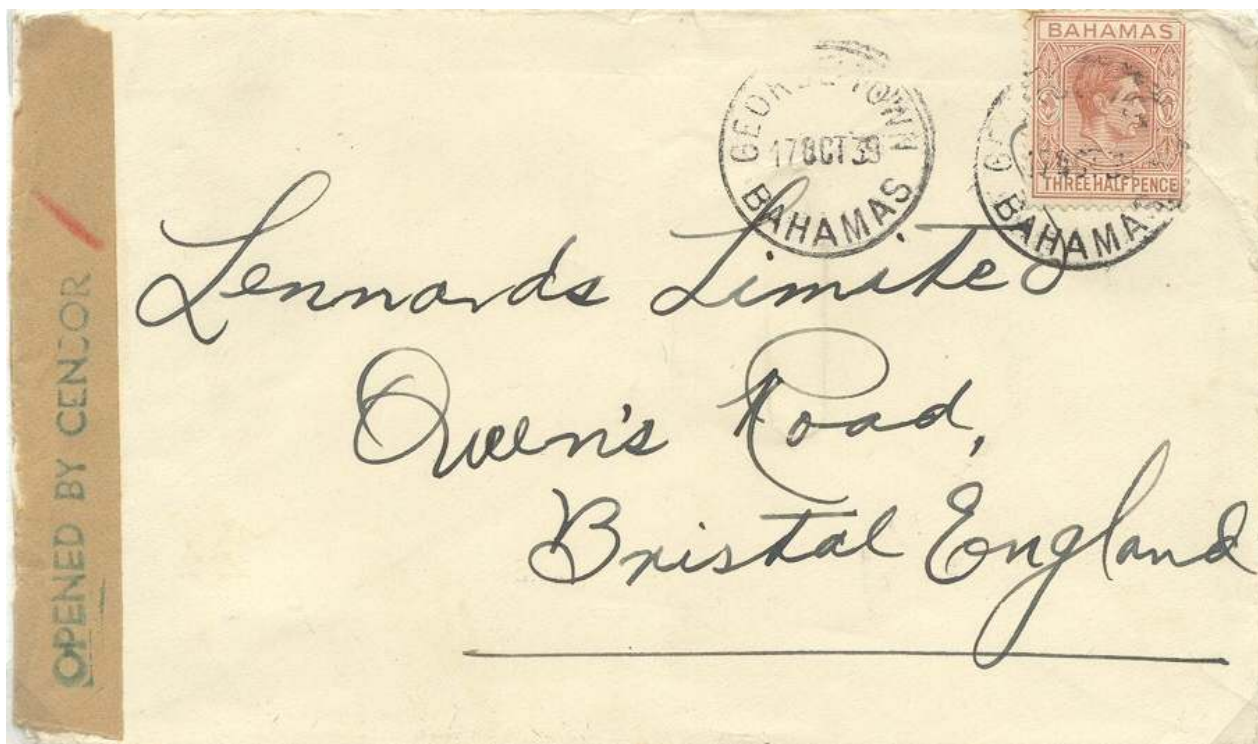
CONVENTION INFORMAL DISPLAYS

BAHAMAS CENSORED MAIL & JAMAICA BARRINGTON SMITH

BY DEREK LILLEY

Derek's display included a 'V' for Victory label to Dominican republic and a copy of 'OPENED BY CENSOR' over brown paper strip with m/a '1' in red pencil (seen by Roses but details not previously recorded), UK PC 90 label used in Bahamas with small 'G' handstamp & cover CL 3 with m/s G/504.

A Range of Barrington Smith covers with wide range of adverts etc. and range of WWII 'Dam the Submarines' etc and on cover with advert for Tropical Novelties.



A SELECTION OF WAR TAX OVERPRINTS, STAMPS AND USAGES**BY JOHN DAVIS**

In addition to the items illustrated below, John displayed:

A British Guiana cover to Chicago; A Montserrat Lady Drake Paquebot cover 'Mailed on the High Seas' and Turks & Caicos Islands blocks with rare overprint varieties (block of 12 with double, one inverted illustrated on front cover).



From the Madagascar archive: Dominica



From the Madagascar archive: The St. Lucia local overprint without 'SPECIMEN'

4 sheets of Jamaica with progressive double overprint study, varieties and covers.



1/2d Ovpt. Inverted



1 1/2d Ovpt Double



Stop inserted & P impressed 2nd time



3d sideways

Trinidad & Tobago 1d in mint block of 16 with overprint omitted on lower left vertical pair, caused by folding back of corner stamp and resulting in an inverted overprint on the reverse



Barbados imperf proofs



Reverse



St. Kitts 1½d orange used block of 18 cancelled 26 July 1918 (earlier than SG August date)

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BERMUDA DOCK ISSUE**BY DENNIS MITTON**

Dennis provided a study of the Dock issue showing all the issued stamps with die proofs of state 1 & 2 of the frame and value tablet and examples of the different designs of the space between the panes.

A pair of 4d stamps used as a receipt on a Certificate of Posting form. Various issues on cover showing shade varieties.



P.O. No. 17.

PARCEL POST.

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING OF A PARCEL.

A Parcel prepaid 1 s. 8 d. and addressed as under, has been posted here this day:-

Albert Sophomoc
Unnaas

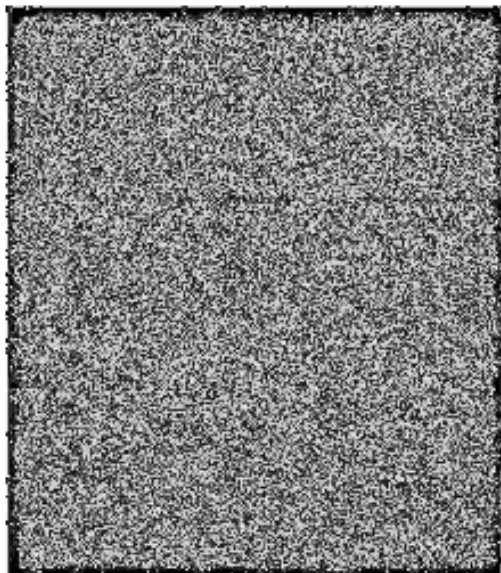
Received a Fee of 5 d. for insurance of Parcel for a sum not exceeding One Pound.

*State in words the number of parcels
Alfred Postmaster's Signature.

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JAMAICA BILLS OF EXCHANGE AND MONEY ORDERS**BY PAUL WRIGHT**

These few pages show two methods of sending from Jamaica by post: Bills of Exchange and the Jamaica Money Order Office.

1790 Bill of Exchange from Jamaica to Scotland

The bill is on a part-printed form headed Jamaica, and is numbered '1'. By it Lawrence Campbell asks his father, Patrick Campbell of Argyllshire to pay £25 4s 9d (note the sterling to local currency rate) to Mrs Elizabeth Bowman, in payment for board & lodging

1907 Money Orders advice envelope from Westmoreland Parochial Treasury**Jamaica Money Orders: Parochial Treasuries**

Outside Kingston, money orders were issued and cashed by Parochial Treasuries of each parish. This arrangement may have stemmed from the concern expressed by the Post Office in 1877 that poorly-paid postal officials should not be tempted with handling large sums of money. It lasted until about 1930, when money order business transferred to post offices.

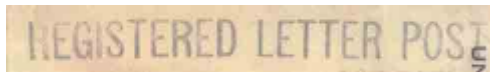
The issuing Parochial Treasuries sometimes, but not always, datestamped the envelopes containing the money order advice in lieu of postage.

BARBADOS

BITS AND PIECES

BY FITZ ROETT

A. My good friend, Mark Seheult, (no he is not yet a member but we are working on it!) has shown me a cover with a marking which is new to us. We are uncertain whether the marking has been recorded previously. The item is illustrated in the accompanying Figure 1. The cover bears a complete set of the 1939 Tercentenary Issue and is dated 28 April 1940. What is of significance is the straight line 'REGISTERED LETTER POST' in sans-serif capitals 6 mm high, the overall length being 77 mm. The marking is similar to the J3 as listed in the Clarke et al. handbook⁽¹⁾ We suggest the above be listed as J3a.



B. Mark has also shown us a cover dated 14 May 1937 with the oval St. Lawrence registration marking, as illustrated in Figure 2. The cover is franked with a complete set of the 1937 Coronation issue and cancelled with the St. Lawrence S. O. canceller M9 (the numbers in the date are both inverted and reversed). The handbook cited earlier lists the registration marking as N4, but gives no known dates of use. However, the illustration is dated 17 July 1933. We suggest listing the L.D.K. as 14 May 1937.



C. Last year we submitted an apparently unused example of Barbados SG 80 (the de La Rue Perf 14 Yellow) for inclusion in the BWISC auction. Our sharp-eyed manager later informed us that in his opinion the stamp appeared to have had a manuscript cross removed. Simon suggested submitting the specimen for expertisation and this course was undertaken. The subsequent certificate of the Royal stated that a manuscript cross had been removed and the stamp regummed. In over 40 years of collecting the Barbados Britannia issues, this was the first time we had encountered any stamp so cancelled. Which begs the question: Does the manuscript cancellation signify some sort of fiscal use? Incredibly, about a month ago an example of SG 79 (the chrome-yellow) with a manuscript cancellation was illustrated in a small, mixed lot on Ebay. A strong bid secured the lot. The stamp is shown to the right. It would be interesting to ascertain whether any of the other denominations also exist with a manuscript cancel. Or, was the 6d. employed to collect a specific levy? Comments please.



D. In Bulletin No. 205 (June, 2005) Stefan Heijtz reported on the discovery of the 'Paid to England' handstamp used from Barbados. In the article, it was stated that both the marking and the manuscript '1/6' were struck in RED to signify the pre-payment of the assessed postal charge. Can any reader confirm the approximate date when the practice of denoting pre-payment in red and postage due in black was introduced? Is Stefan's cover the earliest known cover from Barbados with a red manuscript marking? Britnor⁽²⁾ on Page 14 does not give any firm dates. In Figure 3 a packet letter is illustrated. It is dated 11 February 1816 but shows two separate manuscript markings viz. '4/4' in black AND '8/8' in red. Can anyone explain the significance of this? The arrival marking is also struck in red. Was the letter assessed as ½ oz. or 1 oz.?

REFERENCES

1. 'Barbados Post Office Markings to 1981' by G. Clarke, R. Radford and S. Cave. BWISC (1982).
2. 'British West Indies Postal Rates up to 1900' by L. E. Britnor. BWISC (1977).

Figure 1 (66%)



Figure 2 (66%)



Figure 3 (66%)





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BERMUDA**KGVI 10s VARIETY****By ROGER B WEST**

A client has shown me a previously unrecorded variety on the Bermuda KGVI 10s (see picture). The flaw consists of a small dent in the upper right edge of the upper scroll and more significantly, major damage to the base of the Crown area on the left hand side. The outer vertical line is missing and the four lines of shading are truncated.

He actually has TWO example of this variety but does not know its position in the sheet. I believe the variety is an important find and would be most interested if any other member(s) knows of this flaw or can identify its position.

**BRITISH GUIANA****1888-9 'osteoporosis' variety****By Simon Goldblatt**

Lot 227 of our April 2005 auction described an 'osteoporosis' variety in the diagonal leg of the 'R' of REVENUE, noted on several values of the British Guiana 1888-9 series.

Positional blocks of this issue and the subsequent One Cent overprints on dollar denominations are reasonably available, and this minor variety has been tracked down to row 9/5 of the pane of 60. At the time of writing it has been seen only on right-hand panes, and not upon all of these.

As so often happens, there is a minor mystery to resolve. Easton tells us (p467) that De La Rue charged for fifteen overprint plates, corresponding with the fifteen values of the set, no doubt. Why then is the variety common to a series of different values, but not constant in every pane of 60? Over to those who know so much more about printing than I do.

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Potter & Shelton (reprint) 1997 **£35** Robertson Ship Letters (reprint) **£185**
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GRENADA

The Grenada Key Plate – Its Introduction and History By Michael Oliver FRPSL

The reason leading to De La Rue producing this unique key and duty plate format goes back to 1862 when the Crown Agent ordered Perkins Bacon to hand over to De La Rue the dies and plates for the nine colonies for whom he was acting. Grenada and St. Vincent were not included because they dealt directly with Perkins Bacon.

Whilst to De La Rue a welcome doubling of their Colonial stamp printing, it had the disadvantage of having to print in recess from Perkins Bacon plates by when they were wedded to surface printing in fugitive inks with very large British and Indian contracts.

In 1870 they introduced the first colonial key and duty plate type (Fig 1) for St. Christopher and later used by Dominica in 1874, Tobago in 1879 plus single impression plates for Ceylon and New Zealand. Resulting from a letter by the Auditor General of Leeward Islands in May 1879 –

'As the Colony will be admitted to the UPU on 1st July it will be necessary to provide postage stamps for the several Presidencies to suit the changes in rates of Postage and Post Cards.

I respectfully submit that it would be more economical to have one postage stamp for the Leeward Islands with an initial letter to denote the Presidency from which it is issued unless there were an objection to use a Leeward Islands stamp conjointly with these now in existence.

It will I presume be necessary to have the sanction of the Postmaster General for the use of the new stamps. I beg to mention that the dies of the Postage Stamps for the several Presidencies at present in use are in the custody of the Crown Agents, except those of Nevis which are in the hands of Nissen Parker. Stationers & Co. of London'.

As a practical compromise suiting their methods of production, a new key and duty plate was produced (as in Fig 2) to hopefully meet the Auditor General's request. On 19th June they submitted essays with a tender for the die, key plate in 60 forme and 60 set duty plates of 2½d & 4d duties for Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis and Virgin Islands, together with new duty plates for Dominica and St. Christopher retaining the 1870 design, in the sum of £167. This was accepted the following day by a middle ranking Civil Servant of the Crown Agents. By this routine decision it set De La Rue on the first step toward achieving their aim of monopolising Colonial stamp printing. It partially met the Auditor General's request in that it reduced the 12 different designs in use to two. The new design was initially called the Leeward Islands Plate and was still referred to as such in Crown Agents correspondence in 1896. When Cyprus and St Lucia adopted it within four years, followed shortly by Natal for some 1.3 million revenue stamps, De La Rue called it the General Key Plate.

Although Grenada still ordered its stamps directly from Perkins Bacon, in January 1881 a requisition for the three UPU duties was for some unknown reason received by the Crown Agents who forwarded it to De La Rue with a copy to Perkins Bacon. De La Rue proposed their new key plate at 2/4d per 1000 stamps and Perkins Bacon for overprinting their undenominated plate at 1/0d per 1000. Not surprisingly, Perkins Bacon won the order.

In December 1881, De La Rue submitted a lengthy report to the Crown Agents explaining and justifying the advantages of surface printing in fugitive inks over the recess (line engraved) process and attached a new design which would cost 1/0d per 1000 stamps (Fig 3). This was the Grenada Key Plate which the Colony accepted in June 1882 for a set of seven duties. The first printing was not invoiced until January 1883, suggesting that they encountered some problems with this new approach to print in one impression and achieve a saving of 43% to printing from the General Key Plate. Nevertheless, it gained another Colony from its main competitor.



Fig 01



Fig 02

Fig 3



How the Grenada printing plate was made is not recorded and De La Rue's records for this period were destroyed in the Blitz. However, from the notes on Fig 4 and a note added to the file copy of a letter to the Crown Agents in 1885 regarding the proposed 1d Postage & Revenue stamp – 'A die would have to be cast and leads struck instead of simply setting up type' – does, I think, provide the answer. Production of the printing plate would have comprised three separate operations:



The Key Plate - a second working die was struck from the General Key plate 1879 master die. The engraver removed the top and bottom outer frame lines and replaced the inner to extend to the outer vertical frame lines to enclose the design. This is supported in that the inner frame lines are noticeably thinner than those on the General Key Plate. A set of 12 leads were struck set tête bêche, replicated to produce 5 strips and set into the chase with the blank name and duty areas recessed to make a 60 forme plate as illustrated in Fig.3. Because De La Rue considered it to be a new design it was numbered 1, similarly as the General Key Plate concurrently in use.

The Name Plate - Two type set strips of six were joined tête bêche hardened, 6 leads struck, stereotyped and set into the recesses in the chase. The surplus strips that would fall in the top and bottom selvages were removed beforehand.

The Duty Plates - Similarly as for the Name Plate two type set strips of five for each duty were joined tête bêche, hardened from which 5 leads were struck, stereotyped and machined to slide in and out of the recesses in the key plate such that each could be easily inserted and removed according to the duty to be printed.

Even though De La Rue were critical of this format, in their own words *'this format is less than perfect and rather crude in appearance'*, it did not detract them from proposing its use for other Colonies when this Key Plate was being little used.

In September 1882, the Administrator of St. Lucia requested, *'1d, 2½d 4d & 6d. stamps with their respective values forming part of the design'*. The Crown Agents requested De La Rue to submit estimates, 'for the General key plate or like the Grenada specimens' (Fig 5). The General Key Plate was approved to replace the undenominated Perkins Bacon plate from which they had been printing since 1863. First issued in July 1883, this design was retained until replaced with the head of King Edward, with stamps printed from all four key plates.



Also in 1882, Perkins Bacon were ordered to hand over their St. Vincent plates to De La Rue. To rid themselves of printing from these, they submitted another report to the Crown Agents in November on the advantages of surface printing and included essays of both the General and Grenada Key Plates (Fig 6). It was unanswered and De La Rue had to print from the Perkins Bacon plates for another 17 years, before St. Vincent decided to replace them with Universal Postage & Revenue design. Following the 1885 letter referred to above, Grenada also ordered a

set of 14 duties for REVENUE only all in two colours, in addition to the 1d POSTAGE & REVENUE Stamp.



Fig 06



Fig 07

Dies for all 14 duties, (including the name), even though four were used for current postage stamps were engraved from which tête bêche plates of 60 leads were made (Fig 7). Because the key plate was also being used for the single impression postage stamps, the name strips would have had to be removed and the recesses for both the name and duty levelled up by inserting blank metal strips before two impression printing could commence. The same procedure would also apply for the new 1d Postage & Revenue stamp, (Fig 8) which clearly had a 60 lead duty plate made from a die and was printed in two impressions. De La Rue increased their charge to 1/4d per 1000 for this stamp because *'the upper part of the stamp would entail a different treatment than that which we adopt for the present postage stamps'*. These alterations to the key plate would have had to be made each time there was a change between single and double impression printings, an additional cost not envisaged by De La Rue when they first produced the Grenada key plate.



Fig 08



Fig 09

The only other use of the Grenada Key Plate in its intended form of single impression printing, was for the Montserrat 1d Revenue (Fig 9), which used the existing duty strips, printed in 1887.

In 1887 when British Bechuanaland became a Crown Colony, it requested its own stamps. De La Rue having successfully produced the two line name tablet, submitted essays for stamps printed on the Grenada Key Plate (Fig 10). This



Fig 10

design was not accepted in favour of the British Unappropriated Plates overprinted, the only time these were used for postage stamps. After at least three known attempts by De La Rue to obtain greater use of the Grenada Key Plate, they remained unsuccessful.

Grenada had been separating stamps for Postage and Revenue purposes by various means, for 20 years. Finally it resolved the matter by ordering unified stamps, issued from September 1895 (Fig 11). Their key plate was retired when the 1d Postage & Revenue was first printed in the Universal design in April 1896. Whether or not De La Rue recovered their costs for this unique format will never be known. I think it most unlikely that they did but to them that was a secondary consideration when it was instrumental in replacing Perkins Bacon's plates by key plate surface printing for at least two Colonies.



Fig 11

The unique Grenada key & duty plate format was not attempted again. By 1896, when De La Rue were printing stamps for some 60 Colonial territories by their normal methods and charging standard prices, this cheap alternative to combat their former main competitor had served its purpose.

Grenada issued only one more Revenue stamp (Fig 12) in 1903, a £1 duty which continued unchanged, except for decimalisation to \$5, for more than 50 years. From 1896 all definitive stamps, except the 1/4d and 10s of 1938, were inscribed Postage & Revenue until 1951.



Fig 12

JAMAICA / HAITI**A SOLDIER'S LETTER FROM PORT AU PRINCE SEPT 20TH 1795****BY RICHARD HART**

A vivid letter sent to Frederick Booth, an attorney at law at London via Jamaica from a little known campaign has recently come into my possession. The unlucky Major Bladon (?Simkins?) gives us a graphic picture of an unwise military adventure entered into by Pitt's Government, swayed by greed and lacking any intelligence or understanding of local sentiment. The slaves of Saint Dominigue (modern Haiti) had regarded that the three principles of the French Revolution applied equally to them. They revolted against the Administration and against the Proprietors.

Saint Dominigue had been a jewel in Louis XVI's crown and had been 'worth' much more to France than Jamaica was to Britain. Pitt had shown sympathy for the Emancipation Movement and had, at first, been reluctant to intervene in Saint Dominigue but greed won and troops were sent in increasing numbers from September 1793. From this time until they were thrown out in 1797 the British Government poured money into the campaign and wasted the lives of some 40,000 soldiers. The losses were hushed up by British politicians who feared the Revolutionary sentiments that were in the air.

There were clearly no competent censorship arrangements around in Jamaica or Saint Dominigue in September 1795 and it is in some ways surprising that concessionary rates for soldiers and sailors serving in the West Indies were introduced in 1796 given that the sentiments of the letter in question must have been shared by many.

My Dear Booth

Port au Prince Sept 20 1795

Before this letter reaches you, you will have heard by the Papers of my having been wounded, it was at first a very dangerous wound & I have suffered & still suffer greatly from pain & in such a hot place as this, is no trifle. I am however I believe totally out of danger - about three days after our arrival here I was sent out to take command of the British against the Brigands, about an hour after we were engaged I rec'd a ball in my head which laid me flat and totally incapacitated me from proceeding ?????? thank god however we truly defeated them & drove them out of a very fertile country about fifty or sixty Leagues in extent our numbers are so reduced by sickness that I doubt very much whether we shall be able to retain that part of the country - we lose on an average about twenty five men per week besides having many in the hospital.

There is no doubt this is a very fertile country & would export more than all the other West Indie Islands put together ?????? but you can have no idea of the unhealthiness of the Climate, in short it is a perfect grave to the British Soldiers whether you are to attribute it to the heat or the fatigue of Duty from the scarcity of troops or perhaps from both conjoin'd I know not ?????? certain, it is if the mortality proceeds as it has begun seven months will finish us all - the Brigands surround this Town on all sides, & threaten to attack it very speedily should they put their threats in execution I have great doubts of the consequences when I survey the fullness of the Hospitals & the weakness of the Garrison. They will however meet with a warm reception & I for one will never rest till I revenge the death of my poor friend David Markham & my own wound I reflect with satisfaction indeed at present that we slew a number of the Vagabonds in the day I was engag'd Unless Government send out eight or ten thousand men it will be quite impossible to conquer and preserve this island you never in your life saw so strong a country to defend or so adapted for ambuscades the bravest & most forward are sure to be pick'd off from behind some bush or tree. In short it is the most unpleasant & most ungentleman like war that any European was engaged in - three or four Regts that were to have reinforced us from Jamaica have been detain'd by Lord Belcarras to act against the Maroons who have risen in rebellion I believe it is now quell'd suffer here very much indeed from the ?????? to the neglect ?????? of Government reduces most of us to a state of dependency - I wrote fully to you from Gibraltar I hope very much to hear from you & should there be any chance of a Peace write to me instantly as I most certainly will sell my Majority & return to England & discharge all my debts - one might as well be in Hell at once as remain in this diabolical country we have lost one Capt'n already & have two more dangerously ill when my turn will arrive I know not but depend upon it I'll die game. Remember me to Mrs Booth & all friends I have written to Hume if you can but has money of mine in the marchants hands.

I will thank you

Yours most truly

Bladon ??????



Major Bladon_____’s letter received a 42mm straight line IAMAICA and a circular B with diamonds receiver JA 1 96. The letter has mss 1/- and 1

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ST KITTS-NEVIS

1920-29 KGV PLATE VARIETIES

BY ROGER B WEST

I first developed an interest in this issue when I noticed a prominent variety on a mint block. Studying a few more blocks revealed more flaws and by then I was hooked. Several years later I now have a modest stock, a number of varieties, and too many other interests to spend enough time on St Kitts. So I reproduce below my findings in the hope that someone else might take up the story.


The issue contains values from ½d to £1 and was produced on two different watermarked papers – Multiple Crown CA and Script CA with several values existing with both watermarks. The stamps were printed by De La Rue in sheets of 60 (5x12) and consist of a frame plate and a vignette plate. Two different vignette plates were used and were made up of a profile of the King and either Christopher Columbus or Medicinal Spring. The Columbus illustration is the now famous one showing him looking through a telescope 100 years prior to its invention.

I only have one complete sheet that being the 2d Medicinal Spring. On this can be seen two Jubilee lines, the outer one (representing the central vignette) is irregularly broken thus making it possible to plate other marginal blocks by matching the breaks. The Columbus plate also has these irregular breaks and I am fairly certain the positions are identical. However, to complicate the matter, some of the printings only had the one jubilee line representing the frame.

The varieties noted thus come in 3 sections:

- 1) Columbus plate – ½d, 1½d, 2½d, 6d, 2s, 5s and £1
- 2) Medicinal Spring – 1d, 2d, 3d, 1s, 2s6d and 10s.
- 3) Frame Flaws – unique to each value

Throughout this text I will quote Position and stamp number – for example 'position R5/2 – stamp 22' is the second stamp in row 5 or the 22nd stamp in the sheet.




Barbados

<p>SG 248a 1938-42 ½d perf 13. R10/6 recut line. VFUM £80</p> <p>SG 248c 1943-47 ½d yellow-bistre. TR corner block of 4 with sheet number. R1/10 recut top frame. VFUM £10</p> <p>SG 248cb 1942 ½d yellow-bistre. Marginal block of 10, R11/6 recut line. VFUM £18</p> <p>SG 250ca 1941 2d claret. Marginal pair, one with R11/9 'extra frameline'. VFUM £30</p> <p>SG 250da 1943-47 2d carmine, perf 13. Plate 1 block of 4, R11/9 'extra frameline'. VFUM £20</p> <p>SG 251bb 1944-47 2½d blue block of 4, one with R3/3 'mark in ornament'. VFUM £30</p> <p>SG 252a 1938-47 3d perf 13. Block of 4, R4/10 'line over horse's head'. VFUM £55</p> <p>SG 252ba 1941 3d, perf 14. Corner block of 8, with sheet number; R4/10 'line over horse's head'. VFUM £58</p>	<p>SG 252ca 1947 3d blue, R4/10 'line over horse's head'. VFUM £45</p> <p>SG 253a 1938-47 4d perf 13. Marginal example, R4/1 flying mane. Centred high. VFUM £70</p> <p>SG 253b 1938-47 4d perf 13. Pair, R7/8 joined scroll. VFUM £60</p> <p>SG 253da 1944 4d perf 14, R4/1 'flying mane'. VFUM £65</p> <p>SG 264a 1947 1d on 2d perf 14. Plate block of 4, R11/9 'extra frameline'. VFUM £50</p> <p>SG 264c 1947 1d on 2d perf 14 pair, one with R7 or 11/4 broken 'E'. VFUM £25</p> <p>SG 264dc 1947 1d on 2d perf 13. Pair, one with R7 or 11/4 broken 'E'. VFUM £50</p> <p>SG D12-13 1974 Postage Due 2ct and 6ct watermark sideways. Marginal blocks of 4. VFUM £15</p>
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Postage Extra

SECTION 1 – COLUMBUS PLATE VARIETES



Position R1/1 - Stamp 1
Diagonal scratch
above King's head



Position R1/3 - Stamp 3
White fleck through pearl
above King's Head



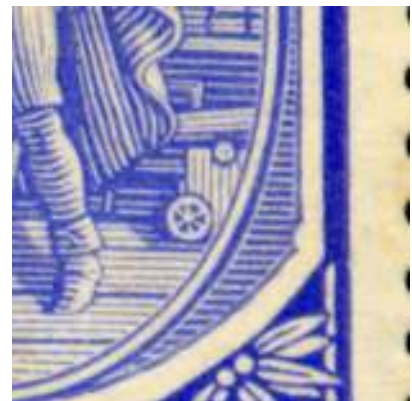
Position R4/5 - Stamp 20
Break in outer frameline
above Columbus



Position R5/1 - Stamp 21
Dent in outer frame around King's
Portrait at corner of value tablet



Position R5/2 - Stamp 22
White flaw on Columbus oval
at 3 o'clock



Position R5/3 - Stamp 23
Bottom right corner of Columbus
frame dented



Position R5/4 - Stamp 24 (a)
Dent in King's frame
at 5 o'clock



Position R5/4 - Stamp 24 (b)
White flaw in Columbus frame
at 5 o'clock



Position R6/1 - Stamp 26
Diagonal white flaw
immediately above King's head



Position R7/1 - Stamp 31
White flaw in Columbus frame
at 7 o'clock



Position R7/5 - Stamp 35
White flaw in Columbus frame
at 1 o'clock



Position R8/2 – Stamp 37
Diagonal scratch downwards
from tip of King's nose



Position R8/4 – Stamp 39
(position subject to verification)
Break in outline of King's forehead
at centre



Position R9/5 – Stamp 45
Break in outline of King's neck



Position R12/4 - Stamp 59
Large white flaw
on Columbus oval at 3 o'clock



Position R12/5 - Stamp 60
White flaw
on Columbus oval at 4 o'clock

SECTION 2 – MEDICINAL SPRING PLATE VARIETES

Position R3/5 - Stamp 15
Break in Spring frame
at 6 o'clock



Position R5/1 - Stamp 21
Thin white line through pearl
around King's portrait
at 6 o'clock



Position R5/5 - Stamp 25
White flaw on Spring frame
at 2 o'clock
(broken line of shading)



Position R7/5 - Stamp 35
Break in Spring frame
at 12 o'clock



Position R9/1 - Stamp 41
Break in King's frame
at 10 o'clock



Position R11/1 - Stamp 51
Tiny break in Spring frame
at 6 o'clock



Position R11/3 - Stamp 53
White flaw in front of forehead
of standing figure

SECTION 3 – FRAME VARIETIES

1/2d value
Position unknown (3 examples)
Break in frame line
below 'V' of Revenue



1/2d value
Position unknown
(3 examples but all different
Marks below 1 in value at right



1/2d value
Position R7/2 - Stamp 32
Break in 'd' of value at right



1/2d value
Position R12/1 - Stamp 56
Two breaks in lower frame
just above and to left of flower



1d value
Position R1/1 – Stamp 1
White flaw
between country and value tablet



1d value
Position R11/1 – Stamp 51
Flaw joining 'TS' of Kitts



1 1/2d value
Position R5/4 - Stamp 24
Break in frame
above bottom flower



1 1/2d value
Position R12/3 - Stamp 58
Break in upper frame
just below and to left of flower



1 1/2d value
Position unknown
Break in outer frame line
at left level with King's eye



2d value
Position R11/1 - Stamp 51
Flaw on flower
just above right hand value



2½d value
Position R5/1 - Stamp 21 (a)
Dent in frame line
just above 'l' of Kitts



2½d value
Position R5/1 - Stamp 21 (b)
Break in outer frame line
at left level with King's eye



2½d value
Position R7/3 - Stamp ??
Flaw on flower
above 'S.N' of Kitts.Nevis



3d value
Position R1/5 - Stamp 5
Diagonal break through
right hand frame line at centre



3d value
Position R8/1 - Stamp 36
White flaw
through right hand frame line level
with shoulder of standing figure



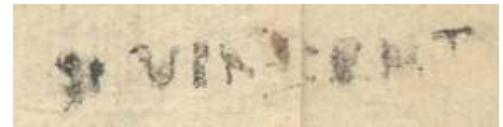
2s6d value
Position R8/1 - Stamp 36
Dent in left hand frame
line level with tip of King's beard

ST VINCENT

BWISC CONVENTION 2005 - FORMAL DISPLAY

BY ALAN BECKER

Alan commenced his display with a first Straight Line of St. Vincent on an entire of 12 July 1797 to Ireland. The mark is known from 1793 to 1797 but was probably not used in the period of the Brigands' War' (1794 to 1796) when Victor Hugue's French forces incited the final Carib rebellion.



At least three types of Fleuron exist and Alan introduced potentially 5 types, all with strong strikes:

- Type 1, ('St. Vincents'), introduced 1805, with covers of 1812 & 1813
- Type 2, ('St. Vincent') introduced 1815, with covers of 1818 and 1829
- Type 3 (as Type 2 but one 'N' close) with covers of 1822 & 1824
- Type 4 (as Type 2 but small 'C') with cover of 1831
- Type 5 (as Type 2 but slightly smaller) with cover of 1835

Social history was highlighted with an interesting Statistical Account of the Park Hill Estate of 1831.

The pre-stamp period concluded with an 1847 letter, rated 4s, with a fine double arc St Vincent (Alan commented that this is usually very poorly struck) and two covers with crown circle 'Paid at St Vincent' of 1852 & 1861, plus this rare strike on loose 4d & 6d adhesives. The crown circle mark was introduced in 1852 and was in use for 20 years.



Alan continued with a page of GB adhesives (1d, 4d & 6d) with A10 obliterator. The St Vincent adhesives were introduced with Plate Proofs of the 1d Rose-Red in block of 4 and pairs of the 1d and 6d in black. Alan believed these to be by Perkins Bacon but were possibly by De La Rue. Further examples of the first issue were displayed including:

- 1861 1d Rose-Red in imperf block of 6
- 1862 6d in mint block of 4
- 1863 to 1868, 1d in various perfs including marginal block of 20 and a used 11 to 13 x 14 to 16
- 1866 4d and 1s in various perfs, with no less than 7 of the former and 12 of the latter
- Several examples of the 1868 6d green and 1869 1s indigo completed this feature

The 1870s issues were equally well represented, including watermark varieties, culminating in the 1875 1s claret (perf 11 to 13) on cover to Glasgow.

The 1880 5s rose-red was shown with 2 examples mint and 2 examples used, Alan offered the opinion that the Perkins-Bacon colour was rather wishy-washy but the later DLR colour was much stronger and more attractive.

An impressive array of the 1880s provisional overprints were shown with:

- Four examples of the 1880 1d on half 6d (divided vertically) plus an unsevered pair
- Four examples of the 1881 'One Penny' on 6d
- Four examples of the 1881 ½d on half 6d (divided vertically) plus an unsevered pair
- Four examples of the 1881 4d on 1s, one mint and another cancelled on the 1st day of issue

Alan informed us that early Specimens exist in 15 or 16 types but very few are recorded of each type. The 1880s and 1890s issues were all extensively displayed, highlights being: a complete pane of the 1888 5s lake, 1885 1d on 2½d on 1d Proof (3 bars); the 1890 2½d on 4d with no fraction bar, and a complete sheet of the 1892 5d on 4d chocolate with all positional variations annotated. A page of the 1893 4d yellow was shown including 2 examples of the controversial Olive-Yellow shade.

Just when we thought the extravaganza was entering the 20th Century, Alan briefly turned the clock back with four sheets of the Revenue issues, including 1882 6d bisected diagonally and ovpt 3d, two sheets of forgeries, and five sheets of Postal Stationery. The key plates / definitives of Victoria and Edward were shown including 'specimens' and the George V issues with War Stamps and the 1d on 1s with 'ONE' omitted concluded the presentation of the stamps.

The display was brought to a climax with a fine selection of Village Post Marks followed by a discussion on the Olive-Yellow shade and a vote of thanks from Charles Freeland.



Plate Proof of the 1861 Issue



1862 Rough Perf 14-16



Sept 1875 Perf 11 to 13 1s Claret (full cover)



Crown Circle on stamps



1863
Perf 11-13 x 14-16
1d Rose-Red



1880
1d on half 6d
Unsevered Pair



1885
1d on 2½d on 1d
Proof (3 bars)



1890
no fraction bar on 1h stamp



1893
Olive Yellow



1893
Yellow



1893
Olive-Yellow



1866 Perf 11-13
Specimen



1871 Perf 14-16
Specimen



1878 Perf 15
Specimen



Perkins Bacon Specimen
Only 6? examples known



De La Specimen
Only 3? known



De La Specimen
Unique (with full stop)



Varieties on the sheet

M M M M C C C C U
M M M M C C C C U
C C C C U U U U L

M 'N' under centre of lower curve of '5'.
C 'N' almost under centre " " "
U 'N' under ball of '5'.
L 'N' to left of ball of '5'.

Sheet of Nov 1892 5d on 4d Chocolate



Revenue £1 on 5s

1888-93 Revenue
Overprinted 'Proudfoot'1882 Perkins-Bacon
Revenue1882-5 DLR
Revenue1882 Revenue
Forged Postmark

TOBAGO

POSTMARK DISCOVERY

BY DAVID DRUETT

The purchase of a Trinidad postcard appears to have produced two unrecorded Tobago postmarks.

The card, addressed to Canada, is unfranked.

There is a TOBAGO code A cds similar to Proud D9 which has a code C but also the year slug has only a single digit '8'.

Besides this there is a large 'T' in circle handstamp which, while suspiciously like a Port of

Spain mark, ought to have been applied in Tobago.

The endorsement 'C.C.C. 4371' where the sender should have applied a postage stamp is a mystery to me, mind you the message is also cryptic.

This item will be included in the next Pennymead Auction.



TRINIDAD

'TOO LATE' MARKINGS: SECOND UPDATE

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

Since the publication of the second article on Trinidad's 'TOO LATE', 'LATE' and 'TOO LATE FOR BAG' cancellations, more material has come to hand extending both the check-list of adhesives on which they can be found, and the villages known to have used them.

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 1 shows the (1d.) red lithographed stamp issued in March 1860 (SG 20) tied to a small piece by 'TOO-LATE' type TL.3 in red, and was lot 316 in the October Pennymead sale. Although a startling find- the red lithograph in used condition has been dangerously forged and the genuine article is in the rarity class- it is by no means implausible. The previous articles recorded no handstamped adhesives earlier than SG69, the cc watermark (1d) lake of 1863, but both SG64 and 68 have now come to light with 'TOO-LATE' markings; it is a mere three years between the date of their issue and that of the new find.

To the list of 'TOO-LATE' markings (Bulletin 203, page 34) should now be added type TL.16, a black hyphenated cancel measuring approximately 28x3.75mm struck on SG75 in conjunction with Marriott type 0.2. numeral '6' for Arouca.

Moving on to the 'LATE' markings, figure 2 illustrates the Proud source cover dated JA27/1879 for type L.2 (Proud type I.4). The cover bears a pair and a single of SG 72d, representing double rate postage and equivalent single rate late fee. Away from the stamps, almost camouflaged by the address, lurks the 'LATE' handstamp.

Figure 3 is a tribute to the conscientiousness (or perhaps to their fear of head office) of some sub-postmasters. A humble picture postcard – 'The Red House and Government Building Destroyed by Fire on March 23rd. 1903' – bearing SG127 cancelled DE30/03 at La Brea, sports a luminous strike of that office's previously unrecorded 'LATE' handstamp, indicating it had missed the post, as is borne out by the Port of Spain transit cds for JA 1. This instrument should be designated type L.3., is struck in black and measures 18x5mm.

It begins to appear that the 'TOO LATE' and 'LATE' markings were more widely distributed than was previously thought. Quite possibly each of the 21 offices listed in the P.M.G.'s 1861 Report (vide Marriott, page 58) was equipped; whether the sleeper hollows ever actually used them, is another question. A Monos (numeral '14') 'LATE' cover would be a find indeed.

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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND**

The main event of the last quarter had nothing to do with the auction scene but was Gordon Brown's announcement that stamps would not after all become eligible for inclusion in tax-exempt pension packages (so called SIPPS), as foreshadowed in my last column. Readers of Gibbons Stamp Monthly would already have been warned that the main beneficiaries of these schemes would be the consultants and the portfolio managers, and it would be by no means certain that the costs of the schemes would be covered by the tax savings, so much would depend on whether the stamps selected turned out to be a sound investment. What is new, you might ask? To go by the results of the Spink sale of 7-8 December, there may be little discernible effect on the very strong markets that exist in some areas, such as GB and in the BWI the Cayman Islands, but where demand is thinner one can expect prices for the "investment" material to weaken quite considerably. In fact, I detect a softening in BWI prices over the last three months. This is good news for those of us aspiring to build better collections, less good for those who have decided to sell into a strong market and may now be too late.

Bonhams 15 November

The sale of the 'Devonshire' Bermuda (the private seller apparently came from that part of England) was the first serious BWI offering since the stamp section moved to the Bonhams offices opposite Harrods and coincided with Graham Childs' appointment as head of the stamp department. The 99 lots contained several choice items and nearly all sold despite the evident Bermuda indigestion. The highest price was for the reinserted F in Farthing at £3,995 (all prices include 17½% premium). £799 was paid for the 12/6 revenue used clearly dated 15 April 1937, within the few months that the stamp was valid for postage. The selected collection of mainly numeral cancels that contained a surprising proportion of difficult numbers on the values other than the normal ½d, 1d or 2d was evidently in demand at £1,827 against an upper estimate of £400. The two Officer's letters to Henry Moore were not cheap at £541 and £799 and the final 'take' was £32,000.

All the prices quoted below are hammer prices subject to a 15% buyers premium.

Victoria Stamp Co 19 November

A few days later Bermuda collectors were again tempted by Perry Delman's mouth-watering collection of mint GVI keyplates that fetched a hammer price of \$200k. This was almost a repetition of the Apollonia sale at Grosvenor in the spring. Phoebe had shrewdly estimated low and there was keen competition for the rarer lots, indeed the relatively few unsold lots were all absorbed after the sale. Since Peter Flynn wrote a detailed report in Bermuda Post my analysis can be brief but it was noteworthy that specialists are paying large premiums not only for the plate blocks that prove the printings but also the corner blocks without plate plugs. Perry's holdings of the 5/- and 10/- were the strongest as he had acquired Bob Dickgiesser's printing studies of those two values. The most expensive lot was the corner block with scroll flaw of the Nov 1941 5/- at \$9,500 and a single of the same stamp with flaw 17 at \$6,500.

Earlier in the sale Derek Nathan's postal stationery was offered in 67 lots, reaching \$16k. The prices looked modest against the estimates but they were shrewdly set and most of the better items, especially the artwork, sold, although some of the mixed lots of issued stationery went begging. The three archival letters ex Townsend (in a mixed lot sold for £50 in 1970) were unsold at intimidating estimates of \$7,000 but the rare I size registered envelope used fetched \$500 and the two reply paid postcards returned to Demerara were \$350 and \$300. The rest of the sale was less eventful but I noted the St Vincent 1938 10/- used with inverted watermark, previously unsold at Spink, that went for \$2,000 and the 1875 Tobago crowned circle ex Forsyth on a rather tatty cover for \$3,750. I was disappointed not to be able to acquire the unrecorded Bahamas GV 2 1/2d with inverted watermark which fetched \$600, a strong price for a low value and perhaps a sign that the market for what are often scarce items is becoming more discriminating.

Spink 7-8 December

There was a fair amount of BWI hidden at the back of this heavy catalogue. The Antigua consisted mainly of unsold items from the Mayer collection sold last October and many of these actually sold quite well. In contrast, the recycled Bahamas (ex-Solomon) and Bermuda lots were very soft with more than 50% unsold, although David Parsons told me that they were all the Bahamas lots (as

well as the unsold Antigua and Caymans) were bought up after the sale at their very reasonable reserves. I was not present but Graham Booth has kindly provided a report on the 106 lot section of Cayman Islands, which was ex Watkin and Meredith. These had been bought by a European diplomat ex the Meredith sale who had never touched them. Even more significant was that Meredith had done very little with them so that many items were still on the original home-made Watkin pages, with their distinctive titles on card with a surrounding border in red, hinged to the page. There were no crown jewels but the historic interest from pages that are now over 60 years old was considerable.

Almost all the lots were sold but with one or two exceptions bidding did not generate the bloodbath we have recently been accustomed to. There were only two dealers actively bidding, David Morrison and Chris Rainey. Graham was the only Caymans collector in the room, there was but one telephone bid and absentee bids were not unduly strong. Nevertheless a Rural Post cover to the UK franked with two Edward halfpennies fetched £1600, the Boddentown ½d cancelled in manuscript in 1909 £1600 against a top estimate of £120 and a collection of used East End which included 8 copies of Type 1 and a dozen of Type 2 before the canceller was lost in 1916 achieved £2100, compared with a top estimate of £250.

Coming events

The Jaffé St Vincent catalogue has just hit my desk with a thud and it certainly makes spectacular bedtime reading. The sale will be over by the time you read this in print but the results will be a prominent feature in the next bulletin. Spink have obviously held back some of the duplicated items for the 2007 St Vincent sale, so those who need the no fraction bar can be patient. The valuations look variable to me, with many rarities at very attractive levels but others such as the more ordinary mint stamps and blocks on the high side...we will see. As always for such collections the whole will be worth more than the sum of its parts and I expect the 733 lots to fetch almost double the low estimate total of £450,000.

David Parsons has told me that the Spink sale on April 5-6 will include the Robert Ellis Barbados, valued at £15k. Its main feature of interest to our members will likely be the revenues that I understand will be offered as a single lot. There is also a comprehensive section of Barbados Britannia bisects on piece. David also asked me to warn members that the sale of BWI on 28 September mentioned in the Jaffé brochure (and in my December column) has been postponed to 4-5 October.

A lot of action is being planned around the Washington international at end-May, more next time.



peter singer

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BOOK REVIEW**BY IAN JAKES****PITON POST OR NOTES ON THE PHILATELY OF ST. LUCIA****BY ALISTER KINNON**

This book, one of only thirty copies, has kindly been donated to the Library by the author Alister Kinnon.

In comparison with many British West Indies Colonies, relatively few monographs, pamphlets or articles have been written about the philatelic activities of St. Lucia. There has been only one previous handbook (which is not in the Library) 'St. Lucia, a Philatelic History' written by the late Dr. Geoffrey G. Ritchie which is now out of date. The fires at Castries in 1927 and again in 1948 when many philatelic records were destroyed has undoubtedly contributed to the lack of information concerning St. Lucia philately.

This book containing 109 A4 size pages plus excellent contents pages, ring-bound with a soft plastic cover, provides much of the missing philatelic information. It adds greatly to the knowledge of St. Lucia philately contained in the Library. It complements the information concerning early St. Lucia philately contained in the four issues of the St. Lucia Philatelist and updates Dr. Ritchie's handbook. The book then expands substantially into other areas including civil and military censor marks and cancels in WW2, the King George VI, Queen Elizabeth II and Independence periods. It is strong on postal markings and registration labels.

This book is a very good bed-time read. It contains much new information. I particularly enjoyed the chapters on the St. Lucia postal fiscal stamps and how to spot the forged postmark; on the German Propaganda forgeries; on the 1930s postage due stamps and the activities of the New York stamp dealer Mr. Ed. Mostyn and his involvement in the 1967 'Statehood' overprints.

I can thoroughly recommend this book. It is certainly one to borrow from the Library.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**IAN JAKES**

During the last 12 months there have been a number of generous donations to the Library by our members.

At the April 2005 AGM Vincent Duggleby made a very significant donation relating to St. Vincent philately, namely Acts, Ordinances, Post Office Reports, Postal Information from Government Gazettes, copies of Minutes from Legislative and Administrative Councils and other documents all relating to St. Vincent postal information.

BWISC Auction catalogues 1974 to 1982 and all missing from the Library archives were kindly donated by Anthony R Beauchamp.

A copy of 'British Guiana Picture Postcards' recently reviewed in the Bulletin was donated by the author Terence Dickinson.

Reports on modern Guyana stamps has been provided by our new member from Guyana, Lennox J Hernandez.

Other donations have been the book 'Founded upon the Seas: A History of the Cayman Islands and their People' donated by Cayman Islands National Archive; the pamphlet 'The Local Overprinted Special Delivery Stamps 1916-1917' by Ludington donated by Peter Fernbank and 'The Queen's Stamps – Travelling Exhibition – 2002 Jubilee Celebrations' donated by Michael Sefi, keeper of the Queen's Collection.

The latest donation is 'Piton Post or Notes on the Philately of St. Lucia' by the author, our member Alister Kinnon.

All of these donations are very much appreciated and add significantly to the information contained in the Library.

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.

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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.

EDITOR & WEB-MASTER'S REPORT**STEVE JARVIS****Bermuda Prague Covers – December 2005 Bottom of Page 17 Correction**

In the last issue, it was incorrectly stated that Lot 127 from the Wilson Wong sale had been auctioned by Victoria Stamp Auctions but later sold retail by David Brandon. In fact the cover is still in the ownership of the purchaser from Victoria. I wish to apologise for this error.

Peter Fernbank has continued scanning early editions of the Bulletin. He has now reached edition 90, 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.

At the Convention I managed to scan in a number of pages from the formal and informal displays. These have now been uploaded to the web site for viewing.

The proposed publication schedule for 2006 is as follows:

Edition	June	September	December
Distribute	Fri 19 June	Mon 11 Sep	Mon 11 Dec
From Printer	Tue 9 June	Tue 28 Aug	Tue 28 Nov
Printing UK & ES	23 May to 9 Jun	18 to 28 Aug	21 to 28 Nov
Final Bulletin Revisions	Fri 19 May	Fri 11 Aug	Fri 10 Nov
Advert Final copy	Fri 5 May	Fri 4 Aug	Fri 3 Nov
Article copy deadline	Fri 21 Apr	Fri 14 July	Fri 20 Oct
Advert book space	Fri 7 Apr	Fri 7 July	Fri 6 Oct

Current Rates For Advertising per Bulletin:

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CAYMAN ISLANDS: 1908 2½d. Handstamped Surcharge on 4d., a fresh example with interpanneau margin at right, unmounted mint, fine. (S.G. 35) Catalogue value £1,500. Sold in a recent auction.

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