

### JAMAICA – RETURNED LETTER BRANCH ARTICLE



BAHAMAS 1871 cover to Margaret Yarwood, Kingston, Jamaica with QV 4d bright rose CC P.12½ (SG 26) tied 'A05' b/stamped Bahamas JA 5 1871/A dbl-arc, St. Thomas B/FE 12 71 and Kingston A/FE 23 71 cds's with black handstruck '1' applied Kingston to signify collection for town delivery. Further b/stamped Kingston HC/AP 29 71 cds with address panel showing red 'UNCLAIMED' and boxed RETURNED/LETTER BRANCH/4 MY 71/JAMAICA (RLBR-01A).

(Courtesy Michael Hamilton)




---

**BULLETIN No. 213 June 2007**

---



Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies and the American Philatelic Society

ISSN 0953-8720

## **BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**

### **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.

### **OFFICERS & CONTACT DETAILS**

**Web Site: [www.bwisc.org](http://www.bwisc.org)**

Founder:	<b>P.T. Saunders, FRPSL</b>
President:	<b>E.V. Toeg, FRPSL</b>
Vice-Presidents:	<b>Charles Freeland, FRPSL:</b> Ob Batterieweg 45, CH-4059 Basel, Switzerland Tel 0041 61 361 1205, e-mail: <a href="mailto:charles.freeland@hotmail.com">charles.freeland@hotmail.com</a> <b>Simon Goldblatt:</b> 39 Essex Street, London, WC2R 3AT Tel. 0207-222-5828 (H) 0207-832-1132 (W) 0207-353-3978 (F) <b>Derek M. Nathan, FRPSL:</b> 7 Cromford Way, New Malden. Surrey. KT3 3BB Tel: 0208-942-3881, e-mail: <a href="mailto:derek@dmn.dircon.co.uk">derek@dmn.dircon.co.uk</a>
Hon. Chairman:	<b>Peter Ford:</b> Box 665, Mail Boxes Etc., Ctra. Cabo la Nao (Pla) 124-6, 03730 Javea, Alicante, SPAIN Tel. 0034-966-472-158, e-mail: <a href="mailto:peterf@bwisc.org">peterf@bwisc.org</a>
Hon. Secretary:	<b>Peter G. Boulton:</b> 84 Tangier Road, Richmond, Surrey. TW10 5DN. Tel. 0208-876-6803
Hon. Treasurer:	<b>Ray Stanton:</b> The Old Rectory, Salmonby, Lincs. LN9 6PX. Tel. 01507-533742, e-mail: <a href="mailto:rjstanton@tiscali.co.uk">rjstanton@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Hon. Editor:	<b>Steve Jarvis:</b> 5 Redbridge Drive, Andover, Hants SP10 2LF. Tel. 01264-358065, e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@bwisc.org">info@bwisc.org</a>
Hon. Librarian:	<b>Ian Jakes:</b> 1 Sherwood Street, Market Warsop, Mansfield, Notts NG20 0JP DX 717390 Mansfield 7, Tel. 01623-842095 (H), 01623-860581 (W), e-mail: <a href="mailto:jakeslaw@hotmail.com">jakeslaw@hotmail.com</a>
Hon. Publications Officer:	<b>Peter Ford:</b> – see above
Publications Sales:	<b>David Druett:</b> Pennymead Auctions, 1 Brewerton St. Knaresborough, HG5 8AZ Tel. 01423-865962, e-mail: <a href="mailto:pennymead@aol.com">pennymead@aol.com</a>
Hon. Public Relations Officer:	<b>T.B.A.</b>
Committee:	<b>Michael Hamilton, Peter Fernbank FRPSL and Nigel Chandler FRPSL</b>
Hon. Auditor:	<b>John Davis F.C.A. (not in practice)</b>
North American Representative:	<b>John Seidl:</b> 4324 Granby Way Marietta GA 30062 USA, e-mail: <a href="mailto:jseidl@mindspring.com">jseidl@mindspring.com</a>
Study Group Leaders:	Listed in December 2003 Bulletin and on the Web Site

Printed by Sarsen Press, Winchester

**IN THIS ISSUE**

	Page
Programme Of Events & Information	3
BWISC Web Site Updates	Steve Jarvis 9
BWI – Dubious Covers	Edward Barrow 5
BWI – Post Offices Report March To August 1957	Michael Rego 6
Philatelic Covers – The Missing Cover Phenomenon	Eric Bateson 7
Barbados – Meter Mark	Tom Giraldi 8
Barbados – St. Lawrence S.O.	Keith Bayley 10
Barbados – Poole Covers Update	Peter Longmuir 11
Cayman Islands – By Richard Maisel, Book Review	Peter McCann 12
Cayman Islands – Postal Rates & Post Offices	Ivan Burges 12
Jamaica – Returned Letter Branch	Bob Swarbrick, Derek Sutcliffe and Steve Jarvis 13
Leeward Islands – King George V 2/6d	Chris Miller 20
Montserrat – Dodgy Postmark	Dickon Pollard 20
St. Christopher – 1885 ½d on Half 1d Carmine-Rose	Roger B West 20
Trinidad & Tobago – First Flights	David Watson 21
Trinidad – Appeal for Images	Peter Ford 23
Trinidad – World War One Censorship	David Druett 24
Trinidad – On H.M.S. Essay	Edward Barrow 24
Trinidad – Monograms Applied To Trinidad Stamps	Edward Barrow 25
AGM Minutes	28
BWISC Auction Report	33
Auction Update	Charles Freeland & Steve Jarvis 35
Membership & Library	39

**SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION****BWISC CONVENTION 2007**

21/22 September 2007 to be held at the Corus Hotel, Honiley, near Warwick.

- James Podger & Kevin Darcy – Cayman Islands – ‘Once Upon A Time’
- Simon Kelly – Bahamas, Selected Stamps and Postal History

**MEMBERS**

Congratulations to member Dr. Peter McCann who joins Chris Harman as a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDP).

In March Charles Freeland entertained over 100 attendees at the Royal Philatelic Society, London to a 52 frame display entitled ‘A British West Indies Miscellany’.

More details are available in our gallery on the BWISC web site and of course, in The London Philatelist.

**BWISC WEB SITE****BY STEVE JARVIS**

Ian Jakes reported the donation of photo slides and photocopies of the exceptional but anonymous ‘BBI’ Collection. It is planned for it to be placed on the BWISC web site, but since it consists of circa 300 pages, it may not appear for a couple of months – please watch out for it in the gallery section.

I have undertaken some consolidation of information regarding Jamaica embossed Policy Marine Fiscals – the draft paper is on the web site for review and hopefully provision of missing information.

I have also converted work undertaken by Derek Sutcliffe on Jamaica Meter marks, there are many gaps but the document should provide a focal point for information gathering.



# Stanley Gibbons

## Commonwealth Department.

With over 150 years of experience, we have the most interesting and extensive Commonwealth stock available and the experience to match.



A recently offered item  
from our ever changing  
British Commonwealth  
Stock

1860 local cover with strip of 4  
1857-59 1c dull red.  
Ex Caspary & Cartier.

Do you receive our  
British Commonwealth  
illustrated lists?

To register your interests, simply call 020 7836 8444 and ask to speak to  
Pauline MacBroom or Brian Lucas  
Email: [pmacbroom@stanleygibbons.co.uk](mailto:pmacbroom@stanleygibbons.co.uk)  
[blucas@stanleygibbons.co.uk](mailto:blucas@stanleygibbons.co.uk)

View our huge range of stock at  
[www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com)

Stanley Gibbons also buy stamps and collections.

STANLEY GIBBONS LIMITED, 399 STRAND LONDON WC2R 0LX

TEL: 020 75574450 FAX: 020 7557 4499

**BWI****DUBIOUS COVERS****BY EDWARD BARROW**

Another emanation of dubious philatelic items has been spotted on eBay. These are not outright forgeries but 'improved' philatelic covers aimed at more serious collectors. Since many are from the British West Indies, I thought members might be interested in the details.

The general characteristics of the covers are:

1. They are sent underpaid, most often from Israel but also from England, Austria, and South Africa. However, the return address is an Israeli one; PO Box 710, Netanya, Israel.
2. The addresses are clearly fictitious and designed to attract return to sender markings (one was addressed to Box 419419, Kingston, Barbados, St. Lucia, Jamaica).
3. The envelope is often torn to attract official sealed labels.
4. They are usually covered in 'Missent to' and other dubious instructional markings.

The covers seem to be genuine philatelically inspired items that travelled through the mail in the 1980's and 1990's. For example the cover below looks like it did travel to Trinidad, where it received a postage due marking, a 'Received in Damaged Condition' marking, an official seal, 'Return to Sender' markings, and finally Returned Letter Branch CDS' dated 4 Aug 1989 on reverse. These all appear to be genuine. What is suspicious are the additional 'Missent' handstamps. On this example the 'Missent to Guyana' handstamp was applied over the top of the Trinidad Seal, implying that it made a trip to Guyana after visiting the Trinidad Returned Letter Branch. There are no datestamps to confirm the additional trips to Guyana or Bermuda. Finally, there is an improbable notation on the back indicating that the letter was returned in 2006. Some of the covers from this source are even more fanciful; a few Pacific Island covers are partially burnt and water stained, and have 'damaged by water and fire' handstamps.

The seller operates on eBay under a number of pseudonyms such as *jonathandean8* which trace back to a Stephen Darori, the partially blacked out name on the return address. When asked about the source of the covers the seller spews paragraphs of details, mostly irrelevant, about grandfathers, aunts and uncles who collected official seals etc; all very reminiscent of tall playground stories.

Notes:

- Reuben Ramkisson's article in the January 2007 edition of British Caribbean Philatelic Journal shows a similar cover addressed to Anguilla, (Page 21 – BCPJ, Vol. 47, No.1).
- My thanks to Tim Anderson for sharing information, also his article in the April 2007 edition of British Caribbean Philatelic Journal (Page 13 – BCPJ, Vol. 47, No.2).



**BWI****POST OFFICES REPORT MARCH TO AUGUST 1957****EDITED BY MICHAEL REGO**

Colin Hinchcliffe of Empire Books of York pointed out to me recently, there was a very interesting and detailed Report on the Postal Services in the British Caribbean, and needless to say I was eager to acquire a copy.

He has copies available of these Reports in spiral bounding of A4 size. This fascinating work gives a first hand insight into all the postal services in the British West Indies during the 1950s, and I have extracted some of the salient points, thought useful to members of the Study Circle.

'Report On British Caribbean Post Offices March To August 1957', 85 pages, is available from; colin@empirebooks.org.uk. Tel (44) 1 904 610679. Price £10 plus postage at cost.



The Report was produced by J. B. Hood in September 1957, and was addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, London. His visit commenced on 29 March 1957 in Trinidad, and Hood was elected chairman of the Postal Conference which started on 3 April and ended 12 April. He then toured the islands; British Guiana 14 April – 4 May, Barbados 4 – 12 May, Grenada 12 – 21 May, St. Vincent 21 – 30 May, Dominica 30 May – 6 June, St. Lucia 6 – 20 June, Antigua 20 – 26 June, Montserrat 26 – 29 June, St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla 29 June – 11 July, Tortola 11 – 18 July, Jamaica 19 July – 6 August, British Honduras 6 – 13 August. Hood returned to London on 16 August.

In each country he inspected the Postal Service and had local discussions on how to improve the service to the public. He was received by the various Governors and Administrators and discussed in broad terms the postal problems of the region, and left appropriate notes and recommendations to the officials of each colony for improvements in the service. In general, the ideas were largely based on new British standard postal practices.

Shortage of space, mainly in the GPO buildings was a common complaint, and recommendations were left to built a new post office or enlarge the existing GPO buildings in many of the territories, to better serve the public.

Postal training was one of the big issues, and a scheme was agreed with each territory.

An Appendix to the Report gives details of many issues, extracts of these will be published progressively in the Bulletin.

**ANTIGUA (2 PAGES)**

- The service provides for letter and parcel mails by air and sea. Ships from Canada, UK, Trinidad and other islands call frequently and there is an Air Service by both BWIA, PAA and Leeward Islands Air Transport Service (LIAT) within the Leeward Islands.
- The inland service is provided by means of cycle posts, not every community receives a mail each day. The smaller ones are served every second day, but there is house to house delivery throughout the island.
- Money Order and Postal Order business is only carried on at St. John's, the capital. The GPO is the only post office in St. John's.
- Parcel Post is dealt with at the GPO only, the Customs charges being collected there and prohibitions being dealt with.
- Registered letters are dealt with at the District Post Offices.
- Neither telephones nor telegraph services are under the General Post Office.
- Problems – delivery in St. John's is inadequate. Each time a surface mail arrives there is considerable congestion of papers and journals. There is a need for 2 extra postmen to deal adequately with this delivery work. The existing walks should be rehashed...

- Sorting arrangements are out of date, are too slow, and occupy too much time ...
- Inland Mails – A van should be obtained to do a circular run to the District Offices each day; postmen should be based at these offices and deliver locally ...
- The listing of ordinary letters to District Offices is not necessary and should be stopped. Back-stamping of incoming letters is also unnecessary and should be stopped.
- A new sub-office is needed in the Ottos Mount district of St. John's.
- Money Order and Postal Order business should be extended to selected District Offices.
- The parcels advice system as used at Dominica should be used and parcels stored numerically and not alphabetically. This saves space.
- More private boxes are needed and should be provided.
- Houses in St. John's should be numbered and addresses clearly defined.
- Organisation details are gone into ...
- The worst feature of the GPO is accommodation. A new office with twice the present floor space is needed as soon as practicable. Accommodation details gone into ...
- The morale of the staff seemed fairly good, despite the poor working conditions ...

To be continued.

## PHILATELIC COVERS

### THE MISSING COVER PHENOMENON

BY ERIC BATESON

Philatelic covers bearing complete or near complete sets of stamps may have the stamps on a single envelope or have the stamps spread across a few smaller envelopes which if truly matching should be of the same size, same postmark date and should have been sent to the same addressee.

I have had a cover for some time from British Guiana addressed to von Franciois, postmarked 08 Dec 97 (Figure 1) bearing the 5c (SG 214) and the 72c (SG 203) of the 1899 and 1890 ship series. I could not recall seeing any other cover addressed to von Franciois and assumed this was a 'one off' item.

To my surprise, in a recent Cavendish auction sale there was a similar cover (Figure 2) which was a perfect match of my cover but had three stamps of the ship issue, the 1c (SG 213), the 2c (SG 194) and the 96c (SG 205) My bid for the lot was unsuccessful but I was still able to acquire the cover through the kindness of John Rawsthorne of Yorkshire cover auctions.

I wish to illustrate this phenomenon with two examples of matching covers. A trio which were purchased separately at different times from different sources bearing stamps of the badge issue of 1903, CC watermark of Antigua addressed to Emil Voigt all postmarked 26 Mar 04. One (Figure 3) bears the 2d, 2½d and 3d values (SG 33, 34 and 35), another (Figure 4) the 1s value (SG 37) and the third, (Figure 5) the 2/6d value (SG 39).

Secondly, a pair of covers bearing stamps of the Edward VII issue of 1902 of Grenada. Both are postmarked 13 Nov 02 and are also addressed to Emil Voigt. Each cover bears three stamps one (Figure 6) the ½d, 1d and 2d values (SG 57, 58 and 63) and the other (Figure 7) the 2d, 2½d and 2s (SG 59, 60 and 64) and were also purchased separately at different times from different auction sales.

The sporadic occurrence of these covers raises the possibility that they may have been a part of larger series bearing other stamps of the respective sets. Evidence to support this may be found in the numbers written in manuscript on the fronts of the covers. These are analysed in the following table. The numbers written on the covers are of two types, in blue crayon on the Br. Guiana and Grenada covers and black pencil on the Antigua covers. In addition there are numbers written in ink.

Table

	Figure	Values	Crayon or Pencil	Ink
Br. Guiana	1	5c 72c	57	718
	2	1c 2c 98c	59	717
Antigua	3	2d 2½d 3d	766	864
	4	1s	768	866
	5	2/6d	770	861
Grenada	6	2d 2½d 2s	15	686 24413
	7	½d 1d 1s	16	687 24413

The crayon and pencil numbers are particularly interesting. The two Br. Guiana covers are annotated 57 and 59. Therefore it is reasonable to assume there was a cover with other stamps of the issue labelled 58 and as there are a large number of stamps in the 1989 and 1990 issue there could have been other covers in sequence before 57 and after 59 as follows .....54, 55, 56 – 60, 61 62....

A similar case can be made for the Antigua trio which are numbered 766, 768 and 770. It seems reasonably safe to assume that at the time they were posted there were two other covers 767 and 769 bearing the remaining ½d, 1d, 6d 2s and possibly 5s stamps making a continuous series of covers 766 through to 770.

There is no missing number in the Grenada pair of covers but there are the missing values, 3d, 6d, 5s and 10s which could have been stuck on covers with number 14 before and number 17 after numbers 15 and 16 on the existing covers.

The numbers written in ink on the covers appear to support my theory in those from Br. Guiana and Grenada but are too far apart on the Antigua covers to accommodate the small number of missing stamps. The sender in the West Indies may have submitted other covers for registration at the same time as those in question.

Not all sets of matching philatelic covers are annotated with numbers in crayon, pencil or ink. One complete set without any annotations bearing the 1908 issue of Montserrat was illustrated in a previous article and I have others in my collection, but where they are present they may be a clue to the incompleteness of a series.

I wish to put forward a theory that at the time von Franciois and Emil Voigt created the apparently part series illustrated in this article they were part of complete or more complete sets. What happened to the covers bearing the missing stamps? Perhaps a collector of used stamps required the stamps on one cover of a set to fill the gaps in his collection. The required stamps would have been soaked off the cover and the rest of the covers sold or exchanged. Finally, if any member or dealer has any of the items missing from the series I have illustrated, I would be very pleased to hear from them and, if possible, purchase the missing items.

## **REFERENCE**

'Unashamedly Philatelic' – Eric M Bateson. British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, Vol. 42, Oct – Dec 2002

## **BARBADOS**

### **METER MARK**

**BY TOM GIRALDI**

Reference Nigel Neil's questions relating to the Geddes Grant Meter mark.

Tom GiralDI provides the information from the Meter Society book that meter marks were first used in Barbados in 1932 but has no information regarding Geddes Grant.

Steve Jarvis reports: The BWI Philatelist (March 1953) contains an article on Jamaica meter marks that states that Geddes Grant was a distributor of the 'N', Neopost type of machine.

**FIGURE 1****FIGURE 2****FIGURE 3****FIGURE 4****FIGURE 5****FIGURE 6****FIGURE 7****BOOK REVIEW**

INTERCEPTED IN BERMUDA BY PETER FLYNN  
(WWII CENSORSHIP OF TRANSATLANTIC MAIL)

Dennis Mitton will provide a review in the  
September edition.

## BARBADOS

**ST. LAWRENCE S.O.**

**BY KEITH BAYLEY**

I have just read the article by David Horry and he says that I missed the point of his query. It looks like we both were off target.

I did not recall reading the article by Fitz Roett so was under the impression that David was referring to the S.O. (Birmingham) as I have never seen the S.O. Registered Oval used on any stamp or cover, neither is it mentioned in the 'Barbados Post Office Markings to 1981' by Clarke, Radford and Cave.

The three cancellers to which I was referring in use on 12 October 1973 are shown below.



This means that there were four cancellers at the St. Lawrence post office.

I have no dispute with David about the first and last use of the Oval Registered Mark.

The date of 29 May 1933 for the S.O. (Birmingham) is also recorded by Clarke, Radford and Cave so this date was known before and is not a new discovery.

I do not believe that the S.O. (Birmingham) canceller was put away when the B.O. came into use, as I only have two examples of the B.O. compared to many with the S.O. I recently bought some covers from the 1950's and 60's and all the ones cancelled at St. Lawrence are with the S.O. Not one has the B.O. Also many years ago I bought an Auction lot of used Barbados Commemoratives (1960's) from Gibbons and most of the stamps were cancelled with the St. Lawrence S.O. and some with the number 3 below, but none with the B.O.

Taking the human element into consideration, Mrs Davis (nee Watson) most probably preferred to use the S.O. as the covers and the auction lots were most likely cancelled by her.

By the way, she is still alive and will be 90 in December this year. I spoke to a nephew last week and he told me that she is still active and her brain is very alert. Maybe she can throw some light on our questions as she was at St. Lawrence for a very long time. I believe all of her working life. I hope that this clarifies the queries put forward.

### POOLE COVER PP1



**BARBADOS****POOLE COVERS – UPDATE****BY PETER LONGMUIR**

A recent purchase necessitates an addition to the check list of recorded covers in the article in Bulletin 206 of September 2005, and an opportunity to update the previous information.

The 'new' cover has a Barbados despatch date of 10 July 1868 and is countersigned by Poole himself, some 2 weeks earlier than that shown previously as his first (countersigned) cover under reference PP1. This helps to clarify one of the queries concerning the Stanley Gibbons lots, being lot 946 from September 1967 and also lot 256 from April 1968.

The updates to the previous listing are as follows (text revisions italicized).

**COUNTERSIGNED PRENDERGAST**

Ref	Despatch	Packet	Arrival	Provenance	Owner	Note
P2	2 Jun 1868	per Eider 10 Jun	Lon 29 Jun	Watson-HNY 10/64 Pennymead 2/99 <i>Spink Jaffe 11/06</i>	PL	

**COUNTERSIGNATURE NOT KNOWN**

Omit second entry (Ex Gibbons 9/67 and 4/68 etc)

**COUNTERSIGNED POOLE**

Item PP1 has been inserted and all subsequent items have been renumbered.

Ref	Despatch	Packet	Arrival	Provenance	Owner	Note
PP1	10 Jul 1868	per Corsica 10 Jul	Ch 29 Jul	SG 9/67, SG 4/68 Western 3/07	PL	
PP2	25 Jul 1868	per Mersey 25 Jul	Ch 11 Aug	?SG 4/68, SG 3/70, SG 4/88, Argyll 4/04, Lugdunum 12/04	JH	cites Windward and Leeward Islands
PP3	24 Apr 1869	per Eider 25 Apr	Ch 14 May	RLP 8/87	CF	franked 1/- plus a 2 <sup>nd</sup> missing stamp, 1/- may not belong
PP4	9 Jun 1869	per Corsica 9 Jun	Ch 29 June	Grosvenor 11/03	DTS	
PP5	10 Jul 1869	per Corsica 11 Jul	Ch 30 Jul	?SG 4/68, H 3/80, SG 9/81 <i>Spink Jaffe 11/06</i>	MJN	<i>Pink envelope</i>
PP6	?? Aug 1869	per Mersey 11 Aug		Barclays, Gallagher- Siegel 11/93		
PP7	25 Aug 1869	per Mersey 25 Aug	Ch 16 Sep	RLP 8/87	CF	
PP8	2 Dec 1869	per Corsica 10 Dec		Olive Blossom, RL 4/83, H 4/90, Davis		

**NON-CONCESSIONARY**

	Despatch	Packet	Arrival	Provenance	Owner	Note
U5	<u>23</u> Jun 1870	per Corsica 25 Jun	Ch 12 Jul	RL 6/87, <i>S.Rumsey 6/06</i>	FR	
U6	9 Jul 1870	per Arno 10 Jul	Ch 28 Jul	Wheeler, Hackmey– DF 4/86 <i>D Feldman 6/06</i>	PL	

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** Add MJ Nethersole and DT Swart .

## CAYMAN ISLANDS

**CAYMAN ISLANDS BY RICHARD MAISEL      REVIEWED BY PETER P. MCCANN, PHD, FRPSL**

This booklet of 42 pages is one of a series published by the British West Indies Study Circle, and is based on the collection and exhibit of Richard Maisel which was recently sold in a major sale from Shreves Auctions in early 2007. I, myself, have followed the development of the Maisel Caymans material since it was first shown as an exhibit in 1998 in a USA national exhibition and where it received the Grand Award (best in show). I have since seen it in a number of other national and international exhibitions as well where I have served on juries, most recently at Washington 2006 where it garnered its third Large Gold Medal and Special Prize. This is a stunning accomplishment for exhibiting a small island British Colony which only started issuing its own stamps in 1901. This is all a prelude to say that this collection is certainly the finest of the Cayman Islands that has ever been put together and likely ever will be.

Thus, when I approached the booklet that Richard Maisel wrote on his material I expected to be dazzled by a catalogue of item after item of his extraordinary collection. Instead, Mr. Maisel has produced an incredibly good and interesting synopsis of Cayman Islands philately using his material as superb examples for his text. He starts off with background about the Cayman Islands relevant to the British Caribbean postal systems. This is particularly interesting as the Post Office of the Caymans opened much later than the other British Caribbean islands, 1901 vs. the mid to late 1700s for most. He then reviews the relationship of the Caymans to Jamaica and the use of Jamaican stamps in the Caymans from 1889 until the inauguration of the Caymans Post Office in 1901. The booklet then follows an interesting progressive description of all the Caymans issues from 1901 until the last issues of King George V in 1935.

There is an emphasis on the Edward VII provisionals of 1907–08 which include the great rarities of Caymans philately and also on the unusual rural posts which were initiated in 1908. Mr. Maisel is able to integrate the issuance of the stamps with their use, matching the postal history of the islands with the stamp production which makes for a seamless and interesting story. A relevant fact is that the author is very restrained from overuse of illustrations of his own wonderful material. The examples he does illustrate are thus entirely to the point of his text and allow the reader to understand how they facilitate the progress of the narrative. Thus, Mr. Maisel discretely uses his stamps and covers to make a point and does not simply show what he owns.

Anyone who wants to understand Cayman Islands philately in a focused and synoptic manner should buy this booklet. Anyone who wants to see some major rarities of the country should also obtain a copy. And finally, anyone who is at all interested in the Cayman Islands and development British Caribbean postal system should have a copy of this publication as it contains information that is not readily available elsewhere.

### POSTAL RATES 2006

**BY IVAN BURGES**

Revised postal rates came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2006 as follows:

Group	Destination	Old Rate	New Rate
	Local	\$0.15	\$0.25
A	Caribbean & America	\$0.30	\$0.75
B	UK	\$0.40	\$0.80
C	Other Europe	\$0.60	\$1.00

Despite these substantial increases the Cayman Islands Government claim it will still be significantly subsidising the postal service.

Ivan has also provided (a while ago) a booklet concerning the 'Art of Stamps' exhibition held at the National Gallery, Cayman Islands in 2006. A CD is has also been provided containing 37 photographs from the exhibition. The booklet and CD will be available for loan from the BWISC library and the pictures can be sent by e-mail by application to the Editor.

### HISTORY OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS POST OFFICES

**BY IVAN BURGES**

The second edition of this excellent colour booklet is now available, details available from Ivan Burges (ivanburges@yahoo.co.uk) at a price of £15, US\$25, Can\$30.

## JAMAICA

### RETURNED LETTER BRANCH BY BOB SWARBRICK, DEREK SUTCLIFFE AND STEVE JARVIS

Please note that under 'Source' that 'JE' refers to Jamaica Encyclopaedia (i.e. Swarbrick, Sutcliffe and Jarvis); 'EP' = Edward Proud, 'TF' = Tom Foster.

#### PART – 1 STATIONERY APPEARED IN MARCH 2007 BULLETIN

My thanks to Ray Stanton for supplying full scans of RLBS–30 and RLBS–31.

An additional envelope, spotted for sale by Bob Swarbrick has also come to light.

#### RLBS–06A

This cover dated 1938, near the end of Fletcher's period of Office is similar to the Ellis Wolfe RLBS–05 cover, with the following deviations:

- The name 'Fletcher' has been used
- The wording bottom left has been expanded
- The wording relating to a payment required has been excised and manuscript annotation of 'Paid' added



plus RLBR–02C dated 13 Jan 1938

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLBS–0A6	13 Jan 1938		



## peter singer



Specializing in British Commonwealth

**B.W.I. Covers, Cancells, Blocks  
& varieties are always available**

*Post Office Box 25249*

*Portland, Oregon 97225*

*Phone: (503) 293-1038*

*Fax: (503) 293-1062*

**WANT LISTS ACCEPTED**

**MEMBER PTS, ASDA,**

**CSDA, APS, ETC.**

**'RETURNED LETTER BRANCH' DATE STAMPS**



Mention has already been made of the Mail being forwarded either by the County Offices, Commonwealth or Foreign Post Offices to the G.P.O. Kingston, from whence the Mail was sent to the R.L.O. where it received a dater of that office to indicate the date of receipt.

**RLBR-01 – Squared Returned Letter Branch**

The first of these daters recorded is one well known to collectors being in the form of a permanent steel die with a movable date, very similar to the 'telegraph' dater. This handstamp is illustrated below, having the wording 'RETURNED LETTER BRANCH' at the top, the date within two short lines and 'JAMAICA' at the bottom. All the wording is in block sans serif type, 2 or 3mm high, enclosed by a single line frame, 22½ x 22½mm, with chamfered corners.

There appear to be two dies of this marking, in that designated RLBR-01A – the two short lines enclosing the date do not extend the whole width of the frame. The marking is only recorded struck in black ink, and it was in use for many years.

The second R.L.O. dater in this group is the Die II variant of RLBR-01, with the lines enclosing the date extending the whole width of the frame, designated here as RLBR-01B and also recorded struck in black ink.

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD		Rarity
JE	RLBR-01A	5 Jan 1871	15 Jun 1900		Swarbrick notes: EKD 22 Mar 1849 LKD 14 Nov 1933 but unable to verify
EP	D2	15 Aug 1877	24 Oct 1904		
JE	RLBR-01B	10 Apr 1890	18 Jul 1904		

RLBR-01ARLBR-01B

RLBR-01A dated 20 Jan 1892

on ½d PSC with Old Harbour SQC of the 19 Dec 1891 and Kingston daters of the 19 Dec 1891 and 8 Jan 1892.

The card also bears 'UNCLAIMED' handstamp in red, and 'ADVERTISED' handstamp, with manuscript 'Anonymous' at the top left.



RLBR-01B dated 23 May 1894

on ½d PSC from Kingston to Lucea also manuscript unclaimed.

Message reads: "Printed prospectus will be ready in a few days and one will be mailed to you"

See also image on front cover.

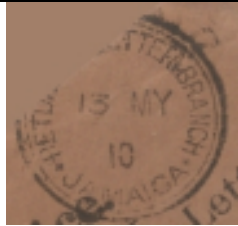




**RLBR-02 – Double Ring**

The second main type of R.L.O. dater is a standard 27mm doubled ringed circle with the same wording as RLBR-01 in block sans serif type 3mm high.

Proud records three variations which have been designated below with a suffix A, B and C. However, we believe there is also a later type.

Type A has a plus sign either side of 'JAMAICA', Type B and C are harder to distinguish from the Proud illustrations but examination of the new item of stationery above (with the same date as Proud type D9) indicates that the lettering for 'JAMAICA' is more elongated than for Type B.

Type D has squatter lettering for all words.

	Proud	JE
RLBR-02A	 D4	 A
RLBR-02B	 D8	 B
RLBR-02C	 D9	 C
RLBR-02D		 D

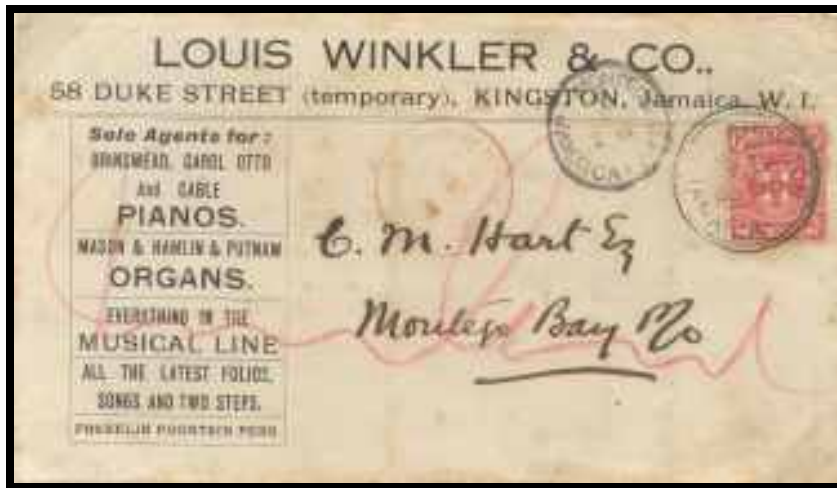
The daters are recorded struck in red, purple and black inks, Swarbrick records dates as follows but it is not certain to which variants they apply.

	EKD	LKD
Red	8 Feb 1909	1914
Purple	1914	1930
Black	1910	1940

**RLBR-02A**

A plus sign either side of 'JAMAICA', known in red and black.

Source	Reference		EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLBR-02A	Red	9 Feb 1909	1914?	
JE		Black	13 May 1910		
EP	D4		6 Jun 1916		



RLBR-02A dated 9 Feb 1909 struck in red ink.

A Louis Winkler & Co. cover from Kingston to Montego Bay with Kingston cds of 7 Jan 1909 plus 'Unclaimed' m/s marking in red crayon

On the reverse Montego Bay receiving dater of the 8 Jan 1909.

**RLBR-02B**

No plus sign and 'JAMAICA' squatter than for RLBR-02C, known in purple and black.

Source	Reference		EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLBR-02B	Purple	23 Jun 1927		
		Black	17 Sept 1927		
EP	D8		29 Sept 1927	9 Dec 1930	



RLBR-02B dated 23 June 1927 struck in purple ink.

Astley Clerk cover from Kingston to Cross Roads with Kingston slogan dated 21 May 1927 and on the reverse Cross Roads cds of 21 May 1927.

The cover bears Cross Roads 'UNCLAIMED' handstamp struck in black alongside Cross Roads cds of 20 June 1927, showing the item was held at Cross Roads for 1 month

**RLBR-02C**

No plus sign and 'JAMAICA' elongated compared to RLBR-02B, known in black.

Source	Reference		EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLBR-02C	Black	13 Jan 1938		
EP	D9		13 Jan 1938		

See stationery illustration above (RLBS-06A).

**RLBR-02D**

Source	Reference		EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLBR-02D	Black	20 Aug 1941	22 Mar 1951	
EP					

See RLBS-07 stationery image for envelope dated 20 Aug 1941.



RLBR-02D dated 22 Mar 1951  
in black ink

**RLBR-03 – Single Ring**

The dater, designated RLBR-03 is a single circle marking, 24mm in diameter, with the same wording as RLBR-02 – in block sans serif type, 3mm high. There is an asterisk above the date.

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLBR-03	14 Dec 1965		
EP				



RLBR-03 dated 14 Dec 1965  
in black ink

On RLBS-08 stationery.

Please supply any additional information regarding dates to Steve Jarvis,

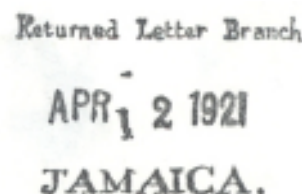
to establish rarity, the existence of any covers with these RLB marks would be welcome.

**RLBR-04 – TRDs**

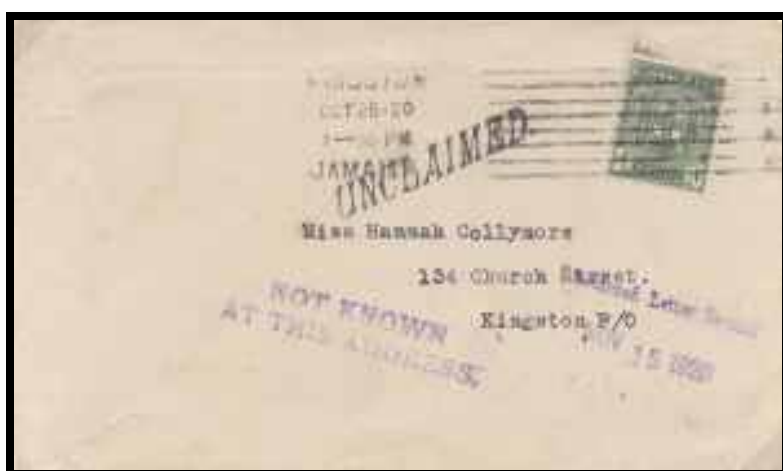
In 1921 the R.L.O. introduced rubber TRD daters – of which there are three types – instead of the steel daters

**RLBR-04A**

The first is an unframed marking reading 'Returned Letter Branch' in mixed serif type, 38 x 3 or 1½mm on the first line, a 17mm gap for the date and on the third line 'JAMAICA.' 30 x 3mm, in block serif type and a period after 'JAMAICA'. The marking is designated RLB-04A and is known struck in purple ink.



Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLBR-04A	15 Nov 1920	12 Apr 1921	
EP	D5	15 Nov 1920	2 Apr 1921	

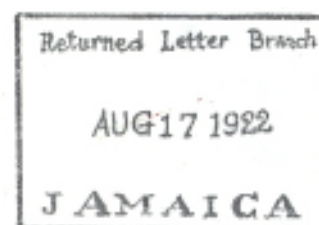


RLBR-04A dated 15 Nov 1920  
in purple  
with 'UNCLAIMED' handstamp  
plus type RLGA-03  
'NOT KNOWN / AT THIS ADDRESS'

**RLBR-04B**

RLB-04B is very similar to RLB-04A but is enclosed in a single line frame, 41 x 28mm, and 'JAMAICA' is 34mm without the period following.

This mark is also recorded struck in purple ink and was locally produced.



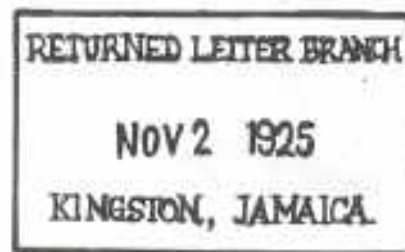
Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLBR-04B	17 Aug 1922	?	
EP	D6	30 May 1923	6 Dec 1923	



RLBR-04B dated 17 August, 1922  
struck in purple ink.  
Cover from Montego Bay to Port Maria with  
Montego Bay cds of 14 August 1922,  
and Port Maria cds of 14 August 1922  
Plus 'UNCLAIMED' handstamp in black.

**RLBR-04C**

The last of this series of TRD's is in large block serif type 4mm high within a single line frame, 53 x 42mm, with 'RETURNED LETTER BRANCH' on the first line, 50mm long, a 17mm gap for the date and 'KINGSTON, JAMAICA.' on the bottom line, 43mm long. Like the other two TRD's this item – designated RLB-04C – is also in purple ink.



Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLBR-04C	2 Nov 1925	6 Oct 1926	
EP	D7	4 May 1926	21 Apr 1927	



RLBR-04C TRD of the 6 Oct 1926 struck in purple.

O.H.M.S. cover from the Government Railway at Kingston with 'FREE' mark struck in black addressed to Frankfield P.O.

The reverse bears 'J.G.R. ACCOUNTING BRANCH' dated in blue of the 23 Aug 1926 and Frankfield receiving cds of 24 Aug 1926.

Also 'Uncl'd 4.10.26' in blue pencil

**NEW!****Classic Collections****NEW!****CAYMAN ISLANDS**

by Richard Maisel, F.R.P.S.L.

The third of our occasional series devoted to Classic Collections, this describes Richard Maisel's superb Large Gold Medal collection. Lavishly illustrated in colour, this booklet relates the progression of Cayman Islands philately from the earliest use of the Jamaican stamps, through the development of first Queen Victoria keyplate designs up to the pictorial issues of the King George V period.

Images of items from his collection illuminate practically every page. This booklet is a must for Cayman Islands collectors, and anyone with even a passing interest in Cayman Islands philately cannot help but be impressed by this collection, a collection fully deserving of the title 'Classic Collection'. **PRICE: £12.00 (BWISC members' discount £2.00)**

This book will be available soon 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).

## LEEWARD ISLANDS

### KING GEORGE V 2/6d

BY CHRIS MILLER

I was recently shown what I believe is a previously unrecorded variant of the King George V 2/6d. It is clearly Die II but the watermark is equally clearly multiple crown CA and not multiple script CA. The colours are noticeably different from the norm and definitely not due to exposure to the sun. Is this a known variant?

Michael Oliver provides the following supplementary information: The last printing of Die I on MCA paper was in April 1915. The next was in June 1923 (with specimens) from Plate 10 (Die II) on Mult. Script CA paper – 101 sheets to Dominica and 105 sheets to Montserrat.

There were two more printings: July 1924 – 105 sheets to St. Kitts – Plate 11; April 1928 – 103 sheets to Antigua – Plate 16.

(Editor's note: A scan of this stamp will appear on the web site in due course, under 'Questions')

## MONTSERRAT

### DODGY POSTMARK

BY DICKON POLLARD

I've had this (see illustration below) KG VI 5/- hanging around for a while on the grounds that I didn't like the postmark. Having had another look this morning, I can see why. I think what alerted me initially is the spacing between the outer circle and the letters (seemed a trifle large). I don't recall a single-circle cancel this size, either (nothing this size in Proud). I sent this image to Charles Freeland, who thinks I'm right. Any opinions from other members would be welcome.

## ST. CHRISTOPHER

### 1885 HALFPENNY ON HALF 1d CARMINE-ROSE FLAW

BY ROGER WEST

I have a tiny snippet that might interest your readers, it's a small overprint flaw on the St. Christopher 1885 halfpenny on half 1d carmine-rose. The flaw appears to be a raised spacer although it doesn't align with the surcharge or the stamp.



100%



200%



## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

### FIRST FLIGHTS

By DAVID WATSON

Some possibly new BWI postal history information: part 1 –

I would be very happy to receive any correspondence on any of these findings, preferably by e-mail ([watson@waitrose.com](mailto:watson@waitrose.com)) – provided it's not too rude! Further musings on other finds at fairs & elsewhere may follow.

The late Ron Wike's excellent *Airmails of Trinidad & Tobago* (publ. BWISC, 1999) leaves few questions to be answered, for example:

### 1930: WAS THERE DESPATCH OF MAIL ON FAM7 & THEN FAM5 FROM BAHAMAS VIA MIAMI TO TRINIDAD

(p. 34, para. 2 of 'Airmails of Trinidad & Tobago')?

A cover marked 'Nassau–  
Trinidad' & Nassau to Miami  
(noted in the 'American Airmail  
Catalog' Vol. 3, 6<sup>th</sup> Edn, p.107).

From datestamps on the front and  
back of the cover, routing was:

Nassau [2 Jan 30] –  
Florida [? Jan 30] –  
San Juan P.R. [4 Jan 30] –  
Trinidad [6 Jan 30].



**1935: FULL TEXT OF CACHET ON THE 1ST AIRMAIL FROM GUADELOUPE TO TRINIDAD**

The cover illustrating this on page 65 of Airmails of Trinidad & Tobago has an incomplete cachet – penultimate line a bit blurred, last line missing.

One with complete text is shown in below. Hence the last two lines are: 'Antilles-Sud ET DEPENDANCES'.

Datestamps on this cover's front and back confirm the two-leg routing:

Pointe-a-Pitre, Guadeloupe [26 Apr 35] –  
Trinidad [29 Apr 35] –  
Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana [1 May 35].

**1940: WAS MAIL CARRIED ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> BWIA FLIGHT FROM TOBAGO TO TRINIDAD**

(Airmails of Trinidad & Tobago, pages 77 & 193)?

The cover below provides evidence that mail was carried.

The trade chop on the cover's reverse seems authentic.

But it's probably not a first day cover!





## TRINIDAD

APPEAL FOR IMAGES

PETER FORD

### SHIP LETTERS

I am looking for replacements for the several illustrations of Trinidad Ship Letters. If any member owns any of these, or indeed knows of anybody who owns these, could they please contact me. The improved illustrations will hopefully be in our new publication detailing the Philatelic History of Trinidad.

### MARRIOTT SALE

In 2001 Spink, the auctioneers, very generously provided us with all the images from the Marriott sale catalogue. I will be using these to illustrate our forthcoming work on Trinidad. Unfortunately some of these images were of complete pages of the catalogue and the individual items, usually covers, were visible only in part. If anyone has any of these items illustrated on these pages, particularly the early covers pre-1860, could they please contact me. The pages of the catalogue involved are Pages 21, 22, 25, 54, 61, 66, 81, 83, 87, 91, 93, 99, 109, 111, 131, 142, 144, 151, 152 and 155. I must stress that not all of these images will be used in the book, but those that are may be acknowledged, should the owner be agreeable. It is only with the co-operation of members will this book be a successful endeavour.

### LADY MCLEOD

I am looking for replacements of illustrations of Lady McLeod covers. The ones in question are illustrated on our web site. If any member owns any of these, or indeed knows of anybody who owns these, could they please contact me ([peterf@bwisc.org](mailto:peterf@bwisc.org)). I am also looking for illustrations of the stamps themselves, mint or used. The improved illustrations will hopefully appear in our new publication detailing the Philatelic History of Trinidad. Owners may either be acknowledged or remain anonymous.

## TRINIDAD

### WORLD WAR ONE CENSORSHIP

BY DAVID DRUETT

As far as I am aware nothing has been written on the subject of postal censorship during World War One. I believe this is because examples are so seldom seen. Having just acquired my second cover I felt an article was now due.

My first example is on a cover to Amsterdam, posted on 22 Sep 1915 and has a distinctive boxed 'OPENED BY CENSOR' h/s 63 x 13mm in blue. It is possible that the mark was applied in the U.K. but I am hopeful that it was applied in Trinidad.

The second example I have, ex Marriott, is on a 13 Dec 1918 cover to U.S.A. This has an oval 'PASSED CENSOR TRINIDAD' cachet with a coat of arms, also struck in blue. On the reverse is a 'POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALLY SEALED TRINIDAD' label, as applied to all mail which was found open in the post.

Both examples were sent by J.N. Harriman & Co which may or may not be significant. I am at a loss to explain why the second was censored as it is addressed to the U.S.A. and posted after the armistice. Certainly I have seen many items of mail posted to the U.S.A. during the war which were not censored.

Has anyone else got any examples of WWI censored covers which might shed more light on the subject?



1915 Cover



1918 Cover

Illustrations at 50%

### ON H.M.S. ESSAY (RESPONSE TO QUESTION 212/05)

BY EDWARD BARROW

In the last bulletin Michael Nethersole raised questions about the status of the 'On HMS' Trinidad essays and the cancels applied to them – (Question 212/05). While I cannot provide any definitive reference, I too have come across one of these with the same cancel and the same date. I thought a picture of the item might be useful for members not familiar with the subject. Also, it should be noted that examples of these were featured in Marriott sale – (Spink, 19 September 2001, lots 612–3).



**MONOGRAMS APPLIED TO TRINIDAD STAMPS QUESTION 213/01****BY EDWARD BARROW**

While collecting Trinidad village cancels, I have come across a few stamps with what looks like monograms applied to them (see picture). The first is an 1883 QV 1d (SG 107). I am not familiar with the florid text used on these monograms, but as far as I can make out the leading candidates are SB, SM and SW. On top of the monogram an unreadable Marriott type 9 numeral cancel was applied.



The second monogram was applied to a series of 1d postage dues (SG D10, 1905). These came from a fairly large accumulation of low value postage dues with a wide degree of cancels and dates. The style of this text bears a strong resemblance to that of the former and I think reads RO.

As far as I know postal authorities were rather prickly about private individuals defacing stamps and in this regard these attempts seem deliberate. Has anyone else turned up examples like these, either on stamp or cover? Can anyone shed any light on whether these might be postal markings? In the case of Trinidad, the only slightly similar precedent I can think of is the use of the oval "Post Office San Fernando" seal. I would also be grateful if anyone with knowledge of reading monograms could confirm what the letters read and if there is a protocol as to which letter comes first.

**BERMUDA 1938–51 High Values**

(All BK cw numbers)

1938 1 <sup>st</sup> print 2/- to £1 (6) mm	£325	2/- cw17 mm	£80
2/- cw17 right margin mm	£90	2/- cw11a plate blk 6, scroll variety	£150
2/6 cw12, 12a range of 4 mm	£95	2/6 cw12 HPF10a/11 two mm	£50
2/6 cw12 frame flaw 'E' mm	£80	2/6 cw22a lower left blk 8	£45
5/- cw13 mm FF39 mm	£40	5/- cw13a mm	£50
5/- cw18 mm HPF24a	£70	5/- cw18 mm	£60
5/- cw A19 plate plug mm	£285	5/- cw23 two top margin blks 4	£75
5/- cw23b plate blk 4	£48	5/- cw23a top right pair & single mm	£40
10/- cw14 mm	£95	10/- cw20 mm	£90
10/- cw24 blk four mm	£80	10/- cw24a blk 4 lower margin mm	£80
10/- cw24a plate blk 4 mm	£100	12/6 cw15aa top right mm	£85
12/6 cw 25, 25a range of 6	£225	£1 cw16 mm	£80

Ref. Bermuda Green Book (£45)

**12/6 Prague – a fine cover with BPA certificate cw 15bb £3250**

Subject Unsold, Plus Postage or Carriage  
**Please visit us at table 62 at the York fair on 20/21 July**



A.L.

**ALLAN LEVERTON**

Private Box 155 @ 89/91 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5HS  
 Tel 0208 998 9363



A.L.



# MURRAY

## Leeward Islands



<p>SG 21 1902 1d, R8/5 shaved top to 'S' 1904 St Johns CDS. VFU £20</p> <p>SG 36 1909 1/4d brown. Top marginal block of 12 with Plate no.1, cancelled Nevis duplexes of Ja 1912, slightly reinforced. VFU £20</p> <p>SG 45 1910 5/- green and red on yellow paper, part Road Town 1911 CDS. VFU £40</p> <p>SG 45 5/- green and red on yellow paper, on piece with Portsmouth CDS of 13.11.13. VFU £50</p> <p>SG 54 1913 1/- black on green paper (white back) VFU £23</p> <p>SG 58-78 1921 1/4d to 5/- (16) less first 1d, 2 1/2d, 3d and 4d colours. Each (except 1/-) on separate piece with full Dominica CDS, differing dates. VFU £150</p> <p>SG 68a 1925 3d deep ultramarine. VFU £30</p> <p>SG 70 1924 4d block of 4 on piece, Barbuda CDSs of Ja 8 22. VFU £60</p>	<p>SG 74 1922-26 2/- purple and blue on blue paper, top marginal with Plate no.11. On piece with Dominica CDS of Mr 23 29. VFU £32</p> <p>SG 78 1923 5/- green and red on pale yellow paper, R1/2 RP damage to value tablet and first 'L'. VFU £50</p> <p>SG 79 1928-38 10/- green and red on green paper, tied to small piece by 1938 St Kitts CDS. VFU £75</p> <p>SG 81 1931-2 1/4d Die 1. Top right corner block of 4 from RP, with Plate no. 23 and sheet number. VFU £55</p> <p>SG 81 1931-2 1/4d Die 1 pair on piece, St Kitts CDS 2 Ju 34. VFU £24</p> <p>SG 87 1931-2 1/- Die 1. VFU £48</p> <p>SG 114b 1944 (June) £1, part Salem CDS. VFU £24</p>
--	---

Postage extra. Contact us for details of availability

P. O. Box 1135, Axbridge, Somerset, England, BS26 2EW

Tel: (+44) 01934 732511 Fax: (+44) 01934

Email: [info@murraypayne.com](mailto:info@murraypayne.com)

[www.murraypayne.com](http://www.murraypayne.com)



## INSURE Your Collection

It costs less than you think !  
ALL RISKS – NO EXCESS

### Stamps & Postcards:

£ 5,000 cover for £21 pa\*  
£10,000 cover for £37 pa\*

### All other Collectables:

£ 4,000 cover for £25 pa\*  
£10,000 cover for £55 pa\*

\*plus government Insurance Premium Tax,  
Includes Exhibition & Accompanied cover in Western Europe

**CIRCULATING PACKETS: CUPS & TROPHIES:**  
**AUCTIONS: EXHIBITIONS etc.**

**SPECIAL SCHEME for SOCIETIES**  
(Includes Public & Employers Liability)

**PUBLIC LIABILITY for COLLECTOR SOCIETIES**  
Premiums from £20. pa for £5,000,000 cover

**DEALERS COMBINED POLICY**

Please write or telephone or fax for a quotation and a Prospectus/Proposal form.

## STAMP INSURANCE SERVICES

C G I Services Limited (dept 33)  
**29 Bowhay Lane EXETER EX4 1 PE**  
tel: 01392 433 949 fax: 01392 427 632  
*Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Services Authority*

## BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

RECENT MONOGRAPHS  
(All prices include surface postage)

Leeward Islands: A Postal History Anthology  
(Pub-1997) 74p. £10

Ludington.  
Postal History of Blockade Running Through Bermuda,  
1861 –1865 (Pub 1996) 51p £12

Forand & Freeland  
Bermuda Mails to 1865 (Pub-1995) 124p. £13.50

Devaux  
Early Air Mails of Saint Lucia (Pub-1993)  
26p. £4.50

**For details, please contact:**  
David Wilson, PO Box 1135, Great Falls,  
VA 22066, USA  
(wilsondajx@aol.com)

**MINUTES OF THE 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC  
HELD AT 2:15 PM SATURDAY 28 April 2007**

**1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS**

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford, who extended a welcome to the 27 members present and asked them to all introduce themselves.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Victor Toeg, Peter Boulton, Michael Medicott, and Phillip MacMurdie.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 6 May 2006, as published in Bulletin No. 205, June 2006, pages 5 to 9, were accepted having been proposed by D Nathan, seconded by B Hill.

**4. REPORT BY THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY (PETER BOULTON)**

Our main event for the current year is our biennial Convention to be held on 21 & 22 September. This will be held at the Corus Hotel, Honiley, Warwick as before. Further details and the booking form will be published in the June Bulletin.

The total membership now stands at a total of 346 compared with 342 for last year. 232 are UK members and 114 are overseas members. This shows a net increase of 4 compared with last year. Two members died during the year, seven members resigned and 7 members were removed due to failure to pay their subscriptions, even after reminder letters. However, we have now gained 17 new members, and 3 members have rejoined which more than replaces the losses. The membership database is working satisfactorily and is continuously being updated. Changes of addresses etc. and new members are recorded in each issue of the Bulletin. A total of about 50 amendments have been received during the year, following the publication of individual member's details on the back of the Bulletin address label. Members are urged to let me know about any change of address as soon as possible, otherwise they may miss an issue of the Bulletin.

Proposed: A Wilkinson, Seconded: A Soutar, Accepted by the meeting.

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

My thanks to the continued efforts of Members to provide articles; I have managed to continue producing 40–page Bulletins. However, articles to hand are now a bit thin and I would encourage prospective authors to put pen to paper.

My thanks, again, to Charles Freeland for his excellent mentoring and proof–reading work.

Production has been successfully transferred fully to Sarsen Press, improving quality, whilst reducing effort and costs. My apologies to a few members charged postage due on the Bulletin due to stamps becoming unstuck from the plastic envelope within the Post Office system. This problem seems to have been resolved by applying the stamps to a paper label.

The website also encountered some difficulties, with some unacceptable outages from our internet service provider. We successfully transferred to a new ISP in February and so far the service has been very good. The content continues to grow; Peter Fernbank has scanned another 46 Bulletins, so we are now up to 1993, issue no. 156. A new feature is the 'gallery', where images from various collections can be browsed, if anyone wants to send me interesting extracts from their collections, I will be pleased to add them (either attributed or under a pseudonym). Members have posted a large number of wants and questions, but response has been patchy, based on the updates applied. Please make an effort to view and respond.

Finally, can I draw your attention to the 'Dealers' page, where Charles Freeland supplements his 'Auction Update' column with up-to-date news of forthcoming auctions and, on occasion, I add other lists of items for sale by dealers.

Proposed: K May, Seconded: D Nottingham, Accepted by the meeting.

## BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

## INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006

	£'s	2005	£'s	2005
<b>INCOME :</b>				
Subscriptions		3,659		3,424
Publications – Sales less commissions		2,807		2,223
Auction and other donations		1,370		1,384
Interest received		4		–
Leamington convention – net surplus				53
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>7,840</b>		<b>7,084</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE :</b>				
Bulletin Costs less advertising	783		1,588	
Bulletin printer repairs	–		–	
Distribution and editorial expenses	<u>1,539</u>	2,322	<u>1,519</u>	3,107
Publications: Printing costs	1,927		8,481	
Publications Distribution	90		362	
Printer depreciation	<u>470</u>	2,487	<u>470</u>	9,313
Library – Books and expenses	–		–	
50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend – net cost after recoveries	–		–	
ABPS affiliation fee	137		137	
Officers administration – Stationery, postage, telephone etc	75		94	
Bank charges	6		84	
Website	<u>68</u>		<u>58</u>	
		<b>5,095</b>		<b>12,793</b>
<b>DEFICIT EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>	£'s	<b>2,745</b>	£'s	<b>(5,709)</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2005

## ACCUMULATED FUND


Balance at 1st January 2005	174	5,873
Add: Deficit for the year	2,745	(5,709)
Dollar conversion reserve	(200)	10
	<u>£'s 2,719</u>	<u>£'s 174</u>

## REPRESENTED BY:

Printer (net of depreciation)	470	940
Cash at banks	6,377	3,154
Debtors – amounts due to us	<u>1,924</u>	<u>2,317</u>
	8,771	6,411
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,884)	(2,570)
Loan	<u>(3,000)</u>	<u>(3,500)</u>
Other creditors – Amounts due by us	<u>(168)</u>	<u>(167)</u>
	<u>£'s 2,719</u>	<u>£'s 174</u>

## AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31 December 2006 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31 December 2006 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date.

  
J G M Davis FCA (Not in practice)

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

I have pleasure in reporting that the Study Circle has generated a surplus of income over expenditure in 2006 of £2,745 which mitigates somewhat the deficit incurred in the previous year.

Income from subscriptions continues to improve as the increase in rates three years ago comes through and will also benefit in the future from the increase in the dollar subscription rate to cover the downward slide of the dollar against the pound. This income more than continues to fully cover, along with advertising receipts, the cost of producing and distributing the Bulletin, the cost of which has fallen in 2006 compared to 2005.

Income from the Study Circle auction continues to be an excellent source of funds and in addition in 2006 we received a one-off donation from the Belize Collectors Society which disbanded and its surplus funds distributed. When converted this amounted to £515.

Income from publications this year amounted to £2,807 which exceeded the amount spent during the year which means that we can continue with our accounting policy of writing off expenditure in the year incurred.

With regard to expenses, we have again saved on meeting room expenses due to the generosity of Grosvenor Auctions in 2006 which is being continued by Harmers in 2007 with our grateful thanks.

Now that we have once again established some surplus funds, we have set up a deposit account with Scottish Widows which although it did not produce much interest in 2006 will do so more in 2007.

I would like to thank John Davis again for being our auditor and for the advice and help he has given.

Ray clarified that the loan was from the former Roses Society and was being used for publication of the Steamship books and that our policy was to only hold financial reserves sufficient to support operations.

Proposed: C Freeland, Seconded: D Nathan, Accepted by the meeting.

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

There has been a loan of 9 books to 5 members during the year. This compares with a loan of 13 books to 7 members during the year ended April 2006. This is the third year in succession that loans of books to members have decreased. The availability of information on the internet is the probable reason for the decline. Such information is no substitute for a good bed time read.

However, requests for information from the Library continues to rise. One member could not wait for John Davis to publish his book on The British West Indies War Tax Issues and was provided with all the information in the Library relating to Turks and Caicos War Tax stamps. Another member was provided with all the information in the Library relating to Trinidad and Grenada Red Cross labels and the Barbados Belgium Relief Fund labels. Telephone information was given to another member relating to the Swarbrick Collection sold at Auction several years ago. Yet another member sent me a photocopy of a very interesting St. Christopher cover and I gave him the information in the Library relating to this cover. The above are examples of information provided.

Three members were provided with a copy of the Library List. This compares with provision to one member in the previous year.

In last year's report I mentioned that no member was providing information for insertion in the scrap books. As a result of this I sent a copy of the Bahamas Scrap Book to one member but he did not add to the information which we already had in the Library.

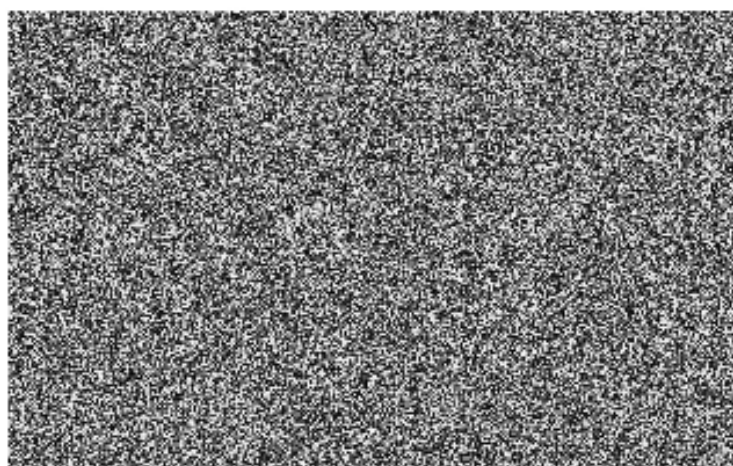
Our member David King donated a book "The St. Kitts Railway" to the Library during the year. Various B.W.I.S.C. publications have also been added to the Library. B.W.I.S.C. is now affiliated to the American Philatelic Society and the Library now receives the American Philatelic Society's monthly bulletin.

Last year I reported that Mr. H. G. Knibb of Great Missenden Buckinghamshire had donated 212 colour slides and 3 photocopy albums relating to the former B.B.I. collection of the stamps and postal history of Barbados. No fewer than three members requested further information about the



BRITISH EMPIRE  
STAMPS & COVERS  
25TH JULY 2007  
LONDON

FEATURING THE DAVID M. COHEN COLLECTIONS  
OF WAR STAMPS



For more information contact David Parsons  
Tel: +44 (0)20 7563 4072 Fax: +44 (0)20 7563 4006 email: [dparsons@spink.com](mailto:dparsons@spink.com)

THE TRADITION THE EXPERIENCE THE RESULTS

66 Southampton Row, Manchester, London WC1R 4ET  
[www.spink.com](http://www.spink.com)

B.B.I. collection. They were particularly interested in the name of the original owner of the B.B.I. collection. I put it to Mr. H.G. Knibb that the original owner was Basil Benwell but Mr. Knibb denied this and stated that he had sent the copy of the collection as agent for a commercial company which wished to remain anonymous.

Finally as a result of corresponding with one member I met with him in Bermuda and we spent a pleasant day together visiting a dealer in Bermuda. Alas the dealer had no "Postmaster" stamps for sale.

Proposed: A Soutar, Seconded: G Williams, Accepted by the meeting.

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

In 2006 the BWISC published only one booklet, that of the latest in our series of Classic Collections. This described the Large Gold Medal winning collection of member Richard Maisel. It was particularly pertinent as he decided near the end of the year to sell his collection through the auction house of Shreves who subsequently bought some 100 copies of the booklet to distribute prior to the auction. Because of the fact that we published almost at the end of the year, there were no other sales of this booklet to report.

This booklet is the first that we have had printed commercially for some time. It has now become apparent that it is more economical to have our books printed this way, rather than print them ourselves due to the lower printing cost nowadays, compared to the much higher cost of laser printer toner cartridges. The printing has been done by Sarsen Press, the people who print our Bulletin, and I am sure that all members agree that the quality is second to none. I intend that pretty well all future publications will be printed this way.

Sales this year were good with, of our recent publications, the Bermuda Censorship booklet selling 46 copies, Mike Rego's Steamship Lines Volume 1 selling 23 and the British Guiana Postcards book 11. Altogether, including the Shreves sale, we sold some 235 books bringing in approximately £2,600 before commission. Much of the credit for this has to go to David Druett of Pennymead Auctions, our distributor, who is constantly egging me on to put flyers into the Bulletin and the BCPSG Journal, as well as finding new ways to publicise our books.

Future publications include Volume 2 of the Steamships book, which I was hoping to have ready by this time but which is slightly delayed by a month or so. Volume 3 is nearly complete and, funds permitting, should be out before the end of the year. The Trinidad book is still ongoing and I am hoping to have another of our Classic Collections booklets, this time on Peter McCann's Turks Islands, out by Christmas. The next volume of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia is, I am informed, nearing completion and we are also working on John Davis's War Tax book. I would like to publish another Study Paper soon and urge all members to think about putting pen to paper and producing one. The success of the late Stewart Jessop's Bermuda Censorship is testament to their popularity.

I am sure that we will continue to publish as many books as we can, as, not only does it bring in much needed funds, but also brings publicity to the Study Circle in the best way possible.

Proposed: J Riggall, Seconded: N Chandler, Accepted by the meeting.

### **9. Report by the Hon. Public Relations Officer (Philip MacMurdie)**

This year has been a most frustrating year as far as publicity for the society is concerned. Updates have been sent to the philatelic press relating to meetings, the auction and other events over the last two years but have met with little publication success. These have typically been sent on a quarterly basis it is therefore my opinion that the press have their "preferred societies which they stick to. That said the society continues to go from strength to strength, with a quality bulletin and auction which we should be rightly proud.

Unfortunately my working commitments which include regular overseas travel have prompted me to tender my resignation from the post of Public Relations Officer, as I feel that the society would benefit from someone with more time to commit or someone with closer links to the philatelic press. That said I would like to express my thanks to Simon Goldblatt and Charles Freeland in particular for their ever constructive help over the last three years and I look forward to continuing my membership for many years to come.

Proposed: JN Chandler, Seconded: A Wilkinson, Accepted by the meeting.

# Philatelic Auctions...

The Grosvenor team offers a friendly and flexible approach for both buyers and sellers. Andrew Claridge, James Grist, Nick Mansell, David Boyd, Stuart Bilington, Glyn Page and Tristan Britain provide the wealth of experience that you require to bring the very best results.

Our high-quality catalogues and extensive international mailing are backed by full exposure of lots on the Internet and worldwide advertising. Prompt payment after auction is guaranteed.

Stamps of the West Indies are featured regularly.

Please contact us to find out more about our exceptionally competitive terms which contain no hidden "extra charges".



**GROSVENOR**  
AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS

399-401 Strand Third Floor London WC2R 0LT

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7379 8789 Fax: +44 (0)20 7379 9737

Email: [info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk](mailto:info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk) Website: [www.grosvenorauctions.com](http://www.grosvenorauctions.com)

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

I have been looking at past reports I have presented to the membership and find that I am running out of things to say. Every year it seems that the Study Circle does better than the previous year. Last year we held our AGM and auction at Grosvenor auction rooms and as usual the auction proved to be very successful and contributed much-needed funds to our accounts. Again our thanks must go to Simon Goldblatt and his helpers for all the work they put into it.

The Bulletin seems to go from strength to strength; all credit for this has to go to our editor, Steve Jarvis. However, I must not forget to thank the contributors, particularly Charles Freeland for his quarterly auction reports. This year sees the new format of presenting the Gilbert Collett Award, where the each member of the Committee selects 3 articles from the previous 2 year's issues in order of merit and these are combined using a simple points system to decide on the recipient. This year the winner of the award of a £40 voucher to be spent at the Study Circle auction is Ian Jakes for the Caymans Scandal.... Congratulations!

We held a meeting in November at PHILATEX where we were treated to 2 displays. The first was by Alan Rigby who showed St. Kitts-Nevis issues of the King George VI period. The second was by a non-member Derek Seaton who showed GB Used In Jamaica. Both displays were fully reported in the Bulletin, so I won't say much about them, except that they were very well received, so much so that we have booked a similar venue for next year, 2008.

I would, as usual, like to thank the Committee for their unstinting support throughout the year. Without them my job would be that much harder. Of our Committee members', Phil McMurdie has indicated his wish to resign from being Publicity Officer, citing business commitments. Also, Peter Boulton has said that he feels he has been Secretary for long enough and would like to retire next year. We thank both these officers for their contribution to the Circle and I would ask all members to think of volunteering for these jobs. Without the support of the membership filling these positions, the Study Circle surely could not function.

Accepted by the meeting

**11. RE-ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE**

Peter Ford was re-elected unanimously.

**12. RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

With the exception of the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Public Relations Officer, The President, Vice-Presidents, Hon. Officers and Messrs. N Chandler, P Fernbank and M Hamilton have all agreed to continue as members of the Committee. There were no further nominations, consequently, all are automatically re-elected. Appointments for the vacant posts will be identified subsequently.

**13. ELECTION OF THE HON. AUDITOR**

John Davies has agreed to continue with this role.

**14. OTHER BUSINESS**

From the floor there was an expression of thanks by the Membership to the Committee.

**BWISC AUCTION REPORT**

A sale total of close to £14,500 was up to the annual standard that we set ourselves. An unsold tally of almost half the lots on offer, was not. This leads to introspection and the remission in a number of cases of the 10p charge that we raise for each lot that does not sell: a modest sum, but it does help to pay for postage and telephone.

Statistically, our sales were some 70 lots short of par. Too many lots, perhaps? Well, the number was much the same as last year. A drop in quality? Third party comment suggests otherwise. Weakness of the US dollar against sterling? A distinct possibility, though the rate was not much kinder 12 months before. Market saturation? True, possibly, in respect of Anguilla, or of Cayman Islands or KGV high values from Bermuda; yet surely some territories have less support than they deserve – for do we have enough collectors of Bahamas? Virgin Islands? Antigua? Even Grenada? And there was slack to be taken up this year in British Guiana and Leeward Islands. Add to all this the decision to use a venue on the fringe of London. We were warmly received by

Harmer's and are grateful for their hospitality. Nevertheless, numbers attending were down by four or five.

All these factors make a difference. In the end one has to recognize that some lots will always sell themselves and others will struggle. We could have sold Jamaica's lot 441 (Railway Postmarks E £85, sold for £200) ten times over. Lot 455, that delicious Pedro cover (E £110, sold £260) was almost as popular. Montserrat, too, left your auction team with very red faces, when the p/s card (lot 516) opened at £140, against the estimate of £20. Nobody in the Room believed that figure – there had to be some mistake. Well, there was – in the estimate! As the six bids on the book showed all too clearly.

Individual secrets of the auction book are never disclosed, so that someone in the Room never knows that one more bid will take it – unless, that is, a tie is announced between two or more book bidders. Collective statistics can be revealed, however, and the state of things this year is worthy of comment. Hardly more than a third of the lots had been bid on when the auction began, and this led to a series of bare patches, in which as many as a dozen lots were left unsold. Once there was competition for some item, it could be fierce, but overall there was plenty to spare. Book bidders spent close to £10,000. Unused capacity on the book was more than half as much again; and fewer than 30 lots were sold at the maximum book bid, including several ties between book contenders and the odd prop-up bid at three-quarters of estimate.

One interesting contrast with earlier years was that momentum really picked up in the later stages. Nevis, and St. Kitts-Nevis were in the doldrums (but St. Christopher was not) so that two-thirds were left without a buyer in this entire group, and then the tempo changed. St. Lucia, for once, sold well. St. Vincent always does. Then came the purple patch: between lots 634 and 668 only three lots were passed – indeed, from Tobago's block of 15, SG 15 (E £20, sold £50) 20 lots in succession were knocked down to purchasers. That is the sort of run to which only Barbados and St. Vincent may have aspired in the past. If this is the start of a surge of enthusiasm for Tobago, and for Trinidad, we welcome it. Each territory has strong appeal – Tobago, for its equal measure of challenge and restraint, Trinidad for its classic traditions, its alluring range of postmarks, and its genuine scope for further research.

Members who have been with us for any length of time know how much store the auction team sets on getting estimates just about right in total. Doing a running total, the first count showed that at lot 574, estimates and realisations were separated by just 25p! The two tallies were pulled apart by the sales up to the end of Trinidad, so that realisations in the end were 2% more than our total estimates. The three major lots already featured (441, 455, 516) effectively accounted for the entire differential.

For those who wonder what effect reserves had on the sale, there is another interesting statistic. Of all the items on offer, only 10 carried reserves; and in only two cases did these affect the hammer price. So the out-turn was pleasing: only a few lots took off – and we prefer it that way, whatever the seller may think; and for yet another year we feel that the balance between buyer and seller has been fairly held.

This balance is not always easy. Take the Amyand covers, E £950, sold at £850. In another forum these might have fetched significantly more, and perhaps the same may have happened on a different day within our own Circle; but the estimate was fair, the price was decent, and both seller and buyer should be content.

We were pleased to see Dominica faring better than for the past few years. 14 out of the 20 lots sold, with the Jaffé archive material, and the YARE handstamp nicely supported. Then, as always, St. Vincent produced a trump or two. Lot 601 was misdescribed and was withdrawn, which must have disappointed a few members. Lot 604 told a different story: this surcharge block fetched nearly full catalogue at £80; and of course there had to be a postmark or two to make its impact. Lot 594 (E £160) bore out our confidence, and went for £170 on a tie-break. Lot 608, the early black LAYOU attracted six book bids, and a buying price of £105 (E £36), and the Pax et Justitia lot ex Jaffé (lot 618) fared well at £75 against E £30.

So in the end a sale total of £14,471 at the latest count leaves us satisfied. The usual list of unsolds is circulated to the more active of our members, and this year several groups of lots are offered at significantly below their individual automatic reserves. Maybe there are end-of-bin bargains to be had. That is for the membership to judge. (Realisations enclosed.)

**Quality  
British Commonwealth  
POSTAL HISTORY**

Catering to the discriminating collector  
**Specialising in pre-1953, non-FDC material**  
**We stock all Commonwealth areas except B.N.A.**  
If you are not already on our Wants Register, please  
drop us a line and let us know your requirements.  
We shall be pleased to send photocopies of available material.

**ALWAYS KEEN BUYERS OF CHOICE POSTAL HISTORY**

**Willard S. Allman**

828 Arrow Lane, Ridgewood

NJ 07450, U.S.A.

Tel: 0101-201-848-8823

Fax: 0101-201-847-8481



**Local Commercial Mail**

Available from many of the Caribbean Islands including:  
Anguilla, Belize, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana,  
Jamaica, Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Vincent, Trinidad

Includes inter island, governmental stampless, registered, meters,

Earlier material available as well.

**Also available are the Michel listed St. Vincent provisionals  
From 1999 to 2004.**

**Steven Zirinsky, APS, PTS, NZSDA**

PO Box 49 Ansonia Station, NY, NY 10023 USA

fax 718 706 0619 email: szirinsky@cs.com

Cheques accepted in any currency

**AUCTION UPDATE****BY CHARLES FREELAND**

This was a busy quarter with three of our past or present members selling important collections (all prices plus 15% unless mentioned).

**SHREVES 24 FEBRUARY**

The **Richard Maisel Cayman Islands** is already a legend as the first from that country to secure large gold medals....not mere gold as the catalogue said (it is unusual for Charles Shreve to undersell his material!). However, Richard may not have minded when he received his cheque as the hammer price smashed all the Cayman records, totalling \$1.1million (though I believe some lots were bought in). I had not realised until I received the catalogue how many of the gems were ex South African Howard Green, though Richard had added many significant pieces. The prices for his unique range of 1908 provisionals contributed much of the total, the inverted 1d on 5/- in a block the highlight at \$130,000 and the companion block with one stamp overprint double \$40,000. At the more mundane level there were some amazing prices for the Edward keyplate flaws, the 'Glovers' often fetching well above Gibbons values and the unremarkable 'slotted frame' flaws discovered by Colin Fraser creating a feeding frenzy...but on the other hand many of the proofs, the village cancels and most of the Jamaica used in Cayman looked reasonably priced to me. Exceptions were the Jamaica 1d bisect on a 2½d franking at \$35,000, the lovely Z3 cover at \$19,000 and the deluxe copy of Z5 at \$7,500. The mint and used 'Cayman Islands' overprints fetched \$13,000 and someone paid \$14,000 for the 'block' of the 2½d on 4d provisional (did the buyer realise it is two vertical pairs rejoined?). Richard had little interest in watermark varieties but he may have regretted that when he saw that \$800 was paid for SG 74 reversed (SG value £300). The prices for covers were mostly in the ballpark though the three rare manuscript provisionals at \$30,500 did well.

Although I was not present at the sale, I understand there was a strong presence in the room and on the phones. A familiar face to us in Europe was apparently a strong room buyer and other UK members spent profitable time on the phone, so I expect we will see a few of the spoils in Leamington!

**SPINK 7 MARCH**

**Peter Jaffé's St. Lucia** collection was not of the depth or quality of his outstanding St. Vincent, but it merited more respect than it obtained. Only three Study Circle collector members (Alister Kinnon, Michael Medlicott and yours truly) saw fit to attend, although a few others were present virtually. The sale total of £160,000 plus could easily have been 20-30% higher with broader interest and Brian Cartwright for Gibbons and a couple of other dealers filled their boots (Gibbons list is now out with an average 200% mark-up). Other major buyers were Lord Steinberg snaffling up the large blocks, and a bidder for the best proof material represented by John Michael. John Taylor as usual was a strong competitor for the lots he fancied and that was about it.

The 5% import VAT would have dampened the enthusiasm of EU buyers and as prices again reflected the extensive duplication and the fact that Peter refrained from any 'weeding'. The collection again contained several examples of highly priced blocks as well as multiple offerings of the more commonly franked covers. The highest estimated lot, the plating study, failed to sell at a reserve of £10,000...there was an opportunity missed as Peter had added to Homan's initial effort. The spectacular block of 16 olive-yellow 4ds pictured on the front cover fetched the highest price, £8,500, but this barely exceeds the Gibbons price for singles. The other large blocks were unremarkable and more interesting results were the two Perkins Bacon die proofs at £2,800 and £4,200 respectively, the unique French mail cover cancelled on board by an anchor of dots at £3,000 and towards the end, after one of the few serious bidding contests, the 1891 hand-painted essays for the keyplate 5/- and 10/-. Having crept slowly up to £4,800 for the first of these, the underbidder successfully called £4,500 on the second - he will never know what the price would have been if the bidding had proceeded in stages! Otherwise there was surprisingly modest demand for the outstanding range of French packet mail. Only a few months ago I wrote that the St Lucie paquebot mark must be rarer than we think, yet one of our members secured two covers bearing red and black examples for under £600. But the lovely unfranked cover ex Schatzkes fetched a less modest £1,100 and a 1s 2d rated cover £1,500. Other cover prices were variable, some going high but a few interesting covers went for the proverbial song, especially when you consider what Peter had paid for them.

So the main Jaffé sales are over and if you haven't added some significant items to your collection, you will live to regret it...last chance saloon will be the unsolds from the past three sales.

### **ARGYLL ETKIN 8 MARCH**

The sale of **Chris Crutwell's St. Lucia** was a docile affair. Its content was almost entirely the Golden Sale offer by Ted Proud some five years ago, and the basis for his handbook so contained some useful markings, but as with all the Proud collections the quality was very mixed. I thought the cancellations sold well considering their limited scope but the strongest prices were for the boxed Too Late hand-stamp at £420 (all prices plus 15%), the Unclaimed at £220 and the 1896 soldiers letter at £550.

### **SPINK 12 APRIL**

There were two sections of interest in this sale which was the first under Spink's new buyers premium structure, with 20% on the first £2,000 and 15% above that. On the first day there was a further instalment of **Derek Nathan's Br Guiana**. This was the most substantial offering yet from him, the 300 lots selling for about £165,000 hammer, £30,000 above upper estimates. There was broad-based demand with strong bids from the book and agents. I reckoned that a dozen buyers spent over £5,000 and 25 in all over £1,000. For once there was no dominant player with Taylor spending about £30,000 and a second bidder close to that.

A thin room was bolstered by the presence of members Richard Foden, Simon Greenwood and yours truly. Maybe the ability to bid by phone or internet has reduced the need to travel, but my experience is that physical presence is a distinct advantage if you are after more than a few lots. Unusually, by recent experience, there was strong demand for the early covers and straight line markings, with John Taylor bidding for a client against our members for the choicest items...and we lost. The three GB covers were in demand (the heavily repaired strip of 1ds franked A04 fetched £6,000) and the same buyer bought the four rather average cotton-reels (rumour has it that Derek kept back some of his best...perhaps in anticipation of the next BWISC Golden Sale). The 1862 type sets were as ever popular and so were the 1898 Diamond Jubilees, the 2c on 15c double overprint cover at £3,600 and the stamp without stop at £5,800. All the essays and proofs went well, the same buyer hoovering up the fourteen 1931 coloured die proofs, despite being pushed hard by Simon on the \$1s. Two of the four 1914-5 design competition entries were bought for £1,300 by one of our members, who also had a free run on the postal stationery (all unsolds from Phoebe's auction). Several BWISC members feasted on the village cancellations, although John Taylor bought the two choicest ones, the W3C cover to Barbados at £1,800 and the Type 1 E1C at £600.

Although there were no five figure realisations, the cover to Otago fetched £7,000 and there were several similar results among the classic covers, while prices were good for the strong range of accountancy marks. Several rather bland covers previously unsold at Grosvenor went for good prices to the same buyer, demonstrating the benefit of critical mass...shouldn't Derek have offered it all in one big name sale?

The second section consisted of a strong showing of Jamaica – so over to Steve.

### **SPINK JAMAICA 13 APRIL (BY STEVE JARVIS)**

The Nathan sale was followed by a tasty desert including an unusual Jamaican collection.

The impact lots were no less than three used inverted frames (1s GV Pictorials) offered (all in imperfect condition) plus the unique corner example of the 1921 Slavery 6d without SPECIMEN overprint (of which only 4 examples exist outside the Royal collection). However, more detailed examination was rewarding. The early Postal History contained unrecorded straight line 'OLD HARBOUR' of 1779 and a manuscript Goshen of 1787. Unfortunately these and five others, were withdrawn before the sale, suspected of being stolen from an official archive. This severely depleted the pre-stamp offering.

GB Used in Jamaica was strong with 22 lots including unique and rare items, some of which (according to my records) had not appeared on the open market since Trivett in 1933! Prices realised were strong (up to £650), including, surprisingly, obliterator strikes on loose adhesives.

The GB Used holding caused me to believe that this was an 'old-time' collection that had been built up over half a century or more. This seems to have been confirmed by the viewing undertaken by

Paul Wright, who described it 'Overall this is a collection that has been tucked away somewhere murky for decades'.

Results – The 42 stamp lots generally under-performed estimate with the exception of a strong specialised study of the 2½d on 4d provisional (£1,500) and a War Stamp collection (£1,200) and a couple of nice War Stamp varieties. The inverted frames, catalogued at £22,000, went for £9,000, £5,000 and £5,000 – reflecting their condition. The highlight was the 6d Slavery, described above, which sold on the book for £38,000 (Cat £27,000), surely a record for a Jamaican stamp.

Of the 80 lots only 4 were unsold, the estimate range was £50,590 to £59,780 and total realisation of £84,805.

### **SOTHEBYS 2–3 MAY**

238 unsold lots from the outstanding Baillie collection were re-offered without reserve, but there were enough bottom-fishers to prevent any steals as far as I could judge. Baillie had overpaid for some of his **Bermuda** proofs and sold many of these at a loss but there were also several good results at above the original estimates, for example the imperf set of 1920–1 Tercentenaries at £2,700 and the imperf Coronation specimens at £2400 (both plus 15%).

### **GROSVENOR 17–8 MAY.**

The **David Filer** collection was the third serious **St. Lucia** offering this quarter – would this be a bridge too far perhaps as the colony has been in the doldrums? The answer was no, Grosvenor managing to shift some nice but not outstanding material at good prices. It has been apparent for some time that there are new buyers for fine GB used abroad and here fine strikes on the 1d and 1/- fetched £880 and £1000. The strong range of hand-stamped specimens were well bid, and the used GVI 4c perf variety (SG £9,000) fetched £9,500. The GV 5/- plate 10 block (SG £192) was popular at £260. In **St. Vincent** an amazing £16,000 was paid for the mint GVI 10/- with watermark inverted – rare of course but at least one other mint and several used are known, whereas unrecorded watermark varieties come up quite frequently. The two Polignac covers sold for £1,750 and £1,850, despite the Jaffé overhang. On the first day there were uniformly high prices for the outstanding **Sahgal collection of Jubilees**. The Jamaica booklet with the four panes hand-stamped Specimen fetched the top price at £3,300, but hardly any of the rare multiples or flaws were cheap.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

Spink have announced that the **David Cohen collection of War Stamps**, which 'predominates in West Indies' will be sold on 25 July. John Davies must be happy that one of his main competitors is selling.

### **SPINK LIVE EXPERIENCE BY STEVE JARVIS**

Rather than attend the Spink auction on 13 April in person, I decided to experiment with the 'Spink Live' internet bidding facility. I registered a few weeks ahead of the auction and made sure everything was okay by watching an earlier sale, this was most enjoyable, actually seeing and hearing the auctioneer.

On the day of the sale I logged in an hour early (to get a good seat), this time in 'bid mode', my log in was accepted but when I tried to do anything, I was told that I need to sign-in first. The 'watch mode' worked after my log-in but not the 'bid mode' – I tried switching off my firewall and other security settings to no avail. Having run out of ideas, I decided I had to pull rank and turfed my son off his laptop. 'Bid mode' on the laptop accepted my log-in and worked, however, when I tried to switch on the video & audio stream of the auctioneer, I was presented with the Microsoft 'blue screen of death' – ugh!!!

However, all was not lost, after rebooting I was able to view and hear the auctioneer in 'watch mode' on my desktop PC and use the bidding screen on the laptop. Again, this proved to be a most interesting experience – as well as getting the feel of the auction from the auctioneer, the bidding information provided told me the locations of those bidding on the internet. Unlike telephone bids, bidding activity was fast but I felt in control, thankfully there was no break in the internet service. Before I could report my difficulties, Spink changed their service and now provide a software download – I hope this resolves the problems, I shall certainly try again.

**MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION****PETER BOULTON**

**MEMBERSHIP** – is WORLD WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.

**SUBSCRIPTION** – The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £10.00 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £14 / \$25 for members who reside elsewhere.

**Subscriptions (dues) are payable on 1 January each year and, subject to what is mentioned below, in sterling** – by personal cheque or standing ORDER drawn on a UK Bank, a Banker's Draft, International Money Order, Postal Order or local currency notes – no coins will be accepted – e.g. dollars, euros etc. (but Ray may be persuaded to accept gold sovereigns or pieces of eight!).

Standing Orders (for UK) should be sent to Alliance & Leicester, Sort Code 72–00–04 Account Number 75233905.

Members residing in North America (Canada, USA and the Caribbean) who do not pay their subscription (dues) in sterling should pay by sending to the North American Representative (see address inside front cover) a cheque for USA \$25 made payable to 'BWISC'. Other overseas members who pay their subscription by cheque drawn in a foreign currency or on a foreign bank MUST add the equivalent of £3 sterling partially to cover exchange and bank charges. The overseas rates quoted include an element to cover postage of the Bulletin by Air Mail.

**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 156, 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.

Please view Charles Freeland regular updates to his 'Auction Alert' article.

The proposed publication schedule for the remainder of 2007 is as follows:

Edition	September	December
Distribute	Mon 10 Sept	Mon 10 Dec
From Printer	Fri 31 Aug	Fri 30 Nov
To Printer	Tue 21 Aug	Tue 20 Nov
Final Bulletin Revisions	Fri 17 Aug	Fri 16 Nov
Advert Final copy	Fri 10 Aug	Fri 9 Nov
Article copy deadline	Fri 27 July	Fri 26 Oct
Advert book space	Fri 20 July	Fri 19 Oct

**CURRENT RATES FOR ADVERTISING PER BULLETIN:**

One quarter page b/w	£12.50
One full page b/w (other than the back page)	£30.00
Centre spread b/w	£60.00

One half page b/w	£18.75
The back page b/w	£37.50
Colour	£60 per page

Please submit any enquiry re advertising to the editor.

# HARMERS

ESTABLISHED 1918

*Philatelic Auctioneers, Experts and Valuers*

## Exceptional Rarities at Auction



*Dominica: 1923-33 £1 black and purple on red, a Plate block of six (3 x 2), unmounted mint (4) or o.g., fine and fresh (91).*



*Antigua: 1921-29 £1 purple and black on red, an unmounted mint Plate block of four, hinged in the margin, fresh colours, fine and rare (61).*



*Saint Vincent: 1904-11 £1 purple and black on red, an unmounted mint Plate block of four, fine and rare (93).*

Recently offered rare blocks from our May Auction  
 Interesting material from the British West Indies is often included  
 in both Harmers All-World and specialised auctions.

If you are buying or selling stamps you cannot afford *not* to contact Harmers. Our team of experts can help you achieve the maximum for your collection, the diversity of material offered in our auctions means that practically no matter what your collecting interests are we are sure to have something for you.

You can now bid at Harmers auctions via  
 our new "Real-Time internet bidding"  
 system, log on to [www.harmers.com](http://www.harmers.com)

**Harmers, No. 11, 111 Power Road, Chiswick, London W4 5PY**

**Tel: 020 8747 6100 Fax: 020 8996 0649**

**[auctions@harmers.demon.co.uk](mailto:auctions@harmers.demon.co.uk) [www.harmers.com](http://www.harmers.com)**

