



STUDY CIRCLE

THE FREELING HANDSTAMPS BY CHARLES FREELAND



NEVIS

The only recorded 1799 dated handstamp to London, advising of the capture and recapture of the George.



BULLETIN No. 214 September 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.

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Printed by Sarsen Press, Winchester

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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
- Bahamas Staircase War Tax overprints workshop – see later article

BWISC LIBRARY BY IAN JAKES

The anonymous shy retiring elusive but generous donor of the BBI collection has been unmasked following detective work by BWISC which any police force would be proud of. How did we do it? All we did was to place the BBI collection or should we say the Barclays Bank International collection, on the BWISC website and sit back and await a response from our members. Sure enough on 20 June 2007 I received an email from Charles Freeland stating that he had looked at some of the scans and that it is obvious that the BBI collection is from Barclays Bank sold by Phillips 1987. Many thanks to Barclays Bank for their kind donation.

BWISC WEB SITE BY STEVE JARVIS

The BBI collection has been added to the web site, however, although the images are reasonable, the text lacks definition. This problem is due to two factors:

- a) The 300 pages consume a lot of web space, so the resolution has been reduced to conserve space. The CD provided to the Library will contain the best available resolution. Full resolution images of specific pages can be e-mailed on request.
- b) The original slides were only 35mm square and when blown up to sheet size, the text becomes blurry. In some cases, this can be corrected by scanning the b/w photocopies and superimposing the colour pictures but this will take a while to complete.

Robert Johnson has summarised the Barbados rates from 'The Post Office in Barbados' By Herbert Bayley May 1933 – these are available on our web site for down-load.

LITERATURE

STANLEY GIBBONS COMMONWEALTH STAMP CATALOGUE

This series of **colour** catalogues lists and prices the stamps of Commonwealth countries from SG1 to date, to the level of detail familiar to users of the 'Part 1' British Commonwealth listings.

Major plate flaws, watermark varieties and booklets are all listed.

Prices for issues up to 1952 have been taken from the 2006 or 2007 Commonwealth and Empire Stamps Catalogue. Later issues have been specially repriced for these volumes.

NORTHERN CARIBBEAN, BAHAMAS & BERMUDA – PUBLISHED 2006 £16.95

This volume includes the stamps of Bahamas, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands (including Jamaica used in the Caymans), Jamaica (including Great Britain used in Jamaica) and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The catalogue is complete to late 2005.

LEEWARD ISLANDS – PUBLISHED 2007 £19.95

This volume includes the stamps of Anguilla, Antigua, Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Leeward Islands, Montserrat and St. Kitts-Nevis.

The catalogue is complete to the end of 2006. For many years of the present reign this will have been the first complete revision undertaken for six years, resulting in a number of significant price adjustments.

WINDWARD ISLANDS AND BARBADOS – PUBLISHED 2007 £19.95

This volume includes the stamps of Barbados, Dominica, Grenada and Grenadines, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and Grenadines.

The catalogue is complete to the end 2006. For many stamps of the present reign this will have been the first complete revision undertaken for six years, resulting in a number of significant price adjustments.

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).

BWI**CARIBBEAN STAMP MYSTERIES 1945–1952****BY DAVID R WRIGHT**

Post-war, the Caribbean colonies gained many attractive new stamps – but there are a number of mysteries as well. This month (this article is adapted from articles in 'Gibbons Stamp Monthly', with permission), I write about Caribbean postage-stamps with a sense of awe at the vast wisdom of specialist collectors. I have just discovered that SG published a 120-page 'Philatelic Handbook' on the stamps of Barbados – in 1897!

I found it advertised in my 1897 SG 'Priced catalogue of the Stamps of the British Empire'. It cost 7/6 [or 10/6 with gilt edges] – a huge amount of money in those days. Perhaps there are ten-volume studies of the stamps I so cheerfully question? Perhaps I will offend thousands of experts?

Fear not! Stamps can be of interest to everyone – and I look forward to experts and everyone else offering answers to my ten mysteries. However, I look forward even more to new mysteries to replace the mysteries which are solved. Perhaps mysteries are more satisfying than answers, after all?

- David R Wright, MA; is co-author of 'Philip's Children's Atlas'.
- His website is www.dandjwright.co.uk

Please send comments via the Editor.

1 BAHAMAS 1948: WHY 16 COMMEMORATIVES?

The 16 designs are fascinating and very welcome, after the dearth of pictorials in the previous decade. Subjects range from 'Straw work' to 'Modern hotels'. But it seems an extraordinarily large set, at a time of austerity only three years after the war ended. At a period when some other colonies were losing their pictorial stamps, why was Bahamas so privileged?

2 ST. KITTS, 1948: WHY A MAP OF ANGUILLA?

The new 10/- and £1 stamps of St. Kitts Nevis might have been expected to have a map of the whole colony – but we had to wait until 1952 for such a map. It seems strange that the least-populated of the three islands should be shown on a detailed map, while the other two islands were not shown at all.

**3 ST. KITTS 1950: IS THIS THE MOST CONFUSING OVERPRINT EVER?**

Usually, an overprint with the name of an island indicates that the stamp has been transferred for use in that territory alone – for example, the 'BARBUDA' overprint on Antigua stamps. But this is not the case here – the overprint is celebrating 300 years of settlement in the island which is part of St. Kitts but not named on the stamps. Once again, all will be clarified on the 1952 stamps, which have the full name of the colony: St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla. It's all very confusing! Perhaps they should have re-used the 1948 high-value design with its map of Anguilla, and produced a small set of commemoratives. If Bahamas could have 16 commemoratives, perhaps St. Kitts could have had 2 – or even 3?

**4 BARBADOS 1950: 12C FLYING ??? FISH**

The Barbados pictorials were attractive and warmly welcomed – but can that flying fish fly? Can it even swim? When I saw flying fish off Barbados, they 'flew' too fast to catch the details – but the clear impression was of a superbly athletic shape, rather than an object that looks as if it will belly-flop into the water. Why was such a poor design allowed in such a fine set of stamps?



Or is your author becoming too pernickety? The design was re-issued in QEII days, so there cannot have been much of an outcry at the time.

5 BARBADOS: WHAT LOGIC IN THE COLOURS?

Often, the most expensive and prestigious stamps get the finest colours. But in Barbados, the low-value 3c, 8c and 24c stamps were in two colours, while the 48c and \$2.40 were sober monochrome. Is there a logic behind these decisions? I cannot detect a pattern or any logic – and perhaps others could not do so either, because there were changes when the designs were re-used for QEII.

**6 JAMAICA 3d 1949: WHY BLUE TREES AND GREEN SEA?**

The short and familiar answer is 'To fit in with UPU rules on colour'.

Where stamps only show a monochrome monarch's head, this may cause no problems; for example the 4d GB green was replaced with a 4d blue. But in 1938 Jamaica had an excellently realistic picture of green banana palms beside the blue Caribbean Sea: a superbly accurate and atmospheric tropical scene. To re-issue the stamp with colours reversed is nonsensical – a triumph of regulations over sanity. But worse was to come: in 1952 the 3d was re-issued again, with RED trees – yet the blue sea stayed green! Why ever was this allowed to happen?

Just think – if a blue edge to the stamp was vital, a small offshore island could have been portrayed, surrounded by tropical blue sea and sky – now *there's* a philatelic might-have-been!

**7 ST. LUCIA 1949: WHY NO PICTORIALS?**

A previous article in this series [published in GSM] regretted losing several of the good KGV 1936 St. Lucia pictorials, when they dropped the designs in 1938. In 1949, for the new currency, all the remaining pictorials were withdrawn – but why? Decimalization had direct equivalents in the new currency, because 1 penny became exactly 2 cents, so the stamps could have been overprinted without causing any confusion. Tourism had great potential in St. Lucia, and pictorial stamps could have been powerful ambassadors for the island. It is very puzzling – and even more inexplicable when compared with the Cayman Islands – read on.....

8 CAYMAN ISLANDS 1950: WHY A NEW SET OF STAMPS?

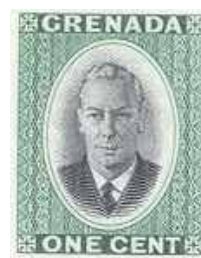
There was no new currency for the Cayman Islands, so there was no urgent need for a new set of stamps. Yet Cayman Islands had THREE sets of pictorial stamps in only 15 years [1935, 1938, 1950]. What a contrast with the islands which lost their pictorials – and also with Trinidad, which had the same designs for three monarchs.

There is another mystery here: the 1935 Cat Boat disappeared in 1938, only to re-appear in 1950. But the 1950 boat looks markedly less seaworthy than the 1935 one. When there is already a good design of a stamp, why not re-use it?



9 GRENADA 1951: FIVE MYSTERIES.

Grenada in 1951 followed the example of St. Lucia and abandoned pictorial stamps. But this is even more extraordinary. They needed decimal stamps in 1949 – why did it take so long to produce them? Why did they omit figures for the values, thus breaking a UPU rule? Why did they think that a design which suited a beautiful young queen in 1861 would be suitable for a middle-aged king, 90 years later? Why go to the extra expense of two colours when the original design was one colour? And if two colours are permitted, why not relaunch the excellent 1938 pictorials in two colours?

**10 MONTSERRAT 1951: THREE MYSTERIES.**

The tiny colony of Montserrat had three excellent pictorials in 1938 – why were these designs withdrawn in 1951? The new pictorials have interesting views, but the detail is markedly less than on the de la Rue stamps of 1938, so the question must be 'Were the new stamps really needed?'



Another mystery is 'Where is Plymouth, the main town?' This town and the volcanic mountain behind it were well shown in a 1932 commemorative set – why delete this excellent view? Perhaps it was prophetic: the town was destroyed and abandoned after volcanic eruptions fifty years later.



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BWI

THE FREELING HAND STAMPS

BY CHARLES FREELAND

Since May 2006, at Michael Hamilton's initiative, various questions from members relating to their areas of interest have been posted on our website, and in a few cases there has been a response. One of the early questions, from Fitz Roett in Shanghai at the time, related to the introduction of the two line dated hand-stamps for more than half the BWI colonies at the end of the 18th century. The response, provided by Steve Jarvis, quotes a letter from the Committee of Underwriters at Lloyds Coffee House, who were the principal maritime insurers at that time, to the Rt. Hon. Francis Freeling (later Sir Francis), then Secretary to the GPO, London. The letter complains about an insurance fraud in Martinique that could have been more easily detected if the despatch mark had contained a date. As a consequence of this letter, Freeling prevailed upon the Postmasters General to instruct those BWI colonies where colony hand-stamps were already being used to introduce dated hand-stamps. His letter to them of 6 October 1798 was endorsed, its recommendations approved on 8 October 1798 and the BWI colonies instructed to carry them out. This did not of course include those colonies such as Bahamas and Bermuda where the local post office had yet to be established, but some 12 colonies in all were affected and duly introduced dated hand-stamps. These were titled by Robson Lowe the PF marks, in succession to the undated PD marks.

I have long been interested in these PF marks and have sought to collect early examples where possible. It occurred to me that it would be of interest to other members to record my findings of the early dates and add some comments on the different markings. As this is a first effort, the list is inevitably incomplete and any corrections or additions would be appreciated.

The PF hand-stamps were all in two lines with two exceptions, namely DEMERARA (one line only, without any year date, although other marking provide confirmation) and MT/SERRATT (three lines – Figure 1). Each of these two hand-stamps had a very short life and in fact only two covers bearing the Demerara (both for the same date) and one bearing the Montserrat have been recorded. After the turn of the century, new datestamps were introduced for both colonies, Demerara introducing a cds in a horseshoe shape and the Montserrat retaining the three-line mark, albeit with slightly smaller, and more widely spaced, lettering and with only one T in MT/SERRAT.

With the exception of Jamaica, which is something of a special case because of its separate packet sailings and far larger amount of mail at this date, the earliest date of any of these marks recorded is 25 March 1799 of Grenada (Figure 2 – the enclosed letter is dated 2 Feb 99), closely followed by 29 Mar 1799 for Antigua. The dates of course vary to some extent according to the precise sailing dates of the packets from the different islands, but the packets were bimonthly so there should be plenty of 1799 dates available. However, that does not seem to be the case and I can only positively identify 32 separate 1799 dates among all the BWI colonies, including Jamaica, and for a few islands no 1799 dates have been seen at all. Whether that means they were tardy in following orders to introduce the new format is difficult to say, but in the case of the earliest known, i.e. Grenada, an undated crown marking is recorded as late as 20 January 1799. So it is very likely that none of the dated marks followed swiftly the Postmaster Generals' orders, which is not surprising as it would have take some time to prepare the new hand-stamps.

The Jamaica situation is a little confusing, partly because the much larger number of available covers has meant that they are relatively cheap and hence are not often illustrated in auction catalogues. In the Perrin-Fitzherbert correspondence, sold by Cavendish on 8 April 1989, there were seventeen PF covers for 1799 alone. Unfortunately, many of these marks were weak and were sold in multiple lots, so only one (Figure 3) was illustrated in the auction catalogue. However, from the information provided in this and other catalogues we can identify at least a dozen 1799 dates. Some are so close that they must have been for the same packet sailing (the Jamaica packet took a different route from the Leeward Is packet, and so the dates do not correspond). Foster identified two sub-types (J4 and J5) for the early period according whether there were two or four digits for the year, but acknowledged that they could be the same instrument. He listed only J4 as being used in 1799 and said minor differences in vertical spacing (varying from 4½ to 5 mm) were due to 'the method of construction'. However, Cavendish, in cataloguing the Perrin-Fitzherbert correspondence wrote that "due to anomalies (sic) discovered in Foster's classifications

of J4–J7.....it has been necessary to re-classify the dated Jamaica marks....” The table printed in the auction catalogue illustrates two marks for 1799, one slightly longer and with wider vertical spacing, with overlapping dates, implying that both were used concurrently. Proud also contends that the difference in vertical spacing meant that there were two instruments for 1799, one with a date range from 8 Feb to 4 August and the other from 11 July to 3 September (his 11 July date is, I suspect, a misreading of the Figure 3 cover dated 14 July, while the 8 Feb date looks impossible given the packet sailing dates listed below). Since I do not collect Jamaica, I have limited material to compare so remain agnostic, and for the limited purposes of this article I have not sought to distinguish between the two spacings.

The format of the twelve 1799 marks are pretty similar. All bar the Demerara (which omits the year altogether) show a two digit year ‘99’ preceded by a stop half way up the datestamp. For the Jamaica instrument(s), the date format is in most cases DDMMM·YY, but the day and month slugs are occasionally transposed. For the other territories, the date format of the 1799 marks is in all but one of the hand-stamps MMMDD·YY, with no space between the month and a two digit day, but with a space if a single digit day; the exception is Demerara, with the two examples of the only date known reading ‘1·JULY’ (i.e. with a stop between the day and month, the month in full and no year slug). Interestingly, when the new century arrived, the date format uniformly became DD MMM YYYY but in some cases (eg Jamaica and Tortola) a two digit year date began to be used again before too long.

Despite the change to a four digit year, in most the original hand-stamp appears to have been retained well into the 19th century and indeed throughout the life of the PF mark. However, Brian Brookes’ write-up of his St. Kitts preadhesive covers on our website suggests that a second St. Kitts hand-stamp with slightly shorter lettering was introduced around 1802–3, while for Jamaica at least one later hand-stamp is known with narrower lettering. In addition, the inevitable loose type for the date slugs produced many date varieties, e.g. for Antigua (chronicled at length in the Codrington Correspondence) and other colonies such as Dominica and St. Kitts, as well as for Jamaica. However this is not relevant to the 1799 marks.

Few of the entires mention the ship or captain’s name that carried them to Falmouth but with some help from Michael Hamilton I have been able to add the packet’s name in a number of cases. More substantively, David Lethbridge has kindly passed to me the dates of the Leeward Is packets that Ms Philbrick garnered from the Falmouth newspapers and this enables us to identify the packets that carried most of the dated entires. In four cases (marked in italics) I have ‘filled in’ the Philbrick dates where dated entires are recorded. It seems that there was an even greater risk of losing one’s letter than in today’s Royal mail as no less than 7 of the 23 packets that she identified were captured by French privateers (the Carteret was recaptured but a few months later was captured for a second time) and this would explain some of the gaps in the recorded dates.

Would members please send additional information on these marks or other comments to Steve or myself.

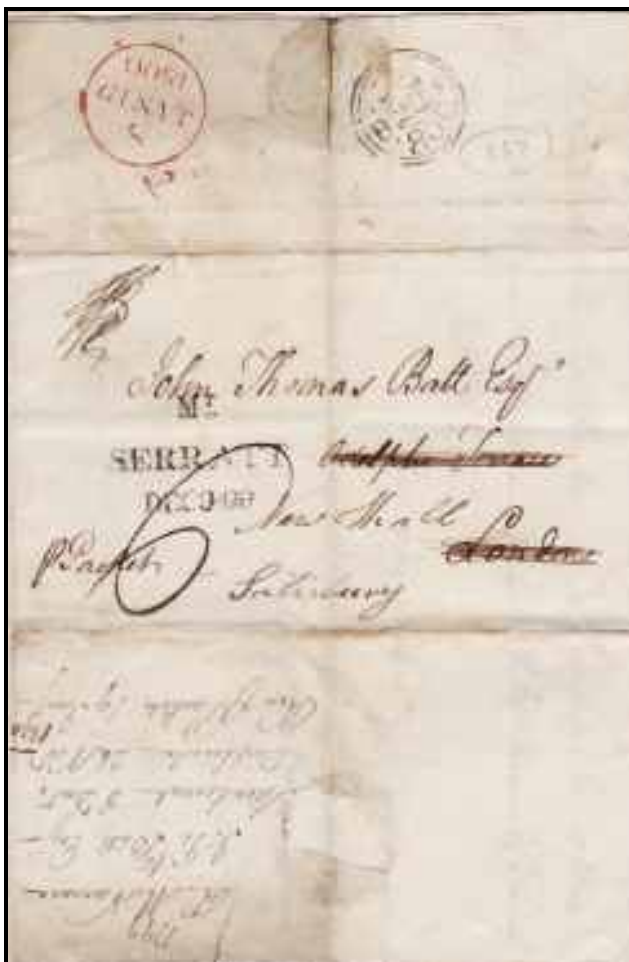
FALMOUTH – LEEWARD ISLANDS PACKET DATE FOR 1799

	Depart Falmouth	Depart Leeward Is	Arrive Falmouth
Penelope	4 February	4 April	3 May
Carteret	2 March	Taken near Barbados. Retaken by Santa Margareta Frigate and carried into Martinique.	
Princess Royal	1 April	25 May	1 July
Westmoreland	27 April	18 June	17 July
Penelope	24 May	19 July	16 August
Carteret	15 July	11 September	12 October
Princess Royal	26 July	<i>c 17 October</i>	14 November
Halifax	31 August	Taken and carried into Bordeaux.	
Adelphi	1 October	Taken on 22 December by Grand Buonaparte and sent to Bordeaux.	
Auckland	25 October	17 December	15 January
Princess Royal	2 December	Taken on 26 February by Courier, a French privateer.	

FALMOUTH–JAMAICA PACKET DATES FOR 1799

	Depart Falmouth	Depart Jamaica	Arrive Falmouth
Princess Charlotte	25 January	18 April	21 May
Marquis of Kildare	2 March	c19 May	28 June
Halifax	13 April	c15 Jun	29 July
Swan, cutter	17 April	With mail for Barbados.	
Adelphi	7 May	15 July	31 August
Princess Charlotte	15 June	c29 July	13 September
Weymouth	22 July	10 October	2 December
Westmorland	20 August	Taken on 7 December on return voyage. Gross value £3700	
Penelope	25 September	9 December	26 January
Mary	16 October	7 January	18 February
Carteret	15 November	Taken by Bellona French privateer and sent to Parsages. Gross value £3755	
Marquis of Kildare	21 December	Taken on 6 May 1800 & recaptured by her crew and carried into St. Ives.	

Acknowledgements: My thanks to Steve Jarvis for contributing many of the Jamaica sightings and to Michael Hamilton for several additional dates. And special thanks to David Lethbridge for the two tables detailing the Falmouth packet sailings which originate from Ms Philbrick's research into Falmouth newspapers of the period.

FIGURE 1 – MONTserrat

The only known example of the three line mark with two final TTs used in 1799 only.

FIGURE 2 – GRENADA

A faint strike on a cover to Glasgow showing the earliest known dated mark (possibly excluding Jamaica).

FIGURE 4 – DOMINICA

From a British officer to Andrew Steele in Edinburgh

TERRITORY CHECKLIST

Colony	EKD	Notes	Additional dates recorded in 1799
Antigua	Mar 29.99 (two known)		May 20, Jun 11, Sep 14 (pr Princess Royal), Sep 31, Dec 7
Barbados	Sep 1.99	(ex Hackmey, to McCalmont, origin Demerara)	
Demerara	1. July (no year) in one line	(lot 458 in Spink catalogue for 12–3 April 2007)	
Dominica	Jun 29.99		Aug 26, Sep 9, Oct 17, Dec 3 (Figure 4)
Grenada	Mar 25.99 (Figure 2)		Jun 5
Jamaica	Mar 3.99	(lot 545 Cavendish 8 June 2006 can anyone provide a scan?)	Apr 16, May 19 (pr HM Cygnet), Jun 15, Jun 16, Jun 26, Jul 14 (Figure 3, per Adelphi), Jul 29, Aug 1, Aug 4, Sep 3, Oct 8, Dec 8
Montserrat	Dec 9.99 (Figure 1)		the only recorded example of this hand- stamp with two Ts
Nevis	Dec 11.99 (Front Cover)		
St. Kitts	May 22.99	(BWISC website under gallery / Brian Brookes' exhibit at Honiley 2005)	
St. Vincent	Jun 7.99 (Figure 5)		Dec 6
Tobago	4 Oct 1800	(ex Beach)	
Virgin Is	Sep 20 1800		

REFERENCES

- Robson Lowe: The Codrington Correspondence, 1951
- T Foster: Jamaica the Postal History 1662–1860, Robson Lowe, 1968
- E B Proud: Handbooks from his Postal History series covering the territories mentioned
- Various auction catalogues

FIGURE 3 – JAMAICA

Probably the clearest known example of the Jamaica J4 mark
(carried per Falmouth packet Adelphi).

FIGURE 5 – ST. VINCENT

The earliest recorded dated mark from St. Vincent
(ex Messenger).

Leeward Islands

Our November 2007 auction includes the very fine 'Späven' collection of the Leeward Islands.
Please contact us for further information



Complimentary catalogues will be available on request.

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BWI**WAR TAX BOOK****BY JOHN DAVIS**

As my book on the War Tax Overprints of the British West Indies is coming along, it occurs to me that there must be a lot of material out there that ought to be included. What has prompted me, is that one of our members who has proof-read a chapter, sent me scans of die proofs that I have never seen recorded and did not know existed, and must be included. If you have any material – essays, die proofs, imperf proofs, important varieties whether listed or not, I would be pleased to hear from you. At this stage, please do not send scans – just tell me what you have. However, any material brought to the Convention can be scanned onto computer by Steve Jarvis. Many thanks.

Please note: John's new address: Birchams, 5 Angeline Close, Highcliffe-on-Sea, Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 5BS, email john.davis9@dsl.pipex.com.

BAHAMAS**RESEARCH INTO BAHAMAS WAR TAX OVERPRINTS****BY JOHN DAVIS****1. LOCAL WAR TAX DOUBLE AND INVERTED OVERPRINTS. SG 91 – SG 95**

Following on from Philip MacMurdie's excellent article in the September 2005 Bulletin, I think that for many years the overprint varieties on the locally overprinted War Tax stamps have been regarded with suspicion. Values for the King's Head varieties have not appeared in Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Catalogues for several years, and at the time of writing (July) I believe that in the forthcoming catalogue, all references to these overprint varieties will have been removed. I also believe that the Staircase issues should also be regarded with some suspicion.

I would welcome members' personal opinions and views about the overprint varieties on all 5 of the locally overprinted stamps.

2. BORDER/FRAME AND VIGNETTE PLATE NUMBERS.

For the Staircase 1d stamps, only two Border/Frame Plates were used, numbers 1 and 2. For other values, only one Border/Frame Plate was used but was not numbered.

I would like to establish a definitive list of the Staircase War Tax Border/Frame and Vignette Plate numbers for the 1d, SG 93, and the Vignette Plate numbers for the 3d stamps, SG 94, 98, 100 and 105.

SG93	1d	is known to exist from Border/Frame Plate 1 and Vignette Plate 2. It has been reported as also being from Border/Frame Plate 2 and Vignette Plate 2 but I have no evidence of this.
SG94	3d	is known to exist from Vignette Plate 2. It may also exist from Vignette Plate 1 but I have no proof.
SG98	3d	may exist from Vignette Plate 1 (Royal Collection), and possibly either 3 (Gisburn) or 4.
SG100	3d	is known to exist from Vignette Plate 4.
SG105	3d	is known to exist from Vignette Plate 4.

I would be pleased to hear from any members who have, or know of the existence of any plated examples of any of these 5 stamps.

3. ISSUE DATES

I am trying to set the record straight for the issue dates of the following war tax stamps:–

SG93	1d	black and red Staircase issue (local overprint)
SG96	½d	green
SG97	1d	carmine
SG99	1/-	grey-black and carmine King's Head issue (De La Rue overprint)
SG98	3d	purple/yellow Staircase issue (De La Rue overprint)

IN MY OPINION –

SG 93 The listed issue date of 10 July 1918 is possibly correct.

SG 96, 97 The listed issue date of 1 June is incorrect. It is more likely to be 20 June.
and 99 July 1918.

SG 98 The listed issue date of 20 July 1918 is unlikely, but is just possible.

I have written a detailed paper that sets out the results of my research, and if any members would like to have a copy, please let me know.

One way of establishing issue dates is from used copies with clear date stamps, or other evidence of usage. What is needed are the following:–

SG 93 with a postmark that pre-dates 10 July 1918.

SG 96, 97 and 99 with evidence of an issue date prior to 20 July 1918.

SG 98 evidence to establish earliest known date of usage.

Can any members help please? [john.davis9@dsl.pipex.com]

At the Honiley Convention, there will be a workshop on the War Tax overprints on the Bahamas staircases (plates used, overprint varieties, forgeries etc) and members are asked to bring along relevant material/notes etc.

BAHAMAS**QUEEN'S STAIRCASE ISSUE – VIGNETTE PLATE 4****BY PETER FERNBANK**

In Bulletin 205 I mentioned the scarcity of Plate number copies from vignette plate 3 of the Queens Staircase issue (only two examples known). The scarcity was partly due to the practise of trimming the wide sheet margins, and in the process cutting off the plate number imprint, and also to the fact that there were only two or three printings made from this plate.

The plate number for plate 4 was in exactly the same position as plate 3, and hence was again usually trimmed off. However, this plate was in use from 1918 until 1924 and was used for several printings each of the 1d, 3d, 2/- and 3/- values and two of the 3d War Tax (SG 98 & SG105). Despite this Vignette plate 4 appears to be equally scarce. Ewens Weekly Stamps News of 4 March 1922, reporting on the 1d printing of 1920, found only one example amongst the many sheets received for their new issue service.

My thanks are due to Royal Philatelic Society for the example illustrated, which is from their Bradbury collection. This is the only example I have ever seen from plate 4 of any value, and the question is how scarce are Plate 4 copies? If anyone knows of any more examples I would appreciate it if they would let me know at:

128 Sinclair Avenue, Banbury, Oxon OX16 1BL, email: pfernbank.tiscali.co.uk.



BARBADOS

DIAMOND SHAPED TAX MARKING

BY BARRY FRIEDMAN

In the December 2002 journal, Clary Holt had an article concerning an unrecorded diamond shaped Barbados postage due mark

I recently acquired this cover which would seem to confirm that the mark was used in Barbados.



CAYMAN ISLANDS

THE ZENAIDA MAIL AND ITS SURCHARGE

BY KEVIN DARCY AND JAMES PODGER

INTRODUCTION

We are told that when the steam yacht 'Zenaida' called at Georgetown on 11 February 1908, the offer to convey mail was readily accepted. A shortage of low value stamps resulted in the production of a fourth surcharge provisional for postage on its mail.

Two questions arise: Was the 2½D on 4d surcharge provisional necessary? Was there a need for the mail at all?

BACKGROUND

There was limited interest in the stamps of the Cayman Islands until October 1907 when the philatelic world became aware of the first surcharge provisional issued on 30 August 1907. Prior to this time, a mail sailing might consist of only one hundred letters. The situation changed dramatically with correspondence, particularly from stamp dealers and collectors, to both the postmistress and other inhabitants of the islands. The first two mails of 1908, brought to the islands by the sloop 'Brothers' in January and February, were of 1200 and 1300 items respectively; both record mails.

THE MAIL SAILINGS

The local newspaper 'The Caymanian', initially printed in March 1908 through to 1909, gives us dates of the majority of mail sailings of the SS Oteri which started in March 1908 and was replaced with the SS Alviles in February 1909. Sometimes the sailings were late and occasionally did not occur. Prior to this period, mail sailings were irregular and infrequent. Up to November 1907 no records exist. It is only by studying transit dates of mail travelling through Jamaica, Cuba and the Gulf ports that any frequency is obtained. Between June and early November 1907 mails occur every two to six weeks; from November to December 1907 five mails are recorded.

Pre Zenaida Mail

There were two mails in the two weeks prior to the Zenaida sailing. The first (see Figure 1) arrived at Kingston receiving a transit cancel, dated 4 February 1908. The contents are of particular interest; the postmistress Miss Parsons writing to Mr Frank Brown stating that she did not think there would be any more provisionals for some time and enclosing ½D on 5/- and 1D on 5/- of her own for his collection.

The second (see Figure 2) has a Kingston transit dated 13 February 1908, the same date as the Cuban transit on Zenaida covers. It is franked with ½d and 1d postage and revenue issue stamps. It is likely that this mail was conveyed by the sloop 'Brothers' which cleared Georgetown on 7 or 8 February. It was bound with cargo for Savannah La Mar, then on to Kingston.

The cover is postmarked 6 February and is one of a group of covers dated between 1 and 6 February with Kingston Jamaica transits of 13 February.

Zenaida Mail

The *Zenaida* called at Georgetown the evening of 11 February 1908. According to Aguillar & Saunders, an offer to carry mail was accepted and she sailed the following day with mail for Cuba.

A number of surviving covers are recognised as having been on the *Zenaida* by their Cuban transit date of 13 February. These covers fall into two basic types; those with a combination of 1905 and 1907 postage – postage, 1907 postage & revenue issues and Half Penny on 1d surcharge in various combinations, as in Figure 3. The others are correctly rated covers with ½d and 1d postage and revenue values with or without the 2½D on 4d surcharge added afterwards, often not paying part of the postage rate. Figure 4 shows such an example from which the surcharge was excised and is replaced by a photocopy of the stamp. It is one of two surviving covers: the other with surcharge provisional intact; both are endorsed by the postmistress “just surcharged 2½ on 4 Feb 12”. The cancellation is dated 10 February on the postage and revenue values and 12 February on the provisional surcharge.

THE SURCHARGE PROVISIONAL

Four sheets of 120 4d stamps with the 2½D surcharge were produced. Two sheets, i.e. 240 stamps were placed on sale at the post office on 12 February and were sold out by 14 February. The other two sheets were acquired by the Commissioner GSS Hirst. Only six stamps were to be sold to any individual over the post office counter.

We know from correspondence that the postmistress Miss Parsons sent surcharge stamps to collectors in their orders for stamps. On 12 February via the *Zenaida* to CB Bostwick she sent ½D on 5/-, 1D on 5/- and two 2½D on 4d. Mr Bostwick reported his pleasure at receiving the mint provisionals but sadness that the postage and revenue series had been used on the envelope. On 13 February she enclosed two 2½D on 4d to S Marcuse, on 14 February two to B Prieth and on 29 February a letter with 2½D on 4d enclosed to L Potter with the surcharge also on the envelope dated 3 March 1908, the inaugural trip of SS Oteri.

THE FACTS

11,520 of the ½d and 12,240 of the 1d postage and revenue issues were placed on sale on 27 December 1907. 480 4d stamps were surcharged 2½D but only half of these were placed on sale and were sold out within two days. In June 1908 Mr F A Myers (editor of the *Caymanian*) offered sixty 2½D on 4d surcharge to C B Bostwick. Miss Parsons was unaware of the imminent surcharge being produced early on 11 February as stated in a letter to P Mercer (see Fig 3). The majority of covers that travelled on the *Zenaida* do not appear to carry the 2½D on 4d surcharge. The vast majority of 2½D on 4d surcharge provisionals that survive are mint stamps. There were two mail sailings in the fortnight prior to the *Zenaida* sailing.

The questions remain: Was the 2½D on 4d surcharge necessary for postal use? Was it necessary to send mail on the *Zenaida*? The reader must draw their own conclusion from the information provided.

REFERENCES:

- Aguilar, E.F. & Saunders, P.T., ‘The Cayman Islands Their Postal History Postage Stamps and Postmarks’, F.J. Parsons, 1962, page 70.
- Podger, D.J., ‘Cayman Islands: The De La Rue Records’, *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, June 1997, Whole No. 183, pages 75 and 83.
- Various copies of ‘The Caymanian’, courtesy of Graham Booth.
- Watkin, A.J., Private correspondence and research archive, with kind permission of The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

FIGURE 1 (75%)



Kingston transit
on reverse

FIGURE 3 (75%)



FIGURE 2 (75%)




Kingston transit
on reverse


FIGURE 4 (75%)



Reverse of figure 4. (75% reduced)






Barbados



<p>SG 185y 1916-19 2½d wmk inverted and reversed. VFUM £30</p> <p>SG 206w 1920 3d Victory top marginal block of 4, wmk inverted. VFUM £95</p> <p>SG 210w 1920 2/- Victory, wmk Crown to left of 'CA', marginal. VFM £45</p> <p>SG 248 1938-42 ½d green, perf 13¼ x 13. Corner block of 24 (vertical folds), R2/4 scratch across King, 4/1 joined 'BA'. VFUM £90</p> <p>SG 248a 1938-42 ½d green, perf 13. Pair, left stamp with R10/6 recut line. VFUM £100</p> <p>SG 248b 1942 ½d green, perf 14. Top marginal block of 4, quite well centred. VFUM £200</p> <p>SG 252ba 1941 3d perf 14. Corner block of 16 with sheet number, R4/10 line over horse's head. VFUM £60</p>	<p>SG 252ca 1947 3d blue, marginal pair, R4/10 'line over horse's head'. VFUM £60</p> <p>SG 253 1944-48 4d perf 13. R8/10 shading omitted. VFM £50</p> <p>SG 253da 1944 4d perf 14, R4/1 'flying mane'. VFM £65</p> <p>SG 264a, d 1947 1d on 2d perf 14. Complete sheet of 120, some separation, R7/4, 10/4 and 11/9 varieties; the overprint on a notable slant. VFUM £175</p> <p>SG 264c 1947 1d on 2d perf 14. Positional block of 4, R6/2 short 'Y'. VFUM £60</p> <p>SG 264e 1947 1d on 2d perf 13¼ x 13. Complete sheet of 100, R7 and 11/4 broken 'E's, R11/9 extra frameline; quite a rare multiple. VFUM £390</p>
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DOMINICA

ROSEAU VIEW 2/6D MCA ISSUE DATE

BY MARTIN BOYD

I recently received a consignment of stamps ordered from a British general dealer, whose list quite regularly has items of interest to me. I am only a general collector of used stamps, though a member of the BWISC, which has been of great assistance to me these last few years.

Among this consignment was a specimen of the Dominica 2/6d black and red on blue view of Roseau from the sea, with Multiple Crown watermark, which I needed. The stamp looked to be good quality, and the cds looked to be genuine, but it showed the date 'NO 25 20'.



Checking in Stanley Gibbons', I saw that this stamp (Sg53c) was dated as 1921, so my first thought was that the cancellation must be a bogus one, and the stamp would be making the return trip to its suppliers. My second thought was that it was nearly right, perhaps more detailed information would help.

So I got out my copy of our President's book on the subject, and looked up the relevant issue. This informed me that this stamp was despatched by De la Rue to Dominica on 20 May 1920, so it was entirely possible for it to have a late 1920 postmark, and the Gibbons' catalogue is not quite accurate in this respect.

I wonder if any Dominica specialist could supply the earliest known date of use for this stamp?

October stamp auction to include:-

- **Bahamas** Out Island postmarks from the collection formed by S.G. Hoey
- **Bermuda** airmails from Morris Luddington's collection.
- **Grenada** postage stamps from Dan Walker's collection
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JAMAICA

RESEARCH

BY STEVE JARVIS

Reg Lant published a series of articles, during the 1980s, in the BCPSG Journal concerning the 'Unpaid and Tax Markings of Jamaica'. In 1986 Bob Swarbrick wrote an article entitled 'Jamaican Modern 'To Pay' Handstamps' which provided more information on the aspect known by Lant as the 'Woodblocks' but now acknowledged as probably made in rubber (see illustration for example).



Proud provides a listing with known dates but Keith Moh has collected and categorized several previously unrecorded marks. All this information has been consolidated into a research paper that has been posted in the articles section of the bwisc.org web site. The paper includes scans of many of the items recorded. Would anyone holding examples of these handstamps please review the paper and supply to the Editor, scans or photocopies of additional examples so that a comprehensive listing and scarcity guide can be completed.

The web site also includes research papers on the Jamaica Policy Marine Fiscals and Meter Marks, for which contributions are also requested.

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

Continued from June Bulletin.

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

Our thanks to Edward Proud for permission to use the illustrations from his Postal History of Jamaica in the June Bulletin. Copyright of these illustrations is reserved by Proud-Bailey & Co Ltd.

My thanks to James Podger, Keith Moh, Derek Lilley and George Dunbar who provided additional information allowing the following updates to be applied to previously published information:

- new EKD for RLBR-01A of 8 Jul 1870
- new LKD for RLBR-01B of 29 Mar 1905
- new EKDs for RLBR-02A in red of 22 Apr 1907 & in black 15 Aug 1906
- new LKD for RLBR-02A in red of 27? Jun 1919
- new EKD for RLBR-02B in Purple of 5 May 1927
- new LKD for RLBR-04A of 24 Apr 1922

RETURN TO SENDER

It is probable that the rubber TRD handstamps RLBR-04 series were only intended as a 'stop gap', for in 1931 a new format of informative handstamp was introduced to assist the R.L.O. in the return of the Mail.

Up to 1931 it had been the practice for the Postman write on the envelope the reason for non delivery, usually in heavy black pencil or coloured crayon. Thus many expressions such as 'Dead', 'Off the Island' etc are recorded, the one most appealing being 'In Prison'.

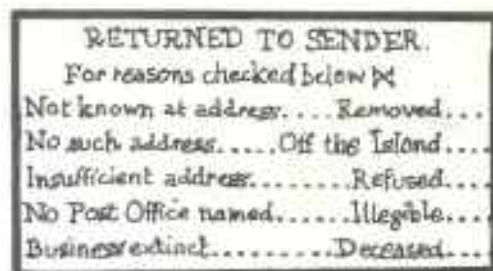
To simplify the situation these new handstamps listed most of the common reasons for non delivery, so that the Postman could place a cross against the reason applicable. On some of the handstamps a space or dotted line was included to cover situations not listed.

Basically, all these handstamps are in a common form of wording within a single line frame. The headings differ in format, but all have the wording 'RETURN TO SENDER', some with the additional wording 'For reason(s) checked below'. Below the heading there is usually a double column listing the possible reasons for non delivery; some handstamps differ only in the listing being in a different order, others have further reasons added or reasons omitted.

To save lengthy descriptions the types of these new handstamps are illustrated below with brief details of the frame sizes and number of reasons etc, all, except RLTS-03 are struck in purple ink – RLTS-03 is recorded struck in red and blue as well as purple inks.

RLTS-01

RLB 5 handstamp has a frame 65 x 35mm and lists ten reasons for non delivery.



Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLTS-01	12 Nov 1930	4 Feb 1931	
EP	I81			



Local cover from Kingston with Kingston slogan dater of the 4 Feb 1931 with RLTS-01 handstamp

The 'No such address' panel has been marked to show the reason for non delivery. This handstamp has the wording 'Business extinct' rather than the more normal wording, 'Business Defunct'.

It will be seen that the house number is given as '39½', the '½' designation is often used in Jamaica in lieu of 'a', eg. '39a'.

The cover also bears 'UNCLAIMED' handstamp in black of the Kingston G.P.O.

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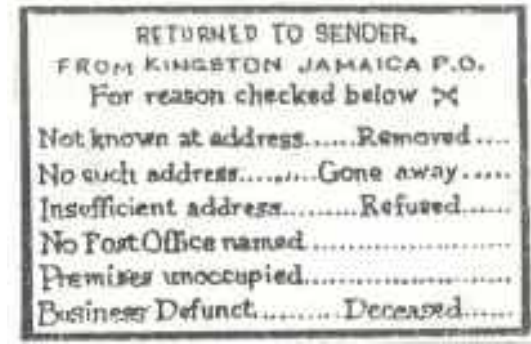
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RLTS-02

RLTS-02 handstamp has a frame 67 x 44mm and also shows ten reasons for non delivery and an extra two dotted space lines for further information.



Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLTS-02	29 June 1935	27 May 1937	
EP	I80	11 Feb 1932	26 Jun 1939	



Cover from West Ealing to Kingston with West Ealing dater of the 12 June 1935.

The cover bears RLTS-02 handstamp with the bottom line of type 'off' the cover struck in violet ink

The 'Insufficient address' panel is marked – the cover is merely addressed to 'Kingston, Jamaica'.

The cover also bears RLTS-10 machine dater struck in red ink of the 29 June 1935.



peter singer



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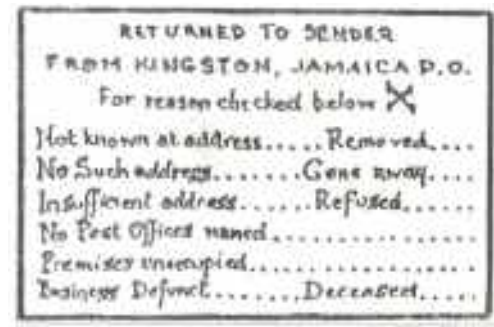
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RLTS-03

RLTS-03 has the same format and listing as RLTS-02 but is smaller in size, the frame being 62 x 40mm. This marking is known in both red and purple inks. It is also known uniquely in blue dated 30 Jan 1936.



Source	Reference		EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLTS-03	Black	27 May 1937	24 Oct 1940	
		Blue	30 Jan 1936		
		Red	4 Dec 1940		
EP	[Not Listed]				



Cover from Glasgow to Kingston with dater of the 30 Jan 1936

The cover bears RLTS-03 handstamp – struck in blue ink with the 'Business Defunct' panel marked and framed 'REBUT' also in blue

The cover also bears (on the reverse) RLTS-10 machine dater struck in red ink of the 22 Feb 1936.



Cover from Glasgow to Kingston with Glasgow dater of the 27 May 1937.

The cover bears RLTS-03 handstamp with the 'Not known at address' panel marked and RLTS-10 machine dater in red of the 16 June 1937 and London dater of the 6 July 1937.

RLTS-04

RLTS-04, has a frame 65 x 43mm and lists eleven reasons for non delivery, the reason "NO SUCH NUMBER" appearing for the first time.



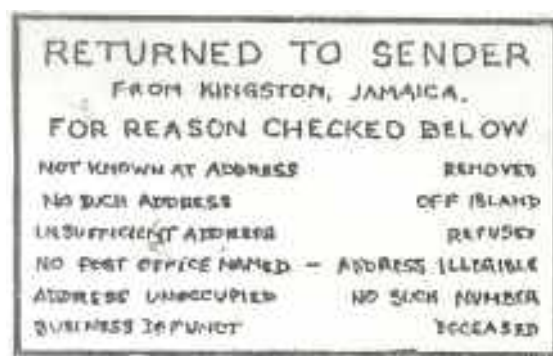
Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLTS-04	12 Dec 1946		
EP	I83	3 Sept 1940		



Air Letter from London to Kingston with London date of the 12 Dec 1946. The Air Letter bears RLTS-04 handstamp and is endorsed in ink 'Removed 20/12/46' and is initialled.

RLTS-05

The fifth handstamp – RLTS-05 – lists twelve reasons for non delivery, all of which appear in one or other of the earlier RLTS series of handstamps. The frame measures 70 x 46mm.



Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLTS-05	18 Apr 1951	17 Oct 1961	
EP	[Not Listed]			



Local cover dated 18 Apr 1951 with
RLTS-05 with 'No Such Number' ticked

RLTS-06

This is the largest handstamp of this series recorded to date, the frame being 85 x 57mm. It lists eleven reasons for non delivery with space provided for additional information; the word 'RETURNED TO SENDER' is replaced with 'RETD. TO SENDER, POST OFFICE'

RETD. TO SENDER, POST-OFFICE	
FOR REASON CHECKED BELOW	
NOT KNOWN AT ADDRESS _____	REMOVED _____
NO SUCH ADDRESS _____	OFF ISLAND _____
INSUFFICIENT ADDRESS _____	REFUSED _____
ILLEGIBLE ADDRESS _____	DECEASED _____
NO SUCH NUMBER _____	BUSINESS DEFUNCT _____
PREMISES UNOCCUPIED _____	

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLTS-06	25 Apr 1967		
EP	[Not Listed]			



Reverse of 'window' cover from
Kingston to an unknown destination
with, on the obverse, Kingston meter
dater of the 24 April 1967.

The reverse bears RLTS-06
handstamp struck in violet ink, which
is endorsed in ink 'not called for'
and with the 'PREMISES
UNOCCUPIED' panel 'ticked'.

RLTS-07

RLTS-07 is also a large handstamp measuring 82 x 56mm and has a new heading, 'RETD. TO POST OFFICE' instead of the usual 'RETURNED TO SENDER'. It lists twelve reasons for non delivery and is recorded struck in violet ink.

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLTS-07	Aug 1980		
EP	[Not Listed]			



Cover from New York (21 July 1980) to Jamaica NY is the only date on the cover bearing RLTS-07 struck in violet ink with 'No Such Address' ticked.

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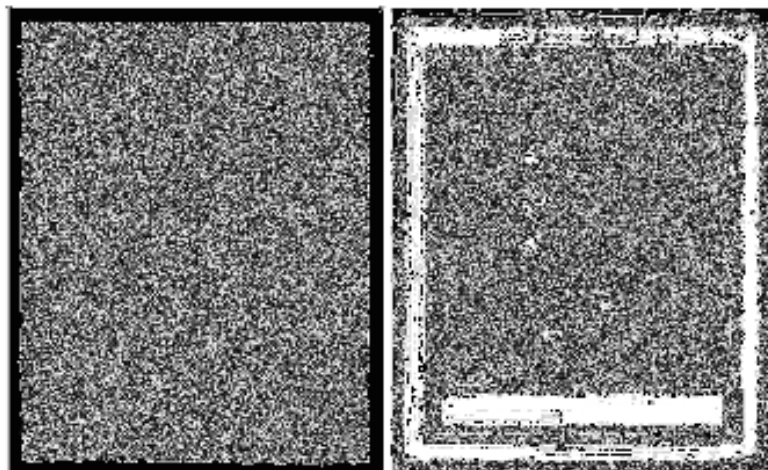
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Pointing Fingers 'Return to Sender'

Two types of the 'pointing finger' are known to exist, one slightly smaller than the other, and with the alignment of 'Return' in relation to 'to Sender' different (to the left for the first type).

These two unusual marks were a complete departure from any previous method used to indicate the reason for non delivery. In the past, red crayon had been used extensively to draw attention, but the introduction of a pointing finger was more reminiscent of the US Postal system, where similar indicators had been used for many years.

These unusual marking are shown on 'Astley Clerk' illustrated covers.

RLTS-08

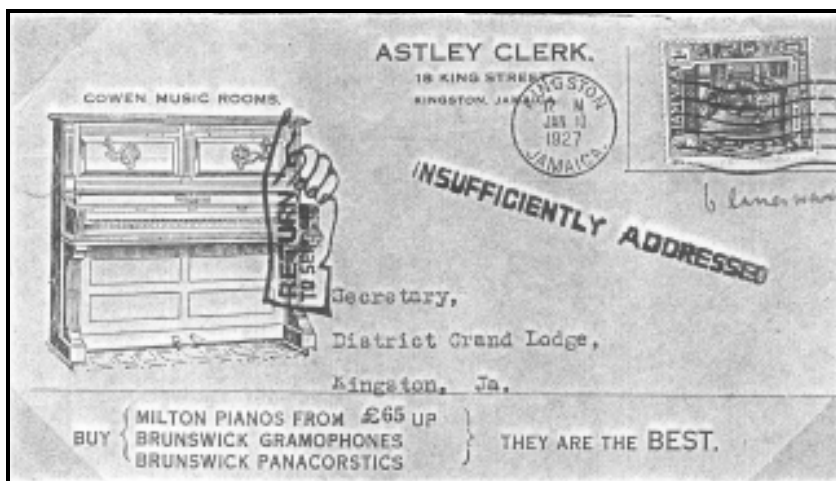
Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLTS-08	10 Jun 1926	10 Jun 1926	
EP	[Not Listed]			



Cover from Kingston to Malvern PO
with RLTS-08
plus plus RLBR-04C
dated 10 Jun 1926

RLTS-09

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLYTS-09	10 Jan 1927		
EP	I77	11 Jan 1927		



The example of RLTS-09 shown has
Kingston m/c cancel of 10 Jan 1927.

It is shown used together with the
'Insufficiently Addressed'
type RLAD-04



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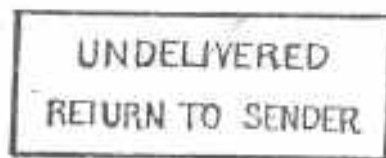
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RLTS-10 'UNDELIVERED / RETURN TO SENDER' Handstamp

Whilst considering the above handstamps, it should be mentioned that covers often bear a machine or slogan type dater worded 'UNDELIVERED / RETURN TO SENDER' The marking has only ever been seen struck in red ink and is designated RLTS-10. As in the case of other Kingston slogans items, RLTS-10 also appears with different Kingston 'daters' from the one shown below.

RLTS-10 is in block sans serif type, 3mm high. This wording is enclosed by a single line frame, 53 x 20mm, and to the right of the frame is a Kingston single circle dater, 22mm in diameter.



Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLTS-10	26 Oct 1933	24 Oct 1940	
EP	I-85	11 Feb 1932	21 Jun 1939	



O.H.M.S. cover from the Jamaica Government Railway to Linstead P.O. with 'GOVERNMENT RAILWAY' 'FREE' handstamp struck in black and Kingston dater of the 22 September 1933.

The reverse bears 'J.G.R. ACCOUNTS BRANCH' handstamp struck in purple of the 21 September 1933 and Linstead receiving dater of the 22 September 1933.

The cover bears Linstead 'UNCLAIMED' handstamp in black and Linstead dater of the 21 October 1933 together with RLTS-10 struck in red ink of the 26 October 1933.

These dates confirm that the letter was held at Linstead for one month.

STEAMSHIPS LINES TO THE CARIBBEAN VOLUME 2

by Michael R. Rego

The second volume of this three volume set covers the United Fruit Company, Caribbean National (West Indies) Steamships, Imperial Direct West India Mail, Pylles Line and the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company. As before the format details the history of each line, advertisements of the time, route structures, listings of offices and agents, any local slogans used, agents markings and ship markings, together with illustrations of some of the ships themselves and a Fleet List. This softbacked book of over 300 pages contains many colour plates.

PRICE £30.00 BWISC Members' Discount - £3.00

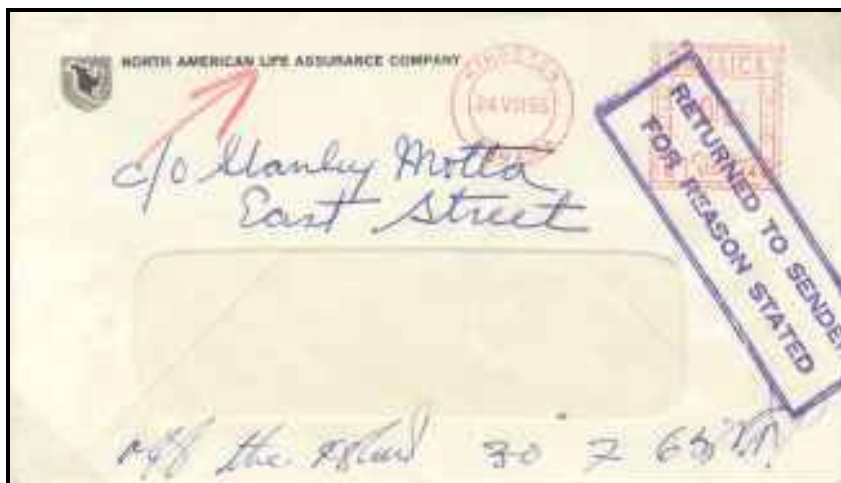
This book will be available soon and can be ordered from:- David Orrett, Pennynsead Associates, 1, Brewerton St, Knaresborough, N. YORKS. HG5 8AZ Tel:- 01423 265962 or Fax:- 01423 547057 or E-mail: Pennynsead@aol.com. N.B. Postage and packing is extra. Orders will be despatched with invoice and prompt payment is requested. Payment may be made by Sterling or US or Canadian dollar cheque or by credit card but not AMEX. Payment may also be made in Pounds in cash only. All other books published by the BWISC are displayed on www.bwisc.org and on www.pennynsead.com.

RLTS-11 'RETURN TO SENDER / FOR REASON STATED'

RLTS-11 is in block sans serif type, 3mm high. This wording is enclosed by a double line frame, 71 x 24mm



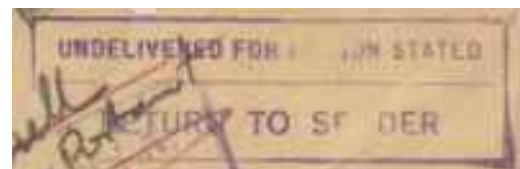
Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLTS-11	24 Jul 1965		
EP	I-86	10 Jan 1958		



RLTS-11 plus endorsed
'Off the Island 30 7 65'

RLTS-12 'UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED / RETURN TO SENDER'

RLTS-12 is in block sans serif type, top line 2.5mm and bottom line 3mm high. This wording is enclosed by a single line frame, 62 x 18mm



The two covers with this mark both have requests 'if undelivered please return to ... London' so this is probably not a Jamaican mark.



RLTS-12 on a cover from Kingston to Finland.

The cover has asked to be returned to London

Source	Reference	EKD	LKD	Rarity
JE	RLTS-12	9 May 1959	July 1959	
EP	[Not Listed]			

MONTSERRAT

DODGY POSTMARK

BY MICHAEL OLIVER

In response to Dickon Pollard's query in Bulletin No. 213, Page 20.

With the 'G.P.O.' clearly defined and alignment as indicated corresponding, I think it is M20 (Leeward Islands – Notes for Philatelists, Page 142), EKD – 1926 and LKD – 1942. It is different to M11 (Montserrat by Britnor/Freeland) which gives the same dates of usage. I did not record repeat or second CDS's used by the Island GPO's at the same time that had only minor differences when they are of no particular significance and often difficult to separate from incomplete examples.

Although there are three similar Madame Joseph forgeries none are dated June.



ST. KITTS-NEVIS

MDD PERFIN (QUESTION 214/001)

ALAN RIGBY

Can anyone help solve a puzzle I have come across regarding a Perfin on two Geo VI St. Kitts-Nevis definitives and also on St. Kitts-Nevis 1948 RSW and a 1949 UPU. They all have a perfin MDD in the form MD over a single D. They have all been pen or crayon cancelled, two in the form of a cross. I have never come across any St. Kitts Perfins before and wondered if someone could help identify the source [Alan_Rigby@ntlworld.com].

TOBAGO

SOME TOBAGO POSTMARKS

BY CHARLES FREELAND

Students of Tobago postmarks have long been aware that three coded postmarks were used by the Tobago postmasters, numbers 14, 15 and 16, none of which are particularly scarce. Ted Proud's Postal History of Trinidad and Tobago reproduces a post office notice that allocates 14 to the Scarborough–Roxborough route, 15 to the Scarborough–Plymouth route and 16 to the Scarborough–Shirvan via Montgomery route. However, to my knowledge only two covers bearing any of these numerals have been recorded. One was in Ben Ramkissoo's collection, a 14 on an 1892 inland postcard to Scarborough without evidence of origin. The other, ex Proud, is also struck on a postcard but it confirms that 14 was used on this route as it was mailed on 31 October 1892 by James Lucas Gibbes, Commission and General Merchant, Hampden House, Roxborough Bay (Figures 1 and 2). On 2 November the card was sent onwards from Scarborough to Barbados.

Figure 3 shows another Tobago mark, on a piece bearing a strip of three venetian red 1ds. I first saw this piece in the 1964 catalogue of the collection formed by Dr Urwick (one of our distinguished founder members). The Plymouth cds has not to my knowledge been seen on any other stamp, so would in any case be regarded with grave suspicion, although the A14 looks genuine to me and to Ed Barrow who has studied this mark. However, the April 1880 date of the cds condemns it, as the 1d venetian red was not issued until late in 1880 (Easton records the invoice date as 4 October 1880). So unless the year slug is incorrect the Plymouth cds must be a fantasy...a pity as those collecting Tobago marks do not have much choice. My thanks to Ed Barrow for alerting me to the date anomaly.

FIGURE 1**FIGURE 2****FIGURE 3**

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

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<u>Malta</u> – 1965 £1, a Plate Block of Nine, Gold Halo Misplaced	£325
<u>South Africa</u> – 1959 Artwork by Konya – 8 Essays Flower Design	£250
<u>Sudan</u> – 1897 Ovpts on Egypt, 1M, 2M, 5M – SG 1, 3, 5 – A Study Including Panes of 60, Details Available	£950

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TRINIDAD

COMPUTER GENERATED FAKE CANCELS

BY ED BARROW

Fake cancels on high denomination stamps are nothing new. The economic rationale for it is obvious; you take a more common lower value mint stamp, perhaps with faulty gum, and you turn it into a rarer higher value used stamp. What is new is use of computers and printers to fake the cancels. Recently I saw on eBay what I believe to be three examples of Trinidad & Tobago KGV definitives with computer generated fake cancels. What was more alarming was the fakes appeared to be altered reproductions of legitimate cancels from the London proof books.

Take the Carenage cds in figure 1. When we put it side by side with the example from the proof books it becomes clear that this is a partially altered facsimile. First, the letter code, the day and the month are the same. The year is different but on close inspection the first of the 2's seems to be a copy of the 2 from the 28 – (the second 2 is not however). Second, the cancel on the stamp exhibits all the small imperfections of the proof.

FIGURE 1



In figure 2 I have highlighted three; the broken R and A in Carenage and the broken 8 in 28. Third, the person who purchased the stamp was kind enough to send me a scan of the back of the stamp; it shows no paper indentation that is characteristic of a stamp struck by a steel cancel (see figure 3).

FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3



The most damning evidence that the cancel is fake is the date itself. While Stanley Gibbons and other catalogues give the broad date of release of 1922 for the KGV definitives, the Crown Agents requisition books give a narrower dispatch date of 31 August to 21 September 1922. This clearly makes the date on the stamp suspect.

I have not examined the stamps in person, only scans. But given the level of detail I think that the cancel was most probably applied using an inkjet printer. Even cheap inkjet printers are capable of printing at resolutions greater than 1200 dots per inch. And given they use ink which bleeds into the paper, pixilation is often not visible. Interestingly, the same seller had a 6d and a 5 shilling from the same set with what looked to be faked Belmont cancels, again using proof images (see figure 4).

FIGURE 4



REFERENCES

Images of the Belmont and Carenage cancels taken from;

- Chin Aleong, Joe & Proud, Edward (1997) The Postal History of Trinidad & Tobago, Proud Bailey (Copyright of these illustrations is reserved by Proud-Bailey & Co Ltd.)

TRINIDAD

1895 FIRE AT PORT OF SPAIN

BY MICHAEL HAMILTON

One of the worst fires in Trinidad occurred in Port of Spain on 4 March 1895. It was believed to have originated in Davidson and Todd's store in Henry Street and swept down Marine Square and into Frederick Street. In all, fifty-four stores were completely destroyed. Had it not been for the presence of British and American naval units in the harbour the destruction would have been much greater. Parties were put ashore to help with fire fighting and gunpowder was used to blow up buildings in the path of the flames. For four days the fire raged, doing damage estimated at more than two million dollars and causing much unemployment (extracted Carmichael P.297).



This registered 4d greyish-blue PSRE from the Cape of Good Hope bearing added pair of 3d deep claret, 1/2d grey-black and 1d carmine (SG43a, 48a, 49a) tied Beaufort West MR 5 95 cds to E .F. Stone Pictou Lodge, Port of Spain, showing London MR 23 95 transit but **without** Port of Spain arrival mark is most unusual for secured mail – possibly due to the consequences of the recent inferno in that town.

AUCTION UPDATE

BY CHARLES FREELAND

A thin quarter it has been, with most of the important BWI at auction having been unsold from major collections....something of a relief to the generalists after the persistent offering of BWI goodies over recent months (all prices quoted are the hammer subject to a 15% premium). First however a postscript to the Grosvenor auction on 17–8 May that I barely managed to cover in time for the last bulletin. When I received the printed report I found I had overlooked the amazing price paid for the **St. Vincent** GVI 10/- mint with inverted watermark, which fetched no less than £16,000. This must amaze those who disparage watermark varieties, as it is not even unique mint and at least four used have now been found. Take a tip from me – the variety was used on FDCs.

BENNETT 20–22 JUNE

The re-offers of Ben Ramkissoon's fine **Trinidad and Tobago** produced few surprises but again it is difficult to tell what sold or not. Comparisons of the prices are also difficult because of the different currency and lower buyers premium (it was a horrendous 20% in Zurich). Lot 2281, which sold for a healthy \$2,700 was a bit of a mystery as the photo was of lot 2285, but room bidders obviously liked what they saw and absent bidders could have identified it as the pretty lot 2068 from the first sale. The Tobago was mostly of secondary quality and the prices reflected it.

SPINK 27 JULY

The main BWI interest in this sale was the fine **War Tax** collection formed by David Cohen. Derek Nathan has kindly brought to my attention the fact that David's decision to sell his War Tax collection was because he has lost his sight through a tragic accident. The collection itself concentrated on the varieties with no proof material or essays and the covers of this period are rather anodyne. Attendance was sparse with only John Davis and Mark Harvey present from our membership. There were few surprises – some of the rarer errors of Jamaica and Turks Is in multiples were in demand, but some useful Bahamas was too familiar to 'take off'. The best price was £3,000 for the bottom four rows of the sheet of the Jamaica 3d inverted overprint and £2,300 for the pair of the same stamp with one overprint sideways and the other no overprint, Mark Brandon buying both, presumably for his Russian customer. Throughout there were good prices for watermark varieties. The only other section worthy of comment contained a few large blocks of **Virgin Is** last seen in the Frazer collection. However this sale was too recent to raise the pulse and prices were mostly well below Frazer's, so the Russian got a few bargains.

A REVIEW OF THE PAST THREE YEARS

Not having much to write about is an unfamiliar feeling and it underlines how rich the recent period has been. No less than three Study Group members have disposed of large gold collections (Maisell's Caymans, Jaffé's St. Vincent and Ramkisson's Trinidad). This has been supported by many only slightly less distinguished disposals, including the Mayer Antigua, the Hoey and Solomon Bahamas, Derek Nathan's Br Guiana, Simon Richards' Br Honduras, Ben Ramkisson's Tobago and Bill Frazer's Virgin Is, to name but a few, plus of course the outstanding Baillie, Frazer, Gilbert and Jaffé BWI. Sadly, I fear that few of our members retain collections of a similar status, though some will surely come out of the closet and surprise us. I cannot recall such endless riches being offered over by our membership over such a short period, although in the late 70s there was a plethora of fine sales enhanced by the de La Rue archive release.

There are many reasons for deciding to sell with health the most important, but the person who I believe had most reason for satisfaction was Simon Richards who achieved amazing results for his select collection of Br Honduras. Richard Maisell's stamps did very well but his proofs and covers with few exceptions were cheap. For the record, the highest prices I have recorded over the three years (counting \$2 to the pound) were the two Br Guiana 2c rose cotton reel items at the Spink Washington sale, ie the Miss Rose cover at \$390k and the select single at \$310k. Some way behind come the Br Honduras interpanneau blocks, Simon Richards' 6d and 1/- block of 8 at £122k and the rarer block of 12 of the 1d and 1/- at Spink in March 2005 at £105k, together with Gilbert's black Bermuda Perot at £116k. Other items that broke the £50k mark were the missing Virgin and Simon's block of 4 1d and 1/- each at £68k; the Maisell 1d/5/- block with one inverted at \$130k; and three more Perots, the Gilbert ones at £58k and £60k and the one in Spink Washington at \$120k. Enough to tempt a hedge fund manager here. Perhaps surprisingly no Baillie or Frazer BWI items broke the £50,000 barrier.

UPCOMING EVENTS

David Parsons tells me that the Spink BE sale on 15 November will contain outstanding Bermuda and Dominica content, with wonderful covers, proof material and stamps. Watch our website for more detail.

FURTHER INTERNET BIDDING EXPERIENCES BY STEVE JARVIS

The June edition described my first encounter with internet bidding using 'Spink Live'.

'Spink Live' now involves a software download with installation on the local PC. Unfortunately, the process overlooked to install a missing Java component. The Spink Help Desk quickly identified the problem and explained how I should overcome it. The behaviour of the software was as before but unfortunately the video and audio streams suffered regular breaks, this required much greater concentration on the screen to place bids, as there is a lot of activity to absorb in multiple windows. Charles Freeland tells me of his experience: "when I pressed the button to bid nothing happened"!

Harmers' uses the internet browser with an audio feed but no video. The screen is simple, easy on the eye and does the job. The audio feed and the screen display were at times slightly out of sync but I liked the 'Going, Going, Gone' feature which gave plenty of warning to place a bid. Charles, again, had an unhappy experience where he was planning to bid after a break but was 'timed out' by the system but not told until after his lots had passed. A further case of 'Buyer Beware'!

PUBLICATION REVIEW**BRITISH GUIANA 1889 – 1912 SHIP SERIES****ROBIN DAVIS AND CHARLES FREELAND**

Robin Davis and Charles Freeland have written an excellent 12 page article published in the July / August issue of the London Philatelist.

INTERCEPTED IN BERMUDA BY PETER A. FLYNN**REVIEWED BY DENNIS MITTON****THE CENSORSHIP OF TRANSATLANTIC MAIL DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

Censored mail presents to a postal history student a challenging task. To be successful you need a vast knowledge of history and geography. Also required is a questioning mind and an eye for detail. There is no doubt that the author of this book has all these qualities plus the ability to translate and transcribe his information into a readable reference digest.

Because of the location Bermuda became an important site during WW2 as mail from South America, Europe and Africa going to and from U.S.A and Canada was landed in transit as aeroplanes used Bermuda as a refuelling stop. Neutral ships also stopped at Bermuda.

The censoring of the transit mail was an enormous task as the volume of mail passing through was very heavy. In 2007 it is difficult to believe that a letter from Egypt to Geneva (1500 miles) had to travel 10,000+ miles passing through Bermuda on 2 separate occasions. With a global war taking place normal mail routes did not exist.

The writing of this book was an enormous task. The author had information on some 8,000 transit covers. There cannot be any other postal history author who had to consider and investigate so many covers.

The book covers very many aspects of Bermuda transit censoring including the history of censoring, the formation of the censor unit, the movement of censors between countries and of particular interest to the collector the censor marks and labels used. These are clearly printed and listed with the known dates of use. The countries of origin and destination are listed with the number of covers known to the author giving an idea of their scarcity.

The interesting and relevant covers are unfortunately printed in black and white which is a pity in this age of computer colour printing. However the printing quality is excellent.

There were many contributors of information to the author but of particular note is Horst Augustinovic who supplied detailed information as to the flights in and out of Bermuda during the relevant period. Details of these flights are listed. Also BWISC member Michel Forand contributed a substantial appendix. The author wisely used Michel as an editor which is unusual with a philatelic book but very important with this type of book. The editing is excellent. I could not find any typographical errors but perhaps my hawk eyes are not as sharp as an eagle on a Swiss mountain!!

The important question is should you buy the book? If you are interested in Bermuda censor mail the answer is obviously yes. If you collect Antigua and Trinidad censored mail again the answer is yes. If you want a book that will appreciate in value go for this one as it will be a very long time before a better book on this subject is published.

The only criticism I have is that the author has provided a priced valuation table. The problem with this is that prices are only relevant for a competitively short period. Money rates change over the years and it is difficult to remember an exchange rate say 5 years ago. My personal view is that a rarity guide might have been a better option.

This is a quality book both in content and production. The cover is hardbound linen with gold lettering. It is printed on archival acid free gloss paper. There are 237 pages with very many photographs and pictures of covers and places.

The book is published by The Collectors Club of Chicago with I understand some funding from the late Ed. Addiss bequest to the BCPSG. I paid \$50 including postage for my copy but there may have been a price increase so check this with Duane Larson, Fulfillment Manager, P.O. Box 415. Park Forest, IL 60466. U.S.A. before you send any money.

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Revisions to contact details should be provided to the Hon. Secretary, Peter Boulton, address inside front cover.

In this issue and in future, membership updates will be issued as loose booklet style inserts for the membership booklet.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**IAN JAKES**

Library lists can be supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required.

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

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

Peter Fernbank has continued scanning early editions of the Bulletin. He has now reached edition 169, which are all now on our web site. Peter has also brought the Index of Bulletins up-to-date (Bulletin #209). 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	December
Distribute	Mon 10 Dec
From Printer	Fri 30 Nov
To Printer	Tue 20 Nov
Final Bulletin Revisions	Fri 16 Nov
Advert Final copy	Fri 9 Nov
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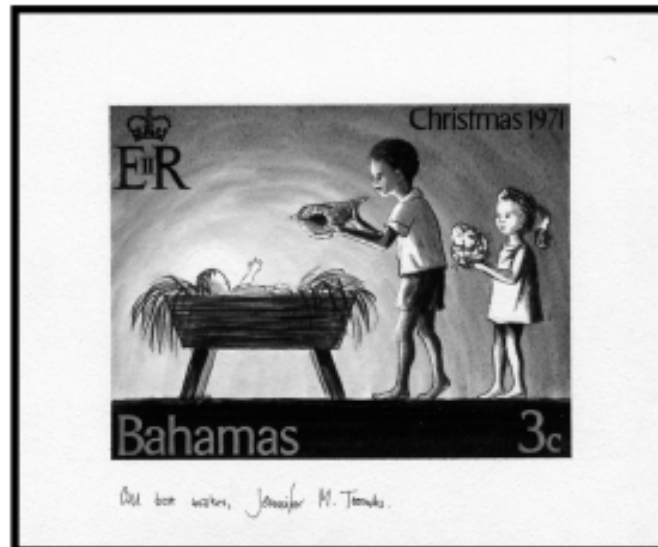
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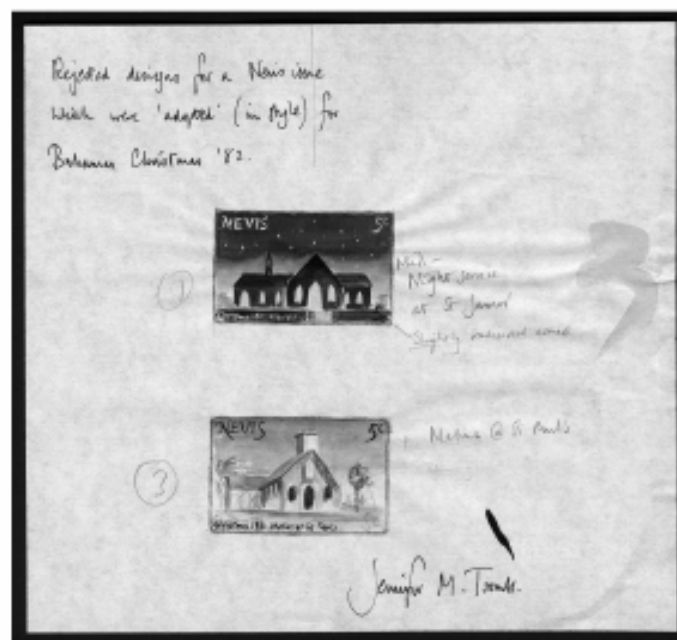
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Bahamas: 1971, an unadopted design for the Christmas issue by Jennifer Toombs.



St. Kitts-Nevis: Nevis, 1981 Christmas, two preliminary stamp size Essays in colour on a single piece of paper, for a proposed Christmas issue, subsequently rejected and later adopted in a similar style for the Bahamas 1982 Christmas issue.

Our Auction scheduled for October features a selection of original artwork by the acclaimed artist and designer Jennifer Toombs.

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