

BRITISH GUIANA – LOST POST OFFICE FOUND BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT



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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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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION**AGM & AUCTION 2008**

.. is to be held at Spink Auctions on Saturday 19 April 2008
at 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London, WC1B 4ET

PHILATEX MEETING 2008

... is to be held on Saturday 1 November 2008 from 3pm to 5:30pm in Room 32
at the Horticultural Halls, Lawrence Hall, Greycoat & Elverton Street, London SW1
See details under the 'Message from Chairman'.

BWISC WEB SITE

It has been suggested that the extensive contents of our web site (www.bwisc.org) should be highlighted in the Bulletin. It is appreciated that not all members have access to the internet but it does provide a useful medium for provision of information for which there is insufficient space in the Bulletin.

Further, the information is updated regularly with up-to-the minute news that would be out-of-date by the time the next Bulletin is published. The main example of this is the auction alert provided by Charles Freeland, who provides valuable information on forthcoming auctions from his extensive network of contacts. The 'Auction/Dealers' link also provides information on other retail sources. Stock lists are provided for some dealers who do not have a web presence.

To facilitate research, Peter Fernbank has been scanning all the old Bulletins. These are now nearly complete and can be accessed through 'Bulletin Archive' and 'Recent Bulletins' links. A search facility will be investigated but at present use of Peter's Bulletin Index should be utilised to identify the edition containing potentially useful information. The 'Gallery' and 'Articles' links also reveal useful information for research or just to browse extracts from Members' collections.

The 'Version History' link reveals changes applied to steer one to updates since last viewing.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As will be seen in this Bulletin, those members who attended our biennial Convention at Honiley certainly had an enjoyable day. Personally I would like to thank all those involved for their efforts in ensuring its success; this includes all those who organised events, those who displayed and those who just attended.

After the success of our meeting last year at PHILATEX where we were treated to 2 excellent displays, the Committee have decided to repeat the event next year. We have booked Room 32 for Saturday, 1 November 2008 from 3–5.30pm. Firstly, Paul Wright will be displaying his JAMAICA and we decided that the second half should be made up of smaller displays of a minimum of 16 sheets brought along by members on the day. By

doing this, we are hoping to encourage members who would not normally think of displaying, to come along and show us their collecting interests. By doing this they may get some advice on developing their collection by the more experienced members of the Circle. So have a think about it and come along – I am sure it will be a useful experiment.

Whilst at the Convention, I was approached by several members suggesting that maybe we could hold it at a different part of the country. I am sure that us stalwarts would attend wherever we held the Convention, but I would be interested to hear from any others for or against the idea. Also, one or two suggested holding a Convention every year. The only objection I would have to holding it every year is that we have enough trouble finding members to display once every two years and I am sure we would run out of people to display very quickly if we had to find two each year! But again any suggestions are welcomed – the idea is to provide what our members want and no suggestion is discounted!

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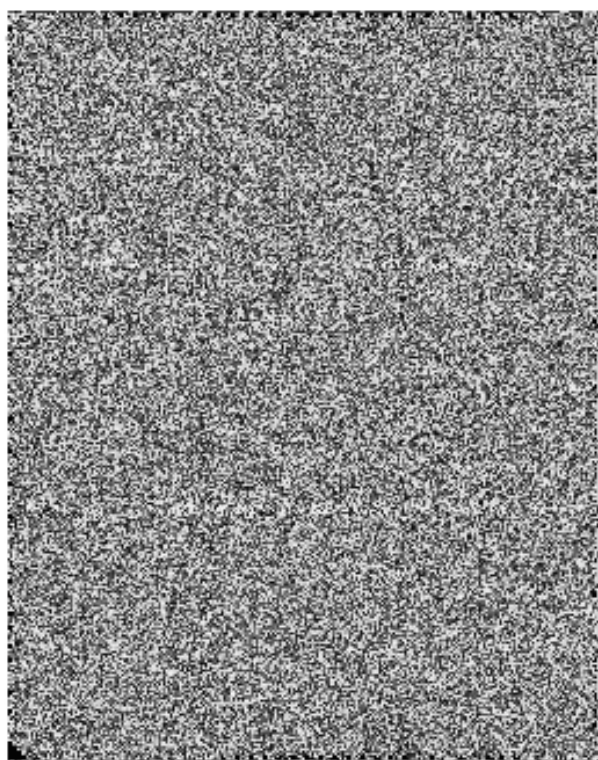




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BWISC CONVENTION

The 2007 Convention was held at the Honiley Hotel near Warwick in late September, commencing with the traditional wine and cheese party on the Friday evening. About 15 happy Members attended the reception, renewing acquaintances, until the wine supplies were exhausted and we adjourned to dinner in the restaurant followed by gossip in the bar until the early hours.

The main event was introduced on the Saturday by Peter Ford and took the usual format with Bourse Dealers Michael Hamilton, David Druett, Derek Lilley and the Club table doing lively business. Unfortunately Chris Rainey could not attend.

Informal displays were managed by Ian Jakes, consisting of:

- Denis Charlesworth – Jamaica Airmails in 1930 – 16 pages showing the inception of the regular mail service to and from Jamaica. Pan Am flights from the south and north, including some signed by pilots. Three covers from the Caribbean Airways flight to Cuba.
- Ian Jakes – BWI Cinderellas – 32 pages, commencing with Trinidad Red Cross labels (1914) including complete sheets of 24. Also featured were: Grenada Red Cross labels (1914) including sheets of 10; Jamaica Red Cross labels (1915) including a rare example on cover signed by Lewis Ashenheim and hence sent 'free'; Grenada and Barbados Belgium Relief; and BWI (including Bermuda) Tourism & Publicity labels.
- Derek Lilley – Bahamas Returned Letters – A large display of Bahamas instructional marks including various 'Unclaimed', 'Return to Sender', 'Insufficiently Addressed', and Underpaid marks plus RLB cds. Mostly from the second half of the 20th century and probably an under-researched topic.
- Steve Jarvis – Jamaica Returned Letter Branch – A selection of covers from the article serialised in the Bulletin.
- Peter Longmuir – Barbados Parish Cancels – A 16 page display of 19th century parish cancels, depicting C1 cancels 1852–1863, Bootheel cancels 1863–1884, and circular cancels showing parish numeral and name from 1883. A fine array on loose stamps, pieces and beautiful covers.

Scans from these can be seen on our web site and selected pages will be included in subsequent editions.

The morning formal display was presented by Kevin Darcy, entitled 'Once upon a Time in the Cayman Islands'. It was planned as a double act with James Podger but unfortunately James was sent on a maritime expedition and arrived back into the UK too late to take part. Kevin therefore had to 'bluff' his way through, informing us about James's stamps as well as his own Postal History material. A superb display covering all aspects of Cayman Is. philately until 1935 including: Jamaica used in the Caymans and the various cancelling devices in use, the Victoria and Edward issues with examples of the famous overprints produced to overcome shortages of certain values, Rural Post, and Postal Stationery.

The afternoon treat was provided by Simon Kelly with Bahamas Postal History and stamps to 1900. He commenced with some early 18th century newspaper cuttings relating to the Post Office service. This was followed by some covers from the latter half of that century. Simon had transcribed the contents of most of his letters, which described the historical and social context of the times – the American War of Independence and other conflicts leading to migration into the Islands. The early 18th century was represented with Missionary letters and correspondence relating to the slave trade bearing scarce pre-stamp markings. The adhesives period commenced with a GB 6d used in Bahamas cover and then an array of Perkins Bacon Chalon heads, including plate proofs. De La Rue took over the printing and a fine selection of adhesives and covers were shown, depicting the watermark and perforation variations. Later 19th century issues were displayed including Die Proofs, Colour Trials and Specimens. A selection of barred numeral and dated postmarks from different locations was also provided.

We are preparing material from these presentations for the gallery on our web site and selected items will appear in future Bulletins.

Convention Photo Gallery



Brian Brookes



David Druett



Ray Stanton



Simon Goldblatt



Simon Kelly



Paul Wright



Bill Gibb & Michael Hamilton



Ian Jakes & Nigel Chandler



Kevin Darcy



Simon Kelly

BWI**CARIBBEAN MYSTERIES 1945 –1952 ANSWERED****BY DAVID HORRY**

In response to David Wright's interesting article in the June Bulletin –

I have trawled through the Hedley Adams Mobbs collection and found answers to all of the queries. Hedley Adams Mobbs collected the unissued stamps of the intaglio period. His collection of unissued stamps is second to none, but then his patrons were King George V, Sir Burton Pedwardine, Ye Keeper of the King's Philately and Courtney Cade who's access to the Crown Agents files was unparalleled.

1 BAHAMAS 1948: WHY 16 COMMEMORATIVES?

As Governor of the Bahamas this set was the brain-child of the late Edward VIII, as a way to promote the islands. The stamps were printed by the Canadian Bank Note Co. who were on good terms with The Governor and Mrs. Simpson. Why so many values? The Crown Agents refused to pay the costs of what they saw as a silly endeavour. So the Governor lavished his own cash on the project. The carmine-red £5 value showed Nassau International Airport, but was refused issue by the UPU on the grounds that it:-

- a) it blatantly advertised Pan American Airways
- b) showed the fluttering Stars and Stripes and
- c) used a value with no postal validity.

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

It was originally thought that the Map was of St. Kitts Nevis and Anguilla – by the time it was discovered (around July 1948) that they were in fact Anguilla, Dog Island and Seal Island only the names could be changed and face was saved. Hedley Mobbs was presented with the original 10/- die proof by Sir John Ruskington, Pedwardine's successor, in 1961.

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

The 10/- Anguilla map was initially overprinted but it was felt that it would be a rather expensive item for most philatelists, after the RSW high value fiasco.

A commemorative design was rustled up by H.L. Bennet-Bigley but it was all too late in the day and cheap overprints on the lower values had to suffice.

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

"When the original design for the 12c finally tipped up it was a merely a pale blue blur", according to Mobb's copious notes. "It was apparently a flying fish! B.W. had just three days to sort it out and it was touch and go. Finally Cade sighed and said, "It would have to do! The Albatross design couldn't be used anyway."



5 BARBADOS: WHAT LOGIC IN THE COLOURS?

A note dated 23 December 1949 from Courtney Cade to Hedley Mobbs states:–

“Hedley, you may be wondering why the low valued 3c and 8c are bi-coloured and the 48c and \$2.40 are monochromatic! The truth is there was a cock-up and some values got switched by mistake. I enclose some original samples for your perusal. It is too late to change things now. I don't think anyone will notice – not even HM! Oh! and I wish you and the family a happy Christmas at Oulton Lodge.”



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

De la Rue's colour changes of the 3d Jamaica Bananas stamp were pretty bananas. According to Hedley Mobbs, “The chaps at the Crown Agents were much taken with the bi-colours of the new Cayman Islands stamps and wished to produce some shocking results too! In the end the colour of the 3d definitive was decided by a blindfold-darts competition in Courtney Cade's office, after somewhat raucous luncheon. Fifteen different specimens were pinned on the dart board. A hideous red and green version got the winning dart chunked from the ockey by Oswald Huggins, a junior clerk. Thank the Lord the heliotrope and lime-green didn't win – it was more than capable of an Ivor Novello award!”



7 ST. LUCIA 1949: WHY NO PICTORIALS?

After the war the Americans had suggested to Churchill that St. Lucia and Barbados might become American Colonies as a quick way to pay off a considerable British war debt. The USAF were handed a base at Bean Field as a goodwill gesture. The handover was secretly discussed by the Privy Council after Yalta and was rejected. After the 1945 General Election the Atlee Government dismissed the plan for Barbados but St. Lucia was further considered. The whole scheme fell through after the disastrous fire at Castries and the return of the Churchill Government. The illustration was originated from the Library of the American Bank Note Company and was later adopted and adapted by Bradbury Wilkinson.



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

A note dated December 1947 from KGV I to Sir Burton Pedwardine may clear this one up. "BP – I am fed up to the back-teeth with that b. awful set of Caymans labels that have been with us since 1938 – dull or what! Can't we have something a little gayer? The Rembro belongs to David andwell you know how I feel on that one, The Ziroma please. And can't we have the Cat Boat back? – Lilibet' has done a nice little sketch which we both like very much....please adviseB.



Illustrated is a Bradbury Wilkinson rough artwork dated September '48.

9 GRENADA 1951: FIVE MYSTERIES.

Bradbury Wilkinson was not happy with the new KGV I Grenada designs that included figures as it detracted from the beauty of the original design. The UPU concurred and because the Victorian 1861 stamp was 'so perfect' and a precedent was set. Only a single 3c, with figures, is to be found in the Hedley Mobbs collection: an earlier bi-coloured halfpenny value is rather more attractive.

**10 MONTSEERRAT 1951: THREE MYSTERIES.**

There was something amiss when De la Rue came to reprint the Montserrat 1938 definitives in April 1950 – according to Potter and Shelton only the plates for the 1½d, 6d, 10/- and £1 values could be located. The latter two were not required but nothing had been seen of the ½d – 3d and 1/-, 2/6 and 5/- values since 1947. It is thought they may have been accidentally melted down, so a new set of definitives was urgently required and were released in the autumn of 1951. According to Mobbs it was a tight squeeze. Illustrated is a rejected 48c design.

**BWI****FREELING HANDSTAMPS****BY SIMON RICHARDS**

Following Charles Feeland's interesting article on this subject in the current issue of the Bulletin, I acquired a Grenada entire written on 3 December 1798 at the Study Circle Convention bearing the Grenada Crown handstamp. This entire also bears a Bishop mark bearing the date 13 February (1799) and is part of the Dunlop correspondence and was addressed to Ayr and is inscribed 'per packet' and was rated 2s 5d.

Looking through old catalogues (Towers sale April 1995) I find a similar entire was written in February 1799 also bearing the Grenada Crown and addressed to Glasgow, was similarly rated and routed by the packet. The Bishop arrival mark is 27 March 1799. This use appears to be later than use of the crown mark on 20 January 1799 reported in the article.

Given the date of the 25 March 99 for the use of the Freeling handstamp in Grenada it would seem that the new handstamps were sent to the Colonies very early in 1799, presumably via the packet. In terms of date format I have an entire for April 1800 which shows the format '12 Apr 1800'. Thereafter MMM DD appears to be universal for Grenada, apart from 1814 where the format MMM DD YY was reverted to. The handstamp appears to have stayed in use in Grenada until 1829 when it was superseded by the Small Grenada Double Arc Datestamp.

CROSS ENGLISH CHANNEL ROUTING**BY DICK HEMMINGS**

I have, in my collection, an entire from Boulogne to Kingston, Jamaica. I believe it was carried by cross channel ship to London, and then sent on to Jamaica. The letter bears the framed M.B (movable box) and SHIP-LETTER/(crown) – LONDON c.d.s (Rob.S.29) dated 31 May 1852.

I am of the belief that letters carried on cross channel ships are not normally addressed beyond England. I was wondering whether other members had any similar items or maybe this entire is a unique routing?



STEAMSHIPS LINES TO THE CARIBBEAN VOLUME 2

by Michael R. Rego

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

PRICE: £30.00 BWISC Members' Discount – £23.00

This book will be available soon and can be ordered from: David Druett, Pennymead Auctions, 1, Brewerton St., Knaresborough, N. YORKS. HG5 8AZ Tel: 01423 865962 or Fax: 01423 547037 or E-mail: Pennymead@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 Euros in cash only. All other books published by the BWISC are displayed on www.bwisc.org and on www.pennymead.com.

BAHAMAS

THE SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS

BY IAN JAKES

INTRODUCTION

There are three issues of these stamps and three printings of the first issue. The history of these stamps is set out below. The main reason for this article is to discuss an early cover.

The cover displayed in the middle of page 15 bears a Bahamas 5d grey-black and orange Queens Staircase issue stamp overprinted 'Special Delivery' and cancelled by a genuine Nassau datestamp bearing date 20 October 1916. I believe that this cover shows one of the earliest known illegal uses of a Bahamas Special Delivery stamp which eventually led to the cancellation by the Canadian Government of the special delivery postal arrangement between Canada and Bahamas. To understand the cover it is necessary to understand the preceding events.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SPECIAL DELIVERY ISSUES:

On 1 January 1916, at the request of the Bahamas Government, a special delivery service was inaugurated between the Bahamas and Canada (Ludington).

The following (Notice No. 5) is an extract from the monthly supplement to the Canada official post office guide for February 1916:

"Exchange of Special Delivery Stamps with Bahamas..... At the request of the Colonial Postmaster at Nassau, an arrangement has been made for the exchange of Special Delivery stamps with the Bahamas, and a limited supply of 5-penny stamps has been received from Nassau to be distributed among Canadian Postmasters for use on letters addressed to that place for Special Delivery.

Any Postmaster at whose office there is, or has been, a demand for means of securing Special Delivery letters addressed to Nassau and Bahamas, may make requisition for a few of these Bahamas 5-penny stamps, which will be charged to him at 10 cents each and sold to the public at the same price. A letter posted in Canada, intended for special delivery at Nassau, must bear one of these stamps in addition to the necessary Canadian postage and war tax."

To implement this agreement, Canadian Special Delivery stamps were sent to Nassau, and concurrently a supply of the 5d (black and orange Queen's Staircase issue) from an early printing (Frame plate 1, Vignette plate 1) and amounting in all to ten sheets (600 stamps) was overprinted 'SPECIAL DELIVERY' and forwarded to the Canadian Post office Department at Ottawa. From there they were distributed to the four offices of Ottawa, Toronto, Westmount and Winnipeg, and placed on sale on 1 May 1916 (Gisburn). Ludington adds that the first issue and first printing was watermarked crown and CC of January 1903. The third printing of the first issue, and presumably therefore, the second printing of the first issue are also on Crown CC watermarked paper.

Gisburn goes on to say that in March 1917 a further printing of the first issue was transmitted to Canada and others placed on sale at Nassau GPO.

Ludington states that none of the March 1917 issue was sent to Canada. Ludington regards the March 1917 issue as the third printing and mentions a second printing (not mentioned by Gisburn).

Ludington continues that the Canadian Government discovered a few months after 1 May 1916 that the stamps were being used for philatelic rather than legitimate business purposes, for most of the special delivery letters were being sent to a few individuals in Nassau. Ludington specifically mentions one of these individuals by name i.e. Dr. Walter Hess, a prominent stamp collector in Nassau and the colonial surgeon at that time. The Canadian Government also learned that stamp collectors had successfully persuaded the Bahamas Government to make a further printing (i.e. Ludington's 'second printing') of the stamps which could be bought at the Nassau post office. Both these events, being contrary to the agreement, the Canadian Post office cancelled the arrangement and ordered that the balance of the Bahamas stamps in their four post offices be sold in any way as soon as possible.

According to Huber, the date of issue of the second printing (i.e. the printing not mentioned by Gisburn) placed on sale in Nassau was 27 January 1917. If this date was correct the Canadian post office would have cancelled the agreement shortly after this date rather than a date after March 1917 as implied by Gisburn.

Ludington believed that the agreement was cancelled earlier than 27 January 1917. This is because from the evidence of covers owned by Ludington he believed that the cancellation took place about six weeks earlier between 14 December and 20 December 1916. On eight of Ludington's covers posted in Toronto between 31 October and 14 December 1916, the Bahamas special delivery stamps were all cancelled in Toronto and the only Nassau datestamps are on the backs of the covers. On the other hand all covers posted on or after 20 December 1916 show that the Bahamas Special Delivery stamps were carefully left uncanceled by the Toronto post office and were only cancelled on arrival in Nassau.

Ludington speculated that by reason of the matters set out in the preceding paragraph the second printing must have been made earlier than 27 January 1917, perhaps at the beginning of December 1916.

THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD PRINTINGS OF THE FIRST ISSUE

Gisburn mentions, but does not comment on the overprint itself, nor does he comment upon colour shades of the stamp. Gisburn did not mention and probably did not know of the existence of the second printing.

Ludington is of the opinion that the overprint itself is similar (but not the same) on the first and second issues and that as a general rule (but with exceptions) the word 'SPECIAL' in relation to the word 'DELIVERY' is more to the right on the third printing than it is on the first and the second printings.

Ludington continues that the ten sheets comprising the first printing were all overprinted on the black and orange stamps but whilst some of the second printings were done on the black and orange stamps others were overprinted on grey-black and orange stamps.

Detailed differences can be discovered by reading Ludington.

THE EARLY COVER REFERRED TO IN THIS ARTICLE

The cover is addressed to that man specifically named by Ludington, namely Dr. Walter Hess, Colonial Surgeon, Nassau N.P., Bahamas. The sender is F.G Morant, P.O. Box 66, Kamloops, British Columbia, Canada. It bears a Canadian two cents stamp, postmarked 'Kamloops B.C.' and dated 12 September 1916. The reverse of the envelope has a genuine Nassau Bahamas 18 October 16 arrival stamp (Note the broken 'H' in Bahamas and the break in the circle below 'AH'). The front of the cover bears a 5d Special Delivery Stamp grey-black and orange cancelled by the other (undamaged) genuine Nassau datestamp 20 October 16.

At first glance the cover appears to be an example of a genuine Special Delivery postal arrangement between Canada and Bahamas. However, in my opinion this cannot be so, for the following reasons;

- i. Before 20 December 1916 Ludington's research showed that all Bahamas special delivery stamps were cancelled in Canada and not Bahamas
- ii. The place of origin of this cover, Kamloops, British Columbia, is not a town where I would expect Bahamas Special Delivery stamps to be for sale at the local post office.
- iii. The date of posting (12 September 1916) in Canada and the date of arrival (18 October 1916) in Nassau is not consistent with the Special Delivery service which normally took one week (Ludington)
- iv. It is beyond doubt that the cover bears a first issue, second printing Special Delivery Stamp because the stamp is grey-black and orange. The first issue, first printing, was black (not grey-black) and orange. The stamp is cancelled by a genuine Nassau datestamp 20 October 1916 long before the third issue which came into being in March 1917. In the very unlikely event that the date stamp was back dated to 20 October 1916 (in which event why not back date to 18 October 1916 to match the arrival cancellation?) then the overprint itself has the characteristics of a first or second printing rather than a third printing (see earlier).

CONCLUSION CONCERNING THE EARLY COVER

The cover confirms that Huber's date of issue of the second printing on 27 January 1917 is incorrect. The cover also confirms that Ludington's estimate that the second printing occurred at about the beginning of December 1916 is also incorrect, although it was probably beginning of December 1916 when the Canadian Government discovered that stamp collectors had successfully persuaded the Bahamas Government to make the second printing. That second printing was clearly being used illegally as early as 20 October 1916.

WHY DO SO FEW FIRST ISSUE, SECOND PRINTING STAMPS EXIST?

Stirnfels states "I understand that in March 1929 there was 550 of the original 600 of these stamps (i.e. the Special Delivery stamps) in the Nassau Post Office, but they were so badly stuck together as to be useless".

In 1957 it was not appreciated that there had been a second printing of the first issue and Stirnfels assumed that no stamps had ever been sent to Canada. The first issue, first printing, of these stamps were clearly sent to Canada. The Canadian Post Office Notice number 5, referred to earlier in this article, clearly states that Special Delivery stamps had been received and Ludington had a number of covers bearing these first issue, first printing stamps, which had clearly been issued in Canada. It seems to me not to be beyond the bounds of possibility that the remainders of the first issue, second printing stamps were squirreled away when the Canadian Government found out, probably in December 1916, a second printing had been made and was being used illegally.

SECOND AND THIRD ISSUES

The second issue was overprinted in black on the 5d black and orange Bahamas Postage stamp 'SPECIAL DELIVERY' in a completely different style so that it cannot possibly be confused with the first issue. The third issue was overprinted in red on the 5d black and mauve Bahamas Postage stamp 'SPECIAL DELIVERY' in yet another style so that it cannot possibly be confused with either the first or second issues. It is common ground by Gisburn and Ludington that neither the second nor the third issues of these Special Delivery stamps were ever sent to Canada. Indeed the stamps were regarded by the Bahamas Government as postage stamps and they sent specimens of these stamps to the Universal Postal Union.

It is difficult to know the postal use to which these stamps were put. Ordinary unoverprinted Bahamas postage stamps would be used for normal postal services and there is no record of a Special Delivery postal service operating internally in the Bahamas. The only conclusion is that these stamps were used mainly for philatelic purposes. An example is the second cover exhibited here, posted in Saint Louis USA on 4th June (1919) addressed to a lady in Nassau and marked 'SPECIAL DELIVERY' and bearing four third issue Special Delivery stamps, cancelled 8 JUN 19 with the same genuine Nassau arrival and cancellation date stamps as on the early cover previously referred to. The words 'Special Delivery' hand written on the cover are partly obliterated by the Saint Louis postmark which leads me to suspect that the four Special Delivery stamps were also on the envelope before it was posted in Saint Louis in the vain hope that they might be cancelled in the USA and so give the appearance that there was a Special Delivery service between the USA and the Bahamas, which in fact never did exist.

REFERENCES:

1. 'The Postage Stamps and Postal History of the Bahamas' by Harold G. D. Gisburn, Published in 1950 ('Gisburn')
2. 'The locally overprinted Special Delivery Stamps of 1916–1917' by M.H. Ludington Published in The Philatelist, February – March 1966 ('Ludington')
3. 'The Stamp Lover' of November 1930 – An article by H.E. Huber ('Huber')
4. 'British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin' Number 13 April 1957 – An article by Martin M. Stirnfels ('Stirnfels')



1st Issue 3rd printing



2nd issue
SPECIMEN



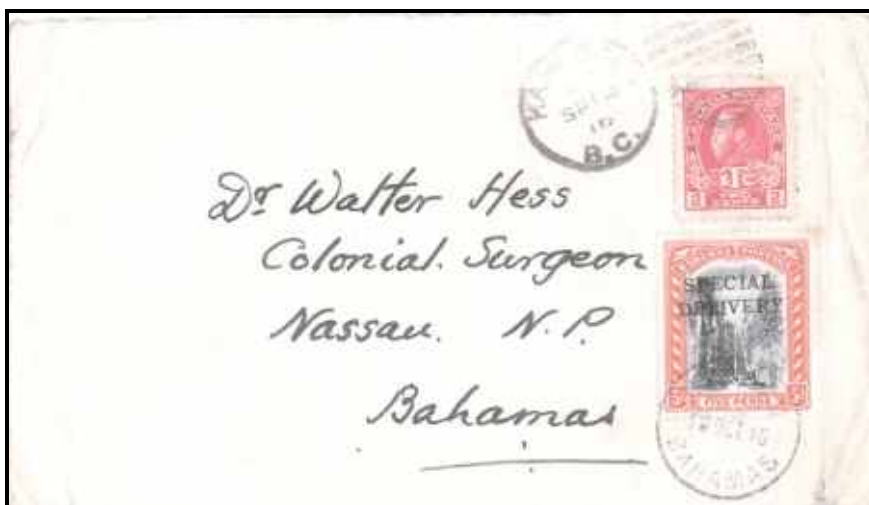
2nd issue



3rd issue
SPECIMEN



3rd issue



E
a
r
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c
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v
e
r



1st issue 3rd printing
double overprint
N.B. all the overprint
varieties are from the
1st issue 3rd printing

BARBADOS

THE SANDERSON CORRESPONDENCE

BY FITZ ROETT

I have been trying to catch up on my reading since returning to Calgary. I read with interest the terrific article by Charles Freeland in the December, 2006 BWISC Bulletin No. 211. I will try and explain the rates.

BACKGROUND

When several of the BWI post offices were set up, the inter-island PACKET RATE was 6d (1d paid by sender + 4d packet fee + 1d paid by addressee). Occasionally the 4d is pre-paid with SG 5. (Mail to the U.S. had to be pre-paid as far as St. Thomas). Most often the cover bears a blue MS '4' indicating the packet charge is due. Sometimes we find a MS '5' indicating the total charges due. However, this is the exception and the 1d to be paid by the addressee is not shown.

During the early 1860's Barbados entered into agreements with several other colonies whereby the FULL AMOUNT of postage could be collected by the post office where the letter was mailed. The agreement with Antigua became effective 1 August 1863.

ANTIGUA

A lovely triple rate cover pre-paid BY THE FULL AMOUNT. Packet charges: 3 x 4d. = 1/-. plus inland rate 3 x 2d. = 6d. Total 1/6d.

NEVIS (FIRST ONE)

I have no information about Nevis but the St. Christopher agreement became effective 1 April 1863 (The same day the packet rate to the U.K. was increased).

Another triple rate cover: 3 x 6d as above – 1/4d. pre-paid. Due 2d. – double the deficiency (2 x 2d.) = 4d. due on delivery.

NEVIS (SECOND ONE)

Same as for Nevis (one) – note black MS '4' (or 4d. due).

EDITORS NOTE:

See Montserrat for a newly recorded Sanderson cover.

BERMUDA

SG118E EARLIEST USAGE

BY DAVID WATSON

The 5/- stamp, green and red on pale yellow was one of a consignment of 30,840 sent to Bermuda on 14 April 1944, Gibbons lists as first recorded usage in November 1945, however, the cover below shows usage on 23 May 1945. SG's catalogue editor Hugh Jefferies has agreed with this revised date.



SOMETHING DIFFERENT

* = Light Mount

*** = Unmounted

Belgium

1905 * 'No Sunday Delivery' SG 99/105	£100
1931 * 'Anti/TB' SG 593/9	£25
1932 * 'Mercier' SG 609/17	£125
1933 * 'Orval' SG633/44	£175

France

1923 *** 'Pasteur' SG 396/400d	£45
1927 *** 'Air' SG 455/6	£110
1928 *** 'Fund' SG 463 II	£85
1930 *** SG480	£35
1932 * 'Peace' SG 502/15 etc	£38
1935 * 'Normandie' SG 526/a	£35
1935 *** SG 525, 527	£18
1935 * SG 528, 532/3	£40
1937 * 'PEXIP' SG M581	£90
1938 *** 'Air' SG 541	£400
1936 * 'Air' SG 534/40	£500
1950 *** 'Air' SG 1059	£90
1954 *** 'Air' SG 1194/7	£35

China

First Flight Calcutta to Chungking, rare over-the-top 1st Flight

Germany

1930 * 'IPOSTA' SG MS464	£140
1948 * <u>Berlin</u> SG B1/20	£80
1949 * <u>Berlin</u> SG B35/53	£180
1949 * <u>Berlin</u> SG B54/60	£200
1949 * <u>Berlin</u> SG B68/70	£70

Liechtenstein

1912 * SG 1/3	£40
1928 * SG 84/91	£100
1930 * SG110/115	£40
1931 * SG 116/117	£40
1936 * SG 151/2	£30

Spain

1947 *** 'Air' SG 1083/4, superb blk 4	£425
1950 *** SG 1151, R.P.S. cert.	£200
1950 *** SG 1141/8	£275
1953 *** SG 1187, 1191	£275

Switzerland

1919 * 'Air' SG 302/3	£75
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Bermuda

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BRITISH GUIANA

LOST POST OFFICE FOUND

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

East Coast Berbice, or Corentyne Coast, has always presented the most intractable problems when it comes to identifying the Post Offices at which British Guiana's code marks were used. Until now, no 'proving cover' for this coast has been recorded, and guesswork has had to suffice in the absence of facts.

Townsend & Howe addressed the problem by offering two distinct theories (Note 1), and I quote:–

“so seven P.O.'s are known on this coast, and seven code-marks for them. Until recently, it seemed a reasonable supposition that the 'CCB' stamp, by far the earliest recorded, must have been used at Fyrish, and that Nigg – when it replaced Fyrish – used 'CCB/1'. This left the five known 'ECB' date-stamps for the five new P.O.'s first mentioned in 1871. Unfortunately for this theory, a recently acquired strike of CCB/1 is dated 23.11.186-. (Probably the early 1860's, being on an early 'ship'). This could not have been used at Nigg (opened 1877), and it implies another P.O., besides Fyrish, was open on this coast in the 1860's. Whatever this P.O. was, it is unlikely it stayed open long or its existence would have become known.”

Evidence has now emerged that another P.O. did exist and that it may have remained open some considerable time, using manuscript markings after its original second series code-mark was lost or destroyed.

Before examining that evidence, I summarise Townsend & Howe's two theories, neither of which they found convincing:–

CODE	NUMBER SEEN (T & H)	THEORY 1	THEORY 2
CCB	4	Fyrish	Unknown P.O.
CCB1	2	Unkown P.O.	Fyrish/Nigg
ECB1	13	Nigg	Whim
ECB2	12	Whim	Wellington Park/Tarlogy
ECB3	0	Wellington Park/Tarlogy	Not Issued
ECB4	4	No.50	No.50
ECB5	3	Benab	Benab
ECB6	11	Skeldon	Skeldon

The 'number seen' column is now outdated, but still provides a reasonable guide to relative scarcity; the enigmatic ECB/Crown/1 handstamp (never dated), ECB2 and ECB6 are far more plentiful than the rest. It is worth noting that CCB and CCB1 were issued in the 1860's, whilst the ECB1 to 6 series date from the 1870's, so it is likely that CCB ('Corentyne Coast Berbice') and CCB1 were supplemented by the ECB's (East Coast Berbice) which were allocated in sequence Eastwards from New Amsterdam.

The suggestion that Townsend & Howe's 'lost' P.O. has been found is based, first, on the cover illustrated as Figure 1, the only 'proving cover' so far to be recorded for the Corentyne Coast.

This cover, cleanly certificated in 1982 by the BPA, is an entire addressed to Manoel Fernandes (a well known merchant) in Georgetown, and bears a bisected 8 cents (SG73 bisect) fully tied by the CCB/1 cds for 'NO 28 / 1868' with a supporting strike alongside; the Demerara transit backstamp is T&H Figure 19 for '29 NO 68'.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

The text of the entire is reproduced here in full:–

"No 6 House

28th Nov 1868

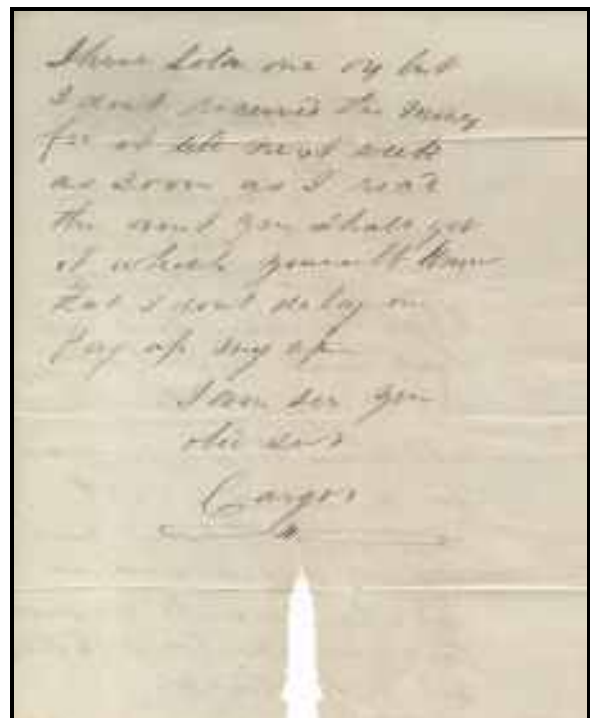
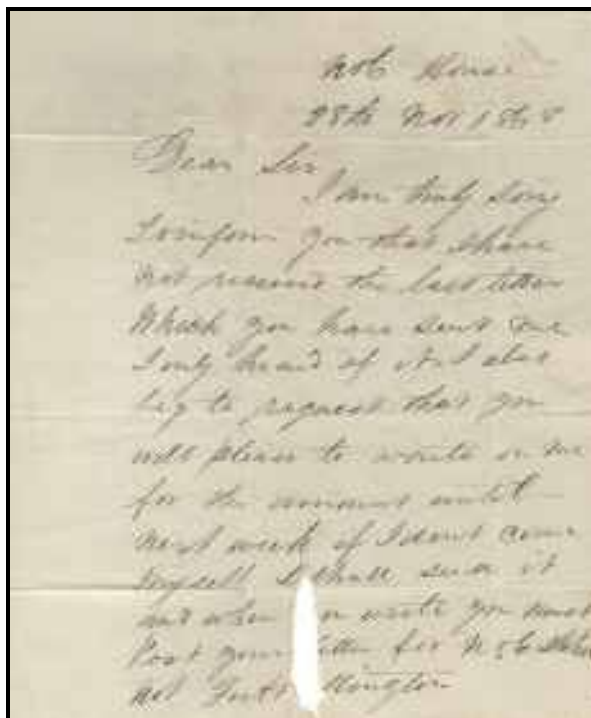
Dear Sir

I am truly sorry to inform you that I have not received the last letter which you have sent me I only heard of it. I also beg to request that you will please to wait for the amount until next week if I don't come myself I shall send it and when one(word unreadable) but I don't received the money for it till next week as soon as I received the amount you shall get it which yourself know that I don't delay in pay up my account.

I am sir your

Obedient servant

Cargoo"



The recipient, Manoel Fernandes, has annotated the letter 'Carta de Cargoo No 6 Berbice Nov 30th 1868'

CCB/1 itself is a great rarity, its extreme recorded dates being 23 April 1868 and 2 November 1869, with an additional part strike on the 1876 issue, after which it occurs no more.

The 1876 2c orange illustrated at Figure 2 is neatly cancelled in manuscript 'No6/E.C.B./3.7.77' quite closely dating the loss or destruction of CCB/1. Perhaps less certainly, the 1 cent sea-green Crown CA (SG213) cancelled in manuscript '-/11/11/Pd/No 6' illustrated at Figure 3 indicates that No.6 remained open some considerable time, but also that the office used few stamps, since this is a very late use of a stamp issued 21 years before.

So much for the finding of the 'lost' P.O. Before offering a theory which does, I believe, truly fit the available facts, I offer a fourth illustration which are the two recorded strikes of ECB3, one for 'AP.28/1874', the other undatable (ex-Nathan), with seriffed capitals – so we now have 8 recorded code-marks for the 7 known P.O.'s Eastwards from New Amsterdam.

ECB/Crown/1, undated, imperial and enigmatic, has always puzzled students, Messrs. Townsend and Howe not least. My suggestion, for which I have no hard evidence, is that it was in fact used at New Amsterdam P.O., possibly as a registration marking, in keeping with numerous crown markings contemporarily in use in other colonies (see T&H p.357 for Georgetown type R15), and at a time when no datestamp is known for New Amsterdam.

If one accepts for the moment this suggestion, then the following allocation of codemarks to P.O.'s emerges, and fits the known facts:–

CODE	EXTREME DATES	POST OFFICE
CCB	30/9/64 – 1876 issue	Fyrish
CCB1	23/4/68 – 1876 issue	No. 6
ECB1	c.1871 – 77	New Amsterdam
ECB2	2/6/70 – 1/1/78	Whim (note 2)
ECB3	28/4/74	Wellington Park
ECB4	24/2/73 – 20/7/76	No.50
ECB5	31/8/75 – 15/1/79	Benab
ECB6	10/6/73 – 28/10/78	Skeldon

The two rare (and earlier issued) CCB codemarks therefore belong to plantation houses where post offices were opened in the 1860's, Fyrish close to New Amsterdam almost at the mouth of the Berbice River, and No.6 a few miles Eastwards.

The six (later issued) ECB marks were allocated in the 1870's in geographical order from New Amsterdam to the East, with the most frequently found being used at the busy locations of New Amsterdam (department not verified), Whim and Skeldon.

NOTES

1. The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana by W.A.Townsend and F.G.Howe, RPSL 1970. Pp 275/6
2. The EKD shown for ECB2 is certainly erroneous, since it appears on the 1876 issue; 1 October 1870 is the earliest reliable date.

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JAMAICA

STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN USED IN JAMAICA

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

Collecting Post-Town cancels on Great Britain stamps is an expensive and chancy business, but the two illustrated items may break new ground.

MILE GULLY 22 SEPT 1863

This GB Plate 2 one shilling green turned up in a dealer's antique approval book recently, and has acquired the Royal's certificate of approval.

Our esteemed editor, co-author of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia, confirms that when the Post-Town oblitters were re-allocated in October 1862, Mile Gully duly despatched its A55 to Moneague in anticipation of receiving A54 from May Hill. May Hill, however, had meanwhile received A53 from Mandeville in unacceptable condition, and decided to hang on to A54.

Mile Gully therefore found itself without an obliterator and had, perforce, to resort to the use of the old double arc circular date stamp to cancel adhesives, pending receipt of a replacement obliterator.

The GB one shilling green has not previously been recorded used in Mile Gully, and why the Postmaster should have accepted one as late as 22 September 1863 is a matter for his (defunct) conscience and our speculation. Perhaps it was proffered by a visitor – GB stamps, even shillings, were commonly kept in travellers' portfolios against need in the Caribbean – already on cover, and accepted as a kindness. In any event, it makes a handsome collector's item.

A38 EWARTON / FALMOUTH



To date, GB adhesives have not been recorded used at Ewarton, which was closed in late 1858 before the despatch of the A38 obliterator by the GPO London and put into use 1 February 1859.

The illustrated item, a cut down copy of the GB sixpence lilac, is not beyond question cancelled A38, but it is hard to see what else the obliterator could be. The balance of probability, therefore, is that we have another GB stamp accepted for postage later than their currency strictly allowed, this time by the Falmouth Postmaster, some time after the reallocation of numeral oblitters in October 1862.

Comments on either item would be gratefully received, as would information on other late usages of GB stamps in Jamaica.

Editor's Note:

The only other recorded GB adhesive with A38 obliterator is illustrated to the right and received a certificate back in 1977.




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SG 171 1942 Landfall 1/- thin striated paper, Corner block of 4 from top right of left pane, with sheet number. VFUM £65

SG 171a 1943 Landfall 1/- black and carmine. Bottom marginal block of 4, R10/4 RP spot in base of oval. VFUM £24

SG 171a 1942 Landfall 1/- black and carmine. RP of 60, some slight staining on reverse and a couple of bends, slight perforation separation. FUM £150


SG 172b 1942 Landfall 2/- with steel-blue frame. Complete sheet of 60, central fold, slight splitting. VFUM £800

SG 173 1942 Landfall 3/- slate-purple vignette. Complete sheet of 60, central fold, slight splitting. VFUM £240

SG 174 1942 5/- thin paper, R10/2 enlarged 'V'. VFUM £45

SG 174 1942 Landfall 5/- thin paper. Top right corner with sheet number from RP, R1/5 unrecorded bar across '2'. VFUM £134

SG 174 1942 5/- Landfall thin paper. R10/4 RP broken oval. VFUM £40



SG 174




SG 174 1942 5/- ordinary paper, R10/4 RP broken oval. VFUM £15

SG 174a 1942 Landfall 5/-, Bottom marginal example with Plate no.1. VFUM £18

SG 174a 1942 Landfall 5/-, Horizontal pair, left stamp 'scar on neck', right stamp 'scar below ear. VFUM £40

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JAMAICA

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

Continued from September Bulletin.

So as to avoid 'Jamaica overload' in this edition, the next section of this article has been deferred to the March issue.

My thanks to Ray Stanton who provided additional information allowing the following updates to be applied to previously published information:

- new LKD for RLBR-02B in purple of 27 Feb 1928
- new variant of RLTS-03 – in purple dated 25 Apr 1939
- new EKD for RLTS-02 11 Feb 1932 (as recorded by Proud)
- new LKD for RLTS-11 of 5 Aug 1965

JAMAICA RESEARCH

BY STEVE JARVIS

I am pleased to report that following an earlier appeal for information regarding Jamaica 'Policy Marine' Fiscals, Paul Wright put me in contact with a Revenue collector, Andrew McClellan, who happened to be working on a paper with Norm Seidelman on this subject. With access to the collections of Derek Sutcliffe, Michael Medlicott, Ian Jakes and stock of Michael Hamilton, we have been able to significantly enhance our understanding of this material. The paper will initially be published by the Revenue Society but it is expected to be able to publish details for BWISC consumption late in 2008.

I would encourage Members to supply information on any other Jamaica Research topics (listed on the web site).



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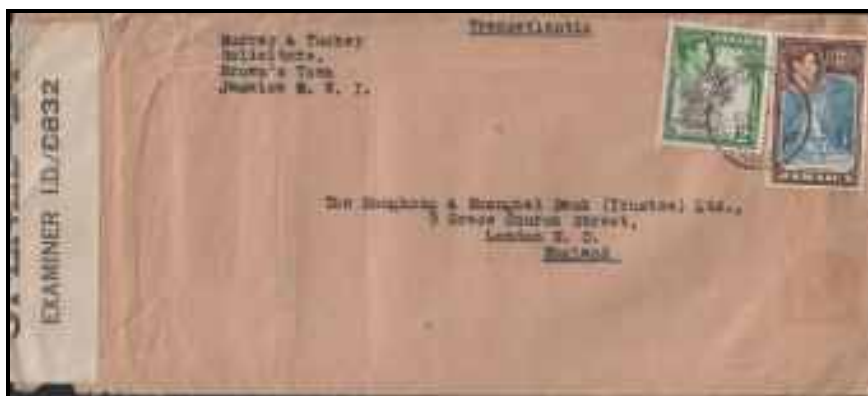
JAMAICA

POSTMARK & CENSORSHIP ON 1ST FIRST FLIGHTS

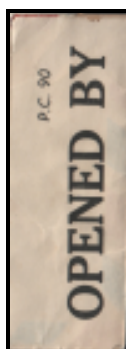
BY DAVID WATSON

Some interesting data from some otherwise rather normal covers, flown from Jamaica:

- A 1944 BWIA 1st flight cover shows previously unrecorded usage of a censor label (Miller L12; Sutcliffe & Jarvis PCL24) by Imperial Examiner 8823. Intriguingly, another cover carried on the same flight, shown on page 92 of Ron Wike's book on T&T airmails, appears to have the same type of label with another unusual number usage (5662). A further number to add to the list for this censor label: 8832, used on a letter from Brown's Town.
- A rather bright, flown 1st day cover, from 1955, shows an rubber oval datestamp for POST "300" OFFICE (47mm x 32mm), not recorded by Potter or Proud.



Images
at 50%



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LEEWARD ISLANDS

KING GEORGE VI KEY PLATE 2

BY PETER BROOKS

On the following two pages is what I think is a definitive table of flaws on the KGVI Key Plate 2 and it corrects some material already published, including some in our Michael Oliver's BWISC handbook which I understand is now sold out. There is also new information here.

The varied occurrence of the flaws and their repairs means that most Plate 2 sheets can easily be allocated to their correct printing by the presence, absence or repair of plate flaws. The exceptions to this are the 8/42 values (1d, 2d, 6d & 1/-) of requisition 963/1 which fortunately can be distinguished from the 11/42 printing by shade and the 1945 1d value. I have not seen a complete sheet of the latter, the only value printed under requisition 1006/1 and therefore do not know if it differs from the 1944 requisition 984/1.

A further difficulty concerns requisition 948/1, the 1940 printing of the 1d value for coil stamps only. Keyplate 2 was in pristine condition for the 1939 printing of the ¼d and by the 8/42 printing showed considerable damage. Information would be welcomed about the intervening coil printing.

Flaws on any one printing occur on all values of that printing.

Heavy inking can obscure some of the minor flaws. e.g. 5/1LP, 5/5LP and 2/6RP.

I find these flaws are most obvious on the 11/42 printing especially on the 1d, 2d and 2½d values. Similarly the flaw at 10/2LP can be obscured. However the repair is always evident so stamps on Plate 2 that appear to be free of the flaw are from printings prior to the repair. Also 9/5RP is rarely clear. The full extent of the flaw has been seen only on the 11/42 1/- value.

A peculiarity of the 8/4RP flaw found only on the 11/42 ½d and 3d values is a partly solid rosette within the triangle. These two values were the first to be printed when the keyplate was reissued to complete requisition 965.

Some flaws were subject to limited hand retouching e.g. 5/2LP on the 1942 issues (1d carmine and ¼d known thus). It is possible that the flaw 5/2aLP is on the 8/42 printing and that the copies I have, have been retouched.

A peculiarity particularly of the 1943 issue is a doubling or blurring of the left side of stamps in the first vertical row of the right hand pane. This is not caused by damage to the keyplate as it varies considerably.

Much help has been gained from material published by Michael Oliver, Richard Lockyer and Dickon Pollard and from correspondence with Harold Green. Their interest and help has been much appreciated.

Illustrations courtesy of Richard Lockyer O.B.E. of the King George VI Collectors Society.

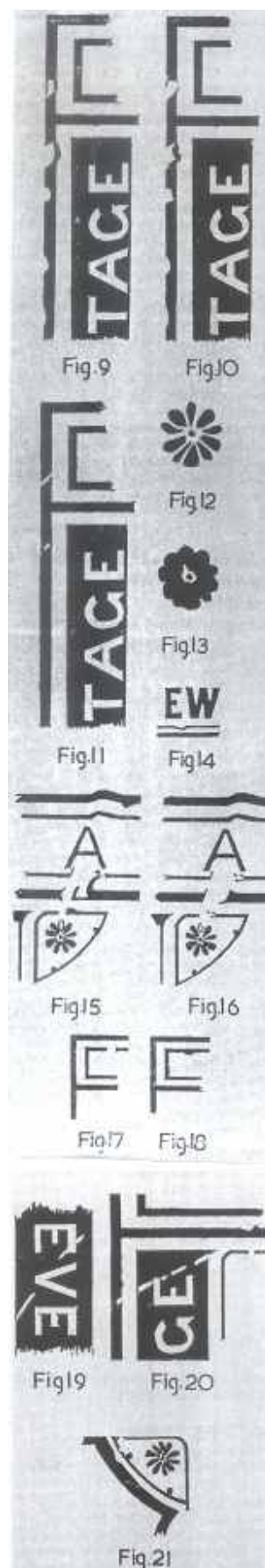


Table of Keyplate Flaws King George VI – Plate 2 Left Pane

Requisition Number	917/1 1939 ½d only	948/1 1940 1d Rolls only	963/1 8/42	965 11/42	976/1 1943	984/1 1944	1006/1 1d only
2/5 Teardrop in background behind King's head by frame surround adjacent to lower dot	X	X	Y	Y	Y	X	X
5/1 Scratch as from right leg of R of REVENUE across framelines	X	?	Y	Y	X	X	X
5/2a Bite out of left frameline 5mm down	X	X	X	Y	X	X	X
5/2b Break in upper horizontal of name frame 1 mm from left Fig. 17. Seen only on Mauritius (pre 8/42?)	X	?	X	X	X	X	X
5/2c Above repaired upward dent in name frame	X	X	Y	Y	X	X	X
5/2d Further repair left downward bump Fig.18	X	X	X	X	Y	Y	Y
5/5 White Flaw by or across left frameline 5¼mm up	X	X	Y	Y	X	X	X
6/1a 'Extra Leaf' 'Green' Flaw across bottom frameline right of value tablet. See Bulletin 161 p.36	X	X	X	X	Y	X	X
6/1b Above repaired. Elongated spur to ornament often touches lower frame where small white flaw	X	X	X	X	X	Y	Y
8/3a Scratch across 'EVE' of REVENUE Fig.19	X	X	X	X	Y	X	X
8/3b Faint traces of above flaw	X	X	X	X	X	Y	Y
8/4 Scratch continues over 'E' of POSTAGE with thickened rosette and frame line above has bubble Fig.20	X	X	X	X	Y	X	X
9/1a diagonal flaw under right leg of 'N' of REVENUE	X	X	Y	Y	Y	X	X
9/1b Repair of above left white dot by right leg of 'N' of REVENUE	X	X	X	X	X	Y	?
9/2a Value tablet surround damaged on both diagonals at left	X	?	Y	Y	Y	X	X
9/2b Above repaired but lower left diagonal often shows white flaw	X	X	X	X	X	Y	Y
9/3a 'Slash' flaw over top left triangle and framelines Figs. 15 & 16	(Mauritius only 42/43 printing).						
9/3b Above repaired. Strengthened top left rosette touches triangle frame with distorted framelines above Fig.13	X	X	X	X	Y	X	X
9/3c Slight repair of above. Rosette separated from triangle frame (except rarely when heavy inking)	X	X	X	X	X	Y	Y
9/5a Bottom name frame buckled 4½mm from left and top frame dented Fig. 14	X	?	Y	Y	Y	X	X
9/5b Above repaired left weakness in name frame	X	X	X	X	X	Y	Y
10/2a Right vertical name frame and outer frame broken or dented in two places	X	X	Y	Y	X	X	X
10/2b Above repaired left irregular vertical name frame at right	X	X	X	X	Y	Y	Y

X Absent Y Present ? Uncertain

Table of Keyplate Flaws King George VI – Plate 2 Right Pane

Requisition Number	917/1 1939 ½d only	948/1 1940 1d Rolls only	963/1 8/42	965 11/42	976/1 1943	984/1 1944	1006/1 1945 1d only
1/5 Left upright of U of REVENUE has bulge near base	X	X	X	X	?	Y	?
2/6 White flaw between GE of POSTAGE	X	?	Y	Y	X	X	X
6/5 Break in right vertical name frame ½mm down	X	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	?
8/4 Broken top right triangle with dents in frame of triangle and adjacent headframe fig.21	X	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	?
9/3 White flaw under right leg of 'N' of REVENUE	X	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	?
9/4 Uneven outer left frame between 3mm & 5mm down	X	?	Y	Y	Y	Y	?
9/5 White flecks in left frameline 1 to 3 mm up	X	?	Y	Y	X	X	X
10/5a Serrated edge of left frameline (HALWARD 2) figs 9 & 10	X	?	Y	Y	X	X	X
10/5b Repair of above. Diagonal hairline flaw in left frame 5mm down fig. 11	X	X	X	X	Y	Y	Y

X Absent Y Present ? Uncertain

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

THE ¼D DUTY PLATE 1909–38 – AN UPDATE

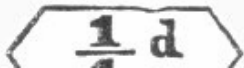

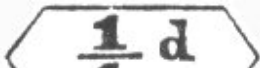
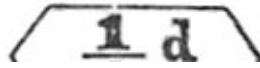
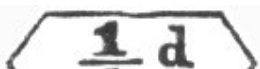
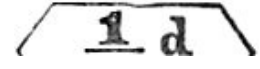
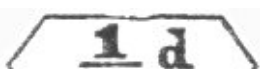
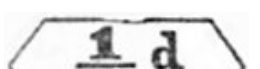
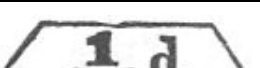

BY PETER FERNBANK

In Bulletin 212 I suggested that the ¼d duty plate used for the two Plate 28 printings might have been reduced from 120-set to 60-set, and then used to overprint both left and right panes of the 120-set key plate sheet. This suggestion was based on a sole example from the same position (9/6) on both panes with virtually identical flaws. Most of the other flaws listed at that time were present on the top half of the right pane only, no material being available from the left pane for comparison.

Peter Brooks has since written to say that he has a block containing the top five rows of the left pane from the Plate 28 printing which contains identical flaws to those I listed on the right pane in positions 1/3, 1/6, 3/6, 4/3, 4/4, 5/1 and 5/4. Unfortunately the best flaw of the lot from the right pane, the missing centre apex of 'W' on 4/5, was not present on the left pane and this might well be a printing freak (unless anyone has a similar example). The case for the size of the ¼d duty plate being reduced from 120-set to 60-set after the Plate 26 printing in 1933, and used to overprint both left and right panes of the 120-set key plate imprint, would seem to have been proved conclusively.

However, Peter has been in touch again with the answer to the question of the origin of this 60-set plate, a solution which had not occurred to me. He noticed that certain minor plate defects on the Plate 26 printing were present on a different row, but in the same position within the row, on the Plate 28 printing! These are shown below (illustrations are as presented in Bulletin 211 (Plate 26) and 212 (Plate 28)):-

Peter has also confirmed that the 'LEEWARD slopes down' flaw on RP1/1 is present on one of the Plate 21 printings. Presumably it was repaired prior to the Plate 23 printing, where it no longer appears.

		Plate 26 ptg.			Plate 28 ptgs.
Description	Row/ stamp		Row/ STAMP		
Dent in top of frame above 'd'	1/1		10/1		
Break in top of frame above '1'	2/6		3/6		
Dent in top of frame between '1' and 'd'	3/4		4/4		
Dent in top of frame, between '1' and 'd'	6/1		5/1		
Dent in top of frame above and to right of '1'	8/6		1/6		

As mentioned in Bulletin 211, duty plates were normally cut up into small blocks (of 4, 6, 12, 18, etc. – there being some variation in the size of blocks employed). These blocks were then mounted on a base board to form the completed plate. In this case it seems that the blocks were removed from the original 120-set base board, and sufficient blocks in relatively good condition, mostly (possibly all) from the left pane, were then selected to re-mount on to a 60-set size board. Fig.1 illustrates De La Rue's method of cutting the plate up in to small blocks and mounting them on to the base board.

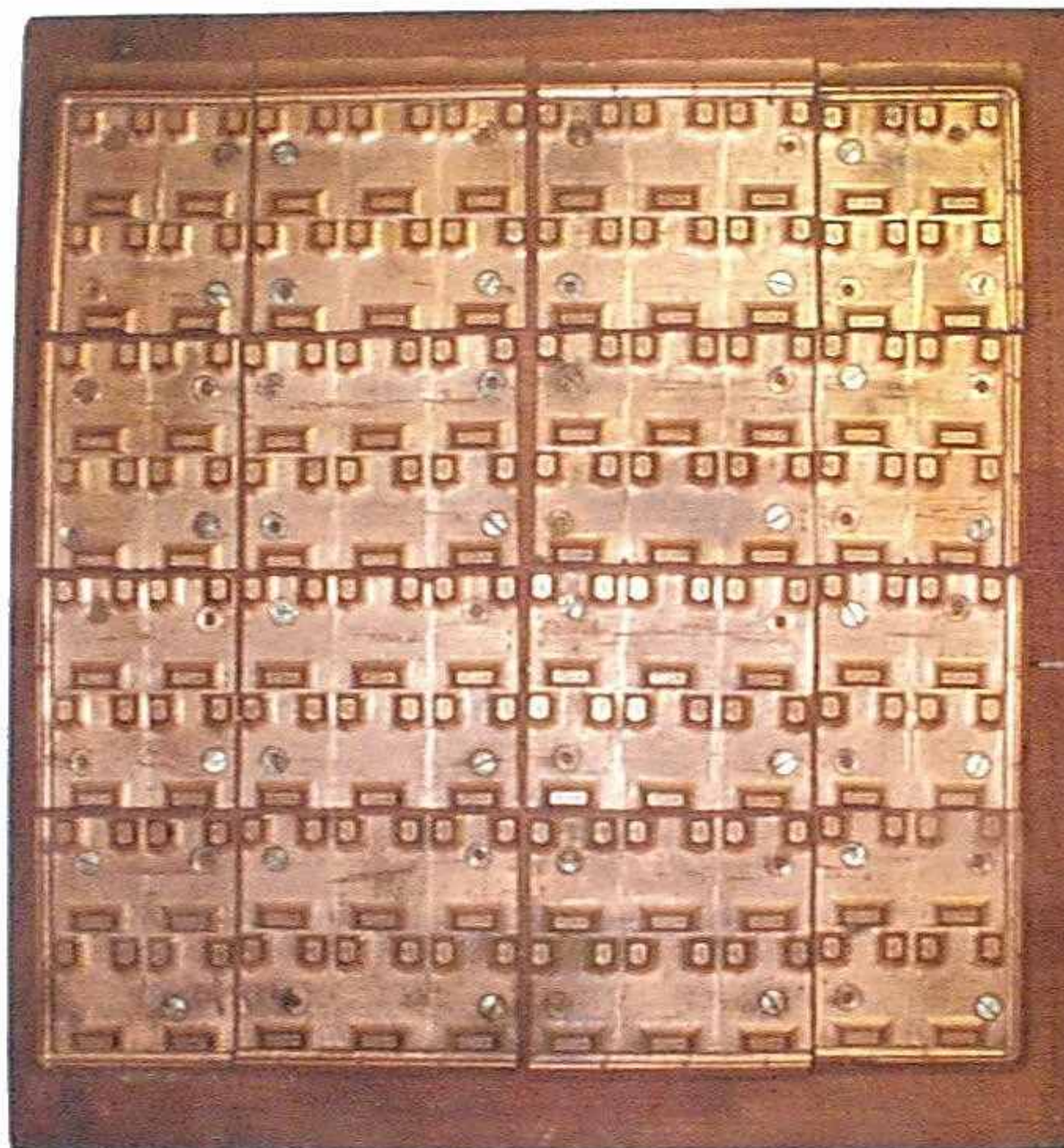


Figure 1 Malta 1922 1d Melita duty plate showing plate constructed from small blocks.

To summarise:–

Plate 26		Plate 28
Row 1	has moved to	Row 10
Row 2	“ “ “	Row 3
Row 3	“ “ “	Row 4
Row 6	“ “ “	Row 5
Row 8	“ “ “	Row 1

Figure 2 illustrates one example of the change in row between the Plate 26 and 28 printings.



Figure2
Dent in value tablet frame above 'd' of '1/4d' appears on row 1 stamp 1 on the Plate 26 printing, but has moved to row 10 stamp 1 by the Plate 28 printing.

Since the blocks were theoretically identical there would have been no necessity to attempt to retain their original positions, hence the change in position of those with minor blemishes shown above. In the process of re-mounting the blocks a number of them must have received further damage, accounting for the flaws additional to those listed above that appear on the Plate 28 printing but are not on the Plate 26 printing.

MONTSERRAT

SG1 ISSUE DATE

BY DAVID WATSON

September 1876 is quoted as the issue date for SG1 by Gibbons & Robson Lowe, however, the cover below clearly shows usage on 15 Aug 1876. Genuine use of stamps on this cover is confirmed by an albino impression of the A08 canceller in the part of the cover under the lifted strip of 3. 13,200 1d stamps were invoiced to Montserrat 'JU 23 1876'.

SG's catalogue editor Hugh Jefferies has accepted that Montserrat SG1 was issued in August 1876.

"Your 'AU 15 1876' is the earliest Montserrat stamped cover bearing three of SG1".

Sanderson Cover



The rate to Barbados would have been 6d so three further 1d stamps missing/ removed and correctly rated red '4' (1d to port, 4d sea mail, 1d delivery).

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

MDD PERFIN (QUESTION 214/001)

BY SIMON SMITH

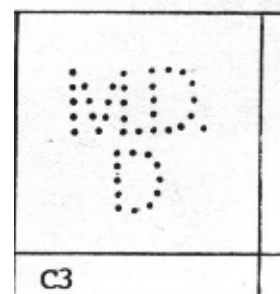
I contacted Alastair Walter Perfin Society Librarian who provided the following information –

'I have found a possible match for your perfin, shown in the attached scan from the Perfins Club's World Perfins catalogue. This is the only known perfin on stamps of St. Kitts-Nevis.

The catalogue records this perfin being used from 1942, with a possible but unproved user: 'Municipal Directors'. It is also known on Leeward Is stamps from 1938 onwards.

Unfortunately this rather sparse information is all that I could find.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS



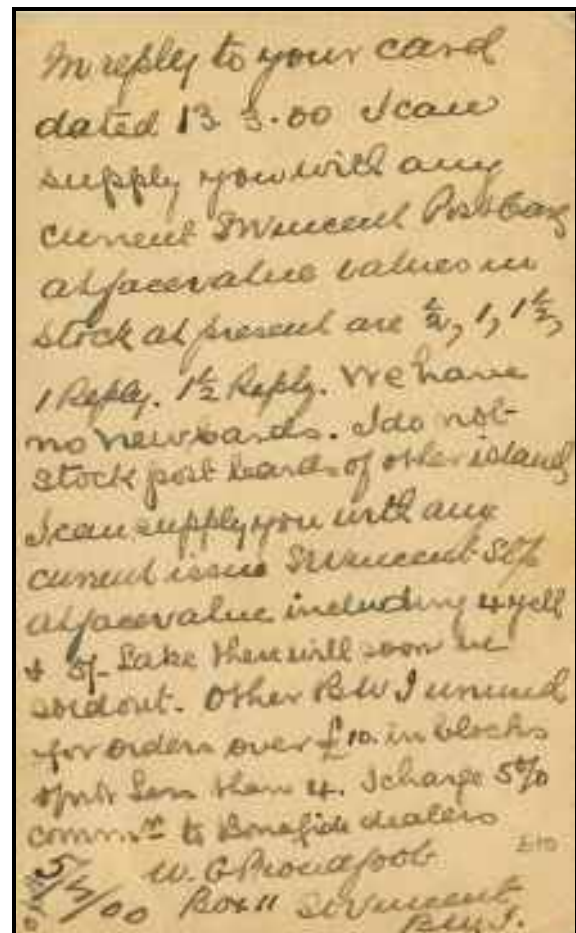
The image is the exact same match as the perfin on the stamps that Alan and I saw when in York recently.

ST. VINCENT**POSTAL STATIONERY CARD****BY CHRIS SOUTHGATE**

I thought your readers would be interested in the text of this PSC posted 12 April 1900.

'In reply to your card dated 13.3.00, I can supply you with any current St. Vincent postcards at face value. Values in stock at present are ½, 1, 1½, 1 Reply, 1½ Reply. We have no new cards. I do not stock post cards for other islands. I can supply you with any current issue St. Vincent stamps at face value including 4 yell + 5/- lake, these will soon be sold out. Other BWI unused for orders over £10 in blocks of not less than 4. I charge 5% comm'n to bonafide dealers.

WG Proudfoot, Box 11 St. Vincent BWI 5/4/00'



peter singer



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VIRGIN ISLANDS (BRITISH)**POST OFFICES REPORT MARCH TO AUGUST 1957 (3 PAGES) EDITED BY MICHAEL REGO**

Continued from Bulletin 213, June 2007.

- The Administration of the British Virgin Islands consists primarily of the four islands, Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada and Jost Van Dyke... The capital, Road Town is at Tortola, with the main settlement at the East and West End Tortola. There is a rough road from Road Town to Sea Cow Bay in one direction and to Beef Island in the other, but elsewhere communication is by boat, or over tracks by horse.
- The economy and hence the communication of the territory are based on trade with the people working in the American Virgin Islands whose capital is St. Thomas, about 8 miles from Tortola. Nearly all communication with the outside world is through St. Thomas, where there is an airport for planes flying North and South through the Caribbean area and, via Puerto Rico, with America and Europe.
- There is traffic by sloop with St. Kitts and occasionally Antigua, and some surface mail is sent by this means.
- The services are very rudimentary. The only place where the basic services, Money Order, Postal Order, Parcels, Letters posted and collected and Registered Letters, are provided is at Road Town. There is no delivery of mail.
- Letters are despatched to East End and West End and held there for collection, but there is no facility for posting or for purchasing stamps at these places. There is a Government Officer at West End and an Agent at East End.
- There are two centres of population on Virgin Gorda, at Valley and Sound. They are about eight miles apart. At Valley there is a Government Agent who receives the incoming mail (registered and ordinary letters). Provision has been made for mail to be sent on from there to Sound, but owing to the difficulty of obtaining a messenger, the scheme has fallen into disuse. There are no posting or stamp purchasing facilities, the population is about 1,000 people, and requests have been made for posting facilities.
- On Anegada, there is a Government Agent, aged 84, who receives incoming letters for the island. There are no posting or other facilities. The population is approximately 300 people.
- On Jost Van Dyke there are no postal facilities, mails are sent to West End, Tortola and from there are handed to captains of boats who make delivery on the island. The population is, approximately, 300 people. There is a radio-telephone service between the islands and a radio link with St. Thomas is being installed.
- Problems – In former years there were posting and stamp purchasing facilities at East End and West End, Tortola, and at Valley on Virgin Gorda. The services have, however, fallen into disuse and there is now no inland postal service. What happens is that the boats and their Agents who ply between the islands, are running an unstamped letter carrying service. This applies not only between the British Islands but between each British Island and St. Thomas. The captains of the boats receive unstamped letters from their agents and post them in St. Thomas for the rest of the world. Revenue is being lost by this practice, and mail is being carried illegally, but owing to the sparseness of communications there are the following practical difficulties...
- The Report goes into details about the present arrangement which he finds unsatisfactory and makes recommendations for improvements and the re-establish the postal facilities at East and West Tortola.
- The clerks have limited experience... and should have proper training either at Jamaica or Trinidad.

AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****SPINK 4 OCTOBER**

The Victoriana GB collection contained only a few lots of BWI interest but two were special. A fascinating 2d mulready letter-sheet to Tobago (see next page for illustration), valued at a healthy £12-15,000, fetched an astonishing £70,000 plus £11,000 odd in premiums and another £6,000 odd VAT for EC buyersyes, there are still some hedge fund managers about despite or perhaps because of the credit crunch. And the 1859 cover from St. Christopher to Trinidad, franked with four GB 1ds to make up the 4d western hemisphere rate and franked A12, went for £5,800 hammer. Those who have looked at Brian Brookes' outstanding exhibit on our website may have read the introductory notes stating that Brian had never seen a 1d on cover...till now.

LUGDUNUM

If you are interested in postal history you will have heard of Lugdunum Philatelie, which is run by Thierry Lallevee out of France. His early stock was very French-oriented, but included occasional offers of incoming mail from the BWI. But more recently he has been branching out and the last two catalogues contained some useful BWI. In the May sale there was an 1877 cover to Paris franked 1s½d including a bisected 1d perf 12½. This cover, reserved at 6,000 euros, was acquired by a London dealer. In the October sale there were a few outstanding Antigua and Br. Guiana items, including an 1860 wrapper from Paramaribo to Dunkirk carried by the Solent from Demerara at the rare 7d rate to catch the GPO Packet Parana at St. Thomas, reserved at 4,500 euros, and a lovely 1878 6d rate from Antigua to Paget, Bermuda, which fetched 1320 euros.

SPINK 14-15 NOVEMBER

Choice collections of Bermuda and Dominica were on offer at Spink. The quality of the material and the level of reserves gave a clue to the seller, who I believe to be one of our more illustrious but reclusive members. It was a good test of the current market as this collection was one where top prices had been paid for top material, with a good range of stamp multiples, file specimens, proofs and covers....but it was handicapped by having all been on the market fairly recently and by its relatively high reserves, which meant that the sale never developed real momentum. For the **Bermuda**, demand was patchy but the total sold still exceeded £300,000. It started strongly with £8,500 paid for the 1684 letter that brought £3,500 at Ludington in 1999 (all hammer prices) and other choice postal history items sold well, e.g. the undated PM3 at £5,200 and the Hamilton ship letter at £6,000. The powerful Moncrieff cover opened and closed at £35,000, 40% above its last sale price in 2003. There were few surprises among the early stamps with the block of 9 1/-s imperf between two rows seeming reasonable value at £18,000. There was good demand for the hand-painted essays, usually around the £5,000 mark, and most of the choice specimens sold around their estimates of £400-500 but many of the docks colour trials and Caravels were unsold. However, the QEII varieties sold well and the 1937 imperf coronation specimen set was expensive at £2,600.

The **Dominica** was also an important collection, although inevitably slimmer. The highlight of the difficult early straight line marks (nearly all ex Stephen Sugarman) was the 1778 Dominico at £4,800, but the postal history was on the whole in the ballpark. The most expensive stamp was the better of two 1d/6d thick bar varieties at £14,000, but the connoisseurs fancied the unique block of the 1877 4d blue, also ex Sugarman – it fetched an astounding £2,500 then, this time it was a mere £4,800! The 1d/1/- double overprint (£2,800 in Sugarman) was well above Gibbons valuation at £7,500. The 2½d brown on cover to Guadeloupe was £2,000 and the 1877 bisect cover to Bordeaux £2,400. The Edward and GV colour trials were in demand with the approved trials for the 1922-33 set generating some rare bidding wars and closing between £550 and £850. The total for the Dominica comfortably exceeded £100,000.

On the following day, there was a select group of **St. Christopher** items from the same source. Several straight line St. Kitts marks went for their reserves, but the 1870 master die proof in bright green fetched no less than £8,500 against a reserve of £1,600. A nice plate block of the rare first printing 6d green was £900.

AN APOLOGY

Philip Kinns told me that he was upset at my comment that Gibbons had marked up its purchases at the Jaffé St. Lucia sale by an average 3 times. This was clumsy maths on my part and not accurate. The point I was trying to make was that there were some relatively low prices and the dealers did well at that sale, as Philip will acknowledge. When Philip does make a good mark-up (and even he does from time to time!) it is often a result of his own skill (he caught a St. Lucia Thompson flaw which I and Spink missed and has now researched and proved the validity of the St. Vincent 4d die proof sold by Harmers with an estimate of £200).

It should be added that the Jaffé material attracted a 5% import VAT as well as the normal music (which at Spink is now 20% plus VAT on lots with a hammer price below £2,000 and 15% above that) and for a firm with a shop in central London the mark-up has to be close to 100% to make any return at all. However, the buyers' commission structure is becoming complicated. Bonhams now charges 17½% (unless a lot realises over £30,000, which cuts us out), Harmers 18% up to £5,000 (and 12½% between £5,000 and £100,000) and Western 16% plus £2.50 per lot, plus 17½% VAT on the commission plus postage. On the continent, Köhler charges 17½%, Corinphila 18% and Feldman 19½%. Thankfully, Cavendish, Grosvenor and nearly all the US and Canadian houses charge a flat 15% (plus tax). Sadly Shreves, until recently a backmarker at 10%, has adapted the Spink structure, but at least the 20% only kicks in below \$2,000 not £2,000.

The reason why buyers' commission has evolved so strongly is competition on the consignment side, with big sellers increasingly ready to haggle, together with introductory commissions ('finders' fees') of up to 5%. But perhaps stamp collectors should be thankful for small mercies - Sothebys and Christies have moved to a 25% buyers' premium for the first £10,000. The only upside is that some auction houses including Spink, Victoria and now Shreves do not charge for some credit card purchases, compared with 5% for credit cards at Feldman, 3% at Bonhams and 2% at Harmers (but be careful with Spink / Shreves where the conditions state the card has to be charged within 7 days or a 2% fee is added).

COMING EVENTS

Our former secretary, Michael Nicholson, who died tragically early, formed a very interesting collection of the Br. Guiana 1897 Jubilees. The family reportedly decided to hold on to the collection in his memory but it will now be in the Harmers sale on 12 December. I have not seen the catalogue yet but I believe the collection is to be offered in two large lots, with the major items in one lot valued at £10,000. This is a pity for our members as there would be interest in many parts of it broken down into smaller lots, but that reflects the economics of auction houses nowadays. Otherwise, the timing of this report is not convenient, as it has to go to press just before the Grosvenor sale of Mike Spaven's Leeward Is. and the Victoria Stamp Co sale on 8 December with outstanding Bermuda postal history. But at least there will be something to report on next time.



1840 Mulready Two Pence Envelope
sold at Spink
a197, addressed to Tobago,
inscribed "pd Tenpence extra"
and "p Lapwing Packet"
in the same hand as the address details
and rated "1/-" in red ink,
showing very fine red London Paid
datestamp for 1 March 1841.

Examples of Mulreadys addressed
overseas are extremely rare and
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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 185, 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 2008 is as follows:

Edition	March	June	September	December
Distribute	Mon 17 Mar	Mon 16 June	Mon 8 Sept	Mon 8 Dec
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Advert Final copy	Fri 8 Feb	Fri 16 May	Fri 8 Aug	Fri 24 Oct
Article copy deadline	Fri 26 Jan	Fri 2 May	Fri 25 July	Fri 24 Oct
Advert book space	Fri 18 Jan	Fri 18 Apr	Fri 18 July	Fri 17 Oct

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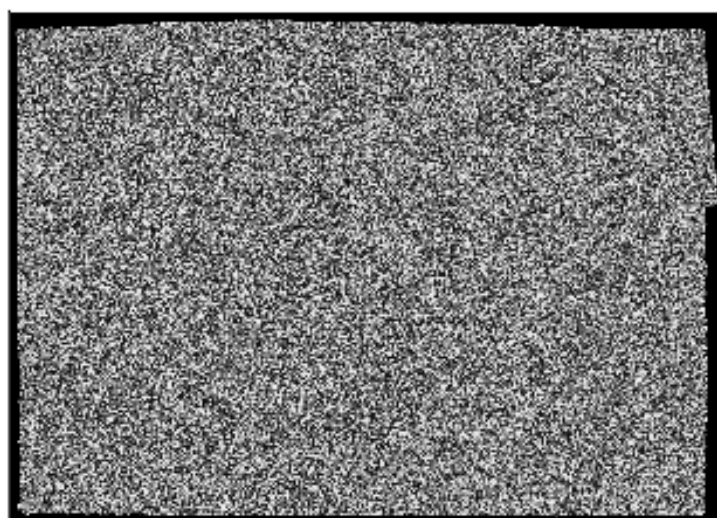
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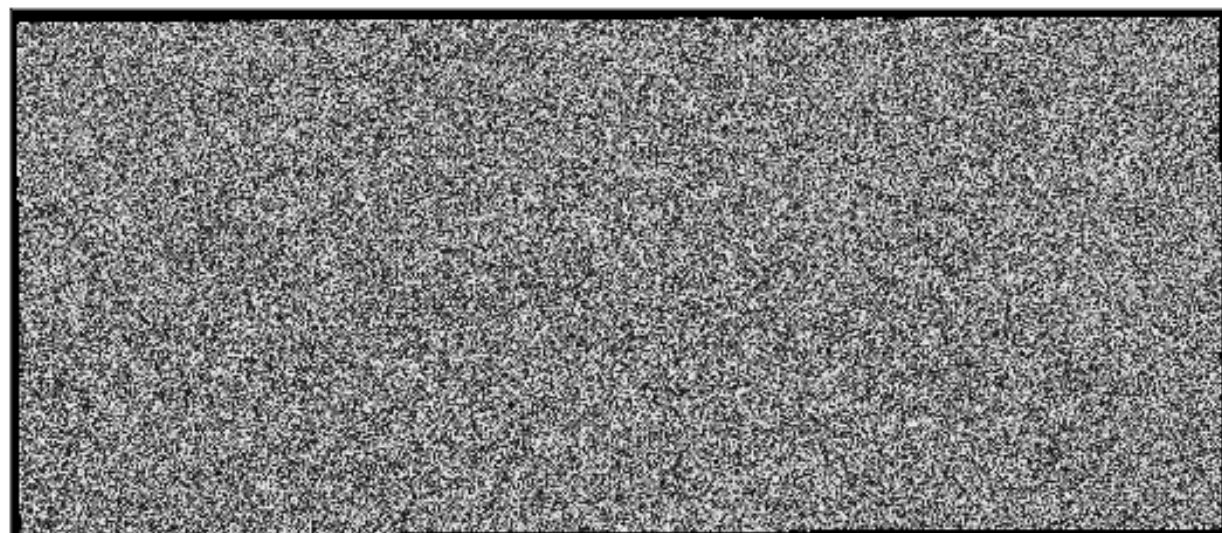
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Fine West Indies at Auction on December 12th 2007



Trinidad and Tobago 1780 (March 7), address letter to France, cancelled "Trinidad Hispaniola", rated "11" and with superb "Crown" postmarking mark of Barbados; endorsed on reverse "L'on le 11 Le Comte d'Orléans de Bréville - Cap. de Matelotage (S.A.C.)" and "votre lettre du 10 de juin 1780"; fine. One of only three covers known from the Spanish period. Estimate: £1500



Guernsey 1791 (July 2), address letter from Cayman to London, rated 11- in manuscript and showing fine "GUERNSEY/Channel" handwriting on reverse. Estimate: £250

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