

VIRGIN ISLANDS – 1866 ISSUE

THE COMPOUND PERF, THE UNCOMPOUND PERF, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE IMPERF

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT



Compound perf. variety



BULLETIN No. 216 March 2008



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**AGM & AUCTION 2008**

.. is to be held at Spink on Saturday 19 April 2008 at 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London, WC1B 4ET (between Holborn & Russell Sq). Auction viewing from 1:15 with the AGM at 2:15.

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.

Paul Wright will be displaying his Jamaica and we have 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.

EDITOR'S CONFESSION

The December Bulletin contained an authoritative article by David Horry answering the Caribbean Mysteries article, previously submitted by David Wright. Your Editor failed to realize that this was one of Horry's spoof articles! Both David Horry and my editorial consultant, Charles Freeland, assumed I knew, we have all had a good laugh about it. Nevertheless, I believe the article was worthy of inclusion for the entertainment value and Horry assures me that his article in this edition is serious.

BWISC WEB SITE (WWW.BWISC.ORG)

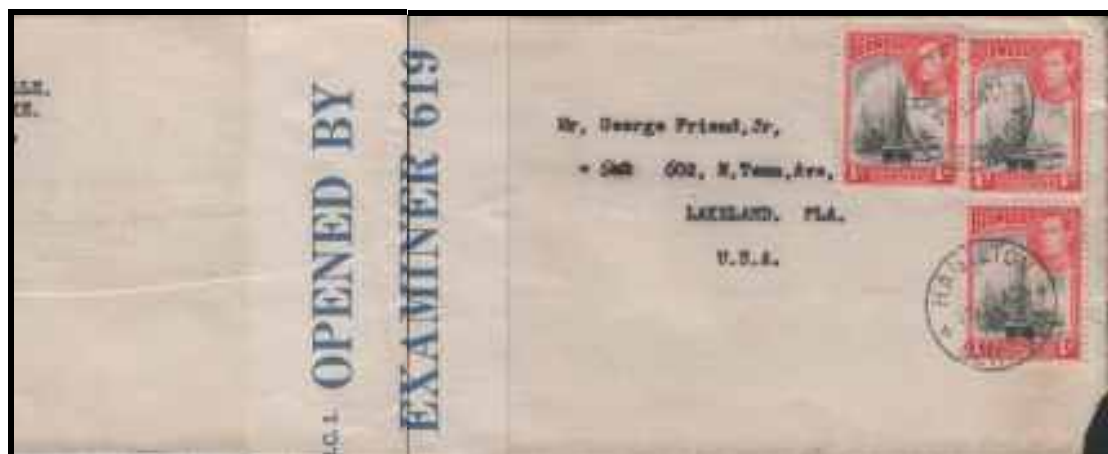
- Peter Fernbank has completed scanning old Bulletins and these are now all available for download, together with an up-to-date cumulative index.
- James Podger's Cayman Is. display at Honiley has now been added to the Gallery.
- A site search facility, provided by Google, has been added to the home page.
- Don't forget to keep an eye on the 'Auction/Dealers' page for the latest auction news provided by our roving reporter, Charles Freeland.
- Charles Freeland has compiled a list of BWI exhibits at FIP or other significant international Exhibitions (under articles), he would like Members to alert him of any exhibits overlooked.

BWI**WWII CENSORSHIP IN THE WEST INDIES – A HUMBLE ADDITION BY DR DAVID WATSON**

It is not easy finding censored covers that add information to Chris Miller's key reference work on this subject – 'British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II, Section 6, Canada and Colonies in the Caribbean and North and South America.' This excellent book allowed me to get into this complex subject. It was with great sadness that I heard of Chris' sudden death.

A humble addition to the massive work that Chris did:

- **Antigua:**– Miller type L8 paper seal: newly recorded usage by examiner number 246.
- **Bermuda:**– Censor tape with blue printing (Miller type CL3) used 11 Feb 1942 (after latest known date of usage given by Miller).
- **Bermuda:**– Censor label used in Bermuda (m/s 'I.C.') not recorded by Miller (used on intercepted mail from Curaçao dated 15 Jun 1942). Curaçao details: Censor tape type LC.3a (F.W. Julsen & A.M. Benders [1975] 'A Postal History of Curaçao'.)
- **Dominica:**– Miller type L3B label: new examiner no. (60) recorded.

**CORRECTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- The Jamaican TRD illustrated in my article on page 26 on Bulletin no. 215, was reported on page 381 of the Proud reference to my article. My thanks to him for pointing this out.
- The definitive quote about the Sanderson cover from Montserrat (p. 33 of Bulletin no. 215) was kindly provided by Michael Hamilton, as was the equally helpful information about rates, below the picture of the cover.



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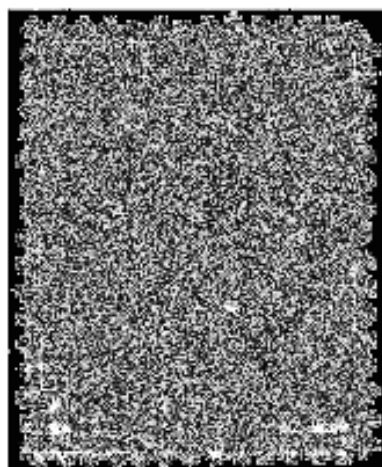


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BWI**KING GEORGE VI POSTMARKS BOOK – A PERSPECTIVE****BY DAVID HORRY**

Editor's Note: David Horry has written a series of articles for the BWISC to accompany his recently published book: 'The Encyclopaedia of British West Indies Postmarks – King George VI'.

I have always been intrigued by stamps and postmarks. My interest in stamps began when I was 4 years and 217 days old, when my twin brother (good-looking boy!) broke his leg. A friend of my mother gave him a stamp album and a packet of 1,000 all world stamps to give him something to do while his leg was up! I was green with envy and my Dad had to redress the balance. I have always loved KGV stamps. I always remember my first recess-printed colonial, a penny ha'penny from the Gilbert & Ellice Islands bought from the market in Lincoln – De la Rue's surfing canoeists in carmine and black, simply gorgeous.



I then collected slogan postmarks of GB into my teenage years. By the late Eighties, I had almost every intaglio Commonwealth KGV stamp mint and used – and all of CSN&Y (Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young). Murray Payne sold me a Malaya Union Victory red 8c and I was replete. So where was my philatelic future? I checked out my BWI and noticed that I had no less than 23 different postmarks on Trinidad KGV – such exotica as Fyzabad (which I had always thought was in India), Port of Spain, San Fernando and Diego Martin.



One lunchtime I popped into *The Strand Stamp Centre* as it was, before it became the headquarters of *The Dalek Federation* and assailed Malcolm Sprei on the subject of Trinidad postmarks. He had a collection of 120 different Trinidad and Tobago postmarks which I gleefully bought for ninety quid. I don't think he's had another since! It revealed Arima, Carapichaima, Cedros and many of the usual suspects.



I had, without realizing it, become a marcophilist – a born-again postmark collector. A sad anorak, scouring stamp fairs for faraway destinations immortalized in circular black ink. I joined the British West Indies Study Circle and the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. I was not alone:– Ben Ramkissoon, Ed Addiss and Walton van Winkle (what a moniker!) issued a spiral-bound book on the *Village Postmarks of Trinidad and Tobago* – BCSPG – the purest gold. Before this there were scant listings gleaned from the BCPSJ and BWISC. It listed all the known postmarks but as was the fashion of that period, few illustrations – no one could draw postmarks except perhaps Barbados collectors! Ben put me in touch with the famed Joe Chin Aleong in St. Ann's, Port of Spain. Joe is a Trinidadian of Chinese origin and his earlier research had formed the basis for their book. Then I bought a Jamaican collection from Mr. Sprei and started buying stuff from Michael Hamilton who advertised in GSM. I thought he was expensive but had some really great KGV and earlier postmarks. I started pulling other West Indian postmarks from Stampex, fairs and the Saturday stalls in London. I managed to find a wonderful collection of Grenada that had been unwittingly tipped into the stock books at Stanley Gibbons!



Then came a great breakthrough. I bought the B.B. Thompson (ex-President of the T&T Philatelic Circle) collection of postmarks from an auction house in Leeds. It was expensive and vast (two cardboard boxes). It contained quite a lot of ex-Addiss material.



Michael Hamilton was supplying me with plenty of gems each month and very soon I was top of the league. At least I thought I was. I went to have a look at Derek Sutcliffe's Jamaica postmarks and was bowled over and when I showed a few T&T postmarks at a BWISC meeting at the Bonnington Hotel one wet Saturday, I realized I was way out of my depth – a mere novice. There were plenty of people around like Simon Goldblatt who knew much about West Indies postmarks – I knew so very little.



I then moved to Hong Kong and spent some weeks with Ed Hillier sorting out the rump of the Thompson/Addiss collection focusing on Port of Spain – mindnumbing stuff. Ed was a brick and we conquered the north-face of the *medium Single Circles*.

Then two events re-aligned my compass I decided to go over to Trinidad and meet up with Joe Chin Aleong in St. Ann – in fact I stayed with him (after a night at the world's only upside-down hotel, the Hilton in POS) – in a small, mosquito-infested gazebo at the bottom of his garden. Joe and Carol were marvellous hosts. He was working with Ted Proud on a new book on T&T postal history. I willingly offered-up my earliest and last recorded dates from the Thompson/Addiss collection, realizing by then that I had a few real rarities. Joe took me all over Trinidad in his beat-up Jeep. We cruised from the exotic north coast – Mayaro, Blanchisseuse, Sans Souci and the wonderful surf beach at Toco: past the mountains, down through the cane-fields to San Fernando and the pitch-lake at La Brea.



We stopped at countless post offices, some of which offered a good lunch. He also sold me stacks of stuff which Carol used to sort out for him on a nightly basis. Strangely he was Chinese but spoke not a word of Mandarin – his forebears came over from south-east China in the 1860s after emancipation. I spoke a tad of mandarin – this fascinated his family. I also visited West Indian Test batsman Nyron Asgarali (who opened with Sobers in 1957 on the English Tour). I had earlier visited Tobago and the Bahamas. Later I *did* St. Lucia and The Grenadines – paradise. I have also been to Antigua, Barbados and the Virgin Islands, sadly not Jamaica. I then picked up the re-issued back numbers of the BCPSGJ which gave me a lot of info – the best of this being Topaz's Jamaica. In 1996 Potter published his Jamaica Postmarks – it was brilliant but flawed – no, well,

very few illustrations. Until Proud came along this was generally a problem. Ted uses local artists to render his illustrations – but these girls were not marcophilists and mistakes were not uncommon. It was in late 1997 that I decided to tackle *The Encyclopaedia of the Postmarks of the West Indies*. I was an advertising art director/graphic designer so I could handle the task as *Adobe Photoshop* was now available. My son Jack – a computer wiz – came over to Hong Kong and helped me kit out my studio. We learnt Photoshop together from the manual – trial and error – and worked out a method of lifting postmarks from stamps and re-rendering them so they appeared accurate and presentable. Initially I tackled T&T but it was far too ambitious – alphabetical order with full colour stamp with postmark, plus separated postmark – a bit of gratuitous art and a description. I got as far as C and quit. I restarted and followed the format that the new book maintains – except that it also included early QEII to 1965! Later when I sat down and worked it all out, it appeared that this tome would be at least a thousand pages long!

Not on – so I split the QEII out and aimed for KGV only. I had always admired Townsend & Howe's British Guiana format of placing the postmarks in their sibling groups rather than village by village, as I had previously attempted. This method gave one a chance to compare like with like. It was useful in working out earliest recorded dates and seeing where variations occurred. I later added an alphabetical index to help those who needed village-by-village information – it was also a handy check for myself.

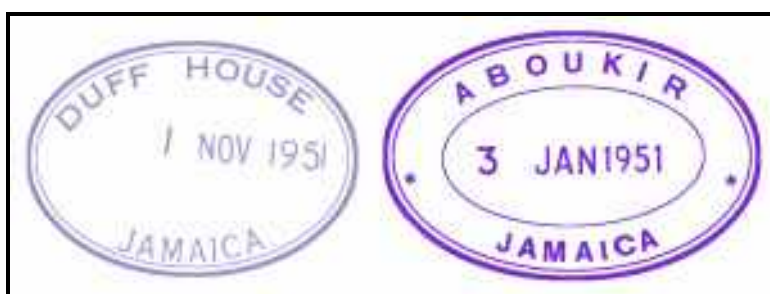
In the meantime the monthly column I had in *The Oldie*, *The Unissued Stamps of King George VI* a philatelic comedy – had been taken up by Murray Payne – that is Dickon Pollard and Stuart Babbington. They rather liked this insane piece and started putting it on the back page of *Sixth Sense*, their house magazine.

In the year 1998 they talked about doing a book of *The Unissued*s. I supplied them with further artwork, went to live in Shanghai and forgot all about it – I assumed they had too.

Then I moved to Bangkok and Tanzy Brown from Murray Payne rang me to say it was printed – already! I was a bit surprised but happy. I now had to come up with something new for *Sixth Sense* and tackled *The Unissued Slogan Postmarks of King George VI*. Recently *Sixth Sense* have taken up the forged postmarks of one *Madame Tourette*, a thinly-disguised attempt to bring filth into philately, much egged on by keen *Viz Magazine* reader Pollard of Fulchester. Mais je digresse.



In the meantime I was pounding through the West Indies writing up the postmarks most nights after work. Antigua, Bahamas and Barbados were sorted out. I was buying collections from Sandafayre but now a new phenomenon had begun – eBay. One could buy and sell stamps – and anything else – over the internet with some ease – and from all over the world. This was not good for struggling UK stamp shops but brilliant for postmark collectors looking for scarce stuff. I bought loads of collections and even singles, on top of my usual sources. Cayman Islands, St. Lucia, St. Vincent were written up. I moved again to Singapore in 2001 and got most of it done in the next two years. Dominica was one of the last as Bill Ashley came up with loads of new info. Jamaica dragged on for an eternity as the drawings – especially of the Temporary Rubber Datestamps (TRDs) was a Sisyphean task.



When I moved back to Shanghai in 2003 I decided to add airmails and maritimes for good measure and spent two years doing some fascinating study with the help of Bjorn Larsson, Roger Hosking and especially John Rawlings.

I'd also strayed from the path of righteousness and, encouraged by Ray Stanton – who lives but eight miles from my dear old mother – started Ceylon KGV postmarks. I was now tidying up *The Encyclopaedia* – adding *The Madame Josephs* with The Royal's permission – sorting out the introduction and drawing the maps, which was no mean feat, as simple as they are.

Then Tanzy who'd been my daily contact with Murray Payne left and went to live in The States – which rather brought things to a head. I would have to deal directly with Stuart and Dickon and see if MP was *really* willing to publish another book of mine. *The Unissueds* had been a success but it was for fun. This Encyclopaedia was serious.



(to be continued).

The Encyclopaedia of British West Indies Postmarks King George VI

by David Horry

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BWI**CARIBBEAN STAMP MYSTERIES 1953–1963****BY DAVID WRIGHT**

I was delighted to read the interesting ‘answers’ to my 1945–52 mysteries supplied by David Horry. The ten QE2 BWI mysteries article (see below) is adapted from previously published material in Gibbons Stamp Monthly (with permission) for which David Horry has promised to apply his vivid imagination with a response in the next Bulletin.

The first sets of stamps issued in Queen Elizabeth’s reign are a joy and a delight, and are deservedly still popular over half a century later. But even in these stamps we can find some mysteries to try to solve.

1 WHY ‘LEEWARD ISLANDS’?

These stamps seem like a timewarp. Islanders and visitors had a choice between this Victorian ‘Key-Type’ design, or cheerful pictorial stamps for ‘their’ island. Most chose the latter option, so it is not surprising that Leeward Islands stamps were finally withdrawn in 1956. The mystery is why these stamps were not withdrawn in 1900 or 1930: they had no real function once each island had its own stamps. In fact, this was the ‘last gasp’ of the Victorian Key-Type design: most had faded by the 1930s, and all had gone by 1954 except in the Leeward Islands.

Moreover, some of the colours were extraordinarily pale and dreary: grey for the 1 cent; yellow for 6 cents. In Victorian days, the design was the same, but there were TWO bright colours: the Elizabethan stamps are worse than a timewarp! The only redeeming feature was the splendid high-value design – but most of us never did afford one of them....

**2 ANTIGUA 1960: WHY SPOIL ATTRACTIVE STAMPS?**

The beautiful views of Antigua, as portrayed in her stamps, are views that we would all love to see. I tracked them down in 1970, and managed to photograph the views from the same spot. But in 1960, the views were obliterated by an uninspiring overprint. Why? Worse still, the overprint is almost illegible – we can neither see the view nor read the red overprint!



Two of the three words of the overprint are not essential: ‘Antigua’ is obvious, and is already on the stamp. ‘Commemoration’ is almost as obvious. If the event really needed to be celebrated on a stamp, why not print ‘NEW CONSTITUTION 1960’ on the sky of the 3c, instead of blotting out the view?

3 ST. KITTS 1954: WHY ‘POSTAGE’? WHY ‘REVENUE’?

The 1952 set, reissued for the new Queen in 1954, was widely praised when it appeared, and is still an attractive and popular set of stamps. But the reappearance of those two words after a 14-year absence seems unnecessary. Most colonies, including this one, omitted these words from 1938 onwards. These stamps also had welcome informative captions, but when there are 8 words in the caption – eg on the 12c stamp – and 4 words of island names, plus ‘POSTAGE; REVENUE’, the space for the view is much reduced and an attractive design almost sinks under the ‘clutter’.



4 BARBADOS 1953: WHY BROWN SEA ON THE 6C AND BLACK SEA ON THE 8C?

We can all accept 'false' colours on stamps from pre-multicolour days. And we are all familiar with colour-changes when stamps are re-issued for a new monarch. But Barbados had beautiful, accurate blue sea in KGVI days for the 6c and 8c stamps! Why on earth did they change true colours for dreary brown and sombre black?



At least the sea stayed blue for the 12c stamp – but the flying fish is also blue, and should not be blue! And I still have doubts whether that fish would ever fly [see the KGVI article].

**5 BERMUDA 1953: WHY 'UNIQUE'?**

Bermuda is not strictly Caribbean – but if we don't put it here it will never be mentioned, so I hope I will be forgiven. This is a striking set of stamps – with imaginative approaches to designing the whole stamp, and even bravely placing the Queen's portrait in unconventional locations. The mystery is why this style was never adopted in the Windward Islands, which had no pictorial definitives in the early years of QE2. Creativity deserves recognition, and these designers would have been warmly welcomed in the Windward Islands.



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, P&O 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 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.

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6 DOMINICA 1953: WHY IS THE QUALITY OF PRINTING LESS GOOD THAN IN 1938?

Dominica had an attractive set of stamps in 1938, which was replaced in 1951. These designs were re-used for the new queen in 1953. All three sets are infinitely more interesting than the stamps of the Windward Islands further south – but the quality of printing provides a mystery. If two stamps with similar themes are compared, the higher quality of the pre-war stamps becomes very clear. The stamps showing Layou River and Boiling Lake seem almost identical on first glance – except for the 2 figures which ‘fell off’ the stamp in 1951 – but the detail is far better in 1938.



A comparison of the two fruit-picking stamps (2½ d 1938; 4 cents 1954) also makes the point clearly. If the high quality printing of 1938 could be maintained throughout the difficult war years, why accept lower quality in 1951 and 1953?

7 ST. VINCENT 1955: WHY NO PICTORIALS?

St. Vincent is a volcanic island with superb scenery; we glimpsed the scenery in the 1938 stamps. But in 1955 we reverted to Queen Victoria designs, for the queen's portrait and the colony's badge. This created different emotions – some warmly welcomed the stamps, but one writer commented sourly that it was like ‘playing Scarlatti on a cinema organ’!

The mystery is not with the re-use of fine Victorian designs, but rather why we were allowed NO pictorials from 1955 to 1965, for an island anxious to develop its tourist potential.



A list of **BWI exhibits at FIP** or other significant international Exhibitions has been compiled by Charles Freeland. This can be found on our web site, under ‘articles’ (www.bwisc.org/60_articles/article_index.html). There are many gaps and certainly a number of errors in the list – for example I have seen a Jaffé St Lucia, Griffiths BWI and Sands Bahamas at events not on this list.

Please alert Steve Jarvis or Charles Freeland (charles.freeland@bis.org) if you are able to help.

8 TRINIDAD: WHY DID THE 1935 DESIGNS LAST UNTIL 1960?

Very few colonies had the same pictorial designs for 3 reigns – Trinidad and Northern Rhodesia are exceptional in this respect. This is more extraordinary when much smaller colonies had three different sets of designs even before the end of KGV's reign [Cayman Islands, Montserrat....]

But perhaps there is a simple answer to this mystery: the stamps are excellent designs, with excellent printing – and far better than the feeble photographs on the stamps which replaced this longstanding series in 1960. The mystery could be why these poor 1960 stamps were ever authorised – they have more in common with Hungarian stamps of the 1950s than with the sunny Caribbean.

Even so, some mysteries remain.... What IS a FIRST BOCA? [1c] Is there a second boca too? And why are the highest values the smallest and least interesting stamps?

**B.P.E. MINATURE SHEETS**

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1972 Malta (10,000)	£4	1977 Guernsey – Yellow	£10
1973* GB Seahorse (6,682)	£3	1978 Gibraltar (20,000)	£3
1973* GB Seahorse – in Maroon	£15	1977 Guernsey – Yellow	£12
1974 Isle of Man (6,250)	£3	1979* GB P.U.C. (28,000)	£4
1974 Isle of Man – Specimen ovpt	£10	1979* GB P.U.C. – Gold-Yellow	£15
1974 Isle of Man – Yellow paper	£12	1980 Guernsey De La Rue	£3
1974 Isle of Man – Grey paper	£20	1980 Guernsey De La Rue – Black	£10
1975* GB Wembley (8,879)	£3	1981 Royal Wedding	£2
1975* GB Wembley – Specimen ovpt	£12	1981 Downey Head	£2
1975* GB Wembley – Green paper	£12	1982 GB £5 Q.V. Orange	£12
1975* GB Wembley – Green paper, Specimen	£20	1982 GB £5 Q.V. Orange – Black	£18
1976 Jersey (8,909)	£3	1983 Falkland War	£3
1976 Jersey – Green	£10	1985 Queen Elizabeth, Queen Mother	£2

* The G.B. engraved issue from the Post Office transfer rollers of the issued stamps. The colours, in limited numbers, were given to exhibitors and at the Palmaris dinner. Numbers in brackets refer to the number printed / sold.

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9 BRITISH GUIANA 1954 5C: WHY CONFUSE US?

A map-stamp is an excellent idea, to tell the world where this colony is situated. It is especially important for Guiana, because it is easy to confuse it with Guinea in West Africa, or with New Guinea, north of Australia. But maps can also confuse people, and few map-stamps are as confusing as this one. The first vital principle is to make sea clearly distinguished from land. Yet on this stamp we have red for sea AND for British Guiana; white is for 'other' land. Who authorised this confusing stamp, and why did he not seek advice from a cartographer? Far better would be white for sea, light red for 'other' land, and dark red for British Guiana. And if the sea had been white, we would be able to read the names of the seas: red on red is not helpful for legibility. Nevertheless, it is an accurate map, with latitude and longitude marked, so we can give modest praise in that respect.



10 BRITISH HONDURAS 1962: WHY 'HURRICANE HATTIE'?

Clearly, a hurricane had caused devastation. But wouldn't an overprint such as this one DIScourage visitors, when tourists were needed more than ever? There is no indication of a surcharge for hurricane relief, so what is the point of the overprint? And finally – as in Antigua – why obliterate attractive designs with this overprint, when a few minutes' thought could have placed the overprint so that the picture is not spoiled?



Overall, the stamps of this decade give us excellent variety, and plenty of interest and Caribbean atmosphere: they are a delight to study and to collect. I hope that these mysteries will enhance our appreciation of these stamps.

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.



BWI WAR TAX BOOK – JAMAICA CHAPTER

BY JOHN DAVIS

On pages 01-09-6 and 01-09-7 of the Encyclopaedia of Jamaica Philately by Steve Jarvis and Derek Sutcliffe, there is an excellent table of the varieties of the War Tax stamps for the three local overprint settings. For my chapter, I would like to update this table with other varieties that are known to exist. I would be pleased to hear from any members who have varieties that I can add, with if known, sheet positions, and whether such varieties are consistent or otherwise. List available from the Editor or John. I would also be interested to hear from members who know of distances between overprints, for all three settings, that are different to those recorded by Cooke.

John Davis can be contacted on 01425 274056 or the Editor at info@bwisc.org.

BWI**STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN USED IN BWI – LATE USAGES****BY KEN GORDON**

As a collector of G.B. Used Abroad, I was most interested in Michael Medicott's short article (Bulletin 215 December 2007) on the late use of British stamps in Jamaica.

MILE GULLY JAMAICA

His fascinating and presumably unique example of the GB 1/- green of 1862 cancelled with the circular datestamp of Mile Gully (22 September 1863) is of special note in that it was of course issued after the use of GB stamps was officially discontinued in Jamaica. As Mr. Medicott implies, this would tend to show that there was at least a tacit understanding whereby GB stamps were still accepted for postage when presented by, for example, a visitor to the island carrying contemporary issues.

A03 – DEMERARA BRITISH GUIANA.

To complement Michael Medicott's finding, I illustrate an intriguing example of the very same G.B. 1/- issue (small corner letters), cancelled with the italic A03 numeral of Demerara, British Guiana. This cancellation, as well as the stamp itself, dates the usage as not before 1862; the use of G.B. stamps in British Guiana was officially discontinued in 1860.

This tacit acceptance of G.B. stamps for postage after official withdrawal, although extremely unusual, was perhaps more widespread than is generally supposed.

**STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN USED IN JAMAICA****BY PAUL HANCOCK**

I was pleased to see Michael Medicott's article in the December Bulletin concerning GB adhesives used at Ewarton / Falmouth.

I have in my collection the original of the stamp shown in the editor's note to the article. As he states it received an RPS certificate as genuinely used with the A38 obliterator on 29 June 1977.

The stamp itself is an 1856 GB 6d pale lilac with inverted emblems watermark which I purchased from Michael Hamilton.

In Topaz's scarcity listing of the Jamaican numerical obliterations published in the 1960's he lists one example used at A38 but I am unsure whether this is a further example.

Thomas Foster in the 'Postal History of Jamaica' states "no genuine example of the A38 obliterator has ever been found" and goes on to assert that Ewarton post office closed in late 1858 before the obliterations were taken into use on 1 March 1859. This statement has been followed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, and Ian Potter's 'The Postal Markings of Jamaica'.

Accordingly I thought it was probably used at Falmouth after the redistribution of the obliterations in October 1862, in the same way that Michael suggests for his example.

However, I am now wondering how accurate the information in Foster is, and whether the statement was based on thorough research. Does it not seem somewhat unlikely that two such examples should have been used at Falmouth at least 2 years after the issue of the first Jamaica stamps?

The only other thing I can add is that in the 1928 book 'Jamaica: Its Postal History Stamps and Postmarks' by Collett et al, it states that "this post office (i.e. Ewarton) closed for long periods between 1856 and 1873", which tends to suggest it was opened and closed on several occasions in that time. Could it therefore be that it was the case that Ewarton was in fact open at some point between the arrival of the obliterations and the introduction of Jamaica's own stamps.

I would be interested to hear from Michael or any other member any further information on this.

BAHAMAS

THE SETTINGS OF THE 1916–7 SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS

BY CHARLES FREELAND

One of the early lessons in BWI philately that some have learnt the hard way is to be cautious in questioning the conclusions of Morris Ludington. I fear Ian Jakes may have fallen into that trap in his article on the Bahamas Special Delivery issues in Bulletin 215 (pages 12–15) in which he argues that the second printing of the first issue must have been released by 18 October 1916, meaning that Ludington was incorrect in his conclusion that it was issued in early December 1916. However, Ian has also given us a useful springboard for exploring further aspects of this most interesting issue.

Morris Ludington, like John Marriott, was a code breaker during WWII and he applied the advanced discovery techniques that were used to break military ciphers. His slim book describing the three printings of what I will call S1, the Gibbons number, is a masterpiece of philatelic analysis. Morris owned two sheets of the third printings, one from each of the two vignette plates, which proved essential in the conduct of the plating studies that enabled him to identify the three overprint settings. But the manner in which he managed to plate the two printings of the basic 5d stamps to which the S1 overprints were applied, and then use that information to identify three settings of the overprint forme, was advanced philately of a high order. Ian has now questioned one of those conclusions on the basis of a single philatelic cover bearing a stamp that he confidently ascribes to a particular printing solely on the basis of its shade. Without viewing the cover itself I cannot be certain, but I am prepared to bet that either the date tying the stamp to the cover or Ian's assertion that it is the second printing is questionable.

This is a complex issue and I would not venture to write about it had I not had the good fortune to acquire Ludington's study of these stamps that provided the material for allocating the printings as described in his book. So I would like to take the opportunity to expand the topic beyond the narrow issue of which setting the stamp on Ian's cover belongs to and try to synthesise some of the more interesting facets of S1.

Ian's summary of Ludington's conclusions (which were published in *The Philatelist* of Feb–Mar 1966 and later reprinted in booklet form) is essentially correct but not wholly complete. The task is complicated by the fact that the overprinting of S1 was carried out on two separate printings of the 5d stamps with CC watermark, quite possibly unsold stock as there would have been little demand for a 5d value. From the evidence of the surviving proofs, the staircase issue was conceived in early 1901 (see Figure 1, dated on the reverse 21/3/01) but the stamps were not issued until January 1903 on thick paper using vignette Plate 1 (Figure 2). Subsequently (in October 1908 according to Gisburn, though Peter Fernbank says this is incorrect) there was a new printing of the 5d with a different vignette Plate 2 on thin paper. The numbers of the vignette plates were indicated outside pos. 49 at the bottom left corner of each sheet of 60. But as the plate plugs were set some distance from the actual stamps, and as the sheets were often trimmed right down before distribution to the colony, the plate plugs are often not present on the relatively few surviving corner pieces. Indeed I do not recall seeing a corner example of the unoverprinted 5d stamp showing vignette Plate 2 (nor has Peter Fernbank), although it was reported by Gisburn.

There were three settings of the S1 overprint, each showing a different overprint setting of 30 units (6x5) repeated twice on the sheet of 60, thus making the right half of the sheet a mirror of the left half. The first printing comprised only ten sheets of 60 and all were on the black and orange stamp printed from Vignette Plate 1 that shows a reasonably regular overprint setting. A left marginal block of ten from this first printing is the largest recorded (Figure 3). The second printing, where the setting of the overprint was far less regular, was on both the same black and orange shade from vignette Plate 1 (Figure 4) on thick paper OR on the grey-black and lighter orange shade from vignette Plate 2 (Figure 5) on thinner paper. The number of stamps from this printing is unknown (indeed its existence was only discovered by Ludington as a consequence of his plating study) but from observation of the number of surviving examples it may not have been significantly larger than the first printing. The third printing of 100 sheets (6,000 stamps) shows yet a different setting of the overprint and can again be found on each of the two vignette plates, though Ludington says that vignette 2 is "somewhat commoner".

The most visible difference between the printings is that in the third printing the word 'SPECIAL' in general lies further to the right than in the first two printings. However, this is not necessarily correct for every position on the sheet as the alignment on the third printing also varies and on a few of the positions in the setting 'SPECIAL' is not so far to the right. On the second printing a few positions in the setting show 'SPECIAL' quite far to the left, as Figures 4, 5 and 9 demonstrate. In order to allocate an individual stamp to a particular printing with certainty, Ludington insists that it is necessary to plate the stamp itself as well as measuring the overprint spacing. To that end, his monograph provides detailed plating notes, in the use of which he advocates use of the accurate Thirkell position finder, as well as a detailed description of the overprint settings for each of the three printings.

Ian illustrated a lower left block of this third setting showing vignette Plate 2. For comparison, Figure 6 shows the same overprint setting on the left half of a sheet printed from vignette Plate 1. This represents the full overprint setting of 30 units that were repeated on both halves of the sheet of 60. I have deliberately illustrated the full setting so as to allow those members with plated examples of the stamp to establish whether they come from this more common third setting or from one of the rarer two. However, Ludington provides all the information needed to allocate the stamps to the individual printings so long as the sheet position has been identified. To confirm the wisdom of this advice, compare the positioning of 'SPECIAL' on units 2 and 6 of Figure 6 with the setting shown in Figure 3.

S1 is occasionally offered with a reversed CC watermark. My example from the top of the sheet (Figure 7) is on thin paper from vignette 2, and the setting does not match any of the third printing settings from the top row, so this scarce variety must be from the second printing, as was Baillie's example.

Ian affirms that the cover he illustrates is from the second printing, and bases that judgment on his allocation of the stamp to vignette Plate 2, which means that it cannot come from the first printing. This conclusion is based on his judgment that the vignette is grey-black and not the black shade of vignette 1. This in my view is an unscientific conclusion, as shades can be affected by exposure to light. While the setting does indeed look like one of early ones, I wonder whether Ian has tried to plate the stamp using the plating notes described by Ludington, given Ludington's advice about the necessity of plating the stamp before coming to firm conclusions about the printing it belongs to. Note also that the overprint slopes slightly upwards. This is very unusual in my experience, although the Staircase collection contained a bottom right corner block of 12 with a much more pronounced upward slope. But I have never seen this stamp with this mild upward slope.

Let us now also look at the evidence of dated covers. Ian explained that the agreement with Canada that commenced 1 May 1916 when Bahamas stamps were delivered to Canada for affixing to Special Delivery packages was suspended some months later when the Canadians discovered that the system was being abused by speculators such as the notorious Dr Hess, the colonial surgeon in Nassau. The Canadians were also disturbed to learn that the Bahamas had yielded to pressure from collectors and dealers to make an additional printing of S1 for sale at the Nassau Post Office (all the first printing having been sent to Canada). At some date (which, on the evidence of Ludington's covers, was between 14 and 20 December 1916), the Canadian PO ceased cancelling the stamps in Canada. All subsequent covers franked with S1 were sent with the Bahamas stamp uncanceled, although they were still sent by a fast mail service and were cancelled on arrival in Nassau.

Figures 8 and 9 show two covers ex-Ludington. The first, bearing a Toronto datestamp of 31 October 1916, is one of four covers mailed on the earliest recorded date of S1 on cover in the initial period when the Bahamas stamps were sold and cancelled in Canada. This S1 is from the first printing, pos. 42. The second cover (one of three illustrated in the Ludington booklet) shows the earliest date (20 December 1916) on which the Toronto PO declined to cancel the S1 following Canada's decision to suspend the bilateral agreement. Note that the stamp was subsequently cancelled on arrival in the Bahamas. This stamp was plated by Ludington as pos. 26 from the first printing.

From the appearance of these two covers it is easy to accept that Ian is correct in his assumption that the cover illustrated in his article (dated September 1916) does not show a regular use of the Special Delivery arrangement with the Canadian Post Office, although as it predates any of the

Ludington covers it is not necessarily comparable. It is very likely, as Ian admits, that the infamous Dr Walter Hess decided to embellish a cover he had received from Kamloops through the ordinary mail by adding a copy of S1 and having it cancelled with a fictitious arrival stamp at the post office where he was known to have close associates. But why, as Ian asserts, should one assume that this was done contemporaneously? This could have been done 'by compliance' months later with the canceller back-dated accordingly. Just because the date does not coincide with the backstamp arrival date (and shouldn't it?) Ian concludes that the date is reliable. But why should a second printing stamp predate the recorded examples of the first printing? We know that Hess had contacts at the Nassau PO and at the bottom of page 11 of his booklet Ludington presents evidence of a fictitious date on another Hess cover. Other examples are known to exist.

One may also wonder, given Hess's was activity in the Bahamas, why no covers survive for Special Delivery service in the opposite direction. Canadian stamps were indeed delivered to Nassau to enable this to take place. However Ed Waterous was told by the Canadian dealer Allan Steinhart that the Canadian stamps had stuck together as a result of the local climate and quickly became unusable.

To summarise, I do not rule out the possibility that Ian's cover does indeed show a second printing stamp, but does that necessarily invalidate Ludington's conclusion that the second printing was done in early December 1916? Yes, if Ian's cover is what it seems, but I do not think one can place any firm reliance on the date of a quite possibly fabricated Hess cover. What do others think?

My thanks to Peter Fernbank and Ed Waterous for commenting on my draft.

Bibliography

- H. G. D. Gisburn: The postage stamps and postal history of the Bahamas, Stanley Gibbons, 1950
- M.H.Ludington: Bahamas: The locally overprinted Special Delivery stamps of 1916-7, Robson Lowe 1966
- Spink: sale catalogue of the Morris Ludington collection of Bahamas, 11 November 1999

Highlights of the Spring stamp auction to include:-

- **Bahamas** Out Island postmarks from the S.G. Hoey collection
- **British Guiana** unrecorded 1892 Parcel Post cancel
- **British Honduras** extensive postal history collection formed by Trevor Bates
- **Grenada** pre stamp covers
- **Jamaica** rare 1901 Official postal stationery envelope
- **Montserrat** covers including 1884 bisect used to Dominica
- **Trinidad & Tobago** good section of stamps and covers

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Figure 1 (vignette die proof)
De La Rue die proof of the vignette,
dated on the reverse 21/3/01



Figure 2
1903 the unoverprinted 5d from Vignette Plate 1



Figure 4
Second printing, vignette Plate 1 (just visible at left)



Figure 3
First printing (all on vignette Plate 1)

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Figure 5
Second printing, vignette Plate 2



Figure 7
The reversed watermark variety from
second printing, vignette Plate 2



Figure 6 Full setting of 30 on 3rd printing, vignette Plate 1



Figure 8 (67%) First printing cancelled in Toronto on 31 October 1916



Figure 9 (67%) First printing cancelled in Nassau on 20 December 1916

BRITISH GUIANA

EARLIEST KNOWN PARCEL POST CANCEL FOR BRITISH GUIANA.

DAVID DRUETT

The item illustrated has just come to me for inclusion in my next auction. As it appears to be a new discovery I thought it would be of special interest to members.

Townsend & Howe do not record any parcel postal marking prior to 1919. This oval mark is unlike any recorded. The stamps are attached to a fragment of a printed Parcel post form. Going by the stamps that are used I would date the item at about 1891–1895.

This piece will be offered in the next Pennymead sale scheduled for Spring 2008.



MEMBER WANTS

Charles Freeland is looking for a picture of the following item from the DLR records:

1916 new key plate die mounted on card and endorsed 'Nov 1st 120 leads/No.2'.

This die shows the 'leaves' type design used for the GV issues of Br. Honduras, Grenada and the 2d and 2/6 of St. Lucia (also Br. Solomon Is and Malta).

It was referred to in lot 176 in the RL catalogue of 13 April 1986, a Br Honduras lot.

BRITISH GUIANA**LOST POST OFFICE FOUND****BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT**

The piece on pages 18–21 of the December Bulletin (No. 215) under the above title, was less than clear because a gremlin among the typesetters cut out a piece of the text of the letter from the transcription (and the scanned original is not easily readable).

Hence, I reproduce 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 waite on me for the amount until next week if I don't come myself I shall send it and when you write you must Post your letter for No 6 station not Fort Wellington.

I have sold one oz but I don't received the money for it till next week as soon as 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
Cargo.”*

Unsurprisingly, Ted Proud, whose scholarly and prodigious output includes British Guiana (Note 1) was misled by the incomplete text of the letter, and wrote:–

“Regarding Mr Medicott's most interesting article – British Guiana – Lost Post Office Found – if he refers again to his illustrated letter, I would suggest that No.6 refers to the house, not the Post Office. In my book, The Postal History of British Guiana, I allocate CCB to Fyrish followed by CCB1 to the same office. I had allocated ECB1 to Whim, No.2 Tarlogy and No.3 NS (not seen). My immediate reaction to seeing an example of No.3 would be to suggest that ECB1 is Nigg (successor to Fyrish); No.2 Whim and No.3 Tarlogy. All my notes on British Guiana are stored away and at present I am busy working on three volumes of airmails. However, it would be interesting whether any members can prove or disprove this hypothesis. The crown ECB1 I do not think would have been used on New Amsterdam registered mail as this does not fit with the British Guiana postal practice at that time.”

The important point to note from the full text of the letter (omitted in Bulletin 215) is the sentence ‘you must Post your letter for No 6 station not Fort Wellington’. The clear implication is that there was a post office at ‘No 6 station’ (i.e. plantation): the letter heading ‘No. 6 House’ would therefore refer to the plantation house in which the post office was situated; bear in mind that the official practice of designating post offices after the number of the plantation that housed them – e.g. Nos. 19, 50, 51, 63 and 72 – on the Corentyne Coast lasted well into the second half of the 20th century. Moreover, there was no house-to-house delivery in 1868, and all the surviving covers of the period with rural destinations are addressed to the nearest plantation or village.

As if to prove the point, another manuscript mark (Figure 1) ‘15.1.89/No. 6’ has turned up in antique bundleware, cancelling SG171 and filling in the gap between the manuscript marks illustrated in Bulletin 215.

Ted Proud disputes my contention that ECB/Crown/1 may well have been used at New Amsterdam as a registration marking and he prefers to allocate it to Nigg as an ordinary postmark. Since its period of use is circa 1871–1877 (Proud p.268 et passim) and Nigg P.O. did not open until 1 December 1877, this allocation is scarcely plausible.

Let us examine the evidence supporting the use of ECB/Crown/1 as a New Amsterdam registration mark:–

- There are eight code marks – CCB, CCB1 and ECB 1-6 – to fit eight East Coast Berbice (Corentyne Coast) post offices, New Amsterdam included.



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- No New Amsterdam datestamp is known for the period 1871–1877; the A04 barred ovals were used for cancelling adhesives on letters in this period.
- Townsend & Howe (Note 2) record British Guiana registered covers from 1870 onwards, and note that compulsory registration was introduced by a GPO notice dated 26 June 1865. Although T&H had identified no special registration cancellations prior to 1877, there was clearly a registration system in place in the period 1871–77.
- The earliest New Amsterdam registered cover known to me is illustrated at Figure 2; the adhesives are cancelled by Proud type R10 dated DE 5 / 81 (EKD), and the reverse bears a magnificent strike of the wax seal 'REGISTERED/AT/GEORGETOWN.B.GUIANA'. Crucially, the front bears a fine strike in red of the boxed 'BRITISH/GUIANA/REGISTERED' New Amsterdam handstamp (see Proud p.223) previously recorded for the single date of 10 April 1895. The cover is addressed to Mr. Ed. Loveluck Esq (sic), Rec. Generals Office, Berbice, and is the earliest recorded New Amsterdam registration mark, so there is a gap from 1870 to 1881.
- Simon Goldblatt has permitted me to illustrate (Figure 3) the only recorded strike of ECB/Crown/6, which he first reported in Bulletin No.145 for June 1990 (p.29). If my theory about ECB/Crown/1 is correct, it suggests that Skeldon also possessed a registration mark, seldom used, and that it is possible we shall find similar strikes for Whim, Wellington Park, No.50 Benab and, who knows, Fyrish and No.6 as well.
- The cover illustrated at Figure 4 is included to show that registration markings are known from other rural offices in this period. The reverse bears a partial wax seal 'REGISTERED/AT/RELIANCE.CANJE', two strikes of 'RELIANCE – CANJE JA 23 / 82' (T&H type 3b, Proud type D4) and New Amsterdam transit JA 23 / 82 (T&H Figure 5, Proud type D5). The front bears a manuscript cross next to the 12c. adhesive, leaving it to be cancelled in transit A04 at New Amsterdam (LKD for A04); two manuscript numbers, '51' and '82' in different hands (probably registration serial numbers at Reliance and New Amsterdam) and red manuscript 'Registered' between parallel lines across the address. The cover is from Reliance on the Arabian Coast to Hope Town Village, West Coast Berbice, and would have arrived at New Amsterdam by sea, to be carried by wagon back to Fort Wellington, the P.O for Hope Town.

I have, as I say, no hard evidence that ECB/Crown/1 was used as a registration marking at New Amsterdam, or that ECB/Crown/6 was similarly used at Skeldon. Nevertheless, a widespread registration system was demonstrably in use at the time and it would be strange indeed if New Amsterdam had no instrument to indicate that registered letters originated there. No alternative instrument suggests itself, and 'ECB1' can be said to pinpoint New Amsterdam geographically, and the considerable number of known strikes to identify a very busy office.

Notes:

1. The Postal History of British Guiana by Edward B.Proud. Proud Bailey Co.Ltd. 2000.
2. The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana by W.A.Townsend and F.G.Howe, RPSL 1970.



Figure 1 – '15.1.89/No. 6'



Figure 3 – 'ECB/Crown/6'



Figure 2 – Earliest New Amsterdam Registered cover 'DE 5 / 81'



Figure 4 – Reliance 'JA 23 / 82'

BRITISH GUIANA

1898 JUBILEE – THE SURCHARGES RE-VISITED

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT

Stumbling across a batch of multiples which I had forgotten that I had accumulated, it struck me that the 1898 Jubilee issue, the surcharges in particular, may be collected by diminishing numbers or with less enthusiasm than used to be the case. A pity, really, because these attractive early commemorative stamps have enough interesting features to satisfy a collector of modest means and, for the deep pocket, enough challenging rarities to allow an exhibit of major quality to be assembled – but it would be no easy task.

As a simple passing thought, before I come to the surcharges, how many times have any of us come across either the 10 cent or the 15 cent value used as singles on a properly rated cover? I cannot recollect either passing through our annual auction.

There are re-entries to be found on the basic stamps, yet, for all I know, the detail went underground after Michael Nicholson's untimely death. However, the emergence of the collection again at Harmers auction before Christmas may avoid someone else having to do the research again.

One characteristic of the stamps which seems to have escaped notice is that the ink used by DLR was more volatile than their usual brand. So one will often find that one of the margins – usually the left side – bears traces or smears, in contrast to the cleanliness of the sheets on which their standard key-types are printed. Indeed, if one looks closely at the 15 cent value, it will be found that the ink has smeared in many places, often breaking up into a network of the finest blue hairlines, whose presence only becomes noticeable under magnification.

Turning to the surcharges, the TWO CENTS type was rather crudely formed, and the catalogue listing nowadays picks up the more prominent variants – and in the case of the shaved 'E', a variety which some of us may think does not really deserve catalogue status.

At any rate, I can think of two other variants to which I might give equal prominence, if I were looking for special features of, say, the surcharged 10c value. One is a distinctly elevated 'C' in CENTS, the other, a distinctly deformed 'E', which appear in positions 2 and 7 of the second setting only. Thus these two variants occurred on fewer than a quarter of the issued sheets (500 out of a total 2,100) and should be well worth looking out for.

Elevated 'C'



Deformed 'E'



A slightly easier route to a raised 'C' in CENTS would be to scrutinise the surcharged 5c value, where a similar variant will be found at stamp 2 in row 3. There were 3,465 sheets surcharged and if, as I think probable, the 'C' was raised throughout the printing run, you are looking for one stamp in 60.

Some updated research is needed in respect of the surcharged 5c. In the T&H publication, Bill Townsend appended a tabulation of printing characteristics for the 5c, 10c and 15c surcharges which first appeared in the Stamp Lover for October/November 1949. This explained that the 'no stop' and 'I for E in CENTS' varieties occurred 'in the earlier printings' of the surcharge on 5c, and 'were corrected in later printings'.



Now, is that the right way round? Or did the 'E' on stamp 19 break up in the course of printing? And did the stop on stamp 53 drop out? The author of the Stamp Lover article speaks of the type being completely re-set for the 10c and 15c value, but Bill Townsend's account is of the 5c value being surcharged later than the higher values, each of which was surcharged on two occasions – in contrast to the 5c where there was a single printing run (though I suspect it took more than a single day to complete).

Clearly the type was re-set for the 5c value, which has square stops throughout in place of round ones; and the 'I for E in CENTS' variety is known to have been progressive (compare the Grenada WAR TAX delta variety). This would not render it impossible for the printing run to be interrupted for repair work, and I have to answer 'don't know' to my own questions. My single complete sheet has an impeccable 'E' at stamp 19, and a stop at stamp 53. On its own it proves nothing.

Another respect in which a final answer is needed, relates to the surcharged 15c. The second surcharge operation used up only 6,000 stamps, Bill Townsend tells us – a mere 100 sheets – and it is open to discussion whether the no stop variety survived into the second printing.

I can actually offer some inferential evidence at this point. I have a block of twelve (in two columns from lower left of sheet) in which row 5, stamp 1 shows a lead between 'T' and 'S' of CENTS and the 'no stop' variety in place at row 9, stamp 2. My predecessor annotated this, understandably, as the original setting. I have another large part of sheet, annotated as 'corrected setting?'. The stamps missing are positions 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 from top left – which we can ignore – and positions 50, 51, 56, 57 from the foot. The mark of the lead is not visible at position 25.

It is the removal of this lower block which creates a strong inference. These positions would incorporate the 'no stop' variety at stamp 50, and another



prominent lead mark at stamp 57, if they repeated the characteristics of the original setting. If, however, the defects had been corrected, what possible reason could there be for someone removing this particular block?

In this connection T&H tells us that the GENTS variety was often extracted from a complete 2/10c sheet and the balance deposited back in the GPO as personal savings. My part sheet of 50 seems to illustrate the same pattern.

Too lazy to do it myself, I should welcome one of our members doing a plating analysis of the 5c and 15c surcharges. It is quite likely that the exercise was carried out or attempted in one of the stamp periodicals at the turn of the 19th/20th century, in which case it may be possible to rescue and re-publish the information. Even if this did not happen, multiples of the issues are still reasonably available, and I find I actually have fairly full coverage myself.

Just one word of caution here: that one should not necessarily place total reliance on presence or absence of the marks of a lead. I mentioned the column which shows such a mark at row 5/1. The adjoining stamp at position 2 is lead-free.



On another almost complete sheet, the stamp at position 2 in this row shows an even more prominent mark of a lead between 'O' and 'C'; the appearance of the stamp at position 1 is indistinguishable from its brother in my block of twelve. On my 'corrected?' part sheet of 50, the stamp at row 5/2 is, as you would expect, lead-free.



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- Bermuda KGVI 2/-, SG116bf (gash in chin) VFM single
- Bermuda KGVI 2/6, SG117ae (broken lower right scroll) VFM single
- Bermuda KGVI 10/-, SG119bc (lower right scroll with broken tail) VFM single

None with pencil annotations.

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LEEWARD ISLANDS

KING GEORGE VI KEY PLATE 2

BY PETER BROOKS

In the notes accompanying the table of flaws on the KG VI key Plate 2 published in the December Bulletin (No 215) I suggested that flaw 5/2a on the left pane (bite out of left frame line 5mm down) might also be on the 8/42 printing, Requisition 963/1. I had positional blocks only of the 1d and 2d and in neither case was the flaw present, nor on some single stamps from this position. However on these stamps there was some evidence of hand retouching or painting covering the flaw.

I recently acquired a 1/- value from the 8/42 printing which clearly shows the flaw. Therefore the flaw is on this issue and the table needs amendment. The note on hand painting is now definite.

That hand painting was so widespread may seem unlikely but as Dickon Pollard's article in Bulletin 158 (September 1993) points out it is not uncommon and regularly found on the 8/42 printing of the 2d value. I think the same could be said for the 8/42 1d carmine with hand painting at 1/1LP (DIS), 6/5LP (Halward 14) and 10/1LP (value tablet corner) as well as it now seems certain at 5/2LP

The extent of hand painted retouches on Leeward Island keytypes particularly in the 1942–1944 period is a study in itself. I have such retouches on all values except the 2½d, 1/-, 2/- and £1. I would be glad to share my information and explore this subject further with anyone who is interested.

MONTSERRAT

KING GEORGE V ISSUE PLATE NOS

BY PETER FORD

In the original Britnor 1965 book a sentence stated: – “In March 1925 new printings of the ¼d, 4d, 5d, 3s and 4s values were received; these were from a fresh plate numbered ‘2’ in the margin”. This was left unchanged in Charles Freeland’s revision in 1998, Chapter 10, page 40 first para.

On the strength of this, both Charles Freeland and I have searched in vain for any evidence of a Plate 2. The Queen’s collection does not contain one (very unusual) and no one can recollect ever having seen one.

Being unable to spend much time in London, I asked Robin Davis, not a member of the Study Circle but nevertheless an indefatigable researcher, to see what he could find when next he visited the National Postal Museum Archives. What he found was that what was listed were Leewards Islands issues, but they were listed in the De La Rue Day Books under the Presidency name, and that Len Britnor had made an error in ascribing these stamps to Montserrat. In fact, Peter Fernbank in his book on the KGV Imperium Key Plate issues on Page 205 specifically mentions in the second paragraph the problem of identifying in the Day Books the Leeward Island issues from those issues of the various islands forming the Leeward Islands. Peter has also said that any evidence, if it exists, of a Plate 2 from Requisition 532 might be found in the Crown Agents Bulletin held at the British Library.

It does seem unlikely that a Plate 2 did exist for this issue but if anybody has any further information we would be very glad to hear it.

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BULLETIN ARCHIVE

BY PETER FORD

Those of you who regularly view our excellent website will have noticed that the Bulletin Archive has now been completed. Members on the internet can now access all issues of the Bulletin from No. 1 to the latest issue. This has been made possible by the hard work put in by Peter Fernbank, who took on this momentous task probably not realising the amount of work involved. Each issue took from 8 to 12 hours to convert into a format suitable for placing on the website. I think that we all owe a debt of gratitude to Peter and also to Steve Jarvis for their efforts in getting this information onto the website as nowadays finding copies of those elusive early issues is nearly impossible.

TRINIDAD

MONTGOMERY WARD MACHINE CANCEL

BY MICHAEL HAMILTON

Cover to Montgomery Ward, Chicago with 2½d pmk'd Siparia A/SP 6 13 b/stamped San Fernando C/SP 6 13 with GPO Port-Of-Spain 2.30pm/SP 6 13 on face showing RECEIVED/M.W. & Co./SEP 17 2-PM machine arrival cancel.

Does any member have any details of the life of this company machine cancel which has not previously been seen by me?



TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

PATRIOTIC COVER WITH US CENSOR '45

BY PETER MARSHALL

I found the censored cover, illustrated below, at Autumn Philatex and thought it a little out of the usual range of T&C censored covers and worthy of sharing with your readers.



VIRGIN ISLANDS

THE COMPOUND PERF, THE UNCOMPOUND PERF, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE IMPERF

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT

The 1866 1d perf 15x12 (SG5a) is a fruitful topic for debate. That genuine examples exist is beyond question, and more will be said of this below; that fewer genuine examples exist than have been so certified in the past, should perhaps be treated as an open question. I gather that in recent times at least two members of this rather exclusive club have had their pedigrees called into question when submitted for updated review. Each had attained a rather spectacular level under the auctioneer's hammer, suggesting that the catalogue quotation was modest, if not unduly restrained.

I propose to re-examine here the areas for actual or possible controversy, while stressing that my own experience is limited. Genuine or otherwise, these stamps turn up seldom, and examples that belong to others are rarely available for prolonged examination, let alone for detailed research. Nevertheless I can begin on firm ground, with the analysis of two stamps that are genuine beyond a doubt. They turned up in separate London auctions several years apart, and when brought together they proved to be exact siblings. They came from Row 4 of the sheet, at positions 1 and 2: the adjoining perfs fitted perfectly, the shade matched; they were adjoining stamps from the same sheet. Far more significantly than this, the stamp from left of row is imperf at left, with faint vertical indentations where the line perforator had evidently gone on the blink.



This tells us emphatically that the compound perf variety came from a partly perforated sheet or sheets. We can deduce that the order of batting was vertical line perforation from right to left, intended to be followed by the horizontal line perforation, and with this sheet at least it never was so followed. A perf 15 line perforator was used instead. We can therefore infer also that there was an interval between the original failure to complete the perforation of this original sheet, and the finished production in compound perf form.

Or was there? No perf 15 apparatus was used for Virgin Is. stamps until 1867, and for two years the perforator in use produced blind perfs at irregular intervals. It was not until the 1870 and subsequent printings – all of the 1d stamp only – that blind perfs ceased to occur. However, Nissen & Parker were also responsible for the stamps of Nevis, where perf 15 stamps were printed in and after 1866. I cannot recollect noting the blind perf phenomenon in Nevis, although the existence of imperf between, and emergence years afterwards of SG22, shows that the going was not always smooth.

I protract the discussion, because I am far from certain that used examples, reputedly authentic in perforation and postmark, are known. If I had owned or handled one of these, and had been wholly satisfied as to perforation and postmark, the fact of issue in Tortola would not be established for me. All too many of the classic stamps from Nissen & Parker and subsequently DLR found their way to Tortola at the turn of the 20th century, there to receive a neat strike from the 'A13' killer, brought out from its 30 year retirement, and cleaned up for further use. If there exists a genuine compound perf with a genuine rather grubby A91 killer, this would constitute the right kind of proof of issue, for me.

Did the variety originate in more than one sheet? A cautious approach is needed, for there are ample sources from which to produce wannabe examples. These are:–

- imperf plate proofs;
- 1866 1d stamps perf 12 all round;
- later 1d printings, perf 15 all round.

The perf 12 stamps have to be given the new perf at top and bottom. The later printings get faked perf 12 at left and right.

The first essential in testing a stamp's credentials is to satisfy oneself that it comes from the 1866 printing. The wrong shade can condemn a stamp at once. The right shade (of which there is a wide range) does not authenticate, because plate proofs in an appropriate shade come from more than one transfer. Before the setting for the 1866 issue was approved, there was an earlier setting for the sheet which was scrapped. The proofs taken from this were usually in a rich blue, but as I recollect, others exist in close to the issued shade. So it is necessary to ascertain from what sheet position in the issued setting a stamp under investigation originally came.

Fortunately, this is not too daunting a task, even today. There are still several who own, or have reconstructed, complete sheets of 25, and the individual characteristics of each stamp are distinct enough for the careful investigator to determine whether a particular item came from the right setting.

This is the first step on the way, and it will filter out any stamp which came from the rejected transfer, any which began life as part of a perf 15 transfer (in my book there were more than a dozen such separate settings) and any stamp which came as an imperf into the hands of a faker, unless it came from an imperf proof sheet of the correct 1866 setting. It has to be said, however, that imperf proofs from that printing are not too elusive. At this point it is the perforations which have to be minutely scrutinised.

In the case of the 1866 printing, fairly generous margins will be seen at left and right of the issued stamps, slightly less so at top and bottom, except for the outer edge of stamps from Rows 1 and 5. So plate position tells one more than that a stamp comes from the right printing: it also tells one whether the horizontal perf 15 may be too tight to be trusted. The faker who starts work on a genuine perf 12 stamp must not leave any of the original upper and lower perf – which leaves little room to play with, unless more paper is added before recutting perf begins. There are those who can add extra paper in this way. It is a rare skill.

Returning to the question of whether the compound perf came from more than one incomplete sheet, there are too many certified candidates for there to have been only a single sheet of origin. Where I have briefly inspected others of this breed, my judgment is that the shade is too far away from the two examples with which I am familiar to have come from the same sheet. One can carry this further: one stamp in every five from this particular sheet would presumably have been imperf at left. Reports on reputed examples from positions 1, 6, 11 or 21 would be informative.

One related stamp Figures in the annals of the Circle itself. This is the stamp (plate position Row 2/4) which featured as an item in our Golden Jubilee Sale – I think of it consistently as an 'uncompound perf'.

Members will remember from the illustration (or by refreshing memory from the actual catalogue) that the stamp is perf 15 all round, but scissor cut at left and right, so that part of the vertical perfs on each side are absent.

This stamp was very closely compared with the genuine article before being included in the Jubilee Sale. The conclusion reached was that the line perforation marries perfectly with the genuine perf 15 on the compound perf, while the shade was too deep for the stamp to have come from the same sheet. As the present critique propounds that the particular sheet of original had vertical perfs in every column except left margin, the 'uncompound perf' would be separately printed on that ground alone. Add this: that while the 'uncompound perf' is deeper, other compound examples (or candidates) that I have inspected struck me as rather lighter in shade than the two comparators.



Am I then contending for a plethora of compound perf 1d examples, surviving from a number of incomplete sheets? Hardly so. For one thing, so far as my experience goes, the 'uncompound perf' may be the sole surviving example of its breed. I have not myself seen or heard of any other during 40 years of close interest in the classics of this territory, and many conversations with others who know far more than I. For another, there is a possible explanation of where the compound and the 'uncompound' perfs may Figure in history.

If memory serves me right (I have not read this up in recent years) there was little if any proof material known from Virgin Islands until late in the 19th century, when a small hoard was unearthed from a dealer in St. Martin's Lane (off Trafalgar Square). This was revealed in

discussions in which E.D. Bacon was a participant, and it has throughout seemed likely to me that Nissen & Parker, or their then successors, having failed to exploit their earlier toe-nail hold on the world of philatelic printing, had simply unloaded material which had been many years in store. Perhaps, as some think, this was the source of the Missing Virgin. It could equally well have been a source for two or three sheets of the compound perf which, being 1d stamps, would not be likely to be spotted as more than dealer packet material at the time.

Would they not then have been broken up, with most scattered and destroyed, until some extra-keen eye spotted and gave notoriety to the aberrant perforation, close to the end of the century? As for the 'uncompound' perf, here was a sheet cut into by scissors at an irregular angle. Were most of the stamps mutilated? Had they become apparently unsaleable? The anecdotal tradition that our 'uncompound perf' was found for a few shillings in St. Paul's Churchyard is quite consistent with others being discarded along the way.

It is time to state my beliefs, which can be readily overturned by someone else with better records:—

1. The compound perf originates from sheets where the line perf 12 apparatus malfunctioned.
2. Perhaps three or four sheets were assembled together at the time, and the perforator failed properly to penetrate – though the sheets at top, or next to the top, received the vertical perforation throughout.
3. The affected sheets were put on one side.
4. At some later point – where there was no line perf 12 perforator in use – the perforating was completed in line perf 15.
5. By that time sheets of a different format were in use – probably sheets of 12, as only the 1868 1d printing had as many as 20. In any case sheets of 25 could not readily be sent out with such a consignment, so they were again held back. Was the 'uncompound' sheet mutilated with scissors by design?
6. Then came the release of proof and waste material, and I have suggested how used examples came to exist.

If these propositions seem to throw into uncertainty the market value of the compound perf, actual realisations tell us otherwise. In any case, the demand for the Missing Virgin proves that no opprobrium attaches to a variety that may have lain for decades among the printer's discards; but if I am asked to choose my favourite amongst the Virgin I classics, I go for the putative one-off. Unhesitatingly I choose the 'uncompound perf'.



peter singer



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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****GROSVENOR 21–2 NOVEMBER**

In a reasonably full room Simon Goldblatt, James Podger (to whom I am indebted for this report) plus our regular dealer members witnessed the sale of Mike Spaven's Leeward Is. The results were satisfactory rather than spectacular. The early highlight was the Sexagenary 1s used locally to Soufriere tied with first day cancel at £1,700 (all prices are hammer prices). Poor condition prevented any of the three QV 1d with the duty plate shift reaching their reserve of £400. The huge array of KEVII and KGV plate numbers was keenly contested, most being bought by one bidder, who outbid our reporter. The full panes generally sold under estimate. The KGV proofs did better, mainly reaching over twice their low estimates, the highlight being the 10/- duty before striking at £720. The high values had mixed success but the two fine u/m watermark varieties on the 1951 £1 each sold at £2,900, 70% of Gibbons. The toned pair of the far rarer watermark variety, MCA reversed on 3d SG51d, fetched £500 (Gibbons value £600). The postal history collections contained good value and most achieved healthy results.

Later on, more excitement was provided by three delicious covers from St. Christopher to Holland, which sold for over fifteen times their lower estimate. An agent bidding on behalf of a BWISC member pushed John Taylor to £1,850 – I expect these will end up in the midlands.

VICTORIA 8 DECEMBER

With the dollar so weak (will we ever see such a £/\$ rate again?) I was tempted to get on a plane to New Jersey to bid for the enticing 'Hamilton' collection of Bermuda. Mark Harvey went over and bought a lot for his clients. The strength of the 455 lots lay in the military postal history, much of it ex-Ludington. His soldiers letter with an Ireland Island crowned circle fetched \$28,000 (all prices plus 15%) while a similar letter with the St. Georges crowned circle was \$17,000. A neat 1872 soldier's letter franked 1d to Nova Scotia fetched \$8,000 and a stained letter with the rarer 2d rate via New York was \$4,250. A select group of six blockade runner covers were well bid to \$29,000, while four figures or more were paid for ten other desirable preadhesives. The dearest at \$6,000 bore the Ireland Island PM4 mark, distinctly inferior to the one that had fetched £4,000 at Spink a few days earlier. Although the stamps were less exciting, there was steady demand throughout and as at Spink we saw strong prices for the major QE varieties. Dickgiesser's specialised collection of the QV 1d doubled its \$3,750 estimate and a fine assembly of numeral cancels was \$6,000. At the cheaper end the 2d caravel with reversed watermark (which we all have) went to \$130 and someone paid \$60 for the lovely hardbound edition of the Ludington auction catalogue. All in all the hammer prices totalled \$300,000 with the buyers well spread (the largest taking less than a quarter).

Also on offer were Eric Yendall's Br Honduras GVI postal stationery and censor covers. The used stationery brought strong prices, around the \$350-400 mark for much of it, while the censor prices accurately reflected the scarcity of the marks. Eric's remarkable assembly of Grenada GVI 10/- values were bought as a single lot for \$16,000. Elsewhere a very average strike of the Demerara horseshoe on 1810 cover with year digits reversed, £264 in the last Nathan sale, fetched \$1,000.

HARMERS 19 DECEMBER

Michael Nicholson's specialised exhibit of the Br Guiana 1898 Jubilee series was offered as a single lot in this Harmers sale. Compared with the prices achieved by Derek Nathan for his more limited 1898 material, the estimate of £10,000 seemed reasonable and I was preparing to have a mild go on the unreliable internet. But once again I suffered from Murphy's law, this time my frantic clicks being disallowed for exceeding a credit limit I had forgotten about. Since I had been shown this lot specifically by one of the Harmers staff it was strange that I had a credit limit below the reserve, but we live in an age when machines not men decide on credit allocation. So a happy buyer paid only £9,500 plus the music. I regard it as a regrettable trend that the Harmers houses on both sides of the Atlantic seem to have adopted (as Manning and some European houses have been doing for some time), to offer specialised collections en bloc, putting them outside the range of the normal collector. It may not be a coincidence that the owners are often deceased.

In light of the extensive duplication in Mike's comprehensive holding of plate blocks, he was wise to sell at a time when there is healthy interest in the different printings and flaws. I also thought Grosvenor did an excellent job in lotting them for various tastes. I expect we will now see a number dribbling out in the smaller mail auctions.

SPINK 14–15 NOVEMBER

My brief report in the December bulletin was written on the evening of the sale to meet a deadline. I wrote that many of the docks colour trials and Caravels were unsold, and this was correct in terms of the room action. However when the prices were posted it appeared that many unsold lots had been snapped up at reserve in after sales action. My spies told me afterwards that the room was sparsely occupied and only the 'usual suspects' were present. The final hammer prices totalled £315,000. Although my records of the buyers are incomplete, as I was not online throughout, they reveal five main bidders, Mark Brandon presumably bidding on behalf of his Russian client, major London dealer John Taylor, a member of the Bermuda Collectors Society bidding through Mary Weeks and a couple of as yet unidentified room bidders. Brandon bought most of the hand-painted essays and some colour trials and proofs and spent over £70,000 (hammer prices). The next largest buyer bought the 1/- imperf between block of 9 and other items to a total of over £50,000. I believe the buyer of the Moncrieff cover bought only that one lot. The BCS member and another room buyer each spent some £25,000, some way ahead of Taylor and a BWISC member around the £16,000 mark.

All in all, the omens for the Bermuda market are favourable given that so many of the Spink and Victoria offerings could be absorbed at one time. But I fear that unless the credit meltdown is quickly resolved, and experience tells me that this could drag on for many months, will affect the stamp market in due course, particularly for leveraged dealers or investors.

COMING EVENTS

The Spink sale of 13-4 March will contain a sprinkling of BWI material, including a small but select collection of the Barbados parish marks on behalf of one of our members. On 18 March Grosvenor will hold a three country sale, one of which will be a collection of St Lucia, although the early pictures do not look very exciting.

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Classic Collections

CAYMAN ISLANDS

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

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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)**

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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 completed scanning early editions of the Bulletin, which are all now on our web site. Peter has also brought the Index of Bulletins up-to-date (Bulletin #215). 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	June	September	December
Distribute	Mon 16 June	Mon 8 Sept	Mon 8 Dec
From Printer	Fri 6 June	Fri 29 Aug	Fri 28 Nov
To Printer	Tue 27 May	Tue 19 Aug	Fri 7 Nov
Final Bulletin Revisions	Fri 23 May	Fri 15 Aug	Fri 31 Oct
Advert Final copy	Fri 16 May	Fri 8 Aug	Fri 31 Oct
Article copy deadline	Fri 2 May	Fri 1 Aug	Fri 24 Oct
Advert book space	Fri 18 Apr	Fri 18 July	Fri 17 Oct

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