



## STUDY CIRCLE

### BRITISH GUIANA USED ABROAD BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT



Paramaribo to Georgetown on the Suriname Government Steamer Service.  
Picture postcard ('Waterkant, Paramaribo'), underpaid at 5 cents with the adhesive tied by Paramaribo ring-and-horseshoe datestamp for '5/12/1900', bearing tax markings and a Georgetown transit mark for 'Dec 7/00'.



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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.

**Opinions expressed in articles in this Bulletin are those of the authors  
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Hon. Editor:	<b>Steve Jarvis:</b> 5 Redbridge Drive, Andover, Hants SP10 2LF. Tel. 01264 358065, e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@bwisc.org">info@bwisc.org</a>
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Hon. Publications Officer:	<b>Peter Ford:</b> – see above
Publications Sales:	<b>David Druett:</b> Pennymead Auctions, 1 Brewerton St. Knaresborough, HG5 8AZ. Tel. 01423 865962, e-mail: <a href="mailto:pennymead@aol.com">pennymead@aol.com</a>
Hon. Public Relations Officer:	<b>Nigel Chandler FRPSL:</b> 76 Spencers Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2JG. Tel. 01403 24 27 88, 07801 431 054 (M), e-mail: <a href="mailto:oesypum@aol.com">oesypum@aol.com</a>
Committee:	<b>Michael Hamilton, Peter Fernbank FRPSL</b>
Hon. Auditor:	<b>John Davis F.C.A. (not in practice)</b>
North American Representative:	<b>John Seidl:</b> 4324 Granby Way Marietta GA 30062 USA. e-mail: <a href="mailto:jseidl@mindspring.com">jseidl@mindspring.com</a>
Study Group Leaders:	Listed in December 2003 Bulletin and on the Web Site

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**SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION****BWISC – CINDERELLA STAMP CLUB JOINT MEETING – SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2009**

... is to be held at RPSL 41 Devonshire Place, London, W1G 6JY from 10:00.

An informal meeting where members are invited to bring along any 'BACK-OF-THE-BOOK' items (Revenues, Officials, Labels etc.).

**BWISC AGM & AUCTION – SATURDAY 2 MAY 2009**

... is to be held at Spink, 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London, WC1B 4ET.

Auction viewing from 1:15 with AGM at 2:15.

**BWISC CONVENTION – SUNDAY 18 OCT 2009**

... is to be held at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel, 5 miles from Stratford-upon-Avon with a National Trust House & Garden next door (<http://www.foliohotels.com/charlecotepheasant/>).

The Committee have decided to vary the location and timing of next year's Convention to provide some variety and we feel the location may provide more convenience for our better halves.

The wine & cheese reception will be held on the Saturday evening (17<sup>th</sup>).

Two formal displays have been arranged:

- Chris Harman will be displaying 'The Story of Perkins, Bacon – with a focus on the British West Indies'.
- David Cordon from Bermuda will be showing his collection of that Colony. 'Bermuda KGV and others'.

**STUDY GROUP LEADERS**

Some more good news is that we have managed to recruit some new Group Leaders. James Podger has agreed to take over the Caymans, Richard Foden has agreed to be the Turks man and Roger West, the Dominica leader. Now all we need to find is someone for Antigua, any volunteers are welcome.

**MEMBER WANTS:**

- Cayman Islands War Tax stamps – I would be pleased to hear from any members who may know who owns the De La Rue essay for the 1½d on 2½d blue WAR STAMP SG:55, and who may own any imperf proofs of SG:55, 56, 57 and 59, if these ever existed in the first place? John Davis, [j552davis@btinternet.com](mailto:j552davis@btinternet.com).

**BWI****THE 1912–32 ‘LEAVES’ KEYPLATES****BY CHARLES FREELAND****(USED BY BRITISH HONDURAS, GRENADA AND ST. LUCIA)**

In 1912 De La Rue introduced a new keyplate design, variously named the ‘New Universal’ or the ‘New DLR’ design. Robson Lowe called it the ‘Laurel and Oak leaves’ design. Five colonies – Br. Honduras, Grenada, Malta, St. Lucia and the British Solomon Islands – used this plate at one time or another.

The interest for the specialist lies in the fact that three separate plates (Figure 1) were needed to print from a design that continued until well into the 1930s. Stamps attached to one of these three plate plugs can be used to assist in the identification of the many different printings. However, none of the handbooks dealing with the three BWI colonies examine the leaves type in any depth (Charlton’s Grenada mentions the three plates on his Page 32 but only records Plate 2 on the MCA 6d, and Ritchie’s St. Lucia does not mention the plates used), although Gisburn’s Solomon Islands and Martin’s Malta are more informative.

As with other sequential plates, key pointers to the introduction of the three different plates are the annotations found on dated die proofs. To my knowledge, only two examples of Plate 1 and one of Plate 2 are extant. One of each appears on pieces from the Day Books that were released from the De La Rue archives in the Robson Lowe sale of 13 April 1976 (this catalogue, for those unaware, is a key resource for the researcher of colonial keyplates). The second example of the Plate 1 die is also from the DLR archives (see following paragraph). In contrast, several examples of the Plate 3 die proof have survived on full glazed card, as well as other working examples from the DLR archives.

Figure 2 shows the example of the Plate 1 die proof from the Grenada Day Book set (included in Lot 240 in the 1976 auction). This is dated Aug 10 (1912). The annotations confirm that the Plate was 120 set (with six spares) and that De La Rue did not charge for the plate (though each user would be charged for the dies and plates for the separate denominations with their colony’s name). The only other die proof for this Plate 1 have seen is struck on a large piece of glazed card, and annotated in manuscript “For hardening/ E.D.R/ Aug. 2 1912” by Sir Evelyn De La Rue.

According to Peter Fernbank, *The Colonial Journal* for Jan 1917 reported “The Postage and Revenue key Plate No.1, King George design ‘D’, 1912, .... having cracked in course of printing, a new 120 set plate has been manufactured, numbered 2, ....”. The only example of a Plate 2 die proof of which I am aware was also included in the April 1976 sale. I have not yet been able to locate an illustration but it is clear from the catalogue description of Lot 176, which was on a British Honduras Day Book page, that this is what it was. The description reads: “1916 new key plate die mounted on card endorsed ‘Nov. 1st 120 leads / No. 2’”. The reference to No. 2 confirms that this was indeed the die struck for Plate 2. If any member is fortunate enough to own this proof I would be grateful to receive a scan or photocopy of it.

The Crown Agents Bulletin No. 5 (1 Jan to 31 Mar 1921) reported “The Postage and Revenue key Plate No. 2, having been condemned and destroyed, is replaced by a new 120 set plate, No. 3, from which future supplies of Grenada and other stamps will be supplied.” There are several examples extant of the Plate 3 die proof. Most of these are on full card, marked before or after striking and dated 22 March 1921 (see Figure 3). The only Day Book example I have seen was on the Malta page dated 23 March (the following day) and this is illustrated in the Robson Lowe catalogue of 9 April 1983. However, there was evidently some delay before stamps were printed from this plate as there are several Grenada stamps from Plate 2 on Multiple Script watermark paper that was only introduced in 1921. The same Crown Agents Bulletin 5 reported “New supplies of Postage and Revenue stamps have been printed from Plate 2, viz:– ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d and 6d on new watermarked white paper (i.e. script), 3d and 5s on new yellow paper, old watermark, and 1s and 10s on new green paper, old watermark.” Research notes in Michael Medlicott’s possession that appear to have been compiled contemporaneously suggest that these Plate 2 stamps were issued in the colony during the course of 1921, with the 1s value on emerald not appearing until November 1921, and that Plate 3 stamps first appeared in 1922.

Previous writers agree that all the stamps from the leaves plates were printed 120–set, from two se-tenant panes of 60 (6x10), separated by the familiar interpanneau gutter margin and with a marginal floral design at the centre of the sheet margins which supplied the perforation pinning points. Upper marginal stamps from all the three plates show vertical perforations through the margin, but there are no perforations through the bottom margin. Initially, the plate numbers were located above Number 5 and below Number 59 on each right hand pane of 60 and above Number 2 and below Number 56 on each left hand pane of 60 (Figure 4). Note there were never any plate numbers at the interpanneau joins, consistent with the fact that the plates were 120 set. Stamps with gutter margin attached are easy to find but the only interpanneau pieces that I have seen reported from the three BWI countries are the Br. Honduras 2c and 3c that were ‘remaindered’ as a result of the making up of the British Honduras 2c and 3c booklet panes (Figure 5). Each sheet of 120 provided sufficient stamps for two booklets of ten panes (5x2), taken from the outer five columns of each sheet of 120, leaving the central gutter with a single stamp either side. I am grateful to Ian Matheson for alerting me to these little beauties, which allowed me to bid with confidence when a pair of each was offered on eBay in April. Outside the BWI, John Davis has told me he owns a sheet of 120 of the Malta War Tax 1d that was printed from Plate 2 consisting of two horizontal panes of 60 separated by the central gutter. In the case of Grenada, Robin Davis kindly looked at the De La Rue Day Books for me and discovered the entry for the Grenada 1912 set (Req. 39/12) on 15 November 1912 which makes it clear that the sheets were guillotined into two panes of 60 before despatch to the colony. He notes that the decision to guillotine them or not would have depended on the sheet size that the colony desired.

When Plate 3 was introduced in 1921, De La Rue appear to have omitted the plate numbers from the upper corners of Plate 3, leaving them only in the lower corners of the 120–set sheet. Hence, stamps from the upper corners that have no plate numbers can be identified as coming from these sheets (Figure 6), and by the same token Plate 3 examples are twice as rare in relation to the issued numbers as Plates 1 and 2. Although I have not seen any examples of Plate 3 in the top margin and doubt they exist, I would of course be interested to hear if any reader owns an example. I would also be interested to hear from any reader who has seen a BOTTOM corner piece with no plate plug. Members with an interest in this topic should read Peter Fernbank’s article in the December 2007 London Philatelist, in which he explains the layout of the King Edward Plate 2 Imperium keyplates used by the Cayman and Leeward Islands and which demonstrates why they can be found with both top and bottom plate positions blanked out.

It should be noted that De La Rue prepared an identical leaves design but with the labels at the side of the neck reading ‘Postage–Postage’ as opposed to ‘Postage–Revenue’ (as well as a third type Revenue–Revenue that was never used). The Postage–Postage type was used mostly for the postcard dies and only one of the five colonies, Br. Solomon Islands, used it for postage stamps, so this plate is not relevant to the present article although they can easily be confused. Die proofs on full card of the postage–postage die exist dated ‘13 Sep 12’, and ‘10/12/19’, and also cut-down on a records page signed by Sir Evelyn De La Rue and dated Sept ‘13 1912’.

The use of each of the three Postage–Revenue plates is recorded as follows, with examples of nearly all of them listed in Sir John Wilson’s catalogue of the Royal Collection:

**British Honduras 1912–21 definitives (all MCA watermark ex the last)**

**Plate 1** All ten duties to \$5, 1915–6 the three more overprints

**Plate 2** 1c, 2c, 3c, 10c, 25c, 50c, \$1, \$2

**Plate 3** \$5, 1921 1c with script watermark

**British Honduras 1916–8 War Tax**

**Plate 1** 1916 1c, 1917 1c

**Plate 2** 1917 1c and 3c, 1918 1c and 3c

**Grenada 1913–22 definitives with MCA watermark**

**Plate 1** All ten duties to 10s

**Plate 2** The same ten duties except the 2d

**Plate 3** 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s

**Grenada 1916–8 War Tax**

**Plate 1** 1916 1d local overprint, 1916 1d London overprint

**Plate 2** 1918 1d London overprint on bluish paper

**Grenada 1921–32 definitives with script watermark**

**Plate 2** ½d, 1d carmine-red, 2d orange, 2½d dull blue, 6d dull and bright purple

**Plate 3** All duties ex 2½d dull blue

**St. Lucia 1912–21 definitives with MCA watermark**

**Plate 1** 2d, 2s6d

**St. Lucia 1921–30 definitives with script watermark**

**Plate 3** 2d, 2s6d

**British Solomon Islands 1914–23 definitives with MCA watermark**

**Plate 1** All 14 duties except 3d

**Plate 2** 1d, 2½d, 1s, 2s, 2s6d, 5s

**Plate 3** 3d, £1

**British Solomon Islands 1922–31 definitives with script watermark**

**Plate 3** All duties except 1½d (which is from the postage–postage die)

**Malta 1914–21 definitives with MCA watermark**

**Plate 1** All eight duties (except 4d) to 1s

**Plate 2** The same eight duties to 1s

**Plate 3** 1s on emerald

**Malta 1917 War Tax**

**Plate 2** ½d

**Malta 1921–2 definitives with script watermark**

**Plate 3** ¼d, ½d, 1d, 2½d, 6d

**Malta 1922 Self-government overprints**

**Plate 2** The five MCA duties to 1s

**Plate 3** The 1s with MCA watermark, all the five script duties to 6d (excluding 2d)

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- Fernbank, Peter: *King Edward VII Imperium Style Postage and Revenue Key Plate 2*. The London Philatelist, Dec 2007.
- De La Rue *Correspondence & Day Book* records held at The National Postal Museum & Archive, London.
- Auction catalogue: Robson Lowe 13 Apr 1976 (featuring the De La Rue archives).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Robin Davis, John Davis, Peter Fernbank, Ian Matheson, Michael Medlicott, Michael Oliver and Andy Soutar.

FIGURE 1



Stamps printed from each of the plates.

FIGURE 5



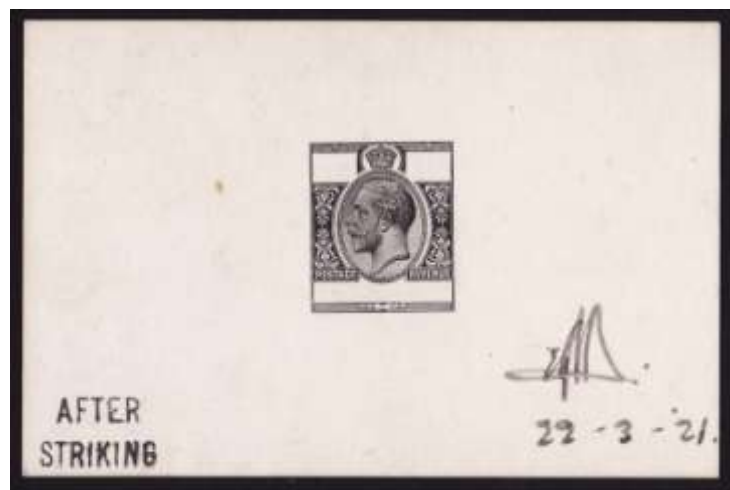
Br Honduras 2c gutter margin pair taken from the remainders of sheets used to make up booklets.

FIGURE 2



Piece from the Grenada Day Book with a Plate 1 die proof.

FIGURE 3



A Plate 3 die proof.

FIGURE 4



Plate 1 block showing the plate plug in top margin.

FIGURE 6



Plate 3 block with no plate plug in top margin.



## DANISH WEST INDIES

### CHRISTMAS IN ST. THOMAS

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT

Every now and then, as BWI collectors, we turn our attention to St. Thomas and the Danish West Indies. So I hope I may be forgiven for mentioning a stamp which is likely to be unfamiliar to most of us (see illustration).

The uninitiated would be forgiven for supposing that this stamp commemorated some event in July 1909, and wondering what that might be. In fact 'JUL' translates as Yule, or Christmas, and serves to remind us that Denmark was a pioneer in this field, having issued the first Christmas stamp in 1904.

As with the first Swiss Health stamps, this was far from becoming an annual exercise at that period and, for all I know, the DWI stamp that I feature here might be the next of the breed.



The design reminds one that, with a slight elasticity of approach, there is a serious classical theme for a West Indies enthusiast to follow. Starting, of course, with the Lady McLeod; paying close attention to the 19th century British Guiana; taking in the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance issues, and the shipping locals of British Honduras, incorporating the RMSP issues; then ranging round the Caribbean for the local issues that marked the traffic between West Indian Islands and the Spanish Main at La Guaira – here is a colourful, but arduous pursuit, for a very deep pocket; and I think that the Christmas stamp that I am discussing – however modest its value – could properly hold its own at the tail end of such distinguished company.

If that suggestion is too ambitious, why not try it from the other end? Begin with our Christmas stamp, and tell the maritime story through postcards, stamps and covers tracking the labours of Eden, Esk, Solent and Yare, the larger RMSP vessels, the Paquebot marks around the Caribbean, the United Fruit Co. with its cachets and its labels, the Lady Boats, the Dutch KNSM boxed series of marks, the much wider range to which researchers such as Michael Oliver have opened our eyes, the French octagonals and anchor markings, the German Atlantic carriers, ending the saga perhaps, in relatively recent times, with the HAPAG centenary commemoratives.

I treat our DWI Christmas stamp as pivotal to both suggested excursions because it seems to me – in concept, in design, and in execution – ideal to mark the close of one maritime era, and the dawn of another.

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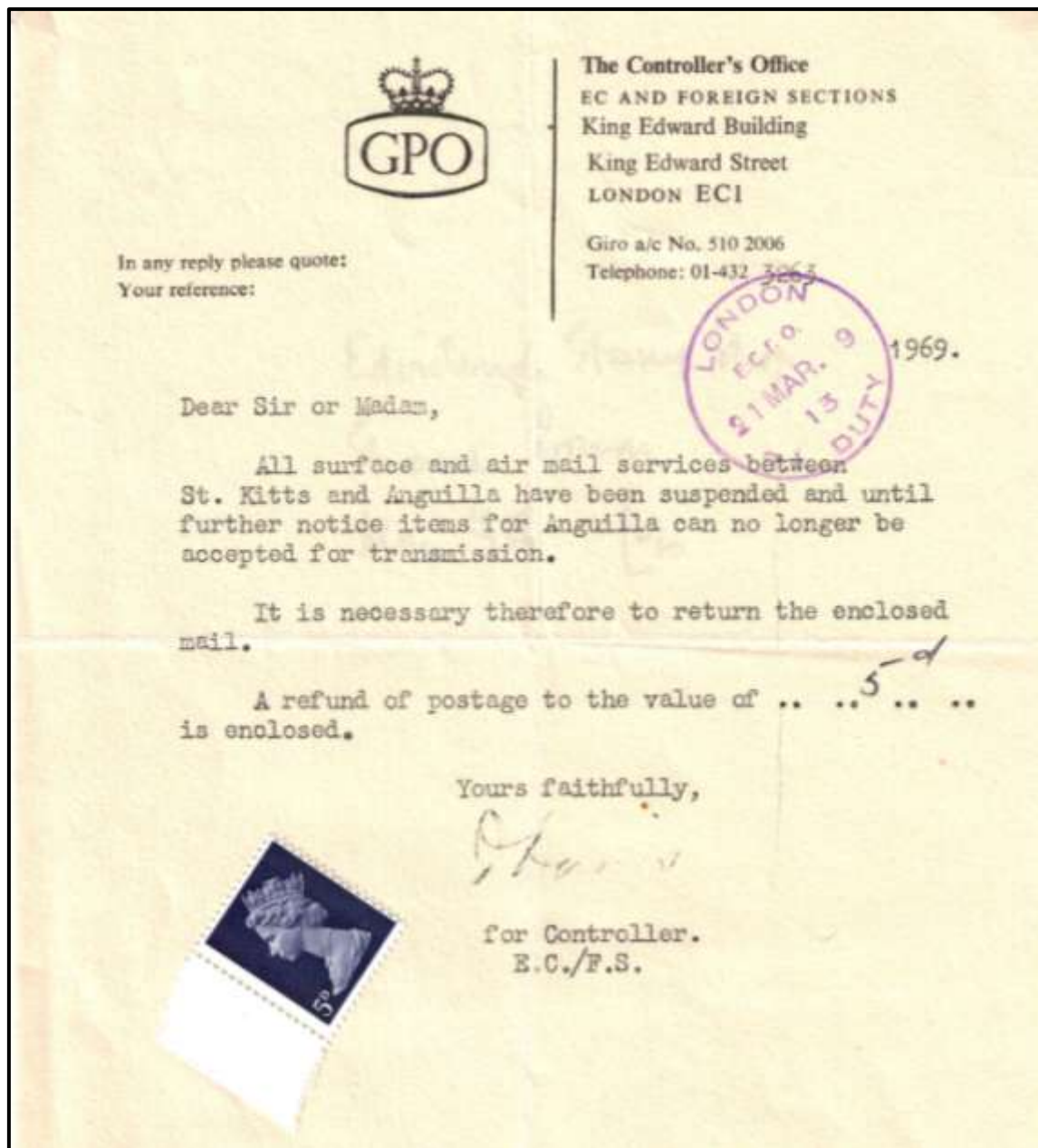
A BLUE RENEWAL FORM IS ENCLOSED FOR THOSE WITH SUBSCRIPTION DUE



**ANGUILLA****1969 SERVICE SUSPENDED DUE TO INSURRECTION****BY ROBERT JOHNSON**

In BWISC Bulletin, #189, June 2001, Denis Charlesworth provided an example of returned mail due to service suspended dated 18 March 1969. I am (belatedly) able to supplement his article.

Mail services to Anguilla were suspended between 12 February 1969 and 7 July 1969. British troops occupied Anguilla at the request of the St. Kitts-Nevis Government following the attempted secession of Anguilla from the then constitutional arrangements between the three islands.



I have another copy used in June 1969 with a little brown envelope containing a 4d stamp.

I have always thought it funny that while Service suspended marks exist for the Dominions in World War 1 and World War 2, I have less than five for British Colonies, after 40 years of looking. Perhaps readers could be asked to prove me wrong and show that colonies did return mail in wartime with marks. There must have been mail from the WI islands for Germany/Austria/Japan in transit on the declarations of war or just posted or posted just after.

**ANTIGUA STAMP DUTY****CC WATERMARK 1870 STAMP DUTIES****BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT**

Examination of the perforations on the CC Watermark 1870 Stamp Duties of Antigua reveals something rather strange.

The panes are set in four horizontal rows of ten stamps each, with Plate Number '1' beside stamps 1/1 and 4/10, and Current number '38' beside stamps 1/10 and 4/1 in typical De La Rue layout. The stamps are often poorly centred, and for a particular reason; the comb perforator, gauge 14, punctures one less hole horizontally between the two right-most vertical lines of perforation (when viewed from the front) than between any of the other vertical lines. In other words, the four stamps in Column 10 are allowed less width than the stamps in the other nine columns. De La Rue used the old Somerset House comb machines with adjustable pins (for different sizes of stamp) until they began to replace them with new machines in 1878. It is likely that the smaller interval between the two right-hand vertical rows of perforations was simply the result of human error. My collection contains complete or near-complete panes of six of the eleven denominations with CC watermark, and the error is constant; I have no appropriate multiples with CA watermark and cannot, therefore, tell whether the error was noticed and rectified for the 1876 series.

So far as I can see, only the Leewards Fees issues of 1882 among BWI Revenue and Postage stamps, might show the same perforation error. They were never remaindered and so unused multiples are virtually unknown, with used almost as scarce. If any member has an appropriate positional piece of the CA watermark Antigua Stamp Duties or the Leewards Fees, such as I have not, perhaps he or she would check and report?

**FOR COLLECTORS****(All Cat. Nos. From BK CW 5 Reigns Catalogue – 14<sup>th</sup> Edition)****TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS**All **never mounted**, from an original stock, purchased at the time1909-1922 Cactus ¼d E24a/b; G25; G33,  
sheets of 60 – £245**War Tax**

1913 MCA 1d G2b;d;e sheets of 120 – £40 each

1d G12 sheet of 120 – £40

1913 MCA 3d G5d sheet of 60 – £48

3d G13 block of 46 – £40

1913 MCA 4d G6a sheet of 60 – £65

1d G14 block of 4 – £1

1913 MCA 4d G6b sheet of 60 – £90

3d G15 block of 12 – £10

1913 MCA 2/- G10b lower block of 36 – £225

3d G16 sheet of 60 – £300

1921 MSC ½d G26 pane 59 – £85

3d G16 block of 41 – £195

1921 MSC 1d G27 block 24 – £18

3d G16a block of 58 – £285

1921 MSC 2d G28 block 48 – £40

3d G19 block of 30 – £20

1921 MSC 2d G28a block 48 – £40

1d G21 block of 9 – £5

1921 MSC 2½d G29a block 12 – £10

3d G22 block of 18 – £10

1922 MSC 2½d G38a block 46 – £35

1d G23 block of 6 – £5

1922 MSC 3d G39 pane of 60 – £50

3d G24d block of 42 – £450

1922 MSC 3d G39 block of 44 – £35

3d G24d block of 30 (bottom block 4) – £375

1922 MSC 4d G40 pane of 60 – £50

3d G24d block of 4 (l/r) – £60

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**ANTIGUA****PARHAM HILL HOUSE****BY MICHAEL HAMILTON**

The following interesting entire and contents recently came into my possession –



1839 entire to Robert Tudway, Wells

variously rated and showing fair / good  
ANTIGUA OC 29 1839 fleuron (PG2)

enclosing small (171x109) alternative plan  
for a New House and Sugar Works  
in No. 12 Canefield

and signed 'T. D. Foster 29th Oct 1839'  
on reverse.

Antigua 39th October 1839

My Dear Sir,

Since I had the honor to address you on the 15<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Instant forwarding returns for your Estates for August & September we have been blessed with good rain just what we wanted, & with the usual weather until Xmas, the must now expect a third good crop, it is true, the price of labour has increased, but that was to be expected from the great demand for it, but fortunately the high price of produce has enabled owners to bear it, & I am glad to say that I now begin to think more favourable than ever of the certainty of obtaining sufficient labour for those who left the Estates for Independent Villages have late anxiously sought employment & certainly do good work. I sincerely congratulate you on the season having gone over without a Hurricane. We ???? islanders have great reason to be thankful, & ???? as the fever has also disappeared for the present. I don't believe there is now a bad case in the Island, it has too frequently turned our Houses into ????? of great sorrow, speaking of fever, when it was at the H????? here, the Engineer Mr. Gardner left for Scotland and I have consequently given over all thoughts of altering our works at the Old Works until his return, & I was obliged to take the Wind Mill down to the Collar from the decayed state of the frame, it is perhaps just as well. As I wanted some Negro houses & as all the White servants lived nearly together I built a small house for one of the Overseers to reside in and gave the House he formerly lived in, to the G???? and servants about the House, & three cottages to the labourers, thus I have obtained some safe guard for the Negros & placed all white servants near that side of the Works which was before unguarded as you will see by the enclosed little sketch of them, to my mind is now comparatively easy for their safety.

I have the honour to be ?? ???? your faithful servant J?? D Foster.

N.B. Upon comparing this with Mr. Gardner's plan sent you on 1<sup>st</sup> April last you will at once see the absolute necessity th?? was for some guard to the ??? of your Works, as it was at the foot of a hill & completely out of sight and out of hearing of my own & other houses, I have had ???, ?????? since a proper ???? resides on that side of Your Works. J.D. Foster 29th Oct 1839.

PARHAM HILL HOUSE AND SUGAR WORKS

1839 unique hand coloured drawing prepared by Robert Tudway's Estate Manager:

PARHAM SCHOOL HOUSE

Michael Rego supplied the above photo taken in 2000, showing the local Parham village school, which may well be the former house of the Tudway family.

The two large buildings in the village are the school and the huge parish church.

**BAHAMAS****QUEEN'S STAIRCASE CROWN CC PRINTINGS****BY PETER FERNBANK**

H.G.D. Gisburn's *The Postal Stamps and Postal History of the Bahamas*, recently reprinted, is an indispensable guide for most collectors of Bahamas. However, being written in 1950, much new information has since come to light (not all of it published), and it has become increasingly obvious that some of the facts stated in the handbook are questionable, and, in some instances, just plain wrong. I shall deal with those concerning the Queen's Staircase Crown CC issues in this article.

Only four values of the series appear on this watermark, and their respective printings were as follows:—

Value	Invoice Date	Reqn. No.	Quantity (shts of 60)	Remarks	Vignette Plate No	Frame Plate No
<b>1d</b>	02 Aug 1901	96/00	4,115	722 Specs }	1	1
	25 Sep 1903	56/03	798		2	1
					2	2
<b>5d</b>	29 Dec 1902	47/02	188	727 Specs	1	none
	7 May 1903	22/03	207		1 & 2	none
	25 Sep 1903	56/03	102		2	none
<b>2s</b>	29 Dec 1902	47/02	91	727 Specs	1	none
	25 Sep 1903	56/03	100		2	none
<b>3s</b>	29 Dec 1902	47/02	102	727 Specs	1	none
	25 Sep 1903	56/03	100		2	none

These figures have been taken from De La Rue's *Private Day Books*, and are further confirmed by *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*<sup>1</sup> (although Ewen's gives 2,700 sheets for the first 1d printing). Gisburn correctly gives 246,900 stamps (4,115 sheets).

Gisburn states (page 68) that for the 1d value Vignette Plate 1 & Frame Plate 1 (1/1) were used for the first printing and 2/1 for the second, with which E.W. Mann<sup>2</sup> concurs, but it should be noted that examples from the second printing also exist from 2/2 (Figure 1). Gisburn gives a date of October 1908 for the second printing of all four values. This may have been derived from Ewen's, where it is stated that the earliest date of use seen of the 1d was '10.08'. In fact the date of the invoices for these printings was September 1903.

Two frame plates were made for the 1d value, numbered 1 and 2. Note that there were no frame plate marginal lines surrounding the sheet on the first printings from frame Plates 1 and 2, but by the second printing of the 1d value frame plate 1 had had the lines added to the plate. They do not appear on Frame Plate 2 until the first MCA printing in 1910. For all other values in the series only one frame plate was made, but none were numbered. Thus by default each may be considered 'Frame Plate 1', but Gisburn's constant references to them for the other values are rather superfluous and only serve to obfuscate the text.

Gisburn has assigned Vig. Plate 2 to the first printings of the 5d, 2s and 3s (page 74), but this should be Vignette Plate 1. He also provides printing totals of 29,820 (497 sheets), 11,460 (191 sheets) and 12,120 (202 sheets) for the first consignment of the 5d, 2s and 3s values respectively. These were actually the combined totals of the various printings in each case.

For the 5d value a total of 497 sheets were printed. Of this total at least 120 sheets were subsequently utilised for the Special Delivery overprints (S.1), comprising 10 sheets for the first overprinting in 1916, a possible 10 (but probably more) for the second and 100 for the third. Both E.W. Mann<sup>2</sup> and Harry E. Huber<sup>3</sup> state that both Plates 1 and 2 were used for the second printing of the 5d, Huber adding that "... there was a small lot from Plate 1 with the bulk from Plate 2." Unfortunately neither provides an explanation for their dual plate allocation. It would seem that a large proportion of the third printing from Plate 2 was used for the Special Delivery overprints, which might explain the comparative scarcity of the unoverprinted Vignette Plate 2 examples mentioned by Charles Freeland in the March bulletin.



It should be mentioned that sheets from the first printing of the 5d, 2s and 3s values (but not the 1d) were perforated through the left and right margins to the edge of the sheet (Figure 2). For the later printings (and the first 1d printing) only four to five perforations holes extend into the margins on each side of the sheet (as per Figure 3).



Figure 1 Vignette and Frame Plate numbers used on Crown CC 1d value.



Figure 2 Perforations through to edge of side margins on 5d, 2s and 3s of first printing.



Figure 3 Only four to five perforations holes extend into side margins on later printings of 5d.

My thanks to Charles Freeland for commenting on the text and for the illustration of the 1d Plate 2/1, and to David Wilson for the illustration of the 5d Plate 2.

#### **REFERENCES**

1. *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, 21 May 1910, pp.552 – 556.
2. Mann, E W: *The Vignette Plates of the Queen's Staircase Issues of Bahamas*. The London Philatelist 28 (1919), pp.269.
3. Huber, Harry E: *Bahamas Special Delivery 1916-18*. The Stamp Lover, Nov. 1930.

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

After the three previous articles in this series, a second 'proving cover' for the East Coast Berbice, or Corentyne Coast, has surfaced and confirms what was hitherto only a surmise (see Bulletin No. 215 pp. 18–21) namely, that the ECB/2 code mark was indeed assigned to Whim, not, as proposed by Ted Proud in his book, to Tarlogy (Ref. 1).

The cover, illustrated at Figure 1 is an envelope despatched from Georgetown on June 24 1878 to a Mr. Ray Hope (suspiciously poetic name) at Currentyne (sic) coast, Liverpool Village, Berbice; it is backstamped Berbice (T&H type 7, Proud type D2) 'JU 25/1878' and on arrival 'E.C.B./2/JU 27' (new LKD). Liverpool is (was) the next plantation but one to the East of Whim (Ref. 2). The envelope has lost one stamp (presumably a second 1 cent), but is a vital clue to the numbering of Post Offices on the East Coast Berbice.

As to the use of 'E.C.B./Crown/1' for registration purposes at New Amsterdam, Ted Proud (Bulletin No. 217, p. 21) and I must agree to disagree for the moment, at least until a proving cover is found. In his favour, the vast majority of strikes of 'E.C.B./Crown/1' are found on the 2 cent value, although they have been reported on 1, 4 and 12 cent stamps. However, what explanation would he offer for 'E.C.B./Crown/6' (Bulletin No. 216, p. 25, Figure 3), if not for registration purposes at Skeldon? Perhaps for customs purposes on items crossing the Corentyne River from Surinam, an explanation that could equally apply to New Amsterdam as a Port of Entry, but not to small coastal plantations like Fyrish?

As to the precise location of 'No 6 House', the origin of Cargoo's letter and the location of CCB/1 (Bulletin No. 215), we have a problem. Plantations were numbered in several sequences working East of New Amsterdam, the first No. 6 being Prospect Plantation, inland of the road and some two miles from New Amsterdam itself. It is perfectly possible that a Post Office was established there to serve the plantations which lined the road on either side, some 40 of them in the first numbered sequence.

The second No. 6 plantation was Nigg itself, whose Post Office was not opened until 1877 to replace Fyrish (Plantation No. 3 in the second sequence).

In the absence, one hopes temporary, of further proving covers, I stand by my allocation of codemarks in Bulletin 215:—

CCB	Fyrish
CCB1	No. 6
ECB1	New Amsterdam (unknown purpose)
ECB2	Whim
ECB3	Wellington Park (later Tarlogy)
ECB4	No. 50
ECB5	Benab
ECB6	Skeldon

**POSTSCRIPT**

Charles Freeland has also passed to me details of a new find by John Shawley, namely another 'ECB / crown / 6' (Figure 2).

**REFERENCES:**

1. Proud, E B: *The Postal History of British Guiana*. Pub. Proud Bailey Co. Ltd. 2000.
2. Map of the Seacoast of Guyana. Survey Division, Lands Department, Ministry of Agriculture. Apr 1971.

FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



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## BRITISH GUIANA

### BRITISH GUIANA USED ABROAD

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

To most collectors and students whose philatelic hearts lie in the Southern Caribbean, the use abroad of Trinidad adhesives is a familiar one; the D22 obliterator of Ciudad Bolívar in Venezuela appears regularly, if rarely, on later Britannias, and Trinidad was the frequent forwarding point for mail between Venezuela and Europe.

Less well known, and of much greater rarity, is the use of British Guiana adhesives to frank mail originating in the neighbouring Dutch colony of Suriname, divided from British Guiana by the Corentyne River on British Guiana's Eastern extremity.

### 1. THE SURINAME GOVERNMENT STEAMER SERVICE

Although irregular Dutch sail and then steamer services connected Paramaribo the capital of Suriname with Europe from the 18th century, it was not until 1884 (Ref. 1) that the newly formed Royal Dutch West India Mail Company (KWIM) linked the Dutch possessions with the mother country by means of a regular steamship service.

Prior to 1884, it appears that some mail for Europe was loaded at the Suriname ports of Nieuw Rotterdam (later renamed Nickerie or Nieuw Nickerie) and Paramaribo for transshipment at Georgetown and on carriage to European ports. Townsend & Howe pp.230–31 (Ref. 2) describe this intercolonial Suriname Government Service which appears to have operated from at least 1860 up to modern times. Most letters and packets will have borne Suriname adhesives cancelled at the point of origin, and some of them may have received Georgetown transit cancellations when they were not enclosed in single destination mailbags, and needed resorting. One Suriname adhesive, shown at Figure 1, cancelled by Georgetown A03 obliterator (T&H Fig. 7) and '204' enclosed in a pattern of dots, the 5 cents violet of 1873, is known to the author. This stamp almost certainly originates from a cover carried between Suriname and Georgetown on the Suriname Government service steamer.

The front cover and Figure 2 illustrates a picture postcard ('Waterkant, Paramaribo'), underpaid at 5 cents with the adhesive tied by Paramaribo ring-and-horseshoe datestamp for '2/12/1900', bearing tax markings and a Georgetown transit mark for 'Dec 7/00' (T&H Fig. 38). It is addressed to a 'Mrs. W. Wyndham/Care Capt. W. Wyndham H.B.M.'s Consul/Chicago' and is annotated 'via Demerara'; it also bears US transit, arrival and 'Collect' markings as well as a US Postage Due adhesive. This rather complex card is almost certainly also an item carried from Paramaribo to Georgetown on the Suriname Government Service, in the absence of a suitable KWIM sailing.

Such items must be familiar to collectors of the Dutch colonies, but rarer by far and probably of much greater interest to Study Circle members, are covers franked by British Guiana adhesives, but originating in Suriname, and British Guiana adhesives bearing Suriname cancellations.

### 2. ENGLISH MAILS ORIGINATING IN SURINAME

Townsend & Howe's Plate 14 shows a cover captioned as follows:– '1866. Surinam (Paramaribo) to London. A mystery combination cover with 24 cents British Guiana stamp'.

In the writer's opinion, it should be a 'mystery cover' no longer.

Figures 3 and 4 show covers originating in Nieuw Rotterdam, from a single correspondence addressed by a plantation manager to his mother in London. Nieuw Rotterdam, renamed Nickerie and now Nieuw Nickerie as it has been displaced by flood and resited, is the second town of Suriname and the capital of Nickerie District, across the Corentyne River from British Guiana.

Figure 3 shows a cover posted in Nieuw Rotterdam on 3 July 1880; the despatch cds is set well away from the four British Guiana 2 cent 'ships' of 1876, indicating that they were already in place at the time of posting, and were accepted as legal tender in payment of postage by the Dutch Colonial Authorities. The adhesives are tied by A03 obliterations (T&H Fig. 7), and the reverse bears Georgetown despatch cds (T&H Fig. 26) for 'JY 4'. The date of the 'LONDON N.W./PAID' receiver is not quite clear. The original enclosure is headed 'Waterloo/Mail Day 3rd July 1880'. Waterloo these days is a significant settlement in the West of Nickerie District, and in the 1880s was evidently a notable plantation, probably British owned and managed (Suriname was originally a British settlement in the 17th Century and retained strong ethnic links, being acquired by the Dutch in 1667 in exchange for New York under the Treaty of Breda). (Ref. 3).

Figure 4 is a companion cover, posted in Nieuw Rotterdam on 22 August 1880; the Nieuw Rotterdam cds is again set well apart from the 8 cent British Guiana 'ship' of 1876, which is tied by Georgetown double ring cds of 'AU 23/1880' (T&H Fig. 27), and there is a second, despatch Georgetown cds of the same date (T&H Fig. 26) and a 'LONDON N.W./PAID' arrival cds of '13 SP 80'. The enclosed letter is still within, headed 'Waterloo'/Surinam/August 18th 1880, and is a rather petulant missive from T. Rodber Bush to his mother, complaining of heat, boredom and a lack of letters or photos from home. Poor lamb.

These are important items of British Guiana postal history demonstrating, in the belief of the writer, a previously unrecorded diaspora of British Guiana stamps, and their acceptance by a foreign administration.

### **3. NICKERIE POLICE BOAT SERVICE**

Figure 5 shows an 1876 British Guiana 'ship' 2 cents actually cancelled in Nieuw Rotterdam '3/8/77'. The Nickerie Police Boat Service, by which it would appear to have travelled, is described by Townsend & Howe (Ref. 2) on p. 231. It served the settlements on either side of the Corentyne River in British Guiana and Suriname, providing direct carriage of mail between East Berbice and Nickerie District, without the necessity of taking the Ocean route between Georgetown and the Suriname ports of Nieuw Rotterdam and Paramaribo. Little is known (and less is reported) about the service, and T&H observe that "The Nieuw Rotterdam postmark... must be accounted one of the scarcest to be found on early British Guiana stamps". The start date of the service is in some doubt, but it is thought to have been discontinued around 1912–13, when only eleven bags of mail were carried.

It is possible that the British and Dutch administrations each allowed the use of the other's stamps by mutual consent, and it would be interesting to find a mixed franking or, indeed, a Suriname stamp used on the Nickerie Police Boat Service with Skeldon or Benab cancellations. Can anyone oblige?

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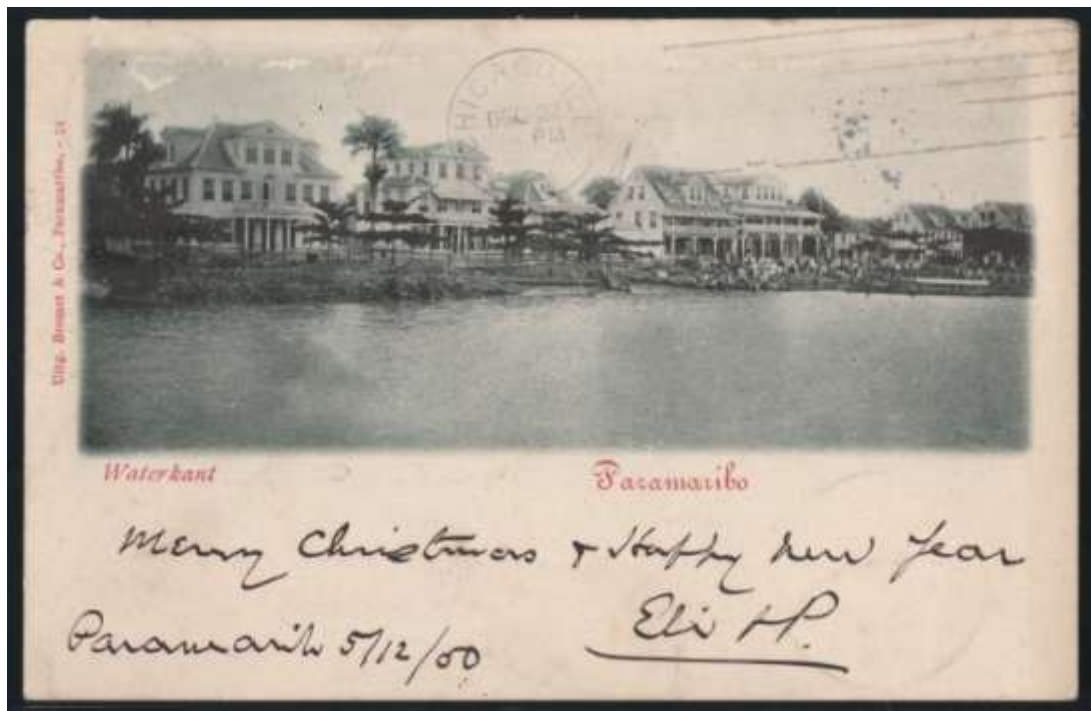
1. Rego, Michael R: *Steamship Lines to the Caribbean, Vol. Two*. Pub. BWISC, 2007.
2. Townsend, W.A and Howe, F.G: *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana*. Pub. RPSL 1970.
3. *The South American Handbook*. Pub. Trade & Travel Publications Ltd. 1939.

FIGURE 1

Suriname adhesive cancelled by Georgetown A03 obliterator and '204' enclosed in a pattern of dots.

FIGURE 5

1876 British Guiana 'ship' 2 cents actually cancelled in Nieuw Rotterdam '3/8/77'.

FIGURE 2

Picture postcard ('Waterkant, Paramaribo'), underpaid at 5 cents with the adhesive tied by Paramaribo ring-and-horseshoe datestamp for '2/12/1900', bearing tax markings and a Georgetown transit mark for 'Dec 7/00'.

See front cover for reverse of Picture Post Card



FIGURE 3



Cover posted in Nieuw Rotterdam on 3 July 1880.

The despatch cds is set well away from the four British Guiana 2 cent 'ships' of 1876, indicating that they were already in place at the time of posting, and were accepted as legal tender in payment of postage by the Dutch Colonial Authorities. The adhesives are tied by A03 obliterators and the reverse bears Georgetown despatch cds for JY 4.

FIGURE 4



Posted in Nieuw Rotterdam on 22 August 1880; the Nieuw Rotterdam cds is again set well apart from the 8 cent British Guiana 'ship' of 1876, which is tied by Georgetown double ring cds of 'AU 23/1880' (T&H Fig. 27), and there is a second, despatch Georgetown cds of the same date (T&H Fig. 26) and a 'LONDON N.W./PAID' arrival cds of '13 SP 80'.



# Stanley Gibbons

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## DOMINICA

### POSTAL USE OF REVENUE OVERPRINTS

BY SIMON RICHARDS

Dominica, along with the rest of the Leeward Islands, joined the UPU with effect from 1 July 1879. This resulted in a reduction in postage rates and in particular the standard rate for mail to the UK dropped from 1s to 4d per half ounce. A cover showing the 1s rate dated 31 January 1879 is shown in E V Toeg's book on Dominica and a cover to Antigua, rated 6d and dated 26 April 1879 is even illustrated on the front cover of that book.

However the preparation for this change took time. The Auditor-General had notified the Colony that they would be admitted to UPU and, though written on 15 May, this news would not have reached the colony until three weeks later. The Crown Agents were only notified on 12 June and forwarded the request to De La Rue, who provided an estimate, which was accepted, and appears to have produced 30,000 4d stamps on 30 June, though these were not invoiced until 7 November, and no definitive answer to the question of when the stamps first arrived in Dominica has been produced.

Meanwhile a Post Office Notice had publicised the reduced rates and no doubt the colonists were keen to take advantage of them, so initially the stock of 1d stamps was used. Figure 1 shows a cover of 11 September 1879 to London showing a block of 4 of the 1d lilac used to make up the rate.

FIGURE 1



September 1879 4x1d lilac

It seems that the stock of 1d stamps was running low and the 4d stamps had still not arrived. However the Post Office did have a stock of 1d lilac stamps that had been overprinted 'REVENUE' by De La Rue in 1877 to collect revenue from documents. Although no formal Post Office Notice appears to have been issued, a pragmatic decision to use this stock seems to have been taken and Figure 2 shows a strip of four of these stamps on an envelope to the UK dated 12 October.

Indeed, Robson Lowe quotes the Philatelic Record of October 1879 which reported that the mail from Dominica that arrived on 13 October was mainly franked with these stamps.



FIGURE 2



October 1879 4x1d lilac, overprinted Revenue.

By November the new stamps had arrived, Figure 3 shows a 4d stamp used on an envelope to the UK dated 27 November 1879. So when did the stamps arrive? The mails from London tended to arrive in Dominica on the 1st or 2nd of the month and on the 18th. From the date the stamps were invoiced and the envelopes shown, I would suggest that 18 November is the most likely date.

FIGURE 3



November 1879 4d blue.

**REFERENCE:**

- Toeg, Victor: *Dominica Postal History, Stamps and Postal Stationery to 1935*. Pub. BWISC 1994.

## GUYANA

### PHILATELIC ARTS EXHIBITION

BY LENNOX J. HERNANDEZ

Held: Georgetown, Guyana, 25–30 August 2008

#### INTRODUCTION

Carifesta, an acronym for Caribbean Festival of Arts, was inaugurated by Guyana in 1972 – the first Caribbean Festival of Arts. Carifesta is a coming together of peoples from around the Caribbean region to showcase their art forms, including literature, visual arts, dance, drama, sculpture, etc, over a period of a week to two weeks, in one of the Caribbean countries. Originally intended to be annual and later biennial, because of various reasons there have only been nine Carifestas before now. The Bahamas should have hosted this year's festival, but could not do so: Guyana thus decided, with only one year for preparation, to bring the festival back here for the first time since the inaugural one in 1972. The festival was successfully held 22–31 August 2008 and Guyana included a Philatelic Arts Exhibition.

The Carifesta Philatelic Arts Exhibition 'Celebrating Guyana's Heritage through Stamps,' was opened on Monday, 25 August 2008 by the Hon Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Dr. Frank Anthony, at a ceremony attended by over fifty persons, on the parking lot of the Post Office Training School. Other speakers included Bishop Juan Edghill, Chairman of the Guyana Post Office Corporation, Mr. Charles Court, Canadian High Commissioner, and the Prime Minister of Guyana, Hon. Mr. Samuel Hinds. Among other matters, Bishop Edghill spoke of the need to revive philately in the country. The Canadian High Commissioner and Guyana's Prime Minister spoke on the newest Guyana stamp issue launched by the Prime Minister. This new stamp issue celebrates Guianese-born Sir James Douglas (1803–1877) who left these shores (for Scotland) a young lad, and later founded and became the first Governor of British Columbia (now a province of Canada) in 1858. To open the morning programme, Mr. Lennox J. Hernandez, a member of the Philatelic Arts Exhibition Sub-Committee, delivered a 15-minute talk on Guyana's postage stamp history, from the Cottonreels of 1850 to the Sir James Douglas stamp of 2008.

#### THE EXHIBITION

The exhibition comprised seventeen 1.22 m high by 2.44 m long printed screens affixed to free-standing boards. No original stamps were exhibited, the relevant stamps were scanned and using the software CorelDraw, enlarged images were put together with descriptive text: the larger images allowed better viewing of the stamps. The first screen gave the title of the exhibition, whilst the second one acknowledged those persons and agencies that helped in the production of the exhibition. Fourteen of the remaining 15 screens (numbered from 1 to 13 & 15) portrayed the postage stamps of Guyana from 1850 to 2008 under the 13 themes described below, whilst Screen 14 highlighted First Day Covers.

##### **Screen 1: Early Postal History**

Whilst displaying a few stamps from the Colonial Period, this screen generally described the development of the postal service in the then British Guiana from 1796. The use and development of postage stamps of 1850 and 1851 are described, and reference is made of the work of Anthony Trollope of Great Britain in reforming the postal service of British Guiana and the West Indies in 1860.

##### **Screens 2 & 3: Our Famous Stamps – the Cottonreels & the 1856 1c Black on Magenta**

Screen 2 described in more detail the 1850/51 Cottonreels and outlined the history of these stamps, showing images of the 4c, 8c and 12c issues, as well as the 2c on cover. Reference is made to the rarity of the 2c Cottonreel. Headlined 'Guyana's Rare and Famous', and with an image of the stamp itself, as well as two Guyana's stamps celebrating the 1856 stamp, and the 1967 First Day Cover, the 1856 1c Black on Magenta is given wide coverage on Screen 3.

##### **Screen 4: Colonial Stamps**

This screen displayed prints of a range of Guyana's other colonial stamps from 1852 to 1966, the written narrative highlighting the error in the 1852 issue, the various periods of provisional stamps, the 1898 issue for Queen Victoria's Jubilee, as well as some stamps of the early 1960s.

### **Screens 5, 6, 7, 8 & 15: History and Cultural & Social Heritage**

Using images of available postage stamps, Screen 5 & 6 takes the viewer through some of the notable and general events of our history and development. The stamps showcase chapters of the country's development from pre-Colonialism, to slavery, to independence, to republican status and even our relations with neighbouring countries. Various aspects of Guyana's culture and society are showcased on Screen 7, on mainly post-independence stamps. Postage stamps shown include those celebrating our religious (Christian, Hindu & Islamic) and other festivals, the indigenous peoples, art and monuments. This screen also highlights local designers (artists) of some stamp issues. Continuing this theme, Screen 8 looks specifically at Guyanese depicted on our postage stamps. These celebrate Guyanese who have made great achievements, including international cricketers, statesmen, a former Commonwealth Secretary-General, and a reggae star. Screen 15 highlights Guyana's celebration on postage stamps, of regional and international events.

### **Screens 9, 10 & 11: Industrial, Engineering & Architectural Heritage**

Industrial activities, engineering and architecture are important aspects of a country's development and these three screens use a variety of stamps from both the colonial and independent periods to showcase the country's progress. Screen 9 highlighted those stamps that depict the country's rice, sugar, bauxite, gold, timber industries as well as the transportation, shipping and building industries. Screens 10 & 11 highlighted stamps that depict the country's historic and modern buildings, engineering structures, as well as the architecture of the indigenous peoples and Eastern immigrants.

### **Screens 12 & 13: Guyana's Flora and Fauna**

Guyana has been described as one of those countries with the highest biodiversity in the world. For example, about 6,500 plant species have been recorded here, of which only 3% are introduced and naturalized. With about 1,168 vertebrate species, including the jaguar, and 1,600 bird species, including the Harpy Eagle, Guyana 'boasts one of the richest fauna assemblages of any comparably sized area in the world'. The postage stamps on these screens gave the viewer a taste of our diverse and exotic flora and fauna.

### **CONCLUSION**

Postage stamps can do much to advertise a country and many countries take advantage of this opportunity. This Philatelic Exhibition for Carifesta X allowed visitors to learn more of Guyana in a short time, and in a bold, visual manner. Not intended to be a history of postage stamps of the country, the exhibition quite definitively met its mandate of 'Celebrating Guyana's Heritage through Stamps'.

#### MINISTER OF CULTURE SPEAKING & PRIME MINISTER VIEWING EXHIBITION: THE NATIONAL TRUST OF GUYANA



Minister of Culture speaking at Opening.



Prime Minister (in blue shirt) viewing Exhibition.

Note: Further images will be placed on the BWISC web site.



SCREEN 07

Cultural &amp; Social Heritage.

SCREEN 10

Architectural &amp; Engineering Heritage.

SCREEN 13

Our Diverse Fauna.



## MONTSERRAT

### POSTMASTER ENDORSEMENTS

BY PETER TRIBE

Postmasters in general tend to be somewhat reclusive by nature but I have found that the Postmasters from Montserrat have been more forthcoming even to the extent of having handstamps applied to their own mail.

I have not seen any reference to these elsewhere and would be grateful if members could let me know of any others or different ones to those illustrated below. (Email: ptribe@tiscali.co.uk).

The earliest 'self advertisements' I have seen are handwritten such as this one dated 16 November 1904.



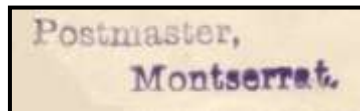
The Postmaster at the end of the First World War regularly added his handwritten cachet such as on this cover dated 23 October 1919 (from the receiving stamp on the reverse).



However, the first usage of a handstamp I have come across is dated 23 December 1925.



This was later changed to the two line version below in use from 21 February 1931 until 6 January 1953.



Handwriting was still in vogue in 1945.



This two line version in both purple and black was in use from 1 August 1951 until 13 January 1955.



Later handstamps include these two from 1958 and 1971.







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**For details, please contact:**

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 Knaresborough, England HG5 8AZ  
 (www.pennymead@aol.com)



**ST. VINCENT****1890 2½d GREY-BLUE DOUBLE-IMPRESSION SG:55****BY MICHAEL LOUKA**

A cautionary tale about an apparent 2½d grey-blue double-impression.

I was recently browsing through the 1970 Bessemer auction catalogue, checking some cancels, and happened to notice a picture of an 1890 2½d grey-blue. Curious as to why a seemingly common stamp with an ordinary cancel was photographed, I read that it was an 'apparent double print of the stamp'. As I hadn't heard of that variety of the SG:55 before, I checked through the copies in my collection, just in case, and, as expected, didn't have any luck. Then I checked a stocksheets with a handful of examples I intend to sell on eBay some day – there's a limit to how many average mint and used examples of this lowly adhesive that I 'need'. No luck there either. Then I remembered a couple of examples that I had put aside a few days earlier, in a pile of damaged, low catalogue value, stamps destined for the wastepaper basket. The first, smudgily cancelled, torn and toned was still nothing special, but the second example, heavily hinged, no gum, thinned, a little soiled, a missing perf, had the redeeming factor that I was looking for, but certainly not expecting to see: a 'clear' double impression! Not exactly a choice specimen, but not too bad looking from the front, and an interesting curiosity, rescued from recycling.

The moral to this story is, of course, to be careful what you throw out. It would be interesting to hear of other examples of this variety, about which little appears to have been written. Examples of the most common De La Rue stamps are not too difficult to find with slight shifts, but I have never seen such an extreme case as the apparent double impression that I have found. In addition to the aforementioned lot in the Bessemer sale catalogue, the only mention of double impressions that I have been able to find is in the Bulletin No. 77, where Simon Goldblatt asked whether true double impressions exist or if stamps showing indications of a double impression were just examples of shifts.

This information and other St. Vincent items can also be viewed on-line at:  
<http://www.louka.no/michael/stv/>



Bessemer Example



Normal and Double



Enlargement

## TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

KGVI 1s GREY-OLIVE SG:202a

BY PETER MARSHALL

The date of this cover is not easy to read but from the February backstamps it seems logical to be January (of 1945). The day seems to be '23' but could be '28'. Therefore 2? January 1945 predates the issue date given in SG of 9 Feb 1945.



23 Jan 1945 registered airmail cover Grand Turk to USA via Jamaica  
With box crown D44 censor

NEW!!!

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### 'STEAMSHIP LINES TO THE CARIBBEAN – VOLUME THREE'

by Michael Rego

This volume covers the French Line as well as some of the smaller lines serving the Caribbean. 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 just over 240 A4 pages, many in colour as before, and will complement the previous 2 volumes. **Price: £ 29.00. BWISC Members' Discount – £3.00**

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 547057 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](http://www.bwisc.org) and on [www.pennymead.com](http://www.pennymead.com).

**BWI****Book Review – Yendall, KGV High Value Key Type by Bill Charles Gompel**

The King George VI Large Key Type Revenue and Postage High Value Stamps 1937–1953  
by Eric Yendall.

The moment you see this book for the first time you are hopelessly drawn into flipping through the pages admiring the full use of quality colour reproduction in this profusely illustrated work. This is especially important as the first major section of the book focuses on the revenue key type stamps that are infrequently found, especially for some African colonies. Anyone that has ever had an interest in these popular stamps, whether the revenue or postage and revenue format, knows how important colour is in distinguishing printings.

While several new updates and additional research to previously published works have been made in the postage and revenue format key types, it is the revenue section where the most strides have been made in terms of making available, for the first time outside of an exhibit, a large body of knowledge on these issues. The presentation of tables and archival information documenting the legitimate need for the revenue format issues and showing the development of the stamps themselves by illustrating various proofs, colour trials, and specimens provides a strong basis, but the actual colour illustrations of the various printings of the stamps and those showing actual usages on documents of several types is what makes this work of especial philatelic significance.

The postage and revenue format sections follows much the same pattern as prior works on the subject, except that the stamps are now illustrated in colour, numerous printing flaws have been added or more fully documented and several questions have been answered. New information on cancellations and cancel forgeries has been added and areas previously covered in other publications, such as revenue usages and the study of jubilee lines and plate plugs in Dickgiesser and Yendall's famous 'Green' book, have been expanded and well illustrated.

The sections on postal history are also exceptional, particularly for Bermuda, showing the full range of usages that exist. The general collecting public generally think of key plate usages on cover as being philatelic in nature, but this far from the truth as the development of worldwide air mail, prior to and during WWII, significantly increased the need for high value stamps to pay the proper rates, unlike the reign of KGV.

Some small sections, like the 'Order of Printing Table' towards the end are quite useful, while some, like the valuation guide, are well intentioned and necessary in today's publications, but not overly helpful.

This outstanding work culminates with a fully updated listing of the flaw charts used in the past for all of the printings of Bermuda, Leeward Islands, and Nyasaland and the new addition of Ceylon.

The book was published by the RPSL and so, true to form, it is a high quality production in every way from the high definition of the printing and outstanding resolution of the colour illustrations to the binding and the very colourful dust jacket on thick high gloss paper. If there is a criticism, it is that the proof reading is not as good as one would expect from such a distinguished publisher.

Eric's passion for the hobby and his dedication to researching every possible aspect of this subject that may have been previously ignored or limited by the availability of material is demonstrated among every one of the 358 pages of this book. The list of acknowledgements reveals to the full the efforts he has made to cover all the bases. While the book will certainly appeal to KGV enthusiasts, key plate and revenue collectors, and those that collect the specific colonies that are covered in the book, anyone reading this book, whether novice or specialist, will find this a rewarding experience and a must-have reference for their library.

**MEMBER WANTS:**

- Sir Geoffrey Palmer wants Cayman islands 1921–26 SG:60aw 3d purple vfm inverted wmk. Tel. 0116 259 2656.

**SLOGAN MACHINE CANCELS SINCE THE MID-1970S****BY DAVID WATSON**

The cancels shown in Figure 1 were used at Nassau GPO from 1976–92, after the Bahamas achieved independence. They do not appear to have been recorded before.

It is important to research slogan machine cancels, not least because they can add to our understanding of socioeconomic development in a part of the world that has been changing over the last 30 years or so. There are certainly some new BWI cancels to read & record. For example, Potter lists four new slogan machine cancels introduced in Jamaica after 1975.

New information to me at watson@waitrose.com, please. To save time, other ones I have seen are as follows (observed year of usage; 'WORDING'; & place of usage):

**BELIZE**

For Belizean slogan machine cancels, up to 1983, please see my article in the June 2008 *BWISC Bulletin*, or in expanded form on the BWISC website.

**BERMUDA**

- 1994 'REMEMBER TO USE/YOUR POSTCODE' (Hamilton)

**BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS**

- 1978 'POST EARLY/FOR/CHRISTMAS' (Road Town)

**CAYMAN ISLANDS**

- 1975 'CAYMAN ISLANDS/LAND ADJUDICATION/HAVE YOU CLAIMED/ YOUR LAND' (Georgetown)

**MONTSERRAT**

- 1980 'COME TO/MONTSERRAT FOR/CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL' (Plymouth G.P.O.)

**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

- 1977 'START THINKING/METRIC NOW' (used at Port of Spain)
- 1980 'SUPPORT YOUR/POPULATION CENSUS/14<sup>th</sup> APRIL TO 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 1980' (Port of Spain)
- 1990 'SUPPORT YOUR/1990 CENSUS' (Port of Spain)
- (Year?) 'FOREST FIRES/CAUSE DROUGHT/SOIL EROSION' (Port of Spain)
- (Year?) 'JOIN A/CREDIT/UNION' (Port of Spain)
- (Year?) 'BUY/SAVINGS BONDS/NOW' (San Fernando)



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**REFERENCE:**

- Potter, I.A: *The Postal Markings of Jamaica*, pp. 48–9, Pub. Potter, 1996.

FIGURE 1





**AUCTION UPDATE****BY CHARLES FREELAND****SHREVE 3 OCTOBER**

The Bill Gross collection that was sold on behalf of the Millennium Villages project was heavily promoted but its BWI was of patchy quality with average copies alongside superb rarities just as in the spring Sovereign sale. I suspect bond fund manager Gross had not had time to view many of the items before purchase even though all the ones I could track came from US sources. As with many US collections, the buyers seem to pay more attention to centring than to overall freshness, an example being a superbly centred Virgin Is. 1d compound perf at \$17k hammer, even though it was ungummed, slightly stained and thinned. The highest BWI price was for the Barbados strip of the unissued 6d perf 11-12 at \$50k hammer, a huge mark-up on the price it achieved in Del Harris' sale. Perhaps our member Joseph Hackmey competed as it adjoins his own (finer) strip. The lovely Cayman Is. Ruddy cover with a pedigree to match fetched 30% above Gibbons at \$19k, even though it is slightly cut down, and the 1860 Bahamas local cover bearing SG:1 was \$30k. The St. Vincent seemed to demonstrate new demand achieving \$10.5k for a nice SG:2 without gum, \$1.4k for a nice well-centred but small margined SG:38 and \$2.3k for a very average Polignac cover. But several rare items were stained or toned (e.g. Barbados SG:86b, Dominica SG:18, Grenada SG:D7 and Montserrat SG:3a) and this was inevitably reflected in their apparently reasonable prices.

**FELDMAN 3-7 OCTOBER**

The Jamaica mint inverted frame fetched €24,000 plus plenty of add-ons (around the same in £s by the end of the day and more if duty had to be paid). Eleven St. Kitts Tercentenary imperf pairs from the sheetlets of six were new to me and went for €4,200, which I am sure would have been a lot more if the 'set' had not been missing the 6d and 1s values.

**COMING EVENTS**

After a rather soporific 2007 a busy quarter lies ahead. Three important BWI collections are coming on the block shortly. First up is Geoff Osborn's Bermuda collection at Cavendish in January. We saw a small part of his outstanding postal history at our 50th anniversary celebrations in 2004 and we know of Geoff's expertise in military and naval mail. The offering also includes stamps, incoming mail and postmarks. In February, David Barton's collection of mint CW to be offered by Sotheby's contains much juicy BWI. Sotheby's have picked out Bermuda keyplates and BVI as especially strong areas, but we have seen him buying big ticket blocks from Bahamas and other BWI at Spink. In March Joan Harper's outstanding Br. Honduras is to be offered at Cavendish. We saw her display of this territory at the joint meeting with the BCPSG at the 1990 London International and a lovely collection it was. It will be interesting to see what has been added since...from Cavendish's Chronicle it seems not a great deal.

More generally, the quality of BWI material offered by the lesser houses seems to be improving and I expect more action as the credit crunch begins to bite more widely, resulting in forced sellers. Many dealers at Philatex were complaining about much higher bank charges and some may have to trim stock or be forced out of business. In all, 2009 should be an active year which is good news for the auctioneers and agents, but conversely the brutal fall in the pound will make life harder for UK buyers. At the time of writing it has fallen almost 25% against the dollar in no time.

**GIBBONS 2009 CATALOGUE**

The new Gibbons that appeared at the end of August mentioned in its foreword that "Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda and Br. Guiana have all seen notable price rises in the period up to 1950" and the other islands "are also worthy of mention". In the event, increases were few and far between outside the obvious candidates, a few (but by no means all) big ticket items with recent auction history, listed varieties and the 'back of the book' material (for example, Br. Guiana SG:O5 went from £1,200 to £1,800). For those that have been acquiring constant plate flaws and rarer watermark varieties (but thankfully not those GVI missing letters) the news is reassuring with a roughly 10% increase across the board, but the run of the mill stuff saw relatively little movement. For the first time for years there were some increases among the specimen sets and the 1935 Jubilees continued their remorseless rise, both the straight stamps and the flyspeck flaws. There were exceptions of course, with the commoner Bermuda keyplate flaws and the more often seen watermark varieties mostly unchanged, reflecting strong supply, but in general the changes reflect what we have experienced in the Study Circle's auctions.

**MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION****CHAS GEE**

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**Revisions to contact details should be provided to the Hon. Secretary, Charles Gee, address inside front cover.**

In this issue and in future, membership updates will be issued as loose booklet style inserts for the membership booklet. An up-to-date Membership Booklet can be download from [www.bwisc.org](http://www.bwisc.org) (please e-mail the Editor, [info@bwisc.org](mailto:info@bwisc.org), for access details).

**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. Numbers 1 to 199 (2003) can be viewed without a password but more recent ones require a password (supplied to paid up Members on request to [info@bwisc.org](mailto:info@bwisc.org)). 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 2009 is as follows:

Edition	March	June	September	December
Distribute	Mon 16 Mar	Mon 15 June	Mon 7 Sept	Mon 7 Dec
From Printer	Mon 9 Mar	Mon 8 June	Tue 1 Sept	Mon 30 Nov
To Printer	Wed 18 Feb	Tue 26 May	Mon 17 Aug	Mon 9 Nov
Final Bulletin Revisions	Sun 15 Feb	Sat 23 May	Fri 14 Aug	Fri 30 Oct
Advert Final copy	Fri 6 Feb	Fri 8 May	Fri 7 Aug	Fri 30 Oct
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