



## STUDY CIRCLE

**BRITISH GUIANA – THE 1882 LOCAL ISSUE**  
**BY SIMON GOLDBLATT**

FIGURE 1



1c block of 4 used at Leguan (probably 15 Feb 1882).



**BULLETIN No. 221 June 2009**



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.

**Opinions expressed in articles in this Bulletin are those of the authors  
and not necessarily those of the BWISC, its Editor, or its Officers.**

### **OFFICERS & CONTACT DETAILS**

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

Founder:	<b>P.T. Saunders, FRPSL</b>
President:	<b>E.V. Toeg, FRPSL</b>
Vice-Presidents:	<b>Charles Freeland, FRPSL:</b> Ob Batterieweg 45, CH-4059 Basel, Switzerland Tel. 0041 61 361 1205, e-mail: <a href="mailto:charles.freeland@hotmail.com">charles.freeland@hotmail.com</a> <b>Simon Goldblatt:</b> 39 Essex Street, London, WC2R 3AT Tel. 0207 222 5828 (H) 0207 832 1132 (W) 0207 353 3978 (F)
Hon. Chairman:	<b>Peter Ford:</b> Box 665, Mail Boxes Etc., Ctra. Cabo la Nao (Pla) 124-6, 03730 Javea, Alicante, Spain Tel. 0034 966 472 158, e-mail: <a href="mailto:peterf@bwisc.org">peterf@bwisc.org</a>
Hon. Secretary:	<b>Chas Gee:</b> 32 Blagreaves Lane, Littleover, Derby, DE23 1FH. Tel. 01332 271564, e-mail: <a href="mailto:secretary@bwisc.org">secretary@bwisc.org</a>
Hon. Treasurer:	<b>Ray Stanton:</b> The Old Rectory, Salmonby, Lincs. LN9 6PX. Tel. 01507 533742, e-mail: <a href="mailto:rjstanton@tiscali.co.uk">rjstanton@tiscali.co.uk</a>
Hon. Editor:	<b>Steve Jarvis:</b> 5 Redbridge Drive, Andover, Hants SP10 2LF. Tel. 01264 358065, e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@bwisc.org">info@bwisc.org</a>
Hon. Librarian:	<b>Ian Jakes:</b> Mayville, Sherwood Drive, New Ollerton, Newark, Notts NG22 9PP. Tel. 01623 842095 (H), 01623 860581 (W), 01623 835721 (Fax) e-mail: <a href="mailto:pam@jakeslegal.co.uk">pam@jakeslegal.co.uk</a>
Hon. Publications Officer:	<b>Peter Ford:</b> – see above
Publications Sales:	<b>David Druett:</b> Pennymead Auctions, 1 Brewerton St. Knaresborough, HG5 8AZ Tel. 01423 865962, e-mail: <a href="mailto:pennymead@aol.com">pennymead@aol.com</a>
Hon. Public Relations Officer:	<b>Nigel Chandler, FRPSL:</b> 76 Spencers Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2JG Tel. 01403 242788, 07801 431054 (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

Printed by Sarsen Press, Winchester

<b>IN THIS ISSUE</b>		<b>Page</b>
Programme of Events & Information		3
BWI – Hundred Rarest Postmarks of the KG VI period	David Horry	5
BWI – Sugar Plantation Families	Matthew Parker	8
BWI – Revenues Watermark Varieties	Michael Medlicott	9
Barbados – St. Lawrence SO	David Ball	10
Barbados – St. Lawrence SO	Edmund A. Bayley	10
Barbados – Victory Plate Numbers	Michael Oliver	12
Barbados – Victory Plate Numbers	Robin Davis and Charles Freeland	15
British Guiana – The 1882 Local Issue	Simon Goldblatt	23
BWI – 18th Century British West Indies Mail	David Watson	26
British Guiana – Service Suspended 1963	Robert Johnson	27
Jamaica – Web Site	Steve Jarvis	28
BWISC Auction Report		29
Trinidad and Tobago – Civil Censorship – An Update	Edward Barrow	31
Annual General Meeting Of The BWISC		37
Auction Update	Charles Freeland	41
Membership & Library		43

## **SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION**

### **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 this 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'.

A booking form with more details is enclosed with the Bulletin.

### **LONDON 2010**

The BWISC and BCPSG will be holding joint meetings to coincide with LONDON 2010.

Details are to be finalised but the following programme is envisaged:

- Friday 7 May 2010 – Joint auction to be held at the Crypt on the Green, Clerkenwell.
- Sat 8 May evening – Social meal to include partners.
- Sun 9 May – Displays, Bourse & Meetings, venue to be confirmed.

### **WAR TAX BOOK – JOHN DAVIS**

John's new book '*War Tax Stamps Of The British Empire First World War – The West Indies*' is now available (see enclosed flyer). The discount offered to members of the Royal Philatelic Society, London (reduced price of £55) is also extended to BWISC members.

**BWISC – CINDERELLA STAMP CLUB MEETING – SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2009 BY DAVID WATSON**

It was a great pleasure to meet friends, old and new, at this excellent meeting. The surroundings of The Royal Philatelic Society, London encouraged lively debate and many superb displays of material from most of the islands in the Caribbean. With the number of displays well into double figures there was surprisingly little duplication. Even where there was some overlap there was lively discussion. Indeed, some conclusions could be drawn, for example on the usage of revenues for postal service in some of the smaller islands. The detailed reasons are now clear for Grenada revenues being pressed into postal service, after overprinting, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. None of this would have been possible without the friendly welcome offered by officials and members of The Cinderella Stamp Club. Congratulations to all of them on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their hospitable and learned society!

**SG CATALOGUE ANNOUNCEMENT**

As a result of demand from collectors of the nations, we have decided to publish our first ever Belize, Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago, which will be available in July 2009.

The catalogue lists and prices the stamps from the earliest colonial issues of Trinidad (1847), British Guiana (1850) and British Honduras (1865) up to late 2008, to the level of detail familiar to users of the Part 1 British Commonwealth listings. Watermark varieties, shades, plate flaws, major errors, postage due stamps, official stamps and booklets are all included, along with helpful notes on stamp identification and a guide to prices of stamps on cover to 1945. Illustrations are in full colour, making the catalogue even easier to use.

Details of issues up to 1970 have been extracted from Stanley Gibbons 2009 Commonwealth and British Empire Stamp Catalogue and this is the first full revision of post-1970 prices for these countries since 2001.

The catalogue will retail at £19.95.

A new website is launched  
bringing Pennymead into the 21st century at last!!!!

My new site has lots of glitzy features like a shopping cart and secure online checkout via Barclays but more importantly is offering plenty of new stock from many of the islands.

Besides the stamps and covers  
you will also find many West Indies postcards for sale  
plus a new section devoted to Caribbean maps and prints.

Items are selling fast so visit today before they are all gone.

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

**Pennymead Auctions**

1 Brewerton St. Knaresborough, HG5 8AZ

E Mail: [Pennymead@aol.com](mailto:Pennymead@aol.com)

Tel: 01423 865962 Fax: 01423 547057



**BRITISH WEST INDIES****THE HUNDRED RAREST POSTMARKS OF THE KING GEORGE VI PERIOD****DAVID HORRY**

Continued from March Bulletin.

Note: ORD = Only Recorded Date.

The eleven postmarks from **BRITISH HONDURAS** are all TRDs.

- 33 **Boom mTRC(3)** British Honduras. ORD 8 Dec 1939, Addiss.



- 34 **Agstat Stann Creek TRC:** British Honduras. Agricultural Station. Opened 1 Oct 1938. ORD 27 Oct 1939, Addiss. It was only open intermittently and closed in 1950.



- 35 **Caye Caulker TRC** British Honduras. ORD 27 Apr 1938, Proud.



- 36 **Duck Run – Old River TRO** British Honduras. Used from Jun 1929 to Mar 1938, Proud, but a rare bird. Closed 1938.



- 37 **Parcel Post TRC(2)** British Honduras. ORD 22 Mar 1944 – only partial strike, Horry.



- 38 **Radio Station TRC–(2)** British Honduras. This is a previously unrecorded second Radio Station TRC undated is found on a KGVI \$1 definitive, Horry.



- 39 **20 Miles Stann Creek TRC\*** British Honduras. ORD 20 Nov 1939, Addiss.



- 40 **Caledonia bTRO(1)** British Honduras. Serifed type. ORD 4 Feb 1947, Addiss.



- 41 **Gracie Rock bTRO(1)** British Honduras. ORD 27 Jan 47, Addiss. Not to be confused with bTRO(2) which is only found in 1951 with slightly larger type.



- 42 **San Estevan bTRO(2)** British Honduras. Not to be confused with bTRO(1) which is only found in 1940 – 1947 with slightly smaller type. ORD 6 Oct 1948, Addiss.



- 43 **Prevent Forest Fires TRB** British Honduras. ORD 4 May 1953, Matheson.



There is but one from **DOMINICA**.

- 44 **Blenheim B** Dominica. This office was recently discovered by William Ashley. Blenheim was mentioned in a GPO notice in 1936 and if it did actually open it was for no longer than a year. No item has ever been seen with its *Birmingham* strike – this proof comes from Dominica GPO records.



There are three from **GRENADA**.

- 45 **Piedmontagnes B** Grenada. First used in 1918 and last recorded in Jul 1949, Charlton, this baby is most elusive.



- 46 **Hope OB** Grenada. Used for only three and a half years from Apr 1951 to Dec 1955, Horry; the year is missing latterly.



- 47 **G.P.O NB** Grenada. Why is this *New Birmingham* so difficult? First used in May 1953, Proud, it only lasted a year!



There are two from **THE GRENADINES**.

- 48 **Paget Farm sSC\*** St. Vincent, Grenadines. A sub-office was opened at this remote spot on Bequia Sep 1945. It was upgraded to a Post Office in Jan 1952, Chin Aleong – but no cancellation is recorded until Apr 1958! Does it exist within the KGVI period? Even on QEII it is very scarce.



- 49 **Petit Martinique OB** Grenadines. This is the ORD 12 May 1953, Horry. There is also an unused Registered Oval RO, proofed 5 Dec 49, Walker.



To be continued.

I welcome any further correspondence either through this journal or horry@talk21.com

For exact dates and more information see *The Encyclopaedia of British West Indies Postmarks King George VI* by David Horry which is published by Murray Payne at £39.95+pp. 368 pages – over 2,500 postmarks from 21 colonies (with maps positioning all the post offices) – shipping lines – paquebots and airmails. Over 50 previously unrecorded postmarks. Colour.

Available from Murray Payne Ltd., PO Box 1135, Axbridge, Somerset BS26 2EW UK. Tel. +44(0) 1934 732511 Fax. +44(0) 1934 733498 [www.murraypayne.com](http://www.murraypayne.com) e-mail [info@murraypayne.com](mailto:info@murraypayne.com)



**Cost from £25 + Postage & VAT**

KGVI Expertising Ref No: 0014/06-08

In our opinion: Colour reproduction is subject to variation

Country: Grenada

Description: 50c 11th 1961 (New 15c brown-green and orange-red on yellow paper. Thin example, with large postmark, is genuine. 100% 11th)

Signed:

P.O. Box 1135, Axbridge, Somerset Tel: +44(0) 1934 732511  
BS26 2EW United Kingdom Email: [info@murraypayne.com](mailto:info@murraypayne.com) Fax: +44(0) 1934 733498  
[www.murraypayne.com](http://www.murraypayne.com)

**Murray Payne Ltd expertise**

**KG VI Stamps**

**Usual turn-around time is rapid!**

- Be confident that what you have in your collection is correctly identified
- Have your Specimen sets checked (Victory and Coronation sets £25 each set, other sets including definitives from £45 each set). There are many fakes on the market – put your mind at rest
- No opinion – no fee

For Terms & Conditions, please refer to our website or contact us -

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




Email: [info@murraypayne.com](mailto:info@murraypayne.com) Tel: (+44) 01934 732511 Fax: (+44) 01934 733498

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




**BWI****SUGAR PLANTATION FAMILIES****MATTHEW PARKER**

I was given details of your Circle by one of your members I was lucky enough to meet recently. I am an historian researching a new history of the sugar empire told through the fortunes of a handful of families over four or five generations. One is the Codringtons, so your member and I had a good chat about their correspondence.

I would like to appeal to your members to check whether any of the letters in their possession might concern families I am researching? I am particularly interested in anything that sheds light on the social history of the islands and that provides personal reactions to living and working on the islands during this period.

I am particularly interested in these families:

- The **Beckfords** were a Jamaica family, with many plantations established before the end of the seventeenth century.
- The **Draxes** started in Barbados, planting sugar in the early 1640s. In the 1680s a branch of the family set up a plantation in Jamaica.
- The **Codringtons** were originally in Barbados, but moved to Antigua and Barbuda at the beginning of the eighteenth century.
- The **Byams** were a royalist family emigrating to Barbados in the 1640s, then spending time in Surinam until its return to the Dutch in 1667, whereupon the family relocated to Antigua.
- The **Redwoods, Langfords** and **Martins** were all Antigua plantation owners. The Redwoods moved to Rhode Island in 1712, but continued to own property in Antigua.
- The **Fullers** came into estates in Jamaica in 1702.
- The **Prices** and **Halls** are also both Jamaica families of early establishment on the island.

Matthew Parker 78 Gore Road London E9 7HN Tel: 0208 986 7076.

<http://www.matthewparker.co.uk>. E-mail: [matthew.parker16@btinternet.com](mailto:matthew.parker16@btinternet.com)

## Local Commercial Mail

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

Includes inter island, governmental stampless, registered, meters,

Earlier material available as well.

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

## Steven Zirinsky, APS, PTS, NZSDA

PO Box 49 Ansonia Station, NY, NY 10023 USA  
fax 718 706 0619 email: [szirinsky@cs.com](mailto:szirinsky@cs.com)

Cheques accepted in any currency

## BWI REVENUES

### WATERMARK VARIETIES

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

Three more discoveries are worthy of note, and worth looking out for.

1 Dominica:

The Six Pence postal fiscal of 1879 (SG:R2a) with inverted watermark was sold at auction recently in a complete pane of 60, priced as normals (Figure 1) Gaudeat emptor.

2 Jamaica:

The JUDICIAL overprint on Two Shillings Venetian red of 1908, B&H 12, is now known with inverted Multiple Crown CA watermark (Figure 2), leading the writer to speculate that the far scarcer basic postage stamp (SG:55) may yet be found inverted.

3 Trinidad:

The FEE Five Shillings (Figure 3) of 1887 on white paper with blue overprint, Morley 6546, B&H 9, is now known with inverted Crown CC watermark.

FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3



## BARBADOS

ST. LAWRENCE SO

BY DAVID BALL

With regard to David Horry's article in Bulletin No.220.

The cover below creates a difficulty – it is a KG VI Coronation FDC, the three values, cancelled by the St. Lawrence S.O handstamp dated '14 MY 37', with the St. Lawrence S.O Barbados Registration oval handstamp of the same date. Horry illustrates two handstamps but does not give measurements. I have found the easiest difference to measure is the distance between the tail of the 'E' of ST.LAWRENCE and the tail of the 'S' in S.O. which in his B(1) is 7.5 mm. and in B(1a) is 4 mm.

He gives dates for B(1) 1933–1938 and B(1a) 1947 – 1973. The snag is that the cover below is example B(1a) dated '14 MY 37'! B(1a) existed all the time but perhaps was only brought out on high-days and holidays or was only used for counter duties?.



## BARBADOS

ST. LAWRENCE POSTMARKS

BY EDMUND A BAYLEY

I am in the process of writing a comprehensive work on the Postal History of Barbados, its Post Offices and its Postmarks and I have just seen the article in the March 2009 Issue (No. 220) of the BWISC Bulletin written by David Horry, to which reference is made to an earlier article written by my brother, Keith Bayley, in the June 2007 Issue (No. 213) of the BWISC Bulletin. I would like to draw to Horry's attention, that there are two Bayleys who are both members of the BWISC and who from time to time both write in the BWISC Bulletins and when he is referring to 'Bayley' in future articles that he would specify which one of us he is referring or responding to. [Apologies from the Editor].

About 25 years ago, I was given the opportunity of inspecting the old files at the GPO, including the 2 files on the St. Lawrence Post Office as well as the files on Metal Date stamps ordered by the GPO.

LAW-1



LAW-2



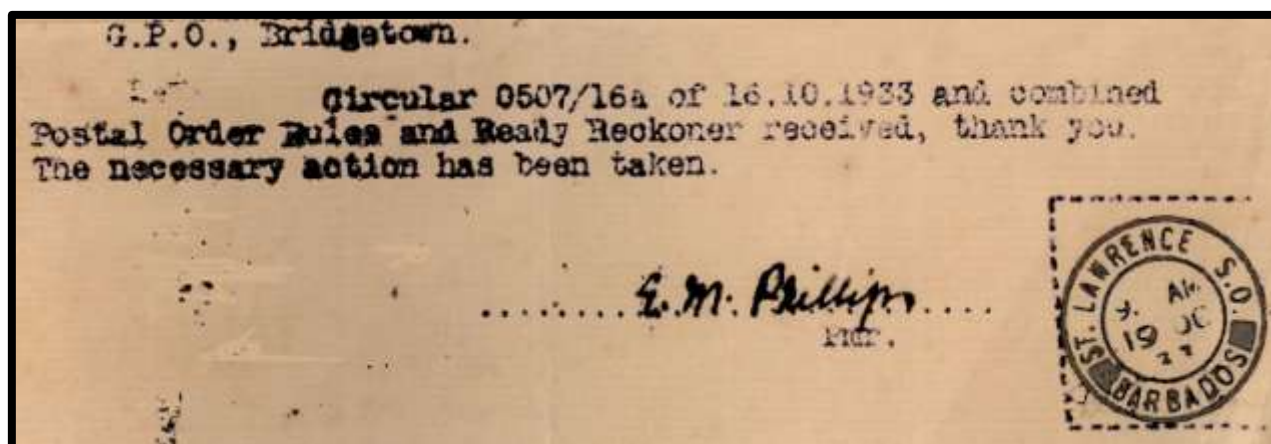
LAW-3



LAW-4



The Post Office Records clearly indicate that only one 'ST. LAWRENCE S.O.' postmark was ever ordered and this was put into service as from 29 May 1933. This is illustrated as LAW-1 and below, with examples 40 years apart.



An oval date stamp was ordered at the same time, but this was used for registered mail only. This is illustrated as LAW-2.

The St. Lawrence Post Office was upgraded in 1938 from a 'Sub-Office' of the General Post Office to a full 'Branch Office' and a new postmark was ordered. This new postmark is similar to LAW-1, but the letter 'B.O' (Branch Office) now replaces the letters 'S.O' (Sub Office). This postmark is illustrated as LAW-3. This Postmark was intended to replace the 'ST. LAWRENCE S. O.' postmark. However, this 'S. O.' postmark was not physically withdrawn from use and remained at the St. Lawrence Post Office. Probably, sometimes due to pressure of work at the office, or by error or accident, the 'ST. LAWRENCE S. O.' postmark was, although rarely, used on mail right up to the closure of St. Lawrence Post Office on 12 October 1973.

There is a fourth postmark, LAW-4, which was put into use as from August 1967.

In his article, Horry suggests that the Type LAW-1 postmark used prior to World War II differs from the same postmark used after World War II and that the postmark must have therefore been refurbished and that the right hand became loose and was fixed back thus accounting for the alleged difference in spacing of the letters.

I should like to make the following comments:

1. The right hand side of the postmark is solidly fixed and is incapable of becoming loose. A new postmark would have to have been made.
2. There is no evidence in the postal records that this postmark was ever refurbished or that another postmark of this type was ever ordered.
3. Finally, it would seem to me to be quite ridiculous that the Post Office would refurbish a postmark which it had in effect withdrawn, and which did not reflect the correct status of the St. Lawrence Post Office. The Post Office was much too thrifty to waste money in this fashion.

In the circumstances, I have doubt about the existence of the postmark which Horry illustrates as B(1) dated '26 AU 37'.

## BARBADOS

### VICTORY PLATE NUMBERS

BY MICHAEL OLIVER

In response to Michael Medlicott's question in Bulletin No. 220, whilst not a collector of Barbados or a student of De La Rue's recess printed stamps, I think the answer lies in their method of printing.

From 1916 all Barbados definitives, including the Victory, to the 1938 issue were recess printed. From 1882 to the 1912 issue, excepting the 1906 Nelson and Tercentenary stamps, were surface printed (typographed).

Surface Printing – De La Rue's economical method of security printing employing fugitive inks, chalk surfacing and the Universal Colour Scheme from key and duty plates. Leads were struck from the master dies, normally 120 for key plates and 60 for duty plates (prior to 1912) to make flat plates. The key plates were numbered by circular plugs set in the selvages above and below one stamp in from the four corners for standard size and latterly most receipt size stamps. Duty plates were not numbered before 1943. All stamps were printed in two impressions, except four duties of Ceylon, including those in one colour. Die proofs and/or file copies exist for most General Colonial key (74) and duty plates (596), plus Regional and other individual colonial designs. The Nyasaland types with the frame including the name and duty were the duty plates and the Monarch's head the key plate (Figures 1a, 1b and 1c). Proofs exist for the Barbados 1912 issue – three key plates and eleven duty plates.

Recess Printing – more expensive, mostly in the larger receipt size printed in sheets of 60, with the Colony's name and duty included in the frame design. The master die had blank duty tablets (see Figure 4 in the following article) from which subsidiary dies were struck for the number of duties required and engraved onto them to make the printing plates. I do not know when cylindrical rollers replaced flat plates. Proofs exist without and with duties added – the nearest you can get to a duty plate proof for a recess printed stamp.

The position of the plate numbers of the Victory Issue is the same as for other earlier Colonial issues. By 1935, from the few examples I have, the plate numbers are in the bottom selvage, albeit somewhat randomly placed (Figure 2), unlike those for the surface printed stamps which with few variations in position, retained consistency in format and position for nearly a century.

FIGURE 1A



Die Proof.

FIGURE 1B



File Copy.

FIGURE 1C



FIGURE 2





# Stanley Gibbons

## Commonwealth Department

Since 1856 our unrivalled experience and expertise have been at the service of philatelists throughout the world.

Another desirable item selected from our ever changing stock.



### Virgin Islands SG 18, 29

1886 (JU 9) registered cover to New York, franked at 1s2d triple UPU rate (3 x 4d postage + 2d registration) by 1867 1s black and rose-carmine on white paper (crimson frame superimposed on margins) and 1883-84 1d pale rose horizontal pair, tied by 'A91' cancels, with 'TORTOLA' straight line cds and 'R' in oval between. Very fine red 'Dansk Vestindien' boxed registration mark (applied in transit at St. Thomas) at lower left.

St. Thomas and New York backstamps.

The cover with slight faults (incl vertical creases clear of stamps), but a magnificent exhibition item.

Ex Urwick, and believed to be a unique franking.

### Do you receive our illustrated list?

To register your interests, simply call 020 7836 8444 and ask to speak to

**Pauline MacBroom**  
Email: [pmacbroom@stanleygibbons.co.uk](mailto:pmacbroom@stanleygibbons.co.uk)

or

**Brian Lucas**  
Email: [blucas@stanleygibbons.co.uk](mailto:blucas@stanleygibbons.co.uk)

STANLEY GIBBONS LIMITED, 399 STRAND LONDON WC2R 0LX

TEL: 020 7557 4450 FAX: 020 7557 4499

## BARBADOS

### 1920 VICTORY SET – THE PLATES FOR THE PENCE VALUES

BY ROBIN DAVIS AND CHARLES FREELAND

Michael Medlicott's article in the March Bulletin triggered some latent questions about the Barbados GV issues that have been in the back of Charles' mind for some time. He can confirm the plate numbers that Michael reported as appearing in the left hand columns of the Pence values (Type 16 in the Gibbons catalogue) and can add the following:

- the ½d value comes in frame Plate 1 (Figure 1) and quite possibly Plate 2 as well, although Charles does not recall seeing a copy.
- the 1d can be found in at least four varieties: with red 1 and black 1 (as Michael's scans show); with red 2 and black 1 (Michael's scan of this is cropped); and each of these can be found on both MCA and script watermark paper. It is also possible that one or more of the six 1d printings on MCA paper might have shown no black vignette number. The fact that the frame Plates 1 & 2 are found used for stamps printed on both MCA and MSCA paper suggests that both frame plates were in use at the same time rather than consecutively.

After consulting a number of experts, we believe we can provide a few answers to Michael's questions, but not the full story without members' input.

#### 1. RECESS AND SURFACE PRINTING

Peter Fernbank and Michael Oliver (see his separate article in this Bulletin) have reminded us that what is particularly relevant to these plate numbers is that the stamps were recess printed and therefore, as with the Bahamas Staircase issues for example, the numbers would have been engraved on each plate separately and not integrated into the master plates. While the plate numbers on the Staircase issues are mostly found at the bottom left corner, as Peter has told us, the Staircase Plates 3 and 4 have the numbers at the left margin opposite Row 3. The 1d value from the Bahamas 1920 Peace set, printed at the same time as the Barbados Victory issue, can also be found with Plate 2 at left opposite Row 3 (Figure 2), and so can the Bermuda 1921 Tercentenary 1d. None of these are frequently seen, to say the least.

#### 2. THE FRAME AND VIGNETTE PLATES

Michael Medlicott's article raises questions about the apparent 'un-De La Ruevian madness' of these plate numbers. Our work has taught us that the first port of call for investigating plate numbers is the annotated proofs and the second the De La Rue Archives held in the NPM in order to establish the sequence of printings, while the Royal Philatelic Collection is an important source of the numbers that exist. Also, in this case, we are fortunate in having Edmund Bayley's fine book to guide us. He provides comprehensive illustrations of the die proofs and also lists the many printings of this issue on his Pages 119–20, although he does not refer to the two plates. And for once the Royal Collection catalogue does not add to our knowledge, since it does not expand on the examples that Michael illustrates – indeed, it does not even list the 2½d and 3d with Plate 1 and does not distinguish between the colours or sizes of the numbers.

So far as die proofs are concerned, with the release of the De La Rue archives in the 1970s, researchers have access to a virtually complete range of essay and proof material, without necessarily having to spend hours in the archives. However, you do need access to the Robson Lowe auction catalogues of the period, especially the Bermuda sales and the offering of striking book pieces on 13 April 1976. And in this case there is a mystery as far as Barbados is concerned which we will come to.

Illustrated in Figures 3, 4, 5 and 6 are the DLR design approved on 8 December 1919 and proofs for the frame and vignettes (two in different colours) of the pence values. The design for the vignette is taken from the spectacular Winged Victory statue that stands at the top of the marble stairs of the Paris Louvre. The proofs are surprisingly elusive, much less frequently seen than many other De La Rue proofs of the period; indeed, I have not seen another copy of the frame proof, and only three or four more of the vignette (two ex-Olive Blossom came up in a recent Grosvenor sale). One of the vignette proofs is dated '2.2.20' (plainly the initial plate), but none of the others bear a date or other annotation.

As Michael notes, we can tell what the plate numbers refer to, because the colour of each number is the same as the colour of the relevant segment of the stamp. So, in this case, the outer number

in black is for the vignette and the inner number in colour is for the frame (just as in the articles on the Bahamas Staircase issue that Peter Fernbank and I wrote about last year).

Peter Fernbank says that it seems to have been DLR's general practice only to number frame plates when it seemed likely that more than one would be required and Peter further adds that a recess plate would be reckoned to produce 10,000 to 20,000 impressions. The numbers of sheets printed for each of the values was under 9,000 with the exception of the 1d value which was in excess of 27,000. Initially only one frame plate for each value was produced (or at least charged for) but the figures in the frame colours confirm that TWO frame plates each were made for the ¼d, 1d and quite possibly the ½d too. The need for two frame plates for the 1d value can be seen from the numbers of sheets printed but why two frame plates for the ¼d and possibly the ½d values? Another surprising thing is that only one proof appears to have survived for a frame plate (without value) whereas several have survived for the vignette plate.

As the only figure to have been seen in black in the far left margin is '1', it appears on the surface that there was only a single plate made for the vignette, and the proof dated '2.2.20' confirms its approximate date of manufacture. But this conclusion must be incorrect when we consider the evidence of Michael Medlicott's 6d value with no plate number, either in black or in the ochre colour of the frame (Figure 7), and Michael's and Charles' ¼ds with no black plate numbers in the left margin. This confirms that two vignette plates were made for the pence values, one with no number and the other engraved '1'. But we cannot tell which came first. It is also possible that one or more of the six 1d MCA printings might have shown no vignette black number. Another question raised concerning the vignette plates is why are there just two (blank and '1') used for the pence values as the number of pence sheets printed totals just under 49,000 but as previously stated a recess plate is reckoned to only produce between 10,000 to 20,000 impressions. So you would expect there to have been at least three if not four or five plates.

Yet another puzzle that not even Peter Fernbank can answer is why the two number '1's on the ¼d as illustrated by Michael are of equal size and in the bistre colour of the frame, so the second of these cannot be a vignette number which would of course be in black. One of Charles' ¼ds shows exactly the same marks in bistre. It can only mean that two number '1's were engraved on the ¼d frame, but why?

Listed below is the information we have so far on the low value plates and we would invite members to elaborate.

<u>STAMP</u>	<u>VIGNETTE</u>	<u>FRAME</u>
¼d	Blank	1 & 2
½d	Blank	1 & (??)
1d	1 (and Blank?)	1 & 2
2d	1	Blank
2½d	1	Blank
3d	1	Blank
4d	Blank?	Blank
6d	Blank	Blank

Note: The ¼d value is also found with numbers '1' '1' in the frame colour.

Bayley identifies two requisitions (76/19 and 44/21) for which there were seven invoices for the 1d (one of them MSCA watermark) and three for the ¼d, and these are confirmed by Robin's visit to the NPM archives to see whether there were any answers to be found there. Unfortunately, the Day Books do not as a rule record which plate was used and the CA plate register archives held at the British Library are from c.1922 onwards, the earlier registers unfortunately having been destroyed sometime prior to being handed to the British Library for safe keeping. Although Robin's findings are not wholly clear as to the usage of Plates 1 and 2, they do provide some clues and his annexed findings address several other matters of interest for collectors of this issue.

As Bayley records, delays occurred in the delivery of the stamps. Although delivery was promised by the printers in April 1920, the earliest invoice date is 28 June 1920. This invoice does not include the denomination most urgently needed, the 1d. As Robin's annex explains, correspondence between the CA and DLR refers to the overall delays in supplying these stamps in general caused by some undefined 'mishap'. This mishap, an event that DLR appears loathe to

acknowledge, might have involved damage to one or more plates and this could have had something to do with the need to prepare, in some cases, a second plate. However, this is pure conjecture and we are unlikely ever to know the answer.

### **3. THE MYSTERY OF THE DIES FOR THE VALUE TABLETS**

Although not directly relevant to the above, there is another conundrum. Where did the value tablets showing the denominations come from? I have never seen or heard of a proof for any of the 1920 value tablets, whether on the high or the low values (and indeed none are recorded by Bayley). Figure 7 shows a proof for the shilling values, with the value tablets blank; no similar proof appears to exist for the pence values, although the DLR archives did contain an appendix sheet with a series of pence colour trials with blank tablets. I wondered at first whether the same dies might have been used for both the 1916 (Figure 8) and the 1920 sets, as they contain exactly the same eleven denominations and each denomination has two tablets in the lower corners apparently equidistant for the two series. After all De La Rue used the same dies for the value tablets on both GV and GVI designs of the 'Nyasaland' high value keyplate used by Bermuda, while the Bahamas staircase value tablets were also used with different frame plates. However, no value tablet proofs for the 1916 set have been seen either, nor indeed for the 1921–24 or the 1925–35 sets (Figures 9 and 10).

The answer to this is actually relatively straightforward. As mentioned in Section 1, these issues were recess printed and Robin's notes explain that eleven working plates (one for each value) were produced from the two master plates. Each subject on each working plate had the two value tablets blank. The relevant denomination was then directly engraved onto the working plate, which meant that no denomination dies for the value tablets needed to be produced. The results were, however, tested to make sure that the registration was correct, by printing off imprimaturs, often called colour trials but in fact plate proofs in the issued colours. Bayley records five sets of the plate proofs, four in pairs and one set of singles (Figure 11). However, a second set of singles appeared in the Spink sale of October 1998. Much the same process was followed with the other four definitive series between 1916 and 1937, all of which were also recess-printed. Barbados collectors will be aware of the contrast with the surface-printed 1912 set, where duty die proofs are known.

It is, incidentally, curious that Barbados, which was one of the most patriotic colonies with close British military connections, should have been one of the few to dispense with the King's head. This design feature dates back to 1892 with the first Arms issue. The King's head was reintroduced with the 1912 set but in 1916 the head was again omitted, not to return until the 1939 Tercentenary issue.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Edmund Bayley, Bob Hill, Paul Larsen, Michael Medlicott, Michael Oliver, Michael Nethersole and particular thanks for his insights to Peter Fernbank.

### **REFERENCES**

- Bayley E. A. *Stamps of Barbados*, Pub. 1989.
- De La Rue Correspondence & Day Book records held in the National Postal Museum & Archive, London.
- *The Royal Philatelic Collection* by Sir John Wilson, Dropmore Press, 1952.

**Would any member who possesses a ½d value showing green Plate 2; a 4d showing a plate number or indeed anything that can extend the information in the table, please let the editor know....likewise any member who possesses a stamp booklet especially if the selvage attached to any of the stamps has a plate number.**

See Robin Davis annex notes after the images.

FIGURE 1



An issued 1/2d showing frame Plate 1.

FIGURE 2



Bahamas 1d Plate 2.

FIGURE 3



1920 Essay for the pence values.

FIGURE 4



Frame proof in green.

FIGURE 5



Vignette proof in black.

FIGURE 6



Vignette proof in brown.

FIGURE 7



6d value with no plate number  
(courtesy Michael Medlicott).

FIGURE 8



Composite proof of the 1920 shilling values, showing  
frame and vignette joined  
but with blank value tablets.

FIGURE 9



1916 proof in blue.

FIGURE 10



1921-4 proof  
in black.

FIGURE 11



1925-35 proof in grey  
(cropped image)

FIGURE 12



Imperf proof  
for the 1920 1/2d.



**peter singer**



Specializing in British Commonwealth

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

*Post Office Box 25249*

*Portland, Oregon 97225*

*Phone: (503) 293-1038*

*Fax: (503) 293-1062*

**WANT LISTS ACCEPTED**

**MEMBER PTS, ASDA,**

**CSDA, APS, ETC.**

**ANNEX (NOTES MADE BY ROBIN DAVIS AFTER VISITING THE NPM ARCHIVES)****THE PLATES**

- a) Firstly it should be noted that the terms used by DLR for the plates is as follows:–
- i. DUTY PLATE – this is the outer portion of the stamp which is the Frame.
  - ii. FIGURE PLATE – this is the centre portion of the stamp which is the Vignette.
- b) The stamps were recess printed in a two stage process.
- c) There were two orders for the stamps, the initial Requisition No: 76/19 for which there were seven separate invoices and because of the demand a further requisition No: 44/21 for the 1d stamp for which there was one invoice.

The stamps invoiced for on 9 October 1920 are identified in the DLR Day Book as being for the Dealers.

- d) On 28 June 1920 coinciding with the first batch of stamps, DLR also charged for:–
- Preparing 2 Original Figure Plates.
  - Preparing 2 Working Figure Plates.
  - Preparing 2 Original Blank Duty Plates.
  - Preparing 11 Working Duty Plates.

The Day Books have no further entries concerning charges being raised for any further working plates as after 1911 DLR only raised charges for that involved in the making of the first plate or plates. Any subsequent duplicate, replacement or increase in size of plate was made at their expense, hence the reason for there being no further entries for plates in the Day Books.

- e) Figure Plates: The two original figure plates would have been one for the pence values and one for the shilling values. These two original figure plates were then used in the process to produce the two working figure plates, one for use with the pence values and the other with the shilling values.
- f) Duty Plates: The two original blank duty plates would have been one for the pence values and one for the shilling values. From these two master duty plates, eleven working duty plates were produced, eight for the pence denominations and three for the shilling denominations.

Note: Once the working plates with blank value tablets had been produced, the respective stamp values were then engraved on each subject of each working plate with the aid of a pantograph.

- g) There was quite a long delay in the delivery of the stamps to Barbados. The following correspondence chronicles the sequence of events.
- On 25 May 1920 the CA wrote to DLR asking when the stamps would be ready.
  - On 27 May 1920 DLR replied that 1s, 2s and some ¼d, ½d & 1d stamps would be ready for delivery in a fortnight and the remaining values in a month.
  - On 25 June 1920 the CA wrote to DLR saying that while ¼d, ½d, 1s, 2s & 3s stamps had been despatched on the 18th, no 1d stamps were included which were the most urgent. In a separate paragraph they wrote "We understand that the delay in delivery has been due mainly to a mishap in the manufacture of the plates. Will you please confirm this so that we can transmit the information to the Colonial Government".
  - In June 1920 DLR replied that a consignment of 1d stamps was awaiting shipment, printing of this value would be finished in a few days and completion of the remaining values would follow the following week, adding "With reference to the latter part of your memorandum, the preparation of the plates occupied more time than we anticipated".
  - While the CA letter uses the wording 'Mishap' which is quite specific, DLR's reply appears to deny anything out of the ordinary, but might this have any bearing upon the ¼d and 1d values (and possibly the ½d) being printed from their respective Plate 2s?

**THE PRINTINGS**

- a) The printing figures given in 'The Stamps of Barbados' are as per the Day Books except that the figures for 3 September 1920 printing of the ½d and 1d values include stamps subsequently made up into booklets. The figures for the numbers of stamps despatched (excluding those used to make up the stamp booklets) are as follows:–

½d value – 1,121 sheets	=	67,260	
½d value – in strips equivalent to 100.8 sheets	=	6,048	See note below.
		<u>73,308</u>	
1d value – 2,420 sheets	=	145,200	
1d value – in strips equivalent to 151.2 sheets	=	9,072	See note below.
		<u>154,272</u>	

Note: These are the remainders from making up the stamp booklets, so I do not believe these would have had plate numbers attached.

**STAMP BOOKLETS**

- a) From the Day Books, 2,000 stamp booklets were produced and invoiced for on 3 September 1920. The numbers of stamps used to make these booklets is quoted in sheets (½d x 400 and 1d x 600) but these are in fact only equivalent numbers based on the numbers of stamps used.
- b) From the original order in the correspondence files, the booklets contained 18 penny and 12 halfpenny stamps.
- c) From recorded examples, the booklets contained ½d – 6 panes of 2 and 1d – 9 panes of 2. They were interleaved with plain waxed paper and stapled on the selvedge on either the left or right.

<u>The Royal Collection</u>	By Sir John Wilson	<b>£300</b>
<u>The Commonwealth Collection</u>	1983 The Complete Album including 2 unissued min/sheets of Canada & Falkland Islands	<b>£125</b>
<u>Bermuda</u>	1938 Specimen 1d to £1, 16 vals	<b>£995</b>
<u>Bermuda</u>	2/- KGVI Scroll Flaw pair BK cw11a, SG116de	<b>£350</b>
<u>Bermuda</u>	2/6 KGVI, cw22a, SG117d, sheet of 60	<b>£995</b>
<u>China</u>	20 Dec 1941 1 <sup>st</sup> Flight 'Over Hump' Chungking – Calcutta	<b>£70</b>
<u>Greece</u>	1875/80 A Collection SG 45/45d	<b>£1800</b>
<u>Guyana</u>	1977 Festival set & min/sheet overprint omitted	<b>£350</b>
<u>India</u>	1931 New Delhi set – overprinted 'SPECIMEN' on card for publicity, mentioned by Marcus Samuel	<b>£400</b>
<u>India</u>	1948 Gandhi 1½A Service on piece 'Governor General Dept' cancel	<b>£45</b>
<u>India</u>	1953 'Korea Forces' SG K1/12 on cover 18/1/54	<b>£60</b>
<u>Morocco</u>	1903 local cover from Fez 'CHERIFIEN' local handstamp	<b>£275</b>
<u>S Rhodesia</u>	1964 10/- extra feather in block of 4	<b>£35</b>

Prices Plus Postage – Subject Unsold,



**A.M.L.**

N&MC 4 St. James Square, London SW1Y 4JU  
Tel. 0208 998 9363 – Fax Phone First





# SPINK

— FOUNDED 1666 —

## IMPORTANT STAMPS & COVERS OF THE WORLD 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009



Bermuda 1875 'One/Penny' on 2d. blue with no stop after 'Penny'.  
One of the very few unused examples recorded.

For more information on buying or selling with Spink please contact

David Parsons:

Tel: +44 (0)20 7563 4072 Fax: +44 (0)20 7563 4085

Email: [dparsons@spink.com](mailto:dparsons@spink.com)

THE TRADITION THE EXPERIENCE THE RESULTS

69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET

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

## BRITISH GUIANA

### THE 1882 LOCAL ISSUE

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT

This issue is well documented, well researched, and it has survived in comforting quantities, with plenty of information and sub-categorisation incorporated in the catalogue. Is there a point in a collector today deciding to make this a fresh specialist area?

Actually, yes: you can still travel well beyond the catalogue, and form a most enticing display.

The Townsend & Howe (T&H) bible shows the direction of travel. You have seven different sheets of twelve to find. While substantial multiples still exist, you will probably have to reconstruct. In so doing you will notice two things: first that the used multiples are much easier to find than the unused; secondly that the postmarks nearly always date from well after use of these provisionals became unnecessary – upon the overdue consignment from De La Rue coming on sale, 27 January 1882.

In the case of the first two printings of the 2c, of course, and of the first printing of the 1c, blocks of 6 (two rows of three) are the most that can exist, as the sheets of twelve were halved to receive their Specimen imprint; even so, the used examples will prove easier to find.

If you embark on the journey, you may like to consider and explore whether the 24,000 stamps held in reserve (see T&H p104) found their way into the public domain after all. Either E.D. Wight was less vigilant than he had promised to be in seeing, in effect, that substantial quantities were not sold to speculators, or else the brakes came off, once the danger that stocks of 1 and 2 cent stamps running out had passed (as it had by 27 January). Before the reserves were broken into, there were 30,396 1c and 12,132 2c values available for disposal. Form your own view.

Let me now suppose you have begun your journey, where will it lead? One quite interesting possibility is to explore how widely the issue was distributed. Like the 1878 and 1881 provisionals, usage was by no means confined to Georgetown.

No need to hunt for Philadelphia postmark, because Bill Townsend has kindly illustrated the Pontifex cover for you on p144; but if, like me, you believe that this small office only deigned to use its canceller when the moon was blue, you might wonder if there's another one or two 1c stamps out there dated 1 Feb 1882. A BWISC auction some years back included a block of four 1c used at Leguan, probably 15 Feb 1882 (Figure 1 on front cover). These were tied to a piece which perhaps belonged to an earlier letter, actually endorsed in pen "Leguan B.G. 1862". There was no reason to doubt authenticity of the postmark or the tie, so perhaps cancelled par complaisance from a small stock held in Leguan (or the letter posted again to a family member).

As I can cite use of a 1c value in Stewartville, perhaps 16 Feb 1882 (the colour and roughness of the paper, along with the perforated holes are not a good surface for postmarks), Demerara West Coast offices are well represented. From the East Coast I can offer sightings of Belfield, Buxton and Enmore, so this is an equally good spread. Add in New Amsterdam and three firm TPO sightings – Demerara Railway, Demerara River (Figure 9), and Essequibo Steamer – and one begins to see a pattern of distribution. I am not aware that this exercise has been methodically attempted. It would be an interesting adjunct to the main theme, to work out in how many places these provisionals were put on sale.

Continuing the trail, the catalogue shows you plenty of varieties for which to hunt – and you won't find them all, whatever the depth of your purse – but let us look at some of the unlisted possibilities.

- SPECIMEN double – In themselves, these are not all that hard to acquire (Figure 2), but there's more to it than that. You will want to allocate the examples that you do find, wherever possible, to their settings and printings (see my comments below on getting cross-eyed). If you are lucky, you might come across a double with SPECIMEN slanting both ways, (as if unable to make up its mind whether it comes from first or second setting (In the ordinary way, SPECIMEN slants SW to NE for the first setting – or downwards – and SE to NW for the second). The explanation for this is given immediately below.
- SPECIMEN going left and right in se-tenant pair– Bill Townsend mentions this phenomenon at p102 and ascribes it to the first setting (by inference from the text) having, I presume, plated his pair to verify this; but I have to let the cat in amongst the pigeons. I can show the occurrence on a 1c horizontal pair from the **fifth** printing – where the setting is, of course, six rows of two.

The item illustrated (Figure 3) is from positions 7 and 8, this left hand stamp being the '1' with serifs. Whatever the explanation produced Bill Townsend's example, or mine, must account for the 2c stamp now illustrated with its SPECIMEN perfs criss-cross (Figure 4). One cannot pinpoint the printing: it might come from any of printings 3, 4 or 6, as a mere matter of plating – from position 6 for printing 3, or position 8 for the other two. Inferentially, I go for printing 3, because the stamp was used in Georgetown on 12 Jan: time enough to have got through the initial first printing; not really to have reached printing 4, which I take to represent the figure of 8,052 printed, seen on p102. As to printing 6, this must surely comprise the printing figure of 12,000, **held in reserve** (but I have now given the game away! Does not the very fact that the plating details of printing 6 and 7 are recorded, demonstrate that the reserve **was** at least in part put out on sale?)

- Offsets – These can be found on each value, although my only example (Figure 5), like the T&H citation, is of the 1c stamp. The offset is dramatic, almost as clear as the printing of the face. The stamp was used normally in Georgetown and came from the fifth printing, position 9.
- Other varieties – There is a mouth-watering reference by Bill Townsend to a proof in black, and another to a 1c value printed on both sides. Are you puzzled? Why were twelve not so printed? Why is it not catalogue listed? You see where your trail now leads.

Speaking of catalogue listings, there is certainly one further variety that would qualify for listing. This is a small 'H' in BRITISH found in each of the first three printings. It is seen twice on the middle and right-hand stamps of Row 2. By inference there would have been 1,012 possible of the 1c, and 680 of the 2c, unless the variant was corrected at some stage during the printing runs. It occurs only on the two-mast stamp, type 26, and I offer no view as to the timing of its correction, as my half-sheets of the 2c and 1c (Figure 6 and 7) were respectively cancelled in March 1882 and June 1885.

Getting cross-eyed. I have given plating positions more than once, and the starting point is the tabulation at T&H p104–7. One can improve on this, as T&H only lists the arrangement of crosses at right (Figure 8 & 9). Incorporating the crosses at left improves the focus. Thus for the **first setting**, comprising printings 1, 2 and 3, the tabulation would read:–

Stamp	Crosses at left	Crosses at Right	Stamp	Crosses at left	Crosses at Right
1	7 2 3	5 2 5	2	3 4 5	5 2 5
3	5 3 4	8 4	4	6 1 5	4 3 5
5	3 4 5	5 3 4	6	7 1 4	6 2 4
7	4 1 7	4 3 5	8	5 4 3	6 2 4
9	7 5	7 5	10	6 6	6 6
11	6 4* 2*	7 5*	12	8 4*	5 7

\* = aligned left

It has now become more complicated. In the **fourth printing** (for the 2c), one of the two stamps tabulated '5 2 5' disappears and '4 2 6' appears in its place. L. h. configuration is '7 2 3'. As the other '5 2 5' 2c retains '3 4 5' at left, one can see that old stamp 1 has become new stamp 2, and old stamp 2, new stamp 5. The musical chairs procedure can thus be tracked from one printing to the next. One other configuration change will be seen in printing 4. Old stamp 11 retains its place in the field but is now '6 6' at left.

Moving forward to the **fifth printing** (for the 1c), the r.h. tabulation remains the same, except that at stamp 6 there is a **cross missing** from the '8 4' arrangement of before, as noted by T&H, so that one now sees '2 5 4' at right. The missing cross is well worthy of SG listing. In other respects configuration of crosses conforms between printings 4 and 5.

I can shed no fresh light on printings 6 and 7, while I have several 1c stamps with '5 7' arrangement at right, I have none showing '5 6 1'. I have mentioned misalignment of crosses, but one must bear in mind that type-settings, unless well secured can shift during a printing run. As the issue was produced by a newspaper press, with the expedition to which newspapers are accustomed, printing deviations would be par for the course – and without them these provisionals would not be so stimulating.

Will somebody now take the journey?

FIGURE 2



Specimen Double.

FIGURE 3



1c Specimen left and right.

FIGURE 4



2c Specimen Double  
– Criss-Cross Perforation.

FIGURE 5



1c Offset.

FIGURE 6



1c upper half of sheet, Stamp 5 & 6 show small 'H'.

FIGURE 7



2c upper half of Sheet, stamp 5 &amp; 6 show small 'H'.

FIGURE 8



1c 'Missing Cross'.

FIGURE 9

1c 'Missing Cross' in Pair  
used 18 Jan 1882, Demerara River TPO.

## BWI

### 18TH CENTURY BRITISH WEST INDIES MAIL

BY DAVID WATSON

I recently conducted research on covers carried by Sailing ship. It reminded me that the literature on British West Indies mail in the 18th Century is rather diverse. So I've collated information from the literature & the Internet to produce a document on our web site ([www.bwisc.org](http://www.bwisc.org) under articles). This lists ships that are known to have carried mail to and from and sometimes between the British West Indies, in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. The information summarised comes from a wide range of sources, but can still be extended and doubtless improved in many other ways – please do let me have new information by e-mail ([watson@waitrose.com](mailto:watson@waitrose.com)). For example, is it true that there is apparently no West Indies wreck mail recorded for the 18<sup>th</sup> Century (Hoggarth & Gwynn 2003)?

## BRITISH GUIANA

### SERVICE SUSPENDED 1963

BY ROBERT JOHNSON

There was a general strike accompanied by disorder in British Guiana between April and July 1963. The main protest was against the Labour Relations Bill passed on the 22 April 1962. The general strike included civil servants, researchers, municipal employees, newspapers' staff and post office employees. It was the action of the last group that led to the suspension of mail services.

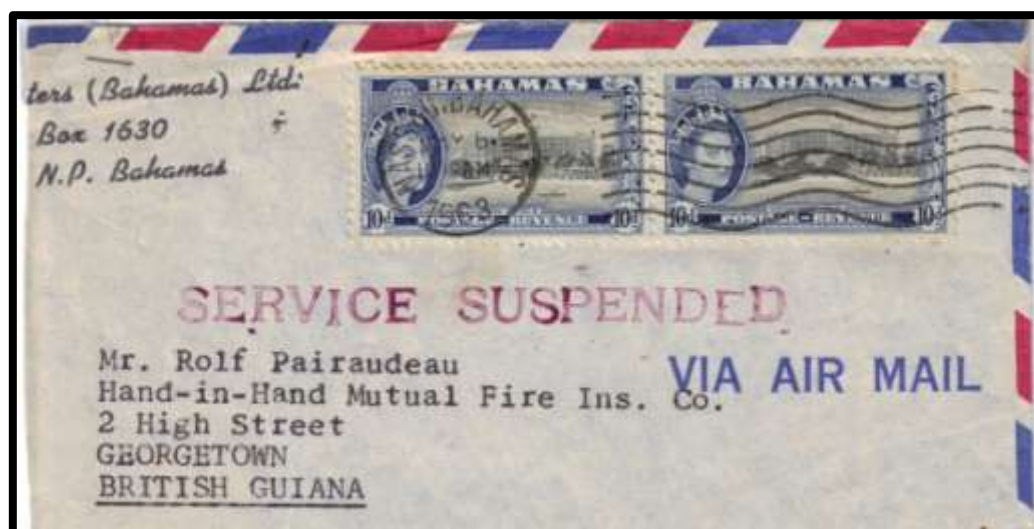
The problem lay in the strike of civil servants financed by the CIA in the USA in support of those opposing Dr. Jagan and the PPP party that he led. For fuller background see – Biography of Cheddi Jagan – Strife not Strike (1963) <http://jagan.org/biography5.htm>.

#### CANADA TO BRITISH GUIANA JUNE 1963



The Canadian Service Suspended mark. This envelope contains a radio ham's card.

#### BAHAMAS TO BRITISH GUIANA MAY 1963



The wording of the explanatory mark put on this item in the Bahamas.

## JAMAICA

### WEB SITE

BY STEVE JARVIS

As part of the '*Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately*' project, I have created a new web site <http://www.jamaicaphilately.info/>. This enables me, with contributions from others, to publish information without significant restriction.

On a regular basis I will provide updates in the Bulletin concerning new information uploaded. Printed copies of research articles can be provided to Members, upon request, for those that do not have internet access.

Below, I list a sample of the material uploaded so far under the 'Philatelic' Heading:–

- 'Philatelists' – Profiles of authors and collectors who have made noteworthy contributions to Jamaican philately. In some cases links exist to articles written by them and later, if available, scans of their collection. There are many holes and contributions are welcome.
- 'Auctions' – A list of auctions containing important Jamaica collections or individual items. Links are provided to the details of the lots with images. I'm still working through my library of catalogues but once I have finished I will be asking for any gaps to be plugged.
- 'Publications' – A list of Philatelic books and articles, with in some cases transcripts. For example: Bill Atmore's '*Land of Wood and Water*' series; LCC Nicholson's papers published by Frank Godden in the 1930s & 1940s; Parts of Tom Foster's proposed Volume 2 of his Postal History (1860 to 1960), drafts of which he had circulated to collectors prior to his death; Aguilar's BWI Philatelist, published through the 1950s (provided with an index).

Please explore the web site and let me have your comments and contributions.

## INSURE Your Collection

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

### Stamps & Postcards:

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

### All other Collectables:

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

\*plus government Insurance Premium Tax,

Includes Exhibition & Accompanied cover in Western Europe

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

### SPECIAL SCHEME for SOCIETIES

(Includes Public & Employers Liability)

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

### DEALERS COMBINED POLICY

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

## STAMP INSURANCE SERVICES

C G I Services Limited (dept 33)

**29 Bowhay Lane EXETER EX4 1 PE**

tel: 01392 433 949 fax: 01392 427 632

Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Services Authority

## EXPERTIZATION

WORLD CLASSICS

by

SISMONDO EXPERTS



**Fast - Reliable - Competitively Priced**

High-Quality Certificates

Detailed, Complete & Accurate Descriptions



**ACT NOW!**

Our current estimated  
turnaround time is **FOUR WEEKS!**



For more information, terms and prices, visit our website:  
[www.SismondoStamps.com](http://www.SismondoStamps.com)

## Liane & Sergio Sismondo

Philatelic Experts

10035 Carousel Center Drive

Syracuse, NY 13290-0001

U.S.A.

Tel (315) 422-2331

Fax (315) 422-2956

[sismondo@dreamscape.com](mailto:sismondo@dreamscape.com)



## BWISC AUCTION REPORT

With only just over one third of this year's material covered in advance by bids on the auction book, a deluge of unsold lots appeared to be inevitable. Postal bidders were ten to a dozen below the usual expectation. The numbers attending in person were down by half a dozen. The credit crunch was showing its teeth.

Except for one factor, the immediate pre-sale outlook seemed bleak. It was the X factor that generated hope. Where book bids had been entered, the level was unprecedented for a standard annual auction. Calculation after the sale showed that more than £30,000 had been entrusted to the auctioneer's discretion.

Nothing like all of this was used, of course – but some of the reserve on the book evoked sturdy competition for the fancied lots. It was predictable that Lot 578 would top the realisations, and the opening level of £820 left no scope for aspirations in the room. Far less predictable was the Jamaica telegram collection offered from the Sutcliffe estate as an entity: Lot 639 opened below its estimate, at a mere £210, yet the bidding did not end until a book bid of £680 had been trumped at £700 in the room.

Certainly Derek Sutcliffe's collection demonstrated the underlying strength of support for Jamaica, which has not always been manifest over the past 20 years or so. By the time of the present report every lot between 289 and 356 had found a new home – and as the two preceding lots were also sold, this meant an unbroken disposal of 70 lots (a far greater sequence than ever experienced) with the 'TRD and Other Postmarks' section of the catalogue realising £3,823.50. The pre-sale estimates for this entire section totalled £3,736. It had taken a major team effort to break this holding of maybe 7,000 covers, with a few thousand more stamps on and off piece, into digestible portions, appropriately valued. Clearly the effort was worthwhile.

If Jamaica sparkled, British Guiana spluttered and almost died: Between Lots 160 and 185 only one lot sold, and this too was an unprecedented experience for the Circle in the opposite direction. As Lot 159 did sell, and interest picked up from Lot 186, we finished with 16 lots sold out of 62 here. Comparably in the doldrums were St. Kitts (3 sales out of 13), Nevis (3 out of 11) and only the two Anegada covers rescued Virgin Is. from a similar proportion. Of these two, the earlier Fonseca cover (Lot 652) sounded cheap at £150, but we believe that its new owner will resist the temptation to dissect it for further disposal at an enhanced value.

A small indicator of glut on the market was when only one of the KGVI Bermuda higher values attracted a buyer: nothing wrong with the quality; the simple fact is that these issues were acquired and preserved in quantity, and have been researched and published to their foundations. They will not be easy sellers until a new generation of enthusiast arises.

The second highlight of the auction was Tobago, and it shows how readily the Circle can sell stamps of character and quality. We do not expect to get the peak prices attained by the major auction houses – but by the time that the differential in selling cost is taken into account, the seller is probably little, if any, worse off, while the member purchasing enjoys a comfortable advantage.

Most of the Tobago sold – 18 lots out of 23 – including every lot estimated at £50 or more. The ½d block with slash flaw (Lot 567) doubled its catalogue quote at £105; the 1s error of colour with the same flaw (Lot 569) doubled its £80 estimate, and the studies of the ½d/6d SG:27,27a (Lots 576-7) realised £520 against their estimates of £305. Indeed, only two of the 18 lots sold went for less than the estimate.

St. Vincent lacked the allure of earlier years. It was still interesting to see modest Parcel Post cancels (Lot 534) more than treble the very modest £4 at which they were assessed; and a high quality Biabou cds (Lot 531) fetched a healthy £50 (est. £30). The top price here was for the Perkins Bacon 5s value where, of four book bidders, two chose £450 as their top level. Under our auction rules these were factored down to £440 (still a tie) the price at which the stamp went to the earlier of the two contestants.

If a potential discovery in St. Lucia (Lot 507) failed to sell, an undoubted discovery in St. Christopher (Lot 90) hit the jackpot. Its former owner would have been surprised enough to see an unnoteworthy fiscal cancellation picked out for individual sale at £20, and must have been amazed to learn that it sold for £52. On reflection, it was probably still a bargain. Quite apart from the satisfaction of its early date, how many 'Antigua-used-in-St.Kitts' can be expected to survive used fiscally as opposed to postally? By contrast doubts as to the manner of usage must have put

off the potential purchasers of St. Christopher SG:1 (Lot 486) – or perhaps they did not trust the auction team's careful conclusion that this was a watermark rarity, rather than the fairly common SG:2w.

In terms of realisations, Leeward Is. did not take off this year. If the fractured 'S' variety featured in Lots 423 and 429 are given SG cat. status in the future, there may be those who regret not having a punt at them this time: Lots 423 and 429 each sold, but below estimate in each case.

If Bermuda stamps sold modestly, Ludington's personal presentation copy of his handbook (Lot 157) did better. The opening bid was £70. Nobody in the room saw fit to explore whether the auctioneer had any more in hand.

British Honduras interested room bidders far more than postal ones. Cayman Is. was well supported, consistently with former years, although the only prominent items were the KE7 2½d plate proof (Lot 242, £120, est. £60) and the War Tax variety (Lot 253) where the fault noted in the description probably deterred competition (£200, est. £240).

In Dominica, one cannot pass over the first two items. Lot 257, combining proof of village origin with 'Paid at Dominica' Crown circle fetched £100 (est. £60), but who would have forecast before this year that a Roseau cancellation on a 1d stamp (Lot 256) could fairly be estimated at £90? Well, it realised £140.

There was interest in most of the composite postmark collections on offer, enthusiasm in the room for the Bahamas War Tax variety (Lot 44, est. £340) which went for £400, with no book bids to disturb the battle in the room; and the review of realisations can conclude with Lot 360, the postal fiscal die proofs (est. £250) knocked down at £300, the rare and rather luscious KGV Revenue issues of Jamaica (Lot 365, R £400) which sold at £600 on the book, and, as our final mention, the one British Guiana sleeper – Lot 206 which included the proving Beterverwagting fragment: sold at £180, double estimate, was no surprise.

As this report concludes, with post-auction offers yet to circulate, the proportion of lots sold has risen to 57%, and the running total of sales is comparable with 2008. Credit crunch? What credit crunch!

**Quality  
British Commonwealth  
POSTAL HISTORY**

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

**ALWAYS KEEN BUYERS OF CHOICE POSTAL HISTORY**

**Willard S. Allman**

828 Arrow Lane, Ridgewood

NJ 07450, U.S.A.

Tel: 0101-201-848-8823

Fax: 0101-201-847-8481



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

### CIVIL CENSORSHIP – AN UPDATE

BY EDWARD BARROW

Trinidad civil censorship was covered comprehensively in Ron Wike's book (Reference 2), which is still the definitive reference on the subject. Miller (Reference 1) in his broader work on civil censorship in British America built on Wike's work. This study adds to this body of work and draws mainly from material I've collected over the years since the late Ron Wike got me interested in the subject. The layout and numbering system follows Wike's book. I have not been exhaustive in updating all the information; some areas such as listing unrecorded censor numbers for the more common labels has been left out.

Since Wike's book was very thorough most of the new information consists of an expansion of the dates and usage of recorded marks and labels. But there are a few new discoveries particularly of handstamps and there is a new label.

### Transit Censorship

It is commonly held that the examination of transit mail began on 16 August 1940<sup>1</sup>. However a few covers have come to light which show that surface mail in transit was subject to censorship from at least the beginning of 1940<sup>2</sup>. The covers are as follows:

FIGURE 1



Suriname addressed to Switzerland, dated 14 February 1940.  
This cover was routed through Gibraltar and was censored by Censor 6 (CH4a).

<sup>1</sup> Miller, Trinidad section, pg 27

<sup>2</sup> Mail from other BWI islands in transit was subject to censorship during this early period but this was not believed to be the case with non-British Empire mail.

FIGURE 2



Venezuela addressed to Germany.

This cover is not dated but the Gibraltar routing and the crisp CH4a handstamp point to that fact that this was also a pre-16 August 1940 cover.

### '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).

FIGURE 3



Venezuela addressed to Argentina dated 9 January 1940. A letter enclosed also confirms this date.  
This was sealed with brown tape and a CH3 handstamp.

Collectors familiar with Venezuela and Suriname postal history of this period will know that surface mail from these countries is often seen with Trinidad transit markings, meaning that the mail passed through the GPO in Trinidad. It seems that the authorities in Trinidad made use of this brief custody to censor suspicious mail. Judging by the small number of examples seen from this earlier period of transit censorship only a very limited amount of surface mail transiting through the Trinidad mail system was subject to censorship. The much broader transit censorship of airmail and surface mail did start in August 1940.

**LABELS**

Where labels are concerned, the early period of expanded transit censorship is the most interesting (August 1940–May 1941). The new transit censorship department was still finding its feet and hadn't sorted out the production of labels, so this period is rich with short lived provisional labels that are challenging to find.

Type 1 labels originate from this period and were covered in Wike and Miller but one unrecorded variety has surfaced. Here the label number is changed from 40 to 46 using a printed 6. This I have taken the liberty to list as a TR CL 1C. In passing, it seems that Censor 46 had problems getting his labels printed right because he also had to change a later label (CL2B) from 64 to 46.

FIGURE 4.



New TR CL 1C label variety shown alongside a later amended TRCL2B label.

Type 8 labels are a typed provisional label; Figure 5 shows the discovery example – Examiner 19 (Brazil–USA– sent 10 Jan 1941). This label type was recorded in Miller but not in Wike<sup>3</sup>.

Since then two other examples have surfaced; Examiner 18 (USA–Venezuela – sent 11 Jan 1941) and Examiner 65 (USA–Argentina – sent 12 Feb 1941).

FIGURE 5



Discovery copy of the Type 8 label.

<sup>3</sup> Miller shows an 'Examiner 29' label with a date of 2 Feb 1941.

Type 9: Another unrecorded provisional label has also come to light. This label is a brown paper label with "Opened by Examiner 52" written in manuscript. Following the sequence used by Wike and Miller, I have named it a Type 9 label. Two markings indicate that this is a Trinidad label. First, it has a manuscript 24/6/1R marking in pencil which is in keeping with markings found on other registered transit censored covers (to be covered in a later article). Second, under the German censor label there is a Trinidad Registration CDS (dated 14 Jan 1941).

FIGURE 6



Newly discovered Type 9 label on a registered cover from Venezuela to Holland.

Two other interesting but less significant covers are shown in Figure 7 and 8. The first shows the transition from one UK PC 90 label type to the other. Here the two labels are a UK PC 90 1D (unrecorded for Examiner 5725) and UK PC 90 1M (recorded for Examiner 5725). The second cover has a CL3 label with a paper fold flaw. While paper fold errors delight stamp collectors, I doubt that censor collectors will be see much significance as labels were not printed with anything like the care given to stamps.

FIGURE 7



Cover with both UK PC90 1D and 1M labels.

FIGURE 8



CL3 label with paper fold flaw.

To be continued

## REFERENCES

1. Miller, Christopher. *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II, Canada and Colonies in the Caribbean and North and South America*, the Civil Censorship Study Group (2006).
2. Wike, Ron. *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II, Trinidad & Tobago*, Chavril Press (1993).

---

**MINUTES OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC  
HELD AT 1:30 PM SATURDAY 2 MAY 2009**

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

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford who welcomed the 27 members present, and thanked Spink for their hospitality in allowing BWISC to hold our AGM on the premises.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Victor Toeg, Michael Medlicott, David Richards, Tim Pearce, John Riggall, John Keegan, R. Upcroft, Richard Foden, Peter Longmuir, Chris Harman.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING 2008**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 28 April 2008, as published in Bulletin No. 217, June 2008, pages 31 to 34, were accepted by the attendees.

**4. REPORT BY THE HON. GENERAL SECRETARY (CHAS GEE)**

As at 30 November 2008 (date of issue of December Bulletin) the membership total was 347. Of these 229 were UK members and 118 from overseas. This represents an increase of six members compared to the same time in 2007.

During the year there have been 24 new membership applications, and we have lost 18 existing members.

Members are urged to let the Secretary know of any change of address as soon as possible to ensure that they continue to receive issues of our Bulletin.

Report accepted by the meeting.

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

Another year passes, I think successfully. I am thankful that authors (old and new) continue to supply me with a steady stream of quality material to publish. However, I sometimes lack short articles to provide appropriate balance to the Bulletin. So, please, don't be shy, send me something of interest from your collection (as well as more heavy-weight research articles).

The work of putting together the publication is still a pleasure but I confess that towards completion of an edition, I find the words blurring in front of my eyes. Therefore, the quality of the Bulletin produced owes much to the efforts of Charles Freeland and Peter Ford, who scrutinize the articles, in detail, for accuracy and presentation.

The web site continues to be stable and fulfils its purpose with on average about 1,000 visits per month. No radical changes this year but new articles and gallery features continue to be added. I would particularly draw Members' attention to the 'Auction/Dealer' page (accessed from the button under 'Links'), where Charles Freeland provides up-to-date information on auction activity.

Report accepted by the meeting.

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

I have pleasure in reporting that the Study Circle has generated a surplus of income over expenditure in 2008 of £885 which means that once again we have a reasonable cover going forward for our activities.

Income from subscriptions has remained steady but in 2008 did not quite cover the cost of the Bulletin production and distribution the cost of which rose significantly during the year. Moreover there will also be a significant increase in postage costs during 2009. Whilst we have a surplus from other activities this is not a serious problem but it may well be that we will need to revisit the level of the subscription sooner rather than later.

Income from the Study Circle auction continues to be an excellent source of funds and was very similar to the previous year. Income from publications this year amounted to £1,875 which was almost exactly the amount spent during the year on publications printing costs.

With regard to expenses, we have again limited our meeting room expenses due to the generosity of Spink with our grateful thanks. The ABPS subscription was increased substantially in 2008 compared to 2007, otherwise expenses remained very similar.

The value of the balance sheet Accumulated fund was increased not only by the surplus that arose on our activities but also by the gain on exchange of £590 resulting from the increased value in sterling of our US dollar funds following the pound's decline during 2008.

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

Accepted by the meeting.

## BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

### INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2008

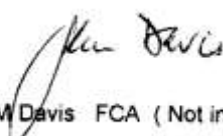
	<u>£'s</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>£'s</u>	<u>2007</u>
<b>INCOME :</b>				
Subscriptions		3,624		3,710
Publications – Sales less commissions		1,875		1,667
Auction and other donations		1,494		1,533
Interest received		70		80
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>7,063</b>		<b>6,990</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE :</b>				
Bulletin Costs less advertising	1,860		947	
Distribution and editorial expenses	1,813	3,673	1,575	2,522
Publications: Printing costs	1,874		1,864	
Publications Distribution	–		4	
Printer depreciation	–	1,874	470	2,338
Leamington Convention – net deficit		–		110
Library – Books and expenses		200		–
ABPS affiliation fee		230		140
Officers administration – Stationery, postage, telephone etc		123		130
Bank charges		–		5
Website		35		81
Other		43		
		<b>6,178</b>		<b>5,326</b>
<b>SURPLUS EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>	<b>£'s</b>	<b>885</b>	<b>£'s</b>	<b>1,664</b>

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2008

<b>ACCUMULATED FUND</b>				
Balance at 1st January 2007		4,347		2,719
Add: Surplus for the year		885		1,664
Dollar conversion profit (loss)		590		(36)
	<b>£'s</b>	<b>5,822</b>	<b>£'s</b>	<b>4,347</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>				
Cash at banks		5,526		5,302
Debtors – amounts due to us		4,509		5,271
		10,035		10,573
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,182)		(2,807)	
Loan	(2,000)		(2,500)	
Other creditors – Amounts due by us	(31)	(4,213)	(919)	(6,226)
	<b>£'s</b>	<b>5,822</b>	<b>£'s</b>	<b>4,347</b>

### AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31 December 2008 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31 December 2008 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date.

  
J G M Davis FCA ( Not in practice )

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

There has been a loan of seven books to four members during the year. This compares with a loan of 19 books to eight members during the year ended April 2008. The computer age is clearly affecting the demand for loan of books. However, there is still much philatelic information which cannot be accessed via the internet. I am noticing an increase in requests for philatelic information which cannot be found on the web. Examples are: requests for information relating to the Barbados Belgium Relief Fund Labels (once again!), St. Vincent covers and Bermuda Censor Marks.

One member has requested a Library List.

You will recall from last year's Library Minutes that the late Derek Nathan donated a number of books to the Library. The Author of one of those books had not retained a copy — I photocopied 'Decade of Decision Ramphal 1970' and sent it to the Author. The Author is using the information provided as an aid to his Memoirs which he is writing in Barbados.

There has been a donation of Michael Nicholson's papers relating to the Jubilee issue of British Guiana via Sandafayre. These papers have the same weight as a sack of potatoes. Our Chairman, Peter Ford is taking these papers to Spain to sort them out. The Nicholson papers clearly contain lots of interesting information although my secretary Sharon is most uninterested.

Finally, I have had lengthy correspondence with Peter Fernbank relating to the Bahamas Special Delivery Stamps. Poor Peter will clearly not be able to sleep at night until he has finally resolved questions relating to the first, second and third printings of the first issue. We eagerly await further revelations in a future issue of the Bulletin.

Report accepted by the meeting.

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

Last year saw the publication of the final volume of Michael Rego's Steamship Lines to the Caribbean. These books have been a long time in coming; I remember that they were first discussed when I first took over the Publications empire. However, I believe the wait was worthwhile and much credit has to go to Mike who has researched his subject assiduously.

Sales of our publications remain buoyant despite these straightened economic times, Mike Rego's Steamships books selling the most with Vol. 1 selling 22 copies, Vol. 2 31 and Vol. 3 19. Another good seller was Richard Maisel's Cayman Islands booklet with 19 sales. All in all, sales are at a satisfactory level, although we could always do with more. David Druett, who handles the distribution, does a really marvellous job spreading news of our publications far and wide in order to encourage sales.

John Davis's War Tax book was to be our next publication, but for many different reasons we, that is both John and I, decided that an offer to publish the book by the Royal Philatelic Society London could not be refused. This is a significant publication and deserves to be published in hardback, something that we, as a Study Circle with limited funds, could not finance. By way of consolation, the book will be offered to members of our Circle at a discount. There will be a flysheet with details in a forthcoming Bulletin.

Again because of the high cost of publishing a hardback book, we are cooperating with the BCPSG who will hopefully help finance the Trinidad book. This has been delayed slightly because of the fact that my hard drive was destroyed during a storm and, despite backing everything up on an internet website, they seemingly hadn't done any backing up since January. However, I am hoping to have it published by the end of the year.

We have another booklet in prospect on early St. Vincent postmarks by a new member, Michael Louka. This will be the second in our Study Paper series and I am hoping that we can have that ready by the time of our Convention. Further in the future, there are other Study Papers in preparation and I will announce details of these when I have them.

Our publications are doing very well and I am more than happy that we continue to produce first class books which, as well as extending research also helps bring new members to our ranks. When I looked at the sales figures for last year, what struck me was that we have 17 different publications on our stocks. There cannot be any other specialist society with that many publications to their name. However, I can only publish what our members write and ideas for new books are always welcome. No subject, however specialist, is taboo.

Report accepted by the meeting.

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

I have to report to the membership yet another successful year for the Study Circle with our annual auction in April proving to be the most beneficial in terms of sales thus far. Our auctioneer seems to somehow inveigle prized lots from our members every year, describe them very invitingly and then manage to elicit the best possible realisations; meanwhile buyers go away thinking they have got a bargain. Long may it continue! We have Spink to thank for providing their premises as they are doing again this year.

Every year I say that the Bulletin has improved, both in content and production; this is very true, so much so that we have decided to enter this year's issues into the Literature Section of LONDON 2010. I am sure that when we come to have our dinner on that occasion, we will be able to celebrate an award of great distinction. Our Editor has to take credit for soliciting articles from members, typesetting it all and liaising with our printer; the net result is a Bulletin we can all be proud of. Whilst on the subject of the Bulletin, this year sees the presentation of the Gilbert Collett Award; the decision on this is reached as each member of the Committee selects 3 articles from the previous 2 years' issues in order of merit and these are combined using a simple points system to decide on the recipient. This year the winner of the award of a £40 voucher to be spent at the Study Circle auction is Peter Fernbank..... Congratulations!

Last year we lost two of our most active members. Early in the year Derek Sutcliffe died after a long illness and later, in November, the other Derek, Derek Nathan also died. They both have been sufficiently eulogised in the Bulletin but let me say that our Study Circle will be much the poorer for their passing.

We held our second PHILATEX meeting in November at which we were treated to a formal display by Paul Wright of just a small part of his Jamaica collection. I won't try in a few words to describe it; more information is available on our website. But I would like to thank Paul who incidentally had taken no offence that I had asked him to display at the previous meeting at PHILATEX, and promptly forgot that I had. Subsequently I had to put him off. The remainder of the meeting was taken up by members providing short displays of their material. Short they may have been, but there was a plethora of quality on display. We have decided that next time we meet at PHILATEX, the whole afternoon should be devoted to similar displays by members; this will give them more time to describe their exhibits.

This year is, of course, Convention year. The Committee have decided to try something slightly different in that we are changing the venue, the date of the Convention delaying it until October, and also we are holding it on a Sunday. We are hoping that this might persuade more of our members to attend. It is a very enjoyable affair and everyone who attends comes away satisfied with the day's events.

The arrangements for the LONDON 2010 joint events with the BCPSG are moving apace and details will shortly be published in the Bulletin. Our Bulletin Editor is doing much of the hard work in this regard and hopefully it should be a good show, as it was last time.

As usual, I have to thank the Committee for their hard work during the past year. Although I am Chairman, even I'm not completely aware of everything that goes into much of what we achieve. The organisation of the Circle's events such as today's, the effort that goes into arranging the auction, keeping our website up-to-date with events and such things as trying to organise next year's events at LONDON 2010, these all take up a lot of the Committee's time. This is all done willingly by volunteers, their only reward being the success of the Study Circle as a whole.

Report accepted by the meeting.

## **10. RE-ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE**

Peter Ford was re-elected unanimously.

## **11. RE-ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The President, Vice-Presidents, Hon. Officers and Messrs. N. Chandler, P. Fernbank and M. Hamilton have all agreed to continue as members of the Committee. There were no further nominations, consequently, all are automatically re-elected.

**12. ELECTION OF THE HON. AUDITOR**

John Davies has agreed to continue with this role.

**13. OTHER BUSINESS**

- Further to the Hon. Treasurer's report: Ian Crane said that he thought it important that the Society maintain sufficient funds to ensure that we can maintain the quality of our Bulletins, and are able to finance, adequately, future planned Society functions. Bearing this in mind the Society should consider increasing membership fees sooner rather than later, in spite of our apparent satisfactory financial position at the present time.  
Simon Goldblatt replied to this by saying that the Society Committee do ensure that an appropriate balance is maintained between outgoings and subscriptions, and that the Committee will act to recommend an increase in subscriptions when this becomes necessary.
- Chris Southgate offered his thanks to the Committee members for their work. He expressed confidence in the way the Society is run and complemented all involved in Society publications which he thought were of excellent quality.

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

Sothebys shocked many of us with their 25% Buyers Premium (BP) at the Barton sale, and their tactic misfired as prices were below par for that auction house. Unfortunately, others have taken the opportunity to slip a few points on, the latest being Grosvenor whose BP has risen from 15 to 17%; providing sustenance for all those MDs, Richard Watkins being the latest, must be costly. Sadly, we now have to check the foreword to every catalogue to check the BP....and often houses make the rate difficult to locate, but to be fair to Grosvenor they did announce their increase openly.

**ARGYLL ETKIN 5 MARCH (BP 16%)**

This was the first Argyll auction I can recall to offer a range of interesting BWI and the Stampex viewing allowed members to participate. Some useful GV die proofs and specimen sets were easily absorbed, with three of the St. Kitts 1919 proofs fetching around £700 each. There was a good range of Cayman Is. where the 1921 GV head went for £360 and the 1912 set in blocks for £720. Several attractive mixed lots with plate plugs went cheaply but the best item, the British Honduras 1888 Ship mark, was over-estimated at £1,800 and failed to sell.

**SOTHEBYS 6 MARCH (BP 25%)**

The Barton 'collection' was bizarre – a portfolio of fine examples (often duplicated) of mostly relatively easy stamps to acquire if you had the money, but little sign of philatelic knowledge or attempt to diversify. Very different to the Baillie sale, the BWI selection had only a couple of five-figure rarities, and I guess members were happy to be able to pass on an auction where the add-on was close to 30%. Taking that into account the prices were mostly in the ballpark, although often below their cost at the Baillie or Frazer auctions. Prices that stood out were £3k for Bahamas SG:38, £14k for the Barbados unissued ½d perf 11–12 despite glazed gum and £1.4k for a set of u/m corner blocks of the Cayman Is. 1935 set.

**CAVENDISH 18 MARCH (BP 15%)**

The sale of member Joan Harper's British Honduras collection was for me the outstanding offering of the year so far, outstripping Geoff Osborn's Bermuda because of its more balanced offering. I was not present but spies tell me the BWISC contingent included Graham Booth, David Druett, Bill Gibb, Simon Greenwood, Mark Harvey, Kevin May, Andy Soutar and Ray Stanton. It was certainly a less frenetic experience than Simon Richards' 2005 sale, perhaps because it was outside London and also because of the absence of the really big ticket stamps. I am sure they would have done better if they had arranged London viewing. That said, I expect Joan was pleased with a sale total of just under £90,000. The highest prices, about £6k each, were for the 1875 cover franked with a strip of four 1d deep blue (which went to one of our members) and the two 1866 die proofs in colour. Indeed nearly all the proofs and colour trials fetched well over estimate. The early covers including many interesting transits from Guatemala, mostly went a little above realistic estimates, the 'Quetzal' cover being the plum at £1.3k. Even fronts were going way over modest

estimates. Elsewhere strong prices to catch my eye were £3.6k for the six GB used abroad, including a fair copy of the 1s, £3.2 for an 1879 4d die proof after hardening although this did have important m/s notes, £3k for a rather average example of the 50c 'Bevenue' variety and £1.3 for a 1894 cover bearing the Ship Letter mark with Belize removed. The extensive collection of town cancels was offered in a series of mixed lots that made it difficult to bid at a distance, or assess their value, but several went for over double estimate. I was not present so could not identify any buyers.

#### **FELDMAN 30 APRIL (BP 19.50%, PRICES IN EUROS)**

Word on the street was that this major offering resulted from a squeeze on a Russian investor who has been buying fine CW stamps for a number of years. Nearly all the items could be tracked to major name sales at Grosvenor, Spink or Sothebys (Baillie). The estimates were mostly well below the acquisition price, but since in many cases (notably the pair of St. Vincent 1897 hand-painted essays) the seller had grossly overpaid, price resistance was likely. In the event, the presence of Mark Harvey buying for a major American customer, John Taylor and an active internet ensured that realistic prices were achieved, frustrating yours truly and a few friends who asked me to bid for them. The only 'bargains' came for poor quality (and there was quite a lot of that). The strongest area overall was as often Cayman Is., nearly all of it ex Maisel, where a dogged telephone bidder secured much of the proof material for good prices. The major Bermuda proof items went strongly with the perf 12 set of QV going to €11k, but the more modest imperfs and specimens were well below cost. One of our members splashed €6k on one of the few covers, Derek Nathan's gorgeous British Guiana franking to Otago. The most substantive offering was St. Vincent where I had aspirations, but Harvey, Taylor and our Czech member Jaroslav Krcmar made sure no nice things went cheaply. The fine 6d die proof was €2.4k and the spotty 5s €3.2. But the only lot that I think exceeded its purchase price was the imperf 5d on 6d at €2.4k.

Feldman's internet was I believe the first in the field, and was surprisingly fast even with two internet bidders competing, which happened especially with the Asian and Australian material. It was easy to follow as a bell rang every time an internet bid was made and the number and origin of the bidder flashed on the screen. Interestingly I noted bids for BWI from Denmark, Jamaica, Malaysia, Norway and Russia as well as the obvious sources.

#### **GROSVENOR 7 MAY 2009 (BP 17%)**

There were several important lots in this sale, most of them unsolds ex Spink auctions. Unsurprisingly, demand was flat, partly because many the estimates had been increased rather than reduced. T&T flopped with 70% unsold, including the Tobago missing overprint. But only two Dominica lots failed to sell....is this island due for a renaissance? The St. Vincent GVI 10s with inverted watermark mint that may not have been paid for when it fetched an astonishing £16k last time around was unsold at an estimate of £10k. Maybe word has got around that Phoebe has one in her June sale!

#### **HARMERS**

My off-the-cuff remark in the March bulletin that Harmers looked set to move from Chiswick proved premature, as redevelopment of their premises has been deferred. But instead their parking facility has been withdrawn!

#### **Subscriptions Reminder**

**If a blue A5 sheet is included with your Bulletin, our records indicate  
that we have not received your subscription for 2009.**

**Please send to our Treasurer asap.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Revisions to contact details should be provided to the Hon. Secretary, 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. 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's regular updates to his Auction Alert under 'Auction/Dealers'.

The proposed publication schedule for 2009 is as follows:

Edition	September	December
Distribute	Mon 7 Sep	Mon 7 Dec
From Printer	Tue 1 Sep	Mon 30 Nov
To Printer	Mon 17 Aug	Mon 9 Nov
Final Bulletin Revisions	Fri 14 Aug	Fri 30 Oct
Advert Final copy	Fri 31 Jul	Fri 30 Oct
Article copy deadline	Fri 31 Jul	Sat 24 Oct
Advert book space	Fri 17 Jul	Sat 17 Oct

**CURRENT RATES FOR ADVERTISING PER BULLETIN:**

One full page b/w	£30.00
One half page b/w	£18.75
One quarter page b/w	£12.50

Colour	£50 per page
The back page (only colour)	£50.00

Please submit any enquiry re advertising to the editor.

# Philatelic Auctions...

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

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

Stamps of the West Indies are featured regularly.

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



**GROSVENOR**  
AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS

399-401 Strand Third Floor London WC2R 0LT

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

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