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1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3 TO loan books from the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways.
4 TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
5 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in paragraph 1 above.

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## Society Programme of Events \& Information

## 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 $\left(17^{\text {th }}\right)$.
Two formal displays have been arranged:

- David Cordon from Bermuda will be showing his collection of that Colony. 'Bermuda KGV and others'.
- Chris Harman will be displaying 'The Story of Perkins Bacon - with a focus on the British West Indies'.
A booking form with more details was enclosed with the June Bulletin. And is available on-line.
A Members table at the Bourse will be managed, as usual, by Simon Goldblatt, this will include literature and other items from the Sutcliffe collection. Please bring along your surplus material for the table.


## 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:

- Fri 7 May 2010 - Joint auction to be held at the Crypt on the Green, Clerkenwell.
- Sat 8 May evening - Social meal to include partners at Ciao Bella, in Lamb's Conduit St.
- Sun 9 May - Displays, Bourse \& Meetings, to be held at Spink, Southampton Row, Bloomsbury.
Members exhibiting at the show are asked to supply details to the Editor, so that advance information can be publicized.


## RPSL - Future Meetings with Significant BWI Content

- 11 Mar 2010 - Brian Brookes - St. Christopher and St. Kitts-Nevis.
- 15 Apr 2010 - The Podgers Entertain: Cyprus, Singapore \& Cayman Islands.


## BAHAMAS

## Special Delivery Stamps 1916-17 Second Overprinting And The ‘Kamloops’ Cover

## By Peter Fernbank

In Bulletin 215 was illustrated Ian Jakes' Special Delivery cover, postmarked 'Kamloops' (British Columbia) and posted from there on 12 September 1916. If genuine, this would appear to be the earliest Special Delivery cover known. Ian was rather dubious about the cover's veracity, but was convinced that the Special Delivery stamp was from the second overprinting (Setting 2). Charles Freeland was equally dubious about the cover, and queried the Setting 2 identification of the stamp in Bulletin 216. lan robustly defended his Setting 2 classification in Bulletin 217, adding that he had identified the Special Delivery stamp as emanating from Position 34, Vignette Plate 1. Ian has very kindly sent the cover to me for examination and I would like to proffer my opinion on both the cover and, just as importantly, the Special Delivery stamp.

## The Second and Third Overprintings

Before investigating this further let us consider the issue dates of the $2^{\text {nd }}$ and $3^{\text {rd }}$ overprintings. Early writers on the subject knew nothing of the intermediate 'second overprinting' identified by Ludington, who first drew attention to it in $1966{ }^{1}$. He pointed out that the 'second overprinting' described in earlier articles was actually what we know today as the third overprinting (much the commonest of the three). The first reference to any overprintings additional to the first of 600 stamps in December 1915 was provided by Ewens Weekly Stamp News of 28 July 1917, and quoted an issue date of 27 January 1917 for the 6,000 stamps ( 100 sheets) printed. Harry E. Huber gave January 1917 in the Philatelic Gazette of January 1918, and it is worth noting that in his article were illustrated plate blocks which can now be identified as being from the $2^{\text {nd }}$ and $3^{\text {rd }}$ overprintings, although at that time it was believed that only two overprintings had been made. Gisburn gave a date of March 1917 for the overprinting of 6,000 , whilst Ludington was marginally more precise with "probably 1 March 1917". This overprinting is now generally considered to be the third (Setting 3). However, I have recently obtained from the National Archives at Kew an extract from the Bahamas Executive Council Minutes of 5 February 1917 which invalidates a January date for this printing:-
"Special Delivery Service Stamps for use in Canada.
The Council approved that 6000 'Special Delivery Stamps for use in Canada' be overprinted locally, and further decided that there was no reason for steps to be taken to discontinue this service."
A recently obtained cover (Figure 1) modifies the March date of issue slightly. It is a truncated OHMS cover to the USA addressed to A. C. Roessler and is dated either 21 or 27 February 1917. Fortunately it was not necessary to have to refer to Ludington's complex plating tables to identify its sheet position; it has the 'rifleman / half extra tree trunk' variety and is thus from Position 12. I had hoped that it would be from Setting 2, but have positively identified it as being from Setting 3. Whilst this cover is purely a philatelic contrivance (there was no special delivery agreement with the USA) it does demonstrate that the third overprinting had been issued by late February 1917 rather than March 1917 as has been previously suggested. It also considerably pre-dates Ludington's date of 30 May 1917 for the earliest dated example known from the third overprinting.

## The Second Overprinting

Perhaps we should look more closely at the second overprinting, which was first classified as such by Ludington. He believed (erroneously) that it was this printing that caused the revocation of the Special Delivery agreement in mid-December 1916, and hence speculated that it might have been issued at the beginning of December 1916. We now know that the agreement was not cancelled at this time (see Bulletin 218, p13), so what dating evidence do we have for the second overprinting? The earliest dated example on cover that Ludington could produce was 4 June 1917, with further examples in July (1), August (1), October (1), November (2) and December (1), all 1917, and all from Vignette Plate 1. Any stamp from Vignette Plate 2 which is not from the $3^{\text {rd }}$ overprinting must be from the $2^{\text {nd }}$ overprinting (the first overprinting was on Vignette Plate 1 only). None of the examples just quoted fall into this category, and hence their assignment to the $2^{\text {nd }}$ overprinting must be less than certain. Ludington did caution that "Some of the stamps on cover ... might well be remainders of the first (over)printing, but have been tentatively assigned to the second
(over)printing because of their late dates of use." I have been able to establish that several of his $2^{\text {nd }}$ overprinting allocations were actually from the first overprinting. At present the earliest proven example from the $2^{\text {nd }}$ overprinting is dated later than that of the earliest example from the $3^{\text {rd }}$ overprinting!
In an attempt to find an official reference to the second overprinting I continued searching through the Executive Council Minutes up to mid 1917, but found only the following, from the Minutes of 5 March 1917:-

## "Postage Stamps

The Council approved the Postmaster's recommendations with regard to 'Special Delivery' stamps, and the 5d Queen's Staircase stamps of the present issue."
This meaning of this statement is not immediately clear. Is it:-
a) Referring to the ordering of the new Special Delivery issue (the 1917 issue, Type S.2) and the new 5d black and mauve Queen's Staircase stamp? The new 5d black and mauve Queen's Staircase stamp had been ordered in late November 1916, but was not received until May 1917, therefore this was obviously not the " $5 d \ldots$ of the present issue."
b) A further reference to the overprinting of 6,000 stamps as per the Council minutes of 5 February above? Since these had already been printed (as proved by their use on the cover illustrated above) this suggestion seems unlikely.
c) To overprint the remaining stock of the 5d black and orange Crown CC issue with 'Special Delivery"? This was indeed the " $5 d \ldots$ of the present issue" and thus strongly suggests that the Postmaster's recommendation was to overprint the remaining stock of the 5d black and orange Crown CC issue with 'Special Delivery'.
There was good reason to do so. When it was decided to overprint a further 100 sheets for the third overprinting in February 1917 it is highly unlikely that this was all that was left of the original stock of the 5d Crown CC stamp - there would have been some sheets remaining (although not a large number). There was little postal use for this value, which was due to be superseded shortly anyway by the new 5d black and mauve Queen's Staircase stamp. Philatelists had bought all they were ever to likely to buy of the Crown CC 5d value years before. The 100 sheets recently overprinted 'Special Delivery' were selling like hot cakes, so why not clear the remaining stock of the 5 d value and generate further revenue by similarly overprinting this surplus stock?
It is also possible that included with the Postmaster's recommendations was a new Special Delivery issue to replace the locally overprinted issue. The Crown Agents noted receipt of a telegram from the Government of Bahamas on 10 April 1917 which ordered " 500 sheets of the $5 d$ Orange and Black stamps Queen's Staircase design to be overprinted SPECIAL DELIVERY".
We thus have a highly probable confirmation of the enigmatic second overprinting, but as a result it now appears that the currently accepted sequence of issue of these two overprintings is reversed. In other words, the February 1917 overprinting of 100 sheets, currently known as the third overprinting, is actually the second. The current 'second' overprinting, overprinted circa March 1917, is the third. I can foresee problems here arising from this reversal of identities, especially to students of this Special Delivery issue who have faithfully adhered to Ludington's interpretation of events and have adopted his classifications! For the remainder of this article I will retain Ludington's classifications of the overprintings, but this may have to change in the future.

## The Second Overprinting (Setting 2) - Overprint Characteristics

Although some of Ludington's Setting 2 identifications are suspect, unexpected help in identifying the overprint characteristics for each sheet position comes from a bottom RH corner block of 12 (Figure 2) with misplaced overprint which featured in the 'Staircase' sale ${ }^{2}$. In Ludington's collection (photocopies of which were kindly made available to me by Charles Freeland) were Setting 2 examples identified as sheet Positions 35, 55, and 58, and all from Vignette Plate 2 (all examples from Setting 1 were from Vignette Plate 1 only). The overprint characteristics of these three copies conform to those in identical positions within the above block. As explained previously, the overprint was in a setting of 30 ( $6 \times 5$ ), used twice on the left and right halves of each sheet of 60 . Four examples on cover, all dated ' 31 Oct 1916', from Positions 41, 42, 53 and 54 (equating to Positions 47, 48, 59 and 60 respectively on the RH pane of 30 ), together with No. 35, were all in the Ludington sale ${ }^{3}$ and identified by Ludington as Setting 1. They do not conform to those in identical positions within the above block and are not from Setting 3. It is thus possible to allocate

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1878 (DE 31) cover from Nassau to Boston, Mass., franked by 1863-77 4d rose-lake, perf 14, tied by 'A05' obliterator, in combination with U.S.A. 1873 3c green, affixed at upper left to pre-pay U.S. internal postage, tied on arrival by part 'NEW YORK/2' duplex of '(JAN 1)2 79'. Face of cover also shows fine New York arrival cds and triangular 'B.D.' and 'BOSTON/JAN/13/7A.M.', the latter in magenta. On reverse 'BAHAMAS' doublearc despatch cds, and 'BOSTON MASS/CARRIER' delivery cds (JAN 138 AM), and pencil note 'Royal Victoria Hotel, Bahama Islands, Nassau N.P.' The cover a little roughly opened with tear through the Bahamas stamp,
still of very fine and most attractive appearance. A marvellous combination cover of the highest rarity, demonstrating a short-lived and little used arrangement (reported as 1 Jan 1879 to 1 July 1880, when Bahama joined UPU) whereby Nassau hotels had U.S. 3c stamps on sale for the benefit of correspondents who wished to save their addressees the inconvenience of paying postage due on receipt. This cover was posted on the eve of the introduction of this system.

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this block to Setting 2 with certainty, which provides us with overprint characteristic identifications for 12 of the 30 positions, many of which had not been previously identified by Ludington.

## 'The Kamloops Cover’

Returning to the 'Kamloops' cover, I would agree with the suspicions that this may well have been a genuine normal letter received from Kamloops on to which a Special Delivery stamp was added in Nassau and given a backdated postmark. This is impossible to prove either way, but unfortunately any cover associated with Dr. Walter Hess must remain suspect until proved otherwise.
I took a high definition scan of the stamp on lan's cover and compared it with a similar scan of Position 34, Vignette Plate 1, of the third overprinting (Setting 3) which Charles Freeland kindly provided for me (Figure 3). The major identifying plate characteristic of No. 34 (a vertical scratch through several of the bottom steps, Figure 3) was identical on both examples, and hence lan's identification of the sheet position and the plate used is confirmed.
Comparing the alignment of the letters in 'SPECIAL' with those in 'DELIVERY' (Figures 3 \& 4) it can be seen that the stamp on lan's cover is definitely not from Setting 3. It also does not conform to Ludington's description of Setting 2 for this position. Fortunately, the example which formed the basis of Ludington's identification of No. 28 Setting 2 appeared on cover in the sale of Ludington's collection ${ }^{3}$, and the stamp is illustrated below (Figure 6). No. 28 and No. 34 in the sheet are identical in overprint alignment, and the overprint on No. 28 is identical to No. 34 in the above block of 12 (Figure 7).
Ian Jakes provided a good case for the second overprinting (Setting 2) being issued possibly as early as October 1916, but this was based on Ludington's conjecture that it was issued at the beginning of December 1916, which in turn was derived from his mistaken belief that it was this overprinting which caused the revocation of the Special Delivery agreement.
The stamp on the Kamloops cover is not from Setting 2 nor 3 and therefore must, by default, be from Setting 1 (only 10 sheets of 60 overprinted). This is rather unexpected. To the best of our knowledge all stamps of the first overprinting were sent to Canada, and, prior to September 1917, were not available for sale over the counter at the four Canadian post offices which elected to operate the Special Delivery service with Bahamas. The stamp could not therefore have been purchased and placed on the cover in September 1916. However, as pointed out in Bulletin 218, 100 of these stamps were issued to the Deputy Postmaster General on 2 October 1916, and these were not officially accounted for within the Canadian Post Office records. If they were being sold (unofficially) to collectors, there would just be time for Dr. Hess to be supplied with a copy to add to his Kamloops cover, to be cancelled by compliance "20 Oct 1916".
On the other hand, bearing in mind that this may well be a 'doctored' cover (no pun intended!), there is an alternative possibility. The stamp might have emanated from the remaining stock of Setting 1 held in Canada which was sold off by the Canadian Post Office after September 1917. It is therefore feasible that it was the year rather than the day that was turned back on the date stamp, from ' 17 ' to ' 16 ', again by compliance.
I would be grateful if any member possessing a Special Delivery local overprint with the vertical gash in the staircase would let me know, particularly if the overprint alignment differs from that in Figures 3 and 4. The misplaced overprint (Figure 2) is quite spectacular - surely examples from the remainder of this pane must still be around? Can anyone supply an illustration of any of them?
My thanks to Charles Freeland and lan Jakes for their helpful comments on the original draft of this article, and to John Davis for supplying guidance on where to look for Bahamas information within the National Archives at Kew.

## Notes

1. Ludington, M.H., Bahamas: the Locally Overprinted Special Delivery Stamps of 1916-17, reprinted from The Philatelist, Feb-Mar 1966 by Robson Lowe Ltd. (There is now a copy in the BWISC Library).
2. Auction Catalogue, Bahamas: The 'Staircase' Collection, Spink, 8 Apr 1999, Lot 550.
3. Auction Catalogue, The Morris Ludington Collection, Spink, 9 Nov 1999.

Setting 1-1438 (No.54), 1439 (No.42), 1440 (No.53), Lots 1441 (No.41), 1455 (No.35),
Setting 2 - Lot 1457 (No.28)

Figure 1

# ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE 



Cover Nassau to USA, backstamped New York 2 Mar 1917.
Figure 2



Vignette Plate 1, No. 34 - vertical gash (scratch) in bottom steps.

from cover in Ludington sale (Lot 1457).

## References

- National Archives at Kew, London. Bahamas - Sessional Papers CO26/65.
- BWISC Bulletin Articles concerning Bahamas Special Delivery stamps:
lan Jakes \#215, Dec 2007;Charles Freeland \#216, March 2008; lan Jakes \#217, June 2008; Peter Fernbank \#218, Sept 2008; Eric Yendall \#220, Mar 2009.


## BARBADOS

The 'R. L. O.' Registration Date Stamp

By Edmund A Bayley

As I have mentioned previously, I am in the process of writing a comprehensive work on the Postal History of Barbados, its Post Offices and its Postmarks. This is being done by the publication of two books. The first is entitled 'The History of the Post Offices in Barbados' and will be published later this year. The second publication will deal with the Postmarks of Barbados which sadly need to be updated. The Barbados Postal Service, in its effort to provide me with as much information as possible, has sent me for information purposes, a copy of an article entitled 'The Postmarks of the British West Indies - King George VI - Barbados 1937-1954' written by David Horry. I believe this article appeared in a recent issue of Gibbons Stamp Monthly and is drawn from Horry's book 'The Encyclopaedia of British West Indies Postmarks King George VI'. Once again, I have to take issue with Horry concerning some of the conclusions made in this article. This time, it is in respect of the 'R. L. O.' Mark (Type R. 6 in the Benwell \& Britnor Handbook and Type J. 6 in the Clarke, Radford \& Cave Handbook). In his article, Horry states that this is a postmark of the 'Returned Letter Office'. Nothing could be further from the truth, as we shall see from the information below, it was ordered for the 'Registered Letter Office'.
This postmark consists of a single circle of 30 mm in diameter with 'BARBADOS' at the top and 'R. L. O.' at the bottom and the date and time in a single line across the centre. The letters 'R. L. O.' mean 'Registered Letter Office'. This mark was sent out from the GPO in London on 30 August 1906. This is not the first time that this controversy has arisen and many writers, from time to time, have tried to claim that this was a 'Returned Letter Office' date stamp, but somehow they have never been able to produce conclusive evidence to back up their claim. Some years ago, some writers, including Mr. L. R. Coasby (BWISC Bulletin No. 58 p. 44/5) raised the question that this mark was not a postmark of the Registration Office and that the letters 'R. L. O.' meant 'Returned Letter Office'. These doubts were laid to rest by Mr. F. G. Howe, my cousin, the late Mr. Colin H. Bayley MBE, FRPSL (Canada), and my Dad, the late Herbert H. Bayley, in subsequent articles in later issues of the Bulletin.
I illustrate below an Extract from the Draft of Indent No. 55, which was sent with a Letter No. D.269/31 dated 29 September 1931 from the General Post Office in Barbados to the Crown Agents for the Colonies. This Indent was to order several new datestamps, including a new Datestamp for the Registration Office (Type R. 7 (B\&B) and Type J. 7 (CR\&C)). Unfortunately, the original of this Indent went astray and was never received by the Crown Agents in London, and a copy was sent by Registered Mail to the Crown Agents (see Registration Receipt No. 19308, dated '11 NOV 31 11 AM'), and the copy was duly received in London on 24 November. I would particularly draw to the attention of readers the words of the then Colonial Postmaster, Mr. G. F. Sharp, viz: "Specimen impression of existing stamp for guidance only". There can therefore be no doubt that the illustration, the 'R. L. O.' stamp, was the existing stamp of the Registration Office.
I am prepared to concede that since the 'Returned Letter Office' and the 'Registered Letter Office' occupied adjoining premises in the General Post Office, it is possible that the 'R. L. O.' postmark may have been occasionally picked up and used by the former office. However, there is absolutely no doubt that this 'R. L. O.' postmark was intended to be a Registration mark.
I trust that the above information and evidence will put now this matter to rest once and for all.


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## BRITISH GUIANA

## Crown Code-Marks

By Michael Medlicott
The Crown code mark illustrated as a postscript appended by the Editor to my article on 'Lost Post office Found' is a clear case of mistaken identity.
In E.C.B / Crown code-marks, the apex of the Crown is centred beneath the letter ' $C$ '; in the illustrated example, the apex of the Crown is centred beneath the stop which separates ' E ' and ' C '. This Crown code-mark is therefore a brand new discovery, and belongs (if the ' 6 ' is correct, as it appears) to De Kinderen as E.C./Crown/6.
We now therefore have no less than three contemporaneous Code marks for the modest Post Office of De Kinderen, with a degree of overlap. Leaving aside the confused dates in Ted Proud's book Page 163 (Reference 1) and placing reliance on Townsend \& Howe's
 chronology (Reference 2) which mainly accords with the 15 strikes in my own collection, the range of dates for the three 'E6C' Code marks is as follows:-

1. Sans-serif $2^{\text {nd }}$ series code-marks: 7 Jan 1862 - 31 Dec 1879
2. Seriffed $1^{\text {st }}$ series reintroduced code mark: 20 Oct 1873 - 31 Dec 1879
3. Crown code-mark: 1 Jul 1876 at the earliest.

It should be noted that the earliest recorded date for a cds for De Kinderen is 26 Oct 1880 (T\&H Type 3a, Proud Type D4), but these double ring cds were introduced from the start of 1880; e.g. Stewartville Type 3 recorded from 13 Jan 1880. The waters, however are somewhat muddied by the lone surviving strike of the seriffed $1^{\text {st }}$ series code-mark from the first inland period, dated 'AP 30 / 1855' with ' 6 ' wrongly inverted as ' 9 '.

The discovery of the illustrated 'E.C. / Crown /6' brings to a total of four the number of different Crown non-dated code-marks, as follow:-
a) E.C. / Crown / 6: De Kinderen (East Coast Demerara)
b) B.G. / Crown / W.4.C: Anna Catharina (West Coast, Demerara)
c) E.C.B / Crown / 1: unconfirmed location
d) E.C.B / Crown / 6: Skeldon (East Coast Berbice).

The suggestion that these Crown code-marks were some form of relief instrument in case of mislaid or damaged regular handstamps seems implausible - note the dates for 'E6C' above.
Recall Townsend \& Howe's comment (p.276) "The presence of the Crown, seeming to indicate some connection with Government or Statutory Authority, is inexplicable."
Both Skeldon and New Amsterdam (the latter busy enough to explain the large number of E.C.B/Crown/1 strikes known) were both ports of entry or embarkation and the origin of official mail of one kind or another. Can any member of the Study Circle suggest such an association for De Kinderen or Anna Catharina?

## References:

1) Proud, E. B: The Postal History of British Guiana. Proud Bailey Co. Ltd. 2000
2) Townsend, W. A. \& Howe F. G: The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana. RPSL, 1970

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## BRITISH WEST INDIES

The Hundred Rarest Postmarks of the King George VI period
By David Horry
Continued from June Bulletin. Note: ORD = Only Recorded Date.
JAMAICA has 34 entries - mainly TRDs but there are other gems as well.
50 Junction TRB Jamaica. Opened December 1938 although ERD 7 Oct 38 Aguilar! Last used December 1938, Proud.
N.B. This a reconstruction and is not guaranteed as accurate.

51 Duff House TRO Jamaica. A remote and short-lived office. Opened \& ERD 1 Nov 51 LRD 25 Jul 52, Stanton. Closed by August 1952.

52 Somerset TRO Jamaica. Opened August 1951 this postmark did service until October of that year, Aguilar/Topaz.

Top Hill TRO* Jamaica. Opened September 1943 and lasted until February 1944, Aguilar/Topaz.

54 Essex Hall TRO* Jamaica. The early versions of this postmark were dated by manuscript April to June 1949. LRD 17 Aug 51, Aguilar/Topaz.

55 Retirement TRO* Jamaica. Only known over a ten day period in March 1948, Aguilar/Topaz.

56 Braeton tTRO Jamaica. Many of these denticulated or tooth-edged TROs are rare. This one ran between June and October 1946, Aguilar/Topaz.


57 Dumfries tTRO Jamaica. Ran between September and December 1946. Aguilar/Topaz There is a forgery running concurrently spelt DUMPHRIES, Blackburn. I have not seen this variety - the illustration in my book is only a reconstruction.

58 Main Ridge tTRO Jamaica. Only recorded September 1948. An interesting office as the postmistress was fairly single minded and used the Mail Bag Seal to cancel stamps throughout 1951, Topaz. There are no recorded postmark dates between these two strikes, was the office closed?

59 New Green TRO Jamaica. Only found between February 1947 and March 1948, Topaz. There is a three month gap until the release of the Birmingham in July 1948.

60 Nine Turns TRO Jamaica. Only found between March 1947 and April 1948, Topaz.

61 Caldwell TRO* Jamaica. Opened November 1949 and only lasted six months until May 1950, Topaz.

62 Pleasant Valley TRO* Jamaica. Used between September and December 1950 Aguilar/Topaz. It was resurrected in 1968! Potter.


63 Blairs Hill TRO* Jamaica. Used between September 1947 and January 1948, Topaz.

64 Colegate TRO* Jamaica. Originally with manuscript for date until July 1949, Stanton. The LRD 17 May 1950 is undated.

65 Mount Industry TRO* Jamaica. Upper and lower case type. Only know used for nine days LRD 13 Apr 1948 when the Birmingham was introduced, Topaz. Mount Moreland has a similar strike - which is also rare.

66 Berry Hill TRO* Jamaica. Used between August and October 1951, Topaz.

67 Palisadoes TRO*(2) Jamaica. Confusion reigns over this post office as Topaz and Potter got the date of Hurricane Charlie wrong! It destroyed and closed several offices 17 August 1951 - not July 1950. This canceller was lost

- ERD 13 Oct 1950, LRD 10 Aug 1951, Proud.

68 Palmers Cross TRO* Jamaica. Only around for a month - May to June 1954. Resurrected for Philatelic purposes in 1979!, Potter.

69 Westphalia TRO* Jamaica. This postmark is only known to have lasted three days, 8-10 May 1954. The small Single Circle was issued 1 June 1954 so there might be extensions, Topaz.


Continued on Page 24.

## CAYMAN ISLANDS

Postal Uses of the 1908 Farthing Stamp<br>By Kevin Darcy, Richard Maisel and James Podger

## INTRODUCTION

The number of non-philatelic postal uses of a stamp is inversely related to its face value. Low valued stamps can be used in partial or complete payment of many postal rates, while high valued stamps are limited to payment of multiple rates or for parcels. A farthing ( $1 / 4 \mathrm{~d}$ ) was the smallest denomination of any stamp issued in British Colonies using the pound sterling currency and it had the widest range of use. In this article we will illustrate the many postal uses made of the Cayman Islands 1908 Farthing stamp. It is to our knowledge the first comprehensive compendium of these uses and it is the first time several of them have been illustrated in the philatelic literature.
The article begins with some background on the Farthing stamp. The next three sections show the standard uses of the stamp in payment of the domestic, foreign (UPU) and Empire postal rates. It ends with a section displaying some unusual uses of the farthing stamp.

## BACKGROUND

In February 1908 the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, G. S. S. Hurst, put forward a plan to rejuvenate the old local postal service, originally introduced by his predecessor F. S. Sanguinetti. It had in effect two components; first, a mail cart service extended by horseback riders between the capital Georgetown in the South West and Gun Bay in the East. The service would pick up and deliver mail, and also sell stamps; in effect it was a travelling post office. The second component was a reduction in postal rates to $1 / 2 d$ for local letters and a new rate of $1 / 4 \mathrm{~d}$ for postcards and 2 oz printed matter. The plan was quickly adopted and what was later known as the rural post service was born.
On 30 June 1908, the Cayman Islands Authorities issued a Farthing Stamp ( $1 / 4 \mathrm{~d}$ ) to pay the two new domestic postal rates. When issued, this stamp was limited to local uses and could only be purchased in Cayman Post Offices, as reported in PO Notice 'No. 29' of 10 July 1908: "Notice is hereby given that farthing stamps and farthing postcards being provided solely for internal postage .....". Shortly thereafter these restrictions were removed, as the Commissioner had by 30 July been forced to allow their use on foreign mail due to lack of $1 / 2 d$ stamps. The stamp became the most widely distributed Cayman Islands stamp issued during the reign of King Edward VII.

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## Domestic Postal Rates

The Farthing was the only stamp that could pay the new $1 / 4 \mathrm{~d}$ local Printed Matter and local Post Card rates: It could also be used in pairs for payment of the $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$ local letter rate. There may have been extensive use of the Farthing stamp for local printed matter, but the survival rate for this type of mail was very low. Only four examples of this use are known to the authors of this article, two on cover (Figure 1) and the other two on piece. Both pieces have a single farthing paying the Local Printed Matter rate on their respective fronts (Figure 2A). Both reverse sides (Figure 2B) show the pieces were invitations to subscribe to the local newspaper, the Caymanian, established in March 1908. The paper was suffering from falling sales when the pieces were cancelled, and it was discontinued shortly thereafter. The items in Figures 1 and 2 are key pieces for a collection that includes the Farthing stamp, but they have been missing from the major Cayman Islands collections that have come to the market in recent years. This article may be the first time they have been illustrated in philatelic literature.

Figure 1


Figures 2A


Figure 2b


The use of the Farthing for local post cards may have been more limited than its use for local printed matter, but more examples of its use on post cards have survived. There are five or six examples recorded of a single Farthing used on domestic post cards. Many of these examples appear to be philatelic.
However, the one displayed in Figure 3 is of particular interest, being the earliest recorded card with a single Farthing having the Type IV postmark. It is one of the two foreign picture postcards sent by Mr. C. Eden during the manuscript provisional period when there were no $1 / 4 \mathrm{~d}$ stamps available at the Post Office. The cards are sent to two young ladies both endorsed "for your collection". He obviously only had one $1 / 4 \mathrm{~d}$ stamp in his purse which he applied to this card, handing both over the counter to the Postmaster.

Figure 3


The other card received 'Paid' written in blue pencil and became MP3 (both cards postmarked 'OC 7 1908').

There are a number of examples of the Farthing stamp used in pairs to pay the Local Letter rate. Some of these covers were cancelled with a Rural Post boxed marking (Figure 4a) and others were cancelled with a Post Office circular date stamp, (Figure 4b) for East End and (Figure 4c) Boddentown.

FIGURE 4A


Figure 4C


FIGURE 4B


FIGURE 5


No provision was made for Inter-Island mail to be incorporated in the local post of March 1908. It was not until February 1909, when PO Notice 'No.19' proclaimed that Little Cayman was now included in the Local Post. The $1 / 2 d$ reduced letter rate and farthing postcard rate applied to mail between the Islands. Covers prior to February 1909 would require $4 \times 1 / 4 d$ adhesives for postage and after February 1909, $2 \times 1 / 4 \mathrm{~d}$ adhesives. Postcards would similarly require $2 \times 1 / 4 \mathrm{~d}$ prior to and a single farthing after this date. There is no record of a PO Notice informing when Cayman Brac was included in this arrangement.

## FOREIGN (UPU) POSTAL RATES

The Farthing stamp was used in payment of many overseas (UPU) postal rates. One of these uses was to supplement the indicia on overseas usage of the Farthing Postal Card (Figure 5). This use of a single Farthing stamp was the only way to obtain the 1d UPU Post Card rate when sending the 1/4d Postal Card abroad.

There are many examples of the 1908 Farthing stamp used to pay the UPU letter rate and registered letter rate. Figure $6 a$ is an example of the Farthing stamp used to pay the $2^{1 / 2 d}$ letter rate: Figure 6 b is an example of the Farthing stamp used to pay the $41 / 2 d$ registered letter rate.

Figure 6A


FIGURE 6B


The cover in Figure 6c carried a most important note from Miss G. A. Parsons, the Postmistress, to B. D. Foster. She wrote saying she was sending him the last twelve from the first printing of the Farthing, two being used with other values to frank the cover, on 'AU 2908 '. Soon the manuscript franking period of the Farthing would start, lasting until the second printing arrived in the first days of November.

Figure 6C


## Imperial Penny Post

In December 1898 the cost of mailing a letter from one part of the British Empire to another part of the Empire was lowered from the UPU rate of $21 / 2 d$ to the Imperial Penny Post rate of 1 d . The 1908 Farthing stamp was frequently used in partial or complete payment of this rate. Figure 7 shows the total payment of 1d Empire letter rate by Farthing stamps on an Official cover. This cover may well have been the one referred to by Mr. H. A. Cresswell in a note published in the 26 September 1908 issue of the journal, 'Postage Stamp'. He stated that a relative of his had received an envelope franked with four of the local Cayman Island $1 / 4 \mathrm{~d}$ stamps.

## FIGURE 7



There was no change to the 1d postcard rate, for Empire and overseas, or the reduced $1 / 2 d$ rate for similar printed matter, where no message was added to the card, but only the address. Figures 8a and 8 b show examples.

FIGURES 8A AND 8B


## OTHER RATES

The farthing was also used to pay, either completely or in part, other rates that were less often seen. In 1911, the UPU letter rate was changed from $2^{1 / 2 d}$ for each oz to $21 / 2 d$ for the first oz and $11 / 2 d$ for each additional oz. Figure 9 shows the use of 24 Farthing stamps paying this 2 oz UPU letter rate and 2d registration fee. Complete payment of such large postal rates by Farthing stamps was not common. Even less common was the use of insured mail in the Cayman Islands. Such service was only available from March 1908 to March 1909 and was rarely used during this short period of time.
Figure 10 shows twelve Farthing stamps on a front paying part of a £24 registered insured rate (1s Insurance $-2 \times 6 \mathrm{~d}$, 2 d registration fee $-8 \times 1 / 4 \mathrm{~d}$ and 1 d Empire letter rate $-4 \times 1 / 4 \mathrm{~d}$ ). This front is the only example of postal history known by authors correct payment of the Cayman Islands insured letter rate.

Figure 9


Figure 10


Members' attention is drawn to upgraded web sites created by three of our dealer members:-

- www.michael-hamilton.com - see advert on page 11.
- www.pennymead.com - see advert on page 13.
- www.westindia-co.com (Ed Barrow).

New items are continually added, so please visit regularly and mention BWISC when ordering.

## SOUVENIR USE

Following the introduction of the Farthing, 30 June 1908, we find the earliest covers used locally carry eight x Farthing adhesives, paying no recognized rate: See Figure 11. The few recorded examples are addressed to locals bearing mainly <Name> and 'Georgetown' only in the address.
Two examples are addressed to 'Mary Street', omitting 'Georgetown'. For an unknown reason they were posted on sequential Mondays: 6 July, 13 July and 20 July, and all addressed in the same hand. At this time, there is no recorded data on what postal delivery system was available in Georgetown, although mention is made in a Postal Notice of 2 January 1909, by Postmaster McCausland, stating that mail would be delivered at 1pm in Georgetown, Sundays and Bank Holidays excluded.

FIGURE 11


## AN AFTERTHOUGHT

The 1908 Farthing stamp, like many low denomination and widely distributed stamps, is of little financial value. However, such stamps, as this article illustrates, had many uses, which makes them of considerable philatelic importance. This is in contrast to many high face value and rare stamps which have considerable monetary value but had few uses. Thus, the paradox that the monetary value of a stamp is inversely related to its philatelic significance.

## Notes:

- All illustrations reduced to $67 \%$.
- All items illustrated are in the Kevin Darcy or James Podger collections.


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Members' attention is drawn to some unique Waterlow colour trial proof material for Antigua, Cayman Is and Turks and Caicos Is, to be offered at the Murray Payne September auction.
Details on their web site - see advert on page 32.

70 Devon Pen TRO* Jamaica. Opened September 1953 and was last seen mid-December, Topaz.

71 Kentish TRO* Jamaica. Opened June 1953 and was gone by early July, Topaz.

72 King Weston TRO* Jamaica. Opened January 1954 and was finished by the end of March, Topaz.

Fairy Hill LTRC Jamaica. Only used over three days, only four are recorded and none on cover - so far! Topaz.

74 Alderton $\mathbf{B}^{*}$ (2) Jamaica. This is very distinctive from Alderton $B(1)$ having slightly elongated, finer type. Only two copies known, Horry. The illustration (D4) in Proud is incorrect - at the base.

75 Glenislay B* Jamaica. My reconstruction here of a strike as noted by Foster, ORD 13 Aug 1956. Others for Ginger Ridge and Gengoffe may have been issued but they are not recorded.

76
Duff House NB Jamaica. Only one recorded on KGVI 2s, date unclear, Horry. With the aforementioned TRO LRD 25 Jul 1952 and the office closing 31 July this must have had an exceedingly short life for a New Birmingham.

77 Ewarton NB Jamaica. ERD 14 Apr 1955 LRD 8 Apr 1957, Topaz.


78 Port Maria NB Jamaica. First noted in 1951 without asterisk, Topaz. 1963-1968 with asterisk. N.B. This illustration is my reconstruction.

79 Stony Hill NB Jamaica. Another reconstruction of a very elusive NB ERD 1 Apr 56, Potter.

80 Gordon Town RO Jamaica. Registered Ovals are generally not that easy to find except at Buff Bay, Lucea and Williamsfield. This one ran from April 1950 up to February 1957 but is rarely seen, Proud.

81 Lorrimers RO Jamaica. Only noted for four months from Sepember 1950 to January 1951, Proud.


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.
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## JAMAICA

## ‘encyclopaedia of Jamaican Phllately’ Web project

By Steve Jarvis

The following information has been published on the jamaicaphilately.info web site:-

## The Kent Correspondence

Many collectors of Jamaica Postal History will be familiar, at least by sight, with the $19^{\text {th }}$ century correspondence sent to Major / Colonel Kent.
Dick Hemmings and I, with support from Michael Hamilton, have compiled some information on this recipient, with a listing of known covers and images, where available.
Henry Kent joined the 77th (East Middlesex) Regt of Foot in 1845, which was stationed in Jamaica from 1843 until January 1846. The regiment spent a brief period in Canada before returning to the UK until 1854. The regiment then fought in the Crimea, by which time Kent had risen to the rank of Captain. After the Crimean War, the regiment was briefly sent to New South Wales but the Indian Mutiny caused their reassignment to India, arriving there in April 1858. Kent was promoted to Major in August. The regiment remained in India until 1870, Kent being further promoted to LieutenantColonel, in charge of the regiment, in 1868. Kent retired in 1880, having spent his last ten years in the UK, at Portsmouth and Portland.
The postal history dimension commences with a cover from Kingston, Jamaica to India dated 26 March 1859, nicely in the GB Used in Jamaica period. 43 covers are recorded to India through to 1869, many of these bearing multiple different pineapple adhesives creating attractive covers. The various rates that applied in this period were: 1 s , $1 \mathrm{~s} 5 \mathrm{~d}, 1 \mathrm{~s} 6 \mathrm{~d}, 1 \mathrm{~s} 8 \mathrm{~d}, 1 \mathrm{~s} 9 \mathrm{~d}$.
A dozen covers are recorded addressed to the UK, which commanded only the 1 s rate and are therefore less attractive, but still desirable. The last cover is dated 24 May 1872.
No further personal information has been found, but so far only internet information has been investigated (the article on the web contains more detail of the Regiment's assignments).
The relationship between the sender and Kent is unknown. Kent joined the Regiment during its short stay in Jamaica and it is possible that his family lived / were stationed in Jamaica. In 1862 a 'leave of absence' was granted to a Captain Henry Kent, stipendiary magistrate and the 1840 Jamaica Almanac also lists a Henry Kent as a Magistrate.
We are sure that Military historians or Genealogy experts could trace further information but in addition, we would ask for information on any covers omitted from our listing and scans to improve our archive.
The article can be viewed at:
http://www.jamaicaphilately.info/45_Topics/451_Military/major_kent/Kent-Correspondence.pdf
A printed copy can be supplied upon application to the Editor to those without access to the internet.

## Freeling Handstamp

The article by Charles Freeland in Bulletin \#214 (Sept 2007), concerning the Freeling Handstamps, stated that Proud recorded the earliest known date as 8 Feb 1799, but "this date looks impossible given the packet sailing dates listed".
However, this date can be confirmed from the May 2009, Christoph Gärtner auction (and subsequently found in a 2004 Proud auction) on an entire from Jamaica to Roxborough also bearing a unique strike interpreted by Proud as 'CLARENDON / SHIP LRE' (but in the Gärtner auction as 'CLARENDON / AND VERE').
Charles comments that therefore the Jamaica handstamp must have been carried on a packet leaving Falmouth in late 1798, rather than 1799, as believed.


## ST. VINCENT

## Update

By Peter Elias

It has been several years now since l've taken up the task of being the 'St. Vincent Study Group Leader' within the BWISC (and the BCPSG as well).
I think of this position as being one where I collect and provide information about St. Vincent philately and to facilitate communications amongst members that also find this island so philatelically (\& otherwise fascinating). To aid in communicating amongst us all, I created a 'discussion group' called stvincentstamps at the Yahoo website. To get to the group site, go to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stvincentstamps.
Joining this YahooGroup is easy, just follow the instructions at the site. To keep our group safe from the incessant spammers, I set it up so that I need to approve all prospective group members first (so that people like 'bikergrril123' won't join and instantly start spamming us). Once you've been approved, you are free to send messages. Sending a message is easy as well. There are two ways to do it:

1) Use your e-mail software and send an e-mail message to stvincentstamps@yahoogroups.com (be sure to send it from the same e-mail address that you registered with) or
2) Go to the Yahoo Group site and post a message from there. At that point, everyone that is a member of the group will then receive your message and can respond to it, either privately to sender or back through the group.
All discussions, questions or comments regarding anything relating St. Vincent stamps, postal history, fakes/forgeries, revenue stamps, etc is fair game. At present there are about 40 or so people that have signed up. The more the merrier! You can attach a scan to your message, but be aware that while Yahoo will let us look at all messages posted in the past, pictures or other file attachments are NOT saved, and will only show up in e-mails if you subscribe to the 'individual e-mail' option; if you subscribe to the 'daily digest' version, you will not get the attachment; since there aren't that many postings at this time, I would recommend that you receive the 'individual e-mails'.
John Barefoot has published the 2009 edition of his 'British Commonwealth Revenue' catalogue. I already received my copy in the mail (easily ordered from his website (http://www.jbarefoot.co.uk). There has been extensive renumbering and new listings for the St. Vincent section (I recently wrote an article called 'St. Vincent Revenue Round-up' for the BCPSG Journal (July 2008 edition). Unfortunately, John goofed a bit in the numbering scheme for some of the newer revenue issues, and catalogue numbers 100, 101 and 102 have each been assigned to at least two or three different stamps. While this will be corrected in the next catalogue, that could possibly be $5+$ years from now. Steve Zirinsky is to be commended for providing much of the information on the provisional revenue \& regular postage stamps of the late 1990s / early 2000s (Figure 1 - 3 images).
There is of course quite a bit of other St. Vincent news. Some of you joined the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group for their annual meeting on St. Vincent in May 2007; I wrote up a trip report for the BCPSG Journal, as well as Global Stamp News in 2007 (contact me if you need a copy, I have scanned them and saved them as PDF files). Some of the more interesting information was the 'controversy' regarding postal validity of earlier (1970s through late 1990s) St. Vincent stamps previously issued by or purchased through the Philatelic Bureau or other means. Since the St. Vincent Post Office was 'incorporated/privatised' in 2003 as the St. Vincent Postal Corporation, there have been concerns about people using older stamps (since at this point, the postal corporation incurs expenses in delivering letters for which they have not been compensated since the proceeds of the sale of these stamps went to the government, not their corporation). I think that the differences between the two entities have been worked out.
But wait, there's more! Now the current controversies are regarding the validity of the various 'island inscribed' issues (for Canouan, Palm, Union, Bequia, Mayreau, Mustique \& Young Island) (Figure 2). While officials on St. Vincent argue that they are valid for postage, when attempting to use them on the individual islands, a visitor (Robert Lamb, former executive director of the American Philatelic Society) was told that they are 'philatelic stamps' and not valid for postage. Two of these islands are private resort islands (Young \& Palm) and they do not have a post office; while the others do have one or two post offices each, the stamps, while supposedly valid from
there, are not actually available for purchase there (although they are available in Kingstown at the Philatelic Bureau - which is still a government operation). This is in turn is what is causing the editors of the Scott Stamp Catalogue here in the USA to refuse listing these stamps.
The Proud/Bailey organization has published their 'St. Vincent \& St. Lucia' Postal History book. On the St. Vincent side, it picks up where the 1971 Pierce-Messenger-Lowe 'St. Vincent' book left off, and covers postal history up through Independence (1979). The book was co-authored by Joe Chin Aleong of Trinidad. I had the chance to review and edit the postmark section prior to publication and also provided many photographs of the various village post offices (mostly taken in the 1960s).
Even though the latest book does a nice job of covering postal history through 1979, there is much new information available since then, some of which includes:
New postmark types:- After so many years of just 'single circle’ postmarks, 'double circle’ postmarks were introduced at some (but not all) of the village post offices, and in the past two or three years, square (well, almost square) (Figure 3) postmarks have been introduced in some of the villages. Unfortunately the authorities on St. Vincent do not let us know when exactly they are ordering new postmark devices. Additionally, in Kingstown, larger single \& double circle postmarks are now in use (Figure 4-2 images), one even had 'Grenadines' misspelled as Granadines.
New registration labels:- For a while, there were the regular small labels that had red numbers. The small labels are now used only for domestic registered mail, while all international mail (Figure 5) now bears large bar-coded labels (unfortunately these large labels are all alike, that is, the post office name is not mentioned, and unless attached to the original envelope will make it difficult to tell from which village post office exactly it originated.
Postage meters:- Yes, postage meters have been in use on St. Vincent for many years now, mostly by the banks \& utilities (water, cable, electricity) as these have to mail out thousands of statements each month (Figure 6). Lately though, these meters have been replaced by simple 'permit' impressions (Figure 7). While not as exciting as stamps, it is never-the-less important to document these events since they are still 'postal history'. And it should certainly be easier to gather this information now than 20 or 50 years from now.
I was studying the Universal Postal Union (UPU) statistics about St. Vincent (unfortunately the latest data is only good through 1999) and did write an article about it in the BCPSG journal (note: if interested in the table of statistics, please contact me and I can e-mail it to you). I have contacted the St. Vincent Postal Corporation and asked when they will be sending updated statistics to the UPU, but I have not yet received a reply.
Given that St. Vincent has 56 village post offices (on the main island and the Grenadines), there will always be some interesting postal history items to collect and study. After all, St. Vincent with 120,000 inhabitants has as many post offices in total and more per capita than the entire $6+$ Million population of the Dallas (Texas) metro area that I live in! Even the small suburban city that I live in with 90,000 residents only has 3 post offices. I am starting to work on compiling updated information about the village post offices. Unfortunately, not being on the island makes that a bit more difficult.
Another fun side collection is the 'departmental' markings on OHMS or official envelopes (Figure 8). Most governmental departments on St. Vincent enjoy free franking privileges and their mailings usually have an oval (or lately a round) handstamp on the cover. Getting a list of just which departments use the handstamps is a nice project (and would probably make a nice article).
So while some of you may just collect 'classic' St. Vincent material, there are many interesting items to collect and study in the 20th century through present day. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at info@stvincentstamps.com .


Figure 1


Figure 3
Figure 4A


Figure 6


Figure 7


FIGURE 8


## ST. VINCENT

## 1880s 6d - Trick OR Treat?

By Simon Goldblatt

I find myself staring bemused today at a St. Vincent 6d stamp with small star watermark sideways. What is strange about that? Well, I'll tell you:-
(1) The colour is a deep, even, almost royal blue.
(2) It measures perf 12 all round
(3) It has gum; but,
(4) There are faint traces, almost a dusting, of a possible cancellation
(5) It looks more like a DLR than a PB production

It takes better philatelic skills than I possess to rule in - or rule out - re-perforation, or regumming. All that I shall venture is that the perforation, in its present form, is not the product of the ' B ' machine.
I recall from my kindergarten days that green minus yellow equals blue. Noting what can happen to, say, a QV Dominica 6d green, or a Natal £20 value (which starts off as a sort of turquoise, anyway) I tell myself that philatelic green minus some kind of yellow ought not to equal this kind of blue.
Where does imagination lead one? Well we know that DLR took over and were forced to use the PB plates. We know that they sometimes produced colour trials, and that these can be found perf 12. We also know that they had trouble reconciling Crown CA paper with PB plates.

Is it a big step to envisage DLR in possession of some small star watermark paper (there are still some blank sheets in circulation today) and then playing with printing on the original sheets from the original plates, before working out how to convert to the security paper that they were obliged to use?
Answering my own question - yes it is a very big step. Would the procedure not have been on record somewhere? Would not a handful of specimen products have been preserved?
The only other piece of information that I can offer is that the provenance of the stamp under discussion is, Peter Jaffé. This is totally consistent with it being a thumping rarity, or one of his treasured aberrations.
So I throw the question open to our membership: trick or treat?


## TRINIDAD

Numeral Cancel ‘38’
By Michael Medlicott
In Bulletin 218, Ed Barrow proposes a solution (Matelot) to the mystery surrounding the location of Type O.6.'38' around 1905/6, and asks for evidence, corroborative or contrary.
As contrary evidence, I can produce a pair of SG:132 cancelled by Matelot Type IV cds 'SP 11/06' as well as a single SG:132a (chalky paper) dated 'No 9/06'. Incidentally, I do also have SG:134a (one penny black on red, chalky paper) dated 'AP 27/07'.
This, at least, eliminates Matelot as the user of ' 38 '. Michael Hamilton has done some exhaustive field-work on the possible candidate locations of the reallocated numerals; can he be tempted to re-enter the debate?

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## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

## Civil Censorship - An Update

By Edward Barrow

Continued from previous Bulletin.

## HANDSTAMPS

Figure 9 shows a late use of a CH4A handstamp (21 August 1944) on an 'out of course' registered cover. The cover was not opened by the censorship department. The handstamp is also in red and is reminiscent of the IC TRI handstamp (CH9B) which was used in red on registered mail of this period.

Figure 9


CH4A late use on 'out of course' cover.
Two new CH15 censor numbers have also been recorded. Number 9 on Spanish postcard sent to Brazil on the 14 March 1945. And a number 2 seen on Venezuelan postcard sent to Argentina on the 3 March 1945.


## Detained by Censor 2 (TR CI 1)

Wike did record one example of this handstamp, but was unclear of its purpose. The routing of the cover shown in Figure 10 should have been Venezuela to Recife (Brazil) and on to Rome via the Italian run LATI air service. However in while in transit in Trinidad it was opened by the censors and forwarded to the UK for further examination (UK label on the left). Note that it also has what looks like a watch list manuscript marking (179/5/34) - (these will be discussed in a later article). As the text of the handstamp suggests, this cover detained by censor number 2 and re-routed to the UK for additional enquiry.

Figure 10


Detained by Censor 2 handstamp on Venezuela to Italy cover.

## Return to Sender (TR Cl 4)

The sender of this cover worked at the GPO and is known to have corresponded with stamp collectors (Figure 11). Given this, it is most likely that this envelope contained stamps, which required a permit. When this was discovered by the censors the envelope was resealed and the handstamp applied to indicate the course of action.

## Figure 11



Return to Sender handstamp.

## No Postal Communication (TR CI 5)

Norway fell to the Nazis on the 7 June 1940 but much of its Navy and merchant fleet continued the war effort on the Allied side. Any mail sent to Norway would have thus been subject to censorship by German authorities, so it makes sense that the censors would not want seamen sending mail that could disclose useful information to the enemy such as the ship's area of operation.
The sender of this cover was a crew member of the S/S Bertha Brøvig, a Norwegian merchant ship that for much of the war operated out of New Orleans. It visited Trinidad twice; on 29 Nov 1940 en route to Santos, Brazil, and on 15 Jan 1941 on the return journey. There is a Returned Letter Branch CDS on reverse dated 18 Dec 1940 so the cover must have been mailed on the journey south and picked up on the way back north to New Orleans.


## Passed For Export

This handstamp has been seen used on mail requiring an export license, i.e. items with real monetary or commercial value. It does not appear to be censor mark, but given that it was probably applied by the post office to alert the censors that the item had passed customs regulations, it is worthy of mention. (See Figures 13 and 14)

Figure 13


Passed For Export handstamp on 'Out of Course' cover.

Figure 14


Examples of the Passed for Export handstamp.

## Not Opened By Censor (MAnUSCRIPT)

The cover shown in Figure 15 was sent by a Trinidad censor who was once a resident of Argentina. His address on reverse has been changed from an Argentine one to ICZ (Imperial Censorship Zone), Port of Spain. On the front there is a 'Not Opened By Censor' marking in pencil which I assume was applied by one of his compatriots in the censor department to show that it had passed though the censorship department but had not been examined.

Figure 15


Manuscript 'Not Opened By Censor Marking'.

## Enclosed Memoranda

Figure 16 shows a memoranda enclosed in a censored letter addressed to a US serviceman stationed at ‘Dock Site Camp’ (arrival cds of 27 June 1941). Originally called Camp Casual, the Dock Site Camp was part of the Port of Spain docks and surrounding reclaimed land that was leased to the US military. It served as an initial site for housing American servicemen while the bases were being built and for unloading construction equipment. The US forces had Army Post Offices (APO) up and running at this time but perhaps this did not extend to Dock Site Camp. Whatever the reason, you could sympathise with the over worked censors having to wade through thick letters written by hundreds of homesick servicemen and their loved ones back home.

The form shown in Figure 17 is self-explanatory and was recorded in Wike, but its dimensions and usage was unknown. This one was found enclosed in an envelope sent from Tunapuna (25 Feb 1943) to the USA. The envelope has a Type 4 censor label, IE 6029, applied.

FIGURE 16


FIGURE 17:


Form 126 (reproduced by kind courtesy of John Chay).

## Date Stamps used as a receiving mark.

The use of date stamps was covered in depth by Wike but they were thought to only be used as despatch marks. However a few covers have been seen with the straight line date stamp used as a receiving mark. They are usually found dated a few days before the date stamp on the label, (see Figure 18). This one is partially under the censor label indicating that it was applied before censoring. This may have been a temporary measure until the dated IC TRI handstamps were introduced in early December 1941.

FIGURE 18:


Example of straight line date stamp used as an arrival mark.

## Postal Permit Handstamp (TR CP 3)

Finally another postal permit handstamp has come to light. This one is Postal Permit No. 23 from G. G. Gianetti at the I.C.T.A (Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture), St. Augustine. (See Figure 19).

Figure 19


I am sure there are many more unrecorded discoveries made by other Trinidad collectors and would be happy to hear details. Please email me at e.barrow1@verizon.net

## 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.


## Auction Update

## By Charles Freeland

There has been plenty of material on offer over the last quarter, but little of it has been of much interest to BWI specialists. My general impression is that there remains demand from BWI collectors for reasonably priced specialist material but the 'big ticket' investment items have been difficult to shift at anything like their recent realisations and there is little interest in run of the mill material. The trade may be concerned that the Gibbons investment scheme is coming close to a key redemption date - indeed Gibbons have been bombarding us with 'cut-price' investment offers.

## Victoria Stamp Company 6 June ( $15 \%$ BP)

Not a lot of BWI in Phoebe's summer auction, but as always there were some very tempting items. For my taste the splendid range of 30 Antigua preadhesive covers originally formed by Mark Swetland provided the cream. The Codrington and Tudway correspondences provide ample numbers of straight line Antigua marks but they include some elusive varieties, nearly all of which Mark had tracked down. The rarities were fiercely fought over, with a stubborn phone bidder the winner of all but the most important one and even the commoner marks sold for good prices, although their quality was well above average. The two 1780 PD1s were $\$ 1,700$ and $\$ 900$ respectively and the difficult PD12a $\$ 950$. The rarest mark was the unique italic PD4 which went to the book for $\$ 2,000$ while what Mark wrote up to be a variant PD4a, although I think is in fact a PD5, was $\$ 1,300$. A very fine Crowned Circle was bid up to $\$ 1,100$.
In the last Bulletin I mentioned the St. Vincent GVI 10s with inverted watermark, and this went for $\$ 6,500$ even though it had two tiny tone spots. Phoebe's customers plainly like watermark varieties - a St. Christopher $1 / 2 d$ with watermark reversed, which failed to sell at a $£ 100$ estimate in the Study Circle auction last year, fetched $\$ 425$. A good range of Bermuda keyplates almost all found buyers, quite an achievement in today's market. Again, there were high prices for choice u/m GV stamps. The Barbados 1912 set, the three top values with their plate plugs, was $\$ 550$ and the Montserrat and St. Kitts Tercentenary sets $\$ 275$ and $\$ 1,400$ respectively. The British Honduras $\$ 5$ SG:110 u/m was even more spectacular at $\$ 700$, but this was actually the deep shade from Plate 3. In Leeward Is., a used 7d Sexagenary with double overprint was $\$ 3,750$ and a Plate 8 block of the GV 5 s on orange buff paper was $\$ 700$.

## Shreves 24 JuLy ( $\mathbf{2 0 \%}$ BP UP TO $\mathbf{\$ 2 , 0 0 0 , 1 5 \%}$ ABOVE THAT)

The Richard Rinkoff sale of British Commonwealth presented a typical US-style collection of plain vanilla mint stamps, with the rare items lotted singly and the residual as collections valued very conservatively and hence selling well. There were many choice single stamps but few of them were BWI. The Grenada was the best and there was active bidding, with the manuscript postages achieving $\$ 12 \mathrm{k}$ for the red and $\$ 3.75 \mathrm{k}$ for the black. Some rare St. Vincent stamps also went well. But no prices stood out and it was difficult to tell whether lots that went to the book actually sold.

## Other houses

Although I have only singled out two auctions, there have been other important BWI offerings. The top hammer price was $\$ 85,000$ for the Jamaica inverted centre corner pair in the Cunliffe sale at Shreves. The results of the rarity sale at Spink on 18 June must have disappointed consignors as only 5 of the 11 BWI lots sold, and only the Cayman Is. cover franked with three of the rare war tax stamps at $£ 7,500$ fetched more than its low estimate. Another rarity was the ex-Steindler St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Company local at Harmers, which went for $£ 3,000$. However, the brochures for the Hugh Wood and Lord Vestey displays at the Royal were the highlight of the quarter - now we know where many of the most desirable BWI rarities reside.

## Future events

I have not heard of any major BWI offering coming up in the UK, but Rob Wynstra's award display of village mail of the Leewards group up to 1930 has been consigned for the Victoria auction at the end of the year. This contains nearly all the choicest early village covers recorded, including for example the manuscript markings of Dominica and St. Kitts and TRDs of Anguilla, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Virgin Is. In the same sale Phoebe will offer David Herendeen's Br. Commonwealth postage dues. Those who attended the joint meeting with the BCPSG in 2000 may recall that David showed slides of his BWI dues, which included the Barbados inverted centre variety and much proof material. And don't forget to keep an eye on dealer websites. Three of our specialist dealer members, Ed Barrow, David Druett and Michael Hamilton have just upgraded theirs.

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

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

## Librarian's Report

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## 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 \#221). 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:

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