

KGVI PERFORATION VARIETIES BY JOHN KEEGAN



Philatelic cover including the 12c perf 14½ x 14, registered at Castries on the 12 Aug 1950.



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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

OBJECTS

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

**Opinions expressed in articles in this Bulletin are those of the authors
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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS

- Saturday 16 April 2011 – AGM and Auction.
At Grosvenor Auction premises 399 Strand, London, 3rd floor.
Ring the bell on the right of the inside door to request entry.
Auction viewing from 11:00; AGM at 1:15; followed by auction at 2:15.
- Saturday and Sunday 8/9 October – Convention (see below).

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

This year sees some changes in our Study Circle; we will be voting at our AGM on 16 April for a new President and Vice-President following the passing of Victor Toeg. I believe that it is very important that we have as many of our members attending the AGM as possible so that we may have a representative vote. So please make a note in your diaries to keep that day free.

We have also decided to change the format of our bi-ennial Convention; we have decided to go for a two day event on Saturday and Sunday 8th/9th October at the Brook Honiley Court Hotel. The conference facilities there are second to none, as those who attended the Conventions in 2005 and 2007 can attest. A two day event will give more members the opportunity to attend and I'm sure our regular dealers will be pleased to have the extra day. There will be a seminar given by Chris Harman on National & International Exhibiting on the Saturday. As usual, there will be two formal displays on the Sunday, Simon Goldblatt will show his Virgin Islands, the other display has yet to be arranged.

We can promise a superb weekend of philately. We look forward to welcoming you all at this event.

CHICAGOPEX 2010

Members will be pleased to hear that our book, 'TRINIDAD A Philatelic History to 1913' by Sir John Marriott, Ben Ramkissoon and Michael Medlicott, was awarded a Gold Medal at CHICAGOPEX 2010. This is a fine book and I encourage any member who has yet to buy a copy to do so immediately. You never know, it might just sell out!

Also, one of our distinguished members, Edmund Bayley was awarded a Gold Medal at the same show for his latest book 'The Stamps of Barbados – Vol. III'. Congratulations, Edmund!

MESSAGE FROM CHARLES FREELAND, ACTING PRESIDENT

I was surprised and honoured by the trust the Committee has shown in accepting our Chairman Peter Ford's proposal to nominate me as President of the Circle in succession to Victor Toeg. Victor was one of my early mentors and although many readers may only know him when he was well advanced in age, I can assure you that forty years ago he was an inspiration and valuable guide to a naïve young collector.

The fact that the Committee will be putting my name forward for confirmation at the next AGM is in no way intended to prevent alternative candidates standing. We do not have a written constitution, but I am happy that Peter Ford has invited other nominations so as to ensure due process. Moreover, I will be suggesting to the Committee that our President and Vice-Presidents should have formal three year terms, with the right to stand for re-election if they wish to carry on. This recognises that it is not always easy to fill vacancies in society officers, indeed volunteers would be welcome for any of our Committee posts, each of which is formally renewed at the AGM. This includes the Study Group Leaders, who are not formally appointed; who knows, your offer might be accepted with alacrity, especially if you wish to take over my aptly named 'Miscellaneous' portfolio.

The Committee did consider whether we actually need a President as well as a Chairman, given that we had no Chairman until Victor became unable to conduct an active Presidency. Our conclusion was that we do, if only to relieve Peter Ford, who is extremely active as Publications Officer as well as Committee Chairman, of some of the more routine but still onerous duties. I do not propose to interfere, any more than I have been doing hitherto as Vice President, in the way he runs our business, but a second pair of eyes is no bad thing. And it may be that I can do some strategic thinking on our continuing need to attract new members. It is amazing to me that so many fine BWI collections are formed by non-members. I also find it shocking that quite a number of UK-based BCGPSG members are not among the BWISC membership. I propose in particular to try to increase our public visibility by having more articles in the general stamp magazines, and it may interest prospective authors to know that GSM pays (modestly) for decent research articles. I hope all of us recommend the Circle when we meet other BWI collectors, but I plan to reinforce the incentives by proposing to the Committee that any member that recruits a new paid-up member should merit a one-year free subscription. Our dealer members in particular should be able to earn themselves free subs for life. Another aim should be to somehow reach the many bidders on ebay for BWI material, because even if they start as non-specialist collectors, they are potential longer term members. Maybe our members who are regular ebay sellers can play a role here.

It is probable that in the near future we will need to raise our annual subscriptions to meet ever increasing costs. Some of you may not be aware how low our subs are on comparison with similar specialist societies, much of it down to the healthy income our auctions generate. But I hope to persuade the Committee to adopt a range of cost-saving measures to moderate the pain.

We are fortunate as a Society in having a fairly stable membership, and not experiencing declining numbers as many societies are. This I believe is mostly down to the resounding success of our two Vice Presidents, Simon Goldblatt and Steve Jarvis, as auction manager and Bulletin editor respectively, but we are all getting older and the search for younger blood must remain a continuous one.

I reinforce our Chairman's hope that those of you in reach of London will make an effort to attend our AGM and auction. He and I come over from Spain and Switzerland respectively, so it is puzzling to hear that many of those who live close to London often have 'prior engagements'. If the Circle is not providing what you want, the AGM is your chance to criticise or preferably present constructive proposals. And if you find our Bulletin is not covering your own area of interest, write something because that usually generates useful feedback, as well as making life easier for our editor.

PUBLIC AUCTION #29 ~ SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011



Our March Public Auction features a major holding of Bahamas, the Paul A. Larsen Exhibit of Barbados, the Thomas S. Osdene, PhD Collection of Falkland Islands, an excellent collection of Montserrat, the "Max Simon" Collection of Virgin Islands, the "Mumpara" Collection of Zululand, Part I of the Winter Collection of Postage Dues and much, much more!



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1921 6d red and blue-green 'Abolition of slavery' IMPERFORATE PLATE PROOF with good to large margins, in issued colours on ungummed wmk MCA paper. Ironed creases but very fine appearance and certainly the best of the three examples which we have been able to trace, being much finer than the 'ex Cameron' example which recently realised \$4700 in New York. An important and highly desirable proof, just as rare as the few surviving perforated examples without 'SPECIMEN' (see catalogue footnote after SG 89). Ex De La Rue archives (RL Bermuda Dec 76, lot 654 = RL Bermuda Feb 79, lot 590).



1921 (Oct) Script wmk (sideways) 6d red and blue-green 'Abolition of slavery,' perf 14 (comb), WITHOUT 'SPECIMEN' OPT, large part o.g. One of just four such surviving examples in private hands, being the lower right stamp from an original upper right corner block of 4 which has long been separated. Ex Erickson (RL 6/9/72, lot 1170 = RL 22/1/86, lot 1621), and previously ex Brandon (RL 17/12/58, lot 178 when still with its right margin). Slight toning of little significance, but fine appearance with excellent colour, and one of the greatest and most distinctive of British Empire rarities. The first example that we have had in stock for over 30 years ! (cat £30,000, see footnote after SG 78/89). [The other three examples are 1) Surtees (RL 14/9/76, lot 605) with top margin, 2) Cameron (RL 5/11/74, lot 218) with corner margins, and 3) Sir Gawaine Baillie (Sothebys 16/2/2005, lot 950).]

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ANTIGUA

THE COLOUR CHANGES OF 1921–29

BY JOHN JORDAN

During the 1920s, foreign postage rates changed four times in the Leeward Islands. Rates rose in 1920–22 due to post-war inflation and then reverted in 1926–28 to their original levels. Stamp colours changed, driven by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) colour scheme. Linking colour and rate changes can be difficult, however, because of time lags as well as confusion in the literature about how the colour scheme worked. Charles Freeland's excellent display of Antigua's 1921–29 King George V definitive issues at our Autumn Philatex meeting has prompted me to try to clarify the relationship for Antigua.

This article covers the colour changes for Antigua and for the Leeward Islands general issues, which were used concurrently in Antigua. I have relied on the Gibbons catalogue (see References) for dates of issue.

The UPU colour scheme

The UPU established standard postage rates for the exchange of mail between its members. It also established a uniform colour scheme for stamps representing the Union's three main standard rates (see following paragraph). The colour scheme became obligatory on 1 October 1907, and Antigua's bi-coloured ½d, 1d and 2½d values were accordingly replaced with mono-colour versions in 1908–9. (The ½d and 2½d were sent to Antigua in December 1906, so the island may have issued them earlier than the 1908 date shown in Gibbons. Please check your early dates).

For our period, the colour scheme is best explained by Article VI of the 1920 UPU regulations, which reads as follows in the official translation for the British Post Office:

- "1. The postage stamps representing the typical rates of the Union or their equivalent in the currency of each country are printed in the following colours:
- the stamp representing the postage on a single-rate letter, in dark blue;
 - the stamp representing the postage on a postcard, in red;
 - the stamp representing the postage for the first unit of weight of other articles, in green."

The UPU allowed members to form smaller postal unions and groupings with rates lower than the standard rates. The Leeward Islands had such concessionary rates for mail to the British Empire and to the US and its Dependencies. The UPU colour scheme had nothing to do with such rates, and 'Foreign', as used in this article, excludes them, as it does in Oliver (see References). Nor did the scheme have anything to do with Leeward Islands internal postcard and letter rates, contrary to Oliver (p. 51).

Foreign Postage Rates of the Leeward Islands

The relevant foreign rate changes during the 1920s were as follows (Oliver pp. 157–60):

	Letter (per ½ oz)	Postcard	Other Articles (minimum)
Since 1 January 1893	2½d	1d	½d
1 June 1920		1½d	
1 February 1922	3d		
1 April 1926	2½d		
1 August 1928		1d	
UPU Colour Scheme	blue	red	green

The rates were stable between 1893 and 1920. (The War Tax applied only to Empire and US mail). The Leeward and Antigua 2½d, 1d and ½d stamps therefore entered the 1920s in shades of blue, red or green, respectively. Subsequent changes in letter and postcard rates led to new colours. The fixed 'other articles' rate did not.

1d and 1½d Colours (Issue dates and colour designations per Gibbons)

	1d		1½d	
	<u>Antigua</u>	<u>Leeward Is.</u>	<u>Antigua</u>	<u>Leeward Is.</u>
1921	carmine-red	carmine-red	–	–
1922		bright violet	dull orange	–
1923	bright violet			–
1926			carmine-red	carmine-red
1929	bright scarlet	bright scarlet	pale red-brown	red-brown

The foreign postcard rate increased from 1d to 1½d on 1 June 1920, too late to be taken into account in Antigua's new 1921 KGV issues. So these included a 1d in a now-obsolete carmine-red and no 1½d. The latter required preparation of a new duty.

Colour adjustments for the new rate began in 1922. The 1d was re-issued in bright violet in 1922 (Leeward) and 1923 (Antigua). The 'Monograph' (see References) erroneously attributes the Antigua colour change to a new 1923 rate, which did not exist.

Antigua's new 1½d stamp was issued in 1922. Under the UPU colour scheme, it should have been red. In fact, it was dull-orange, probably to maintain colour consistency with the 1½d War Tax stamp. (Confirmation is needed.) The tax was abolished on 1 February 1922 and the remaining War Tax stamps were sold as normal postage (Oliver pp. 155–6). The new, non-compliant 1½d may have been short-lived. It had only one small printing and its colour, or certainly a very similar shade, was taken by the 2½d in the next year.

In 1926, Antigua's 1½d was finally corrected to carmine-red and the first Leeward 1½d was issued in the same colour. The 'Monograph' incorrectly attributes these colour changes to the new 1926 Empire letter rate, which was, of course, irrelevant. They were simply delayed adjustments to the 1920 rate change. Dominica and Montserrat had already conformed their 1½d stamps to various red shades in 1923, followed by St. Kitts-Nevis in 1925. The Virgin Islands would do so in 1927.

In the event, the 1926 colour changes became obsolete after two years. On 1 August 1928 the foreign postcard rate reverted to 1d. Colour adjustments were now prompt. In 1929 the Antigua and Leeward 1d values were re-issued in bright scarlet and the 1½d values in red-brown. The 'Monograph' again erroneously attributes the colour changes to a new 1929 Empire letter rate. This was, once again, irrelevant, and probably non-existent; neither Oliver nor the Colonial Office Lists mentions any new Empire rates between 1927 and 1930.

2½d and 3d Colours (Issue dates and colour designations per Gibbons)

	2½d		3d	
	<u>Antigua</u>	<u>Leeward Is.</u>	<u>Antigua</u>	<u>Leeward Is.</u>
1921		bright blue	purple/yellow	purple/yellow
1922	bright blue			
1923	orange-yellow	orange-yellow		light ultramarine
1927	ultramarine	bright blue		purple/yellow

Colour changes for new foreign letter rates are straightforward and have caused no confusion.

On 1 February 1922, the rate rose from 2½d to 3d. Most of the colours were conformed in 1923. The Leeward 3d changed from purple/yellow to light ultramarine and the Antigua and Leeward 2½d changed from bright blue to orange-yellow. Antigua's 3d, on the other hand, was never altered from purple/yellow.

On 1 April 1926, the rate reverted to 2½d. Accordingly, in 1927, the 2½d was re-issued in ultramarine (Antigua) and bright blue (Leeward), and the Leeward 3d returned to purple/yellow.

CONCLUSIONS

I believe this to be a correct, and nearly complete, account of all of the colour changes. It should clear up some prior errors. Those of the 'Monograph' resulted from unfortunate reliance upon an anonymous 1944 article in Stamp Collecting, which too often attributed colour changes to irrelevant or spurious rate changes. Oliver's linking of the UPU colour scheme with internal rates, in his otherwise excellent book, was probably an oversight.

Questions remain about Antigua's 1922 1½d in non-compliant dull orange:

- Was the colour chosen for consistency with the 1½d War Tax Stamp? (The 1921–22 1½d values of Dominica and Montserrat adopted similar colours, perhaps for the same reason.)
- Was the 1½d withdrawn in 1923 when the 2½d appeared in almost the same colour?
- If so, what met the 1½d rates for external postcards and internal letters until 1926?

Can any member help?

REFERENCES

- *Colonial Office List*, London, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930.
- *Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 2010*, Ringwood, Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 2009.
- *King George Definitive Stamps*, BCPSG Journal, October 1977. (A draft section of the 'Antigua Monograph', sadly never published in complete and final form.)
- Oliver, M.N.: *The Leeward Islands/Notes for Philatelists*, London, BWISC, 2000.

ANTIGUA / BWI**UNRECORDED SPECIMEN VARIETIES**

BY CHARLES FREELAND

At our meeting at Philatex last November, among the modest assortment of GV Antigua I put up (see gallery) was a specimen of the 1922 4s value showing the final letter 'N' with a distinctly short lower right leg. I have seen one or two others like this, notably in Montserrat specimens of the same vintage. Dealer member Mark Harvey has offered these and others at a premium to ordinary specimen prices. I wonder whether this might be a constant variety that appeared late in the life of the overprint forme. If others have similar examples, particularly if they are in multiples or are marginal examples so as to assist in positioning, please notify me.

I also showed some other minor overprint varieties on the 1921 and 1922 values of the same Antigua set. The Samuel Type D12 overprint forme had been in use in most British colonies from 1886 so it is no surprise it should be starting to show signs of wear. Indeed, the Antigua 1922 values were some of the very last stamps to use the D12 forme and the amount of damage was the likely reason for its replacement by Type D16 in the latter half of the same year.

Do not overlook the importance of specimens in allocating printings and shades. For example, the Antigua GV 1d was first issued in 1921 in a carmine-red shade. As John Jordan explains elsewhere, the colour was changed to violet in 1923 and mauve a little later, but reverted to bright scarlet in 1929. If you are not confident of distinguishing carmine-red from bright scarlet, the specimens (one D12, the other D19 perforated) provide certainty.



CAYMAN ISLANDS

NEW FORGERY

BY GRAHAM BOOTH

I recently bought two Cayman covers with new censor markings which as far as I am aware have not been seen and recorded before. They were bought on separate occasions about four months apart and the coincidence caused me to be very suspicious. Both were sent to the Royal for expertisation and I asked Ivan Burgess to see if he could verify the signatures in the Caymans. The archives turned up a signature which although being twenty years later than the cover in question could be that of the Rev. Hicks who was the main censor on Grand Cayman, so it was no surprise that the Royal pronounced that the first cover was genuine with the signature being contemporary.



In contrast Ivan could find no record of the second, or even anybody who could relate the initials to a known name, so it was no surprise that the Royal deemed the 'Permitted' endorsement to be forged. Maybe this throws a doubt on some of the other unique or very scarce manuscript marks from the Cayman. I would be very careful without a certificate, the well known 'O K' excepted.



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GRENADA**MISSENT TO GRENADA W.I.****BY STEVE ZIRINSKY**

Dated received in St. Vincent on August 6th, 2010.

Also, in the publications section on my website: www.zirinskystamps.com/Publications.html, I have studies on various modern markings (see Grenada for example) of the British Caribbean. I like to think of it as a resource to be commented on and added to by me and others. If you have a study article or a working paper that you would like to post, please let me know.

JAMAICA**'ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF JAMAICAN PHILATELY' WEB PROJECT****BY STEVE JARVIS**

Items mentioned in the Bulletin can be accessed using this link:

<http://www.jamaicaphilately.info/bwisc>.

Activity this period has been focussed on pinning down Airmail rates up to 2000. With the help of Paul Wright and Dingle Smith we have now documented these to all destinations for all classes of mail. There are one or two gaps for specific services, sometimes where the announcements advised us to refer to our local PO for rates. Information after the 1970s was particularly hard to unearth and emphasises the importance of recording information at the time and not solely focussing on the classic period. It is now hoped that I can complete the Airmail volume for publication this year.

Peter Ford also hopes to produce an article for GSM concerning the Kent correspondence (initially from Jamaica to India). An article on the subject was included in the September 2009 Bulletin, #222 and recent activity on a Genealogy forum and through census records has identified more information (including a picture) about him, his ancestors and his wife.

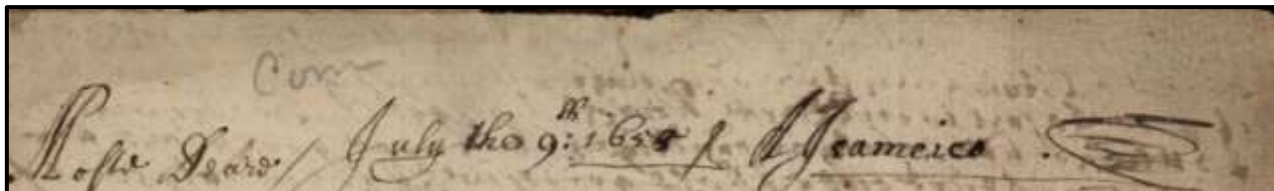
JAMAICA

1655 (JULY 9TH) OFFICERS LETTER FROM JAMAICA TO LONDON

BY ANDREW GOULD

Occasionally a new discovery is made within the philatelic world which dramatically impacts the recorded knowledge in a specific field of postal history scholarship. A folded letter from Jamaica in July of 1655 presented here is highly significant for students of Jamaican postal history and military postal historians alike.

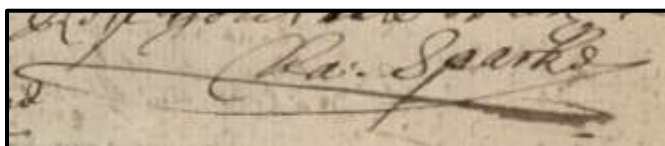
- Written by an officer within Oliver Cromwell's army during the Caribbean campaign of the Anglo-Spanish War of 1655–1660;
- The earliest recorded example of Jamaican postal history privately held.



This article will discuss the philatelic importance of this new discovery, and at the same time explore the letter's content, cast of characters, and the broader historical, military and social context within which it was written. Details about the writer himself are included, gleaned from what is recorded of him from various institutional archives identified and researched thus far.

From a philatelic perspective, the letter is a two page folded entire, approx 24cm x 18 cm with an integral address panel on one page, with original wax seals still present. The letter is dated 'July the 9th 1655' – Jamaica, written by a Charles Sparke to his brother Arthur Sparke in London.

There are no postal markings but the contents of the letter indicate the method by which the letter was carried: "*I desired Mr Stott the bearer hearof to present my petition to ye...*". Evidently the letter was carried by favour in the possession of the said Mr. Stott.



The philatelic record of Jamaican postal history has evolved according to the best collective knowledge available to authors at a particular time. Thomas Foster in his book '*Jamaica – The Postal History*' (1968) records the earliest known letter as dating to 1687. In the 1982 auction sale catalog of J.N.Sissons, Inc. of Toronto, Lot # 1 describes an entire from April 1670 which is stated to be "The earliest known letter & postal markings from Jamaica". This same cover is illustrated in colour on the first page of the brochure prepared for an exhibit by Hugh Wood at the Royal Philatelic Society in February 1992. Edward B. Proud in his book '*The Postal History of Jamaica*' (2004) also refers to this specific cover. In light of the new discovery which is the focus of this article, a new benchmark is established for the earliest known letter from Jamaica. In terms of military letters, the previous earliest recorded letter appears to date from 1735 (Appendix J, '*The Military Mail of Jamaica*' – A.P.D Sutcliffe).

Having determined the philatelic significance of the letter, natural curiosity raises questions about who Charles Sparke was and how he came to be part of the military campaign for the capture of Jamaica. Given the age of the letter and the turbulent times in which it was written, the amount of information that exists about Charles is quite surprising. A group of family papers has survived which currently resides within the Royal Commonwealth Society Library manuscript collection. From these sources we learn that Charles Sparke was one of 4 brothers, the others being Arthur, Gabrielle and Christopher. Prior to his Jamaican adventures, Charles was a citizen and fishmonger of London; Arthur and Christopher practised law. In addition to practising law, Arthur was also pursuing business dealings in the Caribbean and his brother Gabrielle had been sent to Barbados to represent those interests. Charles joined Gabrielle in Barbados several years later but evidently the relationship between Charles and Gabrielle was strained and the business ventures were failing. It was as a direct result of the deteriorating business situation and the legal repercussions that prompted Charles's change in direction as told within a letter to his mother Mary from Barbados in March 1655; "*Butt now deare I am by reason of my Brother Gabrielle's unaturall disloyalty and perfideousness am forced upon a more dangerous dessighne by farr...I hope to go of ensighne to Captain Stephen Noell in the regiment of Colonel Lewis Morris all Ilanders, and as*

wee thinke wee are Bounde for Highe Spaniora in the first place then to Cubo thence to Cartenageane wee shall Sayle within this ten days as wee expect...". In his book *'Jamaica'* author George Hunte (referring to this letter) wryly points out the laxness of military secrecy and discipline. If Charles Sparke, as an ensign, was able to openly write about the imminent military plans of the English army days before the fleet departed it could be assumed that this sort of intelligence was also learned by the Spanish in the area. Certainly the fact that a large English army was now present in the Caribbean was signal enough to Spanish possessions in the region to expect war and to prepare accordingly.

As the picture develops of the characters within Charles Sparke's world, it is important not to lose sight of the historical setting for the events in Jamaica in 1655. Oliver Cromwell holds power as 'Lord Protector' of the Commonwealth of England, a de-facto republic, having successfully defeated the royalist forces during the English civil wars of the 1640s ending with the execution of King Charles I in January 1649.

Knowing some of the circumstances that led to Charles Sparke joining the army and the specific regiment he joined, we can start to piece together histories from some of the related characters. Despite Charles Sparke recording his intention to join the regiment of Colonel Lewis Morris, a regiment raised locally in Barbados, we also know from the history of this campaign that Lewis Morris declined to go at the very last minute unless his debts were paid. The regiment was thus given to Edward D'Oyley who up to that point was a Lt. Colonel in General Venables regiment. Colonel Edward D'Oyley was later to feature as arguably the most important character in the first five years of English rule in Jamaica where his leadership was instrumental in destroying two attempts by Spanish forces to re-take the island. As an aside, it is also worth commenting on Colonel Lewis Morris who was a member of the Morris family of Monmouthshire, Wales. Colonel Lewis had raised troops in support of the English Parliament and was second in command in the attack on Chepstow Castle in 1648 against royalist forces where he distinguished himself by cutting off the water supply to the castle and setting it alight. After the restoration of the English monarchy with Charles II in 1660, it was not prudent for Colonel Lewis Morris to return to England, and in a well documented genealogical history, Lewis is recorded as one of the patriarchs of the Morris family of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Michigan (www.politicalfamilytree.com). Colonel Lewis Morris's descendants include US state governors and a signatory of the US Declaration of Independence, also named Lewis Morris. Other characters relating to the Jamaica campaign are also remembered in history including Admiral William Penn's son, also William Penn, who in 1682 was granted land in America by the Duke of York. William Penn became the founder of the province of Pennsylvania and oversaw the establishment of Philadelphia.

Cromwell's military schemes in the Caribbean against the Spanish were the outworking of his 'Western Design'. The English fleet commanded by Admiral William Penn and the army commanded by General Robert Venables departed Spithead in December 1654 and after arriving in Barbados in January 1655, raised approximately 3,000 additional troops comprised of volunteers from the population of indentured servants and early settlers in Barbados, Montserrat, Nevis and St. Kitts. As stated earlier, we know our correspondent Charles Sparke joined the army 10 days before the fleet left Barbados in April 1655. Cromwell had given orders to Penn and Venables to attack and seize Spanish territorial possessions in the Caribbean, notably Hispaniola. Following the disastrous attack on Hispaniola, Penn and Venables turned their attention toward Jamaica which at the time proved to be lightly defended. The fleet arrived at Jamaica on 10 May and following a bombardment the port was taken on 11 May 1655. The army advanced inland but most of the Spanish inhabitants escaped to Cuba from the north side of the island after turning loose their african slaves to fight a guerilla war together with a remnant of Spanish soldiers. The guerilla war was to last an additional five years and included two further battles after the Spanish had landed several hundred reinforcements in an attempt to win back the island. A comprehensive account of the Jamaican invasion and military actions up to 1660 can be found in S.A.G Taylor's book *'The Western Design; an account of Cromwell's expedition to the Caribbean.'* (1965). Taylor further describes the scenario as follows; "the fate of the soldiers who remained behind in Jamaica was as grim as any recorded in the long annals of the British Army. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse ruled the land." Half of the original invasion force was dead by the end of the year from dysentery, malaria, and starvation. (pp.87,91).

Charles Sparke's letter is rich in emotion and details firsthand commentary of the hardships faced while at the same time provides glimpses of optimism. Selected quotes from the letter transcript make interesting reading:

"..wee are all prisoners heare, for how longe I know nott for I have bourne my owne expense all alonge and proffered to pay my passage to goe for England and it woulde nott be granted mee"... "I beleave if my lord p'tector knew how wee are searved & starved for want of breade he woulde tye sum up from their mits(?) when thay cum home, they take worse care and provission for our eveninges(?) then for dogs(?)."

"Wee bury comonly 105 in a day. Butt(?)if wee settle this island(?) Lord Protector will give mee certificate(?) your procuringe of five hundred akers of lande and you furnishe mee with sarvntes and nessesaryes as I want I shall(?) God's assistance quickly send you over a better (?) estate then yt yow have in England..."

"Itt is as gallant(?) lande as cann be settled for sugar, cotton, tobacco, indeco, ginger, horses and cows & 10000s of neager and mules enough."

"I pray do find my mother to make me 6 shirts and linen drawers large and goode and nott long, 6 capps & handkerchefes.".... "I pray sende mee two of the beste & largest wascoates wth a good saddle & bridle girtes sturrups halter strong & good..."

"a goode fowlinge piece wth two lookes wte a moulde fitt to itt wth fufity poundes of pidgoin shott & fourty poundes of swan shott wte fufity poundes of good powder, 2 (?) of brandy, a barrill of the best baked breade wth sum oatmeale, 6 fallinge(?), 6 narrow hoes, 6 broade hoes, 2 crawscutt saws".

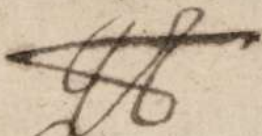
It is not yet known what became of Charles Sparke after 1660. He is not specifically named as a landowner in a survey of Jamaican landowners completed in Jamaica in 1670, although there is record of a 'Sparke' holding 600 acres of land in Barbados in 1673. Whether or not the 600 acre 'Sparke' landholding in Barbados in 1673 relates to our correspondent Charles Sparke is difficult to confirm.

The Charles Sparke letter is an extraordinary artifact from the earliest days of the English colony of Jamaica made even more interesting on account of the information that can be traced about the writer and others referred to by him in his letters. Further research may yet shed more light on the life and fate of Charles Sparke meanwhile his unwitting legacy to the world of philately survives to this day and has become the subject of this article.

I would be pleased to hear of any further information that members can supply (through the Editor).

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- S.A.G.Taylor, *The Western Design: An account of Cromwell's expedition to the Caribbean* (1965)
- Library Notes: The Royal Commonwealth Society, London (April 1967) p1–3
- George Hunte, *Jamaica* (1976)
- www.politicalfamilytree.com (genealogy of Colonel Lewis Morris)
- The Manuscript Catalogue of the library of the Royal Commonwealth Society (London 1975)
- A.P.D.Sutcliffe, M.A (Cantab), *The Military Mail of Jamaica – A Philatelic History*.
- Thomas Foster, *Jamaica – The Postal History 1662–1860*. (1968)
- Edward B Proud, *The Postal History of Jamaica* (2004)
- Miscellaneous auction catalogues featuring Jamaica postal history


 To his Ever Loving
 Brother on Arthur
 Sparks this is a standing
 Land opposit to Mr. John
 Laaton's Turners
 House London 1791


 To his Ever Loving
 Brother on Arthur
 Sparks this is a standing
 Land opposit to Mr. John
 Laaton's Turners
 House London 1791

[illegible][illegible]

JAMAICA

MANUSCRIPT 'SHIP LETTER' & COMMERCIAL ROOMS

BY DICK HEMMINGS

I was wondering about two items I recently acquired for my collection.

An 1815 E.L. to Edinburgh with manuscript 'Ship Letter' close to FALMOUTH/JA (Type T3). Foster mentions this as a footnote on page 73 of his book and I am curious as to how many such entires have been recorded and their dates?



A letter dated 28 May 1818 which I assume is via the Commercial Rooms bearing two strikes of 'Kingston * Jamaica' mark measuring approx. 53mm and similar to Foster's CR2 'A' but with an asterisk between Kingston and Jamaica. The 'J' of Jamaica is also dropped and a stop appears after Jamaica. CR2 'Commercial Rooms' does not appear to have been used.



I would appreciate any further information from other members.

REFERENCE:

- Thomas Foster, *Jamaica, The Postal History 1662–1860*, Robson Lowe, 1968.

LEEWARDS / BERMUDA

KING GEORGE V VARIETY

BY ROGER B WEST

Further to the item submitted by Sir Geoffrey Palmer, your readers may be interested in the following similar variety. This one occurs on the Leeward Islands Multiple Script CA 10s – I have it on a Specimen stamp so that at least confines it to the original printing.



BWI**UPDATE ON SLOGAN MACHINE CANCELS****BY DAVID WATSON**

To update my article on slogan cancels since the mid-1970s (Bulletin 219, 36–7), the following were also used (all at GPOs):

BAHAMAS

- 1980 'CENSUS 1980/HELP BAHAMAS/COUNT'
- 1981 '10TH ANNIVERSARY/NEW POSTAL BUILDING'
- 1984 '9th October/-UPU DAY'
- 1988 '250th ANNIVERSARY/JOHN WESLEY'S/CONVERSION'
- 1990 'INTERNATIONAL/CUSTOMS DAY/JANUARY 26th'

BERMUDA

- 1974 'REMEMBER/to use the/POST CODE'
- 1984 'BERMUDA/375th Anniversary/1984'
- 1985 'INTERNATIONAL/YOUTH YEAR/1985'
- 1986 'BERMUDA/JUNIOR SERVICE LEAGUE/50TH ANNIVERSARY/1936–1986'
- 1991 'THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH/AWARD IN BERMUDA/1966–1991'*
- 1994 '75th Anniversary of International/Labour Organisation's/Founding'*
- 2007 'TECHNOLOGY/EVERYDAY/EVERYWHERE/EVERYONE'

Note: * symbol to left.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

- 1971/3 'SUPPORT/THE/RED CROSS'

ST. KITTS-NEVIS-ANGUILLA

- 1974 'MINI ISLES/MAXI POTENTIAL'



I am very grateful for input from Jack Harwood, John Chay & Tom Giraldi. My thanks to Jack for his input on Bahamian cancels. Thanks to John Chay for pointing me to 'Machine Cancellations of Trinidad & Tobago 1923–1997' by J.N. Ali and R.G. Wike (published by the excellent Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago). Tom Giraldi's listing of Cayman Islands' machine cancels was also very clear.

METER CANCELS FROM ACROSS THE CARIBBEAN: NEW INFORMATION BY DAVID WATSON

[A longer version of this article is on the BWISC website]

Information about BWI meter cancels is being released online, free to readers, via the *International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog*:

http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog. Data are being loaded for countries in alphabetical order. As of Christmas 2010, the BWI were covered in detail from Anguilla to Guyana. The website also provides a wealth of related information: the basics of meter cancel collecting; how to find the geographical origin of your cancel; meter manufacturers worldwide; meter cancel collecting societies; and a glossary, abbreviations, symbols and bibliography.

Meter cancels were first used in some of the larger BWI territories. Earliest-recorded dates are as follows: Anguilla: 1985; Antigua: 1976; Bahamas: 1967; Barbados: 1937 (the cancel shown in Figure 1 appears to be a proof); Bermuda: 1949; British Guiana/Guyana: 1936; British Honduras/Belize: 1967; British Virgin Islands: 1976; Cayman Islands: 1970; Dominica: 1969; Grenada: 1961; Jamaica: 1939; Trinidad & Tobago: 1930. *Does anyone have evidence of earlier usage for any of the territories in this list?* Information to me at watson1967@live.co.uk please.

FIGURE 1



The Caribbean collector has only a handful of different manufacturers of cancellers to consider (Figure 1):

- **Universal/Pitney-Bowes (USA):** all BWI territories [except BVI]; also found on mail from Cuba, Curacao, Dominican Republic & US Virgin Islands.
- **Roneo Neopost (UK):** most BWI territories [except Anguilla, the Bahamas & Belize/British Honduras].
- **Francotyp-Postalia (Germany):** Bermuda & Trinidad and Tobago, plus Cuba, Curacao & Surinam.
- **Hasler (originally Switzerland; now part of Neopost SA in France):** Bermuda, plus Curacao & Dominican Republic.
- **Satas (France):** British Guiana/Guyana, Jamaica & Trinidad and Tobago, plus Dominican Rep.

Little appears to have been published on the more limited usage of postal meter machines by post offices themselves in the BWI. *Can anyone cast more light on this?*

Traditional sources of postal history information – in this case quite a few articles and books – review the use of postal meters in several but by no means all BWI territories. The main BWI-specific sources of information are given below. All of these list meter users. Similar listings are needed for some of the smaller BWI territories. *In particular does anyone have new information on meter machine users in the Leeward Islands?*

REFERENCES

- E.A. Bayley, *The history of the post offices in Barbados*, pp. 263–76, (2009) publ. by the author.
- D. Sutcliffe & S. Jarvis, *Jamaica Meter Marks*, [BWISC website: Articles].
- R.G. Wike, *Trinidad & Tobago Postal Meter Stamps*, (1979).
- Harry Hayes, *Philatelic Study* 36.

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BWI**POSTAL CANCEL INFORMATION****BY DAVID WATSON**

Much has been written about postal cancels used in the BWI, but there is still considerable scope to push back the boundaries of knowledge. Clearly market availability and bank balance are limiting. But over time, in my case many years of tramping round fairs and auctions, one can build a sizeable list of previously unreported cancels and new dates to add to published usage ranges. My current list is provided in the latter part of this article. [My current list is only provided in the long version of this article on the BWISC website]. Examination of my list has shown that it is possible to quantify, in general terms, the difficulty of finding new information about cancels from different parts of the BWI. The findings from this review will hopefully encourage philatelic specialists in particular West Indian territories to examine their own collections to see what they can add to the published literature.

From my detailed listing of new information, below, BWI territories can be ranked according to the difficulty or ease of getting new information about cancels:

Finding new information about postal cancels (most to least difficult areas):

BRITISH HONDURAS/BELIZE > ANGUILLA >
JAMAICA > BARBADOS > BERMUDA >
ST. LUCIA, TRINIDAD/TOBAGO > BAHAMAS, TURKS/CAICOS >
CAYMANS, GRENADA, ST. VINCENT, ANTIGUA >
DOMINICA > MONTSEERRAT > B.V.I., ST. KITTS/NEVIS > GUYANA

Is this because more has been published on cancels from some countries? The following listing is based on numbers of respective reference books:

Amount of published information on postal cancels:

JAMAICA > BRITISH HONDURAS/BELIZE >
BARBADOS, TRINIDAD/TOBAGO >
ANGUILLA > B.V.I., BERMUDA, DOMINICA, MONTSEERRAT, ST. LUCIA >
BAHAMAS, CAYMANS, GRENADA, ST. VINCENT, ANTIGUA,
ST. KITTS/NEVIS, TURKS/CAICOS >
GUYANA

The correlation between the two lists above is surprisingly weak. Another possible factor influencing difficulty in finding new facts about cancels might be the quality of published information. But there are at least two major publications for most of the above countries. Probably more important is how up-to-date information is in the many publications available. There is a tendency to stop in the 1960s. But postal history didn't stop then. Indeed there has been relatively little reported on post-independence cancels, even though independence has led to considerable change in the postal systems of many former BWI territories.

On a purely practical level, if you're primarily interested in collecting rather than research, countries in the first halves of both lists would seem the better bet. The second halves of the lists appear to be more promising if you're a researcher.

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LEEWARDS

USED IN ...?

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT

Some of us, I know, embark on the sometimes frustrating task of collecting the Leeward issues used in our favourite islands. Up to now, I do not believe that we have tried to collate the results. How far does one get, when one tries to get one's targeted postmark on one of everything?

My direct experience relates only to Virgin Islands, of which more in a moment. I only assume, and have not tried to verify that with Antigua or St. Kitts the task will be (relatively!) simple, with Dominica, possible, and with Montserrat and Nevis there will be inevitable gaps. So what is the real-life experience?

Reverting to Virgin Islands, we have to thank the producers of philatelic mail for providing reasonably broad coverage of issues that would otherwise be non-existent, and it probably stems from the very real difficulty in obtaining the 19th century classics used – a fact which was common knowledge in the early part of the 20th century. Here then are my personal results, taken only to the end of KG5, as I prefer not to collect beyond that period.

QV issues. The first issue can, with application, be found with Virgin Islands cancels on each of the eight values. Indeed, the exercise can be repeated three times to produce sets cancelled Tortola cds, 'A91' and 'A13'. The last of these is going to yield stamps cancelled in or shortly after 1902, when 'A13' was brought briefly back into use after a lapse of about 30 years. Thus the 1902 surcharges will be found with cds or 'A13' cancel, but not, I think, with 'A91', unless cancelled by favour at a later date.



Tortola cds



'A91'



'A13'

The Sexagenary overprints in practice demand the impossible. As far as I can tell, only one example of the 5s value has survived, used at Tortola, and this one – whose distinguished pedigree includes Charlton Henry and Victor Toeg – is cancelled 'A13', therefore posthumous.

Contemporary examples received 'A91' or the Tortola cds. Stamps reimported in the new century would probably get the 'Virgin Islands' cds in about 1901. My own efforts have harvested the set to 7d with 'A91', to 1s with cds, and the knowledge that this cds was at times used by favour, backdated – and the date, if legible, may pre-date the first day of issue.



A91



cds

KE7 issues. These are the least troublesome to acquire. Killers were no longer used, unless by favour, and usage during the King's reign will generally show the earlier single-ring Tortola cds or the subsequent double-ring Road-town instrument. The least findable of the KE issues are possibly the ¼d and the ½d green, which is not to say that the earlier MCA 1s will prove easy. By contrast, the 1910–11 high values are as likely to have been used from Tortola as anywhere else in the Leeward group.



A13

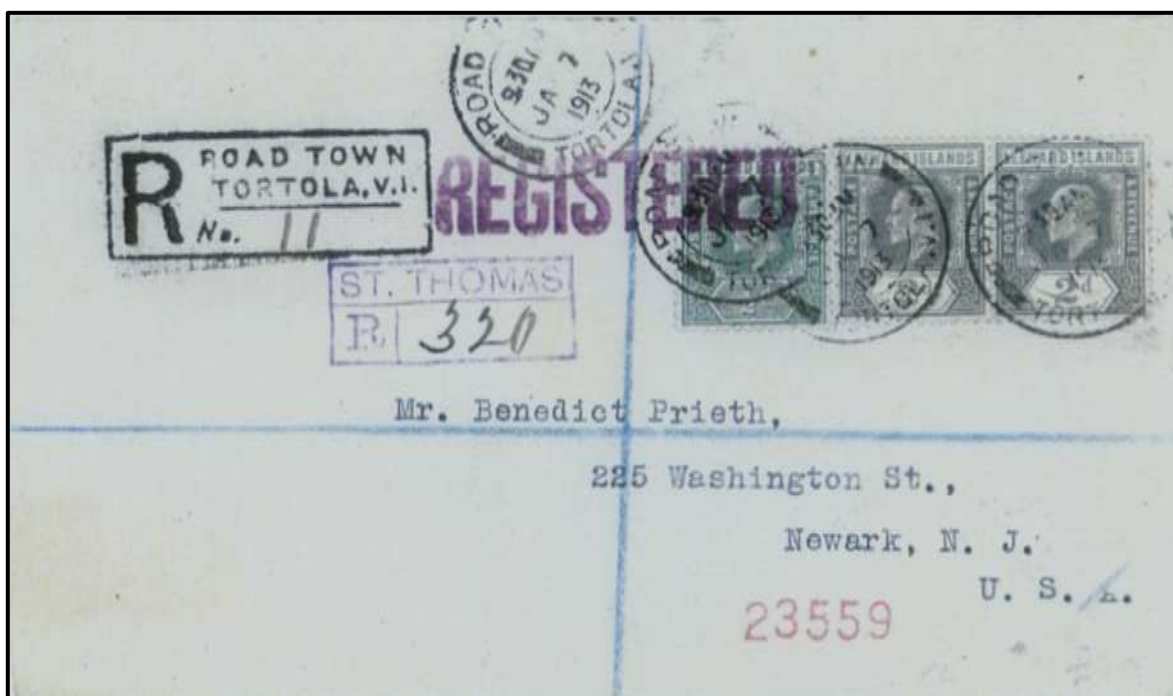


A91



East End

Sub Offices. It must be doubtful whether the village offices for Virgin Gorda, West End, East End and the wholly elusive Anegada carried any stock of Leewards stamps, as what turns up at this period is almost invariably on Virgin Islands stamps or postal stationery. My sole example, the rare East End on KE 1d red, does no more than raise a question mark.



KG5 issues. These introduce the challenge of a range of shades and papers. If you are happy with one of each value and watermark you should not have much of a problem. If the objective is one of each listed stamp, it is a different story. With the MCA issues I have put together an appropriate number of stamps: if somebody tells me that a particular paper is not represented, I should feel neither surprised nor humiliated; and in any case must accept that the 1s on white paper came from dealer's stocks in England, as the whole consignment to the Caribbean went to Montserrat.

The script watermark issues still deny me completion. Eluding my grasp are the 2s with king's head in red-purple, and the ½d Die I. It is evident that neither stamp went anywhere near Tortola, and also that few, if any, of the contemporary dealers considered the stamps important enough to have

them processed there. For my part, I've experienced so many non-sightings of these two that I've effectively given up trying.

Of the Jubilee issue nothing needs to be said. The collector who hasn't got the set used in Tortola hasn't looked. The sub-offices, primarily West End and Virgin Gorda, cancelled a much wider range of values in this reign, so that quite a lot of progress can be made, but completion is out of the question. However, the source of any but the low values will certainly have been philatelic mail; and at present I have seen no evidence that Leeward Islands stamps were brought to Anegada to be processed there. In contrast, a number of covers were created by D.G. Fonseca to receive cancels of 'JY 30 38' on the obsolescent Virgin Islands issues. In most cases the stamps were removed from cover for individual disposal.

The other islands. So which of the listed stamps find collectors of Antigua, St. Kitts and the rest struggling? The answers will, at least, throw light on the activities of German, American and British dealers of the period in securing covers sent from the Caribbean.

My guess is that Nevis, not Montserrat, may turn out to have been the most neglected, if only because there was no real shortage of used material dating from the classics of the 19th century. One can add, too, that the identity of the island was diminished when it came into joint administration with St. Kitts. Up to that time perhaps, there would have been a reasonable flow of Leeward issues used at Nevis, and if I set out to build up the sexagenary issue both from Nevis and Montserrat, I'd expect Montserrat to prove far harder – but I'm not going that route.

Adding in Dominica, travel will be fairly smooth for a good part of the way; but any collector who completes the task for any of these three territories deserves the highest commendation.

This brings me to Barbuda and Anguilla. There was considerable dealer interest in Barbuda. Even QV issues can be found artificially cancelled there in the early 1930s. There was probably less interest in processing KE issues, but KG5 MCA values to 6d, at any rate, are not too hard to find; and as the office stocked its own issue to the 5s value, it may have held equivalent Leeward values, too. One can probably acquire the £1 value cancelled there, because one certainly can with the stamps of Antigua. The story in Anguilla seems to be different. It is the issues of St. Kitts-Nevis that attract Valley cancels: on Leeward stamps they are anything but plentiful, in my experience.

There are two further points to be made. Any collation of collective results should cover the whole period of Leeward issues: my own inability to give useful information between 1938 and 1956 should not deter anyone else. Secondly, it would be valuable to hear from any of our number who have been doing the exercise comprehensively, by assembling a wide-ranging collection of 'Leewards used in...' without placing priority on any particular island. That may give a better feel for comparative difficulty even if the ongoing representation is at a much lower level than the results of those who, like myself, concentrate on a particular Presidency.



West End.



Virgin Gorda.



Anegada.



Road Town.



West End.



Kiderlen mixes his drinks in 1913.

MONTSERRAT

BOOK REVIEW – MONTSERRAT TO 1965 BY L. E. BRITNOR

BY PETER TRIBE

Second revision published by the British West Indies Study Circle with financial support from the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society Price £24.

Montserrat enthusiasts do not have a vast library to draw on so any new edition is welcome, particularly so when it is an updated and revised edition of the basic work on the island – Britnor's *Montserrat*.

The Hon. Chairman of the British West Indies Study Circle, Peter Ford, from his base in Spain, has scoured collections world-wide to bring our knowledge of the postal history of the island up to date and included many new handsome illustrations. This handbook was first published in 1965, revised initially in 1998 and again this time many of the revisions are the work of Charles Freeland.

The new edition is perfect bound with a laminated cover which will stand the test of time better than the spiral bound previous version. It incorporates the additions that were published in Edition 209 of the BWISC Bulletin.

Looking through this edition the presentation is somewhat similar but as always the interest is in the detail. There is new information on the bisects, essay and proof material, Air Mail, the War Stamps with acknowledgement to John Davis, specimens, fiscal stamps, registration and censor labels and the appendices have been enlarged to give a list of the known postal rates. There is also a useful index.

Quite a few postal markings were never seen by Britnor and indeed there have been some new ones discovered since the previous edition. These are all laid out in chronological order and it soon becomes apparent just how little material there is out there. Quite a few of the marks which have so far come to light you can count on the fingers of one hand. Two are at present unique. No postal markings have been recorded on letters from Montserrat between 1809 and 1836 and although the Montserrat Ship Letter mark was registered at the GPO around 1840 no actual use of it has so far been recorded.

The population of this island which Britain acquired from France in 1632 has never been very large, at the most a few thousand, and it is anyone's guess how many people who lived there 160 years ago were literate. So we have to be grateful for the material that has survived and indeed to some well known philatelic names without whom we would look in vain for examples of more recent usage.

The later postal markings include two new illustrations. The large Montserrat cds introduced in 1912 has been differentiated from the one that was in use after 1927 and as listed in Proud's *The Postal History of the Leeward Islands*. The dates of usage given, however, are different and it would come as no surprise to see them revised. The illustrations are also much clearer. The other new cds illustrated is one that was in use from 1951–1960.

The Official Paid marks have also been revised so that they appear chronologically and include the one which was identified a couple of years ago. The information appeared then in the Bulletin.

There is a new Paquebot mark and the apparently unique war tax marking on a 1917 commercial cover to Putney is also illustrated.

Charles Freeland has considerably revised the section on WW2 censor labels adding many new 'examiners' and quite a large section of the material I compiled on registration labels for BWISC Bulletin No 217 has been incorporated.

Overall this is a welcome new volume that will have many an enthusiast scurrying to check first and last known usage dates of a whole variety of markings but to my mind this revision does not go far enough. There are quite a few more chapters out there waiting to be written.

Peter Ford in his preface states quite clearly that no attempt has been made to extend the period of cover beyond 1965 or to include any mention of the stamps of the Leeward Islands Federation which were in concurrent usage from 1890 to June 30, 1956. One has to ask the question "Why not?" – There is no magic about 1965. It is merely the date to which Britnor compiled his information and to state that the last known usage is "after 1965" is not all that useful.

For many philatelists the mid-1960s saw the beginning of the proliferation of 'commemorative' issues and to what is considered the end of the classical collecting period. Montserrat itself issued

some 160 varieties of stamps from 1876 until the middle of 1965. In the next 10 years or so it issued more than another 200. That's a lot to keep track of and there were almost as many new cds as there were issues of stamps. But unless this information is recorded philatelists in 50 years' time will have almost as little material to draw on for the late 1900s as we have now from the early 1800s.

One can understand why information about the use of Leewards Islands stamps is not included but it is a fascinating area in its own right. The dates of issue of the stamps in the various islands that made up the Federation varied quite considerably and covers showing the mixed frankings are well sought after.

Montserrat did not issue its own postal stationery after 1903 and examples of Leewards Islands stationery used in Montserrat are really quite scarce. Information on these matters and the dumb maritime cancels which were used on both types of stamps in the early 1900s would be most welcome.

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NEVIS

SHIP LETTERS IN THE 18TH CENTURY

BY RICHARD FODEN

Three hundred years' ago, the small (six miles by eight) island of Nevis held a disproportionately important role in the trade of the British Empire: 'the Queen of the Caribbee' was the most significant producer of sugar in the World. Throughout the 18th century, the island was fought over by the dominant European powers – the Dutch, the Spanish, the French and the British.

The British had surrendered Nevis to the all-conquering French Admiral Count François de Grasse (Note 1) on 3 February 1782 but, after his defeat to Admiral Sir George Rodney at the Battle of the Saintes in September of the same year, the balance of naval power was again switching.

Peace was formally restored in September 1783: four treaties were signed in Paris, thus putting an end to the American Revolutionary War and returning to Britain almost all of the West Indian colonies that she had lost control over since 1778.

The EL illustrated in Figure 1 was penned by William Higgins on 29 July 1784 and was carried by private ship (Note 2). It is marked 'per Cap'n Cross' who was instructed to leave it at the Jamaica Coffee House (Note 3) for collection by one of the wine merchants' London representatives. The recipient's annotations show that this was a slow process: the letter finally got to Madeira on 13 November and Higgins' request for "another Pipe of your best quality" was not answered until 17 May 1785, nearly 10 months after its posting; one has to assume that business was good at the time!

Higgins had not been entirely satisfied with the way his first delivery had been handled and made a suggestion for how it might be improved:

"The last Wine is good, but new; the Pipe was in very bad order indeed by which means I lost many Gallons of the Wine but that may be attributed in some measure to the length of time the Captain kept it on board after his arrival at St. Christopher's. It would be much better if Gentlemen in this Island were to pay an additional freight to have their wine landed here, for independent of the risk and detention at St. Kitts, there is a freight of thirty odd Shillings a Pipe from thence to this Island."

THE MARK

Robertson (1955) initially recorded three 18th century variants of the two-line 'PLYMOUTH / SHIP–LRE' mark:

Type S.1: 'PLYMOUTH' 45mm; 'SHIP.LRE' 35mm

Type S.2: 'PLYMOUTH' 53mm; 'SHIP–LRE' 43mm

Type S.3: 'PLYMOUTH' 49mm; 'SHIP–LRE' 40mm

In an 1960 Addendum – squeezed in at the foot of page E.226/B – he noted one recorded usage (1773) of a fourth type:

Type S.1a: 'PLYMOUTH' 44mm; 'SHIP–LRE' 36mm

Note that this type, whilst very similar in dimension to the original Type S.1, uses a hyphen between 'SHIP' and 'LRE' rather than a full stop.

Tabcart (1997) reproduced the details provided by Robertson and, unusually, had found no new examples to extend any of the given date ranges. The mark on the Nevis EL in this article is undoubtedly of the same measurements as Type 1a and so finally does update the record by providing a second known usage.

THE AUTHOR: WILLIAM HIGGINS

Higgins was a magistrate and later became the Honourable President and Speaker of the Court of King's Bench and Common Pleas in the island's capital, Charlestown. Although by then very infirm, in 1810 he presided over the notorious case brought against the rich and powerful plantation-owner Edward Huggins Sr. in which the latter was accused of use of excessive cruelty when he oversaw the public whipping of a number of his male and female slaves at the Market Place on 23 January, as a punishment for their 'refractory' behaviour on his Pinney's Estate (Note 4). The public outcry demanded that serious charges were brought against Huggins for his "act of barbarity altogether unprecedented in this island" and yet, even though he did not deny the crime, Huggins was acquitted (admittedly by a jury that largely consisted of his own supporters) and the St. Christopher Gazette – which had published details of the case – was successfully sued for libel.

News of the decision inflamed the wrath of many of the local community, including Governor Elliott, who reported the affair to Lord Liverpool whom, in turn, reacted by procuring a Royal command whereby all of the magistrates who had witnessed the atrocities were to be summarily dismissed from office.

FIGURE 1



NOTES

- Note 1: Comte de Grasse (1722–1788), aboard the flagship 'Ville de Paris', commanded the French fleet in the Caribbean from 1779 onwards and was involved in the majority of the naval battles thereafter. However, he is most famed for his role at the Battle of the Chesapeake (1781) in the American War of Independence, after which the blockaded Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown; he even appears on the 1931 2c. U.S. sesquicentennial commemorative stamp. Despite his earlier successes, he was pilloried upon his return to France for his defeat by Rodney.
- Note 2: The letter is rated '7' (pence), made up of 2d Captain's Gratuity plus 5d British Inland rate (218 miles from Plymouth to London). It would have travelled free aboard one of the wine merchants' own ships to Madeira.

- Note 3: Situated in St. Michael's Alley in the City of London, it was originally opened in 1652 under the name of The Turk's Head as its first proprietor, Pasqua Rosée, came from Smyrna. Pepys mentions it in his diaries. It was destroyed in the Great Fire in 1666 and two years later re-opened as The Jamaica Coffee House. Transformed in the 19th century to become the Jamaica Wine House (or, as it is affectionately known, the 'Jampot'), it remains a popular drinking-hole for City traders.
- Note 4: A detailed account was published in 1811 in Appendix U of The Fifth Report of the Directors of the African Institution, a leading British abolitionist society under royal patronage and whose vice-presidents included William Wilberforce. Huggins, an "eminent planter" who had been "peculiarly successful of late years, while other planters have in general had very opposite fortune", was already renowned for the harsh treatment of his workers. By 1810, he owned over 600 slaves. This instance was in response to 'disobedience' which included their refusal to work at night (and rightly so, as this had been made illegal under the 1798 Melioration Act). 32 slaves were whipped, including Yellow Quashie who received 365 lashes, and a female slave who received 292 lashes (likewise illegally as, under the same Act, a maximum of 39 lashes was supposed to have been set).

ST. LUCIA

KGVI PERFORATION VARIETIES

BY CHARLES FREELAND

Further to Allan Leverton's inventory of recorded copies in the last Bulletin 227, I have images of five more examples. They are not so easy to identify in Allan's black and white illustrations, as few of the cancellations stand out clearly from the grey colour of the 4c stamp, but I am certain my five are different from any of those illustrated. At least half a dozen of those I have recorded were from Allan's own Temple Bar Auctions in the 1970s...and I guess he has handled more of them than any other dealer. One of the ones he does not illustrate is the copy in the Royal Collection, and that is the same stamp on the back cover of the Temple Bar auction held on 28 October 1977! Two others were found by dealers in collections (lucky day, guys!) and another one was once the right-hand half of a joined pair with Allan's number 9 (numbering from top left). The pair was offered by Bridger and Kay in 1959 but since detached, presumably because both are faulty. Two of the five were in Grosvenor and Murray Payne auctions in 2007 and 2008.

That would imply at least 15 recorded, but wait, take a close look at Allan's examples – his numbers 3 and 7 are the same stamp, as are numbers 10 and 11. So my count is 13. Few dates are visible but those that do have dates were used in February 1950, the Tomkins example probably 27 February.

I can supply details of the pedigrees of these is anyone is interested. And if you think these are trivial items, be aware that Allan's number 2 was knocked down for £9,000 hammer at Harmers Chiswick auction only last September, while the less recent Grosvenor and Murray Payne examples were similarly priced once BP and VAT is taken into account.

KGVI PERFORATION VARIETIES

BY JOHN KEEGAN

I have been following the articles on the St. Lucia KGVI Perforation Varieties in the recent Bulletins and am grateful to Allan Leverton for his information and illustrations on page 28 of Bulletin #227.

I provide images of two items, firstly the 1c value in a marginal used block of 4, the second a philatelic cover (see front cover) which includes the 12c (off centre as usual), registered at Castries on the 12 Aug 1950. I have seen one other on a similar cover on this date.

I wonder how many of the 12c are known to exist on cover?



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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

TUBERCULOSIS CHARITY LABELS

BY IAN JAKES

The 1930s began with dark clouds on the horizon. The world economy was depressed and fascism ascendant. In Trinidad unemployment rose and planters tightened the screw, lowering wages and extending tasks. In Tobago the peasants “wrestled with the earth with their bare hands for sustenance”. So wrote their poet, Eric Roach, of a people who were “like figures in bas-relief, half emerged from the heavy clay of our tragic past”.

A Commission of Enquiry found working class housing in Port of Spain “indescribable in their lack of elementary needs of decency”. Conditions were worse in the rural areas where, in places, 80 per cent of the population was infested with hookworms. Workers earned less in 1935 than in 1929 and malnutrition was rife. Life was even harder in Tobago and the poet, Eric Roach remembers “clinging to life by the skin of our teeth... (although we) did not realise our hardship because we knew nothing else”.

On top of this, tuberculosis was epidemic.

In 1935 the Trinidad Guardian, at the time of the Silver Jubilee of King George V, issued a range of four 2 cents charity labels for the ‘Royal Jubilee Tuberculosis Sanatorium Fund’ (Figure 1). Unwatermarked thick papers in cream, yellow, orange and blue were used. The cream colour paper is clean cut perforated 14, and the remainder are rough perforated 14 or imperforate on some sides. All labels are overprinted firstly with a cross, nurse and margins in red and then with a crown and sunrays at the top of each label followed by the words ‘TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO – ROYAL JUBILEE TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM FUND – RECEIPT FOR TWO CENTS – ORGANISED BY TRINIDAD GUARDIAN’ all in black.

Occasionally these charity labels were used as envelope labels. Figure 2 shows a yellow charity label tied with a ‘REGISTERED TRINIDAD 22 FEB 36’ cds on a registered envelope from Trinidad to London.

In about 1940 further envelope labels were printed in red on cream paper. Figure 3 shows two such labels each showing a red cross with the words ‘PLEASE HELP!! THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION THANK YOU’. The labels which are imperforate are on Canadian watermarked paper with the respective codings ‘M1014’ and ‘Yuille – b2103’ also in red.



peter singer



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FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3



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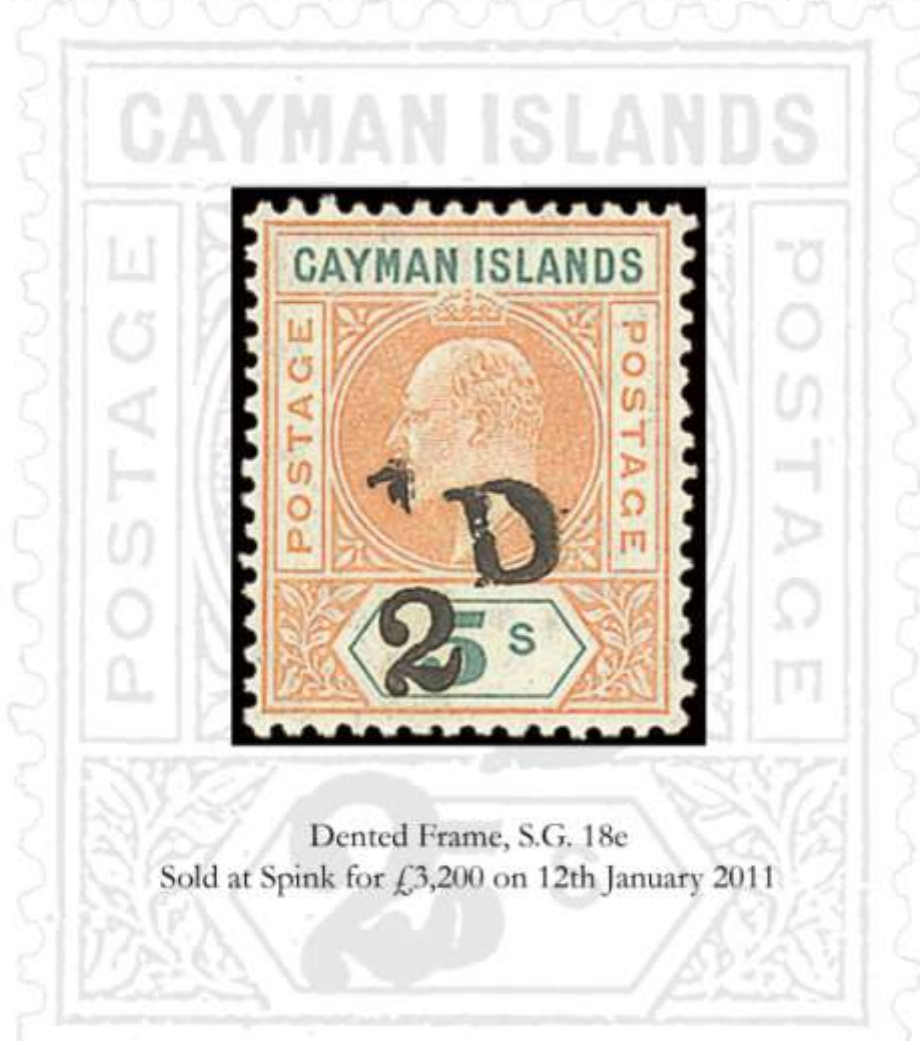
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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****SPINK 17–18 NOVEMBER (20% BP UP TO £3K, 17% IN EXCESS OF £3K)**

This important collection of 200 lots was a good test of the current state of the market and the results were reassuring, helped by reserves at 75% of lower estimate. According to my spy in the room, it was sparsely attended with only 12 present including the regular agents and dealers David Morrison, David Muscott and Mark Taylor. But there were three or four strong phone bidders.

The hammer total of £144k, close to the total of low estimates, was an excellent outcome for the seller given that £15k odd in reserves was unsold. The strong areas were the proofs and the unusual postal history. The early covers were in exceptional condition, but the markings were of variable quality. Prices were mostly in the ballpark here, although £1.1k for the smudgy LKD of P1 (£210 in Ulrich) was fully priced while £225 for a decent 1845 fleuron seemed like a steal. The 'United States via Bermuda' cover to Grenada was a healthy £3.8k. The later covers were highlighted by some rare frankings: a lovely 1867 1s 4d registered franking to London, was £3k, while the same 1s 4d rate, but this time the double rate to Bordeaux, was £2.8k. An intriguing 9d rate to South Africa was a little grubby and so fetched only £1.1k. There was an interesting range of later covers, nearly all of which sold close to their estimated ranges, but there were also several dogs among the fine selection of military mail.

Among the stamps, there was little interest in two 3d/1d provisionals, although both sold, but the fine range of 1874 3d/1s provisionals fetched good prices, while the 1d on 2d no stop cost a healthy £8k. A superb block of six 1s imperf at right between stamps and margin (£1.5k in 2001) and the handstamped 'F' in Farthing (SG £7k) each fetched £6.5k. The surprisingly limited range of keyplates was mostly unsold but the Revenue–Revenue 12/6 dated April 1937 was £600. There was lively competition between the room and the telephones for many of the proofs. The original colonial B head was £1.7k and the four 1865 Queen Victoria values £3.8k compared with £750 and £1.4k in Ludington. The 1883 2½d drawing was £3.2k and the docks essay ex Ulrich and Leuhusen, which cost the consignor £2.1k, was £3.8k. However the GV head and laurel leaves die proof was £2.4k, well below its recent realizations. The three Coronation imperf specimens (six sets exist) seemed fully priced at £3.5k while the registered envelope coloured die proofs all looked fair value at around £300.

CAVENDISH 24 NOVEMBER (BP 17%)

A large selection of early covers sounded more interesting than they proved to be, with poor strikes and cover faults affecting a lot of the material. The pick of the BWI was a 1795 letter from the Codrington correspondence with military content at £550, an Antigua PD12 cover at £650 and a March 1779 letter from St. Lucia, incorrectly described as the earliest known, at £900.

SPINK SHREVES 28 JANUARY (BP 20% UP TO \$2K, 15% ABOVE THAT)

The Joseph M. Mahfood collection of Jamaica was the first major holding of Jamaica to come to market since the Bob Swarbrick sale in 1995. The sale was distinctive in its breadth of material and included postal history from 1687, early stamp issues with elusive multiples, all of the major errors, specimens, proofs and essays, and an extensive holding of obliterations and TRDs.

Keith Moh attended and wrote much of this report. Apart from the two major NY agents, Frank Mandel and Purser, there were few in the room, but one of those was Hugh Wood and another was Nick Startup representing one of the major players. There were five other room bidders, one persistent telephone bidder (and a couple of intermittent ones) and dozens of internet bidders, reflecting confidence in Tom Droege's Stampauctionnetwork software.

I watched on the screen and saw action in every area of the sale and few bargains. The hammer total was \$550k, including unsolds that I estimate as \$50k (but Tracy Shreve does not reveal book buyers' numbers so one cannot always tell when lots are bought in). What was unusual was the wide division of the spoils. Eight buyers spent more than \$28k each (one an internet bidder) and the top bidder's \$62k included \$40k for the remainder lot (ten times low estimate). I do not recall such a wide spread for a single country collection.

The postal history consisted for the most part of prestamp and GB used in Jamaica. The prestamp section, while not as comprehensive as Swarbrick's holding or the material auctioned by Ted Proud during the first decade of this century, nevertheless contained an unrecorded circular Jamaica 31 Jan 1801 datestamp (\$1.3k), and the only two examples recorded by Foster of the '8'

postage due handstamp (\$1.3k and \$475). The four Dummer packet letters fetched \$16k in all. The GB in Jamaica lots compared in scope with the material in the 1987 Gaston and Saylor sales, neither of which had an example of a GB 2d blue (\$2.6k cancelled with a superb A67). But the postal history passed relatively quietly until the 1915 Red Cross label legitimately used on a Patriotic Stamp League cover went to Wood at \$3.75k.

Cancels were represented by two large lots. The obliterator lot contained some of the scarcer strikes but surprisingly did not have an example of the Milk River 'A'. The absence of a 'D' was unexpected, as I had been told that he owned one. The TRD lot was probably one of the best collections ever to come to market, with over 120 different rectangular and circular high quality strikes. A number of the items appear as photos in the 1949 Aguilar Jamaica book. The lot description was somewhat dated (for example, at least one other example of Devon is known on a pair, Carron Hall is known on cover, and a second Toll Gate on cover has been discovered), but nevertheless attracted keen interest from multiple bidders and fetched \$30k.

Of the regular stamps, the two mint 1s inverted frames went unsold, although the two used ones were in demand at \$22k and \$20k. A Llandovery Falls 1d imperf between pair cost \$21k after a long battle won by Hugh Wood, but the underbidder had a second chance on a slightly inferior pair at \$13.5k. A corner copy of the Slavery stamp was bought by Nick's client for \$18k and the £1 Silver Wedding specimen went to Wood \$3.5k. But there were one or two bargains among a quiet passage of the early issued stamps. The fine range of QE varieties and proof material was nearly all bought by Frank Mandel's top spender for \$22k.

Other than the impressive holding of major errors, perhaps the most striking aspect of the collection was the wide array of essays, proofs, and specimens across all reigns. Most of this material attracted multiple bids and generally went for \$1k or more. Even De La Rue's numerous printers' samples, not described as such, sold well. The colour die proof of the 2½d Castleton Scene was hammered down at \$5.75k, almost six times the high-end estimate, while the 6d Port Royal original ink and wash drawing drew spirited floor bidding against the successful (\$14k) telephone bidder. Many of the Specimen lots achieved surprisingly high realizations with the first issue overprinted with Type J2 realizing \$2k and the unique Abolition of Slavery block of four \$5k despite heavy toning.

The sale's success reflects both the popularity of the country and the pent-up demand for advanced and unusual material. It is nice to see the spoils being shared widely among serious collectors rather than being hoovered up by those building investment portfolios. Added to the excellent prices being achieved on eBay for decent specialist material, the market seems to be in a rude state of health.

FUTURE EVENTS

Prestige Philately will have a 'World At War sale' on 5 March 2011 – including John Little's WW2 British Empire censored mail. The online catalogue does not have a great deal of BWI but what there is contains a number of rare items.

As you can see from Phoebe's ad on page 5, **the Victoria Stamp Company** auction on 26 Mar 2011 includes: early Bahamas (much ex-Abaco, the major collection offered by Grosvenor Auctions last June); plenty of Barbados, including Paul Larsen's 1892–1950 award-winning exhibit; much choice Montserrat and Virgin Islands (many ex-Frazer); and the first part of the extensive Winter collection of postage dues.

Currently planned for 24 March, **Murray Payne** will offer the GVI items shown in their ad on page 29. The main offering for us will be an extensive collection of specialised Bahamas including several sheets, the 1942 5s mint, the 2½d violet printed double, major flaws on the Columbus issue and a printers' dummy booklet. There will also be a Br Guiana 3c mint with watermark crown omitted and some specialised postage dues. Later in the year they hope to have a major KG VI collection with nearly all the great BWI rarities of the reign.

For events that do not coincide with our quarterly frequency, I give Steve the details to post on the bwisc.org website, so please keep an eye on the auction/dealers menu for alerts regarding upcoming BWI sales. There you will also find dealers' notices, for example David Druett of **Pennymead Auctions** is offering Mary Kerr's collection of Barbados stamps and postal history on his website (pennymead@aol.com) at fixed prices.

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

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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 #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 2011 is as follows:

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Article copy deadline	Sat 30 Apr	Sat 30 Jul	Sat 29 Oct
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