



STUDY CIRCLE



Jamaica, Kingston Commercial Rooms looking north↑ and south↓, 1838 (By JB Kidd).



BULLETIN No. 229 June 2011



Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies and the American Philatelic Society

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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
and not necessarily those of the BWISC, its Editor or its Officers.**

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS

- Saturday and Sunday 8/9 October – Convention (see enclosed leaflet).
Chris Harman will hold a seminar on how to present a competitive exhibit.
Simon Goldblatt will display Virgin Islands and Peter Tribe will display his Montserrat.
- 28 April 2012 – provisional date for AGM & Auction.
- Saturday 3 November 2012 – Meeting at Philatex.

MEMBER DISPLAYS

- Richard Hart showing Jamaica at Shoeburyness & District Philatelic Society on 28 July 2011 19:30 for 20:00, (St. Andrew's Church Hall, Church Road, Shoeburyness).
- Steve Jarvis showing Jamaica at Bath on 27 July.

Please supply details of any other Exhibits and Displays to the Editor.


MEMBER AWARDS

Congratulations to Brian Brookes who was awarded the RPSL Tilleard Medal for his display in March 2010 – ‘The Stamps and Postal History of St. Christopher and St. Kitts-Nevis’ and to Peter Fernbank who was awarded the RPSL Tapling medal for his article ‘De La Rue Sheet Numbering’ published in the *London Philatelist* May 2010.

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MINUTES OF THE 57TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC
HELD AT 1:15 PM SATURDAY 16 APRIL 2011

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford who welcomed the 30 members present, and thanked Grosvenor Auctions for their hospitality in allowing BWISC to hold our AGM on the premises.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from: David Thornton, Chris May, Michael Hamilton, Michael Medlicott, Michael Oliver, Kevin Darcy, Richard Foden, Chris Harman.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting on 9 May 2010, as published in Bulletin No. 225, June 2010, Pages 24 to 28, were accepted by the attendees.

4. Report by the General Secretary (Chas Gee)

The membership status as of December 2010 (date of issue of December Bulletin) was that we had a total of 331 members, of which 220 were from the UK. This represents a decrease of 6 members compared to the same date in 2009.

Over the year we lost 19 existing members (4 deceased, 4 resigned, and 11 due non-payment of membership renewal fees).

There were 13 new membership applications (compared to 14 last year).

The annual request for information on changes to members' details (made in the Bulletin) usually results in a good response. Members are urged to let the Secretary know of any change of address as soon as possible to ensure that they continue to receive issues of our Bulletin.

Chas reported that at the BWISC Committee Meeting, held earlier in the day, the Committee had unanimously recommended that Peter Ford become an Honorary Life Member of our Society. This was in recognition of the contributions Peter has made over the years both as Society Chairman and to the development of our Society publications.

5. Report by the Editor (Steve Jarvis)

Production of the Bulletin over the last year has continued smoothly and, thanks to the contributions of members – 49 different authors have contributed over the last 2 years – I have managed to fill the 40 pages. However, for some quarters it has been by the skin of my teeth with articles arriving near to my deadline to help me fill the edition.

So I repeat my plea from last year for more articles please, large and small. Charles and Peter have promised to get their whips out to the Group Leaders and hopefully they will respond by encouraging submission of material.

One aspect I would like to expand upon is inclusion of notice of members' displays. Please let me know if you have an exhibit in a show or are visiting a local society. I will then provide publicity, which should help boost attendance at the event.

Unfortunately, my plans for handing over the Editorship did not come to fruition and you are stuck with me for a little longer; hence the Jamaica Encyclopaedia will need to remain lower down my priority list than I should prefer.

However, I did find time to give the web site a makeover earlier this year. The previous site was designed about 10 years ago and had evolved to the point where even I had difficulty finding where I had put information. I was also able to incorporate some new design techniques. I hope the new site is considered an improvement.

My thanks again go to Charles Freeland and Peter Ford, whose wise advice and scrutiny ensures the finished Bulletin maintains its high quality.

Charles Freeland asked Steve to list the Group Leaders in the next Bulletin so as inform those without access to the website of some recent changes. Charles also commented that one of the responsibilities of Group Leaders was to help out in providing Bulletin articles on their specialities.

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE
INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2010

	£'s	2010	2009
INCOME :			
Subscriptions		3,619	3,761
Publications - Sales less commissions		3,009	1,210
Auction donation		1,329	1,445
Other donations		26	499
Exchange gains realised		60	-
Interest received		-	3
TOTAL INCOME		8,043	6,918
EXPENDITURE :			
Bulletin - Costs less advertising	1,636		1,699
Distribution and editorial expenses	<u>2,076</u>	3,712	<u>1,952</u>
Publications : Printing costs		5,974	1,446
Leamington Convention - net deficit		-	505
London 2010 Expenses & Dinner net of recoveries		330	-
Room hire costs		252	260
ABPS affiliation fee		226	238
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc		191	172
Bank charges		121	37
Library expenses		-	10
Website		81	79
Other expenses		-	15
		<u>10,887</u>	<u>6,413</u>
DEFICIT EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME	£'s	(2,844)	£'s 505

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2010

ACCUMULATED FUND :			
Balance at 1st January 2010		9,678	5,822
Add : Surplus (Deficit) for the year		(2,844)	505
Dollar conversion profit (loss)		114	(203)
			<u>6,124</u>
ROSES PUBLICATIONS FUND - Balance received			3,554
	£'s	6,948	£'s 9,678
REPRESENTED BY :			
Cash at banks		7,322	8,971
Debtors - amounts due to us		<u>3,195</u>	<u>3,762</u>
		10,517	12,733
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,169)		(2,440)
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	<u>(1,400)</u>	(3,569)	<u>(615)</u>
	£'s	6,948	£'s 9,678

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2010 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2010 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date.

J G M Davis FCA

John Davis 22/3/11

6. Report by the Treasurer (Ray Stanton)

This year the Study Circle has a deficit of expenditure over income of £2,844, which compared with the surplus in 2009 of £505. This is entirely due to the expenditure on publications and our policy of writing off all expenditure as incurred without regard to carry forward stocks.

Just over £5,000 of the publications expenditure was on the Trinidad book jointly produced with the BCPSG. Sales have been equalised with the BCPSG and in 2010 our share of sales amounted to £2,681 net of commissions. Because of the money received from the erstwhile Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society in 2009, we are able to finance this without depleting significantly our available resources.

Income from subscriptions was slightly reduced in 2010 to £3,619 and did not completely cover the cost of the Bulletin production and distribution, after allowing for advertising income. The shortfall of £93 is not significant in the general context of the Study Circle's resources. However the postage on the distribution of the Bulletin continues to increase at a greater rate than inflation, particularly for overseas members. It is some years since the last subscription increase, and in terms of value it compares well with many other societies. Nevertheless we are not proposing an increase this year but will have to consider again in twelve months time. We are proposing to make available a Paypal option for subscription payments which members may find convenient. Details will be available later in the year.

Income from the Study Circle auction continues to be an excellent source of funds and was very similar to the previous year, albeit slightly reduced at £1,329.

During London 2010 we organised joint activities with the BCPSG. The dinner was largely self financed by those attending but overall there was net expenditure of £330 on the events and £252 on room hire.

As a result of the deficit, the Accumulated fund has decreased from £9,678 to £6,948 although this year we have a small profit on the conversion of our US dollar funds. Due to the prevailing low interest rates we have had limited ability to earn any interest this year.

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

7. Report by the Librarian (Ian Jakes)

There has been a loan of seven books to four members during the year. This compares with a loan of sixteen books to six members during the year ended April 2010.

I have provided four members with answers to their respective requests for philatelic information including information relating to Barbados bootheel cancels, St. Vincent Ship letters and Dominica Postal Fiscals.

Two books have recently been purchased from Proud-Bailey Co Limited for the Library namely 'The Postal History of the Leeward Islands' and 'The Postal History of St. Lucia and St. Vincent'.

Edmund A. Bayley has donated an autographed copy of his book 'The History of the Post Offices in Barbados'.

James Podger has donated a copy of his booklet 'The Podgers Entertain' produced for their Royal Philatelic Society London Display on 15 April 2010. James Podger has also donated more than fifty catalogues which he acquired from a recent Spink Auction.

Many thanks to both Edmund and James for these donations.

I have been in correspondence with the great great grandson of Charles Whitfield King concerning the Cayman Islands scandal. I was able to provide him with a copy of all the correspondence which the Library received a few years ago from the Cayman Islands National Archive. In return, I have received two post cards, one showing a head and shoulders photograph of Charles Whitfield King himself and the other an early twentieth century photograph of Whitfield King's premises in Ipswich, both of which have been placed with the Library's documentation relating to the Cayman Islands scandal.

On 13 May 2011 I have arranged to meet Mr. J.M. Saunders, the son of our founder P.T. Saunders. He tells me that the book 'The Cayman Islands Postal History Postage Stamps and Postmarks' by Aguilar and Saunders was funded by E.F. Aguilar but was written entirely by our founder P.T. Saunders. The purpose of our meeting is so that Mr. J.M. Saunders can donate to the library a book given to his father by Alfred Charlton entitled 'The Cradle of the Deep an account of a voyage to the West Indies' by Sir Frederick Treves Bart. The book is inscribed 'With Best Wishes to the British West Indies Study Circle from Alfred Charlton Sept 56'.

8. Report by the Publications Officer (Peter Ford)

The year 2010 saw the long-awaited publication of our definitive handbook on Trinidad. Although mainly penned by John Marriott, we did have very generous help from many other Trinidad specialists. Unfortunately, I could only add two of their names to the title of co-authors, those of Ben Ramkisson and Michael Medlicott. We had this book printed in the States and the final product was without doubt a fine one. I had the pleasure of presenting the first copy to Sir John's widow, Lady Marriott on the first day of publication, 1st of March. She was delighted with the book and commented on its fine quality. The book had been part financed by the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group and they took delivery of just over 200 copies while we had the other 200. Sales have been a little slow, but the critical acclaim has been deafening. It has garnered excellent reviews in all the main philatelic journals, both here and in the US, and was awarded a Gold Medal at CHICAGOPEX 2010. I am also told by an insider that it is in the running for the coveted Crawford Medal awarded by the Royal Philatelic Society London. Unfortunately, I have just learned that we have not won the medal this year but will enter it again next year. I have also entered the book in the Japanese exhibition in November, but we will have to see if that event takes place, given the recent disaster.

In our continuing series of Study Papers we published one on the British Guiana Coded Postmarks by Michael Rego. This was published right at the end of the year and sales have been lively. We also published an updated version of the Montserrat book; this contained much new information and many new illustrations of the scarcer material. And lastly, we republished Frank Deakin's Barbados with much improved illustrations, all of which were scanned by Steve Jarvis. This last was the first where I have used the print-on-demand system. After a few teething troubles, the result was first class and I intend using this system for our smaller booklets as we can order very small quantities without suffering high costs.

The accounts this year may seem a little down on last; this is, of course, mainly to do with the expense of producing the Trinidad book. However, sales of our books have been very good with the Trinidad taking first place with an impressive 90 copies sold last year. Michael Louka's St. Vincent study sold 13 and the Deakin Barbados 10. Of all the rest, sales were less than 10 copies each. I am pleased to say that, as a Study Circle, we have a total of 20 titles on sale. I doubt any other specialist society can match that. After our distributor's commission, we earned over £3,600 from publications, some of which had to go to the BCPSG to equalize receipts from the Trinidad book.

As for the future, there is no lack of books to be published. I had hoped to have Brian Brookes' St. Kitts Classic Collections book available today. Shortly, in conjunction with the British Philatelic Association, we are republishing a revised version of Michael Oliver's Leeward Islands book. I am starting work soon on a Study Paper on Bahamas Special Delivery local issues by Peter Fernbank and we are well advanced in compiling a handbook on Grenada and Volume 8 of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia that deals with airmail. Further in the future, I am hoping to publish an Antigua handbook as well as one on the Turks, one on Nevis and perhaps one on Bahamas.

If there is any member who feels able to help me in our publications efforts, please let me know. Personally, I derive great deal of pleasure when I see and feel the final hardcopy book in my hands and there must be someone else out there who would feel the same.

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

The year 2010 was notable for two things, one most enjoyable, the other not. The one that wasn't was the passing of our long-time President, Victor Toeg. A full appreciation of his life appeared in the December Bulletin, and so I will not repeat most of what was said there. Suffice to say, he had

been President for over 40 years, a feat unlikely to be matched ever again. We will all miss his wise counsel and his enthusiasm for BWI philately.

On a happier note, we held our joint meeting with our American sister society, the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group in May to coincide with the big LONDON 2010 show. We held a joint auction which was our most successful ever, realising over £27,000, a figure which could be announced immediately as Steve Jarvis had been keeping track of things on his computer. This, together with after-sales and takings from the members' table, gave us a turnover during the weekend in excess of £30,000. Credit here should be given to our auctioneer, Simon Goldblatt and his team consisting of Nigel Chandler and John Jordan. There is absolutely no doubt that the proceeds from the annual auction help our finances greatly.

That was on the Friday preceding the big show which opened on the Saturday. We all took a break to attend the show and congratulations have to go to those who gained awards there and particularly to Darryl Fuller who merited a Large Gold for his exhibit of Leeward Islands Postal Stationery. I am told that Large Golds for Postal Stationery exhibits are rare indeed. Well done, Darryl!

On Sunday we were treated to formal displays by two of our members at Spink auction rooms. Firstly we had Graham Booth displaying his Maritime Mail, a report of which appeared in the September Bulletin. And secondly we had a display by Richard Foden of his early Turks Islands material. Both of these displays showed the depth of study that is undertaken by members and the research carried out by them. Both are to be congratulated on their displays.

All in all, this was a very successful weekend, organised mainly by Steve Jarvis; he managed to find venues in suitably central locations, not an easy task! He also arranged for an excellent meal at an Italian restaurant on the Saturday evening. Thank you, Steve!

The passing of our President means that this year we will be voting for a new President. In consultation with the Committee, we have decided to nominate Charles Freeland for the post. Charles, as many of you will already know, supports the Study Circle in many different ways and has been a Vice-President for a good few years. We have no hesitation in recommending him for the post of President. To replace him as Vice-President, we nominate Steve Jarvis. Again, Steve is a person who has put a great deal of effort into the Study Circle not only as Editor of our prize winning Bulletin, but also as our webmaster. Both of these jobs are very time consuming and we have been fortunate in having someone as keen as Steve to do them. The Committee therefore recommend his appointment as Vice-President. The Committee have decided that the President and Vice-Presidents should have to stand for re-election every 3 years.

As usual, I have to thank all the Committee for their hard work over the year and yet again appeal for more members to volunteer to help with the running of the Study Circle. The Circle cannot run itself; we need the input of members willing to give of their time and energy for us to remain one of the most successful specialist societies in the UK.

10. Election of President and Vice-Presidents of the Society

Charles Freeland was elected President, unanimously. Simon Goldblatt and Steve Jarvis were elected Vice-Presidents, unanimously. All positions for a period of three years.

11. Re-Election of the Chairman of the Committee

Peter Ford was re-elected unanimously.

12. Re-election of Officers

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

13. Election of the Auditor

John Davis has agreed to continue with this role.

14. Other Business

None.



Stanley Gibbons

Commonwealth Department

JAMAICA ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

The famous stamp prepared for use but not issued for political reasons



1921 Script wmk 6d red and blue-green 'ABOLITION OF SLAVERY', the famous stamp which was prepared for use but never issued (for political reasons), BLOCK OF FOUR, each stamp with handstamped 'SPECIMEN' local opt (Type J5) in violet, o.g. (lower pair unmounted). Toned by climate, with trivial separation and wrinkles mentioned for accuracy, but a unique and wonderful item, comprising ALL the extant examples with this handstamp, and being the only block of this stamp (in any form) in private hands. From a collection formed by an official of the Jamaican Post Office, discussed and illustrated on p.14 of the 1984 Samuel supplement (with further illustration on the front cover), and not on the market for a generation. Ex RL 28/5/81, Lot 228.

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BWISC COMMITTEE MATTERS ARISING

The following decisions affecting Membership subscriptions were taken at the Committee meeting to take effect 1 Jan 2012.

Despite continued increases in printing and postage costs:

- The UK & Europe subscription rate will remain at £10 pa.
- The subscription rate for the rest of the world will remain at \$25 but increased to £16 if paid in sterling (the £16 with immediate effect).

A facility for paying subscriptions by PayPal will be introduced later this year. Use of this facility may incur a slightly higher fee (to offset PayPal charges).

A new paperless option will be introduced, any member electing to receive their Bulletins electronically (only) will be eligible for the UK rate (£10 / \$16 – including PayPal fees).

Advanced payment of subscriptions will continue to be allowed but restricted to a maximum of five years.

Any member recruiting a new member will receive one year's subscription free of charge (only one year irrespective of the number of new members introduced).

It was also agreed that, every year, the March Bulletin would be the last edition received by non-payers.

BRITISH HONDURAS**QUERY FROM NOEL DAVENHILL****RE BRITISH HONDURAS 1960S DEFINITIVES (HARRISON).**

- The 1c value is recorded in SG with missing orange-yellow (knob) missing.
- The 1962 issue is catalogued at £550, whereas the stamp overprinted in 1964 is catalogued at £200. Can anyone explain the price difference?
- Further, the New Capital overprints of 1966, which has a sideways watermark and therefore must (?) be a new printing also has this missing yellow (Cat. £300).
- The 1967 issue (without overprint) but with watermark sideways is not recorded with missing yellow.

Any thoughts on this series of events would be appreciated (reply through the Editor).

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BWISC AUCTION REPORT

Our auctioneer is habitually pessimistic before our annual auction gets started – this year, it seemed, with more than usual justification. He revealed that there were anything between 15 and 20 fewer postal bidders than in previous years, that three or four of those were members who regularly come in person, but were unable to be with us this time, and that only about 40% of the lots were covered in the auction book.

Experience had shown in any case that postal bidders can be expected to secure more than half the lots sold, even if their majority was sometimes small; and those present, registering to bid, were indeed three or four fewer than we usually see. If the auction was to prosper history would have to be stood on its head.

Well, history was! By the end of the auction the 40% pre-sold had swollen to about two thirds of those available (as in the past few years, around 650 lots). Sale total was £19,041 with an average realisation of close to £44.

Let's begin with the latest section of Derek Sutcliffe's collection which, of course, made a most important contribution. Bear in mind, though, that his estate's participation in 2009 and 2010 was of equal importance. Some statistics can be given here, in complete contrast to the total confidentiality with which the auction is usually conducted; for a large part of the reason why the Circle was given the responsibility and the privilege of handling Derek's collection was that the executors believed that this is what Derek would have wished. We are treating Circle members as being within Derek's extended family, entitled to know that, between them, the executors and the Circle have done exactly the right thing.

There were 90 lots in this year's auction that came from Derek's estate: 64 of these were classified under Jamaica, 26 in other sections of the catalogue. 76 lots were sold, representing about 80% of total estimates of approximately £5,000 assigned to Derek's 90 lots, and these 76 fetched just over £4,900, an uplift of about 20% over estimates.

For once the auction team feels no sense of shame in seeing catalogue estimates fall significantly below realisations. Leaving aside any difficulty in valuing material which seldom comes onto the market in quantity, any themed collection can be expected to attract serious competition and will often set a new market level. We can even applaud our own failure over the highly valued lot that was left unsold, Lot 333, the 'Liquidation of Empire' series. One only has to revert to its description to appreciate that the auction team and members generally are of one mind here. These stamps will find a new home outside the Circle.

Of the 26 lots not classified under Jamaica, 21 belonged to Martinique, and only five of these were left unsold, with two of these gobbled up immediately after the sale. But for their link with Derek, many of the Martinique items that have figured in Circle catalogues of the past few years would not have been allowed into our annual sales. Given that there is obvious interest amongst some members in philately beyond the British Caribbean – and after a policy discussion within the full Committee – it has been decided experimentally to enlarge the ambit of what will be accepted for sale. Therefore, until further notice, the Miscellaneous section of the catalogue may include, on their merits, some of the following:–

- French, Dutch or Danish Caribbean colonial material;
- Mail travelling in the Atlantic from Latin America, without actual evidence of connection with a British island;
- Stamps or other items with a thematic connection with BWI philately or activities.

The policy will operate selectively. Items as above will not necessarily be accepted but they will be considered: the proposed relaxation of entry restrictions is very unlikely to apply to straightforward stamps of territories such as Guatemala or post-colonial Cuba or Brazil, and so on, while Mexico will continue to be treated as part of North America.

Back to this year's auction, where the rest of the sale must be reviewed. In arithmetical terms support in the Room was just as strong. Whether looking at the Sutcliffe entries or the remainder, Room bidders added 60% or more to the numbers pre-sold. Their enthusiasm was hugely appreciated by the auction team.

Which were the front runners, and which the back markers amongst the individual territories? Leaving aside the minnow participants (Barbuda, Belize, Guyana, the Grenadines) which are not (yet) statistically significant, in last place came Virgin Islands, an all too familiar positioning, with

8 sales out of 22 lots. Reasons? We can think of several. The members who have to leave before letter 'V' is reached (but we won't promote to letter 'B'; our Virgin Islands are too proudly individual for that – and where would international tax manoeuvring relocate to without them? Maybe one could consider promotion above Tobago with THE Virgin Islands). Members who think that because the auctioneer prefers Virgins (capital intended) above all else, he will have sequestered anything that matters for himself (SG comments it would be *infra dig.* to sue for libel). Maybe they are considered aesthetically unpleasing (or maybe the member who expressed this view within earshot is in a class of one). In reality we think that there is so little material available that the uninitiated will continue to pass by on the other side, unless urged on by blind optimism or a serious streak of masochism. Nevertheless, if we think of the relative restraint in issuing policy exercised in modern times in the Virgins, set against, say, Guyana, or the Mickey Mouse mentality of Grenada, St. Vincent and their Grenadines, don't the Virgins deserve more fans?

In St. Lucia, there were eleven unsold out of 22 lots. Simple to explain this one: the core supporters are few and very discriminating and the auction team cannot get the fresh material needed to feed them and those who might be tempted to join them.

Next comes a shock back-runner – Barbados. 77 lots, 38 unsold for an island which comes top or thereabouts in any normal year. No need for dismay: it's a temporary blip, and Barbados will bounce back.

Another island to lose ground, but only by its own standards, was St. Vincent, with 20 unsold out of 47. A surplus, perhaps, of single classics, temporarily made rather easier to get by the disposal of Peter Jaffé's collection; a temporary shortfall in attractive postmarks.

Talking of attractive postmarks, how about the £100 for *Vieille Case* on Leeward ½d pair? Not hugely scarce as a strike, but what a beaut! And it takes two to reach that level or probably in this instance at least three in competition.

Still, we were talking really in terms of territories and the winner this year, by two or three lengths, was British Honduras. 17 lots on offer, 16 sold. Montserrat came next, with 14 sold out of 17. Each of the two is admired by a keen group of collectors, and the auction team has to work hard to assemble any quantity of material for them year by year.

The rest of our BWI categories were (Cayman islands apart, because we just can't put together the lots that will meet the standards and requirements of our member collectors) supported comfortably or better, and support carried through to the very end of the sale, with each of the last six lots finding a new home.

Individual highlights come next. Barbados may have been lacking in overall support, but the connoisseurs were ready to pounce where it really mattered. The cover at Lot 76 was seen to be greatly undervalued at £80. Postal bidders pushed it to £90, competition in the Room to more than double at £190.

There were several examples of a tie in top bids between postal competitors (the only situation in which a member present gets to know the book limit, until that limit is beaten) but Lot 102 produced the second instance in our history of a three-way tie, each at £60. Plainly the estimate was £10 over the top. The first instance told personally by the auctioneer – who allows himself to participate only as a 'postal' bidder, with a bid entered before the sale, – took place many years ago. He entered a personal bid for an unsupported lot, on the evening of the sale. Saturday morning brought two letters, each for a single item, each for the self-same lot, each at the self-same price. Auction rules applied, and the auctioneer won.

Part of the role of the auction team is to spot or occasionally to initiate trends. The valuation of £10 for Lot 215 may not have been right, but the philosophy of the description certainly was: this cover fetched £30.

Jamaica realisations need to be savoured in detail, and we add little comment. We certainly did not initiate a surge in TRD prices, reported in a recent Bulletin, which rendered the £80 valuation for Lot 291 far too low. The £170 realised has struck a better balance. Lot 311A was left out of the catalogue by inadvertence. Publicity on the web site and by e-mail plugged the gap, and this lot fetched its value.

Lots 492 and 496 underline the continuing appeal of St. Vincent postmarks. The former was contested only in the Room, and more than doubled an estimate which looked adequate at the

time. The latter again looked to be robustly valued at £70, but there were tied postal bids at £100, and a Room bidder beat them.

Worthy of note next is the small old-fashioned approval book that formed Lot 566. A postal tie at £54 was a fair reflection of description and valuation; bidders present had a closer viewing and decided between them that £105 was right.

Another worthwhile contest was for the two Trinidad covers, Lots 583 and 584. Realisations at £230 and £170 were not in themselves huge departures from estimate: what impressed was the head-to-head between two members in the Room. Even if it takes determination to start from cold in the middle hundreds – see Lots 232 and 502, which had no takers at their reserves – bids in three figures are not a complete deterrent: Lot 596 went above its starting-point of £400, when a member tried his luck at £420; he didn't get it, and whether perseverance would have triumphed cannot be revealed; but 598, which opened above its £200 estimate, was contested, and here the postal limit of £260 was beaten.

If few individual lots have been singled out for comment, this is because, once we put the Sutcliffe contribution to one side, the relationship between estimate and realisation was about as close as one could wish for. Exact figures have not been finalised at the time of this report: the figures appear to tally within 1%.

We conclude with mention of one lot that didn't sell. This was 642, whose description seems to make it a must-have for any serious collector of WWII censor material. This may or may not appear in the unsold list, for this is under discussion with the owner. If it does, the asking – or re-offering price – is likely to be above estimate! Has somebody missed something?

RPSL

COLONIAL GAZETTES

BY STEVE JARVIS

Several years ago the RPSL were given many editions of the Colonial Gazettes, which had been published from the late 19th century. The RPSL are making these available (free of charge) to good homes). James Podger and I have reserved some of the countries but the full details for the West Indies are provided below (some other countries are present).

Be warned – several of these countries require considerable shelf space!

The information below is as originally recorded and may not be accurate.

Country	Dates	Missing	Reserved
Bahamas	1894 to 1974		
Barbados	1892 to 1972	1940 Oct to 1941 Jan	
Bermuda	1953 to 1969		
British Guiana	1892 to 1971	1940 Oct to Dec, 1958	
British Honduras	1885 to 1973	1940	Podger
Dominica	1908 to 1955		
Grenada	1887 to 1989	1956/57	
Jamaica	1890 to 1920		Jarvis
	1923 to 1975		
Leeward Is	1887 to 1956		
Antigua, Montserrat, & Virgins	1956 to 1967		
Antigua	1967 to 1962		
St. Kitts-Nevis	1929 to 1972		
St. Kitts-Nevis Anguilla	1972 to 1974		
St. Lucia	1894 to 1975	1948 to 1954	
St. Vincent	1894 to 1976		
Trinidad	1866 to 1975	1934, 1938, 1940, 1941, 1950, 1951, 1951. Some water damage to others	
Turks Is	1908 to 1975	19406 to 1946	Podger / Darcy
West Indies (Fed)	1958 to 1961		Jarvis

If anyone is interested in taking possession of these founts of information then they need to obtain agreement from the RPSL Librarian but please keep me in the loop so that I can maintain a record of who has what.

BWI**SPECIMEN VARIETIES**

The 'unrecorded' short legged 'N' illustrated by Charles Freeland in his article in the March Bulletin occurs on Position 30 of the forme. Don Vernon mentions a "long first leg of 'N'" in an article which appeared in 1976 and is probably the same variety. Don Vernon will always be remembered as the person who first established the position of the main variety 'the Broken M' as Position 41. Marcus Samuel is of course the acknowledged expert on Specimen Stamps and relying on my memory only, Andrew Norris also made a considerable contribution in plating a number of other minor varieties. Thanks to the three of them, I have been able to produce the attached diagram which illustrates most of the known varieties.

I have examples of the short legged 'N' on stamps from between 1902 and 1921 so I would have to disagree with Charles Freeland when he suggests it appeared late in the life of the overprint forme. Although this variety appears in Column 6, it is interesting to note that so many varieties occur in the fifth column.

BY ROGER B WEST

De La Rue Specimen Type D12 Varieties

1	2	3	4	5	6
S				M	P
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
				M	
19	20	21	22	23	24
				M	S
25	26	27	28	29	30
				P	N
31	32	33	34	35	36
37	38	39	40	41	42
				M	P
43	44	45	46	47	48
	M E			M	
49	50	51	52	53	54
S				M	N
55	56	57	58	59	60
S M				M	

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BOOK REVIEW**BRITISH GUIANA CODED POSTMARKS BY MICHAEL REGO****BY CHARLES FREELAND**

Coded postmarks have a fascination of their own, as anyone who had delved into H.H. Heins is aware. In nearly every case PO records or proving covers have clarified their identities. British Guiana was one of the few countries where challenges remained. Shortly after Heins' third edition was published in 1967, Townsend and Howe's masterpiece appeared, but while this allocated many of the codes, others were still unidentified. Moreover, subsequent research has established that Townsend and Howe were mistaken in a few cases. The most recent attempts to resolve the remaining problems have been Ted Proud's book on The Postal History of British Guiana published in 2000 and some lively exchanges in the British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin. One or two more proving covers have also fortunately come to light.

Michael Rego's new study delves into the coded postmarks in great depth. It not only describes the history behind the early posts but allocates the codes to specific locations. It also provides a lavishly illustrated record of what exists, showing 41 of the first series and over 350 of the second series. One improvement on earlier studies is the distinction made between the sans-serif and serif types of the second series.

Two things strike one on reading this treatise: the sheer number of towns, villages and settlements in mid-19th century British Guiana; and the range of locations in which Post Offices were sited, including police stations, stores, cable offices and plantations. When one reads that some of the coded handstamps were transferred from one post office to another, one can understand why Ted Proud's book of markings lists some 65 different usages, and that is not counting a new East Coast mark that was discovered only last year. The task is simplified by numbering the coastal offices sequentially, but as in Bermuda the allocation of the codes changes over time and a single post office may have two or three different codes during its life. Each of these is listed with its date ranges.

This is a fine work that resolves nearly all the unanswered questions and adds considerably to Michael's impressive list of works, most but not all published by the Circle. It should be on the bookshelf of anyone interested in the philately of British Guiana.

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS**BRITISH GUIANA CODED POSTMARKS***by Michael Rego*

This is the third in our series of Study Papers and it looks at the early coded postmarks of British Guiana. It is a detailed study of these marks, sometimes extending the earliest and latest known dates of use. Almost all marks are illustrated in colour on stamps or covers. It also contains an analysis of the movements of the marks between the various postal agencies.

Price:– £15.00 (approx US\$23.00).

BWISC Members' Discount:– £2.00 (\$3.00).

This book and others published by the BWISC can be ordered from:– David Druett, Pennymead Books, 1 Brewerton St., Knaresborough, N. YORKS. HG5 8AZ .Tel:– 01423 865962 or Fax:– 01423 547057 or E-mail: Pennymead@aol.com. N.B. Postage and packing is extra. Orders will be dispatched with invoice and prompt payment is requested. Payment may be made by Sterling or US or Canadian dollar cheque or by PayPal. Payment may also be made in Euros in cash only. All books published by the BWISC are displayed on www.bwisc.org and on www.pennymead.com.

ANTIGUA

1921–29 ISSUE DATES

BY JOHN JORDAN

It is axiomatic that publishing an article ('Antigua, The Colour Changes of 1921–29', March Bulletin) immediately causes something to turn up that could have been added.

I recently bought a 1921 registered 'Wilson' cover that proves that Gibbons' 1922 issue date for three of the initial Antigua KGV definitives is a year late. The cover bears the new ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d and 6d stamps. According to Gibbons, the ½d and 1d were issued in 1921 and the 2d, 2½d and 6d in 1922. However, all five stamps are clearly cancelled with a St. John's CDS dated 'DE 15 21' and the cover has a Birmingham registration backstamp dated '17 JA 22'.

This cover in fact supports the Antigua Monograph which states that the three stamps were included in the 21 April 1921 despatch to Antigua and were issued that same year.

The issue date shown in my article for the 2½d bright blue should be advanced from 1922 to 1921. Now, can Gibbons be persuaded to do the same for all three stamps?



BARBADOS

1927 TERCENTENARY ISSUE PERF VARIETY

BY NEIL TUCKER

I would appreciate help with regard to the Barbados 1927 Tercentenary issue.

I have acquired three copies – 2 mint and 1 vfu – all perf 12 x 12.5, instead of the listed perf 12.5.

Included in the lot (ex David Loffstadt) is a letter from Gibbons dated 11 Jan 1940 to JEA Jolliffe, Oxford (the Medieval History Don at Keble?)

The letter states:

Dear Sir,

I am much obliged to you for letting me see the 1d Barbados which, as you say, is beyond question perforated 12 x 12½.

It is curious that this variety has not been noticed before.

I return your stamp herein with many thanks.

Yours faithfully

Stanley Phillips

Managing Director

I am finding it even more curious that the variety is still not listed by SG!

Has anyone any answers?

BARBADOS

1970 4c ON 5c PROVISIONAL (SG:398 VARIETIES)

BY PETER LONGMUIR

Varieties on overprinted stamps are much sought after by collectors. Indeed, Barbados opened the batting in 1878, being the first country to change a value of an existing stamp by overprinting the 1d on 5s (SG:86–88). Further examples followed, the 1892 ½d on 4d, 1907 Kingston Relief Fund 1d on 2d, 1947 1d on 2d, and to a lesser extent, the 1969 1c on Harbour Police 4c (SG:392).

Early in 1970, it became apparent to the postal authorities that the heavy use of the 4c stamp for local postage, cheques and receipts was causing demand to outstrip supplies, and it became necessary in March for the 5c definitive stamp (SG:346) to be overprinted with a 4c value (SG:398). A block of 25 overprints was created and transferred to an offset printing plate of 100 stamps (4 panes of 25 each), thus accounting for the constant 4 x missing serif flaw in the same place in each pane of 25 stamps – Row 4 Nos. 5 and 10, and Row 9 Nos. 5 and 10 of the sheet of 100 stamps.

The stamps were then fed through the printing press in the Govt. Printery, but being gummed paper, it proved to be a difficult task. The size of the sheet was a little too large, and in some cases the top margin had to be cut off. The difficulty in positioning the sheets caused the surcharge to be misplaced, so that the 'X' fell at times on the Queen's head or well to the left of the '5', and even missed a stamp entirely. Also it seems that the top horizontal row was folded down facing the second row and therefore received on the gummed side (inverted and at the top) the impression intended for the second row.

An explanation of the double/triple overprints, joined double and single overprints, is that the printer, in order to make good the omission of overprints on the front of the top two rows of stamps, then re-fed the sheets through the press again, thus giving rise to the bottom rows with double overprint. It would appear that the majority of the double overprints do indeed come from the bottom rows, but, as can be seen from the SG:398c cover shown on the following page, the double overprint appears above that with a single overprint, suggesting the pair came from higher up the sheet. It remains a mystery as to how the double overprint escaped from some of the intermediate rows when the printer re-fed the sheets.

Another factor was that the ink used in the overprinting was not the fast drying type, giving rise to a variety of off-set impressions on both sides of several of the stamps as one sheet was placed on top of another freshly printed sheet.

It was not surprising that doubts arose over the validity of the errors – see *Stamp Collecting* 21 January 1971, but a strong rebuttal of the allegations was made by Edmund Bayley in a follow up article of 15 July 1971. Nevertheless, it is clear that the end result, with Stanley Gibbons now listing six different varieties – six mint, four used – was an overprinted issue that fell well below the high standard of overprints of earlier years. Shown to the right and below are examples of the six listed varieties.



SG:398a



SG:398b



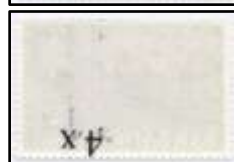
SG:398c



SG:398d



SG:398e



SG:398f

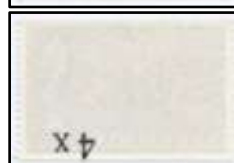
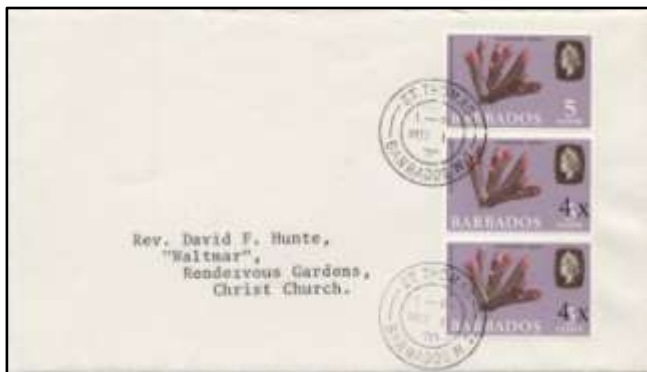


FIGURE 1



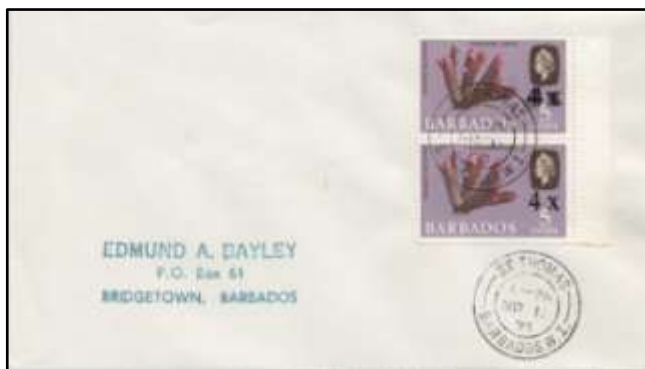
SG:398a Vertical pair, one without surcharge

FIGURE 2



SG:398b Surcharge Double

FIGURE 3



SG:398c Vertical pair, one normal one surcharge double

FIGURE 4



SG:398d Surcharge Triple

FIGURE 5

SG:398e Surcharge normal on front,
inverted on back

FIGURE 6

SG:398f Surcharge omitted on front,
inverted on back

CAYMAN ISLANDS

COLOUR VARIETIES OF THE JAMAICAN 1D USED IN THE CAYMANS

BY RICHARD MAISEL

In 1889 Jamaica issued a bi-coloured 1d postage and revenue stamp, often referred to as the Keyplate 1d (Figure 1). This stamp was used in Jamaica from 1889 to 1900 and it was also shipped from Jamaica to the Cayman Islands where it was used for the same twelve year period of time. The 1d is described in the philatelic literature in two different ways. In Jamaica it is recorded as a single stamp (SG:27) with many colour variations (Note 1), but in The Caymans, it is defined as five different stamps (SG:Z2, Z7, Z11, Z22 and Z26), depending on how it was cancelled (Figure 2), with a single colour combination (Note 2). How strange that the same stamp, drawn from the same inventory, and used in the same twelve year period of time, should be subject to many colour variations in its Jamaican use and uniform in colour when used in the Cayman Islands.

FIGURE 1.



The Jamaican
1d of 1889 (SG:27)

FIGURE 2

The five Cayman Island cancellations used on the Jamaican 1d of 1889

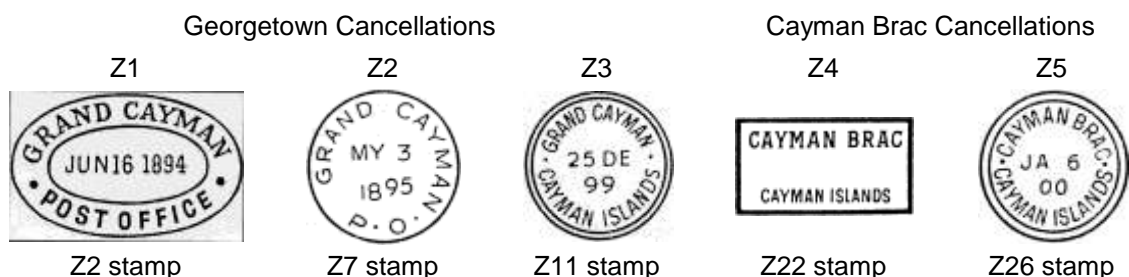


FIGURE 3

Colour variation in Jamaican 1d stamps used in the Cayman Islands



* Based on a computer analysis of the five 1d stamps using the Colour Picker procedure of the Adobe Photoshop Program.

But, as can be seen in Figure 3 there are colour variations in the Keyplate 1d stamps used in the Caymans, and as shown in the following analysis, additional colour varieties probably exist. The analysis also raises serious doubts that any one colour variation will be found on all five of the 1d's listed in the Caymans and thus the current practice of describing all of these stamps as being identical in colour is misleading.

This article begins with some background on the Jamaican 1d stamp and its use in Jamaica. It then applies this information to a timeline of the stamp as used in the Caymans to derive a set of possible colour varieties for the five listings of the Keyplate 1d used in the Caymans.

THE 1889 JAMAICAN 1D STAMP

The 1d stamp of 1889 was surface printed in London by Thomas De La Rue using a two step keyplate procedure. In the first stage all features of the design were printed by a keyplate except the contents of the Duty Tablet located near the bottom of the stamp. This stage in the printing provided the primary or keyplate colour of the stamp. In the second stage of the printing a duty plate filled the content of the Duty Tablet and gave the second or duty plate colour to the stamp.

There were fifteen printings of the 1d stamp distributed more or less regularly over the period beginning in February 1889 and ending in June 1898 (Note 3). These printings produced a wide variety of colour combination which varied over the twelve years the stamp was used in Jamaica. Table 1 lists these variations and time they were used in Jamaica according to a study reported by G. W. Collett et. al.

TABLE 1
Colours reported for Jamaican Keyplate 1d¹

Key or Head Plate (Prints all features of the stamp except the denomination and the shading in the denomination tablet)		Duty Plate ² (Prints the denomination and the shading in the denomination tablet)	
Colour	Dates Used Copies	Colour	Dates Used Copies
Dull Purple	1889–91 1895–1900	Mauve	1889–1890
Deep Dull Purple	1889–91	Bright Mauve	1895–1900
Brownish Purple	1891–92	Plum	1891–94
Purple	1892–94	Maroon	1892 (Mar.–Apr)
Pale Dull Purple	1893–1900	Purple	1893
		Crimson	1894
		Bright Purple	1894–1900
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This table is taken from Collett, G. W. et. al., <i>Jamaica Its Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks</i>. Stanley Gibbons Ltd.: London, 1928. pp. 62–67 2. Collett reports a Blue Duty Plate variety for the period 1889 but there is some question about the existence of this colour variety. A carmine coloured duty plate has also been reported on two mint copies but this colour is believed to be due to the use of a Duty Plate that was not properly cleaned after the printing of a 1d Official Stamp. 			

If there were fairly regular shipments of the 1d from Jamaica to the Caymans taken from the inventory of stamps currently in use in Jamaica then: (1) The inventory of 1ds used in the Caymans would be about the same as the inventory of those used in Jamaica; and (2) the colour varieties of the 1d used in the Caymans should roughly approximate those for Jamaica as reported in Table 1. The greater the number of shipments the closer the approximation.

SHIPMENTS OF THE 1D FROM JAMAICA TO THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

There is little information about the shipments of the 1d from Jamaica to the Cayman Islands but this limited information is consistent with the assumption that there were a number of shipments distributed over time. The records show the first shipment was made in early 1889 and that it contained the 1d stamp. They also show a second shipment was made about a year later but the records do not show whether the 1d was or was not included in this shipment. It is also reported that the Caymans had to pay for the Jamaican stamps on a cash not consignment basis (Note 4). This system of payment would discourage large orders for stamps and lead to many smaller shipments.

There is also indirect evidence that there were a number of shipments. If the first shipment to the Caymans, dated early in 1889, was the only one then there would be, given the information in Table 1, only two possible colour varieties for the 1d used in the Caymans; dull purple and mauve and deep dull purple and mauve. But Figure 2 shows there are least five such colour varieties, thus there must have been a number of shipments after the first.

THE 1889 JAMAICAN 1D STAMP USED IN THE CAYMANS

Table 2 shows the time periods that each of the five Cayman Islands cancellers Z1–Z5 were in use.

TABLE 2

Earliest and latest known use of Cayman Island Cancellers on the Jamaican 1889 1d stamp

Canceller ¹	Stamp ¹	Earliest known use ²	Latest known use ²
Z 1	Z2	03 Mar. 1889	05 Nov. 1894
Z 2	Z7	08 Jan. 1895	?? Aug. 1898
Z 3	Z11	06 Jan. 1899	05 Apr. 1900
Z 4	Z22	15 Aug. 1899	06 Jan. 1900
Z 5	Z26	06 Sep. 1899	26 Apr. 1900

1. Stanley Gibbons <i>Empire Catalogue 1840–1936</i> . London and Ringwood: Stanley Gibbons Ltd., 1999. P.115			
2. Giraldi, Thomas E. and McCann, Peter P. <i>The Postal History of the Cayman Islands</i> . Weston, Massachusetts: Triad Publications, 1989. P.5			

Assuming there were a number of shipments, the possible colour varieties that might be found on a 1d with a Cayman Island cancellation can be inferred by comparing the time period the colour combination was used in Jamaica (Table 1) with the years the canceller was used in the Caymans (Table 2). If the two time periods overlapped, or if the period for the colour combination ended shortly before the period for the canceller began, then there is reason to believe that colour combination might be found on stamps with that cancellation. The greater the period of overlap the greater the probability of a shipment from Jamaica to the Caymans with a given colour combination and the greater the probability that this colour combination will be found on 1d stamps with that cancellation.

For example, Table 2 shows the Z5 canceller was used in the Caymans from September 1889 to April 1900. Table 1 shows two keyplate colours were found on the 1ds used in Jamaica during this period of time and in the preceding years, dull purple (1895–1900) and pale dull purple (1893 to 1900). Therefore given fairly regular shipments of the 1d from Jamaica to the Caymans it is very likely that shipments were made containing 1ds with one or both of these colour combination and that they were subsequently cancelled by the Z5 canceller.

Table 3 shows the possible colour combinations that might be found on the keyplate 1d with a Cayman Islands cancellation Z1 to Z5 and the likelihood that it might exist. It is based on: the information in Tables 1 and 2; the assumption there were multiple shipments of the 1d from Jamaica to the Caymans and; the type of analysis described in the previous paragraph.

TABLE 3

List of possible colours¹ for Keyplate 1d used in the Caymans

Cayman Islands		Key Plate		Duty Plate	
Canceller ²	Stamp ²	Colour	Likelihood ³	Colour	Likelihood ³
Z1	Z2	Dull purple	Almost certain	Mauve	Certain
		Deep dull purple	Almost certain	Plum	Likely
		Brownish purple	Likely	Purple	Possible
		Purple	Likely	Crimson	Possible
		Pale dull purple	Likely	Maroon	Unlikely
Z2	Z7	Pale dull purple	Likely	Bright purple	Likely
		Dull purple	Possible	Bright mauve	Likely
		Purple	Unlikely	Crimson	Unlikely
				Plum	Unlikely
				Purple	Unlikely
Z3	Z11	Dull purple	Likely	Bright Purple	Likely
		Pale dull purple	Likely	Bright Mauve	Likely
Z4	Z22	Dull purple	Likely	Bright Purple	Likely
		Pale dull purple	Likely	Bright Mauve	Likely
Z5	Z26	Dull purple	Likely	Bright Purple	Likely
		Pale dull purple	Likely	Bright Mauve	Likely
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The names used for the colours are those given in Collett, G. W. et. al., <i>Jamaica Its Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks</i>. Stanley Gibbons Ltd.: London, 1928. pp. 62–67, 2. <i>Stanley Gibbons Empire Catalogue 1840–1936</i>, London and Ringwood: Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 1999. p 115 3. The categories in the Likelihood scale are ordered as follows: Certain, Almost certain, Likely, Possible, and Unlikely. 					

An examination of Table 3 leads to three conclusions:

1. There are likely to be colour varieties for each of the five Keyplate 1d stamps used in the Caymans, particularly those with the Z1 cancellation.
2. The same colour varieties will probably be found on the 1d stamps with the Z2 to Z4 cancellations but these varieties will differ from those found on stamps with the Z1 cancellation.
3. There is no single colour combination that will be found on stamps with all five cancellations.

CONCLUSION

There are many colour varieties for the Keyplate 1ds used in the Caymans. This article shows what these varieties might be but further research is needed to determine exactly which ones exist.

In addition it should be noted that the Keyplate 1d was part of a series of three stamps including a Green 2d (SG:28) and a Dull purple and blue 2½d (SG:29). All three of these stamps were used in both Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and colour varieties are currently recorded for all three denominations when used in Jamaica. Colour varieties are also recorded for the 2d used in the Caymans but not the 2½d. Perhaps, as in the case of the 1d, such colour varieties may also exist for this 2½d stamp.

NOTES

1. The Stanley Gibbons catalogue gives the Keyplate 1d a single listing in its section on Jamaican stamps, SG:27, and describes its colour as purple and mauve but notes under the listing that "A very wide range of shades maybe found in the 1d." *Stanley Gibbons Empire Stamp Catalogue 1840–1936, Volume 1*. London and Ringwood: Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 1999. p 172. Several studies list the colour varieties of the 1d used in Jamaica and show the years in which these colours were used. These studies include: Clark, Ashley. 'Jamaica, Octagonals', *Stanley Gibbons Monthly*, Volume 1 No 11 (new Series), Aug 1924. pp 239–242; Collett, G. W. et. al., *Jamaica Its Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*. Stanley Gibbons Ltd.: London, 1928. pp. 62–67, Pemberton, P. L. 'Papers for Moderate Specialists'. *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, June 1908, pp. 114–116.
2. The Stanley Gibbons catalogue has five listings for the Keyplate 1d in its section on the Cayman Islands, SG:Z2, SG:Z7, SG:Z11, SG:Z22, and SG:Z26. It describes the colour of each listing as purple and mauve. *Stanley Gibbons Empire Stamp Catalogue 1840–1936, Volume 1*. op cit p. 115. Studies which list these five variations of the Keyplate 1d for the Cayman Islands and provide a single colour combination to these listings include: Aguilar, Everard F. and Saunders, Philip T. *The Cayman Islands: Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*. Folkestone, U.K.: F. J. Parsons Ltd., 1962. p. 24; Armstrong, Douglas B. 'The Cayman Islands: Their Stamps and Post Office.' *The Stamp Lover Booklets* No. 3. London: H. F. Johnson, 1910. p. 6; and Melville, Fred J. *The Postage Stamps of the Cayman Islands*. Beverly, Mass./Portland, Maine: Severn-Wylie-Jewett Co., 1920. p. 5. The same colour combination is used to describe the 1d stamp in Auction Catalogues. See for example: Robert J. Cooley (Shreve's Philatelic Galleries Inc., Dallas, September 23, 1995. Lots 6, 21–23, and 25); Edgar Marston, III (Christie's Robson Lowe, London, March 5, 1992. Lots 2017, 2018 and 2021); and Richard Maisel (Shreve's Philatelic Galleries Inc., Dallas, February 24, 2007. Lots 2005–2007, 2019, and 2020).
3. Collett, G. W. et. al., *Jamaica Its Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*. Op cit.
4. Aguilar, Everard F. and Saunders, Philip T. *The Cayman Islands: Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*. Folkestone, U.K.: F. J. Parsons Ltd., 1962. p. 24.



peter singer



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GRENADA**THE AMYAND CORRESPONDENCE****BY TIM PEARCE**

An addition to the record of the correspondence from John Hervey in Grenada to George Amyand, see Bulletin #204, March 2005, pp 27–31, which stated: “2. The second letter was written on 14 October, similarly addressed, but I have not seen this letter and do not know its present whereabouts or who wrote it.”

I have now seen the text of the 14 October letter copied on the first side of a further letter from Harvey, dated from Basseterre, (St. George's) Grenada and sent 'per the Friendly B.... (illegible)', Capt Salmond, marked 'Ship' in manuscript and rated 1/11. Amyand had replied to an earlier letter from Hervey on 27 July. Hervey now mentions a letter to Amyand of 20 May (not seen). He is clearly still hoping that Amyand will take the La Taste estate, but refers to a Mr. Graham, who believed he could find another buyer. Hervey adds “I have no expectation of that, as the stocks continue so low”. It appears that Amyand holds a contract with Hervey for an estate called Nogues already owned by Hervey, and the agent is trying to persuade him to buy La Taste in lieu, “the richest spot of land in the island”. Most of the letter is concerned with various local costs and Mr. Rucker, see #5, is also mentioned. He is possibly Amyand's agent in England. In a postscript, Hervey refers to Governor Scott (Grenada) and Governor Melville (see The General in #7) (Federation of Grenada, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago), who arrived in the island on 13 December 1764, to find many disputes over land between the former French settlers and the incoming English. Hervey concludes “I have inclosed to Mr. Rucker a rough sketch of a plan of Madam Regis Estate, which he will show you and by which you will see the contiguity of the estates.” The letter apparently did not reach London until 9 January 1765.



BOOK REVIEW**THE SUGAR BARONS BY MATTHEW PARKER****REVIEWED BY STEVE JARVIS**

Matthew Parker contacted the BWISC a couple of years ago seeking information to help him write this book, concerning the initial colonisation and subsequent economic and social development of the West Indian islands. The book is non-philatelic but nevertheless provides considerable background information for a postal historian, to help understand the context within which postal communication operated.

I am pleased to report that several of our members in the UK and Barbados provided help to Matthew, for which he was grateful.

The book focuses on Barbados, the Leeward Islands and Jamaica, chronicling the rise and fall of the sugar industry, plantation system and the major dynasties (Drax, Codrington, Beckford). The reality of the slave trade is graphically described, which drives home the horrors of the system and how even some Quakers compromised their moral values to make financial gain.

I found the section dealing with the late 18th century particularly interesting, dealing with the triangular relationship between Britain, the Islands and the North American colonies. The British Government (influenced by the Planters) considered the West Indian islands more valuable than the North American mainland and their defence was given a high priority, thus affecting the resources that were deployed to try to prevent the declaration of Independence (of the US).

I had also recently read *The Dead Yard* by Ian Thomson, which describes the current social environment and attitudes in Jamaica. I felt *The Sugar Barons* helped me to understand how present Jamaican society has been influenced by its savage heritage.

I thoroughly recommend this book for an educational and gripping bed-time read.

Published April 2011 by Hutchinson in hardback. Available at Amazon for about £16.

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GUYANA

UNRECORDED MODERN CANCELLATIONS

BY DAVID WATSON

Previously unrecorded modern medium and large double ring date stamps:–

Medium cancel (3.2cm/4cm; all 2002): used at Evesham P.O.; Kwakwani P.O.; New Amsterdam L.C.; McKenzie P.O.; McKenzie CTR.

Large cancel (3.7cm/5cm; 1997–2008): used at G.P.O.; G.P.O. AMF; G.P.O. CTR. 2, 3, 4, 8; Agricola CTR; Agricola CTR 3; Anna Regina P.O. CTR; Anna Regina P.O. CTR 3; Bagotville P.O.; Bartica P.O.; Bartica CTR; Bourda CTR. 3; Campbellville; Campbellville CTR 1; Fellowship; Kitty; Mabaruma P.O.; Mahaica P.O.; Mahaicony P.O.; Mahaicony CTR 2; Rose Hall Town; Rosignol P.O.; Soesdyke; Wakenham P.O.



CARIBBEAN METER MARKS

Steve Zirinsky has supplied a paper recording meter marks from various islands. This can be viewed in the gallery section on the web site (menu: Gallery > BWI Generic > Articles > 'BWI Meter Marks by Steve Zirinsky'.

Classic Collections

ST. KITTS POSTAL HISTORY

by

Brian Brookes



This is the fourth booklet in our series of 'Classic Collections' and details a highly acclaimed display given by Brian at the Royal Philatelic Society London in March last year. Brian's collection is without doubt one of the finest collections of St. Kitts ever assembled. The booklet describes and illustrates the earliest pre-stamp covers, as well as the early 1870 issues, the numerous provisional stamps, postal stationery and lastly the revenue stamps. Fully illustrated in colour throughout, this 34 page booklet is a must for collectors of both St. Kitts and general BWI. Price:– £12.00. BWISC Members' Discount:– £ 2.00.

This book and others published by the BWISC can be ordered from:– David Druett, Pennymead Books, 1 Brewerton St., Knaresborough, N. YORKS. HG5 8AZ .Tel:– 01423 865962 or Fax:– 01423 547057 or E-mail: Pennymead@aol.com. N.B. Postage and packing is extra. Orders will be dispatched with invoice and prompt payment is requested. Payment may be made by Sterling or US or Canadian dollar cheque or by PayPal. Payment may also be made in Euros in cash only. All books published by the BWISC are displayed on www.bwisc.org and on www.pennymead.com.

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>.

The next volume of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia covering airmails is under preparation.

Many covers have been scanned but the quality of some could do with improvement and there are inevitably still some gaps.

We are therefore seeking **300dpi scans** of certain first flight covers to and from Jamaica.

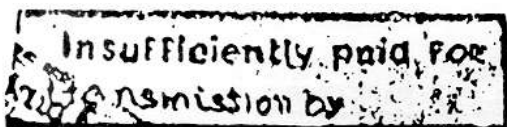
A list will be published on the BWISC web site and I would be very pleased to receive scans of any of those listed.

A couple of articles have emerged from my meanderings this quarter:—

'INSUFFICIENTLY PAID FOR / TRANSMISSION BY AIR MAIL'

Between 1980 and 1983 Reg. Lant published a series of articles in the BCP Journal covering the *Unpaid and Tax markings of Jamaica*.

He identified a single example of his Type DA01 used 26 April 1934, illustrated and described as follows:



A double straight-line marking with legend enclosed within a single frame line rectangle measuring 68 mm by 16 mm.
The lettering is 3 to 2 mm upper and lower case. In violet ink

The earliest airmail marking recorded is struck on a King George V ½d green post card (Type P.C.30) despatched from Kingston to Avon Park, Florida, USA, on 26 April 1934. Neither the post card nor the marking is in very good condition – in fact, the last two words of the legend are scarcely legible, but they are undoubtedly 'Air Mail'.

This item is also recorded as unique by Proud, with the next Type not being used until 1948.

A second example of this mark has now turned up on eBay dated 30 May 1934 and is illustrated below.



The exact reason for underpayment is not clear. The 1s single rate to the USA applied until 17 December 1933 and the 9½d single rate applied from 18 December 1933 to 21 October 1934.

The 1oz rate was 1s 4½d, so I guess we must assume that it was over the ½oz single rate limit and would have been sent by sea. There are no backstamps to tell us the arrival date.

KINGSTON COMMERCIAL ROOMS**BY STEVE JARVIS**

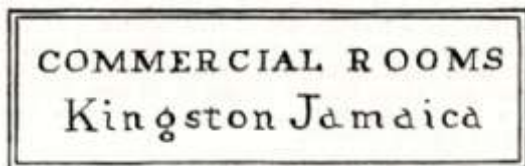
The most famous of the Jamaica forwarding agents was the Commercial Rooms (later Commercial Buildings) in Kingston. (See views circa 1838, by J.B. Kidd on the front cover).

Leonard Britnor wrote a short article on the subject in *Stamp Collecting* (8 November 1963) and Tom Foster provided further information in his 1968 Postal History book.

Eight different handstamps have been identified with dates ranging from February 1818 to June 1843 (see selection of illustrations below).

COMMERCIAL*ROOMS.

1818



1818 to 1825

Commercial*Rooms
Kingston, Jamaica

1818

COMMERCIAL ROOMS
KINGSTON JAMAICA

1822 to 1829

The latter date coincides with the introduction of the RMSP service but the establishment is explained in the following extract from the Jamaica Royal Gazette of 1817:–

ROYAL GAZETTE:– KINGSTON, 18 MAY 1817

The subscribers are induced, from the very liberal encouragement they have met with from several Commercial Members of this Community, to whom they have made their intentions known, to establish in this City, by subscription, a place for the greater dispatch and convenience of transacting Mercantile Affairs, and whatever is connected with them, to be called

“THE KINGSTON COMMERCIAL ROOMS”

Which will be opened on Monday the 7th July next, situate the corner of Harbour and Orange Streets.

- 1st The Rooms will be fitted up with every requisite convenience, viz. Pens, Ink, Paper, and a Drawer, with lock and key, for each subscriber.
- 2nd The following Newspapers and Publications will be kept in regular files, viz. – the whole of the Island newspapers – The London Times – Chronicle – Herald – Public Ledger – Courier – Star – Bell’s Weekly Messenger – also, The Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow, Irish, and American Newspapers – Prices Current, and all Shipping Lists that can be procured – Arms and Navy Lists etc etc etc.
- 3rd The Rooms will be provided with every map and Chart relative to the trade of the Island: Publications on Insurance and all other Works that may be deemed useful to the Establishment.
- 4th Books will be kept regularly for the following purposes. Viz.
 - 1 To announce all Arrivals
 2. To announce all Departures
 3. All Public Sales of Produce, provisions etc.
 4. The Arrival and Departure of Packets, and Vessels of War carrying Letter Bags.
- 5th Boards will be provided to put up Vessels for Sale, Freight, or Charter.
- 6th Captains of Vessels addressed to a Subscriber to have free admission to the Rooms.
- 7th Each Subscriber to enter the name of a Clerk, to transact business for him.
- 8th Refreshments will be provided at the Tavern prices.
- 9th A Look Out will be built, and furnished with one of Dolland’s Telescopes, and several others; the Packet Signals, and Ships’ private ditto.
- 10th No person, on any pretext whatever, to be admitted, unless a Subscriber.
- 11th The Rooms will be open from seven in the morning until four in the afternoon; and, when a Packet arrives, until seven in the evening.

Terms of Subscription.

Each Subscriber	10	13	4	per annum
Transient ditto	5	6	3	three months
Putting up a vessel for Europe	2	15	0	
Ditto ditto America	2	0	0	
Ditto ditto South America	1	6	8	
Ditto Drogger	0	13	4	

The great inconvenience attending transacting business in this City, particularly by strangers, for want of a place of public resort, where they could adjourn and gain information, was the first inducement for laying the above before the Public, which will admit of every accommodation connected with its very important concerns, and embrace objects calculated to promote individual and general benefit to all parties frequenting the rooms. The utility to Underwriters and Residents of this City must be too clear to every one to need any remark. The Landed Proprietor and the Planning Attorney will also derive considerable advantage from such an Establishment, during their occasional visits in Kingston; at one view they would see what vessels are for Sale, Freight, or Charter, and regulate the shipment of their Produce, should shipping be scarce in the Ports to which their Properties may be contiguous; and to those, whose professional pursuits cannot strictly be termed Mercantile, though all, more or less, are connected with Commerce in this island, it is presumed select Company, and a multiplicity of English Publications, embracing every political party, will prove a sufficient inducement for their patronage and support. From the foregoing consideration, and many more, which might be adduced, did the limits of this Prospectus admit, they purpose establishing such an institution, assuring the Public that nothing on their part shall be wanting to fulfil all they have promised, and trust to meet with that encouragement which, by their exertions, they will endeavour to merit.

J.R. Absalom
Robt. Thomson

N.B. A Book is left at the Chronicle Office to enter the names of those Gentlemen who may wish to become Subscribers.

ROYAL GAZETTE:– KINGSTON, 1 JULY 1817

The Subscriber respectfully informs the Merchants etc of this City, that on account of the sudden death of Mr. Robert Thomson, and the Premises requiring more repairs than he had an idea of, he is obliged to postpone opening the

COMMERCIAL ROOMS

Until Monday the 1st September next, by which time everything will be ready to meet the promises held out to them in the former advertisement, and trusts his individual exertions will meet with that success which there appeared every probability of prior to the decease of Mr. Thomson.

J.R. Absalom

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

GEORGE HOWARD KING (POSTMASTER 1915–1935)

BY CHRIS BIRCH

My grandfather, George Howard King ISO, was Postmaster of St. Kitts from 1915 to 1935. In 1922 he suggested to the Administrator that a special set of stamps should be issued the following year to mark the tercentenary of the colonisation of the island by Sir Thomas Warner and that the money raised from the sale of the stamps should be used to buy land to create a public park in Basseterre. This note is reproduced below.

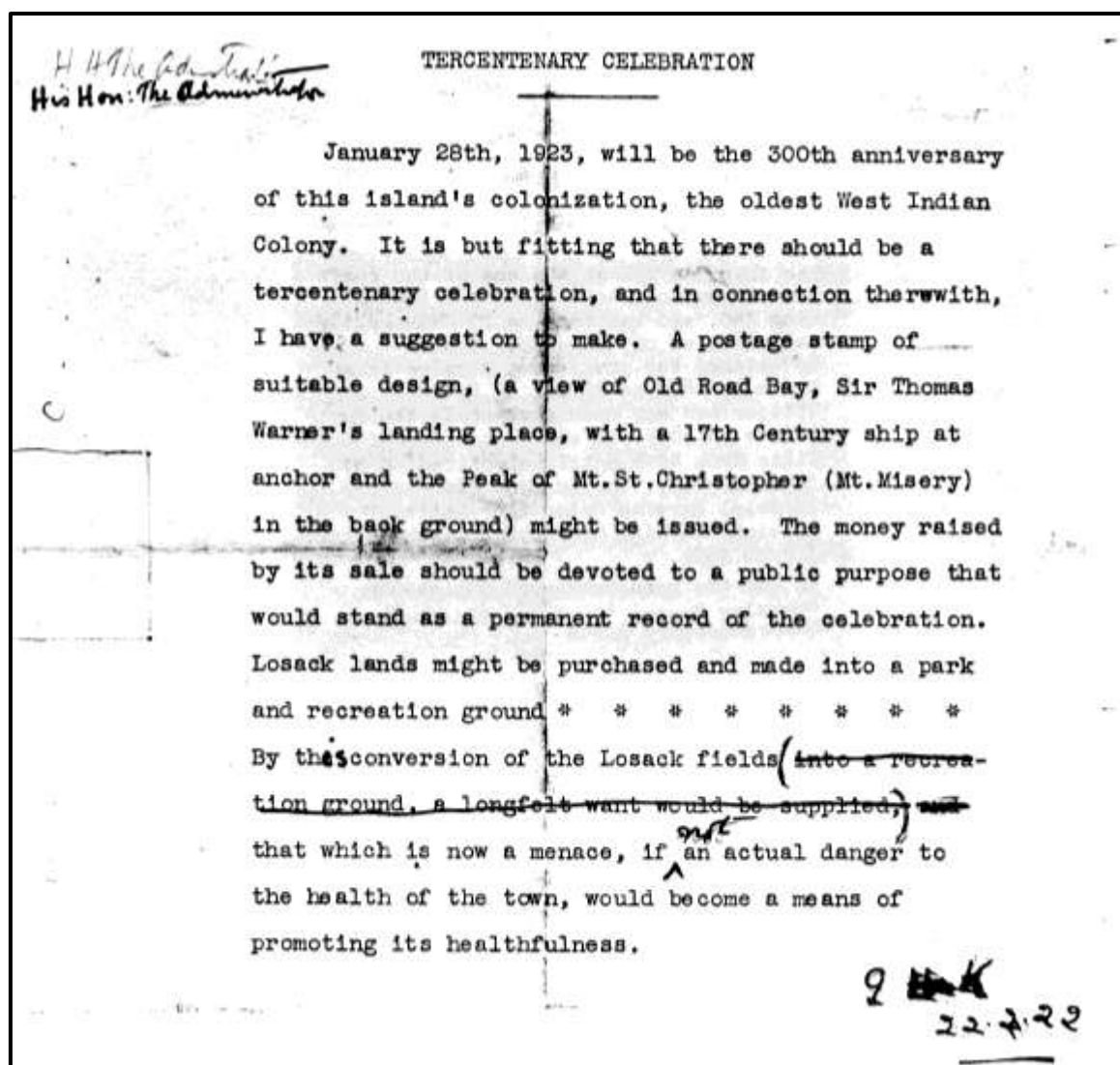
The stamps were duly issued and, as a result, Warner Park was created. Unfortunately my grandfather, the Administrator, the Colonial Office and everyone else concerned failed to realise that when Warner and his settlers landed on 28 January 1623, it was 1623 by the Old Style Julian calendar but 1624 by our present New Style Gregorian calendar, so the tercentenary was celebrated a year early.

My grandfather was born in St. Kitts on 29 January 1871. His family had been in the West Indies for generations and his wife's family arrived in the West Indies in 1635.

He joined the Colonial Civil Service in St. Kitts in 1890 as an acting Revenue Officer and was made a clerk in the Post Office in 1895, earning £50 pa. He was Postmaster of St. Kitts from 1915 to 1935. In 1924 his salary was £325 a year plus £40 fees. In 1935 it was £350 a year plus £58 'personal', whatever that meant.

He was made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order (ISO) on King George V's birthday, 3 June 1932 (see below).

He died on 19 October 1951, aged 80.



ST. LUCIA**KGVI PERFORATION VARIETIES****BY STEVE JARVIS**

Further to the correspondence in several previous Bulletins, I can report that further information has been gleaned from *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* of August 2001, where Richard Lockyer provided the following information (summarised):

The 2c magenta was perforated 12½ for use in sheets and in late 1949 14½x14 mainly for coils.


The 12c claret had two printings (according to the Crown Agents) the first in October 1949 and a later one in August 1951. At the time only the perf. 12½ was reported but the 14½x14 was identified later. John Keegan's cover (front cover of the last Bulletin) is dated 12 August 1950, proving the perf variety came from the first printing. It is believed that six or seven sheets (of 120) with the perf. variety were produced. The most likely reason suggested is that as the 2c and 12c were similar in colour and denomination, the operator picked up a few incorrect sheets at the time of perforation.

No further information is provided regarding the 4c.

I recommend the purchase of the GSM Archive edition 1890 to 2009, which provides an invaluable source of articles. Available at:







<http://www.stanleygibbons.com/online-shop/gibbons-stamp-monthly-archive.aspx>

An index can be searched at <http://www.gibbonsstampmonthly.com/archivesearch.asp>, or in the RPSL Catalogue in the Cumulative Journal Index search section <http://www.rpslcatalogue.org.uk/>.



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Stop Press: Dickon states the sale will include the following:

Antigua: 1s albino frame, RL Cert.
Barbados: ½d, 1½d and 2½d wmk errors
Caymans: ½d wmk error
Dominica: range of wmk errors
Grenada: 2½d good perf unmounted
Grenada: 10s frame double one albino
Leewards: 10s gash in chin, #60 flaw
Leewards: £1 wmk sideways
St. Kitts: 77ab in a block (rare!)

Bahamas:
 ½d brown-purple Crown missing
 ½d brown-purple St. Edward's Crown block
 2½d value printed double
 5s thin paper
 ½d Landfall accent flaw
 3d 'Rence' flaw
 8d 'Columbus' in sheet
 2s and 3s stop after Columbus

Throughout, many of the listed wmk errors including a fine range on the Dues.

TOBAGO

'½ PENNY' ON 6D STONE

BY NIGEL CHANDLER

It has long been accepted wisdom that there were two settings used in applying this surcharge. 'Setting' is possibly not the best chosen word, and 'state' in the sense of condition is perhaps more accurate; however to conform with received knowledge 'setting' will be used here. This article demonstrates quite clearly that there are at least three settings.

The 1st setting is defined as having no anomalies, and a block of 15 (5 x 3) is in Ian Jakes' collection.

The 2nd setting has a wider spacing between ½ and PENNY at position 10 of the form. This is constant.

The 3rd setting has a wider spacing as above at both position 10 and additionally at position 3. Again constant. Also occurring at position 7 of the setting is a 'bent' fraction bar in association with a damaged 'E' of PENNY. All are constant.

FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3



FIGURE 4

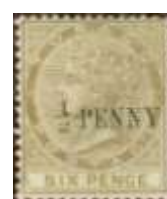


Fig. 1 illustrates a normal.

Fig. 2 the wider spacing.

constant.

Fig. 3 the wider spacing with raised 'P'.

constant?

Fig. 4 the 'bent' fraction bar with its accompanying damaged 'E' of PENNY constant.

FIGURE 5



Positions 7 & 9 of the form are recorded with a raised 'P'.

Figure clearly demonstrates the wider spacing at bottom right, and the 'P' is fractionally raised.

TRINIDAD

LADY TEW WAS SHE A PHILATELIST?

BY ERIC BATESON

I have in my collection a registered philatelic cover bearing the complete set of the 1935–37 pictorial issue of Trinidad and Tobago. The adhesives are all p12. The cover is addressed to Lady Tew, Green Acres, Hartley Wintney, Hants and is cancelled '28/04/38' as shown in the illustration.



My investigations have revealed that the Tew Family is one of great antiquity going back to Anglo-Saxon times and it is recorded that one branch of the family migrated to Virginia in the United States.¹

Consultation of Debrett's Peerage² listed Lawrence Tew born 1876, read law in Oxford and was admitted to Lincoln's Inn Bar in 1913. He had a distinguished career in the British Colonial Service in Africa and became Chief Justice of Sierra Leone in 1929. He was knighted when he retired in 1932 and after retirement his address was given as Tanglewood, Crowborough, Sussex. He married a Muriel Ramsbottom when he was a student in Oxford.

I have calculated that at the time the philatelic cover was cancelled Sir Lawrence would have been 62 years and presumably Lady Tew would have been a similar age. She could have acquired an interest in philately as she accompanied him around Africa. In relation to this there is a remote but possible association with another philatelist Sir Charles Belcher of Trinidad who also held legal positions in British African colonies over a similar period of time that the Tews were there and who also produced similar philatelic covers³.

Is it a remote possibility that the paths of Lady Tew and Sir Charles may have crossed in Africa and an association developed between the two collectors which continued after Sir Charles retirement in Trinidad in 1930 and could he have arranged for the post office in Port of Spain to have sent this cover to Lady Tew?

I would like to know if anyone reading this article has any covers tucked away in their collection addressed to Lady Tew or any information about her philatelic interests.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish to thank Ms Jenny Higgins Reference Librarian National Library of Australia for her help with Debrett's Peerage and my sight disabled wife Winifred for her constructive comments.

REFERENCES

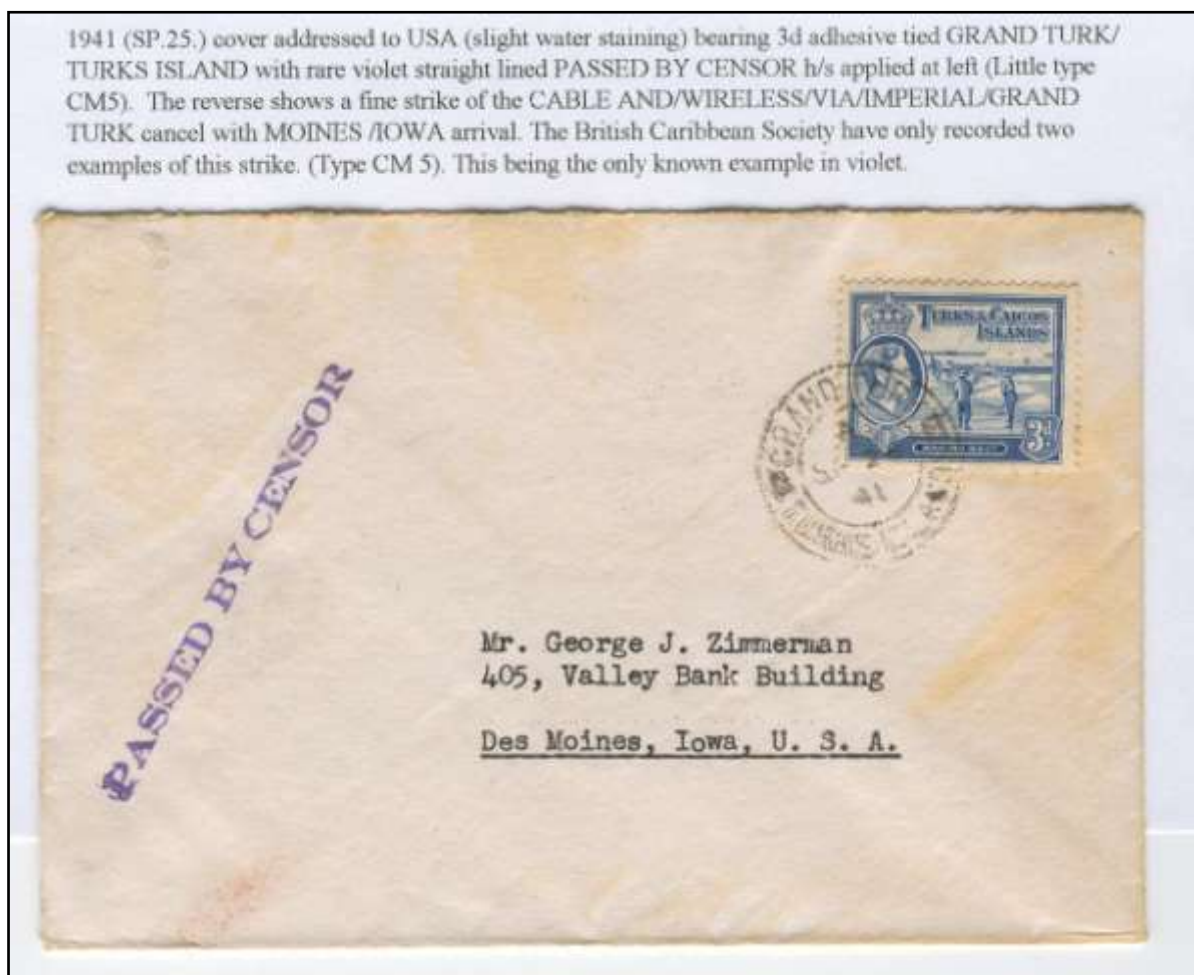
1. Tew Alan. The origins of the Tew name and Family. *Red Flag Links* (May 2008) p 1.
2. *Debretts's Peerage. Encyclopaedia Britannica* (2008) p 1213.
3. Bateson, E.M. *The Philatelic Covers of Sir Charles Belcher of Trinidad*, British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, #50 (April 2010) p 19.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

CENSORED

BY PETER MARSHALL

I was intrigued by Graham Booth's Cayman censor covers. In my very limited experience, I had thought that a censor cover would have to be opened and then resealed (and I don't know about his) but ... could someone take a letter to the censor in person, with the envelope unsealed, so the censor could examine the contents before passing it? Thus one could have a censored cover without it having had to be 'opened' and then resealed? I ask this because of the Turks & Caicos cover acquired recently. I have not yet been in touch with the British Caribbean Society but would be happy to receive comment from any BWISC member.



Charles Freeland comments:

I have a small exhibit of censored postcards, 'passed' as obviously no need to open them. These plus open envelopes usually received the octagonal passed mark, though some islands used it irregularly, including St. Kitts and Turks.

QUERIES FROM NOEL DAVENHILL

RE TURKS & CAICOS KGV1 1938-45 ISSUE.

- Can anyone explain why the 6d and 1s denominations (only) were re-issued in 1945 in new colours (Sepia rather than mauve and grey-olive rather than yellow-bistre?)

RE TURKS & CAICOS 1969 DECIMAL OVERPRINT.

- The 7c on 8d surcharge was a variety where there is a very marked spacing variation between the '7' and the obliterating dot (my GSM article in January 2007). Does anyone possess sheets of this stamp to help determine the positioning?

Any information would be appreciated (reply through the Editor)

AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****MURRAY PAYNE 24 MARCH (NO BP)**

The most interesting BWI was the **Bahamas** section, where a GVI 2½d violet with value tablet printed double was £4.3k and proof material for the GVI booklet was £1.2k. In **Bermuda** a used 1943 2s GVI #1b flaw from the 1943 dealers' consignment went for £2.1 (3½ times estimate and over twice the SG cat price). A sheet of the 1934–51 **British Guiana** 3 cents showing a missing crown, the first I have seen mint, was £2.1k, bought by Gibbons and now priced at £3.75k.

VICTORIA STAMP COMPANY 26 MARCH (15% BP)

This was the highlight of the year so far for many members interested in the substantial offerings of Bahamas, Barbados, Montserrat and Virgin Islands. The **Bahamas** was a difficult sell as much of it had been offered some months before in the Abaco sale at Grosvenor. Many of the very fine range of covers went unsold, but the soldiers' 1d rate to Trinidad was acquired by one of our members for \$3.5k and an 1864 blockade runner was \$2.5k. From a different source came an 1867 interisland cover, which cost a happy buyer \$1.1k. The stamps and proofs were more popular, the imperf block of the QV 6d finding a buyer at \$4k and the recently discovered reversed watermark on Staircase 3d SG:98 at \$140. The proofs however were pretty flat although seven KE definitives with specimen handstamp fetched \$1.5k.

By contrast, Paul Larsen's national gold exhibit of **Barbados** 1892–38, beautifully presented, benefitted from reasonable estimates and most lots did well. For my tastes the most exciting were the booklets. The 1912 booklet, the rarest, albeit exploded, fetched \$1.5k; the 1916, complete but slightly toned, \$800; the 1923 and 1924 \$1.8k and 2k respectively; and the 1938, the one most often seen, \$2k. The last three are now in Gibbons stock. The 1916 green master die proof illustrated on the front cover was \$900 and the 1925 ½d imperf plate proof in bright blue, \$800. There were also a number of rare watermark varieties whose prices are worth studying. There was good demand for the used stationery and the two bisected dues were \$1.5k and \$1.6k.

Unsurprisingly in view of its recent popularity, early **Montserrat** was the best seller with hardly any unsolds. The prices for the covers were in the ballpark with the 1804 horseshoe at \$3k, a nice 1871 Montserrat Paid at \$1.7k and 12 1ds on cover at \$3.75k. The bisects were overestimated and did not sell. But the real surprises were the stamps. You would have had to beat \$900 to obtain the GB 6d with 'A08' cancel, the unissued 6d blue green or the block of 35 1d SG:1 with watermark inverted and reversed. Some fine inverted 'S' flaws were in demand, with the perf 12 1d the star at \$2.75k, although my notes say it has a gum thin. Nice blocks of the 4d CC at \$700 and 2½d brown CA at \$650 seemed sound buys. The ½d mint with Thompson flaw was \$250 and the same on an unmounted 4d \$275. The 1d arms with inverted watermark is unpriced by Gibbons so \$275 was no surprise but thirteen 1922–29 values with Plate 1 must have surprised Phoebe as they fetched \$200 on an estimate of \$35.

The 150 lots of **Virgin Islands** contained some good items but plenty of duplication so could have been hard to shift, but buyers appeared for most of the lots. It was no surprise that the sheet of 1d SG:8 fetched four times estimate but this was still well below the price it went for in Frazer. The 1867 4d on an 1881 cover was \$2.25k, much the same as in the Frazer sale, but ½d SG:43 with imperf left margin seemed good value at \$325. As usual, there was strong demand for choice items in other BWI colonies, including a nice **Bermuda** 12/6 GV perf specimen showing #54 damaged leaf flaw at \$900.

FUTURE EVENTS

An announcement by **Spink** that the Chartwell collection of GB and British Empire is expected to raise £20 million has set the emails buzzing. The Empire to be offered on 28 June has outstanding offerings of Bermuda and Virgin Is. The former includes two of the three recorded Perots on cover, both ex-Sir Henry Tucker, a third Perot and five Crowned Circle covers. There are blocks of 4 of the 6d dull purple and of the 3d/1d and 1d/3d provisionals and single 1ds imperf mint and used. The 1875 1d/1s is represented by mint blocks of 4 and 9 and by the very rare inverted overprint used. Among the Virgin Islands is a missing Virgin, an 1863 Crowned Circle, the compound perf 1d and Charlton Henry's double overprint on the 4d/1s. There will also be another of **Sotheby's** occasional stamp auctions in September, the late Lord Steinberg's collection of blocks. I am not sure what this contains but he was seen buying some choice blocks at Jaffé's St. Lucia sale. And **Murray Payne's** next sale will contain nearly all the big GVI rarities of Bahamas and Bermuda.

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Revisions to contact details should be provided to the 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**IAN JAKES**

Library lists can be supplied upon application to the 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 Editor at £2.00 or \$US4.00.

Please view Charles Freeland's regular updates to his Auction Alert under 'Auction/Dealers'.

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