



## STUDY CIRCLE

### GPO Georgetown, British Guiana By Michael Rego



The old Hotel Tower, purchased in 1914 and converted it into the Post Office, used until the great fire of February 1945.



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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 3 November 2012 – The Meeting at Philatex has been **cancelled**, an alternative venue / date has been arranged.  
**Now Saturday 29 Sept 2012 at Stampex in the afternoon.**

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CHARLES FREELAND)**

There was an excellent turnout for the AGM and auction on 28 April and I want to thank those who took the trouble to attend. I was especially glad to see a number of new faces.

Plenty of good things happened but one bad thing and I would like to address that first. Faced with the horrendous increases in postal charges for mailing our award-winning Bulletin and the auction catalogue, we have no alternative but to raise our annual subscriptions that have remained the same for the past seven years. As reported elsewhere by our treasurer Ray Stanton, members accepted the Committee's proposal to bite the bullet and increase them by about 50%, hoping this will be sufficient to last for the next few years. It is important to note that, since many members have paid up to 5 years in advance, the impact on our income will be gradual, while our expenditure will rise immediately.

However, we also agreed to REDUCE (from £10 to £8) the annual dues for those who elect to forgo their paper copy of the Bulletin, but download it from the website, thus saving us postage costs (although we will still mail out the auction catalogue). The £8 rate is available for all members, both home and abroad. I would ask those who wish to avail themselves of this lower rate to contact Ray Stanton or John Seidl immediately and not wait for the new dues year. Also please make sure our web manager Steve Jarvis has your up to date email so he can inform you as soon as the Bulletins are posted.

Some may point to the fact that our dues are now above those of some other specialist societies, but I doubt this will last long as they too will need to react to the new postal rates. The wise virgins who have bought years in advance will not be immediately affected of course, but if any of them feel guilty it is always possible to send a voluntary donation to Ray; in fact our finances suffer from the absence of any significant donations, unlike our US cousins. I have written a bequest to the BWISC in my will but it seems that few other members do the same.

Now, for some better news. First, the auction was a resounding success with sales of almost £25,000. Our thanks once again go to Simon and his team for the enormous efforts they devoted to making this such a success. The commission we earn is one of the main reasons we have been able to keep our subs down for so long. Second, I am delighted to say that we no longer are looking for a new Bulletin editor as Terry Harrison has kindly stepped forward and will take over from Steve as from the next edition. Steve says he does not have much on hand so I trust you will all give Terry a pleasant honeymoon by sending him some meaty articles in order to maintain its high standards.

So far as our forthcoming meetings are concerned, following the demise of Philatex we have been able to arrange a substitute location for our autumn display meeting, which will now take place on the Saturday afternoon of Stampex at the Business Design Centre in Islington. Precise details will follow in the September Bulletin but please reserve the date, 29 September. The Committee has reviewed a number of possible alternatives to the Honiley Court Hotel as the location for our future biennial Conventions but concluded that Honiley offers what we need at the prices we are willing to pay, so that will remain our choice for 2013 at least. In addition, Richard Stupples has offered to host a half day display meeting in Bath. If that finds favour with members, please let him or me know so we can estimate how many members might attend. Finally, for our 60th anniversary celebration in 2014, we are planning a major display at the Royal Philatelic Society that autumn followed by a dinner for all members who wish to attend.

### EDITOR'S MESSAGE (STEVE JARVIS)

I am pleased to announce that at the AGM, Terry Harrison volunteered to become the new editor of the Bulletin. He will take over for the September edition and so, after ten enjoyable years, this will be my last production. I wish Terry all the best for the future and ask that you support him, as you have done me, by providing a regular feed of articles. Terry can be contacted by email at [editor@bwisc.org](mailto:editor@bwisc.org) (the info@ address will continue to be for me), telephone 01926 312176 and snail mail at 7 Braemar Road, Lillington, Leamington Spa, CV32 7EZ.

## BWI

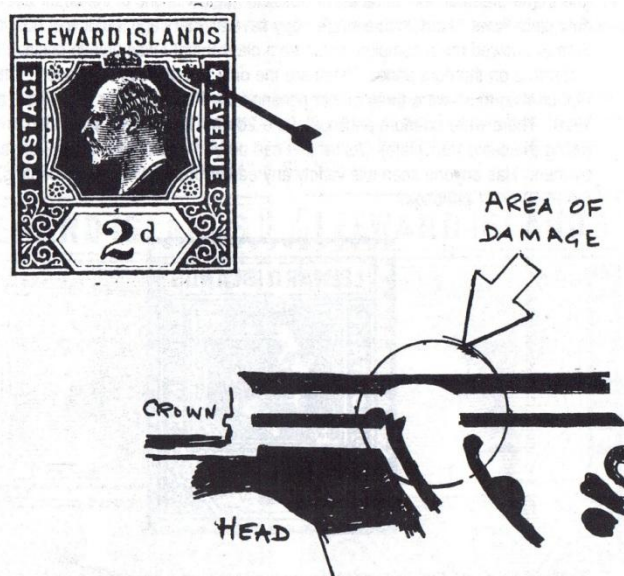
### THE SPAVEN FLAW

BY PETER FERNBANK

The recent Spink sale of Graham Booth's Cayman Islands collection contained a number of examples of what it describes as the 'Spavin' flaw. Over the past couple of years or so I have seen other references to the 'Spavin' flaw, and I feel it is time to correct this misspelling of the late Mike Spaven's name, who was responsible for highlighting the existence of this flaw.

I don't think Mike was the first to discover the flaw but he was largely responsible for bringing it to the attention of the philatelic world and his name has become associated with the flaw. He wrote to me in 1994 enclosing photocopies of a number of examples of it from different colonies. In Bulletin #167 (December 1995) an article appeared describing the flaw and including the illustration to the right. However, the original mistake in attributing the flaw to 'Spavin', rather than 'Spaven', unfortunately rests squarely with the BWISC! Both the Index at the front and the article itself are credited to Mike Spavin. Later membership lists fortunately do get his name right.

So please, let's give Mike due acknowledgement by getting his name right – '**Spaven**', not 'Spavin'. Regrettably I have a feeling that we might have left this correction too late. Future researchers investigating the Spink catalogue archive will still read about the 'Spavin' flaw.





# Murray Payne.....

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desireable items from other reigns*



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SG 55w



SG 164b



SG 32a



SG 13a

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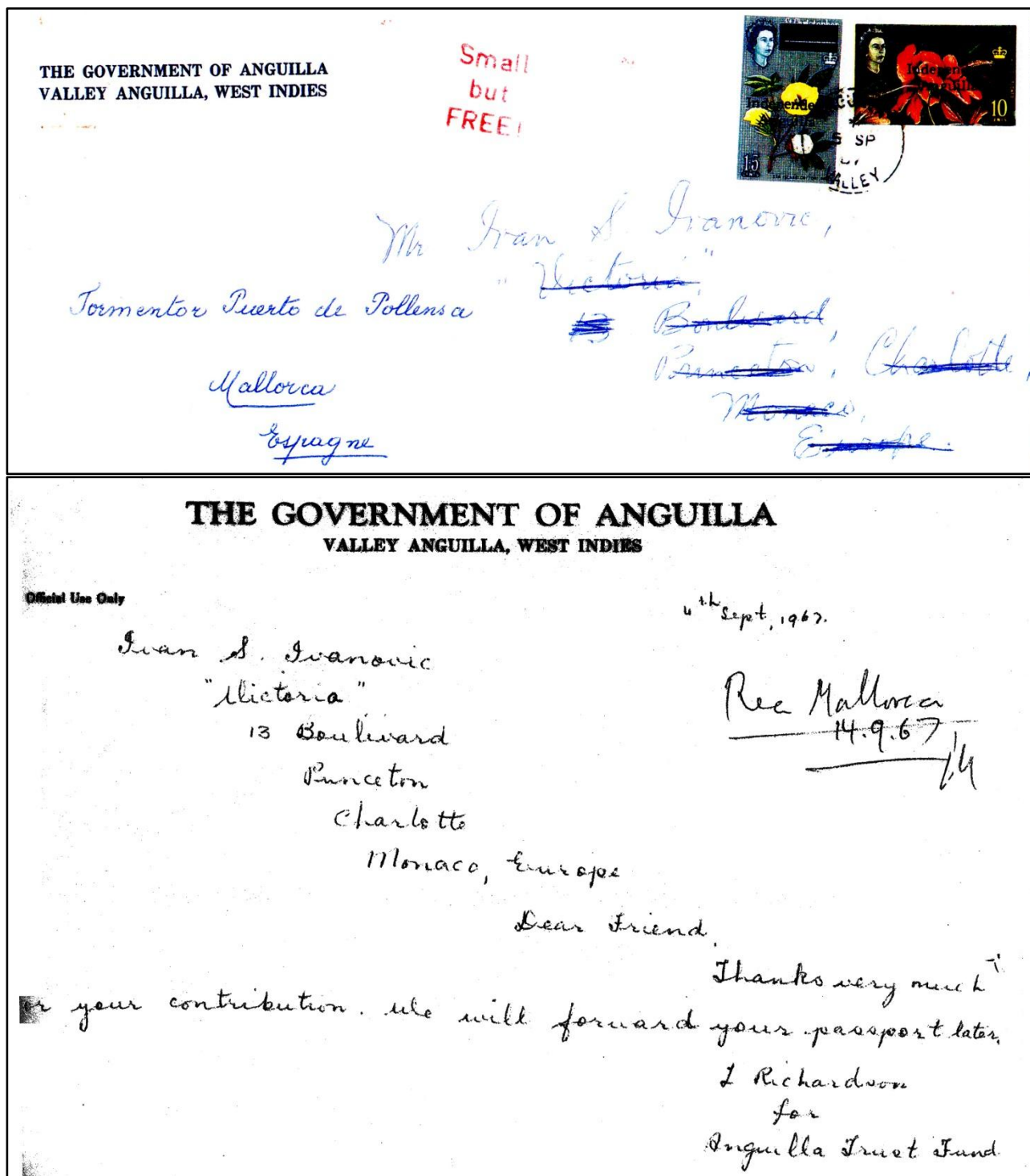
**WANT LISTS ACCEPTED**

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**CSDA, APS, ETC.**

**ANGUILLA****1967 LETTER****By BOZO IVANOVIC**

I illustrate below a letter to my father from the Governor of Anguilla in 1967, in response to his \$100 donation to the breakaways. Has anyone recorded the 'Small but Free' handstamp before?



## BARBADOS

### A RARE POSTMARK

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT

Despite the undoubted popularity of Barbados, it is not a happy hunting-ground for rare postmarks. Of the regular cancellations used around the parishes, only the Barbados '8' cds has a high scarcity rating within my collecting range up to the later 1930s, and we expect to get our fulfilment from finding familiar strikes of high quality on values on which these are not normally used. Late Fee or Official markings add occasional spice. There are random transit marks, of course, which seldom tell a story, and fragments of instructional marks are equally random. Even in the maritime field, the types of cancellations become repetitive. Detailed research may show the arrival of a particular vessel on which Barbados stamps would not ordinarily travel, but the quest for a stand-alone rarity will not bear fruit.

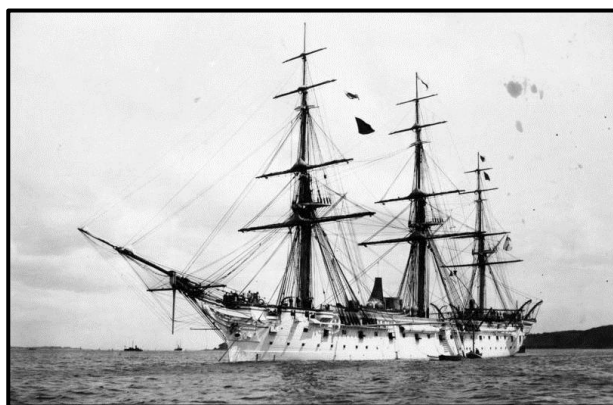
Or so I thought, until I stumbled on the item illustrated here, with its 'wow!' factor, which I must obviously share with fellow members. The cancellation belongs to a German naval vessel, rather than the merchant marine, and I hope that by the time that this snippet is published there will be information to add from elsewhere.



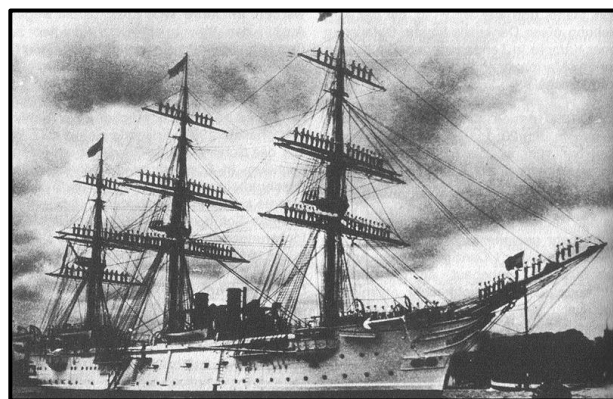
### ADDENDA

BY NIGEL CHANDLER

This stamp was cancelled on board the S.M.S. Stein which lay at anchor off the coast of Barbados from 21 Nov 1897 to 28 Nov 1897. On the following day it rendezvoused with the S.M.S. Charlotte near St. Thomas, both then proceeded to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where they exercised gun-boat diplomacy in respect of wrongs against German Nationals. (See the Lüders Affair for further details).



S.M.S. Stein of the Imperial German Navy



S.M.S. Charlotte of the Imperial German Navy

The Charlotte was the only ship in its class. The Stein, one of five ships of the Bismarck class. Two of the sister ships from this class were also in and around the Caribbean at this time; Gneisenau, and the Moltke.

The German Navy can be said to have begun an interest in 1869, albeit this under the auspices of the North German Confederation. Merchant Marine interests began in 1528.

One attempt was made to gain a base in the Caribbean; this was on the island of Little Curacao in 1882. Foundations were laid for a port and its associated military establishments despite the ground being unsuited to such. Several years later a violent storm washed everything away. Funds now being short they did not pursue this, and no further attempt was made.

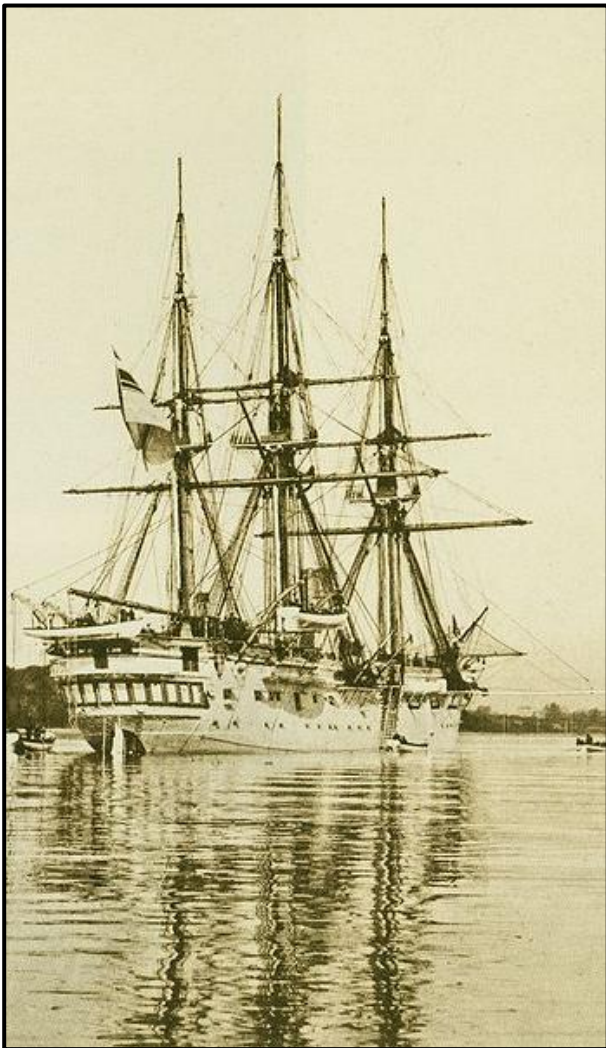
There were a number of places where the ships could coal; Kingston, Jamaica, and St. Lucia, as well as a number of places along the western coast of South America.



Philatelically they would appear not to have made any great mark, although Simon and I believe more is to be discovered.

The cancels that will be encountered fall into two categories; naval and merchant marine, both readily identifiable from their inscription. Those from the navy are inscribed as shown in Simon's stamp, a fortuitously crystal clear cancellation, with those from the merchant marine bearing Deutsche Seepost. Certainly adhesives of the B.W.I. used on board German vessels are not going to be plentiful, however both Simon and I feel they are worth looking for, and certainly they and associated postal history will add to your collection.

A note of caution; cancellers were not assigned permanently to any vessel, on return to Germany the cancels were surrendered, and then issued to another vessel, oft-times heading in another direction.



S.M.S. Moltke



S.M.S. Bismarck

**ARTICLES FOR THE BULLETIN PLEASE**

**SHORT OR LONG**



**BARBUDA****CHANGING REGISTRATION CANCELS****By DAVID WATSON**

Figure 1 shows an increase in the letter size in the registration handstamp from 1926 (the two stamp cover) to 1928 (3s stamp on cover) – spreading rubber?

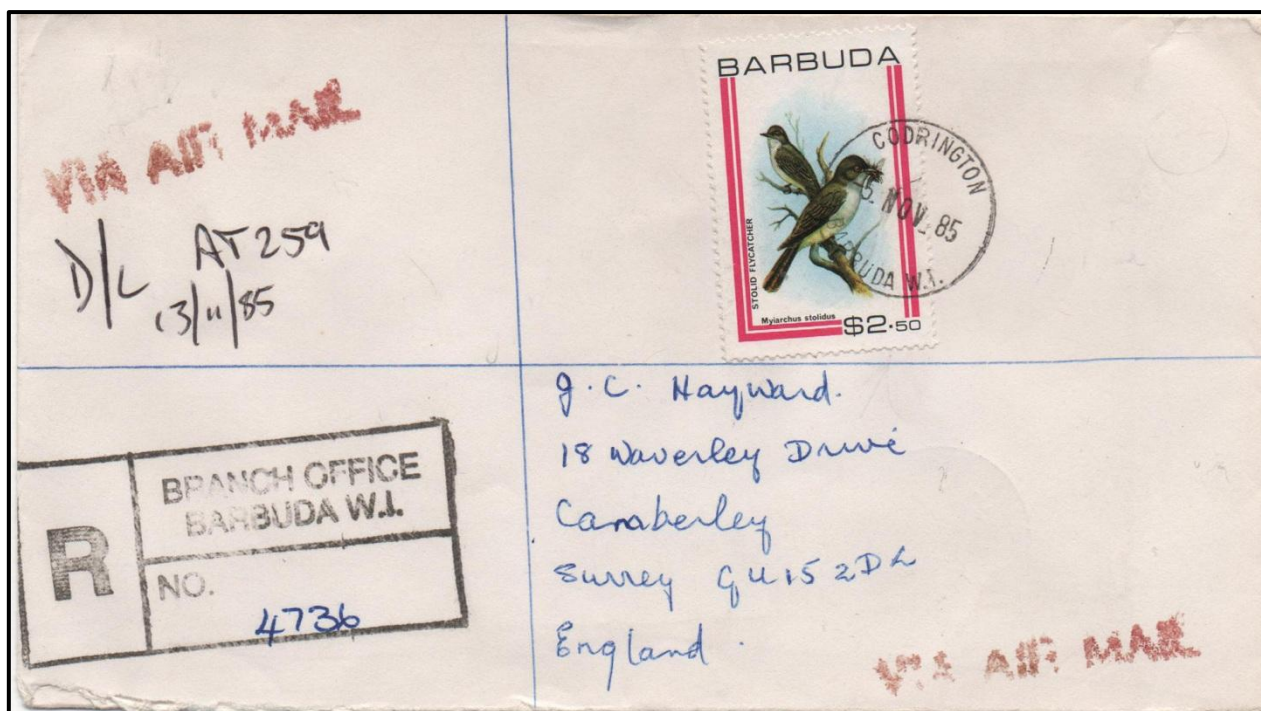
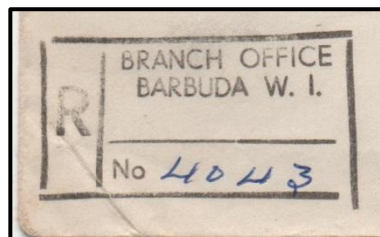
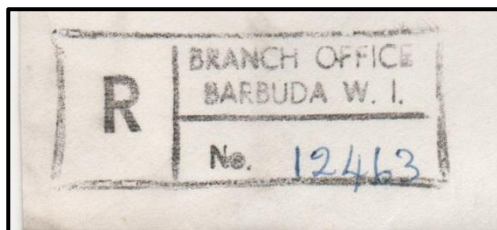
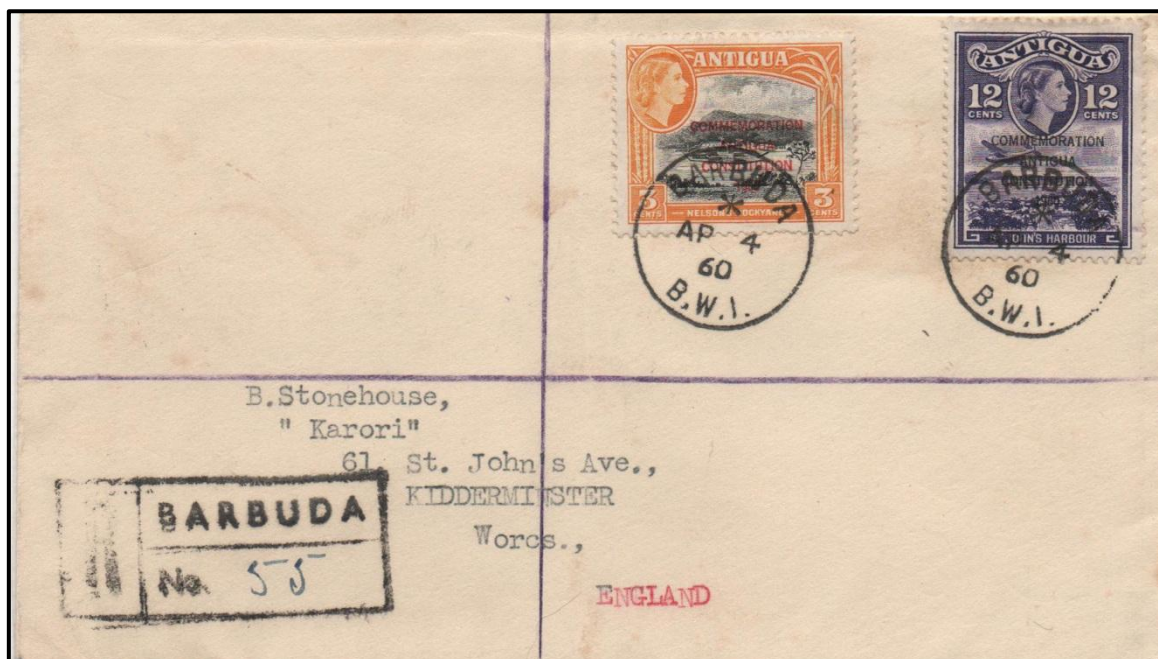
FIGURE 1:



Figure 2 shows four different registration marks from 1960, 1977, 1980 and 1985. By the last date a new Codrington cds was apparently in use.

All of these are new to me and apparently the literature (bar one of the 1920s registration cancels)?

FIGURE 2

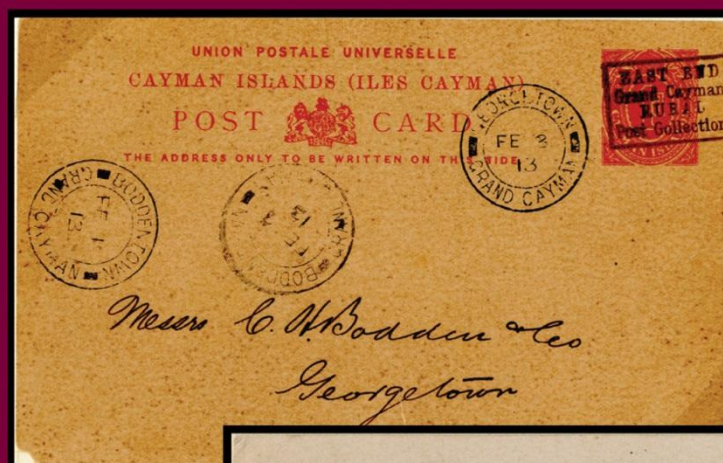




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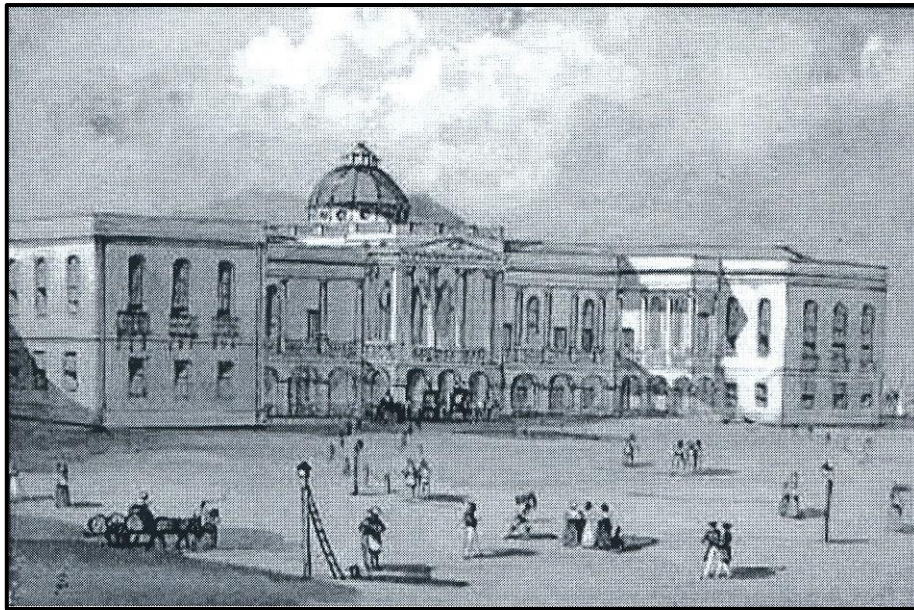


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**BRITISH GUIANA****GPO GEORGETOWN****BY MICHAEL REGO**

Public Buildings built 1834

**The Public Buildings** were completed on 27 April 1834, and among other government departments, housed the Post Office.

**Georgetown Packet Office**, under direct British Imperial control, was transformed in 1850 into a local Post Office. It had the status different to any of the District Post Offices established at this period in the towns and villages of the country.

1865, GPO Georgetown was housed in a single room in the lower flat of the Royal Agricultural & Commercial Society's building. Unsuccessful efforts were made to get a proper building from 1865 to 1893 by five successive Postmasters-General, including F.M. Hodgson, afterwards Sir Frank Hodgson, who later became Governor of British Guiana.

In 1894, during the regime of F. W. Collier as Postmaster General, a committee consisting of members of the Combined Court together with the City Engineer recommended that a building costing \$113,000 should be erected on the site now occupied by the Demerara Ice House Hotel opposite the Public Buildings, but nothing was achieved. Two more rooms were added to the RA&CS building, the rental then being \$150 per month.



Public Buildings

**1896, GEORGETOWN PILLAR AND WALL POST BOXES.**

Albert Town, Albouystown, Austin Town, Bourda – Light Street, Broad Street, Camp Street, Carmichael Street, Collier & Sons, Ice House, Kingston, Lodge, Princess Street, Public Buildings, Steamer Stelling, Thomas Street, Victoria Law Courts, Water Street.

**1896, POSTAGE STAMP VENDORS, GEORGETOWN**

Baldwin & Co, 34 Water Street.  
H. Campbell, Church Street.  
C. S. Chung & Co, Water Street.  
Collier & Sons, 229/230 Camp Street.  
H. Gollenstede, Stabroek Market.  
D. L. Hutchinson, 17 Newtown.  
C. K. Jardine, Main Street.  
W. T. Johnson, Main Street.  
J. Klien & Co, 19 Water Street.

R. H. McBurnie, 26 Robb Street.  
Piemento & D'Oliveira, 11/14 Werk-en-Rust.  
Schuler & Sons, 3 High Street.  
Seelig & Co, 2 Wortmanville.  
James Thomson, 35 Water Street.  
Van Nooten & Co, Newtown.  
Virtue & Co, Water Street.  
Wo Lee & Co, Lombard Street.  
Yip Li King & Co, Cornhill Street.





The writer of this postcard pens the location of the Post Office

On 1 August 1901 Alexander Murray Ashmore was made Administrator of Government, until the arrival on 25 December 1901 of Sir James Alexander Swettenham, Governor.

Ashmore issued an Order on 4 October 1901 to dissolve the Tender Board, and at the same time severely criticised it as a result of scandals which had come to light in the award of tenders. He then broke the long relationship with government and the Royal Agricultural & Commercial Society, by removing the Post office from the rented premises of the Society and housing it in the building which later was occupied as the Commissaries Office.

**IN THE BRITISH GUIANA PHILATELIC JOURNAL No.4, JULY 1908,**  
**JAMES RODWAY GIVES HIS NOTES OF THE POST OFFICE:**

**POST OFFICES NOTES**

The British Guiana Post Office as I first saw it in 1870 gave me the impression of being fifty years behind the age. Accustomed to the morning rat-tat and cry of "Post," I was surprised to find that letter-carriers were almost unknown anywhere except for a paltry delivery in Water Street about 11 o'clock after the arrival of the East Coast train. Everyone had to call at the Post Office for his letters, and the system of private boxes was nothing more than a number of pigeon-holes from which the packages were handed to applicants at an open window. And, what a row there was on Mail day! In a narrow passage a hundred or more clerks and office boys elbowed each other to get to the window, behind which stood Mr. J. B. Smith trying to hand over the box-letters to those who held possession of the opening. Of course, the man or boy who could push in and stretch his arm well to the front had the advantage. Being short and disinclined to push forward I found myself "out in the cold" and in the end gave over the job to a bigger man.

This bustle and confusion was the natural consequence of late Mails. Sometimes there was only an hour to get letters and prepare replies, as the steamer would frequently be off before the whole of the letters had been sorted. On other days clerks went about their work in a leisurely manner, but not on Mail days, even if they happened to be Sundays. The Banks were of course busy with drafts, and "kite-flying" was everywhere rampant.

Bad as this was, it may be considered a great improvement upon the condition of things before the Reading Room building was erected, and when the Post Office was a pokey room in the Public Buildings. Complaints were made of want of space and the only people who spoke in its favour did so on the ground that the Public Buildings were practically fire-proof. In April, 1864, the Postmaster proposed to have a delivery of letters as soon as the English Mails were sorted provided they were landed before 4 p.m., or, if after that hour, early next morning; some hitch occurred, however, and the project fell through. Then came a proposal for the American lock-box system that we have now, but which was not introduced until many years after. Among the letters in the "Royal Gazette" at this time was one signed "Dot," which said that Demerara was surely the most unlucky colony in the world—of British colonies—the "one more unfortunate." Among other complaints was one that postage had been raised the previous year (1863) from 6d to 1s.

The move from the Public Buildings was the result of a petition of merchants, which, after speaking of the inconvenience of the then Post Office, suggested that arrangements should be made with the Royal Agricultural and Commercial Society to provide accommodation in the new building to be erected in place of that lately burnt down. It had been originally proposed that the lower flat should be the Museum room, but after some correspondence with the Government and submission of plans it was agreed that the Post Office should occupy a part, and that a new building be erected for the Museum. It was then stated that the Post Office business was carried on in a place not only entirely inadequate as regard the mere question of room, but inconvenient as not being central. The first part of that statement is quite as applicable to the Post Office of today, for it is certainly not roomy enough, and is probably less suited for the increased business of today than the old room in the Public Buildings was for that of 1864.



This can be easily understood when the condition of things then existing is considered. My memory of the rural postman of fifty years ago in England brings before me a hardy fellow-riding on a "Dandy Horse," the primitive tricycle, and delivering letters to country villages four or five miles from the central office. But, nothing of the kind was known here. You wrote a letter to some shopkeeper at Buxton or Plaisance and it remained in the village Post Office until called for. Suppose, however, your correspondent did not expect a letter and did not call, it came back to you some weeks after. It followed therefore, that few letters were written, for you could not be sure when they would arrive at their real destination. The money order business was also very small, for the same difficulty was even more hampering where remittances were concerned. I was told not to waste 4 cents on a dunning letter to a country store-keeper; if he did not come one of us must look him up. And, what a disagreeable thing! You went up to, say, Buxton, and found every hut surrounded with water and the dam puddle into the slush known here as putta-putta. It might not be a hundred yards from the station, but it required a strong sense of duty to urge you on. Is it any wonder that there was no postal delivery, or that anyone preferred the estates' messenger to the post? At that time also there were no steamers up the rivers, the mail cart to Berbice was often delayed by bad roads, and even sometimes broke down. There was no telegraphic communication except on the East Coast railway; cables were being laid, but British Guiana was not yet in communication.

When we are inclined to praise the "Good Old Times" and to grumble if the Trinidad cable breaks down, we should try to put ourselves back to the period when comforts and conveniences now considered necessities were quite unknown. Postal facilities have been much improved and will, no doubt, become better every year.

In 1914, the old Hotel Tower was purchased by Sir Walter Egerton, Governor, on behalf of the public and converted it into the Post Office, which was the centre of the colony's postal service until the great fire of February 1945. – [see images on front cover]

In 1945, the great fire of Georgetown destroyed the Post Office building, and in an emergency St. Andrew's School Hall was occupied on 28 February. The PMG and Headquarters Staff who were accommodated at McInroy's Buildings until 7 September, when they were moved into new offices on the second floor of the former Regent Hotel premises at Hincks and Regent Streets. On 1 March the mails branch, including the Parcel Post department was removed to the Town Hall basement for better accommodation the postmen's section was removed to an adjoining building in the Town Hall compound on 13 September.



General Post Office, 1952

On 11 June 1945 the Savings Bank obtained new premises at Brickdam and High Street, Georgetown, near to St. Stanislaus RC College. The Accountant and his staff, who had been partly placed at the Public Buildings and at the first Puisne Judge's house in Carmichael Street, were also provided with new offices in the former Regent Hotel.

In 1947, the GPO Georgetown offices (former Regent Hotel) were again destroyed by fire on 9 May, and the GPO moved into Avon House, Main Street, Georgetown on 10 May. From then until the completion of a new GPO building, the various branches conducted business at different premises; Savings Bank at Brickdam and High Street; Mails at the Town Hall basement in Regent & High Streets; Parcel Post Branch was housed in the old Fire Brigade annexe Town Hall compound, removed to Waterloo & New Market Streets.



General Post Office

In 1952, the Governor, Sir Charles Woolley opened a new GPO Georgetown and Telecoms Office building in the presence of a large gathering of officials, staff, and prominent citizens, in the presence of the Postmaster-General, K. I. Kirkpatrick. After prayers and singing of a hymn, his Grace the Archbishop of the West Indies blessed the building.

The structure has a steel frame with reinforced concrete, erected at a cost of \$1,500,000, with a sum of \$35,000 provided for furnishings. The new building has 90 rooms, covering a total area of 73,250 square feet, and has 539 steel windows and doors. There are two lifts and a Westminster chiming-clock with a seven-foot diameter dial.

## Study Paper No. 4

### THE LOCALLY OVERPRINTED SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS OF BAHAMAS, 1916–17

by Peter Fernbank, FRPSL

This Study Paper examines in detail the Special Delivery agreement made between Canada and Bahamas in 1916. National Archive sources in both Canada and the UK have been investigated to provide an in-depth review of the Canadian and Bahamas Post Office procedures for dealing with such mail. There has been some misunderstanding regarding the full validity of Canadian covers with a Bahamas Special Delivery stamp affixed, and a grading system is provided for assessing such covers. Further sections define the three settings of the overprint for each position in the sheet, and go on to examine in detail the major errors that exist on this issue. This work sheds much new light on the subject and reveals that in the past there have been a number of misconceptions regarding this issue. 74pp, Softbound, colour illustrations. **Price:– £19.00. BWISC Members' Discount:– £ 3.00.**


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MEMBER PTS, APS, NZSDA, APTA

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## Local Commercial Mail

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**MINUTES OF THE 58<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC  
HELD AT 1:15 PM SATURDAY 28 APRIL 2012**

**1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks**

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford who welcomed the 37 members present, and thanked Spink for their hospitality in allowing BWISC to hold our AGM on their premises.

**2. Apologies for Absence)**

Apologies were received from: James Podger, John Riggall.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting & Matters Arising**

The minutes of the previous meeting on 16 April 2011, as published in Bulletin No. 229, June 2011, Pages 7 to 11, were accepted by the attendees.

**4. Report by the General Secretary (Peter Fernbank)**

**Membership**

The membership status as of December 2011 was that we had a total of 325 members, of which 210 were from the UK, 21 EUR and 94 RoW. This represents a decrease of 6 members compared to the same date in 2010.

Over the year we lost 25 existing members (6 deceased, 5 resigned, and 14 lost due to non-payment of membership renewal fees).

There were 19 new membership applications (compared to 13 last year).

**Possible Venues for 2013 Convention**

At the Chairman's suggestion I visited the Blunsden House Hotel in Swindon to assess its suitability. Although it would be suitable it is a four star hotel with a host of facilities that we would not be using but whose availability is reflected in their charges. Briefly, the charges are considerably higher than we paid at the Honiley Court and in my view are vastly overpriced for our requirements.

As an alternative I investigated the Holt Hotel (halfway between Banbury and Oxford). This was far more on a par with the Honiley Court in terms of facilities and cost.

**Office of Hon. Secretary**

Following the retirement of Chas Gee, our former Hon. Secretary, there were no volunteers for the office of Hon. Secretary. I was therefore approached to take on the role on a temporary basis until a replacement could be found. This I have done but as far as I am concerned the post is still vacant and I repeat our appeal for someone to volunteer to fill this important office. Either way, I do not anticipate being the holder of this office a year hence.

**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, interesting and original articles have been provided to fill the pages. Some new authors have emerged and I would encourage more members to have a go at writing something for our delectation. **Keep the articles coming, they are the lifeblood of the Society!**

The web site continues to tick over with new information being added, the most recent being scans of Leewards Islands Gazettes (1887 to 1899) and St. Vincent Gazettes (1894 to 1899) contributed by Michael Rego.

I repeat my statement in the last Bulletin concerning my resignation as BWISC Bulletin Editor, after 10 years enjoyable service. I feel I have become stale and think we need someone with new enthusiasm to take us forward. The opportunity to become Assistant Editor of the RPSL London Philatelist and to be Editor during Frank Walton's time as President of the Society was too good to turn down and has brought the situation to a head. We therefore need someone to step up to the plate to become the new Editor for BWISC Bulletin. If anyone is interested, please contact me, Charles Freeland or Peter Ford.

I will of course be able to help / provide guidance to anyone who volunteers.

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

**BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**  
**INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2011**

	£'s	2011	2010
<b>INCOME :</b>			
Subscriptions		3,658	3,619
Publications - Sales less commissions		2,580	3,009
Auction donation		964	1,329
Other donations		-	26
Exchange gains realised		-	60
Interest received		-	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>7,202</b>	<b>8,043</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE :</b>			
Bulletin - Costs less advertising	1,686		1,636
Distribution and editorial expenses	<u>2,057</u>	3,743	<u>2,076</u>
Publications : Printing costs		3,803	5,974
Leamington Convention - net deficit		472	-
London 2010 Expenses & Dinner net of recoveries		-	330
Room hire costs		185	252
ABPS affiliation fee		220	226
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc		207	191
Bank charges		100	121
Library expenses		88	-
Website		83	81
		<b>8,901</b>	<b>10,887</b>
<b>DEFICIT EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME</b>	£'s	<b>(1,699)</b>	£'s <b>(2,844)</b>

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2011**

<b>ACCUMULATED FUND :</b>			
Balance at 1st January 2011		6,948	9,678
Add : Surplus (Deficit) for the year		(1,699)	(2,844)
Dollar conversion profit (loss)		31	114
	£'s	<b>5,280</b>	£'s <b>6,948</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY :</b>			
Cash at banks		9,184	7,322
Debtors - amounts due to us		<u>836</u>	<u>3,195</u>
		10,020	10,517
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,449)		(2,169)
Loan	(1,500)		-
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	<u>(791)</u>	(4,740)	<u>(1,400)</u>
	£'s	<b>5,280</b>	£'s <b>6,948</b>

**AUDITORS REPORT**

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2011 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2011 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date.

J G M Davis FCA

*J G M Davis*  
 8th April 2012

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

The accounts for the year to the 31 December 2011 show a deficit of £1699.

This results from the continuation of the active publications policy and the conservative approach of writing off all the costs in the year incurred, which resulted in a deficit in publications of £1,223 this year. In particular the printing of the revised Leeward Islands book by Michael Oliver was incurred towards the end of the year, and few sales made by that date. To avoid any potential problems with cash flow, Michael agreed to loan the Study Circle £1,500 to be repaid as sales are made, and this is reflected as the loan in the balance sheet.

There was also a net deficit of £472 on the convention at Honiley in the Autumn, arising from the costs at the venue being in excess of the amounts recovered from those attending. Income from the Study Circle auction continues to be an excellent source of funds to offset expenses incurred, and was similar to the previous year, albeit slightly reduced at £964.

In 2011 the costs of the quarterly Bulletin and its despatch were largely covered by the subscription and advertising income, which is the policy we have established in the past. However the big increase in postage costs, as from the end of April, is going to cause serious problems in maintaining this policy not only in the future but also in the remainder of the current year. The extra cost will be of the order of £200 per Bulletin, hence an increased cost of £600 this year 2012.

It is clear therefore, if we are to maintain our current policy, we need a substantial increase in subscriptions and a similar increase in advertising rates. Because of subscriptions paid in advance, any increase will not immediately solve the problem. However we do need to bite the bullet now and increase the subscription rate to a more realistic level for 2013 onwards and it is proposed to increase the UK rate to £15, to Europe £18 and elsewhere to £22. Despite the increase we feel that the Study Circle represents good value for members. For those who would like a cheaper option, we are giving an added incentive to those who take the 'paperless' downloaded Bulletin by reducing the annual subscription to £8 worldwide. I would also remind members of the Paypal option for subscriptions available from the website.

As a result of the deficit, the Accumulated fund, has decreased from £6,948 to £5,280 although this year we again 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 nine books to three members during the year. This compares with a loan of seven books to four members during the year ended April 2011.

I have provided two members with answers to their respective request for philatelic information on Dominica Postal Fiscals (yet again), and Royal Mail Steam Packet Company.

Our member, David King, has donated a copy of his book St. Kitts Postcards Volume 7 to the Library.

Our member, Bob Swarbrick, the elder statesman of Jamaican philately, has donated thirty three catalogues (thirty one catalogues being hard bound), including most of the important Jamaica sales since 1932. He has also donated a Jamaica Automobile Association map of Jamaica 1927, Jamaica obliteration numbers by L.C.C. Nicholson 1949, a booklet on the Jamaica Royal Philatelic Society Limited display in 1992 by Hugh W. Wood, three copies of the Jamaica Philatelist dated July 1949, July 1950 and October 1971, a booklet relating to Stamp World London 1990, a book entitled British Empire Civil Censorship Devices WW2 Trinidad and Tobago – Wike 1993, together with Stanley Gibbons Guides on Introducing Postal History and Philatelic Exhibiting.

Many thanks to David King and Bob Swarbrick for these donations, which are much appreciated.

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

Last year saw the publication of three books from the Study Circle. First, there was Brian Brookes' booklet on his St. Kitts collection, then a new Study Paper by Peter Fernbank on the Bahamas Locally Overprinted Special Delivery Stamps and lastly a revised version of Michael Oliver's Leeward Islands Notes for Philatelists.



Sales were pretty buoyant during the year with Mike Rego's BG Codemarks booklet selling well, so much so, that we had to order another 20 copies. Being able to order such a small quantity demonstrates the value of using this print-on-demand system. We originally ordered 50 copies and once they had sold we could for the same unit price order as many or as few as we wanted. I shall continue to utilize this system as much as possible, especially for the smaller books. The St. Kitts booklet sold some 21 copies and the revised Montserrat 13. The Bahamas Special Delivery sold 13 as well and the Leewards 10; however, these last two were only published towards the end of the year.

As for the future, we are in the process of redoing Peter Fernbank's King George V Key Plates book which was originally published by the West Africa Study Circle. This will be a much revised version with a large quantity of colour illustrations, something the original lacked. Another volume of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia, that on the Airmails, is in line for publication within the next year or so. Together with Charles Freeland and Ed Barrow, I have been persuaded to compile a book on Tobago which should be ready in just over a year. I would like to publish either a Classic Collections booklet or a Study Paper and appeal to members for suggestions.

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

Again we enjoyed a successful year in 2011, the highlight of which was our biennial Convention in October at Honiley. Your Committee had earlier decided to experiment and have a two day Convention instead of the one day affair of previous years. We were very pleased with the way things turned out. As well as two very interesting displays of Montserrat and the Virgin Islands by Peter Tribe and Simon Goldblatt respectively, Chris Harman gave us a very useful seminar on competitive exhibiting. The event was attended by around 50 of our members, some of whom brought their spouses along for the weekend. As well as the formal display, we had a two sessions of mini-displays similar to those we have had previously at our Philatex meetings. These proved very successful with some 20 members displaying a varied selection of material.

Having mentioned Philatex, some of you will know already that Philatex has been cancelled in November and this, of course, will mean that our scheduled meeting cannot now take place there. Your Committee will have to find another venue but, because of the relatively short notice, this year's meeting may have to be cancelled.

Amongst other notable causes for celebration for the Study Circle were the awards by the Royal Philatelic Society to two of our members. First the Tilleard Medal was awarded to Brian Brookes for his excellent display of St. Kitts, and second the Tapling Medal was awarded to Peter Fernbank for his ground-breaking article in the *London Philatelist* on De La Rue Sheet Numbering. Both of these members deserve our heartiest congratulations.

Arrangements are continuing in preparation for our 60th Anniversary celebrations in 2014. Our President, Charles Freeland is co-ordinating events and there will be an announcement in the Bulletin when details are finalised.

I must now come to one of our thorniest problems, that of replacing some of the Study Circle's officers. Some of our Committee officers have served the Circle for many years and deserve a rest. First, Peter Fernbank decided last year that he would stand in as Secretary as an interim measure. We still need very much to find a permanent Secretary. Steve Jarvis, we will I am sure all agree, has done wonders with the Bulletin since he took over from me ten years ago. He is shortly to become Deputy-Editor of the *London Philatelist* and needs to be relieved of his editorship of our Bulletin. I could go on and say that Ray has been our Treasurer for 14 years, I have been Publications Officer for 16 and Chairman for 10 years. We do not want to be in a situation where a Committee Member resigns and we have to scabble around for a replacement. It is far better to have an early volunteer and an orderly handover to ensure the smooth running of our Study Circle. So please, do consider volunteering for one of these positions; the jobs are not particularly onerous and need not take up a great deal of time and effort.

Lastly, may I as usual thank my Committee for their unstinting support during the last year; only with their efforts can we be pleased that we have one of the, if not the, best specialist societies in the world.

### **10. Re-Election of the Chairman of the Committee (2011)**

Peter Ford was re-elected unanimously.

**11. 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.

**12. Election of the Auditor**

John Davis has agreed to continue with this role.

**13. Other Business**

None.

**BWI****LEEWARD ISLANDS & ST. VINCENT COLONIAL GAZETTES****SCANNED BY MICHAEL REGO**

The following list details the articles scanned from the Colonial Gazettes and made available on our web site, in the Gallery section.

**LEEWARD ISLANDS**

YYYYMMDD	Title	YYYYMMDD	Title
18870203	Parcel Post 1887	18900508	Parcel Post 1890
18870519	Act No.11 of 1887	18900522	Parcel Post 1890
18870519	Act No.11 of 1887	18900522	Parcel Post 1890
18870520	Act No.12 of 1887	18900814	Parcel Post 1890
18870520	Act No.12 of 1887	18900904	Parcel Post 1890
18870520	Act No.12 of 1887	18901120	Parcel Post 1890
18870520	Act No.12 of 1887	18901227	New Postage Rates 1891
18870602	Parcel Post 1887	18901227	New Postage Rates 1891
18870602	Parcel Post 1887	18901227	RMSP subsidy 1890
18870901	New Postmaster Antigua	18910507	Parcel Post 1891
18881011	Parcel Post 1888	18910806	Parcel Post 1891
18881011	Parcel Post 1888	18910806	Parcel Post 1891
18881025	Parcel Post 1888	18910924	Ship Mail Act 1891
18881220	Parcel Post 1888	18910924	Ship Mail Act 1891
18881227	Parcel Post 1888	18910924	Ship Mail Act 1891
18881227	Parcel Post 1888	18910924	Ship Mail Act 1891
18881227	Parcel Post 1888	18910924	Ship Mail Act 1891
18881227	Parcel Post 1888	18920114	PO Agreement with Canada
18890131	Parcel Post 1889	18920114	PO Agreement with Canada
18890131	Parcel Post 1889	18920526	Ships Mail Act
18890430	Parcel Post 1889	18920526	Ships Mail Act
18890606	Parcel Post 1889	18920526	Ships Mail Act
18890620	Parcel Post 1889	18920526	Ships Mail Act
18890627	Parcel Post 1889	18941227	Parcel Post 1894
18890627	Parcel Post 1889	18941227	Parcel Post 1894
18890627	Parcel Post 1889	18950808	Ship Mail Act 1895
18890627	Parcel Post 1889	18950808	Ship Mail Act 1895
18890627	Parcel Post 1889	18950808	Ship Mail Act 1895
18890905	Money Order 1889	18950808	Ship Mail Act 1895
18890905	Money Order 1889	18970107	English Mail Jan–Mar schedule
18890905	Money Order 1889	18970708	Money Order Virgin Is. 1897
18890919	Money Order 1889	18970708	Money Order Virgin Is. 1897
18891107	PO Savings 1889	18970708	Money Order Virgin Is. 1897
18891219	Parcel Post 1889	18970708	Money Order Virgin Is. 1897
18891219	Parcel Post 1889	18970722	Sexagenary stamp 1897
18900206	Postal Changes, 1890	18971001	Diamond Jubilee stamps sale
18900206	Postal Changes, 1890	18971001	Diamond Jubilee stamps sale
18900220	One Penny Post 1890	18980310	new telegraph rates
18900220	Uniform Postal Rate 1890	18980317	new telegraph rates
18900220	Uniform Postal Rate 1890	18980331	GB parcel post 1898
18900220	Uniform Postal Rate 1890	18980331	telegraph new tariffs
18900227	Parcel Post 1890	18980526	parcel post compensation fees
18900306	Unified Post 1890	18980922	British Empire postal rates
18900508	Parcel Post 1890	18980922	British Empire postal rates

YYYYMMDD	Title
18990406	British PO Notice 1898
18990406	British PO Notice 1898
18990406	British PO Notice 1898
18990803	Parcel Post West Indies
18990914	Imperial Penny Post x 2

**ST. VINCENT**

YYYYMMDD	Title
18940104	RMSP Mail Southampton to STV
18940104	RMSP Mail STV to Plymouth
18940208	STV GPO Unclaimed mail
18940208	STV Post Office accounts
18940301	Parcel Post
18940315	Easter PO Opening times
18940503	STV GPO Unclaimed mail
18940531	Parcel Post
18940628	Bequia PO Opening 1 July 1894
18940705	New Bequia PO opening date 9 July
18940705	STV Post Office accounts
18940705	STV GPO Report 1893
18940705	STV GPO Report 1893
18940705	STV GPO Report 1893
18940705	STV GPO Report 1893
18940712	Bequia to Kingstown mail
18940906	STV GPO Unclaimed mail
18941004	Sample Post
18941011	Postmasters appointments
18941018	Leeward Coast schedule
18941108	Post Office mail Tenders
18941115	Christmas Mail
18941122	Parcel Post, Christmas Mail
18941213	PO mail Tenders
18941220	RMSP 1895 schedule Southampton to STV
18941231	1 Jan limited opening at GPO
18950103	Mail tenders accepted
18950103	PO Accounts for Dec 1894
18950110	Post Office Notices
18950117	Post Office Notices
18950207	Parcel Post notices
18950307	Parcel Post to Trinidad
18950404	Unclaimed letters
18950411	Parcel Post
18950509	Mayreau new postmaster
18950530	Parcel Post regulations
18950530	Parcel Post regulations
18950613	Parcel Post and Money Orders
18950627	Royal Mail steamer schedule
18950704	Library service using post office
18950704	Parcels and library books regulations
18950704	Unclaimed letters
18950718	Post Office 1894 Report
18950718	Post Office 1894 Report
18950718	Post Office 1894 Report
18950822	Ship Mail Act
18950822	Ship Mail Act
18950822	Ship Mail Act
18951024	Penny Post for Windward Islands

YYYYMMDD	Title
18951024	Penny Post for Windward Islands
18951121	Mail sealed tenders
18951128	Mail sealed tenders
18951212	Christmas opening hours
18951227	Royal Mail steamer schedule
18960104	Union Island Post Officer
18960305	Uncollected Mail
18960326	Easter Opening hours
18960507	Turks Island Money Orders
18960709	1 Aug post offices to be closed
18960806	Stubbs PO to remain open
18960827	Mail Tenders
18960903	Post Office merger ideas
18961022	Ascension and St. Helena
18961105	Staff dismissed
18961126	RMSP Sailing schedule 1897
18961203	Christmas schedule
18961224	Georgetown no postal delivery
18970408	POs closed for Easter
18970415	Stamp Ordinance 1887
18970805	Unclaimed letters
18970902	PO Ordinance 1882
18971007	Post Office Notices
18971111	Tenders accepted
18971202	Christmas schedule
18971209	Orange Free State, Christmas schedule
18971209	Orange Free State, Christmas schedule
18971223	RMSP Schedule to June 1898
18971223	RMSP Schedule to June 1898
18971229	Peruvian Vale PO closed, others transferred
18980106	Unclaimed letters
18980203	Money Order Office
18980203	PO Account for January 1898
18980324	West India & Panama Telegraph Company
18980428	PO Notice stamps being re-used
18980505	West India & Panama Telegraph rates
18980811	Unclaimed letters
18981020	West India Steam service tenders
18981020	West India Steam service tenders
18981027	1 Jan 1899 new issue of stamps
18981208	Windward, Leeward Mail tenders
18981208	Windward, Leeward Mail tenders
18981215	Christmas Mails
18981222	Christmas Mails, etc
18981229	RMSP Outward schedule Jan– Dec 1899
18981229	RMSP Homeward schedule Jan– Dec 1899
18990102	PO Account Dec 1898
18990511	Parcel Post to West Indies
18990608	1d post
18991019	PO Tenders for 1900
18991019	PO Tenders for 1900
18991207	Insured Parcels
18991221	RMSP schedule Jan–Jul 1900





# Stanley Gibbons

Commonwealth Department

## A FAMOUS ERROR – JAMAICA SG 85a



1919-21 wmk MCA 1s orange-yellow and red-orange, error **FRAME INVERTED**, from the lower left corner with full margins, which clearly show the watermark direction from the face (proving that it is the frame that is inverted), very fine o.g. with just a trace of hingeing at one corner.

Arguably the finest single example extant, being much fresher than usually found, and especially spectacular and desirable in this positional form.

One of the most remarkable British Empire errors, of which part of a sheet was found at Manchioneal post office in March 1922 after the majority had been used. Less than twenty survive in unused condition, with the famous 'ex Cunliffe' corner pair now accepted to be the only remaining multiple. Ex 'Midas' (RL Zurich, 30/9/82, realised CHF 27,000) and King Carol of Rumania.

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**CAYMAN ISLANDS****1907/08 'SCANDAL' REVISITED****BY STEVE JARVIS**

In the March and June 2005 Bulletins, Ian Jakes published an article based on documents from the Cayman Islands National Archive. This correspondence ends 21 April 1908 but the *Jamaica Gazette* of 31 December 1908 provides some later information. The Gazette article is reproduced in full and some of this replicates the contents of Ian's earlier article.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
23rd December, 1908.

No. 605 4-2

THE Governor directs the publication of the following correspondence regarding the sale of Cayman Islands postage stamps.

By command,  
H. CLARENCE BOURNE,  
Colonial Secretary.

*From the Commissioner Cayman Islands to the Colonial Secretary.*

Commissioner's Office,  
Grand Cayman, June 11th, 1907.

No. 143

Sir,

I have the honour to report that a large foreign order has reduced my stock of ½d. (halfpenny) stamps to 17 (seventeen) sheets, which at the ordinary rate of sales will not last me eight weeks. I am therefore forwarding 40 sheets of penny stamps (of which I have a good stock) with a request that they may be surcharged ½d. and returned to me as soon as possible.

I shall in the course of a few months, if sales continue as they are at present, be getting short of other denominations when I will submit the question of a new issue of all denominations to His Excellency.

I have, etc.,  
GEORGE S. S. HIRST,  
Commissioner.

The Honble.

The Colonial Secretary.

*The Colonial Secretary to the Commissioner Cayman Islands.*

Colonial Secretary's Office,

26th July, 1907.

Copy 7223/8212/07

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 143 of the 11th ultimo, explaining that a large foreign order had reduced your stock of halfpenny stamps to 17 sheets and forwarding 40 sheets of penny stamps with the request that they may be surcharged ½d.

2. In reply I have to transmit herewith a copy of Secretary of State's Circular (not printed) despatch of the 18th August, 1893, on the subject of surcharging postage stamps and to request you to be so good in future, as to refuse to supply the

speculative demands of dealers until you have got a new stock. Copies of the Secretary of State's circulars (not printed) of the 27th September, 1896 and 19th September, 1905 are also enclosed for your information and guidance.

3. As the surcharge in this case may be regarded as necessary for the convenience of the public, the Superintendent of the Government Printing Office has been instructed to surcharge the stamps as requested; and I am to request that you will not sell any of these surcharged stamps except across the counter.

4. In conclusion I am to add that the Governor is not prepared, without substantial reason, to authorise a new issue of stamps and to request you to report on this question as soon as possible. I am to say that if a fresh supply of halfpenny or other stamps is required, a requisition should be sent forward in due time to enable them to be obtained from the Crown Agents before the stock in hand is exhausted.

I have, etc.,  
GEORGE S. S. HIRST,  
Commissioner.

His Honour

The Commissioner of the  
Cayman Islands, Grand Cayman.

Cayman Islands. Commissioner's Office,  
Grand Cayman, April 30th, 1908.

No. 164.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 3537/3903 of April 6th, 1908, with enclosure from Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. of Ipswich.

2. I observe this firm, resident in the eastern part of England commence their letter with the assertion that the recent issues of surcharged stamps were "unnecessary" – I am assuming the issues referred to are the "halfpenny" on 1d., the ½d. on 5s. and the 1d. on 5s. as they do not mention the actual "provisional stamps" to which they refer.

With reference to the "halfpenny" on 1d., my letter No. 143 of June 11th, 1907, clearly shows that this issue was more than necessary.

With reference to the surcharges ½d. on 5s. and 1d. on 5s. At the time their surcharges were made I had for the supply of the whole Dependency one sheet of halfpenny stamps and not a single penny stamp. Both stamps were on order but had not arrived. The previous order would have been sufficient for two years had not stamp dealers

bought in larger quantities and the law requiring so many legal documents to be stamped been passed. It is worthy of note in this respect that on one occasion I had to have some 5s. stamps surcharged 1d. in order that legal receipts might be given by parties receiving money from the Government.

The number of sheets surcharged: (a)  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 5s. was fifteen, on the following date, November 22nd 1907. (b) 1d. on 5s. was fifteen, on the following date, November 22nd, 1907, and three sheets on December 9th, 1907.

3. With reference to the remark "local speculation therein," again I feel entitled to wonder from whence and how did this firm in England gain the information authorising them to make the statement. They certainly make it without any support whatsoever, I knew nothing of "local speculation" until I was informed this very firm, Whitfield, King & Co. of Ipswich, England, were making enquiries for their surcharges. By the people here these surcharges were treated in just the same way as ordinary stamps were treated, and it was not until the stamp dealers themselves put the idea into the minds of the people that any "local speculation" took place. Again I respectfully submit that the people here are as much entitled to speculate in the stamps of the Cayman Islands as Whitfield, King & Co. are in England. Through the action of this firm and others "local speculation" will now not only continue but develop, to the great advantage of the Caymanians but to the great disadvantage of stamp dealers.

4 Referring to the application of the firm for His Excellency's enquiry into the matter, I attach a letter from the postmistress on the matter. In their great desire to make things look as black as possible against us, it is worthy of note that the letter sent by them on February 20th, 1908, had not even been received at this post office when they wrote their letter, viz., March 10th, 1908.

"Replies to the first three are long overdue." Here again these people make an assertion without supporting it in any way. A reply to their letter of December 10th, 1907, might have been a few days overdue but even that I doubt. The other two were not even due on March 10th, 1908. And if these were not even due the remainder certainly were not.

5. In what way to reply to the scandalous assumption contained in the remainder of the sentence in this letter I hardly know, viz.: "and it is our opinion that the stamps are being kept back in order to create a scarcity and so enhance their market value to collectors, thus encouraging speculation on the part of the officials in the Cayman Islands "I think in view of what I have said in previous sections, Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co should be called upon for the names of the officials they refer to in their charge. It is an easy matter to "assume" but I think they will find it a very difficult matter to prove that assumption on any person

employed in the service of the Government of this Dependency.

6. Referring to the last sentence of the letter in which this firm ask for so much protection and assistance from His Excellency, I can only say that this firm has always received at the hands of the postmistress the same consideration as other firms have received. This firm always sends money by cheque, which I instructed the postmistress not to receive as cheques on English banks are useless to us here, besides they are not "cash." Though Miss Parsons, the postmistress, received after my giving her these instructions cheques from the firm she held: herself responsible for the cash in order to oblige them. A few weeks ago I again informed her that no cheques unless first approved by me would be accepted at all, and as a result of this warning Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. have during the past month had returned to them some £74 worth of cheques with a request that cash not cheques must accompany their orders. No other merchant or even private collector I am informed ever sends cheques, so if Messrs. Whitfield, King and Co. find they cannot supply their customers with all the Cayman Islands stamps they require, it is entirely their own fault, because they were warned, nearly a year ago.

7. It appears easy to see that Messrs. Whitfield, King & Co. feel aggrieved that they have not had the whole of the business in the Cayman surcharges and so vent the matter by means of assumptions wholly unfounded, and accusations against the characters of officials they know nothing whatsoever about.

8. I would respectfully request that this matter be pushed to the end, as the accusations made by this firm against the honour, honesty and probity of the officials of this Government is not only very painful to me and my subordinates, but must remain a reproach to us for some time unless this firm are called upon to substantiate and prove the charges they make.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE S. S. HIRST,

Commissioner.

The Honble.

The Colonial Secretary.

-----

Cayman Islands.

Commissioner's Office,  
Grand Cayman, June 10th, 1908.

No. 229.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 3rd No. 5711/6385.

2. The stamp dealers realising that our stock of stamps is small do everything in their power to buy up all the stamps we have and then make objectionable statements when we are driven to surcharge, or curtail their orders.



I have the honour to be,  
Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
GEORGE S. S. HIRST,  
Commissioner.  
-----

*The Commissioner Cayman Islands to the Colonial  
Secretary*

Copy.

Commissioner's Office,  
Grand Cayman, Oct. 15th, 1908.

Cayman Islands.

No. 391.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith for His Excellency's information copies of

(a) A letter (not printed) from the Postmaster Georgetown.

(b) Copy of a letter found by him in the Post Office on taking over duty there.

2. I respectfully submit that the letter marked B should if possible be further enquired into as it appears to me little less than a gross attempt on the part of a stamp dealer, which fraternity appears so anxious to have nothing but honest transactions, to induce an official of this Government to commit a felony.

3. The writer of the letter lives in the United States of America and therefore there might be some difficulty in dealing with him.

4. Fortunately Miss Parsons and the present postmaster are above such transactions, but had this inducement fallen into the hands of less conscientious officials considerable harm would have resulted.

I have, &c.,  
(Sg.) GEORGE S. S. HIRST,  
Commissioner.

The Honble.

The Acting Colonial Secretary.  
-----

Copy B.

President and Manager:	Puritan Oil Mining Co.,
Brewster C. Kenyon.	Incorporated under the laws of
Vice-President :	the State of California.
George C. Flint	Capital Stock \$1,000,000,000.
Secretary and Treasurer:	Divided into 60,000 shares of
Kenyon Cox	\$20,000 each.
	Long Beach, California,
	August, 28th 1908

Miss Gwendolyn Parsons,  
George Town, Cayman Is.

Dear Madam :—As a collector of postage stamps for nearly forty years I am naturally interested in the stamps of your islands and as I also speculate some in provisional issues, beg leave to make you the following proposition and give you my word as a mason that all correspondence on the subject will be strictly confidential. My proposition is—to purchase of you £10 worth of 1d. stamps which on receipt by myself I will have surcharged “Half-penny” in a certain type and return same to you,—

you to officially record the issue of the £10 worth as ½d. stamps just on sale the day of receipt by you, and register me a letter of that date bearing some of the stamps in prepayment of postage. At the time I return the surcharged stamps to you I will also enclose another £10 for your trouble in the transaction. I trust you will receive this in the spirit in which I wrote it, as a strictly legitimate proposition, and believe, as I have said, that the whole matter will be considered entirely between ourselves.

Very truly yours,

BREWSTER C. KENYON.

P.S.—If accepted on what office shall I draw P.O. order, or would you prefer the money in some other form? I regret that I have no other return postage than the 3d. Jamaica.

B. C. K.  
-----

*From the Colonial Secretary to the Commissioner,  
Cayman Islands.*

Copy.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
30th November, 1908.

No. 12027/13404/08.

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 391 of the 15th ultimo. enclosing a copy of a letter from Brewster C. Kenyon of the Puritan Oil Mining Company of California to the postmistress at Grand Cayman making suggestions for surcharging certain Cayman Islands stamps.

2. In reply I am to inform you that a copy of your letter and its enclosures has been sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, as an illustration of the methods of action of the class of persons who have been complaining that they cannot get surcharged stamps from the Postal Authorities at Grand Cayman. I am to say, however, that His Excellency fears that no profit would result from any attempt to take legal action against the writer of the letter to Miss Parsons.

I have, etc.,

(SD•) ROBT. JOHNSTONE,  
Assistant Colonial Secretary.

His Honour

The Commissioner of the Cayman Islands,  
Grand Cayman.  
-----

*Extract from letter from Harry E. Huber to the  
Postmistress of the Cayman Islands, Grand  
Cayman.*

No. 5913 Rippe), Street, Pittsburg, Penn'a., U.S.A. My dear Miss Parsons, please, would it not be possible for you to make a provisional 2½d. stamp out of the 4d. brown and blue, of the “Postage” issue, which I am sending you, by surcharging it in the same manner as was done with those on February 12th? I'm just about frantic to get one of

these stamps, and as an extraordinary favour please will you not grant it? There being so few issued makes it impossible for me to get a copy anywhere and for that reason I beg you to please do me this great favour, if it is at all in your power.

-----  
Copy. Renville, Minn., Aug.23rd, 1908.  
Miss Gwendolyn Parsons,  
George Town,  
Cayman Is.

Madam,  
I would like to have you send me from 5 to 10 sets of any new issues of stamps from your part of the country and I will give you 5 per cent. commission on same. I was very much interested in the account of the Provisionals in Markets trade Circular. I would gladly buy any old issues if you should have them.

Yours, FLOYD REID.  
-----

*Extract from letter from J. W. Scott & Co. to the  
Postmistress, Cayman Islands.*

36 John St.,  
New York, Sept. 24th, 1908.  
Miss G. Parsons.

Dear Madam,

\* \* \*

Now we want you to do the right thing by us. Let us have a limited number of these stamps at a fair price.

\* \* \*

Yours truly,  
(Sgd.) J. W. SCOTT & Co.  
-----

*Extract from letter from Whitfield, King & Co. to the  
Postmistress, Cayman Islands.*

Ipswich, 29th Sept., 1908.

Miss Parsons,

Postmistress,

Cayman Islands, via Jamaica.

Madam,

Private.

\* \* \*

We assume from this that you are expecting another lot of the farthing stamps and that you will send us the 4,800 which we asked for on August 4th; if not, kindly let us know and we will order other values instead of them, but we should like to point out to you that your refusal to supply these to dealers only lead to increased local speculation, as the dealers will get them, somehow, even if they have to pay agents in the Cayman Islands a commission to buy them.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) WHITFIELD, KING & CO.  
-----

Copy. 47, Strand,  
London, W.C.,  
September 9th, 1908.

The Postmistress,

\* \* \*

Cayman Islands.

I am astonished that you return the 5 dollar notes. You know I am particularly anxious to receive my supplies of stamps, and I have always given you a free hand with my money, moreover, you have had similar notes on other occasions and always taken them at the current rate of exchange, and I am really at a loss to understand why you alter your procedure.

You are quite in error in imagining that I would not accept the amount you refer to as their equivalent; I give you no reason to suppose this, and you should have changed them at the exchange at which they were worth to you, just the same as if they were tendered by a local person over the office counter.

\* \* \*

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd.) W. H. PECKITT,  
-----

Copy.

*The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the  
Governor, Jamaica.*

Jamaica —No. 373.

Downing Street,  
6th November, 1908.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 302 of the 30th of June last, transmitting copies of correspondence with the Commissioner of the Cayman Islands, with regard to certain complaints respecting recent issues of stamps in that Dependency.

2. A letter has now been addressed to Messrs. Whitfield, King Company, which I have reason to believe effectually disposes of their representations.

3. I am of opinion that Mr. Hirst has successfully replied to the allegations made by the dealers, and I approve of your communicating with him in the sense proposed in the second paragraph of your despatch.

I have, &c., (Sgd.) CREWE.  
Governor Sir Sydney Olivier, K.C.M.G.,  
Etc, etc, etc

I have no doubt that further correspondence on the matters can be obtained from the Jamaica Correspondence Books in the National Archives at Kew.

**'DOMINICA****UNOFFICIAL DECLARATION?****BY DAVID WATSON**

Were the overprinted issues shown on cover in Figure 1 an unofficial issue or is the 1 April cancel a strong hint?

FIGURE 1

1967 Woodford Hill cds Proud D2 used on latest date given by Proud.  
Unofficial overprint 'INTERNAL / SELF-GOVERNMENT / 1 Mar 1967'.

Under Edward LeBlanc leadership in 1967 Dominica became one of the West Indies Associated States with full internal self-government, while the UK remained responsible for foreign policy and defence.

NEW!

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by

*Michael Oliver, FRPSL*

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## JAMAICA

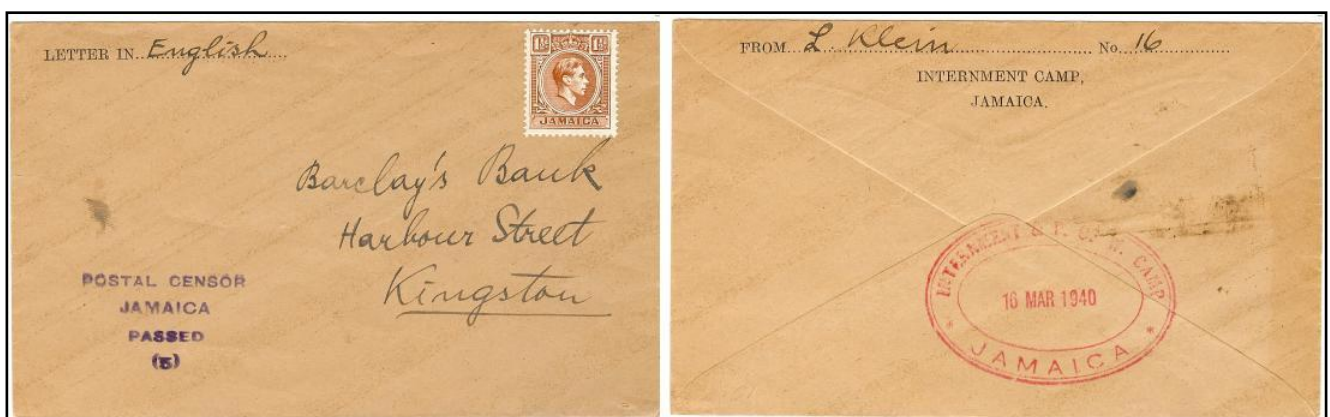
### NEWLY-DISCOVERED INTERNMENT CAMP ENVELOPE AND HANDSTAMP

BY PAUL FARRIMOND

Early in the Second World War an Internment Camp was established on Jamaica, located at the northern end of Up Park Camp, on the edge of Kingston. The camp held a broad range of internees: the crews of intercepted merchant ships and U-boats, civilian enemy aliens including those who had been resident in Jamaica prior to the War, German and Italian nationals transported from African territories, and even some Jamaican political detainees. The camp was soon separated into a P.O.W. section housing military personnel (including merchant seamen) and an Internment Camp housing civilians, although the camp was managed as a single unit.

The illustrated cover (Figure 1) was sent from the Internment and P.O.W. Camp on 16 March 1940. It is unusual in two respects: firstly, the instructional wording is printed rather than typed or handstamped, and secondly, the Internment Camp handstamp on the reverse is much larger than the normal marking. Both the printed envelope and the handstamp are previously unrecorded.

FIGURE 1:



March 1940 cover with printed instructional marks (front and back).

### INTERNMENT CAMP ENVELOPES

Items of mail from the Internment Camp dating from 1940 are scarce owing to the relatively small number of prisoners being held in Jamaica at the time. Regulations stated that envelopes had to show the name of the sender and their camp serial number, and also indicate the language in which the contents were written. There seems to have been several changes in how the authorities marked the envelopes to indicate that this information was required.

- (1) **Manuscript (unmarked):** The earliest letters from the camp, sent in early 1940, simply bore sender's details in manuscript (Figure 2), with no official markings requesting this information.
- (2) **Typed:** Later in 1940 covers bear typed text and dotted lines for the sender to add their details (on the reverse) and the language (on the front; Figure 3); these typed instructional markings were applied to individual envelopes by the authorities, and as the numbers of internees increased this must have become very time consuming.
- (3) **Handstamped:** It was not until 1941 that the commonly-seen handstamps (Sutcliffe's POW4 and POW5) were introduced; these have the same wording and format as the typed envelopes. The example shown in Figure 4 is, to my knowledge, the earliest recorded example (7 April 1941).
- (4) **Printed:** To the above three types can now be added a **printed** envelope (Figure 1), which has exactly the same wording and format as both the typed and handstamped types. The only known example is dated 16 March 1940, and thus predates the use of typed envelopes.

The following table shows the dates of recorded examples of the different types to May 1941:

Type	Dates	Notes	Sender's serial no.
Unmarked	12 January 1940	Stamped; sent to London	23
Printed	16 March 1940	Stamped; sent to Kingston	16
Typed	11 October 1940	Free; sent to Chile	64
Handstamped	7 April 1941	Free; sent to New York	541
	20 May 1941	Free; sent to Washington DC	533
	26 May 1941	Free; sent to London	887

This table, although sparse, shows that free postage was not in place for internees in early 1940, and also highlights (from the internee's serial numbers) the dramatic increase in prisoner numbers by 1941, by which time the handstamped markings had been introduced, probably as the most cost-effective way of dealing with the increased amount of mail.

FIGURE 2:



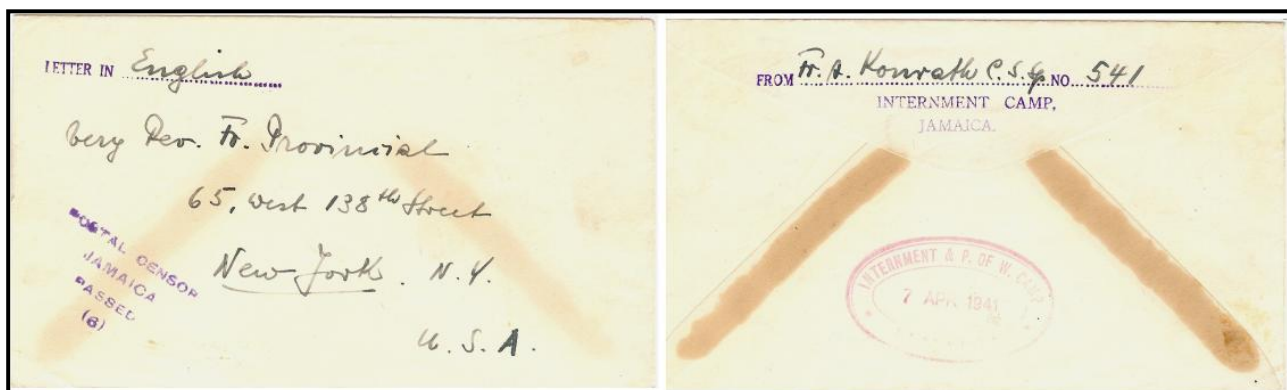
January 1940 cover with no instructional marks (front and back).

FIGURE 3:



October 1940 cover with typed instructional marks (front and back).

FIGURE 4:



April 1941 cover with handstamped instructional marks (front and back).

**INTERMENT CAMP CENSORSHIP HANDSTAMPS**

An oval dated handstamp is found on most envelopes sent from the Internment Camp, and is also found on the writing paper where enclosed letters still exist. Only one Type (POWC3) is listed by Sutcliffe (2003), although differences in the handstamped date in the centre are found. The earliest example known to me is from 11 October 1940 (Figure 5). However, the printed internment camp envelope (Figure 1) bears a larger variety of handstamp but with exactly the same wording (INTERMENT & P. OF W. CAMP / JAMAICA); it is dated 16 March 1940.

The dimensions of the two marks are as follows:

POWC3: 49mm wide x 30mm high

New Type: 56mm wide x 39mm high

FIGURE 5:



The new type of handstamp (left) and POWC3 (right)

I would be pleased to hear if anyone has another example of this previously unknown handstamp or the printed envelope, and would also welcome further additions to the table of early Internment Camp covers, up to May 1941.

**REFERENCE**

- Sutcliffe D. (2003) *Military, Censorship and Patriotic Mails, Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately Volume 9* (eds. Sutcliffe D. & Jarvis S.), BWISC.

**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>.

Paul Farrimond is undertaking research into Jamaica Perfins and Barrington Smith, anyone with information or examples are asked to contact him at [Paul@igiltd.com](mailto:Paul@igiltd.com).

Michael Hamilton is compiling a list of covers and post cards with obliterator cancellations on Jamaica adhesive stamps (only) for the period 1860 to 1905. Please supply information to him at [michael\\_dc\\_hamilton@compuserve.com](mailto:michael_dc_hamilton@compuserve.com).

**TOBAGO****ROXBOROUGH, SPEYSIDE AND CASTARA CANCELS****BY ED BARROW**

Do you have any fully dated examples from the early 1900s? I am currently working on a study of the Tobago Inland Posts and would be grateful if any members could provide dates of these (the Speyside cancel in the Study Circle auction has been duly noted). I only require the full dates not scans. Dates of Roxborough cancels from 1902 to 1906 and any Castara or Speyside cancels would be greatly appreciated. [e.barrow1@gmail.com](mailto:e.barrow1@gmail.com).



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## BWISC Auction 2012 Report

Our joint auction with BCPSPG in millennium year 2000 produced the biggest attendance. Our Golden Jubilee auction in 2004 – first time at Spink – yielded the highest turnover. 2012 proved to be the auction with buzz. 37 bidding numbers were issued to intending bidders, who played their part with vigour and kept the tension going right through to the very last of our 708 lots (707 in the catalogue, and one that slipped below the radar).

Usually the absentee bidders win, over those who are bidding live, though sometimes the margin between them is close. This year, the bidders in the room were well in the ascendant. Here are some bidder statistics. When the auction began, just over 40% of the lots were covered by bids on the book. These totalled, at their limit, nearly £20,000. They captured just 173 lots at a cost of about £8,800, with about £3,000 to spare before the limits on these lots would be exhausted. Those in the room spent not far short of £16,000 on 299 lots secured and, had they known it (but they are never told unless there is a tie at the top of the book) with a little more persistence would have won another 32 lots, where the book had reached its limit.

At the close, there were 236 lots left unsold, so that exactly two thirds in number had been bought. Even this encouraging figure does not quite reflect general demand, because there was our special section which disappointed sadly. This was the Bahamas 'Landfall' section running to 45 lots – including the one below the radar – where the contents proved too specialised even for us. We could easily have found a buyer for the collection as a whole, but this could have proved unfair to this owner. So we broke the collection into its component parts, of which only twelve were sold. In each case, the sale was to a circle member; a further cause for disappointment, because participation was offered to the KG Six society who, in the end, played no part. This may have been because they held their own AGM and auction on the same day; more probably, the collection was too specialised – for them, as it was for us.

Apart from this difficult section, about 70% of the material was sold by the end of the day, and some lots proved explosive.

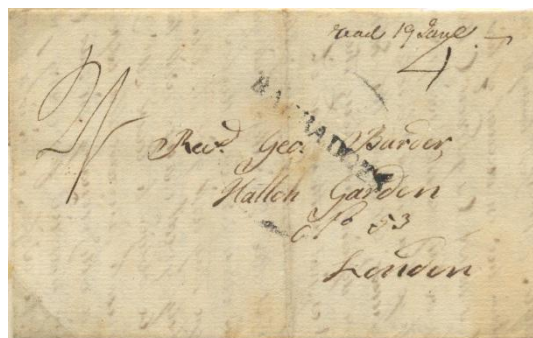
The first explosion came in Barbados, where Lots 98 to 100, three Demerary covers to, or in transit through, the island in the dying days of Dutch rule in the modern Guyana, rocketed to £130, £480, £440, compared with estimates of £50, £70, £90. Five or six times estimate for the latter two – egg on the faces of the valuing team perhaps!

The second such demonstration was among the early covers from British Guiana (closely related to the Barbados group). Here, after the initial group of three (Lot 232) sold at its opening £190, against estimate £250, Lots 233, 234, 237, 242, 249, 254, all took off. Only two of these had attracted a postal bid – modest in each case. Items valued by the auction team at £350 sold at more than three times that figure. It was particularly impressive to see the respect paid to the red Crown handstamp (by the Dart, Lot 249) as it raced from a sedate £23 opening to land on £220. This involved 50 rounds of bidding, all compressed into a sale rolling forward at almost four lots a minute.

In contrast to 2011, there had been no flat spots in Barbados and, in truth, there was none in the whole of the rest of the auction. It is worth noting too, that 'warts-and-all' covers were fetching good money, wherever character won through. Good illustrations of this are seen in Lot 182, £48 (Est. £20), 339, £440 (Est. £340), and 605, £210 (est. £150). In a rather similar case the scarcity of



Bermuda's Type K1 '15' produced a sale at £80, where an estimate of £32 reflected the lightness of the strike itself. Another instance was £52 (est. £25) paid for the damaged strip of five of British Guiana's 2c orange, Lot 266. This territory was selling well, despite the absence of two keen and powerful collectors, and it was no surprise that the newly discovered 'back-to-front' 1882 Specimen variety, Lot 275, moved from estimate £70 to £150. If we had to pick an 'investment' item from the catalogue, it would be this stamp: for it now has a provenance and a history and will be 'wanted' by the next generation of major exhibitors. We normally eschew such thoughts!



For the postmark collection (Lot 280, nice quality, E £300) the big guns were firing out of sight. An opening bid of £700 closed it off. Curiously, the winner had upped an original bid on the book and, without those second thoughts, would have lost to the runner-up.

A word here about philatelic covers, Roger Wells and similar. The auction team felt that these have now reached maturity, and may properly be offered in our auctions as single lots. Lots 30 and 314–8 reveal the policy and its outcome.

Dominica's Lot 327 exemplifies postmark collecting at its zenith. One can regard E£65 as far too modest for a strike of this calibre, yet one can defend the valuation for policy reasons: sometimes the market has to be encouraged to find its level.

Our next highlight is 100% disposal for Guyana; only one lot, certainly, but maybe this will start a trend.

A group of scarce Jamaica postmarks, Lot 365 to 373, attracted considerable interest. Though estimate and realisation were not that far apart, you will not be told on which item there was a massive reserve on the book.

As the Sutcliffe collection is by no means yet exhausted, volatility in unusual items was no surprise; as it happens, the attractive variety in Lot 383 (£130, E £29) trumped even Derek's charivaria, and came from a different source. Derek's highlights were the WW1 Montpelier cover Lot 428, £210 (E only £35), the rather less obvious Lot 456 (£90, E £15) and – on reflection – the Chile cover, Lot 444, with 'Jamaica Transit' would have been a steal at £5 and realisation £37 was fully justified. Returning from the Troposphere it was satisfying to see the 'repaired chimney' variety (Lot 387) settling, after a tussle, exactly on its estimate of £220.

The Leeward sexagenary frontispiece, Lot 476, justified its 'marmite' categorisation at £300. The St. Christopher plate block, another front cover selection, also did well at £280 (Lot 521). So, unusually, did the 'Husbands' item, Lot 542, showing the significance of having St. Kitts 2½d brown on cover.



St. Lucia, Lot 550, was rightly described as a rarity. Opening at £85 (E £50), it took £180 to beat the book. St. Vincent sold steadily, while Tobago and Trinidad yielded a run of 27 lots sold in succession, this useful run included the 'Speyside' strike of Lot 604 (£90, E £40) and some scarce and attractive numeral postmarks of 19<sup>th</sup>



century Trinidad, with Lot 610 at £180 (E £80) the high flyer. Later the same price was paid for the scarce watermark variety, Lot 652, after a fight, entirely off-stage, between three book-bidders.

There was a further welcome contrast between this year and all previous annual auctions, for the interest never flagged. Even Virgin Islands was no 'also-ran', for only 25 lots were left unsold from Lot 600 to the end, and an early Virgin Islands cover, Lot 675, went for £210 against E £80.

There was still a major surprise in store, indeed the third of our major explosions; and it came within a category in which there has hitherto been little interest amongst our members, the BP category of British Post Offices abroad. £130 for that super 'LA GUAYRA' cds on GB 1s did no more than justify to the hilt the R£105 compared with cat. of just £160; but £320 and £200 for the two preceding covers (E £60 and £70) fought from a standing start, was amazing. Only 39 rounds of bidding, granted, for the higher one, but the auction had now been going for 3 hrs 10 mins with only a five minute pit-stop demanded by the audience, and it seemed that our auctioneer was still in good voice for the final dozen, with six out of eight in the 700s finding a new home.



Should we not, now, fellow members, start to take more seriously the offer of early covers from Latin America? Do we feel that we may have missed an opportunity in the past? The auction team, at least, will be mulling it over.

Sale total announced at close of play was £24,669.



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

Four outstanding collections formed by our members were sold at auction in the past quarter, and in at least three of them a good part of the spoils was acquired by our membership.

**GROSVENOR 7 MARCH (BP 17%)**

Tony Farmer's Leeward Is. has never to my knowledge been displayed in its entirety, although the Circle has often been shown excerpts. It was a pleasure to see it as a comprehensive collection which had been assembled over a lifetime with discrimination and taste. Perhaps more importantly for Tony, the hammer total was not far below six figures. He did particularly well with the several choice items acquired from Victor Toeg's collection sold in 1972, just before the 1970s bubble. However, I think the prices suffered somewhat from over-familiarity, following on from the relatively recent Spaven, Larsen and Oliver auctions.

The sale started with some important 'Leeward Islands F' (Falmouth) covers, where the unusual St. Vincent origin topped the list at £1k. The long series of hand-painted trials for the QV keyplates went quietly, although all found buyers, but after that proofs were to the forefront. The striking book pieces bearing duty die proofs were £2.3k for the eight 1890 duties, £1.7k for the five 1922 duties and £1.25k for the two GV high values. The GV high value proofs were strong, topped by the approved 10s and £1 colour trials at £2k and £2.1k.

In the stamps, most of the big items were in the QV reign, where the block of the 1d shifted duty plate was £2.4k (acquired for over £4k in 1989) and the single on unique front £1.3k. Tony's speciality, the Sexagenary set, was highlighted by £4.5k for the triple overprint on 1d in pair with normal (£125 in 1972) and £2.9k for the 5s double overprint, while the study collection of 53 forged overprints was £780, the 5s block £1.15k and the set hand-stamped 'Ultramar' £700. In GV two interesting prices were £650 for a Plate 8 pair of the 3d with MCA watermark inverted and £500 for the 10s and £1 specimens, each showing the #24 crown and scroll flaws. The #60 scroll flaw on the 1942 10s (authentic this time) was an impressive £6.5k and there were strong prices for all the GVI flaws. The two watermark varieties on the GVI £1 with Plate 1 attached were £4.5k and £4.8k, but it seems the current obsession with plate plugs does not run to four figure items. The highlight of the revenues was a beautiful hand-painted QV essay at a mere £780 and £380 for four essays for the 1890 embossed stamps on thin brown paper. The fine stationery group was also in demand with £200 paid for the unused 1½d GVI airmail envelope on Aberdeen Opaque paper and a healthy £350 for the 1d envelope from Montserrat to Egypt.

**CAVENDISH 8 MARCH (BP 17%)**

Part 2 of the late Geoff Osborn's Bermuda was more chunky than I had expected. We knew he had retained his local mail, parish postmarks and postal stationery but had not realized the extent to which he had held back some choice covers with which he could not bear to part. A good room of 20–25 was present, including members Graham Booth and Richard Watkins. The result was well into six figures and I am sure Geoff would have derived a good deal of satisfaction from seeing lively competition for his gems. Enthusiasm was far stronger than at the first Osborn sale and well in excess of the rather dormant market for Bermuda postal history that has been evident since the big sales of 1999–2003. Quality was rewarded, assisted by modest estimates.

The main action came from a couple of phones and an agent with a very determined buyer, the agent usually winning (although one cannot tell who an agent is bidding for). The results were strong, some way stronger than at the first sale three years ago. For example, the Ireland Island Crowned Circle fetched £2.4k three years ago but went for £3.4k this time. Indeed the few unsolds being reoffered fetched a lot more than the 2009 reserves. Most lots were keenly contested with only one or two unsold. A few less important lots went around estimate or just under, but all the good lots went really well. The only quiet section was the postal stationery, where full value estimates may have deterred bidding, although their quality was exceptional. One of the phone bidders told me his outlay was about what he had expected but he had only obtained half the lots he had expected to get.

Among many excellent prices, demand was especially strong for the local covers. The 1870 cover with a 'St G Paid' datestamp on the stamp was £2.4k (£340 in Tucker) and the unique manuscript 1867 cover from Warwick with Wainwright's initials £2.3k. The unique PAID cancel was £1.7k and the amazing cover to Trott on Long Bird Island (which had two residents!) £1.4k. Parish postmarks were also gobbled up. The two late usages of the K1 6 cancels were £1.5k and £1.3k, the latter on

a rarely seen formula registered envelope. All the duplex numerals unsurprisingly went well, highlighted by the 1882 Flatts K3 '16' cover at £1.2k. But these prices were put in the shade by the two mixed lots of cancels off cover, conservatively (!) estimated at £180 and £140. The first lot of cds and ms cancels, including some spectacular numbered Paid stamps, was bought by one of our members on the phone for £2.6k and the second of numeral cancels with several splendid K1s was bought for £5k by Michael Hamilton phoning from Australia. Your alarm clock must have worked this time, Michael!

I was particularly struck by the demand for the early stamped covers, mostly bearing relatively common parish marks. Rare destination covers were of course hotly contested – the New Zealand rated 1s 5d was £6k, the Gibraltar rated 11d £2.6k and Nova Scotia collectors seemed active as in the first Osborn sale. In the outstanding stationery section the rare 1d on 1½d formula card used locally looked cheap at £900 but the interim 1885 formula card with a ½d stone in the right box was a decent £480.

**SPINK 11 APRIL (BP 20% NOW ON ALL LOTS, NOT ONLY THOSE BELOW £3K)**

Anticipation was high for this sale consisting of two of the best Cayman Is. collections extant, Graham Booth's stamps and proofs and the late John Byl's postal history. Would Graham be able to make enough from the stamps to take his pick of the postal history? The answer was a resounding yes. Much of Graham's stuff was red-hot for a total hammer of c£225k while the apparently more exciting John's covers, even with Graham's support, was c£155k. Only one direct comparison is possible but Graham's Type 1 cancel on the Jamaica 4d made £1.7k while John's superior strike on the same stamp was £1.6k, a case of the early bird catching the more expensive worm.

My spies in the room tell me that BWISC collector members present included Martin Bomford, Graham Booth, Bill Chapman, Kevin Darcy (also bidding for James Podger) and Norman Pike. They managed between them to take a decent share of the spoils, with Graham sharing top billing with dealer John Taylor. Not far behind was Kevin, who now owns several cracking 'Jamaica used in' covers. Other serious players acquiring spoils over £30k were Gibbons, unusually bidding though an agent, and Daniel Friedman who had flown in from the Cayman Is, while two unidentified bidders spent close to £20k each with three more around the £10k mark. In all I counted 28 bidders who spent more than £1k, a decent number for this small island although some will have been dealers.

It was no surprise that the colonial master dies were again expensive, the QV at £4k and the GV at £6.5k. But other proofs and colour trials were in the ballpark until the GVI period was reached when Graham Cooper from Bahamas bought the four lots for £9k. There was speculation before the sale about Lot 25, as Philip Kinns spotted that the two hand-painted essays (ex Messenger and Maisel) were on watermarked paper; this went for £3.2 subject to extension.

In the stamps, large blocks were in special demand as were plate blocks of the 1907 provisionals. Varieties galore kept everyone alert; the Glover flaw on the 1½d and 1d overprints on 5s were £2.4k and £2.8k, while the slotted frame on the 1d/5s was £1.6k. Spaven flaws on the KE keytypes were offered singly and their prices are worthy of study, high two figures for the low values except for the 1d which for some reason fetched £170, and £300 for the 10s. Among many watermark varieties, the choicest was the 1912 ½d inverted used at £800. Broken Ms in specimen were spotty, several not reaching their high reserves (is every Caymans broken M really worth four times those from other BWI islands?) but the 1908 ¼d, despite short perfs, soared to £580. The same stamp imperf side margin was a feisty £3.5k. But the real surprise (at least to Spink who valued it at £100) was the GVI 1d printed on the gummed side, which went to a book bidder forced up to £4.5k by Graham Cooper.

The Byl section was fascinating as he had rebuilt his collection after selling the bulk of it in 1992. It started with a surprise, when Graham acquired the historic 1829 letter for a mere £2.8k against the low estimate of £4k. The strange straight line 'CAY ISL' cds was £1.6k. There were interesting comparisons among the Jamaica used in Cayman where the first cover with a pair of ½ds was £7.5k, but the second in similar condition only £2.8k. However, the cover with a superb boxed Cayman Brac strike, slightly cropped, fetched the same £7k as the one complete with a smudgy strike. The choicest cover, which John had held back from his 1992 sale, showed the Grand Cayman PO cds in purple. This went to Kevin for £13k, as did the rare Cayman Brac cds for £7.5k.

The 1907 provisional covers were another highlight. Graham bought the best one, the 4½d rate to New York (not seen since 1942) for £14k and the 'mixed' franking cover to San Francisco for £3.5k, but Kevin bagged the 2½d rate to Pittsburg for £7k and the 2½d/4d to the US for £6k. The manuscript provisionals were patchy, the MP3 £8k, MP5 £6.5k but the MP4 only £2.1k. The lovely 1932 boxed ASR (MP7) was £5.8k. Our members were able to carve up the interesting series of Rural Posts without undue interference and forced Daniel Friedman to £2.1k on the West Bay.

It was satisfying to see that the choicest lots from this outstanding collection remain in our members' hands.

#### **LATE NEWS**

Some interesting prices just in. At the Murray Payne sale of 26 April offering Graham Hoey's GVI Bahamas stationery, the six lots of proofs and essays went for a startling £5.35k, all apparently to our newest member, while the used 2d/1½d postcard was £750. Two hand-painted essays for the 2d and 2s of the Turks and Caicos 1948 set went for £450. And at the Corinthia sale the same day, a nice 1867 cover with a 32c double rate to France was SF3.6k, an 1882 proposed scheme of UPU colours on five Barbados 1882 undenominated colour trials SF13.5k and an undenominated die proof for the 1949 UPU commemorative SF12.5k, all plus 20% BP.

#### **COMING EVENTS**

Gibbons will have part 2 of the Arnhold British Empire collection, including the BWI, in September. If it is anything like his Africa sale there should be some nice varieties for our members to scrap over. Richard Watkins is keeping the BP at 15%....hurrah. And Murray Payne will have Colin Wenborn's Bermuda in their next auction, where there is no BP unless you bid live. Even better if one could only outbid those rich MP customers!

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**Revisions to member's details should be provided to Steve Jarvis, contact details inside front cover.**

Membership updates are issued as loose booklet style inserts for the membership booklet. An up-to-date Membership Booklet can be downloaded from [www.bwisc.org](http://www.bwisc.org) (please e-mail [info@bwisc.org](mailto: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") – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

All editions of the Bulletin are available on our web site. Peter Fernbank 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 £3.00 or \$US5.00.

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

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