



STUDY CIRCLE

JAMAICA TOURIST PUBLICITY AND SOUVENIR LABELS BY IAN JAKES



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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

OBJECTS

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

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

OFFICERS & CONTACT DETAILS

Web Site: www.bwisc.org

Founder:	P.T. Saunders, FRPSL
President:	Charles Freeland, FRPSL: Ob Batterieweg 45, CH-4059 Basel, Switzerland Tel. 0041 61 361 1205, e-mail: charles.freeland@hotmail.com
Vice-President:	Simon Goldblatt: 39 Essex Street, London, WC2R 3AT Tel. 0207 222 5828 (H) 0207 832 1132 (W) 0207 353 3978 (F)
Vice-President and Web-Master:	Steve Jarvis, FRPSL: 5 Redbridge Drive, Andover, Hants, SP10 2LF Tel. 01264 358065, e-mail: info@bwisc.org
Chairman:	Peter Ford, FRPSL: Box 665, Ctra. Cabo la Nao (Pla) 124-6, 03730 Javea, Alicante, Spain Tel. 0034 966 472 158, e-mail: peterf@bwisc.org
Secretary:	George Dunbar: 7 Keith Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 7DP Tel. 01926 315793, e-mail: secretary@bwisc.org
Membership Secretary	Steve Jarvis, FRPSL: – see above
Treasurer:	Ray Stanton: The Old Rectory, Salmonby, Lincs., LN9 6PX Tel. 01507 533742, e-mail: rjstanton@tiscali.co.uk
Editor	Terry Harrison: 7 Braemar Road, Lillington, Leamington Spa, CV32 7EZ Tel. 01926 312176, email: editor@bwisc.org
Librarian:	Ian Jakes: Beaumaris, 4 Rectory Road, Old Church Warsop, Mansfield, Notts, NG20 0RU. Tel. 01623 842095, e-mail: jakeslaw@btinternet.com
Publications Officer:	Peter Ford, FRPSL: – see above
Publications Sales:	David Druett: Pennymead Auctions, 1 Brewerton St. Knaresborough, HG5 8AZ Tel. 01423 865962, e-mail: pennymead@aol.com
Public Relations Officer:	Nigel Chandler, FRPSL: 76 Spencers Road, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 2JG Tel. 01403 242788, 07801 431054 (M), e-mail: oesypum@aol.com
Committee:	Peter Fernbank, FRPSL, James Podger, FRPSL
Auditor:	John Davis, FCA, FRPSL
North American Representative:	John Seidl: 4324 Granby Way Marietta GA 30062 USA e-mail: john.seidl@gmail.com
Study Group Leaders:	Listed in June 2011 Bulletin and on the Web Site

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS

- Saturday 27th April 2013 – AGM and Auction at Grosvenor, 399–401 Strand, London. Viewing from 12 noon, AGM at 1.15pm, followed by the Auction at 2.15pm.
- Saturday 11 May 2013, 10.15 – 12.00, joint meeting of BWISC and BPSG members at the World Stamp Exhibition in the Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne, Australia. To include Darryl Fuller's presentation on Leeward Islands Stationery.
- Saturday and Sunday 5/6 October 2013 – Convention at the Brook Honiley Court Hotel, Meer End Road, Honiley, Warwickshire. The formal displays will be Simon Greenwood's British Honduras and Federico Borromeo's BWI stamps and Postal History.

Congratulations to:-

Graham Booth on his elevation to Fellowship of the RPSL.

Russell Boylan for the award of a Large Gold with special prize at the June 2012 Indonesia International for his St. Vincent De La Rue exhibit.

Steve Jarvis for his award of a Large Gold at Mainz for the RPSL catalogue.

Peter Ford, Michael Medlicott and Ben Ramkissoon on the award of a Gold for the Trinidad book.


It has been proposed that a new Study Group be formed called the Maritime Mail Study Group. Any member interested in this aspect of WI philately, please contact David Watson at watson1967@live.co.uk.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am happy to report that I attended the IPHLA Philatelic Literature Show in Mainz, Germany together with Charles Freeland and two members of the Committee, James Podger and Nigel Chandler. Plainly the collecting of philatelic literature in Germany is in a healthy state as there were several hundred present. It was interesting to meet some of the continental dealers who were impressed by our attendance there. Moreover, the journey was a success as we managed to sell some €1,264 (around £1,000) worth of our publications. I would like to thank both James and Nigel for transporting the books to Mainz. Nigel's fluency in German was also a great help.

Last year at the Committee Meeting, we discussed the value of our membership of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS). At present, the subscription amounts to £1.10 for each UK based member, a total of around £240 per annum. This is an amount the Committee believes to be rather high for what we get in return. We intend to discuss this at the AGM where I expect a member of the ABPS Committee to be present to answer questions. If there is any member who will not be attending the AGM and who has strong feelings about this, one way or the other, please let me know so that I can air their opinions.

Lastly, October will see our bi-annual Convention at Honiley (details on the Events paragraph on Page 3). I urge any member within striking distance of the venue to consider attending, whether they be starting out collecting BWI material or more experienced in this collecting area. It goes on for two days, so even if you can only come along for one of them, it will be well worth your while. As well as the formal displays, there are our mini-displays and also dealers in attendance who will relieve you of your hard-earned cash in exchange for that elusive stamp for which you have been searching for years, plus the traditional members' table where Simon Goldblatt will gladly offer any material you might wish to dispose of.



**KING GEORGE V KEY PLATES OF THE
IMPERIUM POSTAGE AND REVENUE DESIGN**

by
Peter Fernbank, FRPSL

SECOND EDITION

Since its publication in 1997 this work has become the standard reference for collectors of the issues of this King George V Universal key plate design. This book encompasses the issues of all 17 colonies that employed this design. From a comprehensive examination of the De La Rue and Crown Agents archives it has been possible to produce a listing of every printing made of this key plate design. A wealth of additional information has been added to this basic framework that adds flesh to the bare bones of printing statistics.

A fascinating feature of this issue is the large range of different numbered key plates employed during its life and collectors will find here listed all value/plate number combinations that were used for each colony.

Of particular interest to the specialist is an in-depth study of the flaws that developed on the various key plates and the damage sustained to the marginal areas of the plates, and this section has been considerably enhanced. In certain cases these can provide significant evidence of printing dates.

This second edition updates the original work and provides much new information. In addition the vast majority of the original black and white illustrations have now been provided in colour and a considerable number of further illustrations have been included.

PRICE: £49.00 (BWISC members' discount £5.00) plus postage.

Copies, as usual, obtainable from Pennymead Auctions (pennymead@aol.com)

DAVID WORTHINGTON ATKINSON – 5 MARCH 1926 – 27 OCTOBER 2012

David Atkinson passed away last October. His doctors had predicted his demise early in the summer, but he was determined to enjoy his passion for cricket for as long as possible and saw out the season and the autumn internationals, before succumbing to the inevitable. Cricket was his sporting obsession; his daughter remembers having to cajole her father away from the test match on TV so he could escort her to her wedding – ‘time to watch just one more over’ was his repeated refrain.

David was brought up in Derbyshire and attended Clare College, Cambridge, graduating in French and German. He joined the army in 1944 and his language skills were soon harnessed, being asked to learn Japanese, which he did effortlessly, and then being posted to the Far East. He retained his fascination with Japan, building a stamp collection of that country, and in later years he loved to go to a local Japanese restaurant and chat to the waiters in their own language. After the war David went back to Cambridge and decided to study medicine, despite not having a scientific background. However, David was equally brilliant at this new discipline. After qualification working at London hospitals as a Registrar, and following a brief flirtation with heart surgery, he became a urologist. It was while at Guy’s Hospital that he met and married Monica, a Jamaican who also became a surgeon.

In 1962 they upped sticks and moved to Jamaica, where he again worked as a Registrar. They stayed there for 14 years and were blessed with a son (David) and daughter (Mary). His West Indian and particularly his Jamaican stamp collections enlarged considerably. He became doctor to the West Indies cricket team but rumour has it that this was just a ruse to ensure he could attend all the test matches.

In 1976 the family came back to the UK where he resumed his career as a urologist at the North Middlesex Hospital until his retirement in 1991. Whilst in Jamaica the family had been friends with the Barnes family, and when their son John came to the UK and eventually joined Liverpool FC he became a committed supporter of the club, influencing his daughter and grandson, Luke, to do likewise.

David’s stamp collecting interests were broad-based, as evidenced by the 150 albums he has bequeathed to his family. In recent years he had been encouraging his grandson to take up philately and at the post-funeral gathering the latter did indeed express an interest in getting more involved – we can only hope.

David joined the BWISC in 1979 and soon became an active member, serving as Bulletin Editor from 1985 until 1990. I got to know David through our love of all things Jamaican. He formed one of the most comprehensive collections of Jamaica airmails, and this collection and his knowledge of the subject provided the foundation for the book that he and I have co-authored (which should be finalised and published this year).

David was always a glass-half-full sort of person and worked hard to make everyone’s lives a little better. This attitude was reflected in the large turnout at his funeral, and everyone left with a smile on their faces as the closing music of ‘Soul Limbo’ by Booker T and the MGs was played (recognisable as the BBC cricket theme).

Our condolences go out to his sister, children and grand-children.

Steve Jarvis

BWISC AUCTION

The following three articles relate to material which will be appearing in this year's Study Group Auction and for that reason are being published together, out of the normal alphabetical sequence.

BARBADOS

1882–6 SPECIMEN VALUES

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT

The 2013 Circle auction provides one of the infrequent opportunities to comment on the listing of SPECIMEN stamps in the SG catalogue. There is a description and offering of eight stamps, (Fig. 1) whose uniformity, both in condition and in the state of their small-size serified overprint, demonstrates that these stamps have been together as a set from the time that the handstamp was applied. It is a fair inference that this set to 5s represents the values and shades that were currently in stock at GPO at the time.



Fig. 1

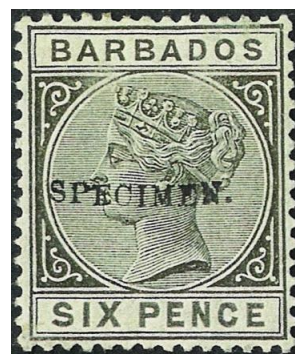


Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

The SG listing of 95s/103s as a set of five refers to stamps with their standard type-set overprint. I have four of the five in my own Barbados album, missing the 4d; and the 3d value, in common with the example with local handstamp in this year's auction, is in the reddish purple shade. It seems to me that the SG listing would more appropriately refer to 96s (Fig. 3).

This apart, if the auction team has assessed colours correctly, the ½d, 1d, 2½d and 4d values were all in their later listed shades at the time when they received the local handstamp. Up to this time, of course, the supply of Specimen stamps had been piecemeal. This is recognised, by inference, in the listing by SG of Specimen values of each of the DLR perf 14 values of the Britannia issues – so what supply of Specimen stamps took place between the time when the key-type issues of 1882 arrived to oust the Britannias, and centralised arrangements were made for Specimen distribution through the UPU?

It is not a subject that I have researched, and I have only a single example of the local handstamp on the 6d value (Fig. 2). It should be noted that this is not the same instrument as was used for the Britannias: the lettering on the earlier version spans roughly 16mm, and that on the later setting

12mm, the height of the letters being correspondingly smaller. A curiosity is that, of my two Britannia Specimens, one has a stop (Fig. 4), the other not (Fig. 5); and again, none of the key-type Specimens in the auction has a stop (Fig. 1), whereas my 6d in the same small type does have one (Fig. 2).

If one looks for consistency, there should have been a steady trickle of Specimen examples of key-type ½d, 1d, 2½d and 4d grey (and then 4d brown) between 1882 and 1886, but did this actually happen? Reports from those with specialised holdings of Barbados Specimens will be welcome. In the meantime, it will be interesting to see whether individual demand for the low values in the auction outstrips that for the higher values.

This may happen, but in the context of local as opposed to typeset overprints, it might not be an accurate market test – for, unless low-value distribution did not take place at all in 1882–5, it is the values issued in 1886 that should be found least often with local handstamp.

PART II

As the above was written (perhaps rashly) without reference to the published works on Specimen stamps, I have turned to Marcus Samuel, James Bendon (whose theme was UPU specimens), and of course Edmund Bayley, for some initial self-criticism.

Obviously, Bayley's chapter XII gives the most comprehensive information (see pp 231–40) and at p240 his note on the reason for including Type D12 (the standard type-set SPECIMEN) in his listing of 1882–3 ½d, 1d, 2½d and 4d grey deserves careful consideration. They are listed out of deference to Marcus Samuel, and clearly Bayley had serious reservations. Bendon did not list these values. The strong probability, surely, is that Samuel (like Homer) nodded on this occasion, and that these four values do not exist with the type-set SPECIMEN overprint. By inference, the SG catalogue agrees.

So we are back with the local handstamped overprint for the values of this issue prior to 1885, and Bayley's listing affirms its use on each of the listed values, including the 4d in grey, as well as brown. It is obvious that the 4d grey would not have formed part of the dismembered set in our 2013 auction because it would long have been out of stock at GPO.

It is striking that all published references to the earlier local handstamp (classified as BAR 1), and the next in line (BAR 2), illustrate a handstamp with a stop. I suppose that the omission of a stop on one of my two illustrated examples of BAR 1 might have been due to an accidental failure of the stop to make an impression. No such explanation is available for the dismembered 1882–6 set. BAR 2 exists in two states, with and without stop.

Next as to colour; for Bayley carefully ascribes all his attributions to specific shades. Here we must be cautious. We know that, before UPU distribution, Specimen stamps were provided by postal authorities in tiny quantities, at unregulated intervals, and that the same, or a different handstamp, or a handwritten Specimen (or foreign equivalent) might be used from time to time. The only common element would be that a stamp supplied would be taken from current stock.

Thus, if we accept as probable that the use of instrument BAR 2 covered a period of 3–4 years, it would also have been applied to stamps from different consignments. Consequently, there is no need to be dogmatic about the listed shade upon which the handstamp may be found. It might be any.

The 3d value deserves specific consideration here, as all the published authorities refer to deep purple, and I have had the temerity to use reddish purple in referring to the example in my hands of a stamp from the UPU supply. The same description is used by the auction team (for whom I accept both collective and personal responsibility) to identify the 3d in the auction, with local handstamp. Should I, therefore, be ascribing to the more expensive shade (as an issued stamp)

lightish colour which I believe that any objective purchaser should reject for an issued stamp? Candidly, the concept of a light, deep purple shade shows up a credibility gap.

I refer back at this point to Bayley, p 75–8. The first supply of the 3d value was made in late October 1884, comprising a printing of twelve full sheets (of 240 stamps), from which the small number of 100 Specimen stamps supplied to the UPU may have been extracted, or these might, I suppose, have been separately printed. There was a further supply of 3d stamps late in 1885, and the date 1885 is ascribed by the catalogue to a shade which certainly exists in deep purple.

Colour descriptions are frequently derived from near-contemporary philatelic publications, and they tend to stick. I have not sought access to early sources in the present instance; and, indeed, specific inspection of UPU archives might allow specific affirmation of deep purple as the correct shade of the UPU Specimen. Be that as it may, I am unrepentant in my inability to classify my own single example as deep purple.

Reverting to other low values, the line between dull green and green is not easy to draw, and I often find myself hesitating between ultramarine and blue. When it comes to rose and carmine – so capriciously separated or amalgamated in catalogue listings, depending on the territory addressed – the line is easiest to draw in the Barbados 1d stamp, with so many clearly dated used stamps available. So I ascribe the 1d with local handstamp from the dismembered set to the later shade with complete confidence. The shade of the ½d and 2½d should be judged on their merits.

My concluding thought is to wonder why a complete set of Specimen stamps came to be released by Bridgetown at a time when there was an established international route for distribution. The answer is presumably lost to history, although there would once have been a record; for GPO had to account for the disposal of stamps to a face value of 7s 5d for which no payment was received. It was a material amount in the late 1880's.

BARBADOS 1875-1886 SPECIMENS

COMMENTS BY CHARLES FREELAND



Fig. 6



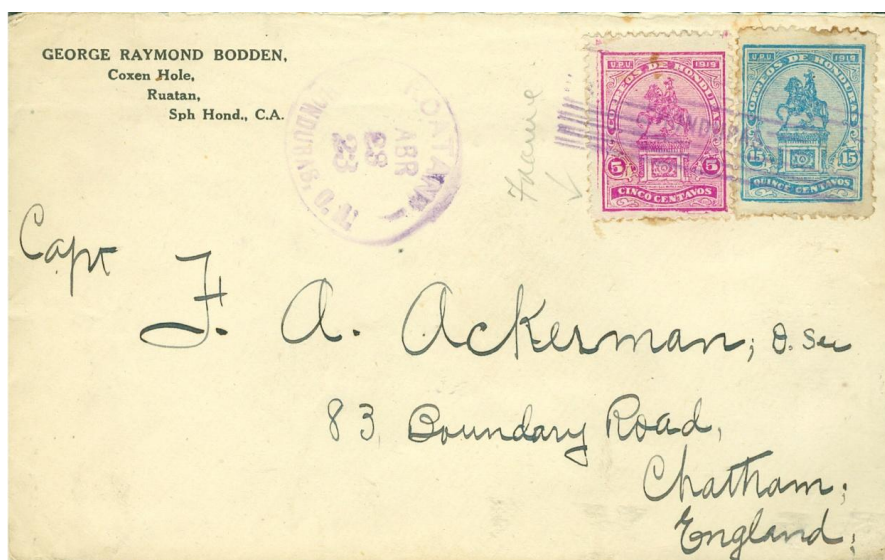
Fig. 7

Homer may have nodded, but Marcus Samuel did not! Fig. 6 shows one of the stamps from the Samuel collection, which was at some point 'liberated' from the De La Rue archives where it was probably regarded as a file copy of no great importance. It is a rarity because when these stamps were first issued in 1882, the UPU circulated a single sample without any obliteration to each of its members, as you can check by viewing the UPU collection in Berne or the GPO's holdings at the British Library. In 1884, for security reasons, it was decided to ask the printers to obliterate the stamps and De La Rue used the same instrument to apply the familiar Samuel type D12 overprint. In 1886 the UPU asked that the number of examples for each member be increased from one to three, which explains why the 3d and 4d, both issued in 1885, are far more elusive than the 6d, 1s and 5s issued in 1886. With the gradual increase in membership, this accounts for Samuel's calculation of issued numbers on page 33 of his book of 100 for the 3d and 4d (as for the two Montserrat 1884 keyplates, for example) and 345 for the three higher values.

The 1875 local specimen handstamps type BAR1 on the ½d and 1d in black ink (Fig. 4) are always without gum as they have been removed from the formula 1½d postcards that were circulated with their stamps attached, each handstamped specimen. Barbados and Br. Guiana were the only British colonies in this period which saw the need for a security overprint on their stamps to be forwarded to the UPU. But the smaller BAR2 overprints (Figs. 1 and 2) are a different kettle of fish. They were applied to presentation stamps donated to worthy officials. For the record, I have examples of the 4d grey with and without stop as well as the 4d brown, evidently done at different dates. BAR2 can also infrequently be found on the 1875 Britannias, but these too are presentation copies (Fig 7).

THE FORGOTTEN ISLAND – A TROPHY FOR THE CAYMAN COLLECTOR

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT



It is a good few years since I reminded members of an island which, in the mid-19th century briefly pledged allegiance to the British Crown, a BWI island of which many had probably never even heard. The island was ROATAN, and it has adhered firmly to Honduras these last 150 years.

If I expected a response with more information and a trickle of philatelic examples from this short-lived colony, it did not happen. Not a further word has been written and published by us to this day.

All this is about to change. The 2013 catalogue includes a cover sent to the UK from Roatan, some 90 years ago – sent, what is more, by someone whose first language can be taken to have been English. So will we now start to trawl through postal history sections labelled Honduras, remembering as we go to look for the name in the postmark?

When I showed the printed name and address on the cover to a friend, the reaction was quite unexpected. “A relative of mine went through her third marriage with someone of that name. He came from the Cayman Islands.”

Perhaps this will now prompt one of our members to include Roatan in a holiday to the Caribbean, and to hunt for archives showing letters back from the Caymans to Roatan, where the family member lived. After all there are not all that many surviving village covers doing ordinary postal duty. Well, I assume they will be village covers. You see the family name of the Roatan sender was BODDEN.

Notes:

For those not in the know Boddentown is about midway along the south coast of Grand Cayman and its post office has functioned from 1909 to the present day.

Roatan is situated 40 miles from the coast of Honduras and 400 miles from Grand Cayman.

Editor.

BAHAMAS

'NASSAU AIR MAIL' CACHET, 1926

BY PETER FERNBANK

I have two covers bearing the scarce two line 'NASSAU/AIR MAIL' cachet, in use c.1926/1927 only (as far as I can determine at present). Gisburn doesn't mention it in his Bahamas handbook but Dr. Lockie notes it in his work *Air Mails of the West Indies*, noting that this was one of several special flights between 1919 and 1929 although he provides no detail. He gives a date of 8 November 1926 for the flight with mail bearing this cachet.

The first cover with this cachet I obtained (Fig. 1) was purchased as a 'rare commercial cover' from a well known dealer, with a hefty premium to suit. In my naivety I failed to notice at the time that the cover had no contents and had never been opened, a sure sign of a 'philatelic' cover. It was posted in Montserrat on 6 October 1926 and presumably travelled by sea to Nassau where it was backstamped 30 October and the 'NASSAU/AIR MAIL' cachet subsequently applied. It was addressed to William M. McFarlan in Nassau but was re-directed to East Downingtown, Pennsylvania, where it received (again, I assume) a mauve straight line datestamp 'NOV 17 1926' (at bottom left on the cover).



Fig. 1 – Cover from Montserrat to Nassau, re-directed to East Downingtown, Pennsylvania



Fig. 2 – Cover from Canada to Nassau, re-directed to East Downingtown, Pennsylvania

My second cover turned up on eBay (this had been opened) and was obtained at a tenth of the price of my first one. Again addressed to William M. McFarlan, this one was sent from Saskatchewan, Canada, (date not clear) to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, arriving on 26 Oct where it was re-addressed to Nassau. Here it was backstamped '1 NOV 26', re-addressed to East

Downingtown, Pennsylvania, and the 'NASSAU/AIR MAIL' cachet applied. Again it received a mauve straight line datestamp 'NOV 17 1926' on receipt in East Downingtown.

McFarlan is a name with known philatelic connotations and other BWI covers from various BWI territories have been seen addressed to him. My initial suspicion was that the sending of these covers was a philatelic exercise, but the necessity for two re-directions of the cover from Canada before it could receive the 'NASSAU/AIR MAIL' cachet seems to have been an excessively risky (and unlikely) means of obtaining this philatelic cachet.

More information about this cachet was contained in the auction notes with Lot 505 of the Graham Hoey collection¹. This lot included two covers, one to Boston, USA, dated 8 November 1926 and the other a registered letter to England dated 27 March 1927. These auction notes, almost certainly taken from Hoey's album page, state that these covers were carried by Curtis Falcon seaplanes and suggest that these were probably rum running trips and that the mail carried helped to legitimise the flight. I have some reservations here about the rum running aspect since the cargo carrying capabilities of this aircraft type was very limited.

After the initial experimental flight carrying mail in 1919 there were very few flights from Bahamas that warranted a special air mail cachet, apart from these two flights in 1926 and 1927, until 1929. We currently have little information on whether these were special flights, how much mail was carried, why a special cachet was employed and the precise date on which the flights took place (note that if the date of the 1926 flight was 8 November then both my covers had to wait at the Nassau post office for a week before being sent on their way). I suspect the flights would have been from Nassau to Miami, where the mail would have been offloaded and thereafter delivered by road/rail.

I would appreciate details of any other covers with this cachet so that we might get a better appreciation of mail destinations from this flight, the date of the flights together with their destinations. Please contact me either by email (pferbank@tiscali.co.uk) or via the editor.

Reference

1 Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, 5 March 2004, Lot 505.



peter singer



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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS

LEEWARD ISLANDS – NOTES FOR PHILATELISTS

by

Michael Oliver, FRPSL

This is a much revised edition of the original 2000 publication, containing much new information. The important subjects are again covered and there is an additional chapter on Registration Labels and Marks. Michael has updated his priced listing of both the stamps and Postal Stationery. This book is a must for all students of Leeward Islands philately. There are many colour illustrations and this is a handsome hardbacked book with an attractive dust cover.

Price:– £42.00. BWISC Members' Discount:– £6.00.

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

BRITISH GUIANA

POSTAL AGENCY NUMBER 9

By MICHAEL MEDLICOTT



Proud¹ tentatively allocates the 25.5 millimetre circular datestamp for Postal Agency No.9 to Kamakusa, and gives it the very short date range of 9 November 1931 to 19 January 1932, a span of just over two months.

The illustrated cover was mailed on 'JA 19/32', the later of these two dates, and was probably known to him. As it was probably the basis for his attribution of Postal Agency No.9 to Kamakusa, it is worth noting the details of the cover.

The three strikes of the Postal Agency cds tying three copies of the Centenary 4 cents are plausibly, but not indubitably, No.9 and the Registration label at bottom left bears pencil markings (commonly applied to such labels to confirm the office of origin) indicating 'Kamakusa', 'No.9' and 'or 110m.' D. M. Busey, the sender, invited reply from the addressee, the Numismatic Company of Texas, to c/o Pires & Silva Bros, 'Oranopai (sic) Shop', Mazaruni River. OranApai was the next mining settlement upstream from Kamakusa but did not have a Post Office before 1 March 1942, and mail originating there in 1932 would obviously have travelled downstream (rather than upstream) to the nearest settlement with a Postal Agency.

The flap on the reverse of the cover is crowned with a cryptic red wax seal with 'UDF of BG Ltd' surrounding a figure '4'.

Townsend & Howe² affirm that the Postal Agency at Kamakusa was open(ed) on 18 March 1924; presumably it had no datestamp until 1931 since no prior usage is recorded. Their note (pp. 293/4) on the mysteries of the Mazaruni river bears quoting:-

"The P.A.'s in this vast area are all for tiny mining settlements.....The postmarks used by these Mazaruni P.A.'s raise difficult problems, probably now beyond solution. Not only did nearly all of them use at some time the "Numbered Postal Agency" date-stamps, but these were transferred from one P.A. to another, and no records of the moves now exist..... Trying to collate known dates of postmarks with the known "lives" of postal agencies (knowing both sets of data to be incomplete) is an exercise guaranteed to discourage all but the most inveterate postal historian". Indeed it is.

T&H (p.399) go on to quote a man engaged in the Mazaruni River service in the early days:-

“Long ago we used to travel from Bartica up the Mazaruni all the way....it was a very dangerous journey....you encounter dangerous fishes and eels...pirai take a big chunk out of you....eel give you a shock to kill.....sting ray you may lose a foot....Snakes put all the rest to shame.....Why endure all this?.....Diamonds and gold in the river....”.

A vivid epilogue to what must have been a service that was anything but humdrum. As a footnote to the illustrated cover, one may quote an instruction of 1924, when Kamakusa became the Government Station on the Mazaruni:-

“All shop owners are to instruct their boat captains when reporting at Kamakusa to call at the P.O. and ask for mails for their respective shops.”

Note 1. *The Postal History of British Guiana* by Edward B. Proud. Pub. Proud Bailey, 2000.

Note 2. *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana* by W. A. Townsend and F.G.Howe, Pub. RPSL 1970.

BRITISH HONDURAS

CALEDONIA B. H.

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT

When you can't get covers or stamps on piece, the only chance of finding a satisfying, fullish strike of a TRD in the QV to KG5 period rests with the 1920 Peace stamp, 2c rose red; its 4c successor in slate conceals what you would like it to reveal. Yet, gone are the days when a dealer might stock this stamp in bundle-ware. You are lucky to see a single in most ports of call.



Share my pleasure, then, in the finding of the Caledonia strike illustrated here (Addiss, TDC 12). You may be a little dismissive, because - with the lowest few millimetres missing – the legend CALEDONIA B.H. becomes rather vestigial. That is until you turn up the reproduction of the mark in the work by Ed Addiss, which makes the example now pictured an ideal specimen to complete Ed's depiction.

Confirmation of the complete mark is of some significance, as the illustration by Proud is candidly described as a reconstruction. Ted's reconstructions are done with care, so perhaps he, too, was using a strike showing much of the upper part; in which case you can regard my example as a second marriage, in which the partner bears a strong likeness to the original.



Stanley Gibbons

Commonwealth Department

The 1862 Bahamas compound perms



P12313337

SG 12, 1d camine-lake, no wmk, compound perf 11 x 11½, 12, neatly cancelled by 'A05'. Typical minor perf irregularities, still a fine example of this rare stamp, (more often found perf 11 on one side only, rather than at top and bottom as here). Clear BPA cert (2000). (cat £850)



P12313338

SG 14, 4d dull rose, no wmk, 11½, 12 compound with perf 11 (at foot), neatly cancelled by complete 'A05'. Typical perf irregularities, still a fine example of this rare stamp. Clear BPA cert (2000). (cat £2000)



P10114679

SG 15, 6d lavender-grey, no wmk, perf 11½, 12, compound with 11 (at top), crisply cancelled by nearly complete 'A05'. Insignificant traces of toning mentioned for accuracy, still a very fine example of this rarity, with exceptional colour and perms. (cat £1900)

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JAMAICA

1861 – OVERLAND VIA MARSEILLES

BY STEVE JARVIS

My thanks to those who responded with comments concerning my Jamaica cover featured on the front cover of the September Bulletin.

David Watson was the most enthusiastic regarding its genuineness, stating:

- The 8 decimes rate for port tax in France applied from June 1862 to December 1865, to all mail carried direct from the West Indies to France [Salles, R. (1992) *La Poste Maritime Francaise*, vol. IV, p. 34.].
- Marseilles would be an unusual place for West Indian mail to be landed, but not impossible as the above rate applied to all French ports. But Marseilles did handle a lot of incoming foreign mail, e.g. from Ceylon to be carried overland by rail up France to the UK.
- It's possible that the item was carried by CGT, the French rival to RMSP, which was just about getting going then – a rather late starter after RMSP in 1841/2! The French mail ship routes weren't formally established in the Caribbean until August 1865. Before then it's anyone's guess which routes were used and where/when French vessels called in the Caribbean!
- Re the 1d rate on your entire.....after Jamaica and some other islands were forced to toe the line and account for their postal income in a way that could be added up in London, i.e. by using stamps, they were allowed for a time only to retain 1d out of the total paid for a packet letter. The rest of the money went to the UK. Usually markings and stamps don't allow one to see who got what in this period, but sometimes fastidious postal clerks made the distribution clear. So the postal clerk in Buff Bay was only doing what he was told, I guess. The rest of the postage was collected in port tax at Marseilles, via where the sender directed the letter.

My trawls through the Jamaica Gleaner archives created some excitement with the discovery of the following article:

General Post Office, November 13, 1865.

A mail for London will be despatched by the French Mail Packet 'Caravelle' on the 16th instant at 10 am. Correspondence sent by this conveyance to the United Kingdom will be subject to the same rates of postage as if it had been conveyed by British packets.

Letters etc. will also be received for St. Jago de Cuba, Port a Paix (Haiti), Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Cayenne, British Guiana, Trinidad, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada and the Dutch settlement of Surinam for transmission by the French Mail Packet.

A Mail will also be made up at this office for France, and other countries in Europe.

Correspondence intended for this dispatch must be specially directed 'by French Mail Packet'. The rates of postage on Correspondence sent by the French Mail Packet may be ascertained upon application at this office and will shortly be published for general information.

Alex J Brymer, Postmaster for Jamaica.

However, I was deflated to find that December 1865 is completely missing from the on-line web site and my immediate hopes of finding an answer were dashed.

David Ball and Chris Harman were more sceptical regarding genuineness, with even a suggestion that it could have originated in Mauritius. Chris suggested I take it along to the Royal to see what they could elicit. Patrick Pearson was very helpful and examined the cover using their Video Spectral Comparator and reached the conclusion that the adhesive was tied by the French cancel – so the adhesive was not added later as a fabrication – not conclusive that the item originated in Jamaica but provides some support.

JAMAICA

COLOUR CHANGELING

BY GEORGE DUNBAR



Fig. 1 Changeling



Fig. 2 Normal



Fig. 3 Printer's sample

The Jamaican stamp showing the return of a contingent from war is well-known because the initial design depicted the Union Flag at the left incorrectly. By the time the stamp was issued on Multiple Crown Script CA paper, this had been corrected. The stamp I would like to discuss is from this later issue (Fig. 1). It is in poor condition, with a crease and surface damage. Part of an unsorted lot of Jamaican stamps bought from a Sandafayre auction, loose stamps packed into envelopes, it tumbled last from that paper cradle. Its vignette colour, departing spectacularly from the standard blue (Fig. 2), reminded me at first of the De La Rue samples (Fig. 3), but it is clearly not one of those.

Two explanations come to mind: that brown ink was used in printing the stamp, or that the original blue changed to brown. The former is unlikely, since only part of the vignette is printed brown, the remainder blue. In addition, the area in brown is not contiguous – there is a small circle of brown colour in the bottom half of the vignette. It is possible that a splash of brown ink could have been applied to the plate, producing this effect. However, it is hard to imagine a plausible scenario in which that could have happened.

Environmental damage seems the more plausible explanation. I tend to associate colour changes caused by environmental damage with fading, discolouring, or changes of shade within the same general hue. However, White (1979, plate III C-11.1) illustrated just such a change from blue to brown, and attributed it to an environmental cause. White did not identify the cause of that change, to a US stamp, but one possibility would be exposure to a chemical, such as hydrogen peroxide. According to White, lake pigments, which can be blue as well as the more familiar carmine browns and reds, are vulnerable to such colour changes, and were used in stamp printing in this period (White, p.13; p.36).

The colour change in the present example is restricted to the vignette. The flecks visible on the left edge of the stamp and on the flag on the left side of the frame are tone marks. This restriction suggests two possibilities. The first is that only the vignette ink was susceptible, implying that the vignette and frame inks were chemically different. The second is that the exposure occurred on the vignette plate. For example, in wiping the plate before printing, the 'wrong cloth' might have been used momentarily, or a small amount of chemical might have dropped on the plate and been wiped. It is an ugly-looking thing, but I've grown quite fond of it, and the puzzle it presents.

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JAMAICA**9-HOLE DIAMOND “PERFIN”****BY PAUL FARRIMOND**

An earlier article discussed the perfins of the Jamaica Telephone Company and United Fruit Company (reference). This article considers a perforated nine-hole diamond pattern (Fig. 1) found on Jamaican stamps that is not a true perfin, comprising neither perforated initials nor the insignia of a company. This punch (as I will term it, as the holes are larger than on perfins) seems to have two distinct periods and styles of use: initial fiscal use (seen on King George V stamps) and later postal use (seen on King George VI stamps).

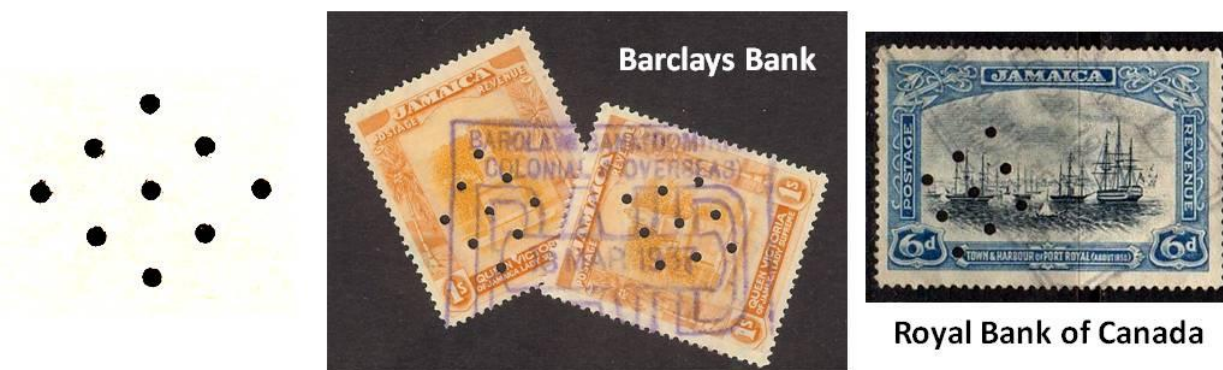


Fig. 1. The 9-hole diamond punch, and examples of use with two different fiscal “PAID” cancellations (NB: the stamps put together to show the Barclays Bank cancellation have different dates).

FISCAL USE

The diamond punch is now recorded on nine different stamps from George V’s reign (Table 1), including seven values from the 1921 Script CA watermark pictorial definitive issue (from 1d to 10s). All reported examples from this period are on loose stamps. Most bear no apparent cancellation, but fourteen recorded stamps have fiscal cancellations in purple ink. At least two different cancellations are found: for the Royal Bank of Canada and Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial & Overseas) (Fig. 1). Where dates are readable these range from 1928 (Oxley, 1996) to May 1938 (on a stamp in Paul Wright’s collection).

SG	Stamp	Examples
92	1d Script CA pictorial	1 seen
97	4d Script CA pictorial	3 seen (2 with fiscal cancels, one reading 1937)
98	6d Script CA pictorial	5 seen (including Swarbrick, 1993; 4 with fiscal cancels, 2 dated 1920’s)
99	1s Script CA pictorial	10 seen + 2 recorded (Blackburn, 1958 & Oxley, 1996; 2 assumed to be Script CA; 6 with fiscal cancels of 1928, March 1937 & May 1938)
100	2s Script CA pictorial	2 seen + 1 recorded (Blackburn, 1958)
102	5s Script CA pictorial	2 seen (one assumed to be Script CA)
103	10s Script CA pictorial	1 recorded (Blackburn, 1958)
113	6d 1932 pictorial	7 seen (including Swarbrick, 1993; 2 with fiscal cancels, one dated 24 June 1937)
114	1d Silver Jubilee	1 reported on www.philatel2.com/jubilee

Table 1. Summary of examples of the diamond punch on King George V stamps seen or reported previously, including dates of use where postmarks are legible.

Bob Swarbrick attributed this diamond punch to the Bank of Nova Scotia (1993), apparently on the basis of use on one or more covers from the Bank. In the auction of his Jamaica collection (Cavendish, 1995), Lot 952 contained four loose stamps (George V period) and two covers bearing this diamond punch. These are all now in my collection. The two covers were wrongly described

in the auction catalogue: the cover to Washington D.C. is actually dated 1958 rather than 1938, whilst the “1951” cover to Scarborough, U.K., is actually dated 1957. Both covers bear King George VI definitive stamps, and were sent privately rather than from the Bank of Nova Scotia (see later).

It seems likely that the diamond punch was applied by a bank to stamps used on financial documents liable to tax (e.g. cheques, travellers’ cheques, promissory notes, drafts, etc.), and that these were sometimes struck by fiscal cancellations applied to the documents by receiving banks; hence the recognition of cancels from at least two different banks. On that basis, use by the Bank of Nova Scotia is quite possible.

Three of the stamps I have inspected bear no cancellation and still bear gum, suggesting that the punch was applied prior to the stamp being fixed to a document. The observation that the punch is usually fairly centrally applied to the stamp also confirms that the stamp was deliberately punched, probably prior to use on a document. The punch can be found in various orientations, and some stamps bear two strikes, or a second partial strike. I have seen a scan of a pair of stamps, each bearing a single diamond punch, but with different alignments, suggesting that this punch comprised a single die, designed to perforate a single stamp at a time.

LATER POSTAL USE

The diamond punch is also found on stamps from King George VI’s reign, comprising eight values of the definitives (2d, 4d, 6d, 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s and £1) and the 2s New Constitution stamp. In contrast to the earlier fiscal examples, most punched King George VI stamps are found on cover, but all of these have been sent by private individuals, and not from the Bank of Nova Scotia or any other company. I have seen (or seen scans of) 23 such covers or large addressed pieces, and note one other report (Walker, 1993). The 23 covers/pieces seen range in date from 28 July 1956 to 26 June 1961, and all are postmarked at Kingston (e.g. Fig. 2). Interestingly, endorsements on the covers show that four different senders are responsible (Evadney Gray, Stanley W. Hope, Winston Hope and Linneth Smith). Their return addresses are different (three are in Jones Town and one in Greenwich Town; both districts of Kingston), but all covers are written in the same hand. Incoming covers from many different countries to these four people are also often seen, and some correspondence, including an incoming postcard from East Germany and two letters from Linneth Smith and Stanley Hope (in the collections of Bill Ashley [see Goldblatt, 1998] & myself, respectively), indicate that they collected, exchanged, and possibly sold stamps. Interestingly, their use of stamps with the diamond punch may have started even earlier, as I have a punched 5s King George VI definitive stamp bearing a Jones Town cancellation (Birmingham-type) clearly dated 22 November 1949; although not on cover, the Jones Town datestamp suggests use by one of these individuals.

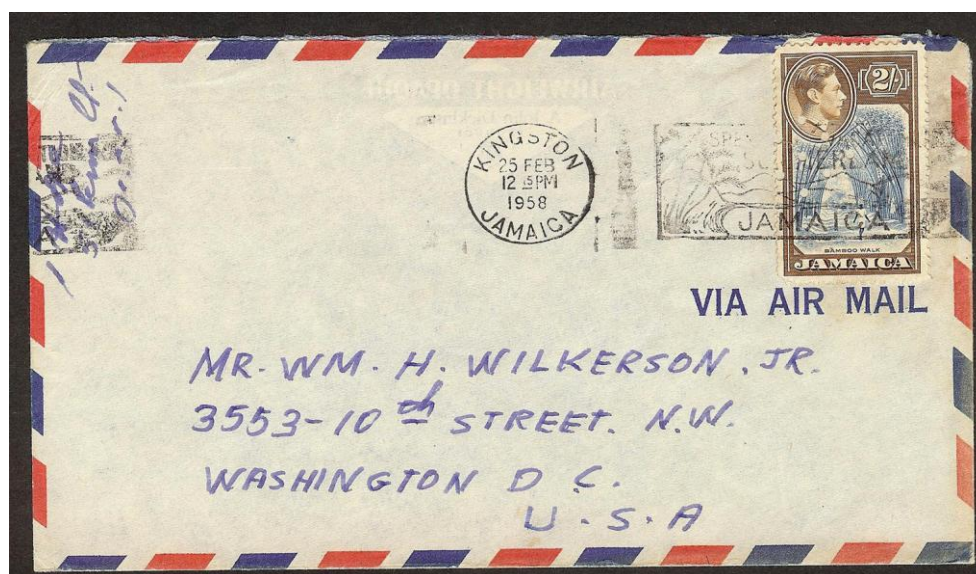


Fig. 2. 1958 Cover to Washington D.C., one of several known to this address, bearing a 2s diamond-punched stamp and endorsed “S Hope 51 Penn St. Ja. B.W.I”.

None of the King George VI stamps with this diamond punch bear any apparent fiscal cancellation, or any obvious signs of removal of such cancellations, but it must be considered that they may have been removed from documents and re-used. Some of the stamps on which the punch is found were not issued until 1949 (5s perf. 13 and £1 definitives) and 1950 (6d perf. 13½ x 13 and 10s perf. 13 definitives), indicating that the use of the punch (presumably at a bank) continued until at least this date. Whilst it is possible that the punching device passed into the hands of these collectors, I consider this unlikely, as many similar covers from the same senders in the same time period are found which bear stamps without the diamond punch. Significantly, staining around some of these stamps (punched and unpunched) shows that they have been affixed with glue rather than the original gum, supporting the idea that these stamps may have been re-used.

The cover shown in Fig. 3 provides the clearest evidence of the apparent re-use of uncanceled or cleaned stamps, as it bears not only two diamond-punched stamps (6d and 1s definitives) but also a 3d value with the UFC perfin (6 pins missing) of the United Fruit Company on a private letter to Switzerland sent by Linneth Smith.



Fig. 3. 1956 Cover to Switzerland with two diamond-punched stamps (6d & 1s) and a UFC° perfin (3d); endorsed "Miss L. Smith 4B Byrness St. Ja, B.W.I." on the reverse. Note the same handwriting as the cover shown in Fig. 2.

The single stamp reported with a Jones Town postmark of 22 November 1949 suggests that private use of diamond-punched stamps began whilst the punch was still being used by an unknown bank (up to at least October 1950 based on the issue dates of stamps on which it is found).

If anybody has an example of a diamond-punched stamp used on a document or cover that can identify the bank where it was used, I would be delighted to hear from them, as this would solve a long-running mystery.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to Paul Wright for loan of his Jamaica perfins, to Bill Ashley and George Dunbar for scans of their items, and to Steve Jarvis for information and scans of items from other BWISC members (Derek Sutcliffe & Eric Yendall) collated over the last few years. The Perfin Society (Stephen Steere) provided copies of references to Jamaica perfins in their journal.

JAMAICA

TOURIST PUBLICITY AND SOUVENIR LABELS

BY IAN JAKES



Fig. 1

The main tourist area in Jamaica is the 140 miles of coastline in the north of the country with the Blue Mountains forming the hinterland. The area starts at Montego Bay and extends eastwards along the north coast via Ocho Rios and Port Antonio to the Blue Lagoon. Alternatively, tourists visiting the north coast can drive southwards through the Blue Mountains to the capital Kingston.

A programme of road building improvements commenced in 1928. With few exceptions all roads in Jamaica were originally constructed of limestone without any proper foundations and were, therefore, inadequate to meet the ever increasing requirements of motor traffic. Before 1928 legislation restricted the importation and use of motor vehicles exceeding two and a half tons and this in turn hampered hotel construction and tourist development.

By the early 1930's road improvements and the consequent tourist infrastructure were taking place. The millionaires of the western world, such as Henry Ford and the various inheritors of big fortunes following the sales of Campbell Soups and Palmolive Colgate, started to use the north coast of Jamaica as their playground. Errol Flynn purchased 'Golden Eye' near Port Antonio (in 1946 sold to Ian Fleming) and the Hollywood 'A' listers joined him. Tourism was underway.

Four tourist publicity labels were issued entitled Jamaica – Montego Bay, Jamaica – Coastal Scene, Jamaica – The Blue Lagoon and Jamaica – Mountain Scene. (Fig. 1). They are multicoloured 46.25mm wide and 27mm deep (excluding the white border) perf 11.5 on thick cream unwatermarked paper, the printer being unknown to me.

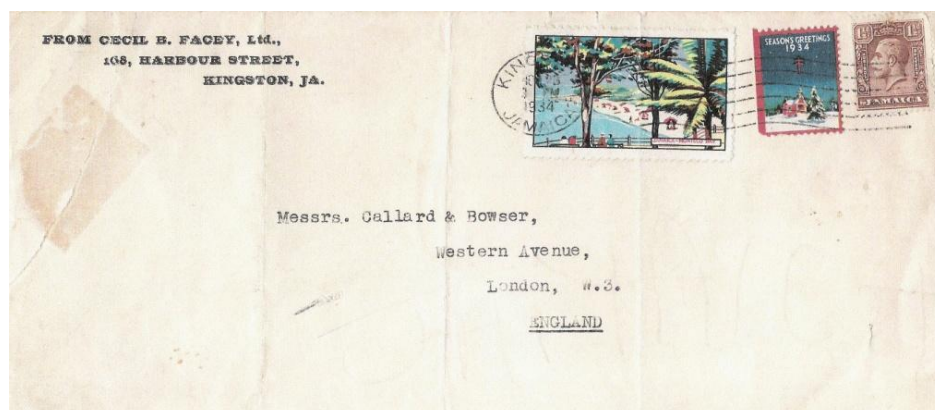


Fig. 2

These labels were probably issued in 1934 and were used to publicise tourism on envelopes in 1934 and 1935: Jamaica – Montego Bay (Fig. 2), Jamaica – Coastal Scene (Fig. 3), Jamaica – The Blue Lagoon (Fig. 4), and Jamaica – Mountain Scene (Fig. 5).

The designs on these labels have clearly been influenced by four Jamaica postcards issued in the 1920's with a few palm trees added to attract the northern visitor.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

The Montego Bay design is taken from Real Photo Card of British Manufacture depicting White Sands Beach (later known as Doctors Cave Beach) Montego Bay Jamaica (Fig. 6).

The Jamaica Coast Scene is from the Raphael Tuck Jamaica 'Oilette' Postcard No.3 depicting Priestmans River North Coast Portland Jamaica (Fig. 7) and The Blue Lagoon Scene is from the Raphael Tuck Jamaica 'Oilette' Postcard No.4 depicting The Blue Lagoon near Port Antonio Jamaica (Fig. 8).

The Jamaica Mountain Scene is from the Raphael Tuck Jamaica 'Oilette' Postcard No.5 entitled Among the Blue Mountains St. Andrew Jamaica and would be a scene visible from the Kingston – Ocho Rios Road (Fig. 9).

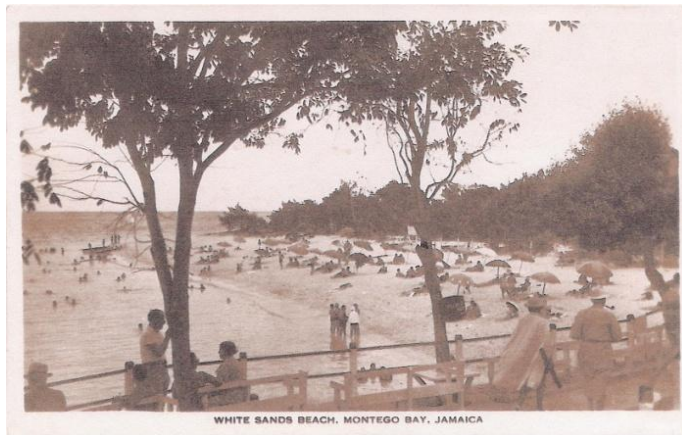


Fig. 6



Fig. 7

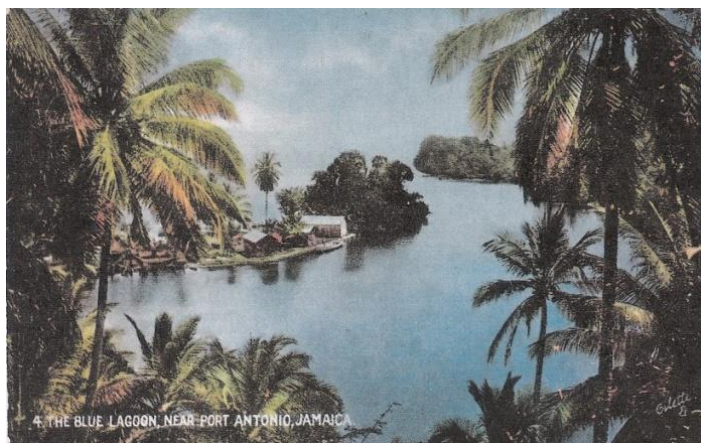


Fig. 8

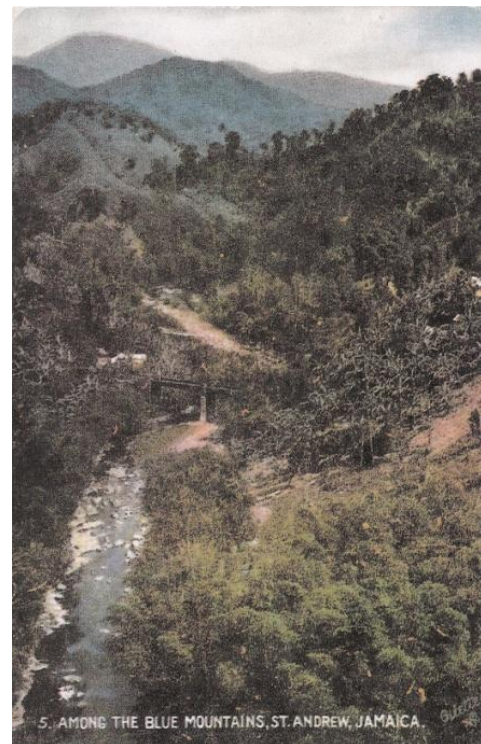


Fig. 9

Other Tourist Publicity Labels issued probably at a later date are those depicting rafting (Fig. 10) and nutmeg (Fig. 11). These labels are rather too large for use as envelope labels – they have a peelable self adhesive back which suggests use on parcels and luggage.

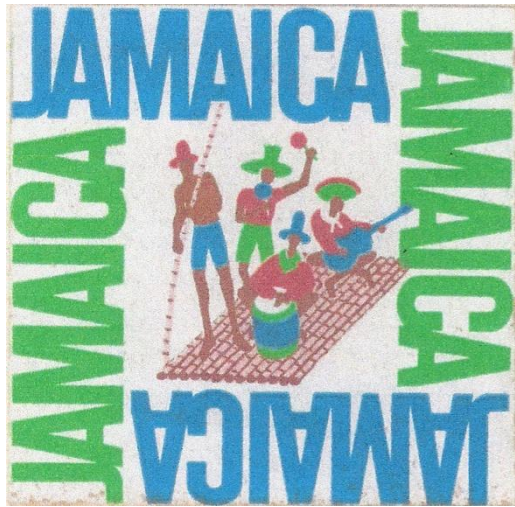


Fig. 10



Fig. 11

The shape of the raft suggests calypso rafting down the White River, Ocho Rios. The rafts used on the Rio Grande near Port Antonio have a more pointed front. The depiction of the nutmeg is puzzling, although the highlight of any Caribbean holiday is the purchase of nutmegs (but not other items) from a local boy. Tourists would visit Prospect Plantation near Ocho Rios to see an intrepid teenage boy climbing a palm tree to fetch a coconut down, using just a rope slung around the trunk. This spice plantation would also undoubtedly have sold nutmegs and lemon grass.

The growing of nutmeg trees is not a large industry in Jamaica. The nutmeg is the agricultural industry of Grenada. Nutmegs are used extensively as preservatives for sausages and canned meats, as kitchen spices and as a delicious jelly. Mace comes from the same tree, which many people forget, and provides an essential oil used in various pharmaceutical processes and also for precision instruments. There are male and female nutmeg trees (as in holly). Only the females bear the nutmegs and then not until they are about 10 years old. But I digress.

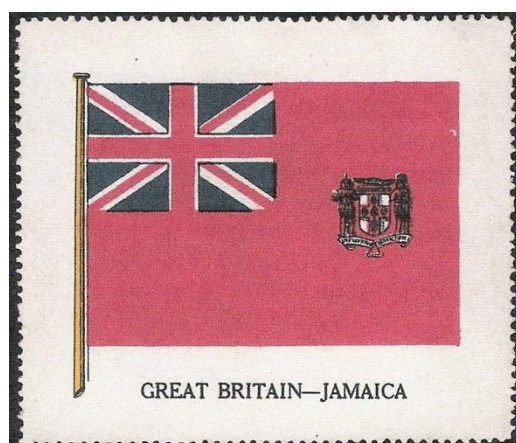


Fig. 12

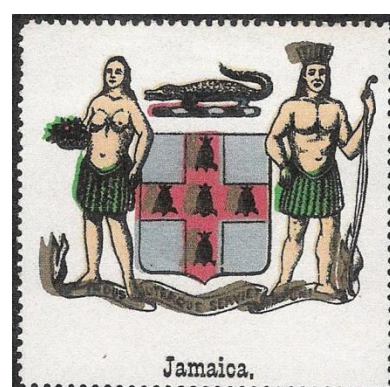


Fig. 13

Other Tourism Publicity and Souvenir Labels include depictions of an ensign including the Jamaica coat of arms (Fig. 12) and of the Arms of Jamaica (Fig. 13). Both of these labels were probably used on cruise ships between Great Britain, North America and Jamaica.

The Coat of Arms was granted to Jamaica in 1661 under Royal Warrant. The crest shows a crocodile, and the shield shows a red cross charged with five pineapples. The original motto

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'INDVS VTERQVE SERVIET VNI' as shown on this poster stamp is Latin for 'The Indians will serve as one' or rather 'Both Indies will serve Together' in reference to the collective servitude of the Taino and Arawak Indians to the colonizers. This motto and the Indians were added to the original coat of arms in 1906. The motto was replaced in 1962 with the English motto 'Out of Many, One People' as a tribute to the different cultural minorities inhabiting the nation.

Fig. 14 shows a cover from Myrtle Bank Hotel (the oldest hotel in Kingston with a reputation for its rum punches) to Glasgow franked at eight and a half pence and bearing a Myrtle Bank double circle dater of 23 April 1934. Have I seen the designs on the postage stamps somewhere else? The reverse (Fig. 15) bears a tourist publicity label 'This season Jamaica only 7 hours by air from Florida.' Have I seen the design of the palm trees on this envelope label somewhere else? The palm tree design suggests a Jamaican origin to me, although it is possible that this envelope label was attached to the envelope in Miami. This envelope would have passed through Florida on its way to Glasgow.

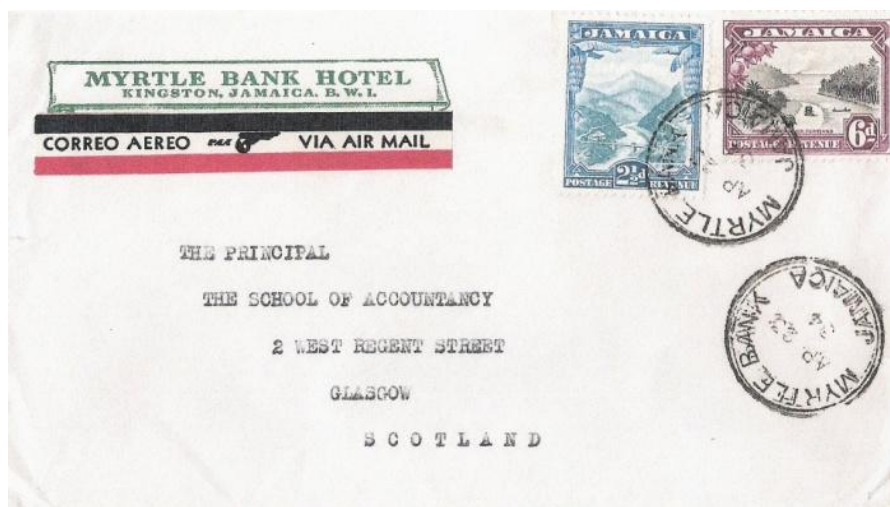


Fig. 14



Fig. 15

After World War 2 commercial interests joined the poster stamp market. Displayed is a commercial airmail cover from The Rum Company (Jamaica) Limited of Coruba House Kingston to London bearing postage stamps to the value of 1s 3d. cancelled by a Kingston double circle dater of 25 January 1949 (Fig. 16) with a Coruba Jamaica Rum letter seal on the reverse of the envelope (Fig. 17).



Fig. 16

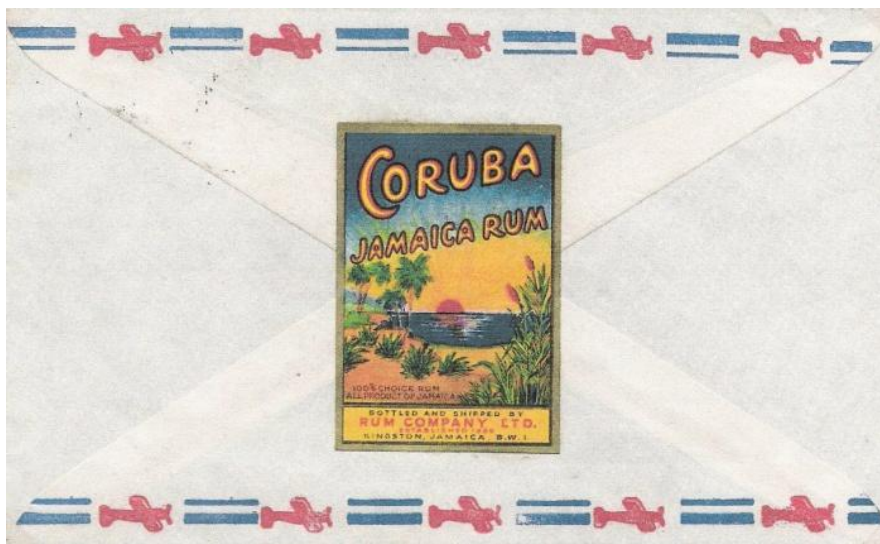


Fig. 17

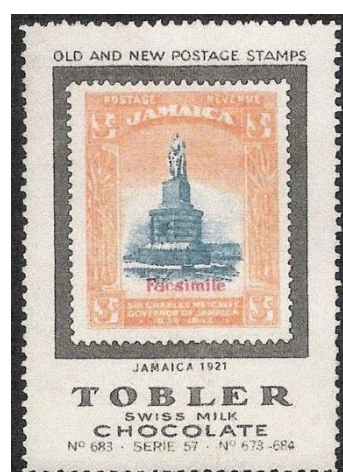


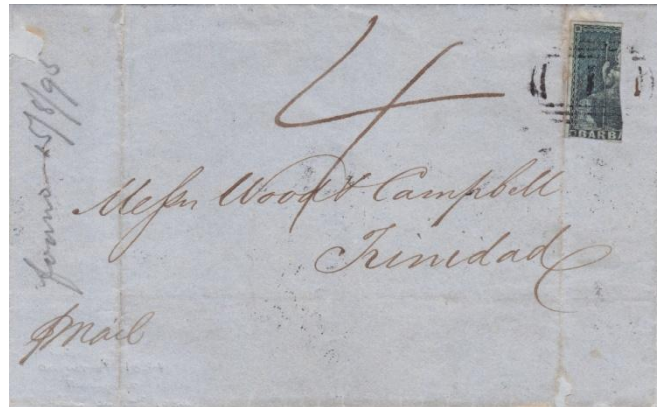
Fig. 18

Tobler Swiss Milk Chocolate issued a set of poster stamps presumably to be saved as souvenir labels. An example is shown (Fig. 18.). The age of romance was over.

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ARTICLES OF BWI INTEREST IN OTHER JOURNALS 2012**BY CHARLES FREELAND**

It always surprises me when our members with specialised interests are unaware of what has been published outside our Bulletin columns. I am willing to coordinate an annual resumé of the substantive articles that have been published elsewhere. As a non-UK resident I am certain to miss some things published in the UK so if anyone would care to extend the list or better still to volunteer to take this task over they would be very welcome. I am grateful to George Dunbar, Terry Harrison and a few other members for their contributions to this initial list.

I have debated whether or not it is worthwhile covering our sister journal over the pond and have decided it is, as many of our members are not BCPSG members, but at the same time to keep it focused on major research articles.

What is striking about the list below is that nearly all our collecting areas are covered one way or another, come on you St. Kitts-Nevis and St. Lucia specialists, get writing, or have you been too busy writing for the Bulletin? Whatever, an email alerting me to new articles will ensure they do not get omitted next time.

Country	Article	Author	Source	Month
Antigua	WW2 Censorship	H. Pattiz	BCPJ	2nd Quarter
Bahamas	Eleuthera Post Offices	J. Harwood	BCPJ	1st Quarter
Bahamas	The origins of the 1948 Tercentenary set recess-printed by the Canadian Banknote Company	C. Freeland	CCP	March/April
Bahamas	Marine Life Definitives	R. Taylor	GSM	February
Bahamas	The Photograph of King George VI used for the Bahamas Tercentenary Issue 1948 and the Unreliability of Primary Sources of Information.	B. Livingstone	Geosix	June
Barbados	1927 Design Competition	E. Bayley & C. Freeland	LP	May
Barbados	Notes on WW2 Censorship	H. Pattiz	BCPJ	2nd Quarter
Barbados	Tercentenary of Settlement Issue, Part 2	J. Wynns	BCPJ	3rd Quarter
Bermuda	Travels and training of censors	H. Pattiz	Bermuda Post	March
Bermuda	My favourite CM21 Censor Marks	H. Augustinovic	Bermuda Post	March, June, September
Bermuda	Picture postcards as postal history	J. Puzine	Bermuda Post	March, June, September, December
Bermuda	200th anniversary of the Bermuda Post	R. Brody	Bermuda Post	June
Bermuda	WW1 Passenger Ship Mail	B. Gompel	Bermuda Post	September
Bermuda	Perot Postmaster Stamps	R. Baxter	Bermuda Post	December
Bermuda	Fake Bermuda stamps and covers	N. Shanks and J. Puzine	Bermuda Post	December
Bermuda	Follow-up on Bermuda: New Discoveries	W. Wong	Geosix	June

Country	Article	Author	Source	Month
Bermuda	Comments on Articles in Previous Journals [re Wong's article in June]	T. Gosse	Geosix	September
British Guiana	Bits and pieces	R. Ramphal	BCPJ	1st Quarter
British Honduras	Looking for Roger Wells	D. Horry	GSM	June
British Honduras	The TRD's of British Honduras	D. Horry	BCPJ	3rd Quarter
British Honduras	British Honduras bTROs	D. Horry	BCPJ	4th Quarter
Cayman Islands	1935 & 1938 Definitives	J. Winchester	SM	February
Cayman Islands	The "real" first flight	T. Giraldi	BCPJ	1st Quarter
Cayman Islands	Updating <i>The Postal history of the Cayman Islands</i>	T. Giraldi	BCPJ	1st, 2nd, & 3rd Quarters
Dominica	Postmarks 1937-54	D. Horry	BCPJ	1st Quarter
Grenada	Earliest recorded use of postage dues	H. Pattiz	BCPJ	?
Jamaica	Jamaica 9d: Islands in Kingston Harbour Bay Flaw.	R. Staffeldt	Geosix	June
Jamaica	Provisional WW2 censor tapes	R. Murphy	BCPJ	4th Quarter
Jamaica	WW2 Censor notes	H. Pattiz	BCPJ	1st & 2nd Quarters
Leeward Islands	Leeward Islands	C. Ackerman	RJ	June
Montserrat	The first stamp issue	P. McCann	BCPJ	2nd Quarter
St. Vincent	St. Vincent Flaws	C. Freeland	Geosix	March
Tobago	Provisional surcharges 1883-96	C. Freeland	LP	November
Trinidad	Numerical cancels	E. Barrow	BCPJ	1st Quarter
Turks & Caicos Islands	KGVI Proof & Essay Material for BWI Colonies: Turks & Caicos Islands	R. Foden & C. Freeland	Geosix	December
Virgin Islands	KGVI Proof and Essay Material for BWI Colonies: Virgin Islands	C. Freeland	Geosix	June
Book Reviews	Fernbank, <i>Bahamas</i>	B. Livingstone	SL	February
Book Reviews	Fernbank, <i>Bahamas</i>	E. Parker	BCPJ	4th Quarter
Book Reviews	Oliver, <i>Leeward Islands</i>	P. Mellor	SL	December
Book Reviews	Oliver, <i>Leeward Islands</i>	E. Parker	BCPJ	4th Quarter

Journal abbreviations

BCPJ, British Caribbean Philatelic Society Quarterly Journal.

CCP, Collectors Club Philatelist.

GSM, Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

LP, London Philatelist.

RJ, The Revenue Journal.

SL, Stamp Lover.

SM, Stamp Magazine.

TOBAGO

APRIL 1886 $\frac{1}{2}$ D ON $2\frac{1}{2}$ D DOUBLE OVERPRINT

BY CHARLES FREELAND

In the September 2001 Bulletin #190, I wrote about the double overprints on this most common of the Tobago provisional surcharges. To reiterate, these surcharges were created using an overprint setting of twelve units that were repeated five times in each pane of 60.

Drawing on the evidence provided by the positioning of the overprints, the centring of the stamps and the known multiples, my article concluded that there had originally been 30 examples of the stamp with double overprint: I arrived at that figure by assuming, as previous writers have done, that the vertical strips of three showing just the central stamp double (Fig. 1) came from the sheet where the overprint was missing on one full row of six stamps (six vertical pairs of this rare variety are recorded, one each in the Royal and Tapling collections); plus two complete settings of 12 with each stamp overprinted twice (one having the two surcharges almost directly above each other and the other where one of the surcharges is slightly to the right of its partner).



Fig. 1.

My records show three examples of vertical strips as in Fig. 1 and three examples of a double surcharge in pair with a single surcharge. The presence of the broken 'O' in Tobago on the upper left stamp in Fig. 1 establishes this strip as coming from column 3 and rows 5, 6 and 7. (On re-reading that article and struggling to view the illustrations, it is striking how much we have gained from having our Bulletin printed in colour).

My neat analysis was thrown into confusion when a recent postal auction offered the stamp illustrated below (Fig. 2), with the overprint setting of twelve units evidently misplaced downwards so as to produce an overprint in the margin. Your President and Chairman went head to head on this lot and on this occasion at least the result comprehensively proved the superiority of the Swiss franc over the Euro. I subsequently sent the stamp for certification and it came back positive (apparently after taking it to the Palace for comparison with the Royal Collection, although there is no mention of a variety of this character in Sir John Wilson's book).

Those familiar with the settings of this overprint will recognise the stamp in Fig. 2 as coming from column 4, as the overprint in the lower margin shows the wide space between " $\frac{1}{2}$ " and "Penny". That appears on stamp 10 in the setting of 12, and so the surcharge has plainly been shifted downwards by one row.



Fig. 2

In my previous article I mentioned being puzzled by the fact that no vertical pairs have been seen with both stamps showing double surcharge. The discovery of this piece makes it likely that there is at the most only one setting where all 12 stamps show double overprints, but two separate settings in which the surcharge was displaced upwards by one row, so as to produce a strip of three similar to the one shown in Fig. 1. I'll wager that this occurred on the sheet where the two surcharges are almost directly above each other (Fig. 3) and not where one of the surcharges is slightly to the right of its partner, since I have images taken from auction catalogues of eight examples of the latter (all unused) and only six of the former, including the four used examples that have been recorded. In my previous article I referred to three unused from this setting but one of these has the second surcharge much closer than its peers and so I suspect it is a bounce.



Fig. 3

So we are left with the probability that there were only 24 double surcharged stamps. On one of the two panes with a single row double, only five surcharge settings were applied, leaving one row without its surcharge. My conclusion in the 2001 article remains unchanged, namely that the lower two settings for rows 6 to 10 were each displaced upwards by one row, producing a double surcharge on row 6 and a missing surcharge on row 10. On the second setting with a single row double, a sixth setting was applied, in order to avoid creating a second row with missing surcharge. This resulted in the upper half of the setting being applied to row ten and the lower half to the margin below. Unfortunately, none of the six single stamps showing double surcharges directly above each other that have survived can be plated from their photographs, so it is not known on which row this double surcharge occurred. Finally, examining the surcharge placement makes it look as if, in addition, a single full setting of 12 units was overprinted twice.

Is this conclusion foolproof? No, because it ignores the possibility that the stamps with the surcharge missing came from the same sheet as that in Fig 2. However, this is hardly likely as how could one then explain the strips with only the central stamps showing double surcharges?

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

RE-DIRECTED LETTER TO MOROCCO

BY MICHAEL REGO



30 December, 1957, a Trinidad & Tobago letter possibly posted on the High Seas has 42c in Trinidad & Tobago postage and 25F in French postage. The mixture of these two countries on a single letter is most unusual. The letter was cancelled at Pointe a Pitre, Guadeloupe for its destination to a Police Station in Taza, Morocco. No other postal marking visible.

The Trinidad & Tobago airmail ½ oz letter rate from 9 February 1953 was 42c to Morocco. So the letter was fully prepaid, yet sent on a short voyage to Guadeloupe for sorting where additional French stamps were applied for its final destination. The France to Morocco/Tunisia internal surface rate from 1 July 1957 was 25F for a letter (0-20g). This practice of French mail being redirected and additional stamps added is a fairly common practice within France.

I would be interested to hear if other such covers exist from Trinidad or the BWI.

MEMBERS' WANTS

Item Ref	Description	Contact Details
GP002	Leeward Islands	Sir Geoffrey Palmer
18 January 2013	1921-32 £1 break in lines below left scroll SG 80e mint	0116 259 2656

BOOK REVIEW

BERMUDA SPECIALIZED CATALOGUE, STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY, 1812-1970

REVIEWED BY DENNIS MITTON

Over 20 years ago the founder members of the Bermuda Collectors Society decided to publish a Bermuda catalogue. It took a long time to finalise as various members were allocated to provide sections on their specialities for the project. Among the reasons for the delay was the death of several members and editors involved.

Finally at the end of 2012 the catalogue was finished and published. The end result is much more than a reworked Gibbons or Scott catalogue. The catalogue is in many ways a handbook with prices and is an invaluable tool for any Bermuda collector/dealer.

Dealing with the pricing aspect first, it was decided the prices shown were to be "Based on fine examples of stamps or covers that a knowledgeable collector would be willing to pay a knowledgeable dealer." This is an admirable concept and probably unique.

The various sections cover in considerable detail the stamps and postal markings between 1812 and 1970. It also includes sections relating to Postal Stationery up to 1968, Proofs, Revenue and Railway stamps. These sections are very helpful to any Bermuda collector.

There is a section covering the early postal marks, censor handstamps and labels, paquebot marks as well as postage meter marks. The cancellations and marks are separately priced on covers and on stamps.

The final sections cover Warship covers, Aerophilately, NASA covers and Charity seals. I have never seen prices for either of the last two items. My guesstimate that they were cheap has been confirmed!

Throughout the catalogue there are various comments which are very helpful.

At the end there is a listing of philatelic books and a list of Bermuda related auction catalogues from 1939 to July 2012.

Several members of the BWISC are members of the BCS and they have made a significant contribution to the success of this publication. As they are friends I will list them in alphabetical order namely:- David Cordon, Charles Freeland, Bill Gompel and Phoebe MacGillivray. David and Michel Forand, who was a member until recently, were the final editors involved. They and all the other BCS members involved have my congratulations in producing a superb publication which I hope will reinvigorate the Bermuda market.

The book has a softback cover and contains 204 pages with colour illustrations. The book costs £50 plus £4 postage from Murray Payne or Vera Trinder in England. Members overseas can order copies from the sources listed on the home page of victoriastampco.com.


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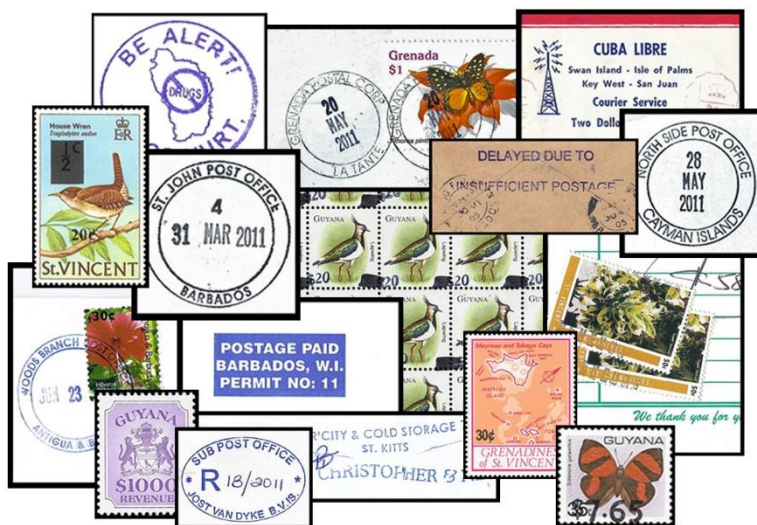
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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****Victoria Stamp Company 28-29 November (BP 15%)**

This much heralded auction, the most meaty offering of the year for many members, went ahead despite the destruction caused by hurricane Sandy. Dozens of regular customers never received their catalogues in time. Worse, some potential attendees stayed at home to clear up their flooded ground floors and either bid cautiously or not at all. The effects were clearly evident in the soft prices in some areas. It was very bad luck on Phoebe, after the enormous effort she puts in, to experience so many unsolds, but as ever the really good stuff, e.g. the nine Perkins Bacon die proofs, generated strong competitive bidding and after-sales were unusually lively.

The hefty catalogue (mine quickly fell apart) contained five sections of interest to our members. One feature was that the sale contained Trinidad formed perhaps the best part of the huge Nethersole BWI collection and the three McLeods (though I believe not all were Michael's) each fetched double estimate; the cover bearing a large-margined stamp a handsome \$32.5k. His collections of numeral cancels, several ex Marriott, also fetched around double estimate on average, with the choice lot of O.6 cancels the pick at \$4.25k. Of his 40 odd Britannia covers, many to unusual destinations, hardly any remained unsold, with the top price of \$4.25k going to the gorgeous litho 1d to Grenada (ex Ramkisson). The spectacular sheet of 1854 1d dark grey was surprisingly unsold, as were many of the Britannia single stamps. Three Perkins Bacon proofs cut down and mounted on thick card were irregular, with the 1s a mere \$750, the 4d \$1k but the elusive 6d \$2.75k. The Rowland Hill 1s "cancelled" was unsold but went later for \$4.5k.

Michael's Barbados was also a fine lot, with some of Bob Hill's unsolds mixed in. The earliest recorded cover dated 18 Sep 1656 was \$1.9k but the 2d bisect cover went unsold in the room. A nice cover was a 5d rate to Demerara at \$800 with a pinperf 1d, but most of the covers were average quality at average prices. The Pelican Island mark on a front was \$950. Among the stamps the unusually pretty 1s blue error colour seemed cheap at \$7k. The plate 2 strip of five ½ds was unsold in the last sale but here fetched a healthy \$950. The Perkins Bacon die proofs were as popular as ever, the 3d and 1s \$2.25k each and the ½d \$700 (but that was rubbed). In the De La Rue period, there was a decent sprinkling of proof material including an undenominated proof of the 1897 issue in bright yellow, which went for \$800 on extension; the regular version in black on card was \$700. Five perforated colour trials of the 1925 definitives were cheap at \$170 each but the most excitement was generated for a proof for the colonial stationery QV head on an annotated records piece at \$1.1k. The even rarer KE without annotations was \$650.

Mike's third exhibit, St. Vincent, was a weaker collection than the other two, with hardly any desirable proofs and only one cover to quicken the pulse. This was the earliest cover to bear the fleuron mark, mentioned in Roy Bond's articles in the past two Bulletins and the winner had to pay \$600...you should not have told us, Roy. The rest was fairly bland with the exception of several cracking cancels. A Peruvian Vale went for \$1.4k and a decent Mayreau \$850. A weak 'UE' fetched the same price and a weak 'G' doubled \$750.

There was also some outstanding Leeward Is. from two consignors. Eric Yendall's 90 lots of GVI 10s and £1 keyplates were remarkable, with all the rarities present. The two scroll flaws 59 and 60 on the 10s were each \$4.5k and the two watermark varieties on the £1 \$4k each. A specialised collection of specimens sold well, with \$100 the going rate for a 'broken M' flaw but some nice multiples going cheaply (will these appear later in Gibbons stock?). Stationery collectors were spoiled by the comprehensive offering, the highlight being the two 1d and 1½d GV airmail envelopes used at \$600 and \$700, but there were other prices worth careful study.

The Turks was mixed, with some good prices for the rare early covers in particular. The 1867 1s blue on cover ex Ludington was \$2.5k and the 1894 5d bisect a healthy \$3.5k. Results were patchy in the straight stamps and specimens, where I expect some decent items were added to dealers' stocks. The best stamp was the 1879 1s lilac, a nice copy at \$3.5k, the same price as the 1895 5d bisect cover. A fine selection of censor covers went well with many

in the \$200 range, but the very rare typed D43 label CL1 was \$375, below what it last sold for. The 6d and 1s Perkins Bacon proofs were \$1.5k and \$1.7k and the 1902 essays \$1.7k and \$2k. The comprehensive offering of watermark varieties fetched prices in the ballpark, with the unpriced invert on the cactus ¼d at \$225. The pair of Blue Hills and Lorimer rural cancels, a lot impossible to duplicate, was \$750. There were a lot of unsolds, despite reasonable estimates, but after-sales were healthy. As Phoebe, said, Turks is not Caymans.

Elsewhere there were scattered goodies as always. In Bermuda a sideways watermark reversed on the 1920-1 ¼d cost someone \$1.8k and a Nevis 1s detached triangle overprinted specimen \$2.5k. The Br Guiana highlight was an 1871 cover to New York with the thin 4d PAID rate mark at \$2.25k and the Br Honduras a set of 1937 Coronation specimens in imperf pairs at \$4k. In Grenada the GVI perf variety showed continuing popularity (\$8.5k for Imm) and a 1907 5s die proof fetched a healthy \$350. In St. Christopher a 4d grey with unrecorded watermark CA reversed cost \$375.

Stanley Gibbons 5–6 December (BP 15%)

At first glance this catalog did not seem to hold much of interest to advanced collectors, with the familiar hoard of Bermuda keyplates raising a collective yawn. But a second glance revealed a desirable collection of BWI early postal markings hidden in the GB maritime mail section. Graham Booth and Simon Richards were present for what turned out to be a lively session, partly helped by some ridiculously low estimates for better strikes. The fun started with Antigua where two 1888 ship letters also bearing nice strikes of the Antigua PD6 were £440 and £750. A GB 6d on 1859 cover with a decent A02 was £600. In Barbados a 1745 cover with the Irish SHIPP mark was £1.4k (estimate £100), as was also a blue-green oval Ship Letter Eastbourne from Demerara. Two straight line Tortolas, for which there has been little demand of late, showed signs of life at £360 and £340 and the same trend was visible in Dominica. In Grenada the rare ship letter oval was £1.6k and a superb green Leeward Is F mark, ex St. Croix, was £1k. A lovely Montserrat 1848 cds was chased to £750 by two of our members and the Nevis Crowned Circle ex Granger was £2.2k. Altogether these results confirmed that early postal history is in fine fettle. Needless to say my internet connection failed again but I had learnt my lesson and placed a few bids with my agent so did not end up winless.

Grosvenor 6 December (BP 17%)

Not a lot for us here, but someone must have been happy to buy a Townsend and Howe for a mere £75. One can't but help thinking it would have done better if lotted among a small but frisky Br. Guiana section where a member found some sleepers in lot 2729, leading to a price of £2.9k on a lower estimate of £1k.

Spink 25 January (BP 20%)

The "Lionheart" collection of specimens sounded intriguing but so far as BWI is concerned the offering was thin, largely consisting of regular UPU sets. The best lot was the Grenada 1948 Silver Wedding 5/- with specimen perf ex the BW archives at £1.8k. There were a number of interesting Jamaica lots, mostly ex Mahfood. A set of six 1860 values bearing J2 handstamps was £1.5k and a block of four of the 1/- postal fiscal £450. In Trinidad three 1860 values with archival manuscript specimen (ex Marriott) were £700.

Coming events

The Grosvenor sale on 5–6 March will contain part of David Watson's BWI plus a spattering of key plate varieties from other sources. There will be a Murray Payne sale on 12 March with yet another large Bermuda offering plus an extraordinary group of Leewards plate blocks, including the exceedingly rare GVI 10s SG 113a, with both the scroll flaws. The Gibbons sale on 13–4 March will have broad BWI representation and its June sale will have some good Antigua and St. Lucia stamps. On 19–20 April Spink's Lugano office will offer Federico Borromeo's large gold French Mail in the West Indies, which will be of interest to those of our members with a broader perspective. Federico may also consign his Nevis collection to Spink in due course, but not his large gold BWI postal history collection.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**BY IAN JAKES**

Bob Swarbrick has donated more than one hundred items to the Library, most of them being in pristine condition. In particular, he has provided the Library with a fully bound set of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. This is most welcome because the Library's existing early British Caribbean Philatelic Journals are unbound and in poor condition. Whilst many of the donated items are duplicates of existing items in the Library, the following are new to the Library viz.

Jamaica Post Office Hand Book 1921
 Jamaica Post Office Guide 1937
 Jamaica Post Office Guide 1952
 A Chronology of the Postal History of the Post Towns of Jamaica - Robert Topaz 1963
 300th Anniversary of the Jamaica Post Office – Jamaica Philatelic Society 1971
 Jamaica the Provisional Issue of 1890
 Royal Mail Steam Packet Company – Michael Rego 1987
 The Early Days of Aviation in Jamaica – Jamaica Journal 1992
 Road Map of Jamaica 1927 – Jamaica Automobile Association
 Newspapers in the Post – H. Dagnall 1989
 Introducing Postal History – Stanley Gibbons Guide 1978
 Philatelic Exhibiting – Stanley Gibbons Guide 1978
 West Indian Civil Censorship Devices in WW 2 – Roses Caribbean Philatelic Handbook No.1 1976
 Stamp World London 1990 Catalogue
 In the Trades the Tropics and the Roaring Forties – Lady Brassey 1883
 Jamaica in Colour – Insight Guide 1983
 The Traveller's Tree – Sir Patrick Leigh Fermor, First Edition 1950

Bob Swarbrick also left the following catalogues not previously held in the Library viz

Jamaica		
L.Rennes	Harmers	5 and 6 December 1932
L.C.C.Nicholson	Robson Lowe	14 February 1940
Brinkley Turner	Harmers	29 September 1942
R.H.Urwick	Robson Lowe	29 May 1957
F.H.Thompson's Postal History	Robson Lowe	24 January 1962
Dr.Blackburn's Collection	Lancastrian Philatelic Auctions	27 April 1972
Saville-Smith	London Stamp Exchange	18 September 1981
Miss G.M.Fox 19 th C. Handstamps	Harmers	19 May 1982
Howard Gaston	Harmers New York	16 December 1987
Cayman Islands		
Edgar J. Marston III Collection	Christies	4 March 1992
John Byl Collection	Christies	4 June 1992
BWI General		
J. Grant Glassco British Post Offices Abroad	Robson Lowe	25 to 27 November 1969
Macmillan	Cavendish	20 April 1985
Norman Brassler	Christies Robson Lowe New York	15 December 1987

We will always be grateful to Bob for these kind donations, which greatly add to our knowledge of Jamaican philately.

Library lists can be supplied upon application to the Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required. If any member has a book which is not already in the library and which is surplus to requirements, please consider donating it to the library.

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Revisions to a 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 (please e-mail info@bwisc.org, for access details).

WEB-MASTER'S REPORT**STEVE JARVIS**

Michael Rego has transcribed a document relating to French postal rates to BWI from 1849 to UPU and this is now available on the web site. There is a link to it on the main page <http://www.bwisc.org/BWI/French%20-%20British%20West%20Indies%20Postal%20Tariffs.pdf>

All editions of the Bulletin are available on our web site. Peter Fernbank has also brought the Index of Bulletins up-to-date (Bulletin #235). An updated listing is now available for download from the web site or printed copy by application to the Web-Master at £3.00 or \$US5.00.

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

EDITOR'S REPORT**TERRY HARRISON**

The proposed publication schedule is as follows:

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Advert final copy	Sat 20 Apr	Sat 20 Jul	Sat 12 Oct	Sat 18 Jan
Advert book space	Sat 13 Apr	Sat 13 Jul	Sat 5 Oct	Sat 11 Jan

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