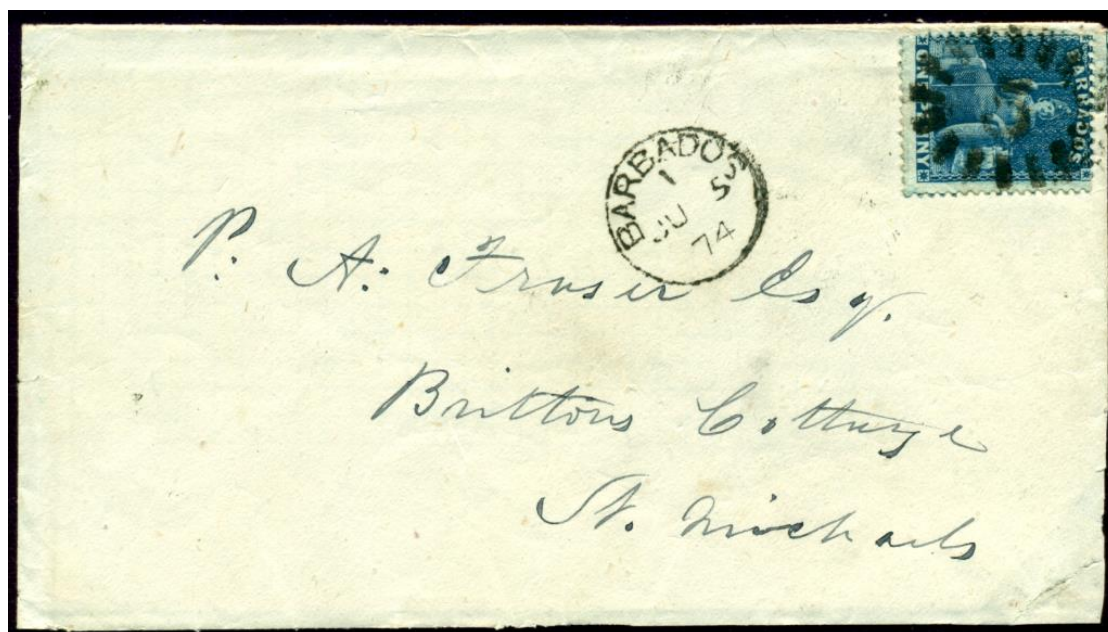




STUDY CIRCLE

BARBADOS, THE ST. JOHN KILLERS BY FITZ ROETT



Local cover from St. John to St. Michael dated 5 June 1874



BULLETIN No. 237 June 2013



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

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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

OBJECTS

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

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

MEETINGS & EVENTS

- 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 on Saturday and Federico Borromeo's BWI stamps and Postal History on Sunday.
- Saturday 6 July the Study Circle will have a stand at MIDPEX which is being held at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN, from 10.00 to 17.00.

Congratulations to David Pitts on winning the Reserve Grand Award for his exhibit 'Bermuda – Crossroads of the Atlantic - Routes: 1806-79' at the Philadelphia National Stamp Exhibition in April.

BARBADOS STUDY GROUP LEADER

Peter Ford is pleased to announce that Richard Stupples has been appointed as the new Study Group Leader for Barbados, vice Michael Hamilton. I should like to thank Michael for all his efforts in the past as Group Leader and wish Richard all success in his new position.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

- Jamaica Military Mail. Volume 9 of the Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately, covering 'Military, Censorship and Patriotic Mails' was published by BWISC in 2003. We are currently revising and updating this volume, and I would be pleased to hear from anyone who has additions or corrections to the volume.
Please contact me at: paul.farrimond@hotmail.co.uk
- John Parmenter is updating his book (GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings – Morton & Parmenter, Postal History Society 1993) and is seeking comment, additional information and suggested recent literature that he could use. He has already been given permission to use information in Volume 6 of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia. A draft of his BWI information can be accessed on the BWISC website under the Gallery>BWI Generic>Misc. Please contact john.parmenter44<at>gmail.com

BWI**LADY BOATS****BY CHARLES FREELAND**

Among my Antigua files I have come across a 1981 letter from Mike Wilson, our previous Secretary, to Alex Thomson. Mike was in the MOD Naval Historical Branch at the time and supplied a detailed account of the loss of four Lady Boats to U-boats in WW2, one Italian.

Mike Rego did cover the basic detail of the Lady Liners' losses in WWII along with other ships in the CNS service, but this additional information may be of interest.

From: M R WILSON



NAVAL HISTORICAL BRANCH
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
 Empress State Building London SW6 1TR

Telephone 01-385 1244 ext 3238

Mr A Thompson
 14 Sidmouth Avenue
 Stafford

Your reference

Our reference
 D/NHB/3/3/363L

Date
 27 October 1981

Dear Alex,

When we met recently you asked about the loss of the several LADY boats during the last war. I have managed to find a few details, which are given below, and which I hope will add to your knowledge.

LADY SOMERS

The LADY SOMERS was taken over on 4 October 1940 and converted to an Ocean Boarding Vessel, being fitted out in the dockyard at Bermuda and completing in mid-April 1941. She arrived in the Clyde on 18 June. At 0410 GMT on 15 July that year, while on passage to the South Atlantic she was hit by two torpedoes fired by the Italian submarine MOROSINI while in position 37°27'N 021°04'W. The Spanish tanker CAMPECHE recovered 138 survivors three hours later before going on to pick up 44 more survivors from another ship. The tanker took the survivors to Lisbon where 135 from the LADY SOMERS were landed - there is no indication of the fate of the other three, but one can but speculate that they had died in the meantime.

LADY HAWKINS

The LADY HAWKINS was sunk by two torpedoes fired by the U.66 (Korvetten-Kapitän Richard Zapp) in the early morning of 19 January 1942. The ship left Boston on the 16th and was proceeding independently, ie not in convoy, on a southerly course when first seen from the bridge of the U.66. A first attack was aborted when the LADY HAWKINS altered course just before Zapp was due to fire, the second attack was more successful and the ship sank in 30 minutes in position 34°58'N 72°48'W. One boat load of 75 survivors was picked up by the COAMO and landed at Puerto Rico on the 28th. The U.66 was a type IXc U-boat and had left Lorient on Christmas Day 1941 and returned there on 10 February 1942.

LADY NELSON

On 9 March 1942 the U.161 (Kapitan Leutnant Albrecht Achilles) made a daring attack on shipping in Castries harbour, having carried out a similar feat at Port of Spain on 17 February. Both attacks called for a high degree of courage and skill. At Castries the LADY NELSON and another ship, the UMTATA, were both hit. I understand that the UMTATA was towed away for repair in America but foundered on the way. The LADY NELSON was salvaged in April 1943 and after

being re-fitted was used as a Hospital Ship. The defensive armament from both ships was landed and mounted ashore for the defence of the harbour in case of further attack.

LADY DRAKE

The U.106 sailed from Lorient on 15 April 1942 for a patrol in the Caribbean. At about 0500 (local time) on 5 May the LADY DRAKE was sighted from the bridge and Kapitan Leutnant Herman Rasch began his attack. The ship was on a northerly course and sailing independently. With the submarine still surfaced two torpedoes were fired at a range of 1500 yards, one of which hit the target aft. The LADY DRAKE sank in position $35^{\circ}43'N$ $064^{\circ}43'W$. The submarine did not return to Lorient until 29 June.

It was nice to have met you and I look forward to doing so again.

Yours sincerely

M. Ke Wilson.



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.

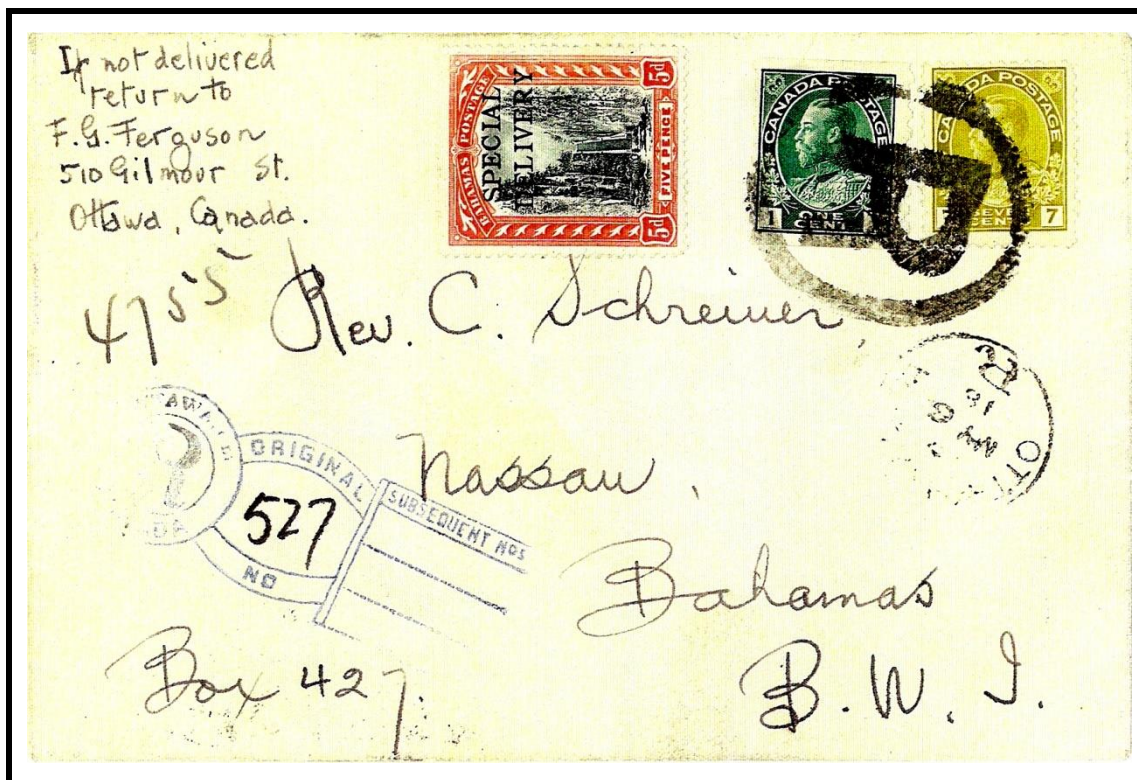
A fascinating feature of this issue is the large range of different numbered key plates employed during its life and collectors will find here listed all value/plate number combinations that were used for each colony.

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)

BAHAMAS**LAST OF THE SIX HUNDRED?****BY SIMON GOLDBLATT**

So well-rehearsed and persuasive is the re-written history of the first Special Delivery issues, that I was sure I had nothing further to contribute. At the very least, one would need the skill and knowledge to plate the Staircase issues. I do not qualify. Yet may we consider together the cover now illustrated.

Schreiner was of course a philatelic address, and 'MY 6 18' is far too late for purposeful use of a 5d Special Delivery stamp within Canada, let alone one with first type overprint, for SG S1 was in use in the previous year.

Nevertheless the 'I' over 'E' test takes us right back to the early belief that when the 'E' is clearly east of the 'I', one is looking at 'the' scarce early setting. Allowing now for comparison between the far commoner setting and the elusive first and third, the early belief remains broadly true, subject to the odd second-setting exception at the end of the row.

Turning to the stamp on cover, I believe that the 'E' is well to the east of those exceptions, though micro-measurement is needed to confirm this. The vignette is jet-black. The name Schreiner was written before SG S1 was attached – a neutral feature in itself.

The feature that matters most is that the cover was registered and dispatched from Ottawa, one of the only three offices to receive an original supply of the first setting – Was S1 affixed in Canada? On arrival in Nassau? On receipt by Schreiner?

If I am right to suppose that this stamp does not duplicate any of the illustrations in the Circle's current publication, is not purchase and use in Canada the most compelling of the three possibilities? In the absence of legitimate purpose the stamp should not have been cancelled there, and has not been. Would GPO Nassau have any of the first issue to supply in Nassau? And where would Schreiner have found one to put on later? May we not reasonably conclude that this stamp was one of the elusive Six Hundred, posthumously purchased and used as a last survivor of Ottawa's original stock? A wholly philatelic cover, certainly, but worthy to be placed on record.

BARBADOS

THE ST. JOHN KILLERS

BY FITZ ROETT

The island of Barbados is divided into eleven parishes with the capital, Bridgetown, situated in St. Michael. All of the parishes are named after saints with the exception of Christ Church.

Coincident with the first stamps being placed on sale when the inland post was established on 15 April 1852, two cancellation devices were issued to each parish post office. The first of these was a dated instrument whilst the second was an obliterator or “killer.” The numbers appearing in the cancellation devices refer to the parishes. It is clear that the obl iterators were intended solely to “kill” the adhesive to deter reuse of the stamps while the other canceller was to record the date. This practice was a resounding success as only one adhesive has apparently been recorded (on cover) cancelled with any of the dated instruments.

In May 1863 the original cancellation devices were replaced with new instruments. These obl iterators became known as the “bootheels”. The # 5 cancellers were allocated to the parish of St. John and are the subject of this short article. In general, the parish “killers” on cover are very rare and are eagerly sought after by philatelists. For information on the bootheels use has been made of Hamilton’s article⁽¹⁾.

1. Blue paper / imperforate

The initial supplies of stamps were inadvertently printed on blue paper owing to some unknown ingredient in the paper or printing ink. All of the issued imperforate stamps printed on blue paper (SG 1 to 5 inclusive) are recorded cancelled at St. John, except the (2d) Greyish-slate (SG 4a). Used examples of the (1d) Deep Blue are shown in Figure 1 (a). The only recorded cover is shown in Figure 1 (b). Note the dated postmark of 25 June 1852 with numeral “5.” This is a very early date of use, about one month after the inland post office was operational.



Figure 1 (a): (1d) Deep blue / blue paper used at St. John.



Courtesy of Stefan Heijtz

Figure 1 (b): (1d) Blue / blue paper on cover to England cancelled by the # 5 obliterator of St. John

2. White paper / imperforate

The white paper group consists of SG 7 to 12a, inclusive. All of these stamps are recorded used at St. John with the exception of SG 9. However, judging from the number of stamps issued, SG 9

should exist with the # 5 cancel. The deep blue SG 10 exists on only one cover. This item is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: (1d) Deep Blue/white paper on cover to England dated October 27 1857, cancelled by the #5 numeral.

The imperforate 1/-. SG 12 / 12a can also be found with the bootheel "5." It appears this denomination saw very little use until the rate increase of 1863 and is recorded on cover as late as November 1865.



SG 10



SG 12

3. The Perforated Issues: 1860 – 1870

(a) Pin Perforated

This group consists of SG 13 through 16b. Of these stamps only SG 14, 15 and 16 are known used at St. John. Two local covers are recorded: one franked with SG 14 and the other SG 15. Both covers were in the Benwell ⁽²⁾ collection.

(b) Clean Cut Perforated

The Clean Cut group is comprised of SG 17, 18 and 19 of which the last two are recorded cancelled with the # 5 numeral.

Only one cover (recently discovered) is recorded franked with SG 19, and none with SG 18.



Figure 3: Local cover of 22 October 1861 with a Clean Cut perforated (1d) Blue SG 19 cancelled by the # 5 numeral of St. John with the G.P.O. transit and St. Thomas arrival (on reverse) postmarks of the same date.

c) Rough Perforated

The stamps in use prior to the introduction of the bootheels were SG 17, SG 23, SG 24, SG 25 and SG 29. Of these SG 17 and 25 are not recorded cancelled with the St. John numeral while the other three are known cancelled thus. Two covers are recorded, one of which is shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Cover from and to the parish of St. John dated 28 August 1862, franked with a (1d) Blue and cancelled with the #5 numeral.

The stamps belonging to this rough perforated group are SG 20 to 35 inclusive, including those already mentioned (SG 23, 24, 25 and 29). The following are recorded with the No. 5 bootheel: SG 20, 21, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 34.



SG 21



SG 30

4. Star Watermarked Issues

Taken as a whole there are 24 stamps, from SG 43 to SG 66 inclusive, excluding the bisects. Of these, only 12 are recorded as existing with a No. 5 bootheel cancel. These are SG 44, 46, 47, 48, 50, 52, 54, 57, 60, 63, 65 and 66.

Included in the group is the sole cover which is shown in Figure 5.

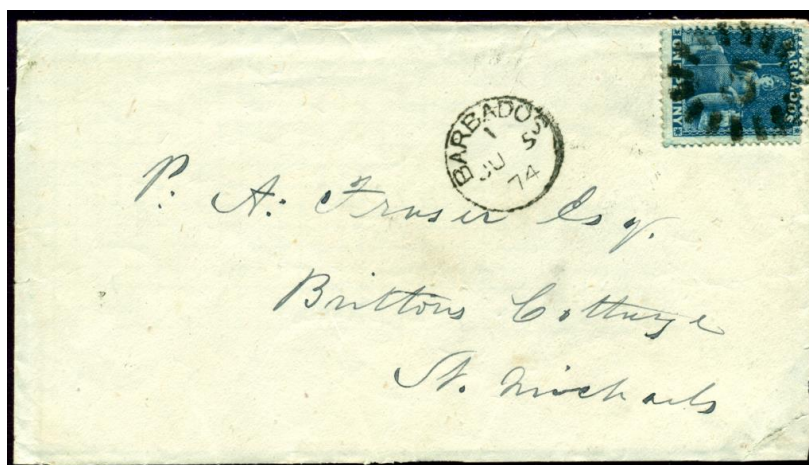


Figure 5. Local cover from St. John to St. Michael dated 5 June 1874 and franked with a 1d Deep Blue, SG 66.



SG 47



SG 50

5. De La Rue Issues

The De La Rue issues provide the bulk of the bootheel cancels. According to Hamilton's data, 64% of all the strikes are to be found on SG 67 through SG 83. Despite this, SG 69, 75, 76 and 81 are not yet recorded cancelled by the # 5 bootheel. Some of the recorded examples are shown below.



SG 67



SG 72



SG 78

6. Analysis

The Hamilton data were pooled with the author's and the following statistics were computed.

- As expected the bulk of the recorded strikes are on the 1d values – about 65%.
- Theoretically each issued stamp between SG 12 and SG 83 should exist cancelled with a #2 through # 11 bootheel. To date only about 40% of the theoretical limit has been recorded.
- For the St. John killers about 70 % of the theoretical limit has been achieved.

7. Concluding Remarks

The numeral cancellers of Barbados are a challenge to collect owing to the scarcity of most of the postmarks. Fully 60% of potential strikes have not yet been reported. Here is a field ripe for new discoveries.

8. References

1. Hamilton, Michael "Barbados Parish Bootheels" British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, No. 190, March, 1999.
2. The "*Basil B. Benwell*" Barbados. Harmers of London April 25, 1985.

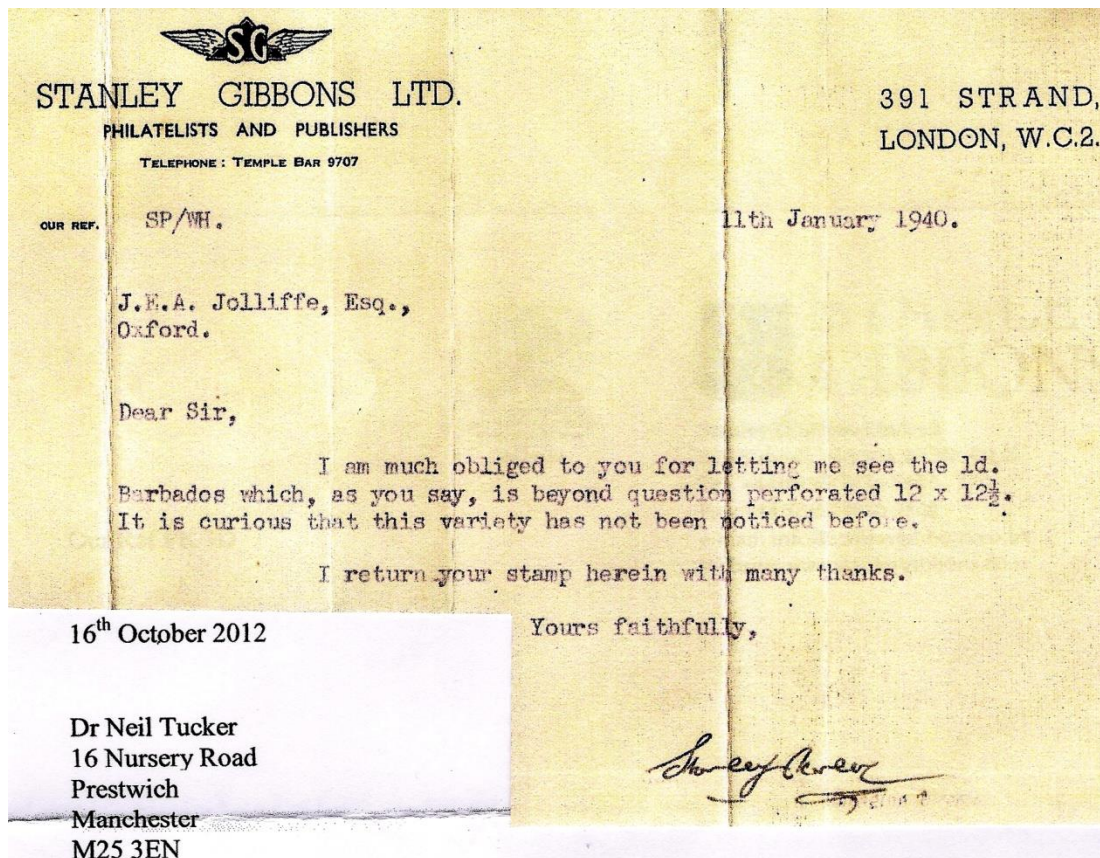
ARTICLES FOR THE BULLETIN PLEASE

SHORT OR LONG

BARBADOS SG 240

NEIL TUCKER

These letters from Stanley Gibbons may be of interest to members.
My initial request for information in the June 2011 Bulletin drew a blank.



Dear Dr Tucker

Re : Barbados SG 240

Thank you for your interesting letter and enclosure, which I return to you.

I have now checked our stock of this stamp, comprising one 'SPECIMEN', seven unused singles and six used singles, and can confirm that one of the unused singles is Perf 12 x 12½, while all the others are Perf 12½.

This is a curious situation, particularly in the light of the initial report by Dr Jolliffe in 1940, and our acknowledgement at the time. One must assume that more pressing concerns, such as SG's wartime move to St Albans, led to the discovery being overlooked.

There would appear to be a case for revising the Part I listing of Barbados SG 240. The perf 12 x 12½ variant seems unlikely to be particularly scarce.

Yours sincerely
pp STANLEY GIBBONS LIMITED

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(Dr) PHILIP KINNS
Directory of Philately



BRITISH GUIANA

POSTAL RATES OF BRITISH GUIANA 1858 – 1879

BY MICHAEL REGO

British Guiana issued locally produced postage stamps on 1 July 1850; however they were not allowed to be used to prepay letters on overseas mail. The local postmaster had two functions; namely that as Colonial Postmaster looking after internal postal affairs and that as a British Packet Agent for the British Post Office, who insisted they control overseas mails from the UK to and from or via its colonies.

From 1858 British postage stamps could be used on overseas letters, from British Guiana, cancelled by the 'A03' Demerara obliterator or 'A04' Berbice obliterator. Two obliterator-types of each are known, all shipped from the UK in April 1858. With the colony under pressure to produce its own stamps for overseas use, a local PO Notice, stated that on 1 April 1858 all letters for the UK must be paid in advance. Letters posted unpaid after that date were returned to the writer. What generally happened is the BG Gazette advertised unpaid letters requiring prepaid postage. The British postage stamps remained in service until the colony took over this service on 2 May 1860.

However with a change of heart, the British Post Office (BPO) which had managed the postal service for its colonies for centuries, sought in the late-1850s to transfer its postal powers and expense to their colonial territories. Consequently in 1859 Anthony Trollope was sent from the British Post Office as Post Office Surveyor to the West Indies, Demerara and Berbice, to 'persuade' the authorities to establish their own colonial post office with the ability to use their stamps for overseas letters. The venture would be financed from the increasing sale of postage stamps, as more and more people were becoming educated, and able to read and write.

During his visit to British Guiana in February and March 1859, Trollope also advised the BPO that it was no longer viable to call at Berbice (New Amsterdam) with its own Packet letters, but instead to make up a mail-bag labelled Berbice and send this direct to Demerara (Georgetown) where the mail was to be forwarded internally. This was carried out from late-1859.

On 1 April 1860 control of British West Indian post offices officially transferred to their respective local authorities, but not the Packet Service, which remained under the control of the UK.

The British Guiana postal authority took over the running of its internal postal system on Monday, 2 May 1860 and the Colonial Post Office came into operation, managing its own affairs. Any GB stamps unused after this date could be returned to the post office by 20 May 1860 for a full refund. British Guiana stamps for the first time were allowed to prepay overseas mail to the UK and the British West Indies. The initial UK letter rate was set at 12c (6d) per ½ ounce. However the running of this service was still with the BPO who controlled both Demerara and Berbice Packet letter offices, until circa July 1860.

The current BG inland letter rate of 4c per ½oz was initially added to the cost of the Packet Letter going overseas, but this was soon abolished by an Ordinance dated 17 May 1860.

It was necessary therefore for the colony to order its own postage stamps which could make up the denominations for local, regional and overseas postal rates. For example a letter to USA was currently charged at 10c (5d), to the UK 12c (6d) and to France 16c (8d). With this in mind the colony ordered its postage stamps, which arrived at Georgetown on 23 June and 7 July 1860.

The six values of 1c rose, 2c orange, 4c blue, 8c brownish-rose, 12c lilac and 24c green were issued to the public in the first week of July.

From the date that British Guiana started running its own postal service, mail going abroad, either paid or unpaid, had to be accounted for. A register was kept of each letter and "rate markings"

were generally applied in red. The accountancy-marks of 1860 were firstly applied on the letter in manuscript, but the following year handstamps showing the amount credited to the British Post Office were in operation, whereby both methods continued in use until the colony joined the General Postal Union (GPU) on 1 April 1877 (later known as the Universal Postal Union). Each accountancy mark was normally applied in red crayon or ink.

The agreed accountancy markings on the letter, first applied in manuscript then via handstamp were as follows; Br Guiana packet letter to GB paid 12c (6d), was 2c (1d) to Br Guiana, 4d to GB sea rate, 1d to GB administration. A ship letter at 6c (3d), was 1½d to Br Guiana, 1½d to GB. A printed paper rate or newspaper rate of 2c (1d) from British Guiana to UK would be charged 1d (in red) the full postage cost credited to UK, the colony nothing.

Britain did not ask for overseas contributions from its colonies until 1864, when a loss on the year's postal accounts was over £87,000. Further agreements on overseas postage between Britain and British Guiana followed and were agreed using accountancy rules, until 1 April 1877 when British Guiana joined the GPU and adopted a uniform postal rate system for overseas mails. By September 1881, all the British West Indies had joined the UPU.

POSTAL RATES, INLAND, 1858–1879



1871, 25 Jan, 4c letter rate, Georgetown to Pln. Skeldon, Berbice, Demarara

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 3 January 1860 | Inland letter rate made 4c per ½ oz. Newspapers and printed matter at 1c. Registration Fee at 12c. |
| 13 May 1863 | Inland letter rate as before. City Post for Georgetown and New Amsterdam set at 2c per ½ oz. |
| 1 Feb 1866 | Registration Fee reduced to 8c (4d) |
| 1 July 1872 | Inland letter rate made 2c per ½ oz. |
| 14 June 1878 | City Post for Georgetown and New Amsterdam set at 1c per ½ oz. Free post to/from Gov. Secretary |
| 1879 | (Br. Guiana Handbook) Inland Postage. Letters are 2 cents for every ½ ounce. Letters posted in Georgetown for Georgetown, and letters posted in New Amsterdam for delivery in New Amsterdam are 1 cent for every ½ ounce. Newspapers and Prices Current, 1c each. Book Packets and Trade Patterns, 1c for first 4 ounces, and 2c for every additional 4 ounces. |

POSTAL RATES, WEST INDIES REGION, 1858–1879

5 November 1874 16c? (8d) letter, stamp removed, Georgetown to Trinidad

1840 Letter rate Br Guiana to BWI charged by weight, not the number of sheets; 8c or 4d (0-½ oz), 1/- (½-1 oz), 2/- (1-2 oz), and 1/- for each additional ounce part.

POSTAL RATES, OVERSEAS, 1858–1879

23 April 1867 24c (1/-) single rate letter, Georgetown via London to Sterling, Scotland.

23 March 1854 (BPO Notice No. 15 of 1854) Letter rate UK to BWI and British Guiana at 12c or 6d (0-½ oz), 1/- (½-1 oz), 2/- (1-2 oz), and each 1/- for each additional ounce part. Letter prepaid or unpaid. Same rate for Ship or Packet Letter.

11 May 1858 Packet letter rate UK to BWI and British Guiana at 12c or 6d (0-½ oz) had to pay the inland rate as the local stamps were not yet valid for overseas postage. Abolished on 17 May 1860 by local Ordinance. Registration Fee 12c (6d)

2 May 1860 British Guiana took over the Packet letter service using its own postage stamps. To UK 12c (6d) as before, France 16c (8d) previously 14c (7d) and USA 10c (5d) previously 8c (4d). Registration Fee 12c (6d)

1 April 1863 (BPO Notice No. 8 of 1863) Ship letter rate to the UK and BWI reduced from 12c to 6c (3d) per ½ oz.

1 Feb 1866 Registration fee reduced for overseas 8c (4d)

1 April 1877 British Guiana joined the GPU, later UPU. Uniform letter rate by Packet or Ship Letter at 12c (6d) per ½ oz. Letters to non-UPU countries cost more. Printed Papers, prices Current, Patterns at 2d per 2 oz. Newspapers 2c (1d) per 4 oz. Registration Fee 8c (4d)

Overseas European Postage. Letters are 4d for each ½ ounce. Newspapers 1d each. Commercial Documents are 2½d up to 4 ounces, and 1d for every additional 2 ounces. Book Packets and Trade patterns, 1d for every 2 ounces. Prices Currents are 1d each. Correspondence for all parts of Europe is forwarded by RMSP steamers leaving Georgetown on 5th or 6th and 25th of each month, and by French Packet, leaving 5th of each month. By private steamers of the 'Direct London Line' and 'Glasgow Line' to Plymouth, once or twice a month.

Overseas West Indies Postage. Letters are 4d each ½ ounce. Newspapers 1d each. Commercial documents are 2½d up to 4 ounces, and 1d every additional 2 ounces. Book Packets and Trade patterns are 1d every 2 ounces. Prices Currents are 1d each.

Non UPU countries. Letters 6d each ½ ounce. Newspapers 1d each. Book Packets and Trade patterns are 3d every 4 ounces. Prices Currents are 1d each.

Tortola and San Domingo Postage. Letters 10d each ½ ounce. Newspapers 2d each. Book Packets and Trade patterns are 4d every 4 ounces. Prices Currents are 2d each.

USA, Canada Postage. Letters 4d each ½ ounce. Newspapers and Prices Currents are 1d each. Commercial documents 2½d up to 4 ounces, and 1d every additional 2 ounces. Book Packets and Trade patterns are 1d every 2 ounces.

Central America Postage. Letters 4d each ½ ounce. Newspapers and Prices Currents are 1d each. Commercial documents are 2½d up to 4 ounces, and 1d every additional 2 ounces. Book Packets and Trade patterns are 1d every 2 ounces.

South America Postage. Letters 4d each ½ ounce. Newspapers and Prices Currents are 1d each. Commercial documents 2½d up to 4 ounces, and 1d every additional 2 ounces. Book Packets and Trade patterns 1d every 2 ounces. New Granada (Colombia) Letters 6d each ½ ounce. Book Packets & Trade patterns 3d every 4 ounces. Ecuador Letters 1s 6d each ½ ounce. Book Packets and Trade patterns are 4d every 4 ounces.

Australasia Postage. Letters 9d each ½ ounce. Newspapers and Prices Currents are 1d each. The normal route is via Southampton and Suez Canal, but correspondence can go via San Francisco if so addressed.

POSTAL RATES FOR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS, 1850–1879

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| August 1850 | From August 1850 soldiers and sailors had a special rate when prepaid letters with stamps were purchased on board ship charged 1d by Royal Navy Ship. If sent by Private Ship then 1d + 2d master's gratuity was charged. Letters had to be counter-signed on the front of the cover by the Commanding Officer, giving authority for the reduced letter rate. |
| 22 Sept 1867 | Officers' letters were charged at 6d to any destination. |

Mike has provided over seventy illustrations for this article of which only three are illustrated above. The complete set of illustrations can be found on the Study Circle website under Gallery > Br Guiana/ Guiana/ Articles.

Editor

DOMINICA

OFFICIAL GAZETTES

BY STEVE JARVIS

Whilst clearing out the *Jamaica Colonial Gazettes* from the RPSL 'coal hole' I came across a set of Official Gazettes for Dominica (1908 to 1921). So, I thought I might as well go through and scan anything of philatelic interest.

My efforts can be found at:

http://www.rpsl.org.uk/documents/journals/Dominica_Gazettes/Dominica_Official_Gazette.pdf
or via the www.bwisc.org gallery.

Not being a Dominica collector, I will leave the experts to browse through and highlight any new information of relevance to us but I did spot some pieces that didn't appear in the Michael Oliver Leewards book – such as that the USA rate should apply to the US Virgin Islands from 1 April 1918 (due to the transfer from Denmark to the USA).

The first pages of the document provide a chronological contents list.

The sorts of things covered are:

- Post Office appointments and in a few cases office opening/closing details
- Inland and coastal mail services and schedules
- RMSP (including Yare), French Maritime, Dutch West India and other maritime Services
- Postal Orders and Money Orders
- Postage Rate changes (including USA and War Tax)
- West India Regiment Postal arrangements (and report on BWI Regiment in Palestine)
- Parcel Post
- Unclaimed letters
- Revenue Fees

There was an interesting 1918 article concerning postal censorship arrangements utilising Thomas Cook. In World War 1, Thomas Cook were asked by the Government to act as intermediaries in the mailing of private letters to recipients in enemy territory. This service began in 1917 and people wishing to correspond with those behind enemy lines were asked to send their letters to Thomas Cook, who sent them to the Thomas Cook office in Geneva which then sent them on into enemy territory.

A February 1914 announcement also took my eye:

“Until further notice, the Roseau – Portsmouth Mail Service will be performed by Canoe; and Mails will be closed on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 8:30 am. Letters and parcels for registration will be received up to 8:15 am.

VP Blanchard, Postmaster, General Post office, 15th February 1914”

This was probably a short lived arrangement as an announcement soon after stated the Yare would provide a service from 1 March.

Does anyone have a letter to or from Portsmouth in this period?

If anyone wants to take possession of the original Gazettes I could hand over at the Convention (foolscap size and about 30 cms wide).

BWISC AUCTION 2013 REPORT

Time-watch. The auctioneer began by declaring his selling speed, 220-230 lots an hour. The auction would take 3 hours 4 minutes. So here is the log record: kick-off 2.16pm; last fall of the hammer 5.27pm; two stoppage breaks to allow our hard-worked treasurer and early leavers respite and settlement time – say 7 minutes. Near enough!

Help, I'm Lost. For different reasons, there are still red faces within the auction team. The careful coding of (most) sellers' identity has resulted, on this occasion, in a number of cases, in mistaken or missing identification. This year's sellers are implored carefully to go through the list of lots at the end of this report, where the link to the member who supplied them has become unreliable, and make a claim which will put the team's minds at rest. It is possible that they come from a single source.

Attendance and Support. Postal bidding was lighter than usual, down by perhaps ten bidders in number. By contrast, actual attendees in the auction room was up, with 38 registering for bidding numbers. At the start of the day only about 37% of the 673 lots on offer had a guaranteed sale on the auction book. When the final lot was reached, about 65% had been sold.

In consequence, this was an auction without flat spots. In each of our 22 basic territories at least half the material was sold, and intending bidders realised that they had to be well on the alert, with little or no time before the rap of the hammer moved us on to the next lot in the queue. The competing bidders had to be equally on the alert, lest gentle exchanges suddenly turned to head-to-head rapid fire, with the sale price escalating before a hand could be dropped. One only hopes that no one was left smarting for having paid more than intended as the price of success.

High Spots. The set of eight Barbados Specimen stamps, lotted individually or collectively, gave insight into auction tactics. When the lots were offered one by one and provisionally sold, one member showed readiness to take on all comers and, against only sporadic opposition, came out the winner at an average of £45 per stamp, each estimated at £40. When the room was asked whether the set should be re-offered as a whole, a fresh bidder threw down the gauntlet, and the previous winner had to defend his prizes. He did so, but the price rose to £520, an average cost of £65. We doubt that the victor had reached his personal limit, and history may show that he was right not to give way.

The other episode of close combat came over the sale of Derek Sutcliffe's very interesting study of Jamaica's KG5 ½d definitive, offered broken down into four lots. The collective estimate of £191 was blown away by the £250 paid for the first of the four. The loser then paid £215 for the next two lots, and believed that he had won the last at £170; but it emerged that his rival was still bidding, and the contest was re-opened. So lot 335 went for £380. "It sounds like pistols for two, and breakfast for one", commented the auctioneer.

Finally, two bidders saw something that the auction team had missed in lot 259. What was the secret in the initials DP that fuelled the rise from E10 to £58 realised? Dominica P.....? It surely deserves a note in the Bulletin from winner or runner up.

Down to Earth. The rest of Jamaica, within lots 300 to 409, with the closely connected lot 62 added, brought us down to earth, selling at about the same level, in numbers, as the rest of the auction material, with realisations hovering close to estimates, across the board.

This still leaves plenty of scope for items with an X factor to take off, and here are some examples: lot 13 (Antigua village pen-cancel) £56, E25; lot 66 (Bahamas Bible Study covers) £105, E48; lot 67 (1769 Barbadoes) £190, E95; and extra impetus such as lot 126 (the parish was St. Thomas) at £80, lot 233 (Cuyuni River) £75, lot 636 (from Tampico) £140, and, predictably, lot 656 (Roatan) £90 in place of a routine E35.

A brief hiccough in Barbados saw eight successive lots go unsold, six of these being early postal stationery, not lacking in merit. Sandwiched in here was a court card for which buyers who would usually be attracted must have been looking the other way. We shall see in due course whether the customary offers of unsold items redress the balance.

Postmarks and Fiscals. We should not lose sight of the enduring appeal of postmarks and the increasing popularity of fiscal material. If it has eye appeal, a postmark need not be scarce in itself to merit a premium, e.g., lot 82 at £15 (Bootheel '7' on 6d). Nor does it require major impact, if it is scarce enough, as lot 267 (early Delices) £44; and when it has both elements, one never knows where the bidding should stop – as with the very dramatic St. Vincent CH of lot 523, £190, E50.

Though fiscal material should still be acquired with discrimination, items of character have acquired status as well as respectability nowadays, and we think will add to that in the future. So £40 for the Perfin M.C.A. Leeward 1d triplet was no surprise (lot 411) nor the £42 for the Montserrat QV 1d horizontal block of six (lot 440) – a figure you might want to remember when next you see a full pane of this stamp. Still, in this respect St. Vincent towers above the rest, and the high values in lot 536 and 538 (E60 and 50) respectively fetched £160 and £150 in the room – for it is seldom, indeed, that any of the **ONE POUND** (and over!) values reach the market.

Vintage Years. Not every year is a vintage year for our auctions. 2012 certainly was, and there are high hopes for 2014 with the plan for 60 starred lots (minimum sale value £250 each) to be integrated within our standard annual auction. It will take a major effort by members to make up this number. 2013 was admittedly at a lower level. Yet there is reason for satisfaction and none for disappointment to see an immediate sale total of close to £19,000 which, based on experience, can be confidently expected to pass £20,000 by the time that the selling season is over.

The percentage of members who participate in each annual auction does not vary greatly. Roughly one third of our membership plays some part; but the actual participants vary between one year and the next. The quality of the vintage offered each year depends upon what members can supply – and supplies tend to be in the categories of good, better and better still. Besides this, a lot of thought goes into the way in which the supplies are evaluated and presented. In general, a lot such as British Guiana's 205 – the most favoured by postal bidders – can attract six bids because the auction team finds within material supplied items which gain from being offered as a subcategory, without derogating from the saleability the other material of which they formed part. A similar approach produces such as Trinidad's lot 570. The structure of the auction is designed to bring out the flavour of the goods on offer, and to hope that those taking part enjoy it. Experience shows that by and large they do.

Realisations. Realisations represented an increment of about 4% over estimates, and three-quarters of this increment can be found in the Barbados Specimen set and the four Jamaica lots that have been highlighted. It must be as reassuring to members as it is to the auction team that estimation of value has recaptured much of the precision that was apparent before the surge of enthusiasm for the Derek Sutcliffe collection introduced an inflationary trend.

If external pressures had any influence on the amounts spent this year, this may have been on recorded book bids. On the lots secured by email/postal bidders, there was under £2,000 in hand before the book limit was reached and breached; but bidders in the room never get to know the individual limit against which they compete, unless a tie between two bidders on the book is announced.

Please tell me where I come from. The lots where we need to re-establish linkage with the seller are 47, 67, 68, 123, 124, 125, 173, 220, 247, 256, 291, 425, 533 and 534.

As most sellers of more than one or two lots were notified of the lot numbers ascribed to them at the time when the catalogue was distributed, a seller who was not so notified may have been left out of existing auction records. Information, if any, to Simon Goldblatt, by whom it will be much appreciated.

BWISC Auction 2013 Results

Lot	Real £	Lot	Real £	Lot	Real £	Lot	Real £	Lot	Real £	Lot	Real £
1	£12.00	58	£22.00	115	£48.00	172	unsold	229	£23.00	285	£40.00
2	£12.00	59	£20.00	116	£50.00	173	unsold	230	£28.00	286	£14.00
3	£70.00	60	£23.00	117	unsold	174	£30.00	231	unsold	287	£85.00
4	£22.00	61	unsold	118	unsold	175	£50.00	232	£11.00	288	unsold
5	£12.00	62	unsold	119	unsold	176	£31.00	233	£75.00	289	unsold
6	unsold	63	unsold	120	£21.00	177	unsold	234	£12.00	290	unsold
7	unsold	64	£6.00	121	£9.50	178	unsold	441	unsold	291	£28.00
8	£17.50	65	£46.00	122	£30.00	179	£38.00	235	£60.00	292	£32.00
9	unsold	66	£105.00	123	£85.00	180	£22.00	236	unsold	293	£8.00
10	£12.00	67	£190.00	124	£85.00	181	unsold	237	£23.00	294	£48.00
11	£75.00	68	£105.00	125	£44.00	182	£22.00	238	unsold	295	£9.00
12	£27.00	69	£60.00	126	£80.00	183	£10.50	239	£33.00	296	unsold
13	£56.00	70	£27.00	127	unsold	184	unsold	240	unsold	297	unsold
14	unsold	71	£30.00	128	£56.00	185	unsold	241	unsold	298	unsold
15	£90.00	72	£38.00	129	unsold	186	unsold	242	£9.00	299	unsold
16	£46.00	73	£14.50	130	unsold	187	unsold	243	£30.00	300	unsold
17	£58.00	74	£23.00	131	unsold	188	unsold	244	£12.00	301	£85.00
18	£22.00	75	£21.00	132	unsold	189	£105.00	245	£36.00	302	£30.00
19	£24.00	76	£27.00	133	unsold	190	unsold	246	£18.00	303	unsold
20	£25.00	77	unsold	134	unsold	191	£8.50	247	£25.00	304	£16.50
21	unsold	78	£65.00	135	unsold	192	£14.00	248	£3.00	305	£10.50
22	£17.50	79	£30.00	136	unsold	193	unsold	249	£80.00	306	£27.00
23	£5.25	80	unsold	137	£70.00	194	unsold	250	£25.00	307	unsold
24	£6.00	81	£15.00	138	£70.00	195	unsold	251	£21.00	308	£6.00
25	unsold	82	£15.00	139	unsold	196	unsold	252	£12.50	309	unsold
26	£7.00	83	unsold	140	unsold	197	£36.00	253	£4.25	310	unsold
27	unsold	84	£180.00	141	£15.00	198	£50.00	254	£140.00	311	£190.00
28	£21.00	85	unsold	142	£42.00	199	£26.00	255	£170.00	312	unsold
29	£27.00	86	unsold	143	unsold	200	£26.00	256	£8.50	313	unsold
30	£17.00	87	£13.50	144	unsold	201	£20.00	257	unsold	314	unsold
31	£8.00	88	unsold	145	£85.00	202	£60.00	258	£140.00	315	unsold
32	£24.00	89	£120.00	146	£30.00	203	£28.00	259	£58.00	316	£42.00
33	£17.00	90	£23.00	147	£52.00	204	£56.00	260	£90.00	317	unsold
34	£36.00	91	£520.00	148	unsold	205	£32.00	261	£60.00	318	£70.00
35	unsold	92	with 91	149	£38.00	206	£24.00	262	£29.00	319	£52.00
36	£8.50	93	with 91	150	unsold	207	£24.00	263	unsold	320	£16.50
37	£12.50	94	with 91	151	£38.00	208	£52.00	264	unsold	321	unsold
38	£7.00	95	with 91	152	unsold	209	£52.00	265	unsold	322	unsold
39	£4.25	96	with 91	153	unsold	210	unsold	266	£4.50	323	unsold
40	unsold	97	with 91	154	£17.00	211	£18.00	267	£44.00	324	£28.00
41	unsold	98	with 91	155	£80.00	212	unsold	268	£10.50	325	£25.00
42	£37.00	99	unsold	156	unsold	213	£21.00	269	£23.00	326	£13.50
43	unsold	100	unsold	157	£37.00	214	unsold	270	unsold	327	£70.00
44	£35.00	101	£60.00	158	£19.00	215	£52.00	271	£52.00	328	£20.00
45	unsold	102	unsold	159	£12.00	216	£34.00	272	unsold	329	unsold
46	unsold	103	unsold	160	£14.00	217	£70.00	273	£42.00	330	unsold
47	unsold	104	unsold	161	£6.00	218	£12.50	274	£15.00	331	£33.00
48	unsold	105	£10.50	162	£56.00	219	£21.00	275	£18.00	332	£250.00
49	unsold	106	unsold	163	£70.00	220	£16.00	276	£21.00	333	£160.00
50	unsold	107	£11.50	164	£80.00	221	£8.50	277	£250.00	334	£65.00
51	unsold	108	unsold	165	£80.00	222	£21.00	278	£24.00	335	£380.00
52	£460.00	109	£2.25	166	£36.00	223	unsold	279	£65.00	336	£60.00
53	unsold	110	£21.00	167	£12.00	224	£9.00	280	£36.00	337	£30.00
54	unsold	111	unsold	168	£15.00	225	£23.00	281	£36.00	338	£38.00
55	unsold	112	£39.00	169	unsold	226	£12.00	282	£90.00	339	£8.00
56	unsold	113	£18.00	170	unsold	227	£16.00	283	£54.00	340	unsold
57	£24.00	114	unsold	171	£140.00	228	unsold	284	unsold	341	£1.50

Lot	Real £	Lot	Real £	Lot	Real £	Lot	Real £	Lot	Real £	Lot	Real £
342	unsold	400	£11.00	459	£19.00	517	£22.00	575	unsold	633	£34.00
343	£24.00	401	unsold	460	unsold	518	unsold	576	unsold	634	unsold
344	unsold	402	unsold	461	£33.00	519	£42.00	577	unsold	635	unsold
345	£75.00	403	£48.00	462	unsold	520	£13.00	578	£22.00	636	£140.00
346	unsold	404	£52.00	463	£8.00	521	£9.00	579	£19.00	637	unsold
347	£13.00	405	unsold	464	£19.00	522	£20.00	580	unsold	638	unsold
348	unsold	406	£20.00	465	£19.00	523	£190.00	581	£58.00	639	unsold
349	£6.00	407	unsold	466	unsold	524	£15.00	582	£13.50	640	£50.00
350	unsold	408	£2.00	467	unsold	525	£70.00	583	unsold	641	unsold
351	£10.00	409	£23.00	468	unsold	526	£56.00	584	£15.00	642	£5.50
352	£46.00	410	£38.00	469	unsold	527	unsold	585	£37.00	643	unsold
353	unsold	411	£40.00	470	£33.00	528	£75.00	586	£15.50	644	£9.00
354	£30.00	412	unsold	471	£19.00	529	£33.00	587	£12.00	645	£9.00
355	£42.00	413	£15.50	472	unsold	530	unsold	588	unsold	646	£9.00
356	£65.00	414	unsold	473	unsold	531	£16.00	589	£15.50	647	£13.50
357	£7.50	415	£42.00	474	unsold	532	£18.00	590	unsold	648	unsold
358	unsold	416	unsold	475	£19.00	533	£8.00	591	unsold	649	£30.00
359	unsold	417	unsold	476	£6.00	534	£23.00	592	unsold	650	£36.00
360	£32.00	418	£22.00	477	£3.00	535	unsold	593	unsold	651	£52.00
361	unsold	419	£10.50	478	£29.00	536	£160.00	594	£11.00	652	unsold
362	£28.00	420	unsold	479	unsold	537	£16.50	595	unsold	653	unsold
363	£36.00	421	£25.00	480	unsold	538	£150.00	596	£36.00	654	£70.00
364	£48.00	422	£26.00	481	£54.00	539	£54.00	597	unsold	655	£13.00
365	unsold	423	£36.00	482	£25.00	540	unsold	598	unsold	656	£90.00
366	£12.50	424	£20.00	483	£65.00	541	£200.00	599	£65.00	657	unsold
367	£19.00	425	£15.00	484	unsold	542	unsold	600	£20.00	658	£4.50
368	£12.00	426	£20.00	485	unsold	543	£24.00	601	£21.00	659	£26.00
369	£65.00	427	£23.00	486	unsold	544	£3.75	602	unsold	660	£17.50
370	£33.00	428	£80.00	487	unsold	545	£32.00	603	unsold	661	unsold
371	£27.00	429	unsold	488	£18.00	546	£42.00	604	unsold	662	unsold
372	£80.00	430	unsold	489	unsold	547	unsold	605	unsold	663	£11.50
373	£31.00	431	unsold	490	£15.50	548	£58.00	606	unsold	664	£9.00
374	£42.00	432	£70.00	491	unsold	549	£31.00	607	unsold	665	unsold
375	£42.00	433	£75.00	492	£12.00	550	unsold	608	£120.00	666	unsold
376	unsold	434	£290.00	493	£95.00	551	unsold	609	£37.00	667	£52.00
377	£50.00	435	£35.00	494	£26.00	552	£38.00	610	£46.00	668	unsold
378	£32.00	436	£27.00	495	£70.00	553	£85.00	611	£32.00	669	unsold
379	£22.00	437	unsold	496	£30.00	554	£12.00	612	£44.00	670	£15.50
380	unsold	438	£5.25	497	£16.00	555	£34.00	613	unsold	671	£24.00
381	unsold	439	£9.50	498	unsold	556	£28.00	614	£9.00	672	unsold
382	£1.50	440	£42.00	499	unsold	557	£8.50	615	£36.00	673	unsold
383	£33.00	442	£3.00	500	£60.00	558	£17.50	616	unsold		
384	£35.00	443	unsold	501	£24.00	559	£32.00	617	unsold		
385	£65.00	444	unsold	502	£140.00	560	£52.00	618	£85.00		
386	£9.00	445	unsold	503	£36.00	561	£15.00	619	£33.00		
387	£56.00	446	£70.00	504	unsold	562	£9.50	620	unsold		
388	unsold	447	£27.00	505	unsold	563	£4.00	621	£16.00		
389	unsold	448	unsold	506	£260.00	564	£70.00	622	unsold		
390	unsold	449	£6.00	507	£100.00	565	£60.00	623	unsold		
391	unsold	450	£52.00	508	£320.00	566	£18.00	624	£300.00		
392	unsold	451	unsold	509	£9.50	567	unsold	625	unsold		
393	£65.00	452	£15.00	510	unsold	568	£29.00	626	unsold		
394	£9.00	453	£21.00	511	unsold	569	£140.00	627	£27.00		
395	£52.00	454	£65.00	512	unsold	570	£90.00	628	£10.50		
396	£20.00	455	£34.00	513	unsold	571	£16.50	629	£19.00		
397	unsold	456	£16.50	514	£65.00	572	£21.00	630	£32.00		
398	£28.00	457	£37.00	515	£11.50	573	unsold	631	£17.50		
399	£40.00	458	£95.00	516	£60.00	574	£26.00	632	unsold		

CATALOGUE IMPERFECTIONS

- Lot 322 (est £130) full description should read: - 196 on CC 1d, 2d, CA 1d carmine; 615 (fair only) on CA 1d carmine, ½d local official; 617 on 1s CC, CA 1d rose, 1d red official, postal fiscal 1d (T390 extrapolated) low cat
- Lot 323 Estimate was entirely wrong. Offered now at R £60.

Lot	Offer £	R	Lot	Offer £	R	Lot	Offer £	R	Lot	Offer £	R	Lot	Offer £	R
6	£65.00	R	143	£26.00		313	£40.00		473	£29.00	R	632	£8.00	
7	£65.00	R	144	£29.00		314	£36.00		474	£21.00		634	£16.00	
9	£29.00		148	£53.00		315	£32.00		480	£14.00	R	635	£28.00	
14	£125.00		150	£16.00		317	£24.00		485	£77.00		638	£55.00	
21	£16.00		152	£14.00		321	£89.00		486	£24.00		641	£90.00	
25	£95.00		153	£89.00		322	£105.00		487	£16.00		643	£8.00	
27	£32.00		156	£19.00		323	£60.00	R	489	£90.00	R	648	£18.00	
35	£23.00		169	£4.00		329	£12.00		491	£15.00		652	£38.00	
41	£3.00		170	£20.00		330	£29.40	SU	498	£14.00		653	£12.00	
43	£12.00		172	£160.00		340	£59.50	SU	499	£64.00		657	£35.00	
45	£35.00		177	£40.00		342	£35.00	SU	504	£4.00		662	£34.00	
46	£75.00	R	178	£18.00		344	£56.00	SU	505	£90.00		665	£16.00	R
47	£40.00		181	£11.00		346	£84.00	SU	510	£8.00		666	£20.00	
48	£21.00		184	£14.00		348	£4.90	SU	511	£10.00		668	£12.00	
49	£27.00		185	£26.00		350	£12.60	SU	512	£18.00		669	£8.00	
50	£38.00		186	£19.00		353	£36.00		513	£39.00		672	£4.00	
51	£34.00		187	£11.00		358	£32.20	SU	518	£120.00		673	£95.00	
53	£15.00		188	£48.00		359	£66.50	SU	527	£26.00				
54	£29.00		190	£14.00		361	£21.70	SU	530	£3.00				
55	£8.00		193	£20.00		376	£55.00	SU	535	£10.00				
56	£18.00		194	£13.00		380	£21.00	SU	540	£7.00				
61	£12.00		195	£14.00		381	£14.00	SU	547	£30.00				
62	£16.00		196	£60.00		388	£33.60	SU	550	£17.00				
63	£12.00		210	£128.00		389	£39.20	SU	551	£10.00				
77	£34.00		212	£64.00		390	£24.50	SU	567	£55.00				
83	£45.00		214	£67.00		391	£49.00	SU	575	£19.00				
85	£27.00		223	£17.00		392	£8.40	SU	576	£20.00				
86	£12.00		228	£4.00		397	£15.40	SU	577	£90.00				
88	£64.00		231	£11.00		401	£45.50	SU	580	£20.00				
99	£29.00		236	£11.00		402	£21.00	SU	583	£18.00				
100	£7.00		238	£16.00		405	£23.80	SU	588	£17.00				
102	£27.00		241	£3.00		407	£19.60	SU	590	£32.00				
103	£19.00		257	£12.00		416	£32.00		591	£18.00				
104	£9.00		263	£45.00		417	£20.00		592	£16.00				
106	£10.00		264	£35.00		420	£32.00		593	£115.00				
108	£26.00		265	£53.00		429	£67.00		595	£12.00				
111	£32.00		270	£18.00		430	£23.00		597	£53.00				
114	£24.00		272	£35.00		431	£77.00		598	£16.00				
117	£10.00		284	£48.00		437	£18.00		602	£120.00				
118	£50.00		288	£23.00		441	£53.00		603	£100.00				
119	£30.00		289	£7.00		443	£43.00		604	£28.00				
127	£27.00		290	£13.00		444	£33.00		605	£22.00				
129	£40.00		296	£11.00		445	£80.00		606	£43.00				
130	£67.00		297	£29.00		448	£36.00		607	£13.00				
131	£55.00		298	£18.00		451	£76.00		613	£7.00				
132	£160.00		299	£4.00		460	£48.00		616	£6.00				
133	£32.00		300	£14.00		462	£88.00		617	£2.00				
134	£27.00	R	303	£28.00		466	£30.00	R	620	£30.00	R			
135	£48.00		307	£12.00		467	£12.00	R	622	£55.00				
136	£64.00		309	£35.00		468	£5.00		623	£17.00				
139	£60.00		310	£112.00		469	£26.00		625	£32.00				
140	£53.00		312	£84.00		472	£14.00		626	£84.00				

**MINUTES OF THE 59TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC
HELD AT 1:15 PM SATURDAY 27 APRIL 2012**

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford who welcomed the 39 members present, and thanked Grosvenor for their hospitality in allowing BWISC to hold our AGM on their premises. Nick Kerridge had looked after us extremely well.

2. Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Kevin Darcy.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting on 28 April 2012, as published in Bulletin No. 233, June 2012, pages 18 to 22, were accepted by the attendees.

4. Report by the General Secretary (George Dunbar)

I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Peter Fernbank, and thank him for providing a model handover. He gave me detailed templates, and had already arranged many future events, including the Convention this year.

The Membership Secretary has kindly provided the following information. At the end of 2012, there were 324 members (UK 207, Europe 24, Rest of the World 93). Six members died, and 10 more gave up membership. There were 15 new members. Three of those joining in 2012 took the paperless subscription, which is now taken by 24 members.

The main event since last year's AGM was the Stampex meeting in September, at which five members gave displays. In November, the Chairman, President, James Podger and Nigel Chandler made a successful trip to represent the Circle at the IPHLA Philatelic Literature Exhibition in Mainz, Germany. More detail of these events was reported in the December and March issues of the Bulletin. We also propose to take a table at Midpex in July to promote the Study Circle, and look forward to the Convention in October.

5. Report by the Editor (Terry Harrison)

Having taken on the challenge of becoming editor at the last AGM I found myself facing a steep learning curve but with the aid and assistance of Steve Jarvis, Charles Freeland and Peter Ford the year has sped past and I am now in the process of assembling my 4th edition. One thing that does tend to stand out is the worry of producing enough pages to maintain Steve's target of 40 pages. This has been achieved so far but by the merest margin and I would like to reiterate previous Editor's pleas for more articles whilst thanking all those who have submitted articles.

On the plus side we have seen some new contributors over the last year, and Charles has started a new item referencing articles of interest from other journals. It is intended that this will become a regular annual feature. I look forward to continuing to work with you in maintaining the high standard of the Study Circle's Bulletin, so keep sending the articles in!

6. Report by the Treasurer (Ray Stanton)

Copies of the accounts were circulated to members present. The accounts for the year to the 31st December 2012 show a surplus of £2,254 which more than covers last year's deficit of £1699.

There are three main points to make regarding this surplus.

Firstly there have been no major publication costs in 2012 whilst sales from publications printed in previous years totalled £2,168 net of commissions paid. Since the year end we have published Peter Fernbank's KGV key plate book which has been partly paid for by a loan from Peter which will be repaid from sales made, in the same way as Michael Oliver's Leewards book was financed in 2011.

Secondly the income from the Study Circle auction, net of expenses paid, at £1,634 was substantially ahead of that achieved in 2011, and is a major contribution to our funds both for our expenses and for our active publication policy.

Finally we have again largely covered the costs of the quarterly bulletin and its despatch by the subscription and advertising income, which is the policy we have established in the past. As you are aware there was a substantial increase in postage costs midway through 2012 and as a result we needed to increase subscriptions for future years and also increase our advertising rates. We are confident therefore that our policy will be maintained in 2013.

As a result of the surplus, the Accumulated fund, has increased from £5,280 to £7,545 and 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.

In response to a query from a member, the Treasurer clarified that the large debt owed to the Circle, shown in the accounts, is an accident of timing, with sums usually received just before year end having been received shortly after.

7. Report by the Librarian (Ian Jakes)

No books have been borrowed from the Library during the last year, and only nine books were loaned to three members during the previous year. I have provided two members with answers to their respective request for philatelic information on the Jamaica stamps concerning the 1968 Human Rights Issues, and the Bahamas Landfall Overprints. It is clear from the above that our non computer literate members are dwindling, and that the Library is now only being used to obtain information which cannot be found on the computer.

I took possession from Peter Boulton of the BWISC Committee minutes from 27th July 1954 until 2007, and these are now lodged in the Library for safe custody.

In August 2012, a fortnight before his death, Bob Swarbrick donated more than one hundred items to the Library, details of which appeared in the March 2013 Bulletin. This donation was in addition to his donation detailed in my 2012 Librarian's Report to the AGM.

8. Report by the Publications Officer (Peter Ford)

We didn't publish anything at all last year; that's not to say that I have been slacking. Most of my time was spent working on Peter Fernbank's 'KING GEORGE V KEY PLATES OF THE IMPERIUM POSTAGE AND REVENUE DESIGN'. This book is the second edition of his work originally published by the West Africa Study Circle. It is much improved with many colour illustrations and has been expanded. At a cost of £44 for members, for a 515 page tome, it is great value.

We have some three books in prospect this year, Richard Maisel's Study Paper on the 1882 provisional issue of British Guiana, a study of the early Britannia issues of Barbados by Fitz Roett and the Airmails volume of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia. The Tobago book will possibly be published towards the end of the year or early next year. There are other books in the very early stages of preparation and I will inform the membership of progress on those in due course.

Sales this last year have been somewhat subdued with Michael Oliver's Leewards book and the Trinidad book doing particularly well. Mike Rego's Steamship Line volumes continue to sell well. We sold a total of just under £2,600 worth of books which, after David Druett's commission, netted the Study Circle £2,171. This figure was boosted by the attendance of four Committee members at a Philatelic Literature event in Mainz, Germany in early November. Charles Freeland, Nigel Chandler, James Podger and I attended this show and sold a good many of our books which Nigel had driven over from the UK. Also it gave us an opportunity to meet some of the German stamp dealers who were very accommodating and some literature dealers who have already ordered books from us.

If any member is considering writing a book, could I appeal to them to inform me before they pay out money to have it typeset. I have used a few different printers over the years and now know them sufficiently well to gauge exactly what is required to produce the best result from any publication. Please do not present me with a typeset book and ask me to publish it.

Lastly, we still need writers to submit Study Papers which I am very keen on. These can be a subject of very specialised interest and it doesn't cost us much to have them printed. For instance, Richard Maisel's booklet which has around 70 odd pages will cost less than £200 to have 50 copies printed. Also, we still need to have definitive handbooks on some colonies; St. Vincent, British Honduras and St. Lucia spring to mind. Some colonies have never had a book written and some others have not had one written for nearly 100 years! Come on let's have some more volunteers to write these books.

In response to a question from a member, it was confirmed that publications were indeed entered for awards at times. For example, the Trinidad book had won the Charles J. Peterson Literature

Grand Award and Gold Medal at NAPEX 2011. However there were costs involved and it was necessary to carefully assess each opportunity.

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

This must be the ninth or tenth time I have stood up here and told the membership that we have enjoyed a successful year. 2012 was no exception. We held our AGM and Auction at Spink and what a successful auction that was. Simon Goldblatt and his auction team excelled themselves in the number and variety of excellent lots; the realisations at the end were just short of £25,000 and probably exceeded that figure if we take the sale of unsolds into account.

The necessary increase in subscriptions announced last year fortunately does not seem to have deterred many from renewing their membership. It would seem that, having kept the subscriptions as low as we had done for so many years, members were appreciative of the necessity to increase them. The Committee are always open to suggestions as to how we can reduce our outlay or indeed increase our income to improve our financial situation.

At the end of my Report last year, I appealed for members to volunteer for duties on the Committee, citing the length of time some of us have been serving. I mentioned that we needed a new Editor and a new Secretary urgently. I was very pleased to discover that, before the end of the meeting, we had two volunteers for the editor position. Terry Harrison by dint of being the first to step forward became our Editor and what a fantastic job he has done. It was always going to be difficult to fill this position after Steve Jarvis, but Terry has done brilliantly. It was not too long before we had someone willing to take over the Secretary's job and George Dunbar was that someone. I would like to thank them both for coming forward so quickly. I must take this opportunity to thank the outgoing officers; firstly, Steve Jarvis who has been Editor of our Bulletin for so many years and who has brought it on to be what it is today, an award-winning periodical which is the envy of many other specialist societies. Thank you, Steve. The Secretary's job had been filled as a temporary measure by Peter Fernbank and I must thank him too for all the work he put in. You will be glad to know that both these gentlemen will remain on the Committee and we can take advantage of their wise counsel. We have had one resignation from the Committee this year, that of Michael Hamilton. I had to go back through the Bulletin archive to find out exactly when Michael first joined the Committee as he seems to have always been on it. He has been on the Committee since 1983, for some 30 years! I think we all owe Michael a big vote of thanks for his commitment to the Study Circle over this long period.

We are all, I am sure, looking forward to our Convention in October and I urge all of our members to try to attend, even if only for one day. It is something you will enjoy and no doubt you will want to repeat the experience. Before that, at our Secretary's instigation, some of us will be attending the MIDPEX show on the 6th of July at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre. We are going to have a table there and hopefully we will gain some new members and also we will be trying to sell our publications. Obviously, the more of our members who are there the better it will be.

Next year we celebrate our 60th Anniversary; it doesn't seem that long since the 50th and what a success that was. Anyway, we are envisaging a special auction and also we are arranging a display on Thursday 6th November at the Royal Philatelic Society London where we will hopefully have displays of every colony in our area of interest. Details of both of these events will appear in the Bulletin. I would strongly advise attendance the event at the Royal as it will give members, who are not already members of the Royal, the opportunity to visit the premises of what is arguably the premier national philatelic society in the world.

Again as usual, I want to thank all the members of the Committee for their support during the last year and would urge other members of the Circle seriously to consider volunteering to join the Committee.

10. Re-Election of the Chairman of the Committee

Peter Ford was re-elected unanimously as Chairman of the Committee.

11. Re-Election of Officers

The existing Officers and Committee Members were re-elected. The Chairman proposed the election of John Keegan as an additional Committee Member, and this was approved.

12. Election of the Auditor

John Davis had agreed to continue as Auditor, and was re-elected, with the gratitude of members.

13. Other Business

ABPS Membership

The Chairman explained that the Committee had questioned the value of ABPS membership. It costs about £240 a year, with little evidence of direct benefit to the Circle. Because membership charges are levied on member societies as a fee per UK resident member, many members of the Circle will in practice pay several times over. A poll of those present confirmed that almost all are members of local societies and many are members of other specialist societies. The Chairman had written to the ABPS proposing that a flat fee of £100 for specialist societies would be fairer, and had accepted their request to send someone to answer our questions today. However, no representative had appeared.

There was an extensive and considered discussion with many members contributing views and suggestions. It was felt that ABPS lacked transparency, and its functions were obscure to many. Feedback and communication from them were not good. In return for our fees, we should expect better representation in decision making, including representation at their AGM. They should do a better job of promoting specialist societies through, for example, their website. On the other hand, there was concern that we should not precipitate difficulty for ABPS without a clearer understanding of their contribution to philately at the national level. Their work promoting philately with young people was praised. They also support national and international events. It was acknowledged that they are working as volunteers.

The Chairman proposed that he would write to ABPS urging, in strong terms, greater transparency, and better communication of what they achieve for specialist societies such as ours. He would make clear the Circle's concerns, and that we would seriously consider leaving ABPS if they were not met. The proposal was approved unanimously.

RPSL request for help

Steve Jarvis asked members with knowledge of the Virgin Islands or Grenada to please volunteer to assist the RPSL project to describe images of De La Rue proofs. Volunteers could contact him.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

Following the discussion at the AGM, as promised, I have written the following letter to the Chairman of the ABPS, Mr. John Baron. The letter explains the feeling of those present after we had a detailed discussion on the subject.

“Dear John,

The BWISC held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 27th April and I was informed that a representative from the ABPS had been invited along to explain to us the benefits of membership. However, in the event, nobody turned up. This was most disappointing.

Despite this, there was an animated discussion about the ABPS and many opinions were expressed, both for and against membership. The eventual decision was that we should remain a member. Having said this, I must relate some of what was said about the ABPS at the meeting as it may help you to reach out to a specialist society such as ours. In general, members thought that we should support the ABPS as perhaps the sole representative of UK philately, but most were ignorant of what it was the ABPS in fact did with our money. It would appear that news of your activities is not reaching the average UK collector. Apparently, an officer of the ABPS has been allocated to specialist societies but the BWISC has never had communication of any sort from him.

Our UK-based members feel aggrieved at the inequity of them paying several sums of £1.10 dependent on how many societies, both specialist and local, that they belong to. I have looked again at your website and that has certainly improved of late, but the failure of anyone to attend our AGM and the lack of visibility of the ABPS means that discontent concerning our membership is more than trivial.

I will be publishing the content of this letter in the June issue of the BWISC Bulletin. Peter”

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Persian Gulf:	Neil Donaldson	£90
	Update Published 1995	£18
Ireland:	Hibernian Catalogue 2002	£20
AML:	1948 KGVI an initial listing (small brown notebook)	£20
BK:	1968 KGVI Catalogue	£25
BK:	1991 KGVI Catalogue	£22
BK:	1980 Five Reigns – last edition	£25
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P. Jennings	Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother a History published 2000	£3.50
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JAMAICA

RAILWAY TPO CANCELLATION TYPE 2

BY STEVE JARVIS

According to Bob Swarbrick, this single ring (27mm diameter) metal handstamp was introduced early in 1915. He had a copy ex- G. C. Gunter's collection, which was annotated by him that it was used on the Port Antonio line.

G. C. Gunter should be the definitive authority, as he was in charge of the Jamaica Government Railway and was a leading light in the Jamaica Philatelic Society. However, some covers have come to light which puts this statement into question.



BCPSG Journal Oct 1976 to Aug 1977

By Robert Topaz, Col. Fred F. Seifert, and Charles E. Cwiakala

The ppc shown above was offered on ebay. As well as the TPO mark, it also bears a Jamaica Railway/Hartlands cancellation. Hartlands was the first station after Spanish Town on the Montego Bay line. Further, Keith Moh's excellent Jamaica Railway web site (<http://www.bwiphilately.com/jamrwy/HartlandsColl.html>) contains a cover to Kingston, dated 29 Nov 1919, also with TPO and Jamaica Railway/Hartlands cancellation.

I have the following cover in my collection bearing this TPO mark and various transit cancels on the reverse.

The cover travelled from Savannah La Mar (3 Feb 1921) via Kingston (4 Feb) to Constant Spring, forwarded via Kingston (7 Feb) to Montpelier (8 Feb) forwarded back with TPO-2 of 9 Feb 1902 (illustrated above) applied on the reverse, via Kingston (9 Feb) to Constant Spring (9 Feb).

Montpelier was two stops before Montego Bay, not on the Port Antonio spur.



Are there any more TPO Type 2 covers out there from which the route can be ascertained?
Please send details to me (contact details inside front cover).

LEEWARD ISLANDS

1953 CORONATION PLATE NUMBERS

BY STEVE RAMSDEN



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Plate copies and blocks of the Leeward Islands versions of the Empire omnibus issues seem to be remarkably scarce and elusive, and the Leewards 1953 QE2 Coronation issue is no exception. I have collected Leewards, nothing else in fact, for twenty years now, and in that time have seen offered for sale no more than four or five plate number examples. I bought a nice plate block some years back, which is from plates 2B/1B.

Until very recently I think the received wisdom was that the Leewards version of this issue was printed exclusively from this plate combination. Indeed Michael Oliver, as recently as the 2nd edition of his handbook, mentions no other.

This block of mine, recently purchased, 2A/1A, looks completely genuine, and everything about it is the same as my 2B/1B block except for two "A"s instead of two "B"s. Remarkably, since I first submitted this snippet to the Editor, an auction catalogue for an auction on May 28 is now offering a complete sheet from 2A/1A at an attractive estimate price. I am quite happy with my own recent purchase, but this will be a nice item for somebody.


I know nothing about the wider QE2 Coronation issue, but am left wondering what plate combinations exist for other W. Indies territories. Perhaps other BWISC members would care to say what plate numbers they have come across.

2C/1C perhaps? Or is there a plain and simple 2/1 out there?"

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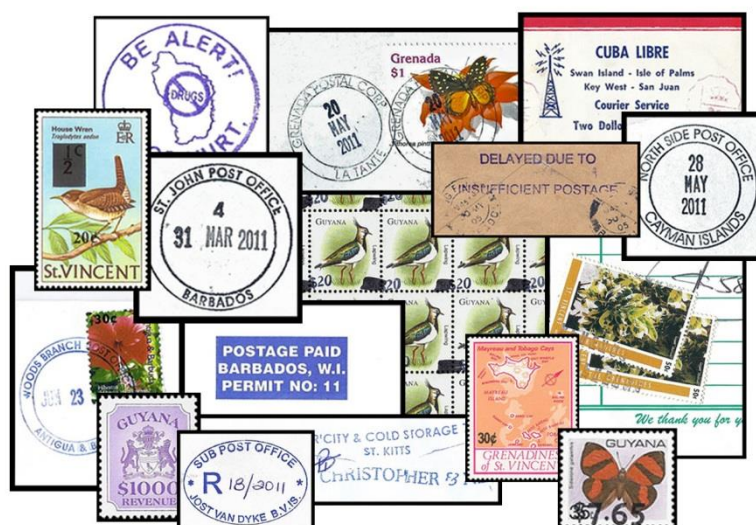
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ST. VINCENT**INSTRUCTIONAL MARK****BY TERRY HARRISON**

Having sent an order for Victory Stamps to the Postmaster in St. Vincent on the 18 June 1946, Mr J. R. Bell must have been surprised to have his letter (Fig. 2) returned to him in September with a slip inside (Fig. 1) 345mm x 110mm, setting out the reason for refusal.

No.

SAINT VINCENT, B.W.I.

Date _____ 19

FROM COLONIAL POSTMASTER.

To _____

In reply to your letter of _____,
I have the honour to forward to you
information concerning Stamps detailed below:—

@ ½d.	£
„ 1d.	
„ 1½d.	<i>See Regulation 6 below.</i>
„ 2d.	<i>Orders for Victory Stamps</i>
„ 2½d.	<i>can not be accepted</i>
„ 3d.	<i>until those stamps have</i>
„ 6d.	<i>arrived in the Colony.</i>
„ 1s.	<i>I do not myself anticipate</i>
„ 2s.	<i>that this will be until</i>
„ 5s.	<i>the last quarter of the</i>
„ £1	<i>year but I have no</i>
	<i>definite information</i>
	<i>yet.</i>

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,
G. E. W.
Colonial Postmaster.

NOTICE TO STAMP COLLECTORS ETC.

Orders for Stamps etc. must be accompanied by a remittance sufficient to cover their cost and return postage and registration. Remittances must be in the form of a banker's draft, Money Order or Postal Orders made payable to the Colonial Postmaster.

2. Remittances in the form of bank notes, currency notes or private cheques cannot be accepted, and if sent, will be returned.
3. Stamps are forwarded by registered Post unless instructions to the contrary are given.
4. Stamps must be ordered by denominations only, orders for stamps according to Colour are not accepted.
5. The Postmaster cannot undertake to affix Stamps to letters merely to enable stamps to be cancelled, nor is it permissible for the Postmaster to cancel stamps affixed to envelopes, except when sent as a cover for the supply of a new order for stamps.
6. Standing Orders for the supply of new issues of Stamps cannot be accepted.
7. Stamps sold cannot be exchanged.

Fig. 1

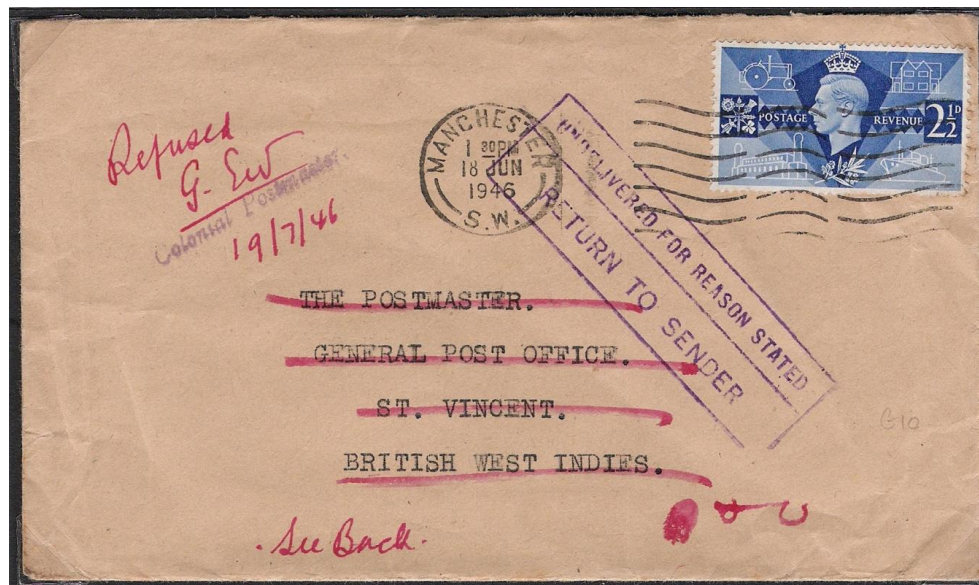


Fig. 2

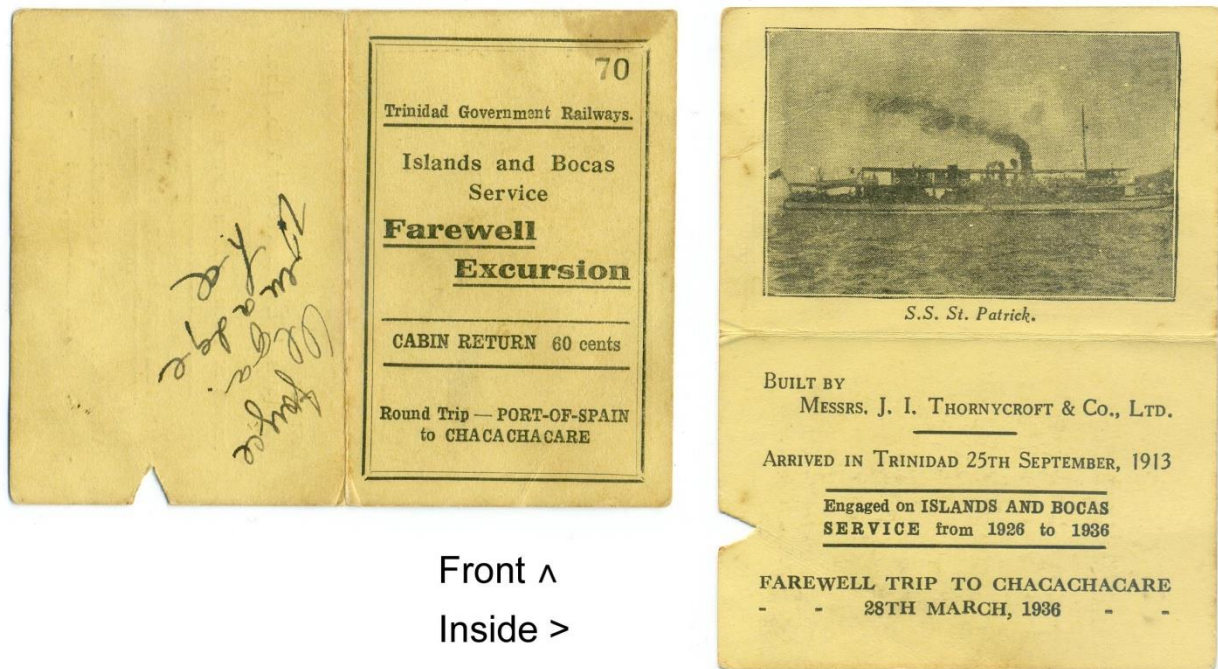
The cover has a straight line 'Colonial Postmaster' cachet, is annotated in red ink 'Refused, G. EW, 19/7/4, see back' and is stamped 'Undelivered for reason stated, Return to Sender' in violet ink.

The sender's return address is on the back in red ink together with a CDS for Kingstown 18 JY 46, St Vincent B.W.I. and a London arrival CDS for 4 SEP 1946.



Fig. 3

The cover in Fig. 3 has been cancelled with a single ring Calliaqua 15 OCT 46 date stamp and is addressed to Mr. D. M. Smith, Calliaqua Post Office, St. Vincent, B.W.I. Was this one of the few ways of guaranteeing receipt of a first day cover?

TRINIDAD**TRINIDAD'S COASTAL STEAMERS****BY ED BARROW**

Front ^
Inside >

In a previous article I had shown a postcard of a Trinidad Coastal Steamer which I thought was the SS Naparima (See Fig 2 in BWISC Bulletin, No. 227 – December 2010). This was established by comparing it to a picture of a steamer labelled as the SS Naparima in Proud (pg 501). However, a recent find calls into question whether the picture in Proud is really of the SS Naparima and not the SS St. Patrick.

The item shown is a ticket from what is billed as the Farewell Excursion of the SS St. Patrick, another coastal steamer, which as Trinidad postal history collectors know, also boasted its own circular date stamp. For such a small item it is filled with useful information about the ship and its service. But it is the picture of the SS St. Patrick that is of most interest here, as the ship is nearly identical to the one in Proud and the postcard shown in my aforementioned article. I would think that since the printers of this picture actually operated the ship and this was its farewell cruise, they can be trusted to get the picture right!

REFERENCES

Chin Aleong, Joe & Proud, Edward: The Postal History of Trinidad & Tobago, Heathfield, Proud Bailey, 1997.

One of our longstanding members has for sale a long run of about 140 bulletins from #13-177, complete from #60 to #177. Price £70. Anyone interested is asked to contact the editor and it can be delivered to the Honiley convention.

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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****Grosvenor 5–6 March (BP 17%)**

For once there was little of BWI interest in this Grosvenor catalogue even though it was advertised to include the key-plate collection formed by our former member Ian Crane. The nicest Bermuda key-plate was the line perf 5s “usual toning” m with the #22 flaws at £1.25k. The Leeward Is included a lower left corner block of the 1942 10s with #49a flaw at £1.3k. A Montserrat KE 5s colour trial, ex-Toeg with slight faults, went too high for me at £380.

Murray Payne 12 March (no BP)

Other than the 50+ residuals from the Wenborn Bermuda where the top item was a “good mint” GVI line perf 10s with chin flaw at £1.35k, the main offering was an extraordinary collection of Leeward Is key-plates. The highlight was an exceptionally rare LR corner block of the March 1942 10s showing both the scroll flaws at a mere £14.5k, while a m/m block of the same stamp with the prominent #44 frame flaw was £4.6k. A 1920 5s Plate 8 block was £425 and a used (reinforced) block of the 1928 £1 seemed cheap at £500. Three GVI stationery envelopes went for £350 each, while Michael Oliver’s strange GVI 8d essay was £1.65k. But I did spot a couple more 1949 UPU’s with the C of CA watermark omitted, an Antigua 1/- mint at £550 and St. Vincent 24c used at £650. The lesson is to check your watermarks, even when no errors are listed.

Stanley Gibbons 14 March (BP 15%)

The only section to excite here was more remainders from the Abaco Bahamas collection, offered first by Grosvenor and then by Victoria. The reserves however remained high and most lots were again unsold. A cover to Montreal with a strip of four 1d values was £3k, an 1884 die proof in rose for the 5s £1.2k and the 1901 photographic essay described by Peter Fernbank in this Bulletin £2.8k. The only lot that sold significantly above estimate was a used 8d Columbus flaw that achieved £1.4k despite some short perfs. In a section of registered postcards, all obviously elusive and nearly all with a strong whiff of philatelic usage, the BWI highlights were two formula cards, the Dominica 1879, ex-Sugarman, uprated 2½d to Trinidad, at £700 and the Trinidad 1d card, uprated 2½d to the UK, one a 1d bisect, at £1.4k.

Spink Shreves 22-3 March (BP 20%)

Charles Shreves’ departure has resulted in closure of the Shreves Dallas office and a move to New York with new principals. They did not get their act together this time as I received no catalogue and missed the sale. That was a pity as there were a few decent BWI proofs, including two Dominica 1902 die proofs of the uncleared vignettes at \$1.5k and a “set” of the six Grenada duty die proofs at \$1.7k. A Bermuda docks colour trial and a Br Honduras SG 43a mint were each \$700.

Spink 15–17 April (BP 20%)

The few BWI lots of interest here were postal history items, mostly of no great value sold in mixed lots. But a lovely Antigua 1863 Crowned Circle ex-Toeg was £550 (compared with £340 plus 10% in 1990) and a Br Guiana GB 6d with a poor A03 £150. It is worth recording that Ian Shapiro, the Africa specialist, has joined Spink from Argyll Etkin. I appreciate that Spink are now producing mostly one country name sales instead of those huge blockbusters that are so difficult to handle.

Robert Siegel 16–7 April (BP 15%)

The initial sale of Br Empire following Charles Shreve’s arrival contained scattered BWI including a Bermuda unissued 3d on 1d at \$8k and a St Christopher 1886 1d on 6d with overprint inverted at \$4.5k. At a level more suitable for our pockets, a Bermuda 1924 1d used with flag flaw was \$300, well above the \$150 in the new Bermuda catalogue.

Spink Lugano 19 April (BP 20%)

Part 1 of Federico Borromeo’s outstanding collection of French Mail in the WI was a big event for our Guadeloupe and Martinique fans. There were quite a number of unsolds in these areas though the most valuable covers sold, leading to a satisfactory result of over 130,000 Euros. The St. Thomas, material sold even better, and here there were several results at a multiple of the

starting prices. The only lot of direct relevance to the BWI was an 1832 cover to the future Governor of St. Barts that was forwarded routed via Wattley in St. Kitts. This cost its buyer 300 Euros.

eBay

Br. Guiana seems to be top of the pops and only recently I have noticed an 1853 black 1c plate proof go for \$510, and the infamous “marine detachment” set of 7 for \$330, while low value u/m blocks often go for double Gibbons. Montserrat and Tobago are also in demand. Revenues, used stationery and postmarks usually fetch far more than in our annual auction. But despite the many obvious fakes, the site remains a source of occasional terrific bargains if you persevere, with valuable items such as Thompson flaws often unrecognised by sellers using simplified catalogues. Sadly, the site is more and more getting cluttered up by wallpaper, encouraged by the dropping of the listing fee. If you fail to click on auction in the left-hand menu you find thousands of pieces of junk for every island. Targeted keywords are critical plus an ability to scan down the page rapidly, which risks missing items. Sellers face apparently endless increases in commission rates and competition is urgently needed; Delcampe and Amazon are getting nowhere and the likeliest bet is bidstart.com, which has come on in leaps and bounds since it was acquired recently by Gibbons. It is always worth clicking on the word bids when an apparently high price is achieved, sometimes it is just a couple of numbers bidding each other up, one maybe a seller's buddy, but it is far more significant for future prices if you see a handful or more bidders at the high end. But beware fakes with certs – recently Ed Waterous alerted me to an obviously misdescribed stamp “supported” by a modern BPA cert. An email to Adrian Myer revealed that the cert had been issued for a totally different stamp.

Coming events

The Grosvenor sale on 4–5 June will contain scattered WI goodies including useful Bermuda, Caymans and a strong section of Turks Is. The house has also received several hundred philatelic covers from the estate of Dr Eric Bateson, which will feature in future sales.

At Gibbons on 12–13 June there will be decent Antigua and St. Lucia, including proofs.

Letter from Sir Geoffrey Palmer

Sir,
Bermuda & Leeward Islands Keyplates

Although I have only been a member for a short time, I wonder why Charles Freeland seems to ‘knock’ and is fairly derogatory about these lovely keyplates in his auction update.

The beauty about our philatelic hobby is that we all have our own particular specialist interests whether it be pre-stamp mail, Queen Victoria – Edward VII – George V – George VI – QEII-cancellations – air mail – censored mail – essays/proofs/specimens – fiscals – forgeries – postal rates & general postal history – postcards – registration labels – sheet numbers etc, etc –

As one gets older, I find it best not to be too critical, it serves very little purpose, particularly as the better items of keyplates seem to have held up very well in the best auction rooms.

Response by Charles Freeland

I have looked through my recent columns and presume that the phrase Sir Geoffrey found “derogatory” was in the March Bulletin when I wrote re Gibbons on 5–6 December “with the familiar hoard of Bermuda key-plates raising a collective yawn”. As a keen keyplater myself, it was certainly not my intention to disparage them, but the fact remains that after the massive disposals of the past ten or more years, some from collectors such as Dickgiesser and Delman who collected every position of every printing, there are plenty of the straight stamps to go around, as was the case in this Gibbons sale. But as Sir Geoffrey points out, the rare varieties remain keenly sought after and their prices are stable if not rising. If there is anything “special” I try to mention it, as I have done in my regular column above. But reporting “in the ballpark” prices for listed stamps without varieties would raise another collective yawn.

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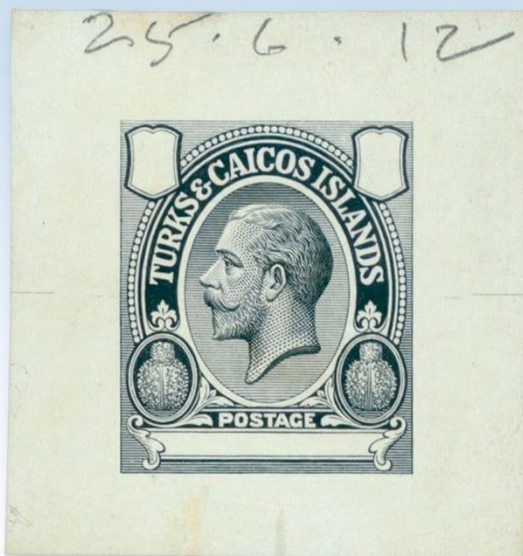
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