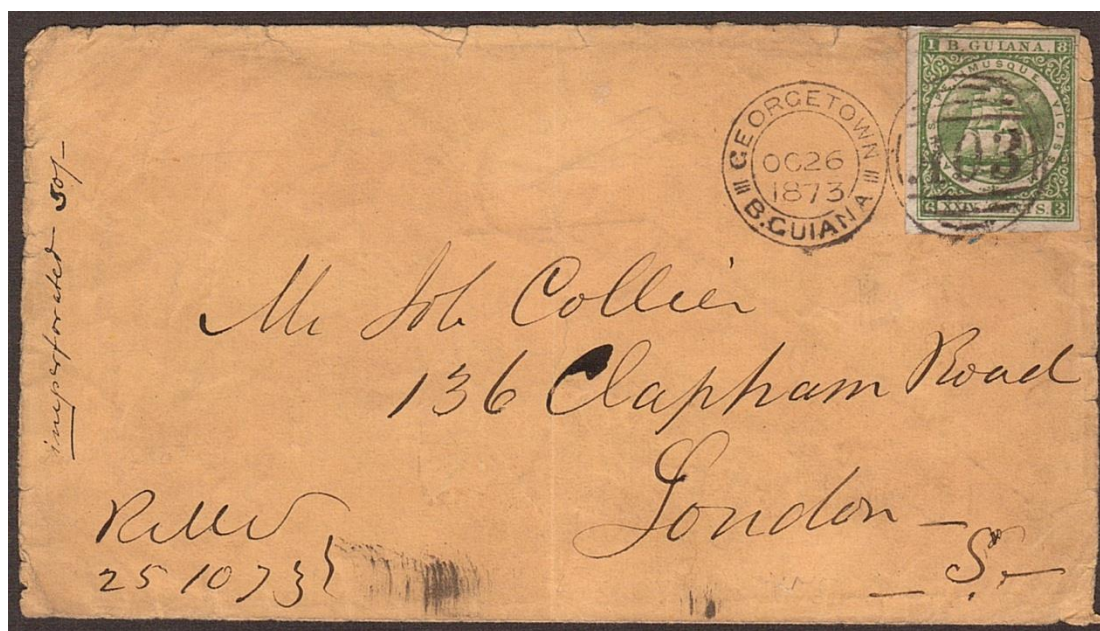


## STUDY CIRCLE

### BRITISH GUIANA, THE 1860–63 SHIP IMPERFS



‘OC 26 1873’ cover to London franked with an imperf 24c



**BULLETIN No. 238 September 2013**



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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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### **OFFICERS & CONTACT DETAILS**

**Web Site: [www.bwisc.org](http://www.bwisc.org)**

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

The hotel initially allocated no rooms for us, and that has caused problems with member's attempts to book being rebuffed. At the time of writing, while rooms are available on Friday or Sunday, the allocation eventually wrestled from Honiley for Saturday had been filled before the end of July.

There are alternative places to stay nearby. The Holiday Inn, Kenilworth has been recommended (0871 423 4876 premium line), and there would be advantages to grouping together, for example to share transport. Kenilworth is a pleasant town, with a castle and parkland. However, we can not be certain about prices at the time of publication, and recommend that you check alternatives. It is unlikely they will quite match the original deal with Honiley, but good value can be found. Other places close to the Honiley include the Premier Inn at Balsall Common (email secretary@bwisc.org by Sept 12th, I have requested a wee cache of rooms there at £66 room only. Or contact them independently, 0871 527 8042 premium line), and Wroxall Abbey Hotel and spa (+44 1926 484470). All of these places are about ten minutes by car or taxi from the Honiley Hotel. Above all, if you can, do drop along to the convention, whether it is for Saturday, just Sunday, or the whole weekend.

### **JOINT BWISC AND BCPSG MEETING AT AUSTRALIA 2013**

**DARRYL FULLER**

Australia 2013 was held in Melbourne on 10–15 May and in terms of the number of frames was the largest international exhibition held since Washington DC in 2006. Having been involved with all

four Australian international exhibitions I can say that it was by far the best, and has been widely lauded by those who attended. The exhibition itself celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Kangaroo and Map stamp. This was also the first non-Asian international exhibition I have been to that had queues for entry on every day. This was largely due to Australia Post. Australia is lucky in that the post office still supports philately, although I would note that while Australia Post was the major sponsor it did not fund the exhibition in its entirety as with the previous three exhibitions. Australia Post did some excellent marketing (product wise) and I have heard reports that it made its budget for the exhibition on the first day, but I cannot confirm this. I know that the dealers were all very happy and I believe that most of the exhibitors were also satisfied with their results. The organising committee is to be congratulated on a great show in what must be one of the great venues for an exhibition – the world heritage listed Royal Exhibition building.

There were five West Indies exhibits at the exhibition, all members of either the BCPSG or the BWISC, or both. The exhibits and results are as follows:

Russell Boylan	St. Vincent – The De La Rue Period	Large Gold
Darryl Fuller	Leeward Islands Postal Stationery	Large Gold
Bernie Beston	British Guiana Postal Stationery	Gold
Simon Greenwood	British Guiana 1850–1899	Gold
Graham Booth	The Cayman Islands Post Office 1889–1945	Gold + SP

Although there were only five BWI exhibits they were all of a very high standard and did both societies proud. I was unfortunately too busy to look at many of the exhibits but I was in the bin room and checked in about half of the UK exhibits including both the BG and Caymans, and they were a pleasure to view (albeit quickly). There was also an award of a copy of the Trinidad book from both the BCPSG and the BWISC for the best BWI exhibit and it was won by Russell Boylan. Congratulations!

As part of the exhibition Don Napier and I organised a joint meeting of the two societies but it was the first scheduled meeting of the exhibition so excluded several judges who were members of the societies. There were ten attendees including nine members and one potential new member. Those who attended were – Simon Greenwood, Dan Walker, Merv Harris, Patricia Capill, Andrew Brockett, Russell Boylan, Bernie Beston, Don Napier and Darryl Fuller. I gave a presentation on Leeward Islands postal stationery that elicited some discussion. Participants then left to look at the exhibits.

Overall a small but friendly gathering that I hope can be repeated at other international exhibitions, such as Rio in November. Please let me know if you are attending.

## MIDPEX 2013

**PETER FORD**

On Saturday, 6 July the Midland Philatelic Federation held the MIDPEX show at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre. Our esteemed Hon. Secretary suggested some time ago that we should perhaps have a table at the show and that is exactly what we did. For a mere £25 a table, we assembled a couple of displays, one of Bahamas (Peter Fernbank) and one of Barbados (Richard Stupples) and had on view all of our publications as well as past issues of the Bulletin. Terry Harrison had also arranged to have some brochures printed.

The object of the day was to recruit new members and sell as many of our publications as possible. We didn't manage to persuade anybody to join the Circle at the show but a couple of collectors were going to think about it. As for the publications, we met with much greater success. All in all, we sold a variety of our books and in the end realised just short of £400 in sales. Not a bad day's return for all our efforts!

I would like to thank those who helped with the arrangements namely, George Dunbar, Terry Harrison and Peter Fernbank.



The Study Circle stand at MIDPEX 2013

## THE CIRCLE'S ACTIVITIES

CHARLES FREELAND

Our thanks are owed to Don Napier and Darryl Fuller for organising the meeting in Melbourne, that Darryl reports on elsewhere, and to the team, led by our Secretary George Dunbar, that supported our presence at Midpex. George has also been working hard to ensure the success of our biennial convention at Honiley. I do urge you all to attend; this is the event where friendships are formed that last throughout one's collecting career. Two stellar formal presentations are guaranteed plus two sessions of "tell and show" by members (let us see what you have got). However refined your interests, you are bound to find something to stimulate you, and if not there is the approvals table where bargains galore will be on offer...I admit to having picked up a few goodies not spotted by the seller in the past. Also, do not neglect the tables manned by our dealer members who are always prepared to negotiate (just joking, gentlemen!). Finally, we are hoping to arrange a short "opinion session" on the Sunday, so if you have items whose genuineness you doubt, please bring them along for our experts to examine.

Further ahead, the highlight of 2014 will be the Circle's afternoon display to the RPS, on Thursday 6 November, in celebration of the Circle's 60th Anniversary. I have asked Committee members Peter Fernbank and John Keegan to coordinate the event, which will be quite a task with 52 frames to be filled and the need to produce a colour brochure in the RPS tradition. Although this is more than a year ahead, planning has already started by approaching our members overseas who own exhibit collections and already ten of them have committed to come over or send their exhibit by hand. It will, of course, not be possible for all members to show material, but this is a unique opportunity to assemble as stellar a collective BWI display as we can in the prestigious RPS meeting rooms. All of our members will be welcome to attend whether they are RPS members or not and I expect we will meet somewhere for dinner afterwards.

Another initiative we are planning, to commemorate our 60<sup>th</sup>, will be a special section of the Circle's regular annual auction, comprising 60 higher value lots each with a minimum estimate of £250. Simon Goldblatt referred briefly to this in his auction report in the June Bulletin and has already assembled a good number of lots; so if you wish to submit appropriate material you need to let him know in good time so he can reserve space for them. The Honiley convention will provide a good opportunity to hand over lots without risk of loss in the mail and to discuss their treatment with Simon. The special lots will form a part of the regular end-April auction but I understand they will also be the subject of a special catalogue with colour images of higher quality than usual.

**BWI****BRITISH POSTAL ORDERS OVERPRINTED FOR THE BRITISH WEST INDIES****JOHN GLEDHILL**

I am a collector of overprinted GB stamps, and have acquired (as one does) a sideline in overprinted GB postal orders, which were used in a much wider range of countries than the overprinted GB stamps. But “wider range” does not equate to “easier to get”...

Many parts of the world within the “Sterling Zone” used British postal orders. In some cases British high value postal orders were used for international transactions and local issues for lower value internal payments (e.g. New Zealand, South Africa). In most, but not all (notably not Hong Kong and Malaysia), the postal orders were overprinted with the name of the country in which they were to be issued, and, in later years, the denomination converted into local currency. This was not purely for local pride, but was necessary because although the denomination might be easily recalculated from the current exchange rates, the poundage was usually not a simple currency conversion but was raised to cover the increased handling charges involved in managing postal order records between the UK and the country concerned; the revalued poundage often, therefore, varies from country to country. Very often unoverprinted British postal orders were also used in the territory from time to time, or alongside overprinted ones. The practice of overprinting postal orders stopped in 1987, and even before then some of the country name changes are not reflected in surviving copies of overprinted postal orders (e.g. Belize, *British* Virgin Is).

Postal orders can be very scarce: commercially used examples were, for fairly obvious reasons, promptly banked or cashed as they were typically sent in payment for a product or service (intriguingly quite a number survive through being sent to Hollywood film stars, presumably in payment for a photo, but uncashable in the USA – how fortunate for us collectors!). Such commercially used ones are elusive and can be expensive. For example one denomination of the first issue of Queen Elizabeth postal orders was sold in about 12 million copies in the UK, and only one survived, coming onto the market only in late 2012. For some earlier GB issues not a single copy has survived!

Quite often there are copies bought by some of the few collectors at the time, which are typically in pristine condition, bearing the full counterfoil (very important for collectors), and often surviving in a number of known items with consecutive serial numbers. Fortunately for postal order collectors there have been enough enthusiastic tourists or businessmen in the past to buy copies to enhance our knowledge of what was issued. Though there are many, many gaps in our knowledge.

That is a crucial point. We can tell from official records that many thousands were issued to overseas post offices, either overprinted or not, and actually sold. However, unlike for stamps, the survival rates are absolutely minuscule! In many cases only one or two have survived, or even none at all, giving only a tiny view of the full business.

The British Empire/Commonwealth territories in the West Indies were no exception to this. In the periods up to postal independence British postal orders were overprinted. I know of the following: 45\* Anguilla, 9\* Antigua, 44\* Bahamas, 21 Barbados, 16 Bermuda, 5 British Guiana, 7\* British Honduras, 12\* Dominica, 22 Grenada, 22 Jamaica (3\* of which were issued in Cayman Is.), 3\* Montserrat, 28\* St. Kitts Nevis, 16 St. Lucia, 20 St. Vincent, 5 Trinidad (sic), 14 Turks Islands (sic), 54\* Virgin Is. These are the TOTAL EXAMPLES known, not types or issues. As can be seen, a very small number, not always properly reflected in the prices realised on eBay or other auctions. Indeed some of the larger quantities above contain significant proportions issued on the same day, reflecting the visit of a keen collector to the post office. It is also worth noting that the quantities asterisked above show that only Queen Elizabeth examples are recorded, though it may well be that they were in use earlier without surviving copies.

If you are interested in British stamps overprinted for use in the British West Indies, then overprinted postal orders are a fascinating area to append to your collection, as several collectors do. Though as can be seen from the numbers above, you have no hope of completion...

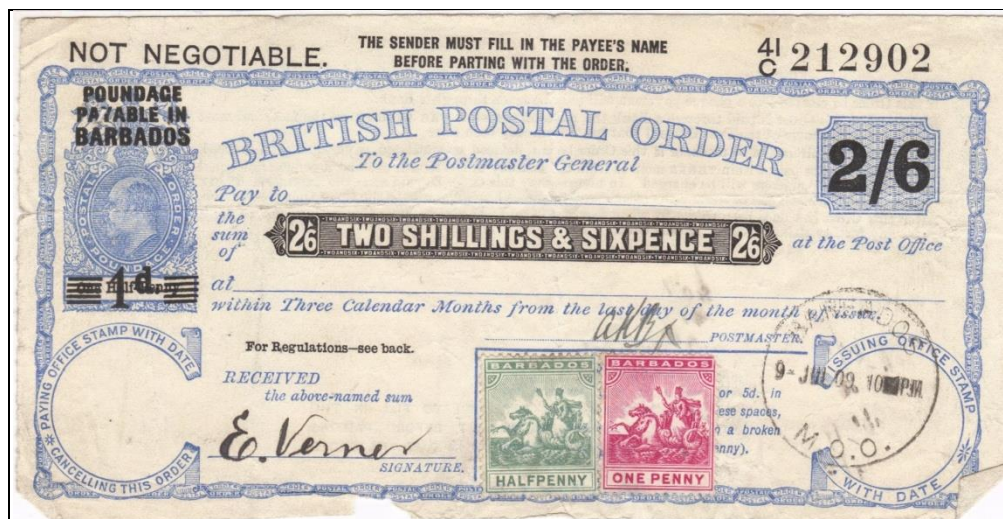
I show below some images of typical examples, to whet your appetite (due to the size of the items, the images are reduced).

## Bahamas



## Barbados

Until recently the earliest recorded overprinted British postal order was dated 1953, but in December 2012 two remarkable King Edward VII items were sold for just over £1000 each on eBay.



## British Guiana

The overprint "Guyana" is known to have been issued, as there is a registration copy in the BPMA, but no copies appear to have survived.



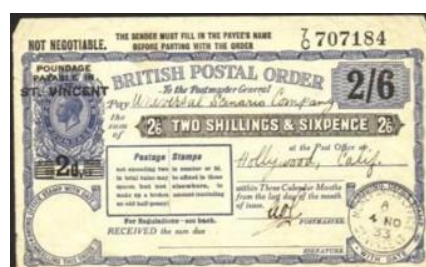
## Grenada

This unusual provisional amendment to an overprint reflects some change in local currency practices "as from 1.9.52", but there seems to be no record of what it was. Information on this would be very welcome.



## St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad

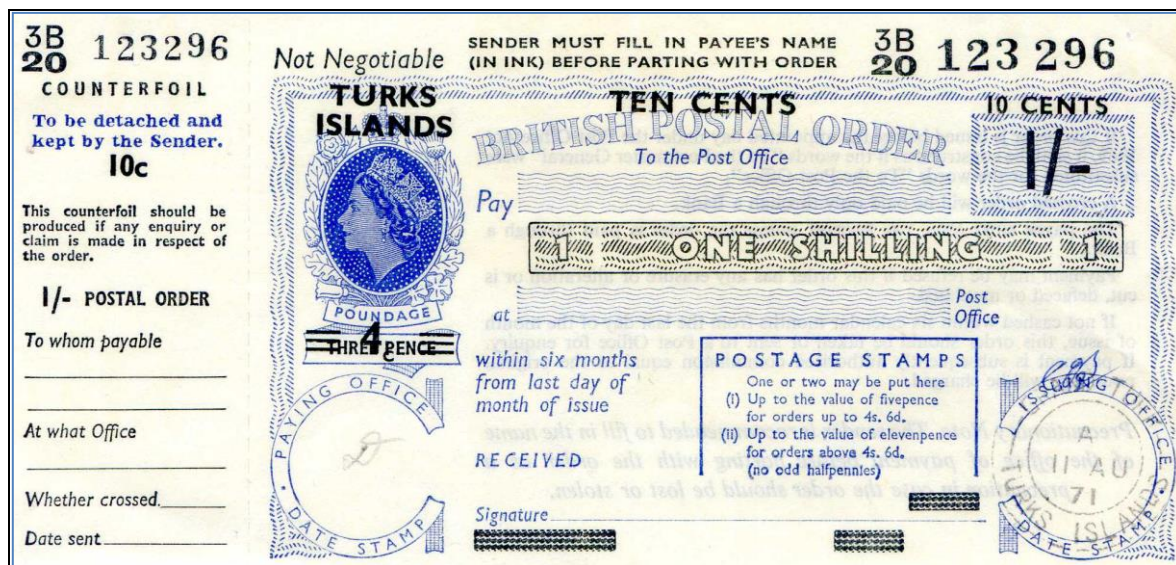
Three very early examples from the reign of King George V. Overprinted postal orders with the "Downey" ¾ profile head are always scarce.





### Turks Islands

Until 1971 the postal orders overprinted "Turks Islands" (without "Caicos") were the normal types, but the 1971 issue also included a repeat of the denomination in block capitals. This is the only territory to have used this format, and the reason is not obvious unless it is to reinforce that the values are now in decimal currency (this happened in some other territories too, but not in this unique layout).



In an article of this scope it is not possible to show full images for each of the BWI territories, just some of the most fascinating. You can also find some examples for each country on the GBOS webpage, under "postal orders" ([www.gbos.org.uk](http://www.gbos.org.uk)).

The Postal Order Society webpage can be found on: <http://postalordersociety.blogspot.co.uk>

If any readers have copies, I would be delighted to receive scans for inclusion in the 2nd edition of my 2010 "Directory of Overprinted British Postal Orders".

My thanks are gratefully recorded to members of the Postal Order Society who kindly sent me some of the scans shown here. Alas none of them are my own...

Dr. John Gledhill is Journal Editor and Web Manager of the G. B. Overprints Society.

# Stanley Gibbons Auctions

*Stamps and Postal History of the World.  
October 2nd & 3rd*



*Stamps and Postal History from the West Indies normally feature in our regular auctions. The items illustrated above and additional material will be offered in our October auction. Study Circle members are invited to request a complimentary catalogue or view the sale on our website.*

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**1953 CORONATION PLATE NUMBERS****PETER FERNBANK**

In his article in the last Bulletin Steve Ramsden provided the plate numbers of blocks he had of the Leeward Islands 1953 Coronation and wondered what plate combinations exist for other BWI territories. Fortunately this information was recorded in the old Stanley Gibbons Elizabethan catalogue (last issued about 1980 I believe) and, since it is not readily available these days, I have extracted the relevant information and listed it below.

	<b>Value</b>	<b>Plate Numbers</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Sheets</b>	<b>Printed by</b>
Antigua	2c	1A-2A, 1B-2B	654,092	10,902	DLR
Bahamas	6d	1A-2A, 1B-2B, 1A-3A, 1B-3B	799,864	13,332	DLR
Barbados	4c	1A-6A, 1B-6B	1,015,011	16,917	DLR
Bermuda	1½d	1-3, 1-4, 1a-3a, 1a-4a	1,269,250	21,155	B.W.
Br. Guiana	4c	1A-3A, 1B-3B, 1A-5A, 1B-5B	2,273,921	37,899	DLR
Br. Honduras	4c	1-1	325,049	5,418	DLR
Cayman Islands	1d	1-1, 1-2, 1a-1a, 1a-2a	530,547	8,843	B.W.
Dominica	2c	1-1, 1-4, 2-4	489,724	8,163	DLR
Grenada	3c	1-1, 1-4	536,778	8,947	DLR
Jamaica	2d	1A-1B, 1A-2A, 1B-2B, 1A-3A 1B-3A, 1B-3B, 1A-5A, 1B-5B 1A-6A, 1B-6A, 1B-6B	6,195,184	103,254	DLR
Leeward Is.	3c	1A-2A, 1B-2B	441,837	7,364	DLR
Montserrat	2c	1-1, 1-4	441,244	7,355	DLR
St. Christopher, Nevis & Anguilla	2c	1A-2A, 1B-2B, 1A-6A, 1B-6B	607,504	10,126	DLR
St. Lucia	3c	1-1, 1-4	424,474	7,075	DLR
St. Vincent	4c	1-1	478,891	7,982	DLR
Trinidad & Tobago	3c	1A-2A, 1B-2B, 1A-5A, 1B-5B 1A-6A, 1B-6B	1,777,571	29,627	DLR
Turks & Caicos Is.	2d	1-3, 1a-3a, 1-4, 1a-4a	315,120	5,252	B.W
Virgin Islands	2c	1-1, 1-4	438,184	7,304	DLR

DLR = De La Rue B.W. = Bradbury, Wilkinson

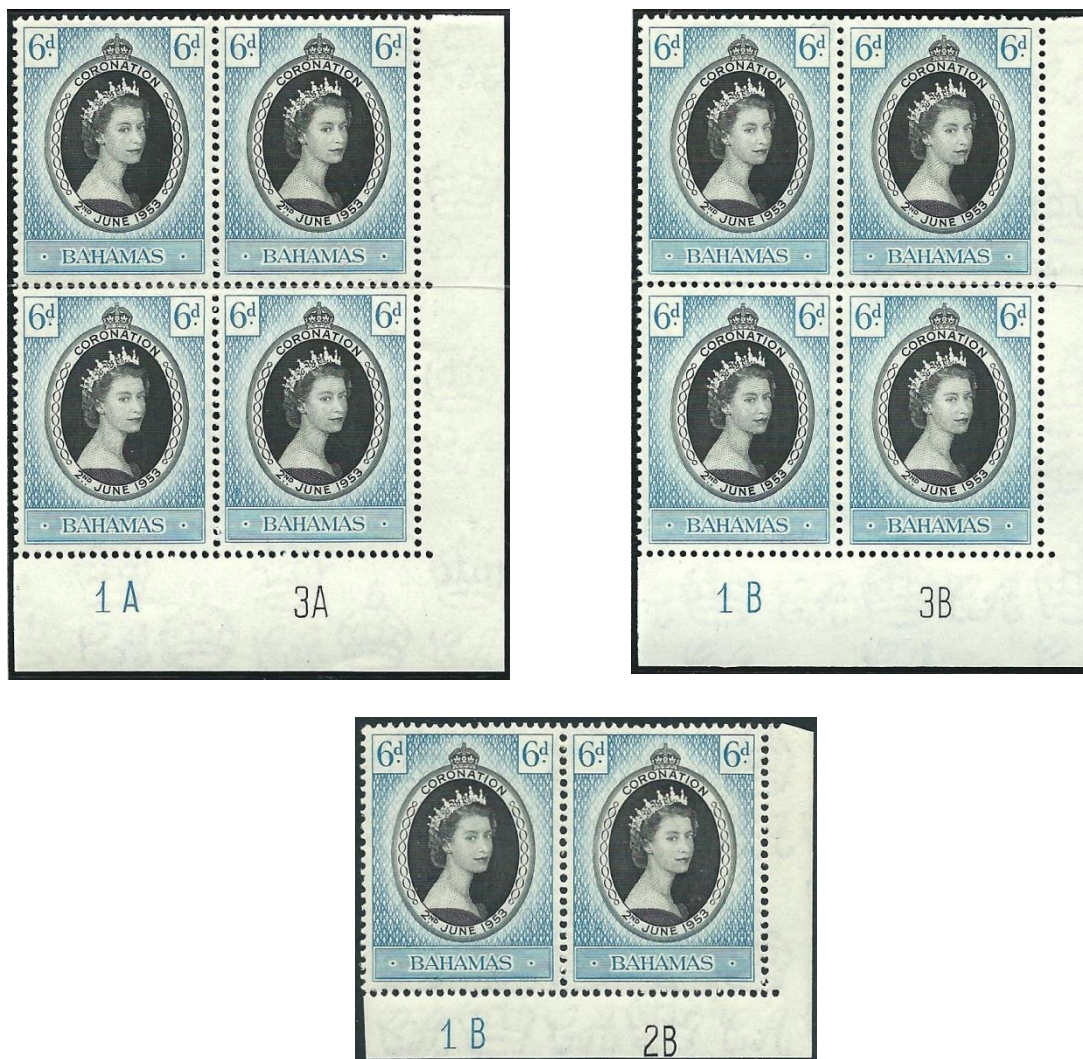
For each combined plate number the border plate is given first followed by the head plate. If the plate format followed that used for earlier recess plates used on rotary presses it consisted of a curved plate comprising two separate 60-set panes, one above the other, separated by a gutter an inch or more wide. The sheet printed was then guillotined into two separate panes. In these cases it would seem that one pane was the 'A' pane and the other the 'B' pane, the pane letter being preceded in each case by the plate number (e.g. 1A-5A). This numbering convention was followed for both head and border plates, the border plates being unique to each territory.

For those colonies requiring more modest quantities a smaller plate, comprising just a single 60-set pane, was employed. In these cases no pane identification was required, just the plate number (e.g. 1-1). Thus border Plates 1 (and 2 for Dominica) and head Plates 1 and 4 were single pane plates. Note that the plates used for the printings by Bradbury, Wilkinson were entirely separate from those employed by De La Rue.

In searching for plate blocks for my Bahamas collection I can confirm Steve's comments regarding the difficulty in finding them. I have so far only managed three of the four possible plate number combinations, my 1B-2B pair having come from the other side of the world (the Phillipines, the cost of the postage exceeding the value of the stamps!), but it's the only one I've ever seen. But

spare a thought for the poor Jamaica collector with eleven different plate number combinations to seek out.

Anyone out there achieved that?



#### **BWI AEROGRAMME TO NON-BWI CARIBBEAN COUNTRY**

**PETER FORD**

On looking at the BWISC website the other day, I found something I had placed in the 'Members' Wants' section on 31 March 2006 (Good grief! Has the website been going that long?). It was an appeal for any BWI aerogramme to a non-BWI Caribbean country. The reaction has been somewhat muted.

My initial enquiry was prompted by the Appendix on Airmail Rates in Ron Wike's book, 'The Airmails of Trinidad and Tobago' where the first mention of Airletters was in a Notice at the end of the War in 1945.

There were two rates listed one of 5 cents for mail to BWI colonies and one of 12 cents to the rest of the world. As a result two aerogrammes were issued to reflect these rates.

It wasn't until 1953 that a rate to countries in the Caribbean other than BWI colonies was listed and a new rate of 9 cents for mail to these countries was introduced. Some South American countries abutting the Caribbean were included in this rate, such as Dutch Guiana, French Guiana and Venezuela. To send an airletter to these countries would entail supplementing the 5 cents aerogramme with a suitable adhesive or adhesives. The same or similar rate I believe to be true of other BWI colonies. I have never seen any aerogramme with an extra stamp addressed to a non-BWI country and appeal again to members to look through their collections to see if they have an example hiding away in there. I am told they fetch high prices!

## BAHAMAS

### SPECIAL DELIVERY – LAST OF THE 600?

PETER FERNBANK

Regarding the Special Delivery (SD) cover sent by the Rev. C. Schreiner and illustrated in the last Bulletin, I agree with Simon Goldblatt that it was entirely philatelic. I have some reservations on whether it is genuine since the SD stamp is not cancelled (it should have received a Nassau cancellation) – was it just a genuine registered letter on which the SD stamp had been added on arrival in Bahamas? Most of these covers are philatelic and a number of examples have been identified which are decidedly dubious for various reasons. An unusual feature of this cover is the mauve cachets on the front, presumably part of the registration procedures. I have never seen these cachets on any of the many SD covers I have seen.

However, regardless of whether the cover is genuine or not the important thing about it is the SD stamp. Simon has kindly sent me a high quality enlarged photocopy of the original and I agree that it is from one of the two scarce overprint settings, either 1 or 3. This is confirmed from the simple test of assessing the alignment of the 'S' with the 'D' below it and seeing whether it lies east of the alignment in Fig. 1 (the most easterly position of the 'S' to 'D' of any of the 30 positions from Setting 2 of the overprint). A particularly unusual feature of this new example is the exceptionally wide spacing between the 'R' and 'Y', wider than any seen from any Setting/position currently known. But is it from the elusive first setting of the overprint?



Fig. 1

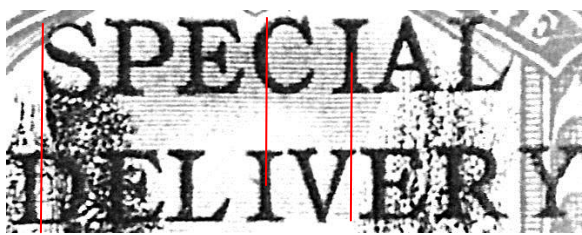


Fig. 2

'S' to 'D' alignment east of that in Fig. 1

Simon suggests this example may be from Setting 1 since it was posted in Ottawa, from where the balance (170 stamps) of the 600 originally sent to Canada was sent for general sale after the Canadian postal authorities had decided to have nothing further to do with the Special Delivery agreement in September 1917. Against this is the fact that a batch of SD covers sent from America by the same Rev. Schreiner in August 1917, to be mailed in Ottawa, was one of the incidents that caused Canada to cease supporting the SD agreement (although the stamps on these covers were the later SG S2 type). The point is that philatelists, being a devious bunch, could and did obtain SD stamps in Bahamas or from dealers and send them to an accomplice in Canada to be posted.

So, we know the stamp is from Setting 1 or 3 but the overprint alignment does not correspond with any of those illustrated in Study Paper No. 4 (see reference below). Currently we still do not know the overprint alignments of 12 of the 30 positions for Setting 1 and 6 for Setting 3, although all are known for Setting 2.

The late Morris Ludington was the expert in plating the basic Staircase stamp in order to determine its position within the sheet and until someone comes along capable of plating (and hence positioning) these stamps we must attempt to position them from their overprint alignments. In reality this must be done where an unidentified example exists in a block in which the position of one or more of the stamps in the block can be identified.

I remain convinced that many examples from Settings 1 and 3 are lying unrecognised as such in collections and would ask collectors possessing blocks of type S1 to attempt to identify their Setting/position from the Study Paper.

Simon asks where could Schreiner have got type S1 SD stamps at this late date (May 1918). It could indeed be one of the 600 (from the balance of 170 sold off at Ottawa) but on the other hand it could also be from Setting 3. The overprinting of 100 sheets of 60 (Setting 2) in February 1917 was followed within a month by a further overprinting (Setting 3). Since the difference between these two settings was not recognised until fifty years later it is almost certain that both settings were distributed arbitrarily by the Bahamas postal authorities to dealers and collectors. In this case the stamp could therefore have easily been bought from a dealer (we don't know whether these were on sale at the Nassau post office).

### Reference

*The Locally Overprinted Special Delivery Stamps of Bahamas, 1916–17*; Peter Fernbank; Study Paper No. 4, British West Indies Study Circle.

## BARBADOS

### REPLY PAID POSTCARDS

RICHARD STUPPLES

The information given on Pages 357 and 358 of Edmund Bayley's book 'The Stamps of Barbados' indicate that there are two perforation measures on the 1883 and subsequent 1892 one penny overprinted reply paid postcards.



The first being a perforation of 5 holes per inch as shown on the above photograph.

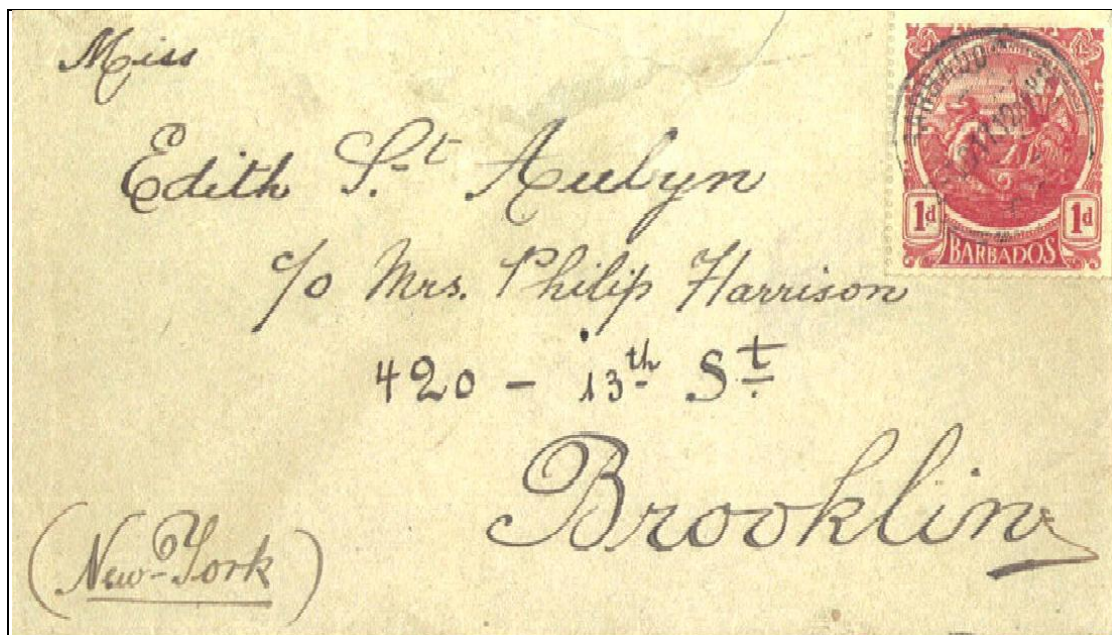
Whilst looking for the perforation of 4 holes per inch, I came across this :–



I now have seven paired and one severed reply card, all of which are indicating that the perforation is 6 holes per inch rather than the 4 stated in the book. Is this an error within Bayley's Book (and have I subsequently missed the amendment) or an additional perforation that has not previously been recorded?

If it has not already been recorded, does it mean the later one penny overprints have all got the 6 holes per inch as I'm assuming most would have been from the last requisitioned delivery.

Thoughts and comments would be appreciated please.

**BARBADOS****THE SOURCE WAS A BOOKLET****SIMON GOLDBLATT**

In most years a surprise or two will greet the auction team. When this ordinary looking cover of 2 October 1917 came to hand, sharp eyes (not mine) at once noticed that the 1d large seal stamp had been guillotined. On both sides.

One thinks at once of coils; but the dinky pre-war wall-mounted machines that used, so reluctantly, to yield a single stamp for a single coin of the right denomination would harbour only stamps of the standard size. Not a coil stamp, as reference back to Bayley will confirm.

So, to Bayley on booklets, not to mention SG as a parallel source. The booklet stamp was the deep red shade, and there would have been a plentiful supply of the booklets in hand at GPO at this date, while the counter books might stock either the deep carmine-red shade or the freshly supplied pale shade.

The contemporary booklets housed 18 x 1d, 12 x ½d stamps; both sources cited reveal that these were in pairs; neither explains the actual format within the booklet – but why guillotine each side of a booklet stamp?

Well, the use of a guillotine is explained readily for booklet stamps. The booklets were assembled by breaking down complete sheets, an operation to be carried out without wastage. As with perforation, I assume that labour intensity was reduced by guillotining a number of sheets together: three? six? a dozen? Take your pick. This simple mechanism would enable a sheet of 60 to be reduced to the intended size of the booklet units without the direct interposition of a human hand.

Now, hang on! That means the guillotine is needed horizontally as well as vertically. The illustrated cover deserves still closer inspection. Sure enough, the northern face of the 1d stamp shows every sign of rough user separation. On the south side, a smooth even cut. Guillotined on three sides. Q.E.D.

Member starting a new area of research is seeking information regarding Postal Rates from the Leeward Island during the reign of King George VI additional to that published in 'The Leeward Islands Notes for Philatelists' by M. N. Oliver.

Please contact Mike Boyle at [accounts@tynemoulds.co.uk](mailto:accounts@tynemoulds.co.uk)

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## BRITISH GUIANA

### THE 1860–63 SHIP IMPERFS

CHARLES FREELAND

British Guiana collectors are familiar with the imperfs on the 1860–3 ship issues printed by Waterlow. The unused imperfs in the issued colours are described as proofs by Gibbons in a footnote below SG115 and so are not listed, but as proofs they fetch a decent price. Used are a different matter. They are regarded at best as curiosities, irregularly used, or at worst as cut-down singles. While by no means common, they turn up from time to time so cannot be regarded as rarities.

Since the margins on the issued stamps are fairly wide, the margins on single imperf stamps are often not sufficiently large to be certain they are truly imperf; so the best way to collect these proofs are either as marginal pieces or in pairs (with the exception of the 1c black, I have not seen larger multiples).

Curiously, Townsend and Howe (T&H, ref. 1) do not address the status of these imperfs. What they do instead, on Page 54, is to quote Sir John Wilson's comment in the catalogue he produced to coincide with the Queen's Coronation (ref. 2): "The status of any of these stamps imperf is doubtful, the used stamps being possibly examples with trimmed perfs and the unused pairs of proof status".

T&H's checklist on pages 54-55 records the following imperf pairs:

1861 1c red-brown

1863 1c black, 2c orange, 4c blue, 6c deep blue, 24c yellow-green

1866 1c black, 4c slate-blue, 48c red

1875 1c black

Whereas most of those imperf pairs in the checklist are represented in the Royal Collection, the 48c in particular is not but Townsend owned a pair himself. The list omits the 8c and 12c, since neither the Royal nor the Townsend collections contained either in pairs when T&H was written. Fig. 1 shows a lower marginal imperf pair of the 8c rose in my collection, so this can now be confidently added to the list of authenticated imperfs. I have never seen an imperf pair of the 12c but have seen single proofs with large margins, one ex Praportchetovitch reappearing in a Heiman sale in 1969. Derek Nathan owned an example with large margins at top and bottom.



Fig. 1 Imperf pair of the 8c rose

There are several points to note about T&H's listing.

1. The year date in the four corners of each provides guidance on the date of issue. The 6c, 24c and 48c are dated 1863 in the four corners of the stamp, the other five values 1860. One cannot necessarily assume they were issued in those years, but at the same time one can be certain that they cannot have been issued earlier. Hence the listing of the 1c red-brown in Wilson's catalogue of the Royal Collection as an 1861 issue is accurate as the date in the four corners reads 1860 (Fig. 2). This is a different stamp from the imperf reddish-brown dated 1853 which Gibbons lists as "probably a proof" in a footnote below SG11. There are also authentic plate proofs in black dated 1853; these are scarcer than the 1860 proofs.

2. Another clue to the dates of issue, which T&H do not mention, is the spacing in the duty tablet on the small ship stamps. As Gibbons clearly illustrates, the wider spacing between the value and cents is the 1860 issue and the narrower is the 1863. My records show the following:

Wider spacing on 1c red-brown, 1c black & 12c, Narrower spacing on 1c, 2c, 4c, 8c & 12c.

Note these observations are based on unused pairs, except for the two 12c values, where I have records of both mint and used singles with very large margins.

3. The dates in the T&H listing are interesting. The items listed for 1861 and 1863 are recorded in the Wilson catalogue but there is no reference in the catalogue to an imperf pair of the 1875 1c black or to the 1c, 4c and 48c with 1866 dates. One can only assume that our former member Bill Townsend had seen pairs that he had been able to identify as later printings from their settings, or they had been so identified by the Royal's early curators, Tilleard and Bacon.



Fig. 2 1861 1c red-brown  
(courtesy M. Rego)



Fig. 3 12c lilac  
with massive margins,  
dated 8 Dec 1873



Fig. 4 6c blue  
with similarly large margins,  
cancelled large red A03

4. While the unused proofs are thoroughly respectable, what should one make of their used counterparts, which are seen as frequently as the unused proofs? Gibbons' footnote states: "Imperforate stamps of this and the previous issue are considered to be proofs, although examples of the 24c imperforate from the 1869–73 period are known commercially used." The Royal Collection contains two used singles of the 12c described as "apparently imperf (possibly trimmed)." My collection of these is still on a page from the Burrus collection, with all its five values (2c, 4c, 6c, 12c and 24c) having large margins. The 6c and 12c have enormous margins on all sides (Figs. 3 and 4) and it is hard to believe that they could be trimmed perforated stamps.

5. When the main part of Derek Nathan's collection was sold in 2007, I took the opportunity to acquire an 1873 cover to London franked with an imperf 24c in very dark green (lot 707, Fig. 5). The stamp has very large margins on its left and lower sides; the other two sides, while clear of the frame, are not so large. Derek identified the stamp as from the fourth setting Type A, adding in his write-up: "All imperf copies seen have been fourth setting, issued 1869–74, which indicates an issue of one or more such sheets rather than 'proof status' as stated in the SG catalogue. Proofs are likely to be first setting (1863)."



Fig. 5 'OC 26 1873' Cover to London franked with an imperf 24c

6. Derek did not say whether he thought used imperfs of other values are similarly issued stamps, but I suspect that he believed they were. Nearly all of the ones I have seen cannot be dated as they bear the regular A03 killer, but a couple in addition to those in Figs. 3 and 5 can be dated. The 6c bearing a red A03 in Fig. 4 is the right half of the 1½d charge mark (Proud's A5), dated by him as in use in 1876, although February 1877 is also recorded. I also have records of a 24c cancelled with an 1871 cds.

Altogether, I believe there is sufficient evidence to suggest that imperfs were on occasion accepted for postal use. Comments please.

Acknowledgements: Mike Rego

#### References

1. The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana by W A Townsend and F G Howe, Royal Philatelic Society, 1970.
2. The Royal Philatelic Collection by Sir John Wilson, Dropmore Press, 1953.
3. Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth and Empire Stamps catalogue 1842-1952, 2013 edition.
4. E B Proud The Postal History of British Guiana, Proud-Bailey Co Ltd, 2000

Auction catalogues: Harmers London 20 October 1969 (W A Townsend),  
Spink 12–13 April 2007 (including D M Nathan).



### 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.

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

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Anyone interested is asked to contact the editor and it can be delivered to the Honiley convention.

**USEFUL RESEARCH SOURCES****CHARLES FREELAND**

In preparation for the talk that Steve Jarvis is going to deliver at the Honiley Convention I thought it might be useful to write something about the two internet sites I find most useful in conducting research into the articles and books I am working on. I cannot claim to be any sort of IT expert so any of those I mention can be used by any member with access to the internet and basic surfing skills.

**1. Our website bwisc.org**

It always amazes me that so few of our members seem to realise the enormous amount of raw data that our website contains, all of it maintained with clinical efficiency by Steve Jarvis. I feel sure that most readers will be surprised by some of what I have to say.

When one goes into the main menu, one sees a range of tabs at right which allow one to locate several rather obvious menus such as the Circle's coming meetings, Bulletin, publications, annual auction etc. There are a couple of points to make about these menus:

- Thanks to many years' heroic work by Peter Fernbank you can access all our historic bulletins back to 1954 by clicking on "view archive". Here too you can find Peter's Index, so in principle you can search for all the articles relevant to your specific interests. The only exception is that as our website is open to the public, we do not want to allow freeloader access to all our recent bulletins, so in order to access the past five years Bulletins you need to enter a user name and password which Steve will supply to members only.
- The dealer/auction alert is what it says, Steve posts there any data provided to him on future auctions with decent BWI material or new dealer offers. All members are invited to inform Steve if they see anything coming up that would qualify, or if they have consigned similar material to auction.

There are more menus with their tabs at the top of the home page. Some of these duplicate the side tabs, but some allow access to additional menus.

- Under the first tab "home" you will find the discussion forum which Steve set up to allow members to invite comment on their theories or problems. Unfortunately this forum has not really taken off yet, but it allows members to ask for input in their research or to post wants.
- The second tab "Society" has a number of sub-menus which importantly include the membership list (subject to the same password protection as recent bulletins); the contact details for our officers; members' wants lists which appear under "Member services"; minutes of the last AGM; and a protected menu for Committee members.
- The seventh tab "gallery" is a true feast for sore eyes, since this introduces a range of exhibits by our members which cover every one of our islands apart from Barbuda and Tobago. The same tab also includes a number of specialised articles for the individual territories.
- Tab 8 "Community" starts with a set of links to other philatelic societies (left clicking on them links to their websites). The tab "people" contains some information on our officers and another tab "BWI International Exhibits/Awards" is an extensive listing of award-winning BWI exhibits back to 1889. This is a list I attempt to keep up to date but I need help from you exhibitors out there to let me know what exhibits you have entered in Internationals. The last two tabs contain members' wants lists and research questions...though the most recent postings show that none of us are using this facility.
- Tab 9 "Reference" contains a ragbag of useful menus. The first one is a comprehensive listing of specialised BWI auction catalogues originally compiled for the Philatelic Literature Review by Michel Forand and myself, which I attempt to keep up to date. I do add both old and new entries, so once again help from members would be appreciated. Most of our publications now include a glossary of the major relevant auction catalogues. The remainder of the menus accessible on this tab are a variety of potentially useful reference sources, including a link to Ian Jakes' library list.
- Tab 10 is titled "Commercial" and this contains hot-links to our advertisers, as well as to the major auction firms and dealers likely to offer BWI material.

## 2. The RPSL website [rpsl.org](http://rpsl.org)

I frequently look at various menus on the [rpsl.org](http://rpsl.org) website. At least one of these is not accessible to non-RPS members, but since the RPS under the outstanding leadership of our VP Steve Jarvis has developed the Global Philatelic Library, its website can be searched from any one of the 20 odd members of the Network.

The menu “events” in the top row of the home page contains a tab titled “recent displays” which allows access to nearly all the handouts for the full frame standing displays or the powerpoint presentations used for the 5pm lectures. Many of these have several pages of highlights from the displays and are certainly worth study by those wishing to exhibit competitively in particular.

Another menu in the top row of the home page is titled “RPSL catalogue”. This is the main work that Steve has been engaged on and the catalogue is a veritable mine of information which I can only describe very sketchily here. There are about sixteen sub-menus that cover a wide range of sources, including a number of very useful indexes, but there are a few that I frequently refer to.

- The list of auction catalogues in the second menu started out as a comprehensive listing of all the catalogues in the RPS library, supported by a search facility based on keywords entered by RPS library staff and volunteers. This allows the surfer to see a list of catalogues that he may be interested in, such as those for a named BWI territory.

The RPS library understandably possesses substantial holdings of the main British auction houses, notably the early catalogues of auctions that most of us have never heard of, but is far less complete in non-UK houses. This means that the initial data base was incomplete, particularly for foreign countries where most of the specialised collections had been sold abroad. After a number of bibliophiles including myself had made representations, the listings have now been significantly expanded to include catalogues that are missing from the RPS library, so the search facility now produces more comprehensive results. But a lot of work remains to be done.

- The seventh menu (Global Philatelic Libraries) allows access to other lists of library holdings, in particular at the American Philatelic Research Library that also has a search function. To a large extent the listings of BWI catalogues duplicate the listing under tab 9 on our website that I referred to earlier, but our listing is more comprehensive as it has a lower threshold of materiality.

- Quite recently an important addition has been made to the RPS website, namely a fully illustrated record of what is known as the De La Rue Collection. The DLRC, which was formed by De La Rue’s archivist Leslie Newman, contains an extensive amount of archival material that was in large part offered for sale by Robson Lowe in the late 70s and early 80s. Thanks to Robson Lowe’s foresight, the Collection was photographed before it was split up and sold. This is important because we now know that Robson Lowe sold parts of the Collection by Private Treaty, and this archive is hence the best available record of what was originally in it. Peter Ford has written in a couple of Bulletins about the Trinidad items in the Collection that were never offered in auction. A number of BWISC members have worked diligently to add descriptions of the DLRC material to the RPS website so that viewers can understand what the items represent. However, non-members are currently unable to access this archive on the RPS website, unless they log on at one of the Global Philatelic Network partners such as the British Library, the APS or the Collectors Club. If you are able to do this, the files come up if you click on the fourth menu in the catalogue (books and ebooks) and enter Rue as the search term at the left. I should add that the images are not too clear as they are based on photographs of not perfectly flat album pages; I have found that the images are actually clearer on my iPad than they are on my home PC.

- Finally the penultimate menu titled “collections” looks interesting, but at present it only includes about a dozen pages of the Bernhard Nevis and no Bradbury Bahamas...let us hope Steve can get his team to scan more pages in the future.

## JAMAICA

### THE TWEEDSIDE RED MYSTERY

DAVID HORRY

On 20 April 1949, HMS *Amethyst*, a modified Black Swan-class sloop (Fig. 1) commanded by Lieutenant Commander Bernard Skinner, was on her way from Shanghai to Nanking to replace HMS *Consort*, which was standing as guard ship for the British Embassy there during the Chinese Civil War between the nationalist Kuomintang and the Chinese Communists. According to the Royal Navy, at 08:31, after a burst of small arms fire, a People's Liberation Army (PLA) field gun battery on the north bank of the river fired a salvo of ten shells, which fell well short of the ship, and was assumed to be part of a regular bombardment of Nationalist forces. This was the start of the *Yangtze Incident*. HMS *Amethyst* eventually received over fifty hits. In all 47 British sailors, including Captain Skinner, lost their lives with 84 wounded. The Chinese Communists lost over 250 men during the incident.



Fig. 1 HMS Amethyst

On 21 April, a day after all the trouble began, an awful long way away in Jamaica, at the little village of Tweedside, a less dastardly event occurred. The Tweedside Post Office, not far from Frankfield (Fig. 2) in Clarendon Parish opened its doors with little fanfare other than a new postmark – which remarkably is the only Jamaican Temporary Rubber Oval (TRO) that ever used red ink.

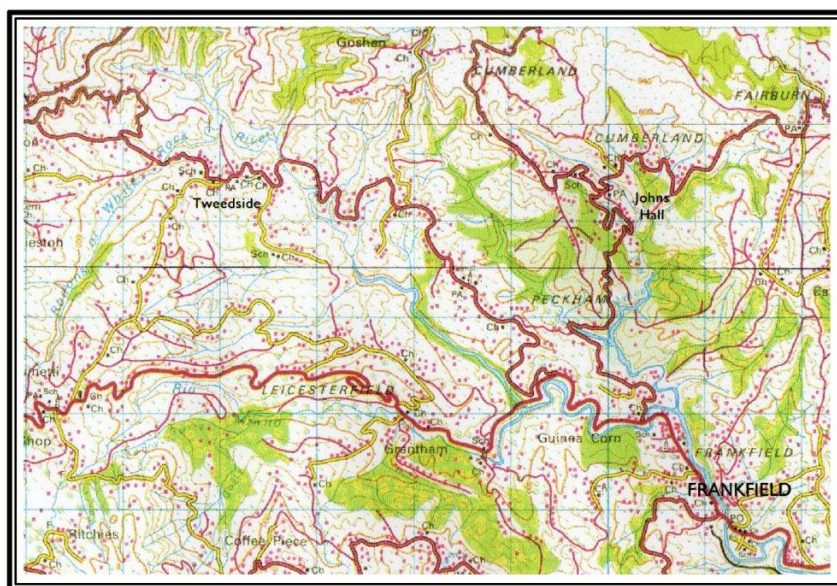


Fig. 2 Map of Tweedside and Johns Hall (Silver Spring).

These two events appear to have absolutely no relationship – or was there perhaps?

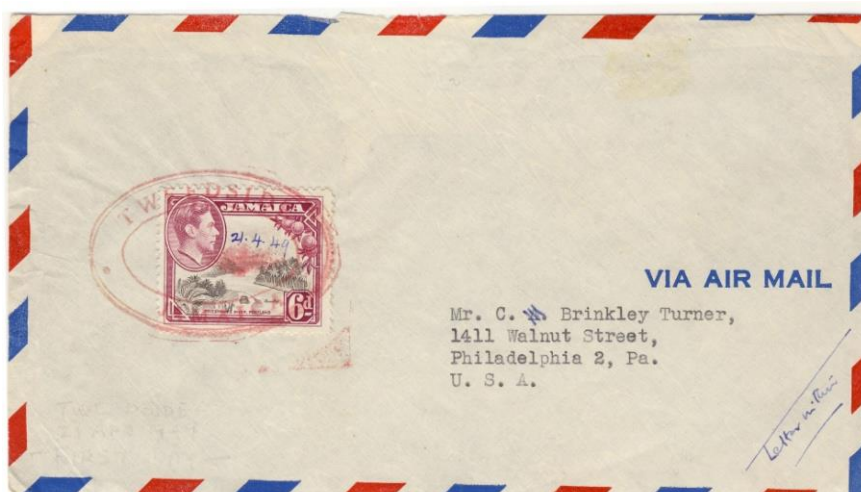


Fig. 3 Tweedside TRO m/s FDC to Brinkley Turner at the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, 21 April 1949 (courtesy Ray Stanton).

The unfortunate *Amethyst* finally broke cover on 30 July and after coming under further fire, safely reached Hong Kong on 3 August 1949, escorted by HMS *Consort*, HMS *Belfast* and HMS *Jamaica*, which had been specifically sent to Hong Kong, from the West Indies Station, on 25 April to replace HMS *London* which was badly damaged in the fighting.

If you know anything about Border Terriers then you might be aware that there are two distinct types of this breed of dog – the Tweedside Red and the Amethyst Blue! A mere coincidence?

The only Tweedside First Day Cover noted, a 6d airmail, belongs to Ray Stanton (Fig. 3). It was sent to Mr. C. A. Brinkley Turner, 1411 Walnut Street (The Stock Exchange), Philadelphia, PA. USA, having the date '21 4 49' applied to the stamp in blue manuscript. Oddly, in the bottom right hand corner is written: '*Letter within*'. Isn't that what an envelope usually contains? It has all the hallmarks of being sent by John Nethersole who was an eminent TRD postmark collector and editor of *The Jamaica Philatelist* at that time. Unfortunately the letter is long gone. However, I do not believe that the canceller was at the Tweedside post office at that time and was more likely still somewhere in Kingston.

Brinkley Turner was an American stock-broker, stamp collector and leading member of the Jamaican Philatelic Society. In September 1942 he sold his major award winning Jamaica collection through Harmers in New York and according to leading Jamaican dealer and markophilist, Everard F. Aguilar did not renew his interest until the mid-fifties.

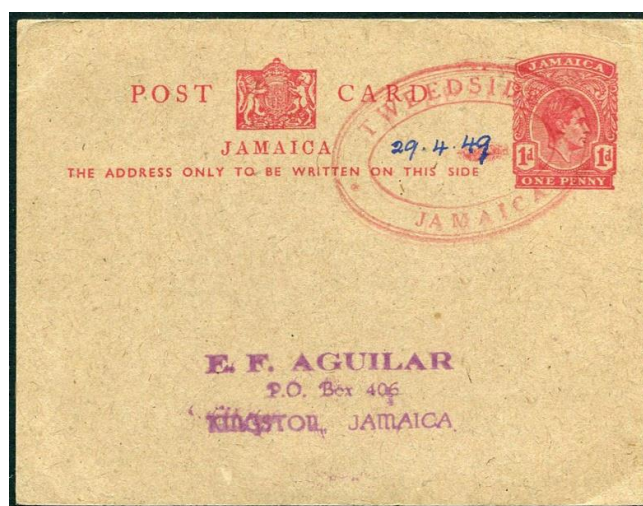


Fig. 4 Tweedside TRO m/s postcard to Everard Aguilar 29 Sep 1949 (courtesy Paul Wright).

Another manila post card with the red Tweedside TRO, dated '29 4 49', was sent by Aguilar to his own address (Fig. 4). Manuscript is last noted by Bob Topaz as 22 June 1949. By 12 October 1949 the Tweedside TRO had been changed, presumably by the post office, to incorporate a permanent changeable dater – which hints that the original must have been issued in some haste. A third cover, self-addressed to noted local collector and estate agent Mr. H. T. Littlejohn of Newport, has the LRD 20 May 1950. (Fig. 5)



Fig. 5 Tweedside TRO envelope to Littlejohn, Newport Jamaica, 20 May 1950.

The Tweedside Red TRO was replaced in April 1950 by a Registered Oval (Fig. 6) which was not sanctioned by the Crown Agents/British Post Office as it did not have enough supplies of steel to fulfill the order. Where this postmark and 30 others like it came from no one knows. Bob Topaz notes that he had seen early strikes in red but by April 1951 the Tweedside red ink pad had been replaced by a black one.



Fig. 6 Tweedside RO on piece, 1955.

Just why did Jamaica have so many post offices that were invariably opened with a TRD? Many of these agencies, like Tweedside, were somewhat remote and under-populated. In 1937 the Government had decided not to close any post office, even if the receipts were less than £20 a year. They agreed with the British Post Office in 'feeling obliged to extend facilities to the outlying communities, a consideration not justified by purely business considerations.' Many Aguilar strikes are not the first day of issue but often a few weeks later. Is it plausible that the TROs were used initially for some other purpose? Did the FDC actually emanate from the Tweedside Post Office or initially elsewhere? Was Tweedside the historical name of that village? Was the Tweedside postmark a code for H.M.S. *Amethyst*? Were other postmarks used for similar purposes? And did the red ink indicate something sinister – Communist China perhaps!?

In 1940 Joseph Kennedy, the American Ambassador in London, seriously advised Roosevelt that Britain would lose the war. Had Operation Sea Lion been successful it would have necessitated moving both the British Parliament and the Royal family to Canada. There were also tentative plans to move The Admiralty out of London – to Jamaica – to the shore base known as HMS *Morgan* in Kingston.

Rear-Admiral John Godfrey was appointed Director of Naval Intelligence in early 1939. He was a dining companion of Sir Harry Luke just before Luke left to become Governor of Fiji.

In May 1939 Godfrey appointed Lieutenant Commander Ian Fleming as his personal assistant. Fleming, no stranger to Bletchley Park, later gained fame as the writer of the James Bond books. In September 1939 they shared an office at The Admiralty, the notorious Room 39, considerable thought must have gone into their possible relocation dilemma. Did Sir Harry Luke and Ian Fleming know each other? They were both old Etonians who had served in the RNVR and were members of the James's Club, Piccadilly: Fleming resided there for a short period in 1941 and Luke in late 1942. By March 1943 Luke was resident at the Athenaeum Club in Pall Mall (as noted by the Ministry of Information) as was Fleming. It was M's club too!

Sir Harry Luke sailed for the Caribbean in August 1943, to head up the British Council. Any suggestion that the British Council was a cover for the SIS has always been grumpily refuted.

At this time Fleming flew to Washington to see William Stephenson, who covertly ran British Security Co-ordination in America and owned a house in Montego Bay. In July 1942 Commander Fleming made a four day visit to Jamaica to attend an Anglo-American Conference on the U-boat problem. The meeting was held under strict armed guard in the ballroom of the Myrtle Bank Hotel, in Kingston. Even though it rained 'stair-rods' for the four days Fleming liked what he saw of Jamaica. He was accompanied by Ivar Bryce (aka John F. C. Bryce), a fellow Old Etonian and SIS agent, attached to Stephenson in New York (Fig. 7). It is claimed that, whilst based in Jamaica, Bryce ran dangerous missions into Latin America. On the last day of the conference they motored up to Bellevue, Manning Hill in the Blue Mountains. Fleming decided there and then to have a house in Jamaica. Bryce made enquiries on his behalf and found him an ideal spot to develop his dream escape: between Boscabel and Oracabessa up on the North Shore. Fleming named it 'Goldeneye' after an NID operation to keep Gibraltar from the Germans.



Fig. 7 Ivar Bryce and Ian Fleming

It was part of a disused donkey racecourse. This information likely came from the aforementioned Everard Aguilar who had horse racing and lottery interests on the island under the company Knutsford Park Ltd. Plenty Knutsford Park covers still exist (Fig. 8). Aguilar later contributed a chapter on Jamaican Philately to Fleming's posthumously published book *Ian Fleming Introduces Jamaica*. Everard Aguilar also ran a successful postmark business from Harbour Street in Kingston. He appears to have had quite some influence on their manufacture and made up thousands of covers for sale to collectors in Britain and America producing expensive handbooks which catalogued Jamaica's stamps and more importantly its elusive postmarks. Back then Aguilar had a good relationship with the PMG George White and knew many of the islands postal administrators. Fleming too was mindful of the post offices, or lack of them, in Cockpit Country or

'*Land of Look Behind*' as he referred to Jamaica in *Horizon* magazine in 1947 he writes "but since the people pay no taxes, no roads have ever been built in the province and there are no public facilities such as post offices."



Fig. 8 Knutsford Park Ltd cover from Dias, 12 April 1946.

Had the British Naval Intelligence Department (NID) set up a chain of post offices in Jamaica whose cancellers could be used to alert various interested parties of certain events, avoiding the usual channels? A similar network may have been in place in British Honduras from May 1940 to keep an eye on Guatemalan Army border movements using ex-policemen and British NCOs to man the post offices.

The NID itself had a section in Jamaica, within HMS *Morgan*, as evidenced by its own postal canceller. Paul Farrimond notes this as being in use from at least 29 August 1941 to 10 January 1942, when this secret missive to the British Consulate in Puerto Mexico was dispatched (Fig. 9).

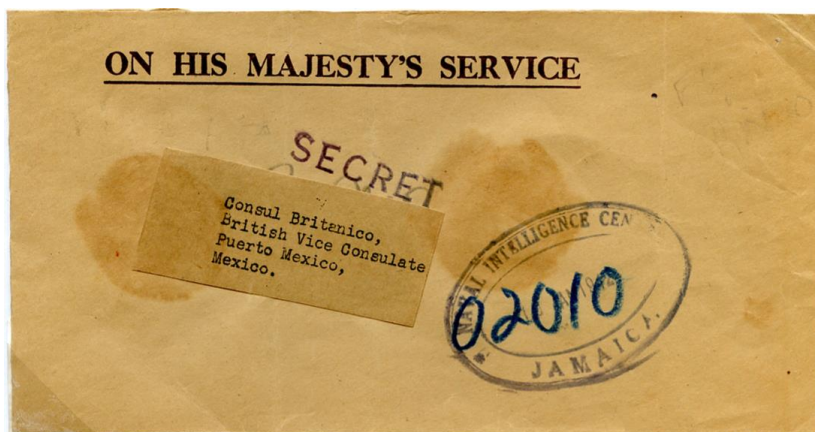


Fig. 9 Naval Intelligence Centre, Jamaica TRO, 10 January 1942 (courtesy Paul Farrimond).

Were NID somehow controlling the issue of postmarks that had been coded to represent British Naval Shipping? As far-fetched as it may seem there is another example as well as the Tweedside Red.

On 28 December 1945 a new postal agency was opened just four miles east of Tweedside at a village called Johns Hall. It boasted a new TRO which was inscribed '*Silver Spring*' (Fig. 10) the reason being that there was already a Post Office named Johns Hall, to be found in St. James parish opened back in December 1920 (Fig. 11).



Fig. 10 Silver Spring TRO cover to A. D. Pierce,  
2 March 1946.



Fig. 11 Johns Hall JDC  
16 June 1956.

Checking on the One Inch Ordinance Survey map there is no sign of the name Silver Spring within the immediate area. So why was it called Silver Spring? If Silver Spring was used as a cryptic crossword clue for *The Times* or *The Telegraph* it might look something like this:-

Silver spring? (10)

....and the answer could well be..... Birmingham.....that town being famously the source (or spring) of silver in the UK.

Was 'Silver Spring' in fact the light cruiser HMS *Birmingham*? (Fig. 12)



Fig. 12 Light Cruiser H.M.S. Birmingham.

On 7 March 1946 the *Birmingham* sailed via Gibraltar on a courtesy visit to the British West Indies arriving in Port of Spain on 25 March, Kingston 28 March, Nassau 3 April, Hamilton 8 April and was back in Portland on 18 April. The last use of the Silver Spring TRO is 21 December 1946 as per Ted Proud when a new permanent canceller was issued in its stead.

Tales of crossword clues being used by agents and spies during WWII abound and all this would have certainly appealed to Commander Ian Fleming. During the darkest days of wartime this might have been a useful facility for the NID.

What would also have appealed to Fleming was the opening of a new post office on St. George's Day, 1952 (cf Potter) at Lancaster, in Manchester Parish (Fig. 13). Lancaster just so happens to be

Fleming's middle name. This event occurred just one month after his marriage to Ann Charteris in Port Maria, with Noel Coward, resident at 'Firefly' Galina, as their best man. At this period in time Fleming was busy writing his first James Bond book, *Casino Royale*, at Goldeneye. Back in January 1913 the tiny Balcarres post office was opened to honour the famed philatelist, James Ludovic Lindsay, 26th Earl of Crawford and 9th Earl of Balcarres, who died that month (Fig. 14).



Fig. 13 Lancaster TRO 15 May 1952

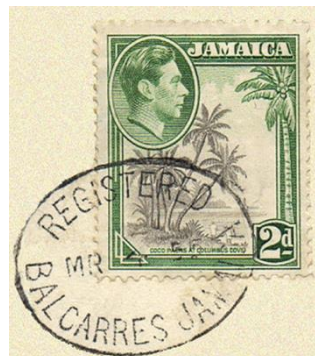


Fig. 14 Balcarres RO 4 March 1955.

The area around Frankfield also yields some interesting postmarks. Main Ridge's denticulated TRO is noted by Potter as appearing '*to have been produced by a philatelic dealer*', who else but Everard Aguilar? (Potter states that one of the two dTROs for Broadleaf, Manchester is 'probably an Aguilar copy') It was only apparently used from 17–25 September 1948. In 1951 the Postmistress at Main Ridge, with the dTRO apparently missing, uniquely used the mail bag seal to cancel her letters – against the GPO's instruction (Fig. 15). This malpractice ceased when a Birmingham style canceller was sent from the UK in March 1952.

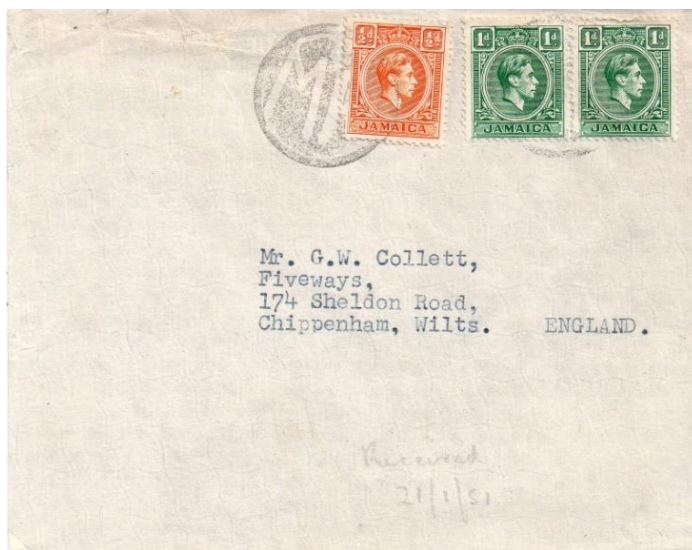


Fig. 15 Main Ridge dTRO 1948 and unauthorized Main Ridge Mail Bag impression 1951.

The oddly named post office of Sanguinetti, just a couple of miles south of Tweedside, was opened on 22 December 1953 with a TRO (Fig. 16). Ted Proud notes irregular post-dating of this canceller. One of Fleming's arsonistic villains in *The Spy Who Loved Me* was a certain Mr. Sanguinetti (The Drax Hall Estate in St. Ann Parish was Fleming's inspiration for Sir Hugo Drax, the baddie in *Moonraker*).

Peckham, just a mile south of Silver Spring, opened 14 June 1962 but the TRO appears never to have been in use at the post office itself (Topaz). No example has ever emerged. In 1961 Fleming hired Robin Mirrlees to provide him with information about heraldry. He delighted Ian by discovering a coat of arms for the Bond of Peckham family, complete with a motto – "The world is not enough." Ian Potter describes this as a favour strike – was the favour to Ian Fleming?



Fig. 16 Sanguinetti TRO 11 January 1954.

Was just an envelope with a dated postmark, sent to the right person, a cryptic system set up by such folk as Ian Fleming, William Stephenson and NID? Was it for real or just an exercise, perhaps even a game? To all other parties this would all appear as a fairly innocent, philatelic platitude. It may well be otherwise – but I challenge anyone to come up with a better explanation of why the Tweedside TRO, issued in 1949, used red ink, when the other 175 similar cancellers of that time used purple or occasionally black ink when the purple ran out.

If you have a Tweedside Red I would love to hear from you [horry@talk21.com](mailto:horry@talk21.com)

My thanks for covers to Paul Farrimond, Paul Wright and Ray Stanton.

Thanks also to Debbie Usher at the Middle East Centre Archive, St Antony's College, Oxford.

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## KING EDWARD VII KEYPLATE

PLATE 1 REMOVED JUBILEE LINE

JEFF BLINCO

Recently while studying the above mentioned Key Plate, I noticed that on the right hand side of the right pane the Jubilee line had been manually cut through at the line of the horizontal perforations. The cuts through the line at the top of the plate are more or less accurately performed whereas those lower down are grossly so.



Several examples sighted dated from a printing made around March or April 1910.

It is my understanding that at least the earliest printing of the 1/4d Leeward Island should not exhibit the cut line, however later printings should and since the Leeward Island 1/- black/green has some issues predating the above June 1910 date, it is possible that there are issues of this value/colour scheme with and without the cut line.

I would be grateful for any additional advice with a view to refining the date of occurrence.

In another development, the 1908 (Fiji) halfpenny value also from Plate 1 has a triangular white flaw at the top on the N of REVENUE.



1908



1910

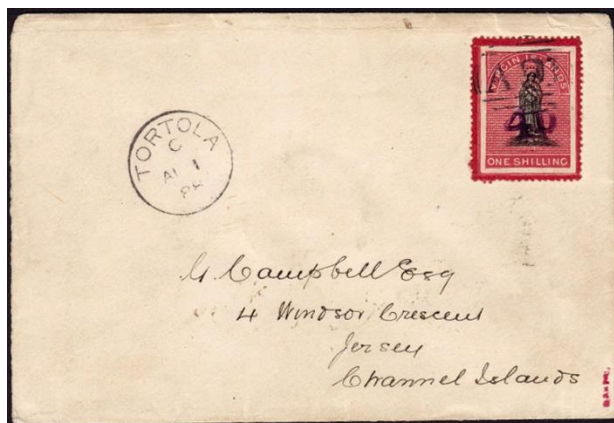
Later printings of numerous values about late March or early April 1910 in the New Universal colours show that the flaw has been somewhat crudely rectified resulting in a thickening of the white border above the N.

This is located at Left Pane 2/1.

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## TRINIDAD

## AN EARLY TOO LATE MARK?

ED BARROW



Fig. 1

Recently, a fairly large number of early Trinidad commercial covers and large pieces have surfaced. They are addressed to Deville and Ferlande in Guadeloupe and date from the 1860s. Where they have been hiding I do not know, but one in particular caught my eye (see Fig 1).

A partial red manuscript '4' is evident which would explain the 1d and 4d stamps but then there is an additional 6d which bears a red manuscript cross. This I believe is an early 'Too Late' marking, perhaps before the familiar handstamps arrived. There is no Trinidad date mark but there is an arrival mark of the 18 March 1866. Michael Medicott wrote extensively on the subject of Too Late markings and from his work I gather that earliest dated Too Late handstamp is 'JY 9 1867', making this about a year earlier.

It is also interesting to note that many Too Late handstamps also bear the same cross format which may have been a continuation of this earlier pattern (see Fig. 2).




Fig. 2

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**A SHORT HISTORY OF THE COLLETT AWARD****GEORGE DUNBAR**

Gilbert W. Collett RDP FRPSL was the first President of the British West Indies Study Circle. He was one of the editors, along with Buckland Edwards, Morton and Nicholson, of the classic "Jamaica: Its postal history, postage stamps and postmarks", published in 1928 by Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London. That volume remains relevant to collectors to this day, and is an example of great philatelic literature. Recipients of the Collett Award are selected in the tradition of such fine work.

Collett died on 24 July 1964, and his obituary was published in the Circle Bulletin in September that year. The following year, the Gilbert W. Collett Memorial Trophy was announced. Funded from money left by Collett, it was to be awarded every two years for the best contribution to the Bulletin, starting with articles in the March 1966 issue. Candidate articles would be based on original research extending knowledge of British West Indies philately, completed in the two years prior to the award. An award committee was formed in 1967 – Mr W. F. Deakin, Mr M. Williams, Dr I. M. Yarry (U.S.A.) – and at the AGM in March 1968 they announced that L. E. Britnor would be the first recipient of the Trophy for his Bulletin articles in 1966 and 1967. The winner's prize took the form of a small silver dish with a Tudor rose emblem. Those were good days for the Bulletin, which won a Bronze Silver Award at the BPA in November 1967.

From previous editions of the Bulletin in the archive, I have been able to collate what I believe is a complete list of winners to date. They are shown in Table 1, but I would welcome any corrections or additional information.

Table 1. Recipients of the Collett Memorial Trophy 1968-2011.

1968	L. E. Britnor	various articles
1970	E. V. Toeg	various articles [most likely for <i>Manuscript Markings of Royal Mail Steam Packets "Eden" "Esk" and "Solent."</i> ]
1972	G. W. Bowman	<i>By Air Mail from the Leeward Islands</i>
1974	G. W. Bowman	<i>Antigua: Early postal regulation</i>
1976	Simon Goldblatt	various articles
1978	L. E. Britnor	<i>"BWI Postal Rates up to 1900"<sup>M</sup></i>
1980	No award	
1982	Russell Jones	<i>Tête bêche issues of Grenada</i>
1984	A. Lewarn	<i>Double-ring datestamps of Kingston Jamaica</i>
1986	Tony Shepherd	<i>"The postal censorship of Barbados during the First and Second World Wars"<sup>M*</sup></i>
1988	No award	
1990	Ian Chard	<i>Modern postal markings of Bermuda</i>
1992	E. V. Toeg	<i>"The Leeward Island Adhesive Fees Stamps"<sup>M*</sup></i>
1994	No award	
1996	E. V. Toeg	<i>"Dominica: Postal History, Stamps and Postal Stationery to 1935"<sup>M*</sup></i>
1998	Frank Deakin	<i>"Classic Collection: Barbados"<sup>M*</sup></i>
...		
2007	Ian Jakes	<i>Cayman Islands: The Scandal</i>
2009	Peter Fernbank	various contributions [articles on plating early 20th C. issues]
2011	Simon Goldblatt	various contributions

**Notes.** Descriptions of publications are based on the Bulletin announcement where possible. In 1974 and 1982 Simon Goldblatt and Anthony Lewarn, respectively, were Commended for contributions to the Bulletin.

**Symbols.** M, published as a monograph; \*, BWISC publication currently available from Pennymead Books.

In 1974, Leonard Britnor's book "The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies", published by BWISC, won the prestigious Albert H. Harris Trophy at Stampex, but of course was not eligible for the Collett. I do not know if that influenced the Circle, but the rules were changed, and in 1978 the Collett Trophy was presented for a book for the first time, Britnor's "BWI Postal Rates up to 1900".

The last of the original Tudor rose trophies was awarded in 1998 to Frank Deakin. Then for several years the prize was reassessed. The Bulletin was certainly not moribund in this period, winning, for example, the inaugural ABPS specialist society journal competition in 2004. Discussions continued, and in 2006 (announced in issue 210) the prize was revived. Once more, only Bulletin articles would be eligible.

Recently, Charles Freeland, Graham Booth and Michael Medicott, have been considering how best to carry the Collett forward, and in April they made recommendations to the Committee. The new arrangements are described by the President in the article below. They promise a long and stable future for an award that celebrates some of the finest qualities of the Circle, and the best writing on BWI philately.

## **REVIVAL OF THE COLLETT AWARD**

**CHARLES FREELAND**

Back in our early days, the Circle's founding President, G W Collett, inaugurated a biennial award for the best Bulletin article and provided the funds for the purchase of a number of silver ashtrays to present to the winners. The supply of ashtrays lasted until 1998 and at that point the award lapsed. In 2007, however, the Committee decided to reinstate the award for the best bulletin article and fund it with a modest credit note for use in our annual auctions. The winners were decided by a secret ballot conducted at the Committee meeting preceding the AGM. After I was elected President, I voiced my dissatisfaction at this process since it did not entail any deep assessment of the contenders and the prize did not seem a worthy one. The Committee asked me to head a small steering group to come up with an alternative solution. I recruited two of our longstanding members, Graham Booth and Michael Medicott, and our proposals as set out below were accepted by the Committee at its meeting that preceded our AGM on 27 April this year.

The core of the proposal is that we inaugurate a Roll of Honour for distinguished authors of BWI-related topics to sign in an award ceremony at our biennial Conventions. Certificates will be presented to each signatory to commemorate their achievement. We felt that assessing books in competition with Bulletin articles was not a level playing field so there will be two separate pages in the scroll, one for books, study papers etc and the other for articles. The same person could be asked to sign both pages, but only once on each page, so repeat winners will not be possible.

The award for Bulletin articles will be determined biennially for the article the selection committee judges as the best in the two previous years' Bulletins. The criteria have not been fully set out but will obviously focus on the quality of the original research. An article that is substantially the same as one previously published elsewhere will not be eligible, nor one that has required substantial editorial redrafting. The jury for this award will initially consist of Simon Goldblatt, Ian Jakes and Ray Stanton, with technical advice provided by the current editor. The first two have won the award already.

The Committee also asked the three members of the steering group (i.e. Graham Booth, Michael Medicott and myself) to form the jury for the second award for outstanding books, study papers or anything else relevant to BWI philately or postal history. Note this is broadly worded to allow the selection committee the maximum flexibility, and is not confined to books that we publish or indeed to Circle members, but could be awarded for example to books on BWI topics published by the RPS. Recognising that books are published irregularly, a winner will not necessarily be selected every two years, and there may be occasions on which two or even more authors may be invited to sign the scroll. That may be inevitable if a book has co-authors or when two outstanding books have been published.

All past winners of the Collett Award will be invited to attend our Convention in October and to sign the relevant page, together with this year's winners who will be announced during the ceremony. The Committee has accepted that the juries should have the right to make the award to one of their members on condition that the process is performed in a wholly transparent manner and only when two members are unanimous that the third is clearly the best candidate.



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**AUCTION UPDATE****CHARLES FREELAND****Grosvenor 4–5 June (BP 17%)**

The highlight here was yet another offering of die proofs for the GV small keyplate ex the DLR day book, this time two of the three plate 10 proofs offered as a single lot at £10.5k. By contrast the GV head in blue used by Cayman and Turks Is on thin card was a mere £250. There was a small but select section of Turks Is, where the best lot comprised six imperf pairs from the 1913 set at £2k. The 1922-26 specimen set in pairs looked a steal at £220, as did a fine used sheet of the fourth printing Br Guiana 1882 Baldwin 1c at £140.

**Harmers International 6–8 June (BP 18%)**

No wonder people are confused, the Harmers name has been sold and resold, and this one based in Irvine California is now under Tom Mills' management. Usually the catalogue is heavily US-based, but on this occasion it included a choice collection of village covers from the Leewards group, many ex-Wynstra. Did the owner do well? Absolutely not, many of the covers sold for half the Wynstra price, and a few down to a quarter. The best covers were the 1928 Anguilla AN at \$575, 1902 Dominica Coulibistrie at \$650, Montserrat Harris and St. Peters TRDs at \$625 and \$850 (\$2.75k each in the Victoria Wynstra auction) and St. Kitts 1896 Cayon manuscript at \$500. One wonders why the consignor selected this house to sell such specialised material.

**Gibbons 12–13 June (BP 15%)**

Two fine collections of Antigua and St. Lucia strong in mint blocks (several ex Charlton Henry, and we know what that means) and proofs had some of us excited. But not enough it seems, as one of the great rarities of Antigua, a sloping 2 on the 2½d brown with CC watermark, was snaffled by someone with sharper eyes than mine for a mere £160...well it had no gum. But I did spot the Thompson flaw on the lightly toned block of the QV 4d blue with CA watermark which went for £750. Other Antigua blocks of note included the 1863 6d dark green mint at its full Gibbons price of £2.8k (before the music) and Charlton Henry's 2½d red-brown with CA watermark also at full Gibbons £700. An 1883 piece with two 1ds plus a bisect to make up the 2½d rate was £320...why, oh why, was that lovely cover mutilated? The separate section of proofs was in fact rather limited - it started with three rare 1882 perf 12 colour trials from the QV ½d keyplate, which fetched £3k, but all the remainder were from the 1903 Arms series. The two vignettes fetched £400 and £360 and the long series of frame proofs, both before and after hardening though oddly missing the ½d value, were all around the £300 mark.

St. Lucia opened with an almost complete run of classic mint blocks from 1860 to 1876. The choice Charlton Henry blocks of four of the 1860 6d green, the 1864 perf 12½ 6d deep lilac and 1876 perf 14 1s deep orange were the pick of the bunch at £1.6k, £500 and £600 respectively. An attractive block of six of the 1864 perf 14 4d yellow was also up there at £750 (cat £780). Two blocks of 20 and 30 of the Half Penny on 6d sold apparently perversely for £900 and £800...as so often the second was cheaper, but you cannot always rely on it! The keyplate blocks were headed by a fine QV 10s at £320. The highlight of the St. Lucia proofs was a delicious composite essay for the 1902 Discovery commemorative at £2.6k, last seen in one of Allan Leverton's Temple Bar auctions, while an 1883 perf 12 colour trial in deep brown for the 4d keyplate was £900. However the duty plate die proofs for the 1904–10 KE definitives were mostly unsold at reserves of £220. Elsewhere the most unusual lot was a vertical pair of the Br Guiana GV I \$1 rare perf variety, which went unsold on a lower estimate of £400.

**Siegel 26–27 June (BP 15%)**

Charles Shreves' second specialised sale contained the first section of the "World Traveller" collection, a typical US accumulation of rare stamps including some neat BWI material. The St. Christopher One Penny on 2½d SG27 unused ex Bert Taylor was knocked down for \$19k and a Bahamas War Tax with overprint double was \$1.7k. Some useful Br Guiana included an 1888 \$4 pair, one with the large '4', but as usual it looked as if the gum was toned.

**Spink 9–11 July (BP 20%)**

There was a larger crowd than normal to witness the disposal of an intriguing series of photographs of Bradbury Wilkinson essays that have apparently almost all been lost to philately. These were consigned by De La Rue, who took over Bradbury Wilkinson in 1986, and were actually more interesting than mere photographs as they had been mounted on printers' cards and dated. Of course, where Bradbury Wilkinson won the contracts, the images were very similar, if not the same, as the final designs. These tended to be less in demand than the more unfamiliar versions. So the highest prices were for images that were never accepted, especially those with the classic rather grandiose designs of the GV period. Although by no means all of the c30 BWI lots were illustrated in the catalogue, Spink will kindly send Steve all the images so that he can post them on our website.

People had been wondering before the sale how much these photo essays were actually worth....it did not take long to find out! Indeed, unless you were present in some live form, it is unlikely you were successful, as in most cases the estimates were exceeded by a wide margin. The price for the first BWI lot comprising three splendid Antigua images dated '21 Aug 31' (£600 against an estimate of £80–120) was indicative of things to come. But the third Antigua lot of 58 images dating from 1961–68 fetched a mere £250...this was because BW printed nearly all the stamps of this period so the images were relatively uninteresting. But the strong trend for the earlier material continued when sixteen Bermuda images dated 1935 fetched £2.1k, eight Br Guiana of 1931 £2.6k, three Cayman Is of 1932 £700 and six Montserrat of 1932 £850. Those who had not read the fine print will have been shocked by invoices to which 20% VAT was added to the hammer prices as the origin was a UK company subject to full VAT. Someone told me the total add-on for a European buyer was 48.4%...Ouch!

**Coming events**

What is very likely to prove the highlight of the BWI enthusiast's year is the sale of the Dr David Saul collection of Bermuda at Spink on 22 October. David is a stalwart of the Bermuda Collectors Society and was for a long period Finance Minister and briefly the Prime Minister of Bermuda. This is certainly the best collection of Bermuda stamps existing today, though it does not contain covers and only a sprinkling of proof material. Many of the gems, but by no means all, were acquired at the Ludington sale in June 1999 and I wrote about those at the time. Not only are all the listed stamps including all four Postmasters present, but a comprehensive range of blocks and varieties...not a sale to be missed and a bellwether for the health of the Bermuda market. We also know that there will be some interesting snippets in the early season September auctions, including an offering of Br Honduras cancels at Grosvenor.

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

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