## STUDY CIRCLE

## Convention 2013 <br> British Honduras Formal Display Simon Greenwood



Crowned Circle Paid At Belize Mark, ‘Dec 11 1849’

## BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

## OBJECTIVES

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 of BWI interest. The BWISC BULLETIN was presented with the ABPS Specialist Society journal Award in 2004.
3 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aims of the Circle. The BWISC has published over 20 books or Study Papers over the last 12 years, some of which have received prestigious awards.
4 TO hold an annual auction for the sale of members' material. Normally, prior to the auction, the BWISC holds its Annual General Meeting.
5 TO organise occasional display meetings including a biennial weekend Convention and bourse. This offers further opportunities for members to buy and sell material.
6 TO maintain an internet website where information about Circle activities is publicised and where much other relevant information is posted.

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

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## Society Programme of Events \& Information

## Meetings \& Events

Saturday 26 April 2014 - AGM and Auction at Spink, 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London, WC1B 4ET. Viewing from 12 noon, AGM at 1.15 pm , followed by the Auction at 2.15pm. This will include 60 special Diamond Jubilee items with a value of $£ 250$ plus.

Saturday 20 September 2014 from 2.30 to 4.30pm - BWISC Meeting to be held at Autumn Stampex in room H. Members are invited to bring along informal displays.

Congratulations to the following for their achievements with B.W.I. entries at Braziliana:-
David Pitts for the award of a Large Gold for his 'Bermuda crossroad of the Atlantic'.
Fitz Roett for the award of a Large Gold for 'Barbados Britannias'.
Dingle Smith for the award of a Large Vermeil for 'Jamaica Postal Stationery'.
Change of Study Group leader
Richard Stupples has taken over from Michael Hamilton as Study Group leader for Barbados.

## Thursday 6 November 2014

The BWISC will be presenting a 52 frame display (nearly 600 sheets) to the Royal Philatelic Society. The intention is to represent all the territories within the Study Circle's sphere of interest whilst ensuring that the material presented is of the highest possible quality and interest.
The list of those below that have agreed to present displays should whet the appetites of anyone with interests within the BWI area.

| Anguilla | Brian Brookes | Antigua | John Taylor |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bahamas | Peter Fernbank, Keith Hanman, <br> Phil McMurdie | Barbuda | Charles Freeland |
| Barbados | Fitz Roett, Stefan Heijtz, <br> Charles Freeland | Bermuda | David Pitts, <br> David Cordon |
| Br. Guiana | Simon Greenwood, <br> Peter Ford | Br. Honduras | Ian Matheson |
| Cayman Is. | Graham Booth, Kevin Darcy, <br> James Podger | Dominica | John Taylor, <br> Simon Richards |
| Grenada | Chris Harman | Jamaica | Andrew Fowles, <br> Steve Jarvis, Paul Wright |
| Leeward Is. | Robert de Keyser | Montserrat | Peter McCann |
| Nevis | Federico Borromeo | St. Christopher | Brian Brookes |
| St. Kitts | Brian Brookes | St. Lucia | John Keegan |
| St. Vincent | Russell Boylan | Tobago | Nigel Chandler |
| Trinidad | Federico Borromeo, <br> Michael Medlicott | Turks | Richard Foden |
| Virgin Is. | Simon Goldblatt | Maritime mail | Graham Booth |
|  |  | Postmarks | David Horry, <br> Simon Goldblatt |
| Revenues | Michael Medlicott |  |  |
| PH of the BWI | Federico Borromeo |  |  |

## President’s Message

Charles Freeland
This year we will celebrate our 60th year as a Specialist society and this, Bulletin No. 240, is the one that formally celebrates our anniversary. Elsewhere you will read about the two highlights, a special Diamond Jubilee auction on 26 April alongside our regular annual auction at Spink and a 52 frame display of the best West Indies philately can offer on 6 November at the Royal Philatelic Society's hallowed rooms near Baker Street. That display will be followed by drinks and nibbles at the RPS and a group dinner at a nearby restaurant. We are also planning to have a number of articles on BWI topics published in Gibbons Stamp Monthly, and a number of members have already submitted erudite articles which will be published in April, with a few more to follow throughout the year.
The Circle is (in my admittedly biased opinion) in the rudest health in its history. We are actually gaining members (about a dozen in the past few months) while nearly all other specialist Societies are suffering a decline; our Bulletin remains one of the best, if not the best, in the business; our website is a mine of useful information for each of us, however specialised, as well as a magnet for new members; our annual auction and occasional Private Treaty opportunities maintain a turnover that not only demonstrates the value of the service to buyers and sellers, but also produces steady revenue that allows us to maintain our dues at a reasonable level. None of this would be possible without the skills and dedication of our key officers. It is also encouraging that, when two of our officers resigned last year, willing volunteers stepped forward, a sure sign of a vibrant group.

Over the past few years, thanks mainly to the skill and diligence of our publications Supremo Peter Ford, the Circle has rivalled even the RPS in the number of books produced. In 2013 we sold $£ 6,500$ worth of books, which enables us to provide seed money for the next two or three books in the pipeline. The credit goes not only to David Druett, our distributor, but to those who manned
our stand at Midpex and of course to our wonderful authors, reviewers, proof-readers and editor Peter Ford.

Our auction on 26 April at Spink should have something for everyone. In addition to the regular 500 plus odd lots there will be 60 Specials, one for each year of our existence, fully described and illustrated in a special pullout section of the catalogue. Note that there will be similar arrangements to those of the Golden Jubilee sale in 2004, namely non-members will be eligible to bid subject to a $2 \frac{1}{2} \%$ buyers' commission (this will NOT apply to members) and telephone or agent bidding will be possible for all. Please bid up and make sure your bids arrive in good time...every year there are bids that miss being entered. If our auction is as successful as it was in 2004 we may be able to postpone having to increase subscriptions for a few more years yet. Indeed without Simon Goldblatt and his hard-working auction team our subs would be far higher.
If there is a disappointment, it is that so few UK members bothered to make the trip to Honiley, even though we had arranged displays of two world-class collections plus several outstanding informal displays. Staying in the hotel were almost as many overseas members, including two from Jamaica and Australia, as UK-based members. Thanks to Steve Jarvis' diligence you can find excerpts from the displays on our website, but it is only by studying and discussing others' collections that one can gain the necessary inspiration to progress to the next level.
When I was appointed President, I committed myself to a three-year term, which meant that I would stand down at the AGM on 26 April, leaving the Circle free to appoint a replacement if they wish to do so. I have thought long and hard about whether I wish to stand again (it is no sinecure, as I have tried my best to take the strain off Peter Ford so that he can get on with his "real" job, which is to continue to produce a steady stream of publications). In the end I have decided to continue if the Circle so wishes, but I do encourage any member who wishes to stand for the job of President to do so, at the least this would generate some excitement at the AGM! I am informed by our Secretary that nominations for Committee posts should be notified to him at the latest one week ahead of the AGM.
There are two reasons why I have decided to stand again for the post of President. One is that I have worked hard with our Chairman Peter Ford and with Committee members to arrange a number of our $60^{\text {th }}$ Anniversary events and to pull out now might put undue pressure on those who would have to step into my shoes. Second, I still have ambitions beyond the successful celebration of our 60th. I would like to see a more diverse number of members writing for the Bulletin, on a wider range of topics. Some countries have been neglected for too long and without covering them we risk losing disillusioned specialists. If you fall into that category please write something. Just a simple query or short note asking for information will I feel confident generate feedback, and that is often the start of a contact between members with common interests that develops into friendship and the sharing of mutual knowledge. Anyone with a desire to write should ask Terry for guidance...I cringe when I read my early contributions in the 1970s but we all have to start somewhere.

Another ambition I have is to see the Study Groups expand and develop into more effective research units. Taking a look at what the Jamaica group has been doing and the progress David Watson is making with the Maritime Mail Study Group should offer some ideas of what is possible. All this needs active engagement by the Study Group leaders and if individuals do not think they can provide that, please contact me and I will be happy to discuss.

A third ambition is to educate our less advanced members on what kind of collection they should be building. To that end the evergreen Simon Goldblatt is always ready to give advice on the material that is offered in our annual auctions. The main constraint is of course financial and there is not a lot one can do in a hurry without adequate funds, but great collections are built on knowledge, patience and spoonfuls of luck here and there. The internet, and specifically ebay, offers a global marketplace from which we can all cherry-pick, so long as we know what we are doing...but there are traps galore. If you see something you want to bid on, but are not sure it is "right", you can always ask the relevant group leader (but don't blindly trust what he says, he may want to bid on the same lot!)

A final ambition, no surprise, is to increase our membership numbers. A couple of years ago I pressed our Treasurer to accept Paypal for the payment of subscriptions. It has been a pain for Ray to implement, but I believe it is one of the reasons we are gaining members and also welcoming the odd returning member. Many are located abroad, and their dues have been made more manageable not only by our acceptance of Paypal but also by our decision to offer paperless membership at a lower rate. But this too is not achieved without effort; Steve, our website manager, has to make sure each Bulletin is promptly posted on our web and adequately protected from freeloaders.

In conclusion I would encourage as many of you as are in reasonable distance from London to join us for our AGM and auction on 26 April and whatever you do, do not miss the RPS show on 6 November....I guarantee a feast of BWI rarities that have not been seen in one place since the Circle's last display to the RPS in March 1960.....in fact I am confident this one will be more spectacular.

## HENRY FRANK DEAKIN 1924 - 2013

Frank Deakin died peacefully on 21 December in Exmouth, where he had only a few months ago signed the Collett scroll, which he won for his Classic Collection of Barbados (see photo in the last Bulletin). He joined the BWISC in 1965 and his membership only lapsed when he went into a home at an advanced age.

Frank was indubitably a character, with a deep fruity voice and a thirst to match. He fought in the War under Slim in Burma where he ended with the rank of Major, but spent most of his life as a schoolmaster. After he retired he became a stamp dealer, and this caused a bit of a problem at the RPS where he was suspected of "trading" and asked to resign. He was successively a friend, a trustee and a patron of the Bath Philatelic Museum.

His collection of Barbados was one of the best to have been formed, with choice pieces from many famous collections such as Hurlock and Lickfold. It did not contain all the great classic rarities but its condition was exceptional and there were many fine $20^{\text {th }}$ century proof pieces which were in great demand when his collection was sold by Harmers in 2010. He displayed to the Circle at the biennial convention in 1985 and at Claridges in 1995. He was also an avid international competitor, winning Silver in Amsterdam as early as 1967, and graduating rapidly to vermeil in Budapest 1971, Brussels 1972, and Munich 1973 before achieving Gold in Stockholm 1974, repeating that in Espana 1976, Hafnia 1976, Capex 1978 and Delhi 1980. At the London show in 1980 he was downgraded to Vermeil but he gained his sixth Gold at his last competitive foray in Tel Aviv 1985.

Frank's collection was well documented as not only do we have his Classic Collection but all Barbados collectors will have seen the April 2010 Harmers catalogue of his collection and admired the range of material offered. The early incoming letters in 1684-5 were delightful rarities and spectacular covers to St. Helena and Prince Edward Island were other postal history highpoints. In the $20^{\text {th }}$ century there was ferocious demand for the essays and proofs as itemised in my auction report at the time. Lovely stuff it was and it was typical that he donated the proceeds to charity, shared between St. Dunstan's (Blind heroes) and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. He was always a keen patron of Harmers where his 'thank you Cyril' after every successful bid became legend, altogether a splendid and unforgettable character.

Charles Freeland

## Disposals, Donations and other Dispositions

From time to time BWISC becomes involved in the break-up of a significant collection. The initiative may come from one of our members who is giving up one BWI theme or territory to embark on another or who (perish the thought, but our former member, Bert Latham, did it!) is giving up the BWI altogether.

Where an existing member makes the running, there can and should be direct dealings either with the auction team or some other level-headed representative of the Circle; and little further need be said about it, because whether one is concerned with an entire collection or substantial leftovers from a public sale, the member disposing will have the personal opportunity to evaluate any advice or recommendations given.

More significantly, and rather more frequently, the Circle becomes involved because of the death of one of our members, and there is an added responsibility. More often than not, the collection will come into the hands of personal representatives, who are far less informed than our former member about the contents and value of the estate.

The added responsibility is to ensure, to the best of our ability, that the heirs and successors get the right kind of advice about how to deal with the philatelic estate. As a matter of policy BWISC treats those upon whom the estate devolves as continuing (without cost) the membership of the deceased member for the purpose of advice and guidance.

A prime example has been the handling by BWISC of the disposal of Derek Sutcliffe's Jamaica collection. We have seen the collection offered by instalments over several years in the annual auctions, and the exercise is not finished even now. There was never a question, though, of the Circle setting out, as a society, to secure the selling rights. The executors came to us for advice about how to sell and were given - from outside the auction team - wholly objective advice about possible outlets, timescale, prospective realisations, and it was the executors themselves who decided that disposal through the Circle would be appropriate. Even after the decision was made, the auction team had to make its own judgment of whether responsibility for disposal could be undertaken, because quantity and value combined went well beyond any previous single consignment from any source.

More recently, the Circle has been entrusted with part of the collection of our former member, David Atkinson, whose interest in Jamaican philately bore a close affinity with the relevant part of Derek Sutcliffe's pursuit. David and Derek were collaborators and friends. Yet here again, BWISC did not set out to capture material for sale. We were asked for advice, and we gave the relevant guidance, not simply as to the portion which came to us, but also relating to valuation for probate and a suitable outlet for David's less specialised material.

A significant aspect both of this involvement and of three further consignments to be mentioned is that timing of disposal by BWISC forms a crucial element in any decision by the prospective seller, because in none of them would it have been appropriate or practicable to offer all at once. Sale over two years or more would not be the recipe for every seller.

All three consignments are the residue of dispersals by public auction, and in two cases the source will not be discussed, because it has yet to be ascertained whether the seller would acquiesce. It is enough to say that when disposal was mooted through the Circle, the immediate response was that some but not all could be fitted into the forthcoming auction, so was the delay to a later year acceptable? In one instance the seller's attitude was to ask the Circle to put what could be put immediately into the forthcoming auction, and to recommend an outlet for what remained.

Thus, members of the Circle who are thinking about what happens to their collections after they themselves have gone, can regard it as one of the positive elements of their membership, that their personal representatives can come to BWISC at the appropriate time and ask for guidance about
what happens next. We can't guarantee to give all the right answers, but we like to feel that we and our future replacements will do our best.

We come next to donations. It quite often happens that some member who has sold through the Circle will say, 'I would like the Circle to have what is left.' Most of the time there is not a lot involved, the context and motivation are evident, and a simple acceptance and thank you will suffice. Yet in every case the receiver, and it will usually happen in the auction context, will consider whether the gift is one which the Circle should properly accept. Acceptance carries obligation.

I can cite an example here that certain notes and papers formerly belonging to Peter Jaffé have been in Circle hands since shortly after Peter's death, and it is only recently that a member has been found who will transcribe and evaluate, in the hope that something further of Peter's philatelic wisdom can be preserved for future generations.

I come lastly to a recent happening, bringing with it an echo from a more distant past. We deal here with a reminder of our former member, Mike Spaven, whose enthusiasm was stamps of the Leeward Islands, and who studied these issues at a depth which I wonder whether anyone had explored before him. Diffident as he always seemed to me to be at pushing himself forward, and modest as he was about his personal holdings, he derived immense satisfaction in the retention and recording of his acquisitions and their sources, and the meticulous scrutiny of individual issues for their printing characteristics and varieties.

The last year of Mike's life were beset by ill-health and it is to the New Zealander and near neighbour who was his carer during that period, that we owe the opportunity for the Circle to analyse and preserve the significant part of Mike's papers. This was not entirely a routine situation, because the material had been given by Mike to his carer, and the right course might have been to find a way to extract the philatelic juice from the paperwork, and dispose of the bulk for the benefit of the carer himself. It is bulk that posed the problem, for BWISC auctions are not geared to the rapid selling of heavy paperwork. After discussion, it was decided that the Circle should be invited to keep, and deal as it sees fit, with the material that had reached its hands because, 'I think this is what Mike would have wished,' his carer told me. So I take this opportunity publicly, if anonymously, to acknowledge the generosity of Mike's carer, and to record my personal appreciation of Mike's past, and his forthcoming, contribution to the vitality of BWISC.

## FINE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY FOR COLLECTORS

## AlLan LeVERTON

$\begin{array}{ccc}\text { BERMUDA } 1882 \text { 1/- GREEN SG 11, CW V18 MARGINAL BLOCK OF TEN } & \\ \text { (RIGHT \& LEFT OF SHEET) UNMOUNTED (20 STAMPS) } & £ 400 \\ \text { ALSO PLATE BLOCK OF FOUR } & £ 95\end{array}$
MALTA 1965 QEII 1/3d THE UNIQUE IMPERFORATE PLATE NUMBER BLOCK £2,350
TURKS \& CAICOS 1913 KGV 2/- cw G 10b
A SUPERB PART SHEET OF 42 FINE UNMOUNTED £325
A.L.

Tel: 02089989363
Answer Phone available

## BWI

## Where was the Postmaster?



Fig. 1

By Dafn Berkhout


Fig. 2

I have two registered letters with a combination of Antigua and St. Christopher stamps, sent to Herr Bormann in Aue, Saxony in 1899.

The first letter (Fig. 1), measuring $100 \times 64 \mathrm{~mm}$, has a franking of $61 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$, the second (Fig. 2), measuring $97 \times 52.5 \mathrm{~mm}$, a franking of 5 d . Both letters have a St. Kitts cancellation for 17 June 1899 a transit violet cancel, 6 July Reg, Lon.. (not further decipherable) and destination Aue 7 July 1899 (on the reverse).

The handstamps are the A 12 and circular handstamps of St. Kitts.
It is noteworthy that the pair of one penny stamps on the 5d letter have a light distortion, at the left of the ' $E$ ', between one and penny, but at the right only the ' $E$ ' of 'PENNY' (re-entries). The location of the violet cancel is unclear. I thought it was London, but I cannot imagine that a letter travelled in one day from London to Aue (today, it would take at least 3 days).

The date 1899 is strange because the issues of Antigua and St. Christopher were withdrawn in favour of the Leeward Islands between 1890-94.

Still more interesting is the date of 17 June 1899, which on the perpetual calendar happened to be a Sunday. As far as I know, the post offices were not open on Sundays in 1899 and, the postmaster had been responsible for all the post of the St. Kitts offices since 1890.

These interesting philatelic letters pose more questions than answers. I know that many philatelic covers with diverse frankings were tolerated, but such a stretch is, to my opinion, remarkable. Was someone else responsible for these Sunday letters?

Therefore the question: Where was the postmaster on 17 June $1899 ?$
Comments or additional Information would be welcome.
Literature : Oliver, M. The Leeward Islands, Notes for Philatelists, BWISC, 2000
Brookes, B. St. Kitts Postal History, Classic Collections, BWISC, 2011
Comment (by Charles Freeland)
The provisional use of the 1d Antigua in St. Christopher is not uncommon, but the stamp was only valid for postage between January and March 1890.

## ANTIGUA

## Forgotten Snippets

## By Simon Goldblatt

Browsing through some collected clippings dealing with Antigua (these have reposed in the custody of the auction team for several years, being disdainfully rejected while on offer at the members table during successive Conventions) I have noted odd items which deserve further investigation.

For example from Stamp Collecting, Nov 26 1938, commenting on the original supply of 8,000 no watermark 6d sg1,
'of the original consignment... no more than 459 stamps were used postally, the balance being either sold unused, or employed for fiscal purposes...'

This is the sort of throwaway observation that demands either a credible source, or an authoritative squelch. Are we to suppose that usage at G.P.O. St. John's was of the order of five 6d stamps a day for a period of about three months? Or how come you (probably) and I do not see examples of sg . 1 fiscally used? Why no 'Mayfair Find', or the equivalent of unused examples of sg . 1 ? And would we not agree that this is a stamp which turns up killer cancelled, often in impoverished condition, in a reasonable number of collections?

If I sound sceptical, this is only because I am; and, naturally, I seek guidance from those with the facts at their finger-tips.

Here is another intriguing quote from Stamp Collecting, Nov 171961.
In 1878 the defalcations of Miss Mercer forced the colony to provide £232.5.10 to the G.P.O. London.'

While it causes me no surprise that the name of this enterprising, if less than upright, lady was not previously known to me, the reference appears to disclose a break of Post Office security which one would have expected to be recorded in far greater depth. Who was Miss Mercer? And how did she endow herself with a sum likely to be gravely missed? Was the result some kind of purge at G.P.O. St. John's with a tightening up of accountancy practices and stock control? Or was it a case of a hand pouncing suddenly upon an overflowing till, then away into the dark, like at midnight with a grateful swain? There must be some record, for it was a golden opportunity for a local politician to vent sanctimonious reproof in public.

The same page and publication reminds us, with reference back to the London Philatelist July 1931, that there were five re-entries on the Perkins Bacon 6d stamp printing plate. I remind myself that, while the two vertically se-tenant re-entries on the 1d stamp are easy to register and recognise, I have never been at ease with the 6d stamp, and would welcome a state-of-the-art reprise of those re-entries. We learn (with painful slowness in my own case) to keep our eyes open for the more overt printing variants that are known to exist, but I am never confident of spotting a 6 d re-entry or, indeed, of knowing at what parts of the stamp I should be looking. The 'malburin' flaw is, I suppose, not too difficult, if I remember to look for it, but that's not even a re-entry, is it?

Which reminds me, on a more general point: may we please have a definition in clear, non-technical terms, of the difference between a re-entry and a fresh entry. There are those who assume that I can tell the difference myself. Quite candidly, the good folk who make that assumption are wrong. For what indicia should we look?

## BARBADOS

Book Review

## By Richard Stupples

## Barbados: The Britannia Issues by Fitz Roett.

Published by the British West Indies Study Circle. 220 pages, softbound, 2013.
ISBN 978-1-907481-18-5
Available from Pennymead Auctions, $£ 15.00$ ( $£ 13.00$ BWISC Members) plus P\&P.


I was flattered to be asked to review this book for the Bulletin, the request came completely out of the blue and I have to be honest, the publication of the book went under my radar as I was distracted by other issues.

I hurriedly purchased a copy through Pennymead, and Dave Druett quite happily rushed it out to me along with a few other bits l'd bought. So when I opened it, I was delighted to find that someone had collated the early stamps of Barbados in the same way as the Marriott, Medlicott and Ramkissoon book has collated the early issues of Trinidad, a book I admired a couple of years ago when I bought it for a friend.

I spent the evening preparing for a talk to a local society, so I was only dipping in and out of the book, just trying to get the feel of it. I finally took it to bed with me to look at further. This was a mistake, because by one a.m. I was so involved, I got up to get several of the auction catalogues which I'd bought period material from. It was easier than getting the albums out and pulling out the contents.

My first impression of the book was that it is beautifully illustrated with good accurate colours to the images, although personally I find the heavy black borders distracting. The text is easy to read, and laid out according to the standard catalogue numerals with both Gibbons and Scott references. It is useful to have listings in sequence, and really exciting to find notes collating all the major pieces from the big collections from the past 50 years as well as itemizing the covers.

Now I have to be honest, I don't consider myself a big collector of the Britannia stamps, even though they are what started my interest in Barbados, caused by my local society asking me to present 5 pages on the letter ' $B$ ', and so I only own ten Britannia covers. Only two of these are in the book and one is slightly misdescribed, it assigns the manuscript ' 4 ' as black and my cover is definitely in red. A minor issue which I am sure with a little conversation and a scan can be corrected in the next edition as I am sure that this book will encourage collectors to look at their collections and provide further information for inclusion in the next edition.

So having done the postal history, I went to look over the stamps and here I had some really pleasant surprises, for not being a major collector, it would seem my sniping around the periphery of the big auctions had landed me with some of the only recorded multiples, so maybe my collection is developing better than I thought.

In conclusion, the book provides a good colour reference and new clear illustrations of the scarcer issues, is quick to reference material against and, at $£ 15$, will in the future l'm sure become a reference for the Barbados collector.

## BARBADOS

## Introduction of Compulsory Prepayment of Postage

By Edmund A. Bayley FRPSL

I have just read the book on the Barbados Britannia issues written by Fitz Roett in collaboration with Charles Freeland and Peter Longmuir, and published by the BWISC under the expert guidance of Peter Ford. I note that Fitz has taken issue with me on Page 47 of this book with a statement that I made on Page 29 of my own book The Stamps of Barbados [1989] in dealing with the 6d rose-red and 1s black denominations which were prepared and issued in November 1858. My statement reads inter alia:
'these two stamps were requisitioned for the purpose of denoting the prepayment of postage on letters to the United Kingdom, although it was not compulsory for postal charges to be prepaid by affixing adhesive postage stamps, until after August 22nd, 1861. Prior to that time, letters could still be forwarded unpaid.'

Fitz quotes statements from the Bacon \& Napier book [SG, 1896] and from 'The Post Office in Barbados' [Advocate, 1933] written by my father the late Herbert Bayley. He then quotes from a previously unrecorded notice which he states appeared in the Liberal newspaper in 1858 and was reproduced in the Journal of the Barbados Museum \& Historical Society. This notice reads, inter alia:
'December 29. From and after the 1st January next, the postage of letters addressed to the United Kingdom (except Official Military and Civil Departments) must be paid in advance with Barbados postage stamps; and should any letter liable to such prepayment be posted unpaid it will not be forwarded but opened and returned to the writer.'

Based on these sources and this notice, Fitz then goes on to make the statement, inter alia:
'That announcement should leave no doubt that the compulsory prepayment of letters to the United Kingdom was instituted in January 1859.'

Fitz is disputing the statement in my book and I am therefore forced to write this article to set the record right.

1. I have researched all of the early local newspapers, and the Journals of the Barbados Museum \& Historical Society from its first publication and have made copies of all notices appearing therein having any bearing on postal matters. The Barbados Museum \& Historical Society was founded in 1933 and I believe that the publication of its Journal started several years later. If this notice was also reproduced in its Journal then it would therefore have to have appeared almost 100 years after 1858. I have never seen a copy of this notice anywhere.
2. Fitz's notice is in direct contradiction to the Post Office Notice dated November 13th 1858, issued by Charles Tinling, Colonial Postmaster, and appearing in The Barbadian newspaper of that same day [Volume XXXVI, No. 3538] which reads, inter alia
'PARTIES desirous of prepaying their Letters for places out of the colony are informed, that they may do so with the Barbados Postage Stamps, which may be obtained at the General Post Office, Bridgetown, and at the Post Office of each parish.'

This same Post Office Notice but dated November 8th 1858 also appeared in the Barbados Globe, Official Gazette \& Colonial Advocate on that same day [Volume XL, No. 5079].
3. The Minutes of the House Assembly for Tuesday April 23rd 1861, state that a Message was received from the Governor, Mr. F. Hincks, and was laid by the Speaker in the House and read that
same day with an attached letter dated 11th March 1861 from the General Post Office in London addressed to Sir Frederic Rogers of the Colonial Office. The Message read, inter alia:

> 'The Governor has the honor to bring to the notice of the Honorable House of Assembly a representation made by the Secretary to the General Post Office, London, of the inconvenience made by the Secretary to the General Post Office, London, of the inconvenience attending the present mode of ascertaining the amount of postage respectively due to the Imperial and to certain of the Colonial Post Offices according as the postage has been paid in England, or has been left to be paid on delivery of the letter at its destination.'

This clearly indicates that up to March 1861 the compulsory prepayment of postage had not yet been implemented between Barbados and the United Kingdom and that the unpaid system was still being practised. Furthermore, this system was causing greatly difficulty as we shall see from the letter from the General Post Office, London, dated 11 March 1861, which states, inter alia:
> 'Sir,- I am directed by the Postmaster General to request that you will be good enough to state to the Duke of Newcastle that his attention has been drawn to the great length of time that is unavoidably occupied in this office in preparing mails for despatch to Jamaica, Demerara, Barbados and Trinidad, owing to the necessity, under the existing arrangements, of marking upon each individual letter the amount of postage due either to the Colonial Post Office or to the Imperial Office, according as the postage has been paid in this country or has been left to be paid upon the delivery of the letter at its destination. In addition to the time consumed in marking these sums upon the letters transmitted, the operation is necessarily tedious and causes much delay in the despatch of the mails.'
4. Certain other suggestions for accounting by the weight in ounces were made in the letter referred to in No. 3 above which apparently were adopted. It was also decided to extend the compulsory prepayment of postage to other colonies.
5. The Minutes of the House of Assembly for Tuesday 14 May 1861 state that on 22 April 1861, the Auditor General gave notice to the Honourable House of Assembly of his intention to alter his bill to provide for the prepayment of inter-colonial letters. The Auditor General introduced the bill into the House of Assembly on 14 May 1861 and it was read a first time. It was read a second and third time on 13 August 1861. Thus it became Act No. 501 entitled 'AN ACT to amend the Post-office Acts, 1851 and 1854' and came into force as from 22 August 1861. The Preamble sets out clearly the reason and intent of the Act and states, inter alia:
'WHEREAS it would tend to the public convenience if all letters sent by the post
from or to this colony to or from any other of her Majesty's colonies were prepaid,
and the amount of colonial postage chargeable by the colony to which such letters
may be sent were paid to and collected by the Post-office authorities of the colony
from which such letters may be sent:'
The Act gave the Governor authority to make arrangements with the Governors of other colonies for the mutual collection of the whole postage charged on letters sent, either way, which must now be prepaid in one sum. The first recorded Agreement to be signed was made with Trinidad on 3 October 1862. Other Agreements followed.

Based on the above evidence, there can be little doubt that the notice on which Fitz made his pronouncement, even if it exists, was not enforced as from January 1858 as he has stated and that letters could still continue to be forwarded unpaid. My statement that the compulsory prepayment of postage did not come into effect until 'after 22 August 1861' is therefore absolutely true and correct.

## BRITISH GUIANA

By Charles Freeland



Fig. 1
Gibbons list and price imperf between pairs but do not list the equally significant flaws where perforations are missing between a stamp and the margin. Maybe that is due to the uncertainty caused by the possible presence of wide selvedges, but I have always been alert to these varieties. Over 20 years ago I made a rather feeble attempt at a BWI compilation in Bulletin 148 (March 1991) and came up with a list of a mere 14. I received a number of additional suggestions and, with those I have found in the meantime, could comfortably treble that number. But the varieties remain elusive, often pricey and in my personal view desirable.

My collection of Br . Guiana recently consigned to Spink actually contains no less than 7 such varieties, none of which were in the 1991 Bulletin list. One I regard as especially significant as it is on a De La Rue issue, where the quality controls were usually outstanding, appears on the December 1881 provisional 2/96c, SG 150 (Fig. 1). Since it is from the right margin it shows the rarer font that only appears on Column 6. For the record, the collection also contains the following six varieties from the Waterlow printings:

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13 MARCH 2014 | LONDON


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1895 essays

1860 die proof



1922 Peace 4c. die proof


1934 4c. vertical pair imperforate horizontally

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## BRITISH GUIANA

## Book Review

by Ernst Schlunegger

British Guiana: The Provisionals of $\mathbf{1 8 8 2}$ by Richard Maisel.
Study Paper No. 5. Published by the British West Indies Study Circle. 72 pages, softbound, 2013.
ISBN 978-1-907481-17-8
Available from Pennymead Auctions, $£ 14.00$ ( $£ 12.00$ BWISC Members) plus P\&P.

## Study Paper No. 5

## BRITISH GUIANA:

 THE PROVISONALS OF 1882
## by

Richard Maisel, FRPSL


BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Some years ago I established a list comparing the seven printings of the British Guiana 1882 issue, the so called Baldwin issue, based on the book by Townsend \& Howe and my own specialised collection. Townsend \& Howe based their analysis on the pattern of crosses in the side margins and were able to establish the positions of quite a number of the stamps, but by no means all. There were a few mistakes in my list, and so I was happy to learn that Richard Maisel was conducting a more in-depth study.
Maisel has done an excellent job, congratulations! He gives in the introduction a good overview of the various provisionals of British Guiana as well of the development of post offices and postal traffic. Chapter Two shows how the stamps were produced, and it is remarkable that no complete sheet of the three first settings have survived, but only half sheets. For the second setting, complete sheets of each of the four printings mint and used are available, though the 6 th printing is rarely seen.

The Baldwin issue is a fascinating subject for plating. There are four main facts to be considered:

1) The design: a ship of two or three masts.
2) The slope of the perforation SPECIMEN.
3) The composition of the border.
4) The varieties in wording of country's name and denomination.

Maisel systematically explains all these details with lists and illustrations.
Where his study is innovative, however, is in his examination and measurement of the crosses in the LOWER margin. There are illustrations of every set of these crosses and these provide a foolproof method of plating every single stamp in the seven settings, 84 stamps in all! So if you have the patience to consider their various features, it is possible to identify the position of every stamp on every sheet.

Chapter Seven illustrates a variety of different ways in which a collection of the Baldwin Issue can be set out, whether according to the different settings and printings or just by comparing their different individual features. There are also of course several important varieties such as the specimen perforations double or missing, imperf between pairs and major offsets.

There is a mountain of information in this paper, which certainly lives up to the high standards that we have come to expect from our Study Papers, brilliantly edited by Peter Ford. It is an obligatory handbook for the collector of British Guiana, and a worthy addition to any library.

Highly recommended!

## OFFERS FROM STOCK

ANTIGUA. 1862 6d blue-green. A top marginal example. Very fine mint. Exceptionally fresh. SG 1 (Sc 1).

BAHAMAS. 1863 (Crown CC) 4d dull rose imprimatur on gummed watermarked paper. Very fine and rare.

BARBADOS. 1876 6d chrome-yellow in block of four. Very fine mint. Rare multiple. SG 79 (Sc 55).

BRITISH GUIANA. $1888 \$ 4$ green with larger figure ' 4 '. Very fine mint. Extremely scarce. SG 188a (Sc 127A).

CAYMAN ISLANDS. 1912 2/- in corner Plate block of four. Very fine used 'MY 11 14' c.d.s. SG 49 (Sc 41).

DOMINICA. 1879 4d blue with malformed 'CE' in 'PENCE'.
Very fine mint. Rare and exceptional. SG 7a.
$£ 1100$
GRENADA. 1891 2½d on 8d with surcharge treble.
Very fine used 'JA 1292 ' c.d.s. SG 47e (Sc 38e).
$£ 500$

LEEWARDS. 1897 5/- Sexagenary. Very fine used with part DOMINICA c.d.s. Rare used. SG 16 (Sc 16).
£500
LEEWARDS. 1938 1/- corner Plate block of four with 'DI' flaw (R.9/6). Very fine mint. SG 110a.
$£ 450$
MONTSERRAT. 1932 1d imperf colour trial in yellow-brown on part DLR Appendix sheet, endorsed ' $1 /$-' below.
$£ 500$
ST LUCIA. 1891 ½d on 3d surcharged both sides,
one double. Very fine mint. Rare. SG 56a/c (Sc 40d).
$£ 1250$
ST VINCENT. 1885 5/- perforated colour trial on gummed watermarked paper. Rare (see SG/Sc footnote). BPA Cert. $£ 1400$

TRINIDAD \& TOBAGO. 1969 6c Oil imperforate pair. Unmounted mint. SG 342b.

TURKS ISLANDS. 1881 ' $21 / 2$ ' on $1 /$-vertical pair (T23/24).

The above is a selection from my extensive British Commonwealth stock. All items available on approval (subject unsold). Major credit cards accepted. Illustrated lists on request (please advise collecting interests). Wants lists invited.

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## BRITISH HONDURAS

Convention Formal Display
Simon Greenwood


The following pages, extracted from Simon's British Honduras display give a flavour of his collection. Scans of the complete display are available on the web site.

The pre-stamp portion of Simon's display included a selection of ship letters, an 1835 soldier's concession rate letter, forwarding agents mail, Belize double arc cancels and no less than six crowned circle covers. Three sheets showing stamps of Great Britain cancelled A06 were followed by the progressive master die proof and specimens of the 1865 issue surface printed by De La Rue \& Co.

Soldiers 1d Concession rate


## FORW ARDING AGENTS

During the period 1839 to 1864 a number of agents who forwarded letters to and from Guatemala operated in Belize, the best known of whom was ANTONIO MATHE .


Sent from Yzabal, Guatemala on 20th February 1864, with Belize and London transit and Cadiz arrival marks. Latest known use.

## THE CROWNED CIRCLE PAID AT BELIZE MARK

According to the G.P.O. proof book, this handstamp was sent out to Belize on 13 th November 1841. It is recorded in use between 1845 and 1856, with a late use in 1860 . British stamps were used for the prepayment of postage from 1858 until they were withdrawn on 31st March 1860. The crowned circle mark was reinstated for a short period until it was replaced by the Belize/Paid c.d.s. Which was sent out from London on 30 th April.


DEC 111849
Backstamped with Belize double ring and with Iondon arrival mark of 21 Jan and Edinburgh of 22 Jan, passage 41 days. Rated $1 /-$ in red, the packet rate to the United Kingdom for $1 / 2$ oz.Only 15 examples have been recorded between 20 Nov 1845 and 13 Apr 1860.

BELIZE PAID.


5th August 1860
London transit 13th September 1860, passage 29 days Prepaid $1 /$ - with $10 d$ due to the Postmaster General in London.


12th September 1860.
London transit 13th October 1860, passage 31 days.
Prepaid 6d with jd due to the Postmaster General in London. Both covers fowarded by Antonio Mathe.
lst December 1865.
Surface-printed by De La Rue \& Co. No watermark.
White wove paper
Comb perforated


Progressive master die proof
'Colonial' without value and with uncleared surround. pound was a master engraver for De La Rue.


Samuel type D2.


Samuel type D5.

```
1872 - 1875.
Surface-printed by De La Rue & Co.
Watermarked Crown over CC.
White wove paper.
Line perforated i2\frac{1}{2}
```



Die proof.
2nd August 1872.


Plate proofs. Imprimaturs.


Essay.
2d. on ld., ex-Ferrary
(may have been' made for him).

1877 - 1879.
British Honduras joined the U.P.U. in 1879 and in consequence the 4 d value was ordered.

May 311878
REPORE HARDENING


Die proof.


16th October 1879.
4d Packet Rate to U.K.

THE CAYE SERVICE LOCAL POST.
In 1892 Sydney Cuthbert, a Belize merchant, built a house on St. George's cay, an island in the barrier reef off British Honduras. fiving from 1860 to 1938 he was, among many positions, a member of the Commission on Currency and his signature appeared on the currency notes of the country. A steam yacht, owned by the firm of Cuthbert Bros., sailed daily to and from Belize. It was found that this service was being abused by those who used it for free mail delivery, so a charge of 3 cents a letter was introduced. The origional plan to issue a stamp proved too expensive, so the typewritten labels were produced.


3lst July 1894.

Only 9 examples have been recorded used between 28th July 1894 and 27th September 1895.
The cancellation is known in mauve and blue.

## JAMAICA

## 1953 Coronation Plate Numbers

## By Steve Jarvis

Peter Fernbank's article in the September Bulletin (No. 238) caused me to look in my own collection and for other published information.

In Peter's article, Jamaica had a unique peculiarity, whereas the pane number combination (A, B) was always consistent for other countries, for Jamaica we had 1B3A and 1B6A. This would imply that the either the border or head panes were placed in the wrong position - which seems odd. My knowledge of printing techniques is weak, so I don't know if this is technically feasible.

## I came across two relevant articles:

Marriott, Sir John, Jamaica 1860-1962. The London Philatelist, January 1973 (Including comments on a display from The Royal Philatelic Collection given at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, on 21 September 1972.)

Frame 29: 1953 Coronation Issue.
Plate numbers in the collection: 1A-2A; 1B-2B; 1A-3A; 1B-3B; 1A-5A; 1B-5B; 1A-6A; 1B-6B. Other plate numbers seen: 1B-3A; 1B-6A.
Other plate numbers recorded: 1A-1B.
Sir John's listing ties in exactly with the list provided by Peter.
Thomas Foster in his Newsletter in Stamp Collecting, October 1972 states:
'according to my calculations, which have been known to be wrong occasionally, the following plate number combinations should exist for the 1953 Coronation stamp in addition to those already recorded: 1A-2B, 1A-3B, 1B-5A, 1A-6B and 1B-2A. Who amongst you have these in your collections?'
I'm not convinced Foster's calculations are correct.
The following table shows the combinations reported:
Q = Queen's Collection, M = Marriott LP Article Jan 1973, F = Foster Stamp Collecting Oct 1972

| Border | Head | Normal |  |  | Reversed |  |  | Comment |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | 1 | 1A | 1A |  | 1A | 1B | M recorded |  |
|  |  | 1B | 1B |  | 1B | 1A |  | Should exist if above exists |
| 1 | 2 | 1A | 2A | Q | 1A | 2 B | Fealc | No evidence |
|  |  | 1B | 2B | Q | 1 B | 2 A | Fealc | No evidence |
| 1 | 3 | 1A | 3A | Q | 1A | 3B | F calc |  |
|  |  | 1B | 3B | Q | 1B | 3A | M seen |  |
| 1 | 5 | 1A | 5A | Q |  |  |  |  |
|  |  | 1B | 5B | Q | 1B | 5 A | Falc | No evidence |
| 1 | 6 | 1A | 6A | Q | 1A | 6B | F calc | Should exist if below exists |
|  |  | 1B | 6B | Q | 1B | 6A | M seen |  |

The 'normal' combinations can all be verified from H.M. the Queen's collection (except plate 1-1) The 'reversed' combinations (seen or stated recorded by Sir John) cannot be verified.
Foster's calculation rely on Sir John's statement for these but the items with strikethrough seem incorrect.

Can anyone provide verification of a Plate 1-1 or any of the reversed plates?


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Auctions

## LEEWARD ISLANDS

The 'Dropped R' on the Leewards KEVII 1s

## By Peter Brooks

Gibbons list the 'Dropped R' on the Leeward Islands 1s duty plate (SG26a) as from Plate 2, (1st printing only). The Leeward Islands Notes for Philatelists also states that the 'Dropped R' is not on the second printing from Plate 1.


Fig. 1


Fig. 2

One of my corrections to information on the issued stamps in the Leewards book in the Corrigenda and Addenda (see BWISC Website Gallery) is to point out that the flaw is found on both Plate 2 (Fig. 1) and Plate 1 (Fig. 2) printings. I have never seen the stamp on a piece with the Plate 1 control but the illustrations show the clear difference between the two plates on the right pane of the 120 set sheets.

Additionally I am indebted to Robert de Keyser who drew my attention to the details of a lot in the 24 October 1989 Robson Lowe Sale of British West Indies and Atlantic Islands. This lot is described as an upper left corner block of 4 with Plate No 1 showing the 'Dropped R' in 'LEEWARD'. Unfortunately the lot is not illustrated in the catalogue but assuming the description is correct it confirms what is evident from the illustrated examples.

I would be pleased to hear of any other examples with the characteristics of the Plate 1 printing.
Note the following differences:-
Plate 2 Wide margin is imperforate.
Plate 1 Wide margin is perforated.
Plate 2 Area above gutter margin with position piece.
Plate 1 Area above gutter margin blank.
Plate 2 Pin marks as on Plate 2.
Plate 1 Pin marks as on Plate 1.
Plate 2 ' L ' is also dropped.
Plate 1 ' L ' is normal.
Plate 2 Letters of name are thick.
Plate 1 Letters of name are fine.

## ARTICLES FOR THE BULLETIN PLEASE SHORT OR LONG

By Geoff Kellow RDP and Charles Freeland

Bulletin articles on the stamps of St. Christopher have been few and far between and, although we have the Classic Collection booklet on Brian Brookes' fabulous collection, it is not set up in a manner that helps the student a lot. Recalling that Geoff Kellow had once prepared an exhibit on Peter Jaffé's St. Christopher, Charles asked Geoff for the texts and they have collaborated to extract the following information.

## The datestamps

The first fleuron datestamp was introduced for packet letters in 1805. Three instruments, known as the large, medium and small fleurons, were in partly concurrent use up to 1844. The small fleuron was introduced in 1824, and remained in use until its replacement by the standard pattern double arc datestamp in 1844. This remained in use on unpaid mail until replacement by the single ring datestamp in 1861. In the last years of fleuron use the year was not given in full and the spacing of the digits was variable.

The Paid markings


The 'St. Kitts/Paid' marking was first introduced in 1829 and was used as a datestamp on prepaid mail up to the time of the transfer of responsibility for the postal service to the island in 1860. Prepaid mail in this period therefore does not show additionally the double-arc datestamp. Following the transfer of the Post Office to local control on 1 April 1860, the paid mark came into standard use as a prepaid handstamp, in lieu of the Crowned Circle type which had been supplied to most of the other West Indian islands. For this usage the 'PAID' marking was used without a date on the front of a letter, in conjunction with the double arc datestamp applied to the reverse. The old Paid marking was replaced in 1865 by a new single ring datestamp which remained in use until the introduction of adhesive stamps in 1870.

## Postal rates

On 23 March 1854 the packet rate to the United Kingdom was reduced from $1 /-$ to $6 d$ per $1 / 20 z$. Following the establishment of postal autonomy, accountancy was introduced, with 5d of each rate being due to the British Post Office for provision of the packet service, the St. Christopher Post Office retaining 1d. On 1 April 1863 the packet letter rate was raised from $6 d$ to $1 /-$ per $1 / 202$. Of this amount, 11d was due to the British Post Office.

## The Packet Service and use of GB adhesives

The RMSP's regular service started at the beginning of 1842, the St. Christopher mails being taken by interisland steamer to Grenada to link with the fortnightly service. The prepayable rate was $1 /-$ per $1 / 20 z$. On 1 April 1858 prepayment of letters to the United Kingdom was made compulsory and it was decided to introduce British adhesives for use in the West Indian islands. An initial supply of $1 \mathrm{~d}, 4 \mathrm{~d}$ and 6 d stamps was despatched on 17 April 1858, together with two A12 obliterators. Subsequently 2d and 1/- stamps were also supplied. The use of British stamps ceased on 1 April 1860 when control of the West Indian post offices was transferred to local authority.

## THE ISSUED STAMPS

A St. Kitts design in die proof form, in various colours, was first reported in the stamp magazines in 1866. The design, based on the St. Lucia stamp of 1860, also exists for Dominica. It was subsequently proved to be bogus, and has been attributed to the Boston Gang led by US forger Samuel Allan Taylor, although the engraving is better than his usual standard.

## 1870-1881 WATERMARK CROWN CC

In 1869 the Colony decided to introduce adhesive stamps, but advised the Crown Agents that the total cost should not exceed £80. De La Rue proposed a small 20 -set key plate, and sent a specimen of the Straits Settlements 4 cents. A new key plate, two duty plates for the 1 d and 6 d (each of 20 units) and a supply of 12,000 of each value were accepted on 29 December 1869 and for $£ 64.12$ s invoiced on 14 February 1870.

The large sheets of Crown CC watermarked paper had to be cut up for printing 20-set, and the watermark is invariably off-centre as a result, while sideways watermarks occur. The 20 -set key plate also required the use of single-line machines for perforation.
1870. The first order was for two values - 1d for local delivery, and 6d for the United Kingdom mail. Up to 1875 all printings were line perf. $121 / 2$. Two distinct colours occur on the 1d - dull rose and magenta. The watermarked paper was supplied by the printer up to the beginning of 1872, and thereafter by the Crown Agents.

A master die proof was struck on glazed card. It was hardened 22 January 1870.

## ONE PENNY PERF. 12½ - PRINTINGS IN ROSE

The first four deliveries were line perf. $121 / 2$ and considered to be printed in shades of rose:

| Invoice date | Quantity | Invoice date | Quantity |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 14 February 1870 | 13,400 | 23 March 1871 | 6,600 |
| 27 May 1870 | 38,400 | 9 November 1871 | 10,000 |

Allocation of the early printings is helped by the use of the St. Kitts datestamp as a canceller, and the use of manuscript dated cancellations by villages.

Invoice date 14 February 1870. Dull rose. Dated copies indicate the whole of this printing was with watermark sideways, pointing in either direction.
Invoice date 27 May 1870. Watermark upright (only). In dull rose. Known used dated Sandy Point on 31 December 1870 and 25 March 1871. This is known with watermark inverted.
Invoice date 23 March 1871. It is suggested this small printing was in lilac-rose, with the duty plate in a distinctive magenta. No used examples have been seen.
Invoice date 9 November 1871. It is suggested that this printing was also in lilac-rose, but with the duty plate in the same shade. No dated copies have been seen prior to the invoice date of the following printing.

There were two further printings on Crown CC watermarked paper line perf. $12 \frac{1}{2}$. These were in shades of magenta:

| Invoice Date | Quantity | Invoice Date | Quantity |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 13 August 1872 | 20,520 | 29 September 1873 | 41,160 |

Invoice date 13 August 1872. It is suggested that the shade of this printing varies from pale magenta to magenta. The duty plate is characteristically pale. The colour is fugitive and used stamps are usually pale. Examples of village use are found as late as 1879. The stamp is known watermark inverted. It is also known (rarely) with watermark sideways and with watermark reversed.
Invoice date 29 September 1873. The final perf. $121 / 2$ printing is in a bright magenta shade, with duty plate matching key plate. The ink is fugitive and used stamps are often faded. Very early dates have not been seen, but examples exist dated before the next invoice of March 1875, believed to be perf. 14. No manuscript dates have been noted, so this printing may not have been distributed to villages.

## SIX PENCE PERF. 12½



The first six printings of the $6 d$ were perforated $12^{1 ⁄ 2}$. These were:

| Invoice date | Quantity | Invoice date | Quantity |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 14 February 870 | 13,400 | 9 November 1871 | 33,980 |
| 27 May 1870 | 19,920 | 13 August 1872 | 41,000 |
| 23 March 1871 | 13,800 | 29 September 1873 | 20,780 |

These printings can be allocated with some certainty because of the use of the St. Kitts c.d.s. up to 1875.

Invoice date 14 February 1870. Pale yellow-green.
Invoice date 27 May 1870. Dull yellow-green.
This is known with watermark inverted.
Invoice date 23 March 1871. Dull green.
Invoice date 9 November 1871. Blue-green.
Note: inverted "27" for "72" in year date
Invoice date 13 August 1872. Dull blue-green.
Invoice date 29 September 1873. Deep blue-green.
This exists watermark inverted and also with watermark reversed.

## 1875 ONE PENNY PERF. 14

There were five deliveries perforated 14 in shades of magenta. These were:

| Invoice date | Quantity | Invoice date | Quantity |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 12 March 1875 | 50,480 | 1 October 1880 | 30,000 |
| 14 May 1877 | 50,920 | 17 March 1881 | 24,000 |
| 28 April 1879 | 50,640 |  |  |

Allocation of these printings is more difficult than the perf. $12^{1 / 2}$ stamps since the St. Kitts c.d.s. at Basseterre was replaced by the undated "AWJY" canceller. Manuscript dates from villages continue, but it seems clear that not all the printings were used outside Basseterre. The fugitive ink used creates further problems in classifying used stamps. This is known with watermark inverted.

Invoice dates 12 March 1875 and 14 March 1877. Most stamps dated in 1878 and 1879 are in shades of magenta to bright magenta, and these have been allocated to the first two printings.

Bisects were permitted with a pair of 1 ds for the U.P.U. $2^{11 / 2}$ rate
Invoice dates 28 April 1879, 1 October 1880 and 17 March 1881. It is suggested that the shade of these printings is magenta, somewhat paler and duller than the first two printings. There is a group of stamps in a distinctly pale magenta shade, but these must be considered, at present, to be the result of washing. Bisects used for Book Post are not uncommon.

## SIX PENCE PERF. 14

The last three printings of the 6 d green were line perf. 14. These were:

| Invoice date | Quantity | Invoice date | Quantity |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 12 March 1875 | 49,840 | 28 April 1879 | 51,340 |
| 14 May 1877 | 51,320 |  |  |

Allocation of shades to these printings is difficult due to a lack of dated stamps.
Invoice date 12 March 1875. It is suggested this printing is in pale green. This is scarce mint, and less frequently found with the A12 obliterator.
Invoice date 14 May 1877 and 28 April 1879. Dull blue-green. This shade is commoner than the pale green shade, and a few sheets of 20 have survived, suggesting it is from the last printings, a portion of which were remaindered after 1890. The shade is also relatively scarce with the "AWJY" canceller and much more frequently found with the A12 obliterator.

Gibbons lists an imperf between based on a horizontal pair in the Tapling collection. The stamp is known with watermark sideways, watermark inverted or watermark reversed.

With the reduction of the United Kingdom rate to 4d in 1879, no further printings of the 6d stamp were required until 1890, when the colour was changed to olive-brown.
1879. Following admission to the Universal Postal Union as from 1 July 1879, two new denominations were required, and these were ordered on 16 May 1879. $2^{11 / 2 d}$ was for letters under 300 miles (effectively the West Indian rate) and 4d for letters over 300 miles. $2^{1 / 2 d}$ and 4 d stamps were ordered for each of the Leeward Islands at the same time, and the cost of the duty plates was shared with Dominica, which used the same key plate design. The De La Rue records indicate the production of a single 60 -set duty plate to match the size of the Dominica key plate ( $6 \times 10$ ), but there is some doubt as to whether this was actually used as it did not fit the 20 -set plate ( $5 \times 4$ ) used for the St. Christopher key plate. But we know it was shared with Tobago from the evidence of the malformed CE at \#60.

## TWOPENCE HALFPENNY

The single printing of the $21 / 2 d$ on Crown CC watermarked paper was invoiced on 7 November 1879 and comprised 1,460 stamps. A large proportion of this quantity was taken by new issue dealers and used stamps are rare.

## FOURPENCE

There were three deliveries of the 4d on Crown CC watermarked paper:

| Invoice date | Quantity | Invoice date | Quantity |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 7 November 1879 | 7,240 | 17 March 1881 | 30,400 |
| 14 January 1880 | 20,900 |  |  |

The first two deliveries probably represent two parts of the same printing. Two shades occur, but their allocation to the invoice dates is not certain. The division here is on the basis of an apparent greater proportion of A12 cancellations on one shade.

Invoice dates 7 November 1879 and 14 January 1880. In deep blue. The A12 obliterator is relatively scarce.
Invoice date 17 March 1881. In pale blue. The A12 obliterator is seen more frequently. This stamp is commonly seen with watermark inverted. It has long been listed by Gibbons with watermark reversed but that is far more elusive.
(To be continued)

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## BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS

2013 has seen no fewer than four new books published and there is sure to be something of interest to all members. These books are tremendous value compared to previous publications as the costs of commercial printing have reduced dramatically. For instance, the 'STEAMSHIP LINES TO THE CARIBBEAN' volumes by Michael Rego now sell for around $£ 30$, whereas the Jamaica Airmails book detailed below, of similar size is almost half the price. This is an opportunity not to be missed, so send orders in as soon as possible.

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

by Peter Fernbank, FRPSL

This is a second edition; since its publication in 1997 this work has become the standard reference work for collectors of the issues of this King George V Universal key plate style. It was awarded the prestigious Crawford Medal by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately published in book form during the relevant period. It was further awarded a Large Silver Gilt medal in the Literature section of the British National Stamp Exhibition in 1998. This study encompasses the issues of all of the 17 colonies that employed this design with many illustrations in full colour. 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 style. A wealth of additional information has been added to this basic framework that adds flesh to the bare bones of printing statistics. A4 size, hardbacked with dust jacket, (xx) +488 pages.
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The Barbados book above is also available for members in North America from the author Fitz Roett, 806, Kincora Bay NW, Calgary, Alberta T3R 0A7, or e-mail Fitz at www.fitzroett@yahoo.com.
All books published by the British West Indies Study Circle are displayed on www.bwisc.org and on www. pennymead.com.

## Articles of BWI interest in other journals 2013

| Country | Article | Author | Source | Month |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bahamas | The stamps 1940-48: the Wallis Collection | D. Horry | BCPJ | 2 nd Quarter |
| Bahamas | Bahamas under the Duke of Windsor | D. Horry | SM | April |
| Bahamas | 1942 2s on blue tinted paper | R. Staffeldt | Geosix | June |
| Bahamas | Round the Islands | J. Winchester | SM | July |
| Bahamas, <br> Br. Guiana | Veterans Guard of Canada in WW2 | E. Yendall | Geosix | September |
| Bahamas | Conch Shell Emblem | P. Fernbank | LP | December |
| Barbados | Official Mail | F. Roett | BCPJ | 1st Quarter |
| Bermuda | The Williams Lea 1941 Emergency printings | D. Littlewort | Geosix | December |
| Br. Guiana | Arrmails | B. Beston | BCPJ | 1st Quarter |
| Br. Guiana | Yarakita revisited | R. Ramphal | BCPJ | 2 nd Quarter |
| Br. Guiana | Yarikita revisited once again | M. Medlicott | BCPJ | 2 nd Quarter |
| Br. Guiana | More covers | C. Freeland | BCPJ | 3rd Quarter |
| Br. Guiana | Sweetness and Light | J. Winchester | SM | September |
| Caribbean | Crowned Circles | P. McCann | BCPJ | 2 nd Quarter |
| Caribbean | 2 line dated cancellers 1799-1835 | C. Freeland | BCPJ | 2nd Quarter |
| Cayman Is | Manuscript censor cover | H. Pattiz | BCPJ | 1st Quarter |
| Grenada | First postage dues on cover | H. Pattiz | BCPJ | 4th Quarter |
| Jamaica | Jamaica Philatelic Society | J. Seidl | BCPJ | 1st Quarter |
| Jamaica | Earliest WW2 censor cover? | P. Farrimond | BCPJ | 1st Quarter |
| Jamaica | MS datestamp on WW2 censored mail | H. Pattiz | BCPJ | 1st Quarter |
| Jamaica | Llandovery stamps on picture postcards | J. Wynns | BCPJ | 3 rd Quarter |
| Jamaica | The definitives that never were | D. Horry | BCPJ | 4th Quarter |
| Jamaica | The Tweedside Red Mystery | D. Horry | GSM | November |
| Jamaica | The Jamaica definitives 1951--56 | D. Horry | GSM | December |
| Leeward Is. | Postal Stationery | D. Fuller | BCPJ | 3 rd Quarter |
| St. Lucia | Postage due pair imperf vertically | H. Pattiz | BCPJ | 3 rd Quarter |
| St. Vincent | Promotional Markings | S. Zirinsky | BCPJ | 1st Quarter |
| Trinidad | Airmail to the DWI during WW2 | D. Fuller | BCPJ | 4th Quarter |
| Virgin Is | First day covers | G. Migliavacca | BCPJ | 3 rd Quarter |
| General | Roger Wells revealed | D. Horry | GSM | February |

## Journal abbreviations

BCPJ, British Caribbean Philatelic Society Quarterly Journal. GSM, Gibbons Stamp Monthly. LP, London Philatelist. RJ, The Revenue Journal. SL, Stamp Lover. SM, Stamp Magazine.
Geosix, Newsletter of the King George VI Collectors Society.
NB Articles in Bermuda Post are not referenced as it is assumed all members interested in
Bermuda receive the journal as members of the Bermuda Collectors Society.

## Auction Update

## Charles Freeland

## Victoria Stamp Company 7 December (BP 15\%)

In one of the quietest quarters for BWI that I can recall there was only one serious offering, at what has now become Phoebe's annual auction in New Jersey. The highlight was the Rev Hugh Peniston's Bermuda collection which had several moments that set the room alight. The big talking point was the extraordinary $\$ 22.5 \mathrm{k}$ achieved by the pristine block of eight of the 10 s line perf from the lower right corner...three or four times what a decent corner block of four would likely have fetched, while the unique cut-down Silver Jubilee master die proof from the Waterlow archives with annotations went for $\$ 7.5 \mathrm{k}$. There was not a great deal of postal history but a decent 1863 P3 handstamp ex-Tucker went for a very healthy $\$ 2.25 \mathrm{k}$ and the oval House of Assembly on a local 1896 Parliamentary bill was $\$ 950$ while a 1d on $1 / 2$ QV postcard with the dropped ' Y ' and broken ' N ' flaw went for $\$ 750$. Otherwise most of the big prices were for the proof material with the four 1866 values cut down in sunk card at $\$ 1.3 \mathrm{k}$ each. Other unusual lots were fine used
blocks of the two Tercentenary sets that went for $\$ 800$ and $\$ 900$ respectively. A curiosity was a caravel 3d specimen with variety double overprint, one albino. This went for $\$ 450$. In the key plates no less than $\$ 1.3 \mathrm{k}$ was paid for a marginal $\mathrm{u} / \mathrm{m} 2 \mathrm{~s} 6 \mathrm{~s}$ from the Sept 1931 printing showing the diagnostic 3b flaw while the GV 2s specimen with \#12 flaw reached $\$ 375$. In the GVI, apart from the 10 s line perf block the exceptional result was $\$ 4 \mathrm{k}$ for an upper left corner block of the $1937 £ 1$ with plate plug and joined 'ER' flaw. Prices for QE were good, with the 1953 set in mostly lower right plate blocks with plate numbers at $\$ 425$ (astonishing to see Gibbons price for singles of these is now $£ 120$ ). There were few watermark varieties of note but a marginal block of the rather common caravel 3d inverted was $\$ 475$ and the GV $£ 1$ inverted $\$ 1.7 \mathrm{k}$.
Another area of BWI interest in the sale was a neat collection of Cayman Islands. The best item was the KE $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$ on 5 s provisional with Glover flaw at $\$ 3.75 \mathrm{k}$, but there were half a dozen other Glovers too with the $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$ MCA getting the best price of $\$ 300$. An interesting range of covers was carefully broken down but many were familiar usages and did not sell. Other significant offerings were more Barbados and Trinidad from the Nethersole estate. While the best items had sold in the last Victoria sale, a Barbados $1 / 2 \mathrm{~d}$ strip imperf between stamp and margin was $\$ 650$ and the 1882-6 set of 9 handstamped small specimen Bar $2 \$ 300$ (very reasonable when one recalls the prices they sold for in our own 2013 auction, but these were not so nice). There was good demand for the Trinidad covers and mixed collection lots with $95 \%$ sold. Two 1813 and 1820 fleurons were $\$ 225$ each and a pair of 1d SG 46a imperf vertically with upper margin full Gibbons at $\$ 1.6 \mathrm{k}$. A receipt book containing dummy stamps and details of the colour scheme for the 1901-6 Trinidad low values fetched almost double estimate at $\$ 2.25 \mathrm{k}$ but these also contained references to India and Orange River Colony.

## Spink 12 December (BP 20\%)

Hidden in a GB catalogue were some of the German propaganda forgeries, but these were more than the ones we usually turn our noses up at. First, they included a number of se-tenant strips and rarely seen blocks, second they included not only the "regular" sets of the Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad, but there were also some of the rarely seen sets of Grenada and St. Vincent, that are found se-tenant with Borneo, Bougainville, Rabaul and Rangoon. A block of six with one of each was $£ 500$ and blocks of four $£ 250$. The six values of the St. Vincent set on its own "unused" was a proverbial steal at $£ 120$.

## Spink 28-30 January (BP 20\%)

An apparent "portfolio" of rare BWI blocks was a feature of this sale, which all appeared to have been unsolds from the 2011 Steinberg sale at Sotheby's. Results were all over the place. The Antigua and Bahamas were sold at reserve or unsold, the Barbados and Dominica patchy, while Tony Farmer's block of Leewards 1d with misplaced name and value tablet was unsold. On the other hand the St Lucia, all ex-Jaffè, went "through the roof", with the best, the block of 12 of the 4 d overprint SG 27, fetching £2.6k. I was told that there were three or four strong book bidders, leading to prices close to or above the heady days when Lord Steinberg and others were competing. Elsewhere, an interesting range of Jamaica covers found new homes at decent prices although the colour trials for the 1932 Welfare set only just crept up to their reserve of $£ 2.1 \mathrm{k}$.

## Coming events

Ahead in the auction room there will be more Br . Honduras cancels at Grosvenor on 4-5 March while on 12 March the Cavendish sale will include a fine range of Jamaica from Dick Hemmings. But my impartial advice is to save your money for Spink's 13 March offering of the 'Foxley' Br. Guiana and Br . Honduras as advertised in this Bulletin. Also in the auction world, Cavendish has announced that it will open a new office in Putney South West London, to be headed by the distinguished Australian philatelist, author and bibliophile Ben Palmer. Although no plans are currently in place to hold auctions there, I understand auction facilities will exist and there will also be a useful ability for study circles to meet. Another key development is that the GVI specialists Murray Payne have just been acquired by Stanley Gibbons for $£ 1 \mathrm{mn}$, a price that presumably includes its stock. I have been told that this will not affect the management and commission structure of the current MP auctions. Finally, I have been alarmed to see some very authentic looking forgeries on ebay, sold as "replicas" with some markings on the reverse, but such markings can be removed...these are being offered out of Slovakia but I believe have Taiwan origins. Caveat!

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IAN JAKES
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## Web-Master’s Report

## Steve Jarvis

All editions of the Bulletin are available on our web site. An updated listing is available for download from the web site or printed copy by application to the Web-Master at $£ 3.00$ or $\$ \mathrm{US5.00}$. Please view Charles Freeland's regular updates to his Auction Alert under 'Auction/Dealers'.

## Editor's Report

Terry Harrison
The proposed publication schedule is as follows:

| Edition | June 2014 | September 2014 | December 2014 | March 2015 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Distribute | Mon 2 Jun | Mon 1 Sep | Mon 1 Dec | Mon 16 Mar |
| From Printer | Tue 27 May | Tue 26 Aug | Tue 25 Nov | Tue 10 Mar |
| To Printer | Mon 12 May | Mon 4 Aug | Mon 3 Nov | Mon 16 Feb |
| Final Bulletin Revisions | Sun 11 May | Sun 3 Aug | Sun 2 Nov | Sun 15 Feb |
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