



STUDY CIRCLE

JAMAICA TRANSIT MAIL WITH COLUMBIA FLEURON



See Simon Richards' article



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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.
- 7 TO maintain a specialised library from which home members can borrow books.

**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 25 April 2015 – AGM & Auction at Grosvenor Auction Rooms, 3rd Floor, 399-401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT. Viewing from 12 noon, AGM at 1.15pm, followed by the Auction at 2.15pm.

13–16 May London 2015 Europhilex.

Wednesday 1000-1900, £10 entry, Thursday & Friday 1000-1800 and Saturday 1000-1700, free entry.

The Circle has a table on all four days, to publicise our activities and publications, to recruit new members and give members a place to rendezvous. If you are at the show, do pop by and say *hello*. It will be a great opportunity to meet up and talk, and also to pick up Circle publications while saving on postage. Order from Pennymead in advance, and collect from our stand.

We are looking for members to help tend the stand. If you would like to talk to visitors about BWI philately, and could give some time, even if only a couple of hours, please contact George Dunbar.

Saturday 4 July 2015 – The Study Circle will have a stand at MIDPEX, which is being held at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN, from 10.00 to 17.00.

Saturday and Sunday 3/4 October 2015 – Convention at the Honiley Court Hotel, Meer End Road, Honiley, Kenilworth, CV8 1NP. Formal displays will be given by Simon Richards, Dominica and Peter Ford, KGV stamps and proofs. There will be a dinner on Saturday evening, with Collett Award presentations.

Congratulations to:-

Stefan Heijtz, David Horry and Phoebe MacGillivray on their elevation to Fellowship of the RPSL.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**BY CHARLES FREELAND**

Our 60th anniversary is now over and we went out on a high with a fantastic display of BWI rarities at the RPS on 6th November. I thank the many of you who made the effort to prepare frames for the display and the countless members who came by during the afternoon, helping to shatter the RPS's attendance record with a total of 201 signed in, compared with the normal attendance, even for HM the Queen's displays, of some 100-125. It must have been the first time that frames of Anguilla and Barbuda were shown in the hallowed room, but thankfully we did not stoop to Redonda.

While there were many highlights, I must mention the two spectacular frames brought by David Pitts, featuring five Bermuda Postmaster stamps among many other goodies and Simon Greenwood's Br Guiana cotton reels headed by three covers, the famous 2c pair, the dual franking of 4c plus 8c and a 4c alone, which far outshone those in the now notorious Feldman sale of June 2014. I doubt there has been an occasion when all these huge rarities were displayed in one room, certainly not when the Circle last displayed to the RPS in March 1960. As for the essay and proof material, words cannot describe the beauty and importance of some of the pages on show. At the other end of the scale we had frames for airmails, postmarks, revenues, postal stationery and WW1 Patriotic labels in an attempt to provide something for every taste. I think we managed to impress even the most sceptical of RPS sceptics.



Charles receiving the Plaquette from Chris King, President of the RPSL

For those who were not in attendance and since the scans on our website are incomplete, I list below for the record a summary of the other great rarities on display.

Anguilla: nine covers showing TRD postmarks (Road, Anguilla Forest, Blowing Point and East End).

Antigua: unique examples of the GB 2d and 4d cancelled A18 and one of two known copies of the QV rosy-mauve compound perf; 1879 composite artist's drawing and Sep 1883 colour scheme.

Bahamas: Unique stationery essays and proofs, key plate varieties and the Stop after Columbus flaw on the 2s and 3s. Postmarks including the unique Crooked Island cds.

Barbados: the 1s blue error of colour; a 1656 letter and the 1869 "plastered" cover to St Helena.

Barbuda: early letters from the island showing rare Antigua marks and the 1922 set in imperf pairs.

Bermuda: 1620 and 1628 letters, 1842 cover with pair of Penny Blacks and the famous Moncrieff cover; blocks of 4 of the QV 3d/1d and 9 of the 1s imperf between; 1883 and 1901 colour schemes.

British Guiana: a frame of cotton-reels, including shades of the 4c, an unused 12c and a used pair.

British Honduras: florin head die proofs in black and blue; rare town cancels.

Cayman Islands: the only known Jamaican official stamps on an 1898 cover from the Cayman Is.

Dominica: both recorded Dominico strikes and a range of straight line marks on cover; the magnificent 1879 cover franked 6d to the Bishop of Antigua; thin and thick bar provisionals.

Grenada: 1861 1d and 6d die proofs, and revenue rarities.

Jamaica: three Dummer packet letters and the earliest recorded Jamaica mark on a 1749 cover.

Leeward Islands: comprehensive range of plate plugs and GV 10s and £1 imperf.

Montserrat: postal history including rare three-line, straightline, horseshoe and fleuron marks.

Nevis: 4d and 1s strips imperf between and an 1876 cover to Barbados franked with four 4d orange.

St Christopher: major overprint varieties. Essays, proofs and imperfs of the 1923 Tercentenary set.

St Lucia: blocks of the Perkins Bacon issues including an 1860 6d block of 6.

St Vincent: hand-painted QV-GV De La Rue essays and die proofs.

Tobago: rejoined block of six of the 1886 ½d on 2½d provisionals, two with double overprints, and 1878 cover with the single ring Tobago crowned Circle.

Trinidad: two Lady McLeod covers and an unused McLeod.

Turks Is: 1881 ½d and 2½d provisional rarities including several full sheets; study of the 1901 Salt issue with a full range of essays, proofs and colour trials.

Virgin Is: two examples of the 1866 1d compound perf and a reconstructed sheet of the 1867 1s on grey paper.

All members of your Committee contributed to the smooth running of the celebrations, which started with our Diamond Jubilee auction. I would like to single out just three, Simon Goldblatt for working tirelessly to assemble and describe lots for the "Diamond Jubilee" auction, Peter Fernbank for planning and organising the RPS exhibition and Peter Ford for coordinating and editing the splendid RPS brochure (which not surprisingly 'sold out' by mid-afternoon). Those of you who missed the event can find a link to most of the displays on our website, together with an electronic version of the brochure. I should add that we sold a considerable number of our own publications too, helping to fund our expenses.

Credit is of course primarily due to the 32 exhibitors, including the 13 who came from all five continents to support our initiative. None of those I spoke to regretted the enormous efforts they made to participate, in fact several suggested we repeat it now and then. Of the domestic exhibitors I was especially glad to see Brian Brookes who had made a fantastic effort to come down from near Birmingham with his son. Sadly, I had little time to talk properly to him or indeed any of the other members, so numerous were those who greeted me.

One other piece of news that gave me great pleasure to announce when receiving the RPS medal was that two of the three entries we submitted for the Rossica exhibition of philatelic literature and related material in Moscow won Large Gold, our brilliant website managed by Steve Jarvis and Peter Fernbank's magnificent book on the GV key plates. Many congratulations to both of them. Our third entry, Ian Jakes' new book on the Trinidad Red Cross label, won Large Silver which is highly commendable considering that it is a softback in competition with mostly glossy hardbacks. Although these awards were mentioned in the December Bulletin some of you may have missed them. Others may have thought, what is Rossica? Well, Rossica is the principal society for Russian Philately based in Moscow and last October it held an international literature and interactive media competition that had the patronage of the European Academy of Philately and the International Association of Philatelic Journalists. There were 130 entries and only 21 Large Golds were awarded, so it was by no means an "easy score".

There are other successes to report. First our membership is holding up well, much assisted by the work Ray does to process paypal and paperless memberships. Few societies can make the same claim. Second, we continue to churn out books, the most recent being *Nevis* written by Federico Borromeo and myself, with Peter Ford as our invaluable editor. Several other books are in the pipeline. Third, we have submitted enough articles to *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* to enable a second 'special BWI edition' to be published, although they are appearing in dribs and drabs. Fourth, our finances are in satisfactory shape as those of you who come to the AGM on 25 April will learn. Fifth, individual members continue to earn recognition. On page 3 you will read that Stefan Heijtz, David Horry and Phoebe MacGillivray have been awarded fellowship of the RPSL: my congratulations to each of them. Bill Gibb has been appointed as one of the RPS's representatives in the East Midlands. Michael Oliver has been awarded a certificate to mark his membership of the RPS for 30 years. And, as we have known for some time, Steve Jarvis has succeeded Frank Walton as editor to the *London Philatelist*, a signal honour with responsibility for the UK's leading philatelic journal.

One less satisfying event is that the modern fakes and forgeries continue to appear, especially on ebay. In the December issue of the *London Philatelist* our member Chris Harman, in his capacity as chairman of the RPS's Expert Committee, announced that forgeries of the Royal's certificates had also been seen and illustrated a fake that bizarrely bore the number of the certificate awarded to the unique Br Guiana One cent, though it would not fool anyone who had ever seen a genuine certificate.

I have now served for almost four years as your President. I originally contracted for a three year term but at last year's AGM asked for an extension in order to see us through our Anniversary year. My strong feeling is that while the Circle is in excellent shape it needs to have new ideas and fresh blood at its head. I will, accordingly, tender my resignation at the AGM in April. I am pleased to say that already one candidate has stepped forward to replace me, namely Graham Booth. While I think Graham is an excellent candidate I would be happy to see a competitive election if any other member wishes to stand. If so, please give your name to George Duncan at least a week before the AGM. In the meantime I am available to all who wish to pose questions about the scope of the job and how I personally went about it...not that there are any formal presidential duties laid down in our non-existent statutes.



The cover Bulletin 243 showed a picture of the Diamond Jubilee exhibitors. This is repeated above with a key of names so those not in the know may identify individuals.

**SOME THOUGHTS ON THE 6 NOVEMBER DIAMOND JUBILEE EXHIBITION
OF THE BWISC AT THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON****BY DAVID HORRY**

Never before have so many gathered at The Royal Philatelic Society of London at Devonshire Place for such an event - The British West Indies Study Circle Diamond Jubilee. There was a preview reception at Stanley Gibbons in The Strand the previous evening, followed by a dinner after the main show at The Naval Club, marvellously organised by the irrepressible John Keegan.

Peter Fernbank is to be congratulated on his seamless overall co-ordination – great work.

Exhibitors flew in from far and wide – Stefan Heijtz from Sweden, Ian Matheson from South Africa, Fitz Roett from Canada, Charles Freeland and Richard Foden from Switzerland, Andrew Fowles from Jamaica, Peter Ford from Spain, Federico Borromeo from Italy, Russell Boylan from Australia, David Pitts from the USA, David Cordon from Bermuda and yours truly from sunny Shanghai. Peter McCann's Montserrat display was brought over from the USA by Art Groten. Member Guy Kilburn came all the way from California and there was Leonard Hartmann from Kentucky. 32 Study Circle members showed 52 frames of rare and exotic material – including half a dozen Large Gold Medal Winners.

I wondered where our Society would be in 2054 when the BWISC Centenary will be celebrated. Most, if not all, of the members would sadly no longer be around. Perhaps because of television and the internet Britain's youth, indeed our children have little or no interest in things philatelic. And what of all these wonderful collections - would they end up in far distant museums as per the recent British Guiana classic material sold in New York and Switzerland.

Our President Charles Freeland stated in a short address that 'global' was the watchword of this gathering. RPSL President Chris King echoed this by noting that he had just been informed that the leading Chinese Philatelic Society now boasted 2.4 million members and rising. When I was resident in Hong Kong in 1996 a major stamp fair, held over four days, attracted over 750,000 Chinese. They queued round the walkways of Wan Chai with small children - overnight in sleeping bags and bivouacs. The lines were unbelievably long and patient. Stuart Babbington had to issue me with a Murray Payne pass so that I could just get in to the Exhibition Centre, right next door to my office.

Will all our collections end up in China? Who knows? The Chinese assiduously collect paintings and art, furniture and other ephemera. They swoop down in hordes on French wines from Singapore to Shenzhen to Shanghai and beyond - even though they may spritz a Chateau Lafite with a Seven-Up!

But do not abandon hope. According to Hugh Jefferies, in a 1927 edition of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, the editor bemoaned the current lack of interest in philately and squarely blamed it on a new invention that was taking a lot of young people's attention – namely radio! It is true that neither radio nor television has done much to further our hobby, however the Internet surely has. eBay alone has made a huge contribution to philatelic involvement and there are plenty of dedicated websites that aim to stimulate interest and increase participation.

But certain aspects will surely have to change. I noted that very few Caribbean stamps issued in the last 60 years were on display at Devonshire Place - very little material from the King George VI period either. New collectors do not usually have deep pockets and should be encouraged to invest their time and hard earned cash into the issues of the early QEII period. It is an interesting and underdeveloped area of postal history and philately, in the West Indies particularly, with the demise of Empire.

The BWISC intend shortly to publish my new *Encyclopedia of the British West Indies Postmarks – QEII 1953 -1965* –ish. Peter Ford is not planning on a Chinese version – just yet!

BWI**THE IMPERIUM ESSAYS, PART 2****BY MICHAEL OLIVER**

A6. **19 March 1897** – Appendix B Gold Coast alternative colours to Appendix A. All have left selvages and marginal rule, the sheet cut down into vertical pairs with (T) at top.

- | | | |
|--------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| PR6d I | 22 – Mauve & green | 27 – Green & chestnut |
| | 23 – Mauve & chestnut | 28 – Green & violet |
| | 24 – Mauve & violet | 29 – Green & purple |
| | 25 – Mauve & mauve | |
| | 26 – Mauve & purple | 26 also exists as a single (W) |



PP6d I 30a Green, ½d
 Red, 1d
 Orange & violet, 2d
 Blue, 2½d
 Grey & brown, 3d, with red ink cross

Mauve & blue, top marginal rule
Chestnut & blue, 4d
Sage & red, 6d
Violet & green, 1s



- A8. **24 August 1897** – Gambia, a second sheet of 10 extra colour trials was also submitted with one missing before it was cut down.
All have a top selvedge & two with marginal rules (32 & ?) Thought that all are (T).

PP6d I	30 – Slate & blue	35 – Violet & red
	31 – Brown & green	36 – Brown & red
	32 – Blue & purple	37 – Purple & blue
	33 – Orange & green	38 – Blue & orange
	34 – Purple-brown & orange	

- A9. **29 November 1897** – Three sheets comprising 51 vertical pairs in doubly fugitive mauve, green and black on three coloured papers, as requested by the Crown Agents.
The three sheets cut down into 51 vertical pairs the upper stamp with white tablet. Each vertical pair was printed in triplicate on Crown CA paper. Yellow paper has large Crown and CA and buff paper has the watermark reversed.

On white paper		
PR6d I	39 – Mauve & red	44 – Green & red
	40 – Mauve & blue	45 – Green & blue
	41 – Mauve & purple	46 – Green & purple
	42 – Mauve & green	50 – Black & purple
	43 – Mauve & chestnut	51 – Black & green
		52 – Black & chestnut
On buff paper		
	53 – Mauve & red	60 – Green & red
	54 – Mauve & blue	61 – Green & blue
	55 – Mauve & violet	62 – Green & violet
	56 – Mauve & green	63 – Green & green
	57 – Mauve & purple	64 – Green and purple
	58 – Mauve & chestnut	65 – Green & chestnut
	59 – Mauve & black	66 – Green & black
		67 – Black & red
		68 – Black & blue
		69 – Black & violet
		70 – Black & green
		71 – Black & purple
		72 – Black & chestnut
		73 – Black & black
On yellow paper		
	74 – Mauve & red	78 – Green & red
	75 – Mauve & black	79 – Green & black
	76 – Mauve & green	80 – Green & chestnut
	77 – Mauve & purple	81 – Green & purple
		82 – Black & red
		83 – Black & green
		84 – Black & chestnut
		85 – Black & purple
On red paper		
	86 – Mauve & black	87 – Green & black
		88 – Green & red
		89 – Black & red

- A10. **15 December 1897** – British Honduras colour trials for the new 25c duty. Plates 1 and 2 were used.

PP6d I	90 – Grey & brown (T) 2	93 – Olive & black (T) 2 – mark on tablet
	91 – Grey & blue (T) 1	94 – Purple & black (T) 2
	92 – Violet & green (T) 2	95 – Brown & green (T) 1
		91 and 95 were not included in the auction.

- A11. **8 February 1898** – Appendix sheet with 32 essays submitted to meet a request by the Crown Agents for colour trials “*in black on white and yellow papers as for the Hong Kong \$1.*” Cut into horizontal pairs with the white tablet on the left. All unwatermarked.

	On white paper	On yellow paper
PR6d I	96 – Black & black	104 – Green & violet
	97 – Black & red-brown	105 – Green & red

98 – Black & violet	106 – Green & mauve
99 – Black & green	107 – Green & green
On yellow paper	108 – Mauve & violet
100 – Black & black	109 – Mauve & red-brown
101 – Black & red-brown	110 – Mauve & purple
102 – Black & mauve	111 – Mauve & green
103 – Black & green	96 is on piece with “ <i>Appendix A and date.</i> ”

- A12. 1 February 1899** – Appendix B, Gold Coast Reqn. 10/99. 13 essays overprinted JUDICIAL. The sheet is thought still to be complete.

PR6d I 112	Mauve & green/yellow (W) black opt.	Black & green (W) black opt.
	Mauve & red/yellow (W) black opt.	Black & violet (W) black opt.
	Green & black/yellow (W) black opt.	Black & black (W) red opt.
	Green & green /yellow(W) black opt.	Black & red (W) red opt.
	Green & chestnut/yellow (W) black opt.	Black & green (W) red opt.
	Black & black(W) black opt.	Black & violet (W) red opt.
	Black & red (W) black opt.	

- A13. 23 February 1899** – Appendix, Colour Trials for Seychelles.
On piece with value in m/script above each.

PP2c I 113	– Yellow & red (W) – 6cents	Red-brown & red (W) – Re1.50
	Blue & black (W) – 75 cents	Olive & violet (W) – Rs 2.25

Other pieces

114	– Blue-green & red (W)	122	– Red-brown & black (W)
	– Green & brown (W)		– Red-brown & green (W)
	– Green & violet (W)	124	– Violet & green (W)
117	– Yellow & violet (W)		– Violet & black (W)
	– Yellow & black (W)	126	– Olive-brown & red (W)
119	– Yellow & black (T)		– Olive-brown & blue (W)
	– Red-brown & violet (T)		– Olive-brown & black (T)
	– Blue-green & red (T)	129	– Maroon & blue (W)

128 is on piece with 119, 120 and 121

- A14. 15 September 1899** – A colour scheme for Northern Nigeria. The Mauve & green essay has NORTHERN NIGERIA handpainted in the name tablet.

PR6d I 130	– Mauve & red (T)	134	– Mauve & chestnut (W)
	131 – Mauve & blue (T)		135 – Green & blue (T)
	132 – Mauve & mauve (W)		136 – Green & black (T)
	133 – Mauve & yellow (T)		137 – Green & red (T)

- A15. 15 September 1899** – On the same date a sheet of 9 Postage type essays was submitted. The Mauve & green also with the colony name handpainted.

PP6d I 138	– Red (T)	142	– Brown & green (T)
	139 – Blue (T)		143 – Olive & red (T)
	140 – Violet & black (T)		144 – Yellow & mauve (W)
	141 – Black & blue (W)		145 – Chestnut & violet (W)

- A16. 13 January 1900** – Appendix A (164x325mm), Northern Nigeria Reqn. 87/1899. Nine Gold Coast stamps, ½d to 20s matched with Imperium ½d to 10s in two vertical columns with duties in m/script on left. Thought not to have been cut down.

PR6d I 146

A17. 13 January 1900 – Northern Nigeria, a second sheet of six colours was also submitted, those in mauve as matching pairs and those in green as singles.

PR6d I	147 – Mauve & grey-green	150 – Green & green (T)
	148 – Mauve & yellow-green	151 – Green & yellow (T)
	149 – Mauve & olive-brown	152 – Green & orange-brown (T)

No. 152 is annotated , “*appd for 10/s duty EN, 23/1*” on piece 49x72mm.

A18. 13 May 1889 – REVENUE type, the artist's drawing on tracing paper (59 x 76mm).
The duty and side panels enhanced in Chinese white.

RR2cP 153 – Mauve & green (T)

20 May 1901 – A card (140 x 83mm) –

SPECIMENS OF STAMPS from **THE EXISTING UNIVERSAL PLATES** with:

PP6d I	154 – Red & green (W)
PR6d I	Mauve & red (T)
RR6d I	Green & blue (W)

B. Other Essays recorded, 1966 – 2012

PP2c I	155 – Feb 1890, 3 trials with Queens head replaced by a ‘tiger rampant’.	184 – Green & blue (T) washed
		185 – Green & mauve (T)
PP6d I	156 – Grey & blue (T) on piece	186 – Green & brown (T)
PP6d I	157 – Red-brown & green (T)	187 – Green & red (T)
PP6d I	158 – Brown & red (T)	188 – Mauve & black/red (T)*
PP6d I	159 – Blue (T)	189 – Mauve & black/red (W)*
PP6d P	160 – Dull mauve & green(T)	190 – Mauve & black/red(T)*sideways
PR6d I	161 – Mauve & red *	191 – Mauve & red (T)
	162 – Green & chestnut	192 – Mauve & black/buff (W)*
	163 – Mauve & black/buff	193 – Mauve & red/buff (W)*
	164 – Mauve & red/buff	PR6d I 194 – Green & chestnut (T)
	165 – Green & green/buff	lower left corner discoloured
	166 – Green & red/buff	PR6d P 195 – Mauve & blue (T)
	167 – Mauve & black/yellow	196 – Mauve & blue (TS)
	168 – 3 pairs on	197 – Mauve & red (TS)
	169 – yellow paper	198 – Mauve & red (T)
	170 – and 1 on red	199 – Green & red(T) clipped at base
	171 – colours not known	200 – Mauve & orange (W)
	172 – Mauve & green (T) x 2	201 – Mauve & orange (T)
	173 – Mauve & green (W)*	PR6d I 202 – Green & orange(W) on piece
	174 – Mauve & red (T)*	PR6d I 203 – Mauve & red (W)
	175 – Mauve & red (W) x 2	204 – Mauve & black (T)
	176 – Mauve & yellow (T)	205 – Blue (T)
	177 – Mauve & blue (T)*	206 – Brown & red (T) marginal
	178 – Mauve & orange (T)	PP6d I 207 – Red-purple & blue (T)
	179 – Mauve & black (W)	PP6d I 208 – Brown & yellow (T) marginal
	180 – Mauve & chestnut (W)	PP6d I 209 – Black & blue (W)
	181 – Mauve & orange (W)	PP6d I 210 – Green & orange (T)
	182 – Mauve & violet (W)	PR2c P 211 – Green & brown (T)
PR6d I	183 – Green & black (W)	

*Watermarked Crown CA

161 – 171 are vertical pairs – second copies of A9

C. New Essays recorded from named sales

Vendor	Date	Lots	New	Nos.
J. Sussex	November 2002	37	4	250 – 253
N. Jones	May 2004	24	4	254 – 257
G. Baillie	November 2006	66	16	258 – 274
M. Oliver	November 2011	11	2	275 & 276

PP6d I	250 – Violet & blue (T)
PP6d I	251 – Green & blue (T), on piece
PP2c P	252 – Mauve & blue (T)
PR6d P	253 – Green & orange (W)
PR6d I	254 – Dull mauve & grey-green (W)
PR6d I	255 – Mauve & grey-green (T)
PR6d I	256 – Reddish-mauve & green (T)
PR6d I	257 – Mauve & yellow-green (T)
PP2c I	258 – Olive brown & blue (W), on piece
PP6d I	259 – Chestnut & black (W)
PP6d I	260 – Brown & red (T), top marginal
PP6d I	261 – Orange & green (T)
PR2c P	262 – Green (W)
PR2c P	263 – Mauve & green (T)
PR2c P	264 – Mauve & mauve (T)
PR2c P	265 – Mauve & orange (T)
PR2c P	266 – Green & pale green (T)
PR2c P	267 – Green & red (T)
PR6d I	268 – Mauve & red (T), No wmk
PR6d I	269 – Mauve & blue (T), No wmk
PR6d I	270 – Green & blue (T), small thin, No wmk
PR6d I	271 – Green & purple (T), No wmk
PR6d I	272 – Mauve & olive (W)
PR6d I	273 – Mauve & brown (W), No wmk
PR6d I	274 – Mauve & black/yellow, vertical pair (No.75?)
PR6d I	275 – Mauve & sepia (W)
PR2c I	276 – Olive-green & blue (W), on piece

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FINE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY FOR COLLECTORS

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BAHAMAS

Specimen Error on 1919 War Tax Issue

by Peter Fernbank

Part of the Specimen archive of the Mauritania Post Office has recently appeared on the market. The various Specimen strips received from the UPU were originally mounted in a ledger without any further overprint but in 1951 an audit was carried out in which the number of stamps on each page was recorded and certified by a postal official at St. Louis, Senegal. At this time a distinctive overprint cachet was applied to the stamps as shown below.

SPÉCIMEN
COLLECTION
MAURITANIE

Both sets of the Bahamas War Tax London overprints appeared in the archive and I was fortunate to be able to obtain them both. However, when I examined them I found that all three of the king's head design of the 1919 issue featured the well known 'broken M' error from position 41 of the 60-set specimen overprint forme (the centre stamp of each strip of three in this case).



Although either 6 or 7 examples of this issue with the 'broken M' error would have originally existed, the set with the Mauritania overprint is unique.

H.M.S. LEVIATHAN, 4TH CRUISER SQUADRON, BARBADOS, 17 DECEMBER 1911**BY JAMES PODGER**

**H.M.S. LEVIATHAN,
4TH CRUISER SQUADRON.**

Dear Mum,

Thank you very much for your letter which I got the other day. I do wish I had been at home for the shoot but of course it was impossible. I am very glad you had such a good day. Who is Miss Mona Stuart I have never heard of her before? We are now in the tropics & the heat is very great but I love it & what with the exercise I have taken & the heat I have lost over $\frac{1}{2}$ a stone in weight since I joined this ship. I am writing this letter dressed only in a vest & very thin white trousers & my electric fan is going full speed but for all that I am anything but cool. The electric fan is also responsible for the shakeyness of my handwriting as it is making the table vibrate very considerably.

I will now tell you my news:

My last letter was dated the day we left Bermuda which was Sunday Dec 3rd.

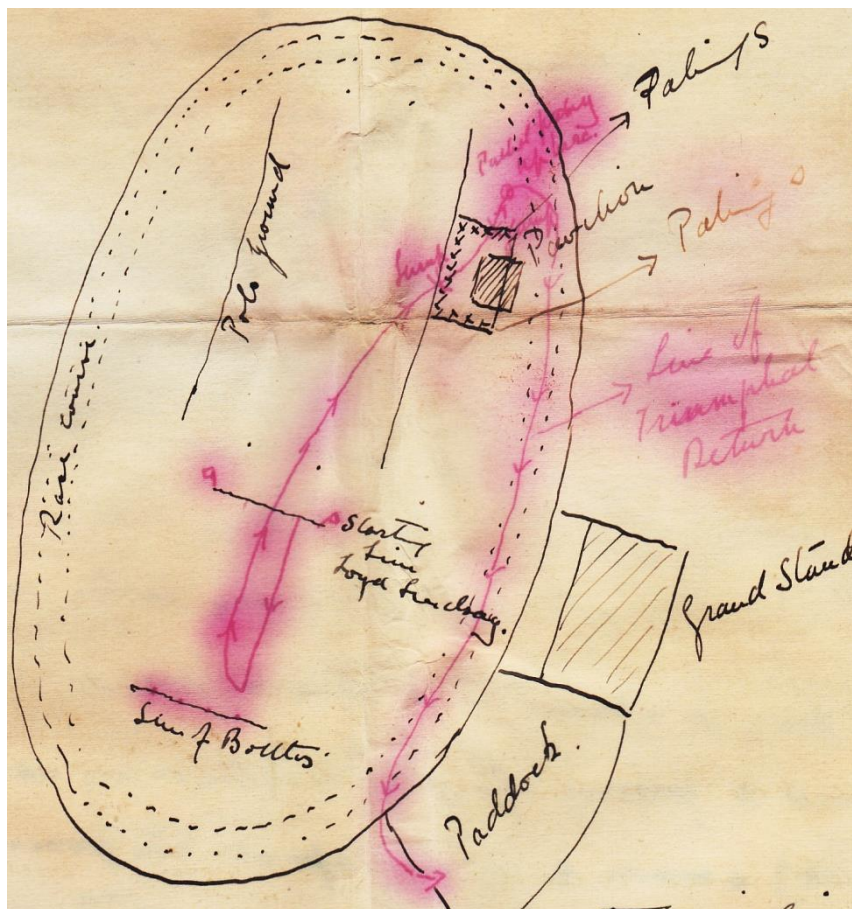
We had a glorious passage from Bermuda to Jamaica & arrived there on Friday morning. I had a dog on that day & did not get ashore. On Saturday the Jamaica Yacht Club gave a regatta in our honour & I took part in the mile gigo race for officers, we came in last—which was not surprising as at the last moment two of our crew were unable to pull so we had to get two others neither of whom had been away in the boat before. After the pulling race I also went in for 100 yds swimming race but I got cramp in my right leg after I had gone about 30 yds so was no use & was picked up by the boat following the swimmers.

On Sunday I landed at 6.15 with the ship's Gunnery Lieut. Baily to go for a ride but the ponies never turned up so we did not get our ride. The Gunnery Lieut (Baily) & I then went to the House where we shifted out of riding kit & had breakfast & then started on a local tour of the island. We went to a place called Mandeville which is 2100 ft up the mountains and about 64 miles from Kingston (the place we started from). The drive was through some very fine scenery all of course tropical & the day was glorious. We had one puncture on the way out but that was our only delay. The road up the mountain was glorious as we got a very significant view of the larger part of the island. The vegetation was of course all new to me & some of the colours were extraordinary. We had lunch at Mandeville & started back about 3.30 so we had the drive back in the last of the day, in fact the last part was done in the dark. During this part of the drive I saw my first fire flies, they are simply wonderful, in fact the whole place is swarming with them. We got back to Kingston about 6.45 & caught our boat back to the ship after one of the most enjoyable days I have spent in some time.

On Monday the Garrison gave a Gymkhana in honour of our visit in which all naval men were asked to take part. The ponies were loaned by the officers of the garrison. I landed for lunch ashore with several others from ? ? Who were taking part in the Gymkhana. After lunch we drove up to the Garrison Race Course & found out what ponies had been allocated to us. I took part in the first event which was the Lloyd ? ? Race & our team won. The particulars of this race you will find in the enclosed programme. After we had broken the bottles I tried to mount but my pony refused to stand still, so I launched into the saddle & galloped like the blazes for the swimming pool with neither foot in the stirrups, this was rather disastrous as my pony being somewhat excited bolted & I had not enough strength with my feet out of the stirrups to pull it up. It bolted headlong out of the polo ground & then proceeded to jump the rails of the pavilion, after it had jumped two of them I managed to get my feet into the stirrups & pull it up: & then rode back to the paddock.

Continued Tues 19th This same pony bolted twice round the race course with its rider in the next event & threw him (one of our followers) but he was not hurt.

Here is a plan of the ground & my course:



The pony was at first going past the pavilion but suddenly took it into its head to turn & jump the rails which all but unseated me, I only got hold of the saddle just in time.

As you will see by the programme my ship did very well. Guns (Baily) of course being a very good rider & polo player was our "star turn". I also went in for the pig sticking competition but I found my pony, myself & the lance were rather a hand-full also my pony was a polo pony & had the disconcerting habit of turning very quickly when I was not expecting it, thus causing a lot of waste of time while I adjusted myself in the saddle. I was rather sorry for the pony for I know that at one time when it turned to follow the pig (without my asking it to do so) I made a wild grab at the pommel of the saddle & hit the pony over the head with my lance. Another disconcerting thing was that when I got near the pig I found some horrible person who could ride galloping alongside me & riding me off, of course when this happened I had to try to push him off as well but there I had to fire up and ? of the pig & hold on to the saddle & lance with the same hand. The best I can say was that I did not fall off & did not drop my lance.

During tea I was introduced to a lady whose name I have forgotten & she told me that she never knew Naval Officers could ride & that all the garrison had expected to see most of our people rolling about on the ground or chasing riderless ponies. I told her that this was rather a strange idea to get as nearly all N. Os "ride" after a fashion.

After the Gymkhana I returned on board after one of the best shows I have ever taken part in & also one of the most tiring. After dinner I went out with the 1st Lieut & laid out a fishing net.

Wednesday morning I went out & hauled in the net about 6 o'clock, but there were not many fish in it, only 3 but there were a lot of strange looking crabs & shell fish. The fleet left about 2 o'clock.

We arrived here on Saturday about three oclock & anchored in the bay.

*Nothing of any interest occurred on the passage here except we shot clay pigeons every evening.
I have not been ashore here yet as I had a day on on Saturday & on Sunday.*

Yesterday we coaled ship 1250 tons at an average of 102 tone per hour which is not good. We started coaling at 3.30 am & finished at about 5.30 pm a fairly long days work.

We leave here on Saturday for St Vincent and I think that this will be the last letter you will get from me until we get back from St Vincent as no mails leaving St Vincent will reach England before we do.

I started this letter on Sunday but was required for a job of work in the middle of writing & have not had the opportunity to finish it until today.

Please excuse the dirtiness of parts of this letter but my servant left my cabin open during yesterdays coaling & in consequence everything in my cabin got covered with coal dust.

All the best wishes, love & good luck to you and for the New Year.

Your Loving Son

"Signature"



HMS Leviathan was a 14,150 ton 'Drake-Class' armoured cruiser, with a speed of 23 knots and a complement of 900. She was launched on 3 July 1901 from Clydebank. After the Spithead Review of 1911 she headed to Ponte Delgado, the Azores and Halifax (Canada), with Sir Edward Eden Bradford on board in Command of the Training Squadron. On 22 November 1911 the ship's log has her at Bermuda, with the Governor His Excellency Lieut General F.W. Kitchener making an official visit. In December she spent her time in Jamaica, Barbados and St Vincent. She was paid off in 1919 and sold for breaking on 3 March 1920.

JAMAICA

ERRATA

Bulletin No. 243 – December 2014

Page 14 – **Montpelier PA Hanover**, the map captions should read 'Montpelier, Hanover' and 'Montpelier, St. James' respectively.

Page 17 – **Newly recorded mark for Siloah**, the two images Type (i) and Type (ii) are transposed.

JAMAICA TRANSIT MAIL WITH COLUMBIA FLEURON

BY SIMON RICHARDS



Amidst the excitement of the recent Piat Dewavrin sale of Jamaica by Cavendish, some may not have noticed Lot 1912 offered by the same auctioneers the previous week in the GB Section under the Bettini Ship Letters.

The Columbia fleuron is extremely rare and according to the literature was only used in Falmouth. Peter Stone has a particularly fine example on a November 1824 letter from Quito to London in the characteristic green ink used in Falmouth. Foster and others follow the line in the Robson Lowe encyclopaedia that the Cartagena fleuron was sent to Jamaica in 1825 and the Columbia one stayed in Falmouth.

Tabart and Robertson report only one example known, presumably the Stone cover. However here is another, albeit in an oily green which matches, the oily green ½ wheel tax mark, that was certainly applied in Falmouth. This cover was written in Lima on 27 November 1838 and was sent via Panama and Jamaica, see the Kingston datestamp of 18 January 1839. The fleuron is partially overstruck with a Glasgow boxed date and time stamp of 6.30 pm 21 February 1839. The rating of 3s 4d is made up of 2s 1d Columbia packet rate and 1s 3d inland postage from Falmouth.

Tabart reports that the Brig Tyrian, Lt Jennings, which Foster lists as one of the naval packets carrying the Jamaica mail, docked at Falmouth on 16 February and is the most likely vessel to have carried this letter.

A NEW JAMAICA TAX MARKING (A FOLLOW UP)**BY GEORGE DUNBAR**

In Bulletin 242, Keith Moh described a rather lovely, elaborate and intriguing Jamaica tax mark from the period following the devaluation of Sterling in 1949. Following devaluation, 7 gold centimes became 1d; 4 centimes for a halfpenny. The mark described was a violet double circle, paired with a 'T' in a single circle, applied to an 'Airmail' letter, addressed to the USA, with a 6d single stamp, dated about six weeks after the announcement of devaluation. Tuppence short. The double circle is doubly inscribed 'FOUR PENCE': between the rings, and '4D' in the centre. Double the deficiency, the amount due.

The mark illustrated in Figs. 1 and 2, Lant D9d, is more familiar as the 'provisional' open duplex. It appears that the values had been chiselled out from the old handstamp, and the amount then scribbled over by hand each time. But it is only known from 1951, as Moh notes.

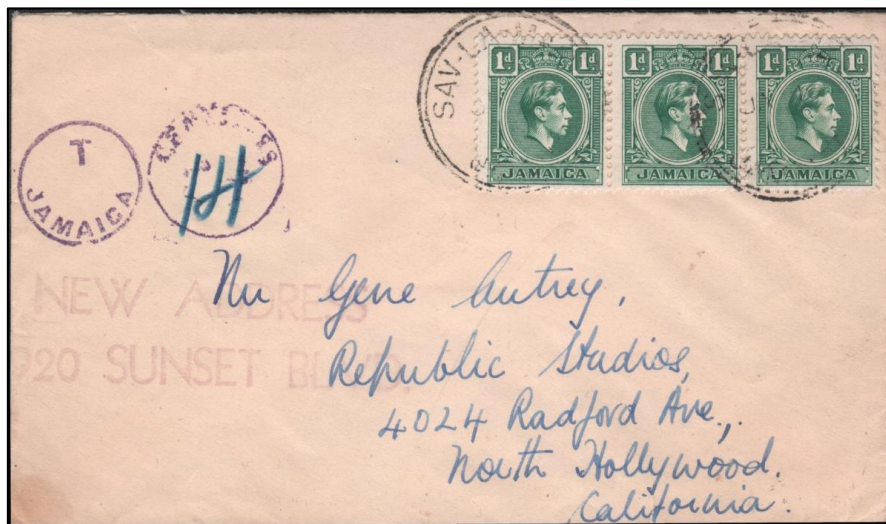


Fig.1. LantD9d-14c

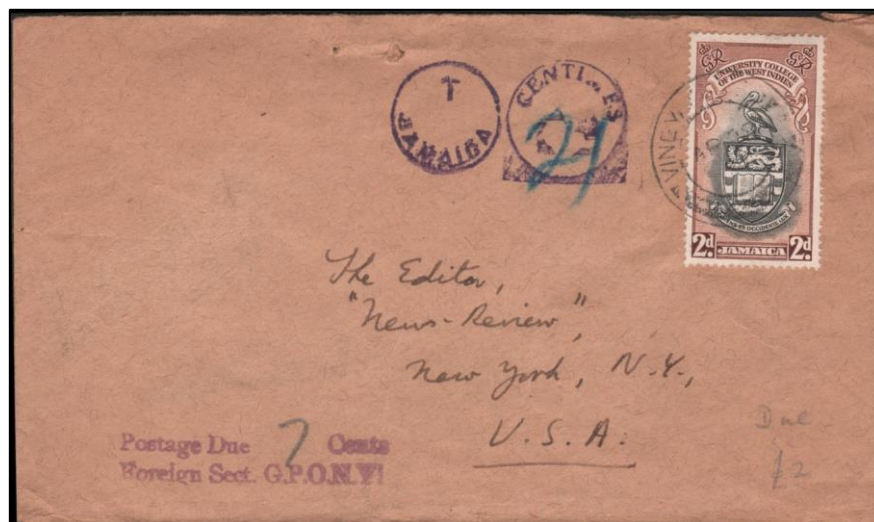


Fig. 2. LantD9d-21c

It is, however, incorrect to say that no other tax marks have been recorded in the period between devaluation and February 1951. Lant recorded Type DA3 with an EKD in April 1950. Fig. 3 illustrates the mark, although this example may be later.

There are three points to make about the new mark reported by Moh. First, it is specific to one value, unlike either of the two previously recorded Jamaica provisionals. It lacks that edge of rushed austere desperation, and is nicely designed. It is remarkable that such a well-made handstamp should be ready.

Typically, even British offices at the time used open T-in-hexagon marks, with the amount added by hand. And why would it be replaced by the much cruder D9d? But, second, it is in the wrong currency. It is in Sterling, not centimes, and from the images shown, it appears the destination authorities did not collect. One can speculate that either it was not originally intended for this role, and was, as Moh suggests, a stop-gap, or it was prepared in error and withdrawn.



Fig. 3. DA3

The third point to note is that, unlike this new mark, the previously recorded provisionals appear to show the deficiency rather than the amount due. Jarvis attributes this observation to Foster. Incidentally, the particular values overwritten on D9d and DA3 in Figs. 1-3 were not recorded by Lant.

Lant, R. *The "Unpaid and Tax" Markings of Jamaica*, British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, 1980-83.

Jarvis, S. (2014). *Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately - Instructional & Informational Markings – Under Payment*. Draft paper.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

QUEEN VICTORIA ESSAYS

BY SIR GEOFFREY PALMER

I would like to know if any member knows exactly how many of these were produced similar to those in the recent Spink sale of the Vestey Collection. The ones I am interested in are:-

1. Postage and revenue perf. 14 trial in green with handpainted country name and 'five shillings' value tablet in deep blue and Chinese white, ex appendix sheet of 5 March 1890.
2. Postage and revenue perf. 14 trial in green with handpainted country name and '5/-' value tablet in ultramarine and Chinese white, ex appendix sheet of 17 March 1890.
3. Keytype perf. 14 trial in green with handpainted country name and 'five shillings' value tablet in ultramarine and Chinese white, ex appendix sheet of 24 March 1890.

Outside these three ex Paul Larsen, how many others exist? I noted in a back copy of Gibbons Stamp Monthly dated May 2009 'An essay for the Queen Victoria 5/- with hand painted country name and value tablet sold for \$11,000 on a \$1,200 estimate' (number 2 above).

Please forward replies to the Editor.

MONTSERRAT

CIRCULAR DATESTAMP 'D8'

BY PETER TRIBE

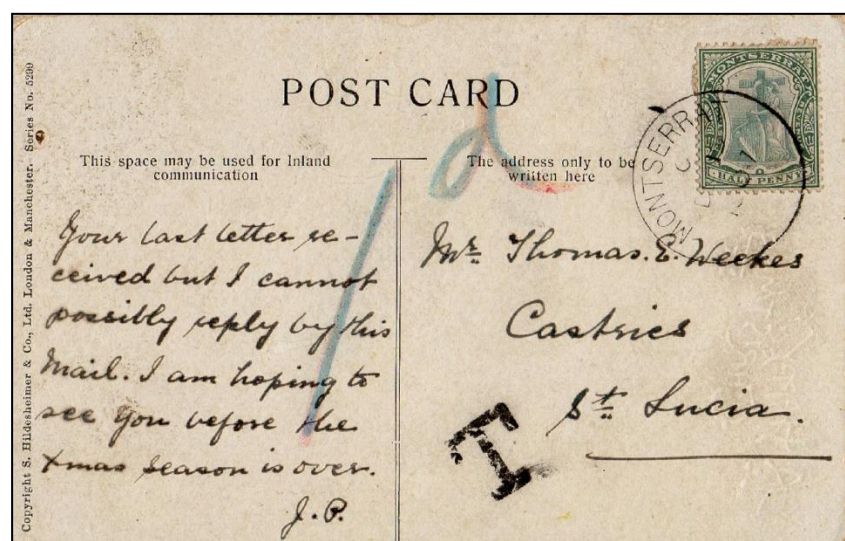
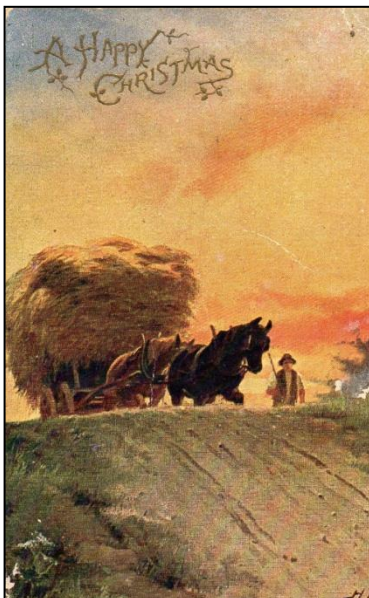
Very few examples of this CDS sent out to Montserrat from the GPO on 25 September 1907 appear to be known. (Vol 51 p 118)

When the BWISC published in 2010 the latest revision of *Montserrat to 1965* by L.E. Britnor with additional information compiled by Charles Freeland there was some debate as to whether 'D8' would be included.

However on the evidence of this cover dated 'NO 25, 1909' the decision was made to include it.



The CDS is rather smudged and the blob appears to be a filled in 'C'. Recently I came across this rather nice Christmas card which has a much clearer impression of the date stamp.



Dated 'DE 19, 1907' shortly after the CDS would have arrived in Montserrat the 'C' is much more clearly seen. The CDS is 28mm in diameter.

If there are any other examples of this CDS out there I would be very interested to hear about them.

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ST. LUCIA

A BRITISH FIELD POST OFFICE

BY GUY KILBURN

I turned the corner at the east end of the Vigie Airport runway and spurred the 1,250 cc engine in my little Austin Saloon up to an amazing 50 miles per hour. The two-lane, potholed road running parallel to the runway was, at one mile, the longest and straightest stretch of road on the island and was too inviting for a California boy to pass up. It was August 1976 and my teaching duties at the St. Lucia A-Level College did not resume for another month; there was time to play and do things during the weekdays. As I recall, I was headed to Vigie Beach for a late afternoon swim and a jog in the sand.

After nine years on the island anything new or different quickly caught your attention and so the two large, green military tents and all the white soldiers could not be missed. The speed trial came to a hard-braked conclusion and I stopped the car to find out what exactly was happening. The tents were pitched in the sandy, tree-shaded area between the road and the Caribbean Sea, just a bit west of the cemetery and the Malabar Hotel. A few minutes later, and after introductions, I learned that what had arrived unannounced in St. Lucia was a communications team of about a dozen men from the British Army and that they were there to do "disaster preparedness drills" for the entire month. Indeed, there was quite an array of radio communications equipment set up on a table in the shade of a large seagrape tree. The soldiers were full of the standard questions about where to go, what to do, sights to see, good bars, and girls, and were happy to meet a local someone with reliable information. At a distance of 38 years I cannot recall how the conversation turned to the way they dealt with their mail, but even then I was a lunatic philatelist and the question had to be asked.

To my amazement I was told that they had a Field Post Office (No. 532) and that if I wanted to post letters they would accept them. I sent a letter and a British Forces Mail air letter to my father in California on 4 August (Fig. 1) and later in the month, on 23 August, two letters addressed to myself in Castries bearing St. Lucia 10c definitives (Fig. 2). I confess that I do not now recall how their mail left the island; there was a military transport plane that brought the men and it was parked on the apron near the Vigie Air Terminal and I am guessing that letters, including those addressed to my father, went out in that plane when the men left. The envelopes with the St. Lucia stamps were struck by the FPO 532 cds and then taken by someone in the detachment to the GPO on Bridge Street in Castries, only a mile distant, where

the adhesives were cancelled with the Castries double ring cds; the letters were then placed in my post office box.

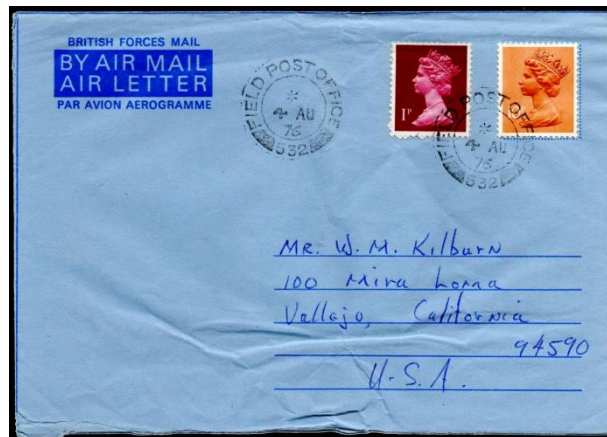


Fig. 1.

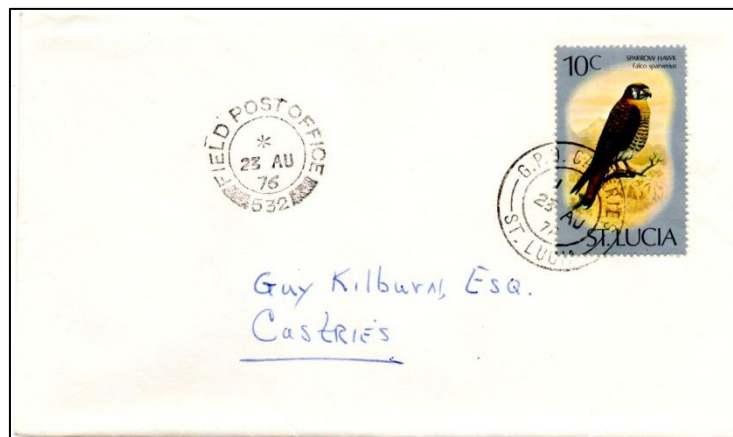


Fig. 2.

With so few men in the group, the amount of mail sent from FPO 532 had to be very small and I have never seen another example. Somewhere I am sure there is a listing of more modern British field post offices describing the dates and places of use and if one of our members can send me the information given for this post office I would be very grateful.

DUTY PLATE “F FOR E” FLAW

BY CHARLES FREELAND



The illustration shows a very pronounced F for E flaw on the QV General Key Plate 6d. One's first thought might be that this is a one-off confetti flaw but I have seen two other examples of the same flaw. One, also mint, is in the collection of Simon Goldblatt and the other was the lower stamp in a used pair offered by Mark Harvey about six years ago.

This can only have been a short-lived variety as I have a pane of the same stamp and although the head plate was 120-set, the duty plate was only 60-set. So it must have been an early flaw that was repaired or, more likely, a flaw that developed late on and was never repaired. I would be interested whether any member other than Simon owns an example, and even more so if they can add to our knowledge of its position. All I can say at the moment is that it was not on the top row.

ST. VINCENT

2½ PENCE ON ONE PENNY, ERROR- BASE OF 1 AND FRACTION BAR JOINED. BY RUSSELL BOYLAN

2½d Grey-Blue (SG 55) 1890 & Blue (SG 55a) (1893-97)

This overprint was first used to prepare the overprinting of the Lake issue of February 1883 on a dummy prepared from the One Penny Plate (2074 sheets -124,440 stamps). This was followed up with the overprinting on the Milky Blue dummy in July 1889 (508 sheets – 30,480 stamps). The reason for using an overprint was to lessen the cost of engraving and producing new values. It was supposed to be a temporary overprint and consisted of an electroplate made from a typesetting¹. After overprinting the 1883 Lake – Perforation 14 Comb (SG. 40) it was recalled to service 6 years later for the 1889 Milky Blue, (Perforation 14 Comb SG. 49) issue. This colour change was brought about to conform with the UPU Colour Scheme.

With the production of the 'Blue' issues it appears that a variety was created. This variety is characterised by *'an angled/curved extension of the fraction bar to join with the base of the numeral 1'*. From the following enlargement the 'join' appears to be a sliver of some solid substance such as metal or wood fibre. Under strong magnification the line is quite consistent suggesting that it may be some form of metallic foreign body lodging on the Plate (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1.

The examples below show the 2½d Grey-Blue of 1890, (Fig. 2) and Blue 1893-1897, (Fig. 3) with this variety, in both cases at R1/2 which would be position no. 49 in each sheet of 60 units (10 x 6). In addition to these three examples there is a half-pane of 30 (5 x 6) with full margins from the right side of the sheet, a block of 4 and a used single (Light Grey-Blue) with Kingstown 'A' code cds and dated 11 July 1893 in the authors collection.

From correspondence with Peter Jaffé he was able to identify the same error on a Sheet of Grey Blue (SG. 55) and on his 2 Sheets in Blue (SG. 55a) and all at position no. 49.

In addition, from correspondence with Mr. Joe Chin Aleong he was able to identify 5 used copies in his collection, four of which are dated as follows: 19 Jan 1891, 10 Feb 1893, 28 Mar 1896 & 6 Aug 1897.

Peter found this a very curious error and queried how this particular variety could occur on an electrottype. He did not think it was an inkblot and nor do I. It may be some small metal/graphite fragment in the solution, which moved to the plate while the copper was being deposited. Peter did not believe that the electro was steel faced, but mused that if it was then that may explain how it might occur.

Whether it occurred before the 1893 Blue issue is a matter for conjecture, as I have not had significant numbers of copies of earlier issues to examine. There is at least one sheet of the 1883 Lake in existence which could be checked but to date, no examples displaying the variety have been identified, on either the Lake or the Milky Blue of 1889.

I am of the view that the 'foreign body' somehow became lodged on the Plate for these Blue issues only. After all, the Plate had been resurrected for a third time when these printings were commenced. Whilst I am sure every care was taken in storage of the plate, a foreign body nevertheless could have become lodged on the Plate.

Another possibility is that a new Plate was produced for the 'Blue' issues and in the process of producing this second Plate the variety occurred. However, there is no evidence of a further plate in either Messenger et al or Easton.



Fig. 2. Grey-Blue (61,200 copies) Invoiced 29 August 1890.²



Fig. 3. Blue (5 printings totalling 363,000 copies) invoiced between 13 October 1893 and 25 June 1897.³

Notes:

¹ Pierce, Messenger & Lowe, pp63.

² Pierce, Messenger & Lowe, pp176.

³ Pierce, Messenger & Lowe, pp177.

Acknowledgements:

Private correspondence with Mr. Peter Jaffé and Mr. Joe Chin Aleong.

References:

Pierce A.D, Messenger J.L, and Robson Lowe, *St. Vincent*, Perth, Scotland, Robson Lowe Ltd, 1971.

Easton John, *The De La Rue History of British & Foreign Postage Stamps*, London, Faber & Faber, 1958

Stanley Gibbons Ltd., *Windward Islands and Barbados Catalogue*, Dorchester, Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 2007.



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TOBAGO

TOBAGO REVENUE

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

The BWISC's recently published handbook on Tobago (note 1) refers, on page 85, to the fourpence dull purple & carmine as follows:-

"An imperforate 4d. value was listed by Forbin (1910) but the authors have not seen an example and there was no example in the De La Rue collection"

It was also listed by Morley (note 2) as No.6315a. This writer's collection includes a copy on gummed paper, watermark Crown CA, illustrated below. Morley priced it at 40 shillings in 1910, the same list price as the mint £1 mauve, watermark CC.



Note 1. "Tobago. The Philatelic Story of a Small Island" by Ford, Freeland & Barrow, BWISC 2014.

Note 2. "Walter Morley's Catalogue and Price List of the Revenue Stamps of the British Colonies, etc." Second Edition, April 1910

TRINIDAD

THE 1914 RED CROSS LABEL (A SECOND ADDENDUM)

BY IAN JAKES

The purpose of any BWISC Study Paper is to enable the author to impart his knowledge of the subject matter, to rekindle interest, and to encourage others to add to the debate. In this way philatelic knowledge is permanently recorded for the use of future generations. I congratulate Ed Barrow on his splendid article in BWISC Bulletin No. 243 December 2014 which increases our knowledge about the Trinidad Red Cross Label and which information must be included in any second printing of BWISC Study Paper No.6.

I agree with Ed Barrow that the D47 and D54 cancels from the 1920s and 1930s, but dated 18 September 1914 on Trinidad Red Cross Labels are fakes, not forgeries, the dates and times on the cancels having been dialled back. I had used the postmark illustrations in Aleong and Proud for direct comparison with the D47 and D54 postmarks on Trinidad Red Cross Labels. I noticed several differences which suggested that the D47 and D54 postmarks were forgeries, not fakes. I now learn that the Port of Spain illustrations of the D47 and D54 postmarks (together with other postmark illustrations) in Aleong and Proud have been hand drawn from enlarged copies and are not completely accurate. Perhaps a member with knowledge will publish a list of all Trinidad and Tobago postmarks in Aleong and Proud which cannot be fully relied upon.

Ed Barrow and I differ in our respective opinions on the method of production of the tête-bêche block shown at fig. 7 in his article (and reproduced below, Editor). I would emphasise that our respective opinions can only be opinions. This is because the type of printing machine used to print the labels is unknown, as is the size of paper capable of being used for printing purposes. Ed assumes that the printing machine was fed with paper the size of a full sheet of 24 labels. He assumes that larger sheets of paper were not used, probably because no sheet larger than one containing 24 labels has ever been seen. Ed proceeds to explain how, in his opinion, the sheets containing tête-bêche labels were printed and ends 'But all these unnecessary steps would have had to be repeated for every sheet and I believe that this suggests a philatelic hand and/or motive.' I agree that a philatelic hand and/or motive was at work, and that only one plate was used to produce Ed's tête-bêche block. The plate block contained a setting not previously recorded. The vertical measurements between the frame lines of the dies also differ substantially from those measurements previously recorded. It would be too much of a coincidence for a second plate to be set in the same way and used on the same sheet.



My own observation of Caribbean printing in the 19th and early 20th centuries suggests quick, easy and simple methods being employed wherever possible, with no particular eye for complete accuracy. I believe that such methods were used to produce Ed's tête-bêche block, and, indeed, all Trinidad Red Cross labels. I suspect that 96 labels (4 panes of 24 labels) were printed on each and every sheet of paper used for the printing of Trinidad Red Cross labels. The printing of more than one pane of stamps on one sheet of paper is not uncommon. A good example of this is The First Definitive Issue (1865) of British Honduras shown on page 21 of BWISC Bulletin No.243 December 2014.

I believe that the top right hand pane of 24 labels, and the bottom left hand pane of 24 labels, on each sheet of 96 labels were both inverted to act as aide memoires to the operators of the guillotine and the perforation machine operator so that they knew where on the sheet to cut and to insert double perforations for the eventual separation of the sheet into separate panes of 24 labels. The guillotine operator would first make a horizontal cut, using the inverted printed labels as a guide, to separate the sheet of 96 labels into two half sheets of 48 labels.

The perforating machine was too small to fully perforate more than one pane of 24 labels at a time. However the perforating machine could make all vertical perforations on one half sheet of 48 labels including the double perforation down the centre of the half sheet. This would be the quick, easy and simple way to perforate the sheet, the adjustments to the perforating machine and repositioning of the paper being halved. The guillotine operator could then make a vertical cut to separate the half sheet into panes of 24 labels. The perforation machine operator would then, and only then, have sufficiently small panes to enable the horizontal perforations on each sheet of 24 labels to be made.

Fig. 5 in Ed's article (if it is turned ninety degrees) gives an example of vertical perforations having been made first. Fig. 6 in his article gives an example of automatism by an over tired operator attempting to create a gutter on the selva between the panes, an operation which he must have carried out on innumerable previous occasions. If the labels were printed on sheets of paper large enough only for the printing of 24 labels, the perforating machine operator would never have had the need to create a gutter with a double perforation at all.

Ed has indicated to me privately that he thinks that four or five sheets of 24 labels were printed for the creation of tête-bêche pairs or blocks. My own view is that one sheet of 96 labels was printed showing the setting on his tête-bêche block. Ben Ramkisson's tête-bêche pair of Trinidad Red Cross labels illustrated in my Study Paper is from a different setting, which itself suggests that my argument is more likely to be correct.

The quick, easy and simple method to print a sheet of 96 labels (4 panes of 24 labels), especially if 2 panes are inverted, is to use four different plates on the print run. The paper would still need to be fed through the printing machine four times, rather than sixteen times if only one plate was used. The exception to this is that it would be quicker, easier and simpler just to use one plate if only one sheet of 96 labels was to be printed.

Finally I comment upon the lack of perforations on the right and left margins of Ed's tête-bêche block. The answer is very simple - the perforations on the right and left of the block have been guillotined. This explains why Ed's block is only 16cm wide instead of approximately 16.5cm on a normal pane of 24 labels.

TRINIDAD REVENUES

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

The BWISC's handbook on Trinidad (note 1) refers on pages 163 and 174 to the 1889 issue of De La Rue typographed Surcharge Postage stamps printed in special colour and overprinted 'FEE' in bold serified Roman type in black. The references contain errors (*mea culpa*) and have, in part, been overtaken by subsequent discoveries.

Erratum: the 'FEE' overprint is in fact in sans-serif (not serified) capitals.

Erratum: the '1d' bright lilac, referred to on page 163, is known in only one example and it is in fact an unadopted essay produced using the stamp-sized frame-only die on glazed card. The circular vignette is hand painted in Chinese white, with '1d' overpainted by hand in bright lilac. These important details had gone unnoticed by Ben Ramkissoon, the previous owner, and by the present writer who bought the essay in Ben's sale, until the gimlet-eyed Dr. Philip Kinns spotted the truth in December.

Corrigendum: the Ramkissoon sale also included one used example of the 3d denomination, which is so far unique.

The One Penny unadopted essay, the Three Pence proof overprinted SPECIMEN (Samuel type D12) and mint and used singles are illustrated below.



Note 1. 'Trinidad, A Philatelic History to 1913' by Marriott, Medlicott & Ramkissoon, BWISC 2010.



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BARBADOS. 1876 6d chrome-yellow in block of four. Very fine mint. Rare multiple. SG 79 (Sc 55). **£500**

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1884 1d rose 'SPECIMEN' (D12). Fine mint. Rare (only 100 prepared). SG 18s. **£175**

CAYMAN ISLANDS. 1907 1/- with 'dented frame'. Very fine mint. Just 40 printed! SG 15a. **£650**

CAYMAN ISLANDS. 1933 ¼d Centenary 'A' of 'CA' missing from watermark. Very fine used. SG 84a. **£950**

GRENADA. 1891 2½d on 8d with surcharge treble. Very fine used 'JA 12 92' c.d.s. SG 47e (Sc 38e). **£450**

JAMAICA. 1858 1/- rose/blued paper Postal Fiscal 'SPECIMEN' (Samuel GB2). Very fine mint. SG F7sp. **£170**

LEEWARDS. 1935 Jubilee set in upper-right corner blocks of four with Sheet No. Unmounted mint. SG 88/91. **£150**

MONTERRAT. 1932 1d imperf colour trial in yellow-brown on part DLR Appendix sheet, endorsed '1/-' below. **£450**

ST VINCENT. 1866 4d deep blue strip of three. Very fine mint. Exceptional multiple. SG 6. **£575**

ST VINCENT. 1892 5d on 4d with 'Spicemen' error. Very fine mint. Extremely scarce. SG 59sa. **£900**

TRINIDAD. 1858 (4th issue) 1d very deep greenish blue with large margins and central numeral '2'. Exceptional. SG 17. **£475**

TURKS ISLANDS. 1889 1d on 2½d pair with diagonal misplacement of surcharge. Very fine used. Scarce. SG 61. **£150**

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ARTICLES OF BWI INTEREST IN OTHER JOURNALS 2014

Country	Article	Author	Source	Month
Bahamas	Interesting items from the Bahamas	D Horry	BCPJ	Jan-Mar
Bahamas	Bahamas	N Davenhill	AP	July
Barbados	1706 Straightline mark	J Scott	BCPJ	Apr-Jun
Barbados	The Postal stationery of Barbados 1881 to 1950	N Sargent	GSM	June
Bermuda	The 1893 Provisional card (historic, ex old magazines)	G Watson	PS	October
Br Guiana	Cork cancels 1878-1890s	R Ramphal	BCPJ	Jan-Mar
Br Guiana	WW1 Censor marks	C Freeland	BCPJ	Apr-Jun
Br Guiana	1882 Ship definitives	H Pattiz	BCPJ	Jan-Mar
Br Guiana	Skeleton postmarks	R Ramphal	BCPJ	Oct-Dec
Br Guiana	KGVI postmarks	D Horry	BCPJ	Apr-Jun
Br Honduras	Postal Services of the Cayes of Belize	I Matheson	GSM	April
Br Honduras	Wrapper statistics	J Courtis	BCPJ	Oct-Dec
Jamaica	Between the devil and the deep blue sea	D Horry	BCPJ	Jan-Mar
Jamaica	Decline of Post offices 1990-2011	P Raynor	BCPJ	Oct-Dec
Jamaica	Is this a new Jamaican flight cover?	D Fuller	BCPJ	Jan-Mar
Jamaica	WW2 censors	H Pattiz	BCPJ	Jul-Sep
Jamaica	WW2 censors	H Pattiz	BCPJ	Oct-Dec
Jamaica	The 1907 earthquake on postcards	J Wynns	BCPJ	Jan-Mar
Jamaica	Patriotic Mail and Labels in WW1 and WW2	I Jakes	GSM	December
Jamaica	1858-1860	S Jarvis	PHS	September
Jamaica	A Darling Coincidence (laureate head stamps of Jamaica and Victoria)	G Dunbar	SNA	May
Jamaica	Direct Embossed Revenue Stamps - 1859	G Dunbar	RJ	June
Leeward Is	New Revenue Finds (Leeward Is. Perfins)	M Bending	RJ	March
St Lucia	The development of the 1938-48 Low Value definitive series	J Keegan	GSM	April
St Lucia	KGVI postmarks	D Horry	BCPJ	Oct-Dec
Tobago	A perplexing Tobago card	E Barrow	BCPJ	Jan-Mar
Tobago	The Philatelic Story of a Small Island	P Ford	GSM	December
Trinidad	Early Britannia Overseas Mail	M Rego	SPH	September
Virgin Is	The Virgins that never were	G Migliavacca	BCPJ	Apr-Jun
BWI	Update on civil censorship devices	D Fuller	BCPJ	Oct-Dec
BWI	60 years of the British West Indies Study Circle	G Dunbar	GSM	April
Postmarks	Collecting British Colonial Postmarks	D Horry	LP	October
Postmarks	The Excitement of British West Indies Cancellations	S Goldblatt	GSM	December
Postal History	Classic Maritime Mail from the BWI	D Watson	GSM	June
Postal History	The Crowned Circle Postmarks of the BWI	C Freeland	GSM	April

Journal abbreviations

AP, American Philatelist.

BCPJ, British Caribbean Philatelic Society Quarterly Journal.

GSM, Gibbons Stamp Monthly.

LP, London Philatelist.

PHS, Postal History, The Journal of the Postal History Society.

PS, Postal Stationery (USA).

RJ, The Revenue Journal.

SNA, Stamp News Australasia

SPH, Postscript, Society of Postal Historians.

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.



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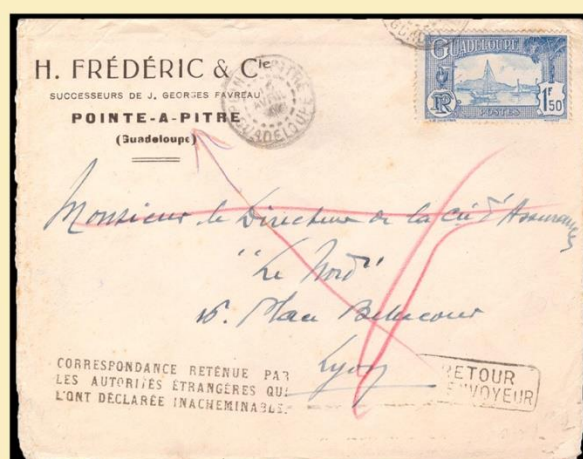
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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND**

This was the most active quarter that I remember, as reflected in the length of this report. I apologise to those who find it of no interest. But the last report was thin so I do not think one can draw conclusions about the state of the market just yet.

Prestige Philately 14 November (BP 17%)

Only one lot here, a Br Guiana 1860 4c die proof mounted on card estimated at an incredible A\$140k...well it did not sell of course but our member Gary Watson told me it sold later at a net price of A\$100,000k, still incredible considering my example of the similar period 4c, but more attractive as it had accompanying value tablets, sold for £13.2k net last March (lot 1050). Phew!

Siegel 20-1 November (BP 15%)

Buried among the \$1.5mn Brandon collection were two nice Bahamas forwarder marks used on blockade runner covers. The strong oval Adderley fetched \$1.9k and the red Saunders \$1.6k.

Murray Payne 24 November (no BP)

Among the regular offering of GVI rarities the most interesting sounding lot was a study of the Jamaica 5s, which went for £4k against an estimate of £2.75k. Offered separately, a nh line perf was £4.2k. A lower marginal u/m Leewards 1951 £1 with inverted watermark was £5.1k. But the two standout prices were £1.25k for corner marginal blocks of the Br Honduras GVI definitive set and £900 for a nh Bermuda GVI 12s 6d SG 120, presumably the first printing.

Spink 25-6 November (BP 15%)

Plenty of classic BWI covers in this doorstep catalogue, but results were patchy. The worst sufferer was the Bahamas, whose many covers ex Staircase bombed but Antigua went best, with an 1871 5d rate to Nova Scotia at £1.3k and 1867 and 1868 1d rates at £380 each. A good range of St Lucia and St Vincent Perkins Bacon covers, mostly ex Jaffé, went around estimate. A strip of St. Vincent SG33 with no fraction bar, also ex Jaffé, seemed cheap at £1k. There was surprisingly strong demand for St Vincent classic stamps in bulky wholesale lots, but little for Virgin Islands coloured proofs Elsewhere the best stamps were a damaged but "presentable" Barbados 1s blue error of colour at £2.7k and a Grenada GVI rare perf 2½d marginal um at £5.2k.

Cavendish 3 December (BP now 19%)

The Hosking sea posts and paquebots was a disappointment to those who hoped for a wealth of BWI maritime rarities. The only lots to catch my eye were the two ship letter cds for Grenada (1904 at £420) and St Vincent (1905 at £900) and the Tobago Ship Letter mark illustrated on page 115 of our recent Tobago handbook on a 1937 cover with a strong philatelic whiff about it, which went for £320.

Feldman 3 December (BP 20%)

The Pearmund collection of GB used abroad and Crowned Circles was apparently unreserved as many lots sold way below estimate. But there were some strong prices for the GB used, although in many cases the stamps were damaged. A 1d with a fine A18 of English Harbour, a great rarity but with straight edge, seemed good value at 500 euros... it could have gone far higher if I had not logged on late. In the Crowned Circles the best were Bahamas on the registered cover ex Vivian Sussex at 700 euros, Ireland Island (Bermuda) at 3k and Belize at 1.3k.


Victoria 6 December (BP 15%) (supplied by Simon Richards)

This annual sale was back at the Collectors Club in New York after many years at Phoebe's office in New Jersey. The room was sparsely populated, but as ever there was a strong book. Charles' Dominica collection broken down into 310 lots attracted me to a pleasant weekend excursion to the Big Apple.

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There were several other strong BWI sections including British Guiana (71 lots) and British Honduras (96 lots). Top price in British Guiana was \$650 for a nice 1860 2c Orange on cover to St Lucia, whilst in British Honduras three D5 Specimen overprints of 1865 fetched \$1.6k. Nearly all the Br Guiana sold at decent prices, the covers proving especially popular, but the Br Honduras was quieter with the censor covers apparently over-estimated. Victoria continues to do well with twentieth century covers through sensible lotting and adequate description – in contrast to censor mail for sale in the UK recently. For me the highlight was the Dominica and with so much on offer it was important to stay disciplined and stick to budget. There were many rare items and nearly all found new homes at somewhat more than their estimates. The top price was for the Dominica two line handstamp which fetched \$4.5k and the 1799 Freeling handstamp \$3k – as I have both, this was good news! Some of the rare early stamped covers fetched good prices and the strong range of commercial usages of the 1882-3 bisects went well. Striking realisations were \$1.4k for a 1909 insured stationery envelope to Montserrat and \$1.6k for a used copy of the 1882 formula postcard. There was good demand for the proofs and colour trials and much more spirited bidding than at the Vestey sale, where estimates were generally higher. Later West Indies sections showed keen demand for Trinidad stamps and prestamp items from both Tobago and the Virgin Islands. A T3 Tobago handstamp fetched \$2.25k and a fine large fleuron \$650. In the Virgin Islands a 1798 straight line Tortola fetched \$1.2k and a very fine 1801 strike of the Freeling datestamp \$1.7k. I was the only visitor from the UK and made to feel very welcome by Phoebe and her team.

Spink 11 December (BP 20%)

This first 'Vestey' sale of BWI was a pretty weird auction; instead of the excitement and hype that the material and provenance warranted, it was sparsely attended and curiously flat, the Bahamas and Virgin Islands especially so. The reason was probably over-familiarity with the indisputably rare material, too much of which had been acquired in the high-profile name sales of the last 15 years. Plus the fact that top dollar had mostly been paid, when the market was populated by those with richer pockets than today...and the trustees plainly wanted much of their money back. Other factors mentioned to me were the Spink add-ons (although now only 1% more than several of their competitors), the sheer volume of archival material ('this stuff must be common') and the high estimates (although most were still well below acquisition cost). But half a dozen of our members must have found it a good opportunity to obtain much unique material at fair prices, especially during the first hour or so before Philip Kinns appeared.....and there are at least two more BWI sales to come.

There were far too many important lots to highlight, but the 1883 colour schemes for Antigua, Montserrat and Turks Is fetched £8.5k, £8.5k and £9.5k respectively. The KE schemes were far cheaper, often in the £2-3k range depending on the number of trials. Philip Kinns for Gibbons bought two of the most expensive lots, the Nevis sheet of 1s imperf between at £17k and the Turks Is 1d imperf between pair at £15k. The Bahamas 1861 4d block of 10 went to an internet bidder for £20k. Of the very few covers, the Montserrat 1883 with two 6d trisects sold at its £4k reserve. At the other end of the scale, the Nevis Thompson flaws sold well, the 2½d for £380 and the 1s for £700. Throughout, mint plate blocks of 20th century material sold well above estimate, frustrating our Bahamas specialists, and confirming my perception that this is the hottest area of the market at present, especially when the numbers identify the printings, such as the Jubilees. There was surprisingly strong demand for the deluxe Godden albums with the country names engraved on the spine, about £100 each being the norm.

Cavendish 12 December (BP 19%) (supplied by Steve Jarvis)

We all managed to arrive at the new Putney offices without difficulty using various routes across London and were warmly welcomed by the Cavendish team. There were only about ten in the room, but they included Jamaica enthusiasts Steve Jarvis, Andrew Fowles (flown in from Jamaica), Ray Stanton, George Dunbar, Simon Richards and Hugh Wood and a couple of agents. Thankfully, there was only one telephone bidder, who rang off at an early stage, so the 243 lots rattled through in an hour. Only about 75% of the 384 lots sold, probably due to the number of high quality Jamaica sales during 2014. Some bargains were available (compared to the other sales) but the unusual items were mainly keenly contested and the lots sold achieved about 10% above estimate. The top realisation was for the 1778 Jamaica Bishop Mark which fetched £3.2k against an estimate of £3k. The GB 1s green on a front from Grange Hill to London went to Hugh Wood for £2.6k against a very low estimate of £750, but the 1859 GB used cover with manuscript 'PO Lucea' achieved £1.7k against an estimate of £2k.

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Spink 27 January (BP 20%)

Our distinguished member Federico Borromeo built probably the greatest collection of Nevis ever assembled, apart perhaps from the Bernhard collection bequeathed to the RPS. Nearly all the proofs and rare covers in the private domain were present, plus a more than respectable holding of the issued stamps, including four copies of the 1s on laid paper. Coinciding with the issue of our book on Nevis, which I was privileged to co-author with Federico, the sale was an interesting test of the current BWI market rocked by the Feldman default and the uneven results in the Vestey sale. The room was thin as seems the norm these days, with our members (Graham Booth, Kevin Darcy, Bill Gibb, Simon Richards and myself) outnumbering the two agents and a couple of dealers who wandered in and out. Not that we bought so much....the bidding was dominated by a phone bidder and an agent who later we learnt was representing Stanley Gibbons. These two spent about £25k hammer each (one fifth of total sales), while there were three other buyers who spent around £10k each (one or more was probably a dealer). In all there were only about 25 successful bidders, which is rather low for a sale of this quality, but it is a dead country and I think all our members present found some nice lots at fair prices.

The sale started well with strong bidding for all the preadhesive covers, with the fine 1662 letter more than doubling its estimate at £2.1k. But the variable quality reflected the difficulty of assembling a major collection of such a small island. The popular Crowned Circle section aroused little enthusiasm; perhaps six examples were too many for the market to absorb, though each had its separate merits. The most valuable covers, the strip of four 4d and the 1884 mixed franking 4d and 6d to Berlin, both sold at their opening bids (£4k and £2k) to the same buyer and the only cover to really "take off" was the nicer of the two 4d rose covers (at £2.9k).

The question is whether Federico was satisfied with the results, which I rather doubt as there were bargains among the stamps and proofs. The many complete panes sold reasonably with the two main bidders competing for the more important, but the pane of the 1876 1s yellow-green was unsold at an opening of £3k, probably because it was very brown on the reverse. The reconstructed panes went surprisingly well, helped by strong bidding from one of our members. But the two imperf between strips were each around £4k, far off the heady days of the Tomkins prices, while the De La Rue undenominated colour trials were well below what they have often sold for. The fine Thompson flaws fetched about half the Gibbons prices but the unique block of the 6d green seemed a bargain at £1.1k. At least, nearly all the lots sold, partly because Guy Croton wielding the gavel showed early on that he was prepared to accept bids down to 60 % of lower estimate.

Coming events

There appears to be plenty ahead to empty our wallets. On March 11-12 we will have John Keegan's St Lucia at Grosvenor, much of the strength being in its Queen Victoria multiples that John displayed at the RPS on 6 November. Good luck, John. We also have two more Vestey sales to come, for the Windward Is. group and later a single sale of Bermuda (dates not yet announced).

Feldman postscript

You could not make this up....but those who have not been following the Al-Thani saga will wonder. A couple of months after the now notorious Feldman sale of the DuPont Br Guiana, Sheikh Saud Al-Thani of Qatar, who dominated the Dupont sale as reported in the September bulletin, died at the age of 48. Although a small deposit had been paid the administrators refused to pay the residue so Feldman are now suing his estate for the remainder of the purchase price. Since this was a multiple of what all those present regarded as true value, it promises to be a long drawn-out process, easy in Geneva but not so if it gets into the Qatari courts...as usual the winners will be the lawyers. In the meantime there are rumours that the famous 1 cent was bought by Bill Gross (at least it will go on display at his gallery in Washington) and that he has acquired four of the Dupont cotton-reels from Feldman, including presumably the rare 2c. Watch this space.

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