

**STUDY CIRCLE**

## THE 1882 NEVIS POSTAL FISCALS



**SEE THE 'BATH HOUSE REVISITED' ARTICLE  
BY IAN JAKES**



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**BULLETIN No. 246 September 2015**

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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  
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## SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

### MEETINGS & EVENTS

16–19 September 2015 Autumn Stampex, BDC Islington London N10 QH (no formal Study Circle meeting)

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.

The Hotel online booking system, on its web page, does not allow you to book 'BWISC allocation' rooms. You do need to contact the hotel directly, by email (sales@ honileycourt-hotel.co.uk) or telephone 01926 484234, quoting 'BWISC allocation'.

17–20 February 2016 Spring Stampex, BDC Islington, London, N1 0QH (no formal Study Circle meeting)

Thursday 28 April 2016 David Pitts will be displaying Bermuda at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W1G 6JY

Saturday 14 May 2016 Circle table and meeting to be held in Worcester at WORPEX 2016, venue still to be confirmed.

Saturday 28 May to Saturday 4 June 2016 – FIP: World Stamp Show -NY 2016, Javits Centre, New York City 2016. Entrance Free. BCPSG events planned for 1 and 3 June. Further details can be found at [www.ny2016.org](http://www.ny2016.org)

**Many congratulations to Hugh Jefferies for his MBE for services to philately, only the fourth philatelist so to be honoured.**

**Articles wanted for future Bulletins**  
**Anything West Indies related considered**

## BWI

### THE BRITISH SHIP LETTER RATE & THE MASTER'S GRATUITY

BY GRAHAM BOOTH

Ship Letters are letters carried by private ship not being under a formal contract with the Post Office. Nothing that follows in this article has any relevance to packet letters. Despite there being no contract the British Post Office was very much involved, particularly in defending its monopoly of letters passing to and from the ports, the first reference to this being the Act of 1657. The Post Office also had a strong vested interest in extracting the maximum possible inland postage: prior to 1840 this depended primarily on distance carried, so it required masters to land letters as soon as they touched a British port rather than land them at their final destination. A letter addressed to London, landed at Falmouth by a ship bound for London attracted far more postage than the same letter landed at London.

As early as 1668 it was suggested that a gratuity should be paid for each letter handed in to ensure they were not smuggled and in 1685 over 60,000 penny gratuities were actually paid. But it was not until 1711 that this could legally be recovered from the addressee – the Ship Letter charge. It is important to emphasise that from then on although both the Master's gratuity and the Ship Letter charge were 1d and remained the same until 1799, conceptually and practically they were never the same thing. In particular the Ship Letter charge multiplied up with the weight progression (initially the number of sheets) and the Master's gratuity never did; but was paid per letter. This was not understood by many early postal historians, and is still not understood today by many collectors.

Robson Lowe at the end of his book on the Codrington Correspondence, written in 1951, mentions his relief at finishing the chapter on rates because he didn't really understand what he had written. Alan Robertson espoused the view that the Master's gratuity was part of the postage rate, and in so doing was quite wrong. It was an expense to the Post Office, not a postage rate. Postage rates were enacted by parliament, later by treasury warrants, and these were the sole authority for the Post Office to charge the rates they did. Britnor in his book on British West Indies Postal Rates understood that the master's gratuity was paid per letter but then said 'this charge was included in the total amount due from the addressee' which was incorrect. This little book justifiably won the Collett award in 1978 but more information has come to light since then. On page 8 Britnor interprets an 1833 rate of 2s 8d from Ryde to London as a double letter which paid 2d Master's Gratuity (the single letter payment at that time), 2 x 6d Ship Letter charge and 2 x 9d inland when the real charge was 2 x 8d Ship Letter and 2 x 8d inland to London (Fig. 1). Incidentally his book includes a number of other worked examples which are wrong; That on the bottom of page 9 is a rate of 11d (4d Ship and 7d inland, not 1s 1d as he assumed) and the example on page 12 is wrong because he assumed the 4d Ship rate began in 1796 when in reality it did not start until 1799. Today the task of rating Ship Letters is so much easier due to the work done by David Robinson and Colin Tabcart.

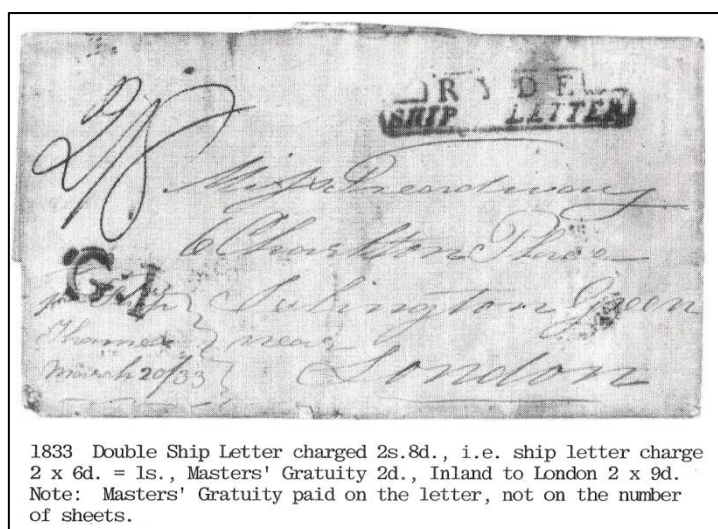


Fig. 1. Extracted from page 8 of *British West Indies Postal Rates up to 1900* by L.E. Britnor.

From 1799 when the Ship Letter office was opened alongside the Inland and Foreign offices and appointed agents at overseas ports, the Ship Letter charge and the Master's Gratuity followed very different paths. From 1799 to 1 August 1815 there was a dual Ship Letter rate, 4d, then from 10 October 1814, 6d if sent from a British Post Office agent overseas, otherwise 1d. The difference in treatment was officially recognised by the crown mark identifying the higher rate; but this did not always happen and one can find straight line or stepped marks paying the higher rate in error, and vice versa. Then on 1 August 1815 the dual system was abandoned, the rate for a single letter became 8d and remained there until December 1839 when the progression was changed to ounces and on 10 January 1840 when it incorporated the inland charge. From then on ship letter charges become increasingly complicated as paid to destination rates, varying according to the origin of the letter, before being simplified by the U.P.U.

The Master's Gratuity had an equally complex history. Initially it was increased to 2d per letter, but then diversified in ways that are imperfectly understood, as Masters increasingly became employees rather than owner or part owner of the vessel they commanded, and as the quantity of mail carried by individual ships increased. In 1810 Masters of British coastal vessels were paid 2s 6d per 100 letters. In one famous case it was found that the Post Office was legally bound to pay a gratuity of over £500 to the master of a private ship returning from Australia with a huge mail and not to the owners of the ship. In 1854 the Master's gratuity was reduced to 1d per letter. In 1879 France and Britain agreed to reduce gratuities to 5 francs per Kg or about three farthings a letter. Even as late as the Twentieth Century masters of cross channel ferries without a Post Office contract were being paid a farthing per letter for the mail they carried. All these changes took place independent of and without affecting the postage rate. The only exceptions I know of are consignee mail which was charged the Master's gratuity not the Ship Letter rate and concessionary rates for soldiers and seamen, which if carried by private ship similarly were not liable to the Ship Letter charge; but instead were charged the Master's gratuity.

The situation in the West Indies is unclear but the conceptual difference between the Master's gratuity and the Ship Letter charge must have been the same. Prior to 1840 the British Post Office did little or nothing to enforce charges on outgoing ship letters. Similarly most early outgoing ship letters from the West Indies were put on board with no involvement of the individual island's Postmaster, and presumably paid a gratuity direct to the master or via some other intermediary such as a coffee shop. What happened to incoming Ship Letters? Early (pre 1840) incoming letters are few and far between (their survival rate is minute compared to ship letters going the opposite way and generally they show no rate). In addition early records are conspicuous by their absence and where they exist do not make it clear whether the reference is to incoming or outgoing ship letters. Were the majority of such letters smuggled and paid no charge except privately to the master? Were they officially landed and made to pay an incoming Ship Letter charge to compensate for a payment to the master? Except in the largest colonies they paid no inland mileage so that the situation was very different to Britain Post 1840, as rates came down it is probable that the London Ship Letter Office played a more important role dealing with mail that was not carried by R.M.S.P., so that most Ship Letters arrived in the West Indies having been officially bagged and as a consequence had to pay an incoming Ship Letter rate. It is not clear how payment to the master was handled. It clearly was an expense to the Colony Post Offices. Was there some form of accounting via the Barbados Packet Office or direct to Britain? Was the situation the same in all the Colonies or did they differ? One assumes that after the Colonial Post Offices became independent in the 1850's and 60's the creation of the inland colonial postage charge was in part to compensate for the payment of the Master's gratuity on both incoming and outgoing ship letters. Even in March 1880 the situation was still complex. For Colonies in the U.P.U. (Antigua, Bermuda, British Guiana, Dominica, Jamaica etc) the Master's gratuity for both ship letters received and despatched from Britain was paid in Britain; but for those colonies not in the U.P.U (Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent, Tobago and Turks) the Master's gratuity on outgoing mail from Britain, which was ½d, was charged to those Colonies and shown on a special bill. There is so little recorded information about incoming Ship Letters to the West Indies from the United States, Britain, the rest of Europe, or inter island mail which did not pay the longstanding 4d packet rate, that I would welcome scans of covers that have rate information on them, or documentary evidence on Ship Letter rates or contemporary accounts as to how the Master's gratuity was accounted for, say before 1860:- to cgbooth1@btinternet.com

#### References:

Britnor L.E., *British West Indies Postal Rates up to 1900*, BWISC, 1977

Robson Lowe, *The Codrington correspondence 1743 – 1851*, Robson Lowe Ltd., 1951





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***British West Indies Stamps and Covers  
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Greg Spring or Ben Palmer.*

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## ANTIGUA

### PERKINS, BACON 6D DESIGN, A RESPONSE

BY RICHARD ASHTON

During my 50+ years as a philatelic auctioneer I have seen several different productions of classic stamps, for a variety of countries, similar to the Antigua item that Charles Freeland has; but never two at the same time!

It was quite by chance that many years ago I was pondering whether the Newfoundland 'Die Proof' sitting in front of me was an outright forgery, as Charles feels may be an option - or something else.

The 'something else' materialized after lunch when I was meandering through a late 1800s stamp album, and there was my Newfoundland proof. Though it was not a proof, but a printed image at the top of the album page. All other similar images have had areas of plain paper around the image, thus creating a die-proof-like appearance.

I cannot state with any certainty that the item Charles has is of the same stamp album image type, but it may well be.

I have a theory that these illustrations were produced (a very few of each) by the album printers to be used on a paste-up of each album page. The publisher (Stanley Gibbons, Lincoln etc) would have been provided with text for the running headings (country title, historical data and the illustrations) and could then mock-up each page and return the whole for compilation by the printer. Only a theory!

### ANTIGUA HANDBOOK

BY CHARLES FREELAND

As mentioned in the last bulletin in a query that has now been kindly answered by Richard Ashton, I have been working with John Jordan on a new handbook on this island that has not been written about in full since Melville's slim 1929 booklet. As we progress, additional questions arise and I would ask our Antigua collectors to provide input if they own anything really unusual, such as unrecorded handstamps or markings. In particular we would welcome hearing from members who can extend the range of dates for censor markings listed by Tweddell or Burrows and for postal markings listed by Proud. We need scans of covers bearing Proud's missent mark I7 and Late Fee 12. The book will also of course cover the stamps and here too we would appreciate hearing about unrecorded varieties, proofs and essays or classic covers with unusual frankings.

Note the book is currently scheduled to close with the 1951 University commemoratives but if any member would like to contribute on the later issues we would be happy to add him or her as a co-author.

## BRITISH GUIANA

### 1871 OFFICIAL 8C. ROSE

BY MARK TAYLOR



Illustrated is a brilliant impression, imperforate, gummed proof with diagonal perforation holes.

Any knowledge of this or similar items would be welcome, via the Editor.





# Warwick & Warwick

## AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS

[www.warwickandwarwick.com](http://www.warwickandwarwick.com)

Warwick & Warwick are pleased to announce a specialised collection of Bahamas philatelic material, to be sold by Public Auction on 2nd September 2015. The auction will include the properties of several vendors, including the wonderful collection formed by Len Mason.



*1859 Thick paper block of 12 o.g.*



*1963 F.F.H with name and value omitted error - the only used example known to exist.*



*1862 trial perf 1d pair o.g.*



*1942 Landfall study including 'COIUMBUS' errors.*

The full catalogue for the sale can be viewed online at [www.warwickandwarwick.com/auctions/catalogue](http://www.warwickandwarwick.com/auctions/catalogue)

A printed copy is also available on request.

For further information please call us on 01926 499 031 or email [joseph.cottrill@warwickandwarwick.com](mailto:joseph.cottrill@warwickandwarwick.com)



## BERMUDA

### IDENTIFICATION AND PRICING OF K1, K3 AND K4 NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS BY MICHAEL HAMILTON

#### K1



The purpose of this article is threefold:

To illustrate for the first time the three main groups of postmarks and where necessary explain their differences.

To provide an insight into how an individual pricing structure was achieved.

To point out the elusiveness and real rarity of some combinations of stamp and postmark.



When I attended the 1,367 lot Sale of the George Ulrich BERMUDA collection at Bridger & Kay Auction June 26/27/28 1989 in Guernsey I had little experience, or knowledge, of the potential rarity of some Bermuda cancels, but Lot 187 could hopefully give me a thorough education as it was a unique opportunity to acquire one man's lifetime accumulation.

#### K3a



#### K4a



The lot comprised 770 postmarks and was described as '1865–1904 A very comprehensive collection covering the numeral cancellations 1–15 St. Georges to Crawl, Ludington types K1, K3, K3a in black and blue, K4, K4a. Laid out on stock pages, stamps in most cases show clear strikes, values to 1/- also a few provisionals. A study which must have taken years to put together, ideal for further additions'.

The estimate was exceptionally attractive at £400/500 and my determination to acquire took it to the dizzy heights of £6,500 (plus 2½% buyers premium) before the auctioneers gavel banged down in my favour!

Once home I had the unsettling task of sorting into scarcity. The easy to distinguish K1 types were set aside, and the really worthless poorest strikes from the whole collection were removed.

A table (retained and illustrated below) was made for the K3a and K4a on their respective SG numbers. The totals were 253 stamps with K3a and 229 stamps with K4a. A total of 482 stamps to grade by quality of strike and assign individual prices which would hopefully make sense to the most knowledgeable collectors/postmark buyers of the day – namely Chalmers, Chard, Dickgiesser, Forand, Freeland, Ingalls, Ludington, Mitton, Nixon, Osborn, Young etc.

## JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

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**St. Lucia...1860 4d. Blue – 'CANCELLED'**  
(position 5 - S.G.2)



At the time of publication of 'Cancelled' by Peter Jaffe in 1998, two copies of this stamp were known, one being in the collection of Her Majesty the Queen, and the other, position 4, being heavily defective...

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SG No.	1	2	3	4	5	5a	6	7	10	11	19	20	21	21a	22	23	24	24a	25	26	27	27a	28	30	Totals	
K3a 5	4	1	2		1				1	3		5	6			2	5					2	4	1		25
K3a 6	5	3	4		1			1	3		5	6				2	5					2		1		38
K3a 7	1	1	6	1					2		3	4				8	4					2	1	1		34
K3a 8	5	4	1	2	1				2		2	4				11	9					2	3	1		47
K3a 9	3	2	1	1	1	2					9	5		1		3	2			4						33
K3a 10		1		1	1				1		5	7				7	5			1			1			30
K3a 11	2		4		1				4			1				7	3					1				23
K3a 12	2	1	4						7		2	5				6	10					4	1	4		46
K3a 13	5	1	6	1	4				4		4	2				7	3									37
K3a 14	2	5	2	1		1					2	2				7	2						2	1		27
K3a 15	4	5	4		2			2	1		6	5				9	10					2	1	1		52
K3a 16	6		9	1							5	5					3									29
K3a 17	2										2	1				4										9
K3a 18		1	1									1				1										4
K3a 19			3					1			2	1				1										8
Totals	41	25	46	8	12	3		4	25		50	52			77	58			5		13	13	9			442

SG No.	1	2	3	4	5	5a	6	7	10	11	19	20	21	21a	22	23	24	24a	25	26	27	27a	28	30	Totals	
K4a 5												2				3					1	2	2			10
K4a 6											1		2	1		4	13	5	1	1	3	4	1			36
K4a 7												3	1			2	2	2	2		2					14
K4a 8											2	8				2	6	10	12	1	3	7				51
K4a 9											11	1	3	4		1		4	6	1						31
K4a 10	1											1				3	2	2					1			10
K4a 11				2					1		2	3		1			8	4				3	1			25
K4a 12											1	3				7	5	18	2	1	16	3	2			58
K4a 13								1			3	5				1	6	5			1	4				26
K4a 14																4	7	2			2					15
K4a 15											2	3				12	6	3	2			3	1	2		34
K4a 16																	1									1
K4a 17												1					5	2			4	2				14
K4a 18											2					2	3	1			1					9
K4a 19-1															1			1				1				3
K4a 19-2																	3	1				6				10
Totals	1			2				1	1		22	32	6	6	1	41	67	60	25	5	37	33	5	2		347

K1



K3a



K4a



I still retain the original internal private listing with full descriptions and the end result pricing for those 482 items. Prices included £525 for superb full upright K3a '19' on QV 6d dull mauve; £240 for superb full upright blue ink K3a '6' on QV ½d stone; £225 for two lovely full strikes K3a '14' duplex dated A/OC 7 84 on QV 1d dull rose strip of three confirming 2nd Organisation use at Harrington Sound.

Buyers came and although sales were slow every item eventually sold. The Ulrich accumulation then became the backbone for Bermuda numeral pricing which I still use to this day.

The Ludington handbook illustrations, below, have guided us all to date. It is hoped that my actual illustrations will help any needed additional clarification.

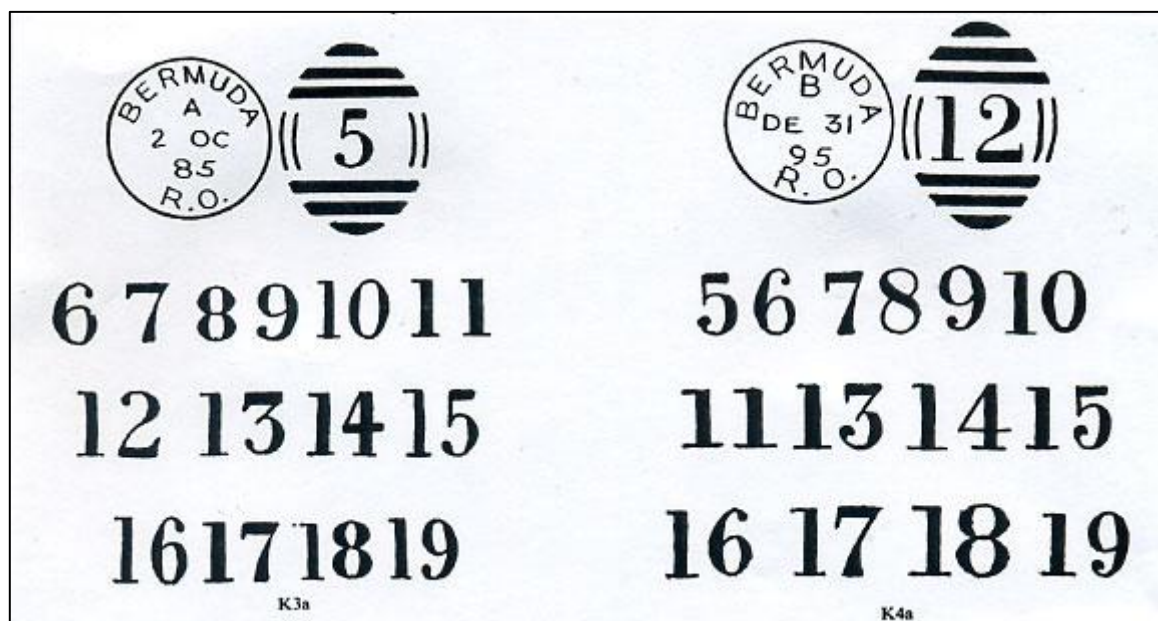
#### IDENTIFICATION:

I have not included K3 and K4 '1' and '2' numerals, and the differences between the K3a and K4a numerals are mainly quite noticeable with a few exceptions.

The first rule to remember is that the duplex circular date stamp is always left of the numeral. Both K3a '6' and K3a '11' are found struck in blue and black ink.







K1

K3a

K4a



**Numeral '7':** The K3a has a short slanting downward serif. The K4a has a longer downward serif. Measurements between the bar above and bar below the '7' will also assist. The K3a has 10½mm spacing, and the K4a has 12mm spacing.

**Numeral '10':** The K3a figures are thinner and taller. Measurements between the bar above and bar below the '10' will assist. The K3a has 10½mm spacing, and the K4a has 11½mm spacing.

**Numeral '11':** The K3a figures are thinner but over-inking or ink spread can cause difficulties. Measurements between the bar above and bar below the '11' will help. The K3a has 11½mm spacing, and the K4a has 12mm spacing.

**Numeral '13':** The K3a '13' has a shorter downward diagonal than the K4a '14'. The K4a also has distinctive ball to foot of the '3'.

**Numeral '16':** The K4a '16' is rarely seen. The K3a '6' has height of 8½mm, and the K4a '6' has height of 9¼mm.

**Numeral '19':** There are two numerals. K4a 19(i) height of '9' being 8mm, width 4½mm K4a 19 (ii) height of '9' being 8½mm, width 5mm.

## PRICING:

Imagine where we would be if Stanley Gibbons or Scott catalogues were without pricing for both basic mint and used stamps! The situation would be as frustrating as all those listed but unpriced watermark varieties. Stanley Gibbons have listed Great Britain used abroad, and other stamps used abroad, and most importantly have reflected values on differing stamps. Specialised single country catalogues for postmarks on all their differing stamps may be a thing of the future, but until they arrive collectors will have vastly different opinions. Collectors either acquire other collectors accumulations at auction and guess individual rarity, or pick out items in dealer's stocks usually priced as the basic stamp. The difficulty, like basic stamps, is finding ways to fill the gaps. The interested collector will very quickly start to see that it is difficult or near impossible to find offices, and the very advanced collector will acknowledge that many combinations of stamp and postmark will probably never be on his album pages.

K3a

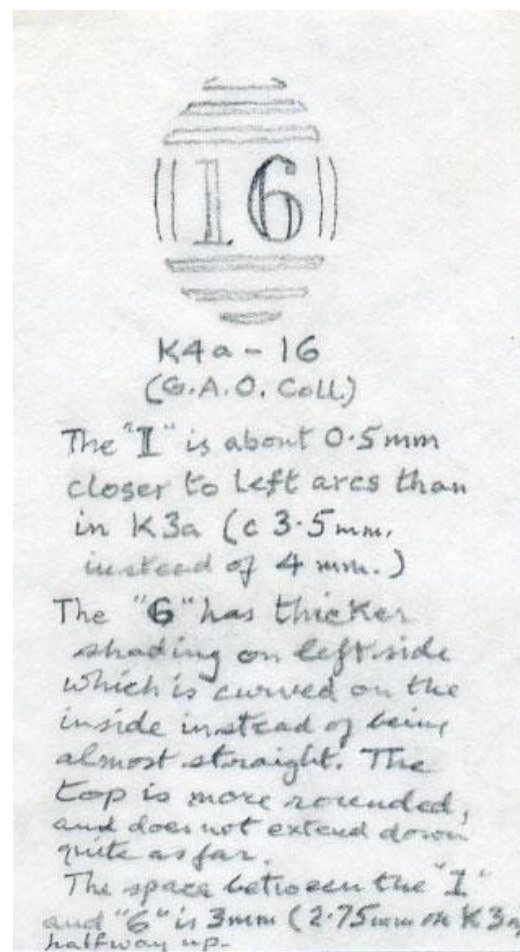
K4a



K3a #16  
Devonshire North  
1879-1888  
Ht. "6"  $8\frac{1}{2}$  mm.  
width  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. "1"  
is 1 mm wide.  
Black Ink  
PM-K3a-21 $\frac{1}{2}$  mm Dia



K4a #16  
Devonshire North  
1888-1895  
Ht. "6"  $9\frac{1}{4}$  mm.  
width  $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. "1"  
is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm wide.  
Black Ink  
PM-K4a-21 $\frac{1}{2}$  mm Dia



Above George Ulrich's notes on the K3a and K4a '16', and Geoffrey Osborn's drawing and notes on K4a '16'.

## ELUSIVENESS:

Like most things the real excitement is in the chase and the detail, and for this article I have up-dated the Ulrich table just to show how elusive many of these K3a and K4a combinations still are after 25 years of my stocking Bermuda numerals. As watermarks alone identify many of the stamps my listing is only based on items personally handled, and although I viewed the Ludington numeral collection I made no notes and failed to secure. The table now shows 442 stamps with K3a cancels and 347 stamps with K4a cancels making a combined total of 789 items. The Geoff Osborn numeral section was acquired and incorporated. Just for the record George Ulrich had no examples K1 '11' and K4a '16'.

If we track what George Ulrich acquired over a period of 25 years, and what I have added over 25 years one will see that there are 76 combinations which only list a single entry for the combined 50 year period.

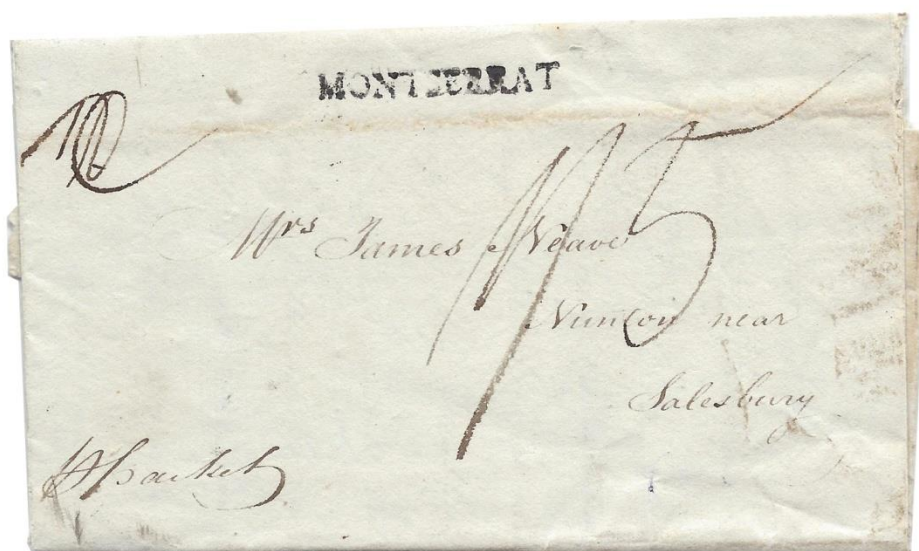


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## NEVIS

### THE 1882 NEVIS POSTAL FISCALS, BATH HOUSE REVISITED

BY IAN JAKES



Fig. 1.

One of my pleasures following retirement from work is having time to study my stamp collection for the first time in more than forty years. My eyes lit upon the Nevis stamps of 1876–78 overprinted 'Revenue' by Nissen & Parker, London and used as postage stamps in 1882, Fig. 1. This statement is not quite accurate, because, as Gibbons state in a footnote, the stamps themselves were made from fresh transfers. The colour shades of the 'medicinal spring' 1882 postal fiscals differ from the 1876–78 lithograph stamps as can be seen in Gibbons catalogue. Please note that there is an error in Gibbons catalogue. SG F1 should read '1d. bright rose' and not '1d. bright red'.

Messrs. Nissen & Parker were designers and engravers, who designed and engraved the first Nevis 'medicinal spring' stamps. The stamps were first printed direct from steel plates, the plates having been produced from a master die, each stamp being separately engraved (recessed) by hand upon the surface of the steel plate. The stamps themselves were printed in sheets of twelve (3 x 4). All can be individually plated because twelve separate engravings of the 'one penny' stamp were engraved onto one steel plate, twelve separate engravings of the 'four pence' stamp were engraved onto a second steel plate, twelve separate engravings of the 'six pence' stamp were engraved onto a third steel plate, and twelve separate engravings of the 'one shilling' stamp were engraved onto a fourth steel plate.

Messrs. Nissen & Parker's normal 'modus operandi' was to obtain the contracts for engraving and printing work (including, on a few occasions contracts for work for stamp production), prepare and engrave the design and then subcontract the printing, often to Waterlow and Sons. It is not known which subcontractor actually printed the first Nevis stamps.



Fig. 2.

The frame design differs for each value and is adapted from the frame designs on the Great Britain Queen Victoria postage stamps of the same four denominations used in Nevis immediately before the first Nevis stamps were issued in 1862. The Great Britain one penny black (Fig. 2) has a similar frame design to the one penny used in Nevis until 1862. The name 'NEVIS' has been substituted for the word 'Postage' at the top of the frame. Stars have been substituted for letters in the bottom corners of the frame. The word 'Postage' does not appear on the first Nevis postage stamps at all.

The central design (vignette) is similar on each of the four values. In the background there is a hill which must be Mount Nevis, if only because it looks like Ben Nevis. In the foreground there are three figures, the one sat on the ground looking quite ill. It is perhaps not surprising that the Nevis Postmaster Mr. J. B. Brown was asked to explain the design. He did so in Stamp Collectors Magazine of 1 January 1867 as follows:—

*'The device on the Nevis postage stamps is a facsimile of the great seal of the colony, and represents, issuing out of the side of a hill, a stream of water which, falling to the ground, forms a pool, wherein which (sic) a sick female is reclining, supported with one hand by a companion, who extends the other to the presiding genius, or nymph of the stream, for a bowl which the latter is filling from a pitcher of water drawn from the stream.*

*There are, about a quarter of a mile from the principal town (Charlestown), certain mineral springs, called the Bath Springs. Many years ago the proprietor of the land, where some of these springs are situated, opened two of tepid and one of hot water; over the latter and one of the former rooms were erected and fitted up for the convenience of invalids, while to the other tepid spring a pipe was affixed for drinking purposes. An hotel, of almost palatial dimensions, and of very imposing appearance, called 'Bath House', with several outbuildings, etc., was erected, and the surrounding grounds laid out in gardens.*

*There are numerous other small springs in the vicinity and scattered over the leeward parts of the island; but just below the drinking spring of the Bath House, a spring (the most considerable of that nature in the island) issues from the side of the hill, forms a large pool, and runs in a continuous stream, called the Bath Stream, deepening and widening as it flows, till it expands into a large pond on the sea shore, about five hundred yards from its source. This spring is not enclosed nor covered, and is used by those who cannot pay the fee of sixpence charged at the Bath House, and also serves as a washing place. Although the spring is extremely hot, the stream varies in heat, and in some places is cold.*

*The baths have been of high repute, and the island was much resorted to by invalids when the hotel was properly kept. The extraordinary powers and unfailing efficacy of the Nevis baths have been long well known in the medical world and have been celebrated in every treatise descriptive of the colonies. Mr. Osborne, in his 'Guide to the Madeiras, West Indies etc.,' says:- 'Nevis is celebrated for its mineral springs. The principal hotel is the Bath House, which is situated on a rising ground, and commands a view of the town, the adjacent country, and the sea. It may be considered one of the most salubrious localities in the island. The House is distant from the landing place about a quarter of a mile. Appertaining to this establishment are hot and tepid baths possessing most valuable medicinal properties.' Sir Hans Sloane says he mastered a severe cough by bathing in and drinking the waters during a few days' stay on the island. At one part of the stream which supplies the baths there are two springs – one so intensely cold as to produce a chill through the whole frame, and the other too hot to be borne by the naked foot. 'An invalid,' writes Mr. Coleridge, 'with a good servant, may take up his quarters here with more comfort than any other house of public reception in the West Indies.' It will be seen from these extracts that the baths have always been the great institution of the colony; hence the device of the great seal.*

*I have been informed by the Honourable George Webbe, F.R.A.S., Treasurer, etc., an old inhabitant, and a gentleman who was for many years Chief Justice, and who three times administered the Government, and by the Honourable John A. Iles, Colonial Secretary, also an old public officer, that the great seal was made between thirty and forty years ago, after a design by Mr. Colquhoun, the agent for this island in England, who submitted the devise for the approval of the Government, to represent the healing virtues of its celebrated baths.*

*The stamps were first introduced into this colony by Mr. Musgrove (the present Governor of Newfoundland) in 1861. The one shilling stamps are used to pay postage to England, and with a sixpenny, fourpenny, or penny stamp, as the case may be, in transit through England; on heavy letters inter-colonially, and on book packets. Sixpenny stamps are used to prepay the registration fee on letters, the postage on books over 8 oz; and under 12 oz; etc. Fourpenny stamps are used to prepay postage on letters inter-colonially, and to America. The penny stamps serve to prepay the postage on newspapers, prices-current, soldiers' and seamen's letters, and books under 4 oz. These are the principal uses to which the stamps are put; they are also used one with another to represent values not represented by either.'*

In February 2014 my family hired a house in Nevis ([www.thegalleriesnevis.com](http://www.thegalleriesnevis.com)). I made it my business to visit Bath House, Bath Springs and Bath Stream so wonderfully described by the Nevis Postmaster in 1867.

The best Nevis tourist guide entitled 'Nevis Queen of the Caribees' by Joyce Gordon was printed in the 1980s, but is now out of print. Yes, this is the sort of place that Nevis is. The guide states that the Bath

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House hotel was built in 1778. It accommodated 50 guests. The guests would be the elite of the Americas and Europe. Henry Nelson Coleridge stayed at the hotel in 1825, commenting that the hotel was too large and that an invalid with a good servant might take up his quarters here with more comfort than in any other house of public reception in the West Indies to take advantage of the crystal clear, soft smooth water spa facilities. The hotel gardens were compared to the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

The facilities were still present, but not in their prime, when the Nevis Postmaster was in office in 1867. The hotel closed in 1885. The hotel and gardens were still in ruins towards the end of the 20th century.

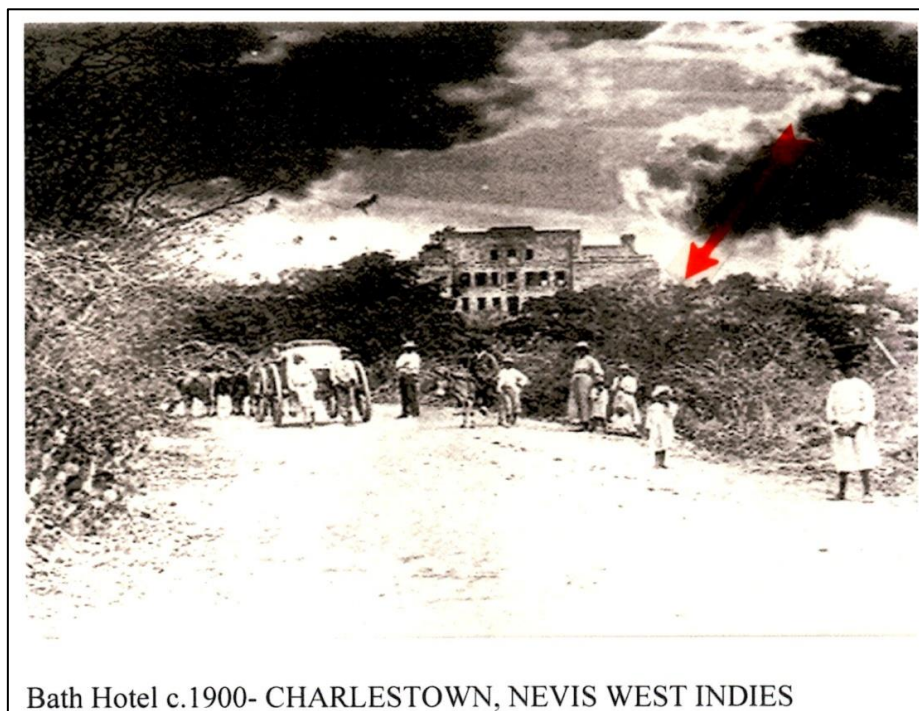
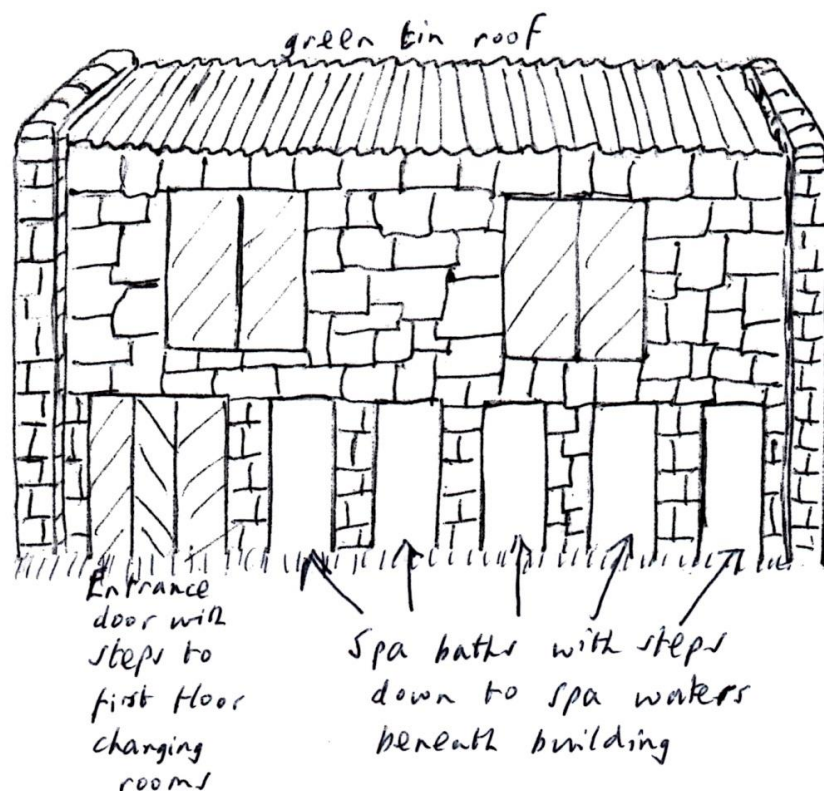


Fig. 3.

The Bath House hotel is a ten minute walk south along the main road from the centre of Charlestown. Fig. 3 shows the hotel in ruins in about 1900. My first glimpse of the hotel in 2014 led me to believe that little had changed in more than a century. The road was no wider, although it did have a tarmacadam surface. There was no signpost to the hotel. I only recognised it from the image shown in Fig. 3. As I approached closely I noticed that the hotel had been renovated. There was a smart, well dressed, young woman having her photograph taken outside the main ground floor entrance. She was a television presenter. She seemed surprised that I knew something about the history of the building. She showed my family round the two lower floors which were now being used as a television centre and then led us to a staircase to the top floor. This is now occupied by the Ministry for Tourism. We sat on the top floor veranda (immediately below the three top floor windows to be seen in Fig. 3). The view is stunning. The whole of Charlestown is in the foreground. Pinney's Beach and the whole of the west coast of Nevis can be seen. Beyond that, there is a view of much of the west coast of St. Kitts including the capital, Basseterre, with Old Road in the distance. 'Road' is a 17th century word meaning 'anchorage'. The 18th and 19th century guests at the hotel were clearly very privileged.

It was time to see the spa rooms erected over 'Bath Springs' in front of the hotel, the position of which is marked with a red arrow on Fig. 3. Enquiries revealed that no one at the Ministry of Tourism had ever bothered to take a photograph of these rooms. I, therefore, made a sketch, Fig. 4. The rooms remind me of a disused Derbyshire stone barn with a green corrugated tin roof. The rooms were damaged by earthquakes in the 1950s and are unsafe to enter. The entrance to the spa rooms was via the ground floor door on the left. There are concrete steps inside the entrance door leading to the first floor changing rooms. There were five separate spa baths on the ground floor of the building. Each spa bathroom had five concrete steps down into the spa waters. With each step taken, you would be about one foot deeper into the spa waters. At the bottom of the steps you would be up to your neck, about five feet deep in spa water.



*The building built over Ball Springs.*

Fig. 4.

About one hundred yards to the right of the rooms at Bath Springs is a fairly new spa bath, built to mirror one of the original spa baths and which is used by the general public free of charge. There is a notice which reads 'The naturally warm waters can reach temperatures of 108 degrees Fahrenheit, are high in mineral content and come from an underground source known as 'Bath Springs'. Bathing in these waters is said to be an antidote for Manchineel burns from the sap of the local Manchineel tree. It is also said to bring relief to those suffering from aching bones, rheumatism, gout, muscle and other tensions.'

My son and I stood in this spa bath with a rather large local woman who, like other Nevisians, was very pleasant and talkative. The spa waters were far too hot. The waters reminded me of that over hot bath into which I was plunged when I was a child. After ten minutes or so my son and I left the spa bath. When the Nevisian lady thought we were out of sight, she removed all of her clothes. She did not fit my perceived image of Venus. It then occurred to me that many locals obtained water from stand pipes in the road and that most houses were too small to accommodate bathrooms.

The Bath Stream, a shallow paddling river a few yards in front of Bath House and Bath Springs, is about ten feet wide and flows from left to right towards the sea (when viewed from Fig. 3). The river is almost as hot as the spa baths.

The Hanging Gardens no longer exist. The I.T.V. garden presenter, Alan Titchmarsh, needs to be employed to do a makeover.

Now back to the stamps. A perusal of the Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Catalogue will show you that the first Nissen & Parker Nevis issues perforated 13 started life in similar colours to the Great Britain 1d. rose-red, the 4d. rose, the 6d. lilac and the 1s. green postage stamps used in Nevis until 1862. Similar colours were presumably used on the first Nevis stamps because much of the local population was illiterate in the nineteenth century, being unable to read the denominations, and relying on the colours, on the stamps. Between 1866 and 1876 the Nissen & Parker engraved issues (apart from the 6d. grey-lilac) were perforated 15 and the 4d. rose became the 4d. orange (presumably to distinguish the 4d. rose from the 1d.



rose-red). The 6d. grey–lilac would appear to have been in smaller demand than the other values. As late as 1878 the sixpence grey-lilac perforated 13 (S.G.7) was still in use. Between 1876 and 1878 new stamps were made, lithographed by transfer from engraved plates, perforated 15 and included a 1d.vermilion red perforated 11½. It was only in February 1878 that a new lithographed 6d. grey perforated 15 was issued to replace the 6d. grey-lilac when 84 sheets (1008 stamps) were sent to the colony.



Fig. 5.



Fig. 6.

In 1877 'medicinal spring' stamps were hand stamped locally with the word 'Revenue'. According to Barefoot these overprints were on the pre 1876 engraved issues of the 1d. red, 1d. orange (vermillion-red?), 6d. grey (grey-lilac?), and on the later 1d.orange (vermillion red?) and 4d. orange lithographed issues. Fig. 5. shows examples of these local diagonal, and sometimes inverted, overprints. I am not aware that any of these stamps, hand stamped with overprints, were ever used for postal purposes.

Nissen & Parker were also contracted to overprint some of these stamps with the word 'Revenue'. These overprints were not hand stamped, but were overprinted using the relief printing method. According to both Stanley Gibbons and Barefoot the Nissen & Parker overprints were on the 'medicinal spring' 1876 – 1878 lithographic issues. Nissen & Parker had some of these lithographic issues in stock in London which were overprinted. The stamps in stock were not sufficiently large to fulfil the new order and additional lithographic printings of stamps were made. Nissen & Parker had some of these lithographic issues in stock in London which were overprinted. The stamps in stock were too small in quantity to fulfil the new order and additional lithographic printings of the stamps were made and then also overprinted. As I have already stated the stamps overprinted and used for postal purposes in Nevis were on the fresh transfers, with new colour shades, and not on the stamps already in stock and overprinted in the old colour shades. Fig. 6. shows a Nissen & Parker 'Revenue' overprint dated '20/5/79'. The original use was for fiscal purposes.

In 1879 –1880 the new Queen Victoria key plate stamps, being the one penny lilac-mauve and the 2½d red brown were received in the colony, but the numbers of these new stamps were insufficient to meet demand. The old 'medicinal spring' stamps of all values which had not been overprinted were also running low. The consequence was that, in 1882, some of the Nissen & Parker 'Revenue' overprints were requisitioned for use as postage stamps (see Fig. 1 above). Some of the new Queen Victoria key type stamps overprinted 'Revenue' by De La Rue were also requisitioned for use as postage stamps. A block of the De La Rue 4d blue overprinted stamps is shown in Fig. 7.



Fig. 7.





# WINDWARDS ISLANDS AND BRITISH GUIANA, BRITISH HONDURAS, CAYMAN ISLANDS AND JAMAICA, FROM THE VESTEY COLLECTION

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I was congratulating myself upon having a full set of five of the Nissen & Parker 1882 unused postal fiscals, S.G. F1 to F5 inclusive, Fig. 1. When I looked more closely, I noticed that my S.G. F4 was not the 6d grey perforated 15, but rather the 6d grey-lilac S.G.7 perforated 13. I used my clean index finger to touch the front of the stamp. I could feel that the surface of the stamp was raised up towards me which confirmed that the stamp was one of the engraved issues produced by the recess printing method. As the design is in recess on the plate the ink has to be forced into the hollows. Stamps printed lithographically have a smooth surface to the touch and the printed image is not always so clear cut as on a recess printed stamp. The 1d rose (S.G.F2) shown in Fig. 1. is a good example of an unclear image. Another way to distinguish recess printing from lithography is by checking the colour shades of the stamps. But please remember that the Nevis postal fiscals were produced from fresh transfers, so that, for example the 1878 lithographed 4d orange yellow, when produced from a fresh transfer became the 4d orange and was the same shade of orange as the recess printed 4d orange, also perforated 15.

I have one recess printed stamp, the 6d grey-lilac, and four lithographic printed stamps, the 1d bright rose (not bright red), 1d rose, 4d orange and 1s green shown in Fig. 1. There is something wrong here.

I looked at the 'Revenue' overprints themselves. All of the measurements seem to be accurate. There were small differences in the styles of the overprints which suggest to me that a block of different overprints was made, possibly a block of twelve, one for each stamp on the sheet. As the twelve stamps on each sheet are easily plated, research by someone who has enough of the Nevis postal fiscals, could establish whether or not my theory is correct. The overprint on the 6d grey-lilac bothered me. I have never seen another Nissen & Parker overprint with only part of the overprint showing on the stamp. There is no 'tail' (also known as a serif) on the end of the 'R' in 'Revenue' as there is on all the other overprints shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 6. The 'tail' is a very thin strip of metal. Any very thin strip of metal can break away during the print run. An example of a thin piece of the die breaking during the print run can be found on the Leeward Islands 1897 Diamond Jubilee overprint. The thin 'tail' is the forger's nightmare because it is too difficult for an amateur to make. Forgeries of the Grenada unused surcharge postage issues (S.G. D6 and D7) are common because there is a 'tail' on the '2' in '2d.' on the genuine stamps which the forger has not been able to duplicate. I looked more closely with my magnifying glass at the overprint on the 6d grey-lilac. It was hand stamped, not relief printed, as it should have been. The overprint was offset so that the forger could use the outer frame of the 6d.grey-lilac to recreate the 'tail'. I considered whether the overprint was a cleaned copy of the over inked and dirty overprint shown in Fig. 5. I did not come to any firm conclusion.

#### ADDENDUM:

I wrote this article before the publication of the excellent BWISC Nevis book by Borromeo and Freeland. Page 115 of the Nevis book contains the following sentence 'The first Nevis revenue issue was produced locally on unsold stocks of the 6d. engraved stamps perforated 13'. No copy of this 6d. engraved issue is illustrated in the Nevis book. Perhaps my 6d. grey-lilac shown in Fig.1 is the stamp referred to in the Nevis book. I then looked at the De La Rue key type 1d. lilac first invoiced in May 1880 (Fig.8.13 on page 117 of the Nevis book). The 'Revenue' overprint on my 6d. grey-lilac appears to be identical to this overprint. The Nevis book states that this should be the case. This can only be so if the first Type 1 revenue overprint has been totally cleaned and restored to its original condition for use on the 1880 1d. lilac. Does any member have a postage stamp bearing a Type 1 cleaned and restored Nevis overprint used for fiscal purposes in the 1880s? I suspect not, but I hope that I am wrong about this. If my suspicion is correct then we have to consider whether there is a Type 1 forged 'Revenue' overprint in existence, or a cleaned and restored, but redundant, original hand stamp being used to make fakes. Remember the introduction in the Nevis book and the encouragement for the forger and/or faker - prices for West Indies stamps went through the roof in the early 1890s. The reason for this is fully explained in the introduction to the Nevis book. A financial opportunity for the late 19th century forger and faker was created at this time.

The Nevis book states that Waterlow & Sons carried out the engraving of the plates for the first medicinal spring issues. My article states that Nissen & Parker did the engraving and that the printing of the first Nevis stamps was contracted out to a third party. I do not think that the third party was Waterlow & Sons. The printing of the stamps is not up to Waterlow's standard. So who did the engraving – Waterlow & Son or Nissen & Parker? This will be the subject of an article in a future bulletin.



**David Feldman**

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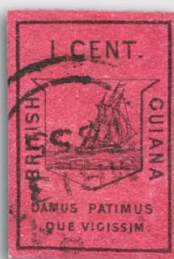
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## ST. LUCIA

### ST. LUCIA TO 1885, PART 1

BY CHARLES FREELAND AND GEOFF KELLOW RDP

The March and June 2014 Bulletins contained extracts from Geoff Kellow's write-up for the late lamented Peter Jaffé's St. Christopher exhibit. By popular demand (!) we now repeat the exercise for Peter's St. Lucia exhibit, again enhanced with some additional comments from the co-authors, although by no means intended to be comprehensive as regards, for example, watermark varieties or specimen/cancelled stamps.

### THE ISLAND'S POSTAL HISTORY AND POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS

After war broke out between Britain and France, St. Lucia was captured by the English on 13 December 1778 and not restored to the French until the Treaty of Versailles on 20 January 1783. The British recaptured St. Lucia from the French in April 1794 and remained in possession until 1801. Mail from this period is scarce, and was carried by private ship or warship. In 1801 the island was ceded to France again, but was recaptured following the resumption of hostilities in 1803.

A Post Office under a Deputy Postmistress was established at St. Lucia on 5 January 1810. Postal communication with the United Kingdom was via the Admiralty packet service based in Falmouth. The first postal marking supplied was the fleuron datestamp, similar in type to that supplied to most of the other West Indian islands. However, it is not known used before 1822.

The small-size rate markings on covers addressed to Dr. Ribadieu in Soufrière are believed to represent the inland postal charges from Castries to Soufrière (6 sols 9 deniers and 5 sols 9 deniers respectively).

At the end of 1841 the Admiralty Sailing Packets were replaced by the privately-owned Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. The British base remained at Falmouth until 1843, when it was transferred to Southampton. On 1 May 1844 a St. Lucia double-arc datestamp was sent out from the GPO London, to replace the old fleuron datestamp. For paid letters a Crowned Circle handstamp was supplied, to be struck in red. This was sent out from the GPO London on 1 May 1844 intended specifically for use on letters to non-U.K. destinations, but in practice it was used on prepaid mail to all foreign destinations.

The 1845 Anglo-French Postal Treaty permitted the carriage of unpaid letters between British Colonies and France. Such mail received the boxed 'COLONIES/&c. ART. 13' marking, which indicated the division of postage between the United Kingdom and France. Letters were charged 10 decimes on delivery.

In 1850 an Inland Post was established between Castries and Soufrière, and a Postmaster was appointed at Soufrière on 22 April 1850. The post was daily, with a charge of 1d per ½ ounce. A double arc datestamp for Soufrière was sent out from the GPO London on 9 March 1850. The Inland Post was discontinued in 1856, and the double arc datestamp was withdrawn. On 23 March 1854 the packet rate was reduced from 1s to 6d per half ounce.

On 2 October 1864 several handstamps were supplied to a number of West Indian islands for use under the Conventions of the Anglo-French Postal Treaty. The use of these marks might be expected to be considerable in the case of St. Lucia considering the amount of French correspondence, but in practice they are seen very infrequently.

On 1 February 1858 the GPO London introduced compulsory prepayment of postage between the United Kingdom and the West Indies. Soon after, on 1 April 1858, the use of British stamps for prepayment of postage was made compulsory, and replaced the Crowned Circle handstamp. In practice, this measure had to await the arrival of the stamps, which were not despatched from London until 17 April. Accompanying the first consignment of stamps were two A11 obliterations for their cancellation. On 1 April 1860 control of the St. Lucia Post Office was transferred to local authorities and the use of British stamps was discontinued. The 'PAID/AT/ST/ LUCIA' Crowned circle handstamp was then reintroduced to indicate prepayment of postage, even after the introduction of adhesive stamps in 1860 (Fig. 1).



The rarity of covers in this period makes it difficult to determine whether these represent an optional prepayment in cash, or temporary use during the non-availability of adhesives. Several Crowned Circle covers exist from 1862 and 1863 suggesting that the 1860 6d printing became exhausted and was not replenished until all three denominations were ordered from De La Rue in 1863.

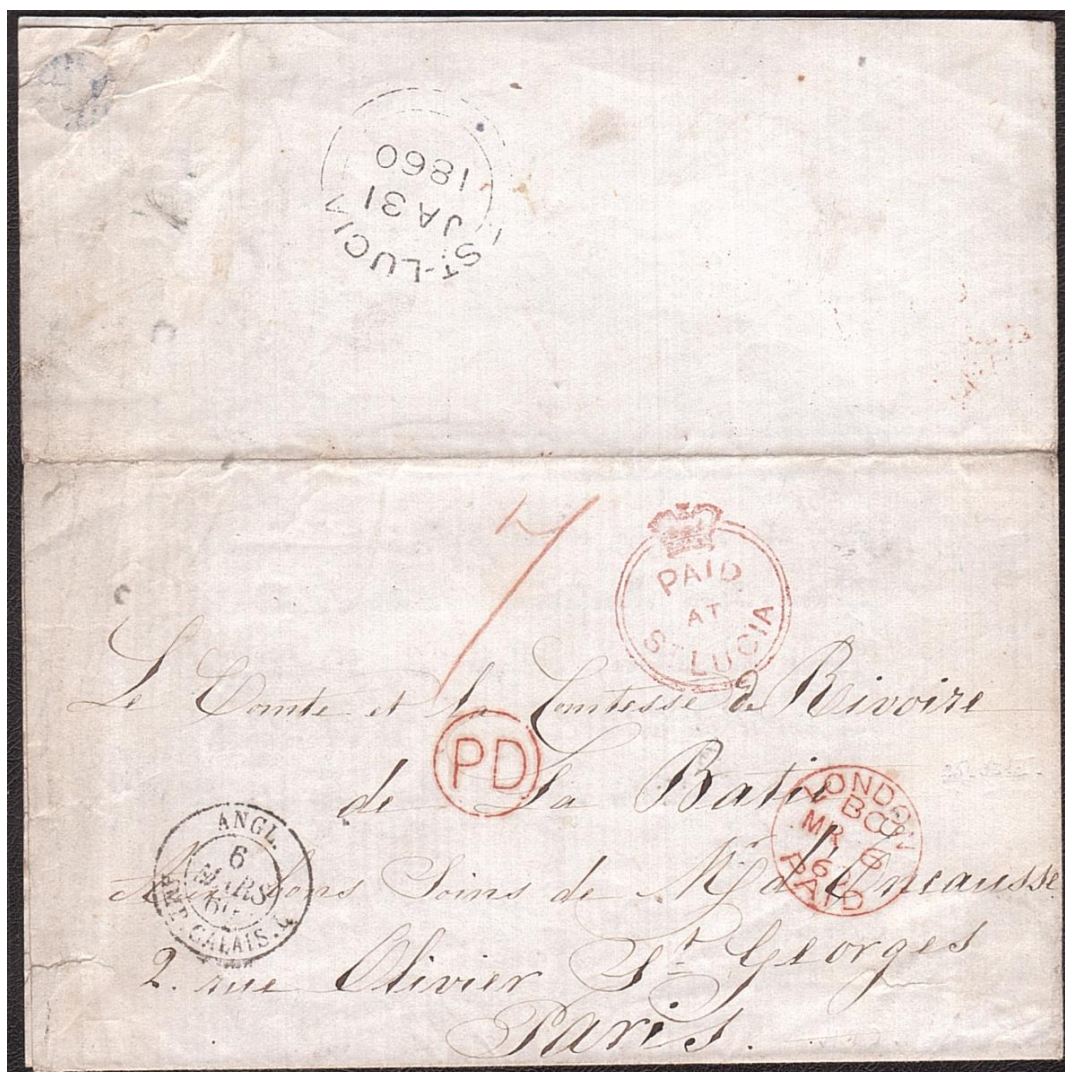


Fig. 1. 1860 to Paris with interim use of the Crowned Circle.

## THE ISSUED STAMPS

### 1860 PRINTING ON WATERMARK SMALL STAR PAPER, Perf. 14-16

The initial enquiry for postage stamps was sent to Perkins, Bacon & Co. in February 1860, who supplied prices for steel plates of 60, 120 or 240 impressions. On receipt in St. Lucia it was decided to use a single undenominated plate of 240 impressions, printed in different colours for the various denominations. A formal tender by Perkins, Bacon dated 15 September 1860 was accepted by the Agent-General for the Colonies on behalf of St. Lucia two days later. The St. Lucia design uses the South Australia 9d head, which had been engraved earlier in the same year. The die was completed on 16 October 1860.

The Perkins, Bacon records provide no details of the production of the plate, 240-set in 24 rows of 12, or its date of completion. No plate proofs in black, as was usual for Perkins, Bacon, have survived. The total charge for preparing the design, die and printing plate was £85.

St. Lucia ordered printings in three colours – green, red and blue – but did not inform Perkins, Bacon which denominations these colours represented. An ambiguous printing record lists 100 sheets being printed by Dix on 10 November 1860 using Small Star watermarked paper, but does not divide this quantity between the colours. The invoiced stamps total 66 sheets in the three colours, so there were 34 rejected sheets, some of which were retained from the printer and from which practically all the mint stamps now derive. A *Gazette* notice dated 18 December 1860 announced the issue of the stamps.

Denomination	Invoice Date	Quantity
1d rose red	14 November 1860	36 sheets (8,640 stamps)
4d blue	14 November 1860	13 sheets (3,120 stamps)
6d green	14 November 1860	17 sheets (4,080 stamps)

The largest blocks known are 56 (1d), 16 (4d) (Fig. 2) and 24 (6d)



Fig. 2.

The “Rowland Hill” CANCELLED stamps derive from a request made to Perkins, Bacon by Ormond Hill for specimens of postage stamps in April 1861. Eventually, on 15 August, the firm supplied six stamps each of most of the colonies for which it had performed work, utilizing surplus sheets still held. The stamps were cancelled using a ‘CANCELLED’ obliterator of the type supplied to Chile. Three St. Lucia stamps (the 1860 1d, 4d and 6d) were supplied in vertical blocks of six with the ‘CANCELLED’ obliterator struck twice. Four ‘sets’ went to Ormond Hill, and one each to Pearson Hill and Rowland Hill. These stamps were supplied without the consent of the Agent-General for the Colonies and were a principal factor in the loss by Perkins, Bacon of many colonial contracts in 1862.

### 1863 PRINTING ON WATERMARK CROWN CC PAPER

The St Lucia die, roller and printing plates were handed over to the Crown Agents on 28 January 1862. The first printing by Thomas De La Rue & Co. is noted under the date 3 August 1863 when invoicing the dandy roller for the Crown CC paper, although the actual invoice for the St. Lucia stamps themselves is not dated until 29 January 1864. Arrival of the stamps in the Colony before the end of 1863 seems possible, but no covers used in date have survived for this issue, and their date of issue remains unknown. The contemporary journals do not chronicle the stamps until July 1864. The consignment comprised stamps in the same three colours as used by Perkins, Bacon, representing the same three denominations.



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**ONE PENNY LAKE, Line Perf. 12½**

The De La Rue invoice of 29 January 1864 listed 42 sheets in red. This provided a total of 10,080 stamps. The shades vary somewhat, and the greater proportion of the printing was on the reverse side of the paper, creating reversed watermarks as seen from the face. Used stamps are scarce. The largest mint block known is 9.

**FOUR PENCE INDIGO, Line Perf. 12½**

The De La Rue invoice of 29 January 1864 listed 13 sheets in blue, for the 4d value. This provided a total of 3,120 stamps. The shade is indigo, varying slightly. Used stamps are scarce. The largest mint block known is 6.

The small printing was reduced further, since at least one sheet was subsequently surcharged 'Six pence'. The quantity of mint material surviving, however, suggests one or two surplus sheets were retained in London. The first consignment of 4d stamps, invoiced on 29 October 1864, comprised only 2,640 stamps, and the next consignment was not despatched until 26 February 1866.

**SIX PENCE EMERALD-GREEN, Line Perf. 12½**

The De La Rue invoice of 29 January 1864 listed 23 sheets in green, for the 6d value. This provided a total of 5,420 stamps. The shade is emerald-green, varying slightly, with the greater proportion of the printing on the reverse side of the paper. Used stamps are scarce.

Similar to the 4d value, the supply of the 6d was reduced by the 'Half penny' surcharge on the remainders, which must have comprised several sheets. Most mint stamps, especially the blocks that are occasionally encountered, may once again emanate from surplus London sheets. The largest mint block known is 6.

**1864-1876 PRINTINGS ON WATERMARK CROWN CC PAPER**

In 1864 the Post Office ordered a new printing from the Perkins, Bacon plate, using new colours and introducing a new 1s denomination. This was invoiced by De La Rue on 29 October 1864. A *Gazette* notice announced the issue of the stamps on 19 November 1864 and described the colours as Black (1d), Light Yellow (4d), Lilac (6d) and Orange-red (1s).

A number of rare Specimen stamps bearing different handstamps are known, with only a few examples of each value recorded, and were probably used by the printer for record purposes.

**ONE PENNY BLACK, Line Perf. 12½**

The first four consignments of the 1d black were line perf. 12½, and totalled 202,800 stamps:

Invoice Date	Quantity
29 October 1864	33,120
26 February 1866	144,000
17 April 1872	15,360
30 April 1874	10,320

All imperforate stamps are in the intense black shade and show the watermark reversed. These probably derive from the first two consignments. Blocks of four are the largest recorded multiples.

There are two basic shade groups – intense black, and black (shading to grey-black). Only about six covers are recorded, and none bear the intense black stamp. Since all the covers are dated after receipt of the third consignment in the island, it is postulated that the intense black shade represents the first consignment of October 1864, as it is relatively scarce, and is unlikely to comprise any significant portion of

the large second consignment. Normal and reversed watermarks exist in approximately equal proportions. The inverted and reversed watermark variety is very scarce.

Stamps in black and grey-black shades likely derive from the other three consignments – those of February 1866, April 1872 and April 1874, and it does not seem to be possible to separate these printings any further. A few large blocks from these later printings have survived, the largest being 49.

Nos. 6, 18, 30 and 42 (the first four units of the sixth column) show the ‘comet’ roller flaw – an elongated stop under ‘T’ of ‘ST’ – providing an indication of the method of rolling in the plate.

#### **FOUR PENCE YELLOW, Line Perf. 12½**

There were five consignments comprising a total quantity of 30,480 stamps:

Invoice Date	Quantity
29 October 1864	2,640
26 February 1866	7,200
12 May 1868	8,160
13 May 1870	7,920
17 April 1872	4,560

There are four recognized shades: lemon-yellow and olive-yellow are scarce, with the yellow and chrome-yellow shades predominating. The rarity of covers prior to 1870 makes allocation of shades to consignments challenging. No dated examples of the lemon-yellow or olive-yellow shades are recorded. In view of the scarcity of these colours, it is suggested that both comprise the first consignment. The Jaffè collection contained a block of 20 of the olive-yellow shade but the largest known multiple of the lemon-yellow is a pair, which is very rare, with only a handful of examples recorded; the watermark is always upright. No used lemon-yellow stamps are recorded. This was possibly a rejected sheet which never left London.

The chrome-yellow and yellow shades are both found used on covers between 1866 and 1876, with no separate periods. This suggests that these two shades are variations of the same ink formula used for the next four consignments. Chrome-yellow is the predominant shade. The watermark is found both normal and reversed, the latter being more frequent. Reversed watermarks are scarce in the yellow shade. Blocks are very scarce but a mint block of 16 is recorded and a used block of 4.

#### **SIX PENCE Line Perf. 12½**

There were five consignments in shades varying from mauve through violet to lilac, comprising a total quantity of 32,160 stamps:

Invoice Date	Quantity
29 October 1864	5,520
26 February 1866	3,840
12 May 1868	7,920
17 April 1872	7,680
30 April 1874	7,200

The mauve shades seem to represent the first two consignments of October 1864 and February 1866. The watermark positions correspond to bluish and reddish tones of the shade, and may represent the division between consignments. The violet shades derive from the third consignment of May 1868. The watermark is always normal. The lilac shades derive from the final two perf. 12½ consignments of April 1872 and April 1874. The shades vary from pale to deep, and the watermark is always normal. ‘Woolly’ impressions can be found caused by the lack of sizing of the watermarked paper, with the design showing through on the reverse. Blocks of 20 and 12 are recorded but we cannot be certain what shades they are.

Covers are scarce, but the allocation of shades to consignments presented here is supported by the evidence of dated covers.

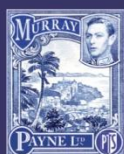
### ONE SHILLING Orange, Brown orange and Pale orange Line Perf. 12½

Following the increase in the packet letter rate to the United Kingdom from 6d to 1s on 1 April 1863, a stamp of that denomination became necessary, and was eventually issued late in 1864. There were six consignments of the 1s line perf. 12½, in shades of orange, comprising a total quantity of 40,560 stamps:

Invoice Date	Quantity
29 October 1864	2,880
26 February 1866	7,200
12 May 1868	8,160
13 May 1870	7,920
17 April 1872	6,240
30 April 1874	8,160

A reasonable number of covers survive, although apparently none before 1868. All three basic shades are found used randomly in ensuing years, so allocation to consignments does not seem possible. The largest known mint blocks are 20 and 12 of the pale orange shade, and 4 of the brown-orange.

To Be Continued.



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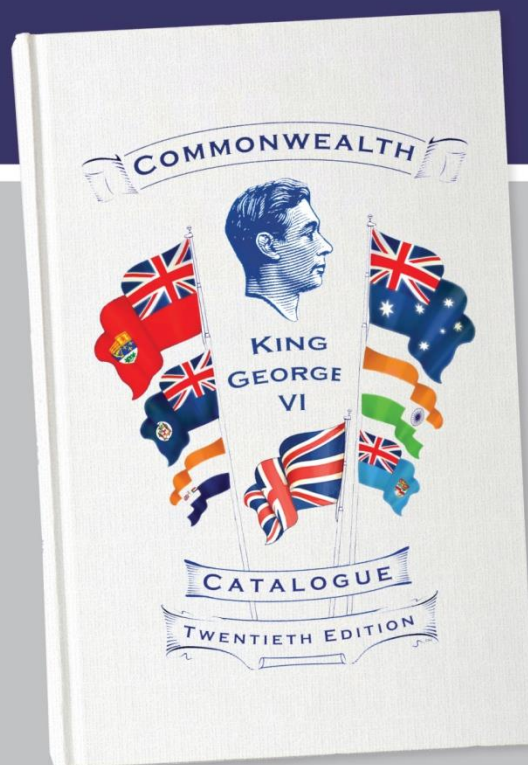
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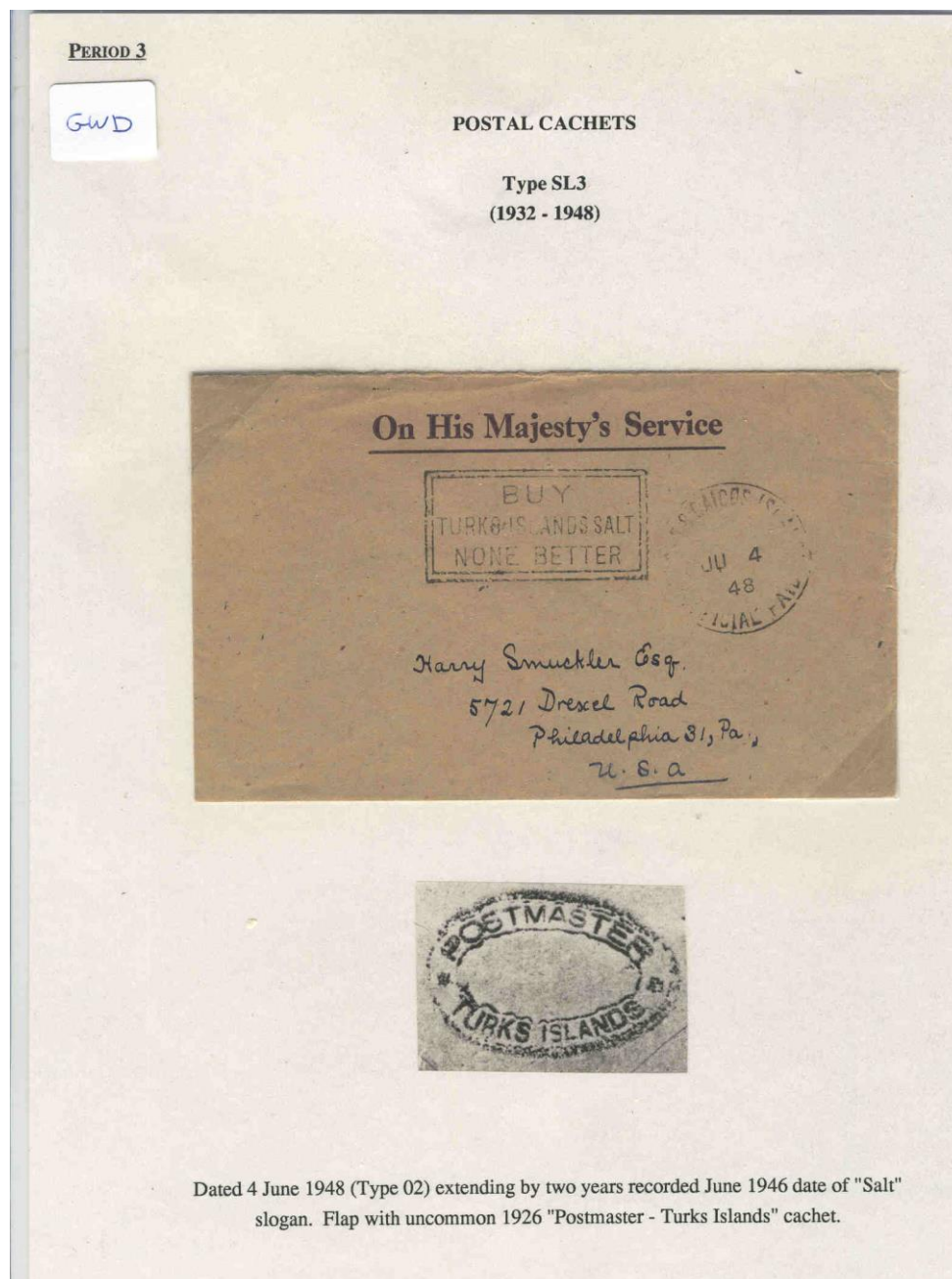
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## TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

### SLOGAN CACHET

BY PETER MARSHALL



At London 2015 I acquired an item which might provoke interest in the Bulletin.

I acquired it because I had not seen before the "BUY TURKS SALT NONE BETTER" slogan cachet on an OHMS Cover. That it is two years later than recorded in Challis was, of course, a bonus. However, although I have one or two "Postmaster Turks Islands" cachets, I did not realise the significance until I got the cover home and turned it over and compared it with my others. It was indeed as the scan shows, WITHOUT a date across the centre of the oval.

I hope that the whole thing is not bogus but would be interested if anyone has knowledge of its more unusual (to me) facets.

As it includes the legend top left hand corner of the page "Period 3" I have written to the vendor asking about the existence of other pages, it adds intrigue.

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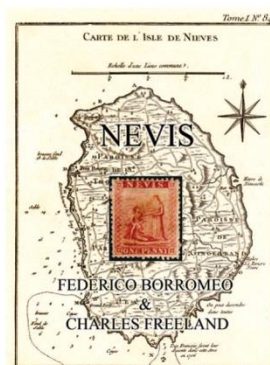
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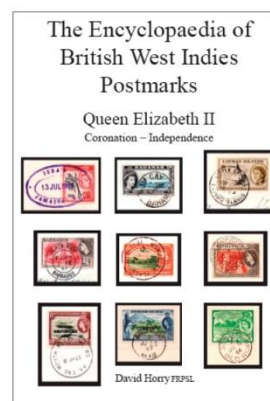
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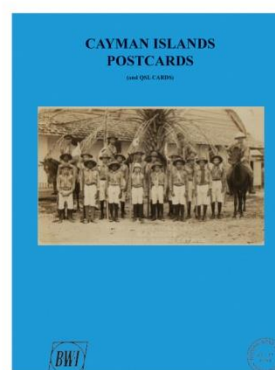
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## BWISC AUCTION 2015 – Unsold Offers

The list on this page shows the lots still available for sale on 1 August 2015. The Honiley Convention on 3/4 October 2015 will be members' last chance to pick up items they may fancy, as the unsolds – subject to any further sales meanwhile – will be on display there, and afterwards will be withdrawn from sale.

### Please read the Introductory Notes carefully before ordering.

1. No offer of discount applies to any item noted against a reserve (RESV) or a nett price (NETT).
2. Where any lot may be subject to alternative offers of discount, only one will be available, but we shall endeavour to invoice on the basis most favourable to the purchaser.
3. Jamaica. All lots marked 'Note3' can be purchased, single or otherwise, at 70% of estimate (price shown is 70%). No other discount applies.
4. Orders for two or more marked 'Note4' together priced at £250 or more will be invoiced at 75% estimate or 5% off listed price, whichever is the lower.
5. Orders for 3 or more lots marked 'Note5' together priced at £150 or more will be invoiced as under Note 4.
6. These lots will be discounted pro rata.
7. Irrespective of other offers, any order for three or more lots available for discount priced together at £60 or above will be discounted by 5% against list price.
8. Any two of these lots ordered (679–684) qualify for 25% discount
9. Lot 148 is SG121e Cat £720
10. Offered discounts apply to every bona fide order, and will still apply where some lots ordered have already been sold. Priority is established by time of receipt of order. Members who do not receive a response will have drawn a blank against earlier sales.

Lot	£££	Note	Lot	£££	Note	Lot	£££	Note	Lot	£££	Note	Lot	£££	Note
2	14		141	39	Note4	243	48		436	40	Resv	542	55	Note4
3	19		145	160		244	55		439	12		549	25	Note6
5	10		146	510		245	48		442	49	Note4	552	16	Note6
10	360	Resv	148	160	Note9	246	24		445	14		554	11	
13	64		149	39		249	70		447	36		557	120	Note4
14	115		152	38		250	52		448	36		563	16	Note5
17	72		155	40		260	13		450	19		564	30	
23	19		156	19		270	3		453	48		611	60	
28	52		158	18		285	32		454	63		612	32	
31	130	Resv	161	8		299	24		455	20		615	5	
32	55	Note4	166	39		301	11		457	19		618	18	Note6
39	175		174	28		302	7		458	51		619	23	Note6
41	71		177	29		303	24		459	10		622	17	
43	63		178	8		311	26	Note5	460	95		623	34	
67	19		181	32		314	22		463	32	Note4	640	15	
77	150		195	95		315	10		474	17		642	13	
78	25		196	475		323	165		475	55		649	50	
84	20		208	32		331	63		476	158		650	66	Note4
88	38		211	18		358	95		477	250	Nett	651	27	
91	30		213	75	Resv	360	126		480	16		654	16	
95	10		215	16		361	23	Note3	483	45		655	33	
97	32		218	100	Note4	364	74	Note3	486	60		656	12	Note5
99	40		222	75		366	36	Note3	487	16		659	9	
113	75	Note5	223	85		380	14	Note3	488	10		661	8	
115	35		225	120		382	98	Note3	497	38		665	650	Note4
116	18		226	47		384	8	Note3	498	10		668	22	Note6
120	28		227	120		390	39		499	20		672	13	
121	24	Note5	230	110		393	18	Note3	500	12		678	23	
124	28	Note5	232	35		418	48		516	40	Note5	679	46	Note8
125	25	Note5	234	12		421	22	Note3	521	32	Note5	680	34	Note8
127	15		235	14		429	33	Note4	527	20	Note5	682	38	Note8
137	20		236	59		431	98	Note4	528	24	Note5	684	11	Note8
138	260	Note4	238	71		433	96	Note4	529	55	Note5	690	7	
140	34		242	74		435	65	Note4	530	24	Note5	692	10	

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**AUCTION UPDATE****BY CHARLES FREELAND****Siegel 19-20 May (BP 15%)**

Gary Stone's Caymans Islands was the only major specialised collection to appear at auction this past quarter. It surprisingly appeared at Siegel, perhaps inspired by the results for the Maisel sale although its quality and coverage was far less impressive. The top lot was the 1d/5s on a 1909 registered cover with a 1907 4d to London at \$5.25k, while a familiar looking MP1 cover seemed cheap at \$2.1k. A 1904 'schooner' cover to Isaac Ryan was \$890 and there was demand for a decent range of the three Rural Post marks, where West Bay fetched a strong \$3.5k. A 1907 envelope to New York with a strip of 5 ½d on 1d provisionals fetched \$1.2k and an upper block of 12 of the same stamp mint with the two flaws ex Booth was a healthy \$3.5k. There was strength among the prices for flaws, notably Glovers with \$900 paid for the 1901 1s. Unusual 'specimens' were also in demand - two pages from the Madagascar archives achieved prices of \$1.6k and \$2.1k respectively and a set of the 1902 specimens with Ultramar overprints, the 1d with the broken M flaw, soared to \$1.3k. But in line with experience in London, prices for the proofs and colour trials were inconsistent, with quite a few apparently sold at 75% reserve. The total 'take' (if the prices are to be believed) was almost \$60k for the 63 lots.

Siegel are to be congratulated on holding their BP at 15% although it is creeping up at some other US houses.

**Spink 20-22 May (BP 20%)**

Over 2000 lots and not a lot of BWI...or so it seemed for those skimming through the catalogue. But Michael Medicott told me (afterwards of course) that there was real gold dust in the four British Guiana lots buried in the 'Magistris' revenue collection. Let's hope he writes it up for us. The only specialised BWI was a decent offering of Turks Islands, with the 25 lots of 1881 provisionals selling pretty well as they always seem to do these days. A rather 'small' used copy of the 1879 1s lilac used went for a strong £450 but the outstanding result was £650 for a triple overprint on the (unpriced) War Tax SG149e on an estimate of £120-150. Elsewhere, the standout prices were £1.1k for a Bermuda GV £1 with inverted watermark, £380 for a Nevis bisect cover with ms 1/6/83 date and £850 for a St. Christopher A12 on a superb GB 1s. Borromeo's few left over Nevis lots were sold down to 50% of low estimate.

**Corinphila/Köhler 15 May (BP 20%)**

This heavily promoted event contained thin pickings for us. My attempt to bid online was frustrated by slow technology but I was only really interested in one lot, the St. Lucia Ormond Hill 'Cancelled' on the St. Lucia 4d, a fine copy that was snaffled up by John Taylor for €3.2k. Elsewhere a nice Bermuda 3d/1d provisional was €5.4k but a fine Grenada bisect cover and two double-rate St. Vincent Polignac covers were unsold.

**Grosvenor 3 June (BP 19%)**

Without quite a number of Br. Guiana, Br. Honduras and Dominica unsolds from the Foxley stable the BWI would have been pretty thin here, but at realistic estimates the seller was pretty happy and hopefully buyers too. The only other section of substance was Bermuda which after signs of life in recent months seems to be back in the doldrums. Only about a third of the lots sold up to the QE period, when things came to life with 5 out of 7 lots sold.

**Cavendish 4 June (BP 19%)**

Cavendish is becoming the place to go to for Jamaica but what was on offer this time did not arouse a great deal of interest. Has too much been on the market, commented Steve? 17 unsolds out of 40 lots suggests so. Only a Mandeville A53 cover to Everton sold at significantly above estimate for £900. The only other interesting section comprised about 60 lots of St. Vincent. The early postal history was patchy with only two out of eight lots of fleurons selling, and an intriguing 1793 cover was withdrawn because its straight line mark had been tragically (and stupidly) 'touched up'. Four lots of 35 WW2 censor covers, including several elusive marks, went for about £700, but the highlight was the collection of about 200 postcards, mostly St. Vincent views, which fetched £800 on an estimate of £360.

**Spink 17 June (BP 20%)**

The fifth part of the 'Lionheart' collection, as with the earlier four parts, contained a smattering of lots of interest, but why the collection had been spread around so many sales instead of being offered in single



country groups is a mystery, as critical mass is an important draw. Consequently results were modest, with only a study group of the Bermuda GV 12s6d printings attracting competitive bidding. Other prices included a Bahamas block of 1d SG7 imperf horizontally for £1k against £2.4k in Staircase and £1.7k in Steinberg and a Barbuda block of 1d used with watermark reversed £1.2k (cf Gibbons cat £3.6k). A St. Lucia bisect SG26a tied on piece was £230.

### **Feldman 24-25 June (BP 20%)**

A blockbuster catalogue and some blockbuster BWI here. The wires were buzzing about whose it was, the name 'Tatiana' suggested Russia and one's thoughts turned to the notorious diamond merchant who was buying so heavily through David Brandon ten years ago....but then the profile did not quite fit and I could not track any single lot I thought he had bought. But then this was only Part 1 so the jury is still out there.

The best BWI was the Bermuda, which is beginning to show a welcome revival after many dull years. The 29 lots went for close to £50k, and equally encouragingly every lot, including many quite bland ones, sold. The two 1875 missing stops (both ex Ludington) on the 1d/2d and 1d/1s each fetched £12k, the latter far rarer but with a significant tear. Two fine 12s6d revenue pieces were in demand, a vertical pair showing pos. 9 flaw at £2.8k and a lower left plate block at £4.2k. A nice copy of the unissued 1874 3d on 1d ex Leuhusen was £7k.

The other BWI offering of substance was the Turks Islands where 31 lots, mostly the popular 1881 provisionals, sold for about £37k. The highest price was £7k for a nice copy of SG 30 and half a dozen blocks or strips of the provisionals went for about double estimate. 5 unsolds showed estimates were pitched at a realistic level.

Elsewhere, the samples were too small to draw any serious conclusion but Bahamas, Br. Guiana, Br. Honduras and St. Vincent had many unsolds, whereas Barbados, Cayman, St. Lucia and, surprisingly, Grenada did pretty well. Throughout there was quite strong bidding for the 'remainder' lots, but quality was evidently high.

### **Status International 2 July (BP 20%)**

One oddity here was a used Antigua 1d Stamp Duty overprinted 'POSTAGE AND REVENUE' and bar dated with a curious 'Feb 12 86' duplex. Someone must have believed the two certificates for this fiscal stamp as it went for its A\$2,800 reserve.

### **Murray Payne 28 July (no BP)**

The good news from here is that GVI prices are holding up well, even the BWI 'dogs'. In Bahamas a u/m 1s block with thin striated paper went for £2.6k and a m/m single was £325, while a nh corner block of the 1938 £1 was pretty well full cat at £950. In Grenada £210 was paid for a 3d with the extra window and broken window flaw which I admit not knowing about and £2.8k for an imprint block of the perf 12 10s which I did. In Bermuda a strong range of 5s commercial covers went well but the surprise to me was £325 for a nh block of the scarce 2d pale ultramarine and carmine, the same price as a used Montserrat 3d pylon flaw.

### **Future events**

In this edition of the Bulletin you can see that **Gibbons** next auction on 22 September has a very decent selection of Br. Guiana classics. Spink have now announced the sale of the Vestey collections of the Windward Islands, Br. Guiana, Br. Honduras, Cayman Islands and Jamaica on 24 September. It promises to be a long day. We are also told that the Vestey Bermuda will be sold on 10 December, probably a half day sale but not yet clear. The winter **Victoria Stamp Company** sale will as usual contain plenty of spectacular BWI, including Bermuda key plate blocks, Montserrat early preadhesives and several Cayman Is. rarities as illustrated in this Bulletin. And we can expect Part 2 of Tatiana at **Feldman** around the same time.

With these important sales ahead I sense some lack of confidence in the current BWI auction market. As always, average material is not in demand and struggles to sell at one third Gibbons, but now even major specialised pieces are sneaking through at 'bargain' prices, if they sell at all. The heady days of ten years ago are past and estates are struggling to get their money back on investment items. Anything with the hint of a fault is heavily discounted and many of 'our' countries are in the doghouse...Bahamas, Grenada and Virgin islands especially so. British Guiana, Dominica, Montserrat and Tobago still have their keen

followers, with our membership in the van, and specialised 20<sup>th</sup> century items, especially in the GV and GVI reigns, are still popular but Queen Victoria is hard to sell, even rare blocks, unless quality is exceptional, which it rarely is. The loss of several big hitters is plainly being felt. Sadly, the absence of young collectors and the trend towards fewer adult beginners seems ingrained. This is not the place for an analysis of the international financial situation but as I write it is hardly comforting. Buying for Investment portfolios accordingly appears to have tailed off, which is no bad thing but we may need to rely on some of the millions of Chinese collectors to realise how relatively cheap the BWI is before a sound recovery sets in. This sounds at odds with the flood of collectors attending the 2015 Europhilex show, but how much did they actually buy? Most of those I talked to said they had hardly found anything in dealers' stocks at reasonable prices. As I was writing this I received an offer from Stanley Gibbons offering a 20% discount on their stock (but not Murray Payne's) up to a maximum of £125 saving. That shows a lack of confidence in their pricing. Will they reduce some of their catalogue prices next time around? Probably not.

### B.W.I. OFFERS FROM STOCK

<b>ANTIGUA.</b> 1882 2½d large '2' in '2½' with slanted foot. Very fine used with 'A02' of St Johns. SG 22b (Sc 13a). <b>£700</b>	<b>JAMAICA.</b> 1916 1½d block of four (wmk inverted) one with 'R' inserted by hand. Unmounted mint. Rarity! SG 71w(e). <b>£1500</b>
<b>BAHAMAS.</b> 1862 6d lavender-grey. Very fine unused. A major rarity. BPA Cert. Ex Ludington. SG 11 (Sc 7). <b>£7500</b>	<b>LEEWARDIS.</b> 1944 £1 Keyplate with 'missing pearl'. Unmounted mint. Exceptional. SG 114ba (Sc 114c var). <b>£1250</b>
<b>BARBADOS.</b> 1852 (½d) deep green marginal block of six. Very fine mint. Rare multiple. Ex Burrus. SG 2 (Sc 1). <b>£750</b>	<b>MONTSERRAT.</b> 1932 1d imperf colour trial in yellow-brown on part DLR Appendix sheet endorsed '1/-'. <b>£400</b>
<b>BRITISH GUIANA.</b> 1863 48c pale red right marginal pair. Very fine mint. Scarce multiple. SG 82 (Sc 66b). <b>£550</b>	<b>ST.LUCIA.</b> 1916 1d scarlet with 'WAR TAX' double. Very fine mint. SG 89a (Sc MR1a). <b>£375</b>
<b>BRITISH GUIANA.</b> 1878 (1c) on 6c brown two horizontal and one vertical bar. Very fine mint. SG 145 (Sc 86). <b>£475</b>	<b>TOBAGO.</b> 1885 4d grey with 'slash flaw repaired'. Very fine mint. SG 22ca (Sc 20var). <b>£175</b>
<b>CAYMAN ISLANDS.</b> 1902 ½d green with 'dented frame'. Very fine used and rare thus. SG 3a (Sc 3a). <b>£300</b>	<b>TRINIDAD.</b> 1879 ½d lilac in lower marginal pane of 100. Unmounted mint. Magnificent multiple. SG 98x (Sc 62). <b>£650</b>
<b>GRENADA.</b> 1943 10/- (Perf 12). A lower marginal copy with DLR imprint. Unmounted mint. SG 163c (Sc 142a). <b>£600</b>	<b>TURKS &amp; CAICOS.</b> 1918 3d marginal pair with 'WAR TAX' overprint double. Very fine mint. Rare. SG 145a (Sc MR6a). <b>£450</b>

*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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