

STUDY CIRCLE

MONTERRAT A 1958 COVER WITH AN UNLISTED REGISTRATION LABEL



SEE KLAUS HAHN'S 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
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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday 22 April 2017 AGM and Auction at Grosvenor, 399—401 Strand, 2nd & 3rd floors, WC2R 0LT

Saturday 14 — Sunday 15 October 2017 BWISC Convention at The Abbey Hotel, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 9BE. www.theabbeyhotel.co.uk Tel: 01527 406 600.

The Abbey is a seasoned venue for specialist society meetings, and provides comfortable modern facilities in a country setting, within two miles of the railway station.

The 2017 convention will have the familiar mix of formal displays, informal presentations by members, and the bourse. The formal displays will be from **Graham Booth**, working title *A West Indies Miscellany*, and **Steve Jarvis & Paul Wright** on *Jamaica*. There will be a banquet on Saturday, where Collett Award presentations will be made.

Report on the Autumn Stampex Meeting Saturday 17 September 2016.

Twenty-two gathered in the afternoon at Stampex, and eight made informal displays. Rod Vousden, also President of the KG VI Collectors' Society, lead society at Stampex, and Assistant Keeper of the Royal Collection, was first up, and he presented covers and other material from the amazing Bahamas undersea post office (1939-41). John Jordan reflected on a puzzle about the unexplained late re-emergence of the English Harbour postmark A18, which Michael Hamilton amplified. Freeland and Ford showed St. Vincent and British Guiana, respectively. Richard Stupples, Graham Booth, James Podger and George Dunbar also displayed.

REQUESTS BY HON. LIBRARIAN

The library requires a book 'Jamaica and the Imperial Direct Shipping Line' published around 1900 by Thomas Rhodes. If any member has a copy of this book I shall be obliged if this rare book can be sent to me for photocopying and return. Alternatively please send a photocopy or scan of this book to me. The cost of any postage and copying will, of course, be reimbursed.

Also required are the sailing and arrival times for the ships of this line during the period 1901—1911.

Members are now occasionally asking me for information on postage rates for all British West Indies shipping lines, being the information missing in many of the old books. I would appreciate members sending scans of postage rates to me for placing in the various scrap books.



Richard Maisel signing the scroll for the Collett Award.

ANTIGUA

1887 2½D ULTRAMARINE, FLAW AT POSITION 25 (5/1).

BY PETER BROOKS

This flaw is described in the recently published Antigua book as 'the left leg to the first 'A' of ANTIGUA has a thin extension' (p.79)(Fig. 1) A flaw I reported with a thick long left leg is described as a similar flaw (p.74)(Fig. 2).



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

A recently acquired pane shows that it is not a similar flaw but a different state of the flaw at position 25 (Fig. 3). This would seem to be a repair. However this pane does not have the sloping foot to the large 2 at position 13 (3/1) which is assumed to be an early printing. It seems it is more likely that this pane is from a later printing when both the long left leg to the A and the sloping foot at position 13 had been corrected. Close examination of the large 2 at position 13 shows the foot of the figure still slopes slightly which suggests a repair (Fig. 4) My theory is that both sloping foot varieties existed from the beginning. The 2½d brown illustrated on page 73 does not have the curtailed letter of NNY as at position 37(7/1) so could be from position 13 unless the letters were damaged later which seems unlikely. If someone has the 2½d brown with the curtailed letter of PENNY the theory is proven.

BARBADOS

TRANSFER ROLLER FLAW ON THE 1925 KING GEORGE V 1s VALUE

BY PATRICIA CAPILL

A solitary transfer roller flaw on De La Rue's 1938 King George VI series is well known and has been catalogued for a long time. It occurs on three stamps of the 2½d value, on vertical row 3 and horizontal rows 1 to 3 and is known as the *Mark on the central ornament*. This flaw established that the printing plate was laid down in vertical rows starting from the top.

I have recently acquired a lower left corner block of 20 of the 1925 King George V 1s, a quarter sheet of 4 horizontal rows of 5 stamps, that I believe shows the first evidence of a transfer roller flaw in this series. It demonstrates that De La Rue laid down the plate vertically as they did with the later 1938 series. The flaw, caused by foreign matter adhering to the transfer roller that gradually broke up under pressure, occurs on vertical row 5 in horizontal rows 5, 6 and 7 in my corner block. Under even 10x magnification these 3 flaws are seen to differ in size and shape. By horizontal row 8, the flaw had disappeared. The flaw appears on the top of the letter **T** of **BRITANNOS** and the 3 states are illustrated below, with the black flawed areas shown in red.



An examination of the other 45 1s copies in my possession has revealed a further example that closely matches the state of horizontal row 6.

Assuming the transfer roller started at the top of the plate and worked downwards, as was done in the 1938 2½d, and the foreign matter was present on the roller from the start, then 7 stamps could show this flaw in varying states. It is possible, though, that the foreign matter did not become affixed to the roller until up to 4 impressions were rolled in.

Unfortunately, multiples larger than blocks of 4 in this value are at best, scarce, but I would appreciate readers checking their 1s copies, all printings, and examining the top of the **T** of **BRITANNOS**. I can be contacted at colinpat@wave.co.nz.

Obviously, a block of 20 from the top left quarter of the sheet would resolve the story!

BARBADOS UNRECORDED FORGED POSTMARK

BY RICHARD STUPPLES



This appears to be a previously unrecorded forged postmark. I've yet to find any other notification either on the internet or in the archives and records I have, which includes an older collection of notes from Study Circle articles.

The Seifert card, depicts the railway from Bathsheba, and the postmark purports to be from Bridgetown, dated 10 January 1917. As the back is unmarked I believe the postmark has been added to improve the card. If anybody knows the forger or the likely forger then I would appreciate a name as I have been unable to put any identification to this despite feeling as though I should know who carried this out.

FINE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY FOR COLLECTORS

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A.L.



A.L.

BERMUDA

THE 1920 2½D SHIP TYPE OF BERMUDA, STATE E.

BY SIR GEOFFREY PALMER

I bought three very nice blocks of 30 of the 2½d ship type, state E, 1920 on multiple crown CA watermarked thick unsurfaced paper with retouches on various numbers in the last BWISC auction, lot 139.

Strangely Gibbons only catalogue the 1912 blue SG48 watermark multiple crown CA perf. 14. Can any member shed light on why this 1920 printing does not appear in the catalogue? Should it be SG48a?



Upper right block (Image reduced as retouches do not show up on the photocopies, Editor)

All 3 blocks came on their original album pages and whoever owned them before had a marvellous eye for the retouches, as listed below:

Upper right block of 30:

- | | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|----|------------------------------|
| 8 | D4 (Faint), G3. | 10 | Fresh entry. |
| 11 | M.P retouch. | 19 | E7, G6. |
| 20 | A2, B1. | 31 | D2, FGH1, H5—6. (2nd. State) |
| 43 | A4—5, B3, EFG1, F6—7. (3rd. State) | 55 | A1—7, B1-2, B3—4. |
| 56 | A1—2, B2, D3, G4. | 57 | Flaw A2. |

Upper left block of 30:

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-----------|
| 18 | BC1, D1, GH3. | 28 | F1. |
| 40 | A3?, B3—4, F6-7. | 42 | A5, G1—2. |
| 53 | C7, H2. | | |

Lower left block of 30:

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|----------------------|
| 65 | A2, B2—3, AB6, BC6-7, G1. | 66 | G1, H1. |
| 73 | Flaw D4. | 76 | B6—7, D5—6, FG4, H3. |
| 77 | Fresh entry A1, A6—7. | 78 | A1, CD3, G5. |
| 88 | A2, BC1. | 89 | Flaw D3. |
| 98 | F6—7, G6, H5. | 99 | A3. |
| 102 | Background lines worn F6. | 110 | A5. |
| 112 | M.P. retouch FG7. | | |

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BRITISH GUIANA

TRUSTING INSTINCT — RIGHT OR WRONG

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT

It's rather like spelling. When one writes without concern, spelling comes naturally. The moment doubt is felt over correctness of a word's spelling, uncertainty comes crowding in. So with forgeries: usually instinct alone will tell whether a stamp is genuine or forged. When one questions the judgement of instinct, all manner of uncertainties arise.

This is the second time within a couple of weeks that I find myself thinking and writing about forgeries, because I think it is time to share with other members what happens when – as in my case – the antennae start to get furred up.



Forgery



Genuine

The subject matter now is British Guiana's 1863 1c black with wide spacing. One can see here the forgery and the genuine, enlarged side by side to the maximum that a standard photocopier can achieve. At this level, differences are easy to spot – but the detail that enlargement captures is far from easy to spot when inspecting the two stamps life-size.

One is looking on the left to forgery no.3 as described by Bill Townsend, and he drew attention to three features of varying assistance, when staring at suspected forgery. The particular malefactor is not as prevalent as the blatantly obvious 'RETIMUS' (for 'PETIMUS') forgery but is still fairly freely available. His chosen features are:

- The numeral '1' too far to the left.
- Fore mast almost under Q, as opposed to S.
- Separate frame lines at 2mm distance on every side.

Bill also observed that perf is 11½ all round, and comes with A03 cancellation.

Nothing is said about comparison of the value tablet, and quite rightly so, because a different value tablet is believed to have been incorporated in every one of the 100 stamps entered on the original plate and it has not proved possible for the entire plate to be reconstructed.

Nobody is likely to identify the forgery by reference to its A03 cancel; nor will it be easy to distinguish perf 11½ from perf 12 except by careful measurement, not always practical when opportunity for acquisition

arises. Position of the numeral '1' is unlikely to help much, until forgery and genuine are side by side, and are closely compared. So the one detail from Townsend that will condemn the forgery in isolation is the observation of frame lines at 2mm distance, provided that the forgery has sufficient margins.

One can note that in the present instance the frame line is visible on all four sides, but only at the foot is the space below the frame line deep enough to reveal that no part of the design below is visible, when it ought to be, in a genuine stamp. So, can one enlarge on Bill's criteria for differentiation?

Well, actual enlargement is highly desirable, as can be readily seen, but let's stick with life-size for the moment. The first feature to which to draw attention is the centring of our illustrated forgery. When does one ever see a perforated classic with margins so generous and even? It has to be guilty until proven innocent (although perhaps not, if one were looking at the later design of the 6c value – and very, very occasionally its companion 24c or 48c). With the other in the sets as issued, even the most generous margins are going to be uneven.

The 2mm frame lines are of real relevance again. As I recollect, these were a feature of forgeries by Jeffreys, and no doubt others, and I take their purpose to have been to enable the forger to take an impression from a single die which leaves sufficient marginal space around. This is written in genuine and abiding ignorance of printing processes, so ignore it, if it's wrong.

What I think is true of the genuine plates is that margins between stamps are wider than 2mm. Thus a genuine stamp is very likely to have a margin exceeding 2mm on at least one side, so that to see a frame line at 2mm accuses the forgery whether or not a further ¼mm depth would disclose a morsel of design in a adjacent genuine stamp.

The genuine stamps of the 1863 era are on thin paper; so is the illustrated forgery. Sensitive fingers might suspect the paper to be a little too thin – this may not be a universal feature in any case, and one can now start to look for further distinction in details not addressed by Bill Townsend.

Taking our present side by side illustration, the vertically oriented lines within the sails are much stronger than in the original shown here, but depth of inking can vary, and I am inclined to attach more importance to the spacing between lines, not just in the sails, but in the horizontal lining of the background. Closer lines genuine, spaced lines forged, might lodge in the memory when inspecting a forgery in isolation.

The figure '0' in the forgery looks taller, and would be easier to spot than the '1' too far left (but this may not be consistent throughout the run of forgeries).

What can be noted is that the forgery is travelling through choppy seas. The die-producer has been a little casual over this part of his work. Moreover, the forged vessel shows far more windows or porthole space than the genuine, which might be moving in the blackout.

Persisting with detail, there is disconformity in every spandrel, which will not be readily seen at normal size, and the actual lettering, both of BRITISH GUIANA POSTAGE and of the motto is surprisingly credible. Yet, cast an eye on the actual framing of the design, and once again one is comparing closer with wider spacing.

Finally, if we pay attention to the frame enclosing the vessel pictured, no real attempt was made by the forger to copy slavishly the three ornaments that figure there.

My objective in considering detail has not been to encourage others to adopt this course. Quite the reverse. Except for the 2mm frame lines, which could be instantly probative, the amount of detailed difference adds up to an overall view which, with a modicum of experience, enables the aspiring philatelist to look at a forgery and comment silently, 'this doesn't look quite right'. And it won't be right, for the detailed reasons through which we have laboriously trawled.

The conclusion then is that there is less value in trying to distinguish forgeries from genuine – and I am dealing with generality here – by learning and applying a wealth of detail, than in training one's instincts to tell oneself, 'this doesn't look quite right'; and until your antennae start to fur up like mine, you'll be on the winning side most of the time.

BRITISH WEST INDIES OFFERS FROM STOCK

ANTIGUA. 1922 £1 purple and black/red. Very fine used with part BOLANS c.d.s. SG 61. £250	GRENADA. 1892 1d on 6d mauve in strip of three. Unmounted mint. Rare and exceptional multiple. SG D4. £400
BAHAMAS. 1862 6d lavender-grey. Very fine unused. An extremely rare stamp. RPS Cert. SG 11. £5500	JAMAICA. 1951 5/- (Line Perf) lower marginal with part imprint. Very fine mint. Exceptional. SG 132a. £4500
BAHAMAS. 1935 1/- Jubilee with 'dot by flagstaff'. Very fine used. Scarce. SG 144h. £300	ST KITTS-NEVIS. 1963 2c with yellow omitted. Unmounted mint. BPA Cert. SG 131a. £225
BARBADOS. 1878 1d on half 5/- dull rose (Type 3c) with neat central bootheel cancel. Exceptional. RPS Cert. SG 88. £600	ST. VINCENT. 1866 4d deep blue in strip of three. Very fine mint. Rare multiple. SG 6. £500
B. GUIANA. 1865 12c brownish-lilac on thin paper. Very fine mint. Rare in this quality. SG 55. £500	ST. VINCENT. 1880 1d on half 6d deep blue-green. Very fine used with c.d.s. in red. BPA Cert. SG 28. £275
B. HONDURAS. 1964 1c with orange-yellow omitted. Unmounted mint. SG 217b. £200	TOBAGO. 1894 1/- olive-yellow with 'slash flaw'. Very fine mint. SG 24b. £125
CAYMAN ISLANDS. 1905 6d block of four including the 'slotted frame' (R.1/4). Very fine mint. Ex Cooley. SG 11. £175	TURKS & CAICOS. 1918 1d marginal pair, one with 'WAR TAX' omitted. Unmounted mint. Rare. SG 145a. £400

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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JAMAICA

THE SAMUEL J5 LOCAL SPECIMEN OVERPRINT 'UNLOVED AND UNWANTED' — SWARBRICK

By IAN JAKES

Local specimen overprints are found on the postage stamps of one particular territory or groups of territories. It is believed that most of them were used to provide presentation sets including sets for presentation to Very Important Persons. (Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857 – 1948 by Marcus Samuel, hereinafter called 'Samuel', pages 56 and 27) All philatelic literature seems to agree that the Samuel J5 local specimen overprint is always in purple ink, and has a full stop at the end. The philatelic literature also agrees that the overprint was handstamped in Jamaica and that the J5 overprint is unknown for any other Colony.



Fig. 1

Fig.1 shows a Jamaica Postal Fiscal, a three half penny blue/blue (SG F4) from my collection. This stamp is in a very defective condition, with some of the blue colouring missing at the bottom and right hand sides of the stamp. This stamp was clearly used for fiscal purposes in the nineteenth century on 25 June 1868. The Samuel J5 overprint appears on top of the fiscal ink marking. This overprint, including a full stop at the end, measures 15.5 x 2.25 millimetres. Samuel states (pages 56 to 59):

'It is in the field of local overprints that the danger of forgery and faking, past present and future, is perhaps at its greatest. Because presentation specimens were generally prepared in sets, single stamps of low denominations with unusual overprints, or odd stamps of the same or of different territories which are unrelated in issue or time, should be regarded with suspicion, even if they were first recorded many years ago in well known collections.being parsimonious the forgers often used defective stamps and even cancelled stamps for the misdeeds' Most of the old time fakes seem to have made their appearance in the 1920's. They are just as rare as stamps with genuine overprints!'



Fig. 2

This leaves us with a problem. Is the J5 SPECIMEN overprint bogus? Surely Samuel J5 must be a genuine handstamp. The very valuable and unique unissued Abolition of Slavery block of four stamps (Fig. 2) bears

four of these J5 SPECIMEN overprints, one overprint on each stamp. This block shown in Fig. 2 was lot 1270 in the Mahfood sale at Spink in New York on 28 January 2011. I believe that it went for a hammer price of \$5000. No one would ruin this block with bogus overprints, as it would be of significantly greater value without the overprint. We need to examine what is going on here.

Page 136 of Samuel's 1976 book states *'a purple handstamp, Type J5 ...was used in about 1922 on sets of the current issuesand almost certainly prepared for presentation.'* Nothing else of relevance appears in this book, not even a reference to the Type J5 SPECIMEN overprint on the unissued Abolition of Slavery block of four. I asked Steve Jarvis if he could expand upon the statement in Samuel. He tells me that J5 was probably created/used for one of the Jamaica Philatelic Society exhibitions in the late 1920s. It was used on most/all examples that had been issued up to that time.

There is nothing relevant in James Bendon's new book as it deals exclusively with UPU specimens and J5 is a local specimen overprint.

The Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately Volume One by Jarvis and Sutcliffe published in 1997 states that the Abolition of Slavery stamps were prepared for issue in 1921, but were not issued:

'probably due in part to the return of ex-servicemen to the island who had been exposed to influences not existing in Jamaica at that time, there was much labour unrest and political agitation for change. It was therefore considered at (sic) it would be politically inexpedient to have the suggested stamp which focused on 'slavery'. The three printings (the first two MCA watermark, the last MSC watermark) which reached Jamaica were destroyed except for two blocks of four stamps each on the Multiple Script CA watermarked paper. One block was split up and is now in the hands of collectors. The other block remains intact bearing the J5 overprint. Some of the Abolition of Slavery stamps – were sent to Berne which the UPU Bureau in that city overprinted with UPU SPECIMEN Type D9 or D12x.'

These UPU specimen overprints are the Abolition of Slavery specimen stamps which the Jamaican specialist collector can usually acquire. The 1942 Brinkley Turner auction catalogue and Stanley Gibbons catalogue also mention the existence of an Abolition of Slavery stamp bearing the Multi Crown CA which has not been overprinted.

Further philatelic information about the Samuel J5 overprint appears on page 14 of the 1984 Supplement to the Samuel book. The notes are headed by a picture of the Abolition of Slavery block of four overprinted by the J5 SPECIMEN hand stamp. The text reads as follows:

'James Bendon has reported the abnormal use of this handstamp on items in a collection of postal and postal fiscal stamps of Jamaica, dating from 1860 to 1937, which was almost certainly formed by an official of the Jamaica Post Office. The issues from 1860 to 1885, most of them postally used, were cancelled, or additionally cancelled with the J5 hand stamp. Most of the issues from 1886 to 1937 had been received from Berne with the normal specimen overprints or perforations and were not additionally handstamped.

Additional unused items, including the Llandoverly Falls 1d, three Arms type 'SER.ET' flaws, War Stamps with some varieties and the 1919 and 1921 pictorial sets, were handstamped with J5 only. The star item was a similarly cancelled block of four of the unissued 1921 Abolition of Slavery 6d, survivors of those sent out to the colony.

Some of the stamps had been affected by the climate and when it was decided to write off the collection, all those without U.P.U. specimen overprints were defaced by the J5 handstamp.'

James Bendon has proffered to me his opinion that the Jamaica Postal Fiscal shown in Fig. 1 is likely to have come from the source referred to in the 1984 Samuel Supplement. This is a plausible explanation. My stamp may well have been affected by water damage whilst being lodged in a collection. Steve Jarvis has sent me a listing which he received from James Bendon and his provenance which I have been authorised to use to supplement this article. The listing (hereinafter called 'the J5 collection') reads as follows:-

Locally Overprinted Specimen J5

Introduction

In 2007 James Bendon supplied original documentation introduced as follows:-

I recently unearthed the enclosed list – it may be the only copy to have survived. As such perhaps it should either be published in your journal or held in your Societies library for future reference.

I brought the collection from Charles Winand (R.I.P.) in circa 1982 and broke it up over the following years or three. The condition of most of the stamps was poor to fair having been stored in the humidity of Kingston for many years.

In consequence, the prices at which I sold the individual stamps were modest for unique items.

The only exception was the block of 1921 sixpence which cleaned rather well and, by far, more than covered the cost of the whole collection.

The discovery was reported in a supplement to the 'Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857 – 1948' by Marcus Samuel, James Bendon and Conrad Latta.

Checklist

The following is a post office archival collection.

This collection of specimen overprinted stamps was apparently put together rather late, around 1920. This is obvious in that most of the stamps are postally used.

A small rubber handstamp was used with purple-ink, and the overprint can be found together with the official U.P.U. 'Specimen' overprint. The overprint also appears inverted or doubled.

This collection was originally mounted by hinges on plain paper which were then bound in a folder and is without question 'UNIQUE'.

The collection is listed below:

Issue	SG #	UPU o/p	Local o/p	State
QV Pine 1d pale blue	1		*	Used
QV Pine 1d blue	1B		*	Used
QV Pine 2d rose	2		*	Used
QV Pine 2d deep rose	2A		*	Used
QV Pine 3d	3		*	Used
QV Pine 4d	4		*	Used
QV Pine 6d dull lilac	5		*	Used
QV Pine 6d grey-purple	5A		*	Used
QV Pine 6d deep purple	5B		*	Used
QV CC ½d	7		*	Used
QV CC 1d blue	8		*	Used
QV CC 1d deep blue	8A		*	Used
QV CC 2d rose	9		*	Used
QV CC 2d deep rose	9A		*	Mint
QV CC 3d	10		*	Used
QV CC 6d	12		*	Used
QV CC 1s	13		*	Used
QV CA ½d yellow-green	16		*	Used
QV CA ½d green	16A		*	Used
QV CA 1d blue	17		*	Used
QV CA 1d rose	18		*	Used
QV CA 1d carmine	18A		*	Mint
QV CA 2d rose	19		*	Used
QV CA 2d grey	20		*	Used
QV CA 2d slate	20A		*	Used

Locally Overprinted Specimen J5

Issue	SG #	UPU o/p	Local o/p	State
QV CA 3d sage	21	*		Mint
QV CA 3d olive-green	21A		*	Used
QV CA red-brown	22A		*	Used
QV CA deep yellow	23		*	Used
QV CA orange-yellow	23A		*	Used
QV CA 1s	24		*	Mint
QV CA 2s	25		*	Used
QV CA 2s	25		*	Used
QV CA 5s	26		*	Used
QV Keyplate 1d	27		*	Mint
QV Keyplate 2d	28		*	Used
QV Keyplate 2½d	29		*	Used
QV 2½d on 4d	30		*	Used
Falls 1d Red	31		*	Mint
Falls 1d Red & Black	32		*	Mint
Arms CA 1d	34	*		Mint
Arms CA 1d SER.ET	34A		*	Mint
Arms CA 2½d SER.ET	35A		*	Mint
Arms CA 5d	36	*		Mint
Arms MCA ½d grey & green	37		*	Mint
Arms MCA ½d SER.ET	37A		*	Mint
Arms MCA ½d yellow-green	38		*	Mint
Arms MCA 1d grey & carmine	39		*	Used
Arms MCA 1d carmine	40	*		Mint
Arms MCA 2½d grey & ultramarine	41		*	Used
Arms MCA 2½d ultramarine	42	*		Mint
Arms MCA 6d	44	*		Mint
Arms MCA 5s	45	*		Mint
QV MCA 3d olive-green	46		*	Mint
QV MCA 3d purple / yellow	47	*		Mint
QV MCA 4d red-brown	48		*	Used
QV MCA 4d black / yellow	49	*		Mint
QV MCA 4d red / yellow	50	*		Mint
QV MCA 6d dull orange	51		*	Used
QV MCA 6d golden yellow	51A		*	Used
QV MCA 6d lilac	52	*		Mint
QV MCA 1s brown	53		*	Mint
QV MCA 1s black / green	54	*		Mint
QV MCA 2s Venetian red	55		*	Used
QV MCA 2s purple / blue	56	*		Mint
KEVII 2d	57	*		Mint
KGV Head 1d	58	*		Mint
KGV Head 1½d brown-orange	59		*	Mint
KGV Head ½d yellow-orange	59A	*		Mint
KGV Head 2d	60	*		Mint
KGV Head 2½d	61	*		Mint
KGV Head 3d purple / yellow	62	*		Mint
KGV Head 3d white back	62A		*	Mint
KGV Head 3d on lemon	62B	*		Mint
KGV Head 4d black & red / yellow	63	*		Mint
KGV Head 4d white back	63A	*		Mint
KGV Head 6d	64	*		Mint
KGV Head 1s black / green	65		*	Mint

Locally Overprinted Specimen J5

Issue	SG #	UPU o/p	Local o/p	State
KGV Head 1s olive back	65B	*		Mint
KGV Head 2s	66	*		Mint
KGV Head 5s	67		*	Mint
WAR STAMP ½d	68		*	Mint
WAR STAMP 3d white back	69		*	Mint
WAR STAMP 3d on lemon	69A		*	Mint
WAR STAMP 3d on pale yellow	69B		*	Mint
WAR / STAMP ½d	70		*	Mint
WAR / STAMP 1½d	71		*	Mint – Specimen Double
WAR / STAMP 3d	72		*	Mint
WAR / STAMP 3d no stop	72A		*	Mint
WAR / STAMP 3d S in Stamp omitted	72B		*	Mint – Pair one with 'S' omitted
WAR / STAMP ½d	73		*	Mint
WAR / STAMP 1½d	74		*	Mint
WAR / STAMP 3d	75		*	Mint
WAR STAMP DLR in red ½d	76		*	Mint
WAR STAMP DLR in red 3d on yellow	77		*	Mint
WAR STAMP DLR in red 3d on buff	77A		*	Mint
KGV Pictorials MCA ½d	78		*	Mint
KGV Pictorials MCA 1d	79		*	Mint – Inverted
KGV Pictorials MCA 1½d	80		*	Mint
KGV Pictorials MCA 2d	81		*	Mint
KGV Pictorials MCA 2½d	82		*	Mint
KGV Pictorials MCA 3d	83		*	Mint
KGV Pictorials MCA 4d	84		*	Mint
KGV Pictorials 6d Slavery			*	Mint – Block of four 'Unique' only other block of four is in the 'Royal Collection' and has no overprint
KGV Pictorials MCA 1s	85		*	Mint
KGV Pictorials MCA 3s	87		*	Mint
KGV Pictorials MCA 5s	88		*	Mint
KGV Pictorials MCA 10s	89			Mint – Unoverprinted
KGV Pictorials MSC 6d Port Royal	98		*	Mint
KGV Pictorials MSC 2s	100		*	Mint – Double o/p
Child Welfare ½d + ½d	104	*		Mint
Child Welfare 1d + ½d	105	*		Mint
Child Welfare 2½d + ½d	106	*		Mint
KGV Head ½d	107	*		Mint
KGV Head ½d	107		*	Mint
KGV Head 1d	108	*		Mint – Perforated
KGV Head 1d	108		*	Mint
KGV Head 1½d	109	*		Mint – Perforated
KGV Head 9d	110	*		Mint – Perforated
KGV Head 9d	110		*	Mint
KGV Scenes 2d	111	*		Mint – Perforated
KGV Scenes 2½d	112	*		Mint – Perforated
KGV Scenes 6d	113	*		Mint – Perforated
KGV Silver Jubilee 1d	114	*		Mint – Perforated
KGV Silver Jubilee 1½d	115	*		Mint – Perforated
KGV Silver Jubilee 6d	116	*		Mint – Perforated
KGV Silver Jubilee 1s	117	*		Mint – Perforated
KGVI Coronation 1d	118	*		Mint – Perforated
KGVI Coronation 1½d	119	*		Mint – Perforated
KGVI Coronation 2½d	120	*		Mint – Perforated

Locally Overprinted Specimen J5

Issue	SG #	UPU o/p	Local o/p	State
Fiscal – QVH 1d pine	F1		*	Used – Fiscally
Fiscal – QVH 1d cc	F2		*	Mint
Fiscal – QVH 1d ca	F3		*	Used
Fiscal – Arms 1½d	F4		*	Used – Fiscally
Fiscal – Arms 3d purple on blue	F5		*	Used
Fiscal – Arms 3d purple on lilac	F5B		*	Mint
Fiscal – QVH 1s	F7		*	Mint
Official – QVH ½d Vendryes	O1		*	Used
Official – QVH ½d	O3		*	Mint
Official – QV Keyplate 1d	O4		*	Used
Official – QV Keyplate 2d	O5		*	Used
½d GV Wrapper			*	Mint – Cut – Out

We still do not have any J5 overprints which Samuel states were '*used in about 1922 on sets of the current issues and almost certainly prepared for presentation*' (but note Aguilar below). Steve Jarvis did not have such a set. I have looked through the BWISC Library but cannot find reference in any auction catalogue to the attempted sale of any J5 specimen set. Michael Hamilton, our member who has been engaged in the sale of Jamaican stamps for many decades, tells me that he has never sold, or even seen, such a set. It was time for me to approach Paul Wright, BWISC member, believed by me to have the best collection of the J5 specimen stamps, with my request for a scan of a J5 specimen set to embellish this article. Paul's surprise reply to me was 'I attach all that I think you need, which may not be quite the same as you thought'.

Paul Wright sent me scans of seven QV J5 SPECIMEN overprinted stamps. The set of five have CC watermarks and the remaining two have pine watermarks (Fig. 3). These are not J5 overprints '*used in about 1922 on sets of the current issues*', but were as close to this description as he could provide. Paul also provided a scan of his J5 on the 3d GV pictorial issue, script watermark (Fig. 4): this stamp is clean. Paul states that most of the material in the J5 collection is '*gruesome rubbish*'.



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

Aguilar states on page 51 of *The Philatelic Handbook of Jamaica* (Vol. 1) published in 1960 concerning the J5 overprint measuring 15.5 x 2.25 millimetres:

'I have only seen it on the following twelve stamps:

1d. carmine and orange 1st Pictorial, wmk. M.C.A.

5s blue and yellow-orange, 1st Pictorial, wmk. M.C.A.

6d. purple and magenta, George V, wmk. Script C.A.

issued on 3 Oct. 1921

issued on 15 April 1921

issued on 21 Oct. 1921

and on the 1st Pictorial Script C.A. values of the halfpenny, the three half pence, the two pence, the two and one half pence, the three pence, the one shilling, the two shilling, the three shilling and the ten shilling issued 1921-22.'

Aguilar also states on p 60 of The Philatelic Handbook of Jamaica (Vol. 1):

'Mr. R. H. Fletcher (Postmaster for Jamaica from 1925-1938) has sent me some very interesting details re Jamaican 'Specimen' stamps. He says:

'Re 'Specimens': We used to send from our stock the number requested by the London P.O. for distribution. We did not stamp them 'Specimen' and they were issued from Berne NOT so stamped until some time later on when all 'Specimens' were so overprinted before issue. Now the procedure is that the right quantity of every new issue is retained, overprinted 'Specimen' and sent to Berne for distribution. All the specimens in our P.O. Collection have been subsequently marked 'SPECIMEN' by means of a small rubber stamp.'

This article goes on to say that impressions of this small rubber stamp were sent by the Postmaster to Aguilar, and they were Type J5. Before Samuel was issued in 1976, Type J5 was known as Nicholson's Type 12.

One key document is a private undated letter from the late Bob Swarbrick, the renowned Jamaican philatelic specialist, to Paul Wright. Paul wrote to Swarbrick on 17 October 1988 asking, amongst other things, the following question about the J5 Specimen overprint:

'Two, have you seen a SPECIMEN? BWI auctions had one in their sale last year. Strangely it was used, with an illegible smudge, then handstamped SPECIMEN. Dennis Mitten had been told it was ex-Jamaica P.O. archives. Have you heard the like? Do you have any views on its' status?'

A copy of the BWI auction entry and of the paperwork enclosed with the stamp which was purchased by Paul is shown (Fig. 5). Paul still has the J5 SG30 stamp which he purchased in the BWISC auction.

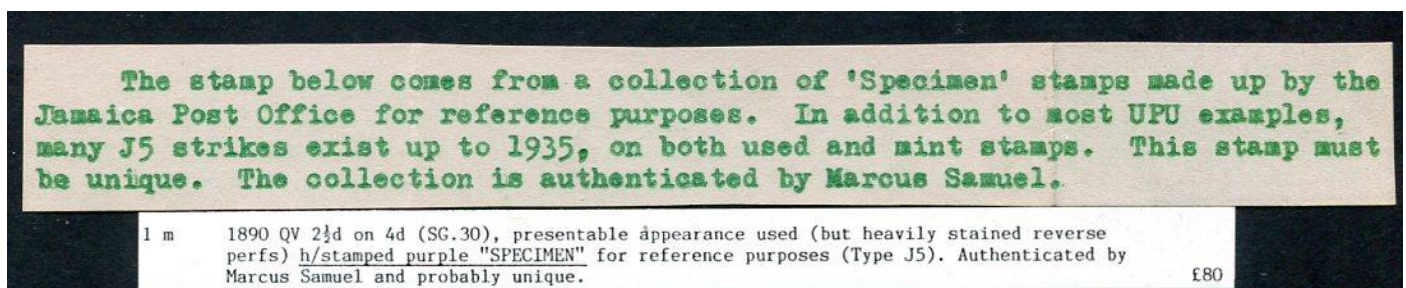


Fig. 5

Paul received a reply from Bob Swarbrick in 1988. The relevant part of the letter reads:

'The Specimens. Yes I know all about it. The idea was first brought up in the 1920's by the Jamaica Phil. Soc to build up a reference collection of all Jamaican stamps. Probably the group was the one displayed at Nathan's Store. Anyway, specimens were donated by the membership (hence damaged and used specimens). These were overprinted at the Kingston G.P.O. before the display and unbelievably the GPO produced a block of 4 of the unissued 'slavery' which they proceeded to overprint! This collection was 'liberated' at Independence and some of it sold off. The 2½d. on 4d went to Norman Winter in Italy and was sold to Mike Hamilton on his death. I have quite a few but they remain unloved and unwanted.'

Paul does not know the source of Bob Swarbrick's information. I visited Bob Swarbrick (born 9 May 1927 died 29 August 2012) at his home on two occasions shortly before his death to collect philatelic items donated by him to the BWISC library. As with most elderly people, Bob wanted to talk about the past and the things which made him happy. He talked at length about the Jamaica Philatelic Society which was founded on 14th April 1920 and about his Jamaica philately heroes, Nicholson, Aguilar, Cooke, Gunter and

Nethersole. He gave me the impression that he knew them all. He particularly mentioned numerous discussions with Nicholson. The introduction to the reprint of *The Jamaica Philatelist* in 1995 remarks upon the assistance in this venture by Bob Swarbrick. It is probable that the matters referred to above were the sources of the information in his letter. The first mention of Bob Swarbrick being a member of the Jamaica Philatelic Society, which published annual lists of members, is in the June 1950 issue of *The Jamaica Philatelist* on page 40. I do not have a degree in history, but I know enough to recognise that original documentation should always be sourced to supplement the research.

My first source was *The Jamaica Philatelist*. The Jamaica Philatelic Society held a non-competitive exhibition, on a small scale, confined to stamps of members which was staged in the upper floor of Messrs. Nathan & Co's Department Store in King Street, Kingston, Jamaica which lasted from 3 to 10 February 1938 (*The Jamaica Philatelist* 1938 pages 14 and 49). There is no mention of the 'Slavery' block in the reports of this 1938 philatelic meeting. There is no mention in *The Jamaica Philatelist* of any other meeting at Nathan & Co's premises. There is a four page article on the 'Slavery' stamps by Brinkley Turner in the 1937 issue of *The Jamaica Philatelist* pages 29/32. There is no mention here of the 'Slavery' block bearing a J5 SPECIMEN overprint measuring 15.5 x 2.25 millimetres.

My second source was Mike Hamilton. His reply to me was:

'Ilan, if I bought Norman Winter it was his 2½d on 4d surcharges and that was in the early 1980's. It may have had a J5 SPECIMEN but I really cannot remember. I certainly never had a Slavery block of four in any shape or form. My only acquisition of J5's which I remember, and I have no idea where they came from, were on USED QV Jamaica stamps all with some degree of toning, some very harsh. I do not know anything about a J5 collection or mention on 1922 set.'

My third source was James Bendon. His reply to me was:

'....in around 1981/82 I bought the collection, as described, (i.e. the J5 collection), from Charles Winand, an elderly part-time stamp dealer who restricted himself to Jamaica. He had contacts on the Island through whom he acquired some very unusual material, 'liberated' from the Museum and the Post Office. ... Unfortunately, I have no records of to whom I sold the various stamps in the collection; they were widely spread.'

Mike then sent me a scan, which he had retained, of a J5 overprint on a used QV stamp (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6

Swarbrick's evidence that J5 overprinted stamps exist other than those in the J5 reference collection is corroborated by the evidence of Aguilar on page 51 of *The Philatelic Handbook of Jamaica* (Vol.1) where several J5 overprinted stamps not in the J5 collection are mentioned, as well as by some of the illustrated J5 overprinted stamps in this article.

Swarbrick's evidence is also corroborated by his hero G. C. Gunter. On page 27 of the *Jamaica Philatelist* No.12 June 1938 G. C. Gunter the then Hon. Secretary of Jamaica Philatelic Society wrote:

'Genuine 'Specimen' Stamps of Jamaica are difficult to obtain. This is as it should be, firstly because a comparatively small quantity is officially authorised for issue, and secondly when distributed to the countries for which destined, they are generally placed in official reference collections. In the case of certain B. W. I. Colonies these Specimens are actually checked by the Government Auditor against receipts. Sometimes, however, there are exceptional occasions which warrant the issue of a Special 'Specimen' stamp by the local Government of the stamp issuing colony.'

Colonial Governors have been known to distribute stamps of a new issue to local individuals who have assisted in the selection of the stamp subjects, or been otherwise interested or the Postmaster of the issuing colony may wish a block of 4 stamps for his official collection. In each such case the stamps are overprinted 'Specimen' with a rubber hand stamp. in purple ink. There are also stamps similarly overprinted, in blocks of 4 each, of several issues of Jamaica in the local Post Office collection, among these being a block of the unissued 6d. Slavery Stamp.'

NEXT TIME: My conclusions concerning the Jamaica J5 SPECIMEN overprint.

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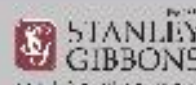
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LEEWARD ISLANDS

PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED GV FLAW ON DIE II 2½D BRIGHT BLUE SG 67

BY BRUCE STEWART



I can't really remember when, but a number of years ago I acquired a used copy of the above stamp with a noticeable scratch like flaw next the ampersand (&) on the right-hand side of the stamp. I didn't think much of it when I first noticed the flaw, putting it down to there possibly being some minor particle of dirt etc. on the printing plate which might have caused the small scratch that I could see. Some time later I acquired a cover with a pair of these stamps on it, the right hand one displaying the same error in exactly the same state. The fact that there is a bit of attached 'gutter margin' seems to suggest that it might be possible to locate the flaw on any complete sheets that might still exist. Then much more recently I have acquired a third copy of the stamp, this time in a mint state displaying the exact same flaw. Therefore I can only conclude that there must be many more examples still to be found.

I have searched through my stockbook of 'doubles' from the 1921 Definitive issue, of which I have several hundreds of used copies from the lower values, up to and including the 2d value, but to no avail. Maybe this error only exists on the 2½d value.

As the flaw occurs in the 'Key' plate then it is possible that it might occur on the stamps of another Commonwealth territory that were printed by De La Rue.

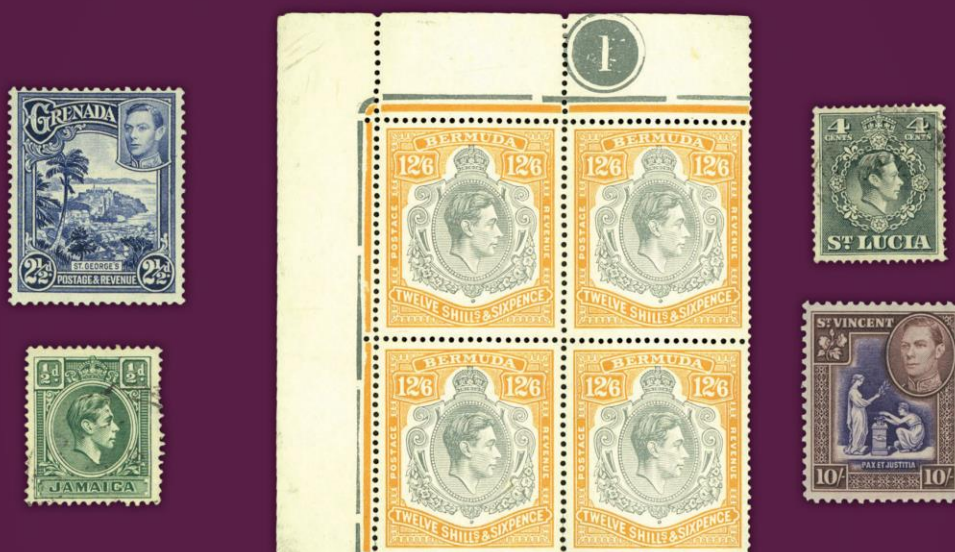
Maybe members can check their own collections to see if they also have a copy of this error. If anyone can provide a position for it within the sheet then that would be great.



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MONTSERRAT

A 1958 COVER WITH AN UNLISTED REGISTRATION LABEL

BY KLAUS HAHN

One of my recent acquisitions was a cover which I found to have a registration on the reverse which wasn't listed in the philatelic literature. Therefore I contacted Charles Freeland and Peter Tribe via George Dunbar. All three confirmed that the registration label and a straight-line cachet on the reverse of the cover are unknown to them. George suggested I show the cover in the Bulletin.

The registered Air Mail cover was posted on 14 June 1958 at G.P.O. Plymouth/Montserrat to Rapallo/Italy. On the flap of the envelope is imprinted: T/v ASCANIA, LINEE MARITTIME SIOSA and the sender's Spanish address on board the ship. The envelope is franked with a 24c stamp issued on 1 June 1955 and Inauguration stamps issued on 22 April 1958, in total 56c. A First Day Cover cachet was applied beside the stamps which is not relevant to any of the stamps.



On the reverse there is a registration label 'Montserrat No. 1372'. This type of label is not listed either in L.E. Britnor's book 'Montserrat' or in M.N. Oliver's book 'Leeward Islands - Notes for Philatelists'. The measurements of the outer lines are 42x15 mm. In its design the label resembles type 3 (Britnor) which was locally produced in 1909 because of a shortage of labels.

As well as 3 G.P.O. Plymouth date stamps (14 June 1958) and an arrival date stamp of Rapallo/Italy (23 June 1958), a straight-line cachet 'MONTSERRAT' was applied (37x4.5 mm). This type of cachet is also unknown and therefore probably of private origin.

The *Ascania* was built as the SGTM liner *Florida* in 1926. She was purchased by Grimaldi-SIOSA in 1955 and refitted to carry 183 first class and 932 tourist class passengers on services from Southampton, Vigo and Lisbon to the Caribbean and Venezuela. She mainly carried Spanish and Portuguese migrants outwards, and West Indians on the return voyage. In 1966, *Ascania* became a budget Mediterranean cruise ship.

The unusual design of the registration label resembles the type 3 used in 1909. Peter Tribe confirmed that there was a shortage of labels in the island, from about 1953, when many letters were struck with an R (type RM2) with the registration number written in manuscript. These labels were found on letters right through 1958 (the known registration labels and markings are listed by Peter Tribe in Bulletin 217).

Peter Tribe's response to my enquiry is shown below:

Klaus - Hello

This is a very interesting envelope... I have seen many hundreds of examples of registered letters from Montserrat but have never seen an example of your label or the MONTSERRAT cachet.

There was clearly a shortage of labels in the island from about 1953 when many letters were struck with an R (type RM2) with the reg no written in manuscript. Since writing that article in Bulletin 217 I have found further examples of this procedure right through 1958 and possibly early 1959.

Montserrat did produce Registration labels locally in 1909 which were spasmodically in use until 1921 (Type RM5 - Type 3 in the book) so maybe there was a precedent. That label was, however, relatively crudely produced.

There are two POSTMASTER or POSTMASTER MONTSERRAT cachets in two different typefaces of which I am aware and some have been struck in purple but I don't believe the one you have originated at the Montserrat PO.

Your envelope is curious in that it carries a FIRST DAY COVER cachet on the front which is not relevant to any of the stamps. The 24 cent came out on June 1 1955 and the three Inauguration stamps were issued on 22 April 1958. I suspect the Montserrat cachet may have been applied by whoever applied the First Day one.

I'd love to know though if you come across any more of these labels.

Regards Peter Tribe

It would be interesting to know if anyone has seen similar covers.

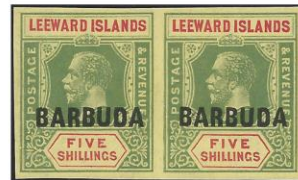
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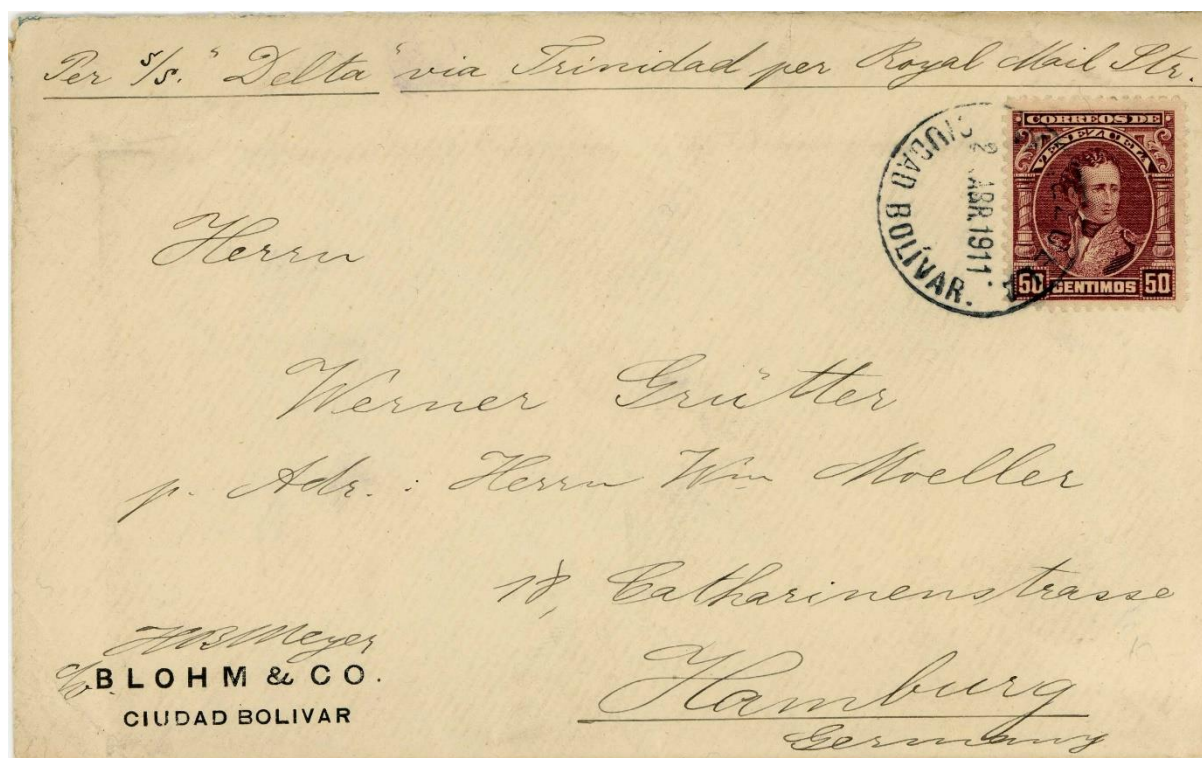


TRINIDAD

ORINOCO LINE (PART 3)

BY MICHAEL REGO

Following the liquidation of the Compañía de Vapores del Orinoco in April 1909, a new company under President Victorino Márquez Bustillos was established on 2 August 1911 titled Compañía Anonima Venezolana de Navegacion with a capital of three million bolivars. This company continued the contract to navigate and carry mails on the Orinoco and its tributaries.



2 April 1911, 50c letter, Blohm & Co., Ciudad Bolívar to Hamburg. Notation 'Per S/S Delta' via Trinidad.

By the early 1900s, German merchants had become dominant in Venezuela, controlling nearly one-third of all commerce and two-thirds of the trade in manufactured goods. In total there were thirty-five German houses operating in Venezuela, of these 8 were based at Caracas, 6 at Maracaibo, 6 at Valencia, 5 at Puerto Cabello and Ciudad Bolívar, 4 at La Guaira, 3 at Barcelona, 2 at La Victoria, and 1 at Carupano. The largest merchant house was H.G. & L.F. Blohm of Hamburg.



Part of a series of photographs taken on the Orinoco River ca.1910 by a German businessman.

The decrease of 740 vessels arriving into Trinidad during 1905–06 over the previous year, was accounted for by the decree promulgated by President Castro prohibiting trade between Trinidad and Venezuela by vessels under 40 tons. Nearly all these sailing vessels had formerly plied between Trinidad and the

opposite coast of Guayana, across the smooth waters of the Gulf of Paria. This was amended the following year to allow vessels of 20 tons to carry on such trade between the two countries.

In 1915 the steamer **Masparro** capsized. It had set sail on 15 July from Puerto de of San Fernando carrying on board General Ramón Garrido son, Col. Benjamin Olivieri, Gen. Ignacio Quintana, Col. Juvenal Colmanares, and several officers, troops and passengers, totalling 72 people, of whom five died.

In January 1915 a new steamship service was started by the Welcome Steamship Company Ltd. It was inaugurated with the French steamship **Bienvenida** to ply between Trinidad and La Guaira during the wet season (April to October) with intermediate calls at the Venezuelan ports of Carupano, Pampatar, Cumana and Guanta in a bi-weekly schedule. By 1917 this route included Demerara, Paramaribo and Cayenne.

In 1916 the Venezuela government sued the Compania de Navegacion Fluvial y Costanera for noncompliance with the contract, stating they had failed to clean out certain channels of the Lake Maracaibo and rivers. The company had two ocean-going steamers in the coastal trade, two steam shallow-draft launches on the Orinoco, and five steamers and auxiliary vessels on Lake Maracaibo. The firm had been set up on 4 July 1909 to continue the navigation of the Orinoco, and was succeeded by another Venezuelan shipping line in 1922.

The coastal fleet consisted of steamships **Mazanares** (1200 tons), **Guarico** (900 tons) and **Venezuela** (950 tons). These steamers served all the Venezuelan ports on a fortnightly mail and passenger service, which was maintained along the coast between Maracaibo and Ciudad Bolivar, touching La Vela Coro, Cumarebo, Tucacas, Puerto Cabello, La Guaira, Higuerote (Carenero), Piritu, Guanta, Puerto Sucre, Cumana, Carupano, Rio Caribe, Cristobal, Colon, and Trinidad, where connection was made by vessels of the same company for the route on the Orinoco River to Ciudad Bolivar.

In 1922 the Compañía Anonima Venezolana de Navegacion (CAVN) steamer **Delta** departed Port of Spain on alternate Thursdays, arriving at Ciudad Bolivar the following Monday. The **Delta** then left Ciudad Bolivar on alternate Saturdays, arriving at Port of Spain the following Monday. First-class passenger rates were available between Ciudad Bolivar and Trinidad and from Ciudad Bolivar to San Felix the fare was \$20 Bolivars. In 1937 the steamship **Trinidad** (970 gross tons) was acquired which surpassed in many respects previous ships covering this river route. The Trinidad had a luxury cabin, four special and thirteen more passenger berths with a total capacity of 50 seats, six of the cabins were 2nd class. This ship entered the Trinidad to Ciudad Bolivar service, with a speed of 10½ mph and maximum draft of 9 feet.

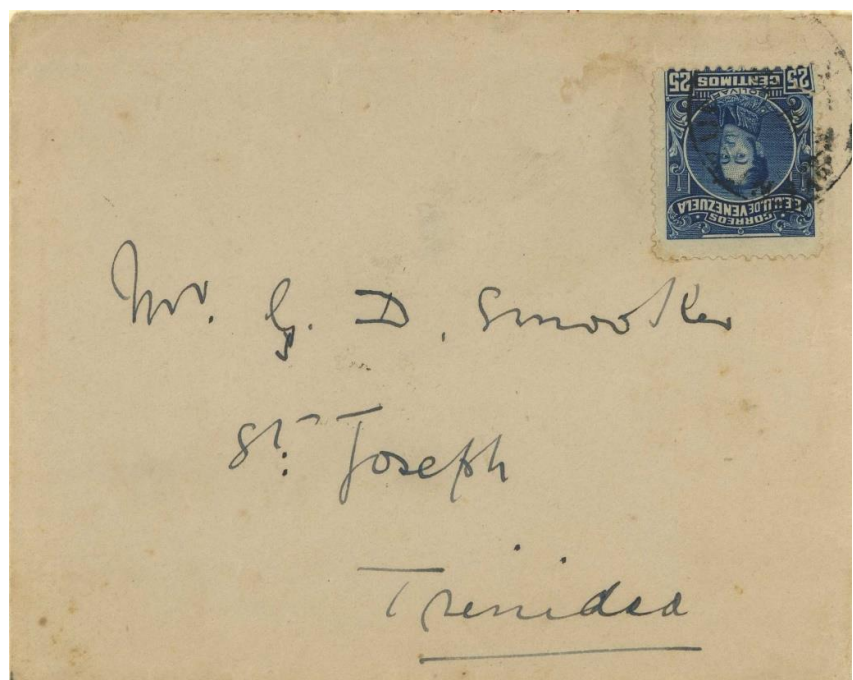
31 July 1920, 25c letter rate,
Venezuela to Trinidad.

Venezuela (31 Jul),
Port of Spain (3 Sep).
Transit 34 days,



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In 1920 the Compania Anonima Venezolana de Navegacion (Venezuelan Navigation Company) operated three fleets of steamers in the Venezuelan coasting, lake and river trade, as follows:





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Price realised: **£120'000**



Estimate: £40-50'000
Price realised: **£52'800**



Estimate: £50-60'000
Price realised: **£72'000**



Estimate: £3-5'000
Price realised: **£8'000**



Estimate: EUR 20-30'000
Price realised: **EUR 28'400**



Estimate: EUR 20-30'000
Price realised: **EUR 56'400**



Estimate: EUR 20-30'000
Price realised: **EUR 44'400**



Estimate: EUR 10-15'000
Price realised: **EUR 24'000**



Estimate: EUR 40-60'000
Price realised: **EUR 69'000**

Your contact: Ricky Verra



Email: ricky@davidfeldman.com

Ricky joined David Feldman in 2009 shortly after graduating from Imperial College London with a degree in Physics. He is a specialist philatelist for GB, British Empire and Olympics. Based in Geneva, Ricky participates at all the FIP International exhibitions and major UK shows including York Stamp Show & Stampex.

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The Apure River that feeds the Orinoco River has its principal town, San Fernando de Apure, situated about 160 miles inland. There is no railway, and the town is served mainly by the river steamers, which carried in particular imported goods from Europe and the USA.

1932

CARLOS VOGELIUS
Fábrica de Bebidas Gaseosas
Calle Orinoco
TELEFONO No. 412
Apartado de Correos No. 47
CIUDAD BOLIVAR

Via Trinidad per S DELTA

The Gastine Company
Bridgeton. New Jersey U S A

ESTADOS UNIDOS
CIUDAD BOLIVAR EDO. BOLIV
ADMINISTRACION PRINCIPAL DE CORREOS

REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA
CORREOS
25 CENTAVOS

1932, 25c letter, Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela to New Jersey, USA

Hubert Heydemann

Jusowstr. No. 1

Kassel in Hessen

From Ciudad Bolivar
via Trinidad

Alemania

In August 1927 the Royal Netherlands Steamship Company (KNSM) ship **Bacchus** (2255 gross tons) inaugurated a direct mail and passenger sailing from New York to Maracaibo, calling at Inagua, Haiti, La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, and Curaçao. It also carried parcel post for Inagua and Haiti. Eventually in 1938 this service led to direct sailings from New York to Trinidad and in 1939 to Ciudad Bolivar on the Orinoco. By 1940 KNSM was operating 14 steamers between New York and the ports in northern South America. The **Bacchus** was one of KNSM's small ships that continued to ply the West Indies carrying general goods and returning to New York with staple products of the countries at which they called. In total KNSM lost 10 ships during the war, mainly through German mines.

After WWII, in 1953 three KNSM ships, **Hermes**, **Helena** and **Hestia**, took sailings from Baltimore - Philadelphia - New York - Port-au-Prince - Cap Haitien - Guanta - Puerto Sucre - Papatar - Carupano - Trinidad - Paramaribo - Demerara - Ciudad Bolivar.

Circa 1932, 65c letter, Ciudad Bolivar, to Kassel, Germany



1 June 1936, 87½c registered letter, Ciudad Bolivar, via Trinidad to Hamburg, Germany
Letter from Blohm & Co, Ciudad Bolivar (1 Jun), Hamburg (24 Jun).

In January 1945 under a Decree of 9 November 1943, the Venezuelan national government dissolved the pro-German Blohm House for boycotting the Allies during World War II. Blohm & Co. had stores and shipping agencies in Ciudad Bolivar, Caracas, La Guaira, Puerto Cabello, Valencia, Barquisimeto and Maracaibo.

The use of the Orinoco River for surface mail communications from Trinidad declined with the establishment of airmail. A first flight 'Aeropostale' cover flown on 4 September 1930 from Port of Spain to Ciudad Bolivar by pilot Paul Vachet in a single-motor monoplane, carried no special 'first flight' markings. The Aeropostale was a private French company which was taken over by President J. V. Gomez in 1933 and then run by the government as the *Linea Aeropostal Venezolana*.

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Thanks to David Druett, Pennymead Books, for the loan of numerous literature works.

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TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

REVENUE STAMPS

BY EDWARD BARROW

Low Value Fee Stamps

There are still a few mysteries in the realm of Trinidad stamps. One of them surrounds the ½d and 1d FEE overprints (Fig.1). First of all, I have never seen one with a manuscript or fiscal cancellation; all bear postal cancels. If these were made for fiscal purposes, the transactions must have been carried out exclusively at post offices. Also many were cancelled at small villages indicating widespread use. Second, examples have been recorded that were cancelled in 1884, long before the Stamp Fee Ordinance of 1885 made such stamps necessary. Third, no official record of their production or purpose has been found.



Fig. 1. The First FEE Overprints, the 1d showing the inverted variety (Courtesy of David Druett).



Fig. 2. Comparison of this FEE overprint with the later ones.



Fig 3. Postage Due in Deep Purple overprinted FEE

The FEE size and spacing is a close match to later revenue issues but is a little thicker and overall slightly wider (Fig. 2). Could it be that these were used as early postage dues? It has been recorded that 'in mid-1883 the administration of Trinidad decided to introduce special adhesive stamps to collect fines on unpaid and short paid mail'. The postage due stamps that we are familiar with only came into circulation at the beginning of 1885. This leaves a gap of nearly 2 years, perhaps these stamps filled in as a stop gap. It would explain their island-wide usage and the lack of examples on cover. It is interesting to note that later specially prepared Postage Dues were overprinted FEE and saw limited use as revenue stamps (Fig. 3). Perhaps they were returning the favour!



Fig. 4. Part of Page Showing Normal Usage of the Low value FEE Overprints. (reduced)

Faked Fee Overprints.

There is a series of FEE overprints listed in the Trinidad Handbook as essays but which I believe were likely faked. These, I believe, may be part of a wider group of forgeries, some of which are shown below and seem likely to have been made by the same hand. Looking at the examples two patterns can be discerned with the fake cancels employed (see Fig. 5):

- They often have multiple index letters (A14 C1 etc), rather than the single letter. No other Trinidad CDS have been recorded with this feature.
- In the TRINIDAD part of the cancel, the R has a short first leg and a longer second one. Also the second D has a break at the bottom of the straight side.

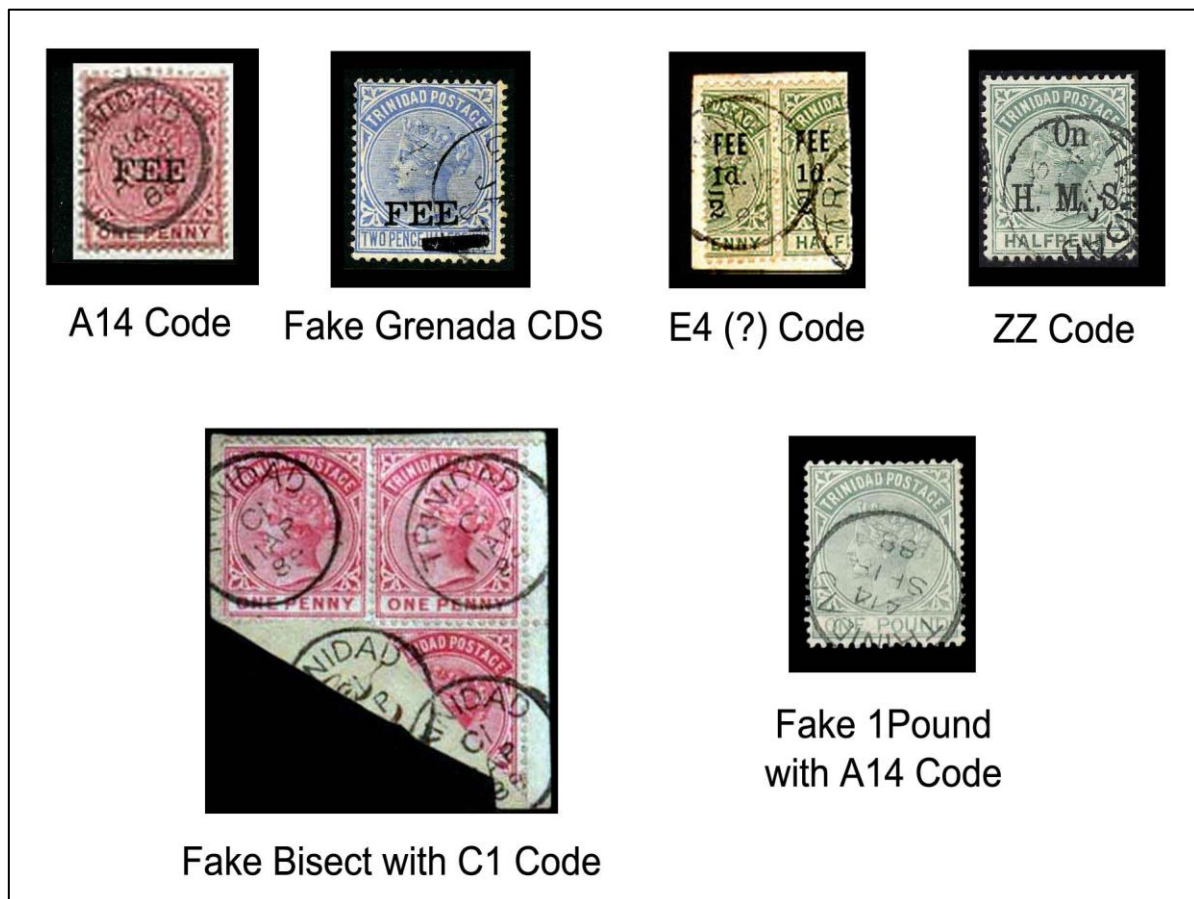


Fig. 5 Possible Fakes.

Many of these are recorded in Morley's catalogue (circa 1910) so they have been around a long time. As a side note, the mysterious OHMS overprints could also fall in this bracket as the Trinidad cancel used on these bear similar traits (Index code ZZ, short leg in R and broken D).

Embossed Dies (Circa 1900)

Ramkisson recorded a number of trials, essays and specimens from this series in his collection, which were sold at Spink in 2014. As far as I know only the 1d and the 1s are known used and neither on full document. The document below shows three 3d values embossed on a Conveyance of Land Deed and so expands the recoded values by a third.

Embossed Stamps of GB Overprinted Trinidad & Tobago

From 1908 to about 1920 these issues are found with watermark multi-crown CA paper and generally sit in a grey colour range; from pale grey to a deeper greenish grey (Fig. 7). The only exception is a violet blue shade seen on some values circa 1915 (Fig. 8). In the early 1920's colours begin to shift to dull blue shades and as with postal stamp issues the watermark changed to Multiple Crown Script CA. There is some variance in the shade of the dull blue, from pale to a much deeper shade.

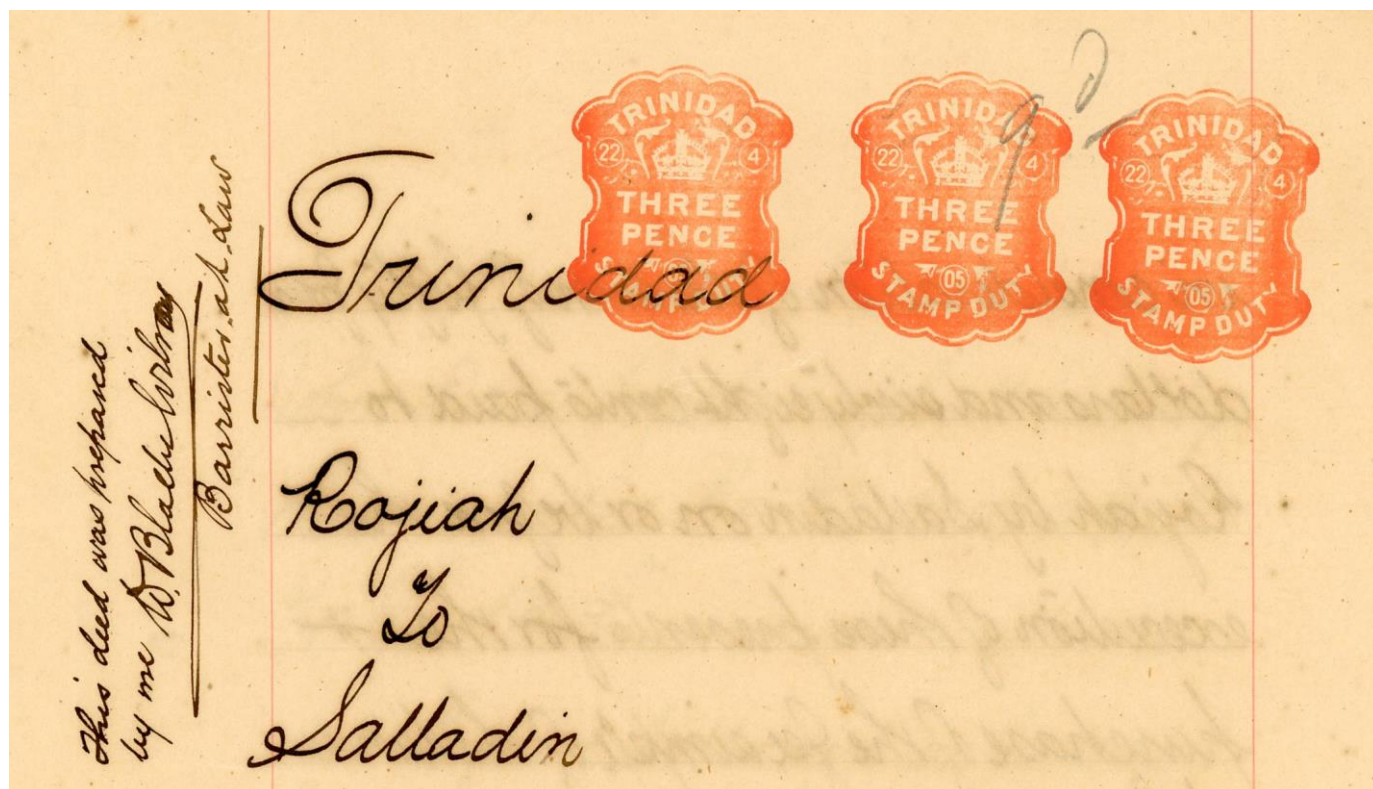


Fig. 6. Embossed 3d values on document.



Fig. 7 Grey Shades of the Embossed Stamps.



Fig. 8 Violet Blue shade and Dull Blue shades.

In 1931 the overprint identifying Trinidad & Tobago changed from the 3 line version to a new 2 line version in a thicker type face (Fig. 9). But this series did not last long because around 1935 they were replaced by a new design which incorporated the colony's name in the design and were denominated in dollars and cents (Fig. 10). This design continued to be used up to independence and some were even overprinted to create values as needed.

It is worth noting that the Crown Agents Requisition Books also list high values that have never been recorded; these include £5, £10, £20, £50 and £100 as well as a \$120 value. If anyone has examples of these please let me know.

Watermark Crown CA					
2d	Grey 1910	2s	Grey I 1909	6s	Grey 1909–11
3d	Grey F 1911		Violet Blue I 1915		Dull Blue
4d	Violet Blue C 1926		Dull Blue G 1922	9s	Grey 1909–13
6d	Grey H 1911–20	3s	Grey A 1908–10	10s	Grey I 1909–13
	Violet Blue H 1915		Violet Blue A 1916		Grey K 1918–21
9d			Dull Blue A		Dull Blue K 1919
1s	Grey H 1908	4s	Grey 1912–15		Dull Blue J 1922
	Dull Blue J 1922	5s	Grey J H 1909–13	£1	Grey F 1909
			Dull Blue K 1921–22		Violet Blue F 1915
					Dull Blue F 1920

Watermark Script CA					
3d	Dull Blue F 1929–31	2s	Dull Blue G 1927–28	10s	Dull Blue J 1925
6d	Dull Blue J 1924–26	3s	Dull Blue M 1929		Dull Blue K 1926–28
	Dull Blue J 1927–29		Dull Blue L 1931		Dull Blue AF 1930–33
	Dull Blue AH 1930–34	5s	Dull Blue H, J 1930–32		Dull Blue AC 1928–29
9d	Deep Blue A 1931	6s	Dull Blue 1929–31	£1	Dull Blue F 1928
1s	Dull Blue G 1924–27				Dull Blue T 1929–34
	Dull Blue K 1929				

New 2 Line Overprint (all wmk Script CA).



Fig. 9 New Style Overprint.

2d	Dull Blue Y 1934
3d	Dull Blue AD 1933
6d	Dull Blue AH 1932–34
9d	Dull Blue B 1933
1s	Dull Blue AC 1931–33
2s	Dull Blue G 1934
3s	Dull Blue L 1934
5s	Dull Blue J K 1932–34
10s	Dull Blue AF 1932–34
£1	Dull Blue T 1934

Decimal Currency Issues.



Fig. 10 Shades of the Decimal Issue and an Overprinted Example.

6c	1935–48
8c	1939
12c	1937–48
24c	1935–54
48c	1936–54
60c	1935–50
\$1.20	1935–54
\$2.40	1935–54
\$4.80	1936–54
\$24.00	1938–48

50c on 48c	mid 1960's
\$1.00 on 48c (recorded in Crown Agents records)	mid 1960's
\$2.00 on 48c (recorded in Crown Agents records)	mid 1960's
\$7.50 on 48c	mid 1960's

Thanks to David Druett and Andrew McClellan for kindly sharing information and images.

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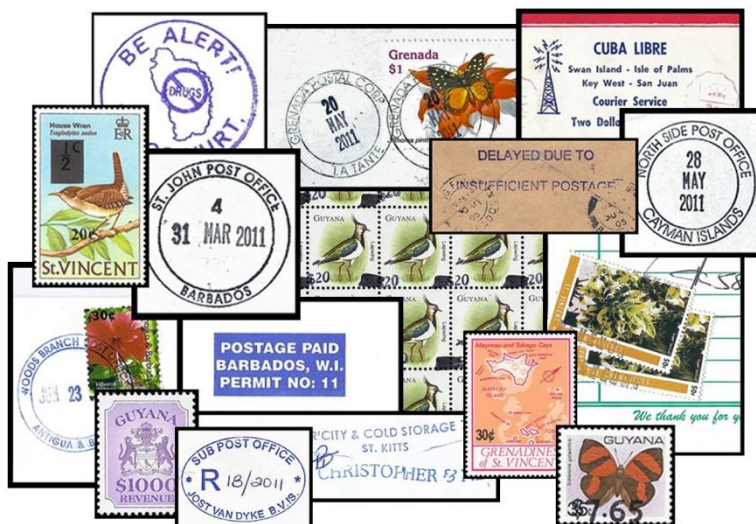
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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****Murray Payne 26 July (BP 0%)**

There was a nice selection of Bahamas in this popular auction, popular among collectors because of its absence of a buyers' premium. An imperf set in issued colours of the 1948 Tercentenary values on an archive page fetched £3.1k.

Spink 26–7 July (BP 20%)

The only notable section for us here was Barbados, where unsolds from the fine Britannia collection were on offer. Most of the rare items again failed to find buyers but one of two 3d die proofs on card was £450 and a spectacular set of 8 of the 1882–6 set with blank duty tablets and specimen overprints were £2.9k. Three 1906 perforated colour trials went for a reasonable £450.

Stanley Gibbons 6 September (BP now 18%, plus 3% for internet bids)

This sale offered the second portion of the extensive postal history collection first described in the June Bulletin. This section contained some earlier material that fetched decent prices, notably a fine quality strike of the 1844 P1 St Georges hand-stamp at £1.5k. Other notable prices were £450 for a 1664 document, not mailed, relating to the Somers Islands and £1.6k for a countersigned 1858 seaman's letter with a mail boat 466 cancel and a GB 1d for the concessionary services rate, while £1k was paid for a 1869 large part cover to Bordeaux franked with ten 2d blues. There were also this time some stamps....several large blocks of 20th century stamps went mostly unsold but there was demand for the Caravel sheets with a specialised lot ex Ludington (1974) fetching £9k on a £10k estimate.

Cavendish 7–8 September

The only lot that attracted my interest was a Barbuda 1836 cover bearing an average copy of the Antigua small fleuron at £260.

Grosvenor 21–2 September (BP 19%)

Another well-stocked catalogue from this popular house had several items for us but nearly all were in mixed lots. The house promoted a specialised Silver Jubilee collection but did not present it cleverly. Concealed in a mixed lot and not illustrated was a block of the Barbados set of four with specimen perforations which with a couple of plate flaws went for £320...it would have been a lot more if I had seen it. The Bermuda contained a Jubilee 1s specimen with the kite and vertical log flaw at a healthy £480. Also in Bermuda was a used GVI line perf 10s marginal pair with 59 and 60 flaws at £550. A Barbuda 1d with watermark reversed went for £210 even with a short perf, while a decent 1889 Dominica cover to Nova Scotia franked 4d grey was £200. A Grenada GVI 10s perf 12 UM with part bottom margin imprint was £400.

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