



STUDY CIRCLE

Nevis, De La Rue Key Plates on cover



See Michael Medlicott's article.



BULLETIN No. 257 June 2018



Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies and the American Philatelic Society

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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

OBJECTIVES

- 1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
- 2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features of BWI interest. The BWISC BULLETIN was presented with the ABPS Specialist Society journal Award in 2004.
- 3 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aims of the Circle. The BWISC has published over 20 books or Study Papers over the last 12 years, some of which have received prestigious awards.
- 4 TO hold an annual auction for the sale of members' material.
Normally, prior to the auction, the BWISC holds its Annual General Meeting.
- 5 TO organise occasional display meetings including a biennial weekend Convention and bourse.
This offers further opportunities for members to buy and sell material.
- 6 TO maintain an internet website where information about Circle activities is publicised and where much other relevant information is posted.
- 7 TO maintain a specialised library from which home members can borrow books.

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

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 September 2018 Autumn Stampex, BDC Islington, London, N10 0QH
Saturday 15 September, Informal Study Circle meeting & displays (Time and location to be confirmed).

Saturday 27 April 2019 AGM and Auction at Grosvenor, 399 – 401 Strand, 2nd & 3rd floors, WC2R 0LT

Wednesday 29 May to Sunday 2 June 2019 Stockholmia 2019

Saturday 6 July 2019 Midpex, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN

Congratulations to the following for their achievements with BWI entries at Spring STAMPEX 2018:

David Cordon 'De La Rue, Bermuda 1865 – 1901' Large Gold and Best in Show

David Cordon 'A Study of Bermuda KGV Key Plates' Large Gold

Simon Richards for 'Dominica – Postage Stamps 1874 – 1933' Gold

MINUTES OF THE 64TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC HELD AT 1:15PM SATURDAY 28 APRIL 2018

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

Graham Booth, chairing the AGM for the first time, said that he had never expected to be in this position in BWISC. He announced, to applause, that Simon Goldblatt, who would be running one of the largest BWISC auctions ever immediately after the AGM, will have celebrated his 90th birthday by the time of the next AGM in 2019.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Kevin Darcy, Mary Gleadall, Michael Hamilton, Keith Hanman, and John Riggall.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting on 22 April 2017, as published in Bulletin No. 253, June 2017, pages 34 to 37, were accepted by the attendees.

4. Report by the General Secretary (George Dunbar)

The Circle had a table at Midpex in July 2017, as planned. We met new friends and old. The October Convention at The Abbey Hotel, Redditch allowed us to enjoy exceptional philatelic material in pleasant surroundings, although some arrangements were not perfect.

The Membership Secretary has kindly provided the following table.

Membership Stats as at end of 2017:

	Members	UK	EUR	RoW
End 2016	340 (83)	208 (43)	25 (5)	107 (35)
Joined 2017	13	10		3
Rejoined	4	3		1
Deceased	3	1	1	1
Lapsed/Resigned	15	13		2
End 2017	339 (85)	207 (44)	24 (5)	108 (36)

Figures in brackets are for paperless membership. Membership has been relatively stable.

The next events will be our tables at Worpex and Swinpex, and a meeting at Autumn Stampex.

Richard Stupples asked about the time of the Autumn Stampex meeting, and the Secretary answered that the planned time was 1–3pm on the Saturday of Stampex, but that this could not be confirmed as specialist society meeting room bookings had not yet been allocated by the PTS.

5. Report by the Editor (Terry Harrison)

It was a pleasure to receive so much new material as a result of my tongue-in-cheek note in the September 2017 Bulletin and this now means that the immediate future of the Bulletin is relatively secure. But please do not stop sending material. It may take some time for your article to appear in print as the intention is to publish a spread of articles from across the Caribbean in each Bulletin and the restrictions will always be space and variety.

I am pleased to report that David Watson has stepped forward to help with proof reading so strengthening the team but do note that there is always room for anyone else who would like to help out. Peter Ford and Steve Jarvis have, as always, helped maintain the Bulletin's high standard by proof reading each edition and liaising with the printers.

Steve Jarvis commented that the standard of articles in the most recent edition was brilliant. The Chairman thanked Terry, noting that the Bulletin is a pillar of the society, important in maintaining its high standards.

6. Report by the Treasurer (Ray Stanton)

The accounts for the year to the 31 December 2017 show a surplus of £356 which is similar to that achieved in 2016.

Subscriptions and advertising income once again covered the Bulletin costs including distribution, by a substantial margin, the costs incurred being substantially reduced by the arrangement with the new printer and distributor. The donation from the auction team, net of expenses, was slightly less than last year but we did receive another donation from a source who wished to remain anonymous of £250.

Sales of publications were nearly £600 more than last year, but as usual the total was exceeded by the amount spent on the production of new books. However, it is likely that the amount spent on new books in the next year or so will fall back. Nevertheless, although written off in the accounts, the book stocks that are held are expected to produce a steady stream of future income.

Other expenses in 2017 were in total similar to 2016, the only difference being the £400 deficit in running the convention at Redditch.

As a result of the surplus the Accumulated fund has increased to £14,022. This year we have only a small gain on the conversion of our US dollar funds, given that sterling has held its own against the dollar, but once again, due to the prevailing low interest rates, we have had limited ability to earn any interest.

I would like to thank John Davis once again for being our auditor and for the advice and help he has given.

7. Report by the Librarian (Ian Jakes)

Three library books, two on Bermuda philately and one on Leeward Islands 1897 sexagenary overprints, have been lent to two members during the last year. Two other members made requests to borrow philatelic books published recently by BWISC. Both members were one country specialists. When I pointed out the cost to them of outward and return postage and of a borrowing time limit both members decided that it was more economical for them to purchase their own copies of the books from Pennymead.

One member was provided with a Library list.

One American member required philatelic information which was in The British Library. I put this member in touch with a London member with research skills.

Seven members have requested me to search the BWISC library for information which cannot be found on the internet. The subjects were:–

- (a) Bahamas postal rates
- (b) Jamaica red cross labels
- (c) Tobago fiscals
- (d) British Honduras geography and history
- (e) A copy of an article from The American Philatelist
- (f) Information contained in 1928 Jamaica colonial report
- (g) Imperial Direct Line ships and sailings
- (h) 1854 Jamaica laureated head design
- (i) A copy of an article from British Caribbean Philatelic Journal
- (j) Trinidad and Tobago post 1936 philately

Positive replies were sent in all cases.

8. Report by the Publications Officer (Peter Ford)

2017 saw us publish no less than three books. Firstly, in collaboration with the Royal Philatelic Society, we published a book on Bahamas. This was a book which had the input of several Bahamas collectors, and was expertly edited by Peter Fernbank, to whom must go the most credit for what is a fine publication. Negotiations with the Royal did not run smoothly as they had a stock method of publishing books using Pardys, a printer in Hampshire who not only stored their books but distributed them as well.

Obviously this wouldn't have suited us too well and so we suggested using our usual printer, Sarsen. In the end it was agreed to use Sarsen whose price for printing the 250 copies agreed upon was half that of Pardys. Each society had 125 books to sell and sales income would be divided equally.

The next book was one on St. Vincent, jointly authored by Charles Freeland, Roy Bond and Russell Boylan. Due to the high price of producing hardbacked books these days, it was decided to have it printed in softback. Roy Bond came up with the idea that we could send some copies of the softbound book to a bookbinders and have them hardbound. I decided that this was an experiment worth trying.

We sent 50 copies to be rebound in hardback. It turned out to be a good idea as when we have a book printed hardbacked, usually we have to order 200 or more; normally, we would be lucky to sell half that number. This system of sending the softbacks to be rebound would save us having large stocks of books and having a large sum of money tied up with the unsold copies. The resulting price of the hardbacked books comes to more than usual, but it is worthwhile for the reasons stated before.

Lastly we published the Temporary Registered Ovals of Jamaica and Trinidad by David Horry. This has been published in softback and is selling well.

We have lost our US distributor, Ed Barrow, who has emigrated. We are very grateful to Ed for taking on this task over the last few years. At the suggestion of John Seidl, President of the BCPSG, we have now decided to use the American Philatelic Society as our distributor in the US. The main advantage of this is that they have an enormous membership and therefore our books will attain the widest possible publicity. Also, using Lightning Source our print-on-demand printer, we can have books printed in the US saving postage costs for everybody. Sales in the US in the three months to January netted just over US\$500. I am sure this will be a valuable addition to our sales effort.

Gross sales last year were just under £5,160 and after commission £4,350. The St. Vincent was the star of the show with some 31 copies of the hardback sold and 15 of the softback. Horry's Ovals book was next with 23 copies sold. The Bahamas, Antigua and Horry's QEII postmarks books all sold 16 copies.

The future does not look so bright however. We have lost our most prolific author, Charles Freeland. I doubt he will ever be replaced. Few collectors could combine his expert knowledge and superb writing skills; he will be greatly missed by all. There are a few books on the backburner at the moment. One on Grenada being written by Tim Pearce, one on Trinidad & Tobago being written jointly by myself, Ed Barrow and David Druett and finally one on Boer War Prisoner of War Mail to and from Bermuda by David Cordon. However these may not be published for a few years yet.

It would be beneficial if we could have some smaller books on the lines of the Study Papers and Classic Collections published over the next couple of years. If any member has an idea to write something, please contact me directly; we are open to any suggestions.

9. Report by the President & Chairman of the Committee (Graham Booth)

I was parachuted into this role at short notice, and found myself at the Convention both running the Convention and giving one of the principal displays – I will avoid combining those ever again! It was a successful convention, but we would not return to the Abbey Hotel unless they guaranteed a bigger room for dealers and standing displays, and this room was close to the room for formal displays.

To reduce the likelihood that the Circle will again find itself struggling with succession planning at short notice, I have proposed that we be specific about the period of office of the Chairman. The Circle has survived for 60 years without a written constitution, and it would be pointless to create one now. However, if you agree with the proposal, we will record this as governing the future operation of the Circle.

1. The roles of President and Vice-President are honorary and continue for life, or until a holder chooses to no longer have the title.
2. The Circle is run by the Chairman as Chief Executive along with the executive committee.
3. The Chairman will be elected for a term of three years and would not normally serve for more than two terms.

The Committee will therefore know when a change is coming up and plan accordingly.

The Chairman put the proposal to the AGM for discussion, noting that BWISC is one of the more successful societies, in large part due to the work of volunteer members, the Committee, and their professionalism.

In response to a request from Stephen King, it was noted that the role of Chairman could of course be held by a woman or a man, and this would be reflected in the wording used. Richard Stupples suggested that a situation could arise where there was a shortage of candidates to take on the role, and the Chairman emphasised the qualification 'not normally' which allowed for further extension in exceptional circumstances.

On a show of hands, the proposal was carried unanimously.

The Committee had agreed to establish as a norm a two-year cycle of committee and member meetings. There would be a Convention every two years, and in a year when we do not have a convention there would be a members meeting at Autumn Stampex. These meetings would provide an opportunity for all members to display their material. Immediately prior to these autumn meetings there would be a committee meeting, in addition to the spring meeting before the AGM. The Committee also planned that the 2020 AGM should take place during the week of the London 2020 international exhibition (2– 9 May; Simon Goldblatt suggested that the Sunday was probably the most suitable day).

10. Election of Officers

Graham Booth had been elected Chairman for one year at the 2017 AGM. In light of the decision made under Item 9, he offered himself for election for the balance of a three-year term, that is until the 2020 AGM. Proposed Simon Goldblatt, seconded by Richard Stupples, carried unanimously.

The Chairman then put forward the names of the office holding members of the committee for election.

George Dunbar, Hon. Secretary. Proposed Graham Booth, seconded by Simon Richards, carried unanimously.

Terry Harrison, Hon. Editor, whose role is key since the Bulletin is the principle platform through which the Circle maintained its reputation. Proposed Peter Fernbank, seconded by James Podger, carried unanimously.

Ray Stanton, Treasurer. Proposed Roy Bond, seconded by Peter Ford, carried unanimously.

Ian Jakes, Librarian. Proposed Bill Gibb, seconded by Nigel Chandler, carried unanimously.

Peter Ford, Publications Officer. Proposed James Podger, seconded by Michael Medlicott, carried unanimously.

The other Committee members are Nigel Chandler, Peter Fernbank, Simon Goldblatt, John Jordan, James Podger, Geoff Richards, and Simon Richards.

The Chairman asked also for a volunteer to take on the role of Advertising Manager, which would involve identifying and securing new advertisers. Although no-one stepped forward immediately, the Chairman asked members, also including those not present, to consider whether they could do it. This would be an interesting way for someone to become involved with the Circle and would be likely to lead to doing other things on the Committee if they wished. If any member could volunteer, please do contact the Chairman.

11. Election of the Auditor

John Davis was re-elected as auditor. Proposed Simon Richards, seconded by Peter Fernbank, carried unanimously.

12. Other Business

(i & ii) The Chairman introduced the two other items listed on the Agenda by emphasising that although the Committee had been aware of and able to reflect on these proposals since the Convention, this morning's committee meeting had been their first opportunity to formally discuss them. Following that discussion, part

(ii) relating to a name change is withdrawn at this stage, to allow further time for consideration. The British West Indies Study Circle brand is important and appeals strongly to existing members. Whether it appeals strongly to all potential new members is not clear, and Graham had made this proposal based on his own experience. He was brought up in the 1930s, and when first travelling to India had been shocked to discover that the events he knew as the Indian Mutiny were there called the First Indian War of Independence. It is this type of difference in perspective that may prove a hindrance to recruiting citizens of the Caribbean to membership of the Circle with our current name, which can be interpreted as alluding to the colonial period. This had led him to look at our membership list, where he found we had only ten members living in the Caribbean, nearly all of whom appeared to be expats. This absence of appeal to indigenous residents is a concern. If the name does suggest a hangover from colonialism to people of the Caribbean islands, it would serve the interests of the Circle to change it. However, there are also strong arguments against changing the name, and perhaps we should not change it. The proposal is withdrawn for the moment, but meanwhile the Chairman wanted all members to be aware of the discussion and of the reasons being considered.

Moving to the proposal to change the first aim of the Circle, the Chairman noted again that this wording had been circulated in advance to all members on the Agenda which was circulated with the March Bulletin, so that they had a chance to consider it before the AGM. The Committee, having discussed the proposal in the morning, had agreed to recommend the wording with some small changes. The revised wording was read out:

The principal objective of the Circle should be 'To promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of all the islands that comprise the West Indies. In addition, it should include Bermuda, The Guyanas and Belize (British Honduras) and the interaction with applicable countries on the littoral of the Caribbean Sea.'

The Chairman noted that in great measure this simply reflected patterns of collecting and research that already existed within the Circle. In postal history, examples such as the operations of the RMSP via St. Thomas, or the Pacific Steam Navigation Company and RMSP using the Panama Canal, illustrate the interconnectedness of activity in the region. This does not mean any new emphasis on, for instance, the classic stamps of Venezuela, the emphasis is on areas of interaction. He invited comments.

Michael Medlicott asked why interaction beyond the Caribbean littoral, such as with the USA, had not been specified. Simon Greenwood queried whether the extensions should be made part of the primary objective or listed as secondary objectives. He was also concerned about potential overlap with the interests of other specialist societies. Richard Stupples wondered also about overlap with the BCPSG. Nigel Chandler, citing three major publications, observed that European philatelists had often very different perspectives on Caribbean postal history.

It was noted that although there was topical overlap with other societies, the quality of BWISC's output was often better, none had the strong overview of the Circle, and of course joint membership with, for instance, BCPSG is common. A recent Collett Award had been for work that extensively considered Venezuela, and was justifiably relevant to the Circle because it addressed transactions with Trinidad.

There was not a clear consensus on the details of the proposed change, and the meeting accepted a proposal from Simon Goldblatt, seconded by Joan Schuller, that the Committee should work in accordance with the spirit of the changed definition of scope, whilst the actual wording is refined. This will be put to the AGM in 2019. This proposal was welcomed and carried by a large majority (with a few abstentions).

(iii) John Jones raised a question about the provision of advice to executors of members' wills. Simon Goldblatt replied that families can (and do) ask for advice from the auction team. The team gives neutral advice. It is willing to handle material in Circle auctions if it feels it can assist, but can otherwise suggest alternatives.

All business having been covered, the Chairman closed the meeting.

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE
INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2017

	£'s	2017	2016
INCOME :			
Subscriptions		4,624	4,510
Publications - Sales less commissions		4,362	3,782
Auction donation (net of costs)		1,495	1,704
Other donations		250	-
Interest received		2	7
TOTAL INCOME		10,733	10,003
EXPENDITURE :			
Bulletin - Printing & distribution costs	4,899		5,238
Less : Advertising	(1,611)	3,288	(2,156)
Publications : Preparation, Printing & Distribution costs		5,866	5,599
Convention costs net of recovery		404	-
Other room hire & meeting costs		250	248
ABPS affiliation fee		260	250
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc		100	71
Bank charges		17	102
Exhibition entry fees		-	150
Website		192	111
		10,377	9,613
SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	£'s	356	£'s 390

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2017

ACCUMULATED FUND :			
Balance at 1st January 2017		13,650	13,052
Add : Surplus for the year		356	390
Exchange conversion profit		16	208
	£'s	14,022	£'s 13,650
REPRESENTED BY :			
Cash at banks		12,560	12,668
Debtors - amounts due to us		6,272	5,594
Prepaid expenses		-	700
		18,832	18,962
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,704)		(2,851)
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	(2,106)	(4,810)	(2,461)
	£'s	14,022	£'s 13,650

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2017 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2017 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date.

J G M Davis FCA

John Davis 19th March 2018

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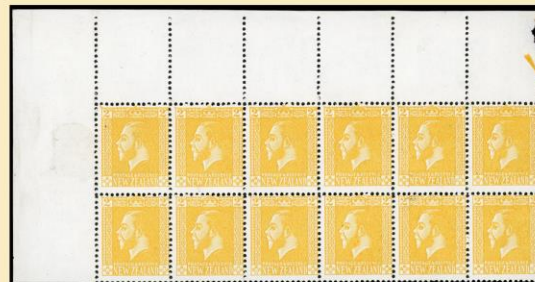
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BWISC Auction 2018

A Downbeat Start.

Spare a thought for the auction team. With 48 hours to go before kick-off, this was the state of play:

Number of bidders recorded – 40

Proportion of lots covered by bids – 23%

Value of lots pre-sold just over £10,000.

Sales on the day seldom add 50% to a pre-sale total, and we had become all too used to a sales day total of around £20,000, if not more. Were we becoming complacent? Growing stale and repetitive? Losing our touch?

Experience has taught that our auctions will flatten out in parts, if not in whole, with fewer than 60 bidders on the book. People enjoy bidding late, but from where would 20 more bidders arrive?

By email perhaps? So convenient, with your mobile telephone to hand; except, not so convenient at the receiving end, especially when the sender leaves out an address – as two senders out of every three are likely to do. The bid form is there for a reason. The team needs confirmation of a current address. Even a reminder email asking for address can be disregarded by senders, or receive a half-resentful reply of the nature of, surely you know who I am? Yes, we do, but we need to be told where you are.

The Hurricane of Change.

It wasn't just a wind. 26 fresh bidders blew their way in, during the hours that lay ahead. This is not an immediate source of delight and exultation. Hurricanes have to be endured, and you clean up afterwards; and the auctioneer had not had time to bring his records up to date before our 2pm start.

If that was not enough there were still members asking for scans and information when the auction lots had gone into store at Spink.

Quite a long list of errata and corrigenda (some of the corrections by courtesy of vigilant members in attendance) was read out to spare recriminations after the sale, but the gale of new bidders brought one correction of which the audience never heard. It seems that 8 valuable auction lots were ferried between home and office copiers to provide photocopy for an intending bidder. On return home, the lots were nowhere to be found. Assumed escaped in transit, the loss was reported to the Lost Property Office, where a last-minute re-check revealed the handing in of 8 stamps. A near miss: these were 2½p machins. The area of loss had to be re-visited on the afternoon before the sale, and there in an unexplored carrier were the lots mislaid. The auctioneer claims to be prone now and then to flushes of serendipity.

Time is precious.

There was an air of 'no messing about' once the auction began. Simon, proposing to end at 5.50 pm, was told an earlier close was needed, and promised to end by 5.40. This left little space for bidders to stop and think, and sometimes the fresh lot had barely been announced before the fall of the hammer was moving us on to the next lot. Yet it needs to be said that it was clear throughout whether bidders present had the field to themselves, or were bidding against the auction book. This feature alone distinguishes a Circle auction from many such public events. Add to this that those present are never allowed to learn where the book has reached its limit, unless a tie is announced or the bidding outruns the book. It keeps the atmosphere with a frisson of tension and the room stays alert.

What does get announced, at intervals, is the prospect of a succession of lots with no absent bidders. The pace will go up a gear – and it does. The effect is unexpected. Instead of a succession of lots which are passed, with no sale resulting, causing apathy, the reverse happens. The Room waits for someone to break the machine gun rattle of the hammer, and when a paddle rises, the buyer contest is back on. It has to be said that for the 2018 auction, the sale never fell flat.

For the same reason, the two short breaks, needed for the accounting team to pause and check their records, and a few buyers to settle up and leave, came as a welcome relief, if only for the change of pace.

A few highlights.

During this first session it would not have been easy to assess from the outside. In fact, estimates were running some way ahead of realisations until Barbados was reached. Bahamas lots 65–69, however, demonstrated welcome flexibility when these lots were first taken singly then offered as a group. The second method proved the right choice, evoking competitive bidding.

Barbados began to haul back on estimates, with the deep slate block, lot 96, doing well at £440, but this section might have been more illuminating had not two lots been withdrawn and lot 119 met trouble through a conflict between description and illustration for one of its postmarks.

Barbuda and Bermuda (whose map had been lodged in Bahamas, but was sold in its proper place under Bermuda) each showed a shortfall against estimate, marginally reduced in British Guiana, due entirely to the £170 paid for lot 243 against an estimate of £42. On the basis of classification as a proving cover, the buyer took a reasonable view.

One other feature of British Guiana deserves mention. There were 54 lots in the section, 56 when Guyana is included, and only 12 were left unsold. Once we reached the postmarks 26 lots sold in succession. This is probably an all-time record unbroken sequence for the circle.

British Honduras with an attractive selection of rather unusual covers was holding its own both with estimates and frequent sales, then Simon made an obvious blunder in selling lot 281 for £11.50 when it was estimated at £39 (but no one intervened, as they sometimes do, to alert him). His eye had no doubt been caught by the single postcard lot above, where Royal Mail Steamer on the river fetched £34, est. £15. So at close of first session, estimates were running ahead of results.

Session 2

There were no fireworks, while Cayman Islands, shorn of its richer material of recent years, and Dominica, too laden perhaps with covers of limited appeal, were on offer, Grenada showed early promise, selling 15 of its first 19 lots, then the surge subsided, leaving 12 of the next 21 unsold. Nevertheless, immediate sales were ahead of estimates here, and the SPECIMEN items on offer helped.

Jamaica sold just under half the lots in the section, with fewer than usual of its regular supporters on parade. The number of lots on offer was heavily swollen by the attempt (which failed) to sell a number of post war complete sheets, perhaps viewed not very fairly as modern wallpaper, and the renewed offer of a score or more of remaining lots from David Atkinson's collection, where reduced estimates gave no added impetus to acceptance of items which had been on offer before. Just one lot stood out. This was lot 373, the GB pair, offered afresh under its proper description as SG7, which attracted genuine competition at a restrained valuation of £250. It went to a room bidder for £400 so that, whatever reservations the Room may have had overall, realisations for Jamaica still aggregated to more than estimates, even if only just.

Leeward Islands came next, with buoyant sales (two thirds of its 36 lots sold) and a useful varied range of material. Star of the show was the postal stationery collection, lot 493 £270 against its estimate of £150.

Next came Montserrat whose first two lots could be confidently expected to sell well. So they did: 's' inverted, E £300, for £440; 6d blue-green, better than last year's example, E £500, for £650. Though the five decent lots that followed found those present sitting silent, momentum came back from lot 502. 12 of the 19 lots still to come from this point, were sold, the 4d CA with inverted wmk going for a healthy £340, and Montserrat closing Session 2, as had Leeward Islands, ahead of its estimates, so as to bring the running aggregates pretty close to parity. How would the auction end?

Session 3.

The apparent answer to this question was, continuing attrition: for lot after lot was finding buyers, but all too often at the opening bid which normally would be close to three-quarters of valuation.

So it continued, through Nevis, St. Christopher, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, and halfway through St. Vincent.

Then up came Rabacca, lot 613, on 4d value, unlikely ever to have been stocked in the office. £230 for this lot, £170 for the next probably wiped out the shortfall against estimates at a stroke. The faces of two of our most knowledgeable members were a study. Perhaps the tide had turned.

Maybe not, in the sense that attrition continued for the rest of St. Vincent and into Tobago, except that by this time there'd been another blockbuster to open Tobago. Lot 627, carefully protected by a reserve of £340, went for £520 on the book.

In essence this is the pattern of many a Circle auction. Repeatedly, lots go to a single bid, usually because supporters of individual territories and periods are thinly spread amongst our 20-odd countries of major interest. Then along comes a lot of value and character that invites competition, so that while the majority of items sold go for a discount off the arguably true value, the ones that fly high make up for the rest.

The arithmetic has not been finalised at the date of this report. The overview has moved from doom and gloom at Day minus 2, to a robust immediate sale of almost 58% of the offered lots, and there will be barely a whisker between estimates and results.

Following a late flurry in which the last six lots were all sold, the final one to a real competitive bout, Simon closed the sale at 5.32 pm, to an ovation which reflects on the unstinted voluntary endeavours of a 10-strong auction team. The Circle remains in good hands and good health.

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

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AROUND THE CARIBBEAN 4

BY MICHAEL HAMILTON

Some 20 years ago one of our membership was looking for a new collecting area and I suggested 'one each' of early BWI mail handled in differing manner embracing both postal markings and conveyance (i.e. single example horseshoe, fleuron, straight-line, ship letter, packet letter, private ship letter etc). As he did not take up the gauntlet we will never know how many frames he might have mustered two decades on. Wonderful items that spring to mind are a St. Vincent 1772 campaign entire from the camp at Grand Sable where the Surgeon writes to his expectant wife in Florida saying that his letter will be carried in a bottle by hired negro swimmer to a passing schooner; another entire, written 1842 by Charlotte Bruce, the wife of Lord Elgin, describes her night aboard *RMS Medina* having struck a coral reef just after midnight on the approach to the Turks Islands, and the hours until dawn spent bumping on the rocks, firing signal guns, and burning blue lights hoping for rescue. Two other ingredients which undoubtedly would also make the higher echelons of any rarity league come within the registered mail category. The first, which collectors of so many smaller countries can never hope to own (as I estimate availability to be less than 1 in every 10,000 items of survived mail) are those letters stopped by the postal authorities as suspected to contain coin, or other valuables, and are compulsorily registered to complete their journey. Even rarer from the same classic period are retrieved stolen registered mail and the Trinidad section below presents a unique feast!

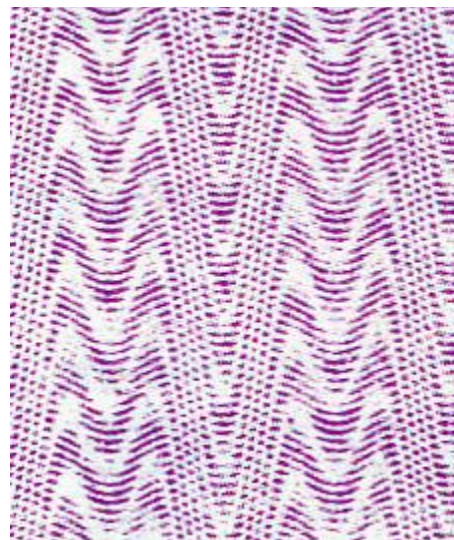
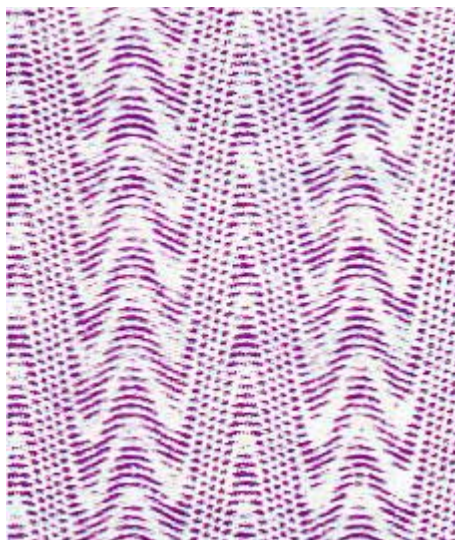


ANTIGUA: This entire is headed 'Antigua 28th Octr 1796' and marked 'by *Portland packet*' from the Tudway correspondence to Wells, Somersetshire. The '*Portland*' had left Falmouth with the mails for the Leeward Islands on AU 29 1796 and when off Barbados was attacked by a French privateer but was able to beat off the attacker and preserve the mails. The Cook, William Thomson, lost a leg during the fighting and subsequently died of his injuries. In calm seas, near Guadeloupe, another armed privateer, the '*Temeraire*', of much superior force gave chase. At daylight on 18 October the enemy hoisted her French colours and came alongside to board. The Master, Nathaniel Taylor, organised the passengers to open their musquetry upon her killing or wounding 41 of 68 on board. Captain Taylor was killed in the moment of victory. The '*Temeraire*' was taken into Montserrat as a prize, and the '*Portland*' left St. Kitts on 30 October bound Falmouth. Due to a shortage of fresh water she put into the River Shannon on the west coast of Ireland on 6 January 1797. Sailing shortly after she had to put back because of bad weather, and whilst sheltering she was driven from her moorings and higher up the river ran aground. Stranded and waiting to be refloated on the Spring Tides she eventually arrived at Falmouth on 25 March. At the first opportunity the Mate, Richard Leonard, personally took the mails from Limerick to England and they were placed in the London post 14 JA 97 per backstamp. This is the first recorded '*Portland*' interrupted mail entire clearly documenting its journey. The full story can be found in 'The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies' by Len Britnor Pages 72–73 published by the BWI Study Circle 1973.



BAHAMAS: The BAHAMAS dbl-arc makes rare appearances as an adhesive 'killer'. It is recorded 17 FE 62 on 4d pair (Urwick) and 4d single (Dale Lichtenstein), on off cover 14 MR 1864 strip of three presumed paying the 1s rate to UK, for JY 25 1864 on Chalon 1d loose adhesive, two 4d frankings dated 6 JA 1865 each to New York (the illustrated cover front 1d strip of four interestingly shared with "A05"), two further single 4d Chalon frankings dated 20 MR 1871 to Brooklyn and Philadelphia, and final single 4d Chalon cover dated 4 MR 1872 to New York. Finding the NASSAU-NEW-PROVIDENCE dbl-arc as an adhesive 'killer' will prove far more difficult. I only record a Chalon 4d loose stamp part dated xx JA 1865.

BERMUDA: The K4/K4a numeral duplex datestamps were issued 1 JA 1889 and Ludington earliest use for Ireland Island K4 '3' is recorded as 6 MR 89. This is backed up by K4 '3' written Boaz Island 14 MR 89 on 1½d Post Card to Denmark. Strikes for the previous K3 '3' inscribed INLAND-ISLAND in error are currently recorded for 7 MR 89 (Ludington LRD), 15 AP 89, 17 AP 89, and the current latest use dated 11 DE 89 being 11 months and 11 days after the K4 '3' was issued. Why such an extensive overlap?



BRITISH HONDURAS: Fresh supplies for wartime use of the KGV 1c, 2c, 5c were required in 1915 and to safeguard against their capture on the perilous high seas by German commerce raiders, or even a surfaced U-boat, the stamps were overprinted with a pale violet moiré pattern so if captured they could be invalidated. The question is will our Editor get a late 100th birthday use telegram to say that examples exist with inverted moiré overprint?!



DOMINICA: The illustrated 1879 QV 4d blue CC wmk (SG.7) is postmarked both horiz. 'A07' despatch and just sufficient Trinidad 20 JA 83 arrival cds which presents a rare opportunity to write up a little known fact. On joining the UPU on 1 JY 1879 the Dominica QV 2½d red-brown (SG.6) was procured during November 1879, with a rare first delivery of only 900 stamps, for use to member countries within a 300 mile radius. When Trinidad joined the UPU on 1 April 1879 the rate to Dominica was 2½d until it was found to be over 300 miles distant, and on 7 MR 1882 the rate was increased to the correct 4d (Aleong & Proud handbook Page 118). A cover with Trinidad QV 4d grey to D.O. Riviere in Dominica dated 27 NO 1882 is recorded. At present it is not known whether Dominica made the same mileage mistake and subsequently corrected.

JAMAICA: The current numeral to squared circle divide at Kingston is 15 JA 1885 with 2d x 2, 1s on PSRE to Cleveland, Ohio pmk'd 'A01' (Paul Wright collection) and 2d block of four to London pmk'd Kingston 25 JA 1885 squared circles (Gabor Kekko collection of overseas covers, Kohler Auktion 25 SP 2004)



JAMAICA: The Moravian Church, in German known as the Herrnhuter Brudergemeine, meaning Brethren's Congregation from Herrnhut is one of the oldest Protestant denominations in the world. The illustrations show incoming mail posted 21 AP 1871 to the Moravian Reverend J.L. Pulkrabek at Mile Gully and outgoing village mail manuscript dated '29.1.90' from St. Christopher to Herrnhut, Saxony.



JAMAICA: Stepping in as adhesive cancellers for lost or mislaid numerals on Jamaica Pine, Crown CC, Crown CA issues we have manuscript '36' (Dry Harbour) and '37' (Duncans), MILE-GULLY P9 datestamp used between A54 (H) demise and arrival A54 (J), SAVANNA-LA-MAR P11a datestamp after the early loss of A75 (H) until replaced by A75 (L), a probable SPANISH TOWN P11b datestamp use, plus the newly discovered manuscript Middle Quarters used at the opening of the office in 1876 pending the arrival of the A.82 (M) numeral from England. Others may eventually be found which satisfy other transition periods, and others, like the two below, will undoubtedly offer themselves up as frustrating candidates.



JAMAICA: Probably the poorest possible examples of a hitherto unknown rarity are these two examples of an unidentified brass mailbag seal each struck on 1870 QV 2d Crown CC wmk. In all likelihood we may never see better! The Thomas Foster handbook Page 89 most conveniently mentions a brass mailbag seal of unknown design being sent for Little River as per their request of 27 August 1849. During the adhesive period Little River was allocated the A50 (H) but no confirmed examples are found on either GB or Jamaica stamps prior its anticipated early office closure date of during 1858 or before 1860. The obliterator was returned to the GPO, Kingston and re-distributed for use at Malvern as of NO 1 1862. The E58 (K) numeral was sent out from London in July 1869 and at some point, which might have been immediate, or with some delay, was allocated to the Little River office re-opened 25 SP 1869. As the first consignment of the QV 2d CC wmk was invoiced 1 OC 1869, just six days later, the possibility definitely exists that this unidentified mailbag seal (perhaps even inscribed with office name) was Head Office sent for temporary duty during the early days of the Little River re-opening until Kingston decided on the definite allocation for E58 (K). If the glove can fit why not try to wear it!

TRINIDAD: The four entires to be mentioned remind me of my five years living in Montreal where I mailed out my first ever stamp price list (April 1972) and the time I worked at Reader's Digest, Canada where our department produced a one shot book entitled 'Canada, This Land, These People'. The story within which will live in my mind forever is 'The Man Who Refused To Die' about Bob Gauchie, a downed North West Territories pilot, who survived -50° arctic conditions, fighting off wolves etc, for 56 days. These covers also held out refusing to yield their story for the longest while. The first was found at a Nottingham stamp fair in the late 1980s and was actually only a cover front franked 1s Britannia, twice handstamped 'REGISTERED', dated 8 SP 1874, and charmingly addressed to Fish Market Street, Basseterre, St. Kitts. The somewhat cryptic endorsement of 'contents not known/stated no money' meant little and it quickly changed hands. The second entire, complete this time, to appear was similarly registered and franked to the same addressee, Joseph Vearia, and also dated 8 SP 1874 with same cryptic endorsement. Somewhat surprisingly for accountable mail there were no backstamps, but as it was opened on three sides it was easy to find the pencilled text reading 'said to have contained £10 – the writer however has since written to say he did not put them in as a private opportunity occurred for sending them which he availed himself of' followed by 'tear here' being below a central horizontal slit in the address panel. It now became clear that this, and the cover front, were tampered mail and the recipient had been contacted to ascertain whether money had been enclosed by the sender. At this point the frontal endorsement '14876/74' was overlooked. The story was taken a stage further when a similarly franked registered cover dated 26 JY 1874 to a Mrs. Alice Davoren, Palmetto Point, St. Kitts surfaced. Like the previous full cover there were no backstamps and with the reverse busted open delicate opening of the flaps revealed pencilled '£10 alleged to have been taken out of this letter' and further pencilled note indicating point of opening. The same facial endorsement of '14876/74' was now understood to be the case file number as these envelopes had at one time been held in a prosecuting solicitors files against a corrupt postal official. A fourth and currently final '14876/74' made its appearance as Lot 378 in the Spink 19 September 2001 auction of the Marriott collection. The cover, with 'POST OFFICE/Arms/SAN FERNANDO' reverse wax seals fetched a high price based on its fine appearance and destination, but whilst the description mentioned the frontal 'Five dollars' manuscript I believe that Sir John had not made the retrieved stolen registered mail association. These monetary enclosures are almost certainly consequences of migrant workers sending money home earned during the cane cutting harvest (celebrated in Barbados as 'Crop Over'). I cannot think of any BWI 1850s, 1860s, 1870s, 1880s inter-island retrieved mail from shipwrecks so these retrieved land mail covers break new ground and offer a unique opportunity for that overdue Caribbean vacation with further research at either the Trinidad or St. Christopher Gazette archives!



BRITISH WEST INDIES OFFERS FROM STOCK

ANTIGUA. 1922 £1 purple and black/red. Very fine used with BOLANS c.d.s. SG 61. £200	GRENADA. 1892 1d on 6d 'SURCHARGE POSTAGE' in tete-beche pair. Unmounted mint. SG D4a. £2500
BAHAMAS. 1862 6d lavender-grey. Very fine unused. An extremely rare stamp. RPS Cert. SG 11. £5500	JAMAICA. 1873 1/- marginal block of nine with part inscription. Very fine mint. Ex Baillie. £275
BARBADOS. 1861/70 (1½d) green in lower-left corner block of twelve. Very fine mint. BPA Cert. SG 21. £300	JAMAICA. 1951 5/- (Line Perf) lower marginal with part De La Rue imprint. Very fine mint. SG 132a. £4000
BRITISH GUIANA. 1951 \$1 (Perf 14 x 13) in corner block of four with Sheet No '090'. Unmounted mint. SG 317a. £1750	LEEWARDS. 1944 £1 Keyplate with 'missing pearl'. Very fine used with Montserrat c.d.s. Rare. SG 114ba. £900
CAYMANS. 1907 ½d on 5/-. A top marginal example with Plate No '1'. Unmounted mint. SG 18. £400	ST. LUCIA. 1935 2½d Jubilee block of four including the 'dot to left of chapel'. Unmounted mint. SG 111g. £125
CAYMANS. 1901 1d Stationery Die Proof in black on glazed paper (37mm x 63mm). Ex Cooley and Maisel. £375	ST. VINCENT. 1883 4d ultramarine-blue with watermark reversed. Very fine mint. SG 43x. £300
GRENADA. 1906 2/- 'SPECIMEN' (Type D9). Very fine mint. Very rare DLR trial for the chalky papers. SG 74a sp. £375	TRINIDAD. 1900 1d (Type II : Oval 'O') in corner Plate '1' block of four. Very fine mint. Rare piece. SG 116. £1100

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

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BRITISH GUIANA

POSTMARK UPDATE

BY JOHN WILSON



In connection with Michael Hamilton's British Guiana snippet in the September 2017 Bulletin (No. 254), I attach a scan of my own Hackney cancel, a full strike with date of 29 No 82, the two again lying upside down. Notably the 'HY' is struck in a very black ink, standing out from the other lettering, Traces of excised lettering can be seen from about 7 o'clock. I also attach a scan of my sole 'CA' (Cabacaburi) strike, a ragged remnant of a stamp which puzzled me until finally I saw what the cancel had to be.

BRITISH HONDURAS

FIRST RECORD OF AN 'R' IN OVAL REGISTRATION HANDSTAMP FROM STANN CREEK

BY JOHN SWALES



According to Ted Proud these oval registration handstamps were dispatched for use in Belize and certain village post offices in 1894. Apart from Belize, the first recorded examples are from Corozal, Orange Walk and Punta Gorda in 1901. Dr Ian Matheson's comprehensive listing of 'Registration Labels and Manuscript Endorsements of British Honduras' (copyright 2012) lists eight village post offices with R in oval handstamps, either from early in the 20th century or from later periods, when boxed handstamps or labels were presumably temporarily unavailable. Stann Creek is not among these eight and, according to a recent email from him, there were no examples in the either Ed Addiss's or Ted Proud's extensive collections of British Honduras postal markings. Above is a 1920 cover from Stann Creek (recently acquired on ebay) showing the R in oval plus the village name and registration number written in red ink.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

EXCHANGING INVALIDATED STAMPS

BY BRUCE STEWART



I recently acquired from an online auction site an OHMS cover bearing a mixture of British Virgin Islands and Leeward Islands stamps mainly commemorating the Inauguration of the British West Indies University College. It is addressed to Mr Robert Smith of Baltimore, Maryland, USA and bearing Road Town Tortola W.I. postmarks was sent by Registered Airmail on 3 March 1955.

On receiving the cover I was pleased to note a number of transit and receiving marks on the reverse including a boxed 'Give to The Princess Alice Appeal' stamp in the usual violet ink. However what really intrigued me was the original letter which was still in the envelope. This is from Harriette Penn, Commissioner's Office, Tortola to Mr Smith and concerns the receipt and return of certain stamps that he had sent to be exchanged as he presumably thought that they had been invalidated and so could be exchanged.

The letter states that –

'The stamps to be exchanged are returned herewith. These stamps have not yet been invalidated so cannot be exchanged presently. We exchange stamps when they have been invalidated for a period of three months after invalidation.'

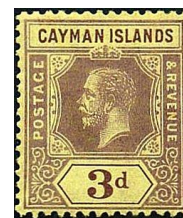
I was unaware of this practice and can only assume that it happened on a regular basis. It would be nice to know what stamps Mr Smith had sent for exchange. I'm guessing that as a number of BWI colonies moved from Sterling to the West Indian Dollar a few years earlier that the stamps to be exchanged were issued by the Virgin Islands and priced in Sterling.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

The KGV 3d purple on yellow (SG45)

BY PETER FERNBANK

Identifying the various shades of the colonial yellow papers can be a contentious subject and I have been asked by several Cayman Islands collectors over the years for my opinion on the shades of the 3d (SG45, a to e) and in particular on the yellow shade (SG45), which seems to be particularly difficult to find. The Stanley Gibbons catalogue provides the following shades of the yellow papers together with their dates of issue:-



<u>shade</u>	<u>Date of Issue</u>
Purple/yellow	26 Nov 14
white back	19 Nov 13
on lemon	12 Mar 18
on orange-buff	1920
on buff	1920
on pale yellow	1920

Five separate printings of the 3d were made as follows (dates provided are invoice dates from De La Rue's *Private Day Books*).

<u>Date of Ptg.</u>	<u>Plate No.</u>	<u>Qty (Panels of 60)</u>
22 Oct 1913	1b	250
23 Oct 1914	1b	254
9 Jan 1920	8	204
28 Apr 1920	8	40
10 Nov 1920	8	124

The first printing in 1913 was the surface tinted white backs and hence it is assumed that the 1914 printing is the yellow shade of paper (the paper shades being identified from the back of the stamp). However, the lemon shade of 1918 immediately produces an anomaly – there were no printings of the Caymans 3d between 1914 and 1920. This, coupled with the difficulty (or impossibility, see later) in finding examples of the yellow shade, led me to investigate how the catalogue shades of the early issues of this value were first assigned and dated.

Prior to 1920 it was quite possible for different shade names for the yellow paper to be used in stamp dealers' lists when referring to the same stamp (or equally for it to be just called 'yellow'). What prompted the efforts to more accurately define these paper shades was the use of three (possibly four) different shades of yellow paper employed in 1920, which in turn differed from those used pre-1920. It was *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Circular* of July 1922 that initially outlined the paper shade descriptions now familiar to us that were to be subsequently used (the buff shade is a much later addition to the shade categories, added c.1998 following my research on the coloured paper shades¹).

The Gibbons definition of the yellow shade at that time (1922) was '*... it may be said to include everything which does not fit into the groups which follow*' (i.e. the lemon, orange-buff and pale yellow shades). This was hardly a precision shade definition and it was later refined to '*The original yellow paper (throughout), usually bright in colour ...*'

One of the earliest references to the coloured papers used on the Caymans 3d was in F. J. Melville's booklet *The Postage Stamps of the Cayman Islands*, published c.1920². For the 3d value only the yellow and white back shades were listed, and from the dates of issue given for other values of the 1912 KGV definitive issue within this work it is evident that it was published prior to the three 3d printings made in 1920 (which are not mentioned). Two points concerning the 3d are important here: 1) Melville appears to have been the first to specify the issue date (26 Nov 14) for the yellow shade. 2) No mention is made of the lemon shade, which is perhaps understandable since this was before the shades of the yellow papers had been formally defined. At this time it was sufficient to just to call it yellow, subtleties of shade description being unnecessary.

And thus the yellow shade and its associated issue date (26 Nov 14) appear to have been handed down to us through later publications. These include Aguilar & Saunders' 1962 work on the Cayman Islands³ (where it was also ascribed to '1920 - Plate 8'), the Bridger & Kay (B & K) 1980 catalogue and the current Stanley Gibbons catalogue (although in a 1961 Gibbons catalogue I possess the yellow shade is dated to 1920 – was it later amended to 26 Nov 14 following Aguilar & Saunders' 1962 work?). Conversely, did Aguilar & Saunders' include the 1920 date based on the date being quoted by Gibbons catalogue at that time?

But what about the lemon shade? It is interesting to note that in the last ever issue of *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News* of May 1922 their classified list of stamps for sale recorded six shades of the Caymans 3d, which included the white back, lemon (dated to 1915) and four further shades variations for the 1920 Plate 8 printings, none of which was the yellow shade. Gibbons 1961 catalogue quoted 1915 as the issue date for the lemon shade (possibly derived from Ewens), but appear to have later amended this to '12 Mar 18', the date quoted for this shade in the B & K 1980 catalogue. The derivation of this 1918 date is not known (by me).

The three later printings of the 3d, all made in 1920 from Plate 8, present a number of challenges in allocating shades to the various printings, but I have seen a large number of Plate 8 copies and I concur with Ewens' classifications⁴, none of which accord with Gibbons current definition of 'yellow'.

My personal belief is that the Caymans 3d was never issued on the yellow paper shade. It seems to me that Melville got it wrong (perhaps understandably) in 1916 and his categorisation of 'yellow' instead of 'lemon', with its associated date of issue (26 Nov 14), has been passed down to us via Aguilar and Saunders, B & K and Gibbons. I believe there to be a very strong case for the purple/yellow shade to be deleted from the catalogue.

References

1. *King George V Key Plates of the Imperium Postage and Revenue Design* (2nd Edition), P. E. Fernbank, BWISC 2013, p.45
2. *The Postage Stamps of the Cayman Islands*, Booklet Number 33, Fred. J. Melville, c.1920, p. 14
3. *The Cayman Islands, Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks*, E. F. Aguilar & P. T. Saunders, 1962, pp. 46, 47.
4. *King George V Key Plates of the Imperium Postage and Revenue Design* (2nd Edition), P. E. Fernbank, BWISC 2013, pp 129, 130.



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GRENADA

A BOOK ABOUT GRENADA PHILATELY

(continued from Bulletin 256 p20 – 23)

BY TIM PEARCE

Chapter Two: Postal History in the Handstamp Period, 1762–1858

1762–1779 First British period

Following the signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763, and the transfer of the island from France to Britain, the French proprietors were inevitably anxious to sell. British plantation owners and financial interests rapidly sent off agents to purchase estates from the French residents.

In 1764, a post office was opened and Grenada became a packet stop for the British Packet Boats out of Falmouth. The stops on the packet route were at Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts, Jamaica, Pensacola, St. Augustine, Savannah and Charleston (Carolina), and back to Falmouth. The circuit from Barbados to Charleston was expected to take about forty days. (The origins and details of the packet boats may be found in Robson Lowe's *Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps*, Volume VI, Leeward Islands, Appendix D, The Packet Service, and in the Barbados section of Edward Proud's *Postal History*.) The charge for a packet letter was 1s from 1 June 1765. A Census taken in 1771 showed 1,661 whites, 415 free coloureds and 26,211 slaves. In that year and again in 1775, the town of St George's, built of wood, was destroyed by fire.

In most cases of surviving early letters, the only marks are the postal rate. The earliest known letter from Grenada is dated 26 April 1764, to London. This is the first of a series of letters to George Amyand, MP, later Sir George and First Baron Cornwall, from his agent, John Harvey. Amyand was the equivalent of a banking millionaire, who had helped to bankroll the Seven Years War. (The details of the correspondence have been described and illustrated in BWISC Bulletin, No 204, March 2005, pp.27–31.) The correspondence concerns the possible purchase of an estate in the north of Grenada (Sauteurs) owned by Lataste and Jeyfons. There are references in the later letters to Sir George Amyand's illness. It appears that Harvey acquired the property himself and is looking for another for Sir George in 1766. The La Taste estate, however, is certainly in the possession of the second Baronet by 1771. Some of these letters are marked Ship or Ship Letter in manuscript but there are no other postal markings apart from the rate.

On another early letter of 22 May 1764 to Liverpool, the rate is 1s1d, designated by a scrawled 1N1, (i.e. 1s1d) made up of 1d to the Ship's Captain, 2d for transit in Ireland or Scotland where the ship landed, 6d for transit on to London and 4d for delivery to Liverpool. Another letter from the same correspondence, containing an advertisement for an estate sale, was rated 1s3d, 1N3, made up of 1d to the ship's captain, 6d double rate for entry port to London and 8d double rate, London to Liverpool. Most letters were duplicated and sent by different routes since the mail was often lost to weather, to war or to pirates and privateers. Many letters were forwarded privately and carry no markings except the name of the ship and its captain. Similarly Ship Letter handstamps were not widely used at this date, so the entry port often cannot be identified.

1779–1783 Final French period

In October 1777, the Americans won a significant victory over the British at Saratoga. This resulted in the French openly declaring war against the British in February 1778. In April 1778, Comte d'Estaing sailed with a large fleet to New York, fought the British along the Atlantic coast and at the end of 1778 sailed to the West Indies to protect St. Lucia, then French. While the British were occupied defending St. Kitts in 1779, the French took St. Vincent and on 5 July defeated the British in Grenada.



The British fleet engaged D'Estaing's fleet off Grenada, but the result was indecisive, and Grenada remained French for the next four years until it was returned to the British by the Treaty of Versailles on 19 December 1783. The Grenada Handbook reports that during this period the island was ruled in a most despotic manner by the Comte de Durat and the British colonists were heavily oppressed.

Some mail survives from this period to France and also to Britain, though the latter had to take a devious route via Ostende which was not under French control. By 1783, it was assumed that Grenada would be returned to Britain and letters were travelling direct from Grenada to London and other British destinations such as Portsmouth, Liverpool and Glasgow. In this period the Captain's 1d gratuity was not charged. Many more letters have survived from Grenada in 1783 than from any previous year.

1783–1858 Handstamp era

The new Governor of Grenada, Edward Matthew established the Assembly and restored civil and political liberties to Roman Catholics and French subjects, but the tyranny of Durat had led to bad feeling and the ultra-Protestant party, led by Ninian Home, attacked the Roman Catholics, in some cases pillaging their property and appropriating their churches and revenues. Many French residents migrated to Trinidad. By 1792, the French residents were virtually disenfranchised. Although the administration of the island had gradually improved with new roads, public buildings and markets in each of the seven parishes, the open antagonism between the French and British contributed strongly to the force of the Fédon Rebellion in 1795.

Following the French revolution of 1789, the free coloureds and slave populations rebelled: in Haiti in 1791, in St. Vincent and Jamaica in 1795 and then in Grenada. In 1795–6, Victor Hugues, the Commissioner sent by the National Convention in France to command military operations in the Windward Islands, promised arms and ammunition to a rebel force in Grenada, led by a coloured planter, Julien Fédon, who owned the Belvidere estate inland from Gouyave, and supported by the Roman Catholics.

The violence began in the north on 2 March 1795. 11 of the 15 British residents of Grenville (La Baye) were dragged from their houses and shot. The town was razed. Ninian Home, by then Governor, was away from St. George's when the news arrived. He attempted to reach St. George's by sea from Sauteurs but was forced to put in at Gouyave by what they thought was a pirate ship. Home and his party were captured by the rebels and taken to Fédon's camp above Belvidere. By 8 March the rebels were in command of the whole island, except St. George's, and if it had not been for Fédon's inability to mount a full-scale assault on the well fortified capital, the revolt might have succeeded.

The Government, under Kenneth MacKenzie, in the absence of Home, had sent for help from neighbouring islands and established a blockade to prevent more arms and ammunition arriving for the rebels. In April, an attack was mounted on the rebels in Grenville, and on 8 April, an attack was made on Fédon's Camp, which forced him to retreat to his upper and more commanding post, Camp de la Mort. Although this attack was unsuccessful, due to heavy rains, fallen trees, the rawness of new recruits, the inaccessible terrain and the enemy's intelligence of the attack, Fédon lost his brother and a few men. Enraged by this, he carried out the threat he had made earlier to execute the prisoners. 48 of 51 were killed, including Ninian Home.

Intermittent warfare continued for the next year and by 1796, the colony had been reduced to desolation. The planters' lives were ruined and, congregated in St. George's, they were close to famine. By March, however, the British under General Nicholls had received large reinforcements and between 22 March and 10 June, the fortunes of war turned against Fédon. The final stages were brutal and all Fédon's officers were captured or killed, though Fédon himself apparently escaped. Those captured were subsequently executed.

It is during this complex and stormy period from 1783 to 1796, that the first series of official postal markings were introduced, and it is not surprising that the number of letters surviving from any year is quite small. Shirley Gordon, in *A Century of West Indian Education*, 1963, makes it quite clear that not only were most of the slaves deprived of any sort of education, but that it was in fact the planters themselves who were the actual barbarians, and were frequently accused of being 'crude, immoral, unlettered and oafish'.



The first postal handstamp, a straight-line Grenada in upper and lower case, is recorded in 1784 and the earliest known example is dated 8 February. It seems to have survived for barely a year and the last known of the eleven recorded is dated 17 January 1785.

This example was posted to Inverness on 1 January 1785, and most recently owned by Peter Jaffé. It is typical of all the known examples in being used as a backstamp and with rather faint ink. As was common in semi-tropical conditions, the ink pads easily dried out. **A1**



It was replaced by a new straight-line GRENADA in serified 4mm capitals. Only one example of this has ever been found, addressed to Glasgow and dated 19 March 1785. It was first recorded by C.M. Payne in BWISC Bulletin 75 of December 1972. **A2**



This handstamp must have disappeared rather quickly as a new circled Grenada crown is first recorded on 4 June 1785 and is used from then until 1799, initially on ship letters but later only on packet letters. It even survived the upheaval of Fédon's revolution and is known on a letter of 14 May 1796, from a planter, who has lost everything, pleading for assistance. Compared with its two predecessors, this handstamp has survived on entires in relatively large numbers. **A3**



The next handstamp is a sort of circular date stamp. It shows 'GRENADA' across the middle of a 27mm circle. Beneath it is the date in the form 25 MAR 99. The year slugs, however, were not usually included and are only known for 1799, 1800, 1809 and 1814. Dates were introduced to counter the false insurance claims for lost cargoes. Insurance would be taken out in Britain *after* it was known that a ship was lost and without a dated postmark the fraud was difficult to detect. The circular rim of the handstamp sometimes shows but is usually missing, another probable consequence of dried out ink pads. **A4**



References to a single-line GRENADA handstamp during this period probably refer to this handstamp when there is no trace of the rim. **A4a & b**



During the period of use of that handstamp, a new Ship Letter/Crown/GRENADA handstamp in an oval frame appeared, in a design very similar to one used in Portsmouth and in Montreal and Quebec. A version with the word Ship excised was also used in Nevis in 1837–40. **A5**

Five covers or entires are known with this handstamp dated from April to June 1815, most of which are from Grenada to Edinburgh. It has not been clearly explained why this new handstamp was needed but all the known strikes occur in the period from 20 October 1814 to 1 August 1815 during which the Post Paid Withdrawn Ship Letter Act was in force. Ship Letter handstamps were applied at the point of arrival in the country of destination. In A.D.Smith's account of the *Development of Rates of Postage*, George Allen and Unwin, 1917, of which the Ship Letter chapter is reprinted in Robson Lowe's *Handstruck Stamps of the Empire*, 1941, it is clear that there was a good deal of dispute about the various charges. The two Acts passed in 1814 and 1815 appear to have arisen from a dispute between the Post Office and the East India Company over raised charges and obligations of ship's captains to carry letters for the Post Office. These letters from Grenada were apparently handed to the Grenada Post Office rather than to the ship's captain. Similar Ship Letter handstamps were also used in this period at St. Vincent and at Berbice in British Guiana.

From 1829, when the first of the three was proofed in London, the mail from Grenada was stamped with a series of double-arc circular datestamps.



A6



A9



A10

The first, A6, is recorded from 1830–1844, when the second, A9, was proofed in London. This is recorded from 1844–1859. The third with GRENADA in sans-serif lettering. A10, is more mysterious. Robson Lowe gives its dates as 1846–56 and similar handstamps were sent to Bahamas, Barbados, Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tortola and Turks at the same period. In 1973, it was recorded by Dan Walker as running from 1835–1847, In his next publication, it is recorded only in June & August 1847, with the implication that it was sent as replacement for A9 but was very soon lost or damaged so that A9 continued in use. In 1991, however, a cover was sold in Russell Jones's collection which shows A10 clearly dated MR 10 1849 and with the A code, which is on the Walker cover dated 10 JU 1847, but not on 9 AU 1847. Why this handstamp is so rare remains unresolved unless more examples appear.

A similar handstamp for Carriacou has been recorded for JU 10 1847 with the A code. Five examples are known. The latest is dated 8 DE 1848.



Two very rare handstamps are recorded in 1842. One is a two-line 'GRENADA SHIP LETTER' in serified capital letters. The Ship Letter marks were intended for use on incoming mail and were rarely used properly in the Caribbean. **A7**

And the second, of which four strikes are recorded, is a straight-line 'CARRIACOU', which has been adapted from a similar 'CARRIACOU SHIP LETTER' with the second line cut away. This was used again in 1845. **A8**





B1

The last handstamps issued to Grenada were the Crowned Circle 'PAID AT GRENADA' stamps. A stamp of this type for Carriacou was registered at the GPO on 13 November 1846, but no example has ever been found. The Grenada Crowned Circle was registered on 24 October 1850. It is recorded from 1851–1855 and then was in use again in 1860–61, when there was a delay in ordering the first Grenada adhesive postage stamps. Many of the strikes are poorly printed or smudged.

In 1858, The Postmaster-General of the United Kingdom notified that British stamps were to be used in the branches of the British Post Office established in the Colonies and that these colonies would be supplied with distinguishing numbered obliterators. These will be described in the next chapter.

Checklist of Handstamps The numbering of the handstamps has gone through various stages. Charlton's numbering in 1955 was superseded and revised by Dan Walker. The numbering here simplifies the sequence somewhat and has been approved by Dan. Ted Proud's numbering is so different that it would only cause misunderstandings, but may be included as an appendix in the eventual book. Please let me know of errors and omissions at timpearce770@btinternet.com

A1	Grenada	30mm long	8 FE 1784 – 17 JA 1785
A2	GRENADA	36 mm long	19 MR 1785 only recorded date
A3	Circled GRENADA crown	21mm diameter	4 JU 1785 – 6 FE 1799
A4a, b	Circled s-l GRENADA	27mm diameter	25(?) MAR 99 – 18 JA (1829) The perimeter circle often does not show. The year date has only been seen for 1799–1801, 09 and 14
A5	Ship Letter/crown/GRENADA in oval		AP-JU 1815 Within the period from 10 OC 1814 – 1 AU 1815 when the Post Paid Withdrawn Ship Letter Act was in force.
A6	GRENADA double-arc	28mm diameter	27 SP 1830 – 25 MY 1844
A7	GRENADA SHIP LETTER		1842 only recorded date
A8	CARRIACOU (SHIP LETTER erased)		1842 four recorded
A9	GRENADA double-arc	29mm diameter	25 JY 1844 – 25 JY 1859 Latterly used as a back-stamp. Sometimes with B code
A10	GRENADA sans-serif double-arc	26mm diameter	10 JU 1847 – 10 MR 1849 Only 5 strikes known
A11	CARRIACOU double-arc A code		10 JU 1847 – 8 DE 1848
A12a	A15 obliterator, sloping 5		1858 – 1881 Late examples of these two strikes are found in brown (1874–5) and blue (1880–1) see chapter 3
A12b	A15 obliterator, upright 5		
A13	Circular date stamp, C code	19mm diameter	14 AP 1859 – 10 DE 1859. Used as a back-stamp, changed to A code 1860s, see chapters 3 & 8
B1	PAID AT GRENADA in double circle, red		1851–1858, 1860–1861
B2	PAID AT CARRIACOU		Listed by Robson Lowe, none recorded



JAMAICA

The International Human Rights Year proposed issue of 1968

By Barry Evans



Members of the BWISC may be unaware that it is 50 years this year (2018) since Jamaica withheld an issue of their stamp for the Human Rights Year 20th anniversary.

The year 1968 marked 20 years of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and was proclaimed 'International Year for Human Rights' by the United Nations General Assembly.

On 10 January 1968 His Excellency the Governor General of Jamaica announced 1968 to be Human Rights Year in Jamaica¹.

In 1965 a decision was made by the Jamaican Parliament to establish a committee to work on planning a series of celebratory events for 1968 including the issuing of specially designed postage stamps in commemoration of the International Year for Human Rights².

Ms Jennifer Toombs was commissioned by the Crown Agents to prepare designs for three stamps for this Human Rights Issue for Jamaica.

Her original design notes read as follows:–

General

From a study made of the UN's International Declaration of Human Rights I have taken as the overall theme the filling of human needs on a universal basis;

Feeding the body Feeding the mind Feeding the spirit.

with the all-important theme running throughout:–

'The Right of everyone to EQUALITY'. The threefold stamp issue lends itself to these three basic human requirements, and I have attempted to portray their fulfillment symbolically by all races equally free to do so. The coloured and white 'hands' on each stamp represent the differences in race, working together in freedom and harmony.

3d value (Feeding the Body)

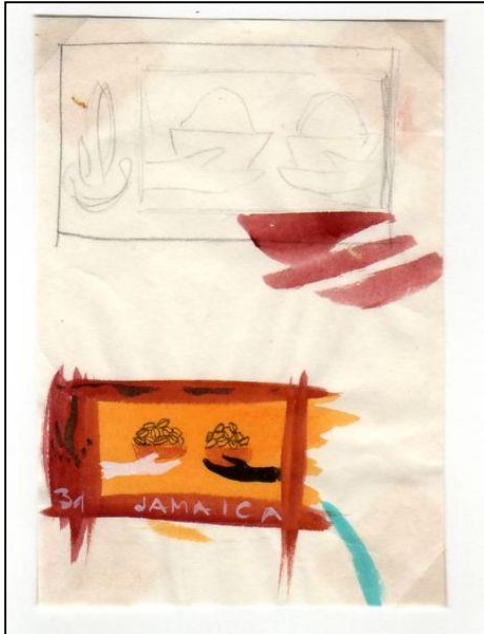
'The Right of Individuals to Life, Liberty and Security'. The bowls of grain represent not only the physical nourishment (and, of course, freedom from hunger and poverty) but means to sustain Mankind in all aspects; and the equal portions explain the rights of all races to equal prosperity. The amber and gold colours would emphasise harvest, abundance, prosperity. Four printings.

1s value (Feeding the Mind)

'The Right of Everyone to an Education'. A good education, for all races equally, represented by an abacus. The design also bears a deeper meaning: that, besides learning the 'Three Rs', people might also learn to live in harmony with one another and tolerate differences: hence the brown and white 'balls' on the frame. Three printings, there being two shades of the turquoise.

3s value (Feeding the Spirit)

'The Right of Each Person to Move about freely, to Worship as he Chooses'.... Also stipulated in this article, '...Search for Understanding'. All this ties up with the third basic need of mankind, the need for spiritual satisfaction, in whatever way each individual chooses. In this design the two pairs of 'hands' are in an attitude of prayer, but in different positions: to symbolised the different ways in which one may search for and/or make contact with God, whether through direct worship, or by humanitarian service, etc. The purple is symbolic of Spiritual Power. Three printings.



Feeding the Body showed two hands, one black and one white holding bowls of grain.



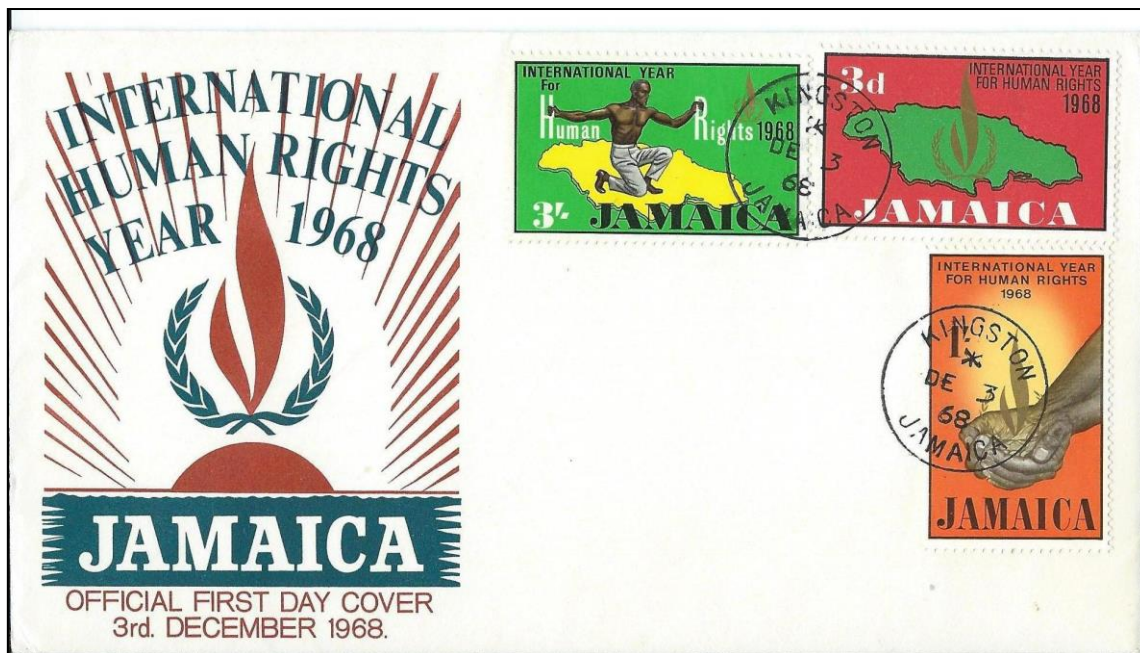
Feeding the Mind showed two hands one black one white using an abacus. Note in the final stamp the positions of the hands have been reversed.



Feeding the Spirit showed two hands one black one white in prayer
Shapes changed in final stamp

The designs and artwork were finally approved, the stamps printed, publicity organised and sets despatched for release on the scheduled date.

However, as Thomas Foster reported in his first Jamaica Newsletter No 1 in Stamp Collecting; *'March should have seen the appearance of the Human Rights issue designed by Jennifer Toombs and printed in Holland, but the stamps were rejected shortly before issue and the whole printing destroyed. Again, more about this in a later letter. In the meantime, an open competition for suitable designs was held in the island and the stamps finally appeared on December 3rd together with an attractive official first day cover but no special postmark'.*



This replacement showed the Flame superimposed on the island (3d), hands cupping the Human Rights emblem (1s), and a Jamaican sitting on top of the island of Jamaica holding the 'H' and 'R' in 'Human Rights' (3s).

Note that the wording on the cover and the stamps are different.

Thomas Foster in his Jamaica Newsletter No 2 reported as follows:—

*'The **Human Rights** set designed by Jennifer Toombs was to be issued early in 1968, but at the last moment it was cancelled. The official explanation given was that the designs were not considered suitable, and as the Jamaican Prime Minister was personally interested a decision was made to select designs submitted by Jamaicans, whose work was considered by the Human Rights Committee to be more appropriate depictions of Human Rights from a Jamaican concept. The Toombs designs went so near to issue that mint sets were distributed by the Crown Agents to the US press for publicity purposes. Some of these have come on the market recently and command high prices, deserving mention in the catalogues as being prepared for use but not issued'.*

Comparisons have been made to the unissued 6d of the Abolition of Slavery pictorial in 1919. It is interesting to note (Jamaica Newsletter No.16 Stamp Collecting 15 March 1973) that the Toombs stamps and the Slavery stamp were to be part of a Jamaica exhibit on 12 May 1973 in Kingston upon Hull at the 27th Convention of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association.

In January 2011 part of Joseph Mahfood's collection was sold by Spink in New York. Joe Mahfood is a noted designer of Jamaica stamps and avid collector. This included all the artwork for the unissued stamps for the 1968 Human Rights issue designed by Jennifer Toombs. It was subsequently re-auctioned by Grosvenor in June 2012 and forms the basis of this article.

An item designed by Mahfood relating to the Jamaican Rowland Hill stamp on stamp issue of 1979 was also auctioned by Grosvenor. It shows a clear example of his modification of Jennifer Toombs artwork from 1968.



Clearly the design was not adopted since the final issue bore the revised Human Rights design on the 50c.

Was this Mahfood paying homage or a case of déjà vu?

References

1. Ministry Paper No 5 Proclamation by Jamaica of 1968 as Human Rights Year. H L Shearer Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs 24 January 1968.
2. Ministry Paper No 81 21 October 1965
Thomas Foster Jamaica letter No 1.
Thomas Foster Jamaica Newsletter No 2 Stamp Collecting 22 May 1969
Thomas Foster Jamaica Newsletter No 16 Stamp Collecting 15 March 1973
Spink's Auction 28 January 2011 Lots 1328, 1329, Original artwork for Early Elizabethan issues of Jamaica from 1962 –1983, and Original artwork for Jamaican stamps designed by Joseph Mahfood.
Grosvenor auctions 12 June 2012 Lot 1045
Grosvenor auctions British Empire and Foreign Countries 5 October 2012 Lot 1823
Information from Joe Mahfood contained within the purchase
'Toombsiana Topics'; Eric Waldo / Jennifer Toombs / Rob van der Nol
Private discussions and correspondence - Jennifer Toombs with my thanks.

Electronic copies of all the artwork have been donated to the BWISC library archives for future use and reference.

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NEVIS

THE DE LA RUE KEY PLATES ON COVER

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

The splendid new handbook on Nevis, a collaboration between Messrs. Borromeo, Freeland, Ford and others, published in 2014, breaks a century-long silence (broken only by a booklet in the 'Classic Collections' series in 2001, and by a number of specialised articles) on the philately and postal history of Nevis.

Pages 101–106 are devoted to a census of De La Rue keyplates on covers. 'Our census of De La Rue stamps on cover appears below. As with any such census, it will very likely be shown to be incomplete once this book is published, but it gives a good indication of how scarce these covers are'.

Gaertners' February 2016 auction produced one of these scarce covers which was not recorded by Borromeo and Freeland. It is of special interest for two reasons. First, it is a sister cover to KP 32 illustrated in the census, being from Chas. H. Simmonds to Campbell, Consul of Colombia in Jersey, paid at the correct fourpence rate. Second, the franking of a strip of four of the One Penny dull rose-carmine appears to be unique; only two other covers bearing this stamp (one a pair, one a single) are included in the census.

Each of the four stamps (SG27/27a) is sweetly tied by the 'A09' obliterator, type 2, accompanied by Nevis cds type PQ dated 'AP10/90'. Arrival in Jersey is recorded by cds code B1 dated 'AP26/90'. It is an unusually beautiful commercial cover.



Gilding the lily, the right hand stamp, slightly torn with the opening of the envelope, shows the broken 'i' in NEVIS flaw from position 10/5 in the sheet.

Reference:

Federico Borromeo & Charles Freeland 'Nevis, The Stamps and Postal History 1661–1890' BWISC 2014

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