



## **STUDY CIRCLE**

### **Jamaican Postcards the Coat of Arms and the reversed 'N'**



Proof Jamaican Postcard with reversed 'N'.

**See Dingle Smith's article.**



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**BULLETIN No. 258 September 2018**

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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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IN THIS ISSUE		Page
Programme of Events & Information		3
Around the Caribbean 5	Michael Hamilton	5
Antigua, English Harbour MS cancel?	John Jordan	10
Barbados, The Plate Numbers of the 1925–35 Badge Definitives	Patricia Capill	11
Cayman Islands, 3 May 2018: Captain James Podger FRPSL – Cayman Islands	Simon Richards	13
Jamaica, The Enduring Myth of the Temporary Rubber Datestamps of Jamaica, part 1.	David Horry	17
St. Vincent, The Saint Vincent forgeries of Plácido Ramón de Torres, Tracing a Spanish forger's footprints.	Peter Elias & Gerhard Lang-Valchs	30
St. Vincent, Review	David Horry	34
Auction Report	Graham Booth	36
Membership, Web-Master's & Editor's Reports		39

## SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

### MEETINGS & EVENTS

**Wednesday 12 to Saturday 15 September 2018** Autumn Stampex, BDC Islington, London, N10 0QH.

#### **Saturday 15 September 2018**

Regrettably we have been forced to cancel the meeting on the Saturday afternoon of STAMPEX. The process for booking rooms has been little short of chaotic. It has been extremely difficult to get any information out of the organisers until the final decision was made that we were double-booked and would have to give up the allocated room. It is most unfortunate that we have had to make this decision; but we have little alternative. Graham Booth

#### **Change of Date & Venue**

**Saturday 11 May 2019** AGM & Auction at Spink, 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London WC1B 4ET. Auction viewing from 12 noon, AGM at 1:15pm, followed by auction at 2:15pm finishing at 5:30pm.

**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 authors Charles Freeland, Roy Bond and Russell Boylan for achieving a Large Vermeil medal for their book 'St. Vincent 1899–1965' at the Newcastle Centenary Stamp Show, 25–27 May 2018.

The judges notes included the following 'The authors are to be congratulated on a fine production, which was the best entry in the Literature Class'.

It is my sad duty to inform you that:

Ewan Cameron, of Jamaica, died on 14 July 2018.

Jennifer Toombs, who worked as a stamp designer on many modern BWI issues, died in April 2018.

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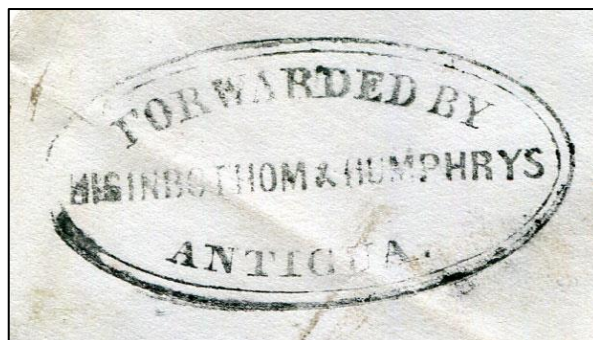


## AROUND THE CARIBBEAN 5

BY MICHAEL HAMILTON

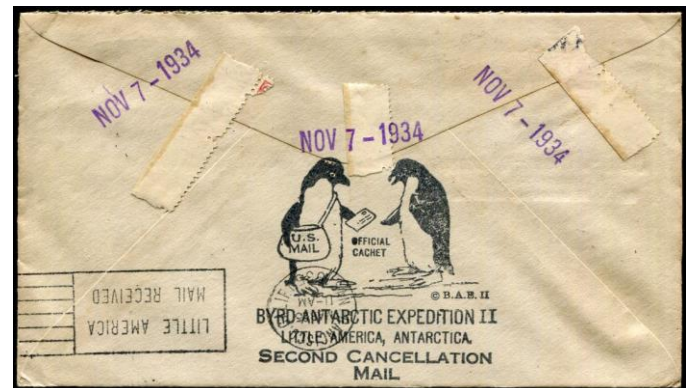
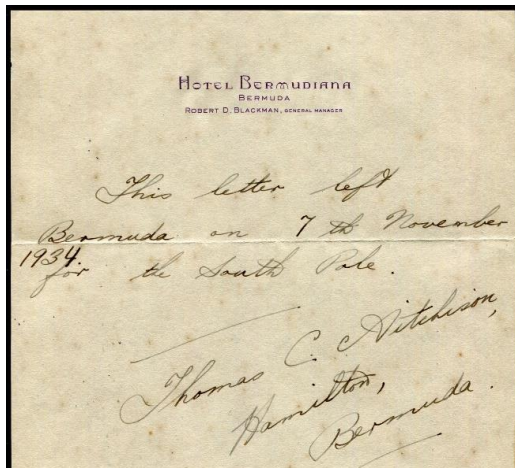
Imagine there being a Jamaica used in Caymans 1d Falls on piece, or cover, with GB QV 1d lilac alongside for onward UK forwarding! If that hurdle could be overcome there is just a slender chance that covers from all the BWI group could be assembled for display in combination with either a GB QV 1d black, imperforate or perforated 1d red, 2d blue, 4d vermilion for France, or 1d lilac. Having thought about that for a few seconds visualise ingoing QV period mail locally forwarded with BWI adhesive to appreciate how near impossible that group is! But they do exist as use is confirmed in the Jamaica section by the exceptional Merkel steam carver cover. There is no doubt that 90% of any such display would be BWI covers in combination with perforated GB QV 1d red. As wonderful as these are I feel that there is a huge divide between those combinations and the bigger beast alternatives which display BWI adhesives with more unusual origin or destination. The Nicholson and Glassco collections offered the Cuba, GB used abroad, Jamaica triple combination illustrated below, whilst the St. Thomas section boasts stamps of four different countries on single cover from the Edward S. Knapp collection.

**ANTIGUA:** The newly published handbook of Antigua stamps by Charles Freeland and John Jordan, published by the Study Circle, briefly mentions Antigua forwarding agent Hurst Turner & Co on Page 12 and illustrates their manuscript endorsement on an incoming 1852 cover from New York on Page 14. Two new mentions, both unknown at time of going to press, are an entire of unknown origin endorsed on reverse manuscript 'Antigua Dec. 13 1777. Received under Cover & forwarded by Sir your most humble serv. David Greene' and handstruck cachet used by HIGINBOTHOM & HUMPHRYS and supported by ANTIGUA MR 11 1851 dbl-arc from neighbouring island St. Martin (MR 2) to London marked 'Particular care of R. Higinbothom Esq, U.S. Consul, Antigua'.



**BAHAMAS:** Late uses of the QV 1d are currently confined to the period 20 MY 1911 to 28 JA 1912. Examples are far from common but are recorded from Bimini, Clarence Town Long Island, Deadman's Cay, Fresh Creek, George Town (LRD), Green Turtle Cay, Inagua, Mangrove Cay, Mastic Point, Nicholls-Town, Rock Sound, Rum Cay, Spanish Wells (ERD), Tarpum-Bay, 'The Bight', Watlings. These seemingly re-introduced QV 1d stamps give a first impression that KE7 1d stamps were no longer available and KGV 1d stamps not yet printed (KE7 having been monarch period 22 JA 1901 – 6 MY 1910). Contact with our Peter Fernbank has established the following picture: there were three stamp deliveries for the period being 4,968 sheets of 60 KE7 1d invoiced 22 OC 1909, 1,901 sheets of 60 Staircase 1d invoiced 14 SP 1910, 5,108 sheets of 60 KE7 1d invoiced 6 JY 1911. The conclusion drawn is that there were adequate stocks of the KE7 and Staircase 1d and the re-introduction of the QV 1d was probably the Post Office using up old stock rather than see it go to waste. The Bahamas KGV 1d delivery was not invoiced until 15 JY 1912. Malta were also using up their 'One Penny' on QV 2½d in 1913.

**BARBADOS:** The closest you will get to having a first page for Barbados adhesives is to own the entire written at Little River, Jamaica on 27 FE 1852 to Bell, Steward & Lloyd in London with contents including 'your favor of the 14th January apprising me of the loss, in the unhappy 'Amazon', of your letters of 17th and 24th December last'. The first supply of 10,000 undenominated Britannia design stamps were invoiced DE 31 1851 and the consignment sent on the maiden voyage of the Royal Mail Steam Packet 'Amazon' which was lost having caught fire in the Bay of Biscay some 36 hours after departure from Southampton on 2 JA 1852. Only 58 of the 162 passengers and crew were rescued and her loss was regarded as a national tragedy with Queen Victoria and Prince Albert heading an appeal for support of the widows and orphans.



**BERMUDA:** A short note on Hotel Bermudiana stationery written by Thomas Campbell Aitchison in Hamilton reads 'This letter left Bermuda on 7th November 1934 for the South Pole'. The accompanying envelope is self addressed and flap sealed by stamp selvage which remarkably shows a small portion of a red adhesive which is a perfect match for the top right corner of the 1d Caravel issue (as per mock-up illustration), the selvage is additionally tied by his bold 'NOV 7 – 1934' date handstamp. The cover was taken on the BYRD ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION II and an appropriate pair U.S. 3c Byrd Antarctica Expedition II stamps were affixed and cancelled at the LITTLE AMERICA, ANTARCTICA base on JAN 30 1935. An official cachet depicting two penguins was struck on reverse, the middle selvage just tied by a penguin hair's breadth. Buried within the cachet is San Francisco, Calif. LITTLE AMERICA/MAIL RECEIVED machine cancel dated 'MR 25 1935' which returned the cover to Bermuda. Thomas Aitchison moved with his parents from Mt. Kisco, New York to Bermuda in 1923, he served in the British Army in the Black Watch during WWII, and as an accomplished Scottish trained bagpiper he played for Prince Phillip and Princess Elizabeth prior to her becoming Queen. As a journalist he met many famous people including Albert Einstein and Rudyard Kipling.

**BERMUDA:** The Dockyard, Bermuda received around 9,000 British and Irish convicts during the period 1823-63. They were mainly kept on board prison hulks moored off the naval dockyard and taken off for daily labour to undertake massive public works projects, most notably the building of the Dockyard. Apart from the Ludington 1858 'PAID AT IRELAND ISLE' Convict's letter on specially printed paper to the Inspector of Police in Banbury two entires are recorded written during 1850 from Ireland from a Masonic Lodge to a convict on board 'H.M.S. Thames' at St. Georges giving character references, each have unframed 'Derrylin/Ballyconnell' despatch handstamps.





The Committee of the St. George's Grammar School have taken into consideration the travelling expenses incurred by any pupils residing at St. David's whose parents desire them to join the school and offer the following rates  
 For 1 pupil 1 year £4--  
 " 2 pupils " " £7--  
 " 3 pupils " " £9--

*Approved  
 J. W. McCallan*

**BERMUDA:** In July 1609 Sir George Somers left Plymouth on the flagship 'Sea Venture' as part of a fleet of 9 vessels with supplies for the new English colony at Jamestown, Virginia. In a severe storm she was separated and driven onto the reefs at Bermuda with all 150 sailors and settlers saved; this event is thought to be Shakespeare's inspiration for *The Tempest*. With materials primarily stripped from the 'Sea Venture' two new ships, 'The Deliverance' and 'The Patience', were built and most set sail again on May 10 1610 for Jamestown. Smith's island in St. George's became Bermuda's first settlement when three of the survivors, Christopher Carter, Edward Waters and Edward Chard (two were mutineers), set up camp becoming the first accidental permanent colonists. They built cabins, planted beans, melons, tobacco, maize, fished the coast and hunted wild hogs left there from an earlier visit by the Spanish. When 'The Plough' arrived from England on 11 July 1612 with the first part of planned colonists Governor Moore was delighted with the garden produce because the Somer Isles Company in London had supplied him with some 80 varieties of seeds to try in Bermuda. Many of the first European crops Virginia and later American colonies saw were planted on Smith's Island. The illustrated QV ½d postcard, postmarked St. Georges '14 JA 1901', is addressed to C. W. McCallan, perhaps the only resident family on the 61 acre island, and perhaps the replied pricing for pupils at the Grammar School was intended for E. A. McCallan, the 1948 Bermudian author of 'Life on Old St. David's'.



BIRTH PLACES.			
Europeans, other than Portuguese	...	...	4,558
Portuguese	...	...	12,166
East Indians	...	...	105,463
Chinese	...	...	3,714
Africans (born)	...	...	3,433
Blacks	...	...	112,155
Aborigines	...	...	7,463
Mixed Races...	...	...	29,029
Race not stated	...	...	347
			<b>278,328</b>

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Born in the Colony of European parents	947	1,078	2,025
Born in the Colony of Portuguese parents	3,296	3,492	6,788
Born in the Colony of East Indian parents	17,058	15,374	32,432
Born in the Colony of Chinese parents	652	587	1,239
Born in the Colony of African parents	46,731	49,451	96,182
Born in the Colony of Mixed Races	10,539	13,138	23,677
Born in Europe	1,781	752	2,533
Born in Portugal and the Azores...	2,746	2,632	5,378
Born in India	47,045	25,386	72,431
Born in China	1,931	544	2,475
Born in Africa	2,112	1,321	3,433
Born in the West Indies	9,555	6,418	15,973
Mixed Races born out of the Colony	2,388	2,664	5,052
Aboriginal Indians	3,917	3,546	7,463
Race not stated	161	186	347
			<b>278,328</b>

**BRITISH GUIANA:** Mail from the Arabic speaking community in the British West Indies is rarely met. The population from this 1891 census totals 278,000 and show the East Indians numbering 105,000 (73,000 born in India). Within this grouping is the arrival of Hindustani Muslims in 1838 which was historical as it planted the seeds of Islam in the Western Hemisphere.



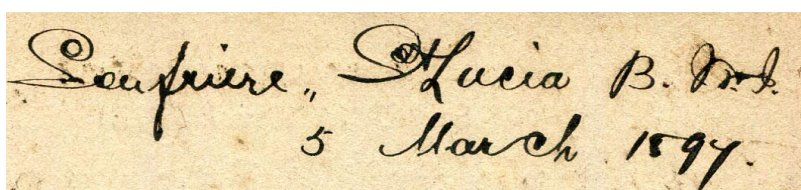


**JAMAICA:** The L.C.C. Nicholson (1940) and Grant Glassco (1969) collections offered this exceptional cover Cienfuegos, Cuba to Kingston bearing Cuban 50c in combination with GB QV 4d and Jamaica 2d with oval grid cancellations. A second near identical cover also 'p. Alicante via Habana' has just the Cuban 50c and Jamaica QV 6d tied by same oval grid, both are dated during 1876. The surprise is that no 'loose' Jamaica QV CC wmk stamps are known with this oval grid demonstrating how infrequent such frankings must have been. The second illustration shows an outstanding Meyer & Merkel advertising cover ingoing from Cincinnati to Kingston with U.S. adhesives obscuring the illustration of their craftsmanship at left. It shows rare onward forwarding by the American Consul at Kingston on 21 NO 1877 with Jamaica QV 6d affixed for Havana, Cuba.

**MONTSERRAT:** Earliest entire is currently dated 1672 ingoing from Waterford, Ireland addressed to a merchant 'aboard the Ship Fortune of Waterford, in Mountserratt' with interesting contents which mention trade with the Leeward Islands.



**ST. CHRISTOPHER:** This Montserrat 1d Badge was not to the liking of the postal authorities and the surround of red crayon circles were added to show it as unacceptable postage. The fragment identifies it as mourning correspondence but is there enough of the recipient's name to show destination from any other surviving correspondence? The 'MR 10 16' date is clear but ink colour clearly does not match the intaglio 'A' mailbag seal. We know that Anguilla was represented by 'AN' code in a St. Kitts duplex period JU 29 01 to DE 18 23 and large 'A' code cds took over period 13 FE 24 to 30 MY 27 before introduction of the ANGUILLA VALLEY cds as of 31 JY 27, so was this brass mailbag 'A' associated with mail from Anguilla at some earlier stage, and resurrected as a 'killer', or can another explanation for its use be volunteered?

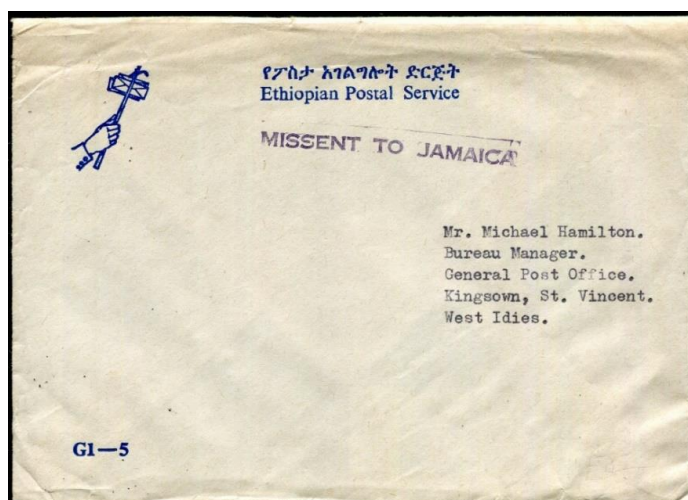
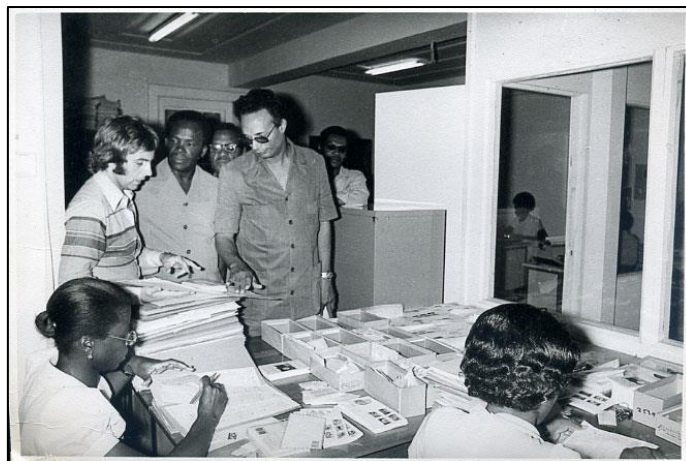


**ST. LUCIA:** This QV 1d Post Card to Erdington, Birmingham, England has the design cancelled by horizontal 'A11' and the reverse is headed 'Soufriere 5 March 1897'. There are no supporting St. Lucia markings. If this 'killer' has been transferred from Castries to do duty elsewhere it is essential to determine that the writer, Eugene D. Charles, was resident at Soufriere.





**ST. THOMAS:** One of the most prized items in the Edward S. Knapp collection (sold Parke-Bernet Galleries, New York, 1941) showed the use of stamps of four different countries on a single cover. The cover originated at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico and has Cuba 10c pen-cancelled, Danish West Indies 3c pmk'd black target, pair Great Britain QV 4d pmk'd St. Thomas 'C51', and pair U.S. 10c green tied black rosettes arrival. A full illustration with year of use is currently unavailable.



**ST. VINCENT:** A telegram arriving on a Tuesday to my cottage on a tiny Irish island near to the Fastnet lighthouse from Joe Urch of the Bristol UK based stamp firm Urch Harris & Co triggered an unexpected move to the Caribbean. I would be told about the job on the plane four days later as we flew out together on the Saturday following. The period 1973–78 would then see me installed as Bureau Manager for a newly opened Philatelic Bureau. Some weeks later I returned to arrive to an empty office with only a telex machine and eventually left behind a final permanent staff of 126 females and 3 males. Due to high unemployment there was also a continual additional rotation of 30 girls on a six week cycle getting their first work experience. Without computers we were eventually manually serving some 30,000 collectors worldwide. Highlights were first encounters with our lead St. Vincent specialist Vincent Duggleby on his vacations, plus an arranged visit by the Hon. Colin Tennant of Mustique where I was thrilled to be able to introduce HRH Princess Margaret to 18 year old envelope typist Princess Caesar. The photographs show Barbados Prime Minister Tom Adams and entourage, interested in setting up their own Bureau, being shown around the main office (expansion led to there being four adjacent offices in total); and Lizbe Gonsalves showing off the netball uniform for our entry into the national competition with a team proudly named 'Philatelic' by the girls.

## ANTIGUA

### ENGLISH HARBOUR MS CANCEL?

BY JOHN JORDAN



Fig. 1. EH m/s cancel?



Fig. 2. Barely legible EH cds

The post office at English Harbour (EH) closed on the last day of 1878. It was succeeded by a receiving office opened at the police station in 1879. It used only a new cds (Type E4), known solely from its appearance on loose 1d stamps from 1879 to 1885. This suggests that the office was still handling local, and possibly inland, mail.

No EH postmarks are known between 1885 and 1921. Was the office still posting mail? (It did not finally close until 1931). On Ebay I found a Leeward Islands 1890 1d stamp with a tantalising manuscript inscription, 'EH / 20/6/95' (Fig. 1). Is it English Harbour . . . or wishful thinking? The absence of an additional 'Antigua' cds on the stamp is unhelpful, but not conclusive evidence of non-postal use. None of the manuscript cancels shown in the Antigua book have them either. The stamp itself is torn and creased, so there seems no attempt to deceive.

The Type 4 cds may have become lost or unusable. Fig. 2 shows it looking very murky indeed on an 1876 1d Crown CC. The last year digit looks like a '2'. If so, it is probably 1882, not the LKD (1885) but pointing to poor maintenance nonetheless.

All comments welcome.

## JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

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## BARBADOS

### THE PLATE NUMBERS OF THE 1925–35 BADGE DEFINITIVES

BY PATRICIA CAPILL



Fig. 1. 1d perf. 14 with plate No. 2 in right selvedge.

I recently acquired a 1d scarlet perf. 14 block of 4 with plate number 2 in the right hand selvedge beside Row 4 No.10 (Fig. 1). This item was a complete surprise to me as I was unaware that a Plate 2 existed in the original printings of 80 stamps per sheet. I had acquired a lower left quarter of a 1d sheet with plate number 1 in the left selvedge beside Row 4 No. 1 some 22 years previously (Fig. 2) and have not sighted another example since, so I had assumed that all the first 8 printings of the 1d as listed by Bayley (pages 128–129) were from Plate 1. Bayley's handbook makes no reference to plate numbers.

Unfortunately the paper of my 1d Plate 2 block is discoloured due to tropicalised gum and the ink shade has become paler and yellowish. From a study of a large number of used copies many years ago I was able to allocate a distinctive shade to each of the perf. 14 printings but I cannot do so in this case. However, due to the carmine intensity of the second and third printings, this Plate 2 block is likely to have been printed later than the third printing and possibly even after the fourth printing, when shades became lighter.

From 1932, ½d and 1d values were printed from new larger plates of 120 stamps numbered **2**, this number appearing in the bottom right corner of the sheets (Fig. 3). Unlike the sheets of 80 stamps, these sheets have no printer's imprint or marginal lines. They exist in both perf. 14 and perf. 13½ x 12½ and are less difficult to find.

Two new values were added in 1932, the 1½d orange, in sheets of 120, and the 2/6d carmine on blue paper, in sheets of 80. I have examples of these with plate number 1, the 1½d, under Row 12 No. 9 and the 2s6d, under Row 8 probably No.9.

Wilson's ***The Royal Philatelic Collection*** lists the following 1d scarlet plate blocks:-

- |        |                       |            |  |
|--------|-----------------------|------------|--|
| Under: | 1925-35. Perf. 14     | 1d scarlet | Block of 4 Plate No. 1.                |
|        |                       |            | Block of 4 Plate No. 2.                |
| Under: | 1932. Perf. 13½ x 12½ | 1d scarlet | Block of 4 side margins Plate No. 1.   |
|        |                       |            | Block of 4 corner margins Plate No. 2. |

From this, it is unclear whether the perf. 14 Plate No. 2 block referred to is from sheet size 80 or 120, as the position of the plate number is not stated.

There were massive numbers of 1d perf. 14 stamps printed in sheets of 80 according to Bayley, some 151,620 sheets, the next closest was the ½d with 43,000 sheets followed by the ¼d with 22,670 sheets, so it could be expected that multiple plates would have been needed.

It seems that De La Rue's strange ways of plate numbering in the 1920 Victory and the 1921 definitives continued on into these 1925 definitives!



Fig. 2. 1d perf. 14 with plate No. 1 in left selvedge.



Fig. 3. 1/2d and 1d blocks with plate No. 2 in bottom selvedges.


A couple of questions arise from all this and hopefully readers can help:-

1. Eleven values – 1/4d, 1/2d, 1d, 2d, 2 1/2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1s, 2s and 3s were printed in sheets of 80 stamps. Apart from the 1d value, do any other values exist with a plate number on either of the side selvedges?
2. Does the 1d from sheets of 80 stamps exist with plate numbers other than 1 or 2, or even none at all?


**References:-** *The Stamps of Barbados.* E.A. Bayley, 1989.  
*The Royal Philatelic Collection.* Sir John Wilson, 1952.

## Victoria Stamp Company

**PUBLIC AUCTION 37**  
 October 27, 2018 at The Collectors Club, New York City




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## CAYMAN ISLANDS

It is not very often that a BWISC member provides a full 1pm display to the Royal Philatelic Society London so it is with great pleasure that Simon Richards' report of the meeting is reproduced in full below.

### 3 May 2018: Captain James Podger FRPSL – Cayman Islands

By Simon Richards

The British Commonwealth has a number of small territories that have achieved philatelic prominence thanks to the enthusiasm of their collectors. On 3 May 120 Fellows, Members and guests were treated to a 1 o'clock display of Cayman Islands comprising some 53 frames of material and an excellent 64 page booklet generously sponsored by Cavendish Auctions.

To be able to display this amount of material from a group of small islands was a remarkable achievement reflecting over 40 years of collecting and a considerable amount of research conducted and published by Captain Podger.

The first postal office opened at Cayman Islands in 1889 as a branch of the Jamaica Post Office. Jamaican stamp with identifiable Cayman cancels are much sought-after and a number of examples were shown in the first frame. In 1900 the Caymans were permitted to issue their own stamps and the islands took over the responsibility for their postal affairs in the following year. Remarkably this meant that the Caymans were the last territory to use the Queen Victoria De La Rue keyplates and the first one to use those for King Edward VII; thus adding to the philatelic importance of the islands.

Each of the King Edward series had at least one frame of material and included one remarkable 1904 cover from Panama which showed the only recorded use of the short-lived "East End" date stamp as an incoming transit mark. A number of surcharge/overprint issues were made during the reign when shortages of stamps, often caused by unexpected levels of collector demand, necessitated that stocks of other values were overprinted locally – one cover from 1907 was shown for which 96 ½d stamps were required to pay rate of 3s 10d plus 2d registration fee as there were no higher values in stock and this led to its own shortage of ½d stamps.

Captain Podger's research interest in flaws on the keyplate design was prominent, particularly the "Glover Flaws", "Spaven Flaw" and "Slotted frame" varieties. Being flaws in the frame these can be discovered in the stamps of other territories too and these were displayed adding wider interest.

The Cayman Islands have the distinction of being the only West Indies island to have issued a 20th century lithographic stamp in the Edward VII ¼d and the four clichés were identified and shown.

Later frames looked at the postal stationery, the keyplate stamps of George V, including the War Tax surcharge and the subsequent issues of his reign, including the Centenary issue of 1932 with the portraits of two 'sailor' kings, William IV and George V glaring at each other, and the rather more attractive design of the 1935 pictorials.

The George VI pictorial series was produced partly by De La Rue and partly by Waterlow leading to an awkward clash of formats, but also additional philatelic interest and complexity. The three frames of censored mail from this period were remarkable, bringing together such a range of such material, given the limited correspondence, a real achievement. The earliest air mail service just pre-dates the reign but air services really developed with the military needs of the period and a good range of material was shown – including a prominent C.I.A cover (Cayman Island Airways – not indiscrete spies!).

Ending with revenues and some more 'modern' proofs (almost 50 years old even so), an excellent afternoon's entertainment was had by all. Simon Richards gave the vote of thanks and drew members' attention to some particular favourites and to the wonderful range of topics and material that could be drawn from the WI territories, particularly when coupled with the research that Captain Podger had undertaken. The President presented the plaque and expressed his thanks to James and his family. He then treated those present to Caribbean cocktails and nibbles rounding off the West Indian theme, which were much appreciated.

'Originally published in *The London Philatelist*, Vol 127, No 1456, in June 2018'

A selection of material from James Podger's display.



Fig 1 – Jamaica 1d Purple & Mauve (Z2) with Grand Cayman Post Office 'NOV 6 1894' cancel (Z1)



Fig 2 – Incoming cover from Panama, dated '28 ABR 1904'

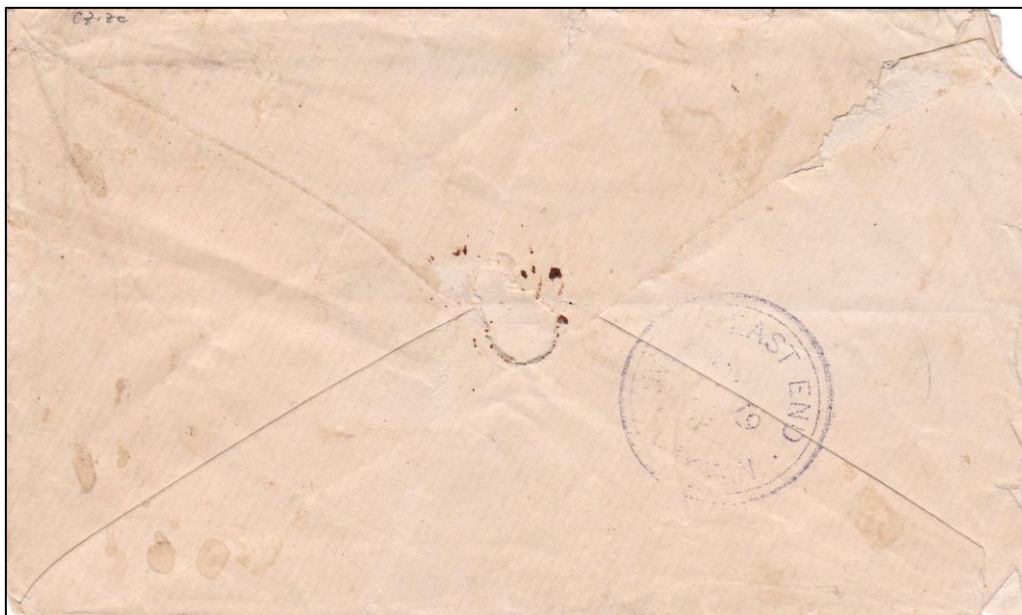


Fig 3 – Reverse showing East End type 1 receiver, dated 'MY 19'





Fig 4 – CIA cover, reverse with Cayman Brac type 5 received, dated 'NO 18 47'

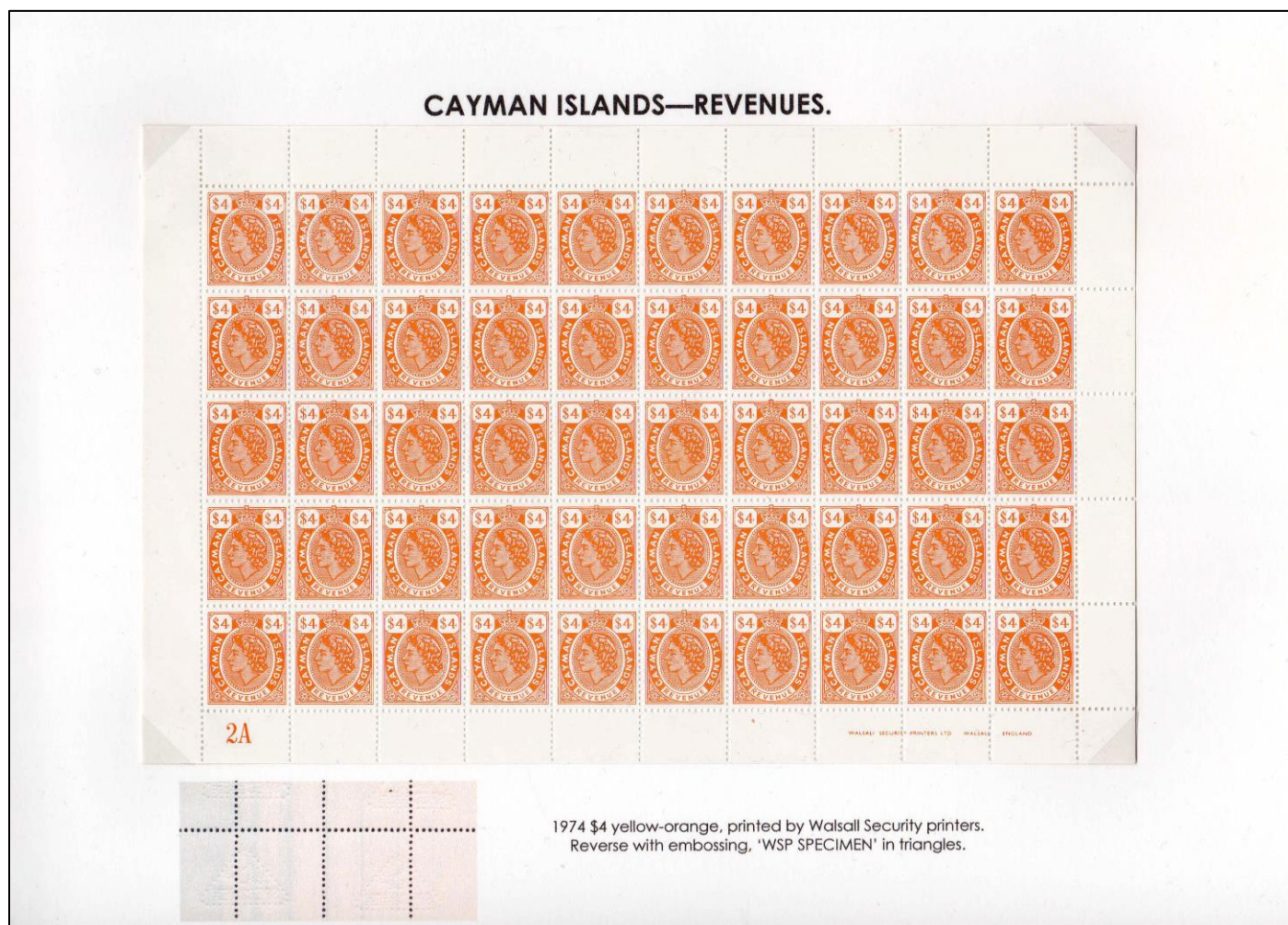


Fig 5 – Very rare revenue sheet (only recorded example)



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<b>BAHAMAS.</b> 1882 1d scarlet-vermilion in block of six. Very fine mint. Ex Sir Gawaine Baillie. <b>£300</b>	<b>GRENADA.</b> 1892 1d on 6d 'SURCHARGE POSTAGE' in tete-beche pair. Unmounted mint. SG D4a. <b>£2000</b>
<b>BARBADOS.</b> 1852/55 (no value) slate-blue in a complete sheet of 110. Very fine mint. Superb showpiece. SG 5a. <b>£1200</b>	<b>JAMAICA.</b> 1857 3d Postal Fiscal block of four. Unmounted mint. SG F5. <b>£150</b>
<b>BARBADOS.</b> 1875 (Perf 12½) 6d with watermark upright. Very fine used. Major rarity (two recorded). SG 70a. <b>£2500</b>	<b>ST. CHRISTOPHER.</b> 1890 6d top marginal strip of three with Plate No '1'. Unmounted mint. Ex Baillie. SG 19. <b>£225</b>
<b>BRITISH GUIANA.</b> 1951 \$1 (Perf 14 x 13) in corner block of four with Sheet No '090'. Unmounted mint. SG 317a. <b>£1700</b>	<b>ST. VINCENT.</b> 1877 6d pale green (Perf 11 to 12½ x 15). Very fine mint. Ex Baillie. SG 23. <b>£375</b>
<b>CAYMANS.</b> 1889 ½d used GRAND CAYMAN/POST OFFICE dated oval d.s. 'AP 26 1892' in violet. SG Z1. <b>£300</b>	<b>TOBAGO.</b> 1883 2½d corner Plate block of six with 'slash' flaw repaired. Unmounted mint. SG 16b/ca. <b>£300</b>
<b>GRENADA.</b> 1943 10/- top marginal block of four with printer's guidelines. Very fine mint. SG 163b. <b>£375</b>	<b>TRINIDAD.</b> 1863 1/- bright mauve on thick paper neatly cancelled numeral '2' obliterator. SG 67. <b>£175</b>
<b>GRENADA.</b> 1972 12c on 3c corner pair, one with surcharge omitted. Unmounted mint. SG 499a. <b>£275</b>	<b>TRINIDAD.</b> 1900 1d (Type II : Oval 'O') in corner Plate '1' block of four. Very fine mint. Rare piece. SG 116. <b>£1100</b>

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## JAMAICA

### THE ENDURING MYTH OF THE TEMPORARY RUBBER DATESTAMPS OF JAMAICA

BY DAVID HORRY

#### Part I

There is an on-going myth that from 1881 the TRDs of Jamaica were simply used to herald the opening of any new post office or agency. As far as I know this has never been challenged by anyone:- Astley Clark, L. C. C. Nicholson, J. M. Nethersole, G. C. Gunter, Everard Aguilar, Tom Foster, Derek Sutcliffe, Ian Potter, Alan Fincham or Ted Proud.

The truth of the TRDs is far more complex and is closely wedded to four factors: Foreign (German and American) ambitions in the Caribbean; the discovery of bauxite – firstly in British Guiana and later in Jamaica itself; the rise of German fascism and the gradual globalization of communism - engendered by the Soviet Union.

#### The Curaçao Coaling Station

In 1865 Prussian military and naval leaders considered building a coaling station in the Caribbean and proposing to purchase the island of Curaçao from the Netherlands. Chancellor Otto von Bismarck was strongly opposed. He wished to avoid difficulties with the U.S.A. and so the scheme did not take place. Since the Franco Prussian war 1870–71 Otto von Bismarck had refused to give into widespread public demands to give Germany, 'A place in the sun' through the acquisition of overseas colonies (Fig. 1). In 1880 he gave way as the race for Colonies in Africa began. The Germans annexed Togo, The Cameroons, German South West Africa and German East Africa (Tanganyika): in Oceania, they took German New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago and the Marshall Islands.



Fig. 1. Otto von Bismarck

#### Bauxite in British Guiana



Fig. 2. Map of Bauxite distribution in British Guiana



Fig. 3 American *Germanophobic* poster – 1917 (Post-Lusitania)

At the beginning of the 19th century Sir Humphrey Davy anticipated the existence of aluminium. The metal was positively identified later that century. In 1865 Jules Verne wrote *'From the Earth to the Moon'* about the fictitious first attempt to send man to the moon. The material he chose to build his space capsule with was aluminium – a metal with the lightness and strength for such a project. In 1880 J. W. Richards wrote in his standard work *'Aluminium'*, *'It has been well said that if the problem of aerial flight is ever to be solved, aluminium will be the chief agent in its solution'*.

There were rumblings in British Guiana when in the 1880s German miners discovered vast bauxite deposits at Wismar. This settlement, on the western bank of the Demerara River, was formed by the influx of immigrants from various European countries, mainly Germany. It became a larger settlement following emancipation, when many former African slaves, who refused to work on the sugar plantations, migrated to live there. Some of the Germans who settled there were originally recruited by the British Guiana Government as part of an alternative labour supply for the sugar plantations. The Germans named the settlement Wismar after the Hanseatic German town of the same name. In 1865 it was the Germans who first discovered bauxite in the colony. Towards the end of the 19th century, bauxite was further discovered in British Guiana in a belt stretching across the country from the North West District to the Corentyne River, with large deposits identified in the Pomeroon, the Essequibo around Bartica, Mackenzie, Ituni, Canje and Orealla. (Fig. 2).

### **Germanophobia**

The question arose, would Bismarck seek to invade British Colonies in the Caribbean in order to acquire valuable military assets? At that time aluminium was considered a wonder metal as it was lightweight and more durable than steel; its price was, astonishingly, on a par with platinum! However, Bismarck was ousted from power in 1890 and German naval strategists again turned their attention to the Caribbean. In just ten years the German Fleet had expanded considerably. Strong *Germanophobia* had developed in Britain, France, America and across the British and French Colonial Realms (Fig. 3).

Since 1834 small numbers of German speaking Moravian missionaries had emigrated to Jamaica. Within thirty years their numbers had reached 2,500 persons who were scattered across the island. They were mainly to be found in the farming parish of Westmoreland. They kept themselves to themselves but they had to be watched. Were they in contact with their 'cousins' in Wismar, BG? Were they looking for bauxite in Jamaica on behalf of the German Government?

During the *Venezuela Crisis* of 1902–3 Britain and Germany both sent warships to blockade Venezuela after it defaulted on its foreign loan repayments. German commercial agents were handling almost 60% of Venezuela's trade. They intended to land troops and occupy several Venezuelan ports but American President Theodore Roosevelt forced the Germans to back down – sending his own fleet and threatening war if the Germans landed.

*'The Riddle of the Sands'* published by Erskine Childers in 1903, engendered further *Germanophobia* throughout the English speaking world. (Fig. 4). The First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill later credited *The Riddle* as the major reason the Admiralty had decided to establish the new naval bases at Scapa Flow, Invergordon and Rosyth in Scotland, to prepare for the possibility of war with Germany. In the Epilogue 'The Editor' noted that if Germany was to invade Britain there were two possibilities. The first being the Essex Coast between Foulness and Brightlingsea and the second The Wash. The favourite was the latter with the exact location noted as the north side of The Wash known as East Holland. 'It is low lying sand, dyked against the sea. It has easy access from the east, by way of Boston Deep, a deep-water channel formed by a detached bank called the Long Sand, lying parallel to the shore for ten miles.' This book was later a major influence on writers John Buchan, Eric Ambler and Ian Fleming.

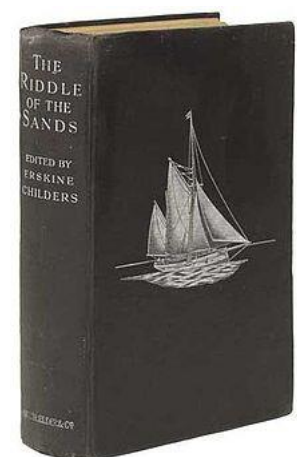


Fig. 4.  
*The Riddle of the Sands*  
Erskine Childers - 1903



By 1904 German naval strategists had turned their attention to Mexico, where they hoped to establish a naval base at a Mexican port on the Caribbean. That plan was dropped. By 1910 the price of aluminium had also dropped and was by now on a par with silver. In 1913 a Scottish geologist, George Bain Mackenzie, visited the area about 60 miles up the Demerara River and bought lands for mining on the eastern bank of the Demerara River. He was able to purchase unoccupied lands at cheap prices from the owners – he claimed he would cultivate oranges there. Very few persons at that time knew about bauxite and its potential. In 1915 Mackenzie died and his lands passed into the control of Winthrop C. Nelson.

Prior to WWI the *Germaicans* were systematically monitored by the British Intelligence Services. Post Offices in their neighbourhoods were opened with easily identifiable TRDs so that mails could be opened by agents placed in the major sorting offices. A Postal Agency could be opened at the behest of the security services. Recent research shows that Crown Agents supplied the TRDs, such as Alligator Pond (Fig. 5), where contact with British Guiana was ongoing. The Kingston Post Office supplied simply the stamps, permanent cancellers and delivery services once the office had been established. The provision of building, postmaster/postmistress and all else came via the Agent – hence Postal Agency.

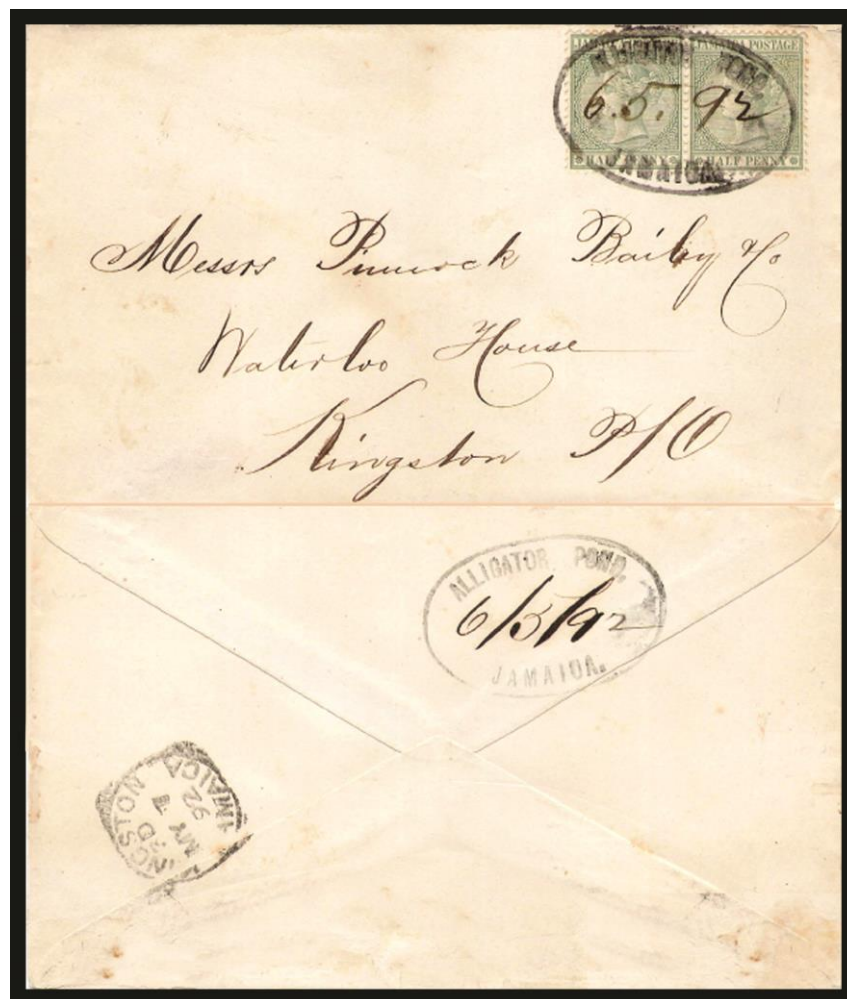


Fig. 5. Alligator Pond TRO on cover, 1892 (courtesy Andrew Fowles)

### The Germans in Haiti 1892–1915

The small German community of just 80 people in Haiti, wielded a wholly disproportionate amount of economic power. Germans controlled about 80 percent of the country's international commerce; they also owned and operated utilities in Cap Haïtien and Port-au-Prince, the main wharf, the tramway in the capital and the railroad in the north. The Germans, as did the French, aimed to collect the nation's customs receipts to cover Haiti's outstanding debts to European creditors. They also sought control of the nearly insolvent National Bank of Haiti.

Continued revolutionary turmoil had brought increases in the foreign debt until large sums in the form of bonds were in the hands of German and French bondholders and English investors were fast acquiring the later issues bearing interest as high as 18%. The financial troubles of Haiti multiplied after 1900 at an alarming rate and, despite claims to the contrary, interest was defaulted. Foreign governments began to press Haiti for a change in methods of finance. Some interest payments were collected by force.

The Hamburg-American Line dominated the entire island trade. They practically made the rates for the whole Caribbean, for all the American lines and all other lines. With headquarters at St. Thomas, where they had a large coaling station; they served Venezuela, Panama, Jamaica and Haiti. They laid out a certain district in which they monopolized with fixed rates. Foreigners were prohibited to own land. Some of the Germans married Haitian women, but the amount of land they acquired was relatively small and of little importance. They bought the products of the country and exported them, importing cotton goods and speculating in commodities. They owned banking business and made considerable profit out of financing revolutions. In 1892 the Germans adamantly opposed political reforms in Haiti.

In 1896 the Germans began construction of the Haitian Railway and seven trains – five of them German made. By 1897 there was clear indication that they intended to invade Haiti. Germany was desperate for a Colony in the Caribbean. In September 1897 a local German, Emile Lüders, was imprisoned by the Haitian Government, for resisting arrest. On December 6, 1897, two German warships, the *SMS Charlotte* and the *SMS Stein*, anchored in the harbour of Port-au-Prince. Without the usual salute, Captain Thiele of the *Charlotte* notified the Haitian government of an ultimatum: Compensation in the amount of \$20,000 for Lüders; a promise that Lüders could return to Haiti; a letter of apology to the German government; a 21-gun salute to the German flag; a reception for the German *Chargé d'affaires* and a whole four hours to decide. President Sam was required to raise a white flag on the presidential palace. (Fig. 6).

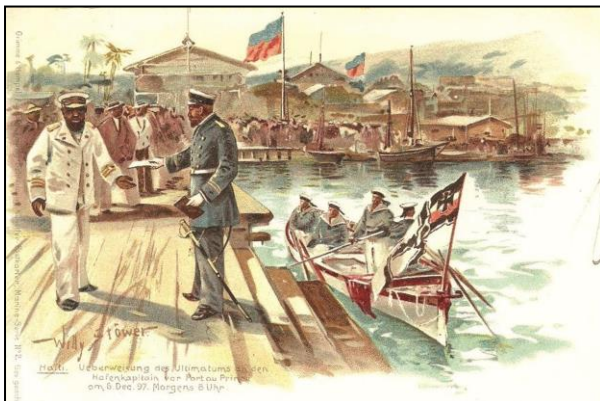


Fig. 6. The Lüders Affair, Haiti, 1897

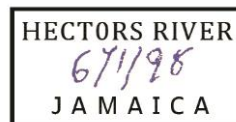


Fig. 7.  
Hector's River sTRB,  
1897



Fig. 8.  
The Great Rapprochement' poster, c.1898

That very week Hector's River, the only Jamaican port facing Haiti, opened a PO with a TRB. (Fig. 7).

It is little remembered that between 1895 and 1898, because of their interest in the Panama Canal, after French withdrawal from the scheme in 1885, Anglo-American relations were at a pretty low ebb. However, in 1898 Britain supported the Spanish-American War and *The Great Rapprochement* was initiated. (Fig. 8). The Spanish lost their political influence in Cuba, Puerto Rico, and over in Guam and the Philippines, where the Germans had backed the Spanish in the hope of gaining territory for themselves. However, in the *Hay-Pauncefote Treaty* of 1901 Britain finally withdrew its objections to an American-controlled canal.

In September 1902 the Haitian rebel ship *Crête-à-Pierrot* hijacked the German steamer *Markomannia* and seized weapons destined for the Haitian government. In retaliation Germany sent *SMS Panther* to Haiti. The rebel Admiral Killick evacuated his crew and blew up the *Crête-à-Pierrot*, which was, by then, under sustained fire from the *Panther*. There were concerns about how the United States would view the action in the context of the *Monroe Doctrine*. But despite legal advice describing the sinking as 'illegal and excessive', the US State Department endorsed the action. Dire warnings to the British Government were given; *Germanophobia* was on the rise.



In 1905 Germans began a takeover of the Haitian banking system. From 1907 there were persistent rumours in the press, that Germany would invade Jamaica. 1908 German interests financed the Leconte Revolution in Haiti. By 1909 they controlled the Haitian banking system in its entirety. In 1912 German interests financed the *Leconte Revolution* in Haiti. Germany made overtures to the then existing Haitian regime for the cession of Saint Nicholas Mole, as a German coaling station. Germany called for control of Haitian customs and for preferred port rights, all to be based on a German loan of \$2,000,000. When this negotiation became known in Washington, Germany was asked for an explanation.

In 1914 the Anti-German League formed across the Commonwealth: it was particularly prevalent in the Colonies. In 1914 Harry Morgan, aka Frederick van Nostrand Groves, wrote two pieces in *The Jamaica Times* entitled, *When the Germans Took Jamaica!* It described how German troops laid waste and devastation to Jamaica. In October 1914 reports that a German plane and balloons had dropped troops at Fellowship, just south of Port Antonio, were reported in *The Daily Gleaner*. Although reported by an Army Lieutenant, it was *fake-news*, but hysteria reigned: The Hun was at the door.

In November 1914 The Great War began and *habeas corpus* was suspended. There were never more than 2,500 *Germaicans* resident across Jamaica and all were technically British Citizens. Many of their elders, both male and female, were interned at South Camp, Kingston by the British military, such was the intensity of anti-German sentiment.

On 15 June 1915 American hands were forced by the landing of French Marines at Cape Haitien, which was threatened by a revolutionary army. This action by the French brought up the Monroe Doctrine, and the US Government decided to act. On July 27, at Port-au-Prince, the Haitian President, Vilbrun Guillaume Sam, from his refuge in the French legation, ordered the execution of 160 prisoners and members of prominent families. The officer who carried out the orders was later hacked to pieces. On the 28th, the President himself was taken from the French legation and cut to mince-meat. Following these terrible deeds the English and French consuls requested warships and American Marines were landed. Just 200 Germans were there at the time and were all immediately deported. On 19 January 1917 *The Zimmermann Telegram* was sent to Heinrich von Eckhardt, the German Ambassador in Mexico. (Fig. 9). It was intercepted and decoded in Room 40, by British Intelligence. President Woodrow Wilson declared war on Germany in April 1917. (Fig. 10). American Marines remained in Haiti until 1934.

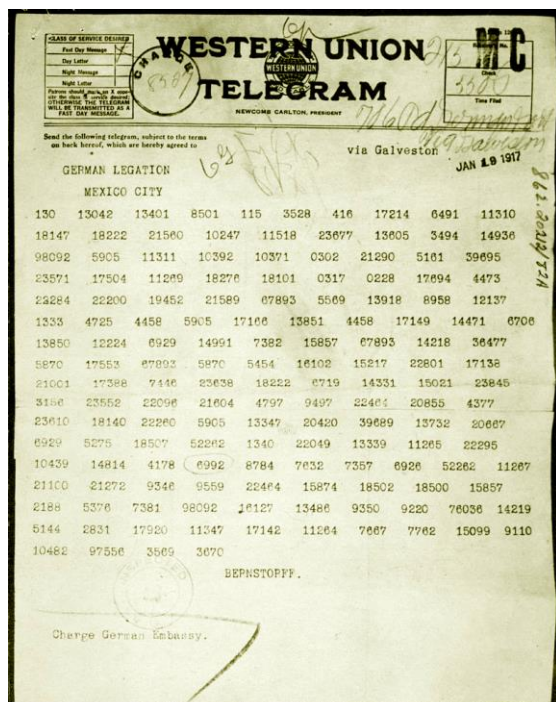


Fig. 9. The Zimmermann Telegram, 19 January 1917

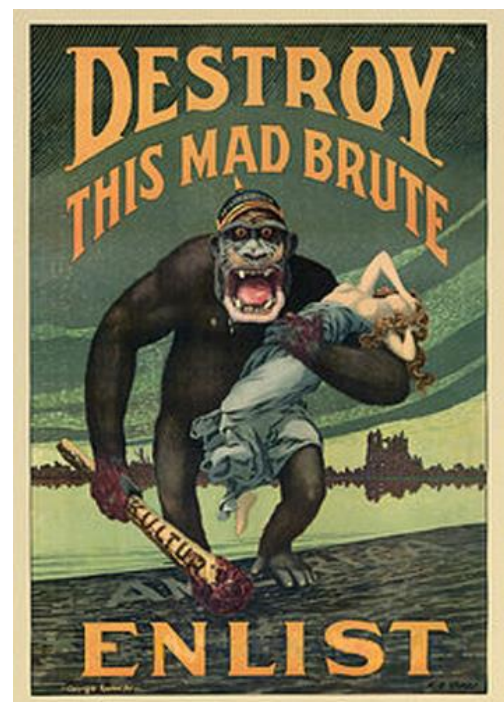


Fig. 10. 'Destroy this Mad Brute, Enlist' U.S. poster 1917

## Early Jamaican Temporary Rubber Datestamps

In 1881 the *New Imperialism* in Africa was engendered by French and German interests in Africa. Bismark instigated The Berlin Conference, designed to sort out the so-called *Scramble for Africa*, opened on November 15, 1884 and continued till its closure on 26 February 1885. Of all the participants Britain had the most to lose, not only in Africa but also in the Caribbean, as already noted. America's *Munroe Doctrine* (1823) was denounced by the Germans in 1904, and meant that they were challenging political and commercial interests in the region. This was mainly because of the development of the Panama Canal, now in American hands, after the French failures. Germany reasonably felt it was being isolated, after the signing of the *Entente Cordiale* in April 1904. After that, *Germanophobia* escalated across the globe, leading specifically to the forming of MI5 and MI6 in 1909.



Fig. 11. Laughlands manuscript 5 December 1883 and TRC 25 February 1884 (courtesy Michael Hamilton)



In 1881 TRDs began to appear at the new and more remote offices in Jamaica. Initially they were issued at Devon, Cave Valley, Lluidas Vale and Ulster Spring – all small circles. In 1949 Nicholson reported via Aguilar, that by 1883 other TRDs followed at Cross Keys, Oracabessa, Anchovy, Glengoffe and Laughlands, but only the latter, a TRC has ever been seen. (Fig. 11). (Why a 'village' completely devoid of population was used is notable.) Of these only Devon PO and Anchovy PO were announced in *The Daily Gleaner* by the GPO. (Fig. 12). Why the other post offices were not noted remains unclear.

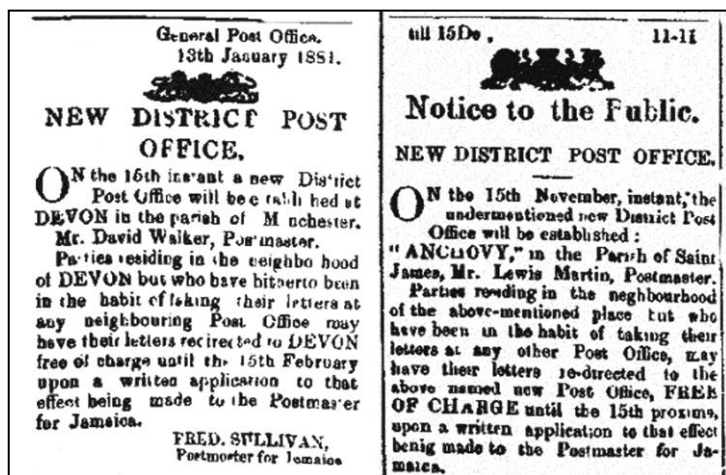


Fig. 12. Devon and Anchovy PO opening notices, *The Gleaner*, 1881



Fig. 13. Devon sTRC 1881 and Hagly Gap sTRD, 1884–1885



Fig. 14. Hagly Gap sTRD on covers to Henry and Charles Vendryes, 1884 computer enhanced (courtesy Michael Hamilton)

The first interesting TRD is the Hagly Gap (TRB) which is first noted by Proud *et al* 20 June 1884; again this is not noted in *The Gleaner*. Its LRD is given by Aguilar is 12 September 1884. (Fig. 13). To a collector of the later KGV and KGVII TRDs it is noticeable that this canceller is not used on the stamps themselves; the existing obliterator (A80) is used for that purpose. The TRD is therefore giving extra information to the sorters making it very easy to separate from the rest of the mails. The TRDs become noticeably larger as they alone are used for cancellation of stamps, e.g. as per Alligator Pond in 1990, which has no obliterator. The Hagly Gap TRB is noted on covers to Henry Vendryes and his son Charles L. Vendryes at 95 Harbour Street the Milholland's, the jewellers and clock shop. (Fig. 14). In 1910 Charles became President of the Jamaica Philatological Society. (Fig. 15).

The Hagly Gap TRB was preceded by the barred Oval A80 which had been in use at the Mount Charles PO up towards Mavis Bank in 1884. (Fig. 16). Mount Charles PO was opened in September 1874. (Fig. 17). By March 1875 it was also using the broken horizontal A79 obliterator from Richmond which by now read (A\_9). (Fig. 18). Michael Hamilton assures me that the horizontal Mount Charles A80 (Proud K1) is incorrectly assigned. Mount Charles PO closed on 11 July 1879. Ray Stanton has a postcard from London to Mount Charles dated 22 March 1883 with the mSC as a receiving mark. (Fig. 19). This office was re-opened a week later, two miles distant at Three Turnings (Mavis Bank), but closed again on 1 June 1884. This small rural community is located about ten miles from Kingston, towards the top of the Blue Mountains. It is known as a farming village with its primary source of revenue being the world-famous Jamaican Blue Mountain Coffee. This is the world's most expensive coffee: it is my contention that this TRD was used by security/police forces in the area. The A80 was still in use in 1885 according to Bob Topaz. Ted Proud also notes the LRD as 9 May 1885\* – however the accompanying asterisk means he had not seen it himself. This appears to be philatelic as it chimes exactly with the ERD of the SqC also as *per* Foster. (Fig.20). Ray Stanton has a pre-paid postcard from London to Mrs Sharpat Mocha Plantation (just south of Hagly Gap), sporting a Mount Charles mSC as a receiving mark dated 11 March 1883. (Fig. 21). According to Tom Foster's notes and a letter from *The Daily Gleaner*, the Hagley Gap office was later situated at Woburn Lawn, a mile further south-east. (Fig. 22).

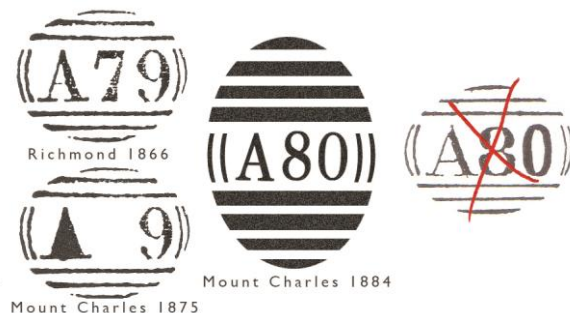


Fig. 16. The Postmarks of Mount Charles Proud's K1 was not used there - Hamilton

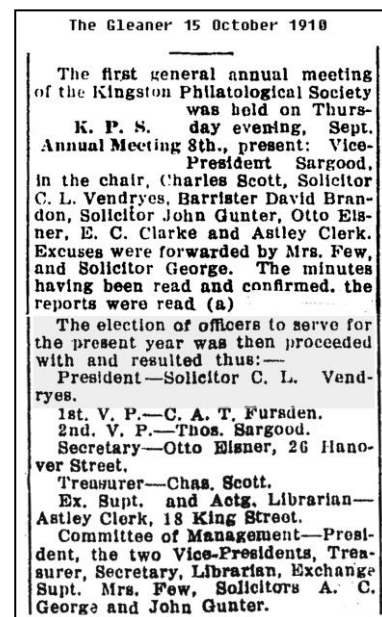


Fig. 15. C. L. Vendryes becomes the second President of the Jamaica Philatological Society, *The Gleaner*, September 1910

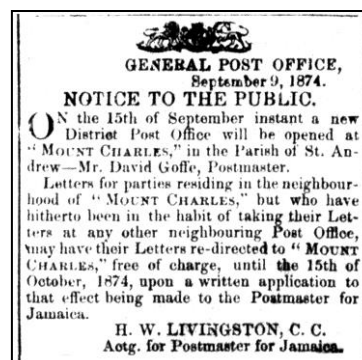


Fig. 17. Mount Charles opening notice 15 September 1874, *The Gleaner*.

According to Michael Hamilton this was unpublished information, I checked all this out in *The Daily Gleaner Archive*. The kicker is that on 14 July 1884 a notice of tender ran in the press. It was issued by the G.P.O. Kingston and was endorsed by the Postmaster for Jamaica, Fred Sullivan. It read, 'Tenders will be received up to 5pm on the 9<sup>th</sup> proximo for the conveyance of the Mails between Gordon Town and Hagley Gap (*sic*) from and after the 15 September next. Full particulars can be obtained at the General Post Office, Kingston.' (Fig. 23). Karl Groeber informs that Hagley is pronounced Hai-gley not Hag-ley.

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



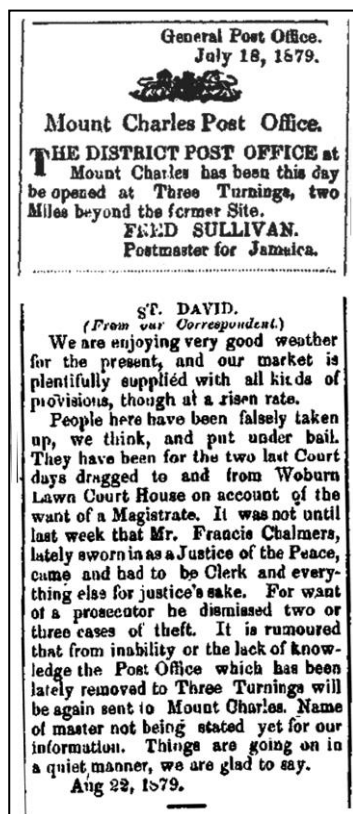


Fig. 18. Mount Charles re-opening at Three Turnings (Mavis Bank) 18 June 1879, *The Gleaner*



Fig. 19. Mount Charles cover 11 March 1875 - using damaged Ob A79 (horiz. ex-Richmond PO.) to Belle Plain, Four Paths (courtesy Michael Hamilton). One of the rarest Jamaica covers known.

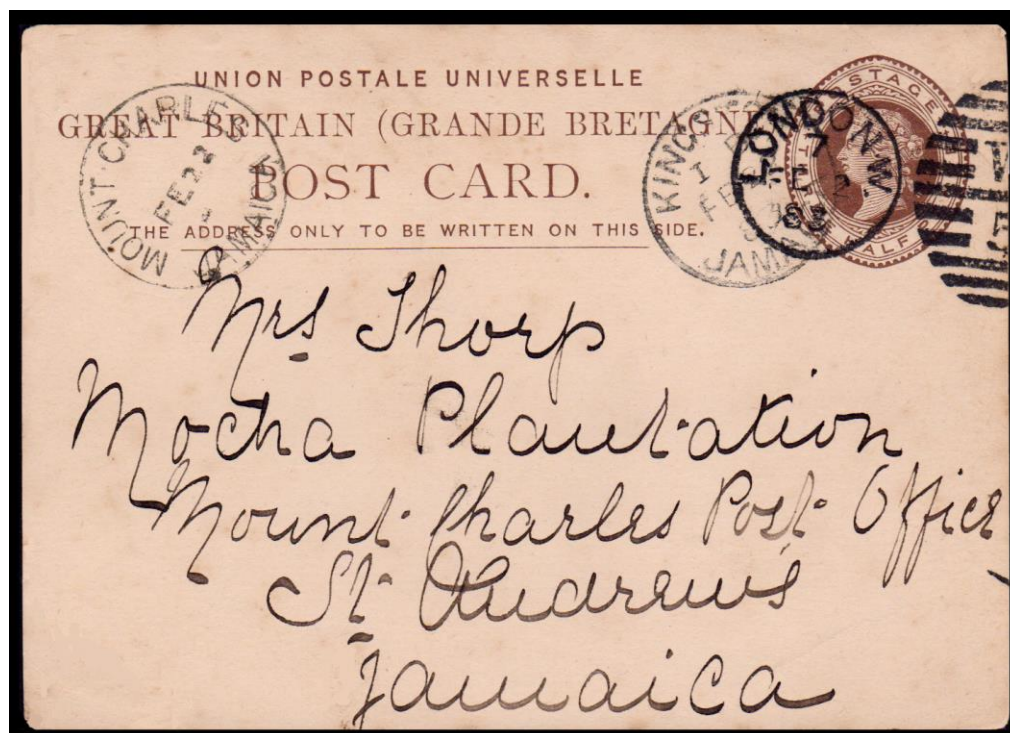


Fig. 20. Pre-paid postcard from London to Mount Charles with receiving mSC 22 February 1883 (courtesy Ray Stanton)



Fig. 21. Hagley Gap SqC 9 May 1885





Fig. 23. Hagly Gap to Gordon  
Town 'tender for delivery',  
24 July 1884, *The Gleaner*

So who indeed was running the Hagley Gap mails between 2 June 1884 and 14 September 1884 using the locally made, sTRD? And were there perhaps two offices – one at Hagley Gap and the other at Woburn Lawn? And where exactly was the Hagley Gap Office located? It is noted in the area by the GPO as starting as Mount Charles (1874), Three Turnings [Mavis Bank] (1879), Woburn Lawn (1900) and even noted at Mount Fletcher (Content Gap) 1900. (Fig. 24).

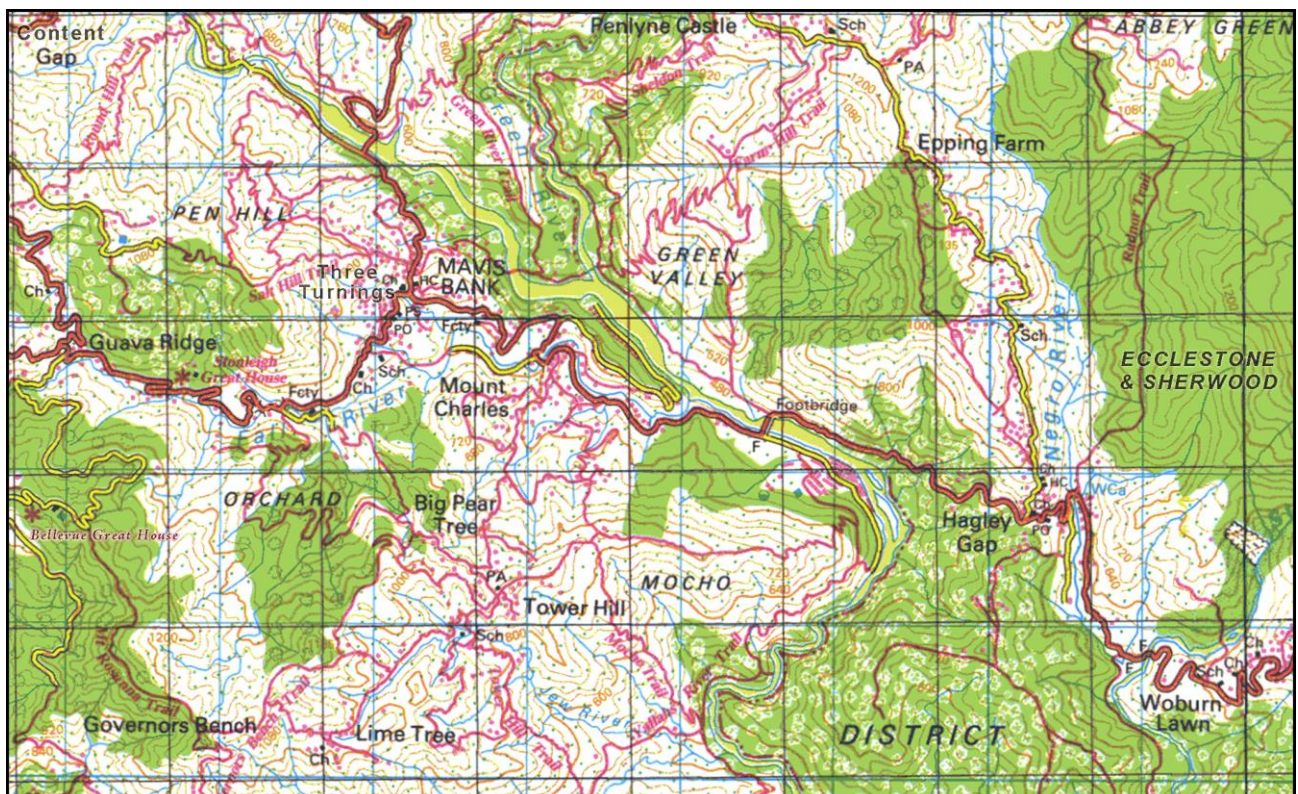


Fig. 24. One Inch Map of Hagley Gap and District

In the meantime Guava Ridge PO was closed and moved to Mavis Bank (1900). Llandewey PO was not closed but simply abandoned in 1898 according to two letters *in The Gleaner* 'from one 'PRO BONO PUBLICO' which is reads as 'for the good of the people.'



A POST OFFICE COMPLAINT.

"PRO BONO PUBLICO" writes to protest against the removal of the Mavis Bank P.O. to Mount Fletcher. He says the change is detrimental to the public convenience, and asks that the office be either re-opened at Mavis Bank or at Guava Ridge.

*The Gleaner* 10 August 1900

**POST OFFICE MOVED AT  
HAGLEY GAP.**

(From Our Correspondent).

Hagley Gap, June 18.—During the week ending the 25th inst. the Hagley Gap P. O. will be transferred from its present location, at Mr. A. A. Stewart's premises, to the Old Constabulary Station where the building will be more accommodating.

The present building is somewhat small whilst to the prospective site there is ample accommodation. The Post Mistress will be in a position to reside on the premises.

The Superintendent of Public Works is expected early in the week to make the necessary alterations. It is suggested that a shed be attached to the entrance of the building as a protection for users of the post office from sun as well as from rain.

It is expected that Hagley Gap will be printed on the cupboard for letters instead of Llandewey. It is high time to put on the proper name.

Since last night the high winds have subsided. About 30 per cent of the mangoes from Minto to Epping Farm are on the ground owing to the fury of the wind.

6 June 1927 Gleaner

# The Riddle of the 'Registered' Ovals of Jamaica and Trinidad 1949 - 1962

**DAVID HORRY FRPSL**

Page 27

## JAMAICAN POSTCARDS: THE COAT OF ARMS AND THE REVERSED 'N'

BY DINGLE SMITH

'*The Evolution of British Stamps, Postcards & Letter Cards*' by Harry Dagnall published in 1985 is a masterful and comprehensive account of the subject. The first official British postcard, a ½d value, was issued on 1 October 1870 and the author draws attention to an error in the wording in the royal coat of arms that forms part of the design. This is in the wording 'Honi soit qui mal y pense', the motto of the Order of the Garter founded in 1348 by Edward III. Dagnall (1985, p.11) notes; "...a most peculiar error: the 'N' of the word 'PENSE' in the motto is reversed". The reversed 'N' is just visible without magnification on cards that were well-printed, on others magnification is necessary.

This error is illustrated here in Figure 1; the corresponding illustration in Dagnall (1985) is his Figure 4 on p.11. He continues "... De La Rue [the contracted printer for the issue] were usually very meticulous in such things and it seems very surprising that this error should have occurred. There was not the excuse of a last-minute rush because it had been decided quite early to include the Arms. One wonders when the error was brought

to De La Rue's attention". The relevance of this error to Jamaican postal stationery is that De La Rue was also the printer for various British colonies. Dagnall mention that De La Rue "...used the same design of Arms with the error on postcards they provided for Ceylon in 1872 and 1893 and for Jamaica in 1877".

The form of the Jamaican postcards is shown in Figure 2 and features the Arms in the top centre of the design. Figure 3 is from a proof sent by De La Rue to the Crown Agents in September 1877, it is printed on 'Stout English Card' and shows the reverse 'N'. The adopted postcard was on thinner card but the design is better seen on the Stout English version.

For the British postcards Dagnall describes a new design of the ½d postcard issued on 1 June 1878 and notes that "... the Royal Arms with the malformed 'N' used on the previous postcards were now replaced with one engraved correctly. In this version the lion has gained a crown". This design continued to appear on many of the later British postcards until replaced by a completely new design in early 1902. This raises the question of when, or if, De La Rue corrected the malformed 'N' on the Jamaica postcards.



Fig. 1. The reversed 'N'.

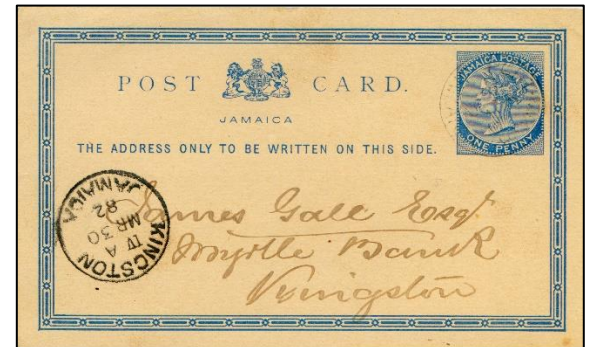


Fig. 2. Design of the Jamaican cards.

Fig. 3.  
Proof Jamaican Postcard with reversed 'N'.Fig. 4.  
Larger-size UPU 1½d issued June 1883,  
corrected 'N' and crown over lion.

Dagnall, H. 1985. *The Evolution of British Stamps Postcards & Letter Cards: their History & Documentation*. Privately published by the author, 279 pages.



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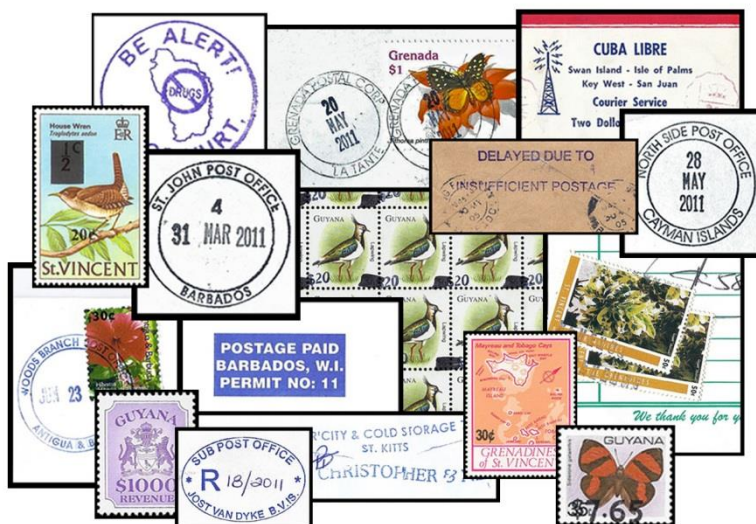
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## ST. VINCENT

### THE SAINT VINCENT FORGERIES OF PLÁCIDO RAMÓN DE TORRES

#### TRACING A SPANISH FORGER'S FOOTPRINTS

BY PETER ELIAS & GERHARD LANG-VALCHS

#### Introduction

Although only a small, nearly unknown isle with a very limited classic philatelic field, the Caribbean island of Saint Vincent did not escape the attention of the stamp forgers, nor did certain other islands like Antigua, Nevis or St. Lucia. Maybe up to half a dozen forgers dedicated the time and effort to counterfeit their classic stamp issues. Some of the forgers, like the Spiro brothers or Panelli are well known and their St. Vincent fakes are documented and described.<sup>1</sup> Other fakes, as they are presented here, are attributed to various unknown forgers. After some important discoveries during the last years concerning the authorship of early catalogue stamp illustrations, we are now able to not only present those forgeries but also their author.

#### Historical background

At the beginning of the 1860s when the collecting of adhesive stamps had spread around the civilized world, the forgeries were a severe problem for dealers and collectors. There did not as yet exist, illustrations or descriptions of their beloved objects. So it is no wonder, that one of the first works of philatelic literature was a booklet with the title *De la falsification des timbres-poste*, written by the Belgian stamp dealer and editor of the first illustrated catalogue (1864) Jean-Baptiste Moens.

Probably one of the first St. Vincent forgeries has remained undiscovered until recently. It was, ironically enough, the first St. Vincent counterfeit depicted in a magazine and was presented by the French collector Natalis Rondot.<sup>2</sup> He had started publishing in the early 1860s, for the first time in the history of philately, a series of illustrated articles *Les timbres-postes de tous les états du monde* in the Parisian magazine *Le Monde Pittoresque*.<sup>3</sup> But he did not know he had given to his excellent engraver a forged sample of his collection for copying and later illustrating the text. Nor did the readers become aware. The copy is, certainly, a masterpiece.

Plácido Ramón de Torres (1847–1910), the author of this and other Saint Vincent counterfeits was a young Spanish engraver, who had grown up in Italy. One of the first Italian stamp dealers, the Florentine antiquarian and editor Elia Carlo Usigli employed him, using his talent and skills to produce stamp illustrations. He built up a commercial monopoly of his products in Europe and even in the United States.<sup>4</sup> Nearly all catalogues world-wide during the 19th century used those images.

Once the ordered copies had been delivered to their clients Usigli and Torres, later Torres alone, used the original, sometimes retouched stones to make 'private copies' and put them into stamp packages. With a few exceptions Torres never illustrated and forged all the stamps of an issue, but only the lower values of the recently issued stamps he had received from his clients for copying. This is the main reason why those fakes were not discovered or, if detected, simply eliminated by collectors and dealers in the majority of cases. Those cheap values were not considered dangerous nor worth being reported or documented. The small number of discovered and documented Torres forgeries were attributed to an unknown forger or to the editors of the catalogues and philatelic reviews that had first depicted them, or where the discoverer had found them, e.g. in the case of the second issue of the Newfoundland stamps.<sup>5</sup>

#### Analytic approach

The first stamp we present sets a good example.

This Torres forgery was described years ago in the St. Vincent book as forgery 'D'. My co-author, Peter Elias, however, found out, that an illustration in an old Scott album showed exactly the same, identical design as a fake in his own collection.<sup>6</sup> Not really convinced that J.W. Scott, the editor of the album, where he had found the image, was the forger, he had to cope with the dilemma of the chicken and the egg. Which of the examples was the earlier one? What he did not know, was that Torres had published his original illustration of this stamp in his 1879 stamp album,<sup>7</sup> whereas the 42nd edition of the Scott catalogue (1882) still shows two different examples.<sup>8</sup>



Fake - Type D



Scott St. Vincent  
album page

Chicken or Egg?



**One Penny**

1p Genuine

Torres album  
illustrationTorres forgery  
light blue/greyTorres forgery  
blueTorres forgery  
grey

Comparing the illustration and the corresponding forgeries with the original, we easily detect that all differences between them and the original all coincide on the fake samples and the Torres illustration. Once aware of those differences and coincidences, it is easy to distinguish this forgery from the others as well.

The short line representing the mouth of QV points upwards. The hair visible in the middle of the coronet, is but a large white bleach. The coronet has a very particular shape with nine small pearls above and only two or maybe three bigger ones below. The crosses of the corner adornments are not centred. The shading of the face and neck is made with points or very short lines, whereas in the original, nearly all lines are continuous. The network of the lower left spandrel has a design clearly different from the other three.



Spiro Brothers forgery



Oneglia forgery

**Halfpenny**

½d genuine

Scott catalogue  
illustration

Torres forgery

The continuous shading lines of face and neck on the original stamp are mostly converted into dots and short lines on both forgery and illustration. The 'S' of the upper inscription is flattened at the top. The corner ornaments are not level with the inscription labels as on the genuine sample, tending to a closer levelling on the forgery that finally shows the upper right one level or included in the inscription label.

The central oval with the portrait of Queen Victoria is surrounded with a network of entwined lines, regularly interspaced with white rectangles, with 5 or 6 short dotted lines in the middle. These very short lines are often represented by two or three dots. The fakes try to imitate this feature, irregularly interrupting the coarser continuous wavy lines. A sort of ribbon consisting of three fine entwined lines surrounds the central oval, whereas on the genuine this feature is a chain.

**Six Pence**Rondot article  
illustrationMaury catalogue  
illustration

Of the third Torres forgery, initially introduced as a French engraver's copy, we can't show an existing sample. But the mere fact that the copy exists, should be proof enough that it had at least existed and had served the copyist as model. Furthermore, the excellent quality of this illustration and all others made by Rondot's engraver has already allowed the discovery and documenting of quite a lot of other counterfeits copied from samples of the Rondot collection.<sup>9</sup> So it seems legitimate to treat this illustration in our analysis as if it were a real forgery.

The second illustration presented for comparison is taken from the French Maury catalogue. His editor was one of the early clients of Torres. The 'T' of 'ST' has merged with the dot below becoming the same height as its preceding 'S'. The 'S' of the lower and upper inscription show on both illustrations the same inclined shape that we often find on Torres forgeries, different from the original. The crosses of the corner adornments, well centred on the genuine, are not level on the other samples.

All the above forgeries and illustrations show the same differing features from the genuine. At the same time no significant differences can be found between the forged items. We think, the only logical conclusion is, that all those items were made by the same author, Plácido Ramón de Torres.

**Notes:**

1. A.D. Pierce, J.L. Messenger & Robson Lowe, *St. Vincent*, London, Robson Lowe Ltd., 1971
2. Natalis Rondot, *Les timbres-poste de tous les Etas du Globe. Ile de Saint-Vincent*, Le Magasin pittoresque, Sept. 1866: 303.
3. [www.memoires.timbrologie.online.fr](http://www.memoires.timbrologie.online.fr)
4. G. Lang-Valchs, *Los grabadores de Jean-Baptiste Moens*, Eco Filatélico y Numismático, Sept. 2017: 30–32 & Oct 2017: 25–27.  
*The Early Scott Catalogues and Their Illustrations, Discovering a Spanish Forger's Footprints*, Collectors Club Philatelist 96, Nov.–Dec. 2016: 205–210
5. G. Lang-Valchs, *Newfoundland Discovery, 1866 Torres forgeries that correct those misidentified Moens fakes*, Newfoundland Standard Stamp Catalogue, 10th Edition, 2016: 675–679.
6. P. Elias, Was it the Chicken...or the Egg?, *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* 44 no. 2, Apr 2004: 23.
7. P. Ramón de Torres, *Album de sellos de correos*, Barcelona, 1879.  
This album was at a time a stamp catalogue, profusely illustrated with his own lithographics.  
The illustration made its first appearance in the Oct.-Nov. 1865 issue of the *Stamp Collectors Magazine*.
8. With the numbers 827 and 895 Scott publishes them on the lithographic sheets of his catalogue.
9. G. Lang-Valchs, *Falsos à gogo*, Eco Filatélico, Jan. 2017: 28–29.

**Articles wanted for future Bulletins**  
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PI78000269 £1,250



ST LUCIA 1860 SG3 Mint

1860 (6d) green, wmk small star, perf 14 to 16, block of 4, brilliant o.g. A rare and lovely multiple, plated as pos. 76-77/88-89.

PI78000895 £1,500

## Sperati Forgeries



BAHAMAS 1884 SG57 Forgery

1884-90 1s Venetian red, the dangerous photo-litho forgery by Sperati, with type 4 forged cancel 'NASSAU/FE 15 00/NEW PROVIDENCE'. Perfs and paper are genuine but the stamp impression and cancel are forged. Rare. [The similar Baillie example realised £402 in Jan 2007].

PI1218014 £450



ST LUCIA 1883 SG36 Forgery

1883-86 1s orange-brown, the dangerous photo-litho forgery by Sperati, 'used' with forged 'AII' obliterator. Watermark and perforations are genuine, but the stamp impression (and cancel) are forged. Fine and rare, being the first example we can recall handling.

PI5605691 £350



MONTSERRAT 1884 SG11 Forgery

1884-85 4d blue, wmk CA, the dangerous photo-litho forgery by Sperati on genuine paper, 'used' with forged 'A08' (type I). Minor trace of hinge thinning, still fine appearance and very scarce. Ex Holcombe reference collection.

PI1206375 £195

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## REVIEW

BY DAVID HORRY

**St. Vincent 1899 – 1965 by Charles Freeland FRPSL, Roy Bond and Russell Boylan**

It was with great sadness that I heard that Charles Freeland had died from the effects of cancer. A giant among West Indian philatelists, Charles was always ready to make important contributions. It was little consolation that just two days later I too was diagnosed with cancer and most of last year was touch and go. Fortunately I survived and on Friday, 13 July 2018 I was given the good tidings that Mr. C was not returning anytime soon. I shall always remember fondly Charles' contributions to my research on Mrs. Simpson's effect on the stamps of the Bahamas 1940–1953 and 'Operation Foxley' 1939–1944.

Meanwhile the Freeland, Bond, Boylan 'St. Vincent' has been published via the British West Indies Study Circle and the most capable of hands of Peter Ford and Mike Rego. They have devoted many hundreds of hours to the publishing of important Caribbean philatelic works. And, I assure you, this is one of the best.

My interest in St. Vincent is limited to the KGV and early QEII period, particularly the postmarks. However, the entire book is a testament to just how interesting and varied postal matters on a small tropical island can be. I have only just picked up my copy of this book from Ray Stanton, whilst on a rare visit to the UK. I had only one dealing with Charles on St. Vincent, that being the purchase from him of the KGV Paget Farm cover (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Paget Farm cover KGV 1960 - Horry (ex-Freeland)

I was particularly encouraged that the authors had given credence to my claim that various post-war omnibus issues were attributed to Hedley Adams Mobbs, who is noted as a Colonial Administrator (Fig. 2). He was in fact an Agent of the Crown. In the text he is incorrectly named as Hedley Allen Mobbs: that should not detract from Messrs. Jefferies, Pollard and Vousden taking note of these events. Further I believe that the designer of the 5 cent and 24 cent Universal Postal Union stamps was also from H.A.M. Further research has shown that the post war omnibus issues were to be offered to the New Zealand artist James Berry (Fig. 3). He was well-known for his NZ Heath Stamp designs. Ironically his health at the time was poor and in 1948 he suffered a heart attack at the early age of 42 and was unable to travel to London. This was just as his poor wife Miriel was giving birth to their sixth child! Instead he had designed the New Zealand Peace issue and many others including fine work on the Bermuda KGV definitives (Fig. 4).

With Sir Harry Luke (Fig. 5) abroad in Central America, it fell upon another Crown Agent, George Odom (Fig. 6) to find an artist capable of filling Berry's shoes. Odom's house in Westminster Drive, Leicester was designed and built by my grandfather Hedley Mobbs, a talented architectural draughtsman, who he had known for many years. Hedley Mobbs had been an equerry to both KGV (Cranwell, 1918) and Edward Windsor (Northern France, 1939). He was entrusted with the design of the Colonial Victory issue, the controversial Royal Silver Wedding and half of the UPU issues. The 6c and 12c UPU stamps were, I believe, designed by Christopher Tuddenham from the Player's Studio, Bristol. Mobbs also designed the 1947 Royal Visit to Southern Africa issue and the Princess Elizabeth visit to Malta stamps in 1950 for Harry Luke: after that he retired.



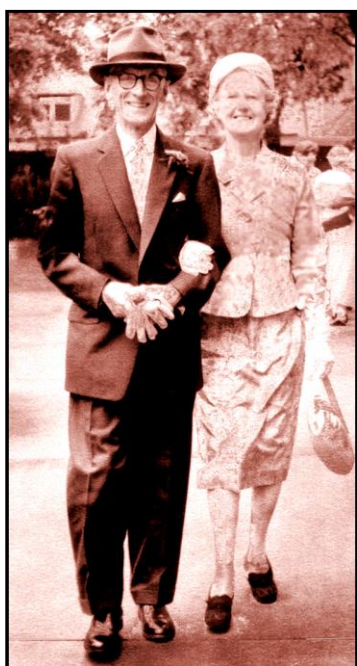


Fig. 2. Hedley Adams Mobbs and his wife Lily, Boston 1960



Fig. 3 James Berry Wellington, New Zealand c. 1950



Fig. 4 Bermuda KGVI unissued definitives, c.1951



Fig. 5 Sir Harry Luke, Trinidad, 1943



Fig. 6 George Crawford Odom, Leicester, 1949



Fig. 7 Sir Arthur Grimble at the BBC, c.1953

I was much taken by the fascinating research into the missing consignment of 1948 RSW £1 blacks. I have long come to the same conclusion, as these stamps have never shown up on the black market. But I differ on the point about the King, otherwise why weren't all of the black, high values, such as Somaliland Protectorate changed? My take on this is that it was the connivance of the outgoing Governor and philatelist, Sir Arthur Grimble (Fig. 7). I suggest it was Grimble who grumbled – he just happened to be in London at the time after retiring from his position as Governor of the Windward Islands, which he had held since 1942. I would imagine the King had no objections to the change as contrary to popular belief, his interest in stamps was absolutely minimal. Grimble selected bright purple as per earlier instruction from his old friend Sir Harry Luke, in his autobiography *Cities and Men Vol. III*, re-the colours for the British Solomon Islands 10s issue of 1942, who had a noted penchant for magenta mountain cyclamens.

One quibble, I cannot find mention of the three slogan postmarks that graced St. Vincent's Kingstown mails from 1937–1939. 'St. Vincent for Health and Beauty': 'Sea Island Cotton for Quality and Comfort' and 'St. Vincent Arrowroot a Wholesome Food'. (Fig. 8). There are a few other later ones as well, per Proud. I note that Chapter 16 covers innumerable updates to the Pierce, Messenger & Lowe tome.

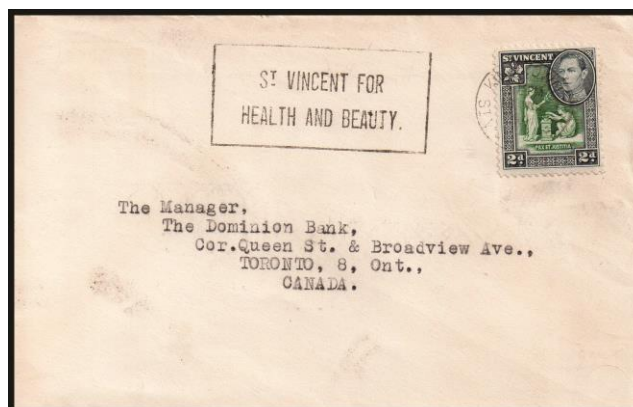


Fig. 8. St. Vincent for Health and Beauty - slogan postmark, Kingstown, 1941 - Horry

The presentation and format of this new book is magnificent and sets a standard that goes even beyond Philip Beale's *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone* - The Royal Philatelic Society of London, 1988. St. Vincent 1899 - 1965 comes in hard and soft back editions. Might I suggest one buys 'em both!

Published by The BWISC (2017). Softback, ISBN 978-1-907481-33-8. Hardback, ISBN 978-1-907481-36-9.

## AUCTION REPORT

BY GRAHAM BOOTH

Mayfair, which has arisen from the ashes of APEX, in association with Feldman, held its second auction in London on 6 June. I did not attend the auction but bid online. I was interested in the Patricia Stillwell Collection of Irish Postal History which had some very rare although in some cases poor quality material which sold well. In that sense it was similar to the Peter McCann collection of Montserrat, but this did not sell well for the second time, only 20% of the lots finding a new home, the difference being that there are still a reasonable number of collectors of Ireland, which is not the case with Montserrat. In advance I expected it to do better as the estimates for most lots had been reduced by approximately 30% from when they failed to sell in Switzerland; but the book was non-existent and when it became apparent that the reserves had not been reduced by anything like 30% and in some cases exceeded the low estimate, it was not surprising. For instance, Lot 1014 the black crowned circle on cover to Horsham was estimated at £7,500–9,000 in Switzerland and was bought in at £6,000. In London it was estimated at £5,000–7,000 and was bought in at £5,000, a reduction of only 17%. The other observation I would make as an online bidder was that the Patricia Stillwell Walker sale was a model of clarity, conducted at a reasonable pace. The McCann sale descended into what I would call auctioneer obfuscation – the computer graphics were deliberately disabled, and it took me some time to recognise that for each lot the auctioneer was quoting the reserve and immediately buying it in. In addition, he was going at a pace which meant that I did not manage to bid on one lot that I had intended to.

Stanley Gibbons held a general auction on 27 June, the first since the reorganisation after the purchase of Murray Payne, which involves moving the 'Post Bid' sale on line. From a West Indies perspective there were two interesting groups – 100 lots of good Bahamas, many ex Gawaine Baillie, and 68 lots of unsolds from John Fearnley's Bermuda collection which were characterised more by quantity than quality. For the Bahamas there was a good spread of interest between the book, agents, internet and room buyers with 56% sold, most at or just below the pre-sale estimates. In today's market place this can be considered a reasonable result. Typical were perhaps an unused version of SG 1 which sold for a hammer price of £1,600 against catalogue of £5,000, a used version of SG2 (var) at £550 versus cat of £1500, an interpane mint block of 8 of the George V £1 green and black (script watermark) for £850 versus a low estimate of £1,000 and a set of three imperf printers proofs for the 1966 20th Anniversary of UNESCO which fetched £480 compared to a low estimate of £600. The postal history lots were fairly soft. Quality is becoming essential.



The Bermuda portion of the sale was extraordinary, most lots consisted of large numbers. Apart from a couple of key plate lots everything sold. Most could have been bought at a lower price in the original sale. In some cases, considerably less, particularly the lots of ephemera and original photos, which after fights between an agent and a book bidder were knocked down at 4–5 times the low estimate.

One other comment is worth making as it reflects on the collapse of philately as part of an investment portfolio. A slightly tatty version of the Lady McLeod on cover estimated at £10,000 was bought in, there was another in the July Brookes sale with a serious horizontal crease damaging the cover with a low estimate of £20,000 which was bought in at £17,000 and a third coming up in the autumn. There are no doubt enough genuine Trinidad collectors and maritime specialists who don't have one and would love to have a Lady McLeod on cover; but with over 20 in existence the price is going to have to come down a lot further, especially for inferior quality, before they begin to move.

In contrast to this pretty dismal picture the Spink sale of Brian Brookes' general West Indies postal history collection was a major success. This was part of a Collector's Series sale on 11 and 12 July. In total there were well over 200 lots spread over a dozen British Colonies with small groups from Danish, Swedish and Dutch Colonies, the three latter being fiercely fought over. There were a couple of soft areas - as normal Bermuda and the Bahamas; but also, and surprisingly the Turks. The total percentage sold was in the high nineties. Some of the success could be attributed to Thierry Lallevee of Lugdunum who was in the room and picked off many of the gems at what we would consider to be high prices, which presumably are going to be passed on to someone else with a margin added e.g. the Dominica large fleuron at £1,750, after the uplift. All 18 lots of Anguilla sold, mainly to one room bidder, as did the 36 lots of Antigua, with one book buyer securing 14 lots from the Codrington and Tudway correspondences, and the strip of 5 pennies on the reverse of a cover to Nova Scotia realising £900 against a top estimate of £400.

Other colonies to achieve a clean sweep were British Honduras (8 lots), Tobago (6 lots) and surprisingly all 17 lots from the Virgin Islands. 94% of the 28 lots of Barbados went to new homes as did 90% of the 21 lots of Trinidad. Here, in contrast to the Lady McLeod cover, the mint 1d black on red with value omitted (SG 128a) went for £23,000 hammer to a book bidder, against catalogue of £32,000. Other significant sales were the very beautiful red 'Paid at Nevis' crowned circle which was knocked down at £2,100 against a top estimate of £1,500. The striking red 'India Letter, Kingsbridge' from Grenada went for £1,100 against a top estimate of £800, the 1789 Beaumaris Ship Letter also from Grenada went to a circle member for £1,200 against a top estimate of £500, a Grenada Crown Ship Letter achieved £1,300 against a top estimate of £1,000, and the Dominica 1801 soldier's letter made £2,100 against a top estimate of £1,800. A Curacao fleuron went for £2,000 and the three examples of Post Office seals all sold well, the most expensive realising £4,000 against a top estimate of £3,000, whilst a somewhat soiled cover from Saba to Barbados achieved £700 versus a top estimate of £150.

The Brookes Executors have split his general holding between Spink and Argyll Etkin; but rather than allowing the two houses to specialise in specific colonies Argyll Etkin will offer a replica of this sale spread across the West Indies in the Autumn. This will be their largest ever sale, spread over two days, and will feature some very good Antigua and Montserrat. Spink will offer Brian's Martinique on 20 November.

Gibbons held a British Commonwealth auction on 25 July with, I imagine, most items sourced from stock. The interest primarily lay in the George VI keyplates from Bermuda, but 8 of the 10 lots of Bahamas did not sell, so there was no sign of a revival there. In contrast, two B.V.I bidders lit up our screens with a fight over unmounted mint plate blocks of four. The 1962 decimal surcharge set realised £300 against cat. of £100 and the 1964–8 set achieved £580 against cat of £400, both before the uplift. The Waterlow working Die Proofs from the Caymans did reasonably well considering that although they may have philatelic distinction, aesthetically they have very little to offer. Both the Centenary issue and the 1935 Pictorial issue were knocked down to the same book bidder for £4,000 against an estimate of £5,000. To return to the Bermuda keyplates. There were 59 lots of which almost 60% were unsold. They were carefully and reasonably estimated as reflected by the reserves, which varied between 90% and two thirds of low estimate. To this somewhat uninformed observer there did not appear to be any clear trend. At first, I thought blocks and used were doing well, but by the end it was apparent that supply is still well in excess of demand.



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