

STUDY CIRCLE



The scarce Cedar Valley ssTRO dated 4 July 1894 as receiving mark on pre-paid postcard (front and back) to J. P. Provan, Cedar Valley, St. Thomas from Kingston LRD courtesy Karl Groeber see Part II of David Horry's article.



BULLETIN No. 259 December 2018



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

ISSN 0953-8720

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.**

OFFICERS & CONTACT DETAILS

Web Site: www.bwisc.org

Founder:	P.T. Saunders FRPSL
President:	Graham Booth FRPSL: 30/31 Augusta House, 66 Marine Parade, Worthing, W. Sussex, BN11 3PY Tel. 01903 821842, e-mail: cgbooth1@btinternet.com
Vice-President:	Simon Goldblatt: 81 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1DD Tel. 0207 222 5828 (H) 0207 832 1132 (W) 0207 353 3978 (F)
Chairman:	Graham Booth FRPSL: — see above
Vice-Chairman and Web-Master:	Steve Jarvis FRPSL: 5 Redbridge Drive, Andover, Hants, SP10 2LF Tel. 01264 358065, e-mail: info@bwisc.org
Secretary:	George Dunbar: 7 Keith Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 7DP Tel. 01926 315793, e-mail: secretary@bwisc.org
Membership Secretary:	Steve Jarvis FRPSL: — see above
Treasurer:	Ray Stanton: The Old Rectory, Salmonby, Lincs., LN9 6PX Tel. 01507 533742, e-mail: rjstanton@tiscali.co.uk
Editor:	Terry Harrison: 13 Ladywood Road, Spalding, Lincs., PE11 2DA Tel. 01775 423087, email: editor@bwisc.org
Librarian:	Ian Jakes: Beaumaris, 4 Rectory Road, Old Church Warsop, Mansfield, Notts, NG20 0RU. Tel. 01623 842095, e-mail: jakeslaw@btinternet.com
Publications Officer:	Peter Ford FRPSL: Box 665, Ctra. Cabo la Nao – Plá 116, Loc 4, 03730 Javea, Alicante, Spain Tel. 0034 966 472 158, e-mail: peterf@bwisc.org
Publications Sales:	David Druett: Pennymead Auctions, 1 Brewerton St. Knaresborough, HG5 8AZ Tel. 01423 865962, e-mail: pennymead@aol.com
Public Relations Officer:	George Dunbar: — see above
Committee:	Nigel Chandler FRPSL, Peter Fernbank FRPSL, James Podger FRPSL, Simon Richards FRPSL, John Jordan and Geoff Richards.
Auditor:	John Davis FCA, FRPSL
North American Representative:	John Seidl: 4324 Granby Way Marietta GA 30062 USA e-mail: john.seidl@gmail.com
Study Group Leaders:	Listed in June 2011 Bulletin and on the Web Site

Printed by Joshua Horgan Print & Design

IN THIS ISSUE		Page
Programme of Events & Information		3
Around the Caribbean 6	Michael Hamilton	4
BWI, The Lady Somers	Bruce Walker	12
BWI, Request for information Stephen King	Stephen King	12
BWI, University College	Richard Moss	13
Bahamas, 'Around the Caribbean 5' Response	Michael Medlicott	14
Barbados, Plate Numbers of the 1925–35 Badge Definitives follow-up	Michael Medlicott	14
Barbados, Stamps Wanted	Sir Geoffrey Palmer	14
British Honduras, The interesting tale of a cover to Labö near Kiel.	Nigel Chandler	15
Grenada, A book about Grenada Philately (continued from Bulletin 257)	Tim Pearce	16
Jamaica, The Enduring Myth of the Temporary Rubber Datestamps of Jamaica, part II.	David Horry	24
Jamaica, LCC Nicholson – My Philatelic Hero	Steve Jarvis	33
St. Vincent Handbook 1899–1965. Amendments, corrections, additions and footnotes	Roy Bond and Russell Boylan	34
Auction update	Graham Booth	36
Membership, Web-Master's & Editor's Reports		39

SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Wednesday 13 to Saturday 16 February 2019 Spring Stampex, BDC Islington, London, N10 0QH

Change of Date & Venue

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

Saturday 2 to Saturday 9 May 2020 London 2020, BDC Islington, London, N10 0QH

BWISC Auction Deadline

The deadline for receiving material for auction in any one year is 10 January (or the first weekday thereafter). Material is received and welcomed at any time during the preceding year, and those submitting items for sale close to the deadline may in some cases learn that similar items already processed for sale preclude the acceptance of competing items for the forthcoming sale.

AROUND THE CARIBBEAN 6

BY MICHAEL HAMILTON

BARBADOS: No sooner had the September Bulletin gone to press than a second mention for the unhappy 'Amazon' came within a letter written at Sierra Leone. This letter, written 29 January 1852, only included the words '**heard the 'Amazon' had been burned at sea**' but the writer Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander Seton would perish with his silent heroes in the following month in the worst peacetime maritime disaster before the Titanic. Later they would be immortalised by Rudyard Kipling.

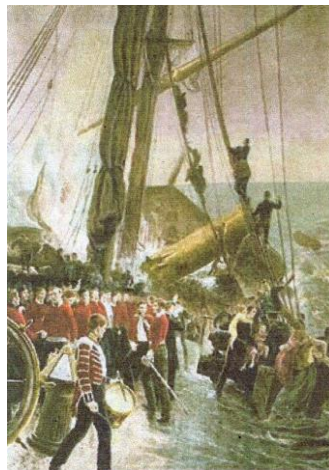
**'To stand and be still
To the Birken'ead Drill
Is a damn tough bullet to chew'.**

The highly talented 37 year old Alexander Seton (1814–1852), fluent in no less than fifteen languages, obtained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel on 7 November 1851, and about that same time was ordered to take command of troops from ten different regiments, mostly raw recruits, destined for East London, Cape of Good Hope, where his regiment, the 74th Highlanders, was engaged in the 8th Frontier War (also known as the Kaffir war) being waged against the Xhosa people. He sailed from Portsmouth picking up more officers, wives and families at Queenstown (now Cobh), Ireland on 5 January 1852 in the iron hulled steam-paddled troopship HMS 'Birkenhead' with an estimated 643 people on board.



EARLY PORTRAIT OF COLONEL SETON IN UNIFORM OF THE
ROYAL NORTH BRITISH FUSILIERS
(From a miniature in the possession of the family)

The ship, under the command of Captain Robert Salmond RN, put in at Madeira (JA 19), Sierra Leone (JA 29), St. Helena (FE 9), and arrived Simon's Bay (FE 23) whereupon most of the women and children disembarked along with a number of sick soldiers. They were replaced by cavalry horses and bales of hay. 35 tons of coal were taken on for the last part of the voyage around the Cape to Port Elizabeth in Algoa Bay. The ship was being steered by Thomas Coffin, and hugging the coastline for maximum speed the ship struck an uncharted rock at around 2am on 26 February near Danger Point. The sea rushed in the large hole immediately drowning over 100 soldiers sleeping in their hammocks in one of the 12 watertight compartments. All surviving officers and men went up on deck. Lieutenant Colonel Seton, being the senior officer on board, took charge of all military personnel, summoning his officers around him and stressing the importance of maintaining order and discipline. Distress rockets were fired to no avail, 60 men were sent to the chain pumps and when battened down remained there executing their duty until they drowned. The teams in charge of the boats were frustrated to find that the lowering equipment would not function due to a thick layer of paint clogging the mechanisms. The rest of the men were ordered to stand drawn up in line and await further orders. At this stage the captain made a grave error in ordering the Birkenhead to be put astern causing the hull to rip open further. Two cutters and a gig were successfully launched and the women and children in one of them were rowed away about 150 yards from the wreck to safety, remaining on the water until daybreak. The horses were thrown overboard, and only then did Captain Salmond shout to the men that anyone who could swim should jump into the sea.



Seton knew that to rush the lifeboats might swamp the boats endangering the lives of the women and children, and drew his sword and ordered his men to stand fast. These soldiers, a motley assembly of Irish, English and Scotch, who had never been under fire, stood firm in the hour of such fearful peril, displaying a courage and devotedness, and did not move even as the ship split in two and the mainmast crashed around them. The Birkenhead went down rapidly in the 30 metres of water and only the topmast and topsail yard were visible above the surface with about 38 men still clinging to them. Death by drowning came quickly to most, but some of the men, and horses, were taken by Great White sharks, while a few managed to swim the two miles to safety. The next morning the schooner 'Lioness' found one of the cutters in Walker Bay, and after saving the second boat crew (containing the women and children including the boy Henry William Matthews), she headed to the scene of the disaster saving as many as possible during the afternoon. The 'Lioness', having saved 116 souls was towed into Simon's Bay by H.M. Paddle Sloop 'Rhadamanthus' who having placed them on board the 'Castor' searched 20 miles of the coast and found a further 68 survivors who had succeeded in getting to the shore on driftwood or by swimming. With a further 9 landed in the gig it was later reported that of the estimated 638 people aboard 445 were lost and of the 193 saved were 113 soldiers, 6 Royal Marines, 54 seamen, 7 women and 13 children.

The term 'Birkenhead drill' became defined as courageous behaviour in hopeless circumstances. As a consequence of the sinking of the 'Birkenhead' the concept of 'women and children first' was acknowledged as standard naval protocol in relation to the evacuation of sinking ships. Frederick William IV of Prussia was so impressed by the bravery and discipline of the soldiers that he ordered an account of the incident to be read at the head of every regiment in his army. In 1892 Thomas M.M. Henry painted a widely admired maritime depiction of the incident entitled 'The wreck of the Birkenhead', and in more recent times the South African mint issued in 1977 a 'Heroes of the Birkenhead Medallion' gold coin. Rumour that the 'Birkenhead' was carrying a military payroll of £240,000 in gold coins weighing about three tons, secretly stored in the powder-room, has resulted in the wreck being considerably disturbed, despite its being a war grave. Numerous books have been written giving many testimonies and accounts from survivors.

Lt. Col. Alexander Seton, who could not swim, remained with others on the poop deck until they were all thrown off by the final lurch of the ship. He died unmarried and his property descended to his younger brother David.



Sierra Leone
29: January 1852

My dear Mother

I wrote to you from Madeira, I think on the 19th inst. just before we sailed.

I find we sail tomorrow morning. At Madeira I heard that the *Mezara* had put back about the time we sailed from very bad weather and I also heard that the *Amazon* had been burned at sea. These things made me anxious on your account as of course they increased your anxiety; we had being gales but experienced no damage.

Yours aff. son
Alex. Seton

30: January -
A fine breeze and beautiful weather - all well - A. S.

His 29 January 1852 Sierra Leone letter to his widowed mother, Janet Seton (née Janet Skene Ogilvy), was carried privately in a GB QV 1d embossed pink prepaid envelope for posting in London (MR 15) and arrived after his death at the family home in Portobello, Edinburgh 16 March 1852. The contents read:

My Dear Mother,

I wrote to you from Madeira, I think on the 19th inst. Just before we sailed Lord Frederick Fitzclarence, who is now staying there, came on board and asked to see me. He showed me some English newspapers and told me of Lt. Col. Fordyce's death (killed in an attack on the stronghold of the Macom's Kaffirs and Hottentot banditti). He said I was quite sure of being Lt. Col. immediately; everybody else says the same, but I never count on these things and I shall not be at all disappointed if I do not get the promotion. Lord F. was very kind and gave me a good map of part of the Cape Colony which will be very useful to me. He asked me to write to him occasionally and give him the news. I am afraid you will not get the letter from Madeira until late next month as there will be no mail dispatched from there until the 4th. This is the winter season here and it is not much hotter than the south of Italy or Germany. The place is at this time healthy. Several men of war are lying here. We shall remain here until tomorrow evening to finish taking in coal. I was on shore for a few hours yesterday. There is fine scenery in the neighbourhood. Any place in a tropical climate always appears beautiful to me from the brightness and at the same time the softness of the light and colouring.

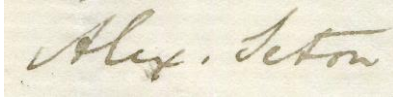
There is a red, or orange coloured sand here, that contrasted with the palms and palm-like vegetation makes everything look perfectly brilliant. It is exactly like the colouring Pettey at the military college used and which I daresay David recollects. The fruits are the same as in almost all tropical countries. The inhabitants are almost all negroes, of many different races, liberated slaves etc etc. Some of them are very fine men. One, a Mandingo, came up and spoke to us yesterday in a very picturesque dress with a long embroidered cloak and conical hat and sandals like the old woman's ones, he had a small bow and arrows in his hand with a strip of tough wood for a bow string. He was one of the finest men that I think I have ever seen with a wild dignified air. His features were not as coarse as negroes generally are.

I have nothing to add at present but will leave this open until the last.

You had better get David to let me know where to address letters to as I believe you leave your house in May. Until I hear I will send them to Major Cook when the time comes near.

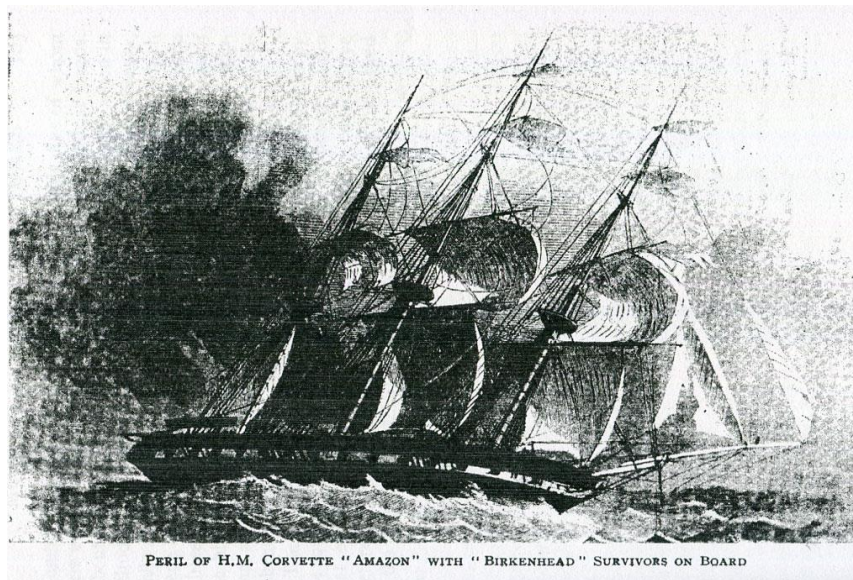
I find we sail tomorrow morning. At Madeira I heard that the *Megaera* (iron screw frigate built 1849) had put back about the time we sailed, from very bad weather, and I also heard the *Amazon* had been burned at sea. These things make me anxious on your account as of course they increase your anxiety; we had heavy gales but experienced no damage.

Your affectionate son



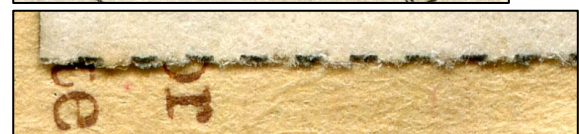
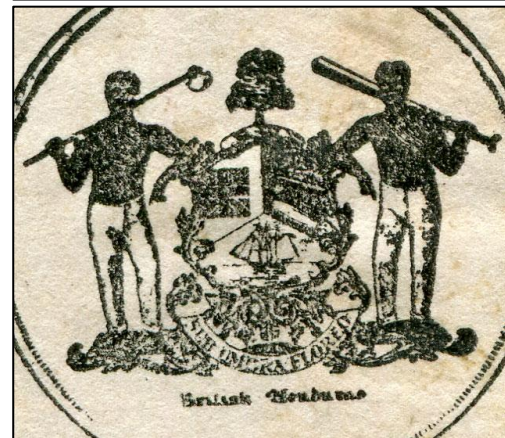
Alex Seton

(Note: Royal Mail Steam Packet '*Amazon*' had departed Southampton for the West Indies two days earlier on 2 January 1852 on her maiden voyage, catching fire some 36 hours later in the Bay of Biscay with the loss of 58 of 162 onboard plus the first consignment of stamps printed for Barbados.)



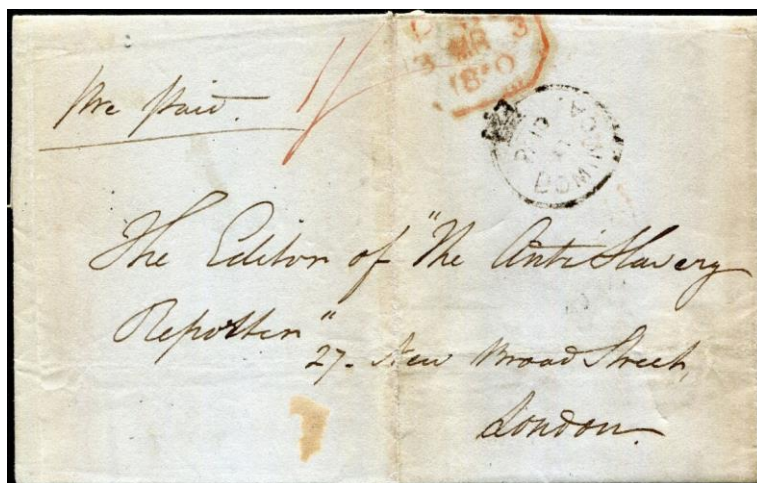
PERIL OF H.M. CORVETTE "AMAZON" WITH "BIRKENHEAD" SURVIVORS ON BOARD

As a closure to this snippet one can only imagine the concerns of the survivors when they realised they were to be returned to England in another vessel called the '*Amazon*'. H.M. corvette '*Amazon*' (26 guns, Captain Barker) had sailed from the China station 24 January 1852 for Trincomalee, and arrived at the Cape on 2 March. While in Simon's Bay she received on board 58 officers, seamen, marines and boys (see Turks Islands snippet), all survivors of the *Birkenhead*, which she took to England departing 7 March arriving end of April. The sketch, as made by an officer on board, and as published in 'The Illustrated London News' shows her struck by a sudden squall in becalmed waters on 30 March which made her heel over nearly 23 degrees. She had at the time thirteen sails set of which ten were split by the fierceness of the blast. (This information extracted from 'A Deathless Story' by A.C. Addison pages 102–3 of the 317 page *Birkenhead* account).



BRITISH HONDURAS: The British Empire Exhibition was officially opened at the Empire Stadium, Wembley by King George V on 23 April 1924. Of the 58 territories which comprised the Empire at the time 56 participated with displays and pavilions. A smaller pavilion shared by the West Indies and British Guiana likewise reflected culture and architecture. Alan Sabey of The Exhibition Study Group (2000) listed all roller, machine, and handstruck cancellations used by 19 territories to promote the exhibition but the detailed listing included no examples of labels. A seldom seen handstruck large rectangular inscribed 'VISIT/BRITISH HONDURAS/COURT/BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION' is illustrated and recorded in the Proud handbook used period 8 AP 1924 to 3 OC 1924. The illustrated, presumed locally printed, black and white label ties the join on reverse of a KGV 2c brown newsrapper pmk'd Belize JY 11 24 addressed by printed label to The Director, The Imperial Institute, South Kensington, London, S.W. Size is 60 x 74mm and the lower edge has printed broken line and, unlike the other three sides, has a rough edge suggesting printing may be more than just a single unit. The B and S in BRITISH HONDURAS appear to be slightly smaller. Under the coat-of-arms is SUB UMBRA FLOREO (under the shade I flourish) being the national motto of the Colony referring to the shade of the mahogany tree. Should collectors have other examples of this label please kindly send good size scans to our Editor so that composition of borders etc. can be checked.

CAYMAN ISLANDS: More than 325 ships have sunk around the Cayman Islands. The American ship 'Christopher Scott' was lost off Grand Cayman Island FE 8 1829, she was on a voyage from London to Mobile, Alabama. The John Byl collection offered an entire headed 'Island Gt. Caymans Feby 12th 1829' from a shipwrecked sailor which included 'and have the misfortune to relate the loss of the Chris Scott on the above-named island, we ran on shore on the morning of Sunday 8th'. The letter is addressed to a Mr. D. Janison in Runcorn, Cheshire, marked lower left 'favour Mr. Josh Bodden' rated 1/8 and landed with step-type KINGSBRIDGE/SHIP LETTER.



DOMINICA: We will never know for certain whether the crowned 'black Dominica' was applied in mourning as a mark of respect to the passing of the much loved Queen Adelaide, wife of King William IV (1830–1837) who died on 2 December 1849 (during the reign of her niece Queen Victoria). Much of her income had been given to charitable causes and following a cholera epidemic in the East End of London the Queen Adelaide's dispensary was opened in Bethnal Green in 1850. Much of the Caribbean, including Dominica, saw cholera outbreaks in that and the coming years. The PAID AT DOMINICA crowned circle was proofed GPO London MY 17 1845 and is currently recorded on 70 prestamp covers for the period AP 10 1847 to MR 12 1870. Of the 70 recorded 45 are commonly seen addressed to John Wyatt Melville, St. Andrews, Fifeshire. The other 25 can be categorised as scarce to very rare with 12 addressed to varying parts of the UK, 5 to New York, 3 to Boston, Massachusetts, and the remaining 5 shared between Barbados, Bermuda, St. Kitts, St. Vincent and France. The Robson Lowe encyclopaedia stated that early strikes are ten times rarer, and this is confirmed by only 3 entires recorded for the first 9 years of its use! Within this trio is sandwiched 'the black Dominica', a currently unique prestamp usage with manuscript red 1s rate written FE 9 1850 by William Thomas Rainy (a resident man of colour) posted JA 9 1850 error date dbl-arc to The Editor, Anti-Slavery Reporter, London with partial red PAID MR 3 1850 arrival.



JAMAICA: A previously unreported tilted 'IAL' in 'JUDICIAL' is found on the upper right stamp in this Multiple Crown CA watermarked block of QV 2s Venetian red dated '22/10/6' (OC 22 1906). The SG earliest use for SG.55 is listed as 11.08.



ST. VINCENT: The red ink strikes of the vertical 'A10' used at the villages of Barrouallie, Chateaubelair, and Georgetown can often be enviable additions in any collection. The horizontal 'A10' overstrikes are applied at Kingstown. Prior to the opening of the villages on DE 10 1872 Kingstown included use of the vertical 'A10' but only struck in black ink. As such strikes were normal cancellers and rarities would not be expected but there is one combination which merits attention. The QV 1s deep rose-red (SG.17) was invoiced to the Colony on AP 13 1872 with expected arrival AP 27 1872 and with the expectation that they were placed on sale on MY 11 1872 although the only known cover for this date has 6d pair to Barnes & Co., London. The next sailings of MY 27 1872 and JU 10 1872 would use SG.17, and on this latter date is the only known 1s deep rose-red cover pmk'd vertical 'A10' to George Lucas, London. With the next sailing for JU 27 1872 Kingstown switches to use of the horizontal 'A10' leaving only three sailings (MY 11, MY 27, JU 10) where SG.17 was cancelled with black vertical 'A10'. The JU 10 1872 cover strike is very poor and clear full strikes on loose stamps are the exception when found.

TRINIDAD: The third stamp in the bottom row of this sheet of HALFPENNY lilac (scan courtesy David Druett) shows a foreign object across the 'N' of 'PENNY'. This variety is not expected to be constant but may have affected a few sheets.

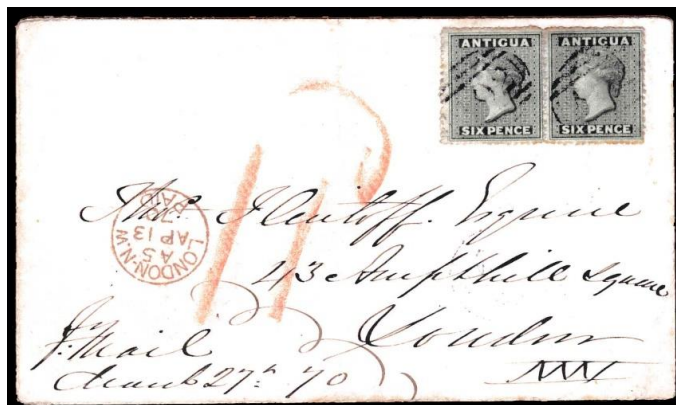


TURKS ISLANDS: William Henry Matthews, a 16 year old second class boy, had his screams heard from below a battened down hatchway in the moments before '*HMS Birkenhead*' sank. Being a good swimmer he struck out to one of the cutters where the pleading of the women allowed him to be taken in and saved on account of his age. He left England again in '*H.M.S Vestal*' bound Port Royal, Jamaica and on 6 May 1852 he was drafted to H.M. schooner '*Bermuda*' which on 13 April 1855 struck a reef at Long Green Key, East Caicos with such force that the rocks penetrated, and she soon filled with water with the sea breaking clean over her. It was night time, about 8.30pm, and the 52 officers and crew took to the rigging and due to an outgoing tide survived. They succeeded in getting the boats over the reef before she became a total wreck, and reached uninhabited land two miles distant. Sand-flies became such a terror that the faces of some of the men were badly bitten, and being unable to open their eyes, they had to be led about. Fires were kept constantly burning for self preservation and living on berries it was not until the seventh day that the castaways were taken off the island by two small merchant schooners who had spotted their distress. They were taken to Turk's Island where they remained for twelve days, and with the disaster reported '*HMS Wolverine*' was despatched to the relief of the shipwrecked crew and they were landed at Bermuda prior eventual return to England by '*HMS Calypso*'. Matthews returned to the Cape and joined the frigate '*Castor*' which in Simon's Bay had rescued him and other '*Birkenhead*' survivors, and subsequent duties included welcoming Dr. Livingstone after his perilous exploration of the Zambesi. Later whilst looking for a missing boat crew near Zanzibar they had a narrow escape on shore having been ambushed by hundreds of cannibals and had to run for their lives. On return he was attached to the '*Victory*' and in 1858 appointed to the Coastguards on the Isle of Wight during which time 134 convicts from Bermuda, having served their sentences of transportation and still in their garments marked with 'broad arrows', were rescued from the stricken '*Cedarine*'. By strange coincidence Matthews and the captain of the convict ship were old acquaintances having met whilst serving in the West Indies some years before. Matthews died in 1898 aged 62 and was buried in the Hastings, Sussex cemetery where his tombstone records the fact that he was a '*Birkenhead*' survivor.

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

ANTIGUA

1870 envelope to London, rated '11d' with pair 1863-7 6d. Green stamp 2 showing 'Morton Evans' major re-entry in value tablet (S.G, 8 var.)



An exceptional cover from a wide ranging stock of the colony.

Email: markjtaylor@btinternet.com

Tel: 020 7226 1503

Fax: 020 7359 7456

P.O. Box 37324, London N1 - 2YQ

BRITISH WEST INDIES OFFERS FROM STOCK

BAHAMAS. 1918 3d purple/yellow with 'WAR TAX' overprint double. Very fine mint. Scarce. SG 94a.

£1250

GRENADA. 1916 1d marginal block 'WAR TAX' inverted, one with small 'A' in 'WAR'. Very fine mint. SG 109a.

£750

BARBADOS. 1892 ¼d 'Specimen' (Type D12) in vertical marginal strip of five. Unmounted mint. SG 105sp.

£125

JAMAICA. 1956 4d Breadfruit corner example with watermark inverted. Unmounted mint.

£300

BARBADOS. 1912 De La Rue Die Proof for ¼d Duty Tablet in black on glazed card.

£175

LEEWARDS. 1944 £1 Keyplate with 'missing pearl'. Very fine used MONTserrat c.d.s. Rare. SG 114ba.

£850

BRITISH GUIANA. 1899 2c on 10c Jubilee with surcharge inverted. Very fine mint. RPSCert.

£475

NEVIS. 1883 ½d dull green 'broken top left triangle'. Very fine mint. Exceptionally fresh. SG 25a.

£300

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1888 2c on 6d showing slanting '2'. Very fine mint. Only 8 recorded. Ex Tucker. SG 25c

£2250

ST KITTS-NEVIS. 1923 Tercentenary set of thirteen. Very fine mint. SG 48/60.

£700

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1899 10c (11mm opt) 'REVENUE' error. Very fine mint. RPS Cert. SG 67cb.

£550

TOBAGO. 1887 ½d on 6d orange brown. Superb used with central 'A 14' obliterator. SG 28.

£150

CAYMANS. 1907 ½d on 5/- marginal block of four with 'slotted frame'. Unmounted mint. Very rare. SG 18var.

£2500

TRINIDAD. 1902 4d imperf Plate proof vertical strip of three on gummed paper (Perf 14 in left margin).

£550

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.

MARK HARVEY

P O BOX 205, LINDFORD, HANTS, GU35 5DU, UNITED KINGDOM

Tel/Fax: 01420 472672

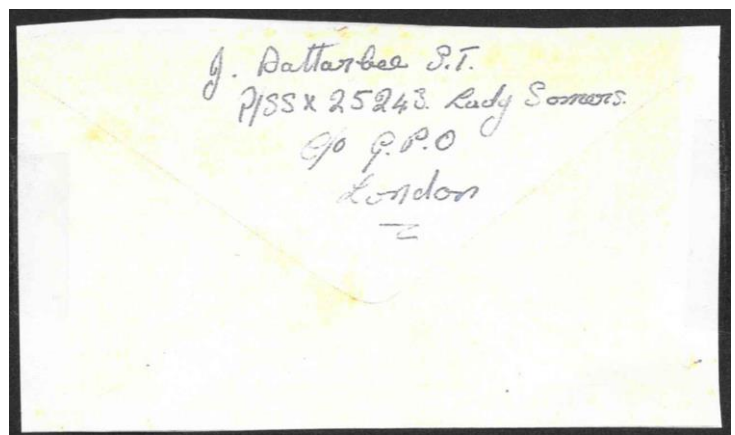
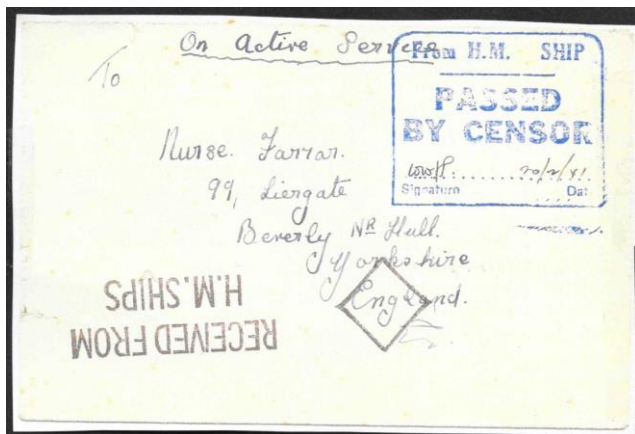
Intl: (+44) 1420 472672

e-mail: mark@lindford.org

BWI**THE LADY SOMERS****BY BRUCE WALKER**

I read with interest the description on Lot 752 in the BWISC 2018 Auction catalogue and although my collection of Lady Boat covers is missing an example posted on board the Lady Somers when used in the 1930s as a passenger steamer, I do have a cover posted after she had been requisitioned by the Admiralty in October 1940 which I thought might be of interest to members.

The cover is posted from a member of the crew On Active Service to Beverly in Yorkshire, censored on board on 20 February 1941. The Lady Somers was torpedoed and sunk on the 15 July 1941 in the Bay of Biscay by the Italian submarine 'Morosine', all crew were saved by Spanish ships.

**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION****BY STEPHEN KING**

Please can any members identify the attached amateur photographer's image found by a maritime postcard dealer. The reverse small pencil inscription reads W. Indies.

It looks like a C17th bastion fort with possible reduced walls. I cannot read the sign attached to one wall. Figure stood to attention in tropical whites in right hand aperture/gun port. The flag post suggests it is a navy base only where?



BWI UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

BY RICHARD MOSS



I collect village cancellations on the BWI University covers of 1951. Whereas it is not unusual to see transit dates in the colony up to a week after posting I would have thought it was unusual to have a Belize transit stamp six months and three days after posting. Do other members have similar covers from other village post offices?

If so, has anybody come up with an explanation for such a long delay?

Argyll Etkin Limited

Biannual Public Auctions held in Central London with viewing at Stampex

Consignments sought

Competitive vendor terms offered – complimentary catalogues sent upon request

GB and Worldwide Postal History, Proofs, Essays and Specimen Stamps

Retail Stock available at our central London offices

Further items available on our webstore and eBay shops

webstore: www.argyll-etkin.com

eBay: argylletkin.royaltyhistory

Drop in and see us at our new offices:

2nd floor, 1, Wardour Street, London W1D 6PA

Tel: +44 (0)20 7930 6100

Email: philatelists@argyll-etkin.com

BAHAMAS

'AROUND THE CARIBBEAN 5' RESPONSE

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

The Bahamas section in the September 2018 Bulletin, by Michael Hamilton, will have sent collectors to ferret in their albums. His piece on late uses of the Q.V. 1d. corrects the long-standing misapprehension that the revival of SG 47–49 was to compensate for unavailability of the EVII 1d. It was, as Peter Fernbank has demonstrated, simply to use up old stock.

To MH's dates can be added an ERD of '28 NO/10' (Nicholls Town), and four post offices, namely Nassau, Harbour Island, Governor's Harbour and Whale Cay. The last named is probably the rarest of any. The Mail Bag Seal of Exuma almost certainly belongs in this list, but is always undated.

BARBADOS

PLATE NUMBERS OF THE 1925–35 BADGE DEFINITIVES FOLLOW-UP

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

Patricia Capill's latest piece in Bulletin No.258, September 2018, poses a couple of questions about the plate numbers of the 1925–35 Badge Definitives.

1. I can confirm from a block of 16 (the two right-hand columns plus selvedge) of the Farthing brown from the 80-set plate(s) that no plate plug appears in the right selvedge.
2. I have a fresh single of the One Penny Perf 14, position 4/1, with Plate No.1 in the left selvedge; it is in the mid-scarlet shade (ie not the deepest shade).
3. I have two Post-office fresh blocks of four of the One Penny second perf, positions 4/9–10, 5/9–10, with Plate No.2 in the right selvedge: they are in an identical bright scarlet shade. Notably, the perfs measure 13 x 12¼, NOT the accepted 13½ x 12½ enshrined by SG Part 1. Both show marginal lines in the selvedge.

Perhaps our holdings of second perf Badge Definitives would all bear careful measurement.

BARBADOS

STAMPS WANTED

BY SIR GEOFFREY PALMER

I am looking for the following 1897–98 Diamond Jubilee stamps on blued paper:

SG129 5d olive-bronze

SG130 6d mauve and carmine

SG131 8d orange and ultramarine

Please respond via the Editor.

Articles wanted for future Bulletins
Anything West Indies related considered

BRITISH HONDURAS

THE INTERESTING TALE OF A COVER TO LABÖ NEAR KIEL.

BY NIGEL CHANDLER

The cover illustrated below had its fare paid with 11ct. The additional 24ct. stamp is most likely added as an afterthought. Hence escaping being cancelled.

Initially addressed to Baden-Baden this was corrected to Labö (also spelt Laboe) by the sender prior to handing to the Post Office at Belize on '23 JU 98'.

It arrived in Labö and was receipt cancelled '7.9.98', some 45 days later, where it also acquired a 10 Pfennig stamp. No postage due was payable. So why was the 10 Pfennig stamp added?

The observant will have noticed the addressee, Mr Ch. von Francois, is a Captain. Labö is a Harbour within the Kiel Bight. Crews of merchant ships away at sea had their mail held until return, the same service was extended to all, however officers had to pay for this privilege, hence the 10 Pfennig.

An unusual item to be offered in our next auction.



GRENADA

A BOOK ABOUT GRENADA PHILATELY

(continued from Bulletin 257 p25 – 30)

BY TIM PEARCE

Chapter Three: British Adhesives used in Grenada 1858–1860

By 1855, the Post Office was already aware that the administration of the numerous distant post offices across the Empire had become difficult and extravagant and it began a process of persuading local governments in the colonies to accept responsibility for the service. 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 to notify pre-payment of postage and that these offices would be supplied with numbered obliterateds. The existing date stamps were hardly ever used as cancellations. Two versions of the standard type obliterator, numbered A15, were sent to St George's, Grenada.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

The first type, (Fig. 1.) which has a larger and slightly forward-sloping 5 was sent on 14 April 1858, and the second an upright 5 with a smaller top (Fig. 2.) was sent on 28 April 1858.

Charlton quotes from a document, dated 30 March 1858, to the effect that £3.00 worth of 1d stamps, £12.00 worth of 4d stamps and £35.00 worth of 6d stamps were to be sent to Grenada in April. On 6 April, an apparently redundant note was added that two-thirds should consist of 6d labels, as adhesive stamps were known at the time, the remaining third to be equally divided between 4d and 1d labels. A similar quantity was to be sent in May and the Postmaster was to requisition a further supply within a month of the receipt of the first batch. It would therefore appear that 2,800 6d stamps plus 1,440 each of 4d and 1d stamps were sent. In fact, the 6d stamps were used up in 1859 and 1d and 4d stamps had to be used until a new supply arrived. (Fig. 3.)



Fig. 3.

This cover was posted on 25 November 1859 by which time the new 6d stock had arrived, so the sender presumably simply had the 4d and 1d stamps to hand.

This is one of only two known covers with mixed values.



Fig. 4.

At a later date a small supply of 2d blue plate 7, and 1s green, no letters (Fig. 4.) were also sent out. All values, except the 6d are rare, both loose and on cover. The 2d is very rare indeed and may have been used only accidentally.

Check list

- 1d red on white paper, Die 2, large crown, perf 14 (1857), for newspaper, printed matter.
 2d blue, plate 7, large crown, perf 14 (1858).
 4d rose, large garter, no letters in corners, perf 14 (1857), for letters to other BWI islands.
 6d lilac, emblems, no letters in corners, perf 14 (1856), to pay ½ ounce packet rate to Britain.
 1/- green, emblems, no letters, perf 14 (1856), to pay 1 ounce rate to Britain.



Fig. 5.

The large double-arc 'GRENADA' handstamp (Fig. 5.) continued in use as an identifying mark until 1859 when it was replaced with a smaller circular datestamp, proofed in London on 14 April 1859. It remained in use for 25 years. At first, when used as an identifier, rather than a canceller, it had a reversed C code. (Fig. 7.)

The following part cover (Fig. 6.) shows the first type of the A15 canceller with the slightly forward-sloping and larger 5 used on two 6d stamps, one with wing margin. On the cut away rear, the new circular datestamp (Fig. 7.) shows that the letter was posted on 9 September 1859 and the red receiving mark on the front shows that it arrived in London on 2 October where it received a Crown registered handstamp. The letter reached its destination in Aberdeen on 3 October. The Crown Registered handstamp is very rare on letters from Grenada and this one is not illustrated in Robson Lowe's *Handstamps of the Empire*, pp 140–141. They were issued to ports likely to receive mail from ships. In this case the Crown Registered handstamp is on top of the London receiving mark.



Fig. 6.



Fig. 7.

The British Post Office withdrew the facility to use British stamps in 1860, but Grenada was reluctant to proceed to order its own stamps. In the interim it reverted to the CrownedCircle handstamp used between 1851 and 1858, see Chapter 2, Bulletin 257. June 2018.

Please send any comments to me at timothy770@btinternet.com. I should be especially glad to hear from anyone who has actually seen the GB 1858 2d (Z2 in SG) used with an A15 postmark, or even seen it in a sale catalogue.

Chapter 4: The Chalon Head Issues, first type

The responsibility for the Postal Services in Grenada was passed to the Colony itself in an Act of 19 September 1860. The Act established the rates of postage for inter-colonial letters and provided for the issue of postage stamps. On 4 February 1861, this was followed by another Act which established the Inland Post and rates of postage within the Colony.

The rates were:

Inland Post	1d per ½ ounce
Letters from or to places abroad	1d per ½ ounce
Exceeding ½ ounce but not exceeding 1 ounce	2d
Exceeding 1 ounce but not exceeding 2 ounces	4d
Exceeding 2 ounces but not exceeding 3 ounces	6d
and so on, an additional 2d being charged for every additional ounce or part of an ounce.	
Newspapers from abroad brought by Packet boats or private vessels	½d each
Newspapers transmitted by post within the Colony	½d each
Books, Magazines etc not exceeding half a pound in weight	1d each
For every succeeding half-pound	½d each
Sample post, open at sides, not exceeding 1 ounce	½d
Letters to Great Britain per ½ ounce (of this charge, 1d went to Grenada and 5d to Great Britain, divided into 4d for sea transit and 1d for local delivery.)	6d
Private Ship Letters remained 3d each way, even after the Post Office rate went up.	

On 1 April 1863, this rate was raised to One Shilling per half ounce, of which 1d went to Grenada and 11d to Great Britain. It remained so until Grenada joined the Universal Postal Union on 1 February 1881, when the rate was reduced to four pence per half ounce. The two rates of 1d and 6d issued in 1861 remained as the only two postage stamps used in the island until 1875, when a 1s issue was at last added, and the two basic values remained in use until 1883, when De La Rue took over the contract from Perkins Bacon.

E.D.Bacon, first, in the Grenada section of *The Postage Stamps of the British Colonies*, Philatelic Society, London, in 1891, and then in his and Napier's *Handbook* of 1904, established the several issues of these two values. The first supply of stamps was sent to the colony on 27 April 1861, so probably came into use in June. Dated postmarks on loose copies of this issue only occur through the parish postmarks of the inland post and these postmarks are often poorly printed. Surviving entires or covers dated 1861 are very rare. Bacon established the issues of the 1d and 6d between 1861 and 1881, identifiable by paper, watermark and perforation and sometimes by shade. The Bacon & Napier *Handbook* contains a detailed account of the Perkins Bacon perforating machines, with illustrations of blocks of four stamps to show the differentiation, though in practice this is not easy on single Grenada stamps, apart from the Somerset House perforation 14 in 1875.

The stamps were commissioned by the Colonial Secretary in February 1861, the die of the 1d was made on 26 March 1861, the 6d on 8 April, and the date of the first invoice is 27 April 1861, for the preparation of the die and the printing plate, and the printing of 400 sheets of the 1d and 200 sheets of the 6d. The sheets contained 120 stamps in ten horizontal rows of twelve.

Die proofs of each value are known on card and on India paper (Figs. 1. & 2.). Imperforate plate proofs of both values also exist in a colour similar to the issued 6d, but are not known in green (Figs. 3. & 4.). These are found both on wove and laid paper. Laid paper has a slightly ridged effect and is distinguished from the [wove paper](#) by the presence of [thin](#), parallel lines visible when the paper is held to light. The effect is due to the mechanical process by which paper is made when the pulp is rolled with a 'dandy roll' to flatten it. This leaves the mark of the reel on it. (The same sort of reel is used to put watermarks in paper). All paper manufactured before the 19th century was laid. The Grenada 6d proofs are on horizontally laid paper. Wove paper has a smooth finish. The 6d perforated 11–12½, known on both wove and laid paper, is thought to be a perforation trial and was never issued.

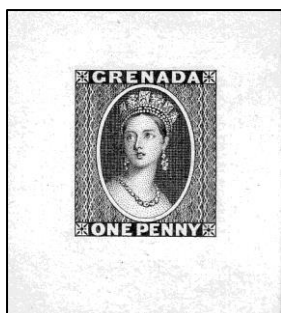


Fig. 1. 1d die proof



Fig. 2. 6d die proof



Fig. 3. 1d plate proof on wove paper



Fig. 4. 6d plate proof on laid paper



Fig. 5.

Six examples of every Perkins Bacon stamp were struck with a 'CANCELLED' handstamp in an oval of bars and given to Ormond Hill, son of Sir Rowland Hill, for members of the family, but no other Specimens were printed (Fig. 5.). These, recorded in Peter Jaffé's 1998 book, *CANCELLED by Perkins Bacon*, are very rarely seen on the market.

The design of this issue is recognised as one of the most distinguished examples of the so-called Chalon Head. Alfred Edward Chalon, RA, 1780–1860, painted a portrait of the new queen in her robes of state in 1837.



Fig. 6.

This was engraved in 1838 by Samuel Cousins, RA, 1801–1887 (Fig. 6.) and copied in water-colour by Edward Henry Corbould, 1815–1905, in 1854. A miniature drawing of the head of Queen Victoria attributed to Corbould was purchased for the Royal Collection and it was generally thought that the Perkins Bacon engraver, William Humphrys, 1794–1865, made dies copied from Corbould's watercolour, though Robson Lowe and others had doubts about this and thought it possible that Humphrys worked directly from the Chalon portrait.

He argued that Corbould's sketch showed many points of variance from both Chalon's portrait and Humphrys' engraving. Humphrys' dies were used variously for Nova Scotia and New Zealand, and as head and shoulders only for Van Diemen's Land and Queensland. It is perhaps relevant to consider that the concept of the Queen's head and shoulders in a small oval frame may have been the origin of the general design rather than the source of the particular engraving. The head as seen in the stamps of Bahamas, Natal & Grenada has been traditionally attributed to Charles Henry Jeens, 1827–1879 though recent accounts suggest that he prepared the titles and ornamentation of the frames for those territories and did little more than touch up the vignette of the head.

John Dickson in the supplement to *The London Philatelist*, December 2000, demonstrates fairly conclusively that the head dies all stem from a common source.

FIRST ISSUE

For the first issue in 1861 (Fig. 7.) the paper used was unwatermarked and varying in thickness. The sheets were perforated on a single-line machine producing very rough perforation gauging from 14–16. The perforation was often little more than an indentation. Some copies have been cut out where the perforation has failed in its purpose. The 1861 printing of the 1d has a distinctly bluer tinge than the second printing. This can be best observed on copies of the 1d used locally and dated 1861 and is quite recognisable once identified by that means. The second printing is a duller plainer green. The 6d rose varies in shade, but as it was only printed once on this paper that may be due to fading or washing.



Fig. 7. SG 1 lightly cancelled and cancelled in 1861, block of SG 2.

Unused copies of the 1d are among the rarest stamps of Grenada, with perhaps no more than half a dozen reliably identified copies in private hands. The stamp was widely used and definitely sent to all the parish post offices (See Ch.8). The 6d is more plentiful in used condition but as the parish post was closed in December 1862, it is much harder to find examples with the double-ring large alphabetic cancel. This value was also well-used especially as the rate to England rose from 6d to 1s long before the 1s stamp was produced. Unused copies in fine condition are hard to find. Similarly, covers with these issues on have only survived in very small numbers.



There is one important variety, which appears on the 1d plate on all issues from 1861–1881 (Figs. 8. & 9.) the last appearance of this design and colour. It occurs at position 4 in the top row of stamps and is a fresh entry, which can be seen principally in the doubling in the N and more prominently in the D in Grenada and also in a sort of smudged area of green in the left side of the white oval frame, west of the queen's mouth. The impression of the fresh entry varies considerably and can be seen better on some examples than others. The example here is the 1873 deep green issue.



Fig. 8.

A fresh entry occurs when, after the plate has been proofed, the proof reader draws attention to any impression which is out of alignment or otherwise defective. The original entry must then be erased and the design entered again from the transfer roll. If the original entry is not completely erased, some lines will remain. The marks in the N & D of GRENADA are vestiges of the previous entry. Since this variety occurs on every printing of the 1d green from 1861 to 1881, it is not a result of any re-entry made later in the life of the plate and must have been regarded, if noticed, as too trivial an error to correct. (See Boggs and Strange, *The Foundations of Philately*, Part three, 1955.)



Fig. 9.

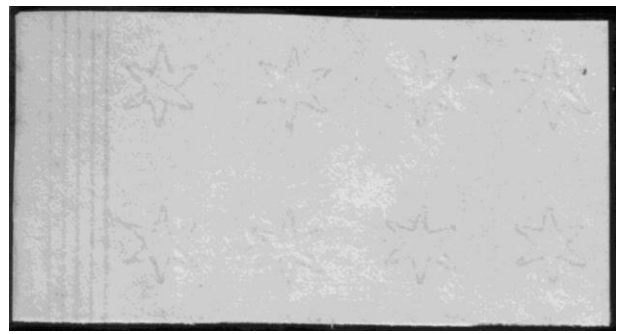


Fig. 10.

SECOND ISSUE

The next printing of the 1d green was in 1863 on small star watermarked paper and with the same rough perforation, 14–16 (Figs. 9. 10.). Two shades are recognised, green and yellow-green, and the issue is also found with upright and sideways watermark. This is not altogether surprising as the half-sheets of small star watermark paper are nearly square (259x264mm) and so, in loading the paper feed, it would be an easy error for a time-pressed printshop worker to make. It is also worth noting that there was almost enough space between the stars to produce unwatermarked examples, if the paper was not loading reasonably square to the forme. In fact, in such cases, it is usually possible to identify the tips of the stars' rays at the edges of the stamp. This issue lasted for ten years and is one of the commonest of its type, both used and unused. The yellow-green shade is quite distinctive.

LATER ISSUES

There were six more printings of the 1d stamp as shown in the check list. Some are easy to identify, others less so, and even West Indies specialists are wary of too much assurance in an identification. As is well-recognised, everyone sees colours and shades slightly differently and only some of the perforation differences in this case are distinctive. In 1873, a short-lived printing appeared on the same paper, but this time consistently small star sideways and in a distinctive deep green (Fig. 11.). It was followed in the same year by one of the most easily identifiable of the issue, the blue-green printed on large star watermark paper, which is quite different from the blue-green shade of the first issue in 1861 (Fig. 11.). They were perforated on the Perkins Bacon A machine, but in 1872, the machine had been overhauled and provided with a new steel plate and top plate so that there were new pins and new holes for them to go into. The perforations are therefore reasonably clean-cut, especially on the dark green issue. Bacon suggests that from a philatelic point of view this was virtually a new machine and designates it A2. The next issue, in 1875, is also easy to identify as it was perforated 14 at Somerset House and differs therefore from all the others immediately to the naked eye (Fig. 12.). Its shade is called green-yellow green, but it is seldom as yellowish as the similar shade in 1863.



Fig. 11. 1873 1d deep green, clean-cut perf 15 1873–4 1d blue-green, intermediate perf 15



Fig. 12. 1875 1d green-yellow-green, (left) missing perf pins, (right) gross misperforation. Somerset House perforation 14

This issue gave rise to the next very rare Grenada stamp, when the Somerset House machine produced so much misperforated material that a small proportion of the print-run was returned to Perkins Bacon and perforated 15 on the A2 machine (Fig. 13.). Some of the misperforated material does appear on the market but should probably not be called Printers' Waste. Printing postage stamps is like printing currency, there is great security and the printer has to account for each piece of paper. The misperforated material was probably 'liberated' illegally from the archives and sold on the philatelic market.



Fig.13. All four of these stamps are on large star upright paper. From left to right: 1873 1d blue-green, 1875 Somerset House perf 14, well centred, 1875 Somerset House perf 14 badly misperforated, but used in Grenada, 1875, rough perf 15, ex-Towers, with a 1977 certificate.

The next two printings are the hardest to be sure about. The printers reverted to the small star paper and in 1878 and 1879 printed two batches, one of which is known as small star sideways green, intermediate perforation 15, and the next known as pale green on small star watermark upright (Fig. 14.). The first is intermediate perforation and the second rough perforation. Both these are hard to distinguish from the common issue of 1863, which is known with both orientations of the watermark. The best method, as proposed by Bacon in 1904, is by dated postmark, as any stamp postmarked in 1878–83 is very unlikely to be a survivor from the 1863 issue. Bacon describes the 1878 printing as 'a rather light green with a tinge of blue' and the 1879 printing as 'a decidedly pale green colour' and 'a dull appearance as if the plate was somewhat worn'.



Fig. 14. The 1879–1881 issues. Left to right: dated 1879 wmk sideways green on thick paper; 1879 pale green watermark upright; Similar dated copy; 1881 perf 14 1/4. (A unique SPECIMEN handstamp (Samuel D8) is known on the 1881 issue from the Perkins Bacon archives.)

Apart from the re-entry already noted on all the 1d printings, there are not many recorded plate varieties. Sefi, in 1912, recorded what he described as the 'curl on forehead' variety, which he identifies on the 1873 issue, though it is impossible to confirm from his illustration what the issue is, so one must take him at his word (Figs. 15., 16., & 17.). This 'variety' has been recorded on the 1879 and 1881 issues, which would not be so surprising on a plate which had served for twenty years.



Fig. 15.



Fig. 16.



Fig. 17.

The alleged 'curl on forehead' variety on the 1879 pale green and the 1881 perf 14¼

This flaw does not scan well, though is easily visible under magnification. It looks as if a minute object the shape of a lemon wedge became lodged on the plate and damaged the surface. It is probably not really a regular variety. Peter Jaffé dismisses it in 1953 as a curiosity of little or no philatelic importance. Jaffé also identified another flyspeck variety, which he named 'spot on neck' and identified at position 70 (Row 6/10). The small speck of damage to the plate can be found about 1mm above the central pearl of the necklace and has been seen on the issues from 1875 to 1881.

With one exception the 6d issues do not present such complications. This denomination was in great demand after the basic rate to England went from 6d to 1s and it is not surprising that used pairs and covers with pairs on are relatively common compared with the 1d.

SECOND ISSUE

In 1863, the first 6d on small star upright watermarked paper was issued in rose. In the following few years there were several more printings up to 1871, and shades are described as orange-red, dull rose-red and vermilion (Figs. 18. to 21.). When seen in fairly large numbers, these are quite easy to differentiate, but the dull rose-red is alleged to have appeared only on small star sideways watermark and is not therefore easy to distinguish from the variant sideways watermark of other shades. Additionally, the parish post was suspended through lack of use in 1862 and not reopened until 1872, so the only one of these likely to have a dated postmark is the 1871 printing in vermilion. The issue is further complicated by the fact that like the 1861 6d, the colours are subject to fading, oxidation and possibly, in the case of used examples, to the consequences of having been soaked or even washed. Finally, these pinkish, reddish or orangey inks seem to have been highly subject to tropicalisation which darkens and distorts the colours.

LATER ISSUES

Fortunately, the two subsequent 6d issues are easier to identify. The issue of 1873 is on large star watermarked paper in orange-vermilion and the issue in 1878 is in deep vermilion, some would say bright orange, on thick small star sideways paper (Figs. 22. & 23.). Both have the intermediate perf 15. As all these issues were very fully used, fine unused copies are difficult to find in proper condition.



Fig. 18. 6d rose (1863)



Fig. 19. 6d orange-red (1866)



Fig. 20. 6d vermilion (1871)



Fig. 21. 6d dull rose-red
(1869)



Fig. 22. 6d orange-vermilion
(1873)



Fig. 23. 6d deep vermilion
(1878)

There are no officially recognised plate varieties on the 6d issue, but Charlton describes an irregular white line running across the 'GRE' of 'Grenada', which has been seen on all the earlier shades. On both values, in the centre of the top and bottom margins of the sheet are small vertical lines of colour. These are sometime seen on the stamp margins of positions 6–7 and 114–5. Both values have also been found printed double. Charlton states that the 1d double impression is so nearly in register with the original impression that the stamp merely looks smudged. In the case of the 6d, the second impression is quite distinct (Figs. 24. & 25.).



Fig. 24. 6d 1873 double impression



Fig. 25. 6d 1878 double impression

A check list of these issues appears at the end of the next chapter.

JAMAICA

THE ENDURING MYTH OF THE TEMPORARY RUBBER DATESTAMPS OF JAMAICA

BY DAVID HORRY

Part II

The two people who did most to encourage the collecting of the Jamaica TRDs were L.C.C. Nicholson and J.M. Nethersole. Nicholson lived in England and Nethersole was a man of the law in Jamaica. In 1949 Jamaican philatelist Everard Aguilar, published *The Philatelic Handbook of Jamaica*. He took the work of Nicholson *The Temporary Rubber Postmarks 1881-1938* and that of Nethersole 1939 Onwards. It covered 40 pages full of useful information and photographic representations. Not since 1928 Collett and Buckland Edwards' efforts in Stanley Gibbons *Jamaica*, had the TRDs had such an outing by Nicholson in just four pages. In 1949 he made a grand effort to establish what many collectors believed to be merely purple-inked fiscal markings. The reason – he wanted to sell them wholesale, as they were issued.

Since Part One of this story was published last quarter new information has been gleaned from the Karl Groeber collection in Heidelberg. Around 1940 J.M. Nethersole had given a paper to the Jamaica Philatelic Society in which he described the origins of the TRDs:-

'There too are temporary postmarks which are rubber stamps issued to each post-office at its opening and used during its period of probation, when it is winning its spurs (from a financial viewpoint;) after about ten months of successful operation, the P/O is given a proper steel date stamp. These TRDs are of varying types and sizes. Cancellations are usually in purple ink enough to delude the unwary into diagnosing a fiscal cancellation. Some of the early ones were made by Vendryes, of '1890 Provisional' fame. Mr. George Goubault informs me that he helped Vendryes in the making of some of them; they were cast in soft metal and faced up with copper for the sake of better durability. The latest example of 'TREASURE BEACH' (formerly 'PEDRO PLAINS') is oval in shape, being the familiar commercial type with the alterable date.'

This was confirmed by the Jamaica Philatelic Journal of June 1941 and Nicholson in 1949 (Aguilar).

So the early 'TDs' were made of metal and not rubber! This is borne out by the fact that they all appear to have used black ink: and therefore they should now be re-designated as TMDs and not TRDs? By 20 June 1884 Hagly-Gap was issued as I mentioned in part one of this series and it should re-designated as a TMB (Temporary Metal Box). Illustrated is yet another Vendryes addressed cover. (Fig. 1.) A similar instrument was issued to the military at Up Park Camp in late April 1884. Up Park Camp was the Army Headquarters just to the north of Kingston just behind the Vineyard Town Post Office. (Fig. 2.) This TMD was used until August 1885, but not illustrated by Messrs. Farrimond and Murphy.



Fig. 1. Hagly-Gap TMB and cover to H. Vendryes, Kingston (20 June 1884) – courtesy Karl Groeber

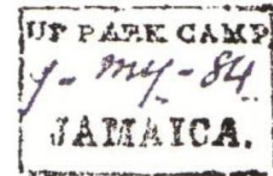


Fig. 2. Up Park Camp TMB
1 May 1884 - Proud



Fig. 3. Laughlands cover 25 February 1884
with TRD and Obl.C (ex-Mahfoot)

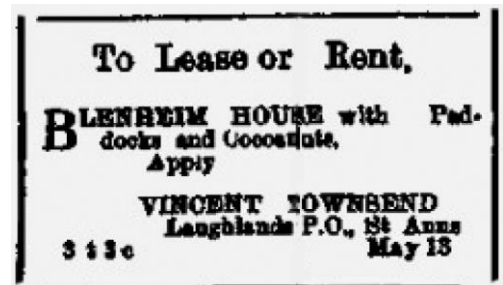


Fig. 4. Blenheim House small ad,
The Daily Gleaner 13 May 1901.

The Nethersole information was confirmed by Nicholson on page 68 of the Aguilar book. He suggests that in 1881 soft metal instruments may have existed for Anchovy, Cross Keys, Glengoffe, Laughlands and Oracabessa. Only one of these has ever been found. Laughlands had a Temporary Metal Circle dated 25 February 1884; it was accompanied by the 'C' Obliterator, I now have an improved illustration (Fig. 3.) Laughlands is a bizarre place to site a post office, as it has such a tiny population. There was a very small hamlet in 1940, Blenheim (Fig. 4.), but it was gone after WWII according to the American Army map 1942. (Fig. 5.) It lies on the edge of the Llandoverly & Richmond Estates with an abandoned Rum Factory to the west. In *The Daily Gleaner* Laughlands Post Office is later referred to as 'Llandoverly, Laughlands'. (Fig. 6.) Might this have any connection to why Llandoverly Falls was chosen for the subject of the controversial 1d definitive? As per Buckland Edwards in 1928, not only did the Governor disown it, so did his wife and the Postmaster Pearce!

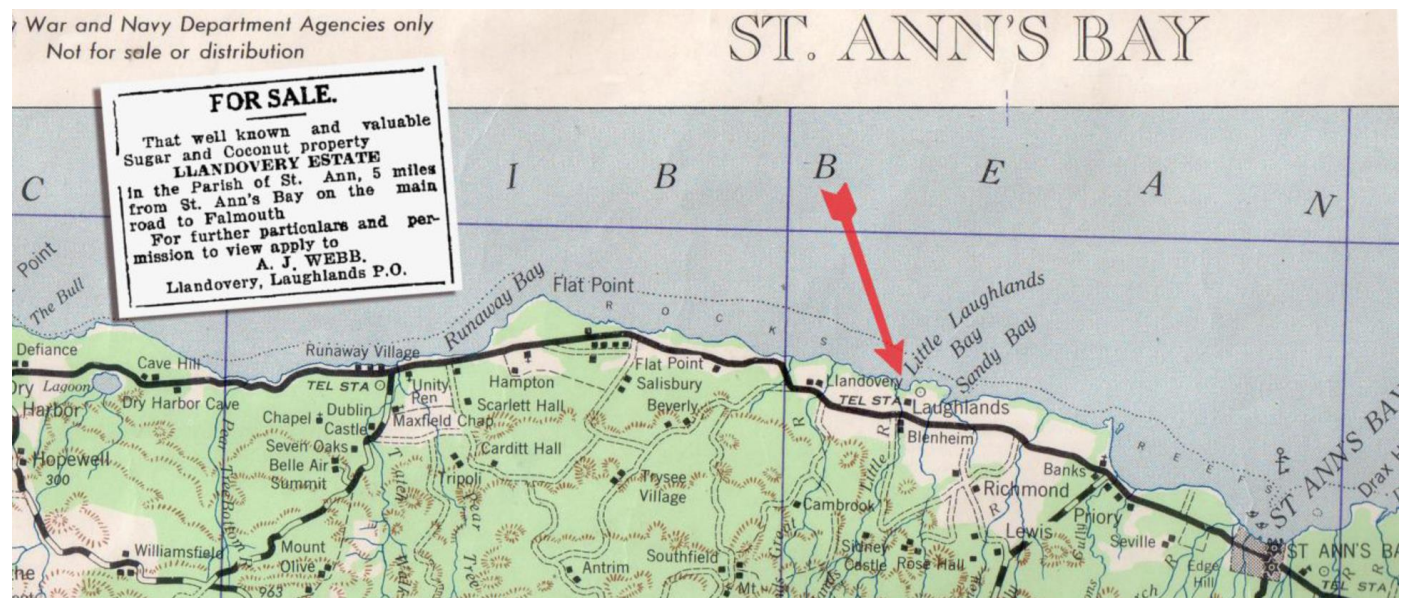


Fig. 5. Laughlands, St. Anns, United States Army Map 1942
Inset Fig. 6. Llandoverly Laughlands PO *The Daily Gleaner* 20 April 1920.

A study of Tom Foster's notes on the Laughlands office shows that there appears to have been no less than 5 different postmarks in use between 1883 and 1911, including the mysterious C Obliterator, and no sign of a forwarding office. (Fig. 7.) Ted Proud notes at least 6 openings and closings and *The Gleaner* states that Llandoverly Laughlands was the trial ground for thousands of American 'Washington Navel' oranges only found in Florida and California until 1902. (Fig. 8.) This busy location appears to be of great interest to the American Fruit Industry and little to the local population.

By chance I came across a 1901 Laughlands SqC on a Llandoverly stamp. On the back is a philatelic dealer's handstamp. (Fig. 9.) This was the handiwork of Errington & Martin London NE. Edgar Frank Errington and Benjamin Ernest Martin were philatelic importers located at 17 Gascoyne Road, South Hackney, E 9. The partnership was dissolved on 23 December 1919 and taken over solely by Martin. In 1922 he was bought out by the famed philatelic dealer Oswald Marsh of Gipsy Hill, Norwood. (Fig. 10.)

LAUGHLANDS F/O ST. ANNS BAY? ST. ANNE PARISH			
Post Office opened 1st November 1883. t., s.b.			
TRD1	25 FEB 1884		
Q15 "C"	25 Feb 1884	1885 8	O'Connor was postmarked with TRD1 + Q15.
PSQC1	15500 1884 21 May 1885	22 Aug 1911	MONTH FIRST Lot 485 RL 31/16
m/s Laughlands	Dec 1893		
TRD159 Punks	1918		YOUTH PART OF BIK. SWEEP ENPS. DOTTED DIFFERENT
DC1	27 Jan 26 Mar 1913	10 Feb 1974	MONTH FIRST 74, 123, (226), (226)
NB2	14 Jan 1952	14 Sep 1963	MONTH FIRST RC 126, 153, (149, 150, RE), (127, 2122)
E.C. Gruder		1885 or earlier - 1886	
J.T. Low		1886 - 1889	
No Postmaster		1889 - 1890 (Closed ?)	
W.J. Hurst		1890 -	
PHOTO OF NEW OFFICE IN BOX (DUNE DC1, NB2)			

Fig. 7. Thomas Foster's notes on the Laughlands post office.

5 December 1901

[Exhibits of these were also shown by Mr. Levy.]

Then there is the "Washington" Navel, of which I spoke before, in connection with Florida and California. It scarcely differs from the "Bahia" except that it is not so large. The flesh is more meaty, and has not such a quantity of juice, neither does it make as much growth in the same time, and, with me, is just as liable to scale insect as any other variety. It is the standard orange of America and I think would pay to grow.

26 November 1902

FOR SALE.

2,000, year-old Jamaica Grape Fruit Trees,
1,000, year-old Washington Navel Trees budded from best approved bearing stock at 6d. per tree, or 3d. per tree for the lot.
10,000 year-old Sour seedlings at 2s. per 100.

FRED, L. CLARKE.
Richmond Estate,
Laughlands P. O.
St. Ann.

Fig. 8. Cuttings on the 'Washington Navel' orange.



Fig. 9. Laughlands SqC 5 July 1901 with circular Errington & Martin imprint verso – Horry

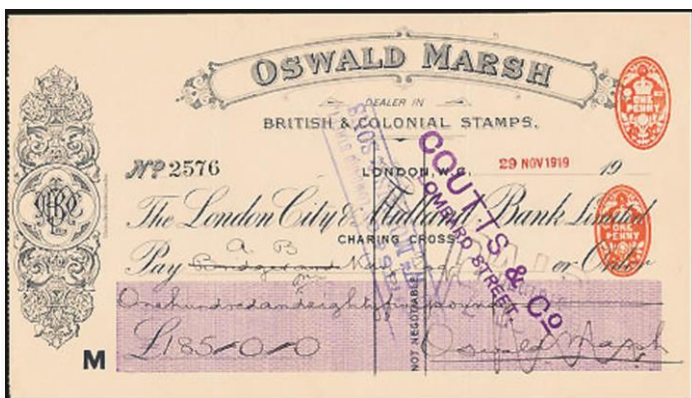


Fig. 10. Cheque by Oswald Marsh to Bridger & Kaye 29 Nov 1919 - Leverton

Established in 1880 they were purveyors of 'genuine' stamps. They appear to have been supplied by the Military all over the globe, India being a speciality. I also note Army issues from the turn of the century. (Fig. 11.) They used a lot of advertising cards which emanated from Guatemala and Costa Rica. These came via the United Fruit Company, who took over the running of the postal service of Guatemala in 1902. They gave Waterlow & Sons of London the contract to print their definitives. Some 70,000 of these 1897 3c Guatemalan reply cards were remaindered, as the Guatemalan Exposition had been a huge flop. (Fig. 12.) By 1898 the Boston Fruit Company owned every banana plantation in Jamaica. In 1899 they merged with the United Fruit Company, who owned the Titchfield and the Myrtle Bank Hotels: in 1905 they opened new establishments offering guests the finest hospitality in Jamaica. They also used TRDs at their hotel post offices. (Figs. 13. & 14.) The United Fruit Company remained a very powerful 'political' institution throughout Central America and the Caribbean. Uniquely, they punched holes in their Jamaican stamps! I only appear to be able find definitives depicting citrus fruit and bananas with the UFCo. perfin. (Fig. 15.)



Fig. 11. Army Officials 1900-1 with circular Errington & Martin imprint verso – Horry

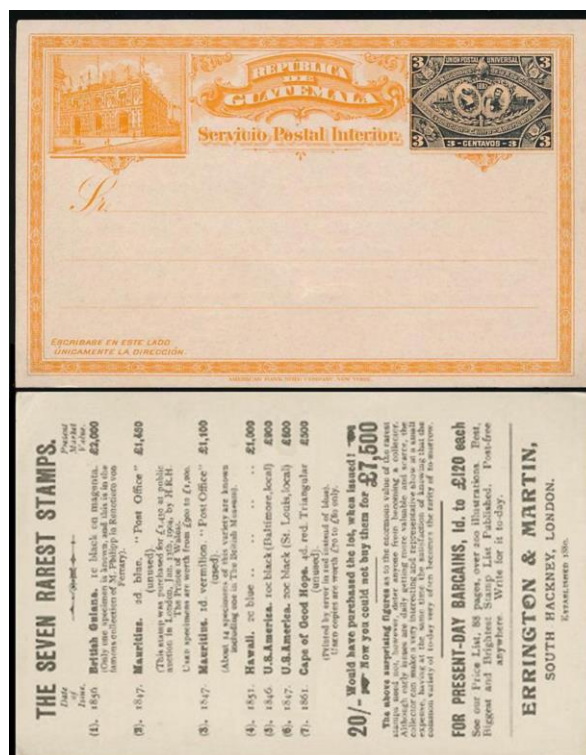


Fig. 12. Guatemala Postcards from Errington & Martin c.1901 ABNCo. NY

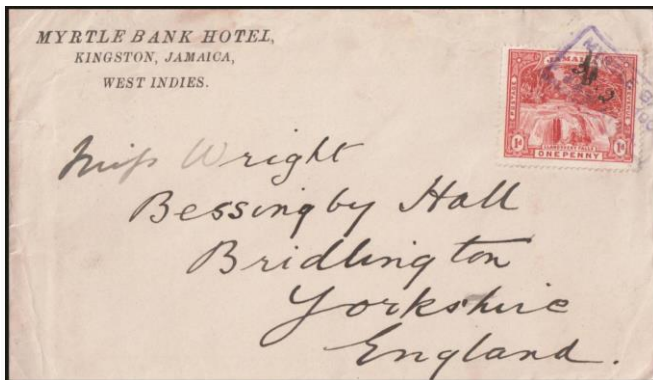


Fig. 13. The Myrtle Bank Hotel sTRB 2 4 1903

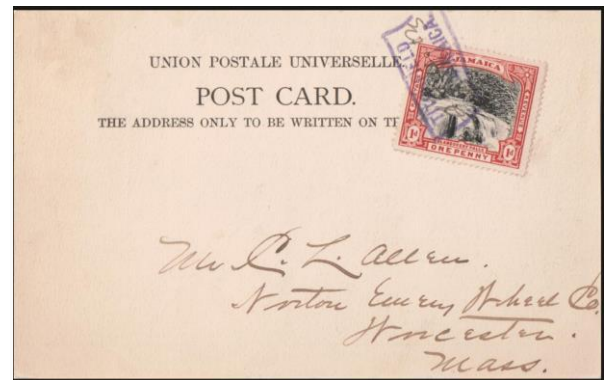


Fig. 14. Titchfield Hotel sTRB 28 2 1901. - Horry



Fig. 15. United Fruit Co. KGVI perfins. - Horry



Fig. 16. King Edward VII 2d grey, issued 3 February 1912!

Back in 1902 when UFCo was just gearing up, it appeared that nobody wanted the new monarch on the postage stamps. The Arms definitives which were first used as fiscals in 1851, were preferred! Poor old King Edward 'the Womaniser' did not get his first stamp until 3 February 1911, after he had been dead since 6 May 1910 (Fig. 16.) But for the petitioning of local philatelist Astley Clerk, Edward would not even had that! In 1909 Jamaica was still printing Queen Victoria stamps, uniquely for the colonies, on watermark Mult. CA paper! It is strange to note that pre-printed postcards bearing his likeness were printed in half penny and penny denominations (Fig. 17.) The dies had already been cast!

Back on 13 March 1886 Darliston PO opened and Crofts Hill PO on 9 August 1887 but no temporary cancellers have ever been recorded. By August 1889 Saint Margaret's Bay, under Postmaster Elliott, sported a blue TRO, but this is the only one ever recorded with just the year in manuscript. (Fig. 18.) In 1890 metal 'Skeletons' were issued at Hampstead (1889) Salt River (1890) and Walkerswood (1890). (Fig. 19.)



Fig. 17. King Edward VII pre-printed postcards showing the monarch's head. - Horry



Fig. 18. Saint Margarets Bay TRO 1889 - as per Moh



Fig. 19. Skeleton postmarks from Dry Harbour 1860, Hampstead and Walkerswood 1890 (always black)

Bog Walk's canceller (1 July 1890) a TRC, is almost certainly made of rubber as the ink is always purple, as per Nicholson. (Fig. 20.) Black ink distorts rubber rather quickly, as noted on the Alligator Pond TRD by 1890–1892. Nicholson noted this change occurring on or around the 18 March 1892 (Fig. 21.). He further pointed out that the office was constantly closing and re-opening.



Fig. 20. Bog Walk TRC1 (blue) on cover to Schwallenburgh Ewarton PO - 25 July 1890 - ex-Mahfood

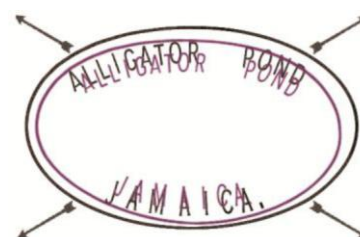


Fig. 21. Alligator Pond TRD 1890–1892 swollen by the use of black ink on rubber

Now that we know that Vendryes was responsible for the early TRDs, here are a couple interesting items. Karl Groeber's collection has an example of a pair of Vendryes 2½d/4d with the Vendryes Alligator Pond TRO. (Fig. 22.) And I recently acquired an 1890 Vendryes OFFICIAL overprint - with an undated Alligator Pond TRO. (Fig. 23.) Vendryes on Vendryes one might say! Perhaps these may be *philatelic*?

Were these TRDs simply used to open post offices or were they being used for security purposes of the all powerful Boston and later United Fruit Companies, under the auspices of the Crown Agents? And were Errington & Martin's printed ephemera somewhat reminiscent of L. Barrington Smith and his patriotic covers? (Fig. 24.) Errington Martin and Barrington Smith have a similar ring to them - in every respect. As the Errington & Martin business was disappearing, Lt. George Crawford Odom MC's was emerging. He placed his first ad for his 'Diamond Mills' of Leicester on page two of *The Gleaner* on 2 March 1922, and then ran the same ad over thirty times until 23 August 1923. (Fig. 25.)

It is worth noting that all the illustrations of the early TRDs in Aguilar's 1949 book were supplied to Nicholson 'were kindly lent by Messrs. Frank Godden Ltd'. From around 1932 Frank Godden Jr. had published *Godden's Gazette*. His rather flamboyant signature adorned the opening pages.



Fig. 22. 1890 pair of
Vendryes 2½d/4d
with Alligator Pond TRO
Horry



Fig. 23. 1890
Vendryes OFFICIAL
on 1d green with
Alligator Pond TRO



Fig. 24. Errington & Martin 'Japanese'
Christmas Greetings, c.1880 - Horry

In 1949 Peter Stringer joined George Odom Ltd., in Leicester, as a warehouseman and was employed there until 1973. In 2016 I showed him Godden's signature. (Fig. 26.)

'I'd recognise 'Big George's' signature anywhere!' he chortled. 'Did you know he was pals with J. Edgar Hoover!?' (Fig. 27.) 'No I did not!'



Fig. 25. George Odom's first ad
The Daily Gleaner
2 March 1922



Fig. 26.
The Frank Godden/ George Odom
signature



Fig. 27 'Big George' Odom
(*Peterborough Telegraph*,
December 1959)

Finally, it is important to note that Ted Proud put Cedar Valley in St. James Parish. It is in fact located in St. Thomas. Shown on the front cover is a rare postcard to J. P. Provan, a specialist orange and coffee grower, with the Cedar Valley sTRO dated 4 July 1894 as a receiving mark. Below are Tom Foster's notes for Cedar Valley. (To be continued.)

CEDAR VALLEY. F/o Norman Box St. Thomas Parish.				T, F.B.	
Post Office opened 13th. March 1894.				OPEN NO m/s Day on Thurs Ben on 10K Poles.	
TRD 7	Black	23 May 1894	4 Jul 1894	1st IN 1895 DOCK	
TRD 8	Purple			Day no m/s w m/s. Finer year 1894.	
TRD 8	Black	20 Aug 1894	19 Nov 1894	STAMP F1	
DC2	265mm	13 MAR 1895	13 MAR 1894	MONTH FIRST	
DC1	295mm	18 MAR 1895	20 MAR 1892	126B, (161) (30 Dec) 100	

My thanks to Keith Moh, Karl Groeber, Michael Hamilton, Ray Stanton, Alan Leverton and Steve Jarvis.

STEVEN ZIRINSKY

MEMBER PTS, APS, NZSDA, APTA

Stamps - Revenues - Postal History - Commercial Mail

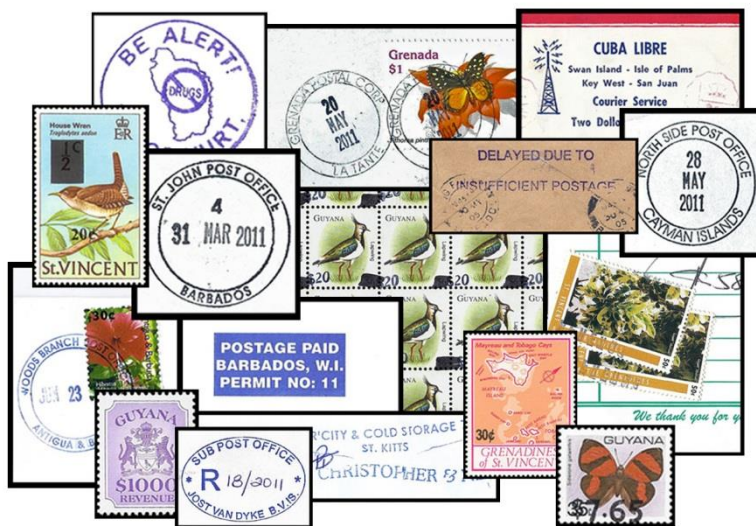
Local Commercial Mail

Anguilla, Antigua, Barbados,
Barbuda, Belize, Bermuda,
Caymans, Dominica, Grenada,
Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat,
Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Lucia,
St. Vincent, Trinidad,
Virgin Islands.

Includes Inter-island,
governmental stampless,
registered and meters.

Earlier material available.

**St. Vincent 1999-2004
Provisionals Available**



PO BOX 230049, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023 USA szirinsky@cs.com

www.zirinskystamps.com

[@ZirinskyStamps](https://twitter.com/ZirinskyStamps)

Chris Rainey Online

- British Commonwealth •
- Postal History •
- Thematic Postal History •

Visit my online shop
www.chrisrainey.com



INSURE Your Collection REPLACEMENT VALUE ALL RISKS, NO EXCESS

Stamps & Postcards		
£6,250	cover for	£26 pa*
£10,000	cover for	£38 pa*
All other Collectables		
£5,000	cover for	£31 pa*
£10,000	cover for	£56 pa*

*plus Insurance Premium Tax

Includes Exhibition & Accompanied cover in Western Europe

**CIRCULATING PACKETS: CUPS & TROPHIES:
AUCTIONS: EXHIBITIONS etc.**

SPECIAL SCHEME for SOCIETIES
Includes Public & Employers Liability

PUBLIC LIABILITY for COLLECTOR SOCIETIES
Premiums from £20. pa for £5,000,000 cover

DEALERS COMBINED POLICY

Please write or telephone or fax for a quotation
and a Prospectus/Proposal form.

STAMP INSURANCE SERVICES

C G I Services Limited [dept 33]

29 Bowhay Lane EXETER EX4 1PE

www.stampinsurance.co.uk

tel: 01392 433 949 fax: 01392 427 632

Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



STANLEY GIBBONS

AUCTIONS

Leading Philatelic Auctioneers Since 1901



Speak to our experts about consigning your material

Entrust your collection to a company with integrity

Reach thousands of potential buyers

Unrivalled expertise

Regular Public and Online Auctions

An internationally recognised and respected brand

To receive our catalogues or to discuss the sale of your stamps contact

Tel: **020 7836 8444** or email: auctions@stanleygibbons.com

STANLEY GIBBONS | 399 Strand | London | WC2R 0LX



www.stanleygibbons.com/auctions

JAMAICA

LCC NICHOLSON – MY PHILATELIC HERO

BY STEVE JARVIS

I have always admired the pioneering philatelic research undertaken by Leverton Coryton Courtenay Nicholson, and I was thrilled to be contacted by his grand-daughter Sarah Temple. She came across information about him on my Jamaican philately website and was able to provide some new information.

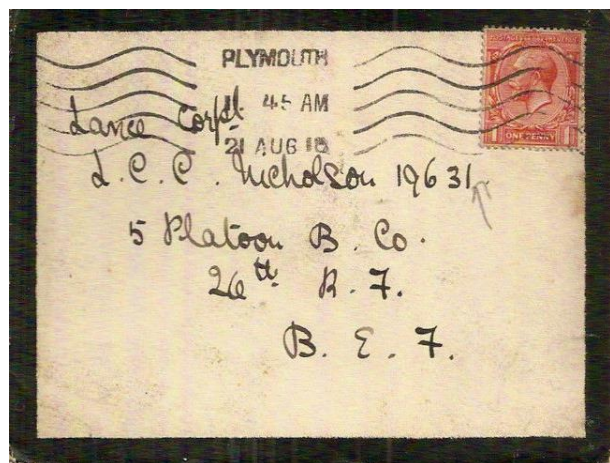
Known as 'Levy' by his family, he was a major contributor to the 1928 book *Jamaica, Its Postal History, Postage Stamps & Postmarks*. Often referred to as by Collett et al, the compilers were Astley Clerk, Gilbert Collett, Herbert Cooke, W Buckland Edwards, GC Gunter, CS Morton and LCC Nicholson. This group consisted of the leading UK expertise and local Jamaican knowledge. Nicholson's forte was postmarks, and he contributed that chapter and that on Postal Stationery, the latter in conjunction with Astley Clerk. He followed up the book with a series of articles and pamphlets published by Frank Godden, through the 1930s: *Jamaica Pre-Stamp Covers 1760–1860* and *Jamaica Temporary Rubber Date-Stamp 1881–1938*, followed by *Jamaican Obliteration Numbers*, published in 1949. These works were the foundation on which later publications by Aguilar, Topaz and Foster developed their studies (the type coding system mainly quoted today as, for example, Foster P2 is actually Nicholson P2).



Drawing of LCC supplied by Sarah Temple

Nicholson was born in 1887 and died in 1952. Gilbert Collett wrote an obituary in the BWI Philatelist, referring to him as a beloved friend whom he had known for 30 years. They were both leading members of the Croydon Philatelic Society (President from 1930–1945). Nicholson was a regular attendee at GB Philatelic Congresses. He joined the Royal Philatelic Society London in 1927, was awarded Fellowship in 1932 and resigned in 1942 shortly after he sold his Jamaica collections (at Harmers and Robson Lowe). RPSL records show that his wife, Margaret Dorothy, was also a member from 1936 to 1942 (and was apparently known there as 'Mrs LCC').

Philatelic material to or from him can be seen regularly on the market; items addressed to him were usually annotated with the arrival date to preserve contemporary facts.



WW1 mourning envelope addressed to him at Plymouth



1930 First Flight cover

I remember Bob Swarbrick telling me that in the late 1940s, Nicholson corresponded with him and was a great encourager of this young Jamaica collector.

Returning to the correspondence with Sarah Temple, the initial contact was due to her discovering a medal awarded to LCC at the 1930 Berlin International Philatelic Exhibition.

This medal has been donated to The Museum of Philatelic History at the RPSL.



She was also able to supply the drawing of her grand-father, shown on the previous page. This is the only known image of the great researcher and collector to whom we owe a great debt.

ST. VINCENT HANDBOOK 1899 – 1965.

AMENDMENTS, CORRECTIONS, ADDITIONS AND FOOTNOTES

BY ROY BOND AND RUSSELL BOYLAN

Chapter 1.

Page 14.

Additional notes based upon Christopher Taylor's book, *'The Black Carib Wars'* covering the period after 9 March 1797 and the shipment of some 2,000 Caribs to Ruatan in the Bay of Honduras. They only stayed on this island for a few months and then the Spanish authorities shipped them across to the mainland of Central America, to the east coast of Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and Nicaragua, where they prospered, then in the 1890s a large number of them travelled to the USA for work, especially to Chicago, Detroit and New York. They now number a total of some 3 million souls spread out about 50% in Central America and 50% in the USA, however many of them have maintained their own language and proudly refer to themselves as the Garifuna, the name the Black Caribs called themselves. They still consider St. Vincent as their ancestral home and are very proud of the fact that they remained a free people, in spite of the efforts of the white man. In 2009, 16 of them returned to St. Vincent to erect a monument to Joseph Chatoyer, their national hero who led the resistance to the British, near Sion Hill, where he died in battle, see Appendix A, page 223.

Chapter 2.

Page 26. In Check List,

1d SG68, Quantity Invoiced should read– 374,880, to bring it in line with Appendix B Consignments.

1s SG74, Quantity Invoiced should read– 24,000, to bring it in line with Appendix B Consignments.

Chapter 7.

Page 84. In Check List,

Against SG159 Quantities Invoiced should read 40,160, instead of 6,780.

See also Page 243 in Appendix B under '£1 purple and black (SG159)' and add two extra printings, '24 Mar 1943 10,400' and '20 Sep 1945 22,980' and change the 'Total' to read '40,160'.

Page 87. In Plate Numbers,

Against SG164 1c please add 1 and 1 for frame and vignette respectively.

Against SG166 3c please add 1 and blank for frame and vignette respectively.

Against SG167 4c please add 1 and 1 for frame and vignette respectively.

Against SG173 48c please add ? and 1 for frame and vignette respectively.

Chapter 10.

Page 129. In '1902 Envelopes'

3rd line 'Only the H size is' should read 'Both the H and H2 sizes are'.

Chapter 11.

Page 152. Paquebot Section



Add, One ounce letter; posted at sea to Indianapolis, USA on 23 January 1939 carrying a 1d and 2d stamps to cover 2½d rate, was posted on board S.S. NEW NORTHLAND with 'PAQUEBOT' handstamp (50mm x 8mm) in large seriffed capitals, but not listed in Proud/Chin Aleong.

Chapter 12.

Page 158. 'Section 12.1 The Handstamps'

1st sub-heading 'H1 Straight line 'Passed by Censor No 3' should read 'H1 Straight line 'Passed by Censor No 2, No 3 or No 4', 4½ x 74mm

Passed by Censor No. 3

ERD: 7 October 1939 for No 2
20 October 1939 for No 4

LRD: 31 March 1943
Unknown'

To be continued.

AUCTION REPORT**BY GRAHAM BOOTH**

Argyll Etkin sold the second half of Brian Brookes' general West Indies collection on 28 September. As indicated in my last report this had been shared with Spink and consisted of small to medium groups of postal history across the Caribbean rather than the two auction houses specialising in specific colonies. This was a traditional auction with no internet bidding, with a full room which for much of the time contained nine members of the Society. The first day of two, which contained most of Brian's material, consisted of 954 lots which were sold in 4 hours twenty minutes so your correspondent had his hands full with his own bids and no time to record and analyse trends. However, my original fears that the sale might suffer from being second were not justified. The 354 West Indian lots sold well, with Anguilla, Grenada and the French Colonies being the softest areas, although selling about two thirds of the lots on offer. The market seems able to absorb the almost endless stream of Codrington and Tudway material from Antigua, and prices in general were the equivalent of the Spink sale. British Honduras and St. Kitts were almost completely sold, the latter performance being particularly impressive as it followed hard on the heels of the speciality sale at Spink in January. It is a reasonable conclusion that West Indies postal history, when fairly priced, is amongst the strongest areas of the philatelic market at the present time, although way off its historical highs. The sale also included some of Brian's Nelson letters which sold very well, and his Napoleon and Wellington collections which did less well. One entire written from Antigua in 1786 made £6,200 just over the top estimate of £6,000, another written just after the Battle of the Nile realised £7,200 (hammer price) against top estimate of £5,000.

Amongst the British Ship Letters the red Milford crown from the Tudway correspondence sold for £1,700, a 1776 letter from Dominica with Hastings S1 fetched £650, triple its estimate and two letters with St. Mawes S1 fetched £360 and £340. In the West Indies itself the 1800 straight line from Antigua (only two known) cost its purchaser over £4,000 with the uplift, and the damaged, cleaned and repaired version from 1866, ex Mayer, over £2,000. The British Honduras 'SHIP-letter' with Belize excised achieved its top estimate of £1,200, the Martinique crown from the 2nd British occupation realised £6,000, though this was £2,000 below its low estimate and the fine Nevis crown with 'Ship' excised reached £2,400. Finally, the Grenada crown from 1815 of which 6 are thought to exist, cost with the uplift over £1,000 compared to the one sold at Spink in July, which had a slightly better strike, and cost almost £1,600, both ex Towers.

As indicated above the Antigua part of the sale was very successful. Many of the straight-line marks (with and without dates) exceeded their top estimates, as did the crowned circles, and the two entires from Barbuda ex the Codrington correspondence. The English Harbour mark with a pair of 6d's cancelled A 18 achieved £900, almost double its top estimate, the 1859 GB 4d used in Antigua £2,900 against a top estimate of £2,200, whilst the 'Post Paid' hand stamp (ex Mayer) reached £950, well over the low estimate. In Barbados the highlight was the De La Rue 1892 Appendix page which achieved £900 against a top estimate of £600. Surprisingly in Bermuda the 'Sukey' letter captured by *HMS Driver* only just made the reserve at £2,100. In British Honduras the 1888 10 cents on 4d mauve in a pane of 30 doubled its high estimate at £1,200. An S.L. Montserrat from 1796, roughly equivalent in quality to that on sale at Feldman which was bought in at £1,600, re-offered at Mayfair and bought in at £1,400, sold for £1,000, whilst the lovely strike of the 1801 Mt/Serrat which made £8,000 in Switzerland made £6,200 here. In Nevis the star of the show was the 1661 letter to London with a very early Bishop Mark which easily exceeded the top estimate at £7,400. In St. Kitts the 1902/3 die proof equalled its top estimate at £1,000, in addition all the 6 lots of the St. Lucia 1936 die proofs sold at good prices as did the 2d version of the Discovery of Trinidad by Columbus and the imperf proofs of the 1935 Pictorial issue.

Gibbons sold the Brian Lucas collection on 2 October. Brian worked for Gibbons after he retired from Pfizer and was well known to many of our members. His collection encompassed the entire Commonwealth but majored in varieties, surcharges and positional pieces, mainly from the first half of the Nineteenth Century. It contained representation from most West Indian Colonies, but many had only a couple of items. In contrast Bahamas, Barbados, British Honduras, the Caymans, Grenada, Jamaica and the Leeward's all had twenty or more lots, with most selling between 60 and 70% of what was offered. Having said that there was very little spirited bidding and very few items exceeded their top estimate. In the Bahamas the War Tax varieties on the Staircase issue sold well with the 'RENCE' flaw on George VI 3d blue realising £2,400 against a top estimate of £1,500. In contrast the varieties on the Landfall of Columbus failed to get much attention. In Bermuda the expensive George VI key plate varieties did not sell nor did the War Stamp

varieties in the Caymans (no surprises about either of these), but the dented frame on the Cayman ½ on 5s sold for £2,100. Both Grenada and the Leeward Islands did well – most of the Diamond Jubilee varieties from the Leeward's found a new home. The St. Kitts Tercentenary 10s in a corner marginal plate block achieved £1,000 against a top estimate of £800 and one of the most spirited fights of the afternoon pushed the strip of four Trinidad ½d's with a progressive War Tax variety to £480, over twice its top estimate.

In their general sale the following day there was not much to interest our members outside of 44 lots of routine Bahamas and 36 lots of Bermuda, plus two Lady MacLeod's, one off cover, one on cover which had been substantially messed about. They both sold for £3,200. In contrast the mint 'Independent Anguilla' set at £15,000 and a pair of 1889 Virgin Island ½d's imperf between and to sheet margin at £5,500 did not sell. There has to be a message there. Only 44% of the Bahamas sold. Bermuda did better at 60%, but that was largely because of those scarce items – George VI keyplates commercially used, with apparently accurate rates on airmail covers.

Spink's Collectors' Sale on 24 & 25 October contained some nice lots of mint and used blocks from Barbados which I expected to do reasonably well, and at 74% sold that would appear to be the case. However most of the bidding took place between the reserve and the low estimate and was anything but vigorous. Half the items sold went to one phone bidder who spent almost £9,000 with the uplift, the remainder going to half a dozen other bidders. Practically nothing exceeded the top estimate and the most expensive item, a block of 4 imperf 4d lake-rose (SG 27a), rare but not of the best quality, did not sell. Not dispiriting; but not uplifting either and a marked contrast to the fight for the 33 lots of Batum that followed and the British Guiana 12c blue 'Cotton reel' which exceeded its top estimate of £1,800 by over £1,000. The Bermuda keyplates, reasonably estimated, did reasonably well. The Tobago 1879 £1 mauve with double perforations sold for its reserve price of £2,000, whilst the Downing Collection of the Virgin Islands priced at £35–40,000 not surprisingly did not sell. A nice four margined Lady MacLeod sold for £8,000, its top estimate, and a three margined version on cover sold for £13,000 plus the trimmings that took it to almost £16,000. This version was scruffy but had some interesting contents and in today's market was a very good price.

The Lady Macleod is not rare, it is not even, scarce. Six covers have come onto the market this year alone. There is no doubt in my mind that the historic prices for these and other 'trophy' items were driven by investment forces which no longer exist. The number of people in our Society who are able and willing to pay twenty, or thirty thousand pounds or more for a single cover are now very few and the market is slowly responding. Whether the four figure covers will have to 'dress' off the new lows remains to be seen.

With one major exception there was not a great deal of excitement in the West Indies section of the Victoria Stamp Co. sale at the Collector's Club in New York on 27 October. Of the 35 lots of reasonably estimated Bermuda keyplates only 50% sold, the huge Eric Yendall collection of Twentieth Century British Guiana divided into 3 lots, Second World War censored covers, used and mint postal stationery, did not sell, and although the other Colonies had an occasional scarce item like the Antigua 2d grey George V used, with watermark sideways, generally there were only a handful of lots per Colony. The exception, and that was a huge success, was the Paul Larsen collection of the Leeward Islands. Of the 131 lots over 80% were sold, the only weak spot being Barbuda postal history with its reputation as being artificially contrived, where only 4 out of the 12 lots sold. All 33 of the proofs sold after extraordinary bidding, the highlights being the three George V master die proofs, all three of which sold at multiple times their estimate, eventually realising \$8,500 and \$9,000. In addition the Silver Jubilee master die proof made \$3,000 against an estimate of \$2,000. There were four lots of specimens ex. the Madagascar and Mauritania archives. One from Madagascar achieved \$1,800 against an estimate of \$1,100 whilst the Barbuda specimens from Mauritania realised \$700. Most of the George V high value keyplates sold, whereas the high value George VI keyplates from another collection did not. A collection of Multiple Crown Script CA marginal blocks sold for \$1,600, double its estimate, and a collection of Edwardian and George V sheets and part sheets, not part of the Larsen collection; but ex. de Keyser, achieved \$1,900 exceeding its estimate by \$700.

I suspect that the last 12 months sends a message that there is next to nobody out there looking for a starter collection, or even a substantial one-country collection that can be developed further, dealers excepted. On the other hand, in today's market, if you have the cash a substantial specialised collection can be built from scratch very quickly. In this connection Spink will sell Brian Brooke's Martinique on 20 November and Victoria will have Charles Freeland's Montserrat in 2019.



peter singer



Specializing in British Commonwealth

**B.W.I. Covers, Cancels, Blocks
& varieties are always available**

Post Office Box 25249

Portland, Oregon 97225

Phone: (503) 293-1038

Fax: (503) 293-1062

WANT LISTS ACCEPTED

MEMBER PTS, ASDA,

CSDA, APS, ETC.

**Quality
British Commonwealth
POSTAL HISTORY**

Catering to the discriminating collector
Specialising in pre-1953, non-FDC material
We stock all Commonwealth areas except B.N.A.
If you are not already on our Wants Register, please
drop us a line and let us know your requirements.
We shall be pleased to send photocopies of available material.

ALWAYS KEEN BUYERS OF CHOICE POSTAL HISTORY

Willard S. Allman

P.O. Box 626, Franklin Lakes
New Jersey 07417, U.S.A.

Tel: 0 01- 201-848-8883

Fax: 0 01-201-847-8481



MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION**STEVE JARVIS**

MEMBERSHIP is worldwide in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £15.00 for members residing in the UK, £18 for those in Europe and £22 / US\$35 for members who reside elsewhere. Any member willing to receive the Bulletin and other communication by e-mail can have 'paperless' membership for only £8.00 per year.

Subscriptions (dues) are payable on 1 January each year and, subject to what is mentioned below, in sterling – by personal cheque or standing ORDER drawn on a UK Bank, a Banker's Draft, International Money Order, Postal Order or local currency notes – no coins will be accepted – e.g. dollars, euros etc. Payments can also be made through **PayPal** via the bwisc.org web site, but a small premium is charged to cover additional fees. Advance payments for annual subscriptions is limited to a maximum of five years (by PayPal, two).

Standing Orders (for UK) should be sent to Alliance & Leicester, Sort Code 72-00-04 Account Number 75233905.

Members residing in North America (Canada, USA and the Caribbean) who do not pay their subscription (dues) in sterling should pay by sending to the North American Representative (see address inside front cover) a cheque for USA \$35 made payable to 'BWISC'. Other overseas members who pay their subscription by cheque drawn in a foreign currency or on a foreign bank MUST add the equivalent of £3 sterling partially to cover exchange and bank charges. The overseas rates quoted include an element to cover postage of the Bulletin by Air Mail.

Revisions to a member's details should be provided to Steve Jarvis, contact details inside front cover.

Membership updates are issued as loose booklet style inserts for the membership booklet.

An up-to-date Membership Booklet can be downloaded from www.bwisc.org (please e-mail info@bwisc.org, for access details).

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**IAN JAKES**

Library lists can be supplied upon application to the Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required. If any member has a book which is not already in the library and which is surplus to requirements, please consider donating it to the library.

WEB-MASTER'S REPORT**STEVE JARVIS**

All editions of the Bulletin are available on our web site. An updated listing is available for download from the web site or printed copy by application to the Web-Master at £3.00 or \$US5.00.

EDITOR'S REPORT**TERRY HARRISON**

The proposed publication schedule is as follows:

Edition	March 2019	June 2019	September 2019	December 2019
Distribute	Mon 11 Mar	Mon 10 Jun	Mon 26 Aug	Mon 25 Nov
From Printer	Tue 5 Mar	Tue 4 Jun	Tue 20 Aug	Tue 19 Nov
To Printer	Mon 11 Feb	Mon 20 May	Mon 29 Jul	Mon 28 Oct
Final Bulletin Revisions	Sun 10 Feb	Sun 19 May	Sun 28 Jul	Sun 27 Oct
Article copy deadline	Sat 19 Jan	Sat 4 May	Sat 20 Jul	Sat 12 Oct
Advert final copy	Sat 12 Jan	Sat 27 Apr	Sat 13 Jul	Sat 5 Oct
Advert book space	Sat 5 Jan	Sat 20 Apr	Sat 6 Jul	Sat 28 Sep

CURRENT RATES FOR ADVERTISING PER BULLETIN:

One full page b/w	£45
One half page b/w	£28
One quarter page b/w	£19

Full page colour	£75
Half page colour	£38
The back page (only colour)	£75

Please submit any enquiry re advertising to the editor.

West Indies

in London

At the heart of the old British Empire, Grosvenor continues the proud tradition of London stamp auctions, maintaining cherished standards of quality and reliability whilst embracing the worldwide community of collectors connected via the internet.



Interesting and attractive material from the British West Indies features regularly in our auctions, each sale being available to view, with additional illustrations, on our website, **www.grosvenorauctions.com**, where you will also find full information on bidding, including live participation online. Complimentary copies of our highly regarded printed catalogues are available on request.

We work closely with collectors to ensure that presentation and results achieve the highest possible expectations. Commission rates for vendors are negotiable and fully inclusive, with no 'hidden extras'. Consignments for future auctions are cordially invited.

Whether you are buying or selling contact **Andrew Williams, Constanze Dennis** or **Tom Margalski** today at the address below for free and confidential advice.

GROSVENOR

399–401 Strand 2nd & 3rd Floors London WC2R 0LT

T: 020 7379 8789 F: 020 7379 9737 E: info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk

www.grosvenorauctions.com