

STUDY CIRCLE

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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

OBJECTIVES

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

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

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday 6 July 2019 Midpex, 10:00 to 4:30 Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN

Saturday/Sunday 5/6 October 2019 BWISC Convention at the Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke RG21 7LX
It has subsequently been clarified that there will be Standing Displays at the convention.

Invitation to Bermuda Our sister society, the BCPSG, holds its AGM every 5 years in a location covered by the collecting interests of the Society. This year it is at the Grotto Bay Hotel in Bermuda from 7 to 10 November and they have extended an invitation to members of our society. It is not cheap, a double room with taxes and service charge is just under \$250 per night; but if anybody is interested and would like further information please contact John Puzine on puzine@comcast.net or on 941 979 8117. With suitable extension it should be a great holiday.

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

Congratulations to the following for their achievements with BWI entries at Spring STAMPEX 2019:

David Cordon 'Bermuda, King George V, stamps and their uses' Large Gold

Philip MacMurdie 'Bahamas King George VI Head Type Stamps 1938 – 53' Gold

Terry Harrison 'St. Vincent 1861 to 1897' Gold

It is my sad duty to inform you of the recent death of Edmund Bayley of Bridgetown, Barbados.

MINUTES OF THE 65TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC HELD AT 1:15PM SATURDAY 11 MAY 2019

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

Graham Booth opened the meeting. He welcomed the 34 members and one guest who attended the AGM and auction.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Kevin Darcy, Mary Gleadall and Erwin Rannall.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

The minutes of the AGM on 28 April 2018, as published in Bulletin No. 257, June 2018, pages 3 to 9, were accepted by the attendees.

4. Name of the Society and Aims

(a) The proposal to change the name of the society had been withdrawn. It is a strong identity. Concern that colonial connotations might put off some potential members based in the Caribbean would be addressed by the project described under (c).

(b) It was agreed to continue with the revised wording of the principal Aim as printed in the Agenda.

(c) To promote philately in the West Indies, particularly among younger collectors, a new brand, 'West Indies Stamp Club' would be launched under the leadership of Steve Jarvis. This would initially comprise a Bulletin insert covering topics such as new issues and current postal rates, and a website.

The intention is to collaborate with collectors resident in the islands. The Chairman encouraged members to volunteer to work on this project, and to please contact him after the AGM.

5. New Secretary

George Dunbar finds that it will not be possible to carry on as Secretary and is stepping down. He has made an enormous contribution to the running of the society. It is proving difficult to identify a replacement. The Chairman has approached six people from a long list of suggested candidates, but all reluctantly declined as they have substantial existing commitments. At present, the Circle has no Secretary. The Chairman is pursuing further avenues. George Dunbar has agreed to continue to assist while he can, and Steve Jarvis has volunteered to formally act as Secretary on a temporary basis. The Chairman will keep members informed of developments.

6. London 2020

The Circle has booked a room at London 2020 for a meeting at which members can present informal displays (Saturday 2nd May 2-6pm). It is planned to have an informal society dinner at a restaurant in London that evening. We expect to be joined by some US guests from our sister society BCPSG. We will also have two tables at the 2020 event on the following Wednesday, to provide Circle information and for selling unsold auction items.

7. October Convention 2019, Red Lion Basingstoke

The formal displays will be (a) Ray Stanton on postmarks and (b) Simon Richards on Dominica. There will be informal displays by members and an experts table, to which members can bring questions. It has not been decided whether there will also be standing displays. The Committee has abolished the £10 convention fee to encourage members to attend. The location was selected to be accessible to members in the South East, which the Membership Secretary had identified as an area where a large number of members live.

An information leaflet with the programme and booking form will shortly appear on the website, as well as in the next Bulletin. Members are strongly encouraged to use trains to travel to the event, which is fairly close to Basingstoke railway station.

8. Stockholmia

Simon Richards confirmed arrangements for a BWISC meeting in Stockholm from 10am on Thursday 30 May, and an informal dinner that evening, 5.30-8.00pm, for up to 21 people. He would also be giving a lecture on Saturday 1 June at 2.00pm 'Mail by British Packets from the West Indies 1663–1863'. He asked that members wishing to attend, particularly the dinner, should let him know as soon as possible. Peter Ford will be presenting the St. Vincent book by Freeland, Bond and Boylan in a separate session on 30 May.

9. Nigel Chandler

Nigel Chandler is very ill and has been in hospital. Further treatment is planned in the near future, and the Circle sends best wishes from the AGM for a full recovery.

10. Report by the General Secretary (George Dunbar)

The Circle had tables at Worpex and Swinpex in 2018, as planned. This turned out to be the last Worpex. We met new friends and old. The intended meeting at Stampex was prevented from taking place as the PTS, after taking until August to confirm a booking, then withdrew it a couple of weeks later. (A planned committee meeting did take place at Stampex.) Arrangements have been made for an October Convention at the Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke, although information was not circulated with the March Bulletin as I had wished. The Committee selected this venue with the aim of holding the Convention near to London, to encourage the many members living in the South East to come along. The Circle has booked a table for Midpex in July.

The Membership Secretary has kindly provided the following table. Membership Stats. as at end of 2018:

	Members	UK	EUR	RoW
End 2017	339 (85)	207 (44)	24 (5)	108 (36)
Joined 2018	27	26	0	1
Rejoined				
Deceased	1	0	0	1
Lapsed/Resigned	26	15	0	11
End 2018	339 (84)	218 (44)	24 (5)	97 (35)

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

This is my last report as Secretary. It has been a privilege to work with the Committee and members in recent years. I wish you continued fame and success in the years to come.

11. Report by the Editor (Terry Harrison)

I am pleased to be able to report that 2018 has proved to be another successful year and that there has been a steady flow of articles from existing and new contributors, long may this continue.

The June edition will be the 28th that I have assembled and I feel that there is a need to ensure the continuity of the publication process in case anything unforeseen should occur. To this end I would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping with the preparation of the Bulletin.

My thanks are due to Steve Jarvis and Peter Ford for the work they do to ensure that the high standard of the Bulletin is maintained by proof reading each edition and liaising with the printers.

12. Report by the Treasurer (Ray Stanton)

The accounts for the year to the 31 December 2018 show a surplus of £3,448 which is considerably larger than previous years.

The reduction in the number of books produced and in the amount spent on pre-publication expenses is the main reason for this. In 2018 the total amount spent was £1,811 compared to £5,866 in 2017. Although income was also down there was a steady stream of income from books produced in previous years and this is likely to continue to some degree.

Once again Bulletin costs including distribution were comfortably covered by subscriptions received and advertising charged.

The donation from the auction team, net of expenses, was more than last year at £1,800 compared to £1,495 in 2017.

Other expenses in 2018 were in total similar to 2017, once the deficit on the biennial convention in 2017 is taken into account.

As a result of the surplus the Accumulated fund has increased to £17,759 which includes a gain on the conversion of our US dollar funds of £289.

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

13. Report by the Librarian (Ian Jakes)

Six library books have been borrowed by three members during the last year. This compares with three library books lent to two members during the year ended April 2019. Seven members have requested me to search the BWISC library for information which cannot easily be found on the internet. The subjects were:-

- (a) Jamaica postmarks
- (b) St. Vincent Edward VII key plates
- (c) Bahamas postmarks on U.S.A. newspaper stamps
- (d) Trinidad & Tobago postal stationery
- (e) Royal philatelic collection
- (f) Jamaican Roman Catholic cinderella label
- (g) Bermuda/Jamaica underwater communications cable
- (h) Mysterious island off Guadeloupe (I. de Aves (Venezuela))
- (i) Martinique and Guadeloupe postal rates and anything on St. Thomas

Positive replies were sent in all cases, except that there is nothing in the library relating to subject (i). In the year ended April 2018 seven members received positive replies to all nine queries researched in the BWISC library.

14. Report by the Publications Officer (Peter Ford)

2018 was a relatively quiet year as we published no books, but work was ongoing on several fronts. Three books were nearing completion towards the end of the year, two of which have been published in advance of this AGM.

Mike Rego has yet again produced a book which will be sought after by those collectors with a broader interest than purely stamp issues. His 'Trinidad Coastal Mail Service 1820 – 2000' traces the history of the mail service via the steamers that plied the coastal waters of Trinidad and Tobago from the early 19th century. My pet project of a listing of the Early Covers of Trinidad franked with Perkins Bacon adhesives has also been published.

Future projects include a book on the 'Stamps and Postal Stationery of Trinidad and Tobago' by myself in collaboration with Ed Barrow and David Druett; this we hope to have published in time for the Convention later this year. Work on a book on 'Grenada' by Tim Pearce is being previewed in the Bulletin with the intention of garnering as much pertinent information as possible before publication. There are several other books at an embryonic stage.

The St. Vincent book by Charles Freeland, Roy Bond and Russell Boylan gained a Large Vermeil at the Newcastle Centenary Stamp Show. As reported in the Bulletin, the Judges noted that, 'The authors are to be congratulated on a fine production, which was the best entry in the Literature Class'.

Sales continue steadily with some £2,700 odd of sales during the year with the American Philatelic Society's sales amounting to just less than £450. Although this might seem to be a small amount, I have no doubts that they will continue to sell a reasonable number of books over the years. Our North American cousins will find the savings in postage well worthwhile. The best seller last year was the St. Vincent book with 20 sales; the hardback version has sold very well and I intend to try to have all our major books published with at least 50 copies hardbound. We sold 12 of the Bahamas book ourselves and received £600 from the Royal Philatelic Society from their sales.

We continue to publish books at a reasonable rate and hope to encourage more members to write for us.

15. Report by the President and Chairman of the Committee (Graham Booth)

It has been a very good year. This is a strong society with a strong reputation. The Circle has maintained membership numbers in a difficult environment. The Bulletin, too, has a strong reputation. We are in a strong position.

16. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The post of Secretary is vacant. The other current officers, as listed in the March Bulletin, were re-elected. Proposed James Podger, seconded by Richard Stupples.

The committee members Nigel Chandler, Peter Fernbank, James Podger, Simon Richards, John Jordan and Geoff Richards were re-elected. Proposed Richard Stupples, seconded by Roy Bond.

17. Election of the Hon. Auditor

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

18. Other Business

(a) Michael Medlicott will be giving a display of classics of BWI philately, both revenue and postage stamps, on Monday 27th May at 7.30pm. The event takes place at Ferndown Day Centre, Library Road, Ferndown, Dorset BH22 9JP.

(b) James Podger drew attention to a forthcoming auction of the Northcote collection of Leeward Islands. The postal sale is being organised by the De Montfort Stamp Company, 7th June 2019, and the catalogue is now on their website.

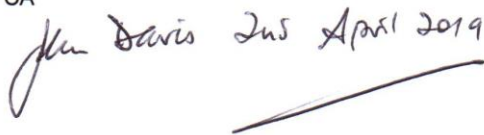
(c) Graham Booth presented awards to members:

- (i) John Jordan Large Gold from the New Zealand Literature Exhibition 2017, for the *Antigua* book written with Charles Freeland, published by BWISC.

(ii) Terry Harrison, Editor, Large Vermeil for *BWISC Bulletins 244-251*, New Zealand Literature Exhibition 2017.

(iii) Roy Bond as co-author with Russell Boylan and Charles Freeland Large Vermeil for *St. Vincent 1899-1965*, published by BWISC, from the World Stamp Championship 2018, Israel.

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

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE			
INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018			
	£'s	2018	2017
INCOME :			
Subscriptions		4,556	4,624
Publications - Sales less commissions		2,616	4,362
Auction donation (net of costs)		1,800	1,495
Other donations		-	250
Interest received		-	2
TOTAL INCOME		8,972	10,733
EXPENDITURE :			
Bulletin - Printing & distribution costs	4,645		4,899
Less : Advertising	(2,036)	2,609	(1,611)
Publications : Preparation, Printing & Distribution costs		1,811	5,866
Convention costs net of recovery		-	404
Other room hire & meeting costs		298	250
ABPS affiliation fee		259	260
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc		102	100
Bank charges		-	17
Exhibition entry fees		225	-
Website		220	192
		5,524	10,377
SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	£'s	3,448	£'s 356
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2018			
ACCUMULATED FUND :			
Balance at 1st January 2018		14,022	13,650
Add : Surplus for the year		3,448	356
Exchange conversion profit		289	16
	£'s	17,759	£'s 14,022
REPRESENTED BY :			
Cash at banks		14,206	12,560
Debtors - amounts due to us		5,944	6,272
Prepaid expenses		350	-
		20,500	18,832
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,116)		(2,704)
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	(625)	(2,741)	(2,106)
	£'s	17,759	£'s 14,022
AUDITORS REPORT			
I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2018 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2018 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date.			
J G M Davis FCA			
			

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BRITISH WEST INDIES OFFERS FROM STOCK

BARBADOS. 1988 5c Cricket with error of portrait in Cylinder block of four. Unmounted mint. Rare multiple. SG 856a. £1200	JAMAICA. 1873 1/- marginal block of nine with part inscription. Very fine mint. SG 13. £250
BRITISH GUIANA. 1899 2c on 10c Jubilee with surcharge inverted. Very fine mint. RPS Cert. SG 223c. £475	LEEWARDS. 1938 10/- with 'damaged cliché' (R.4/8). Very fine used. RPS Cert. SG 113var (CW 13H). £400
BRITISH HONDURAS. 1899 25c with 'BEVENUE' error. Very fine used and scarce thus. SG 68a £250	ST KITTS-NEVIS. 1937 DLR Photographic Essays for the KG VI 6d 'Columbus' and 2/6 'Medicinal Spring'. £125
BRITISH HONDURAS. 1962 10c Macaw with blue omitted. Unmounted mint. SG 207a. £600	ST. VINCENT. 1883 4d pair sharing single full strike of the 'A10' obliterator. RPS Cert. SG 43a. £325
GRENADA. 1883 6d tete-beche block used on cover with MONEY ORDER OFFICE c.d.s. '29 AP 97'. Ex Towers. £175	ST. VINCENT. 1890 2½d on 4d with 'no fraction bar'. Very fine used 'JA2 91' c.d.s. BPA Cert. SG 54a. £325
GRENADA. 1916 1d block of four with 'WAR TAX' inverted, one with small 'A'. Very fine mint. SG 109a. £700	TOBAGO. 1894 1/- yellow and olive yellow in full panes of sixty with 'slash' flaw. Unmounted mint. SG 24b/24ab. £650
GRENADA. 1950 3d half-sheet with both 'line on sail' and 'colon flaw'. Unmounted mint. SG 158ba/bb. £275	TURKS ISLANDS. 1893 ½d on 4d with separated bar between '1' and '2'. Very fine mint. BPA Cert. SG 66. £2750

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

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BWISC 2019 Auction Report

In a break with precedent, anonymity is shed for this year's report. You are hearing from Simon personally.

Statistically a realisation of over £20,000 is a little below par. Against a background of crisis, it is amazingly high. With only 60 hours to go before the start, I was still forecasting to myself and others that this year's event would be our first belly-flop sale. It was anything but. A series of decisions had to be taken to mitigate the impact of Nigel Chandler's sudden critical illness from which, as I write, he is now believed to be firmly on the mend, though not quite out of the woods.

I want our members to know what those decisions were and why they were taken. They worked. They stabilised the position. They are not free from controversy. Yet some features of what was done are likely to be repeated and to endure.

Throughout my overlong reign as creator and leader of an auction team, I have relied on the enthusiasm and loyalty of those attending AGM and auction, to make the sale itself an animated and attractive event. My role in charge is programmed to continue until the end of 2021, when Simon Richards is to take over as leader, and I then have the next year in which to steer to completion the sale through the Circle of my own BWI collections. This requires me to stay in proper working order through the period - not guaranteed, just fully intended.

Well, on auction day, those present did us proud. Though discussion of highs and lows comes later in this report, the arithmetic speaks for itself. Realisations fluctuated throughout around the estimates, sometimes above, sometimes below. If my calculations are right, for we have yet to arrive at final checked figures, the final total ends within 1% (under £210) of the projected total, and marginally over, rather than under.

Let's look at the problems during the run-up.

(1) Communications cut. Nigel has been the normal route for bids over many years. We were suddenly out of touch with our members - no bids coming through, no access to what was already in the box. Steve Jarvis at once set up an alternative system (auction@bwisc.org) of whose existence I only learned one week before the sale. I had no idea by what mechanics the first bid reached me. Gaining access to Nigel's computer and its records was also a product of the final week. Thank goodness for the inadvertent addition of 2 weeks extra time in the date which I suggested to the committee. I was thinking 2020 my colleagues understood 2019.

(2) Website. Information was put on the website. The catalogue asks members to look for updates, and how many of us actually do? We included a request for members who had bid to confirm their bids to me. Two did.

(3) Book Bids. Computers allow members to bid late, and they do, because they can trump rivals' known bids. They cannot and do not know about BWISC bids, and delayed bids cause only administrative inconvenience, or actual disruption. It has been a creeping epidemic. This year I anticipated that we would be affected by economic uncertainty and global political instability, and I must have been right. We ended up two dozen short of the numbers, in the high 60's, whose support we usually get.

One single word sums up my auction philosophy: balance. I have to hold the ring between what members collect and what they don't; what some can afford, and others can't; what countries and types of offerings should be welcome; and what should be rationed, or courteously declined; how much make-up-your-mind time to allow room bidders or, if we have any, to a bidder on the phone. I am consistent only in my selling speed, an average of 220 lots an hour, with a possible spurt to 230, if the situation requires it. An unnoticed element is confidentiality. Even my own team gain knowledge on a need to know basis. My auction book is never seen by others, my seller codes are not freely disclosed, and sometimes I even lose one myself.

Technological aversion will be replaced by skilled handling when your next Simon takes over. Meanwhile you have to put up with me, and here are my emergency measures.

To protect our sellers against too many lots going to a single bid, with insufficient opposition on the auction book, minimum selling level was increased, selectively, to the nearest available bid above 80 or 85% of estimate. However, those who bid early were excepted. They could be kept on 75% if unopposed.

There was a knock-on effect for after-sales. For years members have enjoyed reduced-price offers, and some have been tempted to rely solely on picking up unsold items at these prices. That works fairly when the sale divides fairly evenly between present and absent bidders. In 2019 this wasn't, in my judgement, going to happen. Yet a member might have come to expect that privilege. How to disappoint such a member without being unfair? I decided that any member in this category should be approached, advised of the change of policy, and offered 'early bidder' status against the submission of a minimum number of firm bids in the auction itself. Alongside this came the decision to set a uniform rate for unsold which remained available for sale post-auction. Not all do; some are immediately withdrawn. The uniform rate, subject to any higher reserve is 90% estimate, but an order for at least £250 worth of unsold lots, based on estimate, will be filled at 85% for any lots still in hand. Reserved unsold are paid for in full. The target of £250 is reduced by the amount so paid.

These two features increased the number of live bids on the auction book by about 20%, and they can now continue in force. They work fairly, because they do not confer an improper advantage where the opportunity to increase the competitive level of the auction book requires a sufficient number of bids. I shall set the 2020 level at 20 lots, which is a figure seldom reached in a book bid in any past year. Even were such an entry to concentrate only on the least highly estimated lots, and be set exclusively on lots estimated low, it would still boost competition, and a member who collects on a shoestring will be able to compete at one step up.

This strategy will enable this auctioneer to harden his heart against the inattentive late bidder. Fewer bargains? Tough! You should bid sooner. This said, I found myself actually softening in the course of the 2019 auction, and shall answer a question which I have often been asked over the years, summarised as 'how much do you, Simon, participate in the auction?'

The answer is 'far too much'. I try to reduce it, yet appreciate that the balance in spread and value that each catalogue needs to show has to be planned and steered. So, in the course of attending many stamp fairs and occasional auctions, I have formed the habit of picking up items whose character and cost, fits them for inclusion in next year's sale - and I feel honour bound not to take them for myself. I ended up this year in paying for one item in the auction which a dealer under-valued, almost twice as much as I would have paid from my pocket, had I kept it for myself in the first place. Certainly, there are big margins in some of the things acquired, and there are losses too (not many). Where administratively possible, my own material gives way to a comparable item arriving from a different member. And here is my softer element: although I managed largely to ignore and entirely disregard that I am selling my own material, I realised part of the way through the 2019 sale that material coded to me was selling reasonably well. From then on, taking account of the approximately 16 second thinking time that each lot allows me, I was dropping down to our ordinary $\frac{3}{4}$ estimate level. I'm quite sure that each buyer at this level would have paid more. Not the point; this seller did not need more, and could so instruct the auctioneer.

We can now look quite shortly at the year's results.

Anguilla. Threatened delisting will not be implemented. All four lots have sold.

Antigua. Neglected on the book, welcomed in the room. 26 sold out of 36. Note the uplift for the bill of exchange lot 41.

Bahamas. Not a good year, 30 unsold out of 55. The Palmetto Point cover (lot 79) should not have gone unsold, but postmark demand is a bit tepid.

Barbados. Well supported. The long hesitation over whether the under-bidder for the cricketer error on cover would bid one more showed we'd picked just the right level of value at £400 (lot 133 £420). The mint example sold just after the sale closed. Bootheels on lots 136, 137 each doubled their estimates. The very common killers have real areas of scarcity.

Barbuda. Sold only its cheapest item out of 6. Not statistically significant, but the Codrington cover (lot 5) didn't sell either, so, off the boil.

Bermuda. We restricted lot numbers to 29, knowing that what sells cheerfully in the open market is viewed only as pet food by our members. How right. Only 6 lots sold. They did include the inverted watermark, lot 161, which beat its estimate.

British Guiana (with Guyana). In good health, 39 sold out of 54, and our 3 Guyana each found a home. We shall support Guyana during its struggles with surcharges and solvency, but the 1GPC supplies have no appeal for us, except to the limited extent that they actually came on commercial sale in GPO and saw real use. Even fewer issues reached New Amsterdam, let alone anywhere else. In BG itself the quality of lot 215 far surpassed its undemanding estimate, 217 and the pair in 219 fared well but the postmark lot at 218 was too much of a pot boiler and went at minimum.

British Honduras. 37 lots, and our efforts, including catalogue front cover, to sell a body of its stamps en bloc (lot 245) went unrewarded - but discussion continues post auction. The 22 lots that sold were mainly covers, below last year's quality, but still fairly meaty.

Cayman Is. 32 lots is a demanding number and we've sold a lot of their quality stamps in the past few years. So we did well to sell 15 lots, and the pattern of sales emphasises why auctions are constrained to offer top values on their own. Lot 305 with its content of GPO's very short lived type 3b cds was sold on the phone and doubled its £150 estimate accordingly. Without that increment total estimates and total sales would have all-but coincided.

Dominica. 20 lots half of them sold, not much sparkle.

Grenada. 26 lots, 9 sales and attendees getting restive for Jamaica. We'll run on.

Guadeloupe. Sold 2 out of 3 and our emergent interest in the non-British Caribbean is beginning to show results.

Jamaica. 70 lots on offer, and here competition was pretty intense, with sales of about three quarters. Only one 'GB used in...' went unsold, and that was defective. We hit the right note by breaking down a stockbook of postmarks into their parishes. We wonder whether the owner assessed stockbook value above the middle hundreds. It must have grossed over £2,000 from what was extracted. Despite competition, sometimes intense, realisation for the island was less than 5% over estimate. Glance at lot 426, E £5, sold £29.

Leeward Is. 28 lots, 17 sold. Lot 436 was the highlight, we're not quite sure why.

Martinique. Watch the burgeoning market with 6 sales out of 7.

Montserrat. Was in the doldrums with 2 sales out of 15. Is it a case of 7 fat years, 7 lean ones?

Nevis. Included our put-your-foot-in-it try-out (469a and website). 5 of the other 8 sold.

Dutch West Indies. 4 sold out of 7 and another area to watch. The Dutch colonial residents closely parallel the history of neighbouring British territories.

St. Christopher. With 13 sales out of 17 the influence of our departed friend Brian Brookes was strong. Member assessment of our full sheets, while arriving at higher results echoed our own assessment of batting order in value. Signposts to bear in mind, but we can't always get it right.

St. Kitts. Had no such boost, sales for 8 from 19, most at modest levels.

St. Lucia. Not a strong offering this year 8 sold out of 17. Two near identical covers split between Anguilla and St. Lucia went at prices which are encouraged by the general market, not ourselves.

St. Vincent. At a very low ebb on the book, normal demand in the room. Half of the offered lots sold, lot 546 the front runner on merit.

Tobago. Out of sorts with 3 sales out of 10. We've had better to offer and better years.

Trinidad. Prospered because the best individual items found their new owners, including the (1d) red provisional (lot 582) which made its full estimate. 20 sold out of 45 was a good outcome.

Turks. 14 lots, 3 covered on the book, 11 sold. A Salt Cay cover, of course, went too high (E10 sold £21) the others sensibly modest, 5 bidders shared the spoils.

Virgin Is. Demand for my own favoured country is normally weak, so it is not too disappointing to see no one picking up the small collection of earlies, for there were 5 names competing for 11 sold out of 27. The country's past is nearly lost in the mists of time, yet I feel sure it has a future, this year? next year? some time?

End Pages. Those attending were now drifting away, not without sporadic sales of which we need mention one only among these rather difficult categories. This is our discovery of the fifth (our classification only) LADY boat, the tugboat *Lady Hay* whose mission was recorded on an early picture postcard. Our theoretically outrageous estimate of £38 was easily overtopped at £60.

The few left at the close were spontaneous in their appreciation, and they joined with the officers and committee in wishing Nigel a safe and full recovery, with as speedy as practicable a return home to a normal life.

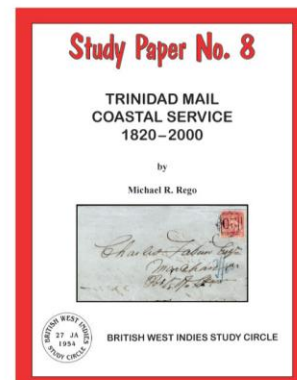
At Spink, we are encouraged to finish at 5.30pm. I had given myself the luxury of a 5 minute extension to promise finish by 5.35, but made a late spurt, so as not to use it. Auction ended 5.30 on the dot.

Study Paper No. 8

TRINIDAD MAIL COASTAL SERVICE 1820–2000

by Michael R. Rego

This Study Paper traces the history of the mail service via the steamers that plied the coastal waters of Trinidad and Tobago from the early 19th century. There is much information on the vessels that sailed on these routes with tables of timings, lists of prices for various items sent by mail as well as many images of contemporaneous paintings of the ships and their ports of call. Any collector interested could not find a better reference book.

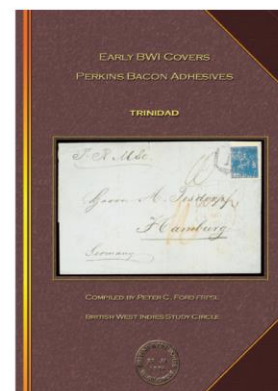


Price: £22.00 (BWISC Members' discount £2.00)

EARLY BWI COVERS PERKINS BACON ADHESIVES TRINIDAD

Compiled by Peter C. Ford FRPSL

For many years, there has been a listing of early Trinidad covers on the BWISC website; this book is an extension of that listing but now separating them into areas of destination. There have been many additions to the original listing and the book contains many high quality illustrations. This should be of great help to both dealers and collectors when researching the provenance of any particular cover.



Price: £20.00 (BWISC Members' discount £2.00)

Both of these books (and others) are available from the Pennymead Books (pennymead.com)



BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

BWI

THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO. (1)

BY MICHAEL OLIVER

PART 2

Through the influential West India Committee a contract was made with the Crown Agents to recommence the Inter-colonial services from September 1906 for a subsidy of £17,500p.a. These were reduced to two, the Northern Islands Line – Barbados, St. Lucia and all islands to St. Kitts every four weeks and the Demerara Branch Line – Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Georgetown, British Guiana every two weeks. The contract also included an agreement with the Government of Dominica to provide its coastal steamer *Yare* for a fortnightly service to Barbados via St. Lucia and Martinique, as required, to connect with the Transatlantic arrivals and departures. RMSP had changed their timetable of these to 8am arrivals and 5pm departures on alternate Tuesdays. *Yare* commenced with the departure from Barbados on the 11th returning on 18 September, (Fig. 6.). Although this arrangement was stated to end on 31 December it was definitely extended until the 1907 contract came into force. Contracts from 1906 included the day and date of the month. The West India Committee had also successfully lobbied the PMG to recommence the Transatlantic service and with payment for mail paid by him with no subsidy Parliamentary approval was not required. The Crown Agents made a new contract with RMSP which they passed over to the PMG for incorporation into his contract to commence on 28 August 1907 for ten years with a subsidy of £25,000p.a. It included clauses for RMSP to build two new steamers to replace *Eden* and *Esk*, increase the Northern Islands Line to fortnightly including Grenada and St. Vincent outbound and homebound on the Demerara Branch Line. The arrangement with Dominica was terminated.

ITINERARIES OF "SOLENT" CRUISES.

TOUR A1.

Stay in Port about Hours				Stay in Port about Hours			
Leave SOUTHAMPTON	by Mail	—	4th Jan., 1905	Arrive SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO	—	23rd Jan., 1905	1 p.m.
Steamer	...	...	...	Leave SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO	23	24th	Noon
Arrive BARBADOS	...	...	16th	Arrive CURACAO	...	26th	1 p.m.
Leave BARBADOS	8	16th	3 p.m.	Leave CURACAO	6	26th	7 p.m.
*Arrive TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	...	17th	6 a.m.	Arrive PUERTO CABELLO	...	27th	6 a.m.
Leave TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	6	17th	Noon	Leave PUERTO CABELLO	6	27th	Noon
Arrive LA BREA PITCH LAKE	...	17th	2 p.m.	Arrive LA GUAYRA	...	27th	6 p.m.
Leave LA BREA PITCH LAKE	3	17th	5 p.m.	Leave LA GUAYRA	48	29th	6 p.m.
Arrive GRENADA	...	18th	6 a.m.	Arrive TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	...	31st	6 a.m.
Leave GRENADA	12	18th	6 p.m.	Leave TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	...	...	...
Arrive ST. LUCIA	...	19th	7 a.m.	by Mail Steamer	6	31st	Noon
Leave ST. LUCIA	24	20th	7 a.m.	Arrive JAMAICA	...	3rd Feb.	7 a.m.
Arrive MARTINIQUE	...	20th	11 a.m.	Stay at Hotel 3½ days	...	...	...
Leave MARTINIQUE	7	20th	6 p.m.	Leave JAMAICA by Mail Steamer	3½ days	6th	5 p.m.
Arrive DOMINICA	...	20th	11 p.m.	Call TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	9 hours	10th	...
Leave DOMINICA	20	21st	7 p.m.	Call BARBADOS	8 hours	11th	...
Arrive ST. KITTs	...	22nd	9 a.m.	Arrive SOUTHAMPTON	...	23rd	...
Leave ST. KITTs	6	22nd	3 p.m.				

* Transfer to Yachting Steamer.

TOUR A4.

Stay in Port about Hours				Stay in Port about Hours			
Leave SOUTHAMPTON	by Mail	—	13th Feb., 1905	Arrive SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO	...	7th Mar., 1905	8 a.m.
Steamer	...	...	...	Leave SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO	22	8th	6 a.m.
Arrive BARBADOS	...	27th	early	Arrive HAVANA	...	11th	6 a.m.
Leave BARBADOS	8	27th	3 p.m.	Leave HAVANA	36	12th	6 p.m.
*Arrive TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	...	28th	6 a.m.	Arrive VERA CRUZ	...	16th	early
Leave TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	30	1st Mar.	Noon	Leave VERA CRUZ	108	20th	7 p.m.
Arrive LA BREA PITCH LAKE	...	1st	2 p.m.	Arrive JAMAICA	...	25th	6 p.m.
Leave LA BREA PITCH LAKE	3	1st	5 p.m.	Leave JAMAICA	120	30th	6 p.m.
Arrive GRENADA	...	2nd	6 a.m.	Arrive CURACAO	...	2nd April	6 a.m.
Leave GRENADA	12	2nd	6 p.m.	Leave CURACAO	9	2nd	3 p.m.
Arrive ST. LUCIA	...	3rd	7 a.m.	Arrive LA GUAYRA	...	3rd	6 a.m.
Leave ST. LUCIA	24	4th	7 a.m.	Leave LA GUAYRA	60	5th	6 p.m.
Arrive MARTINIQUE	...	4th	11 a.m.	Arrive TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	...	7th	6 a.m.
Leave MARTINIQUE	7	4th	6 p.m.	Leave TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	...	...	...
Arrive DOMINICA	...	4th	11 p.m.	by Mail Steamer	...	7th	...
Leave DOMINICA	20	5th	7 p.m.	Arrive BARBADOS	...	8th	...
				Arrive SOUTHAMPTON	...	20th	...

* Transfer to Yachting Steamer.

TABLE 1.

ITINERARIES OF 65 DAYS' TOURS FOR £65.

TOUR NO. I.

Leave SOUTHAMPTON by Mail Steamer	9th Nov., 1904.	Arrive ST. VINCENT morning	6th Dec., 1904.
Arrive BARBADOS early	21st " "	" GRENADA evening	6th " "
Leave BARBADOS afternoon by Intercolonial Mail		" TOBAGO 7 a.m.	7th " "
Steamer	21st " "	" TRINIDAD (Port of Spain) afternoon	7th " "
Arrive ST. LUCIA	22nd " "	" LA GUAYRA (time to visit Carácas)	9th " "
" MARTINIQUE	22nd " "	Leave LA GUAYRA	12th " "
" DOMINICA	23rd " "	* Returning by same route to BARBADOS	17th " "
" GUADELOUPE	23rd " "	(Homeward and Outward Mails leave and arrive.)	
" MONTEKRAT	23rd " "	Leave BARBADOS by Mail Steamer	19th " "
" ANTIGUA	24th " "	Arrive TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	20th " "
" NEVIS	24th " "	" JAMAICA 7 a.m. (stay 3½ days at Hotels)	23rd " "
" ST. KITTS	24th " "	Leave JAMAICA by Mail Steamer 5 p.m.	26th " "
† " ST. THOMAS (stay about 4 days)	25th " "	Arrive TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	30th " "
Leave ST. THOMAS for BARBADOS by same route	29th " "	" BARBADOS morning	31st " "
Arrive BARBADOS	3rd Dec. "	Leave BARBADOS 5 p.m.	31st " "
(Homeward and Outward Mails leave and arrive.)		Arrive SOUTHAMPTON, after calling at Plymouth	12th Jan., 1905.
Leave BARBADOS afternoon	5th " "		

ITINERARIES OF SEVEN WEEKS' TOURS FOR £55.

TOUR A.

Leave SOUTHAMPTON by Mail Steamer	9th Nov., 1904	Leave ST. THOMAS for Barbados by same route	29th Nov., 1904
Arrive BARBADOS early	21st " "	Arrive BARBADOS (Homeward and Outward Mails leave and arrive)	3rd Dec. "
Leave BARBADOS in afternoon by Intercolonial Mail		Leave BARBADOS afternoon by Mail Steamer	5th " "
Steamer	21st " "	Arrive TRINIDAD (Port of Spain) early	6th " "
Arrive ST. LUCIA	22nd " "	Leave TRINIDAD (Port of Spain) noon	6th " "
" MARTINIQUE	22nd " "	Arrive JAMAICA 7 a.m. (stay 3½ days at Hotels)	9th " "
" DOMINICA	23rd " "	Leave JAMAICA 5 p.m.	12th " "
" GUADELOUPE	23rd " "	Arrive TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	16th " "
" MONTEKRAT	23rd " "	Leave TRINIDAD (Port of Spain)	16th " "
" ANTIGUA	24th " "	Arrive BARBADOS morning	17th " "
" NEVIS	24th " "	Leave BARBADOS 5 p.m.	17th " "
" ST. KITTS	24th " "	Arrive SOUTHAMPTON, after calling at Plymouth	29th " "
† " ST. THOMAS (stay about 4 days)	25th " "		

TABLE 2.

PROVISIONAL TIME TABLE OF SERVICE TO BE PERFORMED
BY S.S. "YARE."

BRANCH LINE. (Fortnightly.)

PORT.	ARRIVE.	DEPART.				
Barbados...	...	Tuesday ...	11 Sept.	25 Sept.	9 Oct.	23 Oct.
St. Lucia...	...	Wednesday	12 "	26 "	10 "	24 "
*Martinique	...	"	12 "	26 "	10 "	24 "
Dominica	...	Thursday	13 "	27 "	11 "	25 "
Dominica	...	Sunday ...	16 Sept.	30 Sept.	14 Oct.	28 Oct.
*Martinique	...	Monday ...	17 "	1 Oct.	15 "	29 "
St. Lucia...	...	"	17 "	1 "	15 "	29 "
Barbados...	...	Tuesday ...	18 "	2 "	16 "	30 "

* At Company's option.

And fortnightly thereafter.

Fig. 6.

The two new steamers, *Balantia* and *Berbice* arrived at Barbados by August 1909. *Balantia* was assigned the Northern Islands Line replacing *Eden* when she was wrecked off Martinique on 25 August 1909 whilst on her final passage before returning to England prior to being broken up.

Berbice was painted white (Fig. 7.) and commenced as a cruise ship replacing *Solent* after 31 years continuous Inter-colonial service before also returning to England for breaking up. Unfortunately, with no known covers or handstamps for the new steamers their movements cannot be confirmed prior to them being requisitioned for war service in 1915.

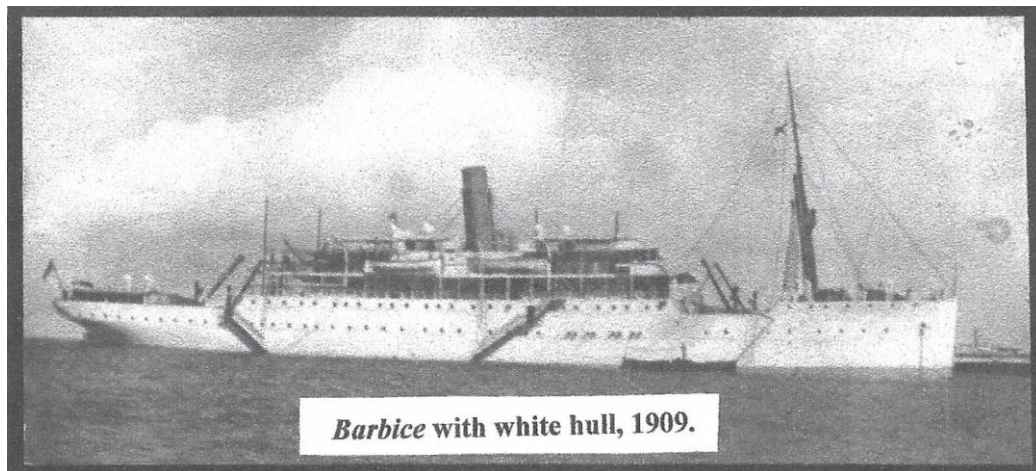


Fig. 7.

Early in 1910 RMSP gave notice to the PMG that they were withdrawing from the contract because income from mail was running at a loss. The colonies could not envisage a future without these regular services and called a conference of all Chambers of Commerce to be held at Commerce Hall, Bridgetown, Barbados on 19 October 1910. They agreed unanimously that RMSP must be retained and the West India Committee were telegraphed that day to use every effort to resolve the situation with the PMG. This resulted in a new contract being drawn up for the Transatlantic service with a subsidy of £63,000p.a. (made up by Imperial Government £40,000, Trinidad £16,300, Barbados £4,000 and British Guiana £2,700) to run concurrently with the Crown Agents Inter-colonial services contract at an additional £25,000p.a., both to end on 29 August 1917. The first departure from Southampton was on 18 January 1911. However, following the outbreak of war with Germany in August 1914 the last scheduled sailing was on 24 August 1915 from London (Southampton was closed to passenger ships) by *Magdalena* by this time many of the Company's ships had been requisitioned by the Admiralty for war service. She too was requisitioned on her outbound passage and returned with a contingent of West India Regiment en route to their posting in East Africa. Inter-colonial services were retained by RMSP's 1913 contract with the Government of Canada for a scheduled service Halifax, Nova Scotia to all British islands from Bermuda to Georgetown. Whilst this was only a four year contract it was extended by stages until 1927.

The Panama Canal opened in 1914 but was not fully operational until 1919 when many lines ran ships, a few on scheduled services, that called at the islands on their transatlantic crossing carrying and delivering mail. In late 1916 RMSP commenced a new Transatlantic service to New York and Jamaica with *Danube*, *Tagus* and *Trent* but this had ceased within six months when the ships were requisitioned for war service.

An irregular service recommenced in 1919 but soon ceased with the last departure from London on 4 August 1920. RMSP continued operating cargo ships to the West Indies which also carried mail until the Company became a part of the new Royal Mail Line formed on 4 August 1932, which included the Meat Transport Co., Nelson Steam Navigation Co. and David McIver & Co. Hence this was the demise of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Co. after 93 years.

Examples of covers identifying the name of the ship carrying them are sparse except for one sender from Dominica (who was, I think, the Garraway Bros. business) to Messrs. C.W. & W. Gray, 31 Great St. Helens Street, London. Most of their letters between 1895–1907 included the names of the Inter-colonial and Transatlantic ships that carried them. Because the Northern Islands Line steamer docked off Roseau 3–4 am Friday en route to Barbados letters were handed onto the tender and hand cancelled by the steamer's Purser with its name. They then received a CDS at St. Lucia, the next British port of call in accordance with Post Office regulations. (Fig. 8.)



Fig. 8.

RMSP Shipping Lists

A – The Original Fleet

Ship	Tonnage	Propulsion	Passengers	In service	Notes
Transatlantic					
Avon	2069	Wooden Paddle Str	250/50/60	1843-1862	Nov. Wrecked at Colon
Clyde (1)	1841			1841-1865	sold
City of Glasgow	1700			1842-1848	
Dee	1849			1842-1862	
Forth	1900			1841-1849	Wrecked Jan
Isis	1900			1842-1842	Sank Oct
Medina	1800			1842-1842	Wrecked May*
Medway (1)	1895			1842-1861	
Severn	1886			1843-1856	
Solway	1700			1841-1843	Wrecked April
Tay	1858			1841-1856	
Thames (1)	1889			1841-1856	Broken up
Teviot	1744			1842-1864	
Trent (1)	1856			1842-1866	Laid up
Tweed	1800	Wooden Paddle Str		1841-1847	Wrecked Feb
Inter-colonial					
Acaeon	650	Wooden Paddle Str		1842-1844	Purchased sunk Oct
Larne	300	Wooden Schooner		1841-1851	
Lee	250	" "		1841-1848	Lost off Honduras
Liffey	350	" "		1841-1847	

*Medina was the company's first loss, grounded on her second voyage in Turks Is. harbour, on 2 May.

B – Transatlantic Steamers, from 1844

Ships	Tonnage	Propulsion	Passengers	In Service	Notes
Great Western	1775	Wooden Paddle Str	128/20	1847-1856	
Conway				1847-1870	Replaced the City of Glasgow
Parana	2943	“ “	100	1851-1876	
Magdalena (1)	2943	“ “	100	1852-1866	
Orinoco (1)	2901	“ “	100	1851-1859	
La Plata (1)	2404	“ “	116/20	1852-1871	Ex Arabia
Solent (1)	1804	Comp Paddle Str	100/350	1853-1869	
Atrato (1)	3467	Iron Paddle Str	224	1854-1870	
Tamar	1850	Wooden Paddle Str	100/300	1854-1871	
Tyne (1)	1603	Iron Paddle Str	60/200	1855-1875	
Tasmanian	2956	Iron Screw Str	200/60	1859-1878	
Shannon	3609	Iron Paddle Str	60/100	1859-1875	Dec. Abandoned
Douro	2824	Iron Screw Str	250/30/30	1865-1882	Apr. Sank off C.Finnistarre
Rhone	2738	“ “	250/30/30	1865-1867	Oct. Wrecked off St. Thomas
Danube (1)	2039	“ “	140/68/30	1865-1871	
Nile (1)	2994	“ “	272/58/42	1870-1890	
Moselle	3252	“ “	173/26/50	1871-1891	Oct. Wrecked near Colon
Tagus (1)	3252	“ “	173/26/50	1871-1897	
Para	3805	“ “	60/70/240	1876-1901	Nov. Broken up
Don	4028	“ “	60/70/240	1876-1901	
Medway (11)	3687	“ “	232/30	1877-1899	
Tamar (11)	2923	“ “	122/23	1878-1897	
Trent (11)	2912	“ “	122/23	1878-1897	
La Plata (11)	3240	Iron Screw Str	223/90	1882-1893	
Orinoco (11)	4434	Steel Screw Str	257/26	1886-1909	
Atrato (11)	5366	“ “	221/32/36	1889-1912	
Magdalena (11)	5362	“ “	170/40/330	1885-1915	
Thames (11)	5645	“ “	170/40/330	1890-1914	
Clyde (11)	5645	“ “	170/40/330	1890-1913	
Nile (11)	5855	“ “	215/36/350	1893-1911	
Danube (11)	5946	“ “	215/36/350	1894-1916	
La Plata (111)	3445	“ “	135/370	1896-1900	
Tagus (11)	5545	“ “	180/0/400	1899-1916	
Trent (111)	5573	“ “	180/0/400	1899-1916	
La Plata (1V)	4464	Steel Screw Str	120/90/50	1901-1908	

C – Inter-Colonial Steamers

Ships	Tonnage	Propulsion	Passengers	In Service	Notes
Camilla	539	Wooded Paddle Str	50	1853-1859	
Prince	398	Iron Paddle Str	20	1851-1859	Replaced Esk
Eagle	620	Wooden Paddle Str	24	1846-1861	
Esk (1)	232	Wooden Screw Str	29	1849-1884	
Derwent	794	Wooden Paddle Str	40	1850-1867	Oct Wrecked St. Thomas
Wye	819	Iron Screw Str	Deck	1853-1857	
Eider	1569	Iron Paddle Str	c 50	1864-1883	
Arno (1)	1038	Iron Paddle Str	c50	1865-1882	
Belize	1038	Iron Screw Str	42	1872-1888	
Larne (11)	1870	Iron Screw Str	200	1873-1900	
Severn (11)	1873	Iron Screw Str	200	1873-1887	
Solent (11)	1908	Iron Screw Str	50//Deck	1878-1910	
Eden	2145	Iron Screw Str	?60/Deck	1882-1909	Aug. Wrecked
Esk (11)	2145	Iron Screw Str	?60/Deck	1882-1910	
Balantia	2467	Steel Twin Screw Str	100/50	1909-1915	and 1919-22
Berbice	2379	Steel Twin Screw Str	100/50	1909-1915	and 1919-20

D – Island Based Steamers & Sloops

Ship	Tonnage	Based at	Passengers	In Service	Notes
Tyne	615	Dominica/St Lucia	Deck/Cargo	1891-1897	
Spey	470	Jamaica	Deck/Cargo	1892-1913	
Taw	180	Grenada	Deck	1892-1915	
Tees	180	St.Lucia	Deck	1892-1915	
Wear	180	Grenada	Deck	1892-1915	
Exe	61	Grenada	Deck	1893-1907	
Waltham	87	Grenada	Deck	1893-1906	
Arno (11)	607	Jamaica	Deck	1901-1917	
Kennet	827	Trinidad	Deck/Cargo	1901-1914	
Yare	299	Dominica	Deck	1901-1915	
Jamaica	1138	Jamaica	Deck/Cargo	1912-1914	Ex Elder-Dempster
Barina	1498	Trinidad&Tobago	60/350	1913-1923	
Belize (11)	1498	Trinidad&Tobago	60/350	1914-1923	
Taff	204	Grenada	Deck	1914-1920	
Towy	204	St.Lucia	Deck	1914-1920	

From 1842–1885 departures from England were on the 2nd or 3rd and 17th of each month. Having between 28–31 days, to calculate a particular date of call on their passages will be quite a formidable undertaking, one it is doubtful I shall attempt.

The above lists of Transatlantic ships is intended to include only those employed on West Indies service. It will probably require correction when it is thought that there was some interchange with the South American fleet ships and also that some also called at Barbados homebound.

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BOOK REVIEW**BY DAVID WILSON****Bahamas Stamps and Postal Stationery to 1970 edited by Peter Fernbank FRPSL**

Jointly published by The Royal Philatelic Society London and the BWISC (2017). ISBN 978-0-900631-83-6

In previous years, many collectors of Bahamas issues - like me - turned to Harold Gisburn's definitive volume (The Postage Stamps and Postal History of the Bahamas) to identify and research the contents of their collection. Gisburn however suffered from two significant disadvantages, namely that his colour plates were converted to black-and-white images in the printed book, and the book's publication in 1950 preceded most of the major writings on Bahamas varieties, errors and forgeries.

The publication of Peter Fernbank's book serves to bring the body of learning up to date with the major bonus of including spectacular colour plates of every significant issue and its varieties. The advantages of colour are evident immediately in the extensive treatment of the QV Chalon Heads, contributed by Chris Harman, where the different shades of the 1d, 4d and 6d – as listed in Gibbons plus unlisted others – are set out together to allow the collector a compare-and-contrast analysis.

Here and elsewhere, Peter's own research among the De La Rue and Crown Agents' records allows the reader to consider the printing dates and quantities as a further identification aid. The book benefits from the integration of elements from many specialist collections and auction offerings to show the development of issues from essays to proof materials and colour trials.

The Queens Staircase chapters are especially comprehensive and satisfying, exploring the design history and describing the changes which took place in the Vignette and Duty Plates during the numerous printings. Building on the earlier works of Morris Ludington, the book shows many examples of the scratches and retouches that allow us to position the stamps from the printing of the early vignette plates.

The War Tax chapter incorporates the latest learning regarding the forgeries of supposed overprint errors, which has developed from papers published over the last 10 years. Peter includes major sections on sheet numbering across the Bahamas issues, identifying fonts and sizings to assist the identification process.

Much has been written over the years on the Landfall of Columbus overprints and the unique characteristics of the overprint at each position on the sheet. As contributed by Roger West, these varieties are all illustrated in enlarged colour to allow a complete analysis of any individual stamp. The book concludes with chapters covering all the remaining issues up to 1970, plus Bahamas Postal Stationery contributed by Keith Hanman.

As to omissions, Peter's focus on the stamps of the Bahamas means that there is no description of the early pre-adhesive handstamps and postal markings. And for anyone who might retain an interest in Bahamas' ill-fated Undersea Sea Floor Post Office, they may wish to keep a copy of Gisburn on their shelves.

In all other respects, Peter's book is an unqualified success in providing the complete reference guide to everything a Bahamas collector will encounter.

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BARBADOS

THE BARBADOS QUADRISECT

BY RICHARD STUPPLES

I have been unable to find any previous reference to a genuine quadrisect being recorded for Barbados and at the time I bought this quadrisect I thought that I was buying a forgery until I started studying it. Then I began asking the opinion of more experienced collectors to try and resolve the queries generated from closer examination.



SG1



SG2



SG3



SG4



SG4a

Charles Freeland was fairly non-committal when I tried discussing it with him, just advising that I should write it up and submit it to the study circle magazine for opinions.

I then presented the item to Michael Hamilton and, like myself, he dismissed it as a forgery until I pointed out that it was actually on a piece of newspaper so would he look at the postmark again and provide an opinion. (Michael also reminded me that I hadn't written it up at the last convention meeting so this is all of the tale, not just my usual brief description.) Yes, the postmark looked authentic was the positive reply from Michael.

Following the April 2017 Auction, Carolyn and I were invited back to Simon Goldblatt's flat. Whilst Simon was talking to Carolyn, I was handed his collection of Barbados, I suspect to keep me quiet whilst Simon and Carolyn discussed ceramics, not that I minded.

Within the collection I came across a second quadrisect, and for those that think it's a slow process, in 20 years this is only the second quadrisect, albeit a clear forgery, that I have seen whilst hunting the world for pieces of Barbados that I find interesting. Simon very kindly brought it to the last Study Circle weekend and allowed me to photograph it for this article.



Simon's Quadrisect



My own Quadrisect

Looking at Simon's item, the shade of the stamp is wrong. It looks to be either SG 3 or SG 9, because there is a roller or doctor blade flaw that occurs on some of the white paper stamps marking the marginal edge of the stamp with blue ink. The difference between an oxidised ink blued paper SG 3 and 4 and the flawed SG 9 are very hard to tell apart, though I would lean towards SG 9 from the shade of the stamp. The item is on a piece of paper with a manuscript mark on it and no print. The postcard rate of a farthing didn't exist when this was supposed to have been used, so quartering a penny would create a non-existent rate and the smears of glue are also questionable. I leave postmarks to experts and only provide an opinion based on actually being able to measure under a microscope to satisfy myself.

So the challenge is to show the potential genuine use of a Barbados quadrisect.

The question to start with, is, was there a need for a half penny rate? The answer has to be yes because SG 1 and 2 are designed to pay the ½d rate, therefore there was a requirement in use from the start of the stamps being issued to the colony.

SG 4a, the 2d violet, is recognised as the Deep Greyish Slate colour. This was so unpopular in the colony, due to the difficulty of distinguishing the colour under artificial light, that most ended up being bisected because of having no use for 2d rate and due to the shortage of 1d stamps.

Does it seem to be the right shade of stamp? Yes, it can only fit within the shades that exist from the early stamps. The stamp is the bottom left quarter and despite the scissors best efforts, part of B and A remain from the identifying colony name. The quality of the printing also indicates that the stamp is a genuine SG4a.

Next - the quadrisect is on a piece of printed paper and the upper left corner shows the partial print of the lettering from either an advertising or newspaper top sheet. I don't think it's from a wrapper or band as the remaining parts of the lettering are very ornate for not being part of the front of the document. I've no reference for this as my first newspaper from the colony is 40 years later, when the Crown Circle made its last outing following a shortage of stamps during the 1890's. I suspect that it is a front page of a religious tract, but this only a suspicion, as I've seen one other item from the 1860's that had a similar text whilst the newspapers don't seem to use such ornate text. Furthermore, whilst answering a fellow collector's queries, I noticed that on Plate V in the colour plates in Edmund Bayley's book, *'The Stamps of Barbados'*, there is a piece with a later bisected use of the penny stamp. Also, there is a similar font printed on the piece under the quadrisect.

The postmark shows the lined oval with the three bars at the top and has the four at the bottom, showing a faint trace of the numeral 1 on the stamp and measuring exactly as a type C1a according to Clarke, Radford and Cave.

Notice how clean it is mounted to the paper, indicating that the original gum was the only thing that has been used to attach it to the paper. As it hasn't been an item that was considered genuine by earlier collectors, I suspect that it hasn't been lifted from the paper, unlike a lot of the early covers, for either cleaning or more detailed study or authentication purposes. It's been mounted on a piece of card to provide a stiffener to both be able to display it and stop the newspaper from degrading further. This is not relevant to the authentication process but it does explain the double lining around the margin, also irrelevant but note the way the glue spills out on the upper edges.

The conclusion I have reached is that, though potentially unauthorised, the quadrisect is genuine and was not intended to either create an item of philatelic interest or to try and defraud either the Post Office or the philatelist and has travelled through the postal service for delivery.

I invite you to provide me with your opinions and experience to help me conclude if there is anything else which either disputes or validates its authenticity - i.e. has this been seen in other Caribbean Colonies.

A fellow Barbados collector, who read this article through for comments, challenged me about my understanding of the use of SG 4a and why did I think that it was mostly bisected. Two reasons, there is no need for a 2d postage stamp within the colony, it is a double rate to the Penny Post, but it was rarely needed.

I would have thought that the 2d would have been used paired to pay the 300 nautical miles 4d rate but again that was still under control of the Crown Agents at the time of the 2d stamp being used, and payment was shown with the use of the Crown Circle handstamp. From M. Fitz Roett's book, *'Barbados, The Britannia Issues'* there are 10 stamps recorded used, including one strip of 3 and for covers there is 1 stamp used on cover intact and 26 recorded bisects of SG 4a.

I regret to say that my understanding of the difficulties experienced by the post office officials in distinguishing the 2d Grey against the 1d Blue currently eludes me. I thought that the reference came from *'The Stamps of Barbados'* by Edmund Bayley, but, after a quick perusal of the pages pertaining to the relevant stamp issues, I find myself in error and will have to reconsider where this came from.

The Roller or Doctor Blade flaw is on the Early Barbados Britannia Design which leaves the right hand margin of a stamp covered in blue ink as the cleaning process during the printing does not wipe off excess ink correctly and leaves a smear that is transferred to the stamps. I state this as a flaw in blue ink because I have several from different early issues all 1d blue and I have yet to see it on any of the other values in the early stamps though it hasn't been a priority search.

GRENADA

A BOOK ABOUT GRENADA PHILATELY

BY TIM PEARCE

(continued from Bulletin 260 p17 – 18)

Chapter 5 (part 2): The Chalon Head Issues, second type, continued.

In 1881, Grenada was admitted to the Universal Postal Union so new values of 2½d were required for ½ ounce letters addressed to Islands within three hundred nautical miles of Grenada, i.e. the Leeward and Windward Islands, and 4d to all countries belonging to the Union. At this point, the colony took the opportunity to order a supply of ½d stamps as well. All these were produced by the same method as the 1s, though the overprint was in black. These issues were perforated by Perkins Bacon on their new 14¼ gauge machine, along with the 1881 1d. They were chronicled in the Philatelic Record of May 1881 and so were probably released in April.

The three new values were printed on large star watermarked paper, but presumably because of temporary shortage of that paper, the 2½d and 4d were also printed on the so-called broad star watermarked paper, otherwise only used for the stamps of South Australia in 1875, 1879 and 1885. Stamps on this paper are notably rarer than on the large star paper, so it is assumed that a few sheets of the broad star were added to make up the required amount during the printing.

In the printing records, although the whole issue was printed in the week ending 22 January, 1881, the printer, Russell, recorded them in the order blue, mauve and pink. It is reasonable to suppose that this is the order in which he printed them as the records show the sequence 500 blue, 40 mauve, 500 mauve, 520 pink and 130 pink. This suggests that there were problems with both the ½d and the 2½d, which is supported by the fact that the 4d has by far the fewest typographical errors, though makes the inclusion of the broad star paper somewhat random. Except for St. Vincent, later in 1881, these were the last stamps printed by the company for the regular British stamp-issuing customers. Like the last 1d green of Grenada, the St. Vincent issue of December 1881 was also issued on small star watermark paper and was their last Perkins Bacon printing. It seems possible that the firm received delivery of a new stock of small star watermark paper in the last week of January when Russell printed the 1881 1d issue. This must have been ordered some time before and if so, they knew they were low in the appropriate paper for this issue. Problems with the overprint plate of the 2½d, where each half-moon 'TWO PENCE HALF-PENNY.' must have been particularly difficult to lock up securely, would also explain why he apparently printed 650 sheets in two sessions to produce the 500 good sheets which were sent for perforating.

Under these circumstances, it seems sensible to look at these three values in the order in which they were printed. The 4d blue resembles the 1s issue in requiring a simple 'FOUR PENCE' in place of the 'ONE SHILLING' Fig. 1. More study is needed to determine whether the settings of 'POSTAGE' at the top were retained from the 1875 1s issue. The appearance of similar loose type errors such as wide 'S-T', Fig.1. may

suggest that they were. One unique example of a 'SPECIMEN' overprint has survived from the Perkins Bacon archives, as with the 1881 1d, but it does not seem likely that specimen stamps were actually distributed to postal authorities within the UPU. Perhaps Perkins Bacon were hedging against the similar request to the one made for the 1s. In common with the handling of the paper for many of the earlier issues, at least one sheet of large star paper was fed to the press in the wrong orientation, so the value can be found with large star sideways, as well as the broad star.



1881 4d unused



wide S T



PENCE.(broken E)



scratch on face



small S in POSTAGE

Fig. 1. (An unusually dark shade)

The same Bacon & Napier errors of the 1s can be found on all values of this issue. The broken 'E' in 'PENCE' is unique to the 4d, as is the scratch on the Queen's face Fig. 1. The small 'S' in 'POSTAGE' is clear evidence of the use of two or more font sizes without much regard for consistency, though any letterpress typesetter knows how easy it is when using small point letterpress type to return the type, when the forme is dismantled, to the wrong box, and there is little doubt that the Perkins Bacon typesetters had been frustrated by the demands of these overprints, especially as they also had to deal with different settings of the Revenue issues.

Turning to the 4d on broad star watermark, the survival of this remarkable pair from the bottom of the sheet with the selvedge still attached shows the double lined letters 'TAGE' of 'POSTAGE' upside down in the margin. Fig. 2.



Fig. 2.

Owing to the relative rarity of the issue on this watermark, varieties have not been recorded, though the close 'PO' has been seen and also a large 'P' and large second 'E' in 'PENCE', which provides further evidence of the typographical varieties which the issue presented.



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

These two examples above show the difference between the setting of 'FOUR PENCE', with no en-spaces, Fig. 4. and the setting of 'POSTAGE' with en-spaces Fig. 3. En-spaces are blank pieces of type used to space out a headline or similar. In the close 'PO' case on the left the en-space appears to have been omitted. The type setter wanted the 'P O S T A G E' heading, not 'PO S T A G E' to fill out that area, whereas the 'FOUR PENCE' could be left unspaced.

Covers are rare, but less so than for the 2½d. All three values only served for two years before the 1883 De La Rue issue arrived (See Chapter 9).

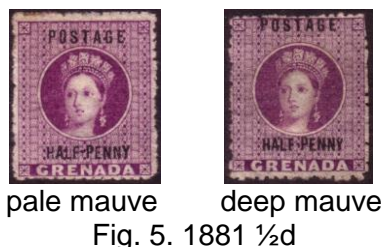


Fig. 5. 1881 ½d

The ½d is recorded in some catalogues as pale mauve and deep mauve and one can only assume that these shades arose between the dark mauve and the pale mauve as the ink was used up and the roller was recharged. Many examples could simply be called mauve though it is possible to demonstrate the contrast. Fig. 5.

The so-called pale mauve is never really pale, it is simply rather more reddish than the dark mauve. Gibbons colour key offers deep mauve, bright mauve and mauve, and these two examples are nowhere near the latter two. They are in fact closer to what Gibbons calls plum and perhaps should be re-described as bright plum and dark plum.

This issue is known imperforate in unused pairs and blocks, presumably survivors from the printer's waste, and the other major variety is the missing 'P' in 'POSTAGE' Fig. 6.



Fig. 6. 1881 ½d

As is now apparent with all the Perkins Bacon printings for Grenada, most issues appeared predominantly on one watermark, but equally with the possibility of alternative orientation. The paper for the ½d value was basically loaded with the watermark sideways, but is known with the watermark upright, including the 'OSTAGE' and other minor varieties. As this stamp is relatively common, the watermark upright is one of the varieties well worth looking for.

Not surprisingly, given the history of its production, at least one double-printed sheet survived, though it is only known mint, and similarly some misplaced overprints where 'POSTAGE' may appear twice, or only at the bottom of the stamp. Again these are probably part of the printer's waste. The hyphen caused all sorts of problems. At least three varieties were used, recognised as the short, the standard and the long hyphens, and the hyphen was omitted at Position 88 conveniently making a vertical pair with the 'OSTAGE' error, (see Fig. 6. above).

It could, in theory, be possible to work out all the plate positions as complete sheets and large multiples have survived, but the minor varieties are unlikely to be entirely constant through the two print-runs. There is a distinctive broken 'H' in 'HALF' at position 20, (Row 2/8), accompanied by a damaged first 'N' in 'PENNY', which does seem to be constant and is a useful guide if it appears in a multiple. Similar to the case of 'SHILLINS' in the 1s issue, there is a broken 'G' which looks like an 'S' in 'POSTAGE' to give 'POSTASE'. Peter Jaffé owned a striking variety showing 'HAEF' for 'HALF' which he regarded as irregular. It is possible that errors of this sort were eradicated between the first printing of 40 sheets and then the separate printing of the rest. Bacon lists the positions of the spacing errors in 'POSTAGE' as:

Position 7: wide 'AG'; 15: Close 'PO'; 18: defective 'G'; 33: wide 'PO'; 64: close 'TA'; 81: close 'ST'; 91: wide 'ST'.

Hyphens: 88: No hyphen; 6, 13, 21, 24, 25, 82: Long thin hyphen; 4, 90: broken or short hyphen.

Bacon also appears to have seen 'ALF' for 'HALF' and 'PEN' for 'PENNY' on some sheets.

As these positions are either not confirmed or positively contradicted on some observed multiples, it would not be safe to define them in this way. For instance, there is certainly a long thin hyphen at position 24, which also shows a flyspeck dot by the Queen's right ear.

At position 22, not included by Bacon, the hyphen is barely more than a dot, and while position 13 does have a long thin hyphen, position 14 shows almost no hyphen at all. There is a long thin hyphen at Position 25, but also one at position 27.

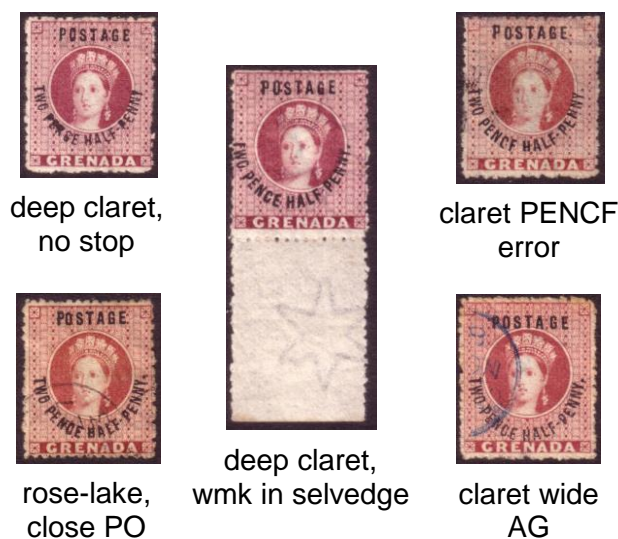


Fig. 7. Shades of the 2½d on broad star watermark paper

When the printer got to the 2½d, Figs. 7. & 8., he must have become increasingly frustrated. In order to incorporate the lettering 'TWO PENCE HALF-PENNY', the compositor had to create a half moon of lettering with appropriate locking leads. The local printers probably couldn't make a die. (why this overprint has a full stop, sometimes missing, to add to the difficulties is not explained. The stop does match the 'T' opposite it, but that could have been achieved with an additional space between 'PENCE' and 'HALF' to move the 'Y' up level. None of the other values have stops.) The printing, like the 4d, was on both large star upright and broad star paper. In this case large star watermark sideways has not been recorded, but must be possible. The colour of the ink is what causes many of the identification problems with this issue. The printer recorded it as pink and indeed if one is viewing the engine turned background only, it could be called pink.

The conventional description in catalogues is rose-lake, which is not a shade in Gibbons Colour key. The nearest shade in the key is a brownish-red called Indian red. In fact the colour of the stamp on the large star watermark paper is fairly consistent, but it should be noted that unused copies are a little warmer in tone than used copies, most of which have probably been soaked or washed. As with the ½d, imperforate pairs and blocks are known, but multiples of the issued stamp, unused or used, are very rare indeed.

The problem of the shade becomes much more acute with regard to the Broad star watermark paper. Three shades of that are catalogued, rose-lake, claret and deep claret. Fig. 7. The deep claret shade is very distinctive in unused condition, but seems to be unstable and is seldom seen in used examples, where the almost purplish bloom has been washed away and almost gone to red-brown. It is a reasonable conjecture that the broad star paper may have been used for the extra sheets needed to make up for the spoilage and that the early sheets of this second printing showed a very rich tone.



Fig. 8. Examples of the 2½d rose-lake on large star upright watermark paper

The varieties in 'POSTAGE' are the same as for the ½d. The no-stop variety is said by Bacon to be on positions 28, 62, 87 and 103. The true 'PENCF' error, with a genuine 'F' rather than a broken or damaged 'E', is said to be position 96. There are several other positions sold as 'PENCF'.

One of these is fairly easily rejected as it is the no stop variety at position row 6/2 (62) seen in an unperforated marginal block of four in the Hackmey sale of 1985 and known in various singles. Fig. 9. top right. In this case the so-called 'F' is clearly an 'E' damaged by the intrusion of some foreign body which has pushed the middle cross-bar up and demolished the bottom cross-bar. There is also some damage to the 'H'. Fig. 10.



Fig. 9.



Fig. 10.

The second false 'PENCF' is identified by its proximity to another of the no stop varieties, position row 9/7 (103). In this case the no stop variety has the whole right side of the letters 'ENNY' shaved off including the stop. Fig. 12. The stamp at position 120 is very similar, so single copies may not so easily be plated. The stamp below it has been damaged so that the 'E' has lost its bottom cross-bar, the 'H' is too short and the 'A' has lost its left leg. This is a common type of damage at the edge of the forme. This stamp row 10/7 (115)

These two remarkable unperforated pieces, Figs. 11. & 12., which conveniently show the whole of the double-lined 'POSTAGE' watermark at the base of the sheet, are adjacent, positions 101–105 and 113–117. The block of four was sold by Gibbons in October 1979, and the block of eight in September 1989. This includes Pos R9/7, which does appear to have no stop but the whole of the right side of the overprint is shaved off. Fig. 12. top row, 2nd left, That is a constant variety. There may well be other positions with damaged 'E's and even the authenticated 'PENCF' copies are not quite convincing as the middle bar of the first 'F' is thicker than the middle bar of the 'F' in 'HALF'. The proving piece would be a block including position 96 (Row 8/12), which interestingly is also at the edge of the forme.



Fig. 11.



Fig. 12.

One of the most remarkable features of this issue is that, although it is one of the most common used early stamps of Grenada, apparently no covers used for its correct purpose of ½oz letters to destinations up to 300 nautical miles from Grenada have survived. This would have been sufficient for the Windward and Leeward Islands but not much further. It suggests that inter-island correspondence was quite active, but that philately was largely unknown. No doubt, somewhere in the islands, old collections of papers in the islands that have survived the ravages of insects and tropical weather, covers do exist but they have not come on to the philatelic market.



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LEEWARD ISLANDS

EDWARD VII 1902 CROWN CA PRINTINGS

BY PETER FERNBANK

A clarification:

In Bulletin No. 260 March 2019 the specimen stamp shown between Figs. 1 & 2 was not clearly identified as relating to Fig. 1. A clearer illustration is shown below.



Marginal dot positions identify this to Plate 1



Fig. 1. 'L' - normal height on Plate 1



Plate 2a



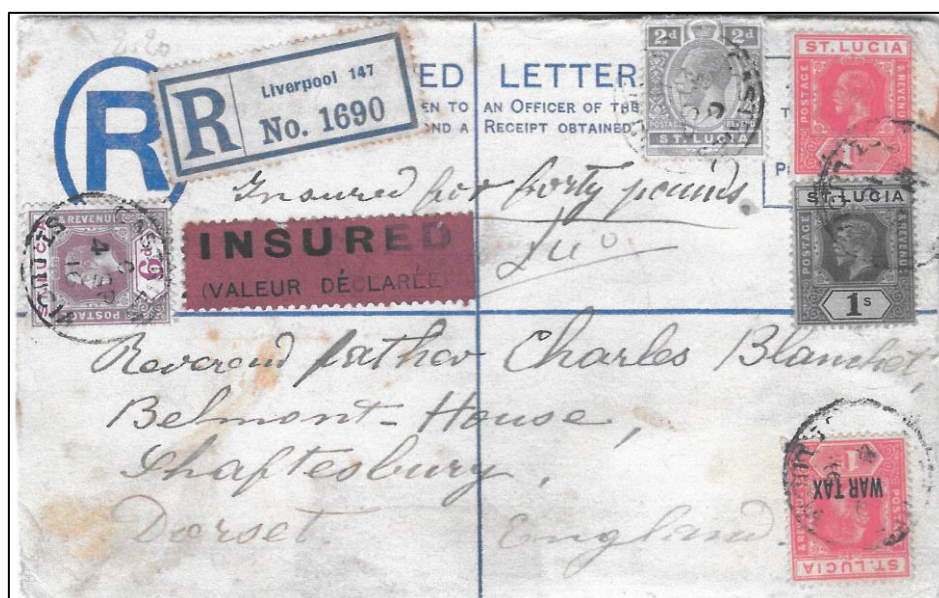
Fig. 2. 'L' - shortened top on Plate 2a

With apologies from the Editor.

ST. LUCIA

4 SEPTEMBER 1916 REGISTERED COVER

BY ALISTER KINNON



I have recently purchased the registered cover shown above, for which I have two queries.

As it is dated 4 September 1916, which was a Monday, is this a first day cover of the London printing of the War Tax overprint, or has any member an earlier date of use?

The cover carries a red label inscribed 'INSURED / VALEUR DECLARE' with a manuscript 'Insured for Forty Pounds'. Has any member knowledge of a similar label being used in Saint Lucia?

If so can earlier and/or later dates of use be assigned to its use.

STEVEN ZIRINSKY

MEMBER PTS, APS, NZSDA, APTA

Stamps - Revenues - Postal History - Commercial Mail

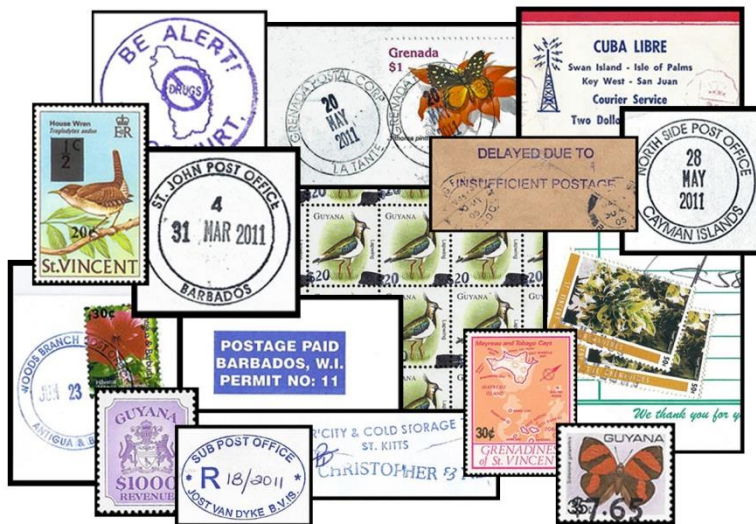
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TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

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BY MICHAEL REGO

Bruce Walker has uncovered a number of Tobago 2d Registered covers from March to November 1904 with additional 4d stamps for inland postage? to Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Joint Postal Rates

A Post Office Notice of 1 January 1889 confirmed that from that date Trinidad and Tobago Inland rate of postage will be charged on all postal matters. So this confirms the establishment of a joint postal rate, as prior to that date Trinidad and Tobago were separate postal authorities.



Fig 1. 24 November 1904, 6d registered letter, Tobago to Port of Spain
2d registration; 2d postage double rate, 2d Money Order?

The 2d Registration Fee was effective on 1 January 1891 and applied to both Trinidad and Tobago. On the same date the Inland letter rate was 1d per ½oz again to T&T. The cover above carries a 4d stamp, which on the face of it could be a quadruple letter rate. A 'normal' Inland registered cover of this period would carry a total cost of 3d, of which 2d registration and 1d mail, so the above is a very unusual postage amount.

Insurance

This scheme was looked out to seek a possible reason for a registered cover to include a high postage cost. The increase in the 4d stamp above was originally thought to have been due to Insurance being paid for its contents, but looking at a Trinidad Insurance table of Commission fees of 1899, this seems unlikely, as the table gives the following, £12 – fee 8d, £24 – fee 1s 0d, £36 – fee 1s 4d, etc., so these high values are associated with a minimum fee of 8d. Additional the post office instructions for an Insurance letter required the writer to add above the address its value in words and figures.

Money Orders

As the above insurance scheme did not explain the 4d stamp usage, another avenue was sought. On 1 November 1853 an Ordinance was passed to facilitate transmitting small sums of money through the Post Office and for Registration of Letters. The Postmaster General giving his report for 1861, recording that the 'local' Money Letters passing through his office totalled 130, while the number of Inland registered letters was 234, but there were many ordinary letters containing coin without registration. In the following yearly report, he remarked 'I still regard posting letters marked 'Money', as un-safe both to the Post Office and to the parties who posted them'. In the 1863 PO Report the Postmaster General again records 'The system of putting money in letters continued. In fact it is a nuisance which should be checked'.

The Money Order system was first agreed between GPO Port of Spain and Great Britain on 1 January 1864, for the purpose of transferring small sums of money between Trinidad and the UK, up to a limit of £10. The system was further expanded to include, Inland, Inter-Colonial and eventually foreign countries, one of which was USA, from 1 January 1892.

The basic procedure for Money Order letters was a request by the sender to complete a printed form (Fig. 3.), giving full name and remitter and the payee, together with the address of the remitter for entry into the post office journal, so the transaction may be traced. Every Money Order and Advice to be drawn on authorised forms.

The signature of the payee, on payment of a Money Order, to be affixed to the receipt on the order, if unable to write, a mark on the form requires a witness in writing. The recipient Postmaster of each colony or country to pay an Order *only* when a Money Order Advice Letter has been received and bears the date-stamp of the issuing post office.

1 Jan 1864 UK Money Orders	Commission Fee	1 Aug 1882 Inland Money Orders	Commission Fee	1 Aug 1889 Inter-Colonial Money Orders	Commission Fee
£2 or under	1/-	£½ or under	2d	£½ or under	2d or 4c
£2 to £5	2/-	£½ to £1	4d	£½ to £1	4d or 8c
£5 to £7	3/-	£1 to £2½	6d	£1 to £2½	6d or 12c
£7 to £10	4/-	£2½ to £5	1s0d	£2½ to £5	1s or 24c
		£5 to £7½	1s 6d	£5 to £7½	1s6d or 36c
		£7½ to £10	2s0d	£7½ to £10	2s or 48c

The above second table shows the Inland Money Order fees in operation at 1 August 1882, prior to this a progressive rate table had a fixed system in place set at 10 cents on every \$5. From 1882 it now included Tobago, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada, Barbados, British Guiana, and the UK in the Money Order system.

The Registered Letter Envelopes with linen inside were introduced on 18 June 1884, and were in two sizes, and sold to the public, with stationery post card and newspaper wrappers, at their face value.

Although the Inland Money Order system was well established by 1885, the Postmaster Report for that year, placed caution on articles of considerable value to be posted by means of a Money Order or in a Registered Letter. 'Whenever bank notes are sent by post, even in a registered letter, they should be cut in halve, and the second halve should not be posted till it has been ascertained that the first halve has been received...'

By January 1891, the following offices were now transacting a Money Order service; Arima, Arouca, Chaguanas, Cedros, Couva, Princes Town, San Fernando, Tobago, and Mayaro in 1892, La Brea 1895, St. Joseph 1897, Sangre Grande 1899. The Inland Money Orders transacted by these Inland post offices was 1883 £574, 1886 £1,602, 1892 £5,828, 1893 £4,601.

By 1892 the growth of the Trinidad Money Order system included direct exchanges with Leeward Islands, USA, UK, British Guiana, Barbados and Tobago. For example in 1883 the Money Orders from Tobago totalled £84 1s 11d, Commission £1 0s 2d, while in 1892 it was £929 4s 4d, Commission £11 0s 0d, a substantial increase.

New regulations came into force on 7 April 1898, affecting Inter-colonial Money Order business, the regulations applied to orders drawn in Trinidad and Tobago on the following colonies; Barbados, British Guiana, British Honduras, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Jamaica, Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis and St. Kitts. The maximum amount for which a Money Order may be drawn was not to exceed \$48 or £10.

Inter-Colonial Money Orders business, 7 April 1898			
Value	Commission	Value	Commission
£1 or under	2d	£5 to £6	1s 0d
£1 to £2	4d	£6 to £7	1s 2d
£2 to £3	6d	£7 to £8	1s 4d
£3 to £4	8d	£8 to £9	1s 6d
£4 to £5	10d	£9 to £10	1s 8d

The Post Office annual report for 1897, comments the increase favour of the Inland Money Order system as the business in Trinidad in 1883 was £574, in Trinidad & Tobago in 1898 it had risen to £9,324. This service is very important to the Post Office, and it was found that the more Money Order offices there were in operation the fewer complaints were made of missing letters containing valuables and bank notes.

Complaints had fallen 75% during the last 10 years, even though the increase Inland mail system had substantially risen. It was now felt that the extended use of registration in transmitting money to any place within the two islands, make use of the Money Order and Registration systems.

Postal Orders

An Ordinance was passed on 8 June 1903 giving the T&T Post Office powers to establish Postal Orders payable within the colony, for the transmission of small sums of money, and exempt from stamp duty. This system was then agreed with the UK and many British colonies and agencies with the object of remitting money via the post at lower commission rates than those currently in use by the Money Order system, which had recently raised its limits to many countries to a £40 maximum single transaction. However, initially only GPO Port of Spain, San Fernando and Scarborough together with existing Money Order post offices had authority to access the British Postal Order arrangement. Here the sender retained the counterfoil in case of an enquiry if the Order should be lost.

The Commission thus paid must be denoted by Trinidad postage stamps affixed on the back of the Postal Order.

On 1 April 1905 the Inland Postal Order service was established, with orders available for 1s (fee ½d), 2s (fee 1d), 3s (fee 1d), 4s (fee 1½d), 5s (fee 1½d), 10s (fee 2d), commission in brackets. These were sold to the public at GPO Port of Spain, San Fernando, Scarborough, Arima, Couva, Sangre Grande, Mayaro, Toco and Cedros, and were cashed at the GPO, post offices San Fernando and Scarborough, or by the Wardens resident at Arima, Tacarigua, Couva, Savana Grande, Montserrat, Manzanilla, Mayaro, Toco, Cedros and La Brea

1900-04 Inland Registered mail with Money Order Commission Fee			
Date, Post Office origin to destination	Registration Fee	Postage 1d Per ½oz	Money Order Fee
22 Jan 01, La Brea to Port of Spain	2d	1d	4d
22 Jan 01, Cedros to Port of Spain	2d	1d	4d
21 Aug 03, Mayaro to Port of Spain	2d	2d	
8 Apr 04, Capachaimara to Port of Spain	2d	1d	
21 Apr 04, Chatham to Port of Spain	2d	1d	4d
4 Mar 04, Moruga to Port of Spain	2d	1d	
6 May 04, Moruga to Port of Spain	2d	2d	
13 May 04, GPO to Port of Spain	2d	1d	
18 May 04, California to Port of Spain, <i>see Fig.3</i>	2d	2d	4d
24 Nov 04, Tobago to Port of Spain, <i>see Fig.1</i>	2d	2d	2d

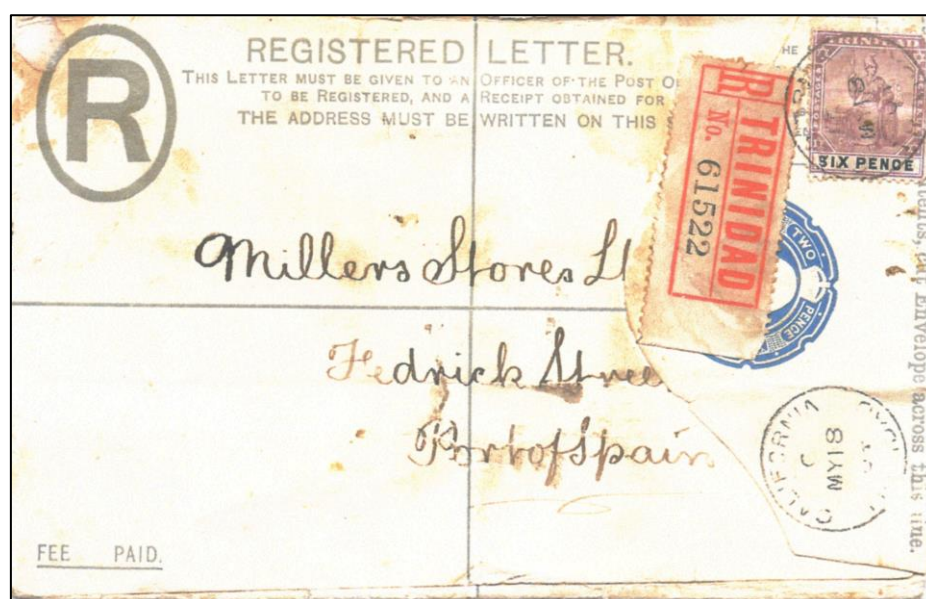


Fig. 2. 18 May 1904, California to Millers Stores Ltd., Port of Spain
8d registered letter; 2d registration, 2d postage double rate, 4d Money Order?

PORT-OF-SPAIN,
Trinidad. No. 10886

Stamp of Issuing Office

£ s. d.
7

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE BACK.

MONEY ORDER.

Pay the Person named in my letter of Advice the sum of
£ s. d. *Seven d.*

To the Post Office at *Berlin*

Christoph Postmaster.

The Person to whom this Order is made payable must sign here his or her Christian and Surname at full length, except in the case of Firms, whose usual Signature will suffice.

Received the above,

{ Signature of Payee

Stamp of Paying Office.

If payment of this Order be not obtained before the end of the twelfth Calendar Month after the month of issue, all claim to the Money will be lost. AFTER ONCE PAYING A MONEY ORDER, BY WHOMSOEVER PRESENTED, THE OFFICE WILL NOT BE LIABLE TO ANY FURTHER CLAIM.

[If this form be clipped or mutilated, there may be difficulty as to obtaining payment.]

[SEE BACK]

368-50 Bks.-1905 [G.P.O. 78/53.]

INSTRUCTIONS.

To save time and prevent errors, the public are advised to ascertain before quitting the Issuing Office, that the Order corresponds with the particulars given in the Form of Application.

The receipt on the other side must be signed in the manner there described.

Whoever presents this Order for payment must give full information as to the Christian name and Surname of the Remitter, unless such remitter be a Firm, when the name of the Firm will suffice. The only exception to this rule is—When an Order is presented through a Bank, in which case it will suffice that the Order being properly signed, be also crossed with the Bank's Name.

These regulations have been laid down to secure, as far as practicable, that payment be made to the rightful person, and Postmasters and others have been instructed to enforce them so far as a due regard to the Public convenience will permit.

As, however, AFTER ONCE PAYING A MONEY ORDER, BY WHOMSOEVER PRESENTED, THE OFFICE WILL NOT BE LIABLE TO ANY FURTHER CLAIM, the Public are strictly cautioned—

- 1st.—To take all means to prevent the loss of the Money Order.
- 2nd.—Never to send the Money Order in the same Letter with the information required on payment thereof.
- 3rd.—To be careful on taking out a Money Order, to state correctly the Christian name as well as the Surname of the person in whose favour it is to be drawn.
- 4th.—To see that the name of the person taking out the Money Order is correctly known to the person in whose favour it is drawn.

Neglect of these instructions will risk the loss of the money, besides leading to delay and trouble in obtaining payment.

The Commission (to be paid on issue) for a single Order is as under:—

For any sum not exceeding 10s.		For any sum exceeding 10s. but not exceeding £1.		For any sum exceeding £1 but not exceeding £10.		For any sum exceeding £10 but not exceeding £100.		For any sum exceeding £100 but not exceeding £500.		For any sum exceeding £500 but not exceeding £1000.	
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3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0	3	0
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96	0	96	0	96	0	96	0	96	0	96	0
97	0	97	0	97	0	97	0	97	0	97	0
98	0	98	0	98	0	98	0	98	0	98	0
99	0	99	0	99	0	99	0	99	0	99	0
100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0	100	0

Fig. 3. 19 Oct. 1907 Money Order form completed only by the Postmaster for 7s payable at Berlin. (Antonio Torres, stock)



Fig. 4. 21 January 1901, Cedros to Port of Spain
7d registered letter. 2d registration. 1d postage, 4d Money Order?

Further help is needed from others to confirm that the Money Order system is the reason for these high postage rates on the registered covers of Trinidad and Tobago at this period.

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE BULLETIN

All articles should be submitted to Terry Harrison, 13 Ladywood Road, Spalding, PE11 2DA or by email to editor@bwisc.org

1. It is preferred and would greatly assist the Editor if articles are submitted as electronic files, either on CD or as email attachments.
2. If submitted as hard copy please type it if possible. If that is not possible, please ensure that it is written clearly. Articles should be double-spaced to ease transcription and editing.
3. Illustrations, figures etc should not be embedded within word-processed text documents but submitted either as separate JPEG or TIFF image files (one file for each image) or in hard copy for scanning. Images should have a resolution of at least 300 dpi at publication size to ensure good quality reproduction.
4. Illustrations must be clearly identified with a file title and should have clear captions.
5. The editor cannot be responsible for the safety of originals and contributors should submit copies.
6. The editor may edit an article to ensure conformity and to amend spelling and punctuation without reference to the contributor. Should an author insist on verifying all changes then this must be made clear when an article is submitted.
7. If outside sources are cited the article should be accompanied by a list of references providing full details, as follows:
 - Book: Name(s) of author(s), full title, city of publication, name of publisher, date.
 - Article: Name(s) of author(s), full title of article, name of journal, date, volume and issue numbers, page numbers.
8. If you are not certain whether you can meet these guidelines or if any of them pose a problem for you, please contact the editor who will look for alternative solutions.

STYLE DETAILS

In order to maintain consistency throughout the Bulletin the following is a partial list of the most common variations the editor checks for:

Sentences end in stops or semicolons followed by a space.

Figure Fig. with capital and full stop.

Number No. with capital and full stop.

Ships Names in *Italics*.

Dates in day month year format (29 June 2012) with the month being spelled not numbers.

Dates on covers within single inverted commas.

Direct quotations within single inverted commas.

Numbers rather than words (normally all figures above 12 should be in figures unless they are the first word in a sentence, or immediately before another figure.)

Abbreviations to end with a stop. (Dr. Is. Mr. St. etc.)

Handstamps should be one word.

Postmasters (capital P)

Euro symbol (€)

Check and remove superscripts (i.e. th)

AUCTION REPORT**BY GRAHAM BOOTH**

As part of the program to strengthen their auction platform Gibbons launched their new prestige Signature Collection on 12 March with a cocktail in the Strand. The first Auction under the new brand was Charles Freeland's Bahamas on 26 March. The auctioneer managed just over 150 lots per hour which was good going considering the volume of on-line bidding. The 315 lots were split roughly 2–1 in favour of adhesives and reflected Charles personal interest – a heavy weighting of proof material, and much of the postal history untouched since he bought it. Previous owners included Ludington, Vestey, Baillie, Hoey, Solomon et al. There were four Society members in the room, one on the telephone and others represented by agents and on the net. In total there must have been between 20 and 24 successful bidders which I would consider was a healthy number for the territory. The sale could be regarded as reasonably successful with a figure of 72% sold; but spirited bidding was infrequent. In addition, although reasonably estimated, 30% sold for below the low estimate, with the strongest figures coming from George VI specialists rather than Bahamas collectors. The total hammer price was about £110,000. Subsequent sales resulted in 100% being sold, which in today's market I am sure Charles would have regarded as a very good result.

There were two examples of blocks of four of the 1862, no watermark, 1d lake, trial perf 11 to 12½. The better item sold for £1,400, well below its low estimate of £2,000, the second didn't sell, nor did the 1862 block of four 6d lavender-grey with clipped perfs, of which there is no example in the Royal Collection. However, the single of much better quality made £2,100 against a top estimate of £1,500. The imperf plate proof of the 1863 violet 6d sold for £1,700 against a low estimate of £2,200 to the telephone buyer who scooped up most of the early rarities. As an indication of how prices have dropped, this cost Charles £4,000 before premium when he bought it at the Hooey sale. The 1884 artists' drawing of the design for the keyplate issue went to the same buyer for £1,300, but the master die proofs did not sell, nor did the hand painted essays for the Jubilee 2½d. All twelve lots of the Staircase issue sold. The 8 pages of specimens from the Goa archive were the success of the afternoon selling for £1,000, three times their top estimate; but it could be argued that the lot was underestimated. In contrast the 1902 Appendix Sheet from the De La Rue archives for the Edward issue with a low estimate of £3,000 did not sell. All 9 colour trials for the same issue sold after a fight between two bidders, with increasing prices for each lot as the auction progressed. Of the 6 lots of proofs and colour trials for the 'Peace' issue only one sold – the master die proof in bright blue. The Silver Jubilee set of 4 die proofs of the frames, ex Vestey, achieved its low estimate of £2,500; but the real success of this part of the sale was the 1938 master die proof, ex Ludington, which realised £2,300 against a high estimate of £1,000. A mint block of 18 of the 2d grey from the same issue made £850 and the 1941 mint 5s lilac and blue on thin striated paper sold to a book bidder for £3,000. Most of the Eleuthera proofs sold; but well below the low estimate. The early postal history lots, many with S.L. BAHAMAS marks did not do well; but the interest increased as the lots became more modern, and the sale finished with a bang with four very good lots of postmark collections, three of which went to the same room buyer. Gibbons will handle another B.W.I Signature Collection later in the summer, James Podger's Cayman Islands.

Heinrich Kohler sold 337 lots of Danish West Indies (the Hogensborg Collection), a day later than the Freeland sale, roughly the same size of sale in number of lots and in its success rate 76% sold. However, the nature of the sale was very different with a much higher percentage of postal history and a total value sold of more than double €250,000. This perhaps reflects the history of the two territories, one on the periphery of the British West Indies, the other for many years the hub of postal communications within the West Indies and to Europe; but it also reflects the relative strengths of the British and German markets at the present time. With the swing in collector's interests from philately to postal history over the last 30 years it is perhaps no surprise that many items were fiercely fought over, and achieved a hammer price which was many times the estimate. Nineteen lots realised between €2,000 and €5,000 and another twelve between €5,000 and €10,000, with the highest bid of €9,500 going to an 1860 cover from Frederiksted to Thetford in Norfolk, franked with two 3 cents carmine of the D.W.I. square issues. There were soft spots, in particular early R.M.S.P. pre-adhesive covers and anything that originated in Puerto Rico. There has always been a difference in value between the R.M.S.P. issue of its own adhesives and those of H.A.P.A.G.; but a complete mint sheet of 30 of the steam packet sold for €360 whilst a part sheet of 56 of the H.A.P.A.G. issue realised €4,000.

British adhesives used abroad were mixed; but the rather tatty mixed franking cover from Liverpool, franked with two 1s green to St. Thomas then re-addressed to Puerto Plata with two H.A.P.A.G. 10 cents adhesives partly covering the original British stamps made €9,000.

Elaborating on the point I made in my last report on the perils of bidding on line. The catalogue specified that Stamp Auction Network was one of the platforms available for this auction. I applied for approval 5 days beforehand. Nothing happened. On the morning of the auction a telephone call to Germany resulted in me being told 'Well no, I'm sorry, actually Stamp Auction Network is not available for this auction'. But that was not the end of my problems. I placed a couple of bids on the book for the 'Coventry' sale of British Guiana at Spink on 24 April, at the same time expressing my hopes that they would not have another computer malfunction, and was assured that the I.T. team had been working all over the Easter weekend to ensure everything was OK. However, when I got onto the site I was told I wasn't streaming fast enough, or something like that, and was denied access. On a second attempt the entire Spink website was down. Correcting the problem meant that the afternoon Collector's sale started an hour and a half late. The British Guiana lots were fiercely fought over so that when I left the site at 7pm there were still 140 lots to go. The following day the sale was suspended whilst they tried to sort out the problems and was not resumed until a day later.

In contrast to their I.T. performance Spink produced a superb catalogue with precise definitions of quality. Under the pseudonym 'Coventry' they were preceded by a small collection of 19th Century Bahamas adhesives which was of average quality and was 100% sold; but at prices which varied between 7 and 15% of catalogue. In contrast the 204 lots of British Guiana, which were of outstanding quality, were also almost totally sold; but at prices which on occasion exceeded cat. value. In today's market quality rules! The collection had been formed over many years and the great names abounded – Ferrary, Caspary, Dale Lichtenstein, Burrus, Nathan etc. The emphasis was on mint and used adhesives rather than proofs and specimen stamps. The sale opened with two covers franked with G.B. adhesives both of which exceeded their top estimate – one addressed to Glasgow made £2,600, the other to Dieppe £3,200. Then three examples of the blue cotton reel which made £12,000, £13,000 and £9,500. These were followed by three examples of the 1852 Waterlow issue, a 1 cent black on magenta made £2,900, a 4 cent black on blue £3,500 and the same stamp on a local cover £4,200. Some of the adhesives were spectacular, a 4 cent blue (S.G.21) despite having part gum, a diagonal crease and a small thin, ex Caspary and Dallas, made £8,000 compared to a catalogue value of £7,000, and I could quote similar examples throughout the sale, so it was perhaps surprising that the most expensive lot in the sale, the vertical strip of three 1 cent pale red, used in 1860, with the top stamp being the Type D substituted transfer, the only example in private hands, did not even make its low estimate of £25,000. Results for the covers were mixed, not the same outstanding quality as the adhesives; but the 1862 type-set provisionals did well, particularly the different versions of the 4 cents blue. Successful bidders were spread across all the different methods of accessing the auction; but one very aggressive on-line bidder must have ended up with a very big bill, as by my estimate he bought plus or minus a third of the sale, which in total, including buyer's premium realised just under £210,000. Spink have a similar sale of 'Ship' material including the proofs (the 'Bartica' collection) on 17 September.

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