

STUDY CIRCLE

BRITISH WEST INDIES
STUDY CIRCLE
Founded 1954

PRESIDENT

G. W. Collett, R. D. P. , F. R. P. S. L.

VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. R. H. Urwick, F. R. P. S. L.

Hon. Vice President

P. T. Saunders

BULLETIN NO. 1 APRIL 1954

**WILL BULLETIN No. 268, MARCH 2021 BE THE END OF AN ERA?
SEE THE CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE ON PAGE 3.**



BULLETIN No. 266 September 2020



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

ISSN 0953-8720

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

OBJECTIVES

- 1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the West Indies. In addition it should include Bermuda, The Guyanas and Belize, and the interaction with applicable countries on the littoral of the Caribbean Sea.
- 2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features of BWI interest. The BWISC BULLETIN was presented with the ABPS Specialist Society journal Award in 2004.
- 3 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aims of the Circle. The BWISC has published over 20 books or Study Papers over the last 12 years, some of which have received prestigious awards.
- 4 TO hold an annual auction for the sale of members' material.
Normally, prior to the auction, the BWISC holds its Annual General Meeting.
- 5 TO organise occasional display meetings including a biennial weekend Convention and bourse. This offers further opportunities for members to buy and sell material.
- 6 TO maintain an internet website where information about Circle activities is publicised and where much other relevant information is posted.
- 7 TO maintain a specialised library from which home members can borrow books.

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

OFFICERS & CONTACT DETAILS

Web Site: www.bwisc.org

Founder:	P.T. Saunders FRPSL
President:	Graham Booth FRPSL: 30/31 Augusta House, 66 Marine Parade, Worthing, W. Sussex, BN11 3PY Tel. 01903 821842, e-mail: cgbooth1@btinternet.com
Vice-President:	Simon Goldblatt: 81 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1DD Tel. 0208 686 1696 (H) 0207 832 1132 (W) 0207 353 3978 (F)
Chairman:	Graham Booth FRPSL: — see above
Vice-Chairman and Web-Master:	Steve Jarvis FRPSL: 5 Redbridge Drive, Andover, Hants, SP10 2LF Tel. 01264 358065, e-mail: info@bwisc.org
Secretary (acting):	Steve Jarvis FRPSL: — see above
Membership Secretary:	Steve Jarvis FRPSL: — see above
Treasurer:	Ray Stanton: The Old Rectory, Salmonby, Lincs., LN9 6PX Tel. 01507 533742, e-mail: ray.stanton114@gmail.com
Editor:	Terry Harrison: 13 Ladywood Road, Spalding, Lincs., PE11 2DA Tel. 01775 423087, email: editor@bwisc.org
Librarian:	Ian Jakes: Beaumaris, 4 Rectory Road, Old Church Warsop, Mansfield, Notts, NG20 0RU. Tel. 01623 842095, e-mail: jakeslaw@btinternet.com
Publications Officer:	Peter Ford FRPSL: Box 665, Ctra. Cabo la Nao – Plá 116, Loc 4, 03730 Javea, Alicante, Spain Tel. 0034 966 472 158, e-mail: peterf@bwisc.org
Publications Sales:	David Druett: Pennymead Auctions, 1 Brewerton St. Knaresborough, HG5 8AZ Tel. 01423 865962, e-mail: pennymead@aol.com
Meetings Secretary:	Bill Gibb FRPSL: Tel. 01832 731520, e-mail: bill.gibb@hotmail.co.uk
Committee:	Nigel Chandler FRPSL, Peter Fernbank FRPSL, James Podger FRPSL, Simon Richards FRPSL, John Jordan and Geoff Richards.
Auditor:	John Davis FCA, FRPSL
North American Representative:	John Seidl: 4324 Granby Way Marietta GA 30062 USA e-mail: john.seidl@gmail.com
Study Group Leaders:	Listed in June 2011 Bulletin and on the Web Site

Printed by Joshua Horgan Print & Design

IN THIS ISSUE		Page
Programme of Events, Information & Message from the Chairman		3
BWI, Plácido Ramón de Torres – Forgery Fiction	Chris Harman RDP, Hon. FRPSL	4
BWI, G.B. used in the B.W.I. – Some observations on the 2d value	Ken Gordon	7
Antigua, The Earliest use of GB Stamps	John Jordan	9
Grenada, A Book About Grenada Philately (continued from Bulletin 265)	Tim Pearce	10
Jamaica, Volume of Mail Posted In The Period 1876–1900	Steve Jarvis and Richard Maisel	13
Jamaica, The TRDs of Jamaica Part V	David Horry	25
Turks Islands, A Turks Islands 'Ugly Duckling' or 'Magnificent Swan'?	Andrew Hearn	
Auction update	Graham Booth	36
Membership, Web-Master's & Editor's Reports		39

SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday 17 October Study Circle meeting 1:00 to 4:00 at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW

19 to 26 February 2022 Rescheduled London International exhibition, BDC Islington, London, N10 0QH

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We are still looking for a new Secretary and a new Editor for the Bulletin. We are currently managing with existing members of the Committee taking on additional responsibilities; but that is simply guaranteeing a future crisis for the Society, and its possible demise when we all “pop our clogs” at more or less the same time. It is vital that the Committee is reinforced every so often by new younger blood. I am particularly anxious to ensure a smooth handover when Terry gives up his responsibilities next year. So please consider volunteering. It is essential that you are computer literate, but it is not essential that you have publishing experience. Terry, Steve and Peter are prepared to provide education and support, and supervision of the first couple of issues. So, this is a marvellous opportunity for somebody to add new skills to their portfolio and acquire a broad range of knowledge across our collecting universe.

We have not yet cancelled our meeting at the Royal in October, though it is looking increasingly unlikely that it will take place. Apart from the practicalities there is the question of whether members would want to travel to central London for such an event. If it does take place it will take the form of an abbreviated AGM and member's displays. Early in September, if it looks as though it could happen, we will attempt to establish how many members would be interested. If one wants to be pessimistic it is possible that large meetings for hobbies, whether of sports fans or of philatelists, will be the last to be released from lockdown. What will happen in the winter flu season is unpredictable, and it is possible that we will not be able to return to our old habits until there is an effective vaccine. A couple of local societies I am associated with are looking at the possibility of an autumn season. Several national societies are experimenting with zoom meetings, which in the main consist of the transmission of single power point presentations. We are considering whether such a meeting is practical or desirable I hope members will accept that our AGM will occur in an abbreviated form as soon as possible, but that it is not essential in the current circumstances except to the most bureaucratically minded.

Graham Booth

BWI**PLÁCIDO RAMÓN DE TORRES – FORGERY FICTION****BY CHRIS HARMAN RDP, Hon. FRPSL**

Before members of the BWISC reattribute the forgeries in their collection to Torres, let me challenge some of the facts and assertions in the article in the June 2020 Bulletin by Gerhard Lang-Valchs. The June article follows another in the September 2018 Bulletin with equally erroneous conclusions. I hope that this response will prevent future articles peddling such nonsense.

The themes of Mr. Lang-Valchs numerous articles are consistent and have been published in various philatelic magazines; the key assertion being that many (maybe even most according to Mr. Lang-Valchs), nineteenth century forgeries have been made by Plácido Ramón de Torres, a little known Spaniard.

These unsubstantiated assertions have been roundly discredited by students of particular areas which Mr. Lang-Valchs has covered and by those with a detailed knowledge of forgeries and the printing methods of the time. Two notable articles are the most relevant in this instance. One in *Fakes, Forgeries, Experts*¹ wherein Eduardo Escalada-Goicoechea, one of the leading experts on the stamps and forgeries of Spain, limits the numbers of forgeries that could reasonably be attributed to Torres to a very small number, and all these being forgeries of Spain. The other, in *The Collectors Club Philatelist* by Ken Lawrence² contradicts (one might reasonably say 'demolishes') in the most comprehensive terms the assertion that illustrations in the early Scott catalogues (and by association many other catalogues of the time) were produced by Torres. Not surprisingly, neither of these rebuttals make it to the list of references in the BWISC Bulletin article, which accordingly presents the reader with only one side of the discussion.

What we are being asked to believe is that Torres, a small-time Spanish swindler and purveyor of forged stamps, was the engraver and originator of thousands upon thousands of representations of early stamps that were used throughout the United Kingdom, Continental Europe and America to illustrate philatelic magazines, albums and catalogues. The only basis for this assertion that I have seen in any of the Lang-Valchs articles is that Torres published an album in 1879 that illustrated these stamps using many of the same illustrations as were used in other philatelic magazines, albums and catalogues of the time.

Let us examine these assertions and see where they lead us?

Career of Plácido Ramón de Torres

The following is a compilation from various published sources and I believe to be a reasonable summary of the career of Torres. Torres originally became interested in stamps whilst living in Livorno, Italy in early 1870s. According to Lang-Valchs, he assisted stamp dealer (and forger) E. C. Usigli in his business. He was certainly involved in the publication of a catalogue of stamps from around the world³ and in 12 issues of a journal⁴. In 1873 he had to leave Italy for Spain after having been involved in a fraud relating to bogus revenue stamps of Catania. Several price lists exist from his time in Barcelona and it was whilst living there that he published the first Spanish stamp album in 1879⁵. As early as 1877, Torres was listed by Ferdinand Trifet, then living in the USA, under the title of 'Dilatory Debtors'⁶. In the mid-1880s he was fined 1,200 marks and served a 7 month prison sentence in Bremen for selling forged stamps. This led to a warning distributed by none other than the Universal Postal Union about his activities⁷.

After his prison sentence he left for the Americas and his subsequent activities are listed in various US philatelic publications, which include the swindling of dealers in Mexico, Texas and Louisiana out of genuine stamps, which he exchanged for forgeries. He was eventually arrested when he visited Charles Mekeel's place of business in St. Louis and was returned to Texas to face prosecution⁸. He was arraigned for entering the country with valuable genuine stamps (presumably those he had swindled from the Mexican dealers) and fined circa \$2,000. He departed for Havana and was next heard of in 1894 back in Malaga, Spain where he was arrested together with an associate called M. R. Sanchez for a swindle involving fake stamps for the Spanish armed forces in Morocco.

Why, one may ask, are the details of the career of Torres of any interest? Because, according to Mr. Lang-Valchs, despite being in and out of courts and jail, Torres managed to be the engraver of some thousands of illustrations used in philatelic magazines, albums and catalogues around the world. To do these he necessarily needed to possess examples of thousands of different stamps from all corners of the world to copy for these illustrations. To say that this does not sit well with his history as a small time swindler is an understatement.

Production process

The references by Mr. Lang-Valchs to printing methods further undermines confidence in terms of his other deductions. He does not seem to distinguish between lithography (a planographic printing process) and letterpress (typography or relief printing) but mentions 'lithographic engraving' – whatever that is! The lithographed printing medium is distinctly transitory, with (in the period under discussion) a design being laid down on a sandstone block. The design can be removed by scrubbing and the block used again to produce another design. It is how thousands of forgeries, such as those sold by Spiro, were produced.

Quite how Mr. Lang-Valchs is suggesting a lithographed design was widely disseminated among producers of philatelic magazines, albums and catalogues he does not explain. Moving tons of sandstone around the world so that album makers and catalogue producers could use the design to print their illustrations hardly seems practical.

Apart from the impracticality of the same lithographic prints being used and re-used in many different countries, the illustrations in the philatelic magazines, albums and catalogues are not even printed using lithography. They are printed by letterpress. This is clearly visible from the illustrations in the BWISC Bulletin, and even more clearly visible when looking at the original illustrations in the catalogues and magazines of the time (see Fig. a and Fig. b for letterpress prints). It is clear from the Ken Lawrence article⁹ that Mr. Lang-Valchs does not seem to distinguish between the two printing methods and talks of Torres 'engraving' lithographic stones.



Fig. a. Illustration of the Trinidad no value and 6d value printed by letterpress from *Le Timbre-poste*, August 1865, p.60.



Fig. b. Enlargement of lower right corner of Trinidad no value illustration to show the sharp edges of letterpress printing.

Who produced these letterpress illustrations?

The source of these letterpress illustrations has never been a mystery. Electrotypes clichés had been freely advertised for sale by, among others, Jean-Baptiste Moens of Brussels since the earliest days of philately. Moens was arguably the best established of the early dealers and was the publisher both of early catalogues and a monthly magazine *Le Timbre-poste*¹⁰. He was usually the first in the race to publish details of each new stamp issue or discovery and he covered not only postage stamps but also fiscal stamps, telegraphs and local issues. The Escalada article in FFE¹¹ illustrates an advertisement from J-B Moens dating from circa 1892¹² offering for sale more than 10,000 different clichés of postage and fiscal stamps that were available from him. His *Catalogue prix-courant de timbres-poste* of 1877¹³ identifies 2,250 illustrations, many of which are found in subsequent catalogues, including the 1879 album published by Torres. Moens had a most efficient production facility for these clichés since illustrations usually appeared almost immediately upon the discovery of anything new. Just as importantly, he was one of the pivotal dealers of the time and received news and examples of stamps from correspondents around the world. So Moens had the information and material in his possession from which to make the illustrations.

As confirmation of this, “Alpha” in the *American Journal of Philately* of January 1872 writes “For some time past all the stamps issued during the month have been engraved on the Continent, and electrotypes of them supplied to the different publishers, who add to them engravings of their own when they obtain any rarity worth illustrating. This plan has the advantage of diffusing accurate representations of new issues all over the world much sooner than they would otherwise be laid before the stamp-collecting fraternity.”

The idea that these illustrations were produced by a swindler who, of necessity, needed to keep moving and who spent time in gaol on two continents is hardly credible. Torres would never have been in possession of the range of original stamps attributed to him and there is no reason to consider that he had any talent for engraving.

To me the contention that the illustrations in the Torres album of 1879¹⁴ are proof that he engraved the illustrations is an exact inversion of the logic and truth. He, like many other publishers on both sides of the Atlantic, bought his clichés from Moens (or one of the other early dealers). They are greater proof that Torres did not make the clichés rather than proof that he did make them.

Postscript

In the Lang-Valchs article there are illustrations of the colonial keyplate design that are also attributed by Mr. Lang-Valchs to Torres. Why this attribution is made I do not know. These designs have traditionally been attributed to Samuel Allan Taylor, although they are so unlike most of Taylor’s wares that I have never been comfortable with this label. However, these early colonial keyplate forgeries exist for numerous countries and the ones for Ireland and Sligo fetch serious money.

In terms of the particular ones illustrated, I would suggest that the Antigua ones may indeed be nineteenth century productions but the Ireland and Brunei are modern forgeries of forgeries. Surely being inscribed “Brunei”, a relatively modern country, is a bit of a give-away. *Caveat Emptor*.

References

1. Escalada-Goicoechea, Eduardo FRPSL, *Plácido Ramón de Torres and his Forgeries*, Fakes, Forgeries, Experts No. 19, May 2017 pp 85-89
2. Lawrence, Ken, *Who printed J. W. Scott’s forgeries?*, The Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. 98, No. 2, March-April 2018, pp 86-92
3. Torres, P. R. de, *Catalogo Prezzo Corrente di Tutti I Franco-Bolli Creati del 1840 al 1873*, Prima Edizione, 1873, Livorno
4. Torres, P. R. de, *La Posta Mondiale*, 1873, Livorno
5. Torres, P. R. de, *Album Illustrado para Sellos de Correo*, 1879, Barcelona
6. Trifet, F., *F. Trifet’s Monthly*, October 1877
7. Post Office Department, Office of Foreign Mails, Washington DC, *Daily Bulletin of Orders Affecting the Postal Service*, 31 July 1889
8. Tiffany, J. K., *The Philatelic Journal of America*, Vol. VIII (No. 94), October 1892
9. Lawrence, Ken, *Who printed J. W. Scott’s forgeries?*, The Collectors Club Philatelist, Vol. 98, No. 2, March-April 2018, pp 86-92
10. Moens, J-B, *Le Timbre-poste, Journal du collectionneur*, 1863-1900, Brussels
11. Escalada-Goicoechea, Eduardo FRPSL, *Plácido Ramón de Torres and his Forgeries*, Fakes, Forgeries, Experts No. 19, May 2017 pp 85-89
12. Moens, J-B, *Catalogue prix-courant de timbres-poste, enveloppes, bandes, cartes, télégraphes, offices particulier, mandats, timbres de chemins de fer, fiscaux, essais etc. etc.*, 7th edition, Brussels, 1892-93
13. Moens, J-B, *Catalogue prix-courant de timbres-poste, essais divers, timbres télégraphe, timbres fiscaux, timbres de Chemins de fer et autres*, 5th edition, Brussels, 1877
14. Torres, P. R. de, *Album Illustrado para Sellos de Correo*, 1879, Barcelona

BWI

GB USED IN THE BWI – SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE 2D VALUE

BY KEN GORDON

Examples of the GB 2d. blue are recorded used in most of the BWI, but its scarcity has occasioned some debate and uncertainty as to its status, and indeed whether it was available at local Post Offices at all. In some cases, only solitary examples can be cited, and no examples have yet come to light used in British Honduras (A06), Demerara (British Guiana) (A03), Kingston (Jamaica) (A01), Montserrat (A08), Tobago (A14) or Tortola (B.V.I.) (A13). On the other hand, the G.B. 2d. blue occurs more frequently (albeit still very scarce) used in the Bahamas (A05) and in Antigua (A02).

It might be reasonable to conclude that the disparity in numbers recorded of the 2d. value in favour of the Bahamas and Antigua is nothing more than fortuitous. Its use is typically considered to be the result of local merchants receiving small remittances in GB stamps and holding private supplies of adhesives, or because of visitors to the islands carrying their own stamps (any then current GB stamps would have been perfectly valid for postage).

This may well explain isolated examples, for instance the unique 2d. blue cancelled A67 at Port Royal (Jamaica Post Town) (Fig. 1), but as a general explanation this fails to bear scrutiny.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

If this were the case, one would expect the spread to be more equable. In this regard, it is significant that examples of the GB 2d. value cancelled A01 at Kingston are conspicuous by their absence. Despite Jamaica being a very busy trading island with its commercial centre in Kingston where there were many merchants and visitors, not a single example of the GB 2d. blue cancelled A01 has been found.

However, Antigua and the Bahamas do provide some interesting examples. As for Antigua, Fig. 2 shows a cover bearing a strip of three 2d. blues cancelled A02 at St. John's, and several loose stamps are also recorded (Fig.3).



Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

At least four covers are known from the Bahamas bearing the GB 2d. blue cancelled A05 at Nassau: these are not to the same addressee, making the possibility of the stamps being carried in a visitor's pocketbook less likely.

One cover (Fig.4), bears a 2d. blue used jointly with a 4d. rose; the 4d. value was definitely available at the Post Office, so this joint use suggests the possibility that the 2d. value was also available there. Several loose stamps cancelled A05 are also recorded, including at least half a dozen pairs (Fig. 5).

As far as I am aware, no covers from any other BW. Office, bearing the GB 2d. blue, have been recorded.

If the use of the 2d. value in the BWI is not simply fortuitous, the possibility that the local Postmaster could requisition the 2d. value must be considered. In this context, it is worth noting that the 2d. blue is recorded used at ten of the sixteen BWI Offices supplied with GB stamps. Although examples are rare, this widespread usage might suggest a more formal arrangement than purely casual unofficial use by travellers to the islands.

However, it must be stated that I have not seen any definitive evidence that the GB 2d. blue was officially supplied to Antigua or the Bahamas, nor indeed to any of the BWI Post Offices; but it would appear that the local Postmaster could indeed have specifically requisitioned a supply of the 2d. stamp from the GPO in London. A letter from the GPO to Postmaster S. Dillett at Nassau dated 25 January 1859 appears to bear this out: *'I request that you will state in future in your printed applications for postage stamps the description of stamps most required'*.

These observations lead me to the view that some BWI Offices did indeed requisition and receive a supply of the GB 2d. value, the case for Antigua and the Bahamas being the most convincing.

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

CAYMAN ISLANDS

1917 War Stamp 1 1/2d on 2 1/2d Deep Blue
Surcharge TYPE 16 – S.G. 55



**Very few multiples exist of this rare type, in this quality,
of the panes, one was off centre, and one was badly toned.**

Email: markjtaylor@btinternet.com

Tel: 020 7226 1503

Fax: 020 7359 7456

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

ANTIGUA

THE EARLIEST USE OF GB STAMPS

BY JOHN JORDAN

I recently acquired a cover (Fig. 1) that establishes a new date for the earliest use of GB stamps in Antigua. It is franked with a GB 6d, cancelled by the 'A02' obliterator of St. John's and backstamped with an Antigua Type PH cds dated 13 July 1858. This is now the earliest date for the use of GB stamps and also for the 'A02' obliterator.

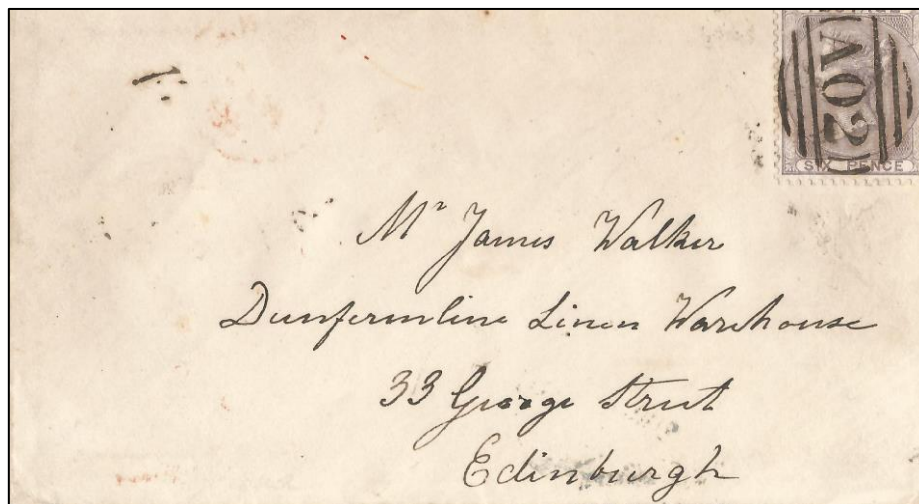


Fig. 1.

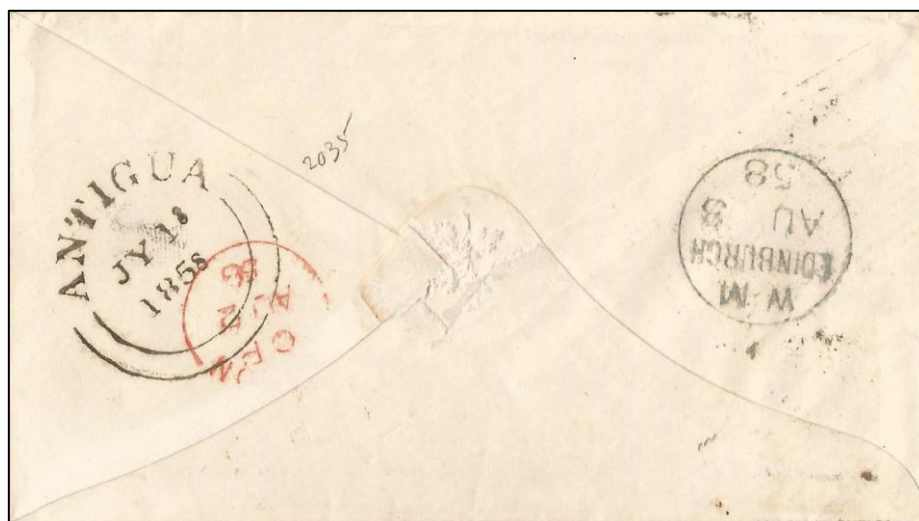


Fig. 2.

In 1857, pre-payment of postage became compulsory. The only West Indies POs with their own adhesive stamps were Barbados, British Guiana and Trinidad. The introduction of GB stamps elsewhere was an option. The GPO London, concerned with forgery, initially restricted their use to Gibraltar, Malta and Constantinople. That proved successful and the privilege was now extended. On 16 April 1858 the GPO notified West Indies postmasters that GB stamps could be used '*in payment of the Packet postage of Letters and Newspapers*'.

The 'A02' obliterator was despatched to St. John's on 17 April 1858 to cancel the new GB stamps. The 'Antigua' book (2016) lists the earliest use of the 'A02' as 28 July 1858, corresponding to the second Packet sailing in July. The new cover is dated 13 July 1858, so was carried on the first sailing. Its reverse (Fig. 2) bears a London cds dated '2 AU 58', indicating the RMSP *Parana*, which left St. Thomas on 17 July and arrived at Southampton on 1 August. Its feeder vessel, RMSP *Conway*, had left Barbados on 12 July, called at St. John's on 14 July and reached St. Thomas on 15 July.

The Antigua cds uses two date fonts that are clearly not originals. Type PH was by then an old instrument, well past its sell-by date. Contemporary strikes demonstrate the frequent substitution of odd date plugs for worn-out or lost originals. Particularly notable here are the tiny fonts used for the second '8' and for the '3'.

Earlier dates could still exist. The 'A02' should have arrived at St. John's by early May 1858, so covers from May or June are possible. Did any survive? It's worthwhile checking your own collection or records. The significance of this cover escaped notice for over 160 years. The sales material that accompanied the cover shows that not long ago it was in Gibbon's stock, so even they missed it!

BRITISH WEST INDIES OFFERS FROM STOCK

ANTIGUA. 1887 2½d with top left triangle detached, optd 'SPECIMEN'. Very fine mint. Rare. SG 27b sp. £350	JAMAICA. 1902 2/- corner strip of five with both Plate and Current numbers. Unmounted mint. SG 55. £550
BAHAMAS. 1943 2½d with '2½ PENNY' printed double. Very fine mint. A major KGV rarity. BPA Cert. SG 153ab. £4500	JAMAICA. 1873 1d Postal Fiscal in corner block of six with Current No '12'. Unmounted mint. SG F3. £450
BARBADOS. 1870 6d dull orange-vermilion in left marginal block of four. Very fine mint. RPS Cert. SG 32a. £900	LEEWARDIS. 1906 ½d with 'damaged frame and crown'. Very fine mint. SG 29a. £120
BRITISH HONDURAS. 1902 2c 'damaged frame and crown' used on cover to Mauritius. SG 81a. £75	ST. KITTS-NEVIS. 1951 College vignette Die Proof for 12c in black on wave with Die# '19109' at top. £175
CAYMANS. 1908 3d with 'damaged frame and crown'. Very fine used with part BODDENTOWN c.d.s. SG 28a. £200	ST. LUCIA. 1904 ½d top marginal block of four with 'damaged frame and crown'. Unmounted mint. SG 64a. £175
GRENADA. 1938 KGV Die Proof for 3d Registered Letter Fee Stamp in blue with m/s endorsements. £300	TURKS ISLANDS. 1881 '4' on 1/- lilac (Type 29) with transient 'neck' flaw. Very fine mint. BPA Cert. SG 45. £325
JAMAICA. 1897 5/- lilac with m/s 'SPECIMEN' (Type DMS). Scarce DLR archive piece. SG 26sp. £150	VIRGIN ISLANDS. 190 5/- 'damaged frame and crown'. Very fine used with ROAD TOWN c.d.s. Rare. SG 62a. £450

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

MARK HARVEY

P O BOX 205, LINDFORD, HANTS, GU35 5DU, UNITED KINGDOM
Tel/Fax: 01420 472672 **Intl: (+44) 1420 472672**
e-mail: mark@surreystamps.com

GRENADA

A BOOK ABOUT GRENADA PHILATELY

(continued from Bulletin 265 p15 – 17)

BY TIM PEARCE

The book in preparation is making good progress and, as we hope to complete it fairly soon, there will be no further chapters in the Bulletin. I am most grateful for all the assistance I have received from many members of the Study Circle, who will all be acknowledged in the Preface. Many have specialist knowledge in particular areas far beyond mine. As a result of copies sent by Hap Pattiz, and my own holdings, acquired from Charles Freeland, we do intend to include a section in the book on the Censorship devices of WWII. I am very grateful to Graham Mark of the Civil Censorship Study Group for information which has allowed me to complete the following account. Please let me know of any errors and send me any further details beyond what is here.

Tim Pearce - timothy770@btinternet.com

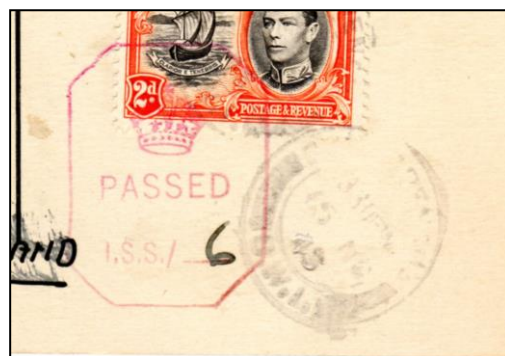
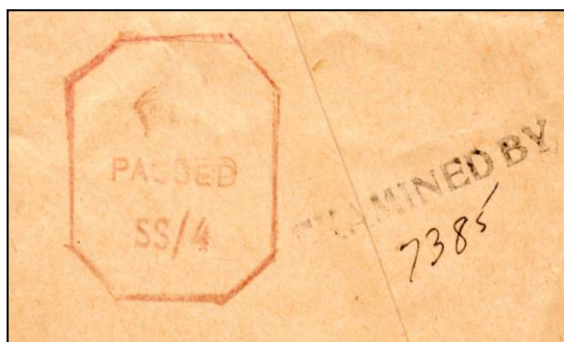
Censorship Handstamps and Labels: World War Two

Between September 1939 and May 1945, correspondence to and from Grenada was subject to Censorship. There was a series of handstamps, some of which are very rare, and a series of gummed labels used to reseal the opened letters. The commonest handstamp reads 'PASSED BY CENSOR', and is in red.

One is 67 x 4.5mm, and the other is 60.5 x 3mm. They were in use from September 1939 until April 1942. Another slightly shorter mark is known in violet but is uncommon.



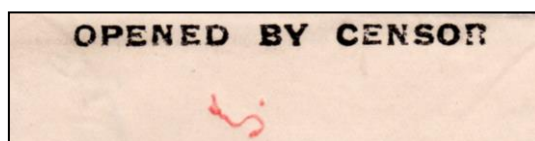
Dated 10 January 1943, there is a single example of a handstamp 'EXAMINED BY CENSOR', 60 x 3mm also in red on a white label, tied to the cover with the figure 7 in red crayon.



From April 1942 until February 1944, a series of octagonal framed handstamps was used on open mail. Within the frame is a crown above 'PASSED' above 'SS/4'. 'SS' was the code allocated to Grenada. This mark was used from April 1942 to February 1943 and is also known unframed. The associated handstamp 'EXAMINED BY' followed by the number of the examiner often accompanies the other marks. In this case, it was examined in New York.

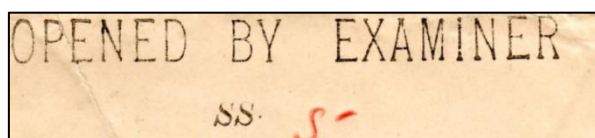
A second octagonal handstamp differs only in the third line which shows I.S.S./ followed by a number. The numbers known are 1, 6, and 14. This was used from March 1943 until February 1944 and was followed by a double circle handstamp, with a crown in the centre, flanked on either side by S and S, and with 4 beneath it. Between the circles read 'PASSED BY' at the top and 'CENSOR' at the bottom.

Most censored envelopes were sealed and had to be resealed with a gummed label. The first labels read 'OPENED BY CENSOR', 54 x 2.5mm, prepared locally in rolls and separated by roulettes. They are numbered in crayon 5, 7 and 9, and sometimes initialled 'GWS', probably Gerald Smith who may have been the son of the Colonial Postmaster.



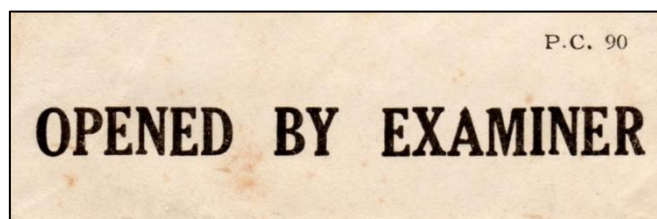
This label was in use from September 1939 until March 1942.

The next label comes in 10 varieties. All are headed 'P.C.90' in the top right corner. The first two read 'OPENED BY EXAMINER', slightly seriffed, 72 x 5mm, and the third line reads 'SS/' or 'SS' on cream or buff paper. The centred dot after SS is sometimes missing.

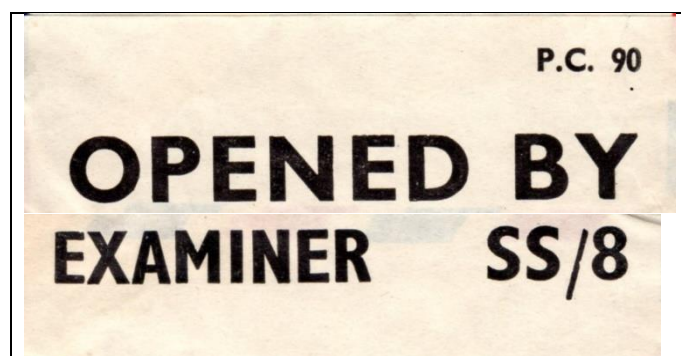


These were used from March 42 until March 43

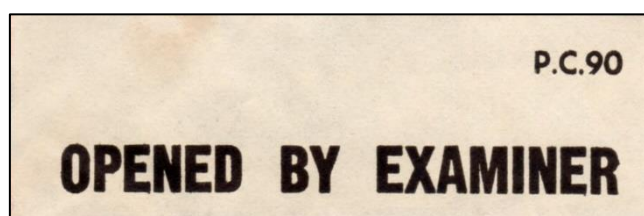
The next group of three are in bold seriffed type. Two, used from March to May 1943, have either 'S/S' or 'I.S.S./' in the third line. The main text is 85x 5mm. The third of this group measures 80 x 6mm and has 'S.S./2' at the base, used from March 1943 to April 1945.



During the same period a larger type was used, with 'OPENED BY EXAMINER' in two lines, unseriffed, the second line followed by 'SS/' and the numbers 1–10 inclusive.



Another sans-serif type followed in September 1943, which has the 'I.S.S./' or 'S.S./' usually added in manuscript and followed by a number or a letter (C). The letters may have been used for incoming mail. The numbers range from 11–961. This is the commonest label. It was used until May 1945.



There were three further labels, all of which are rare, and possibly unique or philatelic. Each shows the Examiner four figure number and, in the case of 'EXAMINER 5494', based in New York, the addition of ISS/F with letters known in the range A–F.

Alfred Charlton arranged for one to be sent by Alfred Large from Grenada to Manchester opened by Examiner 9025, which would imply that the letter was opened in New York. This label was sent from Crochu, dated 3 September 1942, and backstamped by the GPO on 11 September 1942. There is a note on the front in pencil .Similar to 'L10', though the latter is only known used in 1945 and there are significant differences in typeface and size. 'EXAMINER' is markedly longer than any other at 55mm.

For letters opened in the USA, there were cellophane strips, rather like Sellotape, with 'EXAMINED BY' printed on them. For mail to and from Grenada, examples are known opened in Miami, New York, and Puerto Rico.

References

- Tony Shepherd, *Roses Handbook No. 2*, BCPJ, 1977
 Broderick and Mayo, *Civil Censorship in the United States during WWII*, USA, 1980.
 Peter Burrows (ed.) *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II*, Section 6, British West Indies and Falkland Islands, GB, CCSJ, 2016.

JAMAICA

VOLUME OF MAIL POSTED IN THE PERIOD 1876–1900

BY STEVE JARVIS AND RICHARD MAISEL

This is an article about Jamaican Postal History but not about individual covers and cards like those portrayed in Figs 1 and 2. Rather it is a study of the volume of these items posted in the colony, and the changes in these volumes over the last quarter of the 19th century.

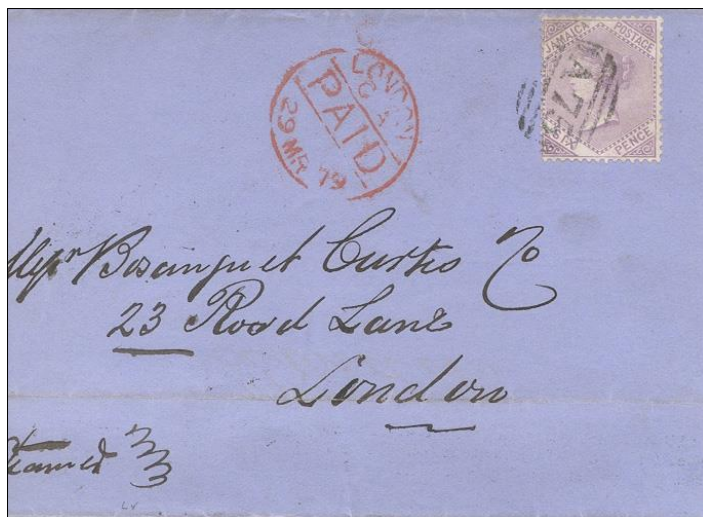


Fig. 1. 10 Mar 1879 Packet Letter from Savanna La Mar to London.

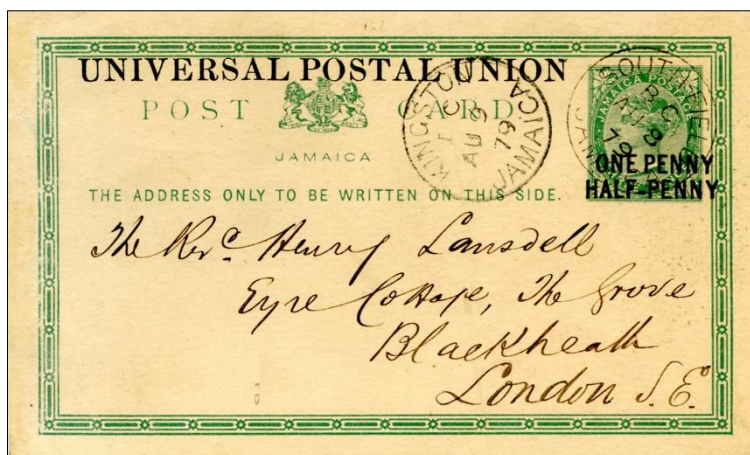


Fig. 2. 8 Aug 1879 Postal Card from Southfield to the UK.

The data on Jamaican mail reported in this article were taken from the Jamaica Post Office Annual Reports as recorded in the *Jamaica Gazette Supplements*. These data cover the period between 1876 and 1900 and are limited to letters and postcards as no information on printed matter was given in the Reports for the time period under study. Therefore, all references to items and mail in this article are limited to letters and cards.

The article is divided into four parts. It begins with some background information on Jamaica followed by two parts each of several sections reporting and analyzing the data. The first of these parts examines the total and average volumes posted in the years between 1876–1900 and the second analyzes growth rates for these volumes over the course of the study period. The last section summarises the results reported in the two previous sections and examines how they might be projected to other British West Indian (BWI) colonies. The article ends with an Appendix that covers technical issues encountered during the analysis.

JAMAICA

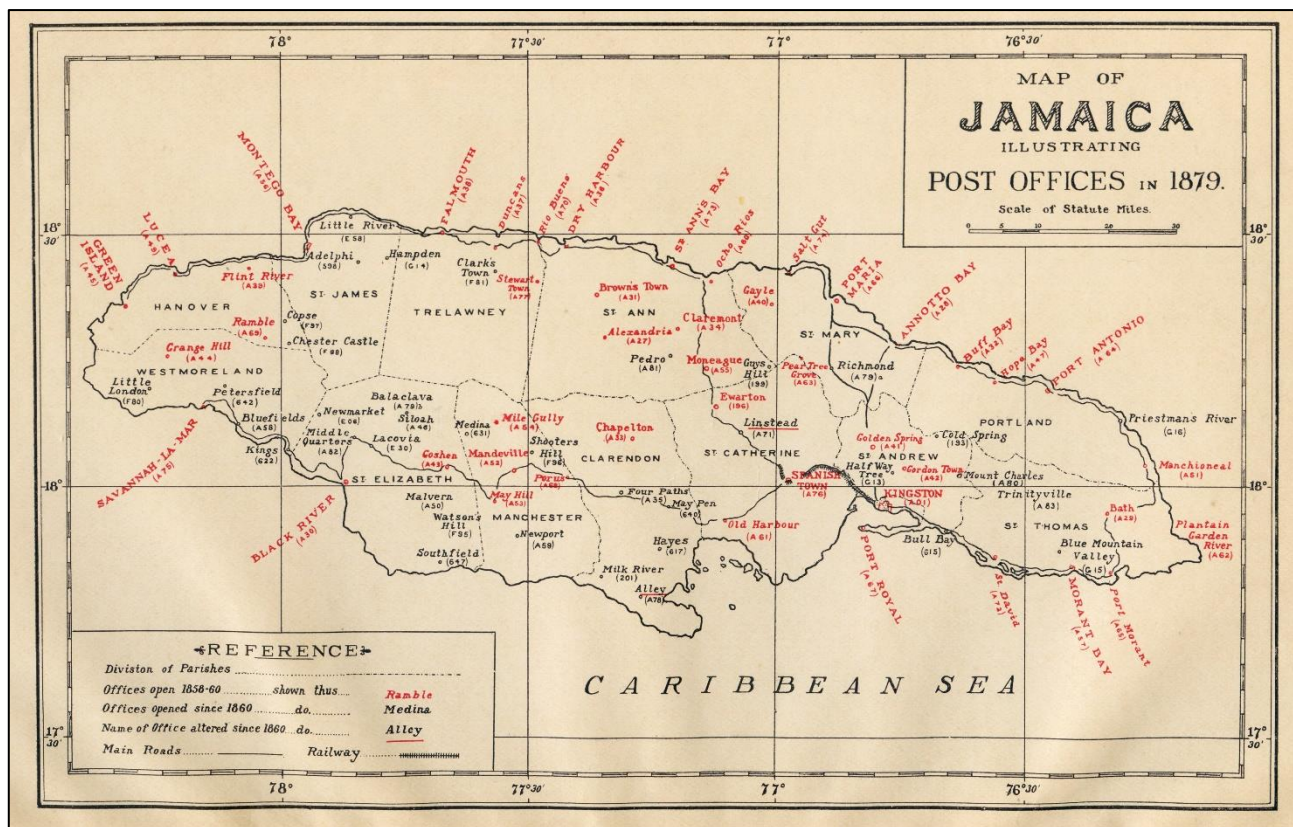


Fig. 3. 1879 Map of Jamaica from Jamaica, Its Postal History, Postage Stamps & Postmarks by Collett et al., Stanley Gibbons 1928.

Jamaica is an Island (Fig 3) located in the western Caribbean Sea, south of Cuba, west of Haiti and far from the numerous British West Indian (BWI) colonies clustered in the eastern Caribbean. Its population of about 536,000 in 1876 increased by about 7,500 persons per year until it reached around 715,000 occupants in 1900.

It was one of the four major BWI colonies and the only one which enjoyed a self-governing status. A status that changed to a Crown colony in 1866. Towards the end of the 19th century Jamaica contained about 40% of the BWI population, generated about 25% of BWI exports and mail, and was the third largest of the BWI colonies in land area. It was responsible for the administration of all BWI colonies in the western Caribbean, including the Cayman Islands, the Turks and Caicos Islands and British Honduras (1862–1884).

Kingston, with about 42,000 residents, was Jamaica's largest city and port. In 1872 it became the Capital of the colony which made it the centre of both the colonies political and commercial life. As such its residents had a higher socio-economic status and were more educated than the residents living in the largely rural districts outside of the city. It was also the centre of Jamaican postal activity as it contained the General Post Office including its administrative offices, generated a large proportion of the colony's domestic mail and almost all of the colonies overseas letters were dispatched from or received in its port.

VOLUMES

This part of the article will answer three general questions:

- (1) how many items were posted in Jamaica in the last quarter of the 19th century.
- (2) what did these items consist of, and (3) where were they going.

HOW MANY ITEMS WERE POSTED?

Many collectors will be surprised to learn that slightly more than 55,000,000 letters and cards were posted in Jamaica in the 25½ years between October 1875 and April 1900, which is almost 2,250,000 items per year, slightly over 6,000 per day, and about 3.6 items per capita per year (Table 1). The volume is greater than that generated by any other BWI Colony (Ref. 1). The per capita rate of letters and cards posted was low when compared to the more developed countries in Europe but among the highest in the West Indies (Ref. 2).

Table 1. Letters and cards posted in Jamaica 1876-1900 ¹	
Total all years	55,047,848
Average per year	2,246,851
Average per day	6,156
Per. capita per year	3.6
1. Post cards were introduced in April 1877.	

WHAT DID THESE ITEMS CONSIST OF?

The Jamaican Annual Reports classified the mail into five types, ordinary and registered letters posted by the public, ordinary and registered Official letters (Ref. 3) and postcards. Figure 4 shows the percent of total mail posted by the five types. From the figure it is clear that ordinary letters posted by the public was the major type of mail, accounting for almost 90% of all items mailed. Though they can be considered specialised services there were still over 115,000 Ordinary Official letters, 60,000 Public and 24,000 Officially Registered Letters, and about 54,000 postcards mailed during the average year of the study period (Ref. 4).

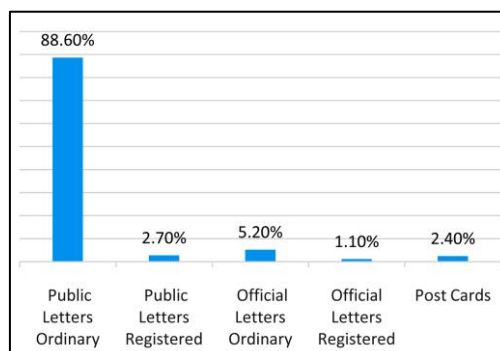


Fig. 4. Percent of Jamaica Mail by type, 1876-1900

WHERE DID THEY GO?

87.5% of the items, posted in Jamaica during the study period were domestic and not overseas mail. In addition, the Domestic mail made greater use of the specialised services including all the Official mail and higher rates of use for both Postcards and Registered letters (Table 2).

Table 2. Type of Jamaica mail by Destination, 1876-1900			
	Domestic	Overseas	Total
All Items	87.9%	12.1%	100.0%
Letters	87.8%	12.2%	100.0%
Ordinary	87.6%	12.4%	100.0%
Registered	92.1%	7.9%	100.0%
Public	87.2%	12.8%	100.0%
Official	100.0%	0.0%	100.0%
Postcards	93.2%	6.8%	100.0%

DOMESTIC MAIL

The Jamaican Post Office Annual Reports classifies domestic letters into three general categories, Kingston Inward, Kingston Outwards and Between District. The exact meaning of these categories is not clear but they will be assumed to be definitions of the following four postal routes:

1. Kingston – Kingston (K>K) – all mail posted in Kingston to an address in Kingston.
2. Kingston – Kingston (K>D) – all mail posted in Kingston to an address in a District outside Kingston.
3. Districts – Kingston (D>K) – all mail posted in a District outside Kingston to an address in Kingston.
4. Districts – Districts (D>D) – all mail posted in a District outside Kingston to an address in a District outside Kingston.

The Between District Category is probably for mail passing over the Districts – Districts (D>D) route but how to assign the other three routes to the remaining two categories is not clear. Table 3 lists the two most logical ways the three routes could be assigned to the two categories and shows the volume of mail that would have been posted in Kingston and in the Districts for each of the two methods of assignment.

Table 3. Volumes of mail posted in Kingston and Districts for two methods of Assigning Routes to Categories specified for Domestic Mail									
	Categories for Domestic Mail			Mail Posted in Kingston			Mail Posted in Districts		
	Kingston Outward	Kingston Inward	Between Districts	Total	Average items Per year	Items Per Capita Per Year	Total	Average items Per year	Items Per Capita Per Year
Routes Assigned	K>D, K>K	D>K	D-D	15,317,000	612,702	14.6	31,143,000	1,245,733	2.1
	K>D	K>K, D>K	D- D	22,779,000	911,198	21.7	23,680,000	947,238	1.6

The story told by this Table is remarkable. Kingston contains a small proportion, about 7%, of the colony's population, but generated between 32% and 49% of the mail, depending on the assignment of routes to categories, while the Outlying Districts with about 93% of the population generated only, 51% to 68% of the mail. The volume of mail per capita per year for Kingston was between 14.6 and 21.7 items while the per capita measure for the Districts was between 1.6 and 2.1 items.

There are several interrelated reasons why usage of mail was greater for the residents of Kingston including:

1. The resident of Kingston had a higher rate of literacy.
2. A higher proportion of Kingston's population had occupations, such as lawyers, doctors, and merchants that would predispose them to post and receive mail.
3. Life in the rural Districts was locally organised which resulted in largely self-sufficient communities that would preclude the need for communications such as the mail, while Kingston was an urban place that brought its residents into contact with other residents who lived in other part of the city thus creating the potential need for mail.
4. Kingston was the location of the large organisations around which the colonies economic, political and cultural life was organised and such organisations are major users of the mail.

There are no direct measures of Literacy or Occupation status for Kingston and the Outlying Districts but the higher literacy rate and occupational status of Kingston residents can be inferred from the fact that they had a higher proportion of white residents (13.0% to 1.7%) and taxpayers in the highest brackets (36.2% to 6.1%) in 1881, according to the 1881 Census and Handbook of Jamaica.

OVERSEAS MAIL

The Overseas Outwards data in the Jamaica PO Annual Reports is classified into four categories, two of these categories have subcategories. The exact meaning of these categories and sub categories is not clear but they seem to designate the final destination of the ordinary letters (not registered) and postcards.

The analysis presented below is based on these definitions. The rationale for the definitions is given in Appendix A.

Figure 5 charts the destination of Jamaica's overseas ordinary letters and postcards for the study period. The chart shows that nearly 90% of Jamaica's Overseas mail was sent to English speaking places, particularly the United Kingdom but also to the United States and other places within the Empire (Ref. 5).

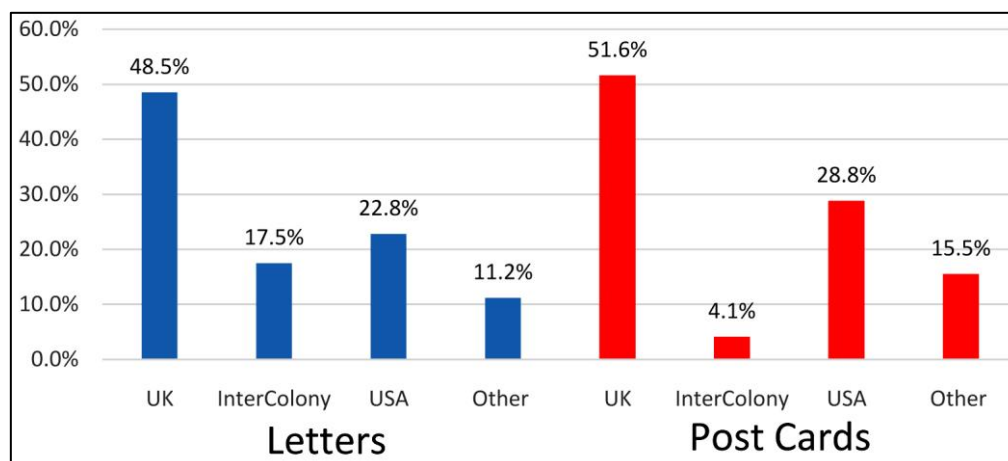


Fig. 5. Percent of Jamaica Overseas mail by destination, 1876–1900

The predominance of English speaking places as the destination of Jamaica's mail is likely due to several factors. A foreign language is in and of itself a barrier to communication through the mail while a common language facilitates communication and indicates past ties, both political and social. In addition, most of Jamaica's overseas trade was with these English speaking places. Much of the mail sent to Other Places may have gone to Germany as there was a strong German community in Jamaica and mail to Germany, during the study period, is regularly seen.

CHANGES IN VOLUMES OVER TIME

In the last quarter of the 19th century there was a rapid growth of industrialisation throughout the world, which resulted in an increase in urbanisation, world trade, literacy and an increase in organisations, all of which led to a greatly increased volume of mail. Jamaica shared in this expansion of postal activity. The next part of the article examines the growth rates of Jamaican mail over the years between 1876 and 1900. It answers three general questions which are:

(1) how much did the mail increase, (2) which components of the mail grew at faster rates than others and (3) what were the patterns of growth?

How much did the mail increase?

Table 4 shows that between 1877 and 1899 the total volume of Jamaican mail increased by 403%. This increase was due in part to a 131% increase in population but mostly to an increased use of the mail, which increased by 306% (mail per capita per year).

Table 4. Growth Rates for Jamaica mail, 1877 to 1899 ¹			
	1877	1899	Growth rate ¹
Letters and Cards ²	1,128,942	4,553,626	403%
Population ³	536,000	707,000	131%
Mail per capita	2.1	6.4	306%
1. Growth rate = $(1899/1877) \times 100$ 2. Three year averages for 1876-1878 and 1898-1900. 3. Populations are projections from a linear trend line.			

WHAT COMPONENTS OF THE MAIL GREW AT FASTER RATES?

Fig. 6. shows the growth rates for various components of the mail. The figure shows that all types of mail, going to all destinations increased over the study period but some at a faster rate than others including:

1. Domestic mail grew at a faster rate than Overseas mail. This finding suggests that globalisation first took the form of expansion of economic and social ties within countries rather than between them.
2. Postcards grew at a faster rate than any other type of mail (Ref. 6).
3. Mail to places outside the Empire grew at a faster rate than mail within the Empire. This observation shows how the insular Empire centered colonial order was being replaced by a more open set of connections with other places in the world.

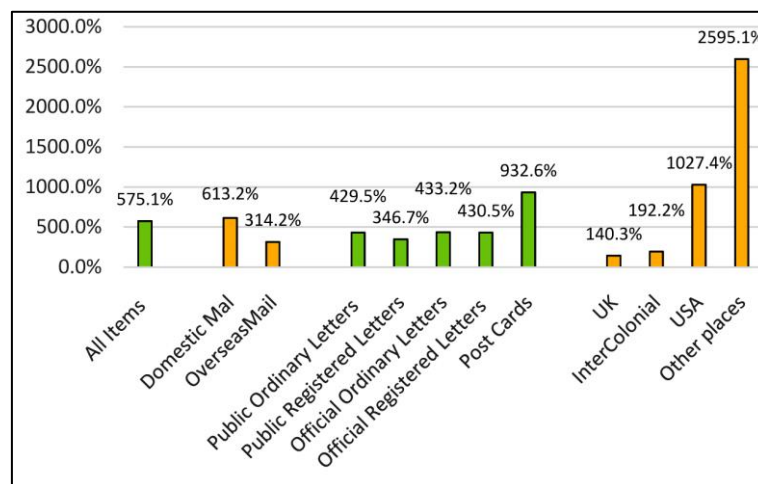


Fig. 6. Jamaican Growth rates (1900/1876) by component of the mail.

WHAT WAS THE PATTERN OF GROWTH?

The volume of mail increased for both Domestic and Overseas mail but the paths these increases followed were different. The Chart in Figure 7 shows the Overseas mail increased along a single linear trend line at the constant rate of about 12,700 items per year. In addition, the volumes cycled around the trend line in a fashion similar to business cycles which suggest that short term fluctuations in the colonies economy may have pushed the volumes temporarily above and below the trend.

Overseas postal rates were reduced in 1877 to 6d, in 1879 to 4d and in 1890 to 2½d but this seems to have had little effect on the trend.

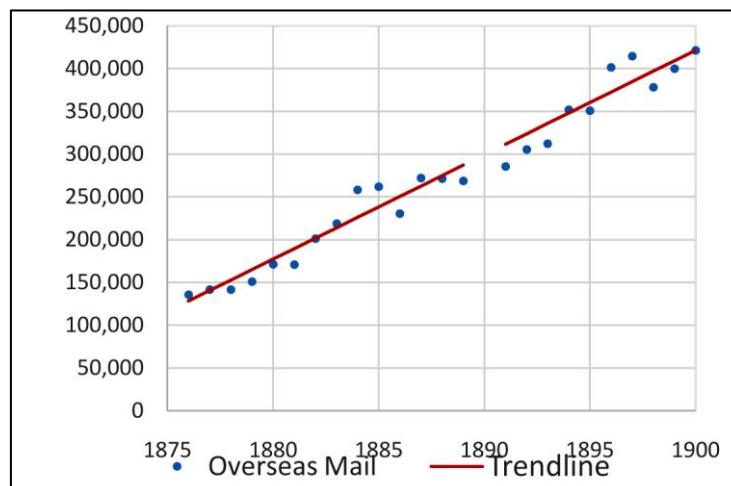


Fig. 7. Volume of Jamaica's Overseas Mail 1876–1900

The Chart in Fig. 8 shows the increase in Domestic mail was not constant across the study period but increased at faster rate towards the end of the study period. From 1876 to about 1890 the domestic mail increased at about 36,000 items per year while after 1890 to 1900 the increase was over 275,000 items per year. The change may be due to two factors, a lowering of the Domestic Letter and Postcard rates in 1890 and an increase in railroad traffic which would stimulate the demand for local mail.

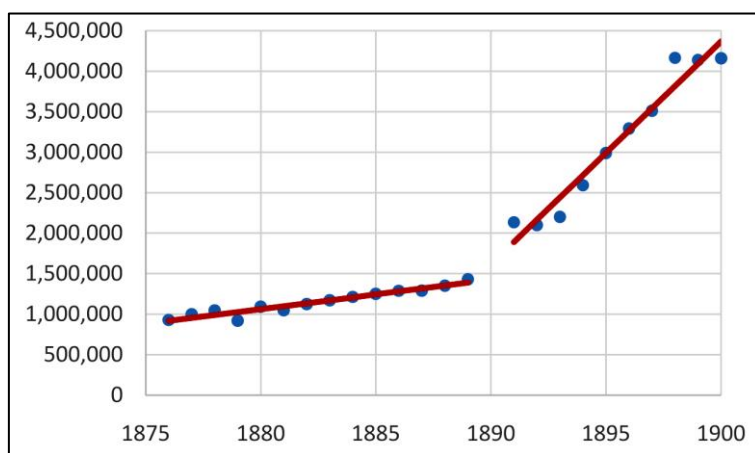


Fig. 8. Volume of Jamaica's Domestic Mail 1876–1900

CONCLUSIONS

This article has analysed data on the volume of letters and cards posted in Jamaica during the years between 1876 and 1900. Many of its findings can be projected to other BWI colonies including:

1. Almost 2,250,000 letters and postcard were mailed in Jamaica per year during the study period.
 - a. As Jamaica had the largest population and was one of the most developed of the BWI this average is probably the maximum for the BWI colonies.
2. Most of these items, almost 90%, were ordinary letters while registered letters, Official mail and Postcards could be considered minor services from a postal perspective.
 - a. The same results may be expected for all BWI colonies.
3. Most of the mail, about 90%, was Domestic rather than Overseas.
 - a. This result is probably true for most BWI colonies except the smaller ones, such as the British Virgin Islands (Ref. 7).
4. Residents of Kingston made greater use of the mail, measured as mail per capita, than did the resident of outlying districts.
 - a. Most BWI colonies had, like Jamaica, a single major city which was its major Port, capital and population center, so for the reasons listed in the section on Domestic Mail, this major city would probably have had a much higher rate of mail use per Capita than the rest of the colony.
5. Most Overseas mail went to English speaking places particularly the UK but also the United States and other British colonies.
 - a. Given the importance of a common language this result can be expected for all BWI colonies, but the relative share of the volume going to the various English speaking places may differ from that of Jamaica.
6. The total volume of mail posted in the colony increased by slightly over 400%, partially due to an increase in population but mostly due to greater per capita use of the mail.
 - a. The same general factors responsible for the growth in Jamaica's mail, described in the section How much did the mail increase, were operative in all BWI colonies so a great increase in the mail of all BWI colonies can be expected, largely from increases in the per capita use measure.
7. There was an increase in both the volume of Domestic and International Mail but the rate of growth was larger for Domestic Mail.
 - a. Given the general conditions that underlie the growth of mail it seems likely that both Domestic and International mail increased in other BWI colonies, over the course of the
 - b. study period, but there is no basis for predicting that the rate of increase was greater for Domestic mail in other BWI colonies.

8. The increase in Jamaican Domestic mail accelerated over the course of the study period.
 - a. The reasons given for the accelerated growth in the volume of mail in Jamaica, change in domestic postal rates and expanded facilities for transportation provided by railroads, are unique to Jamaica so there is no basis for projecting this accelerated growth to other BWI colonies.
9. While growth occurred in all forms of and destinations for Jamaica mail some types and destinations grew at faster rate than others. Among the fastest growing were postcards and to places outside the Empire.
 - a. The factors creating the growth in post card usage were probably true for most BWI colonies so this result was probably true for other BWI colonies.
 - b. The decline in mail posted to the UK and an increase in mail to the USA is also to be expected in other BWI colonies as the influence and trade with the USA was on the increase throughout the Caribbean area during the late 19th century.

APPENDIX A. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Two types of information were used in this article, volumes of mail posted in Jamaica and population data. This Appendix describes these two sets of data, the problems associated with their use and the procedures used in dealing with these problems.

JAMAICAN MAIL

The postal data consisted of annual estimates of the number of letters and postcards processed by the Jamaican postal system in the period from October 1876 to March 1900. This data was taken from the Jamaica Post Office Annual Reports as recorded in the *Jamaica Gazette Supplements*. There were five problems encountered in the use of these data.

1. All data was missing for the year 1881 due to records being lost in a fire at the Kingston PO.
2. The annual estimates given in the Postmasters Annual Reports started with twelve month periods from October to September. In 1890 they included a six month estimate for the period October 1890 to March 1891. Thereafter they reported twelve month periods covering April to March.
3. The meaning of the categories used to classify the Domestic mail were not clearly defined.
4. The meaning of the categories used to classify the Overseas mail were not clearly defined.

The procedures used for dealing with these problems are described below.

MISSING DATA FOR 1881

The missing data for 1881 was projected from existing data by the following formula for a weighted average.

$$1881 = (1879 + (2 \times 1880) + (2 \times 1882) + 1883) / 6$$

THE ANNUAL ESTIMATE PROBLEM

The change in months covered by the annual period estimate with a six month data entry created problems in calculating the average annual volume and in generating the trend lines. These problems were dealt with by shifting from an annual to a six month time period.

Thus, the total for all time periods including the six month period was considered to be the total of 49 six month periods (24 annual data points and one half year data point). Dividing the total volume by 49 thus gave an average half year estimate. Multiplying the half year average by two generated the annual average estimate.

In generating the trends each data point was assigned a six month score starting with two for the first year and so up by twos for each data point except the six month data point which went up by one. The six month data point was then dropped from the data set and the trend set up using a linear regression equation with the six month score as the independent variable and the volume being the dependent variable.

This created a missing time period of exactly the right length for the period between September 1889, the end of the last twelve month data point before the dropped six month point, and March 1891 the end of the first twelve month data point after the dropped six month point.

THE DOMESTIC DATA CATEGORIES

The Postmaster Annual Reports use three categories in classifying the Domestic mail, Kingston Outward, Kingston Inward and District Between. The exact meaning of these terms is not clear but they seem to refer to postal routes involving Kingston and the Districts other than Kingston. There are four such routes:

1. Mail posted in Kingston to an address in Kingston (K>K)
2. Mail posted in Kingston to an address in a District outside Kingston (K>D)
3. Mail posted in a District outside Kingston to an address in Kingston (D>K)
4. Mail posted in a District outside Kingston to an address in a District outside Kingston (D>D)

The category District Between is clearly Route 4, D>D The category Kingston Inward must include D>K and Kingston Outward must include K>D. However, K>K could be either Kingston Outward or Kingston Inward. There are two ways these three routes can be assigned to the two categories. These ways are listed in Table 3 along with the volumes of mail posted in Kingston and posted in the outlying District that each method of assignment would imply.

THE OVERSEAS DATA CATEGORIES

The Overseas Outwards data was first classified into four categories, (1) Kingston Contract, (2) Kingston non Contract, (3) Outports non Contract, (4) Registered Total. The (1) Kingston Contract was further classified into three sub categories, UK, USA and Inter Colonial and the (2) Kingston non Contract category was divided into two sub categories, USA and Other. Three assumptions were made in determining the meaning of these categories and sub categories:

1. The data reported covered almost all International letters and cards posted in the colony for the period of time designated in the Annual Report
2. No item was counted twice.
3. The sub categories designated the final destination of the letter or card.

Given assumption 1 and 2, and the specification of the category (4) Registered Total, meant that categories 1-3 were limited to ordinary (non registered) mail and postcards. Given assumption 1 and the specification of the five subcategories meant that the subcategory Inter Colonial meant all places in the British Empire except the UK and the subcategory Other meant all places except the USA and places in the British Empire.

It should be noted that no information was reported in the Annual Reports for the category (3) Outports non Contract for the study period. Given assumption 1 this means that no items were recorded for Postal Records as mailed from these ports though a small volume of ship letters passed through them.

POPULATION DATA JAMAICA

Population data was used, in the textual description of Jamaica, in calculating per capita measures of volume and for comparing the population of Kingston with that of the districts. This information was obtained as follows:

1. Data on the total population of Jamaica for various years between 1874 and 1900 were obtained from the website <http://www.populstat.info/Americas/jamaicac.htm>.
2. A regression analysis (Figure A) showed a slightly upward linear trend, with the equation $Y = 7,444X - 13,429,000$ (Y = total population of Jamaica and X = the years (1874 to 1900) provided a very good fit to this data, $R^2 = .98$ (Ref.8)

3. The equation described above was then used to predict Jamaican population for every year in the period 1876 to 1900.
4. The coefficient 7,444 from the equation (2 above) and the predicated values (3 above) for 1876 and 1900 were used in the verbal description of Jamaica. The former as the annual increase measure.
5. The average of the predicted values (3 above) for relevant years were used as population measures for calculating the various per capita measures reported in the article.

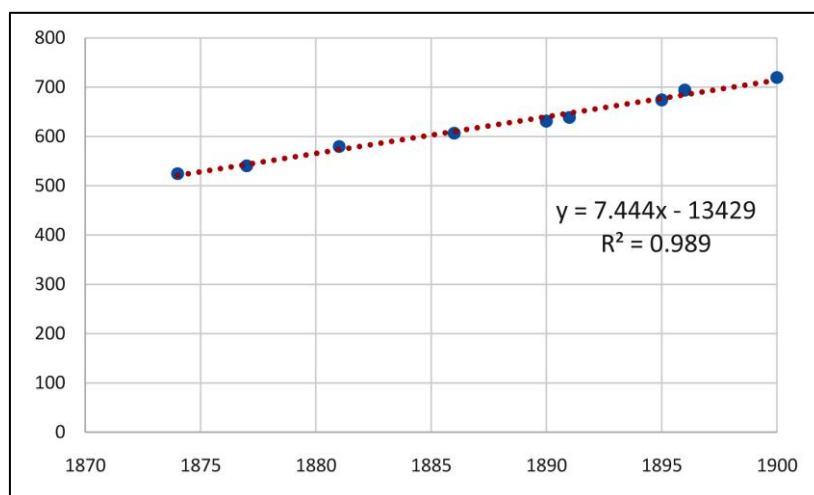


Figure A. Jamaican Population Data In Thousands with Trend Line

KINGSTON POPULATION

Measures of Kingston Parish population for 1881 (38,566) and 1891 (48,504) were found in *The Handbook of Jamaica for 1906* (Kingston: Government Printing Office, 1906, p.35). The years between 1876 to 1901 were recoded 1,2,3..... which assigned 6 to 1881 and 26 to 1901. A trend line was fitted to the two points 6,38566 and 26,48504 which had the equation:

$$\text{Kingston Population} = 496.9 (\text{year recoded}) + 35,585$$

Projected values for Kingston Population were then calculated from the equation above for each year from 1876 to 1900. The mean of these values 42,045 was used for the population estimate of Kingston in the **Background** section of this article and in calculating the letter and card per capita per year rates for Kingston.

References

1. Maisel, Richard and Jarvis, Steve, 'Update: British West Indies: Letters and Printed Matter, Dispatched and Received, circa 1886' British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, Vol. 58 No. 4, October–December 2018, Table 2 p.21.
2. Based on unpublished research of the authors.
3. Official mail in Jamaica during the study period included both mail to and from a list of specified government agencies.
4. It is interesting to note that the Official Mail was more likely to be registered than the Public Mail, 17.3% of the Official mail was registered in contrast to 3% of the public mail.
5. Postcards were less likely to be sent to other Places in the Empire than letters (4% to 17%),.
6. Caution must be used when interpreting results using the percent increase measure, when comparing growth rates of items with small initial volumes, such as post cards or mail Outside the Empire, to items with large initial volumes such as letters and destinations Within the Empire, as a small initial volume facilitates the generation of very high growth rates.
7. Maisel, Richard, 'Internal Development and the Production of Domestic Mail in British Caribbean Colonies (1901)', British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, October–December 2005.
8. The Jamaica population equation based on the Website data is a close fit for the known census data or Jamaica for the years 1861 (census 441,000, equation 428,000), 1871 (census 506,000, equation 502,000) and 1881 (census 580,000, equation 575,000).

SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

THE CHARLES FREELAND COLLECTION OF THREE ISLANDS

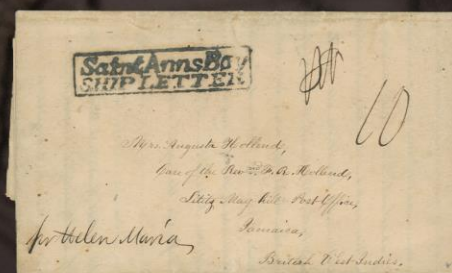
3 SEPTEMBER 2020 | LONDON



For more information please contact
Iain Murphy | +44 (0)207 563 4060 | imurphy@spink.com

THE "DUBOIS" COLLECTION OF JAMAICA POSTAL HISTORY AND STAMPS - PART I

2 OCTOBER 2020 | LONDON



For more information please contact
Josh Barber | +44 (0)207 563 4080 | jbarber@spink.com
David Parsons | +44 (0)207 563 4072 | dparsons@spink.com

SPINK LONDON | 69 Southampton Row | WC1B 4ET | United Kingdom
WWW.SPINK.COM Follow us on social media: #SPINK_AUCTIONS

JAMAICA

THE TRDs OF JAMAICA PART V

BY DAVID HORRY

Interbellum

In 1910 United Fruit Co's new HQ was rebuilt in Kingston, next door to their renovated Myrtle Bank Hotel. Their old Ferry Inn office and most of their Jamaican records had perished in the fire of 1907 that followed the tragic earthquake. But the nearby Grange Lane depot, on the railway line, was developing as a major distribution hub in the south of the island.(Fig. 1).

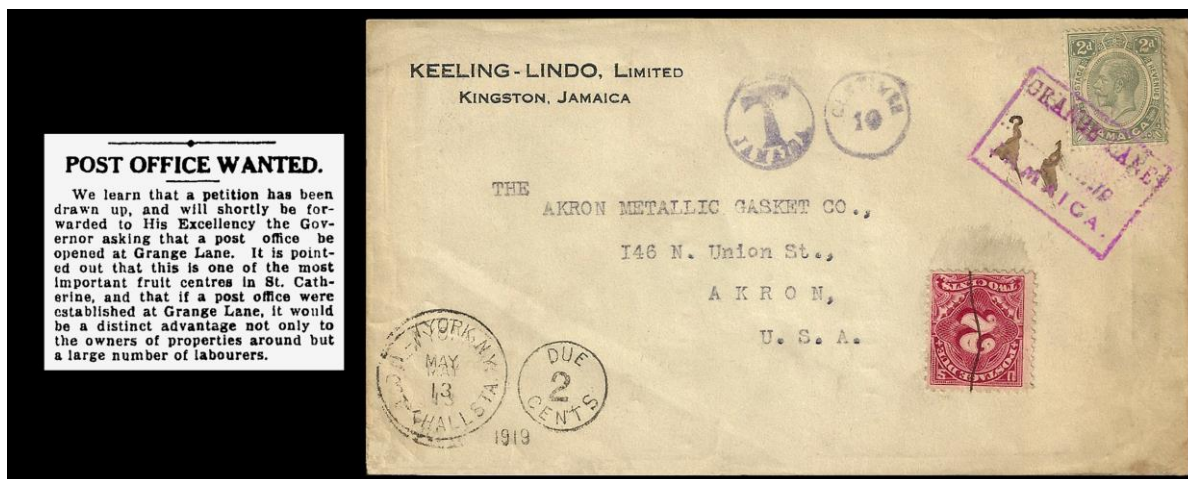
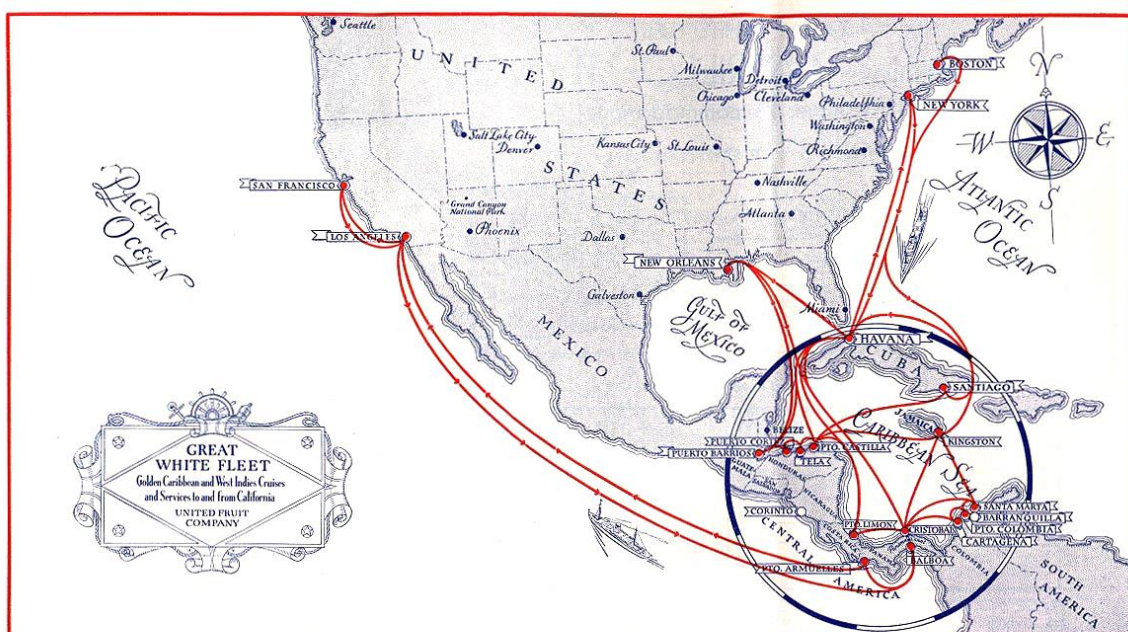


Fig. 1. Post Office Wanted at Grange Lane, *The Daily Gleaner* 1918, Grange Lane TRD on cover from Keeling-Lindo to Akron, USA, 1919 – Fowles

Unfortunately, it did not fare well in the Caribbean during WWI. The newly opened Panama Canal did surprisingly little foreign trade until after the war. The problem was the threat of German U-boats. For over five years the banana business was in decline, but now 'The Great White Fleet' was establishing a fleet of refrigerated Banana Boats that each could carry 32,000 bunches of bananas and 14 First Class cabins. (Fig. 2).



PORTS AND PIERS OF THE GREAT WHITE FLEET

*New York...New Orleans...California Service...West Indies...
Central and South America*

Fig. 2. The UFCo's Great White Fleet map, 1920

By now the 'Yellow Fever' crisis was over, once Doctor Walter Reed from New Orleans, had discovered that the banana boats were carrying the mosquitos that carried the disease. Refrigeration and spraying had stopped the annual infections in his home city. With the war over the resplendent postmarks of The Great White Fleet often turn up on Jamaican covers. This led to much interest from American philatelists in Jamaican TRDs. Local dealers began to confect UFCo covers for the American market. (Fig. 3).



Fig. 3. United Fruit Co S. S. San Bruno Jamaica
Cover to Rhode Island, 1934 – Horry



Fig. 4. United Fruit Co new HQ
New Orleans, 1920

However, by 1921 Jamaican bananas had lost some of their importance, with huge supplies developing in Guatemala, Panama and Costa Rica and a splendid new regional headquarters was opened up in New Orleans (Fig. 4). The UFCo were still running the entire Guatemalan Postal Service and Elders & Fyffes. Grange Lane was closed on 31 December 1924 and the UFCo's citrus centre was moved to the vast Wood Park citrus estates in St. Mary. Nevertheless, Pembroke Hall was opened in late August 1925: Ray Stanton has a very fine Pembroke Hall cover to Scotland dated 7 December 1925, using the old Grange Lane Registered etiquette. (Fig. 5) Fyffes Pen, St. Elizabeth was re-established c. 1921; a second TRB might well have been used as *per* Proud, but there has been no sign of it. It must be remembered that other offices opened in the twenties could well have had TRDs that have never been seen. Proud contended likely candidates were Mount Horeb 1927, Cornwall Mountain 1929, Whitfield Pen 1930, Sunning Hill 1930 and Rose Hall 1930. However, late openers for UFCo agencies with TRDs were: Cavaliers 1929, Trout Hall 1929 and Wakefield 1930.

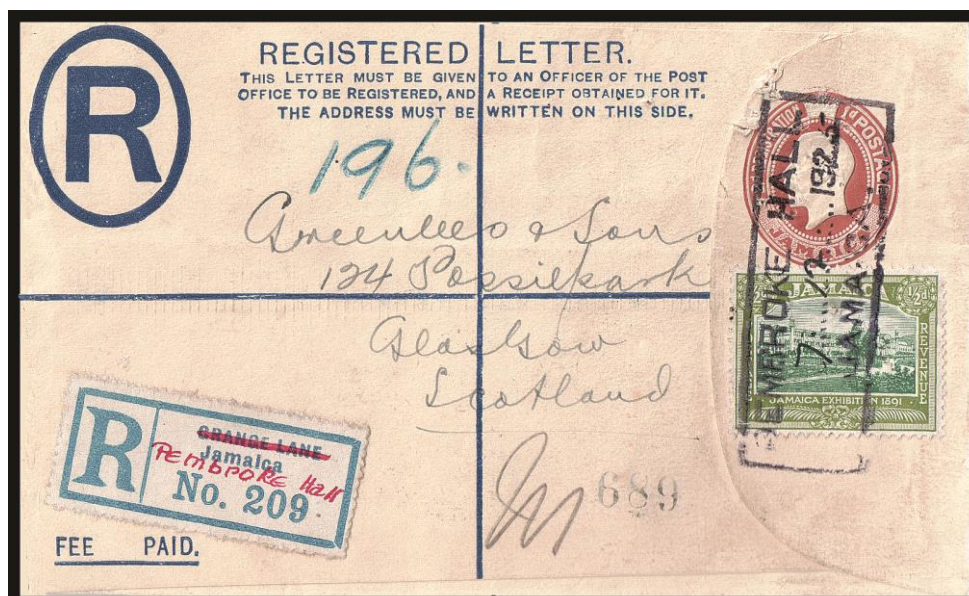


Fig. 5. Pembroke Hall cover to Scotland bearing Grange Lane Registered etiquette, 1925

Prior Park was not opened in 1930 as per Proud, but in 1933 (*Daily Gleaner*) and is therefore unlikely to have had a TRD. As for Fruitful Vale its JDC's ERD is given as 21 September 1931 as was its opening date. However the second recorded date is in 1935 so it is unclear here. Any other recorded dates would be valuable.

The UFCo had, by necessity, led the way in 'Commercial Intelligence'. Bananas as a crop require close scrutiny, so that harvesting and delivery can be properly co-ordinated. The GPO Kingston was unable to provide an adequate phone system; they simply could not keep pace with UFCo's expansive plans. This is why the TRDs were required every time new plantations were opened in Jamaica.(Fig. 6). UFCo demanded priority. Their plantations were often remote and bananas could be rotten even before they get to port without controlled management. Panama Disease kept rearing its ugly head, and it was as early as 1923 that the song, 'Yes! We have no Bananas' was written in New York.

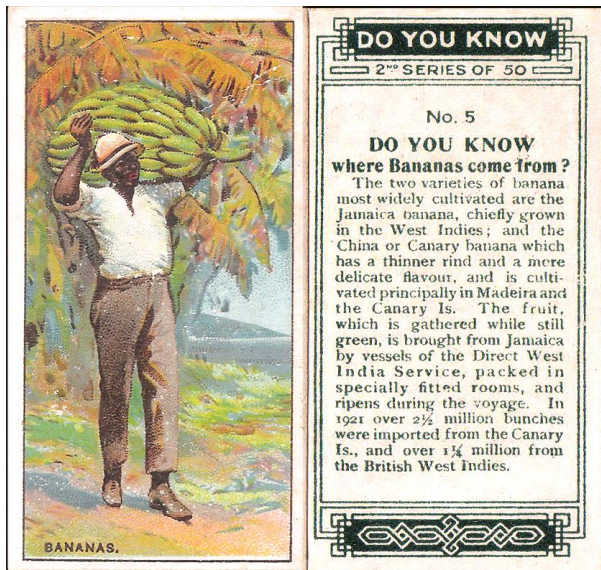


Fig. 6. Banana Cutter, 1930s cigarette card

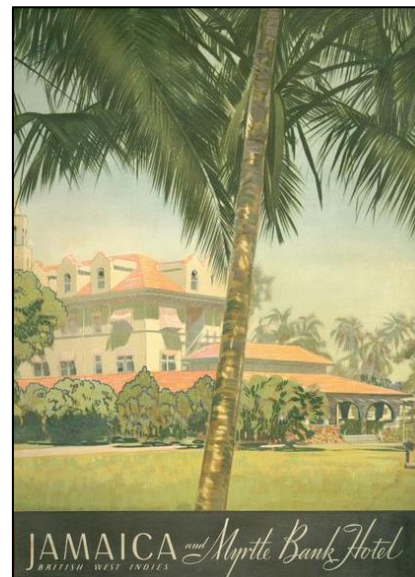


Fig. 7. The Myrtle Bank Hotel in its heyday, late thirties

GPO Kingston was never able to act quickly enough, nor had the finances to supply premises, staff and postmarks etc. And so the 'Postal Agency' was developed, much like had been established at the UFCo's hotels at Milk River Bath Spa, Titchfield, Constant Spring and Myrtle Bank, but on a broader scale. (Fig. 7).

The UFCo's postal agencies and their TRDs were important to their ever growing business. There was no inherent public demand for postal facilities at such places as Great Valley, Calderwood, Glengoffe and Inverness. The good people of these remote parts were only about 3% literate, at this period in time. This was all about the commercial interests of the United Fruit Company – known in Central America as 'El Pulpo' – the Octopus, A more polite pejorative was 'The West India Company', as UFCo was the first true American Conglomerate of the 20th Century.

When the Panama Canal was in its final phase of construction 11,000 Jamaicans were employed by the UFCo in Central America. Indigenous Jamaicans were immune from both malaria and yellow fever. Teddy Roosevelt was furious that the UFCo had diverted many of these workers to their northern Panama banana fields

The TRDs could be used for months, even years before the Kingston Post Office got its act together and provided proper steel postmark instruments, which had to come from the Crown Agents in London. It all took time, which was anti-ethical to the UFCo. Bananas required quick methods of communication. (Fig. 8).



Fig. 8. Leamington TRB cover to Port Sunlight, 1930

By 1920 there had already been 60 postal agencies established. In 1939 in their bid for a post office at Frome, The West Indies Sugar Company suggested in a letter to GPO Kingston, they 'would erect a suitable building and rent it to you it at the 'usual terms' of £1 10s per annum.' But in order to save on costs and office materials, they had suggested closing the post office at Georges Plain. This caused great upset to the citizens of Georges Plain, and a compromise was reached, whereby the WISC provided a facility close to Frome Police Station so that the telegraph could extend easily to both buildings. The Frome Post Office was established inside the refinery and the Police Station was just opposite the WISC front gates. The cost of portorage of telegrams, and time occupied by messengers, travelling between offices, was to be shared with the constabulary. After 'The Riots', where lives were lost, security was obviously now top of mind. *The Daily Gleaner* reported GPO Kingston's costs for the establishment of a postal agency were limited to £101 per annum on establishment, and subsequently £70 per annum. However It was estimated that to establish even the smallest office, the minimum amount required would be just short of £200. (Fig. 9).



Fig. 9. Labyrinth Post Agency, St. Mary – Collins



Fig. 10. Munro College TRBs 1923 and 1924 – Groeber

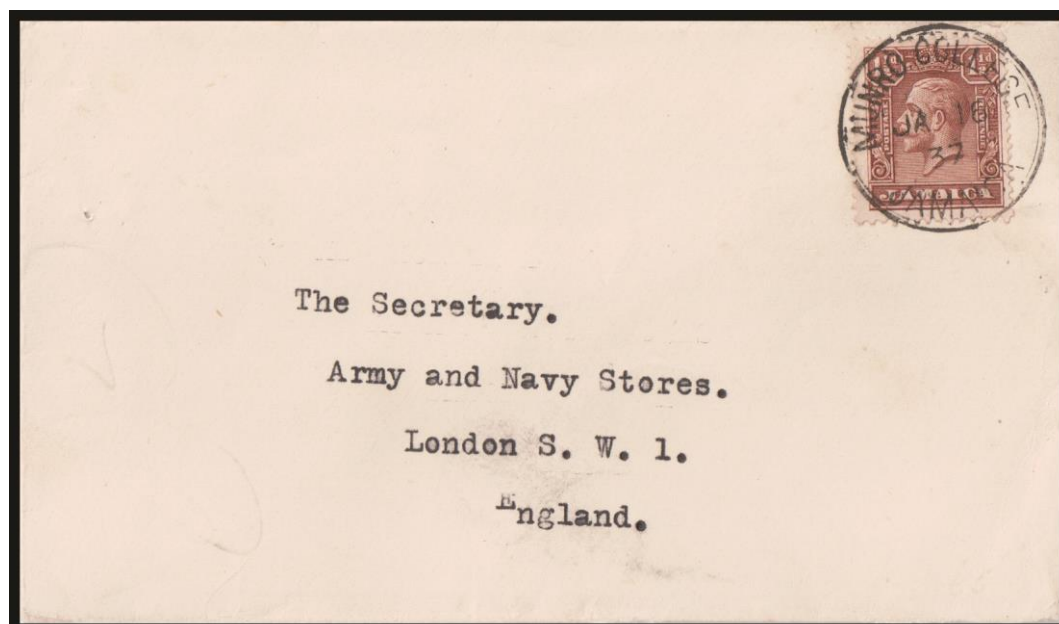


Fig.11. Munro College JDC on cover to England 1937 – Stanton

Munro College, the island's most expensive private school, opened a post office on its premises in August 1923. It soon boasted two TRDs a second being used in the New Year of 1924. (Fig. 10). The reason the first handstamp disappeared is not clear. By December 1924 a new steel Jamaica Double Circle (JDC) had arrived from GPO London. (Fig. 11).

In 1924 the post office at Bybrook closed and was removed to Skibo in Portland Parish, a Blue Mountain coffee centre. The reason for this was that in 1922 Bybrook Central, St. Catherine, was established by Roy Lindo as a sugar factory: the Lindos had close association with United Fruit. It would appear that the move to Skibo, which had been closed since 1898, was to stop mails going to the wrong Bybrook office. The Skibo postal agency received a new TRD in May 1924 which lasted until the new JDC arrived from London in October of that year. (Fig. 12).



Fig. 12. Skibo TRB (1924)



Fig. 13. Anti-UFCo propaganda - smoking gun

In 1928 things began to get more difficult for the United Fruit Company. Strikes in Guatemala, Honduras and Panama were proving costly and the importation of Jamaican labour was becoming frowned upon by the nascent Labour Unions. It culminated on 6 December 1928 at Cienaga, Colombia with the 'Banana Massacre' of 28 workers by UFCo agents in Costa Rica. The UFCo's reputation was badly tarnished. O'Henry's so-called 'Banana Republics' fell into disrepute and political violence. *The Great Depression* had arrived and bananas and the UFCo's fortunes dipped dramatically. (Fig. 13).

The British authorities now began to apply tighter reins on the UFCo, and in 1931 the Jamaican TRDs stopped being issued. The last one issued for commercial purposes was at Kalorama in St. Andrew, where gypsum and semi-precious stones were being mined. (Fig. 14).

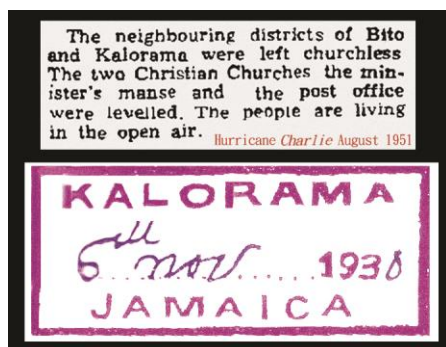


Fig. 14. Kalorama TRB (1930)



Fig. 15. The Junction Postal Agency added its own telephone in February 1940

The newly formed Jamaican Agricultural Society was now looking after the UFCo's interests. Demand for local postal and wire services now became a political matter and local candidates made communications very much key parts of their policies. It is noted that the JAS handled other fruits such as citrus, pineapples, even tomatoes at Junction, St. Elizabeth. In February 1939 GPO Kingston installed a telephone and telegraphic systems at Junction Post Office, after lobbying by the Jamaica Agricultural Society. (Fig. 15).

On 15 January 1931 a plethora of small ads began to appear in *The Daily Gleaner* asking for 'Reliable Agents' in remote parts to contact *The Gleaner's* offices. One ad required the applicant to be able to ride a bicycle for 20 miles a day, purportedly to sell *The Gleaner*!

Many of these locations were inhabited by *Germaican* Moravians: security had become an issue for the UFCo all over the Caribbean Basin; Germans were once again the enemy, but ironically they were all naturalised British Citizens, living in closed communities. Enquiries through Ewan Cameron, the late President of the Jamaican Philatelic Society, showed that these small ads were placed by the Jamaican Agricultural Society, on behalf of the UFCo, in order to recruit staff to maintain their remote postal agencies and private security. There were 590 such small ads placed until the onset of the war. Some 213 of these repeatedly asked for an 'Agent' for the village of Moravia, from 4 August 1933 until 5 March 1935. (Fig. 16).

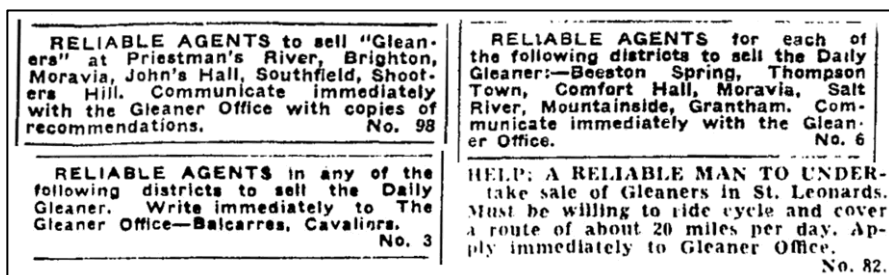


Fig. 16. 'Reliable Agents Required' small ads ran in *The Daily Gleaner* for the JAS

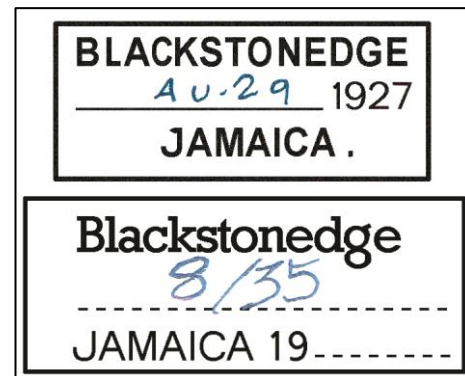


Fig. 17. Blackstonedged TRB1 (1927) and TRB2 (1935)

In August 1935 a second TRD suddenly appeared at Blackstonedged, the first for nearly five years. Unlike the first one back in 1927 with which this office was opened, it had nothing to do with the United Fruit Company. (Fig. 17). It was issued by the Security Services with the blessing of GPO Kingston. There had been trouble one year earlier, when a Chinese butcher in Blackstonedged, whose business was close to the Post Office, attacked several locals with a meat cleaver. He lopped off the end of a little girl's nose. On release from prison he had subsequently set fire to the village. The Post Office and much of Blackstonedged was gutted including his old butchers shop. Emergency TRDs were employed by the local Security Services and the JDC was sent back to London to be repaired: it had returned to service by June 1937. Ted Proud's date of 30 July 1935 for TRB2 (D3) is incorrect, as it could not have been made until after 7 August, as per *The Daily Gleaner*.



Fig. 18. White Sands Beach TRB, January 1936



Fig. 19. Alexander Bustamante formed his BITU Union after Frome

In January 1936 the White Sands Beach Hotel in Montego Bay started using a TRD (Fig. 18). This was possibly another security measure, as in February ex-Prime Minister David Lloyd George and his secretary/mistress Miss Frances Stevenson stayed there. *The Gleaner Archive* has been doctored and this front page news has been removed. After a week Frances slipped away, and 'The Old Goat' travelled by train to Kingston to pick up his wife! They journeyed back to Montego Bay and stayed with William Bross Lloyd an American millionaire relative. His son-in-law was one Harvey O'Conner, the noted Jamaican marophilist and communist editor, from Rhode Island. Lloyd George and Frances were later married.

In May 1938 political trouble started at Tate & Lyle's new factory at Frome. Many poor workers were expecting to get jobs at the cane factory, but they were to be disappointed. The Kingston Military intervened and four persons were killed. This inflamed the whole island and but for the intervention of Alexander Bustamante things might have been far worse (Fig. 19). It is probable that Governor Denham was unable to cope and it was reported in *The Daily Gleaner* he had died of heart attack on 3 June 1938 (Fig. 20). This was not so as he had taken his own life, which explains why he was buried at sea, and not on hallowed ground. The name of Smith's Village or 'Dung Hill' as it was known locally, was changed in 1940 to Denham Town in his memory. (Fig. 21).



Fig. 20. Sir Edward Denham

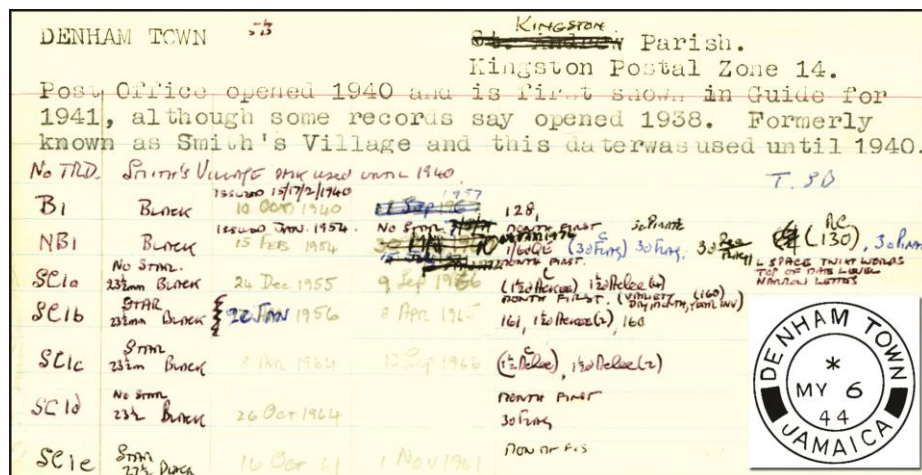


Fig. 21. Tom Foster's notes on Denham Town Post Office

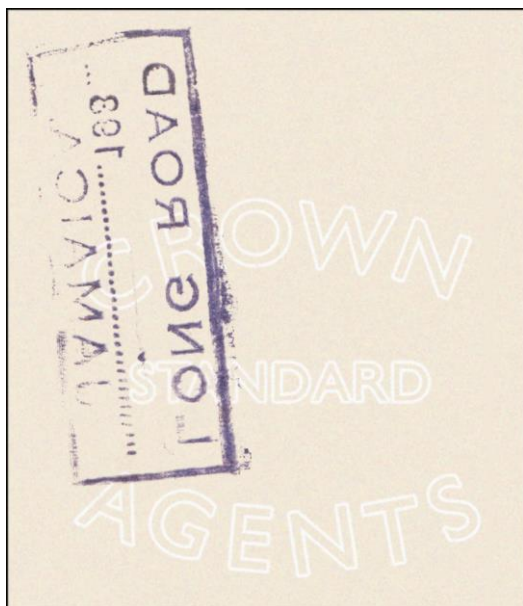


Fig. 22. Long Road TRB with Crown Agents Standard watermark, 1938 – Stanton

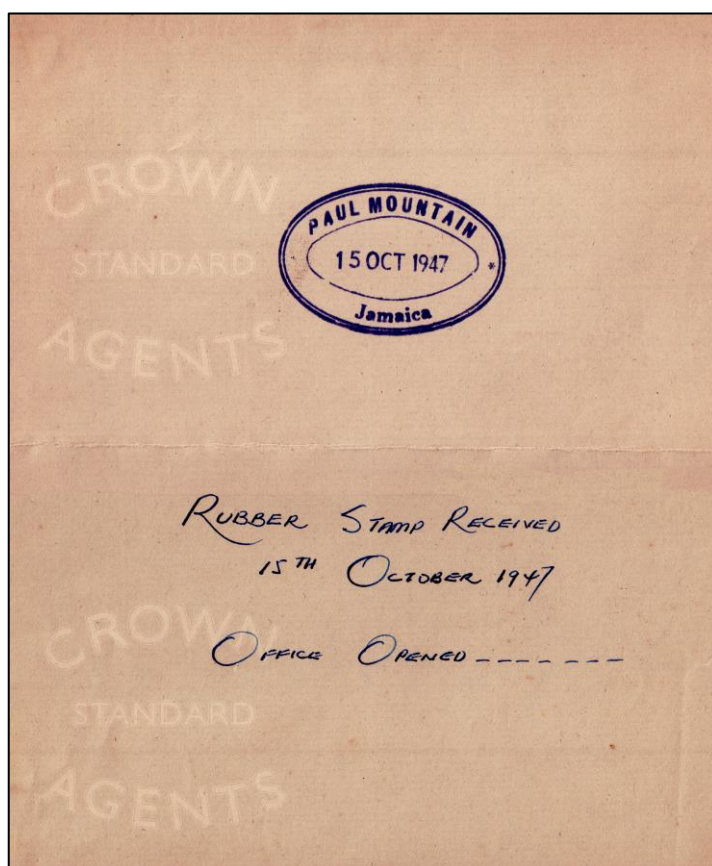


Fig. 23. Paul Mountain TRO with Crown Agents Standard watermark, 1940 – Groeber

Despite all of this 1938 was a record year for Banana production and the new KGVI 3d definitive appropriately featured 'Bananas'. In December a TRB for Long Road was issued. This postmark has seemingly never been seen used – however, Ray Stanton has a proof on thick cartridge.

Held up to the light it bears the watermark of the Crown Agents, the first proof that has linked the issuance of the TRDs to the Crown Agents. (Fig. 22).

Last year I reported on the discovery of the Crown Agent's watermark on a TRD proof in Heidelberg. It was the TRO from Paul Mountain dated 15 October 1947. (Fig. 23).

A third example has recently emerged and was issued by the Jamaica Agricultural Society in 1949 – I will deal with that and the post-Frome fallout in the next instalment.

GPO Kingston opened some 50 offices throughout the thirties, *without* the familiar TRDs. It is a myth that the TRDs had always been used to open post offices. They were issued for independent commercial interests, mainly the United Fruit Company, to open postal agencies until a JDS steel canceller arrived from the Crown Agents in London. That all changed after the 'Phony War' in 1939/40: 'Commercial Intelligence' was now an interest of the Security Services now that bauxite had been discovered in Jamaica.

My thanks to Karl Groeber, Paul Wright, Andrew Fowles, Ray Stanton, Steve Jarvis, Michael Hamilton and Keith Moh.

TRD = Temporary Rubber Datestamp TRB = Temporary Rubber Box TRO = Temporary Rubber Oval
JDC = Jamaica Double Circle JAS = Jamaica Agricultural Society UFCo = United Fruit Company
ERD = Earliest Recorded Date

(To be continued)

I don't know enough about Jamaica TRD's to comment on the main drift of this article. However, I am conscious that there are different views about the date that 'Postal Agencies' came into existence, much later than David implies. In addition, I have insisted in the past and will continue to insist until proved differently, that the London Crown Agents had nothing to do with the Jamaican TRDs. The probable explanation for the use of Crown Agents paper, and clearly there were different kinds of paper involved, is that high grade paper was not made on the island. It was imported and supplied for government use with Crown Agents watermarks. In arguing that it is proof of the London Crown Agents involvement you could equally argue that it is proof that the TRDs were made in the UK, and we know that is nonsense. It might also be asked why anybody from outside the Jamaican Post Office should want to make a proof of a TRD, unless they were a budding marcophilist or intent on forging samples for interested collectors.



Graham Booth

**Quality
British Commonwealth
POSTAL HISTORY**

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

ALWAYS KEEN BUYERS OF CHOICE POSTAL HISTORY

Willard S. Allman
P.O. Box 626, Franklin Lakes
New Jersey 07417, U.S.A.
Tel: 0 01- 201-848-8883
Fax: 0 01-201-847-8481



Argyll Etkin Limited

Biannual Public Auctions held in Central London with viewing at Stampex

Consignments sought
Competitive vendor terms offered –
complimentary catalogues sent upon request

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

Retail Stock available at our
central London offices
Further items available on our webstore
and eBay shops

webstore: www.argyll-etkin.com
eBay: argylletkin.royaltyhistory

Drop in and see us at our new offices:
2nd floor, 1, Wardour Street, London W1D 6PA
Tel: +44 (0)20 7930 6100
Email: philatelists@argyll-etkin.com

250-256 CORINPHILA AUCTION 7-12 SEPTEMBER 2020



www.corinphila.ch



Highlights from the September 2020 sale

- **British West Indies** – The 'BESANÇON' Collection (part I)
- **British Post Offices Abroad** – The 'DUBOIS' Collection (part II)
- **Great Britain 1840-1910** – The 'BESANÇON' Collection (part II)
- **Austrian Post Offices in the Levant** – The Werner Schindler Collection
- **Austria & Lombardo-Veneto** – The ERIVAN Collection (part II)
- **Switzerland**, incl. The Jack Luder Collection (part VI)
- **All World**, incl. Austria, Rhodesia – The 'BESANÇON' Collection

ORDER AUCTION CATALOGUES NOW

Postage for a complete set of 7 catalogues
CHF 20.- · EUR 20.- · US \$ 30.- · GB £ 20.-
(including 6 hard bound auction catalogues)

OR VISIT WWW.CORINPHILA.CH

- Internet Auction Catalogues online
- Online live bidding: registration online



CORINPHILA AUKTIONEN AG
WIESENSTR. 8 · 8032 ZÜRICH · SWITZERLAND
Telefon +41-44-3899191
www.corinphila.ch

CORINPHILA VEILINGEN BV
AMSTERDAM · NETHERLANDS
Telefon +31-20-6249740 · www.corinphila.nl

TURKS ISLANDS

A TURKS ISLANDS 'UGLY DUCKLING' OR 'MAGNIFICENT SWAN'?

BY ANDREW HEARN

The hunt is always long and varied and we wonder sometimes why we bother!



SG14ba



SG14ba reverse

A few years ago, I came across this 'UGLY DUCKLING' stamp. Is it a good looker? – NO. Is it nicely coloured? – NO. Is it in good condition? – NO, but on closer inspection much better than originally thought. Is the overtype genuine? – MAYBE. Is the overtype crisp – NO and furthermore rather smudgy. There is gum (?original) plus hinge. Overall, it is definitely in the FADED GLORY bracket!!!

But wait, what stamp is it – a quick flurry points towards SG14ba.

Do I have one? – NO. What is the Catalogue Value? You must be pulling my leg!!!

With trepidation, I send it to the RPSL Expert Committee for their opinion. Their report states – Quote: Turks Islands 1873-79 SG No 14ba. ½ on 1s lilac – surcharge type T6 variety double and without bar – unused – very toned and faded, repaired and reperforated bottom and lower right – subject to condition – is genuine. Unquote.

Everyone is entitled to an opinion, and I think their comments on repaired and reperforated are a little harsh. So be it.

So at Catalogue £14,000 does it suddenly become a 'MAGNIFICENT SWAN'? Only the eye of the beholder knows its worth. After all, it is obviously very rare. Instead of a smudge, it has a superb double overprint plus the bar is missing. Do you have one in your collection? I did not pay catalogue price (nowhere near it). But if you are really keen I will be happy to pass it on at SG Catalogue value! Meanwhile I have a 'MAGNIFICENT SWAN' in my collection.

STEVEN ZIRINSKY

MEMBER PTS, APS, NZSDA, APTA

Stamps - Revenues - Postal History - Commercial Mail

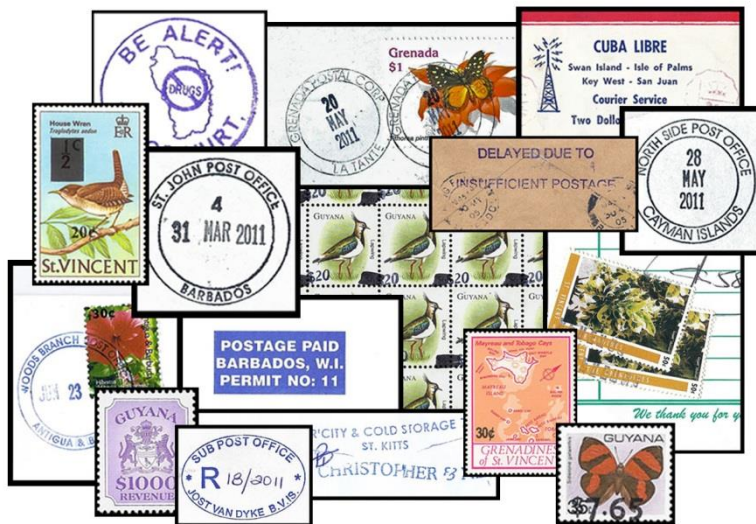
Local Commercial Mail

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

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

Earlier material available.

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



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

www.zirinskystamps.com

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

Chris Rainey Online

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

Visit my online shop
www.chrisrainey.com



INSURE Your Collection REPLACEMENT VALUE ALL RISKS, NO EXCESS

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

* plus Insurance Premium Tax

Includes Exhibition & Accompanied cover in Western Europe

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

SPECIAL SCHEME for SOCIETIES
Includes Public & Employers Liability

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

DEALERS COMBINED POLICY

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

STAMP INSURANCE SERVICES

C G I Services Limited (dept 33)
29 Bowhay Lane EXETER EX4 1PE
www.stampinsurance.co.uk

tel: 01392 433 949 fax: 01392 427 632

Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

AUCTION REPORT AUGUST 2020**BY GRAHAM BOOTH**

The Danish West Indies continues to intrigue. The fourth substantial sale in 18 months took place in California on 11 June. 73 lots were included by Schuyler Rumsey in their general sale and were 100% sold. Bidding was strong, and many items sold for 5 or 6 times the high estimate. The sale was biased in favour of destinations on the western side of the Atlantic, whereas the sale that followed two weeks later as part of Kohler's general sale (123 lots) favoured destinations on the eastern side and was nothing like so successful. This was not surprising. Although it included some new material it also included the unsolds from the two Hogensborg sales a year ago.

On the same day Kohler sold Jan Berg's fabulous collection of Private Ship Letter Stamps of the World, 216 lots all told. There is no way one can describe a sale in which 16 different lots sold for five figure sums as unsuccessful; but as far as I could judge, not being in the room, the sale was a curiously low key affair with many lots selling to a single bidder at the opening estimate. I suppose the truth is that you need very deep pockets to collect this topic on a world-wide basis and, perhaps, our markets are not as international as we think they are. For instance, the four expensive items from Princes Letter Despatch, which did not sell, would certainly have sold if offered in the United States.

Amongst the lots of most interest to our members, HAPAG continued to be strong and RMSP equally weak. Only one of the 6 lots sold: one of only three used adhesives known on cover did not make its start price of €14,000. In contrast, possibly the best unused version of the Lady MacLeod was knocked down at €18,000 after a fierce fight. Eight of the ten lots of the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance sold, despite the majority being relatively common, and the British Honduras 'Caye Service' on cover realised €2,400.

Feldman held their series of postponed auctions in early July. This included the unsolds from Charles Freeland's Bahamas and Peter McCann's Montserrat, the latter for the third time of asking. Neither did much business – prices too high and quality variable – although somebody, probably a crowned circle specialist, decided to spend over £10,000 with the uplift, as did a Post Offices Abroad collector, both in the Montserrat sale. The Cayman Islands material which appeared to be unsolds from the James Podger collection were in fact items bought by a U.K dealer after the sale, which he could not dispose of by direct sale. Only 3 of the 17 lots sold.

Clearly the main business of the week were the 'Tatiana' collections of which the Mauritius was the most important with some lots selling at 10 and 12 times estimate – the used block of six of SG 3 realising £80,000 and the total sale 95% sold. The St. Vincent was not far behind with 88% sold and Jamaica, although a much smaller group, 85% sold. The highlight here was the 1s orange with inverted frame from 1919 with a catalogue value of £40,000 which was knocked down at the low estimate of £15,000. Returning to St. Vincent, this was almost exclusively a philatelic sale. – 300 lots all told. Colour trials and proofs were a little softer than the adhesives themselves, particularly when we left Perkins Bacon for De La Rue, and prices realised straddled the estimates. So, on the face of it a highly successful sale. Provenance was excellent – Charlton Henry, Bessemer, Messenger, Caspary etc; but the name that dominated the sale was Peter Jaffé, almost half the lots came from the sales of his collection in 2006 and 2007 by Spink.

Unfortunately, St. Vincent is a prime example of bank hubris. A Japanese bank bought almost all the Messenger collection in 1983, but 10 years later was forced to sell to Peter Jaffé in a private treaty sale at a huge loss. 'Tatiana' apparently is a Swiss bank that bought much of Jaffé's collection at the peak of the market and has now made an equally big loss. The marginal block of 4 mint x 1s slate grey (SG11) was knocked down for £8,500 in 1906 and only achieved £1,400 this time, a loss of 83% and a block of 9 unsevered pairs of the ½d on 6d green which sold for £44,000 in 2006 only realised £11,000, a fall of 75%. At the other end of the range the used version of SG 27, the 1s watermark small star, of which only two are recorded realised £21,000 in the Jaffé sale and managed to retain 90% of its value this time, and a block of 4 mint SG 8, the 1s slate grey which had a hammer price of £14,000 in 2006 exceeded its high estimate by £2,000, nevertheless a drop of 43%. As a crude generalisation, the average collector's lots (those below £1,000) resulted in small losses, the 'investor' pieces, particularly the multiple blocks, lost between half and two thirds of the hammer price achieved in 2006.

Almost the only item to buck this trend was the only cover, registered to Hungerford from 1861, franked with 3 x 6d green and 2 x 1d reds which sold for £2,200 in 2006 and now was knocked down for £3,000. This may reflect the shift from philately to postal history over the last 20 years; but you cannot really conclude anything from a sample of one.

Spink held one of their Collector's series of sales on 9 and 10 July with viewing by appointment and a limited presence in the room. There was no hard copy of the catalogue, but this was a result of the Covid crisis and apparently does not represent a change in policy. I hope that is the case, because the absence of a hard copy makes following the auction and reporting on it much more difficult. The auction room is in the middle of a major renovation, so the video presentation was a little amateur. Looking outside our market for a moment it is entirely typical that a good collection of over 40 lots of the Toulmin packet to Australia struggled to find punters, whilst the adhesives in the 80 lots from the Cape of Good Hope were a roaring success. It included several small groups from different islands which attracted a lot of interest despite being imported from outside the European Union and therefore attracting an extra 5% tax. Spink compensated for this with some very conservative top estimates, which in many cases the hammer price exceeded.

A small group of covers from Antigua sold well. Two franked with 5 x 1d adhesives from the 1860s addressed to Nova Scotia made £520 and £600 against top estimates of £500, an 1869 cover to Bath franked with 4 x 6d, £750 versus £500, and an 1887 Winch Bros envelope franked with 3 x 1d and 2 x ½d £200 against £100. A small group from the Bahamas was less successful (only 5 out of 12 sold) with a 1902 Appendix sheet from De La Rue being knocked down for £2,500 against a low estimate of £3,000. A larger group from Barbados was 87% sold. Adhesives and specimens were soft. The three lots of keyplate Specimens did not sell even though priced well below the price at which they did not sell in the Foxley sale in 2017. The colour trials and essay proofs of the 1892 small seal set sold well, but at lower prices than in the Foxley sale. A very nice used 1856 black on magenta from British Guiana made £7,000 but the mint Cayman 5s salmon and green with a dented frame, with a low estimate of £3,000, did not sell. A small group of Dominica covers sold well but the success of the day was the 1877 cover from Montserrat to the UK franked with 2 x 6d which was knocked down for £1,900 – almost 5 times its top estimate. However, the estimate was on the low side. Some attractive but routine 4d rate covers from St. Kitts sold well, and it looks as though the market has absorbed the Brian Brookes sale. The same was true of an 1873 cover to the UK franked with 1s which matched its top estimate at £700.

The biggest group by far consisted of 71 lots from St. Vincent – mainly adhesives. Navigating one's way around the Colony's multiplicity of issues is a nightmare for the non-specialist at the best of times; but I set off to try and compare prices with the Tatiana sale. However, the variation in glue and perforation condition soon made me give up. As a generalisation 87% sold at similar prices and that seemed to be a good result for Spink.

In their general sale on 29 July the highlight of the Gibbons sale was a lovely collection of 42 lots of the Leeward Islands. For a while, following the sale online was exceedingly difficult as the sound was running 10 lots behind the screen – probably problems at my end rather than Gibbons; but most disconcerting. Three out of the four lots of manuscript RMSP cancels on cover failed to sell, not surprising as they were priced at historical highs of £1,000 to £1,200; but the remainder sold well with interest in the room, on the telephone and on line. Backing out the RMSP covers this group was 86% sold. The adhesives did reasonably well; but the strongest lots were mixed groups of covers and stamps that I had not viewed. Consequently, estimating value for money was impossible; but the Dominica and Nevis collections made triple and double their low estimates. The other small group worth mentioning consisted of 16 lots of St. Kitts & Nevis, all of which sold: in most cases at good prices confirming the current strong interest in this area. The three master die proofs for the 'Columbus' and 'Medicinal Spring' designs all exceeded the top estimate at £350 or £380, and the mint 5s from 1938 with a break in 'the oval at the foot' (SG 77bc) with a catalogue value of £350 realised a hammer price of £220. The only item not to follow this trend was the 1867, used, 1s yellow green on vertically laid paper which was knocked down at £1300, but well below the low estimate of £2000. On the second day it took a half hour for the sale to really get going, confirming my feeling that the technology is still not 100% secure. Including the proprietary platforms there must be a dozen similar, but different systems on offer amongst the major auction houses and some rationalisation appears inevitable.

The virus does not seem to have created a movement of people flocking to non-financial instruments, as is normal in a time of crisis, nor that of people preserving cash, indeed one American I spoke to thought collectors were spending money they had budgeted for their vacations. In the main prices have firmed over the last 4 months; but not dramatically. Maybe, with more time on their hands, collectors have identified and filled gaps in their collections. The September sales will be interesting. Spink are selling Charles Freeland's collections of St. Vincent, Nevis and St. Lucia and Corinphila will have Hugh Wood's Great Britain Used Abroad (although there are not many lots from the West Indies) and part 1 of the Besancon collection of the West Indies, which consists of over 1,000 lots.

NEW FROM BWISC PUBLICATIONS!

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The Stamps & Postal Stationery

by

Peter C. Ford FRPSL, Ed Barrow and David Druett

Following on from the two previous publications, one on Trinidad by Sir John Marriott and the other on Tobago, it seemed only fitting to complete the trilogy by publishing a book on the unified colony from 1913. This book covers the early De La Rue Britannia issues and the 1921–22 King George V issue up to the early QEII definitive stamps. Aside from this, commemorative stamps are examined, including some never issued; postal stationery, revenue stamps and surcharge issues are also included. There is a large chapter covering miscellaneous matters: Red Cross Stamps, War Tax Stamps and Official Stamps amongst others. Appendices include Printings and Consignments, Postal Rates and Postal Orders.

A4, Hardbacked, (viii) + 193 pages. ISBN 978-1-907481-42-0

Price: £48.00 (No members' discount)

FIRST AVAILABLE AT LONDON 2020 AT THE BWISC MEETINGS!

PRE-ORDERS WILL ENSURE AVAILABILITY!

CONTACT peterf@bwisc.org.



MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION**STEVE JARVIS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**IAN JAKES**

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

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

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

EDITOR'S REPORT**TERRY HARRISON**

The proposed publication schedule is as follows:

Edition	December 2020	March 2021	June 2021	September 2021
Distribute	Mon 23 Nov	Mon 8 Mar	Mon 7 Jun	Mon 23 Aug
From Printer	Tue 17 Nov	Tue 2 Mar	Tue 1 Jun	Tue 17 Aug
To Printer	Mon 26 Oct	Mon 8 Feb	Mon 17 May	Mon 26 Jul
Final Bulletin Revisions	Sun 25 Oct	Sun 7 Feb	Sun 16 May	Sun 25 Jul
Article copy deadline	Sat 10 Oct	Sat 16 Jan	Sat 1 May	Sat 17 Jul
Advert final copy	Sat 3 Oct	Sat 9 Jan	Sat 24 Apr	Sat 10 Jul
Advert book space	Sat 26 Sep	Sat 2 Jan	Sat 17 Apr	Sat 3 Jul

CURRENT RATES FOR ADVERTISING PER BULLETIN:

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

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

Please submit any enquiry re advertising to the editor.

West Indies

in London

Interesting and attractive material from the British West Indies features regularly at Grosvenor. For information on future auctions visit the Grosvenor website, **www.grosvenorauctions.com**

Consignments for future auctions are cordially invited. Vendor commission rates are negotiable for valuable consignments and fully inclusive with no hidden add-on fees. For confidential advice and further assistance contact **Constanze Dennis** or **Tom Margalski** at the address below.



GROSVENOR

399-401 Strand Third Floor London WC2R 0LT

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

www.grosvenorauctions.com