

## STUDY CIRCLE



31 July 1883, Dominica to St. Kitts, registered letter  
with 4½d bisected postage Postage 2½d, Registration 2d.

**SEE MIKE REGO'S ARTICLE ON THE 1871 BWI LEEWARD INTER-ISLAND AGREEMENT**



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**BULLETIN No. 267 December 2020**

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## **BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**

### **OBJECTIVES**

- 1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the 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.**

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**Web Site: [www.bwisc.org](http://www.bwisc.org)**

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

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## SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

### MEETINGS & EVENTS

**Saturday 24 April 2021** Committee meeting, AGM and Auction. To be held at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4N 7BW Details on times etc. to be finalised at a later date when more is known about the prevailing situation with the pandemic.

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

### BWISC Secretarial Role

I am very pleased to say that because of my appeal in the last issue of the Bulletin it appears highly likely that we will be able to relieve Steve Jarvis of his secretarial responsibilities. The role will be split into three – Membership, Meetings and Secretary. Steve will continue as Webmaster. I hope to make a firm announcement in the next Bulletin. We still have not had a volunteer to assume the role of Editor so please think about the possibility of taking on this role.

Graham Booth

### DE LA RUE REPAIR SERVICE

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT

I have frequently and truthfully to remind those who read what I write that I know almost nothing about how printers operate. I gather my information from what is written or, very occasionally, what is spoken and most carefully explained to me.

Thus I only have the vaguest idea of how DLR over the years have created plates for surface printing from original plates for recess-printing. In some admirable way they form individual 'leads' from the recessed mould of an engraved printing plate. I suppose the material is lead in fact, and when an individual lead is removed there will be part of one side standing proud. They then take their individual leads and somehow lock them together, (it became normal to do this in batches of 60) and, hey, presto, you have a plate ready to print a pane of 60.

I was reading an annotation to a DLR proof sheet and the words '60 leads plus 12 spares' swam across my ken. There was a sudden flash of dazzling inspiration. If there was a flaw in a plate position, all you had to do was unlock the plate, remove and replace the offending lead, re-lock. This would be like your car having a puncture and changing the tyre. DLR were meticulous, of course, so you wouldn't risk scrapping the leads while your mate was having a 19th century smoke (15 minutes) still less if the brand was Reske (10 minutes).

I wonder how I have spent so many years collecting stamps and have never had this revelation before.

## Letters to the Editor,

Sir,

Thank you for publishing my article "The Antigua Forgeries of Plácido Ramón de Torres" in the June edition of your Bulletin.

The article only aimed to present some Antigua forgeries and some bogus issues of Ireland and Brunei with the same design that I attribute to Torres.

But in an article in the August edition Chris Harman seeks not only to challenge my assertions, but to call into question what he calls my whole Torres "Forgery Fiction". It is in my humble opinion shameful, that an article that claims to refute supposedly wrong ideas, starts with personal criticism instead of presenting arguments backed up by his own facts related to its content in order to "... prevent future articles peddling such nonsense".

Mr. Harman devotes only a mere five sentences in his postscript to what I explained in the article, saying he does not know why I attribute the forgeries to the Spaniard, expressing his disagreement with the current attribution of those forgeries to Samuel Taylor and suggesting a later origin of some of the parallel bogus values. No real critics, no proofs: suggestions...

I'll try not to bore readers, with the explanations needed to put the record straight as these would require a very long article. I expect most readers of the BWISC Bulletin did not follow the sequence of discoveries documented during the last six years of research on Torres in more than 20 articles in philatelic magazines all over the world. They show step by step how I was able to identify the Spaniard as Moens' "graveur", how I could identify his "minor forgeries" and how understanding the very special, strange and extravagant methods and style of his forging led to the discovery of his deliberately introduced "errors" in the design of a certain percentage of his fakes and his particular cancellations. With this accumulated knowledge I could finally detect his really dangerous fakes I call his "major forgeries". Unfortunately, none of those key points is mentioned in Mr. Harman's criticism of my supposed "Forgery Fiction".

I will, nevertheless, consider the gauntlet thrown down in my direction. So let me first resume the critique of Mr. Harman related to historically demonstrable evidence.

1. Torres has only made forgeries of Spain.
2. Torres had no time to make more forgeries, because he was "being in and out of courts and jail".
3. "There's no reason to consider that he had any talent for engraving."

To No. 1: The German police published in its report made after his arrest in Bremen in 1886 and his trial three years later, that among his seized forged and genuine stamps were included a lot of other forgeries mainly of Italian and South American stamps. [My letter to the editor of *Fakes, Forgeries, Experts*, written after the publication of the Escalada article Mr. Harman relies on, correcting this and other later related, supposedly true facts, was, unfortunately, never published by the editor.] Even in the postmaster's article quoted by Mr. Harman, we read that the seized stamps and forgeries were "principally" Spanish.

Mr. Harman does not take into account either the article and evidence about Torres' early forgeries (mid-1860s to mid-1870s) published in English under the collaboration and supervision of the Italian expert Giorgio Miglavacca.<sup>(1)</sup> That the detractor ignores two further articles about this subject, may be excusable: they are published in (translated into) Italian.<sup>(2)</sup>

To No. 2: Torres grew up and lived in Italy where he worked for about 10 years (until autumn 1874). Afterwards he had to leave Italy and established in Spain, where he was active until 1900 or 1905, another 25 to 30 years. He was eight months in jail (1886/7) and he had to go back to Germany in 1889 for the trial to recover all his non Spanish forgeries and other stamps and forgeries that had remained there and which had not been seized.

In 1892 he spent about 14 days in jail after being arrested in Saint Louis. He avoided trial by coming to an arrangement with the accusers.

In 1894 he and the other three members of his gang were arrested in Malaga. They were released four days later without a trial and their printing stones of the “Melilla bogus” were returned, because they could present a certificate signed by the military governor of Melilla who accepted their “patriotic donation” of franchise stamps, paper sheets and envelopes and authorised their use. This release and the surrounding facts were only published in the local Malaga press.

So if we assume Torres spent a total of nine months in jail, there still remain 35 to maybe 40 years of active life time, enough to forge stamps and make stamp illustrations. Torres was certainly a workaholic. You can see it best when you consider the time he disposed to organise and design the Melilla-bogus issue, a “series” of more than 50 stamps, all different, representing all the units and vessels implicated in the military actions of the so-called “Margallo”-campaign.



Fig. 1.

To No. 3: At this point I would like to quote Mr. Rudolph Friederich, who wrote in his contemporary book on Spanish stamps about the Torres-affaire and aspects mentioned under No. 2 and to treat under No. 3<sup>(3)</sup>. He first makes clear that among the seized stamp forgeries there were as well those of other countries and, now that we are speaking about Torres’ talent, he quotes the report of the experts consulted by the judges who speaks of a superior quality of those items.<sup>(7)</sup>

Perhaps the critical reader may judge this opinion by having a look at the design of the above referred Melilla bogus stamps (fig. 1). The design is probably not very difficult to achieve and does not require a superior domination of the needed techniques, but I think it shows enough skill to discredit Mr. Harman’s opinion, about Torres’ missing talent as lithographer.

The evidence presented shows, in my opinion, that Mr. Harman’s assertions (Nos.1 to 3) are objectively wrong. They are not well reasoned nor did he verify the exactness of his sources.

I would also like to draw the reader’s attention to another conglomerate of assertions, where misinterpreted facts and evidence presented out of context, culminate in the allegation, that I’m not able to distinguish lithography from letterprint/typographic techniques.

Let’s first correct a fact where Mr. Harman relays again in the above referred Spanish expert Mr. Escalada-Goicoechea who had published an advertisement from Moens’ magazine *Le Timbre Poste* announcing the sale of thousands of galvanos (electrotypes), claiming its publication be “circa 1892” extending its “continuity” to the whole previous and later time of Moens’ business. This is objectively wrong! We find this advert one and only time, in the very last and reduced catalogue of 1899, when Moens closed up his business and sold his whole stock, the galvanos included!<sup>(5)</sup>

Torres “like many others publishers ... bought his clichés from Moens (or one of the other early dealers)” continues Mr. Harman. Not to unnecessarily extend this article I’d like to indicate for the critical reader various articles quoted in the next footnote, that show, who were Moens’ engravers, pardon “graveurs” and that Moens was not the distributor of the clichés and that he, as well as others, depended on a common distributor.<sup>(6)</sup>

The rest of the arguments and assertions of Mr. Harman are of personal character and have, in principle, nothing at all to do with Torres’ “major forgeries” we’ve been speaking about. My supposed ignorance of printing techniques, has no influence in the coming into being of those items and their identification as his works, explained in various publications.<sup>(7)</sup>



My recently published biography of Torres's should be of interest to critical readers, because, although published in Spain, it is written in English. It will also soon be available on the internet.<sup>(8)</sup>

I'll probably have to admit that as a non-native English speaker a *mea culpa* for using and translating not correctly some technical terms like "graveur" that is used by the Moens and his biographers to refer to the producers of his lithographic sheets.<sup>(9)</sup> But this pretended, but not real confusion of terms or concepts in my mind, even were it real, could not have any bearing on Torres' actually existing lithographic "major forgeries".

Mr. Harman is welcome not to share my conclusions. But I feel I have presented evidence and arguments.

Unfortunately, there is no "generally accepted view" on Torres as Mr. Harman claims in another article recently published in the *London Philatelist*. The Spaniard is unknown to most collectors and even to experts of forgeries of the different countries affected, most of whom were consulted before researching and writing my articles. Some of them even co-authored the corresponding articles. Varro Tyler was the last and, as far as I know, the only one, who wrote about Torres in the last decades (see Brian Birch's Tedesco-Index) with the exception of the repeatedly named Spanish expert who shortly mentioned him in his answer to my FFE-article.

I profoundly regret, that these comments have distorted what could or should have been a worthy forum for the beginning of a critical and serious discussion on facts and evidence which finally might revise some supposedly safely believed facts about 19th century forgers and forgeries

Yours sincerely

Gerhard Lang-Valchs

### Reference

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2. *Il conte Giulio Cesare Bonasi accusato di frode*, Qui Filatelia, sept. 2016, p. 5-9. . *I falsi italiani di Usigli e Torres*. Parma, QuiFilatelia, 96, p. 16-20. *I falsi italiani di Usigli e Torres*. Toscana, QuiFilatelia, 97, p. 14-16.
3. Rudolph Friederich: Die Postwertzeichen Spaniens und seiner Kolonien, Mäh<sup>2</sup>risch-Ostrau 1889, Berlin 1894, 2nd edition.
4. Ibidem, p. 21. "Die Fälschungen waren nach dem Bericht der genannten Sachverständigen sämtlich sehr gut ... und der Eindruck der Echtheit wurde noch erhöht durch eine vorzüglich nachgeahmte Abstempelung..." (p. 21).
5. [http://www.globalphilatelibrary.org/bl\\_crawford/documents/016667546.pdf](http://www.globalphilatelibrary.org/bl_crawford/documents/016667546.pdf), page 129.
6. *Newfoundland Discovery: 1866 Torres forgeries that correct those misidentified Moens fakes*, Newfoundland Standard Stamp Catalogue, 10<sup>a</sup> edition, 2016, p. 675-679.
7. *Los barquitos de Plácido Ramón de Torres*, Revista F.A.E.F. (Órgano de la Federación Argentina de Entidades Filatélicas), n° 147, ago. 2019, p. 19-34; *The Australian Footprints of a European Stamp Forger* (II), Australian Journal of Philately, #149, Sept. 2019, p. 5-13. (rep.) STAMP LOVER, vol. III, n° 5, Oct. 2019, p. 140-143. <http://actualidadfilatelica.blogspot.com/search/label/AUSTRALIA>
8. *Plácido Ramón de Torres. From Foundling to Master Forger*. Some chapters may be seen on the following website: <http://klimmeck.de/chapter-1> etc. [20.9.2020, 23.00]. It will later be transferred to: <http://torres.ephilately.de/> [web under construction].
9. *Los grabadores de Jean-Baptiste Moens*, Eco Filatélico, sept. 2017, p. 30-32 (1<sup>a</sup> parte); oct. 2017, p. 25-27 (2<sup>a</sup> parte). *Les graveurs de Jean-Baptiste Moens*, Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung, 4/2019, p. 126-131, 7-8/2019. *Die Lithographen des Jean-Baptiste Moens*, Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung, 1-2, Januar/Februar 2020, 3/März 2020, (Revised version.)

Sir,

## **Plácido Ramón de Torres – Forgery Fiction – Part 2**

Thank you for showing me a copy of Mr. Lang-Valchs response and criticism of my article in the last issue of the BWISC Bulletin. In this further commentary I have not repeated the references in the original article.

Can I first apologise if Mr. Lang-Valchs felt that my response was being rude to him personally. I do not mean to criticise the man, merely his conclusions and theories but, I suppose, in any analysis the author and his subject become inextricably intertwined. I am sorry for any perceived offence. I would also add that some of Mr. GL-V's research is most interesting but would contribute more to the sum of knowledge on the early forgeries if he gave up his obsession that Plácido Ramón de Torres was the maker of, it seems, most nineteenth century forgeries. I would suggest that he applies the same levels of research and critical faculties to the works of Torres that he does to the works of Spiro and others. If he did so, then he would soon dismiss most of his assertions regarding the source of these early forgeries as being the work of Torres. The fact is that we do not know who produced most of these forgeries and many attributions are no better than guesswork.

It does not seem sensible to try to answer individually the various points made by Mr. GL-V. Rather, I will delve deeper into the rationale as to why Torres is a most unlikely candidate as a mass producer of the illustrations and forgeries that Mr. GL-V is suggesting. One needs to start from the premise that there are many different forgeries produced in the early years of collecting. Most are fairly harmless if the collector has a reasonable knowledge of what the real thing looks like, but some are deceptive. There are also hundreds of dealers in forgeries made by others, who operated in most countries of the world. So a distinction needs to be made between who actually produced a forgery and who bought or sold it. As shown in my previous article, the history of Torres suggests that his record chimes better with him being more of a dealer than a maker.

**Firstly the timeline of these forgeries**—Mr. GL-V suggests that Torres was born in 1847. This would fit with other comments from Mr. GL-V that he had been working in Livorno, Italy for about 10 years in 1874. It would, however, make him somewhat of a prodigy were he to be the engraver of all the Moens illustrations at the birth of stamps collecting in about 1862. The first illustrated philatelic magazines, catalogues and albums date to 1862 and by 1870 thousands of stamps had been illustrated.

**Did Torres have any talent in engraving illustrations of stamps**—The only evidence offered would seem to be the album that Torres produced when living in Spain. This was dated 1879 (Ref. 1) and included the same illustrations as most other catalogues and albums of the time, namely the letterpress ones freely available for purchase from such as Jean-Baptiste Moens. To suggest that Torres engraved all the illustrations for Moens as opposed to buying them from Moens (or others) for the album is a remarkable inversion of logic.

**Are there any stamps that can definitely be attributed to Torres**—There are some that he was definitely closely involved with. Probably the closest that one can get to a possible attribution are the forged tax stamps of Catania relating to the fraud whilst he was living in Livorno and which led to him fleeing to Spain. Also, forgeries of Spanish stamps mentioned by Eduardo Escalada-Goicoechea in his article in *FFE* (Ref. 2) were being sold by Torres in Mexico and the USA in 1892 and he was also involved, having returned to Spain, in the stamps produced in the Melilla bogus stamp swindle in 1893–94. This last is commented on in Melville's *Phantom Philately*, published in 1923 (Ref. 3), and refers to the opinion of Moens that the scheme was hatched in Almeira, Spain, by a young man called Don Miguel Rodriguez Sanchez. It was generally believed that Sanchez was the leader and Torres merely an accomplice. This style of petty criminality would seem to be far more in keeping with Torres's career as a chancer and philatelic fraudster than the starring role attributed to him by Mr. GL-V as the maker of large numbers of illustrations and forgeries.

**Where would Torres have seen the stamps for which he allegedly engraved illustrations**—We are talking in this period of stamp collectors collecting on a worldwide basis, and often this would include revenue stamps, local stamps, telegraph stamps etc. as well as postage stamps.

Based on Torres's record as a fraudster, a fact that had been flagged by F. Trifet as early as 1877 (Ref. 4), was he likely to be a person that could be entrusted with newly discovered rarities so that he could engrave the illustrations. The alternative explanation that Moens, the most influential dealer of his time and publisher of magazines, catalogues and albums, would have had local illustrators who could work at speed to produce letterpress illustrations is a more likely explanation. As mentioned in my previous article, new issues and new discoveries were normally illustrated in the following month's issue of the Moens' journal *Le Timbre-Poste* (Ref. 5).

**Conclusion**—To suggest that a petty fraudster such as Torres was responsible for the engraving of letterpress illustrations of thousands upon thousands of stamps from all over the world that would be used to illustrate albums and catalogues produced on both sides of the Atlantic is stretching credulity. To extend this unlikely proposition to suggesting that Torres was also responsible for large numbers of lithographed forgeries is stretching credulity to breaking point.

Yours sincerely

Christopher Harman RDP, Hon. FRPSL

#### References

1. Torres, P. R. de, *Album Illustrado para Sellos de Correo*, 1879, Barcelona
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3. Melville, F. J., *Phantom Philately – A descriptive list of stamps that are not what theseem*, Emile Bertrand, Lucerne, 1923
4. Trifet, F., *F. Trifet's Monthly*, October 1877
5. Moens, J-B, *Le Timbre-poste, Journal du collectionneur*, 1863-1900, Brussels

**A line will now be drawn under this correspondence – Editor.**

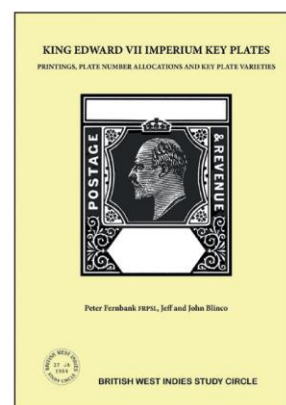
## KING EDWARD VII IMPERIUM KEYPLATES

*Printings, Plate Number Allocations and Key Plate Varieties*

by

Peter Fernbank FRPSL, Jeff and John Blinco

This work provides a study of the Imperium style key plate issues within the 16 colonies that employed this design. The formats of the key plates are determined and a detailed plating study of Key Plate 1 is provided, a rare example of such a study on a surface printing plate, whilst the 'Spaven' and 'Missing Frame' flaws are examined in depth. Philately has long misunderstood the format of Key Plate 2 and its true size and format is revealed. A study is made of the damage sustained to the marginal areas of the plates, particularly the marginal rules, which can assist in determining the date of printing of certain marginal examples. Individual colony sections list all printings for each colony and the use of ordinary or chalk-surfaced paper is recorded for all printings. The basis on which the plate number allocated to each printing has been deduced is given. Additional information has been derived from the De La Rue and Crown Agents records, together with that from philatelic literature, and any exceptional events noted.



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**B.W.I.****1871 B.W.I. LEEWARD INTER-ISLAND AGREEMENT****BY MIKE REGO**

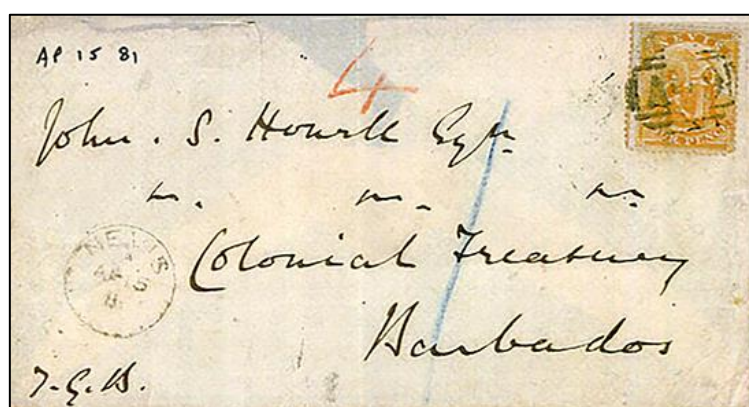
The Leeward Islands Act of 21 August 1871, incorporated the presidencies of Antigua & Barbuda, St. Kitts & Nevis and in 1882 Anguilla, Dominica, Montserrat and British Virgin Islands. The Council was divided into sixteen parts, Antigua 5, St. Kitts 4, Dominica 3, Nevis 2, Montserrat 1 and Virgin Islands 1. Not until 1893 did consolidation Acts begin to appear which included the Post Office and the Telegram system. At a similar time other parts of this Act, included Real Estate, Mercantile law, Births Deaths and Marriages, Criminal Law, Law Courts, General Police Force, Quarantine, Currency, Weights and Measures, Education, Immigration, etc.

On 1 July 1879 members of the Leeward Islands joined the UPU, which required postal rates and postal stationery to conform to a standard. Each island had to pay an annual fee, for example Montserrat's annual cost towards the Postal Union was £40. On the Leeward Islands entry into the Postal Union, letters were 4d per ½oz, Postcards 1½d each, Newspapers 1d per 4oz, Printed Papers and Patterns 1d per 2oz, and Commercial Papers had its lowest charge set at 2½d, and Registration 2d, all to be prepaid. However none of the Presidencies had a 2½d stamp in use. And as can be seen above the true postal reforms for the Leeward Islands did not get underway until 1893, which in the interim saw Antigua controlling much of the postal services and reforms.

The British West Indies and UPU postal rates on 1 July 1879 was 4d per ½oz or 15 grams, with a UPU full membership on this date. The Leeward Islands and other areas were entitled to a 2½d letter rate providing they were full UPU members, and that the postage distance was within 300 nautical miles.

As the Leeward Islands were all within the 300 miles rule, they were entitled to the 2½d letter rate per ½oz. Therefore each island required two stamp values for the British West Indies inter-islands, the 4d and 2½d. This situation continued to 1 January 1891 when an all British colonies 2½d rate was introduced (see table).

*A Post Office Notice or an official statement, is still required to establish the start date of this 2½d 1882/3 service.*



15 Apr 1881, Nevis to Barbados, 5d rate, GB 4d red credit, 1d blue charge for Barbados delivery  
Note, cover used prior to the 1882 2½d rate agreement.



15 Nov 1883, Nevis to Dominica,  
2½d letter rate within 300 nautical miles  
agreed rate of 2½d for the Leeward Islands.



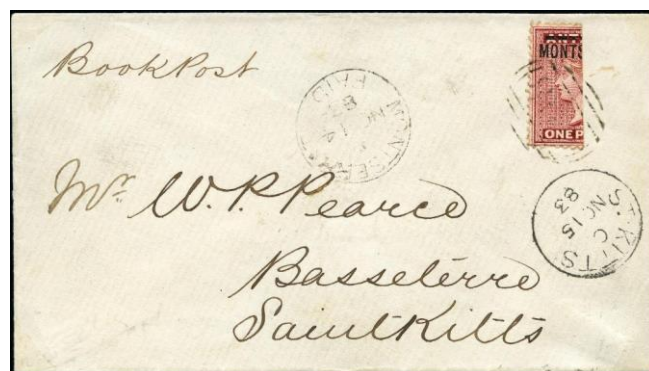
11 Dec 1883, Montserrat to St. Kitts (12 Dec),  
2½d rate employing a concocted trisected  
and more of a 6d stamp.



15 Dec 1883, Crown Paid letter,  
Montserrat to St. Kitts (16 Dec).  
Manuscript 2½d in violet instead of red crayon.



14 Sep 1883, Nevis to Antigua, 2½d Leeward  
inter-island reduced rate.



14 Nov 1883, ½d book post printed matter,  
Montserrat to St. Kitts.



19 Dec 1888, Dominica to St. Kitts (2 Jan),  
showing 2½d inter-island letter rate.



27 Feb 1890, St. Kitts to Antigua, 2½d  
inter-island reduced rate, less than 300 miles.





Antigua,  
MR 24 88



Dominica,  
Unused 1884



Montserrat,  
Unused 1885



Nevis,  
Unused 1883



St. Kitts,  
Unused 1884



Virgin Is.,  
Unused 1884

Each of the above stamps was the standard Leeward Islands 2½d letter rate, 1882–1890

### 1882 BWI Windward Inter-island Arrangement

During 1882 Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago and Trinidad came to a postal arrangement, sanctioned with the UK, that a reduced letter rate from 4d per ½oz to 2½d would be applied to these six BWI colonies provided that the distance between islands was no more than 300 nautical miles.

Prior to the postal rate being published, there was a need to acquire 2½d postage stamps to meet the agreed rate. At this time the main island hub involved with much of the British West Indies postal communications was with Barbados, as they were the first and last port of call for mail trans-Atlantic steamers leaving Southampton, and additionally the port where mail was dropped off, for both the BWI Northern Islands mail-boat route and likewise the Southern Islands schedule including Demerara.

The Barbados Postmaster-General issued the first public announcement on the new postal rates for the six islands on 5 March 1882, followed by the Trinidad Postmaster-General on 8 March, confirming the inter-island letter rate, post card, and other printed matter charges, to be effective on 1 April 1882.

348	TRINIDAD ROYAL GAZETTE.	[March 8, 1882.]
<b>NOTICE</b>		
<p><b>I</b>S hereby given that on and after the 1st April next the following rates will be collected on correspondence to Tobago, Grenada, St. Vincent and Barbados, viz. :—</p>		
On Letters, per ½ oz.	...	2½d.
On Post Cards (each)	...	1d.
On Newspapers, Printed Papers, Books, &c., per 2 oz....	...	½d.
Commercial Papers—Same as Printed Papers, except that the lowest charge for each packet is	...	2½d.
Patterns—Same as Printed Papers, except that the lowest charge for each Packet is...	...	1d.
<p>Post Cards on which a penny stamp may be affixed will be ready for issue on the 1st April.</p>		
<p>8th March, 1882.</p>		
<p>JAS. W. O'BRIEN, Postmaster-General.</p>		

Table 1

UPU membership; Trinidad 1 April 1877, Grenada 1 February 1881, St. Lucia 1 February 1881, Tobago 1 February 1881, Barbados 1 September 1881 and St. Vincent 1 September 1881.

The inter-island postal rate at that time was 4d per ½oz, so why was the 2½d stamp from two of these islands already existing by 1 April 1882. The two colonies involved in this agreement had a prior need for a 2½d postage stamp, Grenada and St. Lucia.

In the case of St. Lucia the Inland letter rate on 1 Jan 1881 was 1d per ½oz, but was soon amended that year on 14 December 1881 to 2½d per ½oz. *The same may well apply to Grenada.*

On Saturday, 1 April 1882 the islands Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Vincent were only partly ready for the new inter-island communication with surcharged 2½d stamps. St. Vincent issued its new inter-island rate table on 12 April 1882, but the surcharged 2½d stamp was not ready for use until 1883.

#### Issued dates of the 2½d postage stamps



Aug 1882



Apr 1881



Sep 1881



Feb 1883



Apr 1883



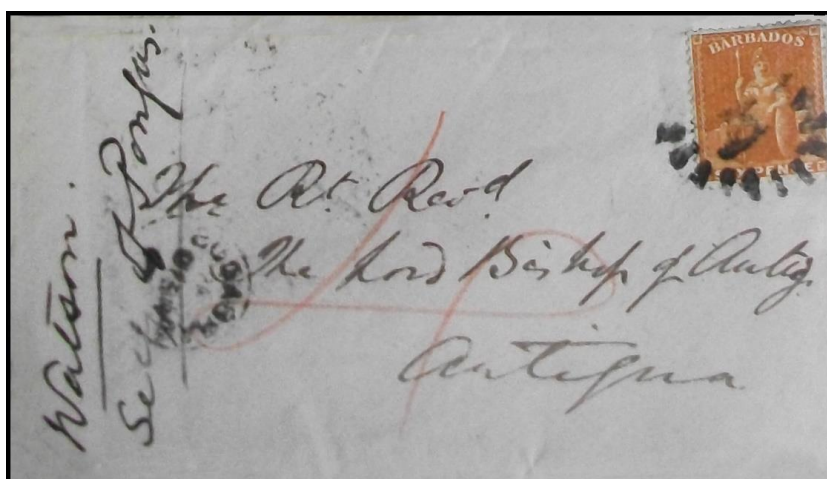
Dec 1882 ?

Barbados was late for the new Windward inter-island rate of 1 April 1882, with its 2½d stamp released in August 1882. Both Tobago and Trinidad likewise had no suitable 2½d issue until 1883. While this scheme was limited to the Windward Islands group 'controlled' by Barbados, one would think a similar system would have been established for the Leeward Islands under Antigua. Possibly the cost was not appropriate to acquire a 2½d design against the small amount of mail transmitted and its tiny revenue income between these islands.

*Finding a cover from any of the six islands employing the 2½d rate, during 1882-1890, is challenging.*

It was not until 1 January 1891 when all British colonies were favoured with a 2½d letter rate throughout the British West Indies.

4d GB credit sea rate, prior to 2½d concession inter-island rate less than 300 miles



10 Feb 1879, 6d letter, Barbados (non UPU) to Antigua (non UPU).  
1d Barbados, 4d GB sea rate, 1d Antigua

Note; prior to the 1882 2½d rate, the BWI all-inclusive 6d, had to be agreed by either island, to help reduce accountancy book-keeping which was still carried out for the GB sea rate. The mandatory rate was 5d, GB 4d sea rate, 1d inland origination rate to sea port, with the destination rate having to be agreed by the sending and receiving country, prior the UPU membership.

## RATES OF POSTAGE.

*On and from 1st January, 1891, the undermentioned Rates of Postage will be collected in Trinidad.*

### FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.

CLASS A.			
Accra	Cyprus	Leeward Islands	*Queensland†
Antigua	Dominica	Malta	Sierra Leone
*Ascension (c) (in)	Falkland Islands	Maturin	Sarawak
*Australia, South and West	*Fiji Islands†	Mauritius	Singapore
Bahamas	Gibraltar	Montserrat	Straits Settlements
Barbados	Gambia	*Natal	*St. Helena
Bechuanaland	Grenada	Newfoundland	St. Kitts
Bermuda	Gold Coast	Nevis	St. Lucia
British Columbia	Guirra	New Brunswick	St. Vincent
British Guiana	Hong Kong	*New South Wales†	*Tasmania
British Honduras	India	*New Zealand	Turks Island
Burmah	Jamaica	Norfolk Island	United Kingdom
Canada	Labuan	Penang	*Victoria (Australia),
*Cape Colony	Lagos	Prince Edward Islands	Virgin Islands.
Ceylon			

\* Countries marked thus are not in the Postal Union—(c) denotes that prepayment is compulsory—

† The weight of a packet is limited to 3 lbs.—(in) denotes that registration is incomplete.

Table 2



27 Nov 1882, Trinidad to Barbados(29 Nov),  
2½d inter-island service



2 Oct 1882, Trinidad to Tobago  
2½d inter-island letter





8 Oct 1882, Trinidad to Tobago  
2½d inter-island letter



27 Jan 1883, Trinidad to St. Vincent  
½d printed-matter mail



6 Feb 1883, Tobago to Trinidad (7 Feb),  
2½d 300 nautical miles letter rate



27 Feb 1883, Trinidad to St. Vincent, piece,  
registered 2d, and 2½d postal rate



2 March 1883, Tobago to Trinidad (3 Mar),  
engineered, five bisected 1d making 2½d rate



20 Oct 1883, ½d Grenada to Trinidad,  
showing bisect ½d printed-matter rate.

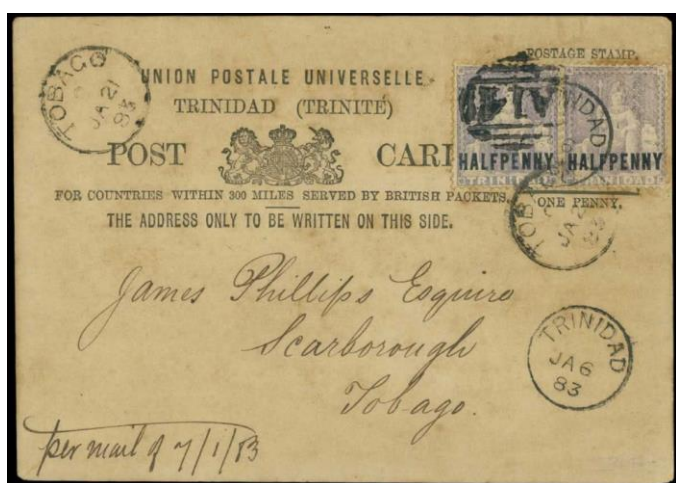




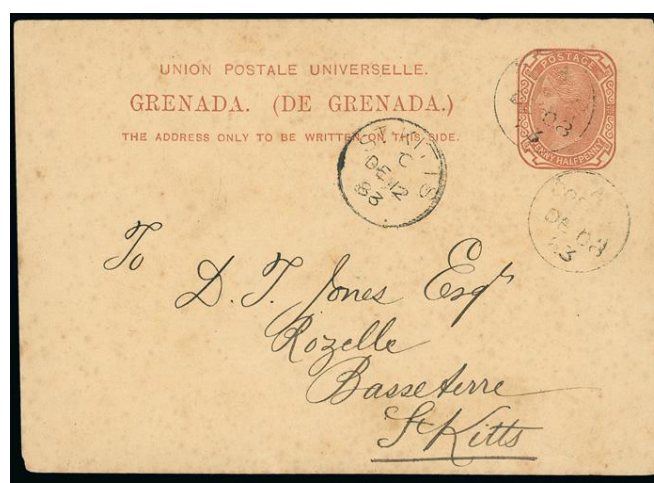
28 Nov 1884, Calliaqua, St. Vincent to Barbados,  
2½d letter rate



9 Dec 1888, 7d registered letter, St. Lucia to  
Georgetown, St. Vincent (14 Dec)  
Note; scarce double rate 2½d letter inter-island  
rate, plus 2d registration.



6 Jan 1883, Trinidad (6 Jan) to Tobago (21 Jan),  
1d Postcard rate within 300 miles correct use



08 Dec 1883, Grenada to St. Kitts (12 Dec), 1½d  
Postcard rate, over 300 miles (approx. 360 miles)



Barbados,  
10 Oct 1884



Grenada,  
6 Jan 1888



St. Lucia,  
22 Dec 1888



St. Vincent,  
21 Jul 1889



Tobago,  
Unused 1884



Trinidad,  
2 Sep 1885

The 2½d value employed on the Windward Island letter rate, 1882 - 1889



Jan 1883, Dominica to Trinidad (20 Jan 83), showing 4d correct BWI inter-island rate  
for Leeward Is to Windward Is.



27 Nov 1882, 4d Trinidad to Roseau, Dominica (2 Dec), showing correct 4d BWI inter-island rate, as Dominica was not in the Windward Island group at this time.



11 Jan 1887, 2½d Barbados to St. Kitts, 300 nautical miles (actual 310) inter-island rate. This is a **bogus** cancellation, and a doubtful address "South Plantation" and "Leeward"

### 'ST. VINCENT COLONIAL REPORT, 1881'

The enactment of St. Vincent entering the International Postal Union, had reduced the rates of postage from one shilling to 4d, although £300 has been voted by the Legislature to meet the possible loss which this diminution of rates may entail. I am not without hope that this colony will not for any lengthy period be called upon to place this item on the annual estimates.

Now that the Royal Mail steamers always bring cargo and seldom takes any away, the number of steamers entering exceeds very largely the number clearing. For example in July 1880 the discrepancy in the number of vessels was four and in the amount of tonnage 5502. This was the first month's operations under the new system to record a very large number of steamers, and a large emigrant ship which only landed one ton of goods, but as she only embarked return immigrants she did not clear.

#### Vessels entering and clearing St. Vincent July 1880

Vessel	Tons Gross	Tons of Goods	Remark
S.S. <i>Kaiteur</i>	803	65	entered
ditto	ditto	3	cleared
RMS <i>Dee</i>	1,853	31	entered
Immigrant ship <i>Hourah</i>	1,098	1	entered
S.S. <i>Potaro</i>	810	66	entered
ditto	ditto	1	entered
ditto	ditto	1	cleared
RMS <i>Solent</i>	1,908	7	entered
ditto	ditto	4	cleared
RMS <i>Seven</i>	1,736	40	entered

Table 3

Signed, Augustus Frederick Gore, Lieutenant-Governor

### 'GRENADA COLONIAL REPORT, 1881'

The receipts from the sale of postage stamps during the year amounted to £596.17s.1d, Annexed is a table showing the number of letters, papers and books received and forwarded during the year.

#### Amount of Mail in lbs weight for Grenada, 1881

Received	Letters	Papers	Books
British	212	2,000	1,313
Inter-colonial	9,452	5,538	458
Sent	letters	Papers	Books
British	147	2,155	102
Inter-colonial	10,800	2,294	385

Grenada this year was admitted into the International Postal Union. The mails to and from the UK and between several neighbouring colonies, were carried by the RMSP twice a month. Towards the latter end of the year the firm of Messrs A. Hubbard & Company imported a coasting steamer, which the government have subsidised at £400 a year, to carry mails daily to and from several districts.

### **'GRENADA COLONIAL REPORT, 1885'**

On the 2 June 1885 the island of Barbados was severed from the Government of the Windward Islands, and under new Letters Patent, dated 17 March 1885, the office was constituted of Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Windward Islands, comprising the islands of Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, Tobago, St. Lucia and their dependencies, of which group his Excellency Walter Joseph Sendall was appointed Governor-in-Chief with headquarters at Grenada.

*Did this make a difference to the initial 1.4.1882 'Windward Islands' postal rate, as a PO Ordinance was passed during the year of 1885.* Ordinance No.8 of 1885 consolidated and amended the laws relating to the Post Office. And a similar Ordinance No.9 was passed relating to the Police.

### **'TOBAGO COLONIAL REPORT, 1881'**

Tobago joined the UPU on 1 Feb 1881, and later that year in December 1881, a 2½d rate was announced for destinations within the 300 mile radius.

By an enterprise of a gentleman in London and a few others in the Island, who enrolled themselves as a company under the style of "The Tobago Steam Ship Company" a small steamer was brought out in July 1881 to run between this and the neighbouring Islands. This firm received a subsidy from the local government for bringing the mails from Barbados in the middle of the month when the RMSP vessel did not come this way, and for taking the mails to Barbados to meet the Company's vessel leaving for the UK on the 29th of the month. They also received certain concessions in port charges.

Unfortunately this steam vessel ran onto rocks a few weeks after service was started, while landing cargo in a bay to the northward of the Island, and became a total wreck. It was hoped the Tobago Steamship Company would see their way to carrying on with another, and perhaps larger steamer, so the enterprise which was recently undertook, fully satisfied a public want.

*Source;* Michael Hamilton notes and lists, Graham Booth collection studies, Author's collection, Tim Pearce, Guy Kilburn, Spink Stamp Auctions, Grosvenor Auctions, Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogues.  
Editorial note: All illustrations have been reduced in size.

## **JAMAICA**

### **2020 UPDATE TO THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF JAMAICAN PHILATELY, VOLUME 9**

**BY**

**PAUL FARRIMOND & RAY MURPHY**

The revised edition of Volume 9 of the Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately covering "Military, Censorship & Patriotic Mails" was issued in 2015, and since that time the authors have collected new information for irregular updates. The first update was made available in 2017, and there is now a second update (August 2020) that can be found on the BWISC Publications page of the website, under the listing for the book itself. Both updates are provided as pdf files that can be freely downloaded.

We are grateful to everyone who has provided us with information on Jamaican military mail, and hope that this will continue so that further updates can be made periodically.



**JOHN & MARK TAYLOR****MONTERRAT**

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**BRITISH WEST INDIES OFFERS FROM STOCK**

<b>BAHAMAS.</b> 1918 3d 'WAR TAX' overprint inverted. Very fine mint. Rare. Ex Ludington. SG 94b. <b>£700</b>	<b>MONTERRAT.</b> 1883 1d red in block of four. Very fine mint. SG 6. <b>£225</b>
<b>BARBADOS.</b> 1869 (4d) dull vermilion in block of four. Exceptionally fresh. Rare multiple. RPS Cert. SG 28. <b>£850</b>	<b>ST. LUCIA.</b> 1905 6d with 'damaged frame and crown'. Very fine mint. SG 72a. <b>£250</b>
<b>BARBADOS.</b> 1920 1d Victory with 'C' of 'CA' missing from watermark. Very fine mint. RPS Cert. SG 203a. <b>£400</b>	<b>ST. LUCIA.</b> 1930 2d Due imperf between (vertical pair). Very fine unused. Exceptional rarity. SG D2a. <b>£5500</b>
<b>B. GUIANA.</b> 1881 '2' on 24c with 'No.50 CORRENTYNE COAST' c.d.s. 'JA 27 82'. Very rare thus. SG 158. <b>£500</b>	<b>ST. VINCENT.</b> 1875 6d deep blue-green. Very fine mint with excellent colour. Extremely scarce. SG 19b. <b>£1100</b>
<b>B. HONDURAS.</b> 1932 Relief Fund set in corner Plate blocks of four. Superb used. SG 138/142. <b>£300</b>	<b>ST. VINCENT.</b> 1881 4d on 1/- with 'short bar at left'. Very fine used 'K' for 'NO 2881'. RPS Cert. SG 35. <b>£450</b>
<b>CAYMANS.</b> 1933 ¼d Centenary with 'A' of 'CA' missing from watermark. Unmounted mint. SG 84a. <b>£1200</b>	<b>ST. VINCENT.</b> 1915 1d on 1/- 'PENNY' and bar double. Very fine mint. BPA Cert. SG 121c. <b>£375</b>
<b>JAMAICA.</b> 1916 3d 'WAR STAMP' block of four with 'S' in 'STAMP' omitted (R.6/6). Very fine mint. SG 72b. <b>£475</b>	<b>VIRGIN ISLANDS.</b> 19041/- 'damaged frame and crown'. Very fine mint. Unrecorded by Gibbons. SG 60var. <b>£225</b>

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

**MARK HARVEY**

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## ANTIGUA

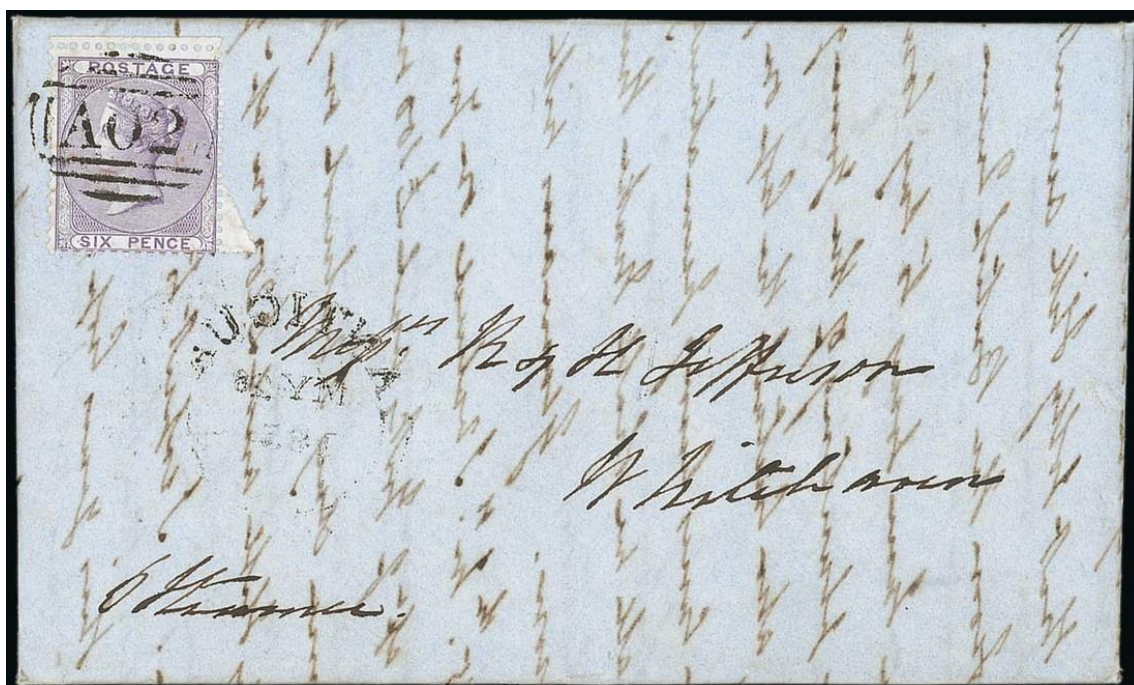
### UPDATE ON THE EARLIEST USE OF G.B. STAMPS

BY JOHN JORDAN

There have been two excellent responses to my article about a G.B. used in Antigua cover dated 18 July 1858. Thanks separately to Ken Gordon and Simon Richards for providing information on not just one, but two, earlier examples.

Ken forwarded details of a G.B. 6d cancelled by an 'A02' on a part cover with an Antigua double-ring cds dated 28 June 1858. The date corresponds to the RMSP's second sailing in June. This item provided the earliest known date for 'GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings' by John Parmenter and Ken Gordon (2016).

However, honours for finding the earliest known use go to Simon Richards. His records turned up an EL from the Jefferson correspondence bearing a G.B. 6d used on 28 May 1858. It sold in the David Pitts Leeward Islands at Spinks on 24 January 2017. Its obverse is illustrated here. The catalogue had no image of the reverse, but the date is clearly stated and you can almost make it out on a kiss print offset of the cds on the obverse.



The 28 May 1858 date points to the second sailing of the RMSP feeder in May. Since London sent the 'A02' obliterator to St. John's on 17 April 1858, it probably arrived in early May. It could conceivably have been used for the first sailing and be dated 13–14 May, but the probabilities of a survivor turning up at this remove must be small.

The 'Antigua' book went to press in early 2016, so Charles Freeland and I were blissfully unaware of either of these items.

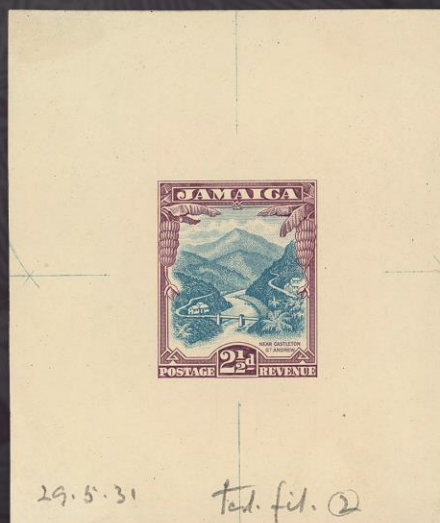
Simon also kindly established a provenance for my cover, namely the Christie's Toeg sale on 12 December 1990. There it is dated 18 July 1858. That is clearly a misreading of 13 July, because otherwise the cover would have missed both the feeder and transatlantic sailings. The culprit, once again, is the use of miniscule substitute fonts during the last days of a very creaky old cds.

So, the earliest known use of G.B. in Antigua is now 28 May 1858. But you never know. If you turn up one dated 13–14 May 1858, you have found Antigua's first FDC.

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## TRINIDAD

### THE WESTON COVERS – A MYSTERY SOLVED

BY SUSAN TAYLOR & NIGEL MOHAMMED

Do you ever wonder, as you hold an old cover in your hand, who wrote the envelope and what the person to whom it is addressed was like? It's incredible how much one can discover, even in the Lockdown, with the assistance of philatelic colleagues, the local museum and the Internet. As a new member in the Philatelic Society of Trinidad and Tobago; I studied a presentation on the Britannia Stamps of Trinidad by Nigel Mohammed with interest and was intrigued to see two covers addressed to the Weston family in the High Street, Godalming (my local market town). Why would someone be writing from Trinidad to an address in Godalming in the 1800s?

Nigel was also curious. He checked his records and found he had six covers addressed to the Westons. The covers on Plates 14, 36 and on Page 219 of 'Trinidad A Philatelic History to 1913' looked to be from the same person. Ancestry<sup>(1)</sup> made it possible to establish through census records that Charles Frederick Weston ran an ironmongery business, in Godalming High Street, in 1881. At the time there were many plantations employing indentured workers in Trinidad – but it seemed unlikely that anyone would want tools made in Godalming to be shipped to Trinidad. Some of the letters were addressed to Mrs. Weston and it seemed that the writer might be a relative. Ancestry revealed that Charlotte Weston's maiden name was Prestoe. Her brother, Henry Prestoe, was Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Trinidad from 1864 to 1887. So here is the story of Henry Prestoe and his brother-in-law Charles Frederick Weston, illustrated by covers, photographs, wrappers, news cuttings, and postcards – enjoy! A list of research references is attached.

### THE STORY

Henry Prestoe was born in Andover on 6 January 1842. His father and brother were both gardeners. Henry worked at Kew Botanical Gardens from 1860 to 1863. In 1864, aged 22, Henry succeeded Dr Crueger as Superintendent of Trinidad's Royal Botanic Gardens, moving into a house within the grounds and with its own 8.5 acres<sup>(2)</sup>. The Fig. 1 postcard gives an impression of what the gardens were like at that time. It must have taken courage to spend a month travelling to a country with a very different culture and climate. Henry wrote on 22 August 1864 saying he had arrived after travelling to St Thomas, then to Barbados and then on to Trinidad<sup>(3)</sup>. He spent the next five years cataloguing the plants of Trinidad into a booklet 'Catalogue of Plants cultivated in the Royal Botanical Gardens, Trinidad from 1865 to 1870' and published by the Chronicle Printing Office in Port of Spain Trinidad.



Fig. 1. Early postcard of the Botanic Gardens

Charles Frederick Weston was born in Andover in 1845. In 1869 he purchased an ironmongery business, from the late Mr F.S. Winters (Fig. 2), and advertised 'agricultural implements of every description' (Fig. 3)<sup>(4)</sup>.



Fig. 2.

The 1871 Census records Weston's ironmongery in Bridge Street, Godalming as employing two men and an apprentice.

In the same year Weston won a contract to provide oil lighting in Godalming High Street, against competition from the gas supplier.

Coincidentally in the same year Weston was prosecuted for selling Benzine gas without the appropriate licence and fined £3<sup>(5)</sup>.

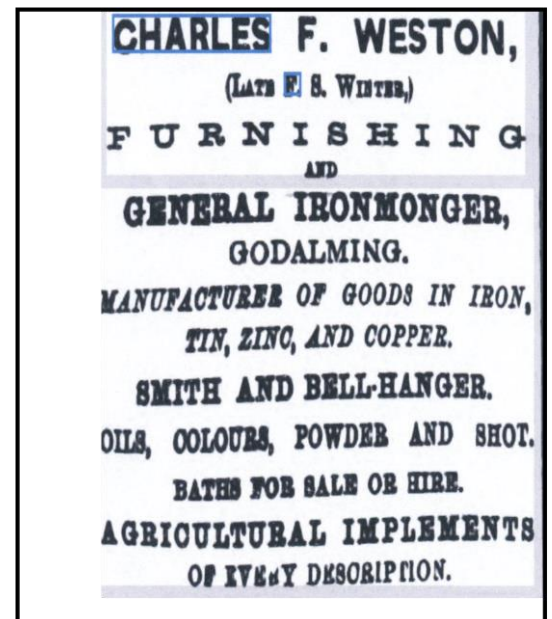


Fig. 3.

Henry took three months leave of absence in 1868 returning home for family reasons. This may have been to do with his brother's death<sup>(6)</sup>. Henry's first known cover is addressed to Mr Prestoe in Basingstoke (his father) and is dated 24 February 1871 (Fig. 4). This letter may be a response to the news of Henry's sister Sabina's death (February 1871)<sup>(1)</sup>.



Fig. 4. Cover 1, 24 February 1871

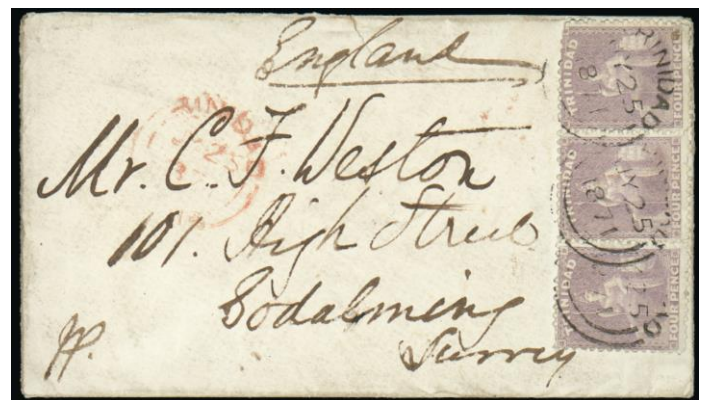


Fig. 5. Cover 4, 25 July 1871

Many communications followed.

The following cover dated 25 July 1871 (Fig. 5) demonstrates the distinctive manner in which Prestoe wrote his 'E's' and 'C's', and the fact that he sometimes initialled the front of the cover 'HP'.

On 24 May 1871 Henry Prestoe sent letters to both Charles Weston and Charlotte Prestoe – perhaps the letters were about their engagement? Charlotte married Charles Weston on 20 February 1872 and went to live in Godalming<sup>(1)</sup>. Henry writes to his father, William Prestoe, on 9 January 1872, then again to a Miss Prestoe in Basingstoke (perhaps to Charlotte's remaining unmarried sister Sarah) on 24 February 1872. On 9 April 1872 Henry writes to Mrs C.F. Weston at 101 High Street, Godalming. This letter is registered and is likely to have contained monies of some form.



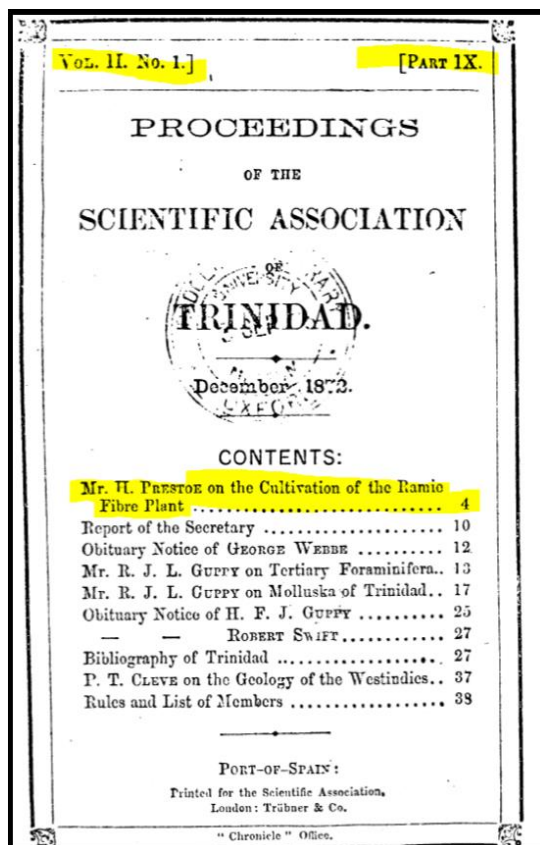


Fig. 6. Trinidad's Scientific Association

Henry Prestoe's reputation was growing. In 1872 he was invited to present at the Proceedings of the Trinidad Scientific Association, on the cultivation of the Ramie Fibre Plant<sup>(7)</sup>. Ramie plant fibres are a strong natural fibre that would have been of great interest to textile industries at that time.

Prestoe's work in Trinidad in the 1870s entailed writing an annual report on local agriculture and crop experiments. The important role that botanical research could play in the expansion of the British Empire was being recognised and Botanical Gardens were being established across the world. Henry wrote to the Colonial Secretary about the qualifications for a Head Gardener: 'a knowledge of the use of garden tools, of tropical plants and their cultivation, and of propagation and of laying out flowered walks'<sup>(8)</sup>.

In the mid 1870s Prestoe visited Dominica, investigating local agricultural practices, and the reasons for 'the depressed state of the coffee cultivation'<sup>(9)</sup>. He reported concerns about itinerant ex slaves burning clearings in the forests<sup>(10)</sup>. He also filed a report on Dominica's 'Boiling Lake'<sup>(11)</sup>.

Prestoe visited Georgetown, British Guiana and laid out plans for a botanical garden to be developed on part of an abandoned sugar plantation. Under his guidance John Frederick Waby opened the gardens in 1878 and cultivated them for 35 years<sup>(14)</sup>.

Prestoe continued to write to his family during this period, as illustrated by the 9 April 1873 cover (Fig. 7)<sup>(31)</sup>.

In 1875 Prestoe successfully transmits mango plants to England and the plants and fruits are reported on and illustrated in 'The Gardeners Chronicle'<sup>(8)</sup>. Kew Records in 1876 have Prestoe writing to suggest that coffee be grown commercially on Trinidad as there is no evidence of coffee leaf disease on the island<sup>(12)</sup>. Prestoe also writes on 24 October 1876, keen for his observations: that some orchids use their bucket-like lips to trap insects in a carnivorous manner, be communicated to Charles Darwin<sup>(13)</sup>.



Fig. 7. Cover 14, 9 April 1873



Princes Albert and George (later King George V) were the first Royals to visit Trinidad, on 30 January 1880. They came ashore from *HMS Bacchante* and made a tour of the island in a carriage, stopping at the churchyard of St. Stephen's Anglican Church to plant Poui trees. Records, kept by their tutor, state they 'walked with Mr Prestoe through the Botanical Gardens and chose some orchids to be sent to Sandringham, including one called Spirito Santo, the flower of which is exactly like a dove, and another, called the Lady's Slipper, very pretty'<sup>(15)</sup>.

In the same year Prestoe writes seeking the employment of a second gardener and a botanical clerk at the gardens. He advises that the appointees be 'unmarried men, and it is indispensable that they should be of sound and strong constitution and of steady temperate habits'<sup>(8)</sup>.

Charles Weston's ironmongery business flourished in the 1870s. Godalming Museum has amongst its exhibits an iron stove made by Weston<sup>(16)</sup>. By 1881 Weston employed a shop man, five men, and an apprentice<sup>(1)</sup>. In the same year Godalming became the first town in the world with public electric street lighting<sup>(17)</sup>. In 1891 Weston sells his business. During the 1900s Weston is found working as an estate agent's clerk, then later as a book keeper. He died in 1921<sup>(1)</sup>.



Fig. 8. Weston Stove, Godalming Museum

Life appears to have become difficult for Prestoe. There are fewer covers. In 1883 he is having to explain why there was no report for the Botanical Gardens in 1881<sup>(18)</sup>. In 1886 the Governor William Robinson reports on Prestoe's services as a botanist noting the many samples he has provided to Kew. He recommends that leave on medical grounds be granted to Mr Prestoe and also proposes that pension and retirement arrangements be resolved<sup>(19)</sup>.

We are not at this stage able to report what Henry Prestoe did in the ensuing years. The Kew Archives are currently furloughed, and the records for this period of time in Trinidad were lost when the Red House (Trinidad's Seat of Parliament) was destroyed by fire in the 1903 Trinidad Water Riots.

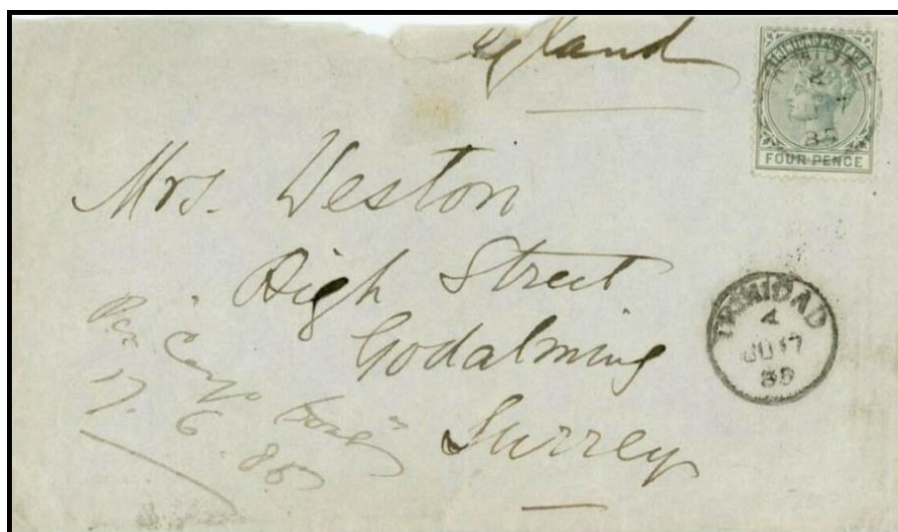


Fig. 9. Cover 25, 17 June 1885

It would seem that Henry remained in Trinidad, somehow still associated with the Gardens, since a number of publication wrappers sent to Botanic Institutions in the late 1890s are in his handwriting. These are the items referred to in Table 2 as the wrappers 1–7. There is a record in Ray Desmond's 'Dictionary of Botanists' that details further botanical contributions by Prestoe in 1898, and 1902<sup>(20)</sup>. Perhaps he took up a less demanding role as Botanical Clerk, supporting the new Botanical Superintendent Mr Hart? The 1892 Annual Report from the Trinidad Gardens states 'the work of correspondence with similar establishments abroad has been regularly continued and the number of missives dispatched during 1891 was 1,701'<sup>(8)</sup>. The Trinidad Herbarium was also transferred to Kew during this period (this was something Henry had proposed)<sup>(21)</sup>.

Mangoes were presented to Queen Victoria in 1891 by Sir Frederick Napier the then Governor of Trinidad. Henry's part in bringing the mango to the Queen's table is acknowledged by Kew<sup>(8)</sup>. There is a record of a Henry Prestoe/Preston returning from Trinidad on a ship the *RMSP Nile* arriving in Southampton in January 1903<sup>(1)</sup>. This ship, the second transatlantic Mail steamer of that name, operated under Royal Mail Steam Packet colours from 1893 to 1911. She was of 5,855 gross registered tons and carried passengers in three classes with a capacity of 215/36/340 souls. Henry reappears on the 1911 Census, living with relatives in Essex and is listed as a 'Retired Superintendent of Botanic Gardens and Government lands'. Henry died in 1923<sup>(1)</sup>.

We do not currently have a photograph of Henry, however we have wondered whether he is the person on this postcard of the Gardens from the same period.



Fig. 10. Postcard, Botanical Gardens, Trinidad

### THE HENRY PRESTOE STAMPED COVERS

Henry Prestoe's (HP) journey to Trinidad was not a smooth voyage. One of his first known letters, was a letter of complaint to the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Sir William Hooker. In the 1864 letter, he made it known of the troubles and difficulty he faced during his trip. His travel route to Trinidad took him to St. Thomas, then Barbados, with final destination Trinidad. He was a prolific writer, communicating often and regularly to his family in Godalming, England. During the period 1871 through to 1885, 25 stamped covers are known (to date).

From his arrival in 1864, there remains about a seven year gap in time till the first recorded cover of 24 February 1871. The known covers span the period 1871 through 1874, 1877, and 1885. No covers are recorded in 1875, 1876, and none again from 1878 to 1884. For the many years devoid of covers, one cannot help but feel optimistic that there is a heaping pile of covers waiting to be discovered. Table 1 summarizes the number of covers written during the period.

Year	1871	1872	1873	1874	1875	1876	1877	1878–1884	1885	Total
No. of Covers	7	5	3	7	0	0	2	0	1	25

TABLE 1: Number of stamped covers to date

The Prestoe and Weston covers are some of Trinidad's most collectable and desirable. Several of them are known to have rare postmarks and rates. At least five of them are considered to be rare to extremely rare. Every serious West Indies collector would enjoy seeing them and even the most advanced Trinidad collector will appreciate how special they are.

## REGISTERED COVERS

Registered mail was not common, perhaps the additional 6d fee (from 1858 till 20 February 1866) was more than people wanted to pay. When the registration rate was reduced on 21 February 1866 to the new 4d rate<sup>(24)</sup>, Henry must have found registering mail both important and economical. Fig. 11 shows the earliest reported cover<sup>(23)</sup> with the new 4d rate sent by Henry to Miss Prestoe in Basingstoke. It is dated 9 December 1871 and shows the red straight line 'REGISTERED' marking (Proud R20)<sup>(25)</sup>, applied diagonally above his initials, HP, on the lower left bottom. The red 'Trinidad Paid' double-arc datestamp is partially obscured under the oval 'REGISTERED LONDON' handstamp. A red 'CROWN REGISTERED' handstamp (A. & H. NO. 1491)<sup>(26)</sup>, was also applied upon arrival. This important cover is franked with two mauve 1 shilling stamps, paying the double letter rate (one shilling per ½oz.), and a 4 pence stamp paying the registration fee.



Fig. 11. Cover 6, Earliest known registered mail with 4d rate fee

Research has shown a total of only 27 stamped Britannia covers with 'REGISTERED' markings (to date) up until the Britannia stamps were replaced by the Queen Victoria head issues (DLR) in 1883. Of these 27 registered covers, eleven are from Henry's correspondence. His registered mail often had a combination of registered markings. Eight of the covers were seen with straight-line 'REGISTERED' handstamps, five in red, one in black, and two unreadable from the black and white photos. Six of them are known with 'Registered or Register', followed by a number, and handwritten in black ink.



Fig. 12. Registered Cover 23, with the new 6d per ½oz rate



Fig. 13. Wax seal on reverse

Fig. 12 illustrates one such cover. It is dated 27 May 1877 showing only 'No. 223' in manuscript. In addition there are two red 'REGISTERED' (Proud R20) strikes of the handstamps. In April 1877, Trinidad became a member of the UPU. The gray 4d stamp pays the registration fee. The green 6d pays the new UPU ½oz. letter rate. The prior letter rate was one shilling per ½oz.



This is one of the earliest covers showing this rate change reduction. When Trinidad became a full member in April 1879, the rate was further reduced to 4d. The reverse of this cover bears the official red wax seal and reads 'Colonial Postmaster – Trinidad'<sup>(27)</sup>. The cover shown in Fig. 7, dated 9 April 1875, shows 'Register' in manuscript.

### MAIL SENT BY PRIVATE SHIP

It is well known that mail was carried by private ship to England. During the period 1 April 1863 to 31 March 1877, the rate for this was 3 pence per ½oz. Covers from private ship mail are very scarce, in fact there are only four known covers (to date) showing this rate during that time. Two from the 2001 Marriott sale (Lots 427 and 429)<sup>(27)</sup>, and two from the 2006 Ramkissoon sale (Lots 2144 and 2146)<sup>(30)</sup>. All of these covers show the 3d ship private letter rate paid by stamps applied on the cover. Henry gifted us with two of these delightful covers.



Fig. 14. Cover 10, 'Per German Steamer' showing the 4d registration fee paid.

The eye-catching franking on the cover shown Fig.14 is arguably one of the rarest of Henry's mail. In manuscript, it states 'Per German Steamer', with red 'REGISTERED' handstamp, along with 'Registered' in manuscript. The red 'Trinidad Paid' and black 'Trinidad' double-arc datestamps shows a mailing date of 26 April 1874, addressed to Mr. C. F. Weston, Godalming, Surrey.

A red 'Registered' London arrival mark is dated 18 May 74 suggesting the trip took 22 days, and there is the faint '1/2' in red crayon. The private ship rate of 3 pence was paid with three 1d stamps and the grey 4d stamp paid the registration fee. On the reverse is the official red wax seal, 'Colonial Postmaster – Trinidad'. As stated in the Ramkissoon sale, this cover disproved the once held belief that registered mail was not allowed to be carried by private ship. For these reasons, this registered cover carried by private ship is considered extremely rare<sup>(30)</sup>.



Fig. 15. Cover 15, Private Ship mail, second known cover with framed 'GREENOCK SHIP LETTER'

The second HP cover addressed to C. F. Weston Esq., shown in Fig. 15, is another private ship mail rarity. On the upper left of the cover is a faint black 'TOO-LATE' handstamp. There is an almost indistinguishable red 'Trinidad Paid' double-arc datestamp on the lower left. The triple strike black 'Trinidad' double-arc datestamps says 18 April 1873. Three 1d stamps were used to pay the private ship letter rate. A circular red London 'SHIP-LETTER PAID LONDON' marking is dated 8 May 73 indicating the trip took 20 days. This second known cover with the framed 'GREENOCK SHIP LETTER' handstamp used on private ship mail for this period. The other example was sold in the Ramkissoon sale, Lot 2144.

### TOO LATE MARKINGS and LATE FEE

Customers arriving late to the Post Office who wanted their mail sent out on that day had to pay an additional fee. Over time a series of markings were developed. These ranged from handwritten 'Too Late for Bag', 'TOO-LATE', to the very rare boxed 'TOO LATE FOR BAG', just to name a few. Apparently from the 1860s onwards this was quite typical, as there is an abundance of stamps cancelled with various types and colors of 'TOO-LATE' markings. But to find them on cover is another story, they are very scarce to rare depending on the type of late fee marking.

Henry Prestoe's envelopes give us the opportunity to illustrate four of these covers, one is a 'late fee paid' and the other three are 'TOO-LATE' handstamps. Fig.16 shows the cover dated 8 August 1871 and addressed to Mr. Prestoe, Basingstoke. The ½oz. letter rate was paid by the 1 shilling mauve stamp. He must have arrived late to the Post Office so to get his letter sent out on the same day, he paid the additional fee

as was customary. The green 6d stamp represents this late fee. It is cancelled diagonally by the black 'TOO-LATE' (Medlicott TL3) handstamp.

The second 'TOO-LATE' cover is seen in Fig. 17 and shows the cover addressed to Mr. W. Prestoe, Basingstoke. It was mailed on 9 January 1872 and cancelled by the Trinidad double-arc datestamp. The mauve 1 shilling stamp pays the ½oz. letter rate and the green 6d pays late fee. The red 'TOO-LATE' (Medlicott TL3) handstamp is diagonally applied on both the cover and the 6d stamp<sup>(29)</sup>. The third 'TOO-LATE' marking was illustrated in Fig. 15.

Michael Hamilton surmises that a third cover, the one illustrated in Fig.18 was a late fee cover, although it does not have any additional late fee markings. The cover has three lilac 4d stamps on the front for the 1 shilling per ½oz. rate, however there is a very unusual block of 6 1d stamps on the reverse<sup>(30)</sup>. It is presumed this additional 6d was used to pay a late fee so that mail could be sent that same day. This is an unusual and rare franking.



Fig. 16. Cover 5, 'TOO-LATE' (Medlicott TL3) handstamp in black applied across 6d stamp.





Fig. 17. Cover 8, 'TOO-LATE' (Medlicott TL3) handstamp in red applied on cover and franking the 6d stamp



Fig. 18. Cover 1, Block of six 1d stamps for the late fee payment

Michael Medlicott wrote extensively on the 'TOO LATE' and 'LATE FEE' topic in BWISC Bulletins Nos. 200, 203, and 208, as well as in the *Trinidad Book*. He has categorised the various types of markings by size, color, and provides a scarcity ranking<sup>(23)</sup>.

A summary of the markings and importance of Henry Prestoe's covers is shown in Table 2. It is noteworthy to highlight two more observations about his covers. Six of his 25 covers have a double letter rate franking. All his mail was sent from Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad, with the exception of one cover. As reported in the 2006 Peter Jaffé Sale, it was mailed on 9 June 1872 and has the Numeral 2 cancel on the front<sup>(25)</sup>. This registered cover was sent from San Fernando to C. W. Weston and suggests that Henry was travelling at this time, perhaps on government business.

Henry is to this day recognised in the botanical world – he even has a bamboo named after him – *Arthrostylidium Prestoei*<sup>(22)</sup>. His efforts with mangoes were also recognised 'The "Prestoe" Mango is one of irregular shape but slightly conical at the apex. A ripe fruit of full-size weighs on an average some eight ounces. The colour of the fruit is green shaded with dark purple, but in wet seasons it becomes a dark rusty brown when fully ripe. The flesh is yellow in colour, fairly firm, but melting and sweet, with a strong tinge of the turpentine flavour but not to a disagreeable extent. The tree is one of our youngest, but so far as we can judge it appears likely to become a good bearing sort. Its origin is unknown, but as it was planted by my predecessor, it has been given his name'<sup>(32)</sup>.

At the end of his life Henry will have been able to reflect on his many botanical achievements – but did he ever realise that his extensive communication with family in England and with Botanical organisations across the world would one day mean that he would be recognised as someone who has given us a comprehensive record of postage, postmarks and stamps from Trinidad through the late 1800s?

Table 2

YEAR	NO. OF COVERS	DATE	IMPORTANT MARKINGS AND NOTES
1871	7	24 February 1871	
		24 May 1871	
		24 May 1871	Address updated and mail forwarded to Ventnor.
		25 July 1871	Six 1d stamps on reverse. Michael Hamilton surmises this is a Late Fee payment.
		8 August 1871	TOO LATE (TL3) in black ink.
		9 December 1871	<b>REGISTERED</b> (PROUD R20) and CROWN REGISTERED (A. & H. NO. 1491) applied upon arrival. First known registered Weston cover.
		24 December 1871	<b>REGISTERED</b> (PROUD R20) and manuscript "Register 29".
1872	5	9 January 1872	TOO LATE (TL4?) in red ink.
		24 February 1872	
		9 April 1872	<b>REGISTERED</b> (PROUD R20) and manuscript "Register 52". and CROWN REGISTERED (A. & H. NO. 1491) applied upon arrival.
		26 May 1872	
		9 June 1872	ONLY KNOWN cover posted from San Fernando, Numeral 2
1873	3	9 January 1873	
		9 April 1873	Manuscript "Register" .
		18 April 1873	<b>EXTREMELY RARE (1 of 2 known)</b> , earliest example, showing the 3d rate for Private Ship Letter paid by three single 1d stamps. Framed three line GREENOCK SHIP LETTER, Red PAID, SHIP-LETTER LONDON. Faint TOO-LATE in black.
1874	7	26 February 1874	<b>REGISTERED</b> (PROUD R20) and manuscript "Registered" .
		?? April 1874	PART COVER.
		9 April 1874	<b>REGISTERED</b> (PROUD R20) .
		26 April 1874	<b>EXTREMELY RARE, no other cover known (unique?)</b> , showing only known Registered cover (paid by 4d rate) carried by (Hapag) with three single 1d stamps paying the Private Ship rate. "Per German Steamer" in manuscript. <b>REGISTERED</b> (PROUD R20) and manuscript "Registered". Colonial Postmaster Trinidad Wax Seal on reverse.
		10 July 1874	
		28 October 1874	
		9 November 1874	
1877	2	27 May 1877	<b>REGISTERED</b> , two strikes, (PROUD R20) and manuscript "No 223" . Colonial Postmaster Trinidad Wax Seal on reverse.
		27 August 1877	
1885	1	17 July 1885	Per "Cargo Boat" 17.6.85 in manuscript
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>		
YEAR	NO. OF WRAPPERS	DATE	IMPORTANT MARKINGS AND NOTES
1895	1	20 April 1895	Trinidad Official Paid.
1896	1	23 January 1896	Trinidad Official Paid.
1898	1	?? October 1898	Trinidad Official Paid.
1899	2	13 April 1899	Trinidad Official Paid.
		6 May 1899	Trinidad Official Paid.
1901	2	14 February 1901	Trinidad Official Paid.
		2 July 1901	Trinidad Official Paid.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>		

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It is the first time I have researched and ventured to write an article of this nature and I would like to record my sincere thanks to Nigel Mohammed (who co-researched and co-wrote this article and contributed the philatelic commentary), along with Ed Barrow, Michael Hamilton, Peter Ford and Michael Medlicott who have all kindly contributed photographs, knowledge, proof reading and much general encouragement. Many thanks also to the team at the Godalming Museum, especially Ann Laver, and Kiri Ross-Jones of the Kew Royal Botanical Gardens.

So far 25 covers and 7 wrappers have been recorded and many of them are illustrated in this article. There must be many others. If there is enough interest we may write a BWISC Study Paper on the Prestoe covers. So if you have any relevant material please forward details, including a photograph, to us via the editor.



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**AUCTION REPORT DECEMBER 2020****BY GRAHAM BOOTH**

Spink opened their autumn season with the sale of Charles Freeland's three islands – Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent. The most controversial aspect of the sale was that there was no hard copy of the catalogue. It is difficult to maintain a balanced attitude to this decision, particularly for myself, as I cannot report on sales as I do, without a hard copy. So, I had to download a pdf of 160 pages, and even then, with no illustrations, it was difficult to ensure that a comparison of prices with those achieved historically was comparing like with like. However, I cannot expect Spink to base its commercial policy on my particular needs. Much more important is the shift in their policy on this issue. They do not intend to abandon the concept of hard copies for individual named sales, so it seems particularly small minded not to complete the last of Charles' sales with an enduring legacy, when their published ethos is that they are the auction house "Where history is valued". They do intend to shift a bigger portion of their total sales to E sales (apparently since making the change they have acquired over 100 new customers) and so in future The Collector's Series will be on the web – "a svelte, more manageable and focussed auction", without a hard copy!

Spink's experience with these new customers is replicated by other auction houses I have spoken to. There is a belief that under lockdown, with time on their hands, customers, old and new, have given dealers a bonanza time over the last few months, to the extent that they have started to run short of stock. The theory goes on that the hardening of prices in the auction arena is due to a clash between dealers wanting to re-establish stocks and traditional collectors behaving in the normal way when quality collections come on the market. At the moment, nobody believes there is a substantial increase in investor activity. Whatever, the number of bidders on line in a live auction is steadily increasing.

Undoubtedly the Nevis part of the Freeland sale was a success – 103 lots, 89% sold, total hammer price £50,000. It was helped by one buyer spending well over £20,000; but bidding was brisk on the net with nine different bidders being successful. In most cases prices exceeded the top estimate though these were conservative, especially as the entire sale was imported from Switzerland and carried an extra 5% tax, making the total uplift almost 30%. Paradoxically, depending on the FX rate one obtained as an individual importer, the uplift on the Besançon sale in Zurich was probably a little smaller. Comparison with the Borromeo sale in 2015, from which many of the lots originated, gives us an idea of how the market has developed since then, which is nothing like the reduction in value of the Jaffé St. Vincent's, on which I reported last time. Generally, scarce covers have maintained their value or improved, whereas adhesives were mixed. The GB 6d lilac on a slightly tatty cover to the U.K. (one of 6 known) was knocked down for £3,000, more than double its price in Borromeo, and the black crowned circle on an 1871 cover to Barbados (one of only two known) made £2,900 compared to £1,600 five years ago. The only registered cover bearing solely "Medicinal Spring" stamps (a pair of 4d orange yellow) was knocked down for £1,500 compared to £900. The complete sheet of 1d deep lake, colour trial from the 1862 recess issue sold for £1,200 compared to £850 in Borromeo. The same sheet of 1s green, £200 less than 5 years earlier. The 1882 CA block of four of the 6d green only managed £700 versus £1,100 in the Borromeo sale; but at a lower price level the manuscript specimens which did not sell five years ago did very well. In general, members of the Society who have Nevis in their collections can be reasonably pleased.

The market for St. Lucia has not been strong over the last 10 years so I was surprised that 82% of 269 lots sold, with a total hammer price of £80,000. Excitement was premature however, as subsequent examination showed that well over a third sold below the low estimate. As almost a third was sold above the high estimate it was a very strange result, with only about 15% selling at prices between the two estimates. Charles seems to have bought most of his collection much earlier than the Jaffé sale in 2007. Conrad Latto from 1982 was the name that dominated the provenance. Clearly prices were softer than 13 years ago in the Jaffé sale; but making a reasonable estimate of how much proved impossible. The block of 12 unused 4d blue from 1860, watermark small star, with some creasing, realised £2,200 against £3,500 in the Jaffé sale; the pair of 1864 4d lemon-yellow with trimmed perfs, £750 versus £800. Amongst the covers the 1869 entire to Bordeaux with two 4d yellow adhesives with the addressee's name deleted, the only recorded example of French packet mail cancelled on board, only £1,400 against £3,000 in Jaffé. This confirmed my belief that today's collectors value quality over rarity more than did their predecessors. The beautiful 1869 cover to London paying a double rate with a strip of four violet 6ds sold for almost four times its upper estimate.

There were multiple versions of lower priced covers, particularly to France. With the historic record unclear, detailed comparisons were impossible; but most lots sold. Proofs with nothing more than the duty tablet were soft. The imperforate colour trials which had been cut from the 1902 Appendix sheets and were sold individually were very strong, most exceeding their top estimates. Specimens and "Cancelled" stamps were weak, fiscals and revenues mixed, early covers quite strong and the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance Co. mixed.

St. Vincent was the third major sale in 12 months, so I was a little apprehensive; but in the circumstances 81% sold from a total of 292 lots was a good result, with a total hammer price of £110,000. However, out of 71 lots of Perkins Bacon adhesives 21 were unsold and only 10% exceeded the top estimate. The figures for Perkins Bacon covers were better – out of 42 lots only 7 were unsold and 25% exceeded the top estimate. The results for De La Rue were similarly mixed. Colour trials were soft and covers again outperformed the adhesives. Things began to improve with the colour trials of the 1899 keyplates and continued with the King Edward VII imperf colour trials and the Arms of the Colony – 26 lots, of which all sold. George V was only a little behind.

Parts of the sale were truly successful. A mint collection of revenue stamps sold for almost six times its top estimate and a used collection for 50% more. Individual items all sold, with the 1882 "FIVE POUNDS" on 5s rose red selling for almost three times its top estimate at £700. Similarly, village date stamps, both abbreviated and extended, sold well. The 1895 extended date stamp from Peruvian Vale (the only one recorded) made £1,100, beating the top estimate by £300; but remember that in Jaffé it sold for £2,000. Both general collections of the village datestamps made good money.

The day before the Besançon sale on 7th September, Corinthila dealt with almost 300 lots of fabulous British Post Offices abroad from Hugh Wood's collection. This was Part 1 so there is more to come. Of these lots only 79 were from the West Indies. 88% of them sold at good prices – an excellent result. I admit to being completely ignorant about what is scarce and what is really rare. So I can only report that one of the highest prices in the sale was achieved by a cover from Naguabo in Puerto Rico to Trinidad, franked with a pair of 4d vermilion – one of only three known from this office – which was knocked down for 12,500 SF. But why an attractive cover from San Juan to Barcelona, ex Grant Glassco, franked with a pair of 10d red-brown, failed to sell at 850 SF is a mystery to me. On more familiar ground a very scarce Crowned Circle from the Bahamas to California sold for 2,800 SF, over 5 times its starting price, after a fierce fight. A pair of 1d reds and a pair of 6d lilacs from British Guiana to Saxony made 3,800 SF, and a cover from the Polignac correspondence from St. Vincent, redirected on arrival and therefore with mixed franking, realised 5,000SF. A Crowned Circle from Ireland Island was knocked down for 4,200 SF and an 1856 cover from Antigua with two pairs of 6d lilac realised 3,400 SF. A small St. Thomas fleuron, struck en route from Antigua to London, made 6,500 SF, more than five times the price realised by a good strike of its larger cousin. Surprisingly, the outstanding performer was the BVI. A good strike of the straight-line TORTOLA to the UK from 1791 made 6,000 SF, and one of two Crowned Circles known, achieved the highest price in this section of the sale, at 23,000 SF.

My informant tells me that Zurich. on the surface was entirely normal. In the sale room social distancing protection was in place: Listening on the web it had the characteristics of an old-style auction with two bidders/agents slugging it out in person. I do not like the current situation. Those of you who have been brought up on e-bay probably feel different; but I am unhappy when I haven't viewed in the flesh. Fortunately, most houses have got rid of the self-imposed limit on the number of scans you can have. I find the Corinthila screen one of the less satisfactory. There is no clear indication that you have won a lot and the amount of information that is provided is inferior to Spink. But the hard-backed catalogue was a joy to see. Even with its help how does one report in a couple of paragraphs on an auction of over 1,000 lots which covered the entire West Indies? The short answer is one can't. I thought prices were fairly strong in the Freeland and Dubois sales but those in the Besançon sale were stronger still. For instance, a GB 6d lilac on cover from Bahamas to the UK which realised 660SF in Dubois sold for 1160SF in Besancon with little or no difference in quality. A block of 6d green, small star, perf 14–16 from St Lucia sold for £500 in Freeland and 850SF in Zurich; a block of 12 deep orange, Crown CC, perf 14 did not sell in Spink; but realised 750SF here. NB deduct about 20% from the SF figures for a rough comparison. Bidders seized on the opportunity to own material that in many cases had not been on the market for 30 or 40 years and once graced the collections of Ferrari, Burrus, Caspary, Wheeler, Cartier, Charlton Henry and Marriot to name but a few..

The entire sale was 89% sold and achieved a total hammer price of almost 1.2 million SF. With the exception of Montserrat and the Leeward's every colony achieved a better result than 80%. St. Vincent was 88% sold which was a very good performance considering the amount of material that has come onto the market recently, the covers particularly, achieving prices higher than we are accustomed to seeing here, even the Cayman was 95% sold, despite there being nothing earlier than 1917. The astonishing thing to me was that the "unique and absolutely beautiful" to quote the auctioneer, De la Rue essay for the Justices and Vestry issue was unsold at 5,000SF. This was the essay that was rejected by George V because he did not like the portraits. But it was typical that throughout the sale there was a reluctance to pay high prices for items that were never issued or artificially contrived, however rare they might be e.g. the set celebrating the Duke of York's visit to Trinidad, the Barbados 1s blue, error of colour from the 1861 set, and the cancelled stamps issued by favour to Ormond Hill, most of which did not sell. Another trend throughout the sale was the weakness of proofs. Generally, attractive designs did sell; but not a great deal above the start price, while proofs of nothing more than the denomination did not find a new home.

I can only highlight a few of the distinctive, rare, items. In Bahamas, the Pemberton Wilson cover which contained the sole recorded example on cover of the 4d on 6d provisional was sold for 7,500 SF – its starting price. From Barbados the 1874 unused block of fifteen 1d deep blue, watermark large star, ex Charlton Henry, sold for 3,400SF almost six times its starting price. The unused block of 24 of the 6d dull purple, Crown CC from Bermuda was knocked down for 19,000 SF, almost double its starting price. In British Guiana, the King George V four cents pictorial showing Kaiteur Falls, mint, imperf between, made 14,500 SF, again double the starting price. The "TWO" in black on 50 cents on 1s grey from British Honduras of which only 20 stamps were ever issued, ex Ferrari, made 9,000 SF, just one step above its starting price. The corner marginal example of the Abolition of Slavery from 1938 in Jamaica which was never issued, the only example in private hands realised 35,000 SF – its starting price. This was an exception to my generalisation above about a lack of interest in unissued and artificial material. The "ONE PENNY" on 2½d ultramarine without the original value being obliterated, from St. Christopher, sold to a telephone bidder for 16,000SF. Of the used stamps, perhaps the best result was obtained by the 1853 lithographed 1d blue, cancelled with a numeral '6' from Arouca in Trinidad, which was knocked down for 2,600 S.F, more than six times its starting price. Finally, in my last report I commented on what I thought was the best unused Lady McCleod which sold for £18,000. This sale was to prove me wrong with an even nicer version, ex Ferrari, which sold for 25,000SF.

I didn't stay online until the end (I had a doctor's appointment) but having started at 8.00am UK time it could not have been far short of 7.00pm when the sale finished. Eliminating breaks, the sale achieved about 100 lots per hour and kept the fireworks until the end – the Turks and Caicos! Only one of the 37 lots did not sell, and between them they totalled a hammer price of over 110,000SF. The star performer was the only example in private hands of the 2½d surcharge on 6d, imperf between, ex Ferrari and Burrus, which realised 32,000SF. We still have Part 2 to come; which I understand will be a repeat experience (about 1,000 lots spread over the entire West Indies); but before then Spink will have Hugh Wood's Jamaica in November, about which we have very high expectations.

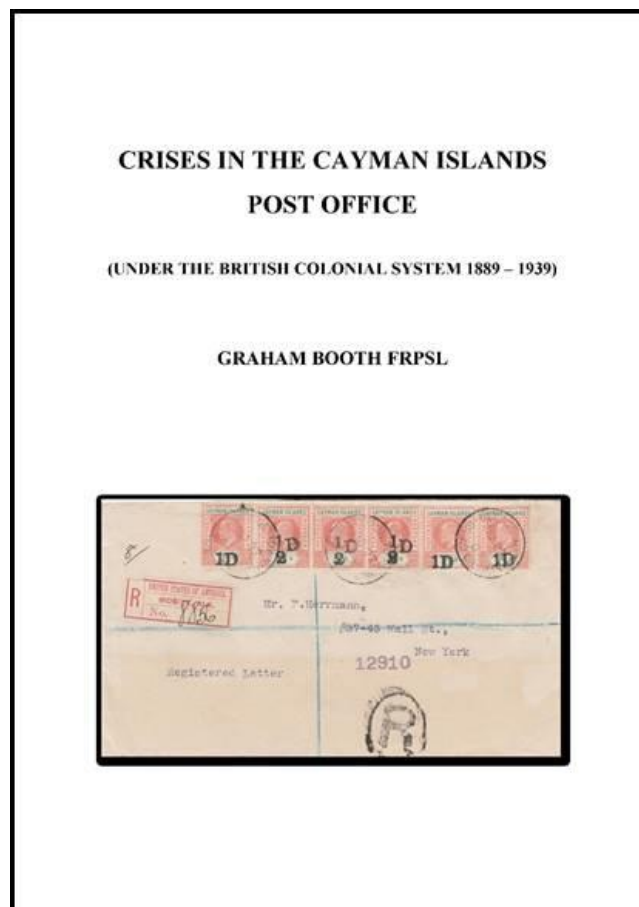
Elsewhere, in Part 13 (yes 13) of the Lionheart Collection a good example of the 1856 4 cent black on magenta from British Guiana, ex Ferrari, sold for £9,000. In the Gibbons sale on 6 October the 1868 Bermuda Officer's Letter and the Cayman Rural Post cover from East End did not sell at £1,700 and £800 respectively; but the proofs of the 1d from the 1871 litho printing in Nevis all sold, as did the mint pane of 60 of the Victoria 4d keyplate overprinted Revenue, which realised £800.

I cannot close this report without some reference to the Spink sale of the Doyen Collection on 3 October as part of virtual Stampex. It was an "All World" collection beginning in the usual way with Aden and selling 260 lots listed in a hard copy catalogue and on the web, with room and online bidding, ending with Zululand. Then starting 10 minutes later the auction began again with Aden, all the material coming from the same collection, the only difference being that the lots were not included in the hard copy catalogue and could only be viewed on the web, with very little publicity. It was advertised only by a small paragraph at the end of the catalogue, which I know many people missed, and presumably by a direct approach to people on Spink's list of contacts. The sale had a number of real rarities and a substantial number of scarce items which were often duplicated or triplicated, varying in quality. e.g. Grenada S.G.157a. The other unusual aspect is that the proceeds went to charity. I believe there is a lot more to come.



It was an extraordinary success with both parts being 100% sold, some items going for extraordinary sums e.g. Lot 1144 a mint Edwardian \$500 from the Straits Settlements for almost £200,000 with tax and buyer's commission. Closer to our collecting interests, the 1967 "Independent Anguilla" set cost over £20,000, and one of four known examples of the inverted Cayman ½d on 5s approaching £50,000, both with the uplift. That two people were prepared to pay close to this price for what is a rather ugly stamp suggests either an obsession with completion, or contrary to what I reported earlier, a return of investor interest. With the entire investment world unsettled by Covid, interest rates at zero and threatening to go negative, it is not surprising that wealthy individuals might be looking for an alternative area in which they can park some cash. Another straw in the wind, and I have to be careful because I did not view; is that where there were multiple versions of a scarce stamp and the best achieved a good result, some of the inferior versions appear to have done much better than one might expect.

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