

STUDY CIRCLE



Promotional poster for the Clipper '*SEMINOLE*' see Tony Walker's article.



BULLETIN No. 269 June 2021



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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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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday 3 July 2021 Midpex, 10:00 to 4:30 Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN

Saturday/Sunday 2/3 October 2021 BWISC Convention at the Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke RG21 7LX

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

It is my sad duty to inform you of the recent death of Ben Ramkisson of California, USA.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE MAY 2021

I am delighted to announce that we have a new editor. Darryl Fuller has volunteered to take over the responsibility of producing the 'Bulletin' from the next issue in September. Although he is a resident of Tasmania modern technology makes this possible, and we are extremely fortunate that we have somebody with many years of experience editing Australian journals under his belt. The Society as a whole is extremely grateful to him for agreeing to add this to his other responsibilities. So, this will be the last Bulletin that Terry will edit. I cannot be more appreciative of the personal time he has devoted to the Society over the last nine years for ensuring that the high standards of the Bulletin and its reputation amongst a wider audience has been maintained.

This will also be the last auction for which Simon Goldblatt will be in charge. Typical of Simon he has had Simon Richards serving a two-year apprenticeship, so I anticipate that the auction will continue to be one of the highlights of our year. However, it is inevitable that without Simon's encyclopaedic memory there will be some changes, so make sure before next year comes around that you are fully up to date with the instructions. We have not yet finalised the changes but will be in touch when we have. Simon Goldblatt has been associated with the auction for at least 50 years and has been in charge for more than half of that time. I cannot overstate the dedication to the Society that has seen him in many a provincial auction around the country looking for items to go in our own sale, so that it has a reputation that is second to none. A somewhat less obvious contribution to the knowledge of our members is the work he has put in educating people on valuations, we owe an immense debt of gratitude to him. Depending on his health he may still man the rostrum in the future.

We have also booked a date for our Convention which is at the same venue as last time, the Red Lion Hotel in Basingstoke on 1, 2 & 3 October. This date will clash with the last weekend of Stampex which is unfortunate; But there is such a back log of weddings because of Covid that we had to accept that date in a hurry or we might not have had a Convention at all.

On the other hand, for those of you that live further away from London, so that a visit involves an overnight stay, it is an opportunity to kill two birds with one stone – visit Stampex earlier in the week and move on to Basingstoke for the weekend. I do understand that because of Covid some of you may have some reservations, but if the Government's plans go as predicted there should be some sense of normality by October and probably all our members should have had two jobs by then. Speaking personally, I believe that if I do not feel sufficiently confident to return to 'normal' life by then I doubt that I ever will, so I am prepared to take the marginally enhanced risks involved. Details of the main displays will be revealed in due course; but the booking details are included in the flyer distributed with this copy of the Bulletin. It should be a great weekend when we can get back to some social interaction, as well as furthering our hobby.

MINUTES OF THE 66TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC HELD AT 11:00AM SATURDAY 22 MAY 2021

1. Chairman's Welcome and Opening Remarks

Graham was feeling very enthusiastic about the fact we were able to come out and meet finally after a long period of isolation due to the pandemic. It was nice that the meeting could proceed as we have no written constitution meaning that any number of members present enabled the meeting to be held as it was considered a suitable quorum.

2. Apologies for Absence

David Binstead, Nigel Chandler, Trevor Chinery, Mike Kentzer, Guy Langton, Tony Walker, James Podger, Peter Ford, Ray Stanton and Paul Hancock all sent their apologies.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

There were no matters arising and the record was accepted as written.

4. Report by the General Secretary (Richard Stupples)

I've attended my first committee meeting and I've fielded several queries that have come through the secretaries email address regarding stamps and had positive replies to both from the people I directed the questions too and those that members have been able to answer. Other than that, I'm finding out about the role as items need doing.

5. Report by the acting Membership Secretary (Steve Jarvis)

After an increase in membership in 2016, numbers have reverted to previous levels but remain at over 300.

BWISC Membership Statistics as at December 2020

As at end	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total Members	310	309	339	339	340	312	304
Online	83	77	84	85	83	63	48
UK	192	194	218	207	208	200	193
EUR	27	28	24	24	25	19	20
Rest of World	91	87	97	108	107	93	91

2020 Detail

	Printed	Online	Total
UK	151	41	192
EUR	19	8	27
Rest of World	57	34	91
Grand Total	227	83	310

My thanks to Paul Hancock for agreeing to take over this role from 2021.

6. Report by the Editor (Terry Harrison)

After 35 issues in charge of editing the Bulletin the time has come for me to lay down my pen and hand over to my successor Darryl Fuller. I have enjoyed the challenge of assembling the Bulletin and in the process my knowledge of West Indies philately has increased exponentially.

I would like to thank all of the contributors for providing such a wide range of articles, and long may they continue to do so.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Peter Ford for his proof reading and Steve Jarvis for liaising with the printers.

With Darryl living in Tasmania the time difference is likely to cause some problems with obtaining material from advertisers. To maintain continuity, I have agreed to be the UK point of contact.

7. Report by the Treasurer (Ray Stanton)

The accounts cover the two years 2019 and 2020 and show a surplus of £1,235 in 2019 and a deficit of £433 in 2020. Once again Bulletin costs including distribution were comfortably covered by subscriptions received and advertising charged.

The donation from the auction team, net of expenses, was reduced slightly in 2020 compared to previous years as a result of the disruption caused by the pandemic. The main reason for the deficit in 2020 is due to all the printing and binding costs of the Peter Fernbank KEVII book, which totalled £2,057, being incurred in December 2020 without any sales being made as yet. In line with previous years we treat publications income and expenses on a cash basis and no value is placed on stocks held.

Other general expenses were generally in line with previous years, once the deficit on the biennial convention in 2019, and the donation to the Royal also in 2019 are taken into account. As a result the surplus the Accumulated fund has increased by the 31st December 2020 to £18,341 which after taking into account a loss on the conversion of our US dollar funds over the two years of £220.

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

There were no issues raised and Simon Greenwood proposed that the accounts be accepted and John Jordan seconded

8. Report by the Librarian (Ian Jakes)

Until recently most requests for information from the BWISC Library were by letter. Since the last Librarian's Report I have received just one such letter. Our members have at long last moved into the 21st century and email requests are causing new problems e.g. a request allegedly from our chairman asking me to purchase iTunes gift cards on his behalf.

It has come to my notice that during the last 12 months some emails addressed to me have not been received. If any member has not received a reply to a library request, that member should please telephone me after the lapse of a reasonable time for a response. Two members, both internet experts, have been drafting new philatelic books and much information can, of course, now be found online. Both members have asked whether there is additional information in the BWISC Library, which, of course, there often is. I have provided snippets of information to both members, which, hopefully, will be useful.

A recent request for information resulted in the provision of a scan of a butterfly Papiliohomerus designed by Philip Hart in 1952 which appeared on a Jamaican stamp. Other members were provided with information about Jamaica Red Cross labels together with an explanation for their non-appearance in Stanley Gibbons catalogue, information on Royal Mail postal services from British Guiana in or about 1845, and information about British Honduras postmarks.

9. Report by the Publications Officer (Peter Ford)

In 2020 we published three books. First was a long-awaited book on Trinidad and Tobago, completing the trio of books on that colony. When we published the book on St. Vincent in 2017, we had 50 softbacked copies printed and then had them hard bound. Once stocks of those were depleted, we had softbound copies printed. This seemed a better way to have the option of hardback versions of our publications published without having 300 copies printed and the associated problems of tying up our funds and the subsequent storage.

The Trinidad and Tobago went the same way with 50 hardbacked copies available as well as softbacked versions. The hardback books were sold at cost with no discounts.

Next we published the book on King Edward VII Imperium Keyplates by Peter Fernbank and the Blinco brothers. This went through the same process and 50 hardbound copies were and still are available. Later softback copies will be available. The next book published was one on Farthing stamps by Richard Capon, Bill Gibb and George Stewart. This was only published in softback.

The Grenada book is next on our list to be published which will hopefully be before the Convention in October. Also there is another book on Grenada from a slightly different perspective as one would expect from Mike Rego. After that there is nothing else in prospect. I would ask those members who have in the past promised to write books on their specialist subject to put their backs into writing one. Those members know who they are!

Sales last year were on a par with previous years with just under £2,500 gross, netting us a little over £1,900 after commission and expenses. Sales were fairly evenly spread out over our list of publications with, surprisingly, Victor Toeg's Dominica leading the way with 5 books sold!

10. Report by BWISC WebMaster (Steve Jarvis)

The website continues to tick over.

As we have not had any meetings this year, there have been no significant additions to the content, except relating to the auction, together with frequent changes to announcements regarding arrangements. The website continues to be the focal point for new applications which requires administration effort and my thanks to Paul Hancock for agreeing to look after this task. Finally, I have recently implemented Google Analytics on the site and next year I should be able to provide some statistics on activity.

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

The last two years have obviously been difficult for all of us because of Covid; but we seem to have survived in reasonable shape, and in some ways, the pandemic having forced us into different ways of communicating, like zoom, is opening new vistas for the future. I think it is also safe to say that a society that has had to change its Secretary, Editor and Auction Manager in two years would not be finding it easy, and so it has proved. So, first of all, I would like to pay tribute to Terry and Simon for their dedication over many years which has helped to make the Society what it is today. Then I want to thank Simon Richards and Darryl Fuller who have volunteered to replace them. Darryl lives in Tasmania so there will probably be technical problems to overcome as he takes over the Editorship, and nobody can replace Simon Goldblatt's encyclopaedic memory so changes in procedure will be necessary there.

The Society's governance must be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the strengths and weaknesses of the people who volunteer their time and skills. It became apparent that nobody was prepared to replace George as Secretary, so we have split the role and we now have three people, Bill Gibb, Richard Stupples and Paul Hancock doing what was previously done by George. Consequently, the Committee is a big one and trying to ensure that things do not slip between the cracks we have created in the organisational structure is a problem. But we can only work with the members who are prepared to volunteer and what they are prepared to do. In addition, in a Society with no Constitution and therefore a Chairman who theoretically can do as he likes, a big Committee is no bad thing.

From a personal point of view, I have done a lot of preparatory work looking at the potential problems and advantages if we respond positively to the BCPSG's request to consider a merger. Strong and differing opinions are held by individual committee members and we are a long way from making a recommendation to the membership. Finally, I have been deeply involved with the work of one of our most gifted but controversial members trying to strike a balance between excessive censorship and allowing unsupported opinion to masquerade as fact. Regrettably, this has resulted in his resignation from the Society and the withdrawal of a manuscript we would have liked to publish.

12. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The chairman had previously intended to step down at this meeting but in light of the pandemic had agreed to stay for the next year. This motion was proposed by Ian Jakes and seconded by Steve Jarvis.

The editor of the magazine, Terry Harrison has stepped down and Darryl Fuller is taking over. Graham Booth proposed and Steve Jarvis seconded.

Secretary is Richard Stupples. Meetings Secretary is Bill Gibb. Membership Secretary is Paul Hancock. All were proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Steve Jarvis

Simon Goldblatt has stepped down as auction manager and Simon Richards will take over. Proposed by Graham Booth and seconded by Steve Jarvis.

Graham went on to thank both Simon and Terry for their efforts and enormous contributions to the society.

All other committee members were accepted by the room en-bloc.

13. Election of the Hon. Auditor

John Davis was nominated and appointed as honorary auditor for the Society.

14. October Convention 2021, Red Lion Basingstoke

The convention clashed with the last day of Stampex and the venue was unable to provide an alternative date due to the wedding commitments it had already made and the large backlog it was currently holding. It was generally felt that this wouldn't be a bad thing as people wouldn't have to travel out twice to attend both separately and it might well provide some benefit as those coming down to London for Stampex might well extend their stay for the length of the weekend and come on to the convention after going to Stampex. A leaflet will be sent out with the next bulletin providing more about the booking procedure and costs etc.

15. Possible merger with BCPSG

The merger proved to be the topic of the day, and it was well discussed at the meeting. Currently BCPSG has about \$18,000 in the bank. However, it has a deficit about \$3000 per annum. It was thought that there were about 60 joint members of both BWISC and BCPSG, which would enable the total membership to increase to about 440. BCPSG has a written constitution which we don't have. There is an issue with life membership within the BCPSG which BWISC doesn't have. Some of its income is generated by donations from life members. Graham emphasised that there was considerable discussion amongst the Committee over some issues and we were not yet ready to start detailed discussions with BCPSG let alone present a proposal to the general membership.

There were a number of questions from the floor during which it was emphasised that it was a merger that was under discussion not a takeover:-

Where would meetings take place?

What would be the balance between "classic" and "modern" issues?

What would be the name of the merged Society? It is felt by many that BWISC is a very strong brand, but some members consider it's "Britishness" is not necessarily attractive to potential younger recruits.

It was also mentioned that the G B Society, the U.K's largest society, doesn't have a constitution.

The general feeling was positive that the possibility of a merger should be pursued.

16. Other Business

There was a question about how much the Royal was costing for hiring for the day, but it was felt justified as the societies normal meeting places either at Grosvenor or Spink were too small to be satisfactorily socially distanced in line with current guidelines. Gibbons had also offered their meeting room.

Simon Goldblatt asked to introduce Keith Jupp, who with others would be seeking to head up a semi-autonomous company that would be looking to provide internships for philatelist of the future starting in 2023.

There were no other matters arising and Graham closed the meeting with the intention of starting the auction in about an hour and reminded people to please remember that we were to maintain social distancing whilst viewing lots.

Accounts 2019 and 2020

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE
INCOME STATEMENT : YEARS ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2019 & 2020

	£'s	2020	2019	2018
INCOME :				
Subscriptions		4,302	4,388	4,556
Publications - Sales less commissions		2,274	2,807	2,616
Auction donation (net of costs)		1,225	1,702	1,800
TOTAL INCOME		7,801	8,897	8,972
EXPENDITURE :				
Bulletin - Printing & distribution costs	4,300		4,604	4,645
Less : Advertising	(1,768)	2,532	(2,030)	(2,036)
Publications : Preparation, Printing & Distribution costs		5,084	2,795	1,811
Convention costs net of recovery	-		957	-
Other room hire & meeting costs	-		250	298
ABPS affiliation fee	288		273	259
Officers administration - Stationery, postage, telephone etc	72		82	102
Bank charges	-		19	-
Donation - RPS	-		500	-
Exhibition entry fees	-		-	225
Website		258	212	220
		8,234	7,662	5,524
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	£'s	(433)	£'s 1,235	£'s 3,448

BALANCE SHEETS AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2019 & 31st DECEMBER 2020

ACCUMULATED FUND :				
Balance at 1st January 2020		18,953	17,759	14,022
Add : (Deficit) Surplus for the year		(433)	1,235	3,448
Exchange conversion profit (loss)		(179)	(41)	289
	£'s	18,341	£'s 18,953	£'s 17,759
REPRESENTED BY :				
Cash at banks		16,312	16,375	14,206
Debtors - amounts due to us		4,897	5,627	5,944
Prepaid expenses		225	250	350
		21,434	22,252	20,500
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(1,918)		(2,199)	(2,116)
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	(1,175)	(3,093)	(1,100)	(625)
	£'s	18,341	£'s 18,953	£'s 17,759

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the years ended 31st December 2020 and 2019 are in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheets at the 31st December 2019 and the 31st December 2020 show the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at those dates.

J G M Davis FCA

J G M Davis
 29th March 2021

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BWI

1871 BWI LEEWARD INTER-ISLAND AGREEMENT

By Mike Rego

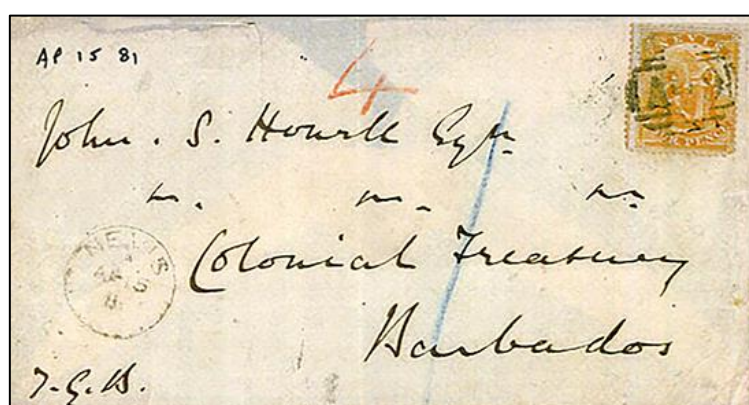
The Leeward Islands Act of 21 August 1871, incorporated the presidencies of Antigua & Barbuda, St. Kitts & Nevis and in 1882 Anguilla, Dominica, Montserrat and British Virgin Islands. The Council was divided into 16 parts, Antigua 5, St. Kitts 4, Dominica 3, Nevis 2, Montserrat 1 and Virgin Islands 1. 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



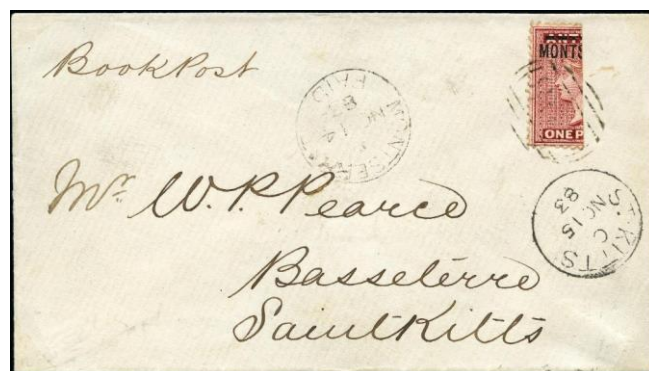
11 Dec 1883, Montserrat to St. Kitts (12 Dec),
2½d rate employing a concocted trisected
and more of a 6d stamp



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.]
NOTICE		
<p>IS 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 January 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



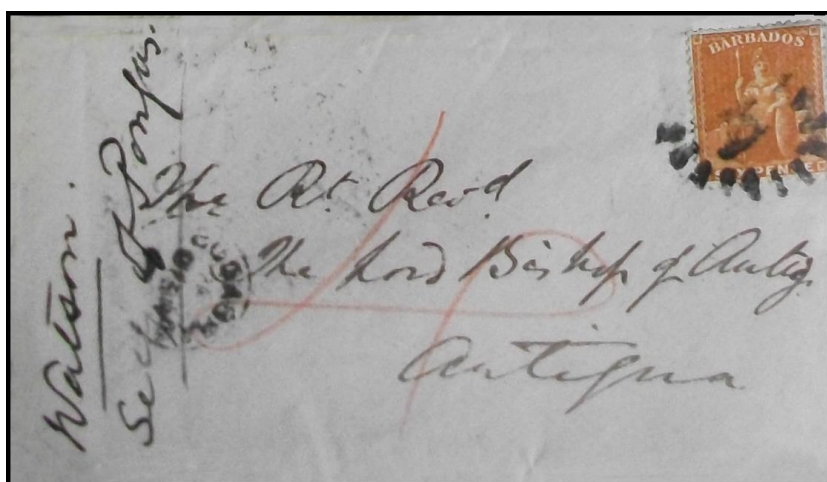
Dec 1882 ?

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.			
<i>On and from 1st January, 1891, the undermentioned Rates of Postage will be collected in Trinidad.</i>			
FOREIGN AND COLONIAL.			
CLASS A.			
Accra	Cyprus	Leeward Islands	*Queensland†
Antigua	Dominica	Malta	Sierra Leone
*Ascension (c) (in)	Falkland Islands	Maurin	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.



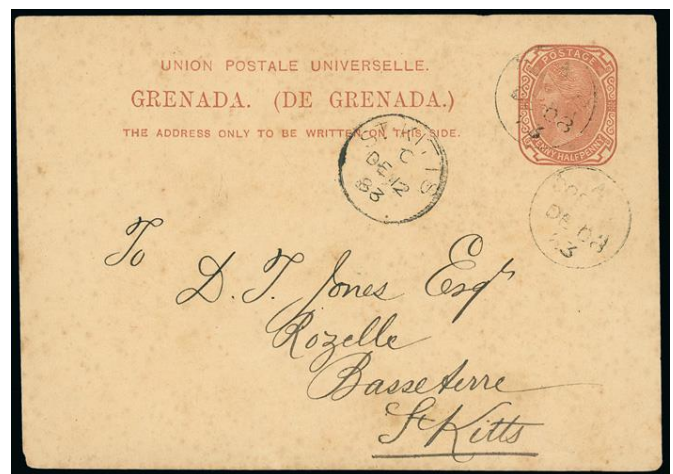
28 Nov 1884, Calliaqua, St. Vincent to Barbados,
2½d letter rate



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 October 1884



Grenada,
6 January 1888



St. Lucia,
22 December 1888



St. Vincent,
21 July 1889



Tobago,
Unused 1884



Trinidad,
2 September 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 Dec 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 Steam Ship 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 Commonwealth Stamp Catalogues.

Editorial note: All illustrations have been reduced in size.

BWI

PERKINS BACON MYSTERIES

BY PETER FORD

Most philatelists are aware of the circumstances of Perkins Bacon's fall from grace, a story described by the late Peter Jaffé in his book *Cancelled by Perkins Bacon*. All of this occurred in around August 1861. The Crown Agents, who were de facto owners of the printing plates, transferred their contract to De La Rue. The change over affected several West Indies colonies, namely Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and the Turks Islands. Now one would have thought that stamps for these colonies would in future be printed by De La Rue. However, looking through the catalogue, this was not so. The stamps of the Bahamas, St. Lucia and Trinidad were printed by De La Rue fairly soon afterwards, in 1861 or 1862. But others were not changed until much later, Antigua in 1872, Barbados in 1875 and St. Vincent not until 1882! Grenada and the Turks overcame the problem by issuing a plethora of surcharged stamps, much to the delight of philatelists! Why there was this delay in transferring the production of stamps for Antigua, Barbados and St. Vincent is a mystery (to me, at least).

Another anomaly is the use of paper watermarked with the Star, either Large, Small or Broad. The first issue of St. Lucia in 1860 was on watermarked paper but the 1861 issue of the Bahamas was on unwatermarked paper and paper with a watermark was not introduced in St. Vincent until 1871, this despite issues in 1861, 1862 and 1869. Trinidad's rough perf 14 – 16½ issue of 1862 was also on unwatermarked paper.

The final anomaly concerns shape of the sheets of the higher values of the Trinidad seated Britannia stamp, the 4d, 6d and 1s. In the Appendix of John Marriott's Trinidad book, this is given as 10 x 24. However, as some of you already know, I possess a part-sheet of 132 of the 1d manuscript on 6d of 1882. This is 11 rows by 12 columns, which does not fit in with the 10 x 24 assumption. That the plate was the original one is proven by the appearance of the flaw, mentioned on Page 30 of the Trinidad book. I would venture to suggest that the sheet size is 12 x 20.



BRITISH GUIANA

A 'NEW' FLAW ON THE FIRST SURFACED-PRINTED ISSUE

BY CHRIS MAY

With reference to Michael Medicott's article in Bulletin No. 263, December 2019, a recent check through my collection of Commonwealth unlisted flaws reveals:-

1. 4 cents SG128 postally used Georgetown 'DE 4 80' cds,
2. 48 cents SG133 fiscally used (faint brown pen cancel)

Both with the variety in clear view.

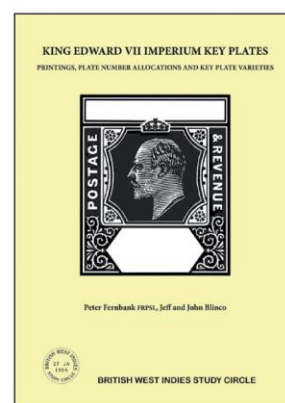
KING EDWARD VII IMPERIUM KEYPLATES

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.



A4 size, hardbacked with dustjacket, (viii) + 200 pages. ISBN: 978-1-907481-48-2

PRICE: £42.00.

Available from Pennymead Books (pennymead.com).

BRITISH WEST INDIES OFFERS FROM STOCK

ANTIGUA. 1887 2½d with top left triangle detached optd 'SPECIMEN'. Very fine mint. Rare. SG 27b sp. £325	JAMAICA. 1873 1/- block of four including '\$' for 'S'. Very fine mint (variety unmounted). BPA Cert. SG 13a. £950
BARBADOS. 1869 (4d) dull vermilion with large margins and excellent colour. Very fine mint. SG 28. £250	LEEWARDS. 1902 1/- with dropped 'R' in top marginal block of four. Unmounted mint. Exceptional. SG 26a. £375
BARBADOS. 1907 1d on 2d block of six, one surcharge double (one inverted). Very fine mint. SG 153c. £575	NEVIS. 1883 ½d with 'top left triangle detached'. Very fine mint. Exceptionally fresh. SG 25a. £275
BRITISH GUIANA. 1878 (1c) on 6c corner block of four with Current No.1. Very fine mint. SG 137. £120	ST. VINCENT. 1890 2½d on 4d with 'no fraction bar'. Very fine used. BPA Cert. SG 54a. £275
BRITISH HONDURAS. 1962 3c with blue-green omitted. Unmounted mint. SG 204a. £450	ST. VINCENT. 1899 1d with watermark inverted. Unmounted mint. SG 68w. £200
GRENADA. 1905 3d with 'damaged frame and crown'. Top marginal. Unmounted mint. SG 71a. £200	TRINIDAD. 1902 2½d 'SPECIMEN' with broken 'M'. Very fine mint. Only 13 possible. SG 129sp. £50
GRENADA. 1938 KGV Die Proof for 3d Registered Letter Fee Stamp in blue, approved, initialled and dated. £300	VIRGIN ISLANDS. 1904 5/- 'damaged frame and crown'. Very fine used 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: 01420 472672 Intl: (+44) 1420 472672
 e-mail: mark@surreystamps.com

BARBADOS

NOTES ON THE BARBADOS DOUBLE ARC CANCELLER

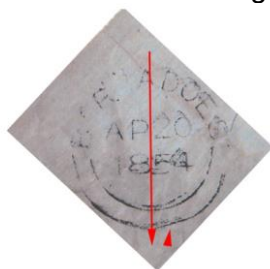
BY RICHARD STUPPLES

I am seeking further information on the Barbados Double Arc Post Mark Denoted as Type A7 in Clarke, Radford and Cave's book '*Barbados Post Office Markings to 1981*'. On page 2 of the first section there are notes that the canceller was registered with the GPO on 7 and 8 August 1845, implying that potentially two cancellers were sent to the island.

Referring to Proud's book on '*The Postal History of Barbados and Grenada*' the author notes only one cancel not two, initially listed in chapter 4 under PS 10, page 109, where it was recorded despatched on 7 August and in use from 8 September 1845. It also has a listing under D2, page 111, as a datestamp from 1858 until 29 February 1884.

I have not found anything else written which indicates there being either one or two marks having been sent to the Colony.

I would like to start with the mark getting damaged between 26 February 1850, and August 1850. It acquired a dent centred right at the bottom of the arc if a straight line is drawn in the 6 O'clock position.



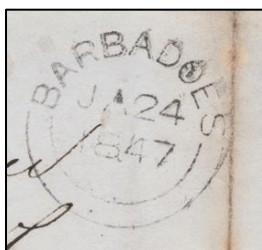
This dent appeared on every mark on cover I had seen either in auction, within any other display or within my own accumulated material

Now my most recent cover shows the A7 Cancel without the dent and is dated January 1850, on enquiry Michael Hamilton kindly supplied me with information of a cover dated 26 February 1850 that appears not to have the dent in it. It was addressed to the Rev. John Beecham DD, London, (see Bulletin 268, March 2021 front cover).

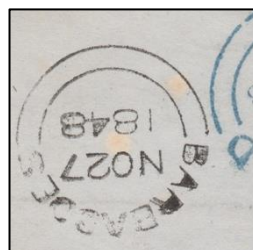
I have included scans from my own collection of the best legible A7 Cancel marks from its earliest use until the start of the use of adhesives



1846



1847



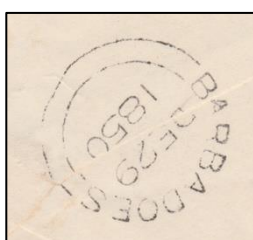
1848



January 1850



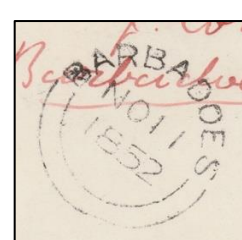
August 1850



December 1850



1851



1852

Sometime between January 1850 and August 1850, the outer ring acquires a flat dent offset right to the centre line of the cancel

SPINK
THE "FOXLEY" COLLECTION OF B.

Britannia Issue Covers - *contd.*

605

Trinidad

605 ☒ 1854 (4 Aug.) entire to Wood & Campbell, rated "4" and bearing (2d.) greyish slate bisected vertically and lightly cancelled "1", despatch and arrival (7.8) datestamps overlapping on reverse. An attractive example of this rare bisect franking. S.G. 4b, £8,500. Photo

Illustration copyright Spink & Son Ltd.

The first part of my request is, does anyone have a cover between the two dates of February and August 1850 with the Double Arc Cancel, Type A7, showing either dent or no dent. It would enable the date the cancel was dropped to be confirmed if enough material is available to do so.

I say dropped, because the dent does gradually change shape however in the discussions I've had about the potential of progressive collapse of the outer ring. It doesn't ever show it deflecting outwards, buckling so it doesn't ink or fail to mark the envelopes, though there has been some attempts at keeping it reformed back to the curve if studying and comparing the mark over a period of time during its use.

This also potentially conforms the existence of only one cancel rather than two and would confirm the suspicions that the single cancel was recorded twice on two different days due to the over enthusiasm of the office clerk.

The one cover I have found that conflicts with all this information is the one in the Foxley collection, and that Double Arc does seem evenly lined around the outer ring when I magnify the mark. However, I am unable from the image in the catalogue, to determine if it is a Barbados Double Arc so would like to have confirmation from the present owner or anyone else who has had occasion to hold and study this cover to confirm it is the Barbados cancel and not another Caribbean Island's Cancel.

For those interested in this cover, a similarly marked 'found' cover was sold in the Hackney collection under lot 10059, however the manuscript '4' denoting the Inter Island rate is different as well as the handwriting of the address.

The second part of my request is for any postmarks that are of the Barbados Double Arc Cancel without a dent in the outer arc as described. Dated after February 1850, up until the end of its life as a date canceller in 1884.

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

BARBADOS

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JAMACIA

AIRMAIL RATES FROM JAMAICA PART 4. TO CONTINENTAL EUROPE UP TO 1948

BY STEVE JARVIS

The Part 3 article discussed airmail rates between Jamaica and the UK. Part 4 lists those sent onward into Continental Europe. This would be transported by whatever method was available i.e. whether by air or surface was not specified.

How the rates were derived is not known: they seem, initially, to take into account the UPU surface rate (2½d & 1½d weight steps) plus a supplement for onward transmission by air. The combined surface and air fare from the UK to Europe until 1937 was 4d for the first ounce and 3d per additional ounce but until December 1933 the Jamaica PO seemed to charge an extra 6d per ounce! For the next two years they charged 4d & 3d. But in 1937 they seem to charge 3d for the first half ounce and 2d per additional half ounce. In 1938 the additional weight step rates changed to completely pro-rata per half ounce, consisting of the rate to the UK plus 3d for onward to Europe (even though the GB Post Office charged 2½d & 1½d).

1930 DECEMBER

Rates not published prior to 8 April 1931 but the following cover dated 3 March 1931 indicates the rates applied earlier.

8 APR 1931

Air to NY, sea to UK& onward

- ½oz @ 1s3d =
6½d air + 2½d surface + 6d onward
- 1oz @ 1s9½d =
6½d x 2 air + 2½d surface + 6d onward
- 1½oz @ 2s11½d =
6½d x 3 air + 2½d & 1½d surface + 6d x 2 onward
- 2oz @ 3s6d =
6½d x 4 air + 2½d & 1½d surface + 6d x 2 onward

Plus 2d registration



3 Mar 1931 Jamaica (Port Maria) – Liechtenstein

1 JAN 1932

The UK rate (combined air & surface) to Europe at this time was 4d for the first ounce and 3d per ounce thereafter.

Air to NY, sea to UK & onward

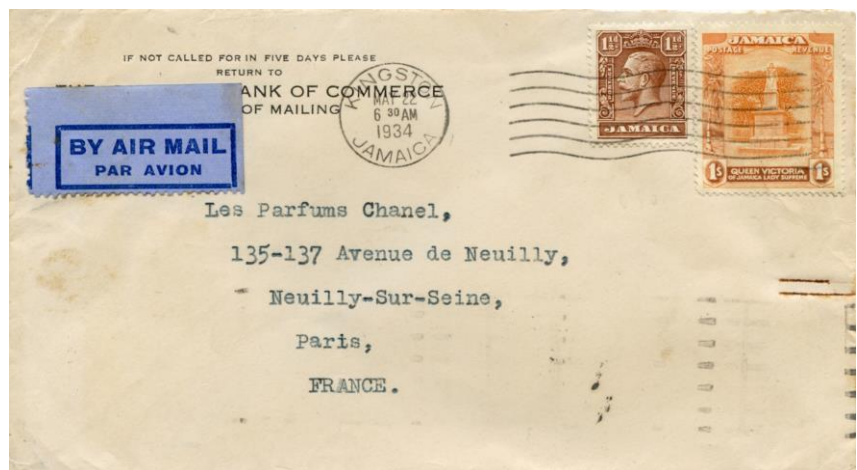
- ½oz @ 1s4d =
7½d air + 2½d surface + 6d onward
- 1oz @ 1s11½d =
7½d x 2 air + 2½d surface + 6d onward
- 1½oz @ 3s2½d =
7½d x 3 + 2½d & 1½d + 6d x 2 onward
- 2oz @ 3s10d =
7½d x 4 + 2½d & 1½d + 6d x 2 onward



21 Oct 1933 Jamaica (Kingston)-Holland (Hague)
Courtesy Dingle Smith

18 DEC 1933Air to NY, sea to UK & onward

- ½oz @ 1s1½ =
7d + 2½d + 4d onward
- 1oz @ 1s8½d =
7d x 2 + 2½d + 4d onward
- 1½oz @ 2s8d =
7d x 3 + 2½d & 1½d + 4d & 3d onward
- 2oz @ 3s3d =
7d x 4 + 2½d & 1½d + 4d & 3d onward



22 May 1934 Jamaica (Kingston) – France (Paris)

22 OCT 1934Air to NY, sea to UK, & onward

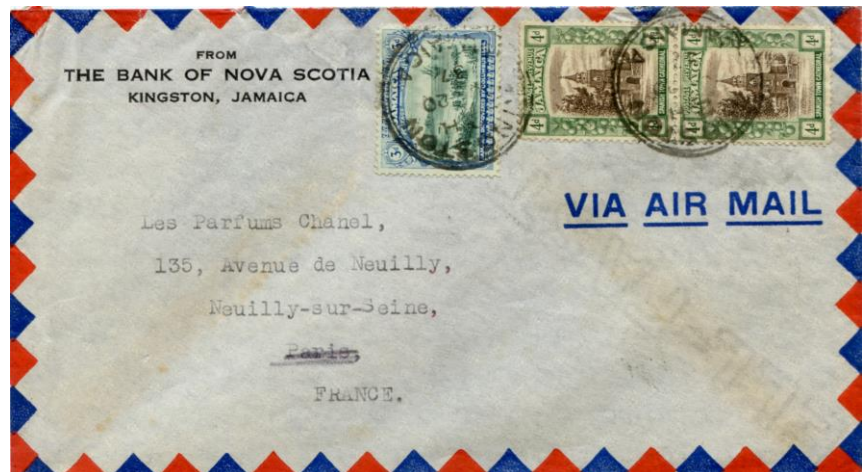
- ½oz @ 1s1d =
6½d air + 2½d surface + 4d onward
- 1oz @ 1s7½d =
= 6½d x 2 air + 2½d surface + 4d onward
- 1½oz @ 2s6½d =
= 6½d x 3 air + 2½d & 1½d surface + 4d & 3d onward
- 2oz @ 1s1d =
= 6½d x 4 air + 2½d & 1½d surface + 4d & 3d onward



4 Feb 1936 Jamaica (Lascelles) – Netherlands

15 JAN 1937Air to NY, sea to UK, & onward

- ½oz @ 11d =
8d to UK + 3d onward
- 1oz @ 1s9d
= 8d x 2 to UK
+ 3d & 2d onward
- 1½oz @ 2s7d
= 8d x 3 to UK
+ 3d & 2d x 2 onward
- 2oz @ 3s5d
= 8d x 4 to UK
+ 3d & 2d x 3 onward



20 Aug 1937 Jamaica (Kingston) – France (Paris)

1938 JAN 01Air to NY, sea to UK, & onward

- ½oz @ 9½d =
6½d to UK + 3d onward
- Weight steps pro-rata

Plus 2d registration



27 Jul 1938 Jamaica (May Pen) – Germany (Hameln)

1 APR 1939

Registration rate increased to 3d

Air to NY, sea to UK, & onward

- ½oz @ 9½d =
6½d to UK + 3d onward
- Weight steps pro-rata

Plus 3d registration



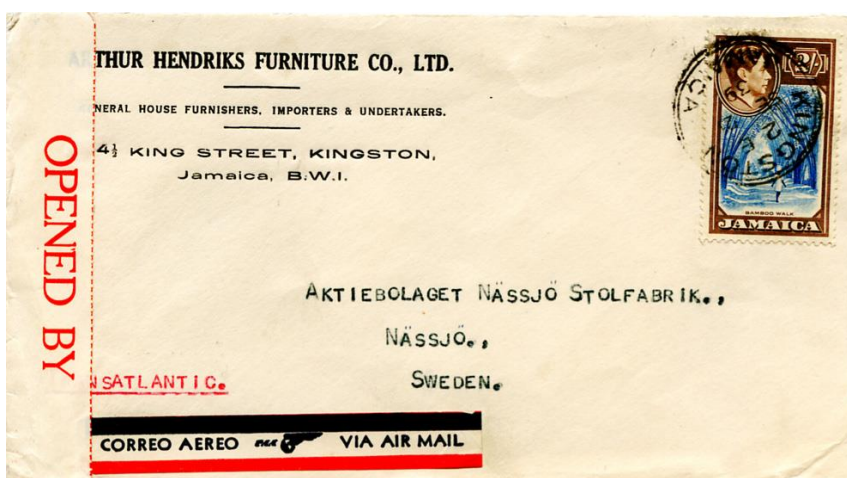
20 Jun 1939 Jamaica (Carron Hall) – Switzerland (Berne)

30 MAY 1939Air to NY, sea to UK & onward

- No change

All-Air

- 2s – same as to UK



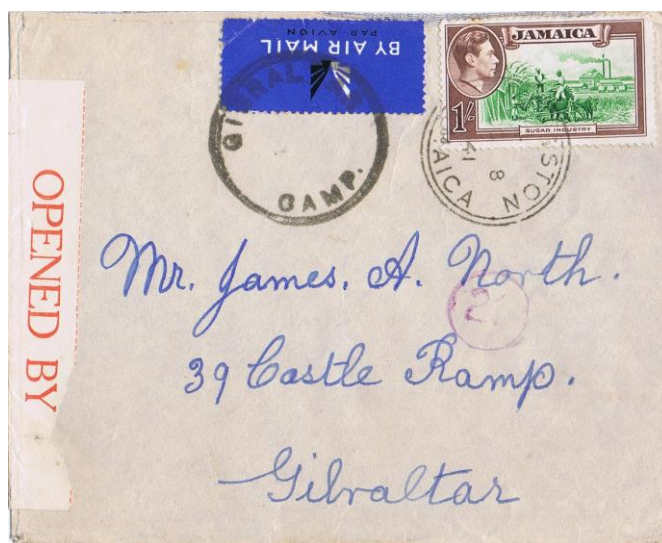
2 Sep 1939 Jamaica (Kingston) – Sweden (Nassjö)

1939 OCT 16Air to NY, sea to UK & onward

- ½oz @ 1s +
10d + 2d onward
- Weight steps pro-rata

The cover to the right should probably not be classified as Continental Europe as it was a British territory, but we have been unable to identify another.

The rate to the UK from 5 May 1941 was also 1s.



1941? Jamaica (Gibraltar Camp) – Gibraltar
Courtesy Dingle Smith

All-Air

- 2s2d – same as to UK



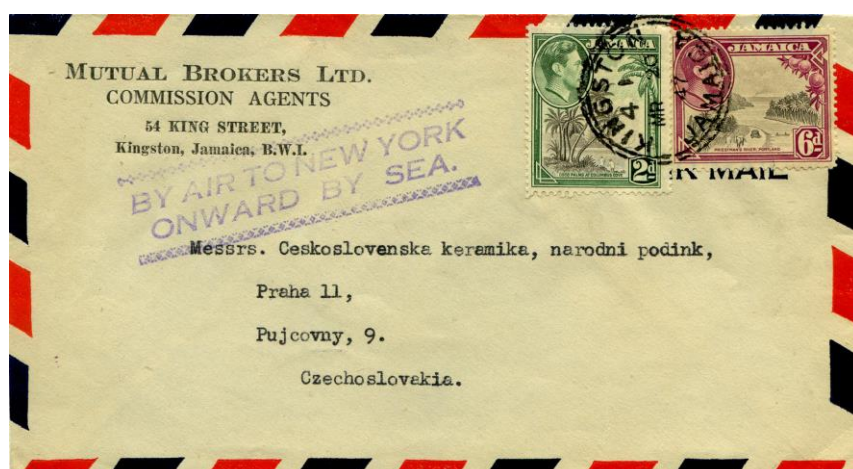
19 May 1941 Jamaica (Kingston) – Switzerland (Zurich)

15 SEP 1943Air to NY, sea to UK, & onward

- ½oz @ 8d – same as to UK

All-Air

- 2s2d (unchanged)



20 Mar 1947 Jamaica (Kingston) – Czechoslovakia (Pujcovny)

1947 JUN 16All-Air

1s3d – same as to UK



17 May 1948 Jamaica (Myrtle Bank) – Denmark (Copenhagen)

1 AUG 1948

Air-Sea Service closed.

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TRINIDAD

POSTAGE DUE FORGERIES.

BY EDWARD BARROW.

Despite Trinidad & Tobago's first Postage Due design having a very long innings, there are remarkably few striking flaws. There has also been little in the way of fakes and forgeries of the stamps. This suspect, a ½d Postage Due with an offset on reverse was an exception to the rule, being a striking flaw and considered genuine. But in a change of fortune, I think it should be considered an exceptional for the lesser reason that it is a clever forgery.



The first thing to note is that it differs substantially from the normal ½d due. The '1' is missing its main serif, the '2' also looks partially shaved, and the serif on the top of the 'd' is elongated. This in and of itself is not enough to disqualify it; if the printing plate was damaged, repairs may have led to this state of affairs. What is damning is the pale ghost of Britannia which haunts the stamp. This is probably best seen when juxtaposed with an untampered stamp.



It seems clear that to generate a blank canvas, the forger bleached a suitably watermarked used stamp before applying the fake impression on the front and the back of the stamp.



It is also interesting to note that this same image was used to make ordinary forgeries of this issue. These seem to be of poorer quality and resemble the sort of impressions found on printed album pages. These too appear to be made from bleached stamps.



In the example above what stands out is not the faded profile of Britannia, but the pink remains of the 'ONE PENNY' value tablet – clearer when viewed from the back. Who made these and when is not known.

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ST. VINCENT

PACKET LETTER

BY TERRY HARRISON



The cover illustrated above was written on 27 September 1834 and is addressed to J.M. Forbes Esq., Ely Place, London. It is marked 'Packet' in manuscript and rated 2s2d. The arrival stamp is for 10 November 1834.

A similar item dated 1832 was in the Peter Jaffé auction, 2 March 2006 lot 3. The catalogue description included the following note:

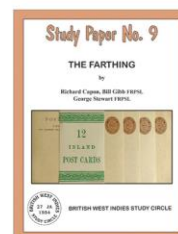
Almost all mail carried on the Admiralty packets received a despatch mark at St. Vincent, as required by regulations. Mail without such a mark is scarce, but a number of examples have been recorded between 1832 and 1841.

My question is: Was the 'Packet letter' stamp applied at Falmouth or London and if it was London does this mean that the mail from the Packet was forwarded from Falmouth without being checked there first?

STUDY PAPER NO. 9. THE FARTHING

by
Richard Capon, Bill Gibb FRPSL
and George Stewart FRPSL

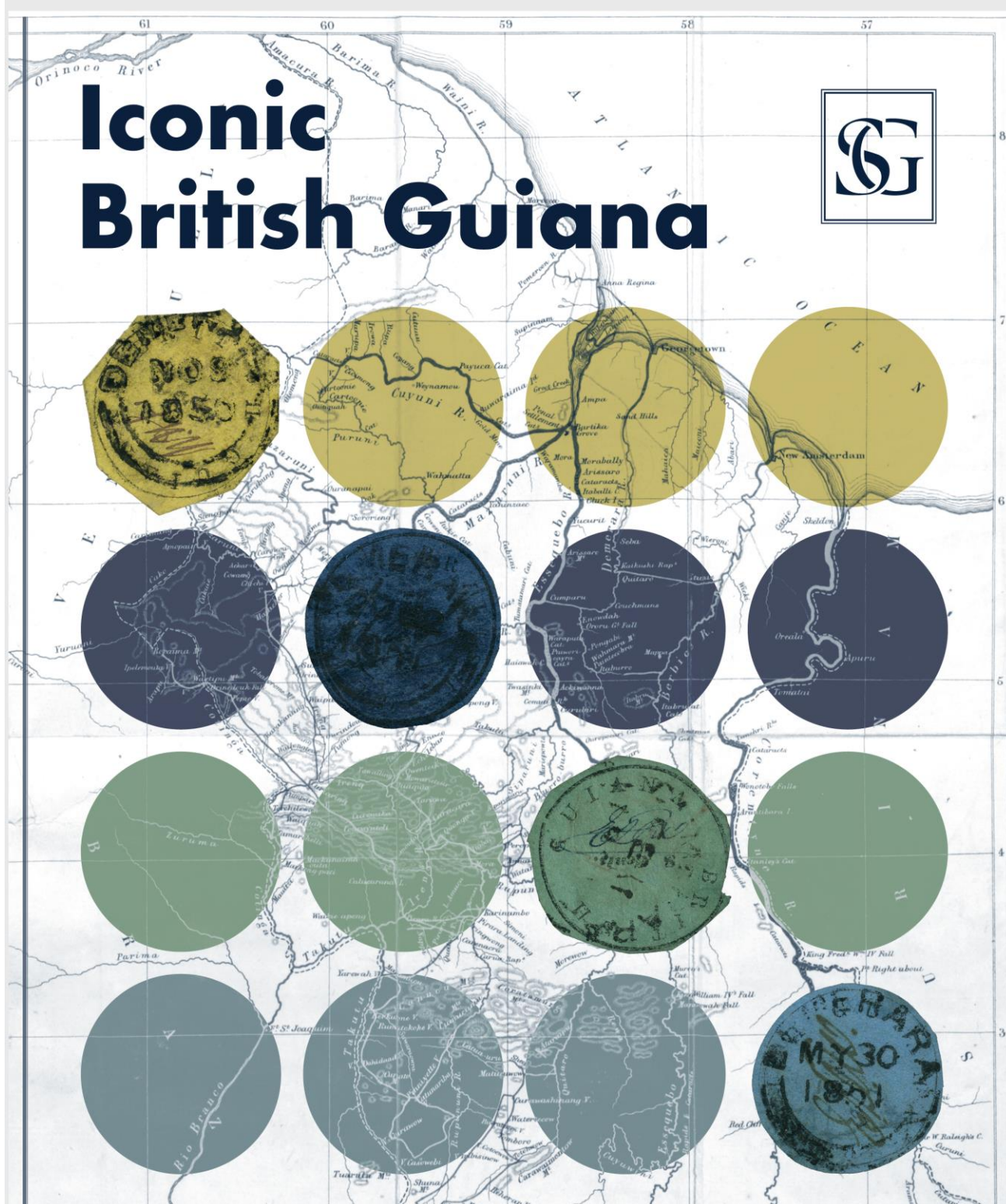
The humble farthing, which not that many people will remember, was the cost of posting Printed Papers locally in some colonies of the Empire. Most were in the West Indies. This book catalogues all of these stamps and shows some very uncommon uses. The coverage extends outside the West Indies to Malta in particular and also to Fiji. There are instances where farthing stamps/labels were used as revenues in Australia, South Africa and diverse places, such as Heligoland. There are listed examples of the farthing labels used in the Highland Railways of Scotland. Places where farthing stamps were used are all covered and as a special treat there is an appendix showing some rare uses from the Ronald Rong Gold Medal Collection.



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TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS

MAIL CARRIED ON THE CLIPPER *SEMINOLE*

BY TONY WALKER

I came across the cover shown here (Figure 1) recently and as it had a Turks and Caicos Islands stamp on it, took a chance and purchased it, it didn't have the look of a philatelic item. However I am still somewhat naïve on T&C Is. philately having started my collection two or three years ago but guessed this could be the name of a ship which carried the letter, despite the absence of other marks.

Apart from the blue '**SEMINOLE**' across the stamp and the address and '*via New York*', the only other mark is a single ring receiving cancel from 'PICTON / JAN 9 / 09 / N.S.' on the reverse. With a lack of transit marks, would this letter have been handed in directly to the ship, and then presumably posted into the postal system in Nova Scotia. If the crew member (or passenger?) held on to it that would account for the absence of the usual 'NEW YORK' transit marks. I'd be pleased to have any thoughts from members, on this cover.



Figure 1. Cover addressed to Nova Scotia with 'Via New York' and Pictou receiving cancel on the reverse.

I was therefore delighted to find this illustration (Figure 2) promoting the newly built Clipper named *Seminole*, built by Maxon and Fish at the Mystic Yards in Connecticut in 1865. The Seminole are a North American Indian tribe of Creek origins in southern Georgia who migrated north to northern Florida in the last half of the 18th century.



Figure 2. Promotional poster for the Clipper '*SEMINOLE*'

The inscription around the poster clockwise from the top reads :

The New and Elegant A 1 Mystic Built Clipper Ship
SEMINOLE.

Being constructed in the best manner with extra
 copper fastenings, she is rated **A 1** for **NINE**
YEARS, and is probably the **BEST SHIP AFLOAT.**
 Shippers will please examine her, and judge for
 themselves

HOLMES, (formerly of the Twillight,) Master, at Pier
 12 E.R.
FOR SAN FRANCISCO,
SUTTON & CO., South Street, corner Wall.

This splendid ship is of the Sharp Clipper Model,
 and built expressly for the California trade, with
 thorough ventilation, and every requisite for
 delivering Cargo at the earliest possible day in fine
 order

Seminole was a fast clipper, and one of only two in the post civil war period (1865 – 1900) to make a passage from an Atlantic port to San Francisco in less than 100 days, when she delivered a locomotive.

I have a PPC (unused) shown here in Figure 3 which indicates *Seminole* was one of the Clyde-Mallory Lines ships, whose other ships were *Algonquin*, *Cherokee* and *Mohawk*. Presumably mail exists with these names hanstamped on covers? In small writing on the PPC it states Standard Coastline Passenger and Fast Freight Route to and from Florida and the Southeast.



Figure 3: Ships of the Clyde-Mallory Lines

I cannot believe *Seminole* called in to Grand Turk on one of her fast voyages, but maybe she did to Jamaica where this cover was handed in. As I said, any further information would be most welcome.

STEVEN ZIRINSKY

MEMBER PTS, APS, NZSDA, APTA

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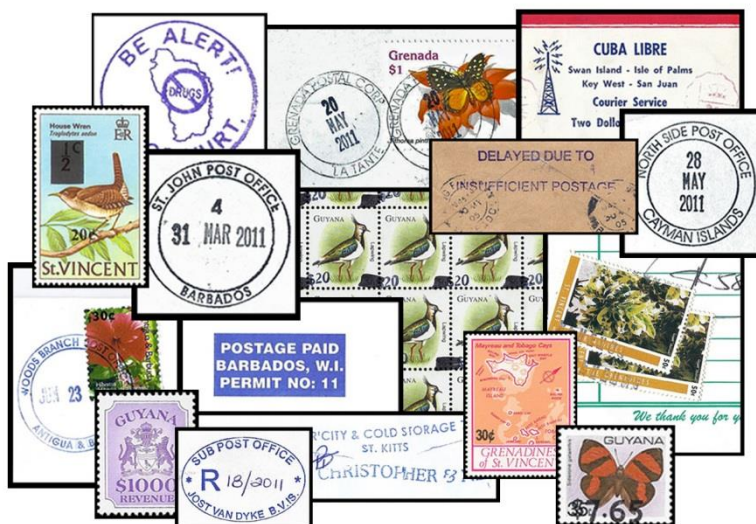
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AUCTION REPORT SPRING 2021**BY GRAHAM BOOTH**

In its January sale of 'Important Stamps and Covers of the British Commonwealth' Spink included a handful of West Indian items which, realistically estimated, all sold well. A mint British Honduras 2 cents on 6d rose, with slanting '2' and curved foot from 1888 (only 8 examples believed to exist) sold for £5,800, more than 3 times the top estimate. An 'improved' version of the 1856, 4 cents black on rose carmine from British Guiana sold for £3,200 which seemed a good price when the black on magenta on cover (ex Caspary) realised £7,500. The fact that the latter was cut as an octagon probably affected the price. The other Guiana adhesive on cover, the 1852, 4 cents black on deep blue 'one of the finest of the few known' realised £5,500, midway between the low and high estimates.

Corinphila provided 6 days of sales at the end of January. There was not an enormous amount to interest our members, but the Brian Moorhouse sale of Latin America and the Pietor Provera sale of France and Italy provided further evidence of strengthening in the market generally. Not surprisingly a comprehensive gold medal collection of Bahamas postal stationery with a start price of 50,000 Chf did not sell, but 13 out of 14 lots of British Guiana, all ex Charles Freeland, did sell at reasonable prices. The highlight was the sale of the Gregory Frantz world collection of the private ship letter stamps and covers issued by the steamship companies. Practically everything was sold, with some lots achieving 8, 9 or 10 times the starting price. Despite the length of some bidding chains, and despite Corinphila having computer and telephone problems this is now a very slick operation with online bidding taking no longer than bidding in the room. Where there were problems the auctioneer was punctilious in stopping the auction.

In the West Indies, the beautiful collection of the 'Clara Rothe' from St. Thomas sold for 950 Chf (low estimate 250) despite never being issued; HAPAG was again very strong with 5 different covers franked with a single adhesive, realising between 2,200 and 5,500 Chf. Nobody wanted the complete sheets of the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance; but the two Lady McCleod's on cover sold for 12,500 Chf and 16,000 Chf, respectively. Personally, I would have priced them the other way round, the higher priced cover looking far less attractive than its sister; but the lower priced one had smaller margins and the higher price was probably achieved because of the magical effect of the name Ferrari. Franz's article about Lady McLeod, published in 2017, referred to by the auctioneers, which concluded that the stamps were printed by Perkins Bacon, remains highly controversial. A spectacular Cuthbert Bros cover from British Honduras only realised 1,700 Chf, condemned to the lower reaches because it was only a front. The packet post of St. Thomas to Puerto Cabello did much better than I expected with 9 franked covers ranging in price from 1,400 to 4,800 Chf. However, for me, the star was an unfranked cover addressed to Paris with a superb circular 'St. Thomas, La Guayra & Pt Cabello Steam Packet' handstamp which realised 2,800 Chf.

I have left the best until last – the Royal Mail Steam Packet. I reported on the sale of the Jan Berg collection in March last year in Wiesbaden that most of the RMSP. items were unsold. I found it amazing that on this occasion two die proofs sold for 1,800 Chf and 4,000 Chf respectively (an example of the first dated 'Feb19th 1875 AFTER STRIKING' being unsold at 400€ in the Berg sale) and that a mint sheet of 30 of the stamp sold for 800 Chf, over 1,000 Chf with the add-ons (imports from Switzerland are subject to an additional 5%) when in March one priced at 350€ was unsold. Where were these two bidders when the Berg collection was sold? Another example of the mint sheet was offered by Spink in April with a low estimate of £480 which failed to sell at £320, and yet another by Kohler, which probably was the unsold version from the Berg sale, which went for 360€. A vivid example of how imperfect our markets are at the moment! Of course, value and scarcity have never had a tight relationship. There are apparently only three examples known of the RMSP adhesive used on cover, they all have disadvantages. One which sold in the Frantz sale for 6300 Chf is a little tatty around the edges, a second is badly torn and supposedly has a dubious provenance (both these were used locally) and the third, ex Venezuela addressed to Barcelona, which despite having some cover faults looks very attractive. This was carried as a loose letter from St. Thomas to Southampton and struck there with a Ship Letter handstamp. It was unsold in the Berg sale at 13,000€ and was reoffered in April this year and again withdrawn at 10,000€. Contrast this to the Lady McCleod of which there are approximately 40 covers known, of very variable quality, the nicest being in the Royal Collection. I estimate that today a cover of comparable quality to the RMSP cover withdrawn in Wiesbaden would realise between £12,000 and £17,500.

It is possible that a number of our members are not accustomed to bidding in Europe, so it might be of interest to report that I was bid out of several lots that I was interested in; but ended up spending only two thirds of the sum I had budgeted for the sale. Corinthia's practice of only quoting starting prices compared to the usual British practice of quoting a low and high estimate with the starting price sometimes only two thirds of the low estimate, results in a risk of misjudging what a lot will go for. Unless you are desperate to buy, or very confident of the market value, there is a natural reluctance to spend many multiples of the start price to be successful, because you may be spending more than the lot's real value. So, a successful bidding strategy requires a slightly different approach to one you might be used to in the U.K. With the increased value of the £, buying abroad is an opportunity at the moment; but be warned. It is increasingly likely you will have to pay customs duties and a processing fee, and as the latter is a fixed fee the total payment may amount to 10% on a small purchase.

I don't know whether somebody has been reading my complaints about the move away from hard copy catalogues but an unsolicited, high quality copy from an auction house in Vienna, only established in 2019, crashed onto my doormat the other day. Crashed because it was heavy, and heavy because every single stamp in the auction was illustrated. It originated from 'Classicphil' and took some getting used to. Navigating one's way around was difficult because there were no page headings, and as it was arranged geographically rather than alphabetically, British Africa was last of the Commonwealth groupings. Consequently, Cape of Good Hope was at the back of the book, only a few lot numbers before Zanzibar.. There was an enormous amount of eye-candy but don't even start without a good magnifying glass, because for any lot below about 500€ there was no description – just a catalogue number and a logo giving a broad condition classification. Casually skipping through to see if something attracts your attention is not to be recommended. In Bermuda I initially thought I was looking at key plate varieties when I realised that they were all the same stamp with slightly different shades. Even in the Cayman, where I am reasonably familiar with what I am looking at, a lot described only as 'SG 40–52' had four versions of the 3d, 2 of the 1s and 3 of the 10s. It was impossible to decide from the illustrations whether these were the correctly catalogued shade varieties from this set. Where there were descriptions, they tended in the direction of hyperbole e.g. Br. Guiana SG119, 2c black on yellow, rouletted is described as 'Outstandingly fresh and desirable, perfect in every way'. By the standards of this issue, it probably is desirable; but in absolute terms, judging solely from the illustration, 'scruffy, even dirty' might be more appropriate. And SG71 12 cents, pale blue – is described as the 'One and only choice piece of this key value'. In the auctioneer's mind 'choice' may be justified; but it is far from being the only example. The approach is very different and may appeal to some of you who are completely frustrated by the current inability to view; but European bureaucracy means you must have a photo ID to register to bid, and the auctioneer's uplift is 24%, with possible customs dues to follow.

Spink held one of their Collector's Series of auctions on 14 and 15 April, one of their midway auctions with live and online bidding held in the prestigious premises of the Royal, but with no hard copy of the catalogue. From our members perspective most of what was of interest were unsolds ex Freeland and from the Brian Brookes collection of Martinique, so it is perhaps unreasonable to expect a hard copy; but for somebody with limited funds and a surplus of goodies on which to spend those funds, it makes working out how to prioritise the spend more difficult, and for me it makes writing up the auction much harder work. There were 30 lots of Bermuda keyplates, mainly small groupings, which sold well but at extremely low prices. The balance of the Brookes Martinique sale of a similar size fared very differently with almost 50% unsold, despite estimates being reduced substantially. The prime performer was an 1873 entire to Guadeloupe franked with Ceres adhesives which had a low estimate of 750€ in 2018. This was knocked down for £650, the £ having appreciated by 10% in the interval. The performance of the day came from two St. Christopher provisional covers, which I assumed incorrectly had been offered before in the Brookes sale. An 1885 cover to Dominica with eight bisected 1ds, estimated at £400 made £1,600, and four 1d on 6d's on a cover to Trinidad estimated at £300 realised £1,900; both more than double what they might have achieved in the Brookes sale. Another example of how crazy our markets can be was a 1723 Ship Letter with a low estimate last time of 400€ which sold for £290, another, a nice example from 1739 with the same original estimate, to which had been added a third of rather less value, only realised £80. I know Martinique is not a mainstream interest for many of us, but ship letters from anywhere in the West Indies at this date are scarce, and £80 is a ridiculous price.

Another Spink sale on 5 May of 'Important Stamps and Covers of the World' contained significant collections of Barbados, British Honduras, and Grenada, the first two imported, so they carried an additional VAT burden. The most significant part for us was the 130 lots of Barbados, which were rumoured to be ex Fritz Roett. At 85% sold this was one of the most successful parts of the entire auction. Nothing skyrocketed, way beyond the high estimate; but there were more than 20 online bidders, and the book was reasonably strong. British Honduras was more mixed (62% sold with the three expensive covers selling below the low estimate. The cover to New Orleans franked with the 1d blue from the first issue, struck with 'Jamaica Transit' and 'NY Steamship 10' made £3,500. In the Leewards a block of four 1d's from the Victoria keyplate issue with a major shift in the duty plate exceeded its high estimate at £4,000 and the 1897 5s from the Jubilee set with the overprint doubled reached £1,700. On the other hand, two nice covers with manuscript 'Solent' cancels failed to reach £500, way off what they were selling for only a few years ago.

In Grenada one buyer mopped up all the pre-adhesive covers, except the two most expensive items, which were unsold; but the 41 lots of adhesives were only 50% sold, the three Virgin Islands covers were unsold as was the beautiful 1860 cover to Baltimore from Trinidad with four copies of the 5th litho issue and an 1859 1d which was withdrawn at £9,500 together with the set of coloured die proofs for the 1862 thick paper set which was withdrawn at £3,500 (both ex Marriott).. The star of the show was a tatty cover, not much more than a front, to London with a very nice strike of the 'Paid at Montserrat' crowned circle which sold for £2,700 against a top estimate of £1,000. Why, when there are 14 other examples known, probably twice as many as the number of active, advanced collectors of Montserrat, and the fine 1932 master die proof of the anniversary issue was withdrawn at £700? All told, this was not what I expected and is something of a setback compared to the hardening in prices of the last 12 months. A couple of days after the sale there was a real innovation when the unsolds (approximately 25%) were listed on the net; at the reserve, available for 5 days, so you could save one bidding step plus a small amount of VAT, compared to what you would have spent if you had been the only bidder for the lot in the auction. I doubt that this will become standard practice.

We will have to wait for another chunk of Barbados from Grosvenor on 16 June, the second parts of Hugh Wood's Jamaica with Spink on 3 June and of his GB Post Offices Abroad with Corinthia on 9 June: also, part 2 of the Besancon collection with the same auction house a day earlier, all of which may have taken place by the time you read this. Will prices consolidate? Have we spent up on the first parts, or will the size and quality of what is on offer result in a further hardening?

Request for information

Susan Taylor (who with Nigel Mohammed wrote the Prestoe/Weston article last December) is currently researching the background story to the Lady McLeod Covers. She would be very grateful for a scan or photocopy of the reverse side (the letter) of any of the Lady McLeods on cover if you own one and are willing to share it. Please forward any information you may have via the editor. We look forward to an interesting article in the coming months.

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