

**2021 CONVENTION AT THE RED LION HOTEL, BASINGSTOKE**



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**BULLETIN No. 271 December 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

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

## EDITORIAL

I had not intended to put in another editorial, but I would like to put an idea to members. There has been talk of late about a possible merger between the British West Indies Study Circle and the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. The two societies study the same area but naturally have different approaches. The linchpin of each society is its journal which is what attracts members from around the world. The information in the journals is seen as essential to collectors of the British West Indies. However, as someone who has been a member of both for a long time, and now as editor of the BWISC Bulletin, it is clear that there are not enough articles being produced for two journals. It may be too soon (for some) to merge the societies, but I have another idea. I believe it would be possible to produce a joint journal, possibly slightly larger (say 44 pages) that could contain articles from both societies and the relevant advertisements from both sets of advertisers. This would give the advertisers even greater reach. It would not be difficult to produce a joint journal in two sizes (A4 and American Quarto) that could be printed in each continent for mailing. It would save money for both societies and keep each operating whilst producing a (potentially) superior journal. It might need a slightly different name (a joint journal of the BWISC and BCPSG) but I think the idea may be worth pursuing in the interim so that each society can maintain a quality journal. Let me know your thoughts.

**STOP PRESS** – Just as we were going to press, we learnt of the passing of Simon Goldblatt on 2 November. He will be greatly missed and there will be more in the next Bulletin.

### VALE – BILL GIBB

We very much regret to announce the sudden death of Bill Gibb. Up to two weeks before the Convention he was planning to attend as the Convention organiser, then an operation which had previously been postponed was cancelled after he was admitted to hospital because of the queue for an MRI scan, and he could not manage the long drive to Basingstoke. As the Royal rep. for the Midlands, he managed to conduct a regional meeting a week later, and he was hopeful that he could go to York for the SPH Convention in November. So, it was a great shock to learn that he had died. He was a larger-than-life character, full of generosity, gentle humour and warmth, and always prepared to volunteer. He will be sadly missed.

## **CARIBBEAN COLLECTORS CONVENTION 2021**

### **THE RED LION HOTEL, BASINGSTOKE**

The Convention in Basingstoke was attended by some 28 members. This somewhat lower number of attendees was affected by the hangover from the Covid and the national shortage of fuel for cars.

The proceedings were opened by our President, Graham Booth. He explained there had of necessity been changes to the published programme before introducing the first of the informal displays (list at the end of this report). Altogether there were, over the one and a half days of the Convention, 15 members showing informal displays. The two main displays were given by Terry Harrison and Simon Greenwood.

Terry Harrison's display on early St Vincent took place on Saturday morning and covered the development of the first adhesives from 1861. There were on view a healthy quantity of proofs, blocks and stamps dating from 1861 to 1892. In all, this was a grand opportunity for members to view a fine Gold Medal exhibit of St. Vincent.

The second formal display was of British Guiana with pre-stamp material dating from the early 18th century and extended up to the end of the Queen Victoria era. There were fine, sometimes very rare, items that had previously graced the collections of famous philatelists of times past. Again proofs, specimens, blocks and postal history were displayed. Simon must be congratulated on his extensive research and his knowledge of his subject.

It is not easy to display one's collection to a group of philatelists, most no doubt experts in their own field. But both Terry and Simon produced interesting and entertaining displays which their audience appreciated greatly.

The other side of the Convention is the bourse where our three intrepid dealer members displayed their wares. Michael Hamilton, Chris Rainey and David Druett had a good supply of eager prospective buyers visiting their tables. One can only hope their sales matched their expectations! Making up the rest of the bourse was the members' table manned by Simon Goldblatt and Anne Pike and the publications table with Peter Ford persuading members to part with their money in exchange for books.

The other event in a busy weekend was the Saturday evening dinner. Due to constraints limiting the hotel's ability to provide dinner, an outside caterer was employed; it turned out to be a better meal than had been feared. Part of the evening's programme was the presentation of the Collett Trophies, one for the best article in the Bulletin and the other for the best BWI publication. Steve Jarvis' continuing series of articles on Jamaican Airmails was judged to be the winner in the first category and Tim Pearce's Grenada book, the best publication. Congratulations to both of these members.

As an addendum, we had to welcome two new members to our fold, Tony Walker and Chris Dorn; as well as this we recruited a new member at the Convention, Maurits Kleingel. We hope they enjoy many years of membership.

Altogether everybody had an enjoyable weekend meeting with as good an attendance as could be expected under the present prevailing circumstances.

The informal displays were as follows:

- Kevin Darcy – Cayman Islands Farthings.
- Tony Walker – Turks Islands.
- Jonathan Guy – Barbados, KGVII Seal of Colony Issue.
- Ian Jakes – Jamaica in Wartime.
- Peter Fernbank – Bahamas Special Delivery Issue.



- Peter Ford – Trinidad De La Rue printings from Perkins Bacon Plates.
- Mike Rego – BWI Pre-adhesive material.
- Susan Taylor – Thematic display of 'Birds of the Caribbean'.
- Paul Hancock – Jamaica Miscellany.
- Simon Kelly – Bahamas.
- Paul Farrimond – Jamaica.
- Richard Capon – BWI Miscellany.
- Paul Wright – Jamaica Express Post.
- Ricky Verra – Miscellaneous.
- James Podger – Ship Mail.
- Simon Goldblatt – Miscellaneous.

Some of these displays will be, no doubt, be available for viewing on the BWISC website – see <https://bwisc.org/exhibits>.

*(Ed: There are three from Sarah Taylor and one from Paul Wright at the time of publication.)*

Report by Peter Ford

*(Ed: The following are photographs of the majority of those who gave displays.)*

## Argyll Etkin Limited

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Steve Jarvis signing the Collett Prize



Graham Booth



Jonathan Guy



Peter Fernbank



Terry Harrison



Ian Jakes



Mike Rego



Paul Wright



Paul Farrimond



James Podger



Ricky Verra



Susan Taylor



Alister Kinnon



Simon Goldblatt



Simon Greenwood



Kevin Darcy



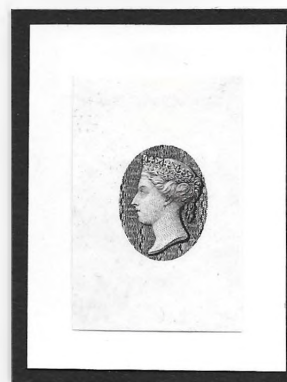
**ST VINCENT****EXTRACT FROM THE CONVENTION DISPLAY****BY TERRY HARRISON****Saint Vincent 1861 to 1897****The Postage and Revenue stamps produced from Perkins, Bacon plates.**

Perkins, Bacon produced the stamps of St. Vincent from 1861 until December 1881 when the Government of St Vincent cancelled the contract due to disputes over production quality and quantities invoiced. The Crown Agents handed over the printing plates to De La Rue on 25 March 1882. Despite many representations the St. Vincent authorities were reluctant to purchase new plates to suit De La Rue's printing methods so a compromise was reached by utilising temporary overprint formes to create new values as required. The Perkins, Bacon plates continued in use until 1897 when the Colony was persuaded to adopt the Universal Key Plate designs.

Early in 1860 Perkins, Bacon & Co. commissioned a new Queen Victoria head, for use on postage stamps, based on a watercolour drawing by Edward Henry Corbould, now in the Royal collection.

- 1 Perkins, Bacon proofs and issues of the **ONE PENNY** and **SIX PENCE** plates on unwatermarked paper.
- 2 Perkins, Bacon proofs and issues of the **FOUR PENCE** and **ONE SHILLING** plates on unwatermarked paper .
- 3 Perkins, Bacon issues on Small Star watermarked paper.
- 4 The provisional overprints of 1880 and 1881.
- 5 Perkins, Bacon proofs and issues of the **FIVE SHILLING** and **HALFPENNY** plates.
- 6 De la Rue issues from Perkins, Bacon plates including plate proofs and temporary overprint formes.
- 7 New **2½ PENCE** and **FIVE PENCE** values produced by De La Rue utilising the Perkins, Bacon steel die.
- 8 De La Rue and local Revenue overprints.

Proof of the Queen's head with oval surround in black on thick wove paper.



Engraved by Charles H. Jeens and used for the first stamps of St. Vincent.

The exhibit features examples of essays, proofs, colour trials, specimens and issued stamps together with shade varieties, local provisionals and the conversion of postage stamps for revenue purposes.

**The scarcer items are identified by a red border.**

**Principal Reference Sources**

Napier, F. H. and Bacon, E. D  
 Pierce, A. D., Messenger, J. L., Lowe, R.  
 Proud, E. B. And Chin Aleong, J.  
 Samuel, M.  
 Walton, F  
 Worms, P. De  
 The London Philatelist

Saint Vincent (1895)  
 St. Vincent (1971)  
 The Postal History of St. Lucia and St. Vincent (2006)  
 Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948  
 De La Rue Collection (2014)  
 Perkins, Bacon Records (1953)  
 British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin

### THE PERKINS, BACON PRINTINGS 1861 - 1881

On 1 May 1860 the Colonial Authorities took over the responsibility of administration of the Post Office in St. Vincent from the Postmaster General of the United Kingdom and Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., were requested to produce printing plates for 1d and 6d stamps. The dies were engraved by Charles Jeens during the latter part of January 1861 and the printing plates were then produced, each plate of sixty stamps being made up of six rows each ten stamps long.

#### ONE PENNY PLATE PROOF



Plate proofs in colour are distinguished from imperforate remainders by use of thin hard wove paper.

#### PRINTERS SAMPLE STAMPS



Horizontal pen line applied by printer for record purposes.

[4-5]

Throughout this display known sheet positions are identified by a number in square brackets using the convention [1] top left stamp to [60] bottom right stamp of the sheet.

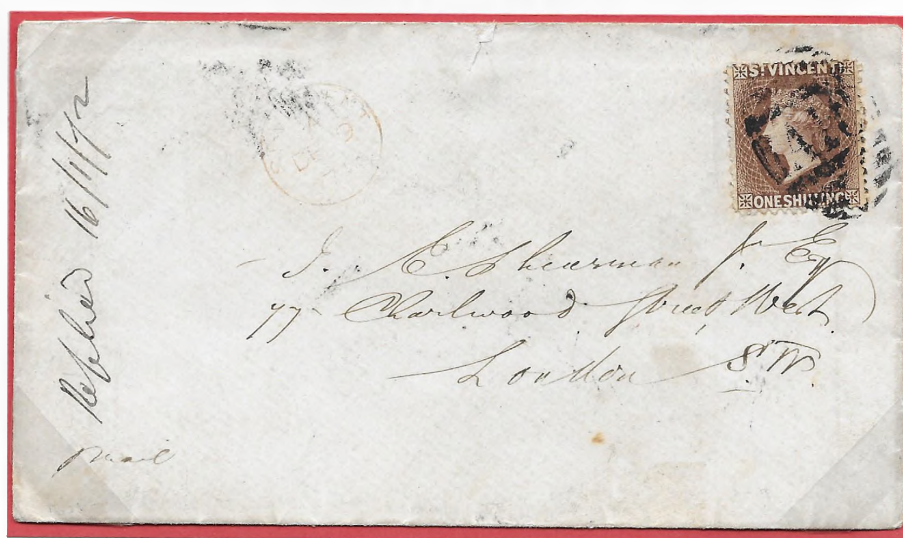
**ONE SHILLING BROWN September 1869****UNWATERMARKED PAPER, PERF 11-13**

In June 1869, following receipt of the 1/- indigo, a fresh order for 300 sheets of 1/- stamps was sent, to be printed in light brown, thus avoiding the previous difficulties with shade.  
In the week ending 31 July Wilkinson printed 331 sheets of which 315 were perforated by Miss Stewart.



9,000 stamps were invoiced on 13 August 1869

1871 (9 December) envelope to London, bearing single 1869 1/- brown



Cancelled in black with the vertical 'A 10' obliterator and red St. Vincent c.d.s. (DE 9 71).  
Arrival backstamp DE 20 71.

Crayon accountancy marks now discontinued.

One of six covers recorded.

Ex. Burrus  
Jaffé  
Friedman



### “½d” on HALF SIX PENCE DEEP YELLOW-GREEN 1881

In August 1881 a ½d stamp was ordered from Perkins Bacon to provide for the 2½d U.P.U. rate coming into effect on 1 September. As an interim measure, a ½d provisional was provided by surcharging twelve sheets of the 1880 6d twice on each stamp. These were then bisected using the local gauge 12 perforator producing 1,440 stamps.

The surcharge forme consisted of 36 surcharges (18 “pairs”).



A



C B



D Ba



C C



C



E



D B

Posthumous cancellation  
Tall ‘A10’ found used  
between 1885 and 1895

Fraction bar omitted  
36 examples printed  
Ex Jaffé

Stamp [60] in the sheet  
showing bottom and right margins

For surcharging, the sheet of 60 stamps was divided into vertical blocks of 18 stamps starting from either side of the sheet. Five basic types of surcharge are found, distinguished by the relative positions of the surcharge bar and figures.

- A “1” over left of “2” bar to left.
- B “1” over centre of “2” bar to right.
- Ba As B, but straight top to “1”
- C “1” and bar central.
- D “1” to right, bar to right.
- E Fraction bar omitted.

I	II	III	IV	V	VI
A	B	C	C	D	B
VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII
A	B	C	C	C	B
XIII	XIV	XV	XVI	XVII	XVIII
A	B	C	C	C	Ba
XIX	XX	XXI	XXII	XXIII	XXIV
A	B	C	C	D	B
XXV	XXVI	XXVII	XXVIII	XXIX	XXX
C	C	D	B	B	B
XXXI	XXXII	XXXIII	XXXIV	XXXV	XXXVI
C	C	NO BAR	C	D	B

Reconstruction of the surcharge setting  
(Jaffé & Kellow, LP vol 98 p157)

### FIVE SHILLINGS ROSE-RED 1880

In a letter of 27 February 1880 Edward Laborde, the Colonial Secretary wrote:

*"I am ... instructed to request you have a plate engraved for stamps of the value of five shillings ... The size of the stamp should be larger than that of our shilling stamp – say the size of the English 5/- stamp. The colour should be pink. The design, the Arms of the Colony with the motto above, surmounted by a crown, and a band around having the words 'St. Vincent – Five Shillings'."*



Ex. Van Buren Emmons

Die proof of design without inscriptions in black on card.  
Engraved by William Ridgeway on 14 April 1880



Ex. Jaffé

The completed die was built up from an engine turned white trellis weave background cut on the Spencer traversing lathe, previously used for the Great Britain 1840 dies, with central design and lettering added.

**HALFPENNY ORANGE 1881**

An order for a ½d postage stamp was despatched to Perkins Bacon on 6 August 1881, with the request that the design be the same as the penny, but smaller, and the colour to be “primrose”. The printer replied that light orange was the nearest satisfactory approach to this colour that could be obtained.

**DIE PROOF**

Die engraved 7 October and hardened 10 October 1881



Direct on card

**ORIGINAL PLATE PROOF PART SHEET OF 20**

Plate finished 15 October 1881



Printers' manuscript "October 1881-"

the largest piece extant.

Ex: Messenger

## COLLETT PRIZE 2021

The Collett prize is awarded every two years for the book that in the judges' opinion is the best and most significant that has been published on the philately of the British West Indies during the previous two years. The prize has deservedly been awarded this year to Tim Pearce for his book on Grenada, which is reviewed elsewhere in this Bulletin. It is an important addition to the reference books on our bookshelves on the philately of the West Indies.

However, in addition this year the judges thought it appropriate to make a special award to Graham Booth for his book 'Crisis in the Cayman Islands Post Office' published by the Rossiter Trust. They considered that the book was in a different category to the other philatelic handbooks that have been written, in that it described the post office and its governance in the context of the social and political history and development of the Cayman Islands, and they considered that this achievement should be recognised in the awards made this year.

Ray Stanton

## AUCTION 2022

We are now accepting material for the 2022 auction to be held in late April/early May. All material must be sent to Simon Richards at Heathercombe House, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7BG; material can no longer be accepted at Simon Goldblatt's Chambers address.

Please e-mail [auction@bwisc.org](mailto:auction@bwisc.org) or telephone Simon Richards (+44 771 368 4263) in advance of posting.

All consignments will be acknowledged but please help us to help you by sending your own list with:

Your reference number  
A brief description – SG number helpful  
Any reserve/estimate

The auction will continue to aim to have an average lot value of £50 and the team reserves the right to lot the material differently, but you will be advised and any recommendations on changes to estimate advised.

The **Deadline** for consignment is 15 January 2022, this is to ensure the catalogue can go to the printer with the March Bulletin at the beginning of February.

### A brief review of the Auctions of 2020 and 2021

The 2020 auction offered 730 lots, property of 24 vendors, and took place on 25 April 2020 shortly after the start of the pandemic which made it a postal only auction followed by a Zoom debrief. Clearly some regular bidders were put off by not being able to view the lots, nevertheless 74 bidders took part and all but 9 obtained some lots.

Sales on the day amounted to £18,770 and 428 lots sold, some 58%, a little below our normal levels but in the rather difficult circumstances can be considered reasonable. The territories in demand were Barbados 32 out of 47 lots sold, British Guiana where 81 of the 96 lots sold and St Lucia where only 4 of the 23 lots were unsold. Antigua, Bahamas, Bermuda, Caymans, Nevis and Virgins all struggled and only a few lots sold.

For 2021 we put the auction date back to 22 May, just a few days after restrictions eased so that we were able to hold a physical auction for those prepared to brave the risks of public transport. The event was held at the home of the Royal Philatelic Society London and most felt it was a successful venue, though clearly comes at a cost when in the past we have managed to use the premises of Spink or Grovesnor at no charge, but not possible this year in the face of the restrictions.



The catalogue contained 603 lots, including a section of 83 lots from the late Charles Freeland, there were some 25 late lots, including some bulky postal history from the parishes of Jamaica, won by an American bidder and the parcel weighed 8 kg to send airmail!

Competition for some lots was keen, we had 13 room bidders and 63 postal bidders who spent £17,700 between them - £5,200 to the room and £12,500 to the postal bidders, all bar ten postal bidders won at least one lot. Antigua and Bahamas continued to be in the doldrums and got the auction off to an uneventful start but Barbados (47 out of 70 sold) and British Guiana (25 out of 39 sold) were once again strong. In the Charles Freeland section only 16 of the 83 were unsold. Jamaica too was restored to favour with all bar 7 of the 56 lots finding new homes. St Lucia repeated the success of 2020, but it is probably the case that 61 lots of St Vincent were too many. For Trinidad 25 out of 38 lots sold as did all bar one of the 14 lots of Turks Islands.

One thing that has become apparent in the last couple of years is that lots either sell on the day or in the week or so after the realisation appear on the website. There has been almost no response to promotions of the unsolds subsequently – most recently manifested at the Basingstoke convention when the unsold Freeland lots were offered at 40% below estimate to find only two takers. So 'Specials' are not something we will be repeating in the future.

We do try and strike a fair balance between vendor and purchaser, for many lots there is only one bidder, who will generally be successful at 80% of estimate, so arriving at the right estimate is critical in maintaining this balance.

So, when you consign, we will carefully review lotting, description and valuation, but do help us by providing your own list of what you consign.

### BRITISH WEST INDIES OFFERS FROM STOCK

**BAHAMAS.** 1919 1d 'WAR CHARITY' overprint double.  
Very fine mint. Rare (just 30 printed). BPA Cert. SG 101a. **£1300**

**BAHAMAS.** 1922 imperf Printer's Sample pair in purple  
and red optd 'SPECIMEN' (Samuel DS1). **£150**

**B. GUIANA.** 1882 8c rose watermark inverted. Very fine  
used GEORGETOWN c.d.s. 'MAY 6 1885'. SG 174x. **£200**

**B. HONDURAS.** 1935 25c Jubilee 'lightning conductor' in  
corner block of four. Very fine mint. SG 146c. **£175**

**CAYMANS.** 1922 ¼d watermark inverted and reversed.  
Very fine mint. SG 69y. **£200**

**GRENADA.** 1891 1d on 2/- with no stop after '1d'.  
Very fine mint. RPS Cert. SG 45a. **£300**

**GRENADA.** 1916 1d block of four 'WAR TAX' inverted,  
one with small 'A' in 'WAR'. Very fine mint. SG 109a. **£600**

**JAMAICA.** 1860 6d interpanneau marginal block of four.  
Very fine mint. Ex Burrus. SG 5. **£650**

**ST.LUCIA.** 1946 8d brown with 'SPECIMEN' perf double.  
Very fine mint. Extremely scarce. SG 134c sp. **£200**

**ST.LUCIA.** 1946 Victory 'SPECIMEN' set in vertical UPU  
strips of three. Unmounted mint. Rare. SG 142s/143s. **£300**

**TRINIDAD.** 1858 1d slate-blue with good to large margins  
and light numeral '2'. Exceptional. Ex Kanai. SG 18. **£500**

**TURKS ISLANDS.** 1883 1d orange-brown 'throat flaw'.  
Very fine mint. SG 55b. **£250**

**TURKS & CAICOS.** 1917 3d 'WAR TAX' overprint double,  
one inverted. Very fine mint. SG 144b. **£250**

**VIRGIN ISLANDS.** 1884 2½d with 'detached triangle'.  
Very fine mint. SG 31b. **£175**

*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.*

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**Articles, long or short needed please send them to the editor.**



## AROUND THE CARIBBEAN 8

BY MICHAEL HAMILTON



**ANTIGUA:** A prominent broken perforation pin is displayed on this 1872 QV 1d lake Crown CC REVERSED watermark P. 12½ issue; but when matched with its Crown CC INVERTED watermark counterpart a surprising second broken pin is revealed, common to both stamps.

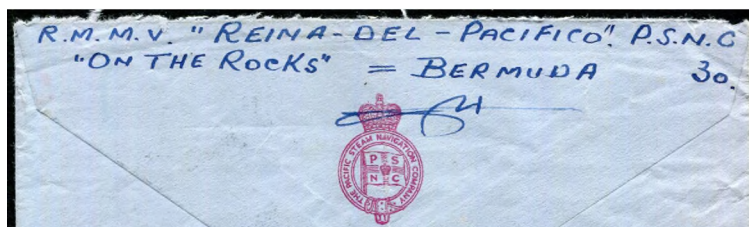


**BARBADOS:** Evidence of pre-preparing imperforate stamps by cutting into horizontal strips and scissor-cutting vertically between each stamp, for easy separation, is witnessed on this FE 15 1860 cover to London with pair 6d pale rose-red. I have viewed this cover and confirm the vertical cuts to be about 90 percent in depth. The practice is more visible in the b/w illustration as provided for Lot 140 in the Robson Lowe 7 May 1946 auction of the Sir James Marshall collection which additionally shows the top right corner torn away as to be expected. A downward cut with subsequent tear is illustrated on Ex Hurlock 1854 bisected (2d) greyish slate piece, plus upward cuts with separation tears on 1858 6d deep rose-red, and 1860 (1d) deep blue/white paper.





**BARBADOS:** Two used examples of the 1876 ½d bright green Crown CC watermark P.14 with prominent diagonal plate scratches in the 'N' of 'PENNY' have now been seen. Suggested names for this variety are 'Corporal N' as he has two stripes (Lance Corporals one, and Sergeants three) from David Horry, and 'Tramlines' as they were found running through Bridgetown in earlier times by Dennis Mitton.



**BERMUDA:** The Liverpool bound *Reina Del Pacifico* ran aground on the Devil's Flat, Bermuda on 9 July 1957, and unable to refloat on the next high tide some 400 passengers were kept on board for the next two days due it being too risky to land them ashore by tender, coupled with the difficulty of finding hotel accommodation. The U.S. Coastguard cutter *Castlerock*, joined by two local tugs *Justice* and *Bermuda*, made refloating attempts, but it was not until 22 tons of salvage equipment was flown into Bermuda that steel hawsers could be laid under the hull and lifting could begin. Heavy steel rollers from England allowed her to be pulled from the reef. After being successfully refloated during the early hours of the 12th the *Reina* moved to an anchorage in Grassy Bay in the Great Sound at Bermuda so that 700 tons of cargo could be reloaded prior resuming her passage to Liverpool on the 14th. Perhaps the only surviving cover of this little-known event is drawn to our attention by the writer with his R.M.M.V. "REINA-DEL-PACIFICO" P.S.N.C "ON THE ROCKS" - BERMUDA notation across flap with clear Hamilton posting for 12 JULY 1957.

Of the later issues the most interesting variety is undoubtedly S.G. 161, the 1/- value of the 1921 Script issue of which one sheet is known to have been printed on what is probably an offset of the 6d. claret Cayman Islands stamp which was being printed at the same time.



**CAYMAN ISLANDS:** A snipping from an unknown early stamp magazine suggests that one sheet of the Turks & Caicos Islands 1921 KGV 1s brown-orange Multiple Script CA watermark (SG.161) has a printed offset of the Cayman Islands 1922 KGV 6d Claret Multiple Script CA watermark (SG.77) on the reverse. Can any of our readers comment on this possibility, or better still produce an example?



**DOMINICA:** A previously unrecorded broken pin exists on the Dominica QV 1d REVENUE CC watermark P.14 issue nicely dated as "16/3/78".



**DOMINICA:** Thirteen village datestamps were sent out from London on 13 July 1900 to cancel the Leeward Island QV Keyplate stamps supplied to Dominica. Current earliest use is at COULIBISTRE \*/AU 16 00, and the earliest known use of the rarely met SOUFRIERE is \*/NO 7 00. An exceptional recent discovery shows this obsolete datestamp re-appearing as the village registration etiquette alongside DOMINICA \*/27 JA 41 contemporary double-ring on cover to London.





**JAMAICA:** The 'A01' (Type E) numeral supplied Kingston (used from mid 1871 to about 1884) has two additional attractions. It has been found struck in red ink on the 1873 QV 1s brown CC watermark (SG.13), and after it became obsolete it was transferred to the GPO London Foreign Section as a "killer" for uncanceled adhesives from all parts of the world as seen on this 18 APR 02 cover from Transvaal to Holland, and "loose" stamps from Chile, Egypt, Great Britain, and Spain.



**ST VINCENT:** This Duke de Polignac wrapper arrived at Calais on November 29, 1870 the same day that the *Jacquard*, the 34<sup>th</sup> ballon monté, crashed into the Irish Sea off the Scilly Isles killing the pilot Alexandre Prince; some bags of mail were later recovered. Paris, at this time, was surrounded and besieged by the Prussian army in the period 17 September 1870 until the 28 February 1871 Armistice. No mail could get in, hence the re-routing to the small hamlet of St. Jean du Cardinay, Maromme in Normandy. French aeronauts suggested to the postal authorities in Paris that balloons be used to maintain communications with the provisional government in Tours, and beyond. In total 67 well documented outgoing flights were made carrying over 2 million pieces of mail to places around the world with rare survivors having reached Mauritius, Hong Kong, and Japan.

This unique NO 9 1870 cover bears the earliest recorded use of the QV 1s brown in combination with printer's guide-line positional strip of three, and single QV 1d rose-red, the former invoiced 13 August 1869 but held back for 14 months as seemingly not a suitable oil-lamp match for the latter. All further uses of the 1s brown pay the single rate to England, and a replacement QV 1d in black was hastily ordered on 6 January 1871.



**ST VINCENT:** A broken pin is more readily found on the St Vincent DLR 1d drab CA watermark P.14. Both normal and reversed watermarked examples exist, but it is not yet known whether an inverted watermark exists with broken pin on left side! Postmarks found are the horizontal "A10", GB/40c, abbreviated "CA" (NO 23 82, rare 1st printing date ex Jaffé), "CH" (MR 31 83 ex Sinton), "ST" (MY 17 83) and "K". Peter Jaffé plated the DLR QV 1d red sheet of sixty stamps and a re-constructed vertical row of 6 stamps showing the broken pin would be a formidable challenge.





**TURKS ISLANDS:** Knowledgeable printing specialists might like to ponder why several copies of the “SPECIMEN” overprinted 1895 QV 4d dull blue and ultramarine Crown CA watermark P.14 have a prominent dot in the final ‘S’ of ‘ISLANDS’ (four singles seen recently). I have a vertical strip of five with marginal line at right overprinted “SPECIMEN” showing no trace of the variety. Delving deeper this prominent dot has been found in a very weak state, perhaps during its infancy, and its normal full-blown state on the issued stamp.



**VIRGIN ISLANDS:** The use of a WEST END, TORTOLA (cds) appended ‘437’ in purple ink on \*/21 OC 38 cover as registration etiquette adds to the similar uses for IRELAND ISLAND, BERMUDA (see Bulletin No.260 – March 2019) and SOUFRIERE, DOMINICA (see above).



**VIRGIN ISLANDS:** Major doubling of the wording “VIRGIN ISLANDS” is illustrated on this 1887-89 1d rose-red Crown CA watermark stamp. Currently the only recorded example, possibly due to a bounce of the paper during the printing process.



## DOMINICA

### WORLD WAR II CENSORSHIP

**SIMON RICHARDS**

*(This article was first published in Postscript Vol 71 No 3 the Journal of the Society of Postal Historians. It is reproduced here with minor amendment.)*

In the First World War Dominica did not experience censorship on the island; though mail from the island might be censored in London or in New York. All such covers are unusual and 1918 New York censored covers to New York and to Cuba (redirected to Venezuela) are in the author's collection, as are covers to Switzerland and Denmark via London, censored there.

Mail destined for an enemy country or one occupied by the enemy could only be sent via an authorised intermediary, of whom there were a number, including private individuals. Thomas Cook of Ludgate Circus in London were one of the best known. The sender would send the fully addressed but unsealed and unstamped letter or card in an outer envelope to Thomas Cook, on this outer envelope only the sender put his or her name and address. The enclosed item had to be as brief as possible and only cover matters of personal interest. Cooks took notes of the items and passed in bulk to the censors who would examine and if unobjectionable would then seal the envelope. The passed items were then returned to Cooks who had delivered them to their Amsterdam office (Holland was a neutral country) where stamps were added, and the

letters despatched. For this service Cooks charged a fee of 1s. Correspondence as early as late November 1914 suggests this service was in effect from the early days of the war.

In the Second World War, censorship on the island was organised from the very start of the Second World War. It was initially based at GPO Roseau and set up by the Island Government, this article examines the handstamps and resealing labels used both during the 1939 to 1943 period, and thereafter when



**Fig. 1** 29 December 1939 envelope to Alabama, via Antigua, showing crude re-sealing tape.

the Imperial Censors took over and introduced a whole series of different labels and there was a considerable increase in the number of censors.

Initial arrangements seem a little ad hoc – covers from October and December 1939 are recorded resealed with brown tape tied by a **GENERAL POST OFFICE / DOMINICA BR. W.I** initialled date stamp (Fig. 1), whilst the Freeland collection (Lot 1266) contained an envelope with a red PC22 “opened by/Censor” label dated 14 November 1939 to New Jersey (Fig. 2). This is much earlier than the February 1941 date given by Burrows in “British Empire Civil Censorship Devices Section 6 (2010). Though used in other territories around the Empire, no other Caribbean



**Fig. 2** 14 November 1939 to New Jersey with first resealing tape.



government seems to have used these PC22 labels, yet Dominica had 3 types, the nearest other user was Bermuda.

Dominica left the Leeward Islands on 31 December 1939 and from the fall of France in June 1940, occupied a sensitive position between the two Vichy controlled islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. Some colour to the censorship system is given by Elma Napier in her autobiographical work "Black and White Sands". In it she says when speaking of the early war years that "the postmaster has opened such letters as he thought looked interesting, each week holding back, to read at his leisure, a different subscriber's copy of Time magazine."

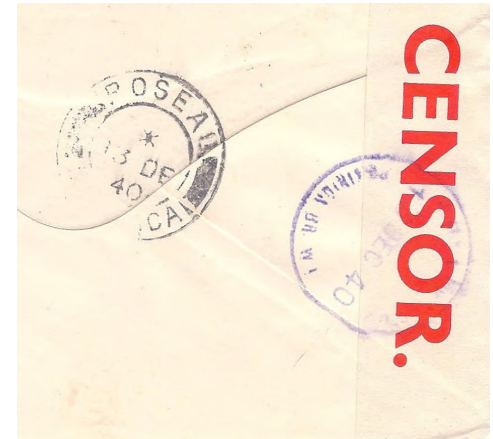


Fig. 3a

Fig. 3 & 3a 21 December 1940 surface rate to Georgia with label type 1a.

In these early days most mail was simply struck with a handstamp 'PASSED BY CENSOR', the examples in the author's collection include the earliest recorded by Burrows. Mail that was selected for opening was resealed with printed PC22 tape (OPENED BY/CENSOR.), the author's examples for type 1a significantly extend the range recorded to 3 January 1940 to 29 March 1941 (Fig. 3 and 3a). Later in 1941 type 1b labels came in to use with a thinner font and without a full stop.

With fall of France there were a number of genuine refugees from the French islands and this increased considerably during 1942, reaching almost 5,000. As now, some may not have been genuine refugees, and there was a need for a larger censorship department. Following the entry of the United States into the war the wording was changed to PC90 tape styled 'OPENED BY EXAMINER'. Found used on mail sent in July 1942 via Antigua (Examiner 4113), possibly just an interim measure.

In the Caribbean when on 1 September 1942 responsibility for all terminal and transit censorship was transferred from local censorship to the control of the Imperial Censorship reporting to the Assistant Director (Western Area) in New York. However Proud states that in practice, in Dominica, this took place on 18 October 1943. This date is borne out by the extant censored covers. Mrs Daphne Agar, Elma Napier's daughter, was



Fig. 4. 30 October 194(3) airmail to Maine, label L2 manuscript 52.



appointed Officer in charge and the department was considerably expanded. She answered to R H Evers, Superintending Censor and F M Manifold, his deputy. Proud lists three lady examiners – Miss E Ritchie, Mrs V Seignoret and Miss A Georges. Of course, the need diminished considerably from July 1943 when the French Islands joined De Gaulle and left Vichy control.

The first resealing label style used in Dominica has printed number RR/1 or 2 and with a manuscript number added, 52 (Fig. 4) is an addition to the Burrows listing. From 1 December 1943 generic PC90 resealing labels were used with two horizontal lines on which the censor inscribed their station code (RR) and censor number. Burrows (2010) listed 13 censor numbers using the L3a label type, to which can be added 11 new numbers (4, 10, 16, 21, 23, 51, 57, 58, 59, 63, 64) and he listed 6 censors for the L3b label, to which can be added four new numbers (24, 25, 75, 77) – whilst more await discovery copies, to date only censor 18 appears on both lists.

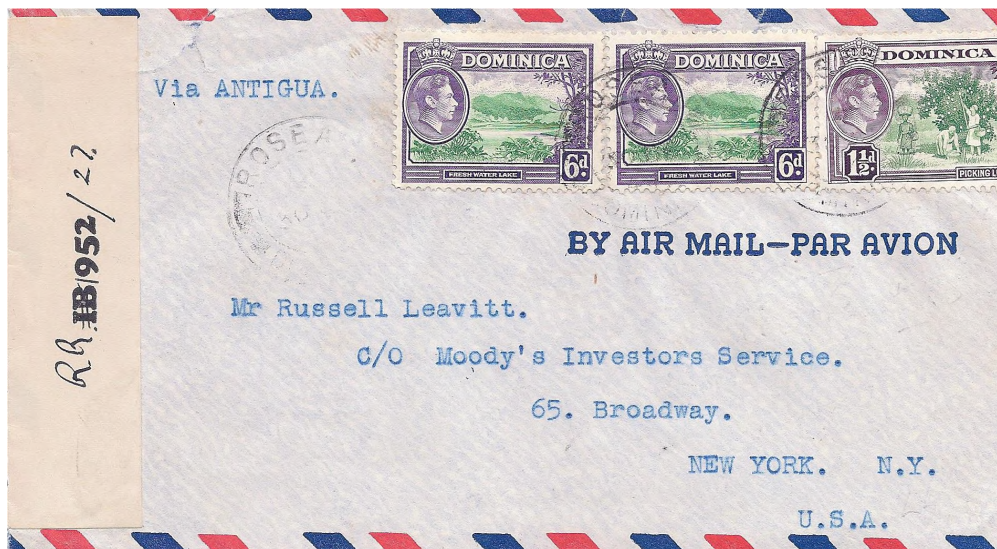


Fig. 5 30 (July) 1944 airmail to New York, label L4 manuscript 27.

In the summer of 1944 the labels appear to have been running out and a stock of Antigua labels printed with IB/952 were used, the IB is scratched through and replaced with RR and a manuscript number is added – Burrows reports seven such numbers to which 27 (Fig. 5) is an addition. Note that all bar one of these numbers differ from those censors issued L3a or L3b labels.

By 1945 the volume of mail being opened for examination seems to have dropped significantly. The final labels used in Dominica have the station and censor number printed on the label, Burrows lists five numbers but 19 is a new addition (Fig. 6) shown on the earliest known date.

Rare items of mail that were subject to censorship but did not require opening can be found with an octagonal Crown/PASSED/RR/x handstamp. Until recently only RR/2 had been recorded but RR/1 has been found (Fig. 7).



Fig. 6 2 February 1945 airmail to New York, label L5 printed RR/19

However, censorship continued until July 1945 and a moving account of the effect on correspondence on a small island is given by Elma Napier on pages 207-9, noting the fact that people one regularly met socially were reading one's letters. All books, business documents and magazines, as well as letters had to be checked.





Fig. 7 2 February 1945 airmail to New York, label L5 printed RR/19

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Burrows P.C. *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices World War II Section 6 British West Indies & Falkland Islands*, CCSG 2010  
 Napier E *Black and White Sands*, Papillotte Press 2009

## TRINIDAD

TRINIDAD SHIPPING & TRADING CO.

GRAHAM BOOTH



Fig. 1

I recently bought two interesting covers which originated in the United States, both of which were taxed in Trinidad in the late 1890s.

Figure 1 illustrates a five cents Postal Stationery Envelope with the head of President Grant which was addressed to Grenada. It was sent from Frame, Alston & Co on Broadway in New York and nominated to be carried by Stomore & Weston's *Barden Tower*. It was taxed in Port of Spain on 3 December 1895 and the impressed stamp finally cancelled in St Georges on the sixth.

Figure 2 shows a five cents Columbus and Liberty Postal Stationery Envelope sent from Cadenas & Coe in William Street, New York. Addressed to Bridgetown in Barbados it was endorsed to be carried by *Irrawaddy* via Trinidad. Here on 6 June 1899, it was taxed 2d before arriving in Barbados on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Between them these two covers contain two mysteries, one of which I think I may have solved, the other I haven't. Both Duncan Haws in his



Fig. 2



book on Furness Withy and David Burrell in his history of the Line are very clear that Trinidad Shipping and Trading Co, which was acquired in 1920 had a vessel named *Maraval*. They are equally clear that this vessel was built by Denny's of Dumbarton in 1903 for the British & Burmese Steam Navigation Co and until purchase in 1914 was named *Irrawaddy*. I had previously concluded, based on covers I owned, that this had to be *Maraval II* and there had been a previous vessel with the same name.

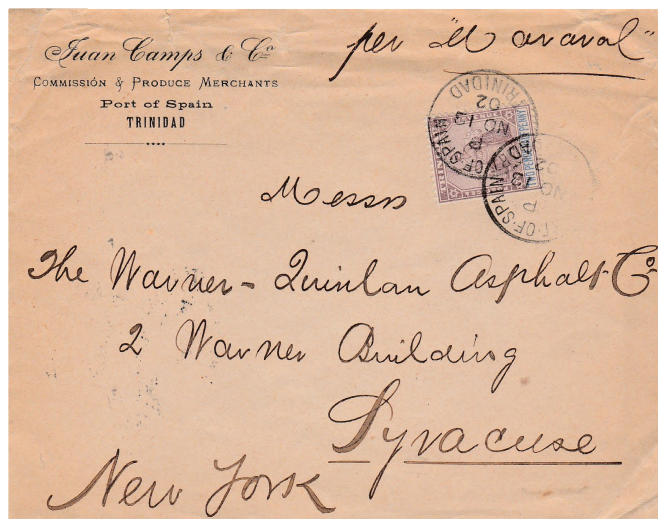


Fig. 3

Figure 3 illustrates an envelope addressed to Syracuse; New York from Juan Camps & Co. franked with a 2½d Trinidad adhesive issued in 1902. It was cancelled in Port of Spain on 13 November 1902 and was endorsed to be carried by *Maraval*. It was back stamped in New York on the 21 November.

I was now able to confirm my suspicions because online in "The Ships List" I found the first *Irrawaddy* grossing 2,500 tons, like the second, built by Denny's of Dumbarton for the Burma Steamship Co in 1873 and sold to Trinidad Shipping in 1897. Success! However, there is another entry online which records that in 1900 she was sold to the Wild Goose Mining and Trading Co of San Francisco, renamed *Charles D Lane*, and was then wrecked off Nunivak Island in the Aleutians. So, if this is true and the entries are about the same vessel, despite there being two *Irrawaddy*'s

it would appear that the first *Maraval* must have been another vessel altogether. So, I am a little further forward, but there is so much uncertainty about the history of freighters in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century that I do not regard this as final.

The second mystery to which I do not have a satisfactory answer, is why were these two covers taxed? They both paid the UPU single rate of five cents (2½d). Postal Stationery envelopes of this kind were perfectly legitimate and are known in their hundreds on Trans-Atlantic mail between the US and Europe. They are not at all common to the West Indies; but this may be because of a low survival rate. One possibility is that they were overweight; but it is most unlikely that this should have been detected in Trinidad when it had not been identified in New York. Finally, on the second cover, why is the tax due 2d? At twice the deficiency this would suggest that the proper rate from the US was seven cents which is nonsense. Or did the Post Office treat it as an unpaid postcard?

The proper treatment, although for a card not a letter, is shown (Figure 4) on this 2 cent Liberty postal stationery card from New York to the Virgin Islands posted on 5 April 1890 which went through St Kitts on the 16<sup>th</sup> and arrived in Tortola on the 21<sup>st</sup> paying the UPU postcard rate of 1d.

My conclusion, without a great deal of evidence, is that these envelopes were uncommon, the fact that the indicia were uncanceled made the Port of Spain office very suspicious, so much so that they were taxed as unpaid, and in the case of the 2d fine treated as printed paper. If any reader can supply a more definitive explanation, or additional information about *Maraval/Irrawaddy*, I would be very grateful.

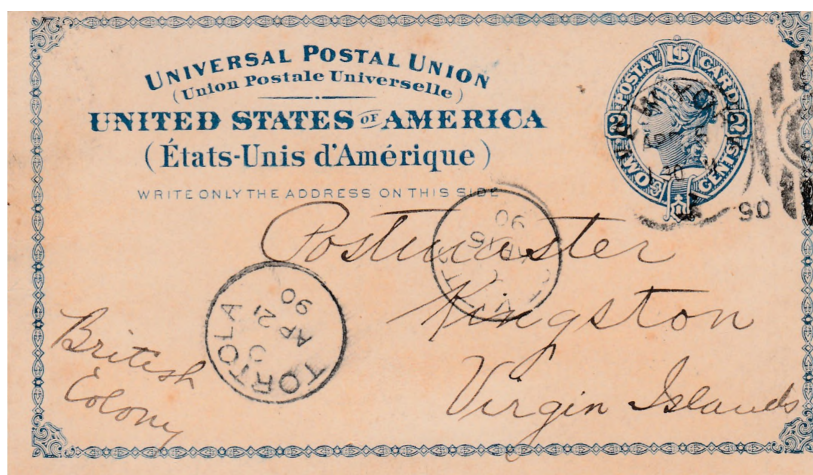


Fig. 4



## LEEWARD ISLANDS

### KGVI 6D BROKEN 'E' FLAW

BY SIR GEOFFREY PALMER

Peter Brooks recently sold his excellent Leeward Islands collection and kindly allowed me to see the seven printings of King George VI 6d on which the BROKEN 'E' appears. I enclose a photograph of these (*Ed. I have split out the stamps and enlarged the images as follows*).



1. Plate 3 Printing of 2/42 – 99 sheets only sent to the Colony
2. Plate 2 Printing of 6/42 – issued 8/42
3. Plate 3 Printing of 9/42 – issued 11/42
4. Plate 2 Printing of 8/43 – issued 8 or 9/43
5. Plate 2 Printing of 3 or 4/1944 – released in London 5/44
6. Plate 3 Printing of 7/47 – released in London 9/47. Chalk Paper
7. Plate 3 Printing of 10/48 – released in London 3/49. Chalk Paper  
(in this final printing the LEEWARD ISLANDS at the top is in a much brighter red colour as is the 6d on the bottom value)

It is quite rare to see any blocks in auctions, but singles of the BROKEN 'E' regularly crop up. The rarest are the first 2 printings; the first Plate 3 printing of 2/42 has made up to £800 in blocks of 6 or 8 having only 99 possible copies of the Broken 'E'.

The Gibbons listings are very misleading, as the rare 1942 printing is only put at £550 for a single whilst the commoner '47 printing is put at £750. I have pointed this out to Hugh Jefferies – Head of SG Catalogues.

I remember Peter Brooks telling me he had all the George V and George VI 'DI' flaws on all the different values that exist with 'DI' flaw and all seven of the BROKEN 'E' on the 6d – a challenge for other keen Leeward Island collectors to achieve! Edward VII and George V Plate Numbers are another very difficult proposition and highly elusive.

## LEEWARD ISLANDS

### QUEEN VICTORIA ½D WRAPPER ERROR

BY DARRYL FULLER

The ½d QV wrapper of the Leeward Islands was a very popular stationery item with 223,320 printed in 18 printings with only 240 remaindered for sale. It is rare for De La Rue to make errors in their printing but as Figures 1a and 1b illustrate there is one small error on some of these wrappers. The full stop at the end of

This Wrapper may only be used for Newspapers, or for such documents as are allowed to be sent at the Book-rate of postage, and must not enclose any letter or communication of the nature of a letter (whether separate or otherwise). If this rule be infringed, the packet will be charged as a letter.

**Fig. 1a** Instructional paragraph with full stop at the end of the last sentence.

This Wrapper may only be used for Newspapers, or for such documents as are allowed to be sent at the Book-rate of postage, and must not enclose any letter or communication of the nature of a letter (whether separate or otherwise). If this rule be infringed, the packet will be charged as a letter

**Fig. 1b** Same paragraph, missing full stop.



**Fig. 2** Discovery copy with missing full stop.

the instructional paragraph is missing on some copies. It does not appear to be a common error. Figure 2 illustrates the discovery used copy. A search through the 20 or so copies I have then found a mint copy (Figure 3) but I have seen no others in images on eBay. The question that arises is - how did this occur? The only similar error I can think of is the broken 'L' on one printing of the KGV size F Leeward Island registered envelope, that also appears on all copies of the KGV size F registered envelope and on Size Fs from other colonies.

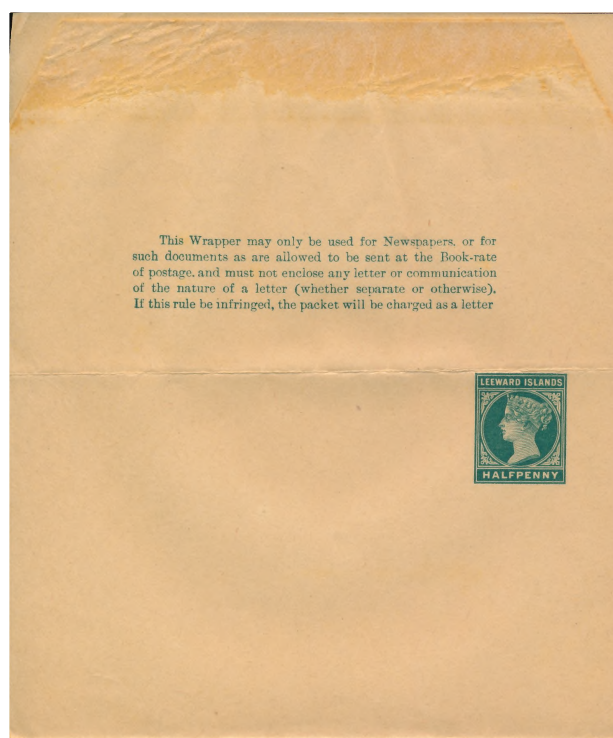
Newspaper wrappers were usually printed in multiples and then guillotined into individual wrappers. I am unsure what number were printed at time for the Leeward Islands (possibly 6 or 8 at a guess) but if one position on the plate was missing a full stop then the missing stop error would be relatively common, one in six or eight. However, this is not the case.

One possible explanation comes from Oliver (1) where he notes that the old plate was worn out in 1899 and that a new plate was made. I have the proof of that plate, which is in a different design, and it does not show the error. He believed that De La Rue possibly corrected that error and may have produced a new plate (in the old design) without registering it. There were four more printings between March and November 1900 in the old design. It may be that these printings were done with a new plate and that one of the positions had the missing stop. This would explain its relative rarity. This theory does tie in with the used copy which was postmarked on 4 December 1901.

Given how common this wrapper is, I would appreciate it if other collectors could check their copies for this error, especially used copies. If any predate 1900, then the theory is incorrect.

## References

1. Oliver M.N. *The Leeward Islands, Notes for Philatelists*, BWISC. 2011



**Fig. 3** Mint wrapper with no stop error.



# THE NETHERLAND ANTILLES

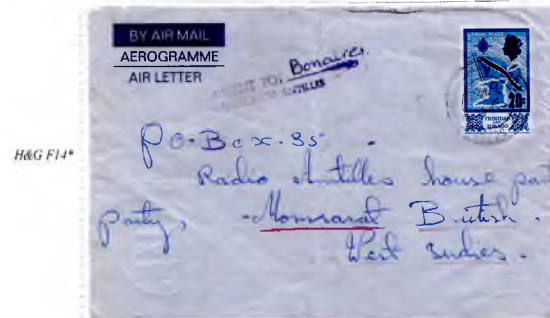
## INTERACTIONS BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND DUTCH POSTAL SYSTEMS IN THE WEST INDIES

BY DAVID WATSON

Postal history often involves the activities of more than one nation to get the full story. How else can one study international mail or the effects of military invasion? I happily offer this summary, as a guest contributor. Much of my work on postal history for the BWISC was on maritime mail between many countries, including Dutch and other nations' possessions in the West Indies. Connections became clearer in my subsequent research, as a member of the Netherlands Philatelic Circle, on Dutch and Dutch West Indies postal history.

There are interesting challenges in gathering together material on this topic. For example, mail between the neighbouring islands of St Kitts-Nevis and Saba is scarce because of their small populations (ca. 53,000 and 2,000 respectively). But their post offices have apparently worked together for years. Thankfully, though, when one can find material the classic reference work on the Dutch West Indies (Ref. 1) is

1970 'MISSENT' handstamp with a gap for the name of the Dutch West Indies island. A territory's name was included in the prepared handstamp in Aruba, Curaçao & St. Maarten (e.g. the one on 1992 airmail in the St. Maarten part of this collection). Julsen & Benders (p. 216) note both types of 'MISSENT' handstamps.



- Datestamps:**
- Scarborough, Tobago double ring cds (type D22) was the only one used there for routine mail, in this case 8 years after the latest known date (1).
  - Rincon code 3 cylinderbalk: used for at most 3 months (July to September 1970), before it was damaged and replaced by a code 4 cancel (2).
1. Chin Alcong, J. & Proud, E. B. (1997) The Postal History of Trinidad & Tobago, page 465, publ. Proud-Bailey.
  2. Julsen, F.W. & Benders, A.M. (1976) A Postal History of Curaçao and the other Netherlands Antilles, page 189, publ. Van Dieën, The Hague.



Rincon (popul'n: 1,788 in 2007)

Kralendijk (popul'n: 3,061 in 2006)

Ex. Brian Brookes (Argyll Ekin September 2018).

\* Higgins & Gage World Postal Stationery Catalog, Section 17T, publ. Classic Philatelics, P.O. Box 5637, Huntington Beach, California 92646.

**Fig. 1** Aerogramme from Tobago with a missent handstamp from the small Dutch island of Bonaire in 1970.

very good. Several other books (Ref. 2–11) have also proved helpful. Getting information on the direction of Dutch West Indies postal activity from the Netherlands can be difficult. More is readily available on British influences in Caribbean postal activity.

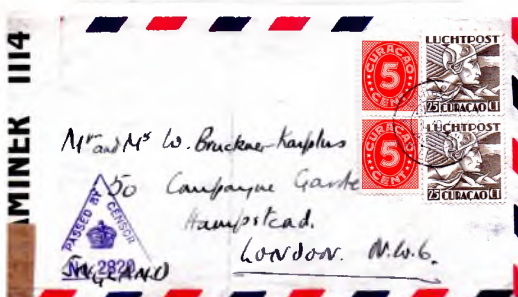
Postal interactions between the British and Dutch in the West Indies can be broadly grouped as follows:

- Inter island mail between the British and Dutch West Indies includes censored or missent mail (Ref. 12, 13). For example, Figure 1 shows an aerogramme from Tobago that was addressed to Montserrat but instead arrived on the Dutch West island of Bonaire.

- There is limited military mail from the British occupation of Curaçao island in 1940–2. Figure 2 provides an example of WWII British forces mail from Curaçao. Items from the first occupation of Curaçao in 1807–15 are very rare.

- Maritime mail from Curaçao was carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RMSP) in 1842

1941 (October) Military mail from a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant stationed in Curaçao. Military & civilian censorship handstamps & UK censor's label. Airmail rate to the UK: 60 cents.



The US military arrived after Pearl Harbour (7<sup>th</sup> December 1941). This was done under the flag of the Rainbow-3 plan: the supreme command was American shared with Dutch colonial and military powers.



On 26<sup>th</sup> January 1942, the pact between the US Ministry of War and the Dutch government in London became a fact. By mid-January six A-20 bombers were stationed in Aruba and Curaçao. On 11<sup>th</sup> February about 2,300 ground forces arrived from New Orleans: a large contingent for Curaçao, a smaller one for Aruba. Three days later the British garrison, which had grown to 1,400 men, left the Antilles.

**Fig. 2** Mail from a British officer stationed in Curaçao in 1941. British military and civil censorship applied plus, on the back, a local Dutch West Indies' censor's handstamp showing he or she hadn't opened the envelope.

& 1850–84. In the intervening period, mail had to be carried by other means so it could be picked up by RMSP at their Caribbean hub of St Thomas (5) in the then Danish West Indies. An 1848/9 Curaçao cover carried privately to St Thomas and thence by RMSP to the UK is shown in Figure 3.

- Much of pre-WWII airmail from Curaçao was sent via Trinidad, a hub for Pan Am (Pan American Airways). KLM had yet to establish Caribbean air routes. As a result of Pan Am's effective monopoly then, airmail rates were not fully under the control of national postal authorities. Rates from the Dutch West Indies changed many times for airmail to the USA and UK (14).

My previous contributions to BWISC, as a member and study group founder/leader, included several examples of British/Dutch West Indies interactions: the first steamship mail to the Caribbean was on a Dutch paddle steamer built in Britain (15); cruise ships called across the British, Dutch and other parts of the Caribbean (16); Dutch shipping lines carried and landed mail across the Caribbean (17); and the Dutch helped in getting the mail through from a politically-isolated British West Indies island (18).

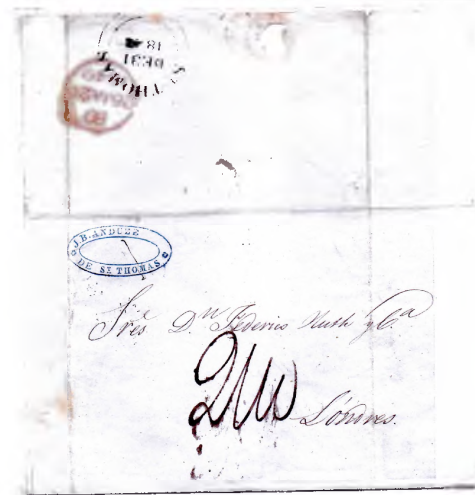
A British West Indies viewpoint helps research on British/Dutch interactions in West Indies postal history. Equally, a Dutch postal history perspective is important. So much of what happens in Dutch West Indies post offices is heavily influenced by how the post is processed at home in the Netherlands. At the time of writing (August 2021) this has drawn me into producing as many articles on the postal history of the Netherlands and possessions as I wrote on British West Indies postal history.

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1848-9 Cover carried from Curacao privately to St. Thomas & then by RMSP to England.  
As RMSP didn't call at Curacao then & the Curacao Packet Co. hadn't yet been organised, mail was forwarded from there by any available vessel from 1842 to 1850  
[F.W. Julsen & A.M. Benders (1976) 'A Postal History of Curacao and the other Netherlands Antilles' pp. 44-5, publ. Van Dieten, Den Haag]

Route: Curacao (25/11/1848) - St. Thomas (arr. 31/12/1848; dep. 1/1/1849) - by RMS Deo to Bermuda (arr. 6/1/1849; dep. 7/1/1849) - by RMS Teviot to Southampton (24/1/1849) - London (26/1/1849).  
Rate: 2/10d (double packet rate)



Forwarded from Curacao by J.B. Anduze & Co. (active: 1843-50).  
Rowe\* gives their cancel a scarcity rating of 3 and is unusually in purple  
[\* Rowe, K. (1996) 'The Postal History and Markings of The Forwarding Agents', publ. Leonard H. Hartmann, Kentucky.]

FREDERICK HUTH CORRESPONDENCE

**Fig. 3** A privately carried 1848/9 cover from Curaçao was forwarded by an agent in St Thomas to RMSP who carried it to Southampton via Bermuda.



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## BAHAMAS

### 1917 RED CROSS ISSUE – ‘LONG STROKE TO 7’ FLAW

BY PETER FERNBANK

The ‘long stroke to 7’ flaw on the 1917 Red Cross overprint on the 1d Queen’s Staircase, SG90a, occurs on Row 4, Stamp 6 (No. 42) and is well known to Bahamas collectors (Fig. 1). When collected in a pair or block with a bottom margin tab that showing the red and black guide marks at far right, together with the circular ‘rivet’ imprint, in the margin under Stamp 6 there is no ambiguity in positioning the flaw. However, be aware that there are other similar looking ‘7’s that are not the genuine variety and, if encountered on just a single stamp, the collector can sometimes be deceived.

Fortunately, there is a characteristic on the basic stamp that confirms the sheet position of the stamp containing the genuine variety. This consists of a small dash in black on the vignette plate, about ½mm long and angled at about 20° to the horizontal, approximately 2mm above and to the left of the RH value tablet. It sometimes appears in the white space just to the left of the RH red frame, at other times on the RH red frame, its precise position on the stamp depending on the positioning of the frame imprint with respect to that of the vignette. Fig. 2 shows the 1918 1d local war tax overprint on position 42 which also features the black dash and confirms that this dash is unique to position 42 on Vignette Plate 2.

Figure 3 illustrates a single example from a different position with a long ‘7’ that could easily be thought to be SG90a but which lacks the confirmatory black dash and hence is not the genuine variety. On closer examination the bottom of the ‘7’ lacks the rounded shape of the genuine flaw and may be due to over-inking or smudging.

I’m indebted to our eagle-eyed auctioneer, Simon Goldblatt, for pointing out to me this important double check on the sheet position of this variety.



**Fig. 1** The genuine flaw, showing the ‘dash’ to left of the right frame.



**Fig. 2** – showing the ‘dash’, this time within the right frame.



**Fig. 3** – with long ‘7’ but no ‘dash’.

## JAMAICA

### THE UPU AND EARLY JAMAICAN PICTURE POSTCARDS

BY DINGLE SMITH

#### Part 2: Early Jamaican Picture Postcards

This section addresses the questions of when Jamaican picture postcards were first issued, when were they available for use in Jamaica and who were the early publishers? To this we can add, did they conform to current UPU regulations?

Smith and Giraldi (1) attempted to answer some of these questions but additional information, including that from Gough outlined in Part 1, leads to a revision. The 1890s heralded a period of prosperity for Jamaica which was to become a destination for international visitors, especially from the USA and Europe. Kingston hosted a major international Exhibition which opened on 27 January 1891 and lasted until May 1891. This was attended by over 300,000 visitors although it predated the use of picture postcards. The Exhibition was aided by the opening of several major hotels built with government financial assistance. These provided the highest international standards of accommodation and included the Myrtle Bank Hotel in Kingston and the Titchfield Hotel in Port Antonio. By 1900 the United Fruit Company, which dominated the Caribbean banana trade to the USA, had a fleet of banana ships designed to accommodate tourists, and Fyffes had similar vessels associated with links to Great Britain and Europe. These shipping companies and those of other European nations were among producers of picture postcards. The introduction of picture postcards, however, pre-dated these shipping links.

Useful background information can be obtained from archival copies of the *Gleaner*, Jamaica's leading newspaper, first published in 1834. My thanks for Steve Jarvis for supplying this material. On 15 May 1899 the *Gleaner* reported that J.H. Milke Bros. "...are selling an artistic Postcard which will be welcomed by those who wish to send a souvenir of Jamaica to their friends abroad. It contains as many as five views of the island, including one of Kingston. The cards are sold for 2s per dozen. They are also selling brooches with a reproduction of Jamaican stamps on them". An example of what is thought to be the card mentioned, postmarked 2 July



**Fig. 4** Card published by J.H.Milke & Bros. Kingston, available in 1899. This example postmarked 1 July 1901 to Portugal.

1901 and sent to Portugal, is illustrated in Figure 4. Milke Bros. were established watchmakers and opticians with premises on King Street in downtown Kingston and were among the earliest Jamaican picture Postcard publishers. John Milke lost his life when their premises were destroyed by the fire associated with the Great Jamaican Earthquake of 1907. His brother Oswald then took over the business with which he had been associated for many years.

There were, however, Jamaican picture postcards published before this. The earliest seen by the author with a named publisher has the manuscript date of 3 August 1898. The publisher was Albert Aust, Hamburg – it was No. 20 in a series entitled 'Mittel-America'. It was posted in Austria to an address in Eastern Silesia, illustrated in Figure 5. A similar card handstamped 15 August 1899 in Kingston to a Berlin address with the printed address of J.H.Milke & Bros. 12, King St, Kingston on the reverse of the card. The manuscript message is not specific but could indicate a trade enquiry. These size of these two cards is 130 x 90mm sometimes referred to as 'Intermediate Size'.





**Fig. 5** German publisher, Mittel-America Series No.20. Austria to Silesia, postmarked 3 April 1898.

September 1894 Great Britain, for the first time, allowed the production of Postcards by private producers these were strictly limited to the Court Card size. Figure 7a illustrates what is thought to be a proof of Court size card, it lacks the words 'Postcard' and the instruction 'The Address only to be written on this Side'. Tantalisingly the back has in manuscript the pencilled words 'De La Rue Proof'. Any information regarding the production of such privately produced Postcards, ie. unstamped, by this well-known firm of stamp and postal stationery printers would be much appreciated. It could be that De La Rue outsourced the actual printing of the card.

Figure 7b superimposed on the 'proof card' is an example of the issued card, unused but with an added 1d Waterfall postage stamp, the correct rate for overseas postage at that time. The author has not seen a postally used example of the Court size cards although they likely exist. The question remains as to whether they were used both within Jamaica, or confined to Great Britain?

On 1 November 1899 the British Post Office issued postal cards at the size 140 x 89mm for inland use although postal cards of this size had available for some time for overseas destinations. The larger size was then valid for the production of private postcards and was immediately adopted, especially by those that marketed picture Postcards. The earlier illustrations and design for the Court cards shown in Figure 7 were modified for use on the larger cards, see Figure 8. The only difference was that in the spacing of the words 'Post' and 'Card'. For both sizes the front of the cards was of a much whiter and higher quality paper than the reverse which was blank and light buff in colour.

An unused card with five vignettes on the message side produced in well-printed colour is illustrated in Figure 6. The postcard has the publisher as Osw[ald] Milke and the printer as E. Rothmann, Dresden, Germany. The name and address for J.H. Milke Bros with their King St. address is printed the front of the card. Although undated, this is likely one of the first known examples of a coloured picture postcard of Jamaica.

In common with many early picture postcards there is often a lack of any printed information as to the publisher or printer. Examples of such cards are shown in Figures 7 and 8. The size of these cards, 115 x 89mm, indicates these are British 'Court Cards'. When in



**Fig. 6** Early unused coloured card, J.H. Milke, Kingston with printed postal address to J.H. Milke & Bros. Kingston.





**Fig. 7a** (Upper) Court Card, possible proof lacking heading and instructions

**Fig. 7b** Unused Court Card with added 1d Jamaica stamp, return half blank.



Examples of the larger card are known used in Jamaica both at the local rate of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d or at the overseas 1d rate to the Great Britain. The earliest dates seen are 8 May 1899 for the former (see Figure 8) and 1 August 1899 for the latter. These dates are both earlier than 1 November 1899 when this size of card first became valid for the use of privately produced cards in Great Britain, indicating that they were already on sale in Jamaica.

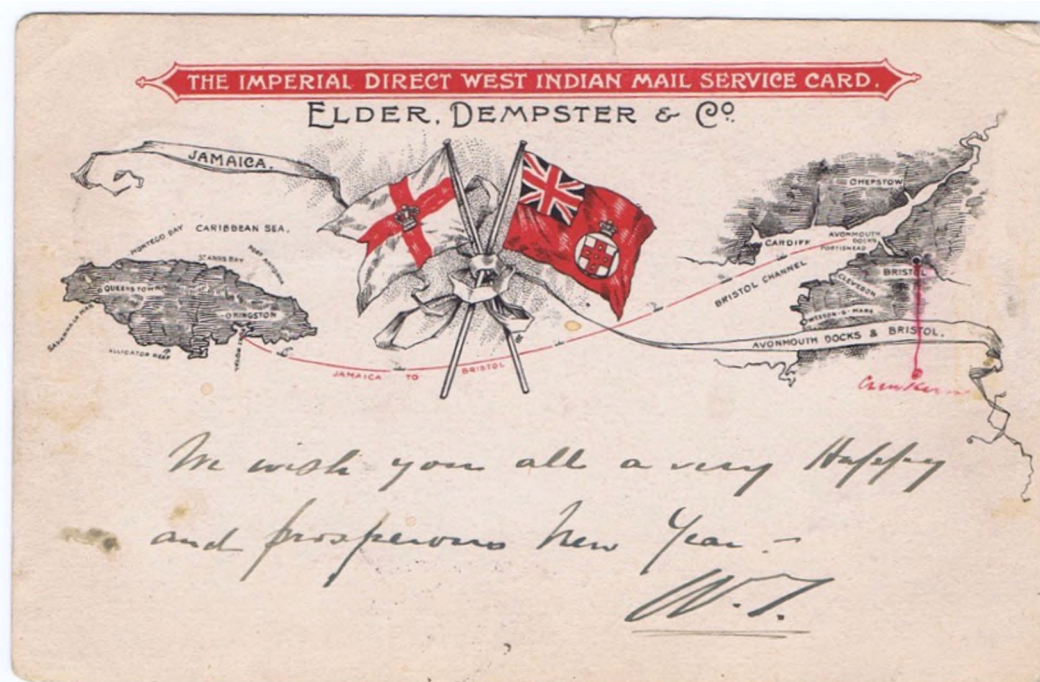


**Fig. 8** Card size increased to 140 x 89mm, used within Jamaica at local rate 8 May 1899.



Smith and Giraldi (1) provide a preliminary listing of the publishers of Jamaican picture Postcards prior to about 1907. Some 40 publishers are listed but it is important to note that many early picture Postcards are devoid of any information as to the publisher or printer. Approximately half of these cards had Jamaican publisher, often with the printing undertaken in Germany. The Kingston based Duperley family were to become the most prolific Jamaican producers although the earliest Duperley cards appear to be dated in 1900.

The United Fruit Company (UFCo) cards printed in the USA and those for other shipping lines such as the Imperial Direct West Indian Mail Service (IDWIMS) provide an interesting field for further study with a variety of illustrations mainly featuring their ships with a fascinating range of formats. The IDWIMS was established with the aid of British government subsidy in 1900 for a service to transport both bananas and passengers to and from Kingston in Jamaica to Avonmouth in Great Britain. The service commenced in March 1901 but the card illustrating the service in Figure 9 is dated 31 December 1900. The IDWIMS was never profitable and ceased operations in 1910. The background to these shipping lines is given in Rego (6).



**Fig. 9** IDIMS card showing route Kingston to Avonmouth, postmarked 31 Dec. 1900.

## Conclusion

The publication by Gough (2) of his comprehensive study of UPU postal cards provides the background and stimulus for a similar study of the postal history of picture Postcards. This, together with the acceptance by FIP of an exhibiting class for picture Postcards, heralds new opportunities for research and collecting. For the postal card enthusiasts there is the challenge of the application of the UPU rules and regulations to picture Postcards and for picture post collectors to pay more attention to the fronts of the cards, even if they continue to call them the backs! As a long-time collector of Jamaican postal stationery, I have gained much pleasure from expanding my interests to the collecting and exhibiting of Jamaican picture Postcards. I thoroughly recommend this to other BWI enthusiasts.

## Additional Reference to Part 2

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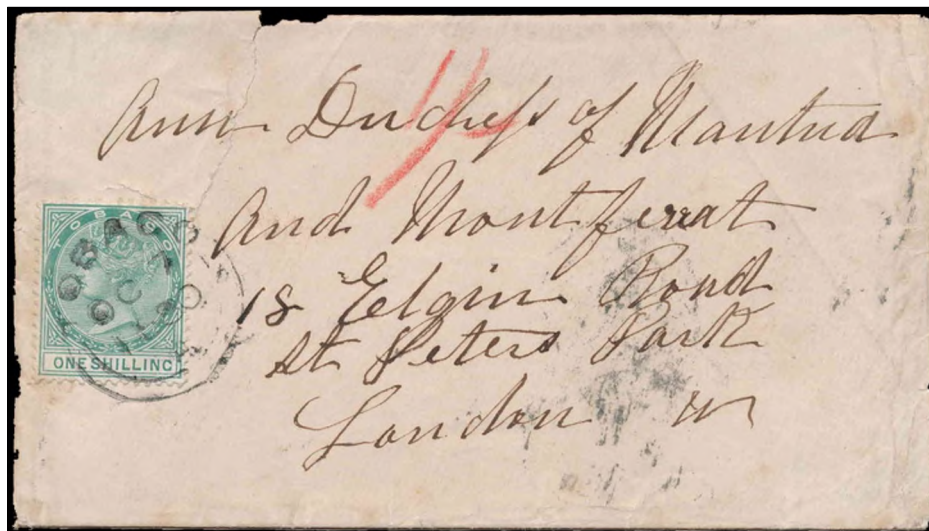
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**AUCTION REPORT AUTUMN 2021****BY GRAHAM BOOTH**

As there had been nothing of earlier interest to our members, I thought I would mention the Spink sale of the Holyoak International Grand Prix award of early registered mail on 6 October. I expected such a prestigious collection to be a dog fight with collectors tumbling over themselves to acquire the material. Until we reached Australia at the end of the sale it was anything but – a third unsold and many items sold at the reserve. Quite why is difficult to analyse; but the estimates were probably high and because the collection originated in the Channel Islands it attracted a 5% import tax. As it preceded the Feldman British Guiana sale, where the estimates were on the low side, the material extraordinary but the provenance confused, I asked myself whether it was an early indicator that the hardening of prices over the last two years was coming to an end.

A day later Spink included a nice small collection of Barbados that originated from abroad. The mint marginal strip of four from the 1873 6d orange-vermilion large star, clean cut perf 14½ by 15½ was withdrawn at £10,000, but the eight covers that sold all went to the same telephone bidder. I sensed I wasn't going to get anything and didn't. The lesser covers, apparently from the same source, featured in the internet only sale the following day. I couldn't bid live, so Spink executed my bids for me just like a normal sale. Their backroom staff, as always, were smart and quick and I obtained all eight covers I bid for at the low estimate or even lower. In total there were 27 lots of which 19 sold (70%), all at relatively low prices.

The collections of Bahamas formed by Phil MacMurdie, Grenada formed by Tim Pearce and Virgin Islands formed by Bill Mallon were sold in the same way – on line in a timed auction with no hard catalogue on 13 October. I was not able to follow it online. I had business elsewhere. The entire catalogue was downloadable but still much more difficult to use unless I printed my own hard copy. There were 226 lots of Bahamas of which 70% sold. As a generalisation the scarcer items, particularly die proofs and colour trials, did well, the more common items did not. By “did well” I mean versus the estimate. Very little did well versus the Ludington sale in 1999, the ‘Abaco’ sale in 2010 or even the Freeland sale of 2019. The 1859 imperforate die proof of the “Inter Innsular” 1d was knocked down for £1,000 (top estimate £800). A similar item sold for £3,000 in Ludington and a superior version realised £4,000 in the “Abacus” sale. The used horizontal pair from the same issue cancelled “A05”, ex Solomon, realised £1,400 (top estimate £1,200). The 1861 mint pair of the pale dull lilac 6d of which only two examples are recorded beat the top estimate of £1,500 by £400. The sheet of 60 of the 1863 Crown CC perf 14 did not sell at £1,500; but amongst the later issues an example of the 3d purple on yellow staircase issue with a double printed ‘War Tax’ made £950, on cover the same stamp made £1,000, a similar stamp with the overprint inverted made £520, whilst the 5d black and orange ‘Special Delivery’ stamp with the overprint inverted sold for £750 against a top estimate of £450. The small groupings of covers at the end of the sale had mixed fortunes but the Cat Key cover cancelled with the impression of the animal sold for £500. There are believed to be three in existence and in the Ludington sale in 1999 a similar item sold for £270. I was surprised that the Ship Letter mark on a cover ex the Turks did not sell at £450, a nice strike but a damaged cover. A very similar item in the ‘Abaco’ sale made £1,200 and Ludington had six examples in black that sold for between £800 and £1,500. The red Crowned Circle from 1824 on cover only made £550, just over the low estimate. Ludington had six versions at prices from £500–1800, ‘Abaco’ had one superior version which sold for £2,300, having made £1,500 ten years earlier. Surprisingly Freeland did not have any. Clearly prices are not what they were; but we knew that in advance of this auction.

The Grenada collection was 68% sold, but this gives the wrong impression as not much sold well. Some of the small collections did well versus the estimate e.g. a lot that consisted of the full set of ‘fresh’ Edward VII mint from 1906, plus 30 used stamps from both 1902 and 1906 with the full set of inland post initials from A to G, from both years, sold for £450 against a top estimate of £250; but I wonder whether it was underestimated. Nobody wanted the 1861, no watermark, 1d die proof at £700, though the actual stamp on cover to St Lucia, which is scarce, reached £1,100, almost double the top estimate. The eight different Myerscough covers franked with different combinations of the 1883 De la Rue ½d did not sell, nor did the 1883 1d revenue overprinted “POSTAGE” twice diagonally, nor the large blocks of the 1888 1d on 8d surcharge. In contrast the 1875 fiscal die proof sold for £400, the 1888/91 1d on 2/-, surcharge inverted, exceeded its top estimate at £280, the 1892 1d on 8d Postage Due sold for £400 and the Edward VII 1/- plate proof in green just exceeded its top estimate at £160.

The small collection of Virgin Islands (30 lots) which was added to the sale late on was 57% sold. There were some early covers which sold reasonably well but from what I could see the major portion of the sale consisted of small lots of 20 Century postal history, largely philatelic in origin, none of which did very well.



Feldman must be very happy with the results of their sale of the Imperium collection of British Guiana. Readers may not be familiar with the chequered history of this collection, which was formed by John du Pont, who was then found guilty of the murder of one of his Foxhunter wrestling team and committed to prison, where he died in 2010. At the subsequent sale of his collection in 2014 Sheik Saud bin Mohammed al Thani bought most of it. According to Wikipedia he was, until 2006, Minister of Culture in Qatar, before being dismissed because "it was sometimes unclear if the collections he had assembled belonged to him or to Qatar". He paid ludicrously high prices for most of the collection and then died before he could pay for it. There was then a dispute over ownership and the collection was subsequently sold to the present owner by private treaty. He has added to it quite substantially, in particular the 'Miss Rose' cover. Predicting where prices would settle on this occasion was almost impossible. Just one example – the scarce cover with a pair of GB shilling adhesives used in Georgetown, but with file notes on the obverse, was estimated at less than 1,000 CHF in 2014, sold for 20,000 CHF and now had a top estimate of £900. Examples like this were repeated throughout the sale. As an individual buyer I was unhappy that so many items were grouped in medium sized lots when some items like the Demerara Ship Letter could easily have been sold as single lots worth four figures. I suspect that had the auction house been more confident of their pricing they would have been.

Nobody wanted to buy the famous two cents blue cotton reel error on cover, ex Ferrary and Burrus at £400,000; nor the unused 8 cents black on blue green, described as the "rarest unused stamp in the British Empire" at £100,000 but the total sold was 94%, worth well over £2 million (hammer price). The Miss Rose cover with a pair of 2 cents black on pale rose cotton reels went for £240,000 (£191,000 in a Gibbons sale in 1990) and the single, off cover, of the same stamp sold for £90,000, both to the same bidder, without any competition. Here I have to say that my understanding of who bought what may not be the most reliable. The Feldman screen does not show the paddle numbers, so I had to rely on hearing the auctioneer's spoken call correctly. It is speculation on my part; but including private treaty deals after the sale, the same buyer could have bought the top four lots spending plus or minus £1,000,000 in the process. Below this level there was some competition for lots in the £40–70,000 range, and below this competition was fierce, and the spread of successful bidders was considerable. So, the sale set prices at a new market norm, although like any banner sale subsequent prices in smaller sales will probably be softer.

The auction opened with a bang. For a colony where pre adhesive strikes are often very poor, the high-quality collection of 11 items in the first lot made £6,500 against top estimate of £1,600 and a larger collection of 24 items, but of poorer quality made £1,700 against a top estimate of £900. The Perkins Bacon proof sheet of oval barred numerals from 1 to 15 in red, one of two known, sold for £7,000, three times its top estimate. The 1859 GB used abroad cover, referred to above, eventually sold for £5000. The 1850/51 4 cents black on orange cotton reel sold for £42,000 almost four times the top estimate. Its equivalent on a rather tatty cover realised £2,000 less. The used equivalent of the 8 cents on blue green was knocked down for £24,000 The horizontal pair of the 12 cents black on blue made £45,000. In 2014 these two lots made 70,000CHF and 130,000CHF respectively The 4 cents black on yellow on pelure paper on cover, despite looking very unattractive made £125,000. Competition for the 1852 Waterlow issues was equally intense but of course at a lower price level. Described as the finest single with original gum of the 1 cent black on magenta, this sold for £12,000 against a top estimate of £8,000.

Competition continued to be strong for the Waterlow lithographs. The mint one cent vermilion sold for £4,200 and both the Gibson cover with a strip of four and the Dale-Lichenstein cover with a similar strip of four realised £7,500, well over the top estimate. A pair of the 4 cent retouched deep blue (the only multiple known) made £10,000. Of the four covers on offer with the 4 cents provisional black on magenta, one did not sell – Type 2 made £28,000, Type 3 £17,000 and Type 4 £20,000. Clearly, I do not have space to do justice to everything on offer; but it is worthwhile recording that amongst the lesser items the cover franked with four x 2 cent yellow, type-set provisionals, ex Ferrary and Burrus, made £13,000 and the 1860-76 Ship issues on cover did very well. An 1872 cover to the UK franked with a block of six black 1 cent stamps made £1,200, over twice its top estimate. The three covers with handstamped accounting marks did very well – '5' on 12 cents lilac to the UK from 1861 at £1,500, almost three times its top estimate; '1½d A03' on 6 cents blue paying the Ship Letter rate to the UK made £1,900, again almost three times its top estimate, and the 'Paid 4' on 12 cents lilac to Barbados which, despite file notes on the obverse, was knocked down for £2,000. The 'Bartica' sale in 2019 did not have any of these; but compared to the 'Coventry' sale in the same year prices for all three were higher – the '5' on cover more than three times. By comparison the collection of 60 lesser covers franked with the ship issue was a bargain at £13,000.

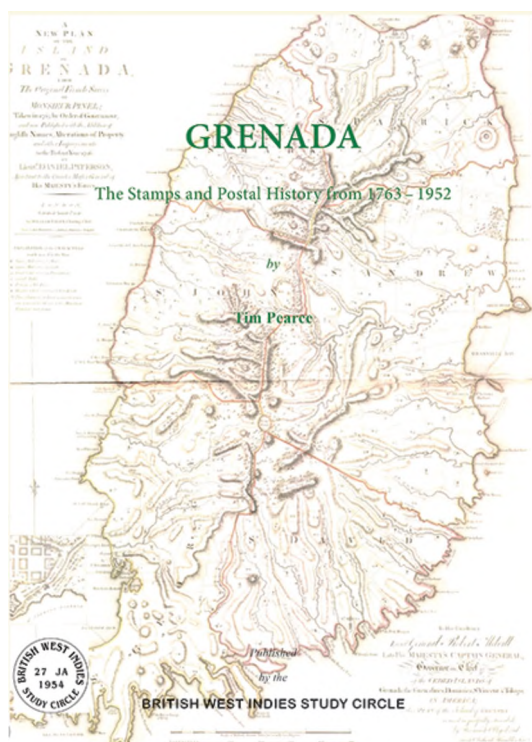
I am not sure where these sales leave us. The British Guiana sale was a clear success. The top item which I mentioned earlier as being unsold went after the auction for £360,000. In 2014 all the bidding was in the room, and it reflects the dramatic change in the hobby that on this occasion, only seven years later, that the majority of successful bidders were online. Having said that, I have no idea whether Feldman's blog, which talks about provenance as "being sprinkled in stamp stardust", really appeals to a new younger audience. If so, I confess to being out of my depth. Spink's on-line sale by comparison was very tepid, but the scarcity rating of these three collections did not compare with the Guiana sale. I just wonder whether the West Indies market, which over the last two years has been able to absorb a vast amount of material that is less than scarce, is showing early signs of indigestion. The truth is that it probably varies from colony to colony.

## BOOK REVIEW

### GRENADA – THE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY FROM 1763–1952

BY TIM PEARCE

Published by the British West Indies Study Circle. 2021. 188pp.



Grenada has long been a yawning gap in the Study Circle's canon of scholarship covering the Colonies of the British West Indies. Filled at last by Tim Pearce's new book, which deservedly carried off this year's Collett Trophy, philatelists can look forward to an excellent work of reference. Despite being the subject of several world-class collections in recent years, among them those of Dan Walker, Joseph Hackmey, Peter Jaffe and Charles Freeland, the complex Victorian issues and their derivative Provisionals have daunted many collectors.

Beautifully designed and produced by Peter Ford, Tim Pearce's book reflects his academic beginnings, First Class Honours in English from Oxford. In his lucid and concise style of writing, he contrives to make simple an understanding of the lovely Chalon Head issues. A key to understanding the Postal issues is a grasp of the contemporary Revenue issues which are covered in detail, those produced both by Perkins Bacon and by De La Rue.

The fifteen chapters and two appendices range from the history and geography of Grenada, through to the pre-adhesive period, the adhesive stamps of the reigns of

Queen Victoria to King George VI, the Post Offices and their postmarks, and Postal Stationery. Of particular value is the comprehensive bibliography, not just of books but also of major collection and special item auction catalogues.

Are there omissions in this mostly comprehensive work? By the author's own admission, it lacks coverage of instructional marks; also missing is a census of classic covers (the author disposed of his own holding some years ago), an omission which might be remedied by the members of the BWISC under an editor as was done for Trinidad. Criticism might be levelled at the accuracy of colour reproduction, for example where the author draws attention to distinct shades of George VI issues (pp.80–81). Such criticism seems churlish in a book of outstanding production values.

No collector interested in the stamps and postal history of Grenada should be without Tim Pearce's book; it comes most highly recommended.

Reviewed by Michael Medlicott



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