



STUDY CIRCLE



VALE GRAHAM BOOTH AND SIMON GOLDBLATT



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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.**

OFFICERS & CONTACT DETAILSWeb Site: www.bwisc.org

Founder:	P.T. Saunders FRPSL
President:	Vacant
Vice-President:	Vacant
Chairman:	Vacant
Vice-Chairman and Web-Master:	Steve Jarvis FRPSL: 5 Redbridge Drive, Andover, Hants, SP10 2LF Tel. 01264 358065, e-mail: info@bwisc.org
Secretary:	Richard Stupples: – email: bwiscsecretary@bwisc.org
Membership Secretary:	Paul Hancock: – email: membership@bwisc.org
Treasurer:	Ray Stanton: The Old Rectory, Salmonby, Lincs., LN9 6PX Tel. 01507 533742, e-mail: ray.stanton114@gmail.com
Editor:	Darryl Fuller: PO Box 267, George Town TAS 7253, Australia Tel. +61 417 672 543, e-mail: editor@bwisc.org
Librarian:	Ian Jakes: Beaumaris, 4 Rectory Road, Old Church Warsop, Mansfield, Notts, NG20 0RU. Tel. 01623 842095, e-mail: jakeslaw@btinternet.com
Publications Officer:	Peter Ford FRPSL: Box 665, Ctra. Cabo la Nao – Plá 116, Loc 4, 03730 Javea, Alicante, Spain Tel. 0034 966 472 158, e-mail: peterf@bwisc.org
Publications Sales:	David Druett: Pennymead Auctions, 1 Brewerton St. Knaresborough, HG5 8AZ Tel. 01423 865962, e-mail: pennymead@aol.com
Meetings Secretary:	Vacant
Auction Team Leader	Simon Richards: Heathercombe House, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, OX10 7BG Tel: 0771 368 4263 e-mail: simon@sidebell.co.uk
Committee:	Nigel Chandler FRPSL, Peter Fernbank FRPSL, James Podger FRPSL, Simon Richards FRPSL, John Jordan and Geoff Richards.
Auditor:	John Davis FCA, FRPSL
North American Representative:	John Seidl: 4324 Granby Way Marietta GA 30062 USA e-mail: john.seidl@gmail.com
Study Group Leaders:	Listed in June 2011 Bulletin and on the Web Site

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS

7 May 2022 BWISC AGM and Auction at the RPSL, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW

EDITORIAL

The death of our President Graham Booth came as a great shock, particularly on top of the deaths of Bill Gibb and Simon Goldblatt. As the new editor of the Bulletin I was just beginning to get to know Graham who provided the well-read auction report for each issue. There will, of course, be no report in this issue but the committee is working on a replacement.

It is the measure of any Society when sudden departures happen and how well it copes. Please rest assured that the Committee is working on replacements. The best run organisations have individuals who train their replacements and the BWISC is lucky in that Simon Goldblatt had already handed over the reins of the auction to another Simon. Too many stamp clubs and societies are folding, in part due to falling membership, but often because no-one will step forward into a committee position. We are fortunate in that this has not been a significant problem for the BWISC to date, but the same cannot be said for other societies. I am sure Steve Jarvis will have more to say on this at the AGM.

Given everything that has happened recently, the proposed merger with the BCPSG would seem to be a logical move for both societies, although not to be rushed. As you will be aware, I am a keen proponent for a merger, and I hope members will see the logic. There is no doubt that the two societies have similar aims even if the ethos of each is somewhat different. It is clear to me as editor that there is not enough being written in the field to support two journals.

With my editorial hat on I was pleased to see the article on an independent Barbados. It illustrates that there is still much unexplored philately in the QEII era. It is my belief that when Charles becomes King, the philately of the QEII era may take off, the way the KGVI era has become popular in my lifetime. Seventy plus years of philately is a long period and I am sure philatelists will take to the study of the stamps and postal history of this era. Hopefully we have had collectors out there keeping a track of postal rates for the modern era. It is one of my bugbears that it is often easier to find postal rates of the early 1800s than it is for airmail rates in the 1930s and 1940s. For example, I recently sent an email to the only specialised Mexican philatelic society seeking the best book on Mexican postal rates, to find that no such publication (or even articles) exist!

Please keep up the flow of articles. I have only two items for the next issue and it makes it hard to keep to the publication timetable when articles are not flowing.

Darryl Fuller

VALE – GRAHAM BOOTH FRPSL

The Philatelic World was shocked to learn of the passing of Graham Booth on 15 December 2021, who died at home peacefully in his sleep, just eleven days after his 88th Birthday. In the month beforehand he had attended the SPH weekend at York and made his customary visit to the USA to spend Thanksgiving with his sailing friend Greg and his family.

After the many trials imposed by the pandemic in the last two years, Graham had much to look forward to in 2022 having agreed to do a number of local society displays in December and January prior to giving a major display to the Royal Philatelic Society London on West Indies Maritime Mail, and had four entries in the London 2022 Stamp Show; sadly none of this will now happen.

Graham was born on the Wirral in 1933 and retained a life-long affection for Liverpool and Lancashire, even calling his boat the *Red Rose*. His parents moved him between a range of schools in Lancashire before finally settling him at King George V Grammar School, where he did extremely well. He went on to be head boy and win a place to read economics at St John's College Cambridge, a subject he claimed was of no use to him in later life, though one suspects it may have assisted him in formulating principled arguments in support of whatever he was trying to achieve.

His business career started with Unilever, then with Bowater Scott in the UK before moving to become President of Scott Taiwan and then running a major pulp and paper subsidiary in Mexico, at one point he was responsible for some 10,000 staff. A very busy and peripatetic life. He married twice, the first marriage produced two sons Paul and Simon to whom he may have been closest in his later years and he had three grandchildren, Matt, Beth and Ella. Whilst long separated from his wife Cath, who lives in Spain, they remained good friends.

Upon retirement from his work in Mexico he moved to the Cayman Islands, enjoying his boat and rediscovering philately, starting with the Cayman Islands. Whilst on Grand Cayman a dealer suggested there was a story to be told from the records in the Cayman Archives. Graham's work took 18 years to come to fruition, but all can be relieved that his book *Crisis in the Cayman Islands Post Office* was published by the Stuart Rossiter Trust in 2020. This is a book of interest to anyone seeking to understand the administration of the smaller island colonies and shows Graham's real love of history, which he often felt he should have read instead of economics.

Graham returned to the UK in 2003 having as he put it '*realised the limitations of permanent sun, sand and water*'; which must be true as he retired to a wonderful penthouse apartment in Worthing where the beach is stony! On his return he was an enthusiastic participator in many philatelic societies, achieving prominent roles locally in Sussex, becoming a fellow of both the Society of Postal Historians and the Royal Philatelic Society London, and rising to be President of the British West Indies Study Circle, hosting a successful Study Circle conference as recently as October.

He first started exhibiting in 2004 and being competitive by nature soon realised the joy that philately offers as compared to other collecting hobbies in that not only can you show your treasures off, but you can win things! Graham won the best first time entry in that show and went on to produce several gold medal exhibits culminating in a number of large golds in recent years including two at Stockholmia 2019 in celebration of the Royal Philatelic Society's sesquicentenary – one for 'The rise and fall of the American Merchant Marine as a Trans Atlantic Mail Carrier 1800–1868' and one for 'Anglo-Australian Mail 1840–1860: The Transfer from Sail to Steam'. He was well known too for his range of one frame exhibits, generally on a maritime theme. When you reflect that he was about to show 47 frames of West Indies Maritime Mail to the Royal in January, you will begin to appreciate how much maritime mail he had acquired over the years.

His pages were always immaculately researched and had a very distinctive style so that those who collect in this area will be remembering Graham for many years to come. His column in the BWISC Bulletin on the state of the auction market was the first thing many turned to when the magazine, or its electronic version, arrived. He presided over the Study Circle with immense wisdom and took painstaking care to resolve thorny issues. Graham's gregarious nature showed in the way he made so many philatelic friends and his regular phone calls and company will be much missed.

Simon Richards

VALE – SIMON GOLDBLATT QC

The Study Circle was deeply saddened to hear of Simon's death on 2 November 2021. He was born in December 1928 and was educated at Eton College where he was captain of the school and Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He joined the Society in June 1969 and joined the Auction Committee in 1974, running our auction for 40 years. The following is an extract from his Wikipedia page that illustrates the type of person he was.

He was called to the Bar in 1953. He joined chambers soon thereafter. He took silk in 1972 (having effectively been positively invited to do so by the appellate committee of the House of Lords, one of whose members had commented in one case that they "took it most ill that submissions of that calibre come otherwise than from the front bench").

He was head of chambers from 1983 until 1986, when John Dyson took over. He has practised here ever since – subject only, that is, to occasional stints as a Deputy High Court Judge (when he had a tendency to find alternative paths to correct jurisprudence to those presented to him by counsel); and, more regularly than that, to being tempted away for his three great passions: foreign travel; philately; and porcelain. He was still attending chambers daily, right up to his final decline, a couple of weeks ago.

Simon was a legendary figure in chambers. He was, notoriously, the cleverest member of chambers that there had ever been; and he was just as well known for his old-fashioned courtesy, which was presented with a tangible twinkle as well as a smile. In combination, these two qualities – his intelligence and his charm – meant that he was a spirited and highly engaging conversationalist for all around him, whoever they might be.

One (daily) party trick was to do the Times crossword without filling in any of the answers, and then, from memory, to write the whole thing out, including the grid, on a blank piece of paper. Indeed, blank sheets of paper seem to have played a regular part in his demonstrations of prowess: John Dyson QC spoke of how his intellectual brilliance had always been on display.

To those members of the Society that had dealings with Simon it is his intelligence and charm that will be missed. We are lucky to have had someone like Simon in our Society and we are the poorer for his passing. Certainly, the auction descriptions will be a little less poetic.

The following is an extract from a letter, sent last year, to Simon by Peter Marshall that captures the feelings of many members of the Society in relation to Simon's amazing 40-year effort on the annual BWISC auctions.

Good Morning Simon,

I was horrified when I heard that you were no longer going to write the auction catalogues. I had no idea that your skills in descriptions had been our pleasure for so long, and mine since joining the BWISC. There were probably 'formative' years before I joined because one cannot acquire your amount of knowledge without years of experience. I found them fascinating (as well as informative), regardless of the country lots described, and others.

Simon will be greatly missed by all members of the BWISC. Those who knew personally and had benefitted from his knowledge and advice, and those who only knew him through his much-loved auction lot descriptions.



Simon talking to the stamp collectors of the future at the 2015 Guyana Philatelic Society Exhibition

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LEEWARD ISLANDS

QV ANOTHER BLUNT PIN VARIETY

BRUCE STEWART



I noted in the last bulletin references to blunt perforations and I attach a scan of a Leeward Islands Queen Victoria 2½d stamp that I have displaying a blunt perf which is much more obvious at the bottom of the stamp than the top. Don't know if this is a recorded item or not.

BRITISH WEST INDIES OFFERS FROM STOCK

ANTIGUA. 1921 DLR Die Proof for '4d' Duty Plate, endorsed 'BEFORE STRIKING' dated '21/10/21'. **£175**

BARBADOS. 1870 (Rough Perf) 1/- back in block of four. Very fine mint. Rare multiple. Ex Baillie. SG 47 **£1250**

BARBADOS. 1907 1d on 2d block of six, one surcharge double (one inverted). Very fine mint. SG 153c. **£550**

B. HONDURAS. 1910 1c 'SPECIMEN' (D9) on piece dated 'Nov 09'. Unique ex DLR archives. Ex Latto. SG 95sp. **£300**

GRENADA. 1888 4d on 2/- block of sixteen, one with 'wide space'. Very fine mint. RPS Cert. SG 41/41b. **£550**

GRENADA. 1892 1d on 8d 'SURCHARGE POSTAGE'. Fine mint. Extremely scarce stamp. SG D5. **£950**

JAMAICA. 1902 2/- corner strip of five with both Plate and Current numbers. Unmounted mint. SG 55. **£450**

JAMAICA. 1916 1½d 'WAR STAMP' pair, one with 'R' inserted by hand (R.1/10). Very fine mint. SG 71e. **£850**

LEEWARDS. 1951 £1 Keyplate with watermark inverted. Unmounted mint. Extremely rare. SG 114cw. **£3500**

ST. LUCIA. 1946 8d brown with perf 'SPECIMEN' double. Very fine mint. Most unusual. SG 134c sp. **£175**

ST. LUCIA. 1930 2d Due imperf between (vertical pair). Very fine unused. Exceptional rarity. SG D2a. **£5500**

ST. VINCENT. 1881 4d on 1/- with 'short bar at left'. Very fine used 'K' for 'NO 28 81'. RPS Cert. SG 35. **£400**

ST. VINCENT. 1885/93 (Perf 14) 6d Colour Trial in carmine-lake on gummed paper. BPA Cert. Ex Jaffe. **£475**

TOBAGO. 1892 ½d on 4d marginal with malformed 'CE'. Very fine used with full 'NO 11 92' c.d.s. SG 30b. **£550**

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

MISSING 'C' OF 'CA' ON THE VICTORY ISSUE OF 1920

LAWRENCE GRECH

I recently acquired a plate-number pair of the 1920 Victory ½d Black and Green of Barbados showing the 'C' of 'CA' missing in the margin (directly under the plate number) – see Fig. 1.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

My personal preference for collecting watermark varieties is to have marginal copies such that the variety is visible when the stamp is displayed from the front. Of course, this works better for varieties which occur across the entire sheet rather than positional anomalies such as this where arguably the stamp is not itself subject to the error. Either way I think on balance I prefer this approach to having a stamp which has the error but is not visible under normal circumstances.

Anyway, I digress. I subsequently acquired two further multiples of the same issue, one a half sheet of 30 and the other a block of 4, both blocks also displaying the plate number. Of these the plate block of 4 also has the missing 'C' of 'CA' error in the margin in a similar position to the original pair – see Fig. 2. The half sheet of 30 appears to have all 'C's present and correct.

As Stanley Gibbons list the missing 'C' of 'CA' variety at £450 for a mint example in their 2015 Windward islands and Barbados Catalogue one would assume this a relatively rare variety and not one that the occurs in two out of three sheets as my modest sample suggests.

The aforementioned Gibbons catalogue states that the Multiple Crown CA watermark was in use from 1904 until 1921. Furthermore, it notes the error occurred most frequently in the early 1920s and offers a possible explanation of the anomalies occurring on the dandy rolls, (missing 'C', missing 'A' and substituted crown'), as likely emanating from the reserve roll which was put into service when the primary rolls were under maintenance.

Have other members seen similar such examples or offer any insights into the frequency of these anomalies? Are such anomalies genuinely uncommon or are most examples simply not identified giving only the impression of rarity?

As an aside the half-sheet of 30 seems to have a missing 'A' of 'CA' at position 5/4 but that's another story.

(Ed. Another copy was sold by Spink in the 19 April 2017 "Foxley" sale of Barbados – lot 783.)

BARBADOS

THE 1916 BADGE RE-ISSUED REMAINDERS, 1921-25 – A SEQUEL

PATRICIA CAPILL

In the March 2021 BWISC Bulletin, pages 12-13, I wrote about the 1916 large Badge re-issued remainders and their overlap with the 1921 small Badge and 1920 Victory issues. I had evidence of only the ½d and 2½d denominations of the five re-issued 1916 large Badge stamps still being in use as late as 1924 and early 1925. Since my March article, I have noted further examples of the 2½d dated 11 August 1922 and October 1924, but still no late usages of the three other denominations, ¼d, 4d and 6d, after May 1921.



A remarkable 'philatelic' cover has recently come into my possession which captures the stamp situation in early 1924. Addressed to Switzerland, this registered Size H postal stationery envelope, dated 13 February 1924, bears stamps from the three issues on sale at that time, with a face value of 7/6¼d. (See illustration). It shows the ½d and 2½d large Badge re-issued remainders and the ONLY 1920 Victory denominations still on sale in February 1924, the 3d, 4d and 3s. (Refer to Bayley's 'The Stamps of Barbados', page 119). Five denominations of the 1921 small Badges were also affixed, ¼d, 2d, 6d, 1s and 2s. This suggests it's likely that the ¼d and 6d large Badge remainders had been used up or withdrawn prior to February 1924 or else they would probably have been used instead of the corresponding small Badge denominations.

BARBADOS

'A CASE FOR AN INDEPENDENT BARBADOS'

LAWRENCE GRECH AND JONATHAN GUY

It may seem strange to be making a case for an independent Barbados when the nation has recently become a Republic; however, this article is, of course, a case of philatelic, rather than political advocacy. What the act of becoming a Republic has done is given a finite 'bookend' era of 'Independence' which in philatelic terms commences with the Independence issue of 2 December 1966¹ through to the Synagogue Restoration issue of 23 August 2021.

A number of BWISC members already have a keen appreciation of the earlier issues of Barbados commencing with the reign of Queen Victoria, through Edward VII, George V and George VI to the early issues of Elizabeth II culminating with the end of 'Self-Government' in 1966 and the wealth of philatelic study opportunity afforded by these earlier issues.

Others, including Jonathan with his barbadosstamps.co.uk website, have already made the case for collecting the more recent issues of Barbados, a nation which managed to avoid the worst philatelic excesses of the 1980's and 1990's boom in stamp collecting. A quick glance at Stanley Gibbons 2015 Windward islands and Barbados catalogue will show that Barbados maintained a relatively modest output of largely interesting, relevant and quality stamp issues through the period of the late 196's through to the end of 2014 with subsequent (post-catalogue) issues numbering just 12 across the last seven years (2015–2021).

Whilst a basic mint collection of Independent Barbados can be put together quite readily, a delve into the footnotes and italics of the Gibbons catalogue will reveal there is significant scope to take a collection to the next level, with Overprint Varieties, Stamp Errors, Watermark Errors, Paper Types, Mis-Perforations and Imprint Dates, some of which can be quite elusive. Beyond the catalogue there is a wide range of philatelic material available, including local specimen overprints, original artwork, imperforate proofs, photographic essays, stamp wallets, colour charts, UPU folders, unlisted errors and varieties, printers' remainders, FDCs,

¹ The Marine Life Definitive issue of 1965 and subsequent reprints were still in use until 1970 and we have included a couple of examples from this issue however we have not attempted to cover it in full.

postmarks and usage. One can perhaps question the ethics of so much printers' archive material and remainders having made their way onto the market; however, those of us who enjoy the mint blocks of classical issues from the Perkins Bacon remainders should perhaps not be too quick to criticise.



Fig. 1

In the following sections the authors have endeavoured to highlight some of the more interesting catalogue varieties of the stamp issues of the Independent Barbados era along with a few examples of non-catalogued material. Our intention for this article

was to focus on the catalogued items leaving the potential for a subsequent article to cover the non-catalogue material in greater depth.

So, to the substance of our article and it seems only right and proper to begin with the Independence issue of 2 December 1966, in this example, locally overprinted *specimen* in purple (Fig. 1). These local overprints were used on copies given to local hotels to advertise the stamp issue and to visiting dignitaries.

Overprint Varieties

The first Overprint variety of this period is the 1969 'One Cent on 4c' Centenary of Harbour Police issue with Double Surcharge (Fig. 2). Despite a relatively modest catalogue value this is a difficult stamp to find.



Fig. 3

The next overprint of this era is the notorious 1970 '4x' on 5c Marine Life issue for which Gibbons list 6 varieties. This overprint was covered in some detail in Bulletin (229) of June 2011 by Peter Longmuir and provided examples of the six listed varieties so we will not repeat these here. What we can offer is an example of an unlisted variety showing tête-bêche overprints on the reverse of a normally overprinted strip of 5 (duly certified as genuine by the RPSL) (Fig. 3).



Fig. 2

The 3rd and last of the overprint varieties is the '4c' on 25c George Washington House with 4c omitted (Fig. 4). This error occurs on some (though not all) of the Plate 1a and Plate 1c printings at row 10/1. Figures 3 & 4 shows the 1a plate block with and without the variety. A Plate 1c block with the variety is illustrated in Edmund Bayley's *The Stamps of Barbados Volume 2* (1) however the authors have yet to find an example of this plate block for sale either with or without the variety.

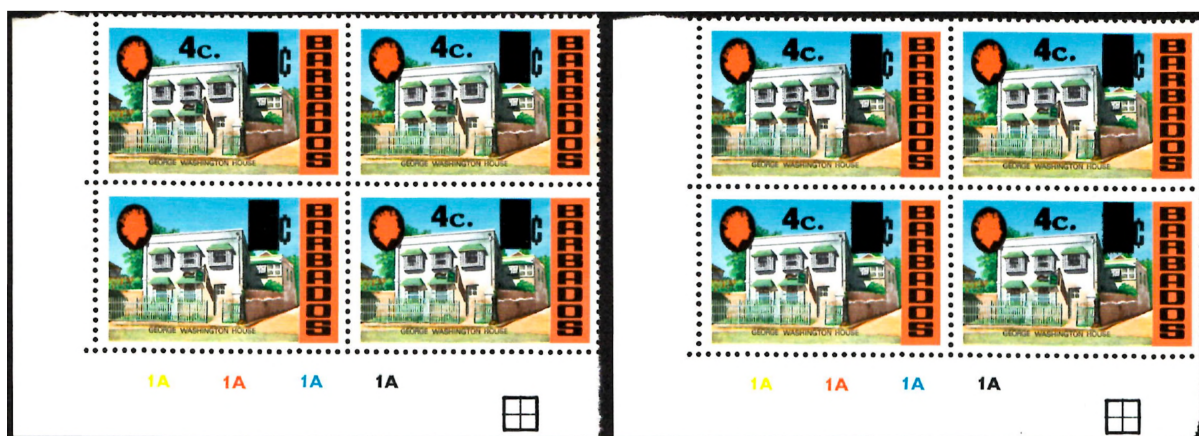


Fig. 4

Design Errors

Chronologically, the first catalogued design error of the Independence era arrived with the printing of the Marine Life definitive series in 1965, where the 3c value depicting a Seahorse was incorrectly ascribed the Latin name '*hippocampus species*' instead of '*hippocampus species*' (Fig. 5 & 6). Whilst Bayley notes other design errors in this series, the Seahorse is the only one to merit catalogue listing. The error was identified fairly soon after issue but remained uncorrected until a reprint set was issued in 1967.

Fig. 5 '*hippocampus species*'Fig. 6 '*hippocampus species*'

The error was of sufficient note to merit a correction, issued by The Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, advising of the error and subsequent change (Fig. 7).

Perhaps, however, the most interesting of the stamp errors of this period is the 50c Cricket issue with Wrong Portrait (Fig. 8). This error has already been covered in a splendid article by Denis Charlesworth in the Society Bulletin (148) of March 1991. The article includes a fascinating description of how the error came about and how it was identified, just a little too late to prevent 101 copies of the stamp being sold by the Parcel Post Department.



Fig. 8

Another significant design error occurred on the 70c issue of the May 2000 Pride of Barbados definitive issue whereby the image of Bridgetown Port was somehow reversed. This was noticed soon after issue and a corrected 70c put on sale later in the year. This variety is not at all rare, indeed the original and corrected stamps are listed at the same modest catalogue value (Fig. 9) (the lower example the corrected issue). Also included here, the original artwork by Nick Shewring for this stamp, which you will note has the harbour correctly oriented (Fig. 10).



Fig. 9

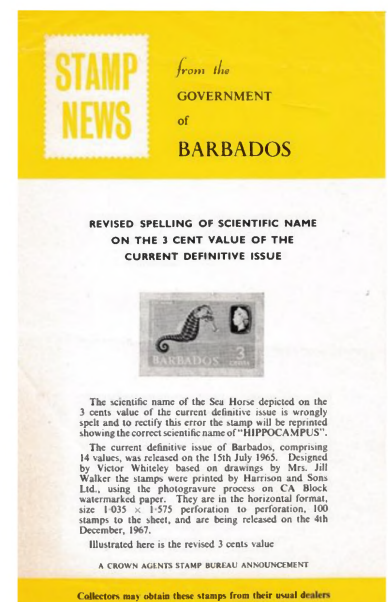


Fig. 7



Fig. 10 (not to scale)

Moving on there are a number of errors due to missing colours. The most striking of these is undoubtedly the 35c Green Throated Carib of the 1979 Birds definitive issue with 'yellow omitted' resulting in the bird appearing blue rather than green. The authors have not seen any figures for the number sold, presumably it is no more than a single sheet and judging by its scarcity probably less. It is certainly a rare stamp and alas neither author currently has an example to share.

Other missing colour errors include the \$10 high value of the 1975 issue of the Orchids definitive set with 'Dull-green omitted' (Fig. 11) and the 28c value of the 1979 Death Centenary of Sir Rowland Hill with 'Ultramarine omitted', the colour used for the face value (Fig. 12). Note - The latter also shows the minor design error of the misspelling of 'anniversary' as "anniverary" which occurs on all examples of the 28c.



Fig. 11



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

Two other missing colours of note include the 65c value of the 1986 65th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth II issue with the 'Silver logo omitted' (Fig. 13). Finally in the missing colours category we have the 2016 \$5 Mini-sheet from the Landships issue with the 'Gold face value omitted', (Fig. 14 - from left to right: Imperforate proof, Issued Stamp and Missing Value), the former included as the three examples together provide a visually pleasing display.



Fig. 14

Watermark Errors

There are 40 watermark varieties listed by Gibbons in the 2015 Windward islands and Barbados catalogue, occurring between the 1971 Tourism issue and the 1994 Bicentenary of Formation of West Indian Regiment issue. These consist almost exclusively of Inverted Watermarks and Crown to Right of CA errors. Watermark errors on modern stamps are generally hard to see we will not attempt to illustrate too many, however, as the rather beautiful 1979 Birds issue is afflicted with a number of these errors, we shall use this as an excuse to include some images of these delightful stamps (Fig. 15).

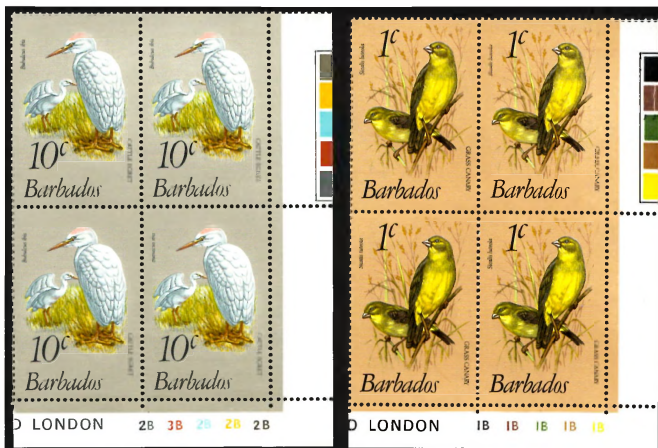


Fig. 15 – 10c & 1c with Watermark Crown to right of CA.

It is probably worth noting that this area of study remains something of a philatelic wilderness, with little additional research being carried out in recent years. This may well be because the watermarks on this, and subsequent issues, are quite a challenge and do not yield readily to the application of watermark fluid, nor strong light. Researchers that do persist, however, will find that there are as yet, undiscovered watermark variations to be found. Jonathan has in his collection a number of these, which are yet to be confirmed by certificate, or indeed written up. As well as the difficulty of seeing the watermarks, the added problem of finding a way to display them means there appears to be little value in spending time cataloguing these, but we remain convinced that this will be a rewarding area of study.

Imprint Dates

Tiny year dates at the foot of the design, imprint dates were employed on 5 definitive issues, the Marine Life Issue of the mid-eighties, the Wild Plants issue of the late eighties and early nineties, the Ships issue of the mid to late nineties, the Pride of Barbados issue of the early noughties and most recently the Builders of Barbados with a reprint in 2020 of the 10c value depicting Sir Grantley Adams.

Combined with changes in watermark and the existence of 'no imprint date' examples, 6 sets/part sets of the Marine Life issue, 3 sets/part sets of the Wild Plants issue, 5 sets/part sets of the Ships issue, 3 sets/individual stamps² of the Pride of Barbados issue and 1 set and 1 individual stamp (as above) of the Builders of Barbados issues may be made up. Gibbons does not list individual prices for the different imprint dates however some are undoubtedly harder to find than others. Fig. 16 depicts the available imprint date varieties on the 10c Anemone from the Marine Life issue with watermark *Multiple Crown Script CA Diagonal (sideways)*.



Fig. 16

Mis-Perfs

As per the Gibbons catalogue (2) the only listed mis-perf, is the Mini-sheet from the 1995, 300th Anniversary of Combermere School issue which has the four horizontal stamps imperforate and the central vertical stamp perforated as normal. We have seen only one instance of this item coming on to the market, in the Harmers 2010 catalogue of the sale of Frank Deakin's Barbados collection.

Examples of the miniature sheet from the 2010 Centenary of Queen's Park issue with the lower edge of the single \$4 stamp imperforate exist. Some are undoubtedly from the printer's remainders. Whether any were actually distributed for postal use is not clear.

In Edmund Bayley's Stamps of Barbados Volume II, the author illustrates a pair of the 25c value from the 1972 Diamond Jubilee of Boys Scouts issue imperforate between the stamps and lower margin. This is not listed by Gibbons.



Fig. 17

² Only the 10c value exists with imprint dates 2002 and 2004

To close this section, the authors have seen other imperforate miniature sheets offered for sale but suspect these are imperforate proofs rather than genuine errors.

It is also worth noting, however, that other mis-perforated errors do exist, though many of them have escaped either reference or catalogue status as they have been either ignored or offered by dealers as 'curios'. Figure 17, illustrates Barbados SG325, the Sea Urchin stamp from the 1965 Sea Life reprint set and was offered as an oddity by a dealer for little more than the face value of the stamps.

Paper Types

Catalogued Paper Types were mentioned in the introduction, so for completeness it is necessary only to note that the definitive issue of 1970 on Upright Multiple St. Edwards Crown & CA watermarked paper is, with the exception of the 6c³ value, available on both chalk surfaced and glazed papers.

Future Research Areas

It is clear from the published literature that outside of the notable errors and varieties mentioned earlier in this article, little research has been done on the Barbados issues of Queen Elizabeth II and in particular of the Independent era. In part, this may be because Bayley's wonderful reference books stop with the 1978 Industries issue and no one has compiled the base material needed since then. Bayley, in fact, in his third volume on the Post Offices in Barbados (2009), speaks of publishing a fourth volume on the postmarks on Barbados, but this, to the best of our knowledge, was never completed. There remains, therefore, a significant number of areas that could benefit from research.

Initially, there is a need to continue the work done by Bayley and to catalogue the issues from 1979 onwards, before the records are permanently lost. Additionally, there is a requirement for a database of errors, omissions, perforation types and watermark varieties which should ideally be made available in an online resource. The Barbados definitive issues, typically issued every five to seven years, deserve simplified tables. As we showed earlier, trying to sort the imprint dates across the 1985–87 Marine Life series is, in itself, something of a challenge.

Finally, there is the matter of postal history. Compiling a display of Barbados Postal Stationery from Queen Victorian times or Registered Envelopes is relatively straightforward, with the biggest challenge for many collectors being the price of the rarer material. Try, however, to compile a usage display of the Marine Life series, which is less than 40 years old but still pre-internet so postal usage was high, and most collectors will struggle. Even a display of every one of recent 2016 Centenaries issue, used on cover, would be a challenge. Given that this is just twenty 65c stamps (excluding the souvenir sheet), used for local mail, and that these stamps can still be found today in use in some of the Post Offices on the island, you would think that this would be a relatively straightforward task. Add to this the challenge of collecting each of the current Post Office postmarks on these covers and we would submit that this is a bigger challenge than a display of Victorian, Edwardian or George VI material.

There remains, of course, myriad other collecting areas, some of which may defy even the most enthusiastic collectors. Try, for example, finding the final Postage Due series used on cover. Despite being issued in 1976 and still being on sale in the early 2000s, we have yet to see a truly commercial use of these on cover. The nearest item the authors have found to date is a postcard from 1980 (Fig. 18), sent from Germany to Barbados which has three of the stamps in this series affixed; the 5c, 10c and 25c and a pen



Fig. 18

³ Chalk Surfaced Paper only



Fig. 19

notation of a surcharge (T 30/80). The stamps appear to be pen cancelled in black however as they are not tied to the postcard by a CDS cancel, we are unable to prove that these were not added after the event.

Other than that, the authors have one other, clearly philatelic item, which contains the entire set of Postage Due stamps, tied to a cover (Fig. 19).

We would submit, therefore, that Barbados philately is a rich seam ideal for research by anyone with time to spend and we would invite anyone wishing to contribute to this to contact the authors.

Topics of potential interest might include:

- The Stamp Wallet of the Flowers Issue 1974-79
- The 1975 & 1983 Coil Definitive Issues
- A list of printers responsible for overprints on Barbados issues (Gibbons don't include this information) and Bayley only covers up to 1978 meaning the printers for the last four overprint issues are not documented in a convenient location.
- Unlisted Perforation varieties
- Unlisted Watermark varieties

To conclude our article, we leave you with the First Day Cover (Fig. 20) of the concluding issue of the 'Independent' era of Barbados stamps, the Synagogue Restoration issue of 23rd August 2021.

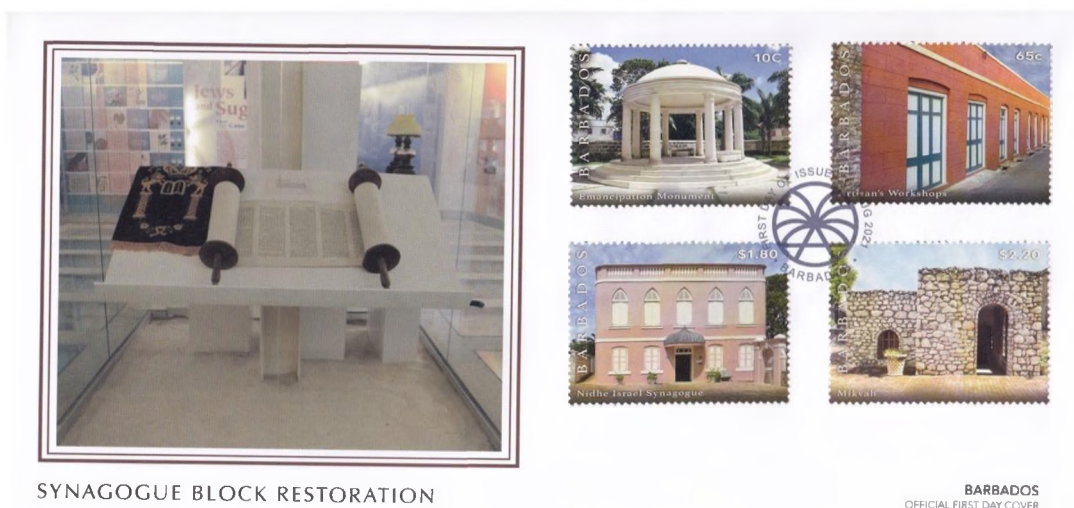


Fig. 20

References:

- (1) Edmund Bayley, *The Stamps of Barbados Volume II*, 2005
- (2) *Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue – Windward Islands and Barbados 3rd Edition*, Stanley Gibbons, 2016

All images are from the authors' own collections.

DOMINICA

MADAM JOSEPH FORGERY – A PREVIOUSLY UNLISTED EXAMPLE

BRUCE STEWART



While recently sorting out some of my Leeward Islands collection I was suddenly struck by an impossible postmark on a 5 shillings value of the stamps issued in 1949 for King George VI's Royal Silver Wedding which had previously gone unnoticed.

As can be seen from the accompanying scanned photo the postmark is for 'G.P.O. DOMINICA' dated 'MY 27 49'. This of course is wrong on two counts. Firstly, Dominica ceased using Leeward Islands stamps from 1 January 1940 when the island was incorporated into the Windward Islands, and secondly the last recorded date for the postmark in question as per the books written by Proud, Oliver and Horry is 12 May 1937.

So, it is clearly a forgery but by whom? I've checked my reference material to see if it is the handiwork of Madame Joseph, but I cannot find any reference in support of this. Might it have been issued by someone else? It is a really nice clear postmark applied in such a position so as not to obliterate the faces of the royal couple too much and doesn't appear to have been produced in recent

times by a laser printer. Incidentally some of the Madame Joseph postmarks I've seen recently on eBay make me think that someone is forging the renowned forger's earlier work!

Any intelligence about this postmark that members can offer would be most welcome.

TRINIDAD

'INTERESTING COVER'

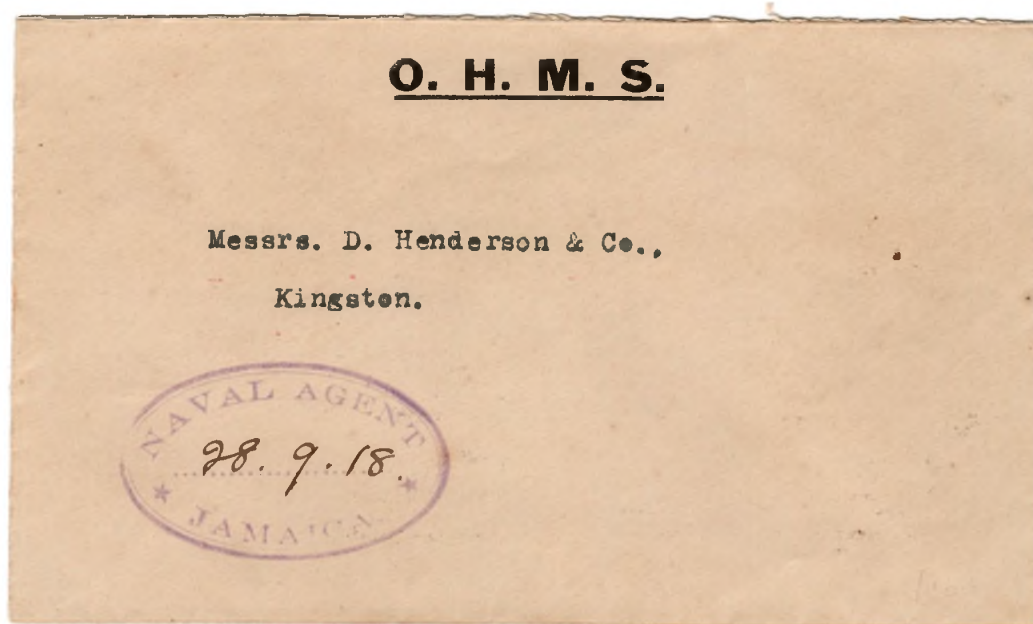
PETER FORD



This wrapper from Trinidad is addressed to Philadelphia in the USA franked with an imperforate (1d) rose-red on white paper, no value expressed (SG12). The adhesive is indistinctly cancelled by an oval obliterator and shows a light 'PAID AT TRINIDAD' Crowned Circle handstamp in red alongside with a 'STEAMSHIP/10' handstamp superimposed on it. On the reverse there is a double arc departure datestamp of 11 March 1859. As with many such covers, it is endorsed 'via Havana'; in addition, there is also another more unusual manuscript endorsement 'missent to Jacmel, Haiti'.

On leaving Trinidad, it would have travelled on RMS Prince to Barbados via Grenada and St Vincent and thence on RMS Derwent direct from Barbados to St Thomas, arriving on 16 March. From here something went amiss, and the cover went to Jacmel on RMS Trent. On discovering this error, the postal authorities in Jacmel returned it to St Thomas. The reverse of the cover has two double arc datestamps for St Thomas, one for 16 March and the other for 1 April. After this adventure, it was transported to Havana by RMS Thames and from there on to New York.

One might ask how did this cover become separated from its fellows and end up in Jacmel? The most likely explanation is that it went in a mail bag with post for Jacmel; any other explanation requires too many coincidences to be fully believed. Did this sort of thing happen often? Are there any similar covers out there to be found?

JAMAICA**NAVAL AGENT – JAMAICA IN WWI****TONY WALKER**

I have an OHMS cover (see illustration) with this oval cachet showing the mark:

*** NAVAL AGENT / 28.9.18 / JAMAICA *** with the date written in in pen

On the reverse is a machine cancel: **KINGSTON / SEP 28-18 / 1—PM / JAMAICA** which I surmise should have been struck on the front of the envelope.

The item neatly combines my two main interests, namely Caribbean philately (Turks and Caicos Islands) and that of the postal history of the British Navy in World War One. However, I have been unable to discover any specific information about a or the NAVAL AGENT in Jamaica at this time.

I know there are some very accomplished collectors of Jamaica in the BWISC, and I would be most grateful if anyone can assist in the writing up of this item. Perhaps any response to the Editor to this query could also be emailed to me at: walker369@btinternet.com.

(Ed: Following the submission of this item Tony sent the following email which adds to the story.)

Hello Darryl

At the same time as I sent you the piece above, I posted a query about the cover on the Forces Postal History Society Forum and received a couple of prompt replies.

They mentioned the BWISC Encyclopaedia Vol 9 Military mails, and one member sent me a copy of a short piece on the NAVAL AGENT / JAMAICA cover from it. The cover I have is almost certainly one of the two mentioned in this article.

For the record, my cachet is in a dull violet colour – the article noted that only black and white photocopies had been seen, so I've added a bit more information!

I would be interested in any details about the Government's Naval Agent.

Kind regards

Tony Walker

JAMAICA

JAMAICA POST OFFICE 350TH ANNIVERSARY STAMP ISSUE

STEVE JARVIS

The Jamaica Post Office has been rather frugal recently, but they have gone to town with a new issue commemorating the 350th anniversary of the establishment of the Jamaica Post Office.

Their publicity leaflet tells us the following:

Postal Service in Jamaica began on October 31, 1671, making Jamaica the first island from the British colony to have an established postal service. The first Post Office was built in the then capital, St. Jago De La Vega, now known as Spanish Town and operated as a subbranch of the British Post Office.

As the need for a reliable postal service grew simultaneously with the lucrative sugar export driven economy, Edward Dismore was appointed in 1754 as Jamaica's first Postmaster General. He then established a network of Post Offices throughout the island, many of which remain as major post offices today.

In 1776, the main Post Office was moved from Spanish Town to Harbour Street in Kingston and in 1860 achieved full managerial and operational autonomy ending its subbranch status with the British Post Office. In addition, distinctive Jamaican postage stamps were introduced for the first time that year replacing British stamps which were then in circulation.

The main Post Office found a new home at the General Post Office on King Street in Downtown, Kingston following the 1907 earthquake that caused significant damage to the capital. However, these premises soon proved inadequate given increased mail flows and plans were drawn up to construct a new head office building including an automated central sorting office. Work on this new building started in the mid 1970s and the sorting facility fully commissioned in 1980, now known as the Central Sorting Office. The Central Sorting Office is located at 6-10 South Camp Road, Kingston. This location is office to approximately 500 of the over 1600 employees employed within the Jamaican postal service.

There are over 230 Post Offices and over 165 Postal Agencies island wide.

The following dates are milestone achievements for the postal service:

- 1671 — The first Jamaican Post Office established in Spanish Town under King Charles II
- 1746 — The 'Jamaica' straight line hand stamp appears on letters showing their point of origin
- 1754 — Edward Dismore appointed Postmaster General of Jamaica
- 1776 — The Post Office relocated from Spanish Town to Kingston
- 1801 — The "Ship Letter" hand stamp appears on letters so that correct postage rates could be collected
- 1860 — Jamaican stamps replace British stamps
- 1877 — Official postcards from Britain are introduced in Jamaica
- 1900 — Jamaica's first pictorial stamp showing Llandoverly Falls appears
- 1907 — The main Post Office on Harbour Street in Kingston was damaged by an earthquake and later moved to King Street
- 1960 — The Post Office's administrative headquarters established on South Camp Road
- 1980 — Central Sorting Office constructed
- 1995 — The Postal Corporation of Jamaica Limited (PostCorp) is registered
- 2000 — PostCorp begins operations
- 2001 — Local Next Day Delivery service introduced (Zipmail)
- 2004 — Liguanea Post Mall officially opened introducing a new business model for the Post Office
- 2006 — Motorized door to door delivery
- 2012 — Received Universal Postal Unit Certification (UPU), the governing body for Postal Administrations worldwide
- 2012 — A modern centralized Customer Service Unit is created. Online tools introduced making the process of resolving customer queries more efficient
- 2018 — Introduction of Miami mailbox service (Klick N Ship)

The above information is not quite correct regarding Dismore being the first Postmaster-General. In 1671 Gabriel Martin was appointed Postmaster by the Legislative Council of Jamaica on 31 October 1671 but does not appear to have held the post for very long.

The GB PO made the following announcement:

June 30-July 4 1687

All Masters of Ships and other that carry letter to the Island of Jamaica, are to take notice, that His Majesty hath established a Post-Office in the said Island, whereof Mr. James Wale is Post-Master, unto whom they are to deliver their Letters when they arrive in the said Island.

The date quoted for the first Ship Letter postmark is close but a cover to New York is known dated 18 Nov 1800.

The 1877 date for the introduction of Postal Cards from Britain is correct but they were predated by some locally produced ones.

The set was issued on 29 October 2021 and described:

Designer: CASCO
Process: Lithography

Perforation: 13 1/4cm x 13 1/2cm

Printer: Southern Color Printing
Stamp size: 45.00mm x 28.00mm

Denominations: \$60.00 x3, \$100 x3, \$120.00 x3, \$180 x3, \$200 x3, \$1,000 x3

With two souvenir 'sheets' (\$350 and \$920) and one 'sheetlet' (\$4980).

The 'sheetlet' is nearly £5 in sterling!

The \$60 value designs:



The \$100 value designs:



The \$120 value designs:



The \$180 value designs:



The \$200 value designs:

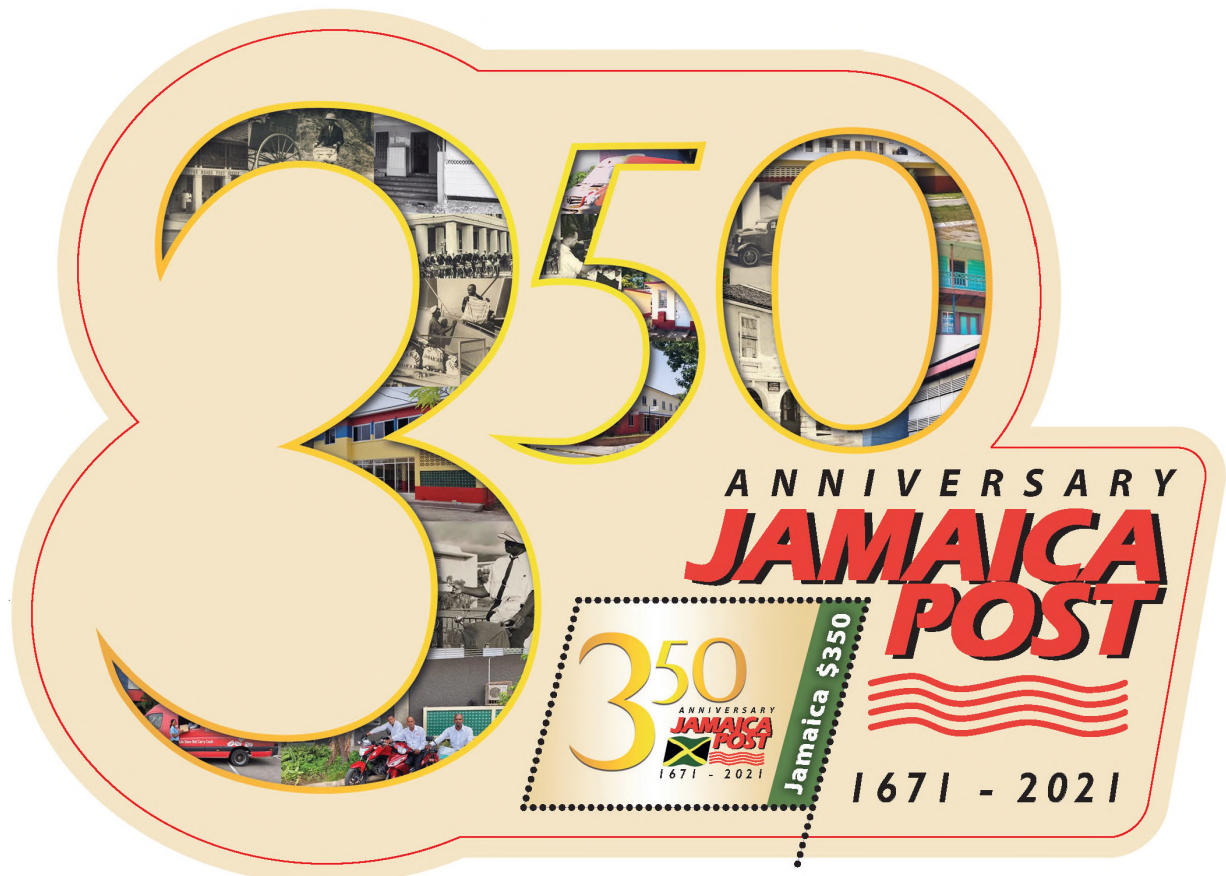


The \$1000 value designs:

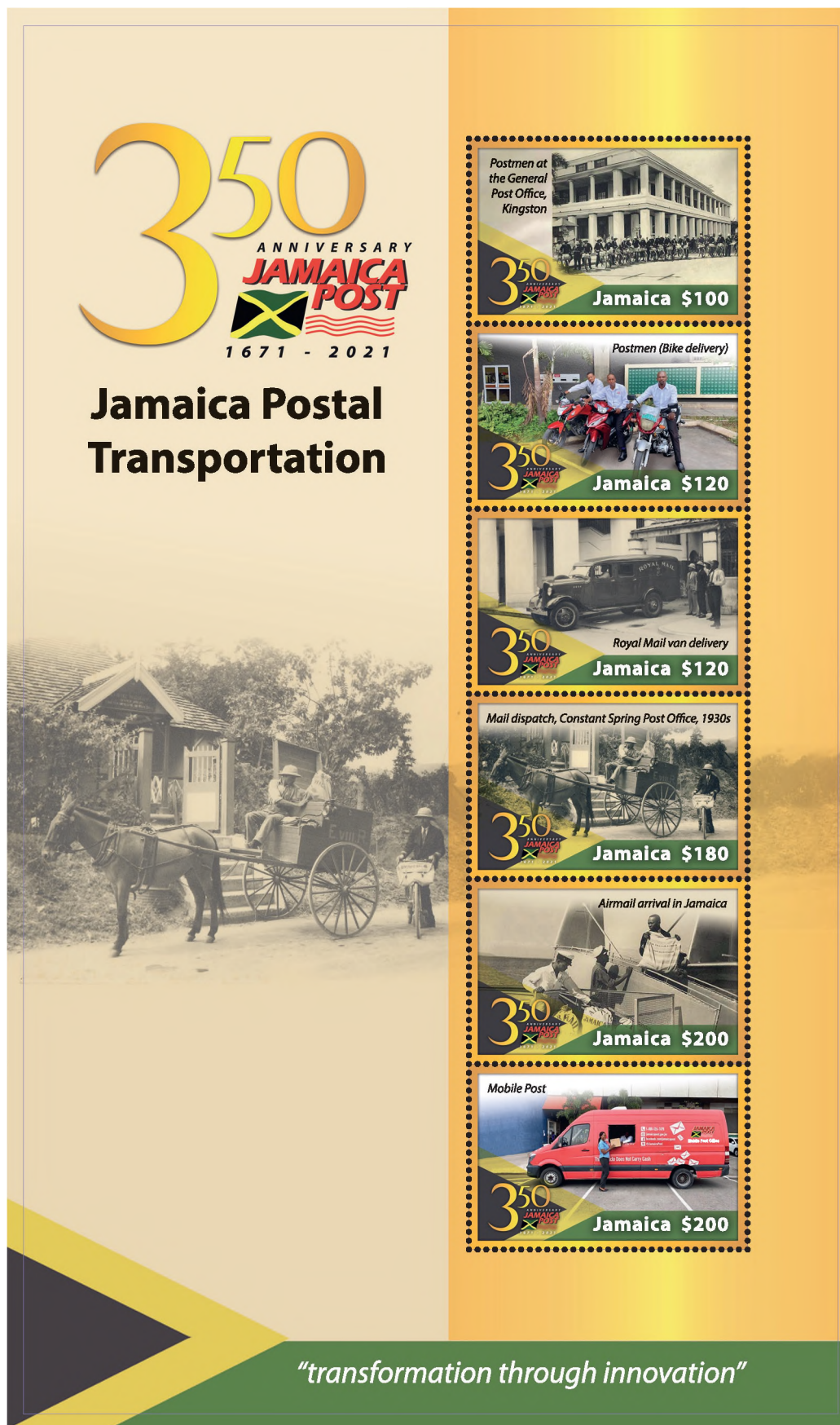


The Falmouth Post Office stamp says 1815 – that is when the building was erected but the post office did not move until the early 20th century.

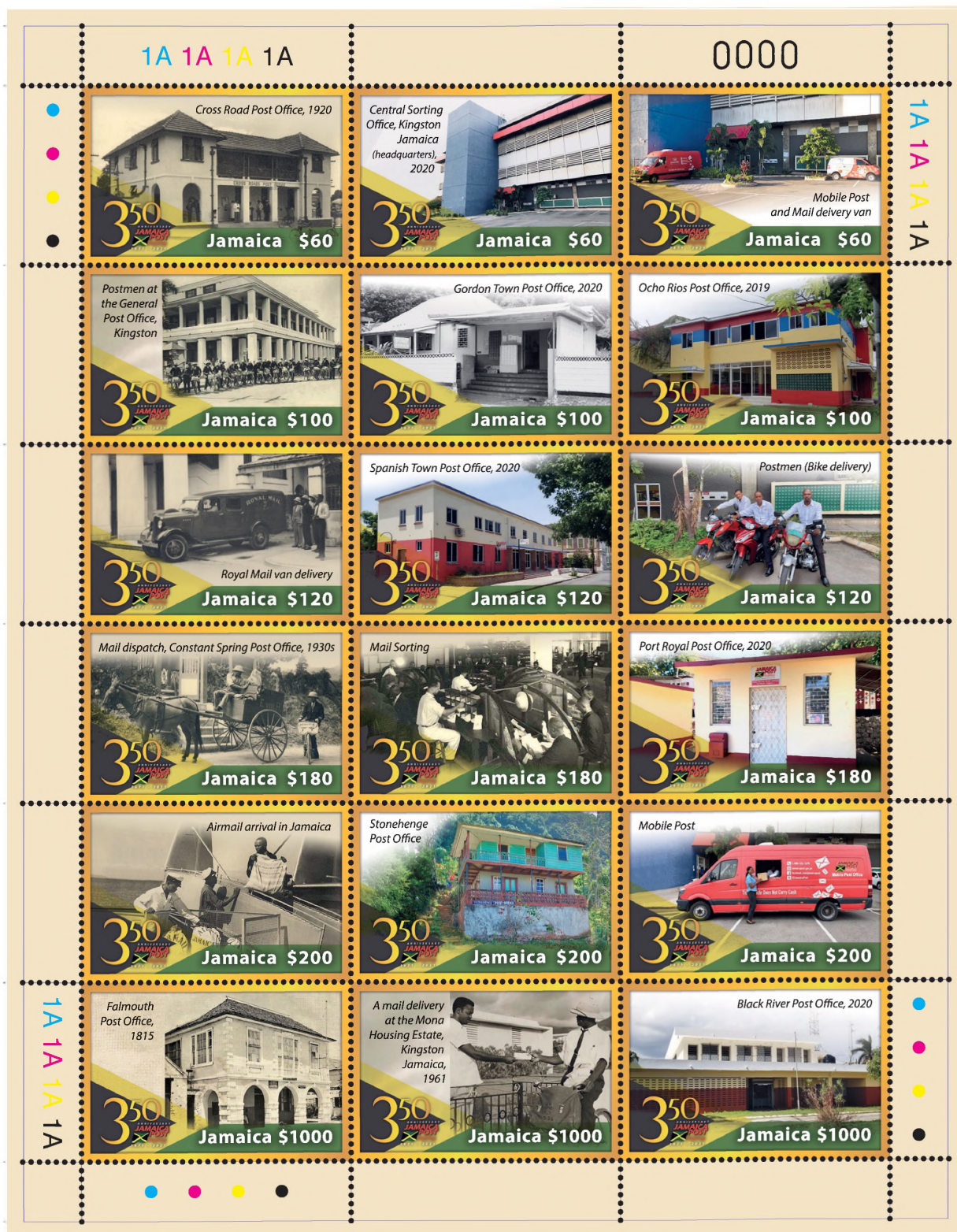
The \$350 souvenir sheet looks like this:



The \$920 souvenir sheet looks like this:



And the \$4980 souvenir sheetlet looks like this:



My thanks to Duncan Sutherland for providing me with the images and the Jamaica Philatelic Bureau for the publicity leaflet.

BRITISH GUIANA

19TH CENTURY FORGED DATE STAMPS

PAUL RAMSAROOP

Until the Revenue Issue of 1888, with only a few exceptions, mint British Guiana stamps are valued significantly higher than their used counterpart. However, with this 1888 Issue and subsequent issues, many postally used high value stamps are valued more than their mint counterpart. This change inspired forgers who wish to profit by selling forged philatelic items an avenue where they can increase the value of a stamp by simply adding a forged cancel.

If you are a serious collector of British Guiana stamps, you may be very disappointed to find that many of your used high value stamps of this era are forged. In many cases, revenue cancelled stamps were cleaned and replaced with a forged cancel.

Type 10 Amacura Madame Joseph Forgery

In the British Guiana Philatelic Bible, "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana" by Townsend & Howe published in 1970, one such forgery is mentioned. Referring to the Type 10 Amacura strike, it states "*The Amacura date-stamp evidently fell into unauthorized hands, for after the closure of the Post Office, it was used to fake postmarks on 'cleaned' copies of fiscally used stamps. The faker never changed the date in the date-stamp and the tell-tale date, 21 AU 1896, always betrays the fraud.*"

However, as a result of the publication of 'Madame Joseph Forged Postmarks' in 1994, it was revealed that this datestamp was a work of this forger as the actual instrument was examined and impressions taken. No other 19th century British Guiana fake postmarks were mentioned in this publication.



Impressions taken from the Madame Joseph datestamp



Type 5 Aurora Forgery

In the Derek Nathan British Guiana Postmark display, he noted the Type 5 Aurora datestamp dated 4 February 1893 as another forgery. His display has several examples of this strike with the heading "Not recorded as by Madame Joseph but same style and all dated 4 FE 93."



Type 5 Sparta Forgery

In the BWISC Bulletin No. 199 (published in December 2003), Peter Ford notes yet another similar forgery. This one is of the Type 5 Sparta datestamp. He states, "Date stamps dated 7 Apr 91 (on Mult. CA Wmk!) should be treated as forgeries (Madame Joseph?)."



Georgetown Figure 31 Forgery

In my studies of British Guiana datestamps from the 19th Century, I've discovered a few more forgeries of Georgetown datestamps I would like to discuss here.

The first is a datestamp like those mentioned above. It is a datestamp similar to a Georgetown Figure 31 (the Type 5 style) and dated 6 August 1890. I've seen and collected several examples of this strike. If you are a serious collector of British Guiana stamps, chances are you have this strike in your collection.



Georgetown Fig 26 / 27 Forgery

The second is a datestamp similar to a Georgetown Figure 26 or 27 except the dash between George and Town is replaced with a small dot. This forgery comes with a variety of dates and damage to the datestamp.

The following dates have been seen:

4 Aug 9 with the final stroke in the 'N' of 'GEORGETOWN' missing and a short vertical line right before the 'B' of 'B. GUIANA'.



10 Jul 99 with the final stroke in the 'N' of 'GEORGETOWN' missing and a short vertical line right before the 'B' of 'B. GUIANA'.



14 May 89 still with a portion of the final stroke of 'N' of 'GEORGETOWN' intact and a short vertical line right before the 'B' of 'B. GUIANA'. The 1 and 4 of the day are almost co-joined.



Strikes with no date and the 'N' of 'GEORGETOWN' more intact exists.



Sceptical that this is a forgery? Well, in a clear demonstration that it is a forgery, there are examples with a section of datestamp shifted. The 'TOWN B.' shifted to the right where the dot is now a part of the last 'E' of 'GEORGE' and a large space develops between the 'B.' and G of 'GUIANA'.

Dates with this shifting I have seen are '25 JU 91' and '21 JU 91' where there is also a larger space between the numbers of the day.



Crude Georgetown Forgery

Georgetown Fig 36, 37 & 38 are strikes with 2 L.D. and W.T.A. There also exist examples without time which is unlisted in Townsend & Howe or Proud. This forgery is of that unlisted variety.



ST VINCENT

KGVI £1 COMMERCIAL USAGE

MALCOLM LACEY



The attached illustration shows the only known commercial usage of the KGVI £1 stamp. The cover, measuring 325x125mm, is addressed to the United States, with a cachet showing it originated in the Government Office, St Vincent. It is marked Air Mail and weight 8oz.

The cover was cancelled in Kingstown on 6 July 1943 which is within the period when the airmail rate to the USA was 1s6d per half ounce. Therefore, an 8oz letter would cost exactly £1 4s and this has been paid by utilising a £1 stamp plus a pair of 2s stamps.

ST VINCENT

ST VINCENT HANDBOOK UPDATE (JANUARY 2022)

ROY BOND AND RUSSELL BOYLAN

Section 9.2 1961 Issue

Specimens

In 1961 De La Rue bought Waterlow & Sons Ltd from Purnell, so in September 1961 De La Rue took over the printing of the St Vincent definitive stamps. However, rather than using the existing Waterlow working plates they made up fresh working plates from the Waterlow Master plates. From these new plates they took a set of Specimen stamps for all the lower values, with the exception of the 15 cent value, for their own archives (See Fig 9.2.5).



Fig 9.2.5 DLR 1961 Archive Specimens

The following write up is to be added directly after page 136 **CHAPTER 10 Section 6** on Aerogrammes.

Section 10.6.2

As a follow up to follow on from the bottom of page 136 the authors have added this very useful write-up originally created by Joe Chin Aleong and Vincent Duggleby for the March 1993 edition of the WISPHR No. 32.

To give an earlier background to the use of Air Letters, as they were originally called, we must go back to the Autumn 1944 issue of the Government Gazette, wherein a notice was given advising that as of 16 September 1944 special Air Letter forms for communicating with members of the Armed Forces would be available to the general public at a rate of 6d.

We have not seen any of these forms issued from St Vincent, but they were modelled on the design as those of the Armed Forces Air Letter scheme introduced by the British Government in April 1943 and adopted by Trinidad in July 1943 and by Barbados in November 1943.

In a notice of 17 November 1944, it advised of a rate increase to 8d on all air forms to anywhere in the British Empire.

One of the earliest air letters seen, showing the 8d rate, is dated '21 JA 1946' and is shown on the next page (Fig. 10.6.2.).

From early in 1947 the St Vincent Post Office supplied an Air Letter form free of charge with a 6d stamp, it now being the rate for Air Letter forms. These Air Letter forms were ordered from The Advocate Co Ltd of Barbados and on the 5 March 1948 an order for 6,000 forms at a rate of \$40.06, which was approximately the number used in a year at that time (1563 were despatched in the third quarter of 1948 to Trinidad for onward transmission). By 1951 the usage rate had increased so that from 1 January to 15 June 1951 a total of 4893 forms were despatched to Trinidad. On 10 January 1949 the Secretary of State for the Colonies

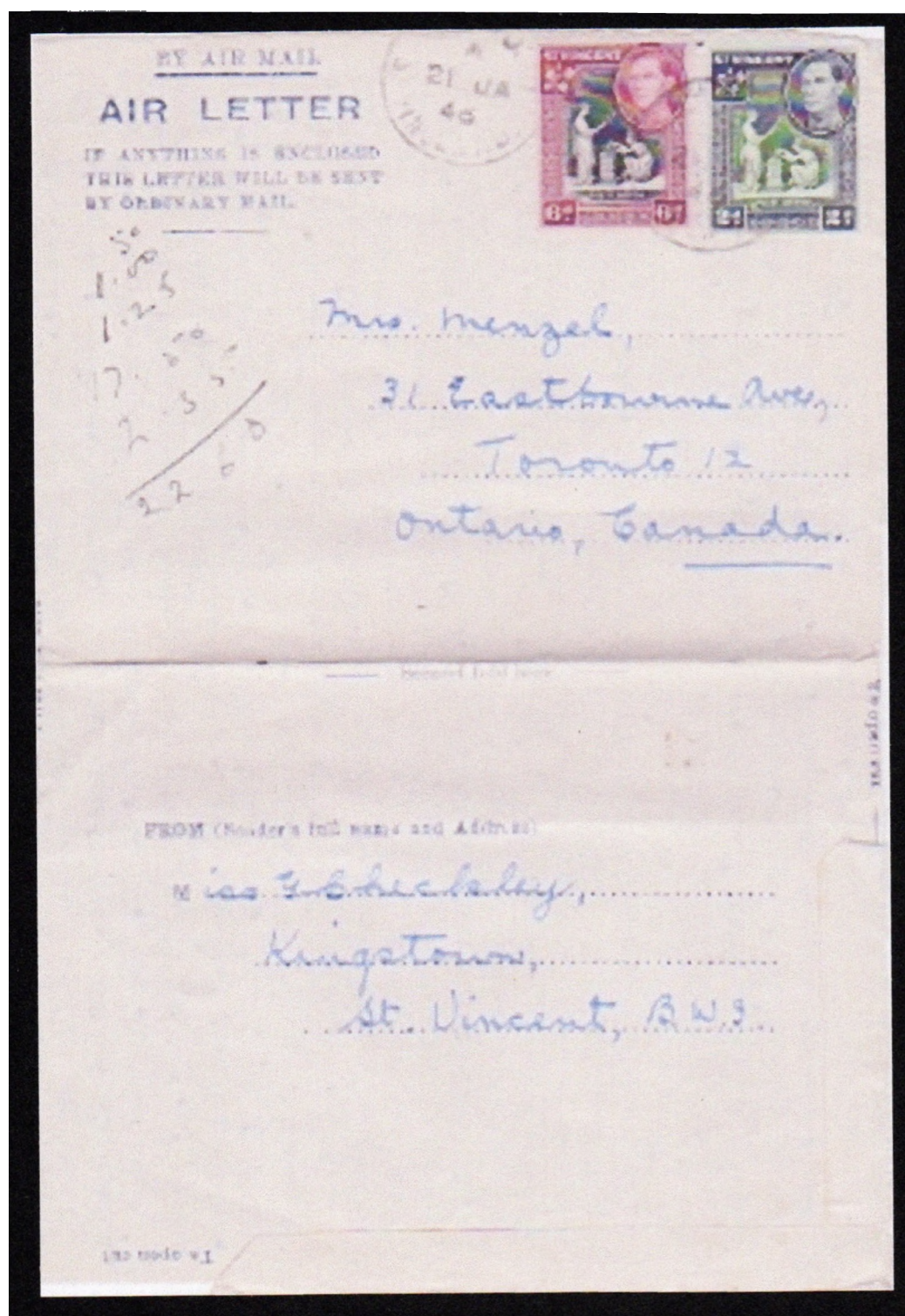


Fig. 10.6.2 21 Jan 1946 Air Letter rated at 8d. (Ed. Original scan low resolution.)

advised the Administrator by circular telegram that European countries were now accepting Air Letters and that the French Administration had notified its acceptance from 1 December 1948. After contacting the Postmaster General, Trinidad, however, the Colonial Postmaster advised that the restriction of the Air Letter service to Empire countries was to continue. Of the 6d postage on Air Letter forms, the St Vincent Post Office had to pay Trinidad 4d (8 cents EC) as the forms were forwarded through Trinidad, for onward transmission. See below for an example dated '8 OC 1951' (Fig. 10.6.3). On 7 November 1951 the Postmaster-General, Trinidad advised that the charges will be increased to 9c (EC) for forms to the United Kingdom, Canada and the USA and to 11 cents (EC) for forms to other destinations. After consulting with the Postmasters of St Lucia and Grenada who advised that they had to accept the Trinidad proposals the acting Colonial Postmaster of St Vincent decided that nothing could be done but to accept the increased charges but at the same time did not increase the postage rate on Air Letter forms.

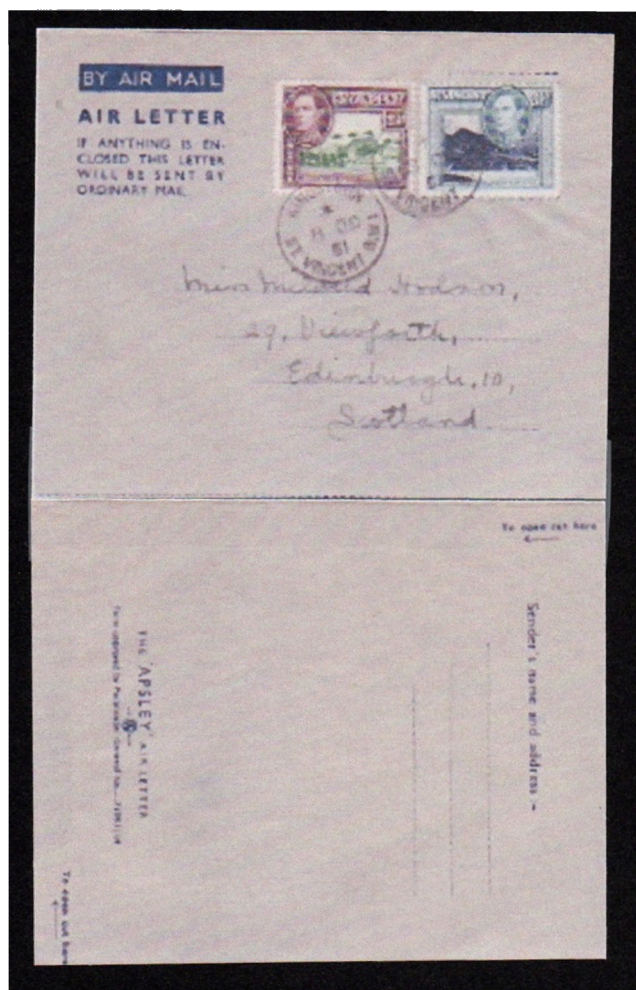


Fig. 10.6.3 Air Letter dated 8 Oct 1951, rated at 6d. (Ed. low Resolution scan.)

The St Vincent Post Office continued to order Air Letters from the Advocate Co Ltd until 1955, the last order being on 15 November 1955 for 1,000 forms to be sent by airfreight (except for an emergency order of 2000 in December 1956).

These forms were printed in black on green paper and have “.O.876” under the bottom line (towards the right) of the rectangle containing the address portion of the front of the form. Most of those seen were used in January 1952 to Liverpool.

Other Air Letter forms are known used from St Vincent during this period, especially the ‘Apsley’ Air Letter in dark blue on grey and on grey blue. These have been seen used from 11 November 1950 to 22 August 1955 but were not supplied by the St Vincent Post Office.

On 29 March 1954 the Acting Administrator advised the Crown Agents of the initial local requirements of the new stamp issue (1955 QEII definitives) and added, “Grateful if you would also obtain tenders for an Airmail Letter Form with 12 cent stamp imprinted. Messrs Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd., New Malden, Surrey, supplied this Colony in June 1953, with a specimen Form they designed for Ethiopia. Local requirements are about 12,000 Forms per annum at present and may increase to 33,000 per annum if a proposal to extend their use to the U.S.A. is adopted.”

The Crown Agents replied on 18 June 1954 enclosing a quotation and sample from Waterlow & Sons Ltd. for printing 40,000 and 90,000 St Vincent Air Letter Forms bearing a 12 cent stamp and went on, “Although it

might be possible to obtain cheaper quotations from other suppliers, the quality of the forms would not be up to the standard of those of Messrs. Waterlow and, as they are the printers of your new stamps, it would be convenient to place the order with them both from the point of view of delivery and security. No 12 cent stamp is included in the range of your new issue, but it is assumed that the 12 cent stamp appearing on the Forms should be in the same design as the lower values of the new issue.”

The quotation for “40,000 Air Letter Forms on blue Air Mail paper, size and quality as our sample attached, lithographed wording in blue and value stamp in one colour (two printings in all) gummed” was at 51s3d per 1000 while for 90,000 the rate was 45s9d per 1000 with packing and delivery extra at cost.”

On 3 November 1954 the Administrator replied “In view of the fact that the forms are not required for release before the 1 September 1955, with the new issue of stamps, it is suggested that you should invite quotations for the forms from Bradbury Wilkinson, who were previously suppliers of stamps to this Government”.

On 26 November 1954 the Crown Agents stated they “Were able to obtain quotations from Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd., for production of the forms because this firm is also printing the new stamps and therefore are in a position to know exactly what is involved. It is not possible however, to obtain quotations from other printers until the new stamps are actually printed and specimens can be forwarded to the other firms in order that they also can see what is involved. At this stage, however, the Crown Agents can say that Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson will produce probably the most attractive form, but also the most expensive. Messrs. McCorquodale & Co. Ltd., who print the British G.P.O. forms, are the cheapest suppliers, but the reproduction of the stamps on their form is not of the same quality of either Bradbury Wilkinson or Waterlow. In the circumstances, unless you advise to the contrary, the Crown Agents will note to ask both Bradbury Wilkinson and McCorquodale for quotations for the Air Letter forms as soon as the new stamps are available.”

In his reply of 11 December 1954, the Acting Administrator said, “As the forms are required for release at the same time as the issue of the new stamps, I should be grateful if an order could be placed with Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd for the supply of 20,000 forms. After the new stamps have been released, Messrs.

Bradbury Wilkinson and McCorquodale may be asked to submit quotations for the future supply of Air Letter Forms."

Contrary to what they stated in their letter of 26 November 1954, the Crown Agents in their letter of 8 March 1955, forwarded two quotations for a new 12 cent Aerogramme, submitted by Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. and McCorquodale & Co. and went on "*Specimens of Bradbury Wilkinsons recent productions for other Colonial Territories are attached. McCorquodales have recently introduced a new method of die-making and no specimens of their printed forms are available. As stated in Crown Agents letter of 26 November, however, their reproduction of the stamp is not likely to be of such high quality as those of either Waterlows or Bradbury Wilkinsons. No doubt you will compare the attached quotations with that of Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, sent under cover of Crown Agents letter of 18 June 1954, and state which should be accepted. Colour proofs of the new stamp issue have not yet been approved but are expected in the near future. It will be necessary of course, to wait until the colours of the stamps have been decided before choosing a colour for the 12 cents value to be used on the Aerogrammes. It is assumed that the Crown Agents may use their discretion in this matter, although it may be stated that the preference is for a dark colour, such as purple, which will stand out clearly on the blue background of Airmail paper. It will be seen from Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson's quotation that it would be proposed to print the text matter in the same colour as the stamp in order to save an extra operation.*"

The quotation from Bradbury Wilkinson dated 16 February 1955, was as follows:

To engrave value 12 cents in words on soft steel die to be supplied to us and make up necessary lithographic printing plates	£ 61 12 6
To supply Air Letter Forms printed by lithography, with a reproduction of the 12 cents stamp and the text matter all in 1 colour, with a blue ground tint all over pages 1 and 4 using paper as specimen herewith cut to shape size 9.15/16" x 8.5/16"	
40,000 Forms @ £3 5s 0d per 1,000	£130 0 0
90,000 " @ £2 7s 6d per 1,000	£213 15 0
Gumming on 2 flaps @ 12s 6d per 1,000 Forms	

The quotation from McCorquodale & Co. Ltd. dated 24 February 1955 was as follows:

40,000 Air Letter Forms 8.1/8" x 10.1/8" printed and cut to shape	
To with facsimile of new St Vincent 12 cent stamp on Imperial	
90,000 Air Mail Blue Paper gummed	per 1,000 32/6
Cost of dies	£25/10/-

The Acting Administrator on 13 April 1955 confirmed the direction given in his letter of 11 December 1954, that the order should be placed with Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd. leaving the question of colour to the Crown Agents discretion and asked to see a specimen of Messrs. McCorquodale's work under the new system when available.

On 15 June 1955, the Crown Agents sent two copies of an Advice of Order Placed for the aerogrammes and added "*the stamp on the aerogramme will be printed in a dark colour and as a result it will be possible for the text to be in the same colour. As only one printing will now be required it has been possible to obtain a reduction in the price per thousand of these aerogrammes, from 51/3d to 42/6d.*"

The Acting Administrator sent the following telegram on 31 August 1955 "*Grateful to know when supply of Aerogrammes can be expected as required for release with New Stamps Issue on 16 September 1955 (Paragraph 2 of my letter of 11 December 1954 refers).*"

On 3 September 1955, the Crown Agents replied "*Regret unable to deliver Aerogrammes in time for release on 16 September. Production delayed by shortage of necessary paper and Waterlows can now only promise delivery by end of September. Whilst release with New Stamp Issue is desirable, it is not essential, and it would be in order for you to release at a later date.*"

Another telegram to the Crown Agents on 5 October 1955, "*Due to Hurricane Janet, present supply of Air Letter Forms will soon be exhausted with no hope of a further supply in a hurry. Grateful if you supply 2,000 forms by air as soon as possible.*" Was replied to on 7 October 1955 with "*Unable to fly any Aerogrammes. All shipped S. S. Sudbury Hill due St Vincent early November.*"

As a result, the Colonial Postmaster contacted the Advocate Co. Ltd. on 14 November 1955 and confirmed an order for 1,000 Air Letter Forms to be sent airfreight on the 17th.

The invoice of 30 September 1955 from Waterlow & Sons Ltd. is as follows:

Preparing original material	£23 - -
And	
Aerogrammes gummed 8.3/8" x 10.1/8" printed on	
Blue Air Mail paper to bear a lithographic reproduction	
Of the design of the new St Vincent Postage Stamp issue, 42/6	£43 2 -
Lower values with the value shown as Twelve cents in 1,000	
Letters, printing and stamp in black in packets of 100.	
370 Additional specimens supplied	15 10
Packing in 1 case lined waterproof and delivery f. o. b. London	£3 5 -
	£70 2 10

(The invoice is inaccurate as 42s6d times 20 is not £43 2 -, but is £42 10 -)

On 13 October 1955 the Crown Agents wrote confirming the shipment of the new aerogrammes by the *S.S. Sudbury Hill*, asked for their issue date and sent specimens of aerogrammes produced by McCorquodale employing their new die manufacturing process. The specimens consisted of a Bermuda 6d and a Cyprus 25 mils. The Crown Agents were advised by the Administrator on 15 November 1955 that the issue date of the new aerogrammes will be 5 December 1955 and the specimens of aerogrammes from McCorquodale were returned.

A Post Office Notice was published in the Government Gazette, the Challenge and the Vincentian, reading *"It is hereby notified for general information that Air Letter Forms with 12 cents stamp imprinted will be released 5th December 1955."* The forms were duly issued on the 5 December 1955 and are known cancelled on that same date.

On 13 January 1956 the Colonial Postmaster advised the Administrator that 13 aerogrammes were found short from seven packets opened and checked by the deputy Postmaster and himself.

On 9 May 1956 the Colonial Postmaster advised the Minister of Communications and Works that the 20,000 forms received in December last *"was regarded as well over a year's supply. Largely due to the exodus to the U.K., however, the rate of sale of Air Letter Forms has trebled within recent months. At present the Treasury stocks plus those at the G.P.O. total 6,600 only, and at the current rate these will only last 2 months."*

As a result, a telegram was sent the next day to the Crown Agents ordering 20,000 forms from Waterlow with 3,000 to be sent by air freight by end of June or early July. The 3,000 were despatched by air about the middle of June and the balance of 17,000 were shipped by the *S. S. Novelist* which sailed 13 July 1956.

Another indent was placed on 3 September 1956 for 25,000 forms, 3,000 were sent by parcel post on 13 November and 23,000 (an excess of 1,000) were shipped by the *S.S. Trader*.

Seemingly, however, the usage rate had increased again so that this last order was not in time to prevent an emergency order of 2,000 forms from the Advocate Co. Ltd. in December 1956. We conclude with a summary of the forms ordered to 1960. From the quantities sold one would not expect these first Air Letter Forms to be so difficult to obtain commercially used as they are.

ST VINCENT AIR LETTER FORMS

DATE	QUANTITY	SUPPLIER	COST
25 Feb 1948	6,000	Advocate Co. Ltd., Barbados	\$ 40.06
4 Oct 1948	6,000	"	\$ 39.10
30 Jul 1949	6,000	"	\$ 38.98
7 Mar 1950	6,000	"	\$ 62.74
11 Nov 1950	6,000	"	\$ 64.94
16 Jun 1951	6,000	"	\$ 75.11
22 Mar 1952	4,000	"	\$ 50.88
29 Jan 1953	10,000	"	\$119.76
11 May 1954	4,000	"	\$ 53.82
15 Nov 1955	1,000	"	\$ 13.46
19 Dec 1956	2,000	"	\$ 23.92

11 Dec 1954	20,000	Waterlow & Sons Ltd.	42/6 per 1,000
10 May 1956	20,000	"	57/6 per 1,000
3 Sep 1956	25,000	"	57/3 per 1,000
15 Jan 1957	40,000	"	56/6 per 1,000
26 Aug 1957	15,000	"	64/6 per 1,000
20 Jan 1958	40,000	"	64/6 per 1,000
27 Nov 1958	40,000	"	58/6 per 1,000
17 Mar 1959	40,000	"	58/6 per 1,000
24 Nov 1959	40,000	"	61/- per 1,000
16 May 1960	30,000	"	61/- per 1,000

A somewhat later version from '20 AU 1962' is shown below (Fig. 10.6.4).

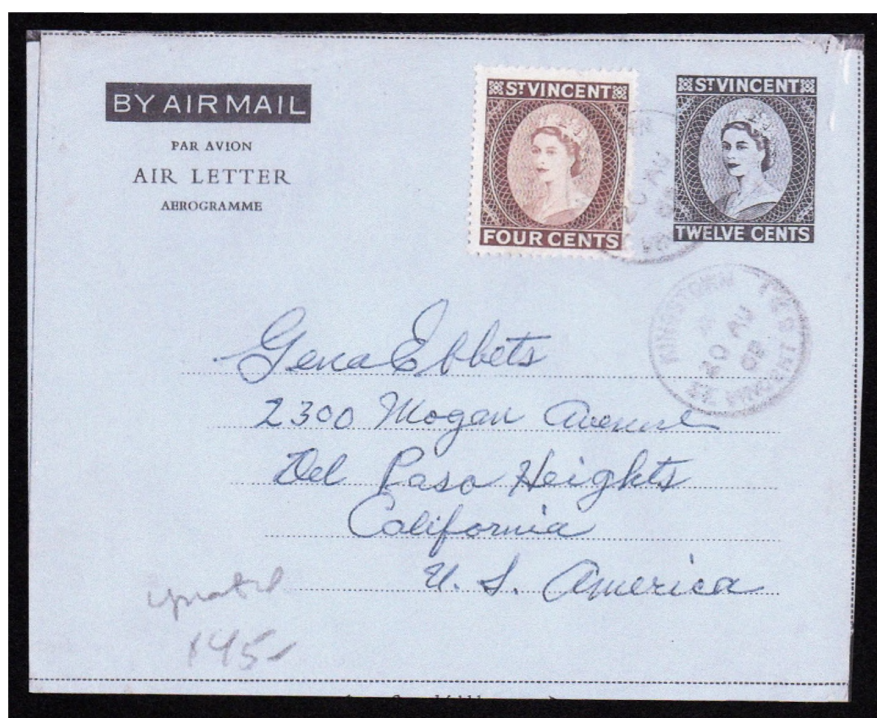


Fig. 10.6.4 A much later Air Letter dated 20 Aug 1962.

The following input is to CHAPTER 16 page 211 and is with reference to the PML write ups on pages 40, 42 and 43. It is designed to clear up a certain amount of confusion with respect to the Colour Trials that are available for the 1s 'Pink' stamps of June 1872 (SG17), August 1873 (SG20) and 1875 (SG21).

The authors have referred back to the Napier and Bacon book of St Vincent stamps dated 1895 and printed by Stanley Gibbons to find that there is in fact no confusion in that worthy volume whatsoever.

CHAPTER 16

Section 16.1

In the Perkins Bacon archives of 1894 there was, with reference to the issue of June 1872, a single copy of the first issue of 'pink 1s stamps' that is in fact a copy of the Rose Red of SG17, stapled to a complete sheet of stamps printed on plain thick white paper, unwatermarked, ungummed and unperforated. In the top border there was written in ink "*Patterns for colour. Postage Pink, small quantity of Drop carmine-lake about ½ oz. for 300 sheets.*" So as far as Perkins Bacon were concerned the colour of both SG17 and SG20 issues was carmine-lake. There was no other "*Pattern for Colour*" for either the SG 20 or SG21, however, there is the comment in the same file that states that for the 1875 issue, generally referred to as Claret that, "*A drop of Deep Yellow to be added*". Though how Perkins Bacon staff thought that this would lighten the shade of these stamps is quite puzzling.

This plain thick white paper sheet was somehow released to the public, quite possibly during the 1922 sale of St Vincent stock material when Perkins Bacon moved from Fleet Street to Bunnhill Row in Clerkenwell, to larger premises. As to whether Perkins Bacon sold the sheet intact or whether it was cut up prior to sale is not recorded, however, this is without doubt the source of these individual Colour Trials that St Vincent collectors come across from time to time.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

THE EARLY PICTORIAL ISSUES OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

PETER FORD

(Ed: This article was originally published in *GEOSIX* the journal of the KGVI Collectors' Society.)

In 1935 the colony of Trinidad & Tobago decided to issue a pictorial series of stamps depicting the sights of the islands, this was co-incident with the change from a Sterling to a dollar currency.



Fig. 1 A contemporary photograph of the original design, handpainted, mounted on card.

With the accession of King George VI to the throne, the Crown Agents decided to issue a new set of stamps, "which should combine, as far as possible, the essential features of the present design together with a portrait of HM the King, but omitting the words 'postage and revenue' ". In 1937, Bradbury Wilkinson prepared a group of essays based loosely on the previous issue but this time with the head of the monarch, King George VI, added, but retaining the same dimensions as the previous issue (Fig. 1). The Crown Agents must have thought this made for a rather crowded design and suggested that the stamps be made wider. The printer prepared new, larger designs; the artwork being sent for approval (Fig. 2). The stamps were of a larger size than the existing issue and measured approximately 25 x 38mm. All values showed a medallion portrait of King George VI, and the borders include the Imperial Crown, the title of the Colony and the duty in figures. As before, the vignette depicted scenes of local interest and were as follows:

1 cent	First Boca.
2 cents	Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture.
3 cents	Mount Irvine Bay, Tobago.
4 cents	Memorial Park.
6 cents	Discovery of Lake Asphalt by Raleigh, 1595.
8 cents	Queen's Park, Savannah.
12 cents	Town Hall, San Fernando.
24 cents	Government House.
60 cents	Blue Basin.

The subject matter was inscribed at the base of each vignette.

All values were perforated 'SPECIMEN' Samuel Type B9) for distribution amongst the members of the UPU. It is recorded that the 5 cents, issued in 1941, was also perforated 'SPECIMEN'; however, no example has ever been seen.

The lower value stamps (1 cent to 60 cents) were recess printed by Bradbury Wilkinson in sheets of 120, two panes of 12 rows of 5 mounted side by side with a narrow vertical gutter in between the panes. They were printed on white paper watermarked Mult. Script CA (sideways) and comb perforated 11½ x 11. An imprint appears centrally placed in the bottom margin of each pane which reads 'BRADBURY, WILKINSON C^o. L^{td}. ENGRAVERS, NEW MALDEN, SURREY, ENGLAND'. The stamps are watermarked Mult. Script CA (sideways). Evidence as to the layout of these sheets is not apparent from examples seen; however, the

layout of the subsequent issue of Queen Elizabeth II is, and there is no reason to suppose that those of this reign were any different.

Plate numbers appear beneath the last two stamps of the sheet of 60. The mono-coloured stamps only have one plate number and that appears centrally beneath Stamp 59 (R12/4) of the sheet of 60 whilst on the bi-coloured stamp sheets, the plate numbers appear beneath the rightmost two bottom stamps of each pane.



Fig. 2 The original artwork for the 1938 King George VI definitives. (reduced).

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The frame plate number appears beneath the second last stamp on the bottom row (R12/4) and the vignette number beneath the adjacent stamp to the right (R12/5). Some plate numbers comprise a single figure, whilst others are suffixed with the letter 'a'. The plate numbers are in a cursive script the style of which seems to

vary between one stamp and another and for seemingly no particular reason. Sometimes the letter 'a' has beneath it a dot, sometimes not, and occasionally the letter has a pair of quotation marks beneath (Fig. 3). Again, there seems to be no reason nor logic to any of this. On some sheets of the bi-coloured stamps the vignette plate number is absent; again, the reasons for this are not known. The only other marginal marks are registration marks in both side margins adjacent to Row 5 in the form of a cross. Plate numbers range up to '7/7a' (frame plate) for the most used value (the 3 cents). One block of the 3 cents is known with the frame plate number misplaced between the last two stamps on the sheet (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3 A pair of the 3 cents showing both the dot under the 'a' and also the quotation marks underneath.



Fig. 4 A Plate 2 block of nine of the 3 cents in the original colour, showing the frame plate number misplaced between the last two stamps on the sheet.

re-issued in a green and purple-brown colour. It is assumed that there could have been some confusion between the 3 cents and the 60 cents stamps which were of a similar colour. There is however no solid evidence that this was the reason for the change of colour. Also, at much the same time, the colour of the 4 cents was changed to scarlet.

When Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne, it was decided to continue with similar designs with the head of the new Queen. Again, printed by Bradbury Wilkinson, the frame plate had, of course, to be replaced but the vignette plates were reused as witnessed by the continuation of the vignette plate numbers from one issue to the other. The sheet format remained the same with the full sheets of 120 printed with a vertical gutter between the two panes; they were guillotined before shipping to the Colony. The stamps are watermarked Mult. Script CA, this time upright. The perforations of this issue were different insofar as they only extended two holes into the left and right margins of the sheet of 120. This in fact means that any plate block without an 'a' after the number has the perforations extending only two holes into the right margin, whereas those with the 'a' have the perforations extending across the whole of the right margin. Examination of the sheets of 60 of this issue show that those without a suffix 'a' have a registration mark in the form of a cross in the right margin and those with the suffix have one in the left margin, lending more credence as to the layout of these sheets. There is no reason to assume that the layout of the sheets and the plate numbers of the King George VI issue were any different.

As with the previous issue of King George VI, some vignette plate numbers are missing; the instances of a dot beneath the 'a' suffix seems to be limited to the 24 cents, for reasons unknown. However, one example of this seen (Plate 1a/2a) shows the perforation holes extending only two holes into the right margin (Fig. 5)! A trial perforation, perhaps? Another block of the 24 cents with the same plate numbers shows the perforations extending across the whole margin (Fig. 5a).

Both issues show no apparent varieties, which probably accounts for the lack of interest in them. There are several shades of colour which some collectors attribute to particular printings, but this

Sheet numbers were printed above the last stamp on the top row, comprising no more than three digits. However, there are examples of these numbers being printed in the right-side margin, adjacent to the last stamp in the pane, reading downwards vertically, and also in the left side margin adjacent to the first stamp, reading upwards. This may have been caused by the sheets being fed into the printer sideways, easily done as the full sheets of 60 are almost square in shape.

In 1941 the 3 cents was



Fig. 5 A block of the Queen Elizabeth 24 cents showing the dot under 'a'. and only two perforation holes at right.



Fig. 5a Similar block to Fig. 5 but perforation holes extending through margin at right.

remains a very subjective matter. One has to take into account that some stamps never left the UK and others which did, suffered from tropicalisation which would affect the shade. However, Gibbons do list colour varieties in the case of the 1 cent and the 24 cents.

It is appreciated that other colonies, Bahamas, Barbados and Ceylon amongst others, had stamp issues printed in a similar format to the Trinidad & Tobago ones and no doubt collectors of those would perhaps take issue with what has been said here; any comments would be most welcome.

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

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