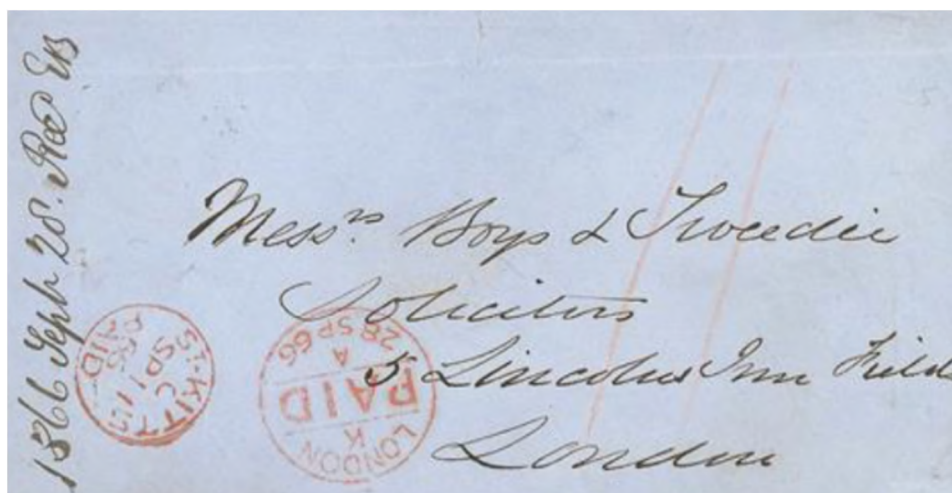




STUDY CIRCLE



**SEE ST CHRISTOPHER POSTMARKS 1870 TO 1890
BY JULIAN WALDRON**



BULLETIN No. 275 DECEMBER 2022



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

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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 English-speaking islands that comprise the West Indies. Also included are Bermuda, the Guyanas and Belize, together with other adjacent countries that have a strong historical or geographical connection.
- 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
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OFFICERS & CONTACT DETAILSWeb Site: www.bwisc.org

Founder:	P.T. Saunders FRPSL
President:	Simon Richards: president@bwisc.org
Chairman and Web-Master:	Steve Jarvis FRPSL: 10 Hickman Road, Bingham, NG13 7AE Tel. 01949 748056, e-mail: info@bwisc.org
Secretary:	Susan Taylor: – email: sec@bwisc.org
Treasurer:	Ray Stanton: The Old Rectory, Salmonby, Lincs., LN9 6PX Tel. 01507 533742, e-mail: treasurer@bwisc.org
Assistant Treasurer	Geoff Richards: Geoff.richards3@btinternet.com
Editor:	Darryl Fuller: PO Box 267, George Town TAS 7253, Australia Tel. +61 417 672 543, e-mail : editor@bwisc.org
Bulletin Advertising	Terry Harrison: 13 Ladywood Road, Spalding, Lincs., PE11 2DA Tel. 01775 423087, e-mail: advertsing@bwisc.org
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
Social Media	Charles Kennard: ckennard@mac.com
Auction Team Leader	Simon Richards: Heathercombe House, Drayton St Leonard, Wallingford, OX10 7BG Tel: 0771 368 4263 e-mail: auction@bwisc.org
Auction Team Members	James Podger: pee-j-aggie-boo@ntlworld.com , John Jordon: johnmjordon@msn.com , Charles Kennard
Committee:	Peter Fernbank FRPSL, Richard Stupples
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 2023 CONVENTION SATURDAY 14 OCTOBER AT WEYBOURNE HOUSE, HITHERBURY CLOSE, GUILDFORD GU2 4PR.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

My thanks to Susan for organising and hosting the meeting at Stampex on 1st October. The rail strike on that day put a spanner in the works but in spite of that, I understand a number of people managed to attend and were treated to some interesting presentations.

The main Society topic at the moment is the proposed merger with the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. The BCPSG membership recently voted in favour of the merger and the proposal is now put to the BWISC membership. Enclosed with the Bulletin is a document that provides information and a tear off slip for submitting votes. Please send your votes to me, either by email or by returning the tear off slip, by 31 December 2022 (address details in the document).

The BWISC Committee have reviewed the benefits and implications and are in favour of the merger. If the merger is approved, the transition to the merged society will take effect on 1 January 2023 but transition of all aspects will be progressive through 2023 (e.g. merging membership databases, renaming bank accounts).

REPORT ON STAMPEX MEETING 1 OCTOBER

At the BWISC meeting at Stampex Susan Taylor reports that there were a number of very interesting displays including the following:

- Ed Barrow presented the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross, showing a beautiful selection of Labels, Overprints and Fundraising Postcards.
- Richard Stupples displayed a Barbados selection of 'Unusual (some fraud) Printing'.
- Susan Taylor's presentation on 'The people who appear on the stamps of Trinidad and Tobago' introduced many individuals who played important roles in the country's social history.

- Lawrence Grech had 16 pages of Barbados Overprinting Errors that prompted a lively discussion
- Peter Ford brought along some interesting 1861 St Vincent Perkins Bacon stamps and covers with examples of poor perforations and 'lazy attention' to printing, concluding that De La Rue proved much more meticulous after taking over.

2023 SOCIETY AUCTION

Philatelists' hearts were gladdened when the Coronation was announced for 6 May, that philatelically important day also chosen by King George V. Your Auction Committee were pleased that the previous weekend had been chosen in preference and the 51st Study Circle auction will take place at 15 Abchurch Lane on 29 April 2023.

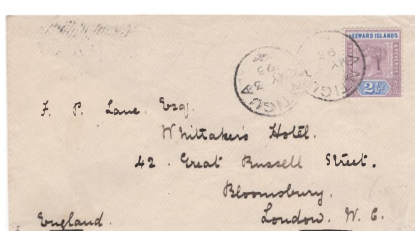
So far over 400 lots have been described and we expect to have between 600 and 700 in all. There is a good deal of postal history, encompassing most islands from the estate of our late President Graham Booth, some of these items are illustrated on this page. The Booth lots will include items from the French, Dutch and Danish islands in the West Indies, often with a connection to the RMSP.

However, we have only received consignments from 15 members and there is still an opportunity for you to consign. Whilst the auction is in late April, the catalogue needs to be sent with the March Bulletin, which means it has to be ready in time for that printing deadline which goes to the printer on 30 January. So, we need your consignments now! In order to give us a chance to describe adequately it is hugely helpful if we can receive material by mid-December and the absolute deadline is 15 January. Please e-mail me if you have any queries.

As a general rule we endeavour to have an average lot value of £50, though we are quite happy to receive lower value lots along with higher value ones, as long as the average approaches £50. The terms are 10% commission to vendors with no buyer's premium and realisations have totalled around £20,000 a year for the last few years, enabling a worthwhile contribution from the auction to the Study Circle's finances. Bidding starts at 80% of estimate, unless vendors have asked for a higher reserve, denoted by an 'R' before the estimate. When sending in your material please do send an itemised list and where possible an indication of estimate. The auction team will review, and often develop, the description, lot, scan and inspect for condition.

The 'book' for bids will open as soon as the catalogues have been dispatched in early March and we aim to notify postal bidders by e-mail the weekend of the auction and to post out the week following. All lots are sent tracked. We expect payment by return and aim to distribute to vendors about six weeks after the sale, which allows for month or so for unsolds to attract interest.

Generally, there is a good bidding atmosphere in the 'room' and room bidders and postal bidders seem to win roughly half the lots each, with an overall sale percentage of 60%. We aim to have something of interest in all the former British territories, so do participate, and if possible, come to the auction, and think about consigning.



51st BWISC Auction Lots

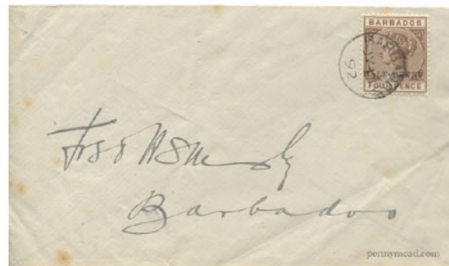
New stock added to the website most days. Recently Antigua, Barbados and Dominica covers, Barbados postmarks and Montserrat postcards.



Dominica 3d printed paper rate



'4' code cds used at St George



Half-penny on 4d on local cover



1921 Advertising cover.



A79 obliterator with missing '7'



1950 Montserrat postcard

www.pennymead.com

BRITISH WEST INDIES OFFERS FROM STOCK

ANTIGUA. 1862 6d blue-green (Rough Perf) pair.
Very fine unused. Rare in multiple. RPS Cert. SG 1.

£600

BAHAMAS. 1860 1d lake (Clean-cut Perf 14-16).
Very fine used with numeral '27 of Out Islands. SG 3.

£475

BARBADOS. 1852/55 (No value) slate-blue corner block
of ten with 'gash in throat'. Very fine mint. SG 5a.

£175

BRITISH GUIANA. 1878 1c black (O10) with horizontal bar
through 'OFFICIAL'. Very fine mint. SG 138.

£175

CAYMANS. 1905 6d brown with rare GRAND CAYMAN
c.d.s. (Type 3b) for 'OC 20 06'. SG 11.

£130

GRENADA. 1883 1d carmine top marginal tete-beche
block of four. Very fine mint. SG 31a.

£400

LEEWARD. 1943 10/- Keyplate with 'damaged cliché'.
Very fine mint. Rare. SG 113b var. CW 12b(H).

£375

MONTSERRAT. 1883 cover to St Kitts franked 1d bisect
tied 'A08' with 'JY 14 83' c.d.s. RPS Cert. SG 1a.

£750

NEVIS. 1882 4d blue 'REVENUE' in marginal block of six.
Unmounted mint. Exceptional. SG F7.

£300

ST. KITTS-NEVIS. 1922 2/- with 'SPECIMEN' (Type D12a)
overprint double. Very fine mint. SG 47asa.

£400

ST. VINCENT. 1883 1/- orange-vermilion lower marginal
with watermark reversed. Very fine mint. SG 45x.

£300

TOBAGO. 1887 1/2d on 6d Plate pair, one showing
'figure further from word'. Very fine mint. SG 28/28a.

£350

TRINIDAD. 1853 1d blue on bluish cartridge paper used
numeral '1'. Exceptional. BPA Cert. Ex Caspary. SG 14.

£2000

TRINIDAD. 1905 2d Due with watermark inverted.
Very fine used 'PORT Of SPAIN' c.d.s. SG D11w.

£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.*

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

BELGIAN RELIEF FUND LABELS – ADDENDUM

JONATHAN GUY AND LAWRENCE GRECH

Further to our article in the September bulletin (274) we were delighted to be contacted by Gerald Schroedl who has answered one of the questions we posed in our article, namely 'Where is the Bayley cover'? The cover, it seems, has been in his possession for the past fifteen years, after being acquired from a dealer at a Philatelic Show in the US. Currently, it is part of his Inter Island mail collection and he has kindly sent us a scan of the cover (which has been opened for display prior to his acquisition) which we can now add to the record.

We are still keen to hear from anyone else who may have information on any other covers from this period bearing the Barbados Belgian Relief Fund labels, and anyone with information on these can contact us via the Editor of the bulletin.

An updated list of the identified covers is shown below.

Latest known usage of the Belgian Relief Fund label. (12 December 1917)



Cover	Type	Date	Addressee	Stamps	Label	Provenance
	Envelope	28th October 1914	La Reverend Frere Ambroisine, Ursuline Convent, Upton, Essex, England	2 x ½d George V SG171	Imperforate on top and left hand side	
	Envelope	9th November 1914	Miss Evans, % Miss Blythe 184 Waterloo Street, Georgetown, Demerara	1d George V SG172	Imperforate on top and left hand side	
	Envelope	11th November 1914	Messrs W.H & F.J Horniman & Co Ltd, 27-33 Wormwood St., London E.C., England	1d George V SG172	Imperforate on top and left hand side	Harris
	Postcard	8th December 1914	Miss M.E. Jones, Elen Dean, St Mark's Hill, Surbiton, Surrey, England	2 x ½d George V SG171	Imperforate on bottom edge	Benwell Deakin
	Envelope	9th March 1915	Rev H.H. Cole, Wesley xxx, Scarborough, Tobago	None remain	Imperforate on top edge	
	Envelope	12th December 1917	Miss Hart Public Library Port of Spain Trinidad	1d George V Large Seal SG183 & 1d War Tax SG197	Imperforate on top and right hand side	Mentioned by Bayley: The Stamps of Barbados Vol I

BARBADOS**STAMP WALLETS****JONATHAN GUY AND LAWRENCE GRECH**

This article endeavors to shed some light on the inception, production and distribution of the Barbados Stamp Wallet of 1977 (see Figure 1 below).

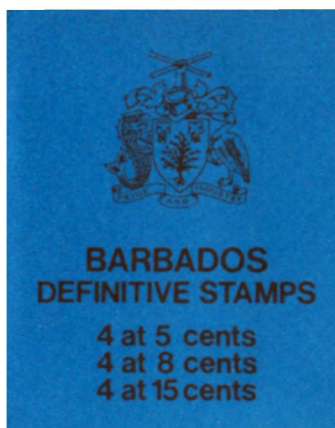


Fig. 1 Barbados Stamp Wallet

On page 163 of *The Stamps of Barbados Volume II*, under the heading of Issue No 81 (the Orchids Definitive set of 1974-79), Edmund A Bayley, states that: "*Stamps of the 5c, 8c and 15c denominations were specially printed for Stamp Wallets but these are dealt with under that head(ing).*" Somewhat frustratingly, Mr. Bayley omitted to include the intended section, and as the wallets fall outside the scope of the Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Catalogue, the above statement is the only tantalising reference to the wallets in the accepted reference sources for this period of Barbados philately.

Accordingly, the authors, having in their possession a number of examples of the wallets, determined to learn a little about the circumstance and origins of their production and of their sale and distribution on the island. This article is the result of our investigations which would not have been possible without the gracious help and support of Deborah Small who, at the time of writing, holds the position of Assistant Postmaster General of the Barbados GPO.

At some point in the early part of 1974 the then Postmaster-General, Mr. O. K. Husbands entered into correspondence with the Crown Agents for the provision of stamp booklets intended for use with the upcoming Orchids definitive issue of September 1974. Mr. Husbands' intention was to provide the citizens of Barbados with the opportunity to purchase modest quantities of popular values which could be stored safely and utilised as required.

The Crown Agents duly sent Mr. Husbands examples of recent booklets from the Channel Islands, from Antigua and a stamp wallet from the Isle of Man advocating the latter as being suitable for the intended use of over-the-counter sales.

By the spring of 1976, the parties had agreed upon the design of the wallets and the Crown Agents had provided quotes for the production run of 30,000. The booklets would be composed of a PVC wallet and a card insert containing 4 stamps of each of the three selected denominations.

The wallets were produced by Manor Plastics Ltd of London. The specification for the wallet being: three sides welded, one short side open, with one face clear and the reverse face opaque of size 52mm by 62mm.

The card inserts were printed by J W Lunn Limited of Cheap in Surrey. The specification for the inserts being: a card size of 50x60mm scored across the narrow dimension, printed in two colours, a blue background overprinted in silver with the Barbados Coat of Arms and the words:

4 at 5 cents
4 at 8 cents
4 at 15 cents

All to be printed on one side of the scoring.

Note – the card size actually needed to be 60x100mm so that once folded along the scored line the resultant surface area would be 60x50mm.

As stated above, the original intention was to have a colour scheme of silver on blue however this proved unsatisfactory and a scheme of red on blue was adopted.

The order was likely confirmed in June of 1976 and production followed. The stamps values utilised were taken from the Orchids definitive issue which were in use from 16 September 1974 until 1977, specifically:

SG489	5c <i>Schomburgkia humboldtii</i>	Quantity Printed: 7,400,000
SG490	8c <i>Oncidium ampliatum</i>	Quantity Printed: 4,580,000
SG493	15c <i>Paphiopedilum puddle</i>	Quantity Printed: 4,560,000

Note – Print quantities taken from The Stamps of Barbados Volume II. All three values with watermark Multiple St. Edward's Crown Block CA, sideways on these values.

The wallets were assembled in the UK, confirmed by correspondence from the then Postmaster General to the Crown Agents, dated 7 April 1976. In it he notes that *"the proposal to use J W Dunn, Printers Ltd for a small quantity (of wallets) is therefore acceptable. We have also agreed to pay for the cost of inserting the cards and stamps to produce the finished article"*.

Of the 10 wallets the authors have in their possession it is interesting to note that the way the stamps have been separated from the sheets and the manner of folding whilst consistent for the three values within an individual wallet, varies from wallet to wallet. The dis-assembled wallet illustrated in Figure 2 has three strips of four stamps each folded down to a single stamp. The authors also have in their possession examples containing horizontal rows of four as well as blocks of four.



Fig. 2 Disassembled Wallet

It is worth noting that Mr. Bayley's assertion that the three denominations were printed specifically for the booklets does not seem to hold true. The timings of the requisitions do not align with the timeframe of production and the quantities printed (see above) are very significantly more than the 120,000 of each denomination required for the wallets. Further, as we have confirmation that the wallets were assembled in the UK, it is more likely that the stamps came from existing Crown Agent stocks, rather than from a specific printing or from stamps already in Barbados.

By early February of 1977 the wallets were apparently ready and in the possession of the Barbados GPO. Marketing and distribution of the wallets duly followed.

A Post Office Notice dated 3/2/77, distributed to all district POs states:

*It is notified for general information that
Stamp Wallets will be available at all Post Offices
With effect from 21st February, 1977.*

Each Wallet will contain the following:

4 stamps @ 5 cents

4 stamps @ 8 cents

4 stamps @ 15 cents

and will be sold at a cost of \$1.12 (Face Value)

*Stamp Wallets provide a convenient and easy means for keeping stamps intact and prevent one from
making frequent visits to the Post Office.*

Buy one now.

*O.K. Husbands
Postmaster General*

The intention of selling the stamps at face value was to avoid discouraging the populace by asking them to pay more than if they had bought the stamps individually on an as needs basis.

The same day a separate note with instructions for the requisition of the wallets was issued to all parties responsible for the sale of stamps advising that initial orders should be placed by 17 February 1977 and encouraging requisitions to be made in multiples of 50. Instructions were also provided to store the wallets in envelopes at the back of the stamp folder and "... as far as possible to push the sale of these wallets which have been introduced for the convenience of the Public."

An article (Figure 3) appeared in the Advocate News of Monday 14 February 1977/

The choice of the three values included was, it appears, determined predominantly by usage. In the article, the Postmaster General stresses their convenience and availability at times the Post Office was closed. The rate card uses for these values is shown in Table 1. Locally, the 5c would have been used predominately for postcards, the 8c for standard letters. The 15c was more often used for overseas letters

Fig 3. Advocate News article of 14 February 1977

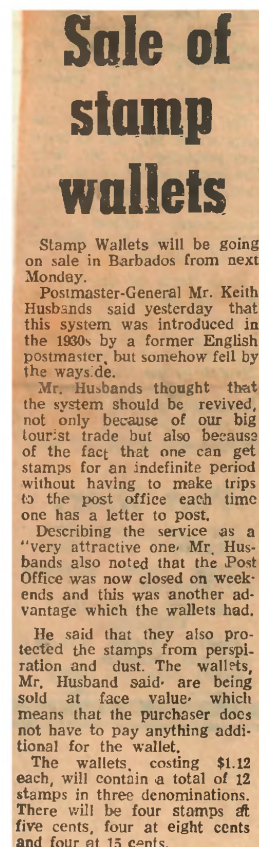


Table 1 – Rate Card

	5c	8c	15c
Local	<p>Postcard rate from 1st Feb 1974 until 1st Sep 1977 when the postcard rate went to 8c (and subsequently 15c in 1981)</p> <p>Reduced Rate printed papers rate up to 4oz</p> <p>Printed papers up to 1oz</p>	<p>Inland letters up to 1oz (local letters) from 1st Feb 1974</p> <p>Postcards & printed papers (full rate) up to 2oz</p> <p>Printed papers (Reduced Rate) up to 8oz</p>	<p>Postcards & printed papers (full rate) up to 8oz</p>
International	<p>Newspapers and periodicals (Reduced Rate) up to 2oz</p>	<p>Printed papers & books (exc. newspapers) up to 1oz</p>	<p>Surface rate letter up to 1oz</p> <p>Small packets not exceeding 4oz</p>

Unfortunately, there appear to be no formal records of their sales, nor their degree of popularity with the general public. From the available records, it does not appear that any re-orders were made for the wallets. Anecdotally, a former Philatelic Bureau member of staff, present during this period, has confirmed that the issue was not sold out, but no records appear to exist on whether any unsold wallets were recalled, destroyed, or simply left on sale until supplies were exhausted.

As to the relative scarcity of the wallets, whilst they were issued at a time when 'stamp collecting' was enjoying a peak of popularity, the lack of catalogue status meant they did not enter the mainstream of collecting interest. Instead, most of those sold were likely utilised at the convenience of the local populace as was originally intended by Mr. Husbands. Complete wallets do appear on the market from time to time¹ and though they are certainly not common they are quite affordable and make an interesting addition to a collection of the era of Independent Barbados.

Acknowledgements:

- *Our grateful thanks to Deborah Small Assistant Postmaster-General of the Barbados GPO without whom this article would not have been possible.*
- *Thanks also to Hugh Jefferies at Stanley Gibbons for explaining the omission of the Wallets from the Commonwealth Catalogues.*

References:

1. Records of the correspondence between the Barbados GPO and the Crown Agents and between the Crown Agents and the suppliers from the archives of the Barbados GPO.
2. Bayley, Edmund A., *The Stamps of Barbados Vol. II*, Coles Printery, Barbados 2005
3. *Barbados Advocate Newspaper* – Illustrated Article of 14 February 1977 (Figure 3)
4. *Other images from the authors' collections*

¹ One such example appeared in the BWISC sale of 2021, described as; "*Small, inconspicuous but, we suspect, quite scarce stamp booklet containing mint blocks of 4 of orchids 5c, 8c and 15c – SG489, 490, 493 not listed by SG*". Estimated at £12 and sold for £19.

DOMINICA

WHEN DID PERF 14 START?

SIMON RICHARDS

Dominica finally introduced postage stamps in March 1874 in three denominations – 1d, 6d and 1s, these were printed on machine made white rag paper, watermark Crown CC. The first stamps were line perf 12½ using De La Rue's own machine. This machine was used for stamps that did not fit the Napier comb machines at Somerset House, typically the stamps printed from Perkins Bacon plates, but it was also used for small orders, as for Dominica.

According to the Stanley Gibbons Part 1 catalogue the perforation did not change until 1877 and this has been followed by Toeg in his book on Dominica, published by the Study Circle in 1994, when allocating consignments to the perf 12½ (page 39) or the perf 14 (page 45).

However, there are several strands of evidence that suggests that this is wrong. De La Rue changed the gauge of their Napier machine to perf 14 from perf 12½ in 1876. The year given by Gibbons for the change for Antigua, Barbados, St Christopher and St Lucia and others. De La Rue did not revert to perf 12½ at all, let alone just for Dominica, so we can safely allocate the 1877 consignments to perf 14 and amend Toeg's consignment table as follows:

Per Toeg					Revision		
SG	Date	Printings	Quantity	Cat. M £	Date	Printings	Quantity
Perf 12½							
1	1874-77	3	69,540	150	1874-75	2	59,040
2	1874-76	2	33,540	550	1874	1	13,980
3	1874-76	2	33,900	325	1874	1	14,100
Perf 14							
5	1878-81	3	117,000	24	1877-81	4	127,500
8	1878-81	2	21,240	170	1876-81	3	40,800
9	1878	1	2,580	130	1876-78	2	22,380

Toeg got his consignment data from the De La Rue records, but they do not specify which perforation machine was used, and I suspect Toeg allocated on the basis of the SG catalogue dates. The pricing evidence makes much more sense with the revised allocation.

The order placed on 5 March 1877 for 10,000 1d stamps was also the date that the order was placed for the Revenue overprinted postal fiscals – 20,000 1d and 5,000 each of the 6d and 1s, all of which are perf 14. Is it likely that the non-overprinted were perforated 12½? Furthermore, dated examples of these stamps are known from 11 June 1877.



6d Revenue line perf



6d Revenue comb perf



6d perf 14

The Toeg data also fails to explain how 15,000 of the 6d and 1s stamps were overprinted Halfpenny and One Penny respectively in 1886. These overprints were carried out in Dominica and are all on perf 14 stamps

which were surplus to requirements following the reduction in rates on joining UPU on 1 June 1879. On Toeg's data this is clearly impossible for the One Penny and almost so for the Halfpenny – therefore one of the earlier printings must also have been perf 14.

Still not convinced? Well the covers too support the story. I have a single usage 6d, perf 14, sent to the USA by the ornithologist Frederick Ober dated 30 March 1877 and a cover with two perf 14 6d stamps dated 30 November 1877 – both dates before the 15 January 1878 date when Toeg's first perf 14 consignment of the 6d and 1s stamps were sent to the colony (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1 Perf 14 6d pair used on '30 NO 77' cover to France.

The Napier machine used Archer's patents that belonged to HMRC, but in 1878 HMRC gave De La Rue permission to order a Napier machine so enabling them to produce stamps comb perf. 14 in house. The later wmk Crown CC and all the Crown CA will thus be comb perf 14.

BARBADOS

1925 1s BADGE – 'ORBE' FLAW AT ROW 6/2

PATRICIA CAPILL

Re-entries are not uncommon in the 1925 recess printed George V definitive series, particularly in some denominations, but flaws are quite a different story. I first noticed this flaw at Row 6 No. 2 on my lower left corner block of the 1s which contained the transfer roller flaws. (Refer to my article and illustration on pages 5 – 6 in the December 2016 BWISC Bulletin). The flaw shows as an ink blob at the base of the R of ORBE. (Fig. 1). I suspected that this was probably a transient flaw resulting from some foreign matter becoming temporarily attached to the printing plate, but as a result of looking



Fig. 1 ORBE flaw at Row 6 No. 2



Fig. 2. Examples from the first, sixth (Perf. 13x12) and eighth printings.

at many 1s examples in auctions and on eBay, I have established that this flaw is a constant one, as to date I now have examples of it on the first, second, sixth and eighth printings of the eight printings made. (Fig. 2).

LEEWARD ISLANDS

POSTAGE RATE REDUCTIONS 1891-93

JOHN JORDAN

Dingle Smith's article in the September 2020 Bulletin (*The UPU and Early Jamaican Picture Postcards*) prompted me to research some unresolved questions about Leeward Islands postal rate changes in the early 1890s. The results of my research are relevant to Antigua, Dominica, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands, so may be of interest to other collectors.

Dingle Smith says the following in his section on UPU Congress Decisions 1874-1891:

'The next Congress in Vienna in 1891 was overshadowed by the announcement by Great Britain that it intended to eliminate many of the UPU surcharges, notably the maritime surcharge to provide lower Empire charges for letters and postcards.'

Proud (1) and Oliver (2) agree that in the Leeward Islands the maritime surcharges were eliminated in two stages, in 1891 and 1893. However, they differ about which rates changed when. Proud says that 'On 1 January 1891 the UK introduced a 2½d (letter) rate to most countries in the Empire'. Oliver states that 'On 1 January 1891, the overseas letter rate was reduced to 2½d'. Contemporary covers often don't conform to either account. Oliver suggested that this might be due to local confusion, stating that 'The instructions that went to the colonies were unclear - the Postmaster of Antigua requested clarification ... It is thought that the new rate was not generally put into use immediately and that the 4d rate continued in Virgin Islands until 30 June 1892'.

The reopening of National Archives allowed me to check all the official notifications of postage rate changes in the *Leeward Islands Gazette* ('LIG') during the period.

THE MARITIME SURCHARGES

The Leeward Islands Colony became a UPU member in 1879. At that time, the UPU's basic postal rates were 2½d for a letter and 1d for a postcard. However, surcharges of 1½d and ½d, respectively, were allowed for destinations requiring maritime transport greater than 300 miles. For the Leeward Islands, this effectively boosted most of the basic rates on overseas post to 4d for a letter and 1½d for a postcard. (The surcharges were even higher for destinations 'east of Suez' and in the western Pacific.) These maritime surcharges were still in effect in 1890.

THE JANUARY 1891 RATE REDUCTIONS

The first stage of the rate reductions was straightforward since it required no approval from the UPU. It was restricted to UPU members with which the Leeward Islands Colony had already formed sub-postal unions under the UPU umbrella, namely the UK, USA, Canada and BWI. The UPU encouraged the creation of such sub-postal unions as a way to provide postal rates below UPU standard rates.

The rate reductions for 1891 were notified in three editions of the LIG in December 1890, each providing progressively greater detail.

LIG, 4 December 1890:

Colonial Secretary's Office

REDUCED RATES OF POSTAGE

It is hereby notified for general information that on and after the 1st January next the postage to the United Kingdom will be 2 pence half penny per half ounce instead of four pence and that the postage in the Colony of the Leeward Islands from any one place within the Colony to any other will be one penny per half ounce.

LIG, 11 December 1890:

Colonial Secretary's Office

With reference to the Notice in the Leeward Islands Gazette of the 4th instant regarding the reduced rates of postage to the United Kingdom the Governor directs it to be notified that such reduction of postage will apply to the British West Indies (not being part of the Leeward Islands) the Dominion of Canada the United Kingdom and the United States of America on and after the 1st January, 1891.

LIG, 27 December 1890:*Governor in Council on 24th November 1890***POSTAGE RATES***From and after 1st January 1891 the following rates shall be in force.*

1. *The prepaid rates of postage for letters are hereby reduced and are as follows: -*

Foreign Rates

	<i>not exceeding</i> $\frac{1}{2}$ oz	<i>every additional $\frac{1}{2}$ oz</i> <i>or part of a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz</i>
<i>British West Indies</i> <i>(not being part of the</i> <i>Leeward Islands)</i>	2½d	2½d
<i>Dominion of Canada</i>	2½d	2½d
<i>United Kingdom</i>	2½d	2½d
<i>United States of America</i>	2½d	2½d

Inland Rates throughout the Colony

<i>Not exceeding half an ounce</i>	1d
<i>Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ an ounce and not exceeding 1 ounce</i>	1½
<i>Exceeding 1 ounce and not 1½oz</i>	2d

And so on at the rate of ½d for every additional half ounce or part of a half-ounce.

2. *Letters on Her Majesty's Service bearing the signature of the head of a department or any other Federal Officer in the left-hand bottom corner of the address side of the envelope need not be stamped when addressed to any person within the Colony.*

The notification seems crystal clear about the new rates and their applicability. On 1 January 1891, the maritime surcharges were to be abolished on letters to the BWI, Canada, UK and USA. They would still apply to letters to all other Empire and worldwide destinations. The 1891 letter rate reductions were therefore neither worldwide nor even empire-wide (see Fig. 1 for a cover that I originally believed demonstrated rate confusion but turns out to be correctly rated). For postcards, there were no rate changes at all. The LIG published no amendments or modifications to the new 1891 rates before the final round of reductions notified in September 1892.



Fig. 1 PSRE of September 1891 to Germany showing 4d letter rate still in effect.

(Note: I used this cover in the Antigua book to illustrate rate confusion. It doesn't.)

THE JANUARY 1893 RATE REDUCTIONS

It would take another two years for all remaining maritime surcharges to be abolished for Leeward Islands mail. The LIG published only one notification.

LIG, 29 September 1892:

Colonial Secretary's Office.

On and after the First day of January 1893 the under mentioned rates of Postage will be charged in this Colony, without distinction to all parts of the world, viz:

Letters	2½d per half oz
Post Cards	Single 1d
	Reply 2d
Newspapers or other Printed Papers	½d per 2 oz
Commercial Papers. Same as per Printed Papers, except that the lowest charge is 2½d	
Patterns. Same as per Printed Papers, except that the lowest charge is 1d	
Registration Fee	2d

The rates of postage within the Colony are not affected.

This second and final stage of rate reductions eliminated the maritime surcharge on letters to any worldwide destination. Now included for the first time were the rest of the Empire as well as all foreign destinations. (See Fig. 2). For postcards, unaffected in the 1891 round, maritime surcharges to all destinations worldwide were abolished.



Fig. 2 PSE of November 1893 to Germany showing new 2½ letter rate.

LOCAL CONFUSION?

Sometime prior to the 1891 rate reductions, the Antigua postmaster wrote to the GPO London in some confusion. He asked for confirmation of his understanding that in 1891 a letter would cost 4d to nearby St Lucia but only 2½d to distant India. The 27 December 1890 LIG notification shows no such inconsistency, so the matter seems to have been a non-issue by then. The episode presumably relates to early consultations on the proposed rates. Although it is sometimes cited as evidence of local confusion about the rates, this looks like a red herring.

The delayed compliance of the Virgin Islands seems more likely to stem from the parlous state of its finances rather than from confusion. For its post office, the 40% reduction in letter rates may have been the last straw.

Two months earlier, the post office in every one of the islands had lost the revenue from sale of their own stamps when they were withdrawn in favour of the single Leeward Island general issue. The Virgin Islands would be the first island to break ranks and resume the issue of its own stamps in 1899. The other islands did so in 1903.

The 1891 rates appear perfectly clear in the LIG, but were they properly communicated to front-line staff at island post offices and to the public? The LIG may hold a clue. In 1890, J H Read was the Postmaster of Antigua, the most populous of the Leeward Islands as well as the seat of its government. (See APPENDIX). Read should have played a role during the roll-out of the new rates throughout the LI. However, the LIG shows him on a repeatedly extended leave from June 1890 to April 1891. He then returned briefly to duty but was replaced by A E Eldridge in August 1891. The Antigua Post Office was therefore bereft of a head for 10 - 14 months, a period which witnessed the replacement of all island stamps by the Leeward Islands general issue (November 1890) and the initial round of rate reductions (January 1891). The lack of a firm hand at the head of the Antigua GPO would not have been ideal in communicating major rate changes to PO staff and the public.

CONCLUSIONS

The LIG notification in December 1890 about the letter rate reductions intended for 1 January 1891 is clear and there are no subsequent updates or amendments. Nevertheless, there is some evidence that they were not fully complied with locally. The Virgin Islands delay in implementing them seems more likely due to its shaky finances. The absence of the Antigua postmaster may have contributed to a botched roll-out, but this is only conjectural. On 1 January 1893, the complete abolition of the remaining maritime surcharges on letters and postcards to all destinations left no room for misunderstanding. In the interim, there could be some interesting postal history to look out for.

APPENDIX

1891 CENSUS

On 29 October, the LIG published the 1891 Census, which may be of interest:

Antigua	36,119
Barbuda	580
St. Kitts	30,876
Nevis	13,087
Anguilla	3,699
Dominica	26,841
Montserrat	11,762
Redonda	120
Virgin Islands	<u>4,639</u>
Total	<u>127,723</u>

LEEWARD ISLANDS

1902 PROVISIONAL ISSUE – USAGE OTHER THAN AT THE MAIN POST OFFICE (CONT'D)

JULIAN WALDRON

In response to the first part of Bruce Stewart's article in the last Bulletin 273, I can confirm that numerous covers were sent to and from Cayon in St Kitts using the three Leeward Islands provisionals. In particular, I have three covers (and I recall that others have come up at auctions over the last couple of years) addressed to A. Adamson at Cayon in identical handwriting. All are cancelled using the St Kitts CA Duplex issued to Cayon and colourfully franked as follows:

- One Penny on 4d franked with ten copies of the stamp (including the tall narrow "O") dated 10 May 1903
- One Penny on 6d franked with eight copies dated 10 May 1903
- One Penny on 7d franked with eleven copies dated 8 May 1903

So, a series of (philatelic/inspired) covers were sent to Adamson on both the 1903 dates noted by Bruce – perhaps using surplus/left over stock at that time (a year after the provisionals were first issued). The August 1902 copies referred to by Bruce come from the period immediately after issue and are good evidence that the provisionals were indeed issued to the four St Kitts villages at that time. However, I have yet to find them with Sandy Point, Dieppe Bay or Old Road cancels.

Concerning the addressee – the Adamson family lived at Lodge Estate on the island – one of the very few local St Kitts village covers dated 30 April 1885 franked with a manuscript-cancelled 1d bisect was addressed to J Adamson. Scans of the covers are available if needed.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

UPDATE ON THE QV ½D WRAPPER AND KGV REGISTERED ENVELOPE

DARRYL FULLER

I received a reply from a member, John Spratt, regarding both my queries on Leeward Islands' stationery.

Missing Full Stops on the Queen Victoria ½d Wrapper

I have two of these items. One is uprated by a 1/2d Leeward Islands stamp and has a "The Antigua Standard" cachet and is addressed to "The Morning Leader, Stonecutter Street London". The postmarks are rather poor, but I believe them to be Antigua 24 May 1889 (could be 1899). (Ed. It is 1899 because the wrapper was not issued until 1890.) (Figure 1)

The second item has an undated postmark which I believe is the Virgin Islands A91 obliterator. This item is complete and has no receiving mark. There is a blue pencil mark inside 01/88 (which may have no relevance and may be a dealer's reference No.) This is addressed to "Herr Henri Fiacre Munich". I believe this item to be philatelic. (Ed: there are many items known addressed to Herr Henri Fiacre from the Virgin Islands.) (Figure 2)

I do not have a mint one.



Fig. 1

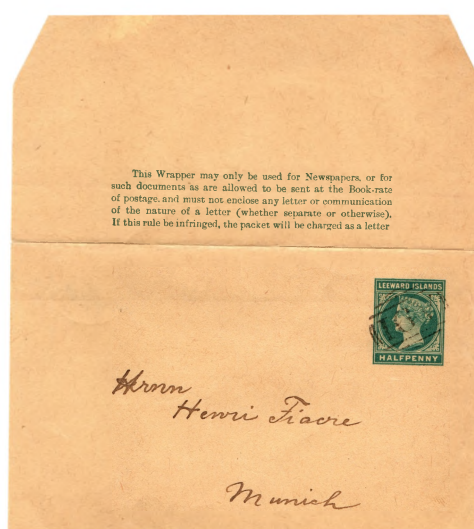


Fig. 2

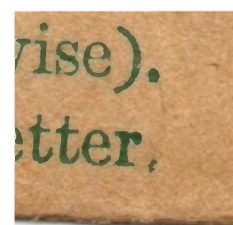


Fig. 3

Ed: In a subsequent email with images of the wrappers John illustrates a third wrapper with a missing stop and a fourth item with a partially missing stop (Figure 3). However, it is difficult to gauge the significance of the last item.

These items add further evidence to Michael Oliver's theory that a second plate was prepared and, as I suggested, has one wrapper with the full stop.

KGv 2d Registered Envelope Mint (Size G 1913)

John reports that he too has a mint copy, which means that at least four are recorded. This is still a low number for what would normally be a relatively easy item to find.

ST CHRISTOPHER

POSTMARKS 1870 TO 1890

JULIAN WALDRON

(Ed. Please note that some of the images of the 6d green stamps appear bluish but this relates to the original source of the image.)

My previous article on the postmarks used in St Christopher (Bulletin 264/26) focused on the unmarked or 'dumb' cancellers found so often on loose stamps and stamps on cover from the mid 1870s until the (re-) introduction of the A12 barred oval in 1883. In this follow-on article, I try to address the circular datestamps (cds) used from 1870 to 1890 when Leeward Islands stamps were introduced.

The objective is to record exhaustively the frequently subtle variations of canceller and revisit Earliest Known and Latest Known dates (EKD and LKD) and record single dateable examples (OKD). The analysis is reliant on: (i) amongst secondary sources, Oliver's Leeward Islands Notes for Philatelists and Proud's Postal History of the Leeward Islands; and (ii) owned stamps and scans as primary sources.

The analysis is very much a work in progress. The proposed EKD/LKD dates should be challenged by those who can find postmarked copies outside of the ranges and there are probably some variations missed. I would like to extend the study to incoming mail, but there are precious few examples and only a couple of references below as a result. I will need at some point to re-check against the GPO impression books but for the moment rely on Oliver and Proud's conclusions here (with the resulting problems identified in the conclusion).

A summary table can be found at the end, which also cross-references, where applicable, to Oliver and Proud. The cds are characterised by different combinations of the name of the colony (curved around the rim of the datestamp or straight line, for example, and with different variations of dots and dashes), the code letters (sometimes absent), the variations of the day/date/month and the size of the cds. The different types are numbered 'A' through to 'X'.

1866 to 1870 Curved PAID Code C/A 20mm dot-dash used in pre-stamp period (Type X)

This small cds (Fig.1) was introduced in 1866 (EKD 11 August) and replaced by Type A on the introduction of adhesives in 1870 (LKD 17 June 1869). Originally used with Code C (LKD for Code C 11 April 1867) and then with Code A (EKD for Code A 3 September 1867 – a second strike on this cover has no Code). Unusually, red rather than black ink was prevalent. This cds was possibly re-used as Type M in 1889.

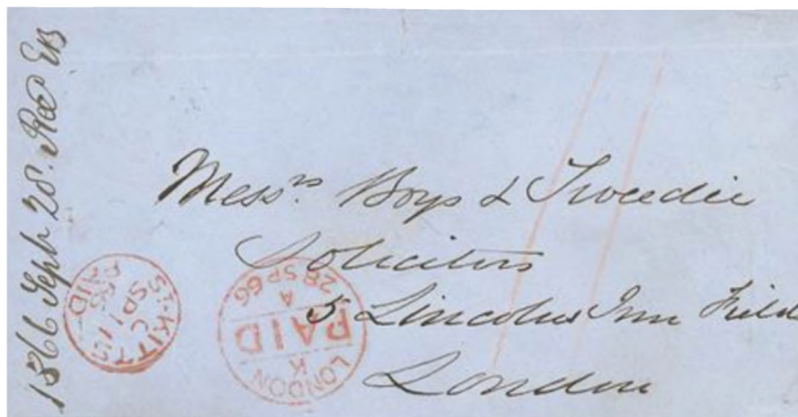


Fig.1 Cover to London 11 September 1866

1870 to 1871 Straight Line Code A dot-dot 20mm (Type A)

Adhesives were introduced in 1870. Although invoiced in February of that year, the on-sale date is certainly later. I have seen no reliable postmarks earlier than 2 May 1870 (1 May was a Sunday) and conclude that this was the first day of sale and the EKD both for cancelled stamps and the first canceller are from this period. (I have a 10 April postmark with a year that could be '70' or '71' but 10 April 1870 was also a Sunday so '71' is a safer conclusion – Post Office regulations state that the Basseterre office was not open on a Sunday).

The cds used from this date has 'St Kitts' in a straight-line beneath the Code A (Figures 2 & 3) with the day/month/year in two lines underneath. This cds was in use until Autumn 1871. I have a used stamp dated 2 October and the current LKD (with thanks to Michael Hamilton) is 31 October 1871, implying a period of overlap for Type A and Type B (see below).

Oliver notes two impression dates: 29 June 1866 and 3 August 1867, but the short period of use implies only one cds, perhaps actually sent to the island in 1867. This Type A was curiously used as a forgery in 1888.



Fig.2 SG1 1d Dull Rose
16 August 1870 (earlier
copies are often with
watermark sideways).



Fig.3 SG4 6d Yellow-
Green 12 October 1870.

1871 to 1874 Curved Code A dash-dot 21.5mm (Type B)

Impressed on 12 September 1871, this cds was despatched almost immediately to St Christopher. EKD is 13 October, a Friday (Fig.4). It was in use for just over three years, being replaced just before Christmas 1874 – the LKD being Monday 21 December. The format has a curved 'St Kitts' at the top, with Code A underneath and then day/month/year in two lines – the standard for nearly all subsequent cds.

Hereafter, there is a focus on the combination of dashes and dots underneath the 'T' of 'St' and between the 'St' and 'Kitts': they change frequently and for no obvious reason. On this cds, there is a short dash underneath the 'T' of 'St Kitts' and a dot between the 'St' and 'Kitts': referred to as 'dash-dot' or its equivalent below.

In 1872, the year slug is inverted: in fact, the '72' is the year slug '27' inverted (Fig.5). '73' is ok, but in 1874, the normal slug is found but so is a '47' inverted or two separate slugs '4' and '7' (Fig.6). The post office lost the proper slugs at some point – they are small, fiddly pieces of metal and easily misplaced!



Fig.4 SG5 6d Dull
Green – the EKD
13 October 1871.



Fig.5 SG4/5 6d Green
showing inverted '27' for the
year and a normal '27' slug
for the day.



Fig.6 SG5 Dull Green 4
March 1874: the '7' and
the '4' are separate slugs.

1873 Curved PAID Code A dot-dot 23mm (Type C)

During short periods in 1873, other cds were in parallel use. Type C sees the 'PAID' return at the bottom, with Code A and a dot-dot arrangement. This is not Type X re-used (23mm versus 20mm diameter). Type C is rare and has not yet been found on cover. It is not clear why two cds were needed.

With so few examples, the EKD/LKDs should be easily challenged. EKD is 27 February 1873 (Fig.7 - from a scan kindly provided by Michael Hamilton). LKD so far identified is 12 August 1873.



Fig.7 SG4/5
Green

1873 Curved Code A dash-dash 21.5mm (Type D)



A single example dated 17 March 1873 of a cds diameter 21.5mm with a clear strike of a dash-dash arrangement (the strike is altogether too clear for the second dash to be a smudged dot). It is not clear to me how the dot-dash arrangements could have been changed and re-input – for the moment, this is a unique arrangement (Fig.8).

Fig.8 SG2 1d Dull Rose 17 March 1873

1873 Curved Code A dot-dot 21.5mm (Type E) Fig.9

A single example dated 27 November 1873 of a cds diameter 21.5mm code A with a dot-dot arrangement. Possibly an earlier incarnation of Type F. If so, it overlaps with the late period of Type B.

Fig.9 SG2 1d Magenta 27 November 1873

1874 to 1879 Curved No Code dot-dot 21.5mm (Type F)

A cover dated 27 December 1874 has the EKD for this cds. The code has been dropped or lost but otherwise this is the same diameter (21.5mm) and dot-dot arrangement as Type E. December 27 was a Sunday and it is possible that the post office was opened specially to cope with Christmas mail (I am told that mail dated 25 December is common - 26 December (Boxing Day) was a public holiday since 1871). The LKD is on Brookes/Spink Lot #254 dated 12 July 1879 – the next lot #255 dated 11 September 1879 is cancelled by Type I, the follow-on cds.

During most of the period of use of this cds, the stamps themselves were cancelled using the dumb cancellers referred to in my earlier article and the cds was applied elsewhere on the envelope. Accordingly, stamps off-cover with this cds are scarce. Fig.11 shows an unusual variant

On a used stamp dated 26 May 1878, the month/day order was reversed to day/month. As used copies are known dated 26 April (Fig.10) and 26 June 1878 with the normal month/day order, the error was probably in the month of May only.



Fig. 10 SG9 6d Green 26 April 1878



Fig.11 Pair of SG2 1d Magenta used 31 May 1878: a rare example of a cds used on the right-hand stamp and the single line unmarked canceller on the left (since my previous article, the EKD for this unmarked canceller has been advanced to by 6 weeks to 7 April 1876 and this stamp extends its LKD by two months).

1875 Curved No Code No Year [dot or dash]-dot 21.5mm (Type G) (Fig.12)

There are two covers dated 10 and 16 March 1875 respectively with no year slug. There are also loose stamps dated 26 February and 13 March which show a 'dot' between 'St' and 'Kitts'. The most likely explanation is that the year slug for '75' was mislaid for a short period spanning the first two or three months of 1875 and that this is the same canceller as Type F.

Fig.12 Bernardy cover to London dated 10 March 1875 (Bookes/Spink lot# 232)

Note: 1883 unknown: Furthermore, there is a fragment in a small collection (Spink 16027 Lot#1206) franked with a bisected 1d (probably SG12 – Fig.12a) cancelled on 11 January 1883 with a cds with no Code - and apparently no year. The Month slug – 'JA' - looks fairly normal. The Day slug however seems to have the second digit added in manuscript and the Year – '83' – is certainly added in manuscript. Overall, it is



possible/probable that this is of philatelic origin. Unfortunately, the registration mark obscures (on the scan at least) the arrangement of dots and dashes. As presented, the diameter is most likely 21.5mm, so it could be Type F or Type G making a reappearance after a prolonged absence.

Fig.12a No Code with manuscript entry for the year and at least part of the month/day.

1875 Curved No Code dot-dash 21.5mm (Type H)

On one cover dated 26 August 1875 – which also happens to be the only cover on which the three-bar dumb canceller is found – the arrangement looks dot-dash rather than dot-dot (Fig.13). It could possibly be dash-dash or a smudged dot-dot – perhaps the owner of the cover could confirm?

Fig.13 Bernardy cover to London dated 26 August 1875 (Brookes/Spink lot# 232).



1879 to 1883 Curved No Code dot-dash 20mm (Type I)



Fig.14 Prepaid postcard to Essex also with creatively cancelled SG12 bisected vertically

This cds, diameter 20mm, with no Code and dot-dash arrangement was in use from 1879 until 1883 (Fig.14). The cancellation practice during this period was also to use the 'APMY' dumb canceller on the stamps and apply the cds off to the side on the envelope. Dated stamps off cover with this cds are therefore also rare. I record 31 covers but not all use this cds (see below). The EKD is found on Brookes/Spink lot #255 dated 11 September 1879. The LKD for this cds is 11 April 1883 (Brookes/Spink lot #391). This canceller is also found on a postcard in conjunction with the cds with only 'St Kitts' no code, no date, probably with a dot-dot arrangement, diameter 23mm described in my earlier article.

1882 Curved No Code dot-dot 20mm (Type J)

In 1882, the use of the Type I cds was interrupted and we find examples of a 20mm cds with no code and a dot-dot arrangement. The EKD is on a 1 1/2d post-reply card to Barbados dated 27 April 1882 (the date manually corrected over the original 26 April on the cds – Fig.15). The LKD appears on Spink auction 16027 lot #1258 dated 25 November 1882.

This cds was possibly used as an incoming mail receiving on a cover from Edinburgh dated 16 April 1879 (Spink auction 16027 lot #1286) so its period of availability might be long.



Fig. 15 Prepaid post card to Barbados dated 27 April 1882

1883 to 1890 Curved Code C dot-dot 20.5mm (Type K)

After the frequent changes of the previous 13 years, 1883 ushered in a period of stability. As noted in the earlier article, the first six months of 1883 saw multiple types of canceller applied by the creative postmaster. This creativity comes to an end in June 1883 and it is possible that the postal authorities stepped in to restore order. On a cover dated 31 May 1883, this new cds diameter 20.5mm with Code C and dot-dot arrangement is found with the A12 barred oval canceller – the EKD for both these cancellers. Again, as the cds is struck on the envelope rather than the stamp, postmarked stamps with the cds are relatively scarce (Fig.16).



Fig.16 SG13 1d Carmine Rose 14 November 1884.



For around 6 weeks in 1885, the code 'C' was input at 90 degrees to normal (Fig.17). The EKD for the error is 18 February and the LKD 18 March. On covers from 31 March, the 'C' is back to normal.

Fig.17 Cover to Holland dated 13 March 1885 showing the wrongly input 'C' code

1888 Double Circle No Code 32m (Type L)

Two examples of a large double circle cds are known both dated 23 May 1888, with diameter of 32mm and the wording 'SAINT KITTS' top and 'WEST INDIES' at the bottom. Its origins and extent of use are unknown. One example is on a celebrated fragment (Fig.18) in the Royal Collection of a registered letter to the USA franked at 2d with an example of the rare SG27 surcharge – 'One Penny' on 2½d with the original value not obliterated – placed alongside its more common companion SG28 – the same surcharge with the original value obliterated. Simon Goldblatt questioned the veracity of the franking - 2d didn't enable an envelope to "move out of St Kitts". The cancellation date is consistent with the use of the SG27/28 surcharge. This one remains a mystery: assuming a forgery is ruled out, the most likely explanation is an official cds used on e.g. government letters.



Fig.18 with SG28 and SG27 side by side. The '119' was most likely added on departure whereas the '17929' is a US registration mark. The registered letter fee would have been 6d – this is only a fragment of the top right corner so maybe the 4d stamp was affixed bottom left (an arrangement found elsewhere on cover).

1889 Curved PAID dot-dot 20mm (Type M)

For a short period in late 1889, St Christopher ran out of stamps of all denominations except the 6d SG9 (one was used on a registered cover dated 19 December 1889 and no 6d stamps were ordered during this period) and probably the 1s. New supplies of ½d, 1d, 2½d and 4d stamps were quickly ordered and then invoiced on 29 November 1889.

In similar circumstances, the postmaster had resorted to surcharging. On this occasion, either the period of shortage was expected to be too short for surcharging to be worthwhile, or alternatively stocks of the 6d were at last running too low for surcharging. Whilst still using the Type K cds alongside, the postmaster accordingly resorted to an old 'PAID' cds with a diameter of 20mm with no code nor date. This Type M is most probably Type X reused (Fig.19).

The EKD is 21 November 1889 and the LKD 12 December 1889. ½d stamps were available on the island at Basseterre until 15 November (used to make up the 2½d inter-island rate on a cover of that date). The EKD for a stamp after the known shortage period is 16 December 1889 on a ½d Green SG11 with a manuscript cancellation from a village office. The ½d stamps are otherwise found on a Basseterre cover dated 1 February. The new consignments could have arrived for Christmas so the manuscript cancelled ½d could be from the 29 November invoice (the eighth) – equally and perhaps more likely, the stocks of ½d stamps were not exhausted in villages during this period.

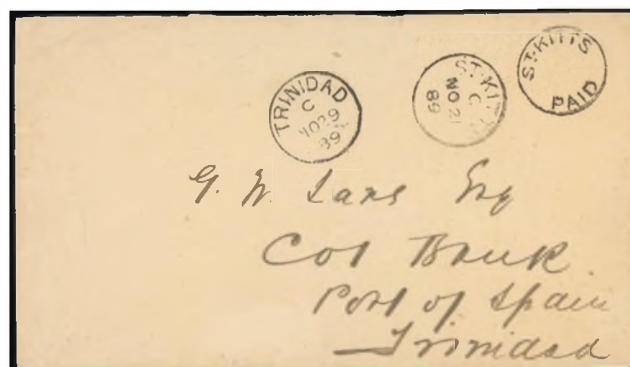


Fig.19 Cover to Trinidad dated 21 November 1889 cancelled using a 'St Kitts Paid' cds alongside the usual Type K cds.

Forgeries

Oliver gives an extensive list of Leeward Islands cancellers forged by Madame Joseph. For St Kitts, none are prior to 1900 but it is likely that the A12 canceller was replicated fraudulently, at least on some revenue stamps. A cover dated 27 March 1890 addressed to Postmaster Pearce at Basseterre is franked with a single Antigua 1d cancelled by a strike of the A12 and two strikes of a cds Code C: on the latter, the 'T' has a long tail and is forged.



More curiously, I have a single example of a 'straight line' code A cds used on a 1s revenue stamp dated 11 August 1888 (Fig.20). The diameter is 20mm – the same as Type X. The typeface is not quite the same however and there is neither a dash nor a dot between 'St' and 'Kitts'. So, a forgery, but it is an arcane canceller used to forge.

Fig.20 SGR6 1s Olive Revenue Stamp with forged cds.

Summary table

Contradictions with Oliver and Proud

Type for this article	Format	Code	Other	Diameter (mm)	Arrangement	Oliver type	Proud type
X	PAID	C/A		20,0	dot-dash	-	-
A	Straight Line	A		20,0	dot-dot	S7	D2
B	Curved	A		21,5	dash-dot	-	D3
C	PAID	A		23,0	dot-dot	S18	PD6
D	Curved	A		21,5	dash-dash	-	-
E	Curved	A		21,5	dot-dot	-	-
F	Curved	No Code		21,5	dot-dot	S8	-
G	Curved	No Code	No Year	21,5	dash-dot	-	-
H	Curved	No Code		21,5	[?] dash	-	-
I	Curved	No Code		20,0	dot-dash	-	D4
J	Curved	No Code		20,0	dot-dot	-	-
K	Curved	C		20,5	dot-dot	S10	D5
L	Double Circle	No Code		32,0		S19d	D6
M	PAID	No Code	No Date	20,0	dot-dot	S17	-

EKD	LKD
11/08/66	17/09/69
02/05/70	31/10/71
13/10/71	21/12/74
27/02/73	12/08/73
17/03/73	
27/11/73	
27/12/74	12/07/79
10/03/75	16/03/75
26/08/75	
11/09/79	11/04/83
27/04/82	25/11/82
31/05/83	28/07/81
23/05/88	
21/11/89	10/12/89

At this point, I should note that many aspects of this analysis are at odds with Proud and Oliver's studies. For example, Oliver has a Code C 20mm diameter dot-dash cds, impressed 26 May 1875 and used from 13 July 1876 to 6 May 1890 (his S9 – Fig.21). I can find no examples of Code C cds in use between 1870 and 1883, nor of a curved 20mm cds except for the 'PAID' versions and for the short period of use of Type J, nor of a dot-dash arrangement on a 20mm canceller.

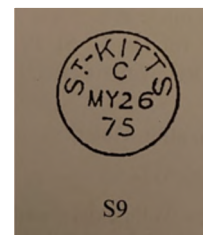


Fig.21 Oliver's S9 canceller.

Conclusions

In total, I can identify twenty different instruments or arrangements of the same instrument across the 1870-1890 period of which fourteen are datestamps.

Five were most prominent – Type A from 1870 to 1871, Type B from 1871 to 1874, Type F from 1874 to 1879, Type H from 1879 to 1883 and Type K thereafter. The others are scarce and used only for short periods. Based on Oliver and Proud, the GPO impression book does not record so many. However, some operate in parallel. Based on diameter, then by arrangement, the instruments can be grouped as follows:

20.0mm: Types X, A, I, J, M

- A is unique of its type – forged in 1888
- X and M are Curved PAID and probably the same
- I (dot-dash) and J (dot-dot) are different instruments but J could be a re-use of X/M if we assume that the "PAID" slug could be taken out and put back in at will

21.5mm: Types B, D, E, F, G, H

- B and G are dash-dot - the same instrument, G having lost the Code A and Year
- E and F are dot-dot - the same instrument, F having lost the Code A
- D and H are outliers with no obvious explanation or provenance but potentially one and the same depending on a more accurate reading of their rare examples than I have done

23.0mm: Type C

- C is plausibly the predecessor instrument of the three unmarked cancellers (3-bar, 1-bar and "APMY"): C went out of use from 1873 and could easily have been turned into the 3-bar canceller in 1875. The existence of the No Code / No Date 23mm canceller in 1883 referred to in the previous article implies there were two 23mm cancellers in existence, nonetheless.

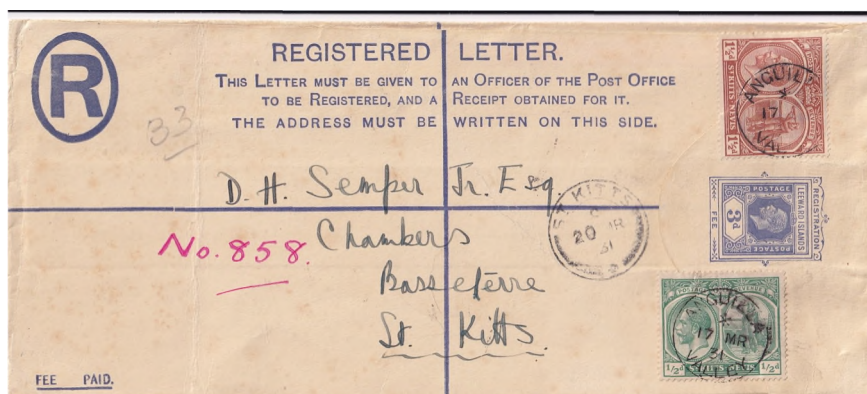
32.0mm: Type L – an outlier with no obvious explanation or provenance

Based on the above, between nine and eleven different instruments were used and re-used over the 20 years. None were thrown away – see the re-use of the Type X 20mm PAID cds in 1889 as Type M – but many were broken up, repaired and put to work differently. We can scratch our heads as to why – but the thrift and inventiveness of the postmasters at Basseterre over the period cannot be denied; it is evident both in their philatelic and postal endeavours.

Last, I would like to reiterate that this is work in progress and I would be grateful for all and any corrections and additions.

HELP WANTED – ANGUILLA

Susan Taylor, Steve Drewett and Julian Waldron are starting work on a new Study Paper that will be titled 'The Untold Story of Anguilla's Quest for Identity'. If you collect Anguilla stamps and have any interesting old covers that predate the 1967 'Declaration of Independence' by Anguilla that might be of interest and for which you are willing to share scans please contact Susan Taylor (Similarly if you have any knowledge of Anguilla's history which you think may be helpful).



Ed: Every article deserves an image, so I have included this rare use of Leeward Islands' postal stationery used in Anguilla. If any member has any other Leeward Islands postal stationery used in Anguilla I would be interested in a scan.

TURKS ISLAND

REGISTERED ENVELOPES

TONY WALKER

In the course of a concerted drive to write up an accumulation of Turks and Caicos Islands postal history, the registered cover shown in Figure 1 came to light. It is a large postal stationery envelope measuring 202mm x 127mm and is recorded in John Challis's book (p103) as type PRE 3 (1).

He implies it is scarce, saying 'A larger envelope measuring 202 x 127mm, dated 1900 and used in Hull, England, is in the Malcolm Watts collection'. However, I now have three of these registered covers in not more than four years of collecting, including one coincidentally addressed to Hull in 1900. This suggests perhaps they are relatively easily come by.

However, in a Post Office Circular of 1 July 1881 JC Crisson, the Postmaster for Turks Islands, states there are only two postal stationery Registered Letter Envelopes, Size G: 6 x 3¼ inches and size H: 8 x 5 inches, which equates to the 202 x 127mm of the envelope below. If these larger envelopes have been around since then, they must be common. (*Ed: Longevity of use does not equate to being common when it comes to postal stationery.*)



Fig. 1 Registered Envelope Size H used to Holland on 13 July 1901, via Liverpool on 3 August with receiving mark on the reverse at 'SGRAVENHAGE' on 4 August 1901. Postal rate 2½d per ½oz. plus 2d registration = 4½d

This particular example may not be relatively scarce, but for the stamps used on it. Issued on 10 November 1900, the ½d green on Crown CA paper would otherwise be indistinguishable on cover from an identical stamp issued in 1905, but on Multiple Crown CA paper.

For the sake of completion, the third cover, addressed to Birmingham, is dated 11 January 1897. Both it and the Hull cover are at the 1s rate of 2ozs at 2½d per ½oz. plus 2d registration.

Reference

- (1) Challis, John J, *Turks Islands and Caicos Islands to 1950*, Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society, Harrogate, 1983

Articles needed. Apart from one long article to be published in parts the cupboard is literally bare. Please send me your submissions, long or short and I am always happy to help edit them if need be.

TURKS ISLAND

PICTURE POSTCARDS

TONY WALKER

I am always on the lookout for PPC's that depict scenes from the Turks and Caicos Islands. A recent purchase (Figure 1) was one such, of Grand Turk Island, *Bahamas*, W.I. Dated 1919.



Fig. 1 Picture Post Card with Grand Turk Island, Bahamas, W.I. title.
TURKS ISLANDS single ring cancel dated A / OC 6 / 19

Why Bahamas? Bahamas extended its authority to embrace the Turks and Caicos Islands way back in 1766 and retained this authority until 1848 when the Islands were granted the status of internal self-government, subject to the Governor of Jamaica. This transfer was initiated when it was revealed the Bahamas government retained a high proportion of the revenues from the sale of Turks Islands salt, a sum amounting to 25% of their total annual income, leaving the Turks Islanders with very little.

So, to print postcards of Turks Islands, *Bahamas* several decades later was either an unfortunate mistake, or perhaps more likely, the sender was using up a large supply of old postcards. This becomes more plausible when the example shown on the reverse side, has the cachet from *W.R. Tatem*, long established traders on the Islands and known to have extensively used the postal system.

Interestingly in Proud's book *The Postal History of the Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands* he illustrates the same card (p124) dated in 1906, but the word *Bahamas* has been struck out, presumably by the sender. None of the other postcards illustrated have *Bahamas* on them.

Checking my other cards, only one has the *Bahamas* attribution, again from *W.R. Tatem* (1905) but showing piles of salt in the picture. These cards have a different format to 'normal' postcards in that the picture does not take up the full card area.

It's a small point, but one I would like to pin down. Contributions welcome to walker369@btinternet.com

TURKS ISLAND

AN INTERESTING REGISTERED COVER

TONY WALKER

There is quite a bit going on in this registered cover (Figure 1), and I am indebted to information gleaned from the *Turks and Caicos Islands Postal History 1810 – 1945* publication of Peter McCann's collection by The Exhibitors Press in 2020.

The registered letter was carried on the American ship *SS Saginaw*, later under British registry as the *SS Benison* during the Spanish / American War 1897 – 1899, to avoid seizure by the Spanish.



Fig. 1 Registered envelope via SS Saginaw dated by oval cancel REGISTERED / SP 10 97 / TURKS ISLAND and the usual TI obliterator.

In the bottom left is the signature *G I Gibbs* / *TI.* George I Gibbs were Commission and Forwarding Agents based on Grand Turk. They had their own cachet handstamp of which three examples are known on cover. See page 39 in the publication noted above.

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The envelope is addressed to Queens County, New York and correctly stamped at the U.P.U. rate of $2\frac{1}{2}d$ per $\frac{1}{2}oz.$ $\times 2 = 5d$ plus $2d$ registration = $7d$ total. Additionally, there is a hand-struck R in oval, similar to that recorded by John Challis in his book as Type R2. On the reverse is a New York arrival cancel dated 17 September 1897.

Chris Rainey says the A.R. mark stands for *Avis de Reception*. A literal translation being *Information of Receipt*, in modern parlance 'Signed For'. Would not a signature upon delivery be a normal requisite for a registered letter? Perhaps GI Gibbs were emphasising this, if it was written by them? Presumably there are other examples of this mark which might provide more information....

Finally, I understand the blue crayon numbers added by hand, in this case 2, were applied in Jamaica?

Or would it have been Turks Islands? The hand-stamped number 74549 (just below *America*) was struck on arrival in the USA. I'll welcome any corrections to these assumptions to walker369@btinternet.com.

BRITISH WEST INDIES

ALL ASPECTS OF BRITISH WEST INDIES MAIL

MICHAEL HAMILTON

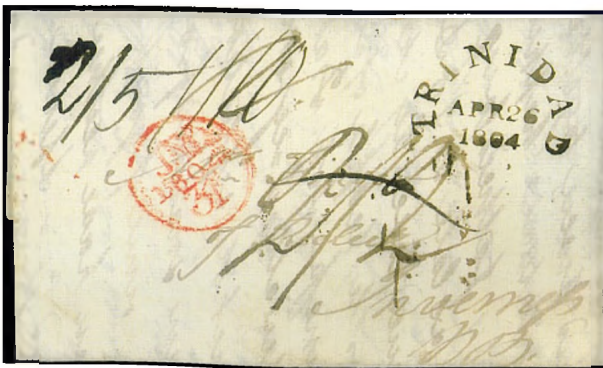
For many years I have always thought it would be fascinating to build up a BWI postal history collection which embraces only a single example of every type of mail one might encounter, period pre-stamp to modern day. In a series of articles, I will endeavour to both illustrate and explain both the normal items one expects to encounter, plus the unusual.



ACCELERATED MAIL: Bermuda 2½d Ship franking with the addition of two U.S. 20c AIRMAIL for quicker routing through the USA to Lima, Peru postmarked at Boston NOV 14 1934.



BOTH WAYS mixed currency mail outward 2nd class, inward return 1st class: from London by 6d meter franking and from Barbados with QE2 36c rate adhesive franking pmk'd 3 JUN 1964.



THE PRE-STAMP HORSESHOE: This type of marking is only found on mail from DEMERARA, KINGSTON (Jamaica), MONTserrat, TRINIDAD. This example to Inverness, North Britain is dated APR 26 1804.



PRIVATE SHIP MAIL LANDED AT A BRITISH PORT: These two entires endorsed "per Ship King George" to London were both written at St. Vincent on JY 23 1814 and landed with SHIP-LETTER/(crown)/ DOVER handstamp. The second is additionally endorsed Captain Cotton with a bundle newspapers. Most incoming mail was landed on the south coast, and the captain was obliged to place the mail in the Post Office at his first port of call. A formidable collection of well over 75 different ports is possible including Ireland.



BOTH WAYS mail: Empire rate GB QV 1d franking from Chipping Norton, Oxford to The Point, St. John's AP 4 00 returned from Antigua MY 9 00.



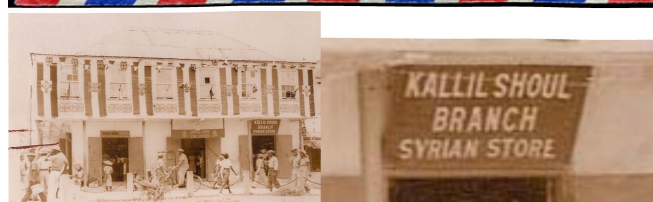
SMUGGLED mail: Entire to The Duke de Polignac in Paris date-lined "St. Vincent 9 December 1861" without despatch markings and the customary "Per Royal Mail Steamer" and rate mark. Posted in London with 2 x GB QV 6d (paying the triple 4d rate) tied '8' in diamond barred oval with London JA 2 62 and Paris JA 3 62 backstamps. Contents mention shipments of hogshead sugar from both Argyle and Calder estates and enclosure of the monthly return from Argyle.



CHEATING THE SYSTEM: Cover with Bermuda QE2 1d marked "Local" with added Christmas seal sent in bulk under cover to England with other Christmas cards pmk'd North Shields, Northumberland 24 DEC 1957.



CHINESE COMMUNITY mail: Underpaid cover franked Bermuda KG6 1/2d with QUEEN CAFÉ, Reid Street, Hamilton sender cachet to Chesterfield, Ontario, Canada pmk'd 18 JUN 1938.



SYRIAN COMMUNITY mail: Cover from shop keeper Kallil Shoul (established 1908) with Antigua QE2 46c registered rate franking to London pmk'd *1/20 AP 57.



CRYPTIC HAND-DRAWN to the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES: Barbados 25c rate cover from an illiterate to Prestiment (sic) Lyndon Bird Johnson (36th President 1963-69) with coloured steamer inscribed 'Wup', pmk'd 14 NO 68.



NEEDS OF THE MOMENT HANDSTRUCK INSTRUCTIONAL MARK: Hotel Titchfield printed flap cover with uncanceled Jamaica 2 1/2d Arms to San Antonio, Texas with handstruck 2-line 'Received inside a circular at Pasadena, Cal.' pmk'd MAR 9 1912



OFFICIALLY SEALED LOSING ITS SECURE REGISTRATION STATUS: 1895 cover from Germany to the Postmaster at Turks islands found opened with OFFICIALLY SEALED labels tied imprinted wax seals showing registration etiquette at Leipzig, London, and New York, but thereafter without secure registered status and treated as ordinary incoming mail.



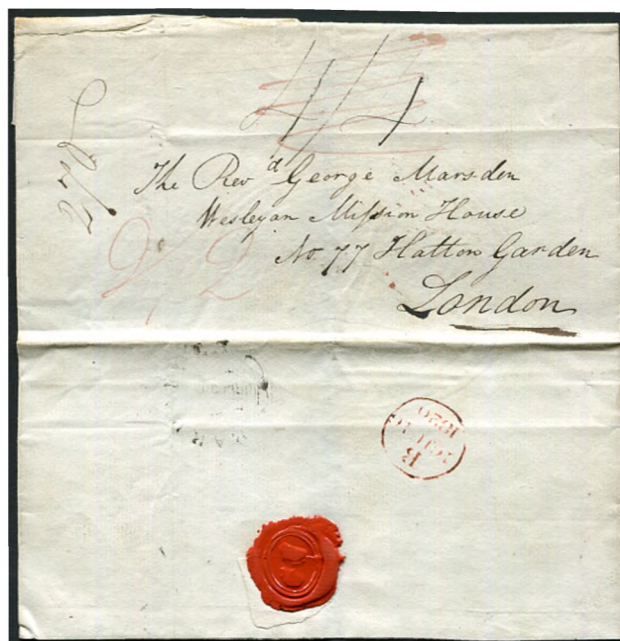
PRIVATE SHIP MAIL LANDED AT BRITISH PORT forwarded with TOWN CANCEL: Entire from Martha Brae, Jamaica written November 14, 1790 endorsed "p. Carlisle" to the care of forwarding agent Edgar Corrie, Liverpool. Landed with DOVER/SHIP-LRE handstamp, subsequently forwarded by Corrie with LIVERPOOL str. line to Cargen, near Dumfries.



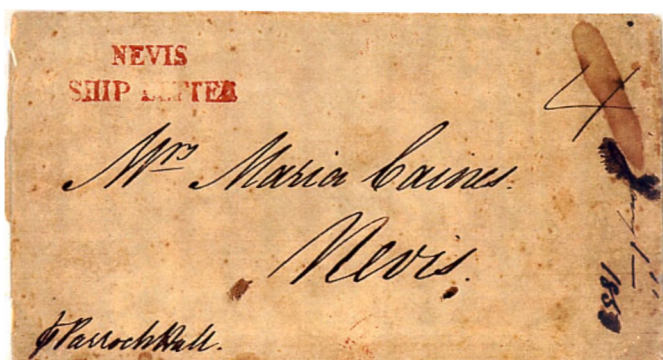
MAIL DELAYED ON SHIP: Several covers franked Bahamas QV 2½d to the USA pmk'd Nassau C/AP 13 97 are known, the reason for the delay not yet ascertained.



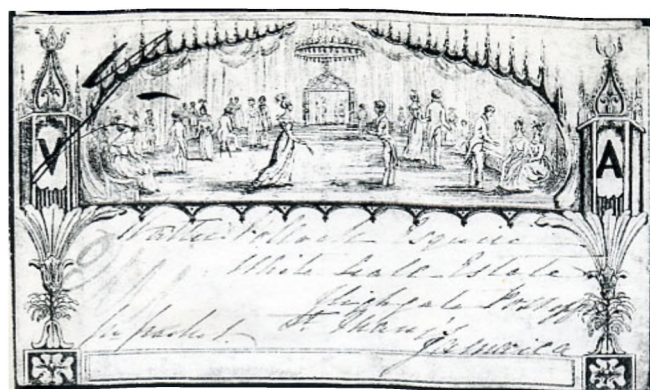
CONSIGNEE mail: Trinidad uncanceled KGV 1½d rate cover to London handstamped CONSIGNEE as travelling with goods on the S.S. "BAYANO", identified as PAQUEBOT mail on arrival at Bristol MAR 26 1930.



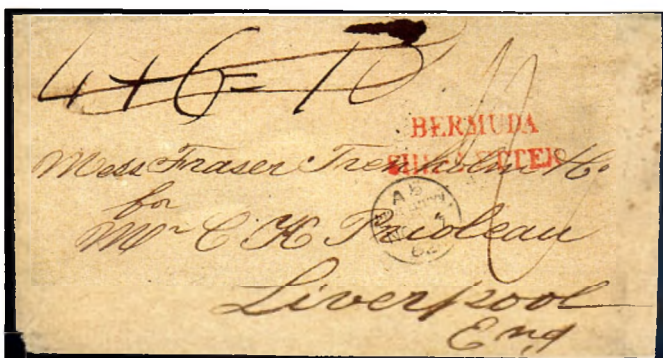
REBATE ON A PACKET LETTER: 1820 entire with indistinct BARBADOES fleuron to the Wesleyan Mission, London initially double rated 4/4 in black changed in red ink to show a rebate of 2/2 to reflect only a single rate charge due on arrival.



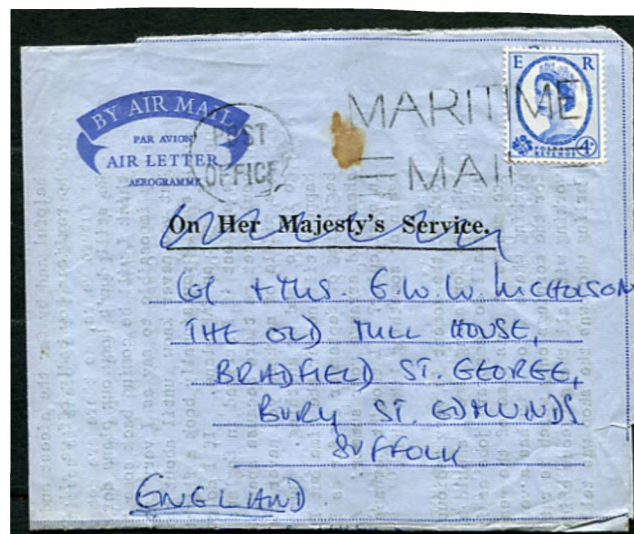
NEVIS SHIP LETTER arrival handstamp: entire dated AP 5 1850 marked "p. Parroch Hall" with inter-island black ink "4". (A partial upr. black ink seriffed strike is also known on Bermuda KGV 1½d red-brown Ship issue, ex Charles Freeland collection).



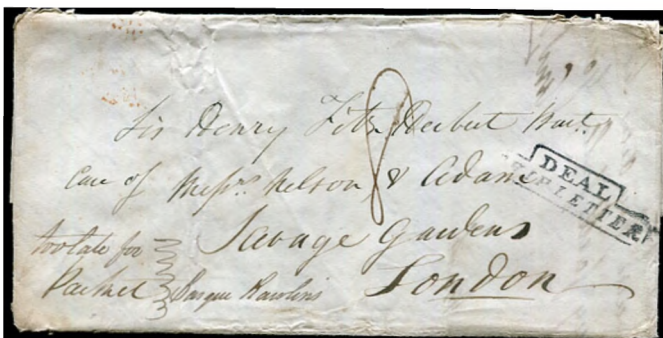
VICTORIA and ALBERT PICTORIAL ENVELOPE: posted from Edinburgh AU 28 1840 to Highgate Post Office, Jamaica rated 1/- in red ink.



BLOCKADE RUNNER BERMUDA SHIP LETTER transit handstamp: America Civil War cover from Charleston OC 3 1862 to Liverpool rated 4+6=10 getting through the Union blockade of Confederate southern ports to Bermuda with ST. GEORGES (PM5) backstamp dated OC 17 1862 and re-rated 1s.



GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTAL AIR LETTER: personal use (as overprint deleted) franked GB QE2 4d from a Colonel's 19 year old daughter working in Bermuda written JU 9 1966.



TOO LATE FOR THE PACKET and SENT BY PRIVATE SHIP: Entire written Morant (Bay), Jamaica JU 17 1841 to Savage Gardens, London endorsed "Too Late for Packet" annotated "Barque Rawlins" landed with step-type DEAL/SHIP LETTER rated "8" in black. The uniform rate of 8d per half ounce was introduced JA 10 1840.



MIXED COUNTRIES and MIXED CURRENCIES: cover to Alma Cottage, Warminster, England with combination British Guiana 2c and Barbados 1d pmk'd Barbados A/JY 4 03 paying the Empire 1d rate.

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LIBRARY UPDATE**JAMAICA****Ian Jakes (Hon. Librarian)**

- 2.13.28 Land of Wood & Water (Jan 2000): Temporary adhesive cancelling measures 1860-1886
 2.13.29 Jamaica booklet on display by Hugh W. Wood at RPSL in 1992
 2.13.30 Jamaica Street Letterboxes - Bob Swarbrick 2001
 2.13.31 One Penny 1889 of Jamaica - Dr. W.Simpson FRPSL - Feb 1927
 2.13.32 Post Office Handbook 1921
 2.13.33 Post Office Guide 1937
 2.13.34 Post Office Guide 1952
 7.2.9 GEOSIX Study Paper No.15 Jamaica
 2.13.35 A chronological postmark history of the post towns of Jamaica -Robert Topaz 1963
 2.13.36 Jamaica Specimen Stamps - L.C.C. Nicholson - Godden's Gazette April 1939
 2.13.37 Jamaica Temporary Rubber Datestamps 1881-1938 - L.C.C. Nicholson - Frank Godden Ltd.
 2.13.38 A Short Guide to Jamaican Postmarks - Great Britain & Commonwealth Philatelic Society (Switzerland)
 2.13.39 British West Indian Philatelist Vol.2 No.3 - March 1951 – Editor E. F. Aguilar
 2.13.40 British West Indian Philatelist Vol.6 No.3 - March 1955 – Editor E. F. Aguilar
 2.13.41 British West Indian Philatelist Vol.9 No.2-3 - Dec/Mar 1958 - Double Issue - Editor E. F. Aguilar
 2.13.42 Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately Volume 1 Postage Stamps to 1935 - Jarvis & Sutcliffe
 2.13.43 Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately Volume 6 Great Britain Stamps used in Jamaica - Jarvis & Sutcliffe
 2.13.44 The Postal History of Jamaica - Edward B. Proud
 2.13.45 The Riddle of the "Registered" Ovals of Jamaica and Trinidad 1949-1962 - David Horry
 1.17 War Tax Stamps of the British Empire First World War – The West Indies - John G. M. Davis

These books were donated to BWISC firstly, as to part, by Robert V. Swarbrick shortly before his death, and, as to the remainder, very recently, by John B. Aitchison who has ceased to collect Jamaica. These gifts have resulted in the BWISC Library holding extra copies of several of the Jamaica books which BWISC have been authorised to sell to raise funds for BWISC, I am sure that all members will join with me in thanking John for his generous gift.



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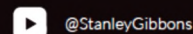
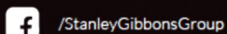
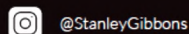


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