

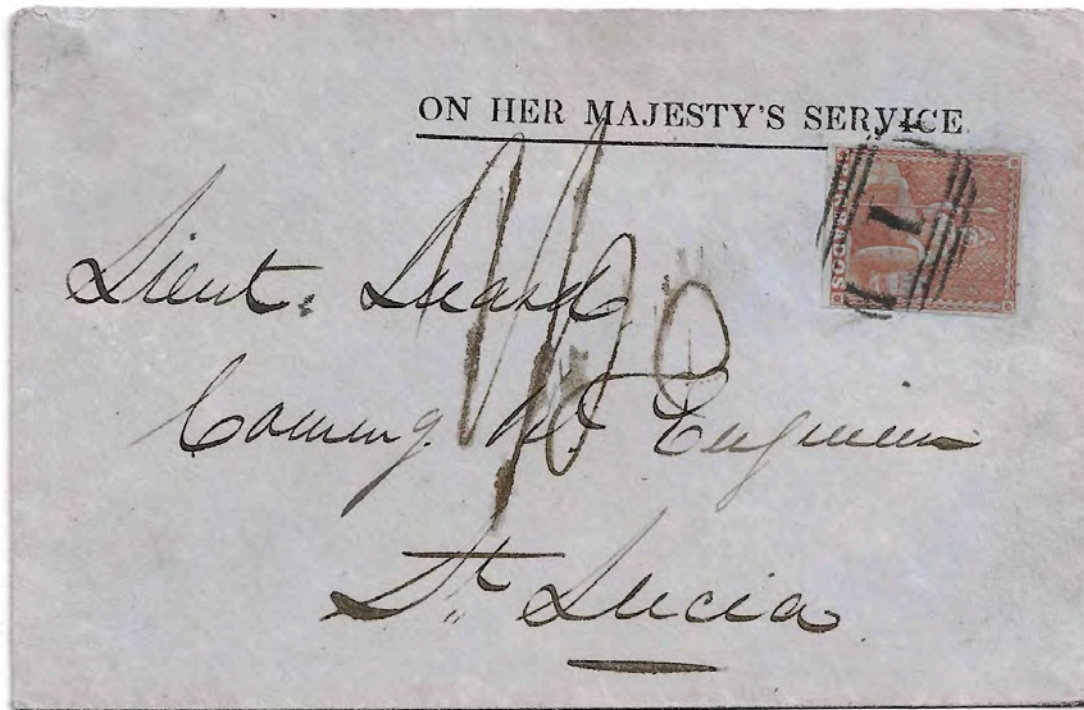


West Indies Philately

The journal for the merged British West Indies Study Circle
and The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group

Issue Number 2
June 2023

The Luard O.H.M.S. Covers from Barbados



Stephen Rose

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



WEST INDIES PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

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 JOURNAL containing articles, items of interest and other features of West Indian interest.
- 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.
- 4 TO hold an annual auction for the sale of members' material.
Normally, prior to the auction, the WIPSG will hold 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 the Study Group's 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 Journal are those of the authors
and not necessarily those of the WIPSG, its Editor or its Officers.**

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Website: www.wipsg.org

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS AND INFORMATION

Meetings & Events

2023 Convention Saturday 14/15 October at Weybourne House, Hitherbury Close, Guildford GU2 4PR.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN (BWISC/WIPSG)

After a lot of huffing and puffing, the first stage of the societies' merger is completed.

The biggest challenge has been dealing with avoiding email bounces due to enhanced SPAM detection processes implemented by internet service providers. This has not only affected newsletters but also password resets and I am grateful for your patience and the work undertaken by Susan Taylor who has fielded the problems.

By the time you receive the journal, our AGM and auction will have taken place and hopefully we can proceed with renaming our bank accounts to the new society name. There will be other outstanding matters to address once the dust has settled; more about that in the next issue of the journal.

Enclosed with the journal is an invitation to attend our convention in October at Guildford; it would be good to see a large turnout and see each other face-to-face. The keynote speaker is Andrew Fowles who is coming over from Jamaica to show us some of his goodies.

Steve Jarvis

EDITORIAL

I hope you enjoyed the first issue of the merged journal, and that the members of the BCPSG who had not seen it before enjoyed the read. If there are items that were in the BCPSG Journal that you feel would be useful in the new journal, then send me an email and I can raise it with the other Committee members. I have always liked the listing of new members as I feel it is small way of welcoming you. Articles are coming in at a reasonable rate, but I could definitely use more, both long and particularly short articles of less than a page. Indeed, I needed to write the Antigua Flight Cover article to fill an unexpected space so it would be good to obtain some smaller articles to have on hand. I would also like to get more articles from our newly joined BCPSG members.

One of the issues for an editor is balancing the variety of material in an issue. One doesn't want all articles on one country, but sometimes they may dominate an issue simply because that is what is on hand. I hope you are finding the article on Guyana overprints interesting. I needed to edit this article a little more than usual because it was originally targeted at a different audience. However, I found it fascinating and it gave me a new appreciation for an area I thought was purely philatelic. I hope you enjoy part 2 and the other articles in this issue.

Darryl Fuller

ADDITIONAL WEB-MASTER'S REPORT

A new page created under the menu option Community <https://wipsg.org/member-wants>

A list of Leewards Islands and Grenada material sought by Sir Geoffrey Palmer.

If anyone else wants to supply a wants list to be added email it to webmaster@wipsg.org

BWISC Bulletin Index

Peter Fernbank has updated the BWISC journal index to the final edition.

On this link: <https://wipsg.org/bwisc-journal-index> (under WIPSG Journals) can be found a searchable table and the printed version can be downloaded.

We hope to provide one for the BCPSG journal as well, but it is a fair amount of work.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I enjoyed reading Pertwee's article re modern Guyana overprints; it didn't relieve my frustrations on this topic, but at least I now know there are other souls out there working on the myriad of reprints.

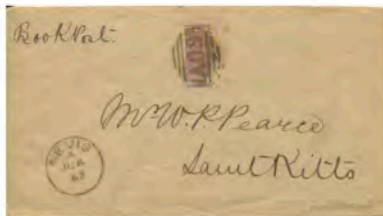
Cheers

Dale Wade

New stock added to the website most days. Recently scarce Caribbean postcards, useful books on Caribbean history, historical ephemera and a varied range of stamps, covers and postmarks.



1961 £2 Revenue



1883 1d bisect on book post envelope



1863-7 6d plate proof



F95 on 1870-83 3d



1929 Norman's Castle cds in purple



1867-76 1/- (SG14)

Proprietor David Druett

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BRITISH WEST INDIES OFFERS FROM STOCK

BARBADOS. 1852 (1d) deep blue left marginal block of twenty. Very fine mint. Exceptional multiple. SG 4. **£600**

BARBADOS. 1935 1d Jubilee with 'damaged turret'. Unmounted mint. Rare. SG 241j. **£500**

B.GUIANA. 1866 48c red (Perf 10) on thin paper. Ex Cramer (Sotheby 1978). RPS Cert. SG 105. **£250**

B.HONDURAS. 1865 1/- 'SPECIMEN' (Type D5) in black. Very fine mint and rare in this quality. BPA Cert. SG 4sp. **£250**

GRENADA. 1892 1d on 6d 'SURCHARGE POSTAGE' in strip of three. Unmounted mint. Rare multiple. SG D4. **£300**

JAMAICA. 1916 1½d strip of three watermark inverted one with 'R' inserted. Very fine mint. Rare! SG 71e(w). **£1400**

JAMAICA. 1917 ½d corner Plate block of six each with overprint on back only. Unmounted mint. SG 73c. **£1250**

LEEWARDS. 1942 2½d corner Plate '2' block of four with 'serrated edge' flaw. Unmounted mint. SG 105ab. **£350**

MONTERRAT. 1876 1d red wmk inverted and reversed in block of 35. Unmounted mint. The record multiple. SG 1y. **£1750**

MONTERRAT. 1903 'Specimen' set of ten with additional 'ULTRAMAR' handstamp. Rare complete. SG 14/23sp. **£300**

ST.VINCENT. 1868 6d deep green in block of four. Very fine mint. Exceptionally fresh. Rare multiple. SG 7. **£900**

ST. VINCENT. 1890 2½d on 4d with 'no fraction bar'. Very fine used. BPA Cert. SG 54a. **£275**

TOBAGO. 1894 1/- olive-yellow with 'slash' flaw. Very fine used TOBAGO c.d.s. 'AU 20 94'. SG 24b. **£325**

TOBAGO. 1892 ½d on 4d malformed 'CE' in 'PEN'CE'. Very fine used TOBAGO c.d.s. 'NO 11 92'. SG 30b. **£475**

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

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THE WEST INDIES PHILATELIC CONVENTION
14 & 15 October 2023

The journal has a two-page flyer and booking form enclosed and if you are an internet only subscriber, they are available online. The following is the program for the two days.

Saturday	Sunday
2.00pm Arrival Refreshments available (a pay bar is available on both days)	Philatelic Dealers invited to attend. There is room for them to be in the same area as the theatre style seating and tables for presentations and displays. Doors open 8.30am
3.00pm 'Share, show and tell' in the bar: Nothing formal but attendees will be encouraged to bring albums etc and to arrange meet ups with other members	8.45am Taxi available from the Mandolay Hotel to Weybourne House. Teas and coffees available at Weybourne House
4.00pm Committee Meeting to decide awards etc	9.00am Start with 16 page 'silent' displays by members
5.00pm People walk or taxi to local hotels	10.00 Refreshment break
6.00pm Taxi from the Mandolay Hotel to Weybourne House available	10.30am Keynote speaker. Andrew Fowles Jamaica
6.00pm Bar open at Weybourne House for pre-dinner drinks and meet ups	12.30pm Soup and baguette sandwich lunch at c£10.50/person (will accommodate dietary in-tolerances)
7.30pm 3 course dinner c£30/person. Bar will remain open afterwards	2.00pm Member and Guest presentations - led by Ed Barrow with a display on Trinidad's Red Cross with a mid-afternoon break
10.00pm Taxi to the Mandolay Hotel available	5.00pm Close

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

BAHAMAS

1881 Registered envelope from Nassau to Nova Scotia.



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 Full details of this cover and other items from a specialised stock.

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Fax: 020 7359 7456

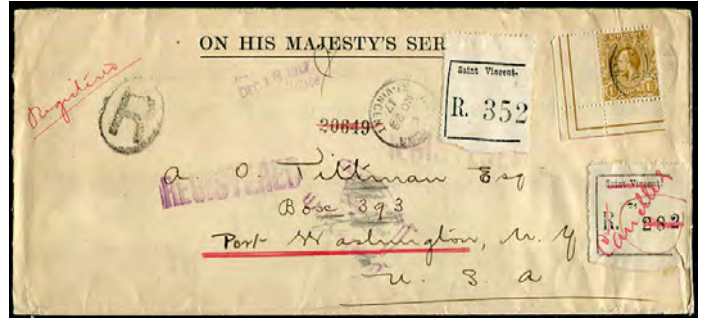
P.O. Box 37324, London N1 - 2YQ

ALL ASPECTS OF BRITISH WEST INDIES MAIL (No. 2)

BY MICHAEL HAMILTON



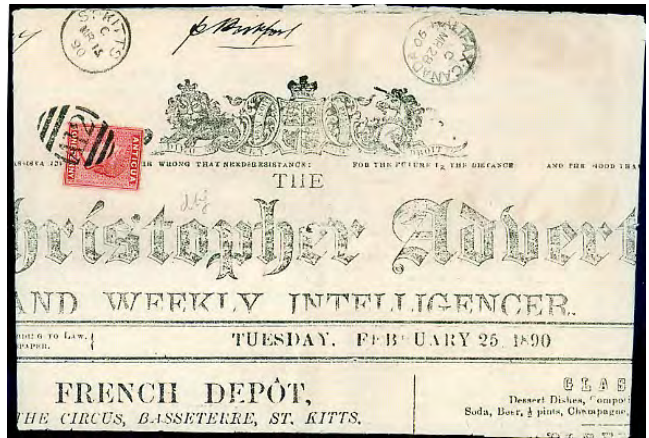
PRIVATE SHIP LETTER rate: Cover marked per private ship “Demerara” to Stenhousemuir, Scotland with British Guiana 6c blue tied “W 4 C” code cancel dated FE 24 1873, landed with boxed GREENOCK SHIP LETTER handstamp and rated half share red 1½. The private ship letter being 3d whilst letters carried by the RMSP Co being 1/- per half ounce (AP 1 1863 to full UPU membership, thereafter both at 4d rate to other UPU members).



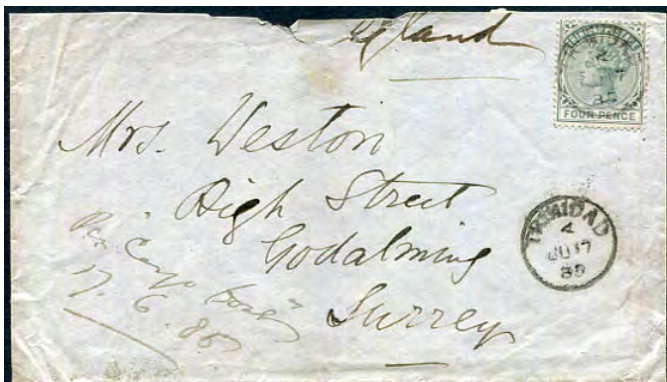
DIFFERING REGISTRATION etiquette: Foolscap OHMS cover from St. Vincent franked KGV 1/- pmk'd Kingstown C/NO 23 17 to Port Washington, New York with two Saint Vincent registration labels numbered R. 282 and R.352, the former with smaller digits and manuscript “Cancelled” in red ink.



INCOMING PRIVATE SHIP LETTER: Cover endorsed per private steamer “Demerara” via Greenock with pair GB QV 1½d (3d rate) pmk'd Glasgow '151' duplex dated NO 22 72 to Demerara (courtesy Ray Stanton).



ADHESIVES SUPPLIED TO ANOTHER COUNTRY: Near complete edition of the “St. Christopher Advertiser and Weekly Intelligencer” with ANTIGUA QV 1d tied Basseterre ‘A12’ to Halifax, Canada. Antigua sent 8 sheets (of 120 stamps) on both FE 15 and MR 11 1890 to combat a shortage of 1d stamps in St. Christopher during the first quarter of that year.



PRIVATE SHIP LETTER by CARGO BOAT: Cover from Trinidad to Godalming, Surrey unusually marked per “Cargo boat” 17.6.85 instead of specified named vessel with QV 4d pmk'd AJU 17 85 being the post UPU rate.



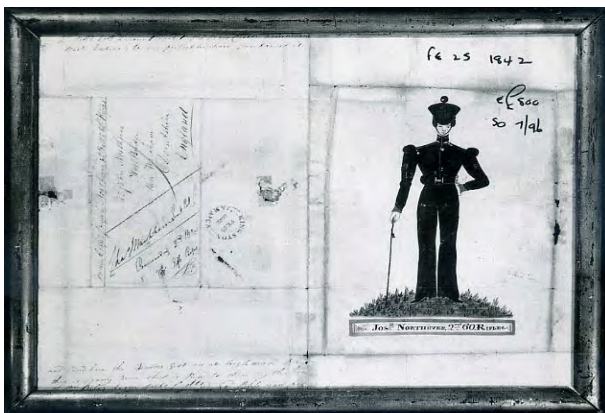
ADHESIVES USED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY: Entire with TRINIDAD (1d) Britannia tied ‘D22’ used Ciudad Bolivar A/DE 27 73 addressed Fritz Zurcher & Co., Trinidad with handstruck red SHIP-LETTER. At least 12 covers are known as such suggesting that such an arrangement with nearby neighbour Venezuela was permitted.



CENSORED TWO COUNTRIES and DAMAGED BY FIRE: Reg. cover to Otrabanda, Curaçao with KG6 2/1d rate pmk'd Kingstown C/3 MY 41 and b/stamped Willemstad 8.5.41, showing both despatch and arrival censor handstamps and label and two strikes "Damaged by Fire" (one on reverse). The location of the fire not yet established.



TRIPLEX ACCOUNTANCY HANDSTAMP: Cover from British Guiana to New York with 2c, 8c with the latter tied Georgetown "A03" duplex dated MY 8 1871 with PA41D, a second strike could not be applied so the 2c was 'killed' by the black 'A03' obliterator.



SOLDIER'S PRESTAMP LETTER with HAND PAINTED PORTRAIT OF SENDER to his father: Entire from Jamaica with Kingston FE 25 1842 dbl-arc to Woolbridge, Wareham, Dorset with full length watercolour of sender Corporal Joseph Northover in his black uniform of the 2nd Battalion, 60th Rifle Brigade.



NEWSPAPER rate: 18th April 1969 edition of THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN mailed with St. Christopher, Nevis, Anguilla 48c franking at Basseterre to Brian Brookes, Halesowen, Worcestershire.



RE-ADDRESSED AND DELAYED BY POSTING IN A LONDON LETTER BOX: British Guiana KG6 5c rate cover pmk'd Georgetown 7 JA 52 to the Philaletic (sic) Traders Society, London variously re-addressed.



INTERNAL MAIL CONVEYED BY COASTAL VESSEL: St Lucia entire dated DE 1 1881 from Soufriere to Castries with 'T.S. ASSISTANCE/ONE PENNY/POSTAGE' d/ring oval. The vessel was owned and operated by Barnard and Peter from 1878 to 1892.

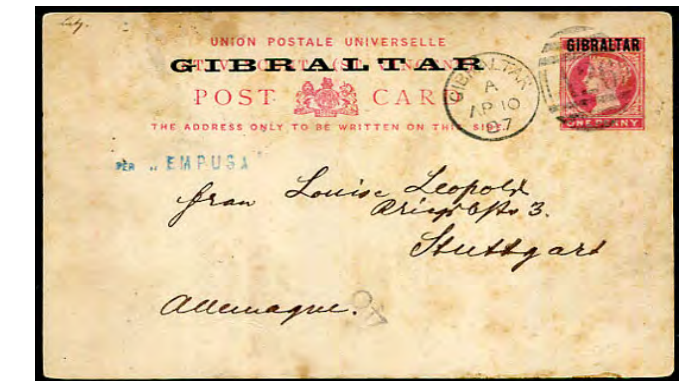


PHILATELIC GOSSIP: Reg. cover to The Gossip Printery (Publishers of Philatelic Gossip) in Holton, Kansas with both British Guiana KG6 3c, 6c Peace issues and press release clipping for the issue tied Airmail 2 NO 41 and New York transit 11-9-1941.

AMERICAN PATRIOTIC printed cover used 'elsewhere': We Will Defend Anything But Our Freedom pictorial cover with British Guiana KG6 44c franking pmk'd Airmail 25 FE 44 to Signals Dept., R.A.F.T.C., Dorval Air Port, Quebec, Canada.



METER FRANKING: Cover from Barbados with 38c airmail rate Bridgetown 26 IV 55 Seal of Colony meter cancel to Liverpool, England.



OVERLAPPED FRANKING: OHMS cover from the Ministry of Finance 16 NOV 70 to the Crown Agents, London. The 27 adhesives pmk'd at the GPO Plymouth, Montserrat on the following day.

Mog. 5/4. 87.

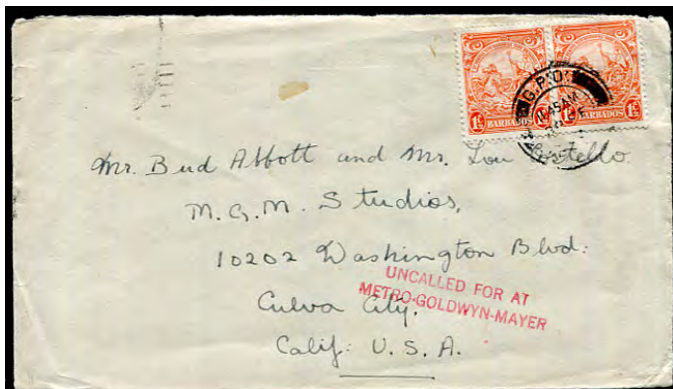
POSTAL STATIONERY OVERPRINTED FOR USE ELSEWHERE used 'elsewhere': St Vincent UPU Post Card overprinted for use in GIBRALTAR written from Mogador, Morocco 5/4 87 addressed to Stuttgart, Germany with handstruck blue ink per "EMPUSA" pmk'd Gibraltar 'A26' duplex dated A/AP 10 87.



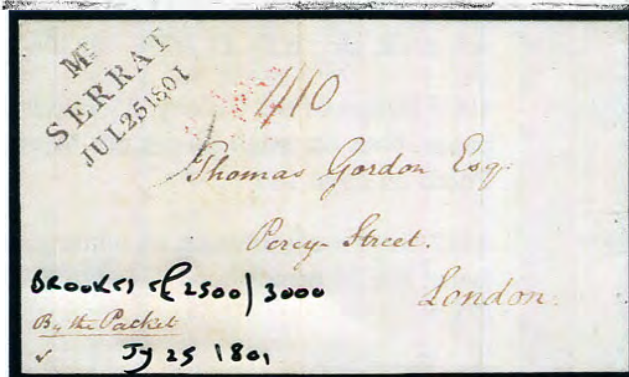
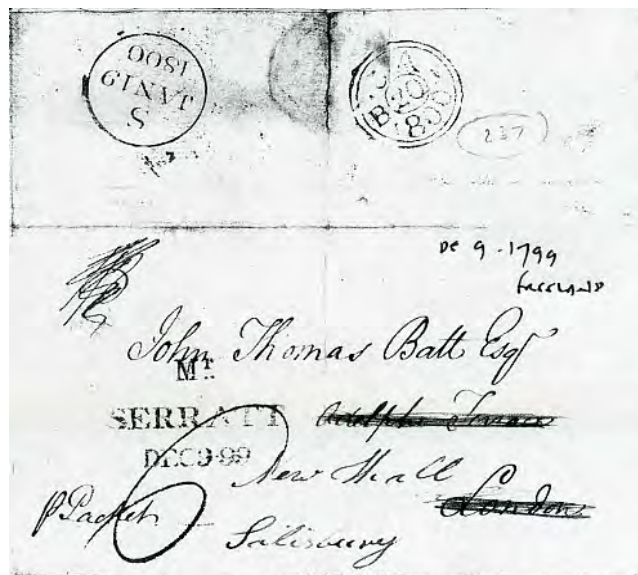
REGISTERED SURFACE MAIL: St Vincent cover to Toronto, Canada with QE2 23c rate pmk'd Sandy Bay */15 AP 70 with village circled "R". Sandy Bay at the northernmost tip of the island is the only village comprised mainly of the surviving indigenous Carib people.



The PRESTAMP 2-LINE in 3-LINE FORMAT: only ST VINCENT and MONTSERRAT introduced a 3-line format during 1799 and do not have the 2-line formats as used by many of the other islands. This entire with ST. VINCENTS dated DEC 6 99 is addressed to Alexander MacDowall in Edinburgh and rated 2/2.



MAIL TO CELEBRITIES OF THE MOVIE WORLD: Cover to Bud Abbott and Lou Costello at the M.G.M. Studios, Culva City, California with Barbados 3d Badge franking pmk'd GPO 28 FE 50 showing red 2-line UNCALLED FOR AT/METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER. This duo worked in radio, film, and television and were the most popular comedy team of the 1940's and early 1950's, and the highest-paid entertainers in the world during World War II.



The TWO VERSIONS OF THE MONTSERRAT 3-LINE FORMAT: The DEC 9 99 entire, unique with two T's, is addressed to John Thomas Batt, London rated 1/8 and forwarded to Salisbury with '6' charge due; the JUL 25 1801 entire with single T is more in line with other British West Indies group 2-LINES as it shows the year in full and is addressed to Thomas Gordon in London and rated 1/10.



The PRE-STAMP 2-LINE (with Inspector's Crown handstamp): 1799 entire posted with JAMAICA/26 JUN 99 to Glasgow rated both 1/8 and 3/4 changed by red ink Inspector's Crown to 4/10. Many of the BWI group, but not all, used a 2-line handstamp.

ANTIGUA

AN POSSIBLE UNRECORDED BWIA FLIGHT COVER

DARRYL FULLER

The cover at right is from the well-known Bessie Harper whose mail has appeared on the market in the last few years. It is franked 8d which is almost certainly the correct air mail rate from Antigua to Trinidad in December 1942, but no postal rate source I can find covers this month. The 1941 rate from Proud (1) is 6d which is the same as in *The West Indies Year Book* (2). The censor label, applied in Antigua, is Miller L3 (3) and is known from 23 April 1942 to 5 January 1943.

What is interesting about this cover is the endorsement “*First English Air Mail / Antigua – Trinidad*” which is in the same handwriting as the rest of the envelope. This means that Bessie Harper almost certainly wrote it. A quick check of Wike (4) shows no first flight to Trinidad on 17 December 1942, a Thursday. The backstamp shows DE 18 42 at 10am. I couldn't find a Pan American Airways (PAA) timetable that covered this month but a 1943 timetable on the site www.timetableimages.com (5) indicates there was no connection between Antigua and Trinidad on a Thursday. It would seem that it was most likely NOT flown by PAA. The only other airlines flying in the



Caribbean at this time were KLM and BWIA. KLM wasn't flying to Antigua. The original KLM agreement was that it was allowed to fly to the islands unless an 'English' carrier started, which in this case was British West Indies Airways (BWIA) in 1940. It was the 'English Carrier' but wouldn't start services between Trinidad and Antigua until March 1943. However, it was doing some flights in 1942 for the US Government between bases and both Antigua and Trinidad had such bases.

Therefore, there is a very real possibility that this cover was flown by BWIA on one of its US Government flights between Antigua and Trinidad. Bessie Harper appears to have had good philatelic contacts and may have managed to get a letter on one such (unrecorded) flight. Further research is needed and if anyone has any ideas please let me know.

References:

- 1 Edward B. Proud, *The Postal History of the Leeward Islands*, Proud Bailey Co. Ltd, 2005
- 2 Thomas Skinner, *The West Indies Year Book Including The Bermudas, The Bahamas British Guiana and British Honduras 1941-2*, Montreal, Quebec
- 3 R.G. Wike, *Airmails of Trinidad and Tobago*, BWISC, 1999
- 4 Christopher Miller, *British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II*, Civil Censorship Group, 2006
- 5 www.timetable.images.com (accessed 14 April 2023)

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BARBADOS

THE LUARD O.H.M.S. COVERS FROM BARBADOS

STEPHEN ROSE

As a collector of early Barbados, I am always on the lookout for unusual material. A few years back, I was fortunate to acquire some interesting covers from Canadian collector, M. Fitz Roett, who specialized in the Britannia issues of Barbados. In 2013, in collaboration with Charles Freeland and Peter Longmuir, Roett published a detailed study of these issues (1).

Two of the covers listed in this handbook are addressed to a military officer by the name of “Luard” at St Lucia. Thanks to the excellent British archives pertaining to 19th Century gentry, it was a relatively simple matter to determine that the officer in question was Henry Reynolds Luard (Figure 1), born in 1828 in Warwickshire to a substantial land-owning family. In 1845, he attended the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich as a “Gentleman Cadet.” Cadets who completed their two-year studies in the top half of their class became Royal Engineers and the rest became Royal Artillery. Cadet Luard did well and graduated from ‘The Shop’ in 1847 as a Royal Engineer with the rank of 2nd Lieutenant. After various postings at Chatham and Woolwich, he was promoted to Lieutenant in 1851 and in 1853 began a four-year tour of duty in the British colonies of the West Indies.

While serving as Commanding Officer of the Royal Engineer contingent on St Lucia, he received a letter from a fellow officer posted at Barbados. This cover (Figure 2) has a number of distinctive characteristics. Dated 11 August 1856, it is the earliest recorded use of the imperforate 4d brownish red stamp (SG 5). In addition, the envelope features the imprint “ON HER MAJESTY’S SERVICE.” In his handbook, Roett explains use of the 4d stamp thus: “OHMS cover to St Lucia franked with the [4d] stamp prepaying the inter-island packet rate. The manuscript figures are accounting markings as official mail was not liable to inland postal charges.” (2)



Fig. 1 Henry Reynolds Luard

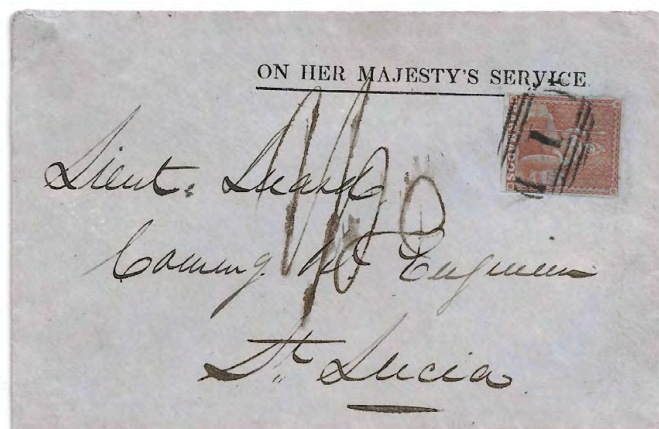


Fig. 2 1854 4d Barbados cover

This explanation is a bit puzzling, and Roett offers no references to support his interpretation. A typical inter-island letter during this period cost 6d – 1d to pay the postage to port, 4d for the island-to-island packet service and 1d for delivery at destination. A sender did not have to pre-pay these latter two fees, and many inter-island letters from Barbados are franked only with 1d in postage, with the recipient paying the remainder. Roett’s explanation of the franking in Figure 2 assumes that the 4d stamp paid the inter-island fee, but there is no manuscript “4” in red to acknowledge such a credit.

A simpler explanation is to view Figure 2 as a *quadruple-rate* cover, with the 4d stamp paying the 1d x 4 fee to port, and the black manuscript marking denotes 1s 4d for inter-island service to be paid by the addressee Luard.

The cover illustrated in Figure 3, written by the same hand that prepared the cover in Figure 2, supports this explanation. It is a double-rate letter sent one month after the first one to newly promoted Captain Luard, with the sender electing again to pay the rate to port (2d), but not the inter-island rate (8d). There appears to have been some confusion regarding the inter-island rate, with an initial manuscript “4” crossed out and amended to “6”, which in turn was corrected to “8”.

Thus, overall franking treatment of the two covers is consistent, but it appears that the printed OMHS cachet had no bearing on the amount required. I have been unable to find anything in the BWI literature that discusses exemptions and limitations of OHMS mail during the early period when adhesives were first used. In theory, certain

departments such as the island Post Offices should have been entitled to free internal post, but there is nothing to indicate that any such exemption would extend to “official” mail between military officers.

If the envelopes had been used as a matter of convenience for private correspondence, one would expect the OHMS wording to have been crossed out. To the contrary, in Figure 3 the sender reinforced the perceived “official” status of the cover by annotating his initials in the lower left corner, “Captain J.F.M. RO [Royal Ordnance].” A B.P.A. certificate pronounces this cover as genuine but does not offer any insight into the collateral question of OHMS franking requirements.



Fig. 3 1854 2d Barbados cover

One possible explanation, although speculative, stems from the separate authority that existed on Barbados until 1858 between the Inland Post Office and the Packet Agent. As author Edmund Bayley explains (3), these two agencies co-existed in parallel but with separate functions. Perhaps the sender of the covers to Lieutenant/Captain Luard believed he had an obligation to pay the local rate to port for an OHMS letter, but not the inter-island rate. Or perhaps the Barbados Post Office tacitly acknowledged the OHMS nature of the letters by itself applying adhesives out of existing stock to pay the local rate to port. Or perhaps.... No support in regulations or law can be found for any of these conjectures.

To my knowledge, no other OHMS covers are recorded from Barbados during the period of the imperforate Britannia issues (1852-60). Theoretically, Captain Luard might have sent reply letters to his compadre on Barbados, and a collector of early St. Lucia postal history may have such a cover. This is unlikely, however; the postal history that we have today for enjoyment and study is the barest fraction of the mail volume from that era, typically resurrected from family or business archives. According to modern compilations of Barbados postal history (4), fewer than 275 covers are recorded with imperforate Britannia adhesives. Of these, 17% are local uses within Barbados, 50% went to West Indies destinations, 16% to the United Kingdom, 12% to the United States, 3% to Canada, and 2% to Europe and the rest of the world.

An interesting sidelight to both covers illustrated above is red embossing on the reverse side of each envelope. Depicted is a shield topped with a crown and an extended arm holding a fistful of lightning bolts (see Figure 4). This accords with the motto inscribed below, “SUA TELA TONANTI”, which translates literally as “his missiles to the one [Zeus] who is thundering,” and figuratively as “to the warrior his arms,” a motto historically used by the Royal Army Ordnance Corps.



Fig. 4

In summary, I remain somewhat confused by the treatment of these two related covers. Fitz Roett’s conclusion that they were partially official (i.e., exempt from local post, but not inter-island fees) is an interesting proposal, but based on what authority? I have written this article with the hope that someone with greater insight and expertise can assist in reconciling these various loose ends and conjure up a more coherent explanation for the covers illustrated above. I would appreciate receiving correspondence on any aspect of this article at rosesa47@outlook.com.

References

- (1) M. Fitz Roett, *Barbados: The Britannia Issues*, 2013, The British West Indies Study Circle.
- (2) *Ibid.*, p. 24.
- (3) Edmund Bayley, *The Stamps of Barbados*, 1989, Cole’s Printery Limited, Barbados, p. 3.
- (4) Roett, *op. cit.* and Peter Ford, *Early BWI Covers, Perkins Bacon Adhesives: Barbados*, 2022 BWISC Publication.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

CAYMAN ISLANDS MANUSCRIPT PROVISIONALS – AN UPDATE

KEVIN DARCY

This seems an opportune time, with Graham Booth's recent auction of Cayman Islands Postal History, to update the 2001 article by John Byl in BCPSG journal (1) on the Manuscript Provisionals of the Cayman Islands.

The first reference to the Manuscript Provisional covers is in the 1910 Armstrong Stamp Lover Booklet on the Cayman Islands (2).

In the 1962 Cayman Island handbook (3), by Aguilar and Saunders, we see a rudimentary classification of the Provisionals.

John Byl started collecting Cayman Manuscript Provisional covers in the late 1960s. From the late 1970s onwards, he was writing articles on the subject. This culminated in their inclusion in the Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue and his definitive article in BCPSG journal July 2001.

My own interest in the subject started after I purchased a cover in 1992 which was substantially different from the others I had seen (Figure 1). It, like the scarce manuscript provisionals, had G.C. in the address rather than the more normal Grand Cayman seen in standard MP2s (Figure 2).

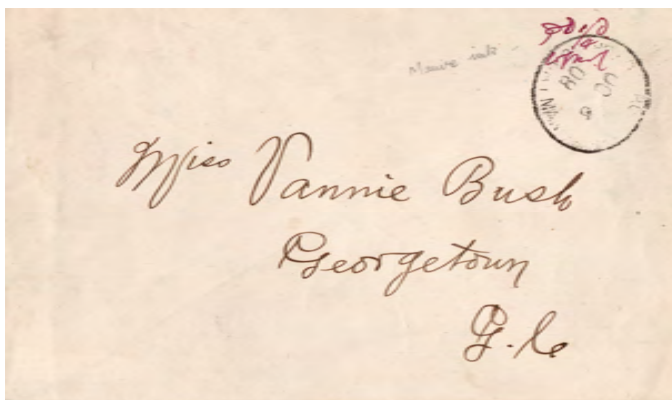


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

The endorsement (*Pd 1/4d WG McC*) was in mauve rather than the pink/red ink seen on MP2s. It was clearly dated 6 October compared to 14 October or 16 October frequently seen on MP2.

In discussion with John, he explained it was one of the variants of MP2 which later became MP2b in the SG Commonwealth catalogue.

In looking closer at the manuscript provisionals, two things bothered me. Why would one start with the ordinary MP2 on 4 October then have the variant on 6 October, followed by scarce varieties on 7 October and 8 October, for the ordinary MP2 to return on the 14 October? Why did I never see a manuscript cover of 4 October? I had come across a couple of examples stated to be 4 October. One had a remnant of the 1 in 14, the other the impression of the 1.

Following discussion with John over the years he decided to review his records of photocopies of MP2s.

By this stage he had a record of 76 MP2s. This included 22 covers in Graham Booth's collection, of which 20 were dated 14 or 16 October. The other two were 6 & 10 October. Graham had come to the same conclusion as I that 6 October was the earliest date of these covers. On closer inspection of the photocopies John had of his listing of 76 MP2 covers, in four the date was illegible, in four of the six he thought were dated 4 October there was evidence of a partial 1 thus they were dated the 14th. Of the other two he had no copy of one and the other he was unsure.

Of the 70 covers with a date in his list, 64 were 14 or 16 October, three were dated 6 October, one the 10th, one the 27th and the last 15 October, but that was a MP5.

In John's 2001 article he stated at the time of the 60 MP2 covers he had recorded, 42 were dated 14 or 16 October. This was strange as the number of other dates had fallen from 18 to eight or 12 if he included the incorrectly dated covers by the time, he produced his list of 76 some years later.

The other area of confusion in John's 2001 article is in the table at the end of the article where he records:

SG No.	Description	Numbers Known	Date
MP2	Endorsement in two lines in red ink	52	10-27 October
MP2b	Endorsement in one or two lines in mauve ink	5	4 & 6 October

There are, in our records, five MP2bs known in one or two lines in mauve ink but all dated 6 October.

There are no MP2bs known dated 4 October.

There is evidence of an intermediate stage between the 6 October MP2b (Figure 1) and the 14 & 16 October MP2 (Figure 2). In the Graham Booth auction at Stanley Gibbons June 2022, lot 47 (4) shows a cover written in the style of Figure 1 but having postage and value endorsement as seen in Figure 2, dated 12 October. A similar example of this hybrid is shown in Figure 3 dated 10 October; again, being addressed in MP2b format with G.C. but with the endorsement in pink by postmaster McCausland as the normal MP2. The only difference being the endorsement is in one line rather than the normal two on both covers.

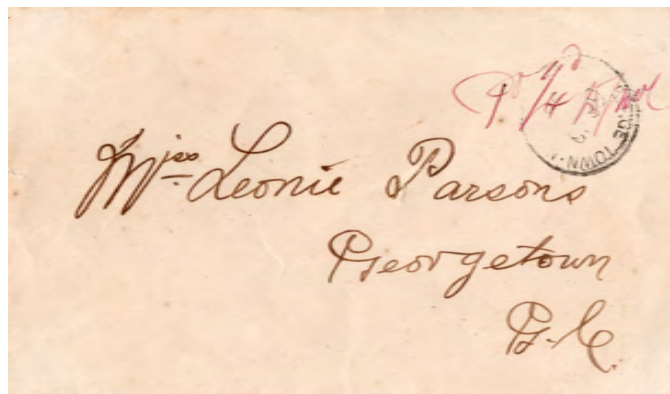


Fig. 3

With regard to the earlier G.A.P. (*Miss Gwendoline Parsons*) manuscript provisionals of May 1908, due to a lack of ½d and 1d stamps, no new examples have come to light – the total remains 11 recorded examples, six examples with (Postage Paid/G.A.P.) from MY 13 08 to MY 18 08, all to overseas destinations. With the appearance of a local inter island cover on MY 18 08 rates of 1/2d and 1d were added outside of the bracket. This differentiated local from overseas mail between MY 18 08 and JU 01 08 on the other five covers.

This is not made clear in the SG Commonwealth Catalogue.

Chronological Table of Manuscript Provisional ¼d Covers.

SG No.	Description	Numbers Known	Date	Notes
MP2b	Pd ¼d WGMcC in one or two lines	5	6 October	In mauve ink
MP3	PAID in blue pencil	1	7 October	
MP4	Pd ¼d in blue pencil	5	8 October	
Intermediate MP2b	Envelope pink ink one line	2*	10 & 12 October	Figure 3
MP2	Pd ¼d WGMcC	80+	14 & 16 October	
MP2a	¼d/ Pd WGMcC	2	16 October	
MP2 (var.)	to Cayman Brac as MP2	9	16 October	
MP2 (var.)	to Boddentown as MP2	2	16 October	
MP5	Paid ¼d / GAP / asst	2	15 October	In pink ink

* Another cover is recorded 10 October but not seen to know if intermediate type.

With regard to the nine covers to Cayman Brac, eight are written in one hand all to different people, the other in another hand to the doctor's wife on the island. Neither handwriting is seen on other examples of MP2.

The two covers to Boddentown are written in the same hand to different recipients. This handwriting is not seen on other mail. It would appear the covers to Boddentown and Cayman Brac are non-philatelic.

With regard to the MP3 PAID mark, it is on a foreign PPC sent by a Mr Charles Eden. It is one of two or possibly three cards all sent on 7 October to different young ladies, all endorsed “for your collection”. The others have single farthing stamps on them. He did not have enough stamps to put on all the cards.

The classification in Gibbons Commonwealth catalogue could be changed to maintain chronological sequencing by substituting MP2b for MP2 leaving MP3, MP4 and MP5 as they are with MP2 becoming MP6. Then MP6 and MP7 would become MP7a and MP7b.

References

- (1) John Byl, *Manuscript Provisionals of the Cayman Islands*, British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. Vol 31 No 3. July 2001 p 3 - 10
- (2) D B Armstrong, Stamp Lover Booklet No 3 *The Cayman Islands Their Stamps and Post Office*, c1910
- (3) E F Aguilar & P T Saunders, *The Cayman Islands Their Postal History Postage Stamps and Postmarks*, 1962, F J Parsons, Folkstone
- (4) *The Graham Booth Collection of Cayman Islands Postal History*, 15th June 2022 at Stanley Gibbons

BARBADOS

A RARE COMMERCIAL AIR MAIL COVER

DARRYL FULLER

Barbados has an interesting history when it comes to air mail. Barbados sits somewhat further out in the Atlantic than the rest of the Caribbean islands. This made it an important port for steamers but delayed it getting an early airmail service. In 1929 it was far easier for Pan American Airways (PAA) to island hop down through the islands on Foreign Air Mail (FAM) route 6 (on the way to South America), than fly out to Barbados. Indeed, there was steady shipping traffic between Barbados and Trinidad in any case. It was not until late 1938, when KLM began flying between Trinidad and Barbados, that it received a regular air mail service.



Fig. 1

What is interesting is what happened between September 1929 and late 1938, for Barbados airmail. It had access to airmail by sending the mail by ship to another port where it could join an airmail service. One assumes that this occurred immediately on the start of FAM 6 at the end of September 1929, however, Bayley (1) is not clear on this. In his book he mentions that there is a Barbados Post Office Notice of 13 February 1930 stating the rates for air mail via London. Air mail could be forwarded by steamer to London and then sent by airmail from London. It is very difficult seeing the advantage of this at the time, for most countries. The list includes the Bahamas at 7d per ounce. This would have meant (the way I read it) that a letter was sent by ship to London, then by ship to New York, then by internal airmail to Florida and then flown on FAM 7 to the Bahamas. For Australia the cost was 3d per ounce which means that it went by ship to London, then ship to Perth, then it was flown across Australia. I very much doubt that this service was much used, and indeed according to Bayley there were 25 letters which utilised this service in 1931! If you own one, then you have a true rarity.

On 28 April 1930, Bayley notes that PAA has informed the Colonial Postmaster that the following chart gives the Air Mail Rates for using their service. These rates superceded any earlier rates. The rates shown are the airmail component with the normal postage rate added on top. There were more Post Office Notices giving details of how the system operated as the airmail was shipped to St Lucia as follows:

“Air mail letters sent by ordinary mail to St. Lucia where the Air Mail for the north closes at 4 p.m. each Friday, and for the south at 11 a.m. each Tuesday. It is impossible to guarantee mail connection with St. Lucia as the service is carried on mainly by means of sailing schooners as opportunity offers, except once a fortnight when the “Lady Boats” sail; ...”

Why the mail went to St Lucia instead of Trinidad is not clear, as there would have been more regular shipping between Barbados and Trinidad. However, I think it was because St Lucia was closer to the USA, but this is purely supposition. However, the use of this service was not high and in January 1932, Barbados changed to transferring

the mail to Trinidad to join the air mail service. You could still request that your mail go via St Lucia, but this was more expensive – for the USA the cost per half ounce was 1s5d via Trinidad, versus 1s9d via St Lucia. I doubt it was much used.

Bayley actually records the number of letters sent by air mail for each year up to 1939:

Table 1

Year	Number of Air Mail Letters Posted from Barbados	Average Number per Week
Via St Lucia 1930	unknown	?
1931	364 (plus 25 via London)	7
Via Trinidad 1932	854	16
1933	1,393	27
1934	2,604	50
1935	3,586	69
1936	6,281	121
1937	10,594	204
KLM Direct 1938	14,429	277
1939	49,164	945

It is easy to see the impact that the direct KLM service had in 1939, when air mail usage went up 340%.

Recently, I have been reworking my exhibit of the Development of Commercial Air Mail in the Caribbean. This excludes first flight covers while focussing on air mail between the islands and with Central and South America. I realised that the earliest air mail cover I had from Barbados seemed to be a 1933 cover to Argentina, and indeed air mail covers in the period before 1939 were quite scarce for anything other than to the USA. Strangely, Argentina seemed to be a more common destination. I then started hunting for pre-1933 covers and found a nice 1932 cover to the USA, where I think a large majority of air mail was sent. Survival rates of covers is always tricky but assuming 1% survive, then there should be about 8 or 9 covers from 1932 sent by air mail from Barbados in collectors' hands. This does not seem unrealistic.

My quest, however, was for a 1931 or even a 1930 cover sent by air mail from Barbados. So, I started googling and found an article that mentioned a March 1930 air mail cover. It was slightly amusing to click on the link, only to realise that the article had been written by me. I wrote an article some years ago for *Capital Philately*, the journal of the Philatelic Society of Canberra. The article was about the letter within the envelope rather than the air mail. The reason that this cover was not in my list of Caribbean air mail covers was because it was in a different exhibit on part-paid by air covers. It is illustrated in Figure 1. As a part paid by air cover it is of minor importance and I originally purchased it because March 1930 is very early for commercial air mail in the West Indies. Over the years I have found that even covers from islands that were directly on an air mail route are hard to find in the first year of FAM 6.

This cover is endorsed Via St. Lucia, as it should be, and the postage comprises 1d surface mail plus 1s4d for the air mail surcharge. Neither Bayley nor Proud (2) has rates listed for March 1930 but this rate is similar to later rates listed. The cover is postmarked BARBADOS G.P.O. 3 MR 30 and is backstamped CASTRIES ST LUCIA 4 MR 30. The letter appears to have travelled overnight to St Lucia (see below) and connected with FAM 6. The added bonus with this cover is, not just the early date of use of the air mail, but the included letter. It reads in part;

Have you got it – this letter – in the air mail? Hope so. I am now sitting in our front gallery and on my left out at sea is the tourist boat “Veendam” coming in, while on my right is the “Western Ocean” which is the boat that is to carry this to St. Lucia where it will connect up with the air mail.

Then at the end of the letter it reads;

I am going to write John a letter and send it “up” by the same boat as an ordinary letter so you all can see the difference in saving of time.

Then (Posting letter now – 10. a.m.) (same as the postmark)

This cover and letter were a very lucky find and an important piece of Barbados air mail postal history. If you extrapolate back from the 1931 figures in Table 1, then it is likely that only 150-200 letters were sent by air mail in 1930. Assuming the same 1% survival rate means that there may only be 1 or 2 surviving letters from that year.

The letter also had the following piece of social history in it:

The TALKIES opened last night (Sunday 2nd March) at the Empire with "Broadway Scandals" – a Columbia all talking – singing – dancing revue – GREAT!! – Wonderful!! – Thrilling!! etc, etc: etc: ...

For other members who collect this period of Barbados I suggest you check to see what you have in the period 1930-32, as any air mail covers from this period are potentially rare survivors. If you happen to have a cover sent by ship to London for onward air mail transmission in 1930-32 then you have a great rarity. Similarly, if you have a cover sent via St Lucia after 1 January 1932 this too is rare. I would be happy to get any scans of air mail covers in this period.

References

- (1) Edmund A. Bayley, *The History of the Post Offices in Barbados*, 2009, Self-published, Barbados
- (2) Edward B. Proud, *The Postal History of Barbados and Grenada*, 2006, Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd, East Sussex

DOMINICA

REGISTRATION OF MAIL IN THE VILLAGES OF DOMINICA

SIMON RICHARDS

This article follows on from that in the previous journal that looked at the registration at the GPO in Roseau. Here we will be looking at what happened in the villages to meet the UPU, Washington Conference (1897) requirement that in addition to the 'R' the name of the office and an identifying number be placed on the registered item.

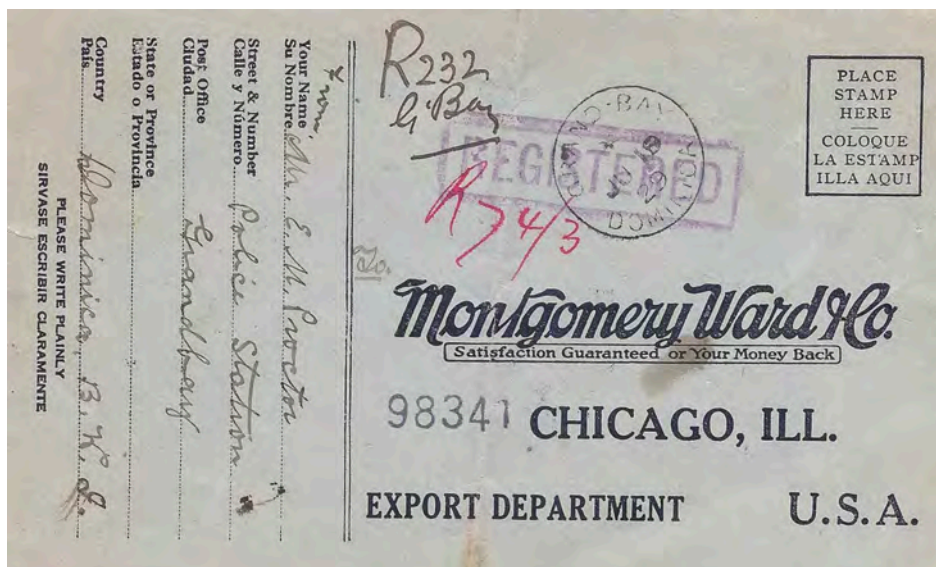


Fig. 1

Prior to the introduction of labels, registration from the villages was possible. Figure 1 shows a cover from Grand Bay to Montgomery Ward where the boxed 'REGISTERED' hand stamp (D10R) has been applied in Grand Bay as the JU 19 29 pmk is on top of the h/stamp and a manuscript number of 'R232 G' Bay' is evident. The stamps are on the back as is a GPO postmark of JU 20 29 and a red manuscript allocation of R74/3 was presumably made there. (Three 1½d stamps on the reverse make up the correct franking).

In 1930, Portsmouth, by far the largest office outside the capital, received a printed registration label in the standard British format; these were in sheets, probably of 50. This is Oliver's D19R which I have re-designated DV1R and is the only label used in the villages which he lists. The style is 'DOMINICA/(Portsmouth)' and was probably ordered at the same time as D15R (DOMINICA/(G.P.O.)).

However, five other types of printed label are known to the author to have been used before 1952, all produced in the strip format (perforated on 2 sides only). All are illustrated below.



DV1R



DV2R



DV3R



DV4R



DV5R



DV6R

These were followed by two series of temporary rubber hand stamps – rectangular (1946) and lozenge (1951), mostly illustrated by Proud, and it seems to the author that a separate numbering system would be more helpful –see Table 1. Only the Salybia Lozenge (DV24R) is not illustrated in Proud, so only that (Figure 2) and DV18R (Figure 3) are illustrated in this article.



Fig. 2

Table 1 Registration Markings from the Villages to 1952

No	Style	Size (mm)	EKD	LKD
Printed Labels				
DV1R	DOMINICA/(Portsmouth)	40 x 15.5	25 Mar 30	
DV2R	PORTSMOUTH,/DOMINICA	39 x 15.5	2 Aug 35	5 Sep 47
DV3R	GRAND BAY,/DOMINICA	39 x15.5	1 Jun 39	6 Jun 47
DV4R	MARIGOT,/DOMINICA	38 x 15.5	12 Jan 47	
DV5R	MARIGOT,/DOMINICA BR W I	39 x 15.5	3 Jun 51	
DV6R	WESLEY,/DOMINICA BR W I	39 x 15	15 Jun 47	
Rectangular Rubber Stamps				
DV10R	Castle Bruce, D/Ca	54 x 16	13 Dec 46	6 Jul 70
DV11R	Colihaut, D/Ca	56 x 16	27 Dec 46	12 Jan 52
DV12R	Delices, D/Ca	55 x 16	12 Dec 46	
DV13R	La Plaine, D/Ca	55 x 16	11 Dec 46	14 May 51
DV14R	Mahaut D/Ca	54 x 16	16 Dec 46	3 Jan 52
DV15R	Pointe Michel D/Ca	55 x 16	12 Dec 46	10 May 51
DV16R	Rosalie, D/Ca	56 x 16	19 Dec 46	1 Apr 55
DV17R	St Joseph, D/Ca	55 x 16	9 Jun 47	16 May 57
DV18R	Soufriere, D/Ca	56 x 16	12 Dec 46	20 Dec 51
DV19R	Vieille Case, D/Ca	54 x 16	24 Dec 46	20 Jan 52
Lozenge Rubber Stamps				
DV20R	Calibishie, D/ca	53 x 12	10 May 51	7 Aug 56
DV21R	Coulibistrie, D/ca	53 x 12	10 May 51	
DV22R	Dublanc, D/ca	53 x 11	10 May 51	
DV23R	Petite Savanne D/ca	51 x 10	28 Sep 58	
DV24R	Salybia, D/ca	51 x 10	5 Feb 70	
DV25R	San Sauveur, D/ca	52 x 11	6 May 51	10 Oct 63



Fig. 3

After this a few printed labels were ordered, all illustrated (next page), but in general when the rubber hand stamps wore out, they were replaced by cruder and simpler local hand stamps. Some attempt to list these is made in Table 2 but others undoubtedly await discovery. These too can be broken down in to two general types: firstly VILLAGE D/Ca./ R.No. generally from the 1960's; secondly a simple VILLAGE / R generally from the early 1970's.

Some of these can be found illustrated in Proud and the two shown with this article are DV40R (Figure 4) and DV53R (Figure 5).



DV30R



DV31R



DV32R



DV33R

Table 2 Registration Markings from the Villages post 1952

No	Style	Size (mm)	Earliest seen	Latest seen- if different
Printed Labels				
DV30R	WESLEY,/DOMINICA	38 x 16	20 Apr 61	
DV31R	Portsmouth,/Dominica	39 x 16	28 Nov 62	
DV32R	Marigot, Dominica	39 x 15	3 May 65	2 Mar 66
DV33R	PORTSMOUTH/DOMINICA	38 x 16	19 Mar 68	
Rectangular Rubber Stamps				
DV40R	CALIBISHIE, D/CA. / R.NO.	38 x 11	17 Oct 66	
DV41R	COLIHAUT D/Ca / R No	44 x 15	2 Jun 64	
DV42R	DOS D'ANE D/ca / R Nos	43 x 17	28 Mar 66	
DV43R	GRAND FOND D / CA. /R NO.	55 x 14	26 Sep 63	
DV45R	VIEILLE CASE D/CA / R No	43 x 15	30 Aug 65	
Rectangular Rubber Stamps				
DV50R	ATKINSON / R	31 x 16	9 Nov 71	
DV51R	DOS D'ANE	35 x 15	29 Aug 75	
DV52R	MARIGOT / R	36 x 17	9 Sep 70	10 May 80
DV53R	PETITE SAVANNE / R	47 x 16	27 Aug 75	
DV54R	PORTSMOUTH/ R	41 x 21	30 Jan 73	
DV55R	Soufriere / R	27 x 16	28 Nov 66	
DV56R	Wesley / R	28 x 17	11 Oct 74	3 Aug 77



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

The dates shown are generally those from examples in the author's collection and the author would be pleased to hear from members who may be able to extend the data. The suggested numbering sequence makes some allowance for future discoveries, the first digit refers to the type, the second digit is allocated alphabetically.

After this period postmasters appear to have reverted to manuscript markings, sometimes fancifully to denote registration, see illustration from Coulibistrie (Figure 6).



Fig. 6

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

THE IMPORTANCE OF TIME OR NOT IN THE TURKS ISLANDS?

ANDREW HEARN

Case No. One



Fig. 1 Cable Hut Turks Island

The picture postcard in Figure 1, “Cable Hut Turks Island”, is unusual and its significance perhaps not fully recognised. In the early days of global telecommunications, the submarine cable networks provided telegraphy (dots and dashes) to all parts of the world during the 1800s and thereafter.

The main difficulty was in the long submarine sections, where the signals became weaker and distorted. Advantage was always taken to keep sections as short as possible. In this case, a submarine cable from the UK made its landfall on the beach at Grand Turk where a “Cable Hut” announced its arrival before going to the local relay/regeneration station. Relay normally meant amplifying the very weak, and distorted, signal before sending it onwards. Regeneration meant restoring the signal to its proper robust shape before sending it onwards.

So, Turks Islands became the main submarine cable transit link between the UK and the Caribbean area.

Regeneration was only possible by precise synchronisation of all electro-mechanical equipment under a strict clock control system. The UK synchronome clock being dominant for controlling most of the world networks, including the Turks Islands synchronome clock, which could never be at exactly the same time (normally within a second a day was just not good enough!) so synchronisers were inserted that could sense the exact speed of incoming signals which then minutely speeded up or slowed down the Turks Islands receiving equipment.

Selection of each dot or dash for regeneration was then made on a timing basis and a brand-new robust dot or dash inserted in its place. Very clever!

Another major difficulty was, for some reason the Caribbean network was under the control of a different synchronome clock (probably Jamaica). So, Turks Islands electro-mechanical equipment was in the middle of a dilemma. It was solved by inserting a very rare piece of telegraph equipment called a ‘Capacitor Storage Unit’ (one of very few ever in existence) which I think today would be called a ‘Buffer Store’.

In this case, TIME was very important in the Turks Islands!

Case No. Two

The Queen Elizabeth 5/- definitive stamp of 1957 (Figure 2) shows the Cable Office, perhaps recognising the importance of telecommunication there.

I was posted by Cable and Wireless to the Turks Islands in the mid 1970s where they were responsible for all the telecommunications of that nation. Because the company had been there since the first submarine telegraph cable landed there, it was still known as Turks Islands, despite the Country changing its name to include the Caicos Islands in 1900. I pointed this out to The Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and he was as amused as I was – so it was changed accordingly by Cable and Wireless, be it some 75 years late!



Fig. 2 Cable Office

In this case, it appears TIME was NOT important in the Turks Islands!

Case No Three



Fig. 3

In this case, TIME was very important in the Turks Islands.



Fig. 4

Case No Four

The George VI 4d definitive stamp of 1950 (Figure 4) boldly shows the surrounding geography. The main shipping lane in this area joining the Caribbean with the Atlantic Ocean is the Turks Islands Passage which flows between the two groups of Turks and Caicos Islands which if appropriate has yet to carry the Caicos name.

In this case, Time is NOT important in the Turks Islands!

The special issue set of stamps dated 1972 (Figure 3), marked the successful “splash down” of Colonel Glen just off the Turks Islands.

By the late 1960s, telecommunications were well established and the American NASA (National Aeronautical Space Administration) had its satellite tracking systems well in place. Turks Islands were critical, as it was the first tracking station ‘down range’ from Cape Kennedy which was able to detect if each launch was correctly on track. If not, it had the power to destroy the spacecraft.

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GUYANA**GUYANA AND ITS MODERN OVERPRINTED STAMPS: THEIR LISTING AND IDENTIFICATION – A REAPPRAISAL
(PART 2)****NICHOLAS PERTWEE****How Would a Cross-referencing System Benefit the User of the Stanley Gibbons' Sectional Catalogue?****Overprints on the Flowering Plants Series**

Just one example of how this might work in the SG catalogue, so that the user would not have to go through each page with an eye out for a particular number, is where the Flowering Plants set of 1971-76 (SG 542-556) is concerned, as its stamps have been extensively used for overprinting. It is enough for our purposes here to look at just the 5c value (Figure 26), the Annatto Tree (SG545) to which, by my count in SG, 46 overprints have been applied, sometimes with two or three overlapping on the same stamp. So, one has to look at the 'progressions' as well, as shown earlier in this article. Without cross-referencing footnotes, each page of the catalogue after p.44 has to be scanned for references to 545 and its derivatives, derivatives in the sense that the base stamp 545 becomes in one case 781b which then turns into 844. This is the method I used to draw up Table 2 to capture all the main details and provide a ready source of reference. This approach can be used for all the stamps in this set, some of which have been overprinted many more times than others, but such a method would not be quite so laborious with cross-references or might not even be necessary at all. Though it would still be useful, I think, to be able to have itemised listings, especially when actual examples can be added to the factual details.



Fig. 26 SG545 Annatto Tree

Table 2**GUYANA 1971-1976 Flowering Plants and their Overprints SG542-556**

5c Annatto Tree – SG545

SG No.	Face Values	Dates of Issue	Type of Overprint
F3	5c (545)	1975 1 Nov	Revenue Only p.163
780	75c/5c (545)	1981	Figure 7 added before 5c T184 p.50
781b	220c/5c (545)	1981 1 July	220 and X obliterator – heading suggests this is T185 with X at bottom, as for preceding, but has to be different as the X is not at the bottom
794	50c/5c (545)	1981 1 July	50c with X obliterator above T190 – would match with stamp
844	220c/5c 781b (545)	1981 22 July	Additionally, with T208 Espana 82 vertical at left World Cup 1st issue
900	110c/5c (545)	1982 22 Feb	T231 Baden Powell
901	110c/5c (545)	1982 15 Feb	Optd with Scout Movement 1907-1982
902	110c/5c (545)	1982 22 Feb	Optd with 1907-1982
903	110c/5c (545)	1982 22 Feb	Optd 1857-1982
904	110c/5c (545)	1982 22 Feb	Optd with 1982
979	110c/5c (545)	1982 25 June	21 Birthday Princess of Wales T241
O34	110c/5c (979-545)	1982 15 Sept	Optd OPS T O8
1003	170c/110c/5c (110c/5c 979)	1982 15 Sept	Additionally, with T228 solid bar
1057	\$1/220c/5c (220c/5c 844)	1983 7 Mar	Additionally, with T259, ONE DOLLAR in words, (B.) = blue? Thin bars cancel previous surcharges.
O43	25c/110c/5c (545)	1984 25 June	Addtl surcharge T O10

O44	30c/110c/5c O34 (545)	1984 25 June	Addtl surcharge T294
O46	55c/110c/5c O34 (545)	1984 25 June	Addtl surcharge T294
1265	75c/110c/5c (904)	1984 2 May	T 294 Row of Xs with heavy figures
1266	90c/110c/5c (900)	1984 2 May	T 294 Row of Xs with heavy figures
1267	90c/110c/5c (901)	1984 2 May	T 294 Row of Xs with heavy figures
1291	75c/110c/5c (979)	1984 30 June	T294 additional
1292	120c/170c/110c/5c (1003)	1984 30 June	T294 additional
1318	25c/110c/5c (900)	1984 15 Aug	Girl Guides T304
1318a			
1319	25c/110c/5c (901)	1984 15 Aug	Girl Guides T304
1320	25c/110c/5c (902)	1984 15 Aug	Girl Guides T304
1321	25c/110c/5c (903)	1984 15 Aug	Girl Guides T304
1322	25c/110c/5c (904)	1984 15 Aug	Girl Guides T304
1414	25c/5c (545)	1984 1 Nov	Deepavali Festival T315
1540	25c/110c/5c (900)	1985 18 July	International Youth Year T334
1540a			
1541	25c/110c/5c (901)	1985 18 July	International Youth Year T334
1542	25c/110c/5c (902)	1985 18 July	International Youth Year T334
1543	25c/110c/5c (903)	1985 18 July	International Youth Year T334
1544	25c/110c/5c (904)	1985 18 July	International Youth Year T334
1758	130c/5c (545)	1986 19 Aug	Regional Pharmacy Conference T365
2075	25c/5c (545)	1987 17 Feb	Post Office Corporation 2nd Issue T385
2229	\$3/5c (545)	1987 2 Nov	Deepavali 1987 and new value T400
2272	25c/5c (545)	1988 23 Feb	Republic day 1988 and new value blue T410
2319	25c/5c (545)	1988 15 June	Caricom day 1988 and new value T412
2631	\$2.55/5c (545)	1989 15 June	T448 with short obliterating bars
2635a	\$20/5c (545)	1993	T448 with short obliterating bars
2641	\$2.55/5c (545)	1989 15 June	T450 X over original value
2641a	\$2.55/5c (545)	1989	T450 X over original value, but no \$ sign and different figures
2671	\$8/90/5c (545)	1989 22 Nov	Ahmadiyya Centenary T456
G6731	\$20/5c (545)	2010-13	Handstamped with T745d

Examples of Derivatives of the 5c Annatto Tree





This Flowering Plants issue (SG542-556) is just one of three sets of definitive stamps that should be selected for special mention as they have come in for particularly extensive surcharging and overprinting and, crucially, used for postal purposes, which is why I have tried to show used stamps wherever possible in this article. The other two sets are (1) the Fish, Birds and Animals set of 1968 (SG448-462 non-watermarked and 485-499 with watermark) and (2) the 1978-80 large- and small-format Butterflies set (SG698-708a). The Fauna set has been referred to earlier in relation to the 6c Patua stamp so only a word about the Butterflies set need be added.

Overprints on the 1978-80 Set of Butterflies

As can be seen from Table 3 below all the stamps in this Butterfly set with the single exception of the 50c (SG705) have been overprinted or surcharged, the small-format cent values more than the larger portrait-format dollar values. The 10c value, SG699, *Archonias bellona*, which equates to 280 in the Scott catalogue and 543 in Michel, is the most often used. The much more liberal editorial policy of Scott and Michel accounts for the difference in numbers listed particularly where the 10c is concerned as that value has featured prominently on a whole slew of

sets issued in April 1989. None of these are listed by SG but they are worth mentioning if only for the large numbers of extra overprints they provide and the extraordinary detail – especially in Scott – in which they are described.

Whether they belong perhaps in the ‘prepared for use but not issued’ category, or were ever provided over the counter at post offices for members of the public to use on their letters in the normal course of things, is something that more serious collectors of Guyana might be able to answer. Whether an issue that might be regarded as unnecessary acquires legitimacy by being listed in a major catalogue, or else should not be listed at all, is another interesting question. Suffice it to say that SG has listed some of these overprinted sheetlets but not others. It has



Fig. 27 Post Office 125th Anniversary, 4th Issue Sheetlet SG2278a / SG702a (30c) / SG2278-2301)

There were three other such issues for this 125th Anniversary:

- 1st Issue SG1461-1485 on SG699 (10c)
- 2nd Issue SG1694-1717 on SG702a
- 3rd Issue SG2140-2164 on SG699

listed, for instance, the ones that mark the 125th Anniversary of the postal service in Guyana (Figure 27).

Stamps are found postally used detached from their sheets (Figures 28 – 30).



Fig. 28 SG2144 o/p CABACABURI from the 3rd issue.



Fig. 29 SG2285 o/p H M P S from the 4th issue.



Fig. 30 SG2286 o/p KITTY from the 4th issue



Fig. 31 40th Anniversary of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), SG1361-1384 This was later surcharged 120, SG1823-1846, as shown by SG1833 (Fig. 32)



Fig. 32
SG1375 / SG1160
ICAO / KTO
R4/1



Fig. 33
SG1833 / SG1371 / SG1158
120 / ICAO / KTO
R3/5



Fig. 34 Republic Day 1984 consisted of two sheetlets of 25, 25c on 35c (SG703), SG1224-1231, and 60c (SG705a), SG1232-1234. The 60c sheetlet had just three different overprints.



Fig. 35 SG1226 optd Republic Day with circular masking block and new 25 value which appears four times in the sheet

Figures 36-39 illustrate examples from the 60c sheetlet.



Fig. 36 SG1233



Fig. 37 SG1234



Fig. 38 SG1232



Fig. 39
SG1232-1234

Note – These 60c stamps were used on the cover from Nigg illustrated earlier in this article (Fig. 4) to show the widespread use of overprinted stamps postally. Note also my comments about the differences in overprints as applied to different stamps not always being made clear in the Stanley Gibbons sectional catalogue



Fig. 40 SG2326/2327 40th Anniversary of World Health Organisation

Though there are 25 overprints on this sheet of the 60c value, there are in fact only two different ones, with 24 having just 1988 and one central one with WHO 1948-1988. So, this would only add two to the total number of Guyana overprints, not twenty-five, if one was counting.

This overprint for the 40th Birthday of Prince Charles on the 10c Butterfly (SG699) is one of the numerous April 1989 issues not listed by SG but is Sc2081a-e and Mi2572-2576



Fig. 41 40th Birthday of Prince Charles (unlisted SG)

A small random selection of other Butterfly overprints is shown below (Figures 42-57).



Fig. 42 SG1134



Fig. 43 SG1137



Fig. 44 SG1139

These three all come from the Bicentenary of Manned Flight and 20th Anniversary of Guyana Airways overprinted sheetlet of 25 (5 September 1983) SG1134-1139 detached and used independently.



Fig. 45 SG918



Fig. 46 SG2637a



Fig. 47 SG2638



Fig. 48 SG2166



Fig. 49 SG2144



Fig. 50 SG2642a



Fig. 51 SG876



Fig. 52 SG n/a
(MiA3015)

SG2633a below (Figures 53-55) exists with varying degrees of intensity of the \$6 value overprint, though the masking bars remain uniformly dark. In addition, there are two widths of masking bars, 2½ mm and 3½ mm. Shades are also apparent.



Fig. 53 SG2633a
Weak \$6
2½mm bars



Fig. 54 SG2633a
Medium \$6
3½mm bars



Fig. 55 SG2633a
Bold \$6
3½mm bars

Overall, fewer of the large-format Butterflies (\$1, \$2, \$5 & \$10 - SG706-708a) were used for overprinting than the smaller Cent values (Figures 56 & 57).



Fig. 56 SG838a on O21

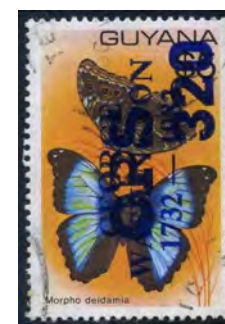


Fig. 57 SG O40
on 912 George
Washington.

Table 3 here has been drawn up in an attempt to demonstrate how the number of overprints made on a particular set, in this case the 1978-80 Butterflies, varies according to which catalogue one consults. Editorial policy also plays a part in determining how many overprints are listed.

TABLE 3
GUYANA 1978-80 Butterflies

(SG698-705a T166 small-format horizontal, SG706-708a T167 large-format vertical)
Overprints according to major catalogues (SG – Stanley Gibbons, Sc – Scott, Mi – Michel)

Value	SG	Derivatives	Sc	Derivatives	Mi	Derivatives
5c	698 T 166	876, 880c, 2633a (3)	279	436-436A, 2051 (3)	542	711, 723, 1834, A1834, A3015, B3015 (6)
10c	699	1461-1485, 2140- 2164, 2634, 2635b,	280	944 a-y (25), 1786 a-y (25), 2053, 2057B, 2081 a-e	543	1318-1342 (24), 1787- 1811 (25), 3016, 2560- 2565 (5), 2572-2576 (4),

		2637, 2642a, G6734 (55)		(5), 2082/2083 a-s (19), 2084/2085 a-p (16), 2086/2087 a-s (19), 2090/2091 a-d (4), 2092-2095 a-e G, S, R, Bk (5/20), 2104/2105 a-e (5/10), 2106/2107 a-y (25/50), 2108/2109 a-g (7/14), 4188 (125/157)		2577-2595 (19), 2603-2606 (3), 2607-2611 (4), 2622-2626 (4), 2627-2651 (24), 2652-2658 (6), 2668-2686 (18), B3018 (137)
15c	700	808 (1)	281	391, 2088/2089 a-g (7), 2096-2099 a-e G, S, R, Gr (5/20), 2110/2111 a-i (9) (22)	544	650, 2566-2571 (6), 2596-2602 (6), 2612-2616 (5), 2659-2667 (8) (25)
20c	701	1134-1139, O27 (7)	282	668 a-e, f (6), O16 (7)	545	986-991, Dienst. 25 (7)
25c	702	1140-1147, G6737 (8)	283	669 a, b, c-e, f, g-h (8), 2100-2103 a-e G, S, R, Gr (5/20), 4189 (14)	546	992-999 (8), 2617-2621 (5) (13)
30c	702a	1148-1168 (20), 1361-1384 (24), 1486-1510 (10), 1694-1717 (24), 2278-2301 (24) (102)	283A	670 a-e, f, g-u (21), 871 a-k, l, m-x (24), 969 a-y (25), 1418 a-k, l, m-x (24), 1873 a-k, l, m-x (24) (118)	573	1000-1020 (21), 1182-1205 (24), 1343-1367 (11), 1566-1589 (24), 1656-1679 (24), 2118-2141 (24) (128)
35c	703	918, 1224-1231, 2635c, 2637a, 2642b, G6745a (13)	284	486, 733-740, 2054C, 2057C (11)	547	763, 1073-1080, A3016, C3018 (11)
40c	704	2166, 2638 (2)	285	1812, 2055 (2)	548	1832, 3017 (2)
50c	705	Nil	286	Nil	549	Nil
60c	705a	1232-1234, 1728, 2326/27, 2635, 2639 (8)	286A	741-743, 1455, 1901 (2), 2057, 2057a (8)	574	1600, 2167-2168, 3018 I, II, III (6)
\$1	706 T 167	1016, 1870/71, 2179, 2214/15, 2354/55 (8)	287	554, 936, 1814, 1832, 1833, 1912, 1913, C5-C6 (9)	550	868, 1686, 1687, 1833, 1927-1928, 2226-2227 (8)
\$2	707	1515, 1599, 2549, 2643, 2644 (5)	288	1373, 1986, 2058, 2059 (4)	551	1373, 1465, 2405, 3019-3020 (5)
\$5	708	912, 2539-2543 & 2550, G6755 (8)	289	481, 937-939, 1984, 1987, O23-O29 (on 481) (13)	552	745, 2395-2399, 2406 (7)
\$10	708a	2165, 2544-2548 & 2551 (7)	289A	1985, 1988, O15 (3)	575	1827, 2400-2404, 2407, Dienst. 18 (8)
		227		339		363

NOTE The difference in numbers between Stanley Gibbons and Scott / Michel comes mainly from the 10c and because SG does not list the April 1989 overprints, which consist of ten sets listed by Scott and twelve by Michel. Even then only one colour has been taken into account in the Sc and Mi totals. These sets are for subjects like Gold Medal Winners in the 1988 Summer and Winter Olympics, the death of the Japanese Emperor Hirohito and the Enthronement of his successor, Halley's Comet and Space Achievements such as the Moon Landing and the Space Shuttle programme. All of them exist in more than one colour, though the underlying number of different overprints on each remains the same. So, if one looks just at Sc's 2092-2095 (10c), 2096-2099 (15c) and 2100-2103 (25c) there are only five different overprints though they exist in four different colours so strictly speaking there are twenty and not five. Nor does this take into account sheets overprinted Specimen, which adds an extra dimension, but not one covered here.

Much reduced in size this is Scott's 2100-2103 / Michel's 2617-2621 overprinted Specimen which is not listed by either in that form. SG does not list either version.

(to be continued)



Fig. 58 Unlisted

JAMAICA

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TONY WALKER



The image of the cover above was sent in by Tony with a query as to the handstamp. It is listed in the Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately, Volume 9 Military Mails which states, "a label and a handstamp (often applied to a blank resealing label) which is sometimes seen on WW1 mail... Many collectors thought these were censorship labels or handstamps used by the Treasury in their attempt to prevent currency being sent out of Jamaica." If you can add to the story, please send an email to the editor.

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JAMAICA

AIRMAIL LETTER RATES FROM JAMAICA. PART 6. TO THE AMERICAS AND BERMUDA AFTER 1948 UPDATE

STEVE JARVIS

My thanks to Anthony Wilkinson for responding to my article on the above in the March 2023 journal. He was able to supply two of the missing rates:

\$40 x2 plus \$40 – 2 Jul 2001 until 2 Aug 2004



13 Aug 2003 – Anthony Wilkinson

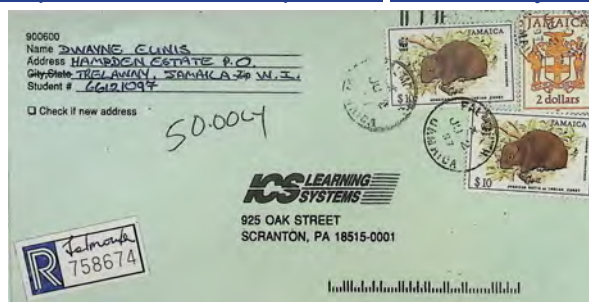
\$60 – 3 Aug 2004 until 7 Mar 2010



13 Jan 2007 – Anthony Wilkinson

However, the registration item for the period 1 Apr 1996 until 31 May 1998 raises a query. I had stated that the rate was \$10 postage plus \$10 registration. All Anthony's examples (3) had a rate of \$22 which implies a registration fee of \$12. My only source was the BWISC Bulletin #170 and #171 which states inland registration at \$10 with each additional \$60 compensation at \$2; it does not explicitly state the rate for overseas but historically the rate between inland and overseas was the same. However, the subsequent rate announcement (1998) stated an overseas registration rate of \$25 and an inland rate of \$20 for compensation up to \$60. Therefore, it seems likely the overseas registration rate was \$12 (rather than \$10).

\$10 plus \$40 \$12 – 1 Apr 1996 until 31 May 1998



2 Jun 1997 – Anthony Wilkinson

Anthony was also able to provide several missing examples of covers to Europe. So, I am now only looking for examples of the following registered envelopes:

1 Jul 1979 until 31 May 1980 50c plus 60c	3 Aug 2004 until 7 Mar 2010 \$70 plus \$60
---	--

Anthony also asked about internal rates and other classes. It is my intention to work on them progressively but there is a limit to how many balls I can juggle at the same time. Having said that, Anthony's letter spurred me to work on internal letter rates where I seem to be missing registered examples of:

1 May 1979 until 31 May 1980 15c plus 60c	1 Jul 1979 until 31 May 1980 15c plus 60c
1 Jun 1980 until 24 Apr 1984 20c plus 75c	2 Jul 2001 until 2 Aug 2004 \$15 plus \$40
3 Aug 2004 until 7 Mar 2010 \$30 plus \$60	8 Mar 2010 @ \$60 plus \$120
Plus non-registered after 8 Mar 2010 @ \$60	

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

TRINIDAD’S PITCH LAKE AND THE STAMP STORY

SUSAN TAYLOR

It has been said that “Trinidad is very oily. Everything that can hold oil does so and the overflow leaks to the surface”. The Pitch Lake originates from the intersection of two underground faults which allow oil from a deep deposit to be forced up to the surface. Over many years the lighter hydrocarbons evaporate under the Tropical sun, leaving heavier asphalt behind.

This oil themed miniature sheet (SG550) was produced to mark the 4th Latin American Geological Congress in 1979 (Figure 1).

In 1594 Sir Walter Raleigh heard of a “City of Gold” and sailed to South America via Trinidad, landing there in 1595. Trinidad was only a stopping-point for Raleigh. The native Amerindians told him of the Pitch lake’s location and Raleigh found an immediate use for the asphalt to caulk his ship. He referred to the pitch as “most excellent...It melteth not with the sun as the pitch of Norway”.



Fig. 1

In 1851 Thomas Cochrane, 10th Earl of Dundonald, who knew something about how bitumen deposits could be used to make lamp oil, gained a patent to extract asphalt from the Lake. He was joined by Conrad Frederick Stollmeyer, who managed the field. Cochrane’s second son (Admiral Sir Arthur Aukland Leopold Pedro Cochrane) was also an investor and it was likely that much of his correspondence with Trinidad concerned this, as per this cover to the HMS Repulse at Chile (Figure 2).



Fig. 2

It is postmarked ‘paid’ in red from Trinidad on 24 April 1874 and carries two Britannia 1d reds and two 1/-chromes cancelled with black double arc handstamps. The Cochrane rights eventually voided because mineral rights were under the ownership of the colonial government, so subsequently these rights were leased, and the Trinidad Asphalt Company was born. In 1916 The Limmer and Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company was formed by a merger with Limmer Asphalt, with the intention of using the pitch to surface London’s roads (Figure 4 – next page). Tarmac acquired the company in 1971.

In 1935 Trinidad and Tobago stamp issues went decimal in line with the Currency Interpretation Ordinance of 1934. It was decided to issue new definitive stamps and that the stamps would advertise locations and activities of note in the colony. Leslie E. Gill (employee of the Land and Surveys Dept of the Colonial Govt)



Fig. 3 Three versions of the stamp with the frame designed by Leslie E Gill in the stamp at left.



Fig. 4



Fig. 6

The same image was again used in the GVI 6c definitive issue dated 2 May 1938, and the QEII 6c definitive of 20 April 1953.

won a competition to design the frame for the stamps. He was then asked to “redraft the frame design in order to emphasize the oil production” (Figure 3 – previous page). The final design included oil derricks, coconut trees, cocoa and tropical fruits.

The 6 cent stamp in the definitive series featured the Pitch Lake printed on Multiple Script CA sideways watermarked paper, initially perf 12 but later 13X12.5. The series was issued on 1 February 1935. How this image came to be used on the stamp is detailed in the attached letter from a Mr Earle of Limmer & Trinidad Lake Asphalt Company Limited to a George Hedges (Figure 5). It would seem that the original painting (Figure 6) was obtained by the company’s publicity department in 1929. I have tracked the image to a company called Neuchatel in New Zealand but have not had a response to date.

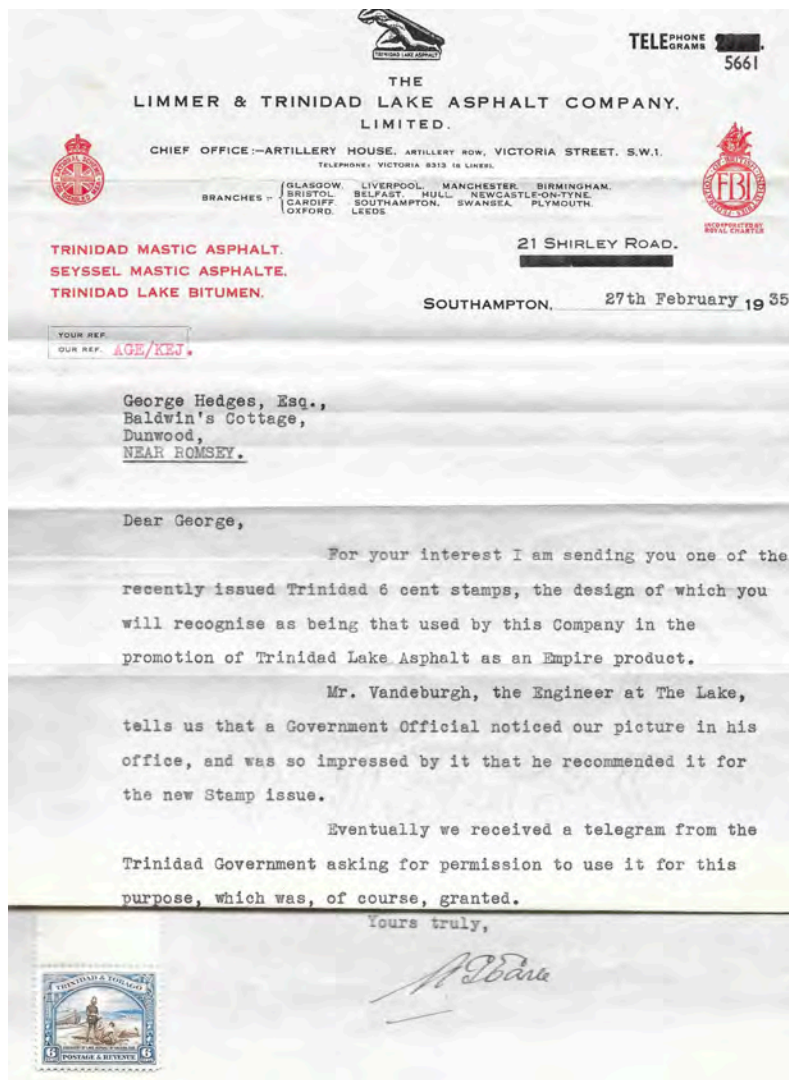


Fig. 5

WANTED – St Vincent 1996 Definitives

Michael Sewell is interesting in purchasing these stamps. If you can help, please contact him at michaelsewell93@yahoo.com

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Following requests from some members for a list of Study Group leaders in the journal, the following is a composite list of BWISC and BCPSG Study Group leaders. The leaders for the WIPSPG are still to be confirmed. However, in the meantime, if you have a query then contact one of the leaders shown below. The list, together with mailing addresses and telephone numbers (for most) are also included on the website <https://wipsg.org/study-groups>

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The proposed publication schedule is as follows:

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From Printer	Tues 22 Aug	Tues 21 Nov	Tue 20 Feb	Tue 21 May
To Printer	Mon 31 Jul	Mon 30 Oct	Mon 29 Jan	Mon 29 Apr
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VALE**Joe Chin Aleong**

Member Peter Elias sent in a report that well-known West Indian philatelist Joe Chin Aleong passed away last year. Joe was an excellent philatelist, well-known to many. He published his own multipage newsletter called "West Indies Stamps & Postal History Review". There were 36 issues (some 327 pages) from 1980 to 1994. A great resource for anyone collecting West Indies stamps and postal history. He also published a reference book about St Vincent postcards. I am sure he will be missed by all those philatelists who corresponded with him over the years. Further information is available at: <https://clarkandbattoo.com/obituaries/joseph-chin-aleong/>.

David Horry

Well known member and author David Horry passed away on 2 February 2023, aged 73. He was an excellent philatelist who enriched (and sometimes irritated) the hobby he loved. He was also a leading creative adman who delighted in practical jokes. Even if you didn't always agree with his articles you had to admire his knowledge of postmarks of the West Indies, and we are lucky to have had his dedication to this area. For those who would like to know more of his life there is a full page write-up in *The Times* of Friday 17 February 2023.

Sergio Sismondo

Sergio Sismondo, an esteemed postal historian and philatelic dealer died March 13 in Syracuse, N.Y., at the age of 80. Mr. Sismondo helped launch the Scott Classic Specialized Catalogue of Stamps and Covers 1840-1940, first published in 1994. See <https://www.linns.com/news/us-stamps-postal-history/sergio-sismondo-1943-2023>

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