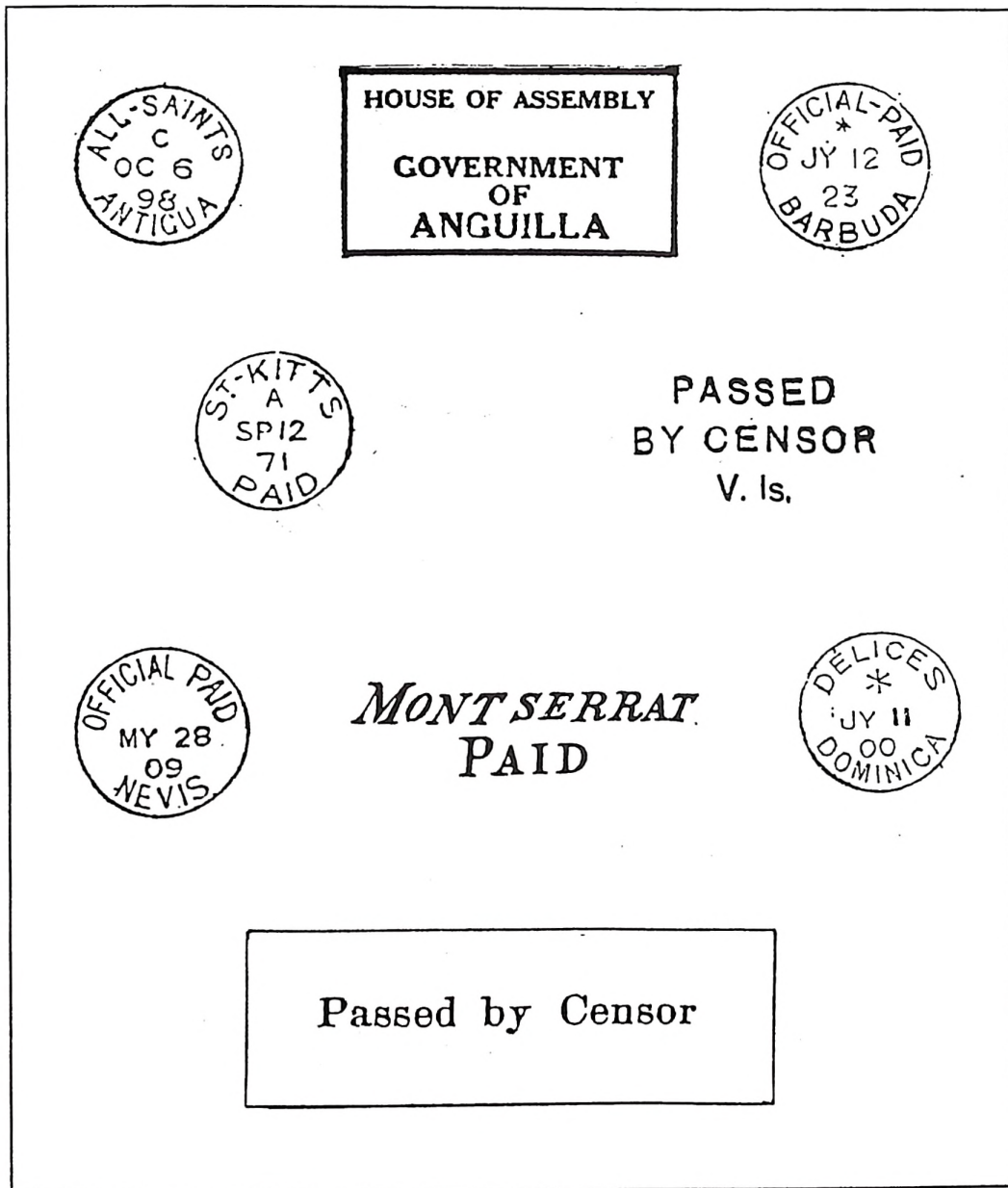


LEEWARD ISLANDS

A POSTAL HISTORY ANTHOLOGY



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LEEWARD ISLANDS
A POSTAL HISTORY ANTHOLOGY

British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group

Monograph No. 15

Edward F. Addiss Philatelic Research Collection

1997

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Leeward Islands: A Postal History Anthology is Monograph No. 15 of the BCPSG and forms part of the Edward F. Addiss Philatelic Research Collection. Its publication is financed through a special fund bequeathed by Edward F. Addiss (1930-1992), who was a vice-president (1981-82) and president (1983-85) of the Study Group.

The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (BCPSG), founded in 1961, seeks to promote interest in, and research into, the stamps and postal history of the countries and territories of the British West Indies, including Bermuda, British Guiana (Guyana) and British Honduras (Belize) along with the islands of the Caribbean from Bahamas to Trinidad & Tobago.

The Group publishes an award-winning quarterly journal as well as specialized monographs, appoints study group leaders, holds annual meetings and auctions, maintains a library and offers prestigious awards. The BCPSG is an affiliate of the American Philatelic Society (Unit No. 27) and is guided by its Code of Ethics.

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**LEEWARD ISLANDS
THEIR POST OFFICES AND POSTMARKS, 1840-1956**

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Preface

This publication is the product of necessity and opportunity. Of necessity because the papers it contains were originally written for the special edition of the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* released in conjunction with PACIFIC 97 (the international exhibition held in San Francisco from May 29 to June 8, 1997) and because the total number of pages received for that issue far exceeded the practicalities of publishing a journal. And it is a product of opportunity because about half of those pages consisted of articles devoted to different facets of the postal history of the Leeward Islands. Consultations were held with the authors and, with their approval, it was decided to collect these articles into an anthology.

Michael Oliver presents in tabular form the vast amount of current data about the postmarks used in the different island post offices from 1840 to the middle of this century. Robert Wynstra focuses on the rare manuscript cancellations found on stamps of St. Kitts and Nevis, while Reuben Ramkissoon examines the surprisingly abundant official mail of Anguilla. Charles Freeland presents his findings about the rarities of Montserrat postal history and, for good measure, about stamp multiples and varieties as well.

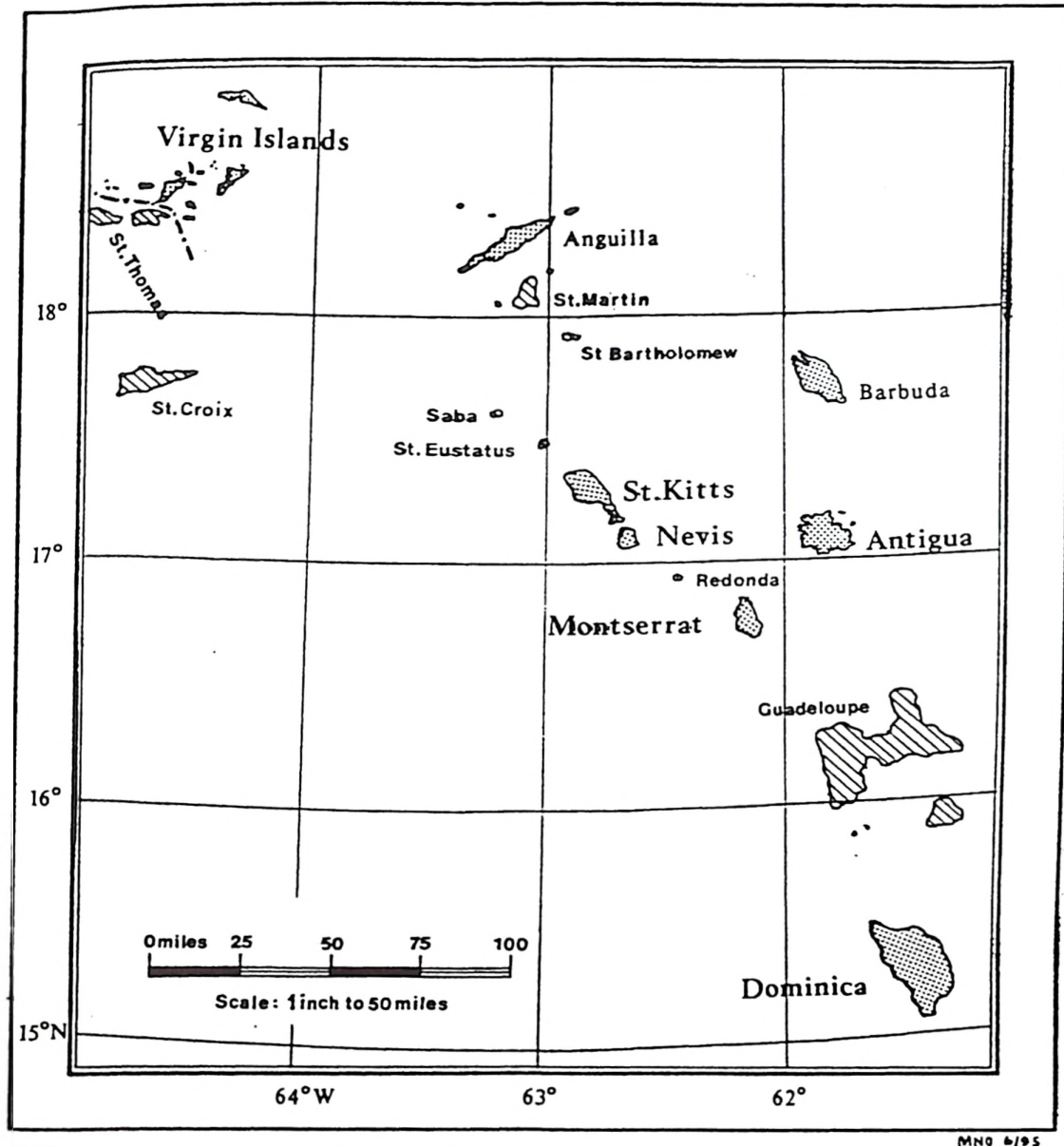
World War II censorship is the subject of two papers. Jay Fredrick and Peter McCann look at the handstamps used by what was possibly the smallest censorship operation in the British Caribbean area, namely that of the British Virgin Islands. And Tim Tweddell revisits censorship in Antigua, drawing fascinating new inferences from the data accumulated over the past two decades.

Given the circumstances in which it came about, no claim is made that this collection embraces all aspects of Leeward Islands postal history. Nonetheless, the six papers make an important contribution to philatelic knowledge because they bring together in one place the most up-to-date information about their respective topics. It is hoped that they will spur readers to find additional data, devise new interpretations, or simply enjoy their collections anew.

Michel Forand, Editor
British Caribbean Philatelic Journal
15 May 1997

Leeward Islands: Their Post Offices and Postmarks, 1840-1956

by Michael N. OLIVER



Acknowledgments

Much in the construction and content of the tables presented in the pages that follow includes information published in the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* and the *British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin* over the past years. I have also been recording information from whatever source it became available – auction catalogues, dealers' stocks and mailing lists, exhibits, other collectors, and published articles.

First, I thank Charles Freeland, Mark Swetland, and the late Bill Cornell, with whom I have corresponded over many years. Other regular contributors to these two publications whose knowledge I have taken advantage of include Bill Ashley, Jay Fredrick, Peter McCann, Simon Goldblatt, Paul Larsen, Gale Raymond, Rob Wynstra, and particularly George Bowman for his extensive history of the Antigua post offices (*BCPJ*, 1971-72).

Second, I thank those Group Leaders and others who have checked, commented upon, and added to the draft.

Whilst they are listed in the journal and already mentioned above, those who have provided valuable assistance are Jay Fredrick, Charles Freeland, Mark Swetland, and, last but not least, Rob Wynstra, who has also provided illustrations from his collection of some of the rare or unique examples.

Being primarily a collector of the Leeward Islands general issue, I hope the result meets with the approval of the experts on the various islands. This is no more than a first attempt towards the purpose stated in the Introduction. The data provided below were last updated in February 1997 and thus represent the state of knowledge at that time. Needless to say, further revisions are likely, and I look forward to receiving members' comments, corrections, and additions in the hope that completeness can, as nearly as possible, be achieved.

Introduction

The purpose of the tables presented below for each island is to identify and record every different postmark and its period of use that collectors of the general issues may expect to find cancelling their postage stamps and stationery. However, I have commenced with postmarks used from 1840, even though some were intended to be instructional marks and a number of them had been replaced by 1890. The reason for this is threefold:

- 1) 1840 not only saw the introduction of the postage stamp but also the formation of the Royal Mail Steamship Packet Co. (RMSP) for regular conveyance of mails to and from the West Indies. Postal markings prior to 1840 are well documented elsewhere.
- 2) Some early postmarks continued in use into the 20th century.
- 3) Postage stamps were used from 1858, and the Federal Colony of Leeward Islands was formed in 1871.

When repeat postmarks made for the General Post Offices (GPOs) in later years have only very minor differences, such as A25 and S15, they are not listed separately. However, all postmarks made for the sub-post offices (SPOs) are listed.

It is known that some orders comprised two similar circular datestamps (CDSS). Since Tortola, which had by far the smallest usage, was sent two CDSS together in 1870, it must be assumed the busier GPOs were receiving replacements regularly – probably about every four years from 1890.

The actual dates on which SPOs were open and providing postal services remain uncertain in many cases. I have



A25



S15

not had the opportunity to study the GPO Impression Books after 1910, except for the period 1922-28, where I hoped, without success, to find strikes for the SPOs opened in Anguilla, Barbuda, and Montserrat. Most postmarks made up to c. 1910 are well documented, but few exist thereafter. The layout of the Books makes it difficult to find specific strikes, but perhaps these are not present.

The only definitive listings of SPOs presently available are those found in the Post Office Rules of 1928 and the Antigua internal reorganisation of 1932 (see below). Some SPOs that transacted very little business may have been downgraded to the status of "despatch offices," similar to those in other small settlements where mail was handed in and collected for despatch to the GPO. As standard postal services were not available, those which had CDSS probably did not continue using them. This may explain the inconsistencies between the data in the tables below and that found in the official reports.

Despite the uncertainties about the dates on which some SPOs were open, examples that I consider to have questionable dates are referred to in the Notes. Cancellation by favour and incorrect or no dates set add to the uncertainties. Paradoxically, covers with addressees considered "philatelic" tend to be the most reliable for correct dates of usage.

Strictly, Official Paid postmarks should not be included in the listings when issued for application to stampless mail. Nevertheless, most of them have been found cancelling stamps.

Historical Background

The first island to be settled by the English was St. Kitts – in 1623 by Captain (later Sir Thomas) Warner, as the King's Lieutenant for St. Kitts, Nevis, and Montserrat. The other islands were settled in the following 40 years, and King Charles II appointed a Captain-General of the Leeward Islands in 1660. In 1689 Christopher Codrington became Governor-General; he moved the seat of government from Nevis to Antigua in 1696.

Until the defeat of Napoleon there was continual skirmishing with the French and the Spanish, with most islands changing hands more than once. In the 1780s Capt. Nelson commanded the West Indies Squadron based at English Harbour, and was married at Figtree, Nevis. Following the Treaty of Ghent in 1814, all the Leeward Islands included in the tables remained British colonies until after 1956.

From 1860, Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, and Virgin Islands operated as separate colonies, each with a council for internal affairs, which included postal administration. During the period of Imperial expansion and with it the formalisation of colonial administration, the Crown Colony of the Federation of Leeward Islands was formed in 1871. It was a unique format in that the separate colonies became six Presidencies, each with a degree of internal control, including its Post Office, under a Governor-in-Chief and a Legislative Council based in St. John's, Antigua. Barbuda and Redonda, an uninhabited volcanic rock half a mile in area, were dependencies of Antigua, and Anguilla was a dependency of St. Kitts until 1952.

St. Kitts and Nevis combined into one Presidency in 1882 but retained separate postmarks. Dominica transferred to the Windward Islands on 1st January 1940, and St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla became a new Presidency in 1952. The colony was dissolved on 30th June 1956 when the four remaining Presidencies became separate crown colonies so that each could have an equal voice in the proposed formation of the West Indies Federation in 1958.

Geography

The colony extended over some 400 miles, separating the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. It comprised many small islands, of which 33 were inhabited. The table below gives some relevant statistics; as they were drawn from different sources, it was not possible to find matching figures for given years.

Populations of the main towns:

	1900	1934
St. John's	8,500	10,000
Basseterre	9,000	8,000
Roseau	5,000	8,000
Charlestown	c. 900	1,200
Plymouth	c. 1,700	2,000
Road Town	c. 300	400

Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, and Tortola are mostly volcanic, with mountains rising to 4,750 ft on

Island	Area (sq. miles)	Population				Europeans		SPOs open, with CDS				
		1890	1914	1934	1950	1890	1921	1900	1914	1928	1940	1956
Antigua	108	29,000	32,000	32,000	41,000	c. 500	900	2	4	11	11	11
Barbuda	62	600	700	1,000	900	4	c. 10	–	–	1	1	1
Dominica	305	28,000	32,000	46,000	—	340	560	14	12	13	—	—
Montserrat	32	12,000	12,000	13,000	13,500		110	–	–	3	3	5
St. Kitts	68	26,000	28,000	19,000	32,000		1,200	4	4	4	4	4
Nevis	50	12,000	13,000	13,000	14,000			1	1	1	1	2
Anguilla	34	3,500	4,000	5,400	6,000			1	1	5	1	1
Virgin Islands	67	4,400	5,300	5,600	6,500	c. 20	35	–	4	4	2	–
Leeward Is.	726	115,500	127,000	135,000	116,000			22	26	42	23	24

Dominica and to 1,710 ft on Tortola. Antigua, Anguilla, Barbuda, and Anegada are sedimentary and subject to drought. The average annual rainfall is 55 inches in the coastal towns and the temperature varies between 70° and 90°F during the year. Most of the inhabitants and cultivation are confined to the coastal strips around the volcanic islands.

The colony's economy was almost entirely dependent upon agriculture, with sugar by far the chief export. St. Kitts, known as the "sugar island," had a narrow-gauge railway running along the coast; Antigua had lines connecting Bendals and Gunthorpes with St. John's harbour, to service the sugar factories.

The livelihood of the increasing population rested upon a single crop, without the added deprivation resulting from hurricanes and earthquakes. The living conditions of the non-Europeans, mostly descendants of African slaves, were very poor at the turn of the century, when less than 10 percent of the population was literate. Tourism, introduced by the RMSP by 1905 and later expanded by other shipping lines, produced little benefit to the island economies. The sale of postage stamps was an important item in their revenue accounts. Montserrat exceeded its estimate by more than 10 percent in 1914-15 because of the popularity of the "white-backs," all sent to that island with a monetary value of £945 (some £40,000 today) and quickly sold out.

By 1914 Antigua, Dominica, and St. Kitts each had more than 150 telephones with international connections, whereas the Virgin Islands still had no telephone service in 1950.

The maps below are all drawn to the same scale of 1 inch = 5 miles to give a true comparison between areas and communications. They show motorable roads c.1956, which probably gives a good indication of the routes followed in the early development of internal postal services. At that time, there was still no motorable coastal road between Roseau and Portsmouth on Dominica.

Postal Arrangements

These can be said to have formally commenced in 1706 when the Postmaster General instructed the local postmasters that all letters despatched for London were "to be stamped with name of the place they will be first put in." Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, and St. Kitts were sent two stamps each with these instructions, but according to R. Lowe, there is no record of their having been used.

The first packet contract between the GPO and Edward Dummer commenced in 1705 when he was permitted to appoint local postmasters. This service failed within six

years. By Act of Parliament in 1710, the GPO was authorised to establish chief letter offices in each of the West Indian islands and to appoint postmasters, "to better manage the posts and increase revenue." The GPO retained control of the island post offices for the next 150 years.

By the 19th century, packet mails were despatched and landed at Falmouth. Receiving marks were applied (type F), which showed the first use of the name Leeward Islands. This type was in use with dates from c. 1810 until 1843 and undated in the later years. Following the introduction of postage stamps, overseas post offices under the control of the GPO were issued



Type F

crowned-circle Paid stamps (type CC), which were applied in red ink to indicate that outward mail had been prepaid.

The RMSP service commenced regular sailings from Southampton, their chosen home port, in December 1841. Although the railway to London was completed, the Admiralty ordered that mails be collected and landed at the Falmouth packet station. This imposition on the RMSP was rescinded in September 1843 when the packet station closed. By 1875 the RMSP landed mails of the return passages at Plymouth for faster distribution and delivery by railway, the GPO having travelling post offices attached to trains.

RMSP agents in the islands were issued CDs (type 1) from 1840 to record the place and date of despatch. From May 1858 the GPO permitted British stamps to be sold for the prepayment of mail. British numeral obliterations (type 2a) were despatched, the first on 14th April 1858 and a second set on 28th April.

The cost and difficulties of controlling small post offices thousands of miles away caused the GPO to transfer postal administration to the individual islands from 1st May 1860. However, because the RMSP service was a British contract, the islands received only 1d per item received and despatched. This arrangement certainly continued to 1870, but I do not know when it officially ended.

The Leeward Islands joined the Universal Postal Union on 1st July 1879. This required each Presidency to provide postal cards and envelopes for the internal and overseas rates, the latter in English and French.

Presumably the ordering of postmarks also came under the control of the islands in 1860. Their patterns conformed generally with those currently in use in England, including numeral obliterations and duplexes to 1901.

With the introduction of inland services, replacing delivery and collection by the Police, SPOs were issued

CDSS (types 5 and 6), commencing with Antigua in 1898; their number grew to about 26 within the next 10 years.

When the first general issue was placed on sale 31st October 1890 all individual island stamps and stationery were officially invalidated, but in practice (as when the British stamps were withdrawn) they were accepted afterwards from regular users who had purchased quantities in advance. They were finally demonetised in 1894. A number of items postally used up to 20 years later, mostly in combination with general issue stamps that cover the postage rate, were processed by favour.

Although the Order in Council to replace the individual issues with a general issue was made on 28th March 1890, De La Rue invoiced the Crown Agents for a total of 476 sheets of ½d, 1d, and 4d Dominica stamps on 28th October 1890, which would have been received after the general issue was in use.

The Virgin Islands on or about 1st January 1899, and the other Presidencies from July 1903, recommenced their individual issues, which continued until 1956. The 1902 *Stamp Act* intended these to be used for inter-island and the general issue for overseas mail. Little or no attempt was made to adhere to this, and combined usage remained common practice from 1903. When War Tax stamps were issued for each Presidency but not as general issues, it was impossible to comply with the Act and pay the tax.

The few Virgin Islands items recorded between 1899 and 1903, mostly philatelic, almost invariably bear the colony's own stamps only, which is understandable since revenue from the sale of postage stamps was the reason

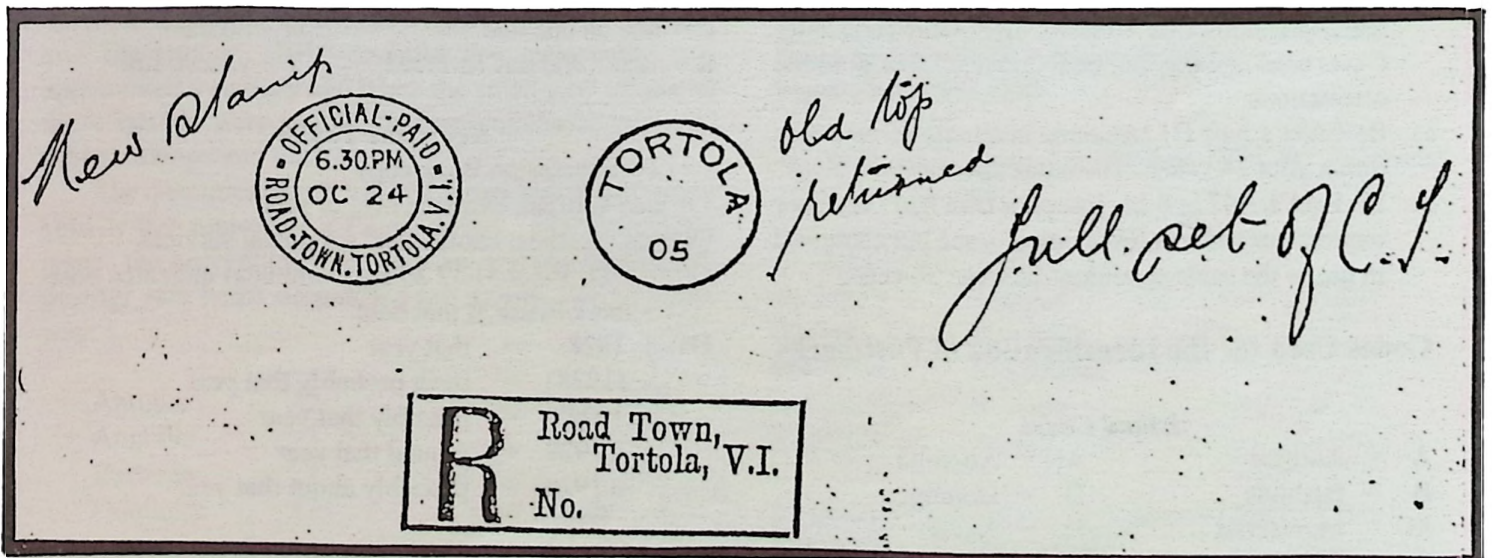
for ordering them. Island postal stationery was invalidated in 1934, with the exception of the prepaid reply portions of cards.

The RMSP contract continued until 1916 except for a short break in 1905-06. A fortnightly service by the Quebec Steamship Co. was introduced in 1913 with the opening of the Panama Canal. Other services from North America and Europe to and from the Pacific also called at the islands. The Canadian National Steamship Co., with a fleet of five new "Lady" ships, commenced regular fortnightly services in 1929. The Eastern route included calls at each Presidency except the Virgin Islands. The service was interrupted during the war when the ships were requisitioned for military service and three were lost due to enemy action. The service resumed in 1946 with the two remaining ships plying the Eastern route. It finally closed in November 1952.

Identification of Postmarks

The following guide has been produced to enable identification of postmarks when no illustration is available. It is designed to apply to postmarks made for the Leeward Islands only. For example, the Type 2a duplex employed by Jamaica is not included.

Postmark orders from the islands were, I think, sent to the Crown Agents, who in turn passed them to the GPO, London. Messrs Pearson Hill, the manufacturers, appeared to have a similar relationship with the GPO as did the Crown Agents with De La Rue for postage stamp and sta-



tionery requisitions. The small percentage of postmarks manufactured for small colonies (colonial postage stamps comprised only 2 percent of De La Rue's total production) meant they were mostly made to the same specification as their British counterparts, which included an aperture for time or indices (code letters) to denote collection/sorting times during the day. From 1859 most, if not all, were issued with code letters A, B, and C until it was eventually realised that these served no useful purpose when collection was at best once a day and overseas mails were despatched fortnightly. In 1894 the code letter aperture was first filled in with a star. Nevertheless, the supply of indices continued and remained quite illogical. The Dominica GPO postmark had a star, while the island's first SPO postmark had code letters. Virgin Islands, when mails were despatched four times a week, had time indices from 1906, which were used. British postmarks had many combinations of times and code letters: A to K were used by English post offices. Other than P for Montserrat, however, only A, B, and C are known issued to these islands. The extract for Tortola from a GPO Impression Book shown on the previous page raises two questions: Were postmarks returned to London for repair? Was one set of indices supplied for more than one postmark?

The care of postmarks fell under the responsibility of the postmaster. Some regularly cleaned and maintained them, including changing the code letter; others did not. This can be illustrated by the following examples:

- a) In Antigua, type A5, of which two were in use from 1860, employed A, B and C even though the RMSP service was only fortnightly.
- b) In Dominica, Portsmouth's type D40 was producing fine impressions after 10 years' use. Only code letter C was used and this can be found in all four possible orientations.
- c) Barbuda's type B1 remained in almost as-new condition after 25 years. The index aperture was blank.
- d) St. Paul's A47 and St. Joseph's D48 had very poor impressions within a few years of issue but continued in use in the same condition for some 30 years.

Codes Used for the Identification of Postmarks

Island Codes

A = Antigua	AN = Anguilla
B = Barbuda	D = Dominica
M = Montserrat	N = Nevis
S = St Kitts	V = Virgin Islands

Main Postmark Types

- 1 = large double-ring CDS issued to RMSP agents from 1840
- 2 = GPO numeral obliterations
 - 2a = horizontal thin bars, 1858
 - 2b = vertical thick bars, c 1880
 - 2c = as 2b, with type 4 attached on left, from 1892
- 3 = small CDS with straight name, from 1859
- 4 = CDS with curved island name, from 1861
- 5 = as type 4, with post office name opposite, from 1898
- 6 = double-ring as type 4 or 5, from 1899
 - 6B = side with blocks
 - 6C = sides clear
 - 6D = sides with dots
 - 6L = sides with lines
- 7 = types unique to one island

Other General Types

- CC = crowned circle, undated 'PAID AT' in red
- P = type 4 with 'PAID' in opposite segment
- OP = type 4 with 'OFFICIAL PAID' in opposite segment
- M = type 4 with 'M.O.O.' (Money Order Office)
- S = type 5 with slogan attached, left or right

Key to Types (in Sequence)

- R = rubber stamp
- Diameter in mm (mean to centre of line)
- Codes : letter = A, B, etc.; star = *; blank = \emptyset ; time = T
- Island name: T = at top; B = at base; S = straight
- Date: the standard format is a two-letter month abbreviation, followed by the day, with the last two digits of the year below – e.g., JA 12
04
- L = date on one line
- R = month and day reversed
- N = no date
- Y = year in full

Key to the Tables

- = GPO Impression Book copy
- + = date verified: example held or seen
- Opened = earliest known date for postal services
- LKD = 30.6.56 (or 31.12.39 for Dominica) indicates postmark in use at that date
- Dates: 1928 = that year
- (1928) = most probably that year
- 1928? = possibly that year
- c 1928 = around that year
- c 1928? = probably about that year

The Tables

- Table 1: Postmarks with the island name only
- Table 2: Postmarks with the post office name

Typical Examples



Type 1
S1-25¢TY



Type 2c
S23-20(CA)T/A12



Type 3
A5-19CS



Type 4
D8-21*T



Type 4
M10-28CTY



Type 5
D52-23*B



Type 5
M28-R28¢TL



Type 6B
V25-26½TBY(TV)



Type 6C
A25-27¢B



Type P
S18-23AT



Type OP
N8-25¢B

The impression of a postmark is under the control of the applicator. As it is struck by hand with varying inking and application pressures, often not perpendicularly or onto uneven surfaces – envelopes have folds and the stamps are raised – this can result in a wide range in quality of impression.

Rubber stamp impressions are generally expected to be of poorer quality because of the soft material used. Pearson Hill's London Empire Inks had different compositions for steel and rubber stamp pads. A rubber stamp inked from a pad with the ink for steel would quickly deteriorate as a result of the chemical reaction between that ink and the rubber. It is doubtful this technicality was appreciated a century ago when the small post offices of these islands were supplied a combination of steel and rubber stamps and inks.

The quantities of general and individual issue stamps sold is the subject of a future article. For the general issue, the percentage usage for an average of 250,000 postage rate items despatched per annum around 1930, was:

Antigua	42	Montserrat	8
Anguilla	1	Nevis	9
Barbuda	1	St. Kitts	24
Dominica	12	Virgin Islands	3

(See also M. Oliver, "Leeward Islands – Part III," *BCPJ*, no. 147, June 1988, pp. 65-68.)

Clearly, some SPOs sold very small quantities. Moreover, those which opened between 1926 and 1932 sold mostly their island's own issues. When the Tercentenary, Silver Jubilee, and Coronation issues were on sale, the corresponding individual issue denominations were officially withdrawn.

The official LKD for general issue stamps postmarked in Dominica was 31st December 1939; in the other Presidencies, it was 30th June 1956.

Post Office Notices

Leeward Islands Post Office Rules, dated 26th April 1928

1. With effect from 1st October 1928 the following offices will be open:

a - General Post Offices:

St. John's	Antigua
Roseau	Dominica
Plymouth	Montserrat
Basseterre	St. Kitts
Road Town	Tortola

b - Branch Post Offices (also Money Order Offices):

Dominica	Portsmouth
St. Kitts	Charlestown, Nevis, Sandy Point, St. Kitts, The Valley, Anguilla

c - Money Order Offices:
Virgin Islands, Virgin Gorda
Virgin Islands, West End

d - Sub-Post Offices:

<i>Antigua</i>	<i>Dominica</i>	<i>Montserrat</i>
All Saints	Colihaut	Cudjoe Head
Barbuda	Castle Bruce	Harris
Barnes Hill	Delices	St. Peters
Bethesda	Grand Bay	
Bolans	La Plaine	<i>Anguilla</i>
English Harbour	Mahaut	Blowing Pt.
Freetown	Marigot	East End
Newfield	Pointe Michel	Forest
Old Road	Rosalie	The Road
Parham	Soufriere	
St. James	St. Joseph	
St. Stephens	Vieille Case	

<i>St. Kitts</i>	<i>Virgin Islands</i>
Cayon	Anegada
Dieppe Bay	East End
Old Road	

- Names of Post Offices. "The designations contained in the final schedule hereto shall be the official name of the several Post Offices and shall be used on all postmarks and for all purposes subject as hereinafter provided in respect of Money Orders." Money order forms were to have the name of the island in capitals with that of the post office in brackets in lower case. e.g. DOMINICA (Portsmouth). On registration labels, the post office name was in brackets below, in capitals.
- Items on sale at all offices (referred to as SPO postal services in the text)

General issue stamps	¼d to £1
Presidential stamps	½d to 5s
Postal cards and reply cards	½d and 1d
Envelopes	1d and 1½d
Registered envelopes	3d
Newsrappers	¼d and ½d
- Existing stocks of various Presidential denominations which duplicated those of the general issue were to be "abolished" except that "existing stocks may continue to be used until exhausted or otherwise ordered."

*Antigua Reorganisation of Internal Services,
with effect on 1st January 1932*

The following SPOs closed on 31st December 1931:

Barnes Hill	English Harbour	Newfield
Bethesda	Freetown	St. James
St. Stephens		

The following SPOs opened on 1st January 1932:

Bendals	Gunthorpes	Swetes
Cedar Grove	Johnson's Point	St. Johnstons
Falmouth	Montpelier	Seatons
Green Bay	Pares	

The following SPOs were open before 1932 and remained open:

All Saints	Old Road (St. Marys)
Bolans	Parham (St. Peters)
Liberta	

Colonial Office Reports for 1934 and 1936

These give the number of SPOs open as follows (with data from the tables 2 below added for comparison):

<i>Presidency</i>	<i>1934</i>	<i>1936</i>	<i>Table 2</i>
Antigua ¹	17	16	15
Dominica	13	13	13
Montserrat ²	4	4	4
St. Kitts-Nevis ³	10	10	6
Virgin Islands ⁴	4	4	1

- The 17 SPOs, including Barbuda, open in 1932, were reduced to 15 during 1936 unless either Green Bay or St. Johnstons did not close until after March 1937.
- St. Johns and Salem were open c. 1931, making five SPOs, but St. Peters closed in 1932.
- The total of 10 presumably comprises: St. Kitts, 4; Anguilla, 4; plus the branch offices of Charlestown and Valley. The 4 Anguilla SPOs closed in 1931 but this was not officially effected until 1939.
- It is thought that three of the SPOs were operating as despatch offices by 1934, with only West End being definitely open.

Antigua

A GPO branch office was opened at St. John's in 1850. A number of SPOs were renamed and relocated over the years.

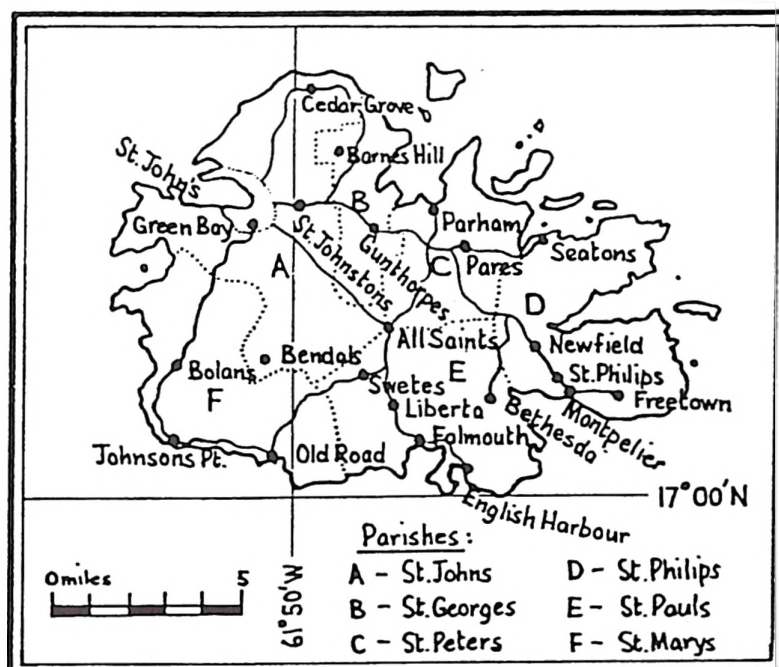


TABLE A1

No.	Type	Key	Impressed	EKD	LKD	Notes
A1	1	30¢T	9.1.41•	26.6.41	25.2.59	Used for Official Paid in 1873
A2	CC	21B	9.3.50•	10.50	27.11.69	
A3	2a	A02	14.4.58•	28.7.58	1886	
A4	2b	A02	16.7.80•	26.8.80	1892+	2 sent
A5	3	19AS	13.4.59•	28.7.59	7.79	19CS impressed 31.12.59 – B also used
A6	4	21AT		12.5.79	30.9.90	
A7	4	23½¢T		19.11.90+	17.10.01	
A8	4	23½¢T	12.2.95•	17.4.95+	15.2.08	
A9	4	20CT	8.2.01•	13.3.01	2.9.03+	
A10	M	22CB	8.2.01•	15.2.08		
A11	M	24½CBW		1918	27.10.25+	
A12	OP	22*B		2.6.91+	(9).6.22+	Hyphen
A13	OP	24*B	23.4.06•	21.1.08+	10.8.32	Hyphen
A14	OP	23½¢B		24.3.33+		No hyphen, shorter wording
A15	6C	22-BY		9.4.66	11.4.66+	POST OFFICE at top, struck in blue

In the key, the suffix W = ANTIGUA B.W.I.



A1



A2



A3



A4



A5



A6



A7



A8



A9



A10



A13



A15



A20



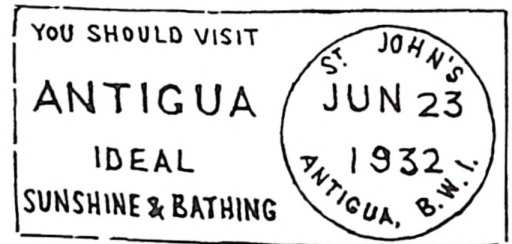
A21



A26



A27



A28



A29



A36



A37



A40



A41



A46



A47



A49



A52



A55



A56

English Harbour



A57



A58



A59



A60



A61

ENGLISH HARBOUR

No.	Type	Key	Impressed	EKD	LKD	Notes
A57	CC	23N	10.12.57*	17.6.61		Spelled 'HARBOR'
A58	2a	A18	1.6.58*		10.11.86	
A59	8	22½B	10.12.57*	11.11.61	12.3.77	'HARBOR'; manuscript date 1876-77
A60	5	24½AT		28.9.80+	10.11.86	3 known
A61	5	25½CB			17.8.21	'HARBOR'; 2 known from one cover

Notes

- A15 Two known; the other has an indistinct date in April 1866.
- A21-23 Can be identified by the different combinations of dots and dashes.
- A25 This had a long life and at least two were made.
- A28 This, or another almost identical, is also recorded as a CDS without a slogan.
- A35 An example dated 1.9.40 has been recorded.
- A46 This was probably transferred to Bolans temporarily. There are four known examples dated up to October.
- A47 The Post Office notices did not refer to the parish-named postmarks of St. Marys, St. Peters, and St. Pauls. We know St. Marys was used at Old Road and St. Peters at Parham. In the parish of St. Pauls, English Harbour and Bethesda SPOs had been open for many years and had their own postmarks, although these were not used. Liberta, a similar-sized village, did not have an SPO until 1929. The LKD of St. Pauls is 23 years after the issue; maybe that was the end of its useful life. Experts are divided on whether this was used at English Harbour or Bethesda. I think that Bethesda can be discounted, since there was no road between there and the rest of the parish, and that this was used at Liberta, centrally located in the parish and on the road from English Harbour to St. John's.

TABLE A2

No.	Post Office	Type	Key	Impressed	Opened	Closed	Re-opened	EKD	LKD	Notes
A20	St. John's	5	23CBW	16.8.03•				7.7.03	24.7.23+	ST J (2 sent)
A21	"	5	25CBW	4.11.07•				10.1.08+	19.7.29+	ST J
A22	"	5	25CBW	1.10.08•				31.10.08	26.9.29+	ST J
A23	"	5	24cBW					3.4.16+	8.12.31+	ST J
A24	"	6D	28cBW					2.1.32+	28.9.32+	Used only in 1932
A25	"	6C	27cB					16.1.33	30.6.56	ST.J (see p. 2)
A26	"	6B	27AB					12.3.37+	24.10.47	
A27	"	6I.	27*B					5.7.50+	30.6.56	
A28	"	7S	see illus.					15.10.31+	13.1.40+	
A29	All-Saints	5	23CB	6.10.98•	c. 1875			22.11.98+	31.10.33	
A30	"	5	24*B					15.10.29	30.6.56	No hyphen
A31	Bendals	5	23½*B		1.1.32			17.9.32	30.6.56	
A32	Bolans	5	23*B		(1881)			1.4.30	30.6.56	
A33	Cedar Grove	5	23½*B		1.1.32			6.10.32	30.6.56	Formerly St. James
A34	Falmouth	5	23½*B		1.1.32	31.12.37		23.2.32+	22.11.36	
A35	Freetown	5	23½AB		c. 1883	31.12.31	1948	25.5.48+	30.6.56	None known before 1932
A36	Grays Farm	6B	27BB		1.1.45			12.2.45	30.6.56	No year 1949: A; formerly Green Bay
A37	Green Bay	5	25½*BW		1.10.28	31.3.36		6.5.31	6.12.33	3-letter month; renamed Grays Farm
A38	Gunthorpes	5	24*B		1.1.32	(9.47)		26.11.32	9.9.47+	
A39	Johnsons Point	5	23½B		1.1.32			17.9.32	30.6.56	
A40	Liberta	5	27*BW		15.4.29			4.9.29	30.6.56	
A41	Montpelier	5	23½*B		1.1.32	31.12.43		18.6.32+	14.3.41	Transferred to St. Philips
A42	Old Road	5	23½*B		1.1.32			24.9.32+	30.6.56	Formerly St. Mary's
A43	Pares	5	24*B		1.1.32	6.48		16.9.32	11.9.47	
A44	Parham	5	23½*B		1.1.32			1.11.33+	30.6.56	Formerly St. Peters
A45	St. Johnstons	5	24*B		1.1.32	31.3.36		21.3.33	1935	3 known
A46	St. Mary's	5	25CBW	7.11.04•	c. 1875	31.12.31		19.6.05	1.11.33	Renamed Old Road
A47	St. Pauls	5	25CBW	7.11.04•	c. 1875	31.12.31		26.6.05	27.8.24	
A48	St. Peter's	5	22CB	6.10.98•	c. 1875	31.12.31		6.12.98+	24.11.32	Renamed Parham
A49	St. Philips	6B	28AB		1.1.44	1948		11.7.46+	14.11.46	Transferred to Freetown
A50	Seatons	5	23½*B		1.1.32	31.3.37		16.9.32 26.5.48+	30.6.56	Formerly St. Stephens
A51	Swetes	5	23½*B		mid-1932	31.12.37		21.7.33		One partial known
A52	Barnes Hill	5	23½*B		c. 1880	31.12.31		16.2.29	1939	2 known
A53	Bethesda	5	23½*B		c. 1898	31.12.31			1939	1 known
A54	Newfield	5	23½AB		1880	31.12.31			1939	1 known; formerly The Grange
A55	St. James	5	23½*B		c. 1883	31.12.31			18.2.29	Renamed Cedar Grove
A56	St. Stephens	5	23½*B		c. 1883	31.12.31		19.7.28	16.9.32	Renamed Seatons; 3? known

Notes (cont.)

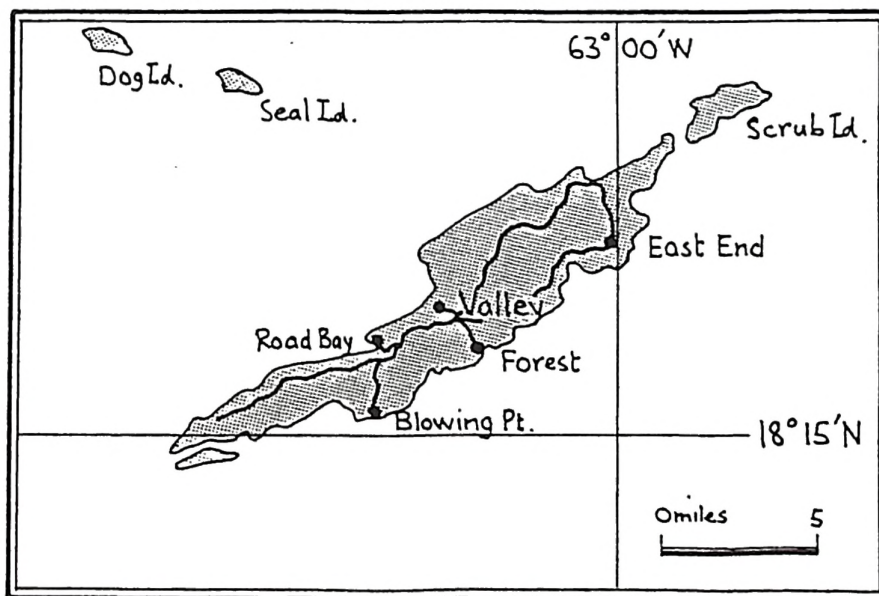
A51 According to the *Leeward Islands Gazette*, 550 items were despatched in 1932. In 1933 cheap bus services commenced between St. John's and the country districts. Post boxes were installed on the buses, and with postal facilities being available on the mail vans, "a falling off in the numbers of letters received from SPOs compared with 1932" was noted in the *Colonial Report*. This partially explains the scarcity of SPO examples in the 1930s and the reason why some closed after a few years. Letters posted on the buses and mail vans would be postmarked on arrival at St. John's.

A52, A56, & A61 There is no record of when these CDSS were issued, but as they are from long-established SPOs, it is a mystery that examples of these are almost unknown. Over 600 items were despatched from Falmouth in 1932, suggesting a reasonable quantity was from English Harbour, both in that and preceding years. Yet only one item is known postmarked after 1886. I think the most probable explanation for lack of use of these CDSS is that the local postmasters, who knew these items would be cancelled at St. John's, could not be bothered maintaining them and changing the dates when the handstamps were being used on average only once or twice a day.

A59 Date plugs were apparently misplaced in 1876-77; the few examples from that period have the date inserted by hand.

Anguilla

A branch office of the St. Kitts Post Office was opened at the Valley in mid-1900.



AN1

AN2



AN3



AN4



AN5



AN5a



AN6



AN6a



AN7



AN8



AN8a

TABLE AN2

No.	Post Office	Type	Key	Impressed	Opened	Closed	Re-opened	EKD	LKD	Notes
AN1	Anguilla	2c	20(AN)T/A12	30.4.00*	1900			1.02	1.25	T = ST. KITTS
AN2	"	4	25AT					13.2.24	30.5.27	T = ST. KITTS
AN3	Valley	5	24½*T					31.7.27	30.1.51	
AN4	"	5	23½*T					8.2.49	30.6.56	
AN5	Blowing Pt.	5	R29¢TL		1927	1931		8.4.28	22.3.31	Pmk issued 1927; 4 known
AN5a	"	5	R29¢TL					3.4.30+		5 known, all on stamps
AN6	Eastend	5	R29¢TL		1928			12.1.29		2 known, same date
AN6a	East End	5	R29¢TL			3.31		22.12.30		3 on stamps, 3 on one piece
AN7	Forest	5	R29¢TL		2.28	1931		5.9.28	30.3.31	1 dated 25.11.32; c. 20 known
AN8	Road ¹	5	R29¢TL		1928	1931		4.9.28	23.3.31	Same P.O.
AN8a	The Road	5	R29¢TL					5.9.30+		

1. Formerly Customs Office P.O., combined in 1928.

AN5 to AN8

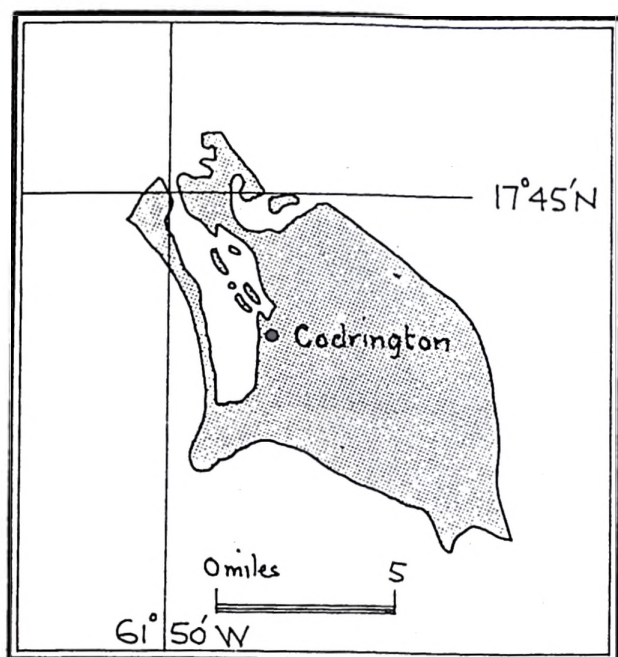
Although these SPOs are recorded as opening on 1st January 1928, we know that AN7 was not issued until February. Due to lack of business, they ceased operating in 1931. When it was discovered in 1938 that the postmarks were still available for use, they were immediately destroyed.

Road SPO was probably located in one of the small settlements around Road Bay. I could not find these postmarks in the GPO Impression Books, but as their characteristics are very similar to those of earlier Virgin Islands CDSS, they were, in my opinion, supplied from London.

AN5a, 6a & 8a

Of the few examples recorded – none of them on cover – each one has the same date. With fewer than 40 examples of AN5 to AN8 known, it is difficult to accept that replacements were needed. I suspect AN5a, AN6a, and AN8a may be clever forgeries, although one would expect more to be in circulation if that were the case.

Barbuda



The Manager (latterly the Warden), based at Codrington, was also postmaster, in addition to his other duties. Barbuda was throughout this period an SPO of Antigua and all mail passed through the GPO, Antigua. There is no evidence of postage stamps being used before the issue of the Leeward Islands overprints on 13th July 1922. Thereafter, Antigua and General Issue stamps were valid and used.



B1



B2



B3

TABLE B2

No.	Post Office	Type	Key	Impressed	Opened	Closed	Re-opened	EKD	LKD	Notes
B1	Barbuda	5	25½¢TW		1922			1.4.22	14.11.39	W • B.W.I. at base
B2	"	5	24*TW					11.7.49	30.6.56	
B3	"	OP	25*B					23.7.22	12.5.41	9 known on stampless mail

- B1 A letter from the Warden in 1930 to a philatelist in Australia stated that this was supplied in March 1922. The 1936 year plug was mislaid or lost, and examples either have no year or have '36' added in manuscript.
- B3 In July 1922, examples of this are known impressed in such a way that only the date and 'BARBUDA' are visible. During the next few years, it was also used to cancel commercial letters. Whilst the former use cannot be explained – other than that B1 was temporarily mislaid – the latter was probably due to the Postmaster or his assistant mistakenly applying the wrong CDS.

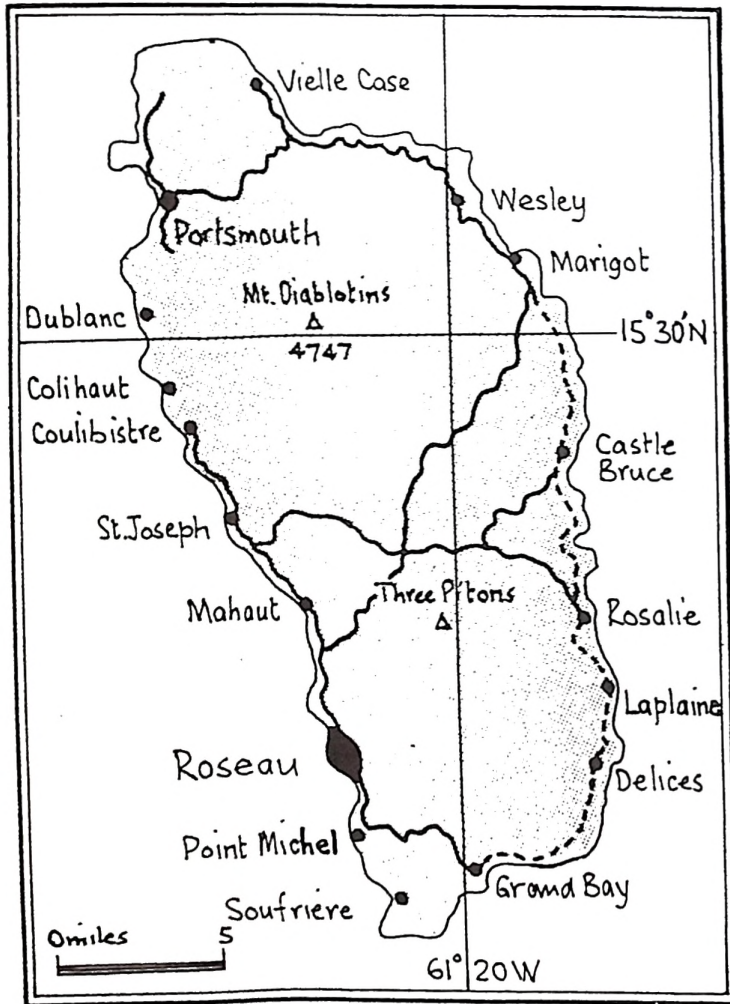
Dominica

A GPO branch office was opened at Roseau in 1845. With the exception of English Harbour, Portsmouth was the first SPO in the Leewards to be issued a CDS, and the only one not to include the island name.

Type 6B was made for most SPOs c. 1936. Their usage was very limited, and maybe all SPOs were issued them by 1939. Examples of General Issue stamps postmarked after 1st January 1940 are known.

- D2 Two were sent to each island, the second impressed on 28th April 1858. One was transferred to Portsmouth in 1897, thought to coincide with the Sexagenary Issue on 22nd July, by which time the other was unserviceable.

D5 to D8 D5 and D6 have a shorter name and a code letter, while D7 and D8 have a star. Otherwise, the diameters are the only other identifiable features.
 D51 Manuscript cancels continued during the 1890s. The larger volume of mail despatched was accounted for by a girls' boarding school near Wesley.



D1



D2



D4



D5



D7



D8



D9



D10



D11



D13



D14



D15



D20



D21



D24



D27



D28

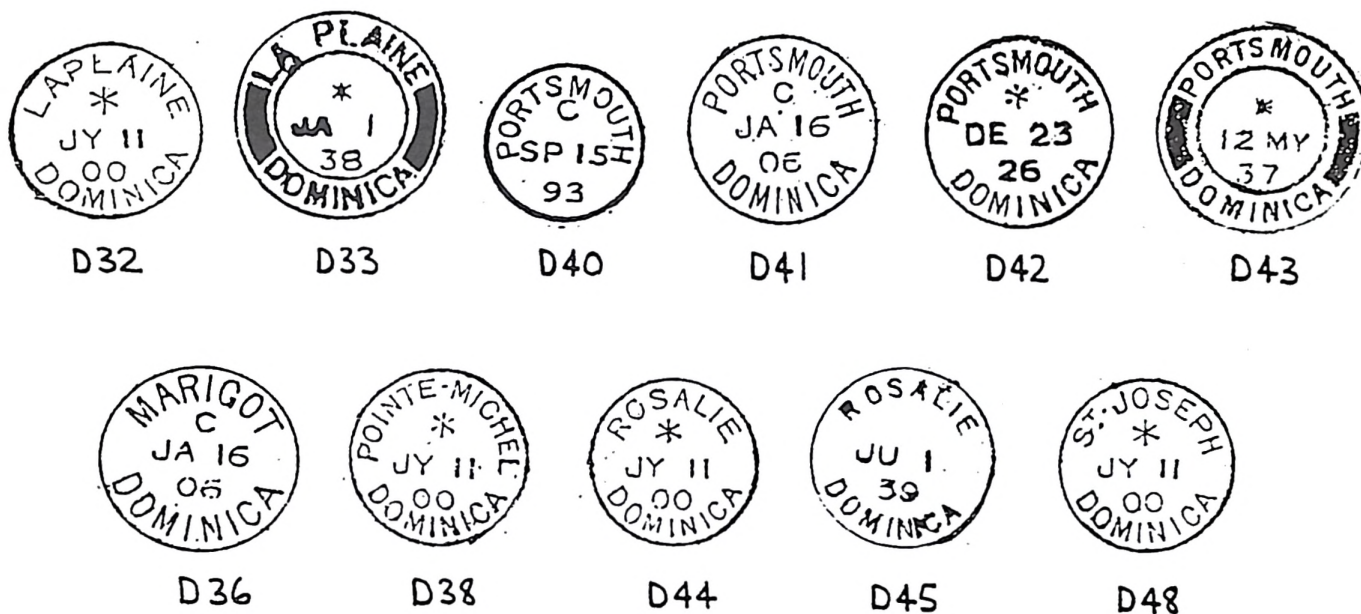


TABLE D1

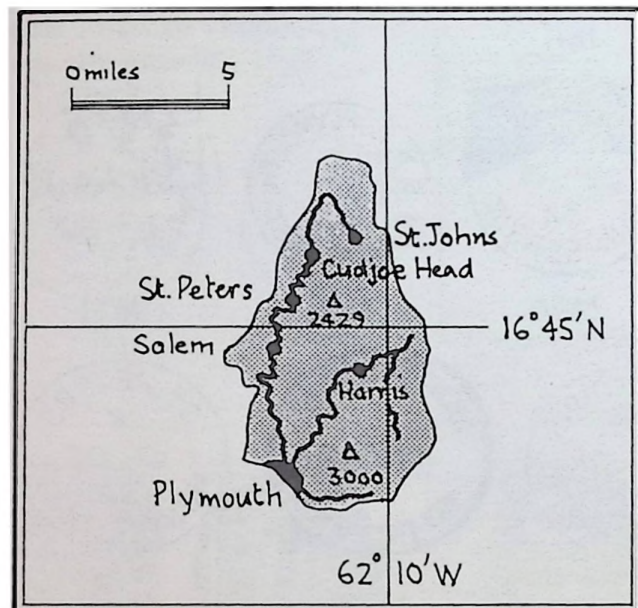
No.	Type	Key	Impressed	EKD	LKD	Notes
D1	CC	22½B	17.5.45•	.4.47		Known used in 1940
D2	2a	A07	14.4.58•	27.12.58	24.4.99	Transferred to Portsmouth
D3	2b	A07	(1882)	14.8.83	1905	
D4	2c	21CT/A07	29.6.93•	21.9.93+	23.9.96+	
D5	4	19½CT		4.5.82	25.4.99	
D6	4	20½CT		18.11.82	6.8.95	¢ in 1883
D7	4	21*T	21.2.94•	3.5.94	12.9.24+	
D8	4	20*T	21.2.94•	2.11.96	14.9.05+	
D9	4	24½¢T		9.12.16+	20.6.29+	G.P.O. at base
D10	4	24½*B		5.2.27	12.5.37+	G.P.O. at top
D11	6B	26CB	16.1.06•	2.06	27.5.25+	GEN. POST OFFICE at top
D12	P	26½AT		28.8.63		
D13	P	20AT	8.3.70	26.9.71+	28.10.77+	
D14	P	26¢T		11.1.79+	12.12.79	Only known used in 1879
D15	OP	27¢TN		1894	23.12.39+	

TABLE D2

No.	Post Office	Type	Key	Impressed	Opened	Closed	Re-opened	EKD	LKD	Notes
D20	Roseau	5	25*B					14.3.30	31.12.39	
D21	"	6B	27*B					29.6.37	31.12.39	
D22	Colihaut	5	23½*B	11.7.00•	9.3.75			3.9.00	31.12.39	
D23	"	6B	26½cB					1936	31.12.39	
D24	Castle Bruce	5	24*B		1875	1883	c. 1924	7.5.25	1.12.37	
D25	"	6B	26½*B					12.1.39	31.12.39	
D26	Coulibtrie	5	23½*B	11.7.00•	1898	30.6.05		16.8.00	31.1.05	
D27	Delices	5	23½*B	11.7.00•	1900			9.2.02	31.12.39	
D28	"	5	24*B					1.6.39	31.12.39	
D29	Dublanc	5	23½*B	11.7.00•	7.94	(1915)		1.4.01	5.3.15	
D30	Grand Bay	5	23*B	11.7.00•	1884			13.10.00	17.10.32	P.O. in Dubuc
D31	"	6B	26½*B					21.8.38	31.12.39	
D32	Laplaine	5	23*B	11.7.00•	18.5.86			15.9.00	1936	Transferred from Felicite
D33	La Plaine	6B	27*B					10.10.36	31.12.39	
D34	Mahaut	5	23½*B	11.7.00•	(1898)	30.6.05	1915	27.5.01 21.8.15	20.12.04 22.1.33	
D35	"	6B	26½*B					1.5.39	31.12.39	
D36	Marigot	5	24½CB	16.1.06•	1.8.03			25.5.06	8.12.34	Transferred from Wesley
D37	"	6B	26½*B					15.10.36	31.12.39	No year c. 1921; code A from 1933
D38	Pointe Michel	5	23½*B	11.7.00•	1884	1886	(1898)	17.7.01	20.10.32+	
D39	"	6B	26½*B					29.4.39	31.12.39	
D40	Portsmouth	7	20C-	15.9.93•	9.3.75			30.10.93	23.9.05	No island name; no year in 1900
D41	"	5	24½CB	16.1.06•				21.2.06	14.11.17+	Code B in 1917
D42	"	5	24½*B					1924	10.6.36+	Shorter, smaller words
D43	"	6B	26½*B					12.5.37+	31.12.39	
D44	Rosalie	5	22*B	11.7.00•	1875			3.1.01	6.2.30+	
D45	"	5	23½*B					1.6.39	31.12.39	
D46	Soufriere	5	23*B	11.7.00•	1884			7.11.00	23.9.35	
D47	"	6B	26½cB					15.9.37	31.12.39	
D48	St. Joseph	5	23*B	11.7.00•	1875	1920?	(1924)	9.5.01+	25.12.37+	
D49	"	6B	27*B					20.12.37	31.12.39	
D50	Vieille Case	5	22½*B	11.7.00•	(1885)			22.8.00	9.3.35+	
D51	"	6B	26½*B					21.9.38	31.12.39	
D52	Wesley	5	23*B	11.7.00•	1875	31.7.03	c. 1940	10.9.00+	15.9.06	Transferred to Marigot; cds used 1918

Montserrat

The GPO opened a branch office at Plymouth in 1852



M1



M3



M5



M6



M7



M8

TABLE M1

No.	Type	Key	Impressed	EKD	LKD	Notes
M1	1	28TY	16.11.40•	15.4.41+	27.11.47	
M2	1a	25ATY	16.12.47•	10.4.48	10.6.61	Code at base, 1848 only
M3	CC	21½B	15.7.52•	25.1.53+	12.83	In black 1886
M4	2a	A08	14.4.58•		3.12.90+	2 sent
M5	4	20CT	3.5.61•	9.8.61+	20.5.89+	Another code A impressed 9.8.61
M6	4	21AT			1.2.98+	
M7	4	21PT		1889+	4.7.90	
M8	4	21ATY		26.2.02+	17.6.03+	
M9	4	24CTY	3.1.04•	15.6.05+	25.5.11+	Also code A
M10	4	28CTY	31.8.07•			Short name
M11	4	29ATY		7.11.13+	12.5.37+	Long name
M12	P	22CT	31.5.61•	10.9.70	26.11.84	Also code A
M13	OP	23½CTY	3.1.04•	6.4.04	9.6.27	Code B in 1911
M14	OP	23½*B		6.4.35	3.12.40+	
M15	OP	22½AT		17.3.33		One known



TABLE M2

No.	Post Office	Type	Key	Impressed	Opened	Closed	Re-opened	EKD	LKD	Notes	
M20	Plymouth	5	25½*B					1926	1942	G.P.O. PLYMOUTH	
M21	"	5	23½*B					1.11.46+	30.6.56		
M22	Cudjoe Head	5	R28¢TL		10.26			5.10.30			
M23	"	5	24*B					8.4.27	7.4.28	3 known, all in mauve	
M24	"	5	25*B					22.10.31	30.6.56		
M25	Harris	5	R28¢TL		10.26			2.4.27	3.5.29	6 known	
M26	"	5	25*B					24.9.31+	30.6.56		
M27	St. Johns	5	25*B		1931?			19.11.31	30.6.56		
M28	St. Peters	5	R28¢TL		10.26			25.4.27+	5.4.28	4 known	
M29	"	5	26*B			12.32	(1948)	2.10.30 1948	10.10.32 30.6.56	2 known	
M30	Salem	5	25*B		1931?	(1937)		1931	26.3.35		
M30	"							1.47	31.1.47+	30.6.56	No year 1949-52

M7

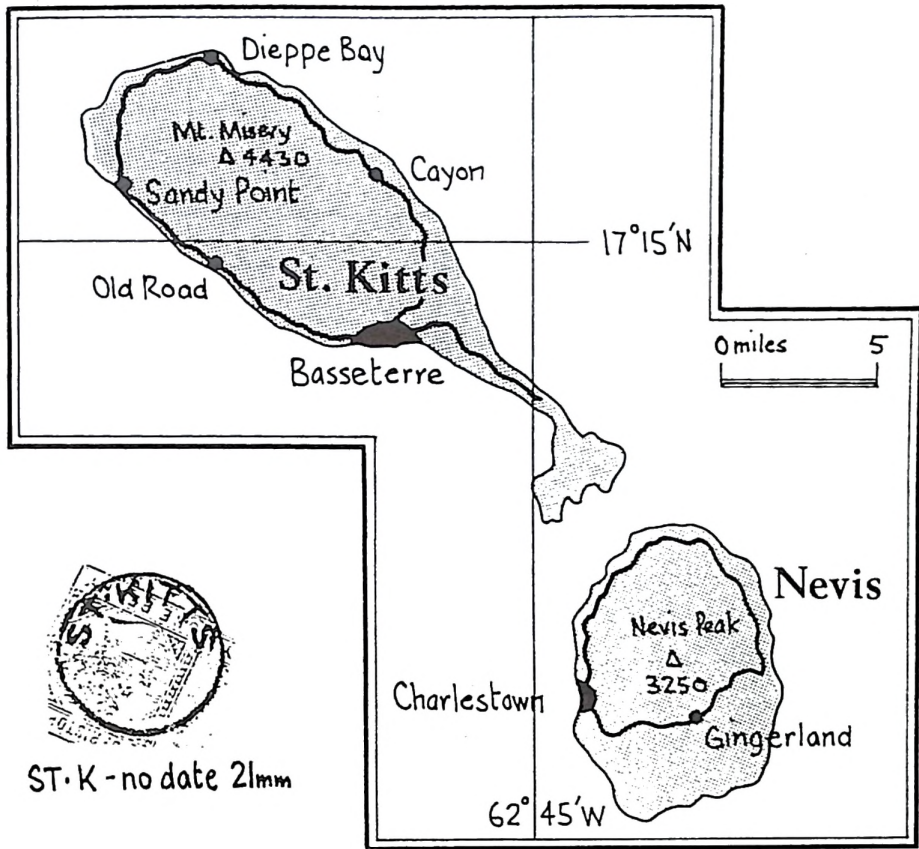
The few examples known all have the code letter 'P'. Whether this was intended to denote Plymouth or Paid is conjecture. It has been suggested that the 'P' is the result of a broken 'B'. I discount this because the 'P' is larger than the 'B' and there is no sign of breakage. The three examples I have seen cancel stamps.

M22, M25
& M28

Whilst I could not find these in the GPO Impression Books, I am sure they were made in London. The rubber registration labels were present, dated 1.11.26 for Harris, St. Peters, and Salem, and 21.2.27 for Cudjoe Head. The P.O. Regulations effective from 1st October 1928 did not include Salem as an SPO.

St. Kitts and Nevis

The only Presidency not to be issued a Crown Circle 'Paid' stamp. It was also the only one to use code letters to identify its SPOS (see also Anguilla).



S1



S7



S19 a



ST-K - no date 21mm



S2



S3



S4



S5



S6



S8



S9



S10



S11



S12



S13



S14



S15



S16



S17



S18



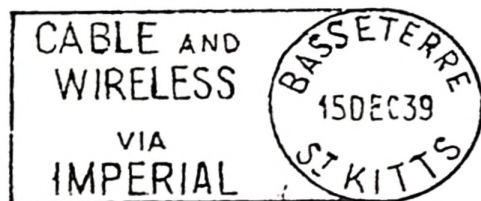
S19

TABLE S1

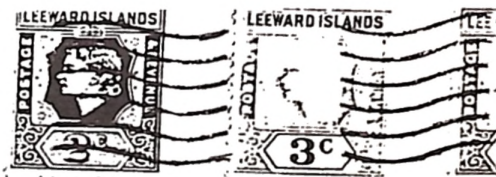
No.	Type	Key	Impressed	EKD	LKD	Notes
S1	1	25¢TY	28.6.44•	1844	1861	2 sent
S2	2a	A12	14.4.58•			
S3	2b	A12		26.6.83+	7.3.17+	
S4	2c	20CT/A12		5.4.92	8.2.01+	ST-K
S5	2c	20CT/A12	13.8.96•	8.7.97	19.7.01+	SI-K
S6	2c	20CT/A12	19.6.01•	18.8.02	12.4.33+	ST-K (see also AN1)
S7	3	20AS	29.6.66•	26.6.71+		
S8	4	21½AT	12.9.71•	12.11.72+	24.2.83+	SI-K
S9	4	20CT	26.6.75•	13.7.76+	28.7.83	ST-K ¢ in 1876
S10	4	20½CT	28.12.80•	28.12.80+	28.7.91+	ST-K
S11	4	22½CT	29.5.99•	19.11.01+		
S12	4	25CT	25.8.05•		10.10.30+	SI-K
S13	4	24½CT	13.5.09•	9.12.09+	3.31	ST-K
S14	4	24½CT		8.12.23+	31.3.31+	SI-K
S15	4	23½*T		18.4.30+	30.6.56	ST-K (see p. 2)
S16	6B	26CT		28.2.28+	23.2.42+	
S17	P	20AT	3.8.67•		1889	Wrong year plug: 11.9.66+; code C
S18	P	23AT	12.9.71•			
S19	OP	23½*B	6.7.04•	5.6.19+	29.9.45+	
S19a	7	23¢-		1875	25.9.82+	See below and Notes



S20



S21



S22



S27



S28



S29



S31



S32

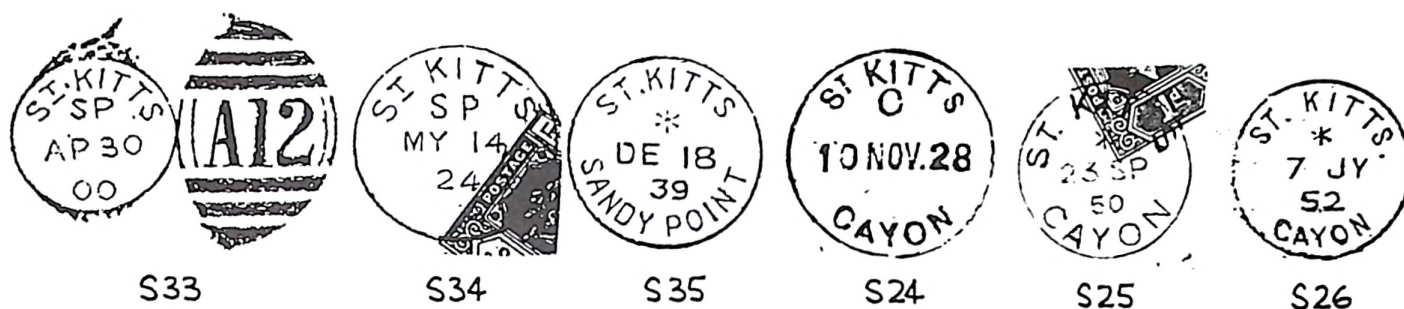


TABLE S2

No.	Post Office	Type	Key	Impressed	Opened	Closed	Re-opened	EKD	LKD	Notes
S20	Basseterre	5	24*B					11.6.52+	30.6.56	
S21	"	5S	26#BL					31.10.39+	7.2.40	Cable & Wireless on L
S22	"	5S	21½TBY					28.6.56+	30.6.56	Wavy lines on R
S23	Cayon	2c	20(CA)T/A12	30.4.00	1887			31.7.00	18.4.30+	
S24	"	5	R28CTL					10.28	31.10.30+	3-letter month
S25	"	5	23½*T					16.6.32	27.11.51	
S26	"	5	23½*T					7.7.52	30.6.56	small CAYON
S27	Dieppe Bay	2c	20(DB)T/A12	30.4.00•	1872?			11.6.00	12.4.33+	
S28	"	5	R28CTL					3.11.28+	14.1.30	put into use 14.8.28
S29	"	5	23½*T					11.8.31+	30.6.56	
S30	Old Road	2c	20(OR)T/A12	30.4.00•				6.11.00	1.10.25+	
S31	"	5	R28CTL					8.9.28+	4.12.28+	2 known
S32	"	5	23½*T					16.7.31	30.6.56	
S33	Sandy Point	2c	20(SP)T/A12	30.4.00•	1872?			11.7.00	20.1.29+	
S34	"	4	26(SP)T					3.11.23	16.2.27+	
S35	"	5	25*T					27.7.27	30.6.56	

S4 to S6, S13 & S14

These are identified by the different combinations of dots and dashes.

S15

In use for nearly 40 years, at least three were made.

S19a

A rubber (?) cancellation with no wording or date, used c. 1875-82 with the letters 'APMY' and also a solid bar with clogged ink. One reason for this unusual postmark was that it was made locally at short notice to replace a lost or damaged CDS. The letters were an abbreviation for 'April' and 'May' – the period during which it was expected to be in use (S9 was impressed at the GPO, London on 26th May 1875). Nevertheless, this continued to be used for some years also with the letters 'AMPY' and is said to have still been in St. Kitts GPO in 1936. Another CDS (21mm) with 'ST. KITTS' at the top and no date was used to cancel stamps; an example is known from February 1883. Perhaps both these unusual marks were the first internal methods for providing SPOs with postmarks. This would explain the accompanying dated CDSS applied at Basseterre as instructional marks in later years.

S21

"Imperial" was the name of the Cable & Wireless ship, which carried mail on its passages between C&W stations.

S22

The only contemporary British-type postmark employed in the islands.

Nevis

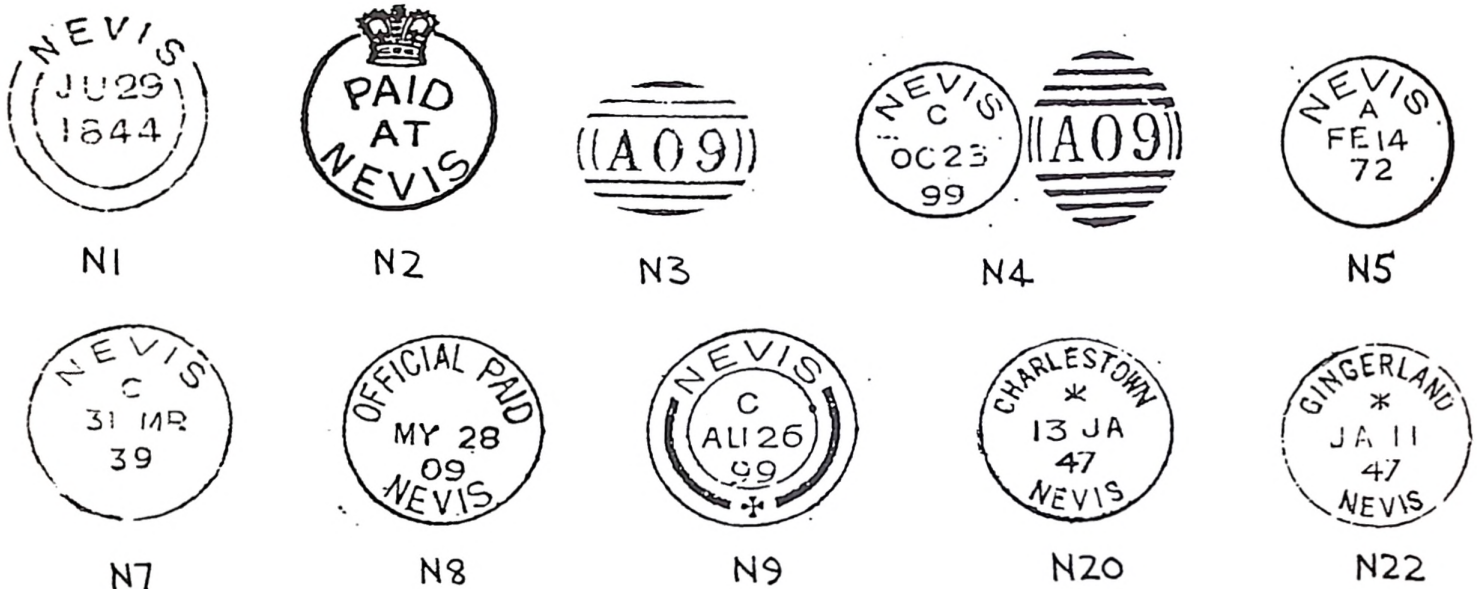


TABLE N1

No.	Type	Key	Impressed	EKD	LKD	Notes
N1	1	25¢TY	29.6.44•		1861	
N2	CC	24¢NB	9.52	1870	1883	Used in black, 1870-86
N3	2a	A09	14.4.58•			
N4	2c	20½CT/A09	23.10.99•	2.00	17.10.30+	
N5	4	21½AT	14.2.72•	11.4.78+	12.04	
N6	4	23½AT		7.29	8.31	
N7	4	25CT		12.30	30.6.56	Also ¢ & N and in blue, 1937
N8	OP	25¢B	28.5.09•	21.6.09	15.1.19+	
N9	6B	25½CT	26.8.99•	27.4.35	23.5.46	

TABLE N2

No.	Post Office	Type	Key	Impressed	Opened	Closed	Re-opened	EKD	LKD	Notes
N20	Charlestown	5	24*B					10.8.44+	30.6.56	
N21	"	5S	25¢BL					20.12.39+	24.11.41+	Slogan as S21
N22	Gingerland	5	24*B		1.6.43			1.7.44+	30.6.56	

N2

Was used in black to uprate ½d and 1d stamps to 6d, due to a shortage of that duty in 1885-86.

N20 & N22

In 1952, a Mr. Madden, stamp dealer in Surrey, pleaded guilty in court to selling colonial stamps with forged postmarks. Two of them were N20 dated 24-7-45 and N22 dated 2-7-45.

N21

Similar to S21.

Virgin Islands

Although the Virgin Islands form the least-developed Presidency and have the smallest population, the colony's postal administration followed a rather unconventional course. All postage stamps to 1956 had the name "Virgin Islands" except for an issue in 1951 which had "British Virgin Islands." The postmarks have seven variations:

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------------|
| T | = Tortola | TV | = Tortola, V.I. |
| TW | = Tortola, W.I. | RTV | = Road Town / Tortola, V.I. |
| RTW | = Road Town / Tortola, W.I. | VI | = Virgin Islands |
| BVI | = British Virgin Islands | | |

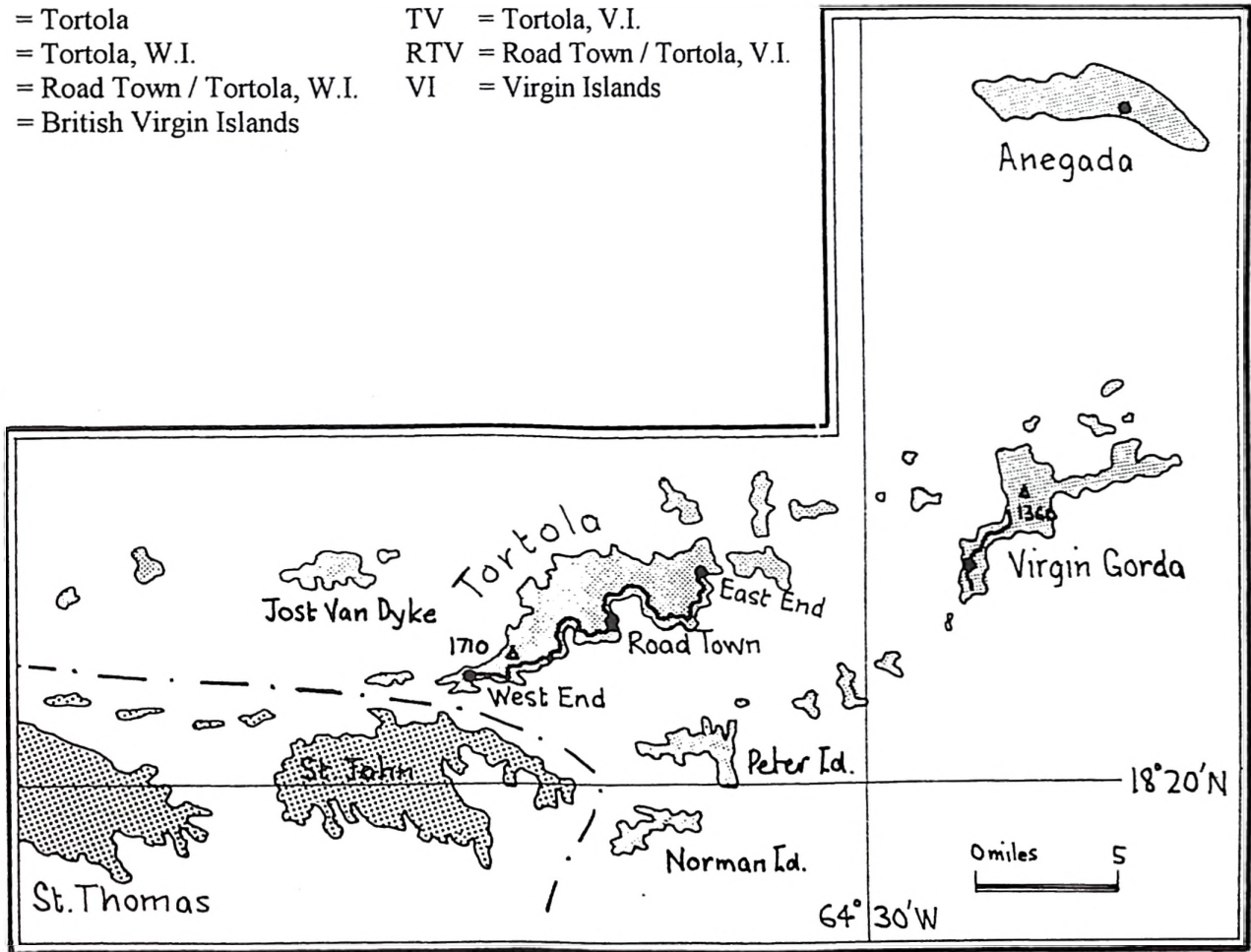


TABLE VI

No.	Type	Key	Impressed	EKD	LKD	Notes
V1	1	25ATY(T)	27.11.47•	30.3.48	15.5.53	Also codes B & C
V2	CC	27½B(T)	15.12.42			Used 1910-18 only
V3	CC	23B(T)	21.7.54	1854	1864	
V4	2a	A13	14.4.58•	1858	1904+	
V5	2a	A91		(1872)	9.12.09+	To Tortola in 1867
V6	3	20½CS(T)	20.12.61•	28.12.63		
V7	3	20AS(T)	12.4.70•		4.88	2 sent
V8	4	22CT(T)		29.3.88	8.8.06	Also codes A & B
V9	4	24*T(VI)		7.97	18.5.03+	



TABLE V2

No.	Post Office	Type	Key	Impressed	Opened	Closed	Re-opened	EKD	LKD	Notes
V20	Tortola	6D	23AB(V)					24.9.16	23.12.30	Inner ring worn away mid-1920s
V21	Road Town	5	R28¢BLY(TV)	23.11.06*				4.7.07+	23.7.07	
V22	"	5	27¢B(TW)					6.4.36	11.53	Blocks & hyphen
V23	"	5	26¢B(TW)					18.3.41	30.6.56	Blocks & no hyphen
V24	"	5	23½*B(TW)					3.1.49	17.12.51	Lines & hyphen
V25	"	6B	26½TB(TV)	12.4.06*				20.7.06	1.8.38	Another sent 24.12.08*
V26	"	6D	31¢BRY(TV)					2.9.16	3.10.17	
V27	"	6OP	25TB(TV)	24.10.05*				1907	1919	Also used without date
V28	Anegada	7	R27¢TL(V)	22.11.06*	(1906)	c. 1912?	10.28-12.30?	31.3.08		4 known; population 300 in 1907
V29	"	6B	27½AB(BVI)		1938	1944		30.7.38+	21.8.(44) +	No year from 1940; about 6 known
V30	East End	5	R29¢BLY(TV)	22.3.06*	(1906)	1915?	10.28-12.30?	10.11.06	30.3.14	Mauve & black ink used
V31	Virgin Gorda	5	25¢B(V)		1900	12.30		26.2.00	21.11.30	Reopened in 1957
V32	West End	5	R29¢BLY(TV)	22.4.06*	1906			13.7.06	26.3.10	2 known on cover
V33	"	5	25¢B(T)			(1912)		24.3.10	29.12.11	
V33	"						(1920)	9.5.20	7.10.26	In black 1920 & mauve 1921-26
V34	"	5	25*B(T)	(1926)		1944		10.1.27	18.10.44	



V30



V31



V32



V33



V34

- V2 Only known used c. 1910-18, said to be Official Paid or when stamps were stuck on the reverse of the cover.
- V5 Originally issued to Cunard's S.S. *Java* in 1859. There is no record of when it was transferred to the Virgin Islands. Type 2a, A93, is known cancelling stamps c. 1866.
- V23 The 'N' was inserted before despatch.
- V31 An example dated 21-4-33 exists on cover with the year in manuscript.
- V33 Used as a registration "label" in 1935-37, with the date removed and a manuscript number inserted.

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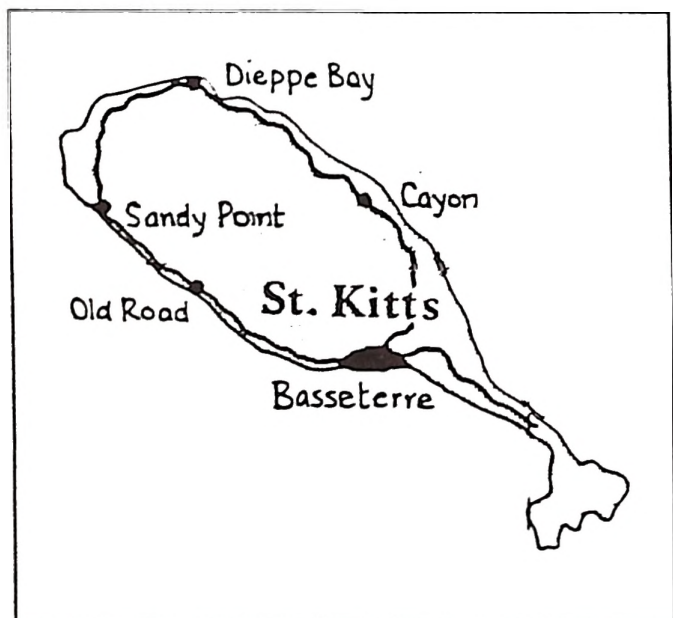
St. Kitts and Nevis Manuscript Cancellations

by Robert J. WYNSTRA

While the village manuscript cancellations of Dominica have been well documented in previous issues of the *BCPJ*, little has been written about manuscript cancellations of the islands of St. Kitts and Nevis. These items have often been overlooked in the past as mere fiscal usages. But a number of new cover and postmark finds now provide the necessary outline for partially unraveling this elusive aspect of British West Indies postal history.

The Internal Postal System

Like Dominica, the island of St. Kitts (St. Christopher) had no formal internal postal system until the 1870s. Prior to that period, mail for the entire island was handled at the General Post Office (GPO) in Basseterre. Rural postal customers were forced to travel to the GPO both to send and pick up mail. No rural delivery was available except by private arrangement. A similar situation existed on Nevis, where all mail was handled at the Charlestown GPO.

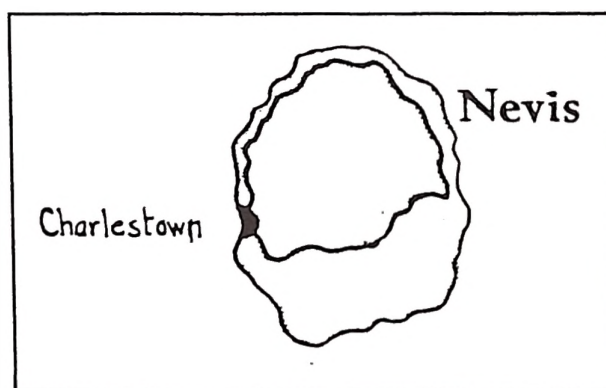


Official records of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) indicate, however, that the situation had changed by 1881. In reply to a questionnaire, the St. Kitts postmaster report-

ed that, although there was no interior postal system connected to the post office, there was a "police postal service." Just as in the early system in Dominica, policemen served as travelling postmen, taking mail around the island daily. The charge was 1d for each item, regardless of weight. On external mail, the 1d was added as an extra surcharge, over and above the 4d overseas rate.

Another letter from the postmaster, dated in July 1887, confirmed this arrangement, noting that the itinerary around the island was 30 miles long. He added that, in addition to the Basseterre office, there were four post offices in different parts of the island. This corresponds well with the known fact that there were four rural police stations on the island, at the villages of Cayon, Dieppe Bay, Old Road, and Sandy Point. These were the same villages that were later issued steel cancelling devices.

The postmaster confirmed that policemen served as letter carriers and delivered all letters within a quarter of a mile from the road that circled the island. There were two daily deliveries in Basseterre and one in the countryside. Regular letters could be posted at any one of the four village offices, but registered articles could only be posted at the General Post Office.



On Nevis, the police played the same role. Mail was carried around the island by travelling postmen, although there were no post offices open other than the Charlestown GPO. The inland rate on Nevis was 1d. Unlike in St. Kitts, there was apparently no extra 1d surcharge added to external mail to pay for the police postal service.

Early Manuscript Cancellations

Postal history evidence accumulated over the years clearly indicates that clerks at the rural St. Kitts post offices had no distinctive cancelling devices before 1900. Without their own datestamps, they were forced to cancel stamps in manuscript with pen and ink. The earliest recorded example showing a manuscript cancellation on a St. Christopher low value is dated December 16, 1870, although this cannot be attributed to village postal use with absolute certainty.

Several recorded items showing both the date and village names in manuscript clearly indicate, however, that the rural postal system was in operation at least as early as 1873. The earliest known example is a 1d stamp cancelled with the full name "Dieppe Bay" and the date January 5, 1873 in manuscript (Figure 1).



Figure 1



Figure 2

Another 1d stamp is recorded cancelled in manuscript with the date May 16, 1873 and the abbreviation "DB" for Dieppe Bay (Figure 2). The village of Old Road is represented by a lone example dated on October 31, 1873 with the abbreviated name "OR" in manuscript (Figure 3). A similar item is recorded from Sandy Point with the date May 30, 1875 and the abbreviated name "SP" in manuscript (Figure 4).



Figure 3



Figure 4

After 1875, however, the village cancellations are represented by examples with only the date in manuscript. Fortunately, a few covers and stationery items showing this usage have survived. The earliest example on cover is addressed to Georgetown, Demerara (British Guiana). A 1d stamp paying the local surcharge for the police mail service was cancelled in manuscript on September 15, 1879. An additional 4d stamp paying the UPU rate was

cancelled at the Basseterre GPO one day later. Two other covers from the same correspondence are recorded with the manuscript dates: August 24, 1880 and October 24, 1880 (Figure 5).

Three additional covers mailed to different addresses in England show the same pattern, with the 1d paying the local rate cancelled in manuscript and the 4d paying the UPU rate cancelled at the head office on the following day. These items are dated in manuscript April 10, 1883, July 8, 1885, and August 25, 1885.

One of the major stamp rarities of St. Christopher also is linked to this village mail system. In June 1886, a number of 6d green St. Christopher stamps were overprinted "One/Penny" for use during a shortage of 1d values. One sheet of 20 stamps was overprinted double. All recorded examples show manuscript cancellations dated between July 21 and August 3, 1886 (Figure 6).



Figure 6

In the past, these manuscript dates have been attributed to fiscal usage. However, these stamps actually show two similar but distinct village manuscript cancellations, indicating that the entire supply of double overprints was distributed to the village offices.

All the evidence available suggests that the village offices stocked only ½d and 1d values. Presumably, overseas letters were franked at the village offices with low values paying the 1d internal rate and sent along with some indication that overseas postage was prepaid. The higher values paying the UPU rates were then added to the letters and cancelled at the Basseterre GPO.

One exception to this pattern is a manuscript cover franked with a bisected 1d carmine-rose of 1882 and showing a manuscript cancellation dated April 30, 1885 (Figure 7). In March 1885, official sanction was given for the 1d carmine-rose to be bisected and overprinted "halfpenny." Apparently supplies of the overprint did not reach the village office, which in this case bisected an unoverprinted 1d stamp.

The cover is addressed to J.D. Adamson at Lodge Estate, which is located near the village of Cayon. This estate at one time was the governor's residence. According to the daughter of the recipient, the cover contained an invitation from a neighboring estate. The envelope flap

Figure 5



Figure 7

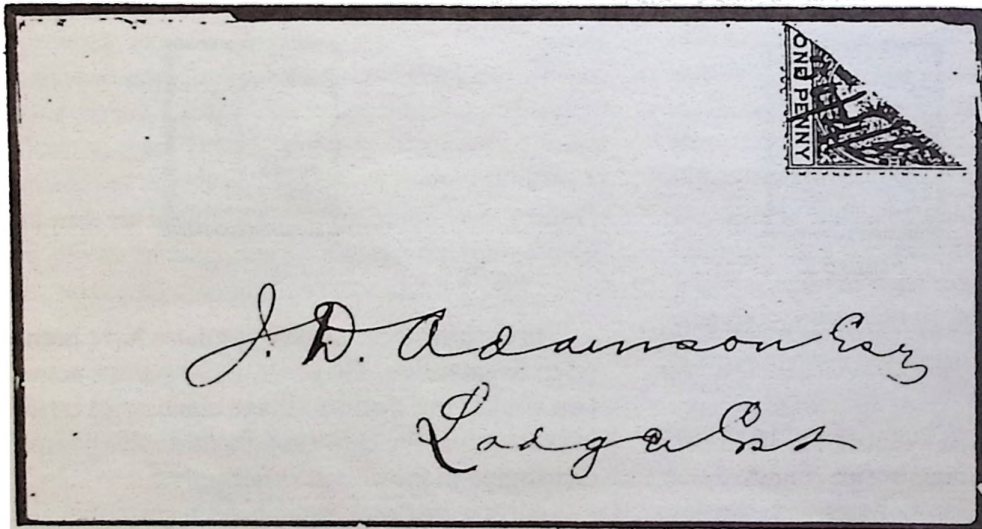
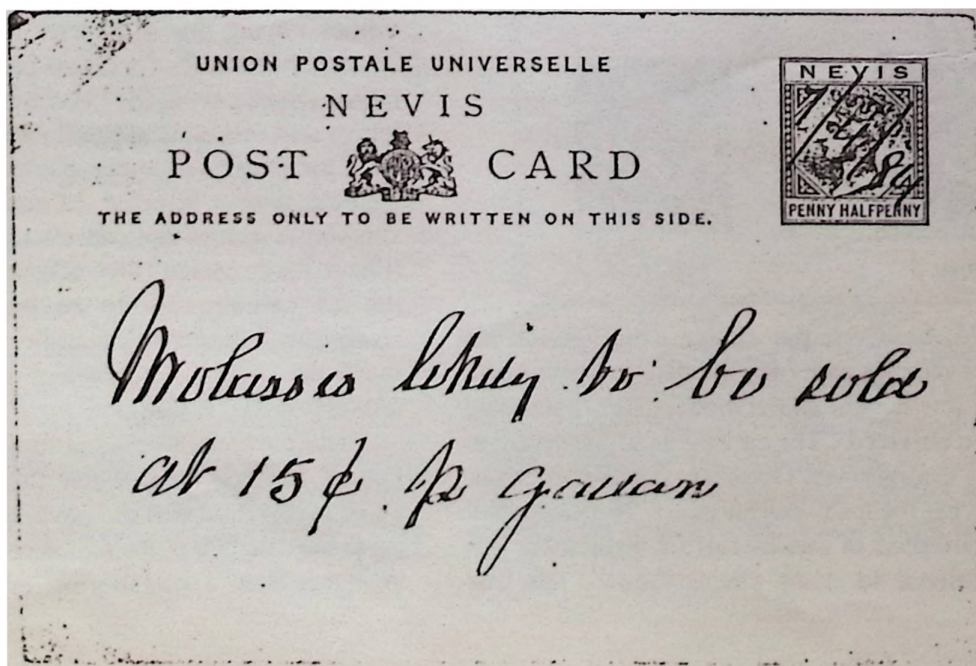


Figure 8



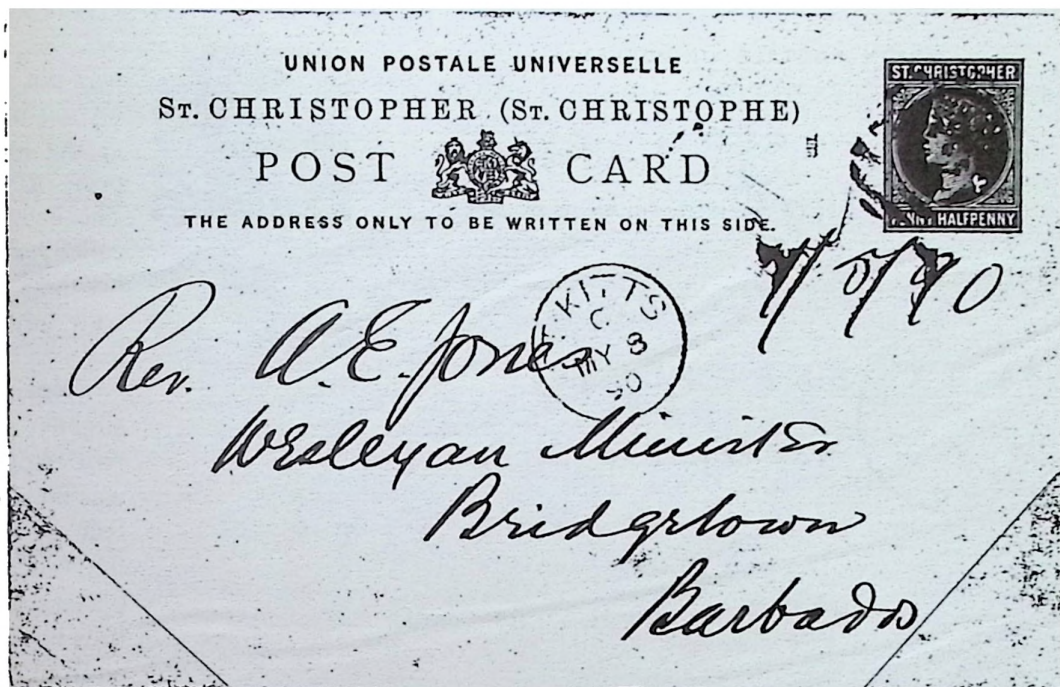


Figure 9

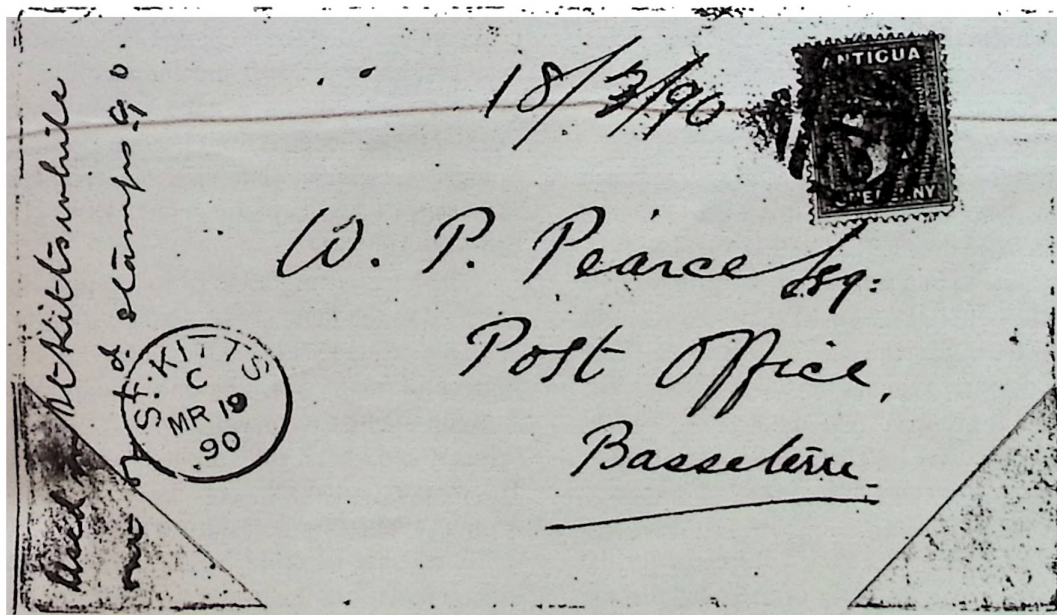


Figure 10

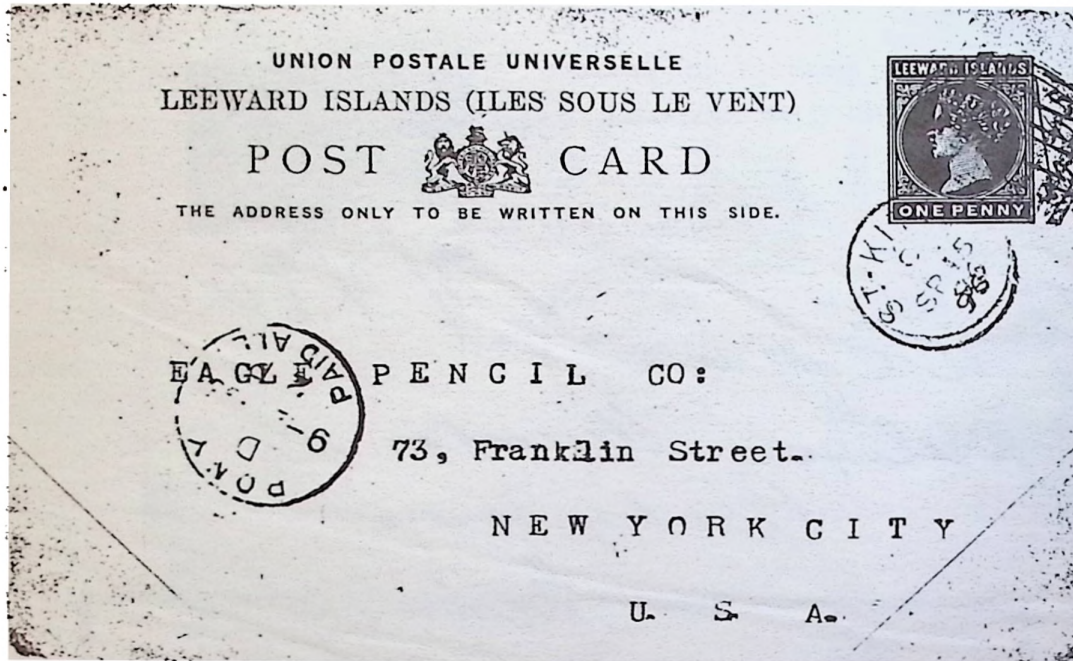


Figure 11

was not tucked in, allowing it to be mailed at the local ½d book post or circular rate. The daughter later recalled her father giving her this envelope along with other family letters.

Nevis followed a slightly different pattern. Apparently, there was no surcharge in effect on that island for the local travelling postal system. Two entire covers have been recorded from Nevis showing village manuscript cancellations.

One cover to St. Kitts shows a bisected 1d cancelled with the manuscript date June 1, 1883 and an overstrike of the "A09" obliterator used at the Charlestown GPO. A manuscript cancellation dated on April 4, 1884 is recorded on a Nevis postal card to St. Kitts (Figure 8). This item is addressed on the message side to the same J.D. Adamson who was the recipient of the St. Christopher bisect cover.

Later Village Manuscript Usages

By the late 1880s, this simple internal postal system began to undergo some major changes. The first signs of change are two covers dated during 1888 and 1889. The first, which is addressed to England, is franked with a single stamp paying the 4d UPU rate. Added alongside but clear of the stamp is the manuscript date September 26, 1888 and a St. Kitts datestamp applied the following day. The stamp was cancelled with an "A12" obliterator. The second, which is addressed to Saxony, follows a similar pattern, with the manuscript date June 5, 1889 added alongside the 4d stamp.

These covers suggest that the 1d surcharge for the police postal system was no longer in effect and that the manuscript dates added alongside the stamp were applied at the village offices. This change presumably was linked to a changeover from police to civilian control of the internal postal system.

Confirmation of village usage comes from a St.

Christopher postal card headed at Dieppe Bay on May 7, 1890 (Figure 9). The address side carries the same date in manuscript, added alongside the indicium, which is cancelled with an "A12" obliterator. This side also shows a St. Kitts datestamp for May 8, 1890.

Similar St. Christopher and Leeward Islands postal cards are recorded from Dieppe Bay with the manuscript dates November 3, 1890 and January 11, 1892. The first of these cards shows a handwriting style that exactly matches the earlier card from Dieppe Bay. Two additional examples are known, datelined at Cayon and showing the manuscript dates September 15, 1896 (Figure 10) and February 16, 1897.

The handwriting style from Dieppe Bay also can be matched to the manuscript date on a cover dated March 18, 1890 (Figure 11). This cover is franked with an Antigua 1d stamp, which paid the local rate to Basseterre. Antigua stamps were valid for postage on St. Kitts in February and March 1890 during a shortage of 1d stamps. This cover represents the only recorded village usage of an Antigua stamp on cover during this provisional period.

A number of other postal cards headed at villages indicate that use of the manuscript dates was no longer the general practice at the villages from about 1894. The system of village manuscript cancellations came to an end on May 10, 1900, with the issuance of duplex-style village cancellers for the villages of Cayon, Dieppe Bay, Old Road, and Sandy Point.

Acknowledgments

Many members of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group and the British West Indies Study Circle have provided important data on village manuscript cancellations over the years. Special thanks, however, are due to Federico Borromeo, Brian Brookes, Charles Freeland, Simon Goldblatt, Michael Hamilton, Michael Medlicott, and Roger Schnell for providing vital pieces of information that made this article possible.

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Official Mail of Anguilla

by Dr. Reuben A. RAMKISSOON

There is a considerable diversity of designs on printed envelopes and handstamps of the Government of Anguilla. A recently obtained lot of some 400 covers, dated between 1971 and 1996, shows that most of the covers were carried through Anguilla post, but a few were hand-delivered. I have abstracted all of the different categories found, along with the earliest dates found in this assortment, which are not necessarily earliest known dates.

This preliminary study shows that one third of the examples noted were from the Postal Service. Apart from those, only one registered cover was encountered – an inland envelope from the Department of Labour, dated May 12, 1995.

The Social Security Board, a statutory agency, lost its franking privileges in mid-1993. The earliest dated cover with meter PB099 20c franking at The Valley, Anguilla is Aug. 7, 1993. An April 26, 1993 official envelope from the Social Security Board of Anguilla was addressed to Dr. William V. Herbert, founder of the Anguilla Caribbean Commercial Bank, constitutional advisor to the revolutionary government, and the St. Kitts Ambassador to the United Nations. Along with five others, Herbert disappeared shortly after on a fishing trip.

An occasional cover is noted with printed text: "On Her Majesty's Service" (Postal Service), "On Her Britannic Majesty's Service" (Governor's office).

About 25 printed envelopes of the Government of Anguilla exist with the name and address of the office. A few of these include a reproduction of the seal of the government, with or without the text *Anguilla: Strength and Endurance*. Those recorded are:

- Anguilla National Carnival Committee, P.O. Box 328, The Valley, Anguilla, B.W.I. (tourism)
- Government of Anguilla (2 types: usage: On Postal Service; Cottage Hospital)
- Government of Anguilla, British West Indies (On Postal Service)
- The Government of Anguilla, British West Indies (On Postal Service)
- The Anguilla National Carnival Committee, P.O. Box 328, The Valley, Anguilla, B.W.I. (pictorial: two carnival masks)
- The Department of Tourism. The Valley, Anguilla, West Indies
- Department of Lands and Surveys
- Ministry of Social Services and Lands, P.O. Box 60, The Valley, Anguilla, British West Indies
- Office of the Chief Minister and Minister of Home Affairs (pictorial: sailboat design)
- Office of the Director of Finance
- Office of the Minister of Finance
- Office of the Parliamentary Secretary, P.O. Box 60, The Secretariat, The Valley, Anguilla, B.W.I. (2 types; pictorial, with and without seal)
- Office of the Registrar of Commercial Activities, The Secretariat, The Valley, Anguilla, British West Indies (pictorial: seal)
- Office of the Superintendent of Offshore-Finance, The Secretariat, The Valley, Anguilla, British West Indies (pictorial: seal).

A generic oval handstamp, *Government of Anguilla, Ministry of* (followed by 2 blank 30mm lines) allows for the manuscript indication of the originating office, with date and initials.

The Anguilla National Trust, P.O. Box 1234, The Valley, Anguilla, British West Indies was allowed official franking privilege January 26, 1994 publicity mailing, before approval of the Executive Council. It is thought that only a single surviving cover exists for this mailing.

The Governor's office also utilized *On Her Britannic Majesty's Service* official envelopes. An example of a 253 x 176 mm imprinted brown envelope is locally addressed in the Governor's hand with manuscript instruc-

tional text: *By Hand*

A 1993 *Happy Holidays* greeting card from the National Aids Programme was mailed within Anguilla by the Health Education Center. This mailing received the regular circular datestamp "ANGUILLA / VALLEY" with the date (21 Dec 1993) in the center. In addition, some examples are known with a red strike reading "POSTAGE PAID/ANGUILLA" (fee 10c) dated 20 Dec 1993. This is a hitherto unreported handstamp, used on advertising flyers and similar publications that are to be distributed to box holders at the General Post Office.

The author is indebted to Bob Conrich for covers and information supplied in the preparation of this paper.



GOVERNMENT OF ANGUILLA

Office of the Parliamentary Secretary

P.O. Box 60, The Secretariat
The Valley, Anguilla, BWI

GOVERNMENT OF ANGUILLA OFFICE OF THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY

The Secretariat, The Valley, Anguilla, British West Indies.



GOVERNMENT OF ANGUILLA OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

The Secretariat, The Valley, Anguilla, British West Indies.



GOVERNMENT OF ANGUILLA OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF OFFSHORE FINANCE

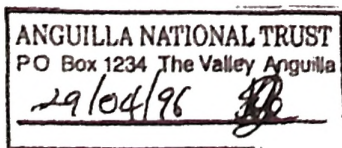
The Secretariat, The Valley, Anguilla, British West Indies.

On Her Britannic Majesty's Service



THE ANGUILLA NATIONAL TRUST

P.O. BOX 1234, THE VALLEY, ANGUILLA, BRITISH WEST INDIES



GOVERNMENT OF ANGUILLA

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND SURVEYS
THE VALLEY, ANGUILLA, B.W.I.

Handstamps

<i>Department or Section</i>	<i>General Characteristics of Handstamps</i>	<i>Features of Handstamp</i>
Accountant General's Office / Anguilla	Enclosed 2-line 75 x 23 mm struck in red or black	Office: 3 mm capital letters Address: 4 mm letters Usage: black: 18 May 1995 red: undated; 27 Apr 1992
- As above	Oval 2-ring, 50 x 30 mm outer oval ring struck in red or black	Office: 2 mm capital letters Address: 3 mm letters Usage: red: 14 Jun 1996 black: 18 Jan 1991
- As above	Oval 3-ring 48 x 33 mm outer ring struck in dark and bright red	Office: 2 mm capital letters Address: 2 mm letters Usages: Dark red (undated) Red: 19 Jan 1995
A.L. H. Comp. Sch./ The Valley/ Anguilla B.W.I./ Tel. 2416	2-ring oval 4-line 61 x 33 mm struck in black, blue, greenish blue	3mm caps and small letters Usage: Black: 3 Dec 1988 Blue: 21 Nov 1990 Greenish blue: 3 Apr 1992
A.L. H. Comp. Sch./ The Valley/ Anguilla B.W.I./ Tel: 2416 / 2417	4- line unenclosed 37, 20, 30 and 30 mm lines struck in blue	3 mm, caps and small letters Usage: 16 Jan 1994
Anguilla Development Board	3-ring round 35 mm, outer diameter open center; struck in black	2 mm, capital letters Usage: 9 May 1991
Anguilla National Trust/ P.O. Box 1234 The Valley Anguilla	Enclosed rectangular 3-line 47 x 18 mm struck in black; date, initials (ms)	Name: 2.5 mm, capital serifed Address: 2 mm text Usage: 29 Apr 1996 Black: 4 Feb 1994
Anguilla/ Public Library/ The Valley/ Anguilla, W.I.	Enclosed rectangular 4-line 46 x 27 mm	Name: 2.5 mm, all capitals Location: 2 mm letters Usage: 1996
Chief Minister's/ Office Government of / Anguilla	Enclosed rectangular 5-line 48 x 29 mm appears in black	3 mm, all capital letters Usage: 21 Jul 1993
Community Development/ & Welfare Department/ The Valley/ Anguilla, W.I.	3-ring oval 50 x 33 mm struck in black	2 mm, all capital letters usage undated
Cottage Hospital/ Anguilla W.I.	2-ring oval struck in black	3.5 mm, all capital letters Usage: 13 Jul 1993
Department/ of/ Agriculture/ The Valley/ Anguilla B.W.I.	Enclosed rectangular in 5-lines, of which address is 2 lines	Name: 3 mm capital letters Address: 2 mm letters Usage: 23 Jun 1993
Department of Agriculture/ and/ Fisheries/ Anguilla, W.I.	single ring oval 48 x 32 mm	3 mm, all capital letters usage undated

ANGUILLA
PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE VALLEY
ANGUILLA, W.I.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

GOVERNMENT
OF
ANGUILLA

ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

ANGUILLA

ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

ANGUILLA

ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

ANGUILLA



LAND REGISTRY

ANGUILLA

LAND REGISTRY
APR 27 1994
ANGUILLA

LAND REGISTRY
OCT 18 1994
ANGUILLA

Medical and Health Department

PUBLIC HEALTH SECTION

ANGUILLA

OFFICE OF
PERMANENT SECRETARY
TRAINING
ANGUILLA

REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES

ANGUILLA W.I.

On Postal Service

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
03-04-92 AI
Anguilla

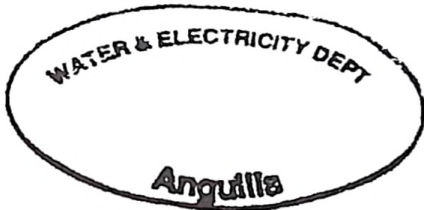
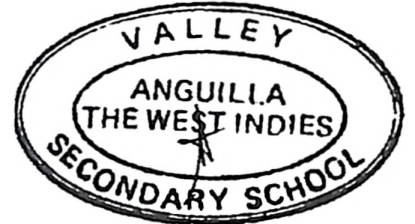
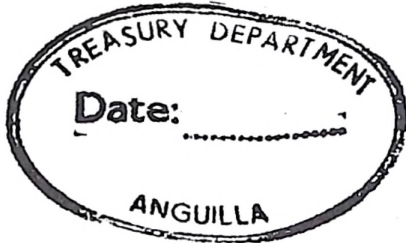
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
[Signature]
ANGUILLA

PARLIAMENTARY
SECRETARY'S OFFICE
7/11/95
GOVERNMENT
OF
ANGUILLA

Tourism Department
The Secretariat
The Valley
ANGUILLA W.I.

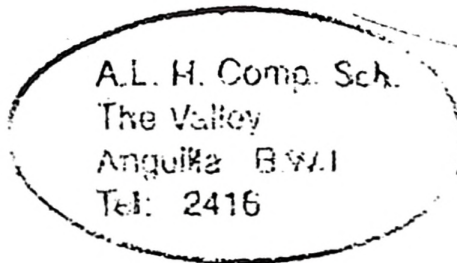
JRO (H.T.)
DEPARTMENT
OF
EDUCATION
PRIMARY SCHOOL

ROYAL ANGUILLA POLICE FORCE
CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT
ANGUILLA, W.I.



WATER DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT
OF
ANGUILLA

Youth & Family Life
Education Center
The Valley
Anguilla
Tel. 2540



CHIEF MINISTER'S
OFFICE
GOVERNMENT
OF
ANGUILLA

A. L. H. Comp. Sch.
The Valley
Anguilla B. W. I.
Tel: 2416/2417



DEPARTMENT
OF
AGRICULTURE
THE VALLEY
ANGUILLA B.W.I.

Department of Information & Broadcasting/ Anguilla, W.I.	3-ring round 43 mm outer ring diameter struck in blue (shades); black	2.5 mm, all capital letters Usage: Black 31 May 1992 Blue (shades): 16 Sep 1991
Department of Labour/ Government of Anguilla	2-line straightline 45 / 48 mm respectively	3 mm, caps and small letters Usage: 3 Dec 1990
Department of Lands & Surveys/ Anguilla	3-ring oval open center, with initials 47 x 33 mm; struck in black	2 mm, all capital letters struck in black Usage: 27 Apr. 1992
- As above	3-ring oval open center, new inner circle contour 48 x 33; 38 x 19 mm ovals	as above Usage: 29 Apr 1992
Department of Posts Anguilla W.I.	3-ring oval 47 x 29 mm; struck in black initials and date (ms)	2 mm capital serifed letters open center Usage: 29 Oct 1971
Department of Tourism Anguilla	2-line straight-line 48 x 19 mm; struck in blue	Office: 3 mm. capital letters Usage: 22 Nov 1986
East End School / Dept. of Education / Anguilla	2- ring oval 50 x 34 mm; struck in black	School, address: 3.5 mm letters Dept: 3 mm, all capital letters Usage: 3 Dec 1988
Education / Government of Anguilla / Department	Enclosed rectangular 5-line 44 x 28 mm struck in black, blue	Office: 3.5 mm, capital letters Location: 2 mm letters Usage: Black: 21 Oct 1991 Blue: 23 Mar 1992
General Post Office / The Valley Anguilla	Oval 3-ring crowned frequently initialed in center usually in black; (2) examples in red	51 x 39 mm outer oval capital letters 2.5 mm Usage: Red: 3 Sep 1992
Government of Anguilla Ministry of / Anguilla -- Ministry of /	2-ring oval 50 x 33 mm Social Services / date (ms)	2.5 mm, caps and small letters Usage: 20 May 1985 Usage: 13 Jul 1994
--Ministry of /	Social Services / and Lands	Usage: 18 Jul 1993
Government of Anguilla Ministry of Finance Date...(20mm)..	2-ring oval 53 x 27 mm; struck in black	2.5 mm, caps and small letters Date: 2 mm, 20 mm line Office: 3 mm Usage: undated 24 May 1993
Government of Anguilla Registry Secretariat	Enclosed rectangular 2-line 58 x 14 mm; struck in black initialed and dated (ms)	2 mm, all capital letters Usage: 29 May 1990
Government of Anguilla Secretariat	3-ring oval 54 x 30 mm; struck in blue	2 mm, all capital letters Usage: 22 Jan 1987
Governor	Printed stationary with flap showing Royal cypher 25 x 24 mm embossed blue envelope 220 x 110 mm by hand, undated	

Health Education Center The Valley, Anguilla Phone: 2540	Enclosed 3-line rectangular 63 x 15 mm struck in black	3 mm, all capital letters Usage: 28 Jul 1993
H.M. Customs / The Valley / date / Anguilla B.W.I.	Enclosed rectangular 5-line 56 x 33 mm struck in black, red, blue (shades)	Office: 3.5 mm, capital letters Address / date: 3 mm Location: 2 mm letters Dark blue: 13 Apr 1993 Red: 25 Apr 1994 Black: 19 Apr 1993 Usages: Blue 13 May 1992
House of Assembly / Government / of Anguilla	Enclosed rectangular 4-line 48 x 27 mm, struck in black struck in black	Office: 2 mm, capital letters Govt: 2.5 mm, capital letters Place: 3 mm, all capital text Usage: 5 Jul 1994
Land Registry / date: mo / day / yr Anguilla	single-ring oval 44 x 31 mm struck in blue	2.5 mm, capital letters Usage: 13 Oct 1994
Land Registry / Anguilla	2-ring oval 50 x 32 mm; struck in blue	2 mm, all capital letters Usage: 4 Aug 1993
Land Registry / datestamp	2-ring oval 53 x 28 mm; struck in black	3 mm, all capital letters Usage: 27 Apr 1994
Medical and Health Department /Public Health Section / Anguilla	Enclosed rectangular 4-line 73 x 42 mm; initialed and dated (ms) struck in blue	Dept: 3, 5, 2.5 & 2 mm Usage: 12 Jul 1991
On Postal Service	Enclosed straightline; caps and small letters; black (usual); red (occasional)	55 x 13 mm rectangle 6 mm letters Usage: red: 3 Sep 1992
Police Headquarters / Anguilla	2-ring round 48mm diameter outer ring	3 mm, all capital letters Usage: undated black: 4 Feb 1994
Postmaster / Anguilla	Oval 3-ring crowned Occasionally initialed in center only noted in black	51 x 38 mm outer oval capital letters 3mm Usage: 28 Mar 1994
Public Works Department / Anguilla	3-ring oval 50 x 34 mm; struck in black initials and date (ms)	3 mm, all capital letters open center Usage: 7 Feb 1973
Public Works Department /Anguilla	oval handstamp 43 x 25.5 mm struck in black (initials, date(ms))	2 mm, all capital letters Usage: 18 Nov 1985
Public Works Department / Anguilla	oval handstamp 52 x 28 mm struck in black (initials, date (ms))	Office: 2 mm, capital letters Place: 3 mm, caps & small letters Usage: 3 Apr 1992
Registrar's Office / Anguilla	52mm oval handstamp, in black date (center): 3 mm	2 mm, all capital letters Usage: 25 Nov 1988

Registrar of Companies Anguilla W.I.	2-ring round 36mm, diameter; initials (ms) struck in black	2 mm, all capital letters Usage: 24 May 1993
RO / Department / of / Education Primary School	Enclosed rectangular 5-line handstamp 46 x 25 mm struck in black	Office: 3.5, 2.5, 1.5 mm all capital letters Usage: 22 Feb 1991
Royal Anguilla Police Force / Criminal Investigation Depart-ment	Name in semicircle (62mm diameter) 3-line straight-line-text, struck in red	Name (semicircle): 4 mm 2 mm, all capital letters 16.5, 50 & 29 mm lines Usage: 28 Feb 1994
Social Security Board / Anguilla	Large 'A' (35 x 42mm) enclosing text struck in blue; initialed (ms)	2 mm, all capital letters Usage: unreadable; 15 Jul 92
--as above, but smaller	Small 'A' (17 x 21mm) enclosing text struck in black; initialed (ms)	1 mm, all capital letters Usage: 19 Apr 1993
Treasury Department Water / & / Electricity Anguilla	4-ring oval outer: 50 x 28 mm; inner: 35 x 16 mm struck in blue	2 mm, all capital letters Usage: 25 Aug 1988
Treasury Department Date...(20mm line).. Anguilla	2-ring oval; 50 x 34 mm in center: mo / day / year struck in blue, black	2.5 mm, all capital letters Usage: blue 18 Jun 1986 black: 15 Jan 1988
--as above, but date in center, 3.5mm	2-line oval 53 x 35 mm, struck in blue; red	2 mm, all capital letters Usage: Blue: 28 Oct 1986 Red: 3 Oct 1994
--as above	2-ring oval 50 x 30 mm; date struck in center	2.5 mm, all capital letters Usage: Red: 2 Apr 1993
Valley / Secondary School / Anguilla The West Indies	3-ring oval 4-line 51 x 29 mm struck in black, with initials	2.5 mm, all capital letters Usage: 19 Jan 1988
Wallblake Airport Anguilla W.I.	2-ring oval 48 x 33 mm; date, initial (ms) struck in dark red	2 mm, all capital letters Usage: 13 Jan 1987
Water & Electricity Dept / Anguilla	Single ring oval 52 x 27 mm struck in dark blue	Dept: 1.5 mm, all capital text Place: 3 mm, caps and small Apr 1988
--as above	Single ring oval 44 x 25 mm; struck in blue; initials, date (ms)	as above Usage: 16 Oct 1991
Water Department / Government / of / Anguilla	Enclosed rectangular 4-line handstamp 47 x 22 mm; struck in black, blue	Dept: 2 mm, capital letters Govt: 2.5 mm, capital letters Anguilla: 3 mm, capital letters Usage: Black: 12 Mar 1993; blue: 28 Apr 1994
Youth & Family Life Education Center	5-line straight-line 38, 32, 20, 15 & 19 mm, respectively struck in black	3 mm, caps and small letters Usage: 28 Jul 1993

EDUCATION
GOVERNMENT
OF
ANGUILLA
DEPARTMENT



H.M. CUSTOMS
THE VALLEY
APR 18 1993
ANGUILLA
B.W.I.

1

Printed Address		
These are listed when an additional handstamp is utilized: Anguilla National Carnival Committee, P.O. Box 328, The Valley, Anguilla, B.W.I.		
--Tourism Department / The Secretariat / The Valley	Enclosed rectangular 4-line 53 x 27 mm struck in black; initials (ms)	Dept: 3.5 mm, old English Office: 2.5 mm, caps & small Address: 2.5 mm, as above
Anguilla / West Indies (multicolor design: yellow and green; black text The Department of Tourism, The Valley, Anguilla, West Indies, Telephone 451 / 759 Cables: Anggovt. Telex: 9313ANGGOVT LA		
Government of Anguilla --Cottage Hospital Anguilla, W.I.	(straight line text) 3-ring oval 51 x 35 mm, struck in black	2 mm, serifed capital letters Office: 3 mm, capital letters Location: 2.5 mm letters Usage: 4 Jun 1985
Government of Anguilla, Office of the Director of Finance, P.O. Box 60, The Valley, Anguilla British West Indies		
-Government of Anguilla Ministry of Finance Date.. initials (ms)...	2-ring oval handstamp 51 x 27 mm struck in black	2.5 mm, all capital letters Usage: 21 Apr 1991
Government of Anguilla, Office of the Chief Minister and Minister of Home Affairs, The Secretariat, The Valley, Anguilla, British West Indies		
--Parliamentary / Secretary's Office / Government / of / Anguilla	Enclosed rectangular 4-line 54 x 30 mm struck in black with/without initials	3 mm, all capital letters
Government of Anguilla, Office of the Parliamentary Secretary, P.O. Box 60, The Secretariat, The Valley, Anguilla, BWI		
Government of Anguilla, Office of the Superintendent of Offshore Financing, The Secretariat, The Valley, Anguilla, British West Indies		
--Registrar of Companies Anguilla W.I.	2-ring round handstamp 36 mm, diameter struck in black	2 mm, all capital letters
Government of Anguilla, Office of the Parliamentary Secretary, The Secretariat, The Valley Anguilla, British West Indies		
--Office of / Permanent Secretary / Training / Anguilla	Enclosed rectangular 4-line 53 x 23 mm struck in black	Office: 2 mm, capital letters Location: 3 mm letters

Montserrat: Extracts from My Records

by Charles A. FREELAND

This review of selected aspects of the postal history and (in a departure from the theme of this anthology) stamps of Montserrat is an updated and abbreviated set of the notes I circulated to a dozen Montserrat specialists when I took over as Group Leader for that country in 1990. I am grateful to those who responded with useful comments, notably Simon Goldblatt, Michael Medlicott, Mike Oliver, Mike Smith, Mark Swetland, and Rob Wynstra. The paper does not seek to be exhaustive. In particular, it omits any reference to specialised topics that have been the subject of detailed articles elsewhere – e.g., World War II censorship, fiscals, and village postmarks. I plan to tackle the essays and proofs at a later date.

Postal History

Early Mail

The earliest letter from Montserrat I have recorded is dated 1763 (Hopkins and Thompson collections). Other pre-1775 letters are known in 1767, 1769, and in the early seventies (1771, 1773, two in 1774).

Inward mail is rare. There is a 1672 letter from Ireland to a visiting ship, but otherwise I can only report two early letters from England in 1853 and 1861. Robson Lowe numbers are used for identification purposes below.

Pre-adhesive Handstamps (in chronological order)

HS1, 40 x 4 mm (not illustrated). Dates recorded: 10/1/1791, ?/?/1796 (arrival 21 July, Toeg), 11/6/1796, 17/9/1796.

MONTSERRAT

HS2, 39 x 3½ mm. Dates recorded: ?/8/1795, 3/4/1796, 4/8/1796, 14/7/1796.

MONTSERRATT.

HS3, 44 x 4 mm. Dates recorded: 12/10/1796, 13/10/1796.



HS4. Dates recorded: 25/7/1801, 23/12/1801, 25/12/1801, 13/1/1802 (all Gordon correspondence), ?/?/1802 (Phillips sale, 8/3/1979).

Hopkins recorded the following, which I have not seen and are not recorded by Britnor: "Cut-out handstruck stamps of 1806 and 1807 with Montserrat in semicircle in large serif capitals above date." These could be the fleuron (see later).

MONTSERRAT PAID

HS11. Single example (date 23/11/1836) recorded on the well-known soldier's letter, ex Toeg.



HS5



HS6

HS5. Dates recorded (1830s): 29/10/36, 23/11/36, 26/11/36, ?/1/37, 18/11/37, 6/3/38, 3/7/38. I have also recorded four examples to the Wesleyans (Rigby Philatelic Auctions, 1962-66) and another in Colonial Stamp Co., September 1986, each dated 1836 or 1837.

HS6. Dates recorded (1840s): 13/2/41, 15/4/41, 13/5/41, 20/5/41, 29/5/41, 30/6/41, 16/11/41, 5/7/42, 23/8/42, 26/7/45, 20/1/47, ?/11/47, 27/11/47. There are a further 18 examples in the Plantation Papers.



HS7. With code letter A in 1848 only. Dates recorded: 10/4/48, 1/11/48, plus five other examples until October 1848 (all in the Plantation Papers).

HS7. Without code letter. Examples recorded: 28/11/1849, 29/5/51, 16/7/51, 28/7/52, 25/10/53, 10/6/61, plus four strikes in the Plantation Papers.



HS12



HS8



HS13

HS12. Entered in the GPO Impression Book 15/7/1852. Seen ?/?/52, 25/1/53 (Britnor), 23/?/53, 10/12/53, 25/2/54, ?/?/54 ("two fine strikes"), 3/9/60. ?/?10/60 (arrival 16/11/60), 10/6/61. Provisional usages are known on 31/12/83 and 23/7/86 (in black). A strike is also recorded on 1886 piece with revenue stamp.

HS8. Dates recorded (1860s): 3/4/62, 26/7/68 (code letter A inverted), 25/11/68 (code letter A upright).

HS13. Most with code letter A. Dates recorded (1870s): 10/9/70, 10/9/71, 18/12/72 (no code letter), 20/12/73, 21/?/9/74, 15/5/76, 15/6/76. Britnor's listing of this mark for 1881-84 is puzzling, unless he was listing cancellations on stamped covers. There are also covers without adhesives dated 10/8/81, 14/5/84 and 26/5/85, which I have not heard about. It seems unlikely that such provisional use would have occurred with this mark.

G.B. Stamps Used with 'A08' in Montserrat

Covers bearing the G.B. 6d are known dated 11/9/58, ?/?/58 (Robson Lowe sale of September 1969) and 2/7/59. Another cover (12/5/59) mysteriously bears only 1d. Pieces are known bearing 6d (Bollen, 27/4/59) and 1d and 6d (Thompson).

Victorian Covers (Excluding Bisects)

Few commercial covers are recorded for this period; all are to Britain. I have illustrations of six covers bearing the first type 1d. There are two covers to London bearing pairs of the 1876 6d, dated 24/8/77 and 25/11/78 respectively. Covers franked 4d are dated 10/2/1881, 10/10/1883 (the stamps are obliterated by the date in manuscript), 11/12/1884 (perf. 12 stamps), and 5/?/1887. On the last, the month is illegible, but the stamps are the rose-red shade perf. 14. A fifth cover (dated 26/11/1884) bears no fewer than 12 1d stamps. The sixth cover (18/1/1889) has a pair of rose-red and three 4d keytypes. Victor Toeg has also recorded two covers bearing 1d values (SG7).

The Griffiths collection contains a fine cover to London bearing a 4d blue, dated 11/5/1881. Victor Toeg reports another cover bearing the 4d blue (SG5), with faults. A number of covers are recorded bearing the 4d mauve. The earliest I have, to England, is dated 26/5/1885. The Toeg and Messenger collections each contained one dated 1888 (neither illustrated); the Vivian-Brown collection had two (badly damaged), dated 1890; and I have seen three to Jamaica (31/1/90, 9/5/90, and 2/7/90). As far as I am aware, all these covers bear the CDs with code letter 'P', whose origin has not to my knowledge been definitively established, although some have speculated that it stands for Plymouth.

Covers bearing the first-issue Leeward Islands definitives, introduced in 1890, also appear to be quite scarce.

Bisects

Dozens of 1d bisect covers have survived. I have illustrations of ten covers and two "fronts" of the patently philatelic combinations of five bisects sent to Matson in Dominica on 2/9/1883. One is numbered 13, so more probably exist. Two fronts to Kelshall in Dominica bearing five bisects of the perf. 12 1d also exist. These were despatched on 14/5/1884.

Perhaps the most authentic-looking usages of 1d bisects are two covers (10/9/1883 and 11/10/1883) to different addresses in St. Kitts, with a bisect in conjunction with two whole stamps to pay the 2½d rate. Several pieces with this rate have been reported. There is also a correctly rated but faulty registered cover to Dominica with a bisect accompanied by a 4d mauve.

Single bisects dated 14/6/1883 (to Garraway in Dominica) and 14/7/1883 (to Pearce in St. Kitts) are also clearly philatelic, as are probably other dates to the same recipients or to Seignoret.

Nearly all the perf. 12 bisects bear the '½' handstamp used for the Dominica bisects. I have noted two exceptions, both dated 14/5/1884. The '½' is usually in black, but the Toeg collection contained one in red.

The 6d bisects are much scarcer and, except for three philatelic covers to Pearce, each dated 15/12/1883. I have not seen any 6d bisects used on their own where they paid the 2½d rate.

Then there are the healthier-looking, but still not suspicion-free 6d trisects. I can report three singles (two dated 15/12/1883, the other 11/12/1883); four together with the 1d bisect (i.e., 2½d rate), one dated 26/2/1884, and three dated 4/3/1884; one cover with two trisects (11/12/1883); and two with a trisect in combination with half a trisect.

Issued Stamps

Most of the pertinent facts have been recorded in Britnor. The purpose of this section is therefore to note the rarities, largest multiples, varieties, and other features of note. No attempt is made to record proofs and unissued items.

Queen Victoria

Few examples of G.B. stamps used in the island have been recorded. Unusually for the B.W.I. area, the 1d value seems to be as common as the 6d. A strip of four of 1d and four pairs (one on piece with 6d) are known. I have records of only one pair of the 6d. Victor Toeg has recorded a poor example of the 4d.

The 1876 1d is known mint in several large multiples (including reportedly at least one full sheet). The Lincoln stock had a block of 90 from which several of the multiples probably originate. The largest used multiple I have recorded is 12 (with the two major re-entries). At least one block of four and several strips are known used.

There are a fair number of mint blocks of the 1876 6d, but the largest I have recorded is 12. It is fairly easy to acquire a block of four. Used multiples, on the other hand, are very scarce, with one block and one strip of three seen.

The 1880 2½d is rare in multiples. The Hopkins/Thompson strip of four (faulty) is the largest known outside the Royal Collection (which has a block of six). My own collection contains pairs mint and used.

There are a number of mint blocks of the 1880 4d, the largest being Toeg's block of six. I have illustrations of

five blocks of four, and there is another in the Royal Collection. Nice single mint copies, however, are not much easier to find than the higher-priced 2½d. The largest used multiple is a strip of four (Thompson). Hopkins had a pair.

Of the 1884-85 series, the 1d rose-red shade is quite scarce in mint multiples. Several I have seen were not the correct shade. I have a used block (ex Toeg), and there was a strip of six in the Brassler collection.

Over a dozen mint blocks of the 2½d red-brown Crown CA watermark are recorded, mostly with rather brown gum. It is likely that these come from a single large block. The largest used multiples appear to be pairs (at least three).

The toughest block to find, not surprisingly, is the 1884 4d blue, CA watermark. The only block recorded is the Charlton-Henry/Toeg one. Mint singles are not as scarce as today's catalogue price would indicate, although many have defects. I am not aware of any surviving used multiples but a half-dozen singles have a Plymouth/Bristol TPO CDS of 11/4/1884 and may have originally formed a multiple.

Of the other 1884-85 values, mint blocks (or even, in the case of the 1d red, sheets) are available without being common. Does anyone have a larger mint block of the 4d than my own block of eight? Used blocks are rare; I have a block of four of the ½d and a block of nine of the 4d mauve. I have seen used blocks of the 2½d blue and 4d mauve with suspect 'A08' cancels.

The largest mint multiple of the 1884 1d red perf. 12 is my block of 15, ex-Bessemer, but I have records of three blocks of six and about 10 blocks of four. An early Robson Lowe sale offered a used strip of three and the Toeg collection contained a strip of four.

Later Issues

There are no truly rare stamps among the subsequent issues, at least until the 1976 OHMS overprints. The 1938 1d has been seen in a vertical coil strip (10 stamps between joins) from a vending machine. Similar coils were reported for the 1½d by E. Aguilar in the *BWI Philatelist* for September 1956 and for the ½d by the *Geosix Newsletter*. All the reported coils are perf. 12¾ x 13¼. There are a number of printings of the 1938 series recorded by Potter and Shelton.

Flaws and Varieties

The major flaw found on the stamps of Montserrat is the inverted 'S' found on the Antigua issues overprinted

'Montserrat'. Major A.E. Hopkins established that two separate overprint formes were used, one or the other of which was applied to each sheet of 120 stamps. Since some sheets survive showing the variety on positions 15 and 75 of the sheet, Hopkins concluded that the overprint forme containing the inverted 'S' has 60 subjects, which was applied twice to some of the sheets of 120 stamps. Other sheets had no inverted 'S'. The original theory – that the inverted 'S' arose when a cliché of the original forme was replaced – was proved to be false when positional examples of the 1876 1d were discovered without the variety.

Despite the fact that the inverted 'S' does not look very different from a normal 'S', the variety is keenly prized and expensive. The two 1876 values are the most commonly encountered. My records contain 30 unused examples of the 1d (including two blocks of six) and 33 used (three in pairs); and 45 examples of the 6d unused (including six blocks and two strips of three) and 18 used. Britnor postulates that all sheets of the 6d were overprinted with the inverted 'S' forme. Given the number of copies of the 6d with the variety and the absence of reported positional examples without it, this theory seems well-founded.

The inverted 'S' on the 1884 1d red is distinctly less common than on the Crown CC watermark. My records contain 19 mint copies (two blocks) and 27 used, including three pairs. Very few examples, however, have survived on the rose-red shade. I have only recorded six unused (only three of which are fine) and three used.

The last stamp with the inverted 'S' is the 1d perf. 12. I have recorded 28 mint (two pairs) and 16 used (one being in a strip of four and the other in a pair). There is also at least one example on a diagonal bisect (on piece).

A good study can also be made of the plate varieties on the basic Antigua overprinted 'Montserrat', but these are well described in the existing literature.

Three Montserrat Queen Victoria keyplates can be found with the well-known "detached triangle" flaw, first reported by E.K. Thompson. These appear on 3/3 (i.e., position 15) of the right pane of Die 1, Plate 2. None of the basic stamps (the 1885 ½d green, 2½d ultramarine, and 4d mauve) are scarce, but the flaws are elusive and desirable.

Britnor listed various minor flaws on the 1½d War Tax stamp, but since the basic stamp is so common, the varieties can be tracked down quite readily.

Watermark Varieties

I divide these varieties into three categories:

- the overprinted issues of Antigua, where the paper was often fed incorrectly and watermark varieties are encountered fairly frequently;
- the QV keyplates through to the GVI issues, where varieties rarely escaped De La Rue's quality control and are therefore very unusual;
- the present reign, when other printers were frequently used and watermark and other varieties have become frequent again.

In the first category, I list below those I have heard of. In the case of the 1876 1d, Crown CC watermark, these varieties are not scarce and large blocks have survived. I have not personally seen the 6d reversed variety but I cannot say that I have searched assiduously for it:

1876 1d (SG1): inverted, reversed, inverted and reversed
 1876 6d (SG2): reversed
 1884 1d red (SG7): reversed
 1884(?) 1d rose-red (SG7b): reversed
 1884 1d red perf. 12 (SG13): reversed.

In the second category, to my knowledge, only six varieties have been recorded. All but two appear to be extremely scarce:

1879 4d (SG5): reversed (Toeg had a defective example, which I have seen);
 1879 4d (SG5): inverted (two used copies noted in dealers' lists)
 1885 2½d (SG10): inverted (I have seen several mint singles, including a plate pair, plus a used pair and a block of four with doubtful 'A08' cancellation);
 1908 1d (SG15): inverted (a few mint singles and a block are known);
 ½d War Tax (SG60): inverted and reversed (my own used example is the only one I have recorded); and
 ½d War Tax (SG61a): inverted (reported by Steve Drewett: I have not noted any other reports).

In the third category, I do not collect the present reign, so cannot offer any knowledge. Gibbons Elizabethan catalogue lists over 20 watermark varieties in its final edition in 1983. Mike Smith has noted additional inverted watermarks on SG243b and SG255.

Forgeries

The best known forgery is the QV keytype made by Sperrati with the Crown CA watermark. It is available both "mint" and "used," as well as in die proof form in black or blue. This can be clearly identified from Robson Lowe's

description, first published in *The Philatelist*. Surprisingly, the Spiro Brothers do not seem to have forged the early issues of Montserrat, though the Antigua values are frequently encountered. The other forgeries seen from time to time are the Boston Gang forgeries of the 1879-85 keyplates, known in all issued colours and denominations as well as in 6d green (!). None of these are common.

Even more rarely seen are forged overprints on the Antigua 1d scarlet and rose-red and on the 6d perf. 12½ of 1872 (the closest Antigua shade to the rare, unissued blue-green). A 6d has also been reported with a forged second (i.e., purported double) overprint.

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British Virgin Islands World War II Censor Marks

by J.L. FREDRICK and Peter P. MCCANN, Ph.D.

Much has been written about the World War II censor markings of the British Caribbean area, and the definitive work on this subject is still two handbooks put together by the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society in 1976 and 1977.

The British Virgin Islands, however, only rated one page, written by Geoffrey G. Ritchie in the second handbook, wherein he noted that only one BVI local censorship mark and cover had been reported. Twenty years later, we can now double the former and report that two different marks were used locally in the BVI between 1939 and 1942.

The original mark, reported by the late Kil Bump, was on a cover dated 23 September 1940. The mark, inscribed 'PASSED/ BY CENSOR/ V.Is.' in three lines (type 1), had been handstamped in purple on the reverse. Subsequent

to the Ritchie article, a second handstamp was noted – a two-line censor mark 'PASSED/ BY CENSOR' superimposed over the Postmaster's oval departmental cachet, which reads 'POSTMASTER/ VIRGIN ISLANDS' (type 2). The earliest of these two-line markings, which are always found superimposed on the Postmaster cachet, was noted initially on a cover dated 19 March 1940.

PASSED
BY CENSOR
V. Is.

Type 1



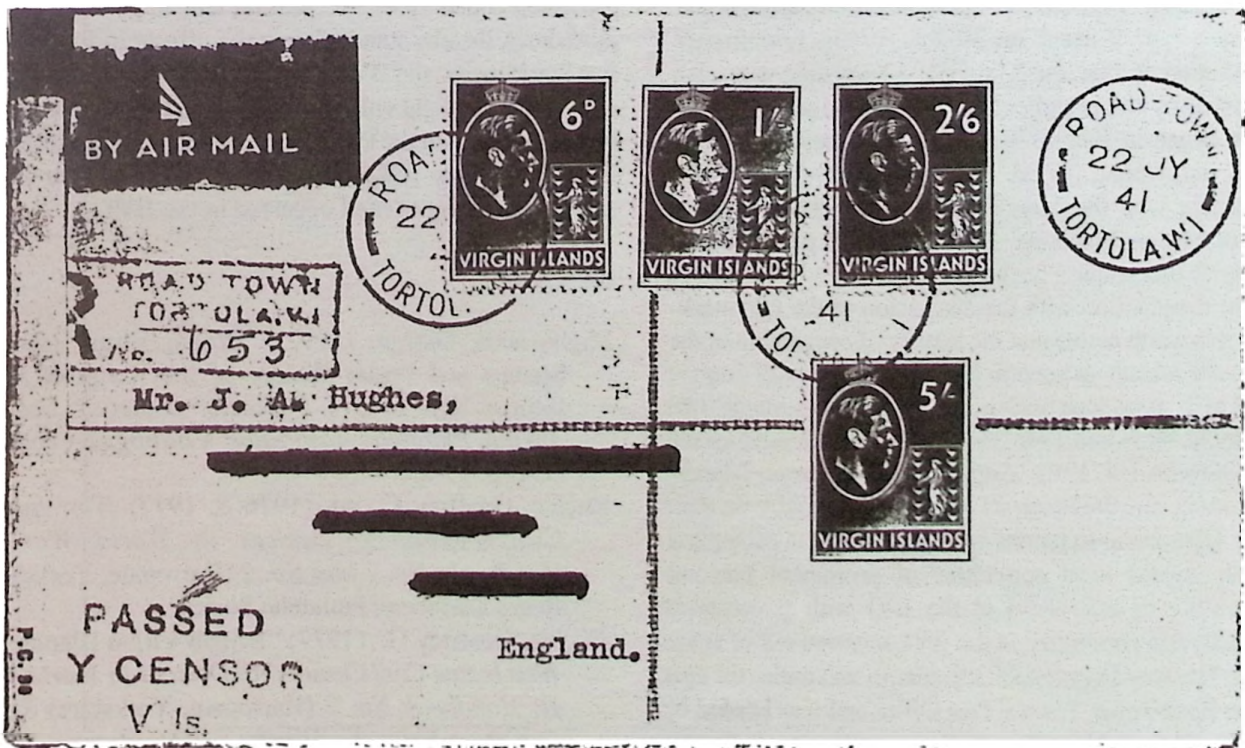
Type 2

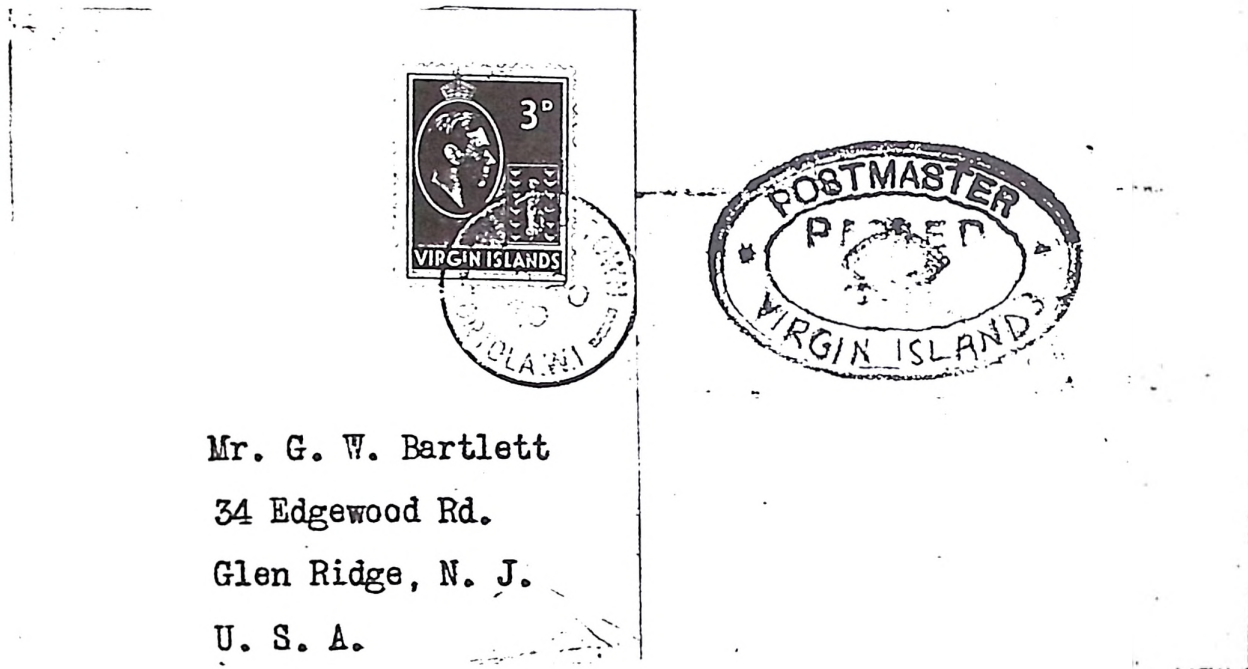
The most obvious difference between the two censor markings was the 3 mm spacing between the 'PASSED' and 'BY CENSOR' lines of the three-line marking and the 5 mm of the two-line marking.

Further detailed examination of the two marks, obviously struck from rubber handstamps, indicated that they could not have been modified from one another, and that they were separate devices, probably of local BVI origin. The convincing evidence for this conclusion is the differences in the spacing between individual letters ('ss' in 'PASSED') and in the relationship (vertically) of the letters in the *common* two lines to each other – e.g., the first 's' in the first line to the 'E' in the second line.

Both markings are quite scarce, and several observations can now be made about their periods of use, which, curiously, were not sequential but overlapping.

The belated appearance of a censor marking of type 2 on a cover dated 7 October 1939 came as quite a surprise. No other example of either type was reported until the type 2 cover of 19 March 1940. It seems, therefore, that a period of five months passed without any other examples found, although a good deal of mail from the BVI has been reported between October and March of those years. Giorgio Migliavacca (1992) relates a possible explanation – the British Virgin islanders were so upset about having their mail censored locally that they simply refused to put up with it after initial attempts at censorship in late 1939 after the war started, and only in March or so of the following year was local censorship possibly restarted. The first uses of type 1 were seen later in 1940 (August and September) and the use of type 1 continued until 18 May 1942 when a latest use of Type 2 was again found. After this time, no local censorship in the BVI was seen, and all censored covers from the BVI were usually censored in the United States or Britain, or in many cases in transit to other destinations. Interestingly, a number of BVI covers sent to international destinations between 1940 and 1942, when local censorship was carried out, were, in fact, not apparently censored at all. Why this happened is not clear at this point. Fewer than a total of 25 covers, carrying either of the two censor markings in several colors of ink, have been recorded, and thus they are desirable items, with type 2 being the scarcer.





From the available empirical data, it appears that the type 2 marking was used essentially at the times of the openings and closings of the censorship office, namely the October 1939 and March 1940 openings and the May 1942 closing. A single exception has been reported and that is a type 2 usage on 30 July 1940. One further explanation is that the March 1940 opening was also protested by the islanders and the regular censoring actually began in July 1940, since no covers are reported in this intervening period. Also, the July date is more consistent with the August and September 1940 initial uses of the type 1 marking. (Readers of this paper be able to clarify this enigma further.)

In conjunction with the discussion of the two markings, it is worth noting that the history of censorship in the Leeward Islands in general showed that from 27 August 1939 in St. Kitts (one week prior to the declaration of war) to various times into 1942, each of the five Leeward Island Presidencies (St. Kitts, Antigua, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, and Montserrat) operated essentially on their own. Censorship functions were carried out in each place by an unpaid local committee of prominent persons. According to interviews in the BVI with government officials, this committee in the BVI operated out of space in the Treasury Department adjacent to and under theegis of the Road Town, Tortola, Post Office and was headed by Charles C. Crandall of Tortola. This would explain the use

of the Postmaster's departmental oval cachet in conjunction with the two line BVI censor mark. The three line marking was applied there as well. In 1942, London took over and reorganized the local censorship functions, providing coded "P.C. 90" sealing labels, personnel, and procedures, thereby standardizing the efforts in four of the five Presidencies; the BVI was excluded, perhaps because of the relatively light volume of mail and that they were so closely tied in with the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Thus, from May 1942 until the end of World War II, no further censoring of mail occurred in the BVI.

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World War II Civil Censorship in Antigua

by Edward T. TWEDDELL¹

It is over 20 years since the “bible” of West Indies censorship was published in two handbooks by the Roses Philatelic Society – one in 1976, the other the following year. George Bowman contributed sections on Antigua in both of those books² and produced an updated version in this journal,³ with an addendum also in the *BCPJ*.⁴ Since that time, very little seems to have been published on Antigua censorship. This may be because there are no new censorship devices to report – well, almost.

Introduction

There will be a great many more Antigua censored labels in existence than the 300 included in this study, but this sample appears to be representative, mainly because of the neatness of the results. Most of the data (over 90 percent)

have been collected over the years from dealers’ lists and auction catalogues, in particular those of the well-known Caribbean Philatelic Auctions and Pennymead Auctions.

The labels and handstamps identified by Bowman were arranged in a rough chronological order and designated accordingly. As will be seen, a different chronology now emerges, but it would be pointless not to maintain the designations that have become so familiar over the past 20 years, with minor adjustments.

The usual abbreviations have been adopted: dates are written in the day/month/year order, and where the data are incomplete, question marks replace the missing characters. Also the familiar EKD and LKD are used for “earliest known date” and “latest known date.” In some cases where a manuscript mark would normally be expected but is not listed, this is because the information was not

Figure 1
Islands of the Southern Caribbean

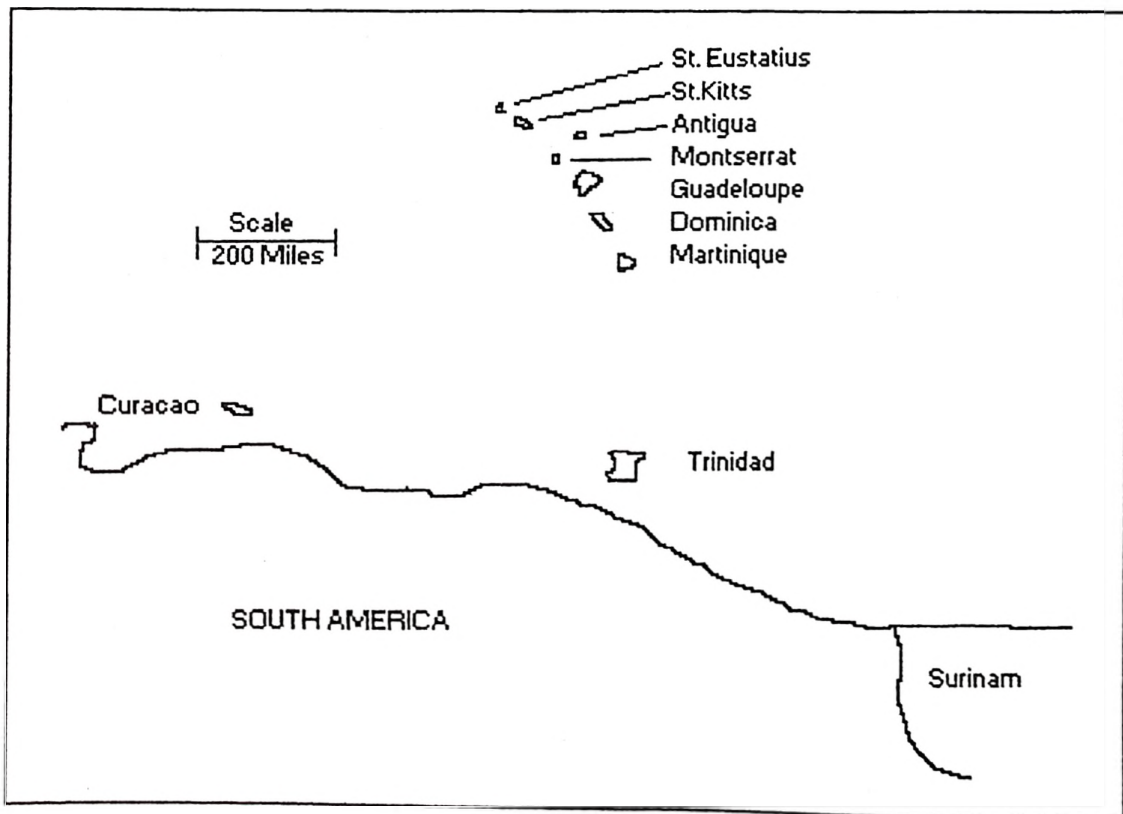


Figure 2
Censorship labels used by
the Antigua censors

Passed by Censor

L1

P.C. 90
Opened by Examiner
B/235

L2

P.C. 90
Opened by Examiner
B/112

L3

P.C. 90
**OPENED BY
EXAMINER 4113**

L4A

P.C. 90
**OPENED BY
EXAMINER 4113**

L4B

P.C. 90
**OPENED BY
EXAMINER B/112**

L5

P.C. 90
**OPENED BY
EXAMINER B/100**
61-9912 Q.W.D.

L7

P.C. 90
**OPENED BY EXAMINER
IB/728**

L8

P.C. 90
**OPENED BY EXAMINER
IB/493**

L10

available; it does not necessarily mean that there was no mark. If there was no mark, this is indicated by the word "none." There will be occasions where the sum of the parts will be less than the whole; this is because of incomplete data. Some covers, particularly those originating in Dutch and French colonies, exhibit other censor labels or handstamps; these are beyond the scope of this article. A number of covers cannot be accurately dated; these have been included in the overall data and could affect the EKD and LKD of the devices, if the true dates were known. However, their impact would probably be negligible.

The date that mail originating in Dutch Caribbean colonies was censored in Antigua is not always known. Based on those covers which do have an Antigua date-stamp, the date in Antigua is estimated to be 10 days after mailing. Throughout, the term "he" is used when referring to a censor in the third person, but if course some censors were women. All illustrations of labels and handstamps are in actual size, except where noted.

World War II civil censorship in Antigua had links with a number of neighbouring colonies (Figure 1). The first years of the war produced a plethora of censorship devices in the British Caribbean colonies, especially the smaller ones, which were apparently left to design or acquire their own devices. Thus many of these are unique to specific islands. As we will see, Antigua was no different.

Label L1

EKD: 15 September 1939; LKD: 22 January 1940

The first censorship device used in Antigua was a label that was designated type L1 by Bowman (shown in Figure 2). There are several reasons to believe that this was printed locally:

1. It is first encountered only two weeks into the war. Clearly, there was insufficient time for labels to have been printed in England and shipped to Antigua in such a short time.
2. It is unique to Antigua. What would be the sense of producing a label in England and sending a small number to just one colony, and a different one to another, etc.?
3. In common with other Caribbean islands, the earliest censorship labels/handstamps are quite crude.
4. The label has a measurement of 76 x 25 mm; British labels are 89 x 50 mm or 82 x 44 mm.
5. The font on Label L2 (see Figure 6) is almost identical to the font on this label, albeit somewhat larger.

Only three examples of this label have been recorded,

beside those defining the EKD and LKD, the third being dated 11 November 1939. All examples are on outgoing mail to the United States, although one originates in Barbuda; two are known to have blue crayon marks. One mark is a numeral '2' and the other is a numeral '6'. These added manuscript numerals occur frequently until 1944 and almost certainly are the numbers assigned to individual censors. Initially, before any centralised system of assigning numbers to censors, most colonies numbered their own censors 1, 2, etc. This subject will be discussed later on. It is also reasonable to suppose that these censors were recruited locally, unless a system had already been initiated to have censors ready to travel to British outposts should war be declared, which is unlikely.

An outgoing cover dated November 1939 has a plain brown resealing tape with no other evidence of censorship, although the next device was available from 1 November 1939. This was possibly a mistake.

Handstamp S1

EKD: 1 November 1939; LKD: 25 September 1941

The next device encountered chronologically is handstamp type S1. This is especially interesting, since a similar handstamp came into use in St. Kitts within two weeks, with the obvious difference that 'ANTIGUA' was replaced by 'ST KITTS'. Furthermore, a handstamp of identical dimensions but with a different layout of text had already been in use in Trinidad since August 1939.⁵ This suggests that these handstamps may have been manufactured in Trinidad. They were used on all three islands to "tie" a plain brown resealing strip to the cover (other types of resealing strip have been recorded for Trinidad). The outstanding difference between the Antigua handstamp and its St. Kitts equivalent is that it has no number incorporated in the outer ring positioned after 'PASSED BY CENSOR'. Bowman points out that there ought to be a number there as the positioning of 'PASSED BY CENSOR' is the same for both islands and its omission makes the whole thing look "cockeyed," to use his term.

This handstamp is first seen in November 1939, meaning that its usage and that of label L1 overlap. (As will be seen, censorship devices that overlap in time are the exception rather than the rule for Antigua.) The latest recorded use of this device is in September 1941. Other than the two examples of label L1, no other censorship device was in use in Antigua for almost two years. Not surprisingly, S1 is the most commonly recorded device, given its long tenure. Of the 60 examples recorded, three are incoming and the remainder are outgoing, two of them



Figure 3

being postcards. The vast majority of this mail is addressed to North America, the only exception being a cover to the U.S. Virgin Islands. Incoming censored mail is from the United States (2) and Mexico (1). Note that there is no censored mail to or from Britain or other British territories except Canada. Virtually all examples of this handstamp are applied to brown resealing paper (with the exception of postcards), but one cover dated December 1939 was sent with the handstamp but without brown tape and apparently unopened. As with label L1, the majority (if not all) of the impressions are accompanied by a manuscript mark in blue crayon. A breakdown of these marks is shown in Table 1. They will be discussed later.

TABLE 1. USAGE OF HANDSTAMP S1

Year	Added manuscript number				Total
	Unknown	'1'	'2'	'6'	
1939	3	—	1	—	4
1940	5	1	6	3	15
1941	15	—	15	6	36
19??	3	—	2	—	5
Total	26	1	24	9	60

Handstamp S1A

EKD: 30 August 1940; LKD: ? February 1941

As was suggested earlier, "there ought to be a number" incorporated in the S1 handstamp. Well, there was and, sometimes, there still is, as shown by type S1A in Figure 3. In the Antigua examples, the number '5' is seen. The dates on the four examples known are all well within the range of S1 usage. The strange thing is that all have the familiar manuscript number added in blue crayon, and in keeping with the S1 pattern, three have '2' and one has '6'. Other examples show indistinguishable marks after the 'OPENED BY CENSOR' that differ from a figure '5'.

The St. Kitts handstamp that mirrors S1 has been recorded with the numbers 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, but *not* without a number. If these handstamps for St. Kitts and Antigua were produced at the same time, it seems reasonable to assume that both sets of handstamps incorporated numbers 2 through 6. If this is so, why were the numbers removed in Antigua? And if Antigua did have only two censors, numbered 2 and 6, it seems inexplicable that the numbers '2' and '6' were removed only to be added in manuscript! In the past, there has been confusion as to whether the Antigua number was '5' or a '3'. The example of St. Kitts given in Figure 3 exhibits the numeral '3', which is very different from the '5' in the Antigua handstamp S1A shown.

It would seem that the chief censor allocated himself number '1' and he had two censors under him at this time, to whom he allocated numbers 2 and 6. Censors numbered 3, 4, and 5 appear to have not been available initially, but two of them do show up later.

Handstamp S2

EKD: 2 October 41; LKD: 18 April 1942

Barely a week after the LKD of S1, a new handstamp S2 is first recorded, which we might assume to have been introduced to replace it. The word 'ANTIGUA' is included in the design, and there is no similar handstamp known. This state of the handstamp is designated S2(1).

There is one picture postcard among the 15 examples recorded. They exhibit the familiar blue pencil marks. Bowman¹ cites a lone example of the S2(1) handstamp dated 15 December 1942, but in this item the last digit of the year is actually missing in the datestamp, so to assume a date of 15 December 1941 seems reasonable, and this is the LKD for S2(1): the latest example definitely dated 1941 is 26 November 1941. In January 1942, examples are first seen with the word 'ANTIGUA' completely omitted:

EXAMINED BY CENSOR

 ANTIGUA

S2(1)

EXAMINED BY CENSOR



Figure 4

all that now remains in the impression is a continuation of the horizontal "baseline"; this state is identified as S2(2). The example shown at Figure 4 shows the bottom of the handstamp, which was now picking up ink. No doubt this pattern will be different for almost every impression. There is a gap of about a month between the LKD of S2(1) and the EKD of S2(2). The Imperial Censorship office determined at this time that country names would not be included on censorship devices and would be replaced by codes. As will be seen, for Antigua this was the letter B. Not having any other means of marking censored mail, the decision must have been made to simply remove 'ANTIGUA' by whatever means possible. (Neighbouring St. Kitts was still using the device mirroring S1, which has an LKD of 4 February 1942). Eleven examples are recorded, all with the blue manuscript marks. Bowman reports one curious example where the lower right-hand side of the handstamp appears as a solid "blob," coinciding with the position of 'ANTIGUA' in S2(1). This example is dated 26 January 1942, a week *after* the earliest example of S2(2), which, of course, has nothing there. This lone example is retained with the designation S2(3), on the assumption that it is different from both of its partners, although it is probably a result of overinking.

A total of 28 examples of S2 are recorded, all outgoing, virtually all to North America, including one postcard. Once again, the handstamp "ties" a brown sealing tape to the cover, and censors appended their numbers in blue crayon – namely, the familiar numbers '2' (11) and '6' (4). There are no recorded examples of censor number '1' for S2. Manuscript additions to the handstamps dated before 12 February 1942 consist of only the censor number – i.e., '2'. From that date onward, the manuscript addition is of the form 'B/2', incorporating the newly assigned country code for Antigua.

Label L2

EKD: 16 March 1942; LKD: 15 July 1942

Another label is introduced now which slightly overlaps the usage of S2. (One example of S2 is recorded with a date after the EKD of L2). The similarity of the font on this label to that on label L1 leads me to believe that this was also printed locally. A comparison of the two fonts is shown enlarged in Figure 5. There is no similar label in the Caribbean area.

This is the first device to include the code letter 'B' of Antigua. Another difference is that numbers are included, these being '112', '235', and '246'. Sixteen examples of L2 have been recorded, with a different pattern of examination from previous devices. Ten of the covers are outgoing, eight to North America; three are incoming; and three are transit. One of these is between British Caribbean islands, but the other two are from Surinam to St. Eustatius. As will be seen, a large amount of mail was going from Surinam (Dutch Guiana) or Curaçao to St. Eustatius, using the route Surinam-Curaçao-Antigua-St. Kitts-St. Eustatius. (This mail will be referred to as "Dutch" from now on). It seems that many St. Eustatians worked in the oil industry in Surinam.

Passed by Censor

L1

Opened by Examiner

L2

Figure 5

Antigua had been designated as a centre for Imperial Censorship for examining intercepted mail, and the Dutch mail was routed through here. Most mail had been examined earlier by Dutch authorities, but as the Netherlands was under German control at this time, British censorship was deemed necessary. There are seven censor labels with number 112, and five with number 246. In addition there are two instances of label number 246 having '1' appended, being the two Dutch covers. The chief censor apparently took it upon himself to examine this mail. A manuscript '1' is also added to one of the incoming items from the United States, using label number 112, and an out-

going item to St. Kitts, which has the lone example of label number 235. These items clearly caught the chief censor's attention. It seems doubtful whether censor 235 was actually there, because his number does not crop up again for about a year. (For a comparison of the fonts used on labels L2 and L3, see Figure 6.)

Label L4B

EKD: 14 July 1942; LKD: 30 September 1942

Something strange now happens. Censor labels belonging to censor number 4113, who had been examining transit mail originating in the French islands (see Annex) start to be used for normal Antiguan censorship. The EKD of label L4B for this usage is virtually the same as the LKD of label L2 – and about six months after it was last used in the Imperial Censorship office. Eight of these labels have been recorded. Six are outgoing, and two are transit – one on a cover from Dominica to the United States and the other on a Dutch cover. All have some sort of added mark. The earliest four covers show a handstamp 'IB', and two of these have the numeral '2' added in manuscript. The 'IB' handstamp is identical to the one referred to in the Annex, used by the "French" censors. The other covers have added manuscript marks, not in blue crayon but now in dark blue ink. 'B/2' appears on three of them and 'B/4' on one. So here is a new censor, and number 6 does not feature on this label (nor does he feature at any from now on). The lone Dutch label has the only example of 'B/4'. Given the immediacy of the changeover from L2 to L4B, it seems that label L2 supplies had been exhausted and these labels, which had been left behind, were used, with the early ones already having the handstamp 'IB' on them. The labels with the 'IB' handstamp should not have been used, since they were intended solely for transit mail.

Label L4A

EKD: 11 August 1942; LKD: 30 October 1942

Before the LKD of label L4B, a similar label, L4A, was introduced, also with number 4113. Although examples of L4A are discussed in the Annex, they do not feature this censor number. Presumably these were the next labels due to be used by censor 4113 after his L4B labels had been used up. There are 10 examples of this label; six are on outgoing covers and four are on transit mail – two from Dominica to the United States, and two Dutch. All except the Dutch covers have an added manuscript mark, again in blue ink, with 'B/2' occurring six times, and 'B/4' twice.

To summarise labels L4B and L4A: they cover the period from 14 July 1942 to 30 September 1942, and

there are 18 of them – 12 on outgoing mail and six on transit covers. (Bowman reports that he has seen 'B/3' added to label L4A – in which case, here is another new censor.)

Label L3

EKD: 2 November 1942; LKD: 5 January 1943

Only three days after the last L4A label recorded, a new Antigua label is seen. This new one resembles label L2 in many ways in that it is of the same size, its layout is the same, and censor numbers 112 and 246 are the same; however, the printing is larger and in a different, though similar font. The best way to distinguish these labels is by comparing the figures '1' and '6' (see Figure 6).

B/112 B/246

L2

B/112 B/246

L3

Figure 6

Once again, this was probably produced locally. It would seem to have been easier and more expeditious to have printed more of label L2. Could it be that printing blocks were to be destroyed on completion of the job to prevent them from getting into the wrong hands? Sixteen examples have been recorded, including one in which I have brought forward the date by exactly one year, as it seems unlikely that an isolated example could exist. A summary of the usage of these covers is presented in Table 2.

Of the 16 examples noted, nine are outgoing – seven to North America (including two originating in Barbuda) – and one is incoming from the United States. Seven are transit, two originating in BWI colonies, which leaves five from Dutch areas. The Dutch covers have unadorned '112' or '246' labels, which might indicate that these censors could understand Dutch, but not number 3, another censor previously mentioned under L4A. All manuscript marks are now in graphite pencil, and this will be the practice from now until the end of the censorship period.

TABLE 2. USAGE OF LABEL L3

Label number	Manuscript mark	Frequency	Dates
112	None	3	7 Nov 42-16 Dec 42
112	/1	1	?
112	B/3	2	9 Nov 42-10 Nov 42
112	/3	2	21 Dec 42-? Jan 43
112	4	1	5 Jan 43
246	None	6	9 Nov 42-5 Jan 43
246	/3	1	? Dec 42

Handstamp S3A

EKD: 1 January 1943; LKD: 16 February 1943

Shortly before the LKD of L3, a common Caribbean handstamp appears in Antigua; the familiar “lozenge” (or octagonal) handstamp comes in a number of different configurations. This one has the identifier ‘B/101’. These lozenge handstamps seem to have had a variety of special uses on different islands – e.g., postal cards, unopened mail. Of the nine examples of S3A recorded, five are on transit mail, including three Dutch covers; the others are outgoing. A variety of different manuscript marks are seen, which will be discussed together with those of the next device. Both are pictured in Figure 7.

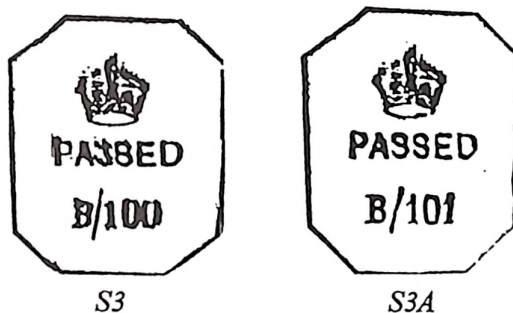


Figure 7

Handstamp S3

EKD: 19 February 1943; LKD 3 March 1943

This handstamp, having the number ‘100’ rather than ‘101’, is identical in size and layout to S3A, which it replaced. Eleven examples of these handstamps have been recorded, although there is only a spread of 13 days between the EKD and LKD. Eight of these covers are Dutch and three are outgoing. The additional manuscript marks occurring on these two handstamps are given in Table 3.

Examples of at least one of these two handstamps exist with *no* manuscript inscription. The significance of this will be discussed later.

TABLE 3. ADDITIONAL MARKS ON HANDSTAMPS S3 AND S3A

Manuscript number	Handstamp		
	S3A (‘101’)	S3 (‘100’)	Total
‘2’	4	3	7
‘3’	2	2	4
‘4’	1	4	5
Unknown/None	2	2	4
Total	9	11	20

Label L7

EKD: 6 March 1943; LKD: 20 May 1943

Immediately following handstamp S3 comes label L7. The format of this label is similar to many others in the Caribbean – i.e., all capital letters – but none have the same font for ‘OPENED BY’. Therefore, this may also have been produced locally. There is a printer’s mark on these labels ‘51-9912-G.W.D.’ Of course, if this could be identified... Only 13 of these labels have been noted, although there is a 2½-month period between the EKD and LKD. Eleven covers are outgoing, mostly to North America, and two are from Dutch areas. Two printed censor numbers have been recorded – ‘100’, continuing from the S3 handstamp; and ‘235’, of which a solitary example was seen under label L2, although with the manuscript mark ‘/1’, which might mean that this is the first actual appearance of this censor. He seems to do most of the work. Seven covers have ‘235’, two have ‘100’, and three have ‘100’ with manuscript ‘/2’ added. These latter are all outgoing to North America. The two censor number 100 covers without the manuscript addition are the two Dutch covers, and both were examined in the first few days of L7 usage. (Bowman reports an L7 label with manuscript ‘/16’ added, but provides no further details.)

Label L5

EKD: 5 May 1943; LKD: 19 May 1944

Slightly overlapping L7 in use comes the first label with ‘IB’ included with the printed number. The font used for this label is the same as that used for label L4A. In fact the ‘P.C.90/OPENED BY’ is identical, indicating that it was almost certainly produced in the United Kingdom. The numbers on these labels see the return of censors 112 and 246; a new number makes its appearance, 132. Table 4 gives a breakdown of the 30 covers examined.

TABLE 4. USAGE OF LABEL L5

Censor number	Frequency	EKD	LKD	Manuscript marks
112	16	4 May 43	19 May 44	/8. /16
132	6	5 May 43	6 Apr 44	/8
246	7	19 Jun 43	18 Nov 43	/1, 8

The usual pattern of usage emerges, with 25 of the covers outgoing, all but six to North America. For the first time, covers to the U.K. are being censored. The earliest is a registered letter dated July 1943, and this is the one examined by number 1, the supposed chief censor. The remainder are transit, four being Dutch; there are no incoming covers. Censor 8 added his number to three covers, all Dutch, but censor 16 examined an outgoing letter to the United States.

The St. Kitts Connection

Two examples of L5 labels used outside Antigua are shown in Figure 8. One has the numeral '132' used in St. Kitts on a cover from Anguilla dated 15 September 1944 to the United States. The St. Kitts censor added a manuscript 'B' to change the Antigua 'B' code to St. Kitts's 'BB' code. Does this mean that censor 132 was in St. Kitts at this time? The last cover this censor (ever) handled in Antigua is dated 6 April 1944.

The Montserrat Connection

Three examples of the L5 label with number '132' are known used in Montserrat.⁶ In two cases, 'B/132' has been crossed out and 'aa/29' or 'aa/32' added in manuscript ('AA' was the censorship country code for Montserrat). In the third case, however, only the 'B' has been crossed out, and 'AA' added in manuscript. These three

labels are on covers dated between 17 October and 25 October 1944. Did one of the censors forget to add his number or was censor 132 in Montserrat at that time?

The example illustrated might indicate that to cross out only the 'B' and insert 'AA' *by accident* is unlikely. Montserrat censors were using a universal label similar to Antigua type L10 (see below) at the time, so why would they need "old" Antigua labels? The conclusion must be that censor number 132 went to St. Kitts and then Montserrat in late 1944, after he had left Antigua.

Label L10

EKD: 29 July 1943; LKD: 5 October 1943

In the middle of the period covered by label L5 appear a few examples of a "universal" label, one found in a number of colonies. This label provides a space for the country code and censor number to be added in manuscript. This label and the next, L8, are slightly smaller than their predecessors (other than label L1). Nine of these items have been documented, showing either 'IB/235' or 'IB/493'. Censor 235 returns, but 493 is new.

Noting that the extant L5 labels catered only for censors 112, 132, and 246, these labels must have been a temporary measure before the printed labels of the type L8 arrived (see below). There is nothing remarkable about these nine covers. Four are outgoing and five are Dutch, handled by 493, who it is assumed could read the Dutch language.

The Late Usage

The oddest thing about the L10 label is an isolated example occurring almost exactly a year after the LKD above. I would normally be sceptical of this date (6 October 1944), but the censor number is 99. Where did he come from? This is the only record of this number, which does not seem to fit the number pattern on Antigua.

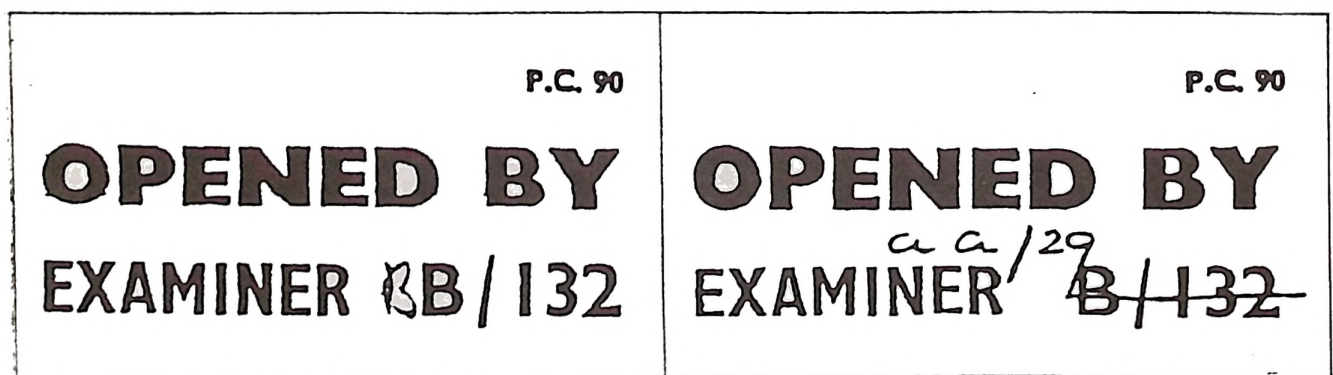


Figure 8

The answer may lie in the fact that this cover is the only one in the whole of this study (except those in the Annex) involving Martinique or Guadeloupe. Censor number 99 must have been recruited locally to examine mail written in French. It would seem that any number lower than 100 could be used for local censors.

Label L8

EKD: 29 October 1943; LKD: 5 June 1945

This series of labels is the last to be used in Antigua, and by stages replaces L5 and L10. All the information collected supports the view that these labels are all identical in size and font. (Having said that, there is a report of a label bearing number 468 that has a shorter print line, but this has to be confirmed.) There are 42 examples, showing seven different numbers, not counting another number used in Dominica (see later). These are summarised in Table 5.

There were seven different censors in Antigua from mid-1943 until the end of the war, but they were not all there at the same time. From this table it might appear possible to calculate the number of censors at any one time, but this may not be the case as there is evidence to suggest that individual censors were not there continuously. Take as an example censor 524: the covers bearing this number have the following definite dates: 20 September 1944, 4 October 1944, 21 October 1944, 9 November 1944, 15 May 1945.

TABLE 5. USAGE OF LABEL L8

Number	Frequency	EKD	LKD	Label replaced
493	6	29 Oct 43	30 May 44	L10 (LKD: 27 Sep 43)
235	7	8 Dec 43	23 Sep 44	L10 (LKD: 5 Oct 43)
112	7	11 Aug 44	19 Feb 45	L5 (LKD: 19 May 44)
728	9	30 Aug 44	9 Apr 45	New
524	7	20 Sep 44	15 May 45	New
673	2	14 Mar 45	14 Apr 45	New
468	4	4 May 45	5 Jun 45	New
952	None	—	—	—
Total	42	29 Oct 43	5 Jun 45	

Nominally the EKD and LKD for this censor would be 20 September 1944 and 15 May 1945, but he does not appear at all for a gap of six months within this period (i.e., between November 1944 and May 1945). A similar

picture emerges for other censors. This topic will be discussed again later. There are *no* appended manuscript numbers on any of the covers, 34 of which are outgoing to 11 different countries, mostly in the Americas, but three to Britain. Two covers are incoming, two are Dutch, and three originated in Montserrat and passed through Antigua.

The Dominica Connection

Four examples of label L8 with censor number 952 have been recorded, all used in Dominica.⁷ In each case, the 'IB' has been crossed out and 'RR' (the country code for Dominica) has been added by hand; '952' remains, but an additional number of the form '/79' has been added in manuscript (see Figure 9). The numbers added are those expected for Dominica. The dates of these covers have an EKD of 30 December 1944 and an LKD of 31 January 1945. It is supposed, reasonably, that Dominica was short of labels and "borrowed" some from Antigua. But what happened to censor number 952? His labels arrived in Antigua, but he apparently did not.

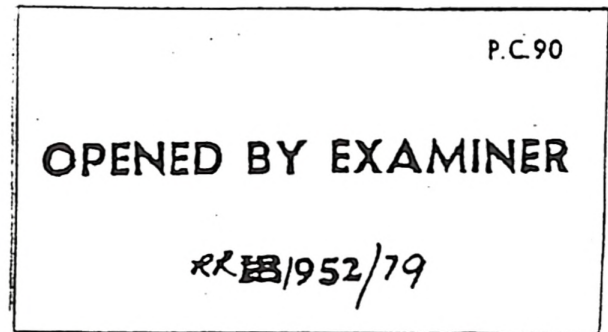


Figure 9

Summary of Devices

Table 6 summarises all of the data on censorship devices discussed above. It would be reasonable to suppose that the number of items for each device in this sample at least estimates a measure of the scarcity of each device. Figure 10 displays the same data on a timescale.

Summary of Censors

All the principal censor numbers are shown on a timeline in Figure 11. For each device with which the censor was associated, a bar is shown between the EKD and LKD. Where it is thought that the censor may not have been in attendance continually, this bar will be dotted.

TABLE 6. SUMMARY OF CENSORSHIP DEVICES USED IN ANTIGUA (CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

Device	EKD	LKD	Number recorded
L1	15 Sep 39	22 Jan 40	3
S1	1 Nov 39	25 Sep 41	60
S1A	30 Aug 40	? Feb 41	4
S2(1)	2 Oct 41	15 Dec 41	15
S2(2)	19 Jan 42	18 Apr 42	11
S2(3)	26 Jan 42	26 Jan 42	1
L2	16 Mar 42	15 Jul 42	16
L4B	14 Jul 42	30 Sep 42	8
L4A	11 Aug 42	30 Oct 42	10
L3	2 Nov 42	19 Feb 43	17
S3A	1 Jan 43	16 Feb 43	9
S3	19 Feb 43	3 Mar 43	11
L7	6 Mar 43	20 May 43	13
L5	4 May 43	19 May 44	30
L10*	29 Jul 43	5 Oct 43	9
L8	29 Oct 43	5 Jun 45	45

* Also a special use of L10 on 6 Oct 44.

Manuscript Marks

Having discussed the labels and the printed censor numbers, what remains are the manuscript marks, which begin at the very start of censorship in Antigua. Table 7 summarises the period before any printed numbers had been seen – i.e., to 5 March 1942.

Virtually all of the censored mail during this period was outgoing to North America, and presumably written

TABLE 7. SUMMARY OF MANUSCRIPT MARKS TO 5 MARCH 1942

Device	Manuscript mark		
	'1'	'2'	'6'
L1	0	1	1
S1	1	24	9
S1A	0	3	1
S2	0	11	4
Total	1	39	15

in English. Censor 2 outperformed his colleague by a factor of 2.5 to 1, which suggests that number 6 worked part-time while number 2 was employed full-time. As discussed previously, it is assumed that 1 was assigned to the chief censor. It is likely that these three censors, and others with low numbers, were all local residents of Antigua.

The occurrence of manuscript marks becomes selective as printed censor numbers appear. These are summarised in Table 8, in which printed censor numbers are given in order of appearance, with device type.

Several interesting points arise from Table 8:

1. Censor 6 has disappeared.
2. Censor 1 does not appear when number 100 is available.
3. Censor number 3 did not handle Dutch mail.
4. From the beginning of the table, censors 2 and 4 occur as manuscript additions only when labels numbered 112 and 246 are not in use. This leads to the conclusion that 2, 4, and 112, 246 could be the same censors. The data on censor 3 is less clear-cut. Since there is an L5 label with this number, he could not have taken 132, but he could easily have been 235 as this number and number 3 do not occur together.
5. When devices S3A, S3, L4B, and L4A are in use, there are no other printed numbers. It could be that during these periods, censor numbers 100, 101, and 4113 were acting as the chief censor, or possibly instructing the censors in some aspect of their work, especially as they were there for such short periods of time.
6. Also, there are three L7 labels of censor number 100, which have a manuscript '2' added. *All* of these occur before the re-introduction of label type L5 (which has numbers 112 and 246). This tends to confirm that censor 2 becomes either 112 or 246. It might be inferred that the chief censor, formerly number 1, had taken the number 100 since manuscript 1 does not appear from this point on.
7. Censor numbers 8 and 16 must have served some special function. Number 8 examined Dutch mail when there was already a Dutch censor available. Could he have been used for Papiamento, the other language spoken in the Dutch colonies? Number 16 apparently examined English mail. One possibility is that he knew Esperanto, which was popular at the time. As has been discussed, it seems probable that number 99 was used for French mail.

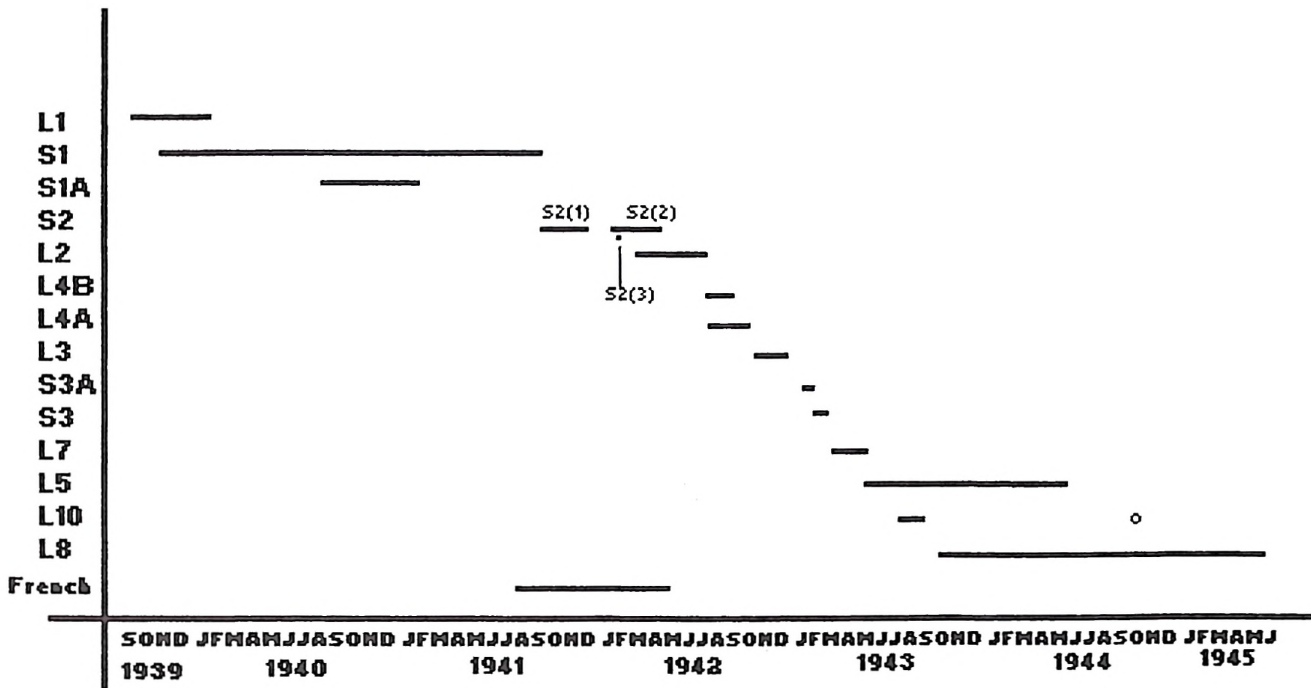


Figure 10. Occurrence of Censorship Devices in Antigua

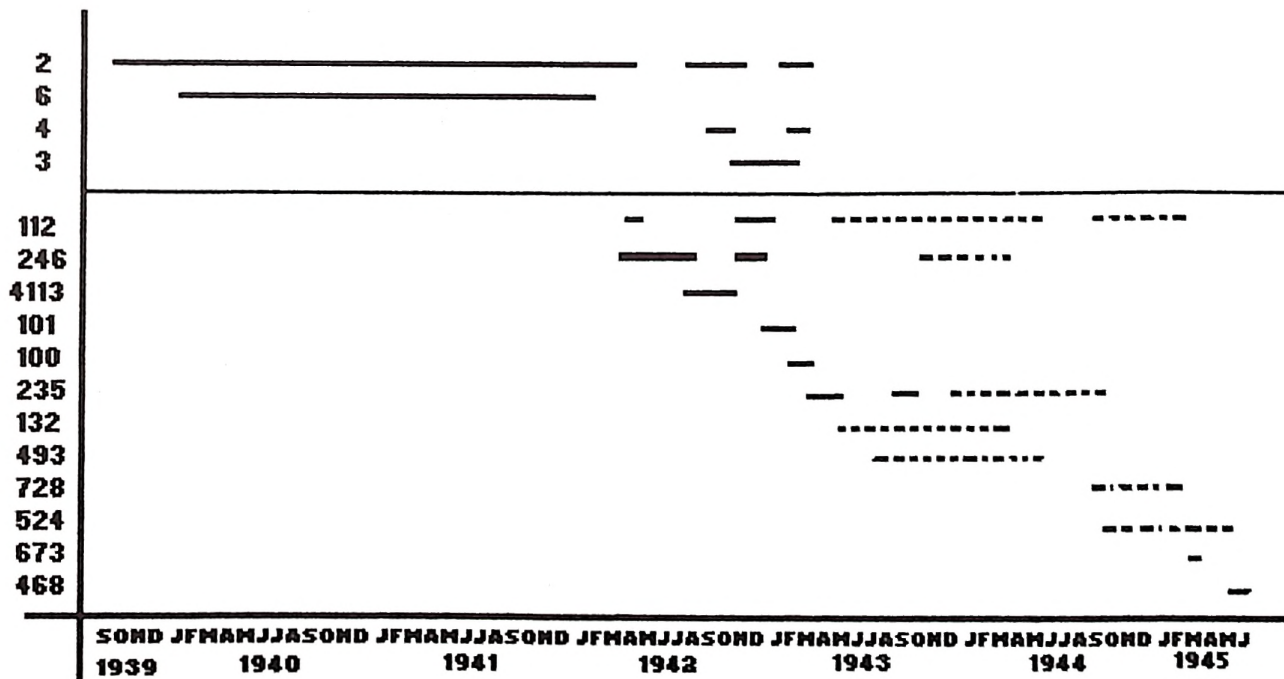


Figure 11. Occurrence of Principal Censor Numbers

TABLE 8. OCCURRENCE OF MANUSCRIPT MARKS ON LABELS WITH PRINTED CENSOR NUMBERS¹

Censor number/ Label		Added manuscript marks						
		None	'1'	'2'	'3'	'4'	'8'	'16'
248	L2	0/5	2/0	-	-	-	-	-
4113	L4	2/2	-	0/11	R	1/2	-	-
112	L3	3/0	0/1	-	0/4	-	-	-
246	L3	2/4	-	-	0/1	1/0	-	-
101	S3A	2/0	-	1/3	0/2	0/1	-	-
100	S3	2/0	-	2/1	0/4	4/1	-	-
100	L7	2/0	-	0/3	-	-	-	R
112	L5	0/14	-	-	R	-	1/0	0/1
132	L5	1/4	-	-	R	-	1/0	-
246	L5	0/5	0/1	-	R	-	1/0	-
493	L10	5/2	-	-	-	-	-	-
493	L8	2/4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		21/40	2/2	3/18	0/11	6/4	3/0	0/1

1. Numbers not listed are not associated with Dutch mail. The first figure of each pair is the number of Dutch covers examined; the second figure, the number of non-Dutch covers. 'R' indicates reported, but no further data available.

TABLE 9. CLASSIFICATION OF ANTIGUA CENSORS BY DEVICE TYPE

Device type	Chief censor	Other censors	"Dutch" censors
L1, S1, S2	1	2, 6	None
L2	1	112, 246 (235?)	1
L4	1/4113	2, 4	4113, 4
L3	1	112, 246	112, 246
S3A	1/101	2, 3, 4	101, 2
S3	1=100	2, 3, 4	100, 2, 4
L7	1=100	235, 2	100
L5 & L10	1=100	{five}	132, 8
L8	1=100	{seven}	493

From the above, it is possible to make a tentative attempt at identifying the make-up of the censorship office. Given the sparsity of the data, Table 9 should be considered a suggestion rather than a conclusion.

Rate of Examination

In an attempt to further understand what was happening in the censorship office, a "rate of examination" (RoE) has been estimated. Table 10 lists the number of covers ex-

amined each year and the approximate number of censors. The column headed "Censors (1)" is the total number of censors known in the Antiguan censorship office. The column headed "Censors (2)" is the average number of censors thought to have been there simultaneously. The RoE is obtained by dividing the number of censored covers by the figure under "Censors (2)."

For years 1941 to 1944, it is simple to assess the number of censors at any one time, because each seems to have been there for relatively short time periods, and therefore continuously. But in 1944, it is far more difficult, and the RoE will have to be estimated first.

TABLE 10. RATE OF EXAMINATION

Year	Censored items	Censors (1)	Censors (2)	RoE
1939*	6	2	2	-
1940	15	2	2	-
1941	60	2	2	30
1942	60	2	2	30
1943	70	5	3	23
1944	36	5	?	?
1945**	12	4	?	-

* Four months. ** Five months.

TABLE II. COVERS ASSOCIATED WITH MARTINIQUE, GUADELOUPE, AND THE "FRENCH" CENSORS

Date	From	To	Type	Number	Other marks
1941 3 Jul	Martinique	USA		No censorship	
4 Jul	Martinique	USA		Censored in Trinidad	
8 Jul	Guadeloupe	USA		Censored in Trinidad	
26 Jul	Guadeloupe	USA		Censored in the USA	
8 Aug	Martinique	USA	L6	6044?	--
9 Aug	Guadeloupe	USA	L4A	1044	--
11 Aug	Guadeloupe	USA		Censored in the USA	
14 Aug	Martinique	USA	L4B	4113	--
? Aug	Mart. or Guad.	USA?	L4B	4179	--
6 Sep	Martinique	USA	L6	6044	--
8 Sep	Guadeloupe	USA	L4A	1894	--
10 Sep	Guadeloupe	USA	L4D	1238	--
12 Sep	Antigua	USA	L6	6044	--
17 Sep	Martinique	USA	L6	6044	--
30 Sep	Guadeloupe	Canada	L6	6044	--
14 Oct	Guadeloupe	Canada	L6	6044	--
16 Oct	Guadeloupe	USA		Censored in Trinidad	
19 Oct	Martinique	USA	L4D	1238	--
20 Oct	Martinique	USA		No evidence of censorship	
? Oct	Guadeloupe	USA	L4A	1894	--
2 Nov	Martinique	USA	L4A	1044	--
12 Nov	Martinique	USA	L4A	1044	--
15 Nov	Martinique	USA	L4A	1044	--
? Nov	Mart. or Guad.	USA?	L4B	4179	--
21 Dec	Martinique	Puerto Rico	L6	6044	--
1942 5 Jan	Guadeloupe	USA	L6	6044	--
11 Jan	Guadeloupe	USA	L6	6044	'IB' hs
15 Jan	Martinique	USA	L6	6044	'IB' hs
21 Jan	Martinique	USA	L4B	4113	'IB' hs
7 Feb	Guadeloupe	USA	L4A	1894	'IB' hs
12 Feb	Guadeloupe	USA	L4B	4179/6044	'IB' hs
18 Feb	Guadeloupe	USA	L4B	4179/6044	'IB' hs
24 Feb	Guadeloupe	USA	L4B	4179	'IB' hs
28 Feb	Martinique	USA	L4B	4179/6044	'IB' hs
10 Mar	Martinique	USA	L4C	5212	'IB' hs
23 Mar	Fr. Guiana	USA		Censored in Trinidad	
28 Mar	Martinique	USA	L4B	?	'IB' hs
28 Mar	Guadeloupe	USA	L11	6044	--
? Mar	Mart. or Guad.	USA?	L4B	4179	'IB' hs
4 Apr	Puerto Rico	Martinique	L11	6044	--
11 Apr	Martinique	USA	L4C	5212	'IB' hs
17 Apr	Fr. Guiana	USA		Censored in Trinidad	
21 Apr	Martinique	USA		Censored in the USA	
? Apr	Guadeloupe	USA	L11	6044	--
15 May	Guadeloupe	USA		Censored in the USA	
16 May	Martinique	USA	L4A	1044	'IB' hs
18 May	Martinique	USA	L4B	4179	?
18 Jun	Guadeloupe	USA		Censored in the USA	

British Label

A 1941 cover from Antigua to Britain is reported bearing a 'P.C.90/ OPENED BY/ EXAMINER 4060' label. Added to this label in manuscript is '2858/B', which is likely a coincidence and has nothing to do with Antigua.

Conclusions

From the data examined, a well-defined picture emerges of Antiguan censorship. Clearly, a better understanding would accrue from a larger database, and I would welcome further information which extends or clarifies the results. In particular, questions remain concerning censors number 4113 and 132, and their whereabouts.

Annex: The French Connection

Running parallel to the Antiguan censorship effort was a completely separate effort (almost!) that lasted for approximately nine months – from August 1941 to May 1942. Table 11 lists all the labels encountered in the period under consideration, including others for reference purposes. In this table, "Not censored" means not censored on arrival or in transit.

The first thing to note is that on all mail postmarked 11 January 1942 and later (other than that censored in the United States or Trinidad), the labels had an 'IB' handstamp applied, except for L11 types – which, as will be seen later, had the 'I.B.' incorporated in the printing. The Imperial Censorship office in Antigua had been allocated the code 'IB', and the order to begin to include these codes on censorship devices was made at precisely this time. Second, listed mail without the 'IB' handstamp was generally examined by censors with the same numbers, the logical conclusion being that they were located in Antigua, although there is nothing on these covers to demonstrate this absolutely, except for the Antigua cover mentioned below. Third, with only one exception, this mail censored in Antigua originated in Martinique or Guadeloupe and was addressed to the United States (including Puerto Rico) or Canada, with one item going the other way. Other than in this specific time period, I have encountered only one piece of mail to or from these French islands, and that got special attention (see label L10). Other covers included indicate that covers from French Guiana passed through Trinidad and that other listed mail from Martinique and Guadeloupe was examined in Trinidad, the United States, or not at all.

Clearly, there was a need to import censors fluent in French for an intense scrutiny of this mail. The reason why this happened is laid out by Tyacke.¹⁰ He explains

that major French naval units were operating from Martinique and Guadeloupe, and that these French colonies were pro-Vichy and therefore considered hostile to the Allies. This Imperial Censorship office was one of five set up to handle intercepted mail, the others being located in Gibraltar, Bermuda, Jamaica, and Trinidad. No fewer than six different censor labels were introduced by these censors, with numbers vastly different from any other censors in Antigua, ('4113' also appears in the main text).

The occurrence of these labels is summarised in Table 12, with illustrations in Figure 15.

TABLE 12. LABELS USED BY THE "FRENCH" CENSORS

Label type	Censor number	EKD	LKD	Number recorded
L4A	1044	9 Aug 41	16 May 42	5
	1894	8 Sep 41	7 Feb 42	3
L4B	4113	14 Aug 41	21 Jan 42	2
	4179	? Aug 41	18 May 42	5
L4C	5212	10 Mar 42	11 Apr 42	2
L4D	1238	10 Sep 41	19 Oct 41	2
L6	6044	8 Aug 41	15 Jan 42	10
L4B*	6044	12 Feb 42	28 Feb 42	3
L11	6044	28 Mar 42	? Apr 42	3

* Using the labels of censor number 4179.

L4 Types: These are standard U.K. types, commonly used in the Caribbean. They have been catalogued by Torrance and Morenweiser⁹ (see Table 13).

Label L6 This is another common type of label seen in the Caribbean, generally referred to as 'Form 167'. There are two printings of L6 seen in Antigua. In the earlier printing 'OPENED BY' is 75 mm; in later examples 'OPENED BY' measures 72 mm. The font is identical, the difference being attributed to the separation of 'OPENED' and 'BY'. The change occurs between 12 September and 21 November 1941; it is not possible to be any more precise with this database. These two printings are designated L6(1) and L6(2).

Label L11 This a completely new type of label, incorporating the Antigua Imperial Code 'I.B.'. Similar labels with appropriate codes appeared later in the Caribbean area in Bermuda (I.C.), Trinidad (I.D.), and Jamaica (I.E.).

Figure 15.
Resealing Tapes Used by
the Imperial Censors in
Antigua

P.C. 90

**OPENED BY
EXAMINER 1894**

L4A

P.C. 90

**OPENED BY
EXAMINER 4113**

L4B

P.C. 90

**OPENED BY
EXAMINER 5212**

L4C

P.C. 90

**OPENED BY
EXAMINER 1238**

L4D

P.C. 90

**OPENED BY
EXAMINER 6044**

Form 167

L6(1)

P.O. 90

**OPENED BY
EXAMINER 6044**

Form 167

L6(2)

P.O. 90

**OPENED BY EXAMINER
I.B./6044**

L11

TABLE 13. L4 LABELS: IDENTIFICATION BY TORRANCE & MORENWEISER TYPE NUMBERS

Antigua	Torrance & Morenweiser
L4A	IA
L4B	ID
L4C	IG
L4D	IF

Amended Labels

Of special interest are three covers dated in February 1942; an L4B type label number 4179 is used to reseal the envelope, with '6044' added in manuscript (see Figure 16).

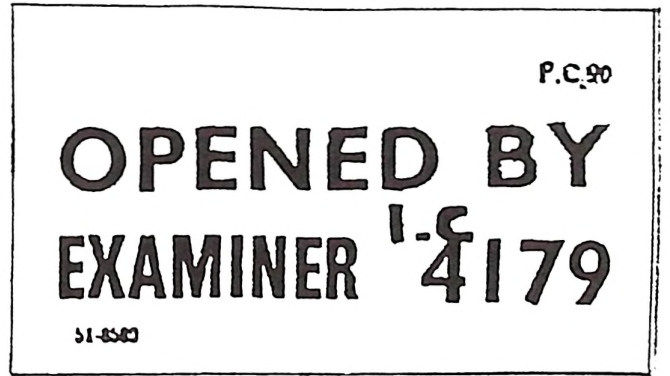
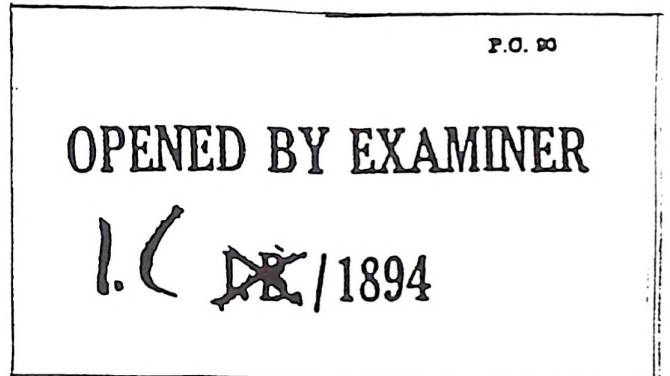
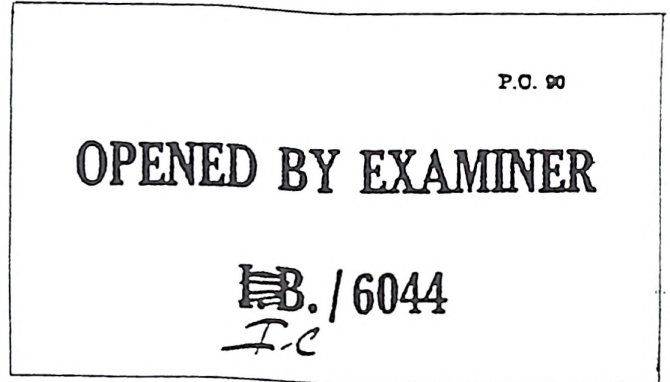


Figure 16

On two of these, the '4179' is crossed out, but on the other it is not. This occurred between the LKD of L6 type labels with 6044, and the EKD of L11 type labels with the same number. The obvious conclusion was that this censor ran out of labels (see later). Table 14 tabulates the occurrence of censors on a timescale, each entry showing the number of covers censored by a censor in each month.

It is evident that censor 6044 was there virtually continuously and did about half the work; the other censors were there for short spells. It seems probable that 6044 headed this operation, and this may explain why he ran out of labels. The same censor was also responsible for what was possibly an error, when a cover originating in Antigua, addressed to the United States, was censored in the Imperial Censorship office (see Figure 17).

But this does demonstrate that this censor at least was in Antigua in 1941. What remains to be explained is where these censors came from and where they went when they left Antigua. Articles by Augustinovic¹² and Con-

Figure 18

ford¹³ in the *CCSG Bulletin* go some way to answering these questions. Brown notes a cover dated 20 Jul 42, which has a label very similar to L11, with number 6044, in which the 'I.B.' has been crossed out and 'I.C.' inserted. Augustinovic notes a similar label, but with censor number 1894, used in Bermuda in April 1942. There is no record of censor 1894 using an L11 label when in Antigua (he was using the older L4A label). This leads to the conclusion that the labels were prepared but he was moved back to Bermuda before using them, as the operation in Antigua ended earlier than was expected. Finally, Augustinovic is able to demonstrate that censor 4179 was

TABLE 14. OCCURRENCE OF "FRENCH" CENSORS

Censor number	1941					1942					Total
	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	
6044	1	4	1	-	1	3	3	1	2	-	16
1044	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
4113	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
4179	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	1	5
1894	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
1238	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
5212	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Total	4	6	3	4	1	4	5	3	3	2	35

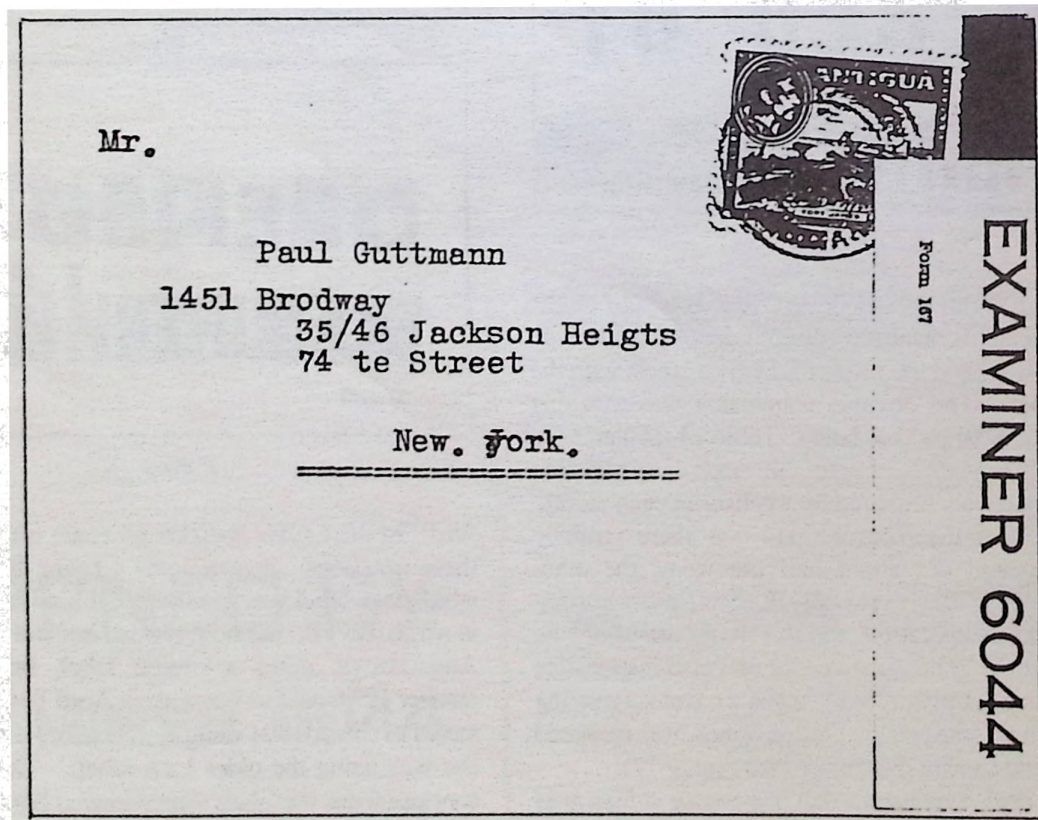


Figure 17

in Bermuda in July 1942, using a U.K.-style PC90 label, different from all of those seen on Antigua. These labels are shown in Figure 18.

Wike lists censor number 1044 as having been in Bermuda and Jamaica, 1238 in Jamaica only, and the remainder in Bermuda only. (There is also a record of censor 6044 in Trinidad in 1941.)



Figure 19

A link between Imperial Censorship office on Antigua and the Antiguan censorship office exists in a few covers that bear the marks of both. Labels arriving in the Imperial Censorship office were marked with an 'I B' handstamp, as has been seen, beginning in early 1942. Apparently labels were stamped in batches, possibly during slack periods. Subsequently, labels of type L4B were used in the Antiguan censorship office during an apparent shortage, and some of these already had the 'I B' handstamp, and should not have been used. But they were and manuscript marks were then appended to the handstamp to identify the Antiguan censor. This gives the peculiar, and wrong, form 'IB/2' (Figure 19).

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1. I wish to extend my thanks to John Tyacke for his help and advice in preparing this paper.
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