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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

OBJECTS: TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the British West Indies.

TO establish contact with correspondents throughout the British West Indies comprising the following colonies

ANTIGUA	CAYMAN ISLANDS	ST. KITTS-NEVIS
BAHAMAS	DOMINICA	ST. LUCIA
BARBADOS	GRENADA	ST. VINCENT
BERMUDA	JAMAICA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
BRITISH GUIANA	LEeward ISLANDS	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS
BRITISH HONDURUS	MONTserrat	VIRGIN ISLANDS

TO issue a quarterly Bulletin embodying articles, items of interest and other features (including a wants' section) which it is hoped will widen the knowledge of members (NOTE: It will be appreciated that every member will always be 'in the picture' no matter where he (or she) resides.

MEMBERSHIP: TO be WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all who are interested in the stamps or postal history of the abovementioned colonies.

The ANNUAL subscription on to be 10/6d (\$1.50 Canada & U. S. A.) due on the 1st FEBRUARY. (NOTE: Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle").

**OUR PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH.**

My few words for this Bulletin must be about our Study Circle meeting at Congress. This was held on Thursday evening, May 27th to a full house and we were, indeed, very fortunate in having a large room to hold such an enthusiastic audience. Many of our members and others visiting Congress contributed a most interesting and varied assortment of sheets and single items. These included not only a number of rarities but also many unsolved problems which led to most interesting discussions during the course of the evening

JAMAICA was well represented and the surprise item for me was a copy -of the 2d. rose, having the Pine watermark and the rare Type H postmark "A79" exhibited by Mr. L.A. Courtney, one of our members who kindly loaned it to me for comparing with my 6d. Pine watermark with the same postmark. I found it corresponded in every respect and so far as I am aware this is the only other copy to have been discovered. The Type H postmark was damaged in use as shown by copies of the 3d and 6d CC watermark in my collection, in which the "7" is completely missing. It should be emphasized that two other postmarks of "A79" appeared later but they are very different from the rare Type H postmark with thin bars which was in use for a fairly long period.

There may be others still to be found in many collections - if you know what to look for - so I wish you all good hunting.

G. W. COLLETT,

Dear Member,

In presenting our second Bulletin we would like to express our thanks to all those who were good enough to write and compliment us on the first issue. Although it was most gratifying that no adverse comments were made, it has been decided to introduce some minor improvements and these are referred to in our Honorary Secretary's Paragraph elsewhere.

### **MEMBERSHIP.**

We are pleased to report that a steady growth has taken place, our numbers now having reached 62. From the table below showing the geographical distribution it will be noted that four new counties - Cheshire, Hampshire, Norfolk and Suffolk - appear for the first time. There are also four new members from overseas, one from B.W.I. and three from U.S.A.

#### LONDON 12

Cheshire 1	Lancashire 1	Wiltshire 3
Cornwall 2	Lincolnshire 1	Yorkshire 2
Derbyshire 3	Middlesex 3	N. Ireland 1
Devon 2	Norfolk 1	Scotland 2
Durham 2	Northants 1	B.W.I. 2
Essex 1	Shropshire 2	Canada 1
Hampshire 1	Suffolk 3	Eire 1
Herts 3	Surrey 3	France 1
Kent 2	Sussex 1	U.S.A. 4

On the 18th March 1954 our President gave a display of JAMAICA at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, consisting of nearly 600 pages. As some of our older members will recollect, Mr. Collett was one of the joint editors of the Handbook on Jamaica which was based largely on his collection.- Space does not permit us to furnish a detailed account of the various items which ranged from pre-adhesive covers to King George V. issues. Our

Honorary Secretary was one of those who were fortunate in being able to view this display and his description leaves us in no doubt that it is the finest collection of this colony in existence.

We congratulate our Hon. Secretary on being elected to membership of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. Incidentally, this brings the total "Royal" representation up to 19 (including six Fellows) a fact of which we are justifiably proud.

### **PUBLICITY.**

We continue to receive valuable support from the Editors of various philatelic journals and are particularly grateful to Mr. E.F. Aguilar of Kingston, Jamaica, for a very full notice in the March issue of his magazine "British West Indian Philatelist." In addition he has promised to pass to us an article on the dollar varieties that can be found on Jamaican stamps which will be included in a future Bulletin. For our part we shall be most happy to reciprocate by making available one of our own articles at a later date.

### **AN INVITATION.**

We take this opportunity to remind members of the invitation to us to give a joint display to the London & Provincial Stamp Club at Weigh House Hall, Binney Street, Oxford Street, W.1. (1 minute from Bond Street Tube Station) on Saturday, September 4th at 2.p.m. (not 3.p.m. as stated in Bulletin No. 1) It will be appreciated if those who can attend or send some sheets will notify our Honorary Secretary as soon as possible. Since this may well prove to be the forerunner of further displays we are most anxious for it to be a success and feel sure there will be a ready response.

**36th PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN.**

Members will have doubtless read in the philatelic press that this event was a great success. The Eastbourne & South Downs Philatelic Society are to be congratulated on the very excellent programme they arranged even to providing us with upto-date information in the shape of a News Sheet on our breakfast table each morning. Nor must the hospitality of the Eastbourne Corporation be overlooked since they really 'went to town' in every sense of the phrase by providing a West End Cabaret as part of the entertainment at the official reception at the Winter Garden. On the succeeding days the business sessions followed the usual pattern of previous Congresses. The outstanding social event was, without doubt, the visit on the Wednesday afternoon (26th May) to Glyndebourne where by the courtesy of John Christie, Esq., C.H., we were privileged to watch a rehearsal of Scene 11, Act 1 of "The Barber of Seville" under the direction of the world-famous producer Professor Ebert. Mr. Christie then took us back stage and over the grounds. A most enjoyable time was concluded by his giving us a most interesting talk on the background and history of Glyndebourne.

We feel we can be forgiven by stating that, in accord with our President's view, the meeting of our Study Circle was the 'high-spot' of Congress so far as we were concerned. Some 30 collectors were present under the chairmanship of our President and the following brought, or sent, material which afforded a most interesting display-- H.F. Blease (Bahamas), G.W. Collett (Jamaica T.P.O.'s), L.A. Courtney (Jamaica), G.W. Groves (St. Lucia), D. Pears on (Jamaica T.P.O.'s), C. H. H. Roche (Dominica), J. H. Sinton (St. Vincent), V. W. Smithson (Bermuda and Jamaica), F. H. Thompson (British Honduras), L.P. Voller (Jamaica) and C.W. Ward (Jamaica).

With the wealth of material afforded by this display it would be invidious to refer specifically to any exhibit, but we feel mention must be made of the ST. VINCENT shown by Mr. Sinton. Our President enjoined everyone to give it their special attention as this display was outstanding for condition, presentation and writing-up. We can only hope that we shall have the pleasure of Mr. Sinton's company at future meetings of our Circle. If the success which attended this first meeting is any criterion we may, indeed, look forward optimistically to the future.

### **NOTES AND QUERIES.**

IMPORTANT. It will be appreciated that the primary object of our Circle is to ensure that as far as possible all information received is published in our Bulletin. It is therefore essential that all contributions are forwarded to the Hon. Secretary.

### **ST. VINCENT.**

"Quite recently a 1s. claret (1875), S.-G.20 came into my possession cancelled in red with the word PAID also a 1s. deep violet overprinted REVENUE in black and surcharge 1s. in red. I have also a block of six of the 5s. (1885) S. G. 49 where the word FIVE has a broken E the top not being joined to the rest of the letter, but I have been unable to locate its exact position on the sheet and have not heard of another copy. I am informed the same stamp exists with inverted watermark but I have never seen one. Finally in my collection I have a pair of the 5 PENCE on 4d. (1892), S.G.59, the right-hand stamp overprinted SPECIMEN and the one on the left SPICEMEN in purple. According to Mr. Marcus Samuel, the well-known authority on specimen stamps, it is one of three known copies. Where are the others? Can any member furnish additional information on any of the stamps mentioned?

(Contributed by Mr. J. J. Turner).

## **TOBAGO.**

"I should be very interested to know if anyone can throw and light on the £1 mauve, (S.G.6.) in my possession which has the ornamentations in the oval under Tobago painted out in mauve and with POSTAGE painted in white with the side ornaments as in the 1880 issue. The stamp is stuck down on a small piece and obliterated with double pen marks crossed. Is it an artist is proof for the Pound which was not issued?"

"It may be of interest to collectors of Tobago to know that S.G.29 (1d. on 22d. blue) occurs bisected and was used as a 2d. I have it in a strip with two whole stamps on a letter to Saxony - August 1891. (Contributed by Dr. R. H. Urwick).

## **LEEWARD ISLANDS.**

"Through the courtesy of our member - Mr. G.W. Dalton. - we have been given a sight of S.G.104 (10/-) and 105b (£ 1) of the 1944 printing both of which have an identical flaw. The oval of pearls surrounding the King's head is completely broken at a point just below the base of the neck almost exactly in the centre of the oval. The fact that it occurs on both values leads us to wonder whether it may be constant, at least., throughout this printing. The stamp showing this flaw is in the bottom left-hand corner - No.49. Has, any member seen or heard of this flaw?"

(Contributed by Messrs. Roche & Smithson)

## **BAHAMAS**

### Early Specimens or Samples.

"Some twenty years ago I purchased the remnants of a Bahamas-collection in which were two pairs of S. G. 1. (1d. dull-lake) pen marked with an irregular transverse line through the centre of the stamps. pen marks on S.G.2 (1d. lake) are of course well

## BAHAMAS (continued)

known, but there was clearly something unusual about these pen cancellations on S.G.1 I made many enquiries amongst friends and also through the philatelic press which brought no enlightenment. It was not until some years later when I had the opportunity of spending two days with the late Mr. Louis Bradbury at Devonshire Place and he was showing his wonderful Bahamas collection that I learnt more about these stamps. I showed him my two pairs of S.G.1. and he told me he had not seen copies like them for a long time. He then showed me a similar block of four in his own collection. It was Mr. Bradbury's opinion that these stamps were from a few sheets sent out to the colony in 1859 as 'specimens' or 'samples' and as such were pen cancelled in this-gray. The Bradbury block of four and my two pairs are the only examples I have ever seen. It would be interesting to know if anyone has copies of these 'specimen' stamps. and, if so, if their opinion differs from that of Mr. Bradbury as to their origin and function. It is clear I think, that my two pairs were left in the remnant collection as ordinary pen cancelled copies of S.G.2."

(Contributed by Dr. N. Garrard)

**JAMAICA.**

"I recently came across a copy of King George V, 1d. (S.G.58) bearing a sufficient amount of a rectangular T.R.D. to show that it was used at

GORDON TOWN --8-2-? (year not available) and is, undoubtedly Type 18 in Mr. Aguilar's Handbook but is not listed. In reply to an enquiry Mr. Aguilar writes:

"With regard to the T. R. D. for GORDON TOWN we have never seen or heard of this item and it is exceedingly interesting to learn that you have found a copy which, without question must be the only known strike up to the present time. I can remember discussing long ago with

JAMAICA (continued)

"the late Mr. Nicholson the possibility of a T. R. D. for GORDON TOWN due to the fact that Newcastle was changing over Post Offices but not having any information or T. R. D. for proof we could not go ahead and list same."

As many members will know Type 18 was issued to five Post Offices between August 1911 and July 1918 namely: -

BENSONTON	CARRON HALL
GINGER HILL	GRANGE LANE
HOPEWELL	

and now GORDON TOWN!!!

(Contributed by Mr. L.P.Voller)

**THE ARMS ISSUE OF JAMAICA.**

In the "Jamaica Handbook" reference is made to possible reasons for the variety "Ser.et" which occurs on all values on single CA paper, but only on the 2½d. and 5d. values on MCA paper.

I have never been able to obtain a plate number block from the top left corner of the upper pane, of the 1d , 2½d. and 6d. on MCA paper, of a size to show the second stamp of the fourth row. I would like to examine such blocks (2 x 4) to see if anything shows on the second stamp of the fourth row.

The variety "RevenOe" occurs on the fifth stamp of the first row of the upper left pane and according to the abovementioned Handbook only on the 2½d. ultramarine. I have, however, two copies of the bicoloured 2½d. single CA, that show this variety. Does any member know if this is constant and whether it also occurs on the 2½d. bi-coloured MCA paper? I would like to examine positional blocks of this value on both papers, also strips of five with plate number above, from left side of upper pane and from the first row.

(Contributed by Mr. V.N.F. Surtees.)

JAMAICA (continued).

K.G. VI, ½d., green, S.G.121 with SIDEWAYS watermark.

Since the issue of our special notice on April 27th, 1954, it has been ascertained that this stamp was affixed to a letter sent by a firm of shipping agents in Kingston, Jamaica to a similar firm in Calcutta in 1950. It would seem, therefore, that it came from a later printing of which there were no less than six between December, 1946, and December, 1950. In the circumstances it may be reasonably assumed that the entire sheet was purchased by the firm and this would rule out booklets as a source of the variety. The Archivist of De la Rue & Co. Ltd. has very kindly made exhaustive enquiries but is unable to offer any explanation.

Members will be interested to learn that the stamp will be included in the next issue of Gibbons' "Two Reigns" Catalogue and in subsequent issues of Part 1. It will also appear in future issues of the Commonwealth Catalogue. Although the widest publicity has been given to its existence no news of any further copies has so far been received.

### WANTS.

NOTE: Members who are able to supply any of the 'wants' mentioned should send them to the Secretary stating price asked, for onward transmission. If the member who requires them decides to purchase a remittance should be sent to the Secretary drawn in favour of "B.W.I. STUDY CIRCLE." The Secretary will then remit the amount (less 5% commission and postage) to the original owner.

BAHAMAS: S. G. 75 used. (pair or block of four)

BARBADOS: S. G. 77 & 83 mint.

CAYMAN ISLANDS: S.G. 7, 61 & 66 mint.

JAMAICA: S.G.31 USED IN CAYMAN ISLANDS

MONTserrat: S. G. 43 mint.

ST. CHRISTOPHER: surcharges

TOBAGO: Blocks.

**THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH.**

I hope you like the design of our cover-page. It is at least an improvement on the very ordinary one of our first issue and while it may not be artistic at least it has a symbolic approach. I must confess that I had to enlist the services of an old friend to prepare a fair copy for reproduction and I am sure you will agree he has made quite a good job of it. Another innovation is the provision of ample margins; this I found to be essential if one wished to preserve the copies in a file and in order to do so with our first issue it was only necessary to enlarge the margins by the aid of transparent adhesive tape.

The 36th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain has been adequately dealt with elsewhere and it only remains for me to thank most sincerely all those who co-operated by bringing, or sending, material which went far to making the meeting of our Circle such a success. In view of the fact that a similar meeting arranged for B.W.I. collectors at Whitley Bay in 1953 attracted only half-a-dozen, I was naturally a little apprehensive and need hardly emphasise how pleased I was to see so many present.

I have also to express my gratitude to all those members who have sent me notes from time to time, some of which are included in this Bulletin. However, I have one complaint; it is that sufficient material is not forthcoming. Maybe there are some who have not yet seen their contributions published, but they may rest assured they will do so in the course of time. It will be appreciated that I have to look some way ahead and it is therefore essential that a number of items are kept in reserve. Moreover, the ideal which I would like to achieve is to be in a position to cover all the colonies in the group, but so far I regret this has not been possible. On referring to my records I find that from our present membership of 62 only 15 have sent in contributions. Now, how about that article or that odd item of information?

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