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1, Wellesley Court, Maida Vale

London, W. 9.

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BULLETIN NO. 4 JANUARY 1955

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

I was very pleased to hear from our Honorary Secretary that our membership has risen to 97. All being well I hope to preside at our first A.G.M. to be held on January 27th 1955 and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to be able to announce that our numbers had passed the 100 mark. A number of very rare pre-adhesive covers of JAMAICA came up for sale at a recent auction and collectors of such items may like to make a note of the following: - A cover with a superb strike of CHAPELTON dated 20/8/1838 Nicholson Type 3; Robson Lowe Type PD. I know of only one other similar cover. A further cover of the same type with a fine strike of RIO BUENO dated 2/6/1836 which is the only example I have seen. Another cover of the same type and the only known example was for MILE GULLY dated 2/4/1839. Finally another cover, Nicholson Type 2; Robs on Lowe Type P8 for VERE dated 23/5/1838 - the strike was, unfortunately, albino. This again is the only known example. As some members may know ink was rather scarce in Jamaica at that period and many village marks can be found albino.

G. W. COLLETT.

Dear Member,

Whilst it was rather too soon in the October Bulletin to extend our good wishes for Christmas it is we feel not too late to express the hope that you had a good time and even found a few moments during the festivities to have a browse through your collection. As for this New Year of 1955 we trust it will prove a very happy one and that you will come across some of those elusive items for which you have been waiting quite a time. It may sound odd, but is nevertheless true, that the uncertainty of finding what one is looking for is one of our hobby's greatest attractions. Only recently we heard that a member who has been collecting for many years came across a copy of ST. CHRISTOPHER 6d: (S.G. 8) with a perfect cancellation of "ST. KITTS"; although there were many copies of this stamp in the collection they bore either the commoner "A12" or the straight-line "AWJY" type and we can fully appreciate the pride and pleasure felt in this latest acquisition; albeit its intrinsic value was of no special significance.

MEMBERSHIP

It is most gratifying to record an increase of 24 making a total of 97 and our "Royal" representation 36 (14 Fellows and ,22 Members).

Comparing the table showing the geographical distribution, with that in the October issue it will be noted that two counties = Staffordshire and Warwickshire --appear for the first time. We also welcome our first member from Wales and two more from overseas.

LONDON 16
 PROVINCIAL (65)

Cheshire 1	Lancashire 1	Wiltshire 3
Cornwall 2	Lincolnshire 1	Yorkshire 3
Derbyshire 4	Middlesex 4	Northumberland 2
Devon 3	Norfolk 2	Sussex 2
Durham 2	Northants 2	Kent 3
Essex 1	Shropshire 2	Surrey 8
Hampshire 2	Suffolk 3	Herts 3
Staffordshire 1	Essex 3	Warwickshire 2
N. Ireland 1	Wales 1	Scotland 4

OVERSEAS (16)

B.W.I. 3	Canada 2	Eire 1
France 1		U.S.A. 9

In a few days time we shall be celebrating our first anniversary and we feel full, justified in stating that they view of our Founder and Honorary Secretary that the need for our CIRCLE really did exist has been confirmed beyond doubt.

MISCELLANEA

At the meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society :held on December 16th the subject was "BRITISH WEST INDIES" and a number of our members, including both our President and Hon. Secretary contributed to the display which was outstanding for the quality and the variety of the material

We have heard from our member - Mr. G. R. Butler that although he is a little better he has to go into hospital shortly and we do sincerely hope that the treatment he will undergo will lead to his complete recovery.

PUBLICITY.

Members will have observed in the philatelic press reference to our display to the London & Provincial Stamp Club for which we are grateful. Our special thanks are also due to Mr. Robson Lowe for his most generous remarks on page 36 in the November 1954 issue of "The Philatelist." Incidentally we are glad to learn that Mr. Lowe is interested in the stamps of a number of the colonies in the B.W.I. group and it is with pleasure that we welcome him as a member in his personal capacity.

NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION.

We have no doubt many of our members will visit this exhibition and we have pleasure in appending details of the CIRCLE'S exhibit as we understand that space does not permit this information to be included in the official catalogue:

FRAME No.25:

ANTIGUA. Proofs; Specimens, blocks etc. 1d. rosy mauve S.G.5. (Vice President).

BAHAMAS. Plate proofs on India paper and on card of 1d. Interinsular and issued 1d. on thick and thin papers. (Miss R.Titford).

BARBADOS. The numeral cancellations "1" to "11" "Bootheel" type - employed for the eleven parishes. (Mr. L. E. Britnor).

BERMUDA. Cover with S.G. 2 & 6 with postmark HAMILTON 3/4/1873 LONDON 22/4/1873. Provisional surcharges S.G.13,14,15,16 & 17. (Mr. A.A. Hershman).

BRITISH GUIANA. Selection of rare and unusual postmarks viz: Cover with DEMERARY in 6mm. caps in two lines, dated 20/6/1821:

GEORGETOWN village postmark American type - dated 6/Dec/1879 on 2c. S.G.127: DEMERARA Double circle - dated Jan.2.1868 on S.G.80: Sans serif type of ARABIAN COAST No.5 dated Jun 27th 1862; S. G. 40 (Mr. E. S. Forshaw).

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1935 Jubilee issue in mint blocks of four showing 'extra Flagstaff' variety on three values (Mr.D.A.Higgins).

CAYMAN ISLANDS. 1912-20 Wmk. MCA. Perf 14: mint with all shades of 3d, 1s, and 10s. (Hon. Secretary).

DOMINICA. Catalogued and uncatalogued varieties of S.G. Type 1. (Mr.G.W.Groves).

FRAME. No. 26.

GRENADA. 1881. ½d, 2½ & 4d overprints. (Mr. J. J. Turner).

JAMAICA. The scarce Type 1 Street letter box postmark for KINGSTON on original entires (President).

LEEWARD ISLANDS. 1897 Jubilee issue overprints. (Mr. F. L. Dais).

MONTSERRAT. Inverted "S" varieties; 1884/5 imperforate varieties. (Mr.C.G. Alterskye).

ST. CHRISTOPHER. Cover with handstruck "ST. KITTS PAID" dated MY 29 1855; mint blocks of four, 1d. CC perf. 122 and CC perf.14 (Miss. R. Titford).

ST. LUCIA. Selection 1d. black 1864 (Mr.J.J.Turner).

ST, VINCENT. 1886; 5/- both shades; carmine -lake & brown-lake (Mr.J.J.Turner).

TOBAGO. 1879 Die Proof; 5/- used and £1 mint. 1d. in ms, on half 6d-S.G.7.-used on piece. Examples of various bisects of the 1d. Venetian red and 4d. yellowgreen. ½ PENNY on 6d inverted surcharge and doubles of PENNY on 2½d. (Mr.A.E.Beach).

TRINIDAD. 1898 "Landing of Columbus": Die proofs in black, vignette (in two states) and frame; completed die proof and colour trials. (Mr.J.B.Marriott).

TURKS ISLANDS. Cover from Salt Cay dated 16 NOV.1855 with handstruck stamp in oval "BALTIMORE U.S.A." Another cover addressed to Bermuda bearing 'Turks Islands' R.L.No.2 in brownish red and St. Thomas. Type R. L. (Mr.G.R.Butler).

NOTE: Independent exhibits by our President, Vice President and other members will be found in other frames.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

It will be appreciated that our Bulletin constitutes the vital link between members and ALL contributions whether they be informative or seeking enlightenment should be forwarded to the Hon: Secretary.

BAHAMAS - Type 1 Samples

"I have not seen the 1d. lake (S.G. 2) imperforate mentioned in Bulletin No.2 but the 1d. rose-red

BAHAMAS (continued)

(S.G.7a) imperforate of ST. VINCENT (same printers and about the same date) is found with the horizontal pen stroke across the middle of the stamp and I believe strips are known with continuous pen stroke. This item is also thought to have been a specimen or business sample not to be confused with the later U.P.U. specimens."

(Contributed by Dr. H. V. Brown).

BARBADOS.

"I have a cover dated FE 22 93 bearing no adhesive stamp but a handstruck Crown over "PAID AT BARBADOES" and normal postmark. I gather it was used during a temporary shortage of 1d. stamps. Can any member give the inclusive dates when it was in use? I have also seen a similar cover dated FE 23 93.

(Contributed by Mr. B.B. Benwell).

BARBADOS.

"I have a post card from Hallatrow near Bristol on 21st April 1886 to Barbados; it was not delivered and was returned to Hallatrow on 23rd July 1886. It bears two ship letter marks; the -circular "Ship Letter London C.July 22 86" in red and an oval mark "Barbados 29 June 86 Ship Letter" in black. I have not seen another example of the Ship Letter mark and should be very glad to know more about it."

(Contributed by Dr. R. H. Urwick, F.R.P.S.L.)

BERMUDA. The George V.2/6d Wmk. Script CA.

"Collectors are soon struck, when beginning to specialise in the Bermuda high value stamps with Script watermark, by the number of uncatalogued but very distinctive shades to be found of all values. of the four denominations, the 2/6d is the most. interesting, five different coloured papers having been used and each printing resulting in distinct shades of the design. The description of the shades is a very difficult subject so that it should be borne in mind that the terms used in these notes are only comparative, that is, in relation to each other. The original printing of April 1927 was, for want of a better description, in black and red on blue. This is the commonest shade, represented in the catalogue by S.G.89. A printing, believed to have appeared in 1928, is also in black and red

BERMUDA (continued)

but is on much brighter blue paper. Between 1929 and 1931 the printers, Messrs. De La Rue & Co. must have been experimenting with various inks and their effect on different coloured papers, for during this period there appeared at least six distinctive shades on three different papers. Three printings appeared (during 1929?) on a pale blue paper with a greenish tinge, which might be described as a washed-out Prussian blue. The design was printed in (i) black and deep red, (ii) grey-black, (a dull shade) and vermilion red and (iii) black and vermilion. These last two are sometimes offered as S. G. 89a but though just as rare they are not the shade meant by Stanley Gibbons Ltd. In about June 1930 the genuine S.G.89a appeared, the colours being a rather dull black and a pale but definitely orange shade of vermilion. This was shortly followed by a new printing in intense black and pale vermilion, without the orange tinge, which was also sold, by Stanley Gibbons as S. G. 89a in 1932. Both these printings are on a distinctive deep, dullish blue paper, an intermediate shade between the original blue and final dark blue papers. From 1931 onwards all printings were on dark blue paper with only slight variations in the colour of the head plate. The frame plate, however, is found in bright vermilion (c.1931), deep vermilion which at times is almost brownish vermilion (c. 1932), and bright carmine-red (1934). These three shades are represented in the catalogue by S.G.89b, These brief notes will., I hope, show that there is as much interest in the colour variations of some of the George V high value stamps as in the more well .known and more fully documented high values of George VI."

(Contributed by Mr. M. H. Ludington).

ST. VINCENT (continued from page 39)

"Next come the surcharged stamps - of 1880-81. The 1d. on half Six Pence is straightforward as the type does not vary, sufficiently to look for variations. This issue consisted of 15 sheets, (1800 impressions) and there were no remainders, _ in spite of this mint copies are not particularly scarce. The 2d, on half Six Pence issued in 1881 consisted of 12 sheets, making 1400 impressions and has always been 'a most intriguing stamp because of the missing hyphen found on several copies in the bottom row of the sheet. " Some two or, three articles have been written. as to the number of stamps that showed this omission (,in addition to this error the "2" is slightly higher than the normal surcharge),. At one time it was thought that only two copies (always the left one of a pair) appeared on each whole sheet but up-to-date ideas are that as many as three might: have occurred on some sheets. The probability is that the figures, which were locked in a chase, were not sufficient to surcharge more than perhaps 24 impressions at one time, and therefore, whether worked from left or right of the sixpenny sheet of 60 whole stamps the position of ;the error might vary and come two or three times in the bottom row. A piece of 12 of these ½d. In the Royal Collection show the error as the third stamp, but as it is found in other positions in this bottom row one cannot say whether that. particular sheet, .of which it formed part was surcharged from left or right.

Another of these, surcharges is found with a straight, serif to the "1" but this is considered of less attraction. The "One Penny" on Six Pence (630 surcharged, 36 remainders) like all those-make-shift stamps was little used and when dated generally bear cancellations of November 28th or December 3rd 1881. The "4d." on One Shilling vermilion is, perhaps, they most sought after of these surcharged stamps and those genuinely used at the: time were almost always, cancelled as above, or with, the "K" mark of Kingston. In mint condition it is appreciably rarer than when used and it is believed in this country that only the strip of 3 in the Royal Collection and some two or three pairs in that state now exist. The number surcharged was 720, of which 384 are said to

ST. VINCENT (continued)

have been remainders, but some of these were used at a later date presumably because at that time some collectors wanted used copies." (to be concluded)

(Contributed by Mr. H. C. V. Adams , R.D.P., R.P.S.L.).

TOBAGO. The 'slash' flaw.

"This well known flaw occurring cap the fourth stamp of the first row of the pane is said to have been first described on the 2½d. ultramarine (S.G.17) of the 1882/84 issue. I imagined it to be a constant flaw in all subsequent issues but find this is not the case and it has interested me to ascertain when it does occur. In my collection I have complete panes of 4d. grey (S. G. 22) and 6d. Orange-brown (S.G.23) which do not show the flaw and a complete pane of 6d. orange-brown which does show it. In the ½d, (S.G.20) similarly situated blocks show the flaw in one case and not in the other. Where the fourth stamp does not show the flaw an irregularity appears in the outer line of the band round the head where the 'slash' flaw could approach nearest to this line. This irregularity I have found to be constant in all cases where the flaw does not occur and is not found on any other stamp except the fourth of the first row. Is this irregularity the precursor of the 'slash' or is it damage due to the removal of the flaw? Mr. L.J. Gilbert-Lodge has described damaged Plate numbers on some panes and I have found them in all blocks and panes where the 'slash' flaw does not occur:- a pane of 4d., one pane of 6d. , one block .of ½d. and one block of 2½d, bright blue. In all blocks and panes which show the flaw the Plate numbers are normal; i.e. one pane of 6d. , one block of ½d. and one block of 2½d. ultramarine. Is it faire to think that the damaged Plate numbers are later than the normal? If so, it would appear that the irregularity is subsequent t o the removal of the 'slash' flaw and would make the removal later than the issue of the orange-brown (S.G. 32) in 1896 on which it appeared. The earliest dated copy of the 'slash' which I have seen is Nov. 29th 1893 on a 2½d. ultramarine. I should be very interested to hear

TOBAGO (continued)

what other collectors have found out about this well marked flaw."

(Contributed by: Dr. R.H. Urwick., F.R.P.S.L.)

THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH.

It was in November 1953 that the idea of forming a STUDY CIRCLE for BRITISH WEST INDIES first occurred to me and on making a few enquiries and receiving some promises of support I decided to go ahead and, as you are aware, the BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE was inaugurated on the 27th January 1954. Since then the response has been far greater than I dared hope and it is most gratifying to know that our membership includes not only eminent philatelists and dealers of world-wide repute but also some who are beginners. Our Bulletin has received most encouraging support and it is one of my regrets that I did not take a chance and order more copies of the earlier issues. Quite a number of those who have joined in recent months have had to be disappointed and the fact that the validity of their subscriptions has been extended to the end of this year has in no way lessened their desire to possess all the issues. When finances permit it is my hope to order a reprint when back numbers will be available at a small charge. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have so kindly loaned a page from their collections for our exhibit at the forthcoming National Stamp Exhibition. In this connection I would add that I am not unmindful of their difficulty in selecting a single page (it is an easier task to choose 50 :) and I am sure all those who are able to attend this Exhibition will find some items to interest them. The other day I was reading one of the little handbooks written by the late Fred J. Melville some forty odd years ago and the thought came to me that the CIRCLE might contemplate compiling something similar with a more concise and, of course up-to-date context. A start might well be made with ANTIGUA. If any members have any suggestions in this regard I shall be very glad if they will drop me a line. Once again I would emphasise how welcome contributions are for inclusion in the Bulletin and I shall never complain

at the size of my postbag. In conclusion I extend my best wishes: for 1955.

INDEX to NOTES and. QUERIES (BULLETINS Nos.1-4).

BAHAMAS p. 8/9,18, 45/6 LEEWARD ISLANDS p..18:
BARBADOS p. 46 . ST. LUCIA p. 36.
BERMUDA p, 46/47 ST. VINCENT p.17, 37/9, 48/9.
BRITISH HONDURAS p34/5 TOBAGO p.18,49/50.
JAMAICA p.7, 19/20/21,35 TRINIDAD p.9.

WANTS.

BAHAMAS: S. G.75 used (pair or block of four)
BARBADOS: S. G.77 & 83 mint.
CAYMAN ISLANDS: S.G,61 & 86 mint.
JAMAICA: SG. 31 used in CAYMAN ISLANDS
 Squared circle cancellations of ANCHOVY,
 DARLISTON, MAVIS BANK or WHITE MOUSE on
 cover, piece or stamp.
LEEWARD ISLANDS: S.G. 90, 91, 92, 106 & 107 (SPECIMENS)
MONTSERRAT: S.G.43 mint
ST. CHRISTOPHER: First issues on covers.
TOBAGO: Blocks.

NOTE: Members who are able to supply any of these wants should send them (stating price asked) to the Hon. Secretary for onward transmission. If the member who requires them decides to purchase a remittance should be sent to. The Hon. Secretary drawn in favour of "B.W.I. STUDY CIRCLE" and the amount (less postage and 10% commission) will be remitted to the owner.

[Link to Next Bulletin](#)