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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

(Affiliated British Philatelic Association & Philatelic Congress
of Great Britain)

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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 and dependencies:

ANTIGUA

BAHAMAS

BARBADOS

BERMUDA

BRITISH GUIANA

BRITISH HONDURAS

CAYMAN ISLANDS

DOMINICA

GRENADA

JAMAICA

LEEWARD ISLANDS

MONTSERRAT

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

ST. LUCIA

ST. VINCENT

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

VIRGIN ISLANDS

TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features (including 'Opinions' Service, and a 'Wants' Section) which it is hoped will widen the knowledge of members. It is emphasised that EVERY member will always be in 'the picture' no matter where he (or she) resides.

TO operate a SALES CIRCUIT to enable members to dispose of their surplus material.

MEMBERSHIP: TO be WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all interested in the stamps or postal history of the above-mentioned colonies and dependencies whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription to be 10/6d (\$1.50 non-sterling countries) payable 1st FEBRUARY. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. STUDY CIRCLE" and it will be appreciated if remittances from non-sterling countries are made by sterling draft drawn on LONDON or International Money Order.

OUR PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

The 39th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held this year at Harrogate from 14th to 17th .May, and as you will observe elsewhere in this issue we have again been invited to give a display in the frames at the Exhibition. We had a remarkably fine show at Brighton last year, and I have no doubt that the material being kindly loaned by members on this occasion will maintain the very high standard. The success of our usual Circle meeting on the Thursday evening largely depends on there being some interesting sheets to pass round, and I would ask all those who hope to attend to make sure they have a few pages with them before they start their journey. One person I am very much looking forward to meeting there is my good friend from Jamaica. Mr. G. C. Gunter. O.B.E., who plans to be in England in May, and I hope that he arrives in time for Congress. I owe very much to Mr. Gunter for the help he has given me over many years, in building up my Jamaica collection. It is very nice to have a friend resident in the colony one specialises in, and I have always been able to look forward to receiving first day covers, blocks with plate numbers and varieties. One of his very earliest sendings to me were covers from the famous Barclay's and McDowell find in Kingston way back in 1920. What an accumulation of covers this must have been as some examples from it seem to be included in every Jamaica collection of note. I have 35 covers in my collection comprising GB used in Jamaica and the Pine issue. I have only one CC on cover bearing a pair of 3d., and have never seen a pre-adhesive from this source. Surely there must have been some, but one has to remember that at that period the stamp was the thing and probably anything without a stamp was thought to be worthless and was consequently destroyed.

G. W. COLLETT.

DEAR MEMBER,

Once again in recording an increase in membership to 181 we extend a warm welcome to the following gentlemen from overseas: I. MacLulich (Australia). G. W. S. Ritchie (Sudan), John H. Buckner and C. D. Paton (U.S.A.). We are also glad to include for the first time another county - Nottinghamshire - in our table of distribution.

Geographical distribution of membership.

LONDON (32)

PROVINCIAL (101)

Cheshire	1	Hertfordshire	3	Shropshire	2
Cornwall	1	Kent	6	Staffordshire	1
Derbyshire	4	Lancashire	5	Suffolk	2
Devon	4	Middlesex	8	Surrey	14
Dorset	1	Norfolk	2	Sussex	7
Essex	4	Northants	2	Warwickshire	3
Gloucestershire	5	Northumberland	2	Wiltshire	3
Hampshire	6	Nottinghamshire	1	Yorkshire	4
Northern Ireland	1	Scotland	8	Wales	1
OVERSEAS (41)					
Australia	6	B.W.I.	5	Canada	7
New Guinea	1	South Africa	4	Sudan	1
		U.S.A.	24		

SALES CIRCUIT

I am pleased to report that the first distribution of envelopes valued at £336-13-3 has been completed. Sales totalled £104-14-2 which I regard as most satisfactory. In general the quality of the material offered was very good although I consider that in a few instances, the prices asked were not sufficiently attractive. I regret to say there are still some contributors who do not leave a ½" margin on the left hand side of their pages and others who persist in using old mounts. It will be appreciated if particular attention is paid to these points as I can no longer undertake to re-mount sheets which means that any others I receive which are not in order will be returned. I shall be glad to receive more material for envelopes "A" (Bahamas & Bermuda) and "C" (British Guiana & British Honduras) as so far I have had very little to send to those members who collect these colonies.

ROSE TITFORD.

STAMPEX 1957

at Central Hall, Westminster, S.W.1. March 16th-23rd

As announced in our last issue our Circle was invited to provide an exhibit for which three frames were allocated. For the benefit of those who were unable to attend the following is a brief account of the material displayed:

ANTIGUA: S.G.8., unused, and used including pairs also the re-entry used on cover. **ST. CHRISTOPHER:** Die proofs on card. **ST. LUCIA:** Selection of covers including Great Britain 1d. red and 6d. lilac used at ST. Lucia on cover; the 'Castries' provisional postmark and an example of the first air mail on cover. **ST. VINCENT:** Copies of S.G. 6, 16 and 17 each on cover and S.G. 8 and 10 on one cover; the 'BAR' obliteration on S.G. 22 on cover and examples of the various abbreviated and extended types; the 'G' (Georgetown) on S.G.22 also on cover.

(Loaned by H. Douglas Bessemer. F.R.P.S.L.).

DOMINICA: A selection of the handstruck stamps and cancellations, including the early handstruck stamps on preadhesives with one of the two known examples of the early 'DOMINICO' stamp; examples of the 'A07' cancellations on G.B. stamps and of the unusual manuscript cancellations including one on cover; a selection of cancellations on adhesives including a number of small village marks.

(Loaned by F. J. N. Nabarro, F.R.P.S.L.).

TOBAGO: Examples of G.B. used in Tobago 1856-8; first issue of Tobago (1879) with die proof; copies of the provisional ½d. on 6d. stone (1886) 1st and 2nd settings also of the ½d. on 2½d. blue with varieties and double surcharges; cover (1890) showing pair of Tobago 4d. stamps used as postage dues; Canadian Patriotic cover of 1898 used in Tobago; examples of the first postcards with die proof.

(Loaned by A. E. Beach).

Among the individual displays we were glad to see material covering **Bermuda** and **Virgin Islands** loaned by Lt.-Col. F. S. J. Norris and Mr. W. Frazer respectively. The pages of Bermuda comprised a study of postmarks which the exhibitor states 'should and should not have appeared on adhesives between 1865 and 1889'. Mr. Frazer's fine assembly of Virgin Islands included the following items of especial interest: The earliest recorded cover dated 2nd March 1796; 1866, die proofs of the 1d., 4d. and 6d. in various colours and other proof material; part sheet of 22, 6d. imperforate, unissued setting; 1d. perf. 12, mint marginal block of 15. Essay of the 1s. without figure of Virgin, 1867/8, examples of the 1s. rose-carmine on billed paper including a mint block of 4; 4d. lithographed, block of 15 imperforate proofs. 1867, 4d. lake-red, complete sheets of 25, one on buff paper; a single 4d. used on cover to London. 1867/8, 1s. on white and on toned papers, complete sheets. 1868, 1s. single-line frame, imperforate proof in the issued colour; the 1s. on white paper, mint block of 8. 1879, 1d. complete sheet of 24 (sideways wmk.). 1887, complete mint sheets of the 6d. deep violet and 1s. sepia. 1888. "4D" on 1s. complete mint sheet of 20, also horizontal marginal pair the right stamp with double surcharge.

As many members will be aware, the "Stampex" Trophy for 1957 was awarded to our member, Mr. R. W. Wells of Devizes, and we take this opportunity of extending to him our hearty congratulations on his success.

AN INVITATION

The Annual General Meeting of the British Philatelic Association is to be held on Tuesday, May 7th, at the Kingsley Hotel, Bloomsbury Way. W.C.1. Following the normal practice it will be followed by a display, and our Circle has been invited to provide the material. A selection of the following colonies will be on view: Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, St. Christopher and St. Vincent. The B.P.A. extends a warm welcome to any of our members who wish to see the display.

39th PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

As members will have seen in the philatelic press this is being held at the Old Swan Hotel, HARROGATE from 14th to 17th May. All being well our Hon. Secretary hopes to attend, also Miss Rose Titford and Mr. G. W. Groves who have been appointed the Circle's Delegates. Following the success which attended the staging of an Exhibition as part of the programme at Brighton last year the Leeds Philatelic Society, who are the hosts, have decided to follow suit and our Circle has been invited to provide twelve frames. The following Members have kindly consented to loan pages of the colonies indicated and a detailed description will be included in our July issue for the benefit of those who are unable to be there : C. W. Meredith, F.R.P.S.L. (Antigua); Miss Titford. (Bahamas)-, Lieut-Colonel F. S. J. Norris, (Bermuda): P. T. Saunders, (Cayman Islands); F. J. N. Nabarro, F.R.P.S.L., (Dominica): C. L. Pilkington. F.R.P.S.L., (Grenada); G. V Collett,

R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., (Jamaica); Dr. R. H. Urwick F.R.P.S.L., (St. Christopher); Lieut-Colonel H. C. Masol F.R.P.S.L., (St. Lucia); A. E. Beach, (Tobago); and J. B. Marriott. (Trinidad).

Our President will take the chair at the meeting of our Circle which is scheduled for Thursday, 16th May. at 9 p.m. and all those who hope to attend are enjoined to bring along a few pages to pass round and a note of any queries they wish to raise.

NOTES AND QUERIES

It will be appreciated that our Bulletin constitutes the vital link between us and is mainly dependent upon a steady flow of contributions from members. These may either afford information or raise points upon which enlightenment is sought, and it will be helpful if S.G. numbers are quoted wherever possible. ALL contributions should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary.

BAHAMAS SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS

" Notwithstanding the reference in the late Mr. Gisburn's book on these stamps the reason for their issue is still obscure. A number of questions occur to me such as these: Why were Special Delivery stamps required particularly in 1916? What purpose was served by imposing a special charge on correspondence not bearing a specific address? Why was it necessary to send the special overprinted Bahaman stamps (S.G.253) to just four Canadian Post Offices—Ottawa, Toronto, Westmount and Winnipeg? Why could not Canadian Special Delivery stamps which were in contemporary issue have been used for the purpose? I understand that in March 1929 there were still 550 of the original 600 of these stamps in the Nassau Post Office but they were so badly stuck together as to be useless. Is there any record of any of the remaining 50 being used on mail to Canada? One on a cover I would imagine to be a very rare item. Perhaps some member can throw more light on the matter and I should be happy to have him let the rest of us know through the medium of our Bulletin."

(Contributed by Mr. Martin M. Sternfels).

BAHAMAS
THE "FISH HEAD POSTMARK"

I have one or two examples of an unusual type of postmark used at Cat Cay for a short period during 1936. It consists of a fish's head protruding presumably from the sea. Some of the marks are in blue whilst one is in black.

Any information about this postmark would be greatly appreciated".
(Contributed by Mr. L. E. Britnor).

(The following extract from a letter sent to a philatelic journal some years ago would appear to afford an authoritative reply to Mr. Britnor's query. Ed.).

'It is some time since I last wrote you and have for the longest time wanted to impart this small item of philately which may be of interest to some of my fellow members.

From 1936 on through to 1941 I lived on a little Cay in the Bahama Islands. It was Cat Cay, and is rather a famous resort for marlin and tuna fishing. It is owned by Mr. Louis Wasey and he has made a splendid and lovely Cay that was once nothing but coral and coconut palms. However, I am not trying to sell Cat Cay. I would like to tell you this little story which is absolutely authentic. I personally know these people.

On the more inhabited islands and cays that comprise the Bahama Islands the Government in New Providence appoint men to the post of collectors of harbour fees, customs, telegraphic communications and in some cases they dispense the law. All these positions are filled by one man. so you can imagine they are busy chaps. John Saunders was our official on Cat Cay. The manager of the Island was Mr. Cook, affectionately known as (you guessed it, Cookie). His daughter, Miss Evelyn Cook, was his secretary and Mr. K. C. B. Smith was the architect in rebuilding the Cay. Well, seeing that it was a fisherman's Paradise and marlins, blue and white, were the game fish, Evelyn Cook designed a marlin head and K. C. B. Smith sketched it out and it was sent to Nassau to be approved. The powers that be gave it their blessings and it came back to Cat Cay as a rubber stamp, so as the mail went out, Johnny emblazoned the marlin head on the George VI stamps. Of course the mail was then transferred to Nassau and the letters received the Nassau cancellation, so if anyone has any of these cancelled stamps with the marlin head, they will know they came from Cat Cay, a small paradise that is half-a-mile wide by three long. They also have an emblem on the Flag of the Island that depicts a cat standing on a cay. I believe the marlin head strike has been discontinued since the war, at least that is what John Saunders tells me. I hope this is of interest.'

BARBADOS

" I have made enquiries locally concerning the two queries raised in Bulletin No. 12 p. 6. and have obtained the following information which I trust will be of some use:

With regard to Mr. Dickson's Registered Airmail cover it is the practice for the Parish Postmaster to write the registration number on such envelopes, in ink or in pencil, and on arrival at the G.P.O. they are backstamped. All registered letters were entered in the records of both the Parish Post Office and the G.P.O. but since the 16th January 1956 a record is only maintained at the G.P.O.

The electric cancelling machine installed in April 1926, to which Mr. Britnor refers, consisted of six wavy lines with the date in a circle on the left, measuring 20 x 20 mm. In 1946 another cancellor was added consisting of seven wavy lines with the circle measuring 21 x 20 mm. There are two blocks: the date block sliding into a flat slot and the wavy lines are engraved on a semi-circular block. This latter block can be fed into the machine with either the waves on top or on the bottom."

(Contributed by Mr. H. Bayley - Barbados).

BERMUDA

A CONVICT'S LETTER FROM IRELAND ISLAND

" Ireland Island, at the western end of the chain of islands forming the Bermudas, was chosen in 1810 as the headquarters of the North Atlantic Squadron of the Royal Navy. Work was started shortly afterwards on the construction of barracks, fortifications, warehouses, and other buildings required at an important naval base. Until their liberation in 1834, slaves were employed for the manual labour under the direction of British overseers. Between 1834 and 1842 very little progress was made, but in the latter year the naval authorities sent out from Great Britain the first group of 300 of a total of 1500 convicts who were to work on the construction of the naval base until 1863. The convicts, who were housed in hulks anchored off Ireland Island and in buildings on Boaz Island nearby, were kept under continual guard and had no association with the civilian population of Bermuda. In all, over 9,000 convicts were employed between 1842 and 1863, of whom over 2,000 died in the Islands. All but one of the convicts were returned to Great Britain for their release, the exception being a certain William Facy, who was allowed to settle in

Bermuda, opened a livery stable and was for a number of years after 1842 a contractor for the daily mail carriage from Hamilton to St. Georges.

Presumably, many of the convicts were illiterate, but for those that were not and wished to write home about personal matters, special letter sheets were provided. On the first page of these sheets was printed, in cursive script, the regulations governing the writing of letters by convicts, as follows :

Convict Establishment,
Bermuda,

Convicts are permitted to write one Letter on reception and another at the end of three months. They may also receive one Letter (prepaid) every three months during their stay. Matters of Private importance to a Convict may be communicated at any time by Letter (prepaid) to the Governor or Chaplain, who will inform the Convict thereof, if expedient.

In case of misconduct, the privilege of receiving or writing a Letter may be forfeited for the time.

All Letters of an improper or idle tendency, either to or from Convicts, or containing slang or other objectionable expressions, will be suppressed. The permission to write and receive Letters is given to the Convicts for the purpose of enabling them to keep up a connection with their respectable Friends, and not that they may hear the news of the day.

All Letters are read by the Governor or Chaplain, and must be legibly written, and not crossed.

Neither clothes, money, nor any other articles, are allowed to be received at the Prison for the use of Convicts, except through the Governor. Persons attempting otherwise to introduce any article to or for a Convict are liable to fine or imprisonment, and the Convict concerned is liable to be severely punished.

At the top of pages 2 and 3 is printed :

N.B. The Convict's writing to be confined to these two pages. In writing to the Convict, direct to No.

The example in my collection, incidentally the only convict's letter from Bermuda known to me, is from No. 3366 F. W. Stewart to Mr. W. Thompson, Inspector of Police, Banbury, Oxfordshire, and concerns a sum of money which Stewart claims his defence counsel is withholding from him. The letter is addressed from the 'Medway' Convict Ship and is dated November 27th, 1858. The date is repeated on the first, printed, page, on which appears also the initials of two persons, presumably the Chaplain and the Governor of the Convict Establishment. The letter was prepaid, '6d' in manuscript in red ink being on the front, together with an impression in red of the Crowned Circle 'PAID AT IRELAND ISLE BERMUDA' and its accompanying datestamp, in black, 'IRELAND ISLE=BERMUDA=' dated

December 2nd, 1858. Also on the front is the transit datestamp 'PAID LIVERPOOL BR. PACKET' of December 26th, 1858, in red, and the letter is backstamped in blue 'BANBURY DE 27, 1858'.

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

BRITISH GUIANA

"The following potted history of the T.P.O.'s on the Demerara River will, I hope, clear up the query which was raised at our meeting in October 1956 in relation to the cancellations of this service.

The T.P.O. on the Demerara River, strictly the Lower Demerara River to distinguish it from the launch service on the Upper Demerara River, was established on 1st March 1881 and originally ran from Georgetown to Lucky Spot on the Upper Demerara River just above Wismar, the present terminus and to which point it ran from 1901 and where a post office was opened on 4th May 1897. The Post Office Guide for 1884 recorded the times of departure and arrival and stated that mails for Mallali and places above Lucky Spot were conveyed by special mail boat. Since 1881 six different types of cancellation have been used by this T.P.O.

The Mail Boat service on the Upper Demerara River was established on an experimental basis on 1st July 1881 between Lucky Spot and Mallali on which day a Post Office was opened at the latter settlement. The launch service was discontinued from 1st April 1882 as the Contractor was unable to perform the service at the rates agreed. Postal matter for places beyond Lucky Spot was retained in the custody of the Mail Officer on board the River Steamer and could be obtained on application. The service was re-established on October 1st 1883, the first T.P. Agent being Wm. Forsythe who conveyed the mails in a canvas collapsible boat. By July 1st 1885 the renewed contract for the mail service to Mallali operated from Akaima which by that time had become the terminus of the Demerara River Steamer service. In 1887 the T.P. Agent was a coloured St. Lucian named Heshbon who used a similar type of collapsible boat.

The designation of the service changed in 1896 from Mail Boat Demerara River to Upper Demerara River Launch although this is not reflected in the cancellation used. Because of lack of transport facilities the mail service between Wismar and Mulluli was discontinued from

October 1st 1929 and postal business for the district was attended to from Wismar and Mackenzie Post Offices and the Postal Agency at Seba. The original cancellation is a 24 mm. D.R. with two line date and reads 'Mail Boat, Demerara River'. My own copies range from May 17th 1888 to June 5th 1900. It was succeeded by a S.R. 28½ mm. type reading 'Mail Boat. B. Guiana' with three line date and I have copies between September 19th, 1902 and March 2nd, 1922.

The T.P.A. service on the Upper Demerara River was re-established in February 1941 between Wismar and Mallali and Mr. Wreford Allicock was appointed T.P. Agent. I have no evidence to support the issue of a date stamp to the T.P.A. in 1941. Whether it has operated continuously since then is also not certain, but it was running in 1950. From enquiries made locally I have been informed that immediately prior to August 1952 the T.P.A. did not have its own cancellation. From that date however the rarely seen large S.R. 31 mm. type date stamp with single line date and asterisk below reading 'T.P.O. Upper Dem Riv. Br. Gu.' was brought into use."

(Contributed by Mr. P. W. Hosking).

JAMAICA

TEMPORARY RUBBER DATESTAMPS

"The searcher after truth, in no matter how humble a plane, stumbles into many a pitfall. I have been endeavouring to sort out the double-lined oval temporary datestamps of Jamaica to bring them into some sort of order but I am afraid I have found myself in some confusion. In my view it is a matter for a High Council to decide where classification begins and ends so I offer you the results of my calipers in the hope that they may be of some assistance. In the course of my research several questions have arisen. For example does the length of 'Jamaica' really matter? Or the height of the date or of the letters? Does the addition of 'B.W.I.' to 'Jamaica' constitute another class? If the book says the datestamp is always in purple does it matter that it is also found in black and in red? Should one seriously consider the distinction between italics and roman lettering?

There is no doubt that any efforts to classify Jamaica T.R.D.'s is bound to run into trouble. Already there are some 43 classes in Mr. Aguillar's system and the '37' class alone is responsible for my own effort to sort

things out. You will note that Mr. Aguilar uses a serif type to illustrate his '37' but there are any number of sans-serif classed us '37' in his system. He has made some endeavour to sort out sub-classes in '37' by the length of 'Jamaica' but there are at least 4 general groups of lengths and probably more. I hope that some member of the Circle or perhaps a committee thereof, especially interested in Jamaica, can take up this research and provide us with a worthwhile solution to the problem. Needless to say I, and I am sure many others, will be happy to accept any classification that follows a well thought out system".

Double Lined Ovals

Town above, Jamaica below, stars between, 48-52min. wide in purple or violet.

Length of Jamaica	Height of Letters	Height of Date	Post Offices	Type	Date of my example
22mm.	2½mm.	2½mm.	Carmel	37a	1946
22-23mm.	2½mm.	4mm	Kelly (Kellv, Kingston, Jav.)	37c	1955
"	"	"	King Weslon	"	1954
25mm.	3mm.	"	Lancaster	"	1952
"	2½mm.	"	Barking Lodge	"	1954
"	"	"	Quickstep	"	1952
27-28mm.	"	"	Bogue	"	1954
"	"	"	Padmore	"	1953
"	"	"	Sanguinetti	"	Received 1954 (undated)
30mm.	"	"	Devon Pen	37e	1953
"	"	"	Lookout	37c	1953
"	"	"	St. Gregory	"	1954
"	"	"	Spot Valley	"	1953
			In Black		
30mm.	"	"	Content Gap		Received 1953 (undated)
			In red		
25mm.	"	"	Tweedside	37	1949
			Sans-serif Type		
25mm.	"	3½mm.	Bailey's Vale	37	1950
30mm.	3mm.	4mm.	Epsom	"	1951
25mm.	"	"	Leeds	"	1950
30mm.	2½mm.	3½mm.	Mona	"	1952
25mm.	3mm	"	Mt. Airy	"	1953
27mm.	"	4mm.	Refuge	"	1950
25mm.	2½mm.	"	Treasure Beach	"	1945
			Town Sans- Serif: Jamaica Serif		
22mm.	3mm.	4mm.	Content Gap	37b	1951(in black)
20mm.	4mm.	5mm.	Dias	"	1946
			Town, Jamaica in italic Serif		
27mm.	2½mm.	4mm.	Mulgrave	37	1951
			Town, 'Jamaica, B.W.I.' in Serif		
35mm.	2½mm.	4mm.	Grey Ground	37f	1955
37mm.	"	"	Wareika	37h	1956

(Contributed by Mr. Harvey O'Connor).

ST. CHRISTOPHER: THE MOTHER COLONY

(Concluded from Bulletin No. 11. p. 53).

"THE PROVISIONAL SURCHARGES." A tribute should first be paid to those who have done pioneer work by their researches into the settings of the surcharges employed for the issues from 1885 to 1888. I refer, of course, to Mr. L. J. Gilbert-Lodge, the late Sir Edward D. Bacon. K.C.V.O., and the late Mr. Robert Blake Yardley. Their writings dealt chiefly with the types of the 'ONE PENNY' surcharge which have always formed an attractive feature of the stamps of St. Christopher. Unfortunately not much has been contributed on the little 'Halfpenny' surcharge, the 'FOUR PENCE' (in two lines) or on the '4d.' of 1885 and 1886, and for this reason it is not possible to give a complete account of these provisionals. It is hoped, however, by the combined efforts of those interested, that more up-to-date information may be forthcoming for a subsequent issue of the Bulletin. This may well be accomplished when material which is known to exist in large connected pieces, finds its way on to the market and when it may be possible to provide confirmation of the manner in which these surcharges were produced and applied. The notes which follow on all the surcharges is merely an attempt to summarise known and recorded information and to interpolate, whenever possible, my own observations.

In the absence of evidence to the contrary, it can be stated that all the surcharges were applied in the office of the St. Christopher newspaper 'The Advertiser,' with the exception of the 'Halfpenny' on the bisected 1d. carmine-rose; this was applied in the Post Office and was issued in April, 1885. This occurs twice on each 1d. stamp diagonally, the surcharge either reading downwards or upwards (it is more unusual to see the upwards surcharge): the major varieties are the inverted and the double surcharge. Accompanying this provisional was the 'FOUR PENCE' (in two lines) on 6d. green where two main varieties occur - the double surcharge, and the variety with a full point after the word 'PENCE.' Passing over for the moment in its correct sequence, the small 'ONE PENNY' (in two lines) surcharge, we come to the '4d.' of June, 1886. and it is recorded that five types were repeated, vertically, down the sheet. The double surcharge also appears in this type and a variety

without a full point after the '4d ': there is also a third variety - with the period at some distance from the letter 'd'.

Now for the 'ONE PENNY' surcharges. In 1917*, the late Mr. R. B. Yardley acquired a complete pane of the ½d., surcharged 'ONE PENNY', of 1886, and on making a comparison with connected pieces and singles of the earlier 6d. green, of 1886, similarly surcharged, he arrived at the conclusion that the same setting was employed for both provisionals. He stated that the surcharge (presumably type-set, but possibly a stereo) was in each case made up of more or less battered type, and that the defective letters occurred in the same position in each provisional. It will be remembered that all the unsurcharged stamps of St. Christopher were printed from one key-plate, of twenty clichés - in four horizontal rows of five - the values being printed, from separate plates, in a blank horizontal space at the bottom of the stamp design, so that all the panes of stamps of all denominations are of the same size. Mr. Yardley discovered that the defects which occurred in the surcharges were common to both provisionals in the majority of cases. The ink employed for the printings of the surcharges on both values was thick and cloggy, and this resulted in many instances in the ink protruding beyond the outline of the type.

Ten years later† Mr. E. D. Bacon (afterwards Sir Edward D. Bacon) drew attention to varieties of the provisional stamps which he considered should be eliminated from the catalogue. The first of these was the 'ONE PENNY' on ½d of May, 1887, without a bar across the original value, of which he had for long had grave doubts: (this was subsequently deleted from Stanley Gibbons' catalogue). Sir Edward confirmed Mr. Yardley's statement that the surcharge 'ONE PENNY' with a period after the word 'PENNY' was from the same setting as had been used for the 'ONE PENNY' on 6d. of June, 1886, but that the lettering of the surcharge on that stamp was not quite so worn and defective as on the ½d.; notwithstanding this it was easy to plate individual specimens by a sheet of 'ONE PENNY' on ½d. Sir Edward mentioned that the lettering on specimens of the 'ONE PENNY' on ½d.

* London Philatelist. Vol. XXVI, p. 214.

† London Philatelist, Vol. XXXVI, p. 75.

without bar was of quite a different character, the type used for the surcharge being new, the printing clear, and it did not correspond with that on any of the 20 stamps on the sheet which he had for comparison, evidence sufficient to prove that the specimens without bar were forgeries. The genuine 'ONE PENNY' on 6d. and 'ONE PENNY' on ½d. usually have a continuous line drawn by hand in pen and ink across the original value of each row of stamps on the sheet, but specimens of the latter exist also with a pen and ink line drawn separately on each stamp.

In 1928* Mr. L. J. Gilbert-Lodge confirmed Sir Edward Bacon's theory that the surcharge without bar through value was a forgery beyond any question of doubt. Sir Edward had also drawn attention to a variety without stop occurring in the 'no bar' stamp, although he had not seen an example at the time he had written his notes. Mr. Gilbert-Lodge stated that one examined by him in 1928 was of identical type to the 'no bar' variety, and he considered it also to be doubtful. Sir Edward further doubted the genuineness of this value with inverted and double surcharge and wondered if these were of the same type as this forgery. Mr. Gilbert-Lodge proved, as regards the invert, that it was of the same type. Both these items have been removed from the catalogue list for many years. It is also of interest to record that the normal surcharge was also forged extensively. Of the 'ONE PENNY' on 6d. green of 1886 with double surcharge Mr. Gilbert-Lodge recorded that he had never seen a mint or a postally used example, but that he possessed two pen-marked copies, dated 22-7-'86 and 28-7-86 respectively (in what appeared to be the same handwriting). He knew also of two other similarly penmarked copies, the position of the double surcharge being similar. He ventured to suggest that possibly only one sheet was doubly surcharged and although, perhaps, issued in the usual way, this particular sheet may have been used for fiscal purposes only. (At one time I possessed an example of the normal stamp with a similar ms. Date - though the exact day of the month escapes me so that one wonders whether the normal stamps also may have been used for fiscal as well as for postal purposes.).

•London Philatelist. Vol. XXXVII, pp. 187/188.

We now come to the small surcharge 'ONE PENNY' on 2½d. ultramarine of May 1888, one of the great rarities of British West Indies. Stanley Gibbons' catalogue lists this surcharge as being similar to Type 6 (their type) of the 'ONE PENNY' on ½d., but letters 2mm. high, and 'PENNY' 12mm. long. It is difficult to reconcile this statement with the facts recorded that the 'ONE PENNY' on 2½d. was printed from the same setting as that used for the 'ONE PENNY' on 6d. and the 'ONE PENNY' on ½d.. and although I have not (and never shall possess) an example of the 1d. on 2½d., the measurements of this surcharge and of the former two appear to be identical (it is true that as far as this rarity is concerned I have been able only to measure the surcharge from photographs of an unused copy - the only one so far recorded - and a used example and photographs are not always true as regards size, but allowing for this the measurements appear to me to be identical). The surcharge, as one would expect, has the type more worn and only one sheet of 20 stamps is said to have been printed with this surcharge; the original value in this instance was not cancelled by a bar. The rest of the stamps required in St. Christopher at that time were produced by surcharging the 2½d. with a larger type of 'ONE PENNY,' and this Sir Edward recorded was confirmed in an article by Mr. Douglas Mackenzie in 1896, who stated that the Postmaster of St. Christopher informed him at the time of issue of the stamps that only one sheet of 20 was printed with the small surcharge and one sheet only of the larger type of lettering with inverted surcharge (no details are given as to how many sheets were printed of the normal surcharge). Sir Edward re-affirmed his opinion that the bad state of the lettering in the setting of the small surcharge of the 2½d. was probably the reason for the new setting with larger letters being adopted. At one time the small surcharge, inverted, was included in the catalogue list, but as this was proved to be a forgery it was subsequently deleted. The large 'ONE PENNY' has letters 3mm. high and the word 'PENNY' measures just under 15mm., the original value being cancelled by a pen and ink bar, and as indicated in the previous paragraph there is only one genuine variety, the rare inverted surcharge.

In February 1890, owing to a scarcity of 1d. stamps, a small supply of that value was borrowed from Antigua and used provisionally in St.

Christopher, the 'A12' obliterator of St. Kitts being used as a cancellation.

In 1891 a general set of Leeward Islands stamps superseded the issues of St. Christopher proper, as well as of Nevis, and also, but only temporarily, of Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat and the Virgin Islands; of the latter, however, further stamp issues were in contemporary use with the stamps inscribed 'LEEWARD ISLANDS'.

These notes deal only with St. Christopher proper and not with St. Kitts-Nevis, as my collection is confined to the issues up to 1890, but I feel sure there are other members of the Circle who can contribute much valuable information on these interesting issues.

REVENUE STAMPS USED FOR POSTAGE.

In 1883. the 1d. lilac-mauve and 6d. green of Nevis were overprinted 'Saint Christopher' (diagonally, in two lines). In 1885 the 1d. rose, 3d. mauve, 6d. orange-brown and 1s. olive were issued with the overprint 'SAINT KITTS NEVIS REVENUE' (in three lines) for use as postage stamps. It is interesting to note that the 3d. comes in as a new value and the 6d. and 1s. are in different colours to the same values used for postage (1882-90 series), though the basic design remains the same. I have not so far come across any information about these stamps, but I have wondered why the 3d. value was printed in such small letters, which leave a fairly wide white space at either side of the denomination, as the 1s. value with its extra letter is printed in the normal size of lettering: perhaps some member can provide the answer to this.

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HARRIS PUBLICATIONS

POSTAL STATIONERY. So far as is known there are no envelopes for St. Christopher. Details of the postal cards and reply cards are as follows: Design with vignette of Queen Victoria with 'ST. CHRISTOPHER' above and value below, with inscription and instructions in the same colour as the printed stamp. 1879, 1½d. red-brown; this card also comes in a paler printing. 1882, 1d. rose. In February 1883, the supply of the 1½d. card was exhausted and the 1d. was issued temporarily with half a 1d. lilac-rose, or a ½d. green adhesive attached to it, until a fresh consignment of 1½d. cards was received from England; (this no doubt accounts for the paler printing, unless this was the first printing (?).) In 1887 (or 1888) a new design appeared for the 1d. carmine and 1½d. dark brown, and in addition to the single postcards, reply cards also made their appearance, these being perforated for separation by a wide form of roulette. (J. B. Moens records the reply cards as existing with and without accent over the 'E' of the word 'RESPONSE' ".)

(Contributed by Miss Rose Titford).

VIRGIN ISLANDS

"I have in my collection a mint pair of the 1866 S.G.7. showing 'OWA' of papermakers watermark also a block of four where the *top right* hand stamp shows 'NS' of the watermark. I also have a single showing a watermark of a different type in a script form as opposed to the lettering which is in clear and unmistakable block capitals. Presumably the name is 'COWAN & SONS.' Can any member definitely confirm this? "

(Contributed by Mr. W. Frazer).

MISCELLANEA

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THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

To each of us there comes a time when we like to soliloquize, more often than not on past events, and in so doing it is natural that I should dwell on the gradual growth of our membership. Although it has meant that more and more of my leisure is taken up I feel that in the success so far achieved I have been well rewarded. A few days ago I received a charming letter from a member - who wishes to remain anonymous - enclosing £20 as a contribution towards the Circle's funds; I know all members will join with me in expressing our sincere thanks for his most generous gift. After due consideration it has been decided that the sum could best be applied in improving our Bulletin and a modest amount has been set aside to enable it to be printed entirely on art paper commencing with this issue. In the past there have been occasions when an article would have been improved by an illustration and, in future, blocks will be made when the expense is justified. I know all members will appreciate the valuable support given by our advertisers and it is with both pleasure and satisfaction that I quote from a letter from one of the first to give our Bulletin a trial as an advertising medium. He writes: 'Sales from this space compare very favourably indeed with any of the big magazines with many times the circulation.' By the time this issue reaches you preparations will be well advanced for the 39th Philatelic Congress at HARROGATE (14th to 17th May) and from the details given on p. 16 it will be seen that our Circle will be taking a very prominent part in the exhibition that forms part of the programme. All being well I shall be attending as usual and look forward with pleasant anticipation of meeting some of our members who reside in the North.

P.T.S

AUCTION GLEANINGS

H. R. HARMER, Ltd. Sale of Nov. 12th & 13th 1956. **Nevis**; 1861, 1d., 4d, 6d. and 1s. reprinted plate proofs in black, complete sheets of 12 of each, (4d. from the defaced plate), **£13 10/**. **St. Vincent**: 1921-32. £1, S.G.141, o.g. from top of sheet, **£3 17/6**. Sale of Nov. 19th & 20th 1956. **Dominica**: 1923/7. MCA. £1, S.G.87, o.g. block of 4, from right of sheet, **£13**. **Grenada**: 1904/6. 10s., S.G.76. o.g. from top of sheet with Control, **£6 5/-**. **St. Kitts-Nevis**: 1923, Tercentenary set, S.G.48-58, (o.g. or part o.g.) **£36**. **Trinidad**: 1859, pin-perf. 6d. yellow-green, S.G.35. **£10 10/-** Sale of Dec. 3rd & 4th 1956. **Bermuda**: 1910-19, 1d. part o.g. vertical strip of three from bottom of sheet, lower stamp double impression, **£5 10/-**. **British Honduras**: 1888/9, 50c. on 1s., S.G.30, part o.g. **£19**. **Cayman Islands**: 1932. Centenary set. S.G.84-95, all o.g. or part o.g. **£14 10/-**; a used set, **£13 10/-**; another set in o.g. blocks of four. **£57 10/-**. Sale of Jan. 7th & 8th 1957. **Cayman Islands** : 1907, 5/-, S.G.16, part o.g. **£5 5/-**. **St. Lucia** : 1882/84. 1s. orange, S.G.29, unused. **£7 10/-**. **St. Vincent**: 1866. 4d. deep blue, S.G.8, unused. **£7 5/-** Sale of Jan. 21st & 22nd 1957. **Bermuda**: 1938/53. 10/- green and deep lake on green, S.G.119, part o.g. **£8 5/-**. **Cayman Islands** : 1908. 2½d. on 4d., S.G.24, part o.g. (2) **£31** and **£32**. **Nevis**: 1876. litho.. 1s. deep green, complete o.g. sheet of 12, with margins, No. 9 on sheet showing trace of 'crossed lines on hill'. **£33**.

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