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**BULLETIN No. 37 APRIL 1963**

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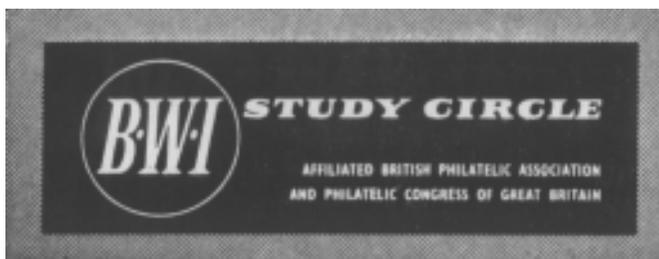
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**OBJECTS**

- |   |
|---|
| 1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps of the British West Indies comprising the following colonies and dependencies:  |
| <b>ANTIGUA • BAHAMAS • BARBADOS</b><br><b>BERMUDA • BRITISH GUIANA • BRITISH</b><br><b>HONDURAS • CAYMAN ISLANDS • DOMINICA</b><br><b>GRENADA • JAMAICA • LEEWARD ISLANDS</b><br><b>MONTSERRAT • ST. KITTS-NEVIS • ST. LUCIA</b><br><b>ST. VINCENT • TRINIDAD and TOBAGO</b><br><b>TURKS &amp; CAICOS ISLANDS • VIRGIN ISLANDS</b>          |
| 2. 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.  |
| 3. TO operate a SALES CIRCUIT to enable members to dispose of their surplus material.   |
| 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 £1 (\$3.00 non-sterling countries) due 1st FEBRUARY. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. STUDY CIRCLE". |

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GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION will be included in the  
July Bulletin each year.

Advert

F. W. COLLINS

## THE CIRCLE'S DINNER

The Ninth Anniversary Dinner was held at the Phoenix Restaurant, Cavendish Square, London W.1, on Saturday, March 9th 1963 with Commander G. Bridgmore Brown, M.B.E. in the chair. 43 Members with their guests attended.

It was unanimously considered that this new venue is a great improvement on previous locations, and it is hoped, in consequence, that more support will be forthcoming when future Circle Dinners are arranged. It is distinctly disheartening to our Secretary when planning these annual get-togethers to find so few members attend, despite their plea for them to be held.

After the Loyal Toast, that to the Circle was ably proposed by Mr. Arnold M. Strange, Editor of the "London Philatelist" and replied to by the Chairman. Mr. E. Victor Toeg, Committee member, then proposed the health of the Visitors, accenting the pleasure felt by all at the presence of Sir Kenneth Blackburne, G.C.M.G., G.B.E. first Governor-General of Jamaica, and Lady Blackburne. In his response Sir Kenneth spoke of his work in the Caribbean. His concise report of the breakdown of the Federation and his view that the future economy of Barbados, the Leeward and Windward Islands could best be secured by their grouping, was of particular interest. With regard to the Cayman Islands he stressed the point that, due to the fact that a large number of the population were of white descent, there is an overwhelming desire to preserve allegiance to Her Majesty The Queen and remain under the British Flag. "The Philatelic Press" was the final toast on the list and was proposed by Miss Rose Titford, President of the City of London Philatelic Society, in which she emphasised the great importance of the Press, and expressed on behalf of all appreciation of the work done by editors. The response was made by Mr. Kenneth F. Chapman, Editor of "Stamp Collecting" always a welcome guest to these annual events.

A full report of the meeting which was held at 41 Devonshire Place, W.1 prior to the dinner, will appear in the July Bulletin.

"Caribbex"

# BRITISH GUIANA

## "Vendor" Marks

In answer to Mr. Townsend's query (Bulletin No.35, Page 51), the "Vendor" marks were originally used to stamp P.O.s and M.O.s at G.P.O. About 1953, a special date-stamp was issued for use on Registered Air-mail. There was a public outcry against the delays at the Registered Airmail counter, where only the one date-stamp was authorised for use. In the end the P.M.G. was forced to authorise the use of other stamps, and the clerks used the various "Vendor" c.d.s. These are now to be found on ordinary Registered Mail, too.

*F. G. Howe.*

# BAHAMAS

## Cancellation Gisburn's Type 6

Correspondence regarding the above has appeared in Bulletin No. 29, page 23, Bulletin No. 31, page 66 and Bulletin No. 34, page 44.

Seven clear strikes, mostly on covers in my collection have letter 'A'. The earliest example is 16 Oct. 1880, and the latest 13 March 1883. For letter 'B' I have a perfect example dated 27 Jan. 1876, cancelling SG. 28 (4d, brownish rose) and four later strikes between 11 Nov. 1884 and 1 April 1895, all of which are backstamps on covers.

The strike of Jan. 1876 is the earliest date I have so far seen recorded for this cancellation and I note other members do not record the use of the letter 'B' until 1897.

Although Gisburn (page 131) states that letter 'C' existed, I have never seen recorded any example and failing conclusive evidence to the contrary it must be assumed that no such marking exists.

In the light of the above additional information, perhaps other members can record examples from their collections which may eventually enable some further conclusions to be drawn on the significance of these letters on this and other types of canceller used in Bahamas.

## Cancellor Gisburn Type 8

Little has been recorded of this canceller single circle 22 mm. with 'Bahamas' in top half of circle, code letter under and below that the date in two lines. Gisburn says it was used with the code letter 'A', 'B' or 'C'. Ludington (Bulletin 15, page 51) merely remarks "approximate date of use 1892-93."

The examples in my collection, mostly on covers, all have code letter 'C'. The earliest is dated 8 July 1892 and the latest 2 July 1894. On the two earliest covers (both 1892) the canceller is used as a date stamp only, the stamps being

## **BAHAMAS (contd.)**

obliterated with the 'B' canceller. On all other examples, the canceller is used to serve the dual purpose. Can any member extend these dates or give examples which use a code letter other than 'C'?

*R. H. Austin.*

### **Some Notes, Additions and Corrections to Gisburn's Bahamas.**

*Note.* All these amendments are based on items in my own collection or that I have seen.

Page 51, 1d., 4d. and 6d. Perf. 11½-12, compound with 11. (S.G. 12-15).

Gisburn states that the block of five of the 1d., illustrated on page 38, (mistakenly described as S.G. 7), is perforated 11 on the left margin and the top of the stamps in the first row. As far as can be determined from the photograph, only the latter is perf. 11. However the perforations between the left margin and the first vertical row do exist perf. 11 on one or more other sheets. The 4d. exists perf. 11 at the top or the bottom of the stamp, but I have only seen the 6d. perf. 11 at the top.

Page 52. 1d. perf. 12½. The carmine-lake shade (S.G. 21) is found with inverted watermark.

4d. Perf. 12½ The brownish-rose shade (S.G.28) is stated by Gisburn to be rare in multiples, "only one block of four for example is known to exist." He must be referring to the mint stamps, for I have a used block of five, dated MR 8 76, and have seen other used blocks. The bright rose shade (S.G. 27) exists with reversed watermark.

It has been suggested that the imperforate examples of this set are "imprimaturs" rather than plate proofs.

Page 53. 1d. Perf. 14. The aniline-scarlet (S.G. 34) exists with reversed watermark.

Page 64. Easton's De La Rue History (page 385) and several other sources confirm that the 1884 surface printed stamps were made from 60 multiple plates, not 240.

Pages 65-83. The Queen's Staircase issues.

The first artist's design submitted was dated 19 DEC 1900 and was of a hand-painted vignette of the Staircase in sepia, black and Chinese white over which was stuck a frame printed in black of the line engraved British Guiana Kaieteur Falls design of 1898, altered in black and Chinese white to read "BAHAMAS 1d. POSTAGE" at the top and "1d. ONE PENNY 1d." at the bottom. This is illustrated on Plate 37 of Easton's De La Rue History. Two

copies at least were made, one of which remained unaltered in De La Rue's reference collection. The printers, in submitting the design, promised an individual frame if the size of the stamp and its general style were approved. At an unknown later date they altered at least one copy, without changing the date on the card, by sticking an impression of the die of the new frame, printed in rose carmine, over the modified British Guiana frame.

In addition to the proofs and colour trials listed by Gisburn, the following also exist:

Die Proofs. 1. The die proofs of the vignette, being from a line engraved die, are not on card but on medium wove paper. All are in black. They exist dated 9 APR 1901 (before hardening?), 12 APR 190(1?) (after hardening?), and 1 . . APR 1901, this last being an albino impression.

2. A die proof of the complete frame of the 1d. printed in black on heavy paper and cut close.

3. A master die proof of the frame with the duty blank, and printed in ultramarine on thin paper, is dated in pencil on the back "Dec. 1902." This was used for the master plate employed to make the 3d., 5d., 2s. and 3s. (see below).

Colour Trials. 1d. Wmk. Crown and CC. Perf. 14 single line. Also known in black and orange, (the first colours of the 5d.) 5d. Wmk. Mult. Crown and CA. Imperf. Add: Purple on yellow, (the first colours of the 3d.) Blue-black and brown on yellow, Essays of the Special Delivery Overprint on the 5d. black and mauve. Wmk. Mult. Crown and CA Imperf. Overprinted in red and in black in the type used on the 5d. black and orange issued 2 July 1917, Plate Proofs. Wmk. Mult. Crown and CA. Imperf. Many of the stamps issued between 1917 and 1920 exist on watermarked paper, gummed, and in the issued colours, but imperforate. They formed part of a series of all the new stamps produced by De La Rue for the Crown Colonies and were made, it is said, in blocks of six for the personal reference collection of a high official of the company. Fewer than six of some values seem to have survived, and only those stamps appearing in new designs, denominations or colours, or with an overprint, seem to have been made. Some of them are listed by Gisburn as imperforate varieties, but they should actually be classified as plate proofs. The following are known to me:

Staircase type.

1d. black and red with the first War Charity overprint (S.G. 100).

1d. black and red with the second War Charity overprint (S.G. 112).

3d. black and brown overprinted "WAR TAX" in two lines (S.G. 116).

## **BAHAMAS (contd.)**

5d. black and orange overprinted "SPECIAL DELIVERY" (S.G. S3).

5d. black and mauve overprinted "SPECIAL DELIVERY" (S.G.S4).

King George V typographed issue overprinted "WAR TAX" in two lines.

½d. green overprinted in red (S.G. 113).

1d. carmine overprinted in black (S.G. 114).

1s. grey-black and carmine overprinted in red (S.G. 115).

Peace Celebration issue of 1920 (S.G. 117-121).

In the Staircase type, the 1d. is the only value for which more than one frame plate was made.

The 5d. black and orange of January 1903 was from both Vignette Plates 1 and 2.

The 3s. grey-black and green of October 1908 exists with the watermark inverted and reversed.

On the frame plate of stamp No. 6 of all the higher values, 3d., 5d., 2s. and 3s., the remains of a re-entry can be seen in the upper part of the stamp. Due perhaps to burnishing or to wear different portions of the re-entry appear more prominently on different values, but certain lines occur on all.

On the 3d. purple on yellow the most prominent lines are through "POST," in the ornament above the "T" and across the upper serif of the "S" of "BAHAMAS." Traces can also be seen in the vertical hatching above "MAS," in and alongside the central ornament and in the letters "AHAMA." On the 3d. black and brown the line through "POST" has almost disappeared, as have the traces in "AHAMA," but the other lines are still visible.

On the 5d. black and orange, the colour makes it difficult to see the doubling, and sometimes poor printing makes matters worse. But usually the following can be seen: A broken line above "HAM," a dot near the top in the last "A" of "BAHAMAS," the top serif of the "S" of "BAHAMAS" is missing, actually due to the line through the serif, the line in the ornament above the "T" is clear, and faint traces are visible in the central ornament and in the "S" of "POSTAGE."

On the 5d. black and mauve these varieties are much clearer, although on the Script CA they are becoming somewhat worn.

I have no example of No. 6 on the 2s. Mult. Crown and CA but on the 2s. Mult. Crown and Script CA the lines through the "S" of "BAHAMAS," "POST" and in the ornaments above the "H" and the "T" have all been burnished out. The top serif of the "S" has been re-engraved more thinly than the normals. Faint traces of a line can just be made out in the vertical hatching above "MAS" and there are a few other traces in and adjoining the central ornament.

On the 3s. Mult. Crown and CA and Mult. Crown and Script CA, again, the lines through the "S" of "BAHAMAS," "POST" and in the ornament above the "T" have been burnished out and the top serif of the "S" re-drawn. But the broken line in the ornament above "HAM" is very clear, as are the lines in and adjoining the central ornament, and the line in the vertical hatching above "MAS" is fairly clear. There are also several short curved lines on both sides of the frame line below "AM," two above and three below, which do not occur on the other values.

The existence of this re-entry, common to all the Higher values, proves that the undenominated frame die was used to make a master plate from which four printing plates, one for each value, were made.

*M. H. Ludington.*

### **Bahamas Postal Stationery**

I am at present compiling a Check List of the Postal Stationery of the Bahamas for publication by the Circle, and before completing the final draft I should like some information from other members regarding the following queries.

#### **(a) Envelopes:**

(1) 1881 envelope, 4d. Violet. This should exist with "Specimen" O/print, as Bahamas joined the U.P.U. on July 1st 1880. Has any member a copy?

(2) 1891 Provisional Envelope, 2½d. on 4d. O/print in Black, with no bars. Recorded by Gisburn, but I have been unable to locate a copy and I suspect that it may be an error of the "value in black and six bars" type, i.e. "bars omitted." I should appreciate confirmation of Gisburn's envelope sizes.

(3) 1912 Combined Postage and Registered Envelope. Has any member a copy with "Specimen" o/print?

#### **(b) Registered Envelopes.**

(1) 1894 Q.V. Registered. All my larger sizes have the letterpress in ultramarine. Has anyone seen these sizes in grey?

(2) 1902 K.E. Registered. Here all my larger sizes are in the grey letterpress. Has anyone copies in ultramarine and what sizes?

#### **(c) Postcards.**

(1) 1881 postcard. Again this should exist with "Specimen" o/print, but is not recorded. Has any member seen this?

(2) 1883 reply card. Has anyone seen this with "Specimen" o/print? According to Gisburn, these reply cards, and the provisionals made from them, exist in two perforations, Perf. 7 and Perf. 8, but all the copies of these cards that I have seen have been Perf. 7. Perhaps members would like to check their copies and confirm this. Note, however, that the later reply cards of 1892, with the value "One Penny - One Penny," are Perf. 8, and it is here that I feel the confusion may have arisen.

## **BAHAMAS (contd.)**

(3) K.G. VI postcard. The postal rate altered in 1940 from 1½d. to 2d, and Gisburn records a provisional postcard, "2d. on 1½d. brown." However, Mr. H. Moreton Black has had a letter from the Bahamas Post Office categorically denying the existence of any such provisional. Any information on this, and on the dates of issue of the subsequent 2d. Grey on Buff, and 2d. Carmine K.G. VI postcards would be appreciated.

I should be very pleased to have any other information on the postal stationery, that members feel I might not have already. The subject has been so neglected for many years past, that it is quite possible that items have been issued, and subsequently gone out of use, without ever having been taken up by collectors or, in fact, ever recorded, especially during the reign of K.G. V.

*S. Graham Hoey.*

Collectors of Bahamas material very frequently encounter covers to and from Dr. Walter Hess, Nassau, Bahamas. In response to recent requests for information on this gentleman, I can say that he went to the Bahamas a few years before the First World War as Colonial Surgeon to the British Government, Shortly going into private practice in Nassau, he spent 35 years there, with time out for war service in the U.S. Marine Corps. A collector since age 7, he was initially a general collector, then turned primarily to British America. For many years there existed in Nassau a small club, the Bahamas Philatelic Society (now defunct) in which Dr. Hess served as exchange manager. His name soon became known throughout the world as the leading collector in Nassau, and philatelic tourists invariably looked him up. He almost always made time for a "stamp-session!" He serviced a great many FDC's, first-flight covers, etc. for collectors, and rarely let a philatelic event pass unrecorded in some manner. Twelve years ago he retired, and except for a few months travel each year, lives in Guadalajara, Mexico. A U.S. citizen, he graduated from Cornell University in 1907, which places him a bit past middle-age. He is married, and the proud father of an 8-year-old daughter, an enchanting tribute to Mexico's mountain climate. A member of the Guadalajara Stamp Club, he is still active in stamps and likely to be so for many a year yet. As his major interest is in stamps per se, I was able to purchase his collection of Bahamas postmarks several years ago.

Regarding Bahamas news, please note that **MACKEY STREET** is the correct spelling of that Bahamas p.o. (not Mackay).

In recent months daily boat-services from Miami to Bimini have been inaugurated, and many of the larger Miami and Miami Beach hotels include for their guests a "free trip abroad" - to Bimini! Speedy boats run across the fifty

miles each morning to Bimini with loads of tourists. The tourists load up with souvenirs, post great quantities of postcards home, and most return to Miami again the same night. The staggering heaps of cards and mail have far outgrown the one-man Bahamas P.O., and the old steeldie datestamp gave up the ghost this past summer. The Commissioner, his Postmaster, and any other helpful volunteers doggedly cancel away each day at the mail accumulation with the old 3SL-type TRD, the small type 2C-1 TRD, and another new copy of the latter, obtained like the first from the U.S.A. The new TRD differs from the older one only in that now the letters are very neatly aligned, rather than somewhat jumbled. A new steeldie datestamp in several copies has been on order for some time from the U.K. via GPO Nassau, but have not turned up yet. As a matter of interest, much of the USA mail to Bimini is addressed "c/o Chalk's Flying Service, Miami, Florida." This charter-aircraft service carries mail almost daily to Bimini as a courtesy, hands it over to the Bimini P.O., from which it is then distributed. Chalk's renders this kindness at no charge, a fine gesture.

*Gale J. Raymond.*

## **BRITISH HONDURAS**

Gale J. Raymond has been advised that a HATTIEVILLE Post Office was opened August 22, 1962. HATTIEVILLE is 16 miles southwest of Belize on the Cayo Road and has an approximate population of 2,000, mostly persons displaced by Hurricane Hattie. The mail arrives twice weekly by a police transport van. The present postmaster is Mr. Leonard Gillett.

*Ralph E. Group.*

## **BRITISH WEST INDIES**

### **HANDSTRUCK STAMPS AND CANCELLATIONS**

Writers who attempt to list handstruck stamps and cancellations start by classifying them according to their use or purpose or by reference to some distinctive characteristic of their design; they adopt a capital letter prefix for each such class and add serial numbers for the different types in that class. If required, subtypes can then be numbered by tacking on 'a,' 'b,' 'c,' etc. to the foregoing.

The Publications Sub-Committee feel it desirable that a uniform code of prefixes should be used for this purpose in our publications, and for the classes common to all, or the majority, of the B.W.I. colonies, they propose the following:-

## **BRITISH WEST INDIES (contd.)**

- A. Air Mail.
- C. Circular or oval datestamps, whether 'ringed' or not.
- M. Machine Cancellations.
- N. Name marks, i.e. office of origin in straight line, sometimes 'boxed.'
- O. Obliterators, including Duplex Obliterators.
- P. Paid marks.
- R. Registered.
- SP. Ship Letters & Paquebots.
- Misc. Miscellaneous.

For some Colonies, the number of different types of marks in other classes may justify separate listing (as opposed to inclusion in "MISC.") and the following further standard prefixes are proposed:

- CM. Censor Marks.
- F. Franks.
- FA. Forwarding Agents.
- T. Postage due.
- TPO. Travelling Post Offices.
- TRD. Temporary Rubber Datestamps.

Comments on these lists of prefixes and suggestions for further classes of marks will be welcomed by the Sub-Committee.

*Cdr. G. Bridgmore Brown.*

*For the benefit of members, the above note, which first appeared in Bulletin No. 35 pp. 55-56, has been repeated with further prefixes.*

## **GRENADA**

### **Postal Stationery - Wrappers. KING GEORGE V**

- ¼d. Brown
- ½d. Green.
- 1d. Red.

Has anyone seen a 1½d. or 2d. Wrapper?

What is the date of issue of the above?

Can anyone supply the writer with a copy of the 1d. Red? All are known Overprinted in Black 'Specimen.'

### **POSTCARDS**

What values exist of King George V as REPLY PAID cards?

*Bryan E. Johnson.*

## **JAMAICA**

Further referring to Mr. Britnor, Mr. Latham & Dr. Blackburn's notes on Jamaican Postal rates, I have a cover showing the 1/3 inland rate as early as

1799, and this also from Montego Bay to Scotland. The 1/3 is for postage to Kingston.

I have a Money Letter cover dated 1852 from Goshen to Spanish Town using an 8d. rate. What is the earliest use anyone has of the "Money Letter" and when was this changed to "Registered." Would like very much to hear these answers.

*R. Topaz,*

**Jamaica 5s. KG 6th. SG 132.** - A friend has sent me a top left marginal corner block and a single that are P. 14 but very much Line perf. He asks me if this is rare and I don't know. All my blocks are comb perf, as it is said to be. Can anyone help by letting me know if they have any Line perf?

**Colour Trials.** I have recently obtained a colour trial of "Arms" Type in an unrecorded shade. It is a complete imperf. horizontal strip of six of the 1d. centre in black, frame in purple. It has full sheet margins all round and Plate No. 1 at foot.

I believe this shows that there can only be six of any one colour trial by De La Rue. "Tyrian" is in pencil on sheet margin, showing what they term this shade of purple.

This was sent me by a dealer, who also offered a similar strip in a rather reddish purple, inscribed in pencil "B Rosa." They were so expensive, that I only bought one strip. They came of course from De La Rue records, that were scattered over London when their premises were bombed in 1940.

*V. N. F. Surtees.*

## **ST. VINCENT**

Can anyone give me information on this St. Vincent postmark? I have a Red Bank, St. Vincent in cds in purple with date as follows:

3  
SEP  
83

The diameter is 25 mm and is a thin single ring. It is on the one penny drab QV Crown CA stamp. Does anyone have an earlier date and when did this office close?

Also I have a red cds on the four pence QV, no watermark, perf 11-12½, CO, Fe 29 76, with the O broken and looking almost like a C. Does anyone have same strike with O barely broken. If so would like date.

*T. Thompson.*

## ST. VINCENT (contd)

### THE NARROW-BARRED A 10 KILLERS

It does not seem to be generally known that during the period 1858 to 1884 no less than four types of these obliterations were at some time in use in the island. I therefore think that some notes on their approximate times of appearance and their usages might be of interest.

Type 1. (A 10 evenly spaced and bar to A central).

This instrument was proofed in London and sent out on 28th April 1858. It does not seem however to have been brought into use much if at all before the end of 1878 or beginning of 1879 when it was probably dug out from its hiding place together with the GB/40C accountancy handstamp as a result of the fact that "the ordinary cancellation stamp is worn out." (See St. Vincent, Napier and Bacon p.63). I find it rather commonly and at first in very good condition on the 6d. yellow green second delivery which was sent out on 28th August, 1878 and on stamps current at that time and up and until the middle of 1884 when it seems to have been superseded by the new Kingstown-St. Vincent date stamp. I have never seen it struck in red.

Type 2. (Similar to Type 1 but the "A" and the "1" are closer together and the bar to the "A" is slightly higher).

This instrument must have been sent out at and about the same time as Type 1 and was put into immediate use as it occurs regularly on the stamps of Great Britain used in the island and on other early adhesive issues. It was still in use in November 1865 but I have not seen it on the 4d., 6d. and 1/0d. of 1866 or later. It therefore seems to have been superceded by Type 3 and later by the broad-barred killers sent out in 1866.

Type 3 (Similar to Types 1 and 2 but the bar to the "A" is much lower).

This killer appears on the 4d. and 6d. of 1866 and on the 1d. and 6d. first issued in 1862 but probably only on the later deliveries of these stamps as I have not seen it with a date before 1866. It was still in use on the 1/0d. indigo but does not seem to appear on the 1/0d. brown sent out on 13th August 1869 so it probably disappeared from use shortly before this date. It sometimes appears struck in reddish an example of which is dated 25 Dec. 1867. Both Types 2 and 3 seem to have passed out of use when still in quite good condition.

Type 4 (A 10 is thick and of squat appearance).

The earliest date I have found for this instrument is 2nd December, 1872 by which time it had probably taken the place of the thick barred killers which at some time passed to the recently opened sub-offices. It was a rather crude affair and never appears to be in good condition and may have been made locally. It remained in use until well into 1878 and must have been the

"cancellation stamp" above referred to. It was struck in black until some time in 1875 when the red pad was substituted and again in black probably late in its life.

During the first "black" period it was often used to overstrike the red village date-stamps and red broad-barred killers and is the only obliterator I have seen used for this purpose, until 1879 when Type 1 occasionally appears in this role.

*J. L. Messenger.*

## TRINIDAD

I am interested in the various rates from Trinidad to places overseas and give below some information on the rate to the U.K..

I should be pleased to hear from anyone possessing covers from Trinidad showing interesting rates, as I hope to compile a more complete list of the main rates in due course.

### **Packet rate to U.K.**

1801: this has been stated to have been 1/- for single letters, but no correspondence is known before 1806.

1806, 1807: 2/- to London.

1809: 4/- (or ? 4/6) to London, ? double rate.

1814:- 4/6 to Liverpool; ? double rate.

1818:- ?1840: 2/2 for single letters: 2/2 per ¼ oz.

?1840 - ?1853: 1/- per ½ oz.

?1854 - 1863 (1st April): increased from 6d. to 1/- per ½ oz.

1863 (1st April): increased from 6d. to 1/- per ½ oz.

1877 (71st April): reduced from 1/- to 6d. per ½ oz.

1879 (1st April): Reduced from 6d to 4d. per ½ oz.

1891 (1st January): Reduced from 4d. to 2½d per ½ oz.

1898 (25th December): Reduced from 2½d. to 1d. per ½ oz.

*J. B. Marriott.*

## TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

### **A Brief Postal History**

The Turks and Caicos Islands, two groups of islands in the British West Indies, were discovered by the Spanish explorer, Juan Ponce de Leon in 1512. Geographically they belong to the Bahamas and lie between 21° and 22° North and 71° and 72° 37' West. They are of coral and sand formation with a combined area of 169 square miles. The Turks Islands, which take their name from a species of cactus, *Melocactus Communis*, the shape of which suggests a turbaned fez, form the eastern group, of which only Grand

## **TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS (contd.)**

Turk (10 square miles) and Salt Cay (5½ square miles) are inhabited. The Caicos Islands fringe three sides of the large and shallow Caicos Bank, which is completed on the southwest side by a long line of reefs. They comprise numerous small cays and six larger islands, South Caicos, East Caicos, Grand or Middle Caicos, North Caicos, Blue Hills or Providencilaes, and West Caicos. Between the two groups of islands is Grand Turk Passage, 21 miles wide, an important route for ships sailing between the Atlantic and the Windward Passage between Cuba and Haiti. The town of Grand Turk, on the west side of the island of that name) is the seat of government and a port of registry. The settlements of Salt Cay, on Salt Cay, and East or Cockburn Harbour, on South Caicos, are the only other places of importance, and each has had a post office since at least 1923. The climate, though relaxing, is healthy, but there is a scarcity of fresh water, the average rainfall being only 27½ inches, and the inhabitants are dependent upon imported foodstuffs, particularly vegetables. The mean temperature is about 80°, but this high average is made bearable by the Trade Winds. The chief industry is salt raking, but sisal and cotton are grown in a limited way, and sponge fishing, after a number of lean years, is increasing. Most of the exports are sent to the United States. Grand Turk is connected by cable to Bermuda and Jamaica, and a few years ago a Missile Tracking Station was set up there by the United States in connection with the Atlantic Missile Testing Range. There are also a small U.S. Air Force Base and U.S. Naval facility on Grand Turk.

The islands remained uninhabited until about 1678, when Bermudians began to visit them to rake the salt found in the ponds. Their visits became annual and permanent settlements were finally made in 1781 after periods of occupation by the Spaniards from 1710 to 1713 and the French from 1753 to 1763. From 1799 to 1848 the islands were attached to the Bahamas, but in the latter year, on a petition from the inhabitants, were made a separate colony under the supervision of the Governor of Jamaica. Owing to financial difficulties, due to a series of bad seasons in the salt industry and a fall in the price of salt, they were annexed in 1873 by Jamaica as a dependency. The government consists of a Commissioner and a Judge assisted by a Legislative Board of two to four people appointed by the Governor of Jamaica. The islands have a population of about 6,500 (Grand Turk about 1800), of which the great majority are coloured.

(To be continued.)

*M. H. Ludington.*

## VIRGIN ISLANDS

I was most interested in the article on the Virgin Islands (Bulletin No. 36, Page 18). Mr. Toeg mentions the watermark as Cowan & Sons. The complete watermark is

A. Cowan & Sons.  
Extra Superfine  
ACS

The first two lines are in hollow capitals and the A CS in rather tall italics.

For years I have been trying to reconstruct the watermark but all I have succeeded in doing is to get

A. Cowan & Sons  
Ex..... S. ....  
AC

I have duplicates of some of the watermarks.

I have been trying to reconstruct sheets of many of the items.

The 1d. 1867-8 was in seven settings, one in a sheet of 20 and six in sheets of 12. I have been able to find ten of the items in the setting of 20. I have five of the 12 in setting A (wide), seven of setting B, four of setting C, eleven of setting D, twelve of setting E, and ten of setting F.

Setting C is the mysterious one. I have the bottom left corner of four stamps with the margins and a photograph of a block of four from the Royal collection. Since two of mine coincide with this photograph, the Royal collection block must be the bottom right corner. I have never heard a description or seen a photograph of the top of this setting.

I have succeeded in completing a reconstruction of No. 18 and also of No. 32 used. My reconstruction of No. 39 consists of thirteen out of the 24. I have some complete sheets.

As regards the obliteration A91, I understand that this was allocated originally to the Cunard Company which may have had a service to the West Indies at some time in the past. The obliteration was subsequently transferred to the Virgin Islands.

The earliest examples of the A91 used in conjunction with a date stamp is August 30th 02; this is on a letter bearing Leeward Island stamps with the circular "Virgin Islands" obliterated. There is also a letter with A91 with Virgin Island stamps with a Registered London marking 1 AU 00 and A91 on Virgin Islands April 12th 1899 Registered.

*Cecil Donne.*

### **The cancellations of the Virgin Islands**

(In continuation of Mr. E. V. Toeg's article in Bulletin No. 36 which omitted to indicate that the article was to be continued and also omitted the name of the writer).

## VIRGIN ISLANDS (contd.)

The tracing of this cancellation may not be accurate as my four examples are fairly lightly inked, smudgy and in part not there at all. I think that it is hardly likely that this handstamp reached this condition through excessive use.

4. The double c.d.s. "ROAD-TOWN TORTOLA. V.I." with two short thick curved bars and with time and date, measuring 26 mm. and 16 mm. respectively in diameter in use between April 1911 and May 1915. This cancellation is to be found comparatively frequently.



(4)



(5)

5. The c.d.s. " ROAD-TOWN TORTOLA. W.I." with two short thick curved bars and with date measuring 26½ mm. in diameter, in use between June 1936 and April 1939.

6. The double c.d.s. "ROAD-TOWN TORTOLA. V.I." with two short thick curved bars and with (no time) date measuring 26 mm. and 16 mm. respectively in diameter, in use between March 1929 and March 1936.



(6)



(7)

7. The double c.d.s. "ROAD TOWN TORTOLA. V.I." with date measuring 31½ mm. and 21½ mm. respectively in diameter, in use during March 1917. I have only one example of this cancellation and it is on a cover. My one example of this cancellation is very smudgy and indistinct and the tracing of it may not be accurate.

8. The c.d.s. "ROAD-TOWN TORTOLA. W.I." with date and with two short thick curved bars measuring 26 mm. in diameter, in use between July 1948 and November 1953.



(8)



(9)

9. The c.d.s. "ROAD-TOWN TORTOLA. W.I." with star and date and with two short thin curved bars measuring 24 mm. in diameter, in use between March 1949 and July 1951.

10. The c.d.s. "ROAD TOWN TORTOLA. W.I." with date and with two short thick curved bars measuring 26 mm. in diameter, in use during June 1956.



(10)



(11)

11. The "A13" 'killer.' This obliterator consists of an horizontal oval 16½ mm. high and 21½ mm. wide comprising three graduated bars at the top and three graduated bars at the bottom with "A13" in the centre and enclosed at each side by two short and slightly curved parallel bars.

This obliterator was applied at Tortola.

There appear to be slightly different types and sizes of the "A13" obliterator, which seems to have been in use from July 1897 to August 1902. I think that this cancellation must have been in use for some years before 1897. Can anyone confirm this?



(12)



(13)

## VIRGIN ISLANDS (contd.)

12. The c.d.s. "TORTOLA" with 'A' and date measuring 22 mm. in diameter, in use between May and July 1898 (?).

13. The c.d.s. "TORTOLA" with 'B' and date measuring 22 mm. in diameter, in use between August and October 1902.

14. The c.d.s. "TORTOLA" with 'C' and date measuring 22 mm. in diameter, in use between June 1892 and November 1898. I have examples of this cancellation in which the plug with the letter 'C' has been inserted, thus 'U' over a span of years.



(14)



(15)

15. The c.d.s. "TORTOLA" with no letter and date measuring 22 mm. in diameter, in use between approximately 1902 and December 1905.

Cancellations 12, 13, 14 and 15 should be looked at together as a group. Although I have not enough material to ascertain their life period it does seem however, from the information available that cancellation 15 may have commenced to be used after cancellations 12, 13 and 14 were no longer in service. This would fit in with the opinion advanced in Bulletin No. 29 page 23 and Bulletin No. 33 page 31 that cancellations 12, 13 and 14 are in fact one and the same cancellation but that each denoted a collection during a different part of the day. Following from this is the presumption that when the system was altered, the same cancellation (15 in this case) was applied, the time of collection plugs being omitted.

*E. V. Toeg.*

*(To be concluded in the next issue)*

**Do not fail to read the details of the varied material offered by our advertisers whose support is much appreciated. If you have any 'wants' they will welcome a list of them, mentioning the B.W.I. Study Circle Bulletin.**

## HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Member,

Circumstances necessitate going to press rather earlier than usual so that I do not propose to repeat my remarks made in the April, 1962, issue in regard to outstanding subscriptions. Nevertheless, the names of those who have not paid by May 1st will be reluctantly removed from the Roll. As most members will be aware the 45th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is to be held at Scarborough from the 11th to 14th June and I need hardly emphasise how important it is to make early hotel reservations. After a lapse of three years I hope, all being well, to attend and look forward to renewing my acquaintance with many members, particularly those who reside in the North. Our customary meeting will take place on either the Wednesday or Thursday evening and precise information as to the time and location will be available at the Congress Office. In this connection may I remind all those who hope to attend to bring along a few pages from their respective collections and a note of any problem they wish to be discussed. I always like to give prominence to any favourable comment concerning our Bulletin, since it does demonstrate that the labours of our Editor do not go unnoticed. A recent letter from a member resident in the U.S.A. ends as follows: "The last Bulletin helped fill in time in hospital for me, while I recuperated from the removal of an errant knee cartilage. I never enjoyed an issue more . . ." To the best of my recollection I have always been in the happy position to announce in each issue the names of some new members and, on your behalf, I extend a warm welcome to the following: G. C. Campe (Australia), M. Ishihara (Japan - our first member in the Far East), Miss P. Pouchet, E. A. Weinberg (U.S.A.) and J. M. Berridge (Northern Rhodesia)

*P.T.S.*

## CORRIGENDA

### **Autumn Meeting**

Bulletin No. 36, January 1963, p.5. In the note re the display contributed by Mr. Peter Jaffe: Line 5 St. Vincent should read "Saint Vincent". Line 14 Colonies should read (Colonaries).

## REVIEW

### THE PHILATELIC HISTORY OF TRINIDAD TO 1862\*

by JOHN B. MARRIOTT, F.R.P.S.L.

Without any doubt at all the British West Indies Study Circle have every reason to be proud of their Paper No. 3 in their series of B.W.I. 'Papers,' and no less proud of its author, John B. Marriott. This contribution to the study of Trinidad to 1862 is as concise as any specialised work can be and is written in a style which combines erudition with facile description.

In its nine chapters the paper deals very comprehensively and competently with the Early Postal History and Handstruck Stamps; the Lady McLeod Issue; Establishment of the Inland Postal Service; Issued Stamps; the First Perkins Bacon Issues 1851-57; Later Perkins Bacon Issues 1859-61; Lithographed Provisional Issues; the Reminders and the Numeral Cancellations. It concludes with a Bibliography; obviously without access to these earlier writings no new work could have been attempted, but Mr. Marriott is to be congratulated on his thorough appreciation of his subject and the successful way in which he has blended the essential information in earlier writings with the knowledge he has assimilated from his own researches.

Trinidad is not the easiest of countries to collect or study and philatelists have been faced with the difficulty of appreciating many of its problems particularly those in connection with the identification of some of the perforations, notably the pin-perfs. - very adequately dealt with by the author. It is of interest to this reviewer to note that Mr. Marriott is one of those who finds no real reason for the existence of the oft-disputed 1/- indigo, intermediate perf. and perhaps in time this 'variety' will be omitted from the Catalogue.

Details of the relative rarity of multiple pieces and covers and the scarcity of the postmarks (well illustrated in the Paper) are very useful guides.

This Paper is certainly one which will be appreciated by all who specialise in Trinidad and it need hardly be added that collectors will look forward eagerly to Mr. Marriott's Paper on the De la Rue Issues.

*'Caribbex'*

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\*THE PHILATELIC HISTORY OF TRINIDAD TO 1862. By John B. Marriott, F.R.P.S.L. British West Indies Study Circle Paper No. 3. 1963. Typewritten format. 8" x 10". 65 pp. Ills. Price 20/- (Post free) Obtainable from the Secretary.

## OBITUARY

It is with great regret we have to record the passing of Mr. G. R. Butler on January 8th last. He was a founder member of our Circle and was always happy to share his knowledge of the stamps and postal history of the Turks & Caicos Islands. He was also a member of the Buxton & High Peak Philatelic Society and no greater tribute can be made than that contained in a letter received from their Hon. Secretary. He wrote ... 'We, in Buxton have lost our greatest stalwart and our best friend. We shall miss him very sadly . . . ' To his widow and family we extend our deepest sympathy.

*P.T.S.*

## MISCELLANEA

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