



STUDY CIRCLE

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BULLETIN No. 47 DECEMBER 1965

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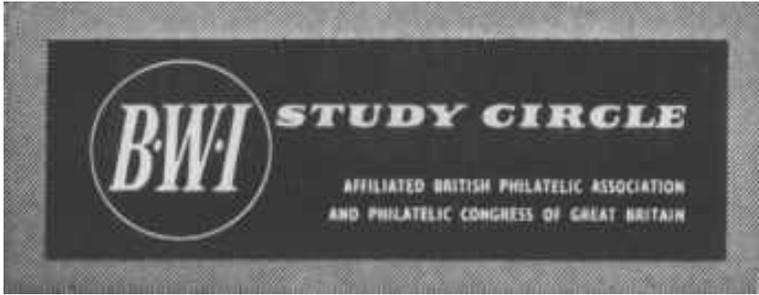
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1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of:

**ANTIGUA • BAHAMAS • BARBADOS
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ST. VINCENT • TRINIDAD and TOBAGO
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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.

is 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".

GILBERT W. COLLETT MEMORIAL TROPHY

It is with pleasure that your Committee announce that this Trophy will take the form of a Silver Dish incorporating the Tudor Rose design as illustrated below. It will be appropriately engraved and include the name of the winner and the year, with the Hall Marks on the underside.



The conditions governing its award are as follows:

- (a) Articles based on original research extending the knowledge of British West Indies philately.
- (b) Such articles to be published in the first instance in the Circle Bulletin in one or more parts as determined by the Hon. Editor.

GILBERT W. COLLETT MEMORIAL TROPHY (Contd.)

- (c) A limited number of illustrations will be permitted.
- (d) Acceptance of the articles to be at the discretion of the Committee.
- (e) The Trophy to be awarded bi-annually for what is judged the best completed contribution to the Bulletin(s) commencing with the March 1966 issue.
- (f) The award to be judged by three persons to be appointed by the Committee.

AUTUMN MEETING

The Autumn Meeting of the Circle was held at 41 Devonshire Place, London, W.1, on Saturday, October 9th, 1965, at 3 p.m., with the President in the chair. Eleven members and one visitor attended and apologies for absence were received from Miss Titford and Mr. W. A. Townsend.

The Chairman announced that at a meeting of the Committee held earlier, the conditions governing the award of the 'G. W. COLLETT TROPHY' had been finalised, details of which appear elsewhere in this issue. The Hon. Secretary mentioned that he had the usual nomination form for the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and following a discussion it was decided not to take any action this year. It was also announced that a telephone call had been received from Paris from Mr. Ralph E. Group stating with regret that he was unable to make the journey to give his display of British Honduras. The official business having been completed Mr. E. Shields Forshaw gave his display of British Guiana, details of which are as follows:

Entires from Demerara from 1810 onwards showing the DEMERARA large and small fleurons, RL Type P.2 with Demerara in large letters forming 2/3rds of a circle (3.6.1810); 2 lire DEMERARY in 4mm. (7.3.1821) and 6mm. caps (20.6.1821), the latter the only recorded copy. Double circle DEMERARA 30mm. in caps with serif and sans serif letters, including a copy of the latter struck in red dated 18.9.1846.

The scarce complete double circle DEMERARA strike dated 6.6.1867 without Colony title within circle was shown, followed by a selection of the handstruck marks of BERBICE. Notable amongst these were 2 line BERBICE in caps postmarked 26th Jan. 1825 and with the scarce 'th' after the date; 2 line BERBICE in upright and sloping caps: the rare '½' handstruck numeral mark on an entire from BERBICE; the earliest recorded double circle sans serif BERBICE dated 24 AP 1854 - three years earlier than quoted by R.L. A number of entires of BERBICE, some showing variations in the use of caps completed the display of the pre-adhesives.

These were followed by specimens of the A03 strike on G.B. stamps and those of British Guiana including a bisect A03 on 4 ct. blue; examples of the A04 strike.

Cover of A04 on 2 cts orange with the latest recorded date of Berbice double circle (R.L.P.9) dated MY 1 1874, and arrival Demerara strike (R.L.P.10) latest recorded year of use with rare day before month 3.MY. 74. in single circle.

Examples of Duplex A03 in red.

Single example of A03 in indigo colour duplex type. Rare.

Examples of the "5d" surcharge on 12 cts (Waterlow printings).

Example of the "G.B." 40 centimes surcharge on 6 cent blue.

Examples of "Arabian Coast" Cypher marks A.C.1 A.C.2 A.C.3 A.C.4 and A.C.5 dates from 1862 to 1871, all on stamps, and sans serif.

Examples of East Coast Cypher marks E.C.1 E.C.2 E.C.3 E.C.4 E.C.5 all sans serif. E.C.6 2 sans serif 1 serif letters dates 1873 2 year of date not completed.

E.C.7 serif letters 2 specimens on stamps 1877.

Cover (proving) dated July 1860 addressed to Mahaicony with E.C.7 July 27 1860 sans serif and Demerara single circle (R.L.P.10) dated Jul 25 1860.

Examples of West Coast Demerara Cypher Marks. W.C.3 serif letters dates 1873 and 1877. W.C.4 (very large letters dates 1871 and 1876). W.C.5 sans serif 1874.

Examples of West Coast Berbice Cypher marks W.C.B.2 W.C.B.3 W.C.B.4 1861 1862 and 1881 all sans serif.

Examples of East Coast Berbice Cypher marks 3 specimens of E.C.B.2 all serif. E.C.B.5 2 pairs and 1 single all serif 1878 and 1879.

Examples of "Official" Cypher marks. E.C.B. with Crown and below "1"

Example of the rare B.I.R. Cypher mark dated Se 1 1874. serif.

AUTUMN MEETING (Contd.)

Demerara River West Cypher mark D.R.W. 1 and D.R.W.2. dates 1871-2-3. sans serif.

The only recorded Demerara River EAST Cypher mark D.R.E. 1 dated Aug 9 ? 1876. sans serif.

"R" Cypher mark (? Reliance Berbice), sans serif.

Essequibbo Delta Cypher marks Wakenaam and Wakenaam 2 serif 1869 and 187?

Leguan Island. "L" 1863 and 187? sans serif.

The very rare Double Circle New Amsterdam (no Colony name in circle) on cover, 2 specimens, one dated Mar 8 1863 and the other Jul 6 1863 is the latest known cover without an adhesive stamp after the issue of stamps in 1850.

Specimen of 24 cts Waterlow printing with East Coast 7 and small single circle Demerara strike both on the same stamp.

The rare double circle Demerara mark usually used as back stamp but on this occasion on a 24 ct stamp (Waterlow) Ja 7 1868.

Specimens of the Georgetown Duplex strike with a specimen of the earliest recorded date 23 May 1862, on 24 ct green, all A03.

Two specimens of the rarest Georgetown "American Type" mark with large figure for the "Day of the month" both dated DEC 6 1879.

Various specimens of Double Circle Georgetown marks, some with hyphen and some full stop between George and Town.

Specimens of single circle Georgetown with squared corners showing separate words George and Town 1883, 1884 and 1885.

Specimens of various Cork Cancellations, including a block of 6, and a cover with both Cork cancellation and double circle Georgetown strike.

Cover from Demerara to Lockerby (Scotland) with 24 ct stamp postmarked East Coast ?6 - Georgetown Duplex A03. London arrival, Glasgow arrival and Lockerby arrival postmarks.

Cover from Demerara to Cincinatti (U.S.A.) with Georgetown Duplex in red Paid 4 in red, New York transit mark in black and CINCI . . . O. Received in blue.

Specimen of 20 mm. double circle ? duplex mark Dee 231870 on 8 ct pink A03 mark with date handwritten in green ink on 2 ct orange Apl 23 1874.

Specimen of 24 ct green (Waterlow) with A03 and A04 on the one stamp.

Wakenaam Essequibbo, 1st single circle village mark 1878. Two specimens and later issues up to 1945.

Wakenaam Island, marks of the village marks of Good Success, Fredericksburg and Mariaba all offices on the island. 1880 to 1900.

Leguan Island Essequibbo Delta. 1883 to 1917.

Fort Island Essequibbo River. (George V issue).

Mahaica. East Coast Demerara earliest village marks, Feb 1878 to 1905, 3 types.

American Type Village Marks with the Large Day of the Month for Taymouth Manor, Skeldon Buxton Fellowship Brahn (rare), Belfield.

Aurora. Anna Regina, Enmore and Cotton Tree (rare).

Buxton. East Coast Demerara. Various marks,

Buxton. Cover with "Southampton Packet Letter" strike and Jersey Channel Islands arrival mark, dated 1907.

Examples of the Omitted Colony title double circle postmark for Wales Bartica Grove Good Success, Bel-Air Relianc -Canji Stewartville Vreed-en-hoop Tarlog Nigg, Whim Leonora. 1882 to 1903.

Examples of mid and northwest Essequibbo village marks including Five Star and Matope.

Arabian Coast village marks including Zorg (rare) and A-H (Airy Hall).

East Coast village marks including Bel-Air 1888 and De Kinderen 1885.

Demerara Railway Nov 12 1881 (very early up to 1895).

T.P.O. East Coast Railway various types from July 1899 to 1917.

Berbice Railway 1906 to 1938. West Coast Railway 1907 to 1935.

Demerara River Aug: 1884, including "Mail Boat" 1883 and T.P.O. Dem Riv Str

Essequibbo Steamer 1881 and E.R. 1878 and 1895, including cover shewing spelling as Essequibo with W.C. Railway and arrival mark of Vreed-en-Hoop. April 1933.

T.P.O. Esse Str 1911

T.P.O. Bartica Str Jun 1902, up to 1940.

Suddie Steamer 1903

T.P.O. Pomeroon 1899 T.P.O.

North West Steamer (very scarce) 1899.

Massaruni Steamer 1886 and Mazaruni T.P.O. 1935.

Potaro 1898 including Potaro XI miles and XV also 110 miles.

Berbice River 1881 to 1948 also Berbice Steamer T.P.O.

H.M.P.S. (Penal Settlement) 1900 to 1927.

Registered covers with TOO-LATE markings.

Advertising slogans: Buy Demerara Rice. Demerara Coffee. Visit Kaieteur Falls.

Mr. R. H. Austin proposed a warm vote of thanks to Mr. Forshaw for his excellent display on behalf of the Circle, after which the meeting closed.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Supply of material for future issues of the Bulletin is very short and I am in urgent need of more articles. I should like to remind members again that I would appreciate receipt of copy not later than six weeks prior to publication. Members who require urgent replies to their Queries should address their letters to the Hon. Sec. who will endeavour to answer by return of post.

Editor.

BAHAMAS

A new 9d. overprint on the latest QEII 8d. stamp was released at Nassau on 12th July, 1965. This is the airmail rate for postcards to the USA and was needed as postcards lacked sufficient space to utilize 2 stamps to make up the rate. At this time there is no indication that a normal 9d. value will be added to the current set.

Freeport has a new "SHIP MAIL" TRD (Type 2C-2), first noted in April, 1965. However, it is not being philatelically used, and I've yet to see my first cover of it. UPU regulations re paquebot mail are strictly observed, except that Bahamas stamps are mandatory. Paquebot collectors who might be able to acquire "SHIP MAIL, FREEPORT" covers via U.K. boats, etc. are asked to contact me, please. For a variety of reasons, U.S.A. ships rarely call in at Freeport, air transport from the States being more rapid and convenient at the present time.

Gale Raymond.

The very extensive scratch on the Interinsular issue No. 40 is the best "variety" known and for a long time I had only three copies of this on various

printings. Just recently however, I have had the good fortune to secure the plate proof of this stamp with the same scratch. This marries up very nicely and will make a good commencement to the story of this item.

Alfred Branston.

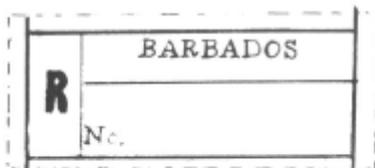
BARBADOS

Registration Labels

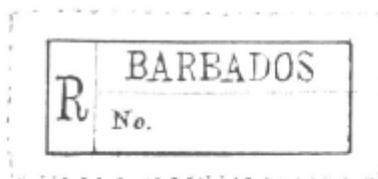
Little appears to have been written on the subject of Registration Labels, consequently our knowledge of these is somewhat limited. As far as Barbados is concerned I have no information as to when the labels were first introduced but they were probably put into general use around the middle 1880's. During the years they were applied to letters many differing types were printed and below is a list I have compiled from my own collection. This list is by no means complete and I would welcome any information members can give on this little known subject.

BARBADOS REGISTRATION LABELS					
Type	Paper size	Colour	Perf.		Date
1	46 x 20mm	Pale blue	Slotted		12 Oct 1936
					29 Nov 1937
					12 Jun 1939
					11 Jun 1934
	50 x 20mm	Blue	"		21 Apr 1936
1	49 x 20mm	Black	11		24 Jan 1923
					27 Feb 1932
2	47 x 22mm	Black	11½		3 Nov 1894
					1 Jul 1893
					22 Mar 1886
	50 x 20mm	"	"		25 Apr 1891
2	"	"	"		22 Jul 1889
	"	"	"		23 May 1885
3	43 x 19mm	Blue	13½		1 Apr 1921
3a	43 x 19mm	"	14		9 Aug 1919
3b	"	"	"		3 Nov 1916
3b	43 x 20mm	"	12½		2 Dec 1916
3c	43 x 19mm	Lt.Blue	13½		19 Jan 1918
3d	42 x 19mm	Dk.Blue	13½		24 Mar 1925
4	49 x 24mm	Dk.Blue	11½		20 May 1956
	50 x 18mm	"	13½		16 Oct 1957**
					26 May 1956
4a	54 x 18mm	Blue	13½		17 Jan 1958
5	50 x 20mm	Dk.Blue	13½		6 Nov 1956
	(A-B 9mm)				16 Sept 1951
5a	50 x 20mm	"	"		29 Jun 1951
	(A-B 10mm)				8 Sept 1955
5a	50 x 19mm	Blue	Slotted		23 Aug 1949
6	49 x 24mm	Dk.Blue	Slotted x 13½		18 Sept 1946
7	49 x 27mm	Blue	Slotted		14 May 1937
	56 x 22mm	Black	12		5 Aug 1896
8	56 x 22mm	Black	12		24 Dec 1898
8	47 x 21mm	"	11½		15 Oct 1895
8	47 x 22mm	"	11½		2 Dec 1902
8	47 x 21mm	"	11½		2 Dec 1899

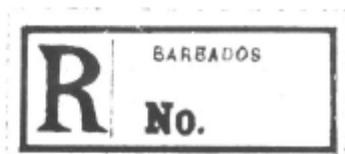
BARBADOS (Contd.)



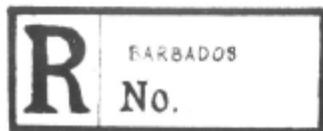
TYPE 1



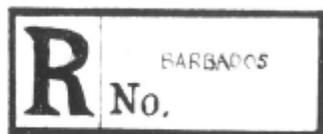
TYPE 2



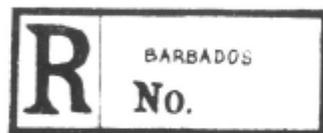
TYPE 3



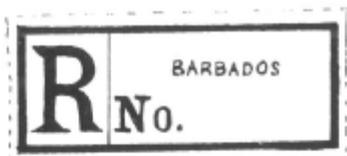
TYPE 3a



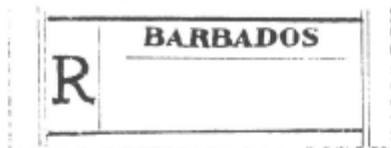
TYPE 3b



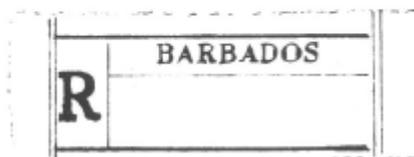
TYPE 3c



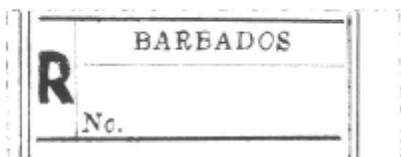
TYPE 3d



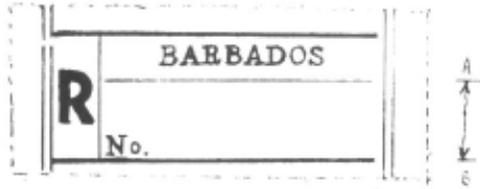
TYPE 4



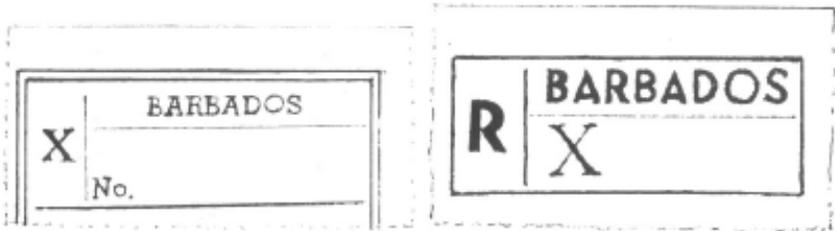
TYPE 4a



TYPE 5

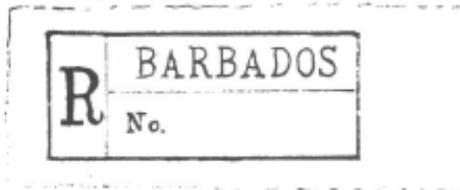


TYPE 5a



TYPE 6

TYPE 7



TYPE 8

**Bottom of sheet, no perforations. Letters "T.C.P." in right hand corner. Double line at base instead of solid line.

The use of registration labels was dispensed with on 1st April, 1958, being superseded by a handstamp, similar in design to the original label, struck in purple. The registered number is applied either by a hand numbering machine or in manuscript.

Any further information under the above headings, details of new types and period of use would be welcomed.

Basil B. Benwell.

BRITISH WEST INDIES

In response to several queries I have received from Members following my brief notes on the Mail Boat Service in the West Indies, published in the last issue of the Bulletin, here are some more details of the Service obtained from the G.P.O. Record Office.

The Government Packet Service began when the Postmaster General, Thomas Earl of Leicester and Sir Edward Fawkener, signed a contract with Richard Stratton and John Sargent, on 6th November 1755, for four Packet Boats to sail between Falmouth and the West Indies. (Contract Box File 1, No. 3). A further contract was drawn up in 1764 for three more Packet Boats of 140 tons, at £1,210 0s. 3d. each per annum, to sail to "some of the West India Islands, Pensacola, St. Augustine, Savannah, and Charles Town"; incidentally, one of these boats had been lost by 7th January, 1766. In 1765, two more Packet Boats, of 170 tons, at £1,572 14s. 6d. each per annum, were ordered, to go "between Falmouth, the West Indies, Florida, and South Carolina."

By June, 1768, it was realised that the existing Packets could not maintain a regular monthly service. It was proposed, therefore, that "the five Vessels under contract should, instead of proceeding from Iamaica to Pensacola, Savannah, and Charles Town, return directly from Iamaica to Falmouth," and that there should be a new contract for four vessels of 130 tons each to go between Falmouth and Charles Town. (Walsingham Papers, 1762-88).

By the early 1880's the Government was experiencing similar difficulties to those of Dummer at the beginning of the century, through war and shipwreck. It is recorded, for example, that "Mercury" taken 23rd June, 1781; "Queen Charlotte" taken 2nd April, 1781; "Eagle" taken 23rd November, 1781; "Prince William Henry" taken 28th January, 1782; "Speedy" and "Swift" taken 15th July, 1782, although the former was subsequently retaken; "Antelope" taken 16th October, 1782. During the same period the "Sandwich" and "Swallow" were also taken but were recaptured, whilst the "Sherburne" was lost at sea. The "Sandwich" was later renamed "Greyhound." (Walsingham Papers, Vol. II, p. 341).

After the Treaty of Versailles in 1783 efforts were made to improve the service, and Packets were despatched from Falmouth on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Some details of these are given in the Walsingham Papers (Vol. VI). The first or Jamaica Packet sailed from Falmouth to Barbados, called at St. Vincent and Grenada, and then on to Jamaica, where she remained about two weeks before returning to England.

The second or Leeward Islands Packet went to Barbados, St. Vincent and Grenada, and then through the Leeward Islands calling at Dominica, Antigua, Montserrat, St. Kitts, and Tortola before returning to England.

It will be noticed that so far no mention has been made of any auxiliary service in the West Indies. The earliest note so far traced refers to "Two small Boats, the "Comet" and "Diligence" formerly employed between Iamaica, Pensacola, and Charles Town; they were both taken in 1781 and none have since been employed." (Walsingham Papers, 1762-88, p. 16). Another note about the same time (p. 9) states that the "Letters for Bermuda and the Bahamas are forwarded to Iamaica, the postage being first paid here." Presumably they were then sent onwards 'as opportunity offered.'

From October, 1787 to March, 1788 an experimental scheme seems to have been tried; this involved the use of smaller vessels. Mail Boats, to take the mails onward from Barbados to some of the islands, thus speeding up the voyages for the Packet Boats.

Instructions were sent accordingly to Benjamin Render, the Packet Agent at Falmouth, to Joseph Keeling, the Postmaster at Barbados, and to John McConnell, the Postmaster at Antigua. (Walsingham Papers, Vol. II, pp. 151, 155, 157, 161). One Brig was to take the mails from Barbados to Dominica, Antigua, and St. Kitts, and also to take to Antigua the mails for the Carolines and Georgia; she was to stay at each island 24 hours to collect letters for Great Britain and Ireland; she was then to proceed to Crooked Island Bay to await the Packets returning from Jamaica, "which are to come through the Windward Passage, to collect letters from the Brig," The Brig was then to return directly to Barbados with letters brought by the Packet from Jamaica for the Leeward Islands; these were to be sent on by the next conveyance.

The letter to the Postmaster of Antigua, also written in October, 1787, to have another Brig (supplied by James Robinson, of Antigua) to go from there to the Carolines and Georgia: then to return to Crooked Island to meet the Packet from Jamaica; then to return to Barbados with any letters for the Islands, to be forwarded by the next conveyance. After this voyage the Brig was to go direct to Charles Town with the mails for the Carolines and Georgia without touching Antigua. He was asked, at the same time to procure from J. Robinson a second Brig for these services, at a rate not exceeding £550 each per an. The last part of this letter contains the following note:-

"The Brig cannot without defeating the great object of this plan, have time to call at Nevis, Montserrat, and Tortola; you will therefore take care that

BRITISH WEST INDIES (Contd.)

notice shall be given in those islands of this arrangement in order that all persons may send for their Letters, and forward their answers to you as soon as it suits their convenience, unless you have any safe opportunity of forwarding the Mails to them without any unusual expense."

Items in the accounts of the Postmaster of Barbados refer to these Mail Boats:-

"To hire of two Vessels by Order of the P.M.G. to carry the Mails twice a month from H.M's. Packets to the Leeward Is. from 26th Nov. to 31st Dec., 1787, 36 days at £2.10s. each day £180.

To Do. of a Person to go in each vessel to superintend the safety of the Mails, at 10s. each day. £36.

To Do. of one Vessel from 1st Jan, 1788 (the day Mr. J. Robinson's Vessel the Stanley was taken into the Office Service, and the day the second hired Vessel was discharged in Barbados) 96 days at £2.10s. a day £240.

To Do. of a person to superintend the safety of the Mails in the above Vessel at 10s. a day. £48" (Walsingham Papers, 1762-88, pp. 153-166).

The James Robinson referred to above is the same person who claimed for the loss of the "Fany Barton" - see last Bulletin.

Demerara, Berbice, and Essequibo were captured by Britain from the Dutch in 1781, but were restored in 1782. In 1796 they were again captured, but were restored by the Treaty of Amiens in 1802. The following year they were recaptured, and were finally ceded to Britain in 1814.

Up till 1798, letters for these places, when occupied by the British, were left at Barbados and collected by private individuals, who then forwarded them by any suitable ship. In 1798, however, they were brought in a special bag which the Postmaster of Barbados could not hand over without a receipt from the Master of a Vessel; few Masters were prepared to give such a receipt, which caused great personal inconvenience to correspondents. It may be noted that at this period the inward postage amounted to about £100 a month.

At the beginning of 1799 Demerara applied "to be included in the Schooner now taking the Mails from Barbados to Tobago, Grenada, etc." This request was refused on the ground that the Schooner would arrive "at St. Kitts too late for the Packet on her way to England." (Box File 21).

Two sketch maps in Box File 21 show the routes being taken at that time by the Packets and Mail Boats - see Maps 1 and 2.

L. E. Britnor.

(To be continued).

DOMINICA

Further information has now come to light which necessitates an amendment being made to my note in Bulletin No. 43, page 65. I have now ascertained that a Postal Agency was established at Melville Hall Airport on 1st October, 1960. It is open every day including Sunday from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the mails go to and from Roseau. The handstamp has MELVILLE HALL DOMINICA in a double line circle (27mm) with asterisk: and thin bars and the date in two lines in the centre. It is interesting to note that up to 1948 there were 17 Post Offices in the island which, with the exception of CASTLE BRUCE, were in existence at the beginning of the century. Commencing in 1949 a steady expansion in the postal service has taken place and no fewer than 8 Post Offices and 25 Postal Agencies have been opened. The latter only serve small and in many instances remote communities. The business is confined to the sale of stamps and dealing with the mail and more often than not is conducted in the home of the Postal Agent. There is undoubtedly immense scope for the postmark enthusiast but obtaining examples will be found to be a very painstaking task. Apart from letters sent to relatives who have emigrated to the U.K. or elsewhere most correspondence is internal. In this connection if any member has direct contacts in the island I will be most grateful for names and addresses.

P. T. Sounders.

ST. KITTS, NEVIS & ANGUILLA

The Postal Service

It has been discovered quite recently that philatelists are not only interested in the purchase of stamps but also in the purchase of stamps with cancellations at various points of the three islands comprising the territory, St. Christopher, Nevis and Anguilla and a sub-division of the postal service in the territory is set out hereunder,

1. General Post Office, Basseterre, St. Kitts. :
2. Branch Post Offices under General Post Office:
 - (a) Sandy Point, St. Christopher.
 - (b) Charlestown, Nevis.
 - (c) The Valley, Anguilla.

All of the offices mentioned above are Money Order Offices which are controlled by a Junior Officer of the clerical grade, with the exception of Nevis where a Senior Officer of the Clerical grade is in charge.

At Nevis there is a staff of four officers, five postmen and a messenger. At Anguilla the staff is limited to one clerical officer and two messengers. At Sandy Point there are one clerk and one messenger. Mails are despatched to and received from Nevis once daily by a Government launch. Air Mails are

ST. KITTS, NEVIS & ANGUILLA (Contd.)

flown to Anguilla about four or five times a week by the Leeward Islands Air Transport and parcel mails at random periods by sailing craft. The Officers attached to these offices are government paid.

3. Sub-Post Offices under General Post Office.
 - (a) Old Road, St. Christopher.
 - (b) Dieppe Bay, St. Christopher.
 - (c) Cayon, St. Christopher.
 - (d) Gingerland, Nevis.

The Sub-Post Offices above are confined to receiving and distribution of registered and other letter mail, sale of stamps and other small items. Subordinate Officers, styled Sub-Postmistresses, and paid by the Government, are in charge of these offices. These officers are paid a salary ranging from seven hundred and twenty dollars (\$720) to one thousand one hundred and forty-six dollars (\$1,146) per annum plus a commission of 5% on sales of postage stamps.

The Sub-Postmistress at Cayon is also Head Telephone operator for that area. Mails are received from and delivered to these offices by a daily van service.

The Postal Service of the territory falls under the Ministry of Communications and Works. It is administered by a Postmaster and assisted by a staff of 57 officers and postmen.

*Extracted from the Crown Agents
Stamp Bulletin, October, 1965.*

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

The copybook circulated 1961-1965 by the B.V.I. Research Leader, Gale J. Raymond, is now available in reproduced form (Zerox). The BWISC and BCPSG Libraries each contain a copy in book format, which may be borrowed upon request from the individual libraries. A third copy is being recirculated among those who previously contributed data and items therein, so that all may see the results of the total effort, and add such further information as may now be available. Other readers who can contribute new information, after reading the above book, are urgently requested to communicate directly with the B.V.I. Research Leader (G. J. Raymond, P.O. Box 35143, Houston 35, Texas, U.S.A.) who will add it to the books. Mr. Raymond asks too that any capable person with time to place the impressive mass of data into finished form for publishing, to please contact him or the Editor.

Gale J. Raymond

OBITUARY

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of Colonel O. M. Harris, D.S.O., who died at his home at Newton St. Cyres near Exeter on August 11th last. His main interests were Bahamas and Barbados and those of our members who attended Congress at Torquay in 1959 will recall the pleasure they had in seeing some of his treasures. He had a most charming and genial personality and only age prevented him from attending philatelic gatherings which had been his custom for many years. P.T.S.

LIBRARY

The following book has been added to the Library:

FOURTEEN ISLANDS IN THE SUN. By Charles Graves.*

This is the first-ever comprehensive and unique guide to all fourteen of the sun-drenched Caribbean Islands from Tobago to Jamaica, and the happy-go-lucky islanders (This is the opening paragraph to the cover 'synopsis'). This is not a philatelic book and does not deal with all the islands under our own British West Indies Study Circle group, nevertheless it makes fascinating reading of modern conditions based on the author's first-hand knowledge, and should be of the utmost interest to those intending to visit the islands which the book reviews, viz. Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago and Trinidad.

Rose Titford, *Hon. Librarian.*

* Leslie Frewin (Publishers) Limited, London, 1965. 5in. x 8½in., 220 pp. c.b. Illustrated jacket.

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.

MISCELLANEA

Paper No. 4 MONTSERRAT by L. E. Britnor, at present with the printers, is now nearing completion and it is hoped it will be ready for publication in January, 1966. Copies priced £1 each, including postage, should be ordered from the Hon. Sec., Caymans Cottage, Bushley, Tewkesbury, Glos., enclosing the appropriate remittance.

WANTS -

Members who are able to supply any of these should send them (stating price asked) to the Hon. Secretary for onward transmission. If the member requiring them decides to purchase a remittance should be sent to the Hon. Secretary in favour of "B.W.I. Study Circle" and the amount (less 10% and postage) will be remitted to the owner.

Leeward Islands

S.G.25 2½d. dull purple and ultramarine block of four mint.

S.G.37 1/- green and carmine block of four mint.

S.G.62a 5/- green and red/yellow (white back) block of four mint.

Montserrat

S.G.8 1d. rose-red block of four mint.

S.G.59 2/- purple and blue/blue overprinted 'SPECIMEN.'

S.G.60 2/6d. black and red/blue used.

BULLETINS: Copies of back issues are obtainable from the Hon. Secretary as follows:

Nos. 1-7 (reprinted in current format in one cover) 12s. 6d. (\$1.75) post free.

Nos. 8-46, 5s. (70c.) each post free.

NOTE: Issues including articles on any specific colony will be gladly supplied,

OPINIONS SERVICE

Facilities are available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. Group. A fee of 2/6 (35c.) per stamp or 5/- (70c.) per cover is charged. Members wishing to avail themselves of this service should send the stamp(s) to the Hon. Secretary, enclosing the appropriate fee and an addressed envelope (stamped additionally for Registration or Recorded Delivery). Every endeavour will be made to return the item(s) within fourteen days.

HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Member,

Elsewhere you will have read the details governing the award of the handsome silver Tudor Rose dish in memory of our late President - Gilbert W. Collett - and I hope that our Hon. Editor will receive numerous entries during 1966 and 1967.

You will doubtless recall that in my paragraph in Bulletin No. 46 I mentioned my internal Dominica cover bearing a single 1d. lilac (S.G.R4) with the Dominica c.d.s. dated DE 5 83 and invited information on similar items. In this connection two members have been in touch with me revealing some interesting evidence in regard to these Dominica Postal Fiscals. Firstly, my example must be S.G.R1 since S.G.R4 was not issued until 1886 and the examples in the collections of the two members are dated MY 4 82 and NO 4 83 respectively. Secondly, S.G.R6 must have been issued in 1888 and not in 1889 since a member has shown me a front bearing a strip of four and a pair addressed to San Fernando Trinidad (6d. rate) with the Dominica c.d.s. dated AU 4 88. It is now well over fifty years since the Handbook on Dominica by Bertram W. H. Poole was published wherein it is stated that this stamp was issued in August, 1889 but in the Royal Philatelic Society's book the date is given as June. It would appear that both are incorrect.

I take this opportunity to remind you that our Twelfth Anniversary Meeting and Dinner is to be held on **Saturday, April 23rd, 1966** and full details will appear in the March, 1966 Bulletin.

Donald B. Crider, M.D. and Edmond K. Doak, M.D. (both of U.S.A.) have been enrolled and a warm welcome is extended to them on your behalf.

In conclusion I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and above all a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

P.T.S.

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