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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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**BULLETIN No. 67**

**DECEMBER 1970**

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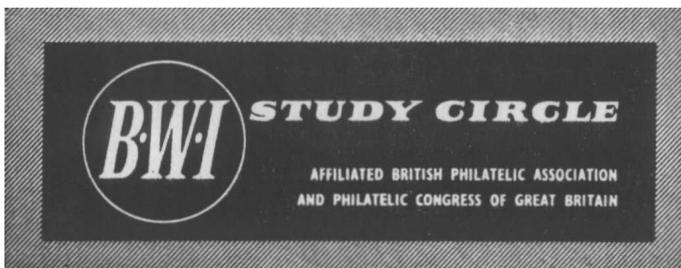
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## **OBJECTS**

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

**ANTIGUA • BAHAMAS • BARBADOS**  
**BERMUDA • BRITISH GUIANA • BRITISH**  
**HONDURAS • CAYMAN ISLANDS • DOMINICA**  
**GRENADA • JAMAICA • LEEWARD ISLANDS**  
**MONTSERRAT • ST. KITTS-NEVIS • ST. LUCIA**  
**ST. VINCENT • TRINIDAD and TOBAGO**  
**TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS • VIRGIN ISLANDS**

2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.

3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear post both ways.

4. To publicise 'wants'.

5. To furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription is £1 or the equivalent in local currency, due 15th February. If remitting in currency please add 60c to cover collection charges. Alternatively a draft for £1.50 DRAWN on London is acceptable. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

# PHILYMPIA 1970

## AWARD WINNERS

The congratulations of the Circle are extended to the following members who gained awards at Philympia, 1970.

Large Gold: C. Donne, J. L. Messenger.

Gold with Special Awards: Sir Henry Tucker.

Gold: "Geranium," J. L. Messenger, Sir Henry Tucker.

Vermeil: C Donne (2), M. Ishihara, M. H. Luddington (2), J. L. Messenger, F. Nabarro, E. V. Toeg.

Large Silver: H. F. Deakin, C. Donne, W. Trying, C. H. Smith, E. K. Thompson, J. D. Todd, E. V. Toeg.

Silver: W. Irving, P. Jaffe, B. E. Johnson (2), M. H. Luddington, G. A. Osborn, H. M. Onley, C. M. Stephenson, E. V. Toeg, Sir Henry Tucker.

Bronze: B. R. Cameron, P. Jaffé, A. Latham, Lt.-Col. F. S. J. Norris, R. P. Towers, R. Ward.

In addition the Bulletin was awarded a Bronze under the Literature section.

The following is a brief description of the above members' exhibits of B.W.I. material for the benefit of those members who were unable to attend the exhibition.

## ANTIGUA - E. V. Toeg

A selection of pre-adhesives all with postal markings and mainly from the Codrington correspondence and Great Britain stamps used in Antigua including the 1856 6d. lilac on cover.

Die and plate proofs of 1862 6d. and also a mint block often of the adhesive. A pair of 1d. vermilion imperforate between and mint multiples of most stamps issued up to 1900, also used multiples of some stamps before 1900 including numerous covers, several being from English Harbour.

A study of the re-entries on the 1d. and 6d. values supported by large photographs.

A range of post 1900 die and plate proofs including die proofs in colour of the Tercentenary set and die proofs in black of the frame of the Silver Jubilee stamps.

## ANTIGUA - E. K. Thompson

This display commenced with pre-adhesive letters and markings, ship letters followed by G.B. used in Antigua. Antigua stamps included trial perforations on 1862 issue followed by multiples of the 1863/67 issue. Examples of a re-entry on this issue were also shown together with a pair of 1d. rose imperf. Bisects of 1876 1d. used as ½d. rate. Die proofs and colour trials of later issues. A used block of 8 of 1884 1/- mauve was also shown.

## BAHAMAS - M. H. Luddington

Pre-adhesive covers included some American Civil War material from the Confederate States carried through the Union blockade. Amongst the stamps was a study of the first pictorial issue showing the Queens Staircase, Nassau, that was first issued in 1901. The display also included modern covers from the "Out Island" post offices showing the various T.R.D's that have been used.

## BARBADOS - J. L. Messenger

A selection including pre-adhesives, covers, die and plate proofs with issues from 1852 including blocks, imperf. between pairs, imperforate varieties, the 1/- blue error of colour, the ½d and 1d. (in pair) perf. 11-12½ and the De La Rue 4d. of 1875-8 perf. 14 x 12½. The 1d. on half of 5/- provisionals included a pair types A & C se-tenant and types B & C on separate covers. All values occurring were shown in corner copies or blocks with plate "2" in the margin. A selection of early cancellations followed.

## BARBADOS - H. F. Deakin

Single and double lined BARBADOES. Ship letters. 1852 Bisect on Pieces and Cover. Imperf. covers - postal rates. Officers Letter 1869 to St. Helena via Cape & Plymouth. 1875/8 1d. bisect on a front. 1878 Provisional on Soldiers Cover to Malta. A red "Esk" envelope from St. Lucia to Barbados. Range of Imperfs. and Pin perfs. Blocks of 25 of 1861/70 Deep Green and 1863 Blue Green with Paper makers watermark error. Imperf. between 1/- and 4d. red perf. 14 x 12½. Examples and Provisionals of 1873 5/-. Used block of 4 of 1918 rare 3/- shade. Imperf. imprint block of 4 of 1965 4 cents issue. The exhibit was completed with a range of Specimens and Proofs in blocks and pairs.

## PHILYMPIA (Cont.)

### **BERMUDA** - M. H. Luddington

The display commenced with a Postal History study showing various pre-adhesive markings on cover and the early adhesive stamps on cover. Three of the Perot postmaster stamps were included in the display. Artists original designs, die and plate proofs of many issues was followed by a specialised study of the King George V "Ship type". The display also included modern colour errors.

### **BERMUDA** - Sir Henry Tucker

Perot Postmasters First Type in. black on letter sheet. In red on blue paper. In red on white paper. Second type on cover St. Georges Thies in red on white on cover. First Issue - one penny rose-red - block forty-eight. Twopence dull blue - block forty. Threepence - blocks of four in both colours. Sixpence dull purple - block twenty-four, dull rich purple - two blocks of four. First Issue - Perf. - one shilling green - imperf. between pair two strips of three - mint one used. Shilling green imperf. at right - two blocks six. 1874 Surcharges - Threepence one penny - two singles - block of four. Threepence on one shilling - pair used on part cover and single used on cover. 1875 Surcharges - One penny on twopence blue - mint block sixteen, used on cover. One penny on threepence - block of four - used on soldier letter and on local letter. One penny on one shilling green - block six - three blocks nine - inverted surcharge used. Cover with strip three - 1d. on threepence and single. One penny on twopence and on shilling used on cover. 1883 Issue - Perf. 12 in single set and on P.O. record.

### **BRITISH HONDURAS** - Sir Henry Tucker

First Issue - Se-tenant Blocks. One penny blue/one shilling green. Blocks six and four. Sixpence rose/one shilling green. Block twelve - two blocks eight - one block four. Blocks of regular first issue in all values. 1872 Issue - perf. 12½. Shilling green imperf. between. 1891 Surcharges - three cents on threepence perf. 12½ - mint-four used and pair used on cover. "5" on one shilling - two mint. "Two" in black on 50c. on one shilling used and unused "Two" in black and red - two mint. "6" in black - "6" 2nd bar inverted - two mint. "6" only inverted - both colours used on covers.

### **DOMINICA** - F. Nabarro

The display commenced with various pre-adhesive markings including one of the only two known examples of straight line DOMINICO. This was followed by G.B. used in the island and then die proofs, imprimaturs and colour trials of the first issues plus multiples of the issued stamps. 1877 1d. bisect on cover. 1d. on 1/- double surcharge and 1d. on 6d. with thin and thick bars obliterating 6d. The display was completed with Rural cancellations.

### **DOMINICA** - Lt.-Col. F. S. J. Norris

Early pre-adhesive covers including the other known example of straight line DOMINICO. Very early use of the Crowned Circle. G.B. used in Dominica, die proofs of King Edward VII issues and 1883 provisional ½d. on half 1d. Revenue stamp used on cover.

### **GRENADA** - J. L. Messenger

The selection commenced with pre-adhesives including two types of Grenada ship letters and the two Carriacou hand stamps. G.B. used in the island were included followed by definitives with Die and Plate proofs blocks and covers.

Unused items were the mint examples of the first issue, a strip of four of the 1875 emergency printing, the m/s postage provisionals in both red and black, the artists drawings and the two states of the 1875 Die Proof.

A few village cancellations were included.

### **GRENADA** - P. Jaffé

The display commenced with various pre-adhesive entires and then a half sheet of the 1862 1d. green. Also of note were varieties of the 1881 ½d. value and the display was closed with village cancellations A-G.

### **GRENADA** - Dr. R. P. Towers

This exhibit, on two frames, commenced with a fine strike of the Crown in Circle mark dated 1786 and went on to show British stamps used in Grenada and die and plate proofs of the first Chalon types. A study of the re-entry in the first 1d. value included the stamp used by the late Alfred Charlton to illustrate his original description of this variety. Also included was an example of the rare first postcard used with a ½d. adhesive,

signed by the PMG, addressed, to Whitfield, King & Co., the stamp dealers, stating that he was out of stock of postcards. This item, probably unique, helps to explain the rarity of the first postcards. The exhibit closed with some rare modern perforation varieties, including the George VI 2½d., perf. 12½ x 13½, both mint and used.

#### **JAMAICA - A. H. Latham**

This was a postal history display commencing with an early letter of 1693 written by James Wale (postmaster of Jamaica) in which he gives an eye witness account of the earthquake that destroyed Port Royal. This was followed by various early markings including an example of the rare "PAID TO ENGLAND" mark. Other items shown included straight line markings, fleurons, rate markings, COMMERCIAL ROOMS, and the only two known examples of pre-1900 "Missent to Jamaica."

#### **JAMAICA - B. R. Cameron**

This display was devoted to a study of the unissued "Abolition of Slavery" 6d. stamp of the 1919/21 Pictorial issue. This stamp was withdrawn at the last moment due to political unrest in the island. Specimen copies had already been circulated through the U.P.U. Three examples of the Specimens were included. Also shown were watermark varieties and proofs of the centre and frame. A mint example without specimen overprint was also shown. Only two blocks of four were known to exist in this state, one in the Royal collection, the other now broken up.

#### **LEEWARD ISLANDS - E. V. Toeg**

Entires with both types of FALMOUTH LEEWARD ISLAND packet handstamps in green.

1890 frame and duty die proofs and the adhesives in mint blocks of four from plate 1.

The Diamond Jubilee set was represented in mint blocks of four, the 5/- value being one of two blocks of four known. Double overprints were shown in most values and also a triple overprint on 1d. value.

Red pen cancellations of R.M.S. Eden, Esk and Solent on cover and a blue-black pen cancellation on an Esk cover.

Imperforate colour trials of the 1902 2d. and die proofs of the King George V key plate design.

A selection of varieties from different reigns.

In addition to interesting covers and postmarks "village" cancellations were displayed from Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and the Virgin Islands.

#### **MONTSERRAT - E. V. Toeg**

Selection of pre-adhesive entires and covers all with postal markings including the only known soldier's letter.

Queen Victoria proofs, specimen stamps and mint multiples including a block of four mint of 6d. blue-green and the only known block of four mint of 4d. blue CA watermark.

Several covers with adhesives issued before 1900 were shown and most of the bisects displayed were on cover.

The inverted "S" variety on the 1d. and 6d. values mint and used mostly in multiples and also a study of the re-entries on 1d. and 6d. values supported by large photographs.

Finally post 1900 die proofs, colour trials and plate proofs including die proofs of the Tercentenary 1d. value in the ten different colours of the issued stamps.

#### **ST. VINCENT - G.M.Stephenson**

The four pages showed one example of every De La Rue printing from their commencement until the advent of the unified series.

It is believed that this is the first time that such detail has ever been displayed, and has only been possible as a result of some seven years research in which it is understood that J. L. Messenger gave considerable assistance.

Each shading of the many printings had been confirmed by at least six legible dated postmarks or covers proving the print in question.

#### **ST. VINCENT - M. Ishihara**

Die Proofs of Perkins Bacon. 1d., ½d. and 5/- on thick card. Plate proofs in pairs of 1d., 4d., 6d. and 1/- all in black. G.B. used in St. Vincent included 4d. rose on cover cancelled A10. Many Mint examples of the early stamps were in blocks and many used examples on covers addressed to France. A 1/- vermilion of 1878 (?) perf. 15 x 15 x 12 x 15 is of particular note. Colour trials of the De La Rue printings were included and a mint block of 6 of 1883 6d. bright green ex Caspari collection.

## PHILYMPIA (Cont.)

### ST. VINCENT - P. Jaffé

A selection of pre-adhesive covers included an 1815 ship letter. This was followed by proofs and specimens and local surcharges including unsevered pairs of the 1880 and 1881 issues. A partial reconstructed sheet of the 1885 1d. value based on 1861 plate. Also shown was a study of 1872 inland post and markings. Much statistical information was included in the writing-up.

### ST. VINCENT - J. L. Messenger

Included in the selection were some pre-adhesives with the oval Ship Letter St. Vincent; G.B. used in the Island with three covers which were followed by unused and used definitives including Die and Plate proofs with mint blocks of many issues. Interesting items were the 1/- vermilion perf. 15 and an imperf copy; "imperf between" pairs of the 6d. of 1862, the 1d. of 1871 and that of 1876. The De La Rues included the perf. 12 set of 1883. The cancellations included covers bearing "BAR" "BI" "CA," "G" (four examples), "BEQ" and "K". A Peruvian Vale cover was also shown.

### TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS - M. H. Luddington

Again, as with all Mr. Luddington's material this display covered the entire field from early pre-adhesive markings on cover, through a study of essays, die and plate proofs, colour trials to the issued stamps.

### VIRGIN ISLANDS - C. Donne

Proofs and Colour trials of all lithographs. Copies of the issues of 1866 including compound perforations. Some sheets and partially reconstructed sheets of all settings of 1867 1d. A sheet of 1867 6d. blue imperf. Reconstructed sheets of 1867 6d. A complete sheet of 1867 1/- and a copy of 1/- on blued paper. Missing Virgin. A proof of 1/- before background was cleared for the figure of the Virgin.

Sheets of nearly all 1887 De la Rue printings. 1888 4d. surcharge on 1/- including double and inverted surcharges. 1889 issue including 3 errors. This was followed with a selection of King Edward and King George issues.

## NOTES AND QUERIES

## ANTIGUA

I have recently acquired a pre-stamp cover bearing the R.L. Type PH handstamp. By the side of the c.d.s. FE 17 1852 is another red cancellation mark somewhat blurred in appearance. There is slight evidence of a date and at the bottom within the circle is a Crown with the letters D.O. (?) on either side. I will be glad if any member can furnish additional information concerning this mark and also its purpose.

*A. Thomson*

# BARBADOS

## SOLDIER'S LETTER

I was most interested to read, in the June Bulletin, of the soldier's letter recently acquired by Mr. Marriott.

I have a letter which has a slight connection with the one in Mr. Marriott's possession; it is from a soldier in the 52nd Regt. who has been attached to the 81st Regt. and was written shortly before that Regiment left Barbados for Trinidad.

The letter is addressed to William Smith, Bricklayers Arms, Gresley Row, Lichfield, Staffordshire, England. Across the top is written "From Robert Smith, Privat 52 Regt." At the bottom left "Lt. Col. Comg 81st. Regt." and above that in two lines the signature "C. Chichester Lt. Col. 81st. Regt." The only postal marking is PD 1d in red and on the front. The letter is dated Barbadoes Nov. 8, 1840 and is as follows:

Dear Father and Mother,

I Received a letter from Sister Elizabeth Dated the Second of august and happy to here you are all well as it leves me at preasent thanks be to God for it - Dear farther I am still at work at the Generals I have been with him 10 months. He is very fond of me he allows me one pound a month and one bottle of Porter and my Dinner every Day I stop Down at the house altogether - I had a letter from the Regiment the other Day and they are enjoying Better health than what they had in Barbadoes - Dear farther whe have had some very fine races on the 15.. 16 .. 17 of October the General had two Horses that run and both of them won one whas the Hurdle race and the other whas the Garrison Stakes, whe expect to have races four times a year - the General his a very fine Old man he is very quiet his wife his with him and five daughters. His Son his expected out in January - they are all Black servants in the house except two as they Brought out with them ladys maid and footman they dont like the black people at all for they are such rogues they steel every thing they come a cross - Dear farther I thought of getting as much money as whould buy my Discharge I can get it on the sixth of January next for Ten pounds But the worst of it his getting home without I could meet with a vessell and work my Passage so I dont which to Do whe dont no How long whe will stay in the west Indias - Plese to give my love to my Brother and Sisters and my Uncle and aunts and all My Enquireing friends - I think I sent you word about so many deaths whe had in the Regiment in the last letter whe have lost about nine or ten since - Dear father I have no more news to send at preasent so I must conclude and

## **BARBADOS (Cont.)**

sending my kindest love to you all so no more at present, Tell my sister to write Oftner.

From your affectionate Son  
Robert Smith

My Directions

For Robert Smith

No. 630 Privat 52nd Regt  
Barbadoes west India  
or else ware

Any further information would be much appreciated, I should like to know the names of the two regiments and also the name of the general.

*Michael Sheppard.*

## **BRITISH GUIANA**

I will try and answer Mr. Astridge's questions from pp. 50-51 of Bulletin 62 under two headings:-

### **(1) 1899 Surcharge Varieties**

It may be helpful to reproduce some details of these varieties published in 1920 by the late A.D.Ferguson.<sup>1</sup>

"The stamps were all printed in sheets of 60: 5c. and 15c. in 10 rows of 6; 10c. in 6 rows of 10.

The first surcharging took place on 3rd February, 1899, comprising 96,600 10c. and 124,680 15c. On the 14th March another 30,000 10c. and 6,000 15c. were surcharged. Finally on 30th May, the same TWO CENTS surcharge was applied to 207,900 copies of the Jubilee issue 5c.

One sheet each of the 10c. and 15c. received an inverted surcharge and one 15c. sheet a double surcharge. Limited numbers of these varieties reached the public.

Other varieties:-

### **Two Cents on 5c.**

No. 2 lower part of W broken

No. 9 lower part of first T broken

No. 11 first T large

" 14 C raised and second T broken

" 15 second T short

" 19 E defective, like broken B

" 32 first T broken

" 38 comma after CENTS

" 53 no stop or faint stop

There are a few other minor varieties but these are not consistently found on all sheets.

**Two Cents on 10c.**

- No. 4 first T with short top
  - " 53 no stop and large E
  - " 55 G instead of C
- } first printing only

Other minor varieties found on some sheets of both printings are:-

- second T short, thick and raised
- right limb of second T broken
- S raised second T missing
- N broken
- N raised
- TS raised
- E defective
- first T missing
- O instead of C

**Two Cents on 15c.**

- No. 14 W broken
- " 20 T broken (presumably first T)
- " 23 T large " "
- " 25 comma after second T
- " 26 TWO/CENTS
- " 50 no stop
- " 56 first T raised
- " 57 comma after N

Other minor varieties which appear on some sheets of both printings are:-

- S raised
- second T short
- S dropped
- TW dropped
- I instead of E

The 15c. is also known on surface blued paper and with blue lines across some of the stamps.

The surcharge on all three stamps is usually found centrally placed but this is not always the case."

Some of the varieties given by Ferguson correspond to those listed by Mr. Astridge. The notes prepared by Ferguson towards a definitive handbook of the postage stamps of the colony were edited and published by "The London Philatelist" after his death and include a short section<sup>2</sup> on these surcharge varieties. Unfortunately only the Two Cents on 15c, is considered in detail but this does reveal that Ferguson had altered or added to his 1920 list of varieties. I will restrict myself to giving three new pieces of information and the variety list for the surcharge on 15c. in its entirety:-

- " (a) 12 sheets of the inverted surcharge on 10c. were issued.

## **BRITISH GUIANA (Cont.)**

(b) G instead of C appears on No. 53 of surcharge, 10c. (Surely No. 55 is intended?).

(c) No stop appears on No. 53 of all three stamps.

### **Two Cents on 15c.**

No. 2 first T short

" 3 Second T dwarfed

" 14 leg of W broken

" 20 first T dwarfed, leg of W broken, E of different fount

" 23 first T raised, E of different fount

" 25 comma after second T

" 26 first T dwarfed, leg of W broken, TWO/ CENTS

" 28 top of second T broken

" 30 lower leg of E slants

" 32 first T dwarfed, E defective at base

" 44 first T dwarfed

" 51 no stop

In a subsequent printing many of these defects were corrected: e.g. No. 25 has no comma after the second T."

### **(2) Provisionals 1856-1899**

The second half of the nineteenth century was marked by a proliferation of B.W.I. low value postal provisionals whether surcharged, bisected or both and on occasion requiring the adaptation of revenue stamps for postal use or resort to locally printed issues.<sup>3</sup> Undoubtedly some were created with a speculative eye on dealers and collectors but I believe that the official British Guiana provisionals were all produced to meet real shortages of the low denomination stamps used for inland postage.

The reasons for the frequent shortages during this period in British Guiana as in the other West Indian colonies are probably complex but most certainly include the inexperience of the colonial government in forecasting demand in an era when postal facilities were being used on a rapidly expanding scale. Brunel<sup>4</sup> gives the following figures for British Guiana:-

1860 - 42,800 postal items handled

1870 - 184,000 " " "

1880 - 690,000 " " "

1890 - 1,500,000 " " "

1900 - 2,200,000 " " "

Forecasting was further complicated by the several changes in the structure of postal charges which occurred during the period and by the fact that even up to 1860 or possibly later prepayment for local postage was acceptable in coin. There was a general tendency for the colonial government to over-order high values as much as it underestimated low denomination requirements,

Another contributory factor was the uncertainty which still attended R.M.S.P. sailings and thereby the arrival of stamps requisitioned. At the start of our period no less than 28 R.M.S.P. vessels were absent from the West Indian service due to the troopng requirements of the Crimean War. In the hurricane season shipping movements and port facilities were often seriously disrupted. Orders for fresh supplies of stamps sent by letter during the '50s could take three or more weeks to reach London from Georgetown and at the best another month to six weeks would pass before the new consignment reached the colony; at the worst the full cycle could extend over five or six months if not longer. While the advent of a telegraph service later in the period certainly accelerated the process of ordering fresh supplies it did nothing to reduce the delays often encountered in printing, despatch and eventual arrival.

There were also other factors at play: the unwillingness of colonial authorities to stock large reserves of stamps because gum deteriorated in a hot climate. Nor were the frequent changes in colour scheme, design, paper or other specifications likely to convince the printers any more than the Crown Agents of the wisdom of keeping reserve stocks of all denominations in London. The correspondence of the time shows all too clearly the poor interdepartmental liaison existing within the colony or between London and Georgetown and also the puzzling tendency of printers to misinterpret or execute only part of an order. And last though far from least in terms of effect were the unwelcome activities of dealers and speculators in the colony after 1881.

Below I append some notes and observations about the circumstances which led to each issue or abortive issue of provisionals extending the period back to 1856 rather than 1878 as Mr. Astridge asked. In this way I think the pattern develops more clearly.

I am particularly indebted to the notes left by the late A. D. Ferguson<sup>5</sup> for requisition and delivery dates and much else.

### **1850-51: The Cotton Reels**

It seems right to me to classify these first crude stamps which were produced in the colony as provisionals. The scheme for the pre-payment of letters for the inland mail was first submitted to the Governor in April, 1850 and implemented just over two months later with the issue of the 4c., 8c. and 12c. 'Cotton Reels' on 1st July. There was clearly no time to consider a design and have it proofed and printed by a London security printer. In the event instructions were hurriedly given to the colonial government printers, Baum and Dallas, at the "Royal Gazette" office in Georgetown. Seemingly details of design and production were left to the printer's discretion.

Postmaster Dalton suggested in February, 1851, at about the same time as the 2c. 'Cotton Reel' was printed, that stamps be obtained from England. The Governor approved and an order was placed with Waterlow and Sons whose first

## **BRITISH GUIANA (Cont.)**

lithographed definitive issue appeared in January, 1852.

### **1856: Type-set local provisionals**

An order for 50,000 lc. and as many 4c. stamps was placed with Waterlows on 25th November, 1854. For a reason now unknown only 5,000 of each denomination were printed and despatched. These arrived probably in September, 1855, when another order for the full original amount was placed. However the new consignment had not materialised by January, 1856 when stocks of lc. and 4c. stamps were seriously depleted and Messrs. Baum and Dallas of the "Royal Gazette" were again commissioned to print provisional lc. and 4c. postage stamps.

### **1861: Abortive provisional bisect**

An order placed with Waterlows on 8th April, 1861 had not arrived by 13th June when the colony ran out of the lc. denomination. It was proposed that the 2c. stamp should be bisected diagonally but the idea was never carried out as the expected consignment arrived,

The germ of the idea of bisected or trisected stamps or split provisionals, once planted, gave the postal authorities and collectors a great deal of trouble over the period 1862-1877.<sup>6</sup> Local postal officials were known to manufacture their own split provisionals when faced with temporary shortages and speculators and forgers were also active. Official disapproval was often voiced but in the face of the recurring shortages difficult to enforce.

It is interesting to note that at this time the Government Secretary blamed the threatened shortage on the lack of liaison between the Post Office and the Secretariat.

R. G. CARR.  
To be continued.

## **BRITISH HONDURAS**

### **Belize Automatic Cancellations**

I am engaged in a fair amount of correspondence with this colony and have noticed on several letters from Belize that the machine cancellation has completely missed the postage stamps (although placed in the correct position) and that they have subsequently received a hand cancellation. I am wondering if this is a regular feature of the machine in Belize and if all letters are given a visual check before despatch. Have any other members seen examples of this?

*G. E. Jones*

# BRITISH WEST INDIES

## POSTAL RATES

Having read L. E. Britnor's article in Bulletin No. 65 regarding the difficulties many members have had when trying to rationalize the postage charged on early stampless letters, I am prompted to offer a few comments based on my own research on this subject.

The first point to be made is that it must never be assumed that the postage shown on a letter is necessarily correct. Many postmasters were poorly educated and often made honest errors, while others took advantage of the public and overcharged them. There are well established examples of this latter practice, such as the Howes, father and son, who were the Deputy Postmasters General at Halifax, Nova Scotia, prior to 1843. These two gentlemen in their turn established their own rates of inland postage which were not in conformity with the official ones. Two packet letters from New York to the Island of St. John in 1805 and 1807, which I have in my collection, appear to have been charged 8d. Currency for the inland postage between Halifax and Pictou, while the official rate was 6d. Sterling (7d. Cy).

During 1968 a number of articles by Winton Patnode and myself appeared in the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal relating to correspondence from Charles Gordon Gray in Jamaica to his father in Somersetshire during the ten year period from 1809 to 1819. In the April issue, Patnode analyzed the postage on more than thirty of these letters and found a number of anomalies, some of which I attempted to explain in the June issue. These letters had both prepaid Jamaica postage and collect packet and British postage markings. Differences in the latter only amounted to a few pennies and could be accounted for either because of the rate increases of 1d. in British inland postage in 1812 and in the packet postage of 1813 or because of a quirk of geography which led to a difference of 1d. depending on whether the official mileage tables were used to determine the rate or the correct mileage between Falmouth and the letters' destination was used.

The prepaid Jamaica postage was more of a problem. The simplest explanation of the amounts charged was that in most cases the double rate in local currency had been assessed, even though the same letters were treated as singles in England. A second possibility was that the packet postage to Falmouth was actually prepaid, but that this was not recognized on arrival in England and it was collected a second time. I do not have enough information to resolve this - lacking in particular the Sterling Jamaica Currency exchange rate of the period.

Britnor posed a problem of an apparent undercharge of 1d. on two 1778 Ship Letters. Unfortunately he did not identify the port of entry nor confirm

## BRITISH WEST INDIES (Cont.)

that these letters carried the Ship Letter stamp of the port. I should like to be certain that it was a Ship Letter, and not a letter carried privately on the ship and put into the post on arrival.

All the above leads to the conclusion that the problem posed by Mr. Britnor will not be solved by a more careful compilation of postal rates, but through a broadened knowledge of other peripheral matters, such as the exchange rate between Sterling and a local currency, the correct mileage between points, and sometimes the actual route a letter had to travel between post offices (at some periods, all overseas letters arriving in Great Britain had to go through London and were charged for the additional mileage this entailed).

Finally, Britnor asked what was the precise distance of 'One Post Stage,' as listed in the British Inland postal rates of 1765. He stated that authorities he had consulted disagreed on this point and so they should, for it was not a specific distance, but as the name implies was the distance between two places where there was a postmaster to receive the bag of letters from the post rider. Information on the development of the posts in England during the 17th century is to be found in "Packhorse, Waggon and Post" by J. Crofts, while Alan Robertson's "Post Roads, Post Towns, Postal Rates - 1635-1839" has maps and tables, which give all the stages and the distances between them for the six great post roads in 1677, together with corresponding information for later years. It is interesting to compare Robertson's lists with the coach stops on the similar Royal Mail routes in 1836, which are to be found in the "Directory of Stage Coach Services, 1836," compiled by Alan Bates. In the majority of cases, the same stages were in use for 160 years. As an illustration, the details of the Dover Road is given below.

<i>Stage</i>	<i>Distance (1677)</i>	<i>Coach Schedule (1836)</i>	
London		8.00 p.m.	6.11
Dartford	14 miles	10.00	4.11
Rochester	14	11.45	2.34
Sittingbourne	12	1.05 a.m.	1.17a.m.
Dover	15	3.01	11.25
Canterbury	<u>15</u>	4.57	9.45 p.m.
	<u>70</u>		

The range of distances on the other roads was from 6 miles (Bawtry-Doncaster on the North Road) to 24 miles (Beaumaris-Holyhead on the Chester Road).

I hope the above comments will stimulate the postal historians in the Circle to be a little more wide-ranging in their studies of the early mails in and out of the British West Indies.

*J. C. Arnell.*

## CAYMAN ISLANDS

I have recently acquired a Registered First Day cover dated May 13th 1937 bearing the Coronation set of stamps - S.G. 112, 113 and 114. Each stamp is cancelled with CAYMAN BRAC Type V handstamp and the Registration Mark is also Type V and is in red. I will be glad to know if any other member has an example of the late use of this cancellation and also of the Registered mark in red.

*R. C. Rockett.*

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## LEEWARD ISLANDS

At Philymphia I found a QV 1d. (S.G. 2) with the 'A 11' obliterator. Can any members suggest how this could have occurred? *Brigadier A. G. Peart.*

Manuscript Markings of Royal Mail Steam Packets "Eden," "Esk" and "Solent".

In the middle of page 79 in Bulletin No. 63 December, 1969 I stated that manuscript markings of this nature on West Indian covers have always been found in red ink and in no other colour and I then said that I did not consider that a manuscript marking in blue-black or black ink on a loose stamp seen by me was genuine. I have had to change my view about this as a perfectly genuine cover with "Esk" written over Leeward Islands stamps (SG1 and SG2(2)) in blue-black ink has come to light. This cover, addressed to Messrs. A. Myerscough & Co., Merchants & Importers, 61 & 62 Gracechurch Street, London E.G., is backstamped with the St. Lucia c.d.s. on 12th November, 1897 and with the London arrival mation on the cover indicating from which island it emanated although Dominica is probably the most likely startingpoint. I would, however, emphasize that the only sure way of being satisfied that a manuscript cancellation is genuine is if it is on cover: for example, a stamp on small piece is unlikely to be acceptable as there is no certainty in the nature of things that it has not been manufactured.

*E. V. Toeg*

## LEEWARD ISLANDS (Cont.)

Who was right about demonetization of the issued stamps of individual colonies, after the introduction of the uniform Leeward Islands issue of 1890? Was it the indulgent clerk who allowed the old stamps to continue to do postal duty? Or was it the officious clerk who refused to recognise them?

The official answer was set out in a letter which was quoted in full in the London Philatelist of 1896 (p.174): perhaps I may be forgiven for repeating an extract -

"The question of using postage stamps of a particular Presidency to frank letters passing through the Post Office of such Presidency, was referred to the Crown Law Officer, who has advised that the stamps above referred to may be so used at the Presidency to which they belong."

*S. Goldblatt*

## TRINIDAD

### 1885 POSTAGE DUE TSSUE

The following is an addenda to an article on this subject written by Mr. Marriott and published in the Bulletin of March, 1964:

Prior to the issue of these stamps the following Memorandum was sent round by the Postmaster to the chief commercial houses in the Island\*:

"GENERAL POST OFFICE, PORT-OF-SPAIN,

17th November, 1884.

#### MEMORANDUM

"On and after 1st January, 1885, the sum to be collected in Trinidad from the addressee, on unpaid and insufficiently-paid correspondence, will be represented by a special stamp or stamps similar to the specimen below. These stamps will be affixed to the cover of the letters, etc,

"With a view to expediting the delivery of mails by abolishing the present system of debiting unpaid charges in the books of this department, and also of preventing errors by over-charges, I beg to solicit your cooperation by providing your messenger, on the arrival of each mail, with a sum sufficient to cover the charges on any unpaid or insufficiently-paid correspondence, so that such charges may be collected when the correspondence is delivered,

"From the date mentioned all registered and unpaid correspondence for your firm arriving by the English mail will be delivered in the room set apart for delivery to private box-holders together with the ordinary correspondence.

"I am, gentlemen,  
"Your most obedient servant,"  
(Signed) J. A. BULMER  
"Postmaster General."

There are one or two imperfections in the surcharge plates of the lower values, but the 1s. presents features of much greater interest. A full account of these is to be found in *The Philatelist*, Vol. 17, No. 11 (August, 1951); also Vol. 19, No. 8 (May, 1953) - an additional note in a letter to the Editor. Generally speaking the main variation comes in the oblique stroke of the figure of value. Each of the six columns on the plate of 60 shows a different variety. In the fifth column the oblique stroke is much more upright and this presents the most noticeable variation from the other columns.

*John B. Marriott.*

\*A copy was forwarded by Mr. J. Graham Taylor to the Editor of *The Philatelic Record*, and was published in the number of that paper for December, 1884. Examples of the Memorandum are in the Royal Collection and also in the collection of Mr. J. C. McIntosh of Diego Martin, Trinidad.

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS**

The President's observations in issue No. 64 of the Bulletin call for a reply from me, and this follows:

### **ISSUED QUANTITIES**

My object in tabulating the numbers issued of early Virgin Islands stamps, and in inviting similar figures for other colonies, was to collate existing information rather than to arouse controversy. I am happy however to meet Mr. Toeg's request (in Bulletin No. 64).

The figures which I quote derive, in the case of the De La Rue printings, substantially from the recent researches of Easton, and in the case of the earlier issues, substantially from the very much earlier researches of Maycock - although these were conveniently cited and repeated in the handbook written by Melville. In each instance the quantities had themselves been ascertained directly from the records of the printers, so that there is little scope here for further original research; but I have read, I think, most of the published information about the Colony (see Melville's handbook, again, for the earlier bibliography) and have tested the figures against my own experience of the comparative scarcity of the various issues, without finding any obvious omissions or anomalies.

## VIRGIN ISLANDS (Cont.)

One may contrast the position with certain other islands: for instance, in the case of Nevis, the Easton figures give only 1,080 as the issued quantity of the 2-td. red-brown, watermark CA - there must surely be an omission or misattribution here. Again, in the case of *Dominica*, there are said to have been two consignments, totalling 33,900, of S.G.3, and only one, amounting to 2,580, of S.G.9; yet some 15,000 of the latter were surcharged to produce S.G. 19! It is easy to deduce that the quoted figures for the 1/- (and, of course, the 6d.) value must be adjusted by accepting that only the first consignment was perforated 12½ and the next two were perforated 14. As I say, no such inconsistencies easily emerge in the case of Virgin Islands.

All the same there are two respects in which I hold some reservations about the figures which I have tabulated. In the first place, there is no direct evidence that, when the first consignment of 1/- stamps was sent out from London in two parcels, of 10,000 and 1,000 stamps respectively, the larger parcel consisted exclusively of SG18, 19 and 20, while the smaller contained only 11, 14 and 14A; but like several others before me, I have found the assumed quantities very much in line with the availability of the stamps themselves - in other words, for every 15 stamps with coloured margins, one might expect to come across about 5 of the 4d. surcharge, about 4 of the single-line frame, and about 2 of the double-line frame.

The other reservation relates, surprisingly, to the 1d, green perf. 15. Maycock's figures give details of ten consignments, and the total issued quantity of 37,800 is well within the range which one would expect. I have been trying - I emphasise, trying - to plate the various printings, and find evidence, much to my horror, not simply of ten separate printings, but of anything between 11 and 13 - to date. It has been stated, I am sure correctly, that the lithographic stone was, in the case of this value, cleaned between each printing, so that a new transfer from the master die would have been done for each fresh consignment: it is much too early for me to draw any conclusions from the stamps which I have so far studied and I simply leave the question open for review at a later date,

These matters apart, it may be thought that the figures which I tabulated give a reliable general guide, and that research, if it is to be done, might well be directed to exploring how many copies can be expected to exist of various sub-categories, say, SG41A, 30, 20 and especially 7B. I am willing to start the ball rolling by asserting that SG20 is a fairly common "rarity": will anybody shoot me down ?

*S. Goldblatt*

## REVIEW

### **THE POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF BRITISH GUIANA\***

Notwithstanding erudite and important articles on British Guiana written during the last 60 to 70 years, notably by the late A. D. Ferguson (himself a resident in the colony for many years) and other able writers, there has not been available, until now, a co-ordinated contribution of the whole and vast subject of this Colony. The publication of this new work, the result of years of research by Mr. Townsend (a Vice-President of the Circle) and by Mr. Howe (a former founder member) will therefore be most warmly welcomed not only by specialists but by all those seeking diligently to improve their own knowledge of the stamps and postal history of this Colony, and last, but by no means least, by those who appreciate a fine example of the printer's art.

A short article rather than a brief review is really needed to cover adequately all the important features contained within the 424 pages of this important work. Part I is devoted to all the postage stamp issues, from the evergreen "cotton reels" of 1850 right through and up to the Q.E.II issues and includes chapters on the Papermakers' watermarks, Officials, Postage Dues, and Postal Stationery, and in the latter chapter are included illustrations of the various types of SPECIMEN overprint: one expects to see recorded the Specimen overprints on adhesives but seldom does one have (as in the case of this work) the postal stationery items treated in this manner.

Chapter 5 discusses *in toto* the chequered but fascinating history of the only recorded example of the famous One Cent black on magenta of 1856. The chapter on the Settings of the 1860-1875 lithos, which may be more popular with the majority of collectors by reason of their being less expensive than the "primitives" (at least in used condition), brings difficult problems hitherto presented by these stamps to an almost successful conclusion: in view of the great scarcity of multiple pieces it is doubtful if Mr. Townsend's researches can be further extended. Each issue is treated with great thoroughness.

Part I has superb illustrations in the shape of five colour plates and 32 monochrome plates.

Part II of this important work has been contributed by Mr. Howe whose expertise in bringing earlier researches up-to-date by revision and much additional data will be appreciated by the postal historian in particular and by collectors in general. The great care taken in recording the many and varied types of handstamp, obliterator and cancellor is abundantly evident. The chapters dealing with the carriage of the mails and with the early Receiving Offices' cancellations, 1855-1860 (District Post Offices) - the first series of

## 92 MISCELLANEA (Cont.)

"Code-Marks," and of the second series, 1860-77 (and in some cases beyond) "Code-Marks" of the District Post Offices, and of the Postal Agencies, and in fact all the many phases connected with the mails for which various types of obliterations were employed make fascinating reading and afford scope for further study. The chapter dealing with the development of the postal system in British Guiana with full details of the spelling of place names and the locations of offices (with opening and closing dates), mail routes etc. must command the appreciation of those seeking this type of information for the first time and those who have, hitherto, had to content themselves with sparse details over the years. Of especial aid will be the rarity guide code provided for cancellations of the D.P.O.'s and Postal Agencies from late 1877 to 1966. Part II is also well provided with illustrations throughout the text.

This is a monumental work on which long labours have been given unstintingly by the authors. Their reward will be in the appreciation which is always felt by all philatelists whenever a specialised work of this nature is produced.

*Rose Titford.*

\*THE POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY OF BRITISH GUIANA. By W. A. Townsend and F. G. Howe. Published by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1970. 424pp. Ills. Price £15.

## OBITUARY

### F. LEONARD DAVIS

It is with profound regret we record the passing of Mr. F. Leonard Davis on September 18th, 1970, at the age of 77. Mr. Davis was one of our founder members and a serious student of the early issues of LEEWARD ISLANDS with particular emphasis on the rare village postmarks. In addition he possessed an outstanding collection of SARAWAK. I had the pleasure of spending an afternoon with him some years ago when he showed some portions of his collections, and I was much impressed by the superb quality of all the items. Although he was of a retiring disposition he had great charm and

it was a great privilege to listen to his comments on some of his treasures. He was a widower and is survived by two sons to whom the Circle extends sincere sympathies.

P. T. SAUNDERS.

### HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Member,

Philympia 1970 will always be remembered as the first occasion - and it is to be hoped there will be many more - we at home have had the pleasure of meeting many of our members living overseas. The luncheon, preceded by a sherry party, held at the Royal Kensington Hotel, London, on Monday, September 21st, 1970 was a great success and everyone I had the privilege to meet expressed their appreciation of the function in most generous terms. Following the Loyal Toast our Hon. Librarian - Rose Titford - charmingly proposed the Toast to the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group to which an eloquent response was made by their President - Stanley C. Durnin. Later a brief but no less sincere toast to our Circle was proposed by Gale J. Raymond to which the Chairman - E. V. Toeg - suitably replied. This was followed from 2-5 p.m. by a general get-together in a room specially reserved in the Olympia building. A number of pages of interesting B.W.I. material was on display. From the many little groups engaged in intense conversation it was obvious that this was an occasion of which full advantage was being taken. Whether or not you were able to attend Philympia I know there is no need for me to emphasise what a wonderful Exhibition it was but I doubt very much - and this view is shared by many others - whether such a large exhibition will ever be staged again. No praise is too high to pay the organisers led by the Chairman - one of our members - Mr. R. A. G. Lee and Mr. A. L. Michael the General Manager. Philympia, 1970 will certainly be remembered by both the public and the trade for a long time to come, I take this opportunity to mention that commencing in 1971 the due date for subscriptions will be February 15th annually. As members are aware February 15th, 1971 is Decimalisation Day and all those who so kindly pay their subscriptions by Bankers' Order will shortly receive a fresh form to sign. It will be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope and I will be most grateful if it is returned to me **without**

## HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH (Cont.)

**delay.** Whenever I respond to an enquiry regarding membership of our Circle I always emphasise that although we hold occasional meetings in London it is our bulletin which constitutes the vital link between members. Will you please endeavour to send some little note of interest DIRECT to our Hon. Editor for inclusion in the bulletin. Furthermore, do not forget to send in your problems which will no doubt interest other members and may well result in satisfactory answers being forthcoming. In conclusion it is my pleasure to express on your behalf the customary warm welcome to the following who have been enrolled as members since our last issue: D. A. Adams (Surrey), F. H. Bennett (Middlesex), B. A. Bullivant (Kent), B. D. Carlaw (Scotland), J. A. C. Farmer (Hampshire) H. G. Gosney (Canada), A. M. Gott (Cheshire), T. A. E. Hutson (Kent), J. Kyle (Scotland), S. Sugarman (London),

*P.T.S.*

## OPINIONS SERVICE

Facilities are available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. Group for which a fee of 7s. 6d. (\$1.00) per stamp or cover is charged.\* Members wishing to take advantage of this service should send the stamp(s) or cover(s) to the Hon. Secretary enclosing a remittance for the appropriate fee together with an addressed envelope (stamped additionally for Registration or Recorded Delivery). Every endeavour will be made to return the item(s) within fourteen days. All stamps or covers submitted are accepted entirely at the senders' risk and neither the Circle nor any of its members, collectively or individually, can be held responsible for the loss or damage of any item or for any opinion expressed.

*\*In instances where if is necessary to consult more than one specialist any additional postage will be charged to the sender.*

## 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 cheque or postal order drawn in favour of "B.W.I. Study Circle" should be sent to the Hon. Secretary and the amount (less 10% and postage) will be remitted to the owner. ANTIGUA. Pre-adhesive covers and G.B. cancelled "A02".

## LIBRARY

The Hon. Librarian is pleased to announce that through the kindness of Mr. W. A. Townsend a copy of "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana" by W. A. Townsend and F. G. Howe is now in the Circle's Library. Members may borrow this work for one month only at one time by defraying Registered parcels post both ways which at present will be 7/6d. each way. As it is anticipated that many will wish to borrow this important work it will be sent out in order of application. A review appears elsewhere in this number.

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