



STUDY CIRCLE

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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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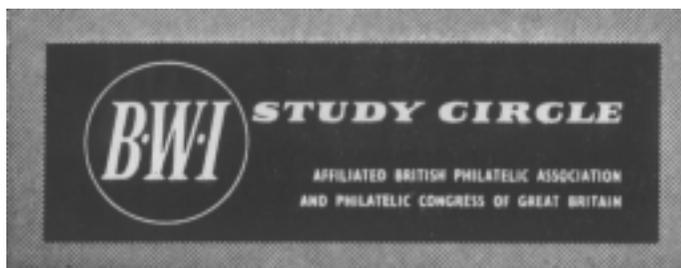
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OBJECTS

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.

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is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription is £1.50 or the equivalent in local currency, due 15th February. If remitting in currency please add 40c 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".

FOR YOUR DIARY

1972

January 6th	Evening Meeting	6 p.m.
April 15th	Annual General Meeting	3 p.m.
May 11th	Evening Meeting	6 p.m.

Meetings are held in the B.P.A. Board Room at 446 Strand, London. WC2R ORA unless otherwise stated.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Kindly note that as from 1st January, 1972, pending the appointment of an Hon. Secretary, all letters (except on matters dealt with by the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Editor or the Hon. Librarian), should be addressed to:-

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

Full details appear under "MEMBERSHIP" at the foot of our "shop window" page in EVERY issue of the Bulletin and prompt payment will be much appreciated. Overseas members who are accustomed to remit in currency are reminded to kindly add 40c to cover collection charges.

DISPLAY

The Autumn meeting of the Study Circle commenced at 3 p.m. on Saturday, 18th September, 1971, and twelve members attended.

Mr. E. V. Toeg welcomed those attending and then some of the members present produced "nine pages" as follows:-

Mr. S. Goldblatt. Displayed "Odds and Ends" commencing with the Bahamas, mailbag seal and type 7 strike for Crooked Island. Then items from British Guiana illustrating Demarari stamp cancelling Postal Stationery and steamer cancellations. These were followed by a modern British Honduras cover with an unusual datestamp and a registered cover from the Leeward Islands with the "Sexagenary 1897" stamps. After showing a manuscript cancellation superimposed by a postal cancellation from St. Lucia, there was an example of a "Ship Letter" strike from St. Vincent and then a very clear strike of Trinidad mark "T.25" (a mark not thought to have been allocated) and finally some examples of Turks Island Stationery.

Mr. A. Latham. The first 9 sheets illustrated the various markings used by "Spanish Town" Jamaica on pre-adhesive covers. A further sheet showed the ½d marking on Great Britain and Jamaica stamps.

Mr. B. Benwell. First, a study of 6 sheets to illustrate the first circular datestamps used in Barbados, some used with barred obliterations. There were examples from Christchurch, St. Joseph, St. John, St. Andrews and St. Peter. A final sheet illustrated a photocopy of G.P.O. records showing a Barbadoes circular datestamp together with a used example differing by the inclusion of a six or nine on its side (used February 23rd, 1846).

Mr. L. E. Britnor. An unusual exhibit consisting of copies of contracts between the Postmaster General and Steamship Companies for the conveyance of mails. These contracts contained interesting details such as definitions of such expressions as "mail," "itineraries," "schedules," "penalties for delay," etc.

Mr. E. V. Toeg. This was a display of "off beat" material including Fiscal stamps of the last century of differing values from 1d to 10/- on paper watermarked Crown CC and Crown CA and including one or two examples of Fiscals cancelled by favour. Then came examples of forged one penny and six pence Queen Victoria stamps with bogus postmarks - the forged stamps being crudely lithographed and cancelled with a bogus dot canceller. Finally a genuine one penny vermilion with clipped off perforations and with a forged "specimen" overprint.

Mr. J. T. Gilmore. Showed "On Service" envelopes from Barbados, some with Official Paid handstamps and others with registration branch handstamps instead of the Official Paid handstamp. Also displayed was an example of the use of the circulation branch handstamp instead of the Official Paid handstamp.

Members attending the next Midweek meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, 6th January, 1972, are requested to bring nine pages from their collections and any visitors will be very welcome.

ANTIGUA

I have been fortunate in acquiring recently two pre-adhesive entires which, after making a number of enquiries, appear to be the earliest known items from the island.

The first entire is dated 5th October, 1693, and was written by Walter Quarmer to William Moore, a merchant, in London and was carried per Capt. Froye, Q.D.C., and has a Bishop mark dated DE/13 which was applied in London. This entire is in a remarkably fine state of preservation considering its age.

The second entire is dated 4th October, 1694, and was written by Law Crabb to George Moore, merchant, at postern key nearby Customs house in City of London.

This was carried per Capt. Egerton, Q.D.C., and has a Bishop mark dated FE/13 which was applied in London. The entire is in very good condition for its age.

At the time these missives were written, and for many years after, it was customary for a letter which was to be carried by private ship to have the name of the ship carrying it or the name of the ship's Captain endorsed on the front of the entire.

Captain Froye and Captain Egerton would have delivered these letters to the Post Office agent at the first port of call in England and each in return would have been given the ship master's one penny for carrying and delivering the letter safely to these shores.

The entires would then have been brought to London and were assessed and marked in manuscript with a mileage charge. In the case of these two entires, the mileage charge, which would be paid by the recipient of the letters, would be based on the distance between the port of entry and London.

The letters "Q.D.C." on each of the two entires were an abbreviation for the Latin phrase "Quem deus conservet," meaning when translated, "whom God preserve," this being a reference to the ship's captain.

The Bishop mark was applied on an entire when it was brought to London for assessment and marking of the mileage charge from the port of entry to its destination in England. The Bishop mark in its different forms had a very long life lasting from 1661 to 1787 and was invented by Henry Bishop, the Farmer of the Posts. The mark consisted of a circle with a line bisecting it horizontally and above the line were two letters, being the abbreviation letters for the month, and below the line was the day of the month in figures.

E. V. Toeg

BAHAMAS

Crooked Island, on the authority of Ludington and Raymond, closed in about 1842, and re-opened as Colonel Hill by about July, 1914.

It now emerges that when the office came to life again, it was still Crooked Island: for a datestamp has come to light, of Type 7, early lettering.

It would be gratifying to record the date, but this could only be guesswork, since the canceller bounced at a critical point. One can read the first part readily as 12 Mar or May. The year might be 03, 05, 06, 08, 09 or none of these. The adhesive, though, is S.G.60, which fits in well with the inference that the original office enjoyed a short new lease of life under its old name in the early part of this century, before being re-constituted as Colonel Hill.

Simon Goldblatt

BRITISH WEST INDIES

POST OFFICES

Fairly basic facts such as the names of the post offices on the islands, are all too seldom published, and these are very hard to find from other sources.

It is a little out of my field, but may I endeavour to stimulate some research.

There follows a list of the number of post offices in most of the islands: the information is culled from a local gazetteer, and shows the position in about 1968. No figures are available for the Bahamas, Cayman Islands, St. Lucia, or Turks and Caicos, though of course the first two are well documented, through the respective labours of Messrs Gisburn, Ludington and Raymond, and our Secretary and the late Mr. Aguilar.

Antigua	14 offices (includes Barbuda)
Barbados	14 offices
Bermuda	13 offices
British Honduras	37 offices
Dominica	55 offices (includes 22 agencies)
Grenada	41 offices
Guyana	144 offices (includes 81 agencies and 15 mobile or travelling offices or agencies).
Jamaica	774 offices (includes 465 agencies and subagencies).
Montserrat	8 offices
St. Kitts-Nevis	7 offices (includes independent Anguilla).
St. Vincent	38 offices
Tobago	29 offices (includes 24 agencies).
Trinidad	191 offices (includes 135 agencies).
Virgin Islands	10 offices - but try to find them!

I suspect that the figure for Antigua is too low: would it include such small offices as Dow Hill?

Leaving out two simple and two very difficult listings, let me have a shot at Grenada. I have fairly contemporary examples of each of the following:

St. George's	(G.P.O.)
Gouyave	(formerly district "A")
Victoria	(formerly district "B")
Sauteurs	(previously St. Patrick's, formerly district "C")
Grenville	(formerly district "D")
St. David's	(formerly district "E")
Carriacou	(formerly district "F")

BRITISH WEST INDIES (Cont.)

Belmont	Belvedere	Birch Grove
Byelands	Chantimelle	Concord
Corinth	Crochu	Florida
Grand Anse	Grand Roy	Happy Hill
Hermitage	Hope	La Digue
La Taste	Morne Fendue	Morne Jaloux
Mt. Morne	Mt. Pleasant P.O.	Munich
New Hampshire	Paraclete	Petit Martinique
Piedmontagnes	Post Royal	St. Paul's
P.O Snug Corner	Templ. (presumably Union Temple)	
Tivoli	Union	Woburn

In former times I gather that there were offices at Dover, Dunferline and Mt. Rose. Are the missing two amongst these?

The Montserrat offices are familiar:

Plymouth (G.P.O.)	Bethel	Cudjoe Head
Harris	St. John's	St. Patrick's
St. Peter's	Salem	

To these must now be added Cork Hill and Dyers.

From the figures for St. Kitts-Nevis, the 5 offices on St. Kitts are operating, but Gingerland (Nevis) would have closed down. Is this accurate?

My list for St. Vincent would not be quite full enough, but surely some members can do this island and the following two?

Finally. Virgin Islands. The 10 offices are, reputedly :

Tortola	West End	Virgin Gorda
Anegada	Cane Garden Bay	Carrot Bay
East End	Jost Van Dyke	Long Look
North Sound (Virgin Gorda)		

The first three offices are fully operational, of course, and the fourth should be intermittently used nowadays, but has anybody even seen cancellations for the last six? There was, however, a Royal Engineers F.P.O. on Beef Island from about 1966 onwards, while the airfield was being enlarged. I do not know the number of it.

Simon Goldblatt

DOMINICA

On examining my limited collection of Dominica postmarks the following may interest Mr. Goldblatt:

WESLEY. I have on pieces clear strikes

A. S.G.120 5 AU 52:

B On S.G.141 & 149 JA 8 (year missing)

ST. JOSEPH. I have on cover with S.G.160 21 JY 58.

On piece S.G.99 date obscure; S.G.103 NO 43: S.G.92 NO 11 35.

LAPLAINE. S.G.71 JY 9 27.

P..J. Hawkins

GRENADA

I have in my collection coil joined pairs of Grenada, S.G.112, and 136a. I also know of the existence of S.G.153a, 153ba, and 135a in coil form. I realise that the coils were made by joining up the strips from individual sheets.

The existence of these stamps indicates that automatic vending machines must have been in use, either generally or as experiments. However, no information concerning these devices seems to be readily available. Can anyone help with the story of these machines?

J. A. Cronin

JAMAICA

JAMAICA BISHOP MARK

Regarding Mr. Willcock's article reproduced in Bulletin, Number 70, I think the time of transit of six weeks from New York to Jamaica was quite reasonable by private ship in 1799.

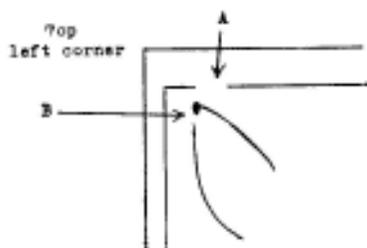
A direct voyage without any stops would be much less likely than one which called at some eastern seaboard port for cargo and perhaps at some of the Leeward Islands, San Domingo or Cuba to discharge before reaching Jamaica. Weather conditions would also have to be taken into account.

A transit time of two to eight weeks or more might therefore be considered reasonable for such a voyage and I suggest that the trans-Atlantic trip by packet can be ruled out, observing that there were no English markings on the cover.

F W. Collins

QUEEN VICTORIA 1s.

Frame break of the Q.V. One Shilling.



I have found what appears to be a constant variety on the 1s. value of 1860-1911 (the same plate was used for all issues).

There is a break (A) in the inner frame line at top left. This can be seen clearly with the naked eye. On the two examples I have (S.G. Nos. 6 and 24) another break B is present but is not easy to see without a low power microscope. - Normal stamps do not appear to have this break R

I would be glad of any confirmation or otherwise of this variety, including its position. I noticed a proof sheet of this stamp at Philymphia: if anyone knows who owns it, examination of the complete sheet should settle the matter.

JAMAICA (Cont.)

JUDICIAL STAMPS

Details of the George V stamps overprinted "JUDICIAL" for use in courts are given in the handbook by Collett, but there is nothing about Victorian stamps similarly overprinted. I have examples of the overprint on the following stamps: wmk. Crown CA 6d., 1s., 2s. and wmk. Multiple Crown CA 2s. Venetian red and 2s. purple on blue. All these overprints are in black. I am sure that this is not the complete list, and would be grateful for any additional information.

GUIDE LINES

Short lines appear sometimes in the gutter between recess printed stamps. The only De La Rue stamp that I have seen with a guide line is the 1921 2½d. They are much more common on Waterlow stamps.

My examples are:

- 1932 2d. Top gutter, right hand end, 3½mm
top left corner, vert. 1½mm, horiz. 2½mm
- 6d. Bottom right corner, horiz. c.2mm, vert. 1½mm
large dot. top right corner: bottom gutter, right hand side c. 4½mm
bottom gutter, left hand side, at least ½mm
- 2½d. Top gutter, right hand side, 3½mm

All these lines are in the colour of the frame of the stamp.

- 1938 2d. Top gutter, left hand side 2½mm
top gutter, right hand side 2mm
top gutter, right hand side, little more than ½mm
left gutter, bottom ½-1½mm
- 2½d. Top gutter, left hand side, 2½mm
- 126 3d. Bottom gutter, left hand side, 3½mm
- 126a Exactly as 126 above
Right hand gutter, bottom 2½mm
Left hand gutter, near the top, a short dot above a 2½mm line. This one is rather unusual as it is very close to the frame of the stamp, not in the centre of the gutter like all my other examples.
Line in *green*.

(N.B. All lines are in the colour of the frame unless otherwise stated).

- 126b Top gutter, right hand side. A dot above the vertical frame line: to the left of it, with a 2mm gap, a 3mm line. All in *green*.
Top right corner: horiz. 1½mm vert. 2mm
bottom gutter, right hand side, 2½-3mm
- 6d. Right hand gutter, top 1½+mm
Horizontal gutter, left hand side 2-4mm.
- 9d. Bottom gutter, left hand side ½-1 mm
Left/right hand gutter, top 2mm. I have one example with the line on each side of the stamp: I think they are both the same thing.
Left hand gutter, bottom 2-3mm.
- 1s. Top gutter, right hand side 3mm. Line in *green*.
Right hand gutter, bottom at least 3½mm
- 2s. Right hand gutter, top. This stamp has a line in each colour, partly overlapping! Brown 2½mm. blue a little lower down, lost in the

- perforations but between 2½-4mm.
- 945 1½d. Right hand gutter, top 3½mm
 2d. Top gutter, left hand side c. 4mm
 Bottom left corner, horiz. 1½-mm, vert. ? only a dot on one perforation tooth
 Top gutter, right hand side 2mm.
- 1921 2½d. Right hand gutter, top 1 mm. I think this is the colour of the centre of the stamp.
- 1945 4½d. Bottom left corner: measurement impossible as both lines only just touch the perforations.

I have also seen a guide line on the 5s. of 1945, but did not record details. I would be interested in obtaining details of, and purchasing, any similar varieties not listed above.

THE GUM OF THE GEORGE VI DEFINITIVES

The ½d. blue-green. 1d. scarlet and 1½d. brown of 1938 can be found with two different types of gum. One is colourless, while the other is found in slightly varying shades of brown. By examining the stains on the backs of a couple of hundred used copies of these stamps, I have come to the conclusion that the brown gum was used until about 1946, when the colourless gum appears. I suspect that the same variation would be found on the 5s. and 10s. values, which were produced by the same printer, but I have insufficient copies of these stamps to reach any conclusions. Both the brown and colourless gums are common, the brown being very slightly scarcer.

There is a certain amount of confusion as regards the various shades in this issue, none of which (except the 1½d light red-brown) are listed by Gibbons. I have found on the whole that the listing given in "The Philatelic Handbook of Jamaica" is clear and reliable:

- ½d. Blue or blue-green - easily distinguished
 Orange or yellow-orange - harder to tell apart but still a noticeable difference.
- 1½d. Always a problem: Here given as brown, red-brown, light red-brown (the scarce shade) and chocolate. From a quantity of stamps it is possible to pick out four answering these descriptions, but really almost every stamp is a different colour!
- 2d. Frame green or yellow-green - this makes sense only if the perforations are ignored: both shades seem to exist in all three perforations.
- 3d. Frame green and yellow-green - but here daylight is essential: in artificial light the green looks yellow-green and vice versa!
 Frame ultram. or deep ultram.
- 9d. Claret-lake, claret or lake carmine - these variations are only slight, and it is not easy to say which is which.
- 1s. Centre green or yellow-green, frame brown or purple-brown (all four combinations listed). Quite easy to distinguish.
- 2s. Frame chocolate or brown - this difference is very clear.

Timothy D. Ward

LEEWARD ISLANDS

THE SEXAGENARIES

I have read with great interest the exchange of comments between Messrs. Paton, Goldblatt and Toeg, appearing in Bulletins 56, 65 and 66, regarding the tantalizing mystery of "what happened to the Sexagenaries?" Perhaps the following data may be helpful in answering that question, at least to the point of confirming statements previously written by these three gentlemen.

A specific issue of the *Leeward Islands Gazette* which has not heretofore been mentioned is that of 20th July, 1899. That paper, too, carried a Jubilee Stamp tender offer, similar to the one printed in the *Gazette* of 1st October, 1897, and described by Mr. Paton. For this discussion I regard the following quantities offered in the 1899 tender announcement as significant:

Denomination	Sheets	Odd Stamps
2½d.	28	92
1/-	2	8
5/-	2	8

The notice further specified that "tenders . . . will be received . . . up to Thursday, the 5th October, 1899, for the purchase of the remainder of the Leeward Islands Jubilee Stamps." The smallest total quantity available for a *single* denomination was 248, offered in the case of each of the 1/- and 5/- values, as shown above. The largest total quantity offered of one stamp was 3,452, as indicated for the 2½d. value. The *second highest* quantity was for the 1d. denomination, for which 14 sheets and 27 odd stamps were offered for a total of 1,707 (*less than half* of the number of 2½d. stamps for sale). There were *no* stamps offered of the 6d. value.

A further paragraph in this tender announced that 248 "complete sets" were offered in lots of not less than 3 sets. (Theoretically these were *not* complete sets, as they lacked the 6d. stamp). The remainder (obviously incomplete sets also, lacking the 6d. and the two highest values) were offered in lots of not less than 10 shillings face value.

Now, in Mr. Paton's previous comments on the Sexagenary overprints, he noted Adrian Hopkins' observations that the 2½d. stamp could still be bought at the St. John's Post Office as late as 1902. This statement certainly appears to be true, due to the statistics of the tender of 1899, which shows that value in such plentiful supply when compared with the other denominations.

So far as I know, no further tenders for Jubilee Stamps appeared in the newspapers, except for the final offer of one sheet of each denomination, announced by the Colonial Secretary's Office on 8th March, 1902, and published in the *Gazette* of 13th March.

The question here is, were values *other* than the 2½d also available in 1902? If not, it seems that all the public could have been led to believe was that, aside from that value, all Jubilee Stamps were unavailable from some undefined point subsequent to the 1899 tender to that day in March, 1902 when a sheet of each of the other seven denominations (including the 6d. which evidently had not been available since *before* the 1899 tender) was dragged out from under a counter someplace and offered as one lot together with one final sheet of the 2½d.

Let us now talk specifically of the 1/- and 5/- denominations. If my interpretation of Mr. Paton's remarks in Bulletin 65 is correct, he suggests that two lots of all eight

values were sold as a result of the tender of 1897. This, however, cannot be so since the tender of 1899 offered, as far as the 1/- and 5/- values were concerned, two complete sheets of each. But as Mr. Toeg suggests in Bulletin 66 it *could* have been so if (i) additional stocks of the stamps were overprinted after 1st October, 1897, or (ii) additional stocks of already overprinted stamps came to light prior to 20th July, 1899.

Not being a specialist in the stamps of the Leeward Islands *per se*, I cannot discuss meaningful personal theories as to why more remainders were available than should have been, or whether the high values of the Sexagenaries are underpriced with respect to their scarcity, or other such illogicalness of philatelic mathematics and economics. These factors have been more than adequately covered, I believe, in the noted Bulletins by Messrs. Paton, Goldblatt and Toeg. However, a highly intriguing fact concerning the 1/- and 5/- stamps is made evident by the 1899 tender and should be looked at, particularly since it was Mr. Paton who, so to speak, "opened the door."

In the 1897 tender 600 stamps each of the 1/- and 5/- values were up for sale. Each denomination was divided into three identical lots, with each lot containing one complete sheet of 120 plus 80 extra stamps. In the 1899 tender, these two stamps were again handled in the same manner: each denomination was broken down into similar lots of 248 stamps - this time two sheets and 8 extra stamps. And finally, in 1902, a sheet of each was offered.

The interesting point that fairly jumps out at the student is not the *number* of stamps available in 1897 or 1899 or 1902 or whenever, but the fact that *identical* quantities of both values were up for sale each time! It seems as if, on each occasion, the postal authorities were trying painfully, for some reason, to keep their offerings of the 1/- and 5/- denominations exactly in balance.

What reason could possibly exist for advertising 600 of each stamp in 1897, 248 of each in 1899 and 120 of each in 1902? Is it coincidence, or is there a pattern here? And if there *is* a pattern, what is it? In no other area of the tenders under consideration do we see identical quantities of two separate values offered on three occasions.

It is obvious that Mr. Toeg has stated the case accurately when he suggests that we may never know the true story of the history of these stamps. This is particularly true for that period of time after they "had been on sale for one week only!"

G. W. Bowman

NEW S.G. LISTING

As a result of representations to Stanley Gibbons an addition is to be made to the Leeward Islands listing in the 1973 British Commonwealth Catalogue.

Under the number 57c the 5/- value of the 1912-22 set will be shown on Orange-Buff paper. As with the 3d. value of this issue on the same paper, it only comes from Plate 8. Mr. Toeg has suggested that it is about as scarce as No. 57a.

In presenting my case to Stanley Gibbons I showed them 14 stamps on this paper, 8 from the E. V. Toeg collection, 5 from that of the late Leonard Davies and one which I had purchased from Stanley Gibbons themselves (much to their amusement!).

D. J. Allan

MONTSERAT

1968 OVERPRINTS

On the two lower values of this issue (S.G. 194 and 195) the two lines that obliterate the original value on the last stamp in each sheet are closer together than on the other stamps.

D. J. Allan

ST. LUCIA

Further to Mr. Goldblatt's query in June Bulletin re village cancellations and Mr. Townsend's reply in the September issue, I can report that I have a fairly clear Micoud "M" mark of 13th May, 1922, being 3½ years later than that mentioned by Mr. Townsend.

I also have 3 queries:

- (1) I have the opening date of all post offices on the island up to March, 1965, except for AUGIER which I believe was sometime in 1961. Can any member supply this missing date in my records, and also if there have been any new offices (of posting) opened since March, 1965?
- (2) The second query concerns a cover I have from St. Lucia to New York. The cover is stamped with a Queen Victoria die 2 2½d., postmarked Dec. 13 (18)98, but on the reverse is a purple mark of "Royal Mail Steam Packet Co's Office, St. Lucia W.T., -- Nov. 1898." Why a month's difference?
- (3) Could any member tell me when the Registered adhesive label was issued (that is Castries) in place of the rubber stamp?

The earliest date I have for the label is 13th January, 1937, and the latest date I have for the rubber stamp is 8th July, 1937.

Graham C. Barflett

TRINIDAD

WHY NOT COLLECT TRINIDAD?

It is usually interesting and sometimes illuminating for a collector to recall what started him on the road to forming a particular collection. The reasons can be very varied: the appeal and attractiveness of the stamps themselves (especially when someone else's collection is viewed with envious eyes!); the challenge of unsolved problems: an opportunity presenting itself with the availability of material or when a collection comes on the market: being drawn to a country by reason of former contacts, residence or emotional ties . . . the list can be almost endless, down to mere chance, such as by mistake buying the wrong auction lot. As regards the collecting of Trinidad it is not without interest and it is certainly illuminating to recall my own reasons.

When still at school I used to while away many a pleasant hour browsing through the "Red Gibbons" dreaming of distant lands and making plans as to what to collect. I distinctly remember the appeal of Trinidad, as it seemed to have everything to satisfy the fairly serious-minded beginner.

There was a classic issue within the scope of one's pocket - early imperforate stamps and later sets of the four denominations which could be acquired for the outlay

of a few shillings, and indeed which are nowadays not over-costly. There was good variety in the later issues, including the surface-printed Queen's head and Britannia designs, down to the most attractive 1935 pictorial issue which had just appeared.

These considerations whetted the appetite of one young enthusiast, at any rate, and how lucky it was that this was the main one of several embryonic collections that survived and stood the test of time - for its appeal to the more serious philatelist is even stronger.

Trinidad, from a collector's point of view, is a large and fascinating subject. The challenge it presents and the variety of adhesive stamps and the postal history material available can be equalled by few countries. There is virtually nothing that is not represented. From pre-adhesive items and the Lady McLeod local to the engraved first issue, and the locally produced lithographed provisionals, the issues then range through the various perforations and watermarks with varieties, surcharges and bisects, to the later surface printed stamps. There is a full range of Postal Stationery. There are attractive cancellations, including maritime marks and the D22 of Trinidad used abroad in Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela. Proof material and "Specimen" stamps are in reasonable supply. Trinidad has all this and a remarkably clean philatelic record, too.

The difficulties, however, also need to be realised. Material, especially in really fine condition, is not always easy to find and patience is needed, but in a way this adds to the pleasure of true collecting. The lithographs are an expensive and difficult group. The Lady McLeod is a popular rarity which commands a high price. There are several extremely rare stamps, though in some cases this applies to the unused only. Early covers are not easy to find. An all embracing collection, therefore, presents many difficulties, but because of the variety of material available such difficulties can to a large extent be avoided, if need be, by confining attention to one or other of the many aspects of Trinidad stamps and postal history.

This review of what Trinidad can offer the collector will stop short of the combined Trinidad and Tobago issues which first appeared in 1913. In order to make the subject more meaningful to those not too familiar with it, the coverage will be divided into sections as follows:-

1. Handstruck stamps and early postal history

Prior to the first regular issue of postage stamps in 1851, Trinidad mail may be found showing various handstruck stamps. The earliest is a circular date stamp of origin, recorded 1806-1807. This is similar to the later fleuron date stamps, but without the fleuron device at the base. Overall width is about 33mm. Only two examples have been recorded so far.

Next come the well known fleuron date stamps, so called because of the leaf-like ornament below the date. There are two sizes, one of width about 32mm., and the other of width about 30mm. The larger, which is recorded 1809-1821, seems about four times as scarce as the smaller, which is recorded 1822-1838.

From 1840 to 1851 a standard double line circle date stamp was in use, diameter about 29mm.

Finally in this period there is the rare TRINIDAD SHIP LETTER in two lines of which only two or three examples are known, the earliest being 1848.

TRINIDAD (Cont.)

To the above may be added the crowned circle PAID AT TRINIDAD marks, though they are not found in use until 1854. There are three slightly different types. Two of these are distinctly rare, but the third and commonest is easily found. The use of a crowned circle handstamp in red was normal in the period 1854-1859 on letters bearing the (1d.) stamp for local postage and on which the overseas rate had been prepaid in cash. It was also normal usage in the period 1859-1867 on overseas letters fully franked by adhesive stamps. During 1858-1859, mainly between the time when prepayment of the postal rate to U.K. became compulsory and the time when the stamps of higher denomination were issued, the crowned circle may be found on letters bearing no adhesive stamps at all and on which the full rate of inland plus overseas postage had been prepaid in cash. These are distinctly scarce, only a handful of examples having been recorded.

A representative selection of the items under this heading which could reasonably easily be assembled could consist of a smaller fleuron, a double line circle date stamp, and crowned circles showing the two main usages on covers bearing adhesive stamps. Other items would be much more difficult to obtain and would present the collector with a considerable challenge.

2. The Lady McLeod stamp

This is a very attractive item and is in considerable demand. Although the present writer must have seen as many as 40 or more examples, the price of even a reasonably good example is reckoned in hundreds of pounds. A high proportion of those known are on cover and emanate from the well known Taylor correspondence.

3. Perkins Bacon Issues

A glance at the catalogue will show the variety of shade and perforation available here in the period 1851-1862. A number of these stamps are readily obtainable and a good representative collection need not involve items of great rarity, providing the collector is content with either unused or used as appropriate. For instance the first issue (except for the (1d.) rose-red on white paper) and the 1859 4d. and 1s. are readily obtainable unused. Other items would normally have to be taken used, since, for instance, the 1859 pin perforated 12½ are all of extreme rarity unused, as are a number of later stamps. For a representative selection, the stamps which would cause most difficulty would be the 1859 6d. imperforate (S.G.28), the 1859 pin perforated 12½ 4d. (S.G.33, 34), if this were required in addition to the 4d. pin perforated 13½, 14, and the 1s. denomination in either gauge of pin perforation. Some shades would also cause great difficulty, e.g. S.G.48 and S.G.59, but of course these could be omitted. It should perhaps be added that the item catalogued as S.G.26 is of proof status, and the present writer would not recognize the existence of S.G.51.

4. Lithographed provisional issues: 1852-1860

These issues were produced locally in the island to meet shortages of the London printed Perkins, Bacon stamps that occurred on five occasions in the period 1852-1860. As regards design they are fairly good imitations of the Perkins, Bacon stamps, and the early impressions from the stone are remarkably fine examples of lithographic production. However, owing to poor ink and faulty cleaning of the stone, the later issues show a marked deterioration in appearance, and in examples from the last issue the design is well nigh unrecognizable. There is also a good deal of variation in shade even within the various issues. Apart from unused examples of the last issue in red, these stamps are generally speaking both rare and expensive, especially if in really fine condition, and are virtually unknown in unused state.

A full study of the five issues of these fascinating stamps presents considerable difficulty, while even a representative selection is by no means easy.

It should be added that the paper was not of good quality and was generally soft, and much susceptible to thinning. As a result, repaired stamps are not uncommon and collectors should exercise caution in obtaining examples, a certificate often being advisable. Stamps of fine appearance, but thinned, may prove attractive as space fillers for those of more modest means.

5. De La Rue printings from the Perkins Bacon plates 1862-1882 and the De La Rue surface printed 5s. denomination of 1869

The collecting of Trinidad stamps becomes a much easier problem from 1862 onwards and some very attractive stamps may be obtained at reasonable cost. There is great variety in the shades of the 1863-1875, 1872 and 1876 issues, and a study of them can be a most attractive proposition.

There are of course some great rarities in this group too, and mention should be made of the 1862-63 6d. with perforation 11½, 12 compound with 11 (SG.63b): the 1863 1s. perforated 13 (SG.67) in fresh unused condition: the 1876 6d. with perforation 14 compound with 12½ (SG.97a) and the 1882 1d. on 6d. with manuscript surcharge in black (SG.103).

6. De La Rue's later surface printed issues 1883-1909, together with the Postage Due Stamps and Official stamps, 1885-1910

The collection of these issues presents no great difficulty although the cost of the 10s. and £1 denominations has risen a good deal recently. There is only one great rarity, namely the 1901 1d. black on red with words of value omitted (SG.127a). All the high values, i.e., the 5s., 10s. and £1 denominations, are very difficult to obtain used and one should especially be on one's guard against fiscally used examples. The 1896 1d. from the second die with oval O, is a very scarce stamp indeed in unused condition.

In the official stamps, the 1894 set overprinted O.S. is a good deal scarcer than the catalogue price suggests.

TRINIDAD (Cont.)

7. Postal Stationery

A full range is available to the collector, and this can provide an attractive group of items. Especially so are some of the early cards bearing adhesive stamps (including bisects) of which the first provisional Inland Post Card in black is a very great rarity. As usual with early Postal Stationery items in used condition are very difficult to find. Those interested in this class of material could well refer to the B.W.I. Study Circle Bulletins numbers 25 and 27 of April and September, 1960, for a full check list.

8. Cancellations

The early numeral cancellations (each number indicating a different office) and the later town and village date stamps form a most interesting group. In addition there are various French maritime markings, including the Anchor and dots cancellation and the later Ligne date stamps, which are found on the 1863-1875 and subsequent issues. Finally mention should also be made of the D22 cancellation of Ciudad Bolivar in Venezuela. This use of Trinidad stamps at the British Postal agency in Ciudad Bolivar is most interesting and little is known about the circumstances except that examples are found in the period 1869 to 1876 when it seems that stamps of Great Britain were not used there.

To revert to the early numeral cancellations we may mention that there were some nine different types, but by no means all of these occur in the full range of numerals from 1 to 36. They were in use in the period up to and including the currency of the 1883 Queen's head issue, examples of which are sometimes found with the last of the numeral types namely the T and numeral duplex mark. The B.W.I. Study Circle Paper No. 3 on The Philatelic History of Trinidad to 1862 contains a chapter which treats these numeral cancellations fully.

The town and village date stamps began to appear, generally speaking, in the late 1880's at offices which previously had numeral cancellers, and of course came into being at a later date when a new office was opened. In the period up to 1913 some 84 different offices have been identified. The date stamps may be divided into different types and although the number of offices is fairly large, a display of these can be kept to manageable proportions if only one from each office is included.

There are sundry other cancellations of which mention should be made, namely: TRINIDAD double and single line circular date stamps, TRINIDAD PAID and TRINIDAD M.O.O. date stamps: SAN FERNANDO and Arms seal type: TOO LATE, TOO LATE FOR BAG and REGISTERED handstamps: T.P.O. ARIMA SECTION date stamp and the boxed AG. SHOW P.O. of the 1895 Agricultural Show.

Those interested in the cancellations are referred to the London Philatelist, Number 748, of March, 1955.

J. B. Marriott

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.

Leeward Islands

S.G. 51a Block (larger the better)

S.G. 48a Plate Block 3

Any other Plate Blocks of this issue will be viewed with interest.

BULLETINS

Copies of back numbers - some being XEROX copies - are obtainable (subject to being in stock) from the Hon. Librarian as follows:

Nos. 1-7 (reprint in one cover), 75p (\$1.80).

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Facilities are available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. Group for which a fee of 40p (\$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.**

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Congratulations are offered to the following members who gained awards at the British Philatelic Exhibition, 1971.

Silver: H. F. Deakin, J. D. Todd.

Bronze Silver: Miss B. J. Collinson, B. E. Johnson.

Bronze: R. Ward.

HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Member,

It is almost eighteen years since I founded our Circle and became its first Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. During that long time I have seen the membership grow from a mere handful to around three hundred scattered all over the world and the work involved now necessitates my attention almost every day. Now that I am well past "three score years and ten," I find - as I am sure you will readily understand - that leisure has a special significance and I have accordingly tendered my resignation as Hon. Secretary. I will, however, continue to be in touch since with the approval of your Committee I am carrying on as Hon. Treasurer for the time being. In this connection I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of members complying with the Notice regarding subscriptions which appears elsewhere in this issue. Having regard to the existing high postal charges - with forecasts of further increases in 1972 - it is my hope that the need to send out reminders will be minimal. I am aware that many of our members resident overseas, particularly in Canada and U.S.A., are accustomed "to be billed," nevertheless I now hope they will endeavour to remit in January if possible each year. Although 15th February is the date mentioned in our "shop window" this was this year, as all members will recall, "Decimalisation Day" over here and in sending out fresh Bankers' Order Forms in connection with the increase in our subscription it was obviously essential to take account of the change. Needless to say if you are one of the many members who have already kindly co-operated by paying your subscription through your bank you will naturally disregard these remarks. At the time these lines are being written my successor has yet to be appointed but you may rest assured that the maintenance of the Circle's value to so many will be the predominant factor in your Committee arriving at their final decision. On a very sad note I have to record the passing of three of our members: Dr. R. H. Blackburn (27/5/1971), Felix J. N. Nabarro (13/10/1971) and G. Moray Stephenson (29/9/1971). They were respectively specialists in Jamaica, Dominica and St. Vincent and contributed interesting items to our Bulletin from time to time. Since our last issue it has been my pleasure to welcome on your behalf the following new members: Dr. M. D. Churcher (Devonshire), R. J. Devaux (St. Lucia) re-instated, C. W. E. Jane (Surrey), R. J. Rowntree (Lancashire) and Miss B. E. Wright (Sussex). This being the last "Hon. Secretary's Paragraph" to appear over my initials I would like to say how very much I have enjoyed carrying out the many duties the job entails which has resulted in my making many new contacts both at home and in far away places. It would be impossible to attempt to estimate the number of letters I have received over the years but to the best of my knowledge I have replied to all that were relevant to the Circle's activities. In conclusion I send you my best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year- philatelically and in every other way.

P.T.S.

MONTSERRAT

A few copies still remain of The Standard Handbook by Leonard E. Britnor, Published in 1965 this very informative work contains 95 pp size 10in. x 5in. Illustrated, paper cover.

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