



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

Founder:

P. T. SAUNDERS, F.R.P.S.L.

President:

E. V. TOEG

Vice-Presidents:

J. B. MARRIOTT, F.R.P.S.L., R.D.P.

W. A. TOWNSEND, F.R.P.S.L., R.D.P.

Bulletin No. 77 June 1973

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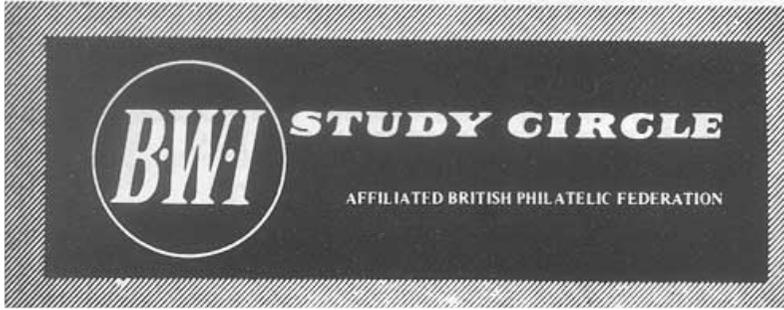
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Acting Hon.

Secretary :

I. P. CHARD

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Tel. Potters Par 54491*

Hon. Treasurer :

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Hon. Librarian:

ROSE TITFORD.

Library at "Min-y-Nant " (as above)

Hon

Public Relations:

R. RADFORD

Committee :

**R. H. AUSTIN, M.B.E., F.R.P.S.L., B. B. BENWELL,
F. D. FITZGERALD, O.B.E., S. GOLDBLATT,
A. H. LATHAM, J. C. LOACH, F.R.P.S.L.**

Hon. Auditor :

A. J. BRANSTON, F.R.P.S.L.

OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the **British West Indies** and in addition **BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS.**
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 £1.50 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".

PROGRAMME, 1973-74

1973

Sept. 29th - Autumn Meeting, 3 p.m.

Nov. 7th - Evening Meeting, 6 p.m.

1974

Feb. 7th - Evening Meeting, 6 p.m.

Meetings to be held at the "Large Oak Room," National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London, S.W.I.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Minutes of the 19th Annual General Meeting of the British West Indies Study Circle, held at 3 p.m. on Saturday the 14th April, 1973, at the 'Large Oak Room', National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place.

12 members attended and one visitor was present.

The chair was taken by the acting chairman, Mr. R. Austin, who extended a warm welcome to all present.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. E. V. Toeg, Mr. J. Marriott, Mr. W. Townsend, Mr. A. J. Branston, Mr. P. Saunders, Mrs. P. Saunders and Mr. J. Loach.

The minutes of the eighteenth Anniversary meeting held on Saturday, 15th April, 1972, as published in the Bulletin No. 73, pages 27 to 32, were taken as read and with the approval of the meeting were signed as correct by the Acting Chairman.

Correspondence

A letter of thanks from Mr. Bowman in respect of his receipt of the Collett Trophy was read to the meeting. A letter of appreciation and thanks to the Officers of the Circle from Mr. Gosney was read to the meeting.

Report of the Hon. Secretary

I report that at the present time the membership of the Circle stands at 288 members, this takes no account of those members who have not renewed their subscriptions and do not intend to do so. I have the misfortune to report that 2 of our members have died this year: Mr. H. E. Box and Mr. A. E. Burdett. Meetings this year have been largely successful, they took place and were attended as follows: 11.5.72 14 attended, 30.9.72 21 attended (1 visitor), 15.11.72 8 attended, 17.1.73 15 attended (2 visitors), 1.3.73 14 attended (2 visitors). I have to report that, in accordance with the instructions of the Circle in regard to the matter of the tribute to Mr. Saunders, £105.81

was raised by contributions from 39 members. Throughout the year there had been some limited use of the 'Opinion Service'.

Acceptance of the report was carried unanimously.

Report of the Hon. Auditor

Read in his absence by Mr. Chard.

"I have examined all the vouchers and account books sent to me by the Hon. Treasurer, Philip Saunders, and I find them in excellent order. The balance sheet has been checked and signed as a true statement of the monies etc. of the Circle".

Acceptance of the report was carried unanimously.

Report of the Hon. Treasurer

Read in his absence by Mr. Chard.

Members will have noted from the details of the Circle's Accounts for 1972 appearing in the March, 1973 issue of our Bulletin that the significant item is a decrease of around £100 in 'Cash at Bank'. On examination it will be found that the rise in printing costs and postal charges together exceed this sum and, unhappily, it must be accepted that the trend will continue upwards so far as these costs are concerned. Furthermore, the sale of back issues of the bulletin fell appreciably and additional issues have now gone out of print. It may be recalled that last year it was suggested that consideration be given to either reprinting or having Xerox copies made of those issues that were out of stock. Having regard to the present financial position I do not recommend that any action be taken in this direction at the present time. Although the income from advertisers remains steady endeavours must be made to effect some increase in the number who take space. There is a general tendency for advertisers to reduce their commitments in an endeavour to combat ever rising overheads and in consequence I am of the opinion that any rise in rates might prove counterproductive. I trust the figures as shown in the Statement of Accounts meet with approval.

Turning to the payment of subscriptions (dues) I regret to state that despite the special Notice in the December 1972 Bulletin there were no less than 84 outstanding on March 1st. Letters of reminder have been sent out at daily intervals and at the time of writing - April 7th - 52 await a response. This tardiness in payment gives rise to much work and expense not to mention the time taken up in dealing with relevant correspondence. Any suggestions that might lead to alleviating the position - at least in some degree - will be much appreciated. Perhaps the committee might consider affixing a printed (in RED) slip - appropriately worded - to the outside cover of the December Bulletin each year. This could not escape the notice of the recipient and might lead to payment being made more promptly.

P.T.S.

At the conclusion of the report Mr. Deakin asked whether members had been given the full opportunity to pay by bankers order. It was pointed out that many overseas members were not able to use this facility. Mr. Britnor stated that in many countries, notably the 'USA', the postal service was extremely bad and that this might account for the delays in response to Mr. Saunders' appeal for renewal subscriptions. The meeting agreed that the matter of a reminder being placed in the Bulletin be referred to the Committee for decision and action.

Acceptance of the report was carried unanimously.

Report of the Hon. Librarian

Read in her absence by Mr. Chard.

During the past season more items have been sent out on loan than ever before. This may be due in some measure to the fact that a completely new Library List was produced in September, 1972. I mention "in some measure" reservedly as out of a Home Membership total of around 180 a mere 22 members applied for the list. Can it be that the majority of Home Members have reference libraries of B.W.I. material more comprehensive than the Circle's Library? Anyway, it is satisfying to me, at least, to know that good use is being made of the Library, especially of the 'Scrap Books' which have now risen to six, much additional material to a large number of the B.W.I. group having been collated. It is interesting to note that the file of specialised Auction Catalogues have also been of interest to many, and I am obliged to Mr. C. A. Freeland for supplying some missing Price Realisations.

There have been very few additions to the Library during the period under review - those which have been given by Members, to whom I have expressed the thanks of the B.W.I.S.C., will be recorded in a future issue of the Bulletin when a sufficient number of acquisitions merit a list being included.

Members are reminded that Rule 2 of the Lending Library list, wherein it is stated that - "Books may be retained for four weeks, but if required for a longer period application should be made to the Hon. Librarian who will usually agree provided there is not a waiting list for the particular book", must be strictly adhered to, as this season for the first time since the Library was formed, there have been waiting lists for many highly specialised works, and sending reminders adds to the already heavy postage costs: (Members of course defray postage both ways on items sent out on loan.)

One further important comment: I would respectfully ask all Members who know they will be away for holiday periods or for other reasons to refrain from requesting books on loan until they return home.

R-S

Acceptance of the report was carried unanimously.

Report of the Hon. Editor

This is the last report that I shall be making as Hon. Editor, at least for a while. The strict schedule necessary for the publication of the Bulletin unfortunately does not fit in easily with bringing up a young family. I have very much enjoyed my term as Hon. Editor and regret that it has been so short. I have made many friends in the Circle and have learnt a great deal about B.W.I. philately.

May I ask all members to give their whole hearted support to my successor to make his task of filling the Bulletin an easy one. Contributions large or small on any aspect of B.W.I. philately or postal history are always needed.

R-R

A vote of thanks to Mr. Radford for his efforts on behalf of the Circle whilst acting as Hon. Editor was proposed by Mr. Britnor and seconded by Mr. Deakin. This vote of thanks was endorsed by all the members present.

Acceptance of the report was carried unanimously.

Report of the Chairman of the Committee

Read in his absence by Mr. Chard.

There has only been one Meeting of the Committee during the past year and the following is a summary of the more important matters dealt with on Saturday the 30th September, 1972:-

1. The imminent resignation of Mr. R. Radford as Hon. Editor of the Bulletin due to domestic and family difficulties and the possibility that Mr. Michael Sheppard might be willing to take on the Hon. Editorship in lieu of Mr. R. Radford.
2. The escalating cost of the Bulletin and the desire to reduce the number of its pages. The discussion of ways and means of doing this including the omitting of "Auction Gleanings", "Displays at Meetings" and lists of members with their addresses. Ultimately it was decided that "Displays at Meetings" should remain in and that lists of members should be published separately with addresses every two years, commencing with the September 1973 Bulletin. Further, "Auction Gleanings" would in future be used as and when space permitted.

The question of the cost of advertisers' blocks was gone into in some detail and it was ultimately proposed that Messrs. R. Radford and B. B. Benwell should be asked to look into the cost to advertisers of advertisements in the Bulletin and that this survey should include an estimate of the cost to members of "small advertisements" such as might be found in the Classified Advertisements columns of newspapers. Messrs. R. Radford and B. B. Benwell expressed their willingness to conduct the survey and their views and findings will be made known at a later Meeting of the Committee.

3. It was also decided by the Committee that an Hon. Public Relations Officer should be appointed to boost the Study Circle's image in the eye of the philatelic public and also it was considered advisable for someone to be appointed to keep in touch with advertisers in the Bulletin and to obtain new advertisers. In both these cases it was left with Mr. E. V. Toeg to approach certain persons.

E.V.T.

At the conclusion of the report Mr. Deakin, himself a dealer, stated that he thought the idea of having 'Classified Advertisements' in the 'Small Ad' manner would be an extremely good idea.

Acceptance of the report was carried unanimously.

Report of the Chairman of the Publications sub-committee

As indicated by announcements in the Bulletin, preparations are now well in hand for the publication of the "History of the Sailing Packets to the British West Indies", and it is hoped that this will be available to Members in the Autumn. Some delay was caused at the beginning of the year owing to trouble on the Railways, it being virtually impossible for Mr. Benwell and myself to meet to discuss essential details of lay-out, etc.

I am glad to be able to report that a further Paper is already in preparation, but details of this will be announced later.

Finally, I must record the great deal of hard work put in by the Members of the Sub-Committee, even apart from the actual meetings. Messrs. E. V. Toeg and R. Austin have devoted many hours to reading manuscripts and have made numerous valuable

suggestions; whilst Mr. Benwell has given much advice on the production, and is also dealing with the printing, binding, etc., of yet another Paper by the Study Circle.

L.B.

Acceptance of the report was carried unanimously.

Congress

Congress was to be held at London later this year. Mr. W. Townsend and Mr. A. Branston had agreed to act as delegates.

Autumn Meeting

Mr. Chard stated that the Autumn Meeting had been booked for Saturday, 29th September, 1973, at 3 p.m. at the National Liberal Club. Midweek meetings had also been booked in advance, to be held at the National Liberal Club, and they were: Wednesday, 7th November, 1973, at 6 p.m., and Thursday, 7th February, 1974, at 6 p.m. The question of a display for the Autumn meeting was referred to the President and the Hon. Secretary to arrange. Miss Collinson stated that she felt that the 9 sheet displays by members had been most rewarding. The meeting expressed approval that the midweek meetings should be devoted, for the time being, to displays by members of 9 sheets.

Date of the twenty-first Anniversary Meeting

The meeting agreed that the Hon. Secretary should make the necessary arrangements for a suitable date in April, 1974 to be booked.

Motion

'That a list of members be prepared as a separate insert in the Bulletin to replace the annual list of members. That the new list should show names and addresses and interests of members except where those members have indicated to the Hon. Secretary an unwillingness to have their addresses printed. This list to be produced biennially'.

This motion was read out to the meeting and Mr. Chard read out, in full, a letter from Mr. Toeg which laid out the manner in which the matter had originally been raised at a committee meeting. In his letter Mr. Toeg reminded members of the original objects of the Circle when it was formed by Mr. Saunders. Mr. Toeg, in his letter, then put the arguments both for and against the motion. The relevant parts of the correspondence which Mr. Chard had received on the subject was then read out to the meeting. The views of Mr. Loach in his original letter were amplified by the reasons given in a telephone conversation between Mr. Loach and Mr. Chard on the 13th April, 1973. The views of Mr. Irvin, Mr. Michael and Mr. and Mrs. Saunders were also expressed.

A discussion then followed. It was suggested that the list should be produced to be available on demand at a price of 5p. This suggestion was opposed on the grounds that the list would have to be subject to alteration from time to time to account for changes and that members should not have to make an additional payment to obtain details of the membership of the Circle which they had joined. It was pointed out that many members of the Circle were also members of B.C.P.S.G. which did publish members' addresses and were therefore able to communicate directly with one another anyway. It

was also pointed out that it was not difficult to trace a member through telephone directories and other agencies. Mr. Chard pointed out that, at first, a cumbersome and elaborate procedure had been followed when mail was received for forwarding in an effort to ensure that the contents of the correspondence did reach the bulletin but that this had been dropped owing to the difficulties and cost it presented and that, at present, both he and the Hon. Editor (who also received mail for forwarding) simply forwarded the mail leaving it open to the recipient to answer the correspondence if he so desired. This procedure sometimes involved a cost to the society in postage but not always. A discussion followed on the matter of the contributions to the bulletin and it was observed by some members that the chief contribution to the bulletin did not come from 'Notes and Queries' anyway. Mr. Fitzgerald asked that, before a vote was taken on the motion, the motion be read over to the meeting again.

Mr. Austin then read the motion to the meeting and asked those present who were in favour of the motion to raise their hands. Ten members raised their hands. Mr. Austin then asked those present who were against the motion to raise their hands. No persons present raised their hands. The motion was carried by a vote of ten.

The matter was then referred to the Committee to make the necessary arrangements.

Election of Hon. Editor

Mr. Radford stated that Mr. Sheppard had been watching how the Bulletin was produced and had, in fact, been responsible for the production of the last issue of the Bulletin. Mr. Radford proposed that Mr. Sheppard be elected to the office of Hon. Editor. Mr. Chard seconded the nomination. Mr. Sheppard was elected unanimously.

Election of Public Relations Officer

Mr. Chard reminded the meeting that Miss Collinson had been obliged to resign this office on medical advice. Mr. Chard stated that Mr. Radford had indicated that he would be able to execute the duties of this office and that, in view of the expertise he had obtained through being Hon. Editor, he would be an excellent choice. Mr. Chard, therefore, proposed that Mr Radford be elected to that office. Mr. Benwell seconded the nomination. Mr. Radford was elected unanimously.

Resignation of Mr. Britnor from the Committee

Mr. Britnor stated that he had been active in the Circle's affairs for a number of years and that he now felt that it was time that he gave way to a younger man. He was, however, willing to be co-opted if his services were in any way required.

Mr. Chard then stated that he felt that the Circle's members were very conscious of the hard work that had been done by Mr. Britnor since the Circle had been formed and that a special vote of thanks should be made to Mr. Britnor for all the hard work that he had done. Mr. Austin seconded this proposal. The vote of thanks was passed with some applause.

Nomination of Mr. Simon Goldblatt to replace Mr. Britnor as Committee member

Mr. Chard stated that although Mr. Goldblatt was not present he knew that he had been approached by the President and was willing to be nominated. Mr. Chard

therefore proposed Mr. Goldblatt be elected to the committee and this was seconded by Mr. Britnor. Mr. Goldblatt was elected unanimously.

Election of other officers and committee

Mr. Austin proposed that all the other officers and members of the committee be elected 'en bloc' since they were all willing to remain in office unless there were any objections. No objections were raised, Mr. Britnor seconded the proposal and the officers and committee were re-elected unanimously.

Election of Hon. Auditor

Mr. Branston being willing to continue in office Mr. Britnor proposed that he be re-elected. Mr. Chard seconded the proposal. Mr. Branston was unanimously re-elected.

The question of cost of hiring rooms to be partly defrayed by an entry charge

Mr. Chard stated that when the Circle was first formed only one meeting a year was held but that this number had grown by the introduction of the other popular meetings. No problem had existed while meetings were held at the old offices of the B.P.A. in the Strand since the charge made to the Circle funds was relatively small. However, the situation had changed, the hiring charge for the Large Oak Room was £3.50 and that this sum multiplied six times would make a considerable drain upon the Circle's funds. Mr. Chard pointed out that it might be argued by overseas members, and members who were unable to attend meetings, that they were subsidising this area of the Circle's activities. Some venues were obviously more suitable than others. The hire of the room in the George Public House for example was not altogether satisfactory since the licensee was obliged to allow members of the public into this bar if they wished and this might disrupt the meeting. A constant search was being made for suitable, and cheap, accommodation.

A discussion followed and it was agreed in principle that a charge be made to members attending meetings other than the A.G.M., which should remain free. The matter was referred to the committee for the details to be worked out.

Any Other Business

There being no other business, Mr. Chard proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Austin, the Acting Chairman, who had so successfully chaired the meeting in the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents. This vote of thanks was seconded by Mr. Britnor and carried by the meeting.

The business of the meeting closed at 4.25 p.m.

DISPLAY

Despite a general "go-slow" on the railways and also the complete absence of a very large number of trains in the London area, twelve members and two visitors gathered together at "The George" public house, John Adam Street, London, W.C.2, on

Thursday, 1st March, 1973, to attend a Meeting at which Mr. Raymond H. Austin gave a talk and display from his well known collection of the Bahamas.

Mr. Austin has spent many years patiently forming his collection and it was not possible in the time available for his talk and display to go beyond 1900. Without being able to do adequate justice to his talk and display the following is a short account of some of the items shown:-

The display commenced with a number of pre-adhesives, the earliest one in the collection being a fine ship letter in 1796 to London via Plymouth followed by an entire ship letter in 1816 to Glasgow with clear London arrival strikes. There were interesting examples of the 1802 first "Bahamas" straight line 35mm. handstamp including one entire addressed to Brighton with a "Missent to Bristol" handstamp, also an 1845 cover with the late use of the "Bahamas" straight line handstamp in red, then followed an 1840 cover showing the scarce small straight line "Bahamas" 22.5mm. by 3mm. An 1844 cover exhibited an example of the first dated Bahamas circular handstamp "Nassau New Providence" in serified letters and by way of contrast a cover of 1864 showed a similar handstamp but in sans-serifed lettering. There was a most interesting series of ship letters from Bahamas to London with handstamps of Philadelphia, Savannah, Baltimore and Montreal.

The pre-adhesives display continued with a fine clear strike of the "Bahamas/Ship Letter" (two lines) dated 17th December, 1851.

As with other colonies contemporary Great Britain stamps were used in the Bahamas and an example of the Great Britain 6d lilac cancelled with the "A05" obliterator was shown on a cover dated Bahamas 21st February, 1859. The Crowned Circle handstamp in red was shown on a fine registered cover to London dated December, 1864 and a further example of the same handstamp in red on piece was shown dated in October, 1897. The Crowned Circle handstamp, this time in black, was applied to an official cover to Liverpool dated March, 1937 and also similar handstamps in black on a series of covers comprising official mail to Winchester and London up to 1952.

The design of the first types of the stamps of the Bahamas was based on the famous Chalon portrait of Queen Victoria and they make a very pleasing display. The Chalon head types from 1859 to 1882 comprising the Perkins, Bacon issues and those printed by De La Rue from the Perkins, Bacon plates were very fully represented and included plate proofs in marginal blocks of four and six of the first issue in black; the 1d on thick paper S.G.1 and S.G.1a unused and used; a mint block of four of the 1d on thin paper, S.G.2 and two used examples. The 1d October, 1860 with clean-cut perf. 14 to 16 and the 1d June-December, 1861 with rough perfs., including a mint strip of three, were well displayed.

The 1862 issue included many fine shades, among these being the 6d lilac S.G.19a used.

In the 1863-80 wmk. CC perf. 12½ issue there was a wide range of shades particularly strong in fine used examples with interesting cancellations especially of the 1d and including a fine advertised cover bearing four 1d stamps with the cachet "ADVt. NOT CALLED FOR." There were also some fine blocks of four of the 4d and 6d mint and each value on cover. In the perf. 14 stamps there was shown the 1d scarlet

(aniline) S.G.34 both mint and used, many fine multiples of the other values and also covers.

In the 1884/98 issue there was a die proof with blank value tablet and a number of mint multiples including a marginal block of four of the scarce 2½d dull blue; the £1 value was also shown mint and used. The 1884/98 issue was also represented by most values including the 5/- and £1 handstamped "SPECIMEN" diagonally in black in sans-serifed letters 3mm. high.

Lithographed forgeries were shown of complete sheets of twenty-five stamps of each value of the 1859 to 1882 issue on unwatermarked and un gummed paper, being the work of the Spiro Brothers of Hamburg. Interesting examples of line engraved forgeries of the 4d and 6d values were also shown.

The display concluded with a comprehensive range of postal stationery showing some of the rarer issues postally used as well as mint.

HISTORY OF THE SAILING PACKETS TO THE BRITISH WEST INDIES

A Preview

The latest Paper, prepared by Leonard E. Britnor, for the B.W.I. Study Circle, is a book of nearly 200 pages, bound in a stiff cover. It is the result of a considerable amount of research by the author himself, spread over several years, amongst the archives of the G.P.O. Record Office, London.

Starting with an account of the first Packet Service organised by Edmund Dummer in 1702, it traces the gradual development and expansion of the Service up to 1842, when the conveyance of the West India Mail was taken over by the Royal Steam Packet Co.

Particular attention has been paid to the Local Mail Boat Service which greatly increased the general efficiency of the whole system for conveying the Mails.

To enable the Reader to appreciate more readily the reasons underlying some of the modifications made from time to time, brief historical notes have been inserted at the beginnings of Chapters, where appropriate.

Included in the text are stories of actions fought by the Packets, together, in some cases, with extracts from the original logs kept by the Commanders, and copies of the casualty lists.

Among the Appendices are lists of the Packet Boats and Captains, extracted from the Commission Books; a summary of the Packet Letter Rates between 1702 and 1842; the method of calculating the Tonnage of a ship; and brief notes on Ship Letters and Letters carried by Naval Vessels.

There are numerous illustrations including several of the Packet Boats and some of the Captains. Apart from a general map of the West Indies, special maps have been prepared showing the routes taken by the Local Mail Boats.

The whole work has been carefully indexed, and will make a valuable contribution to the Postal History of the British West Indies.

R.H.A.

NOTES AND

ANTIGUA

EARLY POSTAL REGULATIONS

I have been fortunate in acquiring complete copies of three documents: the Antigua Inland Post Regulations of 1886, the Leeward Islands Post Office Rules of 1900, and the Antigua Post Office Rules of 1906. I have also found an incomplete list of the Antigua Inland Post Regulations of 1900. The 1886 Regulations, originally published in the *Leeward Islands Gazette* of 18 October 1886, were referenced by me in Key No. 26, Page 10, Bulletin No. 72 of 1972. The Leeward Islands 1900 Rules were passed by the Executive Council of the Colony on 29 August of that year, and were printed two weeks later in the 13 September *Gazette*. The document of 1886 was *evidently* rescinded by the Leeward Islands 1900 Rules, and was definitely rescinded by the 1900 Antigua Regulations. The Leeward Islands 1900 Rules were in turn rescinded - insofar as Antigua was concerned - by the regulations of 1906, a document dated 13 October.

Because these regulations contain interesting facts concerning the late 19th and early 20th-century aspects of Leeward islands/Antigua postal history, I have thought that members of the Circle would enjoy reading them verbatim. (Later revisions of certain paragraphs of the documents are noted and discussed where appropriate).

ANTIGUA INLAND POST REGULATIONS 1886

1. Letters and newspapers will be received for transmission by Inland Post at the General Post Office in St. John's, and at the following Inland Post Offices:

The Police Station at Parham
The School Room at St. James
The Police Station at Bolans
The School Room at All Saints
The School Room at St. Stephens
The School Room at Freetown
The Police Station at The Grange
The Police Station at English Harbour
The School Room at Old Road

between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m., Sundays and holidays excepted.

2. Letters and newspapers duly stamped may be deposited in the letter boxes at the General Post Office, or at any of the Inland Post Offices, before and after the above-named hours.

3. Inland mails will be despatched from the several Post Offices every day except Sunday at the hours mentioned in the following table:

ROUTE	STATION	ARRIVE	LEAVE	REMARKS
1	St. John's	-	9 a.m.	Via Tomlinson's to Potters and all estates en route.
	Parham	11 a.m.	1 p.m.	Same route on return.
	St. John's			
2	St. John's			Via Cassada Garden to St. Marks, on to Parham.
	Parham			Same route on return.
	St. John's			

ROUTE	STATION	ARRIVE	LEAVE	REMARKS
3	St.Stevens Parham St.Stevens	do.	do.	Calling at all places en route. Same on return and to Seatons.
4	Freetown Parham Freetown	do.	do.	Delivering at all places en route. Same route on return.
5	St.John's St.James St.John's	do.	do.	Via Friars Hill or Marble Hill to St. James, delivering at all places. Same route on return.
6	St.John's Bolans St.John's	do.	do.	Via Union to all places en route. Same route on return.
7	Old Road Bolans	do.	do.	Delivering to all places en route.
8	St.John's All Saints St.John's	do.	do.	Via Golden Grove to St. Lukes, through Body Ponds and Swetes to All Saints. Same route on return. Delivering to all places en route.
9	St.John's All Saints St.John's	do.	do.	Delivering to all places en route.
10	The Grange All Saints The Grange	do.	do.	Delivering at all places and on to Sea View Village. Same route on return.
11	English Harbour All Saints English Harbour			Delivering to all places en route.

and in addition to the foregoing deliveries, there will be daily deliveries in the city at 12.00 noon, and at 4.00 p.m.

4. All inland letters and newspapers must be prepaid in stamps at the following rates, namely:

For every letter not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce 1d.

And an additional rate of 1d. for every $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce over and above the weight of $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce.

Newspapers, each $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

5. Letters boxes or pillars may, by arrangement with the Postmaster at St. John's, be established on any road near to an estate, or residence through which the letter carrier passes. All printed matter or parcels for every two ounces, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. No packages received over two pounds weight.

6. All letters, newspapers, or parcels, etc., must be prepaid by stamps, and should any letter be dropped into the letter box unstamped it will be delivered only on payment of double rates.

7. Letters, papers, or parcels addressed to persons living on the line of road or within one-quarter mile thereof are to be delivered, and letters duly stamped will be received and delivered by the postman at intermediate stations or residences.

8. Official correspondence from public officers must be superscribed "O.H.M.S.," and bear the signature of the officer on the envelope or wrapper.

9. Stamps may be purchased daily at the Post Office, St. John's, or at any of the Inland Post Offices between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m.

10. Letters or parcels containing money other than coin will be forwarded at the risk of the sender.

11. Letters or parcels containing coin, jewellery, precious things, perishable articles, matches, gunpowder, or articles liable to injury in transit will be refused. Letters and papers for transmission abroad beyond the limits of the Presidency will be received at any Police Station, provided they are duly stamped according to the rate fixed by the Postal Convention, a table of which rates will be found at the General Post Office and Inland Post Offices. Parcels and registered letters can only be received at the General Post Office, St. John's.

Passed in Executive Council this 28th (Jay of September, 1886.

R. B. RODEN, *Acting Clerk, Executive Council.*

There are some minor, but I think interesting, comments that I will bring up here. The first is the fact that each postman was required to begin his morning run from St. John's or from one of the inland offices precisely at 9.00 a.m., spend two hours - apparently sorting mail - at the intermediate office, and then return to his starting point, arriving there at 3.00 p.m. This 9 to 3 o'clock schedule was inflexible, to be adhered to no matter how long or troublesome was the distance to be covered. And the requirement per Rule 7, specifying a postman to walk or pedal his bicycle to residences as far as a quarter-mile from the road, could make these routes even more tortuous.

Parham and All Saints seem to have been, per the route schedule, the centres of the greatest noontime activity. In each case carriers from three other post offices congregated to pick up and deliver mail. However, the schedule shows that same-day delivery between some offices would be impossible. For example, a letter posted in Old Road and addressed to The Grange (known today as Newfield) would have to spend the night in St. John's. A letter from The Grange to Freetown would leave The Grange at 9.00 a.m., go to All Saints, then to St. John's, then to Parham, and from there to Freetown. (The Grange and Freetown are approximately only a mile and a half apart!)

Considering the geography of the island, however, and the limited amount of funds available for operating the Inland Post, the Rule 3 schedule was probably the most efficient one that could be devised.

A literal interpretation of Rule 11 limits the offices in Antigua (besides St. John's) where letters could be mailed to points outside the island to just four: Parham, Bolans, The Grange, and English Harbour. Apparently a villager living near the Old Road post office, for example, couldn't mail a postcard to his sister in Montserrat unless he took it to the office at, say, Bolans.

LEEWARD ISLANDS POST OFFICE RULES 1900

(Approved by George Melville, Acting Governor)

1. The Post Offices of the respective Presidencies of the Leeward Islands shall be open between the hours of 8.00 in the morning and 4.00 in the afternoon of every day, Sundays and public holidays excepted.
2. On the day previous to the closing of the mails for England, the Post Offices in St. Kitts and Nevis shall be kept open up to 6.00 in the afternoon.
3. The hours for closing the mails for the Royal Mail Steamers in the several Presidencies of the Colony shall be fixed by the Postmaster of the Presidency, subject to the approval of the Governor or Administrator.

4. Should a public holiday fall on the day of the closing of the mails for England, the Post Offices shall be open to the public from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. The Postmaster and Clerks shall attend at the Post Office from 4.00 p.m. for the purpose of closing and despatching the mails, and should the mails from England be received on a public holiday, the Post Offices shall be open to the public from 8.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m., and during such time as may be necessary for the sorting and general delivery of the mails.

5. Should the English mail be received at any Post Office in the respective Presidencies prior to the hour of 9.00 in the evening, there shall be a general delivery of the mails the same night up to 11.00 p.m.

6. The late fees to be charged on letters, etc., shall be 2d. on each letter or postcard and 1d. on each paper or package.

7. Government despatches or other documents are to be received and delivered irrespective of the foregoing rules.

8. Mails other than those received by the Royal Mail Steamers are to be delivered during the usual office hours as laid down in Rule 1, but mails from the United States of America received up to 5.00 p.m. shall be sorted into the private letter boxes the same afternoon - and mails for steamers other than the Royal Mail are to be made up at such times as the Postmaster may direct after communication with the Agent of such steamer.

9. The Postmaster must submit a list of the Money Orders drawn on the United Kingdom, accompanied by a certificate from the Treasurer, to the Colonial Secretary or Administrator of the respective Presidencies who shall, on being satisfied of its correctness, transmit the same to the Comptroller of the Money Order Office, London, and by the same mail by which the list is transmitted remit to the Crown Agents the amount of such list, with instructions that such sum shall be paid to the Postmaster General.

10. Whenever the Postmaster has any reason to suspect that any article liable to customs duty is contained in any letter or package arriving by post, he shall detain the same and inform the addressee of such detention and the Treasurer or any officer of the Customs Department shall require the owner or claimant of such letter or package to open the same in his presence, and should it contain any article liable to duty it shall be detained until the duty thereon is fully paid and satisfied.

11. All parcels arriving by parcel post will be delivered from the Treasury on payment of the customs duty thereon.

12. Postage stamps can be purchased at the several Post Offices in the Colony during the usual hours of business - from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., and at the Post Offices in St. Kitts and Nevis to 6.00 p.m. on the day before the closing of the English mail.

13. Prepaid orders received from Stamp Dealers for postage stamps, etc., are to be promptly dealt with by the Postmaster and the stamps, etc., required are to be forwarded by the first steamer after the receipt of the order.

14. The monthly account of the Imperial Post Offices is to be prepared and transmitted to London by the first mail in each month, together with the necessary vouchers.

15. Rules passed in Executive Council on the 28th day of September, 1886, are hereby rescinded.

Passed by Executive Council of the Leeward Islands the 29th day of August, 1900.
G. O. NUGENT, *Acting Clerk.*

These regulations bring some questions to my mind. The biggest of them is why they were announced as superseding the 1886 regulations, since in reality the two sets of rules are not on the same level of importance, and are really not even of the same subject. There is nothing, in my opinion, in the Antigua inland rules of sufficient magnitude to be superseded by a Colony encompassing set of regulations such as that of 1900. The possibility therefore exists that the 1900 document was not knocking out the Antigua regulations at all, but rather some other announcement (perhaps an earlier set of Leeward Islands Post Office Rules?) also dated 28 September 1886. Who knows of any such other document?

Regarding Rule 6, I have never seen an actual "Late fee" strike. In BCPJ W/N 6, Stan Durmin has described the mark as being in all lower case letters (except for the L) and having an overall length of 2 1/2mm. Does any reader have information as to the earliest usage of this handstamp?

Thirdly, it is quite beyond my understanding why these regulations (in Rule 2) would require the Post Offices in St. Kitts and Nevis (I assume the document refers only to the GPO's at Basseterre and Charlestown) to remain open until 6 p.m. on the day prior to the closing of the English mail. Every other office in the Colony was required to close at 4. Perhaps one of our St. Kitts specialists would be kind enough to enlighten me about this, and if so, I would be highly grateful.

My final comment here regards Rule 13, requiring strict and rapid compliance in filling orders for stamps from dealers. These words may have been included in the regulations as a result of a Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, published almost two decades earlier in the *Gazette* of 21 September 1882:

Colonial Secretary's Office
20th September, 1882

The Governor directs the publication of the following Circular Despatch from the Secretary of State.

CIRCULAR

Downing Street
31st July, 1882

My attention has been called to various questions connected with the sale of Postage Stamps by Colonial Postmasters to persons who collect and deal in Postage Stamps as curiosities.

In case of an application from such persons for Postage Stamps in current use, accompanied by a remittance in full, it is the duty of a Postmaster to comply with it, if he is able to do so, as with any other application for Stamps on the part of the Public.

Before new Postage Stamps are issued to the public, care should, of course, be taken that the existing stock should be used up, whether in the hands of the local Postmasters or in store at Headquarters.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,
Your most obedient Humble Servant,
KIMBERLY.

The Officer Administering the Government of the Leeward Islands.

Note that Mr. Kimberly referred to postage stamps as "curiosities." I wonder if he similarly considered the collectors and students of these "curiosities" as curiosities also!
George Bowman

(to be continued)



Fig 1



Fig 2

With reference to the items by Mr. Thompson and Mr. Toeg in the June and September 1972 Bulletins concerning the "Official Paid" Antigua c.d.s. It appears to me that both these refer to hand stamps on the envelopes rather than cancelling the stamps, if any. I have a copy of S.G.41a, 1d Leeward Islands stamp with clear portions of this cancellation dated 7-4-11 (fig. 1). It will be noted that my example has a star at the top.

The question must now be asked - Why was an official letter stamped with an adhesive?

I can advance a little information regarding a possible solution as I have a registered cover from St. Vincent, sent by the Colonial Postmaster whose initials and rubber stamp are in the bottom left hand corner. The cover is franked with a 5c stamp, S.G.168 and cancelled by the Kingston C.D.S. dated 24-3-1953 which is two days before the issue date as given by Gibbons. There is also an "Official Paid" hand stamp (fig. 2) with no date which just ties the registration etiquette.

I conclude that in this case, the 5c stamp paid the registration fee and the "Official Paid" hand stamp covered the normal postage rate. And so it is possible that the Antigua "Official Paid" hand stamp may have been used in somewhat similar circumstances!

William ff. D Hall

BARBADOS

St LAWRENCE SUB POST OFFICE

In 1938 The Barbados Colonial Post Master, Mr. G. F. Sharp, recommended that a new building should be erected to house the St Lawrence Post Office. The building was, however, not completed and opened until 29 August 1955. With the enormous increase in letters and parcels in the St Lawrence area it has become necessary to build yet another new building. This new building is due to be opened as the Worthing Post Office in July 1973, thus replacing the existing St Lawrence Post Office.

The St Lawrence Post Office has perhaps the most interesting history of all outlying Barbados Post Offices; it is one of frequent moves.

Initially all sub post offices were in the house of the Post Master, indeed it was his responsibility to provide the accommodation, and the St Lawrence Post Office originally opened at 'Mayville,' with Mrs. Lee Sargent as the Post Mistress. She only held the appointment for six days when she resigned; history does not relate why. Miss E. M. Phillips followed and the PO moved to 'Cosyville,' the Stream. Miss Phillips however moved her house to the corner of St Lawrence Gap in 1934 and so the PO followed her. She resigned in 1935 and Mr. George C. Ward took over and became the first and, to this date only Post Master, the PO moving the few yards to his shop, Ward's Pharmacy. Mr. Ward resigned in February 1937 and Mrs. Laurel Proverbs took over, only to resign in January 1939. Mrs. Rutter became the next Post Mistress, resigning in April 1943. Mrs. Marjorie Blackman was then appointed until her transfer in June 1946. In June 1946 Mrs. E. Davis took over and to this day she is still Post Mistress, surely a Barbados record for any such appointment? Prior to the move in 1955 the last residence in which the PO was housed was at the corner of 'Valmal' Gap, the Stream.

The precise date for the closing of the old and opening of the new Post Office has not yet been decided.

Stephen Cave

BRITISH HONDURAS

PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION OF VILLAGE POSTMARKS

A number of members have pointed out in different issues of the Bulletin the difficulty of assembling a representative collection of village postmarks in this territory, or even of identifying the strikes which one comes across. Whilst the various offices have been comprehensively listed, as they currently are, in Bulletin 69, and as they had been known at any time to exist, in Bulletin 32, the task of setting out opening or closing dates has not been tackled within our Circle (or, if tackled, has not been published) and there is no classification of postmarks by reference to types or particular instruments.

May I suggest that we have a rather fruitful field for exploration here, and that some attempt be made over the next few issues to build up from the information collectively available to us a fuller picture of the numerous postal markings, and the periods at which they can be met.

To start the ball rolling I am appending a list and classification of sorts, but must first point out its shortcomings. It makes no pretence to be comprehensive, even in respect of the easy-to-get villages, such as Cayo or Punta Gorda, being compiled largely from my own miscellany together with a few items seen in other collections. No attempt is made to include or classify the many different types of Belize markings; and the dates which are given will be found to be readily capable, in most instances, of being extended in both directions. For this reason only years have been mentioned, even where the full date is readily available.

A further important qualification is that the general types are capable of considerable sub-division or sub-classification. A village name is included whenever it is possible to identify that name, notwithstanding that the strike is incomplete. Usually - because the date stamps are large - if a village name can be read, the other side of the strike is missing, because the stamp itself is too small: and if one can read B.H. or British Honduras or as the case may be, the village name is lost. As often as not one sees a clear central impression of the three-line date, and none of the outside lettering can be deciphered. In addition, the marks are struck in pinks, blues, reds, purples and violets, apparently almost indiscriminately, and are thus much more difficult to read. In a number of cases (Riversdale is one that comes to mind) the village name is not placed centrally around the 'north' point of the circle, but is placed wholly eccentrically to one side or the other.

Measurements in all cases are approximate. No serious attempt has been made to carry the story beyond the 1930s, except in the case of the double oval types. I have, so far, found only one such strike on a George V stamp, and that is unfortunately impossible to identify at present

Type 1	Double Ring 26/17mm.			
	Punta Gorda	1901	1905	
	Stann Creek	1899	1903	
Type 2	Single Ring – 20mm. (as Bahamas Type 2)			
	All Pines	1901	1915	
	Caye Caulker	1924	1927	black, carmine
	Corozal	1903	1910	
	Monkey River	1901	1919	
	Orange Walk	1904	1908	
	San Estevan	1912	1928	
	Wellsport	c.1910		
Type 3	Single Ring 25mm. Code letter (Usually E)			
	Benque Viejo	1909	1920	
	Cousejo	c.1910		code letter C
	Corosal	1910	1920	
	New River Service	1909		in lower half of circle
	Orange Walk	1909	1921	
	Punta Gorda	1904	1915	
	Stann Creek	1913	1924	
	The Cayo	c.1904	1921	
Type 4	Large Double Ring 32/24mm			
	Banana Bank	c.1910		pink
	Commerce Bight	1912		purple
	Double Head Cabbage	c.1935		violet
	Duck Run	c.1930		violet
	Guinea Grass	1912		magenta
	Mullins River	1912		violet
	P.A.A. Office Belize	c.1905	c.1935	black, carmine
	Radio Station Belize	c.1940		violet
	Riversdale	1918	1919	blue, violet (small letters)
	Stann Creek Railway	1916		deep purple

Two types of Mullins River apparently exist, one with very small lettering.

- Type 5 Large Single Ring 32mm.
 Gales Point 1929 1935 violet
 Guinea Grass 1929 violet
 San Pedro c.1923 black
- Type 6 Single ring 25mm. with asterisk (later without asterisk)
 Cayo 1921 1937 no asterisk
 Corozal 1927
 Monkey River 1926 1933 no asterisk
 Orange Walk 1926 1934 no asterisk
- Type 7 Single ring 25mm. time as well as date
 Airport (Belize B.H.) 1935
 (later Punta Gorda and Stann Creek)
- Type 8 Double ring 26/16mm. time as well as date. Bars before and after village name.
 Punta Gorda 1927
 Stann Creek (often in violet in mid-1930s)
 Double Oval (Rubber Stamps). Outer oval 38mm. wide, Inner 25mm.
 All Pines Louisville
 Barranco Maskall (black)
 Benque Viejo Monkey River
 Bomba Mullins River
 Boom Placencia
 Burrell Boom Pomona
 Caye Caulker Roaring Creek
 Double Head Cabbage Rockstone Pond
 Gales Point Sarreneja
 Gracie Rock Stann Creek Valley
 Guinea Grass
 All are struck in violet, except Maskall
 All are mid-1940s to early 1950s
- Type 10 Large Double Oval (double outer frame line). Outer oval 51mm. wide, inner 38mm.
 Hopkins S.C. dates as Type 9
 Sittec River

Currently, many villages use a double ring 26/15mm. canceller, showing date and time. I have not recorded the range, but have examples from Baking Pot, Corozal Town, Caledonia, San Ignacio, San Pedro, Seine Bight, Sittee.

A mail bag seal (27mm.) is known as a cancellation for Guinea Grass, struck in violet in 1952.

Simon Goldblatt

Congratulations are offered to the following members who gained awards at the 1973 Stampex:-

B.C.P.S.G. Award: H. F. Deakin.

Silver Gilt: H. F. Deakin, B. E. Johnson, C. Hardeman Smith (with felicitations), J. D. Todd.

Silver: Miss B. J. Collinson.

Bronze Silver: B. B. Benwell, B. E. Johnson, M. Sheppard

Bronze: D. G. J. Charlesworth. S. J. Day.

Diploma: W. P. Sam.

DOMINICA



Referring to the item in the September 1972 Bulletin by Dr. R. C. Coleman on the Telegraph Cancellation, I recently came across a somewhat similar cancellation on the ½d Crown CA adhesive of 1886. The mark, which is a single ring, is about 32mm in diameter. The figure or letter in the centre is a little bit incomplete and blurred, but may be a "Z" or an inverted "2."

Possibly Dr. Coleman can offer a solution as I have no knowledge of fiscal marks or use of the ½d value for such a purpose.

William ff. D. Hall

GRENADA

St. George's issues 1894 to 1907 (Charlton Types 18 and 19)

The presence and absence of the Index letter "C"

Many vague remarks have been made about the above, such as "sometimes missing" and "sometimes on side" but quite often patterns can be traced. I have done a study on the 76 copies in my possession. I enclose copy of the results with these comments:

(1) **Type 18.** These show a definite result as underlined in the list. All copies have "C" upright from date of issue to and including AU 19 1902. Then the index letter disappears NO 19 1932 and is always absent to my last copy AU4 1903.

(2) **Type 19.** Shows a similar disappearing date. AU 19 1902. It is there and on SP 10 1902 it is gone.

Therefore between these dates the "C" was removed from both cancellers!

So, I ask members to look for copies during these 22 days to narrow the field even further. Unless someone has a record of the actual day. Other less important results from the lists divide Type 19 into the following periods:

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-------|-----------------|
| (1) | AP 16 1894 to SP 6 1895 | | “C” |
| (2) | FE 6 1896 to ?27 1900 | | “C” |
| (3) | AP 29 1901 to JU 5 1901 | | “C” |
| (4) | AU 6 1901 to NO 7 1901 | | “C” |
| (5) | JY 17 1902 to AU 19 1902 | | “C” |
| (6) | SP 10 1902 to AP 22 1907 | | No Index letter |

Possibly the difficulties in 1901/2 made it necessary to omit "C."

MILK SURCHARGE VARIETY



In Bulletin No. 66 of September 1970, Members were asked for any information they may have about the Grenada Milk Overprint Stamp (2 cts and 3 cts on \$2. S.G.299) with the "t" of the 2 cts. missing, as illustrated. Nothing seems to be known.

In the meantime, I have made further enquiries. Although the stamp was overprinted locally as recently as August 1968, the Grenada Post-Master General states that no records are available. The theory has been advanced that the surcharge must have been set up by hand from loose type, and that in this particular position the "t" either was not set at all or possibly fell out.

Another possibility is that the letter "t" was set in the wrong type, perhaps too small and failed to print because the type had a surface below that of the rest of the surcharge.

It is strange that no further copies of the error have been reported, unless the mistake was immediately discovered, in which case it should not have been issued. Alternatively, as only 33 sheets were reported to have been overprinted, could this error have occurred only on the last sheet?

I would appreciate comments or theories from other members.

B. E. Thompson

JAMAICA

In Bulletin No. 64 Mr. R. G. Can- makes some interesting comments on Jamaica War Stamps. He also refers to Chapter XIII written by H. Cooke in the handbook "Jamaica - Its Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks" published in 1928.

Writing about the Second Overprint, Mr. Cooke states that the setting throughout all printings between the sixth to tenth rows was 19mm and is uniform on all panes. This statement does not appear to be correct.

I have one block of six of the ½d value (S.G.70) fourth pane Nos. 52, 53, 54, 58, 59 and 60 and another block of four also from the fourth pane, Nos. 49, 50, 55 and 56, plus a block of four from the second pane Nos. 49, 50, 55 and 56 where the setting between the overprints is definitely 17mm. Similarly I have a corner block of the 1½d value (S.G.71) fourth pane Nos. 53, 54, 59 and 60 where the setting between overprints is also 17mm.

It would be interesting to know whether other Members have found that the setting of the Second Overprint was 17mm between the ninth and tenth rows.

B. E. Thompson

As one of the 'new boys' of the Study Circle I have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of each bulletin to read the articles on Jamaica, but alas the four since I joined have not had even a line between them! Perhaps this short article will generate some further interest in Jamaica, and in particular in the station handstamps. Unfortunately all the articles I have seen, from T. W. Frost's in the Jamaica Philatelist of 1946 to J. Watson's more recently in the May 1971 edition of Stamp Monthly, have been largely a rewrite of previous material, nearly all in turn traceable back to Nicholson's standard work published in 1928.

In Bulletin No. 20 of the BWSC, W. Watson stated "Our President" (then G. W. Collett) "informs me that when the handbook was compiled not enough was known regarding these postmarks and . . . the list of station names recorded contains four names, Bernard Lodge, Inverness, New Works and Windsor Castle Siding - which should be deleted." This article brought a reply from Dr. R. Blackburn who stated "although our President has informed Mr. Watson that Inverness should be deleted from the list of station names I must mention that I have a very good specimen on piece." My aim is to state what I think is the likelihood of any of the other three existing, hoping to be contradicted if firm evidence to the contrary is available!

What of the three others? I have a copy of a 1888 map of the Island, revised in 1905 and 1926 with a further revision, of roads only, in 1941. The 1926 date is of course the key one as the map shows all stations, post offices and railway telegraph offices on the island at that time. Apart from the extension of the line from Chapelton to Frankfield in 1925 the map virtually shows the railway and postal situation as it was on 31st December 1924, when the use of station handstamps officially terminated.

New Works is shown as having a station only; it was situated on a very small branch line, about three miles long, on which it was the only station and terminus. It joined the Linstead to Ewarton branch line just North of Linstead. On the evidence of the map alone it seems most unlikely that postal facilities were ever introduced at New Works.

At Windsor Castle, however, there is a symbol for a post office, but nothing denoting either a station or railway telegraph office. This place is often referred to as Windsor Castle Siding and the map supports the argument that there was no station as such there.

This leaves the third of the disputed stations, Bernard Lodge. The Lodge itself is three miles South East of Spanish Town and about a mile from the railway at its nearest point. This point coincides the location of a station, with post office and telegraph facilities, but it is Grange Lane. No other station or halt exists although I understand there was once a small halt for estate workers called Bernard Lodge.

So the evidence on all three stations points, fairly conclusively, to their never having had station handstamps. If no comment is forthcoming I propose to remove three of the four blank pages from my Railway Collection!

I. W. Jefferson

PORT ROYAL POST OFFICE 1883

For the past two or three years I have been collecting travel books on the West Indies, and in particular about Jamaica. Items of philatelic interest are few and far between

and are seldom as detailed as the gem that appears below. This little episode was recalled by one Lady Brassey in the diary of her travels around the West Indies in 1883. She is writing about the ship's doctor's visit to Port Royal Post Office.

"The Post Office is a most primitive edifice, the (negro) postmistress being even more primitive than the establishment over which she presided. The doctor spent more than two and a half hours at the office yesterday, in the apparently hopeless task of registering some letters. The postmistress did not know the rate of postage to charge, how to weigh the letters or what the total postage amounted to; the necessary calculations and operations having finally to be completed by the doctor himself. All she could do was to produce some penny stamps, done up in sundry little screws of dirty newspaper, from various equally dirty drawers."

No wonder good used copies of some of the earlier stamps are difficult to find!

I. W. Jefferson

ST. VINCENT

From time to time one comes across a De La Rue stamp printed from the original Perkins, Bacon plates, which shows distinct indications of a double impression: the colour appears unusually rich, and an echo or shadow may be seen in the name and value panels and the corner emblems. I have noted the variety chiefly on the 1d red (S.G.48b) but also have an example on a fiscal stamp, one of the 1d carmine surcharges on lilac. Mr. Messenger tells me he has a number of these curiosities, one of them a 6d purple.

Whenever I have put two of these stamps side by side, they appear identical with one another, so far as I can judge. I have seen an unused pair, so that when it happens the printing irregularity affects more than one stamp, and quite likely a whole sheet, at any time. The variety appears amongst normally issued stamps, and used copies can be found.

Is this a shift, as Mr. Messenger is inclined to believe? Is it a true double impression? Or how does it arise? I shall be most interested to hear from any member who knows the answer.

Simon Goldblatt

VIRGIN ISLANDS

VIRGIN ISLANDS A91 "KILLER"

Referring to the correspondence between Mr. E. V. Toeg and Mr. L. R. Coasby reported in Bulletin No. 60, I have recently acquired a cover bearing GB 1d Lilac of 1881 cancelled with A91 as a vertical oval 26mm high x 18mm wide, three broad bars top and bottom and two curved lines each side of A91. To the left and just touching (i.e. not a duplex) is a cds 23mm diam. single circle inscribed around the top "SOUTHSEA . BO," then in three horizontal lines "10PM," "SP4," "98" and finally around the bottom "PORTSMOUTH"

The cover was addressed to a lady in Winchfield, Hants, and is backstamped "WINCHFIELD 5AM SP5 98" - not bad going!

This cover was part of a small bundle of covers which also contained three others addressed to the same lady, one in 97 and two in 98, all from London, and one to her father in 96 also from London. There does not seem any reason to suppose the A91 Southsea cover to be a forgery. It is however 5 years later than the latest mentioned by Mr. Coasby and the "Killer" is a vertical oval whereas all my A91s on QV Leewards are horizontal ovals - the shape of the killer was not mentioned in Bulletin No. 60. I would be interested in any comments members may have.

Arthur Peart

BULLETINS

Copies of a few early back issues and consecutively from No. 53 (June 1967) are obtainable from the Hon. Librarian as follows:

Nos. 1-7 (Reprint in one cover) £1 (\$2.50)

All others 30p (80c) each

'CORDEX' Instantaneous Self-binders each

holding 20 issues 90p (\$2.50) each

NOTE: Prices include postage, packing and V.A.T. where applicable. Issues containing notes on specific colonies gladly supplied where available.

OPINIONS SERVICE (Home members only)

Facilities are available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. Group for which a fee of 50p 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 it is necessary to consult more than one specialist additional postage will be charged to the sender.

HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Member,

As you read through this Bulletin you will notice the resume of the Anniversary Meeting. I would like to draw your attention in particular to the matter concerning the publishing of names, addresses and interests. You will observe that the list will be prepared as a separate insert: this will preclude copies of the Bulletin being sold outside the Circle with the list of members and their addresses. Although the Committee of the Circle had previously decided to have the list of members published with addresses

included, subject of course to a member having the right to have his address withheld or a 'care of' address given, it was decided that the implications of such an action were of such a nature that the matter should be aired at the Anniversary Meeting. It will be some time before the list can be prepared, and, therefore, there is still plenty of time for members who do not wish for their addresses to be published to write to me and advise me accordingly.

It is with regret that I have to advise members that Mr. H. E. BOX of Trinidad and Mr. A. E. BURDETT of Bucks, have died.

Members may wish to know that a Philatelic Convention covering the West Indies group of Islands is being held on Saturday, 22nd September, 1973, at the Metropole Hotel, Leeds. Members who wish to attend or offer material for competition on their own account should contact Mr. Malcolm WATTS, of 'Good Intent', 18 Linden Way, Wetherby, Yorkshire, for details.

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members: Mr. Clive MADEIROS of Uttoxeter, Staffs., who specialises in Bermuda, Mr. Anthony REESBY of Rugby, Warks., who specialises in Jamaica and Mr. David MUSHLIN of London whose interests range over the entire group of Islands, including their history, up to 1900.

Ian Chard.

HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

HAROLD E. BOX, F.R.G.S.

It is with sincere regret that we record the death of Mr. Harold Edmund Box who died in Trinidad on February 4th, 1973. He was an early member of the British West Indies Study Circle and was a frequent and friendly correspondent over many years with our Founder and myself.

Mr. Box joined the Trinidad Philatelic Society twenty years ago and from 1960 until his death edited that Society's Bi-Monthly Bulletin. This will be a memorial to him and of his very great interest in the Trinidad Philatelic Society and in B.W.I. philately generally.

Philip and I were particularly saddened to receive his last letter to us dated June 10th, 1972, when Mr. Box, then 74, referred to the stresses and strains he felt from the severe stroke he suffered in April of that year which had adversely affected his sight. We had known that he had been physically handicapped for many years with arthritis, and from all his letters there was no doubt that the Trinidad Philatelic Society formed a great part of his life. To quote just one sentence from his last letter to us when we wrote "I will do my best to keep the T.P.S. flag flying" sums up his indomitable spirit.

In his professional life as an entomologist of distinction Mr. Box had visited and resided in many parts of the world, and in England which was his country of birth.

The Circle's sincere sympathies are extended to his wife and daughters.

R. S.

Being a short introduction to my "Gibbons Gallery Display".

"ASPECTS OF BARBADOS PHILATELY"

Stamps of the B.W.I. group have always been my special interest in philately and when I came to choose a specialist country some 25 years ago I found that my strongest suit was Barbados: I loved the Britannia design and the amazing colours of these early stamps which first appeared over 120 years ago in 1852.

Among these sheets are examples of a truly wonderful stamp, the large 5/- of 1873, and to obtain it well centred either mint or used and with a good full colour is really something of an achievement. The 1d provisionals of 1878, made by "doctoring" these beautiful stamps, are also represented, including the very rare unsevered pair in mini condition.

The sheet of rough perfs, numbering 63 stamps, of the 1861-70 issue is of particular interest to a specialist, as it was printed on paper made at Rush Mills, Northampton, which has the paper maker's name "Morbey & Saunders 1840" in double lined letters. This was due either to an error on the part of Perkins Bacon or to a shortage of their usual paper.

Three Postal History items displayed are certainly worth noting; the first of these is a complete "Mercantile Intelligencer" of 1858, published and printed at Bridgetown, sent to Turks Islands and bearing the 1d printed circular rate: it gives a very full account of commerce with comparative tables of Imports and Exports and market trends for a number of commodities from Ale to Wood, plus a very detailed list of shipping arrivals and departures. The second cover is an 1869 Officer's Letter from the West Indian Regiment in Barbados to St. Helena. This was sent (at the 1/11d rate - 12 stamps) via Plymouth (London Paid) and the Cape Packet which called in at the island en route for South Africa. And thirdly I would draw attention to a lovely 1876 11d Registered envelope to Prince Edward Island, showing the island T.P.O. on the reverse.

Several rarities are included, among which feature the 1/- of 1861-70 Imperf. Between Pair, a copy of the scarce 4d perf. 14 by 12½ of 1875-78, a mint copy of the 1892 Surcharge Double Black and Red and a fine used specimen of the same surcharge with the hyphen omitted. The Nelson Centenary 2½d appears in the black and indigo shade in block of 4 and on the same page is a used copy of the ¼d stamp showing the major re-entry.

One can see the Mint Diamond Jubilee set on blue paper which demonstrates a really outstanding design, the 1912 high values in plate number blocks, the 3/- difficult shade in used block and the top values of the 1920 Victories in blocks. There is also a Die Proof of the Jubilee design.

Various Die and Plate Proofs and a range of 1892 Colour Trials are represented. A Composite Artist's Proof of the 1912 3/- value and a Handpainted Artist's Essay of the 1921 2d value on a sunk card are also shown.

Finally there are three pages of Postage Dues: 1934-35 ½d and 1d and beneath them the Imperf. Imprimaturs of the same stamps. I follow this with the 1950-53 issue, blocks of six of the 1c and 6c, showing the St. Edward Crown and then on the last page a block of six of the 6c, showing the Missing Crown.

H. F. Deakin

The Gibbons Gallery, where Mr. H. F. Deakin's display may be seen during the month of July, is situated in Stanley Gibbons Rare Stamp Department on the first floor of Romano House, 399 Strand, London, W.C.2. Viewing hours: Monday-Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Saturday 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

THE EDITOR

Having come nearly to the end of this my first Bulletin as editor, I found that there was a blank space - an anathema to any editor! May I take this opportunity to ask members for contributions, however small, to future editions of the Bulletin. Your comments and views will be of interest to many of our readers. This may then mean that in future there would be no blank spaces!

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