



## **STUDY CIRCLE**

FOUNDED  
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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**BULLETIN No. 79      DECEMBER 1973**

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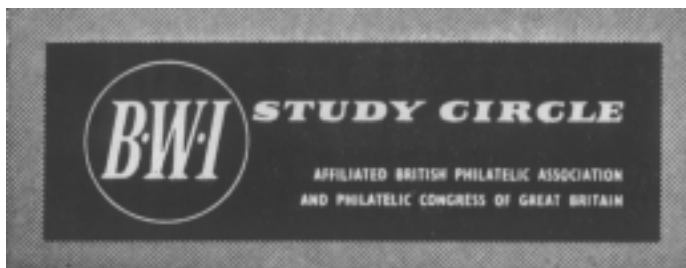
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<i>Hon. Auditor :</i>	<b>A. J. BRANSTON, F.R.P.S.L.</b>

## **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 1974

### 1974

Thursday, February 7th, 6 p.m.      British Honduras, Grenada, Montserrat  
Saturday, April 20th, 3 p.m.      Annual General Meeting and Auction  
Sale

Members are requested to bring up to 9 pages for the meeting on February 7th. If members do not have items from these countries, please bring along sheets from other B.W.I. countries.

Will members please note the change of date for the A.G.M. and the addition of an Auction Sale to the programme.

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

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# SUBSCRIPTIONS (DUES)

These are payable on 1st January and full details appear under MEMBERSHIP at the foot of our 'shop window' page in every issue of the Bulletin. Will members who are accustomed to pay direct kindly note that reminder letters will no longer be sent out and in all instances where payment has not been received by mid-February the mailing of the March Bulletin will be delayed until a remittance comes to hand.

PHILIP T. SAUNDERS,  
Hon. Treasurer.

## CARIBBEAN CONVENTION

### Roses all the way

The Convention held at the Hotel Metropole, Leeds, on Saturday, 22nd September and organised by the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society was a great success and I am sure was enjoyed by all who attended.

I arrived about 9.15 p.m. Friday evening to find a hive of activity. I had time to meet briefly Bunny Collinson, David Wolfson and Frank Deakin before hurrying off to stay with friends.

Some forty-three entries were received for the competition and this presented the panel of judges, Messrs. Al Branston, Victor Toeg and Jim Whitfield with a formidable task. As a consequence of this, judging commenced straight away and was not adjourned until the small hours.

Arriving back at the hotel next morning to find small groups of collectors in session, I soon joined the Barbados contingent and was kept fully occupied until mid-day. At this time Dr. Geoffrey Ritchie, the Convention Chairman, officially opened the proceedings and then handed over to Al Branston, who with his fellow judges had just emerged after some five hours hard work, bowed but unbroken, to announce the competition results. Al Branston presented the British Caribbean Study Group awards and Victor Toeg the Roses awards which are as follows:

### Class A Pre-1920 General

	Entry	Award
1st - Graham Hoey	Bahamas 1d, Interinsular Postage	B.C.P.S.G. Pewter medal
2nd - Geoffrey Ritchie	First Type of St. Lucia	B.C.P.S.G. & Roses awards of merit
3rd - G.Saville Smith	Jamaica: 2½d on 4d red-brown & varieties. Study of \$ item	Roses award of merit
Tony Shepherd	Barbados 1852-1871	" " " "
Miss Bunny Collinson	Barbados Britannias	" " " "
Fred Walsh	Jamaica War Tax	" " " "

### Class B Post-1920 General

1st - Geoffrey Ritchie	St. Lucia: Postage Dues	B.C.P.S.G. Pewter medal
2nd - Mick Steward	Leeward Is. King George VI Key & Duty Plate Flaws	B.C.P.S.G. & Roses awards of merit
3rd - Tom Foster	Jamaica: The Blue Mahoe	Roses award of merit

### Class C Postal History

1st - Tony Shepherd	Inland Post of Grenada 1884 to 1910	B.C.P.S.G. Bronze medal (Best in show award)
2nd - Ken Watson	Jamaica Slogan Cancellations	B.C.P.S.G. Pewter medal
3rd - Mike Sheppard	Barbados Rates & Handstamps	B.C.P.S.G. & Roses awards of merit
Rev. Trevor Bates	Belize Government Department TRDs	Roses award of merit
Arthur Blackmun	Dominica	" " " "
Miss Bunny Collinson	Barbados Pre-1880	" " " "
Malcolm Watts	Jamaica Rates & Handstamps	" " " "
Derek Sutcliffe	Jamaica: Kingston markings	" " " "
Richard Heap	Bermuda Censor Markings & Labels	" " " "

### Class D Postal Stationery

1st - Graham Hoey	Proofs and Specimens of Bahamas Postal Stationery	B.C.P.S.G. Pewter medal
2nd - Ken Watson	Jamaica Provisional Post Cards	B.C.P.S.G. & Roses awards of merit
3rd - Geoffrey Ritchie	Georgian envelopes of St. Lucia	Roses award of merit

The standard of entries was high and, as can be seen, the competition was keen.



Tony Shepherd ran out a worthy overall winner with Graham Hoey, Geoffrey Ritchey and Ken Watson close behind. I hope my list is correct. If not, let me know, and I will make amends in the next issue of the Bulletin.

We then moved downstairs for lunch, during the course of which Mr. Derek Sutcliffe, Chairman of the Roses, proposed a toast to the members of the B.C.P.S.G. and B.W.I.S.C. Our old friend, Mr. Bob Topaz from Massachusetts, U.S.A., replied on behalf of the B.C.P.S.G. and Mr. Victor Toeg for the B.W.I.S.C.

Next on the programme came viewing of the competition entries. There is not space here to give details of what was shown, but suffice to say it was a splendid display and members were clustered around the frames for a long time.

The main event of the afternoon session were papers and displays by Tom Foster and Ronald Ward. Tom Foster opened the main part of his display with a selection of art work, progressive material and proofs illustrating the development of the modern Jamaica postage stamp, namely:

1964 10th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

1967 Montreal World Fair

1965 Morant Bay Rebellion Centenary

1967 Constabulary Force

1967 Sangster Memorial

1970 National Heroes

1971 Tercentenary of the Post Office

1972 Definitive Issue

1968 M.C.C. Tour of the West Indies

There was so much here to interest all collectors that one can only give personal impressions. I was fascinated by the display of material for the 1971 Tercentenary of the Post Office issue, of which Tom was the originator. The design of each stamp was a story in itself. Of equal interest were the preliminary pencil sketches of cricketers in action by Victor Whitley used in producing his artwork for the 1968 M.C.C. Tour of the West Indies issue. There was much speculation amongst Roses cricketers in trying to recognise well known West Indian cricketing personalities.

Tom then gave a display of Jamaica Military Mail and modestly termed it a space filler. His selection covered the period from 1792 almost up to the present day and showed postal markings for all three Services, prisoner of war mail, censorship marks and Canadian, United States and Jamaican Army mail. In all, a fine representation of the Military in Jamaica.

Ronald Ward in his paper "How about Haiti?" made an earnest plea for this country and gave details of Haiti's connections with the British Post Office, the American Continent and other countries in the Caribbean,

Ronald's display of some fifty sheets gave a fine representation of early postal history of Haiti, showing postal markings and allied material, early issues of adhesive stamps, and finally, more modern material which included internal and overseas air mail. Having seen the display one may well say "How about Haiti?" and indeed why not!

Ronald Ward brought the afternoon session to a close with a display of "War Stamps of the West Indies in the 1914-18 Conflict," that dealt specifically with stamps issued to raise funds for the prosecution of the war.

Ronald says that it is still possible to form a good collection of War Stamps at a relatively low price, provided you bear in mind the fact that many varieties occur, resulting in only a few copies of some types, with the consequence that they are in the rarities class and command prices to match, when offered for sale. However, a word of warning! Forgeries, even of the cheaper type, are known, so beware!

I had to leave shortly afterwards and so missed the auction. Al Branston says that it "went like a bomb." Although some lots went for a song, others fetched high prices and the overall result was very good.

In conclusion, may I quote Al Branston once more. In his remarks before presenting the B.C.P.S.G. awards, Al said that this was the first convention of collectors of the Caribbean area to be held in this country. Knowing that a lot of hard work goes into making such gatherings a success, dare I hope that this was only a forerunner of future conventions. Thank you, Roses.

The following is a list of Study Circle members who attended:

Bailey, J. M.	Loach, J. C.	Toeg, E. V.
Bartlett, G. C.	Ritchie, G. G.	Topaz, R.
Branston, A. J.	Shepherd, A.	Walker, B.
Miss B. J. Collinson	Sheppard, M.	Ward, R.
Deakin, H. F.	Saville Smith, G.	Watson, W. K.
Heap, R.	Spencer, E.	Woolfson, D.
Hoey, S. G.		

*Michael Sheppard*

## **HONORARY TREASURER**

Dear Members,

Our Founder and Hon. Treasurer Philip T. Saunders has written to me recently to say that owing to his health and the passage of years he has decided, after giving the matter very serious consideration, to give up his duties as Hon. Treasurer and has, therefore, tendered his resignation to have effect from April, 1974.

I am sure that you will agree with me that Philip's resignation as Hon. Treasurer will be a sad loss to the Circle but he feels that he would like to relax a bit and be out of doors more than he has been able to do for years. After serving the Circle for over 20 years as Hon. Treasurer and almost that number of years as Hon. Secretary, I think you will agree with me that Philip has done a great deal for us and well deserves a rest now and I would like, therefore, to thank him on behalf of the members of the Study Circle for all the time and attention he has given to its affairs during a very long period.

Philip hopes that a very much younger man will take his place as Hon. Treasurer and I therefore am writing to you to enquire whether any member in the United Kingdom is prepared to become Hon. Treasurer. If anyone would like to become Hon. Treasurer would he or she please get in touch with me as soon as possible care of Messrs. J. Tickle & Co., Victoria House, Vernon Place, London, WC1B 4DP.

Yours sincerely,

E. VICTOR TOEG,  
President

## HONORARY ADVERTISING MANAGER

Dear Member,

The Study Circle has been looking for someone who will act as Hon. Advertising Manager in connection with the advertisements in the Bulletin but so far no one has been found who has the requisite time and attention to take on this office.

The Committee of the Study Circle have requested me to mention the matter to you in the Bulletin in the hope that someone who lives in the South East of England is prepared to come forward and take on this office. Experience in advertising is not essential but obviously would be of some help.

Being Hon. Advertising Manager will involve visiting dealers and auctioneers from time to time chiefly in the London area and keeping up the connection between the Study Circle and its existing advertisers; also assisting advertisers with their advertisements when requested and seeing that the advertisements reach the Editor of the Bulletin in time. Correspondence with dealers and auctioneers in other parts of the United Kingdom and overseas would be required with a view to obtaining new advertisers for the Bulletin.

I hope someone will offer his services to help the Study Circle in this respect as an Hon. Advertising Manager is needed without delay to relieve the Editor of the Bulletin of some of his burdens. If any member would like to apply please get in touch with me c/o Messrs. J. Tickle & Co., Victoria House, Vernon Place, London WC1B 4DP, telephone number 01-405 2391.

Yours sincerely,

E. VICTOR TOEG,  
President

## NOTES AND QUERIES

### AIR MAIL?

I refer to Mr. S. Goldblatt's query under the above heading on page 51 of Bulletin No. 78.

The typical cover mentioned was intended by the sender to go by Air Mail with Lindberg who would have flown it to Miami, Florida and thereafter it would have proceeded by surface mail across the Atlantic. Unfortunately the letter for some reason missed the plane and the postal authorities at St. John's Antigua had to despatch it by surface mail from the island and to indicate the change of method of travel the light blue air mail label would be obliterated by the postal authorities at St. John's with two parallel bars in violet. Yes, I think that the parallel bars indicate that the letter intended to be sent by air mail was to travel by sea.

*E. V. Toeg*

With reference to Mr. Goldblatt's query (page 51 of Bulletin No. 78) I have a cover postmarked in Trinidad 14th July 1931 and carrying stamps face value 2s. 2d. and an Air Mail label. The cover is addressed to Paris and a Paris postmark on the back is dated 29th July 1931.

Two parallel bars have been struck, apparently by a rubber handstamp, and measure 53.5mm. long x 3mm. wide. There is 3.5 to 4mm. between them. Their position on the cover suggests that they were intended to cancel the Air Mail label, possibly because the next surface mail would enable delivery of the letter to be made sooner than if it waited for the next air mail.

*J. Charles Loach*

## ANTIGUA

The paper on which the 1863-67 set was printed shows the small star watermark referred to by Mr. William G. Cornell on page 11 of Bulletin No. 76, March 1973.

I had seen at some time a detailed description of the watermarking of a complete sheet of the paper used for the 1863-67 set and have now located it and I quote the following extract from pages 44 and 45 of E. D. Bacon and F. H. Napier's book on The Stamps of Barbados which includes a history and description of the star watermarked papers of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. as follows:-

"In addition to Queensland, the "small star" paper was subsequently used for Natal and St. Lucia - colonies whose stamps and plates correspond in size with those of Queensland: and for Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent and Turks Islands, whose stamps were also of the same size, although the plates were smaller than those of Queensland. The following description of the watermarks applies equally to both the "large star" and the "small star" papers:

"Surrounding the sheet there is a border of five straight lines. The outer four of these lines are broken at the middle of the top and bottom borders, and also twice on each of the side borders, to allow for the insertion of the word "POSTAGE" in double-lined Roman capitals. The inscription reads upwards on the left side, downwards on the right, and is inverted at the bottom of the sheet. The letters of the word "POSTAGE" are from 6½ to 8mm. in height, and the word itself varies from 64 to 70m.m. in length.

"The stars are six-rayed, and each one has one point up, one down and two at each side. They are arranged in both papers in twenty rows of twelve, so as to correspond exactly with the 240 stamps of the respective plates: and when printed in register every star falls exactly on the centre of its own stamp. The difference between the two papers consists, first, in the size of the sheets, second, in the vertical spacing of the stars when measured from centre to centre, and third, in the size of the stars. The dimensions of the two sheets and watermarks are as follows:-

	<i>Large Star</i>	<i>Small Star</i>
Width of sheet	11 in.	10¾ ins.
Height of sheet	22¾ ins.	20¾ ins.
Width of inner frame of watermark	9 5/8 ins.	9 5/8 ins.
Height inner frame of watermark	21½ ins.	18 7/8 ins.
Lateral spacing of stars from centre to centre	20½ mm.	20½ mm.
Vertical spacing of stars from centre to centre	27 1/3 mm.	24 mm.

The distance from the top of one star to the bottom of the one next above it is about

12mm. in both papers, the difference in the vertical spacing being almost exactly counterbalanced by the difference in the size of the two stars.

"Both stars vary a little in size and shape; this is not to be wondered at seeing that there were two double moulds for each paper, making a total of 960 separate "bits" for each kind of paper, all these 'bits' having to be bent out of wire and fixed to the moulds by hand."

There is much else about the small star watermark in Bacon and Napier's book for those who wish to delve but I think the extract quoted above will fill the gaps left by my own description on page 62 of Bulletin No. 74, September 1972 and by Mr. Cornell's description in Bulletin No. 76. *E. V. Toeg*

### **"OFFICIAL PAID" ANTIGUA c.d.s.**

I refer to Mr. William ff. D. Hall's question "Why was an official letter stamped with an adhesive?"

It occurs to me that another question might equally be asked about the item referred to by Mr. Hall and it is "Why was an ordinary letter (not an official letter) cancelled with an official paid c.d.s.?" For what it is worth my opinion is that it is much more likely that the S.G.41a 1d. Leeward Islands stamp was on a normal letter and the wrong cancellor was applied.

I confirm that the "Official Paid" Antigua c.d.s. illustrated by me on page 62 of Bulletin No. 74 is a handstamp on a cover which had no adhesive stamps.

The rate on the St. Vincent cover described by Mr. Hall mystifies me but no doubt a member with knowledge of St. Vincent postal rates can give an explanation

*E. V. Toeg*

### **QUANTITIES OF ANTIGUA AND LEEWARD ISLANDS STAMPS**

I have been searching for data on quantities printed and/or supplied to the Colonies of Antigua and Leeward Islands stamps, including SPECIMEN stamps. In particular, no definitive data is at hand regarding the following De La Rue issues:

#### **ANTIGUA**

SG 31-54 First and second Arms issues and War Stamps

#### **LEEWARD ISLANDS**

SG 1-8	First QV Key Plate issue
SG 9-16	Sexagenary issue
SG 17-19	Provisional overprints of 1902
SG 20-28	KEVII First issue
SG 29-35	" Second issue
SG 36-45	" Third issue
SG 46-57	KGV First issue

Any data on quantities of the above issues will be very much appreciated.

*William G. Cornell*

### **BAHAMAS**

On looking through my 1974 copy of Gibbons' Part I it brought to mind that, after studying the auction catalogues for some time, I was of the opinion that the mint 1884-98 £1 Venetian red S.G.57 is a scarcer stamp than the much more expensive 1902 £1 S.G.68 mint.

A subsequent check of the relative figures confirms that this is only to be expected, as, according to the De La Rue records (which do not give figures later than 1900) only 4,920 stamps of the 1884-98 £1 value were supplied, whilst according to Gisburn, De La Rues supplied 9,240 of the 1902 £1 value, almost twice as many as of the earlier stamp.

In addition to this it has to be taken into consideration that there seems to be many more used copies of the S.G.57 available for sale than there are used copies of S.G.68. This makes it very difficult to understand the difference in price of the two mint stamps.

Perhaps I should make it quite clear that I am aware that most of the used copies of S.G.57 were not genuinely used but that does not alter the fact that so long as they were used, genuinely or otherwise, it would further reduce the already small number of mint copies available, thereby making the substantial difference in price a greater paradox. Has anyone an explanation to offer?

*John Bailey*

## **BARBADOS**

### **OFFICER'S LETTER FROM BARBADOS, 1868**

*(Reprinted from "The Philatelist" of June, 1970, by kind permission of Us Editor).*

A letter which raises some points of interest came to light recently. It was from Barbados, addressed to New Brompton, Kent. The 6d. adhesive (S.G.30) is cancelled with the numeral "1" boot-heel of the G.P.O. Bridgetown, and the envelope is backstamped "BARBADOS, May 2, 1868," and "CHATHAM, June 15, 1868." This was a special concessionary rate granted to military and naval personnel serving overseas: (the normal letter rate at that period was 1s. per ½oz.).

To obtain this concession the writer had to place his name and rank above the address, and the letter had to be countersigned by the Officer Commanding his Unit. It will be noticed that the authority for this is quoted as "Treasury Warrant, Sept. 27th., 1867," and the relevant clauses from this Warrant are given below:

1. That on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, posted in or addressed to any part of the United Kingdom, and sent to or by any commissioned officer in the army whilst actually employed in Her Majesty's service, in any of Her Majesty's colonies, and transmitted by the post between any place in the United Kingdom and any such colony direct or through any other colony, or any foreign country, there shall be charged and taken in lieu of any rates of postage now payable by law on such letters, an uniform rate of postage (British and colonial combined) of sixpence.

3.\* On every such letter exceeding half an ounce in weight and not exceeding one ounce in weight, two rates of postage.

On every such letter exceeding one ounce, and not exceeding one ounce and the half of another ounce in weight, three rates of postage.

On every such letter exceeding one ounce and the half of another ounce, and not exceeding two ounces in weight, four rates of postage.

\*Slightly different rates were payable on letters exceeding half an ounce in weight if sent to or from the East Indies, Australia, or New Zealand.

Charging Account Officer, latter.  
Sept 27, 1867  
From Wm. D. R. R.  
Stafford, England

For  
Mr. J. P. P. P.  
3 Laurel Terrace  
Ranelagh Street  
New Brighton  
Kent, England

M. S. P. P. P. P.  
Staff, General

5. The postage on every letter posted for transmission by the post, under the provisions of this Warrant, shall be paid at the time of the same being posted, either in money or by being duly stamped with the proper postage stamp or stamps being affixed thereto, which stamp or stamps shall, in every case, be affixed or appear on the outside of every such letter near the address, and shall be of the value or amount of the postage duty payable thereon.

9. Every letter sent by any commissioned officer under the authority of this Warrant shall have the signature of such officer superscribed thereon, together with the signature of the commanding officer of the regiment, corps, or detachment in which such commissioned officer is serving, or the signature of the head of the department to which such commissioned officer belongs: and such commanding officer or head of department respectively, as the case may be, shall also specify on the superscription of every such letter the name of such regiment, corps, detachment or department.

10. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to the transmission of letters by private ships.

13. This Warrant shall come into operation on the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers,  
the twenty-seventh day of September, one  
thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven.  
Henry Whitmore.  
Gerard Noel.

*Leonard Britnor*

Editorial note: Our acknowledgements to J. M. A. Gregson, of Wellington, who lent the cover to our contributor.

## **OFFICER'S LETTER FROM BARBADOS (CONTINUED)**

One of the pleasures of collecting postal history is the occasional snippet of information that helps to bring an interesting, though sometimes ordinary, cover to life. I believe that most postal historians are romantic by nature, especially where human interest and history are concerned; I know that I am.

Three years ago, in the same month as Leonard Britnor's article was published in *The Philatelist*, I was looking through an auction catalogue when I came across the following item: Lot No. — Barbados 1868. Officer's letter franked with 6d. adhesive. Wanting more information than this bare statement of fact, I wrote to the auctioneers asking if they could add to this description. The reply stated that the letter was written by Staff Surgeon Major Vivien Poole and was countersigned by R. K. Prendergast, Deputy Inspector General, Principal Medical Officer, Commanding Officer, Barbados. Being interested I went to the auction and finding the cover to be of outstanding interest counted myself fortunate to obtain it at the opening bid.

My cover is dated 25th June, 1868 and is very similar to the one illustrated in Leonard Britnor's article, the major difference being a figure five in red manuscript on the front. This I take to be the amount due to the Imperial Government, the other penny going to the Barbados authorities.

In the hope of finding out more about the two officers I wrote to fellow member Stephen Cave. In due course I received a reply from Stephen telling me that it had



been a bit harder than he had bargained for. It appeared that Major Poole's real name was not Vivien, but the Army did have a W. W. W. Poole, who was a Staff Surgeon Major in Barbados in 1868, who is presumably the same one. Looking at the cover again, it became obvious that what the auctioneers and I had taken, at a casual glance, for Vivien was in fact W. W. W. and this, believe it or not, stood for Wellesley, Wellington, Waterloo! There can be no doubt that his father must have worshipped the old Duke!

Unfortunately, two years later on the 26th August 1870, Major Poole died whilst on the passage home from Barbados. The following is a brief summary of his career:

Wellesley, Wellington, Waterloo, Poole.

Born 8th December, 1819 at Capoquin, Co. Waterford.

Died 26th August, 1870 on passage home from Barbados.

Appointed Asst. Surgeon, Staff - 1st August, 1845.

Asst. Surgeon, Staff - 73rd Foot 21st January, 1853.

Surgeon (2nd Class), Staff - 9th February, 1855.

Surgeon (2nd Class), Staff - 54th Foot, 24th July, 1860.

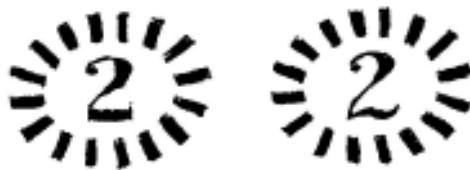
Surgeon, Staff - 29th May, 1867.

Surgeon, Major, Staff (Barbados) - 1st June, 1867.

(Served in the Kaffir War 1851-1853).

*Michael Sheppard*

### CHRISTCHURCH No. 2 BOOTHEEL OBLITERATOR



O.2a

Earlier this year, when viewing an auction lot, I came across a No. 2 Bootheel obliterator (Benwell & Britnor type O2a) which made me sit up and take notice. I was unlucky with my bid but was eventually fortunate enough to acquire the stamp from the successful bidder.

As can be seen from the illustration, the foot of the number 2 is curved as against the straight foot of the hitherto illustrated version. The number is 7mm. high. The mark in question was found on S.G.66 and I have since seen one other faint example on S.G.74 which would seem to suggest late usage.

I would be pleased to learn if any other member has noted this variety in order to try and establish its period of use. A note in *The Postal Markings of Barbados* states that probably two handstamps were issued to each office and it specifically records two varieties by measurement for Christchurch. One 7½mm. high and the other 9mm. high. Would the curved foot variety be the former? I have only one copy of the straight foot version which appears to measure 8½mm. but with variations in inking a ½mm. difference is negligible either way.

*Reynold Radford*

# BRITISH GUIANA

A relatively modern, philatelically inspired, cover has caught my attention and should interest some of our members.

It bears on its front the type-written legend: "1st Day Cover Box Success, Rupununi - G'town, B.G." Evidently it marks the inauguration either of a new office or a new mail route from the remote Rupununi district. The backstamp shows that the letter reached Georgetown on the morning of 12.6.44; there is no date on the face to show when it was despatched.

Cancelling the stamp on the front is a double-oval T.R.D. struck in violet. This reads. "Commissioner Rupununi District," the first word being in block capitals and the other two in lower case lettering. Where a date might appear inside the centre oval, there are just two squiggly lines - with a bit of imagination these could be read as Arabic script! A second strike of the T.R.D. is placed on the left of the cover. There are no further postal markings.

It is of interest to find an instance in British Guiana of the practice (so widespread in The Bahamas) of using the Commissioner's stamp for postal cancellation: I have not been able to trace any reference in Townsend & Howe to this type of cancellation, despite the wealth of detailed information which the postal history section contains. Can somebody, please, tie this cover in with some known Rupununi post office?

*Simon Goldblatt*

# BRITISH WEST INDIES

## A SCARCITY TABLE

Suppose we took a poll amongst members to pick the scarcest USED B.W.I. stamps, which would members choose?

To make the search worthwhile, I suggest a few ground rules, e.g.

One choice for each of the usual face value.

No face value above 5/-

No catalogue value of £20 or above.

No minor varieties.

No varieties of shade, paper (except watermark), perforation (except perf/imperf).

London printings only, regularly consigned for postal use.

No postal fiscals, surcharges, or overprints, except where surcharges and overprints were made for reasons of economy and not emergency.

In fact (by way of a change from specialisation!) a hunt for a range of common-or-garden regular postal issues, which almost every member should be able to afford.

Here is my own suggested list:-

1d - Bermuda S.G.34a

1d - Virgin I. S.G.80

1d - British Honduras S.G. 26

1½d - St.Kitts-Nevis S.G.50

2d - Grenada S.G.50

2½d - St. Christopher S.G.9

3d - Tobago S.G.3

4d - Cayman I. S.G.29  
6d - Leeward I. S.G.13  
1/- Barbados S.G.226  
2/- Dominica S.G.69  
2/6 - Montserrat S.G.60  
5/- St. Lucia S.G.76

I may have stretched a point or two to produce variety in the choice of countries, but the rejection of simplified Victorian issues in favour of more modern issues is in most instances real enough. Before Virgin 1. 80 could be chosen, Trinidad 100 has to be discarded, and so on.

The real 'sleeper' in the above list is one of the most highly catalogued: St. Christopher S.G.9. There was a single printing of 1,460 stamps only, and unused copies must have been snapped up in substantial quantities by the London stamp trade. As a used stamp I should place it on a comparable level of rarity with British Guiana S.G.4, even Charlton Henry only had two examples - though one does not know, of course, how hard he tried!

*Simon Goldblatt*

## **JAMAICA**

### **THE TWO LINE " JAMAICA TRANSIT " MARK**

When it was first mentioned in the Bulletin, many years ago, the two-line "JAMAICA TRANSIT" mark was described as a rarity. Since that time it has been noted on numerous covers, spanning a period of perhaps 30 years.

How far into the present century was the mark in fact used? I have it in rather battered condition, struck at Kingston on 20.5.04; at that time the instrument seems to have been almost on its last legs.

*Simon Goldblatt*

Editor's Note.- Thomas Foster records use of this mark from April 1887 to September 1905.

## **TRINIDAD**

### **FISCAL STAMPS**

I have made the point on other occasions that, where fiscal stamps tie in to some extent with postal issues, a measure of attention should be devoted to the former.

In the case of Trinidad, admittedly, the link is rather tenuous: in the main, it is simply that De La Rue (I speak of Victorian times) printed the stamps in new colours from their postal plates, and the printed sheets were afterwards overprinted in a variety of colours to denote their fiscal status. As, however, one sometimes finds these fiscals with perfectly genuine postmarks, it is legitimate to try to find out why.

The issues under discussion are of the following S.G. types

5/- and (surcharged) higher values	type 5
3d.	type D1
½d., 1d., 4d., 6d., 1/-	type 10

In all cases, the Revenue purpose is denoted by one of these overprints: FEE, FREE: FREE FEE. The last of these may be printed in one operation, or in two, a serified red 'FREE' overprint being added to a stamp bearing a blue 'FEE'.

'FREE FEE' one might think to be a contradiction in terms: and it would be quite interesting to hear from some member who can interpret the phrase. It is found (I believe) only on values of 1/- or above.

'FREE' by itself is still more of a contradiction, but this is a genuine error! It is a local overprint, on S.G.107 - in the case of the ½d. and 1d. values, some stocks of S.G.106 and 107 were originally converted into Revenue stamps - and in most cases the error has been corrected in manuscript by the deletion of the 'R' in black ink. This stamp is an amusing one, and something of a rarity.

Members may be wondering why a stamp of type DI should be printed and overprinted. This was for the usual reasons of economy: there was, of course, no 3d. value amongst the plates available for printing ordinary postage stamps.

Apart from S.G.106 and 107, all stamps were printed in highly fugitive purples or greens, the value label however being printed in a more durable red or blue or black.

There is nothing in the design of the type 5 high values to indicate their ordinary postal function, and type DI speaks of 'surcharge postage'. All the rest clearly proclaim 'TRINIDAD POSTAGE' as part of their design, and one wonders whether FEE or FREE FEE is an adequate revocation of this message. Does any member know of contemporary notices to the public or instructions to post office clerks?

At any rate I have a FEE overprint of S.G.106 fully cancelled with a 'T23' of Type 9, and a similar overprint of S.G.107 cancelled at CHAGUANAS in 1897. I should very much like to know the experience of other members as to the extent to which fiscal stamps appear to have been accepted for postal use.

*Simon Goldblatt*

## **TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS**

With reference to Bulletin No. 76 I would reply to Mr. Goldblatt's query re the numbers printed of S.G.108 and 109. I regret the obvious inaccuracy in my 1972 article. The figures I quoted were from a pencil note, unfortunately the original figures and other notes were lost some years ago and I have no means of checking where they came from.

Mr. Wilson writes about an Air Mail cover to Barbados dated 23 Dec. 1946. There may have been an irregular service using any plane which happened to land but I suspect that the air carriage was from Jamaica to Barbados. I have a somewhat similar cover to Bermuda dated 15 MY 50 with transit marks of Kingston 18 MY 50 and Paget Bermuda 20 MY 50. This has a VIA AIR MAIL cachet in red of the same measurement

and was presumably flown from Jamaica. This registered letter was charged 2/8. The following is extracted from a locally produced brochure:-

*Air Mails* 1949 First regular fortnightly flights between Grand Turk, South Caicos and Dominican Republic, also a freight service from Miami and Kingston. 1956 Service from Nassau twice a week.

*POSTAL RATES* (? for 1949)

Airmail ½oz.	Letters	Postcards	Air Letters	Newspapers
America	8	5	6	3
Europe	1/6	9	6	6
Africa, etc.	3/-	1/6	9	1/-
Surface 1oz.				
W. Indies UK.	2½	Depending on availability of steamer.		
U.S.A.	2½			

I have an Air Letter of 11 3 54 to U.K. (6d postage) backstamped Nassau 13 3 54. The contents mention "Air Force brought no mail yesterday" thus it would appear that the whole question of air mails is most obscure and I append the following re war time mails for observation and comment.

I have a letter from my brother from Turks Island dated 14 Nov. 1942. "There has been some hitch in the air mail service, letters being stopped in Jamaica and coming up from there by schooner. This has now been cleared up and arrangements made for air mail all the way. This letter is coming by the first air mail from here to use T.I. stamps, up to the present letters have been posted as a favour by the Consul in Haiti or the post office Jamaica. Now a service has been negotiated through the post office and in future letters will be stamped in T.I. There are two routes available from here by air mail, one via Portugal and I have forgotten the other." My brother left Turks shortly after writing and the two covers he sent by these routes have been lost.

I have three earlier unstamped covers dated 26 7 42, 21 8 42 and 28 10 42. Two bear a manuscript 3/- and each has in red - POSTAGE PAID JAMAICA and date in two ring circle. The first is inscribed - Via Air Mail Haiti-U.S.A. - England and the last - Air Mail via Haiti. The first two are in coloured air mail envelopes. A letter in the first cover states "the Haiti mail boat leaves tomorrow (15 8 42) - we send mail by one of the Jamaica schooners to go via Jamaica." There is also a note that the Dutch line has ceased calling owing to loss of ships.

I also have a number of air mail covers of 1944-45 to Bermuda, these are all franked with the current 2/- and most are marked - Via Haiti, Jamaica and New York. The only transit marks are on a registered cover (2/2), Kingston, Miami and New York.

*John J. Challis*

## ULTRAMAR OVERPRINTS

"Ultramar" is the Portuguese for "Overseas." Now that Specimen stamps have become collectable, fashionable and expensive, we ought to place on record when and why one is liable to find the Ultramar overprint on some Specimen stamps.

The overprint itself was a handstamp, struck in shades of blue or violet, by the

postal authorities in Lisbon. It is said that the overprint was used to distinguish those stamps, received in Portugal, which were to be sent overseas to one of the Portuguese Colonies. I wonder whether some member can cite an authority for this, as the overprint would be equally apposite to denote that the particular Specimen stamps on which it was struck had come from overseas.

The Ultramar overprint is found, of course, on Specimen stamps of a variety of countries, but there is quite an interesting range of British West Indies stamps to which the hand stamp was applied. It seems to have been in use from shortly before the turn of the century to 1910 or thereabouts: possibly one of our members can furnish the exact dates.

I know it myself on sets or individual stamps from the following Specimen issues:-

Antigua 1903 set  
Bahamas 1902 set  
Dominica 1903 set  
Grenada 1902 and 1908 sets  
Jamaica 1905, 5/-  
Leeward I. 1897 and 1902 sets  
Montserrat 1903 sets  
St. Lucia 1902 Pitons and 1904 set  
Virgin I. 1904 set

More knowledgeable members will be able to expand this list and perhaps the overprint is found on all Edwardian Specimen stamps.

The Leewards sexagenary sets are of particular interest, since these are the only stamps of this issue which can be proved to have been used for Specimen purposes. In this instance alone, there is no additional Specimen overprint on the stamps.

Examples of any specific Ultramar overprint are self-evidently rare, for no more than some half-dozen sets of any issue would have been so overprinted. One common feature, which should not deter us from acquiring these stamps when reasonably possible, is that they usually show signs of having been soaked in water. I draw the inference - which again somebody may be able to confirm or refute - that the Portuguese authorities used to stick down their Specimen stamps on sheets of paper, when the Ultramar handstamp was applied, and that this was done by them to all such stamps at this period as a matter of course.

*Simon Goldblatt*

## **VIRGIN ISLANDS**

### **A91 "KILLER"**

In Bulletin No. 77, June 1973, Arthur Peart asked for comments on the A91 "Killer" used to obliterate a GB 1d. Lilac of 1881. Whilst not an expert on this subject I will comment informally.

The A91 obliterator mentioned is not a B.W.I. cancel and is listed in the Rev. H. H. Heins as originating in Southsea, England, about 1887 onward.

*Robert Topaz*

## EAST END C.D.S.



It is several years since Mr. Toeg illustrated all the earlier postal cancellations of Virgin Islands, except for EAST END - see Bulletins 36, 37 and 38. In the meantime an example of this postmark has proved as elusive for me as it no doubt has for almost every other member of the Circle. The office may have been opened early in the century, but its canceller was certainly not in regular use, and the position may well have been for most of the time as I myself experienced it in Tortola in 1968, where the existence of a sub-office in Long Look was not generally known: even now, it seems, examples of the replacement canceller can only be obtained by those who specially seek out the sub-post-mistress and request that the instrument be specially used.

At long last, through lucky acquisitions from several different sources, I have been able to build up a picture of the first postal canceller, and this is now illustrated (Type 20). The combination of plain capitals with serif-ed capitals is a most unusual feature. It emerges that the canceller was probably in normal use between about 1910 and 1914, and that the office held a small stock of low value stamps (both Virgin I. and Leeward I.) for postal purposes. The strike is sometimes in black and sometimes in violet.

*Simon Goldblatt*

## NEWS

Tony Shepherd tells me that at this moment the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society are collecting details of the censor markings of the Caribbean area during the two World Wars and collating the information they have with a new study group on civilian censorship, which has been formed by Tony Torrance in Scotland. If any of you have information that you think may be of interest, a line to me would be welcome.

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Mark Swetland, in the Presidential Page of the B.C.P.S.G. Journal for June, 1973, informs us that Fred Seifert wishes to give up the Editorship at the end of this year.

Those of us who over the last few years have seen the Journal reach its present high standard will readily appreciate what a fine job Fred has done. Though we shall be sorry to see him go it will be some consolation to know that Fred will still continue to contribute to the Journal.

Some of our members, especially those living in Surrey, who are interested in Great Britain Town Postal History may like to know that two of our members, Leonard Britnor and Bert Latham, have just written a book entitled "An Introduction to the Postal History of Redhill and Reigate."

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A note for your diary. Otto Hornung, secretary of the STAMPEX Committee, gives advance notice of next year's exhibition which will be held from February 25th till March 2nd.

He mentions that a new feature will be a contact point for local Society members to meet.

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At the Autumn meeting of the B.W.I.S.C. we had the pleasure of meeting Edmund Bayley, of Bridgetown, Barbados. Having just read the report in Stamp Collecting Weekly for September 27th of a perf. error on a sheet of the 25c value, Barbados Boy Scouts' Diamond Jubilee issue, it was nice to see a photostat of the pair that Mr. Bayley has acquired.

The bottom row of five stamps of the sheet are imperf. between the stamps and the sheet margin and Edmund Bayley's joined pair are the first and second stamps in the row and show the plate numbers in the bottom margin.

He thinks the other three were used commercially and may well be lost to philately.

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Basil Benwell is amongst the medals at this year's British Philatelic Exhibition. Basil was awarded two silver medals for Barbados and Barbados Postal History and a bronze for another entry of Barbados.

On Tuesday, 2nd October, Mr. Charles Loach, representing the Study Circle, went along to Rugby Philatelic Society to entertain their members. Charles Loach opened his display with a selection of classics and early 20th century Trinidad (1851-1935), mint stamps and covers. For the second half of the display he showed modern Antigua (1937-1970), mostly commercial covers.

Although a small society, two thirds of the members attended and were warmly appreciative of Charles Loach's efforts, to which we should like to add our thanks.

Frank Deakin and Basil Benwell both confirm the continuing strength of the stamp and postal history market with reports of fantastic prices for quality material. Frank was amongst the lights and T.V. cameras at the Stanley Gibbons sale of "Classics of the British Empire" where the 1854 W. B. Perot, Postmaster's Provisional 1d. (S.G. 03) on entire and the 1847 Lady McLeod 5c. (S.G.1) on entire, against estimates of £35,000 and £1,250, fetched £50,000 and £3,000 respectively. Another high price in the sale, against an estimate of £8,000, was £13,000 paid for a mint example of the Virgin



Islands missing Virgin of 1867-70 (the 1s. rose carmine with the central figure missing).

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It has been decided, as an experiment, to start a small ads section for members. Details of this will be found, under the appropriate heading, on a later page of this bulletin.

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If it meets with your approval News Roundup will become a regular feature in future issues of the Bulletin, though naturally much depends on your support. Items from overseas members, as well as home, will be welcomed. Send me a line to let me know what you are doing, displays you have given, medals won, philatelic events, projects under way, in fact anything that promotes the cause of B.W.I. philately and helps bring members together.

A happy Christmas to you all and good hunting in your philatelic pursuits.

*Mike*

### **B.W.I. AUCTION - Preliminary Announcement**

It is intended to hold an Auction immediately after the Annual General Meeting in 1974. This will be the first auction ever to be held by the Circle; if it proves a success, auctions may become a periodic feature of the Circle's activities.

Material accepted for inclusion in the Auction will be offered for sale on the following terms:-

1. All lots may be sold with or without reserve and the seller may participate in the bidding either himself or by an agent.
2. The buyer to be the highest bidder.
3. Wherever possible the description of a lot will include an estimate by the Circle of the price which it is expected to realise, and the lot will not be sold without the consent of the seller at substantially below 75% of estimate.
4. The Auctioneer will be appointed by the Auctions Subcommittee designated by the Circle to organise the Auction Sale. The bidding shall be under the control and at the sole discretion of the Auctioneer, who shall have power to settle all disputes and to reopen the bidding in the event of dispute. He may withdraw lots or group two or more lots together without assigning a reason.
5. The auctioneer reserves the right to bid on behalf of sellers and prospective buyers but shall not be liable for any errors or omissions in executing instructions to bid.
6. Lots will be sold with all faults, imperfections and errors of description and the Circle cannot be held responsible for the genuineness of any lot or of an individual item therein. Where however the buyer within 14 days after receipt of a lot (or such further time as the Auctions Sub-Committee may allow) satisfies the Auctions Subcommittee that there is a substantial inaccuracy in the description and returns the lot in unaltered condition, the sale of that lot will be rescinded and the purchase price refunded to the buyer less any costs and expenses incurred by the Circle in connection with the sale.
7. The Circle will have a lien for all charges on all lots sold or unsold. Payment for lots purchased (including collection charges where payment is made in local

currency) shall be made by the buyer before delivery, which shall be at the risk of the buyer and shall include cost of postage and registration where sent by post. If the buyer does not pay for any lot within such period as the Auctions Sub-Committee (in their sole discretion) may consider reasonable the lot may be re-sold by the Circle in any manner the Circle see fit and the buyer shall pay the difference between his bid price and the net realisation on re-sale (after deduction of commission and other attendant expenses) but the buyer shall not be entitled to any surplus arising on re-sale. A buyer resident in the dollar area must pay for lots bought either in dollars at the controlled rate of exchange with the addition of 50 cents to cover collection charges or by draft drawn on London.

8. Sale commission charged to the seller will be:-

On each lot sold: 10p on the first £1 or lower realisation, thereafter 7½%.

On each lot unsold, 5p.

On each lot withdrawn by the seller, sale commission on 75% of estimated value.

On each lot unsold through failing to reach the seller's reserve, sale commission on the reserve price.

These conditions apply as between buyer and/or seller and every officer, member and agent of the Circle concerned on behalf of the Circle with any aspect of the Auction Sale.

#### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

The Bulletin for March, 1974, will contain a Provisional Catalogue of all material entered for Auction in time for publication and will give further details as to the final cataloguing and viewing of lots (under separate cover for overseas members). If material is then still being accepted for sale a deadline for acceptance will be announced but members having items to sell should ensure acceptance by communicating with the Auctions Sub-Committee without delay. The Auctions Sub-Committee for this Auction are Messrs. S. Goldblatt, A. H. Latham and M. Sheppard. In order to avoid unnecessary expense will members kindly observe the following procedure:-

1. All correspondence please to Michael Sheppard at 6 Copsleigh Close, Salfords, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5BH, England. Telephone 91 63936.

2. Do not send any material for sale UNLESS it can be sent as an ordinary letter. For all bulkier items write or telephone Michael Sheppard first to find out whether these can be accepted.

3. Stamps and postal history items are equally welcome but, in the interests of both buyers and sellers, the Sub-Committee will not be accepting material for sale unless it has in their opinion some potential interest to members of the Circle.

4. MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PROVISIONAL CATALOGUE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MARCH, 1974 BULLETIN MUST REACH MICHAEL SHEPPARD BY 9th FEBRUARY, 1974 AT LATEST, U.K., MEMBERS ONLY.

5. The Auctions Sub-Committee will be grateful for any specialised information which you include with your material for sale and for any personal assessment of its value, although no undertaking can be given that the Auction estimate will coincide with your own assessment. Remember that the more care you yourself take with the selection of items for sale, the better the realisation to be expected.

6. The Auctions Sub-Committee will not be responsible for the loss of or damage to items in their custody but unless you instruct to the contrary your material for sale will, if practicable, be held insured while in the hands of the Sub-Committee and the small cost will be divided rateably between the sellers.

7. Please do not write asking for lots to be sent for viewing by post, as the Auctions Sub-Committee are not equipped to offer this service!

8. **IMPORTANT.** As Postal Bidding will be wholly or mainly confined to those lots which are described in the PROVISIONAL CATALOGUE prospective sellers should **ACT NOW** to secure that their items are included. See heading 4 above.

The Auction will include **SPECIALISED** items from each of the countries in the B.W.I. and there will be items to suit every pocket . . . Examples of lots expected to be offered for sale are as follows:

ANGUILLA	Selection of different Geo. V stamps of St. Kitts-Nevis and Leeward I. showing clear to fine ANGUILLA strikes, including 'AN' and the scarce large 'A.' (10).	£3.50
BARBADOS	1939 tercentenary (S.G.257-261) perforated SPECIMEN. The gum a little toned but a scarce set. Cat. £32 (5)	£15
GRENADA	Selection of covers (non-philatelic, 1960's) with differing village postmarks. (5 items)	£1.50
NEVIS	Revenue: F2. Reconstructed sheet fiscally u. (12)	£3.50

## **MEMBERS SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS**

Advertisement Rates:

5p per word: minimum charge 50p. Ads in **bold** type 10p per word: minimum charge £1. Copy to the Editor six weeks before publication.

A book for Christmas! "HISTORY OF THE SAILING PACKETS TO THE BRITISH WEST INDIES" by Leonard Britnor would make an ideal choice. Price: including packing and postage, £5.50 (home members); £5.75 (overseas members). Orders to the Hon. Secretary.

## **WANTED AND FOR SALE**

**Early West Indian Newspapers and Books. Pre-stamp. Early stamped covers. Particularly Barbados. Send description and Wants. - Mr. Deakin, 5A Victoria Park Road, Exeter. Tel. Exeter 56052.**

## **R.L. IN CENTRAL AMERICA**

Robson Lowe International announce the extension of their interests overseas with the appointment of Sra. Dorotea Margarita J. as their representative in Central America.

The idea of this agency can be found in the notable volume GUATEMALA - I which was published at 50 Pall Mall in 1970. Since that time increased interest has been taken by Robson Lowe International in collections from this area, one of which was sold for over £40,000 (\$100,000).

The publication of GUATEMALA - II in 1974 and Volume V (North America) of THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA in December next will reveal to collectors the extraordinary breadth of interest to be found in the study of both the postal history and the postage stamps of Central America.

British postal connections include not only British Honduras but Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Mexico, and it is on this subject that so much appears in the Encyclopaedia that has never been published before in any philatelic work of reference. Collector-interest all over the world is bound to be stimulated by these volumes. At the same time, the foundation of this agency will put the collector who lives in Central America in touch with a truly international philatelic market.

**Sra. Dorotea Margarita's Central American address is Apartado Postal 1389, Guatemala, C.A.** and the resident manager is Romeo J. Routhier. This office will handle all the philatelic publications of Robson Lowe International and assist collectors bidding in the R.L. Auctions in England and Europe as well as in the sale of their collections by auction or by private treaty.

Sra. Dorotea Margarita J. can also be reached at Box 131, Glenview, Illinois 60025, the home base in the United States. This special organization publishes The Guatemala Gazette and deals in the stamps of Guatemala and other Central American nations. Fortunately, it has the largest reference collection of the postal history and postage stamps of Guatemala.

## HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Member,

I would draw your attention to the decision of the Committee of the Study Circle to hold an 'Auction Sale' after the business of the Annual General Meeting has been concluded. It is hoped that, if the 'Auction Sale' is a success, other 'Auction Sales' may take place in subsequent years. It has often been the wish of members to have items of philatelic interest included in the programme of the A.G.M., as it has been thought that the purely business nature of the A.G.M. has kept members from attending. If the 'Auction Sale' is to be a success it needs your support! Please note that the date of the Annual General Meeting has been changed from the 6th April, 1974 to the 20th April, 1974.

I have pleasure in welcoming the following new members: Mr. Richard Heap, of Cheshire, who specialises in all aspects of Bermuda: Mr. James H. Gordon, of Rochester, New York, who specialises in Trinidad and Tobago: Mr. Edmund Alexander Bayley, of Bridgetown, Barbados, who specialises in Barbados and Mr. Malcolm John Mattick, of London, who specialises in Jamaica.

*Ian Chard*

**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 . . . . . 40p (\$1) 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 sender's 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.*

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