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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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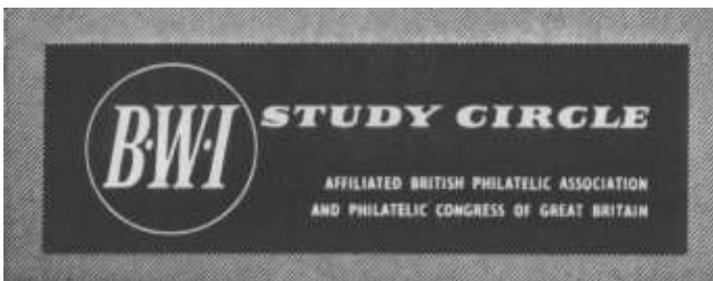
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**The History of the Sailing
Packets to the West Indies**

by **LEONARD E. BRITNOR**

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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 1st January. 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, 1974-75

1974

Thurs., Sept. 19th - 6 p.m.

9 pages from members.

Sat., Oct. 5th - 3 p.m.

Mr. J. L. Messenger, Windward Islands.

Thurs., Dec. 12th - 6 p.m.

Mr. A. H. Latham, Jamaica.

1975

Wed., Feb. 19th - 6 p.m.

9 pages from members.

Thurs., March 6th - 6 p.m.

Display by Mr. J. C. Loach.

Sat., April 12th - 3 p.m.

Annual General Meeting and Auction Sale.

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

1974

Visits to other Societies

Tues., Oct. 1st - 8 p.m. Hornchurch P.S.

Messrs. A. J. Branston and J. J. Challis.

Mon., Nov. 4th - Civil Service P.S.

Messrs. E. V. Toeg and B. B. Benwell.

1975

Tues., Feb. 4th - 7.30 p.m. Woking & District P.S.

Messrs. A. J. Branston and A. H. Latham.

Fri., June 20th - Kingston Upon Thames P.S.

Messrs. A. J. Branston and A. H. Latham.

You will have read in the June Bulletin of the change in Treasurer and of the increase of the subscription to £2.50. The Society's Bankers have also changed and those of you who pay their subscriptions by Bankers Order will have to have these amended. It is for this reason that we have included with this September Issue a new Bankers Order form for completion. Perhaps those of you who have not so far taken advantage of this convenient way to pay your subscriptions would care to fill this in and let me have it, together with those of you who already use this means.

PLEASE LET ME HAVE THE FORMS, DO NOT SEND THEM DIRECT TO YOUR BANK, I WILL DO THIS.

G. C. Bartlett, Hon. Treasurer.

Hon. Treasurer:

It is just possible that the Bankers Orders may not have arrived in time for inclusion in this issue. Should this be the case they will be sent with the December Bulletin to home members, whilst overseas members will receive theirs under separate cover.

This will leave you little time and I would urge you to send them to Graham Bartlett as soon as possible.

Editor

DISPLAY

Despite the fact that the railway system was virtually nonexistent in South East England seven members and two visitors managed to attend the meeting of the Study Circle held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, 7th February, 1974. On this occasion members were requested to produce pages from their collections of British Honduras, Grenada and Montserrat.

A brief summary of the displays now follows:

Mr. C. A. Freeland. Displayed British Honduras starting with Great Britain used in Belize, a pair of the 1d., an example of the 4d. and several 6d. stamps including one on large piece, back-stamped with the Belize c.d.s. He then showed three pages of mint early issues and an 1899 cover addressed in Chinese to San Francisco bearing the 5c revenue overprint. A selection of proofs included a used copy of the notorious essay of 1891 (SIX instead of 6, without the bar) and a large die proof of the 1922 \$5. The display ended with a nearly complete selection of specimen stamps, including SG.4 with serified lettering and the 1910 definitives all with broken 'M' from the first stamp on the sheet.

Mr. S. Goldblatt. Showed a selection of British Honduras village markings from about 1900 to 1950. Most were temporary rubber date stamps since, apart from the main offices, few regular cancellers were issued prior to 1939, and none at all between then and 1952.

A wide range of markings was shown for ALL PINES, GALES POINT, GUINEA GRASS and the STANN CREEK district, railway and valley offices, as well as several Belize district Sub-Offices.

Among the rarities were examples of CAY CAULKER and WELLSPORT (small c.d.s.), CONSEJO (larger c.d.s.), and three different early markings for CALEDONIA. Also included were temporary rubber date stamps for COMMERCE BIGHT, PROGRESS and LOWRY'S BIGHT, the latter not previously recorded.

Mr. E. V. Toeg. Displayed six pre-adhesive letters and one stampless cover from Montserrat including two examples of the straight line MONTSEERRAT, two examples of the double arc with MONTSEERRAT above and date in centre (Robson Lowe type PL) and an example of the Crowned Circle PAID AT MONTSEERRAT. Also what is thought to be the only recorded stampless cover arriving in London on August 14th, 1863 on which one shilling postage had been paid with one penny being retained by the Montserrat authorities and eleven pence paid to G.P.O., London, indicated by red crayon accountancy marks.

A selection of the 1876 one penny then followed including one stamp overprinted SPECIMEN, examples of the irregular and misplaced overprint of the black bar and MONTSEERRAT, examples with inverted and reversed watermark and a used pair with one stamp showing the inverted '5' in MONTSEERRAT. Finally a block of thirty (6 x 5) showing both the known re-entries on this stamp.

Dr. D. Woolfson. Grenada is divided into a number of Parishes and Dr. Woolfson showed items from the Parish of St. John the chief office being GOUYAVE opened in 1861 and also from the District Postal Station CONCORD opened in 1890 followed by covers from GRAND ROY. Next came items from the Parish of St. Patrick with its

chief office SAUTEURS opened in 1861 subsequently changing its name to ST. PATRICK'S until 1907 whereupon it reverted to its original name. Then the parish of St. Mark with its chief office VICTORIA opened in 1861 subsequently known as ST. MARKS until 1907 and then reverting to the name VICTORIA. Also items from the Parish of St. Andrew having GRENVILLE as its chief office were displayed showing a differing series of postmarks and drawing attention to their differences. Finally a further selection of items on cover, on piece or loose from the above mentioned Parishes but including additional material from the Parishes of St. George and St. David including ST. DAVIDS c.d.s., which is very scarce due to there being only a small population there. The island of Carriacou was also represented by items from BELMONT which was opened in 1916 and DOVER which was closed in 1956. British Honduras is not a country one sees displayed very often and it was of particular interest to all those at the meeting as much of the postmarked material shown by Mr. Goldblatt and Mr. Freeland is seldom on view.



ANTIGUA

Trial Perforations of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.

Very little is known about the stamps with these experimental perforations and as I have never seen anything written about them in recent years I propose to put down all the information that I have managed to gather together.

The stamps with these experimental perforations are SG.2, 3 and 11 which I will deal with in turn.

First, SG.2 which has an uncomplicated perforation sometimes referred to as 11 to 12 but more usually identified as 11 to 12½. Looking at the face of the stamp the top, right side, bottom and left side would be perforated thus. This perforation was made by a guillotine type machine, i.e. it punched out one line of perforation holes at a time and was classified as the B machine by Francis H. Napier and E. D. Bacon in their handbook on St. Vincent published in 1895. The irregular gauge of this B machine averaged 11 to 12 or 11 to 12½ perforation holes in a length of 2 centimetres, the holes being round, of almost the same size and cleanly punched out during the 1860's, when it was used to a greater or lesser extent in the production of the stamps of Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, St. Vincent and Turks Islands.

Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. purchased the B machine on 28th May, 1862 but it is not possible to say with certainty in which year it was first used for perforating stamps. In this connection Messrs. E. D. Bacon and Francis H. Napier in their Handbook on Grenada state as follows: "In our Handbook on the Stamps of St. Vincent we showed that stamps of this colony (St. Vincent) were perforated by this machine (the B machine) between the years 1863 and 1866, and we are still unable to fix the date more accurately.

The only piece of new information we have been able to collect on the point has been given us by Miss Stewart (an employee of Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.) who says she never used this machine prior to 1866. The information this lady has given us has usually proved to be so correct that we think she is probably right as to this date, but as we only have her memory to go by, we hesitate to assert that it was 1866 rather than a year or so earlier."

Assuming, therefore, that Miss Stewart's memory was accurate and that she never used the B machine before 1866, someone else did, and that person must have perforated the stamps of the 1863-68 set of St. Vincent.

More will be said about the perforation of Antigua SG.2 and the date when the B machine may have been first tried out later on in these notes.

The trials with the B machine to produce Antigua SG.2 could never have resulted in more than a row or two of stamps being perforated 11 to 12 or 11 to 12½. So far I have only seen two singles of Antigua SG.2 both being in the E. K. Thompson collection and I am informed that the Royal Collection contains no example. Stanley Gibbons in their British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue 1974 edition state that Antigua SG.2 has not been found used. This statement would generally be understood to indicate that although the item has crept into the Catalogue nevertheless it is considered to be of proof status possibly because it was never sent out to the Colony, or, as in this case, that the perforation is a trial perforation and that the stamp so perforated was never intended for postal use. Messrs. E. D. Bacon and F. H. Napier in their Handbook on Grenada seem to think that the perforation in question is undoubtedly a trial perforation when used for the Six Pence Antigua, the One Penny Bahamas and the One Penny Barbados.

I now turn to SG.3 which is normally referred to as having a compound perforation. First I would like to refer to the single-line perforating machine, now known as the A machine, purchased by Mr. James Griffiths in 1860, which machine Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. used almost exclusively for perforating colonial stamps from 1860 until 1878. This machine had a 23 inch bed-plate with punch pins not set in perfect uniformity and the A machine when used to perforate Antigua stamps was always in a blunted or clogged state thus accounting for the rough perforation known as 14 to 16. When perforating the stamps of Antigua the machine in its blunted or clogged state had reached a stage where it was classified as A2 and from now on I propose to refer to this state of perforation as A2. The A2 perforation according to Messrs. E. D. Bacon and Francis H. Napier in their Handbook on Grenada, continued in use for a number of years and is found in the stamps of Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Ceylon, Grenada, Natal, Queensland, St. Helena, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Western Australia, i.e. every colony to which Perkins Bacon & Co. ever forwarded perforated stamps with the exception of Mauritius, St. Lucia and Turks' Islands.

It was recognised by Messrs. E. D. Bacon and Francis H. Napier that the Antigua Six Pence on unwatermarked paper is to be found with different combinations of perforations made by the A and B machines and their view was that these different combinations must be trial perforations.

At the present time of writing the Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue 1974 edition does not differentiate between the various combinations of

perforations of Antigua SG.3, but by the time these notes are printed and published the 1975 Edition of the Catalogue should be out and I hope that it will indicate that perforation variations of Antigua SG.3 exist. In my opinion each different combination of perforations must be regarded as a distinct and separate trial perforation and therefore Six Pence stamps with differing combinations of perforations cannot be treated as similar items, although all are classified at present as SG.3.

I list below the different combinations of perforations of Antigua SG.3 which I know of and looking at the face of each stamp the description starts from the top, then the right side, the bottom and the left side of the stamp in that order:-

1. B, B, A2, B. One example of this combination of perforations is in the E. V. Toeg collection and there is also one further example in the Royal collection.
2. B, A2, B, A2. A horizontal pair of this combination of perforations is in the E. K. Thompson collection and there is one further example in the Royal collection.
3. B, A2, A2, A2. A single example of this combination of perforations is to be found in the Royal collection. There also exists a horizontal pair with the left stamp perforated B, A2, A2, A2. The right stamp is also perforated B, A2, A2, A2 (in common with the left stamp). A most interesting point should be noted however about the A2 common perforation between the two stamps. After this common side between the two stamps had been perforated A2, the stamps were again perforated with the B machine but along this common side only. The B machine perforation holes seem to predominate along this common side as they are cleanly punched out holes, but on looking at the perforation holes with a magnifier it is obvious that A2 perforations have been attempted, and owing to the A machine being in a blunted or clogged state most of its perforation holes are either blind or semi-blind. This horizontal pair is in the E. V. Toeg collection.
4. B, A2, B, B. One example of this combination of perforations is in the E. K. Thompson collection.
5. A2, B, A2, B. One example of this combination of perforations is in the E. K. Thompson collection.

There is yet another example of Antigua SG.3 which I have seen in the collection of our member Mark Swetland when he exhibited at Philypia, 1970, but I did not note down at the time the combination of perforations on his stamp as I failed then to appreciate that differing combinations of perforations exist. I hope Mark Swetland will in a later Bulletin indicate the combination of perforations on his example of Antigua SG.3.

Now I come to Antigua SG.11 One Penny rosy mauve. I have seen two examples of one penny stamps both being printed on paper watermarked small star and both perforated B, A2, B, A2. Although the catalogue describes SG. 11 as being coloured rosy mauve the two examples seen have either faded considerably and cannot be regarded as rosy mauve any longer or were dull rose to start with. Neither stamp is in very good condition and there is I believe some staining on one or possibly on both stamps; both stamps are in the E. K. Thompson collection. This same combination of

perforations is also to be found on the Six Pence value (see horizontal pair of the Six Pence referred to in 2 above).

In the Reference List of Antigua compiled by Messrs. F. D. Bacon and Francis H. Napier in their Handbook on Grenada no mention is made of the one penny value having any perforation other than the A2.

I now refer to my earlier remarks relating to Antigua SG.2 and pose the question When were all these trial perforations made?

What is most likely is that the six pence value and the one penny value were experimented with at one and the same time. Certainly, I think it is unlikely that these experiments were conducted before Antigua SG.1 six pence blue-green with A2 perforation was prepared for postal use. As the one penny value at that time was only printed on small star watermarked paper it was used for trial purposes and this would probably mean that all of the experiments in perforation took place during the currency of the 1863-67 set with some six pence values on unwatermarked paper being made available by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co. from reserve stock for this purpose. The alternative to the above suggestion is piecemeal experimentation, first, on the six pence value and then later on the one penny value which to me seems unlikely. I do not for a moment consider that the various examples of Antigua S.G.2, 3 and 11 recorded in these notes are the only ones in existence. There must be some others in collections and I hope that owners will come forward. However, by any standard these experimental perforations must be very few in number and are extremely difficult to locate and when purchased should always be accompanied by an unqualified Certificate of a recognised Expert Committee.

In closing these notes I must thank our member Edward K. Thompson for making his stamps available and for all the trouble taken and time spent by him in helping me to make these notes accurate so far as they relate to his stamps. Also my appreciation of one of our Vice-Presidents John B. Marriott who took much trouble in describing to me in some detail the relevant stamps from the Royal Collection of which he is the Curator. And last but by no means least my acknowledgement of and gratitude for the great work done so many years ago by Messrs. E. D. Bacon and Francis H. Napier in writing their Handbooks on Barbados, Grenada and St. Vincent from which I have drawn freely in writing these notes.

E. V. Toeg

BERMUDA

MORE NOTES ON THE LARGE “3”

I have a cover from Bermuda to Halifax, Nova Scotia, in September, 1887, franked with a Bermuda 3d. with Hamilton “killer “and also c.d.s. This has alongside a large “3” and is backstamped with a Halifax c.d.s. In 1887 3d. was the Bermuda-Canada rate, and the internal Canada rate was 3 cents. Canada did not join the U.P.U. until 1878. I suggest therefore that this is an accountancy mark, crediting 3 cents to the Canadian Post Office. I have compared the “3” with some earlier Canadian marks as described by Jack Arnell and it belongs to the same family.

Richard Heap

BAHAMAS

SPECIAL DELIVERY STAMPS

Stanley Gibbons' catalogue notes that the first and second printings of the Bahamas Special Delivery stamps are worth, unused, about eight times as much as the third printing which is catalogued as S1.

I should like to suggest that the third printing is, in fact, less common than either the first or second printings. I suggest this because my collection contains four of what I believe to be first or second printings and only one of the third printing. One of these stamps is on cover dated February, 1917, from the "Haker Correspondence." This, I agree, is a very subjective view from a very small sample and it would be interesting to hear whether any other member has had a similar experience.

Incidentally perhaps someone can explain why the "Haker" envelope which contains one cent and two cent Canadian stamps with the Special Delivery stamp should be postmarked 12 Feb 17 in Nassau, but 24 Feb in Toronto.

R. H. Robertson

BARBADOS

A LUCKY STRIKE!

In February, 1972 I visited Barbados together with fellow member (and Barbados collector) Frank Deakin. I was trying to gather material on the current postal marks and so together we approached the Postmaster General for his authority to take an impression of every mark in use in every post office on the island. In the course of the next three weeks we achieved our object. Each post office was visited and old drawers and cupboards turned out in search of some hidden prize. Parish Postmasters were all interested in our efforts and were most helpful.

In a drawer in the St. Thomas Post Office (the Smallest on the island) we found a very old TOO-LATE mark (shown below) which I had on a cover dated 1867. This mark must have therefore lain in the St. Thomas post office for over one hundred years; surely a record I thought.

Well, before returning to England and in order to ensure that it should not be lost, I informed the Postmaster General of its whereabouts.

I returned to Barbados a year later and on my last day there called in at the St. Thomas post office to 'check' on my find. The Postmaster said however that the Postmaster General had called the TOO-LATE mark in to his office - a sad but never-the-less wise decision he added 'when we handed it in we found another old round mark with big number in the middle.' My heart leapt - an original obliterator or perhaps a bootheel?' Alas, I returned to England the next morning and never had time to call in at the GPO.

In February, 1974, I made my annual pilgrimage to Barbados and went straight to see the Postmaster-General. Yes, he had called in the TOO-LATE mark and they had found another old one. The two were produced from the depths of a massive safe. My heart stopped - an original obliterator, the St. Thomas No. 8, 122 years old!

Below is an impression. The obliterator is made of solid brass with a wooden handle, the number in the centre is immovable. Should any member like a copy of the impression I have a number and would gladly forward one together, if they require it, with a colour photograph of the obliterator itself.

Stephen Cave



TOO-LATE

POSTMAN'S ROUTES

Following upon the query in the March, 1974 Bulletin by Tony Shepherd and Michael Sheppard, I am able to supply some information on this subject.

The Barbados Post Office Guide for November, 1935 gives full details of the Postmen's Routes which was obviously an early attempt by the Barbados Post Office to introduce a form of postal coding.

The Guide lists the postmen's routes under the respective office from which delivery was made as follows:

From G.P.O. Bridgetown

- 'City Area' Routes Bridgetown Nos. 1-6
- 'Suburban Area' Routes Bridgetown Nos. 7-17
- 'Suburban Area' Routes Christchurch Nos. 18-19

From St. Lawrence Sub Office

Routes Christchurch Nos. 20-21

From G.P.O. Bridgetown

- 'Rural Area' Routes St. Michael Nos. 22-26

(Note: It would appear that St. Lawrence although situated in the parish of Christchurch was a sub-office of the main G.P.O. in Bridgetown and that Christchurch routes 18 and 19 were in fact delivered from the main G.P.O. in Bridgetown).

From the Parish Post Offices:

- Christchurch Routes Nos. 1-6
- St. Philip Routes Nos. 1-8
- St. George Routes Nos. 1-7
- St. Joseph Routes Nos. 1-6
- St. John Routes Nos. 1-5
- St. Thomas Routes Nos. 1-5
- St. Andrew Routes Nos. 1-5
- St. James Routes Nos. 1-4
- St. Peter Routes Nos. 1-6
- St. Lucy Routes Nos. 1-6

Full details of the routes are included in the Guide together with all approximate times of delivery in the rural areas. There was only one rural delivery daily commencing between 2 and 3 p.m. and some not finishing until well after 7 p.m. In the Bridgetown City area there were three deliveries daily and in the suburban area two deliveries each day.

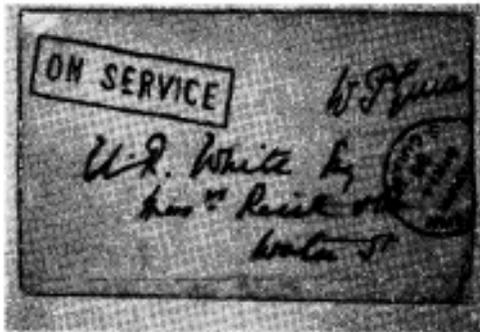
The Post Office Guide also includes a full Gazetteer of addresses indicating for each the relative Postman's Route No. The Guide is also liberally scattered with exhortations to include the Postmans Route No. as part of the address.

It is surprising that very few covers seem to have survived bearing handstamps of the type shown in the March Bulletin. I only know of two other similar covers. As the cover mentioned in the Bulletin is dated March, 1937, it would appear that the G.P.O. attempted the experiment for well over a year. What caused it to be abandoned, possibly the second world war? However all is not yet lost. The Barbados Sunday Advocate News for 29th October, 1972, included the following statement in an article on the Post Office:

"(The Post Office) plans to begin institution of postal zones sometime next year. Postal zones will facilitate the work of the sorters in that they will be able to sort by numbers, thereby reducing the number of missorts and the consequent delay in delivery resulting therefrom."

Covers have since been occasionally found bearing a manuscript number inserted by the G.P.O. in red pencil after the address. As far as I am aware however, there has not yet been an appeal to the public to include such numbers in their addresses. A handstamp similar to the one illustrated in the March Bulletin currently exists in the Circulation Department at Bridgetown. I wonder if it will see use? *Reynold Radford*

BRITISH GUIANA (Guyana) ON SERVICE



An addition to my collection some time ago was a hitherto unrecorded "On Service" handstamp struck in violet together with a c.d.s. of Georgetown, April 14th, 1899.

The box measures 47 x 13mms. and the sans serif capitals are 6mms. high. I presume that "On Service" means "on Postal Service."

I have gone through all the available books including that by Townsend and Howe and cannot find any mention of this strike.

I would be grateful if any member who knows of this strike would write to the Bulletin about it. *David Woolfson*

BRITISH HONDURAS

MORE NOTES ON VILLAGE POSTMARKS

I find that the questions which I raised about LOWRY'S BIGHT and PROGRESS in Bulletin 80 were resolved by R. E. Group nine years ago in B.C.P.J. for July, 1965, no. 26, p. 64. There are, in fact, not two strikes from separate village instruments; on the contrary, I had been looking at two facets of a single instrument, whose full legend is "PROGRESO LOWRY'S BIGHT." It was by pure chance only that the stamps are mounted consecutively in my collection, and the questions asked, as it were, autiphonally.

Mr. Group's article includes a reconstruction of the postmark, showing the spelling of PROGRESO as recited above, but no apostrophe in the middle word. From close re-inspection of my examples I can confirm the Spanish spelling of the first name; however there is no doubt as to the apostrophe, which is crystal-clear on my copy. The circle is completed by two asterisks and BRITISH HONDURAS in full, reading, as usual, anti-clockwise at the base of the mark. This wealth of lettering makes for a fairly crowded postmark, and one is unlikely to come across an example which is reasonably complete and clearly legible.

I left out of my last addenda to Type 4 the instrument which reads "STANN CREEK B.H." with "M.O.B." at the base of the circle. It has been suggested elsewhere that this was not a postal cancellation; but I have seen or heard of it on two or three commercial covers and have come across what must be part strikes of it, at least as often - it must therefore have been used sporadically to cancel stamps at one of the offices either at Stann Creek or in the valley. Date is c.1935.

Equally intriguing is another STANN CREEK strike of approximately Type 4A. I have this struck on SG.137 (!) with a large number '14,' nothing else, in the centre of the double circle. From the high value of the stamp cancelled one infers a fiscal cancellation; yet can one ever be sure, with the bizarre postal markings of this country? How about a special super-obliterator for parcel post?

There seems to have been a similar-sized instrument for BOOM c. 1930, and it is worth pointing out that while separate entries were given for BOOM and BURRELL BOOM in Bulletin 32, and by myself, be it said, in Bulletin 77, I have since read that the two names refer to the same place and the same office.

The reader will infer that there was more than one TRD of Type 9 supplied to this office, and will next ask whether the same is true of other offices. The answer is, of course, yes. I instance the following:-

DOUBLE HEAD CABBAGE
CAYE CAULKER
SAN PEDRO
CALEDONIA
MULLINS RIVER

In some cases, however, the difference in lettering is slight, and could conceivably be caused by distortion.

There is an obvious affinity between the T.R.D.s of British Honduras, and those of Jamaica, so that it is presumed Jamaica was the source of supply, for the double oval types at any rate. They seem to have been brought into use at much the same time in both countries, because I have strikes of May, 1940 for STANN CREEK VALLEY,

BANANA BANK and POMONA, and the practice of replacing one worn out T.R.D. with another similar T.R.D. was common to both countries.

While there are a fair number of strikes with no dates, or with dates completed in pen, as a rough guide, postmarks of the '40's show two-line dates, and those of the 50's show single-line dates. Two covers in my hands deserve special mention for inconsistency. One is from Guinea Grass, showing two clear strikes of the T.R.D.; of these, one shows "JUN" in violet and "26" in blue, the other, the same phenomenon with 1951 added - the postmaster must have been an amateur contortionist. The other cover stems from PLACENCIA: two strikes of the village name proclaim July 5, 1951, while a third strike beside them limpidly declares "14 OCT 1951." The pace of life was doubtless rather slow in this complacent village.

The double oval strike mentioned in Bulletin 79 on a Geo. V stamp can now be regarded as a red herring, albeit struck in black. Similar items have turned up in more legible form: they belong to MOBILE ALA (bama) which seems to have made a practice of receiving uncanceled mail from somewhere in British Honduras. Amongst the dumb cancels sometimes seen on earlier stamps is a mark of five parallel straight lines, about 4mm. apart. This is believed not to belong to British Honduras, but to emanate from Guatemala as an arrival marking: curiously, this marking or a similar one is also seen from time to time on earlier stamps of the Bahamas. *Simon Goldblatt*

Dr. Geoffrey Ritchie has sent the following information to supplement Simon Goldblatt's notes on "Additions to Village Postmarks" and the foregoing article.

Seine Bight. Single circle, 36½mm. diameter. Date in one line. Sep. 7. 1935. B.H.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

O.S. OVERPRINT

I wonder whether I can mention a Leeward Islands stamp which has just come into my possession. I refer in particular to a mint (full o.g.) copy of the half-penny value of 1890, SG.1, which is overprinted in black in sans-serif capitals "OS."

The letters are 4.5mm. tall with a square stop behind each letter. The overall length of the overprint is 11mm., and the distance between the O and the S is 7.5mm. I cannot find any mention of this overprint in the publications and articles which I have on the Leeward Islands.

I recall noticing a similar overprint but on the 1890 one penny value I think, which came up at a Robson Lowe Auction a few years ago. I ignored it on that occasion as I was concentrating on St. Vincent at the time.

I wonder whether any member has met up with this item?

T. J. Strachan

Referring to Mr. T. J. Strachan's note above, I have never heard of any overprint of the letters O.S." in black on stamps of the Leeward Islands and can only assume, in the light of my personal experience, that the overprint is bogus. This is the view I would

take if offered this item due to the fact that I have never heard of it in the many years I have been collecting. I do not know what "OS." means or refers to, but possibly it is intended to be an abbreviation for "Official Service." As members will know correspondence by government officials of the Leeward Islands was privileged as it went unfranked and therefore there would be no need for official service stamps of any kind. Sometimes printed government envelopes were used by officials in their private correspondence but these of course would require to be stamped in the normal way as they were not being used for official business.

I think Mr. Strachan would be wise to regard the "OS." overprint on any stamp of the Leeward Islands with the utmost suspicion until evidence or information comes to light to prove that it is not bogus.

E. V. Toeg

ST. LUCIA

ST. LUCIA CODE DATE STAMPS

In the March Bulletin Dr. H. V. Brown raised the question of the 21mm. C code date stamp of St. Lucia. For some time I have been studying the postal markings of this island, and one of the points investigated was the possibility of a code letter cancellation of Choiseul.

The Castries C-code date stamp was 19½mm. in diameter and a 21mm. C-code stamp from a different office certainly exists. This was first reported by Bob Davaux in 1965, and to date the earliest known date is 10.2.93 and the latest 6.10.1914. The latter is many years after the latest known date for the Castries C-mark (19½mm.), namely 21-12-98. This accords reasonably with Jaffe's statement (Stamp Coll. 13-7-51) that the mark which succeeded it - the CASTRIES ST LUCIA (large letters) with C-code - was despatched from London on 15-2-99. The earliest strike I know of this is 31-10-99.

Jaffe also stated that a similar Canaries date stamp was despatched on 15-8-06 and another on 29-9-09, but the mark of this type which exists for Choiseul he did not mention. My earliest date for the date stamp with Choiseul in full, but with an asterisk instead of a C. is 20-11-15. The existence of the 21mm. C-code St. Lucia date stamp with the date 6-10-14 is thus consistent with its attribution to Choiseul but not to Canaries or Castries. The only cover yet recorded (Ritchie, BCPJ, June, 1973) has nine QV ½d. stamps to make the registered rate to London cancelled with the 21mm. C-mark of 14-5-97 and with the Castries 19½mm. C-mark as a transit mark of the same date on the back. They are in different inks and thus obviously from different offices. Unfortunately the letter is missing, and therefore no direct evidence that it originated at Choiseul is provided. I should be glad to hear of the existence of any other cover bearing this mark.

The following is a list of the earliest and latest recorded dates for the 21 mm. St. Lucia letter-code date stamps of the other five district post offices which used this type:

Dennery (opened 19-1-85)	17-1-90	19-3-15
Laborie (opened 19-1-85)	26-6-89	25-3-11
Micoud (opened 19-1-85)	5-2-89	13-5-22
Soufriere (open 16-7-84)	6-9-85	7-11-14
Vieux Forte (opened 16-7-84)	29-3-89	25-9-12

These periods are obviously incomplete and further known dates at either end would be appreciated by me.

Information on a few of the non-date stamps of St. Lucia is sparse, and I would ask for any additions to the following:

POST OFFICE (Crown) POSTAGE PAID in oval

30-10-43 to 20-12-60

ON POSTAL SERVICE (italics, 60 x 3mm.)

2-9-53 to 19-1-71

ditto but 82 x 4mm. 29-12-60 to 28-3-67

ST. LUCIA SHIP LETTER (2 lines) no example known

PAQUEBOT in rectangle 1929(?) to date

LATE FEE PAID (2 lines in rectangle) 8-11-60

Missent to St. Lucia (framed) 9-9-70

Dr. Geoffrey G. Ritchie

TOBAGO

Can anybody help by supplying, or giving a source for, the quantities of the surcharged stamps of this colony? Present information is as follows:

- (a) the combined total of SG. 11 and 13 was 7,440.
- (b) SG.26 and 29 together used up part of a consignment of 24,000.
- (c) the combined total of SG.19 and 27 was 18,000.
- (d) SG.28 used up part of a consignment of 6,000.
- (e) SG.30 and 31 together used up part of a consignment of 18,360.

Simon Goldblatt

In referring to Simon Goldblatt's list of Tobago postmarks on page 34, Bulletin No. 81, may I add the following.

In April, 1970 there were 5 Post Offices in Tobago: Scarborough, Roxborough, Moriah, Charlotteville and Speyside and 24 Postal Agencies - those named plus Des Vignes Road (opened 1957), Bon Accord (opened 1964) and Whim (opened ?).

Since then 3 new Postal Agencies are known to have opened: L'ansefourmi (opened 1st June, 1970), Bloody Bay (opened 1st November, 1972) and Glamorgan (E.K.D. 28th June, 1973).

Brian Limrick

TURKS ISLANDS

I have just read Mr. John J. Challis's article in Bulletin No. 81, June, 1974. I am afraid that my knowledge and experience of Turks Islands is superficial, so few of the said stamps being available, and I do not think the catalogues reflect the scarcity of the rarer varieties, which could never be popular.

With regard to the one shilling lilac SG.6, I acquired my copy about 40 years ago (for which I obtained an R.P.S.L. Certificate) but I have neither seen nor heard of another used copy since. When the stamp was issued, nearly 100 years ago, there could have been but a very small number of literates in those islands and as the majority of the 5,000 stamps issued were overprinted, surely the 1/- must be extremely rare, used or unused.

Mr. John J. Challis will certainly know that the perforation of these early 'Turks' was very poorly executed and as the paper was fairly strong and stout, for the separation of the majority, scissors had to be resorted to. In such circumstances collectors must not expect to find copies with perforations all round, for they will mostly be disappointed.

I am sorry I cannot add to the valuable information Mr. John J. Challis has kindly provided, but I should be interested to learn what has been his actual experience with regard to SG.6. I follow the Auctions fairly closely but this item never comes up.

William Irving

In reply to Mr. William Irving's note above, I also have a used 1/- lilac and know of quite a number of them and agree they are scarcer than mint. How I would like to get one on cover!

The population in 1873 was 4,725 and in 1960 5,668 and there were included 300 or so whites. There was quite a lot of correspondence from Turks Islands mainly from the salt estates though early covers are very scarce. The only one I have is a strip of four of SG.5 on cover. Used blocks of the earliest are extremely scarce.

Concerning perforations, I have a sheet of SG.5 and the stamps look as if they would split up alright. It may be that in the more humid atmosphere of Turks Islands the postmaster used scissors to avoid them splitting too much or possibly if he found certain rows of perfs too tough. We shall never know. Incidentally of the 1881 surcharges the bottom margin was **always** cut off before overprinting.

John J. Challis

Mr. Challis has done a splendid job in analysing the 1881 surcharges: he is one of the very few collectors who has handled or acquired enough material to make a reasonable assessment, and it makes it all the more difficult for anybody else to make a useful addition to his table of quantities. Slightly more may still be achieved by pooling our information - hence the comments which follow.

The firm date for the analysis comprise (i) the known consignment figures for the stamps on which the surcharging was carried out, and (ii) the distribution of individual types of surcharge between different settings. For knowledge of the latter one must have recourse to the 1891 handbook and supplement, where Bacon was able to collate and illustrate most of what is known about these issues to this day.

Mr. Challis gives the consignment figures 20,000 for the 1d. dull red, 12,000 each for the 6d. black and 1/- blue, and 5,000 for the 1/- lilac and there can be no doubt of his basic assumption that the bulk of the 1/- lilac stamps was in fact surcharged. I quarrel slightly with his figure of 4,920, but more of this anon.

The other calculations in his table are less easy to justify, since they apparently depend upon assumptions as to wastage of the unsurcharged stamps which are somewhat arbitrary and allow room for error. In the case of the 1881 surcharges, these were absorbed rapidly by dealers and collectors at the time of issue (just as happened at

the same period with British Guiana provisionals, or with Cayman Islands a generation later). By contrast, the unsurcharged stamps were to a large extent neglected, for the 6d. and 1/- blue had been on sale for 14 years, and there were still plenty left. Probably the 1d. stamps were quite popular as 'packet' material - as 1d. stamps from the Virgin Islands certainly were - and this would account for the quite large number of unused single stamps which survive; leaving this demand aside, one would expect a smaller proportion of 1d. stamps to survive than of higher values. Be that as it may, in the absence of special circumstances, such as philatelic demand for the marketing of remainders, would it not be surprising if as much as 20% to 25% of any particular issue survived?

Thus it seems preferable to calculate by reference to the surcharged stamps surviving, without first making any assumptions as to unsurcharged 1d., 6d. and 1/- blue stamps. Mr. Challis may, without mentioning it, have done just this: at any rate, if his table is accurate for each group of surcharges, one would expect to find, on average as an approximate distribution, that for every 20 surcharges, about 10 would be on 1d. stamps, 5 on 6d. stamps, 2 on 1/- blue, and 3 on 1/- lilac.

With this expectation in mind, I have done a census of my own, compiled from auction catalogues and a small personal assortment of these stamps; and here is the result:

1d. stamps	6d. stamps	1/- blue	1/- lilac
599	190	96	286

There is room for some adjustment between blue and lilac, because 41 stamps were identified only as 1/- values, but I have in fact divided these between the two colours in the same proportion as the identified values already showed (85: 256).

There is duplication in the above figures; for instance, I noticed in passing that the same sheet of 1d. stamps was certainly sold twice, and more careful comparison would have revealed other duplication. Nevertheless I included all available information in the expectation that the sample would be large enough for duplication approximately to average out.

The sample census thus covers a notional 1,171 stamps. If the figures are multiplied by 17 they become:

10,183	3,230	1,632	4,862
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and the total becomes 19,907.

Basing myself on this sample, and with all deference to the figures put forward by Mr. Challis, I should like to suggest that a total of about 20,000 stamps surcharged in all, is more likely to be correct, and that the breakdown is roughly as follows:

1d. stamps	9,500 to 10,500
6d. stamps	3,300 to 3,600
1 /- blue	1,650 to 1,800
1/- lilac	4,500 to 4,800

Turning back to the unsurcharged 1/- lilac. Mr. Challis suggests that only 80 were used up: but it does not follow that, because stocks of the 1/- blue were still in hand, the other colour was never put into use. It may have been both used and wasted: my assumed maximum of 500 copies is small enough in any case, although even this small difference would make a 10%, difference to the 'gearing' and totals given by Mr. Challis in his table. Testing it another way, if Mr. Challis is right, SG.23 (a prominent

and easily recognised surcharge) should be at least 1½ times as common as the unsurcharged 1/- lilac. Yet in my census, SG.6 turned up 14 times whereas SG.23 probably figured no more than 6 times - which conforms, incidentally, to my limited personal observation of the two stamps. I am not suggesting that the total of 14 should itself be multiplied by 17: a high catalogue price can bring out for sale a disproportionately large number of a particular stamp, whatever its true scarcity.

May I invite Mr. Challis to weigh in with his own group totals, and other members who have these stamps or information about them, to contribute theirs. A broader sampling should help to verify or qualify the result of my own census: please note, though, that a small proportion of forgeries exists, which could slightly inflate the figures for groups other than the 1/- lilac.

In case it throws any light on the use of 1881 surcharges, let me say a final word on surviving covers. I can myself cite only two examples. One is a registered cover of April, 1886, which bears ½d. on 6d. and 4d. on 6d. surcharges, while three other stamps almost certainly ½d. surcharges) have been removed. On the reverse is written:

“There are no more of these stamps in use here. The only stamps in use now are 1/-, 6d., 4d., 2½d. and ½d., and 1½d. and 3d. postcards.”

I take this to be an authentic note by the Postmaster, J. P. Crissen (whose term of office spanned at least 25 years from the 1860's) despite his obvious mistake in leaving out 1d. stamps. The other cover was dated December, 1895(!), registered and franked with 4d. on 6d. and ½d. on 1/- blue values; it was sold in a London auction in December, 1963, at the handsome price of £70. No doubt one or two fortunate collectors can show a cover of 1881 or 1882 bearing these issues; yet the almost complete dearth of covers, and the market's view of their value, is a strong indication that the genuine use of the surcharged stamps at the issue date was minimal.

Any contrary evidence, please?

Simon Goldblatt



You will have seen that the Roses Society will be selling by auction, on October 26th, the R. C. Walsh Leeward Islands collection. Richard Heap tells me that the collection contains some 50 items of specialist interest: so why not write for your catalogue today. Richard also mentions that he is reorganising his collection prior to giving a display next season. I foresee busy days ahead.

After the A.G.M. of the Welsh P.S. at the Eagle Hotel, New Radnor on June 15th, Philip and Rose Saunders gave members an opportunity to see another facet of their philatelic interests with a display of Radnorshire postal history.

Raymond Austin recently visited Wimbledon P.S. where he gave a display of pre-adhesive covers and adhesives from Chalon Heads through to the latest issues. It does not seem so long since I had the pleasure of seeing Raymond's display which he gave to the Redhill P.S.

Tony Shepherd has just been elected Chairman of the Roses C.P.S. for the season just started. Knowing something of Tony's enthusiasm, it's safe to say that there will be a lot of activity in Lancashire and Yorkshire in the coming months.

Joe Chin Aleong in a report to Stamp Collecting Weekly said that on a visit to Castries G.P.O., St. Lucia last December he discovered five handstamps that have not apparently been recorded. They are:

CANNOT BE TRACED, 32mm. long and 3mm. high, contained in a 35mm. x 9mm. rectangle.

DEFUNCT, 24mm. long and 4mm. high contained in a 29mm. x 9mm. rectangle.

FOUND IN LETTER BOX, 39mm. long and 3mm. high, contained in a 42mm. x 9mm. rectangle.

INSUFFICIENTLY ADDRESSED, 57mm. long and 3½mm. high contained in a 60mm. x 9mm. rectangle.

SHIP SAILED, 27½mm. long and 3½mm. high, contained in a 31mm. x 9mm. rectangle.

One wonders how long these handstamps have been tucked away in a drawer at Castries G.P.O. and if any of them have ever been used. If so, it is more than likely that at least one example would have been discovered by now.

Tony Reesby is still having success with his exhibit of Jamaica War Tax overprints. Winning his Society's competition, Tony's entry was automatically entered for the Midlands Federation competition, where it was awarded first prize and the President's Cup.

We hear that one of our Scottish members, Graham Hoey, has been ill. May we wish him a speedy recovery.

We understand that there is every possibility of a joint meeting between Scottish Caribbean collectors and Roses members sometime next June, the proposed venue being Carlisle.

A brisk walk along the Wall should work up a good appetite for the festivities

It is perhaps inevitable that in running an auction one cannot be all things to all men, but nevertheless from the kind letters we have received and the success that we feel has been achieved we are sufficiently encouraged to go ahead with preparations for our next auction. This will be held at the National Liberal Club on Saturday, April 12th, after the A.G.M.

Auctions require material, so may I earnestly request you to search through your collections for items that you no longer require and send them to me, the Editor, from December 1st onwards. Fuller and more detailed information will be published in the December Bulletin.

In conclusion we hope all members had enjoyable holidays during the summer months and are looking forward to the start of the new season, when we hope to have the pleasure of meeting many of you.

Mike Sheppard

Dear Member,

May I offer a warm welcome to all our new members and hope that they will gain much pleasure and benefit from their association with the Circle. At the same time I should like to apologise for the errors and omissions in the membership list and hope that these will soon be put right.

It is with much regret that I have to report the death of Mr. William Butler, of Toronto, Canada, a member of the Circle for many years.

Now that we have our membership list may I stress the importance of still reporting your findings to our Editor so that he will have a steady flow of articles for the Bulletin and also to keep your address list up to date from the additions and amendments that will appear in every issue of the Bulletin.

Ian Chard

NEW MEMBERS

BAKER, Leslie, 89 Longwood Gds., Clayhall, Ilford, Essex	Interests: Jamaica (all aspects)
BAKER, Stirling Anthony, 15 Emmott Ave., Barkingside, Ilford, Essex	Interests: Jamaica (all aspects)
BROOKS, Rev. Peter, 14 New Rd., Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 9AE	Specialises in Antigua. Other interests: Barbuda and Leeward Is.
DOE, Bernard, 1 Langham Gdns., Gordon Rd, London, W.13	Interests: Leeward Islands
LEE, Thomas, R., 20625 Lakeshore Rd., Baie D'Urfe, Quebec, Canada	interests: Montserrat
LEWARN, Anthony, Wilmer, 4 Romney Court, Shepherds Bush Green, London, W12 8PY	interests: Jamaica Postal History
MARSH, F. B., Greswold, 942 Warwick Rd., Solihull, Wrks., B91 3HW	interests: Bermuda
TUCKER, Dr. Neil Ian, 285 Parr Lane, Unsworth, Bury, Lancs., BL9 8PJ	Interests: War Tax and War Stamp Overprints
SAVILLE, Peter Harney, The Surgery, The Public Rooms, Quay St., Truro	Interests: Leeward and Windward Is.

DECEASED MEMBER

BUTLER, William

OMISSIONS FROM LIST

MAYO, Mrs. Linda Gayle, 1110E. Armour Blvd., Apt. 10, Kansas City, Mo. 64109, U.S.A	interests: St. Vincent, B.W.I. censored mails, Br. Guiana cancellations
MUSHLIN, David, 296 Cricklewood Lane, London, NW2 2PX	interests: All B.W.I. up to 1900 including books and documents
GUNN, G. I. L., 11 Shaldon Way, Walton on Thames, Surrey, KT12 3DJ	Interests: Grenada
HOGGARTH, Norman William, 68 Bramley Rd., Birstall, Leicester, LE4 4FG	interests: Turks & Caicos Is., 1900-1962

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ADAMS, Denis, 132 Beresford Ave., Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey, KT5 9LS
BLAKELY, R. H., 26 New Road, Swansea, Treboeth, Wales
JAFFE, P., Hetherlie, Warburton Rd., Lillydale, Victoria, Australia
LIMRICK, Brian, 19 Winthrop Rd., Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3UH
MARSHALL, L. M. W., 5 Lamerton Rd., Barkingside, Ilford, Essex. IG6 2EQ
ROBINS, P. D., 10 Hawfinch Walk, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford, Essex
SAUNDERS, P. T. For Radnorshire read POWYS
SAUNDERS, Mrs. R. For Radnorshire read POWYS
TAYLOR, John, Wilmington House, High Street, East Grinstead, Sussex

CHANGE OF INTERESTS

ADAMS, Denis. Now collects Barbados, Dominica & Grenada. Retains interest in Jamaica (before decimal coinage) and Br. Honduras (until formation of Belize)

SILK, Donald. Main interest: Antigua, Barbuda and Virgin Is. Other interests: Leeward Is., use of Danish and British stamps on all four.

WOOLFSON, Dr. David. Now interested in Jamaica, Barbados (inc. village post- marks) and Trinidad.

RESIGNED

DAY, S. J.

OPINIONS SERVICE (Home members only)

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