



**STUDY CIRCLE**

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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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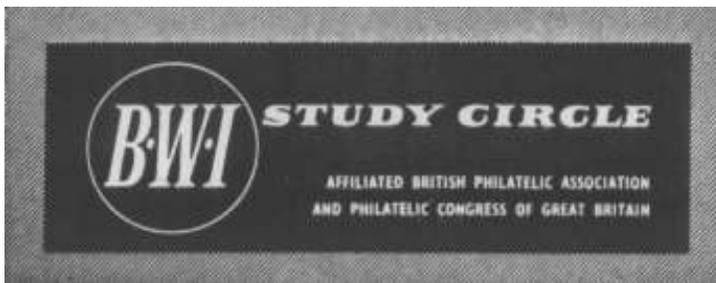
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## **OBJECTS**

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of 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, 1975

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 Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1.

## Visits to other Societies

1975

Fri., June 20th. Kingston-upon-Thames P.S., Assembly Rooms, Surbiton Library, Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey. Messrs. A. J. Branston and A. H. Latham.

## VACANCY FOR THE POST OF **Honorary Librarian**

Mrs. Rose Saunders, owing to ill-health, has had to relinquish the office of Hon. Librarian rather sooner than she expected and any Member willing to be Hon. Librarian should get in touch with Mr. E. V. Toeg at the earliest opportunity for details. It will however be necessary for an applicant to make sure that he has some space at home to take in the library.

**Pending the filling of this appointment it is regretted that the use of the library is temporarily suspended.**

## **BULLETINS**

Copies of a few early back issues and consecutively from No. 53 (June 1967) are obtainable from the Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer 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 . . . . . £1 (\$2.50) each

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

Would members please note that copies of Leonard Britnor's 'Montserrat' may likewise be obtained through the Hon. Secretary or Hon. Treasurer.

## **HONORARY PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER**

Reynold Radford has found it necessary, owing to pressure of business, to give up the post of Public Relations Officer. If anyone would like to take over this post would they please get in touch with Mr. E. V. Toeg, c/o Messrs. J. Tickle & Co., Victoria House, Vernon Place, London, WC1B 4DP.

## **DISPLAY**

The meeting on the Saturday afternoon in the autumn is the main Display Meeting of the Study Circle's year and our member, Mr. J. L. Messenger, was asked to display to the Study Circle his well-known collections comprising the Windward Islands. On Saturday, the 5th October, 1974, twelve members attended the meeting and those who did so were indeed lucky and privileged to see a most magnificent display of four different islands which Mr. Messenger has been collecting for very many years. Most famous of his collections are those of St. Vincent and Grenada and apart from these he also showed St. Lucia and Barbados. There now follows a summary of the various displays, but a factual summary in cold print does not really do justice to what was shown and one can only say that when Mr. Messenger shows again anywhere members should treat themselves and listen to his talk and display of superb material. A summary of the display of the various countries now follows:

### **GRENADA**

The items shown consisted of proof and essay material only on account of the fact that some six years ago Mr. Messenger had shown Grenada to the Study Circle. The display commenced with original die proofs of the 1d and 6d of 1861 followed by plate proofs of these stamps which included a block of 15 of the 6d on vertically laid paper.

Die proofs of the first and second state of the unappropriated die used for the 1/- of 1875 were shown with a strange example in dull purple and a non-contemporary strike from the background die. These were followed by plate proofs in black.

Then followed two unaccepted artists drawings adapted from the designs of then current Mauritius Issues. These were intended to replace the Perkins Bacon recess printed stamps still in use.

With them was the accepted design for the “Postage & Revenue” issue of 1887 made from a proof with the tablets painted in by hand.

Five examples of the 1895 key plate issue were included also with the tablets painted in by hand and a progress proof and completed die proof of the Commemorative issue of 1898 accompanied by a series of colour trials. These were followed by die proofs in colour of the 2½d of 1905 and the 10/- of 1908, the former bearing artists’ designs for the duty tablets of other values and the latter built up from current dies.

Finally there was a small selection of proofs for the 1938-50 issue on which the duty tablets had been drawn in by hand.

## **ST. LUCIA**

This section began with an example of the “Paid at St. Lucia Crown Circle” handstamp on a cover of 1854 addressed to France and was followed by a selection of the stamps of Great Britain used in the island. These included a cover to Bordeaux of 1858 franked by a penny and sixpenny stamp (making up the seven penny rate), an unusual inter-island cover to Barbados of 1857 franked by a four pence rose (large garter watermark) and various singles struck with the All killer in use at the time.

The adhesives shown came from the Perkins Bacon plates only and were preceded by a die proof in black on card. They included a selection from the 1860 issue which included mint blocks of all three denominations and were followed up by the De La Rue 1863 issue which was similarly represented and also included imperforate varieties of the one penny and four pence. The unissued halfpenny and sixpenny provisionals were also shown.

The 1864 colour changes were shown with blocks and minor varieties of both the perf. 12½ and perf. 14 printings which included a block of four of the one penny intense black imperforate and an imperforate example of the sixpence mauve. A few covers were shown within this group.

The 1881 halfpenny and two pence halfpenny and the following Crown CA printings were present with used and unused blocks, the latter including the one shilling orange.

The final two pages showed examples of the two major re-entries.

## **ST. VINCENT**

This section comprised a small selection of rather disconnected material intended to show scarce or interesting material.

The first item was a letter of 1775 from the Barrie correspondence which is reputed to be the first correspondence from the Island to have survived; it has no mark of origin. This was followed by an 1815 example of the St. Vincent oval Ship Letter handstamp.

Examples of the stamps of Great Britain used in the island included a cover to France of 1858 bearing the correct seven penny rate but inexplicably partly cancelled by the “Paid at St. Vincent” handstamp in black and an 1859 cover to the U.S.A. franked by a pair of the four pence rose.

The 1861 intermediate perf. issue was shown in unused and used condition with two covers, one to Edinburgh hearing a six pence deep yellow-green, the other to Paris showing the 1/4d double rate. These were followed by various covers showing the

usage of the rough perf. and perf. 11-12½ issues with some off-cover examples of the one penny perf. 11-12½ x 14-16 in unused and used condition.

The 1866-69 issues were shown with their colour changes and included mint blocks of the four pence blue and four pence yellow, the shilling slate-grey, the shilling indigo and the shilling brown. Included also was an example of the one shilling slate-grey perf. 11-12½ all round and several covers.

Some items from the 1877/8 issues were included showing the one shilling vermilion perf. about 15 (all round) and a used example of the imperforate variety and there were unused and used examples of the sixpence yellow-green from the 1877 printing with watermark sideways perforated 15 (all round).

There was a mint block of six of the sixpence bright green of 1880 and a mint strip of three of the contemporaneous one shilling with examples of the five shillings and of the several provisionals made necessary by the rate changes which were introduced in 1881. The latter included an example of the halfpenny on half of sixpence showing the variety "fraction bar omitted".

## **BARBADOS**

It may be questioned whether this island should have been included but the material shown all dates from long before Barbados left the Windward Group.

The first item shown was a proof from the master die used for Mauritius and Trinidad as well as Barbados and this was followed by die proofs of the sixpence and shilling values for the 1858 issue. A page showing the bisected two pence greyish slate and a few early imperforates were included among which were mint blocks of the sixpence rose-red and one shilling black of 1858.

A few items from the 1861-70 issues included imperforate blocks of the halfpenny and penny denominations (the latter from both plates); Plate 2 plate number corner pieces of the halfpenny, one penny and four pence values, the shilling error of colour blue and examples of the halfpenny and penny stamps perf. 11-12½.

Finally there were examples of the 1878 penny on half of five shillings provisionals which included types B and C both on local covers.

So ended a superb talk and show of material and Mr. Simon Goldblatt proposed the vote of thanks to Mr. Messenger for his remarkable display which was so appreciated by all those present and thereby brought a very fine meeting to its close.

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This was a display by our member Mr. A. H. Latham basically of pre-adhesive material of Jamaica the collection of which he has formed over a number of years with great care, knowledge and attention and this display took place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, 12th December, 1974, in the presence of 12 members and one visitor.

A summary of the display now follows.

The first items were not philatelic, being two early maps of Jamaica of 1528 and 1576 both showing Jamaica very different from its correct shape, the first map being based on sketches by Columbus. These were followed by two early letters, the first carried by the 'Welcom' dated 1679, the second dated 1692 was written by one of the Jamaican postmasters, James Whale, giving an account of the Port Royal earthquake disaster. A letter dated 29th December, 1707, carried by one of Dummer's vessels came next, followed by examples of the straight line Jamaica markings, the early dated Jamaica markings and the fleuron markings.

The first post-town markings were represented by examples from 'FALMOUTH', 'KINGSTON' and two different types of 'SPANISH TOWN'. Various straight line 'JA' markings were shown including the two different 'FALMOUTH JA' markings and a letter of 1808 with the first type 'FALMOUTH' used as a temporary measure. Among the straight line town markings without 'JA' was a fine 'GOSHEN' in red.

A number of dated post-town markings were shown with many different types including examples from Robins River, Falmouth, Green Island, Ocho Rios, Porus and Buff Bay: also included were examples of Port Antonio and Port Morant in blue. Great Britain stamps connected with Jamaica were shown next consisting of three letters re-addressed on arrival in England and thereby requiring adhesives. The first was an 1841 letter from Rio Bueno with a penny black and the other two items had penny reds. Various covers were then shown having Great Britain stamps used in Jamaica with obliterators A01, A57, A62, A68 and A75. There was also a registered money letter with A65 obliterator and a first-day cover dated March 1st, 1859, of A44, Goshen.

The 'PAID' markings included an 1817 'PAID TO ENGLAND' item and a selection of dated 'JAMAICA PAID' marks from 1821 to 1845. An early 1799 pre-paid letter was described with an unrecorded paid marking of Jamaica, but this was not shown. 'PAID' markings were shown of 'KINGSTON', 'MORANT BAY,' 'MONTEGO BAY,' 'PAID 8d,' 'PAID 1/2' and 'ST. ANNS'.

All the known Jamaican rate markings were shown, i.e., ½, 1, 1½, 4, 6, 8 and 1/- some on ordinary covers, some on soldiers' letters and others on newspapers.

The Commercial Rooms markings were well represented with various types including the unusual 'TOO LATE FOR' markings and the only one missing was the second type.

The instructional markings followed with a nice 1844 'MORE- TO-PAY', early 'UNCLAIMED' in red and black; the green 'JAMAICA F' fleuron applied at Falmouth, England; 'MEXICO' and 'CARTHAGENA' fleurons in red; 'MISSENT TO JAMAICA' with and without 'B.W.I.', forwarding agents' marks in manuscript and cachets; manuscript town marks, and the not too common 'KINGSTON' dated marking of 1808.

A small study consisting of six pages of the penny red and red and black Falls stamps was shown, with flaws, re-entries and complete sheets.

Lastly, there were some miscellaneous items passed around with post-office notices, plantation sale notices and newspapers including an 1859 newspaper with a Great Britain penny stamp cancelled with the A39 Falmouth obliterator.

Throughout the display many of the members added information, and Mr. C. P. Winand recounted some very interesting and enlightening background stories. Mr. Wiland also proposed a very sincere vote of thanks which was heartily endorsed by those present and this brought an informative and interesting meeting to a close.



## ANTIGUA

### TRIAL PERFORATIONS OF MESSRS. PERKINS BACON & CO.

In response to my notes in Bulletin No. 82 September, 1974, I have heard from our member Peter Jaffe in Australia who informs me that he has an example of the six pence blue-green SG3 with differing perforations as follows:

6. A2, A2, B, A2.

This stamp in the Peter Jaffe collection has a different combination of perforations from any of those listed by me previously, and I have therefore numbered it 6 accordingly.

Mr. Jaffe has posed the question that surely the Grenada trial ought to be about the same time but although I have looked at Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue and also at Monographs by three different authors on this country I am unable at present to find a reference to a stamp with a combination of perforations. Mr. Jaffe also enquires if anyone knows the date of the issue of the St. Vincent one penny rose-red SG10 and one shilling slate-grey SG.11 compound perforations, the estimated year of issue being 1863. He also states that he has a used Turks Islands one shilling lilac SG.6 with compound perforations which I see is stated in the above mentioned Catalogue to have been issued in January, 1879. Not having any material from these three countries I am not in a position to help Mr. Jaffe and hope that someone else can do so.

I trust that I have stated Mr. Jaffe's queries correctly.

*E. V. Toeg*

### ANTIGUA HANDSTAMPS

Four letters in a correspondence from John Otto Bayer sold by Robson Lowe on 2/5/74 were marked with the straight line ANTIGUA handstamp 37mm x 3mm mentioned by Alex Thomson. All are dated in 1798 and the handstamp is not cited in the Codrington Correspondence as it is not on any of those letters, there being no packet letters from that year in that correspondence.

Another letter from Bayer is not what it appears to be at first sight. It has the Antigua packet handstamp for May 13 (1) 801, but is also endorsed 'By His Majesty's ship Li Unite'. A second letter reveals that this is not a warship acting as a packet, but the letter is an exact duplicate, including the endorsement, of one carried by the Fleet which sailed on April 27th, the original bearing an oval Crown/Ship Letter/Deal handstamp.

*Peter Brooks*

### BERMUDA

I have a February, 1941, cover from Bermuda to Geneva, franked with a 2s. George VI adhesive and sent by air mail to the Red Cross Headquarters. It has a typewritten endorsement at the top:

Red Cross Postal Message Scheme

39. 40.

At the bottom is a rubber stamp 31mm x 3mm "COUPON REPONSE" in red, with a mss. "2" preceding it.

Is this a Bermuda mark or if not where was it applied? Can any member give any further information about the cover generally.

*Richard Heap*

### **BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA)**

I note in Bulletin 80, page 3, that Bill Townsend lists various Wireless and Telegraph cancellations that were not for postal use. I can report that since Independence, Guyana is using a double ring mark with arcs at sides of TELEGRAPHS N.A. as a postal cancellation. I have several commercial covers showing such use.

*Fred F. Seifert*

### **BRITISH HONDURAS**

#### **SOME NOTES ON PROGRESO**

In response to Simon Goldblatt's article and additional notes on British Honduras in the 4/74 BWISC Bulletin, I wish to again submit the following information on LOWRY'S BIGHT, which he might have had difficulty locating reference to owing to the fact that it originated from Progreso.

Progreso is one of the most beautiful villages in British Honduras. Although the village is officially in Corozal District, most of its business and affinity are with the town of Orange Walk sixteen miles away, the road leading through the village of San Estevan. Progreso can also be approached by the Bay of Corozal. One enters by LOWRY'S BIGHT LAGOON, passes the settlements of Copper Bank and Chunox, enters another lagoon, and eventually reaches the village.

Its name is spelled with one "s" as well as with two. With one "s" it denotes the word "progress." With two "ss" it probably claims relationship with the Mexican city of Progreso.

The history of Progreso is bound up with the massacres of the Mestizos at Bacalar. When this occurred in 1848, the Santa Cruz Indians pillaged such Mestizo settlements as Bacalar, and one of the inhabitants of Progreso today claims a great grand-aunt who was married to an English officer who aided the Santa Cruz Indians in the massacre. The Mestizos poured into the northern area of the country, landing first at Consejo and then settling Corozal and other northern communities. Some of these early inhabitants, exploring the Bay of Corozal, discovered the LOWRY'S BIGHT opening, and eventually sailed down the pretty lagoon, settling around Progreso far away from the constant attack of the Indians. Actually, these people settled first at LOWRY'S BIGHT Bar, eventually migrated to the vicinity called Mount Pleasant, and inhabited what is now the community called Progreso.

The present population of Progreso is a little over 400, Spanish being the predominant language. There is a village library, health clinic, police station, village council, youth club and Red Cross unit.

Gale J. Raymond has provided the only two types of cancellations from Progreso that I have seen, and they are illustrated below.

*Continued on page 10.*

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1974

### INCOME

<b>1973</b>		<b>1974</b>
218.70	Advertisers	134.95
12.11	Bulletins (sale of back issues)	41.75
8.70	'CORDEX' Binders	5.07
-----	Collection at Meetings	6.01
2.75	Donations	4.90
3.10	Opinion Fees	2.50
400.45	Subscriptions	393.22
46.50	Subscriptions paid in advance	57.31
7.60	Sundry receipts	3.67
-----	Auction Profits	62.77
206.74	Cash at Bank	233.41
906.65		945.56

### PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

<b>1973</b>		<b>1974</b>
£ p		£ p
-----	Sale of Paper No.4	5.50
517.34	Sale of Paper No.5	334.36
189.57	Cash at Bank as at 31.12.70	697.51
£706.91		£1,037.37

Audited and found correct.

22.1.75

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

## STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1974

### EXPENDITURE

1973		1974
6.00	Advertising	----
7.68	Bank Charges	----
12.51	Books and Periodicals	22.10
25.00	'CORDEX' Binders	----
----	Printing Membership Lists	64.90
16.33	Entertainment, Hire of Rooms, etc.	18.00
10.00	Insurance	10.00
86.42	Postage	107.68
469.28	Printing and blocks	603.42
17.29	Stationery	15.43
3.75	Subscriptions	----
4.00	Subscriptions (members refunded)	3.00
2.65	Sundries (including cost of typewriter)	26.81
12.33	Telephone	8.63
233.41	Cash at Bank £91.44 <i>less</i> cheques not presented £28.85	65.59
£906.65		£945.56

### PUBLICATIONS ACCOUNT

1973		1974
6.50	Printers (part cost) for Paper No.5	750.00
----	Postage	45.34
3.00	Refund Trade Discount	----
697.51	Cash at Bank	242.03
£706.91		£1,037.37

C. G. BARTLETT,  
*Hon. Treasurer.*

*Continued from page 7.*

Type 11\* was apparently used through 1912-1927. Please report earlier or later usage. I have no information on Type 10 although Mr. Raymond says it is a type common to Mexico in the early 20th century. (\* Type Nos. from my Draft No. 1 Village Type Chart).

*Ralph Edward Group*



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The only new c.d.s. seen in recent months is of Type 3. The legend at the top appears to be "NEW RIVER SERVICE", and at the bottom "TRANSIT". Date is c.1910, or a little earlier, and presumably the strike is a T.P.O. (or A). Was the New River service by launch or full-size steamer, and how much is recorded or known of mail cancelled on board, as against at the point of despatch or Belize on arrival?

**Seals.** The GUINEA GRASS seal (used on or from 3.6.1952) has been mentioned once or twice, while a seal cancellation has been used somewhat more recently at STANN CREEK VALLEY - the instrument itself probably dates from the 1930s or earlier, since it reads around the central crown. "20 MILES STANN CREEK".

A more intriguing discovery is the apparent use as a canceller of a mail-bag seal for SAN ESTEVAN. Though the central pattern is indistinct, the name and the other characteristics are unmistakable, and the fact that the obliteration in this instance is on S.G. 53, the Victorian 3 cts. brown, suggests that the seal may have been used as an alternative to pen and ink, before the arrival of the purpose-made date stamp. Do G.P.O. records reveal when the first instrument for San Estevan was proved?

Finally, a manuscript cancellation which defeats my efforts to explain it. It reads, fairly clearly, "K.c.p.o.", and the date is "15.4.03". Authenticity is proved by an indistinct Belize cancellation, struck over the ink and dated 16.4.03. Did any of the offices known to have come into operation in the early part of this century, such as, for instance, Castillo or Butcher Burns or Caledonia or Consejo, have alternative names which may have prompted the initials "K.C."? Was there by any chance a King Edward post office somewhere for a time. "K.c." being just possible, albeit unlikely, as the true reading? As a final suggestion, was Key Caulker ever used for Cay(e) Caulker?

*Simon Goldblatt*

# CAYMAN ISLANDS

Within a seek of finding the seal of San Estevan, described under British Honduras, a further intaglio cancellation came to light. This time it appears (c. 1909?) on the ¼d black-brown of Cayman Islands. There are two part strikes on the stamp, but these mailbag seals made very inefficient cancelling devices, and only the second attempt is at all legible: 'LANDS' of ISLANDS' is plainly readable, and no doubt 'CAYMAN' would have appeared, had this mark been more centrally struck. If the 'provisional' use of the seal at Georgetown is known already to an inner core of Cayman I. specialists, the fact certainly does not seem to have been previously publicised, and perhaps we should all look through our stocks of the colony again, to see whether other examples can be spotted, and some inference can be drawn as to the need for its use.

*Simon Goldblat*

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# DOMINICA

## SOME EARLY STRAIGHT LINE MARKS

I recently had the opportunity of examining the pre-adhesive material of the Gold Medal collection of Dominica formed by the late Felix Nabarro. One or two points in particular struck me about some of the early straight line marks, and I should be very interested to have comments and further information from other members of the Study Circle.

To begin with here are brief descriptions of some of the marks I noticed:

1. DOMINICO, in serif capitals, 7½mm high. 53mm long: letter written May, 1778.
2. As No. 1, but letter written August, 1778.
3. DOMI/NICA, in two lines, 25mm long, letters 5½mm high: letter written May, 1795.

(This mark has been recorded previously, used in 1793 as a transit mark).

4. DOMINICA, in serif capitals, 6mm high, 55mm long: letter written 1797.
5. As No. 4, but letter written 1798.

The interesting point about these handstamps is that none of the periods of use overlap one another, as so often happened in other places in the B.W.I. For example, in the case of the straight line marks of Jamaica, J1 was in use 1746-1798, J2 1765-1797 and J3 1768-1776; obviously a considerable amount of overlapping.

Dominica had a chequered career during the 18th century, being variously claimed and captured by France and Britain. The Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, 7 October, 1748, however, confirmed the neutrality of Dominica: but a few years later, in June, 1761, the island was captured by Britain, and was retained by her under the Treaty of Paris in 1763. With the resumption of war in 1778 Dominica was taken by France in September of that year, but the island was restored to Britain by the Treaty of Versailles in 1783. During the French occupation though. Roseau had been burnt down in 1781. In 1795 a small French force from Guadeloupe landed on Dominica and were joined by a number of French inhabitants - the invasion, however, was soon defeated. At the end of this war Dominica remained a British possession under the Treaty of Amiens, 27 March, 1802.

Referring then to the letters quoted earlier:-

(a) It will be noted that DOMINICO does not occur again after August, 1778; Dominica was captured by the French in September, 1778 (see letters 1 and 2).

(b) The two-line DOMI/NICO is the next mark recorded, and was in use as late as May, 1795, just before the next French invasion (see letter 3).

(c) The DOMINICA mark appears after this invasion (see letter 4).

Could it be that with each of the French occupations the Post Office, or at least the handstamp, was destroyed, and that with the re-opening of the Post Office by the British new handstamps were supplied. This would account for the fact that there was no overlapping in their use.

I should certainly be very pleased to hear the views of other members on this point, and particularly to have details of any straight line Dominica handstamps which they have in their collections or of which they know.

*Leonard Britnor*

## **GRENADA**

“... quondam dormitat Homerus.” A page of Grenada forgeries passed round at a recent Circle meeting included a 1d surcharge on the 1½d fiscal (1878 issue) with a typical forged postmark. It was said, however, by the owner and several of the assembled company that the surcharge itself was forged.

Morley's catalogue, both in its original edition and its last edition (1910) tells a different story. It recognises three types of possible surcharge, namely, a large 1d (8½mm tall) with straight serifs, a surcharge of similar size, only with a curly serif at the top of the 1, and an 'error', being the first-type surcharge without the letter 'd'.

As between the learned Mr. Morley and our equally learned fellow-members, who has nodded? If it helps, I can cite four examples of the surcharge in my own collection, one straight, and three curly; in one of the latter the surcharge is so far to the right as nearly, but not quite, to cut off the 'd'. One copy shows 1884 as the manuscript date of use; a second shows 1885, which has been bleached out, and a forged postmark superimposed, above the surcharge.

Odd as the antics of some 19th-century forgers were, the possible purpose of converting a fiscal 1½d value (itself quite scarce) into a fiscal 1d value by surcharge, wholly escapes me. May we hear further from those who can offer some evidence of the fact of forgery, or contrary evidence of genuineness by reference to further copies of the stamp, its cataloguing and use.

To set the ball rolling, the surcharge (which would be a local one, in any case) is not referred to in Alfred Charlton's handbook.

*Simon Goldblatt*

## **JAMAICA**

The following comments have been contributed by Thomas Foster and are published in the hope that they will assist some of our members with their queries.

1. Bulletin No. 78. p. 51. of Simon Goldblatt: No. 79. p. 73, of E. V. Toeg and J. Charles Loach: and No. 81, p. 27, of A. Thompson.

Firstly, with the advent of the air mail service in the B.W.I., the early air mail rates and regulations clearly stated that only fully paid air mail would be transmitted. If the item was underpaid, postmasters were instructed to cancel the stamps in excess of that sum required for sea mail and the air mail etiquette, with the purple barred handstamp before date stamping the postage stamps required in the normal way.

Examples of this practice are commonly found on early Jamaica, British Guianan and Trinidadian commercial air mail correspondence, and may also exist on similar items from the smaller islands, though I do not recall seeing any.

Secondly, throughout the 1930s and unlike today, the various Colonial Post Offices acting under instructions from the Crown Agents, were actively biased against the philatelic cancelling of covers at offices under their jurisdiction. They were instructed to refuse to carry out such operations whenever possible and to discourage the growing practice of cancelling covers carrying large amounts of postage stamps in excess of the actual postage required!

To carry out this practice on items overlooked or posted in letter boxes, etc., postmasters were instructed to cancel all stamps on the letter in excess of the postage required with the purple-barred handstamp, leaving the “legitimate” postage stamps to be date stamped normally with the actual postmark.

Evidence of this procedure is often seen on philatelic covers from St. Kitts, Antigua, Dominica, British Guiana, etc., especially on first and last day covers of the various commemorative issues.

This active discouragement against philatelic covers was still in evidence in the immediate post-war years, when covers sent to the smaller offices in St. Vincent, invariably were intercepted and answered in the negative by the G.P.O. at Kingstown. The question arises, which came first, the chicken or the egg? Was this handstamp issued originally for the first practice or the second? All the evidence I have seen compels me to give the verdict in favour of the first.

2. Bulletin No. 78. p. 51, of Robert Topaz.

With tongue in cheek, may I suggest to Bob that this letter originated in the Maldive Islands and that the straight line marking, “MALDIVES,” was applied there before being sent to Ceylon for onward transmission? I believe I am correct in stating that at this time, the Maldive Islands came under the jurisdiction of Ceylon for postal purposes and had no date stamps of their own.

3. Bulletin No. 80, p. 13, of John J. Challis.

The Jamaica Transit markings, types TR9 and TRIO, were accountancy markings struck on letters passing through the island and were intended to show that a proportion of the postage had to be credited to the Jamaica Post Office. The Ship Letter handstamp on this cover is my type SL10, and would have been applied to indicate that this was a ship letter and that a different proportion of the postage was due to the Post Office than in the case of a normal packet letter.

4. The handstamp, type TP3, in my book, is also a transit accountancy marking and owing to lack of information at the time of publication, was wrongly included in the “To Pay” section. The packet postage between British Post Offices in North America and the Caribbean at that time was 4d sterling, which included any inland postage incurred by such post offices at either end. The “1” or “1d” handstamps were issued to

these offices to be struck on letters in black indicating that that sum had been credited to the post office of receipt for delivery charges in their service.

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A request for information, that has drawn a blank with U.P.U. at Berne and the Jamaican, British and American Post Offices, has just reached me and is as follows: "In my Jamaica collection I have several philatelic and commercial second class air mail covers to Great Britain, handstamped either in purple or black with the letters "A.O.", either framed or unframed. Can anyone tell me what these letters mean, what the handstamp was used for and where it was applied."

Will any member having information please get in touch with the Editor.

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I mention this colony with diffidence, being one on which there is a wealth of philatelic learning, to none of which I lay claim.

It should, however, be of interest to record the finding of a further example of an office using its then c.d.s. during the fortnight in 1862 when the larger part of the numeral obliterators were withdrawn for re-allocation. This is -

LUCEA 23 OCT 1862 on the 6d value, S.G.5. The type is, of course, P 6 (Foster) the only one in use at the time.

It occurs to me that the prospect of surviving examples of the use of the c.d.s. at this period being found for each of the 19 offices concerned in the re-allocation, must be pretty slim. One could hardly expect to find any single example of such use more often than once in, say, 25,000 to 50,000 Jamaican stamps of the Victorian era. An example for somewhere like Green Island or Hope Bay or May Hill might, at best, be one in 5 million and, as such, likely to lie undiscovered for all time.

Turning from the rare to the faintly curious, it struck me, on inspecting the Byron Cameron collection at auction, that the catalogue does less than justice to the 2½d on 4d surcharge (S.G.30) by referring to double 'overprint'. One copy forming part of a block for sale there showed portions of no fewer than six overprints, which seems to me to be the mathematical maximum for the format printed doubly!

In case my arithmetic is wrong, can anyone quote an example of this (or any other surcharge, come to that) with the overprint septuple or above? Or, putting it more traditionally, "is this a record"?

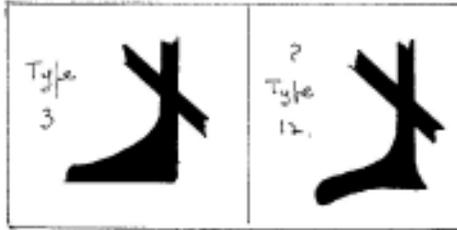
*Simon Goldblatt*

## **LEEWARD ISLANDS**

### **THE SEXAGENARY FORGERIES**

The excellent article by E. V. Toeg and H. G. Leslie Fletcher in earlier issues of the Bulletin illustrates 11 types of forgery with the comment that there are others. For the record, Patrick Williams has now produced an inverted forgery which may well be type No. 12. The nearest resemblance is to type No.3 in which neither the upper or the lower arms of the cross bar of the letter R of the monogram extend in front of the I. The overprint is on the ½d value but unfortunately the lettering is very incomplete. The top

of the figure 8 is flat as in other types however. One particular feature of this forgery which distinguishes it from type 3 is the left-hand foot of the large letter R. This is flat on type 3 but curved on this new forgery, thus:



It is hoped that a member will recognise this forgery and supply details of the lettering and the buckle so that yet another type can be recorded. *A.J.B. and P.H.W.*

## ST. LUCIA

I would like to call attention to two enquiries in the September Bulletin (No. 82); one by David Woolfson "ON SERVICE" of British Guiana; the other by J. T. Strachan and E. V. Toeg "OS."

Overprint of Leeward Islands.

I recently acquired from a pending bonfire of some papers of a deceased lawyer at Castries, a tattered envelope addressed to the U.S.A., with a unique boxed "Official Paid" in violet, very similar to the boxed "On Service" of Mr. Woolfson.

I have several early pre-stamp and stampless covers of St. Lucia with manuscript "On Service" applied up to the later nineteenth century. Some time after we find the official "On Postal Service" in block capitals applied on official free franked mail.

*Robert J. Deveaux*

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The 21mm St. Lucia "C" c.d.s. was identified as Choiseul about 1935 by Oliver Bowlby, Commander Gordon and the writer, acting as friendly competitors rather than students in concert. During Jaffe's visit to Castries in 1950, he was at least as interested in obeah and the use of the hand of glory to open bank vaults as in postal history.

To assist Drs. Geoffrey Ritchie and Vivian Brown, I present such facts as I have and notes, partly based on knowledge of other philatelic research.

1. My earliest date is April 26, 1889 (on a 1d); my latest November 4, 1914. My early date for extended Choiseul is April 15, 1915.

2. I think the rust red strikes are 1895. These may have come from a dirty canceller, but I am inclined to think it was the addition of unsuitable ink to the dry pad (see Grenada circa 1878). The rust red are scarce.

3. M Myerscough pieces are 7 x ½d on registered front to London, 1897; 2 x ½d on envelope to London, 1902.

4. I have never seen anything above 2½d with this mark. I believe in Q.V. period only ½d and 1d were supplied. In EVII 2½d was added.

5. I have not decided if there is a regular pattern for day before month as against routine month before day. It could be the difference between D.P.M. and spouse or daughter! Both forms exist.

*Peter Jaffe*

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“St. Lucia Air Mail,” Bulletin No. 83, page 77. Mr. T. A. Hutson has asked me to apologise for a typing error in his copy which gave the year for the first St. Lucia Air Mail as 1928. This should have been 1929.

## **ST. VINCENT**

Reading the notes on the first St. Lucia Air Mail in Bulletin No. 83 prompts me to write about a cover in my collection which claims is the “first and only air mail service” from St. Vincent.

The cover, which is annotated, is postmarked Kingstown July 29, 1932, and is franked with copies of the current George V ½d and 1d stamps. On the envelope is written “First airmail. Special first flight St. Vincent to Barbados”. The accompanying notes add that: “The only official airmail to be flown from St. Vincent consisted of about 100 letters that were carried by the late M. Cipriani (of Trinidad) in the aeroplane Humming Bird from Kingstown to Barbados on July 29, 1932. These letters were the ordinary accumulated mail for Barbados and do not bear extra franking as no additional fee was charged. They bear the Kingstown postmarks of July 28th and 29th and are definitely identified by the Barbados backstamp of July 30th (10.15 a.m.). The aeroplane ‘Humming Bird’ is the only one to have landed and taken off from St. Vincent.” There is no date on this short essay itself.

I would be interested to hear from anyone with any other St. Vincent covers claiming to be aerial “firsts”, also the date on which mail was first sent out from the modern airport at Arnos Vale.

*Vincent Dugleby*

## **TOBAGO**

Has any member seen any value with a “close double”? I have a used copy of S.G.31 in which Four Pence seems to have struck twice. Study of a sheet (pane) 6 x 10 of S.G.22 indicates poor alignment of value tablets (column 5 is often low), but few defects save the catalogued 60 position. The British Guiana 2c certainly seems to have value double printed, but I can recall no other De La Rue variety of this type. Has any member decided how the value tablets for St. Christopher were produced: from type set or “derived” from part of the Dominica-Tobago value plate?

*Peter Jaffe*

## **TRINIDAD**

Probably the most neglected of all the earlier B.W.I. high values is the 5/- rose red of Trinidad, S.G.87. There were two printings only of this stamp, in 1868 and 1870, and a total of almost exactly 10,000 was issued: but out of these, many must have been used for fiscal purposes and destroyed, while a modest number was overprinted for

official duty. If not quite in the same class of its St. Vincent counterpart, it does not fall far behind the Barbados equivalent for scarcity. Catalogue editors please note!

Incidentally the stamp may sometimes be found with SPECIMEN overprint: the type seen is in tiny serif-ed capitals (also to be found on values of the 1883 set) the overprint being about 1 mm x 1¼ mm, the first 'S' a little taller at 1½ mm.

Scarce as is the basic stamp, the version overprinted "O S" is very difficult indeed to find, as would be amply confirmed if anybody could quote the actual number so treated. One has to be cautious of forgery here, although for obvious reasons this is more commonly met in the case of the lower values of the set. The colour of the genuine examples is on the deeper side, closer to the catalogue description of 'rose-lake', because the stock overprinted had been held in the heat of the colony for over twenty years and had toned or oxidised in some degree. Naturally, the "O S" stamp is far more likely to be found unused than used.

On the subject of 'official' overprints, how many of us know (it had certainly escaped me until recently) that postal stationery was also overprinted for official use? The overprint was on the 1884 1d red Reply card, on both parts of which there is printed diagonally across the top left corner the legend "ON OFFICIAL SERVICE ONLY" in serif-ed capitals ¾mm high. In the lower left corner a box has been created by the printing of a horizontal and vertical line, and inside it the words "Signature of Officer".

Is it known what quantity of Reply cards was treated in this way and when it was done? Have genuinely used examples been seen in any quantity? Possibly these cards had quite a long life, as one of my copies, though otherwise blank, bears traces of a 1914 c.d.s. Incidentally, do issued examples or trials of any other 'official' Postal Stationery exist in Trinidad?

*Simon Goldblatt*

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Reporting a further Type IV numeral which may be found from about 1900 onwards. This is No. 7 of Arima. Its use as a cancellation is just as exceptional and capricious as in the case of the few other Type IV and Type VI numerals in use at this period.

*Simon Goldblatt*

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Closer scrutiny of an item in my Trinidad collection convicts me of an incautious ascription, which you have printed on page 79 of Bulletin No. 83. Alas, the intriguing St. Martin is revealed as the everyday Diego Martin, and I apologise sincerely to any members whose notes have caught the fault from mine.

*M. G. Medlicott*

## **21st ANNIVERSARY DISPLAYS**

We are particularly anxious to give as many of our members as possible the opportunity to take part in the Anniversary Displays. These are to be held at Romano House throughout October, 1975, and (quite separately) at Drury House on 4th October, 1975 the day of our Anniversary Dinner.

Please do not be shy! If you would like to be included, write in as soon as possible to Mike Sheppard, the Editor and let us know. Your letter should give a general indication of material proposed to be included, and please indicate any awards that you

have gained. Nine pages are wanted from each participant, and the following countries especially are (at the time of writing) rather thin on the ground

British Guiana  
British Honduras  
Nevis  
St. Christopher  
Tobago

While we cannot promise space to everybody, every effort will be made to produce displays which are worthy of our Circle's coming-of-age.

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#### 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.

Swap or buy odd SPECIMEN stamps send for list. - C. A. Freeland, 41 Ballantine Street, London, S.W.18.

#### WANTED AND FOR SALE

Early West Indian Newspapers and Books. Pre-stamp and early stamped covers, particularly Barbados. Send description and wants. H. F. Deakin, 5a Victoria Park Road, Exeter EX2 4NT. Tel. Exeter 56052.

  
The British Philatelic Association have very kindly agreed to extend to us the same facilities as last year for the viewing of lots in our members' auction on April 12th, 1975.

Lots may be viewed on Thursday and Friday, 10th and 11th April, 1975 between the hours of 10.30 am. and 3.30 p.m. at the B.P.A. Office, Rooms 106 and 107 (5th floor), No. 1, Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2EH.

Fred Seifert, despite having no journals to produce, is fully occupied in catching up with all those neglected household chores. I have no doubt that Fred will still find time to increase his already considerable contributions to B.W.I philately.

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The other evening Simon Goldblatt showed me the cover referred to in his recent notes on St. Vincent, 'An Improvised Dumb Cancel?' The next day I re-read Simon's notes and again had cause to smile. I cannot help but feel that it is covers and notes such as these that help put the fun into philately.

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It has been a pleasure, in recent months, to receive contributions to the Bulletin from two of our Australian colleagues, Peter Jaffe and Laurence Malin. Peter Jaffe also sent me news of what is happening on his side of the world.

Dr. Russell Jones recently showed Grenada to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, including "double print" of 6d. Chalon and perhaps the only used pair of 1881 ½d upright star. The pages of village marks were illustrated by colour photographs of some of the offices he had visited.

Peter Jaffe's display, "Rare, scarce and interesting" was selected as best of the year by the Philatelic Society of New South Wales. This included the sketch for the head used for South Australia, St. Lucia and St. Vincent as well as a number of B.W.I. items to balance mainly Australasian items.

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Last November Byron Cameron, who was on holiday in Europe, attended his Jamaica sale at Robson Lowe's in London. Whilst there he met up with fellow collector Bert Latham. I gather they had a lot to talk about and their discussions were continued when Bert, owing to a "go slow" on the railway, drove Byron and his wife Mary down to Dover.

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On 22nd March Richard Heap is giving a display of Bermuda at Borough Chambers, High Street, Stockport (Stockport P.S. Room), and on the evening of 8th April Mr. Charles Loach is giving a display to the Streetly P.S. entitled "Trinidad and Trinidad and Tobago."

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All catalogue editors and their firms receive a lot of suggestions and questions from collectors on the compilation of their catalogues.

Last November members of the Scott Philatelic Advisory Board met to discuss such suggestions and questions raised. It is pleasing to note that one of our members, Col. Dan C. Warren, U.S. Army, is on the Board.

I wonder what the effect would be if a similar body could meet to discuss and advise upon the stamp issuing policy of very many countries in the world today!

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The August, 1974, edition of the B.C.P.S.G. Journal which I received the other day confirms reports that the Group have now got over their temporary publishing difficulties and that Editor Jack Arnell will soon be back on schedule.

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Harry Hayes, the philatelic publisher from Batley, Yorkshire, has now decided to make a full-time career of dealing in philatelic literature. He has recently made an appeal for manuscripts and hopes to publish about ten new titles a year. Most of these will be entirely new works, but there will be a number of reprints of out-of-print standard books in addition.

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Eddie Adelson has just completed a very busy year. In addition to a table at numerous exhibitions Eddie and his wife Dorothy still found time for a trip down the Amazon and a visit to Afghanistan and Nepal is planned.

Eddie is having the best of his Bahamas mounted. This includes some 150 Q.E. II proofs that are unique, original drawings and mock ups.

New members who in recent months have attended meetings at the “Large Oak Room” were Tony Reesby and Leslie and Tony Baker. Over a period of time one becomes familiar with members’ names and although I did not on this occasion meet Tony Reesby it is always a pleasure to put faces to names.

*Michael Sheppard*

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

ADDIS, Edward F., 220, E 74 Street, New York. N.Y. 10021. U.S.A.	Interests: Postal markings
BELCHER, Stephen John, 3 Wright House, Putney Park Lane, Putney, S.W.15	Interests: Jamaica up to 1960
CHEASON, Bryan A., 23 Walcott Lane, Fairmile. Christchurch. Dorset BH23 2NQ	Interests: Not yet known
COLE, Martin John, 244 Windrush, Highnorth, Swindon SN6 7EA	Interests: Bahamas, Bermuda and The Saints
MEREDITH, J. L., 15 Sussex Place, Congleton, Cheshire	Interests: Barbados, Antigua and Trinidad
PEARSE, Mrs. Stella Margaret, 24 Denver Hill, Downham Market, Norfolk PE38 9BE	Interests: Antigua
RICKSECKER, Charles G., Box 4833, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00801	Interests: Not yet known
WILLIAMS, Howard Griffith, 94 Quantock Road, Weston-Super-Mare	Interests: Jamaica

#### **DECEASED MEMBER**

HARPER, Merit C.

#### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

CROWTHER, B., 3 Springfields, 17 Somerset Road, New Barnet, Herts. EN5 1RP  
SMITH, C. H., 5 Ravenscroft Road, Olton, Solihull, West Midlands B92 8AH

#### **DOUBLE ENTRY**

WALKER, Danforth W., also listed as DANFORTH-WALKER. Please delete latter.

#### **ADDITIONAL INTERESTS**

CROWTHER, B. The stamps of British Guiana and British Honduras  
O’CONNOR, Harvey, Jamaica

#### **RESIGNED**

SAVILLE SMITH, Lt. Col. G.

The following members did not renew their subscriptions for 1974 and are therefore deemed to have resigned:

ADAMS, J. G. M., CHURCHILL, J. C., CREED, J. C., CRIDER, W. O., DE FREITAS, R. A.,  
DICKASON, L. T., EATON, S. D., EDWARDS, D. G., FORSFIW, E. S., GORDON, J. H.,  
HALLIDAY, R. W., JENKINS, P. H. R., MADEIROS, C. A., PROUD, E. B., SAM, W. P.,  
SCHAFFNER, B. D., SCHUT, H. J., TATHAM, W. C., YARRY, I. M.

Dear Member,

I must apologise for not including an Hon. Secretary’s paragraph in the last issue, however, I was busily engaged in revision for examinations which, I am happy to say, I passed.

Members who have specialised collections as well as specialised interests should have their interests marked with an asterisk in the list of members. Please check the entry for your name and advise me of any changes that ought to be made.

Please remember when communicating with one another on philatelic matters that the information which you are sharing may be of interest to others. The Hon. Editor will be only too pleased to accept accounts of correspondence on philatelic matters for inclusion in the Bulletin.

I must extend a warm welcome to all our new members.

It is with regret that I note the death of two members: Mr. Merrit C. Harper and Mr. J. W. Gittins.

I look forward to seeing many of you at Stampex and at the A.G.M.

*Ian Chard*

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