



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 118 SEPTEMBER 1983

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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. List supplied on application.
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, payable on 1st January each year is **£4.00** for members residing in the UK or Europe, or **£6.00** for members residing elsewhere in the world. The latter rate includes an element to cover airmail postage of the Bulletin and charges where the subscription is paid in non-sterling currency or by cheques drawn on foreign banks. Overseas members are requested to make payment by International Money Order in sterling or by sterling draft on a UK bank if possible. Cheques, IMO's and PO's are to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

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PROGRAMME

1983.

Fri., Oct. 21st 6.00 p.m.	Convention Cheese and Wine Party.
Sat., Oct. 22nd 10.15 am.	Convention opens.
Tues., Nov. 22nd 7.00 p.m.	Mr. Ruthven Ward St. Lucia.

1984.

Thurs., Jan. 19th 6.00 p.m.	Bring, Buy, Swap, Display.
Thurs., Mar. 22nd 6.00 p.m.	Messrs. P.W.C. Burke & D.W. Atkinson.
Sat., Apr. 28th 2.15 p.m.	A.G.M. and Auction Sale.

The Convention on Friday & Saturday 21st-22nd October will be held at the Regent Hotel, The Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4AX. The three evening meetings will be held in Committee Room A, The Law Society Building, 113, Chancery Lane, London, WC1 1PL. The A.G.M. and Auction Sale will be held at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, WC1 4BH.

DISPLAY

Mr. Simon Goldblatt was in the Chair when members gathered in a Committee Room at the Law Society for an informal meeting on Wednesday 16th February. It was disappointing that despite the added attraction of Stampex, which it was hoped would have enabled more out-of-town members to attend a Circle meeting, only six members were present. (Less than usual). The Chairman opened the meeting with a brief tribute to the late Mr. Len Britnor.

A display by Dennis Mitton of the ¼d on 1/- Bermuda opened the proceedings. Starting off with an imperforate essay and specimen he was to continue with blocks of the issued stamps in bluish grey and pale bluish grey with plate numbers, reference number and an inter panneau pane, together with sheets of overprint. Other pages showed the constant varieties and an example of the 'F' inserted by hand. Covers completed his nine pages, with Boer War usage, correct usage on a newspaper wrapper and even one in conjunction with some early (1906) Green Shield Trading Stamps!

With a change of time scale to the present day Mike Wilson opened his display with three pages showing newly opened Post Offices in Trinidad with reproductions of the postal notices and examples of the cancellations - either first day or early use. This was followed by examples of PAQUEBOT markings, Bermuda on Turks and Caicos, New York on Turks and Caicos and an "Ocean Monarch" cover with the Martinique cancellation on Antigua. The last example was a UK Air Letter, with a Port of Spain cancellation addressed to Hong Kong. Some discussion on the true use of the PAQUEBOT followed. Was it intended to be limited to the stamps of the ship's flag nation - though it obviously wasn't - or whether stamps of the nation of the last port of call could also be used?

For the last display Simon Goldblatt chose Tobago. He opened with examples of the numeral cancellations - '14', '15' and '16' - including a copy of a German reply card, and speculated on their rural origin. This was followed with some pages illustrating various plating varieties on the issued stamps. Examples were shown of the malformed or distorted CE, one being a ½d on 4d fiscal used on cover to Trinidad. The ½d on ½d and 1d on 1½d overprints on the postal stationery cards were shown, the former used to Trinidad while the other, with added values, was usually registered to San Marino. Finally a registered cover to London was shown franked with a string of six of the ½d with the 'slash' flaw.

Twelve members attended a meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, 24th March, 1983 in Committee Room A at the Law Society Building, 113 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2 when Alfred J. Branston brought along part of his collection of "The Forgeries of the West Indies", which as one would expect, proved to be most unusual.

Mr. Branston briefly explained that the collection consisted of three components (1) the Stock Sheets, and (2) the Development Section in which the identification details were located, drawn and photographed, and (3) the Completed Sheets showing a minimum of two identification details. The display was presented to show the importance and skill of the forger and a summary of what was shown now follows:-

BAHAMAS. The Sperati forgeries of the Queen Victoria £1. and King Edward £1., proofs without and of the value tablet. The Queen Victoria identification being below the chignon and the King Edward identification being in the right hand margin, the latter postmarked Nassau 16 Nov. 94

The Spiro forgeries of the Interinsular 1d plates 1 and 2, the 1862 6d pane plate 2 - note that the 4d and 6d were apparently produced from the same stone and common identifications were therefore the result, the 1863 1/- pane 1 with flaws, the bogus cancellation of an oval of bars, the shades of the 4d and 6d values, also on blued paper. An unidentified forgery (No.2) with eleven examples of the 4d, the engraved examples of the 4d and the 1/-, the latter with the ring below letter A of Bahamas missing, and also the diagram of all the forgery flaws.

The German propaganda forgeries of the King George VI ½d, 1d, 2d and 3d, also colour trials of the ½d and 1d. The War Tax three examples of the inverted overprint

and of struck twice on the ½d definitive, also the overprint inverted and struck doubled on the 1d, inverted and struck twice on the Staircase 1d, also on the Staircase 3d, with one example forged in normal position plus inverted and split.

ANTIGUA. The Spiro forgery of 1863 in the colours of the 1d lake (S.G.13) and 1d rose (S.G.26) in panes, the first pane cancelled with the oval of bars as for Spiro's Bahamas, the second pane cancelled with a square of dots. Also for the 1863 6d green, singles only.

GRENADA. The Jeffryes forgery of the postal fiscal of 1883, a proof without fiscal surcharge perforated vertically only, with the bogus £1., £2. and £5. values cancelled with a fictitious large B 27 Nov. 1888, the background identification pattern, the £2. value also cancelled with a fictitious large A straight line Grenada AU29 1889, the surcharge 4d/Postage on 2/- with fictitious cancels MR 22, AU 26 and JU 19 all in the year 1888. The forged surcharge can be identified by the incorrect serifs on the letter E of Postage.

The Spiro forgeries of the 1861-62 issue and the 1d on 4d orange of 1886.

BERMUDA. The 1865 1d, 2d, 6d and 1/-, also the overprint type 6a on a genuine 3d on 1d rose-red stamp (S.G.12).

BRITISH GUIANA. The 1862 typeset 1c, 2c and 4c with incorrect borders. The 1860 issue 1c, 7c, 8c, 12c and 24c. The 1863 1c, 2c and 4c with R for P in Petimusque. Also the 1876 4c and 8c with forged "Official" and no value figure.

DOMINICA. The Spiro forgeries of the 1874 issue, the ½d on half 1d inverted, also of the thick bar on the 1d on 6d green (S.G.18a).

NEVIS. The 1861 1d (four types), the 4d (three types), the 6d (four types) and the 1/- (three types). Also a forged cancel 56 in an oval of bars on the 2½d grey-black and blue (S.G.4), the 1/- with "Schilling" in the wrong frame cancelled with a square of dots. Also the ½d, 1d and 2½d of the 1879-89 issue and the 1d of the 1883 issue attributed to Moens.

TURKS ISLANDS. The Spiro forgeries on the 1867 issue, also two proofs of the Fournier 2½d surcharge on piece of book.

TRINIDAD. Two singles and a block of four of the forgery of the (1d) purple-brown of 1851 (S.G.2) with shades and of the (1d) blue of 1851 (S.G.3), also two examples of the 1/- purple-slate (S.G.30) and one example of the 1/- purple-slate (S.G.37).

ST. CHRISTOPHER. The Spiro forgeries of the 1870 1d and 6d values, the engraved forgery of the 1882-90 4d with complete difference study, the 1888 1d surcharge, the essay (possibly bogus) for St. Kitts.

ST. LUCIA. A study of seven types of the 1860 issue with the Panelli forgery without and with the surcharges. One Penny in a straight line in red, the 2½d, 4d and 1/-. Also the Jeffryes Half Penny and Six Pence printed vertically.

ST. VINCENT. The Panelli forgeries of the 1861, 1863, 1869, 1871 and 1872 colours with further unidentified forgeries.

VIRGIN ISLANDS. The 1866 issue, also the 4d lake-red (S.G.15) cancelled with a square of dots.

No forgeries of Jamaica, St. Kitts-Nevis or Barbados were shown and only some of the forgeries of Trinidad were included in the display. The forgeries of these islands are at present awaiting identification details and are thus held in the Development Section of the collection.

Mr. Branston having concluded, Mr. B.B. Benwell proposed a vote of thanks. He said that he hoped to see some Barbados forgeries but understood the reason for their absence. The display with comments was exceptionally interesting and it was obvious that a lot of thought and work had gone into the formation of the collection and this would be a continuing process.

Those present agreed with these remarks and the meeting ended with spontaneous applause from all present.

CARIBBEAN COLLECTOR' CONVENTION

With the advent of the Convention only a few weeks away may I mention that if you have not yet completed and sent up your Convention Booking Form to Ian Chard, then you should do so without further delay. The Convention Booking Form should reach Ian Chard not later than 30th September 1983 as it may not be possible to fulfil bookings for all your requirements after that date.

You are also reminded that members and guests (excluding husbands or wives) attending the Convention will each have to pay the £2.00 Convention charge. If the Convention charge is not enclosed when the Convention Booking Form is completed and sent to Ian Chard, then please pay it at the same time as you receive your identity disc at The Regent Hotel.

On this occasion the Convention will get off, I am sure, to a flying start with a Sherry Party on the Friday evening to which you may bring one guest: this should prove to be a very popular social Function.

Several of our dealer members have already been in touch with me and have reserved tables at the Bourse and there will of course be the Members' Approval Table at which you can browse and buy as well.

I shall look forward to seeing you at the convention and don't forget to bring up to thirty pages from your own collection for the Informal Displays which will take place from time to time during the Convention Day.

E.V Toeg

In connection with the convention a member has taken us to task, and rightly so, for making reference to “Members and their Wives”. We realise now that this should have read “wives or husbands” or, as has been suggested, “spouses”. We apologise to our lady members.

It is vitally important that we have a full complement of stewards for the Convention at Leamington on 22nd October. Mr. D.W. Atkinson, who will be the Chief Steward, is looking for volunteers to help with the various duties during the day, and he would be most grateful if intending volunteers got in touch with him as soon as possible at 54, Wellington Rd., Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 2PH. Tel 01-360 6762.

Editor

STUDY CIRCLE MEETINGS

We have received two letters so far in reply to Vincent Duggleby’s letter in the last Bulletin re Study Circle meetings and these are set out below.

“In response to Vincent Duggleby’s letter, and also Ian Chard’s report about poor attendance at meetings and difficulty in getting members to display, may I make a few points.

1. Midweek meetings in London are only suitable for those either working in London, or who are within reasonable travelling distance to come in after work, or from home if retired. The more senior members may have reservations about attending meetings in bad weather.
2. In Bulletin 20 (Jan 1959) our founder Mr. Saunders wrote ‘in responding to an invitation ... to give a display ... I always decline when I learn that the sheets have to be passed around. To my mind it is a most unsatisfactory method and its discontinuance would be advantageous both to the speaker and members of societies’. In 1983 I understand we still pass sheets round.
3. Some years ago I did give a display to the Society, which took me some time to prepare, so I sympathise up to a point with Mr. Duggleby about the time involved. At least it made me write my collection up.
4. Saturday meetings may be more successful. There are of course other commitments, and travelling may prove a drawback. My experience as a regular attender at meetings of the Roses Caribbean, which meets on a Saturday afternoon about eight times a year, is that members are prepared to travel up to 50 miles, or an hour each way to attend. This would still rule out attendance by a lot of members.
5. Some years ago meetings of societies where members were displaying were regularly published in the Bulletin, but this seems to have been dropped - could I suggest that this publicity be re-introduced, so that members would know about and have the opportunity of seeing B.W.I. displays in their own area. Unless one is very

lucky any local society only has a B.W.I. display once in two years on average, but there may well be displays taking place not too far away which would be enjoyed if it were known they were taking place. This would need the Editors co-operation and the co-operation of members giving displays in informing the editor. To set an example. I am giving a display of Bermuda PH. on Jan 20th 1984 to Stockport P.S.!

6. I do not think more auctions are practicable. I write from the stand point of a 'country member'. I have no objection to part of my subscription being used to pay for meetings I cannot attend, because the pleasure I get is through membership of the circle, and the correspondence and information I receive, and occasionally provide. Perhaps members living in different areas could get together either formally or informally, using the address list as a source, or regional meetings, not on the scale of a convention, could be arranged by the committee, with one member giving a display and members in that area being invited.

Richard Heap

May I make a few purely unofficial comments in reply to Richard Heap's letter.

1. From experience I find that many members have reservations about attending meetings in bad weather whenever or wherever they are held.
2. I agree that frames are the most satisfactory method for display and the Study Circle has always used them when they, and storage facilities, have been available.
3. Saturday meetings may on balance have a slightly higher attendance, although in the past the number has been as low as five and conversely on very rare occasions the number for an evening meeting has been as high as that for a Roses Saturday meeting. It would seem that only the Auction or a convention can guarantee a good turn out.
4. This practice has not been dropped. In recent years we have had no members representing the Circle giving displays to other societies and members giving displays as individuals no longer, it would seem, have the inclination to let me know.
5. I agree that one auction a year is sufficient. We start preparations in early January and are lucky if we have settlement of all accounts by August.

There is nothing to stop members, nor has there ever been, from holding their own informal meetings. I like the idea of regional meetings, but they have to be organised and paid for and getting volunteers to help, if requests at this year's A.G.M. are anything to go by, is another matter.

Editor

7th July 1983.

Dear Editor,

In response to Vincent Duggleby's letter in the June Bulletin and his remarks re future Meetings, I would certainly welcome Saturday meetings in London.

To date I have not attended any Meetings of the Society and my main and only reason is that they have been evening Meetings. I am a member of the National Philatelic Society, which holds Saturday Meetings, and although I do not attend every one, I do make the effort when there is a programme which attracts me. I do therefore state that I would support strongly any Saturday Meetings of our Society.

Regarding the question as to whether members are interested in Countries other than the West Indies, - well the reason for which I became a member of our Society was that it was formed to promote interest in the Philately of the West Indies and I think that it would be a mistake to widen the scope by including other Countries. Perhaps the idea of two Conventions a year, - for example, one in the South and one in the North, has merit in that it would save undue travelling by members. Also could we manage two Auctions a year? This would possibly attract members. At our Club in Gravesend, some of the most popular meetings are the Members' eights, during which any member is invited to display 2 to 20 sheets from their Collections, and these are always well supported.

Perhaps it is rather bold of me to make these suggestions as I have not attended many of the A.G.M's on Saturdays, but on at least two occasions, prior engagements have prevented me. However, I do know that if Saturday Meetings could be arranged, then I would do my very best to support them.

Yours sincerely,
T.A. Hutson

The committee is trying to arrange a suitable and cheap venue for Saturday meetings and hopefully these will seen take place.

Much as many of us would welcome two conventions and two auctions a year, I think, that with the amount of work involved, the Circle would require full time officials!

Editor

We have just received more correspondence on this subject but lack of space prevents inclusion in this issue.

BARBADOS

SOME ADDITIONS TO AND COMMENTS ON "BARBADOS POST OFFICE MARKINGS TO 1981"

It is perhaps inevitable that whenever a new book is published philatelists turn to their own collections to compare notes with the result that new dates and marks come to light. "Barbados Post Office Markings to 1981" is no exception and the following dates and marks may be added.

SECTION 1

A 7. (R.L. Type P.L. mark).

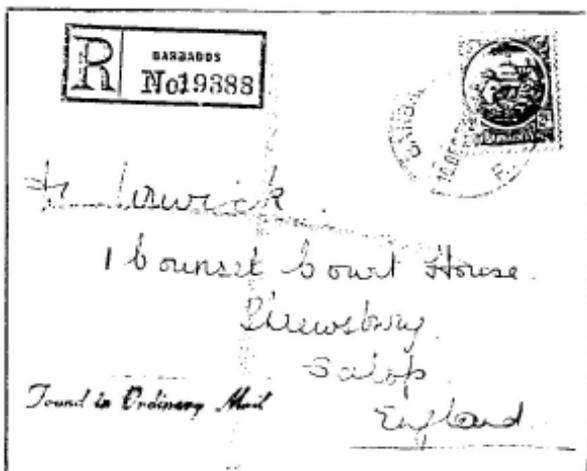
I have this mark, struck in red and dated MR 07 1853, on a cover from Longford, Ireland addressed to Doctor Hyde, 3rd W.I. Regiment Camp, Kingston, Jamaica and forwarded via St. Thomas to Barbados. It would seem in this instance that its use was as a paid mark. I also have the same mark, struck in blue, on loose stamps, S.G.78 4d. crimson lake and S.G. 75 3d mauve lilac dated SP 9 1881, and again twice on cover to Sir William Fitzherbert at Ashbourne, Derbyshire with the same date and with one of the strikes again cancelling S.G.78. It would certainly seem that a blue pad was in use at least throughout that day.



SECTION 10

J 14 - J 15 F.I.O.M.

About the time this book was published I purchased, at auction, the cover bearing a strike of a straight line "Found in Ordinary Mail" handstamp in italic script and not previously recorded. The mark is 40mm long and 5mm high.



SECTION 11

G.P.O. Sundry Departments

A double ringed oval having the same dimensions as Type K 11 (PHILATELIC BUREAU) but with ACCOUNTS BRANCH at the top. The mark, which is on a registered Official cover to St. Lucia dated 17th January, 1974, is not recorded.



SECTION 12

Postmaster Generals Office (formerly Colonial Postmaster)

A previously unrecorded handstamp, somewhat similar to Type L 3. , in two lines 45mm. and 29mm long and 2.5mm high but with the last seven letters of Barbados in type face 2mm. high. This mark is on cover to the U.S.A. dated 9th January, 1946.

COLONIAL POSTMASTER
BARBADOS, B.W.I.

Another unrecorded handstamp, but this time reading POSTMASTER GENERAL/G.P.O. BARBADOS in two lines 63mm. and 38mm. long by 4mm. and 3mm. high respectively. This strike is on Official registered cover to St. Lucia dated 15th January, 1974.

POSTMASTER GENERAL
G.P.O. BARBADOS

In conclusion I would like to refer to the numeral obliterations (barred oval type). On page seven the book refers to the number of bars above and below the Parish numeral and a few exceptions that have been noted to this format. The book also quotes a statement by the late Edmund Bayley that these exceptions were due to the fact that the numerals were movable. A further statement, not attributable to Mr. Bayley, says that even comparing numerals 6 and 9, both with four bars above the numeral and three below, it is not possible to come to a definite conclusion on identity by virtue of the fact that, as already stated, the numerals were movable.

Stephen Cave, in his article "Barbados, A Lucky Strike" in Bulletin No. 82 p. 51-52, gave details of his discovery of the St. Thomas No.8 barred oval handstamp and said that "The obliterator is made of solid brass with a wooden handle, featured on the page facing the introduction to B.P.O.M. to 1981. I feel that the evidence here is strong enough (unless No.8 is an exception) to say that the numerals were an integral part of the handstamps; the number in the centre is immovable". This is the handstamp featured on the page facing the introduction to B.P.O.M. to 1981. I feel that the evidence here is strong enough (unless No. 8 is an exception) to say that the numerals were an integral part of the handstamps.

Michael Sheppard

BRITISH GUIANA

1878 PROVISIONALS

Michael Webster's note in the March Bulletin prompted me to carry out a quick count of my own few copies of the surcharge involved.

No.	First Indent		Second Indent	
	Total to date	DMN	Total to date	DMN
SG.06	7	1	3	-
07	17	4	4	3
08	10	2	1(?)	-
139	20	4	5	1
140	-	-	26	6
144	-	-	19	4

It will be seen that, with one exception, these tend to bear out the previous figures.

I do however, seem to have a disproportionate number of S.G.07 second indent. On examination, only one of the postmarks is positively clear, and one is decidedly doubtful, so it is possible that I have a hitherto unsuspected forgery on my hands!

I hope this may help a little in Mr. Webster's research.

Derek M. Nathan

BRITISH WEST INDIES

WATERMARK VARIETIES

In Bulletin No 104, Charles Freeland provided a check list of watermark varieties (subsequently up-dated in Bulletin No 110) and noted that sideways watermarks can be found facing both left and right. He also suggested that more research needed to be done in the KG V Script sets of Dominica, St. Kitts and Bermuda (centenaries).

Varieties of sideways watermarked stamps are not all that easy to establish for the simple reason that the "normal" positioning is not often known - neither Gibbons nor the Five Reigns Catalogue gives specific detailed information. The relative position of watermark to stamp design is seldom mentioned in any other published material, particularly those of the period immediately after the issue of stamps concerned. If the information on watermarks given in the general introductory notes to Gibbons' Catalogue is taken at face value all sideways watermarks should be "normal" when lying on their left hand side i.e. the top of the crown is to the left when viewed from the front of the stamp. That this is not so can soon be established.

As Mr. Freeland specifically named Dominica and St. Kitts (admittedly only in regard to script issues) I thought it worth while to examine all those stamps of these two areas which I possess.

Dominica. From all the stamps which I examined (between SG27 and SG91) it would appear that when "normal" those with watermark Crown CC have the top of the crown to the left whilst those with the Script watermark lie to the right. Stamps watermarked Multiple Crown Block CA, however, appear to be normal in both states. The number of

stamps actually examined is probably too small to provide actual proof of “normality” but I give details for what they are worth.

- (i) Crown CC 32 stamps covering all values examined. All had the Crown pointing to the left (SG27 - SG35)
- (ii) Block CA 99 stamps examined of which 31 pointed to the left and 68 pointed to the right. (SG37 - SG70, & SG89 - SG91).
- (iii) Script CA. 108 stamps examined. With one exception all had the top of the Crown pointing to the right. The exception was SG71 where, of 11 copies examined one copy pointed to the left the remaining 10 to the right.

A breakdown of the Block CA figures provides some food for thought.

- (a) SG37 - 45 The only values examined were SG37, 38, 39 and 43. Of 2 copies of SG37 one pointed left and one right. All others (SG38 x 5, SG39 x 2 & SG43 x 2) all pointed to the left.
- (b) SG47 - 53b 41 stamps of all values produced almost equal numbers pointing left (21) and pointing right (20). Only 7 of the 15 values were found in a single state but as the sample is so small this means little.
- (c) SG55 - 60. All values pointed to the right. Of the 26 stamps examined 15 were overprints (per Gibbons) on SG47 and SG51.
- (d) SG62 - 70
 SG89 - 91. All values except SG70 were included. 21 stamps were examined all pointing to the right.

The fact that stamps SG47 - 58 are found in such large proportions facing each way might indicate that there was no firm policy on the watermark positioning. It might also mean that Perkins Bacon may not have been alone in taking no pains to insert the paper correctly. As many of these stamps were issued during World War One this might also have had an effect on the standard of control exercised by the printers.

St Kitts. The number of sideways watermarked stamps examined is smaller than that for Dominica but is in much the same proportion as the number of values. The end results are a little more positive.

- (i) Block CA 27 stamps covering SG24 - 36 were all found to be

pointing to the right. One copy of SG34 was found with watermark reversed (as notified in Bulletin 116). As no copies of SG59 & SG60 were examined these have not been included.

(ii) Script CA.

94 stamps covering all values SG 37 to SG47b were checked and, with one exception, all had the crown to the right. The exception was SG46 where of 7 copies held 3 had the crown to the left and 4 to the right.

In the range SG48 - SG58 I only have four stamps (one each of SG 48 & SG49 and 2 of SG51) but all four pointed to the right.

I have sometimes found it difficult to see watermarks on thick papers or where stamps have been printed on green or yellow paper. Once they have been found they are invariably identifiable as Script CA. Some of my St. Kitts stamps fall into this category and so have not been included in the figures given above.

To be authoritative the check list of sideways watermark varieties should, I believe, be accompanied by a list of the "normal" positions if such a list can be compiled. If any member would like to provide me with substantiated detail for issues of their interest I would be pleased to collate it for future publication.

S.E. Papworth

Further to the article in Bulletin No. 110 on B.W.I. wmk. varieties not listed by Bridger & Kay. I have recently acquired Turks & Caicos SG. 103 and SG. 104a with wmk reversed and reversed and inverted respectively.

Both copies are used, but not c.t.o.

S.C. Peck

NUMERAL OBLITERATORS AND THE A91

Following Steve Papworth's article (Bulletin 116) and others previously on the subject, I think I can now clarify the situation. I wish to thank Val Coast who kindly found me an A91 Duplex, which I needed before publishing these notes.

Numeral Obliterators (Type 1) were first introduced in 1844, each Post Office having its identifying despatch number. When the GPO took over control of the West Indian colonial postal administrations in 1858, similar numerals were assigned to them to cancel the British stamps to be used. Two years later administration was transferred back to the colonies, although they continued to use their numerals.

In the first set made in April 1858, the numbers ran from A01 - A15 with A13 to Tortola (Virgin Is.) There were three of A01 and one each of the others. Type 1 of A91 was transferred from the Cunard Line to Virgin Islands about 1870, the reason why is not known. The A13 was still in good condition and the small amount of mail despatched from Tortola could hardly have warranted a second obliterator. Both continued in regular use at Tortola until about 1904.



Type 1



Type 2



Type 3

From 1869 a new design, Type 2, was introduced in England and Wales and in 1873 the first duplexes appeared, as Type 3. Most of the colonies had their Type 1 obliterations replaced by Type 2 in the mid-1880s, except in the Leeward Islands for A08, A09, A13 and A91. Both Types 1 and 2 of A07 continued in use until 1903. Later use of the Type 1 is usually found on mail posted at Portsmouth, suggesting this obliterator was transferred to there from Roseau GPO c.1900. Type 3 duplexes were issued for A12 in 1892, A07 in 1894 and A09 (with 4 thin bars) about 1899. A07 had a very short life of only some four months, but the other two continued in use until c.1930. In 1900 or 1901 five St. Kitts Sub-PO's were issued A12 duplexes with code letters denoting their names. Although these were superseded between 1921 - 25 by CDS's with the same codes (except Anguilla which changed from 'AN' to 'A') the duplexes were still in use until the late 1920s.



A91 on 1855 1d red



A13 on Leeward Is. - 1902

A91 used at Southsea, Hants.



The GPO Lists gave A91 as vacant in 1874, allocated to Southsea, Hampshire in 1887 and vacant again in 1906. All the mailboat numerals from A80 - A99 were listed as vacant in 1874 and re-allocated:- A80 - A83 to PO's in Jamaica in 1878 and A84 - A99 to PO's in England and Wales by 1887, the latter all Type 3.

It must be assumed the original A91 found its way from Cunard's S.S. Canada, which plied in those waters, to Tortola Post Office unofficially - hence the reason why the number was re-allocated and therefore, it was in use at two different Post Offices at the same time.

I am sure it will be found that Virgin Islands had only Type 1 and Southsea only Type 3 of the A91 numeral.

To find Leeward Islands General Issue stamps cancelled with A13 or A91 (Type 1) is not uncommon and it is correct useage of them. From 31st October, 1890 this was officially the only postage stamp issue to be used in all five Presidencies until Individual Issues re-appeared for Virgin Islands in January 1899 and the other Presidencies in July 1903.



M.N. Oliver

B.W.I. NUMERAL OBLITERATORS

The information given by Mr. Papworth concerning the obliterator 'A 91', and other similar ones, needs still further amplification, chiefly because the Rev. H.H. Heins is a bit misleading in his listing, and made one big mistake.

The obliterators 'A 91' to 'A 98' were, according to the proof books, 'handed to Mr. Nash for Marine Postal Services, Atlantic Line' on 14 June 1859. Heins records the names of steamers against some numbers, but heads his listing with the statement "In some cases there is recorded here the names of the steamer to which a number was first issued". This tends, however, to give the impression that numbers can always be linked with particular ships. This is not so. The obliterators, which are all of the horizontal oval type, were used aboard the Cunard mail steamers sailing from Boston via Halifax to Queenstown and Liverpool. They moved with mail agents from ship to ship (Compare the similar movements of 'A 80' - 'A 90', 'B 03', 'B16', 'C 79' etc. between P.& O. ships in the Mediterranean).

Heins' record that 'A 80' was used on the Plymouth to Bristol T.P.O. is wrong. This obliterator was issued on 11 March 1859 to Mr. Casson 'for use on board PERA' (i.e. P. & O.) and is recorded used on a voyage leaving Southampton the next day. It was re-issued to the Irish Mail T.P.O. from Euston on 19 July 1860.

Later in his valuable book Heins records correctly that 'B 16', which was first issued for use on P. & O. mail steamers, was transferred to the Plymouth to Bristol T.P.O. I believe that the exact date when this occurred is still uncertain, but some T.P.O. expert may be able to be more definite. It was in the 1860's. Plymouth to Bristol T.P.O. datestamps are, of course, found on a number of B.W.I. adhesives; and there is a 'Paquebot' handstamp which was used on the T.P.O. I have examples of 'B 16' (at first horizontal oval; later vertical) on several adhesives from mail which would have arrived at Plymouth; e.g. Haiti, Cuba, Peru and the Republic of Dominica. I also have it on a 1/- of the B.W.I. Dominica and a 1/- Virgin Is. These must all have been applied on the Plymouth to Bristol T.P.O.

Whilst on the subject of these mailboat cancellations, may I ask whether any member has examples of 'B 03' cancelling a B.W.I. (or Caribbean) adhesive? I have it on an 1863-75 Trinidad 1/- and on an 1863 Jamaica 3d (pine wmk.). Both these are most mysterious, because this obliterator was first issued 18 August 1859 to Mr. Gilpin 'for Mediterranean Service'; and its use on covers carried by P. & O. ships is recorded in 1867 and 1869. So far as I know there is no suggestion in the records that it might ever have been transferred to the Atlantic (but the impressions on my two stamps are so like others on G.B. and Straits Settlements that I cannot distinguish between them). One must not, of course, overlook the possibility of faking: but the Trinidad stamp, which is much faded, appeared in an auction in 1956 and the Jamaican was found in a small collection in Newcastle upon Tyne about 10 years later.

I do not immediately feel suspicious, but I would value information, confirmatory and/or elucidatory.

The obliterations 'A 91' to 'A 98' are (as I am sure many members will be aware) known on certain B.W.I. adhesives. One magnificent collection of Bermuda in the United States contains several examples; and I have 'B 61' (a number which was issued for use on Allan Line ships) on a Bahamas 6d. There are two or three (I think it is) soldiers' or officers letters from Bermuda, franked with British Adhesives, cancelled with one of these obliterations. All these must emanate from mail sent privately or in closed bags to Boston or Halifax to catch the Cunard or Allan Line steamers.

It would be interesting to hear of other examples: especially if on cover.

Finally, may I commend anyone interested in the arrangements for sorting mail on board P. & O. and Cunard or Allan Line steamers, Mr. R. Kirk's admirable handbooks on "British Maritime Postal History". Vols. I and II have appeared so far. They deal with the P. & O. service, but I believe that the Atlantic Service is now to be dealt with.

T.V. Roberts

NUMERAL OBLITERATORS

Further to the notes given in Bulletin 116 on this subject Mr. W.ff.D.Hall has provided me with some details concerning use of these obliterator's. I quote directly from his letter to me:-

"I seemed to remember I had, some years ago, got a small auction lot which I thought might come in useful one day - so when I read your reply re "Numeral Obliterators" I decided to have a look and only tonight I came across them.

"I have horizontal A91, 92 and 97 on Nova Scotia 12½ cents black stamps and A98 vertical on Queen Victoria ½d pale green SG158, 1880.

"The N.S. stamps of course were only in use from 1860 - 1868. A small attached piece from an auction catalogue attached to my mount says:-

'Nova Scotia 1860-63 1c & 2c with mailboat A98 £37.0.0.

5c deep blue with similar A92

oblit. £23.0.0.

8c deep green with similar A92

oblit £37.0.0.

'Although the catalogue piece does not state whether the ovals were horizontal or vertical, Mr. Hall's own stamps support my contention that the horizontal obliterations were those used by the sailboats and possibly in the West Indies later in the century.'"

S.E. Papworth

GRENADA

In Bulletin No. 115 page 74 Jack Terry wrote a short note about a Grenada handstamp, enclosed by a circle and dated 12 April 1800, and wondered whether members would be interested in recording this use which he had not seen mentioned anywhere.

Details of this handstamp, which was in use for almost 30 years, are shown alongside the illustration.

37mm diameter outer rim (often partially or completely absent).

GRENADA 5mm high; date 3½-4mm high,
E.K.D. 23 MR 1799
L.K.D. 18 JA 1829



Normally the date consists of only a three letter month, a space and the day. Exceptions known are as follows:

MAR23 99 with none of the rim visible; 2AUG1800 and NOV4 1801 with only small parts of the rim visible; MAY13 14, JUN20 14, JUN30 14 and OCT 9 14 with none of the rim visible, NOV10 (1828) and JAN18 (1829) with the three letter month in capital letters only 2½mm high. All strikes are believed to be from one handstamp.

The outer ring is the rim of the handstamp and not a part of the mark. Sometimes it shows up in total, in part (particularly in early strikes), and sometimes not at all.

Prior to the introduction of this mark Grenada had only used undated handstamps - specifically the circle with crown and the word GRENADA around the inside top of the circle above the crown. This mark, and the straight line handstamp that preceded it, caused problems because without a date an insurance fraud was a simple matter. To overcome this problem, Grenada, along with other B.W.I. colonies, issued dated postmarks. However, after about three years, 1799 to 1801, the year date was left out and only the month and day are found on the handstamp from about 1802 to 1829. In 1814, as will be seen from the details above, four strikes are known with a two digit year '14' but so far these In 1814, as will be seen from the details above, four strikes are known with a two digit year '14' but so far these are the only known exceptions.

W. Danforth Walker

JAMAICA

I recently bought a cover - dated 27.7.1872 from the South American Mainland (or possibly Cuba) to Hamberg in Germany. The cover originally bore two adhesives, both of which have been removed - and in their place - a large blue crayoned cross. The cover also has the handstamp '1/-' deleted in a different ink and a red P.D. in circle. Also the neat handstamp "C. LALOUBERE & Co., KINGSTON, JAMAIQUE" in green.

In a recent Canadian Postal History Sale, a similar, though earlier, cover was offered as lot 419 and was ascribed as "TRANSIT MAIL THROUGH JAMAICA".

My query is when and by whom were the stamps removed, and more importantly why? Also the 1/- handstamp - is this of Jamaican or English origin?

Strangely, the envelope bears no postmarks to denote its source - neither it would seem - does the Canadian Cover. On the reverse is a London handstamp and Hamberg date stamp which partly obliterates a second LABOUBERE handstamp. I note the date

of the cover is some two years before the foundation of the U.P.U. and possibly this has a bearing.

The style of writing is typically European.

Did this agent specialise in transit mail to the Continent - hence the French version of Jamaica?

Any information - or ideas - would be most gratefully received.

Robert V. Swarbrick

In Bulletin No. 116 p. 19 Mr. R.M. Wilcox contributed a further article on the 'Jamaican Bishop Mark of 1799 - 1801'.

In a recent letter to me he writes that "You may have seen that Robson Lowe had another with the date turned sideways, which bears out what I said that the dates were cut in a solid piece. It is always nice to have your guess proved correct later - well, it was more than a guess, I admit, having the two 18's in a straight line but different angles to the dividing bar.

I am at a loss to explain why it sold for under £300, though, there is something radically wrong with the B.W.I. market. The last Indian one I heard of was over £1500, and rarity is about the same - there are 7 Indian I think, compared with 5 Jamaica. This must correct itself in years to come, and someone will have a snip".

Editor

ST. CHRISTOPHER

CIRCULAR KILLER AWJY

Rose Titford wrote up this 'killer' in Bulletin 10, pages 35 - 38.

Having recently acquired it on the 4d blue CA SG.17 and come across an auction photo* of it used four times on a cover bearing 3 x ½d green CA SG.11, plus half a 1d magenta bisected vertically and a 6d green CC, I would like to make some comments which I hope are helpful.

SG.17 and SG.11 were both issued in 1882 on change of watermark. If readable 'AWJY' marks were still occurring in 1882; wear of the type face could not be the cause of the 'solid bar' marking found on earlier stamps. Only two other suggested solutions remain. Robson Lowe's, of reversed and removable type or the possibility of there being a second instrument.



I realise that it is very difficult to measure such smudged marks, but if there was a wide discrepancy it might point to a conclusion.

I have never seen a bar marking.

My 'AWJY', squared up to account for the slopes of the 'A' and 'Y', measures 11mm. x 2½mm. To this must be added say, ½mm. each end and side to arrive at a 'but end' bar of 12mm. x 3½mm. if the type were reversed. If the 'bar' marking found on the stamps is very different to this it would support the possibility of there having been a second instrument. As a final comment I suggest that 'ARMY' may be an interpretation of 'AWJY' upside down as indicated in my 'artists impression' of my marking.

Arthur Peart

* Robson Lowe 'Biucher' 9 Nov 49
Lot 375

P.S. When writing the above notes, I overlooked the new suggestion by Simon Goldblatt in Bulletin 85 p.40. The evolution of the 'Bar Marking', as described, effectively eliminates the 'But End' theory without bothering about the measurements I have outlined above.

We are left with this evolution suggestion or the possibility of a second instrument. Only a study of the stamps which can be dated seems likely to provide the answer.

ST. LUCIA

Further to Peter Jaffe's St. Lucia notes in the last Bulletin when he mentioned the lack of literature on this Country.

There is in fact a handbook entitled "St. Lucia. A Philatelic History" by Geoffrey Ritchie and published by the Roses Caribbean P. S. Although this work is now out of print we do have a copy in the Circle Library.

Editor

TRINIDAD

THE 1910 OFFICIAL STAMP

For the purpose of this "Official", the ½d value of the 1909 definitive issue was utilised and the overprinting was done locally in black sans-serif capitals.

It is my belief that the ½d definitive was issued in sheets of 120 - two horizontal panes of 60 each 6 x 10. Also I believe the overprint forme was 120 set, although I do not have sufficient material to prove this, having only a right hand pane of 60 complete with four margins and a block of 48 also from a right hand pane with margins at the top and to the right.

However, the interesting point is that on both the pane and the block the 5th stamp on the fourth horizontal row and the 2nd stamp on the fifth horizontal row both have a wider spacing of the letters "OF" of "OFFICIAL". The spacing is 1mm as against ½mm normally. By careful measurement I have been able to establish that the letters "FFICIAL" have shifted from the letter "O" ½mm to the right in both cases and indeed the spacing between the letter "L" and the letter "O" on the adjacent overprint is ½mm less than normal.

It is perhaps well worth recording this variety as its existence seems not to be too well known among collectors.

Jim Laurence

SHEET MARGIN WATERMARKS

The plates for the 4d, 6d, and 1/- values were originally made by Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co., for the imperforate issues of these values, in May 1859.

In 1862, Perkins Bacon lost the printing contract, and the plates, which were the property of the Crown Agents, were forwarded to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., with instructions to print from the plates extant. This they continued to do until 1882, by which time the plates were showing wear, and a new design was adopted.

For about one year De La Rue & Co. printed the stamps on thickish unwatermarked paper, but in 1863 came the first printing on paper watermarked Crown "CC".

The Crown "CC" paper full sheet was watermarked in four panes of sixty each, in ten horizontal rows of six, two above the other two, with a wide spacing between, all surrounded by a line, with the words "Crown Colonies" watermarked in the gap between the top half and the lower half. "Crown Colonies" was also watermarked twice up the left hand side of the sheet and twice down the right hand side, the whole being all in double lined capitals.

None of the three plates used for the stamps - being without gutters - really fitted the Crown "CC" paper, and thus, due to misplacement, one finds occasionally, stamps showing all or part of a watermark letter or letters if off centre right or left - or from centre of sheets (the latter letters are rather larger).

In 1882 the paper was watermarked Crown "CA", and the 4d value was also printed on this paper. However, in this case the watermarked letters read "Crown Agents" in the gap between the top and bottom halves and "Crown Agents for the Colonies" both up the left side and down the right side of the sheet, again in double lines capitals.

In Bulletin No. 98 for September 1978, John Marriot gave us an interesting article on the reversed watermarks of the De La Rue printings. I can confirm that the sheet margin watermarks also occur with reversed lettering (so that they read normally when viewed from the back of the stamp). Besides the normals, I have examples of reversed

sheet margin watermarks on the 1/- mauve (aniline) of 1863-1875, the 6d bright yellow green of 1876, and the 4d grey of 1882.

Sheet margin watermarks show up quite clearly when the stamps were printed on thin paper.

Jim Laurence

NEWS ROUNDUP

Copy for the Bulletin is now at a very low ebb and at the moment of going to press with this issue we have only two items, approximately four pages, for next December. Your contributions are urgently needed, otherwise we regret that that edition will be somewhat thin.

In the last Bulletin it was stated that the Roses Caribbean P.S. were awarded a Bronze Medal in the literature class for Derek Sutcliffe's 'Military Mail of Jamaica'. The award was in fact a Bronze-Silver Medal. This work together with Michael Rego's 'Postal Registration In British Guiana' are available as a combined pair for £10 plus p.& p., or as singles for £7.50 and £3.50 respectively plus p.& p., from the Roses C.P.S.

We understand that the Roses will shortly be publishing a much needed handbook on the Turks and Caicos Islands to 1950 by J.J. Challis. The book, which is expected to run to 100 pages, is hardback and its approximate cost is expected to be £15. A copy will be sent to the Study Circle in due course for review and retention by the Circle Library.

Still on the subject of literature another publication, which although only partly philatelic, will be of interest to Virgin Islands collectors, is 'The Early History of the British Virgin Islands from Columbus to Emancipation' by Vernon W. Pickering.

The story takes the reader from the discovery by Columbus, in 1493, to Emancipation, in 1834.

New information on Religion, Slavery, Liberated Africans and Emancipation is included in this book; a special chapter has also been well researched and documented on the early Postal History and communications of the Islands.

This 210 x 280mm hardbound book is available from Giorgio Migliavacca, P.O. Box 250, 27100 Pavia, Italy.

Members who collect Barbados may well find a visit to Leeds in September worthwhile, when Frank Deakin will be giving a display from his Barbados collection to the Roses. Our only hope is that the Bulletin will reach you in time to let you know.

Michael Sheppard

NEW MEMBERS

- FULLER, Darryl Unit 2, 3, Cambell St., Subiaico, 6008 Western Australia.
Interest: Leeward Islands (all aspects)
- GALBRAITH, A.V.G. 9, Hill Rise, Greenford, Middlesex.
Interest: Not known.
- KNOTT S.H.J.A., c/o Greene & Co., Bilbao House, 36-38,
New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NU
Interest: Postmarks plus Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada
- SMITH, Mrs. Amanda L., 12, East Lodge Park, Earlington, Portsmouth, Hants,
P06 1AG
Interest: St. Vincent, Grenadines.
- THWAITES, Graeme, 120, Brookfield St., Hamilton, New Zealand
Interest: Anguilla, Nevis, St. Kitts
- WYNSTRA, Robert, 908, 5, Nevada, Urbana, Illinois 61801, U.S.A.
Interest: Barbuda, Leeward Islands.

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

- BERNER, F., P.O. Box 1725, 7001, Trondheim, Norway.

DECEASED MEMBER

- Owen Napeir Denhigh PHILIPS

ADDRESS CORRECTION

- Peck, S.E. Bulletin No. 117. Should read 43, Norway Crescent,

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