



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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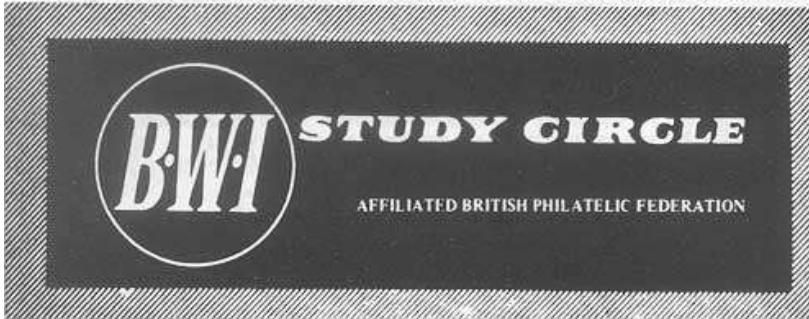
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OBJECT

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 the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways. List supplied upon 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** for members residing in the UK or Europe, and **£6** for members residing elsewhere in the world. The latter rate includes an element to cover Air Mail 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

1985

Fri., Oct. 11th 6.00 p.m. Convention Sherry Party
Sat., Oct. 12th 10.15 a.m. Convention opens
Wed Nov. 27th 6.00 p.m. 9 Page Display by Members

1986

Thu., Feb. 13th 6.00 p.m. Bring/Buy/Swap
Wed., Mar. 12th 6.00 p.m. Display - To be arranged
Sat., Apr. 26th 2.15 p.m. AGM and Auction Sale

The Convention on Friday and Saturday 11th and 12th October will be held at the Regent Hotel, The Parade, Leamington Spa, CV 32 4AX. The three evening meetings will be held in Committee Room J (not A as in previous years) at the Law Society Building, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC1 1PL. The AGM and Auction Sale will be held at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London, WC1 4BH.

1985 Convention

Members are reminded that the Booking Forms for the Caribbean Collectors Convention at the Regent Hotel, Leamington Spa, October 11th and 12th should be returned to the Hon. Sec. Ian Chard, 48 The Shrublands, Potters Bar, Herts., EN6 2BW as soon as possible before 23rd September.

A number of stewards will be required to work on a rota basis throughout the Convention Day. The duties are not onerous and will be for a maximum of two hours providing enough volunteers come forward. Please contact David Atkinson, 54 Wellington Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 2PH. Tel. 01-360 6762 if you are prepared to help.

Material for the Bulletin

At present I have insufficient material to produce the December Bulletin. I would be grateful for any articles and contributions from members.

David Atkinson

OBITUARY

MICHAEL SHEPPARD

The sudden and unexpected death of Michael Sheppard at his home on 24th July, 1985 will come as a great shock to many of the Study Circle's members who knew him very well indeed as the Hon. Editor of the Bulletin until only a few months ago.

Mike, who was trained as an engineer, joined the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers in the 1939-45 War and served in 1940-42 in North Africa where he was captured at Tobruk and became a prisoner of war in Italy. However, he escaped from the Italians but through bad luck was recaptured by the Germans before being able to reach Allied lines and sent to Poland where at one time he was in a prisoner of war camp near to the notorious Auschwitz concentration camp.

From 1952 until his retirement last year Mike was employed by the firm of Louis Newmark where for a number of years he was concerned with flightpath control systems and microprocessor based systems providing auto-pilot and flight detector information for helicopters. Some years before he retired he had the responsibility of training apprentices to work on a new computer control precision machine.

Mike also had a number of outside interests. He was a very keen model railway enthusiast, a great rambler and walker and he was particularly fond of gardening. There was, of course also his intense interest in philately over many years during which he formed a fine collection of the postal history and stamps of Barbados which was sold in auction in 1984. As far as the Study Circle was concerned Mike gave a very great deal of time in furthering its causes.

He first became Hon. Editor of the Bulletin with the production of the June 1973 Bulletin and continued for twelve years retiring after editing the March 1985 issue. During this period the high standard of the Bulletin was consistently maintained which without doubt contributed to the steady rise in the Study Circle's membership. In addition he was part of a very successful team with Simon Goldblatt in running the auctions of the Study Circle from their inception and he expressed a wish to continue doing this after ceasing to be Hon. Editor. The members showed Michael their appreciation of his services by making him an Hon. Life Member and a member of the Committee at the last Annual General Meeting and he chose in due course an executive briefcase as a gift from the Study Circle.

Mike retired from work in August-1984 and looked forward to a happy and long retirement during which he had planned to do many things which he had not previously had time for: Very sadly this was not to be. We in the Study Circle will miss him, his friendliness and good nature which enabled him to get to know personally so many of our members.

Mike leaves his widow Peggy, his son Christopher, his daughter Jill and four grandchildren to whom we extend our deepest sympathy in their great and tragic loss.

E. Victor Toeg.

DISPLAY

Thirteen Members and one visitor attended the Meeting held at 6 p.m. on Thursday 24th January, 1985 in Committee Room A, Law Society Building, 113 Chancery Lane, London, when those who brought stamps showed up to nine pages from their collections. A summary of the displays now follows:-

Mr. M.R. Wilson commenced his display of Turks Islands with two registered letters of 1897 and 1898 to Europe; the postage on one was 1/1d., the other was 1/2d. Neither appeared to be the correct postal rate at that time, i.e., 2d. registration fee plus 2½d, for each ½oz. He then showed an 1898 registered cover to Bemuda which would have been carried on the S.S. Beta which is known to have arrived at Hamilton on 6th whilst the cover was incorrectly backstamped there on 5th of the month in question. Then an 1899 registered cover to the United Kingdom marked "via Halifax" on which 1d. postage and 2d. registration fee were paid - this cover being correctly stamped.

Turning to more modern material Mr. Wilson displayed a block of six of the ¼d. rose-red mint and a newspaper wrapper to the U.S.A. with two examples of the ¼d. (the ½d. rate).

Two Cable & Wireless Cachets followed, one with a stamp, the other to the United Kingdom in 1940 censored but unstamped. These were succeeded by two "ship cachets", the "S.S. CAVINA" of Elder & Fyffe Line in 1935 with Great Britain definitives and the Dutch ship "SARPEDON" of 1950.

Mr. A.D. Kinnon, one of our more recent members, then showed St. Lucia. He commenced with an 1892 registered cover to London on which 2d. registration fee and 2½d. postage had been paid. A July 1921 registered cover to British Guiana with a 3d. King George V stamp was succeeded by an Air Mail cover of December 1930 with boxed registration cachet to Constant Spring, Jamaica; then a First Flight cover from St. Lucia to Jamaica via Miami; two registered covers followed both from Castries to England with blue registration labels; two registered Air Mail covers to Southern Ireland and London respectively both from Soufriere in September 1938 and each having the oval registration mark from Soufriere. Finally, a registered cover from Vieux Fort to Grimsby bearing the 3½d. Victory stamps.

Another newer member Mr. B.D. Atkinson showed part of his St. Vincent collection. He exhibited the 2s., 5s. and £1. from the 1913-17 set in mint blocks of four and also similar stamps in singles used with some on piece as well. The 1921-32 set was represented by the 2s. and 5s. in mint blocks of four and the £1. in mint singles; these were followed by the same values used, some being on piece. The 1928 £1. with multiple script CA watermark was shown on a large registered piece with Layou c.d.s. 18 OC/30 and black St. Vincent registration label (locally printed).

This display of George V stamps was most colourful and attracted much attention from the members present. Mr. Atkinson wound up his display with mint blocks of

four of the 50 cents, \$1. and \$2. from the September, 1955 set and he also showed these values in blocks of four with the Kingstown, St. Vincent c.d.s.

Mr. D. Mitton exhibited from his collection of Bermuda but no item had any Bermuda adhesives. First, two Queen Victoria covers from England, one to Major Evans and the other to Reginald Gray. Both were collectors and Gray was involved with Evans over the very rare 3d. surcharge on 1d. rose-red and reference is made in M. Ludington's book on Bermuda that Gray sold three of these stamps to Evans. Next a registered cover from Barbados to a sailor on H.M.S. Partridge addressed to the ship at Bermuda or elsewhere!

An interesting item was an 1894 House of Assembly entire of abstract of proceedings; this had a Hamilton H1 cancel and no stamp. Only a few entries are known of the free use of the mail service by members of the Assembly.

Two 1902 Boer War covers were displayed from Natal with triangular purple Passed Censor 3 Bermuda, purple Censor 4, orange "Not Tuckers" and manuscript "Try Darrells".

Examples of unstamped "On Active Service" mail sent in 1917 from France to Bermuda with Field Service Card and an entire with both Army and Bermuda censor marks.

A Post Office Form 67 "Current Issues of Bermuda Postage Stamps" with a large double ring purple St. Georges Bermuda dated APR 12 1938. This is not referred to in Ludington but it is clearly used as an official datestamp.

An undated World War 2 letter with Great Britain adhesives to New York cancelled by "Received from H.M. Ships" with usual ship tombstone censor mark and blue II Type CM21 Bermuda censor mark; believed to be the only recorded blue II censor mark.

On his last two pages Mr. Mitton exhibited a letter from Canada to Hinsons Island posted August 30 1939 with green censor 4 Type CM21 Passed by Censor mark and a 1941 OHMS cover to London; this was unstamped and hand-stamped "Insufficient Postage for Airmail" with postage due marks obliterated by oval of bars dumb cancel.

Mr. S. Goldblatt showed a "Pot Pourri" of postmarks which covered a great deal of ground and this summary cannot do justice to his display. However, he commenced with a wide selection of attractively clear postmarks from British Guiana, Trinidad and British Honduras. In the last named country his postmarks were from Bermuda Bank, Caledonia, Consejo, Guinea Grass, Wallsport, Duck Run, Monkey River, Gales Point, Mullins River, Boom, Stann Creek Railway, Progress Lowry's Bight and Riversdale. In Leeward Islands he showed the St. Mary's c.d.s. on numerous different stamps.

In St. Kitts-Nevis there were examples of abbreviated code cancels of "CA" for "CAYON" and "DB" for "DIEPPE BAY". Also temporary rubber datestamps of Anguilla Valley, Cayon, Dieppe Bay and Old Road.

In Bahamas was a selection of postmarks from Hope-town, Bannerman Town, The Bluff, Pure Gold and Old Place.

Mr. Goldblatt happens to specialise also in the Virgin Islands, and here the postmarks were from Virgin-Gorda, Anegada, West End and East End. He also produced a "squared" circle Virgin Island postmark.

Mr. J.A.C. Farmer, who has specialised in Leeward Islands for many years, showed some unusual proof material. The first was a die proof of the 10s. dated "5/9/28" in ink on the front of the glazed card and on the back "approved 6/9/28". Then file copies from the De La Rue archives of the die proofs of 10s. and £1. respectively dated and marked "Sep 11th 60 + 6" and "Sep 12th 60 + 6". Finally a die proof of the 10s. marked "AFTER STRIKING" and dated "12/9/28" in ink. Also shown were the King George V imperforate 10s. and £1. each marked "approved for colour".

Normal examples of the 10s. and £1. specimen stamps followed and also specimen stamps of the 10s. and £1. with crown flaw and right shoulder of scroll flaw. In addition, horizontal marginal plate 1 pairs of the 10s. and £1. were displayed showing scroll break in horizontal row 5/12, The 10s. stamp was exhibited from the 1938, 1942, 1943 and 1944 printings and there was also a block of four mint from the May, 1944 printing with leaf flaws on horizontal row 4/11, this flaw is constant on all printings.

Turning to the £1., this stamp was shown in mint blocks of four from the 1938 and 1939 printings. In the March 1942 printing there was a mint marginal block of four from plate 1 of the £1 with No. 47 showing the leaf flaw and Nos. 59 and 60 broken right scrolls.

From the December, 1951 printing of the £1. there was displayed a mint marginal block of four from plate 1 showing the albino print. In the December, 1951 printing there were also examples of the £1. mint with inverted watermark and sideways watermark.

Finally, Mr. Farmer ended with a mint marginal block of six (3 x 2) of the Queen Elizabeth \$2.40 and a mint marginal block of nine (3x3) of the \$4.80 showing the scroll flaw in each block on horizontal row 4/12.

Mr. M. Vokins showed several pages relating to the attractive Jamaica 1½d. green of 1919 and 1921. First, the photograph used for the production of the vignette of this stamp was exhibited. Mr. Vokins stated that twenty million 1½d. green stamps showing the troops sailing to World War I on 8th November, 1915 were printed from fourteen plates.

Then followed an interesting, detailed study of the stamp printed on papers watermarked Multiple Crown CA and Multiple Script CA. This stamp was also shown with the well known re-entry, its sheet position being in horizontal row 8/4.

Mr. Vokins also displayed this stamp in marginal plate pairs from the bottom right of the sheet, the pairs being from plates 1, 2, and 3. In the case of plate 4, however, he demonstrated that the plate number was in the left margin above the register mark on the left side of the sheet and outside the double jubilee line. Other plate numbers up to 14 were in other positions on the margin paper.

Mr. D.W. Atkinson displayed Jamaica obliterator numbers. Of special Interest were examples of the letters B, C and E, A.OI used on Great Britain King Edward VII 1d. at the Foreign Branch Office, London; a pair of Great Britain 1d. with Kingston type B obliteration, not recorded on a pair by Foster; an A75 SAV LA MAR on a piece with a pair of Great Britain 1d. and 6d., only two examples on piece were recorded by Foster and on the reverse of the piece the Kingston 3/3/60 c.d.s. arrival mark indicating a very early use. Could this be the first day of use as mail would take two days from SAV LA MAR to Kingston and obliterations were used from 1st March 1860 at the Post Towns?

Mr. E.V. Toeg was the last to display his Antigua material consisting of Queen Victoria fiscal stamps and also forgeries from the same reign. First, the fiscal stamps of 1870 comprising the 1d., 2d.,4d. and 6d. values in singles on paper watermarked Crown CC; the 2d. in two marginal strips of three from the bottom corners of the sheet showing in one case Plate 1, and in the other the sheet number 38.

Mr. Toeg then showed the 1876 fiscal stamps on paper watermarked Crown CA. In this instance there were displayed the 1d., one example being cancelled by favour with the current Antigua c.d.s., 3d., 1s, and 10s. values.

In 1886 five fiscal proofs were printed in doubly fugitive ink comprising a pale lilac key plate in each case and the value tablet "ONE PENNY" in different colours; also printed in the same year in doubly fugitive ink with a pale dull green key plate in each case were six proofs with the duty plate "ONE PENNY" in different colours. All the fiscal stamps and proofs were perforated 14. Next the forgeries, the first one of which was a 1d. vermilion overprinted "SPECIMEN". This was a genuine stamp with clipped perforations, the overprint being bogus as there is no known genuine specimen stamp of the 1d. vermilion.

This particular item is referred to by Marcus Samuel in the first paragraph on Antigua in his book "Specimen Stamps of The Crown Colonies 1857-1948".

Mr. Toeg also showed some crude lithographic forgeries of the Perkins Bacon & Co. design of the 1d. and 6d. values in every case with the bogus cancellation comprising a rectangle of spaced black dots 10 x 8. These forgeries were printed on unwatermarked paper and were never gummed, bear only a superficial resemblance to the genuine design, and are quite incorrect as regards colour. They were probably printed by the Spiro Brothers of Hamburg in the 1880's.

This concluded the display and it should be recorded that both the attendance and the number of sheets exhibited resulted in a highly successful meeting. The scope and variety of material shown were much appreciated by those attending and it inevitably resulted in highly useful discussions and much exchange of information.

E.V. Toeg

The Study Circle held a Saturday afternoon 'out-of-London' meeting in conjunction with the Fleet (Hampshire) Stamp Exhibition on 30th March; eighteen members and exhibition visitors attended. They were treated to three displays that were a feast for the eye including as they did so many fine items from Islands that feature less often than some in our Displays.

The Circle's Vice-President, John Marriott, opened the proceedings with part of his Trinidad collection. The display began with the famous Lady McLeod stamps, both mint and used, before showing the various Britannia issues. These were initially produced by Perkins Bacon and examples included the original Die Proofs. These were followed by examples of all the five local lithograph printings showing in detail the progressive wear of the plates with each printing. Later pages covered the De La Rue printings from the Perkins Bacon plates, and the recess printed De La Rue higher values. Among the unique items showed was one example used from Venezuela.

Chris Barwick's display covered the issues of Montserrat from 1876 to 1937 using only specimen stamps, with the few exceptions where these were not issued. In this category Chris included the 6d blue-green of 1876 and the 4d blue of 1884. Unusual items included the 'Ultramar' overprints on the 1903 issue and a 'Muestra' overprint on the 1917 War Tax stamps - believed to have been of Mexican origin. He concluded his display showing some stamps believed to have been part of King Farouk's private collection.

The final display was from Tony Farmer using as a third theme the 1887 Jubilee issue of the Leeward Islands. It was explained that this small overprint consisting of an entwined VRI within an encircling garter was locally impressed individually on more than 64,000 stamps with few major errors. Large numbers of remainders were readily available for at least five years after issue so why do so many forgeries exist? Tony continued his display with examples of at least twelve of these types.

Members who had the time to visit the Dealers' stands in the exhibition hall or to view the many exhibits on world wide themes that were on display in the hall from local collectors found that they had had a thoroughly worthwhile day. Our sincere thanks go to the three Members who gave us such an interesting afternoon.

Mike Wilson

NOTES and QUERIES

BAHAMAS

In his book "Bahamas Early Mail Services and Postal Markings" Mr. Ludington gives detailed information on handstamps and cancellations which are a boon to those who include examples in their collections.

From various covers in my own assemblage I have noted some earlier dates of use than that recorded by Mr. Ludington.

These are, admittedly, arrival markings rather than cancellations but they do show the existence of the Date Stamps. Just when arrival marks become a common practice I am unable to say but other incoming items between 1899 and 1935 do not bear such markings.

Date Stamp Type D3a.

- (i) Used on an incoming cover from Czechoslovakia and with the date of 11 Feb 54 - a month earlier than that recorded. The date stamp is used together with the machine cancellation Type M5.
- (ii) Used on an incoming cover from Oyster Bay, New York, again in conjunction with machine cancellation type M5 but this time dated 17 Sep 53 - some 6 months earlier than recorded.

Date Stamp Type D4a.

Used on reverse of a cover from United Nations, New York, and dated 18 June 53 - two days earlier than recorded. The date stamp is in conjunction with machine cancellation Type M4b.

Stephen Papworth

BRITISH WEST INDIES

ROYAL MAIL LINE STAMPS and AGENTS CACHETS

While conducting research into the history of the Royal Mail Line's activities in the West Indies, some information has come to light which is worthy of a brief article in this journal thanks to the notes of Basil Benwell, Bruce Walker and Joe Chin Aleong. The first part of this article deals with the Royal Mail stamps and how they came to be issued, while the second part of this study records the Company's Cachets known used in their West Indies Offices.



FIG 1

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company had a contract with the British government for the transportation of mail to the various West Indies countries, both to and from the UK and also for the inter-island mail service which each island paid a nominal fee for this scheduled service. During 1875 a number of 'West Indian' ports of call were dropped from the schedule having first received permission from HM Government. Consequently this reduced service to the West Indies no longer made the regular calls

at Puerto Cabello, Willemstad, Santo - Domingo, Puerta Plata and Paramaribo, all of which were non British colonies. As a substitute arrangement the RMSPCo with British government backing, established a private service between the non-contract ports and issued stamps for use on this service. During FEB 1875 die proofs were prepared (See FIG 1) and shortly afterwards the stamps were printed by De La Rue & Co, London In APRIL 1875. Each stamp had a single value tablet of "TEN CENTS" which was the fee for a letter of ½oz between the non-contract ports. These stamps were usually pen-cancelled by the captain of the ship, and in some cases cancelled by the local Agents of the RMSPCo, or other shipping Agents who were associated with the non-contract runs between the various West Indian islands and the Caribbean coast of South America.

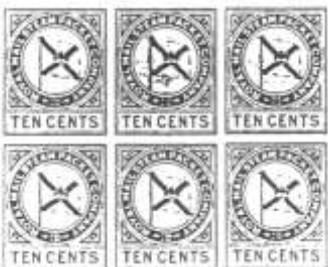


FIG 2

Occasionally the stamps can be found singly in mint condition but rarely seen is a large block of these adhesives (See FIG 2).

This service ceased in 1880 when most of the non-contract countries were now full members of the UPU and the use for the Royal Mail stamps was no longer needed. The following list are Agents handstamps known cancelling the postage stamp.

- KEITEL & Co./AGENTS/GONAIVES
- ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO/SIGISMUNDO M./CURACAO AGENTS
- JON KOCH & CO/LLOYDS AGENTS/PORTO CABELLO
- ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO/H.A.de L./.... AGENTS
- ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO/..... WEIL & CO/HAITI AGENTS
- ADMN.DE CORREOS DE SAMANA (applied Dominica Republic)

The RMSPCo had several offices in the West Indies or Agents who were responsible for Royal Mail business of their particular island or territory. The Company Office marks are known from Trinidad, Grenada and St. Vincent (See FIGS 3-6) and while most of these marks are found on loose postage stamps of each country, the large Trinidad datestamp is known applied as a backstamp on cover with St. Vincent stamps, addressed to Port of Spain. It is thought that this marking was applied to mail which was first brought into the Royal Mail office in Port of Spain then forwarded to the post office for cancellation there at 3PM 4 FE 1921. In such occasions this practice must be scarce. The other markings are thought to have been applied to fiscal documents or shipping particulars as each has been found on loose stamps which have been removed

from their original sheets, therefore no dates of use are known. An attempt to record these marks which were all applied in violet ink is as follows;

FIG 3 Grenada Agency SG 78.

FIG 4 Grenada Agency SG 78.

FIG 5 St. Vincent Agency SG 80.

FIG 6 Trinidad 4 FEB 1921.

It is very likely that other such marks were used at Jamaica, Barbados, St. Lucia, St. Thomas and I would be very interested to hear from collectors who may have such marks in their collection on postage or fiscal stamps.



FIG 3



FIG 4



FIG 5



FIG 6

Michael Rego

DOMINICA

In Bulletin No. 93 Michael Medlicott asked for information about an apparent temporary rubber date stamp.

The handstamp which was illustrated is not, in my view, a cancellation stamp at all. It is a simple "office" stamp which are usually made of rubber and used to indicate the date of receipt of an incoming item or as an "authority stamp" on an outgoing one. Such "authority" stamps are in fact quite common and may be found in many different governmental departments - police, health, education, Registrar, Treasury and so on. When used on a cover it would normally indicate that the Item being despatched was indeed an Official one and any special postal rates which might apply were rightfully used.

I have a similar handstamp, but of much later date, applied to the front of a postcard despatched by the Postmaster to a customer in England which acknowledges the receipt of an order and payment for postage stamps. (see Illustrations).



O. H. M. S.



Mr. H. Hunt
Northwood Ave,
Elm Park,
Hempstead,
Jamaica

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
DOMINICA.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
DOMINICA.

29th May 1952.

Sir/Madam

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your order
for postage stamps dated 22nd April 1952
together with remittance of P. 2/-

The stamps will shortly be forwarded to you in
accordance with your directions.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
Colonial Postmaster.

The strike which Mr. Medicott has on loose stamps are, to say the least, unusual for the handstamp would not normally have been used as a canceller. Could it be that a new clerk mistook the proper purpose of the handstamp? That all of the stamps which Mr. Medicott has bear the same date might imply this "improper" use - a use which was probably quickly corrected.

I have similar impressions of such "authority" handstamps all applied to covers emanating from other governmental departments. Some have been initialled (as in the example shown) whilst others have not. In every case, however, my examples are all on stampless covers or cards the items apparently being allowed free transit.

S.E. Papworth

THE POST OFFICES OF DOMINICA

Anyone wishing to include postal markings and cancellations as part of their collection of Dominica will quickly discover that there is a distinct paucity of published information to help or guide them on their way.

The island is not large - it covers a mere 290 square miles, is about 32 miles in length from north to south and not much more than 13 miles at its widest point. It is mountainous, covered in forest and with innumerable rivers and streams, (it is said they number 365) and communications within the island were, to say the least, difficult. Even in 1952 the Annual Colonial Report advised that "The inland mail services are hampered by a lack of motorable roads. The villages on the leeward coast are largely served by a motor launch service and villages on the windward side of the island by postmen travelling on foot."

The difficulties, however, did not prevent a growth in the postal organisation and service. In 1870 there was but one post Office - at Roseau. In 1875 when the population numbered about 27,000 an inland postal service was instituted with Police Stations acting as receipt and delivery points for mail and where postage stamps were also placed on sale. When started the main Police Stations concerned were those at St. Joseph, Colihaut, Portsmouth, Wesleyville and Rosalie. By 1900 about 15 District or Village Post Offices were in operation (see Table I below) and these continued to provide the service for nearly 50 years. The growth from then on appears to be a little more rapid. In 1951/52 the Annual Report quotes the existence of the GPO at Roseau, a main office (presumably at Portsmouth), 20 District or Village Offices and an unknown number of postal agencies. By 1970, when the population had grown to over 70,000, there was the GPO (still at Roseau), 2 main offices (at Portsmouth and Marigot), 30 District Offices and 22 postal agencies. These agencies appear to be merely collection and/or delivery points and probably also sell postage stamps. They are still probably based on Police Stations in many cases, but schools, shops and individuals may well now be included.

In my search for information it became apparent that even finding the actual locations of the Post Offices was not all that easy as not all place names were marked on any single map and in a number of cases the spelling of place names have changed. For example MAHAUT is now apparently spelt LAHAUT unless the latter refers to La Haute which is on the northern tip of the island. Locating Postal Agencies is much, much more difficult and I have only been able to identify two of them. The one at Melville Hall was apparently established to service the airport a mile or so south of Wesley whilst that at Bells (which is located in almost the exact geographical centre of the island in St. Joseph's Parish and about a mile north of the two peaks Morne Couronne and Morne Laurent) operated for about ten years to provide a service to a camp of road builders.

To aid others who might also find this difficulty I have listed the offices in Table I by travelling around the island in a clockwise direction and starting from the northern end. The Parishes, of which there are 10 in all, effectively divide the island into two

equal halves with 3 parishes in the eastern (windward) half and the other 7 in the western (leeward) half. All the Post Offices listed – bar three – are on the coast. The exceptions are Dos D’Ane which is inland on the road from Portsmouth east to Anse de Mai; Pichelin, in the south, which is on the road between Loubiere and Grand Bay; and Giraudel which is inland a little south of due east of Roseau.

It is not the purpose of this article to provide details of all the handstamps, cancellers or other postal markings which have been or still are in use. Indeed my knowledge is far too limited to provide this. There does appear, however, to be two basic types – the first a single circle and the other a double circle and there are at least three sub-types of the latter. These are shown illustrated not to exact size. Each stamp has variations at some time or the other – the replacement of the “star” with a letter – or its omission completely and there are also some minor differences in size of lettering and diameters. Just when these various changes took place I have not been able to establish. Some postal agencies may also have circular datestamps so “new” finds could still appear.

I have not been able to discover accurate dates when offices were opened or closed (where this may have occurred either permanently or as a temporary ‘hiccup’) and even the dates given all come from one source. The denuded look of the Tables can only be clothed by those collectors who have the information. May I plead to them to make this information known – after all this surely is the purpose of the Circle.

TABLE I – THE POST OFFICES OF DOMINICA

Name of Office	Parish	Date opened*	Date closed*	Cancel type used+	
				EKD	LKD
Grand Fond	St. Andrew			A	
Vieille Case	"	July 1900		B	
Dos D’Ane	"			A	
Anse de Mai	"			A	
Collbishie	"			C	
Woodford Hill	"			A	
Wesley	"	July 1900		A	
Marigot				A	
Atkinson	St. David			A	
Salybia	"			D	
Castle Bruce	"	1967/68 ?			
San Sauveur	"			B	
Petite Soufriere	"	1 Apr 1967			
Rosalie	"	July 1900			
Riviere Cyrique	"			C	
La Plaine	St. Patrick	July 1900		B	
Delices	"	July 1900		D	
Petite Savanne	"			D	
Fond St. Jean	"			C	
Grand Bay	"	July 1900		B	
Pichelin	"			C	

Scotts Head	St. Mark			C
Soufriere	"	July 1900		C
Pointe Michel	St. Luke	July 1900		B
Giraudel	St. George	1 Sep 1967		
Roseau (GPO)	"	1858		A
Massacre	St. Paul			C
Mahaut (Lahaut?)	"	July 1900		B
St. Joseph	St. Joseph	July 1900	1920?	A
Salisbury	"			B
Coulibistrie	"	1900		B
Colihaut	St. Peter	July 1900		A
Dublanc	"	July 1900		B
Portsmouth	St. John	1893?		B

Notes

* Where July 1900 is quoted this is based on known despatch of cancellers from London.

+ The types used are not exhaustive being based on information concerning cancellations seen on stamps of QE II.

TABLE II - THE POSTAL AGENCIES OF DOMINICA

Name of Agency	Parish	Date opened*	Date closed*	Cancel Type	
				EKD	LKD
Melville Hall	St. Andrew	1 Oct 1960		C	
Bells	St. George	1955	Jan 1965		



Type A



Type B



Type C



Type D

References

1. BWISC Bulletins Nos: 27 (p55); 43 (65); 48 (82/83); 60 (5); 64 (18); 65 (34); 70 (54); 71 (80); 83 (76) and 84 (pp11).
2. Annual Colonial Reports for Dominica (published by HMSO)

for the years 1948; 1949/50; 1951/52; 1959/60; 1961/62
and 1963/64/65.

3. West Indies and Caribbean Year Book 1970.
4. Gibbons Stamp Monthly for November 1939.
5. Philatelic Magazine for 28 June 1957; and for 6 December 1968.
6. BWISC Library Scrapbook for Dominica.

S.E. Papworth

(These comments refer to Steve Papworth's article, and are submitted at his invitation.)

I can only comment empirically on Table 1, as I have not carried out specific research: more scientific input will undoubtedly be given when the Circle's forthcoming publication on Dominica is completed. However, the original sub-offices in Dominica were receiving and servicing mail long before village handstamps were sent out from London. Before that time, stamps would be cancelled in manuscript, sometimes with the full village name (with or without date), sometimes with an abbreviation of the name or initials, and sometimes - on the authority of Peter Jaffe - with date alone. Plainly, the latter can only be distinguished from stamps used fiscally by circumstantial evidence; and unless one is able to recognise the handwriting of a particular postal functionary, a village of origin cannot be given.

Manuscript cancellations are well known for Colihaut, Portsmouth, St. Joseph, Vieille Case and Wesley, while Grand Bay and (I think) Coulibistrie have each turned up. Very likely pen-cancels were also used at other offices of the period, which were Delices, Dublanc, Laplaine, Mahaut, Pointe Michel, Rosalie and Soufriere, but perhaps only as a cryptic initial, or unidentifiable date. My earliest dated cancel is of Wesley 30/1/75, probably genuine. I have Colihaut for 1885, and possibly also for 1876. My earliest Ports(mouth) is 1886. Others will have earlier, but in any case I have consistently assumed that one of the two A07 killers was used here before c.d.s. of the village began to appear. Each of the batch of cancellers supplied in 1900 displays an asterisk, rather than the more usual code letter.

By contrast, Marigot (which, from recollection, replaced Coulibistrie c.1904) used a slightly larger c.d.s. with code letter; curiously, Castle Bruce used an asterisk, although the office did not open until the early 1920's as far as I am aware. Together with the G.P.O. at Roseau, these are the only offices whose date stamps were in use during the period with which I am familiar, that is, to the middle 1930's. I make no attempt to deal with the reputed temporary closure of certain offices; I merely mention a faintly-recalled proposition that the Wesley date stamp continued in use long after the office is said to have ceased to function.

As to dates, my earliest Portsmouth (small c.d.s., down-ended code 'C') is 19 MR 94. I know all the other original offices on QV Leewards (except, I think, Pointe Michel, so common from KE VII on) and my earliest date is Colihaut, OC 1 00. Latest m/s date, Wesley 29.4.97.

Simon Goldblatt

GUYANA

INSTRUCTIONAL MARKINGS.

All the following markings have been seen used during the last two years: doubtless others exist.

- | | | |
|-----|--|--------------|
| 1. | BULLETIN de TRANSIT | 54mm x 2.7mm |
| 2. | Received by Surface Mail | 51mm x 4.7mm |
| 3. | POSTAGE PAID | 32mm x 3mm |
| 4. | AIR MAIL | 64mm x 10mm |
| 5. | RECEIVED in BAD CONDITION | 67.5mm x 3mm |
| 6. | RECEIVED TAPED | 39mm x 3mm |
| 7. | On Postal Service | 40mm x 3mm |
| 8. | EXPRESS | 42mm x 10mm |
| 9. | REGISTERED | 73mm x 10mm |
| 10. | RETURNED FOR ADDITIONAL
POSTAGE OF | 66mm x 9mm |
| 11. | -----
RECEIVED DAMAGED
----- | 48mm x 9mm |
| 12. | -----
RETURNED FOR BETTER ADDRESS
----- | 75mm x 9.5mm |
| 13. | -----
MISSENT TO GUYANA
----- | 52mm x 10mm |
| 14. | RECEIVED

----- | 36mm x 30mm |
| 15. | INSUFFICIENT POSTAGE FOR
TRANSMISSION BY AIR | 63mm x 8mm |
| 16. | RETURN TO SENDER | 52mm x 3mm |
| 17. | REBUTS | 38mm x 5mm |
| 18. | THE ENCLOSED LETTER/LETTERS
IS/ARE RETURNED TO YOU FOR THE
ASSIGNED REASON/REASONS | 77mm x 28mm |

flat seriffed top bar and a large ball at the end of the bottom curve. It is noticeably taller than the alpha-index beside it. The date-lines exist in two states:

- A. Both the "month/day" and "year" lines are 3mm high (Fig.1).
- B. The "month/day" line is 3mm high; the year" line is about 2.25mm high, with a very rounded "O". The present early date for State B is MY 26 10 (Fig.2)

The outer rings are well spaced, about 1mm apart. Small dot-stops at sides, placed about 3.5mm below inner edges of KINGSTON.

TYPE KDC 6 (FOSTER DCK 1b)
Datestamp 1

Measurements: A.28.0: B.3.0: C.16.0: D.13.75:
E. 9.5: F.9.0: G.2.25: H. 2.25



Comparison with the measurements given in Bulletin No. 113, Page 31, shows that all six instruments of this set are very well matched. As in the other instruments, numeral index 1 is sans-serif. The rings are widely spaced somewhat over 1mm apart. My four strikes of this die all show two pronounced "dents" in the upper left segment of the outer ring as indicated in Fig.3 and 4, suggesting that the instrument had been damaged at some time prior to my early date of FE 12 09. It is unlikely that the die was delivered by the makers in this condition: impressions should therefore exist in which the outer ring is unblemished.

I can amplify the listing of impressions in BLUE ink given in Bulletin No. 121:

Type	Date stamp	Index and date
KDC1/DCK1	4	L. Nov. 93
KDC3a/DCK1a	3	H. Nov. 03
KDC4/DCK2b	1	H. Feb. 04
	5	B. Feb. 04. D. Jun. 04. N. Feb.

Anthony W. Lewarn

Checking through my previous article I find that an error appears in Bulletin 122, September, 1984, Page 52. In Type KDC 8 (Foster DCK 1c), Datestamp 3, the additional Alpha-Index reported by Foster and not previously recorded, is "M" and not "N" as shown.

Anthony W. Lewarn

LEEWARD ISLANDS

I can report an earlier date for the Antigua cancellation on Leeward Islands QV Issue (Bulletin 125, June 85, P.36). I have a Type 2 on 2d. JU 17 1891. I also have a Type 1 on QV 1d. dated Aug 9 1898 much later than Mr. Pearts.

Bruce Walker

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

I believe that Louis Zell, Bulletin No. 124 March 1985, P.20, is right in believing that one of his mysterious markings is connected with the steamer SEMINOLE. There was a ship of this name built in 1886 and owned by the Clyde Steam Ship Company. According to the "Handbook of the Turks & Caicos Islands for 1904/05" there were four lines of steamers calling at Grand Turk in 1885, the Clyde Line having started in 1875. These steamers sailed from Pier 15 East River New York for Haiti, Turks Islands etc, with passengers and freight weekly, or more often. Louis' marking is probably part of some handstamp applied to mail carried in this ship. I have a cover carried on a sister ship - the CHEROKEE - in 1900. Unfortunately there is only a manuscript marking to denote this. Incidentally, there were sixteen ships owned by this company at the turn of the century.

Of the other marks I would only hazard a guess about the last mentioned, and then it is difficult without seeing them. However, my feeling is that it is an example of the Registered Oval with the wording only partially showing, and hence appearing like arabic script.

Any other ideas? And, what about the others? I wish I knew.

Michael Wilson

NEWS ROUNDUP

I wish to report to the Membership as follows:-

"It was my happy duty as Secretary of the Study Circle to write to Mr. Alfred Branston to advise him that, at the Annual General Meeting, the Membership had elected him as an Honorary Life Member and that as a token of his services to the Circle as Hon. Auditor he should be bought a gift. Mr. Branston was deeply moved and expressed his thanks. Mr. Branston chose a selection of Classical Music on Long Playing Records as his gift. Mr. Branston particularly asked that the Members be thanked for their kind wishes".

Ian Chard

Congratulations to Frank Deakin on his award of a Gold Medal at Israphil '85 at Tel Aviv, for a Barbados Exhibit. An account by Mr Deakin of his visit to Israphil follows.

My Visit to Israphil '85 14th-22nd May at Tel Aviv.

I flew from Heathrow at 5 p.m. on Sunday May 19th and landed safely and without incident at Ben Gurion Airport at 11.30 p.m., the actual flying time being 4 hrs plus 2hrs for flying East. I was attending the last few days of Israphil '85.

Mr. Gasten of Stamp Tours, London, met me, when I had completed the usual formalities, and several of us filled a Mercedes taxi which took us at a spanking pace to the Grand Beach hotel in Tel Aviv.

Next morning, after a very ample self-serve breakfast, I took a taxi to the Convention Centre in the Exhibition Grounds about 4 miles outside the city set among cool pine trees. Here in the main building I soon passed through the security check and received an Exhibitor's Badge and an Exhibition Catalogue which contained all the relevant information about this particular exhibition with of course a full listing of the international exhibitors and their exhibits and showing where they could be located among 3,500 frames, each holding 16 sheets. After a brief search I found my 8 frames of Barbados in the far left-hand corner of the very large modern hall, suitably air-conditioned and shuttered against the heat: the overall pleasing effect was unfortunately spoilt a little, because in my last frame I noticed two sheets had been mounted upside down. I then paid a short visit to the large dealers' hall, where I met some familiar faces and drank some iced beer with my friends.

The Palmares Awards Banquet for over 500 guests started at about 8 p.m. the same evening at the Centre in the open air and, much to my surprise, I collected a Gold Medal; each guest also receives a special stamp souvenir, connected with the exhibition, and the printed Palmares booklet with the awards. We enjoyed an excellent meal and were afterwards entertained by some delightful folk dancers with stirring Israeli songs and characteristic music.

On Tuesday I did the morning tour of Tel Aviv and quaint Old Jaffa and spent Wednesday again at the Exhibition, where I was able to order a few photos of the Medal Presentation and buy some nice covers at one of the stands. The Exhibition closed the same afternoon at 5 p.m. and later on I was kindly invited to superintend the dismantling of my own exhibit under very tight security.

The next day 15 collectors started our 4 days tour of the Holy Land by a comfortable Egged Airconditioned Touring Bus from our hotel base in Jerusalem; we saw remarkable scenery, much of it desolate and arid, but we were able to bathe in the Sea of Galilee and float in the Dead Sea and we took the cable car to that impressive fortress of Massada and saw the cave where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. On Monday I flew back to England in a very religious frame of mind without mishap; it had been a wonderful holiday.

Frank Deakin

The Hon/ Librarian reports that the cost of Cordex Binders for the Bulletin has had to be increased. New rates are per binder U.K. £3.75, Europe and Overseas £4.50 inclusive of postage and packing.

The new auction season is with us again. Much important and interesting BWI material is on offer.

Bridger and Kay Ltd. are holding an auction on 18th. or 19th. October in which there will be a large quantity of BWI material including many multiples. It is hoped that some catalogues for this sale will be available at the Convention.

Christies, Robson Lowe are offering a Gold Medal Collection of Grenada in London on 26th. or 27th. November. Catalogues will be available at a price of £3.

Caribbean Philatelic Auctions, PO Box 91, Harrogate, North Yorkshire, HG2 0AB. Tel No. Harrogate (0423) 69020 are holding a Special 50th Sale on Wednesday 30th October, 1985.

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