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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 135

DECEMBER 1987

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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 the Circle library (**home members only**). Borrowers bear postage both ways.
List supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an s.a.e. (9" x 6½") - 2nd Class postage for 150gm rate required.
4. TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
5. TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in para 1 above.

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MEMBERSHIP - Is WORLD WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.

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PROGRAMME

1987

Wed. 2nd December 6-00 pm. Nine page Display by Members.
Venue: The Law Society Building, 113,
Chancery Lane, London, WC1 1PL

1988

Thu. 28th January 6-00 pm. Display: Military Mail of Jamaica
by Derek Sutcliffe
Venue: The Law Society Building, 113
Chancery Lane, London, WC1 1PL

Wed. 2nd March 2-30 pm. Displays: Turks & Caicos
by Malcolm Watts
St. Lucia
by Graham Bartlett
Venue: STAMPEX
Royal Horticultural Hall,
London, SW1.

Sat. 23rd April 2-15 pm. AGM and Auction Sale
Venue: The Bonnington Hotel, Southampton
Row, London, WC1 4BH

The Hon. Editor is very short of material for the next Bulletin. Please use the long winter evenings to produce some contributions to your journal.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Any Member may, if he or she wishes, obtain a continuous period of membership for five years by making one single payment of five times the current annual rate of Subscription (Dues) as may be applicable to them. By taking out this type of membership you are effectively insured against having to pay any future increase(s) of Subscription rates (Dues) during that period! At the same time you also relieve yourself of the necessity to remember to pay your dues on time.

Near the end of your term membership you will receive an automatic reminder to renew if you wish to do so.

BUT To gain the benefit from this term membership your payment **MUST** be received by 31st January 1988. Payments received after this date will be held on Account and any increase in the rate of Subscription (dues) during the term will have to be met and paid reducing the term to perhaps only three years!

Any Member who would like to take advantage of this scheme should simply send a cheque to the Hon. Treasurer for £20.00 (if you reside in the UK or Europe), or £30.00 if residing elsewhere. Members paying in US Dollars should send their checks for US\$ 52.50 to the representative for North America (Mark W. Swetland).

Members taking up this offer who normally pay by Bankers Standing Order should cancel their Orders to prevent double payment. Members who have already paid such a term membership can safely ignore this Notice - you are already in the scheme! *

DISPLAY

The Study Circle held a meeting at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 28th March 1987 at Fleetex and twelve members together with three visitors attended the talks and displays given by Messrs. Denis Mitton and Victor Toeg respectively.

Mr Mitton's subject was "Bermuda from 1865" and a summary of his display now follows:

First, colour trials in 1865 for the 1d, 2d, 3d and 6d with De La Rue dummy stamps in blocks of four from the printers recipe book showing the ink formula; then the issued 1d. in interpanneau blocks of four and eight showing the Somerset House perforation; these were followed by the 1d. value used on local covers in 1866, 1872 and 1879, the two last mentioned covers with the oval St George's date stamp.

Next, the 1866 2d. blue was displayed in its two shades in blocks of four with a used strip of five as well and also a single used on cover in 1877 from Hamilton.

Then the 1873 3d. yellow-buff in different forms, first a plate proof, then an example with inverted watermark, mint and used singles were followed by an imperforate block of four overprinted "CANCELLED".

The 1865 6d. purple was exhibited with "SPECIMEN" D5 handstamp; this was followed by singles mint and used including the later issue in mauve with mint blocks of four in the three main shades.

In the case of the 1s. green there was an imperforate plate proof; an example with "SPECIMEN" overprint in blue; the three main shades were also shown; a used strip of four and a single with inverted watermark.

In addition, the 1874 provisional overprints "THREE PENCE" were displayed in the three different types listed in the Stanley Gibbons Part 1 Catalogue.

The 1875 provisional surcharges of "ONE PENNY" on 2d., 3d. and 1s. with round 0 variety and a double stop after "PENNY" on the 1s. green were also shown.

The 1894 1s. green with compound perforation was also shown in blocks of four mint and used and in a mint block of sixteen.

With regard to the 1880 ½d. stone, a die proof of the completed design was displayed; blocks of four and twelve were also shown of this stamp with the retouch to background lines above the Queen's head and also the spot on cheek variety. A strip of five of the ½d. was exhibited used on cover to the U.S.A.

The 1892 ½d. green was also shown in a block of twenty four with damaged frame lines; also in blocks of four mint and used in both catalogued shades.

In the case of the 1886 1d. red, there were four blocks displayed in the main shades; also an imperforate block of four overprinted "CANCELLED": this was followed by a

block of thirty six stamps showing various flaws; and as well, the stamp was on two local covers of 1899 and 1901 respectively.

The 2d. blue of 1886 has two shades which were shown in blocks of four and nine respectively; there was also a pair of the stamp on an 1891 cover to London.

Three shades of the 1884 2½d. blue were displayed in each case in a block of four and there was also a block of eighteen shown.

The 3d. grey of 1886 was also exhibited in mint and used blocks of four of each of the two shades.

The notorious forger Jean de Sperati manufactured one forgery for Bermuda. Mr Mitton displayed a Sperati "die proof" of the forged Queen Victoria 1s. brown which was to be used for the Gibraltar Forgery of the Bermuda stamp overprinted Gibraltar.

Mr Mitton also displayed a number of covers with the 4½d. postage rate of registered mail made up from various combinations of the 2d. purple, 2d. blue and ½d. green.

There was also a fine assembly of the 1901 Boer War covers and all the Censor marks for Bermuda could also be seen. Among those deserving particular mention were a scarce local cover and NOT TUCKERS handstamp and a postal stationery card with the Censor mark 4 type, but with the 4 missing.

In the 1902 Dock issue Mr Mitton exhibited die proofs of the vignette (uncleared and cleared) and also die proofs of the frame for the ¼d. and 3d. values depicting the difference in the frame dies. The Queen Victoria 4d. orange-brown issued in 1904 was also shown in blocks of four, one block being with the watermark inverted and reversed. This same stamp with the 1d. red Dock stamp issued in 1908 was shown on cover to the U.S.A.

The only item shown in the reign of King George V was a mint block of four of the postal fiscal 12/6d. inscribed Revenue at each side and also a single example of the normal stamp overprinted "SPECIMEN".

In King George VI's reign several interesting items were displayed consisting of photographic essays of unadopted designs for the ½d., 1d., 2½d., 3½d., 6d. and 7½d. values, although it should be noted that some of these designs were adopted for the 1953 Queen Elizabeth issue. Also German propaganda forgeries on Great Britain low values overprinted "Liquidation of British Empire Bermuda" were noted.

Finally, the scarce variety on the 1968 3d. mint Olympic Games stamp with "BERMUDA" and value omitted together with a cover with the normal stamp and the variety shown together, this being the only known used example of this spectacular variety.

Mr E.V. Toeg showed sixty pages from his collection of Antigua and the highlights were as follows:-

The 1862 6d. blue-green with no watermark. This was displayed in a mint block of ten (5 x 2) which has been plated. Examples of similar stamps but with perforations 14 to 16 compound with 11 to 12½ were also shown. Stamps with these trial perforations are only to be found mint or unused without gum and must therefore be regarded strictly as proofs.

The 1863-67 issue with small star watermark.

First came the 1d. rosy mauve in mint block of six (3x2); followed by a horizontal strip of three with the 'A02' St John's obliteration; and a block of four with the 'A18' English Harbour obliteration with one stamp showing the re-entry at 2/8 on the sheet; finally an 1864 wrapper to Nova Scotia with five 1d. rosy mauve and a manuscript '4' in red crayon denoting the postage due from the Antigua authorities to G.P.O. London, for carrying the letter, the balance of the 1d. paid being retained in Antigua for handling the letter. The 1d. dull rose was exhibited in a mint block of four; followed by two horizontal strips of three and a strip of four cancelled 'A02' ; also a horizontal strip of three cancelled 'A18'. The 1d. vermilion was shown in a mint horizontal strip of six followed by a pair imperforate between; then, a horizontal strip of four with one stamp showing the re-entry at 2/8 on the sheet and a block of six on piece both obliterated 'A02'; next an 1871 mourning cover with five 1d. vermilion to Nova Scotia and a manuscript '4' in red crayon; finally, an 1868 cover with a 1d. vermilion enclosing a complete printed list of "Antigua Prices Current" from Edward H. Man & Company of St John's the cover being handstamped with an orange crayon '1' denoting that the whole of the postage paid was due to G.P.O., London. A well centred example of the 6d. green mint was exhibited showing the Iremonger re-entry at position 6/10 on the sheet; a horizontal strip of four of this stamp on a small piece with obliteration 'A18' was also shown; followed by an 1869 cover to Bath with a horizontal pair of the 6d. cancelled 'A02' - this cover has a red crayon '11' denoting that eleven pence was to be paid to G.P.O. London, for transporting the letter and the balance of 1d. belonged to the Antigua authorities for handling the same. A mint example of the 6d. yellow-green came next; then a block of four cancelled 'A02'; finally, a horizontal pair of the 6d. of this shade on an 1872 part entire to Liverpool tied by an 'A18' obliteration. It should be noted that on the reverse is the scarce English-Harbor-Antigua- circular type handstamp with the date FE 10/72 in centre.

The 1872 issue Crown CC watermark perf. 12k.

Up till this issue Perkins Bacon had printed the stamps for this Colony but when they lost the contract they were obliged to hand over the printing plates and these were given to De La Rue when they acquired the contract. Commencing with this issue De La Rue printed the 1d. and 6d. values by recess from the Perkins Bacon plates until the end of Queen Victoria's reign.

First, the 1d. lake handstamped 'CANCELLED' in violet Samuel type D7; then the normal stamp in a mint block of four; these items were followed by blocks of four with the 'A02' and the 'A18' obliterations respectively; finally, an 1874 cover to Alexandria, Virginia with five 1d. lake stamps cancelled 'A02' and the cover backstamped in transit at St Thomas and a handstamp at New York indicating that 10 cents was due as a local charge for carriage of the letter from New York to Virginia. The 6d. blue-green of this issue can be found handstamped 'CANCELLED' Samuel type D6, also 'CANCELLED' in violet Samuel type D7 and handstamped 'SPECIMEN' Samuel type D8; also an 1875 wrapper to London with two pairs of the 6d. and a further cover to Barbados in the following year with a pair and a single 6d. and a red crayon mark '1s.' believed to refer to postage due; finally, a wrapper to Glasgow with a pair of the 6d. tied by an 'A18' cancellation and on the reverse the

scarce English-Harbor-Antigua- circular type handstamp with the date FE 11/75 in centre.

The 1876 issue Crown CC watermark perf.14.

First, the 1d. lake handstamped 'SPECIMEN Samuel type D8; then a block of four of this shade cancelled with the vertical 'A02' canceller.

The 1d. lake-rose followed in a mint block of four and in a horizontal strip of five with the 'A02' obliteration; next, an exceptional cover to Hallatrow, Nr. Bristol, with two strips of three and a pair of the 1d. lake-rose, the stamps being tied by the 'A18' handstamp and in the case of two of the stamps by a new type of English Harbour Antigua c.d.s. the date in the centre being DE 14/85.

The 6d. blue-green of this issue was exemplified by a mint block of four and a horizontal strip of six on small piece tied by the 'A02' obliteration.

In 1879 De La Rue introduced their own Keyplate design and Die I was adopted for eight colonies' stamps, one being Antigua.

A master die proof marked July 23 1879 was displayed with uncleared name and value tablets and this was followed by a die proof with cleared name and value tablets.

The 1879 issue Crown CC watermark perf.14.

The next stage was the preparation of colour trials of the ½d. value perf. 12; then also in 1879 an imperforate plate proof of a new value the 2½d. red-brown and a similar item but handstamped 'SPECIMEN' Samuel type D8. Another new value in 1879 was the 4d. blue perf.14 which was displayed with the handstamp 'SPECIMEN' Samuel type D11; also the normal stamp in a mint block of four; followed by the stamp on covers to Glasgow and to Norway respectively.

The 1882 issue Crown CA watermark perf.14.

The ½d. dull green was another new value and was shown handstamped with 'SPECIMEN' Samuel type D11 ex De La Rue archives; then a mint block of four of the stamp from plate 2, finally, a mint block of four with one stamp showing the E.K. Thompson flaw.

The 2½d. red-brown was also exhibited in a mint block of four; also a mint single with misplaced name and value tablet to the right.

In this issue there was also shown a mint single of the 4d. blue; also a horizontal strip of four cancelled 'A02'; followed by a used example displaying what seemed to be the E.K. Thompson flaw.

The next item was a very attractive 1885 cover from English Harbour to Hallatrow Nr. Bristol, with adhesives making up the 4d. rate tied by the 'A18' obliteration and the scarce c.d.s. Antigua English Harbour with date in centre. Then a further registered cover to New York with 10d. postage paid which made up the 8d. letter rate and 2d. registration fee.

This was followed by the unique Existing and Proposed Schemes of Colours dated September 26.83 from the De La Rue archives.

The 1884 1d. carmine-red Crown CA watermark perf.12 was displayed in a mint block of four and in a used strip of three cancelled 'A02'.

The 1884-86 issue Crown CA watermark perf.14.

First, the 1d. carmine-red in mint block of four and in a used horizontal strip of four; then an extremely fresh looking block of eighteen showing both the re-entries on this 1d; next the 1d. rose in a mint block of ten (5x2) and in a used horizontal strip of four; the 2½d ultramine was displayed with the 'SPECIMEN' overprint Samuel type D12, the large '2' in '2½' with slanting foot variety was exhibited in blocks of four and six in the three positions on the sheet; the 4d. chestnut was shown in blocks of four and the E.K. Thompson flaw indicated on a marginal plate block of sixteen (4x4) in position 3/3 right pane plate 2; the 6d. deep green was displayed in a mint marginal block of eight and in a mint block of four with the Morton Evans re-entry; the 1s. mauve was shown with 'SPECIMEN' overprint Samuel type D12 and a mint block of four contained the stamp with the E.K. Thompson flaw.

A most attractive 1890 cover which probably carried documents to New York was stamped with the 4d. chestnut and a strip of three of the 1s. mauve.

The display continued with a study of the two re-entries on the 1d. stamps and the well known re-entries and varieties on the 6d. value. The last item was an 1891 letter to London being an official letter written by the Curator of the Botanical Station of Antigua to Messrs. J. Carter & Co. the Seedsmen and Nurserymen. This being a stampless letter received an official paid c.d.s. in the circumstances.

Mr S. Sharp proposed a sincere vote of thanks to Mr Mitton for his display of Bermuda and Mr C. Barwick offered an enthusiastic vote of thanks to Mr Toeg for his display of Antigua and concluded that so far he had not found any example of the E.K. Thompson flaw on the De La Rue Keyplate type stamps of Montserrat which he collected.

NOTES and QUERIES

BRITISH WEST INDIES

The Early History of The Specimen Stamps of The Crown Colonies with particular reference to De La Rue Specimen

(Continued from Bulletin 134 September 1987 p49)

The earliest letter surviving in the De La Rue archives, which are at present held by the National Postal Museum, appears to be one from the Crown Agents to De La Rue. This letter is dated 9th June 1884 and is headed in pencil "Various Colonies". It stated that the Crown Agents had been authorised by the Governments of British Guiana, Ceylon, Jamaica, Malta, Sierra Leone, Straits Settlements, Tobago and Trinidad to furnish the General Post Office with one hundred specimens of any new duty of Postage Stamps, Post Cards etc., and of any existing duties printed in new colours, for distribution among the Countries of the Postal Union.

Before a reply was received from De La Rue, the Crown Agents again wrote on 12th January under the same heading 'General Stamps' and referred to their letter of 2nd January saying that they had just heard from the General Post Office that after 1st April next, it would be necessary to furnish that Department, for Postal Union purposes, with three hundred and fifty one specimens of all new postage stamps, post cards, stamped envelopes and stamped wrappers, instead of three hundred and six as previously arranged.

On the next day, viz. 13th January 1886, De La Rue replied to the Crown Agents' letter of 9th January and said that they could undertake to overprint with the word "SPECIMEN" Stamps, Post Cards, Newspaper Wrappers, Postage Envelopes and Registration Envelopes in batches of not more than four hundred specimens at a charge of 3s.6d. for each duty or description of article; for example, if from 100 to 400 stamps of the duty of one penny overprinted with the word "SPECIMEN" was required, their charge would be 3s.6d. for the lot. In like manner their charge would be 3s.6d. for overprinting not more than 400 of each duty or kind of Post Card, Newspaper Wrapper or Envelope.

The Crown Agents requested De La Rue to note that in future one hundred such specimens would have to be prepared for that purpose in addition to the quantities mentioned in the respective requisitions.

The Crown Agents went on to say that they (the Crown Agents) would doubtless receive a similar authority in due course from all the other Colonies for which they acted.

There was no immediate follow-up of any kind to the Crown Agents' letter of 9th June 1884 and the next letter in the De La Rue archives was again from the Crown Agents being dated 23rd February 1885 and headed in pencil "General Stamps". This letter informed De La Rue that one hundred and six specimens of each new Postage Stamp etc. supplied by the Crown Agents to the respective colonial governments, would in future require to be furnished for the General Post Office instead of one hundred specimens as theretofore, and De La Rue were requested to be guided accordingly.

On 2nd January 1886 the Crown Agents wrote again to De La Rue a letter headed "General Stamps" in which they requested the printers to note that until 31st March next, one hundred and six specimens of any new duty of Postage Stamp, Post Card etc. or any existing duties printed in new colours, for such of the Colonies as were comprised in the postal Union, were without further instructions, to be supplied to them for distribution among the countries in the Union, and that on and after 1st April next, three hundred and six of such specimens would have to be furnished.

On the 4th January De La Rue wrote acknowledging receipt of the letter dated 2nd January with its instructions. De La Rue went on to say that if they had to supply the Crown Agents with the specimens on the occasion of each order being completed, they would have to make some small charge for overprinting them. The printers stated that until recently they had allowed the specimens to accumulate and overprinted the lot together, thus minimising the expense.

On 9th January 1886 the Crown Agents replied to De La Rue's last letter under the heading 'General Stamps' and asked to be informed what would be the charge for

overprinting the word 'SPECIMEN' upon such new stamps, etc. as might be required for distribution if they were furnished on the completion of each order.

On 15th February of that same year the Crown Agents wrote and acknowledged De La Rue's letter of 13th January and accepted the estimate of the printers for overprinting with the word "SPECIMEN" such duties of stamps, Post Cards, Newspaper Wrappers or Envelopes as might be required for distribution throughout the Postal Union, and that in future four hundred specimens of each new duty or colour were to be supplied simultaneously with the execution of the order, the cost to be included at the bottom of the invoice in the following form:-

"Overprintings with the word "SPECIMEN" the specimen stamps etc. of the value of _____ required for distribution among the Countries comprised in the Postal Union... 3s.6d."

On 31st March 1886 the Crown Agents wrote to the General Post Office and enclosed for transmission to the International Bureau of the Postal Union at Berne one hundred and six specimens of certain new Postage Stamps and Post Cards recently furnished to five Colonial Governments.

On 2nd April the General Post Office acknowledged receipt of the Crown Agents' letter of 31st March and stated that to meet the requirements of the International Bureau it was necessary, as mentioned in the General Post Office's letter of 9th January last, for that Office to be supplied with three hundred and fifty one instead of one hundred and six specimens of all new Postage Stamps, Post Cards, etc. obtained by the Crown Agents for Colonial Post Offices. Consequently, it was necessary to forward to that Office two hundred and forty five more specimens of each of the Postage Stamps and Post Cards sent with the letter under reply.

The Crown Agents' correspondence in the De La Rue archives at the National Postal Museum does not appear to include the original or a copy of the important letter of 9th January 1886 from the General Post Office to them. However, the contents of that letter are referred to in a later letter in the correspondence.

On 15th April 1886 the Crown Agents wrote to the printers and enclosed the letter dated 2nd April which they had received from the General Post Office. The Crown Agents informed De La Rue in their letter that they had understood that the increased number of specimens of all new stamps etc. would not be required until 1st April 1886. However, as the General Post Office had called for the additional number of specimens referred to, they (the Crown Agents) requested that they be prepared, as although they regretted the necessity for putting on the plates again they felt that as the delivery of specimens was deferred until so very near the time when the change was to take effect, the Crown Agents would not be justified in demurring to supply what was asked for.

The printers carried out these fresh instructions and on 18th May 1886 submitted an invoice for specially preparing and overprinting four hundred examples of the stamps and post cards costing 3s.10d. and also two hundred and forty five additional specimens of each of the single 1d. and 1½d. Post Cards costing 10s. in each case, and of each of the Reply 1d. and 1½d. Post Cards costing 19s. in each case making a total of three hundred and fifty one specimens of each of these Post Cards.

On 7th October 1887 the General Post Office wrote to the Crown Agents and referred to the Post Office's letter of 9th January 1886 respecting the number of specimens of new Colonial Postage Stamps etc. required to be sent to the Department for distribution, through the International Bureau of the Postal Union among the various Postal Administrations of the Union, and pointed out specifically, in order to prevent any misunderstanding, that the necessity for sending three hundred and fifty one specimens to that Office existed only in the case of British Colonies comprised in the Postal Union. In the case of such Colonies as had not yet entered the Union, it would suffice to send to that Department six specimens of each new issue of postage stamps etc.

During the period October 1887 in the Crown Agents' correspondence in the De La Rue archives at the National Postage Museum there has been inserted a List, which was printed in April 1883, of the Countries belonging at that time to the Postal Union. So far as the British West Indies were concerned, the List included Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts and Tortola.

I am much indebted to Marcus Samuel for his encyclopedic knowledge about the specimen stamps of the Crown Colonies on which I have drawn freely and which he originally included in a series of lengthy articles in "Stamp Collecting" which formed the basis, together with a great deal of useful additional information, of his book entitled the "Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857 - 1948".

Bibliography

1. "Stamp collecting".
2. "Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857 - 1948" by Marcus Samuel, F.R.P.S.L.
3. The De La Rue archives held by the National Postal Museum. E. V. Toeg

Addenda

The previous installment of this Article in Bulletin No. 134 should be amended as follows:-

1. Insert a paragraph which comes immediately after the first completed paragraph on page 49 as follows:-
"As the member countries varied in number from time to time, so the number of specimen stamps supplied and distributed would match the quantity of member countries."
2. The last sentence in the third paragraph from the end of the previous installment on page 49 should be ignored and the following sentence substituted therefore:-
'For example, one outstanding exception to the general rule which comes to mind is the Leeward Islands Sexagenary issue of 1897.'

ANTIGUA

1778 SHIP LETTER

I believe that the answers to Alex Thompson's questions in his most interesting letter in Bulletin 133, June 1987, p33 are:

1. The letter was landed in London.
2. The rate was the inland postage to Wells only as the Master's gratuity was either omitted in error, or less probably, not claimed.

Robertson's 'Ship Letters of the British Isles' illustrates all the Ship Letter marks of the UK known to him. He says that the SHIP LRE with or without a hyphen and without a town name was primarily a LONDON handstamp, and he does not record one, or a SHIP LETTER, for any other town until very much later than 1778. The earliest SHIP LRE he illustrates is 40mm x 6mm has no hyphen, and is recorded for London from 1782 - 1800. It has very similar lettering to Thompson's mark which appears to be an earlier and unrecorded type. The earliest LONDON/SHIP LRE mark with the town name is recorded from 1766.

Robertson also states that "it appears from surviving early ship letters that the Master's 1d. was frequently unaccounted in the total charge". Robson Lowe in "The Codrington Letters" calls postal rates "this very confusing subject" and cites letter SR15 charged 4d. in 1758 as "probably in error, the ship letter postage (being) overlooked". Robertson illustrates covers where the Master's 1d. was not claimed and then not charged, apparently not unusual for letters carried on warships. This could perhaps have occurred with letters carried on the correspondent's own ship.

Mike Box

DOMINICA

POST OFFICES OF DOMINICA

Further to the contributions of S.E. Papworth in Bulletin 126 p54 and David Ball, Bulletin 127 p14, I offer some notes which may be of interest. I collect postmarks only on Leeward Islands Q.V. stamps and my remarks apply only to these.

The Map shows the locations of ROSEAU, PORTSMOUTH and the thirteen original (1900) villages. PORTSMOUTH was well covered in Bulletin 124 p18 by the late Dr H. Vivian-Brown. He also included useful information on the villages. The Mail Service to the WEST Coast villages was by sea and I imagine this extended to the EAST Coast whenever conditions permitted. The track from ROSEAU to ROSALIE through the mountains rises to 2000 feet and along the EAST coast seems to be interrupted and 'walking only' even on recent maps. PORTSMOUTH to the EAST is also difficult.

The Stamps. I have examples of eleven of the villages - not all full strikes. So far, I have only found three values in use, 1/2d, 1d and 2 1/2d and I have not yet seen a village c.d.s. on any of the 1902 Provisionals. I imagine that each village would have received the same distribution in respect to values. On present evidence it looks as if distribution in this period was limited to 1/2d, 1d and 2 1/2d definitives.

The c.d.s. are all Single Circles and all are Code *. I think that all mine except ROSALIE are 23mm diam. Some seem to measure slightly less but in most of these cases I have another value at 23mm. As each c.d.s. was unique and I am only dealing



with the first two years of use, the variation must be due to inking, shrinkage or some similar cause. I agree David Ball's 21½mm for ROSALIE.

The Inking varies from the clear, sharp impression one would expect from a new instrument to really quite smudged. At first I thought the G.P.O. London must have obtained some of the c.d.s. from different suppliers but, again, I now have for most of my clear impressions another value smudged. The variation probably lies with the new counter staff.

Dates I cannot improve on Simon Goldblatt's OC 1 00. My earliest is NO 7 00. Most are 01 and 02.

Arthur Peart

JAMAICA

THE SQUARED AND DOUBLE CIRCLE POSTMARKS OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA

The late Tom Foster described the squared circle postmarks of Kingston in an article in Stamp Collecting, September 9th, 1971, and the double circle postmarks in a privately circulated booklet listed as Part V, Section 3 of what was intended to be Volume II of his postal history of Jamaica.

My interest in writing this item is to bring to the attention of collectors of Kingston postmarks and information in the recently published booklet by Stanley F. Cohen 'Squared Circle Postmarks of the London Suburban District Offices' (Harry Hayes Philatelic Study No. 43). Using the Records Office of the G.P.O. Headquarters in London, and other sources, Stanley Cohen has been able to give an account of the standard G.P.O. practice, it seems useful to relate Stanley Cohen's finding in outline and to consider their applicability to Kingston datestamps.

The main interest centres on the alpha numeric code that appears above the date on each datestamp (Fig 1). In the case of Kingston datestamps it seems clear that the numeric prefixes are what the Post Office files refer to as 'Stamper's Letters'.

Stamper's Letters were a series of identifying letters or numbers fitted to the datestamp so that the Post Office could trace any item of mail back to the particular clerk or 'stamper' who had been responsible for cancelling it. The Kingston identifying numbers are never more than 1,2,3,4,5,6, for a particular type of datestamp, and can be less such as 1,2,3,4.

It would appear to be inconsistent with Post Office practice to suggest that missing numbers might have performed a non-postal function.

The suffix letters in the codes of Kingston datestamps appear to correspond to the 'special code' or 'clock code' of the London offices. Special code (Fig 2) was used in London mainly from 1879 to 1893 and was a time code whose style varied from office to office, and occasionally included a special duty designation such as 'Z' for 'Too late first despatch'. After 1894 a uniform clock code was used for all new datestamps: adapted from the telegraph systems of letters A to M,



but excluding J, were used to indicate the hour. A second letter A to L, again excluding J, could be used to indicate five-minute intervals in the hour from 05 to 55. By 1895 in London 'clear time' was in use with the uncoded time being used in the datestamp (Fig 3).

Kingston has used clear time for its machine cancelled mail but for the squared and double circle datestamps perhaps the best comparison is with the special code system. Although the letter J cannot be found for many types of datestamps, letters beyond M can be found quite readily. Indeed for the squared circle datestamps it is reasonable to expect the whole alphabet, A to Z except J, to be found (Foster's one example of J, IJ, might be considered suspect). For the double circles the letters A to R occur sufficiently common for it to be reasonable for them to be part of a clock code. After R only W seems to appear with any frequency and Foster has suggested the special duty designation of use on incoming paquebot mail: Foster also suggested that S was used in conjunction with a 'Too Late' handstamp.

The relationship of Kingston's special code to actual times is likely to have varied over the years and is unlikely to be settled except by consulting the records, if available in Jamaica. But the times used in machine cancelled mail provide a clue as to what to expect. These appear to start at 6 am. or 6.30 am., then jump to 9 am. and continue at half-hour intervals until 6.30 pm. I have not yet seen a full sequence (no 11.30 am. or 5 pm.) and there are some odd additional times: 3.15 pm. from 1931 and 12.15 pm. in the fifties. A simple way of assigning the letters A to R of the double ring postmarks is to assume they were used at the post office counters during opening hours in which case if A is taken as 8 am. then B would be 8.30 am and so on at half-hour intervals until we finish at R as 4 pm. (excluding J). Since 8 am to 4 pm are the opening times quoted in the Post Office Guides for 1906 and 1939 we may well have the correct solution to the interpretation of the Kingston Codes.

Michael Volkins

Footnote: The author would be interested in corresponding with other collectors who are interested in the machine cancellations of Jamaica.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

FORGERIES

The Fournier forgery of the Sexagenary Overprint

Type 1 The collection contains a piece of the Fournier album paper with the proofs, in deep blue of two dies for this o.p.

Indents Type 1

- Die 1
1. The middle section of the letters connecting the upper and lower curves is very thick.
 2. All of the letters are thicker than the genuine.
 3. The top of the figure 8 in 1897 is solid and not open as on the genuine.
 4. The feet of the large letter R in VRI end in a point. On the genuine o.p. the right foot is clearly shaped like a ball.
 5. The ring at the bottom of the buckle flap is omitted.
 6. The end of the buckle flap is plain on the forgery and not shaded as on the genuine.

- Die 2
1. As in 3. of die 1.
 2. The end of the circle to the left of the buckle flap is heavily shaded and smudged.
 3. The feet of the letters X and A joined.
 4. On the forgery the letters grow increasingly thicker as read from S to Y.

Type 2 This forgery is inverted on the ½d value. It much resembles the Fournier die 1. It can be recognised by:-

1. The two holes to the right of the central flap are very large and solid.
2. The top line of the letter R of VRI is indistinct.
3. The letter G is very thick and heavy.

A personal comment There are a considerable number (about 12) types of forged overprints. A personal study was made of these from the British West Indian Study Circle Bulletin with full size diagrams. Unfortunately, this valuable dossier was loaned to a collector who has, so far, not returned it to me. I should much like to reconstruct these papers. Personal appreciation will be expressed to all who can help me in this matter. Write me: Al Branston, 11 Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 4EF, England.

Al Branston

NEVIS

FORGERIES

Note There are a number of varieties on the genuine stamps (The Rev. Earee reports 12 on each value) and this makes the cataloguing of the Idents very difficult. Those given in this Paper are considered to be the best possible in the circumstances.

The 1d, 4d, 6d and 1s. of 1861

The One Penny

Type 1 forged by Spiro The genuine stamps were recess printed but Spiro only used the litho process. The shades range from orange on yellow paper to brown red on white paper.

Perforations These are very poor, badly torn or cut close. Occasionally they can be measured as p.13.

Cancellations (1) an outline of bars 4.5.4.5. and (2) on the brown red the part of a circular cancel with one or two heavy smudged letters inside (DO, W and HC).

Idents

1. The 4 long rays of the corner stars on the genuine stamp touch the sides of the surrounding box. On the forgery most of them do not reach the box.
2. The stream issuing from the rock has a bend in it immediately behind the arm of the kneeling figure on the genuine stamp but on the forgery this bend is absent.
3. On the genuine stamps the left and right vertical frame lines are single, clear and well defined. On the forgery the frame has two thin lines closely spaced.
4. On the genuine stamp the vertical columns consist of a pattern of 4 sets of 4 waves. On the forgery these waves are random in formation and in the point of start.

Type 2 This forgery, in orange red and yellow red is the product of very poor litho work. The central part details are scarcely distinguishable.

Imperforate.

Cancellations (1) the figures 4315 in large type, unframed. (2) the letters AN plus parts of other letters placed at random on the stamp.

Idents

1. There is no frame line on the right hand side.
2. The top right hand side star has a hook on the bottom right hand ray.

Type 3 Executed in litho of exceptional clarity in brown and light brown.

Perforated 12.

Cancellations (1) a thick circle containing 5 parallel thick bars, (2) 5 fine parallel lines 4mm apart not contained in an outline.

Idents

1. The background rocks and the stream have been omitted.
2. The corner stars are too small and badly formed.
3. The standing figure is very badly delineated.
4. The genuine stamp has a column each side made up of 2 sets of 4 interwoven lines.

The forgery has only 3 interwoven lines with 4 thin wavy lines on the inner side.

Type 4 This is an engraved forgery, the quality of the work is very good, in brown yellow on pale yellow paper and brown on blued paper.

Perforation Perf 12 clean and well made, line.

Cancellations (1) on the brown yellow there is an outline of bars 3.3.3.3. with a large figure (1) in the middle all very lightly struck. (2) on the brown forgery there is an arc or part of a large oval.

Idents

1. All of the horizontal lines on the rocks are missing.
2. Only the upper part of the stream coming down the rocks is shown.
3. The heavy shading part of the figure sitting down is missing.
4. On the genuine stamp the rays on the stars are thicker at their base and taper. On the forgery they are straight lines.

The Four Pence

Spiro produced this stamp by litho in rose, pale rose, orange and deep orange. The work was not very well done.

Perforation Basically P.13 but most copies are badly torn or cut away.

Cancellations (1) an outline of bars 4.5.4.5., (2) one or two quadrants of a circle, across the corners with heavily struck letters not forming any recognised word, (3) an outline of bars 2.3.2.3. with the figures 408 in the middle.

Idents

1. On the genuine stamp there are no folds on the lower back part of the standing figure whereas on the forgery there are a number of them.
2. The corner crosses and the lettering are far too heavy.
3. The white outline of the central circle touches the white outline of the frame on the genuine stamp. On the forgery it is well clear.

The Six Pence

Type 1 Lithographed by Spiro in grey and dark grey.

Perforations These are basically p.13 and this can be measured on a fair proportion of the copies.

Cancellations (1) an outline of bars 5.4.5.4., (2) parts of a single line circle with heavy letters (see earlier Idents), (3) an oblong of square dots 8x7, (4) five straight lines 4mm apart progressively cut off to form an oval.

Idents

1. On the genuine stamps there is a pattern of arcs engine turned in the areas between the circle and the frame but on the forgery these areas have been filled with hand drawn vertical lines with interfil of "scribble".
2. On the genuine stamp the area immediately behind the upper part of the standing figure is filled with horizontal lines of shading. The forged stamp has only lines of very feint dashes.

Type 2 Litho pale grey perf. 13, no cancellations.

Idents

1. The left leg of letter N of pence is short.
2. The cup is pointed.
3. There is no shading at all behind the standing figure.

Type 3 This is a recess printed forgery, perf. 10½.

Cancellation This appears to be 3.3.3.3. in a circle with a large figure 1 (?) in the middle.

Idents

1. The outlines of the figures have been strengthened.
2. The letters at the top and bottom are very clear of the framework whereas they should be taller and touching the framework.
3. The engine work is a series of arcs and not of intertwined loops with a dot in the middle.
4. The right hand of the sitting figure has its fingers spread to the left.

Type 4 The Fournier forgery

Note These notes are taken from two pieces of the Fournier album paper. One carries an unsevered pair, the other a single mark Faux in very small black type, also an unsevered pair. Also on this latter piece, an A09 cancel in an oval of bars 2.3.2.3. cut from a smaller piece of thin white paper.

Colours Lavender grey, pale lavender grey.

No perforations or cancellations. This is the usual state for stamps on Fournier album pages.

Idents

1. Litho very poorly printed.
2. The ornament in the bottom right hand corner has suffered heavy damage.
3. The second letter E of Six Pence has a very small central bar.
4. The word Nevis is offset to the left.
5. There is no shading behind the upper part of the standing figure.

Comment It would be of considerable interest to know whether this forgery has been encountered "as issued" by Fournier. Also information about the cancellation would be welcomed.

The One shilling value

Type 1 Lithographed by Spiro in green, blue green and pale blue green.

Perforation Many copies are totally imperforate but one or two measured p.13.

Cancellations See the Spiro 1d value.

Idents

1. The cup or flask has a kink in it at the bottom.
2. The sitting figure has its fingers extended on the forgery but closed on the genuine stamp.
3. There is no black patch on the legs of the sitting figure.
4. On the genuine stamp the 4 corner patterns are made up of vertical columns of double diamonds but on the forgery these are produced by left and right hand diagonal lines.

Type 2 Litho by Fournier The printing is good, the lines are bold and clear. In dark green.

Cancellation An outline of bars 4.4.4.4.

Idents

1. The descending stream is not shown.
2. The background rocks are not correctly depicted. The few transverse cracks of the genuine are not shown.
3. The cup is of an irregular shape.

Type 3 Engraved. The general appearance of this forgery suggests that it was made by the same forger who made the 6d engraved forgery (Type 3). It would be of interest to know whether he also made the 1d and 4d values.

Perforation 11½

Cancellation 4 concentric rings in black.

Idents

1. The outlines of the figure have been strengthened.
2. The corners are similar to those of the Fournier (Type 2).

Comment Fournier made two classes of forgery which he styled in his price lists as Class 1 and Class 2. The Ident 2 suggests that the engraved forgery for the 1s and the 6d value were also from his factory.

Type 4 Litho, very poorly printed in yellow green, perf 14.

Cancellation An outline of bars 5.3.5.3. with the figures 56 inside.

Idents

1. The lettering is very thin.
2. The rocks are very poorly printed and have only a few short lines of shading.
3. The four corner areas, engine turned on the genuine are shown as irregularly shaped areas on the forgery.

Type 5 The One Schilling forgery printed by litho in green with very poor definition in

the rectangular frame of the One Penny. Also in order to accommodate the One Schilling the two corner stars have been omitted.

Imperf on coarse thick paper.

Cancellation A square of dots, large, 7x7 but spread over the whole of the stamp, struck twice in parts.

Comment The use of the word Schilling suggests an Austrian or Bavarian origin. Georg Zechmeyer of Ansbuch made a number of “nonsense” forgeries and this may well be one of them.

The Nevis 1882-90 and the 1879-90 forgeries

The genuine stamps were typo printed, the forgeries are litho with very heavy and thick lines.

In the 1882-90 series (1) the ½d dull green, perf 12, cancelled a heavy outer ring and two lighter rings inside, (2) the 1d dull rose and the 1d carmine perf 12 cancelled as in (1), (3) the 2½d brown perf 12 cancelled with an outline of bars 2 (thick).3.2 (thick) .2.

In the 1879-90 series the ½d lilac mauve perf 12 cancelled as in (1).

Ident

1. On the genuine stamp the left hand leg of the letter N of Nevis is in line with the upright side of the triangle containing the ornament. On the forgery the letter N is displaced considerably to the right and in line with the pointed end of the ornament.

Note These forgeries are attributed to Jean Baptiste Moens and printed about 1888.

Al Branston

ST. KITTS

Unrecorded 'EDEN Handstamp

I found the attractive marking shown by Charles Freeland in Bulletin 134 p62 most interesting.

I have this “EDEN” on LEEWARD ISLANDS SG2. It is much less attractive on a single stamp because it is too wide. This shows clearly in the illustration. I am missing the vertical of the first ‘E’ and the R.H. vertical of the ‘N’ and have a much less sharp impression.

Arthur Peart

TRINIDAD

NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS TYPE 6 NUMERAL 29

In 1891 The Philatelic Society, London - now the Royal Philatelic Society, London - published a volume entitled ‘The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards and Telegraph Stamps of The British Colonies in the West Indies together with British Honduras and The Colonies in South America’. In this publication E.D. Bacon (later Sir Edward Bacon) referred to the list furnished by J.A. Bulmer, then Postmaster General of Trinidad, which gave the names of all the first Post Offices in the Island together with the corresponding numbers that used to be attached to them.

The numbers on this list ran from 1 to 36 with 25 and 29 described as being vacant. Bulmer also commented that a few other Post Offices had since been opened, but that no number had been attached to some of them as this system had been given up some

years ago. He also remarked that each office now possessed a date stamp with its own name.

An example of a previously unrecorded numeral obliteration has recently come to light. This is in the upright diamond Type 6 and the numeral is 29. The strike shows the numeral somewhat lightly inked, but it is nevertheless clear and well defined. It is struck on an example of the 1906 ½d. blue green on ordinary paper, watermarked multiple Crown CA.

Other numerals which do not feature on the 1891 list, but have been recorded are as follows:

Upright diamond Type 6 : 37 and 38
T and numeral duplex Type 9 : 25 and 40

There are also examples of what appears to be a numeral 43 on date stamp Type 7, showing dates between late 1881 and early 1882, but it seems to me that this may well be numeral 34 with the digits transposed. Weight is added to this supposition by the records which indicate that no new offices, additional to those mentioned on the 1891 list, were opened as early as 1881. Also the Branch Office at Cunupia was opened at the Railway Station on 24 August 1880 and Cunupia is given the numeral 34 on the 1891 list.

John B. Marriott

NEWS ROUND UP

NEWS ROUND UP

Vol. I of a Three part History of Tobago by Douglas Archibald entitled Tobago "Melancholy Isle" was published in Trinidad in September. An exhibition including stamps and postal history was held in Port of Spain to publicise the book. Copies are available in the UK from A. Shepherd, 3 Willowfield Road, Halifax, Yorks. HX2 7JN at a price of £6.50 inclusive of postage and packing or from J. Chin Aleong, PO Box 128, San Fernando, Trinidad, W.I.

Christies Robson Lowes British Empire sale in New York on 15th December contains much British West Indies material. Catalogues are available at £5 from 8 King Street, St. James, London SW1Y 6QT.

B.W.I. AUCTION - NO. 16

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

1. All lots may be sold with or without reserve and the seller may participate in the bidding either himself or by an agent.
2. The buyer to be the highest bidder.
3. Wherever possible the description of a lot will include an estimate by the Circle of the price which it is expected to realise, and the lot will not be sold without the consent of the seller at substantially below 75% of estimate.
4. The Auctioneer will be appointed by the Auctions Sub-Committee designated by the Circle to organise the Auction Sale. The bidding shall be under the control and at the

sole discretion of the Auctioneer, who shall have power to settle all disputes and to re-open the bidding in the event of dispute. He may withdraw lots or group two or more lots together without assigning a reason.

5. The auctioneer reserves the right to bid n behalf of sellers and prospective buyers but shall not be liable for any errors or omissions in executing instructions to bid.

6. Lots will be sold with all faults, imperfections and errors of description and the Circle cannot be held responsible for the genuineness of any lot or of an individual item therein. Where however the buyer within 14 days after receipt of a lot or such further time as the Auctions Sub-Committee may allow) satisfies the Auctions Sub-Committee that there is a substantial inaccuracy in the description and returns the lot in unaltered condition, the sale of that lot will be rescinded and the purchase price refunded to the buyer less any costs and expenses incurred by the Circle in connection with the sale.

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

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

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

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

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. All correspondence please to D.M. Nathan, 52 Morrish Road, London SW2 4EG, Tel: 01-674 9585

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

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

4. MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CATALOGUE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MARCH, 1988 BULLETIN MUST REACH DEREK NATHAN BY 10TH JANUARY 1988, AT LATEST.

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

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

7. Please DO NOT write asking for lots to be sent for viewing by post, as the Auctions Sub-Committee are not equipped to offer this service! However, a “xerox” copy could be sent to you provided that with your request you enclose an S.A.E. together with an additional 28p stamp to cover cost.

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Hudson Mr. R.	36 West Street, Warwick, CV14 6AN

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MEMBERS WANTS

Any Barbados “Olive Blossom” (S.G. 152) Material except mint singles, ie. Specimens, Blocks, Covers, Proof Material, Articles Dated Used Singles, etc. A.P. Wilde, ‘Broomsquires’, Llangar Grove, Crowthorne, Berks. Tel (0344) 773840

St. Kitts Nevis 3d. S.G. 73a. used on cover, CW 12 AAA with top sheet margin, M. or U. 5 sh. S.G. 77a LR Plate Block of 4 or more, M., and CW 16B, used. P.L. Baldwin, 6 Frank Dixon Close, London SE21 7BD.

PUBLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

With the resignation of Basil Benwell, a vacancy has now occurred on this sub-Committee for someone interested in the publication of books on West Indies philately by the Study Circle.

In addition a vacancy occurs on the sub-Committee to be filled by someone who is experienced in typing or can use a word processor. The typing or word processing required is spasmodic in the normal course of events, but there is a backlog at present in connection with the draft of a monograph on Dominica intended to be published by the Study Circle.

Anyone interested in either of these positions should get in touch with E. Victor Toeg at 41 Boundary Road, St. John's Wood, London, NW8 OJE, Telephone No. 01-624 8687 for further details.

“INDEX TO BULLETINS Nos. 1 TO 100”

This new publication, printed in the same format as the Bulletin and in soft cover so that it can be included in a Binder, is now available from the Hon. Librarian.

Price - for orders RECEIVED BEFORE 31st December 1987- £3.25 each (or USA \$6.25).

For orders received AFTER 31st December 1987 the price will be increased to £5.25 (USA \$9.50).

Members are reminded that previous issues of the Bulletin from No. 69 onward (and some earlier issues mainly in small quantities) are available for purchase. For all other previous issues, a copying service will be made available as soon as a set of Bulletins (from No. 1 to No. 100) can be obtained and provided to our printers. A photocopy of a complete Bulletin will cost £1.40 (USA \$2.50) including postage, whilst a copy of two facing pages on untrimmed A4 size paper (the minimum size which is to be provided) will cost 35p (USA \$1.00) including postage. Orders for back issues and photocopies of the Bulletin must be prepaid and sent to the Hon. Librarian.

Members are advised to obtain any early issues they may need from the Hon. Librarian while he holds stocks - some of them are few in quantity!

B.W.I.S.C. PUBLICATIONS

All the following are available from the Librarian.

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	Europe & Overseas	£ 1.00
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