



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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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.

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS - The **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION** is £4 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £6 for members who reside elsewhere.

Subscriptions (dues) are payable on 1st January each year and, subject to what is mentioned below, in sterling (by personal cheque or Standing Order drawn on a U.K. Bank, a Banker's Draft, International Money Order, Postal Order or local currency *notes* - no coins will be accepted - e.g. dollars, marks, francs etc.).

Members residing in North America (Canada, USA, and the Caribbean) who do not pay their Subscription (dues) in sterling should pay by sending to the North American Representative (see above for address) a cheque for USA \$10.50 made payable to "MARK W. SWETLAND". Other overseas members who pay their subscription by cheque drawn in a foreign currency or on a foreign bank **MUST** add the equivalent of £3 sterling partially to cover exchange and bank charges. The overseas rates quoted include an element to cover postage of the Bulletin by Air Mail.

IN THIS ISSUE

Programme	21	Jamaica Kingston postmarks	34
AGM Minutes	22	Leeward Is. 2½d. Duty Plate	36
Display	26	Trinidad Receipt Stamp	36
Lady Boat' Marks	28	Trinidad FEE Stamp	39
The Calendar	30	Virgin Is. Tortola Handstamp	41
Br. Guiana MOO		Auction Report	42
Georgetown Cancel	31	Auction Realisations	43
Dominica Revenue		News Roundup	44
and Fee Stamps	32	Membership Listing	44
Grenada Forgeries	32		

PROGRAMME

1988

Wed. 28 September 2-15 pm.

Trinidad & Tobago
by Mr D Druett

British Guiana
by Mr D Nathan

Venue: Floral Room 'A' STAMPEX

Wed. 26 October 6-00 pm.

Display (details to follow)

Venue: British Philatelic Trust Rooms.

1989

Wed. 2 March 2-15 pm.

Dominica
by Mr S J Sugarman

Air Mails of the Caribbean
(Speaker to be announced)

Venue: Floral Room 'A' STAMPEX

Sat. 22 April 2-15 pm.

AGM and Auction

Venue: to be arranged

N.B. The British Philatelic Trust Rooms are at 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT, near to Farringdon or Barbican Underground Stations

Corrigenda to the note on the Data Protection Act 1984

1. The heading "Data Protection Act 1954" on page 1 of Bulletin No. 136 March 1988 should be deleted and 'Data Protection Act 1984' substituted therefor.
2. On page 2 in line 10 of the first paragraph after the words 'an objection in writing by the member', add the word "or".

MINUTES OF THE 34TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE HELD IN THE MARGARET ROOM OF THE BONNINGTON HOTEL, LONDON, ON SATURDAY 23 APRIL 1988 AT 2.15 PM.

The chair was taken by Mr E.V. Toeg, the President, who extended a warm welcome to the 24 members present.

Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. W.A. Townsend, I.P. Chard, M. Vokins and P. Burke.

The Minutes of the previous meeting on Saturday 25th April 1987, as published in the June 1987 Bulletin, were taken as read, and with the approval of the meeting were signed by the President.

1. Report by the Hon. Secretary. Mr Wilson stated that this was his first report as Hon. Secretary and that it was with pleasure that he could announce that there were now 337 names on the List of Members of whom 29 had been added to the roll this year. It is a matter of regret that as many as nearly 50 of the membership have yet to renew their subscription for this year, which may of course affect the total numbers. The circle should be very grateful to three of the dealer-members, Messrs Hamilton, Mitton and Druett, who have kindly included details of the Circles activities in their recent auction catalogues.

During the year we sought to update our List of Members and at the same time obtain their views on a number of subjects concerning our activities. I can assure you this has been a worthwhile exercise, and a number of their suggestions are being considered by the Committee.

In October last we held another very successful Convention in Leamington Spa, an event which has been fully reported in the March Bulletin. Despite the success of the Convention and a well attended meeting at STAMPEX in March the attendance at other meetings has been dismally low, and is a matter of some concern. As a consequence the Programme for the forthcoming year - to be discussed later - has yet to be finalised. Members MUST watch the Bulletin for the latest information. I regret to say that I know of several members who attended STAMPEX but were either unaware of, or had forgotten, our meeting and consequently did not attend! Several members have given displays to other Societies.

The Opinion Service has been made use of on only three occasions.

2. Report by the Hon. Treasurer. Mr Papworth stated that he had nothing of substance to report in regard to the Accounts for the past year.

He invited the meeting to note from the figures published that there was very little change in totals of Income and Expenditure, and the individual amounts under their various headings from those in 1986. That an end of year surplus occurred was due to higher than average sales of publications, but that these sales were not higher still was

due to a puzzling lack of response from members to purchase the Index to the Bulletin. He added that this was most disappointing not only to him but must also have been so to the President who took such pains in ensuring its compilation.

Whilst in surplus at the year end, that most liquid of our assets, cash, was at a lower level than at the end of 1986. This level, when allied to the lower rates of interest which can be earned, is most likely to be further reduced this year. Some care must be taken to ensure that we do not enter into a downward spiral from which it may be difficult to extricate ourselves. Every single member can help in this by buying a copy of the Bulletin Index if they have not already done so. Such a simple action will reduce stock levels, make more cash available for investment, and thus raise the income received from this source.

It was proposed by Mr Farmer and seconded by Mr Nathan that the report be adopted. This was passed unanimously.

3. Report by the Hon. Auditor. Mr Farmer's report has already been published on page 19 of the March Bulletin. There were no further comments.

4. Report by the Hon. Librarian. Mr Papworth reported that during the year 15 members had made use of the Library on 29 occasions - with two of those members taking up 13 of the loans! Acquisitions were still being made as and when pertinent material become available. He added a plea for members to start writing erudite works which will become the definitive ones for the area, particularly St. Lucia, Nevis, British Honduras and the Virgin Islands where there are enormous gaps in the written information.

He concluded his report by saying that when he first became the Librarian in 1975 he made a plea for items which could be added to the Scrap-books. He now made the plea again as he is dependent on the members for this material, not being able to read everything himself, being sure that members not yet enrolled will bless us for our foresight.

In discussion mention was made of Mr Farmer's new book - "Leeward Islands Philately: The 1897 Sexagenary Overprint and Its Forgeries", a copy of which has been presented to the Library. It was proposed by Mr Freeland and seconded by Mr Goldblatt that the report be adopted. This was unanimous.

5. Report by the Hon. Editor. Mr Atkinson reminded members that we had had to change our printers starting with the December 1987 Bulletin, and that hopefully we are now achieving a rapport with them and are ironing out the problems that have occurred.

He made the customary appeal for articles for the Bulletin, stating that he usually had only just enough material for each edition, and that this left little room for manoeuvre. The Bulletin is only as good as the members' contributions. Small notes and queries are very acceptable and often arouse more interest and comment than long

articles, as well as giving more variety. Although the Bulletin tends to deal with the "classic" period of West Indian philately he stated that he was sure that there is much interest among the membership in the more modern aspects and would welcome contributions on this aspect.

The Hon. Editor was thanked for his work and his report was adopted without dissent.

6. Report by the Chairman of the Committee. The Chairman reported that the question of increased subscriptions had been discussed at length by the Committee in their meeting on 25 April 1987, and again on 30 October 1987. The decision on an increase was then deferred but it had been agreed to allow members to pay, if so desired, a fixed five year rate provided this was paid by 31 January in the year in which it was taken out, and this would then not be subject to any increase imposed during its term. The matter was discussed again on 23 April 1988 and the decision would be reported to the meeting under Item 10.

In September 1987 Mr B. Benwell resigned from the Committee and also from the Publications Sub-committee where he had done a great amount of typing for the draft of the Dominica Handbook. Mr Benwell's resignation was reported to the Committee on 30 October last and was much regretted by all as he had served the Committee for many years.

The Committee also considered the arrangements for the Bulletin to be printed on a trial basis by a new Company introduced by Mr D. Nathan on a cost basis similar to that already incurred by the Circle.

Other matters considered by the Committee included the desire for a larger format Bulletin with larger print; no decision has yet been made; a request to some of the dealer-members to include in their auction catalogues details of the Circle's activities and explaining how to seek membership; a resolution granting Mr I. Chard Honorary Life Membership for 16 years' service to the Circle as Hon. Secretary and to allow him to purchase a gift with the Circle's funds to a value of about £30, this resolution will be subject to confirmation by this meeting. The Committee met again on 23 April 1988 when a number of decisions were taken as will be reported later in the meeting, and the subject of the size of the Bulletin was again considered and various investigations put in hand.

The Report was approved by the meeting without dissent.

7. Election of the Committee. Messrs Goldblatt, Hamilton and Nathan were willing to continue to serve on the Committee and there being no other nominations were all re-elected. It was proposed by the President and seconded by Mr Atkinson that Mr Mitton, already co-opted to the Committee in October 1987, be elected. This was unanimous. A vote of thanks to Mr Benwell for his long service to the Committee was heartily endorsed.

8. Election of Officers. The President, Vice-Presidents, Hon. Secretary, Editor, Treasurer and Librarian were all willing to continue to serve and were all re-elected.

9. Election the the Hon. Auditor. Mr J Farmer was willing to continue to serve and was unanimously re-elected.

10. Membership Subscriptions. The President reported that the Committee had agreed that as from 1 January 1989 subscriptions would be raised to £6 for members residing in UK or Europe and £8 for all others. A formal resolution to this effect was proposed by the Hon. Treasurer and seconded by Mr Farmer. It was passed unanimously.

11. Programme of Events. The Hon. Secretary reported that he had only two events which were firmly on the Programme, the AGM on 22 April 1989 and a meeting at Spring STAMPEX on Wednesday 2 March 1989 when there would be two guest Speakers. He hoped to have further meetings either in a Provincial location or at the Autumn STAMPEX, and one evening meeting which possibly would be at the British Philatelic Trust near Farringdon station.

In discussion the offer of a member to allow the Circle the use of his Board Room (in London) at no cost was made known, providing the meetings did not clash with business arrangements which were usually known well in advance. The Hon. Secretary undertook to investigate this, and urged Members to watch the Bulletin for details of arrangements.

12. G.M. Collett Memorial Trophy. The President reported that the Committee had considered the award of this Trophy for the years 1986-7 and had reluctantly decided that there were no articles that filled the conditions of the award and were worthy of such recognition.

13. Offer of Hon. Life Membership to Mr Ian Chard. The President reminded the meeting that he had earlier referred to the proposed offer to Mr Ian Chard of Hon. Life Membership and that Mr Chard be allowed to purchase a gift of a value of about £30 in recognition of his long period of service to the Circle as Hon. Secretary. It was proposed by the President and seconded by Mr Wilson that this be approved by the meeting. This was unanimous.

14. The Bulletin. The President stated that he had already mentioned in his report as Chairman of the Committee that possible changes to the format of the Bulletin were under discussion. As this was a very fundamental and important matter any change could not be rushed. Members would be kept informed, but he could say that any change would take place only at the beginning of a year.

15. Caribbean Collectors' Convention. The President stated that there would be another Convention in 1989.

16. Any Other Business. The President stated that the Committee had noted that the annual accounts now took five whole pages of the Bulletin, or some 25% of the space. It had been proposed that in future the accounts would be simplified and pruned to at the most two pages in length, while accounts in the present format would still be available to the Committee, at the AGM and, through the Hon. Secretary, to anyone

else who specifically asked. Some reservations were expressed, although most present professed that shortened accounts would be quite adequate. The matter was left to the discretion of the Hon. Editor and Treasurer.

17. There being no other business the President closed the meeting.

DISPLAY

Four members attended the meeting of the Study Circle at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 2nd December 1987, at the Law Society Building, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC1 1PL, three of whom brought “nine page” displays.

Mr. D. Nathan showed newspaper wrappers of British Guiana which are seldom seen and which proved to be most interesting.

He commenced with a die proof of the 1 cent marked “11 SEP 83” in red. The serif on the “1” in the bottom left corner of the design was different from that on the issued stamp, though the design generally was very similar. This item was an adaptation in 1883 of the design of the 1876 1c. definitive.

Next, an 1883 colour trial A on wrapper of the 2 cents in orange with the value tablet being hand painted - the stamp on the issued wrapper being coloured carmine. This colour trial has the words written “Color of existing duty of postage stamp.” Also shown was an 1883 colour trial B on a wrapper with the 1 cent in green and with the written words “Color established by Postal Union.”

Then followed an 1883 colour trial C on a wrapper with the 1 cent in brown and with the written words “Color of English Govt. ½d. wrapper.”

On the 1st February, 1884 the wrapper of the 1 Cent in green was issued on buff paper and then on yellow paper; the difference in shade should be noted due to different coloured paper being used.

Mr. Nathan also displayed the 2 cents wrapper of 1st February 1884 in carmine on buff paper perforated “SPECIMEN” diagonally from top left to bottom right, Samuel type BG3. On the same date there were also 2 cents wrappers in carmine on the buff and yellow papers respectively resulting in a shade difference.

Mr. Nathan then exhibited a used wrapper to Barbados of the 2 cents carmine on buff paper with squared circle postmark dated 7/FEB/1884/D; this was followed by used wrappers of the 1 cent green on buff paper to Hamburg and Barbados, respectively dated AU/10/93 and NO/14/95.

Only two twentieth century items were shown. First, a 1905 wrapper with the 2 cents violet having the word “SPECIMEN” in black printed diagonally from the bottom left to the top right of the wrapper. Finally, a used wrapper to Georgetown with the double circle postmark dated 20 APRIL 1930: this wrapper had a long use from 1905 to 1935.

Mr. E.V. Toeg showed various items of Antigua. He commenced with a page of forged and bogus items, the first being an attempt to manufacture a specimen stamp of proof status of the 1d. vermilion of 1863-67. A badly centred normal adhesive was selected and its perforations were then clipped and a "SPECIMEN" overprint applied. No genuine example of a specimen stamp of the 1d. vermilion is known and the overprint in this instance is bogus as it is neither a Perkins Bacon & Co. nor a De La Rue overprint.

In 1882 forgeries of the ½d. dull green began to appear. These were crude lithographic forgeries and three shades were shown ranging from a very yellow green to a deep green with smudges for postmarks in each case. These forgeries were most probably made by the Spiro brothers of Hamburg during the 1880s.

Mr. Toeg then displayed an original die proof of King George V's head contained within an oval vignette, marked "3 MAY.12" and "BEFORE HARDENING."

This vignette design was adopted for the five shillings value (large format) in respect of Antigua in 1913, Dominica in 1914 and Montserrat also in 1914. Then followed an horizontal pair of imperforate plate proofs of the five shillings value on gummed paper watermarked multiple Crown CA and a specimen stamp of this value with the word "SPECIMEN" printed with Samuel type D12a.

On 1st September 1916, halfpenny stamps were first put on sale in Antigua overprinted "WAR STAMP" in black. This was intended as a special tax to help the war effort and was in addition to the ordinary letter rate. A horizontal imperforate pair of plate proofs was displayed. Subsequently, on 1st October 1917 the halfpenny stamp was put on sale in the island with a red "WAR STAMP" overprint which replaced the black overprint. A horizontal imperforate pair of plate proofs was shown.

A die proof with blank vignette ex De La Rue archives was exhibited stuck on a piece of card marked in black ink with an instruction dated 4th May, (1918) that sixty leads were to be made. Subsequently, the marking written in red ink across the die proof indicates that the plate was made on 20th June 1918. This was succeeded by an horizontal imperforate pair of plate proofs of the one penny halfpenny overprinted "WAR STAMP" in black.

Finally, a page showing the three war stamps overprinted "SPECIMEN" in black with Samuel type D12a.

Mr. D.W. Atkinson gave a display of Jamaica First Flight Covers. Some time back Mr. Atkinson gave a similar display and the covers produced on this occasion were new acquisitions since his previous showing.

First, an abortive attempt in 1920 by an American to fly from Cristobal in the Canal Zone via Jamaica to Florida; 726 items which were carried in the plane were redispached by steamer as the plane was forced by adverse weather to return to Cristobal. A violet cachet on the cover recorded the circumstances of failure.

Next, a 1930 commercial cover from Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua to Jamaica via Miami (FAN 5) with cachets of first Flight Miami to Jamaica - a very unusual item.

Two further 1930 covers to unusual destinations - Barbuda and St. Vincent were shown.

A series of covers of first flights to Jamaica from other BWI territories then followed. All these flights were via FAM 6 to Miami and then FAM 5 to Jamaica - Antigua Dec 13 1930, St. Lucia 18 Dec 1930, Br Guiana 19 Dec 1930 and Trinidad 2 Jan 1931. In addition a cover illustrating an earlier unofficial First Flight from Br. Guiana to Kingston dated 5th Dec (ie. two weeks earlier than the official flight) with appropriate backstamps of San Juan, Miami and Kingston was shown.

On 8 August 1932 Jamaica was incorporated in FAM 6 and a series of covers illustrating this were shown. From Jamaica to Haiti, Dominican Republic and San Juan, and return covers from Dominican Republic (two different cachets) and Haiti.

A Hindenburg airship cover of 6 May 1936 from the Jamaican acceptance of the first flight from Lakehurst New Jersey to Frankfurt am Main was shown.

As there was still time remaining Mr Atkinson showed some additional covers.

BWIA First Flights to Jamaica from Trinidad 13 Dec 1944, from St. Kitts 15 Dec 1944 (a rare cover) and Barbados 16 Dec 1944.

A crash cover from the Avro York "Star Leader" which crashed off Bathurst, Gambia on 7 Sept 1946 on a proving flight to Buenos Aires. Very little mail survived and the cover displayed was addressed to G.C. Gunter, Half Way Tree and marked London - Jamaica Special Direct Flight.

A First Flight cover from Kingston to Toronto of 3 Dec 1948 by Trans Canada Airways and a First Flight of 15 Mar 1956 by Bahamas Airways from Turks and Caicos Islands via Nassau to Jamaica, and Air Jamaica First Flight covers to Miami 1st May 1966, Kingston to Frankfurt 26 Oct 1975 and Frankfurt to Kingston 3 Nov 1975 ended Mr Atkinson's display.

NOTES and QUERIES

BRITISH WEST INDIES

"Lady Boats" marks.

The earliest marks of the "Lady Boats" (owned by Canadian National Steamships) were straight line handstamps reading "Mailed at Sea", sometimes accompanied by a straight line mark identifying the name of the boat. Checklists in the BCPSG Journal have included references to straight line marks for the Hawkins and Nelson, and more recently for the Rodney and Somers. Only very lately however has the straight line mark for the fifth boat, the Drake, come to light.

LADY DRAKE
MAILED AT SEA



This should not be confused with an italic straight line RMS Lady Drake which has also been seen but which is thought to be of philatelic on origin.

CHARLES FREELAND

SO TEACH US TO NUMBER OUR DAYS THAT WE MAY APPLY OUR HEARTS
UNTO WISDOM. (Psalm 90 v.12)

Most of us use the calendar without giving it much thought. Dating letters and cheques; using it to celebrate birthdays and other anniversaries, keeping a check on our holiday dates are some of the many things which we do quite automatically. We also know that when the year is divisible by four then we can usually expect to find an extra day in February. Bachelors beware!

The calendar is an essential tool for postal historians (amongst others) but how many of us know how to check that the newly discovered postmark which we believe to be an earliest known date is a true one and not, for example, a forgery as it could be related to a Sunday! In future issues of the Bulletin I hope to provide you with the means to identify the day of the week for any given date between 1800 and 2050 - and the more astute of you will also be able to extend the system both backwards and forwards in time. But I am digressing from my main theme.

Our present method of dating is by using the Gregorian calendar which was named after Pope Gregory XIII who introduced it into catholic countries in 1582. Its predecessor, the Julian calendar, established in 46 BC by Julius Caesar, was based on the time of the earth's orbital period around the sun calculated as 365.2422 days averaged over many years. Although leap years had long been used in the Julian calendar to take some account of the extra part of a day in the annual orbital period, an additional day was still appearing about every 128 years.

This discrepancy was practically corrected by the minor change incorporated in the Gregorian calendar by bringing both calendar and orbital periods more closely into line. This change was the rule that a century year, eg. 1700 or 1900, had to be divisible by 400, and not the normal denominator of 4, for it to be a leap year. By following this rule, the Gregorian calendar gave the average length of a year as a more acceptable 365.2425 days. So an extra day will now only appear about once every 3,333 years!

Whilst every catholic country introduced the Popes new calendar in 1582, Britain did not, as the Crown was already at loggerheads with Rome, and it was not until September 1752 that we, together with all our overseas colonies, succumbed to its use. The decision to adopt and take this calendar into use had two very important effects and postal historians should be aware of both.

The first effect is the loss of 11 days in 1752, caused both by our belatedness in adopting the calendar, and the consequent need to bring our dating into line with those countries already using the Gregorian system. Thus, in our official dating system the 3rd to the 13th September 1752 inclusive never existed and letters etc bearing a date within that sequence must be treated with some suspicion.

The second effect is much more difficult to detail and understand. In the Julian calendar, the year commenced on 23rd March (just as our current fiscal year now starts

on 6th April). Thus any letter, document, bill etc originating in those countries which had not taken up the 1582 Gregorian calendar, but still used the Julian, and which were dated in January, February or March (prior to the 23rd) took the same year as the previous December.

The change to making the start of the year on 1st January was also introduced in 1752 by bringing the start date for 1752 forward by some 83 days and thus prior to the introduction of the Gregorian calendar. This means that we should not find documents originating in countries using the Julian calendar, which bear dates in January, February and up to and including 22nd March in 1751, for these would have previously followed on after 31st December 1751 (now the last day of a year which started on 23rd March immediately followed the 22nd March 1750) - a practice now dispensed with both officially and legally.

There is little doubt that where any correspondence trade etc was being conducted between Britain and her colonies with a catholic country, letters, bills etc may well have used the Gregorian dating long before it was officially introduced by Britain. It is also possible that the Julian calendar (and its' commencement on 23 March) may have continued in use for some time after the introduction of the new year starting on 1st January and, perhaps, the introduction of the Gregorian calendar in September 1752 or both, particularly in the far flung colonies.

Postal Historians (like genealogists) would be well advised to obtain some form of corroborative dating evidence that any papers dated in, say 1751, 1752 or 1753 are, in fact, relative to the date shown on them.

STEVE PAPWORTH

BRITISH GUIANA

M.O.O. Georgetown cancellation.

On page 361 of Townsend and Howe, reference is made to a double ring M.O.O. Georgetown cancellation dated 1885, without any further details. It has been a matter of surmise as to whether this was used to cancel adhesives on money orders or for postal purposes. Although I have three copies of this mark on adhesives dated from 1885 - 1890, this has remained an open question.

I am now able to advise that it was used for postal purposes. I have a complete cover, used within Georgetown, bearing a one cent on 4 Dollars stamp of 1890, cancelled and tied by a double-ring M.O.O. Georgetown dated FE 25 but sadly without year. An equivalent cover for the New Amsterdam M.O.O. is something I am now seeking.

DEREK NATHAN

DOMINICA

Revenue and Fee Stamps

Does any member have or know of the existence of any adhesive revenue or fee stamps (not embossed stamps) inscribed DOMINICA issued in any reign? I am not referring to the Queen Victoria postal fiscals in the Gibbons Part 1 Catalogue, nor am I referring to the issued adhesive revenue or fee stamps inscribed LEEWARD ISLANDS. So far I have come to the conclusion that the items I am asking about do not exist. I am particularly interested to know whether there were any adhesive revenue or fee stamps inscribed DOMINICA from 1900 onwards. Any information and photographs will be greatly appreciated.

E.V. TOEG

GRENADA

FORGERIES

The Spiro forgeries of the 1861-62 issue

The genuine stamps are recess printed. Spiro, as usual printed them by litho. The collection contains one copy of the 1d dark green and a number of copies of the 6d value in rose, dark rose and pale rose.

The 1d value Note The forgery is in dark green and not bluish green as catalogued. The printing work on this stamp is very good, the side vertical columns are well reproduced. The single copy is imperforate with good margins on all sides on white paper.

Cancellation A hard clear arc across the bottom left and top right corners.

Idents

- 1) The right eye has a large circle around it.
- 2) All except the middle and fifth ornaments on the crown are totally unrecognisable as thistles. That on the extreme right is completely solid.
- 3) The three pearls next to the central pearl and on its right are mis-shapen.
- 4) On the genuine stamp the right earring is in the shade and scarcely visible. The forgery shows an imagined earring full and clear.

The 6d value The printing on this value is not so clear as on the 1d, there are signs of wear and dirt in the background lines to the head.

Cancellations 1) an outline of bars 3.4.3.4. with a long thick line in the middle; 2) an outline of bars 2.3.2.3. with part of a figure resembling a 5 in the middle.

Idents

As for the 1d value.

Note On some of the copies there is a spot of colour over the left eye and on the neck. These spots also show on the Spiro Bahamas forgeries and the definition is poorer. These suggest that Spiro made the Grenada 1d and the 6d first, the spots occurring on the printing of this latter and were therefore present when he went on to do the Bahamas forgeries.

Forgery of the 1886 1d on 4d orange (postal fiscal) with the $\frac{4}{1}$ (Gibbons type 14) interposed.

This extraordinary effort is a total forgery, produced by lithography. The basic orange stamp, the green crown and Four Pence, the black postage overprint, the cancellations and the $\frac{4}{1}$ are all forged.

The basic stamp The Queen's head is a crude forgery. The face is covered with "shading" which consist of horizontal lines of oblong dots, the left ear ring is long and pendulous without ornamentations, the right ear ring, normally not exposed is hanging detached by the neck. The vertical columns of ornamentation are clear but incorrect, the stamp is imperforate.

The Fourpence, in green is almost covered by the word Postage and no examination is possible.

Postage Two points are noted 1) there is no full stop after the word, this does not necessarily indicate a forgery; 2) the serifs on the letter E of the forgery are long and pointed thus almost closing the gap between the upper and lower parts. On the genuine stamp these are blunt and the gap is therefore much wider than on the forgery.

The forgery. This is a reversal of the two parts $\frac{4}{1}$ of SG 37. Listed as SG 37a is the "surcharge" inverted. So far I have not managed to see this variety but considered that it indicated a complete reversal of the whole of the surcharge not an interposition of the two parts. Perhaps this is best recorded as a phantom surcharge.

Cancellation The forgery has been struck twice with a soft black box type cancellation (the box measures 14mm x 19mm).

Two notes of importance 1) the forgery is backed with paper bearing Old German lettering; 2) the $\frac{1}{2}$ was most likely struck over the box cancellation.

Comment This forgery must have called for a lot of work and it may well be that other collectors have this rather surprising forgery in their collection. Knowledge about these would be welcome.

A faked variety on the 1886 1d on 1½d orange fiscal "THRFE for THREE". The stamp, crown and surcharge are all genuine, there is a quarter circle "cancellation" across the vital corner showing the figures 11 and lower down a 6. These figures have been drawn in by hand to help hide the fake.

Comment Examination shows that the ink on the vertical stroke of the first letter E has been interfered with. Also that the missing bottom horizontal bar has been drawn down and lengthened the vertical stroke.

The Jeffryes forgeries & phantoms of the postal fiscals of 1883

During 1885-90 George Kirke Jeffryes of London E. forged the orange postal fiscal by engraving and made considerable use of it. He made the basic stamp, the green crown at the top and value at the foot, added the Postage overprint and then completed the job with a very clear postal cancellation. This latter was a pure invention which was made to add to the attractiveness. Certainly his partners at a shop in the City did well on his productions. In the collection are (a) proofs,

imperforate and partially perforated, (b) the 4d Postage on Two Shillings and (c) £1, £2 and £5 stamps all with forged postal cancellations. At that date the top value fiscal was 10/- and the Jeffryes Creation of the three values up to £5 are therefore properly classed as phantoms.

He used a single impression engraved plate, well made and used. The cancellations are also very good, in fact far too good to be true.

Perforations These are clean and well cut, badly torn copies rarely happened. Two sizes were used. (1) on the 4d on 2/- perf 14 but (2) the proofs and the high value phantoms he used p.16.

Cancellations These are struck right across the forgery and thus give the stamps the appearance of having been commercially used.

- 1) On the 4d on 2/- value Grenada in thin sans serif letters in an arc around the top of a 20mm circle, next a large letter A with serifs, then 1888 split across the middle with one of the following dates in an arc around the bottom, MR22, AU26, JU 19.
- 2) On the £1 phantom A large letter B in the middle, Grenada at the top in an arc, 18 88 split and 27 NO around the bottom.
- 3) The £2 phantom This differs considerably from the other values. It has a 20mm circle, a small letter A sans serif, Grenada in a straight line under the A, then AU 29 centrally placed, finally 89 below also in the middle.
- 4) The £5 phantom This is similar to the 4d on 2/- but with the dates JU 26 or JU 28 at the bottom.

Idents

- 1) The yellow of the basic stamp is too bright.
- 2) The parting of the hair on the bow starts too low.
- 3) On the genuine stamp the vertical side columns (outer) are made up of large diamonds linked by chains of smaller diamonds. On the forgery the diamonds are replaced by round dots linked by a series of arcs.
- 4) The pupil of the right eye, on the genuine stamp is clear but on the forged stamp it is obscured by heavy shading.
- 5) The letter E of Postage on the genuine stamp has blunt serifs whereas the forgery has sharp pointed serifs.
- 6) The serifs on the middle bar of the letter E on the genuine stamp curve outwards but on the forgery they are in line.

Note on the Grenada overprints and surcharges The Development section of the collection contains a number of forged surcharges. At the moment there are insufficient numbers of each to allow a positive set of Idents to be made.

AL BRANSTON

JAMAICA

The Squared and Double Circle Postmarks of Kingston

I was most interested in Michael Vokin's article in Bulletin No. 135, Dec. 1987, p.80 in which he traces the correlation between the alpha-indices on both the above types of Kingston postmarks and those on the squared circles of London Suburban

District Offices. The standard GPO practice for the latter is described by Stanley Cohen in his booklet on the subject published by Harry Hayes as Philatelic Study No. 43.

The “Clock code” of the London area was replaced by “clear time” by 1895, but at Kingston the alpha-numeric code continued on the handstamps up to my type KDC 12 (Foster DCK 1e) with a present LKD of 16 Oct 1953 (nearly sixty years on!). This seems somewhat illogical because clear time appeared on the machine cancellers which Robert Topaz informs me were probably introduced on 27 Feb 1912.

The late Thomas Foster has made the following statements on the alpha indices of Kingston:

1. Squared Circle; “The numeral was fixed but the letters rotated through the alphabet and indicated the time of postmarking. All the alphabet was used ...” (Stamp Collecting Weekly 9 Sept 1971).
2. Double Circle.
 - a) Normal Mail. “The time code letter would be changed at hourly intervals ... It is thought that only the letters in the first half of the alphabet, probably to N or P were used in this way”.
 - b) Other Mail. “During the day mail would arrive at the sorting office which either could not be dealt with in the normal way or had to be distinguished in some way from the normal mail ... The letters in the second half of the alphabet were therefore pressed into use, each letter being the Service Code Letter for that class of mail” (Booklet privately circulated in early 1950s.).

I have been studying the double circles (or “double rings” as I have termed them) of Kingston for many years and in BWISC Bulletin No. 103 (Dec. 1979) I tabulated all the code letters known to me at that time. This pattern of usage fits better with the postulated A to R (excluding J) as representing half hours between 8am and 4pm inclusive than with the statements of Thomas Foster. Pillar boxes were first set up in 1863, rising from four in number to eleven by 1891 (Thomas Foster; Caribbeana Dec 1976). In this article he states that the Street Letter Box double circles were instituted in 1889 (EKD 8 May) with clock code letters known to him extending from A to Y over various instruments up to his latest date (SLB 7 - 10 Sept 1910). Logically the codes used would have covered times later than 4pm when the GPO closed, since the boxes would almost certainly have been cleared after this time. This would explain the scarcity of letters beyond R on the Kingston double circles. SLB handstamps were used on mail from this source.

It seems likely that the SLB double circle handstamps were replaced by machine cancellers (with clear times up to 6.30 pm) in February 1912.

The significance of code letters beyond R on the Kingston double circles remains obscure and I find it quite a challenge. The “Service Code” theory is attractive but examination of the limited material available to me, especially covers, does not provide really convincing evidence to support it. I have suggested X as used when cancelling stamps on telegraph forms, but if this is correct how was the time of receipt recorded? A similar question may be asked if W were used for incoming paquebot mail. The subject certainly merits further research.

The problem of “missing” numeral indices on double circle handstamps remains. It is generally accepted that the numeral identified the user of the instrument on a particular day. In the privately circulated booklet already referred to, Thomas Foster considered that failure to discover examples on stamps or covers MIGHT imply non postal usage of the instrument concerned. I have tended to accept this, having failed to envisage any other explanation. But for it to be true the implication of separate positions at the GPO counter dealing solely with such operations as licences, telegrams, savings bank etc. seems inescapable. But is this likely?

I look forward to further contributions by Michael Vokins on this interesting subject.

ANTHONY W. LEWARN

LEEWARD ISLANDS

Damage to Leewards 2½d Duty Plate

Just occasionally the winds of fortune blow ones way. Without any particular effort on my behalf (other than a pious hope after discovering the first example), I have accumulated examples from identical sheet positions which demonstrate damage, both before and after, to the outer marginal rule of the Leewards 2½d value.

The plate 23 example is from the Oct '31 printing and the damage presumably occurred at some point between then and the Aug 33 printing from Plate 26. The examples shown represent a continuous plate usage sequence from the point of damage to the final plate usage, with the exception of the Geo. VI plate 1 printing. It is apparent that no attempt at repair was made.

The duty plate is more likely to have been damaged whilst being either fitted to or removed from the printing press, or alternatively during transit between the Crown Agents plate safe and De La Rue's letterpress department. However, it is possible that the damage occurred during the printing operation, in which case examples may exist of either plate 23 or 26 in the damaged and undamaged state. I would be most interested to hear from anyone with examples of P1.23 damaged or P1.26 undamaged.

These examples also provide further evidence that the same duty plate was used for both the Geo.V and Geo.VI issues. I have, incidentally, not succeeded in obtaining a 2½d plate block of this era from any other position in the sheet. Anyone with a spare Geo.VI Plate 1 block to complete my sequence will be most generously dealt with!

PETER FERNBANK

TRINIDAD

Receipt Stamp of 1869

I read the article by John de Vries (Bulletin 136, March 1988) with great interest. I have also wondered about the rather strange printing facts surrounding the perf. 12½ 5/-d stamp of 1869 (S.G. 87), as we know them:

The First Printing of 3600 stamps made in Dec 1868 was issued in 1869. These must have been consumed more rapidly than expected because only about one year later, in Jan 1870, it was necessary to make the second (and final?) printing of 6420 stamps. The combined quantity of 12,020 stamps, almost incredibly, served for 25 years until the introduction of the maroon perf. 14 5/- stamp of 1894 (S.G. 113).

The suggestion made on page 281 of Easton's book, about the introduction of the 5/- Revenue stamp being the reason for the small quantities of S.G. 87 is plausible. (He may have noticed some comments about the Revenue Stamps in the De La Rue Day Books whilst making his typescripts).

Suppose that the perf. 12½ stamp (S.G. 87) was originally intended for postal and fiscal duty, but that the fiscal duty consumed them more rapidly than was anticipated. Thus a need for a much greater quantity of fiscal stamps became apparent. Suppose further that this led to the introduction of the lilac perf. 14 fiscal. The question now is "when did the lilac perf. 14 fiscal (in any of its forms) first become available?"

If issued in say the early 1870's, consumption of the perf. 12½ stamps would have been reduced, since they would have been required for postal purposes only. Even if this conjecture were true it seems incredible that the balance of the two printings was sufficient to last until 1894. (The average annual consumption over 25 years would be about 400).

The early 1870's date is feasible, but unlikely. De La Rue were making use of a perf. 14 machine at Somerset House long before this - eg. the 1850 issue for Jamaica - but Walter Morley's catalogue (1910 edition) leads one to think that the perf. 14 fiscals were not available before the middle to late 1880's. If they were not available in the early 1870's then it would seem likely that special printings of the perf. 12½ stamp were made for Revenue purposes. If the overprinting of the word "FEE" was done by De La Rue, these stamps would have been classified as fiscals and would not have been included in Easton's book. In fact Easton states (p.XIV of introduction) that his typescript copies of the De La Rue records "referred to postage stamps, and to those revenue stamps which were subsequently authorised for postal use".

Examination of the De La Rue Day Books from the point of view of the Revenue stamps might resolve the question. It would be a great service to Philately if someone (perhaps through "The Royal") could obtain permission to research the Day Books and publish about the Revenue Stamps of De La Rue, in the same way that Easton dealt with the postage Stamps. Nowadays the original documents could be microfilmed, without the hassle of making typescripts, and in a fraction of the time. The alternative is to obtain the co-operation of interested parties in compiling statistics about SG 87 used postally and fiscally, and similarly the perf. 14 fiscal in its various forms. Clear, unambiguous dated copies would be of prime interest. In due course, deductions might be made from the quantities recorded for each.

Suggested Table for Data Collection:-
(items from my collection)

STAMP	MINT	USED	COMMENT
Perf 12½ S.G. 87 (postage) proof Ovptd. SPECIMEN OS TOO LATE FEE (black)	1 copy	7 copies	Samuel type TR1
	1 copy		
Perf. 14 lilac (Fiscal) (unoverprinted) Ovptd. FEE (blue) Free (red) FEE (blue) FREE FEE (red)		2 copies 1 copy 2 copies	clear date 3-10-90

Questions:-

1. Does anyone have a document showing fiscal usage of the perf. 12½ or 14?
2. Does anyone have dated copies of the perf. 12½ FEE?
3. Does anyone have dated Appendix pages from the De La Rue Archives with either of these stamps?

I trust these comments may be of interest.

MIKE NETHERSOLE

Fee Stamps

De La Rue's large format 5/-, which made its postal debut in 1869, perforated 12½ (S.G. 87), adopted a number of revenue guises in which it appears perforated 14 from the late 1880's - certainly well before its postal counterpart (S.G. 113, 1894). Barefoot and Hall date its appearance overprinted FEE and also surcharged 10/- and £1 from 1887.

The 5/- value is normally overprinted FEE in blue, but I have an example in black dated 23/9/89, and would appreciate confirmation of any other examples, especially if mint.

The 10/- value is overprinted FEE/10/- in two lines in red, with a bar obliterating the original value tablet. The "10/-" takes two distinct forms, one with a rather upright diagonal, the other with a more sloping diagonal.



I am interested to know whether this variation derives from separate prints or whether (like the 1/- postage due, where no.5 of all rows in the sheet bears a similar variety) it is positional and constant through several printings.

Free Fee Stamps

In 1890 the same basic stamp appeared overprinted FREE FEE in one line in red, together with a small format companion 1/- value.



About half the 5/- values I have seen have the overprint with the final 'E' of FEE dropped out of alignment; no example of the 1/- value with a dropped final 'E' has come to light. Again I would appreciate advice from any member able to confirm whether or not this variety is positional and constant.

MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Tortola Straight Line Handstamp.

A recent acquisition is an entire from St Croix to London, datestruck with a Tortola straight line handstamp of Oct 23, 1800 (the '23' in manuscript).



My attention was drawn to this item by the abnormal height of the letters of TORTOLA. In fact they measure 35 x 4½ mm. instead of the usual 34 x 4 mm. This handstamp must have had a very short life as the smaller type was in use by Jan 20 1802 (on a cover from Montserrat to London "by the Dreadnought"). I expect some member can quote an earlier mark.

Jay Fredrick has drawn my attention to the fact that the taller handstamp was reintroduced for two very short periods in 1842 and in 1847 (see Maycock's Plantation Papers.)

CHARLES FREELAND

AUCTION REPORT 1988

The pioneer illustrations in last year's auction catalogue were succeeded by a much more professional product this time; all credit to the new team working on preparation and description. Not only that: there was a good deal more depth and value in the material on offer. One would have hoped that our members would take full advantage of these changes and would compete vigorously with one another, lot by lot. That was not to be. With only 64 postal bidders, and 17 registered bidders attending the sale, we were down by some 25 to 30 members on our best year; and well over half of the 290 lots that were sold were knocked down to the opening bid. The resulting sale total of just under £5,800 was therefore more than 10% below our estimates for these lots. Nevertheless the book bidders had steeled themselves to pay more than £1,500 above what their purchases actually cost them; so we feel that it was more a case of bargains for buyers than optimism on our part over the valuations.

One lot that was undoubtedly undervalued was lot 24, the CORNWALL T.R.D. Bidding opened at £52, in the face of three substantial book bids, and closed at £75 in favour of a bidder in the room. By contrast there was no real interest in more recent Bahamas covers, with only one sale between lots 36 and 43. Other flat spots were in middle period Barbados (four lots sold between lots 76 and 93) the earlier material having sold quite well, postmarks of British Guiana (only one sale between lots 137 and 150), and later Jamaica (three sold between lots 279 and 292). As usual, the healthiest demand was for St. Vincent, where only five lots out of 42 went unsold. If we had to pick the star item in this territory it would be lot 378, a Calliaqua c.d.s. on 4d grey-blue, which went at £70, a little above estimate. There were signs of interest in Montserrat, with four members in contention, where sometimes there is a solitary one; and competition for an interesting Grenada postcard, lot 223, suggests that cards of this character are due for substantial rises in the next few years. The original sender was, however, scathing about the quality of his card!

Lot 125 of British Guiana, valued at £1,400, was a heavy item, to say the least, for a Study Circle auction, and it can have been no surprise when it was passed in the room; but there were serious discussions going on about it outside the auction, and the day may not be far off when we can record the sale in one of our auctions of the first lot to reach four figures. It was a sensation a few years back, when we sold our first single lot at above £100. In British Honduras, three postal bidders saw the merits of the early cover from Great Britain, lot 151; yet they were all cautious with their bids, and this item barely rose above its minimum. One member who must have been very satisfied was the purchaser of lot 484, the Leewards 1/- with Tortola c.d.s. It went for only £23, but could easily have fetched double in a good year. Lot 329, the partial reconstruction of the 1d SG 5 was another lot which might have gone higher, although again there were three rather modest book bids, for this stamp is decidedly uncommon used. Perhaps the postmarks were open to question: both Nevis and Virgin Islands stamps are prone to such manipulation.

Other items which might have fetched more were the rare boot-heel "2" of Barbados (until now the existence of a different type rested upon oral tradition amongst our members) - it realised only £85 - and the used block of four of the Tobago 6d, lot 417, which cost the buyer £22 and was probably worth at least double. Talking of

forged killers - was I? - lot 486 proved quite attractive, going after a tussle for £26; perhaps the buyer was more optimistic than the seller, although we believe that the description was right. Philatelic literature (but not sale catalogues) further showed its potential, when lots 489 and 490 went for £16.50 and £22. The former drew more interest than any other item, with six postal bidders, and two more rivals competing in person. At the end of the day the Circle benefits enormously from all the effort that went into the auction, as its funds could be swollen by as much as £600. We hope that members will remember how much the Circle has come to depend on this annual input, and will do more to support it in future years. Some could hardly do more: three postal bidders competed for more than 20 lots apiece, the two leading ones each submitting bids on 32 lots.

Realisations were as follows (unsold items are omitted) :-

1	23	2	12	5	18	6	36	8	10.50	10	12	15	7.50
16	16	17	5.25	18	28	20	9	21	4.50	22	23	23	4.50
24	75	27	9	29	9	30	10.50	32	18	33	70	34	24
35	110	40	6	44	6	45	8	46	15	47	5.25	48	70
49	8	51	8	52	46	53	12	54	58	55	30	56	20
57	26	61	46	62	16	63	10.50	66	15	68	5.25	69	85
70	25	72	2.50	74	10.50	75	9	81	12	82	11	87	22
91	4.50	94	21	96	27	97	15	99	8.50	101	19	103	15
104	12	106	15.50	109	13.50	110	22	111	21	113	17	114	5.50
115	27	116	7	117	5.50	118	2.25	119	5	120	13.50	121	11.50
122	3	127	22	128	8	130	60	131	8	132	26	133	13.50
134	24	135	12	136	14	146	11.50	151	33	152	15.50	153	8
154	2.50	155	17	156	60	161	11	164	22	165	13	166	12
168	17.50	169	15.50	171	3.50	173	5	174	19	176	15.50	179	12
180	11	182	3.75	183	15	185	75	186	48	189	3.75	190	9
191	3.75	192	9	193	4.50	194	3.75	195	3.75	196	11	200	5.50
201	21	203	26	204	15	205	16.50	206	17	207	26	209	4.50
212	21	213	11.50	215	34	221	9	222	15	223	11	224	9
225	10.50	227	8	228	9	229	8	230	14	233	12	236	7.50
237	6.50	239	23	241	6.50	244	22	246	7	248	7	249	7
250	8	252	11.50	253	8	254	4.50	255	9	256	9	257	16
258	11	259	27	261	24	267	9	270	36	271	23	272	7.50
273	6	275	8	276	8	277	21	278	234	285	15	286	27
290	15	293	24	294	15.50	295	15	296	9	297	17	298	17.50
302	26	308	12	311	9	314	8	315	8	318	4.50	319	16.50
320	21	321	9	322	8.50	323	6	324	9	325	17	326	8.50
327	7	329	42	331	24	334	27	336	18	337	12	338	19
339	7	341	16	346	11.50	347	8	351	27	352	23	353	18
354	6	357	11.50	358	2.50	359	14	363	10.50	365	12	367	12.50
368	7.50	369	4.50	370	7.50	371	34	372	27	373	21	374	21
375	15	376	4	378	70	379	24	381	19	382	11	383	7
384	32	385	17	386	16.50	387	30	388	15.50	389	26	390	12
391	14	392	16	393	29	394	8	395	23	396	4.25	397	16
400	52	402	25	403	4	404	9.50	405	26	406	12	407	13.50
408	27	409	34	414	28	415	7.50	416	15	417	22	418	50
420	15.50	422	37	424	160	426	32	430	20	432	110	433	90
435	50	436	75	439	24	441	27	442	31	443	60	445	12
446	34	448	27	450	10.50	452	15	454	9	455	34	457	50
458	42	459	13	461	8	462	15	463	12.50	464	75	468	70
470	52	472	10.50	474	34	477	48	479	60	480	35	482	9
483	9	484	23	485	6.50	486	26	489	16.50	490	22	495	4
498	3.75	500	2.50										

NEWS ROUND UP

Mrs S.M. Pearse has written to inform members that the King's Lynn Philatelic Society will hold its Golden Jubilee Celebrations on Saturday and Sunday 23rd and 24th July 1988 at the Annual Convention of the East Midlands Federation of Stamp Clubs to be held at the Knights Mill Village complex on the A149 King's Lynn to Hunstanton Road, starting at 11 a.m. on both days. There will be displays and national and local dealers will be present. There is ample parking space and visitors are very welcome.

Chris Barwick would like to hear from any member with experience or advice to offer re computerisation of his collection. His address is "Timbers", The Avenue, Mortimer Common, Berkshire RG7 3QX.

MEMBERSHIP LISTING

New Members.

Gauthier	Mr. T.J.	17 Elmore Ave., North Providence, R.I. 02911, U.S.A.
Godwin	Mr. H.L.	PO Box 14048, 1518 Farramere, Republic of South Africa.
Mellor	Mr. P.J.	10 Gilpin Green, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 5WR
Quinn	Mr. S.	10 Pennington Road, Beaconsfield, Bucks. HP9 1ET
Simmons	Mr. R.	83 Heaton Street, Prestwich, Manchester M25 5HH
Terry	Mrs. S.	34 Brookwell Close, Chippenham, Wilts. SN15 1PJ
Walters	Mr R.C.	228 Central Ave., Hasbrouck Heights, NJ 07604 U.S.A.

Change of Address.

Bartlett G.	6 Montrose Park, Brislington, Bristol BS4 4JF
Colachino R.C.	44 Beaconsfield Road, Chatswood, NSW 2067 Australia
Deakin F.	Flat 3, Avebury Court, 5 Cyprus Road, Exmouth, Devon, EX8 2DZ
Hinneburgh-Murphy, C.T.	6 Wellington Road, Westgate on Sea, Kent CT8 8DT
Radley Lt. Col.	16 Forbes Avenue, Kanata, Ontario, K2L 2L8 Canada

Deceased.

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