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BWI

STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 149 JUNE 1991



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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 (BELIZE).**
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 £6 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £8 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 \$14.50 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.

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PROGRAMME

1991 **BWISC CONVENTION**

Fri. 11 October - Venue: The Regent Hotel
 Sat. 12 October - Royal Leamington Spa

1992

Wed. 26 Feb 2.15p.m Airmails of the West Indies - Mr.R.Wike
 Plus one other to be arranged.

Venue: Stampex (Floral Room 'A')
 Royal Horticultural Hall, London, SW1

Sat. 27 Apr 2.15p.m AGM and Auction
 Venue: The Bonnington Hotel, London.

CARIBBEAN COLLECTORS' CONVENTION 1991

Time seems to fly by between one Convention and the next one: I have found this to be the case invariably and can only put it down to the fact that I find the occasion to be so enjoyable. This year the Convention is to be held on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th October at The Regent Hotel, The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa which has proved to be so suitable in the past.

Let me try and persuade those of you who are not thinking of coming by telling you that if you participate in helping to make the Convention a success you will find the occasion to be well worthwhile attending.

You could for instance apply to the Chief Steward, Steve Sharp, to do a spell on the rota of stewards and this would enable you to mix and get to know people in the course of your duties to guard the stamps and dealers' stocks on display. Perhaps the most important act of participation is to bring along to the Convention up to thirty pages from your collection which would be placed on the display stands at various times during the Convention Day - these thirty pages which you will be bringing are part of the Informal Displays and do not have to be of any particular standard.

Then there are the Formal Displays which should prove most attractive and interesting. First, the joint display of Antigua by Stella Pearse and Alex Thomson and this will be followed by the wonderful display of Trinidad by John Marriott.

The Bourse will also be available and you will be able to wander around looking through dealers' stocks, and who knows, you may be lucky and find some item that you have been looking for for a long time. In the Bourse you will also find the Members' Approval Table where philatelic material of all kinds will be on sale: this will be under the control and care of Simon Goldblatt who is already well known to most of you as the Study Circle's Hon. Auctioneer.

The Hon. Officers and members of the Committee will be doing their best to get new arrivals to mix and to this end proceedings commence on Friday 11th with a sherry party which gives the occasion a fine start.

I look forward to seeing you and your partners if they would like to join us and please do not forget to bring along up to thirty pages. You all heeded this request at the last Convention and I can assure you that it contributed in no small measure to a superb weekend.

E. Victor Toeg

1990 ACCOUNTS

The Hon. Treasurer regrets that due to unforeseen circumstances the Audited Accounts cannot appear in this Bulletin. The Accounts will be published in the September Bulletin.

1991 AUCTION

An Auction report will appear in the September Bulletin.

MINUTES OF THE AGM

MINUTES OF THE 37th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE HELD AT THE BONNINGTON HOTEL, LONDON, ON SATURDAY 27th APRIL 1991 AT 2.15 P.M.

The chair was taken by Mr.E Toeg, the President, who extended a warm welcome to the 23 members and two guests present. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. F. Bennett, I. Chard, D. Charlesworth and S. Papworth.

The minutes of the previous meeting on 28 April 1990, as published in the June 1990 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 reported that the meetings in the previous year had been well supported and that those attending had been treated to some first class, even if controversial, displays. The programme for the immediate future would follow the pattern of meetings at STAMPEX, with the Convention in alternate years. Evening meetings in London had been dropped from the programme until there once again appeared to be a demand for them. It was hoped to include a Provincial meeting from time to time. The Opinion Service had been well used but because of a couple of hiccups during the year some changes were necessary which would bring the Study Circle more into line with the procedures used by the Royal for those seeking expertisation. This may mean an increase in costs. Full details would be given in the Bulletin in due course.
2. **Report by the Hon. Editor.** (Read in his absence by the Secretary.) Mr. Charlesworth thanked all of those members who had contributed material for the Bulletin and he hoped that the help he had received would continue and that the membership were satisfied with the Bulletin. However, as always, material was always wanted. Over the past twelve months he had noted certain areas of the Caribbean had not been mentioned in the Bulletin. Had members stopped collecting some of these less 'popular' islands? If not, then articles, notes, queries from these places would be especially welcome.

3. **Report by the Hon. Treasurer.** (Read in his absence by the Secretary.)
Mr. Papworth apologised for the fact that the accounts had not yet been audited. There was a satisfactory surplus at the end of the year which was due to excellent auction results. The percentage of the membership who still fail to pay their annual subscription on time continues to cause much unnecessary waste of time and money in chasing these members. He did not expect the problem to be eradicated but hoped that in future it could be minimised as a result of recent publicity and various notices which had been included with the Bulletin, and also labels on the envelopes - for any offence incurred thereby he apologised and hoped that members in good standing would take these reminders in good part.

In discussion Mr. Farmer, the Hon. Auditor, reassured the Circle as to the general state of its finances. The President reminded those present that the Treasurer's health had not been good lately, and that in fact he had expressed a wish to resign two years ago and had only remained as Treasurer because of the lack of any volunteers to take over this important office.

He went on to ask once again for any member to offer to take over as Hon. Treasurer.

It was proposed by Mr. Goldblatt and seconded by Mr. Sutcliffe that the unaudited accounts be referred to the Hon. Auditor and in the event of any irregularities he should then report direct to the President. This was passed unanimously. The audited accounts and the Auditors report would appear in the Bulletin as soon as possible.

4. **Report by the Hon. Librarian.** Mr. Nathan reported that in the year ending December 1990 the library had been used for 22 loans totalling 139 items. A number of books had been added to the Library, these had been listed in the Bulletin. In addition the new Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia had just been received and will be available in the library as soon as it has been reviewed. Mr. Nathan asked if anyone had a copy of the Circle's auction catalogue for 1986 that they would be prepared to donate - this would complete the set for all the Circle's auctions.
5. **Report by the Hon. PRO.** The Hon. PRO reported that the £400 allocated in 1990 for publicity and advertising in various stamp magazines had had only limited success. For this year the Committee had allocated a further £100 to cover advertising in only specialised catalogues. News of the Circle's activities would continue to be placed in philatelic magazines. Some new advertisers have been attracted and there is now sufficient for the Bulletin to avoid overcrowding with advertisements.
6. **Report by the Chairman of the Committee.** Mr. Toeg reported in detail on the work of the Committee at their two meetings during the year.

Considerable time had been spent on the problem of unpaid, or partly paid, subscriptions and the procedure to be adopted in dealing with them. It was to be hoped that in future the problem could be minimised. He then produced the draft of a monograph on the Leeward Islands' Adhesive Fees Stamps which he had written and which the Committee had agreed should be published - hopefully in time for the Convention. Similarly, Mr. Chard's series of articles on Bermuda Postmarks which had appeared in the Bulletin recently would also be published by the Circle as a complete monograph. A third production would be the index to the Bulletin for issues 101 to 127 (December 1985) which would be issued free to all members in good standing.

He also reported that the Committee had also considered a number of other matters which would be raised later in the meeting.

7. **Election of the Officers and Committee. The President, Vice-Presidents,** Hon. Secretary, Editor, Librarian and Treasurer were willing to serve and were re-elected. Messrs Chard, Goldblatt, Hamilton and Mitton were willing to continue to serve on the Committee and there being no other nominations they were all considered to be re-elected. Mr.P. Ford, as Hon. PRO was confirmed as a member of the Committee and re-elected.
8. **Election of the Hon. Auditor.** Mr.A. Farmer was willing to continue to serve and was unanimously re-elected.
9. **Biennial BWI Convention.** The President reported on the arrangements for the Convention to be held in Leamington Spa over the weekend of the 12th. October 1991. (Note: Members will find all the details on a separate folder distributed with the Bulletin.) Mr. Sharp had offered to act as Chief Steward at the Convention on the Saturday and would welcome offers from other members to assist.
10. **Programme of Events.** The Hon. Secretary gave details of the proposed Programme for 1991/92. Meetings would be the Convention on the weekend of the 12th. October 1991 and a meeting at STAMPEX on Wednesday 26th. February 1992. The AGM was proposed for Saturday 25th. April 1992. Other information would be printed in the Bulletin. In discussion it was suggested that members might like to offer to arrange a local area meeting, perhaps within their own home, for perhaps a dozen members living nearby. Offers to the Secretary please who undertook to publicise.
11. **Late Payment of Subscriptions.** As part of the procedure to encourage prompt payment of subscriptions the meeting was asked to approve the following resolution:

'That as from 2nd. January 1991 a member who for any year either fails to pay all or part of the subscription (dues) at the appropriate rate within 30 days of the due date and accordingly is suspended from

membership, or who has not paid in full the subscription (dues) at the appropriate rate by 30th September and is deemed therefore to have resigned from membership, but who then wishes to apply to rejoin the Study Circle shall, in either case, only receive the Bulletins which have been withheld on payment for them as back issues.'

After some discussion it was proposed by Mr. Farmer and seconded by Mr. Ford that the resolution be adopted. This was agreed without dissent.

12. Any other Business.

- a. Mr. Sharp pointed out to the meeting that although there were many distinguished collectors among our membership few appeared on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. It was suggested that a committee to look into this be set up to consider any candidates and the Secretary was asked to arrange.
- b. The President mentioned that 1994 was the 40th. birthday of the Study Circle. Any ideas for special commemoration should be passed to the Secretary.

13. There being no other business the President thanked the members present for their support and declared the meeting closed.

STAMPEX'91 DISPLAYS

On the 27th. February 1991 the Study Circle held a meeting in the Floral Room at the Spring Stampex in London. It was attended by about 30 members and friends who were entertained by displays from Mr.H.F. Deakin of his Barbados collection and Mr.V.F.H.Smith whose display was entitled 'The Chalon Head'.

Mr.Smith began his display by showing various portraits of the young Queen Victoria from the period 1837-1842 and including a life-size colour photograph of the head and shoulders of the Chalon portrait. These were followed by photographs of Samuel Cousin's and Charles Wagstaff's engraving copies (1838-9) of Chalon's portrait, along with various details of the head.

Then followed examples of the use of the large head (ignoring therefore the three-quarter length portrait used for New Zealand) on stamps starting with Alfred Jones' engraving for the Canada 12d of 1851 which not only set out the principle and size of the Chalon-based head but also surrounded it with an oval frame. This was followed by Humphrys' engraving for Van Diemens Land in 1854. Mr. Smith drew attention to the similar histories of Jones and Humphrys, especially noting that they had worked together in America for Rawdon Wright Hatch and Edson in 1843-5 and had probably met again in England in 1846-7.

Photographic enlargements of these various heads were shown and by using transparent copies it was shown that whilst Jones' Canada head (and the later New Brunswick head of 1860) were generally similar to the Cousins/Wagstaff heads the Humphrys head was virtually identical - being almost a photographic copy.

Mr. Smith then showed the sequence of use of the Humphrys head on the stamps of Natal, Bahamas, Queensland and Grenada by using mainly plate proofs. He pointed out that the head die was essentially the same in all cases: there was no separate 'Jeens' head. He also stated that there may have been minor retouchings of the transferred die, and certainly the hatched background was variously trimmed to suit different oval frames; the Bahamas 1d being also altered to remove three beads from the necklace.

He then showed a short display of Grenada displaying the 1d green and 6d rose/vermilion together with the start of the undenominational issue, including plate proofs and printing sequences.

At the end of the display Donald Singh came forward to give the vote of thanks for what had been an excellent display, the members present supporting these remarks in the usual manner.

The second display was given by Mr. Deakin who showed pages from his Barbados collection commencing with several pre-stamp letter sheets. The first was a 1687 letter from Barbados to London carried by private ship and endorsed Capt. James Mamby QDC. This was followed by a letter of 1701 to London carried by a cargo ship which docked at Hull.

Handstruck markings came into use in 1762 and about a dozen different types being known; the most frequently met with are the two straight-line markings, the earlier one used between 1762-96 being the word Barbadoes in smaller capital serif letters on two lines and the slightly later one, used between 1765-93, being Barbadoes on one line in larger capital serifs.

The next letter displayed was one of 1770 to the Jamaica Coffee House, London and carried by private ship. This particular letter was marked with 9d in manuscript and received the Dartmouth Ship Letter mark and a Barbados mark applied in Bridgetown.

Various entires then followed showing Barbados fleuron marks; Bristol and Liverpool Step-type Ship Letter marks with 1/6d and 1/7d rates and carried by the ships Caroline and Laforey respectively and a letter of 1836 from Quebec to Barbados with a 'Forwarded by Hedson's News Room' marking.

These items were followed by the line engraved 'Britannia' issues of 1852-1878. The first stock of stamps consisted of 30,000 green, 50,000 blue and

10,000 purple (greyish-slate) stamps which were issued on the 15th of April 1852; Barbados thus became the second colony in the West Indies to issue adhesive stamps; the first, Trinidad, issued stamps on August 14th 1851 with the 'Lady McLeod' local being brought out four years earlier in 1847.

The date of issue of the Barbados stamps would have been a month or so earlier if the first consignment of stamps had not been lost at sea in the wreck of the 'Amazon'. The stamps were despatched in December 1851, but the steamer caught fire off Ushant in the Bay of Biscay on January 4th 1852 on her first voyage to the West Indies. When the question of the design for the stamps was mooted, the printers, Messrs Perkins, Bacon and Co., informed the authorities that the design already approved for Trinidad i.e. a figure of Britannia seated on a bale, holding a spear and with a fully-rigged vessel in the background could be readily adapted for use in Barbados. This proposal was accepted and for 30 years this design was used for the stamps of the colony. It was called the Britannia design. The first stamps were on white, wove, unwatermarked paper 'more or less' blued by sulphate of potash. Mint and used examples were shown and as no denominations appeared on the stamps, they were distinguished by colours - green represented a ½d, blue a 1d, greyish-slate 2d and brownish-red 4d. As the demand for the 2d stamps was very small (they paid the rate for local letters over ½oz and under 1oz) most of them were bisected vertically and used for the 1d value in 1854. Bisections on piece and on cover were shown as were examples of the common 1d slate-blue in a mint block and the much rarer deep-slate in a block of 4 which were both prepared for issue but never issued.

The blueing became progressively less marked and by 1856 the stamps were exclusively printed on white paper. In 1858 stamps of the value 6d and 1/- were ordered which had the denominations shown on them. The display continued with blocks of the 1d on blue paper followed by used copies of the first stamps on blued paper including 2 shades of the complete 2d. A 5d rate cover to Trinidad and a 6d - 1 oz rate - cover to Brighton was followed by used stamps on white paper including 3 pairs and a strip of 4, one of which showed the 'dot in sail' variety.

A Crowned Circle Paid Frank was registered at the G.P.O. on October 3rd 1849, this mark struck in red indicated prepayment of postage on overseas mail and continued in use until 1858. An example on a letter dated 1857 to London was shown as was an Officer's letter of 1868 to London, bearing a 6d stamp and signed by the Commanding Officer. These were followed by a 'Prices Current' to St. Lucia at the 6d. rate and a double rate letter to Jamaica, a 10d. rate with two 1d. imperfs, a complete 'Merchantile Intelligencer' to the Turks Isles and rated at 5d, and examples of the 6d. imperfs in both shades of 1858 and the 1/- again in both shades and including a mint pair.

From 1860 onwards, the Barbados stamps were perforated, though the first perforations (pin perfs) are poor; examples of both 12½ and 14 perfs were on view in used condition. A clean-cut perforation appeared in 1861 for the ½d and 1d and then came the long issue in the rough perf 14-16 from 1861 to 1870. Mr. Deakin showed a block of 25 x ½d deep green and a part sheet of 63 in the deep blue-green shade with the paper makers name 'Morbey and Saunders 1840', a block of 16 of the 1d. imperf, an unissued variety, took its place, accompanied by imperf pairs of the ½d, 1d, 4d, 6d and the 1873 Large Star Watermark pair of the 6d marginal mint imperf, three blocks of the 4d in different shades came next, followed by pairs, strips and blocks of the 6d value mint and a page of used shades with bootheel cancels, having parish number marks 1, 4, 7, 11 and a heavy letter to Trinidad with a double 10d rate.

In 1866 the original postage plate was destroyed and a new plate - plate 2 - was brought into use; from the Perkins Bacon records it would appear that some 3,325,000 stamps were printed from plate 1 and 2,272,000 from plate 2. Examples shown included ½d with plate no.2 on it, the 1/- pair variety imperf. between and a block of 8 of the 1/- brown-black. At this point Mr. Deakin explained that he did not possess the 1863 error of colour, but he did show a useful colour reproduction of the celebrated rarity from the front page of a S.G. auction catalogue. It is believed that only 6 reasonable copies of this error still exist from the original 50,000 sent out in a light blue colour instead of black which was the normal colour for the 1/-. Copies which now appear at auction have all originally been marked with a black cross in ink which has been removed; in fact they have all been treated in this way and of course the stamp did not perform a postal function and is not known in a used state; so it cannot be found on cover.

From 1870 to 1874 the Britannia stamps were issued on paper watermarked with Small or Large Stars, examples displayed included the 1870 Large Star 4d and 6d, the 1871 Small Star 6d and 1/- pair mint and a block of 10 of the 1/- mint, the 1873 Large Star ½d, 4d, 6d pair, 1/- block of 4 and a block of 12 of the 6d variety imperf. un gummed. Blocks of this imperf. 6d are quite common; if they have gum, they have usually been regummed. An 1864 Sailor's letter signed by the captain of HMS Duncan and with a 1d GB stamp, (the usual special Forces' Concession Rate) was shown as were 1864 and 1872 Ship Letters, each stamped with 3 x 1d stamps and bearing 1½d in red crayon, denoting the division of the rate one having the rare Barbados Ship Letter mark in two lines in black, used between 1847 and 1864, the Liverpool Paid Ship Tombstone in red and the other envelope the Ship Letter mark in red. These were followed by three remarkable covers, an 1866 one from New Brunswick to Barbados, showing the triple rate of 66 cents and one showing the double rate cover, 44 cents, the former illustrated in colour in Robson Lowe's Encyclopedia; the second cover was also addressed to New Brunswick with a strip of five pennies and having the 'More to Pay 5 CENTS' mark and thirdly an Officers

letter to St. Helena at an unusual 1/11 rate, opened out with a lot of stamps and routed via Plymouth and using the Cape Packet ship.

From 1874 all Barbados stamps have the values expressed on them and from 1875 the stamps were printed by De La Rue and Co. on paper watermarked Crown C.C. He showed the 1872 Small Star clean cut perf. 14½ to 15½. ½d, 6d, 1/- mint and the perf.11-13 by 14½ by 15½. ½d and 4d mint. Two bisects then appeared, the 1872 bisected 1d on a piece and the 1877 1d bisected on a front cancelled by a bootheel with a clear 5 in its centre, the Parish of St. John. On two separate pages he let us see the 1873 Plate Proof Blocks of the ½d and the similar block of the 3d and the single and block of 4 of the large 5/- plate proofs in black and the much scarcer pair of the plate proof in maroon; probably two blocks of 4 are known and he told us he just failed to buy one at the Hackmey auction. And we saw pages of the 5/- stamp mint and specimen and a used selection, including a pair; only 10,000 of these noble stamps were printed.

There then followed a beautiful page of the 1875-78 printing of perf.12½ singles mint and blocks of 4 of the perf.14, 5 of these in fine mint condition, the 1875 set as Specimens, both the clear, larger London one and the smaller rough local one. There followed an 1876 Registered cover to Prince Edward Island with a pair of the 3d stamp in the postage, and the 1878 1d Provisional on a letter to Malta. In 1878 Barbados became desperately short of 1d stamps and 100 sheets of the big 5/- stamp were surcharged; each sheet of 48 stamps made 96 1d stamps; so 4,800 were actually overprinted 1d in black horizontally on each side of the stamp and divided down the middle by a rather irregular pert. measuring 11½ up to 13. This work was done by the West Indian Press in Bridgetown and Mr. Deakin showed a mint, unsevered pair, the 2d stamp, the three different types of the bisects and copies of the used, unsevered pairs, very fascinating stamps.

Artist's drawings were then included of the ½d and 1d Wrappers and postcards and the 1882 Queen Victoria set, a Die Proof, mint copies and specimens along with a letter from the ships steward, with the 1d stamp, who served on HMS Calypso in the Training Squadron at Barbados. We had 20 gorgeous essays from the 1892 set, painted by the artist in one colour and in two colours and with one essay with the error, BARRADOS. There was a 5/- bistre on a Registered cover to Rhode Island, the Diamond Jubilee set on blued paper mint, the ESK steamer marking in manuscript and with a purple handstamp, the Olive Blossom, Die proof in colour, mint and specimen and on cover and the indigo 2½d of the second printing of the Nelson set in a block of 4.

A very kind vote of thanks was given by Basil Benwell who drew attention to some of the interesting covers on display and said how pleased he was to have the opportunity to enjoy such a representative collection.

ANTIGUA

Village Post Offices

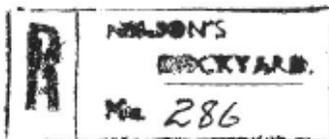
I have not seen these mentioned for some time and I thought that I would update members on the registered handstamps.

All Saints



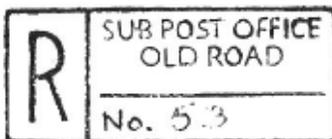
Large unboxed two lined 'Reg. ANTIGUA / ALL SAINTS' in violet, the number is written in manuscript below 'Reg'. The top line is 36mm x 4.5mm and the second line 42mm x 4mm. Date of copy - 16 JA 86.

Nelson's Dockyard



Boxed 42mm x 17mm R / NELSON'S DOCKYARD / No. in black. The number is written in manuscript. The 'R' is 4mm x 11mm. The letters are 2mm high. Date of copy - 21 OC 86.

Sub. Post Offices



At each office a similar type has been used with only the name being changed. Boxed 43mm x 17mm 'R / SUB POST OFFICE / Name of office / No. in black. The number is written in manuscript. The 'R' is 5mm x 12mm. The letters are 2.5mm in height.

The dates of use are as follows:

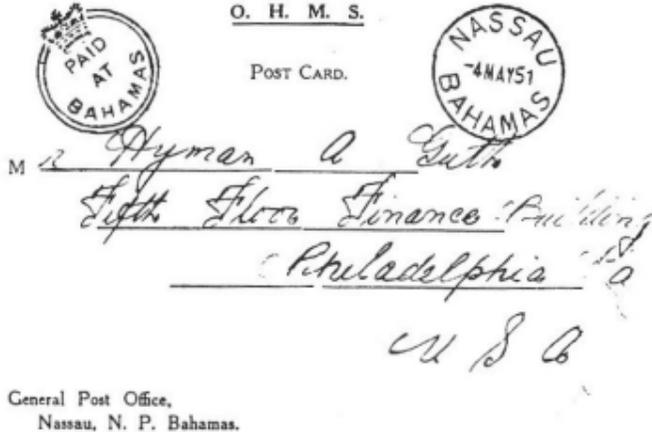
Bendals	8 May 1986	Bolans	23 Oct	1986
Cedar Grove	9 June 1989	Freetown	14 June	1989
GraysFarm	19 Oct 1989	Old Road	14 June	1989
Johnson's Point	12 Sept 1986	New Winthropes	16 June	1986
Parham	20 July 1989	Seaton's	No example	

Can any member confirm that Seaton's has a similar example. Also can anyone advise me when the Liberta office closed. My latest date is in 1968.

Doug Nottingham

BAHAMAS

Thirty years ago enquirers from abroad to the GPO in Nassau received an informative card with details of stamps, stationery and postage rates. As a bonus they would have got a 'Crowned Paid at Bahamas' additional handstamp in black.



GENERAL POST OFFICE,
Nassau, Bahamas.
..... May 4 1951

Sir:

The postage stamps on sale at this office are as follows: King George VI's Head: ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 10d., 1s., 5s. and £1. 0. 0.
Pictorial: 4d., 6d. and 8d. Seal of Colony: 2/- and 3/-.
Postal Stationery: Registered Envelopes @ 2d. each, Postcards @ 2d. each and Air Letters @ 7d. each.

The registration fee from the Bahamas to all countries is 4d (four pence). Postage on letters by surface mail to Empire countries is 4d. for the first ounce and 2d. for each additional ounce and to foreign countries, including the United States, the postage is 5d for the first ounce and 3d. for each additional ounce.

The postage by air mail to Europe, West Indies, Central and South America is 10d. per ¼ oz. and to the United States and Canada it is 6d per ½ oz.

Remittances must be made by British Postal Order, Postal Money Order or Bank Draft, drawn in sterling from residents of countries of the Sterling Area and dollars from residents of the Dollar Area. Cash will not be accepted.

United States Money Order rate of Exchange \$2.86 for £1.
~~Canadian Money Order~~

Current issues, as listed above, are the only stamps, which can be purchased from this office. All former issues must be obtained from stamp dealers.

Postmasters in the Bahamas do not postmark stamps to orders of bundle covers, except one envelope which, if enclosed with an order for stamps, can be used to despatch that order.

POSTMASTER OF BAHAMAS.

With reference to Doug Nottingham's Bahamas Reply Card (Bulletin 146, p.51), I can record a similar card cancelled at Man-of-War Cay Bahamas on the 19th. of May 1971 and additionally datestamped 22nd. May 71 in Nassau.

Dr.S.R.A. Kelly

Advert

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BARBADOS

I have been sent by our Hon. Secretary, Michael Wilson, a photocopy of a cover sent from Barbados to a South American country (the name is not decipherable) but it was sent via Argentina, and is said to bear a 1d.(SG.18 or 19) and a ½d (SG.20 or 22), the stamps being cancelled by Type C2 (Cave, Radford & Clarke) or Type O.2a (Benwell & Britnor) with numeral '1', and with a postmark similar to Type A7 (Cave, Radford & Clarke) or B.7 (Benwell & Britnor) but with the name spelt 'BARBADOS' and with the letters 'B' and DE 27/1861'. This cover was referred to me for comment.



Type A7 (or B.7) postmark was sent out to Barbados by the GPO in London on 8th. August 1845 and was in use for about 40 years. There was never ever such a type postmark with name spelt 'BARBADOS'. It was always spelt 'BARBADOES'. Furthermore the letter 'B' denoted the time of posting and this system was introduced much later than 1861.

Type C2 (or O.2a) postmark with the numeral was sent out to Barbados by the GPO in London on 10th. April 1863, and it would therefore be quite impossible for it to be used in 1861. Furthermore, this type consisted of sixteen 'wedges' of a smaller type, whereas the postmark on this cover consists of fifteen 'wedges' of a larger type similar to the Type C4 (Cave, Radford & Clarke) or Type O.3 (Benwell & Britnor). It appears as if this latter postmark has had a numeral added and must therefore be a forgery.

I am therefore of the opinion that this cover has been fabricated and the stamps affixed thereon have forged cancellations.

Edmund A. Bayley

BERMUDA

Early Letter

Members may be interested to learn of the existence of a letter that I have in my collection which was sent from 'Port Royall in ye Sumeres Ileandes' on the 14th. October 1620. This is of course exceedingly early being only eleven years after the 'Sea Venture', commanded by Sir George Somers, was wrecked there and eight years after the first permanent settlement of the island by a group of fifty Englishmen under the auspices of the Virginia Company (see Robson Lowe Encyclopedia, Vol 5).

The letter itself is in medieval script and would be unintelligible to me but for the assistance of Mr. Robson Lowe in arranging for a transcription. The letter is from a John Hanmer and is evidently addressed to someone called Rich since it contains a reference to 'Mr. Rich your brother being deceased'. The letter also refers to Messrs. Dutton and Monrer.

I owe a debt to Mr. Lowe not only for his help in the transcription but also for giving me some interesting information about the Rich family. The addressee, he says, could well be Sir Robert Rich, 1587-1658, who was the elder son of the first Earl of Warwick and became the second Earl. He succeeded his father in 1619 and occupied himself largely with the colonisation of America and with privateering adventures.

The other Rich referred to may have been his younger brother or at least a relative. The second son was Sir Henry Rich but he lived to 1649, where this letter is dated 1620. I am sure that I have read of both Dutton and Rich in one of the early Histories of Bermuda.

Charles Freeland

STOLEN

We have heard from one of our members that his house has recently been burgled and that amongst things stolen was his comprehensive Mint Q.V to KG.VI collection of the Leeward Is. group and his Postmark collection on Q.V Leeward Is. SG. 1-8 and 17-19. The stamps were in 4 ordinary commercial springback binders of the old Quarto size. One was black and the others green. Green adhesive tape was stuck on to the spines. Three were titled on the spine in green Dymo tape 'Leewards Islands' at the top and at the bottom the names of the islands contained and Q.V - K.G.VI. The fourth was similarly titled 'Leeward Islands' at the top but at the bottom 'Leewards Postmarks QV. The pages were plain black with transparent interleaving, written up in white pencil. For a more detailed listing see the enclosed sheets (UK members only). A substantial reward has been offered for information leading to the recovery. If you have any information concerning the material, please contact Detective Constable A.J. Barwick, New Milton Police Station, Old Milton Road, New Milton, Hampshire BH25 6DX. Telephone 0425 615101.

BRITISH GUIANA

Watermark Varieties of the Diamond Jubilee Issues of 1898

I have found inverted watermarks quite common on the horizontal stamps of this issue (1c, 5c and 15c) but have no example of this variety on the vertical designs (2c and 10c). Can anyone suggest why this should be? Perhaps it is just that my luck is like the proverbial Curates egg - good in parts!

Specimen overprint on the Diamond Jubilee Issue of 1898



Every example of SPECIMEN overprint I have seen on the horizontal stamps of the above issue has a slanting N (on the vertical stamps the N has been upright).

I find no mention of this peculiarity in Marcus Samuel's 'Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies'. He states that the forms of the overprint was in panes of 60 and 13 sheets of each value were overprinted according to the De La Rue records. It would be interesting to know if any has an upright N.

Michael B. Nicholson

BRITISH GUIANA/GUYANA

12 Cent Value

When I first saw the block of 4 of the local overprint on the 12c value (fig.2) I thought that it was line perforated, due to the holes at the intersections, but later, due to the vertical alignment of the holes, came to the conclusion that it was a case of the paper not moving the full depth of the comb between passes; the resulting adhesives are the same height as normal, therefore it looks like a perforation comb that was too deep was used.

This comb appears to have been used on all the British Guiana Block CA (fig.4), and Guyana Script CA/DLR overprint (figs.1 and 5) and Script CA/local overprint (figs.2 and 8) examples that I have. The British Guiana Script CA (Waterlow (fig.3) and DLR), and Guyana Block CA upright/DLR overprint (fig.6) and Block CA sideways/DLR overprint (fig.7) issues being normally perforated, i.e., comb perforated with a wide-tooth at each side at the top. Because the 'abnormal' comb was used for the British Guiana Block CA (fig.4) issue, it would appear that it was used by DLR.



1



3



4



2



5

6

7

8

So I would like to find out:

- a) Is this a case of line or comb perforation.
- b) If it is comb perforation, whether the 'abnormal' comb was used by DLR only or not.
- c) If it is comb perforation, whether it is a case of an over-sized comb being used in such a way as to obtain stamps of the 'normal' height or not.

I would like very much to get in contact with someone else interested in these issues.

N.J. Halewood

BRITISH GUIANA

'New' handstamps continue to surface, even decades after their use. The cover illustrated was mailed in Kingston, Jamaica, to Georgetown at the sixpence airmail rate and is postmarked 8th October 1955. It was backstamped with a Georgetown machine cancel dated 11th October.

The front of the envelope bears an unrecorded two line handstamp in violet, reading:-



Apparently, the envelope contained lottery tickets which contravened British Guiana's gaming laws, and was refused entry. As a bonus, the reverse bears a faint strike in violet of the rare RETURNED LETTER OFFICE cds type RLO 4 for 12 October; Townsend and Howe recorded only one strike (for 1954).

Michael Medicott

DOMINICA

Late use of the Crowned Circle handstamp is known in a number of BWI territories. For Dominica, I have until recently only been aware of the suspiciously philatelic usage of the Crowned Circle on 12th February 1940 tying bisected ½d definitives to local covers (I believe three have been recorded). I can now report a 1924 usage of the Dominica mark on an unstamped OHMS cover to Barbados. The handstamp was presumably used as an official paid mark, as was also done in Bahamas for example. A point of interest is that the pad from which the mark is struck is a very bright shade, best described as carmine-rose.

Charles Freeland

LADY BOAT CANCEL

Townsend and Howe list the route of the Canadian Lady Boats from 1927-39 as Halifax, Bermuda, St. Kitts, Antigua, Montserrat, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, St. Vincent, Grenada, Trinidad and British Guiana. Mail handed to the Purser would have been stamped by him with the ship's mark, and then surely sorted for handing to the postal authorities at the next port of call to be sent on by the next suitable sailing.

If Charles Freeland's cover illustrated in Bulletin 147 was posted when the Lady Rodney was southward bound from Bermuda as indicated by the stamp, it would have been landed and transferred to the next northbound sailing of the same line as they held the postal contract. The purser would have known the timetables of all his company's ships, and could have told the writer that his card would travel to Canada on the sister ship, the Lady Somers, so that he could tell his correspondent, and so puzzle us.

Another member may have a timetable for these sailings, but I estimate the round trip as over 5000 miles, probably taking 2-3 weeks. Transshipping the mail would thus have saved a worthwhile amount of time for mail posted early on the trip, as I suggest was the case in this example.

Michael Box

MONTSERRAT - WANTED

Chris Barwick writes that he is attempting some study of the small format Revenue stamps of Montserrat which are of the same format as the Grenada Revenues. He would be very interested in obtaining copies, especially mint ones, and to receive any information on any copies in other members' collections. If you can help please contact Chris at 'Timbers', The Avenue, Mortimer Common, Berks. RG7 3QX.

ST. KITTS-NEVIS/TOBAGO

In 1885, five values in the original St. Christopher design appeared, overprinted in black in three lines SAINT KITTS/NEVIS/REVENUE. Four of them were authorised for postal use, and are listed by Gibbons as R3 - R6. The fifth value, the five shillings ochre, was never available for postal purposes, and is a fairly elusive stamp.

Morley (second edition, April 1910) notes that the second stamp on each pane has the 'T' of 'SAINT' in the overprint broken at the top; thus  for 'T'. This is probably found on all values and, possibly, on all printings.



The five shillings shows a nice variety in the duty tablet; a dropped final 'S' in "SHILLINGS". Exactly this variety appears on the Tobago five shillings of 1884 (CA wmk); I have yet to find it on the Tobago CC stamp of 1879, but the likelihood is that De La Rue used the same duty plate for all three, and that the variety is positional and constant.

Can anyone with a complete pane or a positionable block confirm its place in the sheet (or indeed its existence on the Tobago five shillings on CC paper)?

Michael Medicott

ST. LUCIA

In Ritchie's Handbook on St. Lucia, in the section on Civilian Censorship Devices of World War II on pages 106-8, he refers to the earliest known use of a censorship mark on St. Lucian mail in W.W.II as being on a cover (which I have and which is illustrated on page 107) with Ritchie handstamp H1 mailed to Barbados on 7th. October 1939. I have recently acquired two covers from St. Lucia to Aruba N.W.I. sent in September 1939. It can be seen that the one postmarked 30th. Sept. 1939 has a censorship label (which is on blue-grey paper) similar to Ritchie label type L1 but measuring approximately 81 x 25mm and with the inscription at the bottom of the label (fig.1) instead of at the top. The previous earliest known use of this L1 label, of which I am aware, was in January 1941 (of which I have two examples) and it may be that this cover was censored somewhere other than St. Lucia and the label applied there. Presumably it was not censored in Aruba as the label is in English and other examples of mail to Aruba with a censorship label applied there have the inscription in Dutch.

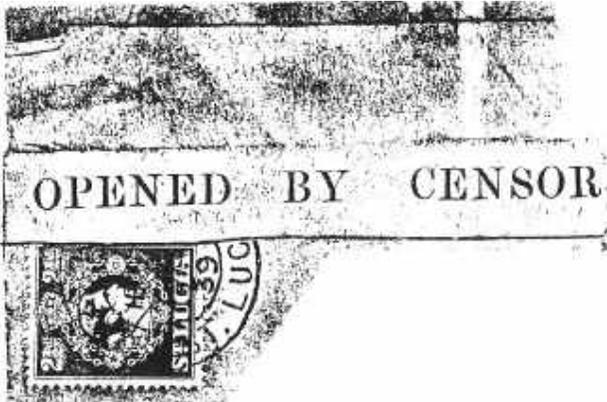


Fig.1



Fig.2

The other earlier cover(fig.2), sent only 9 days after the war commenced, has a white label with 'opened by censor' in black in a form I have not previously seen and with a circular handstamp in purple 'Passed by Postal Censor' around a crown. This also does not appear to be a device used in St. Lucia and I believe is similar to a censorship mark used in Trinidad from July 1940 to May 1941 (see BCPJ No.90 page 67 Type TR/1B).

I am wondering if any member of the Study Circle can shed any light on where these covers may have been censored and the labels attached.

John Gardner

BOOK REVIEW

THE FURNESS LINE TO BERMUDA by M.H. Ludington and Michael R. Rego

Published by the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (Monograph No.11)

Priced at US\$16.50 (USA postpaid), US\$17.00 (Canada postpaid), US\$17.50 / £8.75 (All overseas orders postpaid via surface printed matter rate). BCPSG members prices are US\$1.50 (£0.75) lower.

Orders may be sent to Mark W. Swetland, 32 Cat Brier Lane, Hilton Head Island, SC29926. USA. Please make all cheques (checks) or bank drafts payable to the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group.

This 64 page book gives a brief history of the Furness Bermuda Line from its start in 1919 through to its final abandonment in 1966. It gives full details of the development of the line as well as technical details and many illustrations of the vessels used. The main body of the book includes a complete listing of all recorded Ship marks used on board the vessels along with Illustrations of many covers.

A most enjoyable and informative book, and should be on the shelves of all interested in Bermuda as well as the shipping companies.

G.J.

LIBRARY LIST - UPDATE

Page 3 of Section 10 of the Library List has been updated. It is reproduced below for the benefit of those members with old copies of the Catalogue.

Section 10 - Continued

- 10.38 CARRYING BRITISH MAILS OVERSEAS - Howard Robinson; New York University Press; 1964.
- 10.39 THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE FORWARDING AGENTS - Kenneth Rowe; Leonard Hartmann (USA); 1983 (Enlarged Edition).
- 10.40 NEWSPAPER POSTAGE STAMPS - THE DE LA RUE DIES 1860-1870 Robson Lowe; Pall Mall Stamp Co. Ltd. 1980.
- 10.41 UNPAID AND UNDERPAID MAIL 1840-1921 - ENGLAND AND WALES R.I. Johnson; Robson Lowe Ltd; 1982 (Suppt to The Philatelist).
- 10.42 GUIDELINES FOR SUCCESSFUL EXHIBITING - Franceska Rapkin; Ed. R.J. West; B.P.F. Ltd. 1985.
- 10.42.1 GUIDELINES FOR THEMATIC JUDGES - Franceska Rapkin 1989.
- 10.42.2 INTRODUCING POSTAL HISTORY - Vivien J. Sussex 1988.
- 10.43 POSTAL CANCELLATIONS IN MANUSCRIPT - Leslie R. Ray ? 1947.
- 10.44 STAMPS: A POCKET GUIDE ? 1988
- 10.45 SILVER JUBILEE OF KING GEORGE V STAMPS HANDBOOK A.J. Ainscough 1985

- 10.46 DIE PROOFS OF WATERLOW AND SONS: PT 1: G.B. & EMPIRE TO 1960 Cohn Fraser & Robson Lowe 1985.
- 10.47 BRITISH POSTAGE STAMP DESIGN - John Easton 1943.
- 10.48 POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE MAKING - John Easton 1949.
- 10.49 COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH H.D.S. Haverbeck 1955.
- 10.50 FUNDIMENTALS OF PHILATELY – L.N. & M. Williams 1971.
- 10.51 COLLECTING POSTAL HISTORY - Prince Dimitry Kandaouroff 1973.
- 10.52 BRITISH PHILATELIC TRUST - Report & Financial Statements 1984-5
- 10.53.1 ROBSON LOWE AT CHRISTIES - REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1983
- 10.53.2 ROBSON LOWE AT CHRISTIES - REVIEW OF THE YEAR 1984
- 10.54 WORLD WAR TWO CENSOR MARKS
Forces Postal History Society 1984 (2).

Derek Nathan

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Lefts, A.F.A. 12A Highgrove, Wood Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton WV6 8LQ.	

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Watts, M.D.	28 Mallinson Crescent, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG2 2HP.

RESIGNED

Goode, V.G. Strachan, T.J.

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"INDEX TO BULLETINS Nos. 1-100 of the BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE" compiled by E.V. Toeg. Softbound, 182mm x 120mm, 41pp.

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