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**BWI**

**STUDY CIRCLE**

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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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**BULLETIN No. 151**

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AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

- Hon. Secretary:* **M. R. WILSON** 'Timbers', *Chequers Lane, Tharston, Norwich NR15 2 YA.*  
*Tel: Long Stratton (0508) 31136*
- Hon. Treasurer:* **STEPHEN PAPWORTH**, *1 Chapel Lane, Glentworth, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, DN21 5DE*  
*Tel. Heaswell (042 723) 326*
- Hon. Editor:* **DENIS CHARLESWORTH**, *4 Hill Farm Close, Stafford, Staffordshire ST17 9JE*  
*Tel: Stafford (0785) 42081.*
- Hon. Librarian:* **D.M. NATHAN**, *7 Cromford Way, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3BB.*  
*Tel. 01-942 3881*
- Hon. Public Relations Officer* **PETER FORD**, *28 Orchard Close, Hail Weston, St. Neotts Cambs. PE19 4LF* *Tel. Huntingdon (0480) 219263*
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- North American Representative:* **MARK W. SWETLAND**, *32 Cat Brier Lane, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina 29926 U.S.A.*  
*Tel: (803) 83773326.*

## 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

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1992

<b>SAT.</b>	<b>29 FEB 2.15p.m</b>	<b>Airmails of Trinidad and Tobago - Mr. R.Wike</b>
		<b>Bermuda - Mr.D.Mitton</b>
	<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Stampex - ORCHID ROOM</b>
		<b>Royal Horticultural Hall, London, SW1.</b>
Sat.	2 May 2.15p.m	AGM and Auction.
	Venue:	The York Room, The Bonnington Hotel, London.

Will members note the new date for the meeting at Stampex in February 1992. This change is due to altered circumstances beyond the control of the Study Circle. The Hon. Secretary hopes that members will be able to support the meeting on this new date.

## **OBITUARY - BASIL BENJAMIN BENWELL**

Study Circle members, and particularly all those numerous friends and members who knew him personally, will learn with the utmost sorrow and regret of the passing of Basil Benwell very suddenly at home on 12th August, 1991.

After leaving school and learning to type Basil entered the London School of Printing where he found that he had a talent for the practical side. Printing was clearly his *métier* and he became a star student and later a Master Printer.

He joined the Army during the Second World War and after service in the United Kingdom he was posted overseas to Ceylon. In Ceylon the Army used his printing talent and he provided a map of Burma to Army requirements. Here in Ceylon he met Jean who was also in uniform being a member of the ATS. After demobilisation in 1946 they married and settled down in a flat in London and Basil entered into a partnership involved in silk screen printing and display making. The business grew steadily and expanded into larger premises. However, in the late 1960's he left the partnership and started up his own company under the name of B.B. Benwell and Company which soon began to flourish. When his Company became established Basil was joined by his eldest son Paul whom he trained to follow in his footsteps. This training continued until Basil retired on his sixtieth birthday content to leave Paul to run the business.

From printing to philately was but a natural step and shortly after demobilisation Basil decided to collect the stamps of Barbados. The development and expansion of this collection was to become his major collecting interest during the next thirty five years until it was disposed of some six years ago when it had become a fine specialised collection. Thereafter he collected Great Britain stamps used in foreign ports of the West Indies and in Central and South America; also the stamps of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company. As a sideline he also collected Gibraltar for a number of years and he was a member of the Gibraltar Study Circle as well as being a member of Orpington which was his local society.

Basil displayed internationally as well as nationally winning numerous awards. The award of which he was most proud was the Stanley Gibbons Cup in 1980 at the British Philatelic Exhibition. He corresponded over the years with Tom Adams a fellow collector of Barbados. Tom Adams later became the Prime Minister of Barbados and in that capacity opened the Gibbons Gallery in the Strand with Basil providing the opening exhibit.

As regards the Study Circle, he was connected with it from the beginning and was the last active Founder Member. He told the story that in January 1954 he saw a notice in the philatelic press requesting anyone interested in the formation of a British West Indies Study Circle to meet at the flat of one Philip Saunders in Maida Vale. Basil attended and found about a dozen others there and as a result our Study Circle came into existence. People like Basil make up the backbones of Study Circles and Societies. He became the first Hon. Editor of the Bulletin from July 1959 to December 1969 and was an active member of the Committee for many years. He was also the first Life Member for services rendered - an honour awarded to very few persons. His assistance to the Study Circle included the typing of the manuscripts for all of Len Britnor's books published by the Study Circle.

Apart from philately his other abiding passion was gardening at which he spent long hours especially after retirement from business. Those of us who knew him will remember his pleasant personality and that he was a wonderfully humourous person - humour being an attribute only too scarce these days. He was a good friend and will be sorely missed. Our sincere condolences extend to Jean Benwell and her family. Your President attended the funeral with his wife at Charing Crematorium, near Ashford, Kent.

E. Victor Toeg

## **Editors Note**

For those members that pay their subscriptions/dues annually please note that the payment is required at the beginning of January. Prompt payment saves on the extra work involved for the Treasurer in chasing up late payers.

Convention details will be in the March 1992 Bulletin.

My thanks go to all of those people that have sent in material for the Bulletin in the past year. All items are welcome and the help in filling the bulletin is appreciated.

To **ALL** members, the advertisers and all concerned with the production of the bulletin

**“A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND AN ENJOYABLE NEW YEAR”**

## BWI WATERMARK VARIETIES

The following list represents an expanded and updated version of the checklist published in the bulletin of September 1981, a respectable ten year interval. As before, it limits itself to varieties of the earlier reigns, up to and including the reign of George VI. However, it is more comprehensive than the previous listing in that it includes three categories previously omitted:

- the varieties of the Perkins Bacons issues, many of which are not rare but which are nonetheless of interest;
- the stamps of Jamaica and Trinidad;
- missing letters in the dandy roll, but not the errors in the crown, which are comprehensively listed in Gibbons Part 1.

In addition, while not volunteering a scarcity rating for all items I have indicated those I have found to be relatively common. By that, I do not necessarily mean that they are cheap but rather that they are offered fairly frequently in dealer's lists or in auction.

For those who appreciate relatively cheap rarities - and not many collectors could deny that they are - the field is an attractive one since prices tend to reflect the value of the basic stamp on which the variety appears rather than the scarcity of the variety. If one can only find them, unique or rare varieties on very cheap stamps may be priced at a few pounds. In some countries, such as Bermuda, the market is more mature but nonetheless knowledge in this under-researched area can be rewarding. One might argue that such varieties as have been identified are only the tip of the iceberg but this used to be true of village postmarks and it did not prevent them rising rapidly in price as specialist interest increased. The only legitimate objection that I can see to the growth of interest in this area is that the watermark cannot effectively be displayed. That has not, however, deterred exhibitors of gold medal collections including rare varieties in their displays.

A large number of persons have contributed information to this listing and it would be invidious to mention any by name. I would, of course, welcome any additions or confirmation of those marked by a question mark. These latter represent varieties of which I have only seen a single report and whose accuracy I have not been able to confirm.

### Checklist of BWI watermark varieties.

(numbers refer to SG Part One, 1991 edition)

Legend:- (c) = relatively common, (s) = watermark normally sideways,  
(?) = confirmation sought.

<u>Antigua</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	13, 14, 15, 17(all c), 22(?), 24, 36, 40(?), 41, QV Stamp Duty 1d, 6d, 2/- and 4/-.
	<u>Reversed</u>	13-18(all C) and 25.
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	13, 15, 17, 18, 24, 25 and 57.
	<u>Sideways</u>	5-10, 70 and QV Stamp Duty 2/-.
<u>Bahamas</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	20-31 (all c), 35, 36, 38, 39, 52, 58, 71(c), 74(c), 78, 98, 99, 102, 106, 107, 108, 110, 111(c), 112(c), 116(c), 116 specimen and 120(s).
	<u>Reversed</u>	20-31, 33, 40, 42-3(all C), 102, 105, 106, 112(c), 116(c), 118(s) and Sp Delivery S1.
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	24(c), 69, 71, 99(c), 107, 112, 116(c) and 118(s).
	<u>Sideways</u>	107(c),
	<u>Missing C in CA</u>	111.
	<u>Missing A in CA</u>	111.
<u>Barbados</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	68, 72, 73(all C), 77, 79, 89, 91, 94, 98, 105, 106, 114, 119, 124, 145(c), 146, 147(c), 149, 170a, 181(c), 182(c), 183(c), 185, 187a, 188, 190, 196, 197, 201, 202, 203, 206(c), 208, 209(s)?, 210(s), 211(s)?, 215, 220(c) and 220a.
	<u>Reversed</u>	67, 68, 71, 72, 73, 74, 76, 77, 81, 82, 83 (all c), 98, 146, 147, 187, 189, 201, 202, 209(s), 210(s), 211(5), 217(c), 220 and 228.
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	74, 181, 182, 184, 185, 187, 187a, 188, 190(c), 196, 201, 202, 203, 209(s), 210(s), 217, 220 and 221.
	<u>Sideways</u>	74 and 171.
	<u>Upright (normally sideways)</u>	70a.
	<u>Missing C in CA</u>	201, 202, 205 and 211(s).
	<u>Missing A in CA</u>	202 and 251a.
<u>Barbuda</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	4(c).
	<u>Reversed</u>	2 and 3.
<u>Bermuda</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	1, 2, 3, 4, 5(c), 6, 7(c), 8, 10a, 11, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24a, 27, 27a, 27b, 36, 45a(?), 46a, 48, 53(c), 54, 55, 59(s), 60(s), 61(s), 68(s), 75(s), 77, 81a, 82, 83(c) and 89(?).
	<u>Reversed</u>	5, 29, 29a, 34(c), 45, 46b, 47(?), 48, 51b, 59(s), 60(s), 62(s)?, 69(s), 71(s), 74(s), 77, 78, 78b, 80(c) and 81a.

<u>Bermuda</u>	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	46, 48, 53, 60(5), 61(s) 75 specimen(s), 76 and 81a.
	<u>Sideways</u>	119b(?).
	<u>Missing A in CA</u>	59(s) and 69(s).
	<u>Missing C In CA</u>	59, 61, 68, 69, 72 and 76(all s).
<u>Br. Guiana</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	127, 130, 131, 132, 173, 194, 199, 216, 219, 219 Specimen, 222, 244 and 261.
	<u>Reversed</u>	171, 174, 202, 205 and 216.
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	216.
	<u>Sideways</u>	260 and 289.
	<u>Upright (normally sideways)</u>	312.
<u>Br. Honduras</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	10a, 15, 20, 25, 37, 51, 53, 81, 82, 96, 101, 102, 116 and D3.
	<u>Reversed</u>	14, 116 and 132(?).
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	5 and 120.
<u>Br. Virgin Is</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	31, 78b, 79(c), 80 and 112.
	<u>Reversed</u>	35.
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	78 and 79.
	<u>Sideways</u>	78.
<u>Cayman Is</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	60(c), 60a and 70.
	<u>Missing A in CA</u>	87.
	<u>Reversed</u>	56, 63 and 74.
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	60(c), 69 and 75
<u>Dominica</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	5, 6, 16, 22, 27(s), 31(s), 37(s), 48(s), 49(s), 50(s),52(s) and R2.
	<u>Reversed</u>	28(s) and 38(s).
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	47(s).
	<u>Missing C in CA</u>	59, 125 and 128.
	<u>Missing A in CA</u>	59.
<u>Grenada</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	92, 98d(c) and 111.
	<u>Reversed</u>	50.
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	78.
	<u>Sideways</u>	23.
	<u>Upright (normally sideways)</u>	21.
<u>Jamaica</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	1-16(c), 18, 19, 20, 22a, 24, 27-30, 31(s), 32(s), 33, 36,37, 40, 47, 62, 68, 70, 71, 74, 78, 79(s), 80(s), 81-3, 85, 86, 91, 92(s), 93(s), 95, 97, 99, 100 and 102.
	<u>Reversed</u>	30c, 31(s), 32(s), 78, 79(s), 80(s), 82a, 85, Slavery 6d Specimen MCA, 93(s), 95-7, 99 and 102.
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	31(s), 32(s), 79(s), 81, 82a, 86, 93(s) and 95.
	<u>Sideways</u>	59, 71, 74 and 121.
	<u>Upright (normally sideways)</u>	80.
<u>Leewards Is</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	3, 51c, 74a and 114c(c)
	<u>Reversed</u>	65.

<u>Leeward Is</u>	<u>Sideways</u>	114c(c).
<u>Montserrat</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	1(c), 5, 10(c), 15 and 61a.
	<u>Reversed</u>	1(c), 2(c), 5, 7(c), 7b(c) and 13.
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	1(c) and 60.
	<u>Missing C in CA</u>	61.
	<u>Missing A in CA</u>	61.
<u>Nevis</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	23.
<u>St.Christopher</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10(c), 17, 19 and 20.
	<u>Reversed</u>	1a, 2, 11 and 13.
	<u>Sideways</u>	1(c), 8, 10, 11 and 13.
<u>St.Kitts-Nevis</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	26(?), 46(s,c) and 46 Specimen (s).
	<u>Reversed</u>	22(c), 32(s), 33(s) and 34(s).
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	26(s,c) and 33(s).
<u>St.Lucia</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	8, 12, 16, 18a(all C), 82b and F7.
	<u>Reversed</u>	5, 5b, 7, 8, 9, 11a, 12-18a, 23(all C) and F8.
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	12d(c).
<u>St.Vincent</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	40, 41, 43, 46, 47, 48, 49 Specimen, 51 a, 52(c), 52 Specimen, 53, 55a, 68, 109, 122, 124, 126, 127 and 158a.
	<u>Reversed</u>	39(c), 40(c), 41(c), 41a(c), 42, 43(c), 43a(c), 44, 45, 46(c), 47(c), 47a, 48(c), 48b, 49, 50, 51a, 52, 55a, 112a, 114, 119, 126, 127, 3d/1d revenue, ½d orange and 1d green QV colour trials.
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	40, 41, 43, 51a, 109 and 124.
<u>Tobago</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	3(c), 7, 10 and 20.
<u>Trinidad</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	85, 98, 107, 110(all c), 127, 176a, 220, 220a and D12.
	<u>Reversed</u>	70, 71, 73, 81, 85, 88, 92, 95, 96, 98, 100, 102, and 104 (all C).
101,	<u>Sideway</u>	69 and 99.
<u>Turks Is.</u>	<u>Inverted</u>	102, 103, 104a, 111, 112, 115, 116, 117, and 120, 124, 129, 132, 136, 137, 146a(c), 149(c), 151, 153(c) and 160.
<u>Turks and Caicos</u>	<u>Reversed</u>	49(s), 55(c), 58, 101, 103, 117(c), 120, 120specimen, 130a, 133c, 136, 138b, 51,153(c), 160(c), 169 and 171.
	<u>Inverted &amp; Reversed</u>	104a, 117, 153(c), 157 and 170.
	<u>Missing A in CA</u>	134a.
	<u>Sideways</u>	4 and 60.
	<u>Upright (normally sideways)</u>	49.

Charles Freeland

# DOMINICA

## THE STRAIGHT LINE “DOMINICA” HANDSTAMP

It has often been said that “time and patience” are required to become a good collector. These two commodities payed off recently when I came into possession of two entires bearing a single straight line “DOMINICA” handstamp, both of which are different and unrecorded.



Fig.1

The first item (fig.1) is addressed to Edinburgh and is part of the Andrew Steele correspondence. It is dated 1st. Sept 1800. On its front it bears an Edinburgh Bishop mark (of arrival) in red dated NO/11 as well as the scarce S1 oval “ShipLre Crown Liverpool” in red which was in use from 1800 until 1804. On the reverse is a straight line DOMINICA (Type PD) with seriphed capitals. Size of mark 50mm x 4mm.

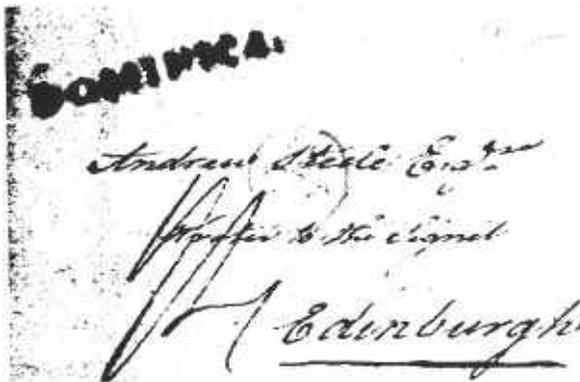


Fig.2

The second entire (fig.2) is also addressed to Edinburgh (being from the same correspondence as above). It is dated 1805 and bears a Bishop mark (of arrival) in red dated AUG/11 as well as the oval S3 “SHIP-LETTERY CROWN LIVERPOOL in red. On its face is the “DOMINICA” straight line handstamp (Type PD) with seriphed capitals. Size of mark 45mm x 4mm.

After the third hand-struck stamp of Dominica, which ends in 1798, comes the first appearance in 1799 of a two line handstamp incorporating the year and date. It would seem that this handstamp was in use until the introduction of the

large Fleuron in 1806. It seems that all of these dates except for the years of 1800 and 1805 have been accounted for so that when these two unrecorded covers came to light it filled in the missing gaps in the jigsaw. The question to be now asked is why should these two handstamps have been made in the first place, when there was a perfectly good two line handstamp introduced and used in 1799.

The interesting point about the handstamps of Dominica is that none of the periods of use overlap one another as so often happened in other islands in the B.W.I. Dominica had a chequered history during the 18th Century being captured and occupied by both the British and French. The first settlers were French who arrived in 1632. It was captured by the British in 1761 and ceded by France in 1763. This was the first occupation by the British.

1. The first handstamp to appear is "DOMINICO" (Type PA) but does not occur again after August 31st 1778. Note:- On the 7th of September 1778 a French attack force landed on Dominica from Martinique.
2. The two line "DOMI/NICA" (Type PC) is the next handstamp to be recorded. Its latest use is 15th May 1795. Note:- This was the year that a French invasion force from Guadeloupe attacked the island from two points but failed to capture the island.
3. The third handstamp is "DOMINICA" (Type PA) appears in 1796 just after the last invasion and was in use until 1798.
4. The fourth handstamp appears in 1799 this is the first appearance of a two line handstamp with month and year below "DOMINICA" (Type PF). This mark would have seemed to be the last until the large Fleuron in 1806.
5. The fifth handstamp in 1800 "DOMINICA" (Type PD) as illustrated in fig.1 makes its only appearance in that year. Note:- There is evidence to suggest a small force from Guadeloupe raided the capital Roseau but was quickly repelled.
6. The last handstamp to appear in Dominica (illustrated in fig.2) makes its first and only appearance in 1805 "DOMINICA" (Type PD) but of different length and appearance of its predecessor in 1800. Note:- Again this is the year that 4,000 troops under General La Grange took Roseau the capital and pillaged the island, but the governor refused to surrender and the French left.

It would therefore seem that with each occupation by the French the Post-Office or at least the handstamp was destroyed, and that with the re-opening of the Post-Office by the British, new handstamps were made. This would account for the fact that there was no over-lapping in their use.

Stephen Sugarman

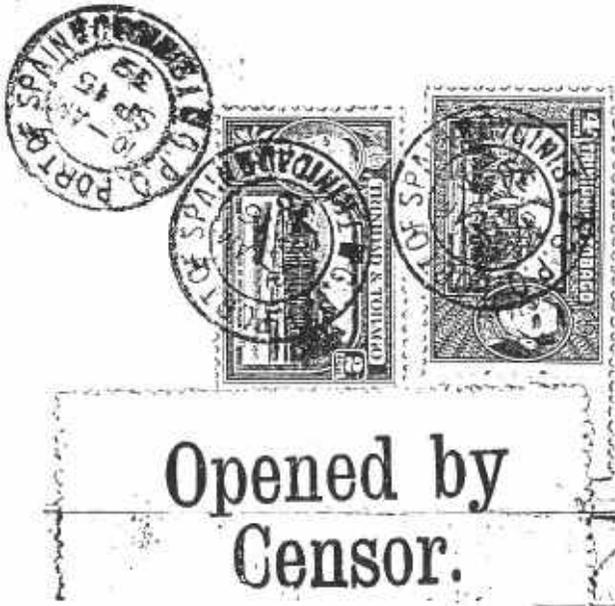
## NEVIS

Sperati forgery of De La Rue 6d green - Additional Information. A small position dot to left of SIX PENCE", perhaps used by Sperati to position loose value tablet. Any comments would be most welcome.

Peter Jaffé

## ST. LUCIA

With respect to the queries raised by John Gardner on St. Lucia (Bulletin No.149 - p.37). Figure 2 is a Trinidad applied sealing label used in the first two/three weeks of September 1939. Earliest known date of usage is 1st Sept. 1939 and the latest known date (shown below) is 15th Sept. 1939.



The label appears to have been locally printed and is perforated on 2/3 sides. All examples seen to-date have been used in conjunction with the handstamp. The handstamp is also that of Trinidad censorship and is as noted that of Type TR/1 B, there are two varieties of this handstamp which can be differentiated by the size of the crown.

In conjunction with fellow collectors of Trinidad and Censorship mail I am in the course of updating the pioneer work of Brian Renshaw and others on Trinidad censorship. I would welcome any further information on Trinidad censorship which has not been recorded in the Roses handbook.

Ron Wike

# ST. VINCENT

## Early OHMS covers (official and unofficial use)

As far as I know there has been little or no research on the early OHMS covers of St. Vincent but the recent sale of one at Christies Robson Lowe (19th. September 1991, lot 3982) was significant in that it was struck with the Crowned Circle PAID AT ST VINCENT and dated June 6, 1866 (the catalogue was in error in describing it as July 6).

The use of the Crowned Circle itself is fairly well documented up to and including its provisional period in 1862 during the shortage of 6d adhesives. Now the appearance of an 1866 OHMS cover to Copenhagen indicates that the mark was probably kept for its correct (limited) use throughout the 1860's and OHMS covers may provide the evidence.

An ordinary Polignac cover of February 24 1865 which is struck with the PAID mark rated 8d and franked with a 6d adhesive (illustrated in PML p.31) may have been a mistake and we know that by the 1870's the PAID mark turns up occasionally used as a killer on adhesives (1d black, 4d yellow, 1/- rose red and 1/- claret are recorded - DOES ANYONE KNOW OF ANY OTHERS ?).



Fig.1 - Envelope size 137mm x 78mm

Some years ago I purchased an OHMS cover (with the adhesive cut out) (fig.1) on which a strip of paper had been pasted over the OHMS legend to remove its official status. The envelope, dated 8th. January 1863, is identical to the one sold at Christies Robson Lowe and these are the only two used examples I have on record. They are notable for the handsome red on white embossed seal of the colony on the flap, and it might be assumed that they were ordered from Perkins Bacon through the Crown Agents, although I have not found any records to support this.

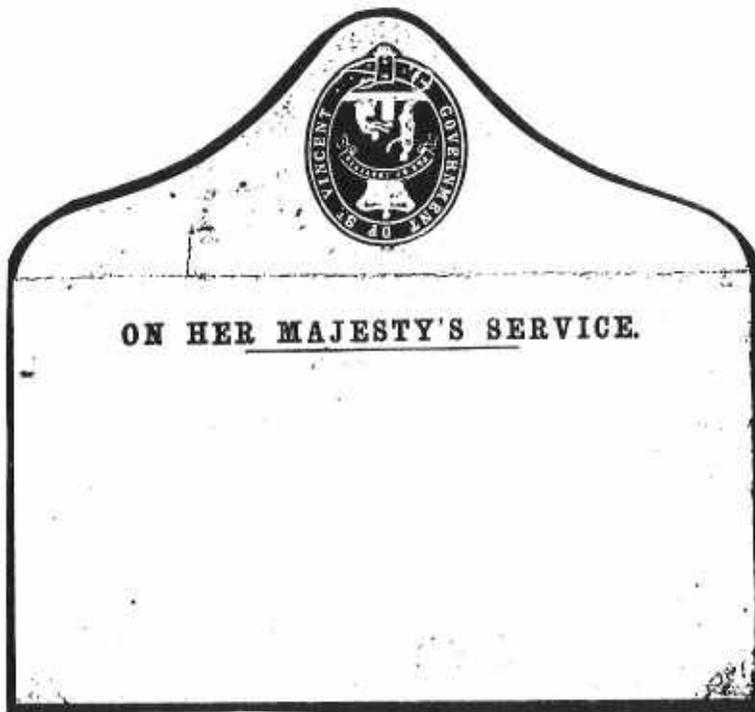


Fig.2 - Envelope size 138mm x 78mm

These 1860's covers should not be confused with the later OHMS covers (fig.2) which also have the seal of the colony on the flap in raised white on red background and with poorer quality embossing. The example in my collection is unused, as are the other three or four I have seen. Although I am not aware of any evidence for or against, the late Bobby Messenger told me he believed the covers were from the 1880's and probably printed by De La Rue. Neither of us at that time knew of the existence of the earlier OHMS covers.

Does anyone have a used example of either type or any further information to cast further light upon their origins?

Vincent Duggleby

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## VILLAGE CANCELLATIONS - MANUSCRIPT MARKS

Sorry, Michael! The two Antigua stamps which you illustrated under the heading "Antigua used in St. Kitts" do not persuade me that Antigua stamps were used in any village of St. Kitts. Some statistics will assist my point.

**St. Christopher stamps.** Village manuscript dates turn up quite a lot on these stamps; among the 50 or so in my hands, the dates range from 18.8.74 to 19.12.89. Dates after 1886 seem to be uncommon, or are less easy to ascribe to villages with confidence; for you seldom see, from 1887 onwards, the characteristic boldly written date - usually bottom left to top right at the earliest period, and top left to bottom right thereafter. Most of the later dates are written in a different, less prominent style; and I suspect that by 1889 only one of the villages was using the old format.

Nevis used a similar style of cancellation on ½d and 1d stamps, presumably on letters collected by a local constable on his rounds. Eight examples noted date from 11.2.81 to 11.4.88, and here again the latest date is less florid than the earlier ones.

**St. Lucia** provides odd examples in a similar style - I have too few copies to establish a pattern.

**Dominica** villages used manuscript cancellations which might or might not include village name with the date. Dates were more discreetly written than as above, and I know no clear way of distinguishing between a postal and a fiscal cancellation, although Peter Jaffé has pointed out that postage stamps were only available for fiscal use for a limited period.

In Antigua I have mounted 16 stamps on a page, comprising fourteen 1d and one 2½d stamp of the colony, and one Leeward 1d. Half of these show part of a postmark, as well as the village date, and the range is from 10.3.82 to 29.11.94. Only two of the dates cover the stamps as comprehensively as in St. Christopher - these are from 1882 and 1888, bottom left to top right. There is one 1890 date (4.7.90) written top left to bottom right, less assertively than Michael's chosen two. I should also ascribe to Antigua a second Leewards 1d boldly dated from bottom left 14.9.92, although one ought perhaps to treat the allocation to postal usage at this island as too speculative to be hard evidence.

The two points that emerge from this review are, first, that manuscript dates of the kind discussed by Michael are just as easy to associate with Antigua villages as with any other island; secondly, that the style of writing in use in St. Kitts in the earlier 1880's is no guide to what to expect there in 1890. Perhaps the services of a graphologist are exactly what we do need!

Simon Goldblatt

## TOBAGO

In the March Bulletin No.149, Michael Medlicott referred to the “dropped final S in shilling” on the 5/- duty plate used by De La Rue for St. Kitts-Nevis and Tobago and asked for information about its positioning. I have a left marginal block of four of the Tobago 5/- (CA watermark) in which the “dropped S” occurs on both marginal stamps. In a recent Pennymead auction there was a horizontal strip with left margin, the first stamp with the variety.

Michael also asks for confirmation of the existence of the variety on the Tobago CC watermark. The “dropped S” can be found on this stamp too. After checking photocopies of more than one hundred examples, I have noted the variety on more than a dozen. Moreover, the only left hand marginal example I have seen shows it.

My conclusion is that the variety is constant on all stamps in the first column (ie. ten stamps in the pane of 60). I would be interested to learn if any member can disprove this theory by finding a left-margin example without the flaw.

Charles Freeland

## TURKS ISLANDS

The illustration below shows the Turks Is. 1d stamp (SG1) cancelled with a postmark comprising a grille of dots.



This is a mark which I have so far been unable to identify. The mark is similar to the French “Cercle de Points” which was used in Paris (1863) for a few years. It is not the Anchor postmark, the dots of which are much further apart.

I do not think it is a fake - can anyone enlighten me.

John Challis

# ST. KITTS-NEVIS / TOBAGO

The latest Pennymead auction has provided a partial answer to my query in the March Bulletin No.149.



In the illustrated strip of three of the Tobago 1884 five shilling (CA Watermark), the left-hand stamp shows the dropped final “S” in SHILLINGS, and is clearly stamp 1 in the row. Which row, please someone, and which pane?

Michael Medicott

## WANTED

Antigua - SG 53 War Tax ‘Specimen’ and SG 108 George VI 10/- ‘Specimen’. Please contact Doug Nottingham with offers at “Rebmevon”, 17 Wayfield Drive, Stafford. ST16 1TR.

## INFORMATION WANTED

A request for help has been received from Steve Papworth and is as follows:-

The death of my maternal great grandfather, Samuel George ADAMS, in Devonshire, Bermuda on 27th November 1873 at the age of 51, is recorded in the Bermuda Gazette of 4th December of that year with a notation in brackets “(Turks Islands paper please copy)”.

His father-in-law (and so my great great grandfather) Capt. Richard Mallory WEBB died in Bermuda in December 1829 aged 43. His “title” marks his profession with the sea and he is known to be connected with Brown’s Boatyard on the island.

Research of Bermuda archives have proved negative, and none has been undertaken in Turks Islands. If any member has, or knows of, any correspondence or other documents addressed to or emanating from either of these persons in either Bermuda or Turks Islands (or any other part of the West Indies) I would be pleased to hear of it.

Steve Papworth

## THE ENCYCLOPIEDIA OF BRITISH EMPIRE POSTAGE STAMPS: VOLUME VI LEEWARD ISLANDS.

Am I alone in feeling disappointment that Tony Farmer's review of "Leeward Islands" (R.L. Encyclopaedia Vol.VI) was so uncritical (this from our eagle-eyed auditor!)?

We are, after all, a specialist Circle, and should not accord unstinted praise to a publication without commenting upon significant imperfections or omissions.

One palpably weak area relates to **village cancellations**. Take St. Kitts-Nevis (p.141) where we are told, once the various Post Offices and Sub-Offices have been listed –

"At some time, Anguilla also had cancellations for Forest and Crocus Hill. Manuscript postal cancellations were occasionally used..."

As a postal cancellation the name of Crocus Hill is unknown to me. If (as I suspect) this is simply the local name for the location of Anguilla's one recognized Office, the reference is confusing at best. What is widely known is that between about 1928 and 1930 Anguilla used TRD's with four different names: BLOWING POINT, EAST END, FOREST and ROAD. At the same period TRD's were being used at CAYON, DIEPPE BAY and OLD ROAD. These scarce and valuable marks surely deserve specific mention. Moreover, what is said about manuscript cancellations is less than clear; there is no established system of usage during the period of unified usage of St. Kitts-Nevis stamps, in contrast to the position up to the 1890's, and I feel that manuscript cancels at the later period would be random and of scant philatelic significance.

Turning to Montserrat, the 1921 date suggested on p.82 for village c.d.s. cannot be right for most of the villages, and I imagine that GPO proof records would show that several instruments were proofed around 1930. Here again TRD's were in use in the late 1920's: they are even scarcer than those of Anguilla, and I only have one example (Harris).

In Virgin Is., it was I myself who started the hare that a squared circle mark exists - see p.160. I am now satisfied that this was a fake, and the reference to it in the Encyclopaedia could perpetuate heresy. On this page TRD's are correctly assigned to EAST END and WEST END: note that there was a similar instrument for ANEGADA at the same period.

It should also be noted that where TRD's are concerned there may be more than one used in a particular sub-office. This was true of East End, Tortola, and of at least one of the Anguilla offices.

The reviewer could well have pointed out that illustration C on p.159 does not correspond with the text, and accidentally duplicates the illustration on the row below. Returning to p.160, I regard B16 as being wholly unverified on a Virgin Is. stamp; moreover, if one can judge from a black-and-white illustration, the stamp shown falls exactly within the warning given about FAKES on p.168. My tentative view is that it is in the wrong shade (that of the 6d perf.12) and has been re-perforated. Observe too that the 4d stamp illustrated with "bogus bars" on p.161 is itself a forgery, whereas the 1d stamp pictured next to Fournier's forged A91 almost certainly has a genuine postal cancellation!

On p.159, the text dealing with A1 3 suggests continuous usage; however, this instrument was, to the best of my knowledge, wholly out of use between about 1870 and 1902. Curiously, the A91 on GB 2d (illustration C) may be quite genuine, but it would be an Atlantic cancellation, nothing to do with Virgin Is. I have great difficulty with A13 cancellations on GB stamps; a certificate should always be sought, and sometimes a second opinion would be merited.

Returning to village cancellations, this time to Antigua, even the comprehensive list on p.12 should be approached with caution. The starting dates given, for example, for Cedar Grove, Johnson's Point, Montpelier and Seatons must all be set back a number of years; Bethesda and Bolans deserve to be spelled properly; and should we not treat "Durham" as an erroneous duplication of **Parham**? If "Betty's Hope" exists, this must belong to the post-war period, and I retain strong reservations about "Swetes"; but how come that the list leaves out **Pares**?

Moving to Dominica cancellations, why do we read (p.49) that the earliest manuscript date recorded is 1 March 1876? I have made no secret of a "Wesley" of 30/7/75 on SG1, and Rob Wynstra has probably improved on this date by now. In other respects the earlier village cancellations are adequately summarised; in contrast, the passage at the foot of p.50 beginning "Later date stamps noted" should either have been expanded to give a proper list of the quite numerous later cancellations, or re-worded so as to make plain that the position after 1936 is not really considered. Moreover I should have liked to see reference to the handstamp or manuscript cancellations of YARE on Dominica landscape issues. These are scarcer and less well known than EDEN, ESK and SOLENT (see p.196) but are of similar philatelic importance.

On p.75 SG R5 is given the rating “S”. I believe that any Dominica specialist would consider this stamp **mint** to be a major rarity. Under Postal Stationery, the text after PC1 leaves me baffled. Surely this refers to PC2, a card of which 100 copies were prepared, according to the message on the only complete used card known to me. Of unused examples, we have offered two in our own auctions, and I speculate that about 20 such have survived. To the above can be added a substantial fragment of another used example, sent to Brighton on 1 JY 82, with a further ½d adhesive added.

I do not wish to seem carping, by continuing with detailed criticism. Volume VI has assembled, as one would expect, a wealth of valuable information, but the content is patchy in places. Thus readers should be careful not to treat the text as universally correct, or as necessarily the last or latest word on any subject; and they should watch carefully for misprints. See, for example, in Antigua, that at some stage an additional R number has been added to the basic stamps listed, whereas the commentary was not subsequently revised: so that between pp.26 and 29 there are mistaken references back to R60 (should be R61) against R63 and 64, and there are similar wrong cross- references under later listings of Varieties.

Buy “Leeward Islands” by all means. Read it and enjoy it. When using it for information and research, always remember that it is a selective collation of facts and theory derived from stamps that have been sold by auction and articles that have been written over the past 30 or 40 years, and makes no pretence to give commensurate treatment to each of the islands under any particular heading. Nothing that comes from that master philatelist, Robson Lowe, and his team could be anything but praiseworthy; nothing that sets out to be a philatelic encyclopaedia could be truly encyclopaedic.

Simon Goldblatt

## REVIEWER RESPONSE

I was presumably asked to review Volume VI of Robbie Lowe’s Encyclopdia because it is titled - Leeward Islands. My knowledge does not have the depth or breadth of Simon’s beyond the Federal Issues. Perhaps my review was too generous when I said “the only criticism was “, but at least it has stimulated one member to come forward to implement and correct our knowledge. How about some more?

My contribution:-

1) There are four (not three) known blocks of four of the 1890 5 shilling with Sexagenary 1897 overprint.

- 2) I have a piece with the 1902 provisionals cancelled TORTOLA AU 11 02 therefore it would appear that this was the first day of issue for all the presidencies.
- 3) In the bibliography my monograph on the Sexagenary Overprint should, of course, read 1897 with J.A.C. as my initials - my son is not interested in philately!

Tony Farmer

## BOOK REVIEW

### **“THE AIR MAILS OF BERMUDA 1925-1989, A SPECIALISED CATALOGUE AND ILLUSTRATED PRICE LIST” by William J. Clark.**

2nd Edition, Revised and Enlarged.

Published by the Havemeyer Press, Greenwich, Connecticut, USA. Available from the compiler/author P.O. Box 7432, Greenwich, CT06836, USA.

Priced at US \$24.95 (+ US \$3.00 p and p).

The ‘purist’ collector of Bermuda Airmails well knows that this subject area has a very limited range of material, with only six special air mail cachets applied by the Bermuda Postal Authority on its outgoing ‘flown’ mail during the 50 years from 1925 to 1976, the latest ‘cut-off’ date in any publication I have yet seen dealing with this subject. Even the incoming airmails bearing officially applied cachets used by the Postal Authority of the departure point are not particularly numerous.

In fact, the majority of ‘first flight’ airmail material is marked by a large, and varied, number of private or unofficial inscription that range from well designed pre-printed envelopes to simple manuscript endorsements and in many cases only the postal cancellations together with applied arrival mark or backstamp authenticates the item as having been flown.

As with any other work of a historical nature any considered evaluation of a newly offered publication must be based on answers to two questions:

- (1) does it add to or correct the old, previously recorded, information, and
- (2) has the presentation of the information been improved.

So for Mr. Clark’s new offering my answers are to (1) Yes, but only marginally so, and to (2) Yes, but only in a limited way.

My prime criticism is that for an ILLUSTRATED Price List and SPECIALISED Catalogue (the emphasis is mine) official cachets are inadequately identified, described and illustrated as such, as also are the varied plentitude of unofficial markings, and I draw attention to the word 'inadequate'. Illustrations of covers and markings are given, but the majority if not all are reduced in size and thus are relatively useless for direct comparative purposes. The markings themselves are not always listed with their own, unique, catalogue reference, nor are all combinations which can, and no doubt do, occur.

Mr. Clark is the first to admit that this is a "work in progress" and so will have some shortcomings. His first need, of course, is information and especially that which others have on the subject. He can control his presentational methods and, I am sure, will welcome any comments about that aspect, but he cannot include what he does not know and will be grateful for any information new to him. The Catalogue has been computerised (including the illustrations) thus making updating rapid and simple.

So is it worth having? If you have no access to other works of reference, if the subject is new to you, or if you have a great deal of knowledge and expertise that you are willing to share with fellow collectors, then the answer must be yes. Do so, and you will be able to obtain future editions at a substantial discount, even free, perhaps, if you contribute significantly to it's content. Alternately just borrow it from the Library (the copy reviewed has been placed on the shelves), see what you know that he doesn't include - and write to him about it!

SEP June 1991

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## **CONGRATULATIONS.**

Best wishes are sent to Michael Hamilton on his recent marriage to Eva Gabriela of Vienna. Nice to see you both at Leamington.

Congratulations to Bob Swarbrick and Tony Farmer for gaining Gold Medals at Autumn Stampex. Bob also got the 'PRIX D'HONNEUR - THE HARMERS JUBILEE TROPHY' with his 'Jamaica 1860 - 1930. Its Postage Stamps' while Tony took the 'PHILATELIC TRADERS SOCIETY TROPHY' with his 'Leeward Islands - Victorian Issues'.

Another winner is Edmund Bayley who was awarded a Gold Medal at STAMPSHOW'91 held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for his handbook "The Stamps of Barbados".

Success was also gained at the annual convention of the Hampshire Philatelic Federation held recently in Basingstoke. The Howard White Trophy competition for societies was won by the Fleet and North Hants P.S. represented by Tony Farmer's 'Leeward Islands Sexagenary Issue' and Mike Petitfor (non-member) 'Aden-Bombay Sea Post Office'. The trophy for the best individual display was

won by Steve Jarvis representing the Andover Philatelic Society with a well presented display of 'Jamaican Arms Issue of King Edward VII. Tony Farmer's display coming a close second.

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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. Price: UK, Europe (Air), and elsewhere overseas (printed paper rate) £5.25; USA (Air printed paper rate) US - \$9.50; (NO Discount).

"THE HISTORY OF THE SAILING PACKETS TO THE WEST INDIES" by L.E. Britnor. Hardbound, Qto. 172pp plus Index, 18 illustrations and 5 maps. Price: UK - £12.00; Europe and Overseas - £14.00; US - \$25.00 (Members Discount £2.00).

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## **NEW PUBLICATION**

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