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STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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JUNE 1992



AFFILIATED TO THE BRITISH PHILATELIC FEDERATION

Hon. Secretary: **M. R. WILSON**

Hon. Treasurer: **CRISTOPHER F. MAY**

Hon. Editor: **DENIS
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Hon. Auditor: **J.A.C. FARMER, F.C.A.**
*North American
Representative:* **MARK W. SWETLAND**

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.).

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PROGRAMME

1992

Sat. 17 Oct. At STAMPEX.
Two displays (to be arranged)

1993

Sat. 6 March At STAMPEX.
Two displays (to be arranged)

Sat. 24 April Bonnington Hotel, London. AGM
followed by annual Auction.

Note: Due to new balloting arrangements for room allocation at STAMPEX both the meetings at that venue are liable to alteration and members are advised to check their latest Bulletin for final information.

MINUTES OF AGM

MINUTES OF THE 38th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE HELD AT THE BONNINGTON HOTEL, LONDON, ON SATURDAY 2nd MAY 1992 at 2.15pm.

The meeting was opened by Mr.E.V. Toeg, the President, who extended a warm welcome to the 32 members present. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs F. Bennett, I. Chard, D. Charlesworth, J. Marriott, R.S. Martin and R.V. Swarbrick.

The minutes of the previous meeting on 27th. April 1991, as published in the June 1991 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 opened his report with the news that the President had been awarded the BPF's Award of Merit and that Peter Jaffé had been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. All members present signified their warmest congratulations to both recipients.

Mr. Wilson then continued by reviewing the activities of the Study Circle during the past year. He explained that future allocations of room space at STAMPEX for our meetings was by ballot, often at comparatively short notice and members would have to watch the Bulletin for the latest information about meetings. During the year the Study Circle has published the latest section of the Index to the Bulletin covering the period to December 1991, and it was stated that a further section bringing the Index up to date would be appearing in 1992. An updated version of the List of Members had also just been printed for issue to new members on joining - existing members could receive a copy on application to the Secretary. A stamped (Bulletin sized) envelope would be appreciated.

2. **Report by the Hon. Editor.** (Read in his absence by the Hon. Sec.) Mr. Charlesworth reported that there had been no major problems during the year except that once again he had suffered from a shortage of material. Members were exhorted to send him copy for the future and reminded that the Bulletin could only be as good as the members themselves made it.
3. **Report by the Hon. Treasurer.** Mr. Papworth began his report by reviewing the 11 years in which he had been the Hon. Treasurer, and

said that he considered that the Study Circle's finances were now in a satisfactory state. The surplus of income over expenditure for the year just ended was the highest in the history of the Study Circle, much of this being attributable to the annual auction and he praised Mr. Goldblatt for his unflinching efforts in this direction.

In discussion on the report Mr. Nottingham said that now was the time to consider the use of computers by the Study Circle as their price is as competitive as it has ever been, and urged that the Study Circle should buy one for the use of its Officers. This was referred to the Committee for consideration.

The accounts, as published in the March 1992 Bulletin, were adopted without dissent.

4. **Report by the Hon. Librarian.** Mr. Nathan reported that in the year ending December 1991 the library had been used for 54 loans totalling 227 items, while eight members had actually visited to browse through the contents - an encouraging increase in usage over previous years. Thirty books had been added to the Library, these will be listed in the Bulletin. It is hoped to carry out a full revision of the library catalogue as soon as possible, but Mr. Nathan asked that someone with a computer offer to help.
5. **Report by the Hon. PRO.** The Hon. PRO reported that there had been little active advertising during the year but that he had ensured that reports of meetings and the Convention were circulated to all philatelic journals. He also stated that advertising by others in the Bulletin was at a static level with only one new major client, however this was considered sufficient for the Bulletin at its present size.
6. **Report by the Chairman of the Committee.** Mr. Toeg reported that Mr.C.F. May had taken over as Acting Hon. Treasurer at the beginning of the year, an appointment which the meeting would be asked to ratify later. He paid tribute to the outgoing Treasurer and his dedicated work on the Circle's behalf. Mr. Toeg also reported on the committee's review of advertising rates, suggestions for the programme for 1992/3, suggestions for the Circle's 40th Birthday in 1994 and that he was intending to organise another Convention for October 1993.
7. **Election of the Officers and Committee.** The President, Vice-Presidents, Hon. Secretary, Editor, Librarian and PRO were willing to serve and were re-elected. Messrs Chard, Goldblatt, Hamilton and Mitton were willing to continue to serve on the Committee and they were

all considered to be re-elected en bloc. Mr.C. May, as Acting Hon. Treasurer was confirmed in the post. Mr.S. Sharp was elected as an additional member of the Committee.

8. **Vote of Thanks to Hon. Treasurer.** The Chairman then thanked Mr.S. Papworth for his long period of service to the Study Circle as Hon. Treasurer. He said that the Committee had agreed to recommend that Mr. Papworth be granted the sum of £50 with which to purchase some memento of his period of office and that, further, he be offered Life Membership of the Study Circle. These tokens were agreed with considerable acclaim.
9. **Election of the Hon. Auditor.** Mr.J.A.C. Farmer was willing to continue to serve and was unanimously re-elected.
10. **Award of the Gilbert W. Collett Memorial Trophy.** The Secretary announced that the Committee had decided to award the Memorial Trophy for the years 1990/1 to the President for his book "The Leeward Islands - Adhesive Fees Stamps". The trophy was handed to Mr. Toeg amid general applause.
11. **Biennial BWI Convention.** The President reported that it had been decided to hold another Convention to be held in Leamington Spa over the weekend of 9th. October 1993, immediately before STAMPEX. The question of a smoking ban in the Convention room was discussed but with emotive pleas from both factions the President said he would make no ruling and asked members to show both common sense and tolerance in the matter.
12. **Programme of Events.** The Secretary reminded the meeting of his earlier statement on meetings in which he said that the venue and date could be announced with only the minimum notice and advised members to watch the Bulletin carefully for details. The proposed Programme for 1991/92 would, hopefully, include a meeting at STAMPEX on Saturday 17th. October, and another, also at STAMPEX, in March 1993. The AGM was proposed for Saturday 24th. April 1993.
13. **The Study Circle's 40th Birthday.** The Secretary said that it was hoped to celebrate the Circle's 40th Birthday in 1994. As a start he had provisionally arranged that we be allocated the Stage area in the Hall at STAMPEX where the Study Circle would display BWI material.

He added that he would be approaching members to ask that they display part of their collections, and in this respect he hoped there would

be at least one frame available for each island/Colony. Other suggestions included a display in Gibbons gallery and social events. He asked that any member with any suggestions or views would make them known to him.

14. **Any Other Business.** Mr. Papworth pointed out to the meeting that Victor Toeg had become Acting President 25 years ago in 1967, becoming President the following year. Mr. Papworth listed Victor's many achievements during those years of dedicated and devoted service to the Study Circle. He felt that now was the time, perhaps long overdue, when the Circle should recognise these services by making Victor a Life Member. The proposal was agreed, and the President was warmly applauded.

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

STAMPEX DISPLAYS

Two displays were given to the 26 assembled members and 2 guests on Saturday 29th February when the Circle held a meeting at STAMPEX. The meeting commenced at 2-15pm in the Orchid Room at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Westminster, London. The displays were given by Ron Wike - "Airmails of Trinidad and Tobago" and by Dennis Mitton - Bermuda.

The first display "Airmails of Trinidad and Tobago" opened with memento's of the hazardous 1913 pioneer flights and went on to the first official airmail carried to Grenada by the U.S. Army Airmen in 1927. Mail to and from many of the destinations on the inaugural flight of the regular service by Pan American Airlines, piloted by Lindbergh in 1929, was shown including a crash cover from one of the feeder flights which still made the first flight.

Representative covers from the next airline into Trinidad, the short lived New York, Rio and Buenos Aires Airline, were featured together with covers from that airlines regional flights to Barbados, Tobago and Grenada. A special mention was made of finding that day, in a dealers junk box, one of only 15 items flown by NYRBA on the proving flight.

The French airline, Compagnie Generale Aeropostale, also had very short lived incursion into Trinidad from Venezuela in 1931 and covers from these flights were on display. The next landmark also involved Venezuela, this was the completion of the "Lindbergh Circle" by P.A.A. in 1931. This enabled mail to be

flown from Trinidad to the U.S.A. via either the Caribbean route (FAM 6) or Central America (FAM 5), mail to and from various points on the extension were shown including Belize, and to Jamaica via Barranquilla, these two destinations had despatches of 12 and 11 items only.

The next covers shown were non-scheduled official despatches, they included the Do-X flight and Captain Cipriani's flight to Barbados and St. Vincent in his "Humming Bird". Mail from the first direct acceptance by the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe via P.A.A. were displayed together with a crash cover from the 1936 crash in Cocorite Bay, Trinidad, one of only two pre-war P.A.A. accidents at Trinidad.

The pre-war extension by K.L.M. to Trinidad and Barbados was featured. This was followed by material illustrating the growth of B.W.I.A. to become the main regional carrier and eventually a Trans-Atlantic airline.

The P.A.A. wartime routes from Lisbon and to and from Africa were well represented including the only known surviving despatch from Trinidad on the first Clipper flight from Lisbon to the U.S.A. in February 1941.

The post war period included mail flown by B.O.A.C. from the U.K. to Venezuela in 1958 and Columbia in 1960 via Bermuda, Barbados and Trinidad, and the inaugural B.O.A.C. Boeing 747 and Concorde flights. The final selection included the Scandinavian Air Services first despatches and the B.W.I.A. extension to Denmark.

Peter Fernbank proposed the vote of thanks stating that he had found the display and talk most interesting. The meeting agreed with these remarks and showed their appreciation in the usual way.

The second display by Dennis Mitton was the Queen Victoria stamps and postal history of Bermuda with the aim of showing the different shades and varieties of each value. The display commenced with a unique set of De La Rue dummy stamps in blocks of 4 taken from the printers day book showing the paint recipes used for each value. The 1865 issue was depicted by interpanneau blocks of 4 and 8 of the 1d rose red and pale rose red showing the Somerset House perforation which gave rise to the wing marginal stamp. The 2d blue was shown in both shades by block and a used strip of 5. The 3d had imperforate plate proofs with and without a manuscript Specimen followed by the 6d dull purple with Specimen handstamp, used block of 4 and single values. The 1/- green had the same format as the 6d.

The 1874 colour change 6d value was shown in the distinct shades of deep dull, dull and pale dull mauve. The 1874 Threepence overprint on 1/- green was shown with all 3 different types of overprint followed by the 1875 One Penny overprint on the 2d, 3d and 1/- with varieties showing the round 'O' in One and double stop.

The 1880 issue of the ½d stone had a die proof and plate block showing the retouch on stamp 10. The 4d orange had various blocks of the pale and bright orange shade plus a superb Plate 1 block of 30, a used block of 12 which it is believed is the largest known used multiple and the only recorded copy with an inverted watermark.

The 1882 change of perforation issue had a block of 4 of the 3d yellow buff, 6d and 1/- including a block of 16.

The change of watermark to Crown CA issue was covered with blocks of 4 of each of the shades as listed by Gibbons plus a Sperati die proof of the 1/- value. The 1901 One Farthing overprint on shilling grey included an essay of the adopted overprint on an imperforate proof, the very rare 'F' inserted by hand and other varieties. The last issued Q.V. stamp, the 4d orange brown of 1904 was shown with blocks including the variety with watermark reversed. The second half of the display was of these stamps used on cover with various local covers, consignee covers, village post office cancels and postage due marks.

A vote of thanks for the display was given by John Smith who commented on the quality of the items displayed. The members present showed their approval in the usual manner.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

1980 75th Anniversary of Rotary International

A non-member of the Circle (E.J.E. Stowers of Teignmouth) has forwarded some information regarding a new variety that has been discovered. He has in his possession one unused stamp of the 50c value of the above set which is omitting the 50c value and Royal Cipher (ie the black colour omitted). The Royal Philatelic Society in London have examined the stamp and have issued a Certificate stating that in the opinion of the Expert Committee the stamp is genuine. He states that Stanley Gibbons will be listing the stamp in the 1993 Part 1 Catalogue under the number 499a.

BRITISH GUIANA

AN UNRECORDED HANDSTAMP



The illustration shows part of a double oval handstamp of which I can find no record. The letters "G.P.O. GEO" would imply "REGISTRATION G.P.O. GEORGETOWN B.G." if my calculation is correct. I cannot see anything in Townsend and Howe or Rego. It has been suggested to me that the postmark is faked since the inverted surcharges on this stamp and the 2c on 15c are scarcer used than unused, and whilst this scarcity is also my experience both Gibbons and Scott rate the difference overall at less than 10%. If it is faked, why did the faker go to the trouble of creating a handstamp when a smudge would change the status to that required. Any comments and help would be appreciated.

Michael B. Nicholson

DOMINICA

The Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia tells us of misplaced vignettes in the 3½d. value of the 1938 definitive series. Is this manifestation also known in the 1d. value? I have a couple of examples where the vignette is slightly but clearly printed upwards and to the right. I have another on which it has 'moved' downwards.

The most obvious manifestation is the position of the horizon in relation to the palm trees at the right.

I would be interested to hear from anyone who has studied this particular set, not only for the foregoing but also the shade varieties which do not seem listed anywhere.

Ian Small

JAMAICA PAID

The 'JAMAICA PAID' dated handstamp has often caused confusion as to its usage. This situation originally emerged due to the illustrations provided in the 1928 Handbook of Jamaica. ¹

In this work, although the description corrected the impression, the outer edge of the holder shows in the illustration as part of the postmark. In fact, this outer edging very seldom shows on the strikes.

The description, "an oblong (29 x 10½ mm) with squared corners" is probably as close as one could get. It is, at first sight, an insignificant little mark, yet throughout its long life it played many roles and is - in fact - worthy of more attention.

I suspect the "raison d'être" for this mark begins somewhat earlier than the date 1890 suggested.

In November, 1889, Bulletin No.1 was distributed to various interested parties in connection with the planned "Jamaica Exhibition".

This obviously had wide distribution and my copy bears the "FREE" mark of the "Colonial Secretary".

The mailing of the various notices and minutes of meetings must have caused problems, since I have examples variously stamped with the locally overprinted ½d official and later, in 1890, the 1d London overprinted official used on an envelope specially prepaid "Jamaica Exhibition Office".

My first example of the "JAMAICA PAID" dated handstamp is on a notice of a meeting of the Committee, and is dated the 15th August, 1890, and is probably the first use of the dater on "bulk mailed" circulars. On this dater, it is interesting to note that the year "1890" has the figures all in the same size.

The next grouping of covers I have are all 1893 vintage, namely, 28th January, 6th May, 28th September and 21st October - all are ex Astley Clerk.

An accompanying letter dated 1st February, 1893, from Geo. Pearce - the Postmaster General - in answer to a query from Astley Clerk, states that the use of the handstamp "represents the payment of Newspapers posted in bulk on the original wrapper of which Postage Stamps had been affixed".

Interestingly, from now on, the final two figures of the "year" are from a much smaller font.

Another example, dated the 12th November, 1896, is on an envelope from Guys Hill. Again, it is from Astley Clerk's collection and is accompanied by a letter from the Postmaster General. After a brief preamble the letter states, "The letter...has been marked 1d paid because the Postmistress at Guys Hill had run out of stamps". The envelope is backstamped the 11th November, 1896.

Armed with this knowledge, I have been able to pick up from dealers' stocks an example used at Hope Bay, dated the 7th August, 1894, Fig.1.

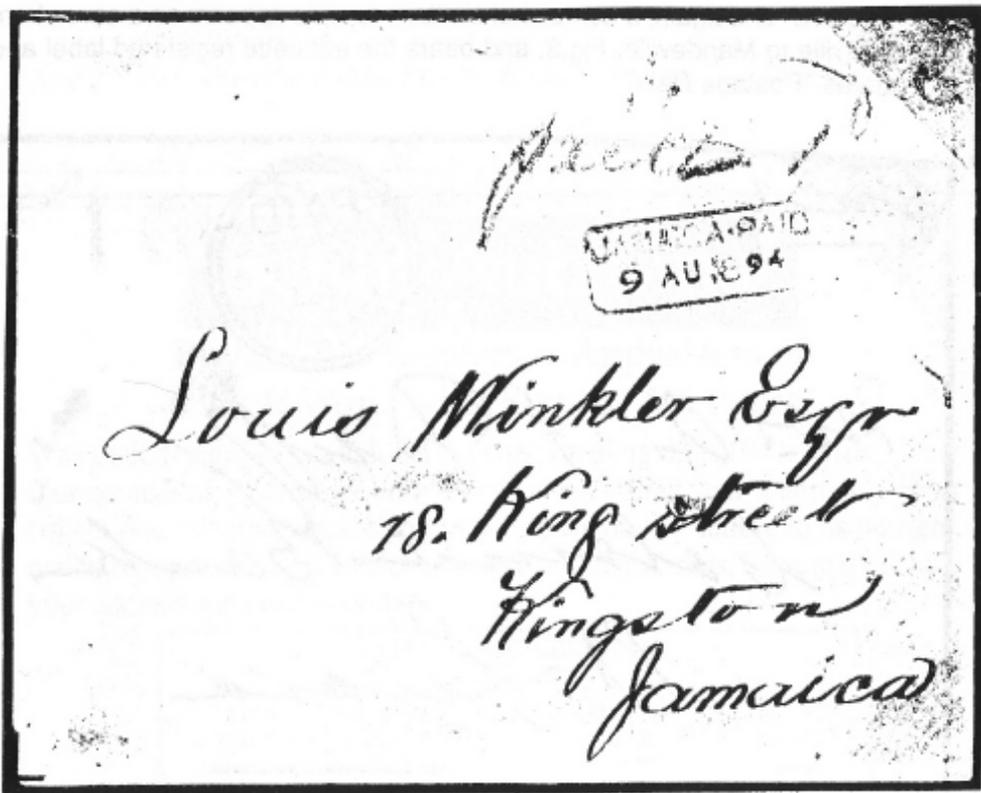


Fig.1.

The use of this handstamp in this role must be considered rare, as the shortage could only have lasted a few days.

This dater was also used, briefly, on 22nd February, 1890 on the mail salvaged from the "Haughton River" incident in February of that year.² No doubt many letters lost their adhesives in the immersion and since all the mail was destined for overseas the addition of the handstamp would ensure the letters passed without financial penalty.

Strangely, my copy of the mail salvaged from the "Ailsa" does not carry the handstamp. Perhaps it occurs elsewhere?

To round off this little story, I have picked up examples of similar usage of the "PAID" handstamp. The cover shown in Fig.2, dated the 11th September, 1900, from Jackson Town to St. Lucia has a manuscript note "Paid 1d" and again, a somewhat similar example appears on a cover from Pratville to Mandeville, Fig.3, and bears the etiquette registered label and states "Postage Paid".



Fig.2.

Advert

MURRAY PAYNE LTD

Advert

Schiff Auctions

Advert

ARGYLL ETKIN LTD

Advert

**BRIDGER & KAY LTD
GUERNSEY**

Advert

CHRIS RAINEY

Advert

STAMP INSURANCES SERVICES

Advert

WILLIAD S. ALLMAN

Advert

PETER SINGER

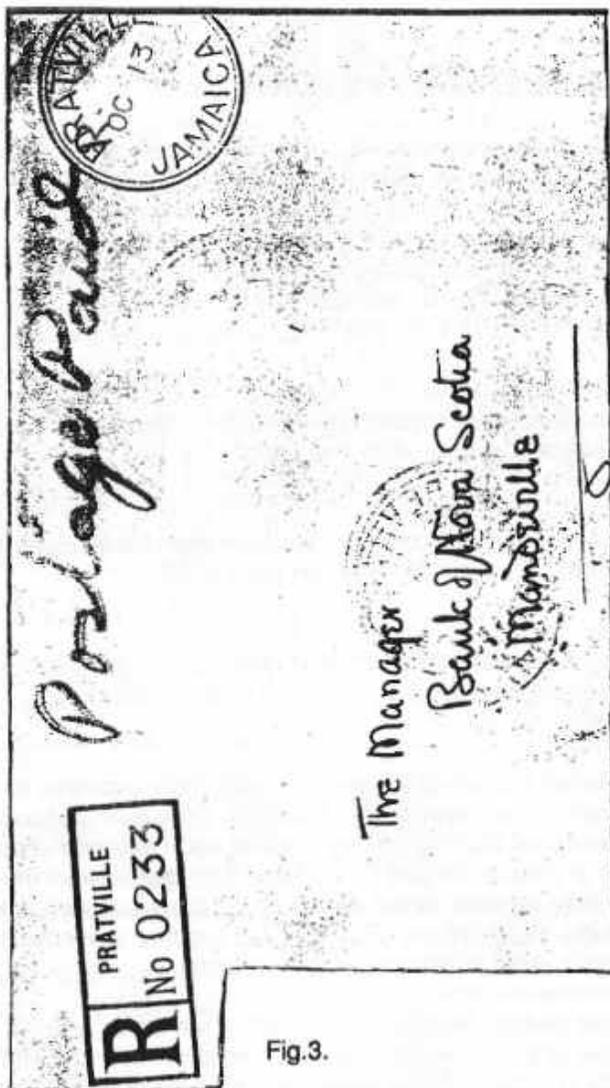


Fig.3.

I would be most interested to have details of any similar examples of this "maid of all work".

Ref. 1. See Page 228, and illustration "M 7" of "Jamaica, Its Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks" by G. W. Collett, W. Buckland Edwards, C.S. Morton and L.C.C. Nicholson, Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London, 1928.

Ref.2. For further details of this incident see "The Story of a Wreck cover" by Robert Topaz in Vol.1, page 35 of 'The British Caribbean Philatelic Journal', May, 1961.

Bob Swarbrick

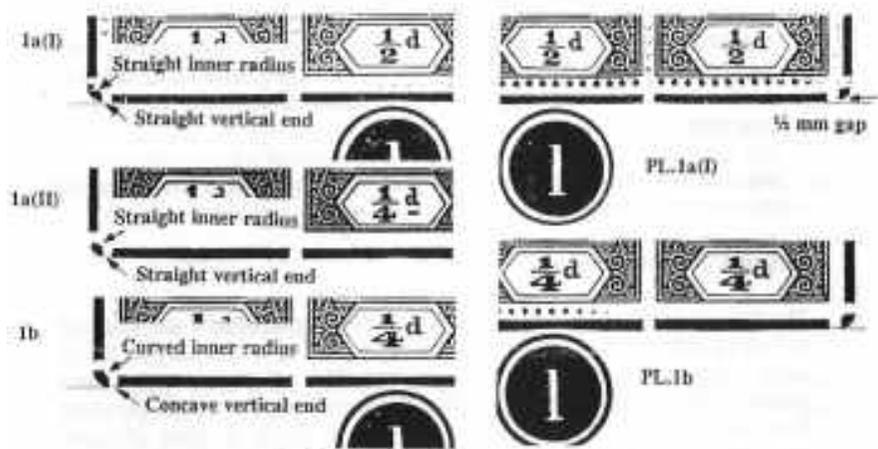
KG. V - UNIVERSAL KEY PLATE No.1

In bulletins 144, 145 and 146, I questioned the format of keyplate No.1 - was it a single 240 set plate, two separate 120 set plates, a 120 and a 240 set plate, or three 120 set plates with different arrangements of the plate number "1" imprint. I have since obtained Plate 1 panes and sheets in three distinct formats (copies submitted to the editor) which have resolved the conflicting evidence available at that time. These I have categorised below as Pl.1a(I), Pl.1a(II) and Pl.1b for reasons which will become evident.

1. Pl.1a(I) - 1st. State
Plate numbers in top and bottom margins, rounded jubilee line corners. (Gilbert & Ellis ½d. - 120 set sheet)
2. Pl.1a(II) - 2nd. State
Plate numbers in top margin, bottom margin blank, rounded jubilee line corners. (Leeward Is. ¼d. - LH pane of 60)
3. Pl.1b
Plate numbers in bottom margin, top margin blank, square jubilee line corners at top, rounded corners at bottom. (Cayman Is. ¼d. - 120 set sheet)

The different formats of the three sheets initially appeared to indicate that three plate 1's had been made. However, close examination revealed that the jubilee line imprints on the Gilberts and Leewards sheets shared a number of unique features. They were both printed from the same plate, but on the Leewards sheet the lower numbers had first been removed. Both plates 18 and 26 are known to have had their lower numbers similarly removed in order to facilitate 240 set printing.

The most obvious feature common to the two states of Pl.1a is the notch (damage) at the centre of the jubilee line above row 1 stamp 3 of the LH pane (fig.1). The shape and position of the lower jubilee line corners on both these sheets are identical, but differ significantly from those of Pl.1 b. On Pl.1b the base of the lower outer jubilee line corners falls just below a line extended from the bottom edge of the lower margin jubilee lines. Those on Pl.1a do not meet this line, the RH corner being particularly noticeable (figs 2 and 3).



To summarize, the principal plate identification aids to the BWI issues of this design are:-

1. Top margin plate number singles or blocks are from PI.1a. It is not possible to further identify them as either 1st or 2nd state from the jubilee line characteristics.
2. Bottom margin corner Plate 1 blocks may be categorized as PI.1a(I) or PI.1b by reference to figs.2 and 3.
3. Bottom outer corner blocks or strips without plate number are from PI.1a(II) with the exception of the St. Lucia ½d and 1d, and the Leewards ¼d, ½d and 1d. For these values it is difficult to distinguish them from later P1.2 and 3 printings, which also had blank lower margins. All other plates used for all printings of the remaining Die I values on wmk MCCA paper (PI.5, 6 and 8) had plate numbers in the lower margin.
4. Top corner singles or blocks with square corners (fig.4) are from PI.1b, the only plate of this design to exhibit this feature.
5. On all other plates in this series the upper and lower jubilee lines extend across the vertical interpanneau margin separating the two panes of 60. On both PI.1a and 1b these lines do not project across this margin.

These identification points are consistent on a number of examples examined from different colonies.

Dating PI.1a(I) and PI.1a(II)

The first printing from the new KG.V Universal keyplate No.1 was invoiced in Feb'12 (Mauritius). Until the June 1912 printing of the Ceylon 2c no other colony using this keyplate required 240 set sheets. It seems probable that it was at this point that the lower numbers were removed from PI.1a(I) to enable it to be clamped to PI.1b to print 240 set. Thereafter it was obviously possible to use the two plates 1's clamped together to print 240 set keyplate impressions for any colony, but apart from Ceylon I have strong doubts whether this was actually done. I believe most, if not all, 120 set printings of this era were made from a single 120 set plate, either PI.1a or PI.1b, and indeed this fact may enable some printings to be individually identified.

It is therefore probable that the pre-June 1912 printings are from Pl.1a(I). These include:-

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Cayman Is. - | ½d, 2d, 2/- and 3/- | (March 1912) |
| St. Lucia - | all values ½d to 5/- of this design | (April 1912) |
| Gilberts - | my ½d 120 set sheet | (April 1912) |
| Leeward Is. - | ¼d, ½d, 1d and 2½d | (May 1912) |

The illustrations in Bulletin 146 of the four Caymans values show the 2d from Pl.1a(I) and the ½d, 1d and 4d from Pl.1b. I also have an example of the St. Lucia ½d from P1.1a(I). All Virgin and Cayman Islands values seen (apart from the above) are from Pl.1b and I suspect that Pl.1a was never used for these values. Pl.1a(II) was certainly in use by April 1913.

Still a fair amount of conjecture in the above on dating, which could be assisted by further information on BWI examples from Pl.1a(I) and Pl.1a(II), although any corner block from P1.1 would be welcome. Photocopies where possible would be greatly appreciated. It is an interesting possibility that all three Plate 1 formats may exist for some BWI values (only possible on certain values of Leewards and St. Lucia I suspect).

It thus appears that two separate 120 set plates, 1a and 1b, were made rather than a single plate of 240 and as such they warrant the individual status of all the other plates in this series - to call them simply "Plate 1" is insufficient. Harry Huber's assertion that a 120 set and a 240 set plate 1 were made (see Bulletin 144) requires modification in view of this new evidence, particularly since it has now been repeated in the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia Vol.VI - Leeward Is.

Peter Fernbank

JAMAICA / BRITISH HONDURAS - Shades

Jamaica. Geo VI 4d (SG127) is listed as being Brown and Green. I have a fresh mint copy which is Brown and Olive-Green. The stamp is not faded as the brown is unaffected.

British Honduras. Relief Fund 5c + 5c (SG142). I have a fresh mint copy of this stamp which is absolutely (sic) Grey, while the listed colour is Ultramarine.

Can members please comment or help.

Harald Schie

ST. CHRISTOPHER

40



1

I was surprised to see that Charles Freeland in Bulletin 152 (p.1 6) says that his pane of the St. Christopher Revenue 5/- "has no sign of a dropped 'S' in shillings". My pane, as illustrated, shows the dropped 'S' clearly in the first stamp of row 4, and to a lesser extent in the first stamps of rows 1, 2 and 3 as well. This situation parallels the finding of Charles Freeland in Bulletin 151 (p.72) that all 10 left margin 5/- stamps of Tobago show the dropped 'S'. Perhaps a member with a knowledge of how the duty plates were constructed, and particularly if a 60 plate would be based in some way on a 20 plate, could explain what is surely more than a coincidence.

John Tyacke

ST KITTS-NEVIS - 1938-52 Definitives

I noticed some time ago that a few of the small format low values were printed on paper that could be described as "laid", because with transmitted light, alter-lighter and darker horizontal lines can be seen in the margins. There are two lines per millimeter.

Thanks to the help of Mr. John Marriott, I have been able to check the blocks in the Royal collection, and have established that this paper was used in 1949 and 1950, but not for all the sheets. Although I have found elsewhere one or two of the ½d, 1d and 1½d values on this "laid" paper, and many 2½d. In the Royal collection the ½d 1½d and 2½d blocks are on laid, but the block of 1d is on wove paper, released by the Crown Agents at the same time as the ½d. and 1½d. (1949). As the paper watermark Script CA was supplied by Wiggins Teape by the ton, according to Mr. Marcus Faux, who managed the department at that time in the Crown Agents, some of this "laid" paper must have been used for other issues.

Can any member confirm that this was the case and let me know at my new address.

Peter Baldwin

ST. VINCENT - HURRICANE APPEAL

The Pierce, Messenger, Lowe handbook Page 7 has the following brief mention - "On 11th September 1898, St. Vincent found itself directly in the path of a giant hurricane. The tropical twister swept the entire island leaving many persons dead, and a vast damage to the buildings and particularly to the crops on the plantations".

What is not mentioned is disruption to the postal services. My feeling is that several of the village offices were put out of action for weeks or even months.

To help unravel which offices were operational I would be very pleased to hear from any members who have dated village postmarks for the period 1st. January 1898 to 31st. December 1899. A mention of the code-letter in the cds, and its position (ie. normal, reversed etc), and the type of stamp would also greatly assist.

I have also one other problem: the CALLIAQUA cds during the years 1894 and 1895. News of your dated strikes would be most helpful.

Should anyone have newspaper clippings/official reports covering the 1898 hurricane, or anything pertaining to a cause for a possible closure of Calliaqua mid-1895, these would be more than welcome too.

Michael Hamilton

HELP WANTED - An inventory of early Bermuda markings

Some time ago, Charles Freeland and Michel Forand began compiling an inventory of the pre-adhesive marks of Bermuda found on entires, covers and wrappers (e.g., crowned circles, fleurons, "SHIP LETTER" handstamps, etc.). Their survey encompasses all recorded examples of Ludington types PM1 to PM5 and P1 to P5, as well as types S1, S2 and S5, recorded on postal items sent from or addressed to Bermuda (or stamped while in transit there); manuscript and handstamped Forwarding Agents' marks are also included, as well as a few other marks. Charles and Michel have been fortunate in obtaining much previously unreported information from M.H. Ludington (the author of many works on Bermuda philately, including *The Postal History and Postage Stamps of Bermuda*, published in 1978). Mr. Ludington has given them his full support and is actively contributing to this project. They now hope others will also lend their help.

When completed, the inventory will, they believe, be of great assistance to collectors and postal historians, as well to dealers and others with an interest in Bermuda philately. It should be of interest not only in establishing date ranges, but also in shedding light on the practices of different postmasters. The inventory lists each recorded example of the marks under its type number, in chronological order; when a cover or letter has two or three Bermuda markings, these are cross-referenced. Each entry provides the date of the marking (as it appears in the postmark or in manuscript) and a qualitative grading of its condition; details about the origin and destination of the letter and about the postal rate(s); the name(s) of the ship(s) on which the letter was carried, along with dates of sailing and arrival (when those details can be determined); a description of transit and arrival handstamps; and a qualitative grading of the entire, cover or wrapper. Additional information is provided when deemed pertinent - particularly about the contents of the letter (if present) and about its philatelic history (e.g., auctions in which it has been offered, etc.).

The introduction will summarise known facts about the postal history of Bermuda between 1820 and the mid-1860s, and will provide previously unpublished details of several correspondences of that period. A number of illustrations will accompany the inventory, which is tentatively scheduled for publication in late 1992 or early 1993.

The initial list was based primarily on descriptions in auction catalogues from the late 1930s to the present, and this has been supplemented with information provided by individual collectors contacted by Charles and Michel. However, there remain many entries which are incomplete. They hope that other

Bermuda collectors will help to make their inventory more accurate and more complete by sending them photocopies of both the front and back (if there are transit or arrival backstamps) of covers with early Bermuda markings in their collections. Information about the contents of letters would also be appreciated.

The identity of the owners of specific items will be held in strict confidence. However, it is intended to acknowledge contributors in the foreword unless they request anonymity. The information may be sent to either of the two compilers: Michel Forand,

Charles Freeland,

AND MORE HELP WANTED

A plea from Switzerland. Rudolf von Fischer, a non-member is a keen collector of stamps of the International Year of the Child (1979) and would be interested to hear from anyone with covers for sale with any IYC stamps, or information about FDC's and special postmarks, labels, seals etc. Information or offers (direct please) to Rudolf von Fischer,

AND STILL MORE HELP WANTED

Mrs. Lobell, a non-member is doing research on famous women of the 20th Century and would be grateful for information eg. when born, when died, the life achievements etc., of Lady Annie Allen-Teacher-Guider MBE who is depicted on the St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla \$2.50 stamp. If anyone has any information please contact (direct please) Mrs.L. Lobell at

LIBRARY ADDITIONS

The following are additions to the library.

- 2.4.4.5. BARBADOS Annual Report 1893
- 2.6.1.1. BERMUDA Bertram Poole 1911
- 2.8.5. BRITISH HONDURAS MARKS FROM THE P.O. ARCHIVES
Edward Addiss 1991
- 2.13.22. JAMAICA PICTORIAL ISSUE 1919 Ken Bolton VHS Video 1990
- 2.14.7. LEEWARD ISLANDS ADHESIVE FEES STAMPS E.V. Toeg 1991
- 2.21.4.6. ST. LUCIA Annual Report 1901
- 4.16 THE FURNESS LINE TO BERMUDA Ludington & Rego 1991
- 5.8. THE AIRMAILS OF BERMUDA William J. Clark 1991
- 5.9 B.O.A.C. TIMETABLE & FARES 1-7-50
- 6.3.9. ALPHABETICAL LIST OF DLR CORRESPONDENCE, DAY & other
books at the National Postal Museum 1976
- 6.5.13.1 MAP OF TOBAGO 1" to 1 mile 1956
- 6.5.14.1 MAP OF TRINIDAD ¼" to 1 mile 1956
- 7.1.6.0. CROWN AGENTS STAMP BULLETIN 1st.March1961
- 7.1.18.1 THE JOURNAL OF BRITISH COMMONWEALTH PHILATELY
Vol.1 No.1 Jan 1992

- 7.1.19. The Belize Collector from Vol.1 No.1. 1987 (missing 1989)
- 7.1.20. STAMP MAIL from Jan.1991
- 7.2.8. Geosix Study Paper No.14 - Bermuda - 12/6 Perf.14.
- 7.4.7. HARRIS INDEX TO PHILATELIC LITERATURE 1879-1925 Reprint 1991
- 9.3.19. BWI SALE CATALOGUE Robson Lowe 23rd Jan 1986
- 9.3.20. DALE-LICHTENSTEIN BWI CATALOGUE Harmers NY 12th Sept 1990
- 9.3.21. BWI SALE CATALOGUE Robson Lowe 29th May 1969
- 9.3.22. HODSELL HURLOCK COLLECTIONS - BARBADOS & TRINIDAD. Harmers June 1958
- 9.4.12.1. R.J.EDMUNDSON CAYMAN IS. SALE CAT. Harmers 1988
- 9.4.12.2. R.E.W. COLLECTION OF CAYMAN IS. SALE CAT. Sothebys 1981
- 9.4.13.2. 'BEAVER CREEK' COLLECTION - DOMINICA. Phillips 17-11-88
- 9.4.15.5. EDWIN M. ERICKSON - JAMAICA. Robson Lowe 6-9-72
- 9.4.15.6. H.M. BRANDON - JAMAICA. Robson Lowe 17-12-58
- 9.4.15.7. JAMAICA - Robson Lowe 22-1-86
- 9.10.5. COMMONWEALTH SALE CAT. Ivy, Shrove & Mader 19/20 June 1991
- 11.12. MEXICO ON THE VERGE Dr D.J.Dillon 1922

Derek Nathan

ENCYCLOPAEDIA COMMENT

May I offer the following comments as an addition to those made by Simon Goldblatt on pages 74 to 76 of Bulletin 151, with reference to "The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps Vol 6, Leeward Islands". In general, I believe the book is useful and valuable. However, I do have some reservations about it which mainly stem from a belief that with more careful editing and setting out it could have been so much better.

I recognise that there is always a problem in describing both the Leeward Islands as a collective in regard to the Federal issues and the separate Presidencies that form the group. Inevitably this leads to some duplication, and it particularly complicates discussions of postal history and cancellations. These problems seem not to have been fully addressed, for when using the book it gives the impression of being made up 'separately', with little evidence of a firm overall hand to pull the parts together. To give one illustration. There appears to be no standard format for the page headings above the continuous line (which help the reader find material within the chapter). e.g. Pages 12 and 13 with page 50, page 51 with page 108, page 109 with page 160.

The variations in the headings and typefaces are obvious. A choice of one scheme, say Title of the Chapter on the left, and useful sub-heading on the right, or say Chapter Title in upper case and the sub-heading in lower case, would have united the work, and much more importantly made it much easier to

use. Similarly the lack of standardisation in the quoting of reference material hinders the use and value of the text.

Whilst in general there are Bibliographies for each of the Presidencies there is not a separate one for Antigua, except that included with Barbuda on page 44. (The latter appears to be mainly for Barbuda). The ways of giving the references vary. Some have author first, some have title, and some are separated by differing side headings. Again, they also use differing printing styles.

More serious than that, is the lack of a clear statement defining the purpose of the Bibliographies. They are not comprehensive (ie. not encyclopaedic); it would help therefore to know the basis of selection.

Some basic examples show the variation. Thus Durnin (as author) is referred to in the Barbuda Bib. but nowhere else, though his articles are equally valid for all the islands. The St. Kitts-Nevis section refers to Peter L. Baldwin in the text on p.142 but not to the publication the material comes from, in the Bib. on p.156. The article from Postal History International in Nov. 1974 by John Forrest on the Postal History and Cancellations of Dominica which would have made the relevant text clearer is not referred to in the Bib. on p.77. It is not clear (to me) if the Bibliographies refer to material used to compile the chapter, or to possible further reading. Similarly, it would help if there was a guide to other Bibliographic sources perhaps in the general Bib. on p.284.

Could I also offer some basic corrections to the text (I hope other members will expand these much further than I can). The listing for Antigua Post Offices on p.12 is not clearly laid out. In addition to the points Simon Goldblatt has made, I note that 5 offices are shown without the 'X' which ties them to the 4 column headings, in addition the St. Johns GPO which is referred to in the notes below the table.

Gunthorpes and Montpelier should (at least) be keyed to the second column, I am not certain of the keying for Newfield or St. James, St.Philip should (at least) be keyed to the third column. In addition, Seatons is shown with an 'X' in both the second and third columns. Is this correct, or has the 'X' slipped down from St. Philips? As far as I am aware the 'X' in the third column should be deleted.

The references in the table to St. Johns (no apos.) and then below to St. John's (with) and ST.JOHN'S (without) are not helpful. It would have been far better to refer the reader to a reference giving the varieties of the cancellation, perhaps at the same time mentioning the main types (including a reference to some using an apostrophe), rather than merely saying "... (it) used a variety of single and double circular datestamps...

The Barbuda section on p.42 provides a guide to what I believe should have been attempted when describing the cancellations for each Island. The use of actual examples (PP1 and PP2) is so much more helpful than a table. (Incidentally, I disagree with the dates for PP1, which should extend into 1950.) Laying items out separately with diagrams would probably have avoided the errors in spelling of Post Offices which has occurred. Thus, in the Dominica list on p.150, it should be VIEILLE CASE (ie. with an extra 'l' after the first 'E'). On p.198 it should read La Plaine (not La Plairie). Similarly Cayou (given twice on p.141) should have been corrected to Cayon.

I am sorry that such an important and valuable book as this Encyclopaedia undoubtedly is, does not always exhibit the high standards with regards to the attention to detail that it warrants. I hope these comments are useful in the debate about the book, and perhaps the publishers will consider such improvements for future editions.

Richard Baker

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