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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

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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) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
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 publicist '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 £7.50 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £10 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

1995		
Sunday March 5th	2.00pm	SPRING STAMPEX. - Royal Horticultural Society Halls, Greycoat Street & Vincent Square, London. SW.1.
	Displays by	H.G. Parsons - Royal Mail Steam Ship Packet Company M.R Wilson - Turks Islands.
Sat 22 April		AGM followed by annual Auction.
	Venue:	The Bonnington Hotel Southampton Row, London. WC 1
Fr1 6th / Sat. 7th October 1995.		BWISC Convention
	Venue:	The Regent Hotel Royal Leamington Spa.

**MATERIAL URGENTLY WANTED
FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN
AND ALL FUTURE ISSUES**

ACCOUNTS 1994

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

ANTIGUA

I have recently obtained a post-card (shown below) from ANTIGUA, dated 25 Feb 1956 to France by air mail and rated 23 cents.



This card shows a rectangular handstamp with “PRINCESS ALICE APPEAL” included. The 23 cents rate is not the normal one to France at that time and I have assumed that a few cents of that figure have been added to the normal rate for the “appeal” named in the handstamp.

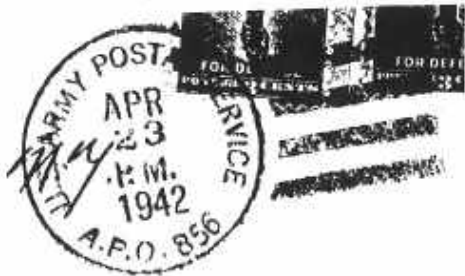
Does an member knows the reason of this “appeal” and how much, if any, was normally added to the official postage rate.

Michel Bilhaut

BERMUDA - U.S. Army A.P.O. 856 Cancellations

As mentioned in Bulletin No.161, A.P.Q. 802 was replaced by A.RO. 856.

Whilst ‘The Postal History and Stamps of Bermuda’ refers to the change being in May 1942, I have two examples of a 32mm dia. duplex dated 21st & 23rd April 1942 (Type 1).



Type 1



Type 2

Type 2 duplex, 35mm dia., was also in use in May 1942 before the introduction of a new type of machine cancellation (Type 3 not shown) with seven wavy lines at right and c.d.s. reading U.S. Army at top, A.P.O. 856 at foot, and central month/date/year.

In July 1942 instructions were given to remove A.P.O. numbers from datestamps (Type 4).



Type 4

At the end of the war A.P.O. numbers were re-introduced with a new machine cancellation (Type 5). This is similar to Types 3 and 4 except that APO is close together with no stops.

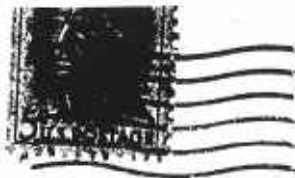


Type 5

Thereafter numerous changes were made to the machine cancellations and three types from 1948, 1954 and 1967 (APO 09856) are illustrated.



AIR MAIL



Can anyone help on more accurately fixing the date of the change from A.P.O. 802 to A.P.O. 856?

I believe that it was very near to 21/4/42 as the front which I have with this date is an official one from the Post Exchange, Bermuda Base Command, where A.P.O. 802 in the text has been erased.

Don Butt

THE BRITISH LIBRARY PHILATELIC COLLECTIONS

It had been some considerable time since I had visited the British Library and then I had only examined the Tapling Collection, a comprehensive collection available for viewing to any visitor to the library and held in vertical display boards accessible in a wing to the right of the main entrance hall.

I had arranged to meet David Beech, department head of the Philatelic Collections and, Rod Vousden his fellow Curator and, after a brief look at the Tapling Collection, we went down to the Students Room. I had asked to see material pertaining to my own area of interest. i.e. British Guiana. Firstly,

I was shown the Supplementary Collection; this is a mainly unused adhesives stretching from 1900 to 1922 with a small smattering of proofs, mainly given by the Crown Agents. Next, I had a look at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Collection. This was started in 1890, when Colonies were required to supply the FCO with examples of all issued adhesives and postal stationery. This collection was only transferred to the British Library two years ago. Unfortunately, the mandarins at the FCO were not philatelists and, as each adhesive was received, it was licked on the back and stuck in the book - a great pity really, but still fascinating stuff.

Next, I looked at the Harrison Collection. J.A.C. Harrison (where have I seen those initials before!) was the chief engraver for Waterlow & Sons in 1930 when they were commissioned to design and print the County Union Centenary stamps - their first work for the Colony since 1875. The Collection contains progressive die proofs of the Centenary set. It is a fascinating area of study and one can only marvel at the craftsmanship of the man.

More proof material was available in a box file from the Crown Agents Archive. This contained mostly proof material and colour trials of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II pictorial definitives. As usual, when looking at colour trials one wonders why they always seemed to choose the worst colour available. I was amused at the QE II \$2 proof, which was not approved because of a small boat in the left foreground of the Gold Dredging scene. The offending boat was removed and the new proof approved.

Besides the Philatelic Collections, of which I have mentioned but a small part, the British Library has probably the most comprehensive collection of philatelic literature in the world with reference books, periodicals (bound) and most major auction catalogues (also bound). The cornerstone of this literature collection is the Crawford Library, formed by the 26th Earl of Crawford and bequeathed to the British library in 1913.

I have only scratched the surface of the British Library Philatelic Collection; there is so much to admire and enjoy here that a short essay cannot cover. Suffice it to say that the Department Head, David Beech FRPSL is a man in tune with the needs of the philatelic researcher and will be only too happy (and proud) to explain the Collections to anyone interested enough to enquire. However, you do need to give him some warning (0171-323- 7635/6) and you will need two passport sized colour photographs to acquire a Readers Pass (this takes 5-10 minutes and doesn't cost). Do try it, you'll find it well worthwhile!

Peter Ford

OCTOBER STAMPEX DISPLAYS

Members who attended the STAMPEX meeting on Saturday 15th October, 1994 at the Royal Horticultural Halls in London were treated to displays by members Chris May and Rod Martin.

The display by Rod Martin was of the stamps and postal history of St. Vincent and the display by Chris May was Antigua - Leeward Islands.

Rod Martin displayed the pre-adhesives and stamp issues of Queen Victoria of St. Vincent. He commenced with a map circa 1794 showing details of the island at the beginning of the Postal system and a map of 1977 showing the District Post Offices as they are now.

The Pre-adhesives were in two sections, those sent via the Post Office/Packet Boat and Ship Letters carried by ordinary ships.

He showed the first handstamp, the straight line ST VINCENT, on a letter dated 28th April 1793. This was followed by a soldiers letter from Fort Charlotte, but with an early DEAL SHIP LRE cancel, which appeared to be out of place. The contents indicate that it would go through the Post Office, why did it have a ship letter handstamp? It would appear that it did not receive the straight line handstamp but sent unstamped. Packet Boats did not call at St. Vincent, instead they were sent by inter island schooner to TORTOLA to be picked up by the Packet Boat. The Packet boat on this occasion was the 'KING GEORGE' which was captured by the French. To save delay the mail was put aboard the first available ship which off-loaded at Deal, where it was sorted and any unstamped mail received the ship letter handstamp.

There then followed a selection of the St VINCENTS fleurons which were in use between 1805 to 1842. Some with the 'S' and others with the 'S' removed to read St VINCENT. From 1842 to 1854 the St VINCENT with broken arc was in use, examples in black and the not so common red were shown. These were followed by the Crown circle Paid at St Vincent brought into use from 1852. Postage stamps were not used until 1858 when supplies of GB stamps were sent to the island. This facility was withdrawn in 1859 but as there were still supplies on the island they continued in use. Example of the 1d and 6d with horizontal A10 cancel, together with 3 A10 forged cancels were shown.

There then followed the ST VINCENT stamps printed by Perkins, Bacon from May 1861. Starting with a Perkins, Bacon proof of the engraving of Queen Victoria's head in black on cream paper. Two sets of plate proofs in black and the issue colour red, then the ONE PENNY stamp. A selection followed of all issues except 1d red with mixed perfs. on unwatermarked paper to 1869.

From 1871 to 1881 stamps were printed on watermarked paper with a single star, a piece of unprinted paper from the top right of the sheet was shown. Examples of all issues to 1881 were shown including the overprints, together with forged overprints of the bisect 1d and ½d stamps. Perkins, Bacon lost the contract to supply stamps in 1881 the last stamps printed being the ½d yellow orange, 1d drab and the 4d ultramarine.

De La Rue then took over the contract printing QV issues until 1897. Their problem was they had to use Perkins, Bacon plates. Their paper was watermarked Crown over CA and surfaced for their electrotype plates. The problem meant that sometimes the surface of the paper would not accept the ink and as such the paper was either turned over or round thus producing reverse or inverted wmk's. There was also the problem of the size of the plates being of a different size such that the position of the watermark, in particular on the ½d - being small and the 5/- being much larger, tended to wander about. All printing were shown together with Specimens, stamps on cover, varieties, forged overprints, cancels and sheets.

The 1d on 2½d on 1d was shown with the constant varieties on stamp 1 and 31, stamp 26 and 56 followed by the plating of the 1885 ONE PENNY red along with colour variants. Also shown were forgeries including 3 very crude type and examples by the Spiro Brothers as well as Panelli.

The display was concluded with examples of the 1899 QV Key plate issue which DLR had tried so hard to get the authorities to adopt since 1882. A Die proof of name and value (5d) on white card together with a Specimen set were shown. The last sheet showed two covers both to addresses in Cambridge, the first a Registered cover bearing 3d stamp. The second bearing just ½d stamp (Printed paper rate) which besides a Kingstown CDS and the stamp also cancelled with the Kingstown CDS had a small triangular 158 in blue (158 being Cambridge Post town number). This triangular mark is an Inspectors mark and at the moment it is the only cover known with this mark. ST. VINCENT to CAMBRIDGE (which is Rod's home town) made a fitting connection and ending for this display.

Chris May displayed Antigua - Leeward Islands. He commenced by explaining that the collection was predominantly of used material and included the Leeward Islands issues with Antigua postmarks. The first part of the display was of the stamps and included a study of the 1902 Leeward Islands surcharge set of 3 including the major and many minor varieties and the stamps, pieces and covers used in all the islands forming the Leewards group except for Montserrat which, for some at present unknown reason, appeared to be very much scarcer than Virgin Islands even though Montserrat received 3 times the number of these stamps than did the Virgin Islands. The display of stamps continued up to the final Leewards Is. issue of QEII which ceased to be valid as of 1 July 1956.

The second part of the display was of material on cover and included examples of First Flights to and from Antigua, Airmail to and from Dominica via Antigua, World War II censored mail incoming and outgoing, Paquebot mailings, Official Paid covers, American Base mail ex Antigua, Slogan postmarks, Registration marks and used Postal Stationery of both Antigua and of Leewards Is. used in Antigua, it being explained that the later (KGV and KGVII) postal stationery is very hard to come by in used condition.

After viewing, and some discussion, the vote of thanks was proposed and members showed their enthusiasm for the displays in the usual manner.

BOOK REVIEW

Dominica Postal History, Stamps & Postal Stationery to 1935, Volume 1, by E.V.Toeg. Published by the British West Indies Study Circle, 28 Orchard Close, Hail Weston, St. Neots, Cambs, PE19 4LF, 1994, A4, ISBN 09506535, £42 plus £4.15 postage and packing. Hard bound 216 plus pages. Illustrated in black and white.

This long awaited volume is the result of many years of research by the author and those of an earlier generation, who saw the need for such a work and who are acknowledged in the Preface.

Each issue of stamps and postal stationery is clearly set out in chapters (26 including postal history) so as to give a picture of events giving us the full story and including such details as, design proofs, printing quantities, fakes, forgeries etc. Unfortunately Crown Agents Requisition numbers have not been included (from 1921) and these could have been tied to printings, thus helping later researchers. The Bibliography seems to be arranged in no particular order (A-Z by author or title, date of publication is suggested).

The book's principal weakness, to judge from its title, is that the interpretation of postal history, is one now much out of date, mainly restricting itself to pre-stamp markings. The "blind" purchaser would expect to learn a great deal more of rates, routes and postmarks etc., after 1873. Undoubtedly an index should have been included and your reviewer would suggest that an index covering all volumes in this series be included in the last volume.

Some aspects of the production of the book call for comment, frankly the quality of, the otherwise well chosen, illustrations is poor (apart from the dust jacket) and the Contents pages should follow the reverse of the title page and not the Preface, which it lists. The book is well bound in Buckram with a spine rounded for strength.

Victor has put a great deal into this work and despite your reviewer's criticisms (some of which are minor) he has managed well to bring together into one volume the facts and aspects of interpretation which make this an important volume. This effort should not be underestimated. This will remain an important, definitive and much used work and we await Volume II with interest.

D.R Beech *FRPSL*

BARBADOS

Many members will have been interested in Michael Hamilton's article on Barbados postmarks in the December bulletin. Despite the fact that two handbooks have already been written by BWISC members on Barbados postal markings - the only topic to have attracted such attention - much data on Barbados village cancels remains to be assembled and assimilated. We should therefore be grateful for Mike's efforts in this and similar fields. Some may say that this is much easier to do with the P.C., but a great deal of hard work is needed to collect the information and input it accurately.

Mike lists the M2 cancels he has seen on Britannias, all of them on ½d or 1d values, for the record, I have a M2 '2' on 1/- black, SG51, dated Ja 4(18)72.

Charles Freeland

JAMAICA

Michael Hamilton's interesting article (Bulletin 163) calls for reports of Jamaica Pines "used abroad".



I have just found a copy of the 6d Pine cancelled in black ink by A95 horizontal oval. According to the Numeral Cancellations of The British Empire" compiled by Henry Hardy Hems, A95 was assigned from 1859 to the Cunarder S.S. Africa (and later, in 1887, to Newport, Yorks.)

These British Packet cancellations are horribly difficult: even that master of understatement, Robson Lowe, comments in his Regent Stamp Catalogue (10th edition 1940-42) "No prices are given in this section - many are only seen once in a decade Market: Great demand whenever fine."

Michael Medicott

GRENADA - KG VI

Recently I was sent photostats of a fine Grenada King George VI collection. It included a number of examples of a variety which was completely new to me, on R1/1 of the horizontal-format 'badge' stamps. Since then I have found a number of examples in different states, and it seems that blocks including R1/1 are worth picking up for examination.

The full variety is illustrated on the 3d value whose blown-up photograph is shown here. It is a scratch running diagonally across both sails and into the sky. In addition, there are outside the design in the top left corner of the stamp five small dashes, which print in the centre-plate colour. It is as if the engraver had forgotten that this would print, and absentmindedly sharpened his burin there.



The 2d photograph shows a partial retouch, leaving part of the line across the rear sail and two tiny marks on the foresail. Three of the small marks outside the design are missing, but this is due only to centering.



I should like to know the following:

- a) the dates of this variety
- b) was there an original impression, without scratch or marks
- c) when did the varieties appear?
- d) when did the retouch take place?
- e) was there a final state with everything corrected

Either a) or b) must be the case, or both, since there are blocks in a virgin state. If anyone can provide definite information as to states and printings, I will be pleased to collate it and report back.

Acknowledgement; Gerry Bater (photography).

Dickon Pollard

TRINIDAD

Finds of previously unrecorded postmarks continue to be made. Illustrated is a strike of type 0.4 numeral '4' on the 1909 1d.



No San Juan postmark is exactly common in the Trinidad (pre-Trinidad and Tobago) period. Type 0.2 generally peters out after the 1879 issue, but San Juan's 0.2 instrument probably tided the office over until their 0.9 arrived around 1882. (No strike of an 0.6 or an 0.7 is recorded.) The 0.9's were relatively short lived, and with a few exceptions disappear after the 1896 issue.

Since San Juan's type II circular date stamp is recorded - albeit with some scarcity - from at least May 1889, these three instruments (0.2, 0.9, type II c.d.s.) were capable of providing continuity and San Juan probably had no need of its type 0.4. One may, therefore, surmise that the illustrated type 0.4 was kept in reserve at the GPO and allocated to some other office in case of need, unless there is a gap in the period 1909-13 in the use of the San Juan c.d.s.

Any evidence, please, from strikes of the San Juan type II c.d.s., or from a strike of the 0.4 obliterator on cover or card? Michael Hamilton's researches may shed some light on this issue, as they have on so many other similar conundrums.

Michael Medicott

WANTED/EXCHANGE LITERATURE

Wanted: BWI Philatelist (Aguilar): Vols 1(1)-4(3), 5(1);

BWISC Bulletin: Nos 22-23, 25-26, 28-33, 35-40, 46-52.

For sale or exchange: BCPJ Nos: 18, 24, 28, 30, 34, 37, 71, 72, 74-77,
160, 161, 165;

BWISC Bulletin: Nos 1-7 (original print), 9, 10, 21, 42, 61, 62.

Contact: Dr. S.R.A. Kelly,

Charles Freeland is looking for BWI related literature, including Guyane Anglaise by Brunel, Br Honduras by Poole and Virgin Islands by Yardley. He also collects auction catalogues from Robson Lowe, Harmers and other major houses - lists of wants and other offers available.

Please write to him at .

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EDITORS NOTE: The next article (*British Guiana - The Diamond Jubilee Issue of Queen Victoria* by Michael Nicholson) is reprinted from *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and is the second of the 40th Anniversary articles that we are reprinting for members who do not take that magazine. Further articles will appear in future *Bulletins*.

BRITISH GUIANA - The Diamond Jubilee Issue of Queen Victoria - Michael Nicholson

It is reported that in August 1897 the Postmaster General of British Guiana suggested to the Governor of the Colony that it would be of benefit for both increasing revenue and to advertise the Colony that a set of stamps be issued to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. His idea was rather late in the day; the Colony had already had a public holiday on 22 June to celebrate the sixty glorious years' since Her Majesty came to the Throne on 20 June 1837. It was to be nearly a year after his suggestion that the stamps were made available to the public on 18 July 1898.

However, the Governor (in Council) agreed that the suggestion was worthy of merit and the Crown Agents (CA) were asked by letter dated 13 September 1897 to advise on the matter. In the letter of request to CA the Government Secretary enclosed 'photoprints' of four views of 'scenes in the Colony' and expressed the desired order of preference for the designs as being Mount Roraima, Kaieteur Falls, Massaruni Falls and Timehri Rocks. It was requested that the year '1897' be distinctly shown and stated that the motto '*Damua petimusque vicissim*' need not be given (until then all issues except the 'Cotton Reels' and some locally produced provisionals had contained it). It was requested that not more than two designs be used, to save cost. It was stated that there was no objection to an oblong stamp being produced for either of the views, indeed 'it might possibly have some advantage as marking more distinctly the special character of the stamps'. The name of the view selected should be given on the design. An estimate of the cost was requested and the need to make haste was stressed. The choice of colours was in effect left to CA. This letter was sent to De La Rue (DLR) by CA on 1 October 1897. In the event DLR prepared essays of the expressed first and second choices and submitted them to CA on 20 October 1897. They included quotations for the work - original Landscape and Duty plates at £8 each and working (60 set) Landscape and Duty plates at £20 each, Stamps were quoted per 1000 and the rate varied from 19s.6d. per 1000 for up to 5000 of one type to 3s.1d. per 1000 for over a million of one type (ordered at one time). They estimated about three months from date of order to delivery to the CA's Inspector.

Upon receipt CA wrote back and requested that 'specimen sheets (in duplicate) of the proposed colours to be used for printing the stamps' be supplied in time for them to be forwarded to the Colony by Mail of 2 November. DLR replied pointing out that they had no means of producing specimens of the stamps until the designs were approved, when they would then prepare the necessary plates and print specimens of colour for approval.

The designs were approved by the Executive Council on 29 November and returned to London under flying seal. This was communicated to DLR on 31 December 1897. In their submission DLR had said that it would be necessary that

the Issue should be printed by the then relatively new copper plate (recess) process which would enable each stamp to be printed in two distinct colours for 'a more artistic rendering'. This involved two separate printings for each sheet of stamps, and as the paper had to be dampened twice it had to be supplied 25 per cent thicker than was normally supplied for postage stamps at the time. This was done for no extra charge (viz 47s. per ream). Asked to expedite delivery, DLR pointed out that there was a total of about 75,000 operations for a printing of the quantity of stamps ordered.

Choosing the Colours

On 15 March 1898 DLR sent two suggested colour schemes (of five stamps each) to CA and a further 26 colour combinations 'In case you do not approve of our selection' a total of 36 Colour Trials. These were produced using the original landscape and blank duty plates. CA returned the examples indicating their choices marked with a cross but leaving the decision as to which colours should be used for the respective duties to DLR, describing this as 'immaterial'. People who have seen some of the alternatives have expressed the opinion that the choices made were not of the best submitted.

Working landscape and duty plates (with the values added) were prepared and imperforate proofs were produced on watermarked paper. I have no information on quantities of these proofs, but the 5c. is known in this state with the watermark inverted (see below).

Production was further delayed since the engraving took longer than anticipated because a steel roller cracked in the preparatory hardening process, and that work had to be redone. DLR wrote to CA on 24 March saying that this accident would mean that it would be another two months before they could have the first of the stamps ready for delivery.

Two Vignette Plates for the 1c.



The two vignette plates on the 1c. value: the second plate (bottom) shows the mountain and foreground much more clearly than the first. Although the shading in the sky is less pronounced. The stamp from the second plate also shows the SPECIMEN overprint with slanting 'N'.

Later on, in October 1898, a second horizontal view plate had to be produced. DLR wrote to CA (14 October 1898) explaining that some grit had got on the plate and damaged it. Since use of this second vignette is confined to the 1c. value, printing of the 5c. and 15c. stamps must have been completed before the damage was noticed. In any event, delivery of all values to CA was by instalments, the 5c., 10c. and 15c. being finished in October, the 2c. by the end of November and the 1c. by mid-December.

Moreover, although DLR had only quoted to supply five working duty plates (and eventually did indeed only charge for five) they told CA in March 1898 when they were planning their production line that they would need to make two plates each for the 'borders' of the 1c. and 2c. duties, otherwise 'we shall be unable to execute the order

for these Stamps to time'. They asked that the 'six machines' in the room under the 'control' of CA's Inspector be allowed to be used for printing the 'borders which contain the duties', and that the (centre) vignette plate(s) be printed on a machine 'in a room by itself in our 'Mint' Works, which your Inspector can lock up at night and open in the morning'. CA agreed to this proposal. All values were printed in sheets of 60, the 2c. and 10c. Kaieteur Falls (vertical) design in 5 horizontal rows of 12, and the 1c., 5c. and 15c. Mt Roraima (horizontal) design in 10 horizontal rows of 6.

Watermarks

The stamps are watermarked Large Crown CC (W5 in SG *Part 1*) upright on the 2c. and 10c. and sideways on the 1 c., 5c. and 15c. The watermark layout was of 240 (12 x 20) enclosed by a single line rectangular frame; the words 'CROWN COLONIES' appear twice in each margin at the sides, reading upwards in the left margin, and downwards in the right, and there is a cross at the mid point in each of the four margins. Traces of the margin watermarks can sometimes be found on the stamps. Paper to fit this watermark layout was originally produced in 1864 for the Cape of Good Hope fiscal stamps (and was often referred to as Receipt paper) but had been used for large format postage stamps since the Trinidad 5s. issue of 1869. Over the years it became usual to cut the standard sheet down, and a smaller size was essential when two dampenings of the paper were necessary, as in the case of the Jubilee issue. The upright Jubilee design fitted the watermark spacing, being the same size as the stamp for which the paper was originally manufactured. Quite often the watermark falls between two stamps vertically; it appears to have been the practice to cut a sheet of Receipt paper to provide pieces for either two sheets of the vertical design and one of the horizontal, or vice versa. Thus, when a sheet of paper produced for 240 stamps is cut to print sheets of 60, with margins, since the margins do not equate to the height of a stamp, the watermark on the second sheet downwards is not central. Sheets for the horizontal stamps were cut with the watermark sideways, for economic use of paper. The latter design is of different proportions to the vertical (approx 35mm wide by 22mm high, whereas the vertical is approx 25mm wide by 30mm high plus the gutters between the stamps, approx 3mm, in each case): it will be obvious that both could not be printed with one watermark per stamp and the appearance on the horizontal is often similar to a multiple watermark, parts of two (on rows 1 to 5) or four (often, but not always, on rows 6 to 10) watermarks occurring on most stamps.

Part of the words 'CROWN COLONIES' appear in the side margins of sheets of the 2c. and 10c. values. Normal sheets of the horizontal design have the words upright in the top margin, the sideways Crown CC watermark pointing to the left (viewed from the front). Reversed watermarks are known on the 2c. value but no inverted or reversed watermark has been reported on the 10c. value and no inverted watermark on the 2c. Inverted watermarks (i.e. Crown pointing to the right viewed from the front) are quite common on the 1c. and 5c. values (with the words 'CROWN COLONIES' inverted in the bottom margin), and reversed, and inverted and reversed, watermarks are known on the 1c. value (*vide* CA Freeland's article in *BWISC Bulletin* No 151). No variety from normal has been reported to my knowledge on the 15c. value.

Perforations

The issues are line perforated 14. The 5c. is reported doubly perforated on the right. The 2c. is known imperforated (vertically) on one or both sides, and between the stamp and the left margin, and the 5c. is known imperforate vertically between two stamps. The 2c. varieties come from the three left-hand vertical rows of one sheet, yielding ten examples imperforate down both sides and five imperforate down the left side and perforated down the right. Stamps can also be found which have little evidence of perforation on one side.

DLR commented in correspondence with CA that dampening the paper twice caused a problem of distortion after the paper had been dried twice; this probably accounts for the size of the perforated areas varying.

Specimens

To comply with the rules of membership of the UPU in 1898, 750 stamps were overprinted 'SPECIMEN' for distribution amongst member countries. All examples of the horizontal design that I have seen with this overprint (including those in the UPU Collection in The British Library) have a slanting 'N', as have some of the vertical design. The specimen stamps must have been overprinted from the end of the print run because all examples of the 1c. seen are on stamps from the second vignette plate (see above). It was, apparently, not unusual for UPU requirements to be fulfilled some time after the release of the stamps in question in those days - it is mentioned in a letter from GPO London to the Colonial Office dated 29 December 1898 'that specimens of these stamps have only recently been received here from the Crown Agents'. There are other minor varieties of this overprint, and the 5c. is known with normal and inverted watermark.



*Only five marginal examples
of the 2c. imperf vertically on
both sides are known*

Shades and Varieties

The colours chosen for the issue are delightfully contrasting (despite the comment above on available alternatives!) and show much variation over the production cycle. On the 1c. both the carmine frame and the blue-black centre vary, as do the indigo to blue frame and pale to deep brown centre of the 2c. The most consistent colouring occurs on the 5c. sepia frame and green centre, although a bluish tinge is discernible quite often in the latter. The frame of the 10c. is a fairly consistent orange-red, but the centre varies from dark blue-black to pale grey- black; the greatest variety occurs on the 15c. where the frame can be pale blue through to indigo and the centre pale orange-brown to deep brown-orange. The 15c. is known with an overall blue surface to the paper (which may be due to climate). Poor inking can be found on all values, particularly on the value tablets (it was reported at the time that 1000 of the 2c. were printed with the value tablet in light blue instead of dark blue). It is not unusual to find lines of stronger colour on the centre vignettes possibly arising from inadequate removal of surplus ink from the plate before printing - the last part of this process was by use of the palm of the hand and was obviously an acquired art.

Whilst avoiding details of minor examples of plate variance, the 15c. is known on Row 6/1 with a re-entry of the figures '15' in the left-hand value tablet, and there is a dot of colour to the north-west of the figure 1 of '1897' on Row 7/6.



‘Not Tremendously Popular’

It has been said that the stamps did not prove tremendously popular in the Colony, (only 1955 of the 15c. were sold in the first two weeks) and after the introduction of Imperial Penny Post on 25 December 1898 it was decided that large quantities of

the three higher values should be overprinted for use at the new rate; just over 465,000 in total were overprinted with the words 'TWO CENTS' during and after February 1899. These overprints are a fascinating study in themselves, one that I am still researching. The Issue remained valid for many years - have a registered cover addressed to Customs Department in Georgetown dated July 1931 with three 2c. values to pay the postage etc.

Details of the number of each stamp in the Issue are as follows:

	1c.	2c.	5c.	10c.	15c.
Ordered	750,000	900,000	300,000	150,000	150,000
Delivered (Total cost £570 12s. 0d.)	787,560	884,040	306,900	153,600	153,680
Reported to have been destroyed	30,000				
Overprinted 'TWO CENTS'			207,900	126,600	130,680
Usage of each original value	757,560	884,040	99,000	27,000	24,000

In 1895 DLR had agreed with CA that they could deliver up to 5 per cent in excess of the ordered quantity of any stamps, and that they would be paid for the quantity delivered. This was because they were obliged to overproduce to cover waste, of which there was always an amount but obviously unquantifiable until printing was completed, and it seemed pointless to destroy good product, hence the over-supply of four out of the five values. Unfortunately, the Day Book for 1897 is no longer in the De La Rue Archives so I am unable to give quantities of the first and second centre vignettes of the 1c. It has been estimated that the original is about twice as plentiful as the later one.

In conclusion, this issue was made at a time when stamp design and printing was going through a period of radical improvement and DLR were leading the field in this evolution. They had learned a lot producing the 1897 Tonga issue (a cancelled 5s. of which they sent with their initial design proposals to British Guiana as an example of their new process) and were sufficiently pleased with their efforts on this occasion to use the frame of the vertical design when submitting an essay for the Bahamas Staircase issue of 1901.

My thanks for help on various aspects of this article are expressed to Derek Nathan, Charles Freeland, Larry Lewendon FRPSL, David Beech FRPSL for access to the UPU SPECIMENS in the British Library Philatelic Collections, The Public Record Office and, by no means least The National Postal Museum for access to the De La Rue Archives from where most of the quotations herein are taken.

Book Review - Addendum

In his review of Mrs Khemraj's book on British Guiana in the December 1994 Bulletin Derek Nathan indicates in his head notice that this book was published by the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group.

Would members please note that the BCPSG did not publish this book but merely reproduced it and acted as distributors. The Study Group had no part in its preparation or production. The inscription on the cover of some copies inadvertently reads 'Published by British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group' but it should read 'Distributed by...', etc. We regret any misunderstanding that may have resulted from this.

The BCPSG prides itself on the high quality of its own monographs (Ludington and Rego's Furness Line to Bermuda and Ed Addiss's "Town" Cancellations of British Honduras are the two most recent ones) and intends to continue to maintain that high standard in its Publication programme.

Michel Forand

AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

BERMUDA New Commemorative Stamp Issue - 25th Anniversary of Decimalization

Release date - 6th February 1995

Values 25c, 60c, 75c, \$2.00

Designer - Derek Miller

Printer - Joh Enschede Security Printers

Process - Lithography

Stamp size - 38.00 x 30.56mm

Stamps per sheet - 50 (2 x 25)

Paper C.A. Spiral



D-Day to most of us is June 6, 1944 - the first day of the Allied Invasion of Europe during World War II. In Bermuda, D-Day came on Friday, February 6, 1970 - the day on which Bermuda's currency was decimalized.

The switch from 'pounds', 'shillings' and 'pence', to 'dollars' and 'cents', was decided on after Great Britain's announcement on March 1, 1966, that from February 15, 1971, the pound would be decimalized and consist of 100 pence.

Although it was initially felt that 'Bermuda Decimal Day' should coincide with the change-over in Great Britain, it was decided that Bermuda could

adopt the decimal currency system sooner and the date was brought ahead by just over one year. The reasons for this were three-fold. First it was felt that the change-over would be relatively simple in Bermuda because American and Canadian decimal currencies were already in circulation.

Secondly, there was a serious concern following the devaluation of the pound in November, 1967, that Great Britain may have to devalue the pound further and, should Bermuda decide against automatically devaluing the Bermuda pound by a similar amount, the use of United Kingdom coinage would have had to be discontinued in Bermuda. The introduction of local coinage in the decimal currency system obviously avoided this potential problem.

The third reason to bring 'D-Day' forward was a very practical one. With several other Commonwealth countries also planning to decimalize, it was felt that the sooner Bermuda got its order for the new coins to the Royal Mint, the better.

After considering the needs of the banks, the time it would take to convert accounting machines, the educational needs for new text books, etc., as well as the time that would be required to design and mint new coins and print new notes, February 6, 1970, was decided on as 'Bermuda Decimal Day'.

Launching a new set of coinage and currency gave Bermuda the opportunity to introduce designs that were unique to the island. After much deliberation, it was agreed that the size, shape and weight of the coins would be the same as those of the United States of America.

With that basic decision made, attention turned to the actual designs that were to appear on Bermuda's new coins and notes. While the Arnold Machin portrait of Queen Elizabeth II was to appear on the obverse of the five new coins, the reverse was designed by Mr. Michael Rizzello, showing the following: 1c - Wild Hog copied from Bermuda's first coins minted about 1614; 5c - Angel Fish; 10c - Bermuda Easter Lilies; 25c - Longtail Bird; 50c - Bermuda coat-of-arms.

Designs for the currency notes were submitted by three security printing firms. After considering both the overall designs and cost of production, Thomas de la Rue & Co. Ltd. were selected to print Bermuda's first decimal currency notes. The designs chosen for the five notes were the following: \$1 Bermuda Fitted Dinghies; \$5 - St. David's Lighthouse; \$10 - Cahow and

sea shell against a background of Flatts Inlet; \$20 - Somerset Bridge; \$50 – Gibbs Hill Lighthouse and Map of Bermuda.

Switching to decimal currency also required new postage stamps. Although it would have been preferable to issue 'decimal' stamps on Bermuda Decimal Day, postage rates equivalent to sterling values had to be considered, as well as the stocks of existing stamps. It was therefore decided to overprint the existing definitive postage stamps which had been issued in 1962, with decimal-equivalent values, and delay the issue of new definitive decimal stamps until July 6, 1970. The denominations of the 17 overprinted definitive 'Bermuda Buildings' stamps ranged from 1c to \$2.40 - then the equivalent of £1.

Bermuda flowers were featured on the new decimal definitive stamps, designed by Mr. William Harrington. As postage rates had not yet been adjusted to completely reflect the change to decimal currency, the initial printing of 17 decimal 'Bermuda Flowers' stamps was issued in the same denominations as the overprinted 'Bermuda Buildings' issue. It wasn't until June 2, 1975, when seven additional stamps were issued, eliminating certain sterling-equivalent values and making 'Bermuda Flower's a truly decimal stamp issue.

To commemorate 25 years of Decimalization, the Bermuda General Post Office has issued four postage stamps featuring four of the coins released on February 6, 1970, as well as the equivalent stamps of the 'Bermuda Flowers' definitive issue. Additionally, the Bermuda Monetary Authority has issued a limited number of five-coin gold and silver proof coin sets.

Horst Augustinovic

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