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**STUDY CIRCLE**

FOUNDED  
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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**BULLETIN No. 173 JUNE 1997**

## BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

### Affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <i>Acting Hon. General Secretary:</i>       | <b>PETER G. BOULTON</b>                                     |
| <i>Hon. Treasurer:</i>                      | <b>CRISTOPHER F. MAY</b>                                    |
| <i>Hon. Membership Secretary:</i>           | <b>STEPHEN A.SHARP</b>                                      |
| <i>Hon. Editor:</i>                         | <b>DENIS CHARLESWORTH</b>                                   |
| <i>Hon. Librarian:</i>                      | <b>DEREK M. NATHAN</b>                                      |
| <i>Hon. Publications Officer:</i>           | <b>PETER FORD</b>   |
| <i>Acting Hon.Public Relations Officer:</i> | <b>DOUGLAS W. NOTTINGHAM</b>                                |
| <i>Committee:</i>                           | <b>S. GOLDBLATT, M. HAMILTON, D. MITTON &amp; M. WILSON</b> |
| <i>Hon. Auditor:</i>                        | <b>J.A.C. FARMER, F.C.A.</b>                                |
| <i>North American Representative:</i>       | <b>W. CLARY HOLT</b>  |

## 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.).

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 \$15 made payable to "BWISC". 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

### 1997

#### Friday 12 and Saturday 13 September 1997      **CONVENTION**

Venue: The Regent Hotel, The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa.

#### FOR DETAILS SEE CONVENTION LEAFLET

**Saturday 15 Nov. 10.15 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.**      Camberley & District Stamp Club  
STAMP FAIR

Venue: Collingwood College, Barossa Building, Camberley, Surrey.

MATERIAL FOR THE SEPTEMBER  
AND ALL FUTURE ISSUES WANTED PLEASE

# **MINUTES OF THE 43rd. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE HELD AT THE BONNINGTON HOTEL, LONDON, ON SATURDAY 26th APRIL 1997 at 2.15 p.m.**

The meeting was opened by Mr. E.V. Toeg, the President, who extended a warm welcome to the 27 members present. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs. D. Charlesworth, M. Wilson and N. Allen

The minutes of the previous meeting on 27th. April 1996, as published in the June 1996 Bulletin, were taken as read and, with the approval of the meeting, were signed by the President.

## **1. Report by the Acting Hon. General Secretary - (Peter Boulton).**

I took over the post of Acting Hon. General Secretary in November 1996, following the untimely death of the previous Secretary, Michael Nicholson. This meant that the arrangements for the Circle's events during the year (WIPEX 96, Newcastle 96 and the Spring Stampex) had already been made by Michael and other members of the Committee, so I had a gentle introduction to the post. I was able to attend WIPEX 96, and was very impressed by the quality of the displays. The Stampex meeting was highlighted by the excellent talks and displays by Sir John Marriott on "Trinidad" and Simon Goldblatt on "Postmarks and Postcards". I would like to thank members of the Circle for their assistance since I took over the post, particularly the President, Victor Toeg.

## **2. Report by the Hon. Membership Secretary - (Steve Sharp).**

At the 31st. December 1996, the Circle had 333 members. Thirteen members have joined since that date. For personal reasons, it has not been possible to produce a new list of members. This remains work in hand. Address labels for the mailing of bulletins now contain the date to which subscriptions have been paid.

## **3. Report by the Hon. Editor - (Denis Charlesworth).**

(Read in his absence by the Acting Hon. General Secretary).

Material has come in at a steady rate over the year. In addition to material that has been sent in by members (all of which has been included in the Bulletins), I have received some material from outside sources and of this I have only inserted the material that I considered suitable. My thanks goes out to all of the members that have sent in articles (big and small). I am pleased to see more members from overseas contributing. I should also like to thank all of those people who have helped behind the scenes in the production and distribution of the bulletin and finally I must thank our advertisers and hope that we have been able to support them with some of our custom.

To the future, please keep the material coming in. I am ALWAYS in need of material of all types. Do members have any longer articles that can be, if

necessary, inserted in serial form. Don't think that I am competing with the book publishing policy of the Circle, but some of the shorter articles could quite easily go into the bulletin rather than small booklets.

**4. Report by the Hon. Treasurer - (Christopher May).**

The income from subscriptions was up, but the income from the auction was down. This was due to the need to bear some of the cost of printing the catalogue. The income from publications was significantly down as was the income from the Opinions Service. Expenditure was held almost level, allowing for the net cost of WIPEX 96. Consequently, the surplus for the year is seen to be well down at about 40% of 1995. However, the balance sheet remains steady, and no alteration in subscription rates is contemplated as being necessary. Investment continues in new publications, and much of the cost of printing is expected to be recovered with the initial surge of sales. As before, I gratefully acknowledge our debt to Tony Farmer for creating meaningful accounts out of the data which I provided him and then auditing the outcome.

**4a. Resignation of the Hon. Treasurer**

The Hon. Treasurer wishes to resign by 31st December 1997, and states that he would like a successor to be appointed by then. The Chairman expressed his warm thanks for the good work carried out by Christopher May and requested that a notice be inserted in the bulletin asking for a volunteer to fill the post of Hon. Treasurer.

**5. Report by the Hon. Librarian - (Derek Nathan).**

During 1996 there were 24 borrowings from the Library, involving 90 items. A steady increase in Library stock was made without involving the Study Circle in a large outlay, mainly through the generosity of authors. A new catalogue is in course of preparation with the help of Steve Jarvis, which will be distributed to Members when available.

There was a meeting at Capex in June 1996 of Philatelic Librarians who formed the International Philatelic Libraries Association. While I was unable to attend the meeting (I was on my way there by air when it took place), David Beech of the British Library represented us and is keeping me in touch with developments. It is mainly for bigger libraries than ours, although there are only five UK members, who include the British Library, the Royal and ourselves.

Your Library is, as ever, available for personal visits and browsing, by appointment.

**6. Report by the Hon. Publications Officer - (Peter Ford).**

Much of my efforts this past year have been geared to the production of the first Volume of 'The Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately' and it had been my intention all along to launch this book today at the AGM. However, I have encountered several technical problems recently which will delay its publication by about a month. On the strength of the advertisement placed in the March Bulletin, I have received some 7 orders from members and a provisional order of between 30 and 50 from a member of the trade. Next

week I will be writing to those members who have placed orders for the book apologising for the delay.

At present, I am in the process of producing a colour booklet based on Frank Deakin's display at Claridge's Ballroom two years ago. This is by way of an experiment presaging the issue of more booklets, some illustrating rarities from specialised collections and others being Study Papers of about 20 to 40 pages on some particular aspect of BWI philately. If any member present or reading the minutes to this meeting feels that they have a subject ancient or modern which needs exposure, please let them contact me and we can discuss it.

Further along the pipeline, we have the next Volume on Jamaica dealing with the stamps post-1935 and books on Trinidad and the Leeward Islands. As far as sales are concerned, the last year has seen 5 copies of 'Dominica' sold as well as one each of 'Leeward Islands Adhesive Fees Stamps and 'Barbados Post Office Markings'.

#### **7. Report by the Acting Hon. Public Relations Officer - (Douglas Nottingham).**

In taking on this post after the last AGM my main objective has been to raise the profile of the BWI, and to increase membership. I have written articles for Warwick & Warwick, London & Provincial and Midlands Philatelic Federation Newsletter's and sent in reports to the ADPS Bulletin. All of which have resulted in enquiries about membership.

I have also made enquiries about "Stamp 2000" where we hope to be joined by BCPSG members in sharing a permanent display and meeting area throughout the exhibition. The forthcoming "Rare Stamps Exhibition" at Claridges in July of this year will have a good West Indies content.

I hope over the next few years to increase our membership further by publicity at every opportunity but whether this can be contained to only free exposure is debatable. I ask, therefore, that ALL member encourage others to join us.

#### **8. Report by the Chairman of the Committee - (Victor Toeg).**

During Wipex in September last year there was a short Committee Meeting and the main topic for discussion was the amount to be spent by the Study Circle towards the cost of Volume 1 of "The Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately": this was agreed at £5000. Volume was estimated to cost about £8723 and the financial position was greatly helped by the generosity of Derek Nathan who promised to lend the Study Circle the amount of the cost of publication exceeding £5000, on the understanding that he would be recompensed from the proceeds of the initial sales. The Committee thanked Derek for his timely assistance.

The second Committee Meeting took place earlier today and many matters came up. The President reported on the Convention at Leamington in September this year. There was also a report by the Hon. Publications Officer on the latest arrangements for the publication of "The Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately"

The Acting Hon. General Secretary mentioned an invitation by the Camberley & District Stamp Club to the Study Circle to provide an honorary display on 15th November this year of 18 panels of 16 sheets each.

The next International Stamp Exhibition in the UK will be held between 22nd -28th May 2000 and it has been suggested that the Study Circle may wish to hold a joint meeting with the British Caribbean Study Group who will be here in force during the Exhibition at their Annual General Meeting. The Committee are hoping to make arrangements suitable for this great occasion.

A number of other matters were considered but they are too numerous for specific mention.

**9. Re-election of Officers**

The President, Vice Presidents, Hon. Officers and Messrs. S. Goldblatt, M. Hamilton, D. Mitton and M. Wilson have all agreed to stand as members of the Committee and there are no other nominations. Consequently, all were automatically re-elected.

**10. Re-election of the Hon. Auditor**

Mr. J.A.C. Farmer has agreed to stand, and there are no other nominations. Consequently, he is automatically re-elected.

**11. Programme of Events for 1997/1998**

Apart from the Leamington Convention described in Item 14 below, the Circle has received an invitation from the Camberley & District Stamp Club to provide an honorary panel for display at their Stamp Fair on 15th. November 1997. They are offering 18 frames of 16 sheets each, a table for our representatives and mention in their programme and promotion leaflets. The committee has agreed that we should accept their invitation and a notice will appear in the Bulletin.

The spring meeting of the society is usually chosen to coincide with the spring Stampex. However, the date of Stampex has been moved to 25th. Feb. to 1st March 1998 which is about a month later and close to our AGM.

**12. Hon. General Secretary**

Peter Ford proposed that the Acting Hon. General Secretary, Peter Boulton, be elected as the Hon. General Secretary. This was seconded by Stephen Sharp and the motion was carried unanimously.

**13. Hon. Public Relations Officer**

Simon Goldblatt proposed that the Acting Hon. Public Relations Officer, Douglas Nottingham, be elected as the Hon. Public Relations Officer. This was seconded by Derek Nathan and the motion was carried unanimously.

#### **14. Leamington Convention**

The Chairman reported on the arrangements for the Convention on 12th - 13th. Sept. 1997. He has prepared the leaflet With full details, to be published in the June issue of the Bulletin.

Displays: The formal displays are as follows "Themes of BWI Philately" by Charles Freeland, "ABC of Jamaica" by Derek Sutcliffe and "Jamaica, Heads and Tails" by Steve Jarvis. Informal displays by members will also be displayed.

Booking: The manager of The Regent Hotel has blocked 10 single, 10 double-bed and 10 twin bedded rooms for the BWISC, since the hotel will be virtually full for the weekend. For this reason, all bookings should be made early, through the Hon. General Secretary and not to the hotel.

#### **15. Other Business**

The date of the next Annual General Meeting was chosen to be 25th. April 1998 at the Bonnington Hotel. There being no other business, the President thanked the members present for their support and declared the meeting closed.

---

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**by**  
**Derek Sutcliffe & Steve Jarvis**

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## CAMBERLEY & DISTRICT STAMP CLUB

The Circle has received an invitation from the Camberley & District Stamp Club to provide an honorary panel for display at their Stamp Fair on 15th November 1997. This will be held in conjunction with their sixteenth Three Counties Club Competition at Collingwood College, Barossa Building, Camberley starting at 10.15 am and lasting to 4pm. There will be dealers' tables and a display by the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies. They are offering 18 frames of 16 sheets each for the BWISC displays, together with a table for our representatives. Your committee has accepted the invitation, so it is now up to us to fill the frames. If any member would like to exhibit items from their collection, please contact me with details. Circle members are invited to visit the Fair which should provide a very interesting day out.

Peter Boulton

## RETIREMENT OF THE HON. TREASURER

Chris May has served the Study Circle as Hon. Treasurer for a number of years and has now indicated that he wishes to retire from this office by or before the 31st December 1997. The membership of the Study Circle has increased steadily over the last few years and it would be useful if an applicant for the office of Hon. Treasurer has some experience in the preparation of accounts, although this is not an essential requirement.

Any applicant wishing to volunteer for this office should get in touch with our Hon. General Secretary, Peter Boulton at 84 Tangier Road, Richmond, Surrey. TW10 5DN, telephone 0181 876 6803.

Victor Toeg - President

## AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

### BERMUDA - Commemorative stamp issue - Date of issue 17th April 1997

#### BIRD CONSERVATION

Values 30c White tailed tropic bird  
60c White tailed tropic bird  
80c Cahow  
\$2.50 Cahow

Design - Norman Arlott

Printer - BDT Int'l Security Printers

Process - Lithography

Stamps per sheet, - 50 (2x25)

Paper - C.A. Spiral Watermark

Stamp size - 28.45 x 42.58mm



### JAMAICA - Commemorative stamp issue - Date of issue 7th February 1997

300th Anniv. of the Kingston Parish Church - \$2.00, \$8.00, \$12.50 and Souvenir sheet at \$60

## **1997 AUCTION REPORT**

"Lot 110", said the auctioneer, "would anyone like to bid £85?" Bidder B23 hoisted his bidding card aloft. "I thought you would, Dennis," the auctioneer went on, "but have to disappoint you: I'm afraid the bidding has to start at £460".

That, of course, was where the competition stopped - so did we get our estimation wrong? Not exactly: we had correctly assessed rarity, and on this occasion our valuation represented a sum that would have satisfied the seller and around which we should have preferred to see the Pembroke West cover sell. Still, it was satisfying to see our star rarity fetching a star price.

This was our best auction ever. Only once before had we reached five figures at the conclusion of the sale, and the 1997 sale total of £12,376.75 was by a substantial margin our biggest ever realisation. Certainly the John de Vries collection made a big contribution to the result; about three-quarters of the lots found a buyer, with about a fifth of the collection in value to be re-offered in more digestible batches at our next Leamington Convention. Yet the rest of the sale was by no means swamped. We had 88 postal bidders - again a record - competing with 26 registered buyers in the room: 69 of the absent buyers and all but one of those present made at least one purchase, whilst one of our room bidders (thank you, B7!) secured a record haul of 41 lots. That being said, to anyone keeping a careful note, it would have become apparent that there were two other room bidders and two postal bidders who spent even more than would have been noted in respect of B7.

To continue with statistics, over 70% of our customary 500 lots (one withdrawn before sale) were sold, representing almost exactly the same proportion of total pre-sale estimated value. The correspondence in the valuation of lots sold was not quite so close, as about 73% in value was represented by the items that went to purchasers. As a further statistic, up to lot 400, exactly three quarters (300 lots) found a buyer: it was only in the last 100 lots that bidders absent and present ran out of steam and only just over half of these final items were sold.

Room buyers were heard to suggest that postal bidders had had it all their own way. This was far from the case, for 45% of the sale total was spent in the room. However, it was the strong St. Vincent contingent who really suffered as, one after another after the next, our very high-quality postmark items were knocked down to a mysterious A89. Between lots 344 and 356, most of the items were supported by three or four book bidders, lot 351 attracted five, and there were probably as many in the room who had their eye on the same material. Lot 362 demonstrated as much: estimated at £30 it received unprecedented support from ten book bidders, and the bidding opened at £65. Then the Room took over, and £80 was the Winning bid.

Other popular items were the British Honduras censor covers, lots 182 and 183: these brought in twelve book bids between them, but were secured by different

buyers in the room at £27 and £23, respectively. Sensibly, the bidding did not go mad - we all had a fairly similar idea of value for this material. Indeed, it was striking the number of times that "two even bids of -" was announced (the only time the auctioneer reveals his book limit); for lot 80, three bidders picked the same limit of £12 and, of course, the earliest in time secured it. Later bidders are generally conscious of the priorities, and will often bid a little higher to make up for it. Unless there are two over-zealous buyers, high bids are safe with the Circle: as usual, there was a margin to spare on many of the postal bids, with over 20% of the book's capacity not required to be used.

A striking instance of book capacity was the Punta Gorda 'dumb' strike, lot 170. The hammer was just about to fall at the opening bid of £4.50, when B13's unobtrusive pencil was seen to be raised. 58 rounds of bidding later the item was still on the book at £52, when the hammer fell. This might have been 'top of the book' - or might not. The secret was not revealed.

Another lot which had those attending puzzled was our Montserrat Red Cross offering, lot 282. We have handled similar stamps before, and they seem to grow more popular: of the seven book bidders, three were prepared to pay three times estimate or more, and the pair fetched £32.

Leaving aside the less important Trinidad material in the 400's, and the last few groups of catalogues, this was our first sale without flat spots: even in British Guiana, where our specialists have been fed a rich diet over the past two years, most items found a buyer, and the type 2 cancellations were predictably popular. Yet a few lots unexpectedly failed even now. Amongst these were the Anguilla Forest TRD, lot 1; the Jamaica 2½d used in Cayman Is., lot 185; and the Trinidad lithograph with village use, lot 416. Each - and especially the first - should have found a new owner at around estimate. Never mind that these Anguilla strikes are always philatelic. Covers go from £300 or £400 and up, and the single stamps seem to us just as desirable.

As usual, Barbados sold well - most at around estimate, with that glamorous block, lot 85, reaching £52. Even St. Vincent has never reached the consistency of this year's Barbados where, after the first two lots failed to sell, only three others had to be passed, and all 29 lots from 52 to 80 were disposed of. Leeward Islands was another favourite. Only one of the lots was left unsold, and the two plate number lots, 264 and 265, were much wanted both in and outside the Room, approximately doubling their estimates. Surprisingly, the used 5/- went for £38 (lot 268). Did we miss a plate variety? In any case we must work harder to find quality Leewards material next year - there was not really enough to meet demand.

For those who are worried by Madam Joseph, take comfort! Lot 288, our modest Montserrat Jubilee items, was popular, and it sold for £10.50, four times what you would pay for stamps genuinely used.

Returning to the John de Vries collection, it was gratifying for the Circle to be entrusted with its disposal, and to see our valuations achieving broad acceptance. In Tobago, lot 373 beat its estimate, and so did the illustrated lots 387 and 390 - the former, a quite unrepeatable assembly. The disappointment here was with our other frontispiece illustration, lot 398 with vertical interpanneau. It cannot be the price, but must be the shape, with which our potential buyers could not cope.

The literature items came largely from John's collection (a selection from a larger batch to be offered at Leamington) and sold well, with Easton's DLR realising £39, Samuel's Specimen Stamps £34, and a 1907 Aspinall £19.

We end the main report with the Circle's only "giveaway": our instructions were to sell lot 457 for what it would fetch - this was a bargain £5, against an estimate of £18.

Even with as buoyant an auction as this, with lots sold averaging £35 apiece, about two thirds of our members still took no active part. It shows there is a large unrealised potential amongst both buyers and sellers. As has become customary, a list of lots unsold and remaining on offer has been circulated to participators. On past experience, a proportion of these will find ready buyers. The unsold lots are excluded from the list which follows:-

| Lot | £     | Lot | £     | Lot | £     | Lot | £    | Lot | £     | Lot | £     |
|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-------|
| 3   | 15.50 | 4   | 34    | 5   | 10    | 6   | 42   | 7   | 42    | 9   | 8     |
| 12  | 70    | 15  | 11.50 | 16  | 85    | 18  | 27   | 19  | 11    | 20  | 12.50 |
| 22  | 15    | 23  | 19    | 24  | 7.50  | 25  | 14   | 26  | 11    | 27  | 19    |
| 28  | 6     | 29  | 10    | 30  | 7.50  | 31  | 28   | 32  | 9     | 34  | 21    |
| 35  | 48    | 37  | 12    | 38  | 11    | 40  | 24   | 41  | 16.50 | 43  | 16    |
| 46  | 17    | 49  | 15    | 50  | 26    | 52  | 7.50 | 53  | 20    | 54  | 70    |
| 55  | 34    | 56  | 40    | 57  | 11    | 58  | 40   | 59  | 80    | 60  | 38    |
| 61  | 17    | 62  | 14    | 63  | 27    | 64  | 7.50 | 65  | 52    | 66  | 35    |
| 67  | 27    | 68  | 44    | 69  | 8     | 70  | 7.50 | 71  | 7.50  | 72  | 12    |
| 73  | 20    | 74  | 10    | 75  | 10.50 | 76  | 22   | 77  | 4.75  | 78  | 22    |
| 79  | 5.25  | 80  | 12    | 82  | 65    | 83  | 33   | 84  | 31    | 85  | 52    |
| 86  | 6     | 87  | 10.50 | 88  | 10.50 | 90  | 16   | 91  | 13.50 | 92  | 8     |
| 93  | 4     | 94  | 10    | 95  | 19    | 97  | 3.75 | 100 | 16    | 101 | 9     |
| 102 | 24    | 103 | 15.50 | 104 | 44    | 106 | 19   | 107 | 22    | 108 | 15.50 |
| 109 | 26    | 110 | 460   | 112 | 36    | 114 | 16   | 117 | 22    | 118 | 5.75  |
| 119 | 15    | 120 | 28    | 121 | 75    | 123 | 20   | 124 | 6     | 125 | 5.25  |
| 126 | 13    | 127 | 16    | 128 | 8     | 130 | 7    | 132 | 52    | 133 | 80    |
| 134 | 30    | 136 | 27    | 138 | 75    | 139 | 17   | 141 | 34    | 143 | 54    |
| 144 | 95    | 145 | 28    | 146 | 50    | 147 | 19   | 152 | 42    | 153 | 29    |
| 155 | 26    | 156 | 24    | 157 | 10    | 158 | 13   | 161 | 18    | 164 | 60    |
| 165 | 8     | 167 | 6     | 168 | 52    | 169 | 37   | 170 | 52    | 172 | 26    |
| 174 | 15    | 175 | 17    | 176 | 21    | 177 | 31   | 178 | 15.50 | 181 | 21    |

| Lot | £     | Lot | £     | Lot | £     | Lot | £     | Lot | £     | Lot | £     |
|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|
| 182 | 27    | 183 | 23    | 184 | 10.50 | 186 | 7b    | 187 | 25    | 189 | 26    |
| 191 | 4.50  | 192 | 6     | 193 | 17    | 195 | 44    | 196 | 22    | 197 | 23    |
| 198 | 13.50 | 199 | 9.50  | 200 | 60    | 201 | 18    | 203 | 14.50 | 205 | 6.50  |
| 207 | 65    | 208 | 42    | 209 | 20    | 210 | 16.50 | 211 | 12.50 | 213 | 37    |
| 215 | 21    | 216 | 46    | 217 | 10.50 | 218 | 13    | 220 | 21    | 221 | 15.50 |
| 222 | 12.50 | 223 | 23    | 224 | 9     | 225 | 13.50 | 226 | 20    | 228 | 27    |
| 233 | 15.50 | 235 | 28    | 236 | 25    | 237 | 36    | 239 | 32    | 240 | 31    |
| 242 | 16.50 | 243 | 12    | 244 | 65    | 246 | 75    | 248 | 18    | 251 | 30    |
| 252 | 21    | 254 | 31    | 255 | 14    | 259 | 16.50 | 260 | 7     | 261 | 4.50  |
| 262 | 7.50  | 263 | 19    | 264 | 32    | 265 | 23    | 266 | 16.50 | 267 | 4     |
| 268 | 38    | 270 | 19    | 271 | 16    | 272 | 26    | 273 | 42    | 274 | 42    |
| 275 | 19    | 276 | 31    | 277 | 23    | 278 | 36    | 279 | 10.50 | 281 | 3     |
| 282 | 32    | 284 | 3.75  | 286 | 31    | 287 | 14    | 288 | 10.50 | 290 | 12.50 |
| 291 | 8     | 292 | 4.50  | 293 | 12.50 | 296 | 7.50  | 297 | 12    | 298 | 65    |
| 300 | 30    | 301 | 65    | 302 | 60    | 303 | 24    | 304 | 31    | 305 | 40    |
| 308 | 130   | 309 | 5     | 310 | 12    | 312 | 4.50  | 313 | 7.50  | 314 | 12    |
| 315 | 9     | 316 | 15    | 318 | 4     | 319 | 11    | 320 | 9.50  | 321 | 6     |
| 323 | 30    | 324 | 11    | 325 | 4     | 326 | 50    | 327 | 60    | 329 | 21    |
| 331 | 13    | 332 | 24    | 333 | 7     | 334 | 42    | 335 | 13    | 336 | 12    |
| 338 | 4     | 339 | 13.50 | 340 | 9     | 341 | 75    | 342 | 30    | 344 | 60    |
| 345 | 35    | 346 | 32    | 347 | 80    | 348 | 90    | 349 | 16.50 | 350 | 90    |
| 351 | 105   | 352 | 42    | 353 | 80    | 354 | 105   | 355 | 95    | 356 | 60    |
| 357 | 27    | 359 | 20    | 362 | 80    | 363 | 4     | 364 | 13    | 365 | 13    |
| 366 | 6.50  | 368 | 12    | 369 | 3     | 370 | 5     | 372 | 320   | 373 | 380   |
| 374 | 140   | 376 | 27    | 377 | 23    | 378 | 46    | 379 | 75    | 380 | 10.50 |
| 381 | 12.50 | 382 | 11    | 383 | 20    | 384 | 42    | 385 | 500   | 387 | 440   |
| 388 | 90    | 389 | 95    | 390 | 58    | 391 | 150   | 392 | 180   | 393 | 75    |
| 394 | 160   | 395 | 90    | 396 | 90    | 397 | 85    | 399 | 80    | 400 | 130   |
| 404 | 7.50  | 405 | 75    | 406 | 300   | 407 | 24    | 410 | 23    | 412 | 24    |
| 417 | 24    | 420 | 7     | 422 | 23    | 427 | 65    | 428 | 38    | 436 | 15.50 |
| 438 | 44    | 439 | 23    | 440 | 10    | 441 | 17    | 442 | 30    | 444 | 85    |
| 447 | 56    | 448 | 26    | 449 | 15    | 452 | 16    | 453 | 12    | 454 | 32    |
| 455 | 15.50 | 457 | 5     | 458 | 15    | 459 | 30    | 461 | 15    | 462 | 9     |
| 463 | 6     | 464 | 5.25  | 465 | 9.50  | 469 | 19    | 472 | 44    | 473 | 34    |
| 474 | 11    | 475 | 12    | 476 | 39    | 477 | 34    | 478 | 8     | 479 | 21    |
| 480 | 7.50  | 482 | 8.50  | 484 | 8     | 485 | 19    | 488 | 9     | 489 | 6     |
| 491 | 4.50  | 492 | 4.50  | 493 | 7     | 494 | 15    |     |       |     |       |

**MATERIAL WANTED**  
**FOR THE SEPTEMBER AND FUTURE ISSUES OF THE BULLETIN PLEASE**

## THE LEAMINGTON CONVENTION - 1997

Although the Convention takes place every other year, it seems to come round again in no time and I am sure that those of you who have attended it think as I do.

This year it will be held again at The Regent Hotel, Royal Leamington Spa on Friday, 12th and Saturday, 13th September.

On the Friday we will have the Wine and Cheese Party at the hotel which will give the weekend a wonderful start, so please mix as much as possible at the party.

The Convention Day is the Saturday. There will be a formal display of Jamaica by Derek Sutcliffe and Steve Jarvis to promote the launch of Volume 1 of the Study Circle's magnum opus entitled 'The Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately'. In addition Charles Freeland will be entertaining us with a formal display of several countries.

Will those of you who can do so please remember to bring with you up to thirty pages from your collections which can then be shown in the Informal Displays at different times during the Convention Day: in this way you will be participating more fully in making the Convention a great success as well as enjoying the occasion more from your personal point of view.

The Luncheon will be buffet style and informal. This proved a great success on the last occasion and again hope that you will take advantage of it to get to know each other better.

There will be a Bourse as before and you will be able to browse over dealers' stocks and our own Members' Approval Table ably presided over for a number of years by Simon Goldblatt and his team of helpers.

The Regent Hotel now know our requirements very well indeed and have kept their increase in charges to a minimum, most increases being due to the cost of food going up.

I hope that some of you who have not been to the Convention previously will decide to come along as it will be quite an experience.

E. Victor Toeg - President

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## **ANTIGUA - Manuscript Markings**

With reference to Simon Goldblatts article in the March Bulletin (No.172), put forward, with some trepidation (bearing in mind Simon's extensive knowledge and experience in these matters) the possibility that the mystery 22.1.90 SP (page 11) is NOT Antigua St. Philip but Sandy Point, St. Kitts during the time (early 1890) when St. Kitts was using the Antigua 1d stamps. I have noted that Robson Lowe P.129 states that in the case of Sandy Point, the initials SP were added.

If this is correct, I would venture to suggest that the stamp in question so marked, is even more desirable and there may be other examples to be found, but not many!

Chris May

## **BARBADOS - "HALF-PENNY" on 4d Brown (SG.104)**

In early June 1892 supplies of certain Barbados stamps were getting low, including the half-penny green.

Not for the first (or last) time the Colonial Postmaster sent off an order for replacement stamps to the Printers in England far too late, resulting in the issue of a provisional stamp. In order to maintain a supply of half-penny stamps in Barbados the little used 4d deep brown was locally overprinted HALF-PENNY by the West Indian Press.

The West Indian Press had initial problems with the overprint, resulting in several rare varieties.

The first problem was with the colour. At least the first sheet of sixty 4d brown stamps was overprinted in red ink; but was found not to be satisfactory. The sheet (possibly more than one sheet) was afterwards surcharged with the overprint in black, and then put back into stock, thus creating a double surcharge, one in red and the other in black (SG.104b with hyphen and SG.104ba without hyphen).

There is even one stamp known with a treble surcharge, two overprints in red and one in black (SG. unlisted).

One stamp, half-penny on four-penny double surcharge (red and black) no hyphen (SG.104ba) is known used on a local cover with a normal stamp (SG.104) bearing a cancellation date stamp 15.5.1895.

The West Indian Press, at least initially, also had difficulties in lining up the overprint on the stamp; hence the diagonal overprint variety (SG. unlisted) and the PENNY HALF variety (SG.104d). They also appear to have had problems with inking. There is a known horizontal pair with the left hand stamp showing

the first two letters of the second impression inked. The right hand stamp shows a complete albino surcharge (SG.104c).

The Philatelic press in 1892 reported that speculators in Barbados were acquiring 'Printers Waste' i.e. sheets of stamps which had been imperfectly surcharged. Some imperfectly surcharged stamps were either cancelled to order or used for postal purposes.

The records show that 500 sheets (500 x 60 = 120,000 stamps) were printed. The earliest known cancellation date stamp is 11.7.1892. The stamps remained on sale until all stocks were exhausted - probably 1896. The surcharge on each sheet varies in length, from 17mm to 17¾mm. The lettering is 1½mm high. Sometimes the hyphen is missing altogether (SG.104a), occasionally it is a dot (SG. unlisted), but otherwise the length of the hyphen varies from something that to the naked eye resembles a dot to ¾mm (SG.104).

Other varieties of the overprint exist, including the small A in HALF (SG. unlisted) and the bar of H in HALF omitted (SG. unlisted) and the black double surcharge (with or without hyphen) (Scott 69b).

Illustrated are a block of nine (RPS cert. 165435) with stamp 4 showing the small A in HALF and a block of fifteen (RPS cert. 168614) showing the imperfect surcharge bearing cancellation date stamps of 20.7.1892.





Ian Jakes

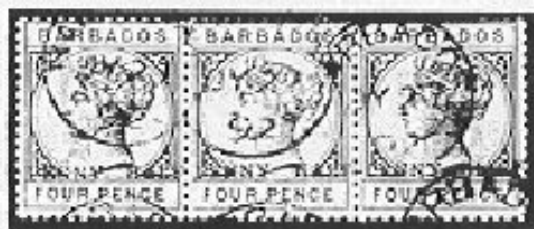
## BARBADOS

The final chapter on some issues never seems to end. A few years back the dramatically misplaced surcharge of 'PENNY HALF' for 'HALF-PENNY' on QV 4d was SG catalogued and is currently priced at £200 for a used example.



The “end position” for now, at least, is reporting the existence of “PENNY” on 4d on local cover postmarked AU 5 92. We can, however, eagerly await reports of

mint examples "PENNY HALF" and "PENNY" and whatever else might yet turn up.



The strip of three "PENNY HALF" unlike the cover is cancelled by smaller cds - this is in fact handbook Type E2 for JY 27 92 - fifteen years later than the supplied LRD - the counter staff simply removed the code-letter. Such late uses are common on this issue but examples on Britannia stamps without code prove most elusive.

Michael Hamilton

## BRITISH HONDURAS - Bisects

As a collector of philatelic covers of the British West Indies of the reigns of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V, I have had a problem with the identification of two of the bisects on cover of the Victorian issues of British Honduras. There also appears to have been the same problem in the description of the bisects in UK auction catalogues.

As described in the Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Catalogue the bisects of concern are:

- SG.27c      2c on 1d rose bisected on cover. (1 Jan 1888 surcharged locally on the 1d rose SG. 18, Wmk CCA issued in 1884).
- SG.37a      2c on 1d carmine bisected on cover (9 July 1888 surcharged in London on the 1d carmine SG. 19, Wmk CCA issued in 1887).

The surcharges referred to are different, respectively SG. Figs 2 and 4.

Several years ago I made a successful bid in a postal auction (as a resident of Australia, this is my only access to collect covers of interest) for the bisect SG.37a on cover. At the time I did not pay any particular interest to the colour of the bisected stamp.

Following this, have been keeping my eye open for a similar cover with bisect SG.27c.

Three times I have made bids from Catalogues issued by well known auction firms for covers which are described as bearing SG.27c rose. These bids were all successful but in each case I was disappointed when the cover arrived because I identified the bisect by the appearance of the surcharge which

corresponded to SG. Fig 4 (SG.37a carmine) and not SG Fig 2 (SG.27a rose) as described in the sales. Following the return of the lots to the auction firms and an explanation, my observations were confirmed and received a refund of my bids.

The confusion appears to have arisen because of the descriptions in the British Commonwealth Catalogue (Part 1). SG.27c being described as rose and SG.37a as carmine. So far, I have not been able to inspect a cover bearing SG.27c and therefore have not been able to make a comparison with SG.37a on my covers (I have two), but still I suspect both surcharges, the local SG Fig 2 and the London SG Fig 4 were made on the 1d rose SG.18.

Recently, I wrote to Stanley Gibbons for clarification and quote the reply from D.J. Aggersberg dated 6 September 1996.

“All authorities agree that the local surcharge, No.27 (Bisect 27c) were on the 1d rose printing. Where however the problem may arise is in the description of the London surcharge No.37 (Bisect 37a). This was applied to a completely new printing, of considerable size, and not to the stock of stamps sent to the colony in 1887 which contained No.19 the 1d carmine. Due to the size of the printing, 240600, the shade of the stamps used for No.37 varied to some extent and does not necessarily correspond with the 1887 printing which was only a tenth of the size. The answer may well be to examine our description of No.19 to see if carmine is completely accurate.”

“As the local and London surcharges are in completely different type there should be little difficulty in identifying which surcharge actually appears, even on a bisect, but matters are not helped by the shade in the special printing used for the London surcharge”.

I wish to bring this matter to the attention of other collectors and firms issuing postal auction catalogues to use the appearance of the surcharge and not the colour for the identification of the bisects SG.27c and SG.37a for it appears that both were printed on the 1d rose, SG. 18, or stamps of similar shade. It may be that the shade may approach carmine but the several examples I have seen were all rose in colour.

I should be pleased to hear from any collector or dealer who has seen SG.37a bisected on cover and carmine in colour.

Eric. M. Bateson

## **DOMINICA -Small 'O' in 'ONE'**

Firstly, an apology to the Study Circle. The block of War Tax overprints to which I referred in a previous article does not contain a “small O in ONE”. I am very grateful to Victor Toeg for all the trouble he has taken to research this variety. It appears this can be difficult to identify but Victor has supplied me with the

enlargement shown below which shows the variety. The best way to locate the variety is to turn the stamp upside down. It then becomes quite apparent that the top of the 0 is below the other letters of the surcharge.



Secondly, thank you to the members who have contacted me regarding the 1938-51 definitive series. I have now built up a little library of information about the "re-entries" on that issue. I have also obtained details of the various printings for this issue: it seems that there were various papers used at different times. I am not sure what the source of this information was. I would still be grateful to hear from any member who has studied any aspect of this particular issue, or who has any material for sale.

Finally, can anyone enlighten the Circle about the missing letters from the watermark varieties on the 1951 definitive series which appear in the latest Gibbons Part One? I see that they do not yet quote for a missing "C" on the 6c Olive and Chestnut. However, there is a gap in the catalogue numbers which implies they anticipate that such a variety exists. I have an unmounted mint block of ten of this stamp and believe that one of the script C's is quite clearly missing. I would be interested to hear from anyone with knowledge of this variety, and would also appreciate an opinion on another stamp in this set in my possession with, believe part of the "A" missing.

Ian Small



## **ST LUCIA - Castries Parcel Cancellor**

On page 85 of Bulletin 163, dated December 1994, Mr Soutar had illustrated a 1949+ usage of the Castries Parcel canceller.

I can report that I have a strike of this canceller on a 15 cent stamp of the first issue of Queen Elizabeth definitives, a stamp printed in September 1954.

May I also report a recent purchase of a postcard from St. Lucia dated 1st May 1919 bearing only a copy of the War Tax stamp (SG.90) with a clear strike of the serrified "T" in circle tax mark, Ritchie type T1.

Being still within the time when war tax stamps were obligatory for mail within the commonwealth it has correctly been treated as being posted without a stamp, thus the "T" mark, some 5 years earlier than that listed in Ritchie's handbook. Has any member a record of an earlier strike of this mark ?

Alistair Kinnon

## **ST. LUCIA - Postage Dues Redux The "Numbers":**

### **Part 1 - A New Highest Number, Used, 2d.**

The first issues of postage dues of St. Lucia continue to fascinate. Each stamp is individually numbered and this has allowed me to find patterns of known numbers which reveal peculiarities. Until recently, I had not seen any used copies of the 2d. numbered above 13730 (used on a Panton cover with a 1d. numbered 17266, fig. 1). I have now found a 2d numbered 16070, used on a similar "Panton" cover, used on the same date (9 JA 1933) as the cover with the previously highest known used number (this cover has a 1d numbered 17277, fig. 2). From my own collection I also have another "Panton" cover originating from Turks and Caicos Islands (cds DE 5, 32), also received at Castries on 9 JA 33, showing the 1d numbered 17276, which is the neighbour of the 1d on the cover in figure 2 (1d numbered 17277), but with a 2d numbered 13576 (see fig. 3). You will note that although each of the 1d stamps on these covers come from the same sheet (sheet 288, numbered 17221-17280), the sheets of the 2d stamps vary widely in numbers (13576, from sheet 227, 13730, from sheet 229, and 16070, from sheet 268). I believe this could have occurred because a substantial number of sheets were "reserved" for creation of "Panton" covers for Mr. Davis, (see the article by Harold Green, BWISC Bulletin page 31, June 1996, No.169) and the usage of stamps frequently may have occurred out of normal number sequence. I also believe that a significant number of these "reserved sheets" were never used and have not yet surfaced. These "gaps" (as more fully elaborated below) remain unexplained so far. Can any reader

provide further information, including any further usages of the 2d, above #13730, and any 2d used after late February 1933? All "Panton" covers to St. Lucia ceased by late February, 1933, even though the first postage due issues remained available at least until May 5, 1933, when the second postage due issues were first used. There are some examples of the first postage due issue of the 1d used after February, including two rather crumpled covers which were in the Dale-Lichtenstein collection, used May 12, 1933, showing a total of 9 1d stamps, including numbers between 22761 and 23152 (which is the highest known used 1d of which I have a record).

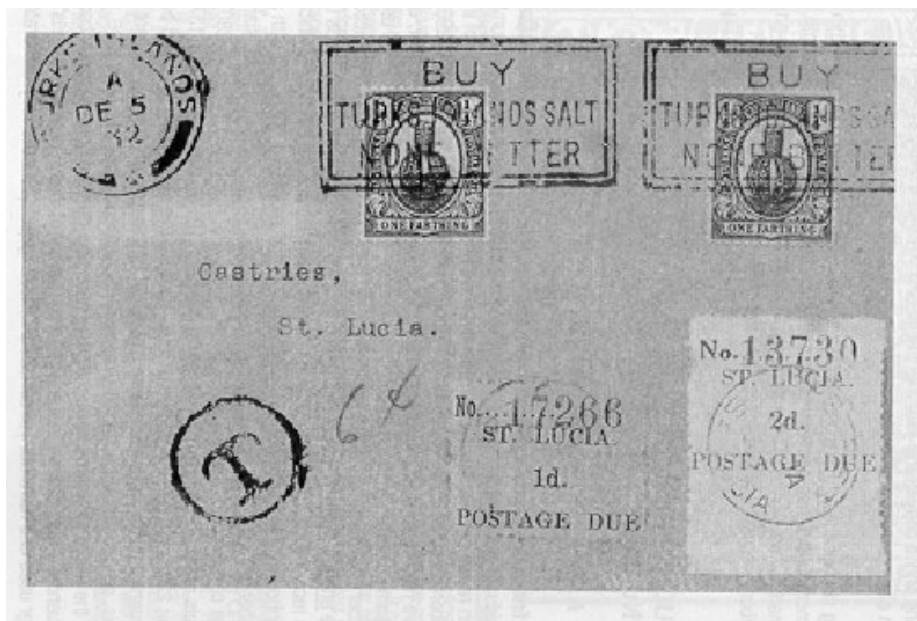
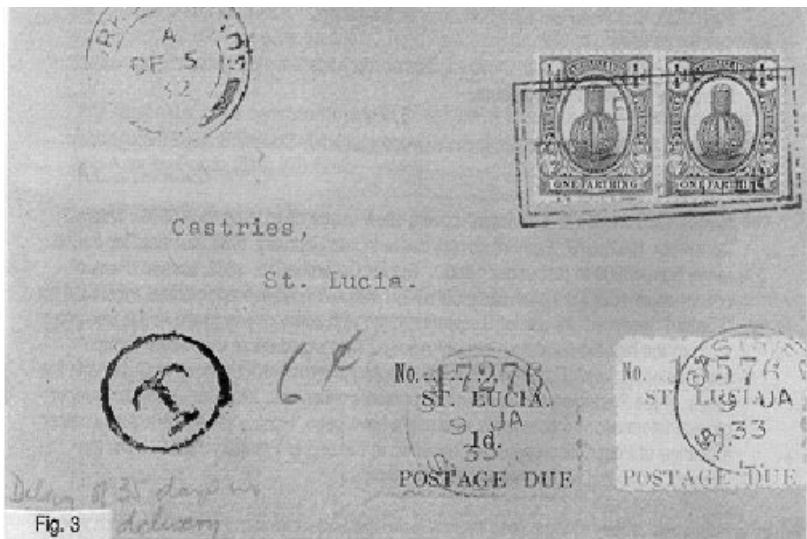
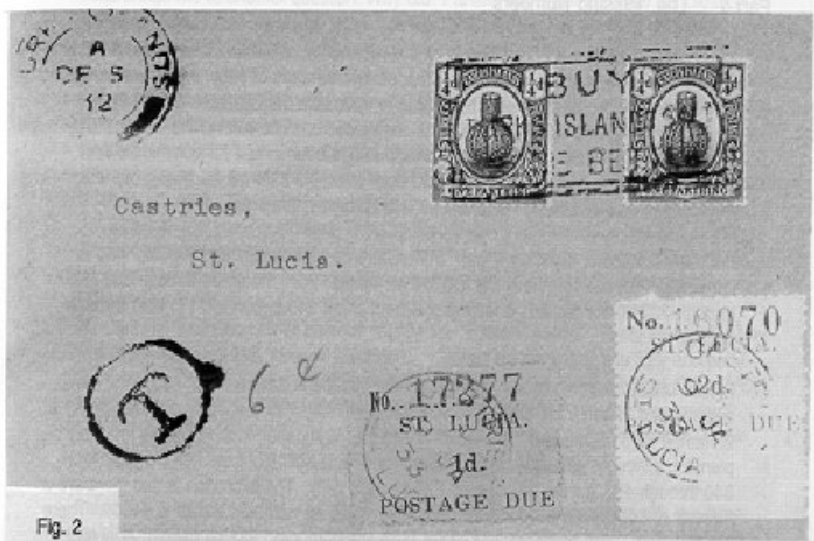


Fig. 1



## Part II - The "Missing Numbers"

In reviewing nearly 4,000 total copies of the 1d and 2d of the first issue typeset postage dues of St. Lucia, it was not surprising that so few numbers of either value were recorded for numbers below 3000. I have been able to trace less than a dozen different low numbers for each value. This "gap" is understandable, since what philatelic popularity this issue achieved did not occur until the issue had been in use for quite some time. Generally, stamps numbered above 3000 were available after the beginning of 1932. Any usages before January 1932 are far less common, even rare.

But there is another significant "gap" in numbers for both values and this later gap is surprising. For the 1d, there are few known stamps from sheet 300 through 339 (19941 through 20340); for the 2d, a later gap is from sheet 240 through 271 (14341 through 16260).

Please understand - these are true "gaps" - the stamps in each number sequence have disappeared. I can trace stamps for each value in only 7 or 8 sheets, and then only 1 or 2 stamps from each sheet. It is worth noting that stamps for each value are relatively plentiful, although, generally, only unused, for sheets after the gaps (for the 1d sheets 340 through 400; for the 2d, sheets 272 through 279). The exception is that there are a number of 1d stamps used in mid-December 1932, for numbers 21180 to 21600. There are also some high numbers in 22000's (and one numbered 23152) used in April and May 1933, and these are noted on commercial covers.

What is also unusual is that these higher number gaps have persisted despite collectors' interest to discover new numbers.

Here are some further oddities for this period (generally December 1932 through May 1933):

In early December 1932, "Panton" covers show usage of 1d's up to #16800. Late in December 1932, until "Panton" covers cease in late February 1933, numbers for the 1d range from 16900 to just under 18000. But for December 15, 1932, several "Panton" covers show 1d's from sheet 254 (21181-21240). Why? Was a 'shipment' of sheets for "Panton" "reserved" for use in December 1932, with some covers made up for December 15 from the highest numbered sheet? Likely. That would mean that when "Panton" covers stopped after February 23, 1933, this "reserved stock" remained in Castries in the hands of the Postmaster or some other person working with "Panton". (Can any reader provide information to determine who might have been "Panton's" associate and whether a change of Post Office personnel occurred at the end of February 1933? If so, the "leaving" individual likely held the missing sheets.)

Remember, many stamps (and even sheets) are known for higher numbers which were probably put to press to meet philatelic demand (since so few are known used).

That brings me to another question: Why did "Panton" covers stop? Had the creation of these covers caused an inquiry within the Post Office? Similar "Panton" covers did continue with like activities in the Caymans for at least 3 more years.

It also appears that the 2d value was not used after March 1933. Where actual charges exceeded 1d, multiple copies of the 1d were used. Why? Clearly, the 2d still remained in stock. With the exception of the "Panton" cover noted in Part 1 above (fig 2), the highest used number for the 2d of which I am aware is 13730, used 9 JA 33, on a "Panton" cover. I have 2d's used later on "Panton" covers as late as February 23, 1933, but all are lower numbers. This fact also gives credence to the hypothesis that "Panton" covers were frequently made up from "reserved sheets" held for this purpose with the top sheets in a pile being higher numbers, and the top sheets were used first.

Incidentally, there is another peculiar gap - in the "Panton" covers. There are quite a few from mid-January 1932, through late February, and then none until late May and early June 1932. Did the person working on creating these covers leave the Post Office? Did he go on vacation? Did he decide to sell off his holding before creating new covers? I do not know. My lowest number for "Panton" covers is 1d, #6547 and 2d, #4874. (Mr. Davis has a 2d #4750 used on a cover, used 21 JA 32 at Castries.)

I also find it peculiar that so few "Panton" or other philatelic covers exist with the large font "NO" from the 10th row. It is also odd that so few of these stamps (with the large font) occur on non-philatelic covers, as well. I suppose that these stamps were recognised as different early on and so were held back for sale to philatelists. If so, what happened to the lower numbered items from the 10th row?

Any responses to the comments made in this article or to any of the queries posed may be sent to Whitin, 9304 Civic Center Drive, Suite 6, Beverley Hills, California, 90210, U.S.A. or by Fax to (310) 278-6242.

Harry Whitin, As Told To A Friend

## **UNITED STATES MILITARY CENSOR MARKS USED IN SAINT LUCIA DURING WW2**

The last paragraph in Dr Ritchie's handbook, St Lucia, a Philatelic History, is about U.S. censor marks and he states that so far only U S standard marks numbers 800 and 801 have been seen.

I have been fortunate to acquire some others and this note is to put these on record and to perhaps stimulate members of the Study Circle to see if among their collections they have material to fill in the obvious gaps.

It appears to me from the covers in my possession, or which I have seen, that censor marks 800 and 801 were used in the base post office at the airfield at Vieux Fort, later known as "Beane Field". The earliest date for censor 800 appears to be 17th August 1941, which is the day that the base post office opened. This mark was still being used well into 1942, usually but not exclusively on mail originating from the civilian contractors working on the base. Censor mark 801 came into use shortly after No. 800 and was used simultaneously until well into 1942 being used by APO 867 as well as APO 805. I would be interested to hear of the use of these numbers after September 1942. These censor marks were occasionally countersigned but this appears to be the exception rather than the rule.

Censor marks 802 and 803 are applied on letters from soldiers in the Coastal Artillery, 28th sep.batt. from March 1942 but having seen only one strike of each cannot estimate their period of use.

804 I have on a cover from the Base Command Headquarters, dated May 1944 which might indicate that by this time the base post office was no longer using its separate censor stamps but that headquarters had taken over this duty.

I have no record of 805 so far.

806 I have used on a December 1941 letter from the bomber squadron operating B-18 bombers on anti-submarine patrols from Beane field and censor mark 807 is on a cover from the Provost Detachment at the air base.

The return address on the cover bearing 808 is 22nd S.S. Co. Deta. Perhaps one of our American members can decipher this into a full unit title !

The last numbered censor mark can definitely identify with St. Lucia is 828. This is on a cover from the Field Artillery Detachment, APO 867 used in December 1942. However I do have a cover from the contractors "Walsh & Driscoll Co." in St. Lucia, cancelled on November 13th 1942 by a wavy line machine mark of a type not identified to have been used in St. Lucia, with the censor mark 735-A. Can anybody place this censor ?

Finally I have one cover originating at the Gros Islet naval air station, cancelled by a U.S. Navy large single ring datestamp with 3 bars, bearing a green, circular "passed by naval censor" initialled mark. This mark appears to be a standard issue naval censor mark. I assume that the letter was censored at its origin but am open to alternative suggestions from those members with a knowledge of U.S. naval procedures.

The obvious gap in the above sequence is number 805, but what happened to numbers 809 to 827 ? Were these allocated to other U S units based on other West Indies islands ? Can anybody fill in the gaps ?

A.D.Kinnon

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