

ISSN 0953 - 8720



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 177 JUNE 1998

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation

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<i>Acting Hon. Treasurer:</i>	RAY J. STANTON,
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<i>Hon. Auditor:</i>	J.A.C. FARMER, F.C.A.
<i>North American Representative:</i>	W. CLARY HOLT

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

1998

Saturday 26th September - 10.00 to 5.30pm WIPEX

Venue: The Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London. WC1
(See details on page 36)

1999

Saturday 6th March - 10.15 to 12.15

International Stamp & Cover Show

Venue:

Royal Horticultural Hall, London.

Speakers: Peter Baldwin - St. Kitts-Nevis 1938-50

+ 1 other

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 44th. Annual General Meeting of The British West Indies Study Circle was held at The Bonnington Hotel, London at 2.15 p.m. on Saturday 25 April 1998

1. The meeting was opened by Mr. E.V. Toeg, the President, who extended a warm welcome to the 32 members present. In order to help the members to get to know each other, everybody was asked to announce their name and collecting interests. It is hoped to provide name badges for this purpose next year.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Messrs .P.J. Jaffe, Sir John Marriott and M. Wilson.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting on 26th. April 1997 as published in the June 1997 Bulletin were taken as read. Peter Ford proposed their acceptance, which was seconded by Stephen Sharp. The meeting approved the motion and the minutes were then signed by the President.

4. Report by the Hon. General Secretary (Peter Boulton)

This meeting completes my first full year as the Hon. General Secretary of the Circle and it has been a very interesting experience. The highlight of the year was, of course, the Convention at Leamington. This was a great success, with over 50 members and guests attending. The displays were excellent with very stimulating talks by Charles Freeland, Steve Jarvis and Derek Sutcliffe. A description of the displays was given in the Bulletin. The Members' Table, organised by Simon Goldblatt, was also very successful, with record takings.

The Circle was invited by the Camberley and District Stamp Club to provide a display for their Stamp Fair on 15th November 1997 at Camberley. Eighteen frames were provided by Circle members, but the room provided was situated some distance from the action in the main hall, so there was only a small trickle of visitors. However, these were well rewarded by the quality of the displays.

Dennis Mitten proposed the acceptance of the report and was seconded by Peter Baldwin. The meeting approved the motion for acceptance.

5. Report by the Hon. Membership Secretary (Stephen Sharpe)

At 31st December 1997, the Circle had 319 members of which 225 resided in the UK and 94 lived overseas. So far this year a further 18 members have joined. It remains to be seen how many resignations we receive this year and how many members are dropped for non payment of subscriptions.

Derek Nathan proposed the acceptance of the report and was seconded by Peter Ford. The meeting approved the motion for acceptance.

6. Report by the Hon. Editor (Denis Charlesworth)

Concerning the last year, everything has progressed without too much trouble. Articles have come in at a reasonable pace, leaving me with sometimes surplus items for future editions. For this I thank all of the contributors, regulars and new writers. I should also like to thank the advertisers, the printers and the general helpers for all of the assistance that they have given to me over the last year.

Steve Jarvis announced that he is putting out the Bulletin on the Internet. The address is to be published on the inside page of the Bulletin. Michael Medicott proposed the acceptance of the Editor's report and was seconded by Charles Freeland. The meeting approved the motion for acceptance.

7. Report by the Hon. Treasurer (Christopher May)

I present the accounts that have been published in the March issue of the Bulletin along with the Hon. Auditors report. It will be seen that our finances are in generally good order. The surplus of income over expenditure is up by £100. Both income and expenditure were up, the former mainly from increased revenue from the auction and donations, the latter reflecting a deficit on the Convention and extra administration expenses, which included 1996 expenses by the late Hon. Sec. Michael Nicholson and expenses arising from the considerable efforts made to follow up members who do not pay their subscription at the start of the year; the system of recording sub/dues expiry date on the Bulletin address labels should reduce this chore.

The balance sheet shows the windfall from the Woolwich Shares that came our way. We then closed that account with the Building Society in view of the investment being made in a more active publication policy. This means that we hold less cash in our account and more assets in publication stocks (particularly Jamaica currently).

The strength of the pound does affect our income from the USA in that we are still operating on \$1.50 exchange rate instead of the present \$1.67 approx. This matter will no doubt be considered in due course by my successor, Ray Stanton. In the meantime, I commend the services of our US representative, Clary Holt, and his bank.

I took on the Hon. Treasurers post with effect from 1.1.92 to relieve the late Steve Papworth and have been pleased to serve the Study Circle as best I could. Members will be aware that I have consistently recorded my grateful thanks to Tony Farmer for his invaluable help and I do so again as I hand over my duties to Ray with my thanks to him for taking on the task that I do not think he will find too onerous.

Stephen Sharp proposed the acceptance of the report and was seconded by Derek Nathan.

Victor Toeg then proposed a vote of thanks to Christopher May for the good work which he has done while in office. He suggested a gift should be made to Christopher and a figure of £50 was agreed. This motion was proposed by Simon Goldblatt and seconded by Peter Boulton. The motion was approved by the meeting.

8. Report by the Hon. Librarian (Derek Nathan)

The Hon: Librarian's duties this year seem to have been extended a little from normal and have included organising the display at Camberley and, at the last minute, co-ordinating the Convention at Leamington. Reports of both these functions have appeared in the Bulletin and I have no more to add to them. The arrangements for the functions to be organised in conjunction with BCPSG at Stampshow 2000 also seem to be involving the Hon: Librarian to some extent.

As regards the Library, thanks to the good work done by Steve Jarvis and Peter Ford, a revised catalogue was produced last year and all members by now should have a copy. Further copies are available from myself or Steve Sharp. The issue of

the new catalogue brought with it a spate of borrowings - almost as though some members had forgotten what a good Library we have. It also brought help from Charles Freeland who has supplied us with all the missing 'Prices Realised' from the important Auction Catalogues.

Last year 19 borrowings of 51 books were completed and already 9 borrowings of 30 books have taken place in 1998.

We have added suitable books to the Library at a steady rate, as detailed in the Bulletin from time to time. May I remind members that snippets of information for the scrapbooks which only the specialist may be able to supply, are an essential resource for the Library. I should like to encourage members to let me have whatever they come across, as even if we already have it, there may be a different nuance in the way it is expressed.

The Library is underused. It is one of the finest specialised philatelic Libraries in the World, and you, the members, should be taking advantage of it. It is available for personal visits in New Malden by prior arrangement.

Please make more use of your Library.

Peter Ford proposed the acceptance of the report and was seconded by Tony Farmer. The meeting approved the motion for acceptance.

9. Report by the Hon. Publications Officer (Peter Ford)

Since my last report, I am pleased to announce that at long last "The Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately" Volume 1 has been published. It seems to have been reasonably well received and the reviews have been positive if not unduly enthusiastic. I have been a little disappointed by the sales thus far. Only 75 copies have been sold and for such a popular colony, I would have thought that sales would have been higher. However, we must look on the positive side and hope that they will pick up soon.

On a far less grand scale, Frank Deakin's booklet on Barbados seems to have been a runaway success. Originally, I expected sales of around 20-25 copies and printed a suitable quantity. Thus far, we have sold 42 copies with orders for another 6 and I have had to reprint 30 more copies. These booklets seem to be very successful and I do not believe that those buying them are necessarily Barbados collectors; perhaps it will encourage them to start collecting Barbados and maybe eventually joining the Study Circle. If any other members think that they are able to emulate Franks efforts by writing a booklet on any West Indies philatelic subject, do not hesitate to contact me. I will be only too pleased to discuss it. All it requires is an essay of approximately 5000 words and some material with which to provide illustrations.

As far as the future goes, I have hope that we may be able to publish a re-write of Len Britnor's Montserrat by the end of June. This will be a much updated book, with the revision work being done by Charles Freeland and printed with many colour illustrations, similar, in fact, to the Barbados booklet but this will be a wire spirally bound book of approximately 100 pages A4 size.

Also in the pipeline is a book on the Leeward Islands by Michael Oliver. This will not attempt to cover the whole subject but focus on areas which have perhaps been neglected for some time and where new information is to hand.

Other volumes of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia are in the course of preparation and these include volumes on Airmails, GB used in Jamaica and Military Mails.

Sales of other publications continue at a much reduced level with 3 copies of Dominica, one copy of Leeward Islands Adhesive Fees Stamps and one copy of the Barbados Postal Markings being sold. Five Cordex binders for the Bulletin have been sold as well as several copies of past Bulletins. All in all, a sales total of £2756 has been recorded in the last 12 months.

Peter Baldwin proposed the acceptance of the report and was seconded by Simon Goldblatt. The meeting approved the motion for acceptance.

10. Report by the Hon. Public Relations Officer (Douglas Nottingham)

The web site has generated some new overseas members and is proving a very good place to advertise. We have had a general range of enquiries which I have done all I can to encourage people to join by providing personal letters and sending copies of bulletins. I have produced a display covering most of the countries of our collecting area with a variety of interesting items. This has been displayed at a Midlands venue to encourage people to join with us. This has had very limited success. I will continue to encourage West Indies collectors to join the Study Circle and to publicise events.

Charles Freeland proposed the acceptance of the report and was seconded by Denis Charlesworth. The meeting approved the motion for acceptance.

11. Report by the Chairman of the Committee (Victor Toeg)

There were two meetings held during 1997-98 and the first one occurred at The Regent Hotel, Leamington Spa during our Convention there in September last year.

Firstly, the Study circle became the owner of some "windfall" shares when the Woolwich became a limited liability company as a result of ceasing to be a building society only. After some discussion it was decided to close the Study Circle's account and to sell the 493 "windfall" shares. This has been done and the funds have been transferred to the Girobank High Interest Deposit Account.

On 31st December 1997, Chris May resigned as our Hon. Treasurer and we have been very fortunate in finding a proposed successor. He is Ray Stanton and will be formally proposed later at this meeting.

David Druett offered to store the Study Circle's display frames which he will bring to our Convention every other year. Our thanks to David for his assistance in this.

Stamp Show 2000 is now beginning to loom into view and as it will be our next International Exhibition the Study Circle must play an important part. A sub-committee has been formed to consider the Circle's involvement and discussions have been held with the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group for joint participation in some events.

Finally, Simon Goldblatt responded that the Members' Approval Table took over £3,000 in sales at the Convention - well done Simon.

The committee's second meeting took place earlier today. After the usual formal items on the agenda, the Chairman reported that Michael Wilson had tendered his

resignation from the Committee and our former Hon Treasurer Chris May responded on the accounts for 1997 having resigned on 31st December 1997.

The Chairman E. Victor Toeg proposed Ray Stanton should be put forward at the Annual General Meeting as the Hon. Treasurer and this was seconded by Peter Boulton.

The Hon. General Secretary Peter Boulton then reported on the programme of events for 1998/99.

The Committee next decided to make an award of the Gilbert W. Collett Memorial Trophy for the years 1996 and 1997.

The Hon Publications Officer Peter Ford reported on the sale of the Study Circle's publications and also that he may have now solved the difficulty of obtaining suitable storage space for the Circle's publications pending sale.

A number of matters came up for discussion under "any other business" including a report from the sub-committee formed to handle Stamp Show 2000. The members of this sub-committee are Derek Nathan (Chairman), Peter Boulton, Simon Goldblatt and Stephen Sharp.

Simon Goldblatt proposed the acceptance of the report and was seconded by Peter Boulton. The meeting approved the motion for acceptance.

12. Resignation of Michael Wilson from the Committee:

Victor Toeg announced the resignation of Michael Wilson from the Committee with effect from 25th April 1998. He expressed his thanks for the good work and the contributions which Michael has made to the Circle during his period of office which included the post of Hon. General Secretary.

13. Re-election of Officers

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

14. 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.

15. Programme of Events for 1998/1999

The main event for the Circle during the year is WIPEX on Saturday 26th April 1998 at The Bonnington Hotel. A full programme has been arranged for the day, starting at 10 am. Stephen Sharp announced an innovation where members are invited to put up their own displays and give a short presentation. Full details of the event will be announced in the June issue of the Bulletin.

16. Election of Hon. Treasurer

Victor Toeg introduced Ray Stanton to the meeting and proposed that he be elected as the Hon. Treasurer. This was seconded by Peter Boulton and the motion was carried unanimously.

17. Award of the Gilbert W. Collett Memorial Trophy for 1996/1997

The President was pleased to announce that the Committee had decided to award the Gilbert W. Collett Memorial Trophy for the period 1996/1997 to Frank Deakin for his book on Barbados which was published in December 1997. It was suggested that the presentation should be made at WIPEX in September. The Hon. General Secretary was requested to contact Frank Deakin with the news of the award and issue the Invitation.

18. Other Business

The date of the next Annual General Meeting was chosen to be 24th. April 1999 at The Bonnington Hotel. There being no other business, the President thanked the members present for their support and declared the meeting closed.

1998 AUCTION REPORT

We have it on good authority that a bare two weeks before the sale the auctioneer was shaking his head mournfully and forecasting a mediocre harvest.

The weather must have improved suddenly, because 88 postal bidders were competing by the time the auction was held, while those attending held bidding numbers up to 34. Statistically, 166 lots were bought in the room, and 178 were knocked down to the book: those numbers do not take into account, however, that some of the book bids actually belonged to bidders in the room, while it was clear that one or two absent bidders were represented personally. Probably these balanced out, and we must have a narrow victory to the book bidders. The outcome of this keen competition was a lively sale, with interest sustained to the end, and a realisation significantly over five figures. This result was attained without the special input that we have experienced from handling and dispersing some individual member's collection, and we believe we have held our most successful general sale to date.

One highlight which probably no one except the auction team appreciated is that only once in the whole sale did as many as four successive lots pass by unsold. In other words there were no really flat spots, and this has never happened before. Of the sixty lots chosen for illustration, all but five changed hands.

Nobody would have suspected a bumper year while the first nineteen lots were going under the hammer - there was scarcely any rival bidding, with the first bid frequently being the last. Almost imperceptibly there was a change in tempo, and by the time we reached Barbados ten of the room bidders had already secured at least one lot each, with the competitive spirit beginning to show. Barbados is consistently popular, of course, and 47 of our 55 lots went to new owners. Lot 55, with its strong watermark interest, opened at £65 and almost doubled its £60 estimate. Then came lot 75 (look back at the description!) which opened - with nothing on the book - at a starter of £9 and raced up to £85; it takes 56 rounds of bidding to get there, but didn't time fly!

Our used Barbuda assembly was well supported and well contested at £105 (est. £48), while Bermuda's lot 125 (troopship at Castries carrying Boer War prisoners) more than quadrupled its £20 estimate, realisation £85, with the book carrying the starting bid up to

£48. Well, at least we got the description right. (We cannot claim as much for Grenada's lot 219, where the swing of the Chalon Queen's necklace induced us to call the F postmark a B and, alas, to offer the stamp only to the room).

In British Guiana lot 148 produced a treble tie on the book at £100. Mr. (or Mrs. or Miss) A20 was the earliest of the three and secured the item.

The set of forgeries, lot 158, proved exciting: from a £70 opening it went as high as £160; a full price, but a fair one - we could imagine a retail value that was higher still. Almost at once the watermark variety, lot 160, shot up to £50 (est. £15) - just as well that this stamp was wanted for its reverse side rather than its face.

In British Honduras SG.68 in a block of four with type A and B overprints se-tenant fetched an interesting £42, and Cayman's Z14, lot 185, sold for a comfortable £52, despite its modest description. Dominica, which has had its poor years, fared particularly well; 16 lots on offer, 15 sold. No sensational prices either here or in Grenada, be it said, simply steady support to show that our lotting and valuation approach is even-handed by and large.

Jamaica is coming out of its doldrums of recent years. About two thirds of the lots offered found a purchaser, the A39 cover reaching £140 (est. £80) and the primitive DEVON c.d.s., lot 254, realising £65. And watch out for fiscals and back of the book, by the way: lot 293 went for £26, and our modern St. Vincent 'sleeper' lot 400 sold at £15, 50% over catalogue. Nor was this all - lot 306 fetched £16 against its £4 estimate: we should never have agreed to our banks ending the practice of sending back our duly processed cheques. Perhaps nowadays it's the bouncing ones which do get returned - that have acquired a value.

It was no real surprise to see the St. Kitts frontispiece, lot 322, go for £270 - ours was a cautious 'bad day' valuation, and there's no real upper limit on that kind of item. We coasted through St. Lucia, and so to St. Vincent, with one or two lots producing a forest of waving bidders' cards. Lot 378, obviously, was a front runner: our eight book bidders were quickly left behind and there were envious looks at bidder B24 who secured the trophy at £190. Yet, what about lot 372, realising £70 instead of its estimate of £18? Is there something about these postmarks that those of us who are not St. Vincent specialists are missing?

Probably! It must have been the St. Vincent jetty card that pushed lot 430 up to £19 from its estimate of £8. Even if there were no other noteworthy realisations in the last 100 lots - saving the Trinidad 72c on commercial cover, lot 451, which sold at £75 - it was gratifying, indeed, to see about two thirds of the last 100 lots knocked down. Judging by this year's sale, West Indies philately is in a pretty sound state across the board.

We seldom tell you about sellers. It's worth mentioning that one of them had 18 lots in the sale, every one of which went to a new owner, and another of our regulars had an interim run of 22 hits between misses. We do of course screen all material offered before entering it for sale; yet our vendors are so disciplined that surprisingly little has to be side-lined.

This may not be the case for our millennium sale in two years time - prospective sellers are being strongly invited to select items of high quality and rarity, and much of the lesser material may need to be filtered out: but only for that one year. In 1999 we intend to maintain the standards and continue to build upon the goodwill engendered in 1998.

Realisations for lots sold were as follows -

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
1	15	2	18	3	24	4	27	5	24	7	9
8	18	10	19	13	31	15	12	17	27	20	42
21	10	23	11.50	24	80	25	12.50	26	30	27	8.50
28	37	29	34	30	11	32	20	33	15	34	11
35	9	36	18	37	27	39	11.50	40	48	41	56
42	30	43	115	44	16	45	33	46	32	47	36
48	18	49	44	50	27	51	24	52	18	54	36
55	115	56	26	57	26	58	56	59	15.50	62	19
63	28	64	30	65	46	66	13	68	35	69	32
70	8	71	12	72	14	73	46	75	85	76	65
77	37	78	11	79	15.50	80	24	83	32	85	15
86	9	87	28	88	16	89	20	90	25	91	23
92	30	93	21	94	8	95	52	96	105	97	7
99	11.50	100	18	103	36	105	60	108	21	109	17
110	21	114	11	116	9	118	27	119	20	120	26
122	9	123	16	124	37	125	85	126	52	127	8
128	6	132	6	134	15	135	7.50	136	13.50	137	24
140	23	141	33	144	44	145	16.50	146	52	147	31
148	100	150	44	152	24	153	50	154	25	155	22
157	36	158	160	159	12	160	50	163	7	164	10
165	14.50	169	48	170	42	171	15	175	15	179	19
181	16.50	182	34	183	42	184	28	185	52	190	40
1 192	34	194	16.50	195	110	198	26	200	15.50	201	46
202	7	203	31	204	13	205	17	206	23	207	38
208	27	209	30	210	14	211	15	213	16	214	19
215	4.50	217	39	218	60	219	32	220	56	221	75
222	21	223	5.50	224	28	225	14.50	226	37	227	12
230	3	231	15.50	234	46	235	22	236	26	239	24
240	17	241	27	242	140	245	15	247	90	248	31
249	33	250	48	251	24	253	9	254	65	255	23
256	24	258	20	259	18	260	22	261	42	263	52
264	420	265	30	268	24	270	44	271	30	272	30
273	15.50	274	15	275	17.50	277	16.50	278	11	279	21
284	30	285	23	288	8	290	75	291	13.5	293	26
294	21	295	24	296	120	297	27	298	21	299	4
301	26	305	38	306	16	307	38	308	24	310	21
311	27	312	54	314	13	318	19	319	32	320	13
321	44	322	270	324	30	326	37	329	25	330	34
331	30	333	7.50	334	44	335	5.50	336	48	337	30
339	14	341	9	342	18	343	2.25	344	15	345	24
346	36	347	30	348	20	349	18	350	38	351	31
353	22	355	44	356	31	358	39	361	17	362	27
363	75	365	36	367	70	368	27	369	36	371	26
372	70	373	30	375	18	376	20	378	190	379	20
380	30	381	17	382	52	383	28	384	18	385	14
388	50	389	13.50	391	42	392	80	394	40	395	31
396	21	397	21	398	15	399	21	400	15	401	70
402	4.50	406	9	409	6	410	15.50	411	6	412	60
415	40	416	18	418	26	419	85	421	40	423	37
424	250	425	8	426	37	427	48	430	19	432	8
433	8	434	15	435	31	436	15	437	8	438	8

ABSENT FRIENDS

The recent passing of three Grand Old Men of philately calls for more than the customary obituaries recounting their achievements. I was fortunate enough to have known Robson Lowe, Ritchie Bodily and Marcus Samuel, albeit not intimately, and believe members may be interested in some more personal reminiscences of these three very special characters.

To start with the one probably least familiar to members, Marcus Samuel, I particularly treasure the very first letter he wrote me after I had sent him some information for inclusion in his seminal work 'Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948' published by the Royal in 1976. He headed his letter "Specimenia" and started off "I am sorry you have been infected with the above-mentioned virus". The letter was signed Marcus Spamuel". A charming man who was just as delightful in real life. Although he is best known for his work on specimens, he was a very knowledgeable philatelist who Robson Lowe employed for a time as an expert describer and valuer, especially for GB. As his principal profession was a printer he was a particular expert in proof material, though he always maintained that he was a poor philatelist compared with his knowledge of printing methods. Sadly, he suffered from poor eyesight and in his later years became totally blind.

As a leading dealer in BWI material, Ritchie Bodily must have been known, at least by sight, by nearly all members. He was a long-standing advertiser in the Bulletin in its first twenty years and his lists of choice material in the bulletins of the sixties are a cruel reminder of opportunities missed. He was a true connoisseur who amassed a stock that mirrored his own refined tastes. It was not necessarily all valuable or in immaculate condition but everything was interesting, desirable and of philatelic significance. As a novice collector in the sixties, when gutter pairs and omnibuses were all the rage, to say nothing of the dreaded unmounted fad, I found Ritchie's stock an eye-opener. He was a major influence in steering me towards "proper" collecting. Although I usually found my purchases expensive at the time, I never regretted any of them and nearly everything I acquired appreciated relatively quickly in value.

At a personal level, Ritchie was always affable and courteous, concealing a very shrewd business brain. He knew from a wealth of experience what was rare and desirable and was a tough negotiator and auction bidder. He was one of those persons whose arrival in the auction room dented one's optimism and he also built some great collections of his own. But he was always ready to share his knowledge with those who could and would share with him. He had a long-standing interest in specimens and on several occasions I visited his fine house in Hampstead to trade broken specimen sets. Unlike many dealers, he was ready to trade one-for-one to meet his needs. On those visits I could not help but notice his magnificent philatelic library, with all the journals uniformly bound.

There should be little to write about Robson Lowe, given the very lengthy obituaries that have already appeared. But it is a sign of his multi-faceted character there are still some insights to offer. It was only after his death that I realised that he had never become an RDP. This puzzled me until I read that he had refused to sign the roll unless the name of a known philatelic forger was removed. It was entirely in character and a sign of his stature that he would refuse one of philately's greatest honours, given his determined leadership of the trade's pursuit and uncovering of philatelic forgers. He was instrumental in 'buying out' Sperati, the best and most dangerous forger, and publicised details of dozens of other forgeries (his last published work being devoted to Oneglia). At the end of his life he was a determined opponent of the German facsimiles of philatelic rarities

and it was entirely appropriate that he was elected the Royal's first trade member. Paradoxically, another of his firm beliefs was that philatelic material should not be given to museums or the Royal but be allowed to "breathe" and give pleasure to future generations of collectors. While there may be a bit of commercial interest in that view, it is undeniable that the slow haemorrhage of rare items does make it increasingly difficult to achieve philatelic excellence.

Despite his opposition to forgery, Robbie was the ultimate "back-of-the-book" enthusiast, promoting study of locals, fiscals, revenues and labels of all types. However it was his championing of postal history and his tireless search for historical archives for which most will remember him. For West Indies specialists it will be the Codrington correspondence that comes to mind, but in the 1980's he unearthed some amazing European correspondences from the middle ages. To understand the script of these early documents is in itself a challenge. He taught himself the script and one of the first contacts I had with him was to have a 1620 letter from Bermuda "translated". It was typical of him that when he returned it with a very modest charge he added some crucial historical information that enabled me to research its history.

At a personal level Robbie was a simply delightful character, exuding infectious enthusiasm about matters both philatelic and more earthy. He was a great raconteur with a somewhat macabre bent. I think I heard the story of the occasion when he squeezed his hostess's canary into his gin and tonic, mistaking it for a lemon, three times. There was a similar apocryphal story of the time he sat on someone's chihuahwa dog and had to smuggle out the body before its owner noticed.

Alas, these epic stories and also Robbie's enormous store of knowledge are now lost. Fortunately, however, he was an indefatigable writer who left dozens of books and monographs, as well as his writings in the Philatelist and other journals. His greatest work, the Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, will be well known though sadly not all the BWI has been published (despite a note in Vol. V of 1973 that the final volume covering the rest of the BWI plus Falkland Islands would be completed in 1974). The death in 1973 of Kay Horowicz, his principal researcher, left a gap that was obviously impossible to fill, given the need to incorporate the mountain of information in the newly-released De La Rue archives. When Vol. VI did appear in 1990, it covered only the Leeward Islands and contained a large number of errors that could have been picked up by a competent proof-reader. However it is still a useful and comprehensive volume. If the Circle would like to make a tribute to the memory of arguably the greatest philatelist the world has yet produced, I suggest we see whether it might be possible to acquire the copyright to the unfinished volume on the Windward Islands and try to bring it to publication.

Robson Lowe's auction catalogues of the late sixties contain the wise words "quality remains long after price is forgotten". Our memories of all three of these fine old gentlemen will last for a long time.

Charles Freeland

CONGRATULATIONS

At this years Rowland Hill Awards the "British Philatelic Trust Initiative Award for Research " has been won by Peter Baldwin.

BUMPER AUCTION - THE YEAR 2000

Without in any way intending to lower the standard of our annual auction in 1999, the Circle has been making long-term plans for a bumper sale in the year 2000.

This will be held in conjunction with the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, and will take place on the weekend immediately preceding the London International Stamp Show, about a month later than our customary date. It is hoped that there will be a strong attendance from overseas.

The auction will be part of a two-day weekend event. There should be 800 lots from the two societies combined, with the morning available for viewing, and a full afternoon for the sale.

We shall be much more particular than usual over the material accepted for sale, as the intention is to include a significant proportion of rare and valuable items. Members who are contemplating disposing of specialised philatelic treasures may see this as a good opportunity: in contrast to our usual practice of sitting back to see what comes in, we shall be actively soliciting the sort of lots that we hope to offer - whether individual items or entire mini-collections.

Among material already half-promised for this event, we have been told of pre-stamp covers from Montserrat, Nevis, Turks, complete rolls of coil stamps from St. Lucia, a bound copy of a De La Rue price list to Crown Agents (which will be celebrating its centenary in that year, we believe). If this pre-view whets the appetite, we hope that some of our members at least will be thinking of disposables that will eclipse the above - but don't be put off selling in 1999 also.

Simon Goldblatt

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

A report taken from the magazine "Philately from Australia" states that at a meeting of The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria held on 20 November last, Mr Peter Jaffe showed his collection of the Perkins, Bacon types of St. Vincent.

As a prelude, the display began with British stamps used in St. Vincent, cancelled by the A10 obliterator. Included were a 4d on an 1858 cover to Demerara, the only recorded example of the 1/- on cover, used in 1861 to Paris, and a block of 8 of the 6d.

A cover of 6 July 1861 from Prussia addressed to the British Consul at St. Vincente, Cape Verde Islands, was missent to the West Indies, and received a manuscript "Missent to St. Vincent W.I."

The first issue of 1861 began with a beautiful handdrawn Queen's head by Charles Jeens, as used on the St. Vincent design. There were die proofs of the 1d and 6d (3). The first stamps, intermediate perf 14-16 included the only recorded mint pair of the 6d, a strip of five of the 1d on an 1861 cover to Trinidad, and a strip of three 6d and two 1d's on a registered front. The 1861 Rowland Hill 'CANCELLED' stamps were represented by a rejoined 1d pair and a 6d. The 6d plate proof in deep green, resembling the CANCELLED shade included blocks of six and eight.

The 1862 rough perf. 1d had a mint block of 12, and a block of 12 of the 1d on an 1866 cover to London. The imperforate vertically error from the remainders included a rejoined

block of 20, and the largest known multiple, a block of 14 The 6d of the same issue was divided by shade into the various consignments. The mint block of 12 was the largest known, and two covers to Paris, one franked with a pair, and the other with two pairs were carried on the same 1863 Royal Mail steamer and both showed the manuscript defacement used at the Argyle Estate. Another 1866 cover to London with a strip of four and pair was equivalent to the highest franking of any Perkins, Bacon cover.

The 1d perf. 11-12½ x 14-16 showed the division into two periods of use. Two mint and three used stamps were in a pale shade, the used cancelled by the squat A10 obliterator. A mint pair (the only one recorded) and two used stamps were in a deeper shade, the used having the tall A10 obliterator. The 6d perf. 11-12½, had a reconstructed block of 12, and the largest known multiple, a mint block of 8.

Two new values, 4d and 1/-, were introduced in 1866 Die proofs of each were shown, together with plate proofs in black. Two pieces of the 1/- plate proof demonstrated that at least two sheets were pulled. Nothing is known of the history of a 1d perforated colour trial block of four in bright blue, and its relationship to the 4d colour is uncertain. The 1866 4d blue was represented by mint block of 10, nine and eight, and a pair on an 1871 cover to France. The 1/- slate included two blocks of four each of the perf. 14-16 and perf. 11-12½ x 14-16 issues. The rare perf. 11-12½ stamp was represented by one of the two known mint blocks of four, a mint pair and nine singles, a used strip of three, and one of the two recorded usages on cover.

The 1869 1/- indigo had a reconstructed mint block of 13, and a mint block of nine, the largest known multiple. The 4d orange had mint blocks of six (the record multiple) and four, village cancellations, an example cancelled by the Crowned Circle in red, and three covers - 1870 to Paris with a pair, 1870 double rate to Paris in combination with the 1/- indigo, and 1870 to Tobago in combination with a pair of 1d rose-red perf. 11-12½. The 1/- brown had mint blocks of nine (the largest known) and four.

The 1871 1d black rough perf. 14-16 included a mint block of 10 which may be the largest, and a mint vertical pair imperforate between. The single usage on an 1872 soldier's letter to Ireland is unique. The 1872 issue perf. 11-12½ x 15 had a mint block of 18, the record multiple, and the unique used horizontal pair imperforate between. The perf. 15 stamp began with a mint block of 24, and there was a pair on a double-rate wrapper to London, and a unique usage on an 1879 edition of the St Vincent *Witness* to England.

In 1872 the 1/- stamp changed colour to rose-red, and three examples of the imperforate plate proof were shown. There was also a used marginal stamp imperforate at right, and a used pair doubly perforated. A further change of colour to lilac-rose was made the following year, and six mint examples of this difficult stamp were shown. Yet another change to claret was made in 1875. One of the two recorded mint pairs was present, a used strip of four (the record multiple), and single and double rate covers to England.

The 1875 6d deep blue-green was represented by the only known mint block of four, and a used strip of four. The 6d pale yellow-green of 1877-78 included a mint block of 4 of the perf. 11-12½ x 15 issue. The rare perf. 15 issue with watermark sideways was represented by a mint rejoined pair and four singles, and used stamps including village cancellations. The printing with upright watermark had a used block of eight (the record multiple) and a pair on an 1879 village cover from Georgetown to England.

The 1/- vermilion of 1877-78 included all the rare perforation varieties There was one mint and two used examples perf. 15 x 15 x 11 -12½ x 15; an imperforate stamp used with normal on piece; and one of the two recorded examples perf. 15 all round. The 1877 4d deep blue had one of the three recorded mint pairs, and one of two known contemporary usages. This was an 1879 registered cover to England with the 1/- vermilion, and also showed the earliest known use of the straight-line REGISTERED handstamp. The study of the 1880 1d on half 6d provisional showed the difference between foundry type and stereotyped surcharges. The approach to determining the surcharge setting was demonstrated, and there were two examples of the double dividing perforation, an example of the triple (diagonal) perforation, misplaced surcharges, and village usage.

The 1880 issue included the immaculate mint strip of three of the 1/- vermilion, the record multiple, and a copy overprinted SPECIMEN. The 5/- began with an unfinished and three finished die proofs, cancellation types on the issued stamp, and examples of conversion to revenue usage. The 1881 ½d had a die proof of the engine-turned background, and two examples of the finished die proofs. The 4d of the same issue showed single and double-rate usages to England.

The De La Rue printings from the Perkins, Bacon plates began with plate proofs pairs of each value up to 1/- pulled in 1882. The first attempt by the company to convert St. Vincent to surface-printing was a perforated proof in green of the Cyprus keyplate with handpainted "ST. VINCENT POSTAGE" and "HALFPENNY" tablets.

The first De La Rue printings in 1882 included two mint blocks of four of the 4d bright blue. The perf. 12 printings of 1883-84 included mint blocks of six each of the 6d bright green and 1/-orange-vermilion, both records multiples, and mint examples of the 4d showing-shades and watermark positions. There was a strip of three of the 4d bright blue on an 1884 registered cover to London.

The 1883 Universal Colour Scheme was represented by a reconstruction of the original Appendix Sheet, now cut up. This included perf. 12 colour trials from the 1d plate in green, rose-red, pale blue, mauve and purple-brown, an imperforate trial of the 4d in brown, and a 5/- perforated trial in carmine-lake.

In 1888 the 6d colour was changed to violet. Perforated colour trials in chestnut and rose-pink were shown, together with an imperforate trial in the adopted colour. A mint block of 12 if the issued stamp was the equal record multiple.

The De La Rue 5/- included four examples of the perf. 14 colour trials, two each in rose-red and pale rose. Pieces of the issued stamp proved the identity of the first printing of 500 stamps in September 1888.

The 2½d on 4d provisional of August 1890 was represented by the only surviving sheet of 30, and a mint single imperforate at right, also the only one on record.

The 1893 De La Rue surcharged FIVE PENCE on 6d included a perforated colour trial in green, and two imperforate trials in the adopted colour of lake. There were two used examples of the genuine double surcharge, and for comparison two examples of kiss doubles.

The only new values in the Perkins, Bacon design produced by De La Rue were the 2½d and 5d of 1897. Artist's essays of the 2½d and 5d (2) were shown consisted of coloured proofs of the stamp with handpainted tablets. A surface-printed alternative using the POSTAGE-POSTAGE Colonial keyplate was represented by imperforate proofs of the 2½d in blue and purple and the 5d in brown, each with handpainted 'ST. VINCENT' tablet.

In addition to the above report we have also heard that Peter has received a Gold medal award for his Barbados exhibit at the Canberra National in March.

BARBADOS

I can now report another example of the BARBADOS "PENNY HALF on 4d Brown" variety (SG.104d) - see illustration Fig.1. This is also postmarked JY 27 92.



In response to Frank Bennett's letter (Bulletin No.176) I also enclose an illustration (Fig.2) of another example I have seen, so postmarked.

It now seems likely that a block of these stamps was cancelled to order (c.f. Ian Jakes p.35 Bulletin No. 173). Certainly all those seen come from the same sheet, witness the perms. at top touching the frame line, which is also the case with the "end position" PENNY reported by Michael Hamilton (ibid). Intriguingly, the latter was postally used on AU 5 92.

This is very curious!

Leslie Goodwin

BARBADOS

G20 Mark Michael Hamilton has recently offered an example with T being 13mm high x 11.5mm wide and heart 25mm wide, whereas the handbook states 13, 13 and 27.

I have checked my four examples and they correspond to Hamilton's. Can we have members' comments ? Can someone check the size of the very similar N2 ?

Nelson Re.-entry Ref. the query by R.B. Hill in Bulletin No.176, the Epaulette re-entry occurs also on ¼d and ½d.

I have a block of 4 of 1d with watermark inverted which appears to be stamps 7 and 8 from Rows 4 and 5. They show the following:- 4/7 none, 4/8 faint, 5/7 medium, 5/8 pronounced.

Peter Longley

NOTES ON BARBADOS

NELSON ISSUE

With reference to the article by Mr. R. B. Hill in the March, 1998 issue of the bulletin regarding the Barbados Nelson 1d. re-entry, I can offer the following:

- (a). The best article I have found dealing with varieties on the Nelson issues was written by E. W. Mann and appeared in the London Philatelist circa. 1950. I am forwarding a copy with these brief notes so that interested members may request a copy from the Editor. All the details covered in that article will not be repeated here.
- (b). The so-called "Epaulette re-entry" mentioned by Mr. Hill can be found in several states, ranging from that which can be clearly seen with the naked eye to a very faint squiggle.
- (c). Details of the issue may be found in the Edmund Bayley handbook "The Stamps of Barbados".
- (d). We have long ago dispersed of our collection of these issues but, from memory, the following may be worth noting:

the MCA 2d. SG 161 exists in a distinct shade of ochre which is scarce.

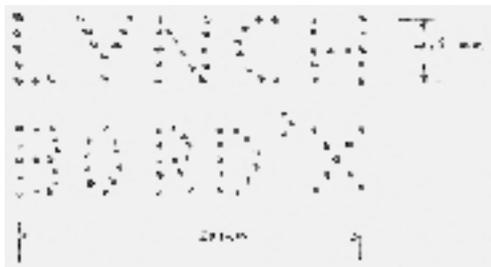
the MCA 2½d. SG 162 exists in a distinct shade of pale blue and is rare.

the CC ½d. SG 146 can be found as a colour changeling. I have seen examples where the green colour has changed to the grey of the ¼d.

2. PERFINS

In recent issues of the BWISC bulletin, perfins of the BWI were discussed. For Barbados, details of the known issues are given in Chapter XI of the handbook cited above. Some years ago I acquired a perfin which does not seem to have been recorded previously. It is on the 1874 1d. SG.66. Punched vertically across the stamp are:

LYNCH/BORD'X



It seems the letters were carefully spaced and sized to fit the stamp. Lynch probably refers to James A. Lynch and Co. which were certainly in existence at the time. Bord'x may refer to Bordeaux in France. At least one cover from Lynch and Co. to France has been recorded for the 1870's, so the association may not be too far-fetched. Any members comments would be most welcomed. Details of the perfin follow, with the letters approx. 4.5mm high and the overall length of the words about 20mm.

Fitz Roett

BAHAMAS

Partial Removal of Marginal Rule on KGV 2d Value



Fig.1 Double marginal rules in interpane margin



Fig.2 Single marginal rule in interpane margin

The 2d value of the 1912 King George V issue was a later addition to the original series, and was not issued until 1918. All values, ½d to £1, up to that point had been printed from a 60-set key plate, Plate 1. Following the decision to have those values required in largish quantities to be printed in 120-set sheets a further key plate, Plate 2, was made in 1918, and used combined with Plate 1 to form a 120-set printing unit. When the 2d value was introduced at about this time the duty plate was accordingly made 120-set. It was the first value of the series to have a marginal rule provided on the duty plate, producing a double line on the printed sheet (fig.1).

A single printing only of 2,345 sheets of 120 was made on Multiple Crown CA paper.

The next printing of the 2d was not made until April 1927, by which time the watermark had changed to Multiple Script CA. After this date all further printings of the 2d value (and all other values) were supplied by De La Rue as 60-set panes, the 120-set sheets printed having been cut down the centre interpane margin.

I recently obtained the example illustrated in fig.2 on which the outer (duty plate) marginal rules in the centre interpane gutter are no longer present. It is on Multiple Script CA paper and, since the interpane margin is uncut, must emanate from the 1927 printing. However, Graham Hoey has kindly shown me similar examples on this watermarked paper, with uncut interpane margin, where the duty plate marginal rules were still present. These can only have originated from the 1927 printing (497 sheets of 120-set) and it therefore appears that at some stage during this printing the marginal rules were removed from the centre interpane gutter of the duty plate.

This is the only example I have seen and I would be interested to hear from anyone who has similar examples, to determine whether the marginal rules were removed for the full length of the interpane gutter. Presumably later printings would continue to show this feature, albeit with the interpane margin cut down the centre.

Peter Fernbank

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BAHAMAS

Different Style of Sheet Number Imprint

Whilst examining my sheet number imprint copies of the Bahamas King George V issue recently I came across two that appear to have a different style of sheet number imprint to that normally employed by De La Rue. The figures of Fig.2 are generally thinner, particularly noticeable in the 'O's, and the serifs, as seen in the figures '2' and '7', are more angular than the rather rounded serifs of the 'normal' type illustrated in Fig.1. I have examined other sheet number examples in my collection from various other colonies printed by De La Rue, but these were the only two found to be of this style. Evidently a different sheet numbering machine had been employed for these two copies.

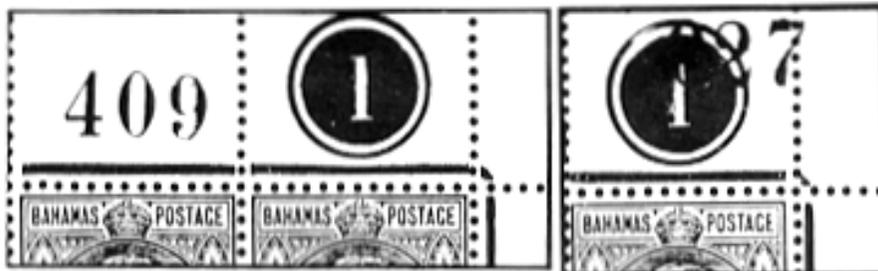


Fig.1 'Normal' De La Rue sheet number style



Fig.2 Figures thinner, serifs angular

The examples in Fig.2 were printed at some time between 1912 and 1918 (I suspect rather nearer to 1912), in the period when the Bahamas series was still being issued in 60-set sheets from Key Plate 1. After 1918 all values were printed in 120-set sheets from Plate 1 and 2 combined. I would be very interested to hear from anyone who has further Bahamas examples of this sheet number style, although reports of copies from other colonies would be equally welcome

Peter Fernbank

BRITISH GUIANA - Forged Postmarks

Members are by this time well aware of the forged postmarks shown in the book about 'Madame Joseph'. They are probably conscious of the further examples published by the American Philatelic Society.

The best known of these is 'AMACURA', said by Townsend & Howe to have been an instrument that fell into the wrong hands, but we now know better. This mark, very like the original, was used on cleaned, fiscally cancelled stamps and was always dated 21 AU 96.

Another similar cancel has now come to light, not listed in either of these publications, and therefore potentially more dangerous.

AURORA double ring 23.5 / 13.5mm (similar to Townsend type 5a), dated 4 FE 93 (with the 4 slightly raised above the FE) has now been found on four cleaned fiscally used high values as follows:

SG.200 12c Crown CA

SG.237a 48c Crown CA 1907

SG.246 24c Mult Crown CA 1906

SG.247 48c Mult Crown CA 1907

Peter Ford has a further copy.

The problem now is that the lists that have come to light so far are not exhaustive. This is the same technique as that used on AMACURA, so possibly done by the same person or people. If the Madame Joseph list is not complete, how many others are there yet to be found, and where are they?

If, as seems possible, our forger started at 'A', it would be prudent to examine all ANNA REGINA copies very carefully.

Mike Nethersole reports from South Africa two copies of SPARTA double ring dated 7 AP 91, with the 7 slightly larger than the AP, on a 48 cents and a 72 cents keyplate. His photostats make them look very convincing.

I am concerned about two BEL-AIR double rings dated 20 JU 90 on 8 cents keyplates with the 'U' breaking the inner circle. I cannot see evidence of cleaning, but further sightings would be of interest. SUDDIE of JA 30 94 in a double ring on a cleaned 72 cents keyplate looks highly suspicious to me, but with no other to compare it with, I can be no more than doubtful. PROVIDENCE AP 10 99 on 12 cents in a double ring with the 'O' breaking the ring is a little worrying, the 'P' is leaning forward a bit, but again only the one. Finally, I have slight doubts concerning DALGIN. My copies are all on low values but two of them have 'DE' inside a double ring and the 6 cents copy worries me a bit.

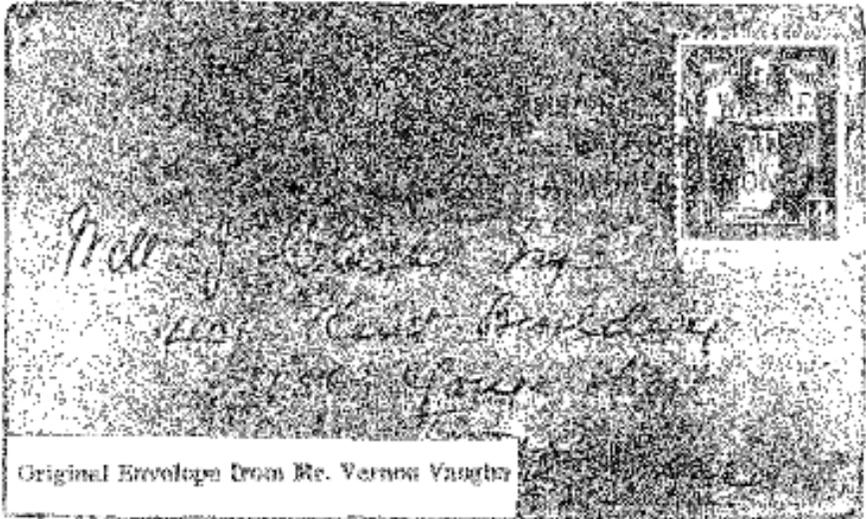
So, back to ANNA REGINA, where I have a 12 cents with a double ring and the date ? 28 95. Nothing else as a clue, but maybe I am getting over-suspicious.

The stamps to look for are those where the colour is washed out, cleaning the ink off by these people seems always to do this, and then high values apparently postally used, possibly not during the previously accepted time span. Constant dates then seem to be the clinching clue.

Derek Nathan

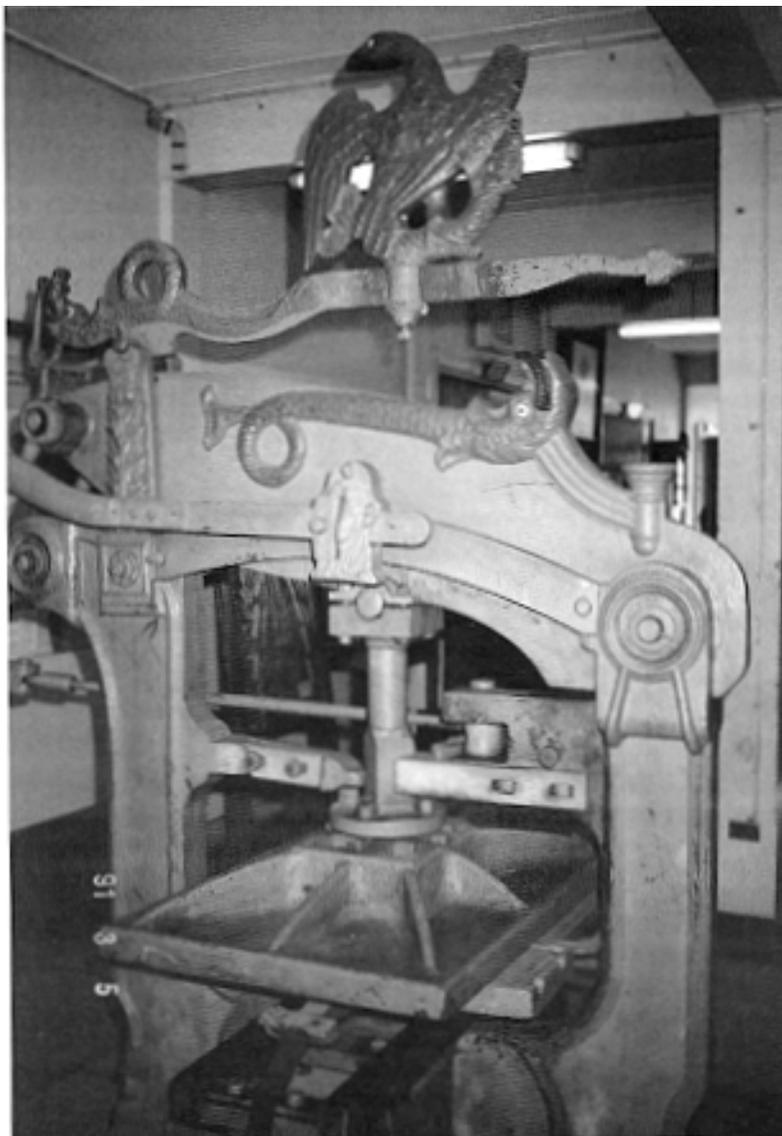
BRITISH GUIANA

We have heard from a non-member Arnold Singh of Toronto regarding the note in the Bulletin by Leslie Goodwin requesting information about L. Vernon Vaughan. Mr Singh has sent a copy of a letter from Vaughan to a stamp dealer in Canada dated 18th July 1936 (see print of envelope illustrated below). The contents state that he has been a collector for about 60 years and that he is a very advanced collector.



Mr Singh has also enclosed a small cartoon strip about the early sales of the stamp as well as a photograph of the original stamp press upon which the rare stamp would have been printed.

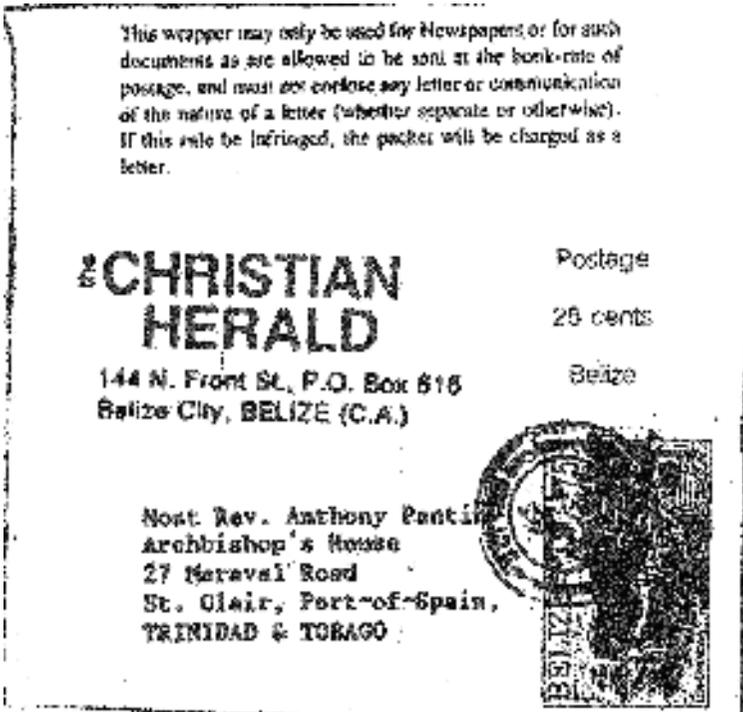




We thank Mr Singh for taking the trouble to reply to the request for information, even though he is not a member of the Study Circle.

CARIBBEAN ITEMS TO NOTE

BELIZE Locally printed (?) postal stationery newspaper wrapper on yellowish paper seen used from 4 March 1997



BR. VIRGIN ISLANDS

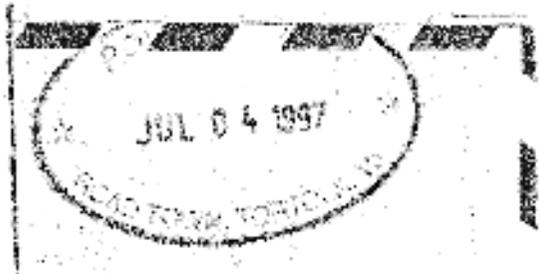
"OFFICIAL PAID /.."

seen used on 9 Oct 1996



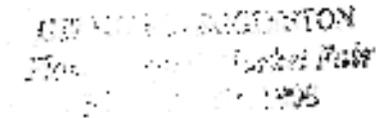
Oval POSTAGE PAID

seen used in blue on 4 Jul 1997.



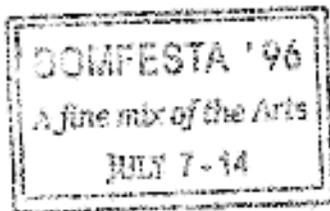
DOMINICA

GIFAUDEL I EGGLESTON / Flower Show \ Market Fair May 26th-27th, 1996 cachet
seen used in purple and in black from 28 March to 20 May 1996.



DOMFESTA'96 cachet

seen used in purple from 10-25 June 1996.



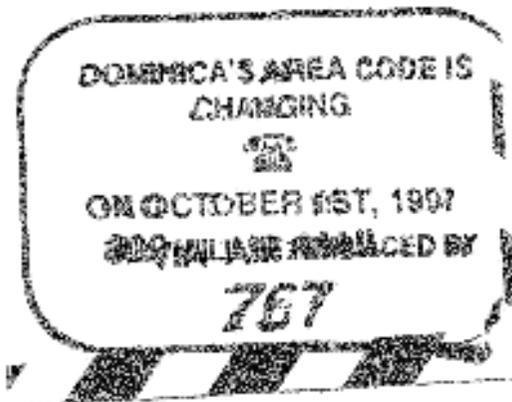
DOMINICA'96 18th Anniv of Indep... cachet

seen used in green on 15 Oct 1996



DOMINICA'S AREA CODE

cachet seen used in green on
1 Sep 1997.



GUYANA

Large double ring TRD "G.P.O. A.M.F. / GUYANA"

seen used in blue on 4 Jun 1997.

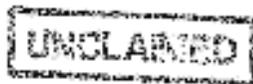
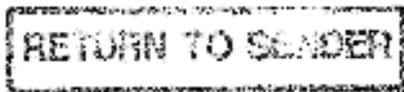


All the above are on covers to Trinidad.

ST. LUCIA

Boxed UNCLAIMED and RETURN TO SENDER

seen used on 7 Feb 1997 local cover



Joe Chin Aleong

DOMINICA

INDEPENDENCE'97 "WORK TO ACHIEVE" cachet

seen used on green on 10 Oct 1997



Doug Nottingham

JAMAICA

I am a new member of the Study Circle and I am looking for help from fellow members. My speciality is the collection and collation of Jamaican Registered covers (stamped, cancelled or registered) from various Post Offices, Postal Agencies and Postal Districts. I am interested in items from the following places:-

Tobolski, Salmon Town, Schoolfield, Millbank, Flagman, Belle Castle, Four Feet, Bushey Tree, Fishbrook, Canterbury, Calderwood, Albion, Alva, Amity Hall, Appleton, Ashley, Ashton, Aberdeen, Airy Castle, Hordley, Leith Hall, Gibraltar Camp, Quaw Hill, Arntully, Bito, Halifax, Rowlandsfield, Easington, East Lacovia, Eaton, Redlight, Rest Stone, Edgewater, Ecclesdown, Edward Piece, Eleven Mile, Elgin Town, Eilim, Muirton, Knapdale, Epsom, Redgate, Rat Trap, Hartford, Happy Grove, Rose Hill, Raheen, Nonsuch, Goshen, Ravensworth, Erin, Reach, Reading, Retirement and Rural Hill.

If anyone can help please get in touch with me.

Lynn Cohen
(Address in March 1998 Bulletin)

NEVIS

Re Michael Medlicotts post card in Bulletin No.176.

The numeral obliterations were still in use for all Presidencies, except Antigua, at this time to cancel the stamps with the CDS applied as an instructional mark. The Dominica A07 was sent to Portsmouth in 1897 which was an established SPO with its own CDS since 1893. I am sure both A09's remained at the G.P.O. and the SPO at Gingerland did not open until 1st June 1943 when it was supplied its first CDS.

What I find of particular interest about this postcard is the senders, "via N (ew) York". The RMSP inter-colonial steamer departed Nevis at 7pm, 16th May to connect with the transatlantic departure on 19th May. The next service was a fortnight later. Presumably the three weekly Pickford and Black service - Br. Guiana to Canada calling at St. Kitts offered a quicker conveyance to England.

My understanding is that letters to England via New York should have been surcharged 1d to deter conveyance other than by RMSP's subsidised contract with the GPO London. I would have thought post cards should also have been surcharged, even if ½d. Perhaps the Post Office clerk was not aware of this when only RMSP called at Nevis.

I shall be pleased to hear from any member who can provide any information about this surcharge.

ST. VINCENT - Specialised Auction Catalogues (including major BWI Sales with significant St. Vincent content)

Auction Catalogues represent an important segment of the specialised literature, few handbooks provide relative price information and many do not give a scarcity guide for specialised material, auction catalogues not only meet both these needs but also gave a reliable indication of what does and does not exist.

The St. Vincent collector is fortunate in that virtually all the major specialised collections have passed through the sales rooms, with the notable exception of the Clutterbuck - Gill assembly which formed the basis of Peter Jaffe's collection. The list below is rather comprehensive; it contains not only the well-known name sales but also a variety of the sales with major St. Vincent content. The choice is essentially subjective - quality rather than quantity is the criteria but 20 lots would normally be the minimum to quantity.

1925 -	Plu	-	1929 Dec 2	H	<i>Pack</i>
1932 Feb 8,15	H	-	1935 May 7-9	H	<i>Hind</i>
1935 Oct 21	H	<i>Gilbert-Lodge</i>	1936 Feb 3-4	H	<i>Gilbert Lodge</i>
1937 Jun 11	HR	<i>Cosby</i>	1947 Nov 10-18	H	<i>Williams</i>
1948 Oct 4-5	H	<i>Beatson Hird</i>	1949 Nov 9	RL	<i>Boucher</i>
1950 Jun 28	R L	-	1952 Oct 27-31	H, NY	
1953 Apr 29	R L	-	1954 Oct 27	R L	<i>Sinton</i>
1955 Mar 9	RL	<i>Sinton II</i>	1955 Apr 20	RL	<i>Granger</i>
1955 Oct 12	R L	<i>Adams</i>	1955 Nov 14-15	H	<i>Glossop</i>
1956 Mar 12-14	H	<i>Glossop II</i>	1956 Apr 18	RL	<i>Abell</i>
1956 Jul 2-3	H	-	1956 Oct 3	RL	<i>Bowlty</i>
1957 May 14-15	H, NY	<i>Caspary</i>	1958 Feb 10-11	H	
1958 Apr 30-May 1	R L	<i>Eagar</i>	1958 Oct 29	RL	
1959 Mar 2-3	H	<i>Granger</i>	1960 May 2-3	H	<i>Welsh</i>
1960 Oct 26	RL	<i>Lye</i>	1960 Nov 28-29	H	
1961 Apr 4-7	HR, NY	<i>Charlton Henry</i>	1961 Apr 17-18	H	
1961 May 31	RL	-	1961 Jul 3-4	H	
1961 Sep 6	RL	-	1961 Dec 12-15	HR, NY	<i>Charlton Henry</i>
1962 May 10-11	HR	<i>Gilbert-Lodge</i>	1962 Sep 18	R L	
1962 Oct 30-31	RL	<i>Brundrett</i>	1963 Apr 3	RL	<i>Burrus</i>
1963 Nov 4-6	H	<i>Stothard</i>	1964 Jun 2-3	RL	<i>T.W. Hall</i>
1964 Oct 6-7	R L	<i>Urwick</i>	1964 Oct 7	RL	<i>Creed</i>
1964 Oct 20-22	H, NY	-	1964 Nov 23	H	<i>Lickfold</i>
1965 Jan 21-22	HR	<i>Moray Stephenson</i>	1965 Mar 10	RL	<i>Wood</i>
1965 Nov 25	HR	<i>Beaumont</i>	1966 Jun 1	RL	
1967 Apr 26	RL	<i>Pierce</i>	1969 Nov 25-27	RL	<i>Glassco</i>
1968 May 14	RL	<i>Blagrave-Ellis</i>	1968 Dec 10	RL	<i>Heathcote</i>
1970 Jun 9	RL	<i>Bessemer</i>	1971 Jan 4-6	H	-
1971 Mar 24	RL	<i>Simmons</i>	1973 Nov 23	G	<i>Tomasini</i>
1974 Oct 16-17	RL	-	1976 Dec 2-3	RL (B)	<i>DLR Archives</i>
1977 Apr 21	G	<i>Cartier</i>	1977 Sep 15	G	<i>Cartier</i>
1977 Nov 9-11	S	<i>Homan</i>	1978 Mar 21	H	<i>Forsyth</i>

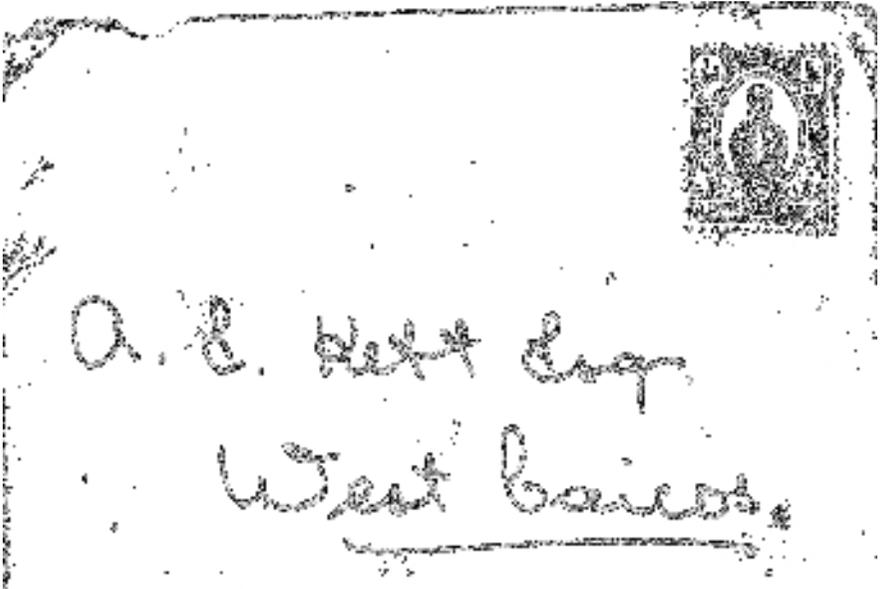
1978 Nov 22	K	-	1979 Jun 19	H	-
1979 Sep 4-7	G	-	1980 Nov 12-14	G	-
1982 Oct 28	RL	<i>McGregor</i>	1983 Jan 11	RL	<i>Messenger</i>
1983 Sep 6	RL	-	1984 Mar 27	RL	
1986 Jun 10-11	H	<i>Fitzgerald</i>	1987 Mar 11	RL, NY	<i>Isleham</i>
1987 Jul 7	R L	<i>Surtees</i>	1989 Jul 25	RL	<i>Pratt</i>
1990 Sep 12	H, NY	<i>Dale-Liechenstein</i>	1993 Dec 14-16	RL	<i>Brassler</i>
1994 Nov 10	P	<i>Blakey</i>	1996 Jun 18-19	RL	-
1996 Nov 7	P	<i>Paynter</i>			

Abbreviation used above: G = Gibbons, H = Harmers, H, NY = Harmers, New York, H R = Harmer Rooke, HR, NY = Harmer Rooke, New York, K = Koerber, P = Phillips, Plu = Plumridge, RL = Robson Lowe, RL (B) = Robson Lowe (Bermuda), RL, NY = Robson Lowe, New York, S = Sotherbys

Charles Freeland

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

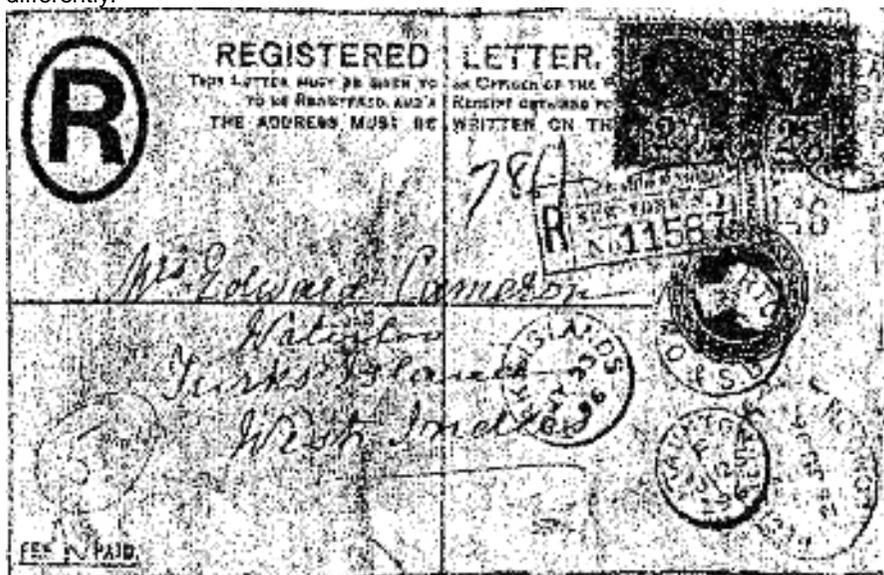
I was delighted to see Michael Wilson's article on postal rates for Turks and Caicos Islands in the September bulletin. Even the first two lines of his article were "new" to me and I shall have to pursue the publication so that I can add "up to 1900".



The cover shown below is of what might be a farthing internal rate.

It is an envelope with the ¼d rosy mauve, without any cancellation, but apparently genuine (a spurious envelope would surely have had a postmark "applied").

The following envelope shows what I assume to be a 5d rate from England + 2d additional fee for £5 compensation. I say "assume" because I have both 2½d and 5d incoming unregistered envelopes of 1897 and 1900 respectively and, until I am told otherwise' guess that the envelopes and contents may have weighed differently.



You will see from the foregoing that I have not done any homework on postage rates and need to make a start! Incidentally the above registered envelope has a very full record of all the places through which it passed including the additional New York registration label.

I should be interested in hearing from members regarding the rates and any other points about the above items.

Peter Marshall

BOOK REVIEW

"THE POSTAL HISTORY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO" by Joe Chin Aleong and Edward B Proud, published by Proud Bailey & Co. Ltd., PO Box 74, Heathfield, East Sussex, TN21 8PZ, 1997.

This is a most welcome publication in Proud's British Colonial series and is claimed to be the forerunner for others on the Caribbean islands. The joint author Joe Chin Aleong is no stranger to those who study the British Caribbean and his work is evident throughout. The book has six major chapters, Chapter one is a summary of the history of the sister islands. The bitter struggle of the European powers for mastery in Tobago and the gradual settlement of Trinidad, ceded to Britain in the Napoleonic Wars. Their twin paths

are traced to union in 1889 and eventual independence on 31st August 1962. This date, the end of the Colonial era, makes a convenient cut-off point for the data in the book.

The second chapter deals with the separate postal histories of Tobago and Trinidad and that of their union. The chapter goes into considerable detail of the Packet Boat services for both islands. The establishment of inland service with their post offices and the inland and coastal routes are amply covered. Verbatim copies of the local Post Office reports illustrate the various changes to the postal operations. Copied extracts from British GPO notices, Tobago and Trinidad Gazettes, instructions of the Packet Boat service as well as local Post Office notices and Postmaster reports are used to ensure a comprehensive survey of postal history of the twin islands. One item of note not covered is the unusual status of the Red Cross label in the appeal mailing of 18th September 1914.

The surface postal rates for both islands and their subsequent union are covered in Chapter 3. Again much use has been made of direct copies of original documents. This is a very useful chapter for the Postal Historian. The countries listed in the 19th century notices betray the influence of the British Post Office in ensuring complete coverage. I doubt whether many covers exist illustrating the 1864 rate of 1s 9d to Wallachia or the 1877 rate of 6d to Mytelene! The verbatim regulations for the various classes of mail are included in this chapter.

A condensed air mail history is given in Chapter 4 followed by the Air Mail rates. The latter are like the surface rates, quite comprehensive and enabled the reviewer to identify a cover to UK carried by first air mail after the introduction of the "British Carrier" rate in 1947. A transcribing error has been made in the rate summary on page 205 compared to the listed published notices.

By far the main part of the book is the listing of Post Offices/Agencies and their postal markings in Chapter 5, occupying nearly 200 pages. Following the entry for the General Post Office, the offices/agencies are listed alphabetically with the dates of opening (and closing) where known, location and brief history. Each postal marking is illustrated full size enabling a direct comparison to be made (Proud offers transparencies of each of the pages) an essential particularly when differentiating some of the very similar date stamps for General Post Office. The listing of the date stamps is far more comprehensive than that of "The Town Cancels of Trinidad and Tobago" by Addiss, Ramkissoon and Van Winkle. The Proud system of numbering the marks has been utilised throughout and regrettably for those already familiar with the listing of the aforementioned work and Marriott's numeral cancel listing there is no correlation. Along with the date stamps, the machine cancels, registration handstamps, post paid and many other marks are included. The dates of issue from the London proof books are recorded where known, together with earliest and latest usage. There is a valuation system and a rating for each office/agency together with an additional rating for some of the scarce marks. I found this system totalling confusing as certain very scarce marks (including only one known marks) were not given an enhanced rating. An individual rating per mark would have been more effective! One other criticism is that the photographs used to illustrate the offices/agencies were not dated, Trinidad and Tobago is not alone in the regular relocation and many of the photographs used date from well after independence, the books cut-off date.

The final chapter deals with the travelling post offices, both rail and Coastal Steamer. The postmarks are illustrated as well as details of the service and representative timetables. A one page bibliography is included together with a brief index. This latter is

far from comprehensive consisting largely of a list of the Post Offices/Agencies against the page where the postal markings are illustrated, this is superfluous as, mentioned earlier, the listing is already in alphabetical sequence. A more useful index would be to extract some of the detail in the other chapters such as "Registration" or "Surcharge" where the details are buried in those chapters.

The Authors are to be commended for a major work that has been lacking so long on Trinidad and Tobago. I hope in this review that I have not been too critical, a fault when someone else has had to do the hard work. No doubt as a result of this epic work additions and corrections will arise, I for one will keep my copy close at hand hoping to make a new find, extend the information or discover the rare marking. 500 pages of indispensable knowledge for £45, what more could you wish!

Book format, hardbound with dust jacket, size 25cm x 17cm, 520 pages.

Ron Wike

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

RECENT MONOGRAPHS

(All prices include surface postage)

Leeward Islands: A Postal/ History Anthology (1997) 74p £ 13

Ludington, *Postal History of Blockade Running Through Bermuda, 1861-1865* (1996) 51p £13

Forand & Freeland, *Bermuda Mails to 1865* (1995) 124p £13

Devaux, *Early Air Mails of Saint Lucia* (1993) 26p £6.50
For details, please contact

Cyril Bell
4445 Riverside Drive, Lilburn, GA 30347 USA
Tel.: 770 978 8948 Fax: 770 978 7547

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please note that on / after the 5th June 1998 Victor Toeg, our President, can be contacted at the following address:-

AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

ANGUILLA Commemorative stamp issue - Diana Princess of Wales

Release date: 14th April 1993
 Values 15c, \$1.00, \$1.90,
 \$2.25
 Printer Questa
 Artist Roger Vigurs
 Designer John Lister Ltd
 Process Lithography
 Paper 102 gms
 unwatermarked
 Sheetlets 16 stamps per sheet
 Stamp size 31.75 x 48.26 mm



Future Stamp Programme for 1999

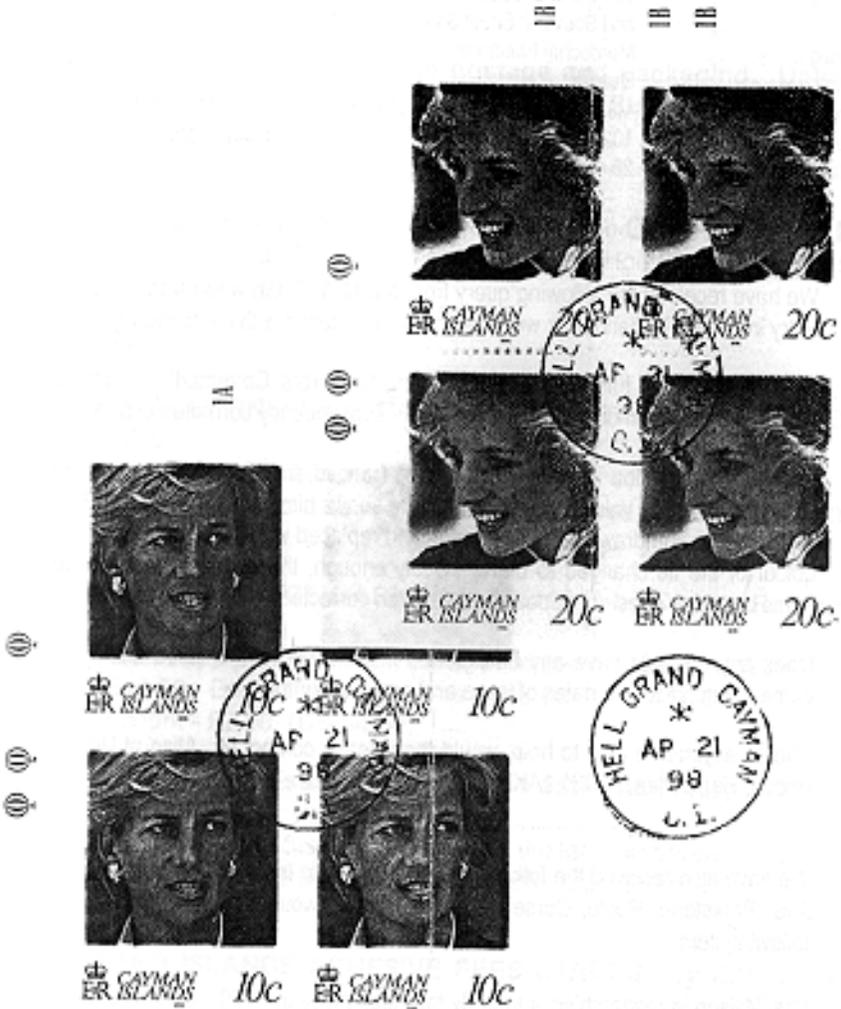
International Arts Contest - Anguilla 1998
 European Royalty in the 20th century
 50th Anniv. Of the University of the West Indies
 Christmas 1998

BERMUDA Commemorative stamp issue - Diana Princess of Wales



Release date: 31st March 1998
 Values 30c, 40c, 65c, 80c in sheetlet form \$2.40, including 25c surcharge
 Proceeds will go to The Bermuda Red Cross, in memory of Princess Diana
 Design Derek Miller
 Process Lithography
 Sheet size: 145mm x 70mm
 Printer Questa
 Paper C.A. Spiral
 Stamp size 30.56 x 38.0mm

CAYMAN ISLANDS Commemorative stamp issue - *Diana Princess of Wales*



Souvenir sheet bearing 10c, 20c, 40c and \$1.00 stamps - Issue date 31st March 1998

With the authority of the Cayman Islands Post Office, the House of Questa also printed sheets of 50 stamps of the 10c and 20c values to assist certain Philatelic dealers who were issuing low value commemorative covers. The Cayman Islands Post Office released these "extra" 10c and 20c stamps to the general public in the Cayman Islands on Tuesday 21st April 1998. The watermark is Multiple Crown Script CA diagonal.

Our thanks to Ivan Burges of Grand Cayman for this information.

JAMAICA Commemorative stamp issue - *Diana Princess of Wales*

Rease date: 24th February 1998
Values: \$20 x 6 in Sheetlet form and Souvenir Sheet \$80
Design: Values Mordechai Friedman
Printer: Questa
Process: Multicolour Offset Lithography
Paper: 102 gm² unwatermarked PVA gummed security-coated
Stamp size: 28.45 x 42.58mm

HELP WANTED

We have received the following query from **Mr. R.W. Allan** who having seen the Circles entry in the ABPS Sheet size:handbook would welcome assistance with the following item.

He states that he has a collection devoted to "Errors Corrected", i.e. stamps whose design or inscription contains an error that is subsequently corrected in a re-issue.

The item in question is the 1986 issue of Trinidad and Tobago in honour of Dr. Eric Williams. The 30c value of the original issue shows him wearing a red tie. This appears to have been withdrawn soon after issue and replaced with the same design but with the colour of the tie changed to black. Oddly enough, the souvenir sheet issued for the same occasion does not appear to have been corrected in the same way.

Does any member have any background information on this issue and how the error came about, including dates of issue and name of printer?

Should anyone be able to help, would they please contact Mr. Allan at

We have also received the following query from **Mrs. Isobel M. Wilson** of ----- who would welcome assistance with the following item.

Mrs. Wilson is researching a tragedy that took place in 1759. On August 23 1759, the ship "Friendship" from Jamaica was in the Thames when she blew up with the loss of several lives. Among the dead was Amelia McQuestion the daughter of Thomas McQuestion of Spanish Town Jamaica.

For such a major tragedy, official letters must have been sent back by ship to Jamaica. Can any member help Mrs. Wilson in her quest by reading any items of mail they might have of the period in question and let her know if they are lucky enough to find anything.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

All the following are available from Peter Ford, 28 Orchard Close, Hail Weston, St. Neots, Cambs. PE19 4LF.

Prices quoted are retail and include postage and packaging. Unless stated otherwise ALL despatches will be sent by SURFACE MAIL. All orders must be prepaid. Make sterling cheques / P.O's payable to "B.W.I.S.C."

NOTE: U.S. members paying in U.S. dollar cheques MUST be made payable to "B.W.I.S.C." and sent with order to Clary Holt, P.O. Drawer 59, Burlington, NC27216.

PUBLICATIONS

"INDEX TO BULLETINS Nos. 1-100 of the BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE"

compiled by E.V. Toeg. Softbound, 182mm x 120mm, 41 pp.

Price: UK, Europe (Air), and elsewhere overseas (printed paper rate) £5.50. USA (Air printed paper rate) US - \$9.50; (NO Discount).

"BARBADOS POST OFFICE MARKINGS TO 1981" by Clarke, Radford and Cave.

Hardbound, Qto. 71pp profusely illustrated. A limited numbered edition. Price: UK - £17.00; Europe and Overseas - £18.00; US - \$30.00

Members Discount - £2.00 (US \$4.00).

"DOMINICA - Its Postal History, Stamps and Postal Stationery to 1935" by E.V. Toeg, F.R.P.S.L.

Hardboard, A4, 216pp. Profusely illustrated. A limited numbered Edition. Price: UK - £46.15; Europe & Overseas - £46.68; US - \$81.69.

No Members Discount.

"THE LEEWARD ISLANDS ADHESIVE FEES STAMPS" by E.V. Toeg, F.R.P.S.L.

Price: UK - £16.00; Europe & Overseas - £18.00; US - \$30.00. Members Discount - £2.00 (US \$4.00).

"ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF JAMAICAN PHILATELY Vol.1 - The Postage Stamps to 1935" by A.P.D. Sutcliffe and S.P. Jarvis.

400+ pages contained in a Customised Multi-ring binder.
Price: UK - £44.15; Europe & Overseas - £46.74; US - \$85.00

CLASSIC COLLECTIONS - No.1. "BARBADOS" by FRANK DEAKIN

A lavishly illustrated booklet containing full colour pictures of choice items from Frank Deakin's Collection together with an essay "Advanced Barbados Philately".

Price (including postage and packing): UK - £13.00; Europe & Overseas - £15.00; US - \$24.00.

Members Discount - £2.00 (US \$4.00).

BULLETINS AND BINDERS

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BINDERS - "CORDEX" Instantaneous Self-binders, A5 size, each capable of holding 20 issues of the Bulletin, hard cover, blue, spine entitled in Gold.

Price: UK - £5.50; Europe and Overseas - £6.00; US - \$10.00. (All despatched Surface Mail). (NO Discounts).

PLEASE NOTE: Only the new A5 size binder is now stocked. They will accept the old size Bulletin but old sized Binders will only accept Bulletins up to and including issue No. 143.

THE OPINION SERVICE

Members who wish to take advantage of this service should first apply to the Hon. Gen. Secretary for one (or more) "Application for Opinion" form(s). Please note that each item submitted requires its own individual form.

The member should then complete and send the form(s) with the item(s) concerned to the Hon. Gen. Secretary enclosing the remittance fee of £4.50 per item together with a return addressed envelope, stamped additionally for either Registered or Recorded Delivery. Every endeavour will be made to return the item as soon as possible, ideally within 14 days.

All stamps and covers are submitted only at the Owner's risk and neither the Study Circle nor any of its Members, either collectively or individually can be held responsible for the loss or damage of any items.

Members are reminded that this is only an OPINION SERVICE and does not give an Expertise Certificate. This service is available ONLY to those members with a UK address.

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