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STUDY CIRCLE

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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 179 DECEMBER 1998

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

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OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. TO loan books from the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways. List supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an s.a.e. (9" x 6½") - 2nd Class postage for 150gm rate required.
4. TO publicist 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
5. TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in para 1 above.

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION

MEMBERSHIP - Is WORLD WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors. SUBSCRIPTIONS - The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £7.50 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £10 for members who reside elsewhere.

Subscriptions (dues) are payable on 1st January each year and, subject to what is mentioned below, in sterling (by personal cheque or Standing Order drawn on a U.K. Bank, a Banker's Draft, International Money Order, Postal Order or local currency *notes* - no coins will be accepted - e.g. dollars, marks, francs etc.).

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.

IN THIS ISSUE

Programme		81
The Convention in 1999	<i>E. Victor Toeg</i>	82
1999 Subscriptions	<i>Ray Stanton</i>	82
Membership Listing		82
WIPEX Meeting	<i>Steve Sharp, Chris May, Frank Deakin and Dennis Mitton</i>	83
Bahamas - Partial removal of marginal rule on KGV 2d value	<i>Peter Fernbank</i>	86
Bahamas - Different style of sheet number imprint	<i>Peter Fernbank</i>	86
Barbados - Bisects	<i>Frank Deakin</i>	87
Barbados - 1892 1/2d on 4d brown provisional	<i>Michael Hamilton</i>	88
Barbados - incorrect day book index entry	<i>Peter Fernbank</i>	90
British Guiana - Elusive numbers	<i>Simon Goldblatt</i>	91
Overseas members recently spotted in London		93
Leeward Islands - The 1902 provisionals an unrecorded variety	<i>Ian Jakes</i>	94
Trinidad and Tobago	<i>Joe Chin Aleong</i>	96
B.W.I. Auction No.24		96
Around the Caribbean		98
New Publication		98
Publications for Sale		99
The Opinion Service		100

PROGRAMME

1999

Saturday 6th March - 10.15 to 12.15 International Stamp and Cover Show

Venue: Royal Horticultural Hall, London.

Speakers: Peter Baldwin - St. Kitts-Nevis 1938-50
Dennis Mitton - Bermuda

Saturday 24th April - 2.15pm Annual General Meeting and Auction

Venue: The Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row,
London. WC1

**MATERIAL WANTED
FOR THE MARCH AND ALL FUTURE BULLETINS
PLEASE**

THE CONVENTION IN 1999

I understand that The Regent Hotel at Leamington is closing down on the 31st December 1998 and that the hotel will be demolished to make way for a different use.

Our Hon. General Secretary Peter Boulton is making enquiries at other hotels in Leamington and, if necessary, in other parts of the Midlands.

In the March 1999 bulletin there will be a further note as to the progress made in finding a new venue for our Convention.

E. Victor Toeg

1999 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Would Members please note that subscriptions for 1999 are due on the 1st January 1999 for those who have not already paid in advance. Those members for whom the 1999 subscription is due will find a subscription form enclosed with this Bulletin and I would be grateful if this could be returned to me with the payment (or to Clary Holt for those North American members who wish to pay in US dollars.) No form is enclosed if the 1999 subscription has already been paid.

It would be much appreciated if all members could remember to pay their subscriptions on time to avoid the need to send out reminders wherever possible.

Ray Stanton - Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP LISTING

New Members

Andersen, F.
Carmichael, P.D.
Carter, I.
Chandler, N.S.
Cosentino, A.R.
Davies, J.C.
Ellis, R.M.
Hancock, P.
Johnson, R.I.
McKinley, T.A.
McMackin, H.J.
Skeete, R.

Taylor,B.W.
Tweddell,E.T.
Watkins,R.
Wilkinson,A.L.
Wynns,J.P.

Change of Address and other membership information

Our Hon Membership Secretary has stated that these details will be in the March 1999 bulletin.

WIPEX MEETING - 26th SEPTEMBER 1998

A most enjoyable meeting took place on Saturday 26th September at the Bonnington Hotel in London.

As we do not count people through the door, we can only estimate the numbers visiting the WIPEX event. Fifty people seems about the right figure and included members from Europe, North America and New Zealand. Two new members joined the Study Circle on the day.

In addition to Simon Goldblatt offering members material and Peter Ford selling our publications, the dealers present were David Druett, Michael Hamilton and Allan Leverton. Lower than usual sales were reported but this is understandable considering the quantity and quality of material at Pennymead's afternoon auction, where apparently realisations exceeded expectations. Few dealers and somewhat limited interesting material on sale, is surely a price worth paying for the opportunity of attending an exhibition in Central London with free admission and (for this year at least) unlimited coffee, at modest cost to the Circle.

To provide more variety and, to be honest, reduce the workload of the helpers in transporting and constructing display frames we offered accompanied informal displays that are reported on by Dennis Mitton. During the afternoon session, Frank Deakin was presented with the Gilbert Collett award by Victor Toeg our President. Chris May, from a user's perspective, looks at the live Opinions session; the panel of experts being Simon Goldblatt, Allan Leverton and Charles Freeland. Steve Jarvis filmed the whole session and we must hope that the provider of the camcorder (not Steve) can transfer the record to video cassette and donate it to the library.

Steve Sharp.

Opinions Session

The effectiveness of this part of the proceedings is very much dependent on the level of interest engendered by the material put forward for opinion. It is, after all, necessary to stimulate the interest of those present or they will consider the exercise not to merit their full attention. In this respect, it may be that an overhead projector and screen (which the Hotel could no doubt provide) would enable the audience to have a better grasp of the item being considered than is at present gained from Simon's undeniably very able verbal description. That said, the panel provides a convenient and very useful way (short of the formal opinion under the Study Circle's own arrangements) of obtaining an expert assessment and gaining valuable information as I was privileged to do in respect of the GB/Antigua EL that I put forward this year. My thanks go to all concerned including Michael Hamilton for additional information supplied subsequently.

Chris May

A Trophy for our Barbados Booklet.

I duly took the 9 a.m. bus to London from Exeter that arrived at about 1 p.m. at Victoria, I then secured a cab to the Bonnington Hotel where, just before 3 p.m., Victor Toeg very kindly presented me with the useful Gilbert W. Collett Memorial Trophy, The trophy takes the form of a lovely Silver Dish, engraved with a rose in the centre and bearing on the rim "British West Indies Study Circle G.W. Collett Trophy - H.F. Deakin 1996 - 1997". I am delighted with it.

Victor said a few kind words before he handed me the blue box from the "The Crown Jewellers", Garrard. He reminded those present that I had been a Circle Member for a long time, it must be about 40 years, and during that time I had built up an award-winning collection of Barbados, a small section of which I was invited to show in Claridge's Ballroom in 1995 and upon which I based much of the information in the booklet that was entitled "Advanced Barbados Philately".

In my vote of thanks I thanked the members for their great generosity in giving me such a beautiful dish. A dish that I can not only display but also use as I have the pewter tankard that Stanley Gibbons gave me many years ago.

Perhaps I am a little biased, but I think Peter Ford's illustrations in the booklet are really skilfully executed. I know he worked extremely hard on it over two years and I would like to thank him for all his advice and encouragement. He certainly deserves the thanks of all for his dedication and expertise in producing such a gem. Peter told me there was on this occasion more than one nomination for this particular award; let it be said that I won it "By a short head". I hope my 3 photos of the presentation come out all right.

Frank Deakin

Members Displays

It has become a traditional feature at WIPEX for members to display a few pages on an informal basis. On behalf of the WIPEX committee I would like to thank those members who responded to my plea for display material. My descriptions of the displays is to give a general impression in order to wet the appetite of those members who did not attend. The following displays were shown in order of appearance:-

BERMUDA - Dennis Mitton

An almost complete display of QV stamps with many multiples plus some proof items.

BRITISH GUIANA - Derek Nathan

A beautifully presented display of postmarks that showed how a postmark collection should be displayed.

LEEWARD ISLANDS - Michael Oliver

Key plate varieties showing the development of flaws between QV and KGV1 plus a display of the colours of stamps relating to the Universal Colour Scheme that included stamps of other countries.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO - Ron Wike

As many of you are aware Ron is the co-author of the award winning book entitled "Machine Cancellations of Trinidad and Tobago 1923-97". This display showed the material that formed the basis of the book.

BERMUDA - Charles Freeland

It is rare in BWI circles to see a forgery collection of mainly QV issues. This display is probably the best Bermuda forgery collection around.

TRINIDAD - Ron Wike

The final display was of the censor marks of WWI and WWII that had in addition censor covers depicting instructional marks such as Return to Sender, Service Suspended, etc.

In summary a very varied and interesting collection of displays with some unusual items. To the best of my poor recollection the following countries have yet to feature at WIPEX:- Antigua, Bahamas, Cayman, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Turks, Turks and Caicos. If you collect any of these countries would you please start preparing at least a dozen pages for next time. You only have to do one page every two months to be in time!

Dennis Mitton

BAHAMAS - Partial Removal of Marginal Rule on KGV 2d Value

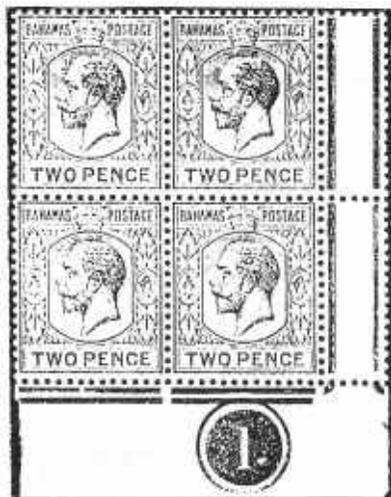


Fig.1

In Bulletin No.177 I illustrated a top corner margin example of the King George V 2d value from the centre of the sheet where the outer (duty plate) marginal rule was missing on the interpane gutter. I queried whether it was missing down the entire length of the gutter. Simon Kelly has since written to me and kindly enclosed a photocopy of a bottom marginal block (see Fig.1) which shows the same feature. It would therefore appear highly probable that the marginal rules were removed down the full length of the interpane gutter.

Peter Fernbank

BAHAMAS - Different Style of Sheet Number Imprint

Also in Bulletin No.177 I showed that a different style of sheet number imprint had been employed on certain early printings of the King George V head issue, where the numerals were thinner than the normal style and had rather angular serifs. In this article I unfortunately omitted to mention which values were illustrated; these were the 4d (Sht. No. 086) and 1/- (Sht. No. 072) values. Both Simon Kelly and Graham Hoey have sent me details of further examples of the 4d value, and I now have sufficient examples to illustrate eight of the ten numerals of this thinner numeral style.

Normal	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Thin type	0	1	2		4		6	7	8	9

For the 4d value five printings were made on Multiple Crown CA paper:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Reqn.</u>	<u>No of sheets</u>	<u>Set</u>	<u>Plate No.</u>
20 May 1912	20/12	95	60	1
16 Oct 1912	81/12	200	60	1
20 Dec 1912	97/12	198	60	1
09 Jul 1918	63/18	53	120	1 & 2
25 Jul 1919	57/19	100	120	1 & 2

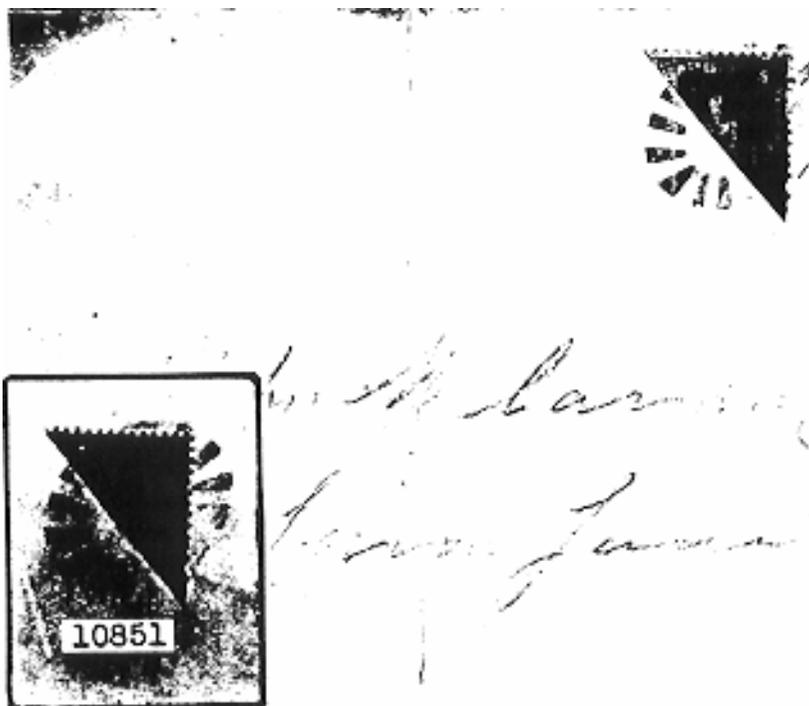
Two examples of the 4d provided by Graham Hoey, with normal and thin lettering styles, each shows a three digit sheet number greater than 100. These can only have emanated from the October and December 1912 printings, but at present it has not been possible to determine which is which. The 4d printing of December 1912 was

accompanied by the 6d value and it is possible that this was also similarly numbered. Unfortunately neither of these two printings were accompanied by the 1/- value, the only other value so far encountered with the thin numeric font. A printing of this value was despatched in February 1913 and I consider it likely that this was sheet numbered using the thin numerals. If this is so then the period of use of this numbering machine would appear to be very small indeed, less than six months.

Peter Fernbank

BARBADOS - Bisects

Re Peter Longmuirs useful article in the September bulletin, in which he described his pin perf, SG.15, bisected and used on a small piece. I would only say he is extremely fortunate to have located it in auction and I hope he did not have to pay too much for it. I am delighted to hear the Gibbons Catalogue Editor will be including a footnote reference to it after SG.16b in the 2000 edition.



Some years ago Ritchie Bodily produced a rare bisect for me on a local cover, SG.66 issued 1874, the 1d bisected. The cover is not dated, but tied by a bootheel; in the 1948 B.P.A Cert there is the photo of the stamp on a piece of the cover. Bayley mentioned it on page 60 in his book, though Gibbons does not list it.

I think the R.P.S are reluctant to certify these bisects on piece, even if they are dated.

Frank Deakin

BARBADOS - 1892 ½d on 4d Brown Provisional

Further to Charles Freeland's interesting report in the September 1998 Bulletin I would agree that a single pane of red and black double surcharge seems improbable in light of the Burrus mint single showing both surcharges each without hyphen in the diagonal position.

Charles's score of 17 examples 'PENNY HALF' is very impressive and as cancelled-to-order handstamps tend to overlap on to adjacent stamps one wonders whether a partial reconstruction is feasible.

I have re-examined the misplaced "PENNY" cover to C.G. Weatherhead in Bridgetown, which bears 21 mm cds of AU 5 92 (i.e. not the JY 27 92 c-t-o late use of 19mm E2) and confirm that it is not with broken 'Y' (1st Printing, Position 42) as per below. Additionally the 'PENNY' stamp is on 4d pale brown whilst the previously illustrated used horizontal strip of three 'PENNY HALF' is on QV 4d deep brown.

An Argyll non-illustrated advertisement of 21.12.78 (possibly in "Stamp Collecting") offered 2½d on 4d with local "SPECIMEN" described as being in purple at £1 25.

I had presumed, perhaps incorrectly, that the panes of 60 had been stripped of their selvedge prior to surcharging. Should this have been the case I can report a 1st Printing single on cover to Nicholls at the Telegraph Office dated JY 11 92 (E2) with interpanneau margin attached at right.

Lastly the QV 4d brown had diminished use when the rate to U.P.U. member countries was decreased to 2½d on, I think, January 1st 1891 although the QV 2½d ultramarine had been utilised from during 1882 for a special half ounce rate to Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Tobago and Trinidad. With this in mind perhaps we should be looking for 1892 and later uses of the QV 4d brown, with their distinctive 21 mm and 19mm cancels, used at 4d postal duty but showing albino surcharging. One other longshot would be this provisional with CA INVERTED watermark as the basic QV 4d pale brown (SG.98) has been reported as such in the Freeland BWI Watermark Varieties inventory.

Two articles have come to light - the first by an unknown author, the second from the London Philatelist 1908 that make interesting reading:

1892 July

A provisional stamp of ½d made by surcharging the 4d brown of issue 14 with HALFPENNY in black Roman capitals in a horizontal line above the label containing the original value of the stamp. Wmkd Crown CA. Perf 14.

VARIETIES

1. Without, hyphen between HALF and PENNY.
2. With double surcharge, first in red and than in black.

When the stamps with the new design of "Arms" arrived in the Island, the authorities found that there was a considerable number of the 4d brown stamps of issue 14 remaining on hand. They thereupon determined that before issuing the stamps with "Arms" that this stock of 4d brown should be surcharged and used as ½d stamps.

The surcharge was applied by the Colonial Government printer on panes of 60 stamps. A trial of the surcharge was made in red but only a single sheet is said to have been so printed, and this was afterwards surcharged in black. We have seen a specimen with this double surcharge that had a dated postmark of Ju.15-92. Five hundred sheets, that is 120,000 stamps, are stated to have been overprinted in black. The length of the surcharge varies from 17 to 17¾mm and the letters are 1½mm in height. The hyphen varies from almost a dot to ¾mm in length and numbers 7 and 50 of each pane of sixty have no hyphen. The surcharge on some of the sheets was printed very irregularly, and in place of being applied horizontally, is found either vertically or diagonally. In the last case pairs may be found, one stamp of which is surcharged and the other unsurcharged. The sheets with horizontal surcharge frequently have the surcharge out of register, so that the stamps only bear a portion of the words HALFPENNY. From the notices that appeared in the various magazines when this provisional made its appearance, it seems that speculators in the Island were allowed to get hold of the sheets, imperfectly surcharged, which in the ordinary course would have been placed on one side as spoilage; and the way in which the issue was managed altogether is, not calculated to throw credit upon the authorities concerned.

London Philatelist Vol. XVII 1908 - J.A. Tilleard

The overprinting of the ½d value on the 4d stamps in 1892 was, as in the case of the 1d on 5/- entrusted to Mr. Fraser, and executed in the West Indian Press.

From the information given by him, it appears that the colour of the overprint was ordered by the Colonial Postmaster to be "red". A trial sheet (pane) in this colour was struck off and was sent to the Postmaster, who considered that the colour was not sufficiently conspicuous, and accordingly returned the pane to Mr. Fraser with instructions to print off in "black" instead of "red". The pane returned was placed with the others and so went through the press again, and as Mr. Fraser had to account for every one at its full face value of £1, he was careful to return them all.

The pane overprinted in the two colours was sold in the ordinary way with others, and it is quite certain, from Mr. Fraser's account that there was but one.

The books of the West Indian Press show that some four or five weeks after the first printing a second small lot of 240 panes, or 14,400 stamps, were overprinted in black, and these can be distinguished by the heavier printing.

Mr. Fraser denies that there was any intentionally careless printing, and he knew nothing of any vertical or diagonal surcharges. None of the stamps vertically overprinted are known to collectors in Barbados, while one or two copies only with diagonal overprint are found there, and these so slightly off the level as not to be worthy of notice as varieties of any importance. I have myself seen a portion of a sheet in which, the alignment being somewhat off the level, some of the overprints on individual stamps could be called diagonal, but it so palpably arose from carelessness in inserting the sheets in the press, that in the ordinary way it would undoubtedly have been treated as printer's waste. A high price was asked for it, but I did not acquire it for H.R. Highness, who, I know, has a strong objection to encouraging the multiplication of varieties of this nature, by treating such "freaks" as worthy of the serious notice of collectors.

Mr. Gregory, who has examined many sheets, gives the following as the varieties that he considers worthy of notice in the first setting: No.42 a broken "Y"; No.47 no bar to "H", or perhaps two "I"s have been used instead of "H"; No.50 hyphen missing.

In the Barbados handbook No.7 is given also as without hyphen, but it is believed that this must have been due to a faulty impression in the stamp from which the description is give, as in all the sheets examined by Mr. Gregory the hyphen in No.7 show, although only faintly while he saw a portion of a sheet in which Nos.7, 13, and 19 were all without traces of the hyphen, although in other sheets traces of it are to be found. It is, of course, possible, where the bar is very faint or very small - and it varies considerably throughout the stamps - that it may often escape impression, although it may be in the "forme".

It is not uncommon to see stamps in which, by a slight misplacement of the sheets in the printing process, the overprint does not read correctly, such as "Alf-Penny H", and one sheet was found reading "Penny Half", but I do not think that serious collectors are likely to attach much importance to such varieties.

After a long search, Mr. Gregory found one stamp with "Penny" only upon it. It was No.42 with broken "Y", and was evidently the end stamp of the row in which the surcharge had been commenced too far to the left, no doubt on the margin. Being used and on the entire envelope, it had evidently served as 1d, or possibly even 4d as there is no ½d rate in Barbados for letters.

In the second setting Mr. Gregory notices that the broken "Y" (No.42) has been corrected, and in No.50 a period has been inserted to serve for the missing hyphen.

Michael Hamilton

BARBADOS - Incorrect Day Book Index Entry

Whilst looking through De La Rue's Private Day Books for the Bahamas entries recently I came across a mistake in the index to Book AC (July 1916 to March 1919). It was normal practice to make the index reference entry (hand-written in ink) at the time the invoice details were entered. In this case a Bahamas index entry, referring to page 98, turned out to be a Barbados invoice instead. Since the Barbados index line was immediately beneath that for Bahamas it is easy to see how the mistake occurred.

I have no idea of the current state of knowledge on Barbados, or whether anyone has recorded the details of the various printings of this period, but for the record the details of the non-indexed Barbados invoice in Book AC page 98 are as follows.-

21st December 1916. Requisition 102/16

Postcards	½d - 50,808
	1d - 6,132
Registration Envelopes	2d 'F' size - 3,170
	2d 'G' size - 3,168

Peter Fernbank

Advert

FREDERICK P. SCHMITT

Advert

ARGYLL ETKIN LTD

Advert

CHRIS RAINEY

Advert

STAMP INSURANCES SERVICES

Advert

WILLARD S. ALLMAN

Advert

PETER SINGER

Advert

BRIDGER & KAY (GUERNSEY) LTD

Advert

Murray Payne Ltd

BRITISH GUIANA - ELUSIVE NUMBERS

Most of us, myself included, probably accept rather uncritically information about numbers of stamps printed, issued, surcharged or destroyed, once the figures have been recorded in writing.

Browsing recently through some British Guiana Post Office statistics for the period 1891-1909 (these were published through Fred Melville three years later) I was brought up with a jolt. There are tables which carefully tabulate the denominations said to have been issued in each twelve-month period for which returns were available, and a "total value" entered for each year: yet the two sets of figures do not begin to balance, until the figures for the 1901 -2 accounting year are reached. After this the differences are not significant.

In all the earlier years, the total recorded is materially higher than the individually recorded sales, as the following table shows - provided, of course, that my own totals have been calculated with reasonable accuracy.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Recorded Value</u>	<u>Calculated Value</u>	<u>difference</u>
1891-2	\$44267	\$43927	\$340
1892-3	No return	-	-
1893-4	\$64915	\$59990	\$4925
1894,5	\$78486	\$68211	\$10275
1895-6	\$77514	\$65995	\$11519
1896-7	\$70773	\$64244	\$6529
1897-8	\$68381	\$61333	\$7048
1898-9	\$82982	\$69110	\$13872
1899-1900	\$81569	\$73623	\$7946
1900-1	\$79362	\$78175	\$1187

Curiously, in 1891-2 many rounded figures are used for stamp sales, whereas in all other years exact figures are ordinarily used - yet the discrepancy is much less in the earliest year.

It is necessary next to consider what is said about the dollar values of the 1888 issue. Townsend & Howe quote an issue figure of 123,000 for each value other than the 2 cent, and then curiously attribute from a different source a figure of 121,800 for the \$2 value only.

T & H go on to record the following figures for surcharging, destruction, sales, and unattributed balance:-

<u>Surcharged</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Sold</u>	<u>Not accounted</u>	
\$1	121,800	-	146	1054
\$2	111,000	9561	544	695
\$3	110,000	830	9326	1844
\$4	54,000	67,467	1133	400
\$5	-	108,840	14160	-

In fact the fourth column is unhappy: the figure for the \$2 might as easily be 1895, and the \$3 is 2844 as a matter of arithmetic.

The suggestion is made that unattributed disposals would represent fiscal sales - but the post office would have had no satisfactory way of distinguishing these.

Indeed this point is borne out by the detailed figures, which include sales of the \$2.40, \$4.80, \$9.60 and \$12 values from 1899-1900 onwards.

This is where the mystery begins to deepen.

Total sales recorded are these:-

- \$1 - 144 (ending 1894-5)
- \$2 - 1279 (ending 1904-5)
- \$3 - 7363 (continuing to 1908-9)
- \$4 - 655 (ending 1904-5)
- \$5 - 30652 (continuing to 1908-9)

There can be no doubt that these figures relate to the 1888 issue because destruction of the \$2 and \$4 stamps was certified to have taken place in late January 1905, whereas the \$3 and \$5 values were not destroyed until February 1911.

The sales individually recorded are open-ended to a degree, in the absence of returns for 1892-3. The period to 1891 may be less important, for the only sale recorded for 1891-2 was a single \$1 dollar stamp! (imagine the sensation if you find a dated 1891 cancellation in your hands!).

Now that the varying figures are in front of you, something has to give. The sales figures of the \$5 stamp cannot live with the numbers certified as destroyed. In this instance the totals between 1894 and 1900 look suspect, both because sales for each year are - in this case only rounded to the nearest five, and because annual sales ranging from 2785 minimum to 5805 maximum compare with a subsequent peak figure of 2767 for not just the \$5 but for all the new fiscal values as well.

Yet if the postmaster was cooking the books he was making matters worse by widening the gap between sales as totalled and the values individually recorded.

The \$3 stamp causes fewer problems: sales were increasing towards the end of our period, and a total sale figure of around 12,000 would not have been impossible.

In the case of the \$2 value, it will be seen that recorded sales are inconsistent with the lower issue figure of 121,800, if the numbers surcharged and destroyed are to be accepted.

The \$1 and \$4 stamps continue to cause problems. There is scope for additional sales in 1892-3, so that the figures which might have been returned could have reached around 250 and 700, respectively, but there is no way of explaining the non-inclusion somewhere of about 850 to 950 of each value, from the present statistics.

I have not so far troubled to explain the tables for the cent values - some of which cannot be separated from other definitive issues - but it is worth noticing that of the 40c value, only about 250 are not accounted for (which the missing 1892-3 sales could easily explain) whereas with the 10c stamp it would seem that at least 14,000 more were destroyed than should ever have existed in the first place.

It's a mess, isn't it! In practice, I believe the catalogue is right in viewing the \$1 and \$4 as the least available; if one lumps together copies that were unused, and were used either postally or fiscally, I doubt whether there is much to choose between the two. I have far more faith in the post office returns than the T & H statistics, when it comes to the \$2 value; whereas the remaining two values ought to be pretty common when fiscally used, yet I do not believe that they are. One ought to find \$5 stamps by the occasional packet, and I am not aware that one can.

Meanwhile, how are we to interpret the sum of more than \$63,000 that has apparently gone walkabout in the decade from 1891 ? If, for example, an uncounted 2,200 odd of the 20 cent stamp were duly sold (which is roughly the unattributed number in this case) we account for \$440, and still leave \$63,000 outstanding. So, if the solution lies in unattributed stamp sales, we need to look only at the high values; and we come back to the point that, for the most part, too many stamps seem to have been sold, rather than too few. What is more, the unexplained gap is huge. Suppose we treat all unaccounted stamps as belonging only to the period with which the returns under consideration deal, and assume them all as additional sales, these are my calculations -

1056 x \$1	1,056
1160 x \$2	2,320
4807 x \$3	14,421
878 x \$4	<u>3,512</u>
	<u>\$21,309</u>

Something doesn't add up. Can anyone who has more knowledge of what was really going on in this period - not least of how post office statistics worked - begin to reconcile figures that have completely defeated me?

Someone is going to suggest here that "Summary Jurisdiction" sales must be brought into account. I doubt it. My dated copies of the dollar values peter out in the late 1870's. The separate Cents issues (up to 96c) go on into the present century, at least for the first few years. Several values, not all, correspond with values in the table. The stamps are not as plentiful as all that. Finally, were they obtainable at the Post Office, as opposed to the Court?

Note, too, that the \$3 and \$5 values in the DLR ship type, unoverprinted were not issued until 1911.

I am still stumped.

Simon Goldblatt

OVERSEAS MEMBERS RECENTLY SPOTTED IN LONDON

Overseas members W. B. (Bill) Ashley of the USA and Mary Green from Barbados were spotted by members at the big postcard fair in London in September. I hope that they had a good time in this country and that they got some bargains at the fair.

LEEWARD ISLANDS THE 1902 PROVISIONALS

AN UNRECORDED VARIETY

In the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it was not an uncommon occurrence in the British Colonies for the regularly used stamps such as the half penny and penny values to become exhausted before the arrival of fresh supplies from the printers in England. In such emergencies, stocks of little used stamps were overprinted locally with the missing values and sold at overprinted price pending receipt by the Postal Authorities of fresh stocks.

This was not the case with the 1902 provisionals of the Leeward Islands. Following the death of Queen Victoria in 1901 there remained large unused stocks of the Queen Victoria 4d mauve and orange (SG.4), 6d Mauve and brown (SG.5) and 7d mauve and slate (SG.6) (used for the minimum parcel rate). The islands comprising the Leeward Islands were Antigua (including Barbuda and Redonda which in 1902 had no post offices on the islands), Dominica, Montserrat, St. Christopher (including Nevis and Anguilla) and the (British) Virgin Islands. The stamps of these individual islands were superseded by the general issue of stamps for the Leeward Islands on 31st October 1890. In 1898 the Leewards Executive Council approved the issue of Virgin Islands special stamps that appeared in January 1899. The 1902 Stamp Act allowed the Leewards Governor to authorise special stamps for the individual Presidencies, a move warmly welcomed by the islands who wished to preserve their individual identities and resulting in the issue of new stamps by the individual islands in 1903.

The chances, therefore, of the Leeward Islands Queen Victoria issues of the 4d, 6d and 7d being sold for normal postage purposes within a reasonable time of Queen Victoria's death were fast diminishing by 1902. The choice was either to destroy the stamps or overprint them with a common value that would sell quickly. The latter option was chosen.

These Queen Victoria stamps were printed in panes of sixty. The purpose for this was for ease of calculation of the values of the panes of stamps. There were 240 pence in the pound, so that for example, a pane of 60 4d stamps could easily be calculated as valued at £1.

There were two settings of 60 subjects each, one for overprinting the 4d and 6d issues (figs. 1. and 2) and the other for overprinting the 7d issue in a different type (fig.3.). Of the stamps used for surcharging the 6d and 7d are known from Plate 1 (brown gum) and from Plate 2 (white gum) but the 4d is known from Plate 2 (white gum) only.



Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

The sheet margins were removed before the panes were overprinted. 37200 stamps (620 panes) of each of the 4d, 6d and 7d were overprinted and distributed in complete

sets of three values, as to 16800 (280 panes) of each of the three stamps to Antigua; 12000 (200 panes) of each to St. Kitts; 6000 (100 panes) of each to Dominica; 1800 (30 panes) of each to Montserrat and 600 (10 panes) of each to the Virgin islands. They were issued on 11th August 1902 in St. Johns, Antigua and in the other Presidencies in the ensuing days. They quickly sold out to speculators and the general public had limited supplies of them. Quantities of philatelic covers were made and the suggestion is that some stamps were cancelled to order. Commercially used covers are rare.

There are four known varieties of the "One Penny" overprint on the 4d and 6d stamps. There is a tall "O" in One (positions 1, 27, 29 and 40) (fig.4); a broken "e" in Penny (position 48); a broken "e" in One (position 55) and the bar underneath "One Penny" is missing on some panes only at positions 17 and 43. There are three known varieties of the "One Penny" overprint on the 7d stamp. The "nn" is raised in Penny (positions 56-58 and 55-59; the "e" in "One" is dropped (positions 51-53 55-58 and 56-58 and 60) and the second "n" in "Penny" is raised (position 54).

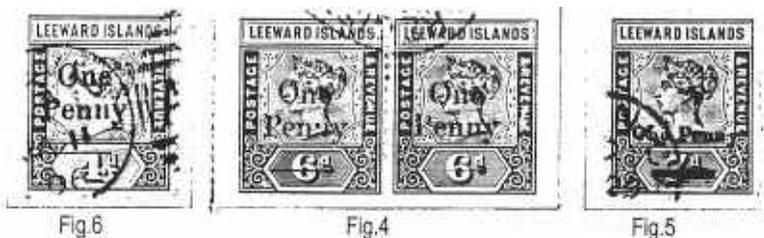


Fig.5 (enlarged)

I am writing to report a fourth variety of the One Penny overprint on the 7d stamp. To the naked eye "Penny" reads "Penay" with the "a" inverted but under high magnification the "a" in "Penay" is, in fact, a broken "n" (fig.5). The position is unknown; but it may be position 54 if the second "n" in "Penny" first became loose to form the raised second "n" in "Penny" variety and subsequently broke to form this new variety.

The stamp in my possession is from plate 2. (white gum) and bears a Dominica postal cancellation.

I have a copy of the one penny on 4d bearing a duplex type Nevis cancellation date stamp with the code letter A and dated JA 11 06 and an A 09 in an upright oval; the latter was used to cancel stamps by favour and it is not known used on cover (fig.6).

Ian Jakes

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

From reports in the Trinidad Guardian of August 15th, 18th and 23rd, it has been announced that the New Zealand Post International Limited has been awarded the contract to manage and revamp the postal services for the next five years.

The decision was announced in the House of Representatives by the Public Utilities Minister Ganga Singh.

The New Zealand company was designated the preferred bidder for the management contract over other shortlisted firms, Canada Post, Deutsche Post and a British/Swiss Post alliance.

Joe Chin Aleong

B.W.I. AUCTION - No. 24

Material accepted for inclusion in the Auction will be offered for sale on the following terms..-

1. All lots may be sold with or without reserve and the seller may participate in the bidding either himself or by an agent.
2. The buyer to be the highest bidder.
3. Wherever possible the description of a lot will include an estimate by the Circle of the price which it is expected to realise, and the lot will not be sold without the consent of the seller at substantially below 75% of estimate.
4. The Auctioneer will be appointed by the Auctions Sub-Committee designated by the Circle to organise the Auction Sale. The bidding shall be under the control and at the sole discretion of the Auctioneer, who shall have power to settle all disputes and to re-open the bidding in the event of dispute. He may withdraw lots or group two or more lots together without assigning a reason.
5. The Auctioneer reserves the right to bid on behalf of sellers and prospective buyers but shall not be liable for any errors or omissions in executing instructions to bid.
6. Lots will be sold with all faults, imperfections and errors of description and the Circle cannot be held responsible for the genuineness of any lot or of an individual item therein. Where however the buyer within 14 days after receipt of a lot (or such further time as the Auctions Sub-Committee may allow) satisfies the Auction Sub-Committee that there is a substantial inaccuracy in the description and returns the lot in unaltered condition, the sale of that lot will be rescinded and the purchase price refunded to the buyer less any costs and expenses incurred by the Circle in connection with the sale.
7. The Circle will have a lien for all charges on all lots sold or unsold. Payments for lots purchased (including collection charges where payment is made in local currency) shall be made by the buyer before delivery, which shall be at the risk of the buyer and shall include cost of postage and registration where sent by post. If the buyer does not pay for any lot within such period as the Auction Sub-Committee (in their

sole discretion) may consider reasonable the lot may be re-sold by the Circle in any manner the Circle see fit and the buyer shall pay the difference between his bid price and the net realisation on re-sale (after deduction of commission and other attendant expenses) but the buyer shall not be entitled to any surplus arising on re-sale. A buyer resident in the dollar area must pay for lots bought either in dollars at the controlled rate of exchange with the addition of £1.50 to cover collection charges or by draft drawn on London.

8. Sale Commission charged to the seller will be:-

On each lot sold: 10p on the first £1 or lower realisation, thereafter 10%.

On each lot unsold: 10p.

On each lot withdrawn by the seller: sale commission on 75% of the estimated value.

On each lot unsold through failing to reach the sellers reserve: sale commission on the reserve price.

These conditions apply as between buyer and/or seller and every officer member and agent of the Circle concerned on behalf of the Circle with any aspect of the Auction Sale.

Further Information:

- a) All correspondence please to SIMON GOLDBLATT, 39 ESSEX STREET, LONDON WC2.
- b) Do not send any material for sale UNLESS it can be sent as an ordinary letter. For all bulkier items write to Simon Goldblatt first to find out whether these can be accepted.
- c) Stamps and Postal history items are equally welcome but, in the interest of both buyers and sellers, the Sub-Committee will not be accepting material for sale unless it has in their opinion some potential interest to members of the Circle.
- d) MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CATALOGUE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MARCH 1999 BULLETIN MUST REACH SIMON GOLDBLATT BY 12TH JANUARY 1999 AT LATEST.
- e) The Auction Sub-Committee will be grateful for any specialised information that you include with your material for sale and for any personal assessment of its value, although no undertaking can be given that the Auction estimate will coincide with your own assessment. Remember that the more care you yourself take with the selection of items for sale, the better the realisation to be expected.
- f) The Auction Sub-Committee will not be responsible for the loss of or damage to items in their custody but unless you instruct to the contrary your material for sale will, if practicable, be held insured while in the hands of the Sub-Committee and the small cost will be divided rateably between the sellers.
- g) Please DO NOT write asking for lots to be sent for viewing by post, as the Auctions Sub-Committee are not equipped to offer this service. However, a 'Xerox' copy could be sent to you provided that with your request you enclose an S.A.E. together with an additional 32p stamp to cover cost.

AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

Further to the information about the Anguilla set of stamps detailed in the September bulletin and titled the "International Arts Festival Anguilla 1998". Some background information might be of use to members.

During the summer of 1997 a group of international and local artists tested their prowess in the interpretation of their impression of Anguilla's uniqueness as a largely unspoilt region. The widely publicised event was held during January 1998 at the conference centre of the prestigious Sonesta Resort.

The Anguilla Stamp Advisory Committee considered that such an event of international interest should form part of its stamp programme.

15c stamp Designer Valarie Alix. A native of France who now lives in St. Maarten as a professional painter.

30c stamp Designer Melsadis Fleming.
Melsadis Fleming became interested in Ad as a subject during her initial teacher training course in Antigua before pursuing a course in ad and crafts at the MICO Teachers College in Jamaica. Beside being a professional artist in Anguilla, she is also employed as an Ads and Crafts teacher at the islands comprehensive school.

\$1.00 stamp Designer Juan Garcia - no personal details available.

\$1.50 stamp Designer Vema Hart An expressionist painter who lives in New York. She describes "Jazz" as the medium of her work. Studied at the Corcoran School of fine Arts in Washington D.C. and hold two master degrees in fine art and has received numerous awards for her work.

\$1,90 stamp Designer Ricky Racardo Edwards. A native of Antigua, Ricky Edwards is a self taught artist who has been painting for over fifteen years. He is an active member of the Antigua Art society and exhibits his work at the OECS building in Antigua

FDC Designer George Sumner An internationally renowned artist who lives in Hawaii.

JAMAICA - Commemorative stamp issue

50th Anniversary of the University of the West Indies

Release date: 31st July 1998

Values: \$8.00, \$10.00, \$50.00

NEW PUBLICATION

We have been notified by Larry Goldberg about a quarterly publication of which he is the Editor and Publisher. Entitled "*George VI*", it is for the specialist collector of the stamps of the reign of King George VI.

Subscription is \$10 for 4 issues and \$17.50 for 8 issues for subscribers in the U.S.; elsewhere a subscription is \$15 and \$26.25 respectively.

"*George VI*" is a for-profit publication, and not associated with any society or study group.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The following are available from Peter Ford, 28 Orchard Close, Hail Weston, St. Neots, Cambs. PE1 9 4LF,

Prices quoted are retail and include postage & 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.

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

Price: UK - £17.00; Europe & Overseas - £18.00; US - \$30.00 Members Discount - £2.00 US\$4.00).

DOMINICA - Its Postal History, Stamps & Postal Stationery to 1935 by E.V. Toeg, FRPSL

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

APD Sutcliffe & S.P. Jarvis. Price: UK - £44.15; Europe & Overseas - £46.74; US - \$85.00

CLASSIC COLLECTIONS - No. 1. "BARBADOS" by Frank Deakin Price: UK - £13.00;

Europe & Overseas - £15.00; US - \$24.00. Members Discount - £2.00 (US \$4.00).

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

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