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BULLETIN No. 187 DECEMBER 2000

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

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OBJECTS

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

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION

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

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

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PROGRAMME

2001

Saturday 28th April 2001

Venue:

Annual General Meeting and Auction

Bonnington Hotel, London.

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ONE AND ALL**

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

First, may I wish you all the compliments of the season and hope you have had a happy collecting year.

Since most of you filled in your membership information sheets and sent them in to Steve Sharp some time ago, you are no doubt wondering whether anybody has taken any notice. Yes, they have. Your sheets have been analysed, copied and even some action taken.

What we have done is to allocate you to a study group. In the case of those of you with multiple specialities to several study groups. I am sure that not everybody will be satisfied with the split we have made, so we are publishing the bare bones of each Group and you can let me know by mid January if you don't like what you see.

The Group Leaders have been asked to contact the individual members in order to try to build a spirit of co-operation and mutual advancement, and I know that at least one Group is arranging a get-together in the future. Group leaders have, or shortly will have, the relevant Scrapbooks from the Library for sorting out and bringing up to date. There is a suggestion that these should stay with the Group Leaders rather than at the Library. I should like to hear your views on this.

The final list is of those members whose forms have not been seen. This may be a failure on the part of Her Majesty's Mails, an oversight by the responder or a deliberate choice on the part of those people who do not wish to have their interests noted. Whichever it is, if you do want to be involved with people who have the same interests at heart then you also have until mid January to correct the situation. Your details will be sent to the Group Leader, but no further than that unless you say they may.

Finally, I hope that you like the way the Circle is moving, and whether you do or not, why not let me or the Editor know. We have chosen a certain direction to go and should like to hear from you what you think. One of our members, a couple of years ago, complained that there is not enough feedback from the membership into the Bulletin. He was quite right. It is your magazine. Use it.

Derek Nathan

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

From 1 January 2001, Peter Boulton, our General Secretary, will be taking over the duties of Membership Secretary from Steve Sharp. Please address all membership matters to Peter, although Steve will still be around to fill in the gaps. Peter is hoping to get all our details on to a database.

Steve will continue to assist Simon Goldblatt with the Auction and will carry on with the Committee until April, and after, should you elect him to do so.

Historically, the Secretary always carried out the duties of both General and Membership functions until the late Michael Nicholson found that he needed help with the membership, so this is only a return to the *status quo*.

Derek Nathan

MEMBERS SUBSCRIPTIONS 2001

Subscriptions for the year 2001 are due on the 1st of January. A leaflet is enclosed for all members.

Would members who pay by standing order please ignore this reminder and those who have paid several years in advance please check your envelope to confirm when your subscriptions expire. Again we are willing to take up to five years in advance at the current rate.

There are a few members who still owe for 2000 - again please check your envelope. If you are one of these please pay for 2000 and 2001 together. If we do not hear from you by the end of January 2001 we will assume you no longer wish to be a member.

Ray Stanton

EDITORS NOTE

Even though I said that this was to be my last issue of the Bulletin, circumstances have changed slightly. I will be around for the March 2001 issue. This will give volunteers a little longer to come forward. PLEASE CONTACT DEREK NATHAN IF YOU CAN HELP.

As the March Bulletin will be in A4 format would advertisers please note that the NEW RATES FOR ADVERTISING IN THE BULLETIN are as follows:

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| 1. One half page | £18.75 per Bulletin |
| 2. One full page (other than the back page) | £30.00 per Bulletin |
| 3. The back page | £37.50 per Bulletin |
| 4. Centre spread | £60.00 per Bulletin |

Denis Charlesworth

BARBADOS WANTED

Stamp material associated with the Barbados Railway Co. Ltd. or the Bridgetown / St. Andrew Railway.

Does anyone know if such a Lot purchased by the late Ken Sargeant in 1992 still exists?

Please telephone me at 0208 642 4094

Peter Longmuir

AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

Anguilla

Commemorative Set - "International Arts Festival - 2000"

Date of issue - 21 September 2000.

15c - "Anguillian Montage" by Weme Caster

30c - 'Serenity by Postal employee, Damien Carly

65c - "Inter Island Cargo" by Paula Walden

\$1.50 – "Rainbow city, where spirit finds form" by Fiona Percy

\$1.90 – "Sailing Silver Seas" by Valerie Carpenter

Souvenir sheet \$700 - "Historic Anguilla" by Teacher/artist,
Melsadis Fleming



INFORMATION WANTED

ST LUCIA SG.89 WAR TAX overprint type 17

I have recently purchased a vertical strip of three of this stamp from the bottom right hand corner, used on piece, tied with two cds's for 9th June 1916. Very early use - the stamps were only issued on 1st June. But the thing that is unusual is there are three reversed albino overprints in the right hand margin. All references to this overprint, including a note in Gibbons state that there is an inverted albino overprint in the top margin, but I have seen nothing about this appearing in the side margin.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO SG.175 1916 Red Cross overprint

Last year at a Spinks' auction I purchased a bottom left corner block of 5 of this stamp, with the corner stamp (position 55) having the double overprint - experimental red date, with the black date superimposed. It has a 1973 'Royal' certificate, provenance the Marquis of Bute. Again, I have seen nothing mentioned about this in the reference material I have.

I would be please to hear from any members who know anything about these two varieties. I can be contacted by telephone (No. 01235 529548), by E-mail: john.davisbarclays.net or by writing to 8 Sympson Close, Abingdon, Oxon. OX14 5RB.

John Davis

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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INFORMAL DISPLAYS AT JOINT BWISCIBCPG MEETING - Part 2

Continuing from the report in the September issue of the Bulletin, the remaining displays shown at the joint meeting of the two societies in May are as follows:-

TRINIDAD (Ben Ramkissoon)

This was a display showing the life of the One Fraction World War I issue. The stamps are considered to be of poor quality, but each vignette can be plated from primary or secondary flaws. The display began with a full sheet of 24 (4 x 6) stamps, perforated 11 on unwatermarked toned paper. A printing on white paper was also shown. The sheet format consisted of a printing of 4 blocks (2 x 3) so that vertical rows 1 and 4, 2 and 5, 3 and 6 are the same. Within these rows horizontally numbers 1 and 3 and 2 and 4 are the same. The history of these stamps was that the Governor granted a request on the 17th. September 1914 from the local British Red Cross Society that letters from the society should be free within the colony. The next day the some 900 letters authorised and endorsed by the society secretary were mailed with the label One Fraction on them from the Port of Spain GPO. The Postmaster authorised the obliteration of the label with a cds for one day only being 18th. September 1914. Several examples of the covers, along with the enclosures were displayed. However there were at least two other occasions where the labels were postally used on OHMS covers and at Tobago. The labels were also shown used with regular postage stamps but carried no postal validity. Their final usage were as stickers for sealing the flaps of envelopes. This was a comprehensive display of an unusual label that became a postage stamp.

ANTIGUA (Tim Tweddell)

This was a display of the Imperial Censors in Antigua in World War Two from July 1941 until April 1942 which described their activities, where they came from and where they went. Examples of the censor labels and handstamps used were shown. The censors later went to Bermuda and examples of their work in that colony were displayed. With Guadeloupe and Martinique being under pro-Vichy control mail to the U.S.A was from April 1941 intercepted and examined in Antigua and Trinidad. Examples of the intercepted mail were shown.

JAMAICA (Steve Jarvis)

This was a very comprehensive 32 sheet display of the 1860 QV 1860 issue shown in two sections. The first section consisted of die proofs from each denomination with enlarged images of the variations to show the differences. Two of the 3 states of the head without denomination were shown plus one state of the 1d. The differences on the shading on the laurel leaves being clear. On the 4d value there was shading in the corner triangles. A die proof of the final design was shown. The 6d value was represented by 5 different cut down proofs and a die proof final state before hardening.

The 2d value was shown in 3 states showing the changes to the shading of the chignon and the laurel leaves. The 3d and 1/- values had two examples of each again showing the variation to the shading of the laurel leaves plus the addition of dashes in the oval surround to the head on the 3d. The 3 values designed in the 1870s were shown including a Before hardening Die proof of the Half penny value.

(Included in the display was a draft study of the progression of the dies which will be added as a supplement to the Encyclopaedia in the near future)

The 2nd section consisted of specimen overprints on the issue including those believed to have been applied on the island including Type J 1 across 2 stamps of the 3d value and on three stamps of the 1s. Type J 2 was shown on all 6 values and J 3 on the 3d. Imperf plate proofs and defaced archive remainders were shown. The balance of the "Pines" consisted of the specimen type D2. Specimen and Cancelled markings on the later three different watermark paper with four items from the De La Rue Day Book plus extracts of the Ink Recipe books with blocks of 4 dummy stamps in colour which as usual had little likeness to the issued stamp colour!

LEEWARD ISLANDS (Tony Farmer)

Owing to time restrictions this display was not (alas) on show for very long. It showed the flaws and errors that occurred from 1890 to 1956 beginning with the classic error on the artists hand painted essay of a QV 7d value which was unaccepted because among other reasons the word Islands was spelt ISLARDS. The 1d value with the considerable shift of duty plate was followed by double overprints on the Sexagenary issue plus a triple overprint on the 1d being the only known copy. The Edward stamps showed the dropped R on the 1s, small s on the 1d and the Spaven flaw. KG5 showed various flaws including the joined EW and shaved AR on the 5s. KG6 had all the well known flaws of D1 varieties as well as the LEE flaw. QE2 had the constant head plate flaws 2/2 harp 4/2 crown and 5/2 U. The high value keyplates including QE2 showed in addition to the usual array of flaws the £1 duty plate Die proof which has the minor flaw on every stamp of this value.

In concluding this report I would like not only to thank all those who provided the displays but to congratulate them in providing such an excellent display of material for members to enjoy and remember for a long time to come. I would also like to thank them for helping me compile this report.

My final thanks must go to Rob Wynstra who co-ordinated the U.S displays that many of us would never have seen. He will never admit it but he took a lot of time and trouble to provide these displays.

Finally I would draw members attention to the next WIPEX. Informal displays will be needed so come on show us what you have hidden away!

Dennis Mitton

BARBADOS - 1892 ½d on 4d Brown Provisional

The recent correspondence about the varieties in the Barbados 1892 provisional issue (SG, 104) prompted me to take a closer look at my 30 odd examples, none of which are on cover. They proved to be a very mixed lot. My copy of the "PENNY HALF" variety (SG.104d) runs true to form. It is cancelled with a full strike of type E2 dated JY 27 92 and a small segment of a second strike. The perforations at the top touch the frame line as do those of Leslie Goodwin illustrated in Issue No.177. Mine could well be from the same sheet.



Fig. 1

I have two examples of the diagonal overprint variety (Fig 1). Placed together both surcharge and cancellation match exactly and are apparently a separated pair. The cancellation appears to be type E2 but with no date visible. The strike is suspiciously light and was obviously placed at the exact centre of a block of four. I very much doubt they were postally used.

Sadly my handsome mint copy of the double overprint variety in red and black, both without hyphen (SG.104ba), is accompanied by a Brandon certificate declaring it to be a forgery. The certificate gives no reason and I would be interested to know how the experts came to their decision.



Fig. 2

My most intriguing variety is a horizontal pair, the left hand one without hyphen (Fig 2). The piece is cancelled with about 25% of the bottom portion of a two concentric circles cancellator, 27mm and 16mm diameter, with letters 2½mm high. The strike,

upside down, reads ...P.O.BARBAD...". The only date stamps I can find that appear to match are types E21 (GPO Circulation Department) issued in August 1969, H6 (GPO Parcel Post Department) issued in August 1965 and J8 (GPO Registration Department) issued in September 1938.

I can understand a post office employee in 1892 cancelling, as a favour, a sheet of printers errors using an out of date handstamp. Even assuming his successor was as obliging, what purpose is achieved between forty and seventy years later in cancelling a perfectly respectable pair of mint stamps to produce a palpable fake. Has anyone any views?

John Riggall

BARBADOS & BERMUDA

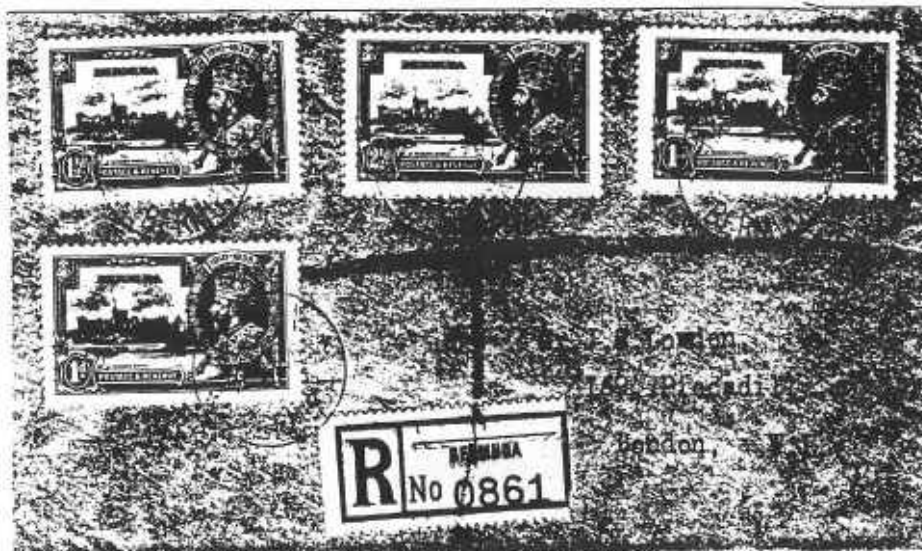
I have some information which might be of assistance to John Cooper, in response to his piece 'Barbados & Bermuda', pages 64 and 65 of Bulletin No.186

According to the late MD Luddington's publication 'The Postal History and Stamps of Bermuda', the registration fee for letters in 1935 was 3d, and the prepaid rate 1½d (for first ounce), leaving 7½d for insurance (?).

Unfortunately I have been unable to confirm whether this amount is correct for the insured level of £12 as endorsed on John's cover.

I should also be interested to hear from anyone who has access to a list of insurance costs for Bermuda, especially during the early 1920's.





I have enclosed a copy of two of my own Jubilee covers which may be of interest to members. Although both philatelic, they are interesting in that the 'Mrs Booker' self-addressed cover has the 2½d from row 10/3 'dot above value tablet'. The second example has an unusual blue on white Registration label just inscribed Bermuda'.

Peter Wilkinson

BRITISH HONDURAS - A Continuing Saga

Despite all the research devoted to British Honduras postmarks, the incompatibility between stamp and size of postal markings leaves plenty of scope for further discovery. Stamps whose fragments of violet cancellation only hint at an origin may yet deserve close scrutiny.



One such contestant is the item illustrated which, I confess, eluded my first run through the stockbook in which it nestled. Second time round its interest was more obvious, and I am now able to invite more general debate.

By happy chance the central c.d.s. is both extremely faint, yet positively identifiable. It is a date stamp of Stann Creek, struck in December (19)10. We then arrive at the familiar and crucial question, 'Is it struck over or under...?' - in this instance, the violet mark. My own view is that the black c.d.s. came later, but I would say that, wouldn't I ! If that supposition is right, we have an American-style duplex cancellation in use at an office in Stann Creek district, and the obvious competitor is Mullins River, whose known cancellations have been recorded as post WW1, although the office was open much earlier. It needs the eye of faith to construe what looks like 'BN' as 'BH', and the barely visible final letter of the office name as an 'R', but has anyone got a better idea?

Simon Goldblatt

CAYMAN ISLANDS PHILATELY - There is still much to learn

I was fortunate to spend a month's vacation this spring in London, one of my favourite cities. This trip was of special interest, as I attended the joint British West Indian Study Circle and British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group meetings, visited STAMP SHOW 2000, and had time to conduct some philatelic research.

The research centred in part on several specific facets of the development of the Cayman Islands postal system and in part on the evaluation of a general idea that had been expressed by several of my colleagues. There was, they said, little left to study about Cayman Islands philately, as in their view our knowledge of the subject was almost complete and moreover well reported in the philatelic literature. If this were true, I should have discovered very little in my research. In fact, I uncovered a great deal of new information about basic aspects of the Cayman Islands postal system, including its postal rates, its postal stationery, and the printing of its stamps. A few of my findings are set out below.

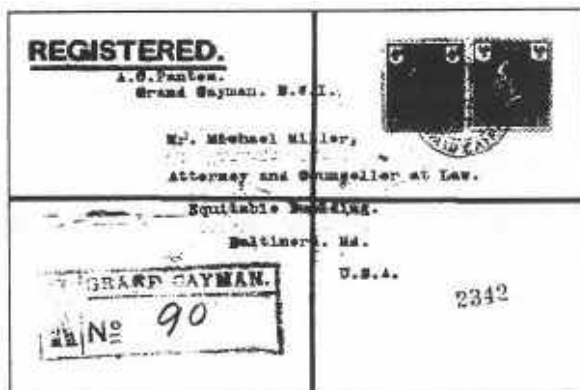
1. You will find the registration fee for Cayman Islands mail given in the literature is 2d. In reviewing the Cayman Islands Annual Reports for 1913 through 1935, found in The National Archives at the Public Record Office, Kew, I discovered that the registration fee for local mail in the Caymans during these years was 1½d until 1921, when it was lowered to 1d. The 2d fee, it turns out, was for registration of overseas mail.
2. According to the philatelic literature, the Cayman Islands issued six items of postal stationery from 1908 through 1911 and then no others until the aerogrammes of 1958. I was, therefore, somewhat surprised to find, in the De La Rue Private Day Books (Vol. AG, p. 412) at the Archives of the Post Office Heritage, an invoice, dated 12 May 1925, for the printing of "1000 Bag Envelopes 6 x 4 prt Registered" and "500 Bag Envelopes 8 x 5 prt Registered" for the Cayman Islands. I had no idea what these envelopes were; James Podger suggested they might be the formula registered

envelopes sometimes seen by Cayman Islands collectors. These have the following characteristics:

- a) Postal use in the late 1920s.
- b) Printed tie markings on both sides.
- c) Underscored "REGISTERED." printed on the front in the upper left-hand corner.

An example, from James's collection, of a Type A (6 x 4) registered bag envelope is shown in Figure 1. James has also sent me a photocopy of an 8 x 5 cover. However, Kevin Darcy has a cover of this type dated 17 AP 23, about two years before the printing, which leaves us with a new problem to solve.

Front of cover



Back of cover

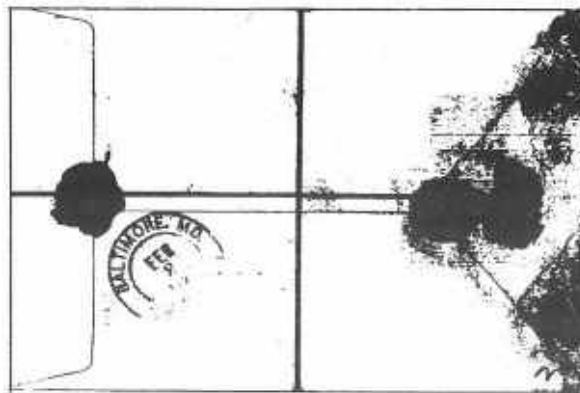


Fig.1

3. There is very little in the literature on the printing of the Cayman Islands stamps after 1923, though this information is readily available in the Requisition Books of The Crown Agents Philatelic and Security Printing Archive, found in The Philatelic Collections of The British Library. I found that the Requisition Books showed two printings of the Cayman Islands 1937 Coronation series. The details of these printings, including stock set aside for direct sales to dealers, are summarised in Figure 2

Denomination	1 Printing Requisition 9333/2 ¹ Despatched 17/03/37		2nd Printing Requisition 933313 Despatched 14/05/37		Total Printed	
	Total	Dealer	Total	Dealer	Total	Dealer
½d	728,460	200,000	586,120	320,000	1314,580	520,000
1d	761,320	200,000	309,900	60,000	1071,220	260,000
2½d	709,680	150,000	363,400	110,000	1073,080	260,000

Source: The Crown Agents Philatelic and Security Printing Archive, Requisition Book IV, pp. 169, 174.

1. Requisition 9333/1 was for the King Edward VIII series, which was cancelled before it was printed.

Fig. 2

4. There are two sources of data on the printing of Cayman Islands Stamps by De La Rue in the 1920s and 1930s, the Crown Agents Requisition Books and the De La Rue Private Day Books. A comparison of the information from the two sources can give us a measure of their reliability. Not having seen such a comparison previously, I conducted this analysis for the Cayman Islands 1921 series. I found a high degree of agreement between the two sources. Both list 20 printings of the series, and both are in complete agreement on the denomination of the stamps included in each printing. They are in almost perfect agreement on the number of stamps of each denomination printed in each printing, the only exception being that the Private Day Books invoiced 41,800 3d stamps for Requisition 4247 while the Requisition Books show 41,160.

Neither source contains the exact date of the printing, but each has a date that should be either about or shortly after the date on which the printing was completed. The Crown Agents Requisition Books show the date the stamps were dispatched, and the De La Rue Private Day Books the date the printing was invoiced to the Crown Agents. A comparison of the two dates, for each printing of the 1921 series (Fig. 3), shows them to be reasonably close. Only one of the 20 printings of the 1921 series had a difference of more than five days between its invoice and despatch dates. In general the despatch date tends to be earlier than the invoice date, so it is probably closer to the actual date of printing.

The analysis reported above suggests the data given in these two sources are reliable, though the despatch date given in the Crown Agents Requisition Books may give a better picture of the actual date of a printing. More studies of this type would be very helpful in evaluating these source data.

Difference in Days	Printings 1921 Series
+4	1 @ 5 and 1 @ 13
3	1
2	2
1	8
0	5
-1	1
-2	1

Fig. 3

From the results of my research, a sampling of which is given above, I have come to two general conclusions. First, much is known about Cayman Islands philately, but we have a great deal more to learn. (I suspect the same may be true for most other areas of British Colonial stamps and postal history.) Second, my British colleagues are very fortunate in having easy access to the remarkable philatelic source material in The Philatelic Collections at the British Library, the Archives of the Post Office Heritage, and The National Archives in the Public Record Office.

Richard Maisel

**‘THE LEEWARD ISLANDS - Notes for Philatelists’
by MICHAEL OLIVER, FRPSL**

Hardbound, B5 300 pages

The author writes on subjects which have either not been covered before or where much new information has been unearthed since they were last written about. Subjects covered include postal markings, postal stationery, and maritime markings. This book contains numerous illustrations many in colour and a useful colour chart for sorting out those Federal Issues.

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THE LEEWARD ISLANDS NOTES FOR PHILATELISTS by Michael Oliver

I have recently had the opportunity to read through this book, which is to be welcomed for the wealth of detail that it contains. Like all serious studies the hard work goes into the initial production, with the commentators and critics, who follow, merely adding to the groundwork.

I make the following observations that may be of interest.

Antigua: page 134 - St. Marys. The footnote states that there are four known examples dated up to 1932. (Does this mean only four examples are known?) I have a KEVII Leewards Is. 1d. with a partial postmark, without a year date.

Antigua: page 134 A50 Seatons. I have a Leewards Is. 10/- SG.113c clearly dated MY 26 48.

Barbuda: page 137 Type B1. In the Table 82 on the following page postmark B1 has a last known date of 14 Nov 1939, with postmark B2 with an earliest known date of 11 July 1949. As I read it, does this mean there are no stamps recorded as used during the war years? This seems unlikely with all the activities, forces etc. in the area at the time. I have Antigua 1½d. SG.100 and 5/- SG.107 each postmarked Aug 4 42.

Montserrat: page 144 M 31. I have a Montserrat 1½d SG.103 dated NO..... 40

Virgin Gorda: page 153 V31. I have a Virgin Islands 1d. SG.87 dated AU 1 31

West End: page 153 V34a. The footnote states "A second CDS or a forgery ?" I have a cover prepared for Selfridges with the Coronation set cancelled West End Tortola dated 12 May 37. Whilst this is not conclusive proof, the cover is similar to many other covers which were prepared by Selfridges for the Coronation series.

D. C. Ford

LEEWARD ISLANDS - The 1902 Provisionals

D.C. Ford's article in Bulletin 185 June 2000 making reference to my own (Ian Jakes) article in Bulletin 179 December 1998 calls for further comment from myself.

Firstly, however, I consider it helpful for me to introduce to you my friend, Michael ("Yo-Yo") Yeomans. I used to see Yo-Yo in the 1950's every Saturday morning in The Junk Shop, Clumber Street, Mansfield, England, where he would always buy a small quantity of stamps, stubbornly refusing to pay more than one old penny for any stamp. In fact, I have never known him pay more than 10p for any stamp in the whole of his life. Consequently, he has a wide ranging all world collection that would grace some, but not all, comprehensive school classrooms.

On any visit to Yo-Yo's house I have the treat of inspecting his stamp collection. He lovingly points out very minute printing imperfections on his stamps (and which probably appear on everyone else's stamps also) which are so slight that the rest of us would totally disregard them.

Yo-Yo has been a printer for more than 40 years, including printing in the newspaper industry. His first love is printing, especially philatelic printing. I find his printers' eye quite fascinating as an aid to my own philatelic knowledge.

I sent a copy of Mr. Ford's article to Yo-Yo, described to him the part sheet of the one penny on 4d. stamps in my possession illustrated below and invited his comments on them. Needless to say Yo-Yo was in his element.



"I have got some very interesting information for you" asserted Yo-Yo in his telephone call to me. He then proceeded to give me a half hour dissertation on G.B. and world phosphors; how I needed both short wave and long wave ultra violet light to distinguish blue phosphors from yellow phosphors; and enthusing as to the varying widths of the phosphor bands and how some phosphor bands are above and some below the printing on the stamp.

Eventually I turned the conversation round to the 1902 Leeward Islands provisionals. "Oh, that's easy" he said, "compared to the G.B. phosphors".

Yo-Yo agrees with Mr. Ford that the printing is typeset. Yo-Yo calls this typeset printing "Letterpress." Yo-Yo agrees that the letterpress is similar to that used

for printing newspapers, which tends to wear rather quickly. He says that the small quantity of Leeward Islands stamps overprinted in 1902 would not cause that wear.

At this stage I refer to my own part sheet of one penny on 4d. stamps illustrated with this article. What is particularly noticeable from this pane of stamps is:

- a) Some stamps on the pane are fairly dry on the overprint leaving a partial impression of the overprint slightly better inked but otherwise not at all dissimilar to the illustration of the stamp in Mr. Ford's article.
- b) Other stamps on the pane have a much clearer overprint and appear to be overinked with (on one stamp) the "e" in "one" and the top section of the "y" in "Penny" being completely blacked in.
- c) Certain letters of the overprint are slightly raised.
- d) The overprint itself is progressively positioned more towards the left margin of the stamp, the further right the stamp is in the row.
- e) There is no sign of any the varieties referred to in my own December 1998 article on any part of the sheet!

I asked Yo-Yo to tell me in non-printer's language what was going on. He said I needed a basic knowledge of the typeset (or letterpress) printing procedure. Individual letters of the alphabet are taken out of a tray by the letterpress operator. The letters are then put into a hand held type holder to make lines of print. Spaces between the letters are filled probably with wood (which springs) or possibly lead (which does not spring). Thereafter this (the letters and the hand held type) are put into a form and clamped into a printing machine. The pressure of printing on paper wears the type so that if the alphabet letters used for these overprints had been used in the letterpress printing process on very many previous occasions, then the letters would be worn at the outset of the printing process (believed by Yo-Yo to be the case here).

The inking process is also very important here. The letterpress operator uses an ink spatular (or ink knife) to put the printing ink by hand onto the ink roller pad. The ink rollers were worked either by hand or by some simple mechanical process. Sometimes the rollers did not oscillate; sometimes the ink ran low during the printing run and sometimes the ink was put onto the roller in an uneven manner with the ink knife.

A good printer would always clean his type and equipment thoroughly following a print run. It would all be scrubbed with a chemical. Usually a rag was used in the cleaning process. Over a period of years (or less with poor maintenance) there would be a building up of dirt and dried printing ink on both the bed and the type itself. Sometimes rag would tear off and fill in to add to the problem. Debris on the bed or on the type means that the letter is raised during the

printing run. Heavy pressure in the printing process is quite normal, but any raised letters will have over pressure and are liable to break during the course of the print run, especially small letters, as e.g. the broken “n” in Penny on the 7d. stamp reported by me.

Any letters which are worn or loose are packed with card or paper before the printing process begins. During the course of the printing run the card or paper can move causing the letters to move upwards.

It is Yo-Yo's opinion that in respect of these overprints:

- (i) There was poor inking
- (ii) Worn type was used.
- (iii) The whole printing process was not set up and locked in properly.
- (iv) The letters and equipment were dirty before the printing process was begun.

Yo-Yo says that during the course of the print run and in a gradual process:

- (i) Some letters would not print properly by reason of poor inking and/or worn type.
- (ii) Some letters would move upwards by reason of movement of the card or paper packing.
- (iii) Some letters would break by reason of over pressure and caused by dirt.
- (iv) Dirty smudges and/or infilling of letters would appear caused by over inking and/or dirt.

So where does all this leave us?

It seems to me that there are five basic types of variety on these issues viz:

- (a) The primary varieties i.e. those which were present at the commencement of the print run. I had assumed until now that these are the varieties identified by the late Robson Lowe and mentioned in my last article. With hindsight some of these varieties could be secondary varieties.
- (b) Secondary varieties i.e. those varieties which occurred during the course of the print run being
 - (i) breaks in the letters e.g. as reported by me in my last article
 - (ii) poor printing caused by a combination of lack of ink and/or worn type
 - (iii) movement upwards of letters during the print run.
 - (iv) smudges and/or infilling of letters caused by overinking and/or dirt.

Some stamps e.g. the stamp illustrated by Mr. Ford, will have more than one of the secondary varieties upon them.

It ought to be possible with an experienced eye

- (i) to identify each of these 60 basic overprints.
- (ii) to identify how each of these 60 overprints have changed during the course of the print run.

It will need someone with more spare time than myself to sort all of this out.

Yo-Yo says he knows little about printing! He believes that the person with expert knowledge is probably James MacKay who writes periodically in the British Philatelic Bulletin (address: Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2 1NL).

Perhaps someone who knows James MacKay would care to invite his comments.

Finally, I do not know where the overprints were applied. My educated guess, however, is a firm of printers, fairly well established in 1902, in St. Johns, Antigua, possibly a newspaper office.

I say this because the printing is well worn and so poor it must have been done locally in the Leeward Islands. Since the stamps were first issued in St. Johns and only later in the other Leeward Islands, this points to printing in St. Johns, Antigua. If the printing had been done outside the Leeward Islands, e.g. in Barbados, I would have expected the printing contract to have gone to a firm who could have supplied a better product than the overprint which was produced.

Ian Jakes

WHY EXHIBIT?

The BWISC is very fortunate in having among our members a number of collectors who are among the top echelon of philatelists who exhibit at the top international shows and are awarded the top honours. This article is not for them but for members who do not have such a stunning collection.

Judging by what I have seen in informal displays at Study Circle meetings there are members who have some very good exhibits who may not have displayed competitively. There are other members who have very good collections who have never shown them to anybody!

So why display? The obvious answer is to win. However there is more to it than that. The basic answer is that you have pride in your collection. This is your creation. This is your idea of collecting our favourite hobby which you would like

to share with other collectors but you don't think your collection is good enough and you don't want to make a fool of yourself. So what do you do?

If uncertain you start at the bottom! In England there are 4 ways to display. They are as follows:

1. Informal non competitive displays such as BWISC conventions. They are free and open to any member and nobody wins. 16 pages are required.
2. Local stamp club competitions. You have to be a member of a local society. Membership costs anything between £2 to £8 per annum. The competition is for 8 to 16 pages. There is always an entry worse than yours because you are a specialist! Entry is free.
3. Federation events. These are county events where your entry of 16 pages is judged by qualified judges where you receive a marking sheet showing where you have lost marks even if you win. You will also receive a certificate and a medal of gold, silver or bronze. No - they are not real but the entry is free. You have to be a member of a society of the county.
4. National events such as Stampex. This is next to an international a top event. The judging is of a higher standard and you have to pay about £15 per frame for the privilege.

There is more to it than winning because at the end of the day you will end up with a better collection which will give you more personal satisfaction every time you look at it. So how do you achieve this?

To start, it is advisable to find out what is needed. I recommend writing to the British Philatelic Trust at 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT requesting a copy of the following publications *General and Special Regulations and Guidelines for evaluation of exhibits at FIP exhibitions* and *Guidelines for successful exhibiting by Franceska Rapkin*. These publications are free and should be read. Even if you do not intend displaying competitively and if you want to know how to prepare your collection so that it is displayed to show it at it's best then read these two books.

In competitions there are 2 main classes being traditional philately (basically stamps and/or covers to show the stamps) and postal history which are mainly covers. If you look at exhibits at Stampex you will see the contents of these disciplines and get an idea of what is shown. The basic idea is to show a story using stamps and/or covers. The important part is to make the story flow and to be interesting.

So how do you tell the story? The start is the title of the exhibit. If you for example show the stamps of a certain period you only show stamps of that period if you decide on Inter island mail of the Caribbean you don't show mail to

England. You need after the title on the first page to set out what the exhibit depicts page by page with a brief resume of each page or pages. Sub headings are advised.

Writing up the exhibit is a matter of choice between handwriting typing or using a computer. The unwritten rules are to make sure the writing up is legible, the spelling is correct and to try and get a balance between too much and too little. Also avoid using the word rare. The way around this is to use a description such as only known copy or only a few recorded etc. Avoid SG numbers. Do however include if possible printing numbers and date of use of the stamps or cancel. If displaying stamps the stamps have to be something more than a display of SG catalogued stamps. Use flaws, proofs etc.

Presentation is important. You have to make the display attractive to the eye. Less rather than more is the key. Each item is important so give it space. Vary the layout and try and balance the page. Write the main aspect at the top with the specific under the item displayed. Avoid using defective stamps and covers that are of poor quality unless the item is of major philatelic importance. Don't leave gaps for the items you don't have. A well known exhibitor did this and a judge told me he didn't know there was a stamp missing until he saw the gap!

The marking at competitions is as follows

a) Philatelic knowledge / Research / Study	35
b) Originality and Importance	30
c) Relative Condition and Rarity	20
d) Presentation / Write up / Arrangement	<u>15</u>
TOTAL	100

So you start to prepare your masterpiece and you then find out the following problems:

- 1 The stamp you have is defective or has a heavy cancel and you are showing the stamp and not the cancel. This item has to be replaced.
- 2 The cover you wanted to use has a defective stamp or has a stain mark.
- 3 You don't have a cover showing a particular postal rate.
- 4 You need a block to balance up a page.
- 5 You are missing an important flaw that may be listed in the catalogue.
- 6 The page you have prepared looks wrong.
- 7 Your collection is not as good as you thought it was.

By identifying the problem areas you then set out to rectify the situation and by doing so you end up with a nicer and better collection than you had in the first place which is really what you wanted more than the bonus of a medal!!

Dennis Mitton

ODE TO PHILATELY

Clary Holt has sent the following write-up in stating that it was given to him in 1969 when he and his wife visited the offices of Robson Lowe. This is a carefully written and quite appropriate description of our love for the hobby of philately.

“THE OTHER WOMAN”

She is a charming companion, always moulding her mood to complement mine. She does not drink but there are times when she intoxicates me. She does not chatter but it flatters me when I think I know what she means. She is good to look at, often lovely and even her minor blemishes excite me. She is a provocative character and encourages me to explore her interesting but unchequered past. Lacking make-up, she is colourful. Sometime in the past she may have been used but certainly not to her disadvantage. Her friends are mine.

When she is with me I am never lonely, certainly never bored. In spite of the fifty years of easy familiarity she can hold the whole of my attention.

A stranger calls and asks me what she costs me to keep.

“I cannot remember for quality is a virtue that remains and you forget the price”.

He does not understand and enthusiastically bumbles “I bet that you would make a thumping profit if you sold her to someone younger”.

“But why would I sell my pleasure and happiness? That is the way of the pimp”.

He is the eternal investor looking for something that will show him a good return on his lucre. If he bought her I am sure that he would rarely look at her, find no pleasure in her infinite charms, and probably keep her locked up in a safe deposit where no one else can enjoy her. The buried talent.

I will take good care that she does not leave me for him during my life. If I thought there was a chance that he would love her as I do, then I might give her to him, but sell her, I will not.

I am her lover.

She is “LADY PHILATELY”

TO ALL MEMBERS



CLARENCE HOUSE
SW1A 1BA

To: The Members of the British West Indies
Study Circle.

I have been asked by Queen Elizabeth
The Queen Mother to thank you all for the
good wishes you have sent to Her Majesty
for her 100th birthday on 4th August.

The Queen Mother was very touched
by your kind thought of Her Majesty.

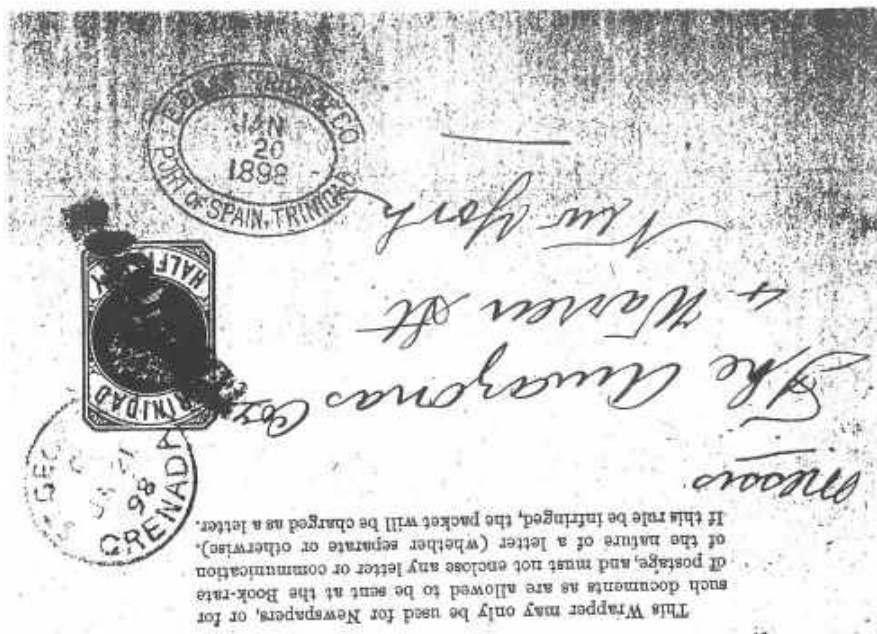
Caroline Leslie

Lady-in-Waiting

September 2000

PAQUEBOT CANCELLATIONS

Trinidad / Grenada / New York



The illustration above shows a Trinidad 1/5d green wrapper bearing an oval logo of Edgar Tripp & Co., Port of Spain, Trinidad, January 20th 1898. The Paquebot cancel has been over-inked and struck too firmly causing substantial distortion. Close by is an indistinct under-inked cds of Grenada which appears to be St. George's C JA 21 98.

This wrapper was discussed at a meeting at Steve Sharps home during Stamp Show 2000 and was brought to my attention by Joe Chin Aleong, who could not remember having previously seen a Paquebot on a Queen Victoria newspaper wrapper.

We were not able to trace an appropriate Paquebot for Grenada for January 1898 and it may be that the strike was applied at New York. Does the Grenada postmark signify that the wrapper was landed at Grenada for re-routing on another ship to New York.

Has any research been carried out on 19th century B.W.I. Paquebots showing any pattern as to when and where Paquebots were first introduced in B.W.I.

St Vincent / Boston / Toronto

Whilst on the subject of Paquebots, I show below a more recent Lady Boat envelope with a Barclays Bank impression on the reverse and addressed to the Manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Toronto, Canada with a St. Vincent 1d George V unfranked stamp and a double-circle mark of C.N.S. "Lady Hawkins" Pursers Office, Posted on the High Seas. "Lady Hawkins" mark is in a blueish grey,



The Manager,

The Canadian Bank of Commerce,

Toronto Ont,

Canada.

The interesting mark is to the left where Paquebot has been incorrectly spelt as Paquetlot in a mauve colour. The reverse of the envelope bears an indistinct postmark FEB 23 4.30pm 1932 and the final word is "MASSA". According to Hoskins, this is a very rare error of spelling which occurred in the years 1932 and 1933 and was applied at Boston, Mass and I thought would be of interest to members.

Ron Cronin

THE OPINION SERVICE

Members who wish to take advantage of this service should first apply to the Hon. 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. Secretary enclosing the remittance fee of £450 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.

B.W.I. AUCTION - No. 26

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 reopen 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 seller's 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 MARCH 2001 MUST REACH SIMON GOLDBLATT BY 12TH JANUARY 2001 AT LATEST.**

e) The Auction Sub-Committee will be grateful for any specialised information which 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 41p stamp to cover cost.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

The following are available from Peter Ford, 22 Tudor Way, Congleton, Cheshire. CW12 4AS.

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 / PO'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 Cary 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, F.R.P.S.L. 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 & 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; US-\$24.00. Members Discount - £2.00 (US \$4.00).

MONTSERRAT by L.E. BRITNOR Revised by Charles Freeland Price: UK - £18.00; Europe & Overseas - £20; US-\$36.00. Members Discount - £2.00 (US \$4.00)

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