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Hon. Auditor

A. J. Branston

BULLETIN NO. 7 ..... OCTOBER, 1955

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

OBJECTS: TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the British West Indies.  
TO establish contact with correspondents throughout the British West Indies comprising the following colonies

ANTIGUA	JAMAICA
BAHAMAS	LEEWARD ISLANDS
BARBADOS	MONTSERRAT
BERMUDA	ST. KITTS-NEVIS
BRITISH GUIANA	ST. LUCIA
BRITISH HONDURUS	ST. VINCENT
CAYMAN ISLANDS	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
DOMINICA	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS
GRENADA	VIRGIN ISLANDS

TO issue a quarterly Bulletin embodying articles, items of interest and other features (including a wants' section) which it is hoped will widen the knowledge of members (NOTE: It will be appreciated that every member will always be 'in the picture' no matter where he (or she) resides.

MEMBERSHIP: TO be WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all who are interested in the stamps or postal history of the abovementioned colonies.

The ANNUAL subscription on to be 10/6d (\$1.50 non-sterling countries) due on the 1st FEBRUARY. (NOTE: Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle" and it will be appreciated if remittances for non-sterling countries are made by draft drawn on LONDON or International Money Order.).

OUR PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH.

It is seldom, even in the summer months, that I entirely lose interest in my collections but for the past two months they have taken a back seat and I have enjoyed to the full the wonderful sunshine and country delights of this quite unexpected spell of warm weather. I, therefore, have little to say this quarter but nights are drawing on, as they say down here in Wiltshire, and the wet days will come -- we have had no rain here for eight weeks now -- and out will come the albums again. The Society meetings will mostly commence next month and I would remind you of our meeting at the "Royal" on Saturday afternoon, October 22nd, at which, all being well, I will be present and preside. It is our first autumn meeting so let us have a good attendance and each one bring along a few sheets of real interest to cover, if possible, the whole of the B.W.I. group;. Since we last met at our first ANNIVERSARY MEETING we have lost two of our most prominent members -- H.C.V. Adam and John H. Sinton. Mr. Adams I had known for many a year and he helped me much in pre-war days. We shall miss his notes in our Bulletin. Mr. Sinton lived up North and consequently I had not the opportunity of being so closely in touch with him. He rarely missed attending Congress and I always, looked forward to meeting him there and having a chat about the stamps of the B.W.I. Our Hon. Secretary will, no doubt have more to say about them.

27.8.1955. G.W. Collett.

Dear Member,

We are pleased to announce that the CIRCLE has received invitations for some of its members to give displays to the following which been accepted: -HALE(6 10 55),FOREST (21/3/56) and FINCHLEY & DISTRICT (19/9/56). The Hon. Secretary has communicated with members who reside near the headquarters of the two first named Societies and arrangements have been completed. Should there be any other members who would like to attend either of these meetings they will be most welcome.

MEMBERSHIP. Notwithstanding the sad passing of two of our members and the resignation of some others our numbers show an increase, the total being 115. We extend a warm welcome to all newcomers and in particular to three from overseas -- Dr. H.B. Bruce (New Guinea) ,Mr. E. H. Hunt, F.R.P.S.L. and Mr. A.R. Kleiner (South Africa). We are also pleased to announce that our "Royal" representation is now 42 (16 Fellows and 26 Members). Cheshire is included once more in our table of distribution and Somerset appears for the first time a member having moved there from Middlesex.

LONDON (24)  
PROVINCIAL( 70 )

Cheshire 1	Kent 3	Shropshire 2
Cornwall 2	Lancashire 2	Somerset 1
Derbyshire 4	Lincolnshire 1	Staffs 1
Devon 4	Middlesex 5	Suffolk 3
Essex 3	Norfolk 2	Surrey 0
Hampshire 4	Northants 2.	Sussex 3
Herts 2	Northumberland 2	Warwickshire 2
Wiltshire 2	Yorkshire 3	
N.Ireland 1	Scotland 5	Wales 1

OVERSEAS (21)

Australia 1	B.W.I. 4	Canada 2
New Guinea 1	South Africa 2	U.S>A. 11

OBITUARIES.

With the passing of Mr.H.C. Adams, R.D.P. F.R.P.S.L. which, as many members are aware, took place on July 1st last our CIRCLE has lost one of its most distinguished members. It was in accord with his great love of stamps that, despite his advanced years and indifferent health, he responded immediately to the invitation to join us. His added support by making contributions to our pages were greatly appreciated by fellow collectors of ST. VINCENT and no more striking proof of his outstanding modesty can be found than by his spontaneous willingness to admit to one or two errors in his articles to

OBITUARIES (continued)

Which he referred in our last Bulletin. We are glad to record that our Founder & Hon. Secretary represented our CIRCLE at the last rites which took place quietly at Christ Church, Chorleywood Common, near Rickmansworth, Herts on July 6th. Mr. Adams's many achievements and contributions to philately in general have been fully dealt with in other journals, nevertheless we are very proud that his last notes, on St. Vincent appeared in our Bulletins (the final one being on p. 95 of this issue) and these will serve as a permanent reminder of his association's with our CIRCLE.

We also record with regret the loss of another member -Mr: John H. Sinton, F.R.P.S.L., who died at his home in Newcastle-upon-Tyne on July 18<sup>th</sup> last. Those members who attended the CIRCLE meetings at both Eastbourne and Norwich Philatelic Congresses will recall his wry interesting discourses particularly on the stamps of St. Vincent.

The CIRCLE extends its sincere sympathy to the relatives of both these gentlemen.

P. T. S.

MISCELLANEA.

Facilities are now available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. group. A fee of 1/- per stamp plus return postage will be charged. Members who wish to take advantage of this service should send the stamp (or stamps) to the Hon. Secretary enclosing the appropriate fee and a stamped addressed plain (or registered) envelope. Every endeavour will be made to return stamps within seven days.

Bulletins Nos. 1 & 2 have been reprinted and back issues 1-4 are now available at 1/- each post free. Orders should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary accompanied by the appropriate remittance.

AUTUMN MEETING.

Members are reminded that this will be held in the meeting room of the Royal Philatelic Society (by kind permission of the Hon. Secretary) at 41; Devonshire Place, W.1. at 2.30 p. m. on Saturday, October 22nd 1955. It is

hoped that as many as possible will attend and any who have not already advised Mr. Saunders should do so without delay in order that arrangements for providing tea can be completed. This meeting will afford those present an opportunity of raising queries and it will be helpful if a few interesting pages are brought along.

### SECOND ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

This will be held on Friday the 27th January 1956 in the meeting room of The Royal Philatelic Society at 41, Devonshire Place, W.1. at 5.30 p.m. to be followed by an informal Dinner. Owing to the restricted accommodation last January many members were precluded from attending this function and we are pleased to announce that our Hon. Secretary has been fortunate in reserving the room at the famous LORDS TAVERN, St. John's Wood Road, N.W. 8. where seating is available for up to 100. Tickets will be 15/- (excluding wine but including gratuities). It will be appreciated if those members who hope to attend will advise the Hon. Secretary as soon as possible the number of tickets they will require for themselves and their guests in order that preliminary arrangements can be made.

### THE DE LA RUE STAMP CENTENARY EXHIBITION

held at 41, Devonshire Place, London, W.1.

6th-18th June, 1955

Captions of the items covering the British West Indies continued from p.80 (Bulletin No.6):

### BRITISH GUIANA. July 1, 1876. Letterpress. Wmk. Crown C. C.

Strip comprising the complete De La Rue issue, which includes the rare 4 cents . perforated 12½. Design "C" in doubly-fugitive purple with overprint in green submitted on November 2, 1888, in place of the existing design of 1876, introducing POSTAGE & REVENUE in place of POSTAGE to serve both purposes. It was, however, rejected in favour of the issued stamp showing the design with a bolder value tablet, approved on January 9, 1889. On June 7, 1890, the Company was instructed to print 8 cents stamps in rose. In a reply of June 11th it was pointed out that such stamps would conflict by artificial light with the 48 cents, and the Company

BRITISH GUIANA (continued)

forwarded this alternative in purple and black, which was approved on June 13th. Initialled proofs, the 5 cents with name and value drawn on a blank duty die submitted on August 19th, explaining that this would be printed in blue throughout, for which approval was given on August 23, 1890. Silver Jubilee 1910-1935 Die proofs of the frame for the following values: 2c, 6c, 10c. and 24c. Approved December 19 1934. A 12 cents denomination was substituted for the 10 cents on December 28, 1934.

BRITISH HONDURAS. A requisition was received from British Honduras on December 4, 1894, for new duties. Specimens from the universal-key-plate with the name and values hand drawn, submitted at the request of the Crown Agents on December 6th are shown. These were approved on December 10th, subject to them being "printed in rather brighter colours like the existing 6 and 12 cents stamps." (1c., 5c., and 10c.) Specimens called for by the Crown Agents on February 8th. These were approved by them on February 11, 1888. (1d.surcharged 2c, 3d.surcharged 3C., 4d.surcharged 10c.)

CAYMAN ISLANDS.1901. Colour scheme of November 29th utilising the new universal key plate of King Edward VII. It was approved on December 6th. 1921-26 issue.

November 16, 1920, blank duty die proof colour proofs on un gummed Multiple Crown CA paper of 3d., 4d., 7/-, 5/-, and 10/- values.

DOMINICA. 1901. Essay submitted to the Crown Agents on September 3, 1901, embodying instructions forwarded on July 15th. This design was approved for all denominations except 5/-. 1903-33. The original blank duty die proof and the vignette die proof of the issue of 1903, together with the border die proof of the 1923-27 issue and the approved colour proof of the changes made from 1927-33.

(To be continued)

NOTES and QUERIES. It will be appreciated that our Bulletin constitutes the vital link between us and is MAINLY dependent upon a steady flow of contributions from members. These may either afford information or raise points upon which enlightenment is sought and it will be most helpful if S.G. numbers are quoted. ALL contributions should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary.

BAHAMAS

"I have in my collection a copy of the 1/- sage-green S.G.56 which bears a cancellation which appears to be 'LONG CAY P.I.' I have never heard of or seen another example and will be most interested to hear whether any other members know of this cancellation"

(Contributed by Mr. A.J. Branston.

BARBADOS.

With regard to the article by Mr. Robson Lowe on p.56 of Bulletin No. 5 on the use of the Crown Circle in this colony on two occasions, I would make these comments. It is quite correct to state that this was used between February and March 1893 due to a shortage of ½d. stamps. I have all the details of this and the questions asked in our House of Assembly (equivalent to your House of Commons) as to the need for it, and why no surcharge was done as was the case in the previous year (1892) but this would be, a bit voluminous for your Bulletin. I can find nothing, however, in the local records that this Crown Circle 'was used in January 1896 during a shortage of penny stamps.' From details printed in the "Official Gazette" for that period we cull the following: On the same day that the Act was passed changing the rate of postage from ½d. to ¼d for the .first four ounces and ¼d. for each additional ounce ( January 23, 1896) a Post Office Notice appeared. For some unknown reason this read ¼ for every two ounces and each additional two ounces. This Notice further stated. 'Pending the issue of adhesive one farthing stamps the postage will be received at the General Post Office in Coin and the words "Paid at Barbadoes" will be impressed on the Newspaper by a hand stamp in the presence of the person posting same who will be required to sign a paper stating the number of newspapers, posted and the amount paid thereon. In the case of newspapers weighing over two ounces the postage will be required to be paid with adhesive postage stamps. It will not be practicable at present to post newspapers at any of the Country Post Offices for delivery in this island without a minimum postage of ½d. being paid.' This Post Office Notice was corrected on February 20th to read ¼d per 4 ounces in accordance with the Law. Furthermore newspapers could be posted at the Country Post Offices

BARBADOS (continued)

if the sender handed in a British farthing coin. Farthing stamps were not placed on sale until May 5<sup>th</sup> 1896. In my opinion one interesting point arose out of all this talk. In reply to a question put in the House of Assembly by a member asking why newspapers could not be posted at the Country Post Offices the Postmaster replied that 'A single newspaper will not be received at any District Post Office unless the person tendering it for postage pays a farthing or affixes a halfpenny stamp. The Postmasters have been instructed not to allow the half of a halfpenny stamp to be used. It is true, therefore, that a single newspaper cannot be mailed at the Country Post Offices for a farthing; this is due, however, to the scarcity of farthings. I trust this will make the position quite clear. If Mr. Lowe or any other member has information that this Crown Circle mark was used in January 1896 due to a shortage of penny stamps I shall be obliged if full details are passed to our Hon. Secretary. Evidence exists that there was a shortage of ¼d. stamps in January 1896 but I feel sure that if there was a shortage of penny stamps as well some member of the House of Assembly would have asked a question in the House as was done in 1893. If I receive any information through our Hon. Secretary I shall be glad to look further into the matter. As most collectors of Barbados are aware "BARBADOES" was the old ENGLISH way of spelling this name. It must be remembered that this Crown Circle mark was a relic of the British Packet Agency, as was the postmark. Both of these were left with the Inland Post Office when the Packet Agency handed over to them in 1858 and were used by the Inland Post Office on very busy days."

(Contributed by Mr. Herbert Bayley).

BARBADOS.

"I have a number of the Barbados Crowned Circles to which mention is made in Bulletin No.5 pp 56/7. Two of these are on envelopes, one addressed locally and apparently the ½d.rate,dated Feb. 13,1893,and the other addressed to Halifax, N.S., apparently serving the 1d. rate, dated Feb.28,1893. This one also shows the single Barbados postmark plus bootheel. Three others are cut-outs from a local newspaper (probably the Barbados Advocate) and would be the ¼d rate. Two do not include

BARBADOS (continued)

the date and the third shows March (day not legible) 1896. And that is not all. I recently obtained a Barbados ½d. Nelson with what appears to be some kind of steamship mark which takes the form of a single circle 20 mm. in diameter and carrying the words "Montreal, Can. Recd." in sans-serif letters, the number "906" at the bottom and: the date "Jul 4, 5 P M", the year being indistinct. There are also parts of layer single circles showing on the stamp. Any information you can get for me will be much appreciated."

(Contributed by Mr. C. H. Bayley)

CAYMAN ISLANDS A mystery solved.

"Quite a number of collectors of the stamps of the British West Indies have concentrated their interest on those of the Cayman Islands and some may recall the unique study both of the stamps and cancellations made by the late A.J. Watkin, F.R.P.S.L. Others have compiled helpful and comprehensive notes in particular the late Fred J. Melville. It is known that in 1848 the inhabitants petitioned the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, through the Jamaican Government, for their vessels plying between Kingston and Belize, British Honduras to call at Grand Cayman and so establish communication, if only at irregular intervals with the outside world but this was refused. Similar representations were made again in 1854 when the desirability of inaugurating a postal service was also mentioned. This also was unsuccessful and it was not until the 13th April 1889 that the first Post Office was opened and some values of Jamaican stamps were placed on sale. It seems reasonable to suppose that prior to that time some of the inhabitants wrote letters if only by reason of the intermittent trading that is known to have taken place with Jamaica and elsewhere. To the best of my knowledge no pre-adhesive cover can be found in any collection and certainly no information is available that throws any light on the existence of any postal service however primitive. In these circumstances it will be readily appreciated that it was with some temerity I decided to institute enquiries in the hope that I might find a clue that would solve what has remained a mystery to this day. Rightly or wrongly I was of the opinion that my initial search should be made elsewhere than in the Caymans or Jamaica so I directed my

CAYMAN ISLANDS (continued)

first enquiries to the U.S.A. since I was aware that turtles were imported into that country. Furthermore, although the islanders were able to build and launch their boats they had no facilities to haul them out for repairs so every boat went twice a year to TAMPA, Fla. where suitable docks were available for maintenance work. So far no information of any material assistance has been received. Strange as it may seem NORWAY was the



next venue of my enquiries since I had heard that a link with the Caymans might exist as vessels from that country called at British Honduras, Jamaica and elsewhere for cargoes of timber.

Here again I met with disappointment as I received information that this trading took place in the period 1870 to 1900. If anyone had told me that the clue I sought was to be found in London I am sure that I should have been forgiven for not taking such a statement very seriously, and yet events have proved that such was the case. A chance remark by one of our members as to whether I had

approached any of the many missionary societies put me on the right path. I have now seen three pre-adhesive covers originating in the Caymans and was privileged to have photographs taken of the essential portions of one of them. From the reproduction it will be observed that it is dated 3rd October 1842, bears a handstruck stamp of Jamaica - KINGSTON NO 17 1842 and a London arrival obliteration 22 DE 22 1842. The "15/-" in MS. is also most interesting as if this was the sum required by the captain of the vessel that conveyed it to Jamaica, it was indeed a costly communication. Having

CAYMAN ISLANDS (continued)

established that pre-adhesive covers from these islands do exist, I cannot dispel from my mind the belief that others may be found so the quest goes on."

(Contributed by Mr. P. T. Saunders)

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 The CIRCLE's thanks are accorded to its member -- Mr. Robson Lowe -- for reproducing this article in the August 1955 issue of "The Philatelist".

JAMAICA Notes on recent postmarks (cont. from p. 73)

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"The 'R' type is an oval similar to Nicholson's R-8 among the registration postmarks (pp. 221-222). Were these postmarks prepared for all Post Offices for use as real registration marks and then not placed in use as such, but sent out later for use on regular mail with the 'REGISTERED' blocked out? The blocking out was not well done and either the full word still appears or a smudge. TOWER ISLE in 1953 shows the smudge but in 1954 has the only 'R' I have seen in which no 'REGISTERED' appears. The town and Jamaica appear at the bottom and the date is usually expressed as day (numeral), month (two letters) and year (with 19 omitted) in one line in the centre. Towns with 'REGISTERED' still appearing in full: BALCARRES, FLOWER HILL and TROY Towns with 'REGISTERED' partially defaced: ABERDEEN, ABOUKIR, ASHLEY, BAILEYS VALE, BROADLEAF, CALDERWELL, CARISBROOKE, COLEGATE, ESSEX HALL, LEEDS, SANDY RIVER, TRANQUILLITY, TWEEDSIDE, WHITHORN and WINDSOR FOREST. ABOUKIR and BAILEYS VALE appear in violet; WHITHORN has the date upside down; the month precedes the day in BALCARRES, FLOWER HILL, TOWER ISLE, TRANQUILITY, TWEEDSIDE, WHITHORN and WINDSOR FOREST. This is of course, not a complete listing of these 'R' types.

'N' TYPES.

The 'N's' are modifications of the Birmingham type with the unsightly curved black slugs removed but the measurements remain the same. In some 'N's', a curved line, equidistant from both lines of the double circle, replaced the Birmingham slug. Town is at the top and Jamaica at the bottom within the double circle. The 'N's' normally have a star at the top, month (in two letters), the day in the centre line and the year (19

JAMAICA (continued)

omitted below. But this is the most crazy mixed-up type of postmarks in recent years. Either some postmarks were sent out without stars or postmasters removed them as a nuisance the dates appear in all conceivable positions within the inner circle.

'N'

This taken as the normal type although it has fewer towns by far than 'Na' or 'Nb' has the line within the double circle replacing the slug and the star above the date appears on: CORNWALL MOUNTAIN, FAIRY HILL, MILE GULLY, MONTEGO BAY, MULGRAVE, OCHO RIOS, PLEASANT VALLEY, PORT MORANT and REFUGE. PLEASANT VALLEY appeared in violet in 1953; REFUGE had the month upside down."

(To be concluded) (Contributed by Mr. Harvey O'Connor)

ST. CHRISTOPHER. The Mother Colony of the B.W.I.

"During the past few years comparatively little has been published on the adhesives and obliterations of St. Christopher; no doubt this is due largely to the lack of official, data and this fact was emphasised as far back as 1891 in the 'West Indies' handbook<sup>1</sup> from which the following note is based: - The 'Official Gazette of Saint Christopher' was first published in January 1879, and was discontinued in August, 1882, and contains but few notices of a postal nature. A notice appeared at the end of June 1879, stating that St. Christopher, like the other Leeward Islands, would be admitted into the Postal Union on the 1st July following. Mr. W.P. Pearce, the clerk in charge of the Post Office at Basseterre, St. Kitts, writing to the late Sir Edward Bacon on December 9th, 1890, stated that the provisional stamps were generally surcharged at the printing office of 'The Advertiser', but the surcharge 'Halfpenny' on half the 1d carmine, was applied at the Post Office. He further stated that Revenue stamps were never authorised to prepay postage, and that they had never been used for that purpose. Mr. Pearce added in his note to Sir Edward Bacon:- 'Postage and Revenue stamps combined were issued for sale in the Leeward Islands on the 1st of last month (November 1890), and all the former issues of postage and revenue stamps called in on that date.'

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<sup>1</sup> The Philatelic Society, London. (now The Royal Philatelic Society, London), 1891, page, 116.

ST. CHRISTOPHER (continued.)

Contrary to general practice the adhesives will be dealt with later in these notes, the handstruck markings and cancellations being covered first.

St. Christopher was one of the last of the British West Indies group to issue stamps-in 1870, and from 1858 to 1860 the adhesives of Great Britain were used with the A12 (Basseterre) in bars cancellation. It is perhaps of interest to record that for an island with a total area of only 63 square miles (and even with only a population of just over 18,000 in 1939) so many types of handstamps and obliterations were needed. The fleuron type handstruck mark (which was in almost general use for several of the West Indian Islands during the pre-adhesive period) is the type most commonly found but prior to this two types of straight-line handstruck markings were used (a) "ST.KITTS" (1789), RL, P1, and (b) "ST. KITT's (1790-91), RL, P2, both in black. The fleuron type for St. Christopher exists in three diameters the large type, 33-34 mm., (1807-09), RL, P3; medium 28½ mm. (1812-18), RL, P4, and the small fleuron, 25 mm., (1831-42), RL, P5, all in black. The earliest of Type 1 in my collection is JUL 9, 1807, with dates in 1813 and 1814 of Type 2, although I have noted dates in 1812. "ST. KITTS" in sans serif type, RL, P7, is found between 1844-61. A scarce handstruck type, usually found in red is the "ST.KITTS PAID" serifed circular dated (1859), RL, 1. I have this on cover to London dated MY 29 1855. "ST. KITTS PAID" circular undated, also in red, is recorded as being used during 1861-63. Other types of "ST.KITTS PAID in small circular frame in red and in black were employed from 1866 to 1889. A Ship letter mark (circa 1841) shows the inscription "ST.KITTS SHIP LETTER" in two lines. "ST.KITTS" within a single circle was employed when the regular St. Christopher stamps came into use. Covers bearing adhesives are few and far between; I have an external cover to Westbourne Park, London, dated St. Kitts, Dec, 27, 1874 arriving Paddington, Jan.14, 1875 which bears ten 1d.magenta CC, perf: 12½."

(To be continued)

(Contributed by Miss Rose Titford)

ST. VINCENT

"The other day I had occasion to refer to the Auction Catalogue (Robson Lowe - 27th October 1954) of Mr. Sinton's St. Vincent collection wherein it states on p.2. that only 36 ½d on half 6d. without hyphen existed. This is an error due either to a misprint or being an old note which has not been brought up-to-date. There were said to have been printed 1,440 stamps; 60 to a sheet of 24 sheets so if it appeared once only there would be 24 or if two to a sheet -- 46. I think the real number was rather more, some 50 to 60 in all as my earlier notes implied. I have three mint copies."

(Contributed by the late Mr. H.C.V. Adams, R.D.P. F.R.P.S.L.)

ST. VINCENT.

"I have a copy of the 5 PENCE on 4d. (1892), S.G. 59, overprinted "SPICEMEN" but I do not know if this is one of the three known copies referred to by Mr. J.J. Turner in Bulletin No. 2. p.17. I acquired it a few years ago at an auction in a small lot of "Specimens". I think it must be rare but also those stamps of St. Vincent cancelled with a horizontal black line are also "Specimen" stamps and of equal rarity. I only have one copy of S.G. 8. and two of S.G.15. These stamps have a straight line right across them drawn by the aid of a ruler and probably the whole sheet was done at one time. In my view they are not as BAHAMAS, S.G. 1. also mentioned by Dr. N. Garrard in the same issue which he states has an irregular line across it, but I have never seen one. Similar straight lines were used to make "Specimen" stamps of JAMAICA but only, I believe, on the 3d. pine. Our President has an irregular block of this from the marginal corner of a sheet which seems to show that the whole sheet was so treated. By an extraordinary coincidence Dr. Urwick has a single which fits exactly into Mr. Collett's block. These are the only examples I have seen. It would appear that the black line cancellation was the forerunner of "Specimen" stamps before they were stamped "SPECIMEN". but I consider these were only made for record purposes and were never sent to Berne."

(Contributed by Mr. V.N.F. Surtees.)

THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH.

In October 1954 our Bulletin was enlarged to 20 pages with an accompanying note that it should not be regarded as a precedent. Whilst circumstances do not permit a permanent increase it is thought that to commence the new season with a 16 page issue will be very welcome. Although both our President and I have consistently enjoined members to send in contributions for publication in our Bulletin I have always been mindful of the phrase:- "Example is better than precept" and I am glad to be able to include a short article myself in this issue. The innovation of incorporating an illustration X (the cost of which has NOT been charged to the CIRCLE's funds)necessitated providing envelopes which would avoid folding and such envelopes will be used when sending out all future issues. The interesting article on ST. CHRISTOPHER and the one on CAYMAN ISLANDS are the first to appear and there remain 5 colonies viz:- ANTIGUA, BRITISH GUIANA, MONTSERRAT, TURKS & CAICOS ISLES and VIRGIN ISLES still to be covered. I am quite sure those of our members who collect these can furnish some very useful information and I hope they will not delay any longer sending something in for the benefit of others similarly interested. A very cogent leader, touching on the provision of notes and articles for Society journals, by any good friend - Mr.W.B.Haworth, M.A., Editor of "The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly", appears in the issue dated August 6th, 1955. I feel sure if all take note of what he says those who have the task of editing bulletins, news letters etc.will find their work considerably lightened.

P. T. S.

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X Prints supplied by H.BEINY, Specialist Photographer,  
29,Baker Street, London, W.1.

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STOP PRESS:      WANTS and CUMULATIVE INDEX to Bulletins  
Nos.1-8 will appear in the January 1956 issue.