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BULLETIN No. 42 SEPTEMBER 1964

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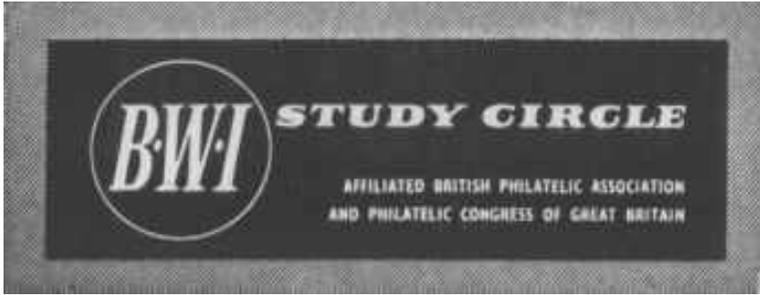
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1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps of the British West Indies comprising the following colonies and dependencies:

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2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features (including 'Opinions' Service and a 'Wants' Section) which it is hoped will widen the knowledge of members.

is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all interested in the stamps or postal history of the above mentioned colonies and dependencies whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription to be £1 (\$3.00 non-sterling countries) due 1st FEBRUARY. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. STUDY CIRCLE".

GILBERT WILLIAM COLLETT

It is with feelings of deep sadness that, once again, I take up my pen to pay tribute to yet another great philatelist who has passed away. Mr. G. W. Collett, the first President of the British West Indies Study Circle, died in hospital at Chippenham, Wiltshire, on July 24th at the age of 76.

He was elected to the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 1927, and in the preceding years had steadily built up his collection of Jamaica which today must be considered one of the finest of its kind being exceptionally strong in mint multiple pieces of the first issues. His close philatelic association and almost lifelong friendship with L. C. C. Nicholson and subsequently the Reverend C. S. Morton and W. Buckland Edwards (all of whom pre-deceased him) culminated in the publication in 1928 of the standard work Jamaica. Its Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks of which all four were joint editors.

Mr. Collett was a strong supporter of the Croydon Philatelic Society and I believe at one time was its Hon. Treasurer. He also faithfully served the Permanent Executive Committee of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain as Hon. Treasurer from 1932 until 1959 and for a year prior to taking this office was Assistant Hon. Secretary. In 1952 he added his signature to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists; it was so typical of his extreme modesty that he confessed to me at the time how surprised - though naturally delighted - he was that he had been chosen for this honour which was so well merited.

Until a few years ago he never missed attending the Spring and Autumn meetings of our Circle over which he presided so ably, and it was due to ill health in the latter years which prevented him from travelling to London and to enjoy meeting his many friends. On the last occasion when I visited him at his home some two years ago he told me how much he missed the London philatelic scene; moreover his sight was failing which sadly prevented him from enjoying his collection. It had been my intention, living as I do now in the West Country, to visit him this summer, but alas this was not to be.

His expert knowledge and appreciation of everything connected with the philately of Jamaica was extensive and he was certainly one of the greatest students of this colony of his time - always happy to give assistance to those seeking it.

I shall always remember Gilbert Collett both for his charm and very humble way when talking about his stamps.

Rose Titford.

NOTES AND QUERIES

Supply of material for future issues of the Bulletin is very short and I am in urgent need of more articles. I should also like to remind members again that I would appreciate receipt of copy not later than six weeks prior to publication. Members who require urgent replies to their queries should address their letters to the Hon. Secretary, who will endeavour to answer by return of post. Editor.

ANTIGUA

In the Bulletin for March, 1964, Mr. E. V. Toeg describes a cover from Antigua bearing a light blue c.d.s. reading "POST OFFICE ANTIGUA." While I have not seen this previously is it not possible that this was some type of post office cancellation which was intended only for post office records or perhaps post office correspondence. Possibly this cover was a letter from a postal employee to a friend or relative.

If there are any old records available at St. Johns, Antigua, it may be possible to find this cancellation therein. Mr. Groves or Major Hopkins may know what exists in the way of such records. I believe that St. Johns suffered from several bad fires which may have destroyed the records of this time.

Mark W. Swetland.

Mr. Mark W. Swetland's remarks have been brought to my notice and they are most interesting.

Since I first mentioned this matter on pages 5 and 6 in Bulletin No. 40 I have also been pursuing my own enquiries.

I have been directly in touch with Major A. E. Hopkins about this cancellation and through a friend have also consulted a collector with great general experience of cancellations. Neither Major A. E. Hopkins nor the other collector has ever seen or heard of this cancellation previously and Major A. E. Hopkins considers the mark to be very rare and possibly unique. Both quite independently of each other think that this mark or cancellation was normally only used by Post Office officials on internal memoranda and also possibly on post office communications addressed to other Government departments when the medium of the ordinary post was not employed as the method of conveyance. But whereas Major A. E. Hopkins thinks that the letter was most

ANTIGUA (contd.)

likely to have been written by a Post Office official and that the blue mark or cancellation was impressed purposely and not accidentally and took the place of the usual Antigua c.d.s., the other view expressed to me was that although the letter was most probably written by a Post Office official the mark or cancellation was accidentally applied and having been applied thus there was no point in applying the usual Antigua c.d.s. which it had in effect replaced in the case of this particular cover.

For what it is worth, I express the view that I do not at present favour Major A. E. Hopkins' opinion that the mark or cancellation was impressed purposely and not accidentally.

However, all the above views are based on surmise and it may be that the opinions already expressed will have to be revised if a further example of the mark or cancellation is discovered.

I do not know whether any old Post Office records exist at St. Johns, Antigua, but I doubt it, for the reason stated by Mr. Swetland.

E. V. Toeg.

With reference to your interesting note on the G.B. 6d. used in Antigua with watermark emblems inverted, I have not seen another example of this watermark variety used in Antigua, but you may be interested to know that the basic stamp is catalogued in the new Gibbons' Specialised at 35/-, whereas the inverted watermark is catalogued at 60/-. This pricing ratio confirms the impression of a G.B. specialist we have asked about this, that the scarcity ratio is only that of approximately two normal watermarks to one inverted. While it could be that this variety may be quite rare used in Antigua, one cannot discount the possibility that similar proportions were sent out that were normally distributed and used in G.B.

It will be very interesting to hear the result of your enquiry, and see what other examples turn up in the collections of members of the Study Circle.

While discussing this matter with the G.B. specialist in question I asked him about the other G.B. adhesives listed by Gibbons as used in Antigua, and he tells me that all of them exist as basic G.B. stamps used in G.B. with inverted watermarks as well as normals and most are quite common. The only ones likely to be scarce are Z.553A and Z.557 as these are quite good basically. I thought that I would mention this as it seems worthwhile to pursue the enquiry with regard to the other stamps as well as the 6d.

C, Angus Parker.

BAHAMAS

Grand Bahama Post Offices

Eight-mile-rock. Very old Post Office building, in use since 1890. John Wildgoose, sub-postmaster. Only datestamp is same steel die used since about 1946. P.O. seldom used now, due to closeness of Freeport P.O. with daily airmail.

Smith Point. Still using original oval T.R.D., now very large and spreading but still legible. GPO issued a steel die CDS to Smith Point in December, 1960, however it has none now. Has any reader seen the steel die strike ?

High Rock. Schoolhouse at small village, very difficult of access. Rawle R. Dean, sub-postmaster. P.O. is desk-drawer, very small stamp stock. 30 mm steel die is only date stamp now.

Sweeting's Cay. Accessible only by sea. TRD still in use.

West End. Two Post Offices. One is in Commissioner's Office, with 30 mm CDS, 100 P.O Boxes, and the Postal Money Order Section. Commissioner Colin McDonald, District Postmaster; Mrs. Shirley Bartlett, clerk. Behind it is small building which is the sub-P.O., Const. B. A. Smith presently in charge. Sells stamps, receives and delivers registered mail and parcels. Has 30 mm CDS, an American-made electric cancelling-machine (since November, 1963, for tourist postcards), and small "AIRMAIL, WEST END" TRD, not now used as a cancel.

Freeport. Large new modern post office. James H. Gibson, Postmaster, and large staff. Has 4 identical 30 mm CDS, an electric cancelling machine (identical to that at West End) and a large oval TRD, "POSTMASTER'S OFFICE, FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA," the latter not now used as a cancel. PM unearthed the old "SHIP MAIL, FREEPORT" TRD, (mutilated) and an old oval TRD (Type 20V-6) with no handle or date now, "AIR MAIL, FREEPORT," both now returned to GPO Nassau. Commissioner V. A. Knowles, District Postmaster.

Approval for a new P.O. Branch or Station of West End P.O. was still pending, however I had the pleasure of designing a new TRD for its future opening.

The only P.O with any representative stamp stock was Freeport. In all p.o.'s, postmark colours depend solely on which ink-pad is handiest. Of PINE RIDGE, only the old railroad ties now remain, rotting and twisted.

At West End, I met the 100-year-old Reverend Hield, Sub-Postmaster of Deep Water Cay for longer than anyone can remember. He could not recall if he had ever had a cancel of any sort, Sub-P.O. is probably a courtesy facility rather than official.

Gale J. Raymond.

BAHAMAS (contd.)

Freeport (Bahamas) Ship Mail Datestamp

Located on Grand Bahama Island, Freeport is a booming new town with an excellent large harbour. A great number of ships stop in regularly for bunkering (refuelling), and in May, 1960, there was placed into use a large single-circle TRD (Temporary Rubber Datestamp) inscribed "SHIP MAIL, FREEPORT," with date in one line. The Postmaster refused to apply it to philatelic mail, and I've seen it only dated July 28, 1960, on mail from the M/S IDALITH, on Bahamas stamps, which the Freeport Postmaster requires on all ship mail, no exceptions. Thereafter, my further attempts to obtain covers proved fruitless, (as did other collector attempts reportedly) and, the SHIP MAIL, FREEPORT datestamp became one of the rarest modern Bahamas postal markings.

I found out why in June, 1964, on a visit to the Grand Bahama Missile Tracking Stations. Doing postal-history research in the island post offices, I found no one in Freeport P.O. who remembered the mark. All ship-mail is given ashore to ships' agents, who add Bahamas stamps and mail out by the daily airmail to Miami. A lot of registered mail is posted thus, with 6d. Bahamas stamps (7c USA), to avoid the high registry-fee on letters posted in USA (65c to o'seas destinations). Of course, registry does necessitate Bahamas stamps, and the standard Freeport steel datestamp is then utilized, as the normal cancel on registered mail. At my good-natured urging, the Postmaster and staff of five combed every nook and cranny for the old TRD, the search complicated by fact that the whole P.O. had only recently moved into a large new building, plus having had a break-in burglary only the week before. Finally, in the back of a file-drawer, the Postmaster found the old TRD, still stuck on a 1960 date. It had somehow become mutilated, the word "SHIP" no longer legible, broken or eaten away (mice?), and the datestamp tossed in back of the drawer for probable future use of the handle, containing the date-roller. The same search turned up another interesting old TRD, "AIR MAIL, FREEPORT, BAHAMAS" (previously unrecorded by collectors), which no longer had a handle or dateline at all! We applied these marks to 12 letters I had in my shirt pocket for posting, after which the cancels were placed in dispatch to GPO Nassau "for repair or replacement." A large cruise-ship, the S/S GRAND BAHAMA, uses the Jack Tar Marina at West End, however. West End p.o. had no ship or paquebot mark of any kind, the tourists preferring Bahamas stamps and cancels.

Gale J. Raymond.

(reprinted from "SEAPOSTER ")

Can any member supply me with information concerning the dots in the overprints on the 1942 "Landfall" issue?

D. W. Boydell.

Concerning the special cancellations of the early part of the century the initials E.R.P. (Pashley) and J.H.P. (Peel) are well known. I came across a new one to me the other day W.R.H. on the 2/- Crown C.C., dated 10th September, 1913.

I should like to know W.R.H.'s name and when he functioned as comptroller of Customs at Nassau, are there any other names besides these three?

N. Garrard.

Mail Service 1858-75

During this period there were several changes in the arrangements for conveying the mails between the United Kingdom and the Bahamas; no fewer than fifteen Post Office Notices were issued in connection with these changes. The following are brief extracts from the Notices concerned.

13th Dec., 1858, No. 53. After the Packet of the 17th inst. mails for the Bahamas will be forwarded via New York instead of via St. Thomas, and will be conveyed from New York to Nassau by a Branch Steamer Packet under contract with H.M.'s Government. The mails will be forwarded on 24th Dec., 22nd Jan., 19th Feb., etc.

Mails from the Bahamas are due at Liverpool by the Packet from New York due to arrive on 17th Feb., and by each alternate Packet from New York.

26th Aug., 1867. The Government of the Bahamas have established a Sailing Packet between Nassau and Turk's Island calling at Inagua, in connection with the Vessel conveying the Turk's Island Mails, which sails once a month between Turk's Island and St. Thomas. Correspondence intended for transmission by this route to Inagua or Nassau must be specially addressed "via St. Thomas" and will be chargeable with the same rates of postage as correspondence for the Bahamas forwarded in the regular mail via New York.

12th Dec., 1870, No. 67. There is now a Fortnightly Service to the Bahamas from London, leaving on the evenings of alternate Thursdays, beginning on the 15th inst., via New York.

Evidently, at some time during 1870 this fortnightly service ceased, because the next available Notice refers to the resumption of the service.

23rd Oct., 1871, No. 47. On and from the 2nd Nov. the fortnightly Service for Bahamas via New York will be resumed. The mails will be despatched from London on the evenings of alternate Thursdays.

Supplementary mails will be forwarded on the evenings of succeeding Saturdays, on the chance of reaching New York in time for the Bahamas Branch Packet, appointed to leave New York on alternate Thursdays.

BAHAMAS (contd.)

17th June, 1872, No. 18. The fortnightly Service to the Bahamas has ceased. Until November there will be only one in four weeks, leaving on 11th July, 8th Aug., etc. In November the fortnightly Service will be resumed as from 14th. Supplementary mails will be sent on succeeding Saturday evenings, on the chance of reaching New York in time for the Bahamas Branch Packet which leaves New York every fourth Thursday.

3rd Oct., 1872, No. 24. The fortnightly Mail Service for the Bahamas via New York will be resumed as from 26th Oct.

Dec., 1872, No. 40. The dates of despatch from London of mails for the Bahamas, until March, will be Saturday, 4th Jan., 1873, 18th Jan., 1st. Feb., etc.

Supplementary mails will be forwarded on the evenings of each succeeding Thursday, on the chance of reaching New York . . . (as before).

Notices similar to this last one appeared frequently during the next two years (12th May, 1873, No. 30; 20th Oct., 1873, No. 48; Jan., 1874, No. 6; 2nd Nov., 1874; 21st Dec., 1874, No. 48; 11th Jan., 1875, No. 7; 25th Jan., 1875, No. 9), giving the proposed dates of despatch of the mails from London.

Feb., 1875, No. 10. To avoid uncertainty owing to the frequent changes in the Colonial mail service between New York and Nassau, in future mails will be made up in London every Saturday evening, and conveyed to New York to await the sailing of any steamer going to Nassau.

Therefore, Notice No. 9 may be considered to be withdrawn.

Regarding such Post Office Notices it may be mentioned that the G.P.O. Record Office, London, has a fairly complete range of these for the 19th century, although, unfortunately there are obviously some missing. It is also unfortunate that they do not possess a similar collection of notices issued in the Colonies.

L. E. Britnor.

BRITISH GUIANA

Having "plated" the lithographed 1860-1875 issues I find that dated copies are difficult to acquire. If any members could lend me any for my research they would be returned without delay.

The dates I have are as follows, and it is the missing dates which would be so very useful.

First Type. Wide spaced value tablets,

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| 1 cent. | 4. 4.60 | to 22.10.60 | perf. 12 | thick |
| | 22.7.62 | to 1. 7.63 | perf. 12 | thin |
| | 5.12.66 | | perf. 12½ | thin |

| | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| 2 cents. | 9.11.60 | | perf. 12 | thick |
| | 27. 2.63 | | perf. 12 | thin |
| | 10. 6.63 | to 22.10.64 | perf. 12½ | thin |
| | 29.11.64 | | perf. 12½ | med. |
| 4 cents. | 28. 8.60 | to 23. 4.62 | perf. 12 | thick |
| | 16.12.62 | to 26. 4.64 | perf. 12 | thin |
| | 3. 7.63 | to 9. 9.64 | perf. 12½ | thin |
| | 9. 2.64 | to 28.11.65 | perf. 12½ | med. |
| 8 cents. | 19. 7.60 | to 23. 1.63 | perf. 12 | thick |
| | 6. 2.63 | to 5. 1.64 | perf. 12 | thin |
| | 23. 9.63 | | perf. 12½ | thin |
| | 6. 9.64 | to 22. 1.66 | perf. 12½ | med. |
| 12 cents. | 23.10.60 | to 8.10.62 | perf. 12 | thick |
| | 7. 2.63 | to 7. 2.66 | perf. 12 | thin |
| | 21.11.63 | to 7. 2.65 | perf. 12½ | thin |
| | 7. 6.64 | | perf. 12½ | med. |
| 24 cents. | 2.11.65 | to 23. 5.67 | perf. 10 | |
| | 26. 6.63 | to 23. 9.64 | perf. 12 | thin |
| | 23. 5.63 | | perf. 12½ | thin |
| | 9. 5.64 | | perf. 12½ | med. |

Second Type. Narrow spaced value tablets

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| 1 cent. | 30. 1.66 | to —.11.73 | perf. 12½ |
| | 21. 6.69 | to 26. 4.76 | perf. 10 |
| | 28.10.75 | to 13. 5.76 | perf. 15 |
| 2 cents. | 1. 3.66 | to 20. 1.69 | perf. 12½ |
| | 28. 8.66 | to 5. 9.76 | perf. 10 |
| 8 cents. | 12. 1.68 | to —.11.75 | perf. 12½ |
| | 10. 5.71 | to 6.12.77 | perf. 10 |
| | 7. 3.76 | to 4.12.76 | perf. 15 |
| | 8. 7.67 | to 6. 5.75 | perf. 12½ |
| 12 cents. | 4. 9.67 | to 6.10.75 | perf. 10 |

Third Type

| | | | |
|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| 6 cents. | 8. 7.65 | to 8. 2.69 | perf. 12½ |
| | — 3.67 | to 23. 8.77 | perf. 10 |
| | 4. 7.76 | | perf. 15 |
| 24 cents. | 23.12.64 | to 24. 9.66 | perf. 12 |
| | 7. 9.65 | to 26. 5.74 | perf. 12½ |
| | 23. 4.67 | to 26. 2.76 | perf. 10 |
| | 6. 5.76 | | perf. 15 |
| 48 cents. | 23. 3.64 | to 23.10.67 | perf. 12½ |
| | 23.12.69 | to 25. 9.76 | perf. 10 |

Where one date only is shown this indicates that I have only one example.

W. A. Townsend.

BRITISH HONDURAS

British Honduras Cancellations

It is only recently that I have had the opportunity of reading the earlier Bulletins of the Study Circle, and from No. 3 I have read the notes by F. H. Thompson and his cancellations of this colony.

BRITISH HONDURAS (contd.)

Unfortunately I have nothing like a complete selection of all types used and noted so far. However, following these notes and additions by other members right to the last list published in No. 32; with further notes in subsequent issues, I still have a few which do not appear to be mentioned. Alternatively, the members who have sent in the lists may not have distinguished individual markings.

There would appear to have been at least three types of the A06 obliterator used at Belize until the Edward VII era, possibly later. Has the date of issue of K65 been traced ? Brumell did not list this until 1892, but it was found on stamps issued prior to this date, but after 1887. Possibly issued 1888.

The "Dumb" obliterator of horizontal bars in an upright oval format again appears to have been first used about 1891, as it is certainly on this issue of Queen Victoria key-plates.

The "O" obliterator I have on issues from 1872 to 1891, but taking up the point raised by Mr. Thompson way back in No. 3, could this possibly be connected with the Orange Walk District.

The "C" obliterator was noted by Mr. Thompson, who at the time his original notes were written had no copy of this strike. I have two on the stamps of the 1891 issue. Could this not have referred to the COROZAL District, rather than the Cayo District, as being next in importance? Probably issued c. 1888.

Perhaps some member has copies of the "O" and "C" on covers with other transit markings which would clear this problem.

A much larger obliterator with thin horizontal bars above and below BELIZE is found on the Edward VII issues of 1902-10. Again possibly later, but I cannot produce examples.

I am not attempting to give in detail particulars of well-known office handstamps, but the New River Service appeared in a single ring type with Belize at the top. Does the inclusion of "N.R." in similar type handstamps of ORANGE WALK also denote New River? If so, was this a Travelling Post Office service. All my examples on stamps of this handstamp between 1910 and 1921 have Code Letter "E" above the date.

In the listings already mentioned it is noted that Stanley Field Airport is now served from Belize G.P.O. There certainly has been a single ring c.d.s. with AIRPORT at the top in use about 1930.

The Cayo District lists "Cayo" and "El Cayo," but I have a copy dated 1905 clearly inscribed " THE CAYO." Post Office Lists usually place such items in their alphabetically arranged lists under "T."

In Corozal, there is an office spelt as such, but for many years the handstamp, presumably from the same one, was inscribed "COROSAL."

We do not appear to have discussed Instructional Handstamps for this colony, but how often is "MISSENT TO BELIZE" seen. This is on a cover missent from the Canal Zone in 1943 addressed to Scotland.

To my queries given above I hope to see comments in due course.

Ronald Ward.

CAYMAN ISLES

I have S.G. #118 Scotts #103 Caymans used on piece with the following cancellation.

29 MM double circle with letters 3 MM long inscribed PAQUETTE KINGSTON JAMAICA, no stops. Date in 2 lines MR 4 year date not positive 45?

because of black cancel on black stamp. Does any member have same?

Elkin M. Adehon.

JAMAICA

Postage Rates of Jamaica. 1662-1860

a. Inland Charges

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Rates</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|--|--------------|--|
| 1668 | | |
| Letters from Port Royal to any other place in the island or vice versa | | Authorised by an Order in Council of 1688. □ (P. 8, chapter I of this work). |

Within 40 miles

Per One Sheet @ 2d. sterling
 Per Two Sheets @ 4d. sterling
 and proportionately up to
 Per One Ounce @ 8d. sterling

Over 40 miles

Per One Sheet @ 4d. sterling
 Per Two Sheets @ 8d. sterling
 and proportionately up to
 Per One Ounce @ 1/- sterling

1711

Not exceeding 100 miles

*Per single letter @ 6d. sterling and increasing proportionately

Over 100 miles

Per single letter @ 1/- sterling and increasing proportionately

The Act of 1711. Still in force in 1749 when Mr. Macculloch was examined by the authorities

JAMAICA (contd.)

*Note - The Act of 1711 defined these as follows - A Single Letter was a sheet of paper weighing under one ounce. Should there be an enclosure, no matter how small, it was a Double Letter, and a Treble Letter was one of more than two sheets weighing less than one ounce. An Ounce Letter was equal to four Single Letters.

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Rates</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|--|--|---|
| 1749 | Per Single Letter @ 7½d. currency* Per Packet @ 1/3 These rates were charged regardless of distance | Local rates that were charged by Mrs. Macculloch and her successor, William Graham |
| 1755 | Within 100 miles Per Single Letter @ 7½d. currency* Per Double Letter @ 1/3 Per One Ounce @ 2/6 Over 100 miles Per Single Letter @ 1/3 Per Double Letter @ 2/6 | Local rates that appear to have been instituted by Edward Dismore during his term as Postmaster |
| 1774 | Not exceeding 60 miles Single @ 7½d. currency* or 1 Real † Double @ 1/3 or 2 Reals Treble @ 1/3 or 2 Reals Ounce @ 1/10½d. or 3 Reals Between 61 and 100 miles Single 7½d. or 1 Real Double @ 1/3 or 2 Reals Treble @ 1/10½d. or 3 Reals Ounce @ 2/6 or 4 Reals Over 100 miles Single @ 1/3 or 2 Reals Double @ 1/10½d. or 3 Reals Treble @ 2/6 or 4 Reals Ounce @ 3/9 or 6 Reals | These local rates are quoted in "Long's History of Jamaica" of 1774, as being in force at that time (Note:- Dismore was still in office on this date) |
| * †Notes:- All such charges were in "Local or Jamaican Currency" which was traded commercially at a discount with Sterling. The Real was a Spanish silver coin, eight of which comprised the Spanish silver dollar or Piece of Eight, at that time the most widely used of all currencies. | | |
| 1765 to 1843 | Not exceeding 60 miles Single letter @ 4d. sterling Double Letter @ 8d. Treble Letter @ 1/- One Ounce @ 1/4 | These rates were fixed by the Act (5 Geo. III. C.25) of 1765, and would appear to have been in force until 1843 |

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Rates</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
|-------------|--------------|----------------|

Between 60 and 100 miles

Single Letter @ 6d.

and increasing proportionately

Over 100 miles

Single Letter @ 8d.

and increasing proportionately

1843

In 1840, the Post Office in England brought out a new system of postal charges based on weight, and in 1843 the idea was extended to the Colonies and combined with the distance the letter had to be carried. The old system of charging according to the number of sheets in the letter was abolished.

Per Half Ounce Weight

Up to 60 miles @ 4d.

Between 60 and 100 miles @ 6d.

Over 100 miles @ 8d.

Newspapers @ ½d.

Pamphlets (up to 16oz.) @ ½d.

1858

A penalty of 4d. for all letters not prepaid in cash or postage stamps was introduced in 1858, and was to be added to the normal postage

British Treasury Warrant dated 9 November, 1858

b. Packet Charges

No Post Office Packet Service existed between Jamaica and England until 1702, but from that date onwards a regular scale of payments for such a service was laid down. Attention is drawn, however, to the first Ship Letter charges made in 1688 which were basically Packet Charges.

1702

Single Letter @ 9d. sterling

Double Letter @ 1/6

One Ounce @ 2/8

These rates are given in a Royal Warrant of 1702, and were fixed by the Act (12 Charles II) of an earlier year

1705

Single Letter @ 1/6 sterling

Double Letter @ 3/-

One Ounce @ 6/-

Edmund Dummer's increased rates authorised under a Royal Warrant dated 12 February, 1704. Confirmed by the Postal Act of 1711

Date

Rates

Remarks

1711

From any part of the West Indies to **New York** By the Postal Act of 1711
Single Letter @ 4d. sterling
and increasing proportionately

1765

Single Letter @ 1/- sterling
Double Letter @ 2/-
Treble Letter @ 3/-
One Ounce @ 4/-
Authorised by the Act (5. Geo. III, c. 25) of 1 June, 1765

Prior to 1797, the Packet Charges on Letters to London or landed at Fairmouth were the same, but the new act of that year (and all subsequent acts up to 1840) laid down two different scales of payment.

Letters could be either charged at Falmouth or London, but the London scale included the normal inland postage from Falmouth, and was consequently greater.

1774

Single Letter currency @ 2/1
Double Letter @ 3/4½d.
Treble Letter @ 6/3½d.
One Ounce @ 8/4¾d.
Local charges for prepaid letters quoted in "Long's History of Jamaica" of 1774

1797

| | <i>Falmouth Rate</i> | <i>London Rate</i> |
|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Single Letter @ | 1/- | 1/8d. |
| Double Letter @ | 2/- | 3/4d. |
| Treble Letter @ | 3/- | 5/- |
| One Ounce @ | 4/- | 6/8d. |

Authorised by the Act (37. Geo. III, c. 25).

1805

Single Letter @ 1/1d. 2/-
increasing proportionately

1813

Single Letter @ 1/2d. 2/2d.

and increasing proportionately

Authorised by the Act (52. Geo. III, c. 188)

1843

All Packet Letters @ 1/2 per half-ounce This rate is found on Jamaican letters between March, 1843 and about 1854

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Rates</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|-------------|---|----------------------|
| 1852 | All Packet Letters @ 6d. per half-ounce | The Act of that year |

c. Ship Letter Charges

It has already been stated that there was no Packet Service between Jamaica and England before 1702, and consequently, it was the custom for letters from the colony to be carried by private ships.

The 17th century was drawing to its close before the Post Office realised that a possible source of income was remaining untapped, and even then they hesitated to interfere unduly with a popular established practice.

Prior to 1688, ship letters were subject only to British Inland Postage Rates (those of 1660), but in that year the first Ship Letter Rates were laid down.

| | | |
|------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1688 | Single Letters @ 6d. sterling | Authorised by an Order in |
| | Double Letters @ 1/- | Council of 1688* |
| | Treble Letters @ 1/6d. | |
| | One Ounce @ 2/- | |

*Notes:- The ship's master was asked to hand all letters in his possession to the post office at his port of arrival, from whence they were taken to London and sent to their destination after being charged the appropriate inland postage. This action was not compulsory and there were no regulations preventing the master making his own arrangements for their delivery. It is difficult to believe that the Post Office benefited to any great extent from the application of these rates, In addition to these charges, the custom was later introduced of the ship's Master either receiving one penny for letters delivered to his ship, or benefiting by one penny (paid by the Post Office) for letters delivered by him to the post office at his first port of call in the mother country. The last inducement was added to the cost of the letter and paid by the recipient.

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| 1711 | Ship Letters from the West Indian Colonies now charged only British Inland Postage from the port of entry to the addressee via London together with the Master's gratuity of 1d. per letter | Authorised by the Act of 1711. (9 Anne Cap. 10), and remaining in force until 1796 |
|------|---|--|

Note:- This Act also gave the Post Office the necessary authority to pay the sum mentioned to the master for each letter

| | | |
|------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1796 | Ship Letters now subject to the following charges | Authorised by the Act of 1796 |
|------|---|-------------------------------|

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Rates</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|-------------|--|--|
| | a. A Ship Letter Charge of 4d. per Single Letter and increasing proportionately b. British Inland Postage from the port of entry to the addressee via London c. Master's gratuity of 1d, per letter | (37 Geo. III Cap. 18) |
| 1799 | Master's gratuity raised to 2d. per letter | Authorised by an act of that year |
| 1814 | Ship Letters from the West Indian colonies now charged a. A Ship Letter Charge of 6d. per Single Letter and increasingly proportionately b. British Inland Postage from the port of entry to the addressee c. Master's gratuity of 2d. per letter | Authorised by the Act of that year and remaining in force until 1840 |
| 1840 | Charges by Weight Ship Letters now charged only @ 8d. per half ounce and increasing proportionately | Authorised by the Act of that year |

Note:- This new scale of charges included all British Inland Postage to the addressee and dispensed with the Master's gratuity.

The rates of 1840 remained effective until about 1857, when the carriage of correspondence by private ship had almost ceased owing to the cheaper and quicker services of the steam packets.

In considering the various Ship Letter Charges, it is important to remember that

a. The initial Inland Postage in Jamaica was always prepaid by the sender, and Ship Letter Charges were only effected from the port of exit in the colony.

These colonial rates were often inscribed on the front of the letter (sometimes in red ink signifying pre-payment), and were generally deleted on arrival in this country. Computed Ship Letter Charges are always found in black ink.

b. The British Inland Postage Rates were constantly changing and previous to 1840 included many additional charges and local payments which account for the diversity of "queer rates" found on ship letters.

c. There would appear to have been no fixed policy laid down for the charging of the Master's gratuity.

In many cases it was not charged at all (or does not appear in the marked up payment).

Letters of more than one sheet are found with the gratuity charged for each sheet, or alternatively charged once for the complete letter.

T. Foster.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

Mr. Paul A. Larsen's query on page 10 of Bulletin No. 40 concerning the island of 'BARHIDA' prompted me to look up both an old map and a fairly modern one as well of the area around Antigua but there was no trace of 'BARHIDA' of which I have never previously heard. The likeliest explanation is that the word was a printing error of 'BARBUDA,' but I must confess that I have never heard of the A 18 'killer' being used at Barbuda.

The unusual Montserrat c.d.s. illustrated by Mr. Larsen can be explained by the fact that many coloured folk were and are employed at the post offices in the British West Indies and often such persons either did not read very well or failed to take sufficient trouble to ensure accuracy in changing the plugs of a handstamp. In consequence in addition to the example cited by Mr. Larsen occasionally letters and numerals can be found upside down or transposed or even left out altogether or in some cases inserted in ink on cancellations applied in probably all the Islands in the British West Indies.

E. V. Toeg.

ST. LUCIA

The Provisionals 1891-92

Reference: Mr. G.L.Pullar's note in Bulletin No. 41

1. $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 6d. There were 9,600 of these printed locally, and endless varieties may be found. They are of no great significance and most of the varieties listed by S.G. are in my opinion very much overpriced.

ST. LUCIA (contd.)

2. **The ½d. on 3d.** This is a more interesting stamp. Total printing 4,300. The setting was made up of a group of thirty over-prints repeated twice to cover the pane; six stamps horizontally and five vertically. It follows that the narrow "O" and short "A" will occur twice in a pane. The interesting varieties in the spacing occur after the printing was applied to the upper half and where the sheet was moved before the lower half was printed. It must be remembered that the over-printing was applied to gummed stamps in a hot climate. Due to the movement of the sheet sloping and part over-prints may be encountered. The many broken and messed letters which occur are not worth any premium but a block or mis-placed over-prints would be of great interest if such exists.

Brian de Burca.

AUTUMN MEETING

This will be held in the meeting room of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, at 41 Devonshire Place W.1 on **Saturday, 31st October, at 3 p.m.**

Members are reminded that visitors are very welcome.

MISCELLANEA

PUBLICATIONS

The following papers have been published by the Circle and copies are still available from the Hon. Sec.

No. 1 AN INTRODUCTION TO THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES, by L. E. Britnor, 1959. Price 10s. 0d. (Canada and U.S.A. \$1.50) post free.

No. 2 THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF BARBADOS, by Basil B. Benwell and L. E. Britnor, 1961. Price 12s. 6d. (Canada and U.S.A. \$1.75) post free.

SUPPLEMENT No. 1 to Paper No. 2, Price 4s, (Canada and U.S.A. 75c.) post free.

No. 3 THE PHILATELIC HISTORY OF TRINIDAD TO 1862, by John B. Marriott, F.R.P.S.L., 1963. Price 20s. (Canada and U.S.A. \$3.75), post free.

No. 4 MONTSERRAT - in course of preparation

SPECIAL NOTICE

In response to many requests from members arrangements have been made for Bulletins Nos. 1-7 (slightly abridged) to be printed in the current format. The price will be 12s. 6d. (\$1.75) post free. Orders should be sent together with the appropriate remittance addressed to the Hon. Secretary, at Caymans Cottage, Bushley, Tewkesbury, Glos.

PHILATEC PARIS 1964

The Circle's warmest congratulations are extended to the following members who gained successes at PHILATEC PARIS.

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| E. K. THOMPSON | Silver Gilt | (Antigua) |
| W. A. TOWNSEND | Silver | (Br. Guiana) |
| A. E. BEACH | Silver | (Tobago) |
| R. WARD | Silver Bronze | (Sweden) |
| C. DONNE | Silver Bronze | (Cyprus) |
| B. B. BENWELL | Bronze | (Barbados) |
| L. E. BRITNOR | Bronze | (B.W.I.) |
| S. GRAHAM HOEY | Bronze | (Bahamas) |
| E. V. TOEG | Bronze | (Montserrat) |

HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

DEAR MEMBER,

Elsewhere in this issue you will have read the fitting tribute to our late President by our Hon. Librarian who had known him well for the past 40 years. In the circumstances it is with very sad thoughts that I write this paragraph. I am glad to say that I was able to make the journey to Melksham (the birthplace of Mr. Collett) to attend the funeral, and, on behalf of our Circle, extend sincere sympathies to the relatives present. When, in January, 1954, I convened the meeting which brought our circle into being Gilbert Collett had already accepted my invitation to become our first President. Speaking personally I valued greatly his friendship and shall never forget the help and encouragement he gave me over the years.

In October, 1958, I wrote as follows: 'It is a well known fact that there are many lone collectors who possess interesting and, no doubt, in some cases outstanding collections, but for reasons it is difficult to understand refrain from joining a philatelic society. It may well be that they are getting on in years or are of a shy disposition. Be that as it may it means we are denied the pleasure of seeing their stamps and, what is possibly more important still, profiting by their knowledge. If any member is acquainted with such a collector why not bring our Circle to his (or her) notice.' . . . These words are as apt today as when they were first written. I would however make a further suggestion and that is that while we welcome a new member we are always grateful for articles or notes from any collector. The following have been enrolled as members and a warm welcome is extended to them on your behalf: A. H. Chidley (Warwickshire), H. Garratt-Adams (Herefordshire) and R. and Mrs. H. S. Ransom (Huntingdonshire).

P.T.S.

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