



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 66 SEPTEMBER 1970

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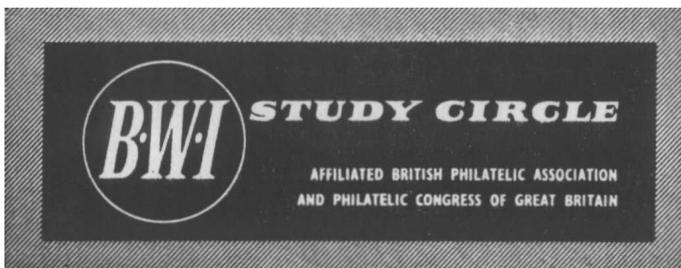
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OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of:

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

2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only).
4. To publicise 'wants'.
5. To furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.

MEMBERSHIP

is WORLD-WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be advanced or new collectors. The ANNUAL subscription is £1 or the equivalent in local currency, due 1st February. If remitting in currency please add 30c to cover collection charges. Alternatively a draft for £1 DRAWN on London is acceptable. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

AUTUMN MEETING

The Autumn Meeting this year will be held at Philympia on Monday, 21st September, 1970, at 2 p.m.

All Members are welcome to attend the joint meeting with the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group even if they cannot attend the luncheon. The meeting will be completely informal but a background display has been arranged of items from all the countries covered by the Circle.

LONDON EVENING MEETING

A Meeting has been arranged to be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 25th November, 1970, in the Board Room of the British Philatelic Association at 446 Strand London W.C.2.

DISPLAY

A Midweek Meeting of the B.W.I. Study Circle was held on Wednesday, 13th May, 1970, at 6 p.m. in the Board Room of the British Philatelic Association.

The Meeting was attended by ten Members. The programme for the evening consisted of each Member attending bringing not more than nine sheets from his or her collection for display at the Meeting and the following notes are a summary of the material displayed by members.

Mr. J. L. MESSENGER showed St. Lucia and commenced with two covers with Great Britain stamps used in St. Lucia, one being a local cover to Barbados showing the 4d. rate and the other was a cover to Bordeaux, with the 7d. rate. There were also blocks of four, pairs and singles of the 1d. rose-red, 4d. deep blue and 6d. green from the Perkins Bacon & Company printing and the De La Rue & Company printing; also one page of the two unissued provisionals being the half penny on 6d. emerald green and the six pence on 4d. indigo.

MR. MICHAEL SHEPPARD then produced some pages on Barbados. He commenced with a pre-adhesive Soldier's letter which told of life in the Regiment and this was followed by a cover with the Maltese Cross postmark used on Pelican Island.

DISPLAY (Cont.)

Then followed two covers with different Paquebot markings and a registered cover to Demerara with mail bag c.d.s., and finally a cover under stamped and showing a ½d postage due bisect which also appeared to be insufficient, and the last item was a cover showing the Barbados fleuron.

MR. S. G. GOLDBLATT gave a most interesting display of varieties and oddities on stamps in the Leeward Islands group of countries and backed this up with a most interesting discourse.

MR. A. H. LATHAM showed nine pre-adhesives from Jamaica all to do with coffee houses either addressed to Jamaica Coffee House London or to the Commercial Rooms Kingston Jamaica or Commercial Buildings Kingston Jamaica.

MR. R. TOPAZ displayed a number of covers with temporary rubber date stamp Travelling Post Office marks in Jamaica during this century.

MISS B. J. COLLINSON displayed Barbados including a pre-adhesive straight line "BARBADOES" and another cover showing the red Crowned Circle Paid At Barbadoes and followed this with a selection of imperforate Britannia types, and then displayed some pin perforations and rough perforations.

MR. J. J. CHALLIS displayed a Miscellany and started with Barbados showing two covers with queries raised by him on postal rates. He then showed a cover from Bahamas to London with a 4d. and pair of the 1d. 1862 no watermark. This was followed by a cover from St. Lucia to Bordeaux with an example of the 4d. 1882-84 Crown CA watermark. Mr. Challis then ended his display with a sheet of thirty stamps being the Turks Island 1881 Provisional surcharge ½ on 1d. showing varieties of the surcharge in Setting 11.

DR. D. WOOLFSON gave a display of Flight covers most of which were First Flights from Jamaica, Trinidad, British Guiana, Tobago and Dominica, and in many cases the routes taken were most interesting as they were not direct.

MR. W. A. TOWNSEND produced a selection of Travelling Post Offices and Agencies of British Guiana illustrated by maps of the Post Offices and Agencies and the routes used and also showing photographs of the type of boats and launches employed. The post marks displayed were of Mobile Agency NWD and Mobile Postal Unit and also the North West Steamer Travelling Post Office.

MR. E. V. TOEG displayed items of Leeward Islands used in Dominica and of particular interest was a commercially used reply post card from Saint Pierre Martinique to Dominica and he ended with a display of several pages of marks from Sub Post Offices in the island.

The Display, which was the first of its kind at a Midweek Meeting, proved to be a great success and Members will see from the above notes how varied and interesting it must have been. All present thoroughly enjoyed the Meeting and the date was fixed for the next Midweek Meeting which has been arranged to be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, 25th November, 1970, in the Board Room of the British Philatelic Association at 446 Strand, London, W.C.2. As this last Midweek Meeting was so successful will all Members attending please bring not more than 9 pages from their collections for display on 25th November next.

52ND PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN

For the benefit of members who were unable to get to Folkestone, we give below the report on the displays by two Members at the Study Circle Meeting.

The display commenced by Mr. W. A. Townsend showing some Army Post Office marks for British Guiana amongst which were the following:-

1. APO 807 dated 29.7.41.
2. Cancellation showing MAR(INE) DET(ACHMENT) G.T. BG. dated 16.10.41.
3. Later APO 807 was changed to APO 857 and strikes for this mark dated 11.7.42 and 25.9.44 were shown.
4. This part of Mr. Townsend's display finished with APO 616 for 24.3.54, APO 955 used in 1954 and APO 966 used in 1953 and again on 6.5.54.

The second part of Mr. Townsend's display consisted of examples of the Spiro reproductions for St. Lucia.

To complete his display Mr. Townsend reverted to British Guiana and showed examples of the rare cancellations for Amacura dated 21.8.1896 on the 1905/7 issue on the 12c, 24c and 72c values. This was followed by a facsimile of the famous 1c with a piece of the supposedly original album sheet on which it was mounted and so annotated by the schoolboy owner to that effect. This was followed by pictures of the Travelling Post Office in the N.W. District which covered the four main rivers once a month by launch, also a picture of the relief launch used from 1.8.51. Mr. Townsend completed his display with cancellations from the Mobile N.W. District agency dated 24.10.55, 28.3.53 and 30.6.52. It is of note that this service was later changed to Mobile Unit No. 1 B.G. and an example dated 17.2.65 was shown.

DISPLAY (Cont.)

Mr. John Fosbery then followed with items also from British Guiana:-

1. The first British Post Office was set-up at Stabroek (now Georgetown), Demerara in 1796. Pre stamp letter with straight line "Demerary" in 4 mm Capitals was shown. This letter was written from Plantation Hope (East Coast, Demerara) dated 27.6.1799 and was stamped at the Demerary Packet Office on 1st July, 1799. It is the earliest known date-stamp used at this office (ex F. G. Howe collection).
2. A superb strike of Code A3C (Arabian Coast, Queenstown) on SG120 type 12 was next shown. Although a relatively common Code Mark any Codes are rare on this issue.
3. Mr. Fosbery closed his display by showing examples of the early serified type Code Marks from Windsor Castle, Wakenaam and Mahaiconv.



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18th-26th September, 1970

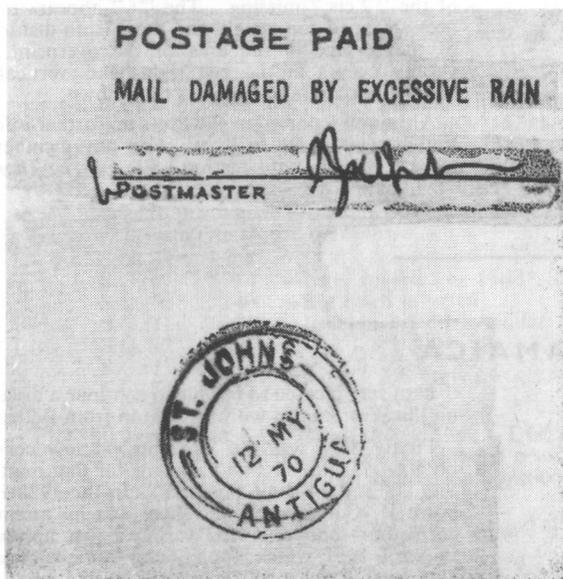
Don't forget the joint meeting with the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group on Monday, 21st September. 1970.

ANTIGUA

Exceptionally heavy rain in Antigua on 18th May, 1969, caused flooding in the mail room of the Post Office at St. John's, the water being knee-deep. The damaged mail was dried and since most of the adhesives had floated off, the Postmaster used a temporary rubber stamp. This was reported and the stamp illustrated in the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, October, 1969.

Mr. Donald Cribbs, formerly of Antigua, has written to me that precautions had been taken to prevent a flood in future but they were only partially successful: after heavy rains during the week-end of 9th and 10th May, 1970, the mail room was again flooded though, on this occasion, the water was only about two inches deep. Nevertheless, some mail was damaged: it was dried on the 11th May and the temporary rubber stamp used again on the 12th together with the St. John's canceller showing the same date.

The two stamps on part of a cover addressed to London are illustrated actual size. It would be of interest to learn of any other similarly-stamped covers bearing the same date.



J. C. Loach

BRITISH HONDURAS

C OBLITERATOR

On Page 11, Bulletin No. 64, Mr. R. Topaz seeks information about the C obliterator used. I have an example of this mark on a copy of SG 54. I also have an article from the "Philatelic Magazine" dated 28.8.1953 written by our member Mr. P. Jaffé, in which he refers to the C mark, as follows:-

"It seems likely that the 'C' killer in horizontal oval bars was intended for use at COROZAL and the similar 'O' for Orange Walk. It may be noted that at least two types of the A06 were used in the Colony."

G. E. Jones

GREANADA

Milk Surcharge Variety

I have recently acquired a copy of the Grenada S2 Milk overprint stamp (S.G. 299) with the "t" of the "2 cts," missing. The "t" appears to have been dropped completely and there is no disturbance of the surface in the area of the overprint. The variety occurs in the last right-hand vertical row but the horizontal position is not known.

Although reported in the Press no further information has yet come to light. Can any member give me any further information?

B. E. Thompson

JAMAICA

I am very pleased to be able to continue a discussion on the War Stamps with Mr. Paton from Bulletin 65.

Firstly, how was the 'no stop' variety corrected on S.G. 75 No. 11 first pane - or for that matter on S.G. 73 and 74 same position? In the 1928 Handbook H. Cooke says that there was an attempt at correction soon after the variety's first appearance in April, 1917, which 'took the form of one of several abnormalities, viz. small three-rayed star, small pear-shaped dot, irregular circle in outline, small reversed "D," but despite these efforts the variety continued to appear in the same position for some months, when it was

corrected in the press. This is not entirely clear to me. Was he suggesting that the local government printer tried to compensate for the lack of a stop on No. 11 first pane by applying the impression of a printer's decorative type by hand after the sheets had emerged from the press ? More likely these abnormalities were merely evidence of the progressive breaking down of the point of the full stop. Mr. Paton's half-moons and the R.P.S.L.'s Expert Committee's comments on them seem to confirm this.

The 'correction in the press' seems clear enough if one accepts that new formes were set up from the same type - at approximately monthly intervals - for each new overprinting within each of the three main and distinct groups. When this happened the defective stop would be discarded and would be replaced in the new forme by one intact. Of course, some of the 'no stop' varieties would have been due to the inking roller picking one stop out of a loosely locked chase - but not presumably the variety under discussion.

Mr. Paton mentions the hand-corrected 'P' and 'stop' on No. 11 First Pane. Oddly enough Cooke was of the opinion that this double manual correction first appeared in March, 1917 on No. 42 First Pane although this was not a true 'no stop' variety as a pinpoint mark was visible to the eye ($\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.) or through a glass (3d.). He didn't mention the double correction on No. 11 First Pane.

I was heartened to learn from Mr. Paton of the existence of S.G. 68c with 'no stop' in the 1916 Charlton Henry sale as well as on S.G.75d. I am now considering the retraction of my 'any' and may settle for 'many!' Cooke's approximate figures for the number of locally overprinted sheets give an idea as to the relative probability of locating our elusive 'inverted no-stops' on each:-

S.G. 68	3,768
S.G. 69	1,314 - listed inverted by Field*
S.G. 70	3,140 - not listed inverted
S.G. 71	7,374 - listed inverted by Aguilar
S.G. 72	1,095
S.G. 73	17,584
S.G. 74	34,412
S.G. 75	6,132

It seems that S.G. 74d is the best bet. I believe the 3d. denominations were usually (though possibly not always) in sheets of 120 subjects as opposed to 240 for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.

*Allied Postage Stamps of the Great War and after, 1914-1923.
D. Field. London. Third Edition, 1923.

R. G. Carr

LEE WARD ISLANDS

I would like to comment on some of the points mentioned recently by Crawford D. Paton and S. Goldblatt on the 1890 definitive set and the 1897 Diamond Jubilee set, commencing with Crawford D. Paton's remarks in Bulletin No. 56, March, 1968.

Taking the 1890 set first of all, Rose Titford in her note to Mr. Paton's remarks on pages 12 and 13 of Bulletin No. 56 has stated the position correctly. Only the first supply to the Colony of each value of this set is set down in the De La Rue records and quantities of subsequent supplies sent to the Leeward Islands are not listed therein and so far as I know are not listed anywhere else. It would seem to me that Mr. Goldblatt may have perhaps missed the point about a "first supply" in view of his remarks about the 5/- value (S.G. 8). I have no doubt that there must have been several subsequent supplies of the 5/- value (S.G. 8) but any figure which I mention would only be a guess and would approximate the figure suggested by Mr. Goldblatt.

Turning now to the 1897 Diamond Jubilee stamps, the mystery of the advertised remainders in the case of some values exceeding the quantity of the remainders can most likely be explained by additional stamps of some values being overprinted before the steel die was destroyed or that further supplies of certain remainder values came to light after the remainder figures had been compiled - I think the former explanation is more likely but after this passage of time it would be very surprising if the problem is ever solved.

Mr. Paton raises the question whether the 1/(S.G.15) is underpriced or the 5/- (S.G.16) is overpriced. I think that the 1/- is very much underpriced and that the 5/- is not overpriced.

As far as multiples are concerned, blocks of four or larger of the 1/- value (S.G.15) can be counted probably on one hand and in the case of the 5/- value (S.G.16) only two blocks of four are known to me. The catalogues contain numerous examples of stamps being underpriced year after year and usually only when there is a sudden demand for a stamp and the supply is insufficient does it start to climb in price and this increase is subsequently reflected in the catalogue price. I believe that Stanley Gibbons Limited still claim that their catalogues are lists of the prices at which they would sell particular stamps and that their prices do not necessarily coincide with the prices for such stamps available from other sources. This may help Mr. Paton to understand the problem of underpricing and overpricing which he has raised.

Continued on page 67

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO A POSTMASTER IN THE BRITISH WEST INDIES. Continued from page 17, Bulletin No. 64

No charge for incidental expenses to be made without Authority.

110.- Postmasters must make no charge for incidental expenses without Authority, and when such Charges are allowed, the Amount must be stated, (according to the Instruction of the Surveyor) under the proper Letter of the Alphabet left *blank* in the Account Current.

Vouchers to be properly filled up and signed.

111.- Every Voucher must be properly filled up and signed, and when the Signature of a Person is required who is unable to write, his mark x must be certified by the Signature of a Witness.

PART XIV.

REGULATIONS AND SPECIAL DIRECTIONS CONCERNING THE GENERAL DUTY OF THE POST OFFICE

Official Declaration.

112.- Every Person on entering the Service of the Post Office is required to make the Official Declaration before a Magistrate.

Persons under 16 years of Age.

No Person, who has not made this Declaration, or who is under the Age of Sixteen Years, can be admitted, on any pretence whatever, to have access to the Letters, or perform any duty connected with the Department.

Letters and Newspapers to be prepared for delivery as early as possible.

113.- Letters and Newspapers must be prepared for delivery as soon as possible after they are received, and no partiality is to be shewn in the delivery to one individual over another.

No partiality to be shewn in the delivery.

114.- Whenever a Postmaster makes the amount of Postage differ from the Sum entered in the Letter Bill, it is requisite that the *corrected* Amount be certified by the Signature of himself, and his Clerk or Assistant, if he have any; if he have none, the Postmaster should write against the amount "*Twice*" or "*Thrice fold*," or any other observation he may think necessary.

Amount of Postage incorrectly entered.

All Letters to be Stamped.

115.- All Letters posted for Despatch, or received in a Mail, are to be legibly impressed on the *sealed* side with the dated Stamp supplied for that purpose.

Type to be changed daily.

116.- The moveable Type in the Stamp is to be regularly changed, in order that every Letter may bear evidence of the date of the day on which it was posted or received.

Newspapers for Public News Rooms.

117.- Newspapers for Public News Rooms may be delivered as soon as they are found, and before the others are assorted; but *no individual* is to be allowed a similar privilege.

BRITISH WEST INDIES (Cont.)

118.- A Letter once posted must be forwarded according to its address; and no application, however urgent, will justify a Postmaster in giving it back to the Writer, or to any person from him.

Letters on no account to be given back to the Writers

The Governor of a Colony is, however, permitted, by special authority, to withdraw a Letter which he has posted, by a written requisition under his own Hand to the Postmaster.

Exception.

119.- No Postmaster is to leave the Colony without special permission.

Postmaster not to quit the Colony without permission.

The Surveyor is authorised to grant leave of absence for *fourteen days* only. Application for any longer period must be made to the *Secretary of the General Post Office*.

Postmaster's leave of Abience.

Should any emergency render it impossible for the Postmaster to wait for leave of absence from England, he must obtain the written permission of the *Governor* to leave the Colony; and communicate the circumstances of the case to the Secretary, and to the Surveyor.

In every instance the Postmaster must submit to the Surveyor the name of some competent person, approved by the Governor, to perform the Duties of the Office during his absence.

120.- The Death or Bankruptcy of either of a Postmaster's Sureties must be reported immediately to the Secretary, and, at the same time, to the Surveyor; and the name of a new Surety must be proposed. It is also necessary when the name of a new Surety is submitted, to state whether he be under any other Bond to the Crown, and if so, to what *Amount*.

Death or Bankruptcy of a Surety to be immediately reported.

121.- Postmasters are not to interfere with the arrangements of the Mail Packets, but are to have their Mails in readiness, at any time which may be specified by the Admiralty Agent.

Postmasters not to interfere with the Packet arrangements.

Should the Packets arrive, or depart, before their time, or should they be delayed to the injury of the Public Service, Postmasters are required to make a special report of the case to the *Secretary of the General Post Office*.

122.- All errors, of whatever nature, observed by Postmasters to have been committed at other Offices are to be reported, by the first Packet, to the *Surveyor* upon the Printed Form for that purpose.

Errors committed at other Offices to be reported.

**Application for
Official Forms**

123.- Postmasters are to apply to the Surveyor for any Official Forms which they may require: and it is requested, that such applications, *accompanied by a Copy of the Form required*, may be made in sufficient time to admit of the supplies reaching the Office before the stock on hand is exhausted.

124.- Should a Postmaster be in doubt or difficulty upon any subject connected with his Official Duties, he will communicate with the Surveyor.

PART XV.

**125.- EXEMPTION FROM SERVING IN JURIES OR
INQUESTS, OR IN THE MILITIA.**

Extract from Act 1st Vict., cap. 33, sec. 12.

And to the end that the Postmaster General and his Officers may not be hindered in their respective Employments, Be it Enacted, that no Postmaster General, nor any Officer of the Post Office, shall be compelled to serve as a Mayor or Sheriff, or in any Ecclesiastical, or Corporate, or Parochial, or other Public Office or Employment, or to serve on any Jury or Inquest, or in the Militia, any Law or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

*Extract from Act 1st Vict. cap. 36, sec. 47.
(Interpretation Clause.)*

And the expression "Officer of the Post Office" shall include the Postmaster General, and every Deputy Postmaster, Agent, Officer, Clerk, Letter Carrier, Guard, Post Boy, Rider, or any other person employed in any Business of the Post Office, whether employed by the Postmaster General, or by any other person under him, or on behalf of the Post Office.

Extract from Act 1st Vict., cap. 36, sec. 48.

And be it Enacted, That this Act shall extend to and be in force, in the Islands of Man, Jersey, Guernsey, Sark and Alderney, and in all Her Majesty's Colonies and Dominions where any Post or Post Communication is established by or under the Postmaster General of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

The following Instructions respecting Registration of Letters must be carefully affixed to the Book of Instructions furnished for the guidance of Postmasters in the West Indies.

BRITISH WEST INDIES (Cont.)

GENERAL POST OFFICE

26th August, 1850.

Sir,

The Postmaster General having decided upon extending the system of Registration to Letters forwarded from the West Indies to the United Kingdom, and from one West India Colony to another, I have to communicate the following Instructions for your guidance:

In the printed "General Instructions to a Postmaster in the British West Indies," already in your possession, you are directed in Part 12, Instructions No. 97 to 101 inclusive, how to dispose of Registered Letters reaching your Office from the United Kingdom.

The regulations there laid down will still remain in full force, but Instruction No. 102 will be cancelled by the present Instruction.

With this Letter I transmit to you a printed Receipt Book for Registered Letters and a Stock of Green Covers, in which such Letters must be enclosed when despatched from your office to any West India Colony. When this Book is nearly exhausted you will be careful to apply to the Surveyor in good time for a new one, and you will adopt the same course with respect to the Green Covers, the use of which must be strictly confined to the purpose for which they are furnished.

You will cause to be made known throughout the Colony in which you reside, that in future any Letters sent by Packet, addressed either to the United Kingdom, or to any of the British West India Colonies, may be registered, if the writers desire to adopt that course, whether they contain Coin or Articles of value or not.

On being applied to register a Letter, you will write distinctly upon the front of the Letter the words "*Registered Letter*," and stamp it plainly with your office dated stamp. You will then enter the address on the left hand side of the Receipt Book, and give, to the person applying, the receipt which you will tear out of the book, and upon which you must also enter the address of the Letter so as to correspond with the entry in the book: the receipt must also bear an impression of your Office Stamp.

The postage on Registered Letters must in every case be *paid in advance*, and, in addition, a Registration Fee of *Sixpence sterling* must also be paid.

Registration of Letters.

see page 22.

Instruction No. 102 cancelled

Receipt Book and Green Covers. forwarded

Notice that Letters may be registered to be issued.

Receipts for registered Letters to be given

Postage and Fee to be prepaid.

To be concluded

Leeward Islands continued from page 62

The problem is to my mind complex and I do not pretend that the simplified answer which I have put forward explains it to the satisfaction of everyone.

E. V. Toeg

In conjunction with the article by Mr. Crawford D. Paton appearing in Bulletin 65, I am reproducing an announcement concerning tenders for Jubilee Stamps, which appeared in the *Leeward Islands Gazette* of March 13th, 1902.

"Leeward Islands Gazette VOLUME XXX

13 March, 1902. No. 15

Colonial Secretary's Office,

8 March 1902

Tenders are hereby invited up to the first day of May 1902 for the purchase of 120 complete sets of unused Leeward Islands Jubilee Issue postage stamps to be sold in one lot, each set consisting of the following values, viz: ½d., 1d., 2½d., 4d., 6d., 7d., 1/-, 5/-. All tenders should be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the Colonial Secretary of the Leeward Islands, Antigua, and be marked on the envelope 'Tender for Jubilee Stamps.'

By Command,

George Melville, Colonial Secretary."

During the same year, specifically on September 11th, 1902, *the Leeward Islands Gazette* published the following data concerning the three surcharged stamps of that year:

"Leeward Islands Gazette VOLUME XXX

11 September 1902 No. 55

Colonial Secretary's Office

9th September. 1902

The following table showing the number of surcharged stamps issued by the Government of the Leeward Islands is published for general information.

	7d. surcharged 1d.	6d. surcharged 1d.	4d. surcharged 1d.
Antigua	16,800	16,800	16,800
St. Kitts-Nevis	12,000	12,000	12,000
Dominica	6,000	6,000	6,000
Montserrat.	1,800	1,800	1,800
Virgin Islands	600	600	600
Total:	37,200	37,200	37,200

E. Alexander Foster , Acting Colonial Secretary."

G. W. Bowman

NEVIS

This colony was so popular and so carefully studied at the end of the 19th century, that it may be surprising that any questions remain to be answered. Can any member help with this one, however - the apportionment of the quantities known to have been sent to the colony between S.G.14, 20 and 21 ?

There are four consignments to be considered: (a) 1,008; (b) 1,000; (c) 1,200; and (d) 2,004; these were sent on 16.6.76; 13.12.76; 15.2.78; and 21.11.78; respectively.

To put the question in perspective, the other printings must also be kept in mind. The 1861 consignment (S.G. 4 and 8) was of 6,000 stamps; the 1866 consignment (exclusively S.G. 13) was of 10,000 stamps: and the March, 1879 consignment (S.G. F5, overprinted Revenue) contained 1,008 stamps.

A number of points - some a little contradictory - provide clues. First, the original engraved plate had been slightly damaged before printing (a): this was the source of the 'Cross on Hill' variety. Secondly, S.G. 14 - even more than S.G. 13 before it - seems entirely to have escaped the philatelic trade: apparently only one unused sheet survives, and certainly not a great many unused single copies. Next, the opposite must be said of S.G. 20 and 21: there are so many sheets which survive with full margins that the bulk of the issues must have been snapped up by the trade; indeed, genuinely used copies of either are really scarce. Next, all copies of S.G. 14 (14A) and 20 in the no. 9 position show the Cross on Hill; so do some - but very, very few - copies of S.G. 21. This is not a clear indication that S.G. 21 was printing (d); because all the later revenue consignment, which is substantially in the dark green shade, again shows the Cross on Hill at no. 9.

It is certain that printing (a) was S.G. 14: was printing (b) also? Against that theory is the improbability that stamp dealers would have missed the news of both consignments. On the other hand, is the number of used copies which still survive consistent with a printing of only 1,008? By contrast, if there were three printings to cover S.G. 20 and 21, might not one of them have been expected to be used in some quantity in the colony? And if lithographed stamps were sent out in 1876 - why no 1877 or 1878 covers? Is the number of S.G. 20 and 21 approximately equal, out of those which survive today, or is it possible for the issued quantity of the one to be 804 more than the other? Presumably none of the consignments was 20 and 21 mixed; otherwise there would be pale green no. 9 stamps with only traces of Cross on Hill.

Perhaps the solution has to be entirely empirical, in the absence of contemporary annotation of the printings. If so, I suggest the following:

<i>No.</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Consignment</i>
S.G. 14	- 972	} (a)
14A	- 36	
20	- 2,200	(b) and (c)
21	- 2,004	(d)

My quantity for S.G. 14A is based on information that up to 3 copies on laid paper have been noted from the same sheet position. There may be a further way of checking the other attributions. Obviously each of the engraved printings was taken straight off the original plate: but the printers' normal practice (compare the 1d. printings, and Virgin Islands) was to clean the lithographic stone between printings, and take a new transfer each time. Thus *if* there were 3 lithographic printings, there may be indications of two separate transfers in either the pale or the dark green shade. May we have this confirmed or refuted by any member who has several sheets to compare?

S. Goldblatt

WHY NOT COLLECT THE VICTORIAN STAMPS OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS?

Continued from page 50, Bulletin No. 65

OVER TO DE LA RUE

In 1877 the printing contract and the master dies passed into the hands of De La Rue. The going now becomes much easier, and my notes are more commentary upon than criticism of the catalogue listings.

1d. green p.14. (S.G. 22, 22A, 22B). Though it is readily distinguishable by perforation and watermark, this highly-priced printing (of 6,504 stamps) was the second largest of any since 1867, and the shades vary less than an individual Nissen & Parker printings of earlier years. The watermark is found upright, sideways, reversed, in all six possible positions. The panes were of 24 stamps in 4 rows of 6, and it seems that there were, as formerly, two similar versions of the same lithographic plate.

Standardisation. (S.G. 24 to 31). There are many better qualified than the writer to enlarge upon the key types which were used in Cyprus, in the Antilles, and elsewhere. In Virgin Islands, at least, the shades were soft and subtle: but their catalogue listing is a little whimsical, for there is more distinct variation in the colouring of the 2½d. blue, the 1d. green, and even of the 2½d. red-brown, than one finds in the ubiquitous ½d. green; whilst the graduations

WHY NOT COLLECT VIRGIN ISLANDS? (Cont.)

of the 1d. pale to deeper rose, largely disappear once the stamp is used. Multiples are common in the commoner colours, but are scarce in S.G.24, 25, 26.

The imperforate listed variety of the ½d. green may be ignored. It is essentially of proof status and not, for instance, comparable in significance or value to the unlisted imperforate 2½d. red-brown.

Re-birth of the Virgin. (S.G. 32 to 41A). The excuse for the key type issues was economy, but the Virgin Islander is a stubborn and independent chap; and in 1887, in a surge of insular nationalism, the Virgin came back into her own. There was a virtual re-issue of the original designs in the original values - only the colours were new.

The **1d. red** was printed from the same plate exactly as the De La Rue 1d. green. There were several printings, and the descriptions 'red, rose-red and rose' give no real indication of the range of shades with which one may meet. The collector who keeps his eyes open will assemble some 8 to 10 assorted hues; and if he runs to earth a bright crimson or a deep carmine, these are probably scarcer and more desirable than the 1/- S.G. 41A.

The **4d. chestnut** came from a new plate prepared from the original master die. The panes were of 24 stamps in 3 rows of 8. Again there were several printings, and the shades listed by Gibbons are more apt to describe the spectrum than to distinguish individual stamps. As before, there are two desirable shades outside the usual range: one has been called madder-brown, a pale orange-brown, just tinged with rose; the other, and scarcer, is a deep shade, with the rich patina of antique walnut, blended perhaps with a smooth milk chocolate.

The **6d. violet** was printed in the same way as the 1d. in 4 rows of 6; here again the new plate was prepared from the original die. The 6d. stamps, though all suffused with violet, cover a full range of colour from dull to deep in cold or warm tones of purple or mauve. None can be singled out as essentially scarcer than its fellows; but the stamp as a whole is in short supply and much underrated by the catalogue.

The **1/- stamp** had to be re-drawn, no doubt with the help of the original die and one of the typograph Virgins which had done service with the early printings. Two stars were added to the Virgin's halo, but the single-colour product is a poor echo of the original stamp. The colours are dry, drab, brittle, the browns always muddied with grey or black; even the sandy hue, listed as light brown, has a lifeless air. Few of the latter ever pass the keen scrutiny of the expert committees, so the stamp should be collected by appearance and not by price.

It is sometimes said that imperforate copies were issued, at least of the 1d. and 6d. stamps. The writer has seen copies of each, and possesses a 'used' example of the former in a standard red shade.

More evidence is needed, and no opinion is expressed - it is possible that the stamps exist!

INTERLUDE

Between 1891 and 1898 the philatelic history of the Virgin Islands is the province of the Leewards specialist. Stamps of Virgin Islands origin can be recognised only by their postmarks, and are outside my present theme. However the Colony was never an enthusiastic supporter of standardisation, and unofficially at any rate the old issues were not demonetised and were accepted for postal pre-payment throughout.

COMEBACK

By 1897 a new individual issue was being projected. though it look more than a year before it was on public sale. The 1899 (?) issue is of course too plentiful and familiar to figure importantly in these notes: but both in design and colour it has a certain pseudo-Gothic charm. While there are colour fluctuations in the various printings, these are consistent in general tone, and are not such as to need close analysis and study - yet the 'scarce shade' of the 4d., set all the speculators hunting in their day!

The broken letters of the ½d. and 4d. are clearly catalogued and unmistakable. The varieties were notorious while current, and it is said that they were corrected by the printers; this can hardly be so, because philatelic covers sporting the varieties were still issuing forth in 1904, and it is significant that the 4d. stamp was the one low value which was almost sold out at the end of the issue's life. Assume a total printing of 40,000 to 50,000; the 4d. error is only 1 in 60, still a very scarce stamp.

What of the ½d. stamp, imperf. between ? It was a feature of De La Rue at this date that stamps sometimes got away imperforate at side margins or between panes. The 'imperf-between' variety comes from one or more sheets where the perforating machine missed more than one vertical row at the left: to fill the gap and sample the flavour of the variety, one may with patience acquire ½d. or 1d. stamps with one margin imperf. at left or right.

POSTAL STATIONERY

A short P.S. on this subject, and the Victorian era is done. The first card appeared in about 1880. a 1½d. red-brown denomination of the same key type as the contemporary definitives. In 1887 came the 1d. red and 1½d. deep brown denominations in the standard Colonial design. No issued stamp bears this pattern: i. owes something to type 4 of Barbados, but has an inelegance entirely of its own!

The 1899(?) issue inspired cards or envelopes of ½d., 1d. and 2½d. denominations in much the shades of the issued stamps. They belong however to the 20th century and to another chronicle than mine.

ENVOI

A final word should be written on the philatelic snares of Virgin Islands. Forgeries, as has been hinted, are readily recognised. There are many, but primitive, reproductions of the earliest issues, perhaps as commonly met with as the issued stamps but crude lithography and impossible perforations often in combination with flimsy paper and ludicrous postmarks, point the accusing finger straightaway. Faking is a much more real threat: starting with genuine stamps, repairs may be effected, dirt may be cleaned, unused stamps re-gummed, perforations changed, or invented, new varieties created, false postmarks super-imposed. Only experience and familiarisation will protect one, and not always then. In many instances used specimens were rarer and more valuable at the end of the 19th century than they are to-day, since cancelled-to-order specimens - lovely copies, some of them! - have plugged the gaps.

By and large the early issues were well-produced, and have worn well. Centring was relatively good, perforation relatively sharp and precise, definition clear. Even so the perforations seldom separated altogether neatly, while the stamps themselves have usually wilted a little in the tropical heat. Passing over the myth of 'unmounted mint with full original gum' there is hope for the perfectionist, but not much comfort. The more average collector, such as the writer, will learn to come to terms with the Colony and its faults. Unused stamps without gum are always cleaner and more attractive in appearance than the more orthodox 'part o.g.' examples; while almost every copy of the Nissen & Parker issues has its garnish of tropical stain. If one's examples of the scarcer stamps have only the bouquet and not the disease of tropicalisation, this is as near to fine condition as one is ever likely to attain.

S. Goldblatt

MISCELLANEA

WANTS

Members who can supply any item appearing under this heading should send it, stating price asked, to the Hon. Secretary for onward transmission. If the member requiring the item decides to purchase, the amount (less 10% commission and postage) will be remitted to the owner. It should be noted that these transactions are subject to the same conditions governing the Opinions Service.

Oval Jamaica - 'GIBRALTAR CAMP' mark (Foster's Type M-GC3 vide 'Stamp Collecting Weekly' 5.6.1969, p. 809).

AUCTION GLEANINGS

ROBSON LOWE LTD. Sale of January 14th, 1970

- Bermuda:** Boer prisoners in British camps - 1902, 1d. printed postcard to Holland showing boxed "CI" and circular framed "PRISONERS OF WAR/PASSED CENSOR/2/BERMUDA" in greenish blue **£47.10**
- A very similar item showing two-ring "PRISONERS OF WAR/PASSED/CENSOR/BERMUDA" in blue **£26**
- Another, with lozenge-shaped "PRISONERS OF WAR/PASSED CENSOR/BERMUDA" in violet **£56**
- Jamaica:** 1812, entire letter to London with woolly strike of the "HIGHGATE/JAMAICA" c.d.s. **£12**
- 1892 (Aug. 3rd), complete enve. to Kingston with 1d. cancelled "631" and with Madistone c.d.s. on reverse. This and the next item are said to be the only two known complete envelopes with this number. (Auctioneers' note) **£110**
- A similar complete enve. but dated August 13th **£90**

Sale of February 25th, 1970

- Antigua: 1868 complete cover to U.S.A. bearing 1d. (5) cancelled "A02," showing "ANTIGUA" c.d.s.; on reverse transit c.d.s. of "ST. THOMAS" (a little stained) **£60**
- Bermuda:** 1902, 1d. printed p.c. to Holland from a Boer P.o.W. at Burtts Camp, cancelled at Hamilton and showing triangular framed "PRISONERS OF WAR/PASSED CENSOR/3/BERMUDA" **£36**
- Jamaica:** 1914 cover (creased and soiled) from a German P.o.W. in Jamaica showing oval framed "SENIOR OFFICER/PORT ROYAL, JAMAICA" and a 1939 cover (a little stained) showing boxed "JAMAICA RESERVE REGIMENT/ FREE" **£15.10**
- 1814, entire to London, showing the oval framed "Ship Letter/Crown/JAMAICA" **£20**

BOURNEMOUTH STAMP AUCTION

Sale of February 6th, 1970

- British Honduras: 1891-98, \$5 green and black, mounted mint **£30**
- Trinidad: 1896, "SPECIMEN" of the unissued "3d" on 5d. mounted mint **£17**
- 1896-1900, 10s. green and ultramarine, twice-mounted, mint. **£25**
- 1896-1900, £1 green and carmine, twice-mounted, mint **£15**

Rose Titford

HON. SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH

Dear Member.

There is little doubt that PHILYMPTA 1970 is going to be a great philatelic occasion and even if you are unable to attend for one reason or another you will be able to read detailed reports in the philatelic press and elsewhere. Naturally many of us are looking forward immensely to meeting members of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group at the luncheon to be held at the Royal Kensington Hotel, 380 Kensington High Street, London, W.14, on September 21st, 1970. Owing to a rearrangement of the accommodation it may be possible to accept a few more applications for seats so if you find you would now like to attend please let me know without delay. So many fine collections have come on the market these past few months I feel sure many gaps must have been filled thus enabling some exhibitors to display even better material than they had hoped. As is my custom it gives me great pleasure to welcome on your behalf the following new members: D. J. Alden (Kent), K. H. Bayley (Venezuela.), J. F. Bethell (Bahamas), A. J. Bradley (Warwickshire), D. G. Edwards (Essex), Merritt C. Harper (U.S.A.), G. E. Jones (Warwickshire). D. E. Ledger (Surrey), E. A. A. Parsons (Surrey), D. Silk (London), Hugo D. Storer (Puerto Rico), Miss S. J. Turnbull (London).

P.T.S.

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