



## **STUDY CIRCLE**

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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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**BULLETIN No. 83**

**DECEMBER 1974**

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NEW ENGLAND SSTAMP COMPANY

## PROGRAMME, 1974-75

### 1974

Thurs. Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m.

Mr. A. H. Latham, Jamaica

### 1975

Wed., Feb. 19th, 6 p.m.

9 pages from members.

Thurs., March 6th, 6 p.m.

Display by Mr. J. C. Loach.

Sat., April 12th, 3 p.m.

Annual General Meeting and Auction Sale.

Meetings to be held at the "Large Oak Room," National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1.

### Visits to other Societies

### 1975

Tues, Feb. 4th, 7.30 p.m. Woking & District P.S. Hamilton Room, Christ Church Hall, Church Street, Woking. Messrs. A. J. Branston and A. H. Latham.

Fri., June 20th. Kingston Upon Thames P.S. Messrs. A. J. Branston and A. H. Latham.

## DISPLAY

Thirteen members and one visitor came to the Meeting held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, 19th September, 1974. Members who wished to do so showed up to any nine pages of interest from their collections.

A summary of the displays now follows:-

Mr. B. B. BENWELL. Commenced with a display of the revenue stamps of Barbados showing the 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 2/6d, 3 -, 5/-, 10/-, £1 and £5 overprinted "BARBADOS" in black. Also a large selection of King George V stamps with differing overprints of a fiscal nature.

Mr. C. A. FREELAND. Displayed Antigua commencing with an entire impressed with a Robson Lowe type (PH) handstamp, used only on letters carried by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Line; also a cover with a Crowned Circle Paid At Antigua in red dated JY 27 61. Proofs in black and green of the six pence blue-green were followed by mint examples from all values of the 1863-67 set. Some re-entries on the one penny and six pence values were shown and also the variety of the slanting foot of "2" in the 2½d ultramarine. Then mint multiples from the 1921-29 set and a selection of specimen stamps from the first three reigns.

Mr. S. GOLDBLATT. Showed covers and postal stationery of British Guiana, including a set of COLOUR TRIALS for the 3-cent postcard (from a batch of about six such sets "found" within the last three years). Type 1 was shown in claret and Type 1A in scarlet, purple-brown, lilac, red-brown, green and blue. Rare markings on cover shown included MARIABBA, DE KINDEREN, MARLBOROUGH and T.P.O. POMEROON STEAMER. The final item was, probably, the only extant pre-adhesive from ZORG - an 1855 cover to Edinburgh with a fine, clear FIRST-TYPE code marking "A 2 C".

Mr. B. E. JOHNSON. Displayed Grenada fiscals surcharged for postage commencing with the 1883 1d Chalon head; examples of the 1883 half penny De La Rue type surcharged with type (14) including an example of an inverted surcharge and examples of the four pence and one shilling from the same issue likewise surcharged. Then came a registered cover in June 1888 from Grenada to New York with six pence postage paid representing 4d. letter rate and 2d registration fee. Finally a mint block (3 x 4) of the two shillings orange surcharged with type (17).

Mr. W. H. MATTHEWS. Displayed a cover from Trinidad used on 18th September, 1914, with a Postmaster's Circular. He also showed contemporary Grenada stamps with pen cancelled overprints applied in 1965/66 and showing two different settings of the surcharge 2 printed locally.

Mr. A. J. REESBY. Exhibited an interesting study of the varieties of the first War Stamp overprint of 1916 on the halfpenny yellow-green including an inverted overprint. This was followed by another study showing the second War Stamp overprint of 1916. Finally a further study of the third War Stamp overprint in 1917 including an example of an overprint on the gummed side.

Mr. E. V. TOEG. Exhibited some fiscal stamps of Montserrat starting in 1870 with trial pulls on semi transparent paper in very pale lilac and in drab from the lithographic stone comprising a group of six units. These were followed by the one penny stamps themselves (which were printed in sheets of 12 stamps (3 x 4)) in carmine lake, carmine and aniline rose. Finally some very handsome examples of lightly embossed stamps with a background coloured red-purple used towards the end of the nineteenth century on negotiable instruments, for example, bills of exchange, cheques and other commercial documents.

Mr. W. A. TOWNSEND. Exhibited five pages of postal markings showing the fascinating difficulties of transporting mail in British Guiana from the remote areas to the capital Georgetown.

#### ISSENERU TO GEORGETOWN

This is the story of a letter en route to England postmarked at Isseneru P.A. 30 Sept. 1951 and backstamped G.P.O. Georgetown 5 OCT 1951. Until its closure in December 1953 a Postal Agency existed at the Settlement on the Esseneru Creek, a tributary of the Upper Mazaruni River. Although 160 miles from Georgetown as the crow flies a letter from Isseneru has to travel nearly 300 miles by devious routes before it reaches the G.P.O. for transmission to England. The Postal Agent at Isseneru was never issued with a named date stamp but cancelled the mail with a c.d.s. reading "Postal Agency No. 13. British Guiana." This type of date stamp was frequently issued to the smaller

Agencies either as a temporary measure or where it was thought the Agency might be open only for a short period.

The mail was carried by the Mazaruni River Travelling Postal Agent in a small boat as far as APIQUA where it was transferred to a larger launch. En route to ISSANO, the terminus of the Mazaruni T.P.A., the launch called at the Postal Agencies at the settlements of KURUPUNG, PERENONG, UPPER EPING, ENACHU, ORANAPAI, KAMAKUSA and HILLFOOT, some of the Postal Agents at which used date stamps of a type similar to that used at Isseneru. Until 1936 the Mazaruni T.P.A. travelled the whole length of the Mazaruni River to BARTICA but this necessitated man handling the boat over the rapids and rocks and because of accidents and loss of mail the Branch road to ISSANO was constructed.

On arrival at ISSANO the mail is transferred to the lorries operated by the Transport and Harbour Department of the Colony and carried 123 miles to BARTICA, an important centre at the junction of the MAZARUNI, CUYUNI and ESSEQUIBO Rivers.

Only two Postal Agencies are passed en route to Bartica, one at 13½ miles (from junction of ISSANO and POTARO Roads) and the other at 72 miles (from Bartica) which is the junction of the Bartica-Potaro and Potaro-Issano Roads.

At Bartica the mail is taken over by the Travelling Postal Officer on the Bartica Steamer which travels as far as PARIKA, where once again the mail is transferred, this time to the T.P.O. on the West Coast Railway which takes it as far as VREEDENHOOP. Here it is put aboard the Ferry to Georgetown Stelling where it is taken by mailvan to the G.P.O.

Mr. Townsend said that he claims no credit for the research resulting in the above information which was the work of our late member Percy Hosking and that the research has been presented as it existed when Mr. Townsend purchased Percy Hosking's collection following his death.

The above concludes a most varied display and it was interesting to note that at such Meetings quite often fiscal or revenue stamps have been shown which make for additional interest, particularly as items of this nature are not usually shown at formal Exhibitions.



## ANTIGUA

### APO'S 806 AND 855

Perhaps someone familiar with the sequence of establishment of APO's in the Leeward Islands would be able to resolve the following tricky particles of information:

The *U.S. Postal Bulletin* of 13th October, 1941, states that APO 806 was established at Antigua, effective 13th September, 1941. The earliest APO 806 cancel (Figure 1) having a four-bar killer, has an EDK of 16th August, 1941. Why the almost one-month discrepancy between the earliest date of the cancel and the official establishment of the facility?

The book "The New York, N.Y., Post Office During the War Years," by Albert Goldman, specifies that APO 855 was established at Antigua by members of the

New York Post Office on 1st February, 1942, and was transferred to the U.S. Army on 15th December, 1942. Figure 2 shows the first APO 855 cancel, also with four bars. The EDK of this mark is 9th May, 1942. Does any reader possess, or know of, APO 855 marks between 1st February and 9th May, 1942?



Figure 1.



Figure 2.

As a matter of interest to B.W.I.S.C. members, I have repeated here the complete table of APO establishment dates as shown in the Goldman book. Employees of the New York Post Office were assigned to set up and operate post offices at twelve of the North American lend-lease defence bases until such time as the U.S. Army could train and provide Army Mail Clerks.

<i>Post Office</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Established</i>	<i>Transferred to U.S. Army</i>
APO 862	St. John's, Newfoundland	January 15, 1941	November 15, 1942
856	Bermuda	April 18, 1941	January 3, 1943
868	Trinidad, B.W.I.	April 28, 1941	December 16, 1942
863	Argentina, Newfoundland	May 15, 1941	November 15, 1942
863a	Navy Base - Argentia, Newfoundland	February 1, 1942	February 15, 1943
864	Stephenville, Newfoundland	February 1, 1942	November 17, 1942
855	Antigua, B.W.I.	February 1, 1942	December 15, 1942
857	British Guiana, S.A.	February 1, 1942	December 29, 1942
861	Jamaica, B.W.I.	February 1, 1942	November 3, 1942
867	Saint Lucia, B.W.I.	February 1, 1942	December 27, 1942
866	Quidi Vidi, Newfoundland	April 1, 1942	November 17, 1942
618	Bahama Islands	June 1, 1942	July 31, 1942

It will be seen that in some cases, a gap of almost two years existed from the time the APO was established until its control passed from the New York P.O. to the Army. The transition time at APO 618 was quite short - only two months.

In the case of Antigua, the APO 855 “home base” was switched from New York to Miami, Florida, at least as early as 6th May, 1944. I do not know for a fact, but I would assume that other APO’s of the Caribbean chain went under control of Miami at about the same time.

*George W. Bowman*

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## **A STRAIGHT LINE ANTIGUA HANDSTAMP**

**A N T I G U A**

I have recently acquired an extremely fragile letter from Antigua bearing a straight line Antigua hand stamp measuring 37mm x 3mm. The letter was in such a poor state due to damp that I have had it professionally repaired by the local archivist. It is now stuck to man-made fibre paper as is the custom with fragile documents in museums. Do you consider that this action lessens the philatelic value of the item if it were entered in an exhibition?

The letter is dated 15th July, 1798 and though the Bishop Mark is rather smudged it confirms the year. Robson Lowe in his book “The Codrington Correspondence” makes no reference to such a mark, the nearest being his PD5 which is twelve years earlier.

Can any member give me further information on this hand stamp’?

*Alex Thomson*

Regarding Alex Thomson’s query about philatelic value of his item if entered in an exhibition. Perhaps I may quote from the paragraph under the title Condition, from this year’s B.P.E. prospectus: CONDITION. This is relative and judges use their knowledge and experience on the standard of condition attainable. Material in poor condition is liable to suffer penalty when better condition material is known to be available.

*Editor*

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## **ST. PETER’S AND ST. MARY’S C.D.S.s.**

I have two covers to report which may add corroborative evidence to assertions made recently in the Bulletin and in Postal History International, on the latest dates of two village cancellations.

G. W. Bowman’s fascinating notes which appeared in the June 1973, issue of P.H.I. list the latest date of St. Peter’s as January 7th, 1931; a cover in my collection bears the penny and twopenny denominations of the tercentenary issue, cancelled at St. Peter’s with the usual single ring c.d.s. of 22½ millimetres. The date is “NO 23” but the year is missing, an omission happily rectified by the backstamp, a St. John’s double ring c.d.s. dated NO 24, 1932, and a Plymouth registered oval dated 15 DE 32. Additionally, the cover bears a St. John’s registration label, but it is not apparent whether this was applied at St. Peter’s or later, in transit through the G.P.O.

The second item is a registered front originating at St. Mary's, for which G. W. Bowman quotes a latest date of 2nd April, 1931. This piece bears a clear 25½ millimetre single ring c.d.s. of St. Mary's, dated "JU 2". Once again, the year is missing, but the stamp it cancels is the tercentenary two-and-sixpence, giving an earliest (and most probable) date of 2nd June, 1932. This front also bears a St. John's registration label.

I would be most grateful if a member better informed than I could advise whether St. Peter's or St. Mary's registration labels are known and whether the omission of the year in the datestamps of these two parishes is common to a particular year or period.

*Michael Medlicott*

## **BERMUDA**

### **CORRECTION**

In Richard Heap's notes on the large "3", Bulletin No. 82, page 50, we incorrectly gave the year, in two instances, as 1887. This should have been 1877, one year before Canada joined the U.P.U.

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A new post office has opened in Bermuda with little warning. It is St. David's Island, using the normal type c.d.s. First date: October 2nd, 1974. *Ray Bush*.

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### **THE 2nd/4th BATTALION, THE EAST YORKSHIRE REGIMENT IN BERMUDA**

Morris Ludington, referring to the defence of Bermuda during World War 1, states: "The defence of the Islands was left to the Royal Navy and local forces and very few, if any, British forces remained."

Whilst it is almost an impertinence to correct such a mammoth work, I hope these few notes may help to fill an apparent gap, in the making of which I have been helped by the Ministry of Defence, who provided the historical data and Angus Parker, who showed me the only cover I have seen outside my own collection.

One of the more pleasant tours of duty was that of the 2nd/4th Battalion, the East Yorkshire Regiment, a Territorial battalion raised in Darlington in 1914, who from the end of 1916 to the end of the war were stationed in Bermuda, relieving a French-Canadian battalion. Their duties appear to have been to guard the docks at Ireland Island, to protect the Island against possible attack and capture by armed German merchantmen (then reportedly active) and to act as a deterrent against native risings, then rumoured in some West Indian islands.

Evidence of covers seems scanty, and I would be glad to hear details of any which members may have to try to amplify the record.

The covers which I have seen are all dated 1917 or 1918, with the circular P.C. Bermuda censor mark (Ludington CM 15) in various colours. All, perhaps surprisingly, are addressed to East Lancashire (Blackburn or Darwen), except one to a Manchester newspaper.

I have recorded two cachets showing the battalion origin. One in black is an oval mark 48mm. x 32mm. from the Orderly Room (Fig. 1), and the other in purple is also oval, but 40mm. x 27mm., from C. Company (Fig. 2).



FIG. 1.

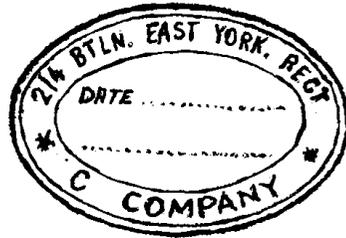


FIG. 2.

Perhaps the most curious cover is a soldier's letter. These, Ludington says, "have not been seen." The letter, franked by a G.B. 1d., is addressed to Darwen, with mms. soldier's letter. It has the CM15 mark in pink, Hamilton c.d.s. type 1-19, 18 Oct. 17 and postage due mark" T "in circle. A "1d, 466" mark (applied at Liverpool, the port of entry) has been crossed out and the stamp cancelled by a dumb cancellation, also in ink.

Other covers can only be identified by the address by comparison with covers which bear either cachets or return address. I will be glad to share any information with any member who is interested in this World War I by-way. *Richard Heap*

## BRITISH GUIANA

### THE FIRST TYPE "A 2 C" VILLAGE CODE MARK

Dealing with first-type code marks (in use between about 1855 and 1859) the authors of "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana" mention that one example only, out of the entire range of possible markings, had been reported as having been seen on a pre-adhesive entire to England - a sighting by Dr. Morton Evans.

Rare as these markings are, there are undoubtedly discoveries still to be made - probably amongst covers dismissed until now as rather pedestrian.

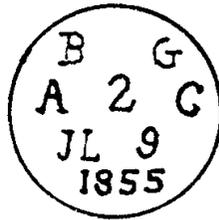
One such cover (which has just come to light) is addressed to the Bank of Scotland, Edinburgh and shows a fine Demerara Type 9 backstamp for Jy 10 1855, with London and Edinburgh arrival markings for the 4th and 5th August, respectively: the cover travelled by Packet, and bears the familiar manuscript "6" on its face. What the previous owner certainly missed was the significance of the fourth date stamp, perhaps because the marking is slightly blurred through over-inking.

In fact, the fourth marking is a mark of origin, dated “JL9,” the day before the letter reached Georgetown. One expects - and finds - a village marking: an almost complete specimen of the very rare first-type” A 2 C,” attributed to Zorg.

It would round the story off nicely to be able to confirm the covers despatch from Zorg. Alas!, the letter enclosed is no more, and there is no obvious external clue; so, unless there is any later surviving correspondence with the Bank of Scotland, or some way of identifying the hand which wrote the address, the cover cannot achieve “proving” status. Nevertheless, it should be incentive enough to persuade anyone who owns a “pre-adhesive” cover from British Guiana in the period 1855-9 (even at this late date, the issued stamps were used largely, if not solely, for local mail) to have another very careful look at it, and report on what he finds!

In view of the probability that this is the first fairly complete strike to emerge, a rough reproduction of the postmark is shown.

*Simon Goldblatt*



### **THE BALDWIN & CO. PROVISIONAL ISSUE**

Referring to the Baldwin Provisional issue of 1882, mention is made on Page 107 of Townsend & Howe’s book that on Number 12 in the Fifth Printing the 2 of the date is close to the border, but in the Seventh Printing it is further away. Both these printings are of course the second setting of the 1 cent, and actually the second and third printings of that denomination.

I have a used copy of the Number 12 referred to and on which the figure 2 is further away from the border than any 2 in the 1 cent I have seen. The left side of the figure is actually just about in direct alignment with the vertical inner frame line. Moreover, the 2 is in a different type to the normal, being narrower and thinner. It is the only 2 of its kind I have in my collection.

My conclusion is that the original figure became damaged or fell out of the forme during the course of the fifth printing and was replaced by one of differently shaped type.

There is no doubt this stamp is Number 12 in the Fifth Printing, everything ties up with its being so.

I shall be interested to know if any member has a similar copy of the stamp and can throw any further light on the question.

*Laurence R. Malin*

# BRITISH WEST INDIES

## PACKET LETTERS AND SHIP LETTERS BEFORE 1770

Up to the end of the 17th century letters between the British West Indies and the United Kingdom were carried by private individuals or by private ship. Between 1702 and 1711 people had the option of sending letters either by private ship or by one of Dummer's Packets. From 1711, when Dummer's service ceased, letters could only be sent by private ship, until the Government Packet Service began in 1755. An attempt had been made by the Government to start a Packet Service in 1745 (vide a Post Office announcement in the "St. James' Evening Post" of 7th December 1745), but the service seems to have been very irregular, and very few letters have been recorded carried by Packet Boats at this period.

From 1755 onwards, however, the number of Packet Letters increased. It was still permissible, though, to send letters by private ship, and this method was favoured by many being very much cheaper. With the introduction of the Government Packet Service it became necessary to distinguish easily between Packet Letters and Ship Letters, so that the Postal Clerks concerned could readily assess the amount of postage due from the addressee, and special handstamps were introduced. Packet Letters were to bear a mark of origin to be applied at the Post Office where the letter was posted, e.g. ANTIGUA. Unfortunately such handstamps were rarely used before the early 1760's, although one or two cases of their use have been recorded: e.g., one from ST. CHRIST/OPHER in 1747, and one from JAMAICA (by the "Duke" Packet) in 1758. Special Ship Letter marks were gradually issued to all the ports in the United Kingdom from about 1766 onwards, to be applied to all incoming letters carried by private ship.

Before the practice of applying the mark of origin handstamps to Packet Letters and the Ship Letter marks to the Ship Letters became the normal custom, it is necessary to examine letters carefully to determine how they were conveyed. In a few cases the word "SHIP" has been added in manuscript. In some cases there is a directive on the cover, e.g. "Per Packet," or "p. Capt. ...." (indicating the possibility of the letter being carried by private ship).

In all cases the mode of conveyance can usually be determined by studying the rate of postage charged. Between 12 February 1704/5 and 1 June 1765 the Packet Letter rate from the British West Indies to London was 1s. 6d. for a single sheet, 3s. 0d. Double, 4s. 6d. Treble, and 6s. 0d. per ounce. In 1765 these rates were reduced to 1s. 0d. for a Single sheet, etc. From 1711 until 1792 Ship Letters were charged with only the normal Inland postage from the port of entry to the destination (via London), plus a gratuity of 1d. paid to the Master of the vessel bringing the letter. (A summary of the principal Inland rates at this period is given at the end of this article).

Hence, if the letter had been addressed to London and the charge shown is a multiple of 1s. 6d. (up till 1765) it is most likely a Packet Letter. If carried beyond London it is necessary to add the Inland rate. If the charge to London is not a multiple of 1s. 6d. then in all probability the letter was carried by a private ship. In this latter case one point arises in the absence of a Ship-Letter mark it is not possible to state at which port the letter entered this country.



Applying one's ordinary experience of stamp wastage, would one not expect to find that these six stamps could be put into the following ascending order of scarcity? - S.G. 35, 16, 7, 12, 11, 29. This table allows for retention of more higher values than lower, and retention of an initial issue, with less enthusiasm for a subsequent issue in a different watermark but may not allow, of course, for the idiosyncrasies of philatelic interest in the Cayman Islands.

It is suggested, however, that in practice the order of scarcity is almost the exact reverse, i.e. S.G. 12, 7, 11, 29, 16, 35 although a wide gap opens between the first three (relatively plentiful) and the last three (manifestly scarce).

Without being dogmatic, the following tentative conclusions are put forward:

- (1) The indicated quantities are accurate for particular consignments, but do not exclude the possibility of further consignments which have not been recorded.
- (2) There were such further consignments for S.G. 7, 11, 12 and perhaps also for S.G. 29.
- (3) There may have been some exceptional reason, not hitherto noticed, for wastage of at least half the issue of S.G. 35.

The 1962 handbook does, of course, mention the possible ordering of further supplies in May and November, 1902; it may be that, if and when fresh information is made available by De La Rue, one will find that the quantity issued was at least twice the figures presently accepted.

As a corollary, careful reading of a specialised handbook can make one hypercritical. For example we are cautioned (quite laudably) on p.68 against the 1d. on 5/- provisional (S.G.19) cancelled out of date with a Type V postmark, first used in 1909, and we are separately cautioned against the dangerous procedure also adopted of "manipulations of the date in the cancellors so that postmarked copies appear to be genuinely used during their currency." The latter caution can only be necessary where the stamp is properly cancelled with Type IV, since Type V would accuse itself.

With commendable propriety attention was directed to the dangers just recited in a recent Cayman Islands sale: but the cover to which the warning was specifically directed has now come into my hands. It is, apparently, a true commercial cover, addressed to Half-Way Tree, Jamaica. Two backstamps appear, one for Kingston, one for Half-Way Tree, each of the correct type and dated Dec. 7 1907, a Saturday. The stamp itself is cancelled with a single impression of the Type IV canceller and is dated Dec. 3 1907. It is interesting to see that the cancelling ink is to all appearances of exactly the same consistency and intensity as the surcharge on the stamp. Unfortunately for the seller, at least, the post mark had been mistakenly identified as Type V (a pure error, since there is no possibility of practical confusion) although it baffles the imagination how the manipulation of three instruments could have been thought to have been achieved: Georgetown, Caymans, and Kingston and Half-Way Tree, Jamaica - think of it!

No moral is sought to be drawn. Enough will be achieved if the specialist is encouraged to be still more accurate in his understanding and application of specialist information, and if the status of respectability is restored to what may be one of the few surviving covers bearing November 1907 provisionals with a reasonable claim to be a commercial cover, used in date!

*Simon Goldblatt*

## **DOMINICA**

I have a copy of S.G. 7 (4d. Blue CC) with the normal c.d.s. 20½mm. - DOMINICA around the top and two line date FE 21/83, but struck in RED.

I have enquired of several B.W.I. collectors but not one of these can remember having seen a stamp of Dominica struck in RED. Is this a "Fiscal"? If not, I would appreciate any information regarding its use.

*E. Baynes*

## **GRENADA**

I read, with interest, the recent description of Dr. D. Woolfson's display of Grenada.

A handbook on the postal history and postal markings is at present under preparation concerning this colony. The work is being undertaken by Mr. W. D. Walker and myself. Our researches are at variance with the description on the two points concerning Carriacou.

### 1. Belmont.

We have no evidence of this station existing prior to 1946. If your date of opening i.e. 1916 is correct, Mr. Walker and I would be obliged for confirmation.

### 2. Dover.

This office existed from 12th May, 1937 and was closed officially from 1st August, 1946. The Dover facility was transferred to Belvidere on that date and the Dover handstamp remained in sole use until a Belvidere mark was introduced c. 1951.

*John A. Cronin*

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## **ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY CACHET**

From time to time I have raised in discussion the question of the status of the R.M.S.P. oval cachet which is found as a marking on B.W.I. stamps. In almost all cases the mark is that of the Grenada Agency, struck in violet on 1d. stamps, either SG.40, 49 or 58, but other marks are sometimes seen on stamps of other colonies e.g. St. Vincent Agency.

I recently asked the same question of Philip Cockrill, who tells me that he once had an accumulation which contained a number of stamps so marked, and that a few were obviously on pieces used as receipts or similar. He adds that the mark may possibly have been used as a cachet, but not a postmark, on covers from time to time; this observation is borne out in the description of a Grenada cover recently advertised for sale.

If any others have shared my curiosity about these cachets, the doubts are now resolved. The markings are of fiscal or domestic status only, and have no postal or maritime significance.

*Simon Goldblatt*

## ST. LUCIA

I have seen a post card with 19½ mm. S. Lucia "C" of October 12th, 1900. I also have a partial strike of this mark on S.G.81a, but no year visible. My theory is that this may have been used as an additional mark for tourist correspondence in the 1920's (cf. Hamilton duplex mark of the same period).

*Richard Heap*

### ST. LUCIA AIR MAIL

It is a known fact that the first Air Mail to St. Lucia was carried by Col. Lindberg, arriving at St. Lucia September 22nd, 1928. The envelope which I have has a printed cachet "First Flight San Juan (Port Rico) - Paramaribo (Dutch Guiana)" with a U.S.A. stamp and c.d.s. St. Thomas. It also has St. Lucia stamps cancelled "Castries 1st Air Mail," with c.d.s. Castries 22nd Sept. and 25th Sept. on the back of the envelope. Was this flight a round trip between Port Rico and Paramaribo collecting mail from various islands on route; if so is it known from which islands mail was collected and delivered?

These questions have since been answered, but the following notes may be of interest to members and are published with acknowledgements to the American Air Mail Society whose most excellent 1950 Air Mail catalogue was the source of information.

The first Air Mails of St. Lucia, and also St. Johns, Antigua, and Georgetown, British Guiana, were carried on a round flight between San Juan, Puerto Rico and Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana. Briefly, Col. Lindberg was employed by Pan American Airways Inc., in 1928 as Air Advisor for the opening up of the South American Continent to Air Mail Routes and Services. The company had established a regular Air Mail Service between Miami and San Juan in January, 1928. The second part of this route was to be the extension from San Juan to Paramaribo, calling at the following places, i.e.: St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands; St. Johns, Antigua; Castries, St. Lucia; Port of Spain, Trinidad; and Georgetown, Br. Guiana, on the journey. This was a very important extension of route, and because of its importance the first flight was made by Col. Lindberg and a party of high airline officials. A considerable amount of mail was carried, and there are various covers with special cachets, usually bearing the postmark of the city of origin. The reason for this was because for some days between the announcement of the extension of the route and the actual flight, mail was flown from Miami, Havana, Cuba and Haiti to San Juan where it was held pending the flight to Paramaribo. The flight was made on the 22nd September, 1928 and the arrival dates of the B.W.I. are as follows, i.e.:

#### **Southbound**

St. Johns, Antigua - 22nd September

Castries, St. Lucia - 22nd September

Georgetown, British Guiana - 22nd September (Left for Paramaribo 23rd September).

## Northbound (Departure times)

Georgetown - 25th September

Castries - 26th September (should have been 25th but delayed)

St. Johns - 26th September

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I have now assumed that my cover was despatched from St. Thomas, U.S.V.I, and delivered to Castries on the same day where it was stamped on the back with the arrival date. It was then collected on the return trip, St. Lucia stamps applied and cancelled 1st Air Mail, and date stamped on the back with the departure date, which should have been 25th September. However there was some delay (possibly bad weather) and in fact the plane did not leave Castries until 26th September. As the U.S. did not back stamp arrival dates on covers, I assume that my cover travelled back to Miami from whence it was sent by normal Air Service to the U.S.A. *T. A. Hutson*

## ST. VINCENT

### AN IMPROVISED DUMB CANCEL?

The “front” was so soiled and tattered, and the 1d. stamp apparently so grubby that I almost passed it by: instinct alone demanded that I take a second, and closer, look.

Then the pencil scrawl across the face took shape. It read UNCLAIMED.” Sure enough, the addressee must have sailed away (from his lady love?), not to return: he was Mr. James Crook, Sailor on Board the Latittia Kings Town St. Vincent. One wonders what became of him.

Yet this was strange! Surely the writer, if in Kingstown, would have known that the Latittia had sailed. Could this have been a village cover once?

Suddenly a faint red discoloration could be discerned, only to disappoint. It became a circle and faint red K, “JU 22 1875.” No hint of a date stamp on the 1d. stamp itself.

Look again, more carefully still; a further hint of red was to be seen. Same circle. Same date. And, barely visible, the letters BAR. A village cover, indeed!

Back to the 1d. black, and even the grubby portrait explained itself. This was no haphazard dirt, but a man-made, purpose-made ink blot. (Rorschach ?). Barrouallie had done it again, with a new-style cancellation!

So, the next time you find S.G. 18 with a grey-black ink stain, remove it from the Cinderella box. Handle it with care. Mount it with pride. Label it thus:

Improvised dumb cancel of BARROUALLIE. Very rare.” You might even be right!

*Simon Goldblatt*

## TRINIDAD

### ADDITIONAL DATESTAMPS

In his notes on the datestamps of Trinidad, notably in Bulletins 78 and 81, Mr. S. Goldblatt mentions that he is still short of a handful of names. Since he makes no specific mention of them, one or more of the following may be worth adding to his list.

I have, with the following dates:

CARAPICHAIMA.	NO.1.07;	21NOV.62.	
ERIN	MR.2.?';	MY.II.?'*:	5AUG.38.
GEORGE ST.	12.DEC.67.		
ST. MARTIN	OC.1.96.		

\* Year omitted; both strikes cancel S.G.115

From my limited experience, I would deduce that some of the names which Mr. Goldblatt classifies as scarce in the pre-1913 period, such as TODDS ROAD and RIO CLARO, become much more plentiful in the modern period (George VI and later). Is this so?

*Michael Medicott*

## TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS

The following two items pertaining to the Turk and Caicos Island postal history may be of interest to fellow collectors.

A stampless cover of July 3, 1835. The cover bears a manuscript 20 in red ink, is addressed to Capt. Wm. Neal, Portsmouth, N.H. There is a 30mm. circle in the lower left corner around the upper half New . . . , in the centre are the words

ship  
Jul  
21

From the contents of the letter which deals with salt and lumber shipments, it appears the letter was written July 3, 1835, by a Capt. Samuel Eldridge, Jr., and posted aboard the ship Harburger.

The second item is of a more recent origin, the presentation book for the Universal Postal Congress, 1947. The material is a dark blue fabric. The printing is in gold. Inside on the left is a white paper insert reading

Crown  
GRT  
Avec Les Compliments  
De  
M. Le Secretaire D'Etat  
Pour les Colonies  
A L'Occasion Du  
XII<sup>e</sup> Congress Postal Universel  
Paris 1947

On the right is a complete set of the George VI Gibbons nos. 194.205 and the Coronation issue nos. 191/193. All the stamps are very well centred and firmly affixed.

*Louis E. Zell*



On August 6th Stephen Cave entertained members of the Redhill P.S. with a display of Barbados. One of the features of Stephen's display was his plantation house "St. Nicholas Abbey". This was illustrated by paintings, photographs and a sheet of the 35 cent value of the 1970 definitive set.

The evening was much enjoyed by members, but none more so than myself and fellow Barbados collector Reynold Radford.

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We hear that changes have taken place amongst officers of the B.C.P.S.G. Stanley Durnin is now assistant editor to Dr. John Arnell and Danforth Walker has taken over as secretary of the Group. We also hear that Stanley is to have the help of his wife, Elaine, in the production of the journal.

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A venue and date has now been arranged for the joint meeting of the Roses Caribbean P.S. and Scottish philatelists. The meeting will be held on Saturday, May 3rd, 1975, at the Cumbrian Hotel, Carlisle. Details of the programme and accommodation will be given later. May we suggest that interested members get in touch with Tony Shepherd.

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Reynold Radford and George Clarke have recently undertaken the task of revising the "Postal Markings of Barbados" by Basil Benwell and Leonard Britnor. This work is now very much out of date and both Reynold and George would be pleased to hear from members who can give information on new marks, different usage of marks and new E.K. and L.K.D.s. It is not possible at this stage to say what steps, if any, will be taken to publish the results, but please do not let this deter you from sending in any information that you may have.

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By the time this Bulletin is in the post, Robson Lowe Ltd's country branch, Bournemouth Stamp Auctions, will have settled in at their new premises at 39 Poole Hill, Bournemouth. The auction room, larger than that in Richmond Hill, is only a few hundred yards from the town centre and is still within easy reach of the Station.

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One evening a few weeks ago I switched on the television to watch a programme I seldom see, "Collectors' World". You can imagine my surprise and pleasure when the interviewer introduced Mark Kellner, a young man who is known to a number of our members.

Mark, who is actively engaged with a New York T.V. programme and newspaper column to do with stamps, was in London as a result of an article adjudged best junior article of the year in Linn's Stamp News. Apart from his Caribbean interests, Mark Kellner is also a keen collector of the stamps and postal history of Gt. Britain and Jersey.

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The theme of the recent 17th Annual Combined Meeting of the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Societies was British West Indies when our member, John L. Messenger, was called upon to act as judge.

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Those of us who were present at the "Large Oak Room" on Saturday, October 5th, were privileged to see a wonderful display of Windward Islands by John Messenger. It was disappointing to me that there were not more members present. It is not often that one has an opportunity to see such a superb collection containing items of great rarity, many of them unique.

Two displays by B.W.I. philatelists may be of interest to our Midland and Northern members. On Saturday, January 25th, Tom Foster is giving a display entitled "Island in the Sun" and on February 22nd, Michael Rego entertains with British Guiana. Both displays commence at 2.30 p.m. and will be held at Roscoe Methodist Church, Corner Chapeltown Road/Francis St., Leeds, 7.

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One of the largest assemblies, for some time, of the stamps and postal history of various West Indian countries was auctioned by H. R. Harmer Inc. of New York on October 16th and 17th last. There were many lots from Barbados, and St. Vincent and Tobago were particularly well represented. With a few bids in the post, at the time of writing, we shall eagerly await the postman's knock and the list of prices realised.

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Our congratulations must go to Frank Deakin who at the recent international exhibition "STOCKHOLMIA 74" was awarded a gold medal for his entry of Barbados 1698-1870.

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At this year's British Philatelic Exhibition, Leonard Britnor has added further awards to those already won for his book, The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies ". On this occasion Leonard was awarded the Francis Webb "Memorial Trophy and a silver medal.

Another special award, the B.C.P.S.G. Bronze Medal, went to Stephen Cave together with a silver medal for a general display of Barbados.

Other medal awards to members of the Study Circle were: Silver, Ken Watson, Jamaica postal history; Bronze-Silver, Michael Sheppard, Barbados postal history. Diploma, B.W.I.S.C. Bulletin.

In conclusion, may I wish you all every success for 1975 in tracking down that elusive item. Who knows! - some of them may even be in our own auction next April.

*Michael Sheppard*

### **21st ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**

As many of you will have already realised, next year will see the 21st anniversary of the founding of the B.W.I. Study Circle. We cannot let an occasion such as this pass without some form of celebration and your Committee are now engaged in preparations to make this so.

It has been decided to hold, next October, a luncheon in London and this to be followed by an informal meeting and display at the auction room of Stanley Gibbons in Drury House. In conjunction with this event there will be two displays of B.W.I. countries, each of two weeks duration, at Stanley Gibbons' Gallery at Romano House in the Strand.

In addition to this programme Stamp Collecting Weekly are bringing out a B.W.I. issue and we shall be having a special edition of our own Bulletin.

Both the luncheon and meeting are open to all members and their guests and it is hoped to arrange hotel accommodation for anyone wishing to stay overnight. This will be an excellent opportunity for all members and their friends to get together for what should be a most memorable occasion. Further details will be given in future Bulletins.

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### **B.W.I. AUCTION No. 2**

As mentioned in News Roundup in our last Bulletin the next auction will take place at the "Large Oak Room" after the A.G.M. The following information is given for your guidance:-

1. Terms and conditions will be the same as those for our first auction and will be found in Bulletin No. 79.

2. The catalogue will be sent to home members with the March, 1975, Bulletin and under separate cover to overseas members.

3. Postal viewing will not be possible, but it is hoped that the same viewing facilities as last time will be available.

4. The Sub-Committee will not be accepting material for sale unless it has in their opinion some potential interest to members of the Circle.

5. All correspondence, please, to Michael Sheppard, 6 Copsleigh Close, Salfords, Redhill, Surrey RHI 5BH. Telephone: 91 63936.

6. **Material to be included in the provisional catalogue for publication in the March, 1975, Bulletin must reach Michael Sheppard by January 31st, 1975, at latest.**

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### **G. W. COLLETT MEMORIAL TROPHY**

July 26th, 1974.

Dear Mr. Chard,

I wish to thank the B.W.I.S.C. Judging Committee for awarding me the Collett Memorial Trophy for 1972-73, which arrived safely this past week-end. Many visitors, both stamp collectors and non-collectors alike, have commented favourably on the tray which, with its "matched piece" for 1970-1971, occupies a position of prominence on my mantelpiece.

I am in agreement with the judges' comments in the June Bulletin that the regularly appearing items of data by Simon Goldblatt are indeed worthy of the highest commendation. Simon has supplied valuable data to Mr. W. G. Cornell and to me with respect to L.D.K.'s and L.D.K.'s of certain Antigua sub post offices . . . data which I am sure Cornell plans to utilize in his forthcoming "Antigua Monograph".

Again, Mr. Chard, my sincere thanks to you and to the judges for the beautiful tray. I am very proud of it, and I am happy that I have been able to contribute something of value to the store of B.W.I. philatelic knowledge.

Very truly yours,

*George W. Bowman*

## MEMBERS SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

### Advertisement Rates:

5p per word; minimum charge 50p. Ads in **bold type 10p** per word; minimum charge £1. Copy to the Editor six weeks before publication.

A book for Christmas! "THE HISTORY OF THE SAILING PACKETS TO THE WEST INDIES" by Leonard Britnor would make an ideal choice. Price: including packing and postage, £5.50 (home members); £5.75 (overseas members). Orders to the Hon. Secretary.

WANTED. Montserrat stamps (mint): 1876, 6d. green; 1880, 2½d., 4d.; 1884-85, 2½d. red-brown, 4d. blue; 1903, 2s. 6d., 5s.; 1903-8, 2s., 2s. 6d., 5s.; 1908-13, 2s., 2s. 6d.

T. R. Lee, 2065 Lakeshore Road, Baie d'Urfe, Quebec, H9X 1R3, Canada.

### NEW MEMBERS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| BENDON, James (dealer), P.O. Box 673, London, SW13 OEJ.                                  | Interests: All colonies including postal history.  |
| DAVIS, Trevor (dealer), P.O. Box 727, London, SW20 ORP.                                  | Interests: St. Vincent cancellations.              |
| FINNIE, Norman, 61, Ashlawn Park, Ballybrack, Co. Dublin, Eire.                          | Interests: Not yet known.                          |
| ROETT, Dr. M. F., P.O. Box 1593, Ill Algonquin St., Deep River, Ontario, KOJ IPO, Canada | Interests: Barbados, Trinidad                      |
| STEIN, Robert W., 628, Country Lane, Glencoe, Illinois, 60022, U.S.A.                    | Interests: Leeward Islands (all aspects).          |
| WILSON, Alan Charles, 5 Woodlands Drive, Beverley, North Humberside, HU17 8HZ            | Interests: St. Vincent, Trinidad, Barbados, Nevis. |

### DECEASED MEMBER

GITTINS, J. W.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- CAVE, Major S. F., Hill House, Bletchingly, Redhill, Surrey
- JEFFERSON, Major I. W., c/o Defence Attache (Rome), CO. Outward Bay, King Charles Street, London, SW. I.
- JOHNSTON, Major J. F. J. (R.E.M.E.), c/o Williams and Glyns Bank Ltd., Kirkland House, Whitehall, London, S.W.I.
- SHRINE, R. G., 7 Grange Avenue, Bawtry, Doncaster, Yorks, DN10 6NR.
- WARREN, Lt.-Col. D.C., H.Q., Meddac-K, A.P.O., San Francisco 96301, U.S.A.
- WINAND, C. P., 19 Wessex Road, Bulbridge, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

### ADDRESS

PETERKIN, I. Please ensure that the words "West End" are included after 18 Western Road, and also include post code SO3 3EL.

### CHANGE OF INTERESTS

- BAYLEY, Keith, H. Main interests; All B.W.I. colonies. Other interests; British North America, British Antarctic Territory, Falkland Islands and South Georgia.
- LEWIS, Vic. Now collects Anguilla, St. Kitts and Nevis.
- SHRINE, R. G. Specialising in Antigua, Grenada, St. Kitts, St. Lucia (up to 1967). Adhesives and catalogued varieties only. Also collects Anguilla, Barbados, Dominica, Leeward Is., Montserrat. St. Vincent and Virgin Is.

**RESIGNED**

HARRIS, H. C. A. No longer collects stamps.

**OPINIONS SERVICE (Home members only)**

Facilities are available for opinions to be given on most stamps of the B.W.I. Group for which a fee of 50p per stamp or cover is charged.\* Members wishing to take advantage of this service should send the stamp(s) or cover(s) to the Hon. Secretary enclosing a remittance for the appropriate fee together with an addressed envelope (stamped additionally for Registration or Recorded Delivery). Every endeavour will be made to return the item(s) within fourteen days. **All stamps or covers submitted are accepted entirely at the sender's risk and neither the Circle nor any of its members, collectively or individually, can be held responsible for the loss of damage of any item or for any opinion expressed.**

*\* In instances where it is necessary to consult more than one specialist additional postage will be charged to the sender.*

**BULLETINS**

Copies of a few early back issues and consecutively from No. 53 (June 1967) are obtainable from the Hon. Librarian as follows:

- Nos. 1-7 (Reprint in one cover) . . . . £1 (\$2.50)
- All others . . . . . 40p (\$1) each

- 'CORDEX' Instantaneous Self-binders each
- holding 20 issues . . . . .90p (\$2.50) each

NOTE: Prices include postage, packing and V.A.T. where applicable. Issues containing notes on specific colonies gladly supplied where available.

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## **SUBSCRIPTIONS (DUES)**

**These are payable on 1st January and full details appear under MEMBERSHIP at the foot of our 'shop window page in every issue of the Bulletin. Will members who are accustomed to pay direct kindly note that reminder letters will no longer be sent out and in all instances where payment has not been received by mid-February the mailing of the March Bulletin will be delayed until a remittance comes to hand.**

GRAHAM C. BARTLETT,  
*Hon. Treasurer*

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*Always mention the Bulletin when writing to Advertisers*

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