



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

1954-1975

21st ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

BULLETIN No. 86 SEPTEMBER 1975

Advert

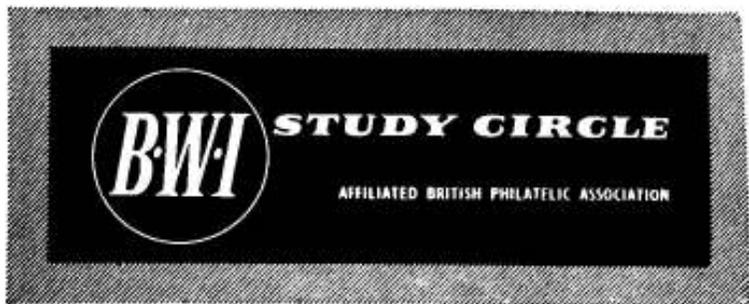
JAMES BENDON

Advert

RITCHIE BODILY.

Advert

BRIDGER & KAY LTD.



<i>Acting Hon. Secretary :</i>	I. P. CHARD <i>48 Shrublands, Potters Par, Herts. EN6 2BW Tel. Potters Par 54491</i>
<i>Hon. Treasurer :</i>	C.G. BARTLETT <i>The Pitons, 27 Quarrington Road, Horsfield, Bristol 7 Tel. Bristol 423661</i>
<i>Hon. Editor :</i>	M. SHEPPARD <i>6 Copsleigh Close, Salfords, Surrey RH1 5BH Tel. Redhill 63936</i>
<i>Hon. Librarian:</i>	Post at present unfilled.
<i>Committee :</i>	B. B. BENWELL, F. D. FITZGERALD, O.B.E., S. GOLDBLATT, A. H. LATHAM, J. C. LOACH, F.R.P.S.L.
<i>Hon. Auditor :</i>	A. J. BRANSTON, F.R.P.S.L.

OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the **British West Indies** and in addition **BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS.**
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. To loan books from Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear post both ways. List supplied on application.
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 **£2.50** or the equivalent in local currency, due **1st January**. If remitting in currency **please add 40c to cover collection charges**. An International Money Order or Draft drawn on London is acceptable. Cheques and Postal Orders to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

Founder:
P. T. SAUNDERS, F.R.P.S.L.

President:
E. V. TOEG, F.R.P.S.L.

Vice-Presidents:
J. B. MARRIOTT, F.R.P.S.L., R.D.P.
W. A. TOWNSEND, F.R.P.S.L., R.D.P.

PROGRAMME 1975-76

1975

Sat., Sept. 27th, 3 p.m. Mr. Richard Heap, Bermuda

Thurs., Dec. 4th, 6 p.m. Nine pages from members

1976

Wed., Jan. 28th, 6 p.m. Mr. Simon Goldblatt, Virgin Islands

Thurs., March 4th, 6 p.m. Nine pages from members

Sat., April 17th, 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

SPECIAL EVENTS

Throughout October, 1975. Display of B.W.I. generally at Romano House, 399 Strand, London. (Display will be changed halfway through the month)

Fri., Oct. 3rd. A special B.W.I. issue of Stamp Collecting Weekly

Sat., Oct. 4th, 12.30 p.m. 21st Anniversary Luncheon at the Strand Palace Hotel and a display in the Auction Room at Drury House, Russell Street, W.C.1 thereafter

Wed., Oct. 15th, 6-8 p.m. An "At Home" being an informal reception at Romano House

VISITS TO OTHER SOCIETIES

1975

Thurs., Sept. 25th. Shoeburyness and District P.S. A. J. Branston, Bahamas

Fri., Oct. 10th. Gravesend and District P.S. Messrs. M. Sheppard and A. H. Latham, Barbados and Jamaica

Wed., Nov. 5th. Winchester and District P.S. R. Austin, Bahamas

Thurs., Dec. 4th. Luton and District P.S. Messrs. E. V. Toeg and S. Goldblatt, Montserrat and B.W.I. postmarks

IN THIS ISSUE

PHILIP THOMAS SAUNDERS - AN APPRECIATION	50
THREE BAHAMAS SHIP LETTERS	52
BAHAMAS POSTMARKS	54
AN EXORDIUM TO BRITISH GUIANA	58
JAMAICA	59
LEEWARD ISLANDS SMALL PACKETS	60
MONTSERAT & DOMINICA THE 1d. BISECT & BOGUS ½	63
ST. LUCIA PLATE NUMBERS - 1882 TO 1971	67
THE RARE EARLY STAMPS OF ST. VINCENT	70
TRINIDAD 1879-83 BISECTED STAMPS	71

Philip Thomas Saunders

AN APPRECIATION

It is with the very greatest regret and sorrow that these words are written to you about our Founder who passed away rather suddenly, after prolonged illnesses at his home Min-y-Nant, New Radnor, Powys on the 28th May, 1975 and his funeral and interment took place on the 2nd June at St. Mary's Church, New Radnor. Many members will have known for some time that Philip's health had been failing but nevertheless when the event occurred it was a great shock to hear about it and those of you who have not heard about Philip's death previously must feel the same way.

Philip was born in Westminster, London on the 10th August, 1899 and his working life was spent in banking and during the last 25 years or so he devoted himself to philately. He joined the Royal Philatelic Society, London in 1954 and was a Fellow at the time of his death. He founded the British West Indies Study Circle in January of that year and was its Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer from the Circle's inception until he resigned as Hon. Secretary in December, 1971, though continuing until April, 1974 as Hon. Treasurer. He was Editor of the Circle's Bulletin for the first twenty- one quarterly issues (April, 1954 to April, 1959) during which time he had seen it well established from a Roneo type publication to a fully professionally printed quarterly. Philip was responsible for collating the very fine display of B.W.I. material provided by 47 members of the Circle given to the Royal Philatelic Society, London, at 41 Devonshire Place, on March 24th, 1960. At the Circle's 18th Anniversary Meeting held on April 15th, 1972 Honorary Life Membership was conferred on him in recognition of his tireless efforts for the Circle during those 18 years.

Soon after moving residence to Kingsthorpe, Herefordshire, Philip founded the Herefordshire and Mid-Wales Philatelic Society, declining office but serving on the Committee for several years. He was also a founder member of the Insurance and Banking Philatelic Society for many years, and up to the time of his death a member of the Welsh Philatelic Society. Philip's early collecting interest embraced all King George VI issues but he soon discovered that the stamps and postal history of the British West Indies provided more scope. From the collection of Cayman Islands which he formed in the mid-fifties and from his researches in the ensuing years into its postal history emerged "The Cayman Islands, Their Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks," which was published in 1962 in collaboration with the late F. F. Aguilar and this book is still the standard work on the subject. Philip subsequently turned his attention and studies to the postal history of Dominica, and before ill health overtook him had contemplated

producing a series of articles or a small handbook on the postmarks of this colony, and to this end he had prepared a large amount of text on the stamp issues and the postmarks and had also built up a large dossier of drawings to scale and photographs to illustrate the numerous types of cancellations.

Outside philately his interests were many and included all sport, especially tennis and cricket - he had been a member of the Surrey County Cricket Club since early manhood until about 1960 when moving home from London to the country made attendance at the Oval difficult. Philip loved the countryside and nature interests and was a member of the Radnorshire Society.

Philip retired from the Westminster Bank Limited (as it then was) in August, 1959 on reaching the retiring age of 60 after 43 years' service, and it might be opportune here to mention that as a young man of 29 his first major literary effort was the historical account of "Stuckey's Bank," published in 1928, a book which met with general acclaim from banking circles, concerned as it was with the private banking businesses which Stuckey's acquired and which is part of the local history of the West Country in general and Somerset in particular during the 150 years prior to 1928. Those in the banking fraternity may recall that in 1909 Stuckey's was merged with Parr's Bank, subsequently to be absorbed in the Westminster Bank Limited, now the National Westminster Bank Limited.

Philip saw service in World War I having been a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps from 1917 to 1919 and was granted his aviator's certificate by the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom in June, 1918.

Our Study Circle has suffered a very great loss indeed and the best epitaph we can erect to Philip's memory is to carry on the tradition of the Study Circle and to strengthen the foundations on which he built and to make the Study Circle financially sound, enduring and helpful to all those who are interested in British West Indies philately. If we can do this and at the same time extend the membership of the Study Circle nothing would have pleased Philip better and perhaps over the years this will in fact occur as a continuing process.

In conclusion a reference must be made to Rose who shared with Philip every one of his interests to the full and the two of them complemented each other and between them have done a very great service to British West Indies philately.

On behalf of all the Members our most sincere sympathies are extended to Rose in her bereavement.

THREE BAHAMAS SHIP LETTERS by M. H. Ludington

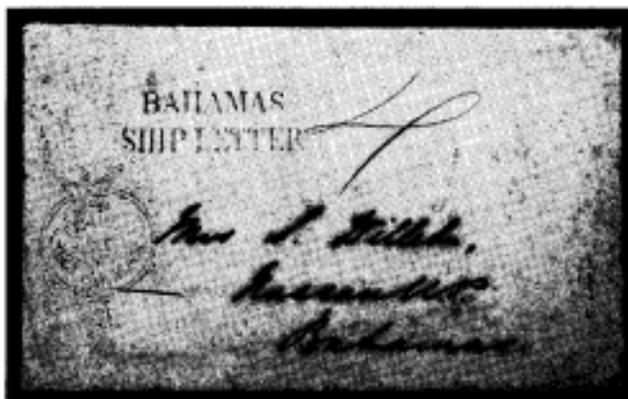
Three Ship Letters in my collection each have unusual features which make them particularly interesting.

The earliest is a letter written in the Turks Islands on November 6th, 1849, addressed to London and sent unpaid. At this time there was no packet service to Turks Island, and very few ships sailed directly from there to England. The letter was carried by private vessel to Nassau, where it received on the front the straight line "BAHAMAS/SHIP LETTER" handstamp in black and "4" in manuscript black ink, the standard Ship Letter rate. The Bahamas datestamp of NO 12 1849 in black is on the back. Being addressed to England, it was held for the next R.M.S.P. steamer, and before being put in the mail received a second datestamp, this one dated NO 28 1849. "1/-" in manuscript was added before the "4," making the total due 1s. 4d. There is no arrival datestamp of London. It is unusual for a letter to be a combination Ship and Packet Letter, for normally a Ship Letter would be forwarded by another private ship, but presumably in this case none sailed for England before the Packet.



The origin of the second letter is not known, but it too has the "BAHAMAS/SHIP LETTER" handstamp and a manuscript "4" on the front and the datestamp of NO 22 1852 on the back.

But it also has a “PAID AT BAHAMAS” Crowned Circle in red on the front, which at first glance would seem to have been added by mistake. But the explanation is quite simple when the facts are known. The letter is addressed to “Mrs. S. Dillet, Nassau, Bahamas.” Stephen Dillet was the postmaster at Nassau from 1846 to 1876, and the letter was addressed to his wife, so he naturally paid the 4d. due. At this time there was delivery of mail within the town, and so Dillet added the Crowned Circle to indicate to the postman that the postage had already been paid and that nothing was to be collected on delivery. This is a most unusual case of a Crowned Circle being used on (1) an incoming Ship Letter and (2) what could be considered, after its arrival, an “inland letter” for which this paid stamp was not intended. The only other Crowned Circles known to me to have been used in red within a colony are those of Hamilton and St. Georges, Bermuda, but these were employed to make adhesive stamps. Crowned Circles were, of course, occasionally used later in black in several colonies, after the appearance of adhesive stamps, either as provisionals or as official paid stamps.



The third letter has a clear strike of the very rare first type of “SHIP LETTER NASSAU” datestamp, of which only a very few examples are known. It is dated JY 28 64, and a “4” in blue pencil is also on the front. The letter is addressed to “R. R. Bearden, Esq., Care Major Walker, Nassau, Bahamas.” The latter part has been crossed Out and “Major N. S. Walker, Bermuda” substituted, and “Care Messrs. Campbell & Co., Bermuda. Reply B. Weir & Co., Halifax, N.S.” has been added. On the back is “Compliments of J. H. Journalman” in a third handwriting. It is unclear where this could have been added, since he was neither the writer of the letter, nor the forwarder in Nassau. Perhaps he was a forwarding agent in Wilmington or Bermuda. There is no arrival datestamp of Bermuda.

Though the origin of the letter is not indicated, it is known that Major N. S. Walker was the Confederate Disbursing Agent in St. Georges, Bermuda, from November 1863 to the end of the Civil War. Campbell & Co. were British ship owners, trading with the Confederacy, whose vessels carried their cargoes across the Atlantic to and from

Bermuda or the Bahamas, the trans-shipment ports for the blockade runners. Weir was the Confederate Agent at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Thus this letter must have originated within the Confederate States, was addressed by mistake to Nassau and was forwarded to St. Georges, Bermuda. This is confirmed by the shipping news in the "Nassau Guardian" of Saturday July 30th 1864: "Entered: Str. "Lucy," Beaton, cotton, tobacco, etc. from Wilmington, 28th." and further down "Cleared: Schr. "Tweed," Johnson, assorted cargo, to Bermuda, 30th." Incidentally, the blockade runner "Lucy" was captured on November 2nd 1864 by the Federal warship "Santiago de Cuba" some 200 miles southeast of Wilmington, North Carolina.



BAHAMAS POSTMARKS by Simon Goldblatt

The observations on Bahamas postmarks which follow are based on stamps acquired or handled in the past few years, and can only be assimilated in conjunction with Ludington and Raymond's handbook. No attention has been paid to stamps of George VI or later, so that 1938 is the cut-off year. Since postmark dates sometimes lie about themselves, no date is quoted unless the stamp on which the postmark was seen is entirely consistent with the postmark date.

Obviously the authors themselves have been doing parallel and far more extensive research in recent years, and these notes may add little to their present state of knowledge. Nevertheless most of the information here is published for the first time, and it may encourage the fledgling specialist once he appreciates that the latest and most specialised handbook can only define the frontiers of relevant philatelic knowledge for its day, and that it establishes gateways for future research. It is hoped that by the time of the Circle's Golden Jubilee these 'coming-of-age' notes will be largely discarded history.

(1) Extensions to early and late dates

<i>Office</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>New Early Date</i>	<i>New Late Date</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Nassau	N 2 (cancelling adhesive)		SP 26 1864	
Acklins Island	3	21 JAN 05		
Arthurs Town	7 II	20 DEC 37		
Behring Point	7	4 OCT 18		
Bimini	7 I	20 JUN 11		On Q.V. stamp
Cherokee Sound	1		OC 5 31	
Crooked Island				See below
Deadman's Cay	7 I	20 APR 18	7 OCT 35	See also below
George Town	2	AP 29 04		
Governor's Harbour	2a	MY 26 00		
Grand Bahama	3	13 DEC 11		On Q.V. stamp
Green Turtle Cay	7 I		11 JAN 32	
Harbour Island	1		SP 24 98	
Inagua	1		FE 16 06	Note overlap with type 7
James Cistern	7 I		14 JUL 37	
Kemps Bay	7 I	17 NOV 18		
Long Bay Cays	7 I	19		part strike - shows year only
Mangrove Cay	7 I	11? AUG 11		
	7 II		23 NOV 37	
Mastic Point	7 II	38		part strike - shows year only
Nicolls Town	2		31 AU 12	
Old Place	7 I		22 MAR 18	
Port Howe	3	24 DEC 17		
	7 I	19 SEP 35		
Simms	3a	SEP 06		
Steventon	7 I	24 APR 09		
Tarpum Bay	7 I		MAR 35	

(2) Additional Notes on Handbook Listing

(a) Crooked Island. The discovery of a Type 7 instrument labelled Crooked Island was announced in Bulletin No. 71. Customarily such a find promptly brings to light two or three others. If it has happened in this instance the Editor has yet to hear the news, and the strike has still to be classified with the vague date c. 1909.

(b) Deadman's Cay. The distance D to B, given in the hand book as 9.25mm., should have read 4.25mm.

(c) Fox Hill. Type 5 may also be found struck in grey-blue, suggesting that a blue pad was used without any cleaning of the instrument.

(d) It will be observed that three of the early dates listed above bring additional cancellations within the currency of Geo. V stamps, and no doubt there are others which will be found. By way of prediction only - because no evidence has yet been seen - it is suggested that Type 7 strikes within this period will be found in the future for some of the following: Abraham's Bay; Burnt Ground; Cherokee Sound; Norman's Castle; Rolleville; Tarpum Bay (7 II); The Bluff (7 II). In addition it is on the cards that strikes of type 1 or 2 will turn up for some of these: Grand Bahama; Simms; Steventon; The Current; Wemyss Bight.

(3) Supplementary Information

(a) It is believed that manuscript cancellations are to be found from earliest stamp-issuing times, even though identification may be impossible. A copy of S.G.1 can be cited which has been cancelled in pen by two vertical lines and four diagonal feather strokes, and which also bears sufficient of a clear A05 cancellation to carry conviction.

Even as early as 1859 there were four or five out-islands from which mail might have been received in New Providence, and enthusiasts would do well to scan auction lots for discounted pen-marked 'earlyies' which deserve up-grading.

(b) The suspected misuse of type I date stamps needs more investigation and research. Ludington and Raymond understandably single out specific dates of BIMINI and HOPE TOWN for attention and caution against certain other dates of LONG CAY F.I. and HARBOUR ISLAND. In addition to these it may be wise to be wary of some strikes from CLARENCE TOWN and GREEN TURTLE CAY, and it is far from sure that philatelic abuse of Harbour Island is confined to two specific dates. It will be noted that Harbour Island strikes cover a wider range of Queen Victoria issues and values than any other of these values (as with Clarence Town and Long Cay, strikes go up to the £1 value, which can hardly have been used as of necessity at any of these offices) and as often as not the strike is over manuscript markings. To be fair, such pen-marks seldom appear to be bleached or treated.

If abuse was widespread, may it have happened at the individual offices, or does one postulate withdrawal of the date stamps to Nassau and abuse thereafter? This could not easily apply to Hope Town, whose date stamp was used into the late 1920's, whereas those of the other offices mentioned were all out of use by about 1910.

Green Turtle Cay comes under suspicion partly because of the occasional strike one finds on the old 1d Chalon head: there is no apparent proof nor refutation that this issue was still current on the island when the instrument was received. Going back to Harbour Island, this has certainly been a busy office - consistently so - and the wide range of values found with this marking is not conclusive against it. These comments, therefore, are far from being a condemnation of the whole group of strikes; they are simply advice to acquire with circumspection, to appraise with scientific curiosity, and to be alert for stamps on cover or on piece, or for other confirmatory indications of their history.

(c) Next for discussion is an unidentified c.d.s., which may or may not be postal. It is about half of a 23mm. single ring struck in black on the 3d black and brown of 1919. At the bottom one sees BAHA of the colony name, and at the top 'GOVE.' No marks for guessing the next two letters! Lettering is block capitals 2½mm. high, rather wide letters, slightly fancy G. Date may well be single line, "9 DE" being visible, but could perhaps be two-line with year omitted (!), as there is a code letter A over the date and centred above the D. This code letter is slightly to the right of where the R of GOVERN . . . would come.

In order to fit the empty space one needs something longer than GOVERNOR, much shorter than GOVERNOR'S HARBOUR. Possible candidates might be GOVERNMENT, GOVERNOR'S H, GOVERNOR'S I, . . . or what?

(4) Comments on Rarity

In a field in which individual strikes can command retail prices of £50, £100, and conceivably much more, a lot of attention has to be paid to expectations of scarcity. For present purposes the A, B, C, D scale of the handbook has two short-comings. First the grouping is very broad, and gives no clear guide to the availability of two different

strikes within a single category; secondly, if one is concerned to assess the scarcity of a strike on stamps of Geo. V or earlier, one gets little assistance from ratings which incorporate (as many of them do) strikes on Geo. VI and even Q.E. II stamps. To take an extreme case, Behring Point was not even given a rating, since its original type 7 date stamp was still in use when the handbook was written. The present selective commentary is of course not intended to decry postmark collecting on the later issues and is, if you will, a mere declaration of personal policy. It cannot be emphasised too strongly for those who are less selective, that there are major rarities to be found amongst the later issues, and that during the war years postmarks from all but the busiest offices are remarkably scarce.

Within these limits the task is attempted below of giving a far more detailed - and hence immeasurably more controversial - analysis of rarity than was given in the handbook; the basic letters A to D are retained, but these are each sub-divided into five classes, of which no. 1 is considered the scarcest, and no. 5 the most readily available.

T.R.D.'s and manuscript markings are omitted altogether from the table below, which purports to deal only with the regular date stamps. In a few cases markings which are rated A in the handbook and which belong only to the pre-1938 period, are given a much scarcer rating below. Lower Bogue (type 7) is a typical case; while this may result from divergent experience of the American and English markets, the absence from the handbook of any date later than 1917 is itself not without significance. Furthermore not a single one of the out-island postmarks is common; and even those given the lowest rating of all - AS are highly desirable when struck clearly, upright and almost complete.

TABLE OF SCARCITY

<p>A5</p> <p>Clarence Town - 7 I Governor's Harbour - 7 I Grants Town - 5 Harbour island - 7 I Inagua - 7 I The Bight - 7 I</p>	<p>A4</p> <p>George Town - 7 I Governor's Harbour - 5 Green Turtle Cay - 7 I Hope Town - 1 Mangrove Cay - 7 I</p>	<p>A3</p> <p>Clarence Town - 7a Harbour Island - 1 Inagua - 1 Nicolls Town - 5 Rock Sound - 7 I Tarpum Bay - 1</p>
<p>A2</p> <p>Bimini - 7 I George Town - 7 II Rock Sound - 1 Rum Cay - 1 The Ferry - 7 I</p>	<p>A1</p> <p>Deadman's Cay - 7 I Harbour Island - 7 II Long Cay F.I. - 1 Long Cay - 3b Spring Point 7 I</p>	<p>B5</p> <p>Arthurs Town - 7 I Green Turtle Cay - 7 I Inagua - 7 II Nicolls Town - 7 I Simms - 3 Spanish Wells - 1 Tarpum Bay 7 I</p>
<p>B4</p> <p>Bimini - 7 11 Clarence Town - 1 Governor's Harbour - 2a Grand Bahama - 3 Green Turtle Cay - 7 II Long Cay - 7 I Rum Cay - 5 San Salvador - 5 Wemyss Bight - 3</p>	<p>B3</p> <p>Cherokee Sound - 1 Fresh Creek - 3a Hatchet Bay - 7 II James' Cistern 7 I Mangrove Cay - 7 II Ragged Island - 1 Ragged Island - 5 Rock Sound - 7 II Steventon 7 I</p>	<p>B2</p> <p>Bannerman Town - 7 I Governor's Harbour - 1 Gregory Town - 7 I Mastic Point - 7 I Palmetto Point - 7 II Simms - 7 I Spanish Wells - 7 I Stanyard Creek - 3a The Ferry - 7 II Wattings - 7</p>

continued on page 58

B1	C5	C4
Acklins Island - 3	Bimini - 1	Behring Point - 7
Gregory Town - 1	Cooper's Town - 5	Gregory Town - 7 11
Hope Town - 5	Eight Mile Rock - 5	Lignum Vitae Cay - 5
Long Bay Cays - 7 I	Hatchet Bay - 7 I	Lignum Vitae Cay - 7 I
Nicolls Town - 2	Lower Bogue - 7 I	Lower Bogue - 5
Stanyard Creek - 7 I	Spencer's Point - 7	Mangrove Cay - 2
West End - 5	Steventon - 7 II	Savannah Sound - 7 11
	West End - 7	The Current - 7 I
		Wemyss Bight - 7 I
C3	C2	C1
Arthurs Town - 7 II	Bannerman Town - 7 II	Kemps Bay - 7 I
Burnt Ground - 5	Fox Hill - 5	Kemps Bay - 7 II
Great Guano Cay - 7 I	Fresh Creek - 7 I	Man of War Cay - 4
Knowles - 5	Port Howe - 3	Marsh Harbour - 5
Man of War Cay - 7 I	Pure Gold - 4	Palmetto Point - 7 I
Mastic Point - 7 II	Roses - 5	
Norman's Castle - 4	Savannah Sound - 7 I	
Port Howe - 7 I	The Bight - 1	
Pure Gold - 7	The Current - 7 II	
The Bluff - 7 I		
D5	D4	D3
Arthurs Town - 1	Mastic Point - 2	Colonel Hill - 4
George Town - 1	Mayaguana - 5	Colonel Hill - 7 I
George Town - 2	Rolleville - 5	Savannah Sound - 2
Great Guano Cay - 4	The Ferry - 2	Whale Cay - 7
Long Bay Cays - 2	Watlings - 1	
Marsh Harbour - 1		
Old Place - 4		
Old Place - 7 I		
Old Place - 7 II		
Roses - 4		
D2	D1	
Millville - 7	Crooked Island - 7	

AN EXORDIUM TO BRITISH GUIANA

by W. A. Townsend

As one grows older events of one's early days appear to grow more vivid. In my case my early efforts at stamp collecting are imprinted on my memory, for example that early album with, I am afraid to say, stamps in very mixed condition. Many countries were represented but one only captured my imagination - British Guiana. The reason? Because a ship in full sail appeared on each stamp. What a joy was the 1913-21 issue. It was only later that I learnt that it had both the King's head and the ship because the colony wished to retain the ship on its stamps but Britain issued a wish that the King's head should appear on all the stamps of the British Empire. What a delightful compromise to embody both on one stamp.

As I progressed further with my collecting I began to realise that British Guiana had a great many facets - early pre-adhesive covers, Great Britain used in the colony, the great early primitive issues, the plethora of village datestamps, the plating studies, air mail, postal stationery, etc.

As I developed my collection correspondence with fellow enthusiasts followed and many great friendships ensued.

The British West Indies Study Circle was founded in 1954 and although I was not a founder member I joined soon afterwards and derived great pleasure from my fellow members.

By great good fortune I met the late Dr. J. Morton Evans who became my mentor on the philatelic side, the late Percy Hosking with his wide knowledge of village date-stamps and F. G. Howe who had a very deep knowledge of the postal history. Inspired by Dr. Morton Evan's exhibit in the Stockholm International Exhibition I showed in Palermo in 1959 and was awarded a silver medal.

My proudest moment was to be invited to give a display to the Royal Philatelic Society in 1960.

With Fred Howe a book was written and published in 1970. The schoolboy with his small printed album little thought that philately would provide so much interest and valued friendships in later life.

My thoughts have run away with me and here is no erudite dissertation on postal history, plating studies, etc. such as the Editor requested. When he reads this he will probably tear it up but I *have* enjoyed writing it.

May the pleasure and information that the British West Indies Study Circle has provided in its 21 years existence be carried on for many more years.

JAMAICA **by Col. Fred F. Seifert**

While by present day standards Jamaica pursues a rather conservative stamp issuing policy, it still manages to commemorate most of its important anniversaries (and a few not-so-important ones) and to honour its national heroes with issues of postage stamps. Quite a contrast to the policy back in 1893, when, according to some papers found in an accumulation of the late Astley Clerk, the first suggestion of a commemorative issue was rejected by the Governor of the Colony, Sir Henry Blake.

The occasion was the 400th anniversary of the discovery by Columbus of the New World. Observing that the United States, the Argentine Republic, and other American republics had marked that anniversary "by the issue of certain Postage Stamps with appropriate designs bearing on events in the life of the Admiral," members of the Jamaica Philatelic Association petitioned the Hon. Sir Neale Porter, K.C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary of the Colony, that Jamaica take similar action.

Arthur S. Finzi, Secretary of the Association, was delegated to present the petition to the Government, and he did so in the form of a letter to the Colonial Secretary dated 28th January, 1893. In it he argued that such an issue would bring Jamaica much good publicity around the world, as the stamps would be publicised everywhere in philatelic journals. He stated that the expenses of preparing the printing plates and printing the stamps would be more than refunded by the sales of stamps to dealers and collectors of the world. He proposed a set of five stamps of ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., and 6½d. The latter value he said would be useful when a letter was registered and required 2½d. postage and 4d. registry fee.

Finzi offered for consideration the following designs:

a. Canoes of Indians brandishing lances of pointed wood, and prepared to prevent Columbus' landing.

b. Columbus sighting Jamaica and lost in admiration of the beauty of her Blue Mountains.

c. Columbus' caravels stranded on the shores of Jamaica.

d. Columbus facing a crowd of frightened Indians and pointing to a Moon half eclipsed.

e. Indians bringing offerings to Columbus.

He received a prompt reply as follows:

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE
JAMAICA 3rd February 1893.

Sir,

In reply to your letter dated the 28th Ultimo suggesting that certain stamps should be issued by this Colony next year commemorative of the 400th anniversary of her discovery by Columbus, I am desired by the Governor to inform you that His Excellency does not think any good purpose would be effected by adopting your suggestion.

I have the honour to be,

Sir

Your obedient servant

(*signed*) S. P. Musson
for Colonial Secretary

Arthur S. Finzi, Esq.,
Emmaville,
South Camp Road,
Kingston

There is no explanation provided for Governor Sir Henry Blake's blunt rejection of the suggestion. In "Jamaica, the Island and its People," A. J. Newman notes that Sir Henry was much interested in letting the world know the potential of Jamaica and was largely responsible for the Jamaica International Exhibition being held in 1891. Perhaps the 'hostile Indian' theme left him cold. Then, too, there was no precedent in the Mother Country for issuing stamps not featuring the reigning monarch, so it was easier to say no than yes.

Thus, it was not until 1900 that Jamaica saw its first commemorative stamp, the 1d. red Llandoverly Falls stamp. The Landing of Columbus was finally recognised in 1919 on the 3d. stamp of the first scenic definitive series. Perhaps in 1994 when Jamaica has an opportunity to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of Columbus' discovery of the Island, it will not miss its second chance.

LEEWARD ISLANDS "SMALL PACKETS"
by George W. Bowman

Many facets of Leeward islands postal history still need to be investigated, or at least freely discussed, in the pages of Bulletins such as this. Some of these facets represent problems arising as a result of information appearing in official Post Office documents of the Colony. In this article I propose to offer some comments - and ask for assistance - concerning one such topic, the Leeward Island "Small Packet System."

In the summer of 1930 this service, to be used as an inexpensive medium for the postal conveyance of merchandise, was established between the Leewards and certain other countries. For lack of an official definition, a "small packet" could be considered an item larger than a letter but smaller than a parcel. The maximum allowable weight of a small packet, as specified in the various *Leeward Islands Post Office Guides (LIPOGs)* of the early 1930's, was two pounds. The maximum dimensions permitted were 18 by 8 by 4 inches; if in a roll, the diameter could be no greater than 6 inches.

To be treated as such, an item had to be conspicuously marked "Small Packet" or "Petit Paquet" in the top left-hand corner, and it was necessary that a green label be affixed describing the contents for customs purposes; these labels, according to the *LIPOGs*, were available at any post office in the Leewards (this could be interpreted as including the various branch and sub-post offices). Furthermore, if the country of destination so required, one or more non-adhesive Customs Declaration Forms - also supposedly on hand at any post office - were to be tied to a small packet or enclosed within it.

Generally, small packets (hereinafter referred to simply as "packets") were subject to the regulations laid down for samples of merchandise sent by post as regarded form and packing, and were required to be made up in such manner as to facilitate examination by inspecting agencies.

Although dutiable articles could be enclosed in packets, certain items were prohibited from being sent in this manner. A paragraph reproduced from the July 3rd, 1930, issue of the *Leeward Islands Gazette* lists these excluded materials as follows: "Letters, notes or documents having the character of actual and personal correspondence (this prohibition does not apply to open invoices reduced to the simplest form), coin, bank notes; currency notes; negotiable instruments payable to bearer; platinum, gold, or silver, manufactured or not; precious stones; jewels or other valuable articles; postage stamps, whether obliterated or not."

The service was initiated on July 1st, 1930, with the postage rate set at 6d. on any packet weighing up to 8 ounces. Packets weighing 9 or 10 ounces were charged 7½d.; 11 or 12 ounces, 9d.; 13 or 14 ounces, 10½d.; and 15 or 16 ounces, one shilling. For each additional two ounces, up to the maximum weight of two pounds, a charge of 1½d. was levied; thus the postage on a packet weighing one pound, 9 ounces was 1s. 7½d.

The Leeward Islands postal system would *register* packets if the sender so desired, but would not *insure* them. In some cases customs and delivery charges were added to the basic postage rates described above. For example, the customs clearance fee for a packet entering Great Britain was fixed at 6d., irrespective of its weight. A delivery fee of 2d. was payable in the Leewards on a packet, in addition to whatever customs duty was levied. These fees were collected only upon delivery; they could not be prepaid by the sender.

On January 1st, 1935, there appeared a series of regulations known as *Leeward Islands General Government Statutory Rules and Orders (SR&O)* 1934, No. 35. Per this document, entitled "Post Office Rates of Postage," the packet rate charges were reduced to 5d. for any packet weighing 10 ounces or less, and an additional 1d. for every two ounces thereafter, up to the maximum weight of two pounds. Thus, instead

of being charged 2s. as per the earlier rates, a two-pound packet now costs only 1s. 4d. The 22nd edition of the *LIPOG*, dated January 1st, 1932, lists 94 countries to which packets could be transmitted from the Leeward Islands. A tabulation of those places would be too lengthy to be repeated here, but I would be happy to forward a copy to any reader desiring it. The list was slightly altered in the 25th *LIPOG*, dated October 1st, 1933 the changes being the deletion of Dahomey, French Guinea, "French Settlements of Oceana," French Sudan, and Niger, and the addition of the Dominican Republic, Nauru and Persia.

The next alteration in packet charges became effective on August 15th, 1954, under authority of *Leeward Islands General Government SR&O 1954, No. 31*. This change was noteworthy in that three of the four Leeward Islands Presidencies established different packet rates, with only Antigua and Montserrat operating under the same fee structure. A table will help to clarify this:

PACKET CHARGES				
(To all places to which the service applies)				
Presidency	Not exceeding 8oz.	Not exceeding 10oz.	For each 2 ounces or fraction thereof above:	
			8oz.	10oz.
ANTIGUA	16c	---	4c	---
MONTSERRAT	16c	---	4c	---
ST. CHRISTOPHER, NEVIS AND ANGUILLA	15c	---	---	3c
VIRGIN ISLANDS	16c	---	---	3c

The question here is, why wouldn't each Presidency charge the same rates for packet services? The more-frequently transmitted categories of mail from each of these four places, such as letters and postcards - both within the Leewards proper and to points beyond - had uniform rates; for example, a letter to Great Britain from any of the Presidencies cost, per *SR&O No. 31*, five cents per ounce or less. But the packet fees, together with other lesser-used and "odd-ball" categories of mail and services (such as printed and commercial papers, samples, and insurance rates) varied greatly among the Presidencies. (Speaking of odd-balls, another rate appearing in *SR&O No. 31* for something called a "phonopost" and costing six cents for the first ounce to all places - was specified only for *Montserrat!*)

The packet rate from Antigua was again changed by *Antigua SR&O 1959, No. 8*, effective April 4th, 1959. Per that document, the fee was upped to 20c per packet not exceeding 8 ounces, and 5c for each two ounces or less thereafter. I do not know whether the packet rates from the other Leewards Presidencies were concurrently increased.

I am interested in learning if any reader possesses examples of such packets, particularly those mailed in the 1930s, which have escaped the fate normally awaiting parcels of any size or shape upon delivery loss and/or disposal of the outer wrapper by the addressee, or at least sufficient destruction or mutilation of the wrapper to prevent inspection and/or interpretation of postal rates and markings. I would be very grateful if anyone owning a packet which has somehow survived such hazards would describe in

future Bulletin pages the postal markings and charges it carries. For example, is the required phrase “Small Packet” applied by a Post Office rubber stamp of some sort? Or do the words appear in manuscript? Does the total value of the adhesives affixed appear consistent with rates specified in the *LIPOGs*?

And then, of course, the main question: Does anyone have any idea why the Presidencies operated under varying packet rates, as tabulated in the 1959 *SR&O*? Finally, just what in the world is or was - a “phonopost”?

MONTSERRAT and DOMINICA

The 1d. bisects and bogus “½”

by E. V. Toeg

In Stamp Collecting Weekly issued on 30th January, 1975 there is an article entitled “Dubious Deals in Dominica” by Col. Fred Seifert in which he expresses his views in connection with each of three postcards in his collection written by Griffith B. Seignoret who was a clerk in the Dominica Post Office at that time and all the cards emanated from Dominica. In these notes I propose to deal only with Col. Seifert’s views on Card No. 1.

Col. Seifert states as follows:

“The first card has the postmark “DOMINICA” dated May 27th, 1884. It is addressed to a stamp dealer in London. I consider the most significant portion of its message is the final query . . . what will you pay for Montserrat penny cut in half with “½” Red surcharged on it (on envelope postmarked). Some have been offered to me but I do not know what to pay for them to ensure me a profit . . . The card did not disclose Seignoret’s association with the Dominica Post Office.”

Col. Seifert refers to a note of many years standing beneath SG.3 in the listing of Montserrat in the Stanley Gibbons 1963 Catalogue which was worded as follows:

“No. 1 was bisected and used for ½d. in 1883. This bisected stamp is found surcharged with a small “½” in black. This is bogus.”

After referring to the note in Stanley Gibbons 1963 Catalogue Col. Seifert consulted the Montserrat listing in the handbook published in 1891 by The Philatelic Society, London (now known as The Royal Philatelic Society, London) entitled “The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards and Telegraph Stamps of The British Colonies in the West Indies Together with British Honduras and The Colonies in South America” and he quoted from page 108 as follows:

“In the month of March, 1883 the then current one penny stamps divided vertically, and each surcharged “½d.” in small block type, were seen upon envelopes, which apparently had passed through the post between Montserrat and Dominica, but the authenticity of such a provisional issue was doubted at the time, and it has since been repudiated by the Postal Authorities.”

Finally, Col. Seifert stated that he had consulted the handbook on Montserrat by Leonard Britnor published by our Study Circle in 1965 in which the major part of a page had been devoted to discussion of this surcharge. Col. Seifert continued that Mr. Britnor's conclusion was that the bisects were genuine and were correctly used between Montserrat and Dominica, and that he (Mr. Britnor) had noted that the "½" in black was similar, if not identical, to the small "½" used to surcharge Dominica bisects of the same period and that the surcharge was probably added after the covers had reached Dominica and hence the "½" although an unnecessary embellishment, would certainly not seem to be bogus.

Col. Seifert then gave his own conclusions which I believe I have correctly interpreted as mentioned below. His views were that the covers bearing genuine Montserrat bisects were doctored after arrival in Dominica by the addition of the "½" surcharge by means of a handstamp which was conveniently at hand in the Dominica Post Office; that there was some kind of misrepresentation when these were offered for sale by failure to mention their Dominica origin, leaving the buyer to assume that the surcharge had been applied by, or for, the Montserrat Post Office. He could not agree with Mr. Britnor that the "½" surcharge was not bogus because he (Col. Seifert) defined bogus as "Not proceeding from the true source," in this case the Montserrat Post Office.

Col. Seifert also concluded, with reference to Seignoret's proposal to provide this item with "½ Red surcharged," that as no examples in red had been reported it must be assumed that this was an error on the part of Seignoret or, perhaps the "promoter" of this item had planned to use red ink but subsequently discovered that a black overprint would offer better contrast on a red stamp. This brought to an end Col. Seifert's views.

Earlier in this article there was a mention of a note beneath SG.3 in the listing of Montserrat in the Stanley Gibbons 1963 Catalogue. The above mentioned note was repeated each year in the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue until 1968 when the note was altered and still is in its altered form as follows:

"No. 1 was bisected and used for a ½d. in 1883. This bisected stamp is found surcharged with a small '½' in black."

The vital words "This is bogus" have now been omitted. Why were these words omitted? I submit that the Editor of the Catalogue having read and considered Len Britnor's opinion expressed in his handbook that the "½" surcharge was not bogus and having no doubt consulted other experienced philatelic authorities came to the same conclusion.

Len Britnor's view that the "½" surcharge was most likely applied in Dominica and is extremely similar to, if not identical with one of these used by Dominica for surcharging its own bisects about that same time is most likely correct but when he says that the "½," although an unnecessary embellishment, would certainly not seem to be bogus, then I cannot agree with him. I do, however, agree with him that the "½" surcharge was most likely applied in Dominica and is extremely similar to, if not identical with, one of those used by Dominica for surcharging its own bisects for the following reasons (a) all the covers I have seen or read about with the surcharge have emanated from Montserrat with destination Dominica and nowhere else and (b) Montserrat had no surcharges whereas Dominica officially had surcharges and (c) no mint bisect with a surcharge is known to exist.

I have seen two identical covers from Montserrat addressed to "Messrs. Jas. Garraway & Co., Roseau, Dominica," having a c.d.s. MONTERRAT PAID with A/JU 14/83 in centre in black; the covers have half of a Montserrat 1d red (SG.1a) vertically bisected tied by the obliterator A08 and also a Dominica c.d.s. dated JU 17/83 in black. These two covers are also endorsed with the words "Printed Matter" and the flaps were not stuck down, thus the covers qualified for the rate for Circulars or Printed Matter. The most interesting thing about the bisects on these two covers however is that neither bisect has a "½" surcharge. These are the only covers that I have seen which have a single bisect of the 1876 1d red (SG.1a) and no surcharge on the bisect. (One cover in the Mrs. N. Thompson Collection and the other cover in the E. V. Toeg Collection). There are of course also the covers addressed to "Mr. Henry Matson, Dominica," each bearing 5 bisects of the 1876 1d red (SG.1a) without any surcharge. I have also seen a cover with a bisect of the Montserrat 1884 1d red perf. 12 (SG.13b) tied by the A08 obliterator but with no "½" surcharge. It was addressed to "Mr. E. C. Kelsall, Roseau, Dominica," and had a black c.d.s. MONTERRAT PAID with A/MY14/84 in centre. (Mrs. N. Thompson Collection).

In addition I have seen a cover endorsed "Price Current" in manuscript with a bisect of the Montserrat 1884 1d red perf. 12 (SG. 13b) tied by the A08 obliterator and with a "½" surcharge in black addressed to "James Collins, Esq., Dominica"; it has a Dominica c.d.s. with JY1/84 in centre (E. V. Toeg Collection). From time to time I have seen two or three other similar covers but did not note their details.

I have looked up the definition of "Bogus" in "A Glossary of Philatelic Terms" compiled in 1951 for The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain and it is as follows:

"Bogus. Labels purporting to be postage stamps but which have not been issued by or with the authority of any recognised postal administration. The term also applies to a genuine stamp which bears the addition of an unauthorised surcharge or overprint."

If the above definition is still accepted as correct, and I have no reason to think otherwise, then Montserrat bisects with or without a "½" surcharge are strictly speaking bogus. Bogus, first of all, because the Montserrat bisects were not officially authorised for use by the Postal Authorities, i.e. there was no Post Office Notice authorising their use. From the purely practical point of view owing to change of postal rates and the probable non-availability of the 2½d. red-brown (SG.4) and the ½d. dull green (SG.6) due to supplies of these stamps being exhausted for making up the postage, the unofficial bisects came into use, to which, understandably a blind eye was turned in the circumstances. Bogus, secondly, because the surcharge also was not officially authorised on Montserrat stamps by any Post Office Notice.

Now I must refer to the final query on Card No. 1 mentioned at the beginning of these notes which Col. Seifert considered the most significant portion of its message. I am of course referring to the query by Griffith B. Seignoret about the Montserrat penny bisected and with a "½" in red surcharged on it, examples of which Col. Seifert has said have never been reported. I have seen examples on three covers and all are identical. These covers are endorsed "BK Post" in manuscript and are addressed to "Geo. Blackman Esq., Dominica"; each has a Montserrat 1d. red perf. 12 (SG.13a) bisected vertically and each is tied by the A08 obliterator. Each cover has also a black c.d.s.

MONTSERRAT PAID with A/MY14/ 84 in centre and also a black c.d.s. DOMINICA with MY18184 in centre. Finally, each bisect has the “½” surcharge in red. (One cover in the Mrs. N. Thompson collection and the other two covers are in the E. V. Toeg collection). One of the covers has a Certificate from a recognised Expert Committee saying that it is a genuine but philatelic cover!! It is easy to understand how this has occurred because the colour of the red surcharge is very like the red of the stamp and consequently hardly shows up. Unless therefore a person is on the look out for the red surcharge it can be easily overlooked which is what I think must have happened in this case.

Were these red surcharges made with the same handstamp from the Dominica Post Office as was used for the “½” surcharge in black? The outline of the “½” surcharged in red is not distinct or sharp as in the case of the “½” surcharged in black due to lack of contrast in the red colour of the stamp and the red of the surcharge and therefore it is impossible to state with any certainty that the same handstamp was used to produce both the black and the red surcharges. I do not suppose that we shall ever know the answer for certain but it would be reasonable to assume that the same handstamp was used until fresh information comes to light discounting this assumption. There is nothing in the wording on Card No. 1 to indicate who was offering the “½” surcharge in red to Griffith B. Seignoret. I imagine that the Post Office in Roseau in the 1880’s needed only one or two persons to run it. In my opinion the wording on Card No. 1 can have an equivocal meaning.

Griffith B. Seignoret may himself have thought up the red “½” surcharge and then written in the way he did just to test the reaction of the London stamp dealer, or the red “½” surcharge may in fact have been offered to him by a colleague in the Dominica Post Office - it is not possible to say at present which is correct, but it may be that with the aid of messages on other cards in the hands of collectors the truth will be found out one day.

Summarising the position, Montserrat bisects of the 1876 1d red (SG. 1a) are known on cover with a “½” surcharge in black and are very rarely to be found with no surcharge. Bisects of the 1884 1d red perf. 12 (SG.13b) are to be found on cover either without surcharge or with a black surcharge or with a red surcharge. Although Stanley Gibbons list the bisect of the 1884-85 1d rose-red (SG.8a) on cover, I have never seen it and cannot say whether the bisect of this stamp has any surcharge and curiously the catalogue does not list any bisect of the 1884-85 1d red (SG.7) on cover and neither have I seen such an item: I would have expected a listing however, particularly as the 1d rose-red is listed.

The traffic in bisects and surcharges could not have made much money for any individual 90 years ago but it must have been worthwhile nevertheless and underlines Col. Seifert’s remarks concerning the paltry salaries received by Post Office officials in those days.

ST. LUCIA PLATE NUMBERS - 1882 to 1971

by Dr. John M. Lockie

The following list of plate numbers of St. Lucia may be of interest to many B.W.I. members as it follows the general trend of issues of many of the islands. The list is complete to the Xmas issue of 1971 (except for the National Day issue of December, 1971), by which time my exasperation with the numerous four or more value commemoratives - not to mention miniature sheets - had reached its intolerable peak! The first type of St. Lucia, printed first by Perkins Bacon and later by De La Rue, was in use from 1860 to 1882, with its various surcharges, and does not show any plate numbers.

The list includes all known plate numbers, including those mentioned in the Royal Philatelic Collection (British America section), by Sir John Wilson, Bart. The size and type of the letters and numerals varies according to the printers - De La Rue, Waterlow, Harrison, Bradbury Wilkinson, and in later years, Format International, Enschede, Questa, the Walsall Security Printers, and Waddingtons.

I have used the catalogue numbers of the 1974 edition of Stanley Gibbons as far as possible. I would very much appreciate any member writing to me with additional numbers. The membership list names 11 members who specialise in St. Lucia.

St. Lucia Plate Numbers

1882-86 (DLR) Die 1			1921-26 Script CA (DIR)	
31-36	1/2d, 1d, 2½d, 4d, 6d, 1s.	1	91	1/2d
31-34	1/2d, 1d, 2½d, 4d.	2		10, 11, 16, 20, 21, 26
			92	1d carmine
			93	1d brown
1886-87 (DLR) Die I				10
39	1d	1		10, 11, 16, 20, 21, 28
39-42	1d, 3d, 6d, 1s.	2	94	1½d
			95	2d
			96	2½d bright
1891-98 (DLR) Die 2				blue
43	1/2d	2	97	2d orange
43-52	1/2d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1s, 5s, 10s.	3	98	2d dull
43-44	1/2d, 1d	4		blue
			99	3d bright
				blue
Provisionals			99a	3d dull
53	1/2d/3d (Die 1)	2		blue
54	1/2d/6d (Die 1)	3	100	3d purple/
55	1d/4d (Die 1)	1,2		yellow
56	1/2d/3d (Die 2)	3	100a	3d purple/
				p. yellow
			101	4d
1902-03 (DLR) KE VII			102	6d
58-62	1/2d, 1d, 2½d, 3d, 1s.	all 1		10, 11, 16, 21, 26, 28
			103	1s.
1902 Commemorative (DLR)				10, 11, 16, 20, 21, 26
63	2d	no plate numbers	104	2s. 6d
			105	5s.
				3
				11, 21
1904-10 (DLR) ordinary/chalky paper				
even nos.	1/2d, 1d, 2½d, 3d, 6d, 1s, 5s			
64-76		all 1	1935 Silver Jubilee (DLR)	
			109	1d
			110	2d
1907-10 (DLR) Universal colours			111	2½d
65, 67, 69, 71, 72a, 73, 75, 77			112	1s.
1/2d, 1d, 2½d, 3d, 6d, 1s, 5s.		all 1		?, 2A, 2B, 2A, 1, 2B, 3A, 4

continued on page 68

1912-19 (DLR)

78, 79, 80, 80a, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85,	
87, 88 ½d, 1d, 2d(2), 2½d, 3d,	
4d, 6d, 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s.,	all 1
79a, 79b 1d	2
78a, 79a, 79b ½d, 1d	3
78a, 79a, 81a, 81b, 84a, 85a	
½d, 1d, 2½d(2), 6d, 1s.	5
78a, 79b, 81, 81a, 81b ½d, 1d, 2½d(3)	3
82a, 86 3d, 1s.	6
82a, 86 3d, 1s.	8
82b 3d (die 2)	10

1916 War Tax (DLR)

89 1d	3
89b 1d	5

KGV 1936 (DLR)

113-124 ½d(2), 1d(2), 1½d(2), 2d,	
2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1s, 2/6, 5s.	
10s. All values and perfs plate 1	
in vignette only.	

1938-48 Waterlow, De La Rue and Bradbury Wilkinson

133b 3½d (W)	1
134 6d (DLR)	1
134a 6d (DLR)	1
134aa 6d (DLR)	1
134b 8d (W)	1
135 1s. (DLR)	1
135a 1s. (DLR)	1
141 £1 (W)	1

Note: Only later or post-war printings of these values have plate numbers. All other values, including 2s. and 10s., by Bradbury Wilkinson, have no plate numbers.

1946 Victory (DLR)

142 1d 1/51	“51” & “52” are printer’s
143 3½d 1/52	numbers found in the lower
	left corner of the sheet,
	and inverted.

1951 B.W.I. University, Waterlow

164 3c	1-1, 1-2
165 12c	1-1

1951 Castries Reconstruction, Bradbury Wilkinson

166 12c	1-1, 1a-1a
---------	------------

1949 R.S.W. Waterlow (1d), Bradbury Wilkinson (£1)

144 1d	1, 2
145 £1	1, 1a

1951 New Constitution Overprinted by Waterlow

167-170 2c, 4c, 5c, 12c	all 1
-------------------------	-------

1949-50 Waterlow (1c-16c), Bradbury Wilkinson (24c-\$4.80)

146-154 1c, 2c, 3c, 4c, 5c, 6c, 7c,	all 1
12c, 16c	
155-159 24c, 48c, \$1.20,	
\$2.40, \$4.80	all 1, 1a

1953 Coronation (DLR)

171 3c	1-1, 1-4
--------	----------

1949 U.P.U. Waterlow (5c and 24c), Bradbury Wilkinson (6c & 12c)

160 5c	1
161 6c	1, 1a
162 12c	1, 1a
163 24c	1

1953-1961 Waterlow to 1961 then DLR - 1c-15c. Bradbury Wilkinson 25c-\$2.50

172-180 1c, 2c, 4c,	
5c, 6c, 8c,	
10c, 15c	all values 1
181-184 25c, 50c,	
\$1.00,	
\$2.50	all values 1, 1a

Note: De La Rue took over the printing contract for the low values (1c-15c) from Waterlow in September, 1961. Though each printer used his own brand of ink, there are only minor degrees of shades. De La Rue’s printings are alleged to be sharper than those of Waterlow’s, but the main difference to be seen is the wide margins of the De La Rue printings.

1958 Federation, Bradbury Wilkinson

185 3c	1
186 6c	1
187 12c	1

1968 Xmas, Harrison

252-255 5c, 10c,	
25c, 35c	All 1A(x6)

1960 New Constitution, Waterlow

188-190 5c, 10c, 25c	all 1
----------------------	-------

1969 Birds, Format Int.

256 10c	1A(x4)
257 15c	1B(x4)
258 25c	1A(x4)
259 35c	1B(x4)

1960 Stamp Centenary, Waterlow

191-193 5c, 16c, 25c	all 1-1
----------------------	---------

1969 Easter, Harrison

260-263 10c, 15c, 25c, 35c	All 1A(x5)
----------------------------	------------

1963 Freedom from Hunger, Harrison			
194	25c	2B-1A	
1963 Red Cross, Bradbury Wilkinson			
195-196	4c, 25c	1-1, la-1a	
1964 Harrison			
197-201	1c, 2c, 4c, 5c, 6c	all 1A	
202-203	8c, 10c	1A(x5), 1B(x5)	
204	12c	1A(x4)	
205	15c	1A(x3)	
206	25c	1A(x3), 1B(x3)	
207	35c	1B(x2)	
208, 209	50c, \$1.00	1A(x3)	
210	\$2.50	1A(x5)	
1964 Shakespeare, Harrison			
211	10c	1A	
1964 I.T.U., Enschede			
212-213	2c, 50c	no plate numbers	
1965 I.C.Y., Harrison			
214, 215	1c, 25c	both A1-A1	
1966 Churchill, Harrison			
216-219	4c, 6c, 25c, 35c	all 1A(x4), 1 B(x4)	
1966 Royal Visit, Bradbury Wilkinson			
220, 221	4c, 25c	both 1-1, la-la	
1966 Football, Harrison			
222, 223	4c, 25c	both A1(x4)	
1966 W.H.O., Harrison			
224, 225	4c, 25c	both 1A(x3)	
1966 UNESCO, Harrison			
226-228	4c 12c, 25c	A1(x4) A1(x3)	
1967 Statehood. Overprint plates Harrison. Locally overprinted			
229-231	1c, 2c, 5c, 6c	all 1A	
232	8c	1B(x5)	
233	10c	1A(x5)	
234	12c	1A(x4)	
235	15c	1A(x3)	
236	25c	1A(x3)	
237	35c	1A-1A, 1B-1B	
238, 239	50c, \$1.00	1A(x3)	
---	\$2.50	1A(x5)	
240	15c (air)	1A	
1967 Xmas, Harrison			
241, 242	4c, 25c	both 1A(x6)	
1968 M.C.C., Harrison			
243, 244	10c, 35c	both 1A(x5), 1B(x5)	
1968 Easter, Harrison			
245-248	10c, 15c, 25c, 35c	All 1 A(x5)	
1968 Martin Luther King (DLR)			
250, 251	25c, 35c	1A(x3), 1B(x3)	
1969 Carifta, Harrison			
264-267	5c, 10c, 25c, 35c		All 1B(x4) 1A(x4)
266, 267	25c, 35c		
1969 Napoleon, Enschede			
268-271	15c, 25c, 35c, 50c		All 1-1-1-1
1969 Xmas, Harrison			
272-275	5c, 10c, 25c, 35c		All 1A(x6) 1B(x6)
273, 275	10c, 35c		
1970 Format Int.			
276	1c		1B(x4), 1D(x4)
277	2c		1A(x4)
278	4c		1C(x4), 1D(x4)
279	5c		1A(x4)
280	6c		1B(x4)
281	10c		1C(x4), 1D(x4), 2D-1D(x3)
282	12c		1B(x4), 2C-1C(x3)
283	15c		1C(x4)
284	25c		1D(x4)
285	35c		1B(x4)
286	50c		1D(x4)
287	\$1.00		1A(x5), 1D(x5)
288	\$2.00		1C(x4)
289	\$5.00		1D(x5)
1970 Easter, Enschede			
290-292	25c, 35c, \$1.00		all 1A(x5)
1970 Dickens, Bradbury Wilkinson			
293	1c		1-1-1-1, 2a-1a-1a-1a 1a-1a-1a-1a
294	25c		1-1-1-1
295	35c		1a-1a-1a-la
296	50c		
1970 Red Cross, J. Waddington			
297	10c		1D(x5)
298	15c		1B(x5)
299	25c		1B(x5), 1D(x5)
300	35c		1A(x5), 1D(x5)
1970 Xmas, Walsall Security			
301-304	5c, 10c, 35c, 40c		All 1A-1B-1C- 1D- 1F-1F
1971 Easter, Enschede			
305-308	10c, 15c, 35c, 40c		All 1A(x6)
1971 Beane Field, Questa			
309	5c		1A(x5), 1B(x5)
310	25c		1C(x5), 1D(x5)
1971 Old Views, Questa			
311-318	5c, 10c, 25c, 50c		All 1A(x4), 1B(x4)
1971 Xmas, J. Waddington			
319	5c		1B(x5), 1D(x5)
320	10c		1A(x5), 1D(x5)
321	35c		1B(x5), 1D(x5)
322	40c		1A(x5), 1D(x5)

THE RARE EARLY STAMPS OF ST. VINCENT

by J. L. Messenger

This article will contain short notes on the early stamps of St. Vincent and their varieties which may be considered to fall into the rarity class. It will include among them a few items which are rare in unused condition but which are hardly describable as scarce when found used.

The considerable number of rare items which fall into the category of proof or unissued status are outside the scope of these notes and will not be included.

In the case of unused stamps a problem may arise as a good many earlier St. Vincent stamps were remaindered in greater or lesser numbers and these may sometimes not be too easy to separate from stamps which were actually sent to the island for postal purposes. It is also known that as at least from 1866 European dealers imported new issues from the Colonies sometimes in complete sheets and these again may easily be mistaken for remainders. It is therefore not easy to state for certain that items which strongly suggest that they fall into the remainder category really do so. Where stamps are known to have been remaindered it will be referred to in the following notes.

The following stamps or rare varieties are considered worthy of note:

S.G.2. A reasonably common stamp used but unused examples are of rarity. Probably less than a dozen have survived but they include a horizontal pair formerly in the Lickfold Collection. No remainders are believed to exist.

S.G.4a. Exceedingly few examples of these pairs are known, possibly only three or four of which one is used, proving that the variety actually achieved the Colony. The stamp was heavily remaindered so the unused examples could have come from this source.

S.G.6a. In this case only a single pair which is in the Royal Collection can at present be recorded.

S.G.8. This stamp is quite rare both unused and used. Although remainders are not known it seems likely that they may account for some (or all) of the unused examples which include a block of four formerly in the Charlton Henry Collection.

S.G.10. Very scarce indeed in fine used condition this stamp certainly acquires rarity class when unused. Probably less than ten exist of which a very few only are in good condition. Purchasers of this stamp should guard against some clever forgeries, several of which have appeared recently.

S.G.20. Definitely a rarity in fine unused condition probably less than a dozen having survived. Far from common used the collector will find that most copies offered are in most unattractive condition. An unlisted variety of this stamp with perforation 11-12½ all round probably exists but comes so close to faded pale examples of S.G.21 that it is difficult to prove with complete certainty as, so far, no convincing dated copy has come to light.

S.G.22a. One used pair is known and so far no other seems to have been recorded. In any case a great rarity.

S.G.24a. One pair only of this great rarity has been recorded.

S.G.26. This stamp has only recently been listed so its status is not yet too well known. Quite a number of new copies have been noted but in unused condition it appears to be of rarity. So far only two such examples have come to the writer's notice.

S.G.27. One used example of this stamp has so far turned up, though others may well exist. Several clever forgeries have been seen in addition to a forgery showing a compound perforation.

S.G.27a. The writer has seen three fairly well authenticated used examples of this stamp, one of which is on a small piece used with a normal perforated example. The stamp is of course 'dangerous' as very large examples of No. 27 exist which could be cut down still leaving reasonable margins.

S.G.31a. There is a pair of this item recorded by Stanley Gibbons. It would appear to be the only known example.

S.G.33b. A difficult item as it is not known for certain whether the variety occurred more than once on the sheet. Between thirty and forty examples are stated to exist but this figure may well include stamps counted more than once. If not in the highest rarity class it is certainly a stamp rarely seen.

S.G.60c. The writer has seen three claimants but one of them only was very convincing and truly looked as though it had been struck twice. The other examples suggested "kiss prints."

TRINIDAD 1879-83 BISECTED STAMPS

4

by **John B. Marriott**

The locally printed provisional post cards for countries of the Postal Union were issued on 1st April, 1879. On this date also the rate for post cards was reduced from 3d. to 1½d. No halfpenny stamp was available at the time. The first consignment of the lilac stamp surcharged "HALFPENNY" was not sent from London until 9th May, 1879 and only came into use about June. No official announcement that bisected penny stamps could be used to make up the 1½d. rate has yet been found. It may well have been that all the cards were sold ready franked with one whole copy and a vertically bisected copy of the 1876 penny stamp. If this were so, reference to bisected stamps in The Gazette may have been deemed unnecessary. Undoubtedly genuine unused examples exist of cards bearing the franking mentioned, Trinidad thereby acquiring those intriguing possessions, namely genuine unused bisects!

When the surcharged "HALFPENNY" stamp became available it was intended for use in place of the bisect. The provisional post cards themselves were no longer necessary when the London printed 1½d. cards became available. It is not certain when exactly this was, and E. D. Bacon gives the date as (?) August, 1879. I have no reason to doubt that August was the month of issue.

The era of bisected stamps should apparently have ended with the issue of this London printed 1½d. card and the availability of the surcharged HALFPENNY stamps, but in practice this was not the case. Bisected penny stamps continued to serve as ½d. stamps and to pass normally through the post until their use was officially stopped by the following announcement in The Gazette for 21st March, 1883:

GENERAL POST OFFICE

15th March, 1883.

A REGULAR HALFPENNY POSTAGE STAMP being now in circulation, the half of a Penny stamp which has been for some time used will not be recognised after the 1st April next.

(signed) O'CONL FITZGERALD

Acting P.M.G.

It may well be asked why the surcharged HALFPENNY stamps were not in sufficient supply to meet all needs. Four consignments totalling 58,630 stamps on CC watermarked paper were sent out between May 1879 and May 1881 and there was also the consignment of 11,000 stamps on CC watermarked paper sent on 25th April, 1882. These consignments would represent an adequate supply, and it seems likely that the new issue must have received attention from speculators who bought large quantities. The face value of the first two consignments of 9th May and 15th Oct., 1879 was only about £21, and of all five consignments it was about £145. It is also worth mentioning that the surcharged HALFPENNY is not too easy to find used in the period 1879-82 and especially difficult to find on cover. The stamp is to be found from time to time in large mint blocks (sometimes with toned gum suggesting lengthy storage out in the colony) and quite often used with cancellations dated 1883 or later. The new stamp not being readily available, it is not therefore surprising that the use of bisected penny stamps continued.

Many philatelic covers exist showing bisects used quite unnecessarily (e.g. two separate bisects to make up a penny rate) and many of the bisects on piece no doubt originated from such covers. It should be remembered that the need for a ½d. stamp was decidedly uncommon in the Trinidad postal rates generally. However, a genuinely acceptable use for bisects again became possible with the reduction to 2½d. per ½oz. of the letter rate to Tobago, Grenada, St. Vincent and Barbados on 1st April, 1882. Also the printed paper rate was reduced to ½d. for the first 2oz.

The stamps found bisected are the 1876 (1d.), 1882 surcharged ONE PENNY, the 1d. on 6d. manuscript surcharge and also the 1883 1d. value. It is difficult to imagine any need for the last named as the ½d. stamp of the same series was issued in January, 1883 along with the 1d., 2½d. and 4d. values. However, non-philatelic entires and wrappers exist showing the genuine use of the 1883 bisected 1d. in the period January to March, 1883, though they are decidedly scarce.

Finally, collectors are warned against bisected examples of the 1876 6d. which used to be catalogued as SG96a. Covers such as two addressed to Barbados with type 07 numeral 17 circular date stamps of JY 25 1877 and JY 26 1877 apparently tying bisected 6d. stamps are now recognised as forgeries (see *The Philatelist* July/August, 1961).

Check List of Bisects

1876 (1d.) no value expressed: the locally printed postal Union card with one whole and one vertically bisected copy. The date for preference should be between April and June or July, 1879 though later uses are also possible.

1882: surcharged “ONE PENNY” and “1d.” on 6d. manuscript surcharge: from 1st April, 1882 covers to Tobago, Grenada, St. Vincent or Barbados, bearing two whole copies and a bisect to make the 2½d. rate; also wrappers to the same places bearing a bisect for the ½d. rate. The date for preference should be April to Dec., 1882, though up to March, 1883 is possible.

1883: 1d. value used as for the 1882 surcharged “ONE PENNY” and 1d. on 6d. manuscript provisional detailed above, and dated Jan.-March, 1883.

Other valid non-philatelic uses in the period 1st April, 1879 to 31st March, 1883 do occur but they are rare. Covers showing philatelically used bisects are not nearly so desirable as the above and are also more commonly found. Bisects on piece are not too uncommon and do not command very high prices: the 1876 (1d.), the surcharged “ONE PENNY” and the “1d.” on 6d. manuscript surcharge are not so scarce as the 1883 1d. The best items in this class of material consist of two whole stamps and a bisect used on piece and dated April to December, 1882.

Quaint combinations exist, mainly only on piece and with late dates, e.g. the surcharged “ONE PENNY” bisected diagonally and the complementary diagonal bisect of say the “1d.” on 6d. manuscript surcharge placed in position to make a “whole” bicoloured “1d. stamp.”

NEW MEMBERS

Please accept our apologies, but lack of space prevents a listing in this issue.

DECEASED MEMBERS

HAMILTON, W. R.

SAUNDERS, Philip T.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

JOHNSON, Bryan E., 28 Ruston Avenue, Rustington, W. Sussex BN16 2AN

KOPF, Dr. Kenneth, 3208 Cunningham Drive, Alexandria VA 22309, U.S.A.

TOWNSEND, W. A., Greenlanes, Church Lane, Heilingly, Hailsham, E. Sussex
BN27 4HA

RESIGNED

CAMERON, B. R.; MARSH, F.; MASON, Dr. S. A.; ORR, A.; TERRY, W.;
WRIGHT, B. E.

Advert

F.W.COLLINS

Advert

ROBSON LOWE INTERNATIONAL LTD.

Advert

RITCHIE BODILY

Advert

NEW ENGLAND STAMP COMPANY

Advert

JAMES BENDON

Advert

H. R. HARMER LTD