



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 89

JUNE 1976

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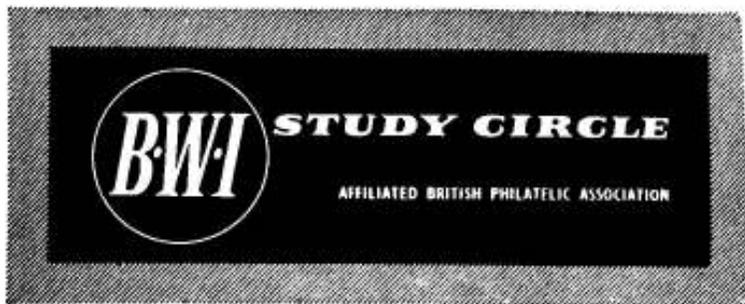
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- Hon. Auditor :* **A. J. BRANSTON, F.R.P.S.L.**

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".

PROGRAMME 1976-77

1976

Sat., Oct. 2nd, 3 p.m.

Thurs., Nov. 11th, 6.30 p.m.

Nine pages from members.

1977

Wed., Jan. 19th, 6.30 p.m.

Mr. E.V. Toeg, Antigua

Thurs., Mar. 10th, 6.30 p.m.

Nine pages from members.

Sat., April 16th, 3 p.m.

A.G.M. and Auction Sale.

The meeting on Oct. 2nd, 1976 will be held in one of the meeting rooms at Seymour Hall, London. This is the closing day of the British Philatelic Exhibition.

All other meetings will be held at Stanley Gibbons Auction Room, Drury House, Russell St., London.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Minutes of the 22nd Anniversary Meeting of the British West Indies Study Circle held on the 1st May, 1976 at 3 p.m. at the Auction Room of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Drury House, Russell Street, London, W.C.1.

19 members were present.

The chair was taken by Mr. E.V. Toeg, the President, who extended a warm welcome to all.

Apologies for absence were received from: Miss Collinson and Messrs. Branston, Townsend, Benwell, Marriott and Fitzgerald.

The Minutes of the 21st Anniversary Meeting were published in the June 1975 issue of the Bulletin in pages 23 to 27 inclusive. These were taken as read and, with the approval of the meeting were signed as correct by the Chairman.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

REPORT OF THE HON. SECRETARY:

I report that, as predicted in my report last year, the membership has increased from 286 to 293. This represents a rise in membership of 7. This increase can be entirely accounted for by the publicity given to the Circle in the 21st Anniversary celebrations. Some members resigned in an effort to reduce their expenses, these were retired people on fixed incomes who were feeling the pinch in the present economic climate. The celebrations were an unqualified success. All the events which were planned took place. The luncheon in particular was successful and it was followed by a meeting at Drury House where members exhibited their material and a 'Brains Trust' was held with Messrs. Marriott, Goldblatt and Britnor facing a wide range of questions from the audience. Other events included a display of material from the colonies comprising the British West Indies which was held, by the kindness of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, at Romano House over a period of 4 weeks. Stanley Gibbons were hosts to us at an evening meeting at Romano House where they supplied refreshment as well as the opportunity to meet one another in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

The usual meetings were held throughout the season. The meeting on the 27th September, 1975 attracted 10 members; the meeting on the 4th December, 1975 attracted only 6 members; the meeting held on the 28th January, 1976 attracted 14 members and the meeting held on the 4th March, 1976 attracted 10 members. The average attendance at meetings is somewhat down on previous years, it is to be hoped that this is only a passing trend associated with the general 'tightening of belts' which is a feature of the depressed economic state of the country.

One item was sent to the Circle for 'Expert Opinion'. I take this opportunity to remind members of this facility.

REPORT OF THE HON. TREASURER:

Looking at the Statement of Accounts for 1975 in the March Bulletin, members will see that Postage and Bulletin Printing costs continue to rise at an alarming rate, but the increase in the Subscription rate and the introduction of the Annual Auction with its resultant benefits to the Circle, have offset a large part of this.

However, due to an internal misunderstanding, Advertisers have not been billed for their charges during 1974/75, but this has now been rectified and much of the outstanding money has been recovered. The Committee have decided that at present the Annual Subscription can remain unaltered at £2.50 as we have taken steps to reduce costs by changing the printing system to a new one which, while being cheaper, still remains very presentable and easy to read, as can be seen in the March edition.

I am still having difficulty in collecting all subscriptions on time. At the time of this meeting there are still 56 members who have not paid this year. (Perhaps if you are one of them you could kindly see me later.) I continued to receive in 1975 several subscriptions paid through the bank for the wrong amount and to the wrong bank. I can supply new Bankers Orders for the necessary changes to be implemented. Please attempt to pay on time. Your Committee just have not the time to keep chasing for money owed for annual subscriptions. To conclude, I hope bidding will be brisk at today's Auction, and therefore prove a great help to our funds.

REPORT OF THE HON. EDITOR:

In common with many other similar publications the Circle has, over the past year, been increasingly concerned with the ever increasing cost of producing the Bulletin. It was therefore decided to change our method of printing. This we have now done with a consequent saving of revenue and without loss of quality.

Your comments on the 21st Anniversary Bulletin were sufficiently favourable for us to consider the possibility of a repeat issue. However, this would be dependent on our receiving a sufficient number of suitable articles. Meanwhile, my usual plea to all contributors old and new - please keep up the good work.

REPORT OF THE HON. LIBRARIAN:

I would like to start this report by expressing my appreciation to Simon Goldblatt for providing transport, to Ian Chard for undertaking a long drive in frost and fog, and to Rose Saunders for a most friendly welcome and assistance when the Library was collected last November.

As planned the re-commencement of lending items took place in mid-January and since that time ten members have made fifteen requests for twenty-nine different publications and this does not include three outstanding items which cannot be sent as they are currently on loan.

The Library has also been increased slightly. We have new two copies of "St. Vincent 1861-81" by fellow member Minoru Tshihara. Although in Japanese there are a number of bibliographical footnotes in English which should prove most helpful when a full bibliography of this Island's issues is made. The second item received was a copy of "Les Premiers Emissions de la Guyane Anglais" edited by Theodore Champion of Paris. Presented by member Bill Townsend this publication is in french and comprises three parts - (1) "Les Emissions Provisoires"; (2) "Le Type Batteau"; and (3) "Le Service Postal en Guyane Anglais". From another source I have received a large pile of Auction Catalogues, mainly Robson Lowe's but also a number of Gibbons and other houses. I myself have acquired a virtually complete run of Rigby Postal History Auction Catalogues which I will eventually put into the Library. I am also negotiating to buy a long run of the Philatelist - the journal of the RPS - and I hope from these to be able to gain a number of detailed and learned articles for inclusion in the Scrapbooks.

Regrettably updating the scrapbooks will be a rather long process and it could be some twelve months before I can complete this task.

From the cost point of view the items which have been borrowed since mid-January have cost the members £11.78 in postal charges - nearly a £1 per member request (over £1 per member) or just over 40p per item lent. This does not include the costs of corrugated paper, wrapping paper, string, sealing wax, memoranda forms or envelopes etc., which might amount to some £3 in all to date. Although not excessive the packing costs could perhaps be covered by a packaging charge of say 5p or 10p per loan.

Philatelic literature is very expensive and especially so on the second hand market. Whilst this might be considered a good thing from the overall value of the library itself, it has disadvantages in that insurance costs must increase and replacement or expansion will be that much harder to achieve.

In the new Library list which I have prepared (copies can be obtained from me - a 9" x 6" envelope with 9p stamp would be appreciated) I intimated that I would be pleased to allow members to use the library in situ at my home. I must now withdraw this offer, at least for the time being, for I am in the process of moving from Windsor to pastures new - and as yet unknown. The Library will however still be available for use but I would ask members to be patient if their requests are not filled immediately as it may only be at weekends that I will be able to deal with the packing and posting until I find a new permanent base from which to operate. Until this happens requests should be sent to me, c/o Mrs. F.A. Leggett, 16, St. Davids Road, Pembroke, Dyfed, Wales - or at the Windsor address in the hope that the Post Office will forward all correspondence!

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE:

This was again a year in which many important decisions had to be taken.

At the first meeting held on the 27th September, 1975 the Committee bestowed honorary life membership of the Study Circle on Mrs. Rose Saunders for her vast

services over the years and in particular for her work as Hon. Librarian; it also appointed Mr. S. E. Papworth as Hon. Librarian in succession to Mrs. Saunders. The ever mounting cost of printing the Bulletin came under consideration and a cheaper method of production was decided upon eventually without lowering the quality and appearance of the Bulletin.

At the next meeting on 1st May, 1976 the Committee decided on the award of the Gilbert W. Collett Memorial Trophy; it considered the arrangement of a Programme of Meetings for 1976/ 1977; it received a Report from the Hon. Treasurer as regards collection of outstanding charges for 1974 and 1975 from advertisers in the Bulletin; it discussed the question of withholding the Bulletin from members who had failed to pay their subscriptions (dues) within a reasonable period after becoming due on the first of January; it considered the question of printing a fresh List of Members with their addresses and interests where appropriate.

A number of other matters were reviewed or discussed by the Committee but owing to lack of space cannot be expressly referred to.

REPORT OF THE HON. AUDITOR:

Read in his absence by Ian Chard: 'I report that I have examined the accounts and find them to be in good order'.

AUTUMN MEETING:

This event had been set for 2nd October, 1976, 3 p.m. at the Auction Room of Messrs. Stanley Gibbons

GILBERT W. COLLETT MEMORIAL TROPHY:

Mr. Toeg reported to the meeting that, at a meeting of the Committee which had taken place earlier that day, it had been unanimously decided to award the Gilbert W. Collett Memorial Trophy to Mr. Simon Goldblatt, for his articles on the postmarks of the British West Indies which had appeared in the Bulletin over the past two years. Mr. Toeg then made the presentation amidst spontaneous applause from the meeting. Mr. Goldblatt then made a short speech of thanks.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

Mr. Toeg stated that all the officers and members of the Committee were willing to remain in office and that there had been no other nominations received. He, therefore, declared that the existing Officers and Committee were elected automatically.

The Officers are as follows:

President	Mr. E. V. Toeg
Vice Presidents	Mr. J. B. Marriott Mr. W. A. Townsend
Hon. Secretary	Mr. I. P. Chard
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. G. Bartlett
Hon. Editor	Mr. M. Sheppard
Hon. Librarian	Mr. S. Papworth

The Committee are as follows:

Messrs. B. B. Benwell; F. D. Fitzgerald; S. Goldblatt; A. H. Latham and J. C. Loach.

ELECTION OF HON. AUDITON:

Mr. Toeg proposed that Mr. Branston be elected to this office and this proposal was seconded by Mr. Sheppard. He was elected unanimously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no other business Mr. Chard proposed a Vote of Thanks to Mr. Toeg, the Chairman, not only for chairing the meeting but for the strenuous efforts which he has made on behalf of the Circle. The interests of the Circle, Mr. Chard observed, are always close to Mr. Toeg's heart and never more so than in this past year when the 21st Anniversary celebrations had taken place. The spectacular success of these celebrations were due to the organisation and work of Mr. Toeg and his group of helpers. This vote of thanks was welcomed by the entire meeting who signified their approval by applause.

The meeting closed at 2.30 p.m. and was followed by the Auction Sale.

DISPLAY

On the 28th January 1976, 14 members attended a display of VIRGIN ISLANDS, given by Mr. Simon Goldblatt. There follows a summary of the principal items shown.

The well-known Walters correspondence was represented by several entires, including the very first letter, hand delivered at Liverpool in 1801. The changing trans-Atlantic rates were noted, and all the letters to Tortola were marked with the postmaster's "1 bit" handling charge (equivalent to 12½ U.S. cents) in addition to the equivalent in "bits" of any further postage to be collected. It was estimated that 90% of the outgoing correspondence was pre-paid from London or Liverpool to Tortola, highly unusual at a time (prior to 1815) when heavy losses of mail bound for the West Indies were still to be expected.

After a single example of a TORTOLA straight-line entire, the display moved on to the first issues of the colony, which form the strength of the collection. The opening page, which contained a GB 6d. cancelled "A13" and selected used examples of the 1d and 6d values in both perf. 12 and perf. 15, was the prelude to about 30 more sheets devoted to the 1d, 4d, 6d and 1/- issues of Nissen & Parker, together with the 4d on 1/- surcharge. Included were die and plate proofs of the three lower values; complete panes of the 4d lake, and 1/- with coloured margins; reconstructions of panes of the 1d, and most of the 6d value, in perf. 12 and of the 1/- in all its various states; and almost complete pane of the 1d perf. 15 transfer 'B'; numerous examples, mint and used, in different shades, of the 6d 'large V', the 1/- on blued paper (the only genuinely distinguishable paper variety, members were informed), and the 'long-tailed 5'; a bewildering range and profusion of the different transfers of the 1d perf. 15; and a quantity of forgeries, amongst them, types seldom seen. The 1866 1d 'compound perf.' was shown in three different states; the first, a 'normal' copy, perf. 15, 12, 15, 12; the second, the 'Yardley' copy, perf. 15, 12, 15, imperf. ; and the last, an apparently genuine perf. 15 all round. Sheet positions of the above were - Row IV/2, IV/1, II/4.

The De la Rue ld green was followed by the 'Antilles' key type, mint, used and in blocks; and the 1887/8 lithographs were introduced by a remarkable SPECIMEN corner block of six of the 6d values, after which came substantial quantities of the four issued values, mint and used, in singles and multiples, illustrating the wide variety of shade and colour that can be found. As well as the 1/- 'very light brown', the ld was shown in scarlet and crimson, the 4d in 'milk chocolate', and the 6d in rose-lilac; also represented was the ld imperf.

In the period of the Leeward Islands stamps, the first set was shown up to 1/- with c.d.s. cancellations, and a similar group cancelled "A91"; the sexagenary set was complete to the 7d value. Although Charlton Henry, and in succession in him, our President, had proved that the feat of a full set to 5/- can be achieved, even the lowest values of this set are very rare with Virgin Islands cancellations; and of the middle values (4d, 6d and 7d) only 63, 61 and 63, respectively, were sold from the post office at Tortola. Three Leeward Islands commercial covers were shown.

A small section contained unused and used postal stationery, unusual cancellations, including foreign and forged, and three philatelic but colourful covers, showing the earlier issues used after date being superceded by subsequent Issues.

The 1898 definitives were represented as Specimens, mint, used and on cover, also used from Tortola in early 1903 on two Danish West Indies picture postcards. The broken letter varieties of the ½d and 4d values were shown, as were the two low values with imperf. margins.

A 'straightforward' showing of mint and used issues of the present century nevertheless included the Edward Specimen set additionally over stamped 'Ultramar', postal stationery covers commercially used at Virgin Gorda, examples of the rare East End TRD, some seven or more pages of Edward and George V Leeward Islands issues, with values to 5/- used in the Virgin Islands, a variety of registered and other covers, one of them with the Leeward 2d yellow-orange, and many village cancels on singles or piece, among them the scarce Anegada c.d.s. More modern items consisted mainly of the unlikely or unusual, examples being shown of almost all the village date stamps on piece or cover, said to be impossible to obtain commercially, and all but impracticable philatelically - these extended to Josi Van Dyke, Cane Garden Bay, North Sound, Virgin Gorda, and ultimately, Marina Cay and Peter Island.

Mr. Bryan B. Johnson thanked Mr. Goldblatt on behalf of the Circle for a most informative and instructive display. When so much had been assembled in a single collection, he said, it was no wonder that there were none of the early stamps left for other members to find.

MEMBER'S SMALL ADVEBTISMERTS

Advertisement Rates:

5p per word; minimum 50p. Copy to the Editor six weeks before publication.

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BULLETINS AND STUDY PAPERS

Copies of a few early back issues and consecutively from No. 53 (June 1967) are obtainable from the Hon. Secretary or Hon.

Treasurer as follows:

Bulletins nos. 1 -7 (Reprint in one cover) £1.50 (\$3.75)

Bulletins per copy 50p (\$1.25)

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Issues containing notes on specific colonies gladly supplied where available.

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to the West Indies. L. E. Britnor (America & etc.) . . . \$7.50

Note: Prices include postage, packing and V.A.T. where applicable.

NOTES AND QUERIES

ANTIGUA

ANTIGUA SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS

These comments pertain to Mr. Alec Thomson's query in Bulletin No.85, June 1975, entitled "Antigua Slogan Cancellations".

From his description of the YOU SHOULD VISIT/ ANTIGUA / THE IDEAL SUMMER RESORT slogan, I would say that Mr. Thomson's example is as shown in Figure 1. I am aware of at least three other covers bearing this slogan and posted on 30 April 1928, which so far as I know is the EDK. These covers are the subject of discussion by Messrs. Stan Durnin, Fred Seifert, and Paul Larsen in Whole Number (W/B) 13 of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

The LDK of this slogan - again, speaking from my own observations - is 11 November 1930. It appears on a first flight cover from Antigua to Para, Brazil, which was described as Lot No.2070 in the catalogue for the 31st Great Lakes Stamp Auction, Chicago, Illinois, held on 15 March 1975.

Mr. Thomson's "double concentric ellipse" is probably Figure 2, which is one of several such marks described in my article "Antigua GPO Ovals" in BCPJ W/N's 66 and 68 (April 1972 and August 1972 respectively). (I say "probably", because the subject mark is in reality a triple concentric ellipse configuration, with the outer "ellipse" doubled.) My study classifies this mark as Type 2, and specifies its use on two covers posted on 18 March 1929 and 24 September 1929; both of these strikes are in a somewhat violet shade, as is Mr. Thomson's. In the example shown, on a cover in my collection, the manuscript FdeF stands for Mr. F. de Freitas, appointed Postmaster of Antigua on 1 October 1925.

In a letter to me dated in July of 1972, Paul Larsen advised that he owned a registered cover posted at Antigua on 13 January 1928 and addressed to the U.S., showing the Figure 2 strike on both sides of the envelope. I would say that this cover reflects the EKD of this handstamp.

Most of the GPO marks of this type that I have seen have the words GENERAL POST OFFICE along the upper portion of the ellipse(s), rather than merely POST OFFICE.

It is interesting - at least to me - that Mr. Thomson's cover is the fourth one in my experience to turn up having the Figure 1 slogan and posted on 30 April 1928. The next question would be: What was so special about that date?

George W. Bowman

BARBUDA

I am endeavouring to collate information on the stamps (1922 issue) and postal history of Barbuda up to 1953 and would appreciate it if members, who have items falling into the following categories of my study, could let me have either photocopies or full written details of their items. Any actual items sent on loan would be returned as quickly as possible and postage would of course be refunded.

It is hoped that after the information has been collated the results could be published with acknowledgements in the Bulletin or in pamphlet form.

The categories are as follows:

1. General background information on the Island including statistics.
2. Pre 1922 postal history.
3. The 1922 issue (including the -2½ watermark variation, including printing and distribution details and period of use).
4. The "Official Paid Barbuda" postmark - (dates wanted).
5. Registered items.
6. Post 1922 issues re Antigua and Leeward Islands used in Barbuda.
7. E. Panton items of about 1932.
8. Postal rates etc.
9. Copies of previously published articles.

B.G. Lythgoe

Would members please note that Mr. Lythgoe's address is not as published in the membership list. For new address please see listing in this issue

BERMUDA

THE BERMUDA CENSORS AND THEIR MARKS

In his book "Bermuda Journey", the author William Zuill, makes a number of references to philatelic matters - usually about the Bermuda Post Office, Postal service and the "Perot" stamps - but one intrigues me. In writing about the Princess Hotel on Pitts Bay he says: "The following year the fortunes of war caused Bermuda to be chosen as a base for Imperial Censorship - the largest and most important censorship station in the Empire - and the Princess was requisitioned for this most important work. Through the public rooms, heretofore the home of the idle rich, poured the mail from Europe, the Americas and the Far East to be read and analysed by an army of linguists

and experts before allowed to proceed to its destination. The year in question was 1940.

In view of the fact that it was the “largest and most important” censorship point, it is somewhat surprising that little is recorded about this aspect of Bermuda’s involvement. Mr. Ludington, in his major work, affords it two short paragraphs although obviously he has tried to ascertain the maximum information as his opening remark that “It has not been possible to get official information on the actual positions and locations of the censors of the Imperial Censorship who employed Type CM21 during World War II.” shows.

It seems that some 50 censor stamps were in use and Mr. Ludington records 33 of these whilst I know of two others, so at least 15 numbers are still unrecorded. I have started to record each of these censor numbers and the cancellation details applicable to each. With one exception my information is in agreement with Mr. Ludingtons, the sole item being censor No.4, which he says is one of three (the others being Nos.2 and 3) which are “by far the commonest on letters from Hamilton and the western half of the islands. The only example I have of No.4 is on piece bearing three adhesives (SG Nos.110a, 111 and 114) totalling 5½d and cancelled “Barrington Sound, 28 Apr” the year date being too faint to discern with certainty but probably 1942 or 1943. Barrington Sound is in the eastern half of the islands, but of course the censor could have been moved, or because of leave, sickness etc., another censor could have been given the “Harrington Sound” post to deal with.

I would like now to expand my lists so as to record as many censor marks as possible. The information I need is the censor number, the colour of the censor stamp, details of the cancellation (place & date most of all) and, as a supplementary item, details of the adhesives used (by SG Nos.). Also the names of any censor which may appear across the censor mark, or a facsimile where they cannot be interpreted; the destination of the letter; and whether or not it is from a Service or civilian sender. ALL censor marks will be recorded including those used by the Canadian Navy, the U.S.A. bases, the air ferry teams (British and Canadian regular and auxiliary) or any other source item.

This is a long term project which may take many years to complete and before it can be considered to be of any use a lot more information is required. Can any member help?

Stephen Papworth

A recent acquisition of some eighty odd covers produced two of great interest. The first of these is an Air Mail cover addressed to England, bearing a pair of 1/- (SG.115) adhesives cancelled with a single Hamilton c.d.s. of 10th Feb. 1941, an amount sufficient for a 1 oz. letter at the rate applying from 1939 to 1941. The cover also bears the normal circular Censor Mark with the number “37” - a number not listed by Ludington. The mark is in a dull purple.

The second item is a cover to the U.S.A. with the three line “AIR MAIL/SERVICR/BERMUDA” cachet applied for the ‘Los Angeles’ airship flight of 23rd-24th April 1925. The cover is cancelled with a machine cancel at Hamilton dated 16 April 25, the cancellation being that for the “B” or afternoon collection and timed 3 p.m. It is known that this cachet was a temporary rubber stamp with (probably)

removable letters and an error of an inverted "SE" of Service is recorded both by Ludington and Cwiakala, the latter in an article in the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal Whole No.43 (1968). My recently acquired cover has a very fine and clear strike with the exception that the "A" of Air is completely missing. I now have four covers bearing this cachet, two normal, one with the inverted "SE" and the last with the missing "A". All covers bear the same cancellation and three of them are from the same sender and to the same addressee. Close examination of the cachets show up some minor differences of the spacings between letters and in one of them the top arm of the last "E" of Service appears to be much shorter than in the other three examples. Inking the stamp, variable pressures in use and some fudging by absorption of the covers make it very difficult to state with authority that more than one stamp was in use, but I am of the opinion that there were at least two such stamps. As far as I can ascertain the overall size of the stamp was 68 mm. wide by 56 mm. in height these measurements being taken from an outline on the cover bearing the inverted variety. On this stamp the distance from the lower right corner of "A" of Bermuda is 24 mm. from the right hand edge, whilst on another cover this distance is 22 mm. I would like to be able to establish that more than one stamp was in use and I think it likely that only one of these produced the "dropped" letters. I would appreciate any opportunity of seeing any examples of this cachet or receiving details especially of measurements of the stamp, and the positioning of the letters.

The cachets applied for this flight were either the three line referred to above, or a two line "BERMUDA FIRST/OVERSEAS AIRMAIL" but examples are recorded of both being applied (apparently incorrectly) and these are described as being "scarce". The two line cachet is reported in both black and mauve whilst the three line is reported in black only. I would like to put on record that there are at least two examples of the use of both cachets on one cover, one with the two line in black and the other with the two line in mauve. I know. I've got them!

Stephen Papworth

BRITISH WEST INDIES

Philately and the Hurricane.

The history of the British West Indies - and hence the postal history - has been strongly influenced by that recurrent natural scourge, the hurricane.

A number of misconceptions exist, upon which a few comments should be of interest to the B.W.I. philatelist: amongst these are, that hurricanes attack certain territories regularly and frequently; that certain islands (notably BARBADOS) lie outside the Hurricane Belt; that once a hurricane strikes any land mass, it will blow itself out there, and leave neighbouring territories virtually unscathed.

The hurricane is a seasonal phenomenon of tropical oceans. The name belongs to the Atlantic Ocean storms, those in the Pacific being classified as typhoons, and those in the Indian Ocean, cyclones. In pattern, violence, and unpredictability of behaviour, there is nothing to choose between the storms, wherever they occur.

Statistically it is true to say that hurricanes are frequent. An average year may produce twenty storms so classified in any of the tropical oceans. Yet they are far from regular in their path or attack. An islander living within the recognised Hurricane Belt may experience a hurricane twice within two or three years; or he may live his whole life in the Caribbean and never face one. On average an island in the heart of the area at risk will suffer a hurricane once in a generation - no more often than that.

No tropical land mass within range of the ocean is immune from hurricane. Moreover, while the storm needs water to regenerate its energy and momentum, and will ultimately blow itself out when moving across a continent, most of the Caribbean islands are too small to absorb the power of the storm; and the safety of their neighbours depends far more upon the path of the hurricane than upon the fact that the island next door is the first to be attacked. The size of these storms is colossal - perhaps up to 200 or 300 miles across, with side effects felt over a bracket of 1,000 miles - so that a hurricane which follows a particularly unlucky path can sweep directly over island after island in the Antilles, obliterating everything vulnerable in its path.

Just such a storm is described in despatches published in the London Gazette for December 30, 1780. It struck BARBADOS on 9th and 10th October, killing thousands of people and leaving very few buildings standing in the whole island. In GRENADA, "The Houses and every Thing. . . is levelled with the Ground. The same at ST. VINCENT'S where the Town is washed away". At ST. LUCIA "all the Barracks . . . and other Buildings in the Island, are blown down". At MARTINIQUE "the beautiful Town of St. Pierr's. . . is said to be entirely washed away". Of DOMINICA and of the Dutch at ST. EUSTATIUS it was said that they "have also greatly suffered". GUADELOUPE too was hit and "the Town of Basseterre. . . is said to be destroyed".

The destructive force of the hurricane does not simply derive from the speed of the wind (winds above hurricane force are an annual event in the North of Scotland, for example). There is a devastating combination of wind-speed, duration, and change of direction, which only a really strong structure can withstand; whilst the low-lying shore fringes are equally vulnerable to the tidal surge, a rise in the general sea level of perhaps 15 or 20 feet, caused by extra low pressure at the centre of the storm. Intermittently and unpredictably, hurricanes will continue to strike the Caribbean islands, damaging their economy, disrupting their social life, and wrecking their postal services. Every year, during the season, there will be islanders who echo their own version of the uneasy little doggerel: "July - stand by. August - you must. September - remember. October - all over".

For the collector who wants to break new ground, 'Hurricana' have seldom been successfully and never (so far as I am aware) comprehensively assembled by a B.W.I. philatelist. There are no text books and no charted paths. The aspirant will have to do his own research: delve into archives; track down ancient correspondence and newspaper reports; hunt for the obliterators whose period of use was cut short by their loss in a hurricane, and for the temporary or provisional markings which replaced them. No territorial or chronological boundaries will restrict him, because there are stamps and covers in every reign up to the present day which mark the passage of a hurricane and some of its after-effects.

Simon Goldblatt

DOMINICA

I have a copy of Dominica R 2/6d green unfortunately it has turned into a blue changeling by the look of it, cancelled with A03 which is of British Guiana. Is this anomaly occurring regularly or what could be the explanation?

M.R. Hewlett

GRENADA

Replying to the query raised by Mr. Michael Medlicott re the Chalon Head stamp perforated 12¼ x 14 - I would suggest that this is a forgery, both the stamp and postmark. These items turn up in many old collections, and the colour is generally very good, but the originals rarely have four full margins. A pair of SG.3 (Lot 156) appeared in the BERMUDA sale on the 28th November, 1975, by Robson Lowe Ltd., and here you will notice the cancellation is not too clear, a feature of the early issues.

Bryan F. Johnson

JAMAICA

Graeme Pullar recently sent me a pair of the 1938-52 2d. values asking me to confirm the perforations 13 x 13. At best I could differ by no more than point one of a perf. i.e. 12.9 x 13.1. Graeme, who has also seen a strip of five with exactly the same perforation, asks if this is an uncatalogued variety or only a loosely termed 13 x 13½ S.G.124a, or 12½ x 13 S.G. 124b.

Editor

The Birmingham Postmarks of Jamaica

The Birmingham postmarks were introduced to Jamaica on 18th July 1939 to replace the Double Ring marks that had been in use since 1910. They were instantly disliked by collectors, being regarded as the modern equivalent of the 19th Century obliterators. However, for postmark historians, they form an interesting area of study as supplies of postmark material are still readily available at reasonable prices.

The postmarks consist basically of two concentric circles, the outer circle being some 24 to 26 mm. in diameter, which are 5 mm. apart. There are four main types of postmark, the difference being marked by the contents of the space between the two circles. Within the inner circle lies the date in two lines and provision for an index letter. The index letter facility has not been used in Jamaica, the letter being replaced by an asterisk which may or may not be present. In view of the transient nature of these asterisks I have concluded that their presence or otherwise is not indicative of a different type, or sub-type, of Birmingham mark and the listing that follows does not include any reference to them.

In the 1950's the Birmingham marks began to be replaced by new single ring types although a large number are still in use today.

TYPE 1

This type has the name of the post office between the circles at the top and JAMAICA at the bottom. The spaces between these names are filled with two unsightly solid bars or slugs. It was the obliterating effect of these slugs which caused the dislike of the mark. The first issue of this mark was made on 18th July 1939 and Balaclava is known to have used its mark on that day. The second issue was made on 17th February 1940, after which there was a gap of five war years before the next issue on 30th May 1945.

Post offices using Type 1 were:

Alderton	Jones Town
Alexandria	Kellets - 2 marks, one KellITs
Allman Town - 2 marks, 7 & 10mm slugs	Kingston - several marks
Anchovy	Kings Vale
Balaclava	Knockpatrick - sent out but not seen
Bellas Gate	Lacovia
Benbow	Lances Bay
Bensonton	Liguanea
Bethel Town - sent out but not seen	Lime Tree Gardens
Bigwoods	Linstead
Birds Hill	Lloyds
Blairs Hill	Lucky Hill
Bog Walk - 2 marks	Maggotty
Bombay	Main Ridge
Bonny Gate	Mandeville
Boscobel - spelt Bosc <u>A</u> bel	Middle Quarters
Braeton	Moneague
Brainerd	Morgans Pass
Brandon Bill	Mount Industry
Brown's Town - 2 marks	Mount Moreland
Burnt Savannah	Mount Pleasant
Bushy Park	Mount Regale
Carmel	Muir House
Castleton	New Green
Cave Valley	Newton
Claremont	Nine Turns
Clover Bill	Paul Mountain
Clydesdale	Pedro
Copse	Pembroke Hall
Dalvey	Pepper
Darley	Perth Town
Denham Town	Petersfield
Devon	Pisgah
Dias	Port Antonio
Discovery Bay	Porters Mountain
Dressikie	Portland Cottage
Dumfries	Port Maria
Falmouth	Porus
Freeman's Ball	Ramble
Frome	Registered Kingston - several marks
Ginger Ridge - sent out but not seen	Retirement
Glengoffe - sent out but not seen	Roehampton

Glenislay	Rowlandsfield
Golden Grove	Salt Marsh
Gordon Town	Salt Sprint
Great Valley	Samuel Prospect
Green Island	Sherwood Content
Grove Town	Siloah
Haddington	Silver Sprint
Haddo	Southfield
Haining	Strathbogie
Half Way Tree	Sturge Town
Irish Town	T.P.O.
Islington	Thompson Town
Jackson Town	Treasure Beach
Jacks River	Wait-A-Bit
James Hill	Warsop
Jeffrey Town	Watchwell
Jericho - sent out but not seen	Whitehall;
John's Hall - sent out but not seen	Windward Road

TYPE 1a

This postmark was probably made by mistake as it was in use for only a short time. The name of the office is at the bottom, slugs at the sides as usual, and a space at the top. Some strikes show traces of a marking of some kind at the top but this may be dirt. The earliest known date of use is 9th August 1945.

The only office using Type 1a is:

Whitfield Town

TYPE 2

This type is similar to Type 1 but the word JAMAICA is omitted and the slug is continuous, like a horseshoe. The earliest issue was on 1st October 1940 but the earliest known use is by Lydford on 5th February 1942.

Post offices using Type 2 were:

Bermaddy	Rock Spring
Chatham	St. Pauls
Crawl River	Sandy Gully
Danvers Pen	Top Hill
Faith's Pen	Ulster Spring
Gibraltar Camp	Vineyard Town
Linton Park	Whitfield Town
Lydford	

TYPE 3

In this type the unsightly slugs of Type 1 have been replaced by two curved lines which join the post office and JAMAICA at each side and which are, in effect, themselves a further but broken concentric circle. The earliest known use of this postmark is at Flint River on 10th January 1951. An unusual occurrence is the recent introduction of this mark at Fletcher's Land, an agency which did not open until December 1969 and which has used Temporary Rubber Datestamps until recently.

Post offices using Type 3 were:

Albert Town	Mona
Alligator Pond	Monoague
Balaclava	Montego Bay
Black River - 2 marks	Morant Bay
Carisbrooke	Mount Airy
Central Village	Mount Regale
Christians	Mulgrave
Coleyville	Myersville
Constant Spring	Newmarket
Content Gap	Ocho Rios - 3 marks
Cornwall Mountain	Padmore
Crooked River	Parcel Post Office
Cross Roads	Pleasant Valley
C.O.D. Office G.P.O. Kingston	Plowden
Dallas	Port Maria
Darliston	Port Morant
Deeside	Quickstep
Delveland	Race Course - 2 marks
Denham Town	Refuge
Devon Pen	Registered Kingston;
Discovery Bay	Registered Linstead
Duncans	Retreat
Epworth	Rio Bueno
Ewarton	Ritches
Fletcher's Land	Runaway Bay
Flint River	St. Gregory
Four paths	Santa Cruz
Frome	Savanna-la-Mar - 2 marks
Kentish	Siloah
Kingston - several marks	Slipe
Kingston Air Mail	Spot Valley
Jones Town	Spring Hill
Labyrinth	Stony Hill
Lancaster	Tower Isle
Liguanea	Troy
Lionel Town	Vineyard Town
Llandewey	Walderston
Lookout	Windsor Castle
Manchioneal	Windward Road
Mile Gully	

TYPE 3a

This postmark is similar to Type 3 but with JAMAICA omitted, the inner line being continuous in the form of the lower half of a concentric circle. The earliest known date of use is 12th August 1954.

The only office using Type 3a is:

Bluefields

TYPE 4

In this type the slugs and lines have disappeared altogether from between the two concentric circles and the resultant spaces between the name of the post office and Jamaica give the mark a much neater appearance; indeed it is possible that the Birmingham marks would not have been so maligned had this mark been introduced from the outset. The earliest known use is at Vaughansfield on 22nd May 1951. Post offices using Type 4 were:

Alley	Hopewell
Bamboo	Kensington
Bath	Laughlands
Berry Hill	Liguanea
Brixton Hill	Madras
Chapelton	Maidstone
Coleyville	Mount Vernon
Epsom	Palisadoes
Fairy Hill	Race Course
Fruitful Vale	Rio Grande
Four Paths	St. Ann's Bay
Granville	Santa Cruz
Guys Hill	Somerset
Haddo	Spanish Town
Hectors River	Success
Highgate	Vaughansfield - spelt Vaughnsfield

H.A.R. James

ST. VINCENT

In a recent article on the "Problem St. Vincent Post Offices", which appeared in the BCPSG Journal, Joe Chin Aleung sought information on a number of points, but he would especially welcome reports of any examples of any small St. Vincent c.d.s. with code letter 'A' or 'C' (such as are illustrated below) with dates from 1905 onwards.



Fig. j



Fig. k



Fig. l



Fig. m



Fig. n

ST. VINCENT BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 12 of Bulletin No.88)

- | | | |
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- | | | | |
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| 3 | St. Vincent. The Perkins Bacon Plates | Robson Lowe Ltd. | 20 Apr 1955 |
| 4 | St. Vincent The Glossop Collection. | H.R. Harmer Ltd. | 14 Nov 1955 |
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| 6 | Grenada and St. Vincent | Robson Lowe Ltd. | 31 May 1961 |
| 7 | BWI The T. Charlton Henry Collection | Harmer Rooke & Co. Inc. | 4 Apr 1961 |
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| 10 | British Empire | Robson Lowe Ltd. | 18 Sep 1962 |
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27	British Empire	Robson Lowe Ltd.	10 Jul 1974

Joe Chin Aleong

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

19th OCTOBER, 1916. NORMAL ISSUE WITH AUTHORISED SURCHARGE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE RED CROSS.

If my understanding is correct our study circle bulletins have not reported on the De la Rue printed stamps of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Red Cross and War Tax surcharges are notably in the doldrums if current catalogues are anything to go by. Editors comment numerous forgeries of various surcharge errors exist and are purely fakes, remaining unchanged for tens of years. Statements of this kind, must I suppose, influence the popularity of the surcharged stamps collection. Perhaps study circle members might take up the challenge - what are the forgeries, who printed them, can they be readily identified, etc?

Based on my limited research I take first the surcharge issued on 19th October, 1916, (SG.175). Catalogues in my possession mention the one variety 'no stop after 16', (SG.175a). Study of the surcharge reveals numerous similar significant apparent constant varieties. The varieties have been seen more than once by me and acquired.

For the information of first day cover collectors, they may be interested to know that one of the G.P.O. Port of Spain cancellers used on the first day, clearly shows the date Oct.19.91. I have seen fifteen examples and have no reason to believe they are not genuine.

It is my estimate that 1000 sheets were surcharged and this was perhaps budgeted to raise £250 for the Red Cross Food. The normal issue sheets surcharged, were the familiar left and right panes. A pane consisting of 6 horizontal and 12 vertical rows of stamps. I find the surcharge was made on the One Penny Plate one, thin, and very thin paper, yellow or white gum. The Sheet Plate numbers appear above stamp number 2 on the left pane and stamp number 5 on the right pane.

The surcharge appears to have been made in two printing operations. Printing of the whole sheet (120 multiples) Red Cross, was made first, followed by printing of the date and cross outline in black.

The original De la Rue, whole sheets of stamps, appear to rarely have been cut exactly square and this would explain the difficulty in ensuring the Red Cross and outline surcharge were in alignment.

As a result of the two printing operations I mentioned, it would be possible for sheets to have either Red Cross only or Date and Cross outline only.

I find that non-constant surcharge varieties have usually been brought about by CHAD (punched paper from perforating), remaining on the sheet's surface during the surcharge printing operation.

On reconstructing sheets, it appears the 120 surcharge multiples have their own characteristics and for this surcharge each multiple was possibly unique.

The major constant variety I have found appears on stamp No.10, left pane. The surcharge date is clearly placed 2 mm. to the right of the Cross and its outline.

I show drawings representing the surcharge characteristics (varieties) I have found together with their sheet positions. It must be borne in mind my drawings are free hand and not precise reproductions.

As a final note on my estimate of 120,000 stamps surcharged, if the 1975 Great Britain charity stamp holds a parallel, then it is possible that few of the Trinidad Red Cross stamps may be found postally used. Possibly most of these charity stamps were purchased as unused by stamp dealers of the time and for which the Red Cross would have been truly grateful.

Can any members confirm my findings or add further details?

J. De Vries

DATE 2mm
TO RIGHT
OF CROSS
OUTLINE.

S1.				S2.	S24		S25	
	S3	S4		S5	S26	S27		S28
S6	S7	S8	S9		S29	S30		S31
					S32		S33	S34
				S10	S35			S36
S4				S12	S13	S36	S37	S38
S14	S15							S39
								S40
	S16		S17			S41		
	S18	S19	S20			S42	S43	
	S21		S22	S23	S44	S45	S46	S47

LEFT PANE SG 175

16. TYPE STOPS AFTER SIX SV1.					0.16c C. AFTER BOUGHT AND SIX SV2.
	19. SLASH ABOVE ONE. SV3	19. SLASH RIGHT OF ONE. SV4			DOT NEAR CROSS. * + SV5
10. DOT ON O' BROKEN CROSS + SV6	10. STOP AFTER ONE. SV7	6. BROKEN SIX. SV8	10. BROKEN ONE. SV9		
DATE. 2 MM. TO RIGHT OF CROSS OUTLINE					
				19. MISSING ONE SV10	
16c C. AFTER SIX. SV11				9.10. NO SERIF ON ONE. SV12	9. DOT ABOVE NINE SV13
0.16. NO SERIF ON ONE. SV14	BROKEN CROSS. SOUTH + SV15				
	10. LARGE STOP. SV16		BROKEN CROSS WEST. + SV17		
	19. DOT ON ONE. SV18	BROKEN CROSS NORTH. + SV19	10. SLASH LEFT OF ONE. SV20		
	10. SLASH LEFT OF ONE. TOP SV21		16. SLASH LEFT OF ONE. SV22		DOT ON CROSS WEST. + SV23

RIGHT PANE 5G 175

6. DOUBLE SIX SV24			6c 'C' AFTER SIX SV25	
	BROKEN CROSS EAST SV26 	6. BROKEN SIX SV27		BROKEN CROSS NORTH EAST SV28 
BROKEN CROSS NORTH WEST SV29 		BROKEN CROSS SOUTH WEST SV30 		19. BROKEN NINE SV31
19, 10, 16. TWO BROKEN ONES. SV32			BROKEN CROSS WEST. SV33 	BROKEN CROSS TWICE SV34 
	6r PART 'C' AFTER SIX. SV35			
0. LARGE STOP BROKEN CROSS SV36 	10. STOP AFTER ONE. BROKEN CROSS SV37 	16c BROKEN 'I' 'C' AFTER SIX SV38		16 NO STOP AFTER SIX. 175c SV39
				16. SMALL STOP AFTER SIX SV40
		19 SLASH RIGHT OF ONE SV41		
	16. MISSING FOOT ON ONE. SV42	76. SLASH LEFT OF ONE SV43		
16: BROKEN STOP AFTER SIX SV44	BROKEN CROSS EAST SV45 	19. BROKEN STOP AFTER NINE. SV46	10, 16. LARGE STOP. 'C' AFTER SIX. SV47	

AUCTION REPORT

Prices realised at Auction No.3, which took place 00 1st May 1976 at Drury House, were as follows:

Lot									
1	9.50	45	7.00	89	—	133	4.00	177	3.75
2	7.00	46	5.50	90	10.00	134	5.50	178	1.00
3	8.50	47	—	91	—	135	12.50	179	5.25
4	16.00	48	7.50	92	7.00	136	10.50	180	6.00
5	7.50	49	5.00	93	4.00	137	5.50	181	—
6	9.00	50	9.00	94	10.00	138	—	182	10.00
7	8.50	51	13.59	95	.75	139	15.00	183	1.50
8	2.75	52	8.50	96	4.50	140	3.50	184	7.50
9	—	53	4.00	97	1.75	141	—	185	3.50
10	3.00	54	2.75	98	1.50	142	7.50	186	18.00
11	4.50	55	2.00	99	8.00	143	20.00	187	8.00
12	—	56	2.25	100	3.00	144	9.00	188	8.00
13	4.50	57	7.50	101	4.50	145	—	189	6.50
14	—	58	2.00	102	2.25	146	4.75	190	2.75
15	—	59	3.00	103	—	147	3.75	191	3.75
16	4.75	60	4.25	104	6.00	148	3.25	192	5.00
17	9.00	61	8.00	105	—	149	—	193	5.00
18	15.00	62	10.00	106	7.50	150	5.25	194	3.00
19	2.50	63	8.50	107	—	151	6.00	195	—
20	4.25	64	13.00	108	—	152	17.50	196	6.50
21	9.50	65	12.00	109	—	153	6.00	197	1.50
22	5.50	66	3.25	110	—	154	16.00	198	9.50
23	4.50	67	1.75	111	—	155	3.00	199	6.00
24	3.50	68	4.00	112	8.00	156	1.00	200	11.50
25	—	69	5.00	113	11.00	157	2.00	201	—
26	9.50	70	3.00	114	4.50	158	—	202	2.25
27	26.00	71	10.00	115	10.50	159	—	203	8.00
28	15.00	72	2.50	116	5.75	160	6.50	204	6.50
29	11.00	73	10.00	117	20.00	161	—	205	6.50
30	—	74	5.00	118	18.00	162	15.00	206	1.25
31	34.00	75	20.00	119	22.00	163	7.00	207	25.00
32	9.00	76	3.25	120	9.00	164	3.00	208	16.00
33	48.00	77	—	121	—	165	11.00	209	4.25
34	12.00	78	2.75	122	13.00	166	3.25	210	9.00
35	5.50	79	1.50	123	9.00	167	3.00	211	—
36	11.00	80	4.00	124	7.00	168	3.00	212	3.50
37	6.00	81	12.00	125	7.00	169	3.50	213	6.00
38	6.50	82	—	126	10.00	170	13.50	214	4.00
39	3.50	83	4.25	127	10.00	171	—	215	3.00
40	11.00	84	2.00	128	8.00	172	5.00	216	4.50
41	—	85	—	129	—	173	8.50	217	4.00
42	12.00	86	7.00	130	4.00	174	7.50	218	2.50
43	2.25	87	8.00	131	—	175	11.00	219	—
44	5.50	88	13.00	132	4.50	176	12.50	220	2.25

The total for the sale was £1,400.75, with only 35 lots unsold out of the 220 on offer. There were 20 members selling their property this year - rather more than in previous years - and the reaction of one, on being told of his results, was at once to ask, "When is your next auction?" The sub-committee, though flattered, have had to invite him to wait until next year.

One lot (No.213) was generously donated to the Circle by Bob Topaz and the amount realised will form a welcome addition to the funds of the Library, now once again under first-class stewardship.

Postal bidders also numbered more than in 1975. Book bids were entered from 74 members, whose 395 individual bids were valued at just over £3,450. As it turned out, they did not have things all their own way; there was again strong competition from bidders in the room who secured, between them, 60 lots, exactly the same as last year. Despite this, only 43 lots reached the maximum 'book' price bid by their purchaser, and in over a quarter of these cases, there were at least two identical bids in hand for the lot. Since we allocate priority to bids in strict order of their arrival, it shows the merit of sending your bid in early, or giving the auctioneer a slight margin for discretion, if you have to send in late.

Next year we hope to offer postal bidders the opportunity of laying down an overall limit for their purchases, so that each member may, if he wishes, aim for a larger number of items than he otherwise might, and may indicate an order of preference. This will mean harder work for the sub-committee, but we think we now have experience enough to cope.

This year's most sought-after item proved to be lot 128 of Jamaica. There were nine book bidders for it, and they were all pipped on the post by a buyer in the room. A case of 'Too little and Too Late'. The literature section, introduced in 1975, once more proved popular, and we hope that sellers will continue to dig out their spares in future years.

Single stamps were in slightly better demand than last year, except for one unlucky member, most of whose items failed to sell. The only other flat spot in the sale was in Grenada, where a modest but handsome series of postmark items were largely unsold. This surprised us, and we think that in other years these lots would have done well. The fine Barbados material on offer was deservedly popular, and Jamaica fully maintained its appeal. There was noticeable extra demand for British Guiana, British Honduras, and Trinidad, and we think that these colonies are going to come right back into fashion.

The auction closed with the President thanking the Organisers on behalf of the Circle for keeping up the good work. We should like, this time, to mention Mr. Stanley Green, a non-member of this Circle, but a prominent member of the Indian Ocean Study Circle, who for three successive years has come by invitation to act as an auction clerk. His careful and accurate accountancy has contributed materially to the smooth running of the occasion.

NEWS ROUNDUP

As mentioned in our previous issue this year's B.P.B. is being held one month earlier than usual. The dates being 29th September to 2nd October, 1976.

We have also heard a whisper that there will be some changes affecting the Special Awards this year and this will apply to the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group Award amongst others. The change seems to affect the number of entries which must be received before the award is given. We hear six entries are required to qualify for consideration by the Jury as a minimum - so come on Circle members and decide to put in an entry at least to support the B.C.P.S.G.

After 50 years of service, Cyril Harmer, Chairman of H.R. Harmer Ltd., the Bond Street Philatelic Auctioneers, is retiring, but he will, however, continue as President and Consultant for a period of three years.

The firm, which was founded in 1918 by H.R. Harmer who died in 1966, will remain under the ownership and control of the family. Bernard D. Harmer, Cyril's brother, takes over the Chairmanship with John Ward F.C.A. as deputy whilst Ian Glassborow, grandson of the founder, becomes Managing Director.

Cyril Harmer still has plenty of interest and is planning to start work on a new addition of 'Newfoundland Airmails' originally published in 1953. His collection of this group has obtained Gold Medal Awards at International Exhibitions. He was elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1969.

The Circle Library has recently received a handbook, St. Vincent 1861-1881, written by member Minoru Ishihara. The book, which is hard bound, is well illustrated and obviously contains a wealth of detail, but it is regretted that because the text is in Japanese a full review is not possible.

Steve Papworth, our Librarian, has just sold his house and is now looking for a new residence. When this is found it is inevitable that there will be some disruption of the library service, but more details of this in due course.

A friendly invasion of the British Virgin Islands may take place later this year, if plans now being formulated by the B.C.P.S.G., to hold their annual meeting and auction in Tortola come to fruition. These plans are as a result of an invitation from Postmaster General Fahie, and Dan Walker is now busy canvassing support for this proposed venture.

In the course of recent correspondence with William Ernest Irving we learnt that he was approaching his 95th birthday. We cannot let this occasion pass without sending him our very best wishes. Mr. Irving, a member of the Royal P.S. since 1937, is still an active philatelist with a great love of the classic issues.

Basil Cawston, on holiday in England for three months, went along with Mike Sheppard to a recent meeting of the Redhill P.S. where members were entertained by Bobby Messenger to a display of St. Vincent stamps and postal history. Whilst there Basil met fellow Circle members Bert Latham and Reynold Radford.

At this year's 'Stampex' the following awards were made to members of the Study Circle:

The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group Silver Medal and Silver-Gilt Medal to Leonard Britnor for his collection "The British West Indies in the Days of Sail".

Other Silver-Gilt Medal winners were Bryan E. Johnson for an entry of "Puerto Rico 1839-1879", and Bert Latham for his "Jamaica - Conveyance of Mail".

A Silver Medal was awarded to Ray Austin for Bahamas, selected sheets of the 'Staircase' issues.

Bronze-Silver Medals were awarded to Stirling Baker and Comdr. Bill Collins for "The War Stamp Overprints of Jamaica" and "Indo China 1862-1947" respectively.

The Royal P.S. has awarded the Tapling Medal to John B. Marriott for his articles on St. Helena and Labuan based on notes prepared for displays to the Society of these countries from the Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace and published in The London Philatelist.

NEW MEMBERS

DOOLITTLE, Frederick W. Jnr., 1203 Malvern Avenue, Towson, Md.21204, U.S.A.

Interests: Tobago, Specialist collection.

FULLERTON, John Samuel, 35 St. James Rd., Kingston on Thames, Surrey, KT1 2AH.

Interests: Bermuda.

GARD, D. R., 10 Briar Lane, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 4PX.

Interest: Leeward Islands and Perkins Bacon Heads (QV) St. Lucia type.

HALE, M., 4 Grass Means Drive, Whitchurch, Bristol.

Interests: Not stated

HEWLETT, M.R., The Hermitage, Village of Box, Nr. Corsham, Wilts., SN14 9DT.

Interests G.B. used abroad.

HUBNER, Horst E., Refa - Ingenieur, postfach 20 00 62, D-6457 Maintal 2. W.

Germany.

Interests: Postal History of the B.W.I.

LETCH, Herbert John, 22 Mulberry Hill, Shenfield, Essex.

Interests: Mint B.W.I.

MOORCROFT, J. G., 'Gillbanks', 1 Half Acre Close, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 OHE.

Interests: Stamps of Cayman Islands.

NATHANSON, Hyman M., P.O. Box 10509, Johannesburg, S. Africa.

Interests: The Britannia issues of Barbados & Trinidad.

NOTTINGHAM, Douglas William, 'Rebmevan', 58 Freemantle Road,

Rugby, Warks. CU22 7HZ.

PARKES, Peter Wood, 200 Clarence Rd., Fleet, Aldershot, Hants.

Interests: Grenada up to 1935.

SINGH, Donald, 25 Brockwell Park Gardens, London, SE24 9BL.

Interests Grenada.

VINCENT, Mrs. Bonita Dawn, 81 Beacon Park Rd., Upton, Poole, Dorset.

Interests: Bermuda

DECEASED MEMBER

Dr. N. GARRARD.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

ALDEN, J. H., 79 Brookbridge Lane, Datchworth, Knebworth, Herts SG3 6EZ.

COLEMAN, Dr. R. C., 38 High Street, North Tawton, Devon EX20 2HG

LYTHGOE, B. G., c/o Standard Bank Ltd., P.O. Box 1001, Maseru, Lesotho.

MARSHALL, Nigel, 82 Perth-Y-Paen, Llangefin, Anglesey.

STEIN, Rubert. W., 1250 Park Avenue W. Apt.401, Highland Park, 111.60035, U.S.A.

CHANGE OF INTEREST

MARSHALL, Nigel, Jamaican adhesives and postal history. No longer postal stationery.

WINTERS, Dr. F. A., Interests now limited to pre 1938.

RESIGNED

PETERKIN, N.

The following members have not paid their subscriptions for 1975 and are therefore dropped from membership:

BERRIDGE, J. M.; HALE, A. B.; MITCHELL, Dr.T. J.;
ROBINS, P.D.; STUBSGAARD, Dr. O.; TUCKER, Dr. N. I.

FROM THE SALE ROOM

H.R.HARMER LTD., Sale of March 1, 2 and 3 1976.

BAHAMAS 1862, slightly damaged wrapper to Philadelphia bearing 4d. dull rose, tied by "A05" cancellation, Bahamas and New York Ship Letter datestamps of December 1862 £460

JAMAICA 1860-63 1d. blue, an o.g. block of twenty-four (6x4) from top of pane with current number and part of marginal inscription, wing margin trimmed at right, one stamp with tear, another creased, otherwise fine. A rare block £350

ST. KITTS 1811 letter to London with fleuron type ST KITTS 13 MY 1811" marking, also with red Crown marking, a little stained, the letter with folds £80

ST. VINCENT Dec. 1868 large part letter addressed to Paris bearing 1863-68 1d (pair), 4d. (pair), 6d., affixed close or slightly overlapping top of letter, some perfs. a little damaged and one 4d. with part of design torn away at lower left, cancelled "A10" in bars and dated markings of December 1868, a scarce cover. £380

ROBSON LOWE LTD. Sale of April 13, 1976.

ANTIGUA 1918 1½d. duty die, on piece of card endorsed "May 4th/60 leads" and in red across proof "June 20th 1918" (date plate was made), fine £110

BAHAMAS 1884-98 a proof with blank value tablet, fine £200

BERMUDA 1932 issue 12/6 frame, card endorsed "June 20th/60+4" £300

ST. KITTS NEVIS 1938-39 George V the vignette of small and both double stamps; ½d., 1d., 1½d. and 2½d. complete; duty frames of the 2d., 3d., 6d., 1/-, 2/6 and 5/-, all on four pieces of card endorsed "60+4" (13) £1400

STANLEY GIBBONS AUCTIONS. Sale of April 1 and 2, 1976.

ST. KITTS NEVIS 1923 Tercentenary ½d. to £1, o.g. £345

Advert

F. W. COLLINS

Advert

ROBSON LOWE LTD.

Advert

JAMES BENDON

Advert

H. R. HARMER LTD.