



**STUDY CIRCLE**

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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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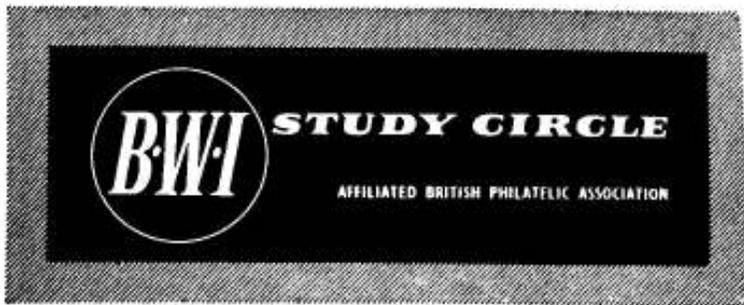
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## **OBJECTS**

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 1977-78

1977

Wed., Dec. 7th, 6 p.m.      Nine pages from members.

1978

Thurs., Jan. 5th 6 p.m.      Mr. S. Sugarman, DOMINICA.

Wed., Feb. 15th, 6 p.m.      Mr. M. Sheppard, BARBADOS.

Thurs., Mar. 9th, 6 p.m.      Nine pages from members.

Sat., Apr. 15th, 3 p.m.      A.G.M. and Auction.

The meeting on Thurs., Jan. 5th will be at the B.P.F.

Board Room, Boom 10, 3rd Floor, National Liberal Club, 1, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1. All other meetings will be held at Stanley Gibbons Auction Room, Drury House, Russell St., London, W.C.2.

### VISITS TO OTHER SOCIETIES

1978

Fri., Mar. 17th.              Gerrards Cross & District P.S.  
Mr. M. Sheppard, BARBADOS.

### DUES U.S.A. MEMBERS

At a Committee meeting held at Warwick on 5th November, 1977 it was decided to fix the annual dues rate for U.S.A. members at \$5.50, this sum to include collection charges and a very small amount to enable us to send all Bulletins by airmail. This step is being taken because remittances sent do not always cover the cost of membership. It should be noted that, due to fluctuation in the exchange rate, this sum is subject to such alteration as shall be determined by the Hon. Treasurer.

*Stirling Baker*  
*Hon. Treasurer*

### WARWICK CONVENTION REPORT

The British West Indies Study Circle and the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society Joint Convention unofficially opened on the afternoon of Friday, November 4th, with the early arrival of a few members of both societies. This trickle grew to a rush as many more members, some accompanied by their wives, arrived from all corners of the United Kingdom for what proved to be the largest gathering yet of Caribbean Collectors in Great Britain, if not indeed the World. We understand the total attendance was just over sixty.

As the evening progressed both Organising Secretaries, Malcolm Watts and Ian Chard, were attending to last minute details; Auctioneer Simon Goldblatt and Michael Sheppard were receiving late lots and co-ordinating arrangements for the joint auction, whilst at the far end of the Convention Room Messrs. Alfred Branston, Thomas Foster and William Townsend were busy making an early assessment of the competition entries. Those members not otherwise engaged were to be found in small and large discussion groups in all parts of the hotel until the late hours.

After a communal breakfast, events followed very much the same pattern as the previous evening until mid-day, when the Convention was officially opened by the Chairman, Victor Toeg. After welcoming all members and guests to the Convention and thanking all officers of the respective societies whose hard work had made it all

possible, the Chairmans first task, albeit a pleasant one, was to join with Alfred Branston in presenting respectively the Silver Gilt Medal and BCPSG Silver Medal awarded to Michael Sheppard at the recent British Philatelic Exhibition. This was followed by awards for the Convention Competition. All three judges gave their views of the entries and said that many entries had reached a very high standard and in one class only three marks separated the top three places. The judges reached complete unanimity in their findings and the awards were as follows:

- Class 1. General. Pre George V  
A Papermate pen to Michael Rego for British Guiana.
- Class 2. General. Post George V  
A Papermate pen to Stephen Papworth for Bermuda ½d on ld Provisional.
- Class 3. Postal Stationery  
A Papermate pen to Anthony Shepherd for Grenada Postal Stationery.
- Class 4. Postal History.  
A Papermate pen and a piece of china as class and overall competition winner to Anthony Shepherd for Grenada.

Members then had an opportunity to view half the entries before assembling for the official luncheon, and again after lunch when the remaining entries were on display.

At 2.30 p.m. before a large audience, the main afternoon programme commenced with a display and paper by Ken Watson of the Roses Caribbean P.S. - "Jamaican Railway Cancellations."

At its conclusion a vote of thanks was proposed by Stirling Baker for what was a truly memorable display. The proceedings then continued with a display by Bobby Messenger of the B.W.I Study Circle, of the "Early Stamps of St. Vincent", which formed part of a Large International Gold Medal collection recently shown in the Court of Honour at the B.P.E. Vincent Duggleby proposed the vote of thanks to Bobby Messenger for an exhilarating display and after viewing, the afternoon session came to a close.

There was a short break for refreshments after which the auction lots were put out for viewing and with so many lots on offer a prompt start was made at 5.30 p.m. A report of the auction with realisation of the "A" list appear on another page in this issue. Some mild confusion was caused when our Auctioneer occasionally called the bids in "old currency" or "piastres".

With the end of the auction, Victor Toeg officially closed the Convention and thanked all members attending. We feel sure that Victor echoed everyone's sentiments when he said how enjoyable it had all been. Although just officially closed, talk was heard of a proposal for a future convention.

Many informal groups were again in session until the late hours and it was with reluctance that members made their farewells on the Sunday morning. Your auctioneers, with accounting nearly completed, were the last to leave just after mid-day.

May we say how pleasant it was to meet so many old friends and to find so many new ones and to repeat a well known phrase - "here's to the next time".

In conclusion, our thanks to the staff of the Lord Leicester Hotel for their contribution to the success and enjoyment of a splendid convention. *Michael Sheppard*

*Victor Toog presents  
Michael Sheppard with  
the Silver Gilt Medal  
awarded to him at the  
recent B.P.E.*



*Tony Shepherd collects  
the award for best  
overall entry in the  
competition whilst Ian  
Chard looks on.*



"The Jamaica Gang" - Back row left to right: Tom Foster, two Roosev members, Malcolm Watts, Mr. Winter (Italy). Front row left to right: Al Branston, Derek Sutcliffe, David Woolfson, Tony Reesley, Stirling Nicks.

Michael Hoyle receives a certificate pen for his competition entry.

A lady member explains a point to Alfred Branston!



Ken Watson presents his paper and display of the Railway Cancellations of Jamaica.

## WARWICK CONVENTION AUCTION REPORT

“What is a guinea?”, asked one younger Roses member of another. If you allow for the foibles of an auctioneer who seemed to prefer to sell in shillings, piastres, guineas or any unit of currency other than decimal sterling, the auction can be counted as a fitting and entertaining climax to the convention proceedings.

As the auction opened - 32 minutes before its scheduled time - 32 eager bidders (and a cluster of spectators) sat ready for the fun. It wasn't long in coming, when a purchaser came first past the post without a bidding card. There were moments of interesting dialogue, then the auctioneer gave his ruling. “In order to preserve your anonymity, Mr. Evans”, he announced, “you shall be B33”. And we were off again.

To the “A” list of circulated lots, a further “B” list of 108 lots had been added, though it must be admitted that the would-be bidder was confronted with a real dilemma here. Once he joined the scrum by the wall, where the only published catalogue was on display, the chances were that he would miss his turn in the bidding; so most of us preferred to bid blind. Which has its problems, too. At one point Mr. (or Ms.) X put up a hand to ask a question; promptly, Simon knocked the lot down, and sailed on. Fortunately, it was a bargain, and everyone was happy. At another point, the auctioneer told a silent room, “I won't take a penny less than a quid .... yes, I will: Who will say £0.99?” A kind member raised a finger, and another lot changed hands.

Late lots, and late descriptions, produced a quirk or two. The bidding started to climb on one modest “B” lot, and it developed into a quick-fire battle between a lady member and the ‘book’. At last the lady member flagged. “One more?” coaxed the auctioneer. She played her ace, and he unsportingly trumped it. “Not worth it”, she declared - but did the auctioneer give a knowing grin, before he moved on? Another climax came when an astonished owner saw his property rise towards its catalogue value of £9. Suddenly the penny dropped; “it's not the variety, it must be the other watermark”, Simon exclaimed. It was. As the last exhausted bidding arm fell, the lot was knocked down at twenty - guineas, inevitably!

The ‘postal’ bidding, of course, was largely confined to the “A” list, here, there were some spectacular results. The current ‘record’ was broken twice. As early as lot 3, a sharp contest between three or four busy bidders pushed an absent competitor to £52. Then came lot 56, which opened quietly at £32. The front row was running strongly, and kept running; but by the time the bidding closed at £60, both B3 and the ‘book’ seemed exhausted.

It was Nevis and Trinidad which provided the highlights of the “A” list. Until then, only lot 12 had risen significantly above its estimate - £13 (est. £7.) Now it became obvious that the new catalogue prices for the former small island were not a decimal p. too much, and that the numerals of Trinidad simply must be hunted down. Several of us left the Convention as converts.

The auction, this time, was geared more specifically for the room bidder, with many more modestly estimated lots than we usually offer. Out of 205 lots on offer, 161 sold, which does everybody credit. The following statistics emerged:-

‘A’ List: 15 lots unsold. 82 lots estimated £537.75 realised £607.50.

'B' List: 29 lots unsold. 79 lots estimated £332.30 realised £288.84.

Individual realisations ('A' list only) were as follows:-

Lot	1	£6.00	Lot	30	£ 5.25	Lot	54	15.00	Lot	81	£ 4.00
	3	52.00		31	3.50		55	9.00		82	5.25
	4	7.50		32	4.00		56	60.00		83	5.50
	5	10.00		33	8.50		57	4.00		84	7.00
	6	4.75		34	4.50		58	5.00		85	4.50
	7	6.50		35	2.25		60	5.50		86	3.00
	8	6.50		36	2.75		61	5.25		87	3.25
	9	4.50		37	10.00		62	3.50		88	5.00
	10	4.50		38	5.50		63	2.75		90	6.50
	11	6.00		39	2.50		68	4.50		91	14.50
	12	13.00		42	4.50		69	11.00		92	19.00
	13	3.50		43	5.75		70	4.00		93	7.00
	15	6.00		44	7.50		71	3.00		94	4.50
	16	3.75		45	4.25		72	4.25		95	2.25
	17	7.00		46	2.25		73	4.50		96	2.00
	19	4.50		47	17.00		74	4.50		97	2.75
	20	7.50		48	4.00		75	3.00			
	21	14.50		49	4.75		76	5.00			
	22	4.25		50	3.50		77	4.00			
	23	2.50		51	3.50		78	4.50			
	27	8.00		52	17.50		79	3.75			
	29	6.50		53	18.00		80	15.00			

Numbers not listed were unsold.

Finally we acknowledge a kind donation of £2.00 by Tony Reesby to auction and Convention proceeds.

## NOTES AND QUERIES

### ANTIGUA

Regarding Michael Medicott's query in Bulletin No.94 of September 1977. The rate of ls.10p would indicate that the letter weighed over 2 oz. and not over 2½oz.

The amount would then be made up as follows:

5 x 4d. = ls.8d. - normal letter rate between UK and Antigua 4d. per oz. - vide P.O. Notice 17 June 1879 (No.15) as from 1 July 1879;

Registration fee 2d. - same notice.

Hence, total ls.10d.

These points are both given in "B.W.I. Postal Rates up to 1900" on page 23 and 34 respectively.

*Leonard Britnor*

### BERMUDA

Can anyone confirm the existence of SG.20, the orange-red CC watermark with watermark reversed? This is listed in Robson Lowe Vol.V but not in either Ludington's "Bermuda" or the supplement. On the other hand, SG.34 the CA watermark with watermark reversed is listed in Ludington's supplement (1968) but not in Robson Lowe. I can confirm the existence of SG.34 with watermark reversed from my own collection, and others, but do not know of any copies of SG.20 with reversed watermark. Does it exist, or is it a mistake in the Encyclopaedia and should be listed under SG.34?

*Richard Heap*

# DOMINICA

## PAID AT DOMINICA

Unlike most other colonies, Dominica regularly used the Crown Circle 'Paid at Dominica' marking, apparently as a cancellation for stamps. Theorists have suggested (since the marking is found only on ½d and 1d stamps) that such use indicates an uplift from ½d or 1d rates to represent 6d postage paid, at a time of shortage of 6d stamps. Others scoff at the theory and point out (i) that the marking was clearly in use for an extended period, because it is found on both ½d olive-yellows, both 1d lilacs perf. 14 and on ½d surcharges as well; (ii) that De la Rue records demonstrate that there was no shortage of 6d. stamps or any other value above 1d, during the whole period from 1874-1890.

The true explanation for the use of this mark possibly stares us all in the face. Only, we need to take into account, as well, some of our information on Dominica manuscript markings, and our general knowledge of village Sub-offices. It is established that certain offices existed in Dominica long before they were issued with date stamps, and manuscript cancellations using the office name or an abbreviation are well known, albeit rare. Peter Jaffe showed, a good few years ago, how - at least if regulations were observed - mere cancellation with a date should indicate postal and not fiscal use, except perhaps in the case of such a marking on SG.1; the well authenticated position in St. Kitts. Even though date cancels are commoner than name cancels, they are still pretty elusive; and they nearly always crop up on 1d stamps, exactly as the name cancellations do. As further pointers, a name cancellation has been seen beneath a 'Paid at Dominica' mark; and furthermore, we know that many sub-offices held only a very limited stock of stamps. In the case of Dominica, this almost certainly comprised only ½d and 1d stamps, to cover local and internal rates.

In order to explain the phenomena, or clues, recited above, the following suggestions are put forward.

- (1) Mail from a village sub-office was ordinarily stamped there only at the relevant internal rate, normally a single 1d or a pair of ½d stamps.
- (2) Only in the case of mail to another village (or within the same village) not routed through GPO would it be necessary to cancel the stamp. This would be done in manuscript with date or office name.
- (3) Mail to GPO, or routed through GPO, would generally travel with stamps uncanceled, and these would receive a c.d.s. or killer strike at GPO unless destined for an address overseas.
- (4) Village mail destined for overseas would carry additional postage, to be paid, and accounted for, in cash. When the item reached GPO, it would be struck, on the stamps, with a Crown Circle 'Paid at Dominica' to denote that full postage had been pre-paid, notwithstanding the low face value of the adhesive stamps.

In my belief, therefore, the Paid at Dominica marking does indeed indicate a shortage of higher value stamps at source - but only because the item originates from a Dominica village, which would not stock higher values. Does anybody else agree? Unfortunately, I am left with a little problem. You see, one keeps finding these ½d and 1d stamps of Nevis, marked 'Paid at Nevis'.

*Simon Goldblatt*

## JAMAICA

When Tom Foster sought to pick me up on my reference to the 1862 "LUCEA" postmark, he did less than justice to the reputation of his book. It was my starting-point, as it would be for anybody nowadays who proposed to comment on Jamaica postmarks of the period. His researches disclosed that when the numeral obliterations were withdrawn for re-allocation, each of the offices affected could be expected to have used a c.d.s for cancelling stamps, and some of them certainly did.

What I believed I was doing in mentioning Lucea, was taking this office out of the category of theoretical users of the c.d.s. and putting it amongst the established users. If Tom Foster already had Lucea as an established user of the c.d.s. because other stamps so cancelled in late 1862 have been preserved and recorded, it seems that he and I were working from different editions of his book. Since he is the author, that is very much his prerogative! and I, for one, shall be looking forward to its arrival.

*Simon Goldblatt*

## MONTSERRAT

### WHY NOT COLLECT MONTSERRAT?

It is appropriate at this time to pen some notes on Montserrat as a superb collection formed over a period of about fifty years was auctioned in March 1977 in London and many items from that collection have been seen rarely on the market over the years. Philatelically speaking, this is a comparatively small country, but as with most countries, depending on how you collect, it can be very difficult or as easy as you may wish to make it.

The next thing that should be said is that the material up to 1900 is either very scarce or comparatively scarce and even the stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V are by no means as easy to collect as the stamps of these reigns from most other countries.

To commence with I propose to mention proofs. The first item in this category is the 6d. blue-green (SG.3) which to all appearance is an adhesive stamp but it cannot be regarded as such - more about this later in these notes. The design adopted for SG.4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11 and 12 is to be found in two dies known as Die I and Die II, but only Die I was employed for eight countries including Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Lucia, Turks Islands and Virgin Islands in the British West Indies. De la Rue & Co., were the printers and the design is generally known as "the Cyprus type" although the stamps of Cyprus were not the first issued in this design. Die proofs exist on glazed card in black with uncleared name and value tablets and in the form of a master die proof with blank name and value tablets. A die proof of the 1½d. value is to be found in black on glazed card dated Sep 1 1879 and this relates to the postcard with this value printed on it in brown. Imperforate plate proofs of the Queen Victoria stamps from 1880 onward exist but these are very rare, and apart from SG.4 2½d. red-brown of which I have seen four examples, but in the case of SG.6 ½d. dull green, SG.7 1d red, SG.10 2½d. ultramarine and SG.12 4d. mauve I have so far seen only one example of each; however, others must surely exist. In 1883 De la Rue & Co., prepared a colour trial of the 1d. in sepia

and apart from the example in the Royal Collection I have seen only one other example in private hands, that is, excluding the De la Rue Archives.

In the case of the Edwardian stamps showing the Device of the Colony with face values ½d. to 2/6d. (both inclusive), it would seem that two types of die were used (not to be confused with the two Dies I and II previously referred to which have no connection with the two types of die now being mentioned).

One type of die consisted of the frame with "MONTserrat" and a different value in each value tablet. The other type of die was of the vignette of the Device of the Colony. Progressive die proofs pulled from each die are known but are not very frequently seen, particularly is this the case with the proofs of the vignette only, as I have seen only one progressive die proof of the vignette and one original die proof dated March 7th (1903). Mention must also be made of imperforate colour trials in 1903 of the ½d. value and an imperforate plate proof in the same value. The Edwardian 5/- value was a large format stamps and two different dies were used. Die proofs exist of the frame with name and value but with blank vignette on the usual glazed cards. Likewise, die proofs exist of the central vignette consisting of the King's head against a partly shaded background with an oval frame line; both the frame die and the vignette die were adopted for the 5/- value of Antigua and Dominica as well with the necessary difference of name of Colony. Bi-coloured colour trials of the 5/- value of Montserrat are also to be found.

Progressive die proofs in black on glazed card exist of the frame of the 1916-23 set of stamps with both the value tablet and surrounds uncleared and with and without "MONTserrat"; value tablet die proofs are also to be found. Original die proofs of the value tablet are available for most values of the 1922-29 set. Die proofs are also to be found in respect of the complete design and value of several of the stamps of the 1922-29 set, each proof being on a piece of glazed card approximately the size of the adhesive stamp which it represents. These proofs are not considered to be 'cut down' die proofs; it is thought that they were pulled for the purpose of testing the accuracy of the registration of the frame die and the value tablet die and at present only one proof of each value is known apart from the 4/- value of which I have now seen two apparently 'cut down' die proofs. The fact that so far no die proof of the combined frame and value tablet in black on a full sized glazed card is recorded tends to support the view that these die proofs are as made originally and are not cut down proofs. De la Rue & Co., reached a very high standard when printing the 1932 Tercentenary set by the recess method. The few known die proofs are finely made and most artistic and attractive.

There is the master die proof in black with blank value tablets on thick wove paper of which I have seen three or four examples; also a die proof of the 6d. in trial colour blue on thick wove paper with small margins of which I have seen two examples; also die proofs of the ½d. and 6d. values in trial colour blue on thick paper with much larger margins which must be very rare indeed.

Die proofs of the Tercentenary design with the 1d. value in the ten different colours of the issued stamps from the ½d. to the 5/- value are also known.

Another fascinating modern die proof is on thin card in brown and blue overprinted "SPECIMEN" and attached to a circular sent by the Colonial Secretary to the Officer

Administering each of the 44 Crown Colonies regarding the forthcoming issue of the 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps - only three examples of this item are known at present.

I will now deal with specimen stamps as necessary but do not propose to mention them individually as this has recently been done expertly by Marcus Samuel in his book "Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948" which is a "must" if not already on your bookshelf. Marcus Samuel has recorded his knowledge and information about specimen stamps in a manner which is very clear and easy to understand and his knowledge in particular on this his special subject is unrivalled.

Owing to the production of only a small number of specimen stamps of each issue, it stands to reason that the moment interest begins to be generated in them the supply gets short and the price starts to rise. For many many years specimen stamps were unpopular and could be purchased very cheaply by those few collectors who wished to develop this particular aspect of their collections. This has all changed during the last ten years or so and with Catalogue Editors now listing and pricing specimen stamps and the undoubted fillip which will be given to the collecting of specimen stamps as a result of Marcus Samuel's book, specimen stamps are likely to be very much sought after in the years to come.

"Watchman" writing on "Market Movements" in "Stamp Collecting Weekly" issued on June 9th 1977 crystallizes my feelings exactly when he stated as follows:-  
"Moral: wherever "Specimen" sets are priced lower than ordinary stamps don't hesitate - they will assuredly pass them in time."

I would only add that in my opinion it will not take long for this to happen generally. I would like to take this opportunity and record one item which has not been included in Marcus Samuel's book. It is the 6d. green SG.2 which has the "CANCELLED" handstamp Samuel Type 07. Both this and the similar handstamp on the 1d. red SG.1 are extremely rare.

Generally speaking, it must be admitted that the Queen Victoria Montserrat "SPECIMEN" and "CANCELLED" stamps are very scarce and difficult to find. From Edward VII's reign onwards, however, the position is at present different and they have been reasonably easy to obtain up to now, but this situation can change dramatically if there is an upsurge in demand.

*To be continued*

*E.V. Toeg*

## **NEVIS**

An exchange club which from time to time sends me an assortment of books has recently included a book of Nevis. I was able to get some seventeen stamps at about a third of catalogue but "passed up" a half sheet - lower half - of the 1870 red 1d. It was obviously a genuine half sheet which was said to contain the No.5 're-touch' and also showed a white flaw on the dress of the standing figure in No.12 stamp.

As I knew nothing about the appearance of the 'retouch' and could not see very much difference in the No.9 stamp from the others I let it go. It was offered at £30. The half sheet had many split perfs. and very orange looking wrinkled gum but the full margins were there and enough was joined to prove its authenticity.

I studied Mr. Goldblatt's remarks in Bulletin No.93, pages 31-32 and also looked up every reference to NEVIS in earlier bulletins but found nothing to help me. Indeed there has been little about Nevis in any bulletin. Is there any publication which shows one what to look for in the way of 'cross on hill' and retouches?

I have been fascinated by these stamps since - many years ago - in some exchange book I saw several sheets with full margins offered, as far as I can remember, at about £7 a sheet. At that point I could not afford such a terrible price and, unfortunately, my grandmother was not for sale!

*Graeme L. Pullar*

## ST. LUCIA

Reverting to the major re-entries on the Perkins Bacon plates made for St. Lucia, my previous observations were not, as may have been thought by some readers, written in ignorance of the St. Lucia Philatelist. On the contrary I was well aware, having read my way through that excellent series, that the two re-entries must occur on every sheet in every colour and shade; and I was keen to know why these varieties are usually so hard to spot in practice.

Since I last touched on the matter, I have taken two small steps forward. First, I have seen a 4d yellow showing re-entry No.1, and am satisfied that the variety can be spotted, at least some of the time even on this shade. Secondly, and rather more significantly, I have learned why re-entries are sometimes easier and sometimes harder to spot. I could have kicked myself: it depends on the wear on the plate!

Actually clarity is in contrast to what the uninitiated, like myself, might expect. The newer the printing plate is, the less the original entry is likely to show up. The more worn the plate becomes, the more prominent is the re-entry, because the original entry, imperfectly eliminated, is brought gradually closer to the printing surface.

In fairness, in the case of St. Lucia, I now believe that even with the very first sheets printed, the re-entries could be discerned on the relevant stamps, provided one looks closely enough.

I know that when I first mentioned position, I placed re-entry No.1 one row too high. This was simply an error of arithmetic, as I could not divide 205 by 12: the stamp is indeed row 18 No.1, and there has never been, as far as I know, any controversy about that. But with all the references that I have so far checked, I still have not learned the position of re-entry No.2. May I ask again - can somebody, please, enlighten me?

*Simon Goldblatt*

## ST. LUCIA POST OFFICE OPENING DATES

Mr. Coleman appears to have mis-read the list of offices in the March Bulletin, since "Derniere Riviere" (a village some 4 miles NW of Dennery) was opened on 1 Feb. 1972. The opening dates of the offices other than these mentioned are:

AMERIC 1.11.73; BOCAGE 1.8.73; CHAUSSES (ROAD), a sub-office in Castries 1.5.64; DEBREUIL 4.3.65; FOND ASSAU 16.11.63, HOSPITAL ROAD, a sub-office in Castries 1.3.65; LONDONDERRY 1.11.73; MARC 1.11.63; MON REPOS 6.3.65; MORN SION 1.8.71.

The reason for the two different dates for the opening of Soufriere post office is that it was opened twice: An internal service between Castries and Soufriere was started in 1850 using postmarks proofed in London on 16th March. There was a sub-postmaster or postmistress at Soufriere until 1856 when, for reasons not now known, Soufriere ceased to exist as a post office. An open-bag collection at the Police Station operated until Soufriere post office was re-opened on 16th July 1884 with the S-code single-ring date stamp and adhesives. The office then continued in operation until today, although it had to be re-built after the fire of 1955, when the northern part of the town centre was destroyed. I recently found a sticker on the back of an envelope which read HELP SOUFRIERE FIRE RELIEF. A fuller account of the Soufriere office history from French times is given by Devaux in the BCP Journal for April 1974.

*Geoffrey Ritchie*

## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Mr. Goldblatt's article on the scarcity of Trinidad datestamps (Bulletin No.78) merits better informed response that I can yet give it. May I, however, break the tantalising silence which has followed it and don the precipitate shoes of fools in the absence of the angels?

The following is a personal score on the target he draws; three years' rooting through dealers' stock books, happily prompted by his implicit challenge, with little money and less time. Money has proved unimportant, because all the stamps I have found are humble, but time has thwarted many a promising dig. I can offer nothing of statistical value (proponents of the non-parametric KOLMOGOROV-SMIRNOV significance test stop here, simple stumbling enthusiasts please read on and compare notes), but here are offices found pre-1913 and earliest dates for each of Mr. Goldblatt's categories 1-5.

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. ARIMA (5.3.90)     | MAYARO (5.10.97)        |
| CALIFORNIA (12.5.9?)  | MUCURAPO (1896 issue)   |
| CEDROS (2?.6.0?)      | PRINCES TOWN (30.6.90)  |
| CHAGUANAS (5.5.91)    | ST. JOSEPH (1896 issue) |
| CLAXTON BAY (14.8.96) | ST. MARY'S (4.2.93)     |
| COUVA (14.6.87)       | SANGRE GRANDE (3.1.96)  |
| LA BREA (21.7.94)     |                         |

Score 13/14. My earliest date for the remaining office, TUNAPUNA, is 10.12.23, and all of the above have been seen a number of times.

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2. AROUCA (27.9.99)    | MORUGA (4.3.96)          |
| BELMONT (12.1.93)      | ST. JUAN (7.3.00)        |
| CARONI (?4.92)         | TOCO (19.4.97)           |
| CUNUPIA (10.1.00)      | WILLIAMSVILLE (10.12.87) |
| DIEGO MARTIN (1.10.96) |                          |

Score 9/17. Other, subsequent, earliest dates:

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| CARENAGE (12.10.49)  | LAVENTILLE (1.11.51) |
| CUMUTO (12.5.44)     | ST. MADELEINE (1938) |
| GRAN COUVA (17.8.14) | WOODBROOK (8.7.35)   |

HICACOS and TUMPUNA still elude me.

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 3. BLANCHISSEUSE (9.1.93) | ROSE HILL (23.6.00)  |
| BRASSO (2.12.08)          | TORTUGA (1883 issue) |



strikes are generally more plentiful before about 1920 and after about 1940, and I cannot account for this scarcity in the intervening period.

To obtain reliable evidence of relative scarcity, a far larger sample is needed. May I, therefore, offer, if no one else is undertaking the work, to act as clearing agent for anyone who is willing to report strikes in his own possession, but is reluctant to venture into print in the Bulletin?

*Michael Medlicott*

## TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

### THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

*(continued from page 63, Bulletin No.94)*

#### PART IV - MISCELLANEOUS POSTAL MARKINGS

##### POSTAGE DUE



Type PD1

Other than any manuscript endorsements the only known "Postage Due" or "To Pay" marking consists of a rubber handstamp with a serif 'T' within a circular frame. The frame line is approximately 20mm in diameter and the 'T' itself has overall dimensions of 9 x 10mm.

EKD: SP 3 84 (A dated sample on plain paper)

LKD: Au 15 33

##### SLOGANS AND COMMEMORATIVE MARKINGS



Type SL1.

The earliest slogan or commemorative mark is a circular handstamp, 31mm in diameter, of the 1924 British Empire Exhibition with the Exhibition Lion displayed in the centre. It is reported as being in greyish black and applied to the cover; the actual stamps being cancelled by a regular Turks Is. type 4 cds. (q.v.)

EKD: FE 6 24

LKD:

Type SL2.

BUY  
TURKS ISLANDS  
SALT  
NONE BETTER

A slogan advertising Turks' Islands salt was introduced in the early 1930's. This type consists of a rubber hand-stamp inscribed "BUY/TURKS ISLANDS/ SALT/NONE BETTER" in four lines. It is unboxed and the approximate overall size is 39 x 18½mm. The first, second and fourth lines are of seriffed letters; the third ("SALT") is of larger but sanserif letters. This type was used to cancel the stamps themselves, or sometimes alongside the stamps and with the appropriate cds.

EKD: DR 11 31

LKD: AU 15 33

Type SL3.

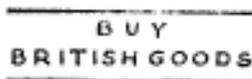


There is a second slogan handstamp to advertise Turks Islands' salt, similar to type SL2 but probably from a metal die and with the slogan contained within a double frame line. The three line inscription reads "BUY/ TURKS ISLANDS SALT/NONE BETTER". The overall size is 46 x 23mm. It has been seen used in both black and violet, and as in the case of type SL2 was used either to cancel the stamps themselves, or in conjunction with the appropriate regular cds.

EKD: DE 5 32

LKD: JU ? 46

Type SL4.



Another marking also dating from the early 1930's advertises "BUY/BRITISH GOODS" in two lines of sanserif capitals in between two single horizontal frame lines only. Again it was used either as a canceller or alongside the stamps with a regular cds.

EKD: DE 24 31

LKD:

Type SL5.



This type differs from the preceding one in that the wording is in three lines of larger size lettering and the horizontal frame lines take a different format NS can be seen from the example illustrated.

EKD: AU 27 32

LKD:

Type SL6.

Type SL6 is a commemorative marking used for one day only - the 30th April 1976. The whole marking is in duplex format



COIN DAY  
TURKS AND  
CAICOS ISLANDS  
BICENTENNIAL  
COINAGE



consisting of a cds on the left, similar to the type 8 of Turks Island mentioned in Part II except that there is no Index letter and the date is in the form 30 AP/76. To the right there is the wording

"COIN DAY/TURKS AND/CAICOS ISLANDS/  
BICENTENNIAL/COINAGE" in small san-serif capitals. Further to the right again are the thirteen stars of the original States of the USA.

Date: 30 AP 76

1776  
4 JULY  
1976



Type SL7

A special slogan was introduced to commemorate the bicentennial of the United States on 4th July 1976. Again it is in duplex format. The datestamp has no index letter and the date is in three lines in the centre.

EKD: ?

LKD: 7 (possibly one day only).

Type SL8

A very recent three line slogan in use reads

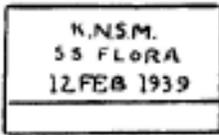
**TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS CARNIVAL  
GRAND TURK  
AUG. 28th — SEPT. 3rd**

“TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS  
CARNIVAL/GRAND TURK/AUGUST  
28<sup>th</sup> - SEPT 3rd.”

The lettering is approximately 3½mm high and the longest line measures 78mm. No other details, such as date of introduction, are available at time of writing, but an example for 19 JY 77 has been seen.

SHIP MAIL

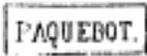
Mail Boat Cachets.



The mail carried aboard the Dutch Mail Boats which called at the Islands between wars can be found with a distinctive cachet. These markings are not official postal markings in that they were applied by the Steamship Company rather than the Post Office.

Found marked SS LUNA, SS AMAZONE and SS FLORA

Paquebot.



PAQUEBOT

PAQUEBOT

As far as I have been able to discover no PAQUEBOT marking has been made or used at Grand Turk; any reader having information to the contrary is requested to contact me with the relevant details. However, a number of Turks and Caicos Islands' stamps are known with Paquebot markings which originated elsewhere. Among the more common are those from Jamaica whilst others from New York, Bermuda and St. Kitts and other West Indian Islands and the UK are met with less frequently - the list is not exhaustive.

Illustrated are but a few of these and show, from top to bottom, Jamaica, Bermuda and St. Kitts.

AIR MAIL

VIA AIR MAIL

Type AM1.

The earliest distinctive Air Mail marking appears to have consisted of a rubber handstamp bearing the words “VIA AIR MAIL” in one straight line, and without frame lines. Two sizes are known: 58 x 7mm and 48 x 5mm, both being struck in either purple or black. The use of these handstamps was discontinued with the introduction of the standard blue label.

EKD: DE ? 46

LKD: JA 14 49

First Flights.

As far as I have been able to discover there have been no official first flight cachets added to mail leaving Grand Turk by air, though some unofficial ones are known. One such was described in the BCPSG Journal of June 1976 and consisted of a six line cachet commemorating the flight by Bahamas Airways from Grand Turk to Nassau on 15 March 1956. Similarly, BWIA flew a route survey flight from South Caicos to Jamaica on 29th June 1946. No official mail was carried though some signed (by the crew) covers are reported. About 20 covers were carried from South Caicos to London on the first day of the British Red Cross Centenary stamps (4th August 1970) by Miss Sheila Scott in her single engined Piper Comanche "Myth Too" as part of her round the world flight. It is not known what markings were applied to these covers.

*Mike Wilson*

*The remainder of part 4 of this four part monograph will appear in the next bulletin.*

## NOTES AND QUERIES

The following report and extract from a report first appeared in the Barbados Advocate News of 11th August, 1977.

"Barbadians will have to pay 12 cents for inland letters not exceeding one ounce, beginning from September 1, this year.

This new postage rate which represents an increase by four cents over the present rate, was among increases in postage rates approved in the House of Assembly last Tuesday.

Separate Bills to amend the Post Office Act and the Stamp Duty Act, along with two resolutions to increase the postage rates on packets transmitted from Barbados to places abroad, were passed in the House when it met for the last time before its annual summer recess.

As a result of the new measures, the postage payable in respect of letters posted in Barbados for delivery in Barbados, and for newspapers and periodicals printed and published here, will increase.

In the case of a letter not exceeding one ounce, the rate which is now eight cents, will move up to 12 cents, and for letters over one ounce but not exceeding two ounces, the new rate will be 20 cents.

Where letters over two ounces, but not exceeding four ounces are concerned, the new rate of postage will be 28 cents. This represents an increase of 14 cents.

For newspapers and periodicals, the increase will be from three cents to five cents, for those not exceeding one ounce; from four cents to six cents for those between one and two cents; and from five cents to eight cents for such items weighing between two and four ounces.

#### AIRMAIL

Where airmail postage from Barbados is concerned, the cost of sending letters per half ounce will be: Trinidad & Tobago, St. Lucia, Martinique, St. Kitts, St. Vincent; Grenada, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Guiana, Curacao, Antigua and Aruba, are 28 cents each.

For letters by airmail to the United States, Columbia, Cuba, Canada, Belize, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras Rep., Puerto Rica, and the USA Virgin Islands, the new rates will be 45 cents per half ounce.

The new postage rates to Britain and Northern Ireland will be letters 50 cents per half ounce; airforms and postcards 35 cents, printed papers and small packets 25 cents per half ounce; and newspapers and periodicals 20 cents per half ounce.

There are also new rates for airforms, postcards, printed papers, periodicals and newspapers.

International surface postage rates concerning letters, postcards, printed papers, newspapers and periodicals are also included in the new regulations.

Barbados External Affairs Minister, Mr. Henry Forde, has attributed his Government's decision to increase the rates of postage to an international agreement made under the former Democratic Labour Party Government.

Mr. Forde said that in 1976, the DLP Government accepted a Universal Postal Union agreement which had been signed two years earlier, to revise the postal rates. He said that with Barbados' international reputation for honouring agreements, the Barbados Labour Party Government now was bound by that agreement.

The Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society's Handbook No.2 on "West Indian Censorship Devices" has now been published. This is a follow-up to Handbook No.1, which is now almost sold out, and it contains approx. 100 A4 pages fully illustrated. The coverage of the ex-British West Indian territories is completed with accounts of the Bahamas, Bermuda, Brit. Honduras, Dominica, Montserrat, St. Kitts, Jamaica Handstamps, the British Virgin Islands, St. Vincent and, additionally, the French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe. There are also re-written sections on Barbados, the Cayman Islands, Grenada and Antigua, along with additions and amendments to the original accounts of Brit. Guiana, Jamaica labels and St. Lucia.

The price is £3.75 per copy including postage to the UK or Europe, or \$10 in the Americas including air postage, and it is obtainable from G.G. Ritchie, 16 Stray Walk, Harrogate, N. Yorks HG2 8HU

This account of the theft of the "Tudway papers", published in the 31st March edition of the Somerset County Gazette, was received too late for inclusion in our last issue. We feel that the report, although unfortunate, will be of interest to all collectors of Antigua postal history.

Former Taunton police superintendent John Hamer, who stole and sold ships' letters while employed at the Somerset Records Office, was given a conditional discharge for 12 months at Bristol Crown Court yesterday.

The reason for the offences lay in ‘financial pressures’, the court heard.

Mr. Justice Park told Mr. Gamer “I have never heard evidence of character of the kind I have heard in this court today. I have come to the conclusion that it would be quite wrong for me to deal with you in any other way.

Mr. Gamer, aged 69, of Stoke Road, Taunton, admitted the theft of about 500 early letters and covers bearing Antigua stamp marks, belonging to former Somerset High Sheriff, Mr. David Tudway-Quilter, between 1971 and 1975. He also admitted eight charges of obtaining money by deception by claiming that the letters were his to sell.

The total amount realised was £2,515.

The court was told by Mr. James Black, prosecuting, that the documents were found in the vaults of a house belonging to Wells Cathedral School.

The letters, postmarked Antigua, had been sent back to England from plantations in the West Indies and were of great historical interest.

These “Tudway papers” as they were called, were sent in 1971 for safekeeping to the Somerset Record Office in Taunton, where Mr. Hamer was employed.

“Mr. Hamer had collected the documents from the school himself. Within a matter of weeks he started collecting them after writing to firms in London and Bristol, asking what they were worth and instructing them to send a cheque”, said Mr. Black. They were later sold again by auction, and privately, both in this country and in America for much larger sums.

In 1976 it came to the attention of Mr. Tudway-Quilter that his letters were in circulation and being offered for auction.

“Some of the papers have been recovered, but the majority, unfortunately, have gone”, he told the court.

Interviewed by police in October, 1976, Mr. Gamer admitted the offences.

Det. Chief Inspector Raymond May, stationed at Frome, said that Mr. Gamer had retired from the police with an exemplary character. In 1965 he was employed in the record office at a wage of £80 a month and received a police pension of £120. Mr. Nigel Pescue, for Mr. Gamer, said the defendant worked at the record office as an accession assistant, which was not a very senior position.

He had gone to collect the boxes of Tudway papers in December 1971, and took one of them home “as possible means for further research in his historical studies”, said Mr. Pescue.

“Within a few weeks financial pressures forced him to sell them. He is very loyal to his family, and I can only ask the court to accept that there had been quite a dramatic change in his financial circumstances”.

Mr. Pescue said that virtually everyone who knew Mr. Gamer said how alien it was to the character of the man to have done what he did. He was willing to sell his £15,500 Taunton home to meet any compensation order.

Psychiatrist Dr. Kenneth Bailey, giving evidence, said he had known the defendant for many years. “He wouldn’t allow me to examine him. He said he wasn’t going to have any excuses made for him.

But personally, I think he was a broken man, and there was some deterioration.”

Preb Desmond Mercy, vicar of St. Mary’s, Taunton, spoke to the court of Mr. Hamer’s long association with the church. “We are all very fond of him. I think he has

shown great courage in his adversity. We are all standing by him, not only as a duty, but because it is our inclination.”

Mr. Kenneth Home, chief executive of Taunton Borough Council, said he had known Mr. Hamer for 20 years. “I was shocked and couldn’t believe what had happened. I would have put anything of mine in his hands, and still will. I can’t believe this was more than some quirk.

As a policeman he was always concerned for people, not for the system.”

Mr. Frank Williams, of North Petherfon, a former police superintendent, told the court that Mr. Hamer had been a most efficient police officer, held in high esteem.

The judge ordered Mr. Hamer to pay compensation of £2,515.

Mr. Hamer, who joined the Somerset Constabulary to 1934, retired as divisional superintendent at Taunton in June, 1965. He had been in charge of the Taunton division for nine years.

He served in the Grenadier Guards and was a captain when recalled during the war, helping to re-form the German police force in the Spandau district of Berlin. He joined the force as a constable and was promoted to chief inspector in 1954.

He played rugby for the police XV, was a county marksman and chairman of the police rifle shooting section.

He was unofficial historian for the County Constabulary and leader of the committee which published a history of the Somerset police to mark its centenary. He was chairman of the Mountfields Youth Club and active with the Outward Bound Schools.

End Gazette

Lois and John Willem, backgrounded by twelve years of business experience in the Commonwealth Caribbean including interests in Antigua, acquired, through purchase from dealers and at auctions, a quantity of Tudway letters.

This led them to pursue the Tudway family history through contacts with David Tudway-Quilter (whose mother was a Tudway and who himself has no male heir) in Wells, and ultimately to attempt a reconstruction of the Tudway collection in the manner of “The Codrington Correspondence”.

After a week in Antigua physically covering what remains of the Tudway and Codrington estates (which adjoin), the Willems went to England for a study of the material in the Taunton (Somerset) Archives. It became readily apparent to them that the Tudway material in public hands had come from this rather vast collection, and they asked themselves “how”?

A following weekend with the Tudway-Quilters aroused Mr. David Tudway-Quilter’s curiosity and the subsequent investigation ensued which led to Hamer’s arrest and the story detailed in the Somerset Gazette.

The Willems are not only indexing and cataloguing all the Tudway material in an attempt to reconstruct the collection as it might have been treated if the original “find” had remained intact, but pursuing unanswered questions raised by the Hamer trial. They are now again in England for this purpose.

It should be added that after the disclosure of Hamer’s activities the entire staff of the Somerset Record Office was thoroughly investigated by the police and was cleared. Further the County Council had endorsed this specifically both in Committee and in an open letter addressed to the staff.

Bermuda's next philatelic exhibition, BERMUDAPEX '78, will be held on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th January, 1978, at the Castle Harbour Hotel, Tuckers Town. We understand that a prospectus is available from Bermudapex, P.O. Box 937, Hamilton 5, Bermuda and that this includes details of a special one week package from England and the United States. Dr. Jack Arnell is once again the Exhibition Chairman.

At this year's British Philatelic Exhibition the following members were awarded medals:

MICHAEL SHEPPARD Silver Gilt Medal and the BCPSG Silver Medal for his Barbados 1747-1892.  
STEPHEN PAPWORTH Silver Medal for Early Bermuda Airmails.  
BRIAN BROOKES Bronze Silver Medal for Channel Islands - France Mail.

Those members who attended the Exhibition were fortunate to have the opportunity of seeing Bobby Messengers very fine Large International Gold Medal exhibit of St. Vincent displayed in the Court of Honour. *Michael Sheppard*

#### BWISC AUCTION No.5

Material for the above auction, to be held on the 15th April, 1978, may be sent from 1st December, 1977 and must reach the Editor, Michael Sheppard, by 31st January, 1978.

Terms and conditions will be the same as those for our previous auctions and limit bidding, which was introduced at our last auction, will again be available.

All correspondence please to Michael Sheppard.

#### WOULD MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT

The venue for the meeting to be held on Thurs., Jan. 5th. 6 p.m. has been changed. It will now be the "B.P.E. Board Room", Room 10, 3rd floor, National Liberal Club, 1, Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HE.

#### NEW MEMBERS

BALL, David H., Arnewood Rise, Tiptoe, Lymington, Hants.

Interest: Barbados, Bermuda.

BUCKNER, Dr. John M., Gainesville Mall, 2560 N.W. 13th Street, Gainesville, Florida 32601, U.S.A.

Interest: Jamaican postal history & postal markings.

GAIR, E., 69, St. George's Terrace, Newcastle on Tyne, NE2 2DL

Interest: Bahamas, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Turks & Caicos Is.

MARTIN, Robin Scrivan, 196, Cromwell road, Cambridge, CB1 3EQ.

Interest: Montserrat, St. Vincent and general interest in all other B.W.I. countries.

PETERKIN, E., Flat 1, Latimer Court, Brookvale Road, Highfield Southampton.

Interest: Barbados, Grenada.

ROWCLIFFE, C., 135, Hubert Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

Interest: Barbados pre 1882.

TAYLOR, Walter, 3, Stirling Close, Seaford, Sussex, BN25 3UT.

Interest: St. Vincent.

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

BAKER, I.L., 2, Cairnsgarroch Way, Bourtreehill, Irvine, Ayrshire, Scot land.  
BENNETT, Frank Henwood, 84A, Queen St., Newton Abbot, Devon TQ12 2ET.  
BRANSON, W.R., 19, Coppice Close, Dovehouse Lane, Solihull.  
DITCH, R.D., 12, Cambridge Road, New Maldon, Surrey.  
HALE, Michael, c/o Urch Harris & Co. Ltd., 7 Richmond Hill Avenue, Bristol, BS8  
IBQ.  
KILBURN, Guy, 100, Mira Loma, Vallejo, California 94590 U.S.A.  
WOOLFSON, Dr. David, 1 The Quay, Burnham on Crouch, Essex.

### CHANGE OF INTEREST ETC.

FREELAND, C.A., Postal History of all islands, Jamaica and Trinidad.  
GORDON, James Henry, Tobago, Trinidad, Trinidad & Tobago (Specialised).  
General interest: B.W.I used.  
HEAP, Richard, Bermuda (specialised collection for display), Leeward Is. (used) St.  
Kitts (used), Madeira.  
REESBY, A.J., Jamaica. Specialised collection.  
ROMANO, Michael A., Tobago, Trinidad, Trinidad & Tobago, General  
interest: All B.W.I. "War Tax" stamps - postal history, thematics.  
TOWERS, Dr. N., delete St. Lucia  
WALKER, Bruce, To main interest add general interest: Bahamas, postmarks only;  
Bermuda, Cayman Is., postal history of Scotland and Hong Kong.

### RESIGNED

O'Conner, H.

### REQUEST CORNER

Neville Longdon wishes to know if there are any publications etc containing notes on the Bahamas 'Queen's Staircase' issue.

Patrick Morgan would welcome a 'xerox' of the Turks Islands notes in Bulletin No.40.

Mike Romano would likewise welcome a 'xerox' of the Trinidad notes contained in Bulletin No.36 pages 5, 16-17.

Any member who is willing and able to oblige should, in the first case, send any information to the Editor and for the second and third requests refer to Bulletins No.92 and 94 for addresses.

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