



BWI

STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

Founder:

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

President:

E. V. TOEG

Vice-Presidents:

J. B. MARRIOTT, F.R.P.S.L., R.D.P.

W. A. TOWNSEND, F.R.P.S.L., R.D.P.

BULLETIN No. 101 JUNE 1979

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S. GOLDBLATT, M. R. WILSON
- 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 **\$5.50** USA due **1st January**. The latter rate includes airmail postage of bulletins and collection charges and is subject to changes from time to time as determined by the Hon. Treasurer. 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 1979-80

1979

Sat., Sept. 22nd, 3 p.m.	Barbados, Basil B. Benwell
Thurs., Oct. 18th, 6 p.m.	Nine pages from members.
Wed., Nov. 28th, 6 p.m.	Invited display.

1980

Thurs., Jan. 10th, 6 p.m.	Nine pages from members.
Thurs., Mar. 6th, 6 p.m.	Nine pages from members.
Sat., Apr. 19th, 3 p.m.	A.G.M. and Auction.
Mon., May 12th	Wine and Cheese party.

Stanley Gibbons Auction Room is no longer available for meetings and we are in the process of finding new accommodation. As a consequence of this the above programme is only provisional so please consult your September, 1979 Bulletin for confirmation.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE 25th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the British West Indies Study Circle held on Saturday 21st April 1979, at 3 p.m., at the Auction Room of Messrs Stanley Gibbons Ltd., Drury House, Russell St., London, W.C.1.

27 Members were present with one guest.

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

Apologies for absence were received from: Messrs. Martin, S.A. Baker, Henwood Bennett and R. Heap.

The Minutes of the 24th Annual General Meeting were published in the June, 1978 issue of the Circle's Quarterly Bulletin in pages 23-27 inclusive. These were taken as read and with the approval of the Meeting, were signed as correct by the Chairman.

REPORT OF THE HON. SECRETARY:

This is my 8th report as Hon. Secretary of this Circle. Membership of the Circle stands, as usual, at about 315. There are 3 outstanding enquiries about membership. Our subscription rate has remained unchanged for 5 years in spite of rampant inflation. Last year it was my pleasure to remark on the economies which we were able to effect through the good advice of Mr. Benwell. This year I would like to draw your attention to another aspect of the Circle which has maintained it as a thriving and vigorous group. I refer to the leadership of our President, Mr. Victor Toeg. He has been our President for the past 11 years. His tireless energy and good counsel have always been at the heart of our planning and debate. No figurehead President this!

The Circle enjoyed an active year with meetings as follows:

30th Sept, 1978.	Display by Mr. L.E. Britnor to 11 members and 2 guests.
18th Oct. 1978.	Nine page displays by members. 16 members present with 3 guests.
30th Nov. 1978.	Display by Mr. S. A. Baker to 9 members.
17th Jan. 1979.	Nine page display. 3 members present.
15th Feb. 1979.	Nine page display. 4 members present.
21st Mar. 1979.	Display by Mr. Marriott to 10 members.

The very severe weather this winter accounts for the poor attendance at the January and February meetings. The expert opinion service was used on 7 occasions.

REPORT OF THE HON. TREASURER:

It has been a most satisfactory year as far as the Treasury is concerned with cash in hand from the General Account in excess of £900.

Members will have seen from the published statement that last year's situation has changed very little. I would, however, ask Members to pay their subscriptions on time to avoid wasted postage in reminders. It has also been noted that some members require receipts, if this is so, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope when forwarding your subscriptions.

The Publication Account as with the General, is still in good order with funds in excess of £100.

REPORT OF THE HON. EDITOR:

Looking back at previous Editorial reports it appears that we are always in urgent need of articles for the bulletin. This year, for fear of being accused of crying "wolf, wolf", we will not make our usual appeal. However, we will ask for your patience and understanding should you not see your article or note appearing in the next bulletin. It often happens that we have three or four articles for one country and problems of layout, and a balanced publication make it necessary to hold some of these items over for one, or possibly two issues.

We should like to see more special issues like the 21st Anniversary and Silver Jubilee editions and if you happen to agree on this point - well, you know what to do!

REPORT OF THE HON. LIBRARIAN:

I must start this report by tendering my apologies to those members who have waited so patiently during the past six months for me to deal with their requests. I sincerely hope that there will be no recurrence of such delays in the future.

Since I last reported there has been a decrease in the use of the library. Sixteen members made twenty-three requests for forty-eight different items during the year. Other than reminding you all that the library does exist I will not dwell on this point. We have received a number of gifts from members notably J. Hill, M.T. Maxwell, R. Heap and G. Ritchie. The items received have now made it necessary for me to order more shelving and when it is received I will have to re-arrange the library completely and prepare a new listing. I intend to give more detail than previously in respect of Auction Catalogues and, if time permits, to prepare an index of items appearing in the volumes of the Stamp Lover and the London Philatelist which the library now has. At the same time I also hope to include a reference index of our own bulletins on a country by country basis. Although the latter may be of more use to future members it might also be of interest to the existing membership.

I would be interested to receive from any member ideas on how loose leaf material and smaller periodicals can be conveniently and cheaply "bound" so that individual items can be retrieved whilst the whole remains protected. Cordex type binders (or those used for "Which?" magazine) will suit, for example, copies of sale catalogues but they are not suitable for the smaller pamphlet type of publication. I would like to find a better method than using envelopes!

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE:

The two meetings held during the year were busy ones and very productive. At the meeting held on 30th September, 1978, Messrs. E.V. Toeg and S.A. Baker reported on their suggestions for the proposed Silver Jubilee Meeting in Brighton during one whole day in May, 1979. The Committee agreed that a meeting would be held and decided on the Programme of Events and other matters connected with the proposed meeting. Messrs. Toeg and Baker were requested to make the necessary arrangements with a suitable Hotel.

At the second meeting held on 21st April, 1979 there was a very full agenda of business. Apart from formal matters, the Hon. Treasurer reported in his absence by letter that about 50 members had not so far paid their subscriptions (dues) for 1979. Mr. Toeg reported on the arrangements made for the Silver Jubilee Meeting to be held in Brighton at the Old Ship Hotel on Saturday, 19th May, 1979, although many of the arrangements of necessity had already been publicised in bulletin No.100 March 1979. The Committee also discussed the question of the Study Circle's participation at London 1980 and it was decided that the Study Circle should hold a function during London 1980. Then followed the question of binding a further number of the 200 unbound copies of The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies and the Committee decided to have some further copies bound.

The Hon. Treasurer also raised the question of increasing the charges to advertisers in the bulletin in order to defray the whole or part of the increase in charges during 1979 by the platemakers and binders of the bulletin. There was opposition to this by the Hon. Editor of the bulletin in particular and the Hon. Treasurer's suggestion was not proceeded with, but will be reconsidered when the Committee meets again.

REPORT OF THE HON. AUDITOR:

The accounts were audited and found to be in good order.

MEETINGS OF THE CIRCLE:

Mr. Chard indicated that meetings of the Circle would no longer be held at the Auction Room and that members should check their bulletins for confirmation of dates and venues. Provisional details will be found in the Programme box on page 27 of this issue.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE:

Before coming to the election of Officers and Committee Mr. Chard reported that he had received a letter from Mr. Toeg and that he proposed to refer to the relevant paragraph.

Mr. Chard said that Mr. Toeg had remarked that he had been the President of the Circle since Mr. Geoffrey Groves died in 1967. Mr. Toeg wondered whether members felt that they would like a change, although at present he is quite willing to continue as President if this is what the members wanted. However, Mr. Toeg wanted to raise the matter so that there would be no difficulty in case a change of President was thought desirable.

Mr. Chard remarked that his own view was expressed in his report, which was that the Circle was very well served by Mr. Toeg's presidency. Mr. Chard observed that officers did tend to stay in their posts for long periods in the Circle. The advantage in this was continuity. However, the AGM was just the occasion for matters of this kind to

be raised. If any member wanted to take a more active role in the management of the Circle he could raise the matter now or speak privately to Mr. Toeg or Mr. Chard.

Messrs. A.H. Latham and J.C. Loach wished to retire from the Committee.

Mr. Toeg proposed that Mr. Mike Wilson be elected to the Committee this proposal being seconded by Mr. Sheppard.

No other nominations having been received and the present officers being willing to continue in office, Mr. Toeg declared that the Officers and Committee as listed below were elected automatically.

Officers

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

Committee

Messrs. B.B. Benwell: F.D. Fitzgerald: S. Goldblatt: M.R. Wilson

ELECTION OF THE HON. AUDITOR:

It was proposed by Mr. E.V. Toeg and seconded by Mr. R. Austin that Mr. A.J. Branston be re-elected Hon. Auditor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Toeg referred to the arrangements for the May meeting. Request for Stewards. Mr. W. ff D. Hall addressed the meeting and asked that all those who were proposing to attend and were willing to act as stewards, should fill in the list which would be circulated at the meeting. Mr. Hall emphasised the need for stewards and observed that duties would be less for those having to perform them, if plenty of volunteers came forward.

Mr. Chard asked for volunteers to give displays to other Societies.

Votes of thanks to Chairman. This was proposed by Mr. Loach, who observed that the Circle had been well served by Mr. Toeg throughout the year as well as at the AGM which he managed to make an interesting event. The proposal was greeted by applause. Mr. Toeg thanked Mr. Loach and the meeting.

Mr. Goldblatt proposed a vote of thanks to Charles Loach and Bert Latham, both of whom had served on the Committee for a long time and had provided useful advice and service during that time. This proposal was greeted by applause.

The meeting closed at 3.35 p.m. and was followed by the Auction sale.

AUCTION REPORT 1979

This was our most ambitious sale by far. It entails responsibility, for the star lot - the Leewards £1, with St. Peter's cancel - would have graced any major London auction, and would have been illustrated as well. Our members were equal to this challenge, and the cautious estimate of £80 was comfortably exceeded. Bidding opened at £105 - which meant there was an underbid of £100 on the 'book' - and this was trumped in the room by a member from Southern Africa, in Britain on leave. £110 for a single lot sets a new Circle record, and produced a spontaneous burst of applause in the auction room.

No previous AGM has been as well attended, and the competition between postal bidders and those attending was much more even than hitherto. In the end, 198 lots went to 65 successful postal bidders, 118 went to bidders in the room, and only 89 lots were left unsold. The decision to accept so many items for sale had not been an easy one; the event amply justified it, and we shall do this again, if we can. Even the auctioneer responded to the occasion, putting up his 'striking' rate by about 50%, and finishing the course in 3 minutes under his promised two hours.

The sale total of over £3,400 brings the Circle in the equivalent of about 120 annual subscriptions. It means that our very low annual rate is likely to be maintained for years to come, despite the gallop of inflation.

We have stressed in other years how punctiliously book bids are treated, with strict priority accorded to them in order of arrival, and it is gratifying to record that only 60 items were knocked down to a postal bidder at his maximum figure. In any case a fair number of such maximum figures represented the ordinary selling minimum of three-quarters of valuation, so that where a book bidder was willing to go above that level there was probably only a 10% chance that he would be forced to pay his top figure for the lot of his choice. The total amount of "slack" on the book after this year's auction was well over £600.

Only a very few of the book bidders imposed an overall limit on their bids. More members should consider doing so in future years, as it widens their choice and enables them better to allocate their priorities. You can safely bid for 30 items, if you are sure you don't have to pay for more than five.

Two bid forms were delayed in the post, and in each case this cost the member at least one lot which he could otherwise have hoped to secure. Please remember the unpredictability of the modern postal services, and allow a big margin of time for bids to reach us.

High spots and lows? Well, British Guiana stays in the dumps, but we are sure its day will come; and this year, British Honduras joined it. That may be a pity, because there were two choice items in the WELLSPORT strike, and the block of ALL PINES. Each could have made twice their realisations of £26 and £52, and neither is likely to come on the market again for a very long time. Also a number of decent covers either went rather cheaply or did not sell. This was really the only flat part of the auction, a run of some 60 lots, of which well over half attracted no bids; for otherwise the various countries were in good demand, especially postmarks, and above all those of the Leewards group: "lot 37, 38, 194, 195" became almost a refrain with postal bidders, whilst at the tail end bidders were tripping over one another to compete for the Virgin Is. postmarks.

Lot 366 provided a striking instance of what will be paid for even quite common postmarks, when in exceptional condition. A very disappointed bidder in the room dropped out at £29 (and again on lot 368 at £19). Now we can reveal it: one more bid would have clinched each lot! There was a last touch of excitement right at the end; for "Literature etc." almost trebled its estimate. But for individual mention, lot 109 takes pride of place: £56 obtained, against an estimate of £15. *Culpa nostra!*

Taken in the round, however, our sale valuations were close to the mark. The twenty or so items singled out for mention account for most of the major discrepancies.

The rest of the lots sold probably averaged within 1% of their pre-sale estimates; and we do not expect to improve on that performance.

Realisations were as under (unsold lots omitted):-

LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£
1	16.50	71	2.25	139	7.00	246	2.75	322	1.00
2	5.50	72	1.50	140	5.00	247	2.50	323	40.00
3	8.00	73	1.50	143	12.00	248	7.50	324	1.50
4	4.00	74	5.00	144	14.00	250	1.00	325	4.00
5	5.00	75	4.00	145	8.00	251	20.00	327	3.00
6	5.00	76	8.00	146	3.75	252	5.50	329	15.50
7	4.50	77	3.00	148	7.50	253	16.00	330	11.50
9	3.50	78	6.00	155	15.00	254	3.00	332	2.25
10	8.00	79	6.00	159	9.00	255	5.50	333	9.00
11	4.50	80	11.00	160	9.00	256	<u>60.00</u>	334	2.25
12	4.25	81	4.75	162	12.00	257	7.00	335	3.00
13	7.00	82	4.75	163	<u>52.00</u>	258	3.00	336	2.25
14	3.00	83	5.50	166	5.25	259	8.00	337	5.25
15	10.00	84	4.00	167	19.00	260	3.50	338	4.00
16	11.00	85	7.00	165	6.00	261	5.25	339	11.00
17	15.00	86	5.50	174	26.00	262	2.25	340	9.00
18	5.25	87	4.25	178	3.50	263	22.00	342	7.50
19	12.00	88	4.25	179	3.25	265	3.00	343	4.25
21	10.50	89	20.00	181	2.25	268	6.00	344	3.25
22	21.00	90	12.00	182	5.25	269	4.50	345	1.00
23	21.00	91	11.00	183	5.25	270	1.50	346	5.75
24	15.00	92	16.00	185	4.00	271	11.00	347	5.00
25	36.00	93	9.50	187	2.75	272	10.00	348	13.50
26	15.50	94	375	189	28.00	273	14.00	349	48.00
27	16.00	95	15.50	192	36.00	274	25.00	350	15.50
29	3.00	96	13.50	193	11.00	275	10.50	351	21.00
30	2.00	97	9.00	194	17.00	276	12.00	352	2.25
31	4.50	98	9.50	195	28.00	277	22.00	354	5.00
32	5.00	99	8.50	196	20.00	278	20.00	355	9.00
33	5.00	100	4.50	197	18.00	279	31.00	356	5.50
34	5.00	101	3.00	198	3.50	280	5.50	357	9.00
35	3.00	102	2.50	199	3.50	281	18.00	359	25.00
36	<u>110.00</u>	103	1.50	203	6.00	284	18.00	360	21.00
37	7.00	104	4.00	204	4.50	285	5.75	361	1.75
38	11.00	105	10.50	205	5.00	286	7.50	362	2.00
39	9.00	106	3.00	208	13.50	287	6.50	364	4.00
40	5.50	107	3.00	210	17.50	288	9.00	365	3.50
41	27.00	108	9.00	211	22.00	289	2.00	366	30.00
42	16.50	109	<u>56.00</u>	212	18.00	291	5.50	367	5.25
43	7.00	112	3.75	214	8.00	292	9.00	368	20.00
44	12.50	113	4.25	216	37.00	293	8.50	369	3.50
45	8.00	114	8.50	218	19.00	294	7.50	370	22.00
46	4.50	115	3.75	*220	28.00	295	4.50	371	13.00
48	12.00	116	5.00	221	15.50	296	7.50	372	2.00
49	7.00	117	17.00	222	8.00	299	2.00	373	11.00
50	26.00	118	18.00	223	10.00	300	8.00	374	16.00
51	10.00	119	4.00	228	6.00	301	9.00	376	9.00
54	2.25	120	10.50	229	9.00	302	21.00	377	10.00
55	48.00	121	3.75	230	9.00	303	2.25	378	6.00
56	16.50	122	3.50	233	6.00	305	11.00	379	9.50
57	18.00	123	18.50	234	8.00	307	34.00	381	2.75
58	25.00	124	19.00	236	7.50	308	4.00	382	5.00
59	15.00	125	4.50	237	4.25	309	3.75	383	22.00
60	8.50	126	7.50	238	19.00	310	11.00	384	8.00
62	10.00	127	2.25	239	3.00	313	8.00	385	10.50
64	2.25	128	8.00	240	4.00	314	21.00	386	13.00
66	3.00	130	34.00	241	12.00	315	8.00	387	29.00
68	2.00	133	6.50	243	11.00	316	2.50	388	22.00
69	6.00	135	15.00	244	3.50	318	48.00	389	30.00
70	5.00	137	2.50	245	3.25	321	3.00	390	23.00
				*219	7.50				

LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£	LOT	£
391	23.00	394	3.00	397	11.00	400	9.50	403	7.00
392	1.25	395	1.25	398	4.00	401	22.00	404	7.50
393	2.25	396	6.00	399	2.50	402	6.00	405	14.50

The total realised was £3,406.50, including £8.75 from items kindly donated to the Circle. We acknowledge too, the generous donation of paper for the auction catalogue, and the time and care lavished by all those who helped to organise and run the sale. Long may this event flourish.

WOULD THE MEMBER WHO GAVE THE NAME OF WARNER, AND WHO HID UNDER THE CODE “B 21” AT OUR AUCTION ON 21st APRIL LAST, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH THE EDITOR, AS LOT 395 WHICH HE PURCHASED HAS NOW BEEN LOCATED.



Four hardy souls braved the atrocious weather conditions and attended the Meeting on Thursday 15th February, 1979 and luckily two of them brought stamps to show, and their displays are summarised as follows:

MR. M.R. WILSON produced an assortment of covers and the first item was a local cover addressed to Radio Anguilla for a record request showing the 3c local rate and with a Travelling Post Office cancellation. Then, another Anguilla cover to the USA but the cancellation is unusual as it appears to have been carried by Gale Raymond acting as an “International Courier” The next cover, was one from Barbuda and it was cancelled at St. John’s, Antigua. Next, two BOAC first flight covers to and from Barbados for the first flight from London to Caracas, Venezuela. It is interesting to note that the BOAC timetable showed the return flight as reaching London at 1240 on 30th October, but the cachet on the back of the cover records this as 1240 on the 31st October. A cover from Jamaica was also displayed and as the postage was underpaid it received both a ‘T’ marking in Jamaica and postage due treatment on arrival in the United Kingdom, but unfortunately it has no “To Pay” stamps. Examples of Jamaica newspaper wrappers with added adhesives for transit either by air or sea to the United Kingdom were also shown, but it was apparent that there was not much difference in the rates. An interesting item was a Great Britain air letter posted on board the MV Northern Star bearing a Trinidad Paquebot marking. Finally, to everyone’s amusement, Mr. Wilson exhibited a cover which he had successfully bid for at auction thinking that it was a first flight cover from Jamaica to New York. However, it turned out to be a cover from Jamaica County in New York State where the then new John F Kennedy airport is situated.

MR. S. GOLDBLATT showed various aspects of the stamps of Jamaica. The first page consisted of a miscellaneous number of stamps handstamped ‘SPECIMEN’ in black and also an example of a manuscript ‘SPECIMEN’ in black ink. The second page contained twelve unused or mint stamps with the pine watermark, i.e. the 1d (4), the 2d (3), the 3d (2), the 4d, the 6d and 1/-. The third page displayed unused or mint stamps from the 1870-83 set; in fact all nine values were on view. On page four Mr. Goldblatt showed a miscellaneous selection of stamps watermarked Crown CA including unused or mint stamps from the 1883-97 set, i.e. the 1d blue, the 1d carmine, the 2d rose, the 2d slate, the 4d red-brown in two shades, the 6d deep yellow, the 1/- brown in two shades,

the 2/- and the 5/-. The 1889-91 1d, 2d and 2½d were also displayed in unused or mint condition as also was the 1890 2½d on 4d red-brown. Page five contained stamps of the 1905-11 set with the Multiple Crown CA watermark and Mr. Goldblatt exhibited in unused or mint state the 3d olive-green, the 3d purple/yellow in two shades, all three 4d stamps, the 6d dull orange, the 6d lilac, the 6d purple, the 1/- black/green, and both the 2/- stamps: there was also a used example of the 2/- Venetian red.

Turning to the stamps cancelled by the obliterations, these were exhibited on the last four pages of the display, and, being too numerous to describe individually, the obliterations are only summarised herein. Mr. Goldblatt showed examples of the obliterations A60 to A69 both inclusive, A71 to A77 both inclusive, F80, F81, F95 to F98 both inclusive, G13 to G16 both inclusive, 193, 196, 199, 201, 617, 622, 631, 640, 642 and 647.

Inclement weather and a transport strike kept attendance down to three members at the Study Circle meeting held on 17th January, 1979.

Mr. M.R. Wilson displayed nine sheets of the 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps issued in the Turks & Caicos Is. His first page showed the set perforated SPECIMEN, and this was followed by other pages showing the "secret marks" put by the various printers into the vignette plates.

MR. B.B. BENWELL showed a number of miscellaneous items from Barbados commencing with U.S. Navy postmarks on two covers. The first US Navy shore station No. 17050, and the second postmark USS Lexington, Bridgetown, Barbados. Then followed two sheets of the 1882 and 1912 issues overprinted REVENUE. It is interesting to note that the REVENUE overprint on the 1882-86 1d Carmine is bogus. Barbados did not issue Revenue stamps until April 1916. The same stamp was also displayed bisected diagonally and overprinted REVENUE, equally bogus.

Other items included a Forwarding Agents Cachet of DA COSTA & CO on a cover dated 12th July 1886: a marginal piece of the Wmk Small Star paper first used in 1871: a picture postcard of a Barbadian Postman and finally the WWII Nazi Germany issues for Barbados with overprint GERMAN LIQUIDATION OF EMPIRE".

MEMBERS SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

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

Obliterator numbers wanted on 2d Rose CC or CA. Exchange offered same numbers or others - to your advantage. Many duplicates available. A70, 196, 596, 615, "D". SWARBRICK, GBIMSTON, MELTON MOWBRAY, LEICS.



ANTIGUA

In Bulletin No.93 (September 1977) on page 31 Mr. Simon Goldblatt in his article "BWI Stamps to Hunt - And Why" makes reference to the Antigua 1d large seal on blued paper. He states "buy this stamp only when in used condition, looking healthy, and with a postmark for 1910".

Stanley Gibbons catalogue, Part I, lists this stamp as 1d. grey-black and rose-red, blue paper (1903). Checking a series of Stanley Gibbons catalogues shows that this

stamp was first listed between 1916 and 1919. At that time it showed a date of 1909 after the listing rather than the present 1903. I have not been able to learn the year in which the date was changed to 1903.

Melville in his handbook on Antigua referred to this stamp on page 31 where he wrote,

“A very late printing of the penny black and carmine on Crown CC paper was on a distinctly bluish paper; supplies were distributed by Ewen’s Colonial Stamp Market in July 1909 and the variety is said to have been ‘otherwise practically unobtainable’ . It is quite a scarce item.”

On page 32 Melville discusses 1909 issues of the monocoloured stamps as follows: “The all-green ½d on the new paper (ordinary) did not appear until April 1909, and the all-rose 1d in the following July and two months later this was reported on a thinner paper (issued September 1909).”

Mr. A.J. Branston has been researching the De La Rue records for data on the large seal stamps of Antigua. This research has produced the following comparative table:

<u>De La Rue Records</u>		<u>1d Arms</u>	<u>Melville Page 31</u>	
Date	Sheets of 60	Stamps	Date	Stamps
May 20, 1903	4062	243,720	1903	243,720
June 8, 1909	499	29,940	1909	30,040
July 1910	508	30,480	1910	30,480
			1911	30,720

Only the shipment of June 8, 1909 could then be on bluish paper and match the distribution date of July 1909 except that under this condition no mono-coloured stamps could have been distributed in July and September 1909. Therefore, the June 8, 1909 shipment must have been mono-coloured stamps.

What can one surmise at this point?

Firstly, the Records Index may be incomplete and an additional printing and shipment of the bi-coloured stamps does exist in the records. Secondly, the stamps distributed by Ewen’s Colonial Stamp Market in 1909 were from an earlier printing and not discovered until mid-1909. What other data exists?

In my collection there is a mint corner block of four with plate number on a distinctly bluish grey shade of paper. Comparing this with other bi-coloured stamps shows that either two printings of the bi-coloured stamps or at least two batches of each ink were used. This corner block of four shows a deeper shade to the carmine and a lighter shade to the black, a grey-black. If one attributes the deeper shade of carmine to the bluish grey paper, the lighter black can not be due to this. It would be most interesting to match these shades against an example with a 1910 postmark.

Also in my collection is a used example which matches the mint corner block in paper shade as well as both the carmine and black shades. This stamp is clearly postmarked 1907. If Mr. Goldblatt is correct in his approach to the blued paper variety, neither my used single or mint corner block of four can be those distributed by Ewen’s in July 1909. Could there be two unindexed shipments of the 1d bi-coloured stamps?

It would be most helpful to know the reason for Mr. Goldblatt’s date of 1910. Melville’s handbook suggests that a second half 1909 postmark is perfectly reasonable. My collection suggests an earlier shipment and Gibbons catalogue gives a date of 1903.

Additional information is eagerly sought to assist in preparing a definitive write-up on the large seal stamps of Antigua. *Mark W. Swetland*

I am pleased that Mark Swetland has taken me up on a comment, which I intended to be cautionary rather than dogmatic; looking back, it is more like the latter. There will never be certainty about the large-format stamps on CC watermarked paper, classified as blued; and I think that it is necessary to look beyond Antigua for guidance. A fair sample can be taken additionally from the 'a' listings of Grenada SG.56, Jamaica SG.32, St. Helena SG.55-7, and the blued paper set of the Barbados 1897 jubilee issue.

Within this sample, which on any view spreads over several years, one meets some stamps on which the phenomenon is fairly common, some on which it is intense, and some on which it turns up very seldom. For common instances, I cite the Grenada stamp, the Barbados 1d - and who ever met a copy of the St. Helena 2d which did not look as though it was on bluish paper? Intense, would be many copies of the Grenada stamp again, and of the Barbados low values. Amongst the rare ones are the Jamaican stamp, the Barbados 8d and 5d, and of course the Antigua 1d under discussion. What is obviously true is that in most cases blued paper cannot represent an entire, single consignment. The variety must occur on an isolated number of sheets, so that - as a matter of equal logic - one cannot be sure that it occurs only in a particular consignment.

The next problem is that 'blued' paper is essentially more a matter of opinion than of fact, and my personal opinion of what constitutes the variety is likely to differ from someone else's, and vice versa. Naturally, I look for a stamp which shows some bluish effect both on its coloured and uncoloured parts, when set side by side with its neighbour; and I like to check the same two stamps under ultra violet light. If the putative blued paper passes both tests, and does not give rise to suspicion of having been treated, I am prepared to classify it as such. There are probably better and more painstaking tests.

I was not relying on Melville in giving a date of use for the Antigua 1d, but had three other factors in mind: first, that the stamp is very scarce, anyway; secondly, that the only convincing and clearly dated used copy I had met was so dated, and that the fragmentary postmarks which I recollected on other, isolated copies were consistent with a late date; and thirdly, that this was the view formed by the contributor to the relevant part of Kohl's encyclopaedia, a carefully written and collated work. I gave little weight to the relatively late classification of the variety, since this is a frail prop on which to lean - whereas an early classification would have been (almost, see 'opinion') conclusive against me.

So my comment involves no questioning of De La Rue records; and if Mark Swetland can point to a healthy specimen dated 1907, so much the better. It gives a little more scope for the hunt if a sheet or sheets occurred (also?) in the large, initial consignment. One should not, I suppose, lose sight of the fact that blued paper crops up on the ½d value as well; and in my view the incidence - in proportion to numbers issued - is significantly higher than on the 1d value. What makes the spotting of it slightly more difficult, no doubt, is the element of blue in the basic green colour of the stamp.

I do recollect, before I arrived at any view of the probable correctness or otherwise of the 1910 date, finding a used postcard of about 1906, and grabbing it, because it

bore, visually, a splendid example of the 1d on blued paper. Yet it failed my ultra-violet test dismally. Again it leaves me wondering whether my approach is sound; and if anybody knows a reliable, scientific method of appraisal, I should be delighted to hear about it. Life is so much simpler with SG.20 of Virgin Is., where one only has to find a paper materially thinner than the normal thick wove, to be home and dry.

Simon Goldblatt

PLATING THE Q.V. 1d. AND 6d.

It appears that at least 13 positions of the first type 1d and 13 positions of the first type 6d can be plated on the De La Rue printings. For the 1d these are numbers 8(R) 20(R) 45 51 57 59 67 71 88 100 101 and 105. For the 6d: 24 26(R) 35(F) 40(F) 59(R) 70(R) 71 87(F) 91(R) 116(F) 118(R) and 120(R), plus six other stamps showing scratches across one or two letters of ANTIGUA which I believe to be constant, but cannot position.

(R) indicates a so-called re-entry and (F) a flaw. These are found on all issues from 1862-1886. The others have been plated mainly by means of scratches which are most obvious either across the letters of the name or value tablets or outside the framelines. I have not seen these scratches on issues previous to 1872. It may not be a novel suggestion but this would seem to indicate that the plates were carelessly handled and became badly scratched about the time of their transfer from Perkins Bacon to De La Rue.

I think further positions could be established and I should be glad to know the position of any of the 6d stamps showing the scratches as in the composite illustration below, or just confirmation that they are constant.



All re-entries, flaws and scratches will also be found on each printing of the stamps overprinted for Montserrat as these were all the work of De La Rue.

Peter Brooks

(With acknowledgements to William G. Cornell - see his article in the Philatelic Magazine October 1970).

E.V. Toeg in Bulletin No.75 of December 1972 doubts the genuineness of an 'A18' obliterator seen on Leeward Islands SG.3 2½d. Perhaps definite confirmation that this is a forgery could be gained by noting that the A18 obliterator appears to have been damaged sometime around 1876 and genuine strikes in the later period if they are clear show a piece missing from the 'A' thus:



It may be that heavy or blurred strikes would not show this missing piece, but it seems to be constant. Perhaps other members can check their examples.

Peter Brooks

BERMUDA

After getting the Sir Henry Tucker catalogue I was persuaded to have another look at my 1938/53 collection - if only to study the gaps!

1. On a 1/- stamp there is a postmark of a seagull, or other aquatic bird, with its paws in the ocean, facing east. Is this an unusual cancellation?

2. 10/- Green and deep lake on pale emerald perf. 13.8 dated 20th Jan, 38 (the '3' is not quite clear but could not be anything else).

10/- line pert 14¼ - a paler shade of lake - dull lake possibly, and a back of yellow-green. This is a mint copy with full gum which may make a slight difference when comparing shades, but there is a considerable difference in this case. Being, as Gibbons says, an early printing should it not be precisely the same shade as the first stamp?

G.L. Pullar

BRITISH HONDURAS

British Honduras Postmarks

(continued from page 13, Bulletin No.100)

The Double Circle Types

Sticking to my new code, the well-known double circle 'temporary' date stamps can be classified RCC 3 (rubber, circle, circle, third series); and I see merit in dividing into sub-groups RCC 3a, and RCC 3b. The first will represent the earlier and usually smaller markings; the second, the larger-sized date stamps, introduced from, say, 1928-32 onwards.

Most of my information about these markings was given in Bulletins 77, 78 and 80, under the classification Type 4. Dr. Ritchie brought to light SEINE BIGHT in what I now call type RCC 3b, and indeed, I have picked one up myself since then, struck in violet on a 1929 cover.

Again I want to regress a little (*pour mieux sauter?*). My original reference to COMMERCE BIGHT in Bulletin 77 was based on a mis-reading of a Lowry's Bight strike. I am back to wondering whether Commerce Bight made use of a canceller in its own name in the early part of the century; the more so, as the one cover I have seen with a Commerce Bight sender's address only bore Stann Creek marks of origin. So, did an office there cancel its mail? If it did, may it have used the STANN CREEK RAILWAY instrument? The other main competitor for this instrument could be MIDDLESEX FARM, other end of the line; for I have not come on the trail of this office on a date stamp - but remember the marks for 20 MILES STANN CREEK (RCC 3b) and then for Stann Creek Valley. (Perhaps end of the line is a trifle misleading for the eastern end at Commerce Bight; the line actually ended in a pier jutting out into the water, and I have a postcard view in prove it. Anyway, back to work). At any rate P.H.I. illustrates a Commerce Bight mark of an early format used - philatelically, of course - late in 1939. It's all very confusing.

Confirmed additional sightings meanwhile consist of BERMUDIANS LANDING (1922) and BIG FALLS (c 1915). Note the plural in the former name, as all publications I've seen up to now speak of 'Bermudian'.



Travelling Hopefully

Come wandering with me now through a lot of places listed by others, to which I cannot myself ascribe a confirmed sighting. Many of them probably had, and used, marks of type RCC 3; but I shall set the names out and discuss them briefly.

BAKERS. John Forrest (op. cit.) mentions the issue of a date stamp in this office in 1903; if so, the instrument would have been of my type 2. The same information is given for NORTHERN RIVER, which has certainly been reported on a few occasions. These two names probably complete the list of type 2 markings.

BARRANCO; BUTCHER BURNS. It is far from clear whether offices at these two places were in operation at any period up to World War II.

BOMBA; BOOM; BOTANIC STATION. It can be safely presumed that each of these three held and used a canceller of type RCC 3a - see in this connection the notes of "an unknown collector", quoted by P.H.I. in 1973, p.433, and somewhat surprisingly to some degree discredited the next year at p.157. Speaking personally, I find the first list as informative for my purposes as the second, albeit there are a few inaccuracies, and the omission of some modern offices. See, too, the illustrations for Boom, late 1939 (op. cit.) the TRD obviously having been issued much earlier.

CASTILE (or Castille); COQUERICOT; ISABELLA BANK, MOUNT HOPE, ROCK DONDO. I do have a strike beginning "CA..." which is unlike my Caledonia examples, but cannot fairly ascribe it to the first office, about which nothing positive seems to be recorded. Note that these five are amongst a bunch of offices or agencies grouped unexpectedly close together on or near Old River; the others were Banana Bank; Bermudians Landing; Big Falls; Double Head Cabbage; Orange Walk. With so many offices within range, some at least of the five named above may not have made active use of a TRD. I think the strikes most likely to be recorded in group RCC 3 are Isabella Bank and Mount Hope.

GRACIE ROCK. This office had a canceller of type RCC 3a, and presumably received it in the 1920's or earlier, though the earliest date I have seen is 24.11.39 on cover - possibly the source of P.H.I.'s illustration.

MANATEE; SANTA ROSA. I have no information at all about these two places, and doubt whether cancellations will come to light.

MASKALL. This is thought to have used the Northern River cancellation, so it perhaps had no canceller under its own name.

SITTEE RIVER. This office took over the business of All Pines (says the "unknown collector", rightly, I think) in April 1922, and must have used a date stamp; very likely the instrument of All Pines went on being used, and it is not certain that one will find an RCC 3a canceller for Sittee River. Note that ALL PINES stopped using its type 2 c.d.s. in about late 1921 (my latest date, so far, is 11th October) and began to use an instrument of type 6. This is a rare strike (especially so, of course, for a date before April 1922) but sporadic use has been reported during the later 1920's.

Stan Creek; AGRICULTURAL STATION; POMONA. Both these offices had cancellers of type RCC 3b, and they are probably more or less contemporary with Seine Bight.

TOLEDO. I have no information on an office here, and it is pure guess-work on my part that a strike will turn up one day of type RCC 3a; but when you report it, please make sure that it is not Caledonia.

Final Thoughts

Since my type 3 is also a TRD, it should now be re-designated RC 4 (rubber, single circle, fourth series). After that, beyond the period with which I have chosen to deal, the oval TRD's could be classified RO 5, and ROO 6 (not to be confused with 'killers', with apologies to James Bond) ignoring the internal oval for this purpose, since it is common to all the oval obliterations.

I am very aware that my latest suggestions have emasculated the types which I described and numbered in Bulletin 77, leaving only 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8. Rather than add to the confusion, I suggest that the numbering should not be disturbed for the moment; but one day - soon, I hope - someone will see fit to pick up the bricks that I have scattered, and re-arrange them to build an edifice with which all who need will become familiar. Come in, Ralph Group!

A further word on GUINEA GRASS. This was, as we know, a fairly busy office, whose 'temporary' date stamps suffered more than anywhere else. A complete display of its markings will show type RCC 3a in all stages of wear and distortion, in red, blue, violet, black, and various shades in between, followed by type RC 4 from about 1927 to 1932, followed in turn by type RCC 3b from then to the outbreak of war.

This is about the best office of all to select for individual study, though one does have to look elsewhere for examples of RD 1, and maybe for RL 2.

CAYO. The instrument type 6 without asterisk is a different c.d.s. from the one with asterisk, the letter O in particular being much more rounded. It is also seen in violet.

ALL PINES. Note the reference to type 6, above. Type 2 turns up in violet, as well as in black.

BANANA BANK. RCC 3a. The strike comes in violet as well as in pink. There was also a second canceller of type RCC 3b, and it is sometimes seen in black.

BENQUE VIEJO. Again, sometimes in violet - at least in type 3.

GALES POINT. RCC 3a is also found in black.

RADIO STATION. Who started the tradition that this office opened in 1915? It certainly makes Belize something of a pioneer in the use of radio. My earliest copy of the strike is from the late 1920's, and so clear as to suggest that the instrument cannot have been in use for 12 or more years. Any views, anybody?

Simon Goldblatt

JAMAICA

THE DOUBLE-RINGED CIRCULAR DATE STAMPS OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA

The Kingston "double-rings" or "double circles" form an interesting and reasonably compact group for study. Material is still available to the collector of modest means. The type was first introduced in 1892 (Nicholson quotes "on or about 1st July") and continued in various forms at least until 1951 (my latest date is 16 Feb. 1951). The late Thomas Foster produced a Brochure on the subject some years ago, but I have been unable to obtain a copy, nor have I been able to ascertain whether any other specialists have published any material on the subject. Therefore the following check list is based

solely on examination of my own material and there may be some merit in the fact that nothing has been pre-judged by reference to other listings.

Nothing is more certain than that my own listing is incomplete insofar as existing indices and date ranges are concerned. It is also quite possible that there are further types of which I am unaware. Any information from interested collectors, whether in correction or amplification, or indeed any general comments, would be greatly welcomed.

General Information

(1) Measurement code (in millimetres)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| A Outer diameter | B Height of “Kingston/Jamaica” |
| C “Kingston” across base | D “Jamaica” across top |
| E Bottom of “K” to top of ‘J’ | F Bottom of “N” to top of “A” |
| G Height of index number | H Height of date lines. |

(2) With the introduction of “double rings” at the G.P.O. Kingston, the practice followed with earlier type cancellers, namely the issue of a particular type in “sets”, was continued for many years. Each instrument had a fixed index number and a moveable capital letter. Numbers 1 to 6, not always all six, are known for the great majority of types. While each “set” appears similar, each instrument, represented by its index number and being individually cut from a steel die, shows minor differences in the above measurements. Where the check list quotes measurements for a general type (i.e. a “set”) this point should be borne in mind when examining individual strikes.

(3) Measurements are by plastic rule, graded to half millimetres, using the best available strikes. In view of those limitations, other collectors may disagree, although I would hope by not more than half a millimetre.

(4) In all types the date is in two lines - month in two letters, day/last two figures of year. In the month-day line, month is before day unless stated.

(5) All strikes are in BLACK unless stated.

(6) “Overlapping” of dates indicates that a “set” of instruments was not necessarily discarded on introduction of a new set. Attribution of a strike to a particular instrument cannot be made solely on the evidence of its date.

The Check-List

TYPE KDC 1 Main characteristics. Compared with KDC 2, the overall dimension is markedly smaller and “KINGSTON/JAMAICA” is in narrow, closely spaced letters, the “O” being an upright oval. There are NO stops at sides. The index number is SANS-SERIF. Measurements: A. 25.5 B. 2.5 C. 15.0 D. 12.0 E. 9.0 F.8.5 G. 2.5 H. 2.5

Datestamp 1 Indices: C, E, F, K, L, O, W.
Date range: 30 Sep 93 - 13 Aug 95

Datestamp 2 Indices: A, C, H, K.
Date range: 31 Aug 92 - 5 Jan 93.

Datestamp 3 Indices: C, F, I, K, M.
Date range: 27 Apr 93 - 26 Nui 96.

Datestamp 4 Indices: E, F, L, M, N, W.
Date range: 27 Feb 93 - 16 Feb 95

TYPE KDC 2 Main characteristics, “KINGSTON/JAMAICA” in broad letters, widely spaced, the “O” being very well rounded. Round dot stops at sides. The index number is SERIFFED.

Measurements. A. 27.0 B. 2.75 C. 17.0 D. 14.0 E and F 5.0 G 2.5/3.0 H. 2.5

Datestamp 1 Indices: E, L, M.

Date range: May 96 - 3 Oct 96

Datestamp 3 Indices: C, E, F, G, K, L, M, P

Date range: 18 May 96 - 18 Jun 01.

Datestamp 2 Indices: C, E, L, M, Q (sideways facing down) S.

Date range: 11 Dec 94 - 7 Jan 00.

Datestamp 4 Indices: B, F.

Date range: 18 Mar 96 - 2 Aug 97.

Datestamp 5 Indices: E, L, M, U.

Date range: 7 Jul 94 - 23 Jun 96.

Datestamp 6 Indices: M, X

Two examples only, dated 28 Jul 96 (M) and 16 Apr 95 (X).

TYPE KDC 3 Main characteristics. A return to narrow lettering in “KINGSTON/JAMAICA”, somewhat similar to Type KDC 1. However in Type KDC 3, the very narrow last “N” in “KINGSTON” is quite distinctive, as are the square stops between the words. The index number is SERIFFED.

Measurements. A. 26.5 B. 2.5 C. 14.5/15.5 D. 11.0/12.0 E. 8.0/9.0 F. 8.0/8.5 G. 2.5 H. 2.5.

In this type, quite marked differences in the length of “KINGSTON” and “JAMAICA” are found in the individual instruments. They are not listed in detail because the square stops and the last “N” in “KINGSTON” are very distinctive guides to the general type.

Datestamp 1 Indices: H, K, L, M, Q, R.

Date range: 12 May 99 - 19 Aug 01.

Datestamp 4 Indices: A, D, E, G, H, I, M, N, O, Q sideways (facing DOWN)

Date range: 26 Jul 00 - 1 Jul 03.

Datestamp 5 Indices: D, E, F, H, Q sideways (facing DOWN)

Date range: 1 Jul 99 - 30 Jul 01

The “Q” index is interesting. I have no examples with the letter in normal upright position

Datestamp 6 Indices: O, P, X.

I have three examples only: O. 6 Jul 04 (this appears to be a very late date), P. 13 May 99, X. 17 Jun 02

TYPE KDC 4 The following “set” is classified in the same general type mainly on grounds of contemporaneous usage. General characteristics and measurements are given for each instrument as a guide to identification.

Datestamp 1(i) Main characteristics. ‘KINGSTON/JAMAICA’ in broad letters, with the “O” well rounded. Small dot stops between words. The index and date lines are noticeably taller than the curved lettering round the inner circle. The index number is SERIFFED.

Measurements: A. 27.0 B. 2.5 C. 16.0 D. 14.0 E and F 9.0 G. 3.0 H. 3.0

Indices: A, E, F, G, K, L, M.

Date range: 17 Mar 02 - 5 Dec 04.

Datestamp 1(ii) Main characteristics. The index number is SANS SERIF. I have only two examples of this, neither perfect. However, the mark appears identical with

Datestamp 1(i) except for the sans-serif numeral. It may be that the instrument was produced in duplicate. Both my examples have alpha-index “H” and are dated 5 Jul 02 and 26 Jan 03 respectively.

Datestamp 2 Main characteristics. Almost identical with datestamp 1(i). My one date in 1905 (22 Aug) has smaller year slugs “05” about 2mm. high, with a very rounded “0” The index number is with serifs.

Measurements: A. 27.0 B. 2.5 C. 17.0 D. 13.5 E. 7.5 F. 8.0 G. 3.0 H. 3.0

Indices: A, D, E, F, G, I, K, L, M, N, O.

Date range: 18 Oct 01 - 22 Aug 05

In BLUE Index 21 (21 Jan 04)

Datestamp 3 Main characteristics. No stops between words at sides, otherwise almost identical with datestamps 1 and 2. Here again examples dated 1905 (my earliest is 14 Mar) have the smaller year slugs as mentioned under datestamp 2. The index number is with serifs.

Measurements. A. 27.0 B. 2.5 C. 16.5 D. 14.0 E and F 9.5 G. 2.5 H. 3.0

Indices: A, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, M.

Date range: 12 Jan 03 - 27 Jul 05.

In BLUE. Index 3A (16 Jun 04)

Datestamp 4 Main characteristics. The lettering of ‘KINGSTON/ JAMAICA’, which continues to be broad and well spaced, is fractionally shorter than in datestamps 1, 2 and 3. The “O” is even more rounded, forming an almost perfect circle. There are small dot-stops at sides between the words. The index number is SANS-SERIF.

Measurements: A. 28.0 B. 2.25 C. 18.75 D. 16.5 E. 10.0 F. 8.5 G. 2.75 H. 3.0

Indices: A, E, F, J, M, O.

Date range: 9 Apr 04 - 5 Jan 05

My only date in 1905 (5 Jan) has the figures “05” in “normal” form, 3mm high.

Datestamp 5 Main characteristics. Almost identical with datestamp 4. Small dot-stops at sides. Index number with series.

Measurements. A. 28.0 B. 2.25 C. 17.5 D. 15.0 E. 9.0 F. 8.0 G. 3.25 H. 3.0

Indices: D, F, G, I, R.

Date range: 7 Oct 03 - 8 Nov 05.

In BLUE. Index SF (the last figure of year does not appear - FK 4 0?)

My dates in 1905 (Oct-8 Nov) have the year slugs of “normal” size, but in my one date in 1903 (7 Oct) the smaller type appears, as mentioned under datestamps 2 and 3.

Datestamp 6 Main characteristics. I do not have a complete strike to provide reasonably exact measurement, but the mark appears to be almost identical with datestamps 4 and 5 EXCEPT that in my two examples the day appears BEFORE the month in the “month day” line.

Indices and dates: D (8 Aug 04), K (25 Jul 04).

To be continued

Anthony W. Lewarn

LEEWARD ISLES

EARLY HISTORY OF LEEWARD ISLANDS ADMINISTRATION

I was recently lent a copy of “The History of Colonel Parke’s Administration as Captain General and Chief Governor of the Leeward Islands with an account of the rebellion in Antigua in which he was butchered on December 7th 1710”. It was published in London in 1717.

While the book, which is basically a defence of Parke, has no specific relevance to postal history, it gives a graphic picture of early colonial administration, contemporary life on the islands and lists the principal inhabitants.

Parke was sent by the Duke of Marlborough to inform Queen Anne of the victory at Hocstet and as a mark of royal favour on April 25th 1706 he was appointed “Captain General and Governor in Chief of Nevis, St. Christopher’s, Antegoa, Montserrat and other Leeward Caribbee islands in America”. In the following June he arrived on Antigua.

Nevis and St. Christopher had recently been attacked by the French and forts had been destroyed. Parke visited these islands and set about repairing and improving the defences and then retired to Antigua where he decided to base himself for the following reasons; firstly it was the most “agreeable” island. Secondly it was more exposed to the enemy and he felt his presence would help to stiffen defences. Lastly it was to windward of the other islands and thus it would be easier to reach any island that came under threat of attack.

From the outset relations between the governor and the local gentry were difficult and rapidly deteriorated. The chief reason for this was that the local land owners and merchants controlled the Legislative Assembly and had used this to rubber stamp their actions with the acquiescence of previous governors who had received substantial bribes for turning a blind eye to some of the Assembly’s more questionable legislature. If the government in London was concerned about any of their actions, they could count on the influence of the powerful West Indies lobby in the Commons. Parke on the other hand was determined to take his governorship seriously. He was not a wealthy man and if he was to survive without receiving bribes an alternative source of revenue had to be found.

The London government’s attitude was that the colonies should provide for their own defence and administration and to this end the governor was invested with prerogatives which provided a lucrative income. This was the source of revenue adopted by Parke, indeed so insistent did he become on the prerogative of the crown that he was accused of “treading in the steps of Charles 1st” and was threatened with the same fate.

Law and morale counted for little in those days, the rich got richer at the expense of the poor. The chief sources of wealth were land and the slaves who worked it. Parke’s insistence on the production of title deeds to verify land holdings and suggestion of a tax based on slave holdings raised a storm of protest. In particular he fell foul of William Codrington who was unable to provide any legal title for his ownership of Barbuda, but refused to pay the fine as his family had held the island for “over twenty-five years”.

In 1698 the Assembly, which was almost exclusively composed of land owners had passed an act whereby the Assembly could seize an estate if any public dues relating to it were out standing. This land was bought at a knock-down price and then divided up amongst the members. Parke cites an instance where 400 acres had been sold for £20 when one acre was worth that much.

The land owners had also provided for themselves in the event of their being sued for debt. Twenty days notice had to expire after judgement before action could be taken and the debtor was free during that time to move his goods and chattels as he pleased.

The most valuable asset, slaves, was protected even further since eighteen months had to elapse before execution could be obtained on them.

Much went unpunished. Edward Chester, a prominent member of the council boasted of having “butchered three upstart mushrumps of tradesmen” in a month but was never brought to trial. The Chief Justice, Watkins, was tried for murder but acquitted by an empanelled jury. Trade with the French, Dutch and Danish Islands was officially forbidden but openly carried on. So lucrative was this that Parke was offered a £1000 a year to turn a blind eye to it, which he refused.

Parke’s opposition to these practices brought him into frequent conflict with the Assembly. The Assembly were also concerned about the wealth that Parke has amassed in so short a time. His insistence on the Crown’s prerogative in such matters as the right to a tenth of the value of any captured ship and its cargo and 60% of the value of any smuggled goods had enabled him to purchase and equip his own fleet of “private men of war” and to acquire land. Such was the size of his land holding that when accused of conniving at possible French invasion (only three years after taking office) he refused it on the grounds that bearing in mind the “vastness of his estates” he would be one of the principal losers.

The controlling landed interest fought back with two weapons. They could and did control public opinion by the giving of public feasts or they could engross and forestall markets and thus create artificial scarcities. Secondly Parke’s only source of public revenue was the Bills of Supply voted by the Assembly. They now decided to do this on a monthly basis. This ensured that Parke could not govern without their support and gave them a regular opportunity to discuss and criticise Parke’s actions.

The chief sufferer from this state of affairs was Parke’s principal support, the Army. Their pay was always in arrears and officers found Antigua a most “extravagant” station and had resorted to false musters and selling of equipment to their troops at exorbitant prices to augment their incomes. Now they were threatened with no pay at all unless Parke gave way.

The assembly had thus seriously undermined Parke’s chief weapon. It also had complete control over the local militia. However, due to the encroachments of the land barons, this was not such a powerful force as might be supposed. For example Dickensons Bay which had provided sixty men in 1670 could only provide five in 1708. In 1709 Codrington’s company consisted of Codrington, his lieutenant, his ensign and one private.

Matters were brought to a head by two events. Parke’s insistence that St. John’s should be the site of the island’s main fortification and that the fort on Monk’s Hill should be demolished. The opposition to this was based on financial rather than military grounds, since the Assembly would be responsible for the expenditure incurred. Secondly in mid 1710 the Assembly insisted that their passing a Bill of Supply should be dependent on Parke’s passing a Bill of Privileges. This had been drawn up by the Assembly and was to endorse all the corrupt practices.

Parke refused to pass the Bill and a stalemate developed. This was broken on December 5th when a disaffected mob broke into the Council Chambers and threatened to pull Parke out by his beard. He retired to his house and placed 50 soldiers round it. By Wednesday there were 400 armed men in St. Johns’ and in desperation Parke issued

a proclamation to all persons under arms to disperse. Realising its position of strength the mob refused and told him “to wipe his arse with it”.

The Assembly issued a counter proclamation declaring that Parke was a traitor as were any who did not oppose him. On Thursday the 7th, Parke in desperation offered to give in to all the Assembly’s demands. However, it was too late; there was a brief gun fight in which Parke was wounded. He was dragged out into the street and there “Much battered and lathered about the head”, from which wounds he died.

Parke’s administration did have some success for during his brief governorship the population of St. John’s doubled largely because it was now safe to walk the streets. The number of windmills, which provided the power for crushing the cane, had risen from 27 to 74 mainly due to his active encouragement and support of the small landowners. As a result of his care in re-fortifying Nevis and St. Christopher both these islands were flourishing again.

When news of his death and the manner of it reached London it created little interest. There was no investigation into it or into the impeachment documents that the Assembly had prepared. There was a token trial of Henry Smyth, one of the plotters in London, but he was acquitted. In the meantime life on the island returned to normal and a visiting Naval Captain in 1742 described Antigua as “the very pestilence of corruption”.

Several addresses were sent to the Queen, the signatories being described as councillors or prominent men. They are as follows:

ANTIGUA John Yeamans, John Hamilton, Edward Byam, William Codrington, Thomas Morris, William Byam, George Gamble, Lawrence Crabb.

MONTSEERRAT Thomas Lee, William Fryl, John Daly, George Liddall, William Gerrish, Edward Buncomb, John Brambly, John Hart, Anthony Ravill and William Finch.

ST. CHRISTOPHER Michael Lambert, Henry Burrel, J Panton, Francis Phipps, J. Peteres, J. Bourglav, J. Estridge.

NEVIS Daniel Smith, Richard Abbot, John Bevan, Azariah Pinney, Laurence Broadbelt, John Norwood, John Richardson, Robert Ellis, Charles Bridgwater, James Symonds, Samuel Gardiner, John Butler, John Horn, Thomas Minor, Solomon Israel, Richard Pemberton, Michael Williams.

David Birley

MONTSEERRAT

Regarding Montserrat, Britnor, in his published study of the postal history of that island, mentions that no Montserrat handstamp is known for the period from 1796 and 1836. Whether he has found to the contrary since his work was published in 1965 I do not know. However at Lowe’s Bermuda sale on 16th February I acquired a unique piece which is a letter dated December 23, 1801, addressed to Thomas Gordon Esq., Percy Street, London, from one Richard Lymons. The rate is 1/8 and the London receiving stamp the red circle B/FEB 2/1802.

The handstamp is the PFb type, double struck. The first is an almost uninked impression; the second overstrikes part of the first and between the two the total design is complete. There are three lines: MT on top in letters 3½mm high. Then SERRAT in letters 4½mm and extending over 33mm. Serifs are strong and letters evenly spaced with a little more distance between the two Rs than between the other letters. The third

line date letters are 3½mm high and show a clear DEC 25 1801. The 8 and 0 of the year are a little blurred, partially because they overset part of the SERRAT of the first strike.

John M. Willem

ST CHRISTOPHER NEVIS & ANGUILA

John Hall whose forte has previously been G.B. philately has now turned his attention to the above islands and would welcome information on the Medicinal Spring design on the stamps of Nevis and St. Kitts-Nevis. He asks whether the spring still exists and if so where it is and what are its properties? Mr. Hill would also like to know more about the Gingerland Nevis Post Office. The only reference he has been able to find on this sub office is that it was opened in 1944, that forged cancellations exist, but no dates are given.

ST. LUCIA

Statehood 1st March 1967 - I have a mint pair of the 25c U.N.E.S.C.O. SG.228 with the 20th Anniversary deleted in brown and overprinted in blue 'STATEHOOD 1st MARCH, 1967. Do all values of the UNESCO set exist with this overprint and are any values known used? What were the numbers issued?

Bryan F. Johnson

TOBAGO

John de Vries would welcome any information that members may be able to give on the following points:

1. Trinidad 1896 issue date stamped TOBAGO prior to 4th January, 1899.
2. Tobago postage stamps cancelled B53 (Mauritius) circa 1887-89.
3. Tobago issues hand stamped A11(St. Lucia).
4. Tobago issues with inverted watermarks.

TRINIDAD TOBAGO

1915 RED CROSS ISSUE

On page 81 of the December 1976 Bulletin, John de Vries appears to have some doubts concerning the footnote to SG.174.

A corner marginal block of 9 stamps in my possession, with plate No.1 over stamp No.5, confirms the variety SG.174a to be No.11 on the right hand pane, indeed John does not dispute this since he places this variety in the correct position in his drawing.

Regarding SG.174b, this is a variety which still eludes my searchings in marginal form. Gibbons states this to be No.42 on the pane. From John's drawings it would appear that this variety does not occupy that position on the left hand pane, so by deduction it must surely appear on No.42 of the right hand pane. It will be noted that this is part of one of the missing multiples on John's drawing. It is incorrect to say that SG.174b occurs no less than twenty two times in the setting. John's forked foot to the '1' of '15' is a minor flaw not to be confused with SG.174b.

With respect to SG 174c, here again I have a corner marginal block of 9 stamps from a left hand pane showing the broken '0' in '10' on stamp No.45. John is again incorrect in positioning this variety on No.51 of the right hand pane. His broken '0' on this stamp is not really broken but thinned on the right hand side.

It seems quite clear to me that the setting was 120 set, i.e. two panes being overprinted in one operation; the positional constant minor flaws which occur on one

pane but not on the other, alone proves this. Probably the footnote to SG.174 would be better phrased - "The varieties occur in the following positions on the Setting of 120: a No.23, b No.84 and c No.87."

Jim Laurence

NEWS ROUNDUP

Study Circle members who appeared in the recent N.E.C. philatelic television programme "In the Post" were John Marriott, talking about the Queen's collection, and Vincent Duggleby, who discussed the investment potential of stamps.

This was to my mind an excellent programme and surely worth another series. Most of the subject matter was dealt with fairly briefly and would certainly bear enlarging upon. The success of the series may be judged by the fact that more than one philatelic meeting was held on another day because of a clash of dates!

As a footnote, your Editor and Stanley Sugarman made a fairly brief appearance and a dubious claim to fame when holding a watching brief at the Sir Henry Tucker Bermuda Sale held by Harmers of London, which was featured in the programme.

Latest news reaching us from Alfred Branston on the "Meeting, London 1980" is that a provisional booking has been made and details are as follows:

1. Date. Saturday May 10th, 1980.
2. Venue. The Elizabeth and Margaret Room (The Princess Suite), Bonnington Hotel, 92, Southampton Row, London, WC1B 4BH. Tel : 01-242 2828.
3. Travel. The Bonnington Hotel is approximately 5 minutes from Holborn Underground Station on the Central and Piccadilly lines. The International at Earls Court is also on the Piccadilly line and the Exhibition entrance is directly opposite the Underground station. No changes are needed between the Bonnington and the Exhibition.
4. Dates of Exhibition. May 6th to May 14th, 1980.
5. Hotel stay. The Bonnington can accommodate visitors but prior booking is essential. A Hotel leaflet is available from Alfred Branston.

A new reused edition of the original 1962 edition "The Postal History and Stamps of Bermuda" by Morris H. Ludington has recently been published and incorporates the latest research and additions. The 1968 Supplement from the London Philatelist has been integrated where possible into the text as well as the 1975 serialization of the King George V high value stamps. Several chapters have been completely rewritten.

The work is divided into two books in a single volume containing 26 chapters, 11 appendices with a supplement and a comprehensive Postal History Index. All aspects of the Postmarks, Postal History, Stamps and Postal Stationery are covered in scholarly detail from the Stockdale Postal Service of 1784- 1812 up until the Commemorative Issues of 1946-1949.

The 432 page, hard bound, buckram volume is available from Quarterman Publications Inc., 5 South Union St., Lawrence, Massachusetts 01843, U.S.A. price \$40.00, or from Harry Hayes 48 Trafalgar St., Batley, Yorks, WF17 7HA, England, price £22.00 including postage.

Last November Warwick and Warwick, the Midland Auction House and Stamp Dealers, opened their National Philatelic Centre in Warwick. Each month a special

exhibition is held and in January, part of Tony Reesby's collection of Jamaica Stamps and Postal History was on display.

Wednesday the 10th January, 1979 saw the appearance of a new philatelic country - REDONDA.

Redonda, a small rock island some 20 miles from Antigua, has suddenly, it seems, developed a need for postage stamps. Whatever we may think about these surely unnecessary issues, it is difficult to say too many harsh things when so many other countries are today jumping on the philatelic band-wagon.

We offer our congratulations to the following members for their awards at this year's STAMEX:

R. J. Edmondson. BCPG Award and Silver Medal for the Stamps and Postal History of the Cayman Islands.

S. A. Baker. Silver Medal for the War Tax Stamps of Jamaica.

B. E. Johnson. Silver Medal and Felicitations.

J. L. Messenger. Silver Medal.

C. J. Charlesworth. Bronze Silver Medal.

M.R. Hewlett. Bronze Silver Medal.

Congratulations are also due to the Roses Caribbean P.S. for a Silver Medal award in the literature class.

Stephen Cave reported that the Parish of St. Thomas would have a new Post Office by the end of 1978. The office, at Welchman Hall, will eventually replace Rock Hall P.O. The new office, which is more centrally located, will provide better facilities for pensioners and extra service windows to meet the demand for additional services.

A report appearing in the Barbados Advocate News last Winter states that the Prime Minister, Mr. Tom Adams, has plans for expanding the Philatelic Bureau. Mr. Adams was speaking at a reception where he received from Mr. Dennis Moore, Deputy Chief Executive of De La Rue & Co., a collection of 112 stamps specimens, sketches and proofs covering a period of 78 years from 1875-1953. Among the commemorative subjects featured were Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, Death of Nelson Centenary, Tercentenary of Annexation, 1920 Victory and Tercentenary of General Assembly.

The collection of original philatelic material, which had been on loan to the British Museum and the British Post Office I would now go on display at the Barbados Museum.

NEW MEMBERS

ALLEN, Anthony John Wilfred, 2, The Cottages, Sandle Manor, Fordingbridge, Hants
Interest: Barbados.

ANDREWARTHA, Kenneth, Trewhella, 6, Stoneleigh Avenue, Earlsdon, Coventry
CV5 6BZ.

Interest: Grenada, Jamaica.

BOND, ROY G., 50, Gravel Rd., Farnborough, Hants., GU14 6JJ.

BRANDON, Ian, 37, Grangethorpe Rd. Urmston, Manchester, M31 1HT.

Interest: Jamaica.

ELLERTON, N.V., P.O. Box 609, Humacao, Puerto Rico 00661

Interest: Postal history.

GAWLIK, Ernest James, 1, FB Cottages, Petworth Rd., Chiddingfold, Godalming, Surrey.

Interest: Jamaica pre-stamp.

GOULD, -, The Oaks, Rue De L'Eglise, St. John, Jersey CI.

MITTON, Dennis Hamilton, 1, Wolsey Close, Worcester Park, Surrey

Interest: Bermuda, St. Vincent,

WRIGHT, P.F., 91, Palmerston Rd., London, S.W.17.

Interest: Jamaica.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

DEAKIN, H.F., The Norman Chapel, Broad Campden, Gloucestershire.

GIRALDI, Thomas E., 872, W. Grant Drive, Des Plaines, Illinois 60016, USA

HAYWARD, K.R., 3, The Downland, Warminster, Wilts, BA12 OBD.

LESLIE, George, 652, Fifth Avenue, San Francisco, California 94118, USA.

LYTHGOL, B.G., 17, Farbailev Close, Westminster Park, Lache Lane, Chester.

VAN OOIJEN, A., Dijkwater 109, 2715 KB Zoetermeer, Netherlands.

RESIGNED

GUPPY, M.: PARTRIDGE, R.

The following members have been removed from the membership list, having moved and left no forwarding address.

BULLIVANT, B.A.: JONES, G.E.: LEE, R.A.G.: NISSEN, H.: WARD, T.D. (209 Mill Road, Cambridge).

BULLETINS & STUDY PAPERS

Copies of a few early back issues and consecutively from No.55 (June, 1967) are obtainable from the Hon. Editor as follows: -

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