



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No.102 SEPTEMBER 1979

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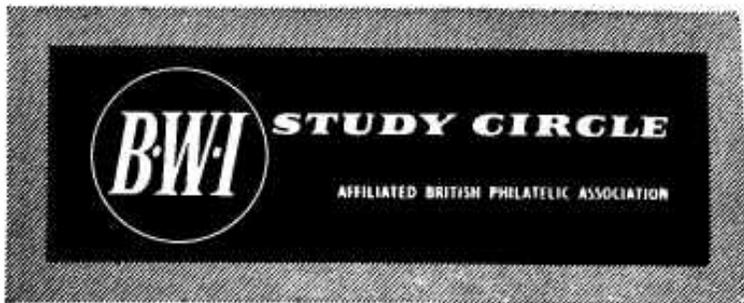
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OBJECTS

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 **\$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., Oct. 6th, 3 p.m. To be arranged.
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.

THE NEW MEETING PLACE WILL BE Room 10, 3rd. Floor, National Liberal Club, 1, Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2118.

Would members also note the change in date of the first meeting.

SPECIAL EVENT

Fri., May. 9th, 6 p.m. Wine & Cheese Party. The Thackeray Hotel, Kingsley Hotel, Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SD.

DISPLAY

On 21st March, 1979 sixteen members had the privilege and great pleasure in viewing a superb selection from the world famous collection of Trinidad formed by one of our Vice-Presidents Mr. John B. Marriott over the years.

Apart from showing to us much remarkable material, Mr. Marriott spoke as well in an interesting manner on numerous items shown. The following is a summary of the display and this summary also incorporates some of Mr. Marriott's remarks made during the course of the evening.

Early Postal History: The Island of Trinidad was captured from the Spanish in 1797 and ceded to Great Britain at the Treaty of Amiens in 1802. A few early letters from the beginning of the 19th Century are known, but the first recorded Trinidad postal marking is May 30th 1806 and this was shown by Mr. Marriott. Examples of the large and small fleuron datestamp followed, showing manuscript rate markings to London of "2/2", "4/4", "6/6", and "1oz. 8/8". The only recorded letter of this period sent at the soldier's concession rate of 1d was also shown, the letter itself being of great interest and giving a graphic account of the attractions to be found in the Trinidad countryside and of the frightening health hazards. The coverage of early postal history concluded with a remarkable pair of letters to Paris via London at the 3/11 rate, one unpaid and the other prepaid, and one of the three recorded examples of the "TRINIDAD SHIP LETTER" mark on incoming mail.

1847 Lady McLeod Local Stamp: The remarkable unused example, previously in the Sir William Avery and T. Charlton Henry Collections, was shown, together with an example on a cover-sheet of 14th September 1847. Photostats of the notices of this issue printed in the Port of Spain Gazette were also shown. Dated 16th April 1847, these were in both English and French. They gave the reasons for the issue and were inserted by David Bryce, the owner of the paddle steamer Lady McLeod at that time.

1851-1861 Perkins Bacon issues: The development and sequence of the various issues were fully represented and included the following:-

1848 master die proof of the Britannia design with name tablet blank; die proof with the country name TRINIDAD inserted and plate proofs in black. A photostat of the first page of The Trinidad Royal Gazette for 12 August 1851 was shown; this announced the start of the Inland Post and gave full details of the coverage of the postal service.

1851-1857 (1d): A representative selection of all the shades, both on blued and on white paper; also pages with stamps and date covers illustrating the allocation of the shades to the various consignments sent out by Perkins Bacon. The most outstanding items were the unused marginal pair and the only known used block of the (1d) rose-red on white paper. A photostat of a page from the Post Master General's Report covering the years 1854-1861 was shown. This gave the allocation of numbers to the original 21 Post Offices, and was followed by examples of stamps showing the earliest circular numeral cancellations and the Type II numerals within bars.

1859 4d, 6d, 1/-: Die proofs, used examples and the three denominations used on separate covers.

1859 (1d), 4d, 6d, 1/- pin-perforated 12½: These were represented by all four denominations unused, which are of the greatest rarity: there were also two remarkable covers, one bearing two 4d dull purple together with two (1d) pin perforated 13½-14, and the other franked by the only known pair of the 1/-. The pin-perforated 13½-14 included the 6d imperforate between vertical pair, and finally there was an example of the extremely rare (1d) compound pin-perf 13½-14 by 12½ used on cover with a strip of four (1d) lithographed stamps.

1860 (1d), 4d, 6d, clean cut perforation 14-16½: These included the set with manuscript "Specimen" and also in unused blocks of four, together with (1d) imperforate between horizontal pairs.

1861 (1d), 4d, 6d, 1/- rough perforation 14-16½: Fresh unused examples were shown of all the shades; these are extremely rare in this condition, especially the 1/- deep bluish purple.

Finally, the four denominations were shown bearing the "CANCELLED" within bars obliteration - Six sets were sent to the Rowland Hill family by the printers. However these stamps were Crown Agents property and distribution came at the end of two years of strained relations between the Crown Agents and Perkins Bacon; this resulted in the printing contract being transferred to De la Rue.

1852-1860 issues lithographed locally in Trinidad: On five occasions the Island ran short of London printed stamps and resorted to locally produced provisional issues. These were fully covered by examples from all the printings and there was a remarkably fine range of material on display. Probably the finest items were four covers bearing respectively a marvellous corner example of the first issue on yellowish paper (ex T. Charlton Henry), a brilliant marginal example of the third issue (ex Consul Weinberger), a fifth issue pair used with an engraved 1/- (ex Miraboud and T. Charlton Henry), and finally an example of the fifth issue in red on local letter, a stamp of the utmost rarity on cover.

1862-1882 De La Rue printings: These included the following items meriting special mention:-

1862-1863 (1d), 4d, 6d, 1/-: Die proofs on glazed card in colour; (1d) and 6d compound perforation 11½-12 by 11; a remarkable cover to Palo Penang bearing the (1d), 4d, 6d together with 1863-75 1/-: also a brilliant unused example of the 1863 1/- perforated 13.

1863-75 (1d), 4d, 6d, 1/-: Unused blocks of (1d), 4d, 6d in various shades, and other multiples including a used block of eight 6d and used strip of six 1/-. A remarkable cover was shown bearing a fourteen fold rate of 8/2 to France, included in the franking being the only recorded 1869 5/- on cover.

1876 4d, 1/- colour changes: These were shown used together on cover to make up the 1/4 rate for a registered letter to England. The 6d compound perforation 14 by 12½, and a piece bearing a pair and a bisect of the 1882 1d on 6d manuscript surcharge in black were the outstanding items of this period.

Postal Stationery of the time was represented by the only two known used examples of the first Inland Post Card. The 6d "TOO LATE" on cover together with five (1d) making up the normal 5d postal rate to U.S.A. was shown: also examples of the D22 cancellation on Trinidad stamps used in Ciudad Bolivar, Venezuela including a (1d) on cover.

1883-1909 De la Rue issues: These were represented by the following:-

1883 Artist's water colour sketch for the Queen's head issue, die proofs, and the issued stamps surcharged "9d" on the occasion of the visit of the Duke of York (later King George V) to Trinidad in 1891: also vertical pairs (the only known multiples) of the ½d to 1/- overprinted "OS."

1896 die proofs: ½d essays for the ½d to 1/- denominations and 5/-, 10/- £1 essays all in the approved colours: 5/-, 10/-, £1 in unused blocks of four.

1898 Columbus issue unadopted and approved designs, die proofs and colour essays.

1899 3d on 6d essay with denomination painted in by hand, further essays surcharged "3d" and "THREE PENCE" and the approved, but unissued, stamp both with and without "Specimen" overprint, the example without "Specimen" being of extreme rarity.

1899 New Colour Scheme was illustrated by a series of 1d and 5/- colour essays, including the approved colours, and the issued stamps showing Plate Number 2; examples of the 4d imperforate - a genuine error, part of a sheet being found without perforations; also the greatest rarity of this period, namely the 1d with value omitted. This was sold over the San Fernando post office counter. Three were known to have survived at the time, but the example in The Royal Collection is the only other one of which the whereabouts is now known.

1906-09: die proofs, and 4d colour essays in the approved colours for the 4d, 6d, 1/-. A representation of important items from the sale of De La Rue archival material was also shown. This included 1/- perforated 13 and other early stamps with manuscript or handstamped "Specimen" overprints: a large-scale water colour for the figure of

Britannia for the 1896 issue: Postal Stationery and Postage Due designs, together with die proofs of the latter.

The display closed with a representative range of the various types of early numeral cancellations and later town and village date stamps.

When Mr. Marriott had concluded his display and remarks, Mr. J. L. Messenger proposed a most sincere vote of thanks and congratulations for the display and talk which was received with acclamation by all those present. Our President felt that the occasion was one when possibly others might like to voice their appreciation personally and Mr. S. Goldblatt took the opportunity to express his pleasure as well.

Silver Jubilee Convention
Old Ship Hotel, Brighton
Saturday 19th May 1979

This was a most enjoyable occasion where old friendships were renewed and new friends discovered.

That the attendance was rather less than had been hoped for was due to the apathy of the Stamp Collectors in this area of Sussex despite the excellent publicity in the Philatelic Press and to the local societies.

Members of the Study Circle gave very good support and some travelled considerable distances. When a meeting runs as smoothly as this the thoughtless are apt to overlook the considerable preparation that has been entailed.

The Meeting Room was excellent in every way and the dealers' tables were well sited. Comfortable chairs were arranged for those listening to the three papers that were presented.

Frames for displaying album sheets were in position and there was a Stewards' table by the entrance door. These things did not just happen - they were all the work of willing helpers beforehand.

Garage accommodation had been reserved for those requesting it and the garage staff were prepared for the exact number of bookings. Luncheon was available in either the Dining Room or the Buttery. At 11.00am Coffee and Biscuits and at 4.00pm Tea and Biscuits appeared - appropriately served by a waiter who was a stamp collector in his earlier days.

All this was a result of careful planning and thought.

I gave full marks to those who had spent considerable time and energy to ensure the smooth running of the various functions.

There were five dealers' tables and that run by Simon Goldblatt and Mike Sheppard on behalf of the Circle funds was the scene of considerable activity throughout the day and I hear that the Circle derived a considerable sum from it. The preparatory work entailed in gathering together so much material for sale must have taken a great deal of time and effort.

There were three papers presented during the day - all very good and all differing in subject matter.



Foreground. Mark Swetland (back to camera),
Victor Toog. Middleground. Vincent Duggleby
(standing), James Bendon (seated).



L. to R. Tony Farmer, Bryan Johnson,
Basil Benwell.

The first display was by B. E. Johnson. It was a dazzling display of Grenada including some very early covers which were a joy to see and examine. The accompanying paper was of considerable interest and provided much information from one who had studied his subject in depth.

The second paper was given by J. A. C. Farmer on Leeward Is. and was greatly appreciated by the members, particularly those who collect this very difficult group. Out of so many gems I choose the early Falmouth Leeward Island Packet Marks and the 1897 Jubilee forgeries and a genuine pair of the 1d value with triple overprint.

Last Basil Benwell showed Barbados. He said he felt very diffident as he had had orders to show bits and pieces. However he did this very well indeed and we saw many out of the way items accompanied by humorous anecdotes about them.

All were very enjoyable and instructive as were indeed the votes of thanks given by Len Britnor, our President (Victor Toeg) and Stephen Cave.

Bill Hall had arranged a full rota of Stewards and whilst on duty I had a quiet look at his records. The time table for the day was there in graph form and he had provided a book for the recording of signatures with full details of the meeting.

Our President - Victor Toeg - was present throughout the day accompanied by his charming wife Letty.

They exuded good will and by their friendly manner set everyone at ease. He has requested me to say that in his thanks at the end of the meeting he may have unintentionally omitted reference to some people who had worked very hard including the Stewards on show the security of the meeting depended.

He apologises for any omissions.

The weather was very kind to us and this helped towards a very happy and important meeting. Well done and thank you to all those whose foresight and endeavours had made it possible. This event was so successful that one hopes more will follow in the future for the benefit of those who find it difficult to attend meetings in London.

Bill Townsend

WINE AND CHEESE PARTY DURING "LONDON 1980"

The Committee has decided that the Study Circle should hold a Wine and Cheese Party at some time during the International Philatelic Exhibition "London 1980" which will last from 6th to 14th May, 1980.

Our American counterpart the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (BCPSG) will be holding its Annual Meeting over here next year during "London 1980" and many of its members will be coming to England for this event and to visit "London 1980". A large proportion of our own members belong to the BCPSG and in addition most members of the United Kingdom based Roses's Caribbean Philatelic Society (RCPS) are also members of our Study Circle.

Arrangements have been made to hold the Wine and Cheese party between 6 and 8 p.m. on Friday 9th May, 1980 in the Thacheray Room at the Kingsley Hotel, Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SD. All members of the BCPSG and the RCPS

will be invited to attend the Party. These two organisations will be fully acquainted with this invitation which they will be requested to bring to the notice of their members. It is hoped that the very rare opportunity for members of the three organisations to meet will be taken full advantage of by all concerned. Any members of the three organisations may bring guest or guests.

The Committee of the Study Circle has decided that part of the cost of the Wine and Cheese Party should be met by those attending it and has fixed the amount at £1.50 (U.S.\$4.00) per person if the money is remitted by not later than 31st January, 1980 and thereafter the cost will be £2.00 (U.S.\$5.00) per person. Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to "I. P. Chard". As an alternative to remitting in currency a draft in sterling drawn on London will be accepted.

Please complete the enclosed application form and send it with your remittance to reach Ian P. Chard at 48 The Shrublands, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 2BW without delay. All applications must be accompanied by the appropriate remittance or indication on the application form that a sterling draft drawn on London is on its way. **NO ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF THE REMITTANCE WILL BE GIVEN UNLESS A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS SUPPLIED.**

As the Thackeray Room will accommodate only about 100 people it is essential to send in your application form as early as possible as it will be taken in strict order of receipt of application. So, in order to avoid possible disappointment please apply without delay.

TRAVEL NOTE. The Kingsley Hotel is approximately 5 minutes walk from Holborn Underground station which is a stop for the Piccadilly Line trains. The International Exhibition at Earls Court is also on the Piccadilly Line and the Exhibition entrance is directly opposite the Earls Court Underground Station entrance. If you are coming from the Exhibition you will have a direct journey lasting about 30 minutes.

NOTES & QUERIES

ANTIGUA

I have read with interest the article on the 1d Antigua on blued paper. I am sure that Mr. Goldblatt is correct when he says that in most cases blued paper cannot represent an entire single consignment.

There is little doubt that sheets of differing shades of blue appeared in certain consignments for a number of colonies. According to the De la Rue Records the firm was complaining about this bluing of paper as long ago as 1859 which is the time the first Sierra Leone 6d stamps were being printed. Gibbons list some of these on bluish paper as opposed to white paper but I am certain that no such distinction can be made between specific printings although many of the stamps are on bluish paper. The problem is most obvious in the 1890 printing (SG. 56 & 56a). There was definitely only one printing in the brown purple shade but the stamps can be found on blued paper. Similar the 1896 printing in purple lake (SG. 37) can be found on slightly blued paper although Gibbons do not list this.

My conclusion is that a few sheets in perhaps more than one printing of both ½d & 1d Antigua suffered from the chemical deterioration which caused the bluing.

M. B. MacMillan

BARBADOS

A DISASTER AT SEA CONFIRMED.

In Bulletin No. 100 page 10 I asked for information concerning a sentence contained in a post card posted in Barbados on the 28th August, 1909. The sentence read “The Eden will become a total wreck, Roe was on watch when she struck”.

Mike Wilson has since given me a cutting from the Times for August 27th 1909 which reads “Among the important items of news should be noted the stranding of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company’s Eden at South Martinique and the stranding of the Booth Steamship Company’s Javary in the River Amazon. The Eden which is full of water is a vessel of 2,145 tons built in 1882, and is not insured in the market”. A few days later a letter from Tony Farmer gave me additional information. The Eden was wrecked when she ran aground on August 25th 1909 on Cabrit Island on the South coast off Martinique whilst on a voyage from Barbados to St. Thomas.

It would now be interesting to know if any mail survived the stranding!

Tony Farmer also added two corrections to information on the three vessels, “Eden”, “Esk” ,and “Solent” given by Victor Toeg on p.61 of bulletin No.62 - a typographical error on “Esk” built in 1882 being a sister ship to the “Eden” and broken up in May, 1910. Whilst the “Solent” actually had a registered tonnage of 1,915, net 1,204; and she was broken up in July, 1909, just before the disaster to the “Eden”.

Michael Sheppard

BRITISH GUIANA

SMALL BERBICE HANDSTAMP

I wish to record a recent purchase of a Berbice pre stamp letter for 9th March 1815. Whilst first making reference to the Townsend & Howe book, page 190, heading BERBICE note 2. Confirmation of such a handstamp having Berbice 11th 1815 with letters 1½mm high does refer to the lower case letters while the B in Berbice measures 2½mm high, total length some 41mm.

The letter is endorsed “P. Packet” and 1½oz. with 12/6 on the front; this was calculated for Ship Letter and crossed out with 16/3 correctly given for the Packet rate to Belfast. The reverse bears the “Berbice” 1½mm straight line handstamp and London transit c.d.s. for 8th May 1815. The contents mention arrival and despatch of packet service, soldiers being present in the colony (due to a slave uprising) and details of Hope and Experiment Plantations in Berbice.

Michael Rego

BERMUDA

A PROBLEM SOLVED

(Reprinted from the BERMUDAPEX 1979 programme by kind permission of its Editor Horst Augustinovic and the Author, Geoffrey Osborne).

Well over thirty years ago, when first researching Bermuda’s postal history, I became aware of a certain gap in the recorded knowledge concerning postal markings.

It remained a tantalizing puzzle year after year, decade after decade, in spite of intensive research, many important discoveries in other fields, much new material coming to light, and with nearly every other aspect of Bermuda's postal arrangements being satisfactorily determined.

The mystery concerned the method of cancelling stamps at four Receiving Offices, St. George's Parish, Hamilton Parish, Smith's Parish and Warwick Central, from their opening in 1866 until the new cancellations were introduced for all post offices in 1879.

To start at the beginning, a decision was made in 1865 that Bermuda should issue postage stamps, and with stamps being prepared by De la Rue in London, a set of obliterating devices was obviously necessary. Date stamps already in use from the pre-adhesive era could be, and were retained for their particular purpose. A standard type of cancelling device, incorporating a numeral in an oval of bars was ordered and duly came into use with the adhesives on September 25th, 1865.

At this time Post and Receiving Offices totalled fifteen. Stamps of the first issues are found with numeral cancellations from 1 to 15. Everything tidy so far. But some three months later, 1st January 1866, four new Receiving Offices, as listed above, were opened. No obliterator beyond "15" has ever turned up. No official record listing the allocation of the early numeral obliterators has ever been found. And although from one source or another, the allocation of the original fifteen obliterators has been reasonably determined, yet the mystery of what was employed by the four new offices has remained unsolved.

I should mention that a second type of obliterator incorporating the letter B over a numeral appeared a little later in 1868. The common B over 1 can be assigned to St. George's, then the head Post office, on the evidence of covers. The only other unquestionably B number is B over 14; quite scarce and arguably attributed to Somerset Bridge Receiving Office, since their original "5" was destroyed in a fire in 1869. Speculation that other B numbers may have been issued to our four mystery Receiving Offices has been rife, but inconclusive.

These four Offices were not exactly overworked as the following Table, taken from "Official Post Office Return" will show:

RETURN OF INLAND POSTAGE

Newly appointed Receiving Houses for the Quarter ending 31st March 1800.

	s	d
Issac Smith, Smith's Parish	6	4
H. Wilkinson, Hamilton Parish	2	0
J. D. Wainwright, Warwick Central	8	10
Miss Richardson, St. George's Parish	4	1

One can see why material in the way of used stamps or covers to solve the problem is somewhat difficult to come by!

I had been forced to speculate whether our four Receiving Offices were in fact issued with a cancelling device at all. Of course, pen-cancelling was common in the U.S.A. and Canada at this time. Out again, this was theorizing.

Then one day a friend showed me a cover obtained from a local Bermuda source which had never been in the hands of collectors or the trade. It provided a long awaited answer. Here is its description:

The envelope is torn and creased. It is addressed clumsily, with errors of spelling, to an individual in Pembroke, the parish in which Hamilton is situated. The penny stamp, collected payment of local postage, is in the early deep rose-red shade. It is pen-cancelled in black ink, contrasting with the brown-black ink of the address.

After careful scrutiny one can identify three initials, under an overlay of six crossed lines tying the stamp to the envelope. The last two initials are clearly D. W. The first appears somewhat like an I, but at this period as J was commonly written above the line, and there is little difference between an I and a J.

Referring back to official records we find John Darrell Wainwright was Receiving Office Keeper at Warwick Central from January 1866 to the end of 1872.

On the back of the envelope there is a bonus. A clear complete strike of the Hamilton datestamp, Ludington type PM4 of 6 March 1867. This was first introduced in 1841 and employed by W. B. Perot to fashion his famous postmasters stamp. By this time, of course, Perot had been replaced by Robert Ward as Postmaster at Hamilton.

Now one can trace the route of this letter from Warwick Central along the Middle Road by mail carriage of William Siggins, contractor for the mails to the Western Parishes, to Hamilton. Robert Ward, noting it bore no date marking, applied his old, but at this time his only appropriate datestamp. The one other dated postmark in his possession incorporated "PAID" and "H" for Hamilton, signifying payment received at Hamilton. So backstamped with the PM4, and this incidentally is the latest recorded use by three months, the letter is delivered to Mr. Charles Keane on Wednesday, March 6th, 1867, and then quietly waits for one hundred and thirty-two years for due recognition.

What conclusions may be drawn from this find? At the very least, Warwick Central was pen-cancelling in March 1867. But it would seem reasonable to go further and deduce that all four Receiving Offices were indeed without postmarks for the first part of their existence.

To me, this long search, ending with confirmation of a theory in so rewarding a fashion, is the essence of postal history study

JAMAICA

THE DOUBLE RINGED CIRCULAR DATESTAMPS OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA

(continued from page 43, Bulletin No.101)

TYPE KDC 5

Datestamp 1 This classification is tentative, as I have only one example. It is listed as Type 5 mainly because I have no other example of Index 1 within the date-ranges of other instruments within this general type. Main characteristics. "KINGSTON JAMAICA" in broad well spaced letters and fractionally higher than in other marks of this type. The "O" is very rounded, almost circular and there are dot-stops between the words. The index number is seriffed and the date lines are tall.

Measurements: A. 27.5 B. 2.75 C. 17.5 D. 15.0 E and F. 8.0 G. 2.5 H. 3.0.

Index and date: R. 4 Jul 08.

Datestamps 2, 4, 5 & 6 Main characteristics. Outer diameter appears slightly larger than in datestamp 1. “KINGSTON/ JAMAICA” in broad well spaced letters, fractionally shorter than in datestamp 1. The “O” is similarly rounded and there are dot-stops at sides. The index number is seriffed.

Measurements: A. 27.5/28.5 B. 2.5 C 17.0 D. 14.0/ 15.0 E. 7.5/9.25
F. 8.0/9.0 G. 3.0/3.5 O. H. 3.0

Datestamp 2 Indices: A, E, G, H, J, K, M, R.

Date range: 11 Aug 06 - 6 Jan 08.

Datestamp 4 Indices: A, D, M.

Date range: 21 Aug 06 - 28 Nov 07.

Datestamp 5 Indices: F, G, I, M.

Date range: 21 Feb 06 - 8 Sep 09.

Datestamp 6 Indices: D, E, F, G, O.

Date range: 22 Sep 06 - 28 Feb 08.

TYPE KDC 6. Main characteristics. “KINGSTON/JAMAICA” in taller more upright letters (i.e. less “squat”) than in type KDC 5 (numbers 2 to 6). Although well rounded the “O” is in upright oval form. There are no stops at aides. The index number is sans-serif. This and the date lines are noticeably smaller than in type KDC 5.

Measurements: A. 28.0/28.50. B. 2.75/3.0 C. 15.5/16.50. D. 13.5/14.0 E. 9.0/10.0
F. 8.0/8.50. G. 2.25/2.75 H. 2.0/2.25.

Datestamp 2 Indices: C, D, E, F, G, H, I.

Date range: 31 Oct 11 - 1 Sep 19.

Datestamp 3 Indices: A, I, W.

Date range: 1911 - 21 May 14.

Datestamp 4 Index: R.

One example only dated 16 Dec 08.

Datestamp 6 Indices: D, E, F, G, J, L, M, N.

Date range 9 Sep 09 - 9 Jun 11.

TYPE KDC 6A

Datestamp 6 Almost identical with type KDC 6, but with the following minor differences in measurement. C. 16.5 D. 14.0 E 9.5 F. 7.5 as compared with previous datestamp 6. C. 16.0 D. 13.75 E. 10.0 F. 8.5. The lettering is fine and clear; the mark may be a re-cut of the original instrument no. 6.

Indices: E, H, L.

Date range: 6 Dec 12 - 7 Jun 13.

TYPE KDC 7. Main characteristics. Generally identical with type KDC 6, but without index number. The alpha-index remains placed to right of centre as in KDC 6. It may be that the index number was deliberately excised from one of the instrument of type KDC 6. Lettering is fine and clear, indicating that the instrument may also have been re-cut.

Measurements: A. 28.0 B. 2.75 C. 15.5 D. 13.0 E. 9.5 F. 9.0 G. N/A H. 2.25.

Indices. B, D, E, G, H, I, L.

Date range: 22 Feb 11 - 21 Jun 18.

TYPE KDC 8

Datestamp 1 This is a tentative listing based on one example only. It is not sufficiently clear or complete for exact measurement, and it has all the characteristics of datestamp 3 described in detail below except:

(a) The index 1 has a serif at top but not at foot.

(b) There is no index letter.

(c) The year date line(20) is inverted, the “2” being taller (2.75) than the “0” (2.25).

Date: Dec - probably 19 - 1920.

Datestamp 3 Main characteristics. The lettering of “KINGSTON/ JAMAICA” is broader and more “squat” than in KDC7, the “O” forming a circle. There are no stops at sides. The index number (which is sans-serif) is strikingly taller than the index letter beside it and the date line below.

Measurements: A. 27.5 B. 2.5 C. 16.25 D. 12.5 E and F 9.5 G. 3.5 H. 2.25.

Indices: E, F, G (inverted), H, I, L, O, R.

Date range: 17 Jun 15 - 4 Mar 21.

I do not have index G in the normal upright position.

TYPE KDC 9 Main characteristics. The lettering of “KINGSTON/ JAMAICA” is taller and more widely spaced than in KDC 8. The “O” forms an upright oval. There are no stops at sides. The index number (which is sans-serif) is less tall than in KDC 8 and is not so strikingly different in height from the index letter and date lines. The outer concentric circles are distinctive in being set very close together. Many of my examples, especially these of later dates, have the impression of a heavy single ring.

Datestamp 2 Measurements: A. 28.5 B. 3.25 C. 17.0 D. 14.0 E. 9.5 F. 8.0 G. 3.0 H. 2.5.

Indices: B, D, H, I, J.

Date range: 23 Sep 27 - P Nov 27.

Datestamp 3 Measurements: A. 28.5 B. 3.5/3.75 C. 17.5 D. 14.0 E. 7.5 F. 8.0 G. 2.75 H. 2.5.

Indices: B, E, G, H, I, J, M, O, T.

Date range: 13 Jan 23 - 27 Feb 28.

Datestamp 5 Measurements: A. 28.5 B. 3.25 C. 7.0 D. 14.5 E. 9.0 F. 8.5 G. 3.0 H. 2.25.

All my three examples have no index letter. The two clearly identifiable dates are: 22 Jan 24 and 23 Aug 28.

TYPE KDC 10 Main characteristics At 29mm, the overall dimension is somewhat larger than in previous types. Letters of “KINGSTON/ JAMAICA” are broad and well spaced and noticeably less tall than in the previous type. The “D” is very rounded, almost forming a broad transverse oval. There are no stops at sides. The index number is sans-serif. I have only two examples, possibly indicating a limited usage.

Measurements: A. 29.0 B. 2.75 C. 18.0 D. 15.0 E. 6.5 F. 7.5 G and H 2.5.

Datestamp 2 Index: M.

Date: 14 Nov 30.

Datestamp 3 Index: J.

Date: 12 Jun 27. (the year date is not 100% certain)

To be continued

Anthony W. Lewarn

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

I notice that John de Vries includes the Trinidad 'T' mark in his list (Dec. Bulletin). While he has an EKD of 1917, I would have thought that this mark (seriffed T in small circle) would have dated from the issue of the first postage dues in 1885. Unfortunately it was not struck on underpaid incoming letters to the island, and my own EKD is December 1905 on a cover to France. Can anyone confirm earlier dates?

Geoffrey Ritchie

VIRGIN ISLANDS

Ferrari: a name with which to conjure. Eight pages from the Virgin Islands section of this magnificent collection have emerged after more than fifty years in obscurity. There were 135 of the classic stamps, with enough interest to merit detailed description and commentary. This task has not previously been attempted, since Ferrari did not explore this part of his collection in any depth, and the sale catalogues dealt with Virgin I. rather badly.

Contents

The stamps divide into the following groups.

1d green. 47 stamps, of which 4 are imperforate, 12 are from the 1866 issue, 17 are perf. 15, and 14 are the DLR perf. 14 issue. Only one stamp is used - more about this anon.

4d lake. 19 stamps, including two pairs. None is used.

6d rose. 26 stamps, which comprise one imperforate, 22 from the 1866 issue, including a block of four (toned paper), a vertical pair (white paper) and two used, and 3 of the 1868 perf. 15 issue, of which 1 is used.

1/- value. 32 stamps, of which 2 are imperforate. The perforated stamps comprise 4 with double-lined frame, 11 with single-lined frame (2 are used), 14 with coloured margins on white or toned, including a block of four and a pair, and one only with coloured margins on blued paper.

4d on 1/-. 11 stamps on white or toned paper, including one pair and 2 used.

On their album pages these stamps looked a fairly average assembly, except for the imperforate ones, mounted without additional comment on a page of their own. The arrangement of the rest was tidy, with an eye to symmetry, the grouping being governed by three factors - separation by major characteristic, such as change of perforation, separation of 'white' from coloured paper (an unreliable criterion), and the order otherwise decided by progression of shade. In line with this low-key presentation, the single-lined and double-lined frame 1/- stamps were mounted as one group (with a later pencil annotation to distinguish them); and a space between "papier blanc" and "papier teinte", headed "timbre sans la Vierge" showed where the Missing Virgin had once been undramatically displayed, on the page showing stamps with coloured margin. This particular stamp had of course been cut out of the herd in the original auction, although it too surfaced again in London only a few months back.

Condition

Closer examination showed the discrimination with which the stamps had been acquired. While the imperforate stamps - of which much more will be said - were

sometimes in rather poor condition, the remainder were almost uniformly fine: perhaps two stamps had a serious perforation fault, one pinhole was detected, a few were thinned or had other major defects, but the general impression is of freshness of surface and colour, with virtually no foxing or staining anywhere to be seen. Far less concern was shown for the back of the stamps: some have almost full gum, some none at all, some are cluttered with mount or hinge remainders, some have barely a trace. With due respect to the enthusiast for unmounted mint stamps, Ferrari had his priorities right.

The near-famine of SG. 20 was probably a by-product, however. The characteristic appearance of this stamp is of a soiled example of SG.19, and I expect that Ferrari rejected other copies as not being up to his standard. It is the rule, not the exception, for SG.20 to lie unrecognised in a collection, and Ferrari's collection followed the normal rule.

It is probable that the same considerations made him less eager to acquire used stamps: while these are much scarcer than unused, it is certain that Ferrari would have acquired others had he wished. Oddly enough, his two 1/- copies - of which one gets further mention below - both had faults. The rest of the used stamps were very much better, and his used copy of SG10 may well be, in view of the rarity of this item, the finest copy surviving.

Another interesting point is the range of shades, especially on the 1860 issues, and the 4d stamp. Of the former, the 1d includes the deepest, and the 6d the palest, shade that I can remember seeing on any stamp whose colour was convincingly fresh.

Varieties

Only one of the 6d stamps shows papermaker's watermark - well below the 20 - 25% to be expected when this issue is seen in quantity. The large 'V' is represented once only, again the subject of the later annotation in pencil, and it must be a matter of chance that its paper is still white, since 85% at least of surviving unused 6d stamps have to be classified as on toned paper.

Unlike most specialised collections, the long-tailed 'S' was ignored: there are three of these, one being the 4d surcharge, the others on SG 18/19, though one was part of a handsome lower-left marginal block.

There is no copy of the broken 'A' variety on the 4d stamp; no more than about 200 of these can ever have existed, and it is a very elusive variety. The 4d stamp is, in any case, a difficult stamp of which to make much, as shades of colour and paper tend to blend into one another, and one cannot draw clear demarcation lines; yet one can certainly pick two stamps which are poles apart in shade or tone of paper, and Ferrari undoubtedly did this.

While there is no example of the 1d compound perf. SG 7b, a typical copy with faked perf. approximately 15 at left and right lurked unnoticed amongst the other 1866 1d stamps. This is a style of faking which, rightly or wrongly, I associate with Paris; and it may account for the fact that Yvert classifies the compound perf. as being either 15 x 12 or 12 x 15. The only 12 x 15 copies which I have ever seen have all had faked perforations, have all had links with France, and have all been on stamps of too pale a shade - which suggests a common origin. Again a little more will be said on the subject below.

Another innocent error was one copy of the DLR perf. 14 1d nestling amongst a row of perf. 15. The explanation was unexpected; when lifted from the page, this stamp, though badly thinned, proved to have no watermark. This adds yet another dimension in the variants of this issue, which may perhaps be capable of being found: watermark upright; upright and reversed; inverted; inverted and reversed; sideways to the right; sideways to the right and reversed; sideways to the left; sideways to the left and reversed ; and now finally, displaced off the stamp: Speaking for myself, though I find the possibilities largely theoretical, and they may reflect the position found in the similar miniature sheets of Gambia, rather than in the Virgin Islands. Statistically taking into account Ferrari's copies and my own, the score is:- Upright, 19; sideways to the left, 12; no watermark, 1. This accounts for about ½% of the issue.

I come back to one of the used 1/- stamps, which bears a pale violet 4d surcharge. Starting with the assumption that this is an out-and-out fake, it is nevertheless worth setting out the indications for and against villainy, derived from relatively casual and unscientific scrutiny.

Indications for villainy

1. The catalogue does not record the variety.
2. Neither does anybody else.
3. The colour of the surcharge is pale, where genuine surcharges all show signs of heavy inking (or no inking).
4. The postmark is suspiciously clean.
5. The stamp comes from the middle of the third row, not from a corner.
6. Instinct and experience.

Indications against

1. The surcharge is the right shape and size.
2. So is the postmark.
3. The postmark apparently comes above the surcharge.
4. Nothing is impossible.

Can the surcharge be false and the postmark, though subsequent, be true? The answer is yes, as it happens. Remainder material went back to Tortola for cancellation and/or use very early in the present century. I can envisage someone putting up a forged surcharge for c.t.o. treatment, or on a philatelic cover where the rate was immaterial. The postmark is not however, typical of the appearance of the Tortota pad at this period.

Can the surcharge be true? I can think of two possibilities. There were still a few remainders of SG 21/a in 1890, so that there could have been a few sent to Antigua for surcharge in 1888 along with the sheets of SG 18/19. Alternatively, there might have been some trial surcharges before the 125 sheets were done, or ordered to be done. The odds, of course, remain firmly at 6 - 4 against - and this is being generous to the stamp.

The imperforate stamps

It is well known that various sheets of plate proofs were produced by Nissen & Parker, so that there is nothing inherently impossible about imperforate stamps. Naturally, there is something special about some of the Ferrari items, as we shall see.

The 1d stamps. All 4 stamps are, as they should be, from the plate of the 1866 issue, and of the right shade for plate proofs. Three are marginal stamps with very large outer margins and the fourth, which is in poorer condition and has closer margins, is a copy whose authenticity I see no reason to question.

Now here comes the surprise. One of the other 3 stamps is used!! I have no doubt at all that the A91 postmark is genuine, and by its appearance use could date back to the middle or late 1870's. The condition of the stamp is persuasively poor: top left corner is torn off, and there are two bad thins. It is inconceivable to me that this was a perforated stamp, cut down.

Another pointer is that the stamp was difficult to plate, as the ink has taken badly in places, and the lettering, for example, comes out unusually thin. Other plate proofs may show rather similar characteristics. This stamp came from the bottom left of the sheet. How about this for a theory? The particular sheet did not have a satisfactory appearance, and was put aside and not perforated. Later on it was issued; perhaps by an oversight, perhaps to make up a full consignment. If so, 1d green stamps which used to be treated as issued imperforate stamps, and are nowadays considered only as plate proofs, may need to revert to the status of issued stamps. This is different, I think, from the case of the imperforate 1d reds which, in my belief, are derived from the 1500 remainder sheets of the 1891 printing.

There remains unresolved still, the status of the 1d compound perf., whose normal shade is fractionally darker than that of the so-called plate proof. I wrote in a previous article of a possible "uncompound perf." - perf. 15 all round. This is, in the opinion of the Royal's Expert Committee, a plate proof with faked perforations; but I maintain my own reservation on this opinion, since no less an authority than Mr. Messenger considers that the perforations are genuine. My point here is that I have still to see a convincing example of the compound perf. from the 4th and 5th vertical rows in any sheet. This is not to suggest a link between the Ferrari imperfs. and the compound perfs., since I believe that the latter, too, are more likely to originate from the remainder stock. What it underlined is that there is always a faint chance of discovering something new which comes from the odd sheets of "funnies" printed by Nissen & Parker.

The 6d stamp. This is a very handsome stamp with enormous margins, again from the bottom left of a sheet, on the issued wove paper, no watermark.

The most significant point here is that 6d plate proofs, whether in blue, or rose as issued, are almost always from the unissued transfer, which was cleaned off and prepared afresh before printing. So imperf. 6d stamps, as issued, are very rare; but this copy seems to me to be beyond suspicion.

The 1/- stamps. I was not aware until recently that plate proofs of the 1/- stamp existed. However, I acquired during 1978 an example of SG 21, imperforate, and I believe it to be quite genuine, despite the fact that a supposedly companion item from the same source was no more than an issued stamp, partly cut down.

The Yardley auction catalogue described a 1/- plate proof similar to mine, and Ferrari supplies another, possibly from the same sheet as mine, though in slightly sad condition.

The final Ferrari item is a beaut! Imperf. from the lower left corner of the sheet (yet again - a Ferrari speciality) and with coloured margins on blued paper!

Is it genuine or cut down? I simply do not know: while it has large margins which would overlap my copy of no. 1 on blued paper, I could fit it comfortably within my no.5. The one thing going for it - for I know, as yet, of no other imperf. SG 20 - is the printing history: plate proofs were printed for the other values in 1866 and 1867 and, if we assume that proofs were pulled from the stone before SG 21 was printed in 1868, are they not likely to have been pulled also before the printing of 1/- stamps began in the previous year, and again before the switch to coloured margins, early in the printing run, after Nissen & Parker stopped printing the stamps with double-lined frame? I know of no proofs of the latter it is true - they may all have been perforated and /or issued, in the event. However, I have explained in an earlier article why SG 20 must have been printed before SG 18/19. Consistently with this explanation, if any plate proofs were pulled, these would have been on blued paper. Enter Ferrari. Is it genuine or cut down? Over to you.

Conclusion

Resorting to the Ferrari sale catalogues, one finds that the eight pages here described were a substantial part, but by no means the whole, of his holding of Virgin I. classics. In a way it is surprising that these survived intact, for they were split up into separate lots and were separately sold. Where items that one would expect to find were not there - for instance, SG 13, or a better representation of SG 11, 14, 14a, and SG 20 - it may be that other parts of the collection contained them. Even so, I am sure that we have now had a chance to scrutinise and dissect together, a thoroughly representative portion of one of the great collections of all time.

Simon Goldblatt

NEWS ROUNDUP

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING URGENT MESSAGE FROM RICHARD HEAP.

“I hope to produce a book in time for London 1980 on Bermuda in the two World Wars with particular reference to military mail and censored items. I would be grateful for any information from members - however meagre it may seem to them, it may be the vital piece in the jigsaw for me”.

Richard’s address is 20 Charlestown Rd. West, Davenport Stockport, SK3 8TW.

When offering our congratulations to members for their awards at this year’s STAMPEX we omitted to mention that Maurice Hewlett, in addition to a Bronze Silver Medal, was also awarded a Silver Medal.

Amongst his many philatelic activities Maurice Hewlett is the co-compiler of Picton’s Priced Pictorial Postcard Catalogue and Handbook, he is also the author of another recent publication, Pictons Philatelic Handbook No. 1. A provisional Guide to the Valuation of the Numeral Cancellations of the British Isles. We understand that the Author and Publishers of this handbook are donating 25 per cent of the profits arising

therefrom during the first two years of its sales, to the funds of the recently opened Bath Postal Museum.

We feel sure that all members will join in offering Bobby Messenger sincere congratulations on the occasion of his signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at this year's Congress at Harrogate on September 1st.

Bobby Messenger is not only well known for his many B.W.I. award winning collections, but also as part author of the definitive work on the Postal History and Stamps of St. Vincent. Amongst his many philatelic activities, Bobby has acted as a judge at national and federation exhibitions and his signing the Roll is a richly deserved honour for the many years of service to philately.

Two very welcome overseas members who attended the Silver Jubilee Meeting at Brighton last May were Norman Gee from Ontario, Canada, who made the journey down from Manchester, and Mark Swetland from New Jersey, U.S.A., here for a short stay prior to a three year spell working for his firm in the U.K. We shall look forward to seeing more of Mark at future meetings.

Simon Goldblatt has very generously donated to Circle funds, the fee that he received for a recent article on British Honduras that appeared in Stamp Collecting Weekly.

The sale of the "Sir Henry Tucker" Bermuda collection by Harmers of London and Harmers of New York realised over £½ million. The major portion sold in London last October made £400,357 and the New York sale in April made £130,732.

Among the many record prices obtained at the New York sale the outstanding realisation was £36,284 for the unique copy of the "Perot" Postmaster's provisional 1d. stamp dated 1856. This copy once belonged to Arthur Hind and King Carol of Roumania. In Harmers "Hind" sale in 1934 it realised £145. The sale opened with pre-stamp and stampless covers including a nice envelope bearing the "PAID AT IRELAND ISLE BERMUDA" Crowned circle which sold for £3,023.

Top price among the issued stamps was for an o.g. vertical strip of four of the 1865-1903 1/- green, the lower strip of three imperf. between, which brought £4,112.

A feature of this sale was the range of essays and proofs, the top four lots of which brought a total of £18,384.

Harmers three-day sale on June 19th - 21st included one day devoted to the stamps of the British West Indies which brought a total of £86,755 for 690 lots. Although strong in most of the countries, outstanding were the "Thomas Foster" collection of Jamaica, and Montserrat offered for a London collector. Included in this latter group was a cover of 1853 showing the "PAID AT MONTSERRAT" crowned circle which brought £3,900.

Two other outstanding prices were £5,500 for a cut-square copy of the British Guiana "cottonreel" 4c. pale yellow on pelure paper - this price in spite of faults, while top price for the sale was an amazing £6,000 for a part o.g. copy of Cayman Islands 1907 1d. on 5s. with double surcharge (Cat. £4,500).

Michael Sheppard

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Interest: Danish West Indies.

NICKLIN, John, 31, Redmoss Rd., Nigg, Aberdeen, Scotland.

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Interest: Montserrat.

UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES (Librarian Alan Moss), Cave Hill Campus,
P.O. Box 64, Bridgetown, Barbados, W.1.

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