



STUDY CIRCLE

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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No.103 DECEMBER 1979

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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 **\$6.50** 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 1980

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 meetings on January 10th and March 6th will be held at the Law Society's Building, 2nd floor, 113 Chancery Lane, London, W.C.2. The meeting place for the A.G.M. and Auction has yet to be arranged.

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

Sat., May. 10th. Joint Meeting of B.C.P.S.G., B.W.I.S.C. and Roses C.P.S. The Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London.
Further details to follow.

LONDON 1980 - JOINT MEETING MAY 10th

Are you coming to the joint meeting of the B.W.I.S.C., the B.C.P.S.G. and the Roses C.P.S. at the Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London on Saturday, May 10th? This is an open day for all Caribbean collectors and with a special programme for the ladies.

Now is the time to get in touch with Alfred Branston at 11, Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4DH, to let him know your plans and collecting interests. The primary object of this meeting is to foster good friendship so why not get in touch with all your contacts and arrange to meet at the Bonnington Hotel on May 10th next. We understand that a large party will be coming over from the United States for what will surely be a memorable occasion.

May we draw the attention of our U.S. Members to the new subscription rate shown on the opposite page. This increase has become necessary because of increased Airmail Rates, and the alteration in the Exchange Rate.

Would members please note the Venue of Meetings as shown in the programme box. The venue for the A.G.M. and Auction has yet to be arranged.

NOTES & QUERIES

ANTIGUA

I have a few comments regarding Alex Thomson's "first airmail" cachet on his 26 September, 1929 cover to Puerto Rico, which he describes on page 8 of the March, 1979 Bulletin.

In my collection are two air mail covers which, for all practical purposes, are identical except for one thing; one item bears the noted cachet, whereas the other does not. Each cover is postmarked on 26 September, 1929 with a ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA c.d.s., is addressed to the U.S.A., and is franked with 1/4½d. postage. No backstamp, either of San Juan or any other intermediate FAM-6 point, appears on either cover. The American Air Mail Catalogue (AAMC) number for both items is 6-19.

The AAMC pictures the cachet (see fig.) and notes that it was applied to first flight airmail despatched north from St. John's on 26 September. Thus, it does not seem to be a particularly rare mark. However, it is apparent that not all such first flight mail received the cachet, and it may very well be that covers without the mark are scarcer than those with it. The AAMC also states that a total of 632 covers were despatched on that date from St. John's specifically to San Juan; these also are designated F6-19. Many more covers, of course, were mailed to points further north and west on the FAM-6 route.

**FIRST AIR MAIL
ANTIGUA TO U.S.A.
SEPTEMBER 1928**

Incidentally, Alex's description of the cachet suggests that the abbreviation USA contains no periods. As seen by the illustration, a "stop" appears after each of those letters.

George W. Bowman

I have been delighted to see the dialogue on Antigua Fiscal Stamps among Messrs. Medlicott, Thompson, Bowman, Goldblatt, Swetland and Toeg in Bulletins 94-99, since so little has been written about these fascinating stamps.

In my collection there are mint or fiscally-used examples of the 1870, CC stamps as follows: 1d (u), 2d (m), 3d (u), 4d (m,u), 6d (m,u); and 2s (m), 3s (m), 4s (m), 5s (m). I have heard of the 1s and 10s values. In the case of the 1876, CA stamps I can report 1d (u), 3d (m,u), 1s (m,u), 10s (m).

Of interest is the fact that Leeward Islands fiscals exist, inscribed FEES, in the QV, KEVII, and KGV reigns. These, of course, were used in Antigua and the other Presidencies.

I have a full sheet of the 4d. 1870, CC fiscal stamp. The sheet is comprised of forty stamps (ten horizontal by four vertical). It has selvedge all around with Plate Number 1 on a coloured circle surrounded by a second circle, similar to contemporary postage stamps. The plate numbers are in the side selvedges at the top of Stamp 1 and the bottom of Stamp 40. In addition, there are numerals 38 in rectangles with the corners "bitten off" leaving arcs centered - without the rectangle in the side selvedges at the top of Stamp 10 and the bottom of Stamp 31. There are guide dots and also crosses in the side selvedges near the centre of the selvedge.

In my collection is a copy of the 1870, CC, 1d with forged A02 horizontal obliterator (18½mm tall, compared with the normal 16-16½mm). The obliterator is neatly placed on the diagonal to afford a complete strike.

The Tapling Collection contains an A10 obliterator (two strikes) on a copy of the 1870, CC, 1d; and a copy of the 1876, CA, 1d with surcharged POSTAGE & REVENUE and a c.d.s. with ANTIGUA / OC 11. Tapling notes say that all such cancels and surcharges are forged.

Melville's 1928 "Antigua" discusses apparent postal use of the 1d, 3d and 1s (watermark unspecified) fiscals, but states that there is no satisfactory evidence of their having been admitted for postage. Melville further states "The one penny 'stamp duty' long fiscal stamp, printed in blue and indigo, is found with the bogus overprint POSTAGE & REVENUE in sans serif capitals in black, with a bar cancelling the

words STAMP DUTY. This was alleged to have been issued and used as a provisional penny postage stamp in 1885-86, but it was never issued in Antigua, and was the invention of a European swindler”.

In the overall, it is my opinion that both issues of the Antigua fiscal stamps were intended solely for fiscal use, that no authorization was ever made for postal use, that all overprints were forgeries, and that all “postal cancellations” were forgeries, or at best applied “by favor”.

William G. Cornell

BAHAMAS

I have a mint Q.V. 2½d. - SG. 51 I think - the large 2 having a dropped foot as in the S.G. listed variety in Antigua. This does not appear to be noted in Gisburn’s “Bahamas”, and I have not come across any other reference to this variety.

F. G. Fitz-Gerald

BARBADOS

Canadian member Fitz Roett is seeking information or specialised literature on the King George V. issues of Barbados. He is particularly interested in the various printings, shades, plate flaws, quantities printed, etc. of the stamps between SG. 170 and 228.

BERMUDA

In reply to Mr. Pullar’s queries on page 37, Bulletin No. 101, I would suggest that the seagull or other aquatic bird is in fact the flying fish which looks east on the very common aquarium slogan. Less commonly seen on the stamp itself is the west facing penguin.

The 10/- deep lake is only found on the first printing, whereas the 10/- line perforation comes from the third printing.

Richard Heap

BRITISH HONDURAS

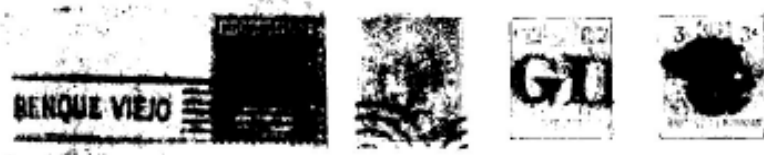
With reference to Simon Goldblatt’s piece on British Honduras cancellations in Bulletin No. 100, I can confirm that he is right to change his mind about the “C” killer. I have a cover addressed to the Royal Hospital Chelsea with a 5c blue key-type tied by the “C” killer, with a Corozal backstamp of April 6th 1898. A Belize code A datestamp for April 7th has been applied to the face in transit and a London arrival of April 25th to the obverse.

Charles Freeland

BRITISH HONDURAS POSTMARKS

I found Simon Goldblatt’s article in Bulletin No. 100, March, 1979, on certain British Honduras cancellation most interesting, especially as for some time I have been intrigued by the postmarks on two British Honduras stamps that I have. These are Benque Viejo and Caledonia, within two parallel lines. I now realise that these marks are a part of Goldblatt’s type RL2 group of postmarks. And now within the last few days, I have acquired the front of an envelope with the complete cancellation for Benque Viejo. As will be seen the parallel lines do not extend to the left.

After reading Mr. Goldblatt's article regarding old duplex markings of certain village post offices in British Honduras, I went through my collection as I thought I had a stamp with a ring cancellation similar to his three ring target marking. However, on examination it appears to be a 4 ring marking. Stamp and cancellation now believed to be forgeries. Can any reader throw any light on this mark as well as the "GII" in deep mauve on a Geo.V 10c. stamp and the black smudge on a Geo.V 3c. stamp?



In Bulletin No. 80, March, 1974, Mr. Goldblatt in his additional list of B. H. postmarks includes The Barracks and The Radio Station. Both these names are also included in the list of British Honduras post offices as published in the March, 1974 issue of Postal History International. The latter shows the Barracks office as having been opened on 11.8.1930. I would have thought that it would have been opened much earlier, say 1919/20, when a detachment of a British regiment, and subsequently the B.W.I. Regiment, was stationed in Belize after World War I. And what about the Radio Station? The twin steel towers for this were erected in 1914 under the supervision of Lt. Col. H. W. Douglas Matheson, R. E. and the first person in charge of the station was Paul Sheppard Berry, a native of Mobile, Alabama, U.S.A., who, as senior wireless operator with the United Fruit Co., was seconded to the Government of British Honduras as Superintendent. Harry E. Huber in his series of articles on British Honduras stamps and postal services, published in the "Stamp Lover", Vol. 18/23, 1925/32, stated that a radio service was established to Belize on 4th Feb. 1915 with direct connection with New Orleans, La. U.S.A. and with Jamaica via Swan Island. He went on to say that a new station was built in 1921 and a 25Kw. Admiralty set installed for the special purpose of direct communication with Jamaica, but as the Admiralty station in Jamaica had by then been closed, messages to and from British Honduras were routed through the U.S.A. Huber also stated that the Colonial Postmaster was released of the control of foreign and inland telegrams as from 1 Dec., 1919, when they were transferred to the Electrical Engineer, but that the radio station remained under the post office. However, was there ever a post office at the Radio Station which was situated at the Newton Barracks, about a mile and a quarter from the G.P.O. in Belize City? Huber does not mention an office and I have always doubted. Recently Col. D.N.A. Fairweather, C.B.E., E.D., who joined the B.H. Government service in 1915 as a radio operator and subsequently became Superintendent and was in charge of the station until his retirement in the 1960's, has informed me that there was never a post office at the Radio Station. It would therefore appear that any stamp bearing a Radio Station cancellation must have been obtained from an obliging post office employee or else have come off a cable, payment for which was by means of stamps affixed to the form. My example of this cancellation is on stamps stuck on what appears to be part of an envelope with one end having the remains of a deep mauve mark.

Owen N. D. Phillips

B. W. I.

THE BRIDGER AND KAY "FIVE REIGNS" COMMONWEALTH CATALOGUE 14th Edition

After several years of build-up the Bridger & Kay catalogue was published in July. This is an important catalogue for B.W.I. collectors, as it lists all B.W.I. stamps from the reigns of Queen Victoria to George VI inclusive in a compact and well bound volume. The previous 1971 catalogue only went back before Geo.VI in the case of Bermuda, Leewards, St. Kitts and Turks & Caicos Is.

Ones immediate reaction to the catalogue is to welcome the amount of new information. At the same time one must say that the type setting and proof reading leaves much to be desired for such an expensive book. I noticed so many errors that it is difficult to be sure any price quoted is intentional. It is very difficult for catalogue publishers in times of fast moving prices, but with a handbook catalogue of this type it is not so essential for prices to be right up-to-date and I feel Bridger & Kay should have taken another month or two in checking the proofs, but I dare say overriding commercial considerations were to blame. It is clear from the prices for Geo.V high values that some amendments were made quite late on to reflect market prices.

To start with the listings of most of the Q.V. period included for the first time simply follow Gibbons. Later on however, there is some welcome extra detail. The most interesting in my opinion is the inclusion of numerous shade and paper varieties, mostly in the G.V. period. Their value lies in their authenticity, based, I believe, on a fine specialised collection broken up by Bridger & Kay some ten years ago. It is notable that the catalogue condemns the "indigo" shade of the Barbados Nelson 2½d. as "climatic", a view which will not be appreciated by recent purchasers! Another welcome feature is the addition of a good range of watermark varieties, many of them priced; there are still, however, plenty of omissions and I intend to deal with these in a separate article.

In more specialised areas B & K make a good effort, aided by a formidable list of experts mentioned in the foreword (most of them members of the Study Circle). Features of the listings are the "Crowned Circle" and other "Paid" franks, local and Red Cross issues, proof material, specimens not distributed by the U.P.U., printing quantities and certain specialised varieties. This is a substantial task for the whole of the British Empire, and the results reflect the degree of specialised assistance that was available for each colony. Thus there is a wealth of useful information for Bahamas, Bermuda, Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Virgin Islands, rather less for other B.W.I. countries.

Welcome as the listings of "Crowned Circle" marks are, the prices seem way out. Montserrat (£225!), Belize and English Harbour grossly undervalued, and Dominica, Tobago and Trinidad (£850!) much too high. It is at least a start, however, and the footnotes accompanying them are valuable. These are followed in each case by the G.B. stamps used in the colonies (a listing which Gibbons have also at last adopted),

although for some unknown reason none are priced. Again, the footnotes are very welcome.

Local issues include British Honduras Cuthbert Bros. (un-priced), the St. Lucia Steam Conveyance (both the earlier label and the later Paris productions) and of course the Lady McLeod. German propaganda labels are also listed, with rather steep prices. Most happy, however, will be the buyer of the "Ward" Bermuda postmaster for £260 in the Tucker sale to see a price of £45,000 quoted! Red Cross issues I noted are those of Grenada, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

The detailed listing of proofs, essays, imprimators, printers' samples etc. is somewhat inconsistent, but it is unrealistic to expect anything approaching completion from a catalogue containing so many colonies. What there is is welcome and as far as I can tell correct. Certain early specimens are recorded for Bahamas, Dominica, Jamaica and St. Lucia, but this is just the tip of the iceberg as owners of Samuel's handbook are aware. As far as the U.P.U. issues are concerned, Bridger & Kay would have done better to stick to the Gibbons listing which are almost correct now. Instead they find 14 values in the St. Lucia 1904-11 set, but "lose" a value of its 1921-26 set. Elsewhere there are similarly strange additions or omissions.

The listing of plate varieties, re-entries etc., is again a welcome feature. Thus we see listed and priced the splayed "E" on the Bahamas 6d. Key type, even more detail than in the 1971 edition for Bermuda "scroll" flaws, several minor flaws in British Honduras, the Cayman Islands "dent in frame" on some (but curiously not all) Edward key types, Leeward Island "wide A" on Edward 2½d., as well as overprint varieties on War Tax issues in several colonies. One can query some prices and the omission of certain flaws (e.g. the Tobago "slash" flaw listed in the 1980 Gibbons), but all progress is worthwhile. One should also praise the blow-up photographs of the Bahamas tree-trunk variety, Bermuda scroll flaws and others, but one wonders why this could not have been possible for the other flaws listed as well. How often is one offered a "malformed CE", a "small O" or "small A" on the basis of the seller's biased opinion.

Let me conclude what has in parts been a critical article by congratulating Bridger & Kay on starting this ambitious project, on which all specialists should help to build. It is indisputably in the interest of the Study Circle that more specialised information on B.W.I. philately is given wide circulation, as this creates interest and provides our members of the future. Some may regret that their specialised knowledge is being dissipated, thus reducing their chances of picking up a variety unrecognised, but that is surely a Luddite reaction. Whatever criticism may be made of B & K's pricing, long after they are obsolete the footnotes will survive as the really important feature of this catalogue.

Charles A. Freeland

Opinions expressed are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor.

GRENADA

In the March, 1979, issue of the Bulletin, Mr. B. E. Johnson makes enquiries about the 1d. and 1½d. George VI Postal Stationery envelopes. I have both with the usual diagonal "SPECIMEN" overprint and an additional pencil note in continental-style

figures reading “22 17 (or 12) over 38”. I also have an unused example of the 1½d. envelope and a used copy, registered and bearing 1d. and 2d. stamps, postmarked 16th. March 1938 and endorsed “First Day Cover” in red ink. Thus these envelopes would appear to have been issued in 1938.

Robert P. Towers

In the March, 1979 Bulletin Bryan Johnson asks about the 1940 King George VI postal stationery envelopes. They are certainly rare postally used. I have only acquired one used copy of each value in about eight years of hunting. Details are as follows:

1d purple H & G 1 - used air mail envelope to the U.S. with additional franking of 3d. K.G.VI 1938 x 3 plus 1d of the same issue. (On 16th July, 1947 the air mail rate from Grenada to the U.S. was reduced from 1/- to 11d. and on 8th October 1949 changed to 26 cents). The card, postmarked GPO Grenada 18 JA 49, is addressed to “The Blessed Martins Guild, New York City.”

1½d. carmine H & G 2 - used surface mail to Barbados with additional 1d. K.G.VI 1938 issue to make a 2½d. rate. (This is the correct airmail rate to Barbados which was effective from 5th February 1944). The cover bears Grenada and Barbados datestamps for 23rd and 25th August 1945 respectively.

The Grenada Government Gazette 12th March, 1938 - Postal Notice No. 15 dated 9th March, 1938 stated as follows: Stamped postal envelopes of 1d. and 1½d. on sale at G.P.O. starting 16th March, 1938. Three envelopes sold at a time an additional charge of ½d. will be made on the three envelopes.

W. Danforth Walker

JAMAICA

THE DOUBLE RINGED CIRCULAR DATE STAMPS OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA

(continued from page 62, Bulletin No. 102)

TYPE KDC 11 Main characteristics. “KINGSTON/JAMAICA” is in distinctively tall bold lettering. Superficially it somewhat resembles KDC 9, but the individual letters are broader and more widely spaced, particularly “JAMAICA”. Measurement D is noticeably longer in KDC 11 and measurement C to a lesser extent, the combined effect being to make the distance between the ends of the words (measurements E and F) markedly less in KDC 11 as compared with KDC 9. There are no stops between the words. The index number is sans-serif. As in KDC 9 the outer circles are very close together, many strikes giving the impression of a heavy single ring.

Measurements: A. 28.0 B. 3.5 C. 17.5 (or slightly over) D. 15.5 E. 6.0 F. 5.5 G. 2.75 H. 2.5.

Datestamp 2 Indices: B, D, F, G, H, I, M, O, W.

Date range: 23 Mar 29 - 3 Sep 35.

Datestamp 3 Indices: B, G, H, I, J, M, O, R.

Date range: 22 Jan 30 - 22 Aug 35.

TYPE KDC 12 Main characteristics. The overall dimension is somewhat larger than KDC 11, but “KINGSTON/JAMAICA” is noticeably less tall, the letters of “KINGSTON” particularly being broad and well spaced, the “O” almost forming a circle. In datestamp 1. the numeral index has a serif at top but not at foot: index numbers of the other instruments are sans-serif. There are no stops at sides.

Measurements: A. 29.0 B. 3.0 C. 18.5 D. 14.5 E. 7.5 F. 7.0 G. 3.0 H. 2.5.

Datestamp 1 My four examples are all without index letter. Undoubted dates are: 10 Sep 36, 20 May 37 and 9 Sep 42. A strike on 1d. KG. V. Jubilee has a smudged date, but the year is almost certainly 1935.

Datestamp 2 Indices: B, D, E, F, G, H, J, L, M, O, N.
Date range: 10 Sep 35 - 1945.

Datestamp 3 Indices: B, E, F, H, J, R.
Date range: 21 Oct 35 - 27 Nov 42.

Datestamp 4 Indices: G, H, I, J, L, O.
Date range: 18 Jun 46 - 7 Sep 49.

GENERAL COMMENTS

My material indicates that KDC 12 was the last type to be issued as a “set”, individual instruments having index numbers in the range 1-6 inclusive. In his article on the “squared circles” at Kingston (Stamp Collecting Weekly 9 Sept., 1971) Thomas Foster states “The numeral was fixed but the letters rotated through the alphabet and indicated the time of postmarking. All the alphabet was used. In the next paragraph “.... these markings were signature date-stamps. i.e. each was used only by a particular postal employee or at a certain counter position”. Commenting later on Type K5QC2, which immediately preceded the introduction of “double rings” at the G.P.O. he states: “A set of six date-stamps were put into service in early 1890 and are distinguished by the numerals 1 to 6. Date-stamp 5 has never been recorded and 6 is uncommon, both being probably used on non postal business in the G.P.O. “Projecting this latter assumption into the “double ring” era it appears valid for index 6 up to and including KD4. This index becomes more frequent in KDC5 and I have numerous examples in KDC6/6A. Index 5 is not uncommon in KDC2, 3, 4 and 5, but does not appear in KDC6. There must have been some re-arrangement of duties assigned to instruments 5 and 6 during the period.

From KD8 onwards index 6 no longer appears; index 5 only appears in KDC9. I have no evidence, other than previous practice, that these instruments continued to be produced in sets of six. In KDC12 index 4 does not appear until after my latest dates for indices 1, 2, and 3. Unless I have been unlucky in the dates I have found this would indicate (a) that the instrument was held in reserve for about ten years or (b) it was previously used for non-postal business or (c) and this seems most likely, it was of later manufacture.

For types KDC6 onwards I have no explanation for the non-appearance of index 1, or its rare appearance without index letter in KDC8 and 12, other than the possibility that this index performed the functions previously allocated to indices 5 and 6, i.e. mainly non-postal business. Other mysteries are the prolonged usage of KD7 without index number and the appearance of KDC9 index 5 without index letter.

The guide to periods of usage given as an appendix to the check list demonstrates the overlapping in the usage of sets within the main KDC type references. However, further study shows that the overlap does not normally occur when one compares usage of individual index numbers. This is logical because the contemporaneous use of two instruments with the same index number would nullify the value of the index as a signature. Presumably each new set was held in reserve, with each instrument replacing

that in current use bearing the same index number at the time when the latter was declared unserviceable.

TYPE KDC 13. Main characteristics. The index "NO5" is an infallible guide to identification. There are no stops at sides.

Measurements: A. 28.0 B. 3.0

Date range (on normal mail) 2 Sep 41 - 30 Apr 42.

(on FDC "University" issue) 16 Feb 51.

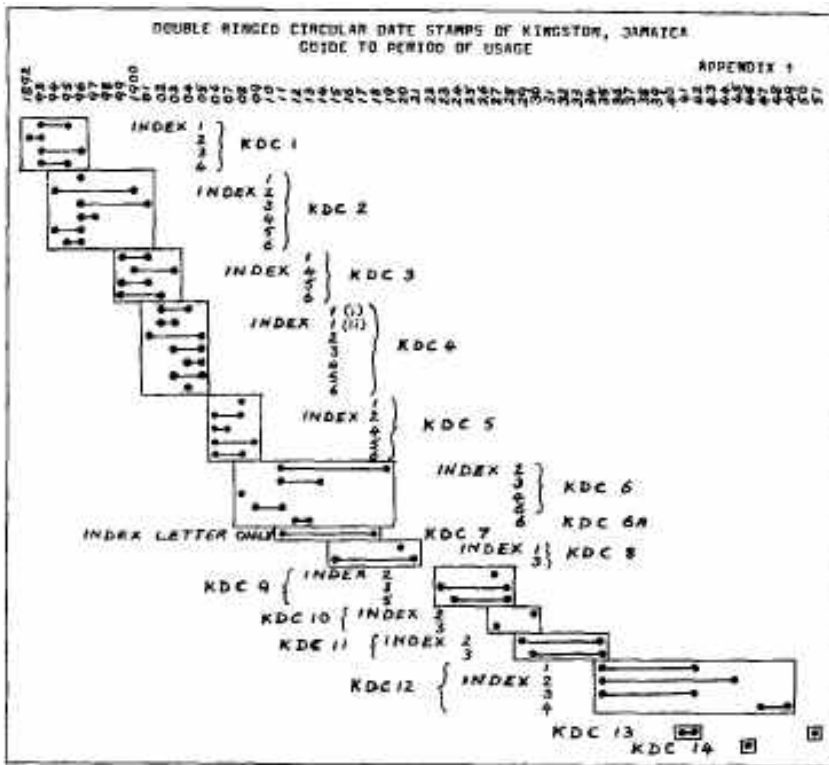
TYPE KBC 14. Main characteristics. Index "2" appears to the left of the central vertical axis. The mark is unique in having "rosettes" at sides between "KINGSTON/JAMAICA". These symbols comprise a central dot surrounded by eight "petals" with inward points, arranged to form a rough circle about 2.5 mm. diameter.

Measurements: A. 28.0 B. 2.5.

Only date: 14 Oct 46 (on FDC "Victory" issue).

GENERAL COMMENTS

I take the view that KDC 13 and 14 are individual productions, i.e. not forming parts of sets. KDC 13 is hard to find and I have only been able to establish a short period of



continued overleaf

DOUBLE RINGED CIRCULAR DATE STAMPS OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA
GUIDE TO USAGE OF ALPHA INDICES

APPENDIX 2

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
KDC 1																								
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	3					1																		
	4																							1
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TOTAL EXAMPLES	16	17	11	23	34	30	25	31	24	18	15	20	37	6										

Type B4. Index F. EDK 12 Jan, 1951.

Subject to any contrary information KDC 12 was the last double-ring type in general use, with KDC 13 making a fleeting reappearance on 16 Feb, 1951 to bring down the curtain on a long and interesting era of Kingston markings.

Anthony W. Lewarn

MONTSERRAT

A VISIT TO THE PORTUGUESE MINT

I recently made a visit to the Lisbon Imprensa Nacional (the mint) where, at the Casa Moeda archives, I had arranged to be shown the Specimen stamps of Montserrat.

My original aim had been to look for documents concerning the “Ultramar” overprints. Specimens sent to Portugal were marked thus, being the Portuguese for “Overseas”, before being sent to their colonies’ archives. This proved impracticable due to (my) language difficulties. However, I was given every facility at Casa Moeda, including the sight of all the Montserrat specimens and full use of the photostat machine, and a number of interesting facts emerged.

Firstly, as Leonard Britnor states in his standard reference on Montserrat, “Leakages (of Specimens) have been known to occur from some of the Continental and Latin-American sources”. This is certainly true of Portugal for no Cancelled or Specimen stamps are lodged there before 1993.

Incidentally the albums in which these stamps are mounted are in themselves of interest, being huge old-fashioned tomes of French manufacture using the Yvres and Tellier catalogue numbers. Montserrat was in volume 4; Haiti to Panama in the Amerique Central book. As a matter of interest, none of the stamps were stuck down but were hinged until 1966 when Hawid-type mounts began to be used. Quite obviously the albums were stamp albums not specimen ones, as the 1903-08 issues, which differed only in watermark from the 1903 issue, were included, and specimens were supposed not to have been issued.

One interesting thing was that there was a ½d. green (S.G.24) specimen there which I regret not having the foresight to turn over to check the watermark. Was it a ½d. issued with the new watermark as an example only, or did the Mint simply mount S.G.14 again?. If so where did they get a spare copy of this specimen? I’ll have to arrange another covention in Lisbon to check!

There are no more “holes” in their records after the earlier issues, with the exception of the 1910 3d. which supports the established view that this stamp was never issued. The 1914 “white back” specimen was there. The practice of overprinting specimens ceased in 1927 and the perforation method was discontinued in 1948. Thereafter normal stamps were used as examples. What price the recent “Specimen Stamps” eh?

The most interesting thing for me however concerned the perforated specimens of the 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps. I have a set with a straight-line diagonal perforation and not the type PD1 arc perforation, as recorded in Mr. Britnor’s book. It was therefore comforting to know that their official records also



show the straight-line perforation. I would be most grateful to any Montserrat collectors who can comment on this or any other point which the report of this visit might raise.

In conclusion, I found my visit both interesting and rewarding and the courtesy and consideration I received from the staff not only was what collectors have come to expect, but should serve to encourage us to continue to delve.

Christopher Barwick

EXCITING NEW EARLY MONTSERRAT DISCOVERIES

A surprising amount of scarce early Montserrat material has surfaced in recent months at auctions on both sides of the Atlantic and at various international shows. Rarities in Britnor's BWI Study Circle Monograph on Montserrat were available and quickly absorbed. Almost escaping notice were discoveries hitherto not reported.

For example, Britnor does not record a Montserrat postal mark until 1796 (the straight line variety). Britnor records an EKD for his Type N of April 3, 1796, and an LKD of September 17, 1796.

At hand, however, is an example dated January 10, 1791, with London receiving marks of April, 1791. The measurement of this handstamp is 40mm x 4mm (Britnor N 2). Pending reports to the contrary, this has to be the EKD of a Montserrat postal mark.

There is also at hand an example dated August, 1795, with measurements 39mm x 3.5mm (Britnor N 1) with London receiving mark of November, 1795.

Even more exciting than this, however, is the surfacing of the hitherto unknown handstamp of the PF variety which had caused Britnor to write that "About 1800 a two-lined dated mark was introduced into most of the West Indies Colonies. So far no such marks have been discovered for Montserrat." Why the two-lined dated mark was introduced to the Colonies is explained by Britnor on pages 76 and 77.

Britnor added that "strangely enough, no postal markings have been recorded from Montserrat between 1796 and 1836, although obviously several letters emanated from that Island." Examples are cited.

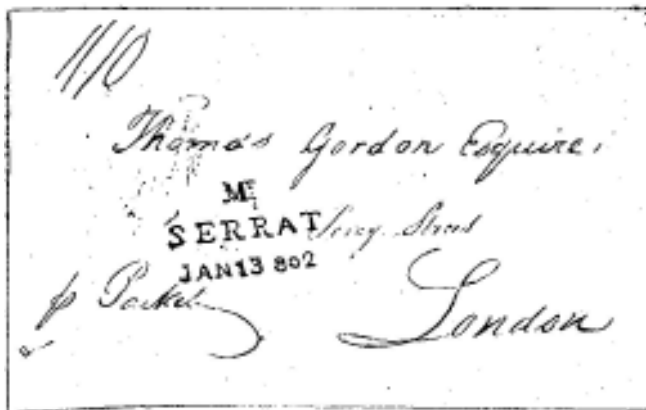
In contradiction, not one but three examples have appeared of a handstamp used during this period. One is clear PF dated December 23 1801; a second is a questionable PF dated December 25 1801, and the third is a PFb dated January 13 802.

The handstamp consists of three lines instead of two. The top impression is simply an "MT" and it is difficult to distinguish whether the "T" is large or small. The 1802 example most clearly defines the size. The "M" is 4½mm high x 5mm wide including serifs. The "T" is a block "T" 1½mm high and 1½mm wide at the top. This example shows two hash marks below the "T" with a vertical line to the left stand of the second "R" to "SERRAT".

The second line is all SERRAT, with serif letters 4mm high and 32mm long.

The third and date line is 3½mm x 26½mm long in Type PF and 28mm long to Type PFb. (See illustration).

All three examples are addressed to Thomas Gordon Esquire, Percy Street, London. The earliest of the three (December 23 1801) clearly shows the full year date, and one wonders why the second cover, dated December 25 (only two days later) should show only 801 of the year. Further examinations of the piece shows that it was handstamped twice. The first strike is an albino (not inked), and the second is unevenly inked. The first digit of the year can be seen in outline under magnification.



The 1802 example is clearly of only the last three year digits.

As a matter of record, the 1802 example must clearly delineate the “MT” part of the strike.

John M. Willem

I had originally intended to raise a query on the Montserrat 5c. O.H.M.S. overprint without the stop after the “5”, but I have now received a note from the Montserrat G.P.O. stating that this variety is common to all values and occurs twice per sheet: Row 1, No. 3 and Row 3, No. 5.

Michael Wilson

NEVIS

In Bulletin 48 Mr. E. V. Toeg gave a listing of Nevis post-marks which, so far as I know, has remained unamended. In it he describes and illustrates a c.d.s. (number 8 in his list). This is a 25mm. diameter c.d.s., of which he had only one example, dated 12th November, 40, differing from the normal Charlestown c.d.s. as follows: (1) No star. (2) Date in one line, not two. (3) Letters and figures considerably larger and thicker to the naked eye. (4) 1mm. greater in diameter.

Unfortunately Mr. Toeg no longer possesses his example, but on examining my Nevis postmarks recently I found in my examples corresponding to the above

description of the c.d.s. that the c.d.s. was part of a larger mark with the left hand portion a four line boxed slogan joined to the c.d.s., apparently reading (none of my examples has a complete strike) CABLE AND/WIRELESS/VIA/IMPERIAL.

Can any member shed any more light on this?

Richard Heap

ST. LUCIA

ST. LUCIA POSTAGE DUES

In my small collection of these first P.D's I found the following: 2d. value No. 5975. This has a stop after St. Lucia. 1d. value No. 12829 has no stop. It does not appear to be stamp No. 27 according to Simon Goldblatt's formula. 1d. value No. 11375 has a stop after St. Lucia, but no stop after St.

F. G. Fitz-Gerald

In reply to David Birley's query in Bulletin 99, page 77 a large part of Castries was burnt down during the night of 14/15 May 1927, including most of the business section and the post offices. No datestamps used before the fire have been found used afterwards, and all cancelling devices in the GPO seem to have been lost. The then Postmaster thus had the three-line device reading "Castries/St. Lucia/15 May 1927" set up from individual metal type (not rubber), and this was used from the 15th (the earliest possible date) to the 20th May 1927, and reports of any later use would be appreciated. If this cancellation was in use for only six days, where did the datestamp subsequently used come from? It is obviously London-made, and indeed was still in the possession of the GPO in 1974. It, and the datestamp of Canaries, which is slightly earlier, are the only datestamps of St. Lucia with St for Saint.

The single-ring airmail cancellation had 1st/AIR MAIL instead of a date, and thus the contemporary datestamp should also have been struck elsewhere on the item. The airmail cancellation, although with 1st/AIR MAIL, was actually used on both the first and second airmails to leave St. Lucia. These were Col. Lindbergh on his way south to Dutch Guiana (on 22nd September 1929), and the same flight minus Col. Lindbergh, which left St. Lucia northwards for San Juan, Puerto Rico, on 26th September (datestamp dated 25 SP 29). The same stamp with '1st' cut out was then used as a cachet on the envelope until at least 2nd November, the adhesive being cancelled normally. Any later date of such use would be appreciated.

Incidentally, following my appeal in the June 1975 Bulletin it has been established that this last mark exists on a front to Grenada with the date 5.10.29, but it is felt that this flight was cancelled and the cover went by sea. This leaves the date of the actual third flight from St. Lucia open. Was it possibly the second south-bound flight of Pan-Am, as a letter to British Guiana on 9 October 1929 is known although the backstamp of arrival reads 14.10.29?

Geoffrey Ritchie

ST. VINCENT

POST OFFICES OF ST. VINCENT - A NEW DEFINITIVE SERIES

On the 1st September, 1979, St. Vincent issued a new definitive series, with each stamp illustrating the history of eighteen of the “village” post offices and the G.P.O. in Kingstown. Our member Vincent Duggleby was closely associated with the design and preparation of this issue and was in fact ‘researcher-in-chief’. The map which shows the central mountain range and parish boundaries was selected from his collection.



It is therefore with much pleasure that we reproduce, with acknowledgement to St. Vincent Philatelic Services, the following article which first appeared in the S.V.P.S. paper, “St. Vincent Stamp News”. We feel that it will be of especial interest to those who are about to join the growing army of postmark collectors.

“St. Vincent’s postal history dates back to 1762, when Abraham Shaw was commissioned as the first postmaster, although it was over a hundred years later that various villages had their own post offices, with their individual postal markings. Since then, our postal services have extended to all districts of the island and today there are forty-one post offices in St. Vincent (plus six offices and two agencies in the Grenadines).

The first postmarks, known as “abbreviated village datestamps” have engaged the attention of collectors for many years and have been studied more than any other type of postal marking of the West Indies. Each bears the initial letter of the name of the village (‘BU’ - Buccament, ‘MES’ - Mesopotamia), and were first put into use on 2 December, 1872. All post offices at present have postmarks bearing their full name and some are still in service after many years (Orange Hill for 67 years for example!). This set of stamps tells just part of the fascinating history of these offices.

1c. BUCCAMENT The present post office of the Buccament valley is situated in the village of Vermont, although the original office which was opened on 2nd December, 1872, was situated on the leeward coast of the valley and served, initially, by canoe, then, in 1877, by the steamer, Pioneer. The original postmark is of the so-called ‘abbreviated village datestamp’ type, bearing the first two letters of the name (‘BU’). This first Buccament datestamp is very scarce and the earliest recorded date of use nearly two years after its introduction. The current datestamp was introduced in 1952 and is still inscribed ‘B.W.I.’, standard during the colonial period of British rule.

2c. SION HILL The post office of this village, on the southern outskirts of Kingstown, has since its opening in 1936 continuously used one handstamp, which after over forty years usage is now becoming somewhat worn. Still visible is the

'B.W.I.' inscription, which like the current Buccament postmark, is reminiscent of the colonial period.

3c. CUMBERLAND The Cumberland office was originally opened, like Buccament, in December, 1872, at the start of rural postal services in Saint Vincent, brought in under the Inland Post Act of 1872 and detailed in the Government Gazette of 10th October, 1872. The abbreviated datestamp was used until 1884, when it was replaced by one described as an extended village datestamp which read 'Cumberland' in full. The present postmark was introduced in 1957.

4c. QUESTELLES During the period that the Questelles Village post office has been in operation, only two postmark types have been used, both inscribed 'Questelles St. Vincent B.W.I.' but in different positions. The first was used from 1932 to 1956, the second from 1956 to date.

5c. LAYOUT The Layout post office began serving the fishing community of the area in 1872, from the local Police Station, and the first datestamp is of the 'abbreviated village' type. It is not known how often this marking was used between 1872 and 1874, when it was superseded with one inscribed 'Layout' in full. The service remained under Police control until 1911 when an official post office was opened. The current mark like these on the other low values in this series, has the letters 'B.W.I.' and was introduced in Layout in 1958.

6c. NEW GROUND New Ground, like Questelles, has only had two datestamps. The first, introduced when the post office opened on 1st December, 1932, is simply inscribed 'New Ground St. Vincent' and the second which superseded it in 1956, also bears the legend 'B.W.I.'

8c. MESOPOTAMIA The abbreviated datestamp ('MES') of 1872 is comparatively common, as the village is the centre of St. Vincent's most populated agriculturally productive Marriaqua Valley. The mark is known in both red (1872-78) and black (1879-85) and was superseded by a type simply inscribed 'Mesopotamia'. The current postmark bears the letters 'W.I.' a style common to most postmarks introduced since 1959.

10c. TROUMACA When the Troumaca post office opened on 1st April, 1910, there was no village postmark ready and it seems that an 18.75mm. diameter 'St. Vincent' handstamp first used in 1873, was resurrected and used at Troumaca with the code-letter 'C' until one inscribed with the village name was introduced in 1931-32. The current datestamp introduced in 1967 is also unusual in that it has 'West Indies' spelt in full.

12c. ARNOS VALE Light industrial and residential area which includes St. Vincent's national airport, Arnos Vale, was another post office opened on 1st May, 1936, and the first postal marking inscribed 'B.W.I.' remained in use from then until 1972, when it was replaced by one of the modern type simply inscribed with the village name and 'St. Vincent W.I.'

15c. STUBBS The post office of the village of Stubbs (named after a Scotsman who once owned an estate there), opened in 1872 and commenced operations with

one of the now much sought after abbreviated village datestamps ('ST') which remained in use until April, 1884. The modern postmark dates back to the abortive short lived "West Indies Federation" period (1958-59) when all postmarks introduced were inscribed 'T.W.I.' (The West Indies).

20c. ORANGE HILL The post office at Orange Hill Estate commenced operations on 1st June, 1912, and the original instrument now distorted, battered and damaged, is still in use, sixty-seven years later, at this, one of the most distant and inaccessible post offices on the island.

25c. CALLIAQUA The original Calliaqua abbreviated datestamp ('CA') is without doubt, the commonest of its kind (Kingstown excepted), and indeed its use has proved that St. Vincent's 1877 6d. yellow-green perf. 15 sideways watermark, were in the March 1877 consignment, not September as previously thought. The current datestamp was introduced in about 1933 and the 'T' of 'St. Vincent' is unusually small.

40c. EDINBORO Edinboro is situated in the northern corner of Kingstown Harbour and the post office opened on the same day as Sion Hill and Arnos Vale (1st May 1936). It has, like the former, used the same postmark ever since. The unusual feature of this handstamp is that there is a small dash below the letter 'T' of 'St.' unique to this one office on St. Vincent.

50c. COLONARIE Colonarie was one of the thirteen original post offices to be opened on 2nd December, 1872. No proof strike of the abbreviated village datestamp ('CO') exists to indicate when the instrument was forwarded to Colonarie, and the earliest recorded date of use is 24th March, 1873. The current postmark dates back to the colonial period and was introduced in 1957.

80c. BIABOU Biabou post office also opened on 2nd December, 1872 and the abbreviated datestamp ('B1') of the 1872 - 1884 period has always been quite scarce. The modern Biabou cancellation is in an unusual format, with the village name and 'St. Vincent' around the top and 'B.W.I.' at the base. It was used in 1954.

\$1.00 CHATEAUBELAIR Like Biabou, the Chateaubelair abbreviated datestamp ('CH') is very scarce and is thought to have been used concurrently with an 'A10' obliterator in the possession of the post office at the time. This was one of the larger offices serving the whole north-west of the island. The present postmark dates from 1957.

\$2.00 HEAD POST OFFICE, KINGSTOWN The Crowned Circle "Paid at St. Vincent" postal marking was registered at the G.P.O. on 30th January, 1852, and it was used for one purpose or another until 1873. It was generally applied to overseas mail to indicate that full postage had been paid through to its destination and is known to have been used as a "Postage Paid" marking between 1860 when St. Vincent took control of its own Post Office, until 1861 when the first St. Vincent postage stamps were issued and also as "Provisional" during times of shortages of various denominations of stamps. The 'G.P.O.' handstamp, still in use in 1979, like the Stubbs postmark, has the 'T.W.I.' inscription and dates back to 1958 in the Federation period.

\$3.00 BARROUALLIE The postal and revenue office of the important fishing centre of Barrouallie generally used its first datestamp ('BAR') as a postal marking on envelopes and not to cancel stamps. Cancellation was normally done in transit at Kingstown.

Barrouallie, being one of the larger villages, has had several datestamps since then, although the latest is still of the colonial period and introduced in about 1938.

\$5.00 GEORGETOWN Georgetown, the chief settlement on St. Vincent's surfbound windward coast, also has a postal and revenue office, and was also one of the first thirteen of 2nd December, 1872, with an abbreviated datestamp, inscribed with the letter 'G', which can be classed as the rarest in its category, due in part to Georgetown having its own 'A 10' obliterator, which may have been used in its place. The current postmark is in the same style as Layou and Colonaire, but was first used in 1957.

\$10.00 HEAD POST OFFICE - KINGSTOWN The General Post Office, which naturally has had a number of handstamps since before postage stamps were introduced, also had an abbreviated datestamp ('E') which was used between December 1872 and 1885 and spasmodically until 1892, generally for marking internal island mail. Various forms of Kingstown postmarks have been used over the years, the current type with 'W.I.' being first introduced in 1964."

TOBAGO

1886-89 SURCHARGES

The Stanley Gibbons catalogue implies that there was only one setting of these surcharges, a setting of twelve with the wide spacing on stamp No. 10 and the raised "P" on Nos. 7 and 10. I have evidence of three different settings of twelve on the 1/2d./6d. stone as follows:

Setting A. The S.G. setting. I have two blocks of six which appear to prove this.

Setting B. Wide spacing on Nos. 3 and 10 and no raised "P". I have a block showing Nos. 3, 4, 9, 10 and also a photostat of a block of 36 (6 x 6), sold by Robson Lowe on 25th April, 1978, which shows the full setting.

Setting C. No wide spacing or raised "P". I have a block of 15 (5 x 3) which seems to be positions 8-12, 2-6 and 8-12 of a corrected version of one of the other settings. It is certainly also a 12 setting, as the surcharge on stamps 5 and 15 in the block share certain defects of type (they appear to be No. 12 on the setting).

Michael Webster

Fiscals watermarked CA are often found with apparently postal cancellations. Was this ever authorised, or were they accepted by the Post Office just through negligence?

Michael Webster

MEMBERS SMALL ADVERTISEMENT

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

MOUNTED ST. VINCENT COLLECTION (SG 2 to 75) no duplicates. 1979 Cat. over £4,500. Details from:- Peterkin, Flat 1, Latimer Court, Brookvale Rd., Southampton.

NEWS ROUNDUP

The Study Circle has recently had bound a further supply of Leonard Britnor's book, "The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies". As a consequence of the increased cost of binding the new price for this publication will be (U.K. and Europe) £8.00. (U.S.A. etc.) £8.50.

William H. (Bill) Hart, who is one of the Directors of Argyll Etkin Ltd of 55 New Bond Street, London, W.1 has moved from Carshalton in Surrey to the Shrewsbury area of Shropshire and is therefore retiring from active participation in the Company.

Eric Etkin, Angus Parker and their colleagues in Argyll Etkin very much regret Bill Hart's departure from full-time participation in the Company, but are pleased to have his continuance as part-time non-executive Director of the Company, on a consultative basis.

Bill Hart will be operating a separate Postal History business from Shropshire, specialising in Great Britain and Southern African material. He will continue as Chairman of B.P.A. Expertising Ltd and as a Director of B.P.E. Ltd. He is, of course, President of the Society of Postal Historians.

All in Argyll Etkin extend to Bill and Sheila Hart every good wish for their future happiness and success in their new home in Shropshire.

Harmers of London announce the formation of a new associate company:- Harmers of London Insurance Agents Ltd. The agency takes over the handling of the Lloyds Stamp Collectors Insurance Scheme on 1st September.

Chairman of the new company is Mr. John R. Ward F.C.A. - he is Deputy Chairman and Financial Director of Harmers of London Stamp Auctioneers Ltd. Mr. Ward has been associated with the financial side of Harmers of London for some 40 years. His experience as a non-executive director, on several outside boards, is invaluable to Harmers.

Mr. Ray Haffner has been appointed Managing Director of the new company. He is Director and Company Secretary of Harmers of London Stamp Auctioneers Ltd. and has been responsible for the development of the Collectors Insurance business for almost 10 years.

Mrs. Christine North and Mr. George Pearson complete the insurance team. Both have many years insurance experience - George Pearson having worked in the insurance industry before joining Harmers.

NEW MEMBERS & CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We regret that lack of space prevents a listing in this issue.

CORRECTIONS

IVANOVIC, B. For Bouo read Bozo

SWETLAND, Mark. For London Rd. read Loudoun Rd. i.e. 25, Southbury, 144, Loudoun Rd., London, NW8 ORY.

WRIGHT, P.F. Fur S.W.17. read S.W.19.

B.W.I. AUCTION - No.8

Material accepted for inclusion in the Auction will be offered for sale on the following terms:-

1. All lots may be sold with or without reserve and the seller may participate in the bidding either himself or by an agent.
 2. The buyer to be the highest bidder.
 3. Wherever possible the description of a lot will include an estimate by the circle of the price which it is expected to realise, and the lot will not be sold without the consent of the seller at substantially below 75% of estimate.
 4. The Auctioneer will be appointed by the Auctions Sub-Committee designated by the Circle to organise the Auction Sale. The bidding will be under the control and at the sole discretion of the Auctioneer who shall have power to settle all disputes and to re-open the bidding in the event of dispute. He may withdraw lots or group two or more lots together without assigning a reason.
 5. The auctioneer reserves the right to bid on behalf of sellers and prospective buyers but shall not be liable for any errors or omissions in executing instructions to bid.
 6. Lots will be sold with all faults, imperfections and errors of description and the Circle cannot be held responsible for the genuineness of any lot or of an individual items therein. Where however the buyer within 14 days after receipt of a lot (or such further time as the Auctions Sub-Committee may allow) satisfies the Auctions Sub-Committee that there is a substantial inaccuracy in the description and returns the lot in unaltered condition, the sale of that lot will be rescinded and the purchase price refunded to the buyer less any costs and expenses incurred by the Circle in connection with the Sale.
 7. The Circle will have a lien for all charges on all lots sold or unsold. Payment for lots purchased (including collection charges where payment is made in local currency) shall be made by the buyer before delivery, which shall be at the risk of the buyer and shall include of postage and registration where sent by post. If the buyer does not pay for any lot within such period as the Auctions (in their sole discretion) may consider reasonable the lot may be re-sold by the Circle in any manner the Circle see fit and the buyer shall pay the difference between his bid price and the net realisation on re-sale (after deduction of commission and other attendant expenses) but the buyer shall not be entitled to any surplus arising on re-sale. A buyer resident in the dollar area must pay for lots bought either in dollars at the controlled rate of exchange with the addition of 50 cents to cover collection charge or by draft drawn on London.
 8. Sale commission charged to the seller will be:
On each lot sold: 10p on the first £1 or lower realisation, there after 10%
On each lot unsold 10p.
On each lot withdrawn by the seller, sale commission on 75% of estimated value
On each lot unsold through failing to reach the seller's reserve sale commission on the reserve price.
- These conditions apply as between buyer and/or seller and every officer member and agent of the Circle concerned on behalf of the Circle with any aspect of the Auction Sale.

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. All correspondence please to Michael Sheppard at 6 Copsleigh Close, Salfords, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5BH, England, Telephone 91 63936.
2. Do not send any material for sale UNLESS it can be sent as an ordinary letter. For all bulkier items write or telephone Michael Sheppard first to find out whether these can be accepted.
3. Stamps and postal history items are equally welcome but, in the interests of both buyers and sellers, the Sub-Committee will not be accepting material for sale unless it has in their opinion some potential interest to members of the Circle.
- 4. MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CATALOGUE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MARCH, 1980 BULLETIN MUST REACH MICHAEL SHEPPARD BY 24th JANUARY, 1980 AT LATEST.**
5. The Auctions Sub-Committee will be grateful for any specialised information which you include with your material for sale and for any personal assessment of its value, although no undertaking can be given that the Auction estimate will coincide with your own assessment. Remember that the more care you yourself take with the selection of items for sale, the better the realisation to be expected.
6. The Auctions Sub-Committee will not be responsible for the loss of or damage to items in their custody but unless you instruct to the contrary your material for sale will, if practicable, be held insured while in the hands of the Sub-Committee and the small cost will be divided rateably between the sellers.
7. Please *do not* write asking for lots to be sent for viewing by post, as the Auctions Sub-Committee are not equipped to offer this service! However, a "Xerox" copy could be sent to you provided that with your request you enclose an S.A.E. together with an additional 10p stamp to cover cost.

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