



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 120 MARCH 1984

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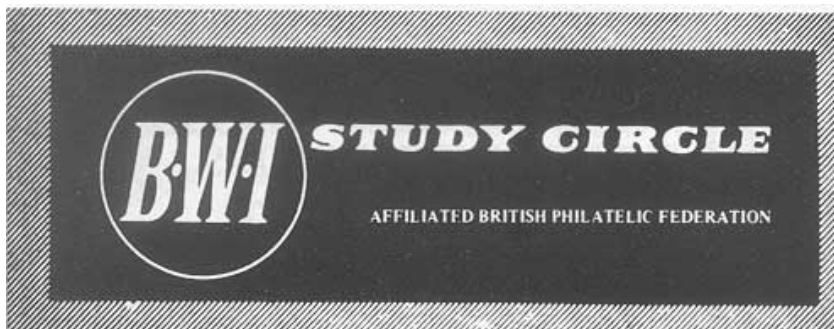
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OBJECT

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 the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways. List supplied upon 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, payable on **1st January** each year, is **£4** for members residing in the UK or Europe, and **£6** for members residing elsewhere in the world. The latter rate includes an element to cover Air Mail postage of the Bulletin and charges where the subscription is paid in non-sterling currency or by cheques drawn on foreign banks. Overseas members are requested to make payment by International Money Order in sterling, or by sterling draft on a UK Bank if possible. Cheques, IMO's and PO's are to be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle".

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PROGRAMME

1984

Thurs., Mar. 22nd 6.00 p.m. Mr. P.W.C. Burke: Mr. D.W.
Atkinson (Jamaica and Guyana)

Sat., Apr. 28th 2.15 p.m. A.G.M. and Auction Sale.

The evening meeting will be held in Committee Room A, The Law Society Building, 113, Chancery Lane, London, WC1 1PL. The A.G.M. and Auction Sale will be held in the Margaret Room, Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London. WC1 4BH.

DISPLAY

Five members and one visitor attended a meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, 22nd November, 1983 in Committee Room A at the Law Society Building, 113, Chancery Lane, London, WC1A 1PL and viewed a display with a commentary by Mr. Lionel Ruthven Ward of some of the stamps of St. Lucia.

Mr. Ruthven Ward pointed out that his display included items from all reigns supported by blocks, control numbers and varieties, many of which are not catalogued yet. Attention was drawn to various difficulties that had been experienced. Whereas the collector of a modern country can find all the stamps and varieties mentioned in a specialist catalogue; no such catalogue exists for many commonwealth countries for issues before 1952, many varieties being outside the scope of the Stanley Gibbons Part I British Commonwealth catalogue.

A comparison of stamps S.G.1 and S.G.5 led Mr. Ruthven Ward to point out the improvement by De La Rue on the Perkins Bacon printed design, and it was also noted that the ½d on (6d) green failed to adhere to the paper and several distortions aroused interest. Possibly the ink may have had the wrong composition or the paper could have been affected by the climate!

Different hues of the (1d) black and a block of six were admired as were the plate flaws and re-entries of that issue. Many of the Victorian stamps with watermark reversed were displayed. Some of these are very hard to find as most people are not aware of their existence, being uncatalogued. It was nice to see a 1d/4d brown with double overprint and the Pitons colour trial in blue and red as well as Edwardian specimens that showed the stamps in their original colours to be attractive.

Marked differences in the 1936 definitives, especially the 1½d and 1/- values were illustrated as was the contrast between the photographic rejected essay by Waterlow for the 10/- in the smaller format of the low values and the issued stamp. Modern issues were represented by both printings of the 1953 set and Statehood overprints in black, red and blue including the two Postage Dues and UNESCO stamps. Also of interest were four varieties of the Shakespeare commemorative of 1964.

Some covers were shown to indicate that the inhabitants did write letters. These inform us of the shipping routes and each cover tells how long it took to get from "A" to "B" in that year. This is another interesting aspect of philately as datestamps, cancellations and postmarks alter over the years.

Summarising it can be assured that St. Lucia provides scope for the collector, the specialist in stamps or thematics or postal history but there is a vacancy on the market for a specialised St. Lucia catalogue from 1860 onwards.

When Mr. Ruthven Ward concluded his display and remarks, Mr. Vincent Duggleby proposed a vote of thanks which was very well received.

VIEWING OF AUCTION LOTS

Members wishing to view auction lots may do so at the stand of Michael Hamilton, 27, King St., London, WC2E 8JW, on Thursday and Friday 26th and 27th April. To avoid disappointment would you please ring Michael Hamilton on 01836-0249 before calling. Lots may also be viewed for about 15 minutes immediately before the sale.

A NEW BOOK FOR THE LIBRARY

A recent addition to the Study Circle Library is "The Key Type High Values of Bermuda, Leeward islands & Nyasaland" by Eric Yendall of the King George VI Collectors Society. First published in the Society's Newsletter it has now been revised and published as Study Paper No. 13 by that Society and is, as the title implies, a study of the printings of the King George VI high values of these countries.

The study paper, which is softback, runs to 19 A4 size pages (one side only) and is available from Frank R. Huxley at "Eastleigh", 114, High Street, Leiston, Suffolk, IP16 4BZ. The normal cost of this publication is £3, but it is being offered to Circle members at a rate of £2.25 plus 35p postage & Packing.

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE
STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

for the year ending 31st December 1983

<u>1982 £</u>		<u>INCOME</u>		<u>1983 £</u>	
1,194.15		Subscriptions (Note 1)		1,199.83	
468.16		Advertising		358.75	
	458.06	Donations - Auction	400.28		
466.11	<u>8.05</u>	- Misc.	<u>15.30</u>	415.58	
60.00		Opinion Fees		1.50	
		Sundries :			
	6.80	Room Collections	4.20		
13.69	<u>6.89</u>	Postages refunded	<u>2.95</u>	7.15	
-		Convention (Note 2)		17.05	
		Interest :			
	11.43	Bank Deposit A/c	7.83		
2330.49	128.38	Building Society A/c	<u>108.93</u>	<u>116.76</u>	2,116.62
		Publications :			
		Unbound stock found & brought to account (Note 3)			1.00
-	2,381.82	Sales		378.21	
		Less costs (Note 4)		<u>228.10</u>	<u>150.11</u>
<u>791.42</u>	<u>1,590.40</u>	Total for year			<u>2,267.73</u>
<u>3,121.91</u>					
		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
	1,125.67	Printing - Bulletins	1,061.00		
1,106.72	<u>18.95</u>	Less transfer to stock	<u>19.05</u>	1,041.95	
17.00		Affiliation Fee		20.00	
169.50		Tel. & Stationery		28.99	
392.15		Postages		393.22	
30.00		Insurance		50.00	
26.20		Sundries & Travel		44.90	
100.75		Room Hire		106.00	
21.38		Library additions (net)		-	
1,864.85	<u>1.13</u>	Bank Charges		-	<u>1,685.06</u>
		Publications :			
		Binding	344.50		
		less transfer to stock	<u>344.50</u>		
		Purchases -			
	105.11	Binders	-		
	100.00	BWI Postal Rates	-		
2,968.43	<u>2,763.32</u>	Barbados P.O. Markings	-		
<u>71.93</u>	<u>2,896.50</u>	Less transfers to stock	-		
<u>1,936.78</u>		Total for year			<u>1,685.06</u>
<u>1,185.13</u>		Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure		<u>582.67</u>	
<u>3,121.91</u>		carried down to Accumulated Fund		<u>2,267.75</u>	

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

BALANCE SHEET

as at 31st December 1983

ACCUMULATED FUND

	As at 1st January 1983	£	3,377.23
ADD	excess of Income over Expenditure for the year		<u>582.67</u>
		£	3,959.90

REPRESENTED BY :

1982 £

	-	Cash in Hand. (now banked)	420.40	
	294.00	Cash at Bank - Current Account	358.21	
	111.43	- Deposit Account	119.26	
	1,200.00	Building Society Deposit	1,308.93	
1,710.43	<u>105.00</u>	Cash floats	-	2,206.80
249.32		Sundry Debtors		195.51
		Stocks of :		
	88.20	Binders	60.90	
	222.70	Bulletins	240.45	
	52.00	B.W.I. Postal Rates	10.00	
	-	Sailing Packets (Bound)	480.00	
	142.00	Sailing Packets (Unbound)	-	
	967.50	Barbados P.O. Markings (Bound)	817.50	
<u>1,932.40</u>	<u>460.00</u>		<u>460.00</u>	<u>2,068.85</u>
3,892.15		LESS Sundry Creditors :		4,471.16
	250.72	Subscriptions received in advance	170.05	
	.75	Refund due to member	-	
	263.45	B.B.Benwell & Co (December Bulletin)	273.00	
	-	Law Society (Meeting Room Hire)	12.00	
<u>514.92</u>	-	Circle Officers (Expenses)	<u>56.21</u>	<u>511.26</u>
3,377.23				3,959.90

Notes to the Accounts

- Over 100 members are in default in varying degree in payment of subscriptions.
- Income & Expenditure in respect of the Convention held in October was :

	<u>Income</u>		<u>Expenditure</u>	
Dealers Tables	£ 105.00	Convention Booklet & Forms		£ 91.50
Auction/Sales Commissions	108.62	Sherry Party		46.20
Fees & Luncheons	483.00	Coffees, teas & biscuits		38.40
Hotel Discount	14.14	Lunches		471.25
		Frame hire, badges, gratuities etc		46.36
		Surplus of Income brought to Account		17.05
	£ 710.75			£ 710.75

- When the order was placed to bind the stock of "History of Sailing Packets" the printers found a further 90 copies and these were brought to account at a nominal value. All copies have now been bound.
- The costs of publications sold includes £30 being the stock value of four copies of "Barbados P.O. Markings" supplied to Universities free of charge as required by law.

18th January 1984

S.E.Papworth, Hon. Treasurer

THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

SUB-ACCOUNTS

1. PUBLICATIONS

A breakdown of Sales and Costs (i.e. reduction of stock values) of Publications during the year, with 1982 figures for comparison, is as follows :

<u>1982</u>			<u>ITEM</u>	<u>1983</u>		
<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Net</u>		<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Costs</u>	<u>Net</u>
32.55	2.05	30.50	Bulletins	19.50	1.50	18.20
44.80	34.35	10.45	Binders	37.08	27.30	9.78
114.18	81.00	33.18	B.W.I. Postal Rates	57.13	42.00	15.13
312.23	209.00	103.23	History of the Sailing Packets	22.00	7.50	14.50
<u>1878.06</u>	<u>1264.00</u>	<u>614.06</u>	Barbados P.O. Markings	<u>242.50</u>	<u>150.00</u>	<u>92.50</u>
<u>2381.82</u>	<u>1590.40</u>	<u>791.42</u>		<u>378.21</u>	<u>228.10</u>	<u>150.11</u>

HON. AUDITOR'S REPORT

The Accounts, Books, Statement of Income and Expenditure, and also the Balance Sheet have been examined and found in excellent order. They reflect the very considerable care and attention which the Hon. Treasurer exercises not only throughout the year, but also in the preparation of the documents mentioned at the end of the year with considerable credit.

Alfred J. Branston

A CARIBBEAN COLLECTORS' CONVENTION IN 1985

Michael Sheppard is to be congratulated on his detailed and very accurate report of the Caribbean Collectors' Convention held in October, 1983. Those of you who did not attend will have been able to perceive from the report the very pleasant and friendly atmosphere pervading the Convention. I hope that the report will encourage those who did not come to the Convention last October to join the increasing band of members with their wives or husbands and all others interested in Caribbean philately at our next Convention.

The Study Circle is proposing to hold the next Caribbean Collectors' Convention in 1985. By holding a Convention every two years, instead of annually, more people will be likely to attend. A Convention held every year would almost certainly result in dwindling attendances after two or three years. Therefore, it would be a great pity to spoil something good by putting it on too often especially as so much pleasure and so many old and new friendships can flourish at a successful Convention.

E.V. Toeg.

MISSING REFERENCE MATERIAL

Some little while ago Mr. J. Hill, who lives in South Humberside, lost a scrap-book of reference material and we publish his appeal for information in the hope that it may lead to its recovery.

"About two years ago I was at a stamp fair in Lincoln in my capacity (then) as a dealer in Commonwealth stamps. The next table to me was taken by another dealer and his wife from the Oxford area. During conversation I found out that like me he collected St. Kitts-Nevis and Leeward Islands. Over the next couple of Lincoln fairs I became friendly and let him borrow my scrap-book of articles I had collected on the philately of these countries - which also included a photocopied edition of Melville's Nevis. Although he was not initially a BWISC member I tried to persuade him to join, but I don't know if he did. At the next Lincoln fair, when he was going to return my scrap-book, he didn't turn up and I have not seen him since.

As you may imagine the scrap-book, which is A4 size in a blue plastic covered 4 ring binder, is irreplaceable.

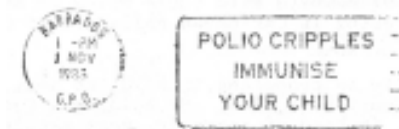
The dealer who borrowed the material is in his late 50's or early 60's with grey-brown hair and from the Oxford area."

NOTES and QUERIES

BARBADOS

A NEW SLOGAN CANCELLATION

Barbados is a healthy country which is seldom ever plagued with any of the epidemics which from time to time occur. This is due in large measure to a healthy climate, the medical facilities available here, and the care taken of the people by the Health Authorities. From time to time, the Health Authorities undertake massive immunization programmes, and they are now currently urging the young children to be vaccinated against polio. In order to bring this home more forcibly to the public, a new slogan cancellation was ordered by the G.P.O., which was received on 11th October 1983 and used for the first time on the 12th October.



Edmund A. Bayley

BERMUDA

With reference to Michael Medicott's query about proof formula cards in Bulletin 117, I also some years ago obtained an example of the 1½d card (Setting B) without stamps affixed. I have always regarded this not as a proof but as one of the issued cards which somehow "escaped", and one can easily imagine that control could never have been complete in a small colony in the 1880's. As I understand it, the ½d proof card recorded (an example of which was in the Tucker sale, although I do not know if it was the same card referred to by Holmes) is in an altogether different colour from the

issued cards, so its status is clearly established. In any case, I should hesitate to pay a good price for one of the issued cards without adhesives because of the possibility of them having been removed - although with my own card there is no sign of this having happened.

Charles Freeland

A BERMUDA MANUSCRIPT CANCELLATION

In part 1 of the Sir Henry Tucker sale (Harmers of London, 17 October 1978), lot 416 was a cover bearing the ¼d brown and ½d green values of the Ship type in horizontal pairs, each stamp with a manuscript "15/9/24//St Davids//Bda" cancellation. The cover also bore a St. Georges backstamp of the same date.

Some months later, I purchased from a local dealer (in Ottawa) a copy of the 2½d sage-green value of the same series, bearing a similar cancellation in the same handwriting, but dated 28/11/24. The cancellation on my stamp is somewhat fainter than that on the Tucker cover, possibly because the stamp has been soaked off.



Because there is no mention of the use of manuscript cancellations at St. Davids in 1924 in Morris Ludington's book, I wrote to Mr. Ludington to enquire about this. His interesting reply is quoted in extenso:

"I remember the 1924 cover with the manuscript St. Davids Bda cancellation which was in the Tucker collection. In fact this very cover had been offered to me back in the late 1930's by the same dealer in London who sold it after WWII to Sir Henry. I was a bit doubtful about it then, and never having seen or even heard of any other manuscript St. David's of this period, still have my doubts about it.

St. David's sub-P.O. had a regular date stamp at this time (Type H9b), and if the handwriting is really that of the postmaster, I can only suggest that one or two letters were handed to him just as he was leaving with the mail for St. Georges.

According to P.O. regulations, he should not have accepted them 'on the road', but if he did he should have simply taken them to St. Georges P.O. to be cancelled there.

Of course, if the handwriting is not his, and I have no way of proving that it is, then the cover and your stamp were probably made up by a stamp collector for his own amusement and profit.

In any case since only the one cover has ever been found, I did not feel it was worth mentioning in my book. I have seen covers and single stamps cancelled with the H9b datestamp both before and after the September 1924 date, which prove that the datestamp was in use.

Your single 2½d sage-green dated 28 November 1924 only shows that either the postmaster again accepted a letter 'on the road' or that the same stamp collector was again 'playing around'."

Mr. Ludington's explanation is eminently reasonable, but I wonder if anyone can shed light on the origin of these manuscript cancellations?

Michel Forand

BRITISH HONDURAS

ONE FOR THE RECORD!

Charles Freeland recently sent me a xerox of a cover from British Honduras to the U.S.A. which is illustrated below. Nothing unusual in that you may think - until you look at the datestamp NORTHERN RIVER 5 OC 27. Charles feels that this strike is worth recording, particularly as there has been some dispute in learned quarters as to whether the office existed.



GUYANA

In response to Mr. Nicholson's comments in Bulletin No. 117 p. 34, I can report only six O.P.S. overprint stamps from over 300 commercially used stamps received recently.

The postmarks are from Georgetown, New Amsterdam and Leguan Each stamp has the "O.P.S." overprint together with the "POSTAGE" overprint, although two "O.P.S." stamps are the "REVENUE ONLY" issues. The dated copies, visible only on some, are October 1982 to May 1983. As yet they have not been located on commercial covers, but I believe in time they will be found. After this lot one could believe anything!

Michael Rego.

GUYANA POSTAL RATES

In order to help with an understanding of the plethora of new issues coming from Guyana I have-tabulated, as far as I know them, the rates designed to be covered by these stamps.

Postal rates prior to July 1st 1983

Airmail

Destination	Letters each 15g or part	Postcards each	Air Letter forms	Newspapers each 15g or part
Zone 1 (West Indies)	50c	35c	40c	30c
Zone 2 (Central America)	60c	40c	45c	35c
Zone 3 (N. S. America)	\$1.00	45c	50c	40c
Zone 4 (Europe)	\$1.10	50c	60c	45c
Zone 5 (Rest of World)	\$1.25	80c	75c	65c

Postal rates after July 1st 1983

Airmail

Zone 1	60c	45c	50c	40c
Zone 2	75c	50c	55c	45c
Zone 3	\$1.20	55c	60c	50c
Zone 4	\$1.30	60c	75c	55c
Zone 5	\$1.50	\$1.00	90c	80c

Local rates

	Pre-1st July 1983	Post-1st July 1983
Postcards	10c	20c
Letters up to 20g	15c	25c
20-50g	?	45c
50-100g	?	60c
Registration	\$1.10	\$1.50
Parcels between 1-22kg (Surface)	?	\$1.10 for first 0.5kg and 50c for each additional 0.5kg.

M.P.Nicholson

BRITISH WEST INDIES

B.W.I. COIL STAMPS

Mr. D.H. Vernon's note in Bulletin 115 prompts me to offer a few additions to my preliminary checklist of B.W.I. Coil Stamps which appeared in Bulletin 112. Responding first to the two items he reports, I can confirm the existence of the Grenada 1d brown S.G.114, which I recently obtained in a paste-up pair. I am also not altogether surprised to learn of Bahamas 1d S.G.125, since in my experience those B.W.I. Countries which introduced stamp-vending machines did so in the early 1930's. I expect that someone will soon turn up the ½d value of the same set.

Going back to the original checklist in Bulletin 112, I can now report two GV issues for Barbados (½d and 1d values of the 1925-35 set). This leaves only Montserrat in the whole list which has no values reported from George V's reign. I can also report two additional perforation varieties to those listed in Bulletin 112, namely Barbados George VI 1d green with pert. p 13¼ x 13 and St. Lucia George VI 1d violet with pert. 14½ x 14 (also notified by Mr. A.D. Kinnon in Bulletin 115). I should add that I have come across a reference in the B.W.I. Philatelist of September 1956 to a Montserrat coil for the George VI 1½d perf. 12¾ x 13¼. In view of the fact that every other B.W.I. country which issued coils made only two denominations (½d and 1d, or equivalent) available, I have my doubts about this one, but I would welcome independent confirmation.

With regard to Mr. Vernon's question about the damaged perfs on his Bahamas strip, I can only speculate that clipped perfs (which are of course an endemic feature of coils) were caused either by the manner in which the strips were pasted up by De La Rue on their drum, or by the process of being fed out through vending machines. I suspect the latter, since even the modern coil stamps which are no longer paste-ups are prone to clipped perfs. The dragged perfs might have occurred during the delivery of the complete rolls from De La Rue to the Bahamas.

Charles Freeland.

THE B.16 ET AL.

In part answer to Mr. T.V. Roberts and others this T.P.O. is only moderately documented and that mostly from railway records, and there is still much to fill in.

For those who are more familiar with International Mail by Air the story of postal services by ship and rail is a fascinating one. In the heyday of shipping Plymouth was a regular call, passengers and mail being off-loaded by tender as the liner stood off in Plymouth Sound for a couple of hours or so.

Hendy records that in 1869 sorting was abolished on the B.W.I. Packets, and this duty would appear to have been taken over by the Plymouth & Bristol T.P.O. (Foreign

Mails) under the control of the Plymouth Postmaster. (C.W. Ward English T.P.Os. 1948. When did sorting cease on the Cape Packets?

French, Dutch & German vessels from the Caribbean & Central America and the Cape figured largely in this traffic going on to Cherbourg, Rotterdam and Hamburg. English ships also called with mails from U.S.A., Canada and South Africa.

The Plymouth & Bristol T.P.O. (Foreign Mails) was introduced at the end of August 1869, only operated after the arrival of the Mail Boats and officially had nothing to do with the inland postal service. The service is loosely comparable to the T.P.O. American Mail, Cork to Dublin, receiving from the North Atlantic liners that called at Queenstown (Cobh). P.H. of the first obliterator, c.d.s. and charge marks is obscure, the vertical B.16 and a c.d.s. (P - B T.P.O.) were issued to the P.M. Plymouth 10 August 1875, H.S. Wilson The T.P.O. Part 2 1975).

This T.P.O. being under the control of a provincial P.O., the use of obliterators, c.d.s. etc. followed the normal pattern of the inland service. This being so uncancelled adhesives received a B.16 obliterator with the handling mark T.P.O. c.d.s. on the reverse of the cover. When referring to this T.P.O. the identification FOREIGN MAIL should always be used as two others were running over the same railway line in 1869, namely the

1. LONDON & EXETER R.P.O. and successors (subsequently the G.W.T.P.O.) this was a Night Mail and by 1869 running to Truro.
2. The NORTH MAIL, a day mail, a feeder service to the Midland T.P.O. and its forerunners at Bristol. For a period the North Mail ran between Plymouth & Bristol and was known as the P.& B. T.P.O., but continued to use handstamps issued when it ran only between Bristol & Newton Abbot. Thus avoiding confusion with the Foreign Mail T.P.O.

The North Mail was under the operating control of the MIDLAND R.P.O. and all handstamps were issued by the Post Office to the R.P.O. Superintendent at Derby for the West of England service.

The Plymouth & Exeter Night Mail Tender (The C.24) was a feeder to the London & Exeter R.P.O. and staffed from the Plymouth Office. Theoretically this cancel could also appear on B.W.I. loose letters.

An important point yet to be determined for the P & B T.P.O. (Foreign Mail) is when did it cease to operate as a T.P.O.? There is a P.M.G. record in June 1894 for paying rent for the use of Sorting Carriages at Plymouth Docks for sorting foreign mail, (H.S. Wilson The T.P.O. part 2 1975,) i.e. a static sorting office!

Several years ago when I was living in the area, a colleague - the late Fred Gibbs of the Plymouth P.S. discovered a Birmingham Ship c.d.s. on a B.W.I. cover, I think unknown till then. This aroused Gibbs' curiosity so much that he set about tracing

retired or elderly Plymouth postal workers and discovered that the P & B T.P.O. (Foreign Mail) had been a building in Millbay Docks adjacent to the railway, certainly since the turn of the century if not before! Memory was uncertain among postal workers of the cessation date, but it was thought to have been in the early 1920's. The official reason given for closing was that it would be more effective to forward the unbroken mail bags to Birmingham for sorting there, and onward transmission by that city's extensive T.P.O. connections. So it was assumed that the Birmingham Ship c.d.s. was a direct descendant of the B.16 and the Millbay (Plymo.) sorting office. Robertson in his "Ship Letterey" gave the period of use as 1923-1937 which would fit with the above supposition. But then there is an addendum to B'ham Ship giving the E.K.D. as 1908! Is this confirmed? Did Birmingham receive bulk ship mail from other ports?

In an attempt to solve the actual working of the P & B Foreign Mail I asked an old friend and Railway Historian the late George Daniel of Bodmin who had access to G.W.R. operational manuals to check on the postal train make-up. He did so, as far back (if memory serves me correctly) to 1895, and found that all the vehicles were baggage vans. No sorting carriages.

The P & B T.P.O. Foreign Mail was a one way only, as and when required after the arrival of the mail boats. What happened to the staff and rolling stock in the sorting carriage days when it finished its duty at Bristol? The staff were Plymouth officers. All c.d.s. known to date carry the wording Plymouth/Bristol, no indication of "up or down" or "going North or South" or any coding which would so signify.

I think that any further advance in this field will have to come from our Railway friends. But of course there is the possibility that Postal Records have not been searched carefully enough.

H.Vivian Browne

WHY NOT COLLECT B.W.I. SPECIMENS?

Introduction

It always surprises me that there are advanced collectors of B.W.I. proofs, stamps and postal history who do not collect specimens of their chosen territories. In the "dark ages" before 1970, this was understandable because specimen were not considered to be respectable, of a somewhat similar status to fiscals. They were, moreover, frowned upon by aesthetes on the grounds that their origins were often dubious and it is undeniable that there may have been suspicious circumstances in the release of certain items from public records. Now, however, with specimens generally recognised as having a perfectly valid purpose related to the posts, their status has risen to somewhere between issued stamps and proofs. For the serious student, specimens (at least those issued for distribution by the UPU) have a particular significance in that they are nearly always first printings, which can help to identify difficult printings and to establish

whether certain flaws occur from the outset of the life of the plate. The purpose of this article, as that of its predecessors in the series, is to widen the perspective of those BWISC members who already collect specimens and to introduce those who do not to a possible new field.

The starting-point for any consideration of B.W.I. specimens is the "bible" of the subject, Marcus Samuel's "Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies" (hereafter referred to as Samuel). While I shall try not to repeat what appears there, it is impossible to avoid frequent reference to it and I can only advise those interested to make sure they have a copy before initial stocks are exhausted.

What is a specimen? One cannot improve on Samuel's definition "a stamp or a stamp proof which has been provided or preserved as a sample, for which no payment has been made to the revenue, and which has been defaced to prevent its postal (or fiscal) use." The large majority of specimens in existence are the UPU specimens referred to in the following section, many of which remain in official archives or have been destroyed. Other types of specimens include printers' reference copies, presentation sets and various other "products" which are the subjects of Section III. It should be realised at the outset that there are three quite separate organisations which can legitimately deface stamps, the printers, the postal authorities in the issuing country and the postal authorities in the UPU member country to which other countries' stamps have been circulated (hereafter referred to as the receiving authority). The first task in identifying specimens is to recognise the source of a particular defacement - reference should then be made to Samuel in order to verify the details.

A final word in this introduction about condition. Since the vast majority of specimens were reference copies for officials, they were inevitably subject to careless treatment and few perfect copies survive. Many early specimens were separated by scissors and later issues are often found to have damaged perforations (or worse) as a result of heavy-handed separation. Since many copies were stuck down in record books (postal officials did not usually keep a supply of hinges), some or all of the gum is usually missing. Others were exposed to damp, light or climatic extremes, or defaced with ink or crayon marks. It follows that the number of first-class sets available to collectors is remarkably small and those of average means will have to make do with a quality which may not satisfy them elsewhere in their collection. To my mind, so long as a specimen is fresh, minor damage such as heavy hingeing, pulled perforations, poor centring or light creasing is acceptable. By the same token, truly first-class items are to be treasured.

II Specimens distributed by the UPU

The large majority of specimens available to the B.W.I. collector consists of stamps defaced by the printer, distributed by the UPU and subsequently "released" by the receiving authority. This procedure emanates from the decision by UPU members,

shortly after the Union's establishment in 1874, to give free passage to mail franked with the stamps of other members and thus to end the complicated accounting conventions under which postage paid was allocated to different parties. The question naturally arose as to which stamps were valid for postage, so from 1879 onwards members agreed to exchanges for reference purposes. For the first five years the stamps circulated were not defaced (with a few exceptions such as the 1876 British Guiana set, which the British Guiana authorities saw fit to cancel locally). Many countries' stamps continued to be circulated without obliteration, but in 1884 the Crown Agents, it appears approached the Crown Colonies with a proposal that all their stamps should henceforth be defaced for security reasons. Thus, from 1884 until 1948, when defacement ceased, the first printings of all B.W.I. new issues (discounting most changes of watermark or perforation) were automatically defaced by De La Rue and the other printers before being sent to UPU's International Bureau in Berne. The issuing colony played no role in this process, although they presumably received copies of their "own" specimens from the UPU, and maybe a few complimentary copies from the printers too. The only exceptions to this procedure occurred where stocks of stamps in the colonies were surcharged or overprinted locally as provisionals or to denote War Tax. In these cases examples were often (but not always) supplied to the UPU by the issuing colony itself. Such stamps were mostly supplied without prior defacement, but in a few cases (e.g. Dominica S.G.56, Grenada S.G.47 and 109, and St. Vincent S.G.59) the issuing colony was diligent enough to deface the stamps in its own peculiar manner - and the process used by the St. Vincent authorities was very peculiar, as Samuel explains.

The type of specimen defacement applied to each of the B.W.I. stamps distributed by the UPU is set out in Samuel's listings under individual colonies (it is also possible to consult an official reference collection, but I should warn members that the collection displayed in the National Postal Museum is not quite complete and contains some duplication). There are, however, two particular aspects which Samuel does not attempt to cover, the colour (of overprints) and the positioning of the word specimen on individual stamps. As far as colour is concerned, ninety-five per cent of overprints are in black, with the occasional one in red where there might have been a danger of a black overprint not being clearly visible. Only three B.W.I. sets, as far as I can recall, are wholly in red, the Barbados 1920 Victory set, the British Honduras 1923 postage dues and the St. Kitts 1923 Tercentenary set. In some cases, the use of red is rather inconsistent (e.g. Grenada 1921-2 postage dues', the later 1½d being the only value in red). As far as positioning is concerned, laterally the defacement is nearly always intended to be central, but the height varies, apparently on the principle that neither the name of the colony nor the value tablet should be obscured. On different examples of the same stamp the positioning is nearly always regular, although there are a few cases where this is not so which must be rated as varieties and are therefore considered in section VII.

The number of specimens circulated by the UPU at various times is set out on page 33 of Samuel and the key dates go some way to explaining the relative scarcity of different specimens. Until 1886, UPU members received single stamps, so only 100 were required. In April 1886 the decision was taken to circulate specimens in triplicate which, together with the increase in the number of UPU members, raised the printing requirement to about 350. Between 1892 and 1907, members received five of each new



Montserrat pair with De La Rue D.12 overprint, issued in 1884 when only 100 copies were made.



Virgin Isles 1922 2d showing "abnormal" D-9 overprint, circulated by U.P.U.

specimen, and this was the period in which most specimens were produced (about 750). In 1907, however, the numbers distributed fell back to three and this seemed to be the optimum number as no further changes were made before specimen defacement was abandoned in 1948. In the last 40 years, the volume circulated varied between about 350 and 450, depending on the numbers of UPU members.

From 1884 to 1928 the issues for which the Crown Agents were responsible were defaced by overprint. During this period, practically every B.W.I. stamp was printed by De La Rue, the few exceptions (e.g. the Barbados Tercentenary stamp of 1927 and the Jamaica 1923 Child Welfare Set), together with the "local" specimens referred to in the first paragraph of this section, providing welcome variety from the rather monotonous De La Rue overprints. The most familiar type is Samuel's D12, which was used from 1884 until 1922. It has now been established through plating studies carried out by one of our members Mr. D.H. Vernon, that an overprint forme of sixty impressions was used to deface the standard small key type panes of sixty stamps. For stamps larger than that, very similar overprints were applied, but they sometimes differed slightly in length. Since De La Rue were very cost-conscious, it is almost certain that they used other overprint formes as well, notably for the large key plate size of stamp such as the Bermuda and Leeward Islands high values. It is interesting to note that De La Rue would have been able to use the same overprint forme for the horizontal format stamps of the same size (for example the Bermuda Tercentenary Sets of 1920-21 and the St. Kitts and Dominica George V definitives), which explains why the "specimen" on such stamps appears sideways. However, it has not been possible to establish for certain whether this was so because of the absence of varieties in the overprint forme (the broken M for example, is not found on that size of stamp). In the last few years of this period, from 1922 to 1928, De La Rue applied a smaller size of specimen (Samuel D16), almost certainly using similar overprint formes to the D12 ones.

A major change in procedure occurred in 1928 when the Colonial Office decided that specimens should be perforated instead of overprinted. One can only speculate that it was feared that overprints might be removed and the stamps used fraudulently (although so far as I am aware there is no evidence that this ever occurred). For twenty years, therefore, the printers needed the capacity to perforate their stamps. The way this was done was to use perforating machines of the type invented by Joseph Sloper as early as 1858 and subsequently employed with considerable commercial success for creating "pert ins". There is an illustration in Samuel of the puncher and plates used by Bradbury Wilkinson, which was in fact manufactured by Sloper's firm. The puncher has a long "tooth" for each hole in the configuration establishing that only one unit could be perforated at a time. Little else seems to be recorded about the perforating process, although it is possible to speculate on the basis of the multiples which survive. Specimens at this time were mostly circulated in strips of three and a few survive in pairs or strips. Blocks are virtually unknown although a very small number of 1935 Silver Jubilees and 1937 Coronation sets (the latter in imperforate state) were released from the De La Rue archives in the mid-1970's. Thus it could not have been impossible for the punchers to deal with blocks or sheets, but I regard it as more likely that the sheets were normally separated into rows or columns before perforating and passed stamp by stamp under the teeth. It is also probable that some of the rows were stacked on top of each other so that several stamps could be perforated at the same time, thus alleviating slightly what must still have been a very laborious process. It is worth noting that De La Rue used three different punches at various times, the first one being destroyed when its Bunhill Road works were bombed in 1940, and Waterlow two separate ones. The whole perforating process must have been rather costly, which would certainly have annoyed De La Rue who were very businesslike in such matters. It is ironic that after twenty years the risk of fraud was presumably considered negligible, because in 1948 specimen defacement was abandoned altogether for colonial stamps and those circulated to the UPU thereafter were indistinguishable from normal stamps.

Although chronologically the story of the UPU specimens has now been told, some very rare overprints were included in certain UPU distributions between approximately 1920 and 1922. Samuel suggest that De La Rue might have found themselves short of one or two values to make-up UPU batches and, rather than overprint a whole sheet using the regular forme, cancelled the necessary number with the type he classifies as D9. Could this have been the time when 423 specimens were required (i.e. three odd values in addition to the 420 which could be supplied from a round number of sheets)? It certainly rings true as another example of De La Rue's renowned economy. The D9 overprint was, incidentally, used for overprinting the whole UPU batch of the Jamaica 1919-21 1½d value, a very large format stamp, but this is the only B.W.I. stamp on which it occurs regularly. I may add that the very large Jamaica stamps obviously created a problem for De La Rue, because the 6d value issued shortly afterwards also has an unusual type of overprint.

(to be continued).

Charles Freeland

ST. LUCIA

ST. LUCIA UNDERPAID MAIL

I recently acquired the illustrated piece showing St. Lucia underpaid mail.

The "T" in triangle seems to be similar to the type "T3" illustrated in the Roses Caribbean P.S. Handbook No. 3. The St. Lucia c.d.s. is clearly NO 3 83 and with the Liverpool c.d.s. of NO 27 83 alongside. The handstamped "8d" is of a type known to have been used by the British Post Office at some ports about this time.



As the piece appears to be genuine it is not unreasonable to assume that the "T" in triangle mark was applied by the St. Lucia Postal Authorities, and in which case it must surely be one of the earliest known dates of use.

I should be interested to know if other members have examples of the mark around this date.

T.A. Hutson

ST. LUCIA POSTAL STATIONERY

The Higgins and Gage Catalogue and also the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Handbook No .3, give the year of 1907 as the issue date of the King Edward VII registered envelope with the embossed stamp.

Members might like to know that I have a registered envelope of this type with a clear C.D.S. of 28th April 1905. It would be interesting to know if any member has a similar envelope earlier than this.

T.A. Hutson

ST. VINCENT

Last December St. Vincent issued a set of four stamps depicting "Old Coinage" between the years 1797 and 1814 and although the subject matter is not philatelic the coins may well have met payment due on incoming letters to the Colony.

The following description is re-printed with acknowledgement to the St. Vincent G.P.O.



OLD COINAGE

20c stamp depicts a quarter dollar and a half dollar. This currency of 1797 was chiefly composed of cut half and quarter segments of dollars. On the 9th December 1797 a local Act was passed regulating and standardising their weights, and provided for their stamping after examination by an appointed committee.

45c shows the front and back of the silver half dollar, the front stamped with "SIX" or nine bitts.

Because of a scarcity of small silver coin, in 1811 a committee was appointed to examine this question. The proposals of the committee are recorded in the minutes of a meeting of the Legislature Council of 3rd September 1811. Dollars and half dollars were to have a circular piece, a third of their weight, removed from the centre, and the rings and plugs to be circulated as separate values. Because of a possible confusion arising in the distinguishing of the half dollar ring and plug from the dollar ring and plug, the half dollar coin was not cut. It was however counter marked with the value IX bitts or 6s. 9d currency.

On the 75c stamp appears the ring and plug cut from the silver dollar. The ring was stamped for XII bitts or 9s currency and the plug with VI bitts or 4s. 6d currency.

The \$3.00 stamp shows the front and back of the deficient and clipped Portuguese gold coins which were restored to legal standard of 7 dwt 12 grains (180 troy grains) for the Johannes an order authorized by a local Act dated 1st August 1798. The weight of the Johannes was to be corrected by plugging with gold to be supplied at the owner's expense and crafted by a person specially employed by any three persons of a committee of 12 appointed to see the requirements of the Act carried out. The coin portrayed was first mutilated and stamped under the Martinique Act of 4th July 1798. The A.R. Crowned stamp being now attributed to a Martinique goldsmith, Mr. Ruffy. An increasing variety of Portuguese gold coins, plugged and unplugged, occur with a number of marks including the letter "S", as shown on the stamp.

FROM THE SALE ROOM

At the Harmers of London Postal History Sale last November B.W.I. collections of cancellations were at a premium. Barbados, British Honduras, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos Islands all had excellent realisations, but St. Vincent really went to town with a collection of early to modern cancellations (139 items) finally being knocked down for £1255 against a pre-sale estimate of £70*. B.W.I. covers and EL's also did particularly well with many items nearly or more than doubling their estimates. The outstanding country, however, was St. Kitts-Nevis with 11 items, out of a total of 13, fetching from nearly double to treble the estimated price.

* Don't forget to look through our own auction catalogue as we are sure you will find many interesting cancellation lots.

Two important sales will take place in London in the near future.

At the Robson Lowe Auction Rooms at 47 Duke Street on 27th March B.W.I. will fill the afternoon with the Alfred J. Branston collection of Bahamas including original artists' drawings, essays, die and plate proofs of the present reign, as well as postal history - an 1855 BAHAMAS/SHIP LETTER and specialised studies of several issues. Barbados with scarce proofs and cancellations, Jamaica with collections 1860 - 1966, die proofs, etc., Montserrat with bisects on covers, inverted "S" and other varieties and a splendid collection of St. Vincent mint and used classics with later issues round of the day.

The second sale will be held by Harmers of London on May 1, 2, 3 at 41, New Bond St. when major British Commonwealth will be auctioned. One of the largest groups in the sale is a 200 lot specialised section of Bermuda King George VI Key Plate Type. Replete with shades, perforations, and multiples the group features a wide variety of flaws and varieties, both catalogued and uncatalogued, with many positional items. As one would expect the two most valuable Bermuda lots are both £1 values. An unmounted mint example of the £1 plum and black on salmon, showing the "Blank Scroll" variety - one of only 95 possible examples - is estimated at £400 while a corner block of four of the perf. 13 £1 violet and black on scarlet, also unmounted mint, showing the rare "White Island" variety is expected to make £800. There are a goodly number of lots in the £25 to £50 range, including varieties. Indeed the section is of as much interest to the key plate buff as it is to the average Bermuda collector wishing to add spice to his or her collection.

West Indies are strongly featured and include Cayman Islands 1908 2½d. on 4d., St. Vincent with 1869 l/- indigo mint strip of 3, 1861 imperf. 1d. rose-red and imperf. 6d deep green both with the rare "CANCELLED" in barred oval.

A ROSES CONVENTION IN 1984

Malcolm Watts reports that the Roses C.P.S. will be holding a Caribbean Collectors Convention at the Metropole Hotel Leeds on 27th October this year and that it is anticipated that this event may well be held on a bi-annual basis i.e. even years. Malcolm goes on to say that if the Study Circle should hold one bi-annually in the odd years then Caribbean Philately will well and truly be catered for.*

* See page 5 in this Bulletin.

NEW MEMBERS

- BARR, Donald A., Veterinary Research Institute, Park Drive, Parkville
3052, Victoria, Australia.
Interest: not stated.
- GREENWOOD, J.S., Stone Hall, Balcombe, Haywards Heath, Sussex, RH17
6QL.
Interest: Antigua, British Guiana, British Honduras
- LOVELL, Thomas, James, 12, Westpitts, Emberton, Oiney, Bucks, MK46
5DB.
Interest: Jamaica to independence.
- NEWS-SMITH, Ron, 628, Newcastle Street, Leederville 6007, Perth, Western
Australia.
Interest: not stated.
- RICHARDS, Simon A, The White House, Drayton, St. Leonard, Oxon, OX9
8BE.
Interest: British Honduras

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- JOHNSTONE, P.F.G., Brookside, East Leake, Nr. Loughborough, Leics. LE12
6BP.
- STALKER, J.B., 22, Latchmere Lane, Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey, KT2
5PD.

RESIGNED

- SIMMS, E.G.
CLEMENTS, Dr. R.

Advert

F.W.COLLINS

Advert

CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

Advert

HARMERS of LONDON

Advert

ARGYLL ETKIN LTD

Advert

CHRIS RAINEY

All the following items are available from the Hon. Librarian.

B.W.I.S.C. PUBLICATIONS

'The History of the Sailing Packets to the West Indies'

by L.E. Britnor

Hardbound, qto., 172pp plus Index, 18 illustrations & 5 maps.

Price, retail, inclusive of post and packing:-

U.K. £12.00

Europe & Overseas ... £14.00

A discount of £2 per copy will be given to BWISC Members.

'British West Indies Postal Rates up to 1900'

by L.E. Britnor

Softbound, 8½" x 6", 52pp, profusely illustrated.

Price, retail, inclusive of post and packing:-

U.K. £4.00

Europe & Overseas ... £5.00

A discount of 50p per copy will be given to BWISC Members.

'Barbados Post Office Markings to 1981'

by G.L.W.Clarke, S.Cave & R.Radford

hardbound, qto., 71pp, profusely illustrated. A limited number Edition.

Price, retail, inclusive of post and packing:-

U.K. £16.00

Europe & Overseas ... £17.00

A discount of £2 per copy will be given to BWISC Members.

Despatch to Europe and Overseas addresses will be by surface mail.

BULLETINS AND BINDERS

Bulletins

Copies of the Bulletin from No. 69 (June 1971) onwards, and some earlier issues are available.

Price, per copy, inclusive of post and packing:-

U.K £ 75p

Europe & Overseas ... £1.00

Binders

'Cordex' Instantaneous Self-Binders, each capable of holding 20 issues of the Bulletin, hard covers, spine entitled in gold.

Price, per binder, inclusive of post and packing:-

U.K £3.00

Europe & Overseas ... £3.50