



STUDY CIRCLE

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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN NO. 139 DECEMBER 1988

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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 the Circle library (**home members only**). Borrowers bear postage both ways.
List supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an s.a.e. (9" x 6½") - 2nd Class postage for 150gm rate required.
4. TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
5. TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in para 1 above.

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION

MEMBERSHIP - Is **WORLD WIDE** in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - The **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION** is £6 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £8 for members who reside elsewhere.

Subscriptions (dues) are payable on 1st January each year and, subject to what is mentioned below, in sterling (by personal cheque or Standing Order drawn on a U.K. Bank, a Banker's Draft, International Money Order, Postal Order or local currency *notes* - no coins will be accepted - e.g. dollars, marks, francs etc.).

Members residing in North America (Canada, USA, and the Caribbean) who do not pay their Subscription (dues) in sterling should pay by sending to the North American Representative (see above for address) a cheque for USA \$14.50 made payable to "MARK W. SWETLAND". Other overseas members who pay their subscription by cheque drawn in a foreign currency or on a foreign bank **MUST** add the equivalent of £3 sterling partially to cover exchange and bank charges. The overseas rates quoted include an element to cover postage of the Bulletin by Air Mail.

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PROGRAMME

1989

Wed. 1 March 2-15 pm The Developing Air Routes across the Caribbean

by Mr. K. Goldsmith of the
British Aero-Philatelic
Federation

Jamaica

by Mr. D.G. Pollard

Venue: Floral Room 'A' STAMPEX

Sat. 22 April 2-15 pm AGM & Auction

Venue: The Margaret Room
The Bonnington Hotel
Southampton Row
London WC1

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

The 1989 BWISC Convention will be held at the Regent Hotel, Royal Leamington Spa, CV32 4AX on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th of October 1989. Further details will appear in later Bulletins.

The Hon. Editor is again short of material for the Bulletin. As the days draw in please get busy with your pens, typewriters or word processors!

DISPLAY

It was very heartening to see so many people attending the two displays which took place at Stampex on the afternoon of Wednesday, 2nd March 1988.

Graham Bartlett commenced with a display of a selection of 128 pages from his St. Lucia collection. His exhibits covered District Office cancellations, Maritime mail, underpaid mail and numerous other items of interest. He coupled his display with an expert commentary which dealt with the following material.

The District Offices are Anse-la-Raye; Canaries; Choiseul; Dennery; Gros Islet; Laborie; Marchand (opened more recently); Micoud; Soufriere and Vieux Fort. Shown were early PPC'S of the villages together with a range of the various types of cancellation arranged according to Geoff Ritchie's handbook. Included were covers (earlier, in some cases, to modern) and cancelled stamps showing dated examples of the code letter types with Choiseul represented by the larger "St Lucia/C" type.

The Maritime section opened with an 1866 entire to New York with double c.d.s. and St. Thomas double arc transit, but with 'STEAM' handstamp on the front. This is rare usage of a U.S.A. mark usually reserved for internal mail only. Next was a PPC showing Royal Mail Steam Packet Company's office, and an 1898 cover with the company's dated oval handstamp on the reverse. This section continued with 'EDEN' on a Leeward Is. QV 1d. 'SOLENT' on St. Lucia KE VII 4d and PPC's showing 'ESK' and 'SOLENT'. Covers and a PPC and stamps showing use of Barbados boxed 'POSTED/ON/BOARD'; four PPC's showing use of the octagonal French maritime mark 'CAYENNE A FORT DE FRANCE'; a range of Lady Boat covers and various other ship markings and Paquebots.

The Underpaid mail section opened with a 1988 cover showing 'INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID/FORWARDED BY SURFACE MAIL'; a rare commercial usage of this mark.

The Postage dues followed with a 1929 PPC from UK showing boxed 'POSTAGE DUE/1d/ST LUCIA', and then various covers showing uses of the primitive 1930 types on covers. These were from Barbuda; Anguilla Valley; Antigua; Ascension; Paget/Bermuda; East End/Grand Cayman; West Bay/Grand Cayman; Jamaica; London; Montserrat; New Guinea (one of these showed an extra line of vertical perforations on 2d value); St Helena. There followed a 1938 cover from British Guiana with 1933 2d used commercially and covers with later types used from various territories. Outgoing covers showed various TAXE markings including 1902 PPC to England with a fine strike of the small T in triangle, Ritchie type T3 stated in the book as unknown used commercially.

Among the other items of interest were three pre-adhesive covers showing the double arc date stamp; 1853 and 1855 entires to Bordeaux both with red-orange boxed COLONIES/&c ART 13 handstamp; 1857 small cover to Leicester. An 1893 (slightly cut down) OHMS cover to Jamaica with earliest known use of ST. LUCIA/L/OFFICIAL/PAID handstamp.

On the night of the 15th May 1927 a fire devastated Castries, including the Post Office, destroying all the records and handstamps in the blaze. On show were an early

PPC of the Post Office, and a 19th May 1927 cover showing the temporary datestamp used for only a few days.

A 1904 PPC was shown with a new earliest known date of the temporary use in black of the crowned PAID/AT/ST.LUCIA, used during a shortage of 1d stamps. This card has a clear c.d.s. alongside of 30 April and is used to London.

The only known copy of the ST.LUCIA/A c.d.s. was included in the display. At 22¼mm it is a larger canceller than others and is dated DE 5 86 on 1883 1d carmine-rose. Five of the seven known copies of the smaller ST.LUCIA/B c.d.s. all dated JA 18 08 were shown. Because of the destruction of the records in 1927 the origin of these items is uncertain. Speculation has moved in various directions including trial types; spares which were seldom used or temporary allocations to village offices.

A few items were shown with St. Lucia marks used in transit. 1916 cover Paris to British Guiana; 1918 cover Antigua to UK; 1918 PPC Martinique to USA. Also a 1899 cover Barbados to New York with handstamp 'MAIL VIA ST.LUCIA'. (Assistance was asked for on this item. If any member knows of the reason for the mark please write and let Mr. Bartlett know.)

There were a few other items including commercial use of 1902 Pitons 2d on three covers.

Dave Richards proposed a most sincere vote of thanks to Graham Bartlett who he noted was a former Hon. Treasurer of the Study Circle and his remarks were approved by those present in an enthusiastic manner.

Malcolm Watts, who is well known to all members of the Study Circle if not in person then certainly by name, gave a display and talk on the Turks & Caicos Islands. He showed so much material that a list of the items exhibited is the most suitable way of recording the display for those not present.

He commenced with a 1764 Map of the Islands to include the South East Bahamas.

Napoleonic Mail - including: 1796 letter from Fort George, Grand Caicos thanking Sir J.T. Duckworth for the supply of two 25 pounders to defend the island against possible attack by the French.
1797 Intelligence Report - sent to Grand Caicos from W. Stubbs of Blue Hills about French Movements and intelligence in St. Domingo.
1804 Naval Letter from His Majesty's Sloop 'Snake' at Salt Cay.

1802 Document giving Questions and Answers on Salt Trading at Grand Key.

1848 Bill of Lading for Salt.

A Set of Store Tokens used to pay the Salt workers at West Caicos between 1885 and 1902.

Selection of some 15 Early Picture Postcards of Turks Island.

1867 First Issue including Perkins Bacon Plate Proof in Black on White Wove Paper, a Re-printed Die Proof in Blue and a complete Sheet of the 1/- Forgery.

1873-79 Issue including the Rare 1/- Lilac Used (only 100 are believed to have been issued without getting the 1881 Surcharge).

1881 Provisionals - a comprehensive display showing the ½d, 4d & 2½d Surcharges.

1881 Regular Issue.

1887 6d & 1/- including 1/- sheet 6d Specimen and examples used on Cover.

Later Issues including the 1d Neck Flaw.

1893 2½d Specimen and also use on Cover.

1893 ¼d on 4d Surcharges including an example used on cover to Bermuda.

1895 4d & 5d Specimens.

1900 Salt Raking Issue including 2½d used on Cover 'Per Cherokee'

1909/10 Issues including use on Cover.

1922 Double Crown Issue 6d Imperf. Pair overprinted Specimen (not previously recorded)

6d Specimen mounted on Card.

1927 Post Office Message on a Printed Stamp Order Form with a Preliminary notice to say the Postage and Revenue Issue was to be issued in early 1928.

1928 Postage & Revenue Imperf. Plate Proofs in Blue.

1928 Postage & Revenue Set Used and also on Covers.

1938 Salt Raking Definitive Set including use on Commercial Covers.

1896 Incoming Registered Cover from Jamaica to the Commissioner at Grand Turk.

1897 Commercial Cover from New South Wales, Australia to Turks Island. (unusual route).

899 Turks Islands 2d Registered Postal Stationery. Cover to Jamaica with 3 x 1d Values to make up the rate.

1900 Registered Cover from Grand Turk to Government House, Gibraltar with strip 3 x 1d plus 2 x ½d.

1900 Registered Postal Stationery Envelope to U.K. with 1/- Value added.

1928 Registered Commercial Cover to Barbados 'contents Aluminium Motor Pulley'

1932 Registered Cover from Salt Cay to Glasgow showing the use of the Straight line Registered handstamp which was transferred to that office from Grand Turk in 1923.

A Selection of more modern Commercial items from places without a Post Office including Pine Cay.

1904 Picture Postcard to UK with straight line 'JAMAICA TRANSIT' handstamp.

- 1881 Postal Stationery Card showing inter-island use to Bermuda in 1904. (1½d Card).
- 1892 Postal Stationery Cards 1d on 1½d Surcharges with ‘short’ and long serifs.
- 1920 Turks & Caicos Postal Stationery Registered Envelopes overprinted SPECIMEN and also used.
- 1933 Cover with the unframed ‘BUY TURKS ISLANDS SALT’ slogan.
- 1941 Cable & Wireless Cover.
- 1936 United Fruit Co. Cover carried by SIXAOLA, the only such cover known from Turks & Caicos.
- 1938 Cover with mixed Jamaica and Turks & Caicos Values.

Finally, a selection of World War Censored Mail from the Islands with various handstamps and labels including the only recorded example of Type CM1.

Peter Ford proposed the vote of thanks and remarked that displays of the Turks & Caicos Islands did not occur very often and it was most refreshing to see such a fine exhibit in the circumstances. He asked the audience to show their appreciation which they did in no uncertain way.

NOTICE

Derek NATHAN will shortly take over as Hon. Librarian from Steve Papworth and the Loan Service has been temporarily SUSPENDED while the Library is moved to its new home. Requests for loans of books etc. should NOT be made between 12th December 1988 and 9th January 1989 after which date the loan service will be resumed by Derek.

Members are asked to note that the top line of the address label used to send this Bulletin to you contains information of interest for the member named. The line shows the date when your current Subscription (Dues) expires, in the form DD/MM/YY immediately followed by a “+” and any credit held for the next following year in pounds and pence where such a credit exists. For example, if your label bears the line “31/10/89 + 2.00” you know that you have a credit of £2.00 towards your 1990 Subscription. If the date is last year’s but still shows a credit this indicates that the last time you paid was at an incorrect (lower) rate! In future all labels will show the current or new expiry date.

The only exception to the above is that Hon. Life Members will find the label bears “Life Member” instead of an expiry date.

The inclusion of a blank Banker’s Standing Order is purely for convenience and does not indicate any Subscriptions or Dues have been unpaid (or paid!).

On the extreme right of this line we have put the Postal Zone code to assist us in buying the correct value of postage stamps needed for posting!

NOTES AND QUERIES

BRITISH WEST INDIES

MODERN VARIETIES

The ending of the publication of the Elizabethan and Commonwealth Catalogues has meant that a number of errors, flaws and varieties of modern West Indies stamps are no longer brought together in one publication. The following varieties recently seen may be of interest.

Barbados MS. 620, the Rowland Hill miniature sheet, described as being Watermark Sideways also exists with watermark sideways inverted and has been seen both in the unmounted mint state and CTO.

Trinidad and Tobago, the 75th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Eric Williams issue is very interesting as far as watermarks are concerned. The normal 10c and 30c stamps have upright watermark. The 95c is sideways inverted, the \$5 and Miniature Sheet have the watermark sideways as normal. Two varieties have been seen - the 30c (SG 717) with inverted watermark and the \$5 (SG 720) with watermark sideways inverted. Both these stamps were found in dealers' stocks in London. It has been confirmed from the Trinidad Philatelic Society that both these varieties have been seen in Trinidad with the \$5 being the commoner of the two. In fact the 30c is described as uncommon.

The Trinidad and Tobago 60th Anniversary of Test Cricket set has the watermark sideways. However copies of the 30c and 65c have been seen in London and Trinidad with watermark sideways inverted. My information is that the 65c is more common than the 30c.

It has been noted that many dealers do not concern themselves with watermark varieties on modern new issues so there is a wide open field for interested collectors. All the above varieties were found in dealers' stocks in this country.

Pat Burke

BRITISH GUIANA

FORGERIES

Type 1 The 1860 series. The R for P in Petimusgue error.

This forgery is very well known to collectors of British Guiana. The following are held in the collection:

- 1c black
- 2c orange and deep orange
- 4c pale blue
- 8c pink and shades
- 12c brownish grey (similar to that of the 1866 issue)
- 24c green on thin white paper line perf 13, litho well printed.

Cancellations (1) an oval of bars 2.4.2.4., (2) an oval of bars 2.4.2.4. with A03 in the centre, (3) a circle 7/8" diameter containing an oval of bars 1.3.1.3. with an A03 in the centre.

Idents

- 1) The word Petimusque in the motto is shown as Retimusque.
- 2) The figures 1860 in the four corners are in oblong boxes on the forgery and square ones in the genuine.

Type 2 8c brownish pink (in the 1866 issues) of the 1860 design.

Litho well produced but the markings on the sails are inaccurate. There is only one example of this forgery in the collection. Perf 11 on two sides the others is perforated. On white paper.

Cancellation One corner only is marked with a single ring quarter circle arc.

Idents

- 1) On the genuine stamp the letter E of Postage is quite flat on top with a serif. The forgery differs in that the top of this letter curves downwards and there is no serif.
- 2) The pattern of the ornamentation in the bottom left hand corner over the VIII of the forgery does not correspond to that of the genuine stamp.

Type 3 The 1860 1c black

The collection contains 10 copies of this forgery and no other values. Litho, very cleanly produced on thin white paper.

Cancellation An oval of bars 2.3.2.3. with the figures in the middle.

Perforation Very poor, the stamps are either imperf or so badly torn that measurement is not possible.

Idents

- 1) On the genuine stamp the line of portholes on the side of the ship is very indistinct. On the forgery they are both clear and over-large.
- 2) The lines of the background of the ship are too coarse on the forgery.
- 3) The detail of the rigging is far too indistinct.
- 4) The top of the figure 8 is too small.

Forged OFFICIAL overprints on genuine stamps

4c blue (two copies) and 8c rose of the 1876 issue. The forged overprints are of the short letters type 2. All three stamps show precisely the same forged letters.

Idents

- 1) On the forgery the tops of the letters F F touch but on the genuine they are quite separate.
- 2) On the genuine stamp the letter A has both legs equally thick. On the forged stamps the right hand leg is much thicker than the left.
- 3) The letter O on the genuine stamp is of equal thickness all round but the forgery letter O has a very thick top and left hand side.

The 1852 1c black/magenta forged by Fournier

This is on a large piece of Fournier album paper, stuck down, marked FAUX by the Geneva students who made up the sheets. The details of the printing work are very poor.

Idents

- 1) On the forgery the hull of the ship is level whereas on the genuine it points upwards.
- 2) The lines of the rigging are totally incorrect.
- 3) On the forgery the first mast is higher than the third instead of level as on the genuine stamp.
- 4) On the forgery the masts are upright instead of sloping forward.
- 5) On the forgery the houses on the shore are scarcely visible.

The Fournier Proof impressions of the "Ship" stamps of 1882

The collection contains a strip of 3 impressions in blue, on the Geneva album paper of the 3 masted ship, type SG T 27. Each impression struck separately from a single die. No impressions of the 2 masted ship held.

The die for these impressions is very clear, all lines are clean and distinct.

Idents

- 1) Some of the genuine Stamps have a break at each corner of the inner frame line, others have only the top corners open. The forgery proof however has no open corners at all.
- 2) The mast head flags on the forgery are too short and of the wrong shape.
- 3) The word CENTS is set too close to the inner frame line.

Note These are proofs only. Information is desired as to whether this die was used for actual production.

The 1862 Provisionals 1c, 2c and 4c Fournier's forgery.

The genuine stamps were typeset with a very simple design for the 1c rose, 2c yellow and the 4c blue and produced with a variation of 6 differing borders. To complicate matters the panes of 24 stamps with an almost patternless variety of settings. To the collector of forgeries they are therefore a real nightmare.

The only book of size on forgeries is the Rev Earee's Album Weeds published in 1892. He saw only a limited number of each genuine stamp and his comments run to many thousands of words on the 1862 provisionals. In fact he describes in much detail some 27 forgeries of this set of stamps. Fournier undoubtedly forged this issue some 20 years after the Earee book was printed and a strip of the Fournier Album pages shows, in addition to another stamp of British Guiana, the One Cent value cancelled with an A03 in an oval of bars 2.3.2.3. There is also a proof strike on the strip. So far one other uncanceled One Cent and a Four Cents from his press have been added to the collection.

Note that the 1c are violet rose and the 4c a dull blue.

One of the original patterns, a quatra foil with 4 diagonal rays was used on both stamps where it was correct for the 4c but wrong for the 1c.

Idents

- 1) The genuine stamps were pen cancelled, the forgeries were cancelled with type A03 mentioned earlier or an arc of a double ring across one corner.
- 2) There are two significant breaks in the border at the top right hand corner.

Note The collection contains a number of the 2c yellow forgeries but none of these were made up by Fournier. It would be appreciated if other collectors of British Guiana would examine their 2c forgeries for the Fournier, as the catalogue of his wares shows that it was made.

Al Branston

LEEWARD ISLANDS

FEES STAMPS

Further to the interesting articles in Bulletins 132, 134 and 136 by Michael Medlicott and William Cornell, my own researches on the Geo.V issues of Leewards have generated supplementary information on the Fees issues which I believe may contribute to the story.

The De La Rue Day book entry for Requisition 28/13 of 4th Nov. 1913 states:-

Preparing a key die for Fee stamps £30
Preparing a key plate for Fee stamps £20

The first printing after this date (in Feb 1916) must be assumed to be the first Geo.V issue, although no specimens were recorded as being issued. The previous printing in June 1913, also Requ. 28/13, must therefore have been the last of the Ed.VII issues.

The printings listed below covering the period 1912-38 would suggest that the listing of bulletin 136 should be revised as follows:-

1. Since the Multiple Script CA watermark paper was not available until late 1920, the 1918 date suggested for the MSCA issue seems improbable. From the data below April 1921 appears the more likely origin for the 6d and 1/- values, followed by the 2/- in 1923 and the 5/- in 1925 (these last two confirmed from the Crown Agents Plate Issue register).
2. The printings reveal no £1 value on Multiple Crown CA paper. This is supported by a remark in the Plate Issue register against the £1 printing of 1929 which reads 'first time King George'. Additionally the entry is not annotated 'NWM' (new watermark), which it would have been had it also been printed on the old MCCA paper.

PRINTINGS

All printings are listed as '60 set' in the Day books to 1921 and the PI register 1923-30. However, for requisitions 1250, 571 and 635 the Requisition books state the set as '60=120'. This may indicate that the key plate was 120 set and the duty plate 60 set, requiring two impressions from the duty plate for a complete sheet of 120. Presumably it was then guillotined into 60 set sheets before despatch. I should emphasize that this is mere hypothesis pending a better explanation.

DAY BOOKS

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Requ.No.</u> | <u>Val</u> | <u>Quantity</u> <u>(sheets)</u> | <u>Remarks</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 08.02.16 | 95/15 Antigua | 6d 1/- 2/- | 104 107 105 | |
| 27.08.17 | 76/17 St.Kitts | 6d 1/- 2/- | 78 77 158 | |
| 27.10.17 | 88/17 Dominica | 2/- | 210 | |
| 10.09.18 | 74/18 Mont. | 6d 1/- 2/- 5/- | 50 50 50 21 | |
| 10.10.18 | 78/18 Antigua | 6d 1/- 2/- 5/- | 208 206 206 105 | |
| 08.01.19 | 111/18 Dominica | 1/- | 346 | |
| 05.04.21 | 12/21 St.Kitts | 6d 1/- | 28 43 | |
| 20.03.22 | 963 St.Kitts | 6d 1/- | 41 42 | |

REQUISITION BOOKS

| | | | | |
|----------|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 20.03.22 | 856 Dominica | 6d | 309 | |
| ??.08.23 | 1098 | 6d 1/- 2/- | ? ? ? | NWM |
| 28.06.24 | 487 St.Kitts | 6d 1/- 2/- | 260 105 105 | |
| 28.06.24 | 496 Antigua | 6d 1/- | 295 105 | Printed with Requ. 487 |
| ??.01.25 | 1004 Dominica | 2/- | ? | |
| 25.06.25 | 1250 St.Kitts | 6d 1/- 2/- 5/- | 260 257 260 105 | <u>NWM</u> |
| 28.11.27 | 571 | 1/- 2/- | 98 100 | |
| 09.11.29 | 635 | £1 | 104 | Secimens |
| 22.05.30 | 175 | 6d 1/- 2/- 5/- | 484 501 500 202 | |

No further Fees printings were found between 1930 and 1938. Details of the destination of some printings are missing from my later listings, where the information was gathered from the CA's PI register and Requisition books. No doubt these can be obtained from the Day books if required.

Peter Fernbank

MONTSERRAT

THOUGHTS OF MONTSERRAT

Noticing the other day, to my dismay, that Len Britnor's handbook has somehow disappeared from my shelves, it struck me how infrequently we have something to say on Montserrat.

Yet it is friendly territory for the collector: not too many stamps that are out of reach, and some pleasant by-roads to travel.

Victorian Stamps

So you can't afford the inverted 'S' (though you might always turn one up - try looking at the ordinary issues upside down to get your eye in)! Look for the re-entries instead, well-known and sought after in Antigua, but almost neglected, certainly in the case of the 6d values, amongst the equivalent stamps of Montserrat.

Or else you can play with line perfs. and comb. perfs. among the Victorian key-type issues; best seen in blocks of four, but such blocks do not come easily, you will find.

While we stay with Victorian issues, do not neglect the bisects or the fiscals. No need to be unduly put off by catalogue prices of these bisects; for they come quite economically from time to time, and one might say in all shapes and sizes and colours. The 1d bisects are found on small pieces, some possibly having done genuine postal service; some with obviously philatelic cancellations; some with suspect or plainly bogus ones, the items perhaps created from damaged original stamps. It is stimulating to spot the difference. The bisects are found on 1d CC and CA, in all shades and both perforations, divided either vertically or diagonally, by themselves, to do 4d service, or in combination with other 1d stamps to make up 2½d (as well as the philatelic horror of Siamese twins, maintaining a 1d rate). Now and then you will find a re-entry. Once in a blue moon you might find an inverted 'S' - or conceivably half of one! I spoke of sizes; for the trisected, or fragmentary divided 6d is quite well documented, though far, far more elusive. I doubt whether it will be seen, save on a cover with a pedigree as long as a Cruft's champion.

Covers for the 1d bisects are much more obtainable, a goodly proportion displaying the controversial unauthorised '4' that seems to have been superimposed on arrival in Dominica. Does this feature diminish the price or merely enhance the interest? Find a seller who takes the former view, and as the new owner, why not plump for the latter?

The fiscals come in two brands. There is the relatively common larger size 1d stamp in various shades of maroon, purple-brown or reddish brown: it is ordinarily on horizontal laid paper and is recorded on rare occasions on vertical laid. One sometimes comes across quite decorative complete unused sheets of twelve stamps, and it is not too difficult to find examples with postal cancellations. The A08 killer is commonest, but a c.d.s. is found now and then, and even the mysterious Montserrat code 'P'. The smaller revenue stamp uses the same DLR key-type as Grenada. It is an elusive stamp, though by no means as rare as Len Britnor supposed.

The unissued 6d blue-green is a genuinely rare stamp, of course. Yet you should keep your eyes open. I once found a copy in a major dealer's ordinary stock. He redressed the balance within a fortnight, by finding a similar example in a shop across the road! Which leaves another 118, I suppose, for the rest of you; and amongst them what is presumably the only obtainable inverted 'S' in this colour - but this stamp is known and well documented. However, every collectible country should boast at least one item that is unique!

You may chance upon a used example of the 6d blue-green. If so, please look at the postmark again. You will find that it is the A02 of Antigua, and that the MONTSERRAT overprint is a forgery. Indeed, it is worth taking notice of the killer postmark on less prestigious Victorian stamps: an A02 killer was the feature which drew my attention to a 4d blue forger's 'essay', where the artist had blanked out the ANTIGUA and had convincingly painted in MONTSERRAT.

POSTMARK POSSIBILITIES

The GPO postmarks that succeeded the A08 killer and the less frequent Montserrat Paid c.d.s. seem to arouse only moderate collector-interest. As it happens, one could, with modest resources and a good deal of patience, build up quite an impressive side-collection, focusing just on these strikes, all the more so because a rather higher proportion of Montserrat stamps come with clear and careful head office cancellations than of most other territories. It would spoil your research and pleasure to say too much about the various types of cancellation but here are some pointers:-

1. How many different stamps can you find cancelled with the code 'P' c.d.s.
2. How many can you find with code 'C'?
3. When, and on what stamps, do you find either a killer or a c.d.s. struck in violet rather than black?
4. How many instruments were in use in 1905?
5. What code marking was used?
6. For what purposes was the OFFICIAL PAID c.d.s. used, and over what period?
7. When was the large-size c.d.s. introduced, and when did the GPO PLYMOUTH c.d.s. succeed it?
8. Did the use of these two instruments overlap, and did the use of either overlap with the use of any other?

These questions are posed merely to get you going. There are many others that you could start to ask yourself, and begin to answer in the course of a specialised display.

An intriguing oddity is the fingerprint 'postmark'. I have noted examples both on Victorian stamps and on stamps of Geo. V, so that there may well have been a family tradition in the Post Office to use finger or thumb on the pad, when the date stamp was not immediately to hand. I daresay that somewhere there will be an example to be found on cover.

Another very neglected area relates to maritime marks on the stamps of Montserrat. The most commonly-met markings are those of Barbados, but there are many other ship markings to be found, and it should be a rewarding exercise to find examples and to work out the routes and destinations of the stamps that display them. My favourite cancellation is the seldom-seen two-line ST. JOHN'S N.B. SHIP LETTER; you may find that you prefer some of the equally decorative later marks.

Turning to air mail, Montserrat does not boast the profusion of First Flight covers that one associates with certain other colonies. This makes the few items that do turn up (generally in poor condition) all the more desirable.

No postmark collection will be satisfying which does not pay some attention to the village date stamps which began to be used in the early 1930's. None of the four strikes is easy to find, and really clear, upright examples are at a considerable premium (with Cudjoe Head, look for the violet pad, as well as the black). However, these strikes can be considered common, when set against the TRD's which preceded them. With a good deal of personal searching, I have turned up just one example, for HARRIS; and I am not even sure that they existed for all the village offices. Can someone volunteer earliest dates?

POSTCARDS

I have made no secret of my view that postcards of the territory that you collect are a welcome embellishment to a collection of stamps and covers. Here are examples of Montserrat postcards in my own collection:-

Hills Gate from Sea. Old Road River. Cocoa-Nut-Hill Hotel and Grounds. The *Landing*, Plymouth. The Treasury, Plymouth (from St. George's Hill). Commissioner's Residence "The Meadon". Harris's Village. Government House (North Front). St. Peter's Parish. Plymouth, George Street. St. George's Hill. Cattle Cane Mill. Carting Limes. Corners of George and Parliament Street. Houston's Bridge. Parliament Street looking South. Government House (East Side). North West view of Government House. Parliament Street. Plymouth from Sea. St. George's Church (Montserrat over-stamped in purple). Government Marketing Depot. After the Hurricane of 1899. Plymouth from the Fort. Parliament Street (looking North). A triplex view, showing Parliament Street, Selling Potatoes, and Hospital.

The above cards come from seven different sources. Many were photographs by Jose Anjo of Antigua; several were sold by Jas. J. Wall's Store; one was photographed by G.C. Lyon; one was from Aspinall's West Indies series; two were photographed by W.H. Irish for D. Hope Ross Ltd. The ones with possibly the strongest local links were photographed by C.E. Evered Browne who was at some time, to my recollection, the

postmaster, and who later went to live in Road-town, Tortola, I believe. It was he who produced my favourite postcard from Montserrat, to commemorate the 1935 Silver Jubilee. It contains a colourful montage of the Union Jack, photographs of the King and Queen, and a view of Plymouth from the sea; and it can, of course, be found bearing a 1d Silver Jubilee stamp with first-day cancellation. It is altogether a dramatic way to round off a collection along the lines indicated.

Simon Goldblatt

NEWS ROUND UP

The Hon Editor apologises for the three week delay in sending out the September Bulletin. This was due to the postal strike.

The Jamaican Post Office has announced that to assist the Hurricane Gilbert Disaster Appeal the four values of the Jamaica Olympic postage stamps are to be overprinted "Hurricane Gilbert Relief Fund" and each value is surcharged. The overprint will appear in a red and a black version of which equal quantities are being produced. The stamps were being released on November 11th. The entire proceeds of the surcharge of Jamaican \$9.70 on the sale of each set of stamps will be passed to the Hurricane Gilbert Relief Fund Appeal. A souvenir presentation pack can be obtained from CAPHCO Ltd., P0 Box 123, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 4WB at £3.45 a set including VAT, postage and packing.

MEMBERSHIP LISTING

New Members

| | |
|---------------|--|
| RISSONE, G. | Viale Bustichine 47/4c, 1-51016 Montecatini, Terme, Italy. |
| SORRELL, W.W. | 189 Straight Road, Colchester, Essex, CO3 5DQ |
| SPRATT, S. | 11 Cross Park Close, Bellaire, Barnstaple, EX31 4AN |

Special Interests

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|-------------|
| LEE and BWI |
| BWI |
| BH |

Resigned

PETRIE, B., VANCE, E.G.

Dropped - Failure to Pay Subscription

Bates, D., Buckner, J.M., Coast, Mrs. V., Ellis, R.M., Kerzner, T., Oldham, J.E., Payne, R.C.A., Potter, I.A., Reeves, R.J., Roberts, T.V., Werner, D., Whittaker, A., Wilcock, L., Zettle, C.E.

B.W.I. AUCTION NO. 17

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 shall 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 item 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 cost of postage and registration where sent by post. If the buyer does not pay for any lot within such period as the Auctions Sub-Committee (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 resale (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 £1.50 to cover collection charges or by draft drawn on London.

8. Sale Commission charged to the seller will be:-

On each lot sold: 10p on the first £1 on lower realisation, thereafter 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 Hamilton, 5 Winbrook Fold, Winfrith Newburgh, Dorset, DT2 8LR. Tel: 0305-853810

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 Hamilton 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 1989 BULLETIN MUST REACH MICHAEL HAMILTON BY 14TH JANUARY 1989 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 32p stamp to cover cost.

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THE OPINION SERVICE

Members are advised that with effect from 1 January 1989 the charge for the use of the Opinion Service has had to be increased to £4.50 per item. Many members will be aware that the last increase in the charge for this service was in 1980, and since then the costs of registered postage in particular have risen considerably. It is hoped that members will continue to make use of this Service which provides a valuable "Opinion" from those who may well be an expert in that particular field, and is felt to still give good value for money.

Members who wish to take advantage of this service should send the item(s) concerned to the Hon. Secretary enclosing a remittance for the appropriate fee together with a return addressed envelope, stamped additionally for either Registered or Recorded Delivery. Every endeavour will be made to return the item as soon as possible, ideally within 14 days. All stamps and covers are submitted entirely at the Owner's risk and neither the Study Circle nor any of its Members, either collectively or individually, can be held responsible for the loss or damage of any items. Members are reminded that this is only an Opinion service and does not give an Expertise Certificate. This service is available only to those with a UK address.

BULLETINS - PHOTOCOPYING SERVICE

Photocopies of Bulletins which are not held in stock for resale can be provided either as complete Bulletins or by single page extracts and all such copies will be provided on A4 paper with two adjacent (i.e. facing) Bulletin pages on each sheet. Single copy extracts which are made from two following, but non-facing, pages will thus require two A4 sheets. (Note that pagination of the Bulletin is for even numbered pages to be on the left and odd numbered pages to be on the right and this should be taken into consideration if extracts are ordered based on the "Index to Bulletins"). Copies of complete Bulletins will include all advertisements, with the front cover and back page on separate sheets.

Charges for the service (in Sterling & US dollar equivalents) are as follows:-

Extracts 15p (US \$0.25) for each page with a minimum charge of 50p (US \$1.00) (this includes cost of copying, envelope and postage). Four to ten pages at 15p per page inclusive of return postage (e.g. 8 pages for £1.20 = US\$2.00). For each eight pages or part thereof in excess of ten pages add an extra 10p (20 cts US) for the higher rates of postage incurred (e.g. 22 pages will cost 22 x 15p + 10p + 10p = £3.50 or US \$6.25).

Complete Copies £3.00 per Bulletin (USA - \$5.00). (Based on 15 A4 pages per Bulletin plus postage etc).

Postage costs are for surface mail. An overseas member requiring an AIR mail sending should add £1.00 (USA - \$1.75) for this service.

These charges are all "at cost" and are unlikely to produce either profit or other benefit to the Study Circle! Extensive copying (for 20 complete Bulletins for example) may incur additional charges and if so they will be notified to the member before any copying commences to permit any change in the order.

As this service is a private one where the Hon. Treasurer acts as an agent, all STERLING Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to "S.E.PAPWORTH", but US dollar cheques should be made payable to "Mark W. SWETLAND" in the normal way to save high bank charges to the member using this service. Any surplus funds accruing from this service will be passed to the Study Circle.

Charges are subject to inflationary changes! Before placing an order please consult the latest issue of the **BULLETIN** for current prices or details of any changes to this service.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

All the following are available from the Hon. Treasurer.

Note: All prices quoted are retail and include post and packaging. Discounts to members are given in brackets and apply to STERLING prices only. Unless stated otherwise ALL despatches will be by SURFACE MAIL. Make sterling cheques/P.O.'s payable to "B.W.I.S.C.". US dollar cheques MUST be made payable to "Mark W. Swetland" but sent to the Hon. Treasurer with orders.

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"INDEX TO BULLETINS Nos. 1-100 of the BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE" compiled by E.V. Toeg. Softbound, 182mm x 120mm, 41pp.

Price: UK, Europe (Air), & elsewhere overseas (printed paper rate) £5.25; USA (Air printed paper rate) US - \$9.50; (NO Discount)

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