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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 (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.**
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 publicist '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 £7.50 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £10 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 \$15 made payable to "BWISC". 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

1995

Sat 23 Sept 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm BWISC Meeting at HAMPEX
Hayling School, Church Road, Hayling Island
Co-ordinator for the Circle for this event: Mr C. May
Displays by Mr R. Coasby - Bahamas and Mr D. Milton - Bermuda
Mr C. May - Barbuda (time permitting)

Fri. 6th / Sat. 7th October 1995. BWISC Convention - See leaflet in June Bulletin
Venue: The Regent Hotel, Royal Leamington Spa.

1996

March "STAMPEX" Details to be announced when available.

Sat 27 April AGM followed by annual Auction.

Venue: The Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London. WC 1

Note: Due to the balloting arrangements for room allocation at STAMPEX both the venue and date for the meeting in March 1996 are liable to alteration and Members MUST check their latest Bulletin for final information. Because of the Convention there is no meeting planned to take place at STAMPEX in October 1995.

STEVE PAPWORTH - RIP.

Steve Papworth was a character - one of a kind. I well remember when we first met in early 1970 when the B.P.E. was expanding and needed a full time controller / minder. This exhibition was the brain child of Robson Lowe and the first year was only for "Philatelic Publications" but it very quickly expanded and the need for a 'Steve' became very obvious. He came for the interview and over a pint in a Thames side tavern it immediately struck me that he was the ideal man for the job. His army training was just what was needed.

A pile of records and files was his metier. In fact he never seemed happier than when he was in the middle of paper and of course, the training for Safari rallies in Kenya helped. An organised approach was his motto.

During the exhibition at Wembley and the last one at the Nova Hotel Hammersmith, Steve put every ounce of effort into the task. I shall always remember the erectors and frame staff being directed as if he was planning a "D-day" invasion of the hall. Not everyone was happy with his matter of fact approach, but it put the show on the road. Even so, with all the activities that he had to arrange, he made sure that he had a little time to spare for a supper and concert which he arranged for one or two of his special friends. As I remember the concert was one featuring Shirley Bassey who was then appearing at Wembley.

I know that he quickly took over B.W.I.S.C work for the library and membership records. Typical of Steve he made sure it all went smoothly - working as was his normal routine, cheroot in hand, late into the night.

On several occasions I phoned Steve to ask how work was going for the B.P.E. Once, late one Spring, I found out that the starter had not been pressed by the top brass! So Steve and I quickly made plans and booked the hall and arranged for the "booths" and frames to be available. As was normal with Steve, the paperwork would start rolling. He just got on with making things go.

It was the last B.P.E. at Hammersmith that really showed his abilities, for the whole exhibition was a Mini International - in fact so well organised was this show I can however say it was better than many overseas Internationals. But the effort had its reaction on Steve, he quite exhausted himself and it took some time for him to recover.

Those of us who were his friends and fellow spirits will miss him - we had great times and I can remember one occasion, a very cold snowy few days in Suffolk when a group of us were working on a catalogue. It was so cold

that ice covered the windows on the inside, Steve wrapped himself in all the blankets and carpets he could find - and - believe it or not, he plugged an electric fire into a 5 amp socket. It was on all night, and nothing caught fire. But typical of Steve's luck, he did things and got away with it - actions speak louder than words.

Our thanks to Major Papworth - we shall all remember him and miss his conversation and company.

Allan Leverton

MEMBERSHIP LISTING

NEW MEMBERS

Runge, P.

DECEASED

Branston, A.J. Papworth, SE.

LEAMINGTON CONVENTION - OCTOBER 1995

Have you made a note of the dates and sent your booking form in. See you at the show.

PHILATELIC DISPLAYS AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Visitors to the British Library Exhibition Galleries have the opportunity to see an additional display of material from the Library's Philatelic Collections. Every three months there is a new display. For 1995.6 these will be of selected stamp issues from the Crown Agents Philatelic & Security Printing Archive, showing artwork, essays, proofs & issued stamps illustrating the development of the designs. From the 2 October until the 31 December the display will feature the four designs of stamps from St Kitts for the 1991 Flowers issue, designed by Annette Robinson.

The Galleries are in Great Russell Street, London WC1, nearest tube Holborn and Tottenham Court Road. Opening hours are Mon - Sat 10am - 5pm, Sundays 2.30pm to 6pm. Admission free. The Galleries are closed from Sunday 24 Dec. to Tues. 26 Dec.

VICTOR TOEG

Our President, Victor Toeg, has recently had a heart operation. He has come through it well and is making a good recovery. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

SECURITY & INSURANCE FOR COLLECTABLES

or How to look after your Stamp Collection

Security is a state of mind. You have to realise that not everyone is as honest as yourself; ask yourself how various documents with postal markings have got out from museums; how flaws and varieties have got out from Security printers; and why there are thefts of stamps from dealers at Fairs etc.

Having accepted that there are dishonest folk about we have to take steps to prepare ourselves against loss. A collection is a personal thing, often containing items that while not unique in themselves do have a great sentimental value. Treat it as an object of value and accord it the respect and security it deserves. It will cost very little to buy good quality leaves to mount your stamps and covers. The paper should be of conservation quality, wood free, acid free, and sulphur free. Good hinges should be used and only the best mounting corners. Beware of the plastic self adhesive type which leach into the paper, stamps and covers and slip when stored vertically, the correct way. We have all seen collections that have been stored horizontally and have the stamps stuck to the page. Can I also suggest that should you be a smoker, that you do not smoke and handle stamps at the same time, for there is both a danger from the smoke affecting the stamps and from sparks causing damage. I have seen several collections spoilt from bits of tobacco being pushed on to the face of stamps and causing discolouration. It is important that air is allowed to get to the pages and the items set upon them, so do not put your albums into metal boxes, sealing them away, unless you are prepared to have them out regularly at least every four to six months and let the air get to every page of every album or stockbook. It is far better to store your albums on open shelves, and for security do not put country names etc. on the spines, rather use an alphabetic / numerical code to confuse the casual person who might be there under false pretences. Use a letter for each Country or collecting interest and then below use either a number from 1 for each album or is letter plus number from 1. If you only, say, collect mint stamps then use numbers only. However if you have a specialised collection and keep various issues in separate sections then a letter and number make more sense.

The next step is of course to think about insurance for the collection and it is far better to get specialised cover, and also often far cheaper than to insure the collection with the house contents. The scheme I run offers All Risks cover with no excess and covers the collection not only in the house but also while accompanied or while on exhibition anywhere in the UK. Cost starts at £ 5,000 cover from £ 20 pa. You do not have to get your collection valued, your own assessment will be accepted. I only need a list of single items, pairs, blocks, covers etc. if they are over £ 1000 in value when they will be scheduled and included in the value declared.

Physical protection is always needed, one cannot be too careful and so I suggest a minimum of a good 5 lever mortise dead lock on the final exit door, and either the same on other external doors, or key operated mortise bolts fitted at top and bottom of the non final exit doors. It is also wise to fit window locks, and with that level of security you can normally get a reduction in your house contents premium. I will cover a stamp collection up to £25,000 in most areas with this level of security and

can also go much higher if needed with little extra security. It does often pay to speak to me before spending out a small fortune on alarms and safes that may not be needed or are not quite right for the situation and may need changing or altering.

Valuation of a collection can be a problem so I cover for 100% of Gibbons catalogue or of any other catalogue you care to use, such as Michel, Facit, etc., or even using a dealer's selling list. If your collection is of Postal History material then Auction catalogues with prices realised would be a better guide. The cover is based on replacement in case of loss. Valuations are not required and with a £ 1000 single item limit you only need to list items over that amount if you want them covered for more. It is advisable that for all purchases over £100 you get a receipt or invoice, and it always helps should you have to make a claim if you have a marked catalogue or another list to find out what material you have lost. Remember that the onus of proving loss is upon you, as with any insurance claim. A photocopy of unusual items can often be made and it should be kept apart from the collection rather than tucked into the protector holding the item! Certainly with postal history material you then have something upon which a reasonable estimate can be given as to its worth.

We have all made good purchases from time to time, perhaps paying for the common item and then later finding it to be the scarce perforation or watermark, or perhaps a little known postmark that you discover. When this happens the value is much more than the original cost and the insurable value is at replacement and not what it cost you.

The value of a collection varies depending upon the reason for the valuation. Insurable value will usually be the highest since it is the cost of replacement and what you have to pay to get all the items you have lost. Selling a collection is a different matter for not everyone will want a collection formed and containing what you have collected. It may be that the dealer you offer it to has already got most of the material in stock and thus does not want to tie up further capital to have it lying about on his shelves rather than earning him money. Auction can often provide a way out but remember dealers are also likely to buy at auction and depending on the way they trade they may buy at 10% of catalogue value. If you find a dealer who has a ready sale for your material you may be able to get a much better price, say 25 / 30 % of catalogue value.

I hope that this short article has helped to answer a few of the problems that have been put to me from time to time and shown that it need not cost a lot to arrange both good insurance and security. Remember that while creating security for your collection you are also making it harder for the thief to get into your house for the items he is looking for - i.e. money, TV's, video's etc. Always lock your doors when you go out, even if for only a few minutes. Do not leave keys in doors, but keep them on your person or in a secure place. Do not talk about values or even collections (other than in general terms) when in public and among strangers, for you never know who may be listening. Try to store stamps away from sunlight and heat and also away from being seen from doors or windows. These may seem small things but are all helpful towards the security of your collection.

J. Barry Home (STAMP INSURANCE SERVICES)

BRITISH GUIANA SALE

This is the first time that a major specialised collection has been entrusted to the Study Circle for disposal, virtually intact. With that in view the particulars are being circulated to members known to be interested in British Guiana. The items to be sold will be by tender, although enquiries are invited for some of the lesser material.

The main offering comprises stamps with a few proofs and various forgeries, from 1852 to about 1920. Categories are as follows:

- 1 1852 4c (SG10) Much the worse for wear. Assorted reprints.
- 2. Imperf. Ship-types Proofs in black, 1c(2); 4c. Issued stamps:
1c (1 unused, 2 used); 4c (9 used); framed numerals
(3 used); sundry reprints.



- 3. 1860-75 Ship-types An extensive, specialised holding, many stamps appear unused as well as used; all carefully grouped into their printings; plate positions usually given: shades are widely covered. There are some rare multiples. Some imperf. 1c stamps are included, and 30-40 Officials (1, 2, 4c values).
- 4. Watermark re-construction Five of the seven different papermakers watermarks are near completion; Cowan and Whalman are weak.
- 5. 1862 Provisionals Exceptional selection comprising – 1c unused from positions 1, 2, 9, 12, 18, 19, 20, 23, (all unsigned), 24 (signed, but faults); positions 7, 16, 22. 2c used, positions 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 22, 24. 4c unused, signed position 4; used, positions 2, 10, 20. Assorted forgeries.
- 6. DLR Ship-type 1876 and 1882 sets unused and used
1c compound (4, used),
4c perf 12½ (1 unused, faults, 2, used)

7. 1878 Provisionals Extensive coverage includes SG.1 37 used, most unused (not 146, 147). At least 8 stamps with village codes including SG.146 (faults).
8. 1881 Provisionals Comprehensive unused and used range (not SG.151). 2c on 1 2c unused - both types in pair; double surcharge; 2c SG.158 used; missing tail to '2' on each value; SG.159 (2 unused, 2 used).
9. 1882 Provisional Wide-ranging study includes 1c SPECIMEN omitted or double; plating reconstructions; both values in full sheets 6 x 2; 1 c, lower half sheet 2 x 3 from earliest printing; 2c used half sheet, 4th printing, including SPECIMEN double.

In addition the following are less fully covered: of dollar values, other than fiscal use, only SG.189, unused and used, and SG.251, unused and SPECIMEN are present; "SG.238" used is a painted fake! Otherwise most issues complete unused, used, or both, to SG.257.



Viewing is intended to take place at the Leamington Convention.

Members who want a list giving details of the above and how to bid for the items, should contact SIMON GOLDBLATT at 39 Essex Street, London WC2.

EDITORS Note: The next article is the concluding portion of "Brief notes on certain aspects of the Postal History of Trinidad by F. Borrromeo" which was in the June Bulletin No.165.

BRIEF NOTES ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE POSTAL HISTORY OF TRINIDAD (Continued) - F. BORRROMEO

It has been known for a long time that all stamps up to 1859 were used for a value of 1 penny, despite their great variety in colour and tints of blue, red, grey, and brown that mark the first printings. Early supplies, however, at least up to 1855, were always made up of a percentage of blue stamps and a percentage of others that we may describe as being of the group of reds. The only models available were English stamps, which in those years existed as the penny red and the twopenny blue²⁴ and the intention was surely to imitate it. Furthermore, heading XII of the document drawn up for the establishment of the Post in Trinidad expressly mentions these two amounts²⁵. Heading XIV gives all the penny charges, excluding newspapers which were delivered free, and the only twopenny charge, which was for letters containing samples not exceeding one ounce in weight, something that must have been very infrequent. Finally, even if we know that Perkins & Bacon were not shining examples of commercial efficiency, it seems impossible that they should have printed stamps of two different colours on their own initiative, without any precise instruction from the client.

Then it becomes clear that the only possible charge for Trinidad, or that by far the most used, was the penny, and since the stamps carried no indication of price, they were used indifferently of their colour. When necessary, in the case of letters weighing more than a ½ ounce, which must have been very rare, more than one stamp was used.

The first stamps already in preparation by 1847, were invoiced on 21 December, shipped on 2 January, and reached the island at the end of the month. Questions of a purely bureaucratic kind, however, prevented the Post from coming into service before 14 August 1851.

I would like now to go into the question of these supplies from London and of their running out, something that made the local printing of the lithographic stamps from time to time necessary.

References

- 24 There were also the "embossed" shilling green, of 1847, and the tenpenny of 1848 though they were undoubtedly very infrequent, while the penny black had already gone out of circulation by 1841. The penny red remained current until 1870.
- 25 Bacon, *op. cit.*, gives on page 144 following the full text of 'An ordinance for establishing an Island Post and Rates of Postage within the Colony'. Heading XII states: ".. the Governor shall from time to time provide proper and sufficient dies or other implements for expressing and denoting rates or duties of one penny and two pence, or rates or duties of any other value or amounts as the Governor sees fit for the purposes herein mentioned".

The first delivery of stamps consisted of 25,000 blues and 25,000 "lilacs". Stored unused for two and a half years in the damp tropical climate they were almost all ruined. It was therefore necessary to order a new consignment from the printers who dispatched them on 4 December 1850. This second delivery consisted of 5,500 each of blues and browns.

It has been calculated²⁶ that the average monthly consumption of stamps was initially 1,250 (about 45 per day) which then grew to around 9,000 by the end of 1858, before the introduction of the compulsory prepayment to UK. Closer examination makes it in fact necessary to revise these figures. The data are trustworthy only for the period in which every letter sent took just one stamp, and of one amount only; the very rare multiple postings should not distort the figures.

The brown was the first in service, used from 15 August 1851 to the end of that December. The number of days comes to about 135 and since there were 5,500 items the average daily consumption comes to 40, equivalent to 1,200 per month. Some examples, bought probably by private individuals and used over time, are still to be found in February 1852²⁷. At the end of December 1851 the blues came into use and had they been used on their own they too would have run out by mid May 1852. It has been shown that during the period in which these two stamps were both in use some of the ruined stamps from the first consignment, the "lilac"²⁸ which today has a vague greenish-grey tone, and the blue, known to the catalogues as "deep blue", were also used, both recovered from the first delivery of 1848. These can be found for the period up to mid September²⁹, but then stocks were truly exhausted. Assuming the same average as for the others, the recovered stamps must have been about 4,800 (during 120 days) in number³⁰.

Thus it happened that on 15 September 1852, in the presence of a policeman, Pétit printed the lithographic stamps³¹. The cover with the earliest date is of 25 September. These stamps are to be found in late use up to May 1853, even though a fourth consignment of 16,390 grey stamps had arrived from London in early November³².

References

26 Marriott, *op. cit* p. 24.

27 A fortunate find of 50 letters addressed to a Greenock shipbuilder between the period 27 February 1852 and 9 August 1853 has enabled us to get a fair idea of the way the issues followed one another. All these covers were auctioned by William Carson of Glasgow in January 1979.

28 The earliest letter I know with this stamp is dated 26 December 1851 and addressed to the usual Taylor in San Fernando. It could be the same cover described at no.41 in Bacon's list, *op. cit*, p. 153.

29 Some of these stamps are known to be used in October.

30 The catalogue prices make them out to be as rare as the others. In fact, they are altogether rarer.

31 The original document, once in the possession of the first Postmaster of Trinidad, signed H. O'Brien, is now kept at the Royal Philatelic Society in London. Oddly, & the fact caused some bewilderment in the past, the document is dated 15 Sept. 1851. It says that "Mr. Pétit agrees to make, say 4000 or 5000 postage stamps.."

32 They were invoiced 30 September and used for five months with a daily average consumption of 110 (3,300 per month).

The use of both the ruined stamps and the need to print locally are explained by the failed arrival of the third delivery vainly expected for mid February 1852³³.

The period during which the lithographic stamps were used lasted about 45 days (one and a half month): a printing of 4,000 items would imply a daily consumption of 90 (about 1,500 per month), whereas if it were 5,000, daily consumption would have been 110 (about 3,300 per month). I believe that the first printing was in fact 5,000³⁴. If the printing has been of 4,000 only a second one of 1,000 items should be added, perhaps those printed on what is known as "bluish cartridge paper". But that is only a hypothesis.

From December 1852 to 25 March 1855 (850 days, 2 years and 4 months) various consignments, the fourth to the eighth, arrived in shifts, comprising a total of 176,000 stamps and making for an average over this period of 200 items a day, 6,000 per month. Basing their orders on the consumption of the moment, the authorities evidently underestimated requirements, and thus it was, that while waiting for the ninth consignment, they again had to make recourse to a local printing. But Pétit had left the island in 1853, with the result that without the Frenchman's technical skills this second printing, though using the original plate, was of poor quality and later deteriorated even further. This second lithographic printing can be estimated at 12,000 items to cover the requirements of the months of March and April 1855.

The ninth consignment, 50,000 reds, was invoiced on 2 April 1855, while the tenth, again 50,000 items, arrived at the end of January 1856, running out towards the end of August. From early May 1855 to August 1856 there were 16 months (480 days) during which 100,000 stamps (ninth and tenth consignments) were available, again making for an average of 6,000 per month. This average (equal to 208 per day) leads one to affirm that the third lithographic printing must inevitably have taken place in August 1856 and not in the December of that same year. In confirmation, I offer a cover of August 1856 (Fig. 3), which thus antedates the indications of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue³⁵ by all of six months. We would hence have a third lithographic printing, of about 25,000 items, in use for four months.

References

- 33 P. De Worms, *Perkins Bacon Records*, vol.1, London 1953, p. 349. The third consignment was to have been 5,000 blue and 5,000 red and was invoiced on 10 January 1852.
- 34 The catalogue prices for these stamps is much higher than for the normal ones, even if the printings were practically the same. This anomaly can be explained by the fact that, in the early days of philately, lithographic stamps were considered fake or bogus and hence very many were destroyed. Apart from their rarity, the price nowadays is also affected by the fact that they are much sought-after.
- 35 Marriott, *op. cit.*, p. 51, indicates December 1856-January 1857 as the period of use, giving the earliest date as 13 December. But Bacon, *op. cit.*, p. 154, in his *Stamps Printed in the Island*, had already indicated the earliest known date as 2 November 1856, a cover also referred to by C Henry, 'A Schedule of the Postage Stamps of Trinidad', in *London Philatelist nos. 440-441*, 1928.

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Fig.3

The eleventh consignment, invoiced on the first of December, available only from the beginning of 1857, also consisted of 50,000 reds, and given the average consumption, which must by then have been 6,800 per month, it will have run out in seven months, and in fact the twelfth consignment arrived punctually towards the end of July 1857. The thirteenth arrived in mid March 1858. The total stamps sold between January 1857 and October 1858 (22 months, 660 days) were 150,000. Given average consumption for the period, however, this quantity could cover the requirements of a shorter span of time only.

As one might logically expect, therefore, a fourth lithographic printing appeared in mid October 1858, in use till the arrival of the fourteenth consignment (invoiced on 26 October, dispatched on 2 November, and delivered towards the beginning of December); a period of 45 days and a print run presumably of 10,000 items.

As for the fifth and last printing of the lithographs, which came out in March 1860, the argument is more complicated since obligatory letter postage had been meanwhile introduced and stamps of higher denomination had been distributed on the island. We may presume that, shortly before the arrival of the eighteenth consignment (invoiced on 24 March and delivered at the end of April 1860), the supplies of the 1 penny stamp had run out. But the

differentiation in postage charges, the variety of denomination available and consumption - much increased by obligatory postage - make it impossible to calculate, even approximately, the number of stamps printed using the criteria employed for earlier printings³⁶.

Between the fourth and fifth lithographic printings there were four consignments³⁷, which also contained 4 penny, 6 penny and shilling stamps, for a total of 217,880 stamps. Assuming that the single stamp paid postage for just one cover, and considering the period covered, the daily average will have gone up to as many as 465 items a day, or 14,000 per month.

This tenfold increase in the initial traffic seems quite extraordinary, not least given the restricted world of the island. One should not forget, however, that the figures for even 1860 are very limited. I should like to add a further point. During those years 21 post office were in service and allowing for the fact that 250 letters a day were dispatched from the San Fernando and Port of Spain offices, by far the more important, the average for the rest of the outlying offices comes down to only a few letters, a truly derisory number, giving one some idea of how rare correspondence dispatched from those small offices in fact was.

The postal history of Trinidad, though much studied, still offers a certain interest, especially when set in the larger but natural context of archival research. An approach of this kind, one in any case matches the scope of an auxiliary branch of history, such as postal history is and should be, can provide knowledge otherwise unattainable.

References

- 36 In fact we have examples of those stamps dated from 12 March through to September, in two different runs, grey and red. Stamps from the regular source are sometimes found on the same cover with them. Their obvious period of use must have been from March to April only (when the 84,000 1 penny stamps of the eighteenth consignment arrived) and hence about 60 days.
- 37 The fourteenth to the seventeenth. Overall 175,000 1 penny, 9,880 4 penny, 23,000 6 penny and 10,000 shilling stamps were invoiced.

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY

<u>Section Ref.</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Location</u>
6.5.22	Photocopies of the Route Maps of the Royal Mail Lines between 1842 and 1875 (12 in total)	Top

Note: This classification means that these items will be located with 'Maps' rather than with 'Maritime'.

Derek Nathan

NEW WORK ON BERMUDA POSTAL HISTORY

We have been notified by the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group that they have published a new book entitled *Bermuda Mails to 1865: An Inventory of the Postal Markings*, by Michel Forand and Charles Freeland. Copies of this book, of some 120 pages, can be ordered from Cyril Bell, 4445 Riverside Drive, Lilburn, GA 30247 U.S.A. at \$20, post paid (surface). Payment should be made by cheque (made out to "British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group") in U.S. dollars drawn on a U.S. bank, or in pounds sterling (13) drawn on a U.K. bank.

REVIEWS

Having until recently resided and been a collector of Bermuda since the 1930's and had the great privilege in post war years of examining the collections of Morris Ludington, Sir Henry Tucker, George Ulrich and others whilst visiting their homes on several occasions, I consider my opinion of this new publication to be well based. My verdict is excellent.

An unusual undertaking has been thoroughly presented. This is a compilation of data on Bermuda postmarks in use before adhesives were issued in September 1865, assembled from auction catalogues and published books as well as from private collections, and listing source, date, description and identifying features.

For the collector of these covers, here is the essential guide. One can assess the quantities existing of each type, and they vary from plentiful to rare. But to qualify "plentiful", and if one is sticking out for a respectable impression on a clean cover, even the Hamilton PM4, (the Perot handstamp) appears only a few times a year on the market to meet demands for a Colony which has retained a high degree of popularity on both sides of the Atlantic for well over forty years.

The full picture of postal arrangement is well set out. Internal post was relatively simple though overseas mail was very complex, particularly to and from England and the West Indies. Routes and rates are comprehensively tabled and clearly explained.

This book is a good buy for any B.W.I. postal history collector. My heartiest congratulations to Michel Forand and Charles Freeland.

Geoffrey Osborn

It is obviously difficult to collect pre-stamp material without a reference book. For many years Bermuda collectors have been fortunate in having available the excellent book entitled *'The Postal History and Stamps of Bermuda'* written by Morris Ludington along with occasional articles (often by Morris) in various journals.

The information has been greatly expanded in this new book by the authors with assistance from Morris, with the result of their knowledge and research being combined into this excellent publication. The authors kindly acknowledge the assistance of a galaxy of foremost Bermuda collectors.

The book consists of two parts. The first consisting of information and details of postal markings. The second part includes a very detailed listing of all the known (to the authors) pre-stamp material. Not only is this information richly rewarding, it also gives much detail such as the quality of the strike and provenance. Also included is a listing of Forwarding Agents marks plus a comprehensive listing of ship sailings that is so invaluable to the historian.

The soft cover book containing 118 pages with very many illustrations is very reasonably priced at \$20 US or £13. It has been published by the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group using part of the finances provided by the late Ed Addiss. Ed was a very keen postal historian and I am quite sure that he would have loved this book. This is how a book on postal history should be written.

I have but one criticism. I do not like the cover but one must never judge a book by the cover.

Even if you know nothing of Bermuda postal history, but like philatelic books you should buy this book. It's a gem.

Dennis Mitton

ANTIGUA - S.P. is Semi-Precious!

A year or two back, Doug Nottingham kindly copied for me a small hoard of Antigua manuscript cancellations that he had unearthed. Having stoutly proclaimed that I had never seen the like, a recent ramble through my unsorted accumulations brought to light the example shown below.



The writing is typical of about half of Doug's treasure trove, there being at least one other handwriting in the group.

Lest anyone should query the "S", it should be noted that most of Doug's copies read "St. The example that I illustrate here is one day later than Doug's earliest - his latest date is 9.9.90. Possibly, though, some later cancellations showing date only are found on Leeward Islands stamps in

the other handwriting. Now, Doug suggests attribution to St. Philip, on the footing that there was an office here at the period. However, we have to think of both St. Peter's and St. Paul's, from which I certainly cannot place a date stamp at this time: would somebody please check whether these were open in 1890?

This is plainly - in two respects - a valuable advance in our knowledge of Antigua cancellations. Contributions from others on this matter would be most welcome.

Simon Goldblatt

GRENADA

Further to the varieties on Grenada KGVI listed by Hugh James in BWISC Bulletin No.1 65 (June 1995) I can add the following varieties to the list for this issue:

- ¼d. R7/8 retouch between last 'A' and frame, easily visible to the naked eye (June 1946 printing).
- 1½d. R1/2 retouch to shading above parting of King's hair (identified as 1945 printing).

Dickon Pollard

LEEWARD ISLANDS - The Sexagenary Issue



Tony Farmer's treatise on the Sexagenary issue and its many forgeries is so comprehensive that we may have concluded that there was nothing more to be discovered or learned. For my part I did so conclude, but I was wrong.

What has come to light is an unused Queen Victoria 2½d with an overprint in Violet!

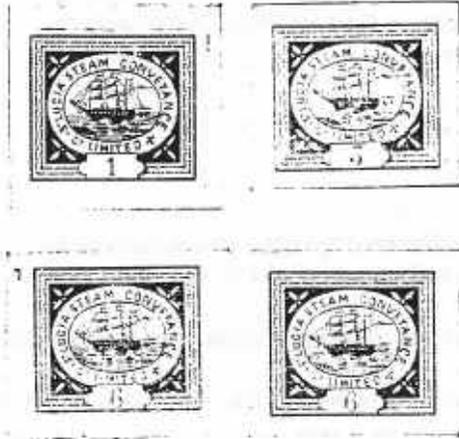
The use of Violet ink has in some degree blurred the overprint; it cannot, however, be tied in with any of the forgeries which Tony has classified, and represents a new type.

It seems best to let the illustration speak for itself, and to await the inevitable reports from members of specimens seen in red, green or blue.

Simon Goldblatt

ST LUCIA - STEAM CONVEYANCE CO. LTD.

Footnote 21 on page 46 of Bulletin No.165 June 1995 states that the definitive issue by the above company, of circa 1873 consists of a 1 penny stamp, twelve known exemplars, and a 6 penny stamp, six or seven known.



I have four unused definitive issue stamps in my collection. Using the Stanley Gibbons Stamp colour key as a guide to colour, I have a 1 penny "New Blue", two 6 penny "Bright Lilac" and a 3 penny "Mauve".

A 3 penny stamp therefore exists even if it is not known used, assuming of course that my stamps are not forgeries!

The stamps also suggest that the correct name of the sailing company was St Lucia Steam Conveyance Cy. Limited i.e. a private limited company rather than a partnership.

Ian Jakes

THE OPINION SERVICE

Members who wish to take advantage of this service should first apply to the Hon. Gen. Secretary for one (or more) "Application for Opinion" form(s). Please note that each item submitted requires its own individual form.

The member should then complete and send the form(s) with the item(s) concerned to the Hon. Gen. Secretary enclosing the remittance fee of £4-50 per item 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 members with a UK address.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The censored cover shown below is from Port of Spain to Cayenne, French Guiana and is dated 14 March 1942.



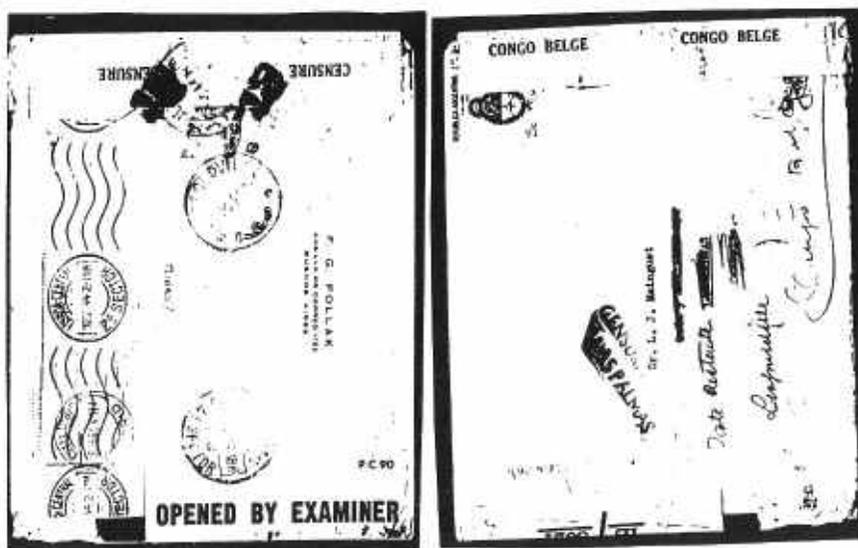
It shows the TR/1B "Passed by Postal Censor 6" and by the date of the Port of Spain postmark (14 March 1942) extends by 6 months the date of use given in the Roses Handbook *"The Postal Censorship in Trinidad"* by Brian Renshaw. The cover has additional French Guiana censorship marks as well as a Cayenne date of arrival of 21-3-42 on the reverse.

In addition, members may be interested in the following cover which was over four months in transit.

It started off in Argentine although the stamp doesn't appear to be cancelled but more of that later. Addressed originally to Las Palmas, Canaries but finally re directed to the Belgian Congo.

Stages:

1. Censored at Las Palmas though no readable c.d.s.
2. Machine cancel for Madrid 8th February 1944 including the remains of brown tape usually associated with Spain.
3. Machine cancel for Lisbon 4th Sector 18th February 1944.
4. Censored in South Africa, under label, but no c.d.s.
5. Finally Leopoldville 23rd May 1944 plus censor for Belgian Congo.



So what is the connection with the West Indies, the PC 90 Opened by Examiner IE 8021 of Trinidad thus hopefully confirming the origin of Argentina. I make this censored five times in all, it's a wonder much of the cover was left.

Can any member beat this with any other West Indies example?

Doug Nottingham

AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

BERMUDA - Commemorative Stamp Issue - Cultural Heritage II



Release date: 30th May 1995
Values:- 25c Kite Flying,
60c Majorettes,
75c Portuguese Dancers,
\$2.00 Floral Float

Design: Jennifer Toombs
Printer: Joh. Enschede Security Printers
Process: Lithography
Stamp size: 48.26 x 31.19mm
Stamps per sheet: 50 (2x25)
Paper: C.A. Spiral



Bermuda's isolated geographical position has by no means hampered the emergence of a rich, diverse, significant and colourful culture. Bermuda's cultural roots are influenced by strong British and constitutional ties. However, through trade, travel, economic growth, the tourist industry, the electronic and print media the impact upon the culture has been considerable.



It therefore mirrors a host of other cultures. Fortunately, some traditions have remained intact and have helped to preserve the Island's cultural identity.

Included among the preservers of Bermuda's cultural heritage and traditions, and depicted in this new stamp issue, are the Kite Flyers, the Majorette Troupes, the Portuguese Folk Dancers and the Floats seen at the Annual Bermuda Day Parade.

MATERIAL FOR BULLETIN

Material is URGENTLY required for the December and all future bulletins.

Advert

Murray Payne Ltd

RATES FOR ADVERTISERS

The rates for adverts are as follows:

Half page - £12-50 Full page - £20-00
Back page - £25-00 Centre spread - £40-00
Artwork and special plates will be charged extra.

MATERIAL FOR BULLETIN

Material is urgently required for the December issue and all future bulletins.

Advert

HARMERS of LONDON