

ISSN 0953 - 8720



STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 169 JUNE 1996

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation

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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

1996

Saturday 14 Sept 10.30am-5.30pm. WIPEX.

Venue: The Bonnington Hotel, Southampton Row, London. WC 1
(See next page)

Saturday 30 Nov ABPS - Newcastle '96.

Venue: Details in September Bulletin.

1997

Saturday 26 April 2.15 p.m. AGM followed by annual Auction.

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

WIPEX

BONNINGTON HOTEL 14 SEPTEMBER 1996

Meeting organised by the B.W.I. Study Circle. Open to all collectors of West Indies

**Expertisation service.
Fixed display.
Auction.
Dealers tables.**

Open from 10.30am to 5.30pm

This is the second West Indies Philatelic Exhibition to be held. The last was in February 1994 to celebrate the 40th Birthday of the BWISC. This was so successful that was decided to hold similar exhibitions on alternate years to the Leamington convention for the future.

Events will be similar to last time.

Stephen Sharp will organise a fixed display of West Indies rarities.

There will be a members table of material for sale.

The society's publications and other West Indies philatelic literature will be available for purchase.

It is hoped that Simon Goldblatt will preside over a live expertisation service. A chance for you to bring along all your doubtful rarities and watch the experts argue.

Dealers from around the world will bring their W.I. stock.

Pennymead Auctions will hold a special sale of West Indies featuring a number of collections formed by members and former members of the Circle. Members may write for a complimentary copy of the catalogue to:- David Druett, 1 Brewerton St., Knaresborough, HG5 8AZ.

It is hoped a number of overseas members will be able to attend as the event is timed to coincide with STAMPEX which starts on the following Wednesday.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the British West Indies Study Circle was held at The Bonnington Hotel, London, on Saturday 27th April 1996 at 2.15pm.

The meeting was opened by Mr E V Toeg, the President, who extended a warm welcome to the 26 members present. Apologies for absence were received from Sir John B. Marriott, Messrs P. Jaffé, D. Charlesworth and R. Swarbrick.

The minutes of the previous meeting on 22nd April 1995 as published in the June 1995 Bulletin were taken as read and, with the approval of the meeting, were signed by the President.

1. Report by the Hon. General Secretary. Mr. Nicholson opened by stating that he felt it was to the delight of all present that our President was able to be with us after his serious illness, to which all members present agreed. It was said that the two superb displays arranged by Mr. Toeg before his operation had helped to make the Leamington Convention a success. The room at STAMPEX and the two excellent displays there were also felt to have been a success, having regard to the special circumstances of that event.

Mr. Nicholson then mentioned the plans in hand for the autumn, and the increasing attention of the Circle to publications in the pipeline. He then took great pleasure in informing the meeting that the Committee had earlier that day voted that the Gilbert W. Collett Memorial Trophy for 1994 and 1995 be awarded to our President for his book "DOMINICA - Postal History, Stamps and Postal Stationery to 1935" and on behalf of the Committee presented the Trophy to Victor Toeg - the meeting showed appreciation in the usual manner.

2. Report by the Hon. Membership Secretary. Mr. Sharpe reported on the number of current paid-up members (up to the end of March 1996) but stated that it was unlikely that this number would be maintained throughout 1996.

A new list of members is in the course of preparation and it was hoped that this would be distributed with the March 1997 Bulletin.

3. Report by the Hon. Editor. (In his absence Mr. Charlesworth's report was read by the Hon. General Secretary) It was said that overall the production of the Bulletin had progressed quite well, new sources of material had come forward and much help had been received for which he expressed thanks. A change in the mailing arrangements of overseas Bulletins, at no extra cost, had overcome a problem which had been evident in that area.
4. Report by the Hon. Treasurer. Mr. May said that he had nothing dramatic to report - the Accounts were published in the March 1996 Bulletin and showed Income steady, a small surplus from the 1995 Convention and expenditure reduced (by the non-recurrence of the 40th Anniversary costs and the promotion of 'DOMINICA' in 1994). Good work on the publications front had brought further revenue.

5. Report by the Hon. Librarian. During 1995 there had been 23 borrowings in which 131 items were borrowed. Books, papers, articles and auction catalogues have been added where they have relevance to members' interests.

It is particularly requested that specialist members should bear the Library in mind when pursuing their interests. It is felt that they are more likely to notice items of relevance concerning their speciality than someone without that knowledge.

6. Report by the Hon. Public Relations Officer. Mr. Ford stated that the last year had been successful with regard to the sale of BWISC Publications with a turnover of just over £2100. Our main publication "DOMINICA" sold 27 copies, 'BARBADOS' sold 9 copies, "LEEWARDS" 2, and the "Index to the Bulletin" 3 copies. The promotion of the past issues of the Bulletin was successful, depleting my stock by just under 1500 copies. We have also sold 40 Cordex Binders.

With regards to the future, we are in the process of producing an "ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF JAMAICAN PHILATELY". This will be a vast undertaking covering postage stamps, revenue stamps, postal stationery, military mail, airmail, postal markings and postcards. It will be issued in a loose-leaf format to allow updates to be issued as new information comes to hand. The first part will be on postage stamps and the authors are Steve Jarvis and Derek Sutcliffe who will be in overall control of the whole project. We hope to publish the first part in about a years time.

Another publication with which we are involved is Sir John Marriott's "TRINIDAD" which will be a rerun of his 1963 publication expanded to include all Trinidad issues to 1909 prior to the Trinidad and Tobago issues. With luck, this will be published in 1998.

With all this work in publications, I am afraid that I have let the Public Relations side lapse somewhat and have asked the Committee to consider my resignation from this post.

7. Report by the Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Toeg reported the activities of the Committee during the year to the meeting. He also referred to WIPEX (fixed for 14th September 1996), the ABPS meeting at Newcastle upon Tyne (fixed for 30th November 1996), the need for a new Hon. General Secretary, the change in Mr. Fords duties and the need for a new Public Relations Officer, all of which will be dealt with in detail in future Bulletins.
8. The reports detailed above were approved en bloc on the proposal of Mr. Wilson seconded by Mr. Freeland (nem. con.).
9. Election of the Officers and Committee. The president said that there were no other nominations and that the President, the Vice Presidents, Hon. Officers (except Public Relations Officer), Messrs. S. Goldblatt, M. Hamilton, D. Mitton and M. Wilson were considered to be re-elected en bloc.
10. Election of Hon. Publications Officer. It was resolved on the proposal of Mr. Goldblatt and seconded by Mr. May that Mr. Peter C. Ford be appointed as Hon. Publications Officer.

11. Election of Hon. Auditor. It was resolved on the proposal of Mr. Ford and seconded by Mr. Nicholson that Mr. Farmer, who had indicated his willingness to serve, be reappointed Hon. Auditor. Mr. May expressed his thanks to Mr. Farmer for valuable help and advice over the past year.
12. Programme for 1996/97. Reference has already been made to WIPEX and Newcastle later this year. The first STAMPEX of 1997 is fixed for January and the Committee have decided to hold a Convention in Leamington later in 1997, at a date to be advised.
13. The Annual General Meeting for 1997 will be held on 26th April 1997.
14. There being no other business the President thanked the members present for their support and declared the meeting closed.

1996 AUCTION AND SALES REPORT

It was with a mixture of trepidation and confidence that the Circle made arrangements during 1995 to disperse a major collection of British Guiana built up by one of our members. This is not a responsibility to undertake lightly. Although our members share between them deep specialized knowledge and outstanding holdings in that territory, one cannot match the world-wide market of an international commercial auction house within an enclosed membership: the seller's interest had to be carefully protected.

We chose the route of sale by tender, with valuation guidelines, for the sale of the plums of the collection, reserving the ultimate discretion to reduce any individual tender bid. We did not wish, neither did the seller, to see realisations which, in places, were out of scale with the rest. In the event we exercised our discretion once. There were competing bids for almost all the best items in our tender list; and when we closed our book at the Leamington Convention, our minimum acceptable figure (a self-imposed target of £5,000) had been beaten by about 75%.

Taking together the 1995 auction, continuing sales, the tender procedures, and the sales at the members' table at Leamington, total realisations for the calendar year reached about £20,000. We let that figure speak for itself. The increment to Circle funds has been considerable.

The major demand of our British Guiana collection was for the 1862 provisionals, with most individual stamps reaching three figures, and one, £500. The watermarked section of the ship types realised £550 and in most cases our guides to value were endorsed by the offers received. No tender bids were rejected. No item sold for a price which was absurdly low. Multiples, the 1878, 1881 and 1882 provisionals were all well supported; and we believe that the Circle's firm policy of striking the right balance between buyers and sellers has been implemented once again.

Much appreciated, too, was the invitation to plunder the rest of the collection for plated copies of the Waterflow issues and other 'goodies', all individually priced. We had three volumes of British Guiana postmarks to work with as well, and several members went away with much-wanted trophies, sensibly priced.

The 1996 auction might have proved an anti-climax. It did not. The number of postal bidders and bidders attending reached 90 - almost as high as in any previous year: and the sale total was £8,051 -50, which has not happened since recession began.

This said, sales were steady on the whole, not spectacular, with only an occasional flurry of really competitive bidding. The first outbreak was lot 12, Antigua's slanting 2, which reached a comfortable £70. The satisfied vendor confided to us that it was acquired as normal in South America: travel broadens the mind and sometimes deepens the pocket.

Otherwise Antigua was flat, with 15 lots out of 25 unsold - not a promising start. Bahamas did not do much better, 14 unsold out of 26, but the 1798 entire, lot 31, made £70 against its estimate of £44; and those who watch the market would see a similar trend for each of our earlier, character covers. Lot 126 (Br. Guiana) produced £48 (est. £35); lot 140, tattered as it was, went for £54 (est. £32); Jamaica's lot 242 justified its estimate of £48 with £54; and at £100 the two entires of lot 387 more than doubled a similar estimate.

Barbados seldom disappoints, and only 7 lots out of 41 failed to find a buyer. Nothing sensational: just a hint, as where lot 67 which fetched £22 against est. £10, that buyers are becoming selective and sophisticated about the parish postmarks. Numeral postmarks in Bermuda proved more attractive than in previous years: the '18' of lot 110 was not easy to value, and the £44 that it realised was comforting confirmation of our £36 assessment.

There was heavyweight material in British Guiana; almost all found a buyer. The theory that straightforward stamps do not sell, falls to the ground when the stamps are rare. All the better 1862 provisionals were sold and the best of these, lot 139, at £330 sold at exactly one bid above its estimate. At this level it is gratifying to get our valuations right. The same may be said of our other rarity, lot 460 of Virgin Islands, where a realisation of one bid above estimate showed valuer and buyers on just the same wavelength. It is not a straightforward exercise: the British Guiana stamp was estimated at about 19% of cat. price, the other at 36%.

The two illustrated items from British Honduras made their money; underpaid cover to Guinea Grass, £90; Seine Bight TRD an impressive £54. Lot 204 (Dominica, est.32) sold at £58, showing what postal stationery can achieve when you see the right item. Grenada kicked off well, with the early 'B' going for £56 (est. £40) then suddenly things went flat again - 36 lots from Grenada and Jamaica being offered, barely a quarter finding a new home. At this point, just beyond the halfway mark the auction picked itself off the floor and there was consistently good selling through to the end. Noteworthy items were the HMS Danae ephemera £25 (lot 271, est. £15); the intriguing Montserrat 1d block, lot 317 at £58 (est. £36); lot 372 with its EDEN

mark at £65 (est. £40). St. Vincent postmarks were healthy as always; the literature section was in demand, and the catalogues that did not sell at the time have almost sold out since.

If we had to pick the sleeper of the sale, it was lot 328, the postcard with censor markings. We did not take the owner's £10 valuation seriously, but even we were surprised when the realisation of £42 left the £18 estimate so far behind.

Prices realised are given in the listing at the end of the Bulletin. A list of unsold items was prepared for circulation to those who participate or show interest in the annual auction and further sales are being generated at the time of writing this report. With another WIPEX event to come in September, and with a good deal of British Guiana classic and postmark material still in hand for disposal (enquiries invited by Simon Goldblatt from those who feel they may have missed the boat) 1996 looks to be another productive year for the Circle.

STAMPEX DISPLAYS - January 1996

At the Study Circle meeting held at the January 'STAMPEX', 19 members and one visitor were shown displays by Brian Brookes and Brian Rogers. The first display by Brian Brookes was about the stamp period of the colony of St. Christopher.

Brian began his display by giving a brief outline about the history of the island stating that it was first settled in 1623 by Thomas Warner and built its prosperity on sugar and slaves. By the early 1850's many planters had been driven into bankruptcy as St. Kitts was a very poor colony. When in 1858, the G.P.O. made it compulsory for letters from the colonies to be prepaid they reverted back to the Red Paid Marks.

The first part of the display concerned the issued stamps from 1870 starting with two sheets of essays similar to the St. Lucia issued stamps in various colours followed by five sheets of Die Proofs including sunken impressions and two Colour Trial Die Proofs in Yellow and Brown.

In 1976, the De La Rue archives were sold through Robson Lowe releasing a considerable amount of background information on to the market. Here Brian showed the Ink Recipes for the 1d and 6d values, along with a plate proof imperforate 6d value and also the same stamp overprinted SPECIMEN in blue. The stamps were finally issued on 1st April, 1870 and shown were the issued stamps mint as well as used on cover, the 1d by itself being extremely rare.

In 1875 the perforation was changed to 14 for easier separation, shown were an original entry from the De La Rue Ink Recipe Book for the 6d value and four stamps overprinted SPECIMEN taken from their own reference collection. In November 1879 two new values were added, 2½d and 4d, four sheets of this issue were shown.

The next part of the display covered the 1882-99 issues, from imperforate proofs and complete sheets up to the One Penny postcard with the 1d bisected to make up

the 1½d postcard rate to Europe used from February until the end of March 1883 when supplies of the 1½d postcard arrived.

By 1885 St. Kitts was running short of certain values. This led to the colony overprinting stamps locally between 1885 and 1888. The first value to be overprinted was the 1d Carmine Rose which was overprinted HALFPENNY diagonally in March, of which examples mint and used on cover were shown. At the same time the 6d Green was overprinted FOUR/PENCE at the post office in Basseterre and shown were the stamp mint and used on cover as well as one used with double overprint.

In June 1886, the 6d Green was overprinted ONE/PENNY and Brian showed mint copies as well as one inverted overprint and used on cover. At the same time the 6d Green was surcharged '4d' at the Post Office and shown were mint examples as well as used on cover. In May 1887, the ½d Dull Green was surcharged ONE PENNY, this issue was represented by a complete pane of twenty stamps and items used on cover. The last of the surcharges took place in May 1888 when the 2½d Ultramarine was surcharged ONE PENNY, the sheets shown included a mint sheet, two varieties one without bar through the value and one with the surcharge inverted, and finally an example used on cover to Nevis.

The next selection of sheets included various stamps used on cover between 1886 and 1889.

In 1889, St. Kitts again found itself short of stamps during the November and December period and had to resort to the 20mm diameter single circle black 'ST. KITTS PAID' undated mark.

Finally just prior to the issue of the Leeward Islands general issue in 1890, during the February and March period, Antigua sent 1,920 x 1d Red Antiguan stamps for use in the island due to a shortage of stamps. Shown were examples used on cover with the 'A12' cancellation.

The next selection of material were Saint Christopher Village Manuscript cancellations. Brian showed sheets of material all having manuscript cancellations used at the sub post offices in St. Kitts. The first sheet shown was a copy of a letter from the Postmaster at St. Kitts dated 25th February 1881 which stated that a Police Postal Service exists with mail being taken round the island daily, the charge on each letter, parcel or paper being 1d without reference to weight. All the manuscript marks shown were between 4th May 1876 and 5th June 1889. The next item shown was the ONE/PENNY on 6d Green with double overprint. All known copies of this stamp are pen cancelled. Various covers showing the 1d cancelled in manuscript with the overseas rate being cancelled at Basseterre. The most unusual cover shown was a local cover dated 30th April 1885 from a lady who lived very near to Lodge Estate enclosing an invitation, with the flap lucked in. The 1d Carmine Rose used being bisected to cover the local postage rate within the village. The display ended with six sheets showing items from the De La Rue archives concerning the Postcards and the Revenue stamps.

The vote of thanks for this entertaining display was given by Simon Goldblatt, the members present showing their pleasure in the normal manner.

BRITISH GUIANA - 'TOO-LATE' MARKS

British Guiana is by no means alone in the use of these marks, which are taken to signify that the item in question has been datestamped for a particular date but not included in that day's despatches.

They are known from about 1882 and the instruments issued then do not seem to have been replaced, and were still in use at the time of Independence in 1966 and possibly even later. This may not apply to Georgetown, where at least three different instruments seem to have been used.

On page 333 of *'The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana'* by *Townsend & Howe*, we are informed that there are three types of instrument:

- 1) with a hyphen
- 2) without a hyphen
- 3) boxed.

The offices using each type are then listed, together with a statement that there are many differences, some big and some minute. It seems to me that all these instruments are unique and possibly made locally from a master pattern.

The variations are such that it would seem to be a good idea to list the strikes of the offices that I have seen. This list may then be expanded by others collectors, but I doubt if a complete index will ever be produced. It will be noticed that some of the variations are considerable:

- a) the space varies from 2.5 to 4.75 millimetres.
- b) the length of the hyphen from less than 1mm to 2.5mm
- c) the height is fairly constant, between 4.5 and 5mm.
- d) the length varies from 32 to 34.5mm.

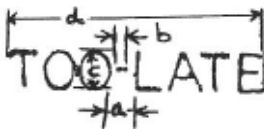


Fig.1

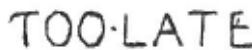


Fig.1a

OFFICE	Date seen	Number seen	Distance between 'O' and 'L' a)	Length of hyphen b)	Height of second 'O' c)	overall length d)
Aurora	1942/57	2	2.5	<1	4.5	32/33
Bartica	1954	1	3	1	4.5	33
Benab	1958/9/61	3	3.5	1.2	4.5	33
Blairmont	1955	1	4.2	1.7	5	33
Buxton	1898	1	2.5	<1	4.5	33
Canal No2	1958	1	4	2	5	34
Charity	1958	1	4.75	2.5	4.5	33
E.C. Railway	1900	1	4.5	2.2	4.5	34
Fort Wellington	1903/46/61	3	3	<1	4.5	33 / 34
Georgetown	1887	1	3.5	1.5	5	34.5
Providence	1949	1	3.5	1.5	4.5	33
Skeldon	1957/8	4	3.5	1.1	4.5	33 / 34
Suddie	1924	1	4	2	5	33.5
Wales	1916/61	2	3.5	2	4.5	34
Weldaad	1958/61	2	4	2	5	33

The measurement of overall length is complicated by less than perfect strikes in some instances. In addition to the above, *Townsend & Howe* record hyphenated strikes from Anna Regina, Cove & John, Eversham, Grove, Mahaica, No 50, Tarlogy, Vreedenhoop, Wismar, A3C and WCB 3.

I should be most grateful if the owners of these, or any others, could measure them and let us know.

TOO LATE

Fig.2

The second type listed by *Townsend & Howe* is without the hyphen. They list only Clonbrook, Nigg, Stanleytown and Whim. To these I can add Bagotville, but can only comment on Bagotville and Nigg.

OFFICE	Date seen	Number seen	Distance between 'O' and 'L' a)	Height of second 'O' c)	overall length d)
Bagotville	1958	1	4.5	5	39.5
Nigg	1953/58	6	6.5	4.5	35

It will be seen that these differ significantly, not only from the hyphenated instruments but also from each other. The overall length of Bagotville and the space in Nigg being most unusual. Again, research into these and other offices would be welcomed.

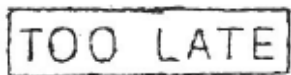


Fig.3

Townsend & Howe's third type is boxed and listed as only used in Rosignol. My only copy is indeed from this office, dated 1957, and measuring 37.5 x 8.5mm overall. Reports from members with other sightings would be most welcome.

I can report two other instruments, both used in Georgetown. The first (fig.4) is a rather blotchy strike of a heavy italic, serified mark, measuring 44 x 6mm overall. It may be underlined, but I suspect the edge of the stamp is being reproduced. I apologise for the poor reproduction. The cover is dated 26 February 1923.

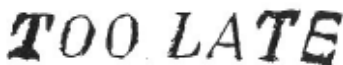


Fig.4



Fig.5

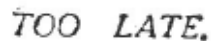


Fig.5a

The second Georgetown mark (figs.5 and 5a) occur twice in the collection, both from 1933, to different recipients at the same address in Southsea, sent by different writers. This is also in serified italic capitals, but much smaller, measuring 25 x 3mm overall and is the only mark struck in violet ink. Sent on 27 January and 8 May 1933, the later strike appears slightly bent.

Two other covers of interest are endorsed *TOO LATE* in manuscript and as these are from offices from which strikes of handstamps have not been recorded, this may be confirmation that such instruments were not issued to these offices. The first is from Albuoytown on 21 Jan 1924, registered to Georgetown and endorsed in black ink. The second is from Mahaicony on 19 May 1958, registered airmail to UK and endorsed in pencil.

I hope that this is sufficient to get my fellow enthusiasts reaching for their dividers and look forward to a flood of comments.

Derek Nathan

DECIMALISED MUSINGS

Far be it for me to criticise Simon Goldblatt over his article "More Musings On Manuscript Cancels - etc." (Bulletin No.168) especially as I do not collect those territories. However, I would ask him to reconsider his maths. With regard to F5 he quotes the issue figure recorded as 84 panes but postulates that a nice round figure should be 100. I am no expert, but I would suggest that at the time of issue a figure of 7 dozen would have been more likely than 100.

Some of us still believe that units of 12 are a lot more practical than these funny systems based on 10.

Ian Powley

GRENADA

I have Stella Pearse's Princess Alice Appeal handstamp on a Grenada cover franked 7c and dated Sauteurs Grenada 6 JU 55 to UK.

I have the following queries and would be most obliged if anyone can help.

- 1) St. Georges, Grenada 24mm cds (Charlton Type 5) Dan Walker (BCPSJ 27 - 1982) says "The scarce 'A' code is a Registration handstamp. I have it in Blue on 1½d PSPC dated A OC.27.90. Is it more likely therefore a PO Counter handstamp. Can anyone confirm.
- 2) PERDMONTEMPS / PIEDMONTAGWES a question of locations. The former is quoted (as above) as the Post Office holding the Parish Alphabet Cancel "C". As far as I know, there is not a cds, but the village is clearly marked on a Grenada map of 1985. PIEDMONTAGWES (which might be confusing) has a Type 12 (Charlton) circ. cds which I have on a cover of 1935. The cover has also a straight line 'St Patricks Grenada' handstamp (? homemade). It does not however appear on the Grenada 1985 Map. Where is it?

I am confused and hope that somebody can explain.

David Ball

LEEWARD ISLANDS

I wish to update points raised in matters to which I drew attention in Bulletin Nos.161 and 162:

a) No.161: King George VI Small Format Key and Duty Type

Examples of the left pane row 6/1 frame flaw have now been seen on the ¼d value and the 1/- value. The latter however is apparently on the June 1942 reprint which suggests that the flaw is not restricted to the July/August 1943 printing and should also be present on the September 1942 reprint and possibly on other values of the June 1942 reprint. Can anyone help with further information?

b) No.162: King George VI £1 SG.114a

Regrettably I have to report that my used example of the February 1942 printing dated 'St Kitts 17 Dec 42' is almost certainly attributable to Madame Joseph! However, Michael Spaven has obtained a BPA certificate for his copy postmarked 'St John's Antigua 21 Sp 42' which would seem to settle the identification of the two 1942 £1 printings. The certificate quotes the stamp as being from the February 1942 printing.

Harold Green

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LEEWARD ISLANDS - Cancellations

As a recently joined member of the Study Circle, am interested in obtaining information with regard to the dates of usage of cancellations on the stamps of the Leeward Islands. It would appear that there is no published work detailing this information, similar for example to the '*Sudan - The Postal Markings 1867 - 1970*'. I cite this as a modest collector of the Sudan, but the information gives place names, dates of opening of the offices and closings, as appropriate and the known dates of usage of different types of canceller.

It occurs to me that if there is no current published work it is likely that the members of the Study Circle would have the information in their collections. Is there enough interest to ask that members supply information so that the information may be collated, either through the bulletin or through myself, with a view to publishing the information at some future date when adequate / enough information is available.

D.C. Ford

LEEWARD ISLANDS - 1d Die 'B' Duty Plate Flaw

With reference to item 2 (Leeward Islands Flaw - KGVI 1d Die 'B' - scarlet shade) of the query from Leslie Goodwin on Page 19 of Bulletin 168 (March 1996), I suggest that the stamp illustrated is row 1 stamp 2 left hand pane and that the flaw (shaved tops of letters) is Halward No.15 detailed in the January - March 1975 issue of the Stamp Lover.

As row 1 stamp 2 left pane is the plate number copy, the flaw is regularly seen on top left plate number blocks. Being a duty plate flaw on the long-lived Die 'B' Duty Plate it occurs on a series of printings until it appears to have been repaired after the 13th (last in red) reprint released in November 1948. It is interesting to note that the flaw appears on the 12th (first in green) reprint released in January 1949 but not on the later reprints in green.

My earliest (in red) plate block example is the 6th reprint printed July 1943 and my last the 13th reprint released November 1948. The break at the foot of the first 'S' in ISLANDS seems to be an additional flaw and, on the plate blocks in my possession, appears only on the example from the 9th reprint printed July 1946. Unfortunately, I do not possess blocks from the 8th, 10th and 11th reprints so cannot identify the period during which it may have existed unrepaired.

Harold Green

PERFINS

Further to Simon Goldblatt's article in Bulletin No.167, I can contribute a little more information on the subject of 'Perfins'.

BARBADOS

An envelope with the 2½d 1897 Jubilee. SG119, perfined "L & / Co." (7, 13 / 8) with the inscription "LAURIE & Co., Shipbrokers, SS. Agents, Coaling, and General Commission Merchants". Also two ½d 1897 Jubilee, SG. 117, all three used between March and December 1898.

BRITISH GUIANA

"BB / & / Co" (10,10 /14 / 7,4) 2c red, SG.260, and 2c purple, SG.274.

JAMAICA

"UFCo" (12,9,9,6) 1½d Pictorial, SG.80, 1d Silver Jubilee, SG.114, and KGVI 2/-, SG.131. "JTC" (7,7,8) Jamaican Telephone Company, 1919 MCA 1½d, SG.80. This is taken from "Stamp Collecting, 5 Jan 1984, pp.523", which also mentions "UFCo" on SG.91, 92 and 123.

9 hole 10cm diamond on 1/-, SG.99, fiscally used by the Bank of Canada in 1928. Additionally in the Swarbrick auction, lot 952, there were two covers, with this perfin, attributed to the Bank of Nova Scotia on KGVI 1/- and 2/-.

LEEWARD ISLANDS - Nothing to add

TRINIDAD

"GGxCo" (10,10,9,8,8) on 5/-, SG.131, with a fiscal cancellation.

SIERRA LEONE

"2 / WIR" (12 /17,5,12) on 2½d, SG.31, and ½d, SG.41. (The R may appear as P.) While this is not strictly a BWI perfin, it was used by the Second Battalion of the West Indian Regiment, which was largely recruited in Jamaica and frequently served in Africa.

H.M. Oxley

PRINCESS ALICE APPEAL

Further to the information given in the last and other previous bulletins regarding the above subject, I can record two further examples both from Antigua. They are dated 18 MR 55 and 5 AP 55 respectively. The former is a letter to the UK franked 6c QEII pictorial and the latter is a PPC to USA franked 6c Leeward Is. QEII definitive. I would expect the "Slogan" to be an exhortation to support the appeal and I doubt whether there was any surcharge or extra postage to pay. It would be of interest to know earliest/latest dates of the use of this handstamp and whether it was always in violet ink.

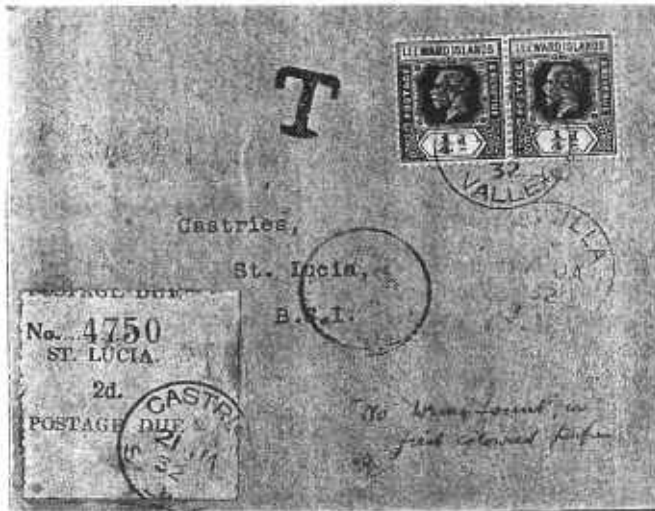
Chris May

PANTON COVERS

It has been suggested that information on the background to the group of covers addressed to 'E Panton, Georgetown, Cayman Islands' in the 1930's could be of interest to some of our members. What follows applies equally to a similar group of covers addressed to 'The Postmaster, Castries, St Lucia' on most of which the reference to 'The Postmaster' has been scratched out.

In the early 1950's I had the good fortune to meet Charles Davies, who was a retired postage stamp dealer living in Frodsham, Cheshire, then engaged in selling off his vast residual stock comprising mainly mint King George VI Colonial stamps. As he had been primarily a wholesaler to the trade, his stock was in sheets and part sheets. Living only 5 miles from his house (which had also served as his place of business for many years) I saw him nearly every week and purchased much mint material from him to expand my own general Colonial collection. Mr. Davies had very little by way of used stamps but on one occasion he surprised me with a number of covers (offered, I recollect, at one shilling each) mainly postmarked Falkland Islands or South Georgia, bearing Falkland ½d Centenary stamp (SG.127), various postage due tax markings and Cayman Islands 1932 Centenary stamps (or St Lucia postage due stamps) appropriately cancelled Georgetown (or Castries) to make up the deficient postage. I purchased all of them.





On my enquiry, Mr. Davies, explained that these covers had originated in his office: the coloured envelopes (usually, but not always, pale blue) were addressed on his typewriter (again usually, but not always, using a blue-inked ribbon) and these were stamped from his stock and posted out in bulk to his correspondent in the colony concerned. The correspondent then posted them ensuring that the office of origin canceller was neatly and clearly applied. I did not pursue my enquiry further but there was clearly a correspondent at Georgetown (presumably E. Panton) and at Castries (possibly the Postmaster?) who paid the additional postage and who then at intervals returned the covers under separate cover to Charles Davies. He must have had an arrangement with the two parties to account to them for their costs.

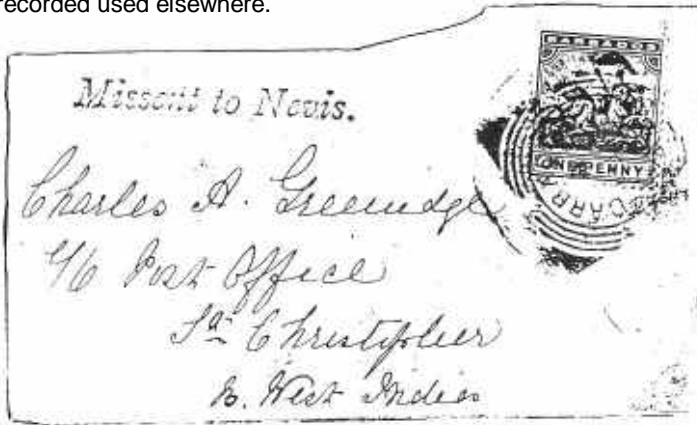
The covers I have seen all bore dates in 1932 to 1934: it was only in the 1960's that I came across similar covers from Colonies other than Falkland Islands and South Georgia and realised that the production of these covers had been an extensive operation. I know that they also exist from Antigua, Anguilla, British Guiana, Papua and St Helena and no doubt from many other colonies but, by the time I had become aware of this, Mr. Davies had died and, as so often happens, my fresh interest in the subject came too late.

Much of the foregoing was set out in a letter from myself published in the correspondence columns of the May 1989 issue of Gibbons Stamp Monthly - a letter which GSM headed 'Charles Davies Remembered'. I wonder whether any other members knew him. The 'Panton' covers may be frowned upon by purists as being highly 'philatelic', but as one of my dealer friends emphasises, how else could we have built up our knowledge of deficient postage tax markings and payment of deficiency in colonies where there were no postage due stamps? Thank you, Mr Davies!

Harold Green

NEVIS

The illustration below is of an italic 'Missent to Nevis' mark which I believe has not been recorded used elsewhere.



It is on a front from Barbados to St. Christopher and is dated AU 799.

Charles Freeland

ST VINCENT - GRENADINES

I recently obtained the souvenir sheet, shown below, from the philatelic office on St Vincent.

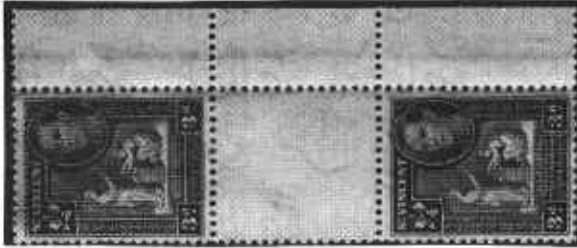


The stamp sheet, issued in 1990, is \$5 and commemorates the 750th Anniversary of Hannover. On the stamp itself 'HANNOVER' is spelt incorrectly 'HANNOFER'. Any comments would be most helpful.

Peter Runge

ST VINCENT

The following information has been gleaned from 'Sixth Sense', the house journal of Murray Payne Ltd.



The illustration shows an interpanneau pair of the St Vincent King George VI 3d. They state that this is an entirely new item for them, not just for St. Vincent but throughout KGVI for sets printed by Bradbury Wilkinson. Its existence suggests that the sheets were printed 'two up', i.e. that there were two panes of 60, vertical separated by a 'gutter'. In the normal course of events, the panes would have been separated by guillotining at the printers. However, this pair would indicate that at least one sheet escaped guillotining.

Can anyone help with this item or know of other items printed by Bradbury Wilkinson.

WATERLOW & SONS LTD.

I have recently become interested in one particular aspect of Postage Stamp printing by Waterlow & Sons Ltd., and would ask members of the British West Indies Study Circle if they can help me to evaluate this further.

As you will probably know Waterlows during the long period when they printed stamps for many countries, including adhesives for your own specialisations, produced numbers of Samples using the Dies and Plates in their possession (and with permission). These Printers Samples were used by the Waterlow Representatives to show the ability of the Company to produce high quality work usually of recess printing but later also by lithography.

One such of these items has recently attracted my attention and this concerns those samples, usually in colours differing from the issued stamps, either perf. or imperf. stuck on to card and having a number pre-fixed by the letters S.T. At present even the precise meaning of the letters of this pre-fix is unknown - possibly Specimen - Timbres? In the case of the B.W.I. samples, you will see that issued stamps were used.

Such items are frequently found as singles although cards from the Sample Books

and showing multiple stamps are known, The S.T. numbers have so far proved unique to specific stamps/colours. Occasionally these stamps may be found as multiples e.g. strips of three.

The numbering is sequential to the period of use but unfortunately this means that the stamps for any one country or area are spread over the lists. The Waterlow Study Circle is attempting to create a definitive listing. We have been helped considerably by the work done, initially available at the time Waterlows was taken over by De La Rue. The Marcus Samuel lists are in articles in the Essay Proof Journal. However each stamp needs to be positively identified (S.g. No. etc.), together with colour of the Sample stamp and format (from miniature sheets, composite sheets or full plate etc.). Confirmation of those shown in the listing would be welcome as well as any additions, amendments, revisions or comments. It is to be hoped that with the co-operation of Groups and Societies a definitive listing will eventually be produced.

Any information would be greatly appreciated.

In the following lists EPJ refers to the Essay Proof Journal.

The stamps currently listed for countries covered by the British West Indies Study Circle are as follows:

ST. No.	Country	Date of original issue.	Detail.	Comments.
1509	British Guiana	1931	Centenary	SG.283 1c in emerald-green Issued stamp with punched hole.
1514	Antigua	1932	Tercentenary	SG.81 ½d in green Issued stamp with punched hole.
1529-30	Cayman Islands	1932	Centenary	SG.84 ¼d brown SG.85 ½d green Issued stamps with punched holes. ? ST to SG Nos.
1552	Antigua	1932	Tercentenary	SG.82 1d scarlet Issued stamp with punched hole
1580-1	British Guiana	1934	Definitive	SG.288 1c green SG.289 2c red-brown
1583-4	British Guiana	1934	Definitive	SG.291 4c slate-violet SG.292 6c deep ultramarine Issued stamps with punched holes. ? ST to SG Nos

ST. No.	Country	Date of original issue.	Detail.	Comments.
1602	Grenada	1934	Definitives	SG.136 1d black/green Issued stamp with punched hole.
1604-5	Grenada	1934	Definitive	SG.137 & 139 1½d black & scarlet 2½d blue Issued stamps with punched holes ? ST to SG Nos.
1657	Grenada	1935	Silver Jubilee	SG.145 ½d black/green Issued stamps with punched hole.
1660-2	Cayman Is.	1935	Definitives	SG.102, 103 & 105 1d ultramarine/ scarlet 1½d black/orange 2½d blue/black Issued stamps with punched holes. ? ST to SG Nos.
1824	British Guiana	1938	Definitive	SG.310 4c scarlet/black Issued stamp with punched hole.
1831	Grenada	1938	Definitive	SG.153 ½d yellow-green Issued stamp with punched hole.
1840	Grenada	1938	Definitives	SG.154 1d black/sepia Issued stamp with punched hole.
1848	Cayman Islands	1938	Definitive	SG.117 1d scarlet Issued stamp with punched hole.
1865	Bahamas	1938	Pictorial	SG.159 6d olive-green/light blue Issued stamp with punched hole.
1874-6	Dominica	1938	Definitives	SG.100 1d grey/scarlet SG.101 1½d green/purple SG.102 2d carmine/grey-black Issued stamps with punched holes. ? ST to SG Nos.
1907-8	Antigua	1938	Definitives	SG.98 ½d green SG.99 1d scarlet Issued stamps with punched holes. ? ST to SG Nos.

ST. No.	Country	Date of original issue.	Detail.	Comments.
3274-5	Antigua	1953	Definitives	SG.124 and 5 4c scarlet 5c black /slate-lilac Issued stamps with punched holes. ? ST to SG Nos.
3278-81	British Guiana	1954	Definitives	SG.332, 5, 7 and 341 2c myrtle green 5c scarlet/black 8c ultramarine 48c ultramarine/brown-lake Issued stamp with punched holes.
3282-6	British Honduras	1953	Definitives	SG 179, 181,4, 5 and 6 1c green/black 3c reddish-purple 10c slate/bright blue 15c green/violet 25c bright blue/yellow-brown Issued stamps with punched holes. ? ST to SG Nos.
3303	St.Lucia	1953	Definitive	SG.176 5c. ? colour Issued stamp with punched hole.
3304	St Vincent	1954 ? see note	Definitive	SG 190 2c ? colour Issued stamp with punched hole.
NB. The compiler shows this as 1954 but the date given for this in EPJ 110 p90 is 1955. There is NO 1954 issue shown in S.C.				
3305-7	St Kitts, Nevis & Anguilla	1954	Definitives	SG,106a, 7 and 113 ½c deep olive 1c? colour 12c deep blue/red-brown Issued stamps with punched holes. ? ST to SG Nos.
3308-9	Turks & Caicos	1955	Definitives	SG.235 and 6 5d black/bright green 8d black/brown Issued stamps with punched holes. ? ST to SG Nos.

Alec A. Turner

Note:-Alec Turner is the Chairman of the Waterlow Study Circle and anyone with information relating to this subject can contact him at

HELP REQUIRED - The Postal History of Trinidad

Messrs. Proud-Bailey have over many years produced books covering the postal history of many British Colonies and now they are preparing one on Trinidad. They have asked me, through the Bulletin, to ask members who may have expertise which may be useful in the preparation of such a book to contact them with a view to a meeting sometime in June or July. Anyone interested can contact them at P.O. Box 74, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 8PZ or telephone Mr. Edward Proud on 01435 862540.

Peter Ford

NEWCASTLE '96

Newcastle '96 is a new National Philatelic Exhibition, sponsored by ABPS and organised by the North East of England Philatelic Association. It will take place at the Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne on 29th and 30th November and the 1st December 1996. The Study Circle will be represented by four 16 sheet displays and a table with publications and publicity material with the object of interesting a wider body of collectors and recruiting more members.

While this will be of more interest to our members in the north of England and Scotland, it would be gratifying if a good turnout of our members were there. On the assumption that this will happen, a meeting of the Study Circle will be organised and a display given.

It would be helpful if members who intend to be there could let Derek Nathan know on 0181 942 3881. He is hoping to get a few people to spend an hour at a time at the Study Circle table as well as attending the meeting.

NEW ACTING HON. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

After the Annual General Meeting had been concluded, Mr D.W. Nottingham was co-opted on to the Committee as Acting Hon. Public Relations Officer. The appointment will be ratified at the next Annual General Meeting.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

2.25.11	Civil Censorship Devices W.W.II - Trinidad and Tobago - R.G. Wike 1993	Top
4.18	Naval Officers Letters - Geoffrey Osborne . G.M. Stuart Rossitor Trust	Top
4.19	Postal History of Blockade Running Through Bermuda, 1861-1865. M.H. Ludington - BCPSG Monograph No.14	A2
7.1.22	Jamaica Philatelist 1927-1950 Reprinted and bound in 6 volumes – BCPSG. Vol.1 - 1927-30, Vol.2 - 1931-35, Vol.3 - 1936-38, Vol.4 - 1941-42 (quarterly bulletin), Vol.5 - 1939-43, Vol.6 - 1944-50, Vol.7 - 1921 Exhibition Catalogue, Vol.8 - 1927 - Exhibition Catalogue	B4
11.18	The PECO Postcards of the West Indies - J. Chin Aleong - WISPHR	B4

Derek Nathan

BOOK ISSUE - Postal History of Blockade Running Through Bermuda, 1861-1865

The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group announces the release of Monograph No.14 'Postal History of Blockade Running Through Bermuda, 1861-1865' by M.H. Ludington.

The book outlines the role played by Bermuda-based shipping agents in communications between the Confederacy and England during The American Civil War, the author provides an overview of blockade runner mail between 1851 and 1865. Fifteen blockade-related letters and/or covers sent to, from or through Bermuda are described and illustrated. The book also contains a detailed chronological listing of blockade runner arrival at (and departures from) Bermuda from late 1861 to mid-1865, with notes about the ships and their cargoes, destinations, etc. An index to proper names concludes the 51-page, softcover monograph.

Morris Ludington has long been recognized as the foremost authority on Bermuda's philately and postal history and on its maritime communications in the 19th century.

The book may be ordered from Cyril F. Bell, 4445 Riverside Drive, Lilburn, GA 30247, USA. Price (surface postage included; for airmail, please enquire); Single copy – US\$18.00 (12.00), BCPSG members - US\$15.00 (10.00), 10 copies or more- US\$12.75 (8.25). Payment by cheque or bank draft only, in US dollars or pounds sterling. Remittances should be made payable to "British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group".

MATERIAL WANTED FOR THE SEPTEMBER AND ALL FUTURE ISSUES

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32	18	33	8	38	19	39	10	41	15.50	42	12.50	44	21
47	48	48	28	50	13	56	13.50	57	13	60	11	61	13
62	6.50	63	50	64	30	65	12.50	66	16.50	67	22	69	15.50
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377	15	378	10.50	379	15	380	26	381	24	382	34	383	11
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424	11	425	15	426	11	427	16.50	428	24	431	15	434	34
435	14	436	19	438	6	441	11	443	21	446	9	447	11
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461	14.50	462	18	465	42	475	46	476	12	479	18	481	105
482	8	483	4.50	484	3	485	7	487	5.25	489	12	492	13
493	15.50	496	15	498	10.50	499	11	501	5.25				

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