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BULLETIN No. 171 DECEMBER 1996

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

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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

1997

Saturday 25 Jan 2.00 p.m. **JANUARY STAMPEX 1997.**

Displays to be arranged.

Venue: The Business Design Centre, Islington, London, WC 1
(Nearest Tube Station - Angel)

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

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

Friday 12 and Saturday 13 September 1997 **Convention.**

Venue: The Regent Hotel, The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL

WIPEX REPORTS 1996

The Study Circle held the second WIPEX at the Bonnington Hotel in London on Saturday 14th September. Visitors were offered a wide range of material from the Circle's members sale table and a select band of dealers: Willard Allman, David Druett, Michael Hamilton, Allan Leverton and John Rowstone.

As a break from running the members sale table and as a new venture, Simon Goldblatt chaired a live expertising session, assisted by Allan Leverton and Charles Freeland. Some challenging material was submitted and unanimity of opinion was not always heard from the panel. Later in the afternoon, David Druett took up the gavel for a public Pennymead auction. He reported his best ever sale, with 32 room bidders and over 80% of lots sold.

A total of over fifty people attended and took the opportunity to renew friendships and engage in arcane philatelic conversations.

Steve Sharp

An event like WIPEX gives our Circle a chance to broaden our horizons. My view of it was largely from the other side of the members' private treaty tables, and there was a steady flow of fresh faces, including visitors from the European Continent, from across the Atlantic, and even from Australia.

It is a moment to emphasise that on these occasions, material on offer for members extends outside the West Indies themselves. One of our number arrived with an interesting and appealing collection of Colombia - and was surprised and delighted to find that it had sold within the first half hour. We could, I think have sold it more than once! Within the BWI, of course, we had a range of material from every territory, and several of those attending commented favourably on the quality and choice; yet if more of us had taken advantage of the opportunity there would have been still more on offer and still more sold. As it was, realisations almost reached £2,000 - which should be set against the belief that those attending tend to hold back on purchases to cater for the auction to come. There is truth in this, but the occurrence of a David Druett auction is part of the total appeal. So it is swings and roundabouts: there is a definite symbiosis between a professional, specialist auction and a Circle event.

Auction catalogues of the past are themselves in great demand, and we had plenty of these to offer also. This is as it should be: as I know from considerable experience with the Circle, the knowledge of the auctioneer is ephemeral - it is his catalogues that preserve information for collectors to come.

We tried out an expertisation panel in the early afternoon and I was, to my embarrassment, co-opted aboard. In fact, so far as I can judge, the exercise found favour. It was stimulating for both panel and audience to be faced with problem pieces to talk through, off the cuff. There was lively debate on each item between

Allan Leverton, Charles Freeland and myself, with divided opinion serving to underline the reasons why the items were put forward in the first place.

I am sure our owners realised that they would not be hearing the last word on their treasures (except where a card of St Vincent items passed under the scrutiny of our organiser and presenter, Stephen Sharp). In particular, the submissions from EDEN, ESK and SOLENT deserved more thorough scrutiny than the panel could instantly give, and comparison with examples not immediately to hand. One might well, then, have found an EDEN handstamp of the same bold size, or the lighter red manuscript ink to increase confidence in the handwritten endorsements on which we pronounced.

A contrived Leeward Is. 1/- on piece, with a vertical oval A07 killer, and MY 31 94 c.d.s. in duplex form, certainly set me wondering when and why these two instruments were married together and then pulled apart. (And wondering whether the same happened earlier to that mysterious and elusive Jamaica A01 killer; but that's for another day).

So absorbed were we in our discussions that we held up the start of the auction; but David took it all in good part, in line with the general atmosphere within the Knowsley room throughout the day. The only less welcome notes were the apologies for absence - one from our Vice-President Peter Jaffé in Melbourne, who would much have wished to come, and one from our President himself, attacked by a mild infection at exactly the wrong time; happily this had almost vanished by the following day.

The powerful displays will be dealt with later in the bulletin. These were a central feature of a varied and satisfying philatelic day, and we hope that our dealers attending went away as contented as our members seemed to be. Of the latter, there were more in number as the day ended than when it began. That should speak for itself.

Simon Goldblatt

DISPLAYS AT WIPEX 1996

Various members were asked to give displays at the WIPEX '96 show held at the Bonnington Hotel in London on Saturday 14th September. All of the displays were excellent and in particular one display was of outstanding merit. The displays were as follows:

Barbados by Oscar Davis (2 frames)

A first time display depicting early incoming mail to the colony commencing with an 1834 printed notice followed by an entire to the Commander in Chief of the Forces from London. An 1865 envelope from Ceylon was unusual. Of interest to St. Vincent collectors were a used reply paid Barbados postal stationery card of 1892, an envelope of the same year which took just one day to arrive (!) and a St Vincent postal stationery card from Chateau Bellair with 1895 postmark. The display concluded with a 1900 cover from Natal. A fine display which was well received by the members.

Bermuda by Dennis Mitton (2 frames)

A display of the Dock issue of 1902-08 with die proofs, mint and used stamps with many blocks and multiples with covers depicting the use of the stamps. This was followed by a display of World War I censor covers showing the various Censor marks. Of particular note were covers and cards from France to friends and relatives of American and Bermuda servicemen.

British Guiana by Derek Nathan (2 frames)

The first frame was a display of the 1931 Centenary of County Union issue, there were plate proofs of all the values. The 2 cent proof was represented by three proofs showing the 1st and 2nd intermediate states as well as the final state. A specimen set and the stamps on cover concluded the frame. The second frame displayed the use of the Returned Letter Office mark and showed the different marks in use between 1902 and 1946.

British Honduras by Simon Greenwood (2 frames)

Simon was asked to produce a display of the lesser known parts of his well known collection. The display began, 1865 progressive master die proof without value and uncleared surround with the first three values with Specimen type D2 and one penny type D5 overprints. Examples mint and used were shown with an 1880 cover. The 1888-91 overprint issued had Specimen overprints, the issued stamps mint and used, a complete sheet of the 20 cent overprinted stamps and a 50 cent with inverted watermark. The 1891 6 cent on 10 cent 4d mauve in a complete sheet with other examples with red 6 and the 5 cent on 3 cent brown had the variety Five and bar double. The red 15 on 6 cent blue had of note a double surcharge. Various examples were shown on cover. The display concluded with a frame of mint and used QV postal stationery cards.

British Virgin Islands by Charles Freeland (1 frame)

I asked Charles to display BVI as such displays are rarely seen in this country. The result was in my opinion the best one frame BVI display ever seen by the members.

The display commenced with early entires showing Types FF2, 3, 4 and 6 of the Tortola handstamp. The first issue of stamps had die proofs, double die proofs. Plate proofs of the 1d green, the 6d were in red and blue. There was a mint compound perf. 15 x 12 1d green which I understand is always off centre. There was an interesting block of four defaced with a red line diagonally across each stamp.

The 1867 4d in proof form with and without the frame line flaw were shown with a complete sheet of 20 and on cover. The 1 shilling value was shown in a sheet of 20 on toned paper with the long tail 5 variety. The 1879 essay use of the Die 1 Master plate with blocks and Specimen stamps were followed by examples of the Boston Gang forgeries. The 1887-9 issue had die and plate proofs with the 1888 4d overprint on 1 shilling followed by the 1879 definitives with ½d imperf at left and 1 shilling imperf at right. An 1888 essay for the QV 1d postal stationery card was shown.

The 20th Century was represented by the 1921 definitive issue with uncleared and clear die proofs, a scarce World War I censor cover and finally a 1938 De La Rue sketch for the KGVI high value stamps.

Leeward Islands by Tony Farmer (1 frame)

Like Simon Greenwood, Tony was asked to produce a different part of his collection and he chose to display KGVI Postal Stationery. There were De La Rue archive file copies, an interesting comparison of the 1½d on greyish white paper and on cream paper. Specimen examples, used with stamps and censored postal stationery items were shown. The display concluded with the 3d Registered Envelope in various sizes.

Trinidad by David Druett (2 frames)

David's display was of the various village cancels and covers followed by covers showing the TOO LATE and LATE FEE marks. The village covers included an 1868 Cedros franked with a pair of 4d Britannias. A rare Tacarigua cancel was shown on a locally used QV ½d postal stationery card.

The display concluded with an attractive 1868 cover to USA which had 1863-75 1d and 4d applied. A 6d stamp was added to make up the correct LATE FEE but, alas, it was too late and a LATE FEE handstamp was applied.

On behalf of all members, I should like to thank all of these members for their participation. Finally my commiserations to my reserve Derek Sutcliffe who never got to display but it is likely that Derek will be asked to display at Leamington. Having seen Derek's pages, I can assure members it will be well worth seeing. Derek's approach to his display is unique and could well change your approach to collecting.

Dennis Mitton

SPRING STAMPEX '96 Display - Continued

The second display to members attending the Spring STAMPEX meeting in London in January this year was given by Brian Rogers and was entitled "BRITISH HONDURAS 1936-53"

Brian began his display by stating that his display was based around the reign of King George VI and consisted of four main sections:- 1) The definitive and commemorative issues, 2) Postal stationery, 3) Village postmarks and 4) Civilian censorship of mail during WWII.

The 1938 Definitives:- Tenders for this pictorial issue were initially sought before King Edward VIII abdicated. On 25 November 1936, De La Rue submitted 9

photographic essays of various values (which were displayed) bearing his portrait to the Crown Agents, but were unsuccessful. The contract instead was won by Bradbury, Wilkinson who ultimately produced 12 values, the 3, 4 and 5 cents having been added, for release in 1938. 416 sets were perforated SPECIMEN for U.P.U. distribution, one set of which was displayed. The next sheet displayed showed SPECIMEN strips of 3 released in the late 1980's from the G.P.O. London, cancelled "POSTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT / H.M.B." (Home Mails Branch), affixed to G.P.O. crested paper.

The 2 cent and 2 dollar values were then displayed in detail with examples from all 9 printings of the 2 cent, including the 1946 printing line perforated on commercial cover, and all 3 printings of the 2 dollar. The information associated with each printing had been taken from the Crown Agents records.

The final sheet to this issue compared the various papers and gums used throughout its lifetime.

The Commemorative Issues then followed with a selection of:- 1937 Coronation - Imperforate De La Rue archive SPECIMENS, U.P.U. SPECIMENS and examples of the forged 12 May 1937 BELIZE postmark. 1946 Victory - U.P.U. SPECIMENS. 1948 Silver Wedding - mint values. 1949, 150th Anniversary Battle of St George's Cay- mint, including major shift of the 3 cent Centre Plate. 1949, 75th Anniversary U.P.U. - mint (commercially used on cover have not been seen for this issue). 1951 Inauguration British West Indies University College - mint. Commercially used examples on cover were shown for virtually all issues and values of these commemoratives.

This section concluded with a sheet showing the Postage Dues used during the period, wartime printings being produced for all three values, and included a cover received at Roaring Creek in January 1952.

The Postal Stationery section comprised mainly of De La Rue archive material starting with the Master Die proof for newswrappers and postcards. Four copies were originally produced in black on thin white card, the impressions being without Colony name and value. The two examples shown were the copy retained by De La Rue and the Crown Agents approved copy that had been returned to De La Rue.

The design was adopted by various colonies, including British Honduras of which there followed Crown Agents approved die and colour proofs of the 1 and 2 cent Newswrappers, the 1 cent De La Rue retained die and colour proof, plus SPECIMEN copies of both items.

Only SPECIMEN examples, depicting various flaws, of the 2 cent Postcard, the final item to adopt the Master Die design, were displayed as both the Crown Agents approved and De La Rue retained die and colour proofs are still within the archives.

The Crown Agents approved colour proof of the embossing die for registered envelopes and the De La Rue retained copy were next to be shown along with

SPECIMEN and commercially used examples of the "C" size and a mint example of the "H2" size envelopes. Specimens of the "H2" were never requested by the Crown Agents.

McCorquodale designed and printed after the death of the King, the final piece of stationery to be displayed, this being a commercially used 10 cent Air Letter Form. The postage impression used was that of the 1938, 10 cent definitive but all in the single colour of the original centre plate i.e. brown.

Various types of handstamp were included in the village postmark section which comprised of single circle, temporary double circle, temporary triple circle, temporary double oval and temporary triple oval strikes, all on cover. Examples included those from villages such as Baking Pot, Boom, Crooked Tree, Double Head Cabbage, Monkey River, Roaring Creek, and Sittee River where the latter office is claimed to have been operated from a tin box on the ferry, by the ferryman.

The final section covering civilian censorship of mail in the Colony during World War II started with notices from the British Honduras Gazette detailing the regulations regarding the contents of mail and various appointments of staff including that initially of the Colonial Postmaster as Censor.

These were followed by examples of the various devices used throughout the war, starting with the early handstamps inscribed "OPENED BY CENSOR" and "PASSED BY CENSOR". Three types of label specific to the Colony, worded "OPENED BY CENSOR/BRITISH HONDURAS", were shown next, covering censorship up to at least July 1942. On the 30th November 1942 the Colonial Postmaster relinquished his post as Censor when a "civilian" took up the appointment of Chief Censor. This coincided with the introduction of interim PC90 labels bearing examiner number 622 which were then shown. These were followed by examples of various labels introduced in March 1943, and used until the closure of the office (at least late July) in 1945, bearing the Imperial Letter Code "J" and examiner numbers 8171 to 8174, allocated to the Colony. The display finished with an example of the rare pre-censorship 4 line handstamp inscribed "PRECENSORED / AND PASSED / BY THE / BRITISH CENSORSHIP" as agreed with the Americans in 1944, for use at British Caribbean Stations, with an individually assigned number.

This display was warmly received and the formal vote of thanks was fully endorsed by those members present.

LISTED ON THE INTERNET

Steve Jarvis has notified us that he has created an Internet site for the BWISC at the following address:

http://ourworld.compuserve.com:80/homepages/Steve_Jarvis/bwisc.htm

The following article "The Battle for Anguilla, 1796" by Don Mitchell, (a Barrister at Law living in Anguilla since 1976, and a member of the Anguilla Archaeological and Historical Society and of the Association of Caribbean Historians), is reprinted by kind permission of the author as well as the Editor of Anguilla Life Magazine (Vol. VII #3 Winter 1995).

Note: This article was written around the set of stamps issued in 1976 depicting the Battle of Anguilla. A new set commemorating the 200th Anniversary of this battle was due for issue in the Autumn of 1996.

THE BATTLE FOR ANGUILLA, 1796.

The story of this battle is well known in Anguillian history, but it might be of interest to look at the details a little more closely. Reginald St. Johnston in his 1933 *The Leeward Islands During the French Wars*, describes the engagement as follows: in November 1796 the notorious revolutionary Victor Hugues sent (presumably from St Martins) an expedition of three or four hundred men in two French frigates, the *Valiant* and the *Desius* to devastate Anguilla. They landed at Rendezvous Bay. The inhabitants made a determined resistance, using up all their ammunition and finally having to take to lead fish net weights, but had at last to retreat into Sandy Hill Fort. News reached Captain Barton of *HMS Lapwing* (76 guns) then at Basseterre, and he hastened to the rescue. The French heard of his approach, ceased their plundering and hastily re-embarked. In a brief but brilliant action Capt. Barton forced the *Valiant* ashore at St. Martin across the narrow channel and riddled the *Decius* so much that she had to strike her colours. Removing her troops, he then set her on fire.

These were bloodthirsty days, and the Anguillians, somewhat naturally incensed at the French plundering, and particularly at the murder of a crippled man named Hodge, took the law into their own hands and shot down a number of prisoners through the loopholes of a stone prison at Crocus Bay. Capt. Barton, on the other hand, received a well deserved Sword of Honour, and an Address, from the residents at Basseterre headquarters.

From this brief description it is clear that the Battle for Anguilla involved both a land battle and a naval engagement on November 25, 1796. The details of the latter are probably much better known than the fighting which occurred in Anguilla itself. Here, Anguilla's own militia were involved and, under the command of Deputy Governor Benjamin Gumbs, were able not only to harass and delay the vastly superior, better armed and better trained French troops, but also finally to hold them at Sandy Hill Fort. There, as the description above indicates, they made a determined resistance and even had to resort to using lead fishing weights to make ammunition for their muskets and cannon. When in 1825 H.N. Coleridge, who subsequently described his trip in "Six Months in the West Indies in 1825", visited Anguilla he was told by the same Deputy Governor, Benjamin Gumbs, of the valiant resistance of the Anguillians to the French landing, and of how the French, seeing the English ship sailing down the channel between Anguilla and St. Martin, had abandoned their siege at Sandy Hill, retreated and re-embarked their troops.

Coleridge wrote that the attack “could serve no warlike or colonial purpose especially as, it is said, the instructions to the officers were to exterminate the inhabitants. The French burned the little town, stabbed men in their houses and stripped women of their clothes. In such a case it is a real satisfaction to know that punishment followed hard upon the crime. Every man in the expedition was afterwards killed or taken prisoner by the *Lapwing*, and the two French ships were destroyed”. When he asked Governor Gumbs about the tactics he used against the French, he was informed by the old warrior that “I told the men, I’ll tell you what, I know nothing about marching and counter-marching, but my advice to you is to wait till the enemy comes close, and then fire and load and fire again like the devil”. As Coleridge wrote, “Victor Hugues himself would have trembled to beard such a soldier in his den, but that ruffian never did anything more wantonly atrocious than ordering the attack on Anguilla in 1796”. When Coleridge mentioned to Governor Gumbs that there was no flag on the flagstaff at Government House, the latter remarked, “It matters little, for no enemy, Sir, will ever penetrate into this country to see whether we have a flag or nor.

In regard to the naval engagement on November 25, which followed the land battle, Captain Barton’s own account of the action is brief and to the point: “The wind being to the northwest, prevented my getting up there in time to stop them from burning the town; but I have the pleasure to say, after an action of nearly two hours, I effectually relieved the island by taking the ship and sinking the brig. The ship proved to be *Le Desius*, mounting 24 six-pounders, 4 twelve-pound carronades and 2 brass field pieces, with 133 men of her own complement and 203 troops commanded by Monsieur André Seris; and the brig *La Vaillante* mounting 4 twenty-four pounders, with 45 men and 90 troops, commanded by Monsieur Laboutique. I am informed that they were picked troops from the garrison under the command of Victor Hugues, for the sole purpose of plundering and destroying the island”. It is recorded that, in the course of the action the *HMS Lapwing* suffered 1 man killed and 6 wounded; *Le Decius* had 80 men killed, 4 wounded. After the action was over Captain Barton, proceeding with his prize to Saint Christopher, on the following day, was chased by two French frigates. In order to prevent *Le Desius* from being recaptured he was compelled, after taking off the prisoners, to set the ship on fire.

By contrast to Capt. Barton’s own modest report, the Address from the inhabitants of Saint Christopher, subsequently presented to Capt. Barton, was couched in the most glowing and laudatory terms. It read: “It is not, however, by your acknowledgments or emotions that your deserts can be expressed, they are proclaimed by the tongues and engraven on the hearts of the people you have saved; whom a merciless enemy doomed to destruction and whom you rescued from the horrors with which they were menaced. These devoted people hail you as their deliverer, bless you for the security and happiness to which they are restored; and while they recite your action, will perpetuate your name in the traditions of their country, and the memories of their children, nor do the testimonies of your honour cease here; even your enemies bear witness to the value of your exertions, and the importance of your victory. They tell it whenever they mention their losses and disappointments, the destruction of their shipping and the slaughter of their men”.

The events in the Battle of Anguilla were commemorated by a special issue of six postage stamps in November, 1976 as well as a new set issued this year. The name *Lapwing* has also been handed down and several Anguillian boats have since carried the name, including a Government launch. Unfortunately, the site of the historic fort at Sandy Hill was not preserved, and all traces of the fortification disappeared when the hill top was cleared to permit the construction of a Government building there in 1968.

Don Mitchell

BY THE DOZEN

I was delighted to find in Ian Powley another dodecaphile (does it exist?) like myself. 84 sheets may well be accurate: it was the nearest a printer could get to a round thousand stamps, after all. My tempting 100 sheets - producing 1200 in total - achieves roundness, while retaining dozen-ness; but if we convert our arithmetic from a scale of ten to a scale of 12, Ian arrives at a nice round total of 700 stamps whilst I am left in the air at 834. Do I make myself clear? I hope not!

Simon Goldblatt

FAKE POSTMARKS

Information has been forwarded to us from Philip Robinson of Sheffield via Michael Wilson which relates to a recent article in the *American Philatelist*. It states that an American dealer (unnamed and now deceased) was evidently an active purveyor of faked covers. The list contains forty-five colonial postmarks, all fakes, printed from devices discovered in the estate of the dealer and now donated to the American Philatelic Society reference collection.

Several evidently were manufactured in order to forge first day covers of particular stamp issues, but others probably are found on items of traditional postal history. To date the APS has not recorded any examples of their use.

Noted among the list of worldwide colonial postmarks are thirty two West Indian marks from Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Guiana, British Honduras, Cayman Brac, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Kitts, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad, Turks Islands and Virgin Islands.

Researchers may obtain a complete set of impressions in black ink for study by sending \$10 to American Philatelic Expertizing Service, P.O. Box 8000, State College, Pennsylvania 16803. U.S.A. A copy of these impressions has been obtained for the Study Circle Library.

Discovering the Truth - A saying to keep in mind.

The greatest obstacle to discovering the truth is being convinced that you already know it.

BRITISH GUIANA



Can I nominate SG.251 (Gibbons Type 35), the 1905 \$2.40 Green and Violet overprinted "POSTAGE AND REVENUE", watermark – "Multiple Crown CA, chalk surfaced paper" as the most unlikely stamp ever printed.

A combined "Postage and Revenue" design (Gibbons Type 30) appeared in September 1889 (SG.193-206). At the same time stamps of similar design, but with REVENUE" instead of "POSTAGE AND REVENUE" at the top appeared solely for fiscal use. These revenue stamps were like their postage and revenue counterparts printed on watermark "Crown CA paper" and the record is:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| \$2.40 - Green & Purple | \$4.80 - Green & Blue |
| \$9.60 - Green & Orange | \$12 - Green & Carmine |

In 1910, new revenue stamps of the same design were printed on watermark "Multiple Crown CA chalk surfaced paper" and the record is:-

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| \$2.40 - Green & Purple | \$3.00 - Purple & Carmine on Blue paper |
| \$4.80 - Green & Blue | \$5.00 - Black & Blue |
| \$12.00 - Green & Carmine | \$20.00 - Green & Green |
| \$50.00 - Purple & Carmine | |

All of this information appears on page 12 of "The Revenue Stamps of British Guiana" by A.B. Kay.

The question therefore has to be asked:- "Was SG.251 (Gibbons Type 35) overprinted in 1910 rather than 1905 as stated in Gibbons Catalogue, or alternatively is there an error in Gibbons Catalogue as to the description of the watermark, ie. should it read watermark "Crown CA paper" to accord with the 1889 issue rather than watermark "Multiple Crown CA chalk surfaced paper" which only came into existence as a revenue stamp in 1910?"

The answer is quite bizarre. According to Townsend and Howe in "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana" the colonial government withdrew and destroyed all Revenue stamps with a face value of \$2.40, \$4.80 and \$9.60 in January 1905. They then requested that the Crown Agents should overprint all further \$2.40 stamps in the Revenue design with "POSTAGE AND REVENUE". The first requisition for these overprinted stamps was sent by the colonial government on 17th July 1905 when 6000 examples were ordered. Although details of the printing and despatch of this requisition are, unfortunately, missing from the records it is known that the first printings for normal postage values on watermark "Multiple Crown CA chalk surfaced paper" arrived in the colony on 17th October 1905. Under the circumstances it is clear that this new printing of the \$2.40 was on watermark "Multiple Crown CA chalk surfaced paper".

It would appear that the colonial government had another change of heart towards the end of 1910 when the Crown Agents were instructed to destroy the overprinting plate and, subsequently, the watermark "Multiple Crown CA" Revenue stamps without overprint appeared as recorded by Mr. Kay.

Thus the information in Stanley Gibbons Catalogue is accurate. Does anyone know of any other West Indian stamp which was ordered to be printed and then separately overprinted before ever being issued for postal purposes ?

Ian Jakes

GRENADA - Red Cross and Belgian Charity Relief Labels

I can report the following additional information regarding the labels mentioned in my article printed in Bulletin No.170 (September 1996).

1) Belgian Charity Relief Labels. The word *Leman* in the design figured under the depiction of the 'Legion d'Honneur' is not the name of a Belgian city devastated by the invading Germans, but the name of General Leman, the Commander of the "Loncin Frontiers" at the Belgian city of Liege. This city, I believe being the headquarters of the line of forts which held up the advancing German assaults for some time until 16th August 1914. This Generals resolute actions enabled the French and British armies time to re-organize and retreat to Mons and also facilitated the mobilisation and concentration of the Allies. I am indebted to Mr. L. Michiels of Borgerhout for this information. One would assume that the French awarded General Leman the 'Legion d'Honneur' for this action.



2) A Red Cross label of the first issue has come to light with the manuscript inscription 10 - 8 - 1915.

3) The third issue with the years 1914, 1915, 1916 and 1917 has been recorded bearing the cancel of Grenville, Grenada dated 17/7/1916.



4) These labels appear to have been used for a long time after the end of the First World War, the latest being a cover from Grenville, Grenada to British Guiana dated 5/1 /1920.

Tony Shepherd

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LEEWARD ISLANDS - CANCELLATIONS

Presumably what is looked for by our recent member, D.C. Ford, in his note in the June 1996 Bulletin, is information specific to the Leeward Islands issues, dissected out from broader information relating to the six (later five) territories that the Islands comprised.

We have not been silent over the years, and there is a great deal of information to be culled from back numbers of the Bulletin - many still available, no doubt - and back auction catalogues over their 20 plus years history. What is, I think, certain is that, during the period from 1890 to 1956, one cannot expect to find the full range of village cancellations used on Leeward Island stamps, except where those stamps have been philatelically processed. No one acquired more information in these respects than the late Stan Durnin (with his amazing range, particularly on King George V issues onwards) and the late Bill Bogg who succeeded to Stan's treasure trove.

I can venture some suggestions.

Antigua A trickle of village cancellations will be found on Leeward Is. low values, but the chance of finding St. James or St. Stephen's is non-existent, and Green Bay or Gunthorpes very slim indeed.

Dominica All the villages can be found on Leeward issues for the QV period; but these are generally rare and in some later cases become rarer still.

Montserrat From about 1930, Cudjoe Head, Harris and Salem will turn up very occasionally; but you will beat your brains out looking for St Johns or St. Peter's, until KGVI comes on the throne. As for the early TRD's, don't even think about them and yet, you never know.

Nevis GPO markings only, up to the Gingerland era.

St. Kitts (to say nothing of Anguilla) All the regular date stamps were found on low values, and the five code letters on QV ½d or 1d values make an appealing set. You also find the later 'A' and 'SP' on Leeward as much as St. Kitts-Nevis, but the TRD's are far more of a challenge. I have seen Cayou and probably Old Road; not, I think, Dieppe Bay, nor any of the Anguilla instruments. The latter would probably be unrecorded without the efforts of Mr. Marshall, and he preferred to use the more colourful colony stamps.

Virgin Islands The small offices used a tiny quantity of Leeward issues along with the local product so that, apart from the West End and Virgin Gorda regular datestamps, one can even find a rare earlier East End or West End TRD. Anegada, however, hardly used its date stamp, except as a farewell to the Virgin Is. KG5 final definitive issue on the last day of its use. I should not expect to find this instrument on KG5 Leeward issues; whereas, if you turn to the earlier TRD, you have an infinitesimal fighting chance.

A study of dates of usage would perhaps show up which stamps were in use in which of the islands, and when; but the many philatelic covers from Edwardian days onwards blur the picture: the KG5 MCA 3d and 1/- on white back were issued only to Montserrat - that is not, of course, what their postmarks show.

A challenging activity is to collect at least one postmark of each island on each catalogued value and shade. I doubt that this is possible. I have nearly done it with Virgin Is. (to the end of KG5, of course, for those that know me) and one of these days I shall share with our membership what can and what cannot be done; but only when I am quite satisfied that it can't! There is a limit to the market one is willing to create against oneself.

Simon Goldblatt

LEEWARD ISLANDS

KEY PLATE 2 FLAW Further to Harold Greens articles on this subject, Bulletins 161 and 169, I can confirm the position is stamp 6/1L - I have it on a complete sheet of the 1½d which from its number has to be the 1943 (Reqn.976/1) or 1944 (Reqn.984/1) printings. The flaw is not present on the 2½d of 1942 (Reqn.965/1) or on the 2d of 1944, the first printing with the new Duty Plate No.2.

CANCELLATIONS In response to Mr. Ford's suggestion in Bulletin 169, he and other members may be interested to know that I have almost completed a pamphlet entitled "Leeward Islands Postmarks". This pamphlet covers all known postmarks despatched and used in the Islands (over 200) between 1840 -1956, with a full listing of all Post Offices (over 70) including dates of openings and usage.

Michael Oliver

O.H.M.S - SINCE WHEN?

When lots for our annual auction arrive well in advance, there is sometimes opportunity for collective research.

The cover illustrated on the next page is just such a lot. It bears a KINGSTON, JAMAICA (Foster type K6a) in black, and London arrival c.d.s, reading JL / 9 SP 9 / 1845 in red.

Nothing strange in that, but - what about the rate?

Some of us would read the "n" - like squiggle between "To" and "R. Neave" as a straightforward 1/- packet charge. For my part I look at the rubric "On Her Majestys Service" and think again.

I do not believe that this was a pre-paid letter, although the red arrival mark appears

to acknowledge it as such. Before I come to my questions, I am tempted (irrelevantly) to quote the letter in full:

“Kingston Jamaica 26th July 1845.

Sir,

I am instructed by the Right Honble the Secretary at War to enquire of you the place of Residence of Serjeant Patrick Sullivan who was Discharged at Chatham as an Out Pensioner on the 28th September 1836 from Her Majestys 16th Foot.

Serjeant Sullivan is my Brother - a native of Ireland, - and Served in the East Indies. I have not Seen, or heard of him for Several Years.

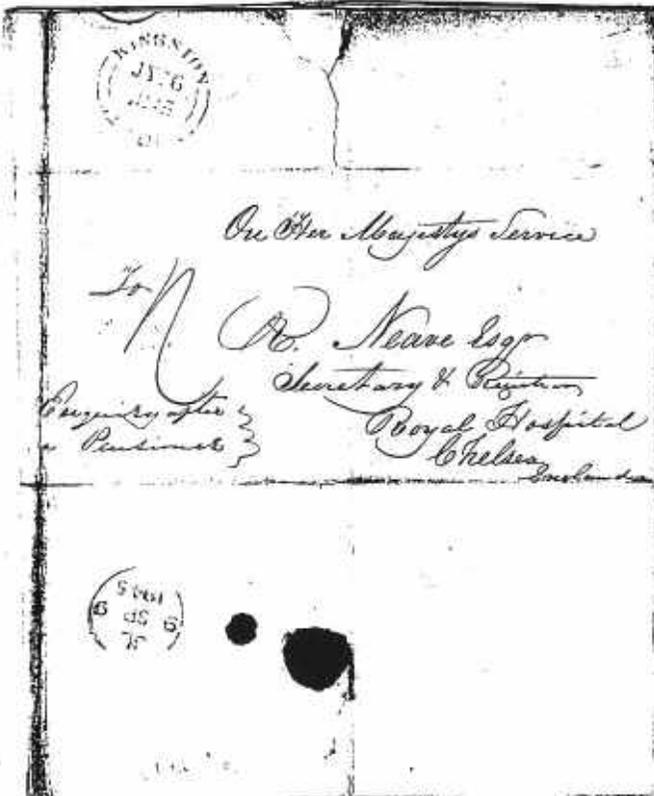
I am Sir, Your very obed. Servant

Catharine Hawkins

Matron of Lunatic Asylum

Kingston Jamaica.”

Don't you enjoy the final touch?



The official nature of the enquiry seems to me colourable, but the postal authorities could not be expected to explore beneath the surface. The customary receiver's

annotation tells us that Patrick Sullivan lived in Liverpool and that the letter was answered on 11/9/45. Above the pensioner's name against the reference to 16th Foot, one finds 1/5: whether this was the amount of the pension or the cost of postage, who can say? It was plainly not paid for our letter's receipt.

Now for my questions:-

- (1) When did the practice of endorsing letters OHMS (or equivalent) begin in the BWI?
- (2) Did such letters consistently travel free of charge, (i) locally; and (ii) overseas?
- (3) What regulations governed this type of mail?
- (4) Who was entitled to this privilege, and under what conditions?
- (5) Did practice or regulation vary from one island to the next?
- (6) What other examples can members quote?

While this is a subject that I have not myself researched, an obvious BWI source is Forand and Freeland's useful collation of Bermuda Mail to 1865, recently published by BCPSG. On page 44 they illustrate a local OHMS cover, and other entries show directly or by inference that a batch of local covers, travelling free, have survived, and that the likes of Robert Kennedy, Secretary to the Governor, were able to free-frank mail. On page 33 an entry for 26 SE 1839 shows a letter addressed to the War Office carried free overseas.

Apart from these, I have in mind that a consignee's letter would travel free, as did correspondences to or from members of Parliament in England. Given the huge comparative cost of postage, I should have expected the bounds within which there existed the privilege of sending mail free, to have been closely delineated and carefully documented. I dare say this was, indeed, done; but I am not aware that any of those who have dealt over the years in such scholarly fashions with the incidence of and variations in postal rates, have addressed the privilege of no-rates.

Is this not a gap to be filled?

Simon Goldblatt

TRINIDAD RAILWAY LETTER

Whilst browsing through the Trinidad Royal Gazettes held in the Public Records Office, Kew, London, I came across the following published in the 12 August 1943 edition:

THE POST OFFICE ORDINANCE

In exercise of the powers conferred upon the Postmaster-General by section 14A of the Post Office Ordinance as enacted by the Post Office (Amendment) Ordinance, 1942 and of all other powers him enabling, the following regulations are hereby made:

- 1 These regulations may be cited as the Postal Packets (Rail Delivery) Regulations, 1943.*

2. *Subject to these regulations, the sending, conveying, collecting and delivering of letters and other postal packets by the Trinidad Government Railway is hereby authorised.*
3. *A letter or postal packet intended for transmission by rail (hereinafter called a railway letter) shall not exceed one pound in weight.*
4. *Each railway letter shall be taken to a railway station and there delivered, during such hours as the railway station is open to the public, to the station master.*
5. *Postage at the ordinary rates of postage fixed by the Governor in Council shall be prepaid by means of stamps affixed to the railway letter, and such stamps shall be cancelled by the station master. In addition to such postage, there shall be paid to the station master on each railway letter a fee of eight cents.*
6. *The sender of the railway letter, and not the station master shall be responsible for the correct rates of postage and fees hereinabove specified; and in the event of insufficient prepayment thereof, a charge of double the amount of the deficiency shall be payable by and collected from the addressee before delivery.*
7. *(1) A railway letter may either be addressed as follow:*

*Example 1. John Brown,
 Station Master's Office
 (* St. Joseph) Railway Station,
 To be called for.
 (*) Insert name of Railway Station*

*or Example 2. John Brown,
 + 253, Abercromby Street,
 St. Joseph
 (* St. Joseph) Railway Station.
 (To be posted on arrival)
 + insert full postal address.
 (*) Insert name of railway station.*

- (2) A railway letter addressed as in Example 1 will be retained at the railway station of address for a period not exceeding seven days from the date of arrival, and if not called for will thereafter be handed over to the nearest Post Office for disposal as if it were an ordinary letter not called for at a post office.*
- (3) A railway letter addressed as in Example 2 will be posed at the Post Office letter box nearest to the railway station of address for delivery in due course of the post.*
8. *In order to obtain delivery of a railway letter from the railway station of address, the addressee or his duly authorised agent shall apply therefore to the station master thereof during such hours as the said station is open to the public.*
9. *It shall be lawful for a station master to refuse to deliver a railway letter whenever he is not satisfied as to the identity of the person claiming the same, or as to the authority of the person purporting to be the agent of the addressee.*
10. *Any railway letter which is to be called for and which is not plainly addressed to a railway station will be transferred to a Post Office or a Post Office letter box.*
- 11 *(1) No registered letter shall be transmitted or accepted for transmission under these regulations.*
- (2) No railway letter containing any thing which if sent by ordinary post would be subject to registration by the Post Office shall be transmitted under these regulations.*

(3) No railway letter shall contain any matter or thing which may not be transmitted by inland letter post.

Made this 13th day of July, 1943

D .M. FRASER, Postmaster-General.

Approved by the Governor in Council this 20th day of July, 1943

W.J. BOOS, Clerk of the Executive Council.

In my years of collecting Trinidad / Trinidad and Tobago, I have seen no previous reference to "Railway Letter" or indeed an example of one carried by this service. Did the excessive fee of eight cents (more than twice the normal postage rate) in addition to the postage put off prospective customers? Or were such objects not considered collectable at the time? Has any member an example of a cover carried by this service?

Ron Wike

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY

| | | |
|-----------|---|----------|
| 2.1 3.26 | The Postal Markings of Jamaica". Edited by Ian Potter | B1 |
| 2.1 3.27 | Post Office Handbook - Jamaica – 1924 | B1 |
| 6.1 .12.1 | British Commonwealth Revenues - Barefoot - Fifth edition | Top |
| 9.4.8.5 | The "Mario Zappa" Sale- Bermuda and Leeward Keyplates - Warwick and Warwick | 2.10.96. |

Derek Nathan

BOOK REVIEW - "THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF JAMAICA". Edited by Ian Potter

The title "The Postal Markings of Jamaica" should be taken literally; the book is intended as a catalogue of postal markings and does not attempt to provide an understanding for the environment in which the postal services operated.

The publication updates the period up to 1860, covered in Tom Foster's book published 20 years ago, and for the first time consolidates the research of many of my friends and colleagues for the modern period.

The book is a welcome contribution to the library of philatelic knowledge of this fascinating island. However, I found the book rather "cold" when compared to the Foster book. The Foster book can be read cover to cover like a novel; after my first read I felt an affinity with the island that encouraged me to find out more about the Postal History. The Potter book will become an important reference source but is unlikely to convert many newcomers to this field.

The first section of the book describes and illustrates the various markings, whilst section 2 tabulates their usage by Post Office.

The "JAMAICA" Straight Line Handstamps chapter identifies nine different handstamps (with sub-varieties) against seven in Foster. I am not qualified to express an opinion on the correctness of the classifications but the later discoveries and extensions of EKD and LKD are helpful (at least dealers will be able to ask a premium less frequently for material outside Foster's date range!). Unfortunately, the author has chosen to re-define Foster's reference system. For example - Foster J3 becomes Potter J4. This change is bound to lead to confusion and should have been avoided at all costs; the use of "PJ4" would have been better and a cross-reference to Foster's equivalent should have been supplied. Happily, the Fleurons retain the Foster references.

Although I dabble in most aspects of Jamaica, I do not consider myself an expert on the postal markings, so I decided that rather than examine each chapter in detail, I would put the book to the test by selecting a not-too-difficult chapter and assessing the usability and accuracy - I chose the "Railway and T.P.O." chapter.

The introduction was rather sketchy, giving sparse information on the development of the railway and didn't even give a listing of the routes and stations - a major omission, in my opinion. The T.P.O. marks were illustrated but without their associated reference code. I eventually discovered a listing at the end of section 2. The railway marks cross referenced to illustrations on the wrong page. At random, I cross-checked the Highgate station against the original B.C.P.S.G. listing and immediately identified that the EKD for S1 had been mis-transcribed. I then flipped through the B.W.I.S.C. scrapbook for Jamaica and spotted a 1963 article by Norman Hill with a "T.P.O. 2" illustration. The date was 12 months earlier than the book's EKD and it contained details of the routes for T.P.O. 1, 2 and 3 as well as the inauguration dates. These omissions and inaccuracies are of concern if representative of the book as a whole.

The tabulation in Section 2 gives an excellent presentation. The consistency provided by the boxed columns makes it very easy to pick out the information required. Although the type is small, I found it acceptable, given that I would not be reading continuous paragraphs. This section is over 400 pages; to have increased the typeface would have made the book even thicker. One slight criticism is that in some cases the Post Town heading has been separated from its table by a page break; it would have been better to leave some white space to keep them together.

Despite my criticisms, I applaud Ian Potter's initiative and enthusiasm for editing and publishing this major work at his own expense. The 20th century information on double-ring and modern-single-ring markings is a significant addition to our knowledge and I would recommend the purchase of the book by all students of Jamaican Postal markings.

Steve Jarvis

The "Postal Markings of Jamaica" - edited by Ian Potter can be obtained from Mr. Potter at 4 Mansfeldt Road, Newbold, Chesterfield S41 7BW

NEW POSTAL RATES - JAMAICA Continued from Sept. 1996 Bulletin No.170

INLAND LETTERS

| <u>Letters</u> | <u>\$ Printed Papers</u> | <u>\$</u> | <u>Registration Fees</u> |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| 30g-110g | 2.50 | 2.00 | To ensure compensation up to |
| Over 110g-230g | 3.00 | 2.50 | \$60.00...\$10 for each additional |
| Over 230g-350g | 3.50 | 3.00 | \$60 compensation up |
| Over 350g-450g | 5.50 | 5.50 | to a maximum of \$1,000..... \$2.00 |
| Over 450g-1Kg | 11.00 | 9.50 | |
| Over 1Kg-2Kg | 15.00 | 14.80 | |

REGISTERED ENVELOPES (INLAND)

Inclusive of registration fee and postal charges for each envelope

- (a) The "F" size envelope 14cm by 9cm \$13.50
 (b) The "H" size envelope 20cm by 12cm \$14.00

NEWSPAPER (INLAND)

Per copy \$1

ADVISE OF DELIVERY FEE

- \$3.00 Inland
 \$6.00 Overseas

EXPRESS DELIVERY FEE (INLAND)

Normal postage
 Plus a fee of \$16.00

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE (INLAND)

On each item normal postage plus a fee of \$5.00

PRIVATE LETTER BAGS

Fee per annum conveyed by the holder or the employee of the holder of the bag \$500.00

PRIVATE LETTER BOXES

Fee per annum \$750.00
 Replacement of locks \$600.00
 Replacement of keys \$150.00

Fee per annum conveyed under arrangement with Post & Telecommunications Dept. \$600.00

REGISTERED LETTER BOOKS

ADVICE LIST

- (1) B11 \$150.00)
 B156 \$150.00) per copy
 B156A \$150.00)

ENQUIRY CHARGES \$10.00

STORAGE CHARGES ON PARCELS AND LETTER PACKETS WEIGHING MORE THAN 500G FROM OVERSEAS

PARCELS INLAND FOR EACH 500G OR FRACTIONAL PART THEREOF \$20.00

- (a) For twenty days from the date of issue of the relevant Parcel notice Free
 (b) From the day immediately after the expire of the 20 days \$10.00
 (c) Specified in sub-paragraph (a) For every day after the specified under sub-paragraph (b) \$5.00

POSTCARDS \$2.00

PRESENTATION TO CUSTOMS CHARGE

For each item \$12.00

INSURANCE RATE (OVERSEAS TO COUNTRIES WHERE APPLICABLE)

For Insured letters and parcels for each \$100.00 of value - \$10.00

INSURANCE FEES

LETTERS To cover compensation up to maximum of \$100.00- \$10.00
 For each additional \$100.00 - \$10.00

B.W.I. AUCTION - No. 22

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 reopen 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 Auction 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. Payments 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 Auction 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 re-sale (after deduction of commission and other attendant expenses) but the buyer shall not be entitled to any surplus arising on re-sale. A buyer resident in the dollar area must pay for lots bought either in dollars at the controlled rate of exchange with the addition of £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 or lower realisation, thereafter 10%.

On each lot unsold: 10p.

On each lot withdrawn by the seller: sale commission on 75% of the estimated value.

On each lot unsold through failing to reach the sellers 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:

- a All correspondence please to SIMON GOLDBLATT, 39 ESSEX STREET, LONDON WC2.
- b Do not send any material for sale UNLESS it can be sent as an ordinary letter. For all bulkier items write to Simon Goldblatt first to find out whether these can be accepted.
- c Stamps and Postal history items are equally welcome but, in the interest 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.
- d MATERIAL TO BE INCLUDED IN THE CATALOGUE FOR PUBLICATION IN THE MARCH 1997 BULLETIN MUST REACH SIMON GOLDBLATT BY 12TH JANUARY 1997 AT LATEST.
- e The Auction 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.

The Auction 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.

- g 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.

MATERIAL WANTED FOR THE MARCH AND ALL FUTURE BULLETINS

AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

BERMUDA - Express Postage Stamp - \$22.00
Design Derek Miller based on Elizabethan
Key Plate Design
Printer Joh Enschede Security Printers
Process Lithography
Stamp size 33.00 x 29mm
Stamps per sheet 50 (2x25)
Paper C.A. Spiral
Release date 7th November 1996



BERMUDA - Commemorative stamp issue
Architectural Heritage
Values - 30c, 65c, 80c, \$2.50
Design Derek Miller
Printer Walsall Security Printers
Process Lithography
Stamp size 28.45 x 42.58mm
Stamps per sheet 50 (2x25)
Paper C.A. Spiral
Release date 28th November 1996



JAMAICA - Commemorative stamp issue - Date of issue 2nd September 1996
50th Anniversary of the U.N's Children Fund - \$2.50, \$8.00, \$10.00

JAMAICA - Commemorative stamp issue - Date of issue 23rd September 1996
Jamaica Hutia - \$2.50, \$10.00, \$12.50, \$25.00

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Fox, P.
Piggin, M.D.
Rodger, A.

Change of Address

Atmore, W.A.
Duggleby, C.V.A.

Peck, R.C.
Spratt, S.K.
Wilson, C.J.

Resigned Forster D, Mitchell H.H.

HELP WANTED

Would members consider helping to form a QUIZ about West Indian Philately so that it could be used to promote and publicise the BWISC. My objective is to produce about 100 questions. If members could come up with 2 or 3 questions relating to the area that they collect, the combined collection could be made available to other Societies. This type of meeting has made for an enjoyable evening at our local society and has not caused TOO much confrontation between members. To start with, I should not like to base this too much on dates or postal history, but on the stamps issued, or not issued, and the postmarks employed for cancellation. When replying, please give the answer as well as the question being submitted.

SUGGESTIONS RE-MEMBERSHIP WANTED

If any member would like to advise me of any ideas about how we could possibly expand our Membership, I would be only too pleased to hear from them. Maybe some of our more recently recruited members could consider how they found out about us and how easy/difficult it was to join. In considering the global spread of our membership, I think that Eastern Europe and the Far East have great potential. If anyone has any contact addresses of organisations or publications, could they please let me know so that I can follow these leads up. Would members please remember that when displaying to other Societies to mention that they belong to the BWISC and also could we all make a 1997 New Year resolution to recruit a new member.

Doug Nottingham - Acting Public Relations Officer

ISTANBUL AWARDS

Congratulations go out to David Springbett (Large Gold + special prize) and Derek Nathan (Gold) medal winners at the recent Istanbul International Exhibition.

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.

INVENTORY OF B.W.I. COVERS

c1650 to c1885

Approximately **12,000 covers** (supported by illustrations where possible) have been logged - but there is still a long way to go!!

In order to speed up the process may I ask Study Circle members to supply photostats of a few of their favourite covers - **or even their entire holding** - marking despatch date as seen (ie C/AP 24 74) if not clear. All contributions will be personally acknowledged with any appropriate comments.

Areas particularly sought:

BARBADOS - the BARBADOES dbl-arc datestamp (Benwell Type A6) does not merit illustration in the major auction houses and consequently is a weak area. Photostats of all entires (showing address and markings) appreciated for the period 1838 to 1852.

G.B. used in **JAMAICA** - a great deal of headway has been made with close to 820 candidates (entires, large part entires; but not pieces). Some wrinkles need to be ironed out with your help. GB used with Kingston "A01" needs to be strengthened, and photostats to eliminate the weakness at Porus ("A68") during 1860 would be welcomed.

ST. VINCENT - the Polignac correspondence to France has many gaps during the 1861 to 1871 period although about 110 entires are noted. Photostats of the Polignacs used with GB stamps and for the pre-stamp period are also sought.

TOBAGO - all pre-stamp entires appreciated with emphasis on years 1873-75 to establish how mail was treated between the use of the Crowned Pairs.

TRINIDAD - all (1d) imperforate entires (including litho issues) period 1851 to 1859. It is hoped your assistance will advance a further article on this very interesting period.

**MICHAEL HAMILTON
5 WINBROOK FOLD
WINFRITH NEWBURGH
DORSET DT2 8LR**

Telephone: 01305-854398

Fax: 01305-854246

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