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**BULLETIN No. 175 DECEMBER 1997**

## 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

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1998

Saturday 25th April 2.00 p.m. AGM followed by annual Auction  
Venue: The Bonnington Hotel,  
Southampton Row, London. WC1

**A MERRY CHPISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW VEAR  
TO ONE AND ALL**

## BOOK REVIEW

It was nearly six years ago that my friend Peter Fernbank approached me to enquire whether he could see my "small type" Imperium King George V key plates and, in particular, the plate plugs. At the time I confess that I was a little puzzled by the request but, as a keen student of the "large type" Imperium, I felt that here were the ingredients for an interesting session. "Interesting", however, turned out to be the wrong choice of word - fascinating and incredible were the adjectives that Peter left with me at the time and vivid memories of that absorbing and fascinating lesson have remained with me ever since.

As a collector and student, I have come across many philatelic researchers, but I confess that none have shown the dedication and effort that has been demonstrated by Peter Fernbank for so long, and which now appear in this masterpiece for the enjoyment and education of so many. Many of you will have witnessed Peter scouring dealers' stocks in his efforts to prove every printing, variety and flaw.

Peter Fernbank is a modest and kind man and above all a gentleman. For nearly two decades he has tirelessly persevered with his task. A task akin to completing a 5,000 piece jigsaw with the picture face down and most of the pieces being very similar in appearance. It is my view that Peter has completed the puzzle. Some enthusiasts may claim, or indeed prove, that the occasional piece is in the wrong place. Peter, I am sure will be thrilled to learn of such information if it exists - he certainly does not claim to be infallible, although I suspect he is, at least as far as the contents of his book is concerned!

Philately owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Peter, not only for the huge amount of time he has devoted to the research for his book but also for demonstrating how, even on a limited budget, a philatelist can produce such a fine and comprehensive work. Most of the stamps covered by the book are within the pockets of the majority of collectors and I believe that it is books such as this which will produce a different type of specialist philatelist. In most instances the dealers have no interest in the different printings, and generally none whatsoever if they are not catalogued, so with the aid of this volume, the novice or serious philatelist alike can derive immense enjoyment, and the possibility of filling the odd gap left by "the Master"!

In my capacity as Honorary Librarian to the Royal Philatelic Society, I am fortunate enough to have access to the world's great philatelic works. Peter Fernbank's book ranks with the best when it comes to genuine original and comprehensive research. It is a large book but it is not a long or difficult read and is well illustrated. The majority of the pages are taken up with the highly detailed and easy to follow reference and statistical information which is possibly without equal in the realms of philatelic literature.

David Springbett, FRPSL.

## WANTED - ANTIGUA

I would be interested in obtaining a copy of these two specimens if anyone has a spare copy. SG.53s - War Tax with red overprint, SG. 108s – 10/- KGVI.

Doug Nottingham (address & telephone number inside front cover)

## BARBADOS - A Very Rare Cover



I have just one cover, dated May 19th '94, Registered to London and bearing a copy of SG, 104b, the surcharge double in red and in black: this scarce envelope, a bit stained unfortunately, is actually one of the oval stamped 1d Victorian stationery ones, surcharged 1/2d and has 1/2d green and another normal 1/2d on 4d, 1/2d and 2 1/2d of the 1892 Arms set, making up the 4 1/2d Reg. rate: it was originally in the famous Hodsell Hurlock Collection and I managed to buy it in one of Western Auctions Barbados lots in the 1980's.

Frank Deakin

## **L. VERNON VAUGHAN - A continuation.**

In response to Leslie J. Goodwin's request in the September 1997 Bulletin, I can add a little to his knowledge of L. Vernon Vaughan. He was born, in the county of Demerara I believe, in about 1863. He became interested in stamp collecting in the 1870's, as ten year old boys did, and in 1876, while rummaging through old letters in his Aunt's attic, came across one with a stamp on that he hadn't seen before. This he removed, soaked off and put in his collection.

At a later stage, having found other stamps to buy and not having the money, he searched his collection for a candidate for culling, and came across this dirty old thing, for which the dealer credited him 6/-. (Although the currency was dollars and cents, all the coinage was £.s.d.) He also found many other earlyies, which he sold for \$5 each, irrespective of their rarity.

In 1906 he was an active member of the British Guiana Philatelic Society and in 1907 exhibited at the BG Philatelic Exhibition 'The finest mounted general collection in the Exhibition'. By this time he was a Government Official and was on the organising committee of the 1911 Exhibition (the one with the extravagant postmark), where he was also a judge, but not for his own exhibits, for which he was awarded a silver medal for a general collection. He also showed Gambia and Rhodesia.

In 1912 he showed to the local Society, Gambia, Cayman Islands and Antigua. In 1913 Barbados, Grenada, Montserrat and St Lucia. In 1916 he was elected Exchange Superintendent, a position he held in the Society until I run out of information in 1931.

In 1917 he displayed "an unrivalled collection of BWI" and in 1918 a "unique" collection of BWI. Also in 1918 "War stamps of the British Colonies" and in 1921 "BWI War Tax" in blocks and panes including Cayman Islands 1½d block of 12.

In 1921 at the BG Philatelic Exhibition "A veritable lesson for the novice in philately. No more perfect specimens, no better mounting, no neater arrangement was possible". In 1923, after Arthur Hind bought the 1c from Ferrary for £7,343, he was "chaffed freely by his friends, which he takes very good-naturedly". Also in 1923 he compiled the definitive list of shades of the 1913-21 issue.

He continued active for many years and died in 1947. In 1996, I met Miss King in Georgetown, who had known him well and had great respect for his philatelic knowledge.

The majority of quotes mentioned above are from the British Guiana Philatelic Journal, which ceased publication in 1926.

Derek Nathan

## **BRITISH GUIANA - "Exceedingly Rare Postmarks"**

Townsend & Howe recorded just one single example of the earlier of the two types of Postal Agency No. 11 cds, on a registered cover dated 29 JY 29, with the sender's address given as "K2" alongside, indicating usage at Kurupung Backdam where an agency was open for the space of a year from 12 Nov.28 to

12 Nov.29. Not surprisingly, they awarded the cancellation the accolade of 'ER' (Exceedingly Rare). See "The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana" - Townsend & Howe, RPSL 1970, pp.293 & 330.

I have found a second example on a loose stamp dated 17 OC 29, within the Kurupung timeframe. Although no other example has been recorded in the columns of this journal (so far as I am aware), it would be of interest to know whether any other British Guiana collector has a datable strike or even a cover, which would indicate whether this canceller was used at another period in some other temporary agency.

For those who do not possess a copy of Townsend & Howe, it might be of interest to note in passing the nine cancellations they classified as 'ER' (one or two strikes known) up to the introduction of the skeleton types in 1942 when relative order gave way to chaos.

<u>DPO / PA</u>	<u>Cancellation Type</u>	
AGRICOLA	1	
PHILADELPHIA	2	
PHILADELPHIA	5b	
RICHMOND HILL	10	
SISTERS	18	
YARIKITA	21e	
POSTAL AGENCY NO. 11	-	24.5mm earlier type
POSTAL AGENCY NO. 12	-	25.5mm earlier type
POSTAL AGENCY NO. 19	-	

In anything like full and readable form, these are all fiercely desirable postmarks. On or off cover, they represent some of the great rarities of West Indies philately.

Michael Medicott

## **BRITISH GUIANA - War Tax Issue**

This seems to be the least studied of all the issues of this Colony. Townsend & Howe dismiss it in two lines. It seems to me to be worth a little more than that. Such little study as I have done so far, which is reading the British Guiana Philatelic Journal for the years 1917 and 1918, and comparing their statements with my own somewhat limited collection, leads me to think that there were more printings and at least one more setting than recorded so far

I should like to examine sheets, panels, large blocks and any misprints known, to add to the items I have. I am advised that most of this unloved material has been broken down and used for packets long ago. I should particularly like to plate the position of the 'k' for 'x' variety, hitherto unrecorded.

Derek Nathan

## **DOMINICA - Watermark Errors and Varieties**

I refer to the last paragraph in Ian Small's note headed "Dominica - Small 'O' in 'ONE' in Bulletin No.173 June 1997.

There are Multiple Script CA watermark errors and varieties in a number of Caribbean countries in the reign of King George VI consisting of a missing "C" or a missing "A" in "CA". Dominica seems to have many more of these errors and varieties than the other Caribbean countries and its 1951 definitive issue with Multiple Script CA watermark exemplifies this.

These Multiple Script CA watermark errors and varieties from the Caribbean countries are to be found so far in Barbados, Bermuda, Dominica, Jamaica, Montserrat and Trinidad and Tobago.

For a number of years now Mr. John Yorke of Messrs. Muscotts, Meadrow, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 3HL. (Telephone: 01483 417884) has made a study of the watermark errors and varieties and it is due to his research and perseverance that they have been included in the Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue. Mr. Yorke will be very pleased to hear from anyone who has an uncatalogued Multiple Script CA watermark error or variety but broken or deformed bits on the dandy roll are not included in the Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue.

Victor Toeg

## **WORLD WAR II - Civil Censorship in the British Empire Projected Book on the Americas**

The Civil Censorship Study Group exists to collate and publish information on civil censorship for any country at any time. There is an ongoing project to publish books covering the whole of the British Empire during World War II. Already published have been those on the UK, British Asia, the Mediterranean and Africa. Ron Wike, the Bulletin Editor has published a companion book on Trinidad and Tobago and a book on West Africa was written by another member. To complete the series, books are projected on Africa (revision and expansion), Australasia and the Pacific, and the Americas.

This last book will include the West Indies as well as Canada and the Falkland Islands. It is our hope to involve interested members of the specialist societies concerned and full acknowledgement of their role will be made in the book.

If you would like to be involved in any way, the co-ordinator would be delighted to hear from you. He is the Secretary of the CCSG Chris Miller who can be reached at 161 Upper Woodcote Road, Caversham, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 7JR.

# JAMAICA POSTCARDS

## The "FLORIATE" issue of 1877-1878

Jamaica's entry into the UPU on 1st. April 1877 required the Post Office to make available a range of prepaid postcards to cover not only local deliveries but also delivery to other member countries of the UPU. The background to this issue, together with copies of the notices published in the Gazette are dealt with in detail in the "Handbook of Jamaica" published in 1928 by Collett, Buckland-Edwards, Morton and Nicholson.

Although it would seem probable that an order had been placed in London with Messrs. De La Rue & Co., due to a delay, it was decided to issue a Provisional card to be available for use prior to the arrival of the definitive issue. For whatever reason, it was decided that these cards should be printed at the local Penitentiary, and the initial issue, known to collectors as the "Lozenge" type was placed on sale throughout the Island.

It is probable that these cards were printed singly, as no varieties have been recorded, and careful examination has failed to find any obvious differences. It would seem probable that these cards were then sent to the Post Office, where the Hand-stamp to denote the value was applied. This hand-stamp was probably made up with movable type, to accommodate the various rates, as will be discussed / detailed later. It seems that the Postmaster misjudged the popularity of these postcards, as this initial issue was sold out almost immediately, and a further issue of Provisional cards became a necessity. At this time, collecting Postal Stationery was very popular, and all known examples were included in the Stamp catalogues of the day. Thus there was a very heavy demand for unused cards from collectors worldwide, and many were sent abroad.

It was decided to ask the Government Printer to produce a suitable alternative as he would have had slightly more sophisticated printing equipment available, thus the "Floriata" issue was born.

If, and it seems likely, the "Lozenge" issue was available on April 1st., certainly the "Floriata" issue was not far behind. There is, on record, an example used at Chester Castle PO dated April 9th. 1877, postmarked Chester Castle April 11th. with a receiving strike of Kingston April 12th. From this it may be deduced that the first issue had a very short life, although examples are known used much later. Because of very limited usage the 3d. value must remain a great rarity in used condition.

Although the details of the "Floriata" issue are well documented, it has always seemed to us that it has been made unnecessarily complicated. Having shown examples to an "old-time" printer and discussed the likely methods of production, we would like to offer the following article to the membership as a consultative work for further research.

This study is designed to show the various types of card that exist, to permit a relatively easy method of classification. The study can then be taken further, dependent on the whim of the collector, taking in such things as watermarks, type of card used and colour of ink. To include each and every combination would produce a list too long and too cumbersome to be of much practical use, and to this end, we have tried to keep it simple. This is because there exists differing "Rate impressions" which would produce too many possibilities.

The possibility that the rate impression stamp was made-up with loose type becomes clearer when the differing impressions are compared. Note particularly, the position of the "77" in the date. This shift upwards appears constant on both the ½d. & 1d, values, but does not seem to occur on the 3d., in fact we have not found any noticeable difference in this value. Perhaps the 3d. did not have loose type?



Type 'A'  
 'P' in 'PAID' normal, '77' normal  
 'H' in 'HALF' level with 'PAID'



Type 'B'  
 'P' in 'PAID' normal, '77' raised  
 'H' in 'HALF' above 'P' in 'PAID'



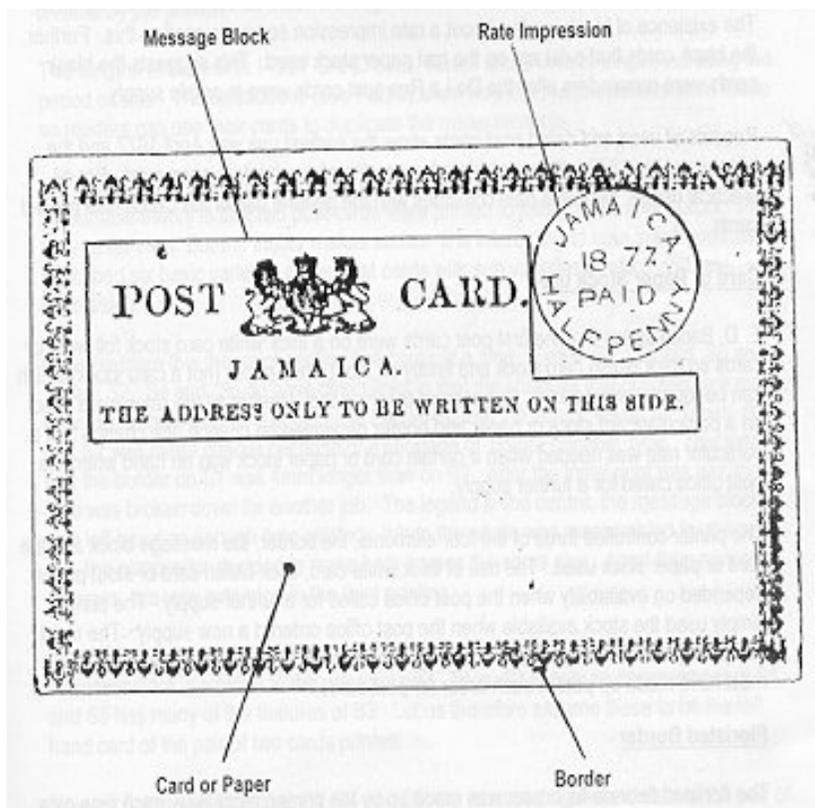
Type 'A'  
 'P' in 'PAID' dropped, '77' normal  
 'PAID' level with 'O' and 'Y'



Type 'B'  
 'P' in 'PAID' dropped, '77' raised  
 'PAID' below 'O' and 'Y'

On the question of the card the printer used to produce these Post-Cards, physical examination is the easiest method to decide what to collect. It would seem probable that the Printer used what was to hand, as there is a lot of variety. In particular, some paper bears a water-mark, and as this can, and does stretch over the whole sheet differing sections show up on different cards. Thus it is possible to have letters, or parts of the design appearing. We suggest that the collector decides whether to incorporate these, or to ignore them for, coupled with the differing rate impressions, the computation would be unwieldy.

This article presents a set of theories which may explain the varieties of the Jamaica "Floriate" post (or postal) cards issued by the Jamaica Post Office in 1877 and 1878.



Typical "Floriate" Post Card

This article develops these theories and is submitted for consideration, for discussion, for review and for comment. By discussing and testing the theories we may have a firmer basis for explaining why the varieties exist.

The starting point of the study was the Jamaica section of the H & G Postal Stationery Catalogue and Tom Foster's Jamaica Postal Stationery articles in the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal. During the study an article by E. D. Bacon was discovered which may have been part of Tom Foster's thinking for his section on the single post cards. These references have contributed to the study although our theories modify the conclusions that the above referenced articles reached.

The study focuses on the four elements of the post cards, the card or paper stock used, the floriated border, the message block and the rate impressions.

A first theory is that the Jamaica Post Office ordered and received supplies of blank cards on which clerks in the post office stamped the rates as demand called for them. The existence of blank cards without a rate impression serves to confirm this. Further, the blank cards that exist are on the last paper stock used. This suggests the blank cards were remainders after the De La Rue post cards were in ample supply.

Records of used and dated post cards show the earliest use was April 1877 and the latest use May 1878, although isolated examples of much later usage exist. For all practical usage, the latest date coincides with the general use of the De La Rue printed cards.

### **Card or Paper Stock used**

E. D. Bacon states that the first post cards were on a thick white card stock followed by cards on thick bluish card stock and finally on stout white paper (not a card stock) which can be found watermarked. Our second theory is that whether all the rates were used on a particular card stock or paper and border depended on chance, the chance that a particular rate was needed when a certain card or paper stock was on hand when the post office called for a further supply.

The printer controlled three of the four elements, the border, the message block and the card or paper stock used. The use of thick white card, thick bluish card or stout paper depended on availability when the post office called for a further supply. The printer simply used the stock available when the post office ordered a new supply. The most complex questions arise with the message block and the border. However, the printer must have made up part of each order for post cards.

### **Floriated Border**

The floriated fleur-de-lis border was made up by the printer, most likely each time as a supply of post cards was ordered. We do know that careful measurements of the various borders show that six types exist in quantities and one additional border exists on only one post card. We also believe that the printing machine could accommodate only two impressions at a time. From this,

our third theory is that two different borders were made up for each order when the blank cards were printed. Later we will show examples of the borders for further examination.

### **Message Block**

The message block consists of the words POST CARD in large Roman capitals, the words being separated by the arms and supporters of Great Britain. Underneath the arms is the word JAMAICA, and lower down THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

Our fourth theory is that on the message blocks two different message blocks were created by the printer.

Two lengths of the words POST CARD exist, 62mm and 64mm in length, including the period or stop. The illustrations (see Part 2) show how the measurements were made so readers can use their cards to duplicate the measurements.

We now have six Principal Borders and two different length Message Block elements. A reasonable theory is that two post cards were printed together. This is not proof. Proof may never exist. But the theory makes sense. It is interesting to note that Bacon also described six basic varieties of the post cards with sub varieties of stock and rate impression.

Let us explore this theory of printing two cards at a time. Types S1, S3 and S5 and Types S2, S4 and S6 do have direct links in that the changes that occurred are mainly changes to the borders. It could have happened that the border set up for Types S1 and S2 was made difficult because of a shortage of 'border material' type. This meant that the border on S1 was 4mm longer than on S2. After the initial print was run, the type was broken down for another job. The legend in the centre, the message block, was left intact as enough type existed. When the whole was reassembled for the next run, the compositor decided to make both frames the same size. Apart from minor changes, this was extended to the third printing.

If we accept this hypothesis, we can see a pattern emerging. The alterations / corrections are in relation to the previous pair. Thus, S3 is only an improvement of S1 and S5 has many of the features of S3. Let us therefore assume these to be the left hand card of the pair of two cards printed.

Now apply the same ideas to S2, S4 and S6, the assumed right hand card of the pair of two cards printed. This is even more interesting, in that many features of the frame are constant. The ornament in the right side, second from the bottom, which lacks wings, is evident on S2, S4 and S6, The top right hand ornament also faces up on S2, S4 and S6.

It is a bit difficult to suggest the reason for the left border flaw unless we think that if they needed the type for another job, it would be easier to raid the vertical rather than the horizontal.

To enforce these thoughts, we have seen a full packet of cards banded and every card was identical, each one the same.

To simplify our thinking, we have considered calling S1 and S2 the first printing, left side and right side, S3 and S4 the second printing, left side and right side, and S5 and S6 the third printing, left side and right side.

The dated copies seen seem to support this idea and helps to explain the type of card used, which is peculiar to each printing and, possibly, more interesting, the question of the ink colour.

To confirm our ideas, we should find that the same ink colour and card stock should exist in both right and left cards. We are still working on this and hope that we have stimulated enough others to think about these post cards to come forward and let us know what examples they have together with the dates of used, if used and postmarked or dateable.

Before continuing with theories on rate impressions consider the work the printer had to do in order to print the post cards. He had to set up the border. He had to set up the message block. He had to select the card or paper stock. The last of these was simple for him. What was available at the time he printed the post cards was the best he could find.

To set up the border he used stock material which gave him the design. He had to decide how long to make each line of the border. If part of a line was defective, he may have had to use it because he had only a finite amount of border material to use. We think he had to make do with what was on hand because there are defects in the borders.

The message block was somewhat easier because the text is simple, although even here he must have run out of the letter "I" because he used a number "1" on three of the message blocks. The arms of Great Britain and supporters must have been a standard item used many times.

To make it easier to understand why we have set forth the above theories, refer to the examples of the borders and message blocks which shows the six major borders and their associated message blocks. These six varieties will be detailed in Part 2 which will be included in the March 1998 bulletin.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Robert V Swarbrick and Mark W Swetland

## CARIBBEAN COLLECTORS' CONVENTION

The biennial Caribbean Collectors Convention was held at The Regent Hotel, Royal Leamington Spa on the 12th and 13th September 1997.

Regrets were acknowledged from the President and both Vice-Presidents, all of whom were prevented by poor health from being there. Michael Wilson was also, due to a sick relative, unable to attend.

These sad events were duly noted by the fifty or so members attending but the business of renewing old friendships and making new ones soon got under way at the Friday evening 'Wine and Cheese' party, and continued in the Vaults and other venues over dinner and far into the night.

The arrangements made by Peter Boulton, who had not attended any previous Convention, were faultless and the programme was strictly adhered to. After an hour or so of the bourse and informal displays, Charles Freeland gave a display - "Themes of BWI Philately" - of unusual material of nearly all of the territories covered by our membership. The display was much appreciated by those present and Brian Brookes put this appreciation into words.

Alison Boulton and Jill Mitton had spent the morning selling an enormous quantity of raffle tickets, and after some liquid refreshment and plentiful buffet lunch, this was drawn, to the pleasure of some and deep disappointment of many.

After lunch and a further bourse, the subject of Jamaica was aired, first by Steve Jarvis and then by Derek Sutcliffe. Graham Hoey expressed the thanks of those people present who were not Jamaica collectors, saying that if it was made so fascinating to him, it must have been to everyone. This was carried with acclamation.

A further session of bourse and informal displays went on until proceedings were brought to an end soon after 5 p.m. Some members departed, but many stayed to burn further midnight oil.

The Circle's thanks go to Simon Goldblatt, who single-handedly managed the Circle table. The proceeds from the sales of material ensured the financial success as well as the social success of the event. Other key figures were Tony Shepherd and Mike Rego who were in charge of the informal displays and also to all of the people that displayed items for viewing, Steve Sharp who ensured a continual supply of stewards and Peter Ford who managed the publications table.

A committee meeting took place immediately after the close of the Convention, and the agenda was dealt with satisfactorily.

Derek Nathan

## LEAMINGTON - Sales and Auction Postscript

Others will deal with the principal events at our 1997 Leamington Convention. This time the Members' Tables deserve an honourable mention: the total of sales recorded reached £3065.51 a figure that would astonish most stamp dealers who attend weekend fairs in the provinces. Indeed, the realisation pleasantly surprised our own Committee. Not only was it half as much again as the usual turnover (and probably £800 higher than our previous best); more importantly, there was no sale of a really major item to boost the total, whereas in earlier years we have secured individual sales of £500, £600 - even £800 - from one single collection or lot on offer.

We were helped by having three tables on which to spread out Circle wares. In addition, the stock itself was not so concentrated, with the result that we no longer had prospective buyers waiting in patience or, perhaps, frustration for the only two stockbooks that really mattered.

Because a sizeable chunk of what is sold arrives with the owner at Leamington, with unsold material collected and dispersed at the end of the day, a full record of the day's trading is impossible to keep. Publications and books were in plentiful supply, and would have accounted for about £500 worth of sales; while there were items to choose, from each of our BWI territories. Out of these, it seems that only Grenada drew a blank, with no takers throughout the day. Demand exceeded supply, however, in Barbados, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Leeward Islands and St. Vincent, a phenomenon that prospective sellers would do well to note.

Disposal of unsold lots from the April auction trickled on, and it was only by the narrowest of margins that we failed to reach a final total of 75% sales. The final count left 126 lots unsold; and once one takes into account that three of these (a huge number by Circle standards!) were items returned by the buyer, and that a prospective purchaser spent several minutes debating with himself over lot 185 (Jamaica used in Cayman Is.), we can claim a moral three quarters, at the very least. For any who may have second thoughts about lot 185, the opportunity has been missed; the stamp is travelling back to its owner as we write.

Not all members appreciate that our private treaty sales are not restricted to BWI. In the past we have seen Afghanistan on offer, a titillating collection of Columbia snapped up, postmarks of the Orange Free State finding a new home, and the like. This time, a stockcard of Tasmanian numerals on early classics brought a ready sale. So there is scope for anyone with an eye for quality or unusual material outside the Caribbean to buy or sell.

If there is a criticism to be made, it is that too many members take it for granted that there will be goods to sell and too few actually bring items to fill out our stock. On this occasion the vast majority of the stock came from a mere six sources, and these accounted for over 95% of the sales. Yet there was no lack of diversity: blocks, valuable singles; varieties, postmarks; covers; forgeries, proof material; collections, bulk lots; club books and album pages; modern and ancient; the familiar and the utterly obscure. The big challenge - we must have risen to it - is to find fresh material for those who have everything already: well, almost everything!

So next time round, have a quiet word in advance, with Simon Goldblatt or whoever is in charge, to discuss what you might like to buy or sell. You might live not to regret it.

Simon Goldblatt

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**TRINIDAD & TOBAGO BOOK** - We have been notified by Joe Chin Along that a new book entitled 'POSTAL HISTORY OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO' is in the pipeline. Details and a review will follow when available.

## TRINIDAD

With regard to the Michael Hamilton covers mentioned in the September 1997 bulletin, the following extract from the Report of the PMG (H. Chipchase) for 1873 and 1874 (Trinidad Royal Gazette (May 12, 1875) page 381) may shed a little light on the subject.

"With regard to registered letters I am glad to say that the precautionary measures adopted with this class of correspondence have given every satisfaction, and not the less so in the recent cases of the abstraction of the contents of certain registered

letters sent to St. Kitts in July and August last, when the measures adopted by me for the protection of such letters were clearly laid before the Commission appointed by the Secretary of State to examine into the matter. While on this subject I have to express an opinion that there should be a regulation rendering compulsory the registration of any letter containing money or valuables posted at any Office in this Colony, and so put an end to the frivolous and I really believe untrue complaints that are sometimes made regarding letters alleged to contain money. It has often happened that after considerable trouble has been taken to investigate complaints, the fault has been found to be that either of the writer or recipient of the letters, whilst on other occasions it has turned out that there was no ground of complaint at all".

Joe Chin Aleong

## **CONVENTION DISPLAYS**

### **"Themes of BWI Philately"-**

The main display of the morning session was given by Charles Freeland and was entitled "Themes of BWI Philately". Charles stated that the display was broken down into four mini displays, namely traditional philately, comparative studies of stamps and proofs, comparative studies of postal history and finally sundry items.

The section entitled traditional philately was divided into four groups beginning with Tobago the issued stamps. A comprehensive presentation from the GB used in the island up to the 1896 provisionals was shown. GB used included the four issued values plus a 6d on cover to London. The 1879 issues started with a master die proof, and concluded with a cover franked with a pair of 6d. The highlights of the 1880 issues were imperf proofs, mint block of 9 and used block 1/-, 4d used on cover and 4d with watermark inverted. In the later CA watermarks, there was a ½d green with inverted watermark, 1/- orange-brown used block and a range of issued values on properly rated covers. Then followed studies of the Sperati die proofs, the "slash" flaw and the "U for O" flaw. A second frame of provisionals contained a range of the settings and varieties. The highlight being a reconstructed block of six of the 1886 ½d on 2½d with the two centre stamps having a double overprint, one of them showing the normal spacing on one of the overprints and the wide spacing (#10 in the selling) on the other. This frame also showed hand stamped specimens, settings of the 1886 ½d on 6d and 1896 ½d on 4d and commercial usages on cover.

Then followed a section on the Nelson stamps of Barbados. This was a specialised showing of the 1906 Nelson stamps containing proof material and the issued stamps with varieties. Charles started by showing several essays submitted for the local competition, including different states of the accepted design followed by composite die proofs, colour trials and specimens. The issued stamps included paper changes, re-entries and watermark varieties.

A specialised showing of the Specimen stamps of George VI of Barbados followed, commencing with the Coronation set imperforate punched specimen and concluding with local presentation sets hand stamped. Highlights included an example of the 1938 ½d punched double in pair with normal and several examples of specimens overstamped by receiving authorities.

The concluding part of this section was a display of St. Lucia covers 1869-1893. Shown were covers bearing the Perkins Bacon issues, each showing a different franking or destination.

Included were single and double rate of 1869 to London franked with 6d values, different rates to Bordeaux, a 5d rate to Nova Scotia and a 1s 2d rate to Switzerland. Also shown were commercial covers franked with the 1882-4 overprints and the fiscals authorised for postal use.

The second part of the display "Comparative Studies (stamps and proofs) commenced with sixteen sheets showing the work of the artist of De La Rue and comprised different sketches, handpainted drawings or composite essays for stamps, stationery and revenue stamps. Included were the original sketches for the key die with the value tablets handpainted, as shown for the Bahamas 1884 high values, Grenada 1887 1d and the Trinidad 1884 Court Fee stamps as well as the composite essays in colour for the Barbados 1912 and British Guiana 1913 definitives and St Vincent 1909 Arms. Charles stated that his favourite item was the beautiful handpainted drawing of the British Honduras 1879 postcard.

These items were followed by examples of the work of Waterlow in the Caribbean and showed a range of Waterlow products. Half of this section was devoted to the principle "user" of Waterlow among BWI territories, British Guiana. There being a rich group of proofs and specimens, including the 1860 master die of the 4c with the other value tablets also inscribed and six black proofs, previously unrecorded, for the 1934 pictorial definitives. Also displayed were the file proofs for the Grenada 1934 definitives and the unique 1d and 6d die proofs for the Virgin Island Ursula design.

The next frame was a study of the "Thompson" flaw and represented a study of the detached triangle flaw on stamp 313 of the Queen Victoria colonial key plate, die 1 plate 2 which was used by Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Lucia, Turks Island and the Virgin Islands. Nearly all the BWI stamps known with the variety were shown, including examples in positional blocks or sheets. The highlights were two ' Antigua items, the 4d blue of 1882 mint and the 1884 2½d ultramarine with specimen overprint.

The final part of this section was a study of the Malformed CE Flaw. This was a study of the flaw on stamp 60 of the 4d duty plate shared by Dominica and Tobago commencing with the Dominica die proof submitted by De La Rue for approval by the Tobago authorities. Then followed examples of all the issued stamps known to show the flaw including the 1886 Dominica 4d grey with specimen overprint, Tobago 4d grey with additional "squashed fly" flaw and positional examples of the three Tobago provisionals, including a full setting of the 1896 ½d on 4d fiscal. Three Tobago covers bearing the variety were also shown.

The third part of the display "Comparative Studies (postal history) displayed items relating to the subject of Censor labels amended, the French connection, Forwarding Agents, Late Fee and Too Late markings, Missent markings, Official Paid markings and Underpaid mail. Charles began by stating that the Censor labels presented a mixed bag of WWII censor labels which had been altered to show different censor numbers or locations. Several of these are originally Antiguan labels, amended for use in Anguilla, Bermuda, Dominica and Montserrat. A rare Barbados usage showed a label with manuscript SS Auda denoting censorship on board a schooner carrying mail from Trinidad to Barbados.

The French connection demonstrated the close link between France and some of the BWI territories (especially St. Lucia and St. Vincent). There were frankings from British Guiana to France, six Polignac covers (three bearing double rates) and

examples of the "Demerari" and "St. Lucie" Paquebot markings used by the French mailboats. Other items include Belize transit mail between France and Latin America and a cover from Martinique in 1800 bearing a rare straight-line Tortola mark with large lettering.

The next frame shown was of Forwarding Agents marks with several rare pieces which transited the BWI, included three blockade runners forwarded by Bahamas agent Adderley, several unusual marks of the Belize agents who handled mail between Latin America (especially Guatemala) and Europe and two covers forwarded by Gerold & Ulrich in Trinidad (one from Venezuela bearing the D22 killer of Ciudad Bolivar). Local forwarders include the Antigua agent Hurst Turner and Wm Perot of Bermuda.

Late fee and Too Late markings. Among the late fee marks were an 1888 cover from Dominica to London and a 1916 cover from Br. Honduras clearly struck "late fee collected". The Too Late section included the unique italic mark on an 1863 Barbados cover and a similar but larger mark on a Bermuda cover of 1891. The Missent markings contained a sample of the wide range of Missent marks that the BWI countries used. The most notable items were manuscript 19th century marks of Br. Honduras (together with a date stamp), Montserrat and Tobago. All these are the only examples known, as were an italic handstamp used in Nevis in 1899 and a St. Vincent handstamp of 1929.

The Official Paid markings depicted showed a wide range of marks, the rarest being two Belize marks of 1891 and 1909, both of which are otherwise unrecorded, and two Dominica covers of 1896 and 1924 (the latter bearing a late use of the crowned circle). There were also very scarce markings of Barbuda, Bermuda, British Guiana (two Governor handstamps) and St. Lucia.

This section was completed by a display of Underpaid mail. Charles stated that the BWI countries used a mixture of adhesive stamps, handstamps and manuscript markings to indicate the fines due on underpaid mail. This frame concentrated on the last two, with special attention to the many handstamps used by Bermuda and St. Lucia. The Bermuda rarities included a 5d handstamp of 1899, a "2d to Pay" of 1949 and two rare dues of the 1940s with a composite rate made up by two different handstamps. The St. Lucia highlight was the only known example of the boxed italic 1d due mark of 1927. Other rare items were two Grenada adhesives and a two-line "Deficient -postage fine" marking of St. Vincent.

The final section was of "The Great Collectors and their stamps" and showed photographs of world famous collectors accompanied by items from their collections. Items shown included: Antigua English Harbour cover of 1877 with date in manuscript (ex. Charlton Henry); British Guiana 1899 2c on 15c inverted overprint, one stamp without stop in corner block (ex. Liechtenstein); British Honduras QV imperfs including 6d yellow (ex. Ferrari); 1900 cover bearing Jamaica used in Cayman Islands (ex. R.A.G. Lee); Grenada mint block of SG.12 and used block of SG.7 (ex. Messenger); Montserrat 6d pair on 1876 cover and 6d trisect and half-trisect on 1883 cover (ex. Hopkins); St. Lucia the unique unframed Steam Conveyance label (ex. Steindler); St. Vincent unique used block of 1/- indigo (ex. Forsyth) and mint block of 1885 red-brown (ex. Crawford) and finally Virgin Islands 1922 master die proof with uncleared surround (ex. Louise Boyd Dale).

### **JAMAICA - Part 1**

The afternoon displays of Jamaica were started by Steve Jarvis who stated that the two displays by Derek Sutcliffe and himself were scheduled to coincide with the

publication of the "Encyclopaedia of Jamaica" that was being produced with the support of the Study Circle. Steve continued by stating that the first volume deals with the stamps up to 1935 and that his display takes two of the chapters of Volume 1 and tries to reflect some of the information presented.

Chapter 1 covers the Laureated head of Queen Victoria first issued in 1860. The head design first appeared for Jamaica in the late 1850's when it was used for the high value revenues which were shown together with the later fiscal stamps.

Next to be shown were some die proofs of the finished design, at first sight the portrait looks the same but for some reason De La Rue kept tinkering with the shading of the face, laurel leaves and chignon, so variations exist within and between values. These were followed by a selection of specimens; for the UPU period from 1874 to 1948 they provide a useful reference of what is usually the first printing. Steve then stated that he preferred the earlier period used for various other reference and presentation purposes, the real prizes are those done in the Colony of which he had a couple.

The display continued with the issued stamps, each denomination in the sequence originally issued. The main items of note were:- three examples of the Dollar variety on CA paper, and both colours on MCA paper. He stated that he considered it remarkable that this error was never corrected in its lifetime of 50 years. Then followed the 4d values in brown and black on multiple crown paper, (both very small printings), the latter may have been a mistake as it does not conform to the universal colour scheme being introduced at the time. Next shown were a few early covers with a couple of bisections of the 1d value, which were valid for 11 years and finally in this group some stationery which will be the subject of a future volume of the Encyclopaedia. Steve stated that for some unexplained reason the ½d wrapper used a diadem portrait. The issue was progressively replaced over a 20 year period, as funds allowed, starting with the key-plates and continuing with the next section of the display, the tail side of the coin, the Arms of the Colony.

A brief outline of the events leading to the introduction to these issues was then given and Steve stated that the Jamaica Philatelic Society had petitioned for a new design since 1897. After the death of Queen Victoria it was agreed to proceed. In May 1902 the Governor decided that the Arms of the Colony should form the basis of the design rather than the head of Edward VII. Three values were required: ½d the postcard rate; 1d the Empire rate; 2½ the UPU rate. At the beginning of July 1902 DLR were asked to prepare a design. Initially they offered the Fiscal arms used in the 1850s, which were shown, but on 12 July they were instructed to prepare a new design. In August 1902, four essays were produced. Two of the ½d, (one in green, the other in yellow-green and pink), both in the normal size; one of the 1d in red but a larger size; and one of the 2½d in black and blue also in the larger size. Two further essays of the 1d were produced in October, one in red, the other in green and red. These are close to the issued design. The design was approved in April 1903 but the earliest recorded essay of the final design was dated 4th May 1903, a 2½d with a hand painted frame in blue and a photographic vignette.

He continued by stating that unfortunately he had not moved into the league of ownership of essays yet, so he showed a printed page of the images that had been put together by scanning from auction catalogues to illustrate the design progression.

In June and July die proofs were produced of the vignette and the composite design without values in the tablets and with the vignette partially uncleared. In August Die proofs of the cleared vignette appeared together with those for the frames of the first

three values, the go-ahead for the plate was given on 1st September 1903. A selection of these were then shown. On 4 September, 11 different colour trials were produced using the ½d denomination. A sheet showing 7 of them with varying frame and centres was then shown. Steve stated that the ones on coloured paper were interesting as they must have been the fore-runners of those used in production 5 years later.

The next items to be shown were Specimens, among the items shown were normal examples, examples overprinted Ultramar and the unique SER.ET varieties overprinted with type J5. Then followed the issued stamps in unused condition on Crown CA paper, including a block of 48 of the 5d value, followed by the same values on Multiple Crown paper.

Then followed pages showing the introduction of the additional values: At the beginning of June 1905, seven more colour trials of the ½d were produced for some proposed additional denominations. This time MCA paper was used for at least some of the time. One example was shown. Die Proofs of the 5/- value was produced at the same time but the 6d did not appear until 1910 (examples of both were shown) followed by the issued stamps in blocks.

In 1905, the Government asked for the existing design to be printed in one colour so new designs were prepared. Printing from two plates had typically cost 1s 8d per 1000 stamps but printing from one plate would cost only 5¼d per 1000 stamps. Essays exist of two different designs, one pair undated and the other dated 30th June, scanned pictures were shown.

Then followed a sheet showing the two colour trials produced in June together with Die Proofs of the designs, followed by the 2½d mono-colour using the UCS which appeared in 1910 and two positional examples of the variety were shown, (both the constant one and the transient one), where the U of revenue is closed at the top forming an "O".

Steve then went on to the second part of this section which consisted of a study of the SER.ET error, stating that the basic error was catalogued by Gibbons as "the V and I of SERVIET replaced by a full stop". However, there are numerous variations affecting the letters R, V and 1. In 1930 Herbed Cooke published a very detailed analysis in the Jamaica Philatelist and this was followed in 1978 by one by Bob Swarbrick. Steve showed 12 sheets showing his version of the research and stated that the cause of the error has never been satisfactorily explained but the best explanation seems to be a wedge of grit lodged in the plate. A number of blow up photos and scanned images of several states of the variety were included to help illustrate the research.

## **HELP WANTED**

I collect the War Tax and Red Cross stamps and labels from the first World War, and now have quite an extensive collection. I collect not only the countries of the British West Indies, but also the other countries in the British Commonwealth and I would like to know if any member can help me with the following:

- a) To write up my collection I am acquiring copies of the relevant sections in books or other publications that cover my area of interest. So far, however, I have not been able to obtain any material covering the War Tax issues of Antigua,

Barbados, Br. Guiana, Br. Honduras, Br. Virgin Is., Montserrat, St. Kitts and St. Lucia.

- b) First Flight covers from 1929 and 1930 with War Tax stamps applied, and sent by Dr. Waite Hess in the Bahamas can frequently be found. So far I have covers to 11 different countries, but there must be many more. Is there a definitive list of all known destinations and who in fact was Dr. Hess and what is known about him?
- c) The Montserrat 1½d black & orange SG.62 was, according to Gibbons, issued in March 1919. No precise date is given. I have just acquired an inexpensive cover with a strip of 3 with the clear cds 4th March 1919. I would like to know if this could possibly be a First Day Cover.

If anyone can help me with my research I would be very grateful if you would contact me at: 8 Sympson Close, Abingdon. Oxon. OX14 5RB. Tel: 01235 529548.

John Davis

## PERFINS

I started something when I mentioned this topic. Several members have deluged me with information. I am flattered. Acknowledgements, however - in alphabetical order - to Cyril Bell, Ken James, The Perfins Club (yes, of course there is one), Derek Sutcliffe and Ron Wike. There follows some collated wisdom from these sources.

Territory by territory, the following have been noted..-

Antigua - see under Leeward Islands, but examples may yet be spotted on the early long fiscal issues of Antigua itself.

Bahamas - nothing seen within my own period, but an unattributed "FH" (8mm) and "T" (5mm) have been noted from the 1950's and 60's.

Barbados - "L & Co. " stands, it seems for Laurie & Company, ship brokers: although we have it on the Jubilee issues, a start date of 1892 is suggested, so look for it on the definitives as well. Also recorded is "G. ", attributed to G.P.O. in the later 1930's; we are referred here to Colin Bayley's article BCPJ, Dec.'68.

British Guiana - The input for Booker Brothers "BB & Co. " includes a very pleasant cover to Canada (from Georgetown, obviously) of 4 June 1915, this with 4c, rather than the usual 2c. To the member who asks, what is the usual orientation? - I can only surmise that there wasn't one; it was however the stamp that was fed to the punch. I omit all mention of the SPECIMEN punch, which was far too officially used to be treated as a perfin.

British Honduras - The Perfins Club illustrates a perforation for telegrams, one from the 1920.'c reading "TEL DEPT", 6mm letters, and a two-line "B.H.P.O. TELEGRAMS", 5mm letters. It seems to me, though, we should differentiate between the use of imprints denoting ownership and those denoting usage or cancellations: these two clearly belong to the field of - may I coin the word? "perfouts". One may sometimes see, especially on a large stamp such as the 1935 Silver Jubilee issue, portions of a date above the Telegrams imprint, so that the device used to cancel the stamp on the telegram form would have incorporated a changeable date mechanism. If single stamps of the 1930's turn up simply showing portions of perfin numerals, these can be assigned with some confidence to

telegraphic use. More open to question are imprints of "D.C. BELIZE." and "D.C. CAYO", which I am quite ready to accept denote a District Commissioner, and could denote at least authorisation, if not ownership. These belong, apparently, to the 1920's.

Cayman Islands - boasts a two-line 4mm legend "DULY STAMPED": well out of my period (1960's) and I shall not comment further.

Grenada - from two sources we can piece together a complete "GRENADA" measuring 32 x 4mm on the QV orange and green fiscals. There were larger initials above, I suggest three of these, the first two being perhaps P and A, while the third, if existing, was struck off the stamp. There is another stamp just touched with the tip of a curved letter, which looks different from the marks just described, whilst a fiscally used badge type 1d red has acquired two part initials that look to me like an O and a P out of orientation with one another.

Jamaica produces some intriguing examples, shown to me on 6d, 1/- and 2/- Judicial overprints of QV issues, watermark CA. They consist of numerals in singles and pairs (8mm) generally separated by a 6mm six-pointed Star of David, which possibly just represents an asterisk here. The numbers seen most are 0, 1, 2 or 3 (including 11, 12, 21 and 23), the most complete example reading "21\*2\*0" on a vertical pair. Out of twenty-seven stamps shown, there are two with alien numbers, either 8 and 6, or two 8's. Not dates, evidently, so what does it all represent?

United Fruit Company (UFCO. - 8mm) is seen, not infrequently from about 1920 onwards and the 7mm JTC of Jamaica Telephone Company is occasionally found from the 1920's to the beginning of the Second World War.

Finally there is a nine-hole diamond-shaped punch measuring 18 x 14mm, which seems to me as good a way of mutilating a stamp as any other.

Leeward Islands - MCA and the scarcer MCB are well known to us: it seems you may find them on the QV fiscals as well as on the postal definitives, so perhaps they will turn up on Antigua issues. In similar format, but 9mm size, I am shown illustrations of MDD and what may be MDK. As these come on KGVI issues I shall venture no comment. They seem to appertain to St. Kitts, on whose issues the device is also found.

Montserrat - found on early QE 11 issues is a 10mm MC. This is surely recent enough usage for one to be able to verify whether it stands for Magistrates Courts.

St. Kitts-Nevis - see under Leeward Islands for MDD.

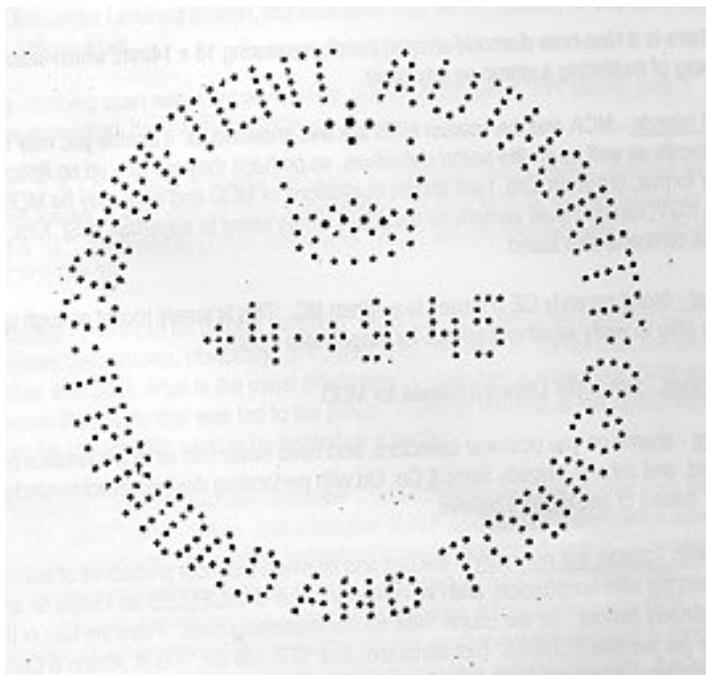
St. Vincent - shame on you post-war collectors, who have never told us of the flirtation by Corea's Trading Ltd. and John H. Hazells Sons & Co. Ltd with perforating devices to acknowledge payment! Issues of late KGVI, I believe.

Trinidad (with Tobago, but not really) - the last and by much the most productive of our references. I'll begin with my own contribution, and I've now seen a full CANCELLED on 1920's 5/- and £1 values: definitely perfout - for the count! Now for the interesting ones. From the turn of the century we get two-line "F.J./S&S" (not attributed) and "G.R.A/& Co." - G.R. Alston & Co. Other single line traders' marks are "G G X Co." and "W S X Co": these are not identified, and there is a stylistic resemblance which suggests that a common maker of the punch fought shy of an

ampersand symbol. The Registrar General contributed R in a circle (14/8mm), which is a big advance upon the deceptive postal-type c.d.s., succeeded by a less imaginative straight-line RG. 8mm. Then there are two sizes of DC, 9 and 12mm, the larger being the later; and by now we have moved into the Trinidad and Tobago era, where traders' marks are completed with a two line 6mm AC/D of Archer Coal Depot known only, I believe, in the KG VI period.

For the daddy of all perforators, let me move over to Ron Wike, who has dug up a device of the 1940's that defies description (see illustration below). We are in the days of immediate post-war exchange control, and this imprint licensed the supply of £50 worth of postage stamps to a dealer in California - the particular licence was valid for a month. It lies beyond my economic ken - and beyond the scope of a specialist philatelic publication - to wonder why anybody should wish to control the marketing of inexpensive (to produce) philatelic paper in exchange for readily marketable U.S. dollars

In his script accompanying, Ron writes "The supply of postage stamps to dealers and individual collectors has always been a major problem for the Colonial Office and Colonial Postmasters. These difficulties were further compounded by the second world war, 1939-45, when the sale of stamps which could be used to transfer funds or for clandestine reasons was strictly controlled. This restriction continued even after the war ended as a form of currency control. To assist genuine dealers and collectors a permit was prepared by the Post Office in Trinidad and Tobago so that an Export Licence could be granted. The permit itself has a large circular perforated security mark - for details see below. "



For almost the first time I can serve as a conduit for answering a members enquiry - see above

A final comment: I well remember as a child being told by my parents that a perfin (the name wasn't then current, however) made a stamp valueless, because the stamp was damaged. So, many such were thrown away, no doubt. Nevertheless one can still find perfins in profusion from G.B., from Ceylon, from Malaysia, from Hong Kong, and so on (including Canada, coming closer to our philatelic home). I leave out reference to Belgium, France, Germany etc., where perhaps, on traditional grounds, nothing was discarded. My own conclusion is that B.W.I. perfins are scarce today, because they always were scarce. No, correct that - very scarce!

Simon Goldblatt

## ST. CHRISTOPHER - Manuscript Cancellations

It is now possible with some certainty to extend the recorded use of manuscript cancellations in at least one of the village offices almost to the introductory date of the abbreviated duplex cancellers proofed in London on 10 May 1900.

A Myerscough cover bearing five halfpenny stamps (Leeward SG.1 .) has surfaced, dated 9/5/98 in the handwriting associated with Sandy Point; the stamps themselves are cancelled with the St. Kitts / A12 duplex the following day. The postmark is clearly overlaid on the manuscript date, which appears on the envelope itself, away from the stamps, a characteristic of covers addressed overseas.



I believe this brings to about seventeen the number of St. Kitts manuscript village covers, although this latest example may be the first bearing Leeward adhesives.

Michael Medicott

## **ROBSON LOWE - R.I.P.**

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of John Harry Robson Lowe (known to his friends as Robbie) at the age of 92.

He began collecting stamps at the age of 6, eventually embarking on a career in philately. In 1926 he established Robson Lowe Ltd. Over the years he has produced the Regent Stamp Catalogue (1932), the Handstruck Stamps of the British Empire 1680-1900 (1939), the first volume (Europe) of the six volume Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps (1948). By the time of the last volume in 1990, only South America and Antarctica remained to be covered.

In 1950, he founded the Society of Postal History. He will be remembered for the many auctions of specialised stamps and postal history that he held, not only in Bournemouth and London but around the world.

During his lifetime he received many awards for his service to Philately, including the Liechtenstein Medal and the John Luff Award. He declined an invitation to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

His wife Winifred whom he married in 1926 died in 1972. He is survived by two daughters who, with their husbands, were for many years partners in his business.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

### **New Members**

Faber, I.J.

Holmes, R.N.

Miller, C.P.B.

### **Change of Address**

Ashley, W.B.

Chin Aleong, J.

Foden, R.  
Giraidi, T.E.  
Shepherd, A.  
Swetland, M.W.

### **Resigned**

Barwick, C.J. . Benn, A.G. Hathaway, K.J. Lythgoe, B.G. Pollard, D.G. Smith, V.F.

### **Deceased**

Hutson, T.A.; Ledger, D,E, Lowe, R.

## **AROUND THE CARIBBEAN**

### **ANGUILLA**

Further to the information given in the June Bulletin:-

- (I) The Philatelic Bureau handstamp with the spelling error was manufactured by Messrs, Coles of Barbados.
- (II) The new machine handstamp was a gift to the Anguillan Post Office from the British Postal Consultancy Service (BPCS) and received in January this year.

The British Postal Consultancy Service (BPCS) was established in 1965 as a professional independent consultancy service. They are specialists in building design, postal equipment, administration and the preparation of tender documents. They have a reputation for completely impartial advice. In Anguilla the BPCS had an input into the design of the new Anguilla Post Office.

### **BERMUDA**

Commemorative stamp issue:  
Release date - 9th October 1997  
Values 30c, \$2.00  
Souvenir Sheet \$2.30  
Design Derek Miller  
Printer Questa  
Process Lithography  
Stamp size 30.56 x 38mm  
Stamps per sheet 50 (2 x 25)  
Paper C.A. Spiral

### **GOLDEN WEDDING**



### **JAMAICA**

Commem. stamp issue **10th ANNIV. OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER**

Date of issue - 7th April 1997  
Value- \$55.00

Definitive Stamp issue (Part 1) Date of issue - 9th October 1997  
Value- \$1.00, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00, \$5.00 Jamaica Orchids  
Printers House of Questa  
Stamps per sheet 50 (2 x 25)

## **B.W.I. AUCTION - No. 23**

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 seller's reserve: sale commission on the reserve price.

These conditions apply as between buyer and/or seller and every officer member and agent of the Circle concerned on behalf of the Circle with any aspect of the Auction Sale.

Further Information:

- 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 1998 BULLETIN MUST REACH SIMON GOLDBLATT BY 12TH JANUARY 1998 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.
- f) 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 subcommittee 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 39p stamp to cover cost.

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## **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 only 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.

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**MATERIAL WANTED PLEASE**  
**FOR MARCH AND ALL FUTURE ISSUES**

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