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**STUDY CIRCLE**

FOUNDED  
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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**BULLETIN No. 176 MARCH 1998**

# BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

## Affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation

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<i>Hon. Auditor:</i>	<b>J.A.C. FARMER, F.C.A.</b>
<i>North American Representative:</i>	<b>W. CLARY HOLT</b>

## 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                      2.15 p.m.                      AGM followed by annual Auction  
Venue:                                      The Bonnington Hotel  
    Southampton Row  
    London WC1

Saturday 26th September.                      WIPEX  
Venue:                                      The Bonnington hotel  
    Southampton Row,  
    London. WC1

# ACCOUNTS

## Income and Expenditure Statements for the year ended 31 December 1997

<u>1996</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1997</u>
£		£. p
2469	Subscriptions	2484.00
7	Publications - net surplus less postages	454.88
	- Publication launch costs	(584.71)
862	Auction and Miscellaneous donations	1320.13
14	Opinion Fees	-
<u>227</u>	Interest received less tax	<u>181.45</u>
<u>£ 3579</u>	<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>£3855.75</u>

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
1293	Bulletin : costs less advertising	1080.62
783	: distribution and Editorial expenses	<u>920.47</u>
		2001.09
90	Library: acquisitions	48.20
61	:insurance	62.00
5	: Library List & Librarian's expenses less recoveries	<u>146.75</u>
		256.95
149	Meeting room hire less collections	158.75
141	ABPS Affiliation Fee	143.40
155	Officers' Administration : stationery, postages, telephone, photo-copying etc. less recoveries	362.17
	- Convention (net deficit)	144.11
226	Camberley Show (WIPEX96)	62.40
<u>50</u>	Miscellaneous	-
<u>£2953</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>£ 3128.87</u>

<u>626</u>	SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR	<u>726.88</u>
<u>£3579</u>		<u>£3855.75</u>

### Balance Sheet as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 1997

<u>ACCUMULATED FUND</u>		
13550	Balance at 1.1.1997	14175.86
626	Add Surplus for the year	726.88
	- Building Society windfall surplus (net)	1494.37
	- Reserve no longer required	134.30
<u>260</u>	Dollar conversion reserve	<u>185.41</u>
14436		16716.82
<u>(5652)</u>	Less Stocks of Publications at cost	<u>(11416.62)</u>
<u>£8784</u>		<u>£5300.20</u>

<u>REPRESENTED BY:</u>		
10620	Cash at Banks ( and Building Society in 1996)	6997.86
<u>263</u>	Amounts due to us	180.00
10883		7177.86
(134)	LM Taxation Reserve	-
(1965)	Subscriptions received In advance	1827.66
<u>(-)</u>	Amounts due by us	<u>50.00</u>
<u>£8784</u>		<u>£5300.20</u>

#### AUDITOR REPORT

I hereby certify that the income and Expenditure Statements for the year ended 31 December 1997 are in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me; and that the Balance Sheet shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle at that date, save that the Stocks of Publications, whilst valued at cost as consistent with previous accounts, may not have a market value of the sum stated on that date and in the Balance Sheet have been treated as having a nil value. In all other respects the finances of the Study Circle appear to be sound. There are three honorary life members.

J.A.C. Farmer, FCA, FRPSL.  
8 February 1998.

## CAMBERLEY'97

The Study Circle were invited by the Camberley and District Stamp Club to provide an honorary panel for display at their Stamp Fair on 15th November 1997. This was held in conjunction with their Sixteenth Three Counties Club Competition at Collingwood College, Camberley. The Circle provided 18 frames which were displayed in the gymnasium along with the winning entries in the Club competition. The gymnasium was situated some distance away from the action in the main hall where there were over 30 dealers. However, there was a steady trickle of visitors to the gymnasium who were well rewarded by the quality of the displays.

A good range of BWI territories were represented as follows, in alphabetical order:

Antigua	Simon Greenwood showed GB used abroad, covers and plate proofs of issued stamps
Barbados	Frank Deakin showed early covers, specimen stamps and flaws on QEII
Bermuda	David Springbett showed a comprehensive study of KGV key plates including many scarce multiples as well as a display of registered postcards and postal stationery.
Br. Guiana	2 frames from Derek Nathan. 1 frame showed covers, accountancy marks and overseas mail, 1 frame was devoted to proofs.
Br. Honduras	Simon Greenwood showed early QV stamps and covers.
Guyana	David Atkinson showed overprint errors on the QEII issues.
Jamaica	Derek Sutcliffe showed items from his Leamington display of the ABC of Jamaica.
Leeward Is.	2 frames from Tony Farmer. One frame showed essays and covers, the other frame showed a range of errors and flaws ranging from an early QV essay up to QEII issues. 1 frame from Mike Spavin was devoted to flaws on the KGV farthing definitive.
St. Vincent	Stephen Sharp showed early QV stamps and covers.
Trinidad	2 frames from Sir John Marriott showing many rare items, including the 9d overprints made to commemorate the visit of the Duke of York and a letter written by him to the colony. There were also proofs of the Britannia design including a photograph.

Circle members who visited on the day, included David Springbett, Tony Farmer, Simon Goldblatt, Stephen Sharp, Sir John Marriott and the indefatigable Derek Nathan. Our thanks are due to Derek for organising and collecting the fine display of exhibits. The only disappointment was the comparatively small number of visitors who saw them.

Peter Boulton

## ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

### Section Ref. Title

2.13.28.1 Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately  
Vol.1 - D. Sutcliffe & S. Jarvis BWISC 1997

### Location

Top

Derek Nathan

## **THE HON. TREASURER**

Chris May retired as the Hon. Treasurer of the Study Circle on the 31st. December 1997 at his own request, but he will be presenting the Report of the Hon. Treasurer for the year 1997 at the Annual General Meeting of the Study Circle on Saturday 25th April 1998. In the meantime Ray J. Stanton will be the Acting Hon. Treasurer as from the 1st January 1998.

E.V. Toeg (President)

## **ANTIGUA**

The article in the September bulletin by Michael Hamilton concerning the Foreign postcard to Antigua was interesting.

I consider that the Duplex London cancellation on the card was overlooked. The part of the Duplex containing the "Z" is usually associated with late posting.

Upon joining the UPU any country became "Foreign" irrespective, at this time, of whether they were a Crown Colony or not. Did the sender consider that it was appropriate to get a "First Day" cancellation.

So upon presenting the card a "Late Fee" was asked for, which at this time was a penny, but being only a postcard then only a half-penny was charged. The card as Michael stated was at half the overseas letter rate of two pence halfpenny.

I have seen, but not often, local GB Printed Matter items, at a penny, posted late but not a postcard with a Late Fee. For Michael to find one to the West Indies is quite an achievement.

Doug Nottingham

## **ANGUILLA - Portrait of an Artist - Michèle Lavalette**

The definitive set of stamps 'Fruits of Anguilla' issued in April 1997 was another example of the work of the talented artist that designed them - Michèle Lavalette.

Michèle R. Lavalette was born in France. After studies at the Ecole Nationale des Art Decoratifs de Limoges, she specialised in trademark design for the fashion world.

In 1970, she became a freelance photographer (her pictures published in well known magazines such as Marie-France, Elle, Photo, Vogue Homme, Oggi, Figaro magazine and Stern magazine) where she won the 1982 Photo journalism prize. She exhibits in Paris at the gallery Espace Canon. Her photographic work included

subjects as varied as Malcolm Forbes, Margaux Hemingway, Niarchos' Yacht. She is represented by Gamma Agency, S.D.P. and Vloo.



In 1984, she decided to dedicate all her time to her first passion (painting) and moved to Anguilla where she still lives. Her work was an immediate success. Her artwork is sought after by collectors worldwide and hangs in collections in the U.S., Canada, England, Spain, Italy, France, Australia as well as the Caribbean.

Michèle's talent is expressed through the full spectrum of artistic media. Flowers radiate their bright beauty from her oil canvases. The misty beauty of water scenes are accomplished through pastels.

A keen sense of graphic design is realised with stencils. This command of many techniques allows her to select the appropriate venue to capture the many images that comprise this popular artist's vision.

For Christmas 1991, the Government of Anguilla asked her to design a series of stamps for the Christmas issue. Since then she has designed many more stamp series, among which are the issues celebrating the 500th Anniversary of Christopher Columbus first voyage, Racing Boats and the 1996 Corals of Anguilla.

Many of her original artworks are exclusively available at her studio and art gallery "L'Atelier" in North Hill, Anguilla that is a typical old West Indian house.

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

## BARBADOS - Re-entry



The 1d of the Nelson set shown has a son of re-entry on Nelson's left shoulder as you look at the stamp.

I also have a similar re-entry on the ½d value

I would very much welcome the opportunity to ask fellow members whether they have come across this variety, and if so, whether they can give me any further information as regards other values and the sheet position etc.

R.B. Hill

## BARBADOS - Postmarks

### Postmark E9

The standard work notes that this occurs in blue on the Nelson issue in 1906. I have 28 examples but it is very difficult to de-cipher the dates in this colour. I can identify 12 examples as May, but the actual dates are indistinct. Can anyone give a spread of dates or explain the use of a blue cancel on this particular issue for one month.

### St. Lucy

In the M3 postmark we find a date slug of 1911 apparently in error for 1901. My latest 01 is Sept.7 and earliest 11 is Oct.25. Can any collector close this gap. My latest 11 is Dec.6 - any offers of a later date.

Peter Longley

## BRITISH GUIANA -An almost dumb cancel

When I first came to own the splendid work produced by Townsend & Howe, I believed that the last word must have been said about British Guiana postmarks, at least up to the start of World War it. Since its publication, however, the researches of others and even, I suppose, some gleanings of my own, have added to the tale.

My latest talking-point is a category of 19th century marks with which the text does not even deal perhaps because they seem too ordinary to catch the eye. We are talking of the early 1880's and of a double-circle date stamp of standard size, with B. GUIANA at the base, and no place name at the top.



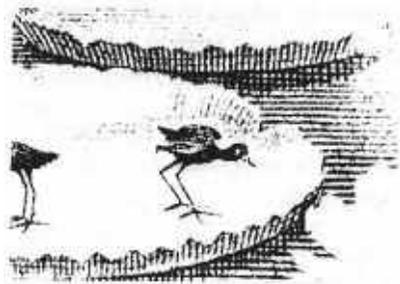
On seeing such a mark, one's first reaction may be that the upper portion has simply not been inked: closer inspection will show that any place name that may have been provided for the original date stamp - if any such provision there was - will have been removed. In its stead, tiny code letters will be found. My only full example reveals 'CA', inverted, towards the apex of the smaller circle. Others have noted the CA code, and I gather that other codes may exist.

The example cited bears a date in 1882. Code marks had largely been superseded by then. One wonders - or I do - whether the GPO, in ordering date stamps for its subordinate offices, had ordered one or two instruments which were dumb, but for the colony name, with a view to provisional use.

The code CA makes sense to me; for Carmichael Street and Cabacaburi have not been recorded as having their own c.d.s. at this date (but Cane Grove opened too late, it seems). I would certainly welcome further information about these strikes - the range of dates, and the other code letters in use. If I had to make a guess, the inversion in my example of the month, so that the date reads ED 14 is more consistent with Cabacaburi. Carmichael St. was in Georgetown, after all, where one would expect a better-trained postal clerk.

Simon Goldblatt

## BRITISH GUIANA



Some time ago, I purchased a part-sheet of the left 6 columns of the QE.II 3c. definitive (SG.333) and was surprised to notice a flaw in the form of a broken feather on the tail of the right-hand Jacana. I have been unable to find another example of this.

It is on a Waterlow printing (the imprint is at the foot of the sheet) on Script CA paper and occurs on the 3rd row, 4th column (R3/4). I would be interested to hear from anyone who has noticed a similar 'broken feather' flaw.

Peter Ford

## **BARBADOS -'PENNY HALF on 4d Brown'- (SG.104d)**

I refer to the note of Leslie J. Goodwin in Bulletin No. 174 and also Michael Hamilton's comment in Bulletin No. 173.

I have recently acquired a copy of this stamp which is also dated JY 27 92. Have I obtained one of the copies seen by Leslie Goodwin or is this another example with the same date?

Should we be perturbed by the few examples known apparently all having the same date?

Frank Bennett

## **LEEWARD ISLANDS**

One topic which I do not believe that we have discussed in the Bulletin is the possibility of acquiring for each of the Leewards territories a used copy of each stamp and shade that the catalogue lists. My own experience (naturally) does not take me beyond the issues of KGV, and I have tackled (naturally) only the Virgin Islands for the purpose.

It quickly becomes clear that many items were seldom used in, and a good few were probably not issued to, this territory. If, at the time of writing, I am down to half a dozen, or fewer, missing stamps, gaps would be far more numerous without the attentions of those who inspired quantities of philatelic covers to be sent in the first quarter of the present century. To this I bring my own quirks and prejudices: for I refused to compete for the only used copy of the sexagenary 5/- (ex. Charlton Henry etc.) known to me to come on the market - it bears an 'A13' killer, and so was posthumous for the issue, struck about 1902.

Give or take the need to find the KGV 3d and 1/- on white paper - issued so far as I am aware to Montserrat only - I expect that completion for Antigua, St. Kitts and perhaps Dominica would not be too daunting a task; but it would be interesting to hear a more definite view from those who have tried it.

Montserrat is plainly difficult. Like Virgin Islands, it was given plenty of philatelic attention in the first 25 years or so of the century. The sexagenary issue from 4d upwards is probably even scarcer than in Virgin Islands.

I imagine, though, that it would be Nevis, among the regular members of the Leeward group, that would give most trouble, because I am far less familiar with philatelic mail and products from that source.

It would be unfair to those with work in progress to invite them to identify in terms the stamps missing from their album pages, for to do so could be to establish a market against themselves; but it would not be unfair to invite information as to the

number of different stamps still to find - or as to the ones that have been landed with extreme difficulty, after a search of many years. So, for example, I can cheerfully point to the ¼d of King Edward's time as quite the toughest of the KE stamps to hunt down: it took me five years hard labour, after a previous copy used in Virgin Is. was snatched from under my nose by a fairly new member of the Circle, while the Script wmk. 1d red is probably not noticeably easier. How then have others fared around the group?

Last to be mentioned is Barbuda. Here of course any stamp that 'died' before 1922 may (when found) be presumed to have been philatelically revived - even if the Codrington tradition could have been succeeded by estate correspondence lasting through to modern times. For me, Barbuda in the early part of the present century calls to mind the thatched-hut dispensary, portrayed on the only early picture postcard I have seen. This certainly does not suggest that the island would have engendered lively commercial correspondence at the period; which only serves to demonstrate how uninformed I am as to whatever postal arrangements may have subsisted between 1890 and 1920, before the island's own stamps came on stream. It is a subject on which we seem to have maintained collective silence.

This said, the collector of Barbuda strikes would legitimately absorb Antigua issues alongside Leewards ones. Moreover, we can be freer with information: for I suggest that, while Barbuda strikes are properly accorded a premium value as such, there is no warrant for placing a 'gettability' value on particular individual stamps. Thus, if I find a QV 5/- or sexagenary 6d with a Barbuda strike, it should and would stir me no more than finding a similar copy of SG.1. (I know that I have the odd QV stamp so treated, but have not checked; probably these include none of the three values just mentioned).

On the whole the more colourful Antiguan issues appealed more to our philatelic suppliers than the Leeward group; so the posthumous supply of KE stamps is predominantly - indeed almost exclusively - on the Badge types, and the KG.V Antigua issues are similarly favoured. Thus, returning to my original theme, if one rashly adheres to Barbuda cancellations, how far can one get? Is there any amongst us who has almost completed Antigua for the reigns of KE.VII and KG.V? Is there anyone who has attempted Leeward Is. and got as far as halfway? Stan Durnin and Bill Bogg are, alas, no longer around to tell us, but there have to be one or two who have been trying to take their place.

Simon Goldblatt

## **JAMAICA POSTCARDS**

### **The "FLORIATE" issue of 1877-1878**

(Continued from the December 1997 Bulletin No. 175)

To make it easier to understand the theories listed in Part 1 (in the Dec. 1997 issue), refer to the examples of the borders and message blocks on the following pages which show the six major borders and their associated message blocks. These six varieties are as follow:

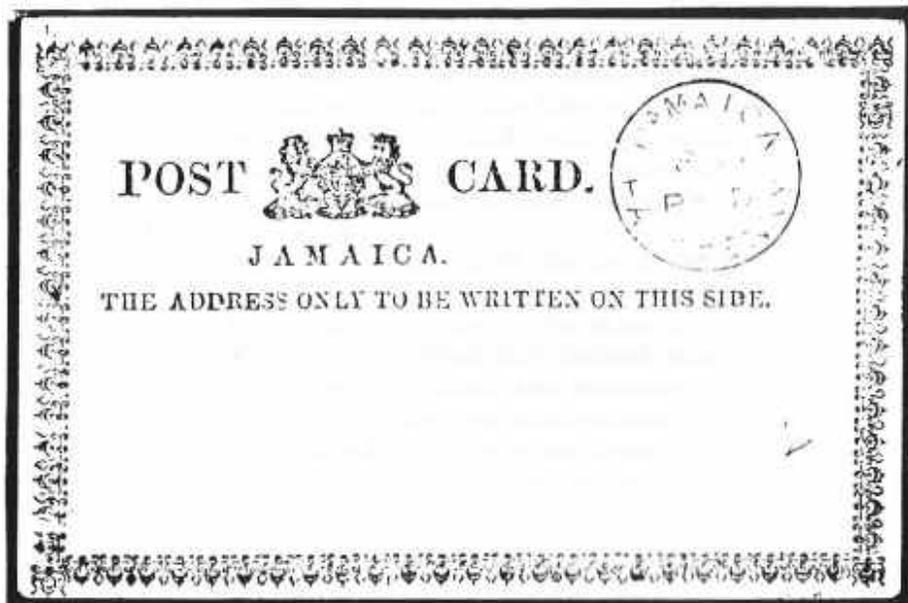
## TYPE S.1

Post card size:	115 x 74 mm	Card Stock:	Thick card
Card colour:	White	Border size:	111 x 72 mm

Border variations:      Left border extends 1mm below bottom border  
                                 Right border top ornament faces up  
                                 Right border 2nd. ornament down faces down

Message variations:    62 mm from left serif of P of POST to period after CARD  
                                 Period after JAMAICA  
                                 Last A of JAMAICA missing serifs at base  
                                 Second D of ADDRESS broken on lower right side  
                                 Numeral 1 in place of I in WRITTEN  
                                 Second S in ADDRESS is broken on lower right curve

Ink colour	Blue	Rate impressions	½d, 1d, 3d
------------	------	------------------	------------



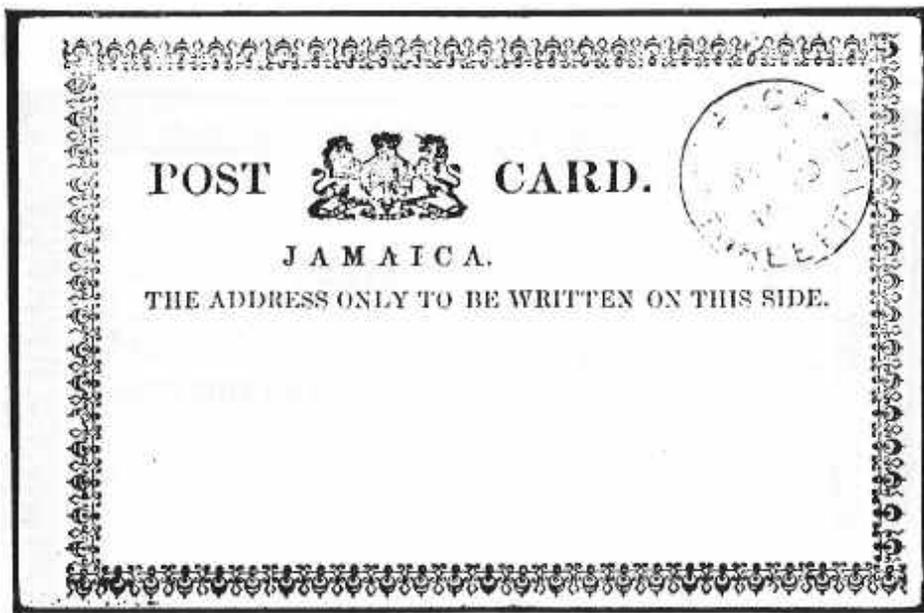
## TYPE S.2

Post card size:	(i) 115x76 mm	(ii) 115x78 mm
Card stock:	(i) Thick card	(ii) Heavy laminated stock/card
Card colour:	(i) White	(ii) Bluish
Border size:	107 x 72½, mm	

Border variations: Right border second ornament from bottom lacks wings

Message variations: 64 mm from left serif of P of POST to period after CARD  
Period follows JAMAICA  
No flaws in ADDRESS  
Letter 1 in WRITTEN

Ink colour	i) Black ink on straw card	ii) Blue ink on bluish card
Rate impressions	(i) ½d, 1d, 3d	ii) ½d, 1d



### TYPE S.3

Post card size: (i) 115½x74mm (ii) 114x77½ mm (iii) 110½x 77 mm  
Card stock: Heavy laminated card  
Card colour: Bluish  
Border size: 107 x 74 mm

Border variations: Bottom border extends past right border  
Right top ornament faces up  
Right border begins below top border and ends above bottom border

Message variations: 62 mm from left serif of P of POST to period after CARD  
Period after JAMAICA  
Last A of JAMAICA missing serifs at base  
Second D of ADDRESS broken on lower right side  
Numeral 1 in place of I in WRITTEN

Ink colour Blue  
Rate impressions ½d 1d



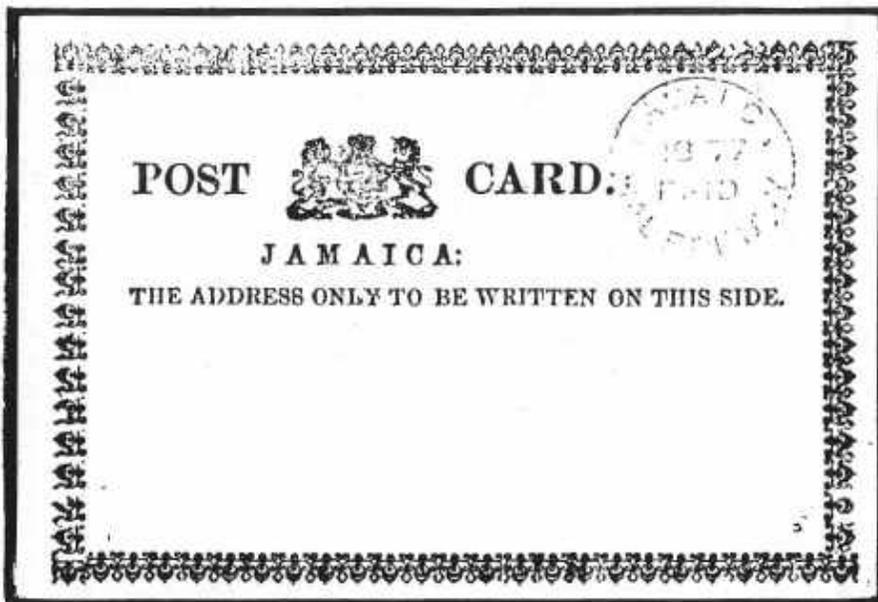
## TYPE S.4

Post card size:	114 x 77½ mm	115 x 77 mm
Card stock:	Laminated board	???
Card colour:	(i) ???	(ii) Straw
Border size:	107 x 72½, mm	

Border variations: Top right border ornament faces right  
Right border second ornament from bottom lacks wings  
Left border ornaments incomplete

Message variations: 64 mm from left serif of P of POST to period after CARD  
Colon after JAMAICA  
All flaws in bottom line corrected  
No flaws in ADDRESS  
Letter l in WRITTEN

Ink colour	Blue
Rate impressions	½d 1d



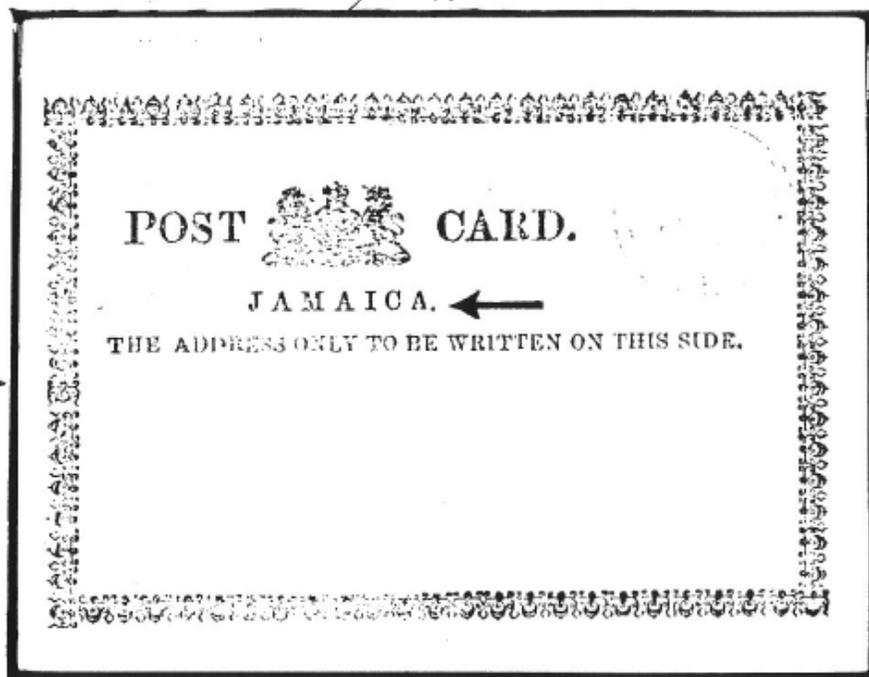
## TYPE S.5

Post card size: (i) 116x90 mm (ii) 115x90mm  
Card stock: Thick white card  
Card colour: White  
Border size: 107 x 73 mm

Border variations: Left border 7th. ornament down faces left

Message variations: 62 mm from left self of P of POST to period after CARD  
Period after JAMAICA  
Last A of JAMAICA missing serifs at base  
Second D of ADDRESS broken on lower right side  
Numeral 1 in place of I in WRITTEN

Ink colour (i) Blue (ii) Grey black  
Rate impressions  $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, 3d, no value



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Advert

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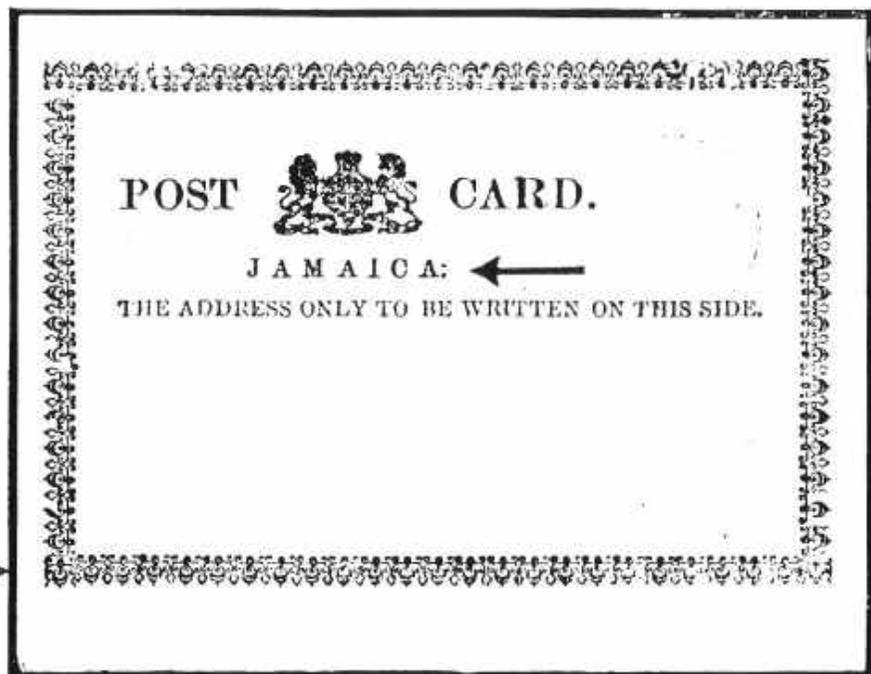
## TYPE S.6

Post card size: 115x89½. mm  
Card stock: Thick paper  
Card colour: White  
Border size: 107 x 72½, mm

Border variations: Top border right ornament faces right  
Right border 2nd. ornament from bottom lacks wings  
Right border 5th. ornament from top has defective bottom  
Left border 9th. ornament from top faces down

Message variations: 64 mm from left serif of P of POST to period after CARD  
Colon after JAMAICA  
Middle A of JAMAICA is short at top  
Top serif of I of JAMAICA is defective  
Letter I in WRITTEN

Ink colour Blue  
Rate impressions ½d, 1d, 3d



**TYPE S.5(a)**

Characteristics identical to Type S5 except colon after JAMAICA

Rate impression:        ½d only



## BANDED PACK

All twelve cards identical. Therefore probably all from same printing and all from left hand side Type S.1.



## Rate Impressions

Study of the rate impressions has produced several theories. First, we believe that impressions were stamped on the cards by postal clerks. We believe they stamped the rate impressions as a need for the various rates arose. Further, the 3d card was needed far less than the 1/2d and 1d cards. These beliefs thus explain why not all rates show on all six Types S1 through S6.

The study covers more than 500 post cards. It has produced the fact that a number of variations in the HALF PENNY and ONE PENNY impressions exist. We find no variations in the THREE PENCE strikes. From this a possible theory is that two handstamps of the HALF PENNY and ONE PENNY may exist. The reason for saying "two may exist" is that we have no basis for saying absolutely that one exists, two exist or more than two exist. We also say that only one THREE PENCE handstamp exists. This is based on the evidence and appears reasonable.

We feel confident that a minimum of two handstamps existed, one for the HALF PENNY and ONE PENNY strikes and the second for the THREE PENCE strike. All THREE PENCE strikes show a period or stop following the JAMAICA. We do not think that this mark following JAMAICA was then left out if the same handstamp was used for the other rates. Once more, we use reasoning supported by facts rather than sure knowledge.

It may be that only two handstamps existed for all values, with five slugs, HALF, ONE, PENNY, THREE and PENCE. The word PAID and the year 77 may also have been slugs. The THREE PENCE could have been used in one handstamp and the others in a second. The difference in the two settings of the HALF PENNY and ONE PENNY would be caused by the way the slugs were inserted when these rates were changed.

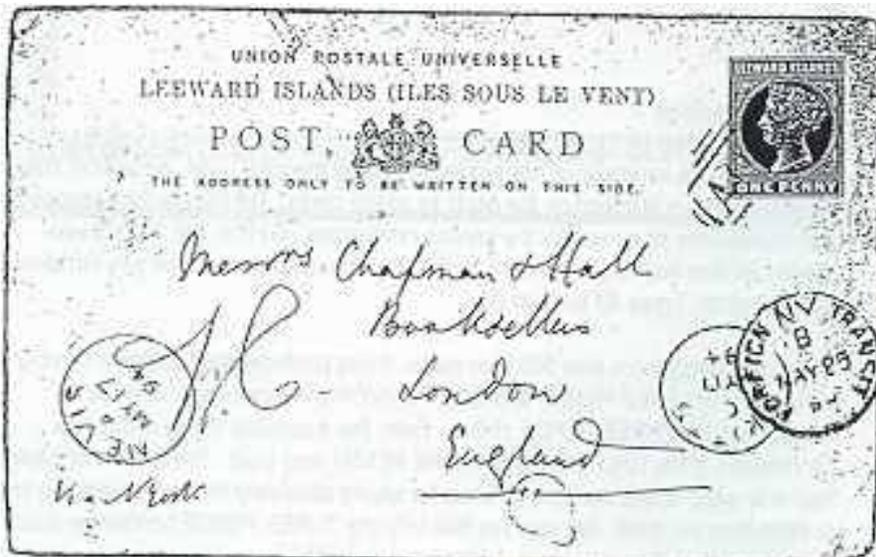
Now let's look at what may be two settings of the HALF PENNY and ONE PENNY. The best way is to illustrate this by examples of the two settings and ask for help in deciding whether our analysis is correct. If you have an opinion, we welcome your input.

Robert V Swarbrick and Mark W Swetland

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## NEVIS

The illustrated card, a Leewards UPU one penny, is from the Rev. I.T. Edwards in the village of Gingerland to Chapman & Hall, Booksellers, in London. It is the earliest Nevis cover of village origin I have seen.



Messrs Chapman & Hall  
 Dear Sirs  
 Please forward to the address  
 written beneath one of your complete Cat-  
 alogue of published books & etc  
 yrs truly  
 J. Howard  
 Res J Howard  
 Gingerland  
 Nevis B.M.

Postal markings are Nevis code 'A' c.d.s MY 17/94, St. Kitts code 'C' c.d.s. MY 17/94, New York Foreign Transit MY 25/94 and, intriguingly, a small horizontal A09 obliterator cancelling the 'stamp'.

It is generally believed that itinerant postmen in the island cancelled in manuscript the outgoing mail they collected on their rounds in the 1870's and 1880's, and there are a fair number of loose stamps, some also cancelled with the Crowned Circle' paid at Nevis' or A09 obliterator, around to attest to this. The analogies with St. Kitts are plentiful, and it is likely that Nevis copied practice in the larger island.

This postal card, however, leads me to speculate that the G.P.O. at Charlestown, once finished with the small horizontal A09 obliterator, may have delegated it to the postman's bag for cancelling village mail: alternatively, could a postal agency have been established at Gingerland far earlier than was thought, and equipped with this self same obliterator? The parallel with Portsmouth, Dominica, is seductive, but perhaps misleading.

Michael Medicott

## ST. LUCIA - Postage Dues and Village use

Each of the procurers of 'philatelic' covers had his own *modus operandi*. In St. Lucia, Cutress has come up with a brand which was not known to me before.



This is a cover from Anse La Raye, franked with a 1d postage due, duly cancelled at the village of origin. On the particular day, no year was included in the date stamp; but the year of use was 1932, as demonstrated by the same-day Castries arrival mark on the reverse.

The cover was self-addressed to the Cable Office at Castries. If properly handled it should presumably have collected another Postage Due stamp at Castries, on the basis that it had not been franked by a stamp valid for postal prepayment - or have I misunderstood postal regulations? However, the opportunity to anoint a cover with Postage Due stamps collected in two locations was missed, and I possess only a cover re-directed between South Africa and South West Africa to show that this can happen.

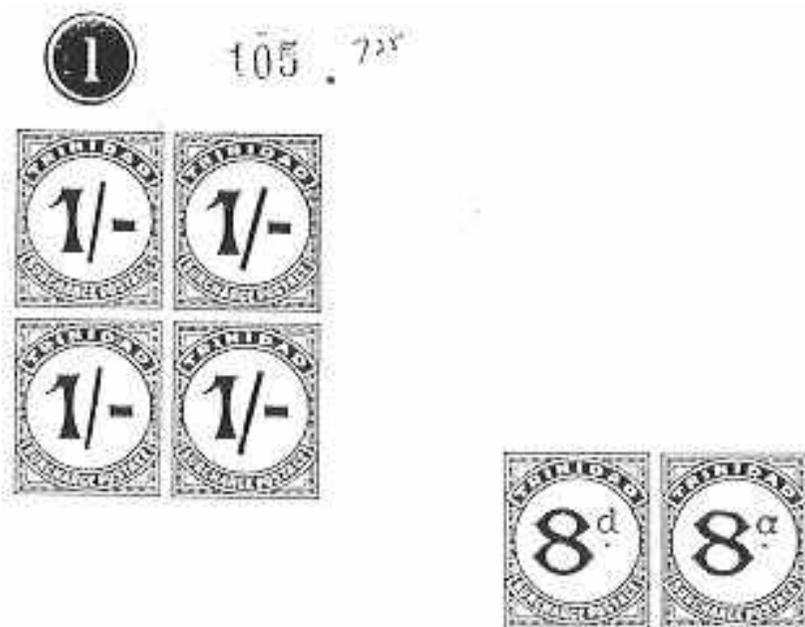
The point that interests me most is whether the stamps that Cutress used to frank his philatelic covers were brought by him from Castries for the purpose, or whether they were held in stock at Anse La Raye. I waver between the two possibilities. A G.P.O. source is more probable on the face of things; but others have told me of finding cancellations of Soufriere and of Choiseul on these issues. Moreover, Cutress strikes me as a bit of an opportunist. Would he, for instance, have been able to produce his unstamped British Honduras covers from San Pedro, Ambergis Caye, without being on the spot and finding a postal official in possession of a franking instrument but without any stock of stamps? So I conjure up a picture of an amiable traveller chatting up a local sub-postmistress, or whatever, winking out the ½d and 1d stamps in stock and, on finding a part sheet of 1d Dues, saying to her "let's use those". If it helps the search for truth, which I can carry no further, the number of the stamp used on this occasion was 15839 and the date 26 SP (32).

Simon Goldblatt

## TRINIDAD

The numerous postage due issues of Trinidad are a fascinating subject for study, and they offer a number of watermark and printing varieties of some scarcity.

Illustrated below left is a positional (N,E. corner) block of four, plate 1, of the shilling multiple script CA, showing the upright oblique found on all stamps of the fifth vertical row; the printing was in sheets of 6 x 10 and the variety is on the left hand stamp of this block. The variety is common to the shilling values of the Crown CA, Multiple Crown CA and Multiple Script CA watermark papers. It is catalogued by Bridger & Kay as VD 9a, ED 8a and GD 8a and appears on one in six of all the Trinidad shilling postage dues printed. Intriguingly, a similar variety appears on the 10/- surcharge on five shillings FEE stamp.



The eightpence pair illustrated above right, also Multiple Script CA, shows a flaw I have not seen previously reported; the top edge of the figure '8' and the upstroke of the 'd' have been sliced off on the right hand stamp. This impressive flaw was probably caused by a temporary obstruction on the roller or plate, perhaps a piece of printers' waste, and was almost certainly repeated over a number of sheets, if not a complete print run. Can any member report seeing the flaw, or, better still, position it?

Michael Medicott

## TRINIDAD - Red Cross Letter Seal and Stamp (SG.157)

When World War I broke out in August 1914 there was a desire in the British West Indies to assist in the struggle against Germany. Four contingents of officers and men were despatched and attached to the British West Indian Regiment and of the seven officers and three hundred and forty-five men sent to the front seventeen made the supreme sacrifice.

All the sea island cotton grown on the islands was exported exclusively to Britain for aeronautical purposes.

Some of the then current issues of stamps in the British West Indies were overprinted "WAR TAX," in theory, to raise extra revenue to help the War Effort. The idea was that letters posted to places abroad should bear not only the normal postage; but also an additional "WAR TAX" stamp.

The Red Cross in the British West Indies colonies of Jamaica, Grenada and Trinidad produced Red Cross letter seals or labels which were also sold by the Red Cross to raise funds to aid the victims of war. These charity labels were to stick on the back of the envelope to seal the letter. They were intended for use on letters posted to local addresses as well as to addresses abroad.

As so often happens in the West Indies things got mixed up. Some of the general public had difficulty in distinguishing the difference between a postage stamp, a War Tax stamp and a Red Cross charity label.

War Tax stamps were used fairly indiscriminately in the place of postage stamps on both local and long distance mail through the islands. Occasionally Red Cross charity labels were used as postage stamps and occasionally as War Tax stamps placed alongside postage stamps on letters posted to addresses abroad.

Even a Red Cross charity label correctly affixed to the back of an envelope to seal it was sometimes cancelled by the postal authorities in the same way as the postage stamp on the front of the letter.

Jamaica allowed their Red Cross labels to be used by the Red Cross as postage stamps on official Red Cross business. Trinidad authorised its Red Cross labels be used for postal purposes for one day only on 18th September 1914. Grenada never allowed its Red Cross labels to be used for postal purposes.



Fig.1

The Post Office in Trinidad issued postal stamps easily confused with both War Tax stamps and Red Cross charity labels. These stamps were of the 1d Britannia issue overprinted with cross in Red with the outline and date 21.10.15 in black (SG.174) (Fig. 1) and overprinted with a cross in red and the outline and date 19.10.16 in black (SG.175).

All the above no doubt added to the confusion in the minds of the general public. The result is some interesting philatelic items, involving Red Cross charity labels. This article is concerned solely with the Trinidad Red Cross charity label.

## The Trinidad Red Cross Charity Label



Fig.2

The labels (fig.2) were printed by Yuelles Printerie, 13 Chacon Street, Pod of Spain, Trinidad (who also printed the Grenada Red Cross labels) for the Trinidad Red Cross probably on the outbreak of War in August 1914. Unlike the Grenada Red Cross label, the Trinidad Red Cross charity label has only one design depicting a red cross in the middle of the label and the words "RED CROSS" and "SOCIETY" on the respective side edges and the word "TRINIDAD" on the top edge above the red cross and the words "ONE FRACTION" on the bottom edge. The cross and words are enclosed within a red rectangular border. All labels were sold without gum and printed on white or cream paper, perf 11. (or was there a second printing with gum - see below).

The words "ONE FRACTION" are used on the label instead of e.g. "One farthing" or "One halfpenny." Presumably the Trinidad Red Cross wanted to keep open their options as to the amount of the sale price which the general public was prepared to pay for a charity label to assist with the War Effort and without having to arrange for reprinting of the label. (If anyone knows differently please so state in a future bulletin.)

It is interesting that the Trinidad Red Cross label was authorised for use as a half-penny stamp and that the second issue of the Grenada Red Cross label substituted the words "One farthing" for "One fraction."

## The Trinidad Red Cross Stamp



Fig.3

The Trinidad Red Cross label was authorised for internal use as a half-penny postage stamp on one day only, 18th September 1914, to raise funds for the Red Cross. The Trinidad Red Cross, themselves, made good use of this facility. They sent a mail-shot of a circular letter (Fig.4) headed "Port-of-Spain 11th September 1914," requesting charitable assistance towards the War Effort in envelopes posted on 18th September 1914 and bearing the Trinidad Red Cross label. (Fig.3).



Port-of-Spain

11th September, 1914.

Sir,

*At a Public meeting held on September 4th, a Committee was formed to raise funds for the Red Cross Association in London. The money is to be collected by the women of Trinidad and Tobago and their aim is to reach every man, woman and child in the islands and give them an opportunity of doing their share, however small, for the relief of the sick and wounded soldiers and sailors who have been fighting so gallantly for our protection and liberty. These will include not only the British but our French and Belgian Allies as well as our East Indian troops in whom the East Indians on the estate will have a very special interest.*

*The Committee will be glad if you will do your best to interest the employees on your estate to contribute a small sum – from a cent upwards - every month while the war lasts.*

*A list of the districts to which a member of the Committee has been appointed is given below, but in the event of there being no one in your district, the Committee will be obliged if you will help them by suggesting some reasonable person, preferably a woman, who will undertake it. Lists have been printed for the purpose and can be had from the lady of the district or from Mrs. Burslem, Queen's Royal College, Port-of-Spain.*

*Yours faithfully,*

*M. E. BURSLEM (Mrs.)*

*J.I. BLACKWOOD WRIGHT (Mrs.)*

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The circular letter in my possession bears an impression on the paper which mirrors the double postal cancellation on the envelope. The circular letter is headed with a cross in a double circle. This emblem is in the same colour red as the stamp. The paper is cream in colour and the same width as; but slightly shorter than A.4 paper. The paper is watermarked with a St. Edwards Crown and the words in block capitals "IMPERIAL STRONG MIL" beneath the Crown, There is a matching coloured envelope. The paper of the envelope is watermarked with a series of diagonal straight lines.

The Trinidad Red Cross label was used without authority as a postage stamp on 13.12.15. on a card to (San F)ernando (Fig.5).



Fig.5



Fig.6

Also illustrated (Fig.6.) are a watermarked block of four labels all postmarked "ST. MARY'S TRINIDAD MR 29 16" with a very thin film of gum on the reverse and which labels have never been stuck on anything. Have the philatelic speculators been at work again? Was there a second printing of these labels bearing gum?

### In Conclusion

The Trinidad Red Cross letter seal (aided by its guise as a postage stamp) helped the Red Cross in Trinidad both directly and indirectly to raise thousands of pounds for the work of the Red Cross in Europe in dealing with victims of the First World War. It is a fascinating philatelic item which, after more than 80 years, is still capable of revealing surprises.

This article supplements the article in BWI Study Circle Bulletin No. 170 Sept. 1996 p.62-67 "The Red Cross Letter Seals of Grenada 1914 - 18" by Tony Shepherd. Re-reading of this earlier article is recommended.

IAN JAKES

## BOOK REVIEW

**"MACHINE CANCELLATIONS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 1923 - 1997" - by Jazad N. Ali and Ronald G. Wike.** 122pp, A4 size, spiral bound in card covers. Available from the author, Ron Wike, 20 Isherwood Close, Fearnhead, Warrington WA2 0DJ. Price in UK and Europe £14 inc. postage and packing,

This work covers the subject in a very thorough and practical manner. The numeral cancels and later village postmarks are already a popular area of postmark collecting but the machine cancels have largely remained neglected. This book will make forming a collection much easier thanks to the clearly laid out listings and provide a gauge of value due to the provision of a rarity scale.

I was impressed by the comprehensive details of the different machines used complete with photographs and background information on the reasons for the different slogans used.

David Druett

Note: The book review in the December 1997 issue (No 175) of the bulletin was printed without the book title. The book in question was Peter Fernbank's excellent publication **"King George V Key Plate Issues of the Imperium Postage and Revenue Design"**.

## AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

**BERMUDA** Commemorative stamp issue - **Education**

Release date: 18th December 1997  
Values: 30c, 40c, 60c, 65c, 80c, 90c.  
Design: Jason Semos / Nick Shewring  
Printer: Questa  
Process: Lithography  
Stamp size: 28.45 x 42.58mm  
Stamps per sheet: 50 (2x25)  
Paper: C.A. spiral



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Bidey, D.  
Brown, A.  
Cohen, L.M.  
Dowler, B.C.  
Elias, P.C.  
Kirby, R.  
Mink, E.B.  
Rowe, G.  
Wamer, J.  
Witschard, W.A.

### Change of Address

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Horry, D.  
Mitton, D.

**Resigned** Roberts Miss E.J.  
**Deceased** Bodily, R.

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