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BULLETIN No. 178 SEPTEMBER 1998

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.

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PERFINS

Further to my previous articles on this subject I can add the following information that has arrived with me.

Bill Ashley contributes the following, inter alia:-

Barbados L & Co. on 2½d Jubilee on cover JA 19 98. As with others he reports only 1898 dates and only Jubilee issues treated - in his case two ½d values.



Another perfin, found on 1d SG.231, perf.13¾ needs to be illustrated. This falls within Colin Bayley's period for "G" or "G.P.O.", but I find it difficult to identify either a letter or a number from this particular item. Any suggestions, anyone? (To the Editor, please!)

British Guiana B B & Co example of the contemporary 4c on a Dec. 1917 cover (a Booker Bros. McConnell & Co. printed envelope) to New York.

British Honduras Examples from here, all on higher values, show portions of telegraphic letters or digits ranging from the KGVI \$ values back to KGV 50c SG.107. As the one digit clearly legible here is 4, at left of the stamp, it seems possible that the device was in use as early as 1914. However the numerals on the later letters give no evidence one way or the other of use beyond the end of the 1930's.

Jamaica Bill has studied the U F Co punch and has noted that only early examples on the pictorial issues show all the pins. Progressively, from at least 1921 onwards, he records consistent failure to penetrate - beginning at top left of C, then to the same position at F, then similarly, but just below the top, at U: by the time KGVI stamps are punched, only two pins show at left of U, after which first the second, then the third vertical pin of F disappears, while two more pins vanish at top of 'O' and, adjacent to this, on C. My main conclusion from this interesting saga is that United Fruit Co. was careful to the point of parsimony over office stationery.

Meanwhile he has tracked down the nine-hole punch respectively mutilating KGVI 6d and 21-values on cover from Kingston. A 1957 letter preserved within one of these shows a slightly amateurish lady stamp supplier resident at Jones Town in St. Andrew parish (name of Smith, for the seeker after truth and exotica). One hopes that she did not punch stamps supplied with the same enthusiasm as the treatment of the higher values on cover, as the recipient of the £1 Silver Wedding to which she refers would not have been best pleased.

A palpable T and some less palpable other punch holes reflect the injury sustained by a 1971 3c SG.328. If this still had to do with telephones, I imagine we would have heard more about usage in the 1960's and 1970's before now. Altruistically, for the exclusive benefit of QE II collectors, I invite further information about the origin of this device.



Trinidad The District Commissioner spent 96c of public money all at one go on a block of four of the 24c SG.236a. Each stamp shows the large DC perfin, positioned rather at random on the stamp, although at much the same near-vertical setting in every case. The impression emerges of a staff member holding the particular block in hand and laboriously punching the stamps one by one. I do not get the feeling that the punching was done at a time when this block was pad of a larger multiple, or entire sheet.

Simon Goldblatt

BARBADOS - BISECTS

Members may be interested to know that I recently acquired one of the only 2 recorded copies of the 1860 1d deep blue SG. 15, pin perf. 14, bisected diagonally used on a small piece.

When I saw this stamp prior to auction, offered for sale with a copy of the earlier 2d bisect, I realised it appeared identical to that illustrated in Edmund Bayley's book on page 34. After a visit to Derek Nathan and a look at the Hurlock and Lickfold sale catalogues in the Library, I established it was the same stamp. The B.P.A. certificate of 1953 signed also by Robson Lowe, confirmed its genuineness.

I then wrote to Stanley Gibbons, and the Catalogue Editor has indicated that a footnote reference to the two bisects on piece (i.e. my copy and the other in the Royal Collection) should be included beneath Nos.13/16B, to appear in the Part 1 Catalogue to be dated 2000, to be published in the Autumn of next year.

I wonder if members may have copies of other bisects not presently listed by Gibbons?

Peter Longmuir

BARBADOS - 1892 ½d on 4d brown provisional

I would like to offer a few comments on the notes in the last three bulletins on this intriguing issue. To start with the "Penny-Half" variety, for the record I have a pair. I have always regarded it as a curiosity, of similar status to the diagonal overprints, and not a genuine variety. It is dated 27 July 1892, the same date as the seventeen other copies I have recorded and Ian Jakes' reference in the June 1997 bulletin to printers waste cancelled to order seems apposite. In the same bulletin, however, apparently by coincidence, Mike Hamilton illustrates an intriguing cover dated 5th August 1892 bearing the right half, or is it the left half, of the same variety. This seems to imply that the Half on the defective sheet came in the left-hand margin, leaving the right hand column of stamps with Penny only. It would be nice to have this confirmed by the sight of a copy from either margin. Another inference is that not all the stamps from the defective sheet were cancelled to order on 27 July with the obsolete E2 instrument. But can we be sure Mike's cover is from the same sheet?

There are, as Ian Jakes notes, a number of true varieties of overprint that are fun and cheap to acquire. I have five sheets and several other large blocks of the stamp and would be ready to make copies available to the specialists. The significant point is that there are several minor flaws which vary with the depth of inking. The hyphen is at the best of times weak and if the inking is insufficient it often appears as a dot or nothing at all, particularly on pos. 7, 16, 39 and 40. The only constant no hyphen variety is on the second stamp in Row 9 (i.e. pos. 50). The hyphen is short on several other positions (notably 42) and extended on pos. 54.

Michael Hamilton has referred in his lists to two printings of the overprint, on July 1 1892 and in August. My sheets suggest that on the earlier printing there is a malformed Y at pos. 42 and a small A at pos. 19, both of which are corrected in the later printing. The missing bar to H referred to by Ian Jakes is at pos. 47.

Ian Jakes refers to a number of double overprints. The red and black double overprint is relatively frequently seen and several no hyphen varieties have been recorded. I am doubtful on those grounds as to whether only a single sheet was made. My instinct suggests two or three, even if some of the reported no hyphens are likely not to be from position 50. In any event, the double overprint diagonally in the Burrus collection (if genuine) must be from a different operation, as must also the treble overprint that Ian Jakes refers to (also ex Burrus).



Fig.1



Fig.2

There is one other recorded variety that Ian Jakes does not mention, namely the double overprint in black only, which is in my collection (see Fig.1). This came from the Burrus

and Ferrary collections and, given Ferrary's penchant for the exotic, could be regarded with suspicion. However it looks good and bears a certificate signed by Robson Lowe, Bill Lea and Arthur Pemberton. What do others think? To my knowledge it is the only example known with both surcharges in black.

For the record, I also have an example of the normal stamp handstamped SPECIMEN, Samuel type BAR 1 (see Fig.2). This was not of course a regular UPU specimen but must have formed part of a local presentation set. It is unusual to see the BAR 1 so used. Other presentation stamps I have of the period, including the 1875, 1882 and 1892 definitives, show the much smaller BAR 2 handstamp.

Charles Freeland

BARBADOS - NELSON ISSUE

Mr. R. B. Hill would like to thank all of those who have responded to his request for information in the March bulletin regarding the Barbados Nelson 1d. re-entry. The information was most useful and interesting.

BARBADOS - Revenue Issues 1916-1925

Those of you with memories going back to 1980/81 will recall a debate concerning the unusual and interesting early Barbados Revenue Issues, which commenced on 31 March 1916.

I have tried to collate and categorise in the list that follows all the types that were produced at the time. I do not know if it is complete (and perhaps never will), although both Simon Goldblatt and Colin Bayley provided me with invaluable help at that time.

I do not hold R4, overprinted in either black or gold. (I am not convinced of the existence of a gold overprint).

I do not hold R5/6 overprinted in black, and doubt its existence. I would be delighted if anyone can add to the list or, even better, help me in any way with a further compilation of the Regular Issues of 1916, which may not be the whole story.

Valuation

These are difficult issues to value; R1-19 were only issued for some 3 months and in most cases were 'collected'. Thus, the mint copies are more common than the used (usually overwritten by a signature or other mark); leaving the 'franked' copies (often Colonial Bank or Gardiner Austin & Co) as comparatively rare. Thus, there are probably three values for each stamp. My estimate is that the mint copies will vary between £15 and £75; the used around the same price, but possibly lower, and the 'franked' at least twice this figure. (I have only 9 franked stamps).

The later 1916 issue is almost undocumented; prices would possibly vary between £25 and £100, depending on the franking as discussed earlier.

Conclusion

I will offer £50 for any R4 copy with black or gold overprint. I will also offer £50 for any R37-R41 copy, also any interesting multiples.

Whilst I have spent considerable time and effort on these issues, I really do not know if this list covers everything. If anyone knows better please get in touch so that we can finally complete the full list.

THE REVENUE STAMPS OF BARBADOS

Part 1) 1st April 1916 - 21st June 1916 Provisional Issue
Part 2) 22nd June 1916 Regular Issue

Introduction Based on a letter written to the Accountant General by the Postmaster General dated 23.7.55.

“Revenue stamps are used in this Island in accordance with the provisions of the Barbados Stamp Act which was passed in March 1916. Generally speaking they are used for the purposes set out in paragraph 5 of Mr. Koeppel's letter to the U.S Consulate. (Note: Chief uses are for stamp duties on contracts, documents and stock transfers etc.)

As “The Stamp Act 1916” became effective from 31st March 1916 there was a Provisional Issue (overprinted Postage Stamps) between that date and the 22nd June 1916, when the first regular revenues were issued. Subsequent issues were in 1925 and 1952.

Sources: a) “a price check list of the Revenue Stamps of Barbados” by Adolph Koeppel in the American Revenue dated January 1958.
b) An article in the BCPJ by Colin H Bayley dated 1980.

From these sources, a list given by the Postmaster General, the collection made up by Messrs Herbert and Colin Bayley plus my own collection, I believe that the following pages collate the entire issue. No actual record appears to exist.

PART 1

April 1st 1916 Provisional Issue - Postage Stamps of 1912

TYPE 1 Overprinted 'Revenue' in script (13½ mm long) across centre of stamp.
The colour of the overprint is indicated in parenthesis.

R1 1d scarlet (black)
R1a same with bottom half of "Reve" missing
R2 1d scarlet (blue) - (only two sheets known)
R2a same with "Reve" missing
R3 2d gray (carmine)
R4 3d violet on yellow (black)
R5 4d black and scarlet on yellow (gold and silver) - (only one sheet issued)
R6 4d black and scarlet on yellow (gold)
R7 6d violet and red violet (black)
R8 1/- black on green (carmine)
R9 2/- violet and blue (carmine)
R10 3/- green and violet (carmine)



R1



R3



R5



R7



R8



R9



R10

Note:- Sheets R1 - R7 were of 120 stamps.
Sheets R8 - R10 were of 30 stamps.

TYPE 2

Overprinted "Revenue" in script (16½mm long). Usually found at top of stamp. No period after "Revenue". Colour of overprint in parenthesis.

- R11 1d scarlet (black)
- R12 2d gray (black)
- R13 2½d blue (overprint "one penny" in two lines) - (black)
- R13a error "one penny" black
- R13b error "one penny"
- R13c error small u in revenue
- R13d error "one penny" in two lines - (violet)
- R13e error "one penny" (violet)
- R14 3d violet and yellow (black)
- R14a error broken top to last e in revenue
- R15 4d black and scarlet on yellow (gold) [only 1 sheet known]
- R16 3/- green and violet (carmine)
- a overprinted 2 shillings (violet)



R11



R13c

R13a



R13d



R14a



R15



R16

Note:- The 2½d was a provisional 1d whilst the definitive stamp, (type 4) was being prepared.

TYPE 3 As Type 2 overprinted "REVENUE ONLY"

R18 2d gray (black) in two lines) - (only 1 sheet known)
R19 3/- green and violet (black) including 2S, in three lines

R18



R19



TYPE 4 Overprinted "REVENUE" in sans serif capitals in black definitive issue.

R17

1d lilac



Use of
Revenue 1d
as postage
stamp

PART 2

June 22nd 1916

First Regular Issue

Embossed in blue from stock dies, each value enclosed in a differently shaped design. Overprinted "BARBADOS" in black SANS-SERIF capitals across centre of the stamp. The value in words at the top, imperial crown in centre; the usual scroll work at the foot and die letter are embossed in white.

Watermark MCA - Perf 11. The dies are apparently the same type as Great Britain of 1900 - Forbin numbers 188-314 Die letter in parenthesis.

- R20 3d Ultramarine
- R21 6d Ultramarine
- R22 1/- Ultramarine
- R23 2/- Ultramarine
- R24 2/6 Ultramarine
- R25 3/- Ultramarine
- R26 5/- Ultramarine
- R27 10/- Ultramarine

R21



R23



R25 Value in centre



R26



Value in centre

Advert

FREDERICK P. SCHMITT

Advert

ARGYLL ETKIN LTD

Advert

CHRIS RAINEY

Advert

STAMP INSURANCES SERVICES

Advert

WILLARD S. ALLMAN

Advert

PETER SINGER

Advert

BRIDGER & KAY (GUERNSEY) LTD

Advert

Murray Payne Ltd

Same - Embossed in blue as above, the value in words at the top. Head of Britannia (Minerva) in the centre and ornamental scroll at the base and embossed in white.

- R28 £1 Ultramarine
- R29 £5 Ultramarine
- R30 £10 Ultramarine
- R31 £20 Ultramarine
- R32 £50 Ultramarine
- R33 £100 Ultramarine



R28



R29

1925 - Same as 1916 Issue but watermarked Multiple Script CA.

- R34 5/- Ultramarine
- R35 10/- Ultramarine
- R36 £1 Ultramarine
- R37 £5 Ultramarine
- R38 £10 Ultramarine
- R39 £20 Ultramarine
- R40 £50 Ultramarine
- R41 £100 Ultramarine

R34



R35



R36

Value in Centre



Robert Ellis

BRITISH GUIANA - WAR TAX



The request by Derek Nathan in the December bulletin for Study material on this "sleeper" reminded me that I have for some time owned a cover bearing a rather dramatic variety on this issue. The duty plate on the left hand stamp of the cover illustrated (which is in fact the War Tax issue though it does not show up clearly) is extremely low. This is an unusual survivor from a De La Rue printing because inaccurately registered sheets were almost always picked out and rejected by the efficient quality controllers. Thanks to our many Leeward Is. enthusiasts we are all familiar with the major shift to the right of the duty plate on one sheet of the 1890 1d. A similar shift to the right can be found on the British Honduras 1891 one cent (I have recorded three examples). The stamp illustrated is to my recollection the only example I have seen of such a remarkable downward shift of the duty plate on a BWI stamp.

Charles Freeland

BRITISH GUIANA - Postmarks

In the occasional notes supplied by myself and others, I do not believe that we have updated the listing for the always desirable marks of type 2, of which the only example relatively easy to get is BELFIELD, itself rated scarce by Townsend and Howe.

What needs to be added to their recorded strikes are references to BLAIRMONT and RAILWAY P.O. Until recently my only example of the latter was a strike showing only the last three letters, which I was foolish enough to ascribe initially to TARLOGY. I have now

acquired an almost complete example for 2 OCT 1878, so as to be able to confirm that the marking is entirely consistent with the other offices to which type 2 was supplied.

For those who like scarcity ratings, I should be inclined to place RAILWAY P.O. on a par with, say, MAHOICONY, MARIABBA or PLAISANCE in this type. BLAIRMONT is probably slightly easier, possibly on a level with ENMORE or SPARTA. In mentioning SPARTA, I remind myself that this office too was left out of the original type 2 listing; although it has since that time been noted in the Bulletin and, from recollection, been offered in one of our annual auctions.

On the basis of the later evidence, I think it now has to be recognised that the 1870's and early 1880's were not covered quite as comprehensively as one's early impressions of T & H listings would have suggested. There is still scope to discover marks in this period for such offices as TARLOGY, and between us all we have quite a lot of hunting still to do.

Simon Goldblatt

BRITISH GUIANA - An almost dumb cancel

I can add a little to Simon Goldblatt's observations in the March Journal, pages 6-7.

I have discussed this with Simon, and looked at my own copies and would like to suggest the following:

In 2nd April 1882 two offices were opened in the Pomeroon River district, CABACABURI and HACKNEY, neither of which was issued with named datestamps immediately. The first recorded mark of Cabacaburi is 1886 and of Hackney 1884.

In addition to Simon's CA of DE 14 82, I can add one of 27 CC 82 and one of 23 NO 82. In addition, I have one with just the CA showing, but on a Crown CC watermark, superseded in 1882.

The clincher, as I see it, is HY JY 1 82, possibly filling in the gap for Hackney.

The only other offices opened at about this time were

GROVE	opened	1880	first name mark	1881
PROVIDENCE	"	1880	"	1882
RELIANCE	"	1880	"	1881
DUNOON	"	1883	"	1885
BOURDA	"	1883	"	1883

The dated for first name mark are the earliest recorded, so the only serious candidate for further search is to find a PE for Providence. (Dunoon is remote and rare)

Good hunting

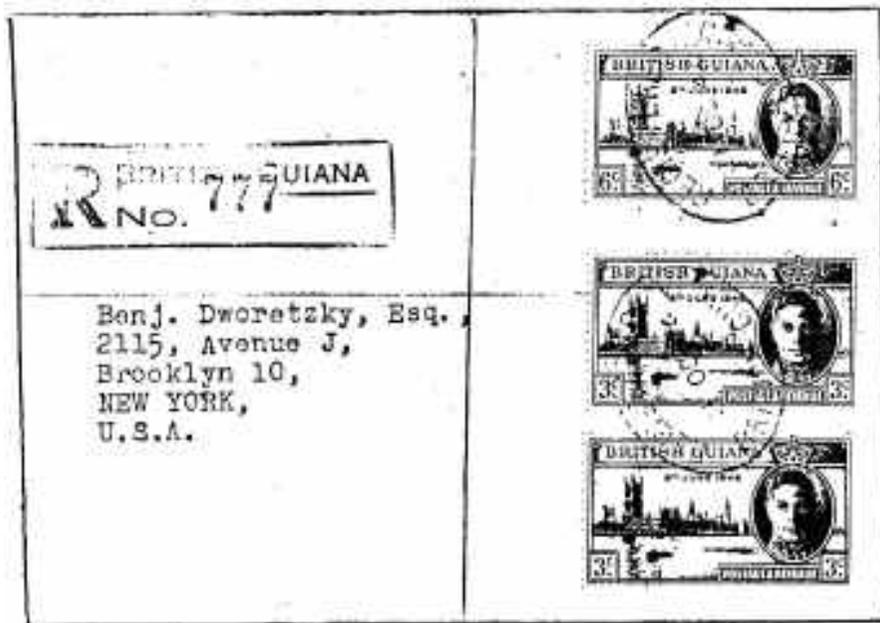
Derek Nathan

**MATERIAL WANTED FOR THE DECEMBER AND ALL FUTURE BULLETINS
PLEASE**

BRITISH GUIANA - REGISTRATION

I have long considered Mike Rego's excellent book to have all the answers on the subject of Registration in British Guiana, but I have recently come across something which was not covered by him.

I illustrate a cover dated 21st October 1946 bearing a registered handstamp in violet ink, with a number in black, which gives the appearance of being in order, and which does not feature in previous records.



It looks so ordinary, indeed the dealer who parted with it thought so too, judging by the price, that there must be others about. May I hear from other members with copies so that we can establish a period of use and numbers seen?

Derek Nathan

HELP WANTED

We have received the following query from **Mr. R. A. Orrin** who would welcome assistance with the following item.

He states that he is a member of the Rhodesian Study Circle and is very interested in the 1939-45 Wartime stickers used on some mail from some of the Commonwealth countries as shown by the following stickers.



The item causing some problems is the largest item which states (in pencil) 'From Antigua 1917'.

The question to our members is:- Were these labels issued in Antigua during the 1914-18 War, and was this the forerunner or the idea behind the 1939-45 war issues? Incidentally, as you will know, the '39-'45 ones were sold and the money put towards Airplane funds, as the Fiji one shows.

If any member has any information on this issue, would they please contact Mr. Orrin at 48 Wimpole Road, Colchester, Essex. CO1 2DL.

JAMAICA - Winning the Jamaican Lottery

The Jamaican postmark collectors of the 1920's trawled through huge quantities of Queen Victoria ½d and 1d values in search of their material. When Aguilar published his handbook some twenty years later, new sources for temporary date stamps had largely dried up, and the offices he listed as being open, with no record of the date stamp in use, were far more likely than not to remain unrecorded - saving perhaps the occasional identification of a partial strike on a well known type, such as type 8.

If one aspired to win the philatelic lottery in Jamaican postmarks, the target would be a clear, virtually complete strike of a Victorian office whose temporary marking was not recorded in the handbook, and whose design was also new.



The mark now illustrated fits that specification entirely, Not only that: being dated in the 1880's ("20/2/89" is just one week after St Margarets Bay opened) it slots in between types 2 and 3. With the end of the Millennium approaching I suggest we designate it Type 2,000. One can be sure, from the crispness of the violet handstamp and the flourish of the manuscript date, that the mark had seen precious little use in the opening week; and plainly it was to see very little more, despite the relatively accessible coastal location of the settlement to which it belonged.

My first thought was that the chance of finding such a mark could be no more than 1 in 100,000. Then I reflected on issued quantities of the low values and concluded that it was probably a genuine one in a million. Curiously, it is possible to find a not dissimilar handstamp in violet from Constant Spring Hotel - but don't be misled. The Constant Spring date stamp is a familiar boxed marking, normally struck in black. The violet marking, if found on a 1d stamp, will have come from a receipted hotel bill, and portions of the word PAID are almost certain to be present; date will probably be around 1905-10.

Simon Goldblatt

JAMAICA - POSTAL RATE INCREASES

The public is hereby advised of the following increases in postal rates with effect from June 1, 1998.
S. E. Stewart Postmaster General May 22, 1998

SURFACE AIRLIFT TO ALL COUNTRIES

<u>LETTERS</u>		<u>PRINTED PAPERS</u>	<u>INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPON</u>	<u>POST</u>
30g up to	\$ 27.00	\$ 20.00	\$50.00	\$20.00
30g - 110g	\$ 60.00	\$ 30.00		
110g - 230g	\$ 95.00	\$ 35.00		
230g - 450g	\$240.00	\$ 45.00		
450g - 1 kg	\$400.00	\$ 60.00		
1 kg - 2kg	\$680.00	\$100.00		

SMALL PACKETS

Surface airlift to all countries

Up to 110 Kg	\$ 20.00
Over 110g-230g	\$ 30.00
" 230g - 450g	\$ 40.00
" 450g - 1 kg	\$ 60.00

BOOKS & PAMPHLETS

Surface airlift to all countries

Over 2kg	\$100.00
Over 2kg - 3 kg	\$150.00
Over 3kg - 4 kg	\$200.00
Over 4kg - 5 kg	\$250.00

AIR MAIL

	Letters	Postcards	Second Class	Aero-gramme
North, South, Central America & Caribbean Territories	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$16.00
United Kingdom & Europe except Cyprus & Russia	\$30.00	\$25.00	\$20.00	
Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Cyprus, Far East and Russia	\$40.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	

PARCELS

Please enquire at the post office counter

REGISTRATION FEE FOR OVERSEAS For each article \$25.00

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<u>Letters</u>		<u>Printed Papers</u>	<u>Registration Fees</u>	
30g - 110g	\$ 10.00	\$ 5.00	To ensure compensation up to \$60.00	\$20.00
Over 110g - 230g	\$ 15.00	\$ 7.00	for each additional \$100.00 compensation	
Over 230g - 350g	\$ 20.00	\$ 9.00	up to a maximum of \$2,000.00	\$10.00
Over 350g - 450g	\$ 25.00	\$ 12.00		
Over 450g - 1 kg	\$ 35.00	\$ 15.00		
Over 1 kg - 2 kg	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00		

REGISTERED ENVELOPES (INLAND)

In addition to any registration fee & postal charges for each envelope

- (a) The 'F' size envelope 14cm by 9cm, \$5.00
- (b) The 'H' size envelope 20cm by 12cm \$7.00

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Per copy \$10.00

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\$10.00	Inland
\$20.00	Overseas

EXPRESS DELIVERY FEE (INLAND)

Normal Postage plus a fee of \$30.00

BUSINESS REPLY SERVICE (INLAND)

On each item

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PRIVATE LETTER BAGS

Fee per annum conveyed by the holder or the employee of the holder of the bag \$600.00

PRIVATE LETTER BOXES

- (a) Fee per annum \$1,000.00
- (b) Repair to private letter box or replacement of keys \$ 300.00
- (c) Replacement of locks damaged by holder \$ 600.00

PRIVATE LETTER BAGS

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REGISTERED LETTER BOOKS ADVICE LIST

B11	\$300.00 per copy
B156	\$300.00 per copy
B156A	\$300.00 per copy

PARCELS (INLAND)

For each 500g or fractional part thereof \$40.00

POSTCARDS (INLAND) \$5.00

STORAGE CHARGES ON PARCELS & LETTER PACKETS WEIGHTING MORE THAN 500g FROM OVERSEAS

- (a) For fourteen (14) days from the date of issue of the relevant parcel Notice Free.
- (b) For every day after the day specified in Sub-paragraph (a) \$20.00

PRESENTATION TO CUSTOMS CHARGES

For each item \$30.00

Insurance rate (overseas to countries where applicable) for insured letters & parcels for each \$100.00 of value \$20.00

RARE STAMPS OF THE WORLD 1999 - Claridges, London.

We have been notified that the next exhibition of Rare Stamps of the World to be held at Claridges will be on the 29th, 30th and 31st of July 1999. Further information will be available in due course.

LEEWARD ISLANDS

A few comments on Simon Goldblatt's article in the March Bulletin.

ANTIGUA - Leewards used in.

Including the listed shades but excluding the white back 3d and 1/- (not issued in Antigua) and excluding the varieties such as the Wide A on KE VII 2½d and the DI Flaw on KGVI, I am down to 4 missing stamps. As so wisely commented by Simon, I do not propose to make a difficult task (and Antigua should be by far the easiest to complete) even more difficult and expensive by creating a market against myself by identifying which they are but those with sharp eyes could have spotted the gaps when I displayed my collection at Stampex a year or two back.

BARBUDA

Nothing prior to 1922; as far as I am aware, mail out prior to then was conveyed to St. Johns, Antigua and dealt with there both in respect of stamps and of postal markings. So, apart from the 1922 Barbuda overprints on Leewards stamps, in theory all the issues from 1922 for both Leewards and Antigua may have been available at the Barbuda P.O., at least until Barbuda issued its own stamps again in 1968. If we confine our interest to the period to 1952 (i.e. KGV and KGVI) and again ignore varieties but include listed shades, I am down to 16 out of 72 needed on Antigua and 58 out of 110 needed on Leewards (almost half way!) I consider it reasonable to assume that all the Antigua stamps of that period were made available in Barbuda, if only because of its status as a Dependency of Antigua. But it may well be that a number of the Leewards issues were never available there e.g. the KGV Script Die I are all, bar the 1/-, missing from my collection along with many of the Crown CA watermark which, of course, were in many cases, either issued well before 1922 or were concurrent with the 1922 Barbuda overprints and may not have been needed for that reason.

I venture to suggest that problems with Barbuda will be as nothing compared with completing Leewards and St. Kitts with Anguilla postmarks. This reminds me that, despite some clues from the scrapbook and approximate dates, I have not yet been able to pin down the date when Anguilla first had a postal service involving their own postmark. Can anyone help with this?

Further to the above, I recently bought at auction a selection of KGV Silver Jubilees, mainly because 3 of the Leewards set had Barbuda postmarks. Careful study of the rest revealed 2 of the Virgin Islands set with Anguilla postmarks - they do not look philatelic but I have never previously met any BVI with Anguilla postmarks. Is this a freak occurrence or are others known?

Chris May

ST. KITTS, NEVIS AND ANGUILLA

I should like to hear from members having information on World War II Civil Censorship in the above islands, which adds to or extends the data listed in the Roses publications. My address is 358 Silver Road, Berkeley Springs, WV U.S.A. 25411.

I can also be reached by e-mail: tweddell@intrepid.net

Tim Tweddell

BOOK REVIEW

"ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF JAMAICAN PHILATELY Vol.1 - The Postage Stamps to 1935". by Derek Sutcliffe and Steve Jarvis. 400+ pages, in multi-ring binder. Available from the Study Circle Publications Officer. Price in UK including post & packaging, £44.15.

This is the book all collectors of Jamaica eagerly anticipated last September at Leamington Spa. Volume 1 has now arrived and it is a fine contribution to philatelic publishing. The publication is rightly called an encyclopaedia, not only because of the range of material, but also because of the organisation of the text. It brings together information from stamp catalogues, De La Rue's Day Books, auction records, magazine articles and previous books on Jamaican stamps. Collectors may have all these sources in their library but what a splendid achievement to have organised and collated these diverse sources.

The first surprise in the organisation of the text is that the contents page has no page numbers for the chapters. You really need to read the 'Preliminaries' and 'document navigation' before plunging into the main body of the encyclopaedia. And there you will find, well organised, all the information known about each stamp - design, die proofs, plate layout and plate numbers, numbers printed, surviving blocks and varieties. So this is a volume to be consulted rather than a book to read. The arrangement of the text is linked to the ease with which text on disk can be updated or corrected. But importantly promises to share this advantage with owners of the publication by providing additional or replacement pages whenever justified. There will be no need to wait for a full second edition for new information -hence the multi-ring binder, which promises to be a real asset.

As well as bringing together the information about the individual stamps, there are also important reviews of philatelic opinions in controversial areas such as the origin of the SER.ET error, the printing of the TWO PENCE HALF-PENNY provisional and the WAR STAMP overprints. In these areas I would like for more illustrations because when it comes to errors illustration is so much better than words.

The discussion of stamps which have not attracted so much attention is equally thorough. An example is the King George V pictorials where plate numbers are recorded, perforation and watermark varieties noted and many minor flaws. This listing should encourage further research, if only a closer examination of collections, and reporting the results to Derek and Steve for the revision pages promised.

A review is not really the place to point out minor blemishes but it is rather ironic that some of the text has not printed properly on page 01-06-11 where the SER.ET error is being discussed.

As well as the factual sources for this encyclopaedia it is good to acknowledge the indebtedness to collectors like Bob Swarbrick who not only collected Jamaican stamps but studied his material and published his observations. It is the patient gathering of all this information in one volume that makes this such a valuable and exciting publication.

Michael Vokins

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