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STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
JANUARY 27th, 1954

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President:

E.V. TOEG, TRRL

Vice-Presidents:

**Charles FREELAND
Simon GOLDBLATT**

BULLETIN No. 181 JUNE 1999

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Affiliated to the British Philatelic Federation

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<i>North American Representative:</i>	W. CLARY HOLT

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

1999

22-23 October 1999 Biennial Convention
Venue: Manor House Hotel, Avenue Road,
 Royal Leamington Spa
Speakers: Ron Wike - Trinidad and Tobago
 Alan Pearse - Turks and Caicos Islands.

2000

20-21 May 2000 Joint Meeting with B.C.P.S.G.
Venue: Bonnington Hotel, London.
See preliminary details on page 29.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 45th. Annual General Meeting of The British West Indies Study Circle was held at The Bonnington Hotel, London at 2.15 p.m. on Saturday 24th April 1999.

1. The meeting was opened by Mr. E.V. Toeg, the President, who extended a warm welcome to the 41 members present. In order to help the members to get to know each other, name badges were made available.
2. Apologies for absence were received from Michael Oliver.
3. The minutes of the previous meeting on 25th. April 1998 as published in the June 1998 Bulletin were taken as read. The meeting approved their acceptance and the minutes were signed by the President.
4. **Report by the Hon. General Secretary (Peter Boulton)**

There have been two meetings of the Circle since last year's AGM.

The first meeting was the WIPEX meeting held at the Bonnington Hotel last September that proved to be very successful with approximately 50 people attending. The events included a lively Opinions session organised by Simon Goldblatt, Allan Leverton and Charles Freeland. The static displays were ably organised by Dennis Mitton. These included many interesting pages from members collections. In the afternoon, our President, Victor Toeg presented the Collett Memorial Trophy for 1996-7 to Frank Deakin for his book on Barbados. The meeting concluded with David Druett's excellent auction.

The next meeting was held during the PHILATEX Stamp and Cover Show at the Royal Horticultural Hall on the 6th March with 11 members present. Displays were given by Peter Baldwin - "St. Kitts-Nevis - 1938-1950" and by Dennis Mitton - "Bermuda". These excellent displays were well received by the members present.

The meeting approved the acceptance of the report unanimously.

5. **Report by the Hon. Membership Secretary (Stephen Sharp)**
At 31st December 1998, the Circle had 325 members, a small increase over the previous year. 237 members resided in the UK and 88 lived overseas.

During the course of this year members will be sent a membership details form to complete and return to me, so that an up-to-date list of members and their interests can be published.

The meeting approved the acceptance of the report unanimously.

6. **Report by the Hon. Editor (Denis Charlesworth)**
My thanks go out to all those members that have provided material for the bulletin. As will have been noticed, the March issue was a little thin. I must therefore ask for more material. Please send in any notes, requests, snippets of information, and longer articles. All will be used. If nothing is forthcoming, I might even contemplate inserting blank pages so that you can write your own

bulletin. Half a page from every member per year would more than fill up the bulletin.

I should also like to thank all of those that have helped in the production of the bulletin, the advertisers, the printers and others.

Last year we discussed web sites. I have been looking into this, new to me, technology and progress is being made.

Not all members have approved of the bulletin. I can only state that I will print whatever you send. It is therefore up to the membership. We have discussed the bulletin in some depth at the committee meeting earlier today. Certain recommendations have been made and changes might take place in the not too distant future.

The meeting approved the acceptance of the report unanimously.

7. **Report by the Hon. Treasurer (Ray Stanton)**

I have pleasure in submitting my first report as Hon. Treasurer and would refer members to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 1998 that were sent out with the March Bulletin along with the Hon. Auditor's report.

It has been a positive year financially for the Study Circle with a surplus of income over expenditure of £1081. In broad terms the running costs for the year were very similar to 1997 totalling £3091 and these were largely covered by members subscriptions of £2513, the balance coming from Auction donations and surplus on publications.

Because of the surplus, the value of the accumulated fund at the end of the year was £6190 an increase over the value of £5300 at the beginning of the year. However, largely because of subscriptions received in advance, the actual cash resources of the Study Circle were higher than this at £8331, which means that the Study Circle is in a good position both to continue with its current activities and to invest further in an active publications policy.

In line with earlier years, stocks of publications have been included in the balance sheet at a nil value given that they have an uncertain market value. The actual cost of production at 31 December 1998 was £11560 compared to £11417 at the end of 1997.

I would like to thank Tony Farmer for auditing the accounts and for his helpful advice as ever.

This motion was accepted by the meeting and the report was approved.

8. **Report by the Hon. Librarian (Derek Nathan)**

In the period under review nineteen borrowings of 116 items took place. This is not enough to justify the existence of one of the finest specialised libraries in the Country.

I assume that all of our members have their own copies of the books they need, or, possibly, we do not give enough publicity to what is available. We

have a recent case of a member who resigned because nobody answered his queries in the Bulletin. All the information he was seeking is contained in the library, and a lot besides, but he did not once approach the Library to enquire as to what is available in the scrap books and similar general areas.

I spend considerable time scouring the philatelic press for snippets of information, and auction catalogues. Posterity will no doubt welcome this effort, but our current membership do not seem to find this of benefit and I wonder how we can excite their interest.

It seems to me that a change of Librarian is the first step. I have been Hon. Librarian for over ten years and maybe this is enough, both for the health of the Circle and of the Librarian. A younger, more dynamic incumbent is required, and, while I am happy to trundle on for a little while, anyone with the interests of the Circle at heart will volunteer to breathe new life into the Collection.

The meeting approved the acceptance of the report unanimously.

9. **Report by the Hon. Publications Officer (Peter Ford)**

The last year has seen the publication of the revised 'MONTSERAT' handbook. The greater part of the work that went into this revision was completed by Charles Freeland whose application and industry was example to anyone wishing to write a book. I should like to record my gratitude for all his hard work. At the request of several enthusiastic collectors, a very limited number (25) of this work were hardbound. As of today only one copy of this hardbacked version remains unsold. We have thus far sold some 45 of the softbacked version.

Of the other publications, Frank Deakin's 'BARBADOS' booklet sold 30 copies in the last year, Victor Toeg's 'DOMINICA' sold 4 and his 'LEEWARDS ISLANDS ADHESIVE FEES STAMPS' 1 copy. Of the other publications, Volume 1 of the 'JAMAICA' encyclopaedia sold 12, the 'BARBADOS POST OFFICE MARKINGS' sold 5 and 9 Corder Binders were also sold. Total receipts since April last year come to just less than £2800.

The softback version of the 'MONTSERAT' handbook was produced entirely 'in house'; that encompasses the typesetting, the printing and the binding. However, at just over 100 pages, printing on my inkjet printer proved painfully slow. Because of this and a desire to keep our stocks of publications as low as possible, I have asked the Committee to allocate money towards the purchase of an A3 mono laser printer. Using this printer, I intend to print all of our future publications and, except for our loose-leaf Jamaica Encyclopaedia, I would like them all to be hardbound.

As far as future publications are concerned, Michael Oliver's 'LEEWARD ISLANDS' should be published in the autumn. This will be a B5 sized hardbound edition of some 250 pages and will, I am sure, be a welcome addition to our titles. Also welcome will be Ron Wike's 'AIRMAILS of TRINIDAD & TOBAGO' that will appear at the end of this year or the beginning of the next. Two volumes of the Jamaica Encyclopaedia are in prospect for next year, 'GB USED IN JAMAICA' and 'AIRMAILS'. I have no shortage of

work in the immediate future but looking further ahead, we need to try to cover colonies that have been neglected in the past. I count among these Tobago, Grenade, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. There must be budding authors in the Study Circle who only need to let me know that they are contemplating writing and I will give them all the help and encouragement I can.

The report was accepted by the members unanimously.

10. **Report by the Hon. Public Relations Officer (Douglas Nottingham)**

It has been a quiet year until the disquieting letter from a member was received.

It is difficult finding the correct media to provide the greatest benefit from advertising to gain new members. The possibility of a budget was discussed with the Treasurer. Enquiries have definitely been generated via the 'Internet' thanks to Steve Jarvis as I am still using "Snail Mail".

Note: At this point Steve Jarvis remarked to the meeting that our Web page has been deleted, but this will be replaced on the new Server that he is now using.

I have always considered myself the members representative on the committee and find the allegations, in my own area of interest, very disconcerting. More than anything if one person writes this, it must represent the thoughts of a percentage of members. What is that percentage?

Unfortunately the meeting at the Royal Horticultural Hall was only attended by a few members.

The proposals for "Stamp Show 2000" are covered by the Sub Committee.

The meeting approved the report.

11. **Report by the Chairman of the Committee (Victor Toeg)**

My Report is of a Meeting of the Committee that took place today, that is, on the 24th April 1999.

Apart from the approval of the Minutes of the Committee Meeting on 25th April 1998, the Committee members received the Hon. Treasurer's Report on the accounts for 1998 and the Report of the Hon. General Secretary on the programme of meetings and events for 1999 and 2000. The Hon. Publications Officer has been very active in respect of the publications during the last year and you will receive from him in his Report details of the publications that have been made available for sale to Study Circle members and to others.

The Hon. Editor of the Bulletin has indicated that there has been a shortage of notes and articles for the Bulletin and that the standard of the Bulletin as a result of this must be adversely affected so please submit some notes or articles to him in the next month or two.

The Hon. Membership Secretary also reported on when he expects that the new list of members will be published.

Peter Ford and Simon Goldblatt reported on the progress made towards the replacement of the G.W. Collett Memorial Trophy - the last one of the original Trophies has now been awarded.

Derek Nathan as Chairman of the Stamp Show 2000 Sub-Committee reported on the progress made.

Having been Chairman of the Committee ever since it was founded, almost during the last 30 years, I have resigned from this office with effect from 24th April 1999. I am pleased to tell you that the Members of the Committee would wish to have Derek Nathan as their new Chairman and that Derek is willing to take office for a period of not more than 3 years.

I would like to thank the Committee members for making constructive discussions and decisions throughout my Chairmanship and it follows from that that the progress of the Study Circle and its philatelic reputation has been of the highest order.

I would like to wish Derek Nathan every success as Chairman of the Committee and hope that he will enjoy his new office as much as I have over the years.

The report was accepted by the members unanimously.

12. **Resignation of Victor Toeg as Chairman of the Committee**

Simon Goldblatt proposed a vote of thanks to Victor for all the work and support he has given to the Circle during his many years as Chairman. During the Committee meeting held earlier, the Committee had presented an Illuminated Address to Victor that recorded his work and achievements over 30 years as Chairman. This was then shown to the meeting. The motion for the vote of thanks was accepted by the members unanimously, with acclamation.

13. **Re-election of Officers**

Peter Jaffé has written to the Circle to announce his resignation as Vice-President. Since Sir John Marriott had previously resigned; this left two vacancies. Victor Toeg proposed that Simon Goldblatt and Charles Freeland be elected as Vice-Presidents. Derek Nathan seconded this proposal and the motion was carried unanimously.

The President, Hon. Officers and Messrs. S. Goldblatt, M. Hamilton and D. Mitton have all agreed to stand as members of the Committee and there are no other nominations. Consequently, all are automatically re-elected.

14. **Re-election of the Hon. Auditor**

Mr. J.A.C. Farmer has agreed to stand, and there are no other nominations. Consequently, he is automatically re-elected.

15. **Programme of Events for 1999/2000**

This is the year of our Biennial Convention and the tenth one will be held again in Leamington. Unfortunately, the Regent Hotel has now been demolished, but we have been able to book at the Manor House Hotel located in nearby Avenue Road. The dates will be 22-23 October and the arrangements will be similar to previous years. Peter Ford has agreed to be Chairman of the Convention and Stephen Sharp has agreed to be Chief Steward. Full details will be given in the Convention Leaflet and Booking Form to be circulated with the June issue of the Bulletin.

Displays - The formal displays are as follows: "A Trinidad and Tobago Miscellany" by Ron Wike and "The Turks and Caicos Islands" by Alan Pearse. Informal displays will be set up by Mike Rego.

Booking - The manager of the Manor House Hotel has set aside 10 double rooms, 15 non-smoking double rooms, 6 twin rooms and 5 single rooms for the BWISC until the end of August. After this date, any rooms not booked will be released to the general public. Accordingly, all bookings should be made through the Hon. General Secretary by the 27th August 1999 at the latest.

"Stamp Show 2000" - 20-21 May 2000

The sub-committee preparing for this event met earlier today and have prepared a provisional programme for the weekend. It will be held at the Bonnington Hotel and will be a joint event with the BCPSEG. Further details are to be published in the June issue of the Bulletin. Simon Goldblatt made a request to members to submit good lots for the auction, which is a joint one together with the BCPSEG.

16. Other Business

The date of the next Annual General Meeting will be at the Stamp Show 2000 event, probably on Sunday 21st May 2000 at the Bonnington Hotel. There being no other business, the President thanked the members present for their support and declared the meeting closed.

MESSAGE FROM THE HON. CHAIRMAN

The members who attended the Annual General Meeting on 24th April will be aware of the changes to personnel detailed in the report at the front of this bulletin.

Our three senior members, Sir John Marriott, Peter Jaffé and Victor Toeg all feel that, as the Millennium closes, so should their long involvement in the active management of the Study Circle. Victor Toeg is continuing as President, but has handed over the Chairmanship of the Committee to me after a long and very successful period in the chair, in which he took the embryo Circle and turned it into one of the leading specialist groups in the World.

Tributes to our two Vice-Presidents, Peter Jaffé and Sir John Marriott, appear elsewhere in this or the previous Bulletin.

The new team voted in by your representatives on 24th April are all active philatelists and your two Vice-Presidents have varied interests throughout the area. We hope that you will find that your Circle will grow from strength to strength.

During the last few months we have become aware that the welcome given to new members is less than perfect, and one of the ways we hope to combat this is to establish areas of interest within the Circle and to appoint a leader to each area, who will help those of similar interest to discuss and aid new members, who will be given the Leader's name when joining. I am keen to hear from people who would like to become leaders and the subjects on which they can help.

Your Committee have the best interests of the Circle at heart, but if you think there are ways in which the running of the Circle can be improved, please get in touch with me. Your ideas will be welcomed and carefully considered.

Derek Nathan

Peter Jaffé, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L.

Peter has recently handed in his resignation as a Vice-President of the Study Circle and this has been accepted with much regret. Although living in Australia, Peter has travelled extensively abroad and probably averages two visits annually to the United Kingdom. His journeys have taken him to many International Philatelic Exhibitions where parts of his famous collection of St. Vincent have been on display. As one might expect, Peter has attended on occasions meetings of the Study Circle in London and our convention at Leamington Spa. His knowledge of the stamps of the British West Indies is phenomenal.

E. Victor Toeg - President

The CONVENTION - Royal Leamington Spa - October 1999

As you will know from the last Bulletin the Study Circle will be holding its Convention at the Manor House Hotel in Avenue Road, Royal Leamington Spa on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd October 1999.

On the last few occasions the Convention has had a rousing send-off with a wine and cheese party on the evening of Friday. This is to be repeated due to its success in the past and you will be meeting old friends and making new ones.

The Hon. General Secretary Peter G. Boulton will be providing small cards or slips on which you should write your name and collecting interests for attachment to whatever you will be wearing.

If you are unable to find anyone with your collecting interests then, please do not just sit around, speak to an officer or Committee member who will make the necessary introduction; this assistance should be most helpful in the case of new members particularly for those who have just started collecting and therefore need information about the country they are interested in.

Saturday 23rd October will be the Convention Day when there will be two speakers who will give formal displays of their well-known collections. In addition there will be informal displays by members of up to thirty pages which will be shown in frames for short periods before being returned by Michael Rego to their owners. Please make the informal displays a success by remembering to bring them along with you.

There will also be a Dealers' Bourse and you will be able to look at their stock at your leisure. Simon Goldblatt will again be in charge of the Members' Approval Table; at the last Convention Simon sold several thousand pounds worth of material belonging to members, so please look carefully at his stock.

There will again be a raffle with prizes to be won so do support it to the best of your ability as the takings less cost of prizes will benefit Study Circle funds.

The Manor House Hotel has set aside a certain number of bedrooms for those wishing to stay there, but you must book rooms through our Hon. General Secretary Peter G. Boulton by Friday 27th August 1999 after which the remaining bedrooms will be released for booking by the public. If you are late in booking you will have to arrange accommodation with the Hotel Reception direct, but there will be no certainty of availability.

Finally, I hope that some of you who have never previously attended out convention will give it a try and I am sure that you will not be disappointed.

E. Victor Toeg - President

JOINT MEETING WITH B.C.P.S.G - MAY 20th-21st 2000

Preliminary arrangements have now been made for the weekend before 'STAMP SHOW 2000'. We are looking for a big turnout from both groups.

Rooms have been booked at the Bonnington Hotel, near Russell Square, and a number of dealers have arranged to take tables, but we have room for more.

A prospective timetable has been worked out as follows:

Social Arrangements to be arranged

At the moment, the following timings are still approximate.

Saturday 20th May

10am	BWISC Committee Meeting.
11am-12.30	Informal get-together over coffee and danish and viewing of auction lots.
13.30-17.30	Bumper 800-lot auction.

Sunday 21st May

10am	Dealers bourse opens.
From 10am	Informal displays, to be co-ordinated by Dennis Mitton. (Please contact Dennis for details)
10am	AGM of BWISC (until 10.45 approx.)
10.45am	AGM of BCPSG (until 11.30 approx.)
11.30am	Formal Display 1
12.30 - 14.30	Lunch and informal displays
14.30pm	Formal Display 2
15.30 - 18.00	Informal Displays
16.00pm	Opinion Forum
17.55pm	Closing Remarks

The two formal displays have not quite been finalised, but will be of outstanding material of, we hope, wide interest, from both sides of the Atlantic.

I should like to receive your comments on the above, especially if helpful. These should include offers of the loan of display frames, as we think that the usual ones will be tied up at Earls Court.

Derek Nathan

**MATERIAL WANTED PLEASE FOR SEPTEMBER
AND ALL FUTURE BULLETINS**

1999 AUCTION REPORT

The year which marks - for most of us! - the end of the present Millennium, was also marked by a notable AGM and auction. The Meeting saw our President, Victor Toeg, stepping down from the role of Chairman after 30 years in that office; and there were at least 40 members present to express their appreciation of his service to the Circle, and to admire the illuminated address which was presented to Victor to commemorate those years of service. How fitting it was that more members attended and registered as bidders than in any previous year.

The sale total of £9888 was not itself a record. However, on the two previous occasions when we have gone into five figures, we have been favoured with significant private collections to disperse. In contrast, this year's high total was achieved very largely with material from our customary sources, and without any really high flyers among the lots for sale. We shall tell the tale territory by territory, for a change.

Anguilla. Only two lots so designated, and a scattering of postmarks to be seen elsewhere. We feel that if (only) we could offer 20 lots, we could sell them all!

Antigua. 19 lots, 6 unsold. Star items, both from the same vendor, were the bill of lading with impressed revenue die stamp (£80) and the illustrated Moffett cover (£37) against estimates of £35 and £20.

Bahamas. The 'book' looked alarming when the sale began, for only 7 out of 28 lots had attracted book bids. It seemed that the 'Staircase' Sale a very short time before might have killed our prospects. We need not have worried: only eight lots were left unsold - even if the first bid was often, but not always, the last.

Barbados. Barbados is always well supported: 41 lots sold out of 49. Surprisingly our frontispiece court card (lot 85) did not quite reach its estimate at £46, but the high quality cards in lot 87 attracted much attention (£26). The two pin perfs (lot 57) opening with nothing on the book, were keenly fought up to a sale price of £220; and if some of the watermark varieties have become familiar, our faith in SG.220a used (lot 91) was fully justified. This was chased up to £40, again with nothing on the book.

Barbuda. 7 lots on offer, only one left on our hands. These philatelic covers sell quite well, as long as they look good enough to eat!

Bermuda. Mixed fortunes here, for only two of the KG5 high values found a buyer. Probably our members prefer to pick up the tit-bits as normal (as collectors of Rhodesian 'double heads' are reputed to do). Three quarters of the other lots sold, with the K3a '16' on damaged 3d producing the hardest fight: bidding opened at £36 and ended in the room at £65. Had the stamp been perfect, realisation would probably have been double that.

British Guiana. About two thirds of the 34 lots sold. It was amusing to see the 1958 'Missent' cover treble its estimate at £25, whereas our lot 159 was left alone, because the mis-sending took place in Canada! Are we sometimes a little blinkered? The opening lot (Ship Letter / Cowes) did well at £40, while postal stationery, specimen material, some classic earlies, and some later postmarks (lots 166-7) were treated with disdain. Lot 140, with its 1854 dateline, hardly deserved

this: Townsend listed only 1855 or later dates. Four of the lots did take off. The 12c Official fetched £160 (est. £85), Mallali made £23 against £12. Dalgin, assessed at £14 - which we thought fair - started at £16 and raced to £44. And that brilliant Aurora strike (est £36) began on £34 and kept going to £90. Finally, the 'Marine Detachment' set proved popular and fetched £50.

British Honduras. 15 lots, 4 unsold. The postmarks, lot 176, made £150 (est £95) so somebody must have seen something!

Cayman Islands. 12 lots, 6 unsold. This is a territory where we often aspire in vain to get good material. The buyers are there, but not for mere run-of-the-mill items and only the philatelic Postage Due covers (lots 189, 192) really prospered, at £46 and £11.

Dominica. 9 lots sold out of 17. The high point was lot 204 (Pointe Michel) on 3d and 6d views, etc.) at £37 against est. £20. So why did that scarce 2/6, lot 201, fetch only £31?

Grenada. 19 lots, 3 unsold - a remarkable result for this island, the realisations being consistently close to estimate.

Jamaica. 35 lots sold out of an ambitious 64. It is probably 15 years since this island was in high demand and the return to popularity is still very slow. All the same there was genuine competition for the items that found new homes; of course the rare numerals '598' and '615' and that beautifully presented lot 294 did best.

Leeward Is. 19 lots, 3 unsold which (unlike Grenada!) is exactly what we expect. On the whole steady rather than spectacular prices, the one exception being 'Esk', lot 297, which made £46. We are curiously choosy about maritime markings. If you look carefully through the catalogue you will find a good deal of maritime material that made modest prices or did not even find a buyer. One day we shall collectively wake up to the bargains still to be had in this department.

Montserrat. 10 lots, 4 unsold, and no high prices. Obviously the new edition of Britnor's handbook has set us off hunting for better material than was on offer this time round.

St. Kitts-Nevis. 25 lots for the individual or combined territories and the 5 that did not sell were all KG5 or later. Nothing wrong with the quality of these five, so perhaps the cost put the buyers off.

St. Lucia. 17 sold out of 23. The Parcel Post cancel made £30, so its scarcity has been confirmed.

St. Vincent. 50 lots, 14 unsold, which is quite a lot for this popular territory. Indeed it was nearly 15, because lot 373 lingered for uncomfortable seconds before a buyer was found at the £300 reserve. In stark contrast lot 379 (SG.8) had seven bidders on the book and at least one more in the room. At £190 it exactly doubled its estimate. This apart it was, as usual, postmarks that forged ahead. Our substantial £40 estimate for the Barrouallie A10 (lot 382) was £20 under the mark; and we were £18 adrift on lots 385 and 398. These each made £48 against £30.

Tobago. 12 lots, 10 sold, on average at one third over estimate. The rare proclamation (lot 411) made a creditable £160.

Trinidad. 35 lots, only 10 unsold (which curiously included lots 427 and 441). Noteworthy was lot 446, a censor cover of great character, which realised £44 (est. £20).

Turks. 11 lots, 6 unsold - the only section in which more than half were left without a fresh owner. Yet lots 461 and 463 made very healthy prices at £44 and £46. The seller of the former would have been satisfied with a very much lower return.

Virgin Is. 11 items, 5 unsold, which included three lots of early classics. It has to be said that our members are perhaps too diffident over these, for catalogue prices compare favourably with every other territory, once one takes scarcity into account. Be that as it may, there are buyers about for acknowledged rarities: our ¼d Leeward stamp (lot 476) was probably the star of the sale. Estimated at £20, bidding opened at £44 and closed at a mind-boggling £70.

Miscellaneous and Literature. 23 lots on offer here, and only 3 left unsold (including, of course a lot with maritime interest!). The seller of the bogus issues (lot 492) thought less of them than even our modest £25 estimate, but we were not surprised to see them go for £42. These unusual items could have fetched anything.

There will be the briefest of pauses for your auction sub-committee, because the preparation needed for next year's 800-lot Millennium Auction (in conjunction with BCPSTG) rises almost exponentially in relation to increases in size. We are already starting to receive offers of high quality material, and we could see the four-figure mark broken for the first time on a splendid example of St. Vincent's PERUVIAN VALE. The prospective seller, indeed, would be disappointed if it realised less. Also under discussion are -

Dominica - a conveyance of the 1880's with tax paid by Leewards fiscal adhesives and Dominica impressed die stamps in combination.

A number of rare pre-adhesive EL's from the smaller islands.

Clearly some deep pockets will be needed amongst next year's buyers. We believe that members who wish to sell items of similar quality will not be disappointed, and Simon Goldblatt is prepared to receive items for inclusion at any time from now on.

1999 realisations were as follows (lots omitted were unsold):-

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
1	13.50	2	22	3	23	6	48	7	40	9	80
10	14.50	11	23	12	30	13	26	14	33	17	24
18	15	19	37	20	23	22	7.50	23	15	24	100
25	19	27	5.50	28	6	31	37	32	21	35	23
36	35	37	46	38	56	39	13	40	8	41	17
43	5.25	44	23	47	7.50	48	25	49	12	50	26
51	30	53	25	54	33	55	30	56	24	57	220
58	36	59	26	61	13.50	62	27	63	80	64	31
65	15	66	36	69	44	70	15	71	11.50	72	16
73	21	74	22	75	15	76	27	78	15.50	80	18
81	35	82	15.50	83	22	84	31	85	46	87	26

Lot	£										
88	16.50	89	16	91	40	93	7.50	94	17	95	46
96	20	97	16	98	9	99	8.50	100	17.50	101	39
102	28	103	18	104	38	106	18	107	9	108	26
109	17	110	21	111	9	112	18	114	65	115	36
116	11	117	17.50	118	16.50	119	10.50	121	42	123	19
128	75	135	40	136	27	137	21	138	34	142	6
143	24	144	22	145	160	146	90	147	36	148	22
149	20	150	17	153	44	155	6	156	7.50	158	23
164	50	165	37	168	25	169	21	171	12	173	12
174	23	176	150	177	13.50	178	30	180	25	181	21
182	22	183	42	184	23	185	4	186	5.50	189	46
192	11	194	3	196	31	198	6	201	31	202	15
204	37	205	19	208	21	210	31	212	10	213	70
214	14	215	34	216	46	217	54	218	42	219	16
220	8.50	221	39	222	7.50	223	9	225	24	227	31
229	31	230	20	231	32	234	85	235	12	236	11
237	14	238	9	240	33	242	31	244	22	245	25
247	29	249	52	250	21	252	23	253	25	254	90
258	21	259	31	263	30	264	9	267	13.50	268	13.50
270	23	271	31	273	20	274	34	277	7	278	12
279	8	280	37	285	24	286	21	287	75	289	28
290	28	294	32	296	17	297	46	299	11	300	20
301	21	302	19	303	24	304	21	305	52	306	52
307	12.50	308	11	309	22	310	26	311	10.50	312	38
313	12.50	315	17	316	20	317	6	320	12	323	12
324	9	325	28	326	13	327	15	328	17.50	329	10.50
330	42	331	15	332	52	333	24	334	33	335	90
336	21	337	60	338	10.50	339	37	340	12	341	28
342	4	345	12	346	21	350	15	351	15.50	352	10.50
355	7	356	21	357	12	358	26	360	8	361	30
362	28	365	12	366	39	367	4.25	368	30	370	13
371	29	372	24	373	300	377	14	379	190	380	26
381	36	382	60	383	44	384	6	385	48	386	16.50
387	16	388	16	390	14	391	180	393	56	394	18
396	9	397	5.50	398	48	400	22	403	40	406	16.50
407	6	408	65	409	6	410	12	411	160	412	42
413	46	414	115	416	19	417	60	418	21	419	9
420	7	422	6	423	110	424	12	425	18	426	42
428	10.50	429	21	430	15	433	19	434	12	435	23
436	7.50	437	11.50	438	8	439	15	440	31	442	23
443	31	444	4	445	15	446	44	448	27	449	48
452	7	453	11.50	454	13	461	44	463	46	465	7
467	8	468	9	470	16	472	26	476	70	477	40
478	10	479	8.50	480	9.50	481	14	482	23	483	19
484	13.50	485	13	487	7	488	20	489	20	490	12
492	42	493	28	494	33	495	28	496	16	497	12.50
498	4	499	15.50	500	12	501	8				

WANTED

Peter Baldwin would be interested in obtaining examples of St Kitts-Nevis SG.73c and 77c used on piece or on cover. Please contact Peter at 30 Dulwich Mead, Half Moon Lane, London. SE24 9HS. Tel. 0171 738 4491.

PHILATEX - 6th March 1999

The Study Circle held a meeting at the Royal Horticultural Hall, during the London International Stamp and Cover Show on Saturday morning of the 6th March 1999.

Victor Toeg, our President, was unable to attend and sent his apologies. In his absence Derek Nathan opened the meeting and introduced the speakers. The first speaker was Peter Baldwin who gave a very interesting talk and display on the King George VI issues of St. Kitts-Nevis 1938-50. He was followed by Dennis Mitton who gave a display on Bermuda which included an impressive display of Victorian covers including many Boer War POW covers with varied and unusual markings.

Although the meeting was limited to two hours, it was very stimulating and informative for the eleven Circle members who attended.

Peter Boulton

PHILATEX DISPLAY 1 - St Kitts-Nevis

The first display was given by Peter Baldwin and was a display of "St Kitts-Nevis 1938 - 1950".

Peter Baldwin explained that his display was intended to be read rather than talked about, because it consisted of an expanded version of his book, published by Murray Payne Ltd, interspersed with captioned stock cards or panes of stamps on sheets of card and enclosed in transparent sleeves.

He said that he had chosen to research these definitive stamps because they had been printed by De La Rue using typography, as had the large key-type issues of Bermuda, Leewards and Nyasaland, which had been exhaustively studied and had been the subject of extensive publication. Very little had been published about the St Kitts-Nevis stamps produced during the same period, and they were less expensive to acquire in the early 1980's, probably because they were less sought after.

Although he had been collecting the series since they had first been issued, he had found it difficult to assign individual stamps to catalogue numbers, and even the Potter & Shelton tables of printings did not provide a complete guide. He was fortunate in being able to enlist the help of Marcus Faux, who looked after the Crown Agents' archives, then at the Millbank headquarters, and was also allowed to visit Buckingham Palace, by courtesy of Sir John Marriott, the then Curator of the Royal Collection, to examine the plate blocks of four presented to the King from most of the new printings (but not the emergency wartime ones). The De La Rue archives in the National Postal Museum were also consulted.

The display showed that the available data had been condensed into tables under the heading of the Crown Agents' Requisition Number, summarising the information from the Requisition Books, the Paper Issue Books and the Plate Issue Book, and copies of pages from each of these were shown.

In normal times the Crown Agents published a monthly Bulletin giving news of forthcoming new printings, and what was to be made available to dealers for purchase in London at face value plus 10 shillings for each order for the stamps of one Colony. This routine was interrupted early in World War II, when in 1940 it was announced that printings of values in the same colour as before would not be announced, and this lasted until October 1941, during which period De La Rue's printing works in London was bombed, and their work for the Crown Agents had to be subcontracted to other printers. The plates escaped unscathed, however, because they were kept in a strong room for security reasons. Some printings were made which were sent straight to the Colony without being offered to the trade in London, and it appears that some of the records were not maintained properly, because there are at least two distinctive printings of the 2d and 6d values which cannot be accounted for in the archives.

Then in 1942 the Crown Agents' Bureau was opened in Millbank for the sale of new printings of stamps procured by them for the Colonies, and in 1943 a printing was made of six denominations, all of which were allocated to the Bureau and none to the Colony. This, together with the earlier lack of information in the bulletin, gave rise to considerable confusion in the philatelic press, when it was disclosed that dealers were getting stamps from the colonial Post Offices which differed from those sold by the Bureau. This also explains why some stamps are much scarcer mint than used, and vice versa.

Another reason why some used copies are hard to find is that the Issues of the Leeward Islands were on sale in the Post Offices alongside the St Kitts-Nevis designs, and also that the population was relatively small. The numbers of sheets printed were low in the case of the 5/- value: between 105 (1941) and 210 (1944) for example, and although 452 sheets were despatched in 1950, it seems likely that many were destroyed when the pictorial issue appeared in June 1952.

An innovation developed during studies of the single-colour low value stamps was to record the displacement of "pins" on the perforation comb at different points along its length, which proved to change with time, providing a rough guide to the year in which the perforating had taken place, and this, together with the use of ultraviolet radiation to examine the effect on the appearance of the ink in a darkened room, was of considerable use in their classification.

The "Jubilee" lines surrounding the larger format two-colour stamps are useful for locating the position of marginal copies, because the gaps are spaced differently alongside each stamp at edges of the sheet. This can be used to "plate" examples showing printing flaws, but in one or two cases examples have yet to be found in multiples so that the position can be defined.

The display included examples of the flaws listed in Stanley Gibbons Part 1 as single stamps, as well as multiples showing some of the many flaws illustrated in the book. Flaws on some of the low value small format stamps were also displayed, although they had not been discovered at the time the book was published.

Most of the constant flaws appear as uninked areas where the metal of the plate was depressed by being struck with an implement such as a screwdriver when the plates were detached from their wooden backing for adjustment of the surface height, which was achieved by the printer inserting paper "shims" to raise the lower parts. There were six screws in a plate of 60 large format stamps, one at each corner (in the lower parts

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did not receive ink) and one near the middle of each long side, and so the damage tends to be found near these areas. At times, and particularly later in the period, such damage was repaired on the plates themselves, but during the war, when materials such as watermarked paper were valuable, examples can be found where the gaps have been filled in with ink by hand on the printed sheets.

When it comes to postmarks, there are quite a number of different St Kitts circular date stamps to be found, of which six are genuine, but there are at least as many forged marks, including the "Madame Joseph" examples illustrated in Derek Worboys' book published by the RPS,L, (seven) with dates back to 1923, which were used to cancel these King George VI issues. In most cases the year date was not applied to the stamp, but examples can be found showing dates many years earlier than the year of printing. Even where the date cannot be seen (and dates on the forged cancellations are fixed as opposed to variable on genuine CDS's) the forgeries can be detected by careful examination of the shape of the letters or the "star" above the date.

These misleading (forged) dates were probably the reason for some of the dates for printings shown in catalogues in the past being too early.

The dates of earliest use shown in the book were used by the editor of Stanley Gibbons Part 1 catalogue, David Aggersberg, to redesignate some of the issues in the St Kitts listing in the 1999 edition.

.....

Peter Baldwin then mentioned that the details in the book stated that printings of the single-colour small format stamps made towards the end of the reign, including the Anguilla Tercentenary overprinted ones, were made on uncoated paper with multiple script CA watermark which, when viewed through a magnifier in front of a light source, has a "laid" appearance compared with the usual "wove" pattern.

The alternate more and less translucent lines are parallel with the top and bottom sides of the stamps, about 0.5 mm apart, and best seen on the marginal unprinted parts of the sheets. The "wove" paper, in contrast, shows a pattern of translucent "stitches" which are both vertical and horizontal.

Surely this paper must have been used when printing other stamps. Can any member of the Circle find examples of them?

.....

Note:- The tailpiece is intended to be a separate appeal for members to examine the margins of sheets printed for other colonies, in an attempt to discover whether any of the paper used by De La Rue for some later KGVI St Kitts printings was used for them as well.

.....

Charles Freeland proposed the vote of thanks in his summing up of this fine display. Members present agreed with this summary and showed their appreciation for such a fine display.

PHILATEX DISPLAY 2 - Bermuda

As a contrast to the stamps of Peter Baldwin, Dennis Mitton showed postal history of Bermuda between 1850 to 1910.

The display consisted of two halves:- the first being Queen Victoria covers starting with two covers from England dated 1850 and 1856 with 1 shilling and 6d. embossed stamps respectively. This was followed by local mail at the one penny rate from Hamilton (K 1 -2 Duplex) and St. Georges B over 1 cancel. Two local covers with the oval St. Georges datestamp followed.

The rest of the QV section showed the different stamps (with shades) and postal rates to England and the USA. Consignee mail showing the correct rate, underpaid with and without postage due marks preceded mail from 1880 onwards. Of particular note was a local letter about the purchase of a donkey that was not what the vendor had described plus a letter from the ADC to the Governor of Bermuda to an Officer in England giving a character assignation about a fellow officer. The section was completed with a selection of Dock stamps on cover.

The second half showed Boer War material containing items of local mail, all four censor marks both to and from Bermuda. A cover with all four Bermuda censor marks plus two other censor marks followed. There were items from the period before Bermuda censorship started and after censorship ceased as well as Intercamp mail with Ceylon, St. Helena and India.

Peter Ford summed up the excellent display and proposed a vote of thanks. Members present endorsed this in the usual manner.

STAMP EVENING AT THE RAC

In a bid to attract new collectors into stamp collecting, Allan Leverton organised a "soirée" and Stamp Evening at the RAC Club in London on the 3rd March 1999.

The meeting was well attended. Those attending were treated to several excellent displays from distinguished collectors amongst whom were Circle members Frank Deakin, Simon Goldblatt and Peter Fernbank.

Let us hope that it has the desired effect and attracts new collectors to the hobby.

Denis Charlesworth

EDITORS NOTE

With regard to the *Editors Note* in the last bulletin I should like to thank all of the members that replied. The relevant information has been passed on to Mr. Ford who has written to say that he will not now be resigning and that he would like to re-join. I am pleased that we have been able to clear this matter up to everyone's satisfaction. Other points were raised about how we can improve and the committee are looking into these matters.

Denis Charlesworth

ANTIGUA - Thompson flaws



Fig.1 - 2½d Red brown CA Wmk

Take a look at the illustrated detached triangle flaw on the Antigua 2½d Queen Victoria keyplate (Fig. 1). No big deal, you might think, but if it were in colour you would look twice, because it is not the ultramarine stamp but the earlier red-brown (with CA watermark). So far as I am aware, the appearance of the flaw on this stamp has not yet been recorded.

Let us review our knowledge of this flaw to date. We are all aware that it appears only on the right-hand pane of plate 2 of Die 1 of the Queen Victoria keyplate at position 3 in the third row. We know that it does not appear on the left-hand pane of plate 2 or on either pane of plate 1 because positional examples do not have the flaw. However, we do not have a full record of the stamps that were printed from plate 2. The best source of information is Sir John Wilson's catalogue of the Royal Collection but, comprehensive though the collection is, it does not contain examples of every plate plug. Easton gives us no information on plate plugs. So we have to fall back on sightings of actual plate pieces, or clear examples of the Thompson flaw, in the literature or in auction catalogues.

Thompson flaws on the Antigua Queen Victoria keyplate ½d dull green, 2½d ultramarine and 4d chestnut printed on CA watermark paper appear from time to time in the Circle's annual auction. We have not had the privilege of bidding for the flaw on the 1/- mauve, but examples are known to exist (Fig. 2). Moreover, if you look closely at Christie's Dec 1990 catalogue in which Victor Toeg's Antigua collection was offered, you will observe that the Thompson flaw can also be found on the 1882 4d blue with CA watermark. At the time, not being able to view the auction and with the postmark partly covering the corner of the frame, I wondered whether this was the true flaw, but since then I have recorded two other used examples on this stamp, and obtained a mint example that I displayed at the

Leamington Convention in Sept 1997. The flaw on this value is not yet listed in SG catalogues but I understand it may be in the coming Part One.

In an earlier bulletin article, I speculated on the possibility that the flaw might also be found on the 2½d red-brown of the same 1882 issue with CA watermark. We know that plate 1 was used for the 2½d because at least two plate 1 pieces have been offered in public auction. I have not to date seen an example of a plate 2 plug on either the 2½d red-brown or the 4d blue. However, on the evidence of the Thompson flaws seen (Figs. 1 and 3), we must now assume that at least one of the printings of each stamp was from plate 2.



Fig.2 - 1/- Mauve CA Wmk

Fig.3 - 4d Blue CA Wmk

The question we would all like answered is how many sheets of each value were printed from plate 2 so that we can tell how many Thompson flaws are available to collectors. Sadly, this is not as easy as it sounds. John Easton's major work "The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps" does not record plate plugs. Similarly, his tables of Antigua printings published in the Philatelist of March 1960 gives the numbers and dates of each denomination invoiced but does not always indicate the colour of the stamps or the plates used (presumably because the records did not contain this information). There is a particular problem with the 2½d and 4d, which Easton acknowledges, because there is conflicting evidence as to whether the 1886 despatch of these stamps were in the new or old colours.

I feel confident that with the assistance of members we can resolve these uncertainties but would appreciate input on the following points:

- 1 Does anyone know of an official record of the date on which plate 2 first appeared?
- 2 Can we assume that plate 2 succeeded plate 1 and was not used concurrently? Peter Fernbank and I think that De La Rue's legendary parsimony makes it unlikely that they would replace a plate unless it was worn out.

- 3 Can we assume that all stamps within the same despatch would be printed from the same plate, as Peter and I also believe?
- 4 Since there is conflicting evidence concerning the colour of the 1886 despatch, what early uses are recorded for the 2½d ultramarine and the 4d chestnut? My earliest date for either is 16 March 1888 but I seem to recall a member reporting an 1887 date.
- 5 Can any member report a 4d blue CA watermark with plate plug 1 or a 2½d red-brown or 4d blue with plate plug 2? There was a marginal pair of the 4d in a Robson Lowe auction in Bournemouth in June 1975 but frustratingly the catalogue does not state what the plate number was.



Fig.4 - - 2½d Red brown CC Wmk



Fig.5 - 4d Chestnut SPECIMEN

These detached triangle flaws are quite difficult to acquire and now that they are listed in Gibbons Part 1 our opportunities to pick them up unrecognised have sadly dwindled. I illustrate some of the more elusive varieties above. The 2½d illustrated in Fig. 4 is a mystery. The flaw is not quite the same as the detached triangle but it shows a broken frame at exactly the same location. It is in red-brown with an indisputable CC watermark. But plate 2 cannot have been used for the CC watermark unless all my assumptions on sequencing are incorrect. So I would put this down to a freak coincidence.

I am indebted to Peter Fernbank for responding to some questions on the usage of the plates, to Mark Swetland for drawing my attention to the dates of the file specimens that he used to own and to Mike Hamilton for giving me access to his chronological listing of Antigua covers.

Please send me any comments by e-mail at charles.freeland@bis.org

Charles Freeland

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AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

Anguilla

It has been reported that the supplies of the 80th Anniversary of the RAF and the 50th Anniversary of the University of the West Indies mint stamps went missing between the UK and Anguilla. Both entire issues were reprinted on phosphor paper as opposed to the plain paper of the original printing. The surviving stocks have been destroyed and the reprinted versions were issued on December 31 1998 as shown below.

Stamp Booklet - \$6.50

5 x 30c and 5 x \$1.00

Date of issue - 12 November 1998

Commemorative Set - "Christmas 1998"

Values - 30c, \$1, \$1.50, \$1.90

Primary and Secondary School students supplied the artwork from which this issue was produced

Process - Lithography

Perf - 14

Printer - Cot Printery Ltd. Barbados

Date of issue - 18 November 1998



Commemorative Set - The 50th Anniversary of the University of the West Indies

Values - \$1.50, \$1.90

Designed by John Lister Ltd. - England

Printer - Cartor Security Printing, France

Date of issue - 31 December 1998



Commemorative Set - The 80th Anniversary of the R.A.F. 1918 - 1998

Values - 30c, \$1, \$1.50, \$1.90

Artist - Roger Vigurs

Designed by John Lister Ltd. - England

Process - Lithography

Stamp size - 31.5mm x 48mm

Perf - 13½

Sheets - 20 stamps

Paper - 110gsm. unwatermarked

Printer - Cartor Security Printing, France

Date of issue - 31 December 1998



Bermuda

Commemorative Set - "Bermuda Beaches"

Values - 30c, 60c, 65c, \$2
Designer - Sheila Semos
Photographer - Ian Macdonald Smith
Printer - Walsall Security Printers
Process - Lithography
Paper - C.A. Spiral
Stamp size - 28.5mm x 52mm
Date of issue - 29 April 1999



Commemorative Set - "Mapping Bermuda"

Values - 30c, 65c, 80c, \$1
Process - Lithography
Paper - C.A. Spiral
Date of issue - 3 June 1999

BRITISH HONDURAS

Cyclometer Numbering on Belize Registration Labels

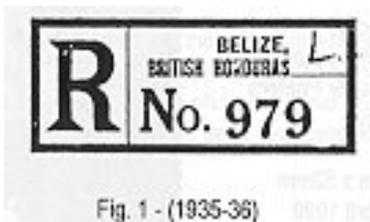
I have recently compiled a chronological listing of all British Honduras registration labels and handstamps from my collection, and also from the collections of a few of my colleagues. We have identified 36 different GPO Belize types and over 80 different village post office types (excluding R-in-oval and R-in-circle marks). There must be quite a few to be added, especially from the village P.O.s.

I am also trying to track the dates of usage of the different cyclometer numbers. This provides an indication of the volume of registered mail from that office, can help in dating covers or pieces with indistinct postmarks, and on two occasions so far has enabled me to brand attractive postal history covers as fabrications - the label was added at a later date to enhance the cover, but the cyclometer number did not tie up with the postmark date. Obviously, the greater the data base, the more useful the listing. I am therefore requesting readers to send me photocopies of registered mail showing the date of use and the registration number and label / handstamp type.

Conversely, I would be happy to forward a copy of the list for readers to scan, and then submit useful information to me at P.O. Box 533, KELVIN, 2054, South Africa. The study is confined to the "British Honduras" era, and does not run to "Belize" labels, unless they are still inscribed "British Honduras" after 1 June 1973.

In the case of labels used at GPO Belize, the cyclometer number was usually preprinted prior to arrival at the post office counter. An exception arose in 1935-36, when the labels were printed with the numbers 001-999 and the GPO clerk inserted a code letter in manuscript (A, B, C, etc.). This enabled the GPO to handle the surge of philatelic registered mail, which resulted from the issue of the Silver Jubilee

postage stamps. The label was printed with a space for the index letter (Fig. 1).



The situation was much less clear with a couple of earlier label types.

The stock of labels in the GPO was lost in the fire of 30 May 1909. Registered letters were then endorsed for a while in manuscript until supplies were received of an unusual large label type (Figs. 2a - 2d). All the registration numbers appear to have been used consecutively, but the label numbering was otherwise somewhat haphazard. As can be seen from the illustrations, there was a printed number below the "R". This seems to have had no significance at all; indeed Fig. 2d shows the number crossed out (to avoid confusion?).



Figs. 2 - (1909-10)

The important number was in the left hand box. Fig. 2a shows the number in 6mm numerals, Fig. 2b is in manuscript, and Figs. 2c and 2d show 4mm numerals. It looks as if they numbered the labels with whatever they could lay their hands on. Figs. 2c and 2d show the words "BELIZE / British Honduras" printed lower down, barely leaving space for the number. Unlike the 1935-36 type described earlier, the number seems to have been an afterthought.



3a



3b

Fig. 3 - (1925-27)

Even more curious is the label type of 1925-27. Examples have been seen with codes "D" and "E" used consecutively in 1925, 1926 and 1927. The type is illustrated as Fig.3a. The latest code "E" I have seen is E9664, dated 28/1/27. Maybe the labels were not printed with code "F". We will have to wait and see what future examples come to light. Anyhow, Fig. 3b shows a label numbered F772, used 25/3/27, which has all the trappings of a provisional, prepared either by the postmaster, by the printer, or by both. The first "7" is in the wrong font and the "F" is in manuscript. Desperate times indeed! I have not yet recorded any code "G" labels. The next date in my listing is 14/4/27, code H186, and in a new type (see Fig. 4), which continued in use until 1928.



Fig. 4 - (1927-28)

I hope to publish the full listing around the end of next year, along with several other British Honduras postal history studies. All contributions of photocopies or information are therefore eagerly sought. Of those who assisted me so far in this listing particular thanks are due to Brian Rogers and Charles Freeland.

Ian Matheson

GRENADA - 1972 "AIRMAIL" Overprints

Can anyone help with information on the double 'AIRMAIL' overprints of 1972. I have SG.502 - 8c snapper, recently bought at auction, with definite black double overprint. Just recently I found another copy of the stamp with a similar double overprint but this second double overprint is grey and more of a shadow.

Is this also a genuine double overprint or something quite different?

Andy Soutar

JAMAICA - War Stamps

I have a mint copy of the September 1916 printing of the 1½d orange inverted 'd' for 'P' which is also 'no stop'. My copy is the right hand stamp of an horizontal pair. This variety does not appear in the table of varieties in our Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately. I would be grateful for any information as to whether or not other copies exist and if so, is sheet position known. Can anyone help please?

E.D. Humphrey

LEEWARD ISLANDS KING GEORGE VI

SG.112b FINAL PRINTING OF THE 5/- VALUE

The background to this stamp has long perplexed me and no doubt other Leeward enthusiasts also. In an article in the April 1999 issue of Stamp Magazine, Dickon Pollard dealt with the printings of the low value of the King George VI Key and Duty type series.

In commenting on the 5/- value he drew attention particularly to the 1951 printing, pointing out the scarcity of the basic stamp and the rarity of Plate blocks. Additionally he drew attention to the difficulty in locating used copies bearing appropriately dated circular date stamps.

These comments encouraged me to look further into this puzzle, of which I had been aware for some years. It took me five years, to obtain a plate pair (at least that gave me time to save up for it!) and despite having examined several used copies I have never yet seen one bearing a complete date.

The stamp in question is the fourth and last printing of the 5/- value in the King George VI series and the only 5/- value using Key Plate 3. The first printing used Key Plate 1 and the second and third Key Plate 2. There were 262 sheets (31440 stamps) delivered by the printers which would give rise to 524 Plate number specimens. The London release is reported as 24 October 1951; there does not appear to be any record of the number of sheets despatched to the Colony.

Study Paper No. 10 of the King George VI Collectors Society (which is a masterpiece of research into this series) records that 12500 stamps of the 1951 release were exchanged for old stock and that an unquantified consignment went to the Colony on 6 November 1951. Was this wholly from the old stock, which would be stamps from Key Plate 2? This would explain why Potter and Shelton were mistaken in recording the printing as being from Key Plate 2, if they based their opinion on stamps from the Colony.

King George VI died on 5 February 1952 and prior to this the Colony had changed the basis of its currency from Pounds/Pence to Cents/B.W.I. Dollars. Some stamps had already been issued in the new currency leading to both currencies operating on stamps concurrently. The new Key and Duty issue for Queen Elizabeth II was expressed in Cents/B.W.I. Dollars and replaced the King George VI series on 22 February 1954.

Is it stretching imagination too far to suggest that no Plate 3 5/- stamps ever went to the Colony, apart from items sent by dealers and collectors from the London

release for cancellation by favour or for return to the U.K. through the mail? If the consignment of November 1951 contained only Plate 2 5/- stamps from old stock and was sufficient to last until February 1954, then the Plate 3 stock held in London could have been destroyed at that time. This would solve the puzzle: can anyone offer an alternative explanation?

Harold Green

LEEWARD ISLANDS - Better late than never!

Whether there was a New Year's resolution at De La Rue in 1949 or not, it was about that time that the first ever thorough repair of some of the plates in use for the printing of the small keyplate stamps took place.

The old duty plates had been used for all values of the first KGVI printing. New duty plates for the ½d and 1d (both 1938) and the 2d and 1/- (both 1944) were prepared. These new plates may not have been repaired around the New Year 1949 but at least some of the plates in use received careful attention at this time.

The evidence to support this is strong for the ½d and 6d values, but I cannot be sure about the 1½d, 2½d, 3d, 2/- and 5/- values. By 1949 the duty plates for these seven values had been in use for over twenty five years, (the ½d for nearly thirty five years.)

On 22nd September 1948 the KGVI Key Plate 3 was issued to print all except the ½d and 5/- values. The values to 3d were in new colours. On 25th February 1949 Key Plate 3 was issued to print all values to 6d, again the values to 3d in the new colours. In between the two printings the Key Plate had been repaired and the significant flaws at 7/2LP, 3/5RP and 4/2RP, which can also be found on stamps in the original colours, were eliminated. Some duty plates had also been extensively repaired. For example on the ½d duty plate flaws, including some that had existed since the KGV printings, were corrected. Repairs were made on the left pane at 1/6, 2/2, 2/6, 4/1, 6/2, 7/1, 9/6, 10/6 and to the right pane at 1/6, 2/6, 3/6, 6/4, 7/1, 10/5 and 10/6. A few minor flaws along with Halward 8a at 3/6LP remained and the repairs left evidence of the damage in some cases e.g. 2/2LP and 6/4RP. It was at this time that on the 6d the broken E at 4/1RP and the LE flaw at 3/5RP were repaired.

The stamps in the new colours were not released until July 1949 and the 6d value from the earlier printing (September 1948) in March 1949. So stamps printed from unrepaired and repaired plates were issued in 1949 and sometimes together as in the case of the two printings in the new colours.

Those who wish to allocate stamps to printings may find this information helpful. For example, stamps in the new colours with the keyplate 3 flaws at 7/2LP (damaged 'U' of REVENUE), 3/5RP (break in name frame below 'D' of ISLANDS) and 4/2RP (dent in outer frame line by final 'S') must be from the first printing in the new colours. A 2/- with any of these flaws cannot be from the last printing of this value. A 6d with the LE flaw (3/5RP) but without the key plate flaw must be from a Plate 2 printing. However the real interest lies in the activity at the printers. More detective work would reveal the extent of this repair work. Was the 1d value included? Flaws that exist on the first green printing were repaired but was there a

detailed repair of the 1d duty plate at the same time as the ½d and 6d? Was this the first and last attempt at a general renewal of the plates in microscopic detail?

The only other extensive repair that I can think of in the KGVI period was of the original 1/- duty plate after the first printing issued in 1938.

N.B. The repair to 10/5RP was of the value tablet flaws only. The second 'S' with the bottom curl sliced diagonally remains on the second grey printing. The damaged 'L' of ISLANDS at 1/2RP listed in Gibbons Catalogue was repaired before the printing of the first grey stamp. On the SECOND grey printing the bottom horizontal of the 'L' is again distorted, but not broken.

P.S. One can only be surprised at those who feel that collectors are niggardly in sharing information. So much has recently been written about Leewards in the general philatelic press as well as in the Bulletin and BCPSG Journal that one hesitates to add to it. However studying the Leeward Islands key types is like doing a 10,000 piece jigsaw. Many pieces have yet to be put in place and it is unlikely that the puzzle will ever be finished.

Peter Brooks

MONTSERRAT

I have recently obtained the excellent reprint of the Montserrat handbook revised by Charles Freeland and on looking through my small collection, I have come across the registration mark shown below.



The cover is from a Peter Ryan Esq. of Comover Village, Montserrat and is of the de Laurence Company pre printed addressed type to Chicago, Ill., U.S.A. Stamps to the value of 5½d are on this registered cover. It has cancellations of Montserrat (Type D11 dated October 23 1933) as well as backstamps of Boston and Chicago.

The Registration label is 42 x 19mm. Perf 12¼ top and bottom with straight sides. The rectangle is 38 x 15mm and it is inscribed 'MONTSERRAT / (PLYMOUTH)' Letters 2mm.

Is this a new type, or is this a variant of Types 7 or 8 as shown in the book. May I ask members

I would be pleased to hear from members with any information as to whether or not other copies exist or have I not read the book right. Can anyone help please?

Denis Charlesworth

ST VINCENT - A change of direction

Burrowing as I regularly do in the undergrowth, I sometimes unearth the unexpected. I bought the cover illustrated here without a second thought, meaning to explore why some genius of the past had plastered it with three wholly dissociated British stamps, each one of which is a transplant. I assumed every mark would be bogus, took "W.I." for London W.1, and had not even spotted a West Indies connection.

The reverse told a different story. A St. Thomas c.d.s of 11.7.1883 hit me in the face. There was a Hamburg transit strike of 9 6 83 (9th June, not 6th September), a red London receiving c.d.s. dated AU 19 83, and an informed former trans Atlantic owner had written (note the spelling) "this traveled 64 days". Nestling amongst the date stamps was "ST-VINCENT/A/JY 18/83" in a glowing shade of red which exactly matches "REDIRECTED" on the front. None of our pundits appears to have seen this St. Vincent mark before.



Mr. R. Pittman dwelt in St. Vincent for a while, apparently doing business with North, Central and South America. If we keep our collective eyes open, there may be more treasure buried under this name.

Simon Goldblatt

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

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AIR MAILS Two monographs by Stewart Jessop in Bermuda Scrapbook

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9.4.9.4	Mrs Arthur Hind (including B.G. 1c 1856) - Harmer Rooke - 30.10.35
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