

ISSN 0953 - 8720



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JANUARY 27th, 1954

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BULLETIN No. 182 SEPTEMBER 1999

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

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OBJECTS

1. TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
2. TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
3. TO loan books from the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways. List supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an s.a.e. (9" x 6½") - 2nd Class postage for 150gm rate required.
4. TO publicist 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
5. TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in para 1 above.

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION

MEMBERSHIP - Is WORLD WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.
SUBSCRIPTIONS - The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £7.50 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £10 for members who reside elsewhere.

Subscriptions (dues) are payable on 1st January each year and, subject to what is mentioned below, in sterling (by personal cheque or Standing Order drawn on a U.K. Bank, a Banker's Draft, International Money Order, Postal Order or local currency *notes* - no coins will be accepted - e.g. dollars, marks, francs etc.).

Members residing in North America (Canada, USA, and the Caribbean) who do not pay their Subscription (dues) in sterling should pay by sending to the North American Representative (see above for address) a cheque for USA \$15 made payable to "BWISC". Other overseas members who pay their subscription by cheque drawn in a foreign currency or on a foreign bank **MUST** add the equivalent of £3 sterling partially to cover exchange and bank charges. The overseas rates quoted include an element to cover postage of the Bulletin by Air Mail.

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PROGRAMME

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 of June Bulletin

SEE YOU IN LEAMINGTON IN OCTOBER

NOTES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The response from the membership to my notes in the last Bulletin has encouraged me to continue with the idea - at least until I am told by enough people that they don't like it.

Whether the increase in letters to and borrowings from the library has anything to do with my efforts or is just the result of the hot weather, I cannot tell, but I shall continue to be encouraged.

One of the ideas floated at the AGM was that of having area leaders to whom new members in a given collecting area would be encouraged to contact, and who would be a focus of study for that particular speciality. Several people have come forward to offer their names and I have approached other keen individuals to ask them if they would like to find themselves in this position. I append a list of possible leaders, some of whom I have not yet had a reply from, and I apologise for including their names, but deadlines are deadlines. However, for the sake of having a list of all areas, I include the suggested names of those who have not yet confirmed, and no doubt when they read this they will let me know their feelings, one way or the other.

ANGUILLA - Denis Charlesworth	ANTIGUA - Stella Pearse
BAHAMAS - Graham Hoey	BARBADOS - Michael Hamilton
BARBUDA - Rob Wynstra	BELIZE & BRITISH HONDURAS - Brian Rogers
BERMUDA - Dennis Mitton	BRITISH GUIANA - Peter Ford
CAYMAN IS - John Byl	DOMINICA - Steve Sugarman
GRENADA - Andy Soutar	GUYANA - David Atkinson
JAMAICA - Steve Jarvis	LEEWARDS - Michael Oliver
MONTSERRAT - Mike Smith	ST KITTS-N - Brian Brookes
ST LUCIA - Alister Kinnon	ST VINCENT - Steve Sharp
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO - David Druett	TURKS & CAICOS - Alan Pearse
VIRGIN IS - Simon Goldblatt	MISCELLANEOUS Everything Else - Charles Freeland

Many of these people have written back to me enthusiastically, suggesting lines of enquiry, research and writing that they would like to co-ordinate, and I am delighted with the response. It is now up to the membership (a) to agree to have their interests communicated to the group leaders, so that full advantage can be taken of each person's special knowledge, and (b) to contact their group leaders to offer whatever they can, in the hope that real progress can be made in the study of each area. We have made a start, we must not let it peter out. Those of you who attend Leamington this year will find that this will be a much-discussed topic and I am sorry that I shall not be there.

Derek Nathan

BWISC WEB SITE

We have been informed by Steve Jarvis that the BWISC web site is up and running again at:

<http://freespace.virgin.net/steve.p.jarvis/bwisc.html>

LUDINGTON's BERMUDA SALE

On 22 June Spink sold the legendary Ludington Bermuda collection, one of the premier collections of any country covered by the Study Group. This was an event worth recording in our pages. Many will have received the fine catalogue: for the bibliophiles, there is a nice hardbound catalogue now available.

All major auctions have their special memories, and I will recall Ludington for the roller-coaster prices. Some lots went for 25 times estimate, others for a quarter. One could question some of the estimates but they were not as far out as that. The sale total was close to £1 million, with only a few smaller lots unsold. (All my figures are the hammer prices, to which must be added 15% for overseas buyers and 24% or 40% -for 20th century material- for the poor Europeans). Five buyers spent £50,000 or more and there were another fifteen bidders who spent between £10,000 and £30,000, including two of our collector members. In all there were 71 buyers by my reckoning, 45 of which spent £1,000+. Even if you remove the dozen or so dealers and a few non-Bermuda specialists, that still leaves a pretty healthy collector base. There were 922 lots, the majority postal history but about 425 in the middle were issued stamps and proofs, which raised almost two thirds of the total. In fact, throughout the stamps section the prices were consistently high, starting with the Perot at £65,000, and coming to a resounding climax with the GVI where the spectacular blocks were in great demand. The prices for proofs, on the other hand, were mostly below recent realisations.

The early omens were not favourable. Although the collection had been consigned well ahead, Spink suffered serious delays both at the photographic and the printing stages. As a result, their staff had to come in on a Sunday to get the catalogues into the mail on 6th June. (Some US houses are now using private sector alternatives to get late catalogues into their buyers' hands but the shipping rates are far higher in the UK). Fortunately, the sale had been well advertised so interested buyers would have been ready to act rapidly. But with no time for postal viewing, distant bidders must have been severely handicapped unless they had taken steps to view in advance.

For those not familiar with Ludington's gems through his many writings, the catalogue will have been a treasure trove, replete with unique rarities, largest-known blocks, etc. Some will be surprised to learn that he had continued to acquire new material until two or three years ago. Others may have been surprised there was only one Perot, but he sold two in a 1974 namesake. I believe he discovered all three from local sources and never bought one on the open market. The 1974 sale also contained all his docks and ships studies (though he retained the proofs) and minor 20th century sidelines. In the late 1970s he also disposed of his GV keyplates (again keeping the proofs) and he unloaded much of his 20th century postal history, while keeping the maritime mail. All this meant that the collection on offer in June was not truly comprehensive but was instead a choice selection of his remaining interests. The pre-adhesive material and of course his principal interest, the maritime mail, was exceptional. Philip Kinns had expressed his doubts to me that the market could absorb 20 crowned circles in one sale, but they all went at good to high prices.

As one would expect the choicest material was in greatest demand and most of the prices of high value material were accordingly well above estimate. A few lots crept through in the postal history sections, but not often in the specialised areas such as blockade-runners, Boer War and military mail. The only really quiet spots were the 19th

century pre-adhesives without Bermuda markings, the covers lotted under K3 numerals 1 and 2 and a few of the collections near the end when exhaustion had set in and many had spent their budgets.

Michael Hamilton told me that he was disappointed in the quality and range of the QV stamped covers. They were certainly inferior to Tucker and this may have been because Ludington's interests lay more in the maritime routings and ships that carried the mail routes than the rates.

On the other hand, the huge range of pre-adhesive, military, blockade and maritime usages was astonishing (though I could not find the rare Annapolis packet cover that Ludington bought at the Brassler sale). I had been warned that the blockade covers would "go through the roof" so I was puzzled that several were sold at quite reasonable prices. I put that down to the late despatch of the catalogue and even later arrival in the US where the main blockade interest lies, and this is born out by the fact that I received a post-sale offer from a frustrated American for the two blockade covers that I bought.

The sale itself was quite a marathon. Allan Leverton was astonished that Spink was selling such a huge collection in one sale, let alone in one day (when he sold the comparable Ulrich collection, Allan spread 1367 lots over three days, partly to allow time for viewing of the upcoming day's lots). A 920 lot sale is not excessive for a day but two things held up proceedings, the constant presence of telephone bidders and the weak book. Moreover, since the sale was unreserved, room bidders often held back in the hope of getting a steal. So we had some absurd bidding sequences where the lot opened at a quarter of estimate and sold for twice estimate. All this meant that we did not break for lunch until 2.30 and, despite having only a 40 minutes break, the last lot was not sold before 6.30pm. This of course worked to the advantage of youngsters like myself and those not suffering from jetlag.

UK and European bidders, particularly for the 20th century material, were severely handicapped by the dreaded VAT, so I would estimate that 70% of the sale went outside the EU. Some expressed their amazement to me that the sale did not take place in New York but I think the results justified the location. We will be able to compare results with the Dickgiesser sale that I understand is now planned for October at Cherrystone.

It was sad that there were not many BWISC members ready to absorb the 100 or so mixed lots, often at bargain prices. After the Ulrich sale a considerable amount of duplicate material was recycled through society auctions to the benefit of all of us.

We will not have to wait long for the next great Bermuda event because Bob Dickgiesser's collection will reputedly be offered in New York in October. Those of us who have paid off our Ludington debts by then will have the opportunity to acquire the few items missing from Ludington such as all four postmasters, the mint 1d imperf and the amazing Dale-Lichtenstein block of the 1/- imperf between. If you thought that Bob was solely a keyplate collector, you are in for a surprise! Those with wider interests will have the pleasure of bidding for Ludington's wonderful Bahamas and Turks on 11th November. What a year for the money-lenders!

Charles Freeland

AROUND THE CARIBBEAN

Anguilla

Commemorative Set - 30th Anniversary of First Manned Moon Landing 1969

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

30c Lift-off Apollo 11 Mission 16th July 1969

\$1 Astronaut Aldrin & the Apollo 11 Lunar module on the moon 20th July 1969

\$1.50 Apollo 11 Lunar module rising from the lunar surface

\$1.90 Apollo 11 splashdown in the Pacific Ocean 24th July 1969

Artist – Roger Vigurs

Designer – John Lister Ltd

Printer – Carter Security Printing, France

Process – Lithography

Stamp size – 31.5 x 48mm

Sheets – 20 stamps

Date of issue – 6th May 1999



Commemorative Set - Heroes and Heroines of Anguilla's Revolution (First Edition) 1967-1999

To honour the men and women who played a prominent role in the struggle to liberate their country from servitude and poverty's ever tightening grip.

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

30c Albenia Lake Hodge (1920-1985)

\$1 Collins O. Hodge (1925-1978)

\$1.50 Edwin Wallace Ray (1906-1980)

\$1.90 Walter G. Hodge (1920-1989)

Printer – Cot Caribbean Graphics, Barbados

Process – Lithography

Stamp size – 30.56 x 38mm

Sheets -50 (2x25)

Paper - Harrison and Sons Stamp Paper

Date of issue – 5th July 1999



Bermuda

The issue date of the commemorative issue, Mapping Bermuda, (mentioned in the last bulletin) has been postponed until August 19, 1999.

Commemorative Set - "30th Anniversary of the Moon Landing"

Values - 30c 60c, 75c, \$2

Souvenir Sheet (1 stamp 65c value)

Date of issue - 20 July 1999

Commemorative Set - "Post Office Issue"

Date of issue – 5 October 1999

October 4th to 9th is Post Office Awareness Week.

In celebration of this event, the Post Office will issue a commemorative on 5th October. More information will follow.



Jamaica Commemorative Sets due for issue details not available Tribute to Jamaican Athletes and 30th Ann. of Air Jamaica

THE COLLECTORS CLUB OF CHICAGO :

We have received the following from Les Winick, President of the Collectors Club of Chicago to announce that they have established a web site:- <http://www.askphil.org>

This is stated to be a strictly non-commercial service to promote the hobby. The webmaster will reply to any and all questions on stamp collecting. This is NOT a project to generate funds or to get new members for the club.

The site is stated to include the following:- a huge glossary, the listing of stamp overprints, the basic articles on stamp collecting, the listing of more than 1,000 stamp clubs throughout the world, hundreds of topical or thematic groups, 2,300 stamp dealers listed by state, province and country, every postal administration, every philatelic museum and every philatelic library, including ours!!!

LIST OF MEMBERS - MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed with this bulletin is a **Membership Information form**. Would all members please complete this form and return it to me, as the information will be used to produce an up to date List of Members, which was last published in 1994. This will be sent to all current members.

Completion of the form should be straight forward, but the following guidelines may be helpful:

- initials not Christian names will be shown on the published list
- if you wish your address to be restricted to officers of the Circle, please leave the address section blank. A business or P.O. Box address can of course be used instead of a residence.
- up to three telephone/ fax/ E mail numbers can be used to aid communications between members.
- whenever possible interests/ specialities of the BWI should be entered using the codes in the **APPENDIX** (on next page). This is a slightly simplified form of the original system that should cater for most interests. If you have a wide ranging specialised collection, please add an * to the country, field or reign, even though your interest or collection does not cover everything. If your interest is not covered by the code, there should be space to amplify.
- do not enter any non - BWI interests: you may use an X in the relevant box if you have other specialised interests.

If you require any assistance please contact me, STEVE SHARP, at 34 LOVELACE DRIVE, PYRFORD, WOKING, SURREY, GU22 8QY, UK Telephone No. 01902 341356.

APPENDIX

COUNTRIES OF INTEREST are to be shown by means of a three letter code as follows:-

ANG - Anguilla	ANT - Antigua	BAH - Bahamas
BAR - Barbados	BAU - Barbuda	BEL - Belize
BER - Bermuda	BRG - British Guiana	BRH - British Honduras
BPO - Br. POs in Caribbean Area	BWI - British West Indies	CAR - Caribbean Area (General)
CAY - Cayman Islands	DOM - Dominica	GRE - Grenada
GUY - Guyana	JAM - Jamaica	LEE - Leeward Islands
MON - Montserrat	NEV - Nevis	STC - St. Christopher
STK - St. Kitts	STL - St. Lucia	STV - St. Vincent
TOB - Tobago	TRI - Trinidad	TRO - Trinidad & Tobago
TUC - Turks & Caicos Islands	TUR - Turks Islands	WIN - Windward Islands
BVI - British Virgin Islands		

Note: St. Kitts-Nevis and St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla are recorded under St. Kitts.

A PHILATELIC FIELD which is an interest is to be shown in a two letter coded form, the codes used being:-

AD - Adhesives	AM - Air Mails	BI - Bisects
CA - Cancellations	CC - Cachets	CI - Cinderella material
CL - Classic Issues	CO - Covers	CS - Censorship
DI - Decimal (modern) Issues	ES - Essays	FM - Forces Mail/ Markings
GE - General Collection	HO - Hotel Posts	HV - High Values
KP - Key Plate Issues	MA - Maritime/ Marine	ME - Metered Mail
MI - Military Mail	MS - Mint Stamps	MU - Multiples
OB - Obliterators	OM - Omnibus Issues	OP - Overprints (not War Tax)
PA - Pre-adhesive Material	PB - Paquebot Markings	PC - Postcards
PD - Postage dues	PH - Postal History	PL - Philatelic Literature
PM - Postal Markings	PR - Proofs	PS - Postal Stationery
RV - Revenues etc.	SB - Street Letter Boxes	SH - Sheets
SJ -1935 Silver Jubilee	SL - Slogans	SP - Specimen Stamps
SU - Surcharges (not War Tax)	TH - Thematics	US - Used Stamps
WT - War Tax Issues		

Other interest fields may be shown in full where an abbreviation is not apposite.

An interest which is primarily based on a **REIGN or PERIOD OF TIME** to be shown in a coded form. The various reigns are coded as:-

VI - Queen Victoria	E7 - King Edward VII	G5 - King George V
E8 - King Edward VIII	G6 - King George VI	E2 - Queen Elizabeth II

For other periods, start and finish dates may be given (e.g. 1884/1907) or be indicated by the words "pre" or "post" followed by a year.

Steve Sharp

ANGUILLA - Recognition after 30 years

On seeing an article in the April *Gibbons Stamp Monthly GSM Catalogue Column*, about Anguilla 'January 1969 Independence' Overprints, I went to my small collection and found three covers (of a commercial nature) of the type mentioned. The details were passed on to David J. Aggersberg the Gibbons Catalogue Editor.

I have had the following reply from Mr. Aggersberg and quote in part.

"The use of lower value stamps of this series on commercial mail from mid February 1969 onwards does indeed suggest that some values at least were available for postal duty in Anguilla. The other isolated examples that have been reported fit into this pattern to such an extent that I now feel that the listing of at least some of these stamps should be recognised".

A follow-up article will shortly be going into the GSM Catalogue column detailing the information currently to hand and announcing the new policy.

If anyone has any information or examples commercially used of values of this overprinted set up to top value, could they please send me details (with photocopy if possible as evidence) so that this can be forwarded to Gibbons. My address is on the inside front cover

Denis Charlesworth

ANTIGUA

Charles Freeland's article on the Thompson Flaw (Bulletin 181 June 1999) confirms what has long been suspected. The existence of the flaw on the 2½d brown (CA watermark) and the 4d blue (CA watermark) - no examples in my collection, I'm afraid - makes it clear that the first Plate 2 printing of Antigua QV Key plate stamps was in the old colours. This was the printing of May 1886 of 12,000 2½d, 30,000 4d and 6,000 1/- (the only printing of the 1/-).

This would explain why no specimens were issued from this printing for the 2½d and 4d, but 400 specimens were issued for the new 1/- value.

The May 1887 printings of the 2½d and 4d were provided with specimens (400 each), which one would expect if new colours were used. Apparently it was not until July 1887 that the new colours were mentioned in the philatelic press, although the 1/- value had been noted a year earlier.

Finally, the postmark evidence supports this. In my collection there is no overlap with the latest CDS on the 2½d brown being JY 22 87 and the earliest on the 2½d blue being OC 14 87. The latest for the 4d blue is FE 3 88 and the earliest for the 4d brown FE 17 88. The argument seems conclusive. Interestingly the Encyclopaedia gives 1887 for the issue of the new colours (p.22).

So the maximum number of Thompson flaws on each stamp is ½d green 1010, 2½d brown 100, 4d blue 250, 1/- mauve 50, 2½d blue 553 and 4d brown 955.

Peter Brooks

BARBADOS - REVENUE ISSUES 1916-1925

I believe all the issues raised in Robert Ellis's article in Bulletin 178 have been comprehensively addressed in Michael Hamilton's recent catalogue notes; it is evident Robert Ellis did not have access to Edmund Bayley's "The Stamps of Barbados" (1989), whose Chapter XVIII, pp 272-283, provides detailed information on the Revenue issues.

The results of the Hamilton sale reflect resurgent interest in revenues generally, and the tiny quantities printed of some of the Barbados stamps in particular. Ellis's assertion that mint copies of the overprinted postage stamps (Ellis numbers R1-19: Bayley numbers R1-13, R28-31) are generally commoner than used is borne out by the experience of others. An exception, however, is the one penny lilac (Ellis R17: Bayley R31). Some 4,586,880 stamps were despatched to the Colony under eight invoices from 25/5/16 to 26/10/33 (Bayley, op. cit. pp 277-8) and large quantities survive with manuscript cancels, perfins, handstamps and even genuine postal markings. Ellis illustrates postal usage with his St. Peter cover, and St. George has been noted. Illustrated (fig.1) is a similar franking on a 23 December 1919 cover to a Miss Bunbury, Georgetown, Demerara; the one penny lilac revenue is not tied, and the Taxe mark has been scored out in blue crayon.

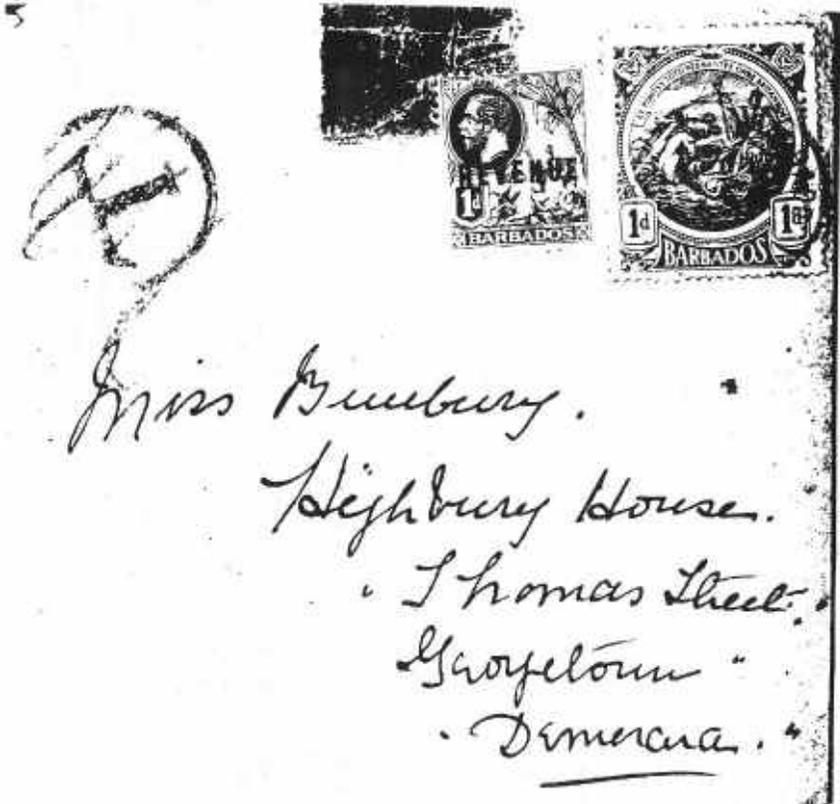


Fig.1

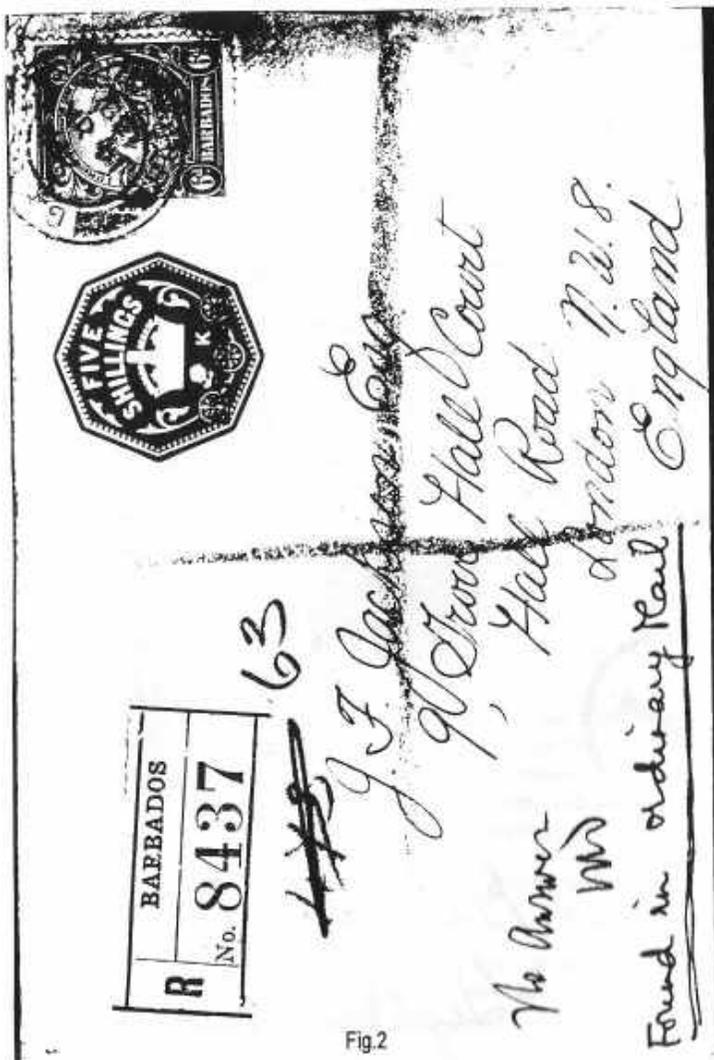


Fig.2

Fig.2 shows a registered cover; the five shillings stock die revenue (Ellis R34: Bayley R37a) is tied by a GPO datestamp of 14MR 38; the manuscript annotation "Found in Ordinary Mail" is supported on the reverse by GPO Barbados Registration datestamps, confirming acceptance. (The registration label could, of course, otherwise have been added fraudulently by some 'improver'.)

Finally, Ellis's comment that handstamped copies are scarcer than those cancelled in manuscript tallies with the experience of others. My own collection runs to only five such, against his nine.

Michael Medicott

OBITUARY- Michael D. Vokins -1934-99

It is my sad task to report the death in late May, in Bristol, of Michael (Mike) Vokins. This will undoubtedly be a shock to his wide circle of friends as, until a few weeks before he died, Mike had enjoyed the very best of health.

Mike was born in London in 1934, studied chemistry at Brasenose College, Oxford University and devoted his professional life to the improvement of the teaching of chemistry at school. Until 1967 he was a science teacher at the distinguished Clifton College in Bristol, he left that post to play a key role in designing the Nuffield teaching program in Chemistry until his retirement: in 1997, he was in charge of the Cecil Powell Science Centre at the University of Bristol. His contribution to the teaching of chemistry in the United Kingdom, and throughout the English speaking world, were considerable. Indeed, he was for many years the Chief Examiner for Nuffield Chemistry and finalised the proof reading of the latest textbook on Nuffield Chemistry during his last few days in hospital.

To his philatelic friends he will however, be remembered for his encyclopaedic knowledge of all aspects of Jamaican philately. Although Mike made a conscious decision not to enter competitive exhibitions, his contributions to the BWISC and to other philatelic societies were outstanding. Foremost, was his ability to utilise his academic skills and expertise to undertake archival research into many aspects of Jamaican postal history, importantly he was always prepared to share the results of his findings with others and to publish them in the philatelic literature. Equally important, his life was always marked by a willingness to undertake time consuming tasks shunned by many others. His single-handed reprinting of the Volumes 1 and 2 of the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* and of *The Jamaican Philatelist* are examples. Mike also played a major role in philately in Bristol, he was responsible for the formation of the Bristol Philatelic Society of which he was an ex-President, earlier this year he was accorded the status of an Honorary Life Member of that society. His contribution in establishing one of the best Society libraries in Britain will be a lasting memorial, he bequeathed his comprehensive personal library to that Society.

His death is a special personal loss, Mike and I commenced collecting Jamaican material, as complete novitiates, in the late 1960s. For many years in Bristol we shared the enthusiasm and excitement of building up our collections. This included sharing many of our buys from major auctions. Many years later, after my move to Australia, I sold part of my Jamaican collection and returned to Mike a rare and early exploded Jamaican booklet. It was typical of his well ordered collecting that he still had the original rusted staple to re-unite the booklet to its former glory!

We extend our sincere sympathy to Michael's wife, Nadine, and their three children in their loss at a time when he could have expected to enjoy many years of active retirement. Mike's Jamaican collection will be sold in September by Cavendish Auctions in Derby. Many old friends will be there and they too, will miss Michael's unflinching affable charm and good humour at the preview.

Dingle Smith

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP

RECENT MONOGRAPHS

(All prices include surface postage)

Leeward Islands: A Postal History Anthology (1997) 74p £13
Ludington, ***Postal History of Blockade Running Through Bermuda, 1861 - 1865*** (1996) 51p £13

Forand & Freeland, ***Bermuda Mails to 1865*** (1995) 124p £13
Devaux, ***Early Air Mails of Saint Lucia*** (1993) 26p £6.50

For details, please contact

Cyril Bell

**4445 Riverside Drive, Lilburn, GA 30347 USA
Tel: 770 978 8948 Fax: 770 978 7547**

JAMAICA - ST ANNS BAY Type T4b

I received a phone call recently from a non-member Dick Sly of Cheltenham.

He had attended a house clearance sale in Birmingham and purchased a suitcase of old documents dating back to the 1500's of the Selby and Phipson families. As well as 61 pieces of correspondence there was a family tree, marriage settlements, an 1850 passport to France and numerous letters concerning school fees (Mrs. Phipson ran an academy for young ladies.

The correspondence dated from 1797 to 1842 and related mostly to Joseph Phipsons business as a button maker, three letters were from abroad, of a religious nature, one being from Jamaica.

Over the telephone, the mark was described as a straight line "SAINT ANNS" and my excitement rose as it sounded like a Type 4a that was unrecorded but upon receipt of a photocopy it transpired to be a Type 4b with the "BAY" part missing.

Still Foster recorded Type 4b as unique, so it was quite a find. As far as I can establish, this item dated 26 October 1836, was sold at the Sisson's sale in Canada in 1982.

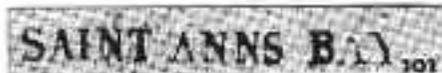
Ian Potter was the next port of call and he records one earlier example dated April 1833, this was very soon after the handstamp was issued.

This type was despatched from England on 7th February 1833 and would only have arrived during March. This item was sold in 1976 from the Surtees collection.



The new "Sly" discovery

The "Surtees" item



This new item dated January 1835 therefore brings the total of known covers of this mark to three.

Steve Jarvis

Advert

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JAMAICA

Updates to “The Postal Markings of Jamaica” - Part 1

The following are updates for the book “The Postal Markings of Jamaica” by Ian Potter and will be put into the bulletin in instalments in this and future issues.

Note: Changes and new items are in bold type.

Cancel No.	Name	Code	Size	Lettering	Ink	E.K.D.	L.K.D.
0030.09	ABOVE ROCKS	M. S. R. DA			Violet	05/06/1995	11/12/1895
0030.10	ABOVE ROCKS Reads "ABOVE ROCK" without final "S".	O3/41	49 x 33mm	Serif capitals	Various	01/09/1995	11/06/1997
0110.03	ALBERT TOWN	D. Ring	28mm dia	3.5mm thin	Black	15/05/1932	03/07/1967
				Strike dated ??/1930 reported by Bill Witschard			
0150.04	ALEXANDRIA	Ob-H-A27		"A27"	Black	??/06/1859	03/06/1891
				L.K.D. found on a dated Postal Stationary Card.			
0160.03	ALLEY	D. Ring	26mm dia.	3mm high	Black	26/11/1894	15/08/1902
				Dots on both sides of the name			
0160.06	ALLEY	D. Ring	29mm dia.	2.5mm high	Black	10/01/1940	28/08/1981
				Variations in width of "A" in ALLEY			
0170.05	ALLIGATOR POND	03*POWI-37 Je			Blue	02/12/1998	
				Reads "ALLIGATOR POND POST OFFICE / JAMAICA W.I."			
0200.02	ALPS	M.S.R.68			Black	05/12/1968	01/11/1996
0240.04	ANCHOVY	03/41		Serif capitals	Blue or Black	28/11/1996	15/01/1999
				Only known in Black in 1999			
0260.13	ANNOTTO BAY	D. Ring	29mm dia	3mm high	Black	09/10/1909	04/05/1915
0340.03	ASHTON	O3PA/41j		Serif capitals	Violet	16/09/1994	01/11/1996
0360	ATHLONE Postal Agency						Reported Closed 1998
0420.01	BAKERS HILL	O3*/37		Serif capitals	Violet	03/05/1996	06/06/1968

Cancel No.	Name	Code	Size	Lettering	Ink	E.K.D.	L.K.D.
0660.04	BELGAR	M.S.R.DA			Black	14/08/1998	
0750.06	BETHEL TOWN	O3/41		Serif capitals	Blue	18/10/1995	15/10/1996
	Reads "ETHEL TOWN" without the "B" however a strike of 2/12/1996 with the "B" appears to be the same.						
0770.03	BEVERLEY	03*PAWL.37Je		Serif capitals	Black	12/10/1998	
	Reads "BEVERLEY POSTAL AGENCY / JAMAICA W.I."						
0790.02	BIDDIFORD	M.S.R.			Black-See note	28/02/1972	17/10/1997
0850.06	BLACK RIVER	P2a			Black	17/03/1840	28/11/1859
0850.10	BLACK RIVER	D. Ring	27.5mm dia.	3mm high	Black	29/10/1913	13/09/1925
0850.14	BLACK RIVER	B3			Black	02/06/1953	21/03/1997
0870.02	BLACKSTONEDGE	D. Ring	28.5mm dia	3.25mm high	Black	12/1/1927	04/12/1972
0890.05	BLENHEIM	03/41	49 x 33mm	Serif capitals	Blue	12/08/1998	
	Reads "LENHEIM" without the "B" which was added in manuscript						
0910.03	BLUE MOUNTAIN	O3*PA/37h		Serif capitals	See note	05/02/1986	08/04/1997
	Reads "BLUE MOUNTAIN / POSTAL AGENCY"						
0910.04	BLUE MOUNTAIN	O3*PAWL-37Je		Serif capitals	Violet	10/08/1998	
	Reads "BLUE MOUNTAIN POSTAL AGENCY / JAMAICA W.I."						
0950.07	BOG WALK	B1		See note	Black	07/07/1945	08/12/1992
	A smudged example reported from 1993 but no exact date.						
0950.11	BOG WALK	M.S.R.DA			Black	20/12/1995	12/10/1998

Note: Changes and new items are in bold type.

Ian Potter

BOOK REVIEW

King George VI Collectors' Society - Study Paper #15, Jamaica by Hugh James

This authoritative work by the late Hugh James has been eagerly anticipated for several years and does not disappoint.

The first chapter covers the 1938 definitive issue discussing all of the requisitions, split between the De La Rue and Waterlow printings. Each denomination is then dissected with requisition information repeated and full information given on all known plate flaws, accompanied by helpful illustrations of many of them. Paper, gum and ink shades are also described according to Potter & Shelton, Gibbons Stamp Monthly and supplemented with comments based on Hugh's own collection. The section describing the origins of the scarce 5s line perf. is particularly informative. The chapter concludes with a table of the printings and plates utilised.

The second chapter deals with the seven commemorative issues of the reign. Much detailed information is again presented but as the introduction points out, several issues are relatively unexplored and Hugh hoped that his study would stimulate further research. The 1½d Victory issue is a good example of the depth of information - no less than 5 varieties are identified on plate 1A and 12 on plate 1B, all of which are positioned!

The short third chapter deals with specimens and perfins whilst the last chapter describes the various forms of stationery. I particularly liked the little human touches, such as when discussing the stamped telegraph forms 'The forms are very rare and the author has never seen one' I shall certainly keep a sharp eye open for any of these hidden away in mixed lots at the end of the Jamaica section at auctions. The only section that is incomplete concerns the unstamped air letter forms, sadly Hugh died before finalising his research.

This study paper of 170 pages is the culmination of Hugh's diligent research over several decades. It is a fine work that is a fitting memorial to Hugh's significant contribution to Jamaican philately. A MUST HAVE book for every serious Jamaican collector.

For members of the KGVICS, you may contact them directly for your copy. Alternatively, if you are not a member or have difficulty in obtaining sterling then copies of the Study Paper are available from Murray Payne at £20.00 plus postage. UK - add £1.60; Europe add £3.00; North America, etc. £6.00, Australasia £6.75. For surface mail the postage cost is £2.70.

Steve Jarvis

**MATERIAL URGENTLY WANTED PLEASE
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PLATES 1 & 2 OF THE QUEEN VICTORIA GENERAL KEYPLATE

This article is a follow up to my piece in the June bulletin concerning the Thompson flaws on the Antigua QV Keyplates. The intention is to differentiate the printing quantities of plates 1 and 2 of the various British Colonial issues, an exercise that has not hitherto been attempted, (if so the results have not to my knowledge been published).

The QV General keyplate (originally known as the Leeward Islands keyplate) was used in its complete form for the stamps of six British Caribbean territories (Antigua, Br. Virgin Is, Montserrat, Nevis, St. Lucia and Turks Is) as well as those of three other countries (Cyprus, Natal and Zululand), together with two invoiced but ultimately unissued stamps of Tasmania. It was also used in an incomplete form with top and bottom value tablets clipped for the tetebeche issues of Grenada (inscribed "postage", "postage and revenue" and "revenue") and for the Montserrat 1d Revenue stamp.

The first die of the Queen Victoria General keyplate was engraved by De La Rue in 1879. Only two plates were made from it, plates 1 and 2. An example of a dated die proof struck from Die 1 is shown in fig 1. Die proofs are also known engraved in November 1890 for the subsequent Die II, used to make up plates 3 and 4.



Fig.1

An important tool in this exercise, and at the same time a motivation for it, is the existence of the detached triangle ("Thompson") flaw on row 3 column 3 of the right-hand pane of plate 2. We know from positional blocks that it does not occur on plates 1, 3 or 4 or on the left-hand pane of plate 2.

Easton's mega-work "The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps" is of little help in differentiating the plates, because it only gives partial details of printing quantities and does not refer to the actual plates used. Of more assistance are Easton's

subsequent articles in Robson Lowe's "The Philatelist" of the early sixties, where he reproduced the invoice dates and numbers for the stamps of many colonies despatched between c.1870 and 1890. But this too does not list the plates and is sometimes unclear as to the colours of the stamps invoiced.

I started off by itemising in the first two columns of table 1 below the plate numbers recorded for each of the stamps that were printed from Die 1 with CA watermark (note that the CC watermark was phased out in mid-1881, several years before the introduction of plate 2). The main source of information on plate numbers was Wilson's catalogue of the Royal Collection (signified by the entry "R" in table 1), supplemented by my own records (signified by "Y" for yes). (Sadly, no member has responded to my invitation in the June bulletin to report plate plugs on the Antigua CA watermark 2½d red-brown and 4d blue.) I have added a third column listing the known sightings of Thompson flaws, also signified by "Y" Since columns 2 and 3 must correspond, I have filled any gaps with "(Y)". In order to keep the length of the table manageable, I have omitted from table 1 those stamps that have an invoice date no later than Dec 1885.

None of these stamps have been seen with plate 2 or the Thompson flaw. The significance of this will become clear later on.

My next step was to tabulate the Easton listings from The Philatelist for the eight countries that used the general keyplate. This includes Cyprus and Natal in addition to the six British Caribbean territories listed above. But it does not include Zululand, whose Plate 2 stamp was an overprint on Natal, or the unissued Tasmanian stamps. I do not reproduce the tabulations here because they are very extensive with multiple printings for many stamps. All the data are available in five numbers of the Philatelist, for March, April and November 1960, October 1961 and April 1962.



Fig.2

Next, I needed to establish the date on which plate 2 succeeded plate 1. Easton does not record this in any of his works and I am not aware of it having been recorded by any other student. However, by comparing the Easton listings with the data in table 1, it is possible to establish that: (a) **the last use of plate 1 was the Cyprus 12 piastres, with a sole Die 1 printing invoiced on 29 December 1885** (the Cyprus specialist Chris Podger has confirmed that this stamp has not been seen with plate 2), and (b) **plate 2 must have been in use by 4 May 1886**, because this was the invoice date of the sole printing of the Antigua 1/- mauve, known only with plate 2. Since there were no deliveries of general keyplate stamps invoiced between these dates, the change to plate 2 must have taken effect within this period. This is confirmed by a die proof from the De La Rue archives drawn to my attention by Michael Oliver that was in the Robson Lowe sale of 13 April 1976 (fig.2). We believe that this proof, mounted on a piece of brown card and dated 4th Nov 1885, is the die struck to test for plate 2, although the words Die 2 appear

at the bottom in error for plate 2. There would of course have been some delay before the first printing from the new plate was ready.

On the basis of these deductions, I have been able to allocate the Easton invoice quantities between plates 1 and 2 as set out in table 2. This provides some interesting insights into relative rarity and the occurrence of Thompson flaws that I will leave the reader to interpret. It explains graphically why we encounter the variety on Antigua and St Lucia far more frequently than on Montserrat and Nevis.

I have to admit that the data set out in table 2 are based on two assumptions, namely (a) that De La Rue did not re-use plate 1 once it had begun to print stamps from plate 2 and (b) that a single despatch would not have contained stamps printed from different plates or consisted of different basic colours. In view of De La Rue's known routine and legendary parsimony, I believe both these assumptions are very likely to be correct, and what is more our esteemed keyplate experts Peter Fernbank and Michael Oliver agree with me.

A side-result of this allocation has been to assist in finally resolving a puzzle that Easton refers to in his book and that Mark Swetland brought to my attention recently. This is the date of introduction of the colour changes of the 2½d and 4d Antigua definitives. The Requisition of 10 March 1886 included an order for 200 sheets of the 2½d and 500 sheets of the 4d. Easton quotes a Crown Agents document of 9 March 1886 instructing De La Rue to supply the new colours on the basis of the colour chart approved on 26 September 1883. Hence, he assumed that the 4 May 1886 invoice containing these two values, as well as the 1/-, were in the approved colours. This has been accepted by Gibbons and other researchers and writers ever since, including the Antigua Monograph by Bill Cornell, whose article on the keyplates was published in the BCPJ in October 1973. However, Easton also notes that the specimens of the two new colours were not invoiced until the next printings of these two values were despatched on 23 May 1887 (this is confirmed by James Bendon's listing of UPU specimens based on the UPU records and from the dates on the file copies of the two stamps in the De La Rue archives that were previously owned by Mark Swetland). Easton acknowledged that this was puzzling, particularly since the 4 May 1886 despatch set aside 400 specimens of the 1/- mauve.

The recent discovery of Thompson flaws on the Antigua 2½d red-brown and 4d blue that I reported in the June 1999 issue of the BWISC bulletin resolves the problem definitively. As these were printed from plate 2, they must have formed part of the 4 May 1886 despatch. We can now understand why the Philatelic Record of June 1886 reported the appearance of the 1/- mauve, whereas it was not until July 1887 that the same journal noted the new colours of the 2½d and 4d.

We are also now able to supplement the known Thompson flaws recorded by specialists over the years (and now listed by Gibbons Part One catalogue) with several unrecorded and unusual usages. These include certain earlier colours such as the Antigua already mentioned, provisional overprints and Revenues. For example, I have not seen any reference yet to a Thompson flaw on the St. Lucia 1d rose-carmine. For the overprints, two St. Lucia provisionals are listed, but I have only recently seen for the first time the flaw on the ½d on 6d bisect. In Natal, the flaw must appear on the 1887 2d and on the 1886 revenue stamps, of which Barefoot and Hall list fifteen - different values ranging from 1d to £20; indeed Simon Goldblatt has shown me a Thompson flaw on a couple of

them. This leads to yet other derivatives, the 1888 Zululand overprints on Natal revenues, of which Barefoot and Hall list nine values, also from 1d to £20, though more probably exist. In confirmation, the Thompson flaw on the Zululand 1d has been reported by James Podger

A final note on the tetebeche issues of Grenada and Montserrat, which were obviously set up in a different plate with the result that no Thompson flaws are present. But wait, take a look at the illustration of the Montserrat revenue in the Barefoot and Hall revenue catalogue, 1986 edition. Though rather blurred, doesn't it look like a clear example of a Thompson flaw? Yet it cannot on all logic be present in this different plate. Or is there something funny about this stamp issued in 1887? Has anyone seen a plate number on this stamp or any multiple other than Michael Medicott's vertical tete-beche pair?

I am indebted to Peter Fernbank, Michael Oliver and Mark Swetland for responding to my queries in the development of this article, as well as to others mentioned by name. Those who wish to comment on what I have written are invited to contact me on charles.freeland(@bis.org

TABLE 1 INCIDENCE OF PLATES 1 & 2 ON CA WATERMARK KEYPLATES

<i>STAMPS</i>	<i>PLATE 1</i>	<i>PLATE 2</i>	<i>THOMPSON</i>
ANTIGUA			
½d dull green	R	R	Y
2½d red-brown	Y	(Y)	Y
2½d ultramarine		R	Y
4d blue	(Y)	(Y)	Y
4d chestnut		R	Y
1/- mauve		Y	Y
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS			
½d dull green	R	R	Y
2½d ultramarine	R	R	Y
CYPRUS			
½pi dull green	R	(Y)	Y
1p rose	R	(Y)	Y
2pi dull blue	R	(Y)	Y
4pi olive-green	R	(Y)	Y
6pi olive-green	R	R	Y
MONTSERRAT			
½d dull green	R	R	Y
2½d ultramarine		R	Y
4d mauve		R	Y
1d revenue		?	Y?
NATAL			
2d olive		(Y)	(Y)
1d revenue		(Y)	Y
2d to £10 revenues		(Y)	Y

<i>STAMPS</i>	<i>PLATE 1</i>	<i>PLATE 2</i>	<i>THOMPSON</i>
NEVIS			
½d dull green	R	R	Y
1d rose-carmine	(Y)	R	Y
2½d ultramarine	R	R	Y
4d grey	R	R	Y
6d chestnut		R	Y
1/- pale violet		R	Y
ST. LUCIA			
½d dull green	R	R	(Y)
1d carmine-rose	R	(Y)	(Y)
1d dull mauve		R	Y
2½d blue	R	R	Y
3d dull mauve and green		R	Y
4d brown	R	R	Y
6d purple and blue		R	Y
1/- mauve and red		R	Y
½d on 3d (Die 1)		(Y)	Y
½d on half 6d		(Y)	Y
1d on 4d		R	Y
TURKS ISLANDS			
½d green	R	R	Y
ZULULAND			
overprint on Natal 1d		(Y)	Y

R = Royal Collection, Y = Yes, confirmed (Y) = Yes, unconfirmed

TABLE 2 ALLOCATION OF PRINTING QUANTITIES TO PLATES 1 & 2 (BWI ONLY)

	<i>No's printed</i>	<i>No. of despatches</i>	<i>Thompson flaws</i>
ANTIGUA			
½d dull green			
Plate 1	92,400	1	
Plate 2	121,200	5	1010
2½d red-brown			
Plate 1	36,120	2	
Plate 2	1,200	1	100
2½d Ultramarine			
Plate 2	66,360	4	553
4d blue			
Plate 1	51,300	1	
Plate 2	30,000	1	250
4d chestnut			
Plate 2	114,720	4	956
1/- mauve			
Plate 2	6,000	1	50

	<i>No's printed</i>	<i>No. of despatches</i>	<i>Thompson flaws</i>
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS			
½d dull green			
Plate 1	24,600	2	
Plate 2	47,760	6	398
2½d ultramarine			
Plate 1	5,040	1	
Plate 2	11,700	3	97 or 98
MONTSERRAT			
½d dull green			
Plate 1	22,380	2	
Plate 2	27,120	3	226
2½d ultramarine			
Plate 1	7,800	1	
Plate 2	9,000	2	75
4d mauve			
Plate 1	5,400	1	
Plate 2	24,000	3	200
1d Revenue			
Plate 2?	6,120?	1?	(51?)
NEVIS			
½d dull green			
Plate 1	39,960	3	
Plate 2	16,020	2	133 or 134
1d rose-carmine			
Plate 1	33,300	4	
Plate 2	25,740	3	214 or 215
2½d ultramarine			
Plate 1	15,360	3	
Plate 2	3,000	1	25
4d grey			
Plate 1	15,180	3	
Plate 2	16,080	2	134
6d chestnut			
Plate 2	5,100	2	42 or 43
1/- pale violet			
Plate 2	2,040	1	17
ST. LUCIA			
½d dull green			
Plate 1	54,840	3	
Plate 2	54,900	3	457 or 458
1d carmine-rose			
Plate 1	36 300	2	
Plate 2	42,600	1	355
1d dull mauve			
Plate 2	83,920	2	699 or 700
2½d blue			
Plate 1	25,320	3	
Plate 2	56,280	4	469

	<i>No's printed</i>	<i>No. of despatches</i>	<i>Thompson flaws</i>
3d dull mauve and green			
Plate 2	21,780?*	5	181 or 182?
4d brown			
Plate 1	12,000	1	
Plate 2	128,720*	5	1072 or 1073
6d purple and blue			
Plate 2	31,560*	3	263
1/- dull mauve and red			
Plate 2	24,120	3	201
½d on 3d			
Plate 2 (Die 1)	1,440?*	-	12
½d on half 6d			
Plate 2	4,800*	-	40
1d on 4d			
Plate 2	6,700*	-	55 or 56

* In 1891 and 1892, three provisional stamps were produced locally by surcharging existing stocks of 3d, 4d and 6d stamps. Ritchie (page 18) gives the numbers so overprinted without quoting a source. Those on the 4d and 6d were made exclusively from Die 1 stamps and the numbers in the table reflect my belief that they all used plate 2. The third, One half penny on 3d, was on a mixture of Die 1 and Die 2 stamps. Since Plate 2 only appears on Die 1 stamps, I have arbitrarily assumed that one-third of the 4,300 provisionals quoted by Ritchie as having been overprinted were Die 1 Plate 2, which accords with the relative scarcity in the Gibbons Part One pricing. The figures for the ½d on 6d refer to whole stamps, with the Thompson flaw only occurring on the left-hand bisect.

TURKS ISLANDS

½d dull green	30,000	1	
Plate 1			
Plate 2	30,000	1	250

Source: John Easton's tables published in Robson Lowe's "The Philatelist", March, April and November 1960

Bibliography

W. G. Cornell: article in the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, October 1973

John Easton: The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps, Faber & Faber, 1958

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Dr. Geoffrey G. Ritchie: St Lucia A Philatelic History, Roses Caribbean Philatelic Handbook No. 3, (1978)

Charles Freeland

LEEWARD ISLANDS - KGV One Shilling Value (SG.87)

This particular stamp is the top value of a short series of seven values printed in 1931. The series is unusual in that it is the only Leeward Islands printing from Key Plate 23. Key Plate 23 is itself unusual for the reason that Die 1 was brought back into use in the construction of the plate in error having been taken out of use late in 1920 and 'retired'. Thus this short series is easily distinguishable as being the only Leeward Islands issue of the King George V period combining a Die 1 Keyplate with a Multiple Crown Script CA watermark.

It was a surprise to find an offer among other Leeward Islands offers of a copy of the 1/- value with what appeared to be a major frame break above the letters 'Leew' of 'Leeward'. The dealer concerned stated that he did not know whether the damage was constant nor was he aware of the sheet position of the stamp that was in mint condition.

Constant break in inner frame above 'LEEW



Having myself a very limited knowledge of plate flaws on KGV issues, I initially referred the 'find' to Michael Spaven who thought that he had two or three examples tucked away in a stockbook. He had three - one mint and two used. The mint copy appeared to indicate the start of the damage while the two used copies were virtually identical with my mint copy. This seemed to confirm that the damage was constant but none of the copies gave any indication of the sheet position. Between us, we had several plate blocks but they showed no sign of the flaw.

The next move was to refer the matter to Peter Fernbank and photocopies were sent to him. It was felt that after his massive research into the King George V Key Plates he might have come across the damaged plate. But no, he kindly replied to the effect that he did not know of it but if the Leewards series of seven stamps was printed in approximate ascending order of value with the 1/- value being the last one then the break would be unlikely to appear on the lower values. Fortunately the Leewards series was the first to be printed from the new Plate 23 and if the damage was not corrected during or immediately after the printing of the Leewards 1/- value then the break would have continued into the printing of whichever colony was next to use it. Working from

invoice dates, this would seem to have been Mauritius invoiced 25 November 1931 - this being 15 day after the Leewards 1/- value on 10 November 1931.

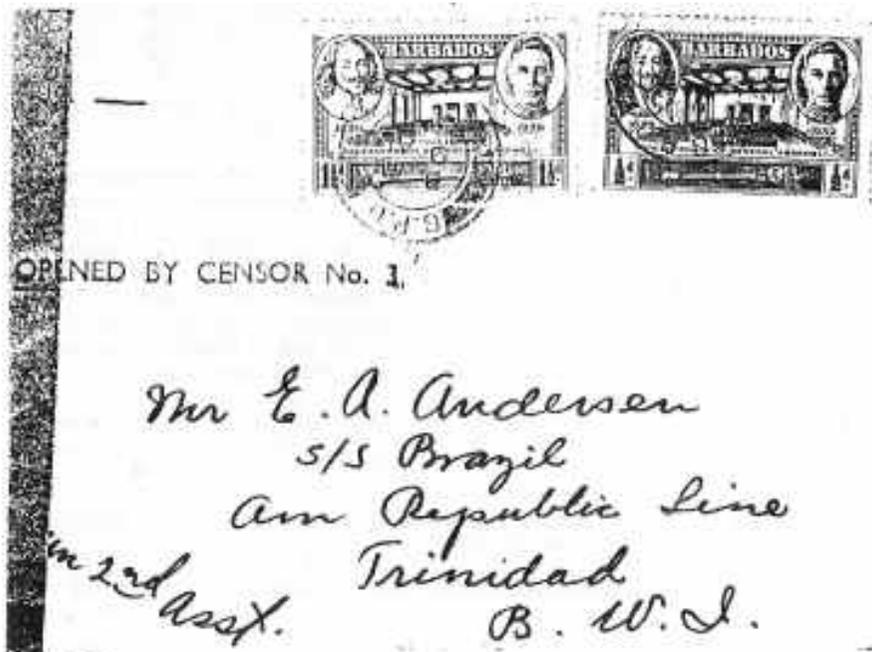
It is hoped that this report will be of enough interest to cause members to look at their holdings of Plate 23 printings with a view to positioning this flaw. Indeed, someone may know about it! My own copy and Michael Spaven's three copies are illustrated. Any information that may help in positioning this key plate flaw will be much appreciated.

In conclusion, I wish to acknowledge that my basic information on the Plate 23 printings has all been learned from Peter Fernbank's monumental book 'King George V Key Plates of the Imperium Postage and Revenue Design'. Thanks also to Michael Spaven for his assistance and for the loan of his three examples.

Harold Green

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO - WHAT'S THE MESSAGE

Sometimes we come across Covers which in themselves tell interesting stories. At other times we may find a Cover that raises questions about its stated purpose. Such is the one that I am writing about. About three years ago I acquired from Charles Freeland a Barbados censorship Cover very neatly sealed and stamped "Opened by Censor No. 3". It had been mailed from the General Post Office at Bridgetown, Barbados on the 9th of August, 1941 and was addressed to a Mr. E.A. Andersen on the S/S Brazil, American Republic Line, Trinidad.



On the reverse of the envelope was the engraved stamp of "S.S. Brazila. Below this inscription was the word "Received" and stamped "12 August 1941".

S. S. BRAZIL



I put the Cover away and did not examine it for a while. Later, in looking at it in detail, I noticed it had not been opened except by the Censor who had neatly resealed it. I held it to the light and to my surprise noticed the outline of a small square of paper. I then with a sharp knife very carefully opened it and to my surprise found inside a thin piece of paper approximately 2 inches square with the typed notation "The Envelope was found by the Postal Censor to be without any contents". Directly under this was a perfect rubber stamp in purple "Trinidad and Tobago Assistant Censor Postal". It had been censored in Trinidad and not Barbados.

Having served during the War in the G-2 (Intelligence) of the Army my interest was aroused as to why - no contents. Was the mere mailing of the letter a pre-arranged message? Did Andersen, who appears to have been some type of "Second Assistant" on the vessel, having carefully noted its receipt, tell someone something that could not be mailed in written form? Or could he have just forgotten to insert the intended contents? In February of '98 I had the pleasure of a telephone conversation about Barbados censorship Covers with Edward T. Tweddell of Berkley Springs, West Virginia, a BWISC member. During the conversation I told him about the one that I had and at his suggestion forwarded him copies. Shortly thereafter I received the following message from him. "Clary, Thanks for the copy of your Barbados-Trinidad Cover. I've had a look in Ron Wikes' book on Trinidad censorship. The oval hand stamp is recorded on cover only from September to December 1939. After that time the Assistant Censor-Postal retired to the back room it seems, but hand stamped the piece of yours included in your envelope. It looks to me as if the message was typed onto the slip of paper, i.e., a unique piece. Wike notes a label P.C.S. used in Trinidad that say "This cover was open when it reached the Censor". With "open" crossed out and "empty" added in manuscript, which furthers the idea that your notice was typed specially for this piece. Regards, Tim Tweddell".

Interesting philately, but in my questioning mind I would like the answer to "Why"?
Clary Holt

Advert

Pennymead Auctions

Advert

HARMERS of LONDON