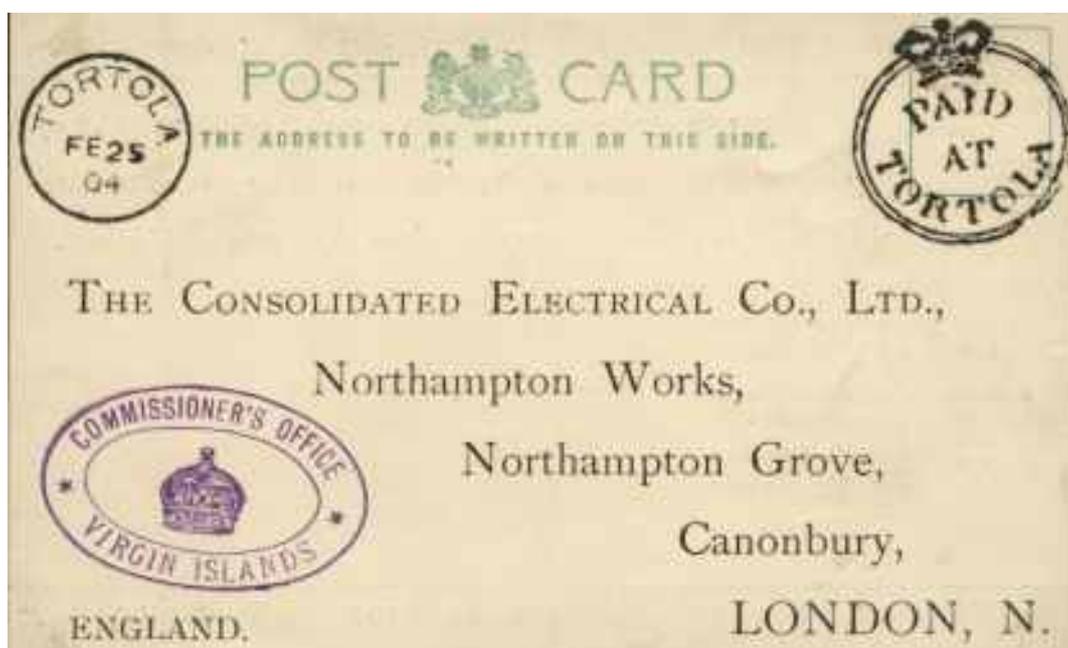


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**STUDY CIRCLE**

FOUNDED  
27 JANUARY 1954



Tortola Crowned Circle from the Charles Freeland collection – See WIPEX report

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**BULLETIN No. 195 DECEMBER 2002**

**BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**

Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies

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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. Lists supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required.
- 4 TO publicise '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.

SUBSCRIPTION -The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £10.00 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £14 / \$20 for members who reside elsewhere.

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**PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**
**AGM & Auction**

26 April 2003 to be held at the County Hotel, Upper Woburn Place London

**Biennial Convention**

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2003 (at the end of Stampex).

To be held at the Manor House Hotel Leamington Spa, further details to follow.

**Golden Jubilee Celebration**

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2004 – see page 8.

**EDITORS COMMENTS**
**Feedback on Articles**

I have been gratified to receive several responses to previous articles published in the bulletin. I know from other contributor's comments that there is nothing quite so disheartening as to receive no response to an article when so much effort has been expended for the benefit of others.

Please take the time to make even small responses to articles, even if they only say how interesting / useful they have been. I will ensure that any comments are passed on to the author as these provide the motivation to produce more articles for us.

So a thank you to Bob Shoemaker, Ben Ramkissoon, Eric Bateson, Michael Oliver, Raj Ramphal, Michael Medlicott and Simon Goldblatt for your efforts.

**Publication Timetable**

March Issue - Draft available for proof reading: 31<sup>st</sup> January.

Therefore articles need to be submitted at least 2 weeks ahead of this date to stand any chance of inclusion. Articles will be incorporated on a first come – first served basis providing that the bulletin retains a balance for interest of all members.

**Congratulations**

Peter Jaffe he was awarded a Medal (OAM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List. This award was for services to philately and makes him the third member of The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria to be so honoured.

**Death of Stephen Sharp****by Vincent Duggleby**

Long standing friendships are often hard to define. I found myself trying to remember exactly when I met Steve. It was certainly the result of us being members of the Study Circle, certainly after 1978 and well before 1983: Those dates marking respectively the auctions of the Forsyth and Messenger collections of St Vincent. A check of my old Bulletins revealed that Steve was listed as a new member in the Silver Jubilee issue No 100 for March 1979, and it was probably at the Study Circle Silver Jubilee meeting in Brighton on 19 May 1979 that we discovered a mutual interest which continued in friendly rivalry for some 23 years.

Steve had missed out on Forsyth but Bobby Messenger was the inspiration for our growing interest in postal history and particularly the village postmarks. I still have the Messenger catalogue showing which lots he and I respectively bought. I can also testify that our finances were strained to the limit!

However, unlike those globe-trotting individuals able to dole out four (and even five figure cheques) in search of rarities. Steve was happy to trawl local stamp fairs and a weekend call from him would often begin with the words: "I've just picked up something rather interesting". Usually this meant a postal marking of some sort and the next half hour would be spent speculating on sundry aspects of the St Vincent postal system. Steve invariably followed up these conversations with photocopies of recent acquisitions. He was generous with his time and strongly believed that sharing information was the best way of adding to his (and other people's) understanding.

My attempts to persuade him to commit his knowledge to paper, sadly, did not bear fruit, although he acted as group leader for St Vincent. In particular his understanding of the pre-stamp ship letters was deserving of a wider audience. During the last few months, I suggested that there was still time to make a worthwhile contribution on this subject as well as the St Vincent Second World War censor covers (which we did complete) and the De La Rue 1d on 2½d on 1d provisional (another of Steve's specialities) both overdue for an update.

Then, quite suddenly, time ran out as the cancer which had been diagnosed at Easter took a turn for the worse and he died on 6 October, just over three months after his 60th birthday. One of his biggest regrets, he told me, was that he never managed to visit the island of St Vincent (a pleasure that I had experienced on several occasions).

Other friends will remember the get-togethers he organised at his home in Pyrford where the wine flowed freely and the conversation was always animated. He joined the Study Circle Committee in 1992; he became membership secretary in 1995 and took on the role of steward at successive Conventions. This included "bullying" (in the nicest possible way) members into contributing to informal displays. In 1997, he began assisting in the auction, effecting a great improvement to the previous viewing arrangements. In short Steve served the Study Circle well, even though you will not find his name attached to much in the way of published philatelic research.

A chartered accountant by training (he worked for Ocean Transport from which he took early retirement in 1994), he was also a member of Royal Philatelic Society, which he joined in 1989. If at times, he seemed to be "unavailable" during the summer months, it was usually because he was busy on the cricket pitch, coaching the Pyrford CC colts team. He later became Ground Manager, and for these services he received the award as "Clubman of the Year" in 2000, seeing the first XI promoted to the Senior League this past season

Steve will be sadly missed by his many philatelic friends who extend their deepest sympathy to his wife, Janet and their three children, Laura, Edward and Olivia.

**EVENTS AND MEMBER'S INFORMATION****Fred Seifert****by Bob Swarbrick**

It was, with considerable pleasure, that I was able to send to Fred Seifert, a fellow member of the BWISC in Albuquerque, an e-mail congratulating him on his 90th. birthday in April.

I first met Fred through our shared interest in the postal history of Jamaica, and in particular, the Railway postmarks. We corresponded over many years, and I was to profit greatly from his knowledge and expertise which he gave unstintingly. Fred was the author of many articles on his great interest, as well as finding time to edit the BCPSTG Journal. In addition, Fred was, until he and his wife decided to move into a smaller house, a great amateur radio 'ham' with a wide circle of International friends scattered throughout the world.

I finally caught up with Fred some 10 years ago when he dropped in on his whirlwind visit to Europe, for there is yet another facet to this truly remarkable man. Although at the time Fred must have been approaching 80, he had set out to visit as many narrow gauge railways in Europe as possible, this being yet another great passion. Although I didn't know it at the time, I scored a Bull's eye when I took him to our local Railway Preservation Trust, the Great Central Station, at Loughborough, where we were able to tour the engine sheds and the museum.

He is a delightful companion, full of fun and his many anecdotes kept me amused throughout his all too brief visit to the UK, sadly illness made it impossible for his planned return with his wife the next year, but we still keep in touch with regular up-dates.

I feel certain Fred would welcome news from any fellow members who know him, or share his interests, and to wish him well, good health, and great happiness for the future.

(Fred's e-mail address is: [siefert.w5fs@yahoo.com](mailto:siefert.w5fs@yahoo.com))

**Exhibitions & Displays**

It is not the intention to list all awards attained by our membership but after consultation, it has been agreed that exceptional awards for West Indian exhibits are worthy of inclusion.

I am therefore pleased to highlight that Stefan Heijtz, Stockholm, Sweden achieved a Gold Medal + Felicitations at Philakorea 2002, World Stamp Exhibition, Seoul, Korea, 2-11 for his exhibit Barbados Postal History 1686-1881. Those of you who attended the convention at Leamington Spa last year would have been able to hear Stefan describe his display and view many of his Gold Medal quality items.

**WIPEX Report**

The meeting opened with the bourse provided by the stalwart dealers Michael Hamilton, David Druett & Allan Leverton plus the usual member's table with a treasure trove of items to hunt through.

Charles Freeland offered an eclectic first display consisting of Crown Circles, Montserrat, Village postmarks and finishing with St Vincent.

**Crowned Circles and Paid marks of the BWI (3 frames)**

Charles showed all the recorded BWI crowned circles, with the exception of English Harbor and Demerara. Highlights were: Bahamas 1847 the earliest known date and 1850 to San Francisco via Chagres; Barbados on an 1851 soldier's 1d rate; Bermuda convict's letter with fascinating contents showing the Ireland Isle mark; two other Ireland Isle covers showing handstruck 4d (five known) and 1/- (only known); ecclesiastical letters from Hamilton Bermuda to Newfoundland and from St Georges to Nova Scotia; Belize on a transit cover from Guatemala (only example known thus); Grenada on a complete newspaper rated 2d (for "two papers"); and Montserrat, St Vincent and Turks Is to England. There were several unusual more modern usages of the crowned circles for Bahamas, Dominica (GV official paid and 1/2d bisect), St Lucia and a lovely Tortola on an official letter of 1904.

The Paid marks of note were a Bahamas blockade runner; select examples of the rare Bermuda types P1, P4 and P5 for St Georges, plus P5 for Hamilton; a unique usage of the Berbice fleuron

used as a paid mark in 1863; several paid markings for Demerara, including the only known handstruck 1d as well as 4d paid covers to Canada and New York; three Belize large circles and straight line PAID in red to the US; Dominica the two known types; and St Kitts all three types including one on a newspaper.

### **Montserrat (two frames)**

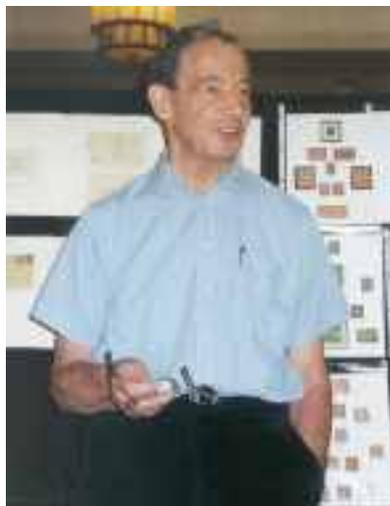
Charles began by saying that no one to his knowledge had managed to compile a collection as fine as that of Victor Toeg. His display began with several rare pre-adhesives, including the only known Mt/Serratt three-line mark of 1799. All the Queen Victoria stamps were present in mint blocks except for the rare CA 4d, and there were several used blocks as well as nearly all the inverted S flaws. Almost every page included essay, proof or specimen material and there were choice 1/ and 1d rate QV covers. The several QV 4d rate covers shown included the only known franking of the 4d blue. The highlight of the bisects was a commercial trisect - plus whatever one-twelfth is - making up the 2 1/2d rate to Dominica. The twentieth century consisted almost entirely of proof material and the display closed with four sheets of the 1866 Inland Revenue stamps, including imperf proof sheets and an issued sheet imperf between the top two rows.

### **Village markings (one frame)**

Charles showed a frame of village markings of three Leewards Is dependencies. The Anguilla sheets contained covers franked with TRDs of Blowing Point and Anguilla Road. The highlight of the Antigua pages was the Swetes cds cover plus a second cover used from Swetes a few months later, with its registration label but with a St Johns cds to confirm the loss of the Swetes canceller. Other rare markings included the cds of St Johnston's, Pares and English Harbor. Montserrat villages included the unique cover bearing the small Cudjoe Head TRD.

### **St Vincent (one frame)**

The final frame of St Vincent featured the beautiful Perkins Bacons heads. All the issued stamps were shown mint in their original fresh colours, plus an array of proof material and blocks. Unique pieces included the 4d plate proof in blue, the used block of the 1/- indigo and mint examples (gummed but already initialled for security reasons) of the local £1 and £5 Revenues.



After coffee and another opportunity to chat and visit the dealers, Simon Goldblatt introduced a display by Bozo Ivanovich, who unfortunately could not be present. In Simon's eloquent words:

*"Bozo has provided us with a sumptuous display of early incoming mail with circa 100 covers embracing mail arriving across the West Indies as a whole.*

*The material is extremely stiff to assemble because of the custom of categorising mail by reference only to the point of origin with the sole exception of the interest aroused by proper use of a Ship Letter arrival mark. The outstanding example of this is a 'NEVIS / SHIP LETTER' in red of 1<sup>st</sup> January 1850 addressed to Mrs Maria Cairns and rated '4' of which this is probably the only surviving example.*

*Bozo Ivanovich is to be congratulated on the enthusiasm, taste and discretion with which he has assembled an outstanding display."*

After lunch, Graham Childs of Harmers treated the assembled members to a sample of 72 pages of West Indian forgery material extracted from the 60 volume reference collection initiated by the founder of Harmers. A random selection of the items shown that caught the author's eye were:

- Bahamas – 4d QV pin perf 13, unwmk in a sheet of 25
- Leeward Island Sexagonary ovpts
- Cayman Islands 1907 1d on 5s surcharge double, expertised by the BPA in 1993 as genuine but re-expertised by them again in 1994 as 'a rocked impression that has been painted in to simulate a double'



- British Guiana (24 sheets) including 4 pages of cotton reels, 4 examples of the 1856 1c black on magenta and an 1866 2c bisect with A03 on cover
- St Christopher numerous overprints of ONE / PENNY (mint, used and on cover)
- St Kitts 1d red bisects
- St Lucia 1892 'ONE / PENNY' and 1881-4 surcharges
- St Vincent 1915 'ONE' omitted
- Bermuda Spiro forgeries of the QV 6d in block of 12, 1875 forged overprints on genuine stamps and 1876 issue forgeries by Oneglia, purchased and marketed by Panelli.

Following another opportunity to browse the dealers stocks and auction lots, the expertising committee consisting of Simon Goldblatt, Charles Freeland and Allan Leverton were asked to give opinions on a selection of unusual items brought along for members.



- Two examples of Grenada SG13 1s violet were supplied with an invitation to identify which (if any) was the inverted 'S'. All experts were unified in their opinion that one was inverted and explained that the trick was to turn the stamp upside down to see if it looked 'normal'
- A Tobago cover with 1<sup>st</sup> type 1s but in an unusual pale grey colour, as opposed to the usual green, was introduced by Dennis Mitton. After much debate the consensus was that this stamp had had a fiscal cancellation cleaned and then given a favour cancel. The local rate was only 1d so this further reinforced the opinion, Allan declared that an ultra-violet test should be conclusive.
- An A34 on loose GB 1d was next with a proof strike of A34 provided for comparison. All experts were extremely dubious of the authenticity of this item and believed it likely to be an obliterator applied in GB.
- An 1887 Virgin Islands 6d in a very pale colour was submitted with the question 'is it a colour trial'? De La Rue produced very variable shades in this issue but this was at the extreme end, the opinion was that this was a colour changeling probably having been exposed to strong light.
- A St Lucia primitive postage due (7011) with suggested double surcharge. All agreed that this was either a double or a bounce but with an under-inked original strike.
- An unusual Trinidad 1938 cover with two 2d 1898 Columbus and decimal stamps to total 22 cents – when did sterling stamps become obsolete? Decimal stamps were introduced in 1935 and the sterling stamps provided a correct rate of 30c (24c airmail + 6c registered). Dates of withdrawal were not known.
- The session was interspersed with a series of queries relating to War Tax overprints:
  - A Grenada 1d with 'thick' overprint, again the experts were unified that indeed it was very thick but that this was just a consequence of over-inking.
  - Cayman Islands SG53b missing stop, the item was certainly the correct position, however, a faint trace of the stop could be discerned.
- Three examples from Bahamas, apparently imperf and possible proofs. No trace of perfs were found by the committee and the 1d had good margins. Only 6 of each would have existed and the committee felt that the 1d should be formally expertised as there would be good records of how many previous proofs had been seen. The owner has since matched these to the Ludington multiples and each one neatly adjoins.

A very informative session for the assembled company.

Dennis Mitton is to be congratulated on organising a superb day enjoyed by an estimated 60 members through the day.



Michael Hamilton



Stella &amp; Alan Pearse



Dennis Mitton

### **GOLDEN JUBILEE 2004**

### **CHARLES FREELAND**

The Circle will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2004. The Committee has appointed Charles Freeland to head up a steering group to develop ideas for the event. Charles asks me to inform you that the group will recommend that the event be held in London on the weekend of 30-31 October 2004, which coincides with the regular fall Postal History show 'Philatex', organised by Trevor Davis. Please mark down the dates in your calendars - and it goes without saying that volunteers to help run the event will earn brownie points from our revered leader.

At present I have a very extensive list of philatelic literature on the West Indies with many out of print titles available.

Highlights include a fine run of Jamaica Post Office guides and scarce early auction catalogues. This can be accessed from my website or you can send an S.A.E. for an up to date print out.

Next auction of West Indies stamps and postal history is scheduled for February and will include War Tax issues with many sheets and Leewards key plate material with some multiples.

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## THE PROBLEM WITH CHALK

By Michael Oliver

Some comments on the background and history of chalk surfacing in response to the article by Eric Bateson in the September Bulletin, No. 194. I think you will find that it has always been a problem for De La Rue, cataloguers and philatelists.

Resulting from many experiments to produce a coating that would increase security against fraudulent removal of fiscal cancellations and also add rigidity to poorly sized paper, chalk surfacing was introduced in late 1904. The machinery to coat the paper was designed by De La Rue and installed at the Bunhill Row works. At best it was never very efficient - much sheet wastage or rejection was due to poor surfacing coupled with its reaction to under-sized paper. In *Edwardian Stamps* by D.B. Armstrong, published in 1912 he records that the first dispatch to Br. Honduras on chalk surfaced paper in early 1907 was returned to London for destruction and re-issue because it had not adhered sufficiently. He also lists the two printings of the Dominica 5s (1903 & 08) as both printed on ordinary paper.

The paper manufacturers under contract to the Crown Agents provided watermarked sized (a thin varnish type coating) sheets. Sizing was intended to stop the printed impression from diffusing into the paper and also to add rigidity to the sheets for the printing runs which, prior to 1912, were mostly three to produce a 120 set sheet (key plate one run of 120 + duty plate two runs of 60). Evidence of poor sizing is most noticeable on printings of red (aniline) when clearly visible on the backs of stamps (Fig. 1).



Figure 1



Figure 2  
(from the same printing)

De La Rue are recorded complaining to the Crown Agents over a number of years about receiving under-sized paper. This resulted in the chalk surface not adhering evenly producing patchy, blurred keyplate impressions most noticeable in blue and doubly fugitive purple (Fig. 2)

Some chalk surfaced printings have impressions with what appear to be minute burst bubbles. This was caused by a chemical reaction between the chalk surfacing and traces of the bleaching agent in the manufacture of the paper not having been fully washed out when also poorly sized.

From 1935 the gumming and surfacing of the paper manufactured for the Crown Agents was undertaken by Samuel Jones & Co, Peckham, London and it seems that they were no more successful in the surfacing than De La Rue had been. It is recorded that in 1939 poorly surfaced sheets were enhanced by hand with a paint brush. Surfacing continued to be patchy and generally of poor quality until suspended in 1941, a wartime economy. It was next resumed in mid-1947.

De La Rue did not record chalk surfacing in their *Colonial Stamps* or *Private Day Books* when presumably no charge was made to the Crown Agents. The first official record of new stamp issues was in the *Colonial Office Journal*, first published quarterly in 1907, in which the Crown Agents provided selected information but not the type of paper used. It was not until colonies adopted the Universal Colour Scheme when all duties from 3d (or equivalent cent and rupee denominations) upwards were definitely printed on chalk surfaced paper in the doubly fugitive inks of purple, green and black, mostly on coloured papers. This raises the question - from what sources did catalogues obtain published dates of issue and when did their philatelic contacts in the colonies first learn about surfacing and how to detect it?

The following extracts from *Notes on Kings Heads* by WHA Williams, who advertised as a specialist and expert in 20th century colonials and published in 1914, are of interest:

*" A great number of stamps have appeared on chalk surfaced paper though its use has not become general. It is illustrative of the great power that the publishers of a popular catalogue like Gibbons wield, when, by ignoring an important change, they can practically kill the differences in rarity between the stamps on the two kinds of paper.*

*In some cases where only a slight coating of surfacing has been given, it is very difficult to distinguish between the two papers, especially in used copies. Wear and tear experienced by (chalk surfaced) stamps in transit through the post have a highly detrimental effect on the condition. To preserve these stamps in ordinary albums without portions of the design being rubbed away is a sheer impossibility, even when covered with specially prepared glossy paper. "*

The Leeward Islands issue of 1905-08 is also a question regarding dates of issue. Stanley Gibbons states that the ½d & 3d were issued on chalk surfaced paper in 1908. The one requisition comprising the ½d (60,000) & 3d (6,240) only on MCA watermarked paper was dispatched in August 1904 and a second printing of the 3d (6,240) was made in December 1906 together with the first printing of the ½d & 2½d in the UCS. This suggests that the 1904 printing was on chalk surfaced paper and that of 1906 was on ordinary paper. There were four more dispatches of the ½d (51,000) in the UCS before the SG catalogue date of issue of July 1908 for the ½d purple & green on chalk surfaced paper. After nearly four years in storage this, I think, was most unlikely.

I think you will find that the silver test is not faulty - areas of stamps tested and published dates of issue, may well be.

## OFFERS FROM STOCK

<b>BAHAMAS</b>	KGVI 1939 ½d - £1 SPECIMEN CW sp1/17	£300
<b>BARBUDA</b>	1970 Questa KEVII Unissued Die Proof	£200
<b>BERMUDA</b>	1894 QV 1/- SG11 Block 15	£95
	2/- CW 11b a mint pair with Scroll Flaw & Plate No.	£185
	1950/51 Newspaper Wrapper ¼d on ¼d Provisional – unused	£18
	Also available ¾d on ¼d – details on request	
	Handbooks – Red Book – Dickgiesser	£20
	Bermuda / Leewards / Nyasaland - Dick Giesser, Yendall	£65
	Both books detail KGVI Key Plate issues in detail (inc. postage)	
<b>GRENADA</b>	KGVI 10/- A range – List Available CW22 – 25c	
	1952 Postage Due 4c SG D16a £65; 1952 Postage Due 4c SG D16b	£45
<b>ST. LUCIA</b>	1929 Lindbergh – Special c.d.s. various values. from	£25
	See CW five reigns Page 421, not listed in other catalogues	each
<b>TRINIDAD</b>	1953 Postage Due 2c Sheet of 60 CW PD15b “St Edwards Crown”	£30
	1953 Postage Due 2c Sheet of 60 CW PD15a Crown Omitted	£80
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	¼d Cactus – A Study 5 sheets CW23 etc. CWG33	£135
	1d CWG12 WAR TAX – a complete sheet of 120 (SG140)	£20
	3d CWG16 WAR TAX – a complete sheet of 60 (SG145)	£200
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### Stamps of the British West Indies at Bonhams



Bahamas 1942 Landfall 6d. olive green and blue with variety "COIMBUS" for "COLUMBUS" mint, included in our November auction.

Bonhams holds monthly stamp auctions containing stamps and postal history of interest to collectors of British West Indies.

For a complimentary catalogue or advice on buying or selling at Bonhams please contact Stuart Billington on 020 7468 8373 [stamps@bonhams.com](mailto:stamps@bonhams.com)

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## ANTIGUA - A COLLECTION OF LETTERS

### The R & H Jefferson Correspondence

by Thomas A. Anderson

Continued from bulletin 194 September 2002

First the correspondence consists of letters, manifests, bills of lading, estate accounts, and other business related material which have been kept at the offices of R & H Jefferson, wine and spirits merchants, Whitehaven, England. I have not come across any of the letters written from Whitehaven to Antigua. R & H were the initials for Robert and Henry. The first of these Roberts was born in Antigua, returned to England, and became a sea captain before opening his firm with Henry. The Jeffersons owned 3 estates in Antigua by 1840: Yeamans, New Division, and Yorks.<sup>1</sup> The Jeffersons had most all aspects of the business covered. They owned estates that produced sugar and molasses. They owned the shipping and they were distributors of rum in Britain. Their prosperity was the result of a keen insight into which of these facets to emphasize at any particular time. For example, if markets are up, sell the sugar; if markets are down, buy molasses and make rum.

Gedney C. Bispham served as the attorney or superintendent for the Jefferson properties. Bispham had previously been associated with the Friar's Hill Estate and had been nominated as a possible successor to Oliver Nugent as superintendent of the Codrington holdings.<sup>2</sup> Bispham continued in the roll of attorney for the Jefferson estates, while leasing and operating two other estates: Jolly Hill and Golden Grove.

The correspondence was written and sent regularly at least once per month in each direction. Each of Bispham's letters starts with the same format as the following example:

*I had this pleasure on the 30th of last month and I have now to acknowledge the receipt of your favours dated 14th and 21st last month, the latter in duplicate and original, by Derwent which arrived here on the 27th last month, also 30th June by steamer. (GB25)*

It would be possible to add many additional dates to the catalogue by simply taking the dates from these opening sentences.

Since each of the letters which I have catalogued were sent from Antigua "per steamer", I have cross-referenced the letter postmarks and Southampton arrival stamps to determine their route across the Atlantic and the Royal Mail Steamers that carried them. For this cross-reference, I used the tables produced by Phil Kenton and Harry Parsons.<sup>3</sup>

Gedney Bispham, Robert Jefferson and Henry Jefferson have been introduced. Other writers include: James Law of Green Castle Estate; G. V. Davis legal advisor in St. John's to R. Jefferson; John Bennett, Antigua merchant; Joseph Fleury, manager Yorks estate; and John J. Roden, manager of Burke's estate.

The Royal Mail Steam Co. routes from the Leeward Islands to England mostly involved a trip to St. Thomas and then a trip directly to Southampton. In the early years of this service, some of the routes included an intermediate connection in Bermuda or Fayal, Azores. In some cases the same steamer would continue on to England to get repairs. The rates column shows the early rates of one shilling for a letter and two shillings for a double letter changing in 1855 from there on the rates are cut in half being six pence for a letter and one shilling for a double letter. October 13, 1856 (and two of the 1861 letters) were apparently double-double as they were charged at two shillings. The October 13, 1856 letter was lengthy and enclosed the Yeaman's manager's letter plus a separate page for Yeamans, Yorks, and New Division listing the stores required for the coming year.

<sup>1</sup> I have obtained from the Cumbria Records Office in Whitehaven a copy of the Conveyance that transferred the ownership of New Division and Yorks (and over 400 slaves) to Robert and Henry Jefferson.

<sup>2</sup> Robson Lowe, The Codrington Correspondence, letter ON467

<sup>3</sup> Phil J. Kenton and Harry G. Parsons, Early Routings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842 – 1879, The Postal History Society, 1999. (Interestingly, there appears on page 111 of this book an example of a letter from Liverpool to St. John's Antigua addressed to Gedney C. Bispham, Esq. postmarked in Liverpool on January 15, 1850.)

CATALOG OF ANTIGUA SUGAR ESTATE LETTERS BY WRITER							
Cat No.	CORRESPONDENT	DATE WRITTEN	YEAR	ROYAL MAIL STEAMER			RATE
				TO ST. THOMAS PER	TO BERMUDA PER	TO SOUTHAMPTON PER	
GB01	G. C. Bispham	Dec 27	1844	TEVIOT		MEDWAY	1/
GB02	ditto	May 11	1846	CLYDE	TRENT	TWEED	2/
GB03	ditto	May 27	1847	EAGLE		TRENT	1/
GB04	ditto	July 26	1847	CONWAY		FORTH	1/
GB05	ditto	Jan 29	1849	REINDEER	SEVERN	SEVERN	2/
GB06	ditto	Feb 10	1849	GREAT WESTERN	AVON	AVON	1/
GB07	ditto	Apr 28	1849	CONWAY	CONWAY	CONWAY	2/
GB08	ditto	May 28	1849	AVON	AVON	SEVERN	1/
GB09	ditto	June 9	1849	DEE		TAY	1/
GB10	ditto	July 28	1849	AVON	AVON	AVON	2/
GB11	ditto	Feb 9	1850	EAGLE	SEVERN	SEVERN	2/
GB12	ditto	Apr 29	1850	CONWAY	CLYDE	CLYDE	1/
GB13	ditto	Sept 14	1850	DERWENT		TRENT	2/
GB14	ditto	Sept 30	1850	DERWENT		THAMES	1/
GB15	ditto	Oct 14	1850	EAGLE		MEDWAY	1/
GB16	ditto	Nov 29	1850	EAGLE		AVON	1/
GB17	ditto	Dec 14	1850	DERWENT		TAY	1/
GB18	ditto	Jan 30	1851	DERWENT		MEDWAY	1/
GB19	ditto	Feb 27	1851	DERWENT		AVON	1/
GB20	ditto	Mar 29	1851	DERWENT		THAMES	1/
GB21	ditto	Apr 14	1851	DERWENT		GREAT WESTERN	1/
GB22	ditto	Apr 29	1851	DERWENT		SEVERN	2/
GB23	ditto	May 30	1851	DERWENT		AVON	1/
GB24	ditto	June 30	1851	DERWENT		THAMES	1/
GB25	ditto	July 30	1851	DERWENT		MEDWAY	1/
GB26	ditto	Aug 14	1851	DERWENT		DEE	2/
GB27	ditto	Sept 13	1851	EAGLE		CLYDE	1/
GB28	ditto	Oct 15	1851	EAGLE		GREAT WESTERN	1/
GB29	ditto	Nov 1	1851	CONWAY		MEDWAY	1/
GB30	ditto	Dec 16	1851	EAGLE		THAMES	1/
GB31	ditto	Sept 12	1853	MEDWAY		THAMES	1/
GB32	ditto	Oct 13	1853	MAGDELENA		MAGDELENA	2/
GB33	ditto	June 12	1855	EAGLE		ATRATO	6d
GB34	ditto	May 13	1856	CONWAY		SOLENT	1/
GB35	ditto	May 28	1856	EAGLE		LA PLATA	6d
GB36	ditto	July 12	1856	DERWENT		MAGDELENA	6d
GB37	ditto	Sept 11	1856	CONWAY		MAGDELENA	1/
GB38	ditto	Sept 27	1856	WYE		ORINOCO	6d
GB39	ditto	Oct 13	1856	DERWENT		PARANA	2/
GB40	ditto	Jan 12	1857	DERWENT		ATRATO	6d
GB41	ditto	Feb 27	1858	DERWENT		LA PLATA	6d
GB42	ditto	Apr 12	1858	SOLENT		ORINOCO	6d
GB43	ditto	Apr 12	1858	SOLENT		ORINOCO	
GB44	ditto	Apr 29	1858	CONWAY		PARANA	1/
GB45	ditto	May 13	1858	CONWAY		LA PLATA	GB 6d lilac
GB46	ditto	Sept 28	1858	DERWENT		LA PLATA	GB 6d lilac
GB47	ditto	Dec 28	1858	CONWAY		MAGDELENA	6d
GB48	ditto	May 26	1860	CONWAY		TASMANIAN	6d

\* I do not have to address panel for this letter and am not sure of the rate. It was likely six pence the same as GB42.

JB01	<b>John Bennett</b>		1851	local and then forwarded by GCB enclosed w/ 4/29/1851			**
JL01	<b>James Law</b>	Mar 15	1852	DERWENT		ORINOCO	2/
HJ01	<b>Henry Jefferson</b>	Mar 28	1853	GREAT WESTERN		GREAT WESTERN	1/
HJ02	ditto	May 26	1855	EAGLE		LA PLATA	6d
GD01	<b>G. V. Davis</b>	Apr 6	1861	local to Robert Jefferson at Betty's Hope Estate			**
JR01	<b>John J. Roden</b>	Sept 16	1861	local to Robert Jefferson at Betty's Hope Estate			**
RJ01	<b>Robert Jefferson</b>	Mar 15	1861	THAMES		TASMANIAN	1/
RJ01	ditto	Apr 12	1861	DERWENT		SEINE	1/
RJ02	ditto	May 12	1861	TRENT		TRENT	2/
RJ03	ditto	June 27	1861	THAMES		SEINE	2/
RJ04	ditto	Sept 12	1861	THAMES		TASMANIAN	6D
JF01	<b>Joseph Fleury</b>	Jan 13	1853	DERWENT		LA PLATA	1/
YM01	<b>Yeamans Manager</b>	Oct 13	1856	local and then forwarded by GCB enclosed w/ 10/13/56			**

The mail steamers and the ships were the only sources of trans-Atlantic communication in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As mentioned above, Bispham always started his letters by reporting which letters he had received from the Jeffersons. He also reported any problems that had occurred with the mail service. An example of this would be:

*I had this pleasure on the 15th last month and have now to acknowledge receipt of your favor dated 30th Sept. which did not come to hand until the 27th owing to the Steamer being detained at Fayal by shift of weather, and running short of coal. (GB29)*

A short but detailed report of the hazards of tropic seas was contained in the only 1853 letter that I have from Bispham:

*The English Mails did not come to hand until the 10th of this month owing to the Conway getting on the North Reef off of St. Kitts on the night of the 3rd. The mails were then taken direct to Barbados by the Magdalena so as to catch the Demarara Steamer, and then she ran down calling at the Islands and delivered the Mails. The Demarara Steamer will come on and take the mails from the different Islands to St. Thomas; she is expected here tomorrow. (GB32)*

Bispham continued his practice of noting his last letter written and the last letter(s) received from Whitehaven when writing the Jeffersons. Over the next seven years, until he died unexpectedly, Bispham does not mention the mail steamers. This could be because the RMSP had become more efficient at its job, or it could be that Bispham's job, which had grown in complexity, did not leave room for reports on the tardiness of the mail boat. During this last period, Bispham was responsible not only for Yeamans Estate, but also for Yorks and New Division. The Jeffersons had some sort of interest in the Greencastle Estate, and shared an interest, with Bispham as principal, in the estates at Jolly Hill and Golden Grove. Bispham's monthly reports were now containing information on not one but six estates. As I mentioned at the outset, diversity and business acumen were important to the Jeffersons' continued success in Antigua. With sugar prices depressed, the Jefferson estates were distilling rum for shipment, and Bispham was buying molasses from his fellow planters to be shipped up either on the "Derwent", the "British Queen", or the Jefferson's new barque the "Antigua". (The "Derwent" in the Jefferson Fleet was a large sailing ship not to be confused with the RMSP "Derwent". Both are named after a river in the Cumbria

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\*\* There was certainly no inland mail service in Antigua prior to 1860. Of the 4 letters noted, two were enclosed by Bispham and sent to Whitehaven, the other two were delivered to Robert Jefferson at Betty's Hope Estate and presumably carried back to Whitehaven with him.

region of England. Naming ships for rivers was a habit of British shipbuilders; most of the steamers listed in the catalogue above are so named.) Bispham had responsibilities for making sure that these Jefferson ships had cargoes to carry back to England.

From a philatelic perspective, the 61 letters consist of 55 that are handstruck (in Antigua, London, and Whitehaven), 4 with no postal markings, and 2 of the letters in 1858, which have British 6 pence adhesive stamps (SG Z5) with the A02 obliterator. These latter two examples also have the three cds markings (Antigua, London, Whitehaven). All the letters in the catalogue with postal markings prior to 1860 have the Antigua double arc cds. The "PAID AT ANTIGUA" crowned circle first appears on the letters in this correspondence with GB42. In 1858, the crown circle stamp appears together with the double arc ANTIGUA cds (this includes the letters with the British stamps). In 1860 and 1861, the crown circle appears with a simpler design cds. During this same period the London and Whitehaven stamps take on a new look.

At this point, I would like to have members contact me with their thoughts on how I can develop this information into a useful resource. I would also welcome copies of other existing letters written by Bispham or just from Antigua during this period. From the catalogue, you will notice that I have most of 1849, 50, and 51, but I have notable gaps with only one letter in 1859-60, no letters for 1848, 52, or 54, and only a Henry Jefferson letter for 1855.

## ANTIGUA

### STAMP DUTY: 'CRACKED COG' FLAW

BY MARK W. SWETLAND

This is a follow up to Michael Medicott's article by the same title in the June 2001 issue of the BWISC Bulletin. In that article Michael asked for confirmation of the position of the flaw.

Checking through my stamp duty accumulation, I found that I have a full sheet of the 2d value and a partial sheet of 54 of the 4d value, missing only the first six positions in the top row. These enabled me to check the position as stamp number 5 in the bottom row. The position of the flaw is constant as Michael's article states and as shown and indicated in the figures below.

More recently, Michael Hamilton sold a die proof with the same flaw. I envy those who found this flaw, as it is difficult to see. It took a long time to decide that I had located the flaw in the sheet and partial sheet in my possession.

The June 2001 issue showed the flaw found in the Wmk. CC values of 4d, 6d, 3s, 4s, 5s, 145 and the Wmk CA 1d. . Now this adds the Wmk CC 2d value.



**BARBADOS****USED SPECIMEN****BY SIMON GOLDBLATT**

In response to the request for information from Robert Ellis in the September 2002 bulletin.

The only country that I have noted as using postmarks of the character illustrated by Robert Ellis is Uruguay. There is a numeral sequence which at a guess runs into three figures, the single or two figure numeral being headed by an 'A', as illustrated, or some other letter in the early part of the alphabet. Presumably listings exist. I have not investigated this and have simply observed that A is met much more often than other letters. It would not surprise me if the letter stood for a particular province and the numbers represented offices within it. The item would not need to link with Montevideo: one could visualise, for example, a sufficiently franked cover to which the specimen stamp had been naughtily added, the postmaster at the office of despatch ringing the item in pen or pencil (as was occasionally done) to show that this stamp had been ignored, while a less sophisticated functionary at the receiving end deemed it necessary to apply a killer.

This is pure speculation, of course one also has to postulate the use, or misuse, of the particular stamp shortly after its printing and distribution, because this type of killer cancel does not appear to me to have remained in service after about 1910.

Editors note: With this information I performed a quick search on the internet for a Uruguay stamp specialist and came across a dealer Nicolas Malosetti of Montevideo & Miami who kindly responded to my enquiry as follows:

*Seems like a Uruguay numeral, letter 'A' corresponds to Montevideo city (letters for each of 19 departments in Uruguay and numbers varies for each one to a little town or postal office. It is absolutely normal that A is by far the most seen as half of Uruguay population lives in Montevideo. Many original Uruguay cancellers remain in dealer or collectors hands.*

*If you want my opinion this is an authentic cancellation used philatelically on a specimen stamp.*

**BARBADOS PERFIN****BY W. CLARY HOLT, FRPSL**

While looking through an assortment of used Barbados stamps, I chanced upon one with a "perfin". I have been collecting Barbados for over 40 years and have never seen one of these before. Additionally, I have never read anything or seen any in the catalogues relating to it, except as related below. I consulted Edmund Bayley's classic book "The Stamps of Barbados" and on page 218 thereof he wrote of two issues: one private and the other official.

The one I possess is of the private issue used by Laurie & Company, the only company to use them. Bayley states that they can be found in either normal, reversed, inverted or inverted and reversed. "The earliest known use is on a cover (1892 ½d dull green) postmarked OC 16 97. Although it is usually found on the 1897 Diamond Jubilee issue, the latest known date is OC 12 00."



The only official perfin used by the Post Office was the letters G.P.O.. Bayley goes on to describe the various compositions of the holes in the perforations and also to include in its entirety a circular from the Secretary of State in the colonies. I have never seen any of these and thus cannot comment upon them.

In the December 1997 Bulletin #175 Simon Goldblatt compiled a list of the Caribbean area territories that have "perfins". The Barbados entry tracks Bayley.

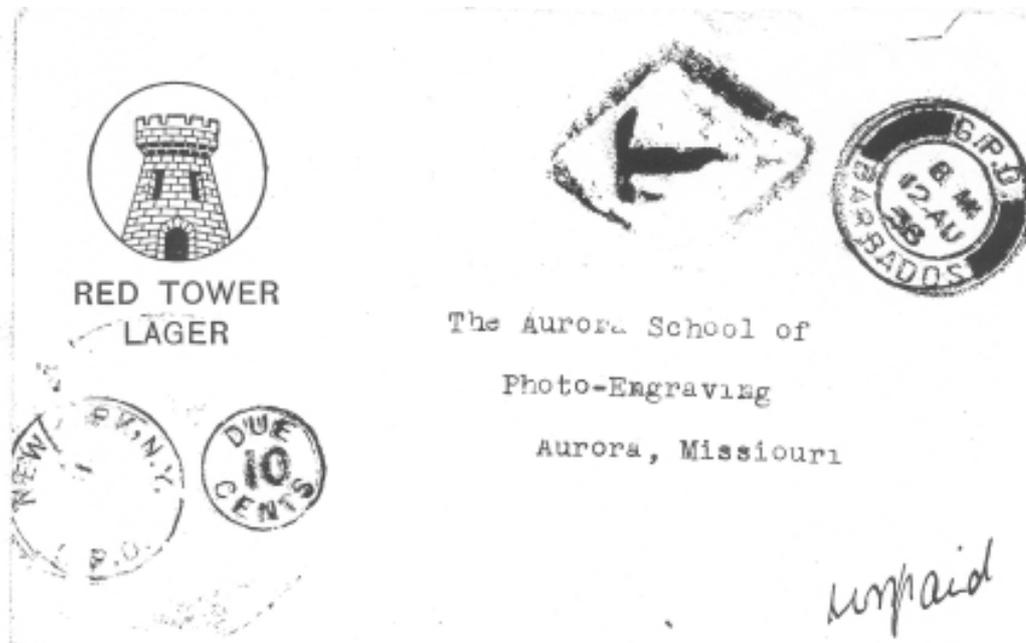
"A final comment: I well remember as a child being told by my parents that a perfin (the name was not then current, however) made a stamp valueless, because the stamp was damaged. So, many were thrown away, no doubt.----My own conclusion is that B.W.I. perfins were scarce. No, correct that---very scarce." Simon Goldblatt  
 Maybe one of our members who specialises in this field could give further information regarding the same.

**BARBADOS POSTAGE DUE MARK**

**By W. CLARY HOLT, FRPSL**

About a year ago I obtained a cover at a Michael Hamilton Auction for my postage due collection. It was noted that the "T" mark was unregistered. I have never seen it before on a Barbados cover and have attempted to identify it, but to no avail. Upon close examination and magnification it appears to show the ink used is identical with the Barbados G.P.O circular and appears to have been applied by the Barbados Post Office.

I would appreciate any information concerning the same. W. Clary Holt, FRPSL





**Montserrat**

SG 35 1910 1/2d green. VFUM (folded) RP of 60 and right four columns of LP, making block of 100. £180

SG 123-35 1951 set (13). VFUM blocks of 4. £95

SG 136-49a 1953-62 complete set of 19. VFUM. £40

SG 335w 1974 2ct on \$1. VFUM 'traffic light' block of 4; inverted watermark. £85

SG 242 -54c 1970-74 Birds. Set of 14 plus extra glazed papers (10), all in VFUM marginal blocks of 4, many corner/plate blocks. £225

**Trinidad**

SG 126 1902 1/2d grey-green. FUM RP (less one stamp) of 59 plus 4 right columns of LP. Folded, some separation. £28

SG 132 1904 1/2d grey-green. FUM (folded) RP of 60 plus 47 stamps from LP. Plate 2. £100

**Trinidad & Tobago**

SG 133 1960 1/2d blue-green. FUM (folded) sheet less 4 stamps from RP, ie 116 in all. Plate 3. Must be a rare multiple. £475

## King George VI

SG 115a 1916 2 1/2d bright blue, thick paper. FUM (folded) LP of 60, no left selvage. Fresh colours. £170

SG 174 1915 1d '21, 10, 15'. FUM blocks (6) giving 100 stamps, mostly fine. £35

SG 176 1917 War Tax 1d red. FUM (folded) LP of 60 plus (separated) 4 left columns of RP. Some separation. £50

SG 188 1918 War Tax 1d scarlet. FUM (folded) LP of 60 plus 4 left columns of RP. A little separation. £28

SG 248 1938 3ct black and scarlet. VFUM corner block of 8 with sheet number. £48

SG 249 1938 4ct chocolate. VFUM corner block of 4. £75

SG 339-54 1969 set of 16. VFUM blocks of 4. £35

SG 353a -44 1972 \$2.50 and \$5 perf 14. F-VFU examples. £25

SG MS 447a 1973 Postal Conference. VFUM m/s watermark Crown right of CA. £12

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**BARBADOS ISSUE OF 1912****BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT**

One thing, as the Three Princes of Serendip found, often leads to another.

Simon Goldblatt's article in Bulletin 193 sent me to look at my 1916 issue Revenue overprints and caused me to spot a nice positional variety on one value of the basic stamps, the twopence-halfpenny, which Bayley does not record.

If you examine the top-left stamp of the illustrated block of four, that is to say stamp 9/5 of the bottom-right pane of sixty, you will find the 'S' of BARBADOS neatly joined to the white frame of the tablet. I have the variety repeated on another copy of the same stamp (R30), but have not so far located it on another value, or indeed on the unoverprinted stamps, and do not have another similar positional block for verification.

**BARBADOS REVENUE OVERPRINTS OF 1916****BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT**

Turning to Simon's comments on the lettering of the larger overprint, I can find only two examples of the first 'e' in a different font, and those are on the 'Peny' variety on R29, in a total holding of 25 stamps of all values. The type in this issue is less than reliable, the letter 'e' more often than not being a closed circle so as to resemble a theta, the eighth letter of the Greek alphabet. It also appears with the bottom arc broken.

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## CAYMAN ISLANDS

### EXTRACTS FROM *EWEN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS*

BY PETER FERNBANK

Continued from bulletin 194 September 2002

All information from Ewen's Weekly Stamp News has been taken from the records of the late Mrs Gravenor, now in the library of Allan Leverton. Allan has generously made these available to me. [author's comments in square brackets]

#### 930 O 941 (6 Oct 1917) - War Tax Postage.

An advance supply of the new London overprinted issue WAR STAMP 1½d on 2½d was received on Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, having been despatched from Grand Cayman on Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, which we presume to have been the first date of issue. The bulk quantity against our requisition came to hand on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The stamps are in panes of sixty from plate 5 in deep ultramarine on medium thick paper, with white gum, wmk. transparent. The overprint war stamp is in one line in black positioned just above the tablet of value, and the 1½d in block type over the 2½d. The total quantity of this issue is comparatively small. We shall not be surprised to learn by next or following mail that stock is exhausted.

It appears a further small quantity with local overprint has been made to meet certain small orders that were lying in the Post Office when the WAR STAMP issue was first announced and which small orders at the time rendered impossible of execution. Whether this latest local issue is the same as the large type 1st printing we are at the moment unable to state, but we believe it to be so.

#### *Sept. 4th/17. War Tax Postage.*

*London Overprint, WAR STAMP in one line: 1½d on 2½d ultramarine, plate 5.*

The above new WAR STAMP will be completed through our 10% New Issue Service Distrib. No. 694.

#### 941 P 942 (13 Oct 1917) - War Tax Postage.

On Monday last we could have sold out our entire stock of the latest 1½d on 2½d WAR STAMP had we been disposed to accept all orders tendered to us at first list quotation. Many were for quantity lots from dealers who had been disappointed in otherwise obtaining, and although we accepted the first batch received all such orders tendered after mid-day Monday had to be declined. Only regular clients during that afternoon were supplied with single panes, and after the evening mail we had to cancel first list quotation and advance price for all further orders.

Further deliveries from Grand Cayman had been expected but it would appear the comparatively small issue was soon exhausted, and many in ordering had been too late. We ourselves have several smaller requisitions outstanding unexecuted. Should a further delivery come to hand we may be able to reduce present quotation, but otherwise price must shortly further advance.

A quantity sufficient to cover all members of our New Issue Service, who held their subscriptions in credit, was carefully reserved in the first case, and the same will be supplied at the nominal 10% in distribution at present in distribution.

#### 942 Q 943 (20 Oct 1917)

The Colonial Journal announces the London overprinted issue 1½d on 2½d WAR STAMP, the same as recently first chronicled in *E.W.S.N.* No. 941.

No further supplies are known to have been received on this side to date. Our stock has been further heavily drawn upon, and we have to again advance price for intact panes of sixty.

By the next incoming mail we shall no doubt know if the stock at Grand Cayman has been entirely exhausted.

#### 943 962 (2 Mar 1918) - War Tax Postage.

The mails from Grand Cayman are now very irregular. Under date of Jan. 16th, we received advice that all stock of the 1½d on 2½d WAR STAMP (one line London overprint issued Sept. 1917) had been sold out some weeks, but that execution of our requisitions should be made as soon as



delivery of new issue ordered from London was received. It is probable the new printing, now awaited, will differ to the last.

It is reported the quantity of the Sept. 1917 London overprinted issue was 150,000, and a large portion of this stock was absorbed in supplying United States and South American applicants whose orders had been long held on hand.

962 S 973 (15 Mar 1919)

A new printing of the 2d postage stamp, printed in singly fugitive grey from Plate 5, and also the new issue ½d WAR STAMP and the 1½d on 2½d orange WAR STAMP first announced in the Oct., 1918 edition of the *Colonial Journal* as being in course of printing, were, by the later January edition of that Journal, advised as having been despatched to the Colony.

It seems this shipment was considerably delayed in reaching Grand Cayman. Last Saturday's incoming mail brought the first package to us. This contained only the ½d **WAR STAMP**, and as no reference was made to the new 1½d War Stamp the remaining deliveries against our order may be expected to arrive within the next four days.

The printing of the new ½d WAR STAMP in sheets of 120, two panes of 60, is in *deep green* made from Plate 5 on medium paper, showing the wmk. semi-transparent and the overprinted words WAR STAMP in small thin type are placed in one line over the lower portion of centre square containing head of portrait. In so far as supply at hand discloses, there are no varieties in the overprint other than the 2nd of the 7th row, 1st pane, showing a severed top to the letter T, and the 1st of the 10th row, 2nd pane, showing the letter M solid in the lower body. Through the action of the terra cotta interleaves that were used for the stock, the sheets have a faint pinkish appearance, more noticeable on the margins. Feb. 1st is believed to have been the first date of issue.

*Feb. 1st, 1919. War Tax Postage.*

*New Value. London overprint.*

*Overprint WAR STAMP thin type, one line: ½d deep green. Plate 5.*

Complete distribution of this novelty is made through our 10% New Issue Service, Desp No. 706.

Since writing the above, we have received seven large packages containing three different shades of the ½d WAR STAMP and a quantity of the 1½d orange WAR STAMP which will be fully described later.

973 T 974 (22 Mar 1919) - War Tax Postage.

The further deliveries of the received of the ½d WAR STAMP have disclosed three different shades in the printings of the 1st supply made from Plate 5. The bulk was in the full sheets of 120 stamps in deep or dark green with a faint pinkish tinge throughout the sheets owing to the action of the terra cotta interleaves used for this portion of the stock.

A part of the supply is received in cut panes of sixty stamps only, showing the side margins trimmed down to a narrow edge. The colour of these differs considerably from the supply in full sheets being in (ii) *deep blue-green* and (iii) *pale blue-green* on slightly thinner dead white paper, wmk. semi-transparent. The overprint WAR STAMP is similar to the first described, but the overprint in the top row appears slightly heavier than in the others. The single size buff interleaves used for these, demonstrates this supply to have been a printing apart from that of the full sheets previously alluded to. Though we have received in total a heavy supply, only a few of the issue in half sheets were found mixed in with those in full sheets. No separate record in printing may have been kept of these, and time can only show positively which is the scarcer shade. There are two further deliveries of about 40,000 yet to arrive. We must presume at present the (ii) deep blue-green and (iii) pale blue-green, having received so few, to be the scarcer shades. If in later delivery we should receive a bulk quantity, these would be dealt with through our New Issue Service at the nominal 10%, but not otherwise.

The new 1½d WAR STAMP is a special printing of the 2½d from Plate 5 in dull orange on dead white medium paper, white gum, wmk. semi-transparent. The overprint WAR STAMP is in slightly larger and thicker type than that used for the ½d value, and is similar to the previous issue in blue. The surcharge 1½d is over the original tablet of value in type as before, and no doubt the same plate was used as for the previous issue. This issue was made in half sheets, i.e., panes of sixty without the outer margins being trimmed down. This novelty is also completely despatched through our 10% New Issue Service Distribution No. 706.

*Feb. 1st, 1919. War Tax Postage.*

*New Issue. London overprint.*

*Overprint **WAR STAMP** thin type, one line.*

*½d deep blue green. Plate 5. 2nd shade.*

*½d pale blue green. Plate 5. 3rd shade.*

*1½d on 2½d dull orange. Plate 5.*

Further supply of the ¼d and ½d postage stamps have also been received. These appear to be from the last and final printings from Plate 1, and are practically in the same shades as the earlier printings, the only difference being deep brown gum instead of white as with the former.

[These were from the 1912 printings, the last printings made of these values. The brown gum is almost certainly due to seven years storage in tropical conditions]

974 U 978 (26 Apr 1919) - New Printing from Plate 5.

We learn the first sale of the new printing of the 10/- postage stamp from Plate 5 was on October 5th last in fulfilment of our order.

The colour in *bright yellow-green and rose on green* is quite different in shade from the original printing of Plate 1 in deep blue-green and carmine on green. With quantity delivery to hand complete distribution of this 10/- new shade will be made through out 10% New Issue Service Distribution No. 707.

We have also received a quantity of the 2½d printed from Plate 5 in ultramarine, but this appears to be practically identical with the Plate 1 printing. The Plate 5 printing in deep dark blue it seems was entirely absorbed for the local overprinted 1½d WAR STAMP in large type and none of this particular colour remained over for ordinary use.

The 1/- printed from Plate 5 was on the dyed throughout green paper.

No other values it is stated have been printed from Plate 5, and further printings will be supplied from Plate 6, as announced recently in the *Colonial Journal*.

*Oct. 5th, 1918. New Shade. Printed from Plate 5.*

10/- yellow-green and rose on green.

978 V 979 (10 May 1919)- Provisional surface tinted, white back issue. 1/-, 2nd variety.

The supplies originally received in 1913-14 of the 1/- were in black on bluish-green tinted surface white back paper, with white gum. Some time since our attention was drawn to a 2nd variety, markedly different in shade, being in black on yellowish-green tinted surface with thick yellow gum. We learn that though there was but one printing to suit the requisition given from the Colony at that period some few sheets of a different finish of green tinted paper showing variation in the colour were used to make up the required quantity. This 2nd variety in *yellowish-green* tint is rare compared with the 1st in bluish-green, which was fairly widely distributed. We had the offer of the bulk of the yellowish-green variety and as no other stock of this exists we are fortunate in having secured and shall offer to the advantage of our members through New Issue Distribution No. 707.

*1913-14. Provisional Surface-tinted paper. 2nd Shade variety.*

*1/- black on yellowish-green, tinted, white back.*

979 W 982 (31 May 1919) - War Tax Postage - Type Error.

We chronicle the type variety smaller WAR STAMP, the overprint letters measuring only 2.25mm. in height, as found once in the sheet of the first printings of the ½d issue.

*Feb. 1st, 1919. War Tax Postage Error, Overprint smaller type 2.25mm. high.*

*½d deep green (i).*

*½d deep blue-green (ii).*

*½d pale blue-green (iii).*

982 X 1006 (6 Mar 1920) - New 3rd Print of 3d.

A new supply the *Colonial Journal* advises, of the 3d stamp has been printed. This will probably prove to be from Plate 8, and no doubt in a distinctive shade.

1006 Y 1011 (24 Apr 1920) - New Shade, 2d.

The printing of the 2d postage stamp made from Plate 5, announced by the *Colonial Journal* over a year ago, appeared on sale on March 10th last.

This has now been issued in sheets of 120, two panes of sixty, the Plate 5 appearing at the top and bottom corners of the full sheet. The difference in colour is very striking, being a dull drab-grey, quite a hard colour compared with the original issue from Plate 1. As with the 1st issue of the ½d WAR STAMP, the sheets have a pinkish appearance through the action of the terra-cotta interleaves that were used.

*War Tax Postage. - Local Provisional Issue. -* To meet temporary need, the London overprinted supply having run out, recourse was made to surcharging a limited number of the 2d stamp of the Plate 5 printing, as above detailed. This provisional local overprint compared with the other War Stamp issues is quite a novelty in type. The words WAR STAMP being in very small sans-serif capitals just beneath the head, and the surcharge, 1½d, appears over the figure 2d.

We cannot tell with certainty whether the overprint was a type-setting of 120 pieces, or if it was, as appears more probable, a setting of six pieces from which a cast on stereo plate of 120 was made. The overprinting on the full sheet of 120 stamps was made in one operation. The 1st vertical row of each pane shows the surcharge in decidedly thicker type and with a large stop. The 2nd vertical rows are in thinner type but with large stop. The four remaining vertical rows of each pane are in thin type with small stop. The two centre rows of the sheets divided by centre margin are interesting pairs, as these show both thin and thick types of surcharge.

Taken throughout, the overprinting was very carefully done, but two defective types in the surcharge are noticeable. The 2nd stamp of 1st row shows only the foot of the <sup>1</sup> in the fraction ½. The second of the 3rd row shows a short <sup>1</sup> without serif in ½. Both of these show as inverted letter T in two sizes.

Complete distribution, at the nominal 10%, of this very interesting provisional our members will be glad to know is made in Distribution No. 716, at the moment being completed for mailing out.

*March, 1920. New Shade. Print from Plate 5.*

2d drab-grey on pink tinged paper.

*March, 1920. War Tax Postage. Local provisional Issue. WAR STAMP 1½d*

(a) *thick type surcharge with large stop* : 1½d on 2d drab-grey.

(b) *thin type surcharge with small stop*: 1½d on 2d drab-grey.

*Errors in the surcharge.*

No top and short stem to 1 in ½.

Short 1 without serif in ½.

1011 Z 1012 (8 May 1920) - 3d Plate 8 Printing. - New Shades, etc.

We have received a small advance supply of the new printing of the 3d stamp, previously announced in the January edition of the *Colonial Journal*.

This was made from the new Plate 8 printed in sheets of 120, but shipped out in panes of sixty. The few we have received are all left-hand panes. This printing, or at least part of it, was made on the trial make of new yellow dyed throughout paper which was passed for use and several extreme variations in the tones of yellow are found. Besides this we find two distinctive shades of purple. (i) in *plum purple* and (ii) in deep purple. The panes with *yellow-buff* backs are in colour very different from any make we have ever seen in British Colonial issues, and those in deep lemon and pale lemon are very thick papers.

We hope to distribute these later.

*March, 1920. New Shades. Printed from Plate 8 on trial papers..*

3d plum purple on yellow-buff.

3d deep purple on deep lemon, thick paper.

3d deep purple on pale lemon, thick paper.

[It should be borne in mind that these assessments of paper shade were made before the yellow paper shades in common usage today had been formally classified (by Stanley Gibbons in 1922). There were at least three shades of paper (from three separate batches) in use in 1920: orange buff, buff and pale yellow.]

1012 A 1015 (12 Jun 1920) - War Tax Postage.- Shade Variety.

In an early consignment received in 1919, we found one left-hand pane of the 1½d on 2½d orange WAR STAMP in a much deeper colour and no more were found in later supplies. This gives a second shade variety in this issue, but a very scarce one.

Thick type variety. In the consignment received in March, 1919, a left-hand pane of the same shade was noticed with a very much thicker and heavier overprint on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th horizontal rows, and we wrote to the Commissioner to ascertain if more existed and could be supplied. Under date of June 7th, 1919, we received an answer stating that he was unable to find any panes existing with a similar heavy impression. It would appear therefore this was a solitary freak occurrence in the course of printing, yet nevertheless an interesting item.

WAR STAMP 1½d *Additional Chronicle.*

*Feb., March, 1919. War Tax Postage.*

*London Overprint. Varieties.*

*2nd Shade variety: 1½d on 2½d deep orange.*

*Thick heavy overprint and surcharge: 1½d on 2½d dull orange.*

1015 B 1020 (4 Dec 1920)

After a long wait of several months we at last have received word that the stamps of our last general order for renewal of stocks, is coming forward, and delivery of the consignment may now be expected in the course of a few days. The delay appears to have arisen through an unfortunate outbreak of influenza amongst the official staff in the dependency.

*New Issue.* - We are informed by the commissioner that an order for plates of a new design and a supply of stamps there-from in 1½d, 3d, 1/- and 5/- values, has been forwarded to the Crown Agents. It will probably be a few weeks before supplies of this new issue are available.

1020 C 1023 (7 May 1921) - December Provisional 3d Plate 8 Print.

To meet urgent need, the new design plate not being ready, a further provisional supply from the old 1912 design (plate 8) was ordered. The printing was made in sheets of 120, but was shipped out in panes of 60, and the consignment was received and placed on sale in December, 1920.

This issue in *brown-purple* colour was made on the pale yellow old wmk. paper, with the exception of a few odd panes which were found to be on the trial make of yellow-buff, showing marked difference from the March 1920 Plate 8 print.

The items as pronounced distinctions are scarce, the supply having been limited to only 124 panes. The Plate 8, of March 1920 varieties, were dealt with through our New Issue Service Distribution 723, and the Plate 8, of December 1920 varieties, through Distribution 726.

*New Shades in 1st Design.* From further packages placed on sale, we understand in May 1920, distinctive 2nd shades in the 2d, 2/- and 3/- from Plate 1, and 10/- from Plate 5, were discovered. These are as undernoted, and have been completed through our 10% New Issue Service.

[Only one printing of the 2d, 2/-, and 3/- from plate 1 was made, in 1912. These shade differences are likely to be the result of eight years storage in a hot, humid climate.]

1921 New Design. - Quantity supply of the 1½d, 3d, 1/- and 5/-, which are the first values to appear in the new design, came to hand early this month. The design is modelled on the character of the New Zealand Georgian series, and the stamps of this issue are printed in sheets of 120 in full rows of 12 x 10, and with double ruled marginal lines but without either Plate No. or Sheet No.

The first printings of these disclose the 1½d in orange-brown on new script wmk. paper. The 3d is in purple on orange-buff, the 1/- in black on green, and the 5/- in yellow-green on pale yellow, all three being on old wmk. paper.

In our supply one sheet of the 1/- was on different tone of green paper, viz., yellow-green. We also received a half-sheet of the 5/- in quite a different shade - deep blue-green on pale yellow. It appears only one sheet of this was noticed to exist and will probably prove to be a very rare shade variety.

It is expected the 2½d and 10/- will be the next values to appear in the new design.

*May 1920. New Shades. Prints from Plates 1 and 5.*

2d slate-grey. Plate 1.

2/- deep purple and blue on blue. Plate 1

3/- deep yellow-green and violet. Plate 1

10/- deep green and rose on green, pale green back. Plate 5.

*Dec. 1920. Provisional Issue. 2nd printing from Plate 8.*

3d brown-purple on pale yellow (i).

3d brown-purple on yellow-buff (ii).

*March 1921. New Design.*

*New Wmk. Mult. Crown Script CA.*

1½d orange-brown.

*Old Wmk. Mult. Crown CA.*

3d purple on orange-buff.

1/- black on green (i).

1/- black on yellow-green (ii).

5/- yellow-green on pale yellow (i)

5/- deep blue-green on pale yellow (ii)

1023 D 1026 (19 Nov 1921) - New Issue.

Besides the 10/- stamps which may be expected very shortly, the ¼d, ½d, 2d, 2½d, 4d, 6d, 2/- and 3/- values in the new 1921 design are likely to be issued early in January, if not before.

1026 E 1027 (7 Jan 1922) - New Issue.

We have received an advance supply of the 2nd print of the 5/- which was placed on sale in October, and quantity of the new 10/- stamp.

This 2nd print of the 5/- is *deep green* in colour but on *orange-buff paper*, old wmk. As this consisted of only 25 sheets by 120, i.e., 3,000 stamps, we hope to secure a full quantity to make complete distribution as a shade variety through our New Issue Service.

The 1st print of the 10/- is in carmine on green, old wmk., and this was completely dealt with through Distribution No. 735 of our New Issue Service in December.

These stamps are printed in sheets 120 full set, without centre margin, and without Plate No or sheet numbering.

*Oct.- Nov., 1921. New Design.*

*2nd Print. Wmk. 1st Mult. Crown Script CA: 5/- deep green on orange-buff.*

*1st Print. Wmk. 1st Mult. Crown CA. : 10/- carmine on green.*

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**peter singer**



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## LEEWARD ISLANDS

### REGISTRATION MARKINGS AND LABELS

BY RAJ RAMPHAL / MICHAEL OLIVER

Two days after reading Michael Oliver's article, I came across this Antigua cover at a weekend stamp fair (writes Ray Ramphal of Ontario, Canada). I bought it because I did not recall seeing an illustration of this type of Registration Rubber Datestamp with blue crayoned manuscript centre. On re-reading the article I have concluded it must belong to the type 6 category – "Other Types unique to the island".

I would love to know more about this marking. Is it common? Did it continue in use after the outbreak of the war?



(width of cover reduced in illustration)

Incidentally, the back has 3 Canadian transit registration backstamps - ST.JOHN NB(RUNSWICK), ST JOHN & MONTREAL RPO Apr 12, MONT.(REAL), S(MITH) FALLS & TOR(ONTO) RPO Apr 13th, LONDON Ap 14. A clear trail through Canada Post's Registration Departments from arrival in New Brunswick to delivery in London 2 days later.

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Michael Oliver's response to Raj Ramphal's query regarding the unusual registration mark is:

This GPO handstamp with a rubber interchangeable date plug is known applied to mail between 1938-46. However, it is the first example I have seen of it used as a registration mark and as such will be added to the listing when next updated.

I suspect that the GPO had temporarily run out of registration labels or that the clerk could not find them. Having to accept, record and give the sender a receipt, the clerk must have used his initiative by blanking out the date in order to add the registration number by hand. I would expect this mark was very little used over a very short period of time and certainly not during the war which did not start until almost 18 months later.



This letter must have been conveyed by the CNS Lady Drake which departed Antigua on 4<sup>th</sup> April arriving St. John N.B. on the 12<sup>th</sup> as postmarked on the back. Registered mail would be bagged and handled separately, hence it did not receive the ship's handstamp as most ordinary mail did of which an example from this voyage is known.

**REGISTRATION MARKINGS AND LABELS****BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT**

My small and imperfectly formed collection of Antigua and Barbuda postal markings yields a little of the information that Michael Oliver asks for in his opening article on registration markings and labels of the Leeward Islands (bulletin number 193, June 2002). Using Oliver's numeration:-

**Antigua****GPO**

A1R	type 1	LKD	DE 4 24	Used on Official Paid Post Office cover with Ms. Reg. No.
A2R	type 3	LKD	MY 12 82	On registered front to London with Ms. Reg. No. (Only the second recorded example - see illustration).
A8R	type 4		10 AP 32	Applied in transit through GPO on cover originating at St. Peter's
A8R	type 4		23 NO 32	Applied in transit through GPO on cover originating at St. Peter's.
A8R	type 4		JU 2 (32?)	Applied in transit through GPO on cover originating at St. Mary's.
A8R	type 4	LKD	MR 2 33	Applied in transit through GPO on cover originating at Cedar Grove.

**BOLANS**

A17R	type 4a		OC 22 32	Adhesives cancelled with St. Mary's type A46 (see Oliver's note p.134). Reg. No. 119.
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**BENDALS**

	type 3	EKD/LKD	FE 25 33	22 x 3mm with Ms. "R 10" not previously recorded
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**MONTPELIER**

A24R	type 4	EKD/LKD	AP 8 40	Reg. No. 0021
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**Barbuda**

B1R	type 5		JU 23 23	Handstamp in red used in conjunction with type 1 20 x 26mm. Barbuda type 1 not previously recorded; possibly transferred from St. John's following introduction of labels at GPO.
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**ST VINCENT 1772 – 1897 PETER JAFFÉ****BY SIMON GOLDBLATT**

In a privately printed and bound work of the highest quality Peter Jaffe has now reproduced for posterity his unmatched collection of the stamps of St. Vincent, their development and use. A copy of this work has been presented to the Circle and is available to borrowers from the library. Handle with care: indeed, with awe.

As Peter's brief introduction explains, he reproduces the pages exhibited in the Class d'Honneur in San Francisco (Pacific 1997) and Tel Aviv (Israel 1998), cutting down on his pre-stamp entires, but completing the story of the rarer stamps by adding some 60 pages which the discipline of an 8 frame exhibit had compelled him to exclude. Each page is illustrated in full colour, which reflects – even where it does not exactly reproduce – each nuance and subtlety of the actual stamps. One is forced to wonder whether any more impressive philatelic production has been attempted since the publication of the Royal collection.

Peter points to a 1d black cancelled MES in red as the initiator of his passion for St. Vincent – and particularly the stamps printed from the Perkins Bacon plates. The hunt began, it seems, in the late 1930's. The passion was in full flower when I was first privileged to see some of Peter's treasures on location some 45 years later, yet the task of marshalling and presenting these in a format which would carry off the top competitive honours had barely begun. It was over the next ten years or so that the collection acquired its current shape and its real competitive edge; and during this period Peter was able to introduce gems from all the major sources. So much so, that the text of PML's 1971 handbook – itself the recognised major work on the territory – can now also be referred to as a detailed annotator for Peter's display; for he illustrates on his pages the large majority of the items included in that handbook, supplemented by many major additions. To add spice, Peter answers, with characteristic scholarship and whimsicality, some of the problems that PML treated as beyond resolution.

One can, for example, contrast PML (at p 19), "Barring miraculous finds, reconstruction of the settings of the 1880-81 surcharges is unlikely to go very far beyond conjecture", with Peter's meticulous studies of these issues in conjunction with Geoffrey Kellow, as published in the London Philatelist between 1988 and 1993, and as lovingly displayed on the 16 pages devoted to the issues in the collection under review. What has enabled so much progress to be made is Peter's almost uncanny ability to plate the Perkins Bacon stamps individually, so as to build up a meaningful picture from random jigsaw pieces. I have a slight lingering regret that Peter has yet to turn his skills to the study of the 3d on half 6d Revenue surcharges, but one cannot pretend that this stamp, elusive as it is, enjoys the same status as the earlier provisionals.

Another page, headed "Cutting the Star Paper June 1880" builds upon Appendix E where PML reviewed, without reaching any form of conclusion, the reasons for Perkins Bacon alternating their printings between stamps with upright and those with sideways watermark. A diagram on this page persuasively suggests how a complete sheet of Star Paper may have been divided to accommodate the 1d, 6d and 1/- values, and columns of the three values – plated where appropriate – are displayed to show the orientation of the watermark. At this point the text falters, ascribing to the 6d stamp plates of 30 instead of the 60 stamps that were the fact. This will confuse only the scholarly, for the real equation works out right.

Peter's collection abounds with throwaway lines, and even whole pages. What better illustration of the latter than one of the pages headed "One Shilling Vermilion 1877-78"? Nine stamps are shown. The first three (one of which is mint) have perf. A at top and sides, perf. B at base; the next is perf. A all round; there follows an imperf. stamp on piece with normal; and the final three show perfs. omitted either horizontally or vertically. Tracking back to August 1866 one finds "PLATE PROOFS ... of the 1/- two sheets existed. Shown here is a large part reconstruction of the second sheet". In fact, there are just four stamps missing out of 30, and when one goes to the page before Peter shows five plate proofs from the other sheet, together with nine of the black 4d plate proof, of which he finds no evidence of more than one sheet of 30 being printed.

There are over 30 examples of stamps with double perforations, or imperf. on one or more sides, quite apart from the 1/- vermilion cited above. Where there is a largest known multiple, whether mint or used, in private hands, the chances are that Peter has it, or matches it. He shows classic issues fully dated (including, of course, a 1d perf. B all round dated 1863) 'registered' cancels on

1d black and 4d yellow, village marks on 1d and 6d, UE on 1/- rose-red, and a wide and judicious selection of covers which include 1/- lilac rose from Chateaublair and 1/- vermilion perf. B x A from Georgetown. This, remember, is Peter's (almost) straightforward collection focussed on the issued stamps. He has a quite separate postal history exhibit for St. Vincent: so where you meet village usage in the collection under review, consider it to be merely 'sample showing'.

Developing this reference to sample, Peter describes the 1d black perf. A ruled with pen lines in black or violet as printer's sample stamps, whereas all the other stamps that he displays with ruled lines are categorized as Printer's record stamps ('probably' so for the 1d rose red) which was PML's preferred attribution. One would welcome a glimpse of Peter's reasoning process here, but he prefers the stamps to speak for themselves. One needs to remember, too, that 6d stamps so treated recurrently turn up with the pen lines largely faded out, and showing postal usage, whether genuine or not. Peter probably holds the answer somewhere up his sleeve, preserved for another occasion, and we must not expect him to reveal all his secrets. Pen markings, after all, have multiple origins, and the functions of Peter's current work is to perpetuate his stamps, not to follow every line of enquiry to its conclusion. Thus he shows without further comment the 6d light yellow-green perf. C with barely visible pen line defacement, a reference not included in PML chapter 5.

Returning now to Peter's plating skills, there are numerous examples throughout the collection of singles and multiples rejoined to their original juxtaposition. Thus multiples of the 1/- indigo perf. B have been reassembled from Forsyth, Bessemer and Ishihara sources to recreate almost half an originally rejected sheet; three blocks of the 6d deep green perf. B have been reunited from Caspary and Charlton Henry; singles of the ONE PENNY on 6d and 4d on 1/- have been remarried; partners have been found to reconstitute a mint block of the 1d olive-green and a vertical pair of the 6d deep yellow-green perf B. Similar magic has been performed with mint singles of the 1/- claret and the 1877-8 6d and 1/-. As to the 1866 1/- slate perf. A, a mint block of four ex Bessemer has become a rebuilt block of six.

And so it goes on. The more closely you look, the more rarities you discern, and the more amazing it is to see so much top quality material brought together by a single pair of hands. Yet my message to the rest of us is to be grateful for and inspired by Peter's decision to make a permanent record of his prized exhibition items, and not to despair for our inability to emulate him. St. Vincent in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was such a colourful source of philatelic material that there is room for scores of members to put together a worthwhile collection, and still scope for any of us to track down something that not even Peter has run to earth. The very fact that Peter has come to own so much of the best underlines the parallel achievements of others of our members: there is a certain reflected glory for many.

Time and again one hears those in the world of stamps asserting that you can't build up a collection today as one could in the 'good old days'. Well you can, you see; and Peter has done it. My thoughts here turn to the Tapling collection, where everything could be found but, when it came to condition, anything went. Move back to Peter's collection, and ask what has happened to the stamps in poor condition. They've all gone!

No collection, however great, should be without a blemish; and I suspect a twinkle in Peter's eye when he introduced on two or three pages items whose postmarks were not beyond debate. It would spoil this commentary to tell our members where these are: we are not, of course, discussing the forged postmarking of a Revenue issue, which is standard St. Vincent fare. When your sharpened perceptions enable you to spot the candidates, do not assume that Homer has nodded. Think rather of the entertainment programmes that included the week's deliberate mistake.

I shall close with some slightly subjective statistics of the items illustrated:-

<b>Category</b>	<b>Quantity (items)</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Quantity (items)</b>
Essays, trials, proofs	107	Covers (many with multiples)	120
Specimen etc	99	Varieties and curiosities	83
Mint sheets	7	Postmarks featured	39
Used sheets	2	Revenue stamps 5/- and above	20
Mint multiples	195	Revenue multiples	7
Used multiples (off cover)	102		

The remainder of course are single stamps



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## TOBAGO

Nigel Chandler's article has stimulated a fine response from other collectors – thank you.

**SG33 ½ D ON 4D**

**BY BOB SHOEMAKER**

With reference to Nigel Chandler's article in the September 2002 issue, I have seen a couple of these over the years, and had one in my exhibit that I showed last year at BALPEX. My cover is the SAME handwriting, to the SAME person, but mine not only has a Tobago CDS over the stamp to the cover, but also has a Port of Spain "D" on the cover DE 29, 96.



Folded Paper – message inside "Xmas Greeting" No backstamp.

**SG33 ½ D ON 4D**

**BY ERIC BATESON**

I read Nigel Chandler's article with interest because in my collection I have a cover postmarked 9<sup>th</sup> April 1897 to an addressee in Scarborough.



As a collector specialising in philatelic covers mine does NOT appear to be philatelic and therefore this could be the 6<sup>th</sup> non philatelic cover bearing this adhesive.

**SG33 ½D ON 4D**

**BY BEN RAMKISSOON**

An intra-colonial letter between Tobago and Trinidad, arrival backstamp 7<sup>th</sup> January 1897, with a second example of SG33a (spaced d) on cover.



Early usage on local letter at Port of Spain, Trinidad, 19<sup>th</sup> January 1897.

Intercolonial registered (2d postage + 2d registration) cover to Dominica, Type D6 'Tobago index A', arrival backstamp 'JY 13 97'



## BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

### VARIATIONS

BY W. CLARY HOLT, FRPSL

Sometime ago I received a letter from my friend, Kevin May, BWISC, Ipswich, England. He wrote me as follows:

*"Whilst looking through one of our stamp club sales packets recently I came across two Virgin Islands stamps. ... Whilst neither is particularly valuable or in perfect condition I thought they might be of interest to you.*

*The half penny QV has part of the R of Virgin missing and there is a nice variety on the shilling - a white blob on the top stroke of the E of one".*

I have enlarged to a small extent the face of each stamp.



Ed note: this is constant variety on No. 2 of every 1s sheet

### NEWSFLASH

Some of you may have noticed a long article by Peter Jennings in the London Times reporting that HM the Queen had graciously agreed to allow parts of her collection - including the famous missing Virgin - to be exhibited in the BVI at the 10th annual meeting of the BVI Philatelic Society on 2-3 November. The article also mentioned that the annual meeting of the Br Caribbean Study Group would be taking place in Tortola over the same weekend, but it failed to mention that two of the Circle's members, Charles Freeland and Rob Wynstra, had been invited to display their BVI collections alongside the Queen's. Charles will provide a report on this honourable event in the March bulletin.

The bulletin is published on our web site ([www.bwisc.org](http://www.bwisc.org)) in Adobe pdf format about a month ahead of the printed copy being received by members, this version is in colour (where colour originals have been submitted to the editor).

If anyone wants access to this restricted part of our web site, so that they may download a copy, e-mail the editor on [info@bwisc.org](mailto:info@bwisc.org) and I will provide the address and log in details.

**AUCTION UPDATE****BY CHARLES FREELAND****Bonhams 11-12 September**

This was my first visit to Bonhams as opposed to Phillips and my first reaction was that nothing had changed, including the slow pace with which the auction was called. I can understand an auctioneer trying to coax a bid out of an unwilling room for a four figure lot, but to wait for 10 seconds in case someone will wake up for lots of two figures seems eccentric and frustrating for those who have planes to catch. My visit was on account of a small but choice collection of Bermuda GVI high values that I mentioned in the June bulletin. Most lots sold for prices within the estimate range, for example, the 1943 £1 pair with blank scroll for £850 and the 1951 £1 block with "white island" for £1300 (all prices plus the dreaded "music" as a leading dealer calls it). The only bidding war occurred on a 12/6 block which realised £950 when two bidders saw a lemony shade that had escaped the describer. There were few unsolds, which shows that even for Bermuda, which has experienced huge offerings in recent years, there is still a steady demand for good quality Bermuda. More blocks from the same source (a collector's duplicates!) are in Bonham's November sale.

**Cavendish 26 September**

The wide-ranging maritime collection formed by John Gunn contained relatively little BWI material but what there was was enticing. The two Eden and Solent covers sold for prices (£1000 and £1600) that looked somewhat disappointing in light of the prices at the Roberts sale at which they were acquired. But some nice Jamaica handstamps sold steadily, a superb example dated 1784 fetching £700, more than double the price it fetched in 1989 (the Fitzherbert sale).

**Spink 16-17 October**

The sale of the Ambassador collection (truly an Italian Ambassador's) was well attended according to my informant Peter Longmuir. Much of the attention was on the German and Italian sections, but the Barbados lots went well across the board with the lovely marginal strip of 1d blue imperf ex Sir James Marshall going for £1,100 to Canada. The highlights for the BWI collector were the local Barbados bisect to St Thomas parish (£5000 to a German dealer) and the Caymans covers - the 1/2d on 5/- provisional to Jamaica fetched £4,800 and the registered 12 Feb 1908 cover with 2 1/2d provisional plus 1/2d to London via Cuba £7,000. The Montserrat inverted S block of 1d perf 12 went for £1,200 to John Taylor. On the second day there were some interesting printers samples from the de la Rue archives, with variable realisations (the highest for St Kitts) and several more items from the John Marriott treasure trove of Trinidad. The St Lucia set of 1935 Jubilee die proofs went for £2,200.

**Future events**

More of **Ted Proud's** extensive postal history collection will be offered by **London Stamp Exchange** on 8 November. It is essential to view for this auction as the condition is extremely mixed and the estimates high (essentially reserves) - but sleepers can be found in the many mixed lots. The **Grosvenor** sale of the **John Sussex** collection on the morning of 27 November will be a red-letter day for the QV and KE keyplate collector (he is keeping his GV). It contains 500 odd lots from all the colonies who used the various plates, rich in proof material but also including many stamps. I am also told that the **W D Squires** collection has been consigned to **Bonhams**, so its sales scheduled for December and February will contain quantities of GV and GVI BWI, including keyplates, in blocks and large sheets. **Jamie Gough's** Grand Prix collection of postage dues of the world is to be offered at **Bennett** - not a lot of BWI but what there is will be worth waiting for. Finally, rumours are circulating that the Bermuda and Swedish tax authorities have finally agreed on probate for **Stig Leuhusen's** estate, including his terrific Bermuda collection. Watch this space!

To close, some sharp eyes may have noticed that Bonhams have raised their dreaded Buyers Premium to 17 1/2% plus VAT - above even the 17% common in Europe! "Spink has absolutely no intention of following suit", says Nick Startup, so we can fortunately rule out another jacking up of commissions all round, providing modest comfort to the struggling auction buyer.

**Amendments to Members Details**

Name	Init	Address	Phone / Fax / email	Interests
<b>New Members:</b>				
Bonnici	A	34 Casa Bonnici Sir Augustus Bartolo St Ta' Xbiex MSD 11 MALTA GC	(356) 21 338437 (356) 21 339338 (F) abonnici@maltanet.net	
Farrimond	P	5 Eastfield Road, Benton Newcastle upon Tyne, NE12 8BD		JAM (all aspects)
Finnie	N	72 Wyattville Park, Ballybrack Co. Dublin IRELAND	086 - 2823391 086 - 2504647	BER, BWI (exc BRG & BRH)
Hylan Jr	LP	920 Pine Trail, Arnold MD 21012 USA	(410) 437 0898 (410) 437 7358 (F)	
Lindsay	J	1001 - 5 Massey Sq. Toronto, Ont. CANADA M4C 51-6	916 - 691 - 0688 Jimlindsay39@hotmail.com	BWI (Ail aspects)
Oliver	WM	13 Leiston Spur, Slough Berks SL1 3JN	01753 798962	BWI, BER
Pawsey	S	51 High St Waltham-on-the-Wolds, Melton Mowbray LE14 4AH	01664 464 771 stuart.pawsey@btopenworld.com	BAR, STV, STL, BER, BAH, GRE
<b>Revision of Details:</b>				
Ashley	W B	PO Box 31500, San Francisco CA 94131-0500 USA	williamashley@hotmail.com	PC, QSL (ham radio) cards, DOM (PH)
Borromeo	F	Via Monti Parioli 48 00197 Roma Italy	0644233570 <a href="mailto:comнено@tiscalinet.it">comнено@tiscalinet.it</a>	NEV, TRI BWI in general
Carmichael	P D	Box 422, Anguilla British West Indies		
Michael	J	La Luna, Camino de La Imaroga 8 Cortijos San Rafael (65) 29788 Frigiliana Malaga, SPAIN		TOB, All BWI DA (S, PH, PL)
Osborn	GA	Flat 9, Fountain Court 13 The Avenue, Branksome Park, Poole BH13 6EZ		
Taylor	J	PO Box 37324 London N1 2YQ	020 7226 1503, 020 7359 7456 (F) markjtaylor@btinternet.com	DA (S, PH)
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