

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

PUBLISHED BY THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP
Unit No. 27 of the American Philatelic Society

Vol. 54, No. 2

April - June 2014

Whole No. 251

The Virgins That Never Were



*Do some of the above look strange? Find out why by reading
Dr. Georgio Migliavacca's article beginning on page 14.*



The *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* is published four times a year (January, April, July and October) by the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. It is available only by subscription through membership in the BCPSG. Membership is based on the calendar year. Current dues are: \$25 per annum in U.S. funds for members in the United States and Canada, and \$32 (£20) for those in other areas.

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British Caribbean Philatelic Journal

Vol. 54, No. 2 April - June 2014 Whole No. 251

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DEADLINES FOR THIS PUBLICATION

January issue: Deadline November 15, mailing December 30

April issue: Deadline February 15, mailing March 30

July issue: Deadline May 15, mailing June 30

October issue: Deadline August 15, mailing September 30

St. Lucia first issue postage due plate flaw

By Hap Pattiz
Of the USA

The earliest printings of the first issue of St. Lucia postage dues were frequently set up with rough type, and a number of plate flaws are noted. Some of these flaws (or varieties) can be plated in the sheet. Illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 is one of the more distinctive flaws which we have labeled the “battered ‘A’.” This is the “a” in Lucia, and it occurs on the third stamp in row 3 (R3/3).¹



Figure 1

*The 2d St. Lucia first issue postage due showing the flaw “battered A” in “Lucia” from R3/3. This stamp was used at Castries on January 11, 1932.
(This image is enlarged 200 percent.)*

This flaw shows significant shortening of the “A” and damage to the top right portion of that letter. It also shows a missing lower left serif to the base of the “A.” Only five stamps from this position from the first printing (80 sheets) of the 2d are now known.²

In subsequent printings, some repairs to the plate were made, but the missing lower left serif to “A” continues throughout later printings on both values.

This particular stamp is also interesting for having been used on January 11, 1932 before the onset of the “Panton” covers which most commonly show usage of the first St. Lucia dues.

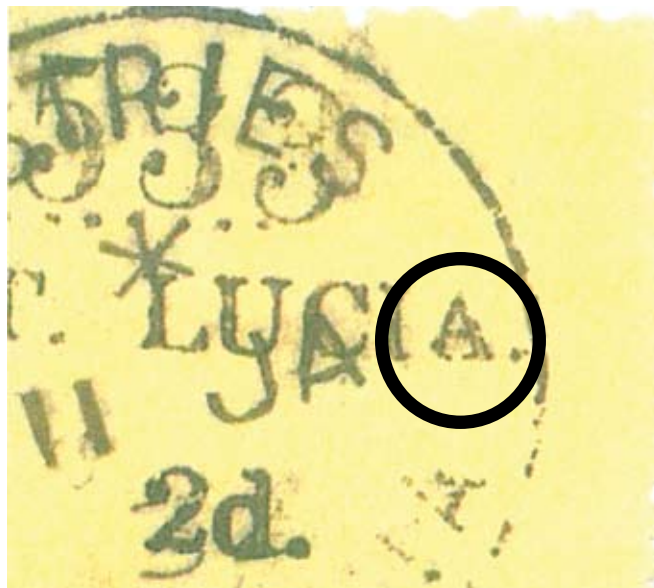


Figure 2

*Enlarged portion of the 2d stamp to show more prominently the “battered A” flaw.
(This image is enlarged 400 percent.)*

FOOTNOTES

¹ The “battered ‘A’” variety is more commonly noted in the Mauritius 1 Rupee KGVI stamp (SG #260 variety), and is illustrated in color in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. See Figure 3 immediately below.



Figure 3
*The Mauritius
“battered A.”*

² A similar, although less pronounced flaw occurs on the 1d at position R3/3 on earliest printings of that value.

Back issues of *Journal* available

Walt Everett, P.O. Box 212, Lewisburg, PA 17837-0212 has retired and is looking for a new home for his run of the *Journal* dating back to 1981. They can either be picked up in person, or he will arrange to have them shipped. You may also reach him by electronic mail at waltnancye@dejazzd.com. If no new home is forthcoming, they will be heading to recycling!

Postmarks of the British West Indies: British Guiana

By David Horry, an Englishman resident in Shanghai, China

British Guiana's postmarks echo the colony itself: enormous, wonderfully exotic and still partly uncharted, especially the early years. But even the KGVI period has a few unsolved or re-resolved mysteries. In 1950 Alfred Charlton had attempted a semblance of order in *The London Philatelist* with "The Postmarks of British Guiana."

In February 2007, Murray Payne published my recent work *The Encyclopaedia of British West Indies Postmarks* – *King George VI*, 40 pages out of almost 400 of which are dedicated to the postmarks to South America's only British colony. Over half the postmarks of Bertie's reign are the familiar small single circles (sSCs) which come in three "flavors" -- those with "BRITISH GUIANA" at



Figure 1
*Anna Regina, Benab,
Fort Wellington and
Metenmeerzorg sSCs.*

Then in 1970 The Royal Philatelic Society London published *The Postage Stamps and Postal History of British Guiana* – one of the finest ever studies of a single

the base (**Figure 1**); those with "BR. GUIANA" (**Figure 2**) and those with "B.GUIANA" (**Figure 3**). Some towns have more than one type – Skeldon has all three (**Figure 4**)!



Figure 2
*Dartmouth, De Kinderen,
Kwakwani and Wales sSCs*

country's philately. It was written by W.A. Townsend and F.G. Howe and copies of this limited edition of 500 now fetch in excess of £200. Fred Howe modestly claims to

The names of the towns and village plantations are historically interesting; on the coast the early Dutch influence is very noticeable -- Beterverwagting (Better for wait-



Figure 3
*Blairmont, Tumatumari
Vreedenhoop sSCs.*

have sorted through over half a million postmarks in his time and the postal history and postmark section run to around 250 pages in a breathtaking attempt to tame this vast philatelic jungle. Ted Proud's *The Postal History of British Guiana*, published in 2000, further enhanced the subject matter.

ing!), Vreedenhoop (Freedom and Hope), Metenmeerzorg, New Amsterdam, Soesdyke, Uitvlugt (Flight-out), Weldaad and Zeelandia (**Figure 5**). Bourda is the site of Georgetown's Test Cricket Ground (**Figure 6**). The British influence is strongly represented -- Fort Wellington,

Continued on page 6

Buxton, Dartmouth, Georgetown, Hyde Park, Wales, Cornhill and Danielstown (**Figure 7**) with Present Hope, Relief and Support, Fellowship, Providence, Good Hope, Charity, Sisters, and Reliance urging mankind to look to his better side (**Figure 8**). Demerara is noted for its high quality sugar and Cane Grove is at the heart of the industry.

**Figure 4**

Skeldon has three different sSCs!

Local Amerindian names abound, especially in the hinterland -- Mahaicony, Lumid Pau, Wineperu, Ituni, Cabacaburi, Bonasika, Coomacka, Kamakusa, Imbaimadai, Perenong, Wichabai and Tumatumari (Hot Pepper) [**Figure 9**]. These names conjure up the exotic remoteness of many of these places. The main reason for their existence as mail centers is because of the mining -- diamond, gold, manganese and bauxite mining -- that attracted Europeans to these remote mountainous areas. Rupununi is the center of cattle country.

**Figure 5**

Originally Dutch: sSCs from New Amsterdam, Uitvlugt and Beterverwagting.

Figure 6

Bourda sSC, the site of the Test Cricket Ground.



The most interesting of the small single circles are the Postal Agency marks. These were distributed to remote offices which had no canceller. The allocation of these cancellers is still open to conjecture, but via the study of "back marks" and letter content, a clearer picture has emerged. Numbers 1- 8 have "B.GUIANA" at the base and are rare except for No. 3 which is unusual (**Figure 10**).

Table 1. Italics note dates outside the KGV period.

Postal Agency	Used at	Dates
No. 1	Jacoba Constanta	1926-43
No. 2	Kurupukari	1932-34
	Kamakusa	1938-44
No. 3	<i>Unknown office</i>	1928-
	Garraway Stream	1933-40
	Apoteri	1943-53
No. 4	Kendals (No. 19 Corentyne)	1932-38
No. 5	Kendals (No. 19 Corentyne)	1926-31
No. 6	Cabnal Polder (Canal No. 2)	1929-43
No. 7	Tapacooma	1927-
	<i>Unknown office</i>	1931-35
No. 8	Perenong	1928-29
	Ruimveldt	1929-43
	Issano Road 13 miles	1944-49

Table 2. Italics note dates outside the KGV period.

Postal Agency	Used at	Dates
No. 9 Type 1	Lower Eping Creek (?)	1926-45
No. 9 Type 2	Lower Eping Creek	1946-51
No. 10	Perenong	1932-50
		(LRD 6 11 47)
No. 11	Upper Eping	1941-59
No. 12	Oranapai	1942-66
No. 13	<i>Unknown office</i>	1934-
	Apiqua	1936-40
	Isseneru	1940-53
No. 14	Not recorded	
No. 15	TPA Cuyuni River	1941-43
No. 16	Ida Sabina (?)	1943-47
No. 17	Kurupung	1941-69
No. 18	Garraway Stream	1942-65
No. 19	<i>Unknown office</i>	1942-
No. 20	<i>Unknown office</i>	1942-
	Aurora Landing	1947-50

Numbers 9-20 have "BRITISH GUIANA" at the base and are rare except for Numbers 12 and 17 (**Figure 11**). Number 19 is very rare!

Emergency sSCs Nos. 1-3 are all rare and were used at Issano 51 miles, Issano 13 miles and 39½ Miles Issano Road respectively during 1942 and 1943, the latter being used in 1950 at Honey Camp 35 miles.

Many of the larger towns sport a Birmingham canceller (**Figure 12**) most of which are common, but Soesdyke and



Figure 7
English derivations: Buxton, Fort Island and Georgetown sSCs.



Figure 8
Fellowship, Charity and Whim sSCs.

Postal Agencies 5 (Enachu), 19 (Corentyne), 21 (Lethem) and 23 (Scheepmoed) are difficult to encounter (**Figure 13**). There are six Open Birmingham noted but of these only Eversham is hard to find (**Figure 14**)

Figure 9
*Amerindian names:
Ituni, Parika,
T'Mari
(Tumatumari),
Cabacaburi sSCs.*



Wireless Stations were also set up in these backwaters with Birmingham postmarks found for Mackenzie, Garraway Stream, Kurupukari, Mabaruma and Mazaruni. The more remote the scarcer they are (**Figure 15**).

Figure 10
*Postal Agency No. 3
(Garraway Stream)
sSC 1938.*



The central coastal area between the Arabian and Corentyne coasts is well-served by railways with postal facilities and their postmarks are relatively easy to find. The Demerara, East Coast Railway runs from Georgetown to Rosignol, the Berbice Railway Mahaica to Rosignol and the West Coast Railway from Vreedenhoop to Parika

(**Figure 16**). Postal vans attended to services on the peripheral Arabian and Corentyne coasts.

The real gold, postmark-wise, is the plethora of Skeleton postmarks (I think only Nigeria has more). British Guiana has 85 to date -- there may be others. The late Derek Nathan, a much respected British Guiana postmark collector, noted: "From the point of view of collectors Skeletons were not a good idea, as one rarely gets a complete image on a single stamp and the small differences detected by Fred Howe are very difficult to be sure of especially as, in my view, a lot of these were caused by sheer carelessness on the part of the postmasters, many of whom were part-timers, especially in the remote offices where these cancellers were often used."

Most Skeletons are scarce to very rare depending on their remoteness and if on cover it's "needles and haystacks!"

Choice Skeletons within the period are: Dartmouth, Good Hope, Bootooba, Coomacka, Kwakwani, Stampa, Warimia, Buisanowa, Dukwarri, Imbaimadai, Manaka, Marudi Mountains, Torani, TPA

Mazaruni, Wakapoa, Wichabai, Five Mile Caburi Road, Hillfoot Mazaruni, Ituni (not recorded by Howe!), Relief and Support, Apaiqua, Cuyni River, Issano Mazaruni and TPO West Coast Railway (**Figure 17**). Mount Everard PA is extremely rare as is Potts Fall PA, T.P.A. Canje Launch,



Figure 11
*Postal Agencies Nos. 12
Oranapai &
17 (Kurupung), the
two easiest to
find.*

Wichabai Rupununi, West Coast Railway and T.P.A. Mo Creek (**Figure 18**).

The major rivers each have their own postal steamers and launches and some of their Skeletons are hard to find

Continued on page 8

**Figure 12**

“Birminghams” from Anna Regina, Buxton, Bartica, Reliance, Tuschen and Wales.

(*Figure 19*). The Bartica Steamer sails up the Essequibo River to Bartica and the Essequibo Steamer plies the estuary of that river and up the Arabian Coast. T.P.A. serves the Mazaruni River and T.P.A.

Parakeet is the name of a launch, not a river, which served the Berbice River. The Cuyuni River T.P.A. was launched in 1941 between Bartica and Aurora, closing around 1949 with the demise of the Cuyuni Gold Company. Services were resumed in 1951. However, the mail launch sank in

**Figure 13**

*Postal Agency No. 5 (Enachu)
“Birmingham.”*

**Figure 15**
*Wireless
Mackenzie B.*

Material from British Guiana is not too hard to come by, but panning for postmarks is

an arduous task -- especially as Georgetown and New Amsterdam cancellations abound. eBay frequently throws up small collections that go for reasonable prices.

Figure 14
*“Open Birminghams”
from Benab
and Vreedenhooop.*

1953 and after that the service became patchy. A Birmingham for T.P.A. Pomeroon is also noted.

Slogan postmarks were introduced into the GPO at Georgetown in 1934 and the good folk of the colony

The late Derek Nathan visited Guyana, as it is now, in 1996 but found little to commend it. However, the postmarks of the colonial period have much to recommend them -- I hope all this might encourage a few new collectors.

**Figure 16**

Railway Postmarks East Coast Railway B, Berbice Railway B and West Coast Railway sSC.*

were urged to “Rent a ‘Phone,” “Deposit and Save,” “Visit Kaieteur Fall A World’s Wonder” (*Figure 20*), “Winter in British Guiana” (where else!) and “Drink Demerara Coffee.”

Air mail is an important part of this vast country’s postal system and there are plenty of airmail postmarks. The Americans built the Atkinson Field Airport during World War II, and it was later used for civil purposes (*Figure 21*). Vendor marks were originally used for postal and money orders and later sanctioned for postal use at Georgetown (*Figure 22*).



Figure 17

*Rare Birds: Skeletons from Gt. Troolie Island,
Lethem Rupununi, Issano Mazaruni, Orinduik and Seventy Two Miles Potaro.*

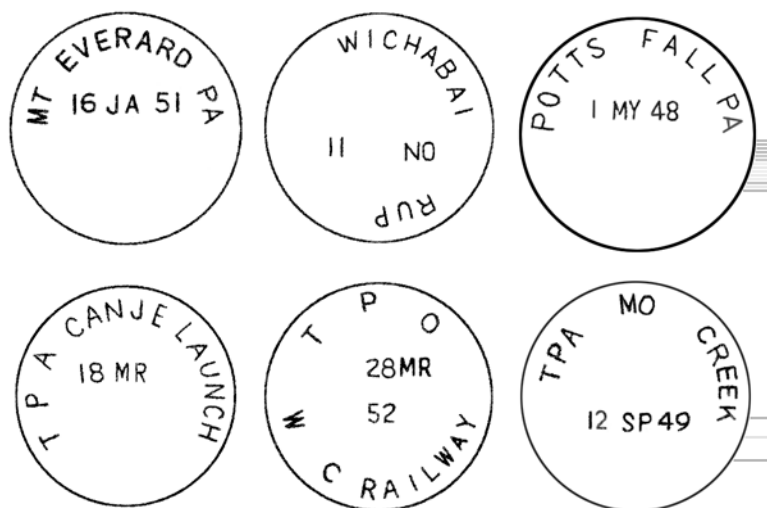


Figure 18

*Endangered Species from the Rainforest:
Skeletons from Mount Everard, Wichabai
Rupununi, Potts Fall, Canje Launch T.P.O.,
West Coast Railway and Mo Creek.*



Figure 19

*Steamers and Launches – Bartica Steamer Sk, Essequibo Steamer Sk,
Pomeroon Steamer Sk, Canje Launch sSC* and Demerara Steamer
sSC*.*



Figure 20

Slogan postmark Visit Kaieteur Waterfall 1941.



Figure 21

Atkinson Field Sk., Air Mail sSC and Air Mail G.P.O. B.*



Figure 22

Vendor I sSC, Vendor II sSC* and Vendor No. 3 sSC*.*

“Something new” from St. Vincent?

By Steve Zirinsky
Of the USA

Here is something new....it is a St. Vincent “missent” from last year. It looks like a departmental free frank. I think the company used to produce this and must also prepare their free franks.



S.S. *Altai* of the Hamburg American Line (HAPAG)

By John Wynns
Of the USA

Figure 1 shows the only recorded Jamaican stamp usage with the “ALTAI” handstamp. This picture postcard was posted aboard ship in June 1903 with a single line handstamp applied in red. It arrived in New York where a “PAQUEBOT (N.Y. 2D DIV)” handstamp was applied, and on the picture side, a cds “NEW YORK, FOR. BCH JUN 23 1903.”



Figure 1

The only recorded Jamaican stamp usage with the “ALTAI” handstamp in red.



Figure 2

Picture side of postcard shown in Figure 1. It depicts Jamaicans carrying bananas.

A Hamburg arrival cancel (3/7/03) is on the front of the postcard (ex-Swarbrick). Figure 2 shows the picture side with Jamaicans carrying bananas. The S.S. *Altai* (Figure 3) was built in 1897 (2,480 tons) as a cargo vessel for the Atlas Steamship Company, and it served as a fruit carry-

ing ship on the Liverpool-Canary Islands trade. She was sold to the Hamburg American Line in 1901 for the West Indies Atlas Service as a fruit carrier (mostly bananas) to New York. An early advertisement (circa 1902) is shown in Figure 4.

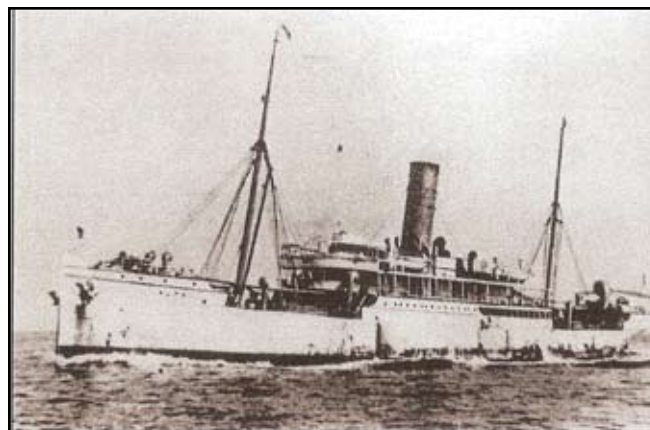


Figure 3

Grainy image of SS Altai, built in 1897.

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Figure 4
An early advertisement (circa 1902).

British Guiana World War I censor marks

By Charles Freeland
Of Switzerland

I would like to ask for members' input on the source of a number of labels and marks on five British Guiana commercial covers mailed during the first World War. I am not sure any of them are actually British Guiana marks but as I know we have several British Guiana postal history experts, I am hoping for some insights. Unfortunately, while all bear clear marks of origin and/or destination, none have transit marks that might indicate where censorship was carried out.

The earliest cover (Figure 1), mailed on April 17, 1915 to Egypt, bears a circular handstamp with "PASSED BY CENSOR" along the upper rim and a heavy "No. 3" below. On the reverse is a large blue speckled label that reads "MARTIAL LAW OPENED BY CENSOR" and this is tied by two strikes of another "PASSED BY CENSOR" cds. This last must have been applied in Egypt or in the United Kingdom in transit.

The second cover, mailed on April 8, 1916 to Liverpool, was opened at top and resealed with a large two line "OPENED BY/ CENSOR." label with code "C1046" added in manuscript. This would, I assume, have been applied on arrival in the U.K. The third, mailed on April



Figure 1
British Guiana cover mailed on April 17, 1915 to Egypt and bearing "PASSED BY CENSOR" handstamp.

15, 1916 from Anna Regina to Australia, bears a heavy "PASSED" straight line handstamp. I have been told this is a censor marking used by the Australian Forces, but perhaps someone can explain what an Australian soldier might have been doing in Anna Regina (I interpret the addressee as "The Reverend Henry W. Lones").

The fourth cover is addressed to India. Unfortunately, the large "OPENED BY CENSOR" label that reseals the upper side of the envelope also obliterates nearly all the stamps and the dispatch date, but the year 1918 can just be identified. This is confirmed by a Bombay arrival datestamp on the reverse of the cover, although this is smudged so the month cannot be seen. The lettering on the large label mentioned is italic upper case and above it is the British Coat of Arms that fairly convincingly ascribes the label to the U.K. In addition, the face of the cover bears a small circular marking in purple that reads "PASSED CENSOR BOMBAY."



Figure 2
Cover mailed on April 8, 1916 to Liverpool, England with two-line "OPENED BY/ CENSOR." and "C1046" marking.

The last cover is dated October 5, 1918, shortly before the armistice, and is addressed to France. It has been opened at left and resealed with a label that reads "OPENED/AND/SEALED/BY/CENSOR." in five lines of small seriffed upper case letters. This is my best hope of a British Guiana label of origin.

I would be grateful for confirmation of the sources of any of these censor markings or evidence that something similar has been seen on covers originating in British Guiana.

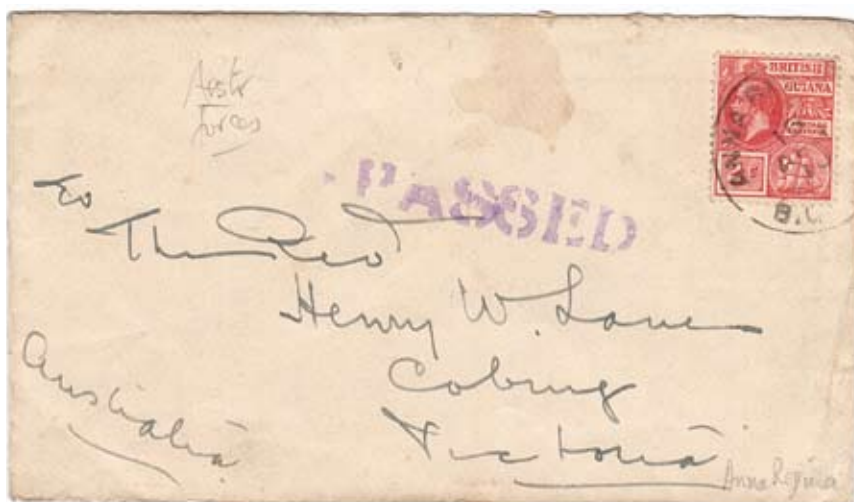


Figure 3

Cover mailed on April 15, 1916 from Anna Regina to Australia with heavy "PASSED" straight line handstamp.



Figure 4

Cover addressed to India with large "OPENED BY CENSOR" label partially covering stamps.



Figure 5

Cover dated October 5, 1918 addressed to France. It has been opened at left and resealed with label that reads "OPENED/AND/SEALED/BY/CENSOR."

The Virgins That Never Were: Defiled Damsels found parading on internet auction platforms near you!

By Giorgio Migliavacca

British Virgin Islands Study Group Leader

When you buy at well-established, traditional auctions there is a lot of fine print in the catalogue which rarely leads to litigations. If a buyer finds that a certain item had a non-described problem or is not genuine, he has to substantiate his opinion with a certificate from a reputable expert or expert committee. In some cases the auction uses the proviso that items offered with a (possibly recent) “clean” certificate cannot be returned even if a conflicting certificate from another expert is produced. It goes without saying that when you buy at sales with such a proviso you must know what you are doing.

On the whole, though, traditional auction firms accept requests for “extensions” (i.e., validation by an expert) and will take the item back in case the stamp or cover is flawed, a forgery, repaired, or has been subjected to manipulation. Most auctions take responsibility for what they sell, once an extension has been formally requested. For understandable reasons, this does not apply to mixed lots, accumulations and collections. There remains the fact that the auctioneer is responsible for what he is selling; and that is quite reassuring.

However, when you buy at the mega platform internet auctions that offer everything under the sun, and sometime even from other galaxies, you are being told that the seller is responsible for what he is selling. My humble opinion is that this mode of taking off one’s responsibilities will sooner or later be challenged in court with results, hopefully, that will clear once and for all some questionable policies that usually hurt the buyers but not the platform. What about the seller? Well, sometime he/she gets away with it or will change the name of his operation.

Another odd aspect is that many sellers who turn over thousands of dollars or pounds on a regular basis are not licensed dealers and most likely do not pay taxes. Sometimes, the internet platform itself is a tax avoider/evader, and such is the case of eBay.

According to news reports, including one from *Daily Mail* (U.K.), eBay avoided a £50 million corporation tax

bill by channeling payments through Luxembourg; eBay generated sales of more than £800 million a year in Britain, but paid only a little over £1 million in corporation tax in the country. The online auction firm legally channels payments through Luxembourg and Switzerland to avoid paying nearly £50 million in tax in Britain. When government tells you they have to cut corners you can see why.

The *Financial Times* recently disclosed that seven U.S. technology giants, including eBay and Apple, paid a trifling £54 million in U.K. corporate tax in 2012. The same source cannot escape commenting that it seems a pretty low amount of tax paid compared to the combined sales of the seven companies which totalled £15 billion. Most importantly, a lot of this revenue comes from internet sales. The same source pointed out that the U.K. tax paid on profits made by eBay, Microsoft, Yahoo, Facebook and Apple fell in 2012, while for 2013 the figures of Amazon and Google rose. The end result is that their combined tax bill for 2013 fell from £45 million to £37 million.

Closer to our philatelic endeavor, basically the buyers are looking for great bargains and this gets them into trouble. Some of the sellers, on the other hand, know pretty well what the law of the wild west is and they find the loopholes. When they get caught, it is no big deal for them. They re-register as sellers under the wife or some relative or friend’s name. There are websites exposing all of this dirt and the sad thing is that the mega platforms do little or nothing.

In one case, a forger who had been “exiled” found his way back under a different name and with a quickly created “artificial” feedback he offered all of his faking paraphernalia and equipment as one lot in the tens of thousands. This episode is well documented but obviously the law is not equal for all. Which begs the question: “What is going on?”

Most often the shipping is free, although the seller has hidden the cost in his price or estimate – this is okay, as it makes the mega platform puppeteers happy and, apparently, most of their naïve buyers, too. When will they learn that there is no such thing as “free shipping?”

I have also contacted time and again one of the major platforms about forgeries and questionable material being sold on their site and quite often I get no results. Some items are offered over and over cyclically. Furthermore, my horizon is limited to certain collectibles, and one wonders what's going on in other departments. Buyer beware: Caveat Emptor! If you are not a gladiator, do not enter the arena.

Buying from those who offer the lowest price may get you into trouble with the law if, for example, you may be buying stolen goods. This has happened more often than suspected, so beware. Am I a *vox clamantis in deserto* -- a voice crying in the wilderness? No! There are others like me and our voices in the long run will produce positive results.

If you google eBay forgeries, you will be amazed at the many entries you will find, some very educational. I would comment that you can buy online from reputable sellers who accept returns and extensions requests. Those offering expensive items without certificates or not accepting returns and extensions requests should be ruled out. You are better safe than sorry.

For many years I have culled scans of forgeries on the internet; these may form the basis for a series of articles and even a book. From the end of July 2013 to early 2014, I selected some of the forgeries of the Virgin Islands offered on eBay. The internet platform was informed of the status of these items and in most cases the items were not removed; some went unsold and were re-offered. Again, the well-known platform was informed that this was a new occurrence of the same item being offered but nothing was done.

It must be noted that when a seller is uploading one of his lots, he sees a red flag box asking him if he is sure that what he is selling is authentic. The seller, then, is warned that eBay has the right to remove any item on sale if it believes that the "item is inconsistent with the selling guidelines set out by the American Philatelic Society" or eBay requirements. Why would eBay evoke the APS guidelines and then find itself with quite a number of forgeries and questionable material? Who is policing the offerings? And many more questions arise.

Let's start with two items where it is painfully obvious that something is not quite right. The remnants of a stamp are pictured in **Figure 1**: they are described as "faulty high value" with a starting price of \$10. It is difficult to find a word to describe the seller but it would be even harder to find one to categorize the buyer. If any of us tried to sell this at a stamp bourse, security would

Figure 1
Remnants of an early Virgin Islands stamp with something obviously not right.



come and throw us out – that would be our first and last attempt. Not on the internet. After you see something like that being offered for sale to the entire world you should ask yourself why you are wasting time on that platform, or do you have a low self esteem?

Figure 2
Another example of a damaged Virgin Islands stamp.



Things do not get better with **Figure 2** and **Figure 3**: the description of this little masterpiece stated "authenticity of item undetermined, sound quality item, light hinge remnants, corner fault, no hidden fault." To me it looks like an aborted reperforation attempt; I forgot ... the stamp and postmark are forgeries, no big deal! The real culprit according to the seller is the hinge, it would seem. The first and second "S" in "ISLANDS" differ

Figure 3
Reverse side of the damaged Virgin Islands stamp shown in Figure 2.



from the original; the "A" is too well defined especially at the bottom of each leg; the nearly horizontal mid-section of the "S" of "SHILLING" of the genuine stamp has a relaxed flow and differs from the briskly slanted motion of the "S" in the forgery; the "G" of "SHILLING" is supposed to have no serifs, yet the horizontal bar at the bottom shows a protruding one. The Virgin's authentic

Continued on page 16

head and eyes tend to go upward; in the forgery they tend to do the opposite; the stars above the head start and end on the same horizontal line in the genuine stamp; the forgery has the stars starting lower and ending higher.

All Virgin Islands collectors, and even those who collect the West Indies in general, are very much aware of the scarcity of an "A13" cancellation on a Victorian stamp. **Figure 4** shows a 6d badly repaired, re-backed, with attempted reperforation at top quite visible. Of course, we are blinded by the description that would have us believe that the "A15" cancellation is an "A13." Who needs an eye specialist??

Figure 4

This figure shows a badly repaired, re-backed, 6d stamp with attempted reperforation at top quite visible.



Figure 5 shows a Spiro forgery of the second stamp of the Virgin Islands. The seller offered it in January and eBay was alerted; yet, in February the item was being

Figure 5

A Spiro forgery of the second stamp of the Virgin Island.



reoffered again and eBay was notified once more. This so-called 6d has one of the most easily detectable forged cancellations of the Hamburg forgers and the "imitation" itself is so poor that it does not need much elaboration. But who am I to criticize that? Sorry, I overlooked that it is "almost" imperforate. The litho stone is badly worn; a similar imitation from a less compromised stone can be seen at **Figure 5a**. This example was offered on

Figure 5a

A Spiro forgery of the second stamp of the Virgin Island with less compromised stone.



Figure 5b

A similar facsimile offered on Delcampe last August.



eBay at the end of August by a seller with 100% positive feedback. **Figure 5b** shows a similar facsimile offered on Delcampe in August.

Figure 5c

Another forgery with many problems.



Genuine examples of these early issues are not frequently offered on these internet platforms, certainly not as often as the forgeries, which gives little opportunity to the inexperienced buyer to see the "real thing." Furthermore, quite often, genuine examples have problems, some visible by the naked eye, some hidden, and I feel sorry for the buyer who is unaware of what is going on. **Figure 5c** is not the usual Spiro forgery; we have a different cancellation, the lined background is wrong, the physiognomy of St. Ursula is distorted, the halo looks like a piece of luggage, the left arm is basically naked, the mid-section of the first and second "S" in "ISLANDS" is different from the original in that it flows quickly to the lower part of the letter. Both letters start lower than the other letters in "ISLANDS." The forgery's value tablet at the bottom

Figure 5d
Enlarged copy of genuine 6d rose, issued in late 1866, early 1867.



has slender letters. **Figure 5d** shows a genuine example of the 6d rose issued in late 1866, early 1867.

Figure 6 shows another fabrication of the Spiro printing works; it was offered last July and described as “fine used.” In fact, both the stamp and postmark are forged.



Figure 6
Another fabrication of the Spiro printing works; it was offered last July and described as “fine used.” In fact, both the stamp and postmark are forged.

Even if you use a poorly illustrated catalogue you will figure out this is a forgery; you need not be a stamp expert. **Figure 6a** shows a genuine example of the 4d brown issued in 1867-8.



Figure 6a
Enlarged genuine example of the 4d brown issued in 1867-8.

Figure 7 and **Figure 8** give us an additional example of the Spiro Bros. workmanship offered last July. We know that unlike the Sperati forgeries, these imitations were not supposed to fool anyone, but 140 and more years after their manufacture there are still sellers who offer them as genuine. The back of the stamp was also shown by the seller, which is very generous of him as this allows us to confirm the poor state of the perforations as well as the trials and sticky situations this poor thing went through before landing on eBay. Oh, did you notice we keep seeing the same “dotty” postmark? Vive la France!

Figure 7a shows a forgery of the 1/- with crimson frame



Figure 7 (left) and Figure 8 give us an additional example of the Spiro Bros. workmanship offered last July.

superimposed; this type features the same mistakes of the type with single frame – more details soon.

Figure 7a
This example shows a forgery of the 1/- with crimson frame superimposed.



Figure 7b gives us a clear idea that the forger had hardly seen an original of this 1867 stamp, but his imitation of 10 years later was so much in demand that he forgot the perforations. What a bargain, especially for a two-color job! The “G” of “SHILLING” has a horizontal, protruding serif that does not exist in the design of the original. The “A” in “ISLANDS” also differs from the original. Lithography was used both for the original and the forgery; however, inaccuracies and wrong perforations betrayed the forger. Items like these were produced by the Spiro printing works in such quantities that many years later Geneva-based Fournier was still selling them as “facsimiles.”

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Figure 7b
The forger had hardly seen an original of this 1867 stamp, but his imitation of 10 years later was so much in demand that he forgot the perforations.



Figure 7c

This is another Spiro forgery often offered by Fournier in later years.



Figure 7c was offered by a seller with 100% positive feedback. Despite such glorious ratings, this is another Spiro forgery often offered by Fournier in later years. It is reported here to give the reader an idea of how many of these spurious items make their rounds on the mega platforms. **Figure 7d** is another visitation of **Figure 7a**; this was a July 2013 golden opportunity to taste a

Figure 7d

Another visitation of Figure 7a; this was a July 2013 golden opportunity to taste a truly sour lemon.



truly sour lemon. **Figure 7e** is another temptation from the garden of Eden, perforations trimmed and perhaps

Figure 7e

Perforations trimmed and perhaps a couple scissor cuts to give greater eye-appeal!



a couple scissor cuts to give it greater eye-appeal. This forgery was seen on eBay in early January 2014. **Figure 7f** shows a genuine example (double frame) of the One Shilling 1867.

On the 4d forgeries, by now you must have noticed the colons between "VIRGIN : ISLANDS" and "FOUR : PENCE." We are very grateful to the forgers because these gratuitous clues ensure that we are not fooled by their high workmanship as displayed in **Figure 9** and **Figure 10**. How considerate of them. Offered at the end

Figure 7f

A genuine example (double frame) of the One Shilling 1867.



of July 2013, this perforations-trimmed forgery did not seem to convince many. The back shows the effects of inflation as the figures keep going up, and the buyer may think it is a good investment despite my disparaging comments stemming from ... envy.

Figure 11 helps our eyes relax a little; there is no doubt

*Figure 9 (left) and Figure 10*

Offered at the end of July 2013, this perforations-trimmed forgery did not seem to convince many.

this is a genuine stamp, but a rat found the left bottom corner particularly tasty – the seller had 100% positive feedback. One wonders what the 99% or 98% positive feedback sellers must be like. You see, it all depends how many thousand items you sell in a month. If you sell one negative feedback item out of 100 in a given month, your reputation leaves something to be desired, but if you sell

Antigua For Sale

For sale: approximately 400-500 Antigua covers (commercial and FDCs), usage 1960-80s. Mostly St. Johns cancels. 60+ registered, 30+ homemade newspaper wrappers, 80+ oversized. Majority legal size envelopes. Several with large blocks of postage. Many different commems used as well. \$125.00 + p/p. Contact Tom Giraldi, teg43@aol.com.

Figure 11
The lower corner of this genuine stamp was a snack for a rat.



five negative feedback items out of a thousand, you will hardly scratch your 100% positive feedback and at worst you get a gentle slap on your wrist -- after all you are generating some revenue for the platform.

Figure 12 shows the same old Spiro imitation with a different type of fancy postmark consisting of a cluster of rhomboid dots. This was part of their arsenal and was

Figure 12
The same old Spiro imitation with a different type of fancy postmark consisting of a cluster of rhomboid dots.



applied indiscriminately to forgeries of the Italian States, France, European countries and, as we can see, on forgeries of stamps of the British West Indies. In fact, **Figure 13** shows a sheetlet of 25 Parma 40¢ Spiro forgeries with the typical assortment of their fancy postmarks. One set of postmarks fits all, why bother with imitating genuine postmarks?

After enduring martyrdom, St. Ursula would have thought that the worst was over. **Figure 14** shows us what a forger can do with an innocent Virgin: her halo looks like a pancake, her facial expression looks dismayed, she has a huge eyebrow, the left foot is just about missing, the lanterns are thicker than in the original, the “S”

Figure 14
This shows us what a forger can do with an innocent Virgin stamp.

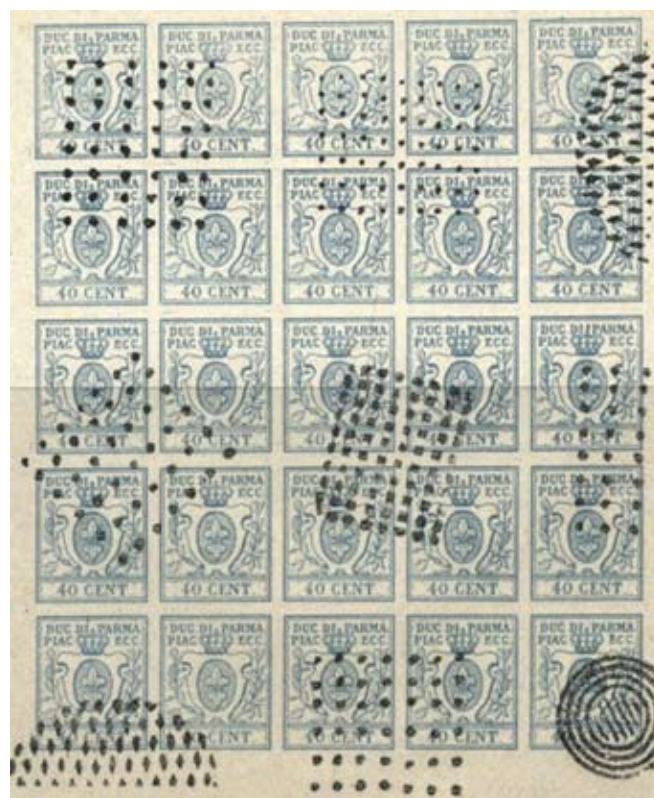


Figure 13
A sheetlet of 25 Parma 40¢ Spiro forgeries with the typical assortment of their fancy postmarks.

and “S” of “ISLANDS” are different from the genuine, so are the two “Ns” in “PENNY.” On the bright side, we have a new grid-like postmark. This beauty was offered on eBay in September by a California-based seller.

In comparison, the **Figure 15** Spiro imitation looks like

Figure 14a
genuine example of the 1d green issued in late 1866-early 1867.



a work by Michelangelo -- it appeared on eBay in November. The gap between “TWO” and “PENNY” is too big; the halo is clumsy; the lanterns are smaller and different in shape; the lines forming the background are not

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as thin and as tight as they should be. A month earlier on Delcampe, I had seen a twin example (**Figure 16**) described as “not expertised” and offered for \$4.95. It is bad enough to buy a sour grape like this one, imagine

Figure 15
This Spiro imitation looks like a work by Michelangelo -- it appeared on eBay in November.



wasting \$50 to get it expertised! **Figure 14a** shows a genuine example of the 1d green issued in late 1866-early 1867.

During the last 20 years, “collections” have proven very popular, both with dealers and collectors. The term itself has become synonymous with “bargain” and there is little one can do to convince bargain hunters that it is not always so. In the same trend is the widespread perception that buying or selling at auction is the best thing one can do. Not quite would be my answer -- it depends on a number of factors.

Figure 16
This twin example was described as “not expertised” and offered for \$4.95.



Spicing up (“salting”) collections is something that transpires occasionally at auctions where you are often told that “viewing is recommended.” After you view you can make up your mind, but many buyers like to gamble, and when they see others bidding fiercely they think it ought to be the bargain of the century: most unlikely. A number of collectors buy sight unseen, or cat in the bag: risky and often disappointing. Descriptions are often conjured up to get your adrenaline going; the wording is often well crafted and it is wise to consider what it does not say before making up your mind.

In concluding, I would like to suggest to collectors, old and new, to rely on reputable dealers rather than pursuing bargains on internet platforms. On their part, reputable dealers should stop feeding the mega platforms

with 15-20% revenue and concentrate on organizing a professional website for all legitimate sellers, including collectors who can provide credentials and references.

Remember, any potential buyer will be extremely hesitant if he sees any of the forged stamps pictured in this article in one of your collections. He may venture to make an offer, but it will be very low and highly disappointing. One bargain on the net can cause serious damage to your pocket and to your philatelic estate. Is it worth it? I don’t think so.

LETTERS

The date

I wonder if the “Nov 19 1931” date (Darryl Fuller, “Is this a new Jamaica flight cover?” in Vol. 54, No. 1 [January-March 2014]) really marks the introduction by Pan Am of the Sikorsky S-40 flying boat into service and piloted by Lindbergh to capture maximum attention.

Both St. Lucia and Cuba issued postage stamps showing the aircraft for the 50th anniversary of the flight. Prior to the November date, Pan Am had been flying S-38 amphibians in the Caribbean. In any event the entire January issue is first rate.

Gene Fricks, FRPSL.

Mr. Fricks is editor of The Collectors Club Philatelist.

Unreported St. Vincent revenue



Steven Zirinsky reported in late December that he received a special Christmas present when he received a letter from St. Vincent with a previously unreported revenue stamp (shown here). The date of use was February 28, 2001, he said.

BG Bits and Pieces

*With Dr. P.J. Ramphal
Of Canada*

Due to the pressure and constraints of work, Dr. Raj Ramphal is taking a short break this issue from his British Guiana and Jamaica column. He promises to return in July!

We mourn passing of two esteemed philatelists and long-time BCPSG members

The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group lost two of its highly esteemed members and long-time philatelists in the past few months with the passing of Robert “Bob” Topaz of Florida, and Robert Devaux of St. Lucia. Charles E. Cwiakala and Guy Kilburn have written remembrances.

ROBERT “BOB” TOPAZ

By Charles E. Cwiakala

Robert (“Bob”) Topaz, of Jupiter, Florida, passed peacefully of natural causes on Sunday, November 17, 2013, at the age of 94.

My wife, Teresa, and I were very saddened to be made aware of the news announcing Bob’s death. I have many fond memories of visiting his Waban, Massachusetts (Boston suburb) home in the early 1960s and later years, and he nurturing me on my then-beginner’s Jamaica collection. He and his first wife, Muriel, warmly hosted me to numerous home-cooked dinners, or dining at his country club, as well as many evenings in his downstairs stamp den chatting about Jamaican stamps, cancellations and covers.

All facets of Jamaica’s philatelia remained Bob’s collecting passion. He publishing many primarily post-1900 pioneering postal history research articles and monographs on the subjects. Being the lone U.S.-based philatelic society to his interests in existence at the time, Bob joined the Jamaica Study Group (JSG), which was founded by Howard J. Gaston of West Granby, Connecticut; Howard also acted as that group’s Secretary-Treasurer.

Bob eventually was elected President of the JSG, but resigned from that position on March 11, 1961, citing in his letter of resignation his disappointment with the lack of progress being made to promote JSG interests. Bob and other fellow Jamaica collectors, all being members of the JSG, understandably were unhappy with management of the JSG, as the founder also directed that all correspondence related to Jamaica’s philately should be directed to the (his) Secretary-Treasurer’s office previous to its ultimate distribution.

Single-handedly, Bob proceeded to create a more open and collector-friendly society, which, originally, was organized to address the-then designated British West Indies. On April 10, 1961, Bob forwarded his let-

ter of intent to create the new group to six of his contemporary BWI collecting stalwarts: Byron R. Cameron, Milton Erickson, Russell A. Gibson, Alfred N. Johnson, Reginald A. Lant and Clinton L. von Pohle.

By the end of July 1961, the British West Indies Federation Study Group (BWIFSG) was named, was organized, was vibrant, and was seeking to broaden its roster of members, not only with those resident in the U.S. and U.K., but elsewhere.

During this time, and as suggested by Bob, because of the dissolution of the British West Indies Federation in 1962, the society was renamed the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. Soon afterwards, and together with Gale J. Raymond, Bob was the coordinator responsible for the merging of the Bahamas Postal History Study Group-U.S.A. into the BCPSG (in 1961). He also was a principal responsible for the Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society-U.K. merging into our group in 1988.

Under Bob’s leadership, his publicizing of the BCPSG in the U.S. and U.K. philatelic press, and other never-ending promotional efforts, the membership mushroomed during its first 10 years of existence: 1961 (82), 1962 (107), 1963 (130), 1964 (150), 1965 (178), 1966 (183), 1967 (200), 1968 (278), 1969 (346), 1970 (405). The BCPSG of today owes very much to the founder’s efforts and dedication to our society.

On a personal side, when he was the Director of Operations for Boston’s Sandler Shoe Company, he visited the company’s downtown Chicago offices regularly (gifting my wife, Teresa, with upscale short and tall dress leather boots on several occasions!), and we had many get-togethers at my home and elsewhere. During one of these visits during the mid-1960s, I introduced him to Chicagoans Paul Rohloff and Ray Vogel, two names very well known to the U.S. philatelic fraternity, and both of whom, sadly, also have passed.

Because of that introduction and our subsequent visits to Paul’s home together with Ray, a hold was put on Tom Foster’s Robson Lowe-published *Jamaica: The Postal History, 1662-1860* handbook. As you thumb through that book, which was published in 1968, you will note many credits labeled “Rohloff Collection.”

Much to Bob’s (and many others) disappointment, Paul’s fantastic and extremely comprehensive Jamaica collection was sold intact to Hugh Wood, who approached Paul’s widow previous to any of us being aware that she wanted to dispose of all of Paul’s collections.

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Bob is survived by his second wife, Florence Lister, his children Donald and Elizabeth, and his grandchildren Alexander and Benjamin. At the family's request, remembrances in his name may be made to the Combined Jewish Appeal, 126 High Street, Boston, MA 02110.

I would suggest that a BCPSG memorial be created in Bob's name in the form of an annual "Bob Topaz" award for British Caribbean philatelia at a major exhibition event (alternating yearly between U.S. and U.K. venues). He was the sole founder and single-handed eager recruiter for our group, creating a society which we all enjoy to this day, and such a presentation would be a notable memorial. I will be the first to support such a fund.

ROBERT DEVAUX

By Guy Kilburn

St. Lucia has lost a true icon. At the age of 79, Robert Devaux passed away on April 16, 2013, leaving a legacy that will live on in St. Lucia forever. He was a true patriot and his love for his country was evident in everything he did. He was a conservationist, an historian, a philatelist and a well-known author whose passion was the preservation of St. Lucia's heritage. His accomplishments were many and varied but most St. Lucians consider the creation of Pigeon Island National Park as his greatest achievement. However, he was proudest of establishing the St. Lucia National Archives for the preservation of the island's records.

He was born in Castries in 1934 into a family that has lived on St. Lucia for more than 275 years, and he devoted most of his life to studying and documenting the history of St. Lucia and the island's natural habitat and ecosystems, as well as its rich and diverse cultural heritage. He was a strong advocate for the preservation of the island's archaeological sites and its historical relics. He played a major role in helping to raise public awareness of the importance of environmental conservation and the protection of St. Lucia's unique ecology, wildlife and landscape. In 1991 he was awarded an OBE for his achievements and outstanding service to his country.

Over the years he wrote and published several books and articles including the monumental *St. Lucia Historic Sites* (1975). He is also the author of *They Called Us Brigands: The Saga of St. Lucia's Freedom Fighters* (1997), *A Century of Coaling in St. Lucia* (1975), and *History and Analysis of Coastal Processes at Pigeon Island* (1993). In 2012 he co-authored *A History of St. Lucia* with Jolien Harmsen and Guy Ellis. This book covers the entire sweep of the island's history in great detail.

Unfortunately, his voice was often one in the wilder-

ness and he had to spend far too much time fighting to be heard. He lost some of his hardest-fought battles.

When he tried to stop the development of land between the Pitons, he was relieved of his duties on the board of the Development Control Authority. His proposal to create a wetland at La Tourney was shot down by the Port Authority, and his effort to save the four mile long East Coast Trail, which he built with his own hands, was unsuccessful when the developers of Le Paradis Resort objected. He had a vision for St. Lucia; it was one that put conservation and heritage preservation on a par with development. He was also a realist; he never tried to prevent development, instead he preached sustainable development. He never rejected a project without suggesting an alternative that would accomplish similar economic goals without compromising the nation's heritage. He despaired over how much had been lost, but wanted St. Lucians to fight for what little is left of their beaches, rainforests, wildlife, and historic sites. Fight he did.

In addition to all his other achievements, Robert was a lifelong and dedicated philatelist. His primary interest was, of course, St. Lucia, but he also collected the entire world. He was the St. Lucia Group Leader for the BCPSG and was the longest serving member of the BWISC, having joined in 1959. He contributed many articles over the years to both, and many collectors are familiar with his monograph, *The Early Airmails of St. Lucia*. For many years he was on the Government of St. Lucia's Stamp Advisory Committee and his influence can be seen in several of the stamps issued in the 1970s.

He was always helpful to other St. Lucia collectors and mentored more than a few. There is not a single collector of St. Lucia stamps and postal history that does not owe a debt of gratitude to Robert Devaux for all his discoveries and original research. At the time of his passing, he was crafting his multi-volume *Philatelic History of St. Lucia* and he had the knowledge and historical resources to pen the definitive work. Sadly, that history will not now be written.

He was a quiet and very private man completely devoted to his family. Those who knew him and were fortunate enough to be his friend will miss his knowledge of everything St. Lucian, his wry humor, and his calm and ever steady demeanor. Robert is survived by Pamela, his wife of 53 years, and his children Stephen, Gayle, Tracey and Richard, as well as nine grandchildren. We offer our heartfelt condolences. He will be missed.

(NOTE: Mr. Kilburn's article first appeared in the BWISC Bulletin, No. 239, December 2013, and is used with permission.)

The 1907 Jamaica earthquake; unique Bermuda letter of 1706

By John Scott, JP, CC, FRPSL

I am writing in my capacity as Hon. Librarian of the Postal History Society. In view of the 1907 earthquake article in the last edition of the *Journal* (Vol.

54, No. 1, p. 21), your readers might be interested in the photographic postcard which I attach. The street shown is not named and neither is the printer. The message was written at Kingston on February 18, and the card was posted at Spanish Town on the 19th, passing through Kingston later the same day. It reads: "Nothing but walls left here, but in most streets, not even the walls remain – such a sad scene of desolation – City entirely destroyed."

The third illustration is taken from an article published in *Postal History* in December 2013 – as far as I know, the Barbadoes postmark is unique and consequently may be of interest. The bulk of the article concerned South

Carolina and so the edited part which refers to this mark appears below:

The letter illustrated here was written by Andrew Auchinleck, a missionary from The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, to John Chamberlayne, the

Secretary of the Society, at Petty France in Westminster in 1706.

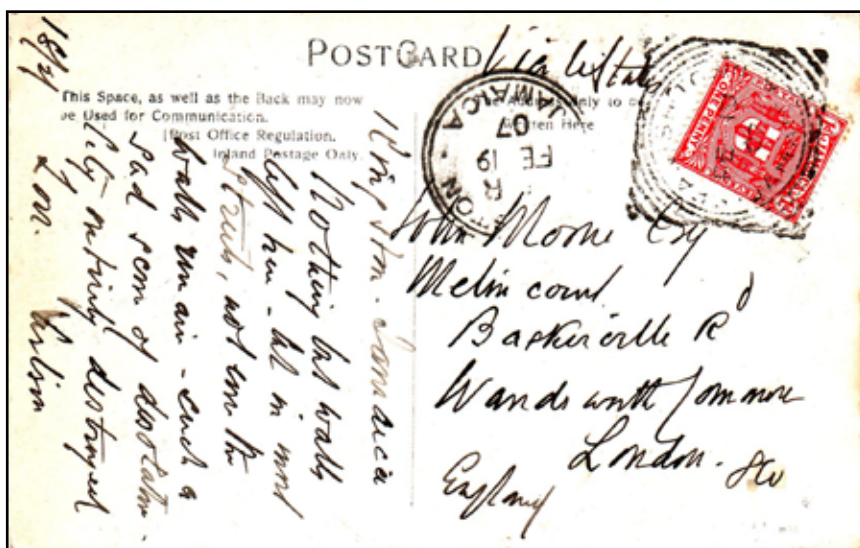
Dated "Bermuda 29th October," he writes of his delight at being asked to stay on the island as Minister of St. George's Town by the Governor, Benjamin Bennet:

"I have good reason to bless God who by his providence ordered my continuing here, for in Carolina there rages such a pestilential fever as carries off great numbers."

A post office did not open in Bermuda until 1784 and so he took advantage of the sloops sailing regularly to Barbados to ask the Reverend Adam Justice to post his letter to London. The style of postmark, with the joined "AR" and "AD," does not appear to be recorded in the literature, but Ted Proud does refer to a letter dated November 29, 1705 from the Postmasters General in London to Alexander Skein, the Deputy in Barbados, enclosing two stamps for use on all letters from the island to



Postcard dated February 19, 1907 from Spanish Town, Jamaica. The message (below) was written in Kingston on the previous day and tells of the earthquake which struck the city. The photograph on the card (above) shows destruction on an unidentified street.



London. Proud suggests that the marks were either lost at sea or taken by pirates and it seems likely that this is the first recorded example of these marks. The London bishopmark of February 7, 1707 suggests that the let-

Continued on page 24

BWISC celebrating its 60th anniversary with auction, events

By George Dunbar

As you may know, the BWISC is celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2014. BCPSG members are welcome to our meeting at London Stampex this autumn, if they are in town, and may also be attracted to the display at the Royal Philatelic Society London in November. (Those planning to come to the RPSL event should let us know in advance.)



**Leeward Islands
Sexagenary
Set bearing
ULTRAMAR
handstamp:
believed to be
one of seven
sets existing.**

We are also hosting a special auction in April. The auction catalogue is on our website now (<http://www.bwisc.org/BWISC-Auction/BWISC-Auction.html>). There will be some “top luxe” starred items that Simon has managed to persuade people to sell. I am sending images of examples as a taster! Anyone can bid on those

“starred” items (but pay a small commission), though they’d have to join BWISC if they bid on the “staple fare.”

Gibbons Stamp Monthly is planning a British West Indies special in April in recognition of BWISC 60th Anniversary, and members will have articles of interest. Here are some of our other activities during this special anniversary year:

- Saturday, April 26: AGM and auction at Spink, London. Auction starts at 2:15 p.m. (viewing is noon to 1 p.m.)

- Saturday, September 20, 2:30 - 4.30 p.m. at Stampex, Islington, London (Room H) -- informal displays.

- Thursday, November 6, formal display at the Royal Philatelic Society, Marylebone, London.

Our website and contact details for anyone wanting more information is at www.bwisc.org, secretary@bwisc.org.

(Mr. Dunbar is Secretary of the BWISC.)

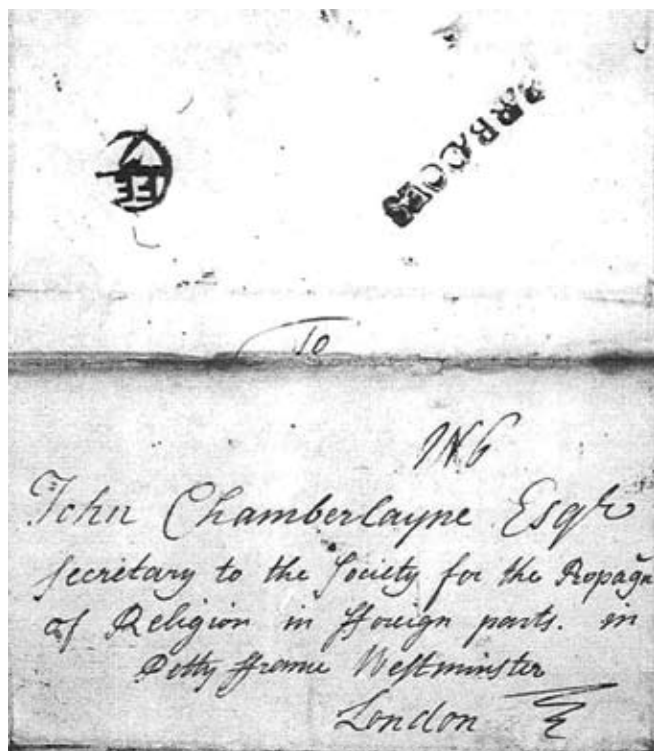


**Cayman Islands, SG#35
2½d on 4d.**



**Tobago SG#6 m/s
1d on half of 6d
unused.**

Unique Bermuda letter of 1706 ————— Continued from page 23



Letter written in 1706 by Andrew Auchinleck and dated “Bermuda 29th October.”

ter was carried on the Dummer packet *Frankland* which was due in London in late January.

REFERENCE

Proud, Edward. *The Postal History of Barbados and Grenada*. Edward Proud: Heathfield, England, 2006.

Illustrations reproduced courtesy of Lambeth Palace Library (the London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury) from Volume 17 of the Society's records.

WANTED

Wanted: KGVI and early QEII Bahamas/Jamaica postmarks. I pay good prices! Contact David Horry by email at: horry@talk21.com

Corrigenda

In the last *Journal* (Vol. 54, No. 1 [January 2014]), Ed Barrow's article titled “A Perplexing Tobago Card” contained a typo. “Monrovia” missionaries were indeed Moravian missionaries. Our apologies to Mr. Barrow.

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BCPSG Exhibits and Awards

By Paul Larsen

Awards Chairman

Following is a listing of recent British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (BCPSG) member exhibit participants and awards.

TEXPEX 2013

March 1-3, 2013

Grapevine, Texas

Peter Elias

Four Rings - The History of Audi

Silver, AAPE Award

APC to SSSMC Conversion and APC -

The 2nd Conversion (exhibits combined)

Silver, APS Research Medal, AAPE Creativity Award and Women Exhibitors Sterling

Achievement Award

Note: To help understand the U.S. Postal Service jargon used above, APC = Automated Postal Center Conversion.

SSSMC is what the APC kiosks were branded for a brief time: Self Service Shipping and Mailing Center.

The Super Target Dallas Fort Worth Mail & Go Trials (SF)
Silver

MID-CITIES STAMP EXPO 2013

November 9-10

Grapevine, Texas

Peter Elias

Automated Postal Conversions - Date Code 215-287

Grand Award, Gold

SANDICAL 2013

March 24-26

San Diego, California

Dan Walker

Soruth: A Princely Indian State

Grand Award, Gold, AAPE Excellence in Exhibiting: Title Page Award

SOUTHEASTERN STAMP EXPO 2014

January 31-February 2

Norcross, Georgia

Regis Hoffman

Letters to the Stars!

Silver, Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement Award

BARBADOS: THE BRITANNIA ISSUES

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Parish Bootheel Cancels

Perforation Types

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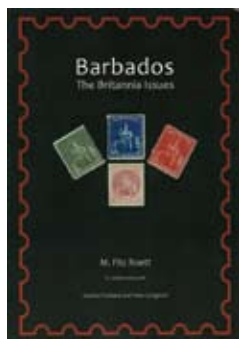
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Membership Director's Report

By Bob Stewart

New Members

All new applicants listed in the last issue of the Journal have been accepted as members of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. Congratulations and welcome to the Group.

New Applicants

Daniel Herz, 5568 NW 124th Ave., Coral Springs, FL 33076-3431 USA. Email: daracah@myacc.net. Collects Cayman Islands and Caribbean KGVI. Sponsored by Bob Stewart.

Ann Wood, 975 Thomas Place, Vista, CA 92084 USA; Email: awood2053@gmail.com. Collects British Guiana and Guiana. Sponsored by Bob Stewart.

Dr. Alan C. Wheeler, 30 Lynbrook Road, Frontenac, MO 63131-2924 USA. Email: awheeler@umsl.edu. Collects Bermuda, Bahamas and general British Caribbean. Sponsored by Bob Stewart.

William B. Mahoney, 8353 East Kenyon Dr., Denver, CO 80237 USA. Collects British Colonies 1900-1950, especially used and postal history. Member of APS, King George VI Collector's Society, The Ceylon Study Circle, The Great Britain & Commonwealth Collectors Club in Denver. Sponsored by Bob Stewart.

Address changes

A.E. White, 119 Jalan Dermawan, Hillview Estates, Singapore 66968 SINGAPORE

Kristy Ramasir, 2191 Yonge St., Unit 2304, Toronto, ON M4S 3H8 CANADA

Reinstatement

Mr. Robert deKeyser

Resignations

Joe Hickey, Tom Reyman, Robert Shoemaker

Donations - Thank You!

Thomas Olson, Gerald Schroedl, Reid Hill, Robert Roswell, John Pare, Richard Foden, Terrence Gamble, John Seidl, Garry Stone, Michael Clark, Richard Maundrell, Steven Berlin, Keith Moh, Barry Friedman, Patricia Hoppe, Patricia Capill, Bruce Aitkin, Peter Colwell, Charles Grassman, Russ Stichler

Dale Wade has converted his membership into a Life Membership!

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE PUBLICATIONS

KING GEORGE V KEY PLATES OF THE IMPERIUM POSTAGE AND REVENUE DESIGN

by Peter Fernbank, FRPSL

This is a second edition; since its publication in 1997 this work has become the standard reference work for collectors of the issues of this King George V Universal key plate style. It was awarded the prestigious Crawford Medal by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately published in book form during the relevant period. This study encompasses the issues of all of the 17 colonies that employed this design with many illustrations in full colour. From a comprehensive examination of the De La Rue and Crown Agents archives it has been possible to produce a listing of every printing made of this key plate style. A wealth of additional information has been added to this basic framework that adds flesh to the bare bones of printing statistics. A4 size, hardbacked with dust jacket, (xx) + 488 pages.

PRICE: £49.00 (approx. \$80). BWISC Members' Discount – £5.00 (approx. \$8.00).

These books and others published by the BWISC can be ordered from:– David Druett, Pennymead Books, 1 Brewerton St., Knaresborough, N. YORKS. HG5 8AZ .Tel:– 01423 865962 or E-mail: Pennymead@aol.com. Orders will be dispatched with invoice and prompt payment is requested. Payment may be made by Credit Card. Orders from outside UK will be dispatched per airmail M Bag. This service requires a street address and is not available to PO Boxes. All books published by the British West Indies Study Circle are displayed on www.bwisc.org and on www.pennymead.com.

President's Message

By Duane Larson

It has been a challenging winter here in Chicago, as well as the rest of the U.S., with the snowfall hitting new highs and the temperature reaching new lows. The only good part is that it has given me more time to work on my collections and exhibits. I hope it has benefitted you in the same way.

By the time you get this *Journal*, our 2014 Annual General Meeting held at the St. Louis Expo Show will be history. One of the things we will have discussed is the problem of decreasing membership numbers. I think every stamp club from the local to the international level is facing this situation. Memberships are dwindling, dues revenues are falling and new members are not beating our doors down.

With fewer and fewer members, we find ourselves in a quandary: we can raise the dues to cover the cost of running the club, and possibly lose more members because of the increase ... or, decrease the services provided to current members (smaller journals, fewer meetings, less activities) ... or, merge with another club in hopes of maintaining our base membership. Or ... we could recruit new members to a club that is expanding their activities, publishing a great journal (like ours!) filled with members' interesting articles (like ours!) and stand out as a club that is leading the way to a new surge in philatelic interest. If each member would invite just one person to join our group, we could double the size of the BCPSG this year ... (Duh!)

Seriously, we all know at least one collector who is interested in the Caribbean area that we could invite to join. Show them a copy of the *Journal*, give them an application, and introduce them to one of the best specialized groups in philately. And don't forget to write that

article for the *Journal*, too! One of the best ways to promote our BCPSG is to enter a Caribbean exhibit in one of the many shows around the country.

Local, regional or national shows are always looking for exhibits, and the BCPSG provides awards for many of these. We have the James Stern Award for a first time award at a national show.

Lastly, the annual dues notice went out in the last issue of the *Journal*. If you have not sent in your dues for 2014, consider renewing for two or three years, to avoid a dues increase.

An additional donation in any amount would also help in keeping our group strong!



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We've all got them, and this journal is no different!
Deadlines for receiving material for publication (and that means in the editor's hands, not mailed) and the anticipated mailing date for each of the quarterly issues of this publication are found at the bottom of page 3.
Please take note of these dates!

THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC STUDY GROUP and
THE BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE



TRINIDAD A Philatelic History to 1913

by Sir John Marriott, KCVO, RDP, FRPSL, Michael Medlicott
and Reuben A. Ramkissoon, FRPSL

This book was conceived by John Marriott to follow on from his original 1962 Study Paper; unfortunately he did not live to complete the work. With the help, not only of the two co-authors, but many other Trinidad collectors, our two societies have collaborated to publish this book. As the title suggests, the book covers the Trinidad-only period before the advent of Trinidad & Tobago issues. It details all Postage Stamp issues within the period, as well as the Postal Markings; the coverage includes Postal Stationery, Postage Dues, and Revenue and Official Stamps. The final chapter examines the 'D22' markings of Ciudad Bolivar; the 'TOO LATE' marks, Ship Letters, Military Mail and many other more esoteric aspects of Trinidad philately. There are five Appendices which include a listing of Trinidad Governors and Postmasters-General, details of the printings of all the Postage Stamps as well as a census of the Lady McLeod stamp with many of these illustrated in colour. And lastly, there is a long list describing many of the early Trinidad covers, pre-1860. Price: \$70.00. BCPSG Members' Price: \$63.00

This fine book is limited to 400 copies and your individually numbered copy can be ordered from:- Edward Barrow, 16704 Briardale Road, Derwood, MD 20855, Tel:- 301-816-1157 or E-mail:- e.barrow1@gmail.com. For members in Britain or Europe, orders should be sent to David Druett, Pennymead Auctions, 1, Brewerton St., Knaresborough, N. YORKS. HG5 8AZ. Tel:- 01423 865962 or Fax:- 01423 547057 or E-mail:- Pennymead@aol.com. Or log on to www.pennymead.com, where the book can be ordered with secure credit card check out facilities.

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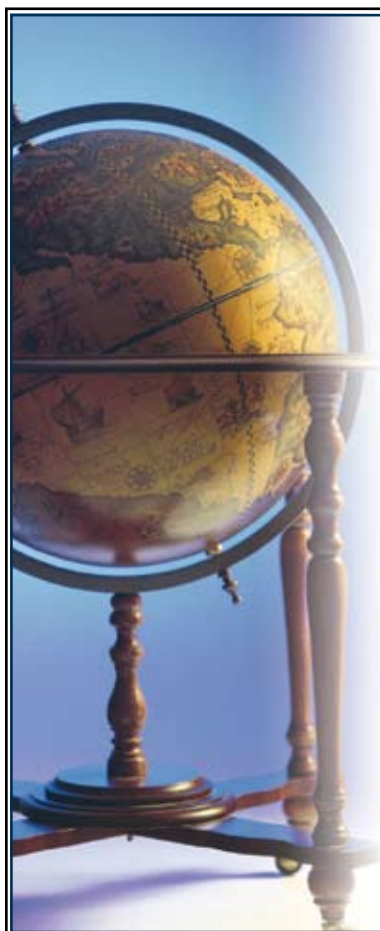
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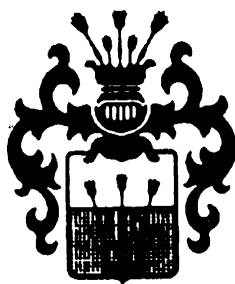
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