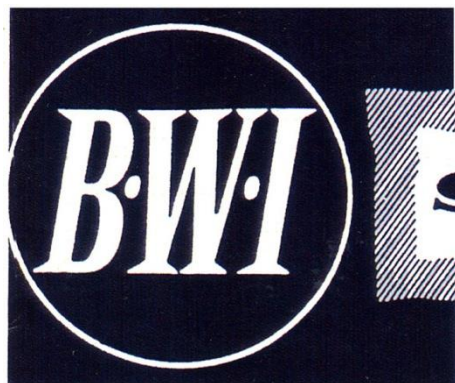




STUDY CIRCLE

Is this 'All Pines' postmark a new discovery?



See Kevin May's British Honduras postal markings article.



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BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

OBJECTIVES

- 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 of BWI interest. The BWISC BULLETIN was presented with the ABPS Specialist Society journal Award in 2004.
- 3 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aims of the Circle. The BWISC has published over 20 books or Study Papers over the last 12 years, some of which have received prestigious awards.
- 4 TO hold an annual auction for the sale of members' material.
Normally, prior to the auction, the BWISC holds its Annual General Meeting.
- 5 TO organise occasional display meetings including a biennial weekend Convention and bourse.
This offers further opportunities for members to buy and sell material.
- 6 TO maintain an internet website where information about Circle activities is publicised and where much other relevant information is posted.
- 7 TO maintain a specialised library from which home members can borrow books.

**Opinions expressed in articles in this Bulletin are those of the authors
and not necessarily those of the BWISC, its Editor or its Officers.**

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday 28 April 2018 AGM & Auction at Spink, 69 Southampton Row, Bloomsbury, London, WC1B 4ET. Auction viewing from 12 noon, AGM at 1:15pm, followed by auction at 2:15pm finishing at 5:30pm.

Thursday 3 May 2018 1pm James Podger will be presenting Cayman Islands (Jamaica used-in to QE2) at the Royal Philatelic Society London, guests can attend, so please book your places via James at pee-j-aggie-boo@ntlworld.com.

Saturday 12 May 2018 Circle Table at WORPEX, Perdiswell Leisure Centre, Worcester, WR3 8DX

Saturday 9 June 2018 Circle Table at SWINPEX, St Joseph's RC College, Swindon, SN3 3LR

BWISC achieve medals

At the New Zealand Philatelic Literature Exhibition 2017:

In the Books & Monographs Class: Antigua – the Stamps and Postal History by Charles Freeland FRPSL and John Jordan. (Large Gold with felicitations for research)

In the Periodicals class: BWI Study Circle Bulletin, Nos. 244 to 251 (Large Vermeil)

At Finlandia 2017:

Antigua – the Stamps and Postal History by Charles Freeland FRPSL and John Jordan achieves Gold with Special Prize for treatment.

BWISC Auction Deadline

The deadline for receiving material for auction in any one year is 10 January (or the first weekday thereafter). Material is received and welcomed at any time during the preceding year, and those submitting items for sale close to the deadline may in some cases learn that similar items already processed for sale preclude the acceptance of competing items for the forthcoming sale.

The Editor wishes to thank members for their overwhelming response to his request for more articles and apologise to those authors whose work does not feature in this edition. Please be assured that your material will feature in due course.

CONVENTION REPORT**BY GEORGE DUNBAR**

The 2017 Convention was held at The Abbey Hotel, Redditch, 14 and 15 October. Saturday opened with the bourse, and the first formal display. Michael Medlicott presented a selection from his BWI revenue display at the RPSL in 2016. There was some extraordinary material, with die proofs, revenues used on documents, and high face value revenues used postally, on cover. Michael observed that the Barefoot catalogues could tend to price towards the middle, too high for more common items, too low for the scarce. He explained that revenue collecting had opened an affordable avenue for his interests in much earlier years, and continued to be a rewarding area. James Podger gave the vote of thanks, and commented on the quality of the material presented, noting, as illustration, the freshness of colour of many examples. There can hardly have been a finer distillation of BWI revenue material.

Saturday afternoon mini-displays were given over to Jamaica, and drifted closer to a formal display. This was a sunset showing for the superbly integrated sheets that Steve Jarvis and Paul Wright had presented to the RPSL earlier this year, book-ended by frames from Paul Farrimond, and then afterwards a frame from Anthony Wilkinson that included delightful misspellings in registration labels, and a cover with a scarce modern inflation period registered rate.

Steve Jarvis examined the 1920s pictorial series, whose beauty had first attracted him to collect Jamaica, as well as presenting selected laureated head die proofs. Paul Wright displayed essays from various printers tendering for the 1929 issue. He argued that an engine-turned imprint in the margin was used to reduce paper curl prior to the introduction of rotary presses. He also presented rarely exhibited areas such as parcel post, telegraph forms and registration marks. Paul Farrimond concluded the display with postage due marks, providing a detailed explanation of their evolution, having started the show with pre-stamp material.

Graham Booth displayed maritime material from around the Caribbean, including a particularly early Dummer cover from 1704, pre-stamp Jamaica covers, including Commercial Rooms marks. He charted the troubled early years of the RMSPC, when they suffered through over-ambitious routing, the loss of ships, and other difficulties. He also covered private contractors and explained early rates, emphasising the importance of realising that the master's gratuity never formed part of the rate marked on a cover. Cayman Islands provisionals on cover, including manuscript provisionals, were another outstanding feature. Giving the vote of thanks, Simon Richards drew attention to the range, the quality, and in many cases the immense scarcity of the material on show.

Mini-displays on Sunday afternoon explored Caymans, including the intriguing and possibly scandalous 2½d on 4d Caymans stamp, and the Caymans centennial issue of 1934 (Darcy, Booth, & Podger), the Trinidad red cross label and War Tax overprints (Ian Potter), the Bahamas Staircase issue (Peter Fernbank), postal stationery of Grenada (Simon Richards), an inspiring tour of Barbados modern postmarks and current postal practices (Jonathan Guy), and some more Barbados, with a touch of social philately (Richard Stupples). A wonderful range of topics.

The Experts' Table was once more a popular event. The carefully explained analysis of items was a philatelic tutorial of the highest standard, and we marvelled at the extraordinary extent of the knowledge of Michael Hamilton and Simon Goldblatt, to whom great thanks are due. Thanks, too, to Richard Stupples for lending us his digital microscope.

There were several standing displays, including Alister Kinnon's fine display of St. Lucia airmail with first flight and crash mail, Michael Medlicott's manuscript cancels from a range of territories, Simon Richards' British Guiana, and Richard Stupples' Barbados, which included some stunningly accurate modern facsimiles of classic stamps.

At dinner on Saturday, the President paid tribute to members who had died in the previous two years, Keith Bayley, Brian Brookes, Charles Freeland, Michael Hellings, John Knight, Don Napier, Brian Rodgers, and Tim Tweddell. Collett Award winners for 2017 were presented: Freeland and Jordan for *Antigua*; Mike Rego for his three-part Bulletin article *Trinidad, The Orinoco Line*. Michael Oliver also signed the roll for his 2015 Best Bulletin Article award. Steve Jarvis presented Paul Farrimond with his award for the *Military Mail* volume of the *Jamaica Encyclopaedia*.

Across the Convention activities, two or three themes came to the fore. First, the Circle is a repository of enormous scholarship, of meticulous research and a desire to carefully weigh evidence in coming to conclusions about the production of stamps, interpreting rates, discriminating the genuine, and on. Second, while some great material is expensive, there is merit and enjoyment to be found, at relatively low cost, in some less travelled areas, and in contemporary postal history. Third, philatelic societies must in these days reflect on how to maintain and renew their vigour.

CONVENTION 2017 PHOTOGRAPHS

BY NIGEL CHANDLER



Graham Booth displaying maritime mail.



The Bourse.



Steve Jarvis and Paul Farrimond.



Graham Booth with John Jordan.



Michael Oliver receiving the 2015 best Bulletin award from Graham Booth.



Mike Rego receiving the Collett award for his Bulletin article *Trinidad, The Orinoco Line*.

BWI**SELFRIDGES STAMP DEPARTMENT 1936 – 1939****BY DAVID HORRY**

Fig. 1. Selfridges Storefront



Fig. 2. Harry Gordon Selfridge

For six days each week during WWII and for two years after, an old man boarded the 74 double-decker from Putney Bridge and travelled north to Oxford Street where he alighted at the Selfridges Emporium that had stood since 15 March 1909, on the corner of Orchard Street - leading on to Baker Street (Fig. 1.). He was not allowed to enter this world-renowned department store, he simply walked up and down Oxford Street looking at it, with a tear in his eye. In 1941 the Selfridges Board had given him a generous pension of £6,000 and then unceremoniously fired him. The founder, Harry Gordon Selfridge, was no longer the proprietor of his own magnificent store (Fig. 2.). The story had to remain secret in order to maintain the Selfridge name: but with the Blitz at its height the press was easily gagged.

Even in the lavish ITV series '*Mr. Selfridge*' time has forgotten what actually happened: the truth went unpublished and kicked under the carpet; the philatelic side of Selfridge's disgrace was entirely covered-up, *The Philatelic Department* was never shown or even spoken of. Harry Gordon Selfridge died on 8 May 1947 in Putney aged 89, living in somewhat straitened circumstances with his daughter, Violette.

Harry Gordon Selfridge was born in Ripon, Wisconsin, on 11 January 1858, but within months of his birth moved to Jackson, Michigan. His father did not return home after the Civil War, although he had been honourably discharged; his mother supported the family by becoming a teacher.

In 1879, Selfridge joined the retail firm of Field, Leiter and Company, which became Marshall Field and Company, in Chicago. Over the following 25 years, Selfridge worked his way up the commercial ladder and amassed a considerable personal fortune. While at Marshall Field, he was the first to promote Christmas sales with the phrase 'Only __ Shopping Days until Christmas'.



Fig. 3. Selfridges store



Fig. 4. Bleriot at Selfridges 1909

In 1906, Selfridge travelled to London, England with his wife, Rosalie. He was unimpressed with the quality of existing British stores and decided to invest some £400,000 in building his own department store in what was then the unfashionable western end of Oxford Street (Fig. 3.). In 1909 the new Selfridges store opened to the public setting new standards for the retailing business. Selfridge's innovative marketing led to his success. He tried to make shopping a fun adventure for his ladies, instead of a chore.

In 1909, after the first Cross-Channel flight, Louis Blériot's monoplane was exhibited at Selfridges, where it was seen by 12,000 people (Fig. 4.). The first public demonstration of television was by John Logie Baird from the first floor of Selfridges from 1–27 April 1925.



Fig. 5. Dolly sisters



Fig. 6. Selfridge's plaque & Landsdowne House



Rosalie Selfridge died in the influenza pandemic of 1918. As a widower, the philandering Harry Selfridge had numerous incautious liaisons, including the celebrated Hungaro/American Dolly Sisters (Fig. 5.) and he lavishly entertained many lady friends at his home at Lansdowne House, 9 Fitzmaurice Place, Berkeley Square. Today there is a blue plaque noting that Gordon Selfridge lived there from 1921 to 1929 (Fig. 6.). At the height of his fortune, he also leased, as his family home, Highcliffe Castle in Hampshire.



Fig. 7. Harry Gordon Selfridge Jr.

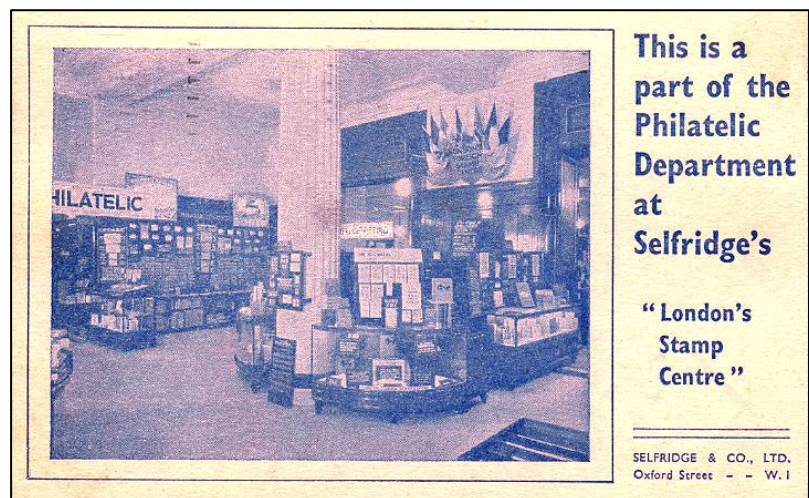


Fig. 8. Selfridges Philatelic Department

During the years of the Great Depression, Selfridge watched his fortune begin to decline, but things were on the up again. This was due in part to his son Harry Gordon Junior (Fig. 7.), who in 1936 opened the highly successful *Selfridges Philatelic Department* on the ground floor in Orchard Street (Fig. 8.). It specialised in First Day Covers (FDCs) of the Colonial Realm celebrating the Coronation in May 1937.

However, in 1938 a considerable scandal broke out at Selfridges. It was discovered that the Philatelic Department were selling fake Coronation FDCs. Large amounts of money were involved and a number of the staff were financially involved. Back in 1935 the King's Silver Jubilee attracted a lot of philatelic attention as each of the Colonies issued a set of four stamps to celebrate the event. Collectors were most interested in First Day Covers from the further flung islands: Cayman Islands, Turks & Caicos Islands, Gilbert & Ellice Islands, St. Helena, Ascension and the British Solomon Islands were all much sought after (Fig. 9.).



Fig. 9. E. A. Wells cover



Fig. 10. Bowie Coronation St. Swithins Lane

In order to meet a hefty demand Harry Selfridge Junior took on dealer Eric David Bowie who had much experience in this field. (Unfortunately no image exists of Bowie!) What Selfridge Junior was unaware of was that Bowie had a previous conviction for philatelic forgery c. 1932. This action had been brought by leading philatelist and philatelic auctioneer from Bournemouth, one Robson Lowe. He and Bowie had at the time indulged in fisticuffs outside Bowie's stamp shop in St. Swithin's Lane, EC3 (Fig. 10.). I cannot find out exactly what mischief Bowie had perpetrated but it may have been connected to coins and stamps from Lundy Island. He was jailed for around 18 months. Selfridges covers usually used a rubber stamp to indicate their address (Figs. 11. & 12.).



Fig. 11. Selfridges Bermuda cover



Fig. 12. Selfridges Leeward Islands cover

E. D. Bowie had his own stash of over 300 fake cancellers which he used to confect FDCs from any of the colonies where supplies were proving difficult. Many of Selfridges mail order customers were seeking the full set of covers and demand was far higher than had originally been anticipated. The '*Bowie Collection*' of fake cancellers is currently held by Adrian Meyer of the BPA. It contains more cancellers than the '*Madame Josephs*' held at The Royal Philatelic Society. After several attempts, I have so far been unable to record or even see this dishonorable hoard. The late Gerald Bodily and Mark Taylor did try to help me secure a visit. However, the Secretary of the BPA Expertising Committee has been most uncooperative. Myer was almost hysterical when I suggested I visit him in Guildford to view the cancellers last year!

Bowie was not the only faker. D. Harris and J. Whitehurst of Birmingham were sent down for 18 months and nine months respectively (Fig. 13.). Other *bone-fide* dealers such as Wallace and Wingfields had become victims of London con-artists and the same thing was happening in New York via Mark Sage with even backstamps being forged!



Fig. 13. Harris Dominica cover

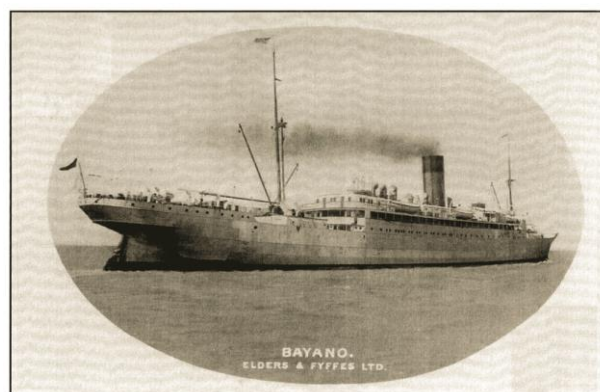


Fig. 14. SS Bayano

On 4 April 1938 Eric David Bowie fled to Bermuda first class on the 'lucky' SS *Bayano* (Fig. 14) his mother joined him just a few weeks later. The Selfridges board had decided on no further action in order to protect their good name. The following year young Harry Selfridge was deported back to America without charge. His father had by now become a British citizen so he could not be deported, but this in turn led to the immediate decline in Harry Selfridge Snr. himself. Although he probably knew little of the activities of Eric David Bowie, his fellow board members became distrustful of his dealings. Suppliers had withheld stock and large amounts of funds were owed to Whiteley's of Queensway and others. *The Philatelic Department* (Fig. 15.), which was second in size to Stanley Gibbons at the time, was forced to close and monies returned to unhappy customers. Harry Gordon Selfridge was out of office in 1941 with a stinging vote of no confidence from his own Board.

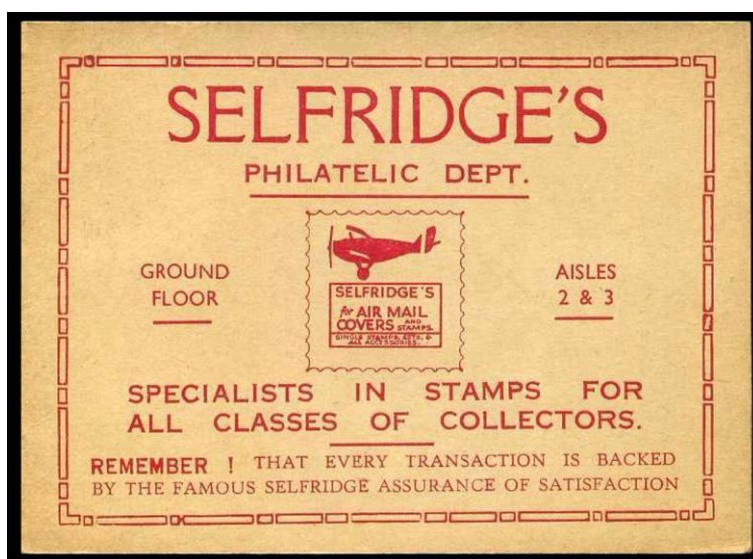


Fig 15. Selfridges advertising card

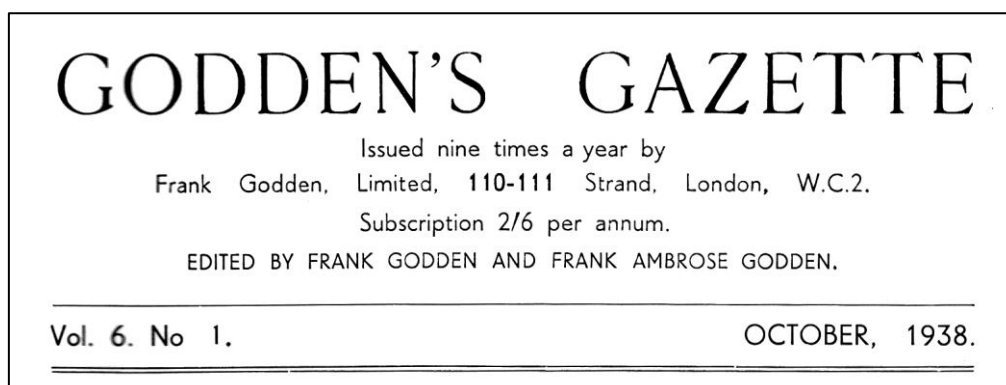


Fig. 16. Frank Godden Gazette 1938

(Lewis) Frank Godden Snr, had a highly reputable stamp shop at 110–111 Strand and from 1932 he published *Godden's Gazette* - a highly informative philatelic magazine (Fig. 16.). It was actually edited by his son Frank Godden Jnr. They were both Crown Agents who were highly regarded within the philatelic community. They prided themselves in keeping an eye on the shadier elements of the philatelic business. Frank Godden Jnr., took it upon himself to dispose of 'the legal parts' of the enormous Selfridges philatelic stock. No one was interested in buying this tainted hoard and besides, stamp collecting had fallen on difficult times. The Godden Emporium was on the first floor above F. W. Woolworth's in The Strand. The Godden's somehow persuaded the Woolworth's management to purchase the Selfridge Collection and let Frank Godden Junior market it on their behalf. It was done under the F.G. Series name (Fig. 17.) and every school boy of my vintage spent his sixpenny pocket money at the 'Woolies' stamp counter! What is not known is that Frank Ambrose Godden Jnr., was the *nom de guerre* of the enterprising George Crawford Odom. He also masqueraded as Gordon Rhodes 'darn' the East End of London, L. Barrington Smith in Jamaica and was later known as John Le Carré's '*The Tailor of Panama*'! (Fig. 18.) The signature shown is from *Godden's Gazette*, 1933 but George Odom's warehouseman from 1949–1974 instantly recognized it as that of his boss 'Big George' Odom (Fig. 19.).



Fig. 17. FG Series Spain



Fig. 18. Frank Godden signature

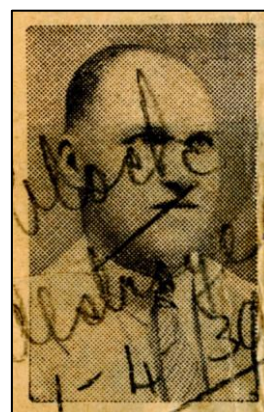


Fig. 19. George Odom April 1939



Fig. 20. St. Kitts Nevis

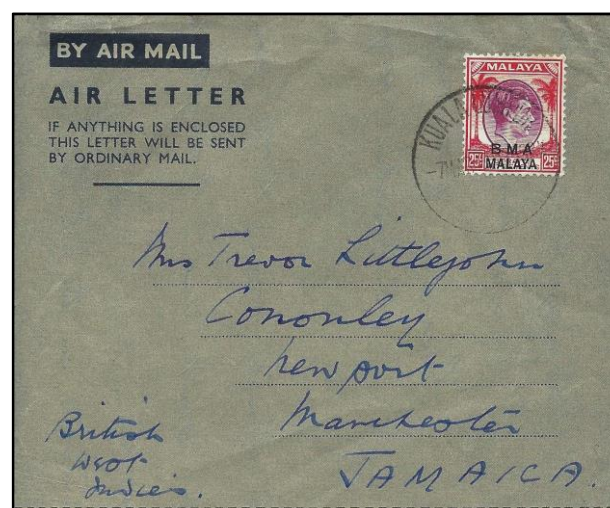


Fig. 21. Trevor Littlejohn air mail

Harry Gordon Selfridge was buried in St Mark's Churchyard at Highcliffe, next to his wife and his mother. The Oxford Street store was acquired in 1951 by the Liverpool-based Lewis's chain of department stores and remains busy to this day – but without a stamp department! The immediacy of WWII wiped out the memory of the Selfridges debacle and by 1950 the entire episode had been forgotten (Fig. 20.).

Bowie joined the RAF in Trinidad and spent WWII at Piarco airport, mainly stamp dealing by the looks of things. He later moved to Bermuda where he became a major retailer of dodgy Japanese Occupation overprints to the North American market. Many of these were gained from the Attorney General's office in Kuala Lumpur (Fig. 21.). In the 60's he moved to the Channel Islands where he grew roses for a while before returning, once again to Bermuda, where his apparently uncontrollable temper continued to upset all around him.

Report on the Royal Philatelic Society London Display of Bahamas, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands from the Royal Philatelic Collection.

By Steve Jarvis

On Thursday 14 September 2017 the Society was privileged to view a display presented by Michael Sefi LVO RDP FRPSL FRPSC, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen. Michael was supported by his assistants Ian Greig FRPSL and Rod Vousden FRPSL.

A large turnout of 173 Fellows and Members attended during the course of the day including overseas visitors from Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Netherlands, Norway, South Africa, Sweden and the USA.

Michael's handout (available to the public on the RPSL web site) provided background information on the islands and explained that Jamaica was last shown in 1972 by Sir John Marriott but Bahamas and the Cayman Islands had not previously been shown except as part of broader West Indies displays.

BAHAMAS

Fifteen frames of Bahamas were shown commencing with the beautiful Chalon head issue that was in use from 1859 until 1882. The immediate impact from viewing the sheets was the wonderfully preserved colours of the issued stamps, but more detailed inspection educated us regarding the changeover from Perkins Bacon printings to those of De La Rue (in 1862) and the various printings with changes of watermark and perforation. Die and plate proofs of the 1d were included together with an example of the PB 'CANCELLED' handstamp.

The next frame showed the 1863 1s with QV profile head including artwork, die proofs and issued stamps with both perforations. The fifth frame included the 4d on 6d provisional with surcharge inverted, in both unused and used condition – extremely rare items.

All King Edward VII and King George V issues were shown including colour trials, the Special Delivery overprints double/inverted varieties and a strong selection of War Tax varieties. This section concluded with some interesting artwork for the 1930 Tercentenary issue and the 1935 8d pictorial design.

The King George VI section covered the 1938 keyplate definitive issue including colour trials and was followed by lovely artwork for the three-value pictorial issue of the same year, concluding with the 1942 Landfall of Columbus overprints.

JAMAICA

Thirty frames of Jamaica were shown taking us all the way through to Independence. The Laureated head issue, in use from 1860 until 1912, was particularly strong showing artist's designs of the 6d and 1s (hand-drawn frames with printed Queen's diadem head); die proofs in various states; Specimens and imprimaturs (including the locally overprinted Type J1 across two stamps for the 1d, 3d and 1s). This issue also provided the opportunity to include some postal history with bisects of the 1d on cover and the unique 1863 cover from Dry Harbour to Kingston with a bisected 4d adhesive.

Revenue collectors would have been pleased to see all the Victorian revenue issues: die proofs of all six values, imperf pairs and examples used for postage.

The key and duty plate design was followed by the 'TWO PENCE HALFPENNY' on 4d overprint, shown with almost complete panes of all three settings and the usual selection of varieties plus an unlisted overprint treble. The Victorian issues concluded with the Llandovery Falls issue, the highlight being a 1d red imperf colour trial.

The Edwardian and early Georgian issues were shown, including a scattering of die proofs and colour trials and three frames of the war stamp overprints and Red Cross Labels including a pair of 3d, one with overprint sideways and the other omitted. The George V pictorial issue was particularly strong with essays, die proofs, specimens and the issued stamps. The most valuable items were the 6d Abolition of Slavery blocks of four without specimen overprint on both papers but my eye was particularly taken by two cards from the DLR archives, dated 1 May 1920, containing proofs in colour. The rest of the George V issues were shown with several pieces of artwork and die proofs.

Two frames were devoted to QV Telegraphs and Officials, the former included two telegraph forms as well as a die proof of the 1879 adhesive, the latter provided a comprehensive exhibit of the local overprint with several complete panes of the various settings and varieties, such as with: no 'O's, no 'I's, double, double no 'I's, inverted, double one inverted

The five frames of King George VI material were particularly strong with unique pieces of artwork and appendix sheets for the definitives, the new constitution and later commemoratives. I shall look forward to Michael's description for the *LP* which hopefully will contain some good images of these.

The last three frames of Jamaica, with Queen Elizabeth II issues, was equally strong with artwork, proofs and plate blocks which were all visually pleasing. Die proofs of the suppressed £1 stamp were shown together with the only surviving block of four.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

Seven frames of Caymans were shown encompassing the period of 1900 through to 1950. The first issue provided very little excitement but this was soon addressed by the 1907/08 overprints – the ½d on 5s with overprint inverted, double and overprint omitted; the 1d on 5s, double; the 2½d on 4d with double and a unique plate block of four and finally the 1d on 4d intended for fiscal use.

Due to space limitations several issues needed to be omitted and the display jumped forward to the 1930s. The 1932 Legislature commemorative issue pages commenced with two rows of artwork and issued stamps to be followed by the 1935 pictorial definitives with an equally impressive selection of artwork.

The 1938-48 King George VI definitives occupied Frame 50, with artwork, colour proofs and the issued stamps. A particular feature was the development of the dolphinfish design, where the initial artwork depicted an impression of a dolphin, not known in the Islands. The last two frames contained artwork, colour proofs and issued stamps for the 1950 pictorial issue. Of particular note were the 4d and £1 designs which were never issued for King George but later used with the head of Queen Elizabeth.

PS This report was previously published in the *London Philatelist* November 2017 (Volume 146, No. 1450).

The KEVII Imperium Style Key Plate Issues

By Peter Fernbank

About 10 years ago I produced an article for the *London Philatelist*¹ that proved that Key Plate 2 was not a 240-set plate, as had been generally assumed, but was two plates of 120-set, both numbered '2'. These I termed Plate 2a (plate numbers in top margin) and Plate 2b (plate numbers in the bottom margin). To establish this it was necessary to extract all the printings from De La Rue's *Colonial Stamps* books from all of the 16 colonies that employed this design.



The fact that of nearly 1,000 printings only 5 were issued with 240-set sheets of paper for printing (for the Straits Settlement 1902 1c and 3c values), the rest being 120-set sheets, clinched the argument. However, the lists of printings did not form part of this article.

I still have all the details of these printings and felt that it would be a great pity if it were left to my executors to dispose of this valuable information (not that I plan going any time soon). My intention is to produce some sort of publication (nothing approaching the depth of my KGV book on the Imperium style issues) that will list all these printings plus whatever other useful information I can gather in. I am doing this in collaboration with a fellow KEVII enthusiast, Jeff Blinco, who is attempting to plate the issue through the progressive states of the plates (and is making surprisingly good progress).

It appears that there were some changes in the marginal markings on Plates 1, 2a and 2b fairly late in the life of these plates and the full extent and date of implementation of these changes need to be defined. Similarly the various key plate flaws that developed need to be established and their introduction dated where possible.

What we both need are scans of study material, particularly sheets, panes or large marginal blocks (Jeff requires these at 600dpi since he is looking for very small plate characteristics in each position). Regarding Plate 2 examples, the Royal Philatelic Collection (the principal source of information on the plate numbers used for each value) does have a number of omissions for specific colonies that are known to exist elsewhere and hence scans of Plate 2 pieces (singles or blocks) are also required.

Within the BWI the colonies of British Honduras, Cayman Islands, Grenada, Leeward Islands, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Virgin Islands employed this design and we would most grateful if members having such material (from these or any other colony) would assist us in this project. Please send scans to pferbank@tiscali.co.uk.

Reference

1. *KING EDWARD VII IMPERIUM STYLE POSTAGE & REVENUE KEY PLATE 2*, PETER FERNBANK, LONDON PHILATELIST, No. 1351, 2007, VOL. 116, PP. 391-396.

'Enjoy this book as a
thought provoking
'ripping yarn' that
will make you
consider a new
geo-political dimension
to postal history.'

Steve Jarvis



Starring Commander Ian Fleming
George C. Odom, Trevor Litteljohn,
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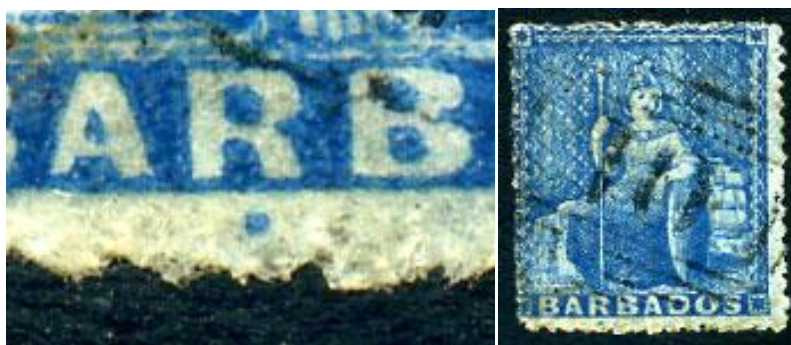
AROUND THE CARIBBEAN 2

BY MICHAEL HAMILTON

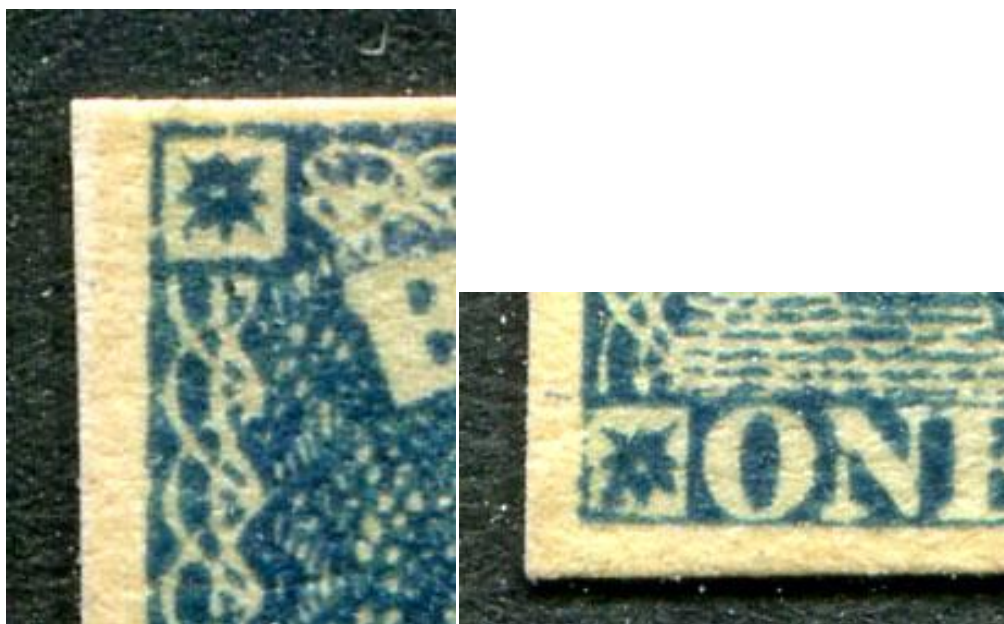
My apologies for black & white scans built up over the last 35 years or more. I never developed a keenness for basic mint and used stamps but the attractiveness of fully struck village cancellations fitted in with my passion for the unusual and provenance. Vast computer files of village postmarks, dates of use, pricing, were maintained in chronological order. Eventually I needed to tackle postal history, and after several years of delay, I decided I simply had to wade through thousands of auction catalogues photostating and recording all pre-stamp and QV adhesive covers up to about 1885. Each country is an actual jig-saw with an unlimited number of pieces. There is plenty of mundane in the form of non-informative blue sky, more detail to be found in trees and branches; and then there are the eureka moments when you find the most rewarding choice pieces which you immediately know where to position and would love to own! Thankfully the auction catalogues keep coming and the work never ends as the jig-saws are a hobby within a hobby!



ANTIGUA: I have had unmentioned doubts about the 'BETHESDA */AP 7 39' and 'NEWFIELD A/OC 9 39' cancellations on KG6 franked covers to A.W. Morley or F.G. Marshall in Rochdale for the last 15 to 20 years but when Michael Oliver, in the last Bulletin, replied to John Jordan's article on the seemingly bogus Antigua 'A18' English Harbour covers did the penny finally drop. Michael brilliantly, for me, linked Marshall and Morley to Sherring as possible manufacturers, which in turn made me dig out my records for a snippets comment. Of course I spotted what I had not spotted immediately. The BETHESDA and ENGLISH HARBOUR cds (although dated 54 years apart) have a distinct similarity and are almost guaranteed to be from the same stable! If this is indeed true the BPA were fooled into certifying the R.H. Urwick 'DE 17 85' 'A18' cover in 1951 and in turn the RPS had little choice but to certify the Victor Toeg DE 14 85 'A18' cover when presented with it in 1960. The suggestion is that those two covers entered the philatelic food chain about 1950-51.



BARBADOS: The engraver's tool mark shows prominently below the 'R' in 'BARBADOS' on this undenominated 1861 (1d) blue (SG.23). The position has been ascertained as Row 4/1 from viewing a Plate II full sheet (guidelines top and bottom) of the undenominated (½d) green.



BARBADOS: I do not know what to say about this imperforate 1s Britannia with error of colour blue on light stout card. One cannot imagine it to be genuine but there are two areas of interest. The printing appears to be on onion skin paper affixed to white card visible along top and particularly at top left corner; and there is a fairly prominent blue line to left of lower left corner star. Could the latter variety exist on any printings of the 1s black?



BARBADOS: Having joined the U.P.U. on September 1 1881 the first outward bound mail to the UK of SP 9 1881 was cancelled in blue ink. The second sailing of 'SP 28 1881' saw a return to black ink.



BRITISH GUIANA: Simon Goldblatt in the last Bulletin suggested an inventory of these glorious code-mark cancellations. I am pretty positive that this is well in hand and refer any newly interested collectors to our Study Paper No.3 entitled 'BRITISH GUIANA CODED POSTMARKS' by Michael Rego. It is inexpensive and probably the best little postmark book you will ever find or buy.

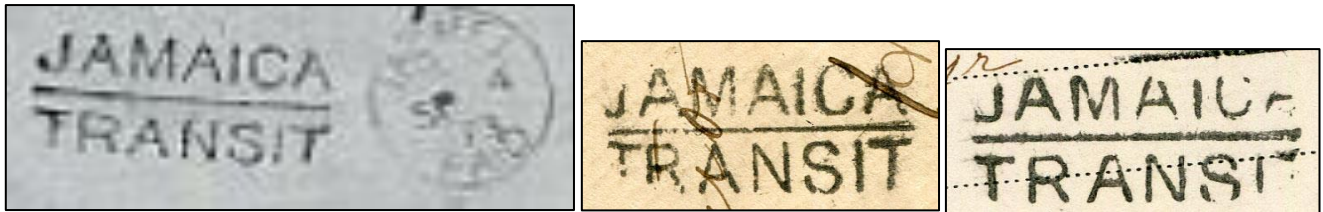


BRITISH GUIANA: An inventory of the different styles of cork cancellations found on British Guiana stamps would be a fresh venture and perhaps prove very interesting especially when definitely tied to a particular office. The dated illustrations run from 'OC 5 1878' to 'MR 7 1880'. Your scans to our Editor please.

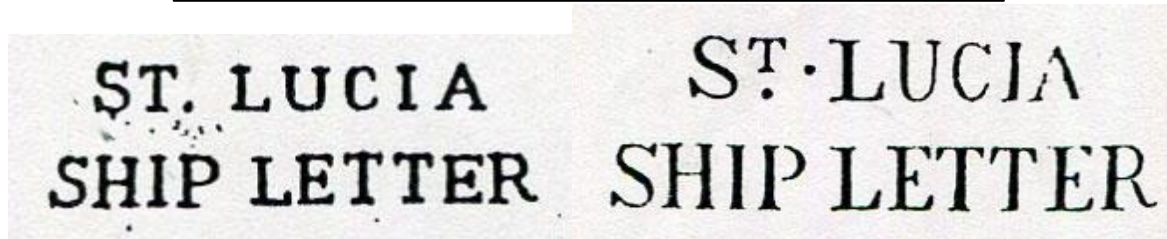
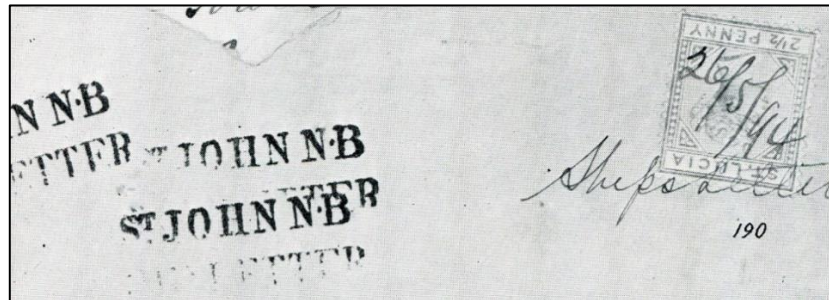


BRITISH HONDURAS: The 1888 London surcharge of '10 CENTS' on QV 4d mauve (SG.40) is found on reg. cover to Munich with interesting postmark combination of nine bar oval and 'BELIZE/MY 22 88' cds. The SG catalogue lists as issued July 1888 (several weeks later). The stamp has a normal 9 months short life pmk'd 'O' obliterator in combination with BELIZE/date cds (Proud D6 recorded 'MR 20 88' to 'MR 12 89', the earliest cover dated 'JY 9 88'). The stamp has a longer life pmk'd 'O' obliterator in combination with BELIZE cds (D7) from 'AP 18 89' until replaced by the 6c rate in March 1891.

JAMAICA: Do you have a pre-stamp entire from Edinburgh Castle? The castle, now a ruined great house in St. Ann, was built by Scottish immigrant Louis Hutchinson who arrived in Jamaica in the 1760s and became their first recorded serial killer. He would kill any passer-by with a single shot or sometimes invite and entertain them before they were shot in the back upon departure. Bodies were thrown down a well. The actual number is not known but probably in excess of 40. Hutchinson was tried and hanged at the Spanish Town gallows in 1773.

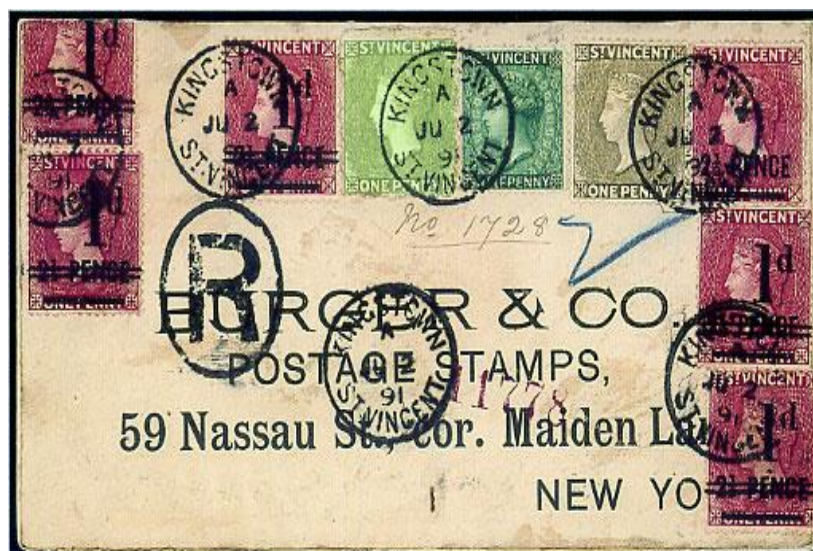


JAMAICA: A Great Britain QV 1d used abroad cover pmk'd 'C59' at Jacmel (Haiti) SP 4 73 to New York has 2 line JAMAICA TRANSIT (apex of A below middle of M) but may have higher cross bar in A of JAMAICA and wider A in TRANSIT than the illustrated SP 21 1901 strike on cover from Honda, Colombia to Paris, France. The third illustration shows FE 19 1905 strike (apex of A below last leg of M) on Postcard Chile to Martinique.



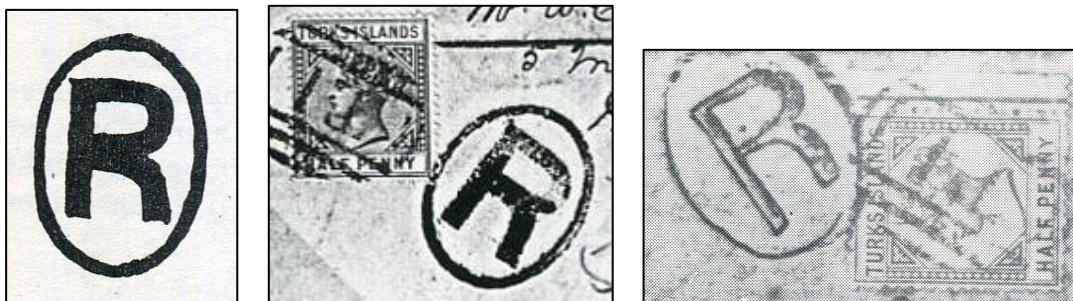
ST. LUCIA: A cover to Messrs. Grant Osley & Co, 68 Bedford Row, Halifax (Nova Scotia) has the QV 2½d tied manuscript '26/5/94 Ships Letter' with three handstruck ST. JOHN N.B./SHIP LETTER transits alongside. Two differing 2 line ST. LUCIA/SHIP LETTER handstamps are thought to have been sent out from the GPO London in the post 1840 period but neither are known used.

ST. LUCIA: This QV 1d dull mauve pmk'd on arrival by GRENADA Parish 'A' (St. John's) cds dated 26 AU 97 serves as a reminder that a special Windward Island 1d rate was introduced November 1 1895. This Windward group comprised only St. Vincent, Grenada and its dependencies, and St. Lucia. Covers are seldom found.





ST. VINCENT: If I had to choose a single St. Vincent stamp to make a small collection or display it would always be the 1880 QV 1d olive-green (SG.29, Cat. £180 mint, £5 used). 1,000 sheets (60,000 stamps) were printed by Perkins Bacon on small star upright watermarked paper and sent out from London on 'May 13 1880'. Few mint multiples are known; a used block of eight is recorded, and the Pierce, Messenger, Robson Lowe handbook (PML) normally acclaimed for its accuracy states on Page 50 that 'it is a very scarce stamp on cover'. You might think that a stamp with low catalogue of £5 would be plentiful on cover but in fact no covers exist within its correct period of use. The only cover you could acquire is philatelic, in combination with eight other stamps, posted 11 years later at Kingstown 'JU 2 91'. The St. Vincent town and village cancels have always proved so popular that over numerous decades they have often been singly lotted and illustrated in auction catalogues providing collectors with provenance. A range, in approximate order of scarcity for this issue, is shown (many illustrations courtesy BWISC member Bruce Aitken). The black St. VINCENT cds and red 'G' (Georgetown) are the most elusive and the black horizontal 'A10' the commonest. Above this ranking, however, would be red ST. VINCENT cds and red 'UE' (Union Estate).



TURKS ISLANDS: The John Challis handbook for Turks & Caicos Islands shows misleading 'R' in oval registration handstamp in that his drawing, illustrated Page 90, has extra wide waistline. Period of use is given as 'JY 27 1889' to 'MY 16 1933'. All covers seen for the QV period have both the standard 'R' in oval plus the REGISTERED/(date)/TURKS ISLAND oval (without final 'S' noted) except for one cover to Cannes, France (illustrated Challis Page 47) dated 'JA 13 97' bearing ½d, 4d adhesives which has the dated oval plus clearly defined narrow waist and right leg with amputated foot.

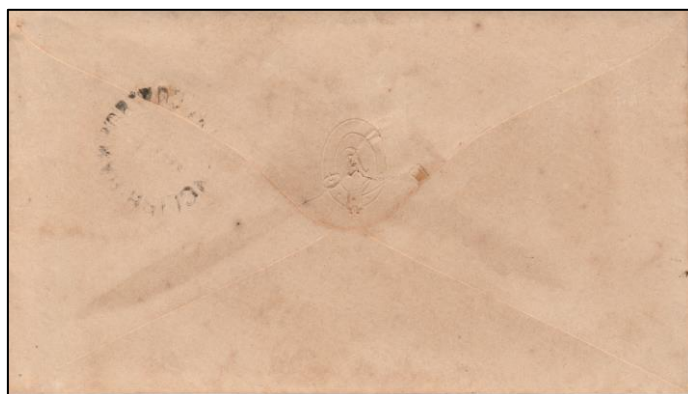
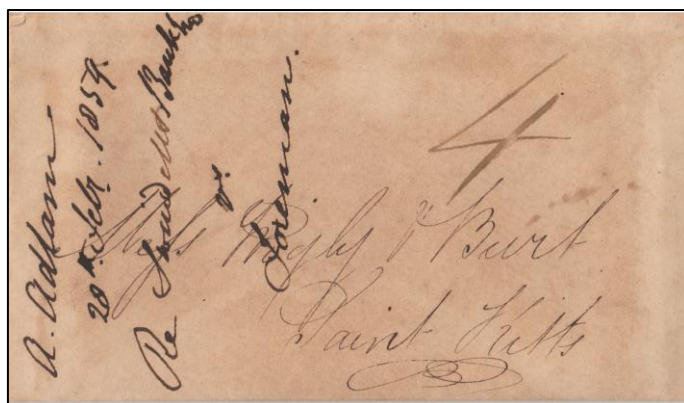
ANTIGUA

ENGLISH HARBOUR

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

John Jordan's brilliant article in Bulletin 253 sent me back to 'Antigua the Stamps and Postal History' Pub. BWISC 2016, co-authored by Charles Freeland and himself, and to ferret in my own rudimentary Antigua collection.

A lifetime of acquiring unconsidered trifles and a taste for the unusual has amassed many philatelic curios, among them the illustrated cover.



Addressed to Messrs. Wigley & Burt, St. Kitts, by A. Adlam and rated '4' in black (unpaid) it still encloses its original letter, concerning the enforcement of a debt. The reverse bears a light and fairly complete strike of the English Harbor (sic.) skeleton Type E3, date 'MR 1' (1859), its earliest known date. Unusually, it bears no strike of the A18 obliterator perhaps on account of its inter-island destination. The somewhat racy contents merit repeating here:

"Feby. 28/59

My dear Sirs,

Mr Pemberton called on me this afternoon on the part of Mr Foreman with an offer to compound his debt for 5/- in the pound – but I at once rejected the offer. I think that he ought to be persuaded to pay at least £150 before he be let out, and after that 10/- in the pound on the balance might be received. This is but little to be effected by a man of his versatility and talent and but a very moderate share of the Expected Liverpool Consignment.

Every one here expresses satisfaction at his incarceration"

I wonder if any Leewards specialist knows something more of the protagonists, Pemberton, Adlam and Foreman, or of Wigley & Burt, the addressees, or indeed by what means the letter travelled from English Harbour to St. Kitts? Per RMS 'Derwent' on voyage through the Islands?

MR A W MORLEY AND THE MARSHALL FAMILY**BY BRUCE STEWART**

Further to Michael Oliver's article in Bulletin No. 254 concerning envelopes addressed to Mr. Morley and various members of the Marshall family I thought that members might like to hear about some additional items from these same sources that I have in my own collection.

My items would tend to confirm the view in the majority of cases that the correct postal rate was applied. The first of these items is a couple of plain postcards to Mr. Morley originating from St. Kitts and Nevis. There is nothing on the reverse side apart from a couple of hinge remains. The address is the same as that used for the cover postmarked in Liberta shown in Michael Oliver's article and the address would appear to be written by the same hand – Mr. Morley himself?



Fig. 1.

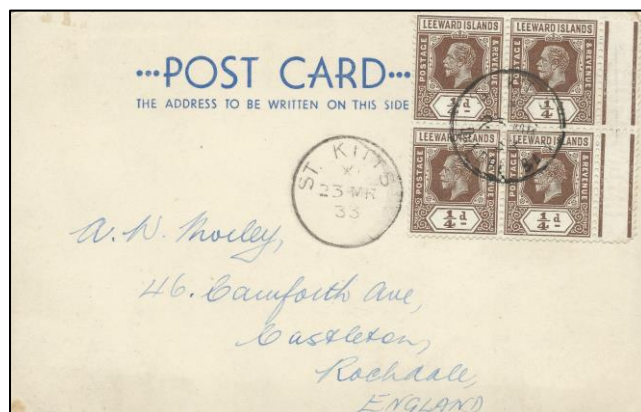


Fig. 2.

The first postcard (Fig. 1.) was posted at Nevis on 20 March 1933 and bears a 'block' of 3 copies of Leeward Islands SG 81 and one copy of SG 58 while the second postcard (Fig. 2.) was used at Dieppe Bay on 23 March 1933 and bears a block of 4 copies of SG 81. The presence of a bit of sheet or gutter margin attached to each block of SG 81 makes it easy to confirm the watermark as Script CA. It is somewhat odd that the Nevis cover does not carry 4 copies of the same stamp. However the use of the 4 stamps in each case with a total face value of 1p complies with what was then the Postcard rate. (*) Given the scarcity of the Dieppe Bay postmark and the rarity of SG 81 this particular postcard must surely have an enhanced value. I wonder if Mr. Morley ever realised this?

Next is a cover addressed to F. G. Marshall bearing the two Leeward Islands stamps issued in 1951 to commemorate the inauguration of the British West Indies University College. While these stamps were issued on 16 February 1951 my cover was postmarked at Gingerland, Nevis on 24 September 1951 so is not a FDC.



Fig. 3.

Mr. E. Marshall was the recipient of 4 Air letters sent to him on dates between 5 March 1954 and 30 June 1956. All 4 letters bear 12 cents worth of stamps in varying combinations.** One of each of them was posted at different local post offices in St. Kitts i.e. Cayon, Dieppe Bay, Old Road and Sandy Point. Since acquiring them, from more than one source, I have wondered if Mr Marshall prepared several Air Letters for use at each post office bearing a different combination of stamps. The fact that the address on the letter posted at Cayon has been typed using carbon paper suggests that quite a few covers were being prepared at the same time.



* Confirmed with The Postal History of the Leeward Islands (Proud) Page 120.

** The Leeward Islands: Notes for Philatelists (Oliver) Page 175.

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BARBADOS

THE 1921 SMALL BADGE PLATE NUMBERS

BY PATRICIA CAPILL

Ten years on from my article on this subject in the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* of April 2007 I have been able to acquire only three more significant blocks from the left side of sheets to shed a little more light on this plate number conundrum.

The articles in the BWISC Bulletins of March and June 2009 by Michael Medlicott, Robin Davis and Charles Freeland relating to the Barbados 1920 Victory stamp plate numbers reveal some parallels to the 1921 Badge stamps that followed, extending the 'De La Ruevian madness', as Michael Medlicott called it, into the next Barbados issue.



Fig. 1. 1d plate no.1
10mm spacing between
inner marginal line and
edge of stamp design.



Fig. 2. 1/2d 10mm spacing, no plate number.

In my 2007 article, I reported and illustrated a 1d red Badge stamp from row 5 no. 1 on the centre left side of the sheet, with a plate number 1 outside the double marginal lines (Figure 1). Harry Huber's 1934 report stated that any plate number outside of these double lines were '*usually cut off in trimming the sheet to size*'. However, I have found that out of the 9 examples I have with left selvedge attached, 7 of them have enough spare selvedge remaining on the outside of the double marginal lines that, if they were from row 5 no. 1, any plate number – or at least a part of one – would be evident.

The spacing from the inner marginal line to the edge of the stamp design measures 10 mm. I have been able to examine marginal copies from three quarters of all four sides of all the values and this 10mm spacing is consistent. I have not seen a plate number 1 in any value except the 1d, nor any numbered 2, despite Huber's report of the 1/4d existing from plates numbered 1 and 2.

My three more recently acquired left-hand selvedge blocks include the 1/2d green and 2d grey, both with 10mm spacing but no plate numbers – even though there is space for a small part of one on the 2d block (Figures 2 and 3). But my third block - the 1d - is anomalous. In my 2007 article I reported a 1d block with a 12mm spacing in the lower selvedge, indicating a second plate and since then I have acquired another similar block. But my anomalous block is significant in that it is from the lower left corner of the sheet and as well as having the 12mm lower marginal spacing, it is accompanied by a narrower 8.5mm spacing in the left margin – further confirming a second plate, but it has no plate number! (Figure 4).



Fig. 3. 2d 10mm spacing,
no trace of a plate number.



Fig. 4. 1d 8.5mm spacing on left margin,
12mm spacing on lower margin, no plate number.

In the June 2009 article on the 1920 Victory stamps, Peter Fernbank is quoted as saying: *it seems that De La Rue's general practice was only to number frame plates when it seemed likely that more than one would be required: and that: one recess plate would be reckoned to produce 10,000 to 20,000 sheets.* This information would fit very nicely with the 1d Badge stamp being printed from two plates, with that numbered 1 being the first plate (confirmed by its 10mm marginal spacing which is the same for all the other values) and the second plate being unnumbered. The 1d had the largest print run by far, with over 35,000 sheets compared with only between 5,200 and 8,100 for the ¼d, ½d and 2d values. If this scenario was to be correct, then it would mean that Huber's report of the ¼d printed from two plates numbered 1 and 2 was incorrect, but because of the extreme scarcity of selvage blocks from the centre left side, it has to be accepted in the meantime. Also, the fact that (frame) plates numbered 1 and 2 were used on the three lowest values of the Victory stamps lends some credence to Huber's claim of the ¼d being from plates 1 and 2.

In conclusion, it would be nice and simple to be able to conclude that only the 1d was printed from two plates – 1 and unnumbered (in that order) with the latter having spacing of the marginal lines of 8.5mm left margin and 12mm lower margin - and all the other values printed from only one plate each with no number and with 10mm spacing all around. However, Huber's report and DLR's 'madness' in the Victory stamps cast some doubt on this conclusion. Hopefully, with time more evidential material will come to light and this conundrum can be solved. Does any member have material that could help at this point?

References:

Bayley E.A. *The Stamps of Barbados*. 1989. The 1934 report by Harry Huber, p. 122.
P. Capill. *The 1921 Small Badge Plate Numbers of Barbados – a means of differentiation?* British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, April 2007, pp.20 & 22.

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BRITISH HONDURAS

BRITISH HONDURAS POSTAL MARKINGS

BY KEVIN MAY

I am seeking information on the items below:



The first scan shows a registered cover sent from Sachsen, Germany to Belize, BH on '04.05.1920'. It travelled via New York where a transit mark for '20.05.1920' was applied. The item then arrived in BH '01.06.1920' where the Registration CDS arrival mark was applied. Nothing too unusual so far. The letter appears to have been held at the GPO for collection by the recipient J. Brodie & Co (general merchants in Belize City) and a handstamp mark applied to reverse of the cover indicating that a notice had been issued to the effect that the item was awaiting collection. It is this marking that I have not come across before. It consists of a boxed single line word 'Notice.....' with the date '1-6-20' applied in pencil. The box measures 45 x 12mm and is in violet ink.

As the Belize receiver mark & the 'Notice' mark are both dated '01.06.1920' the mark must have been applied in Belize. Has anyone come across this mark before?

I have another item with the same mark applied. This time it is on a registered postcard sent from Budapest Hungary on '04.06.1920' & addressed to the Post Office, Belize. There is a New Orleans transit mark for '28.06.1920' & a Belize registration arrival mark for '07.07.1920'. The boxed 'Notice' mark also has the date '7.7.' in manuscript.



The second item is a PPC of the Government House, Belize City sent to Merida, Mexico. The 2c KGV stamp is cancelled with what appears to be a Type D4 (Proud type) double circle date stamp from ALL PINES. The office name is missing as only half of the post mark is actually on the card. Immediately below this is a second strike of the same mark which clearly shows the name ALL PINES. The date slugs are missing in both strikes.

On the message side is a strike of the Belize datestamp for '3pm/NO 17/28'.

I cannot find this ALL PINES datestamp listed in any reference articles. Has anyone seen this before or is this a 'new discovery'?

STEVEN ZIRINSKY

MEMBER PTS, APS, NZSDA, APTA

Stamps - Revenues - Postal History - Commercial Mail

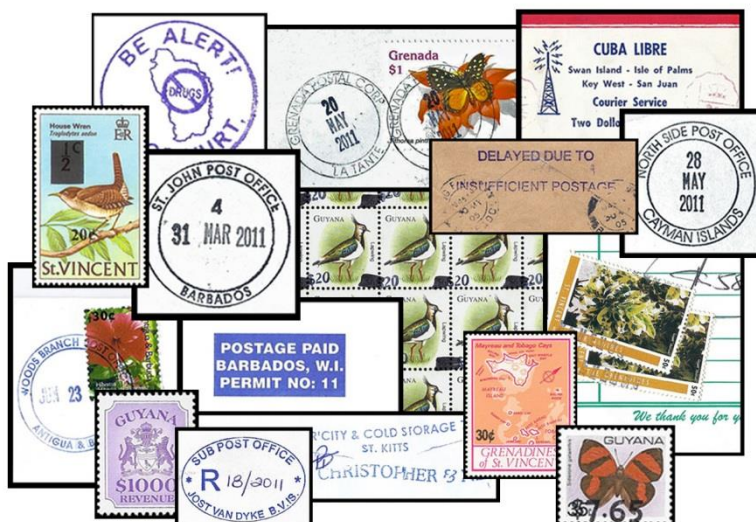
Local Commercial Mail

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BOOK REVIEW**BY TERRY HARRISON****St. Vincent 1899 – 1965 by Charles Freeland FRPSL, Roy Bond and Russell Boylan**

Published by The British West Indies Study Circle (2017). Softback, ISBN 978-1-907481-33-8.
Hardback, ISBN 978-1-907481-36-9.

This much anticipated publication fully lives up to the stated aim of being a supplement to the *St. Vincent* handbook by Pierce, Messenger and Lowe. By doing this it consolidates material from a multitude of sources as evidenced by the six page bibliography and nine page index.

Beginning with a brief description of the geography of the island the book provides an in depth resume of its history and colonisation and Appendix A gives a comprehensive description of the Brigands War. The authors have also included a debunking of the idea that Columbus named the island on one of his voyages.

Chapter 2 gives a very full description of the development of the 1899 Queen Victoria Keyplate issue including illustrations of the scarce 'POSTAGE/POSTAGE' essays and colour trials plus die proofs of the adopted design and local specimens amongst others. The chapter continues with detailed information on the issued stamps including varieties and postal usage concluding with a check list including numbers invoiced. The following two chapters do much the same for the King Edward VII Keyplates and Coat of Arms issues and include the correspondence regarding the transposition of 'POSTAGE & REVENUE' with the national motto 'PAX ET JUSTITIA'

The King George V definitive issues are covered in Chapters 5 and 6 which include information on the 'One Penny' on 1s green and the war stamp overprints. Amongst other things information in this section on the 1913 plate proofs means that I no longer have to worry about where the other proof values are as only the penny value was printed.

The King George VI definitives are covered in some depth and this section also provides information on the German Propaganda Forgeries of 1943. The background to the commemorative issues is covered including a cautionary note regarding 'specimen' perforations. The authors put forward a compelling case for the disappearance of the shipment of 6,000 £1 black Royal Silver Wedding Stamps which to me makes complete sense. I leave it to the reader to decide. The final stamp chapter covers the Queen Elizabeth II definitive issues from 1955 to 1965 including Waterlow's problems with matching inks resulting in distinctive shade varieties.

The chapter on postal stationery improves on that briefly dealt with in the *St. Vincent* handbook and covers material up to and including the QEII aerogrammes. The section on postmarks and postal markings updates the information in Pierce, Messenger and Lowe. There is a section on World War censor markings. Maritime Mail was not covered in the previous handbook and the chapter is well worth a read. Airmails are covered in Chapter 14 and the inland mail chapter gives details of routes and timetables from 1901 to a timetable dated 1 January 1955.

Finally Chapter 16 is a list of updates to Pierce, Messenger & Lowe and is a must for all who hold a copy of their book. In conclusion, this book has drawn together a wealth of information and I commend it to all those with an interest in the philatelic history of St. Vincent.

BWISC Auction Deadline

The deadline for receiving material for auction in any one year is 10 January (or the first weekday thereafter). Material is received and welcomed at any time during the preceding year, and those submitting items for sale close to the deadline may in some cases learn that similar items already processed for sale preclude the acceptance of competing items for the forthcoming sale.



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AUCTION UPDATE**BY GRAHAM BOOTH**

David Pitts bought many of the items in the Spink sale on 19 September in the early part of this century. Cayman items from the Victoria sales of Freeland (2001) and Cammarata (2005), Grenada from the Shreve sale of Danforth Walker (2003) and Trinidad from the Spink sale of Sir John Marriott (2001). The happy days when buyer's premium was 15%. The £ has depreciated against the \$ by about 20% since then, although because of Brexit and the pound's volatility quoting any figure is very risky. By the time this article is read it may be very different. Prices reached a peak for Trinidad at the Marriott sale and since then the market has collapsed. So, it was very interesting to see how this colony went, especially as Pitts pitched all the expensive items at roughly what he paid in sterling, although in dollars he was still going to lose money. Consequently, most experts predicted a large percentage of unsolds; but it turned out that they were wrong, partly because of a willingness to accept bids well below the minimum estimate but also because of some strong buying interest. Of the 107 lots 88% were sold and the majority of the unsolds came from collections and modern Trinidad & Tobago stamps. The Lady Macleod cover sold for £22,000, and 6 separate bidders were prepared to pay more than £2,000 for a single cover, suggesting the market is much stronger than feared. One bidder, through an agent, spent £62,000 with the uplift, and that did not include the Lady Macleod cover. If it turns out to be the bottom of a U curve, a very astute move. Other significant prices were £4,000 for the superb strike of the horseshoe date stamp from 1804, £9,500 for the double rate entire to St. Thomas, franked with a 1d blue from the first issue on yellowish paper and £7,500 for a single rate to Grenada, franked with a 1d blue on blue cartridge paper.

Elsewhere there were 30 lots of Barbados (77% sold), 88 lots of Cayman (83% sold), 50 lots of Grenada (68% sold), 72 lots of Jamaica, much of it ex-Mahfood (78% sold), 12 lots of St. Lucia (67% sold), and 25 lots of St. Vincent (68% sold). Perhaps of most interest to the collectors in the room were the Cayman lots, with 5 specialists present. The two most expensive lots, the earliest known (1868) incoming cover from the USA and an East End Rural Post cover were over-priced and did not sell, but much of the remainder did, although at prices which were down from the peaks of the Booth/Byl sale in 2012, and confounded the pessimists after the very soft performance at Spink earlier this year. The Jamaica used in the Caymans were strong with the 4d red-brown selling for £2,300 against a top estimate of £2,000, the 2d grey Official £2,300 against an estimate of £1,800 and a damaged version of the red Falls used in the Brac for £1,700, compared to a top estimate of £600. Amazingly Kevin Darcy managed to reunite an example of the 2½d on 4d provisional with the envelope on which it originated, which he had owned for 15 years (an article will follow). Another version sold for £2,300 against an estimate of £1,500 and the Lambert manuscript provisional to Jamaica from May 1908 sold for £3,500 against a top estimate of £2,000. Covers were a mixed bag with the routine items being unsold, but the badly damaged cover with the scarce Sunderland War Fund label sold for £1,200 and the very scarce D/40 censored cover from Little Cayman realised £650.

There was nothing special in the Barbados lots except the used purple brown 3d, block of 4, (SG 63) which made £1,200, its top estimate, nor in the St. Vincent. In the Grenada lots the 6d deep vermilion, small star sideways, double impression, used in Grenville exceeded its top estimate at £2,200 and the Gouyave manuscript provisionals with 'Postage' horizontal achieved £2,200 and 'Postage' diagonal £2,600. In St. Lucia the piece with 2 x 1d red and 2 x 6d lilac adhesives, cancelled A11, smashed its estimate of £600 reaching £1,600 before the gavel fell. Similarly, the best of the Jamaica lots were the GB used abroad. Two entires from Chapelton cancelled A01 made £600 against a top estimate of £200, an inland entire from Dry Harbour with a 4d rose cancelled A36 made £1,400 against a top estimate of £400, a piece from St. Ann's Bay with pair of 1d reds and a 4d rose cancelled A73 made £750 against an estimate of £500 and perhaps the star of this group, a part entire from Port Maria with 4 x 1d reds cancelled A66 reached £1,400 versus a top estimate of £500.

The third sizeable sale of Cayman postal history to come on the market this year was not going to be easy to dispose of, even though most of the items had not been seen for many years, especially as many were philatelic in origin. It consisted of 80 lots consigned from outside the European Union so that the total uplift above the hammer price was 29%. The collection was again handled by Spink who lotted it very reasonably, individually or in small groupings, on 25 October in their Collector's sale. In the circumstances a result of 63% sold was quite encouraging although 26 of the lots sold went to that well known trio of BWISC members, Kevin Darcy, James Podger and myself. Without us and an internet bidder the sale would have been a disaster. There were no telephone bidders, only two successful internet bidders, a couple of successful book bidders and four successful bidders handled by an agent.

As a consequence, realisations were quite modest, the highest price achieved being £450 (hammer price) for a 2½d PSE upgraded with a block of 4 x George V ½d's sent to Huber in Pittsburgh – philatelic in origin but the correct 1 oz. registered rate. The colony needs some additional specialist collectors.

Part 2 of the Pitts collection of Bermuda, which consisted largely of items from his international gold medal collection of postal history, was sold by Spink on 24 October. As per usual the number of Society members in the room was very small – Simon Richards, Richard Watkins and myself. If one looks solely at the financial results (a pre-sale value of £400,000 at the low estimate, with only £117, 000 (27%) sold) it could not be regarded as anything other than a disaster. But this would be misleading. There were 6 lots with low estimates of £10,000 or above including the earliest known letter from 1617 (£20,000), a Perot (£120,000 which had sold for £116,000 in 2005) and the Moncrieff cover (£40,000 which had sold for £35,000 in 2007), of which only one sold.

If one assesses the sale based on the number of lots sold a different picture emerges. Almost 60% was sold to 34 different successful bidders, which suggests a broad spread of interest in the island, and a much more successful sale. It is clear that the number of people with very deep pockets who used to collect Bermuda are no longer there and that stamps are not the investment vehicle they once were. This is especially true if one considers that two Perots and the Thies and Ward issues from the collection were not even included in the sale, presumably on the assumption that the market couldn't take it. No single lot was knocked down for more than £10,000. However, the 19th Century pre-adhesive covers sold well, on occasion beating the high estimate and previous realised prices. Mail to and from the Turks was strong. The blockade runners sold well, an 1863 cover from London carried by the 'Venus' from Bermuda to Wilmington and there franked with a Confederate 10 cent blue was knocked down for £1,600, twice the low estimate. Also doing well were the covers to and from unusual destinations, possibly to collectors who were not Bermuda specialists. The highest price in the sale was for an incoming cover from South Carolina to the U.S. Consul at St Georges, the only recorded use of the 1856 5 cents value on cover to Bermuda, which fetched £9,500 against a low estimate of £12,000. Similarly, the 1859 incoming cover from Calcutta was knocked down for £1,800 exceeding its high estimate by £300, the 1869 cover to Bordeaux from St Georges franked with 5 copies of the 2d dull blue and a 6d dull purple made £2,200, the 1842 envelope from HMS Illustrious to the U.K. franked with 2 x 1d blacks exceeded its top estimate at £4,200, and the 1866 Ireland Island P 5 cover to New Zealand realised £4,500 against a low estimate of £4,000. Another cover from there, a Soldiers letter, struck with the earliest recorded use of the Crowned Circle datestamp reached £7,000, whilst the black Bermuda Ship Letter, one of 4 known, was knocked down at £3,200, £200 more than its low estimate. However, there was a reluctance to pay high prices for adhesives on cover, especially if the quality was not pristine. The 1873 cover to Gibraltar, the 1874 Soldiers Letter to Ireland and the earliest known cover from 1876 to Maine at the new 2d rate did not sell; the 1871 cover from the Gray correspondence to London franked with 2 x 1s, one of which was damaged, only realised £110 and the 3d on 1s provisional on a front to Halifax achieved £850 against a low estimate of £1,000. In contrast the very nice cover with 1d on 1s provisional with the barred 12 of Harrington last sold in the Ludington sale for £1,600, was knocked down to the same buyer for £3,500, £1,000 in excess of its top estimate.

The Grosvenor sale on 20 and 21 September contained a number of medium sized, specialised BWI collections. The Cecil Clough collection of Antigua comprised 51 lots. The individual stamps did not sell well, but the 22 lots of proofs of the frames of the 1903/7 set did better, selling 65%, although at prices around the low estimate. A room bidder and a book bidder shared the spoils. There were 67 lots of Bermuda with nothing particularly exciting. The nice Crowned Circle on cover but with ugly file notes on the obverse with a top estimate of £1,400 did not sell nor did the soldier's letter estimated at £3,000 or the 2d mint block of four, imperf. from the 1962 set, with a top estimate of £1,500. The 1851 cover from New York with an average Ship Letter in red realised £950, well below the low estimate. The George VI rarity from British Guiana, the 4 cents mint, scarlet and black vertical pair, imperf horizontally, realised £17,500, against a top estimate of £25,000. Finally, the 32 lots of Jamaica War Stamps were almost 100 % sold with the strongest prices coming from the varieties with letters inserted by hand. The unique Dominican War Tax essay sold to one of our members for £720, the Trinidad all sold whilst the Turks Islands failed to. It is possible that a better result would have been achieved if all the War Tax items had been lotted together, who knows? But a two-day sale of over 2,000 lots certainly required stamina for anybody with a broad interest across our area.

Gibbons were chosen to handle the Dr Dunlop collection of used material from the entire Commonwealth on 18 and 19 October. It contained much material that is distinctly scarce in used condition and as the uplift is still only 18% it attracted a good room presence. Anybody who attended hoping for a bargain would have been disappointed as there were four dealers present hoping to build up their stocks. Mark Harvey and George Holschauer picked up much of the West Indies material, little of which went unsold. The collections went particularly well. A Grenada lot estimated at £800-900 realised £1,600, and a Bahamas lot estimated at £1,000-£1200 realised £2,800. British Guiana was particularly strong. The cotton reel was knocked down at £1,600, twice estimate, whilst the following lot of 1 cent and 4 cents from the 1852 issue fetched £1,300 against an estimate of £400. One of each of the 1862 type-set provisionals fetched £900 against an estimate of £500-600. The 1905 \$2.40 realised £240, 70% of catalogue and in British Honduras the scarce Queen Victoria \$2 made £200, again twice estimate, and with premium exceeded its catalogue value.

My thanks to David Corden, James Podger and Simon Richards for their contributions to this article.

BOOK REVIEW

BY IAN JAKES

The Riddle of the 'Registered' Ovals of Jamaica and Trinidad 1949 – 1962 by David Horry FRPSL.

Published by The British West Indies Study Circle (2017). Soft back. Full Colour. 217 pages and a further 29 introductory pages. ISBN 978-1-907481-34-5.

This book is different. It is a thinking man's book. It challenges, in my view correctly, the traditional view of Caribbean philately. The 'Registered' Oval postmarks were not issued via the normal GPO routes. British and American security services operated continuously in the Caribbean in the twentieth century. There was great interest in philately during the period 1949–1962, with financial gains to be made by philatelic dealers from the hobby.

The introduction to this book consists of 29 pages under various chapter headings. There is a 'Dramatis personae' at the end of the book on pages 214 and 215. Every reader, will need to read, digest and fully understand all of the superb information provided by David Horry and mentioned in this paragraph before proceeding to fully appreciate the extensive postmark section of the book.

Horry's basic conclusions are that the 'Registered' Ovals were manufactured by a private company in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and that they appeared on covers in five different states due to defacement of the word 'Registered' and in different coloured inks allowing envelopes bearing postage stamps cancelled by a 'Registered' Oval to be easily identified by security services. Horry also concludes that many 'Registered' Ovals only exist because of a deliberate policy to sell these items to philatelists in order to gain much needed income. Much of this activity was performed under the cover of the Crown Agents and the Jamaica Philatelic Society.

Horry lists, among others, George Crawford Odom, Roger Wells, Sir Geoffrey C. Gunter, J.M. Nethersole, Sir Harry Luke and Everard Aguilar as being individuals connected with 'Registered' Ovals. Most of these men were in the Caribbean area during the 1930s. All were in the Caribbean during World War 2, being joined by Ian Fleming, who later became Security Liaison Officer for Jamaica. If Horry's conclusions are correct it would be reasonable to assume that operations similar to 'Registered' Oval operations were taking place in some form or other during the 1930s and in World War 2. Perhaps we will learn more about this in Horry's other books still to be published and which will no doubt show different postmarks and other markings.

The postmark section of the book extends to 213 pages, apportioned as to 185 pages for Jamaica, 25 for Trinidad and the remaining 2 pages for the Grenadines. This section shows coloured illustrations of each of the 'Registered' Ovals at the offices which used them. This section highlights not just the use of the 'Registered' Ovals, but the use of other cancellers at many of their offices during the period of study. Forwarding offices and other offices in the vicinity of the main named office is shown together with their respective cancellers. There are excellent maps of superb quality of the locality showing the situation of not only of the offices but also other information e.g. air strip, quarry, water supply etc. Horry's notes under the illustrations and maps should be read. They add to the information contained in the introductory section of his book.

Horry's views, which are not those of mainstream philately, chime with my own understanding of Caribbean political history. This book should be taken as a first step towards serious research. Others with knowledge should contribute. If they do mainstream philatelic thinking will change.



peter singer



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