



STUDY CIRCLE



**COVER FROM THE DAVID R. PITTS FRPSL
LARGE GOLD MEDAL COLLECTION OF BERMUDA**



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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 20 September 2014 BWISC meeting in room H at Autumn Stampex, 2.30 to 4.30pm. Members are invited to bring along informal displays and material to offer on the members' table.

Saturday 25 April 2015 – AGM & Auction at Grosvenor Auction Rooms, 3rd Floor, 399-401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT. Viewing from 12 noon, AGM at 1.15pm, followed by the Auction at 2.15pm.

The Circle will take a stand to promote ourselves at the following events. Members are encouraged to help staff the table, or to just come along and say 'hello'. For more information, email secretary@bwisc.org. You can also place orders for Circle publications in advance of these events. Orders placed in sufficient time can be collected at the event, saving on postage.

Scotex, Perth (Scotland!) Saturday 18 October 2014
 London 2015 Europhilex 13–16 May 2015
 Midpex, Leamington Spa, Saturday 4 July 2015

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

ATTENDING THE EVENTS

We would very much like you to be at these events. But you do need to let us know in advance that you plan to come. For the RPSL display, everyone can come, but places are limited for both the Gibbons reception and for the dinner at the Naval Club. Please let us know which events you can attend as soon as you can, but **at the latest by 15 October 2014**.

Please email Commodore John Keegan at john.keegan331@btinternet.com to indicate your plans to attend. (subject heading please Diamond Jubilee Celebrations), or write to the same at 12 Churchill Drive, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 9HE United Kingdom, remembering to add in your name (and partners name if applicable) along with an e-mail address and contact telephone number plus any dietary requirements which we will do the best to accommodate.

Wednesday 5 November 2014 from 18.00 to 20.30.

Stanley Gibbons has graciously agreed to host an evening reception at 399–401 Strand.

For those travelling further and in London overnight, this is a chance to get together the evening before. There will be a selection of displays from the main event, which might be of special interest to members living in the London area who cannot attend the RPSL on Thursday afternoon

because of work commitments. Overall numbers are limited (65 from BWISC), although we anticipate there will be a place for everyone who would like to attend, so it would be wise to RSVP as soon as you can.

Thursday 6 November 2014 from 13.00 to 19.00 RPSL display.

The Study Circle will be presenting a comprehensive 52 frame display to the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W1G 6JY, as part of the Society's Diamond Jubilee Celebration. The list of exhibitors has a truly international flavour and includes half a dozen Large Gold Medal winners. Each of the BWI territories will be represented with some rare and exotic material exhibited. It is doubtful that a BWI display of this quality will have ever been assembled in one place before.

There have been the inevitable small changes to the individual displays listed the March Bulletin, as follows:

Bo Ivanovic will be presenting Dominica instead of John Taylor

Ian Jakes will be presenting 'Patriotic Labels in World War One'

The RPSL take pride in making a personal connection, providing visitors with a name badge. If you let us know as soon as you can, they will be able to do that. (If, like us, you occasionally get confused, and you find yourself in Marylebone unsure whether you'd remembered to let us know, just call in, we'll sort it out).

Thursday 6 November 2014 from 1900 Celebration Dinner at the Naval Club.

A dinner to celebrate the Diamond Anniversary of the BWISC will be held at the Naval Club, 38 Hill Street, Mayfair W1J 5NS (+44 (0) 207 493 7672) at 19.00 for 19.30 immediately post the exhibition. The dinner is open to all members and their partners and it is expected that the President (and his Lady) of the RPSL will attend. The maximum number that can be accepted is 73 and places are filling up quickly. The Naval Club is an excellent, historic and suitable central venue (details at www.navalclub.co.uk) providing a lovely private dining room in which the long and successful history of the Circle may be celebrated without the normal distractions of using a City restaurant. For those attending the RPSL exhibition first, it is recommended to use a taxi to get to the Club.

Dinner will consist of 3 courses plus coffee and mints. A vegetarian option will be available if notified at the time of booking. Some wine (red and white) will be included in the cost and provided to the tables. Attendees who wish for more (or something different) will be free to purchase from the staff on the night. The cost is £50 a head. (For those members who have already booked by letter or e-mail you need do nothing more as you are on the list - except pay!). Payment of £50 should be by cheque made out to 'BWISC' or by bank transfer at the time of booking please to our Treasurer, Ray Stanton (contact details at front of this Bulletin).

RPSL AND NAVAL CLUB DRESS CODE IS JACKET & TIE.

Don't turn away if you forget a tie on the day! We will have something for you.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Luca Lavagnino and David Pitts on becoming Fellows of The Royal Philatelic Society London.

To Chris Harman RDP on being made an Honorary Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society London.

OBITUARY

It is with regret that we have to announce the death on 8 May 2014 of Brian Rogers who was group leader for Belize/British Honduras and a leading specialist in World War 2 censor marks of British Honduras. Brian gave displays of British Honduras material to the Study Circle at Stampex in 1996 and 2012, focused on the period between 1936 and 1953, and generously shared his expertise with members researching the postal markings of this territory. Brian was also known to many Circle members through his role as President of the King George VI Collectors Society. His seminal work on British Honduras WW2 censorship was published in the Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin #94 in January 1992, and remains the foundation for all the later studies.

W. DANFORTH WALKER, RDP.

One of our most long-serving members, Dan Walker, has been rewarded for his outstanding philatelic achievements by being invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists established in 1921 with the consent of King George V who became its first signatory. Signing the Roll has become recognised worldwide as the premier philatelic award for those who have contributed to the development of philately by their writings, service to organised philately or simply the formation of outstanding collections. Dan and three other new signatories join the 79 current living members from 26 countries.

Dan is without doubt well qualified to join this elite group. We know him as our member who won multiple International Gold and Large Golds for his Grenada collections, starting with his magnificently researched Postal History that won high awards in San Juan (1982), Rio (1983) and Copenhagen (1987). He made his research available in 1982 by publishing his exhibit as a 164-page BCPSG monograph, and I believe David Druett still has stocks so it remains an essential research tool for any Grenada collector. Dan also wrote a number of authoritative articles in the BCPSG Journal and together with John Cronin published an extended draft monograph on the Grenada Post Office and postmarks. At the same time he was building a broader Grenada collection, during which he assembled and became the world expert in particular on the rare 1883 manuscript Postage stamps. This exhibit earned Dan more gold and Large Gold awards, in Granada (1992), Poznan (1993), Bangkok (1993), London (2000), Tokyo (2001) and Brussels (2001). At Philakorea in 2002, his collection was shown in the Championship Class after winning Large Gold awards in three different years. In 1997 he was invited to display his collection at the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

In 2003 Dan consigned most of his Grenada collection to Shreves where it sold well in a high profile auction. He still maintains a number of smaller Grenada collections and continues to work on these collections and some of us will have seen his one frame War Tax exhibit. But he has also reverted to what had previously been his secondary collections, British Borneo, Sarawak, Romania, India Covers Going Abroad 1854 to 1879 and in particular his Indian Princely States. Not surprisingly, these are rapidly becoming high quality collections and he has written many articles on these difficult stamps. He has already won multiple awards with his Indian Princely States, too many to list. In addition Dan has started a new collecting interest, the First US Revenue Stamps, 1862 to the early 1870s.

Dan has also had long and distinguished service in organised philately. Despite having sold most of his Grenada, he remains as the BCPSG group leader for that island and has always been ready to answer my queries and those of others too I am sure. On a higher level he has served as President of the BCPSG, was for many years treasurer of the American Philatelic Society, a highly time-consuming and responsible post, and by my count has served four two-year terms as Trustee of the American Philatelic Research Library. For many years his business was recommended by the APS for its members' stamp insurance. Together with his wife Pat, he has toured the US and the world to serve on multiple juries as highly qualified judges.

And now he can look Pat, who won the Lichtenstein Award in 2006, in the eye on almost equal terms!

Stanley Gibbons Auctions

British West Indies usually feature in our regular auctions and we seek consignments of single items of merit or collections for inclusion.

*Our next sale is November,
please see the website for full details.*



Full details for the sale available from Ryan Epps repps@stanleygibbons.com or call 020 7836 8444

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BARBADOS

INTRODUCTION OF COMPULSORY PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE

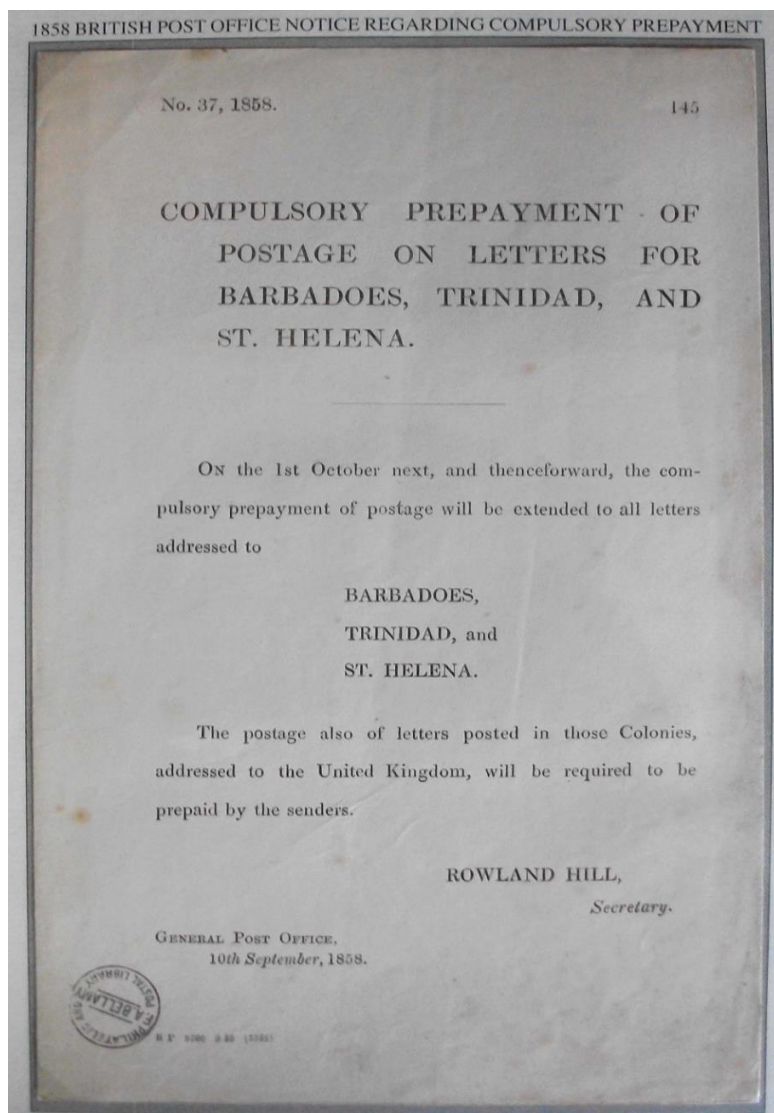
The article by Edmund Bayley in the March 2014 (No. 240) BWISC Bulletin has produced a flurry of correspondence which is published below, with minor editorial modifications, for the elucidation of the membership. Please note that the copy of the Roland Hill circular dated 16 January 1858 and the C. Tinling notice dated 29 December 1858 have been referred to by both Fitz Roett and Edmund Bayley and to avoid repetition I have inserted them between their respective articles. Hon. Editor.

COMPULSORY PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE

BY STEFAN HEIJTZ

I read with interest Edmund's comments about the introduction of compulsory prepayment of postage in Barbados, in the March 2014 BWISC Bulletin (No. 240).

I would like to add that there is a well known British Post Office Notice dated 10 September 1858, clearly stating that as of 1 October 1858 it became compulsory to prepay postage on mail between the UK and Barbados (both directions), see Fig. 1. However, it did not become compulsory to prepay the postage with stamps at this stage, this was introduced later, and I have never seen a PO Notice suggesting when this may have become the case. However, I do know that St. Helena for example introduced that rule as of 1 July 1863, although mail from passing ships was still allowed to be sent unpaid.



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What is important though is that from 1 October 1858, unpaid or insufficiently prepaid letters were charged an additional fee apart from the insufficient postage, thus making it more expensive not to prepay the postage, something which had not been the case previously.

It is clear to me that this rule was implemented in the UK as of 1 October 1858 (as was always the case with all GB postal regulations), but as Edmund states, in Barbados the situation was possibly quite different. Even if the notice was forwarded to Barbados, the Postmaster may have decided that it wasn't practical to introduce the rule as indicated, although normally in those days one would have expected a colonial postmaster to follow all regulations issued by the GPO. Having said that, I have never seen an unpaid packet letter from Barbados to GB dated after 1 October 1858, so that would suggest that the rule was introduced. The latest unpaid packet letter I have seen (and have) is dated only a few days before 1 October 1858 and although I do not currently have access to my records of early packet letters so can't check all the recorded examples, I would still suggest that very few examples (if any) of unpaid packet letters dated after 1 October 1858 exist.

When it comes to ship letters and in particular letters to the USA, this is a different matter since mail to the US was dealt with according to US postal rules, and they allowed unpaid mail much later. Again I do not currently have access to my records, but certainly as late as the 1870s it was still possible to send unpaid mail to the US, without any additional charges.

So all that the 1858 PO Notice deals with is packet mail between GB and Barbados (and between GB and the other islands mentioned in the notice). Since I also collect St. Helena postal history, I can again confirm that after 1 October 1858 this rule was followed strictly in both directions, and no unpaid packet letters are recorded after that date, except examples which have been taxed because they were underpaid or unpaid for some other reason.

We have to remember that in those days the GPO was very powerful, and colonial postmasters who did not follow the rules were very quickly removed and replaced by loyal servants. The orders from the GPO were second to God's words, and were treated with the same respect.

COMPULSORY PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE

BY FITZ ROETT

Last year a handbook, *Barbados: The Britannia issues*, was published by the BWISC. I was the author of this book. My good friend Edmund Bayley, FRPSL did not agree with my statements dealing with the pre-payment of postage on letters to the United Kingdom (Pg. 47). His rebuttal of my writings was published in the BWISC Bulletin No. 240 March 2014. This communication is in reply to Edmund's comments.

I was recently on an extended visit to Barbados and found the time to peruse some of the contents of both the Museum and Archives. My task was simplified by the Lane⁽¹⁾ book. As a result of my researches this reply has by necessity become quite lengthy since the scope has expanded.

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The first reference I have found regarding the compulsory pre-payment of postal charges on letters can be found in BWISC Bulletin No. 115 of December 1982, submitted without comment by Frank Deakin. It is the re-print of a Post Office Notice dated 16 January 1858 which I will quote *in toto* (see Page 12) as it is perfectly clear in its intent.

It is apparent that compulsory pre-payment to a number of British Colonies had been in place for some time prior to January 1858. On the basis of this notice, pre-payment **TO** the BWI Colonies became compulsory on 1 February 1858, while the target date of compulsory pre-payment **FROM** the Colonies was 1 April 1858. Explicit instructions were put forward on the handling of underpaid mail but the problems concerning the equitable allocation of the additional funds and penalties between the Imperial Government and the Colonies remained, though less severe than before.

2. BARBADOS MUSEUM and HISTORICAL SOCIETY (BMHS)

The BMHS was incorporated by Special Act of the Legislature, 1933. As part of its mandate over the years the BMHS has extracted certain information from old Barbados newspapers and re-printed the contents in their Journal (JBMHS). Details of the newspaper excerpts appearing



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in the JBMHS are given in Lane⁽¹⁾. The first issue of the JBMHS was Vol. 1, No. 1 in November, 1933. In Vol. 26 No. 2 of Feb. 1959, the original Post Office Notice of November 10, 1858 is reproduced on page 56. This Notice is essentially informing the Public of the availability of the new 6d and 1s stamps which went on sale on this day. The original Post Office Notice of 29 December 1858 is reproduced on Page 59.

3. NEWSPAPERS

On the front page of *The Liberal* newspaper of 5 January 1859 can be found a Post Office Notice dated December 29 1858 (see Page 12)

4. COVER DATA BASE

For over 40 years I have been assembling a comprehensive data base of Barbados Britannia covers. In this enterprise, I have been assisted by many philatelists. Cover data can be a powerful tool to enhance philatelic research. For example, using such data I have been able to allocate the white paper printings of the imperforate (1d) SG 9/10 to the shade groups. The results were shown in my International **LARGE GOLD MEDAL** exhibit recently displayed in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The display was also awarded felicitations of the jury for philatelic research and given a Special Prize.

A tally of all covers to the United Kingdom in the data base results in the following:

1855 to 1858: 38% of the letters forwarded unpaid, whereas
1859 to 1861: 1% of the letters forwarded unpaid

It can be seen there was a notable reduction in the quantity of letters sent unpaid after 1858.

5. OTHER INFORMATION

The most recent information at hand is given by Kellow and Freeland where they state: *On 1 April 1858 pre-payment of letters to the United Kingdom was made compulsory.....*⁽⁴⁾. This date concurs with the Post Office Notice given above. It appears likely that the Barbados Legislature did not agree to the original proposal on March 30 1858 (see H. Bayley Pages. 27/28.) However, they must have accepted it soon afterwards as new denominations had to be prepared. The new dies and plates were manufactured in September 1858 and the stamps printed the following month.

It is my understanding that the Post Office Act of 1861 relates to the “all-up” 6d rate between the BWI countries.

In conclusion, this article is intended to substantiate my claim regarding the date on which pre-payment of letters to the United Kingdom became compulsory. *The announcement i.e. the Post Office Notice of December 29, 1858 together with the other evidence presented should leave no doubt whatsoever that the compulsory pre-payment of letters to the United Kingdom was instituted in January, 1859.*

Many thanks go to the Barbados Museum and Archives Staff for their assistance.

REFERENCES

1. Geraldine Lane, *Tracing Ancestors in Barbados*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 2006.
2. *The Liberal* newspaper of January 5, 1859 Front Page.
3. *Barbados Museum and Historical Society Journal* Vol. 26 No. 2 of February, 1959 p. 56, 59.
4. Geoff Kellow, RDP and Charles Freeland, BWISC Bulletin No. 240 March 2014 p. 31.
5. H. Bayley *The Post Office in Barbados* Advocate Co. Ltd., 1933

Circular.

The following Instruction must be carefully affixed to the Book of Instructions furnished for the guidance of Postmasters in the West Indies.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.
16th January, 1858

SIR,

I am directed by the Postmaster General to inform you that the system of compulsory pre-payment of Postage on Letters between this Country and certain British Colonies, to which it has for some time past been applied, has been found so greatly to facilitate the duties connected with the receipt and despatch of Mails, and to expedite the delivery of the Letters, that it has been decided to extend the measure to letters between the United Kingdom and those British Colonies in the West Indies, the Posts of which are under the control of this Department.

Accordingly on the 1st February next, and thenceforward, the postage of letters posted in the United Kingdom, addressed to will, in all cases, be required to be paid in advance.

In order to obviate, however, the inconvenience which would be caused to the Public by detaining and returning to the senders those Letters which through inadvertence may be posted without the full amount of postage being paid upon them, it has been determined to adopt arrangements similar to those which now exist in the case of the Colonial Book Post, that, is, to detain, and return to the senders, Letters dropped into the Letter Box wholly unpaid or paid less than a single rate of postage, and to forward, charged with the deficiency of postage, and a fine of sixpence, Letters insufficiently prepaid but paid at least the single rate of postage.

With regard to the Letters posted in addressed to the United Kingdom, you will fix the 1st April next as the date for bringing this measure into operation, which will leave about one clear month for making known the new regulation, and I am to desire that, in the mean time you will take all the means in your power for giving publicity to this arrangement by advertising it in the Public Newspapers, and by affixing a Notice in your Office window, and in the Public Edifices.

Any letters which may be posted at your Office addressed to the United Kingdom after the 1st April, next, unpaid must at once be opened by you and returned to the senders, in covers which will be supplied to you for the purpose, bearing a printed notification of the cause of their being thus treated; and, as it will be highly important that these Letters should reach the hands of the senders as promptly as possible, in order that they may be made aware that their Letters have not been forwarded, you will use all the means in your power to effect this object.

In the town in which you reside, you can have no difficulty in sending the Letters to the several persons for whom they are intended; and, as regards Letters written by persons residing in other parts of the Colony, you must exhibit a list in some conspicuous part of your Office of the names of such persons, and, if there be a local Newspaper, advertise such list from time to time.

By these means it may be hoped that all Letters detained in consequence of non-payment of postage will speedily be received back by the writers, so that they may be again posted properly pre-paid, and that the regulation requiring pre-payment will soon become generally known.

You will take care to keep yourself supplied with a stock of covers for returning unpaid Letters, and to make application to the Surveyor for more in sufficient time to allow of their being sent to you before your stock is exhausted.

In conclusion, I must caution you that this Instruction refers exclusively to Letters posted unpaid addressed to the United Kingdom, and that you are not authorized to detain or to open any other description of Letters.

I am, SIR,
Your obedient Servant
ROWLAND HILL, Secretary

COMPULSORY PRE-PAYMENT OF LETTERS - GENERAL POST OFFICE

Barbados December 29th, 1858

December 29. From and after the 1st January next, the postage of letters addressed to the United Kingdom (except Official Military and Civil Departments) must be paid in advance with Barbados postage stamps; and should any letter liable to such prepayment be posted unpaid it will not be forwarded but opened and returned to the writer.

C. Tinling, Colonial Postmaster.

N.B. Parties themselves must affix Stamps on their Letters.

COMPULSORY PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE**BY EDMUND BAYLEY**

In my Barbados Handbook, *The Stamps of Barbados*, published in 1989 by Coles Printery Ltd, I stated on page 29 concerning the issue of the 1858 6d rose-red and 1s black [shades] that these two denominations had been introduced for the purpose of prepaying the postage on letters from Barbados to the United Kingdom: '*although it was not compulsory for postal charges to be prepaid by affixing adhesive postage stamps until after August 22nd, 1861*'.

In 2013, Dr. M. Fitz Roett, produced his handbook, *Barbados, The Britannia Issues*, published by The BWI Study Circle under the guidance of its Chairman, Peter Ford. In this book, Fitz makes reference to two items, which are hereinafter referred to, and on the basis of these items, he challenged the accuracy of my above statement, and stated therein:

'That announcement should leave no doubt that the compulsory prepayment of letters to the United Kingdom was instituted in January 1859'

FITZ'S EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM:

There are two items which Fitz referred to in order to substantiate his claim:

Firstly a Circular dated 16th January 1858 (see Page 12) appearing in the December 1982 Issue [No. 115] of The BWISC Journal which was submitted for the information and interest of philatelists by my friend, the late Mr. H. Frank Deakin. This Circular is not addressed to anyone and purports to have been sent out by Mr. Rowland Hill, Secretary of the Post Office in London presumably to the Postmasters in the West Indies which were under the control of the British Post Office.

MY COMMENTS ON THIS DOCUMENT:

The two blank places in the Circular were to contain the name of the Colony to which it was proposed to send the Circular. Fitz has completely ignored the fact that this Circular specifically states that it was only to be sent '*to those British Colonies in the West Indies, the Posts of which are under the control of this Department [British Post Office]*'. Fitz seems not to be aware of or chooses to ignore the fact that the Inland Post Office was amalgamated with the Imperial Post Office [Packet Agency] as from 16 July 1854 so that the latter no longer had control over the local post office as it continued to have over some of the other British Colonies in the West Indies. The final blow was struck in 1858 on the death of Mr. Joseph Gillbanks, the existing Packet Agent, when the British Post Office finally gave up all control of the local Post Office. Thus the Colonial Postmaster became *de jure and de facto*, the sole postal authority in Barbados. The local records do not indicate any evidence that this Circular was ever sent to or received by the Barbados authorities, but it is abundantly clear that the Barbados Postal Authorities did not take any notice of the Circular and ignored its proposals and the proposed commencement date of 1 April 1858.

The second item was in *The Liberal* newspaper of January 5, 1859 [front page] where the Post Office Notice dated December 29 1858 appears (see Page 12).

MY COMMENTS ON THE CIRCULAR DATED DECEMBER 29 1858:

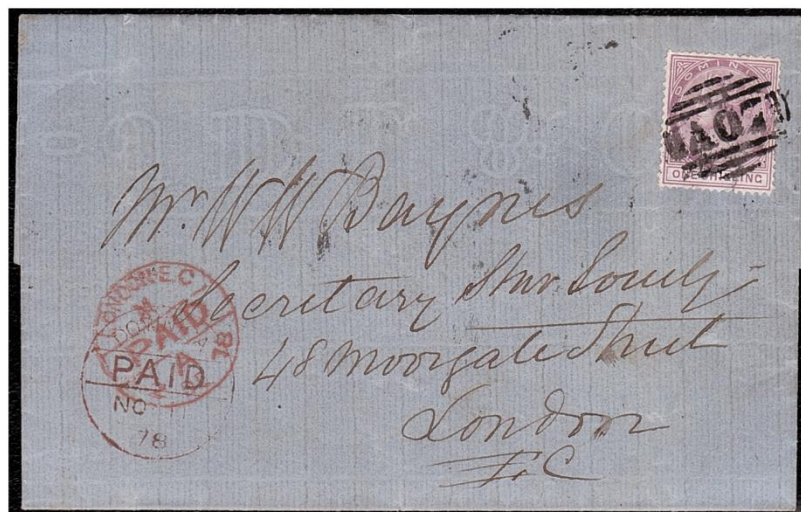
This notice is in direct contradiction to the earlier Post Office Notice dated 13 November 1858, also issued by Mr. Charles Tinling, Colonial Postmaster, and appearing in The Barbadian newspaper of that same day [Volume XXXVI, No. 3538]. This same Post Office Notice but dated 8 November 1858 also appeared in the Barbados Globe, Official Gazette & Colonial Advocate on that same day [Volume XL, No. 5079]. It reads, *inter alia*:

'PARTIES desirous of prepaying their Letters for places out of the colony are informed, that they may do so with the Barbados Postage Stamps, which may be obtained at the General Post Office, Bridgetown, and at the Post Office of each parish.'

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The Barbados Post Office seems to be confused as to what they wanted to do and I am not surprised that they ended up doing absolutely nothing as the evidence hereinafter produced confirms. Although I have provided Fitz with the further evidence hereinafter referred to, he continues to trust and believe the Circular by Rowland Hill and the above notice rather than to trust the Minutes from the Barbados House of Assembly which have the equivalent authority to the Hansard Reports of Parliamentary Debates. The latter in my opinion are far more trustworthy and reliable than a nebulous Circular and conflicting notices issued by the Barbados Post Office.

For Fitz's information, there is another Circular issued by Mr. Rowland Hill that he does not seem to be aware of. I do not have a reference for it, but I have a copy of it.
This Circular is No. 37, 1858 - 145 and reads:

COMPULSORY PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE ON LETTERS FOR BARBADOES, TRINIDAD, AND ST. HELENA.

ON the 1st October next, and thenceforward, the compulsory prepayment of postage will be extended to all letters addressed to

*BARBADOES,
TRINIDAD, and
ST. HELENA.*

The postage also of letters posted in those Colonies, addressed to the United Kingdom, will be required to be prepaid by the senders.

*ROWLAND HILL,
Secretary.*

*GENERAL POST OFFICE,
10th September, 1858.*

As the evidence hereinafter mentioned indicates, this Circular has also been ignored by both the Imperial Post Office and the Barbados Post Office.

FURTHER EVIDENCE OFFERED BY FITZ:

Fitz has also now sought the assistance of Mr. Geoff Kellow RDP and my good friend, Mr. Charles A. Freeland FRPSL to further justify and support his claim when he quotes from their article on St. Christopher in the BWISC Bulletin for March 2014 [No. 240] at Page 31 wherein they state, *inter alia*:

'On 1 April 1858 prepayment of letters to the United Kingdom was made compulsory and it was decided to introduce British adhesives for use in the West Indian islands.'

MY COMMENTS ON FURTHER EVIDENCE OFFERED BY FITZ:

Fitz has taken this excerpt completely out of its context. St. Christopher did introduce British adhesives for the payment of postage and it may have adopted the compulsory prepayment of postage to the United Kingdom as from 1 April 1858, but Barbados certainly did not do so, nor did Jamaica, Demerara or Trinidad. The same Barbados Post Office Notice which Fitz relies on to justify and support his claim disproves this statement as far as Barbados is concerned.

Fitz also now seeks the assistance of my father, the late Herbert H. Bayley, to justify and support his claim but he only quotes from those parts of his research which he finds convenient to use. I would like to reproduce the following excerpt from his book, *The Post Office in Barbados, 1933*, Advocate Press, at Pages 27/28 wherein he states:

Compulsory Prepayment of Postage – 1861.

With the gradual increase in correspondence between Barbados and the United Kingdom, the system of optional prepayment of postage, which all along had been encouraged by the Post Office, soon proved inconvenient.

In 1858 an attempt was made by the Imperial Postal Authorities to change the system. A system of compulsory prepayment of letters to the West Indies had been in operation during the previous twelve months in those islands still under the control of the British Post Office; and the beneficial results were such as to justify Her Majesty's Government in immediately extending the system to every Colony.

Even at this time it was only suggested that the system of compulsory prepayment should be enforced in respect of letters to and from the United Kingdom. On March 30, 1858 the Solicitor-General of Barbados, (the Hon'ble Charles Packer) submitted the following resolution to the House of Assembly:-

"That this House is willing to accept the proposed new arrangements of the Imperial Postmaster requiring that the postage on all letters from this Island to the United Kingdom shall be prepaid, provided such prepayment be made in stamps."

The new arrangements which are referred to in the above Resolution are not the Rowland Hill Circular as one might have expected, but are contained in a new Circular dated 15 February 1858 issued from Downing Street by H. Labouchere and is addressed to The Officer Administering the Government of Barbados. The tone of this new Circular is now quite different from the dogmatic attitude of the earlier one dated 16 January 1858 purportedly issued by Mr. Rowland Hill and on which Fitz relies. I have a copy of this new Circular in my records, and I will quote from its last paragraph which makes interesting reading:

'I have to request that you will acquaint me whether your Government is willing to accept the proposed new arrangement; and upon being apprised of such acquiescence, the Postmaster General will fix a period for carrying it out in this country and in the colony under your Government simultaneously.'

My father goes on to say:

'The Resolution was apparently rejected; and no local Act having been passed.'

In those early days, this new arrangement would have required some new Act or amendment to an existing Act by the Legislature to become effective and I can confirm from my own personal research that no new Act or amendment to any existing Post Office Act has been made between 1858 and 1861 [except as to the one hereinafter mentioned] which would have authorised this new arrangement

Over the last 42 years, I have carried out extensive research on postal matters in Barbados and in London relating to Barbados and have now accumulated over 30 volumes of philatelic and postal material. I had never come across either of the two items from which Fitz was quoting. Based on the information that I have, which is in conflict with his material in some ways, and far more reliable, I wrote a rebuttal of his statement and confirmed that Fitz was wrong and that my original statement was correct. This was published in The BWI Study Circle Bulletin, No. 240, March 2014.

It seems that as a result of an extended stay in Barbados recently, Fitz has taken the opportunity to carry out further research into this matter at the Department of Archives and the Barbados Museum & Historical Society, and he has now actually located copies of the two items mentioned above and which he referred to in his book as the basis of his claim, and he has now sent me a Memorandum, which is copied to two of my friends, with attached copies for which I am grateful. Based again on these two items and statements made by Messrs. Kellow and Freeland, in the final paragraph of his Memorandum, he has again challenged my above statement and again states:

'In conclusion, this article is intended to substantiate my claim regarding the date on which pre-payment of letters to the United Kingdom became compulsory. The announcement i.e. the Post Office Notice of December 29, 1858 together with the other evidence presented

should leave no doubt whatsoever that the compulsory pre-payment of letters to the United Kingdom was instituted in January, 1859.'

Fitz also provides statistics from a Private Data Base to further substantiate his claim. I am not a computer genius by any standard but I am amazed that presumably after more than 100 years after this event occurred, such information can now be tabulated and offered as evidence.

I am prepared to concede that based on the above Rowland Hill Circular and the Post Office Notice, a person who is unfamiliar with all the details of this subject, might easily assume them to provide *prima facie* evidence and come to the conclusion that the Compulsory Prepayment of Postage from Barbados to the United Kingdom was introduced as from 1 January 1859. Unfortunately, the evidence does not stop where Fitz seems to want it to stop but as we shall see, there is a lot more evidence to be considered.

COMPELLING EVIDENCE IGNORED BY FITZ:

The Minutes of the House Assembly for Tuesday April 23 1861, state that a Message was received from the Governor, Mr. F. Hincks, and was laid by the Speaker in the House and read that same day with an attached letter dated 11 March 1861 from the General Post Office in London addressed to Sir Frederic Rogers, Bart., &c of the Colonial Office. The Message read, *inter alia*:

'The Governor has the honor to bring to the notice of the Honorable House of Assembly a representation made by the Secretary to the General Post Office, London, of the inconvenience made by the Secretary to the General Post Office, London, of the inconvenience attending the present mode of ascertaining the amount of postage respectively due to the Imperial and to certain of the Colonial Post Offices according as the postage has been paid in England, or has been left to be paid on delivery of the letter at its destination.'

My question to Fitz and to which I would like an answer is – Could this be the Compulsory Prepayment System, introduced over two years previously working like this? I think not! This clearly indicates that up to March 1861 the compulsory prepayment of postage, while being encouraged by both Post Offices, had not yet been implemented between Barbados and the United Kingdom and that the unpaid system was still being practised. Furthermore, this system was causing greatly difficulty as we shall see from the letter from Mr. F. Hill of the General Post Office, London, to Sir F. Rogers, Bart., &c. dated 11 March 1861, which accompanied the above message states, *inter alia*:

'Sir,- I am directed by the Postmaster General to request that you will be good enough to state to the Duke of Newcastle that his attention has been drawn to the great length of time that is unavoidably occupied in this office in preparing mails for despatch to Jamaica, Demerara, Barbados and Trinidad, owing to the necessity, under the existing arrangements, of marking upon each individual letter the amount of postage due either to the Colonial Post Office or to the Imperial Office, according as the postage has been paid in this country or has been left to be paid upon the delivery of the letter at its destination.

In addition to the time consumed in marking these sums upon the letters transmitted, the total amount due to each office has to be subsequently ascertained and inserted in the letter bill, and as great accuracy is required in this duty, the operation is necessarily tedious and causes much delay in the despatch of the mails.

A similar loss of time, although perhaps not to the same extent, takes place on the arrival of mails from the Colonies mentioned, when it becomes necessary to check the amounts placed to the debit or credit of this department

The Postmaster General has little doubt that the trouble and delay to which I have referred, are felt with equal force in the Post Offices of Jamaica, Demerara, Barbados and Trinidad, and he hopes that the Governments of those Colonies will cordially co-operate with him in this endeavour to apply a remedy to the inconvenience.

With this object, I am directed by His Lordship to request that the Duke of Newcastle will propose to the Officers administering the Government of the several Colonies specified that instead of accounting as at present letter by letter for the postage due to the Colony or to the Imperial Post Office upon the correspondence contained in the mails exchanged with this country, each Officer shall in future account to the other according to the weight in bulk of the letters comprised in the mails...'

Here again I have to ask Fitz the question as to why all of this confusion would have to take place if there was a simple compulsory prepayment of postage system in use. The obvious answer again is that there was no such system in use.

The suggestions for accounting by the weight in ounces referred to above were apparently adopted. The local Legislature then later decided to introduce an Act to make the prepayment of postage between Barbados and the United Kingdom compulsory. It also took the opportunity of extending the compulsory prepayment of postage to the other British Colonies.

The Minutes of the House of Assembly for Tuesday 14 May 1861 state that on 22 April 1861, the Auditor General gave notice to the Honorable House of Assembly of his intention to alter his bill to provide for the prepayment of inter-colonial letters, his original bill being for the provision of compulsory prepayment of postage on mail to the United Kingdom only. It was read a second and third time on 13 August 1861. Thus it became Act No. 501 entitled 'AN ACT to amend the Post-office Acts, 1851 and 1854' and came into force as from 22 August 1861. The Preamble sets out clearly the reason and intent of the Act and states, *inter alia*:

'WHEREAS it would tend to the public convenience if all letters sent by the post from or to this colony to or from any other of her Majesty's colonies were prepaid, and the amount of colonial postage chargeable by the colony to which such letters may be sent were paid to and collected by the Post-office authorities of the colony from which such letters may be sent:'

The Act gave the Governor authority to make arrangements with the Governors of other colonies for the mutual collection of the whole postage charged on letters sent, either way, which must now be prepaid in one sum. The first recorded Agreement to be signed was made with Trinidad on 3 October 1862 and took effect as from 1 December 1862. Other Agreements followed and these are listed with their dates of commencement in my father's book on Page 29.

CONCLUSION:

With my training as an Attorney-at-Law of now over 55 years standing, I was taught that before one can arrive at a verdict or conclusion in a case or any controversial matter, all of the evidence must be heard, considered and weighed. Having carefully done so, it is my considered opinion, that while it may have been the wish of the British Government for the Barbados Post Office to introduce the compulsory prepayment of postage from Barbados to the United Kingdom in 1858, Barbados did not accept the proposal and that the existing system continued up to 1861 when legislation was passed to allow the introduction of the new proposed arrangement. It seems to me that Fitz only wants to accept the part of the evidence that substantiates his claim, i.e. the Rowland Hill Circular and the Post Office Notice and ignore the rest of the evidence, i.e. the House of Assembly Minutes. I think that the House of Assembly Minutes are absolutely clear and are a far more reliable document than an unsigned Circular and two conflicting Post Office Notices.

I must therefore again state that Fitz's continuous and persistent claim that Compulsory Prepayment of Postage between Barbados and the United Kingdom was introduced as from 1 January 1859 is incorrect and that from all of the evidence which I have adduced above, there can be absolutely no doubt whatsoever that the Compulsory Prepayment of Postage between Barbados, the United Kingdom and the other West Indian Colonies did not commence as from 1 January 1859 and that it did not commence until after 22 August 1861 as I have originally stated.

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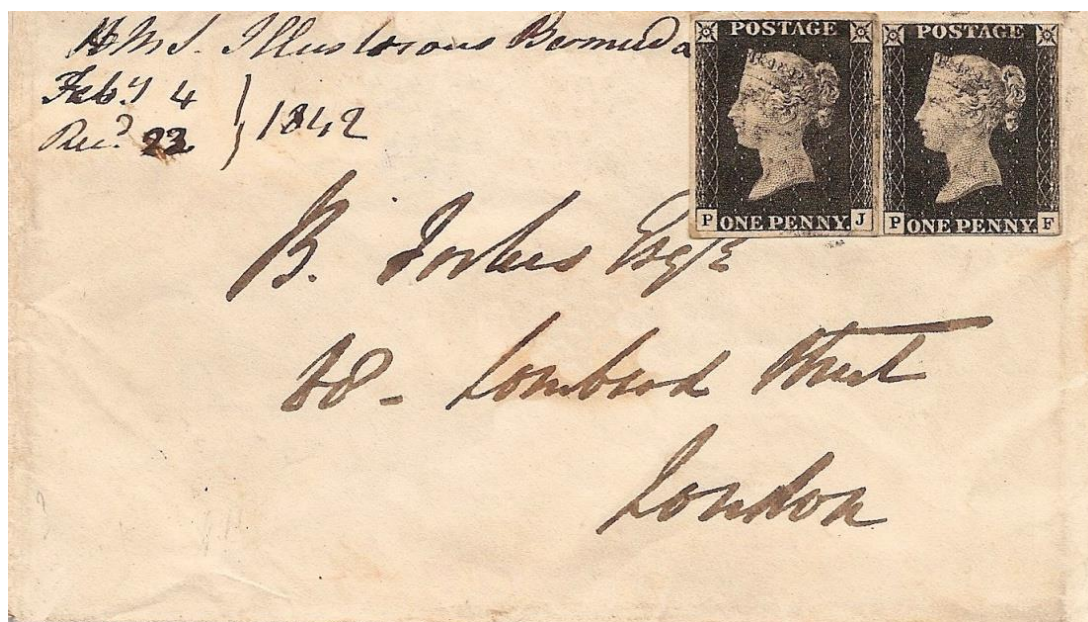
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BERMUDA

EXHIBIT OF THE DAVID R PITTS FRPSL LARGE GOLD MEDAL COLLECTION OF BERMUDA



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On 3 July, at a ceremony attended by more than one hundred friends and family, member David Pitts' exhibit of Bermuda postal history from 1620 to UPU was opened by the Governor of Bermuda, Mr. George Ferguson, at the Masterworks Museum of Modern Art in Hamilton.



Containing examples of each of the five Postmasters and nearly all the most important postal history in private hands, the exhibit was well displayed in wall frames around a small room in the Museum. It remained on display until 6 July.

The exhibit is displayed on large sheets constructed and written up by Art Groten M.D., a recent winner of the prestigious Luff Award and a serial exhibitor in his own right. Art brought to what could seem a dry subject an innovative approach by developing each of five themes in turn, the introductory period 1620–1806, internal island mail, military and naval mail, Ship letters and Packet letters. Although only four covers are known prior to 1700 in private hands, the exhibit shows two of them including the earliest dated 24 September 1620 that is not only the earliest Bermuda letter but the earliest from any extraterritorial British Possession. The inland mail section includes the Postmasters and also the earliest known Bermuda postal marking. In the military and naval section, fortified by Bermuda's role as major naval base, you can find the magnificent soldier's

concessionary rate cover bearing the 1875 1d on 3d provisional and a blockade runner cover. The highlight of the Ship Letter section is the 1628 letter carried on the *Lydia* and so specified by its endorsement. The section on packet letters contains a wealth of routes and rates including the multi-franked covers to Gibraltar and New Zealand owned by the late Geoff Osborn and ends on a high with the famous Moncrieff cover bearing examples of all three 1875 provisionals.



Those members who would like to see the highlights from this remarkable exhibit in the flesh can see it at the RPS as part of our 60th Anniversary celebrations on 6 November. If you prefer the 'full Monty', it will be on display at the Collectors Club in New York on 3 December and at the RPS London on 12 February 2015.

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Anything West Indies related considered**

DOMINICA

OVERPRINT SPACINGS

BY CHARLES FREELAND

While preparing my Dominica collection for auction, it occurred to me that there are some unanswered questions regarding one of the more striking overprint spacing varieties from all the countries we collect. In the illustration of the 1d on 1s overprint (SG19) attached, the 'O' and 'n' of the overprint, far from being centred as was usual on this provisional, is set so far to the left that the 'O' appears directly over the 'P' and the 'n' almost over the 'e'. While the positioning of the regular overprint varies to a minor extent, the 'O' is usually just to the left of the 'P' and the 'n' approximately above or just to the right of the first 'n' of 'Penny'.



Vol. 1 of Victor Toeg's Dominica handbook (sadly there has been no Vol. 2) illustrates on Page 59 a pane of this stamp that is now in the collection of Roger West, our Dominica group leader. This makes it clear that the setting was one of 60 and not, for example, of 12 as the Tobago overprints. Two varieties (the dropped 'y' on #6 and the close 'Pe' on #48) can be positioned as they appear on Roger's pane. Page 60 lists the illustrated wide space between 'n' and 'e' variety among six others but simply states it is not constant, presumably because it does not appear on the pane. A similar variety, wide space between 'O' and 'n', is also described as not constant. I find it strange that the book does not illustrate either of these two varieties.

My collection contains two unused and one used example of the misplaced 'n' and 'e' variety and I have seen others, so it seems inconceivable that this could be a random variety. I have approached Roger West, whose belief that the variety was caused by loose type is almost certainly correct. But its frequency means that it must have been repeated in a sequence of panes, and should be capable of being positioned, although as the setting was so large that will be a challenge. The largest multiple I have seen is a pair with the variety on the left stamp, but it would be interesting to know whether any member has a block that might help us position this striking variety.

Reference:

Toeg, V., *Dominica Postal History, Stamps and Postal Stationery to 1935, Volume 1*, BWISC 1994

JAMAICA

A NEW JAMAICA TAX MARKING

BY KEITH MOH

Circa 1913, Jamaica issued a series of duplex 'T' handstamps to mark underpaid overseas mail. These handstamps show the amount the recipient was to be charged in Gold Centimes, with 10 centimes equal to 1d. The conversion rate remained in effect until 18 September 1949 when Sterling was devalued. The devaluation resulted in a change of the Centime to Sterling rate and made the existing 'T' duplex handstamps obsolete.

A provisional duplex 'T'– handstamp with different size circles and the centime value partly obliterated and over-written in crayon (Lant Type D9d, Proud Type UP45) was introduced sometime after the devaluation, with the earliest known use currently reported as February 1951. However, no underpaid covers with tax markings for the 17 months between the devaluation date and February 1951 have been reported until now.



Fig. 1.

Figure 1 shows an airmail cover to the USA franked with a KGV 6d single which is tied by a Malvern 'OC 18 49' cds and which bears an unreported 'T 4D' tax handstamp. The airmail rate to the USA increased from 6d to 8d the day before, making this cover underpaid by 2d.



Fig. 2.

An enlargement of the 'T 4D' marking is shown in Figure 2. The 'T' circle is 20.5mm in diameter and the '4D' circles are 20mm and 15.5mm. Close inspection of the enlargement shows that the marking was probably made by two separate handstamps rather than a single duplex handstamp because the '4D' in the double circle leans slightly to the left whereas the 'T' is upright. In addition, a faint outline of the handstamp frames can be discerned, and the lower right corner of the frame outline following the '4D' double circle does not align with the lower left corner of the frame outline before the 'T' circle.

The T circle closely matches the description of the single circular 'T' listed by Lant as Type D6c and by Proud as UP35. The '4D' double circle has not been reported.

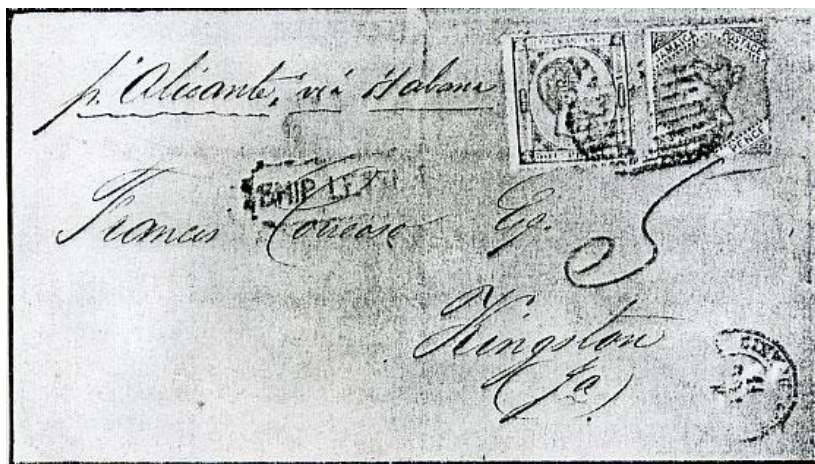
This tax mark appears to fit in as an emergency measure prior to the above-described provisional. Any additional information or other examples of short-paid covers between the devaluation date and February 1951 are welcomed.

References:

- Lant, Reg, *The "Unpaid and Tax" Markings of Jamaica*, British Caribbean Philatelic Journal, ISSN 0045-2890
 Proud, Edward B. *The Postal History of Jamaica*, Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd., 2004

JAMAICA USED ABROAD**BY MICHAEL HAMILTON**

There is no suggestion that the Jamaica Post Office farmed out supplies of their Pine watermarked denominations to British Post Offices established in the Caribbean area, but there are three clear indications that Jamaica stamps may have had permitted, or accepted, use on correspondence back to the island.



Firstly, two wonderful covers dated July and September 1876 were offered and illustrated in the Grant Glassco (1969) auction showing respectively Jamaica 6d Crown CC wmk in combination with Cuban 50c, and secondly Great Britain QV 4d Plate 14 in combination with Jamaica 2d rose and Cuba 50c. They are mailed from Cienfuegos, Cuba and the adhesives are tied by 10 barred horizontal oval.



These covers are the firmest confirmation that such incoming Jamaica inclusive combinations were tolerated. They pin-point an exact date, and because we never see loose Jamaica stamps with parts of this 10 barred oval we get a crystal clear insight into how exceptionally rare these frankings are.

Secondly, we are steered into the direction of Jamaica used abroad by Tom Foster who wrote in his '*Jamaica The Postal History 1662-1860*' handbook on Page 31 the following:

"Increasing correspondence arising from the improved mail facilities, led to many British Post Offices being established in the Caribbean area. At first they were equipped with the Crown Circle handstamps and later demands led to the introduction of British postage stamps too."

It is in connection with this last statement that a little known fact emerges. Imperial stamps (GB QV issues) were not issued in these foreign ports until about the middle of the 1860s, yet it is probable (though no positive proof appears to exist), that Jamaican postage stamps may have been allowed to prepay postage from certain of these places which were in direct communication with the colony.

Examples are known on letters from Cienfuegos in Cuba and Santa Martha in Colombia being prepaid with colonial stamps, and it is quite possible that this practice was carried on to a larger extent than we are yet aware."

Great Britain stamps were supplied to nearby areas:

Cuba - Havana using C58 in 1865 and St. Jago De Cuba using C88 in 1866

St. Thomas – using C51 in 1865 (with the main British Packet Office moved to Colon in Colombia following the hurricane of October 1867)

Dominican Republic – using C86 at Porto Plata and C87 at St. Domingo as of re-openings in 1876

Haiti – Jacmel using C59 in 1865 and Port-Au-Prince using E53 in 1866

Porto Rico – Aguadilla using F84, Arroyo using F83, Mayaguez using F85, Naguabo using 582, Ponce using F88 and San Juan using C61.

There were also British Postal Agencies in the area, like Aux Cayes, Cap Haitien etc, which did not receive Imperial stamps and obliterations.

The Grant Glassco covers were from the southern port of Cienfuegos which was not a British Postal Agency, and use of Jamaican stamps as late as 1876 indicates that their accepted use on correspondence back to the island may have continued well after the use of the Pineapple watermarked stamps.

The third indication is the growing list of Jamaican stamps, both Pine watermark and Crown CC watermark, which are now known to exist bearing British Postal Agency cancellations from Spanish or Danish ports.

Initially one might have considered these contenders to be simply loose letters (carried in the captain's bag) which were cancelled on arrival, but if so I would be illustrating an equal or larger number of Jamaica 1865 – 1876 stamps solely bearing the cancellations of neighbouring English Caribbean islands i.e. A02 used Antigua, A05 used Bahamas etc, but I do not recall seeing a single example.

The contenders are as illustrated:



C51 (used St. Thomas) on 1d Pine wmk

D60 (used at unknown location) on 6d Pine wmk (has AU 27 1996 BPA certificate)

D63 (used at unknown location) in red ink on 6d Pine wmk (also given AU 27 1996 BPA certificate but wrongly written as D65. Returned to member of the expert committee for correction but stated lost. Also mentioned in Nicholson's handbook).

E88 (used Colon) on 2d Crown CC wmk

10 barred horizontal oval (used Cienfuegos, Cuba) on 2d Crown CC wmk

The Rev. H.H. Heins in his compilation entitled "The Numeral Cancellations of The British Empire" (published 1959) states that "Numbers D60 to D65 appeared in the official Post Office list of 1887 as assigned to the towns here listed (D60 at Valley, Anglesey, D63 at Nawton, Yorkshire). Obliterators with these numbers are known to have been used much earlier, but it is not certain where". The earlier allocations of D60 and D63 are still not known and the only surviving strikes of these GB used abroad instruments are thought to be on these two Jamaica stamps.

If you have further contenders please send scans and watermark details to your Editor.



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ST. VINCENT**THE 6d STAMPS 1861–66****BY CHARLES FREELAND**

Fig. 1. Die Proof.



Fig. 2. Plate proof pair, courtesy Spink.



Fig. 3. The 1861 deep yellow-green with intermediate perfs.

The main source of the information in this article derives from the authoritative handbook by A. D. Pierce, J. L. (Bobby) Messenger and Robson Lowe (PML) and the write-up by our members the late Peter Jaffé RDP and Geoff Kellow RDP of the Jaffé St. Vincent collection that was on at least two occasions short-listed for an International Grand Prix.

The first St. Vincent stamps were initially ordered following the expiry of the arrangements by which UK stamps were used in many Caribbean islands. The 1d was needed for the local and newspaper rate and the 6d to pay the single letter rate to the UK, the predominant destination for mail from St. Vincent at that date. In a letter dated 24 September 1860, Perkins, Bacon & Co. was invited to supply 10,000 6d stamps.

Early in 1860 Perkins Bacon & Co. had commissioned Charles H. Jeens to design a suitable head of Queen Victoria. Jeens' pen-drawn miniature design dated April 1860 was submitted to Perkins Bacon with a bill for £2 12s 6d. This familiar head eventually became the focal point for the stamps of St. Lucia, St. Vincent and South Australia. On 31 January 1861 the 6d die was struck and a few die proofs have survived (Fig. 1), together with very few plate proofs in black (Fig. 2). These latter are not easy to differentiate from the more common De La Rue plate proofs made from the same plates, but the De La Rue examples have a sharper appearance which can be seen when they are set side by side.



Fig. 4. The 1861 6d on cover dated 24 April 1862.

The first 6d (SG2) consisted of 167 sheets (10,020 stamps). They were printed by Draysey in the week ending 9 March 1861, perforated by Miss. Stewart and all the sheets invoiced on 27 March 1861. The colour of this stamp is a deep yellow-green that is different from anything that follows, but it also has the cleaner-cut perforations 14-16 from Miss. Stewart's intermediate machine that was so extensively studied by Bacon and Jaffé among others (Fig. 3). Mint example are rare, indeed there was no example in the Bobby Messenger collection. This stamp cannot be confused with the later 6d printings and plainly any covers with a 6d stamp dated before September 1862 must be from this printing (Fig. 4).

In addition, imperforate plate proofs in deep green were prepared and they are seen from time to time (Fig. 5), though hardly any large multiples remain. These were on thinner paper and have a clearer impression than the issued stamps. Messenger presumed these were remainders that never went to the colony on the grounds that no used examples are known, which is in fact incorrect. Jaffé and Kellow think they might derive from 3 or 4 unauthorised sheets that were specially printed to supply Ormond Hill with the six stamps he requested for his family in April 1861 and supplied in August 1861. Since all the deep yellow-green stamps printed in March 1861 had already been dispatched to the colony, a new printing was required. The six for Ormond Hill were defaced by the well-known barred "CANCELLED" handstamp similar to a type supplied to Chile (Fig 6).



Fig. 5. Imperf plate proof in deep green.



Fig. 6. Ormond Hill 'CANCELLED' handstamp, courtesy Spink.



Fig. 7. First printing of the rough perf unused.

Very shortly afterwards, in 1862, more 6d stamps were required and by now Miss Stewart had moved on to a new perforating machine named A2 by Bacon and Napier, which produced rough perfs 14-6. There were four consignments from this machine, again in deep green but the shade differences are slight, so PML (Page 31) made no attempt to assign shades to the sequence of four printings. Jaffé and Kellow, however, did so on the basis of dated covers. Their conclusions were available in the write-up of the Jaffé exhibit collection.



Fig. 8. First printing of rough perf single rate.



Fig. 9. First printing of rough perf double rate.

As mentioned by PML, the first consignment of 170 sheets (10,200 stamps) of SG4 was printed by Tipple in the week ending 21 June 1862, perforated by Miss. Stewart on 3 July, dispatched to the Colony on 22 July and on sale in September 1862. Since it was perforated with the new A machine, the perfs are cleaner than for the subsequent printings, but not as clean as the 1861 printing (Fig. 7). This stamp is in a deep dull green as evidenced by the two dated covers illustrated, one a single 6d rate to London (Fig. 8) and the second a double rate (Fig. 9). Note that these rates on stamped covers were only valid up to March 1863. Jaffé notes that mint stamps were limited to stock imported by European dealers and these are scarce.



Fig. 10. Cover franked with the second consignment dated 24 November 1863.

On 1 April 1863 the single rate to London was doubled to 1s per half oz, which accounts for the numerous recorded examples of later 6d pairs on cover. Jaffé owned two covers to Polignac dated 24 November 1863 that are cancelled by manuscript at Argyll Estate to deter pilferage (Fig. 10). These covers establish the shade of the second consignment as deep bluish green.

Six hundred And sixty eight 'good' sheets were printed by Tipple in the week ending 23 May 1863 and dispatched to the colony on 28 May. A sizeable block of this stamp, from pos. 11–34, is shown in Fig. 11. This consignment, which may have been remaindered is the source of most of the surviving blocks of this stamp

The third consignment was printed by Lewis in the week ending 18 February 1865. 167 of these sheets were deemed 'good' and dispatched on 1 March. Fig. 12 shows a cover dated 24 February 1866, which is one of the two highest franked (i.e. 3s) surviving covers bearing Perkins Bacon issues. This and other covers of the period establish the shade of the third consignment as deep green. Jaffé also owned an imperf used stamp from this printing.



Fig. 11. Block from the second consignment.



Fig. 12. Cover from the third consignment dated 24 November 1863.

The fourth consignment was printed by Lewis early in March 1866. Miss Stewart perforated 500 sheets on 12 March and these were dispatched on 14 March. Jaffé identified this shade as a deep bluish green, similar to but somewhat duller than the second printing. Fig. 13 shows a rare double rate cover to Polignac bearing stamps from this printing. Mint examples seem to be scarce as by then nearly all the dealers would have been well stocked. My block, ex-Jaffé, has double perfs horizontally between the stamps, which accounts for the "short" lower stamps (Fig. 14).



Fig. 13. Double rate cover franked with stamps from the fourth consignment.



Fig. 14. Block from the fourth consignment with double perfs in the centre.

SG 4, as so many Perkins Bacon products, was also prone to other perforation errors. One of the rarities of the colony is the imperf between horizontal pair (Fig. 15). This is thought to come from the second consignment and Messenger states that it is known used, although I have only recorded one example in a 1967 US catalogue. As mentioned it has been seen imperf used and it is not so difficult to find with double perforations as in Fig. 14 or less usually with perfs sloping (Fig. 16).



Fig. 15. Imperf between pair, from the second consignment.



Fig. 16. Block from the second consignment showing sloping perfs at right.

Acknowledgements

I am greatly indebted to Geoff Kellow for presenting me with a beautifully bound copy of Peter Jaffé's display that was one of three candidates for the Grand Prix at Pacific 1997 in San Francisco. Without that, I could not have written this analysis of the shade variations.

References:

Bacon E. D. and Napier F. H., *Grenada*, Stanley Gibbons, 1902

Pierce A. D., Messenger J.L. and Robson Lowe *St. Vincent* published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 1971

The Peter Jaffé Collection of St. Vincent displayed in the FIP class at Pacifica 97 World Stamp Exhibition, San Francisco, June 1997

TOBAGO

APRIL 1883 2½D ON 6D OVERPRINT

BY CHARLES FREELAND



In the Tobago book that was recently written by Peter Ford, Ed Barrow and myself, we were able to prove by illustration all the recorded settings of the provisional overprints, including a couple of unrecorded ones, with one exception. The very first such overprint, the April 1883 2½d on 6d, does not survive in a complete setting of twelve units, and we were unable to confirm reports by an earlier student that the long tailed 2 variety occurs on the final stamp in the setting, i.e. #12. Requests in the Bulletin and in The London Philatelist for evidence of this position were unanswered. But a chance acquisition in a small postal auction provides the confirmation we were seeking (see illustration). The uninitiated may wonder how we can be certain this comes from the right hand corner as there are two plate numbers in the lower margin below stamps 2 and 5. Had this pair been from Columns 2 and 3 there would be evidence of a register mark in the margin below Stamp 3. There is not, so we can be certain that these two stamps are from Columns 5 and 6; the variety is therefore unequivocally from Position 12 in the setting.

Reference:

Ford, P., Freeland, C. & Barrow, E., *Tobago: The Philatelic Story of a Small Island*, BWISC, 2014

TRINIDAD

REALLOCATED '18' NUMERAL

BY EDWARD BARROW

In Bulletin No 211 Dec 2006 I reported the first recorded example of a relocated Type 0.4 '18' numeral circa 1929. I also offered a few seemingly intelligent guesses as to where it might have been used and thought that was that. I had no idea I would be revisiting those predictions (all wrong) and now offering concrete evidence of its location. Sometimes lightning does strike twice!

The card illustrated in Fig. 1 has an uneventful front, (a scene from the Botanical Gardens), but the reverse shows a 1d KGV definitive cancelled with an '18' numeral. And the sender was kind enough to include his address, Forest Reserve, Fyzabad.

OFFERS FROM STOCK

BAHAMAS. 1858 2d (Plate 7) pair lightly cancelled 'A05' in black. Rare multiple. Ex Glassco. SG Z2 (Sc A3a). **£1100**

BARBADOS. 1920 1/- Victory clearly showing 'C' of 'CA' missing from watermark. Very fine mint. SG 209a. **£975**

BRITISH GUIANA. 1875 (Perf 15) 24c yellow-green. Well centred. Fine mint. Exceptional. SG 114 (Sc 71). **£375**

BRITISH GUIANA. 1862 4c blue unsigned without roulettes. (Type 13 : Pos# 5). Very fine unused. SG 122a (Sc 43). **£450**

CAYMAN ISLANDS. 1912 Die Proof for 2d Duty Tablets 'BEFORE HARDENING' and dated '17 JAN.12'. **£400**

GRENADA. 1950 3d marginal block of four with the 'colon' flaw (R.5/6). Unmounted mint. SG 158ba. **£125**

JAMAICA. 1863 3d green pair sharing large 'SPECIMEN' handstamp (Samuel J1). Very fine mint. Rare. SG 3sp. **£900**

JAMAICA. 1873 1/- brown interpanneau marginal inscription block of nine. Very fine mint. Lovely piece. SG 13 (Sc 12). **£400**

JAMAICA. 1858 1/- rose/blued paper Postal Fiscal overprinted 'SPECIMEN' (Samuel GB2). Very fine mint. SG F7sp. **£175**

ST CHRISTOPHER. 1890 6d olive-brown neatly cancelled 'A 12' of Basseterre. Very scarce used. SG 19 (Sc 15). **£300**

ST KITTS-NEVIS. 1944 5/- 'break in oval at foot' (R.5/12) Unmounted mint. SG 77bc. **£300**

ST LUCIA. 1881 1/- orange showing the 'SHILDING' error. Very fine mint. SG F4b. **£500**

ST VINCENT. 1883 1/- (Perf 12) with watermark reversed. Very fine mint. SG 45x. **£250**

TURKS ISLANDS. 1882 ½d with 'top left triangle detached'. Very fine mint. SG 53b. **£275**

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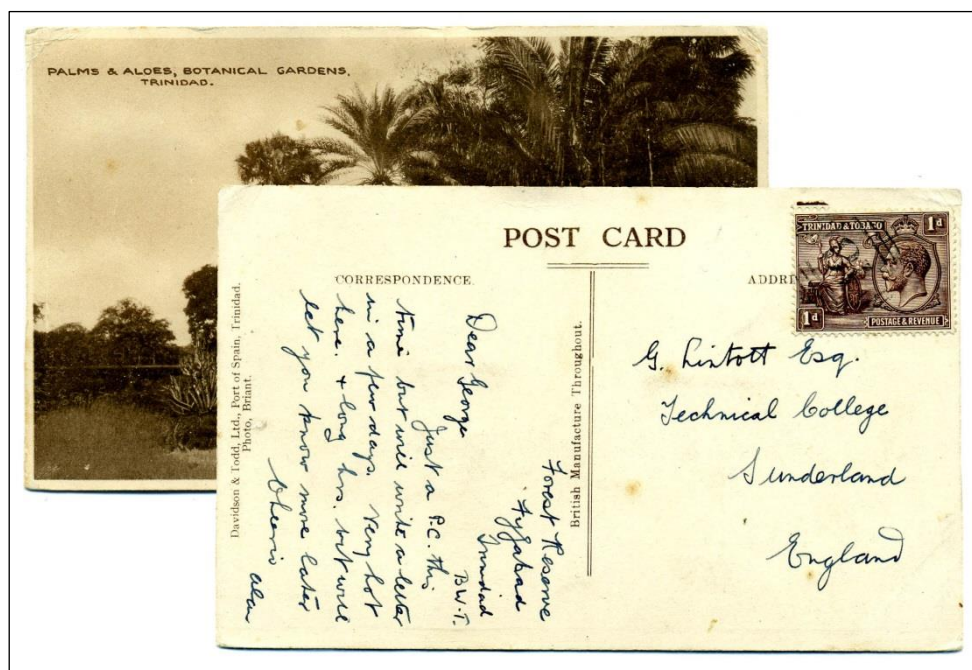


Fig. 1

Forest Reserve is a town in the oil belt in the South of Trinidad, but unlike its close neighbours, Fyzabad and Siparia, it didn't have a population prior to oil being found. As its name suggests it was a forested area until oil was struck in 1914 by Trinidad Leaseholds Limited. The area proved rich in oil deposits and a pipeline was built to ferry oil to the company's refinery at Pointe-à-Pierre. The postcard's sender, who complains of the heat and long hours, was probably working in the oil fields.



Fig. 2

On face value it would seem an open and shut case that the '18' numeral was used at the Forest Reserve office. After all the sender should be trusted to know where he is! But there is one small problem, Forest Reserve is recorded as already having a cancel in use in 1929 (a segmented Type V). Now there is the possibility that the two examples of the '18' came from different offices at different times, but I have a suspicion that the EKD for the Forest Reserve Type V recorded in Addis et al and Proud as 30 July 1925, may be a misrecorded date. This date makes the Forest Reserve cancel by far the earliest Type V recorded, and all the other Type V Forest Reserve cancels I have seen are from the 1930s. Do any members have any from the 1920s? Please email me if you do at; e.barrow1@gmail.com.

Reference:

Chin Aleong, J. & Proud, E.B., *The Postal History of Trinidad & Tobago*, Proud-Bailey, 1997
Addis et al, "The Town Cancels of Trinidad and Tobago", BCPSG (circa 1980)

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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND**

This was one of the busiest months I remember for BWI collectors with many interesting offerings, and a lot more to come. Does this mean the market is peaking?

Warwick and Warwick 4 June (BP 15%)

This was a strange location to find decent Bahamas, but that is what Mr Levine or his heirs decided. The quality was uneven, but one of our local members was able to clean up with some cheap goodies (if he had not turned up I would have had an even better day). Three blocks of the Perkins Bacon 1d, 4d and 6d plate proofs were £1,710 and the War Charity double £550, but most lots including some early covers were either unsold or went for 60% of their realistic estimates. Note the BP at this house will rise to 18% as from the next sale.

Cavendish June 18–19 (BP 17%)

Our interest here centred on the well advertised Derek Seaton collection, but instead of the expected feast this was a modest opener, with the main meal to come on 10 September. There was no Antigua as I was expecting and Derek's lots were mostly limited to some GB used in the BWI. The Virgin Is 6d went for £1k and the Montserrat 6d £320, but both had perf defects. Twenty five decent lots of GB used with Jamaica numerals sold for between two and three times estimate, a 1d with A64 Port Antonio fetching the top price of £400.

Spink 19 June (BP 20%)

The third part of the Lionheart collection was another disappointment. It contained some decent Br. Guiana, but, out of context, competition was far less than on 13 March, let alone on 27 June. A lovely plate block of the Antigua GV £1 was £900, and a Jamaica 1932 2d imperf between vertical pair £2.2k, though this was a little toned.

Stanley Gibbons 26 June (BP 15%)

The Rexton collection of used Commonwealth contained several BWI rarities. I found some of the lotting irritating, notably offering the three Antigua 'sloping 2' flaws together, making it difficult for bidders who only needed the very rare flaw on the CC watermark; these sold for the £550 reserve. The price that stood out for me was £4.8k for the unissued Bermuda 3d on 1d, used by favour, when unused examples have been going for less than that. It was no surprise that the Br. Guiana cotton reels went well, the cut square 12c the best at £12k against an obviously misprinted estimate of £1.2k. The rare Barbados 2d greyish-slate, SG4a, fetched its value at £900, and a 1907 Kingston Relief inverted overprint double was £550. In St. Vincent a missing One (SG121a), rarely seen used, was £650.

Feldman 27 June (20% BP)

This Dupont collection of Br Guiana was advertised on our website as "big stuff"...say that again. But perhaps we should start by mentioning the heavily promoted Sothebys sale of the famous Br. Guiana 1856 One Cent a few days earlier. I assume I was not the only BWISC member to have been invited to the drinks reception in Park Avenue preceding the sale...sadly I was elsewhere at the time. But the sale was certainly an "event" and the final price of \$9.5mn including BP was surely too much for what is really rather a scruffy stamp. The "iconic" label with all that pedigree behind it worked once again. It was bought by a phone bidder after a slow start and the buyer remains anonymous, though there are rumors it may be put on display at a future date.

The sale of the remainder of the collection in Geneva for not a lot less was extraordinary and I am indebted to Richard Foden and Charles Kennard, who attended along with Simon Greenwood and Mike Hamilton, for adding local colour. All their journeys were sadly wasted and all the other bidders I know, including some big hitters, were similarly frustrated. A gentleman showed up in a chauffeured limo with bodyguard, sat next to another bidder and together they bought almost everything at often ridiculous prices, in many cases 10 times and on at least one occasion 50 times admittedly very low estimates. As I did not view, my comments are not well informed as far as the mixed lots are concerned and it was difficult from the internet to piece together what was happening as Feldman only intermittently called the winning numbers. Later the bush telegraph went into action and we learned that the main player was HRH Saud Al-Thani, a member of the

Qatar royal family, who was bidding for the Doha museum. Since price seemed no object, and lesser quality stamps often cost more than superior copies of the same stamp, there seems little point reporting any of them...if you are interested just look through the website and be amazed. One can, though, note that prices for the top rarities (eg the cotton reel 2c at €190k and the 4c paper coloured through at €80k) were in the ballpark, while it was the stamps that are more frequently seen but perhaps had a more spectacular appearance that fetched the most unreal prices. To take just two examples, very average copies of the 1852 1c and its big brother the 4c used were €10k and €34k respectively. One wonders what Gibbons are going to do about catalogue pricing, quite a challenge when one considers that the same material has sold recently in London for a fraction of these realisations. Much the same happened at the Jaffé St Vincent sale, but then it was the blocks that went for ridiculous prices and Gibbons do not price these separately. For the relatively few lots that could be compared with the Foxley sale, some were well above, but so was the quality, but curiously a few were below, which I found a small comfort.

A few comments though; first, there were a few very rare usages among the mixed postal history lots and all these were also scooped up for Qatar, though I fear we may never see them again, not even on display in the Museum. Second, it is very possible that the famous 1c went to the same buyer...that too may be off the market until the gas runs out. At least Qatar has decent air-conditioning. And what about the underbidders? These were often not wholly transparent with all the telephone and internet bidding that now goes on. But it appeared that there were three very serious bidders and at least a few lots went to the book. One telephone bidder in particular was very slow to decide whether to bid or not so the sale lasted almost 3½ hours for a mere 130 lots....and Charles Kennard unfortunately missed his flight. I was wise to keep away.

Spink 9–11 July (BP 20%)

There were two main highlights here. The Bermuda contained half a dozen docks colour trials and these all sold but only the two with manuscript notations at £950 were competed for. The St. Vincent contained several important early blocks that were sold in the Jaffé sale at huge prices but unsold in the subsequent Steinberg sale. The pick was the unique block of 9 of the 1868 4d at £3.5k (Jaffé £8.5k) and the 1880 1d olive green block at £2.1k (Jaffé £7k) while the pretty block of 12 of the 1862 6d in deep blue-green from the 4th consignment was less than one tenth (!) the ridiculous Jaffé price at £1.1k. An 1892 philatelic cover bearing a ½d/6d pair SG33a was bid up to £950. But the small range of Barbados Britannia blocks ex-Jaffé and Steinberg were out of favour.

Murray Payne 29 July (no BP)

By far the largest BWI offering here was Leeward Is., which rather bizarrely started with six specialised censor cover collections from six islands which I recognized as ex the late Tim Tweddell...as it happened none of them sold and I wonder whether this was the best location to offer them. The more familiar keyplates sold pretty well without any startling results. In the Foxley collection of Br. Guiana GVI, the imperf Coronation specimens seemed a bargain at £1.9k but an imprint block of the rare \$1 perf variety was a decent £1.5k and an annotated frame die proof for the postage dues £400. Two bromide essays for a \$2.40 Revenue with a KGVI head surprised the valuer at £325.

Future events

On 10 September **Cavendish** will offer the second and more substantive section of the **Derek Seaton** collections, with 90 lots of **Jamaica** and enticing postal history and **Grosvenor** is advertising **Barbados** on 24-25 September and **St Lucia** in 2015. Their September sale includes Frank Deakin's BE. Also as advertised, there will be a modest **Dominica** collection at **Victoria Stamp Co** but we know from experience that Phoebe always seems to offer a remarkable range of interesting BWI material. This time the auction will not be held in the wilds of New Jersey but at the Collectors Club in New York, which is worth a visit on its own with its famous library. And there is no doubt that many of us will have already marked 11 December in our diaries for the first sale of BWI from the **Vestey collection at Spink**. A foretaste was provided by the display at the RPS a couple of years ago but there is a lot more. This sale will contain all the **Leeward Is group** plus **Bahamas** and **Turks Islands**. We all know that the Bahamas in particular has a wealth of essay and proof material.

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