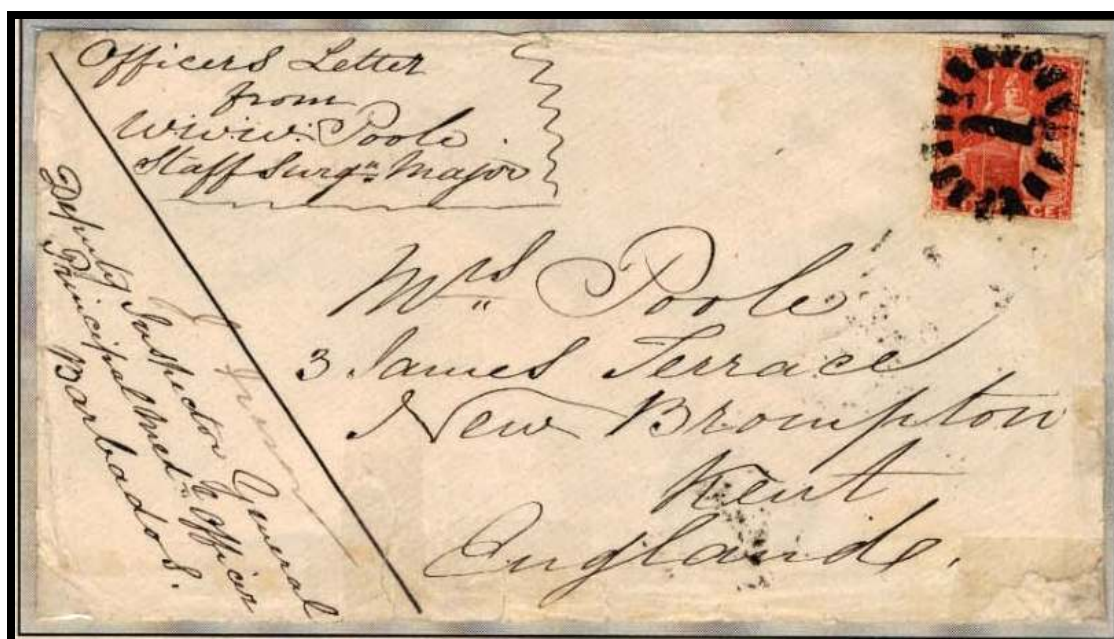




STUDY CIRCLE

Poole Covers

By Charles Freeland & Peter Longmuir



Ref F4

Signed Fraser posted 9 Feb 1869

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies

OBJECTS

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

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION
Biennial Convention

To be held at the Corus Hotel, Warwick, on Friday 30th September and Saturday 1st October 2005.

Formal speakers / displays by:

- Alan Becker – St. Vincent
- Brian Brookes – St. Christopher

The Programme and booking form were included in the June issue and are on the web site.

For any late bookings, please book the hotel directly and mention BWISC to obtain the discount.

Philatex 2006

Saturday October 29th 2006 in Room 33 at the Horticultural Halls, Greycoat St London SW1.

To include a BWISC Meeting from 15.00 - 17.30.– details to follow.

AGM & Auction

... is to be held at Gosvenor Auctions premises in the Strand on 6 May 2006.

Members' Displays

On the afternoon of Saturday 8th October, John Davis is displaying War Tax overprints of the British Empire at the National Philatelic Society in Charterhouse Street, London, and in the evening of Tuesday 18th October, he is giving a similar display to the Solihull Philatelic Society. In both cases, the displays will include material both from the West Indies and from other countries in the Empire. If anyone would like further details, please feel free to contact him (john.davis69@btopenworld.com).

Taking this a stage further, if any members would like him to display at their local Philatelic Societies, then please contact him.

James Podger has entered 3 frames of QV & KEVII Cayman Islands at Autumn Stampex.

David Horry writes ...

Being stuck out in Shanghai means I do not always enjoy the opportunity to commune with the rest of the world on the subject of Caribbean postmarks. I have set up this new site 'British West Indian Postmarks' in order to maximise the dialogue on the subject. If you are interested please join me – it costs nothing to be a member. My personal interests are the KGV I – early QEII period, but this site is intended to cover all the reigns. Please tell all Caribbean markophilists that: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bwipmks> now exists.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Two years ago, I wrote in the September Bulletin asking members to think seriously about attending our bi-ennial Convention to be held at the Honiley Court Hotel, near Warwick. We had a good attendance that year; however, I still feel that there are more of you out there who would benefit from attending, but who seem to balk at making the effort to come. There is no need to stay at the hotel overnight, you can just come along on the Saturday for the small cost of £5 attendance fee, and who knows, you may find material that you have been looking for, for ages. Many members bid at our annual auctions and I feel they these members would gain from being able to look at the material available on the dealers' tables as well as on the members' table. We have 2 formal displays in prospect, featuring the colonies of St. Christopher and St. Vincent. The day is supplemented by less formal, but equally interesting, displays. Who knows, you may meet fellow collectors with similar areas of collecting; many of us have forged friendships with others of similar interests over the years. You don't need to be an advanced collector to attend; there will be many specialists on hand to help with your queries who will be only too glad to explain that elusive item, the identity of which you have never been able to decide upon. After the success of John Davis' War Tax workshop at our Jubilee, Allan Leverton intends holding a similar event during the day centering on the Bermuda 'Prague Covers' (Editors note: Fred Lang has written an article on this subject that will be available for review at the Convention and is likely to be published in the December Bulletin).

Do try to come along if you can, you will be surprised how enjoyable a day you will have!

On a completely different subject, I was approached by one of our members, Bob Swarbrick, to assist in the production of a book, written by him and being published by the Stuart Rossiter Trust. This book, titled 'The Royal Marines: Home and Abroad: A Postal History 1664–1994', has only limited West Indies interest; however, it is a very interesting topic and Bob's knowledge of his subject shines through on every page. With luck, I should have a couple of copies at the Convention for members to peruse; failing that, I will have some flyers explaining the book in more detail.

Editors note:

I also understand that Peter has been asked to give a talk to the Stuart Rossiter Trust on his role in producing philatelic literature for societies in the limited numbers that this requires (at the RPSL on 28th October).

This is a very prestigious invitation that recognises the efforts being made by Peter, reinforcing the contribution being made by the BWISC and its members to the advancement of philately.

PUBLICATIONS

STAMPS OF BARBADOS VOL 2

BY EDMUND BAYLEY

At long last I have completed Volume 2 of the Stamps of Barbados and this is now in the hands of the printers, Coles Printery Limited, who did the first Volume. Volume 2 will cover the period from 1953 to 1978, the first 25 years of the reign of Her Majesty QE2. It will include Postage Stamps, Postage Due Stamps, Revenue Stamps and all Postal Stationery issued during this period. I am at present awaiting a final price from the printers before making a grand announcement to the philatelic world. I expect that Volume 2 will be ready in the Fall of 2005. Like the first Volume, the edition will be limited to 1,000 copies each of which will carry its own distinctive number.

MADAME JOSEPH REVISITED

BY BRIAN CARTWRIGHT

Brian displayed at the Jubilee meeting at the Royal last year extracts from his Mme Joseph collection, which includes many BWI forged postmarks.

Brian's book 'Madame Joseph Revisited' is now available from SG (at 399 Strand) at a cost of £49. The book comes boxed together with a ring binder of acetate sheets of the cancellations, to aid identification.

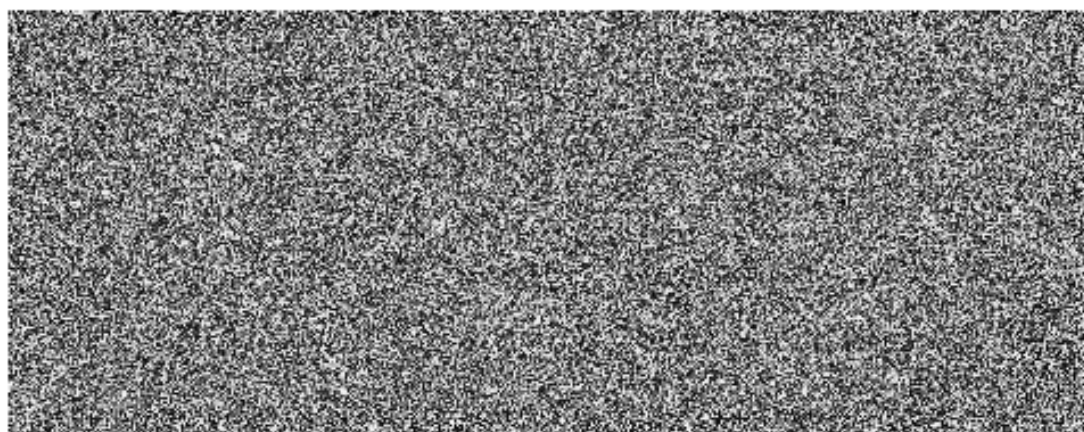
Brian also offers (if at work on that day) to sign a copy but he doubts it will increase the resale value!

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BCPSG ANNUAL MEETING AT INDYPEX 7-10 JULY 2005**BY CHARLES FREELAND**

Our sister grouping the US held its AGM and auction this year in Indianapolis and I was able to join them for most of the weekend. The group normally meets in the sidelines of a regional competitive event, of which there are many in the different states, and traditionally its members provide some of the strongest exhibits. This particular meeting held a number of points of interest to our membership.

First, Steve Jarvis was awarded the 2005 Ed Addiss award for 'lifetime achievement in philatelic writing and research' (I know Steve will not mention it unless I do). The chairman of the Awards Committee, Rob Wynstra, in announcing that Steve had won it, said that two particular activities had been taken into account, his co-authorship of the mammoth Jamaica Encyclopaedia with co-author Derek Sutcliffe and his editorship of the Bulletin. Several BCPSG members said to me that they wish the BCPSG Journal could aspire to the same standards. The editor is a key figure and it is not so long ago that we were looking enviously at the Journal under Michel Forand's distinguished editorship. Michel was a previous winner of the Addiss Award (named after Ed Addiss who bequeathed the group \$15,000 plus to finance its publications programme). The other BCPSG Awards went to Ben Ramkissoon (Cooley award for service to the Group) and Ian Matheson (Durnin Award for the best Journal article).

The other point of relevance to the BWISC was a decision to exchange space in each of our journals to advertise events and publications. Maybe I am naïve but I thought we were doing that already, anyway now it's official. Another point from the business meeting is that the BCPSG will have a promotions table at the FIP International in Washington next May and has booked a room for a meeting of the group on Saturday 27 May, the first full day of the show. As at Pacific 97, there will be no official BCPSG hotel and we have been told the convention hotels with negotiated discounts are filling fast so if you plan to attend get on the website now (www.washington-2006.org).

The BCPSG is much more competition-oriented than the BWISC. They count many gold medal winners among their members and these collections start as quite modest displays in the local shows. A relatively bland exhibit can get a gold if it is well organised and displays reasonable philatelic knowledge. The emphasis is thus on presentation and not rarity, and strong computer skills are obviously an enormous advantage. Jim Stern, whose Cayman Is registered mail was sold at Shreves a few years ago, has just donated \$5,000 to the group to fund a series of \$250 awards to any member obtaining a first medal award at a national show. Given the low threshold that means any first time exhibitor would qualify, but to restrict a potential flood of new members the Group wisely agreed to my suggestion to restrict the award to displays of BWI material.

Peter McCann was one of the judges at Indypex, another group tradition (Peter as well as Dan and Pat Walker will be on the Washington Jury). The top award for the Group at Indypex was the Reserve Grand for Rob Wynstra's Leeward Is village mail, which was no mean achievement as there were several impressive US exhibits in the show. As a previous winner, Rob was ineligible for the Cameron Award for the best BWI exhibit by a BCPSG member and so this went to Ben Ramkissoon for his Tobago, which has been considerably enhanced since I last saw it at London 2000. Ben also won the Grand for a one-frame exhibit for his display of the Trinidad Red Cross stamp and a third gold for his one-frame 1898 Trinidad Columbus commemorative (you are getting greedy, Ben). Ed Waterous won the Marcus White Award for the best postal stationery exhibit for his Bahamas, a very clean exhibit featuring some nice proof material. Each of these won show golds as well as Paul Larsen (Barbados 1903-1935, including four gorgeous early booklets), Jerry Hart (Barbados GVI covers) and Duane Larson (Jamaica). Mike Nethersole might also have won a gold for his early St Vincent if he had used a computer to write it up.

The only disappointment was the group's auction which does not compare in quality to the BWISC's, although the right material gets good prices. On this occasion the auction was particularly thin following the appointment of a new auction manager. We are lucky to have Simon in charge of ours and need to start thinking soon about succession as a good part of the Circle's income comes from our auction and sales commissions.

Altogether a worthwhile weekend. After Washington, the Group will next meet on the island of St. Vincent in late May 2007...if that doesn't tempt you, nothing will.

Bonhams¹⁷⁹³

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Our London stamp department holds a number of specialised auctions a year, with a wide variety of lots ranging from complete collections to individual rarities.

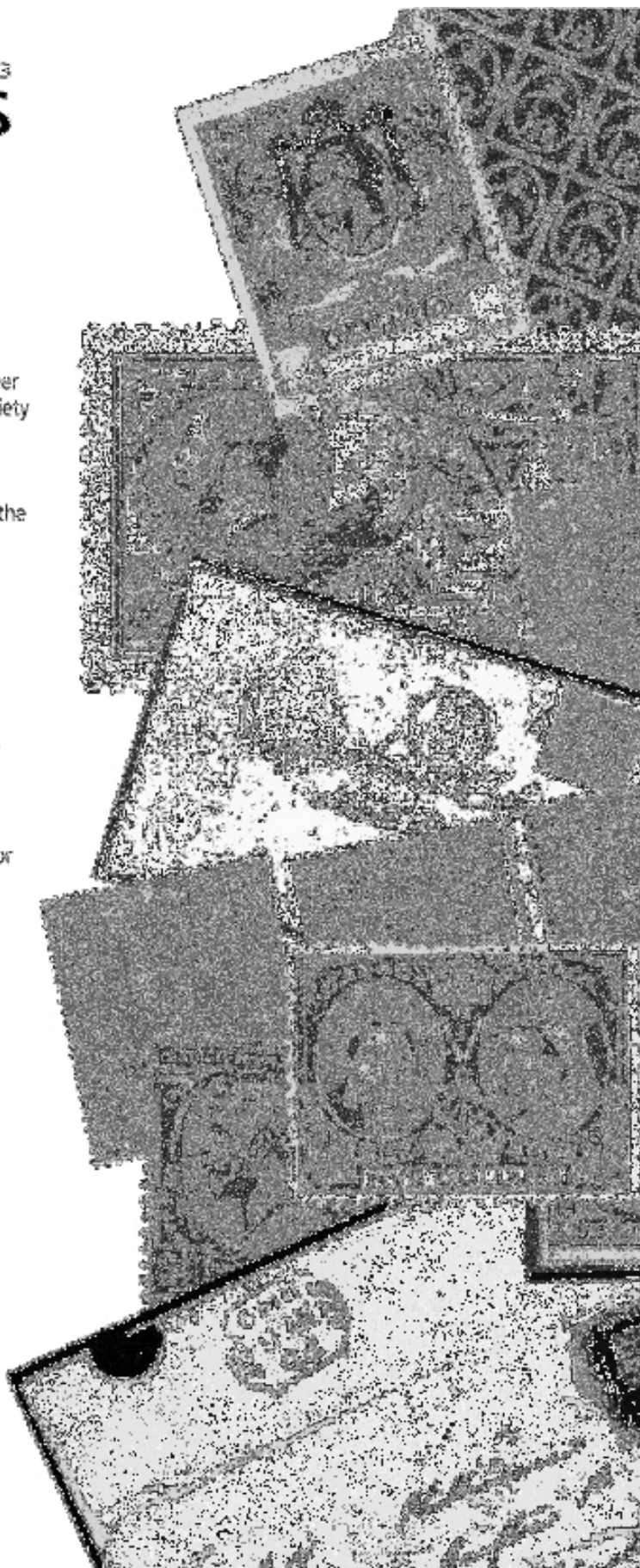
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BAHAMAS

WAR TAX OVERPRINT ERRORS – A CONUNDRUM

BY PHIL MACMURDIE

During recent years Bahamas collectors have been fortunate in seeing a number of major collections coming onto the open market through various auction houses. These have included the 1999 Staircase and Ludington (1999) collections as well as more recent sales e.g., Fraser (2003) and several un-named. Within these and several other less specialised sales a good selection of 'WAR TAX' overprint varieties, including doubles, inverted overprints etc. have been offered.

Introduction

Overprints were done on both the 'Head Type' and the 'Staircase' issues.

Stamps used for overprinting:

- Head Type – Wmk Multiple Crown Block CA
- ½d Green
- 1d Carmine (shades)
- 1/- Grey-black and Carmine.

Staircase Type – Wmk Multiple Crown Block CA

- 1d Black and Scarlet
- 3d Purple on Lemon
- 3d Brown and Black

Overprint varieties have long been accepted upon the 'Staircase' issues owing to the complicated nature of how the overprint was applied (in half sheets of 30 – per Gisburn, 1950 and Huber, 1918). This paper is only concerned with the overprint errors found upon the 'Head Type' stamps.

Overview of the Bahamas WAR TAX 'Head Type' stamps

The Bahamas issued a total of three 'sets' of war tax issues for the period 1918-1919.

First Issue (SG 91, 92, 95)

The first series were overprinted locally in black sans-serif characters. The ½d, 1d and 1/- stamps overprinted in panes of sixty and issued in February 1918.

Second Issue (SG 96, 97, 99)

All three values overprinted in block capitals by De La Rue in London – Overprinted in sheets of 120 and distributed to the Bahamas May 1918.

Third Issue (SG 102, 103, 104)

All three values overprinted in block capitals in two lines by De La Rue, in London. Overprinted in sheets of 120 despatched April 1919.

First Issue Overprint Varieties

Overprint errors have only been reported upon the locally overprinted first issue and it is these stamps that have generally attracted some scepticism and much discussion.

Gibbons still list the existence of the following although since 2000 have withdrawn their prices.

SG 92 – ½d green

- Overprint double
- Overprint Inverted

SG 93 – 1d Carmine

- Overprint double
- Overprint Inverted

SG 95 – 1/- Grey-black and Carmine

- Overprint double

Over the last few years a number of these items have appeared on the market both with and without expert certificates. When reviewed in isolation each stamp and its associated overprint has its merits, but when compared as a whole a disturbing pattern emerges.

I have been fortunate enough to have been able to view a number of significant pieces across the three values in question including several complete panes of sixty and other large positional pieces.

After an exhaustive search my findings are as follows:-

- No significant consistent printing flaws were found within the overprints (i.e. broken letters, missing serifs etc).
- The clarity of the characters is consistently good.
- The overprint is of consistent quality with no overprint displacements.
- The ink used is always glossy and intense black in colour.
- Minor irregularities in the vertical positioning of the overprint do occur.

The below illustration shows the 'Normal' overprint, which as been taken from a positional block of twelve. As can be seen all letters are clearly constructed and have equally extensive serifs at each end point.



The same cannot be said of the overprint errors.

When the stamps sold within the Fraser Sale (2003) are viewed as a group all exhibit the same overprint flaw, as follows:

½d Green – Overprint Inverted – Mint – (Lot 1101)

- Top left of W is missing
- Lower left serif of R missing
- Top left horizontal of T poorly struck / weak
- Lower left leg and serif of X missing



1d Carmine – Overprint Double – Mint – (Lot 1102)

(Overprints wide spaced apart)

- Top left of W partially missing
- Lower left serif of R missing (both overprints)
- Top left horizontal of T poorly struck / weak (both overprints)
- Lower left leg and serif of X missing (both overprints)



1/- Overprint double – mint – (Lot 1105)

(Overprints wide spaced apart)

- Flaws as above except T only appears weaker



On their own each of these could be an extraordinary combination with the same overprinting flaw, except that it could not be located on sheets or any other examples.

This is a summary of the other examples I have noted.

Staircase (April 1999)

• 1d – Opt double – mint (lot 387)	Poor quality overprint – ink not consistent with genuine overprints
• 1d – Opt double – mint (lot 388)	Bounce double
• 1d – Opt inverted – mint (lot 390)	Serif at left base of R missing, serif at left on lower left leg of X missing, W appears weak at top left
• 1d – Opt inverted used on cover (lot 389)	When viewed with a good hand lens I was of the opinion that the overprint was applied after the postmark
• 1d – Opt double – strip of three on cover (lot 391)	Bounce double

Ludington (1999)

• ½d Green- Opt double – mint (lot 1341)	When viewed I concluded this to be a poor quality overprint, with the ink used to complete the overprints not possessing the usual 'gloss' associated with the normal stamps
• ½d green – Opt inverted – mint (lot 1342)	Diagonal of the 'R' of 'WAR' is shorter than normal
• 1d – Opt double – mint (lot 1343)	Overprints widely spaced apart. Lower overprint W poorly struck with damage at top left, as per illustration in summary table R no serif at lower left on either overprint and no serif at lower left on X
• 1/- – Opt double – mint (lot 1351)	Overprints closer spaced Same imperfections as above. Both overprints forged

Spink (July 2002)

• ½d Opt inverted – mint (lot 21)	No significant imperfections on overprint although the ink used did not exhibit the 'usual' gloss and the overprint appears of poor quality
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Harmers (July 2001)

• ½d Opt double – mint (lot 766)	Overprints close spaced, no visible imperfections on either overprint, indeed so perfect that the perfection itself raises doubts
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T.W. Hall (June 1964)

• ½d – Overprint inverted mint (lot 203)	Top left of W damaged Lower left leg of R missing Lower left serif of X missing
• 1d – Overprint inverted mint (same lot 203)	Top left of W damaged Lower left leg of R missing Lower left serif of X missing

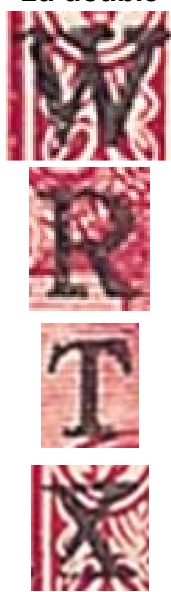
Spink (Oct 2004 – un-named BWI Sale)

• ½d – Opt double – mint (lot 2710)	Overprints close spaced Poor quality overprints left serif at base of X missing
• ½d – Opt inverted – mint (lot 2711)	Poor impression of overprint, lower left leg of X missing serif Serif of X missing
• 1d – Opt double- mint (lot 2712)	Overprints more closely spaced. The higher of the two overprints is of poor and inconsistent quality and appears smudged. The lower of the overprints has the lower left leg of X missing serif
• 1d – overprint inverted mint (lot 2713)	Lower left leg of X missing serif
• 1d – overprint inverted on piece – used (lot 2714)	Poor quality overprint, characters lack their usual clarity. Usual gloss of ink lacking – also with a good hand lens the overprint appears to have been applied after the postmark
• 1/- – overprint double (lot 2724)	Lower left leg of X missing serif

Royal Collection

• 1/- Opt double – mint	Overprints spaced widely apart Lower left leg of R missing Lower left serif of X missing Top left of the W damaged
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J.F. Ayre - 1979 – no overprint errors
H. Moreton-Black - 1996 – no overprint errors
S.G. Hoey - 2004 – no overprint errors

Summary of the Deformation of the Letters**Normal Character****1d double****½d invert****summary**

Variety damage to top left

Variety damage to bottom left corner serif

Variety damage and poor quality to top left horizontal

Variety damage to bottom left corner of X

Findings Summary

Value	Error		W	R	X	T	Opt ink
		Number Found	Damage Top left W	Missing Serif	Damage or serif	Poor or damaged.	not consistent with genuine examples
½d Green	Opt Double	3	0	0	1	0	1
½d Green	Opt Inverted	5	1	2	3	1	1
1d Carmine	Opt Double	4*	2	2	3	1	1
1d Carmine	Opt Inverted	5	2	2	3	1	1
1/- Grey black and Carmine	Opt Double	4	3	3	4	1	0

* not including 2 bounce overprint examples.

Example of ink inconsistent with normal overprints:



This also had a certificate as a double – highly dubious the stronger print being the second (lower).

Conclusion

Given that the overwhelming majority of the examples exhibit the same R and X printing flaws and the absence of these flaws upon the regular stamps, my conclusion is that such overprint errors are forgeries. The fact that the Royal Collection has a copy of the 1/- with a double overprint suggests that it was acquired by George V prior to 1936, and this increases the likelihood that these were fabricated when access to the original type was available. An article by Harry E. Huber in the 'Stamp Collectors Fortnightly' June 1918 throws further light upon this with a statement that "The ½d, 1d and 1s have all been seen with double overprint". It would suggest that the overprint errors were completed at the time of issue if not soon after as access to the original type would have been easy to acquire. As to possible perpetrators of such activities some prime candidates spring to mind but that would be pure speculation.

Whilst this is a personal opinion based upon the observations I have made I would be interested to hear other views and opinions.

Acknowledgements

I would like to express my thanks to Patrick Robey and Charles Freeland, whose constructive comments greatly enhanced this article. In addition I would like to express my gratitude to David Wilson who kindly supplied a copy of the Huber article.

References.

Huber H. (1918) – Bahamas War Tax Overprints, Stamp Collectors Fortnightly.
 Gisburn, H.G.D. (1950) – The Postage Stamps & Postal History of the Bahamas.

BAHAMAS POSTAL STATIONERY DISCOVERY

BY DAVID DRUETT

I was amazed to find what I believe to be a previously unrecorded postal stationery card. This standard EDVII postal card has a printed view of Grants Town on the reverse. Similar cards with views added to the back have been recorded for some other Commonwealth countries but this is the first I have seen for any West Indian island. This item will be included in the October Pennymead Auction.



Offers from stock

Bahamas
 CW 10 1947 2½d dull violet. VFUM top three rows of LP with Plate no 1. R3/5 damaged 'E', 2/1 severe damage to '2' in fraction. Slight perf separation £35
 CW 10a 1948 2½d violet. VFUM top three rows of LP with Plate no 1. R3/5 damaged 'E', 3/1 partial repair to damaged '2' in fraction £25
 SG 189a 1948-52 2½d violet. VFM Plate 1 block of 4, R1/1 left pane 'damaged corner'. Sledge hinged £10
Grenada
 SG 135a 1936 ½d perf 12½ x 13½. VFUM cut-join strip of 5, pane fair-fine £10
 SG 149-50 1937-51 F-VFU collection (70) on leaves. Inc. some shades; good example of 2½d perf 12½ x 13½, and 7 x 10½. Fine lot no Dues £275
 SG 155-52a 1938-60 1½d to 5/- collection on leaves. VFM, almost all ascribed to printings. 104 stamps, inc 4 toff-jobs £165
 SG 166 1938-50 3d perf 12½. VFUM corner block of 15 (2 x 5), R2/1 line through 'MOTTO' £10

SG 166 1938-50 3d perf 12½. VFUM marginal block of 12, R4/4 orange mark right of 'TENEBRIS' £10
 SG 169 1938-50 6d perf 12½. VFUM corner block of 12, R1/6 scratch right of post partially erased £15
 SG 180 1938-50 1/- perf 12½. VFUM corner block of 8, R2/1 line through motto £20
 CW 28 1944 10/- black slate and deep carmine. VFUM £55
 CW 28a 1951 \$2.50. VFM example, showing value tablet re-entry from R5 £30
St Vincent
 SG 142 1935 1/- Silver Jubilee. FUM corner example with R10/6 'toe and horizontal leg' £250
Trinidad & Tobago
 SG 230-33 1935 Fictorial set of 9. VFM £25
 SG 240 1936-41 4ct chocolate. VFUM example with large, presumably random, 'corner' flap £25
 SG 287-88 1946 Victory pair. VFUM sheets of 60, 3d with 'B' outside R1/6 and third column plate scratch £16

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BARBADOS

POOLE COVERS

by Charles Freeland and Peter Longmuir

A couple of years ago in bulletin 197, Fitz Roett wrote about two officers' letters of the 1860s: one of these was addressed to Mrs Poole in Kent from her husband, who was an army surgeon in Barbados between 1867 and 1870. This cover was countersigned by the Commanding Officer and franked with the concessionary officers' rate of 6d at a time when 1/- was the packet rate to England. This is a rarely seen rate for the BWI: we are only aware of one concessionary correspondence of similar importance that has survived, the letters from St Georges Bermuda to Henry Moore in London in 1868-9, of which seven are recorded in Charles' database. Another well-known correspondence, that from Jamaica to Major (later Lt-Col) Kent in India, though of great interest, do not have countersignatures and do not appear to be franked at concessionary rates. The Poole correspondence is not only extensive with at least 24 examples recorded but very regular as the sequence of letters from mid-1868 to mid-1870 appears almost complete with only a few gaps.

Wellesley Wellington Waterloo Poole was born in Ireland on 8 December 1819 and died on a voyage home aboard the *Mersey* en route from Barbados to St Thomas on 26 August 1870. He was appointed an assistant surgeon in the Army in 1845 and served in the Kaffir War in Africa from 1851-3. He was attached to the 73rd Foot regiment in 1853 and served in the Crimea in 1855-6 and in India at the time of the Indian Mutiny in 1857. He got married on 12 August 1856 between the last two postings and his wife had four children. Poole joined the 54th Foot in 1860, and served for some years in India where three of his children were born. It seems likely that he travelled with his young family to Barbados where he took up the post of principal medical officer and Staff Surgeon Major in Bridgetown on 1 June 1867, but they must have returned to England in early 1868 as the sequence of letters commences on 2 May 1868 and appears to be almost unbroken thereafter.

The first letter is particularly interesting as it contains an endorsement at the top that quotes the Treasury Warrant of 27 September 1867 under which the officers' concessionary rate was granted. This endorsement is provided by Deputy Inspector General R. K. Prendergast, who also signs the two subsequent letters. In mid 1868 it seems that Prendergast leaves as the next letter is actually signed by Poole himself, on 25 July 1868. But later that year, Prendergast's successor as Deputy Inspector General, I. Fraser, arrives and he countersigns the next few letters. As from 24 April 1869, however, Poole begins to countersign his own letters and this continues until 31 December 1869 when the concession was lifted in accordance with a GPO notice dated 27 September 1869, (see attached notice courtesy of Geoff Osborn). The last few letters he sends in 1870 are franked at the regular 1/- rate.

The mail sailings at this period were approximately fortnightly on the RMSP feeder route St Thomas-Demerara-St Thomas (sometimes transferring in St Lucia), whence the mail was forwarded to London. The listing below notes the probable vessel on which the letter was carried and the date on which it left Barbados, based on the comprehensive schedules compiled by Kenton and Parsons.

With Fitz's assistance, we have sought to establish the number and frequency of the Poole covers. This should be easy as the covers are sufficiently important (with several recent prices in the four figure range) to justify their illustration when they appear in auction. However, at this period the Barbados postmaster usually used his datestamp on the reverse of each entire and it has thus been necessary (for the covers not to hand) to rely on the auction description to establish the despatch dates. As researchers know, this can be a trap and in a few cases, especially where the despatch date is illegible, the catalogues report the Chatham receiving date instead. Where the receiving date is known, this is noted in the attached listing preceded by "Ch". Other abbreviations in the table that follows include, in parentheses, the auction houses that have offered the item and the dates (RL is Robson Lowe, Christies or Spink, RLP is Robson Lowe Postal History Auctions, H Harmers, DF Feldman, SG Gibbons and HNY Harmers New York) and at the end of each line the initials of the present owner where known. A star indicates that no illustration is available. In nearly all cases, the sailing dates and identities of the boats that collected the mail from Bridgetown can be definitively established and these are also noted. To assist future referencing, codes have been ascribed to each cover separated into the various endorsements.

Would members please check their holdings of Poole covers and a) notify the editor of additions and errors b) add Chatham arrival dates where they are missing and c) notify him of any further relevant information on sailing dates/sources. In addition, Gibbons sale on 22/9/67 offered eight covers and a large part cover and a few months later on 23/4/68 the same house offered another seven covers in five lots. Unfortunately, none of the lots were photographed. It is probable that some of those in the second sale were unsolds from the previous one but the descriptions were not specific enough to confirm this. The dates the catalogues mention are May/Jul 68 (sic), Jul/Aug 68, Nov 68, Mar 69 (double rate), Jul 69 and Mar/Apr 70. It is likely most if not all are included in the list below but if any member has a cover known to have been sold in either of these auctions, please send one of the authors or the editor a scan or photocopy so we can eliminate it or add it to the check-list below.

Our email addresses are charles.freeland@bis.org and p1003d5765@blueyonder.co.uk.

Recorded covers:

Countersigned Prendergast

Ref	Despatch	Packet	Arrival	Provenance	Owner	Note
P1	2 May 1868	per Eider 10 May	Ch 26 May	RL 5/84, Hackmey-DF 4/86	FB	cites Treasury Warrant 27 Sep 1867
P2	2 Jun 1868	per Eider 10 Jun	Lon 29 Jun	Watson-HNY 10/64, Pennymead 2/99		
P3	25 Jun 1868	per Corsica 25 Jun	Lon 17 Jul	Sheppard, RL 10/97		

Countersignature not known

*May/Jul 1868 (ex Gibbons 9/67), one of these two months looks incorrect, could be P1 or P3.

*Jul/Aug 1868 (ex Gibbons 9/67 and 4/68, probably Poole 25 Jul 1868).

Countersigned Fraser

Ref	Despatch	Packet	Arrival	Provenance	Owner	Note
F1	9 Nov 1868	per Mersey 9 Nov		Benwell, Shepherd illus. in Britnor	FR	
F2	10 Dec 1868	per Mersey 10 Dec	Ch 28 Dec	RLP 7/87	FD	
F3	23 Jan 1869	per Eider 26 Jan	Ch 12 Feb	Shilstone, RL 10/98, H 12/04	JH	
F4	9 Feb 1869	per Mersey 10 Feb	Ch 2 Mar	RL 6/87, RL 7/90	SH	
F5	25 Feb 1869	per Eider 25 Feb	Ch 16 Mar	SG 4/68, C Bayley		double rate

Countersignature not known

*April 1869 (H 6/70) probably left Barbados on 9 April per Eider as both Barbados and Chatham dates are in April 1869.

Countersigned Poole

Ref	Despatch	Packet	Arrival	Provenance	Owner	Note
PP1	25 Jul 1868	per Mersey 25 Jul	Ch 11 Aug	?SG 4/68, SG 3/70, SG 4/88, Argyll 4/04, Lugdunum 12/04	JH	cites Windward and Leeward Islands
PP2	24 Apr 1869	per Eider 25 Apr	Ch 14 May	RLP 8/87	CF	franked 1/- plus a 2 nd missing stamp, 1/- may not belong
PP3	9 Jun 1869	per Corsica 9 Jun		Grosvenor 11/03		
PP4	10 Jul 1869	per Corsica 11 Jul	Ch 30 Jul	?SG 4/68, H 3/80, SG 9/81		
PP5	?? Aug 1869	per Mersey 11 Aug		Barclays, Gallagher-Siegel 11/93		
PP6	25 Aug 1869	per Mersey 25 Aug	Ch 16 Sep	RLP 8/87	CF	
PP7	2 Dec 1869	per Corsica 10 Dec		Olive Blossom, RL 4/83, H 4/90, Davis		

Non-concessionary so unsigned (1/- rate, all 6d pairs ex Feb 70 which is 1/- black)

Ref	Despatch	Packet	Arrival	Provenance	Owner	Note
U1	?? Feb 1870			RPL 6/61, BCPSGA 9/83		
U2	?? Mar 1870	per Mersey 12 Mar 1870		SG 9/67, Shilstone RL 6/79, H 3/80		
U3	25 Mar 1870	per Mersey 25 Mar	Ch 14 Apr	BWISC 4/04	PL	
U4	11 May 1870	per Mersey 11 May	Ch 31 May	Watson-HNY 10/64	SH	
U5	?? Jun 1870			RL 6/87		
U6	9 Jul 1870	per Arno 10 Jul	Ch 28 Jul	Wheeler, Hackmey-DF 4/86		
U7	10 Aug 1870	per Corsica 10 Aug			FD	

Acknowledgements

Federico Borromeo, Frank Deakin, Mary Gleadall, Joseph Hackmey, Michael Hamilton, Stefan Heijtz, Geoffrey Osborn, Fitz Roett.

References:

BWI postal rates up to 1900, L N Britnor (BWISC, 1977).

Officer's Letter from Barbados, 1868 (article by Len Britnor, BWISC bulletin 79).

Officer's Letter from Barbados (continued) (article by Mike Sheppard, BWISC bulletin 79).

Two Officers' letters of the 1860s (article by Fitz Roett, BWISC bulletin 197).

Early Routings of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company 1842-1879, Kenton and Parsons 1999.

Various auction catalogues as cited.

POSTAL NOTICE

PROVIDED BY GEOFFREY OSBORN

No. 26.



**NAVAL AND MILITARY OFFICERS'
LETTERS,
WITHDRAWAL OF PRIVILEGE AS
TO REDUCED POSTAGE.**

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have been pleased, by a Warrant dated the 17th of August last, to direct that, *after the termination of the present year*, the privilege now granted to Commissioned Officers of the Army, Navy, and Royal Marines, as well as to Superintending or 1st Class Army Schoolmasters, serving abroad, of sending and receiving their Letters at the reduced British Postage of Sixpence per half-ounce, in cases where the Postage of ordinary Letters to or from the same place is higher than Sixpence, shall be withdrawn.

In pursuance of the Warrant referred to, Letters addressed to Naval and Military Officers, &c. (as above stated), serving abroad, or sent by such Officers to this Country, will be liable, on and after the 1st of January next, to the same rates of Postage and regulations as Letters of the general Public.

The privileges, as regards Letters of Non-Commissioned Officers, Soldiers, and Seamen, in Her Majesty's Service, will remain undisturbed.

By Command of the Postmaster-General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
27th September, 1869.

Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office, by W. F. Gowers, & Long by Street, Strand, London, W.C.

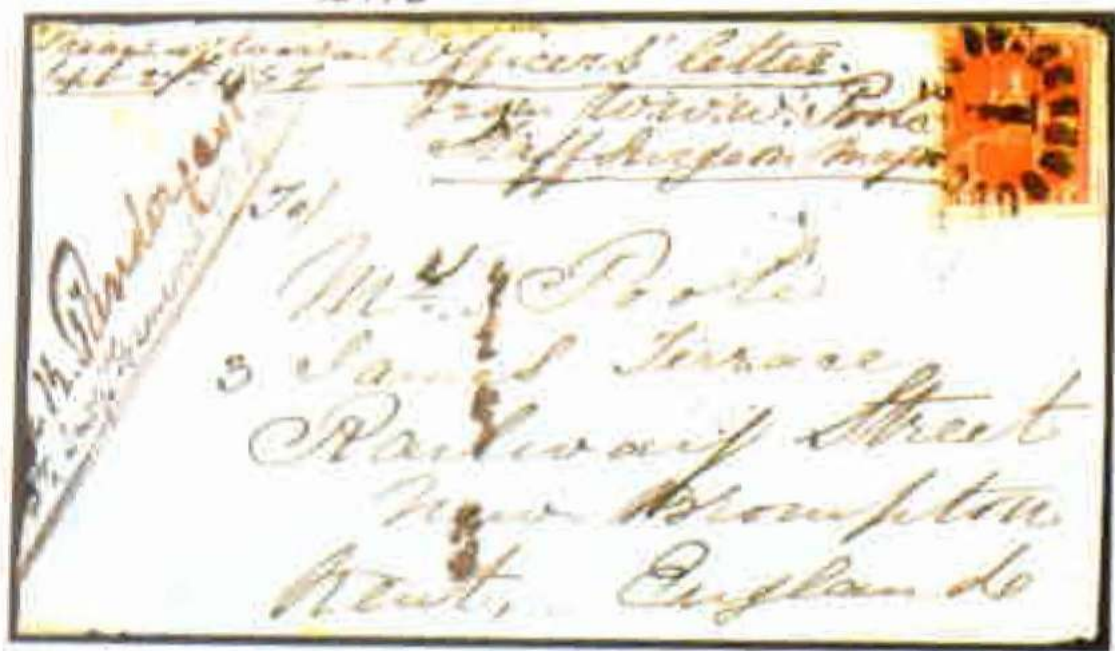
(Dated 27th September 1869)



PP6



U3



P1

(The only cover to refer to the Treasury Warrant)



U4

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* – **£900** * – **£750**

King George VI – 1938/53 Definitives Mint

1938 1st Printings 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/-, 12/6, £1 – * **£390**

1941 2/- perf 14¼ line ** – £40	1942 2/- A range 21 stamps ** – £60
1942 2/- cw11 L/R blk 6 scroll 60 *** – £175	1942 2/- cw11 L/R scroll pair * – £60
1940/50 2/6 a range of shades 45 stamps ** – £600	
1948 2/6 a L/R block of 18 *** – £120	1941 5/- line perf 14¼ * – £60
1950 5/- two blocks of 4 cw23a/b *** – £90	1943/48 5/- A range of 18 ** – £250
1943 5/- single plate single SG118bd * – £400	
1938 10/- a single *** – £95	1951 10/- a block of four *** – £85
1951 10/- a plate block of 4 *** – £120	1940 12/6 stamp 12 *** – £80
1952 12/6 singles a range 13 ** – £400	
1938 £1 *** – £65	1946 £1 cw16d stamp 12 *** – £50
1943 £1 cw 16a, 16c 2 stamps *** – £185	

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

GRAHAM BOOTH DISPLAYS AT WORTHING

BY JAMES PODGER.

On 17 March 2005 a turnout of over twenty attended Worthing Philatelic Society to hear Graham talk about his Cayman Island display. Among the audience were Neil Booth, Graham's brother, who had travelled from the Lake District and James Podger, who was there to lend his support for a fellow Cayman collector.

Graham displayed 192 pages of material, ranging from Jamaica used in Cayman to QE II definitive plate blocks. He started with two maps to show where the Islands' are located and gave a brief rundown on the history of the Islands' and their postal history.



Among the highlights, of which there were many, were a bottom plate number strip of six of the 1907 ½d on 5/- provisional, ex John Byl and Sir Gawaine Baillie; what must be the most comprehensive collection of rural post covers ever displayed at one time – 17; and a 'Paid' manuscript provisional cover, which Graham had recently purchased at the 'BWISC Golden Jubilee Auction'.

The display was greatly appreciated by the members of the Worthing Society and the visitors. Alas, those who were unable to attend missed a superb evening and must rue the missed opportunity.

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NEW! BRITISH GUIANA PICTURE POSTCARDS NEW!

By Terence Dickinson

A new exciting book from the BWISC which catalogues all known picture postcards of British Guiana. It includes a listing of the hand-painted postcards, QSL cards and postcards of ships associated with British Guiana. There is also a scarcity guide which will be of value to collectors of these picturesque postcards. **PRICE: £28.00 (BWISC members' discount £3.00)**

This book will be available early in the New Year and can be ordered from David Druett of Pennymead Auctions at 1, Brewerton Street, Knaresborough, N. YORKS, HG5 8AZ, UK or via e-mail at Pennymead@aol.com, or via Telephone at 0044 (0)1423 865962 or Fax at 0044 (0)1423 547057.

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peter singer

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JAMAICA

THE POSTAL SYSTEM BY AN AMERICAN RETIREE IN JAMAICA BY JOHN CASEY

This article was spotted on the internet and John Casey has given his permission to reproduce.

Of all the changes I encountered, between a First World country and a Third World country, the Jamaican Postal System had the biggest differences. Mail is only delivered in certain safe sections within the larger cities and towns. Instead of waiting for the postman to deliver my mail through 'rain, snow, hail, or sleet', I have to travel to town, though only rain to get my mail.

There are two post offices in Montego Bay. They are named Post Office # 1 and Post Office # 2 instead of by zip codes. My mail goes to Post Office # 2, which, like many in the states, has very few parking spaces. These spaces are used mostly by non postal customers which makes parking difficult at times. The rental post office boxes are all located on the outside of the building, making access 24/7 rather than during business hours as in the States. The post office is open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. Well, they are supposed to open at 8:00. It could be 8:05 or 8:10. This isn't unusual in Jamaica as it is rare anything opens on time.

Once inside, the lobby looks similar to those in the States. There are windows for parcels, stamps, money orders, and, oh yes, mail pick-up. Usually there are two windows open with two lines formed in front of them. When it is your turn, the clerk will ask your name, first and last. Let me remind you again, most everyone picks up their own mail. Having said that, you can imagine the amount of mail that can be seen before you. Immediately behind the clerks are cubby holes stuffed with mail. Each cubby hole has one name under it indicating whose mail is inside. There are fewer surnames in Jamaica than anywhere I know. To digress for a moment the standard size phonebook has fifteen pages of Brown's, thirteen pages of Smith's, twelve pages of Campbell's, but only four pages of Jones'. This will give you an idea of what the postal service is up against.

Most of the mail is placed on a large table to the left of the clerks. Other than the mail in the cubby holes, all the rest has been sorted alphabetically by last name and then again by first name. Each of the first name mail is wrapped with a rubber band. They are then all tied together in a bow knot with a nylon cord then placed on the table in alphabetical order, with the overflow put next to the windows. Each bundle has a piece of torn cardboard indicating a letter of the alphabet written in a large black block letter. As an example of what the clerk has to do to find mail for, say, John and Mary Hunter. First she goes to the table and looks for the 'H' bundle. She unties it and thumbs through until she finds names beginning with a 'J' and a 'M.' Then she removes the rubber band from the 'J' bundle and looks at each and every piece of mail for John Hunter. If there is more than one John Hunter, she will come back to the window and ask for your address. This procedure is duplicated for the 'M' bundle. Please bear with me, it gets more complicated. Basically, the only mail in those bundles are legal and letter size envelopes along with postcards. Let's say Mary gets a subscription to her favourite magazine. It would not be with the regular mail. In it's place is a handwritten note with the customer's name, address, description of the item, the location where it can be found, and the date received. Other items written on these notes, besides magazines, are oversized or bulky mail. My experience has been the handwritten notes don't necessarily correspond to the number of items I received.

After the clerk has completed searching for your mail and returning the 'H' bundle to the table, she takes the handwritten note and disappears to the rear of the post office to retrieve your item(s). This can take a considerable amount of time. This area is similar to the front except the size of the cubby holes are much larger. If she took two notes but only found one item, she searches and searches until she is satisfied there is only one item. Meanwhile everyone in that line wishes they were in the other line.

When new mail has been sorted, it is brought forward and put in the appropriate bundle. There isn't any system for this. For example, John Hunter's mail is put in the 'J' bundle inside the 'H' bundle in no particular order. Human error can and does affect the mail getting in the wrong bundle. A business who mails at post office # 1, sent mail to me that took six weeks for me to receive. There was a date stamped on the envelope showing it was received shortly after it was mailed. I guess mail can get lost anywhere, not just in Jamaica.

The final difference comes from the stamp window. Unlike the US where all transactions are done on a computer with a printed receipt, the cash register used for the purchase of stamps is a Danish cookie tin! I kid you not!

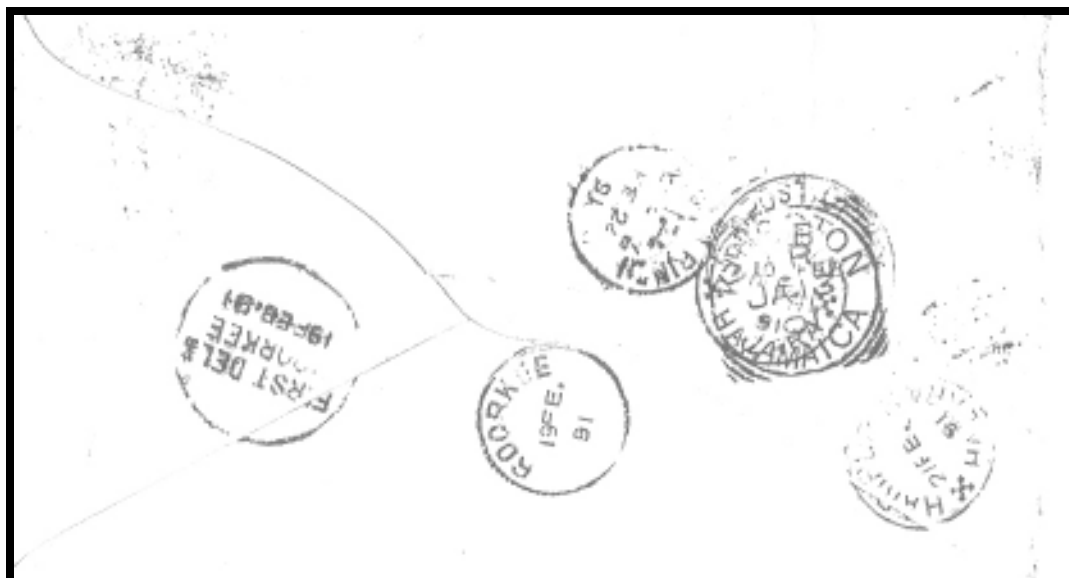
To summarize, there isn't anything automated in this whole postal system. All in all, business is conducted, people do get their mail and all this with nary a complaint. The clerks are very friendly and helpful. You would be hard pressed to find a disgruntled postal worker in this facility.

MILITARY MAIL INDIA, HAZARA FIELD FORCE

BY MALCOLM LACEY

I thought the following cover would be of interest to readers –

1891 Jamaica to India, Hazara Field Force "Darband".(N.W. Frontier, Hazara Field Force)



Jamaica, Q.V 4d. rate envelope from Old Hope Estate, Little London, per R.M.S. dated 13 Jan 1891, to Capt. A. E. Sandbach, R.E., Roorkee and readdressed to Hazara Field Force, Darband. Backstamped Roorkee, dated 19 Feb 1891, Haripur/ Hazara dated 21 Feb 1891 and Rawalpundee dated 24 Feb 1891.

Was sent to the Hazara F.F. (1st Bde. River Column), Darband and readdressed to Rawalpindi in red ink.

BOOK REVIEW – PROUD E.B. , THE POSTAL HISTORY OF JAMAICA**BY PAUL WRIGHT**

This is a book that only wilful self-denial will keep from the book collection of every Jamaica specialist. Until the postal history volume of the BWISC's own Jamaica Encyclopaedia rolls off the production line, this is surely the standard work on Jamaica Postal History for the moment, and the most comprehensive treatment of the subject yet published. Love it or loathe it, (and I have spoken with some who occupy various points between those extreme views) specialists must have it.

It should also be an attractive way in to Jamaica for those who are not specialists. It follows the standard layout of the Proud postal history volumes of many different countries, which must be a bonus to those needing quick and accessible reference (though it may not necessarily be the layout best designed to cover Jamaica). It would be all to the good if that brings a better knowledge of Jamaica postal history to non-specialists, and perhaps fires specialist enthusiasm in some.

The Proud approach does have its drawbacks. It is very self-sufficient, as if it were the first and last word on the subject. There is a striking lack of cross-reference within the text to other work or citation of sources. The bibliography is tiny and cryptic. It would have been nice to be pointed to particular articles for further reading or the confirmation of sources rather than blanket references to entire runs such as Jamaica Postal Guides, the BWISC bulletin and the BCPSGJ. It would have been useful to point the reader towards such important work as Britnor¹, or Alan Fincham's invaluable website on Jamaica Postal Markings². (Alan's website turns the other cheek by including Proud at the head of his own bibliography).

It is in Chapter 2, the Postal History, and 3, Postal Rates, that the presentation of the book shows signs of haste, not surprising given the rate of publication of Proud volumes on many countries. It looks a bit like a scrapbook into which all the cuttings that could be found have been pasted in chronological order, not always with bridging text. Some of the cuttings appear to be just that, photocopied, pasted to a page and printed. Many of these cuttings contain new and valuable information, especially in Chapter 2. But the absence of specific source citations is a tantalising frustration when one comes across authoritative statements with no trail to follow. For example we read 'In 1881 the mail services etc were as follows:- ' followed by an invaluable and, to me, new account of services at that date, but we do not know the source (similarly for 1904). These look very much like post office guides, and it would be nice to know of guides from such early dates, as the oldest I have previously heard of, reprinted by the Jamaica Philatelic Society, was 1919.

Chapter 3, Postal Rates, looks a little sparse, with big gaps, as if assembled from material at hand rather than a trawl through all available sources. Again, it looks as if previously published work, especially Britnor, has not been assimilated. I tested it out by seeing whether it shed any fresh light on money letter fees and the registration fee in the 19th century, a subject on which Foster³ and Britnor offered several fragments of information, but left the picture incomplete. Disappointingly, there is no mention in Proud of money letters and the rates for them and only one mention of registration before the Postal Union in 1877 (which information is correctly credited to Foster). Why this selectivity? Then there is the statement on page 133 that the registration fee was reduced from 4d to 2d on 1 January 1893; I had from the late Mike Vokins a date of 1 June 1893 for this change. I have no evidence myself either way and it would be helpful to know the source for the date, and whether this is a new discovery, but all we have is the flat statement.

The major and best part of the book is Chapter 4, Post Offices and Postmarks. The listing of the marks of Kingston and then of each post town is impressive. The use of illustrations gives an edge over Potter⁴ that makes this a quicker reference work to use. For a charge Proud-Bailey will send you transparencies of any page so that they may be used as overlays on marks. The marks include instructionals as well as datestamps. I particularly welcome the attempt to allocate to individual offices different distortions of the R in oval (or circle) registration mark. This is breaking new ground, and although this book does it for few offices as yet, it shows us something to occupy our spare time for a few years.

I tested Chapter 4 by looking in detail at the Mailed Out of Course markings, with the added spice that I acquired the MOOC section of the Proud collection at auction. This shows up just how heavily the book leans on the Proud collection. It also revealed one of the small slips that every book must contain: on page 201, 13 Jun 28 is given as the EKD of type I20, but the cover of that date in the Proud collection actually bears a strike of type I19. More serious are the omissions, again because of the failure to take on previous published research. The standard listing of

registration markings by Lant⁵ listed 7 different MOOC marks. Proud also lists 7, but omits 2 of Lant's and adds two new ones.

The numbering system in Chapter 4 is another example of self-sufficiency. Everyone probably thinks that they could devise the best numbering system in the world. For many Jamaica postal history fields we are already blessed with multiple numbering systems. We have Foster numbers, (sometimes several different Foster typescripts as well as his main book), sometimes these were preceded by earlier numbers such as Nicholson, and later we have Potter and, for particular aspects, there are others, for example as a specialist in registration I use Lant numbers. In themselves I quite like the Proud numbers, they are nice and simple, but did we really want a complete new set of numbers for every Jamaica mark launched on us when we already have so many? And, if we must, would it not be helpful to include some cross references?

Like the English language on the internet, whether we like them or not, Proud numbers will probably carry the day because they will be used to communicate by most people, especially if a lot of non-specialist dealers and auction houses use them. I have tentatively begun inserting Proud numbers into some of my own writing-up.

This is a brave attempt to cover the whole field of Jamaica postal history (though only up to independence) in a single volume. Such an attempt is bound to fall short of perfection, of course there are weaknesses and omissions, just as there were in the 1928 Jamaica handbook or in Foster or Potter. But, even as it is, this an extremely valuable book bringing some new material about the history of the post and a solid illustrated reference list of postal markings. Proud should not stand alone on the philatelist's shelf, it should be read alongside other works and taken as an inspiration to further research. So we should look to move on to the Jamaica Encyclopaedia volume on postal history as the next try at a perfect book on the subject.

Published by Proud-Bailey Co Ltd, PO Box 74, Heathfield, E Sussex, TN21 8PZ, England; price £55 (from Vera Trinder).

References:

- 1 British West Indies Postal Rates up to 1900, by L E Britnor, published by the BWISC, 1977.
- 2 http://www.fincham.co.uk/Jamaican%20Postmarks/jamaica_postmarks_index.htm.
- 3 The Postal History of Jamaica, 1662 -1860, by Thomas Foster, published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 1968.
- 4 The Postal Markings of Jamaica, edited and published by Ian A Potter, 1966.
- 5 Registration Markings and Labels of Jamaica, by Reg Lant, Robert Topaz and Clinton von Pohle, originally published in serial form in the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal in 1977 to 1978, later reprinted by the BCPJ ISSN 0045-2890.

MARITIME

FYFFES LINE SHIPMARKS – 'OCEAN MAILS'

BY STEVE JARVIS

The following item was spotted on EBay to supplement the listings in Dec. 2004 and March 2005.

Date	From	Ship Mark	Other Marks
6 Apr 1937	Jamaica	OCEAN MAILS./ S.S. CAMITO	Paquebot Kingston to Cardiff

Owner History:

Elders & Fyffes Ltd, London and from 1940 the Admiralty.

Status:

Torpedoed & Sunk – 6 May 1941.



NEVIS / ST CHRISTOPHER

NUMERALS & OTHER CANCELLATIONS

BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT

Federico Borromeo's superlative article on the De La Rue 'Colonial' Key Plates of Nevis (Bulletin 201 pp.13-26) deals only with the Postage issues, disregarding the revenue overprints produced from the same plates and overprinted for use in Nevis and St Christopher. Some of the Revenues were authorised for postal use as well. The One Penny duty naturally displays the 'damaged' 'I' in Nevis' Duty Plate flaw common to both Plates I and II at position 10/5.

Easton's somewhat confusing narrative (pp.381-2) states: –

"On June 29, 1883 De La Rue returned to the Crown Agents a requisition from the Leeward Islands for the following Nevis postage stamps to be overprinted 'St Christopher Revenue': One Penny, 2,000; Fourpence, 2,000; Sixpence, 4,000; One Shilling, 5,000. they promised to supply them within two months, and had them ready in the middle of September.

A later letter from the Crown Agents written on October 31, 1883, when further supplies were ordered, makes it clear that De La Rue overprinted the stamps REVENUE and the name St. Christopher was overprinted on the One Penny and Sixpence on (sic) the Colony. These were subsequently used for Postage. The quantities originally invoiced on September 13 were: One Penny, 2,040; Fourpence, 2,040; Sixpence, 4,140; One Shilling, 4,980."

No specimens need be deducted from these numbers, as none was issued. Sadly, Easton is silent on colour and watermark, and gives no clue as to details of the 'further supplies' ordered in October 1883.

It is clear that De La Rue made special printings for most, perhaps all, of the Revenue overprints, and that the September 1883 consignment was not the first to be despatched to the Colony and to be further overprinted there in part for use in St. Christopher. Both the One Penny lilac-mauve (SG23) and the Six Pence green (unlisted in SG) are known on CC paper; there is a clear bright lilac printing of the One Penny on CA paper (unlisted in SG); the One Shilling was also printed from Plate I, in a reddish violet shade, so that the duty plate was long in stock by the time the One shilling postage stamp was printed from Head Plate II for issue in March 1890.

As proof of the last assertion (not, I think, previously recorded), I offer figure 1, a complete pane of 60 (i.e. full sheet of the One shilling) from Plate I. Note that there is no Thompson flaw.

Figure II is a companion piece of the Four Pence in a deep blue shade also, as one would expect, from Head Plate I; it is worth noting that it is perforated as though it were the left-hand pane of two, with a typical interpanneau margin at the right.

Such large multiples are rare, and revenue overprints are complex, so that I cannot offer a complete listing of them yet; further data from members would be welcome indeed.

BWISC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE FROM DAVID DRUETT AT PENNYMEAD AUCTIONS.

Author	Title	Price (Member's discount)
Deakin HF	Advanced Barbados Philately	£13 (£2)
Toeg EV	Dominica Postal History, Stamps, Stationery to 1935	£25
Jarvis & Sutcliffe	GB Stamps Used in Jamaica	£38 (£6)
Oliver MN	The Leeward Islands. Notes for Philatelists	£53 (£8)
Toeg EV	Leeward islands Adhesive Fee Stamps	£10
Britnor / Freeland	Montserrat to 1965	£16 (£2)
Borromeo F	The Philately of Nevis	£13 (£2)
Wike RG	Airmails of Trinidad & Tobago	£25
Rego MR	Steamship Lines to the Caribbean: Volume 1	£36 (£4)
Dickinson T	British Guiana Picture Postcards	£28 (£3)







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ST KITTS**REVENUE STAMPS USED FOR POSTAGE****BY STEVE ZIRINSKY**

I thought Members might be interested to note that the revenue stamps of St. Kitts are often used for postage and also for postage due, as the scans below demonstrate.



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TRINIDAD

NUMERALS & OTHER CANCELLATIONS

BY SIMON GOLDBLATT

Much water has passed under the bridge since John Marriott produced his scholarly work on the Philatelic History of Trinidad (to 1862) in 1963. His work on numeral postmarks – fortunately carried up to the 1890s, despite the title of his monograph, has been carried forward by later studies of the cancellations which followed on into the 20th century in which Jo Chin Aleong, Ed Addiss and Ben Ramkissoon, among others, have all taken a prominent part.

More recently we have seen Proud attempting a comprehensive review of Trinidad postal history, taking advantage of the wealth of specialist information available on the subject but, to my personal regret at least, discarding the careful classifications found in the existing literature, and substituting his standardised coding format which I believe does as much to confuse as enlighten. What one loses, above all, is the cohesion between similar marks issued around the territory over a particular period and under a particular administrative regime.

So this morsel is a plea to our specialists to discard in turn Proud's 'D's and 'K's and so on, in order to resurrect and update the classifications built up over time. Not, mind you, that there is any evident logic in John Marriott's choice of the letter 'O' to precede his numbered types (if the innuendo was circularity, this trips badly with the roller cancel O5, or the diamond pattern O6) but at least John got there first. However, more than a few numerals have turned up – in John's own hands among others – since his original lists were published, and revisions would be useful, to say the least.

Time for a small confession: though I'm sure I see a lot of postmark material over the years – you can't take part in our annual auction without learning a bit – my record keeping is haphazard at best, and usually non-existent. Thus the snippets which follow should be treated as fragmentary. They need supplementing by the true researchers amongst us.

Marriott's Numerals

Type O1a. These are crude, very much home-made cancellers, and the part that really matters, the numeral, is often frustratingly difficult to decipher. Moreover, only seldom does one see a clear enough impression of the outer ring, to be sure whether a mark under scrutiny is a familiar instrument or a new discovery. I have had no difficulty in identifying the three sizes of '2' (father bear, mother bear and baby bear) and have handled three examples of '17', one of these on a proving cover. At this point the music stops, and I sit down with a bump. Do I have a '3'? Do I have a '6'? Do I have a '7'? If so, it is a larger instrument than the 20mm version that John described.

Well perhaps it is yet another '2'. Or, turn it sideways, and could it be a very blotchy '18'? You see my difficulty. At any rate, John listed seven different instruments under this classification, and my belief is that there are at least a dozen. At least!

Type O1b. I have just been glancing at an example on cover (a freak in my hands, I am not a cover man!) and have counted 13 bars. John's illustration shows 11. Are there two versions? What's more, can one meet a village numeral in this type, or do those all have to be O1a? The blotchiness of every two out of three examples continues to frustrate.

Type O2. This is a list which I have not been able to expand. Yet there must have been a postmark at least potentially available for the offices allocated numerals 8, 11, 12, 14, 15 during the 1850s and 1860s. What is the answer? Manuscript cancels? Postal officials at six offices who never used a killer or other postal marking?

Solutions please to the editor, not to me!

Type O3. No need, I think, to look for expansion of this list.

Type O4. This is where the real work begins. Michael Hamilton's research has clearly shown that there was more than one issue of killers in this type. John Marriott noted that 5, 7, 11, 18 can be seen used in the 20th century, as indeed can 28, 30, 31 – the first two of these into the 1920s or even 1930s. I do not think that any of them, other than perhaps 11, was supplied before about 1900, and 18 is a different instrument from its predecessor: the latter numeral is at least 1mm taller. You can certainly hope to meet 11, 20, 27 on Britannia issues, and I entirely accept two versions of 22 at this period. I remain very doubtful as to the existence of two types of 21. As I have mentioned in the past, I believe that one of them is simply an incomplete 24.

Type O5. Clearly one off, stand-alone. No research is needed.

Type O6. To supplement John's original list, one finds 4, 8, (I think) 12, 21, 22. I suspect there are even more out there somewhere.

Type O7. Another prolific series, not made easier by the relative looseness of the numeral plugs. One sometimes sees this type without a numeral at all, and 17 can be found changing places with the year date. Though I have found John's list pretty full, my jury is still out on numeral '6'; I have a note of 13; and 20 can certainly be found on Britannias; as with 11, one finds the numeral in both a close and wide setting.

Type O7a. Although the alternative type of the numeral '2' is segregated because of the smaller outer ring, 22 could really be allocated here rather than to O7; diameter is only just over 20mm.

Type O8. No further comment.

Type O9. T25 of course turned up not long after the handbook was written. I know of no report of T29. T33 has so far eluded me. I am waiting to see one in order to identify an infuriating T3? which I own. The 3 is quite tall (7½mm) and spindly, and I can firmly rule out 30, 31, 34, 35. I'm less confident about 36 – a better example is needed – but it would be nice to rule out both this and 33.

The above comments omit reference to a 1d Britannia with perfs trimmed all round struck with 34 in a diamond of bars. I am far from persuaded that this belongs to Trinidad.

Later Village Cancellations. While I have been lazy over these, types V and VI of Addiss and Co. appeal to me, because they almost all start with a rating of scarce or better, and the chance of discovery always exists.

All I can contribute here, and I have not checked Proud while writing this, is a mere morsel:-

Type Va: exists from Tabaguite (1927, code C)
'CLAXTON'S BAY' is spelled thus, and my example (1934) shows a blank instead of code letter.

Type Vb: exists from 'BROTHER'S ROAD' (1930, no code)
'La Brea' is in this type. I have it 1933, code A.

October stamp auction to include:-

- Bahamas Out Island postmarks
from the collection formed by S.G. Hoey
- Grenada postage stamps
- Jamaica postal history
from the collection formed by Dingle Smith
- Leewards GVI key plates
- Trinidad Britannias
- Virgin Islands covers from Peter Mc Cann's collection

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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND****London Stamp Exchange 19 May**

This was the first sale held under its new ownership after the long tenure of Ted Proud. The location, Salisbury, was hardly convenient for many but it seems the present semi-annual schedule will continue to allow viewing (essential for this auction) at Stampex/Philatex.

A strong feature of this first sale was a selection from Ted Proud's Tobago, although there was also some useful Jamaica from the same source. Most of the good Tobago was preadhesive with the 1796 straightline mark fetching £300. The diamond '14' cancel on cover looked a good buy at £330 but the highlight was the famous dues cover ex Beach with two 4ds cancelled treasury crown Tobago. This was knocked down to John Taylor for £1,650 against an estimate of £1,000. Some weeks later it turned up in Ben Ramkissoo's Tobago exhibit in Indianapolis.

Spink 15-16 June

The Edward M Gilbert Br Empire collection that I previewed in the last bulletin turned out to be a blockbuster that achieved over £1.6 million, even more impressive when you consider that this was a small portion of a much larger collection. Many BWI rarities were included and these almost without exception attracted fierce bidding, with the winner in many cases being a Russian gentleman being advised by David Brandon. This to my knowledge is a first for the BWI (are there are no soccer clubs left?) although rich local buyers have made their presence felt in the Asian market. While we cannot complain of poor taste, I wonder whether we should be worried about all those rare stamps we aspire to buy moving quickly out of reach.

Whatever, the sale produced some amazing results. The highlights were the Bermuda Perots. The 1849 example in black with a pedigree going back to Ferrari was the plum at £116,000, with SG O5 and O6 at £60,000 and £58,000. Other Bermuda rarities were equally dear, and well above the prices that Mr Gilbert had paid. For example, a poor copy of the 1875 1d / 1/- used with inverted overprint went for £25,000 (£16,000 in the Ludington sale) and the same stamp with no stop at £15,000 against £7,000. The Br Guiana cotton-reels performed strongly (nothing new in that, regular readers might say) with the 8 lots fetching just under £80,000 against upper estimates of £33,000. By contrast, the Bahamas section contained many useful stamps that were on the whole little higher than, or below, what Mr Gilbert had paid in the Staircase or Ludington sales, e.g. the special delivery missing overprint with normal was £21,000 against £20,000 in 1999. However, even here there were few absolute bargains with two of the Circle's matadors David Wilson and Phil MacMurdie ready to pounce. An under-recognised Antigua rarity, the 1863 yellow-green mint, was not cheap at £2,100 but the Dominica cover with 1d/6d green ex Charlton-Henry and Dale seemed reasonable at £7,000 and one of our members was glad to obtain the Turks 1d imperf between for £3,800. At the last gasp, the missing Virgin went for £68,000, even more than the £60,000 the same stamp fetched in 2003, another one for the Russian portfolio?.

Spink 6-7 July

Not a lot in the first 230 pages of a massive catalogue but when we got to the letter V the pulse strengthened as there was a relatively small but choice collection of Virgin Is.....its owner was reputed to be a previous Governor of the colony who bought it from Gibbons in the early 1970s for sentimental reasons and not because he was a collector. If so, its origin would have been the Donne collection broken up by Gibbons.

It was a brave decision by Spink to go ahead with the sale on the 7th following the appalling London bombings a few hours earlier, one of them just a few blocks away in Tavistock Square. Distant bidders will have been glad they did not have to struggle through the police cordons to reach Spink's offices and I gather the room was thin with only Simon Goldblatt holding up the circle's head among the few regular dealers. However, Spink judged that the key players were there and they had a good book and several phone bidders, including Roger Downing and I ready to pounce from on our phone connections in the Western Hemisphere.

The 85 Virgin Is lots fetched £65,000 against total estimates of £57,500-70,000, with less than £2,000 unsold. The early preadhesives mostly sold at reserve except for the 1801 straightline mark with large letters at £380, while all the later covers, including some very choice ones, were quiet. The very rare Waterlow die proofs in black were a steal at £2,800 and the often seen Nissen and Parker proofs in colour were far cheaper than in recent Spink sales, while the 4d and 1/- essays were in the ballpark at £1,600 each. Buyers came to life with the issued 1d stamps, the badly foxed

sheet of 24 plus a single of SG1 fetching £1,600 and the SG8 sheets of 12 £2,600 and £2,000. Buyers had noted that none of these were in the Frazer collection, but nor was the sheet of 25 less one stamp of the perf 15 6d; this fetched a modest £3,800, even though this is a far rarer stamp and not even a pair is recorded outside this gorgeous piece. The plating studies were also in demand although Simon Goldblatt thought that many were unreliable. The next highlights were the keyplate proofs. The lovely imperf block of 2½d brown soared to £4,500 and the single ½d imperf was far from cheap at £900. The sheets of the 1887-9 values were well bid but the sheet of the 4d / 1/- that had made a hammer of £6,200 in the Frazer sale made £1,000 less. A final excitement was the 1899 ½d imperf pair at £1,500....why Virgin Is proof material should be relatively expensive when some of the rare stamps are not is a mystery to me.

Grosvenor 15 July

Another phone connection, this time from Poland, enabled me to keep a watching brief on the sale of Derek Nathan's Br. Guiana. From my spies I understand the room included our members Simon Greenwood and Goldblatt. This was a more significant offering than I had expected, with many interesting covers in particular, though not I believe anything from his main exhibit. Judging by my own results, the prices for the early covers and the selected range of stamps were strong but there were opportunities among the later stamped covers. The overall results were heavily influenced by the one 'big' lot, his superb cancellations display, which included many very rare or unique items. This was knocked down at its reserve of £15,000 to a phone bidder (estimate £20,000-25,000). The overall total was thus £48,500, little more than the lower range of estimates given that £4,300 was unsold.

There was strong competition for the early lots of 18th century mail with many fetching double estimate or more. Demand remained strong for the other preadhesives. The relatively small section of stamps contained some tempting estimates. Many had their eyes on the 1876 blocks including the 96c but they went to almost three times estimate at £1,300. The 1903 die proof that I believe was struck for plate 3 was popular and eventually sold for £700, while £200 was paid for the unpriced SG 151a used with red bar and £2,100 for the Silver Wedding Specimen.

The final section of the Br Guiana comprised later franked covers and started with a nice looking strip of four 1862 1c chestnut cancelled A4C. Despite two of them having a chunk missing, it fetched £980. Bidding on the rest of the covers was patchy with the more bland not selling because of excessive reserves but there were several rarer frankings which seemed reasonably priced and these attracted good bids.

Knowing Derek, he will feel he could have done better but all in all I think Grosvenor did a good job....but should they have broken down the cancel collection? We will never know.

Coming events

A major offering of Br Honduras is scheduled for 27 October at Spink. Based largely on Sir Henry Tuckers' collection exhibited at Philypia in 1970 and sold as a single lot by Gibbons in 1973, this was a 21st birthday from his father for one of our members, Simon Richards. A more mature Simon has obviously been persuaded by the amazing prices achieved for the Br Honduras section of Spink's March sale that the time is right. I was given a sneak preview by David Parsons and can confirm that this is an event worth saving up for. Two inter-panneau blocks of the first issue are supported by many more early blocks and most of the rarities of the QV period, such as the 1d imperf between strip of 3, the overprint varieties and the Bevenue 50c in a pair with normal. I also noted several die proofs, imperfs and colour trials, although sadly none of the rare town cancels. The covers include three 18th century and two crowned circles, plus a unique usage of the 3d perf 12½ in a pair on a mixed franking to Larisch. There are also the two famous covers ex Luff franked illicitly with strips of four of the two six/10c/4d essays. Certainly a welcome 21st birthday present!

Nigel Chandler has suggested I warn our dealer and quasi-dealer members that around the end of Sept. Harmers will be selling a £1 million-plus all-world estate that will contain some very good BWI stamps. Unfortunately the Italian executors insist on the countries being lotted alphabetically, so the BWI will be mixed in with other countries, but the estimates will be very attractive.

All the prices quoted above are hammer prices subject to a 15% buyers premium. Even Spink has now quietly removed its concessionary 10% buyers premium for lots exceeding £30,000, but it does provide free use of some credit cards for those who pay within five days.

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Revisions to contact details should be provided to the Hon. Secretary, Peter Boulton, address inside front cover.

In this issue and in future, membership updates will be issued as loose booklet style inserts for the membership booklet.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT**IAN JAKES**

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If any member has a book which is not already in the library and which is surplus to requirements, perhaps that member will consider donating it to the library.

EDITOR & WEB-MASTER'S REPORT**STEVE JARVIS**

Peter Fernbank has continued scanning early editions of the Bulletin. He has now reached edition 79, which are all now on our web site. Peter has also brought the Index of Bulletins up-to-date (Bulletin #202). An updated listing is now available for download from the web site or printed copy by application to the Hon. Editor at £2.00 or \$US4.00.

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