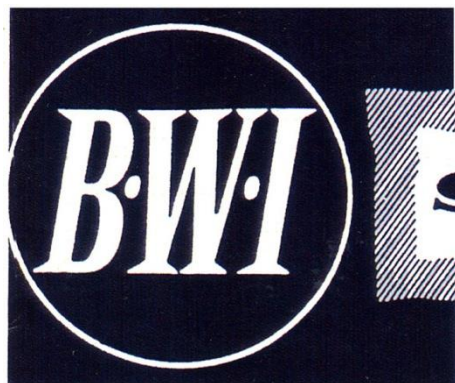




STUDY CIRCLE

JAMAICA

The Samuel J5 Local Specimen Overprint



J5A



J5B

See the concluding part of Ian Jakes' article.



BULLETIN No. 252 March 2017



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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
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SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS & INFORMATION

MEETINGS & EVENTS

Saturday 22 April 2017 AGM and Auction at Grosvenor, 399–401 Strand, 2nd & 3rd floors, WC2R 0LT

Saturday 8 July 2015 (10.00 a.m.- 5.00 p.m.) Circle table at Midpex, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa. Midpex is the prestigious biennial exhibition first held in 1995 and attended by stamp collectors from across the UK. It brings together specialist societies and local, national and international dealers covering all aspects of Philately.

Saturday 14 – Sunday 15 October 2017 BWISC Convention at The Abbey Hotel, Redditch, Worcestershire, B98 9BE. www.theabbeyhotel.co.uk Tel: 01527 406 600.

The Abbey is a seasoned venue for specialist society meetings, and provides comfortable modern facilities in a country setting, within two miles of the railway station.

The 2017 convention will have the familiar mix of formal displays, informal presentations by members, and the bourse. There will be two formal displays and the usual mix of Informal Displays, Bourse and Members' Table for Buying & Selling. We will have a pleasant space to ourselves for the meeting. There will be a banquet on Saturday, when Collett Award presentations will be made. Call the hotel to book rooms directly (Single room £99; Double room £109), and mention BWISC to get these rates [**01527 406 600**]. There are many local attractions that might appeal to members' partners and families, from the theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon to the Sealife centre in Birmingham. See inserts and the website for convention fee forms and meal booking. You can come for an afternoon, a day, or come for the weekend.

Congratulations to Michael Medlicott and Simon Richards on their elevation to Fellowship of the RPSL.

Hon. Editor's note:

Since the New Year I have been contacted by two contributors asking when their articles will be published. In both cases I could find no trace of the articles and subsequently the situation has been corrected to our mutual satisfaction. If there are any contributors who are still waiting for their articles to be published would they please contact me so that the situation can be resolved.

The logo for Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd. features the word "CAVENDISH" in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, "PHILATELIC • AUCTIONS • LTD." is written in a smaller, sans-serif font. The entire text is enclosed in a decorative border with ornate corner pieces.

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BWI**REVENUE STAMPS OF THE BRITISH WEST INDIES****A DISPLAY BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT TO THE RPSL – 13 OCTOBER 2016****BY SIMON GOLDBLATT**

Michael Medlicott's recent presentation from his vast collection of Revenue stamps of the world must have come as a culture shock to half of the full house who attended. Here were real stamps that had fulfilled a real function and left behind them real rarities on a scale that the most elite collectors of award-winning postage stamps might envy. If ever there were a paradigm example of my oft-repeated observation that philately begins where the catalogue ends, here it was.

It is none of my purpose to replicate or even summarise the hand-out publication that was distributed to those attending, but the many members of our Circle unable to be there should implore its republication and sale, or hope that copies of what was streamed out live to the outside world for the benefit of those few who knew the time and date of the event and had the technology to capture it, can still be made available to those who missed it. Failing this, beg, borrow or steal an original of the hand-out.

For here Michael, with less of the diffidence that came with his spoken words, but with the literary skill to enhance his research, his insight and his humour, reviews in depth his selection of about 1% of the whole collection, with illustrations to match. A summary would merely derogate from the original.

Indeed, if merely picking rarities, where should one begin? Would it be with the Plate 1 example of Tobago's £1 CC revenue stamp of 1879, with its double line of perforation at the top margin?



Should one turn to the key-type Montserrat QV 1d in an unused tête-bêche pair; the stamp of which Len Britnor wrote, a little sadly or plaintively, in his pioneer work on Montserrat, 'so far, none appears to have come to light'.

Or should I draw attention to Michael telling us that only two copies of St. Vincent's TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS surcharge on 5/- QV appear to have survived – and here they are.



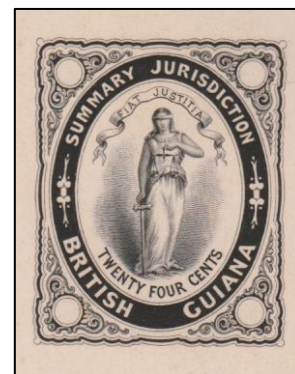
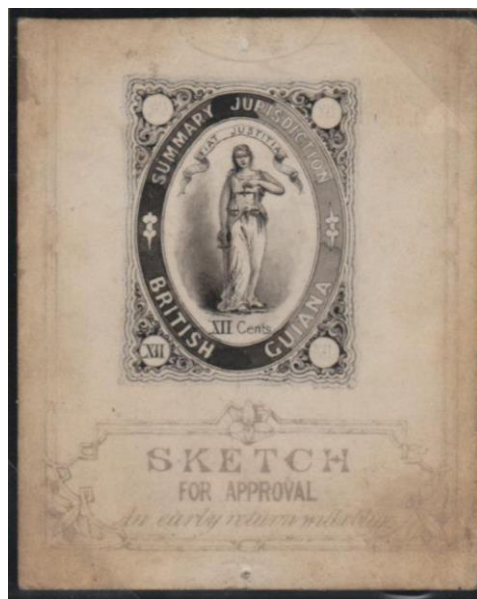
If one version of history is accepted, the same might be being said today of British Guiana's 'one cent black on magenta', had not Arthur Hind in the 1930s chosen to tear up and discard what he considered to be the inferior of the two examples he held in his hands.

British Guiana, at any rate, was clearly one of Michael's favourite fields of endeavor, and it is merely my own quirkiness of approach (in the quest for rarity) that makes me pass over a full unused sheet of 24 of one value in the Inland Revenue series, to fasten on the reputed single surviving copy of a compound perf. from the Summary Jurisdiction issue, and to echo Michael's perceptive question to himself – was the perforation at the top to be trusted? Are not the unresolved mysteries some of the pleasures of philately?



Clearly, within the BWI, British Guiana and St. Vincent were the major exponents of administration in search of revenue. Not on the scale of New Zealand or Straits Settlements, of course, but still with the civil version of a military mindset. In my own days as a conscript, this used to be, 'if it moves, salute it', which became, after the advent of photocopies, 'and if it doesn't move, copy it'. In the civil version this becomes, 'if it either moves, or doesn't move, tax it'.

But I digress. I shall not stress the proof material exhibited – not so as to detract from the individual rarity, but because as a genus, proof material can be acquired by any advanced collector in a specific chosen field. Make no mistake: what Michael has chosen to acquire are not 'any old proofs' but ones that specifically fit. Nevertheless, the unique or near-unique items that Michael shows, are replicated in comparable form in many a specialist field.



So I would much rather stumble across an inverted FEE overprint on a high value Trinidad postage stamp, and wonder how that came about, or browse through the random errors on Grenada's yellow and green revenue Chalons for the aberration that has hitherto escaped my wandering gaze.

Do not be misled by an absence in the display of any concentration on the (postal?-) fiscals of St. Kitts and Nevis, for here is a full sheet of 60 for one of the issues, and I suspect that, had Michael wished, he could have filled the entire display space with these conjoined territories. Indeed, if one were a BWI enthusiast intent on further research in the revenue field, what better area than this in a (hopeless in my view) project to disentangle the revenue relationship between the two islands? Why were so many different types created? And why were they used – if at all! – interchangeably between the two?



Almost as fascinating, both there and in the others of the Leeward group, except Virgin Islands (which always went its own way or stayed apart) is the use of primitive die stamps and the like, to create revenue issues that may not even have come into use or, when they did, have survived in minuscule quantities. Remember, too, that where Michael gave low priority to Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia – for instance – what wasn't being shown may have had an equal facility to dazzle.



It takes more than a single display to enlighten ageing minds, and for a proportion of those present, the impact of what they heard and saw will be ephemeral. For some of the others and, I would hope, for some who now read of it, there will be a fresh collecting impetus: in essence, an urge for the aspirant to select a field of her or his own, and to follow trails overgrown and lost, or insufficiently explored, for the advancement or resurrection of knowledge.

To allow Michael's selection to tell its own particular story, I shall let the illustrations that accompany this review speak for themselves.

USED IN GREENOCK BWI?**BY KENNETH GORDON**

As a 'GB Used Abroad' enthusiast, I was much excited and surprised to note the stamp (Fig.1) listed as Lot 1731 in the Spink (Grenada) Philatelic Collector's Sale 26–28 October 2016.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

It was an example (probably unique) of the GB 6d. lilac used in Grenada cancelled with the 'open circle c.d.s. code D', instead of the usual A15 handstamp. Ex Gilbert Lodge and Pilkington, and with impeccable provenance, this would be an excellent addition to my collection – I therefore requested a scan. As soon as I received it, things didn't seem right. The large datestamp didn't look like a Grenada mark at all (the early seriffed double-arc Grenada c.d.s. (Fig.2) has no Code letter) and, just as importantly, the serifs looked wrong and the fourth letter didn't really look like an 'N'.

It was at this point that wishful thinking crumbled and I arrived at the sad conclusion that the stamp must surely bear the large double-arc datestamp of GREENOCK, not GRENADA! Do readers have any other thoughts or suggestions?

For the information of collectors of GB 'Used Abroad' in the BWI and elsewhere, might I refer them to the recently published 'GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings' by John Parmenter and Ken Gordon? This is a comprehensive volume illustrating all relevant handstamps, and is available from John Parmenter, 23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU (john.parmenter44@gmail.com) or from Ken Gordon, Glenview, Aberdeen Road. Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 6JD (gordonken50@gmail.com tel:07808760400). Price £60 post free to UK addresses.

BARBADOS**1925 1s TRANSFER ROLLER FLAW – AN EARLIER STATE****BY PATRICIA CAPILL**

I am grateful to Richard Stupples who has checked through his 1s Seahorse copies and sent me illustrations of two different states of the transfer flaw (refer to the December 2016 Bulletin, pages 5 – 6).

One matches the row 6 No.5 state but the other shows the flaw slightly larger, with a pointed top extending above the inner circle above BRITANNOS (see illustrations).



This new state would be above horizontal row 5, most likely from row 4 No.5. This means there are now at least four states of this flaw.

Any further information from readers would be welcome. I can be contacted at colinpat@wave.co.nz

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BRITISH HONDURAS

EMENDATIONS TO EDWARD PROUD'S *THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BRITISH HONDURAS* (1999)

BY JOHN SWALES

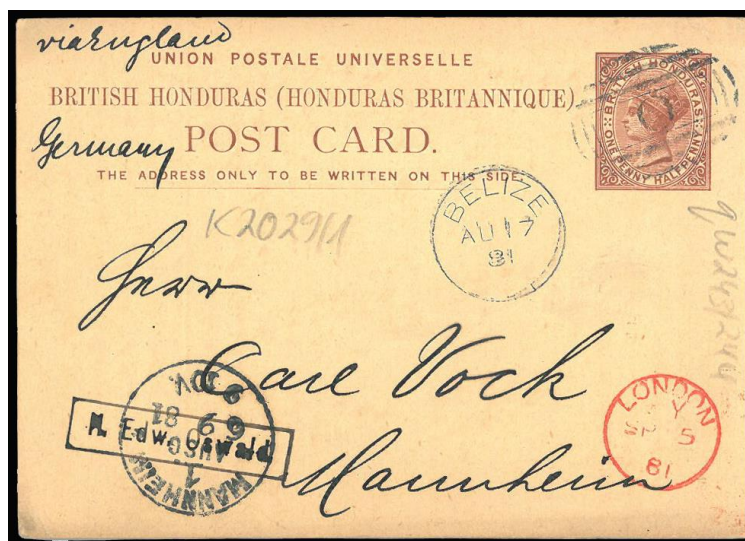


Fig. 1.

I can offer a few small updates to the information contained in this valuable reference work, all involving postal markings. The first concerns the Belize D5 c.d.s. The three halfpence p.s. card illustrated (Fig. 1.) shows this c.d.s with Proud's earliest recorded date of 'August 17, 1881'. However, there is an earlier use of this D5 dated 'July 6, 1881' on a similar card offered as part of Lot 1055 in the important 2009 Harper sale of British Honduras.

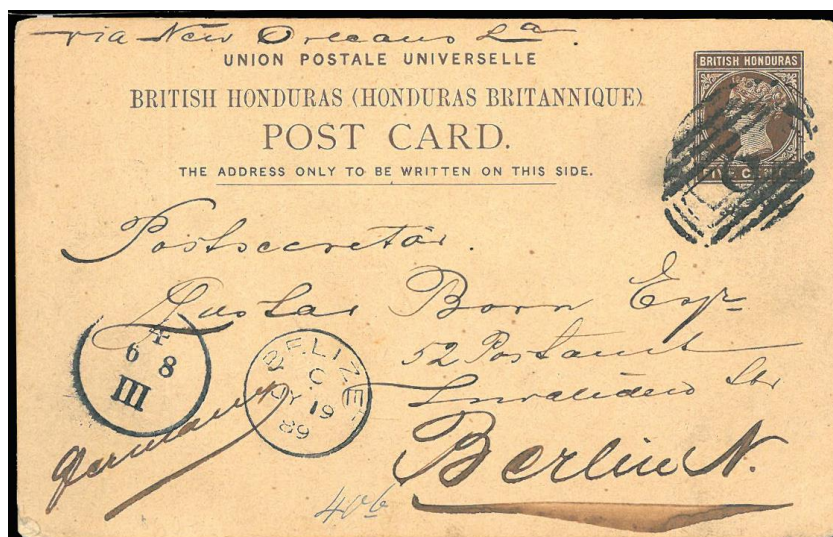


Fig. 2.

The second emendation is perhaps the most interesting. The Belize c.d.s D7 (the last one before 'British Honduras' in the lower part of the circle became customary) was sent on 'May 3, 1889' and used for the next ten years. Proud (p.179) states that D7 occurs with time codes A and B. However, the illustrated five cents p.s. card to Berlin (Fig. 2.) clearly shows this cancel with a 'C' index along with the date of 'July 19, 1889'.

Michael Hamilton has kindly sent me a scan of a cover to London with another D7 index C, dated 'October 26, 1889'. I would be very interested to hear if members or readers know of other instances beyond these two of this c.d.s with a 'C' time code. On the scant evidence available, it is possible that the letter 'C' was only used early in D7's life and soon 'fell into desuetude'!

As Addiss observes, 'In the colonial postal system, these letters were meant to designate the period of the day when the envelopes were cancelled, but it is generally acknowledged that the practice of changing the code letter during the day was seldom, if ever, followed in British Honduras' (1990:7).



Fig. 3.

My third update occurs on a 1909 letter from Stann Creek to Germany showing the double-ring c.d.s dated '11 January, 1909'. This is 20 days later than Proud's last recorded date of '20 December, 1908'. The two remaining updates are very minor and not worth illustrating: A 1937 cover to Canada showing the Belize R4 registration handstamp was, according to Proud re-introduced from 5 July to 11 November 1937. However, my cover is cancelled with a c.d.s dated '2 July, 1937'. Finally, the official handstamp for the 1958 visit of Princess Margaret has in Proud's volume an ERD of 5 May 1958, while a cover in my possession is dated 3 May.

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BAHAMAS. 1942 Landfall set perf 'SPECIMEN' (Type D21). Very fine mint. Scarce set complete. SG 162s/175s. £400	JAMAICA. 1886 1d carmine in marginal block of four. Unmounted mint. SG 18a. £250
BARBADOS. 1852/55 (no value) slate-blue in complete sheet of 110. Very fine mint. Wonderful showpiece. SG 5a. £1300	LEEWARDS. 1938 (1 st) 10/- Keyplate in corner Plate block of four. Very fine mint. Rare. SG 113. £750
B. HONDURAS. 1888 3c on 3d chestnut in block of four. Very fine mint. Rare multiple. SG 26. £450	LEEWARDS. 1944 (6 th) £1 Keyplate with 'missing pearl'. Very fine used with MONTSERRAT c.d.s. SG 114ba. £1100
B. HONDURAS. 1891 6c on 10c on 4d with '6' and bar inverted. A marginal example. Unmounted mint. SG 43a. £475	MONTSERRAT. 1916/22 set of 11 optd 'SPECIMEN'. Unmounted mint. Exceptional. SG 49s/59s. £175
CAYMANS. 1889 ½d used with 'GRAND CAYMAN/POST OFFICE' dated oval d.s. 'AP 26 1892'. SG Z1. £400	ST. LUCIA. 1938/47 set of 17 perf 'SPECIMEN'. Very fine mint. A rare set complete. SG 128s/141s. £375
GRENADA. 1895 1/- green and orange strip of four used with ST GEORGES c.d.s. 'OC 26 95'. Scarce piece. SG 55. £150	ST. LUCIA. 1950 12c claret (Perf 14½ x 14). Top marginal with printer's guidelines. Unmounted mint. SG 153a. £600
GRENADA. 1892 1d on 6d 'SURCHARGE POSTAGE' in strip of three. Unmounted mint. Exceptional multiple. SG D4. £400	ST. VINCENT. 1898 DLR Die Proof for QV 5d Duty Tablets in black on glazed card dated '25 MAY 98'. £275

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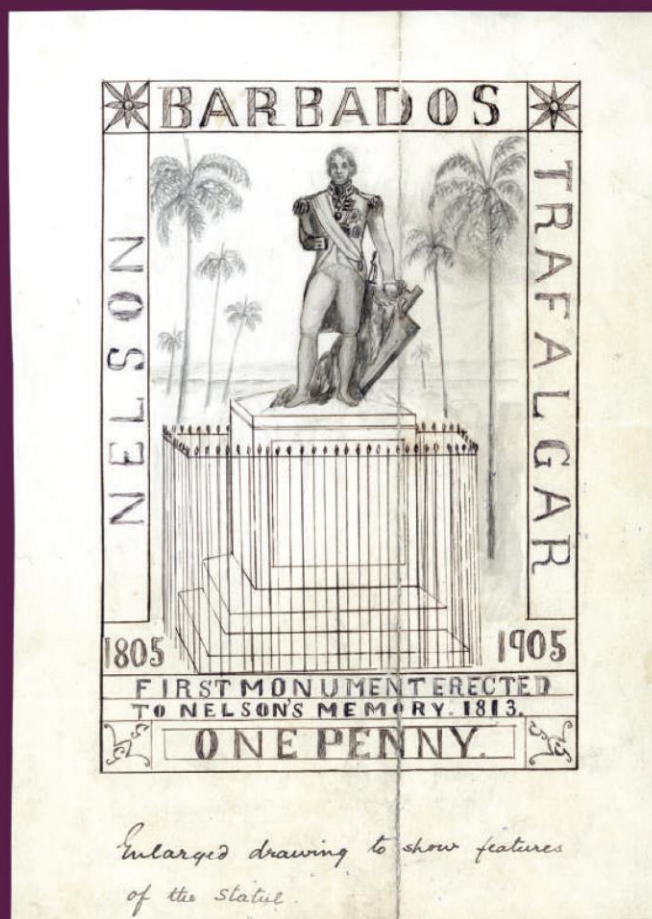


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JAMAICA

THE SAMUEL J5 LOCAL SPECIMEN OVERPRINT: CONCLUSIONS AGUILAR'S FOLLY 'UNLOVED AND UNWANTED' – SWARBRICK

BY IAN JAKES

I will start with the Jamaica GPO collection described in part one of this article. If you read James Bendon's checklist carefully you will see a simplified list, up to and including the 1937 Coronation set, excluding watermark varieties and most stamp colour shades and minor varieties, of all Jamaican postage stamps overprinted SPECIMEN by either a UPU overprint or a J5 handstamp. Note particularly that when UPU perforated SPECIMEN stamps were first issued in Jamaica there was a tendency to place a second copy of the mint stamps bearing the J5 overprint in the GPO collection. This practice ceased in 1929, after which date only perforated UPU specimens appeared in the collection. I conclude, for the reasons set out below, that the J5 'Slavery' block of four was added to the GPO collection in 1938.

The twelve 15 x 2 mm J5 SPECIMEN stamps reported in Jamaica Philatelist 1935:60 amended to 15.5 x 2.25 mm by Aguilar (Philatelic Handbook Vol. 1 pages 51, 60, 65 & 66) have never been in the Jamaica GPO Collection. Many of these twelve stamps have later watermarks and shades of colour to those in the Jamaica GPO Collection. My conclusion is that these twelve stamps are a purported 1922 J5 presentation set, as referred to by Samuel in his 1976 book.



J5A



J5B

Fig. 7.

My Jamaica Postal Fiscal, a three half penny blue/blue (SG F4) (Fig.1 in part one of this article) is overprinted by a J5 SPECIMEN purple overprint measuring 15.5 x 2.25 millimetres with a rectangular full stop after SPECIMEN (hereinafter called 'J5A'). The other scans of the stamps used in this article, apart from the 'Slavery' block of four, appear also to show J5A. The 'Slavery' block of four appears to show a round full stop closer to the 'N' and a dropped 'C' in SPECIMEN (hereinafter called J5B). Fig.7 shows these two J5 overprints, one above the other.

The J5A handstamp appears to me to have been made by a hard substance like metal. J5B appears to me to have been made by using a rubber handstamp. I am not a printer. I have not examined nor even seen the Slavery block of four except in the form of a scan.

The questions are:

- (a) Is there just one J5 handstamp, with J5A showing early and fresh handstamp impressions, and J5B showing later impressions when the handstamp was badly worn? or
- (b) Are there two or more handstamps which have been used to make the J5 overprint?
- (c) Are the handstamps made of metal or rubber?
- (d) Do all J5 handstamps measure 15.5mm x 2.25mm?

We do not know where the J5 handstamp(s) were made. Permanent steel dies came from England. It is likely that the J5 handstamp(s) were made in Jamaica. There is an interesting article by L.C.C. Nicholson on page 68 of *The Philatelic Handbook Volume One* on handstamps made in Jamaica. The article suggests that the locally produced die for the 1890 provisional issue was made of metal.

The majority of the handstamps were made of a 'hard substance like rubber'. Nicholson then discusses rubber handstamps. He continues 'The rubber substance of which these marks are made soon wore down in many cases They are in use, on an average, from six to twelve months some were in use for over two years'.

I was out of my depth. I needed professional assistance. I therefore summoned my friend, Michael 'Yo-Yo' Yeomans, to my house. Yo-Yo is a retired newspaper printer, having been in the printing industry for more than 40 years. He is also a philatelist specialising in G.B. Machins. I put my four questions to him. Four cheese scones later he grasped the information which I required. Yo-Yo is always very meticulous and conservative with his answers to philatelic questions. Ten weeks later I received Yo-Yo's response.

Yo-Yo confirms that the J5A and J5B overprints have definitely been made by different handstamps. He can be certain of this because the type face for the J5A handstamp is slab serif and the type face for the J5B handstamp is serif. The small decorative pieces on the ends of each character are called serifs. A few examples of slab serif type (many others do exist) are shown at Fig. 8. The slab serif type face was used on those western 'WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE' 19th century posters so familiar to us all. Note particularly the tall, but narrow, shape of the capital letters and the square shape of the full stop and comma and the rectangular shape of the dot under the question mark. A few examples of serif type (many others do exist) are shown at Fig. 9. Note particularly the wider shape of the capital letters and the round shape of the full stop and comma and of the dots below the exclamation and question marks.



Fig. 8.

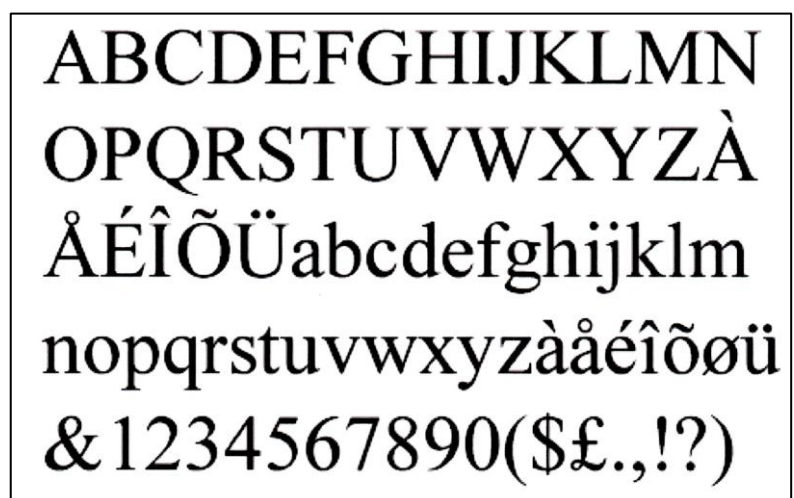


Fig. 9.

Now let us return to Fig. 7. Yo-Yo confirms that all J5 SPECIMEN overprints shown in December 2016 BWISC Bulletin are J5A apart from the Slavery block of four which are J5B. Yo-Yo particularly asks us to note, on J5A,

- (a) the design and shape of the 'M'.
- (b) the prominent square cut slab like serifs on the design of the 'E'.
- (c) the punctuation design square full stop after 'N' in 'SPECIMEN'.
- (d) the space between the full stop and letter 'N'.

Yo-Yo asks us to note, on J5B,

- (a) the different design and shapes of the 'M' and 'E' as mentioned above.
- (b) the punctuation oval full stop after 'N' in 'SPECIMEN', rather than the square design typeface of J5A.
- (c) there is no spacing between the full stop and the 'N' in 'SPECIMEN'.
- (d) there is a dropped 'C' in 'SPECIMEN'.

Yo-Yo confirms that J5A and J5B are very similar in size. He is unable to give an opinion as to whether the J5A and J5B handstamps are made of metal or rubber.

I comment upon Yo-Yo's expert report. Yo-Yo cannot say that J5A and J5B handstamps are the same size, only that they are of a similar size. This is because he has only seen a scan of J5B which could be slightly distorted. The existence of the J5 overprint was first recorded by Nicholson in Jamaica Philatelist 1929:51 when he reported the existence of a of a 5s stamp overprinted SPECIMEN using medium serif letters in purple and measuring 15mm x 2mm. This 5s SPECIMEN stamp may well be S.G.88 in the Jamaica Post Office Collection especially as the 10s stamp (S.G.89) in this collection is unoverprinted. (see Gunter (J.P. 1938:27) and Jamaica Gleaner for 22nd July 1921 below.) Only an inspection of this 5s stamp (so far as I am aware never seen by any BWISC member) will reveal whether it bears a J5A overprint or some other type of J5 overprint. The second, and last report of J5 overprints by Nicholson (J.P. 1935:60) is of the alleged 1922 set of twelve stamps also measuring 15mm x 2mm! Aguilar corrected these measurements for the J5 overprinted set of twelve to 15.5mm x 2.25mm (Philatelic Handbook Vol.1 page 51). One day owners of the 'Slavery' block and of the 5s formerly in the Jamaica Post Office Collection might give to the BWISC correct measurements for the overprints on their respective stamps.

Yo-Yo says that handstamps made out of metal or rubber would leave similar types of overprint on the face of the stamp, and similar raised surfaces on the rear of the stamp, any differences being attributable to the pressure applied by the handstamp itself. I told Yo-Yo that my gut instinct was that the J5A handstamp was made of metal. Yo-Yo asked me to clarify when the Samuel J5A handstamp was first, and last, used to overprint stamps. I do not have an answer to this question. Yo-Yo could not be persuaded to elucidate any further. I suspect that if the J5A overprint was first used in or before 1922 and last used in 1938 the J5A handstamp would probably be made of metal, a rubber hand stamp would probably have a shorter life. This question sent me back to the first part of this article.

According to Swarbrick's letter the J5 overprints were applied at Kingston G.P.O. before the Nathan's Store display. We do not know whether Swarbrick's letter is referring to J5A or J5B overprints. Fletcher (Philatelic Handbook page 60) gives an even more vague account but does say that the Samuel J5A overprint, made by a rubber handstamp, was applied to stamps in the Jamaica G.P.O. collection from a time after specimen stamps were overprinted locally and sent to Berne for distribution. This does not make any sense to me. I asked Steve Jarvis for a second opinion. Steve's reply was 'I read the 2nd and 3rd paragraph (of the Philatelic Handbook page 60 article) as referring to stamps of other countries that have been distributed from Berne, if any are received without overprint then the Jamaica P.O. apply their own Specimen overprint to them and then filed. So it implies J5 is an official Jamaica P.O. overprint but does not tell us about when applied to our Jamaican stamps.' Gunter speaks of a rubber handstamp (J.P.1938:27) (see elsewhere in this article) but it is possible that he is referring to an earlier version of a J5 overprint. The purported 1922 Samuel J5 presentation set was first reported in 1935 (Jamaica Philatelist 1935:60). If J5A handstamp was first used in 1935 and last used in 1938 the handstamp could well be made of rubber as alleged by Fletcher. However a pictorial M.C.A. 5s stamp bearing a J5 overprint was first reported in 1929 (Jamaica Philatelist 1929:51). This could be the stamp reported in the Jamaica Gleaner on 22 July 1921 or it could be the 5s stamp forming part of the purported 1922 presentation set. I am unable to conclude whether the J5A handstamp was made of either metal or rubber.

J5A and J5B appear to have been made by different handstamps, but we still do not know whether the new J5B handstamp was made by the Jamaica G.P.O. or by an outside source. This matters little, since the Governor of Jamaica approved of the J5A handstamp when the purported 1922 presentation set was authorised. Gunter has implied (Jamaica Philatelist 1938:27) that the J5B handstamp was authorised by the Governor of Jamaica.

My conclusion. The J5A overprint is the SPECIMEN overprint currently known as Samuel J5. The J5B overprint is clearly different, but it has been known as Samuel J5 since 1984. Legally the overprints are different, but in equity, or fairness, as J5B has been considered to be a Samuel J5 for more than the last thirty years I conclude that they are both J5 overprints. Henceforth they should be called J5A and J5B. If the 5s, reported in 1929, and when found, does not bear a J5A overprint, then this overprint should be called J5C.

I come to the conclusion that, on the balance of probabilities, the philatelist Everard Francis Aguilar influenced, with the help of others, the making of the J5B handstamp by the Jamaica G.P.O. or alternatively (and this is my preferred option) arranged for this handstamp to be made by a third party, possibly Jacobs (Fig. 10) for use at Jamaica Philatelic Society Third Stamp Exhibition in 1938. I am not suggesting that Aguilar has acted illegally. I am suggesting that Aguilar was acting for the benefit of himself and his allies. I invite the reader to come to the same conclusion, based on the following evidence.

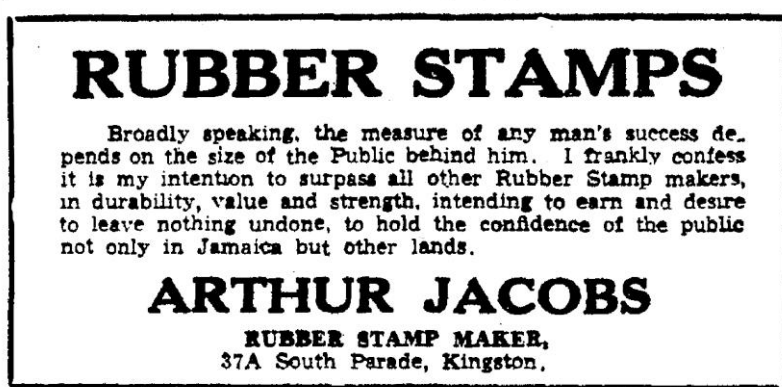


Fig. 10.



Fig. 11.

Everard Francis Aguilar (Fig. 11) was born in Kingston, Jamaica on 14 March 1913. He was the third and youngest son of Thomas Newton Aguilar, one of Jamaica's local aristocrats. Thomas Newton Aguilar owned Knutsford Park Racecourse in Jamaica, he was a well known financier and auctioneer, he also owned an island wide undertaking service as well as a furnishing warehouse in Kingston. Everard Aguilar took full advantage of his privileged upbringing. He was a leading yachtsman. He took a keen interest in shooting, fishing and badminton, and travelled extensively. From the end of 1935 to 1938 Everard Aguilar was engaged in real estate and investment mortgage business. Everard Aguilar was very affable and a born leader. He had good relationships with Jamaican postmasters who did his bidding e.g. Fletcher (Philatelic Handbook Vol.1 page 60), Mr. 'inspect my stock' Morales (Jamaica Philatelist 1946:17) and George 'walk all over me' White. Aguilar was prone to complain if matters were not to his liking. Aguilar fell out with Jamaican postmasters, including Nash and Rousseau (including times when Rousseau was deputy PMG) because they were interfering with Aguilar's philatelic business. Any reader requiring authority for the above or more information about Everard Francis Aguilar should read David Horry's article 'Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea' in British Caribbean Philatelic Journal Vol.54, No.1 January 2014 pages 7-16. Horry's article discusses Aguilar's friendship with Jamaica Postmaster General George Fitzgerald White after World War 2 which Aguilar used to further Aguilar's philatelic business for his, Aguilar's, own personal prestige and financial gain. Note Aguilar's dalliance with Temporary Rubber Date Stamps. Aguilar could be ruthless to acquire self importance. I will always remember the son of BWISC Founder P.T. Saunders FRPSL bitterly complaining to me personally that his father wrote 'The Cayman Islands: Postal History, Postage Stamps and Postmarks' in 1962 and that Aguilar took the credit for this book.

'The Jamaica Philatelist' ceased publication in 1950 – this was usurped by Aguilar's own 'British West Indies Philatelist' at that time. Aguilar also took full credit for the 1949 Philatelic Handbook on Jamaica. A cursory glance at this book shows that much of it was written by others. There are a few copies of the Philatelic Handbook which have an extra page bound into the book (Fig. 12). This extra page, according to David Horry made by George Crawford Odom aka Frank Godden Jr., perhaps gives a better indication of those involved in the production of the book.

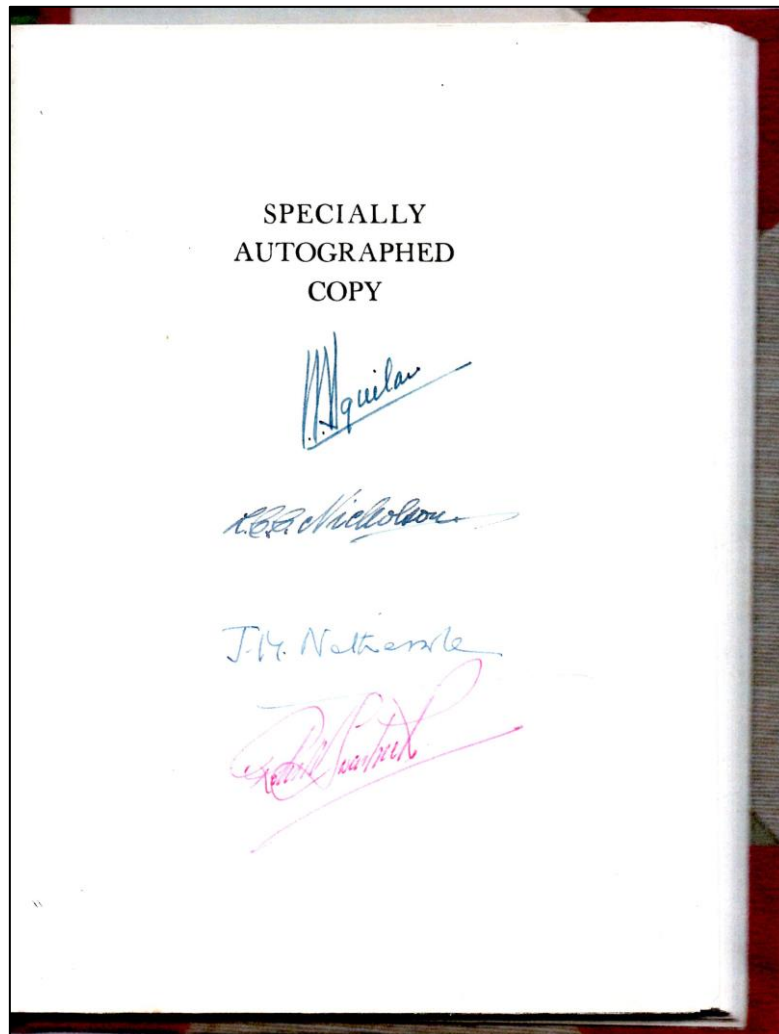


Fig. 12.

What Aguilar was doing in World War 2 on the philatelic front is unrecorded. Aguilar lived at Halfway Tree, Jamaica, in close vicinity to older and much wiser philatelists, G.C. Gunter and George Odom. Odom traded as L. Barrington Smith, philatelic dealers, Kingston as well as being known as Frank Godden Jr. Aguilar had to learn the stamp trade from someone. David Horry believes that these two philatelists were Aguilar's philatelic mentors together with J.M. Nethersole of Spanish Town. G.C. Gunter was not part of the L. Barrington Smith set up – Gunter had his own trading licence. David Horry has written a book, still to be published, entitled 'George Odom and the Madame Joseph Affair' about Odom who was a member of the British Secret Service. Odom's remit came directly through the Crown Agents rather than through the conventional MI5/MI6 operations. There is little doubt that British Security Services were employing The Posts to garner surveillance. David Horry believes that the lobbying for air mail and postage dues first came about in 1943 when Sir Harry Luke arrived in the Caribbean. Stamp dealing was a good cover for these activities, especially in Jamaica. There is no record of any war service by Aguilar. David Horry believes that Aguilar took over the management of L. Barrington Smith when Odom went to Italy in October 1944 with the West Indies Regiment, via Bermuda, and did not return until February 1946. There are rumours that Jamaican temporary rubber date stamps appeared on letters sent to Kingston and used for sending surveillance reports.

I come to the conclusion that Aguilar was acting in a similar manner to that outlined in the previous paragraphs in the 1930s. Aguilar would have read L.C.C. Nicholson's lists of Jamaica SPECIMEN stamps, some being genuine overprints and some being bogus, published in Jamaica Philatelist between 1929 and 1935 (JP 1929:51, 1931:10, and 1935:60). He will have noted the desire for Jamaica philatelists to have one or more of these Jamaica SPECIMEN stamps to embellish their respective stamp collections. (e.g. see Jamaica Philatelist 1938:26). Aguilar would be aware of 'Farley's Follies' in the U.S.A. For some two years, between 4 March 1933 and 10 October 1934 President Franklin D. Roosevelt and several other important American politicians, all of whom were prominent philatelists, persuaded their Postmaster General, James A. Farley to issue approximately 96 uncut sheets of 400 of the Washington Headquarters -Newburgh commemorative stamps (Scott 727, which, in this imperforate version, became Scott 752), again to embellish their respective stamp collections. When this scam was detected, a scheme was concocted wherein a special printing, duplicating each of the special imperforated sheets, was circulated for sale to the general public at face value. In the teeth of the Great Depression, the U.S. Post Office reaped a windfall profit of \$1.5 million dollars from the sale of BLOCKS OF FOUR and uncut master sheets to collectors and dealers. (American Philatelist – August 2016 pages 914 & 915). Aguilar's biggest contribution to philately was issuing covers for Temporary Rubber Datestamps from 1949 onwards (BCPJ Vol. 54 No. 1 page 10).

You will recall that the purported 1922 presentation set was first reported in full in Jamaica Philatelist 1935:60. These are the only twelve J5 SPECIMEN overprinted stamps ever seen by Aguilar (Philatelic Handbook Vol.1 pages 51, 60, 65 and 66). The probability is that the purported 1922 presentation set was given to one of the Aguilar family, or to someone else known to Aguilar, or if the presentation set was issued in 1934/35 perhaps even to Everard Aguilar himself. It is possible that Aguilar brought this set to the attention of Jamaica Philatelic Society in about 1934/1935. Aguilar never mentions the J5B Slavery block of four as part of his article on the J5 (then Type 12) SPECIMEN overprint, or as part of the wider chapter on all of the known Jamaica SPECIMEN overprints (Philatelic Handbook Vol. 1 pages 42-67). It is as if Aguilar had never seen, or even heard about, the SPECIMEN overprints on the Slavery block - an improbable scenario.



Fig. 13.

I believe that the 'Aguilar Folly' was hatched whilst Aguilar was on a five month tour of Europe Canada and United States in 1935 (Fig. 13) aged 22 years. Every reader will remember being in their early twenties, full of life and energy, full of good ideas and at the same time reckless, considering our future work options and the best way to make money. In 1935, following the 'Farley's Follies' scandal, the U.S. Post Office was making huge amounts of money from the sale of BLOCKS OF FOUR stamps to stamp collectors. This potential earner would have been considered by Aguilar during his five month tour abroad and discussed in London with the likes of Richard Roberts and Tom Allen, both being regular advertisers in The Jamaica Philatelist. On Aguilar's return to Jamaica towards the end of 1935, Aguilar and Allen both became Life Members of the Jamaica Philatelic Society (Roberts was already a member) (Jamaica Philatelist 1936:81) when previously they were not members at all. Aguilar was still a Life Member in 1950 when the Jamaica Philatelist ceased publication. Life members paid a Life Member's fee (JP 1937:68). Life membership does not appear to relate to any meritorious service. There was a large increase in Jamaica Philatelic Society membership in 1936, especially in life membership which included a significant number of new female members. Were these new members enrolled largely to ensure that a specific resolution was passed at the 1937 Annual General Meeting? Was Aguilar also working his charms on other existing members of Jamaica Philatelic Society?

On 17 June 1937 at the annual general meeting of the Jamaica Philatelic Society (but not mentioned in the minutes of this meeting) 'it was decided that a non-competitive exhibition, on a small scale, should be held during the year, confined to the stamps of local members. Arrangements were successfully carried through and the exhibition was staged in the upper floor of Messrs. Nathan & Co's Department Store in King Street. It lasted from the 3 to 10 February. This exhibition was designed firstly as a means for members to publicly display their stamps, which for some reason they were not willing to show at the meetings of the Society, and secondly as a quiet form of advertisement for the Society. Over 50 frames of stamps were hung valued at more than £2000..... The Postmaster for Jamaica kindly arranged for a special Post Office at the exhibition, and a special obliterating stamp was used for the occasion. The entire expense of the Exhibition, including the cost of frames, special stands, insurance premium and special Post Office was borne by the Society'. (Jamaica Philatelist AGM 1938:49). We know this February 1938 meeting as 'The Jamaica Philatelic Society Third Stamp Exhibition'.

I come to the conclusion that The Jamaica Philatelic Society Third Stamp Exhibition was arranged for the financial benefit of the Jamaican rich and powerful, being philatelists, some politicians, and their allies aided by the Postmaster and to the exclusion of most people living outside Jamaica. The cost of the exhibition was financed by these people, probably assisted by contributions from philatelic businesses trading from premises outside Jamaica. A perusal of the advertisements in the 1938 Jamaica Philatelist gives a clue as to who these foreign philatelic businesses might be e.g. H.R. Harmer and Frank Godden Limited. Most will be honest and genuine contributors. However my eye caught the back full page advertisement by R. Roberts of London (Jamaica Philatelist 1938:56) which suggests a larger contribution by Richard Roberts. David Horry tells me that Roberts dealt in dodgy Papua overprints (1929/1930), and had some unsavoury friends including Eric David Bowie convicted in the early 1930s of philatelic fraud. David Horry's covers show Bowie being in correspondence with Aguilar and Aguilar's side kick Trevor Littelljohn (sic), another rich playboy. I also noticed an advertisement by T. Allen of London on the inside front cover of the 1938 Jamaica Philatelist and on the back cover of the 1936 Jamaica Philatelist. Tom Allen's speciality is advertised to be rare British Colonials and he claims 'I hold the finest stock in the world of British Colonial rarities'. Tom Allen offered £1,000,000 for The Royal Stamp Collection when Sir John Wilson arrived at The Palace in 1937. King George VI, with little interest in stamp collecting, was willing to sell, but was advised not to do so.

Now let us examine 'Aguilar's Folly'. We know, from matters referred to earlier in this article, that Aguilar was a born leader and combative if matters were not going his way. Aguilar was persuasive, a cocky rich playboy from a very prominent Jamaican family. In February 1938 he was almost 25 years old and newly elected to life membership of Jamaica Philatelic Society. He would be anxious to prove that he knew all about stamps. We were all 25 years old at one time. At that age we all struggled with identification, watermarks, perforations, colour shades, measurements etc. and probably knew little about stamps, especially if we had only just taken up the hobby. Aguilar's egotistical behaviour was assisted and encouraged by others, who were much older and wiser, and who were content to remain in the shadows with their own personal agendas. Aguilar would want to put on a special show at the Third Stamp Exhibition. Influence and reckless behaviour came in to play. It was 'Aguilar's Folly'.

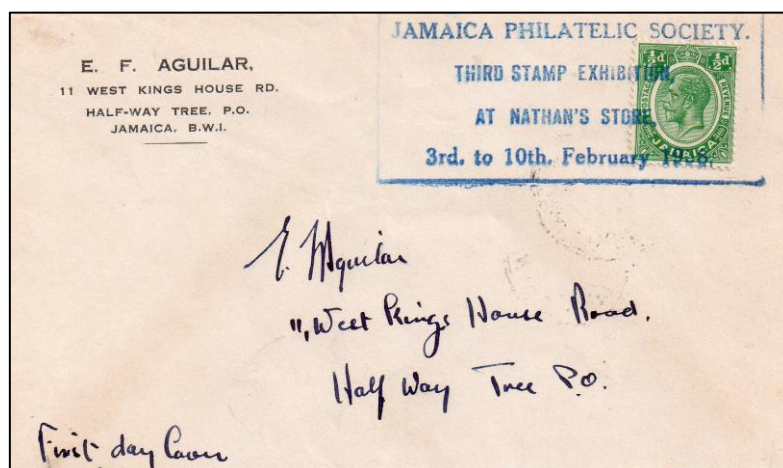


Fig. 14.

Let us review what Jamaica Philatelic Society and Aguilar were doing in 1937/1938. Aguilar reports under the general heading 'Miscellaneous Temporary Rubber Date Stamps' (Philatelic Handbook Vol. 1 page 94) that 'The third Exhibition of this Society was held at Nathan's Store, Kingston, from 3 to 10 February 1938. A special Post Office was opened in the building and the Temporary postmark used consisted of a large oblong 74 by 33 mm. bearing the following inscription in four lines: 'JAMAICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY ---- THIRD STAMP EXHIBITION, AT NATHAN'S STORE, 3rd to 10th February 1938.' Aguilar thanks Frank Godden Limited for providing the postmark. David Horry believes that the 1938 postmark would officially come from Frank Godden Senior but be organised by George Odom as Frank Godden Junior. Aguilar clearly had a great interest in the Nathan's Store philatelic exhibition. He arranged for a first day cover bearing this postmark to be sent by post to him (Fig. 14). This first day cover was self addressed (see Fig. 12). Swarbrick continues the story (as already stated in part one of this article) 'unbelievably the GPO produced a block of 4 of the unissued 'slavery' which they proceeded to overprint'. Aguilar has never seen the J5 overprint on the Slavery block and calls upon the 1938 Postmaster Fletcher, to impliedly corroborate this allegation. (Philatelic Handbook of Jamaica Vol. 1 page 60). I conclude that Aguilar knew that there was no J5 (i.e. J5A) overprint on the Slavery block because he is one of a small group who knew how, and by whom, the Slavery handstamp was made. On the balance of probabilities, and, in my opinion, beyond all reasonable doubt, Aguilar attended at the Third Stamp Exhibition and saw the overprinted Slavery block. In 1949 Aguilar was trying to distance himself from 'Aguilar's Folly'.

Gunter states (Jamaica Philatelist 1938:27) 'Sometimes, however, there are exceptional occasions which warrant the issue of a Special 'Specimen' Stamp by the local Government of the stamp issuing colony. Colonial Governors have been known to distribute stamps of a new issue to local individuals who have assisted in the selection of the stamp subjects, or been otherwise interested, or may be, the Governor himself has originated the subject and sends samples of the printed stamp, together with a description of it, to the local newspaper Editor for the general information of the people of the Colony. Or the Postmaster of the issuing colony may wish a block of 4 stamps for his official collection. In each such case (i.e. samples of printed stamp to newspaper and blocks of 4) the stamps are overprinted 'Specimen' with a rubber handstamp. A notable example of this practice is the Jamaica 5s Pictorial of 1919, a description of which was sent for publication by the then Governor to the Editor of a local newspaper along with a 'Specimen' Stamp, the word 'Specimen' being overprinted with a rubber handstamp in purple ink. There are also stamps similarly overprinted, in blocks of 4 each, (i.e. the 'Specimen' Stamp and the blocks of 4 are similarly overprinted) of several of the issues of Jamaica in the local Post Office collection, among these being a block of the unissued 6d. Slavery Stamp.'

The Jamaica Gleaner for 22nd July 1921 contains a short piece by Astley Clerk who mentions that the designer of the 5s. Land of Wood and Water and 10s. Supreme Lord was the Governor Leslie Probyn. The rest of the designs, as already noted by Gibbons, came from F.C. Cundall. There is no mention of a SPECIMEN overprint on these designs, nor any image. The article then goes on to mention a SPECIMEN stamp, but it is the British 1d. Rose-Red 1858–79 (plate 70) which Astley Clerk intends to send to Gibbons to see if it is genuine. Again there is no mention of a rubber handstamp. Has the penny dropped? Gunter is saying that the 5s stamp and the blocks of four were overprinted 'Specimen' with a rubber handstamp. Gunter is also saying that the 1d, British Penny Red being sent to Gibbons to check whether the 'Specimen' overprint made by a rubber handstamp in purple ink is genuine is similar to the overprints on the blocks of four. Gunter does not say that the Slavery block bears J5 overprints. The first mention of this is by Bendon in 1984. Gunter is using his political expertise (he, Sir Geoffrey Gunter, became Mayor of Kingston after World War 2) to tell the truth and at the same time to attempt to protect the Governor of Jamaica and Postmaster Fletcher from 'Aguilar's Folly'. I suspect that Swarbrick knew more about the events surrounding the Nathan Store meeting than he has revealed. Swarbrick's subjective 'unloved and unwanted' comment is understandable.

There was a special post office at the 1927 Jamaica Philatelic Society Exhibition. There the similarity ends. There was no programme of events, nor an application to participate at the Third Stamp Exhibition in 1938. There was no mention of a celebratory dinner in 1938. So far as I am aware no member of BWISC has ever seen the blocks of 4 (except for the Slavery block) allegedly placed in the Jamaica Post Office Collection. They appear to have been disposed of in some way. Postmaster General Fletcher 'retired' shortly after the Nathan's Store meeting. I conclude that the muted response in the 1938 Jamaica Philatelist to the Third Stamp Exhibition suggests that some members of Jamaica Philatelic Society also disapproved

of the clandestine nature of the event, the making of yet another new specimen handstamp, and conduct of other members at the Third Stamp Exhibition, and that Aguilar and his allies received a private dressing down. I conclude that the J5B handstamp, the Nathan's Store postmark and the overprinting in blocks of 4 of several issues of Jamaican stamps (probably with the J5B hand stamp) were only made with Aguilar's approval for the financial benefit of himself and his allies. Whether anyone profited financially is unlikely. I finally conclude that the Jamaica G.P.O. collection was permanently closed down as a direct result of 'Aguilar's Folly', probably in 1938.

David Horry tells me that there are corollaries to 'Aguilar's Folly'. Just before World War 2 some members of Jamaica Philatelic Society lobbied for Air Mail stamps and others for Jamaican Postage Due stamps without success in Jamaica. However Sir Harry Luke had postage dues printed in Solomon Islands, Gilbert Islands and in 1946 Trinidad (Barrow). 'Aguilar's Folly' was further extended with the Commonwealth Games and Miss World miniature sheets. Aguilar lost a fortune on the former as the GPO, i.e. Rousseau, would not fully endorse the venture. Aguilar went out of philatelic business in 1965.

My thanks are given to James Bendon, George Dunbar, Charles Freeland, Michael Hamilton, Terry Harrison, David Horry, Steve Jarvis, Paul Wright and Michael Yeomans. Their respective knowledge and cooperation has been invaluable, without which this two part article could not have been written.

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ST. MARGARET'S BAY TRD UPDATED

BY KEITH MOH

St. Margaret's Bay is a coastal town on Jamaica's North Shore about five miles west of Port Antonio. Its post office opened on February 13, 1889.

Existence of a St. Margaret's Bay TRD was first reported by Col. Fred Seifert in the Sep. 1963 issue of BSPJ (Vol. 3, Num. 5) where it was stated to be 'unrecorded as far as is known, with a fragment on 2d. Gray CA, like the TRD from Alligator Pond, but has inner ring inside lettering'. The right stamp in the figure below is almost certainly Seifert's described stamp based on his supplied rough sketch of the partial strike. It appears that this stamp was also used to extrapolate an image of the complete TRD in Proud's *The Postal History of Jamaica*, as the manuscript year '89' in the book illustration is similar to that on the stamp.

Recently, a partial strike surfaced which compliments the discovery copy and adds some information to the example provided by Simon Goldblatt in the Sep. 1998 issue of the BWISC. The figure below shows the two stamps with the oval frames aligned. The outer frame measures approximately 24 mm x 40 mm, and the word 'SAINT' is spelled out, unlike the image in *The Postal History of Jamaica* where it is abbreviated.



Potter's *The Postal Markings of Jamaica* does not list this oval TRD but instead lists one for the same period that is rectangular (Aguilar Type 2, 25 mm x 16 mm) and struck in black ink. This TRD is not listed in Proud, and I have not seen an example of it. At a width of 25 mm, the font would have to be quite small for the 'St. Margarets Bay' text to fit. In the December 1999 issue of the BWISC Bulletin, Bob Swarbrick implied that this TRD does not exist. Perhaps others could shed some light on this matter, I can be contacted at keithemoh@gmail.com

LEEWARD ISLANDS

EDWARD VII 1902 SPECIMENS

BY PETER BROOKS

The Robert de Keyser collection included a 1s value with the dropped 'R' stamped SPECIMEN. This stamp has the flaw as on the second printing from Plate 1. Usually Specimens were taken from the first printing which was in this case from Plate 2. Does this cast suspicion on the de Keyser variety? I do not think so. I have examined other 1s specimen stamps from this set and they are all from the second printing from Plate 1 indicated by shade and impression.

The first printing for this set was of 6 values using the old duty plates. Three entirely new values (2d, 3d, & 2s6d) were to be added to the set but one assumes the new duty plates were not ready for the July 1902 printing from Plate 2. They were printed in September 1902 and the other 6 values were reprinted but in greatly increased numbers. This was the Plate 1 printing. My view is that only when the full set was available were the Specimens taken and the two printings were sent together to Antigua. No indication is given as to the island to which the second printing was to be sent which is the only example of this in the King Edward VII printings (see Oliver p.77).

If this is a correct assumption Specimens could be from either printing and there is no problem with the de Keyser stamp.

UNRECORDED GV FLAW ON DIE II 2½D BRIGHT BLUE SG 67

BY PETER FERNBANK

I can confirm that the flaw next to the ampersand (&) on the Leeward Islands 2½d Die II illustrated by Bruce Stewart in the last Bulletin is indeed a constant flaw. It was present on Key Plate 16, Row 6 Stamp 2 on the right pane. However, at some time the flaw was repaired and late printings from this plate no longer show the flaw.



Plate 16 was first used in August 1926 and was initially used predominately combined with Plate 13 for 240-set printings (no BWI sheets of this design were printed in this size).

When Plates 13 and 17 were unexpectedly retired in January 1927 Plate 16 thereupon assumed the role of printing 120-set sheets for those colonies requiring them in that format.

Based on scans I have of five panes of material from three different colonies using this key plate I have established the following partial sequence of the progression of the flaw.

Colony	Value	Invoice Date	Flaw	Remarks
Mauritius	8c	28 Mar 1927	Present	Later Pl.16 printing was made on 4 Oct 1927 but flaw probably not present (see below)
Mauritius	10c	28 Mar 1927	Present	Only Pl.16 printing
Gilbert & Ellice Is.	1d	29 Apr 1927	Present	Only Pl.16 printing
Mauritius	6c	4 Oct 1927	Not present	Only Pl.16 printing
Leeward Is.	1½d red	17 Mar 1928	Not present	(red) Only Pl.16 printing

Two printings of the Leeward Is. 2½d from Plate 16 were made, on 24 November 1926 and 24 April 1927 respectively. From the above table the flaw would have been present on the 1927 printing (as per the illustration in the last Bulletin). It was probably also on the 1926 printing but this is unproven at present.

Based on the dates above the flaw should also be present on the Leeward Is. 1d violet and 3d of March 1927 but not on the Plate 16 printings of the 1½d brown and the 6d and 2s6d, all printed after October 1927.

The only other BWI territory that will feature the flaw is St. Lucia, but although five separate values were printed from Plate 16 only the ½d was printed before the flaw was repaired.



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MONTSERRAT

DISPLAY TO THE CHRISTCHURCH PHILATELIC SOCIETY

BY MIKE SMITH

Some weeks ago I received a request from The Christchurch Philatelic Society to display and to give a talk about my Montserrat Collection.

I displayed approximately 200 pages ranging from Correspondence from the first appointed Postmaster, Richard Symonds in 1779 and culminating with the 1966 Churchill Commemoration variety where the red was omitted, in between was the early Postal Markings, varieties, specimens etc. Two illustrations from the display are on the following pages.

I also included BWISC Literature including copies of the Bulletins, Publications and Auction Catalogues, they were very impressed with the Diamond Jubilee Auction Catalogue (well done Simon and team).

Christchurch Philatelic Society is based here in the South Island of New Zealand and is over 100 years old. It has, I believe, the largest membership in Australasia and owns its own 2 story modern premises close to the City Centre containing a substantial library, although they admitted there were none of the BWISC publications in the library, something the President intended to correct.



Cover to Dominica bearing 5 x 12 bisects, these are the 1876 Crown CC issue. Addressed to Henry Matson, Dominica and endorsed 'Pr New York City' it is a philatelic cover. Matson was a member of the Dominica Philatelic Society as was the Postmaster in Dominica who probably drew the attention of the members to the bisects and Matson accordingly arranged for a supply of addressed envelopes bearing bisects to be sent to him.

The bisects did serve genuine postal use as there was a change of postage rates for Circular or Book Post to both Dominica and St Kitts in 1883 but there was no 1/20 value on the Island. In fact supplies of the 1/20 value did not arrive until 1884.

MONTSERRATONE PENNY DEFINITIVE ISSUE1876 (September)

Stamp 7

Row 1



A re-entry which occurs
in Row 1, Stamp No 8 which
is most noticeable in the
letters ON of ONE

ON

A re entry which occurs in
Row 2, Stamp No 8 which is
most noticeable in the shading
of the neck and cheek.



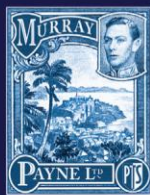
A plate scratch which occurs in Row 4, Stamp
No 9 which runs through the value

ONE PENNY

This block shows the two known re-entries and
also the constant plate scratch.

Watermark : Crown CC.Perforation : 14Sheets : 120 (12x10)

Recess printed by De La Rue & Co.



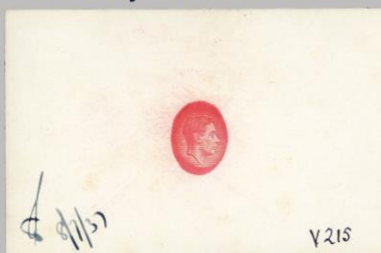
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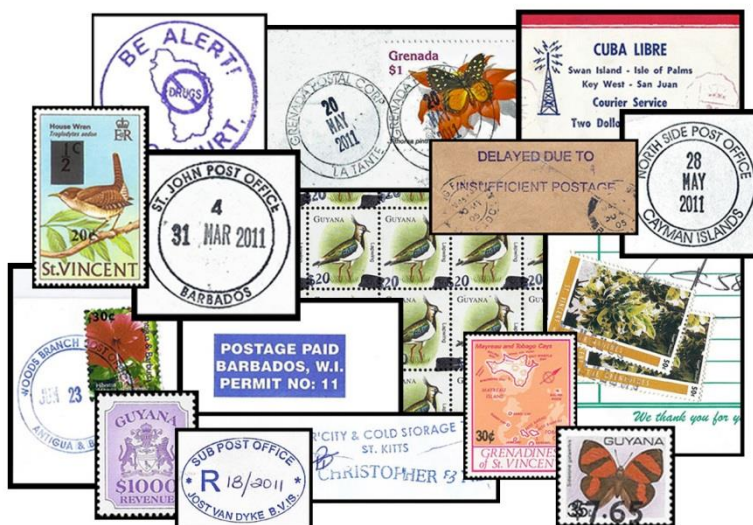
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TRINIDAD

MANUSCRIPT CANCEL

BY EDWARD BARROW

For a postal historian, nothing gets the heart beating like making a new discovery, especially if the item is buried in amongst the ordinary. The Registered Envelope shown in Fig. 1 fits the bill on a number of levels. Trinidad is not known for employing manuscript cancels, islands such as Dominica have sought after manuscript cancels like Wesley, but when the Trinidad post office was in a bind it tended to press old numerals into service. This cover is a notable exception, here the stamps are dated (27 March 1903, a Friday), and initialled by the Purser, presumably on board one of the Coastal Steamers.



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

The sender Paul Scheerer was a merchant of German descent and at the time he was one of the leading Commission Agents on the island with offices close to St. Vincent Wharf. He was an intermediary for cocoa growers, arranging to bring their crops to foreign markets; and acted as a lender by giving advances against future crops. He must have had established clients in the Erin area as this registered envelope was found in a lot with others originating in Chatham and Irois Forest, and addressed to his Port of Spain office (see Fig. 2). It seems likely that the registered envelope contained money as it was charged at the 2oz rate, perhaps a loan or payment for merchandise.

I must admit I struggled to understand why this cover took an exceptional route to travel from Port of Spain to Erin on the south coast of Trinidad. Normally it would have been sent from the GPO in Port of Spain where it would have been cancelled, bagged and sent to Erin, and on arrival it would have been marked with an Erin arrival datestamp. But there are no postal markings.

The reason has to do with dramatic events that had engulfed Port of Spain on 23 March 1903, namely the Water Riots. Ostensibly the core issue was the planned introduction of water meters by the colonial government, a practical measure to curb rampant waste. But as is often the case, it was the way the issue was handled that fuelled resentment, in particular a perceived lack of local consultation. Events spiralled out of control when notice was given that the debate on the issue, to be held at the Red House, was to be a ticketed event, i.e. tightly controlled.

On 23 March 1903, the day of the debate, a riot started outside the Red House and the building was set ablaze. The police were given orders to fire on the protestors, 16 people died and 43 were seriously injured. Marines on board two Royal Navy ships in port (the Pallas and the Rocket) were called to assist. This was no small event it was even somewhat ghoulishly commemorated in a series of postcards (See Figures 3 and 4).



Fig. 3.

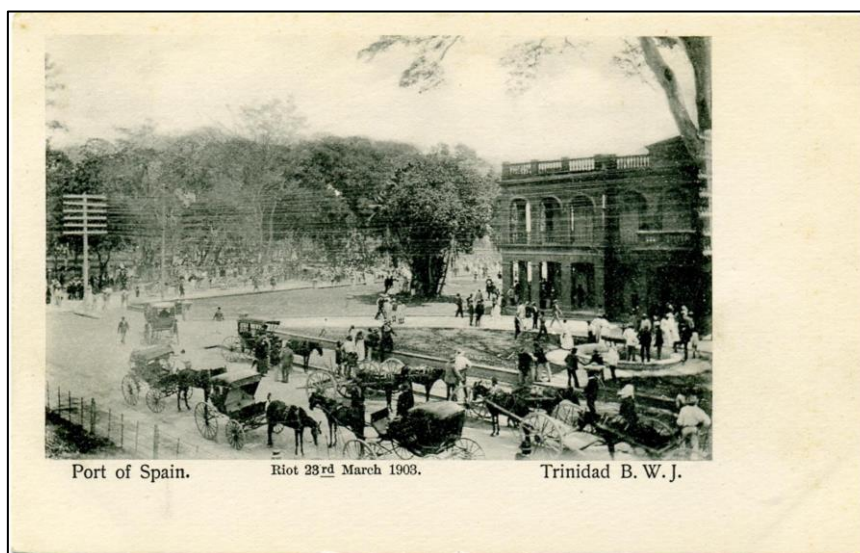


Fig. 4.

The GPO stood a few hundred feet from the Red House and so was likely closed for business until calm returned to the city. It was in this situation that Sheerer sought alternatives to get his mail delivered. Being a local shipping agent he probably had a close working relationship with the staff on the Coastal Steamers and may have had merchandise on board to be delivered to Smith and Duchouse in Erin. The envelope was hand delivered by the purser, probably on the RMS Kennet which called at Erin when making its rounds of Trinidad. It is likely that the stamps were cancelled on arrival at Erin as the Kennet called there on Fridays after leaving Port of Spain on Monday (which in this case was the day of the Riot).

TRINIDAD WATER RIOT, 1903 – 3RD LANCASHIRE FUSILIERS**BY MICHAEL REGO**

In the early 1900s it was common knowledge that an enormous amount of water was being wasted in Port of Spain. As early as 1880 a Report, stated that 'In nearly every yard, and at almost every house, passers-by in the street will hear the sound of water running, and, as the gutters show, to waste....'.

The large houses around Queen's Park Savannah, were another source, and in 1900 it was recorded that over 1300 baths in Port of Spain exceeded 100 gallons capacity, with an 8000 population consuming 1½ million gallons of water daily.

Following a City Works Report which recommended changes in the supply of water, an Ordinance of 1896 was passed to introduce water-meters and to increase the rates. The Governor, Sir Hubert Jerminham, saw the borough council as inefficient, and closed it down, transferring the authority to central government. In 1902, a fresh Ordinance was introduced, which brought about a meeting of the public who were against any water metering. Due to public pressure, this second Ordinance was withdrawn; yet on 5 March 1903, the third water Ordinance was published, to tax baths with over 60 gallons capacity, and to introduce water-meters.

As soon as the Ordinance appeared, violent newspaper articles were written against it. The disenfranchised Mayor of Port of Spain, John Newbold, led the Ratepayers' Association's opposition which informed all ratepayers that it was their belief that water was a right of existence and not a scarce commodity to be bought and sold.



16 March 1903, 10c postcard, Paris (16 Mar) to Barbados (4 Apr), re-directed to Trinidad (7 Apr). Addressed to J. A. Davenport, 3rd Lancashire Fusiliers, who was at Trinidad during the Riot.

Major John Archibald Davenport (1878-1938)

On 11 January 1902, Capt. Davenport was promoted to Lieutenant. As a professional soldier Capt. J. A. Davenport entered WWI early and fought in the Battle of Le Cateau on 26 August 1914, and was listed wounded in the magazine 'Graphic' of 5 September 1914. The Le Cateau battle saw heavy losses; Germany saw 2900 fatalities or wounded, while over 7800 British and French forces became casualties, of which 700 were killed, and 2500 British troops captured. Capt. Davenport was in the 2nd Battalion, Lancashire Fusiliers, when captured, and following the Battle, in late 1914 was transferred to a Prisoner of War camp at Torgau, Saxony, Germany. He eventually entered an Internment camp at Leeuwarden, in Friesland, Netherlands on 8 May 1918. Even after the war ended it was not until December 1918 that the internees were released for repatriation. Major J. A. Davenport retired from the Army on 28 September 1920.

On 23 March 1903, a meeting was set up by the Governor, Sir Cornelius Moloney, who insisted on admission by ticket to the council chamber at The Red House, the seat of colonial government, to hear the debate. It was this Notice, that ticket admission would be required, that acted as a spark for the water riot. The Red House was the principal location of many government offices.

The Red House windows were smashed, and the council chambers were pelted with stones by a large crowd of people and eventually the lower part of the building was set on fire and burnt to the ground. The police were called out and the Riot Act was read to the crowd. Following this the policemen were given the order to fire on the protestors, which resulted in 16 people being killed on the spot or dying of their wounds and 43 others being wounded.

At anchor at Port of Spain were two Royal Navy ships, **HMS Pallas** and **HMS Rocket**. The Governor sought refuge in **HMS Pallas** and the Navy despatched 200 bluejackets, some with machine guns, to restore order. 210 officers and men of the **Lancashire Fusiliers** stationed at St. James barracks were called out, and two days later the 2nd West India Regiment arrived from Barbados to restore law and order in the streets of Port of Spain.

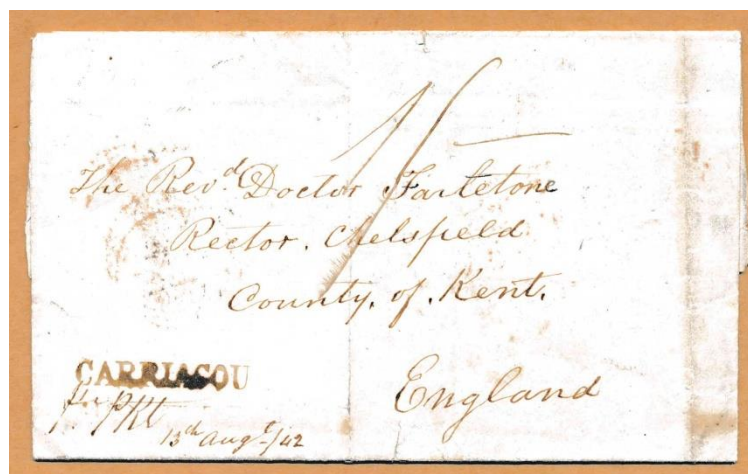
The Red House was completely rebuilt by 1907. However it was not until 1914 that the local council and municipal Ordinance of Port of Spain were reinstated.

Sources; National Army Museum website. Lancashire Fusiliers website. National Archives website and the West India Stamp Company.

JOHN & MARK TAYLOR

GRENADA

**1842 The rare 'CARRIACOU' handstamp
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Fig. 1. (Reduced)

Figure 1 shows airmail carried 633 miles in 1944 from Guadeloupe to Martinique via Trinidad. Instead of 113 miles direct between these French Caribbean islands. PanAm took this cover far south to Trinidad where it was censored by the British (sealing label: Miller type TR CL/6). Why was this cover carried so far? It had already been censored in Guadeloupe (large cds on back of cover). By 1944 the British authorities had officially stopped examining mail from the two islands. Censorship of such mail was done at Antigua, not Trinidad and late in WWII there was no need for British interception of mail from Guadeloupe and Martinique – they were no longer Vichy territories.



Fig. 2. (Reduced)

Move forward to 1957 and Trinidad provided another postal mystery – a cover emblazoned with name SS 'West Indian' (Figure 2) from a Trinidadian firm. Clearly the ship sailed – the Barbados cds and boxed handstamp have been previously described, but the large Purser's oval handstamp has not. Enquiries of friends near and far, including in Trinidad have unfortunately drawn a blank. But can BWISC cast some light on the ship or its owners – the West Indies Navigation Company? It was constituted in law in 1955 and mentioned in a Parliamentary Question in 1957, answered by Mr Profumo. The ship was previously known as 'Wing Sang'. Beyond that detail dissolves.....

The collection of this and other Caribbean ship mail, from 1841 onwards, will be sold by Grosvenor Auctions, London.

References:

Miller, C. (2006) British Empire Civil Censorship Devices, World War II, Section 6, Canada and Colonies in the Caribbean and North and South America.

The British Caribbean Shipping (Agreement) Act 1955.

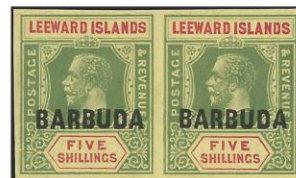
Hansard 1st August 1957 sections 1512-3.

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ARTICLES OF BWI INTEREST IN OTHER JOURNALS 2016

Country	Article	Author	Source	Month
Antigua	Wrappers	John Courtis	BCPJ	January
Bahamas	George VI stamps and revenue usage	Phil MacMurdie	Geosix	March
Bahamas	Landfall Varieties: some additional distinguishing features	Phil MacMurdie	Geosix	March
Barbados	The Britannia issues	Charles Freeland	GSM	November
Bermuda	Bopping by Bermuda	Noel Davenhill	AP	June
Bermuda	The insane Pauper	Charles Freeland	BCPJ	July
Bermuda	Arthur Rowe Spurling	Hap Pattiz	BCPJ	January
British Guiana	Br. Commonwealth revenue stamps overprinted for use as postage stamps	Norman Siedelman	RJ	XXVII
British Guiana	Ship of Fortune 1853–1859 issue	John Winchester	SM	September
Cayman Is	Ebay items	Tom Giraldi	BCPJ	July
Cayman Is	Grand Cayman PO	Douglas Files	BCPJ	July
Dominica	Stamp showcase: Dominica	Simon Richards	SCM	December
Grenada	½d to 5s Waterlow Printings 1938- 50	Andrew Hoare	Geosix	September
Grenada	GVI postmarks	David Horry	BCPJ	January
Grenada	10s Flaws	Andrew Hoare	Geosix	March
Grenadines	GVI postmarks	David Horry	BCPJ	July
Jamaica	Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd: Unadopted designs: Photographic essays from the printer's record book.	Editorial	Geosix	March
Jamaica	New Revenue finds	Mike Bending	RJ	XXVII
Leeward Is	Newspaper Wrappers	John Courtis	BCPJ	July
Leeward Is	A really 'cracking' keyplate variety	Dennis Littlewort	Geosix	December
St Lucia	Mixed currency frankings	Guy Kilburn/ Ray Murphy	BCPJ	April
St Lucia	Visiting post offices	Andrew Mitchell	BCPJ	April
Trinidad	Trinidad FEE overprints	Ed Barrow	RJ	XXVII
Trinidad & Tobago	Trinidad and Tobago	Bob Lamb	AP	?
Trinidad	Lady McLeod, new research	Gregory Frantz	BCPJ	April, July
Trinidad & Tobago	Wrappers	John Courtis	BCPJ	April
Trinidad	Use of cutouts as stamps	Ed Barrow	BCPJ	April
Virgin Islands	Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd: Unadopted designs: Photographic essays from the printer's record book.	Editorial	Geosix	March

Journal abbreviations

AP American Philatelist

BCPJ, British Caribbean Philatelic Society Journal

GSM, Gibbons Stamp Monthly

LP, London Philatelist

PH, Postal History, Postal History Society Journal

PS, Postal Stationery (USA)

PSSJ, Postal Stationery Society Journal (UK)

RJ, The Revenue Journal

SL, Stamp Lover

SM, Stamp Magazine

SCM, Stamp & Coin Mart

NB Articles in Bermuda Post are not referenced as it is assumed all members interested in Bermuda receive the journal as members of the Bermuda Collectors Society.

Spink October 26–8 2016 (BP 20%)

Spink's mega-catalogue for this sale featuring the important Foxley collection of Grenada in a two and a half day sale was intimidating, and the website was posted very late. The over 3,000 lots raised well over £1m, making good business for Spink.

The first area of interest for us was a decent range of unsold lots from the Vestey Bahamas. The estimates had been significantly reduced which had our members interested but even then not all lots sold. The two most tempting lots were the 1901 composite essay and the 1931–46 master die proof in red which each fetched £1.7k. A superb copy of SG38 mint was £1.8k. Unsolds from the Britannia Barbados with lesser discounts were more successful, all selling, with the set of eight 1902 colour trials made for the Earl of Crawford also at £1.7k.

Many of our members were online waiting for the Grenada which started late and kept them bidding until 18.30 odd. This made for many bargains at the end of the sale. Fortunately for me though, the first half of the sale went with a bang with competitive bidding almost across the board. As with my St. Kitts, it was really encouraging to see one of our least popular islands sell so well...again critical mass proved the key.

The Grenada started without any fireworks with a good range of preadhesives, nothing outstanding but with plenty of bidders (including the postal historians among our members). A strong phone bidder revealed his identity on the second lot. I am grateful to Spink for finding this bidder whom I have been unable to identify. His spend was in the region of £15k.

After this steady start things began to hot up when the GB used in Grenada arrived and a second phone hooked up. This changed the whole character of the action as it was quickly evident that this bidder was the great collector Joseph Hackmey, who had bought much of Dan Walker's collection and who proved practically unbeatable (if he was beaten I did not spot it online). Between lots 1732 and 1860 Joseph spent some £60k, almost half the whole hammer price of c£140k with some £20k unsold (including several big ticket items). On a few of the pages of the catalogue he took every single lot! His main priorities were the early stamped covers but he also acquired much from the 1895 QV definitives and several surprising classic mixed lots containing gems that Spink had not pulled out. In lot 1922 at £850 were many rare specimen multiples plus a nearly complete range of the GV plates 1, 2 and 3 in blocks....a real steal.

My statistics are not complete because although Tom Smith called an excellently clear auction it was often hard to hear the numbers of the winning internet bidders. But with my post mortem much helped by our members who were bidding, I have managed to suss out most of the main players, other than the second main phone bidder who was also the second biggest buyer. The two next big spenders, each around the £10k mark, one a third phone bidder and the other Simon Richards who hoovered up all the main postal stationery. There were several buyers around the £5–6k mark, and altogether 18 who spent over £1k, among them a couple of our members bidding on the internet.....thanks guys. Altogether I reckoned some 30 separate buyers, but that could be an underestimate of the internet.

It was inevitable with phone and active internet that things went slowly, as many lots opened around the £200 mark and ended up near £1k. This delayed things significantly and meant that after 6pm there were bargains galore. Our members cleaned up many of the final sections. There were in fact four strong sections apart from the main classics, each of which would make a great one-frame exhibit. The first was a great range of the 1902–11 Caravels which I have written about in these columns. Spink had cleverly pulled out four rare watermark varieties and these fetched c£1k in all. A second specialist area was the postage dues and the third was the revenues. Sadly for me neither of these sections really took off but it allowed our members to cherry-pick what they wanted at reasonable cost. The final section was the stationery and here room bidder Simon Richards cleaned up big time, buying almost all the choice items at reserve....well done Simon. Philip Kinns from Gibbons was another player towards the end, scooping up some good cheap mixed lots and spending over £4k.

So what were the highlights? The first was the exotic 1858 St Georges Chronicle '2 Papers' newspaper franked with two GB 1ds and a cloudy crowned circle at £2.8k. A lovely 1863 pair of 6d rose to Edinburgh ex the 1985 Hackmey sale was bought back by him for £2.1. The mint block of 6d SG12, unique outside the Royal Collection was also bought back for £2.1k. However, the attractive bisect cover illustrated on the back cover sneaked through at £4.5k, hardly above its reserve. When we came to the later covers I was amazed at the demand for the yellow fiscal covers and even more so the 1888-91 overprints, though each had some neat commercial usages.

Among the issued stamps the usually unpopular mint blocks of the yellow fiscals went well with the large block of SG 41 acquired at the recent Vestey Windward Is sale for £780 a gratifying £2.2k. A spectacular strip of the 1888-91 1d on 8d with four of the six surcharges inverted was £1.6 and the beautiful 1895 hand-painted colour trials were in the £600-700 price range. However the really stupendous prices were for the two postage dues on 8d, the 1d at £2.2k and the 2d at £3.8k. The remarkable strip of 1d tête-bêche mint was a mere £1.5k and the 2d strip was unsold. The used tête-bêche pairs did worse, the 1d was unsold and the 2d a mere £300. At the end there was a surprise for those who do not cherish revenues when a lovely copy of the very rare GVI \$5 fetched £1.6k. In Trinidad postal history a decent D22 cancel ex Venezuela was a strong £1k.

Murray Payne 6-7 December (no BP)

This fairly bland sale of reoffers and unsolds had one specialised BWI section, namely the Foxley GVI Grenada. The highlight was the 2½d rare imperf variety at £4.3k. There was good demand for the blocks of GVI 10s values, some very scarce.

Spink December 14 2016 (BP 20%)

The Graham Cooper collection was the second sale in two days that fetched more than £1m, following the Sacher Africa.

I was surprised by the Bahamas list. When I first went to Graham's house about 30 years ago he showed me four sheets of the 8d Columbus with the I for L flaw. But all that the Spink catalogue contained was a partial sheet...this went for a feeble £2k but it was described as 'a little toned' which would have deterred the GVI perfectionists. Another surprise was that there was no 'stop after Columbus' flaw on the 2s. This is a very rare flaw and there was also no example of the same flaw on the far commoner 3s. But there was a nice double value tablet on the violet 2½d at £4k, while a part sheet of the 2d Columbus with strong doubling of the 2 in row 9 was £3.5k. There were several rare proofs of the 1948 Canadian bank note issue, with a full imperf set of the 16 values in issued colours on large cards going for £6.5k.

The Bermuda key plates proved to be pretty flat, with many attractive prices for bidders. I thought the estimates were pretty low on the whole and the realisations were hardly any greater. There were hardly any Bermuda proofs to liven up the listings. As ever with this reign condition was paramount. A partially severed left top block of the 1943 2s with #1 flaw was a steal at £520 but a fine lower right plate block of the 2s line perf was a strong £2.2k. Other plate blocks were mixed, the 12s6d 1943 with split perfs another steal at £650 but the 1937 £1 expensive at £800. A bottom margin block of the 12s6d lemon was a fair £900. Upper left plate blocks of the 1937 10s and £1 were £1.6k and £1.5k, but the 1937 12s6d block was a mere £1.7k, far less than the Ulrich/Hamm/Dickgiesser block. The only low values of interest were blocks of the 2½d and 1s with double perfs horizontally and vertically which seemed cheap at less than £200 each. I do not recall seeing these before.

The third country of significant interest to us was the Leeward Is, where Graham owned two of the great BWI GVI rarities, unmounted corner blocks of the two £1 watermark varieties. These went for £9k and £10k respectively. But arguably rarer than either was the March 1942 10s block from the lower margin with #59 and 60 flaws. This was acquired by Graham some years ago at a Canadian sale and went for a decent £4.8k, somewhat less than he had paid. Other more common Leeward Is blocks were gobbled up by the cognoscenti.

Elsewhere several great rarities fetched their price, the Br. Guiana 4c imperf between going for £23k and the St. Lucia 4c perf variety £12.5k, with the St. Lucia 6c imperf at side margin cover looking a good buy at £3.5k. Altogether the Cooper proceeds (mostly non-BWI) significantly exceeded £1m, to the satisfaction of Spink and the estate.

Spink 24 January am (BP 20%)

There had been keen expectation of the contents of the David Pitts BWI, as he had only showed Bermuda to date. The blockbuster was shown on the front cover, a Br Guiana 2c rose cottonreel which sold after some delay for its apparent reserve of £180,000. More to come in next Bulletin.

Coming events

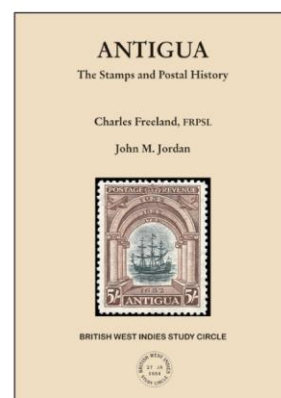
Bermuda collectors are well aware of the well-advertised Pitts collections. But there are also three Foxley collections on the horizon, Montserrat at Victoria, Barbados at Spink and Bermuda GV and GVI at Murray Payne---see our loyal advertisers' dates. All up to the regular Foxley standards.

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