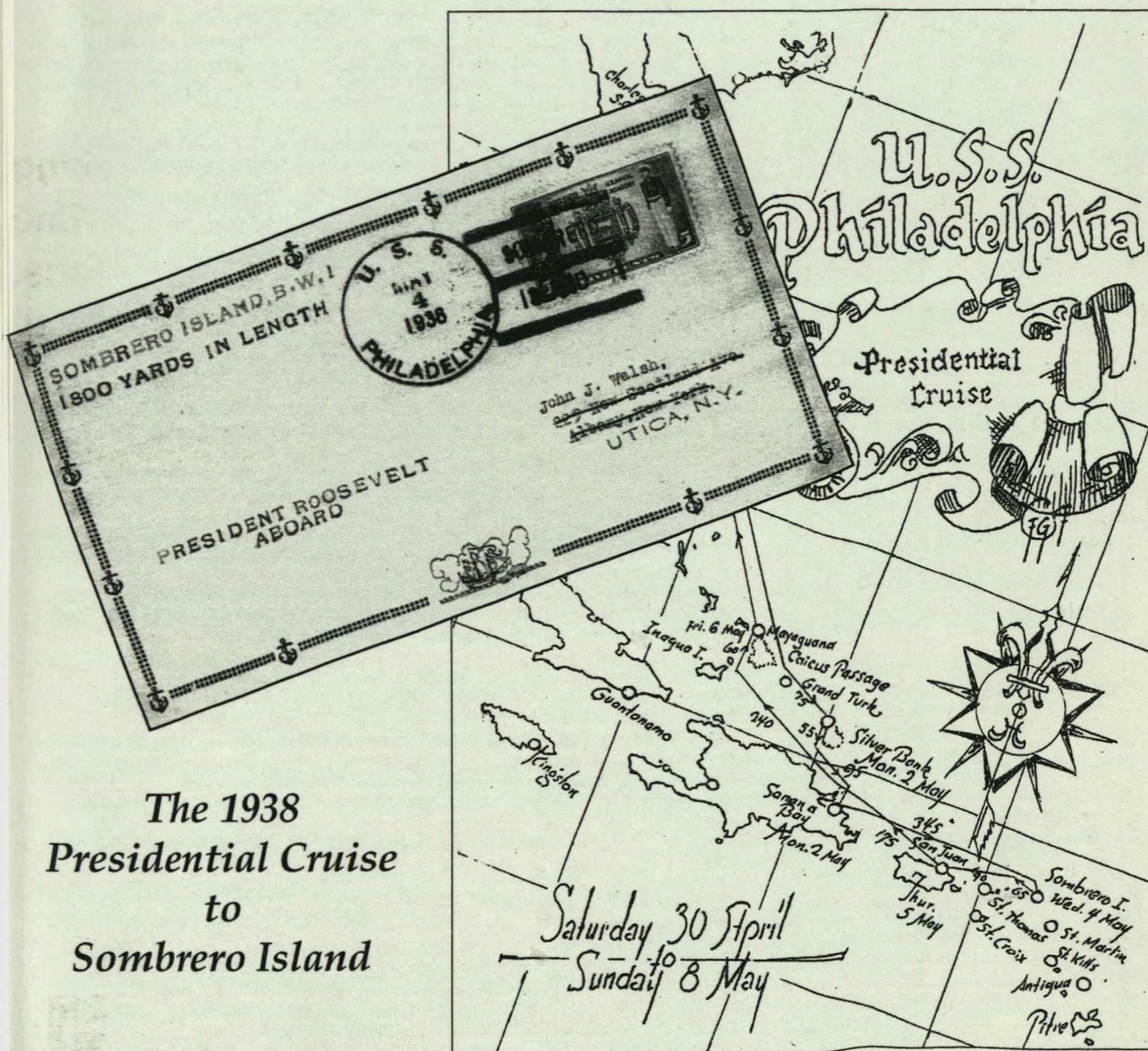


BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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

Vol. 44, No. 2 April - June 2004 Whole No. 211





The *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* is published four times a year (January, April, July and October) by the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group. It is available only by subscription through membership in the BCPSG. Membership is based on the calendar year. Current dues are: \$18 per annum in U.S. funds for members in the United States and Canada, and \$21 (£15) for those in other areas. Life membership is available, with the following rates being applicable:

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President Peter John Kaulback

Peter John Kaulback, president of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, died January 2, 2004 in Ottawa. His sudden death was a shock to many officers and members who remembered Peter's presence and usual exuberance at the convention last November.

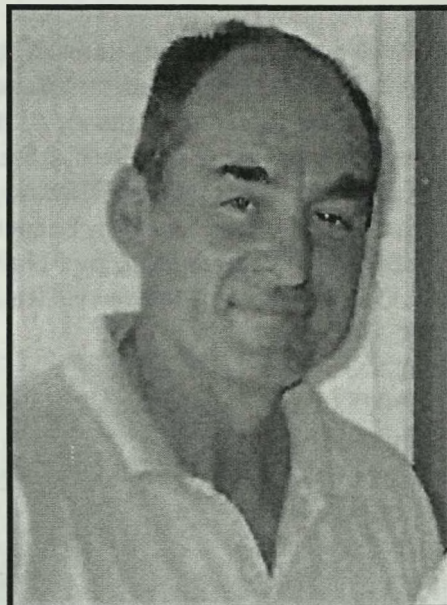
Condolences from the study group were immediately conveyed to Elizabeth Kaulback, who accompanied her husband to BCPSG activities and conventions.

Following is the obituary published in an Ottawa newspaper concerning Peter's passing:

Death Notices (01/05/04)

KAULBACK, Peter John. Tragically on Friday, January 2, 2004 at the age of 55. Peter John Kaulback, cherished husband of Elizabeth (nee Scopes), loving and much loved father of Caroline, Simon and Marcus. Survived by his twin brother Bryan in Spain and his two sisters, Sonia and Susan in England. President of the Ottawa Senators Rugby Club and the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, Peter's dedication and enthusiasm will be greatly missed by all who knew him. A loyal friend to so many and a loving companion to his dog Saffron. Visitation with the family will take place on Friday, January 9, 2004 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at

the Lawson Residence, 449 Mansfield, Ottawa. A funeral service of Thanksgiving will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Matthias Anglican Church, Parkdale Avenue and the Queensway. No flowers please. Peter would have appreciated that donations be made to the Salvation Army. God Bless, Pete.



*Peter John Kaulback
Photograph courtesy of
The Island Sun,
Tortola, British West Indies*

British Caribbean Philatelic Journal

Vol. 44, No. 2

April - June 2004

Whole No. 211

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CHART OF DEADLINES

January issue: Deadline November 15, mailing December 30; **April issue:** Deadline February 15, mailing March 30; **July issue:** Deadline May 15, mailing June 30; **October issue:** Deadline August 15, mailing September 30.

The RMS *Amazon* and Barbados

By Mary Gleadall
Of Barbados

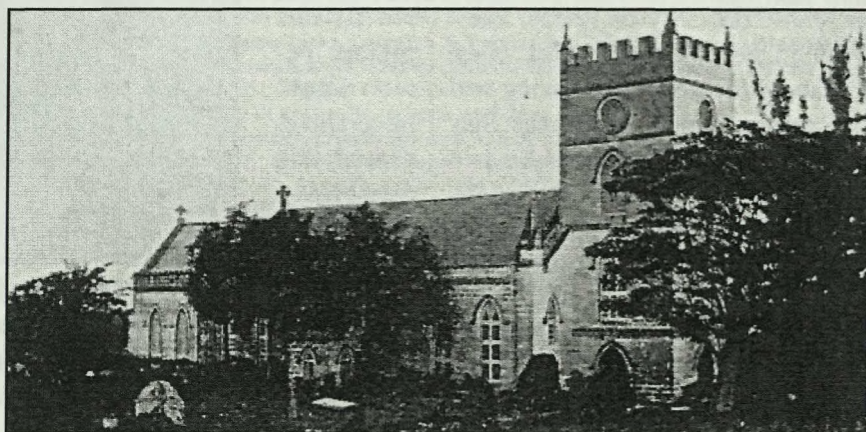
Two parish churches in Barbados have memorials that mention the Royal Mail Steam Packet *Amazon* and the date of January 4, 1852. It is a sad tale. In 1851 a general post office had been established at Bridgetown, Barbados and the first consignment of postage stamps was dispatched from London on December 31, 1851. They were produced by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. and printed in sheets of 110 (11x10). The invoice did not specify the color of the 10,000 (2d) Britannia design stamps but they must have been purple. The stamps left Southampton January 2, 1852 on the *Amazon*. But just two days later the consignment was lost at sea when the ship caught fire and sank in the Bay of Biscay.

The story of the *Amazon* reminds one a little of the *Titanic* epic. She was launched on June 28, 1851 for the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and was the largest English-built paddle steamer at that time. On Friday, January 2, 1852 she sailed from Southampton on her maiden voyage, commanded by Captain Symons and with Lieutenant Grady as mail agent.

The *Amazon* (2,256 gross tons) had an overall length of 316 feet and a beam of 73 feet (including paddle boxes); one funnel, three masts (rigged for sail) and side paddle wheel propulsion. She was built by R & H Green of Blackwall and her engines were supplied by Seawall & Capel of Millwall. On that fated maiden voyage, she carried 50 passengers, a crew of 109, the mail agent and his servant, plus the captain -- 162 souls. Her cargo included the mails, that first consignment of Barbados postage stamps, £20,000 of specie and coined money and £5,000 worth of mercury for mining in Mexico.

By 9 p.m., she was hove to off Portland Bill while water was hosed onto the paddle shafts which were overheated

and extra grease was ladled onto the bearings to assist them running in and settling down. This maneuver was repeated twice. On January 4 at 12:45 a.m., Second Officer Treweek, on bridge duty, saw flames coming out of the forward stokehold. At the same time, Fourth Engineer Stone encountered flames coming through the forward boiler casings. He tried to reach the controls to shut off the engines but was driven back by flames. By 12:48 a.m. the amidships was a wall of flame. The ship was moving at about 10 knots into a moderate gale. Firefighting efforts made no impression and the ship was clearly doomed.



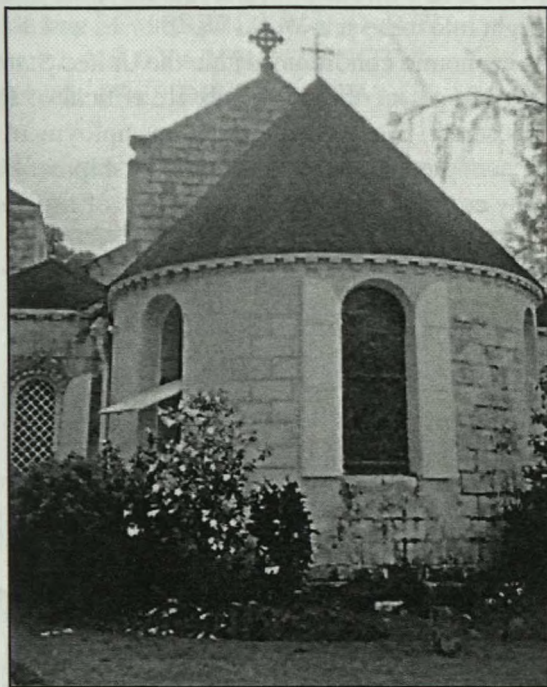
St. Philips Parish Church

The 50 passengers were assembled right aft and Captain Symons turned the ship so that the flames were blowing forward, away from the passengers. But this move trapped most of the crew in the forward part of the ship and in an area

without lifeboats. A few came aft over the paddle boxes but within minutes the heat was too great for this route to be used. The ship was still surging along at about nine knots -- too fast for the lifeboats to be launched. Another problem was then encountered. Each lifeboat nestled in a metal cradle. To launch a lifeboat, it had first to be raised by pulley and then swung out over the side. Passengers had already climbed into the boats and there were insufficient crew to hoist the weight. Chaos reigned as, amidst vast roaring sheets of flame, the struggle to free the boats continued. Worse still, some of the lifeboats swung to and fro with the rolling ship and were pierced by the metal supports.

In the end, only three lifeboats and a dinghy (with four persons aboard) were safely launched, others were capsized by the speed of the ship. At 4 a.m., driving rain moderated the wind and the survivors in one of the boats sailed towards the red-hot funnels glowing in the darkness hoping to save more lives. But they watched helplessly as the *Amazon* slid beneath the waves with a hissing roar. At 8 a.m. the British brig *Marsden*, en route from London to Carolina, rescued 21 and returned them

to Plymouth. Two more boatloads were taken to Brest in the Dutch galliot *Gertruida*, 24 in all. Another boat without oars or mast but with 13 survivors was found by the Dutch ketch *Hellechene*. This boat was the last to leave the ship and was assisted by Captain Symons who pushed the lifeboat clear of its supports even though his clothes were on fire. Only 58 lives were saved; 36 passengers and 68 crew perished, including all the officers and the two midshipmen.



St. James' Parish Church

In Barbados on the south wall of the nave in St. James' Parish Church is a fine marble tablet:

Sacred/to the memory of/ the Honourable HENRY ALLEYNE/ Member of Her Majesty's Council/ in this Island/ (Youngest son of/ the Honble JOHN FORSTER ALLEYNE/ of Porters in this Parish)/ who was born on the 2nd January 1808/ and perished at sea/ by the burning of/ The Royal Mail Steamer Amazon/ off Ushant in the Bay of Biscay/ during the night of the 3rd & 4th January 1852/ to the inexpressible grief and sorrow of/ this entire community/ as well as of/ his own immediate family and friends/ To perpetuate the remembrance/ of such high integrity, worth and excellence/ as are rarely exemplified/ in either public or private life/ this monument is erected by/ his bereaved and deeply afflicted widow."

On the north wall of the nave in St. Philip's Parish Church there was a memorial: "Sacred/ to the memory of / JOHN RYCROFT BEST/ of Blackmans in the Parish of St Joseph, Barbadoes/ President of this Island/ who perished at sea on the 4th of Jan'y 1852/ by the burning of the Royal Mail Steamer "Amazon", aged 73."

These two gentlemen, both members of Her Majesty's Council in Barbados, were two of the 104 souls lost that night. Quite a loss for Barbados as the Council consisted of just 12 members. Ironically, President Best's memorial no longer exists as it too perished in a devastating fire in 1977 that burnt St. Philip's Church to the ground.

And the stamps? Well, replacement stock was hastily dispatched and Barbados finally issued its first stamps on April 15, 1852.

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<http://www.theshipslist.com>

<http://www.tombstones.bb>



"Early Mail Steamers" from the 1979 definitive series of Barbados.



The 1938 Presidential Caribbean Cruise visit to Sombrero Island

By Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon
Of the USA

The light cruiser, USS *Philadelphia* (CL-41) was laid down on May 25, 1935 at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. She was launched on November 17, 1936, sponsored by Mrs. George F. Earle, the first lady of Philadelphia, and commissioned in Philadelphia on September 23, 1937.

Captain Jules James was in command, and directed the refitting of the battleship USS *Philadelphia*. He particularly wanted the captain's cabins and pantries relocated (1937). Shortly after, the ship departed Philadelphia on January 3, 1938 for a shakedown cruise in the West Indies, followed by additional activation at Philadelphia, and further sea trials off the Maine coast.

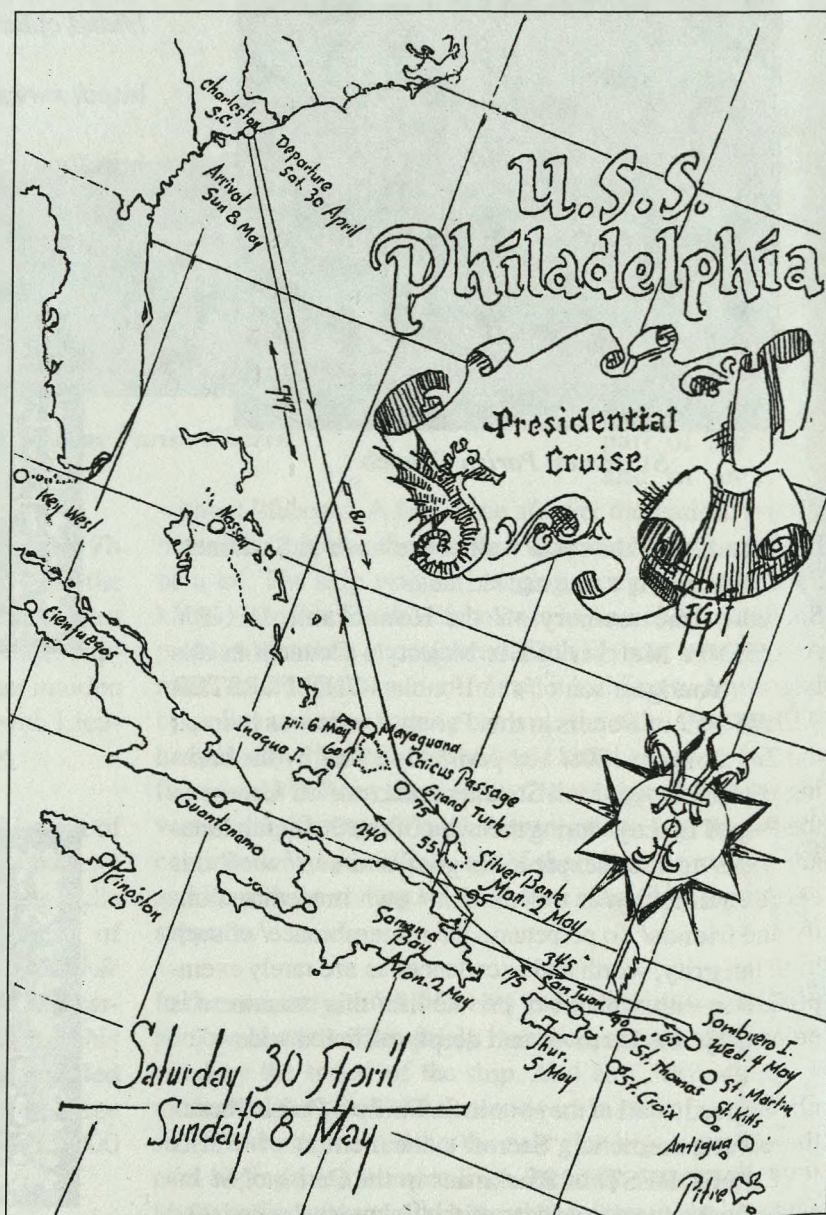
From 1939-41, Captain James served as Assistant Director and Acting Director of the Office of Naval Intelligence. In 1941, he became commander of the newly acquired United States Operating Base on Bermuda, where he also commanded the combined U.S. and British forces.

A number of covers are known for the shakedown cruise, including a call at Hamilton, Bermuda on February 14, 1938. The USS *Philadelphia* called at Charleston, South Carolina on Saturday, April 30, 1938, and hosted President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the first week of May for a cruise in the Caribbean waters. (Figure 1). The President used this brand new ship, as Commander-in-Chief, for a vacation, cruising through Bahamian waters, the Caicos Passage of the Turks and Caicos Islands to Silver Bank (May 2), San Juan, Puerto Rico, then along the Virgin Islands, to as far southeast as Sombrero or Hat Island (May 4).

The return journey then began, with a call again at San Juan, Puerto Rico (May 5), Moyaguana (May 6), with arrival into port at Charleston, South Carolina on May 8, 1938. Two post cards (April 28, 1938),

a letter (May 21, 1938), and a ship booklet entitled "Presidential Cruise" relate to President Roosevelt's vacation aboard the USS *Philadelphia* and provide some interesting insight into these pre-World War II times and the prevailing economic conditions within the United States.

The messages of the post cards are critical of President Roosevelt, in view of the high unemployment prevailing over the country at the time. The ship booklet is primarily composed of cartoon renditions of life aboard



Map showing route of the USS *Philadelphia* "Presidential Cruise" of April 30 - May 8, 1938.

a military vessel, with the Commander-in-Chief aboard, and some insights of this fishing expedition for the President.

Only a single cover (*Figure 2*), with a ship's postmark dated May 4, 1938, has so far been recorded for this Presidential cruise visit to Sombrero (Hat) Island in the British West Indies. The cover shown in *Figure 2* has handset serified letters for the two cachets struck in a light blue text and borders:

Upper left: SOMBRERO ISLAND, B.W.I.

1800 YARDS IN LENGTH

Lower left: PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT/ ABOARD

The Presidential cruise was devoted to fishing and the

But for the lighthouse personnel, this is an uninhabited small island which has maintained a lighthouse for the British government. It constitutes home for some species of wildlife and was in the news in recent times as a potential site for a private space launch site. It formed part of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla territory during the period of Associate Statehood, but is now under the governance of a British Governor of an independent (from St. Kitts-Nevis) Anguilla.

The location of the island is depicted on the 10¢ value (Scott #95) of the August 10, 1970 release of H. M. Commissioner in Anguilla Ancient Maps and Charts issue (*Figure 3*). It is also seen on a 1952 British Virgin Islands 1¢ value (Scott #102) as Sombrero Lighthouse, and as well on a 1963 definitive postage stamp from St. Kitts-

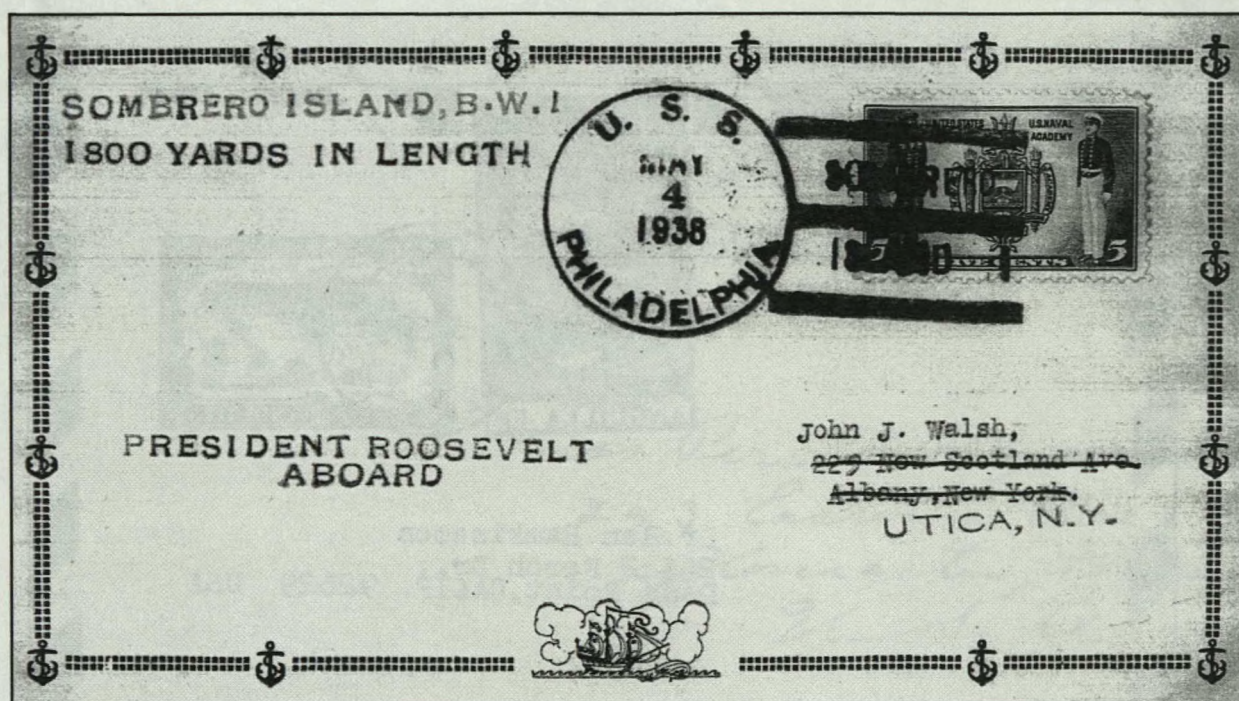


Figure 2

May 4, 1938 cover from USS Philadelphia at Sombrero Island in the British West Indies

visit to Sombrero Island was for that purpose. The Presidential cruise complete, the ship resumed its operations with Cruiser Division 8 off the Atlantic coast. She was the designated flagship of Rear Admiral F.A. Todd, Commander, Cruiser Division 8, Battle Force.

In the following months after June 27, the USS *Philadelphia* sailed into a number of the principal ports of the West Indies, the Navy yards in Boston and Suffolk.

Sombrero (Hat) Island

Sombrero Island is east of the Virgin Islands, and 31 miles northwest of Anguilla. Its lighthouse is staffed by less than a dozen personnel who are all Anguillians, paid by Anguilla, and all mail to and from the lighthouse bears Anguilla postage stamps.

Nevis-Anguilla (Scott #145). This low value was part of the set of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla definitive issue in current use at the Valley, Anguilla post office. It formed a very limited inventory of stamps on Anguilla that were later overprinted INDEPENDENT ANGUILLA (Scott #1-16) in 1967, when Anguilla declared its independence from St. Kitts-Nevis. This issue comprises a 20th century postage stamp rarity.

In September 1967, the first weekly newspaper, *The Beacon*, was started on Anguilla. Its name was derived from the lighthouse on Sombrero Island, and was dedicated as a beacon to light the pathway of the seekers of independence from St. Kitts-Nevis.

The island lighthouse is also depicted on the 2¢ defini-

Continued on page 8

tive issue of Anguilla (Scott #18) in 1968, which was also overprinted INDEPENDENCE/JANUARY/1969 (Scott #54) on January 9, 1969.

Anguilla's Outer Islands are shown in a 1979 issue of six stamps and a souvenir sheet. A view of Sombrero Island is accompanied by a map of Anguilla (Scott #361) on the 5¢ multicolored value.

A three-line instructional handstamp (*Figure 2*), "Lighthouse/ SOMBRERO ISLAND/ West Indies" was used on February 5, 1972 on 27 airmail covers to the United States (25¢ rate). *Figure 3* also illustrates the map stamp showing the location of Sombrero Island, and its usage with the first day of use of the "Lighthouse Sombrero Island West Indies" handstamp on the initial airmail covers.

Acknowledgments:

I am indebted to Mr. William O. Boss of Brick, New Jersey for allowing me the use his cover, shown in *Figure 2*, and to Mr. Larry B. Groh for access to information on U.S. naval history.

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2. Jules James Papers, Collection No. 223, East Carolina Manuscript Collection, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.
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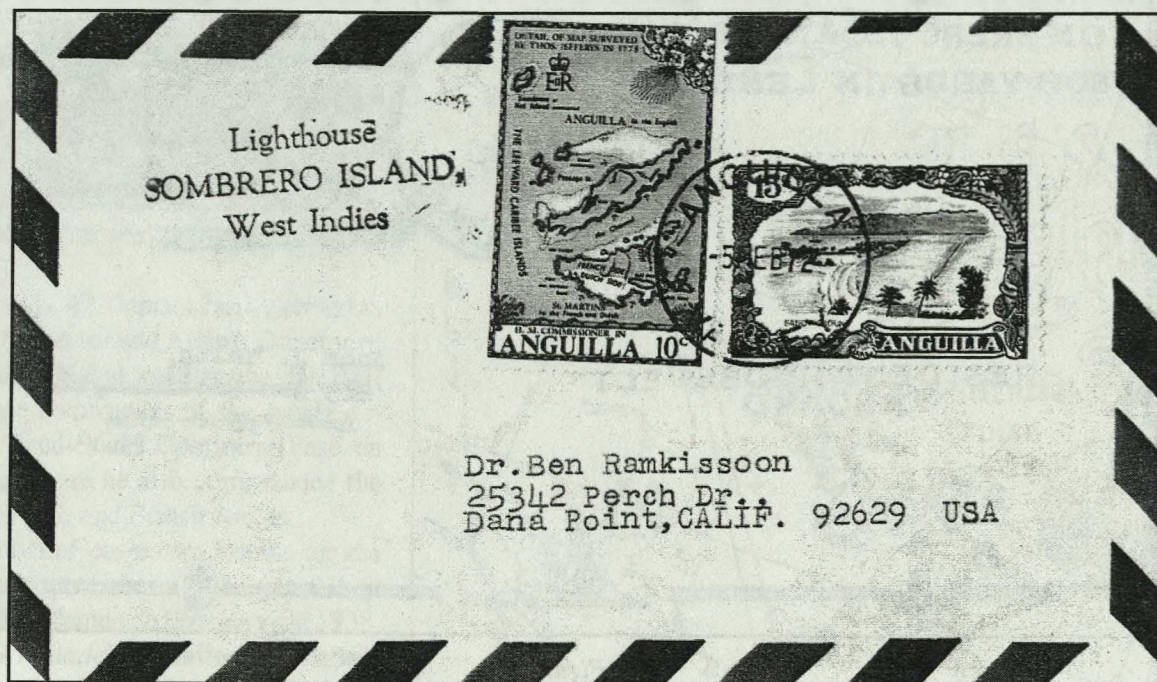


Figure 3
Three-Line Rubber Stamp of Sombrero Island

Sombrero Island, depicted on the one-cent issue of the 1952 British Virgin Islands set, depicts the "Sombrero Lighthouse." It is not part of the presidency, but maintained as a lighthouse by the British government. Sombrero Island is east of the Virgin Islands, and 31 miles northwest of Anguilla. The lighthouse is staffed by less than a dozen personnel, all of whom are Anguillans, all paid by Anguilla, and all mail service to and from the lighthouse bears Anguilla postage stamps.

It wasn't until February 5, 1972 that any distinctive markings began to appear on mail service to Sombrero Island, when the three-line rubber stamp marker, shown above, was put into use. Twenty-seven covers were postmarked at Valley, Anguilla on that historic date on mail brought back by the resupply boat on its once-a-month service. Each cover, as illustrated, carried at least one 10¢ value of the Anguilla adhesive, showing a new map, in which Sombrero Island is clearly shown. To this time, there is no apparent interest in the establishment of a postal facility on Sombrero Island, for the use by the small community who staff this desolate outpost of the West Indies.

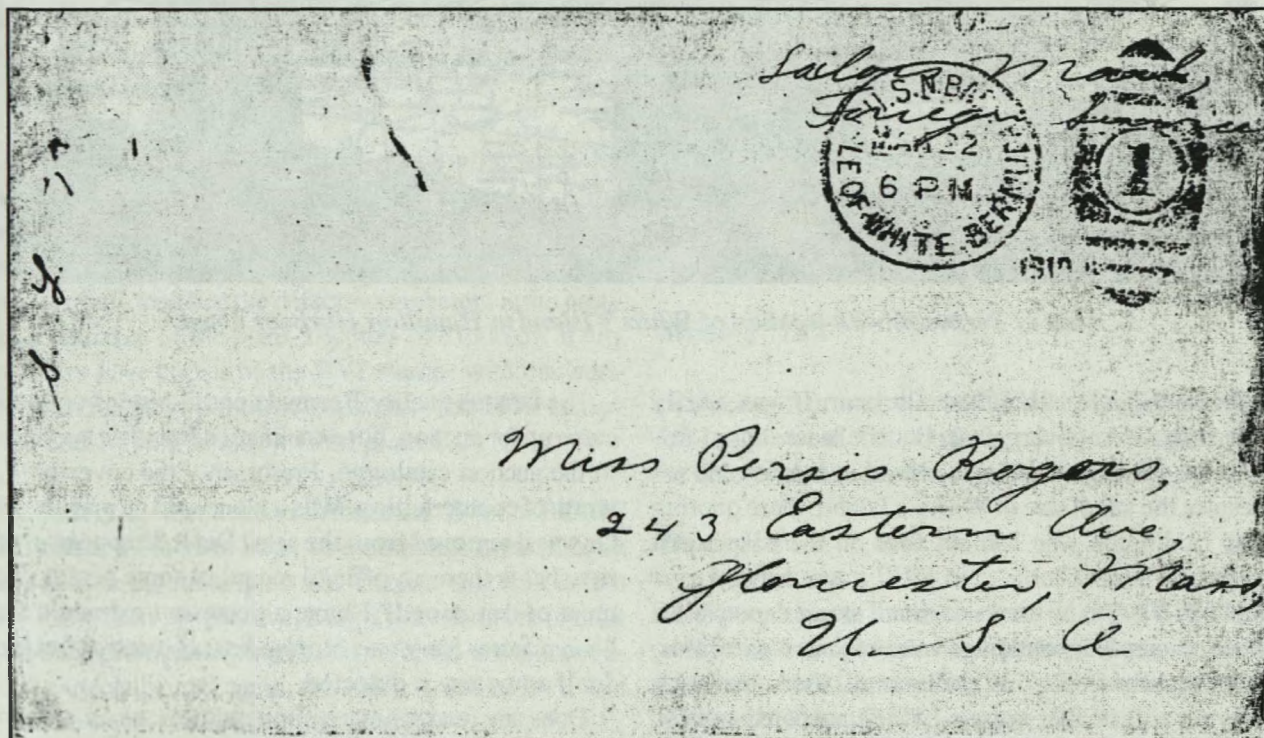
Bermuda - A Mystery Postmark - 1918

By Dr. Gale J. Raymond
Of the USA

Most collectors vary the stamps, subjects, topicals, covers, and postmarks that attract their interests and hobbies. In particular, one collector was mostly fascinated by irregular military postal markings during various war periods of many regions and nations. Robert S. (Bob) Gordon was a mutual friend who focused only on covers with or without stamps on which the cancellations included actual "locations" in the post-

War I cover with a steel-die 1918 date outside the circle without a stamp at all. As he had never seen a similar date-stamp, he bought it, plus a few other covers which he liked. His next letter to me included a photocopy of this strange cover from family mail.

Having never seen such a datestamp from Bermuda, he shared sight of the cover with me. Alas, Bob Gordon passed away shortly later and his estate was sold at auction, mostly to Morris Ludington, who bought up the Bermuda covers, blessedly out-bidding me, thus acquiring the ISLE OF WHITE cover as well. As shown by the



A cover from 1918 showing at upper right, in manuscript, "Sailor's Mail/ Foreign Service." There is a 26mm steel datestamp inscribed "U.S.N. Base, Isle of White, Bermuda" along with a date slug of MAR 22/6 P.M., and "1918" next to killer with "1" in center.

The cover is addressed to Gloucester, Massachusetts.

marks themselves on military facilities and bases. Sometimes the specific locations were classified or secret, for reasons of "security" or for poor reasons.

Bob maintained a list of such locations, especially on military of "Soldiers Mail." In most locations, such was apparently unimportant geographically or not classified for security reasons. Some were not, but fun to collect! In World War II, such datestamps deleted locations one time or another. As I am unabashedly fascinated by island postmarks, Bob Gordon and I swapped covers regularly, especially with such postmarks in or in past use. A handful of such covers to Bob Gordon arrived one day on approval. He was especially enchanted by one World

photocopy illustration herewith, the lettering within the steel-die circle reads "U.S.N. BASE, ISLE OF WHITE, BERMUDA" center dated "MAR 22/ 6 P.M." with year date "1918" and barcode "1" externally, horizontally. This date was struck over a manuscript "Sailors Mail" (stampless), to Gloucester, Massachusetts. Endorsed over "FOREIGN SERVICE" manuscript. The year date is poorly struck, but apparently is 1918 since the MAR 22 date falls between base opening date, March 1918, and closure of January 1919 (no backstamps).

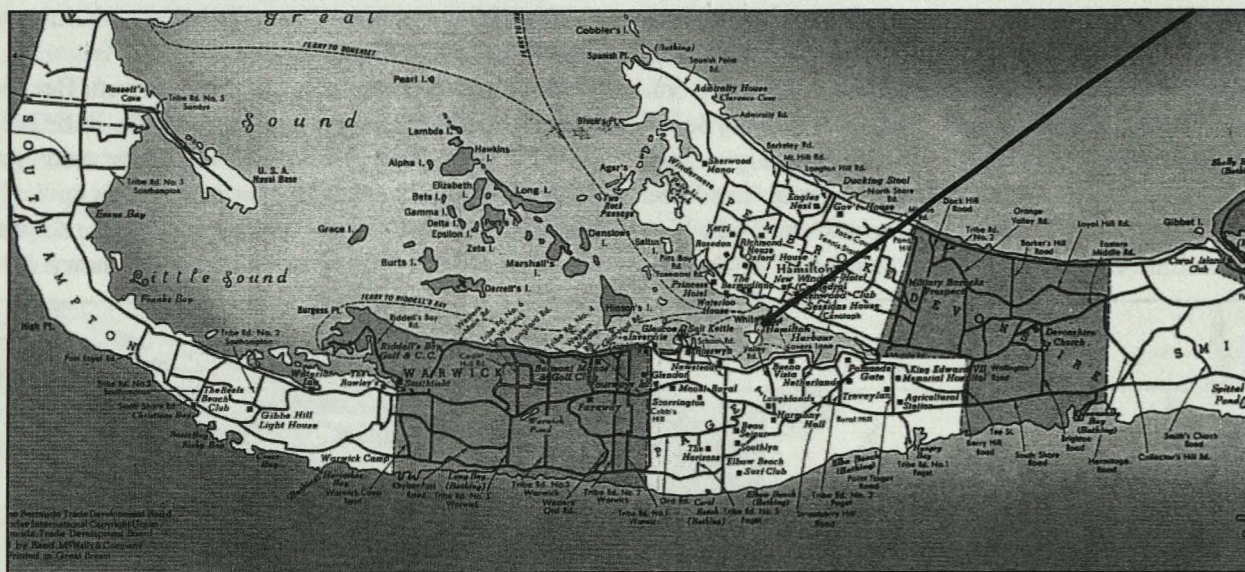
Although the cancel is poorly struck, it represents perhaps the only such mailing in existence. The small Ber-

Continued on page 10

muda date range is remarkable, and possibly unique.

The Bermuda Islands comprise some hundreds of small coral and limestone islets, located in the Atlantic Ocean 570 miles east of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Due to the strategic location, during World War I the U.S. military established "Naval Base No. 24" in March 1918 on

of World War I. I am surprised that a special U.S. Navy postmark was made and used for such a small base. It must have been quite scarce, and I will have to look for one myself now." He and Bob Gordon were assured the cover was genuine, as was I. It was acquired from Gordon's establish, and Ludington himself has passed away.



Map of Bermuda with location of White's Island in Hamilton Harbour noted.

tiny White Island in Hamilton Harbour. It was briefly leased to the U.S. government, but the lease lapsed following the war's end, and was closed in January 1919.

Despite the small size of White's Island, (here quoting Morris Ludington who had set foot on the island, just opposite the Yacht Club) "... in 1917 it was handed over to the U.S. Navy to be used as a small stores depot, and a number of temporary buildings were built as warehouses. I gather that the depot was quite small, used chiefly by destroyers and smaller vessels, which anchored nearby, and stores were brought out on lighters. Obviously the depot could not have survived for very long after the end

His famous quality Bermuda postal history collection came up for auction, but examination found no such cover in the auction catalogue. Presumably the cover held no worth of counterfeiting. Was it alone sold on private sale? Or was it removed from the sale? Did it disappear mysteriously? Is there an official record in some postal document of that period? I have a document extracted from *United States Navy and Marine Bases Overseas* but wonder if a mystery is detected.

Does any reader have a similar cover, or can solve the mystery? Any report of this cover would be most welcomed by the author. ☐

New book on Cayman Islands post office facilities is now available

Ivan Burges has authored a small booklet titled *The History of the Cayman Islands Post Offices*. Mr. Burges has approached the theme from an historical viewpoint, tracing the development of each of the island's post offices from the earliest days, and giving us glimpses of the people who were in charge. Each post office has its own slim chapter, and he accentuates each listing with antiquarian photographs and contemporary views. Postal markings, particularly circular datestamps, are shown for each post office as well.

There is complete coverage of each post office, including relatively little known agents such as the Breaker's Postal Agency. The book was published by the author, and printed in a very limited press run of 250 copies (an additional 50 copies were prepared for review and publicity purposes). Printed on the main island by Cayman Free Press, the 6.0 x 9.0 inch softbound and saddlestitched book has a very attractive full color cover featuring antiquarian photographs, a pillar post box and numerous postal markings. The book is printed on coated stock paper with over 30 full color photographs on the interior. The book covers the period from 1889 through 2002. The cost is \$15 postpaid to the U.S. To order, contact Ivan Burges, P.O. Box 1543, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.

Help needed on War Tax overprints

By John Davis

Of the United Kingdom

To help me complete, to my satisfaction, my researches with the War Tax overprints, I would like to take advantage of the space available in the *Journal* to invite the help of members. If members are able to help, please be good enough to contact me with any information you think would be useful. I hope to publish further queries as they arise, but here are a few to start with.

British Virgin Islands Overprinting Plate Smaller and defective overprint "the first stamp from the bottom row of the right hand pane."

It is known that this "War Stamp" overprinting plate was also used for Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and St. Kitts-Nevis. It was also used for the Jamaica overprints, but only after the "defect" had been repaired. Although De La Rue confirmed that the defect was inherent in the original production of the plate, I would like to know if any members have copies of the BVI stamps with this variety from the early printings, especially the 1916 1d carmine and 3d purple/yellow from plate 1b.

This variety also has a defect in the letter "S" of "STAMP" with either a flattened base, or a complete break. I have only seen a few examples and suspect that this defect may have been progressive. May I ask members to look at all their positional stamps/blocks, for the relevant countries, especially, and again, the early issues of BVI, and to let me know the extent of this defect.

Antigua

Essay for War Stamp

Is it known if an essay exists for the overprint "WAR STAMP," and where I may be able to find a copy? I have found nothing in the De La Rue archives.

Die proof

Do any members know where I may be able to obtain a copy of the die proof in black of the frame of the 1d WAR STAMP known on card, inscribed "after strike," that was once in the collection of Douglas Bessemer. It is assumed that this is different to the die proof marked "May 4th 60 Leads" dated "June 29th 1918" and once owned by Victor Toeg.

Color copy of the 3 imperf pairs

Do any members know where I could obtain a color copy of the three imperf pairs?

Barbados

Color copy of the imperf pair 1d bright red

Do any members know where I could obtain a color copy of the imperf pair, similar to the pair sold in Phillips (Barclays Bank) sale in May 1987?

Bermuda

Albino overprint

I have been informed that several years ago a sheet of the War Tax overprints was offered for sale in the U.S. with the bottom row, or last two rows having a double overprint, one albino. Are any members aware of the existence of this sheet, and whether it is a sheet of 60 or 120?

Missing "TAX"

A block of four was sold in 1975, the top right hand stamp having the word "Tax" missing. Is it known where I may be able to obtain a color copy of this block?

Dominica

Half-pence green, local overprint on SG #56. Is it known where the stamps were overprinted? Are precise dates known for 1/2d green (SG #57); 3d purple/yellow (SG #58) and 1/2d on 2 1/2d orange, (SG #59)?

Montserrat

I have seen the two essays for the half-pence black and orange (SG #62), but I would like to know if die proofs and imperforate proofs exist.

Regarding the 1/3d green issued August 8, 1917 and 1/2d deep green issued October 1918, according to Gibbons, am I correct in assuming that the 1/2d stamps packed by De La Rue in May 1918 (requisitions 25/18, 29, 18, and 40/18) and overprinted "WAR STAMP" in both red and black, were all printed in the green shade? (SG #60 and SG #61).

On August 12, 1918, requisitions 61/18 and 68/18, 1/2d

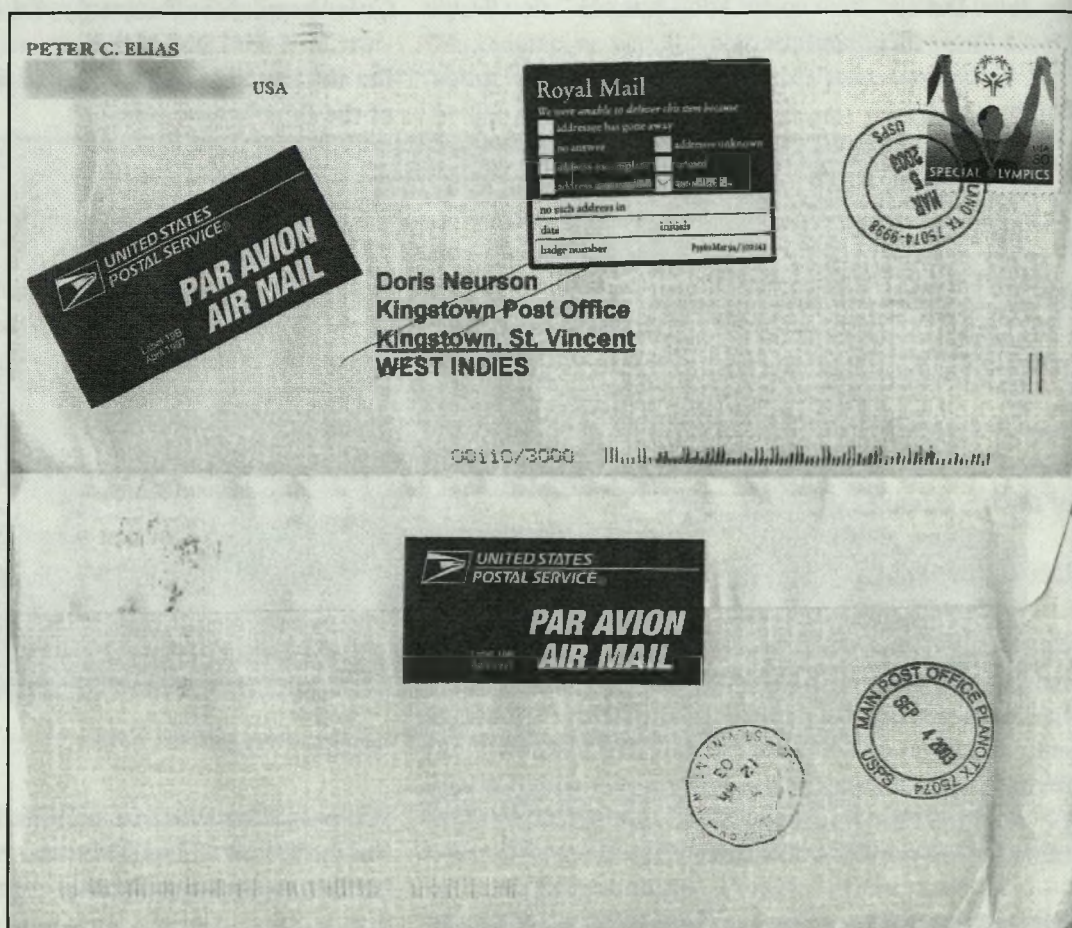
Continued on page 23

No, it's NOT Royal Mail!

By **Peter Elias**
*St. Vincent Study
 Group Leader*

On March 5, 2003 I mailed the envelope shown in the scan to Kingstown as per address instructions given to me in a letter by the addressee who wished to correspond. On the back, the envelope was postmarked (somewhat indistinctly) with a receiving date of 12 March; not bad, only seven days via airmail.

Apparently the letter sat uncalled for at the main post office almost six months before it was returned to me on September 4, 2003. Interestingly enough, the Kingstown Post Office is using old British "Royal Mail" unable-to-deliver stick-



ers dated 1994! You would think that they would have printed their own stickers by now (or use a "pointing-finger" type of rubber stamp as they do here). ☒

BWISC extends invitation to BCPSG members

Founded in 1954 and based in the United Kingdom, the British West Indies Study Circle is a group of dedicated philatelists who focus on the countries making up the British West Indies and in addition Bermuda, British Guiana (Guyana), 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.

To its several hundred members around the globe, the group publishes a quarterly *Bulletin*, loans books from the Circle Library, encourages and assists with the authorship and publication of handbooks and monographs, and conducts an annual auction.

In December 2003, John Seidl was named the new

North American Representative for the BWISC. In this role, he will facilitate membership activities for circle members residing throughout North America and the surrounding regions. As such, the BWISC would like to invite all interested parties to contact John at:

John Seidl
 4324 Granby Way
 Marietta, GA 30062-8150
 email: jseidl@mindspring.com
 404-229-6863.

John can provide membership applications, accept dues payments (\$20 U.S. per year), provide advertising rates for the *Bulletin*, and connect parties with other members and officers of the BWISC. More information on the BWISC can be found at www.bwisc.org.

Desirably Philatelic

By Eric M. Bateson
Of Australia

As I outlined in a recent article in the *Journal* (Vol. 42, No. 4, 2002), collecting philatelic covers can be just as interesting as other aspects of philately. In this article I wish to comment on the value of philatelic covers and to counter the generally used comment, "It is only philatelic" as though this were something to be ashamed of and of no value.

I do not have a computer and my experience as a collector of philatelic and other covers is based on the scrutiny of auction catalogues and dealer price lists over the past 20 years. These include Stanley Gibbons, Harmers, Phillips/Bonham, Western Auctions, Victoria, Pennymead, Caribbean, Rainey, Hamilton, London Stamp Exchange, Empire, Yorkshire Cover, Temple Bar, Sandafayre/Hunters, Philangles and many others.

As with my previous article, this paper is only concerned with the Empire period of the stamp issues of the British West Indies.

Presumably like other collectors, the Stanley Gibbons catalogue has been my main guide when bidding for or purchasing covers for my collection. I have nothing but admiration and praise for the vast amount of research the Editorial Department must have undertaken not only in

the valuation of the stamps themselves, but also the more recent addition of a multiplier factor for assessing the valuation of covers.

Page xii of the *Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840-1950*, the 2003 edition, has a section titled "Cover prices." This section states: "The system gives a general guide in the form of a factor by which the corresponding used price of the basic used stamp should be multiplied when found in fine average condition on cover. The multipliers are a base on which further value would be added to take into account the

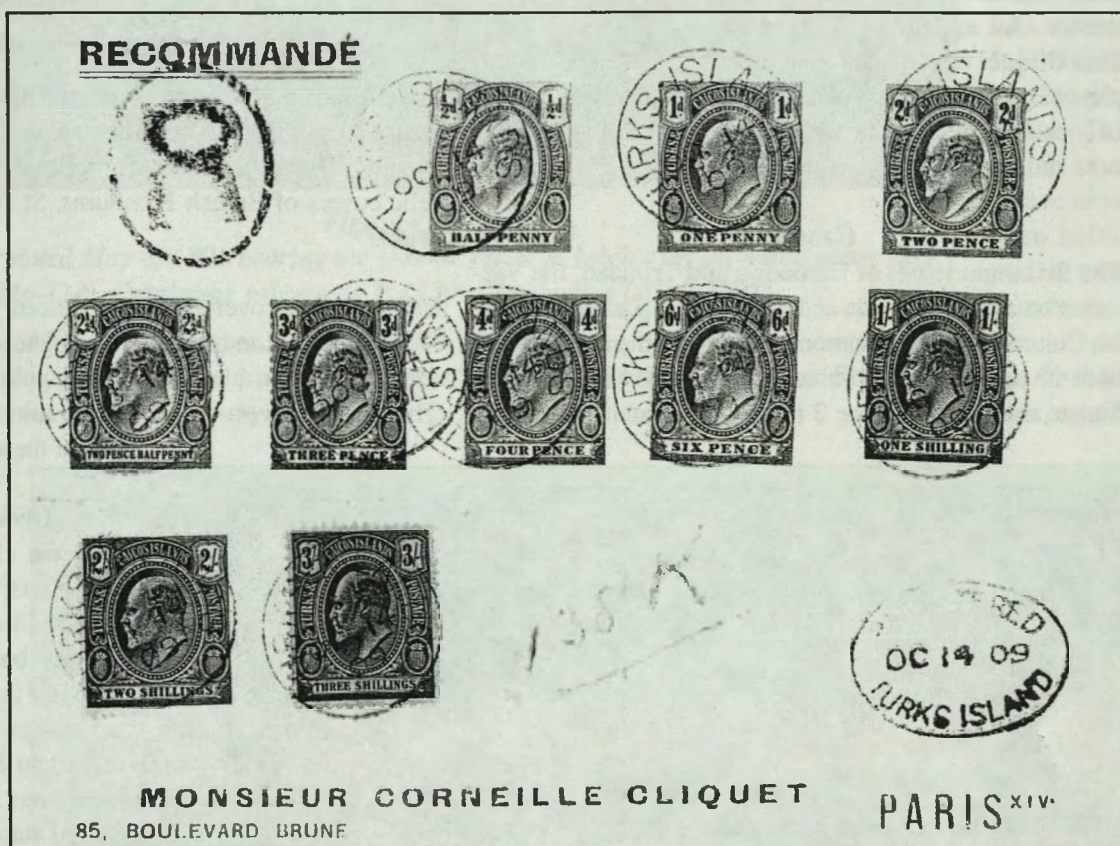


Figure 1
*Turks & Caicos Cliquet cover (October 14, 1905) bearing the complete set of Edward II.
Catalogue value used is £110. Cover value (x3) is £330.*

cover's postal historical importance in demonstrating such things as unusual, scarce, or emergency cancels, interesting routes, significant postal markings, combination usage, the development of postal routes and so on. Purely philatelic covers have a cover value only slightly greater than the catalogue value of the corresponding used stamps. This applies generally to those high value stamps used philatelically rather than in the normal course of commerce."

Continued on page 14

However, many philatelic covers of the Empire period command a much higher value than the used stamps on the cover, at least as far as the marketplace is concerned. From my experience and from my study of auction catalogues and dealer price lists, philatelic covers appear to be classifiable into three groups depending on their availability and market value. I have grouped these as follows:

Group I

These philatelic covers are common and usually cost little more than the corresponding used stamps. An example is Figure 1. This Cliquet cover bears the complete set of the Edward VII issue of the Turks & Caicos Islands. Other examples would be the 1935 pictorial issues and most later issues on philatelic covers.

Group II

The Britannia issues of Barbados and Trinidad, the Victorian issues of Bermuda and the early ship issues of British Guiana are quite common on cover. In many instances, both the used and cover values are low. They have a much higher sale price. Figure 2 is a non-philatelic Bermuda

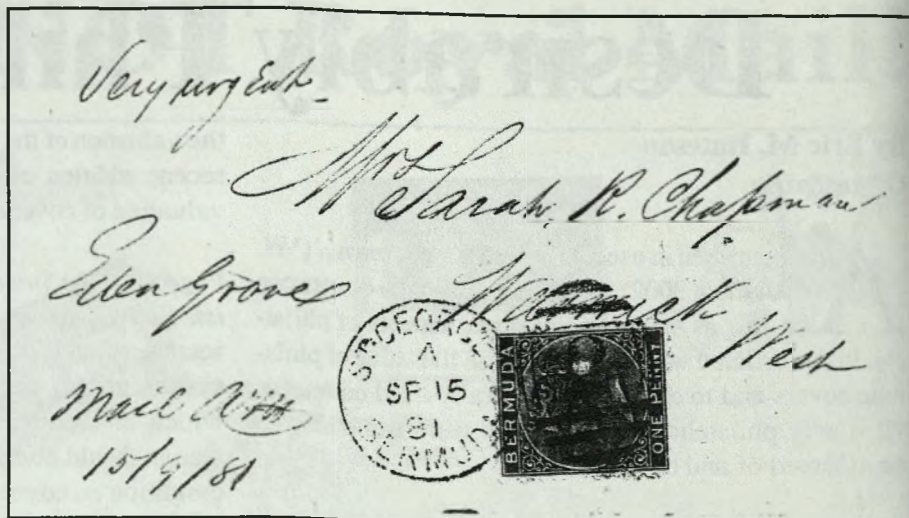


Figure 2

Bermuda non-philatelic local cover (September 15, 1881) bearing SG#1, 1d. rose red. Catalogue value used is £1.25. Cover value (x5) is £6.25.

cover bearing SG#1 used locally. The cover value is less than £10, but the market value would be many times this amount. This situation is also reflected in the early philatelic covers of British Honduras, St. Vincent and Turks Island.

Figure 3 is a cover from St. Vincent bearing a pair of SG#55a, 2 1/2d and 1d. The catalogue value of the stamps used is less than £1 and the cover value is not very high. This type of cover would fetch an amount up to 100 times the value of the used stamps.



Figure 3

St. Vincent Naumann cover bearing a pair of SG#55a, 2 1/2d and 1d blue. Catalogue value used is 70 pence. Cover value (x8) is £6.

Group III

These are the classical philatelic covers with sets, part sets or single high values. In sales they have a similar price but are much more difficult to find than the corresponding used stamps. They used to be fairly common but are becoming increasingly rare. Inspection of sets of fine used stamps for sale often shows all the stamps with identical cancels including the date, suggesting that they may have been canceled to order but they may also have been removed from covers as a source of fine used stamps. Figure 4 is a philatelic cover from Barbados bearing the Silver Jubilee issue of Queen Victoria on white paper. Although none of the stamps appears to be tied to the cover, the appearance is consistent with their postal use on the large envelope.

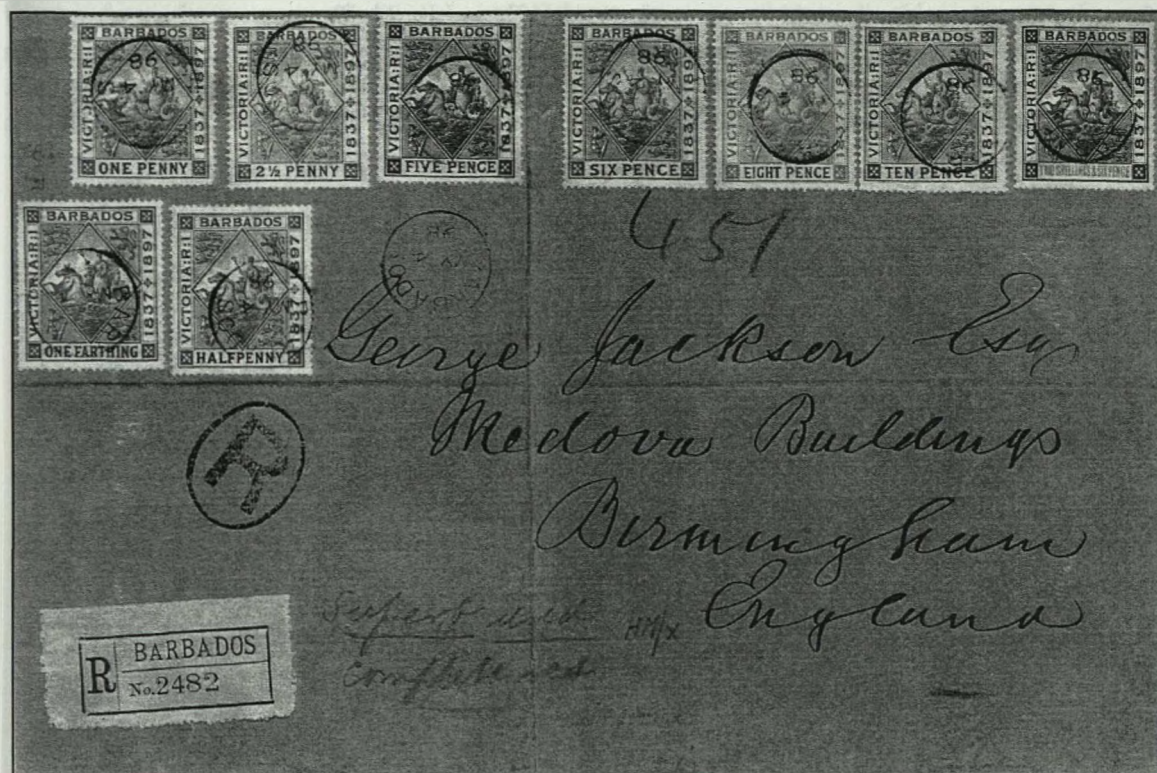


Figure 4

Barbados cover dated May 4, 1898 bearing the Queen Victoria Jubilee set on white paper (SG #116-124). Catalogue value used is £130. Cover value (x4) is £520.

The used value is £130 and the cover value is over £500.

The price I paid many years ago was much less than this. I have never seen this for sale since my purchase.

Figure 7 shows a cover from St. Kitts. Stamps from the

Continued on page 16

Figure 5 is a pristine Marsh cover bearing the first Tercentenary set of Bermuda. The only time I have seen a complete set on cover was when I purchased it a few years ago. The second Tercentenary issue set is frequently seen on philatelic covers. Figure 6 is a philatelic cover bearing the complete postage and revenue set of George V from the Turks & Caicos Islands.



Figure 5

Bermuda Marsh cover dated May 13, 1921 bearing the first Tercentenary set (SG #59-67). Catalogue value used is £225. Cover value (x4) is £900.

This item appeared in a 2001 sale but I received the catalogue too late to make a bid. It appears it could not have attracted much attention because it reappeared in a subsequent sale when I was successful in making the purchase. This set on cover I have never seen before and it must be rare.

St. Kitts Tercentenary set are occasionally seen on covers, but I have only once seen a philatelic cover bearing the complete low values to 1/-. The higher values I have never seen on cover. This Robb cover cost me more than

are no less desirable. There are many other examples of covers which are purely philatelic and yet command a much higher value than the corresponding used stamps. Some examples are the Iremonger, Round and Wilson

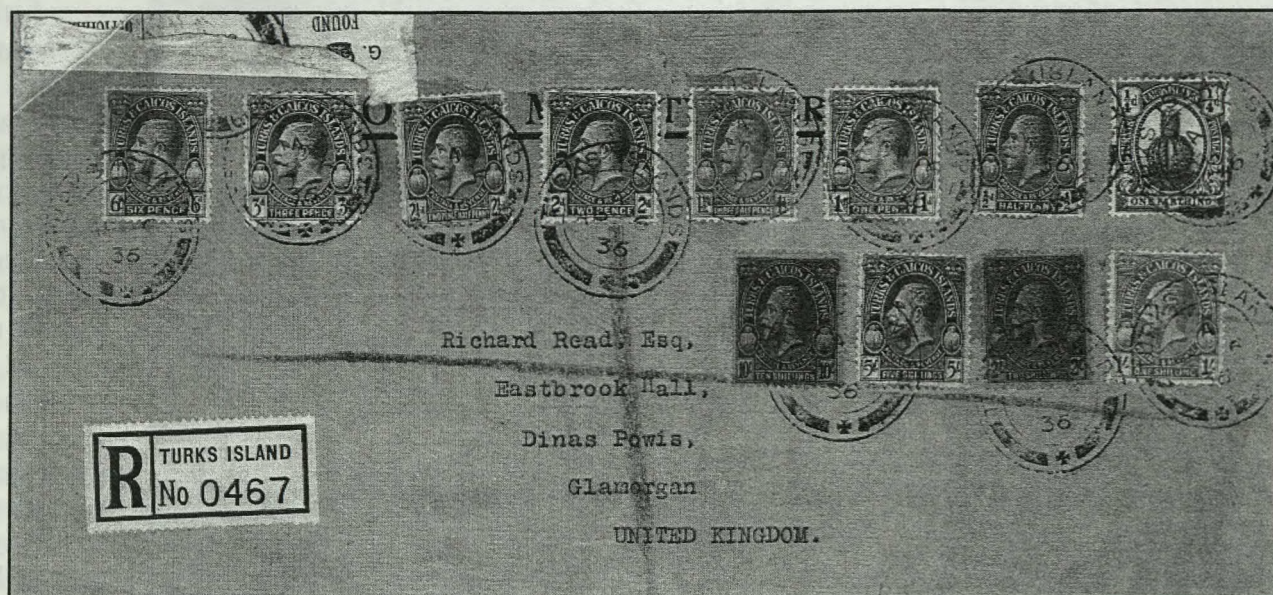


Figure 6

Turks & Caicos Islands cover dated April 13, 1936 bearing the complete postage and revenue set (SG #176-186). Catalogue value used is £180. Cover value (x3) is £540.

the catalogue value of the corresponding used stamps. Figure 8 is a Proetzel cover bearing the low values to 1/- of the Victoria tablet issue, Die II, of St. Lucia. This was one of the first covers in my collection and I have never subsequently seen a similar cover for sale. Odd values can be found on covers from time to time in a similar way to the St. Kitts Tercentenary set.

Figure 9 is another Marsh cover bearing the £1 Edward VII stamp of St. Vincent. High values such as this are usually obtainable only on philatelic rather than commercial covers and thus all are rare. Although Stanley Gibbons does not give a cover value for this stamp, covers of this type



Figure 7

St. Kitts-Nevis Robb cover dated September 10, 1923 bearing the Tercentenary values to 1/-. Catalogue value used is £130. Cover value (x2) is £260.

covers from obscure post offices, the use of Cayman Islands stamps as postage dues and the St. Lucia type set issues (D1 and D2) on covers from all over the Empire.

I must also mention the one that got away. This was a Wilson cover bearing pairs of the Queen Victoria 1/2d and 1d stamps of the Cayman Islands. This cover fetched

a very high price in a sale many times the catalogue value of the used stamps, and was well beyond my reach.

Let the description "only" or "dismissively" be changed to "desirable" in relation to philatelic covers and let them have an equal place with postal history, thematic and other covers in the spectrum of philately. ☒

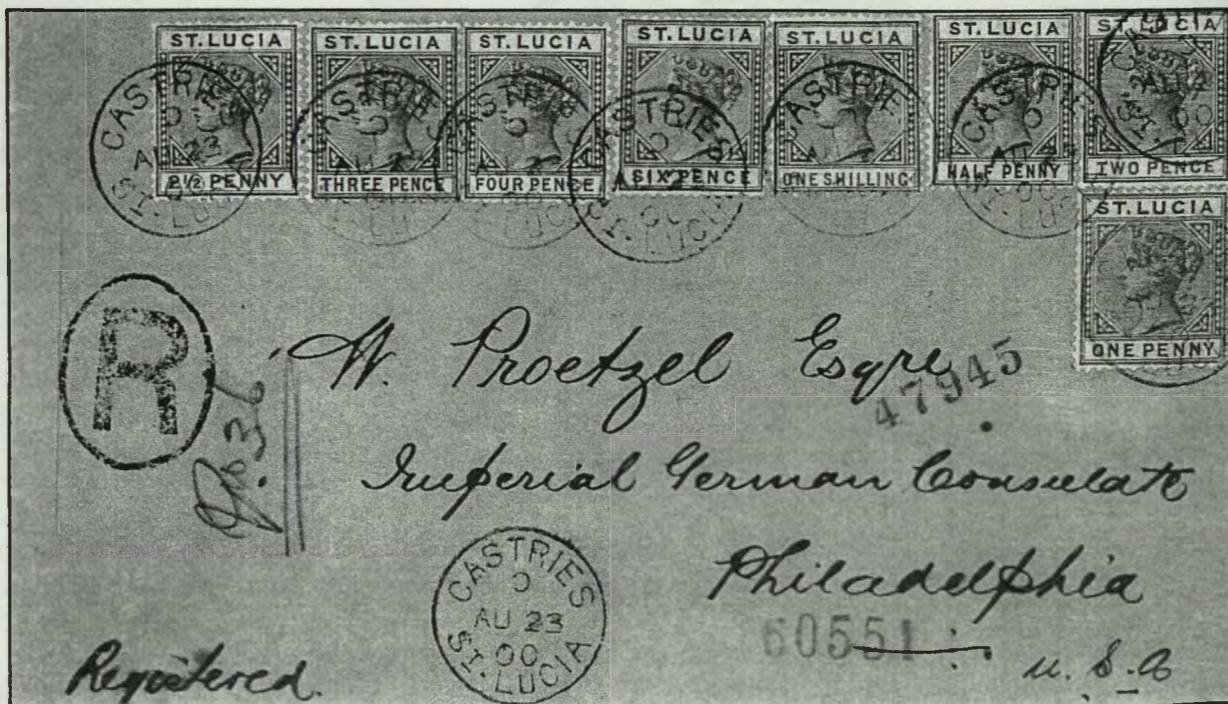


Figure 8

St. Lucia cover dated 1902 bearing the Queen Victoria tablet Die II values to 1/- (SG #43-50). Catalogue value used is £35. Cover value (x15) is £525.

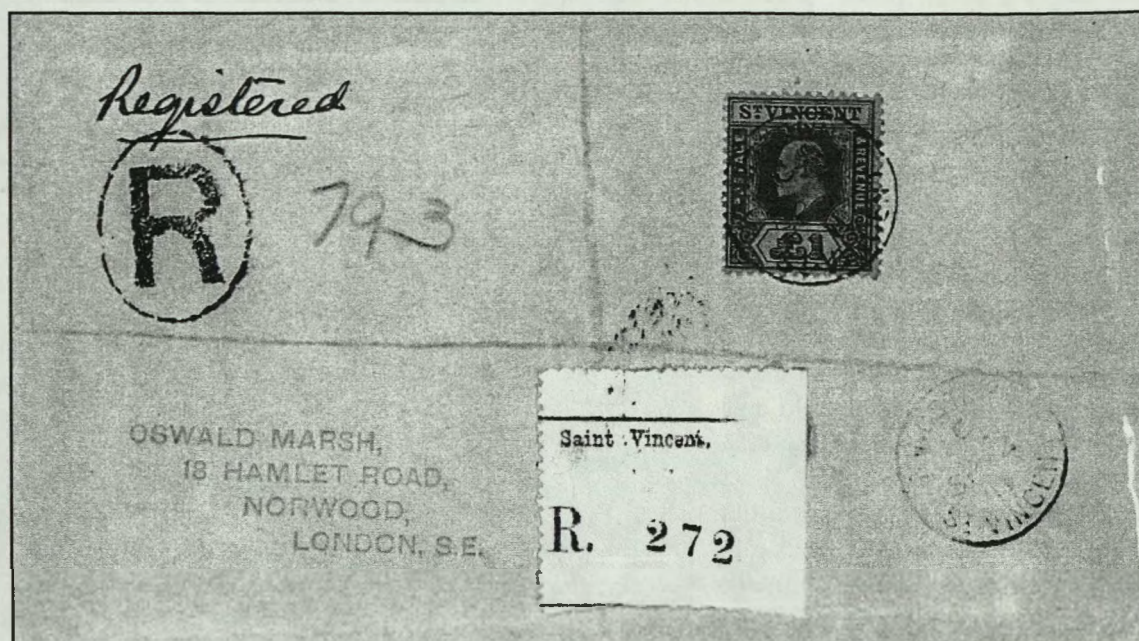


Figure 9

Another Marsh cover, this one dated September 2, 1911 from St. Vincent and bearing the Edward VII £1 stamp (SG #93). Catalogue value used is £325. Cover value not given by Stanley Gibbons.

Two hundred years of continuous mail service in St. Lucia

By John Gardner

St. Lucia Study Group Leader

The title of a set of four stamps issued by St. Lucia in July 2003 was "200 Years of Continuous Mail Service." The set celebrates the time there has been a St. Lucia postal service following the opening of the first post office on the island at Castries in June 1803. The stamps as issued are shown in Figure 1.

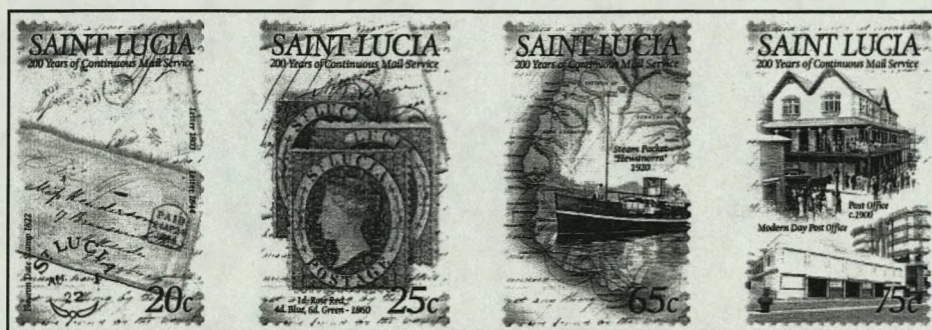


Figure 1

Early in 2003, BCPSG member Doug Nottingham put the international stamp designer Derek Miller in touch with me. Derek explained that he had been commissioned by The Crown Agents Stamp Bureau to design a set of stamps commemorating 200 years of unbroken mail service in St. Lucia and that he needed rather urgently to see some specified items to be included in the designs of the stamps. These were:

1. The Fleuron datestamp on cover preferably with the "Crown Circle handstamp".
2. The first stamps of St. Lucia issued in 1860.
3. A view of the General Post Office before it was destroyed by fire in 1927.
4. A view of the Post Office as it is now.

He also said that he would like to see anything showing St. Lucia as it was in 1803.

I replied explaining the history and use of the Fleuron datestamp and the Crowned Circle handstamp and the covers I had showing these and confirming that I could also loan him the three stamps issued in 1860. As my collection of post cards from the island does not include one specifically showing the Castries Post Office before 1927 or as it is now, I referred him to BCPSG member Michael Rego who I thought might be able to assist. As to St. Lucia in 1803, I explained that all I could let him have was a letter written from the island to Scotland on November 19, 1803 which is the first letter known to have been written from the island after it

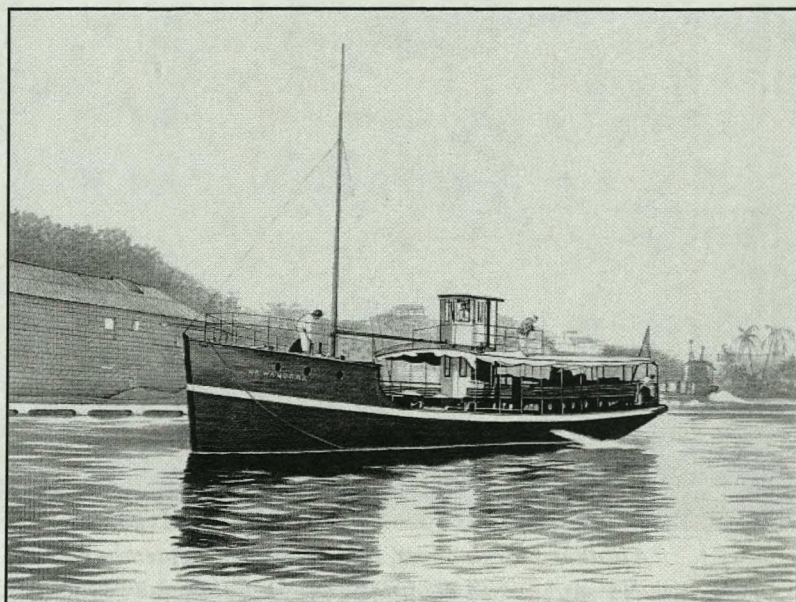


Figure 2

was finally returned to Britain from France and the Castries Post Office was opened in June of that year.

Subsequently I sent Derek Miller the items he requested to borrow from me, namely a cover sent in 1844 from St. Lucia to Scotland with a Fleuron datestamp of "MR 23" (the last known date of use for that datestamp), a copy of the illustration of the Fleuron of AU 1 22 (August 1, 1822) in the late Geoffrey Ritchie's book, the first three stamps issued in 1860 and the 1803 letter mentioned above. These items are included in the 20¢ and 25¢ stamps issued on July 14, 2003. I understand that Derek prepared these two designs on his computer and then transferred them to disk so that there is no actual stamp artwork available. The text matter for all four stamps was prepared on computer.

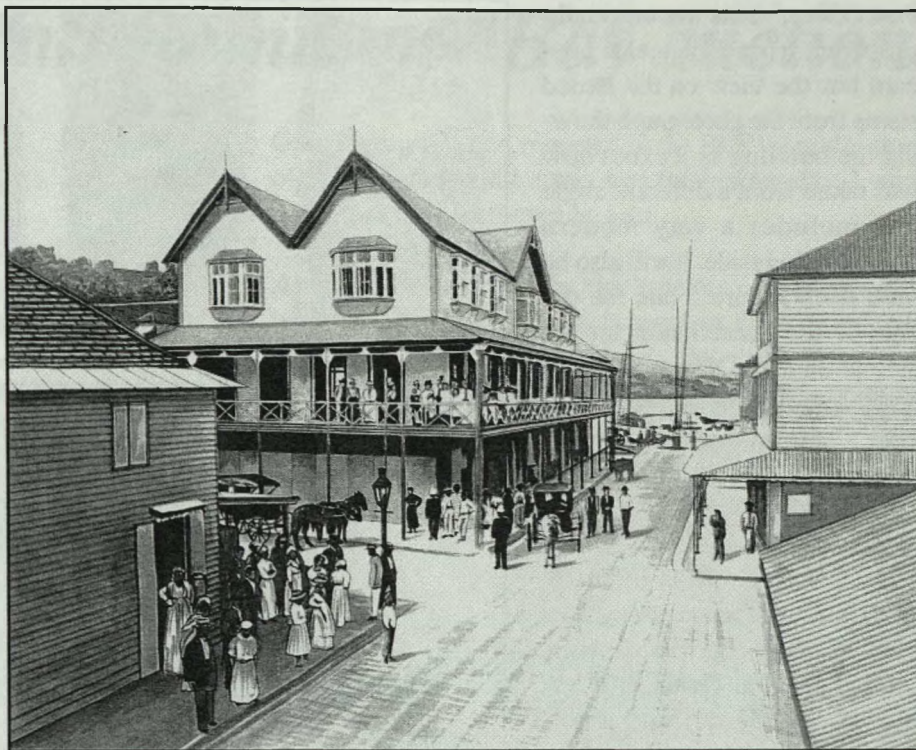


Figure 3

The two highest values in the set were prepared by Derek from items supplied by Michael Rego, which included a picture post card of the Castries Post Office in circa 1900 from a photo by Joseph Le Grand, a photo of the present GPO building in Bridge Street, Castries, and post cards of the post office circa 1957 and of the steamboat *Hewanorra*. The background map on the 65¢ stamp was prepared on computer and the image of the *Hewanorra* was painted by

Derek, with a copy of the artwork being shown in Figure 2. This motor launch (whose name is the Carib word for St. Lucia), arrived in Castries in 1920 and was used to transport both passengers and mail along the leeward coast of the island as shown on the map.

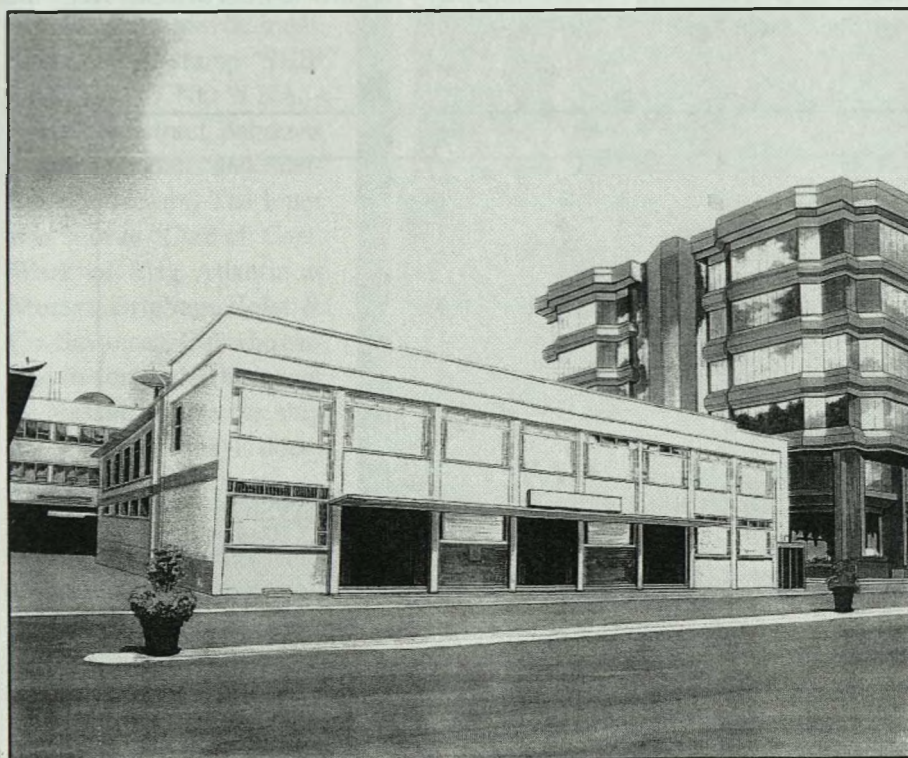


Figure 4

The 75¢ stamp shows the old and the new post offices in Castries. The artwork for these can be seen in Figures 3 and 4, with the former being taken from the post card of about 100 years ago and the latter from a photograph of the present post office. The rough designs as originally prepared are shown in Figure 5 and, if these are compared with the issued stamps, it will be seen that the only real alteration was in the lower half of the 75¢ value showing the "Modern Day

Continued on page 20

Post Office.” This was originally prepared from Michael’s post card but the view on the issued stamp from the photograph showing the building as it exists now was taken from a different angle and includes a very modern building alongside. It will also be seen from Figure 5 that the design of the cancellation for the stamps on the FDC was based on the Fleuron datestamp last used nearly 160 years ago.

Derek Miller also designed the Official First Day Cover for the issue that is shown in Figure 6. This was prepared using two painted artworks, one showing the Royal Mail Steamer “Tees” at Soufriere Jetty (from a post card circa 1910 supplied by Michael Rego) and the other the best known landmark of the island, the Pitons.



Figure 5

This issue of stamps illustrates some of the postal history of St. Lucia and I hope I have shown how it was made possible by items and information mainly supplied by members of the BCPSG and their skillful incorporation into the design of the stamps by Derek Miller.

I should like to acknowledge the assistance I have received in the preparation of this article from Michael Rego and Derek Miller and from Graham Tapp of The Crown Agents Stamp Bureau. ☒

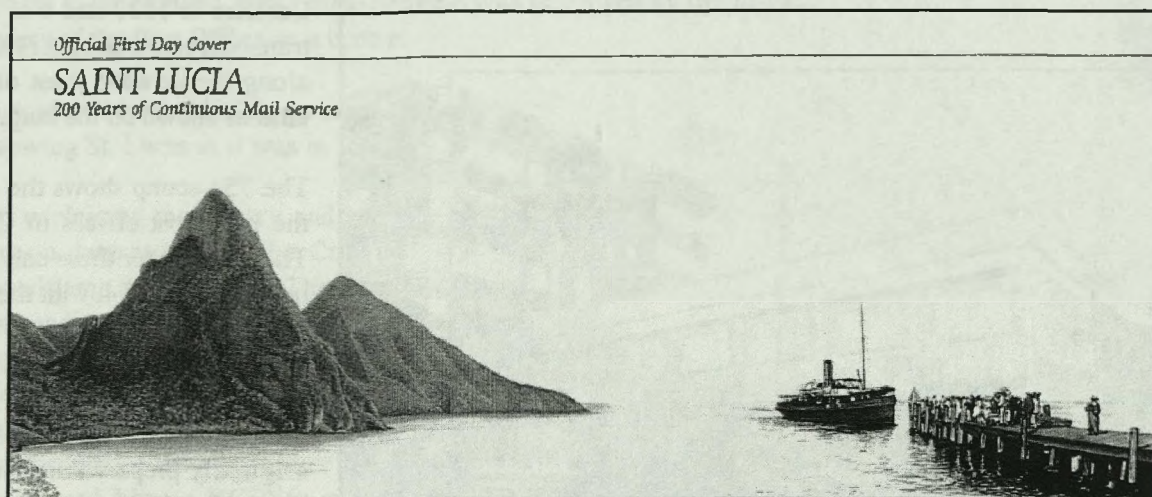


Figure 6

Bahamas items found on eBay auction

By Ed Waterous
Board of Trustees

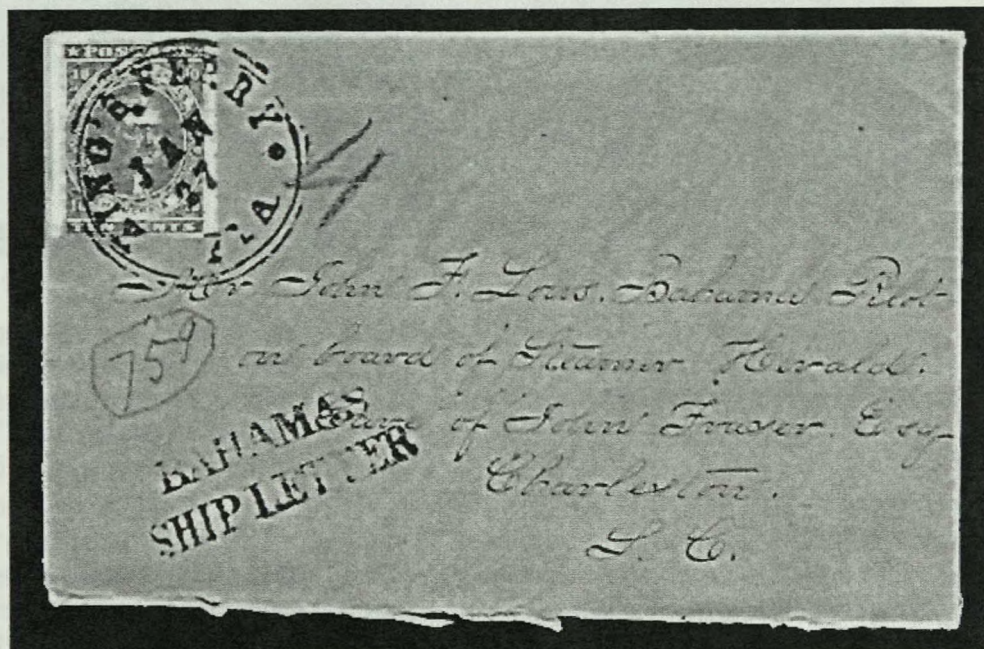
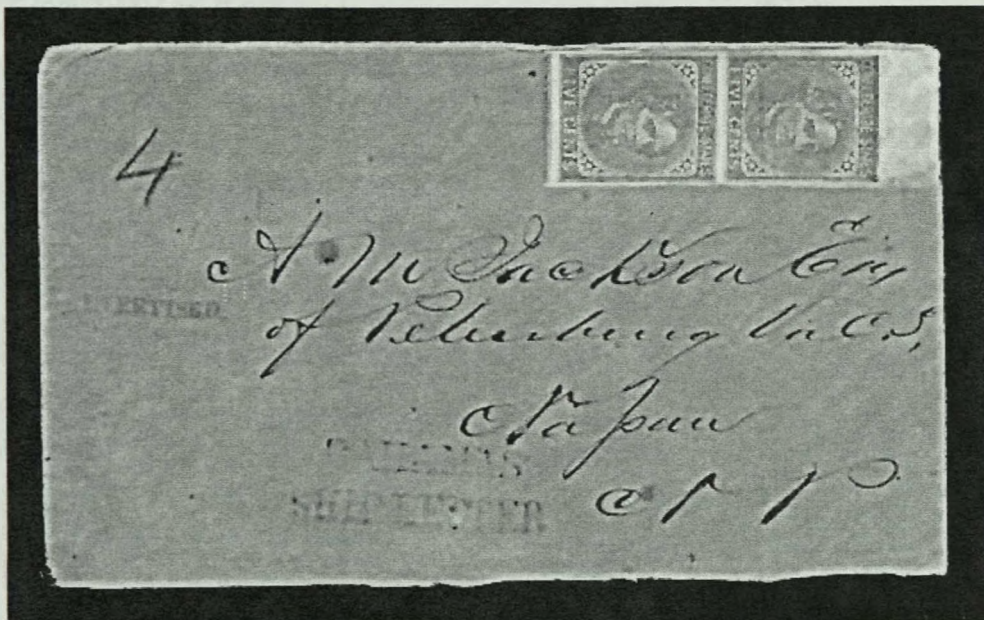
The first two weeks of October 2003 brought some exciting items to the eBay auction block. There must have been a frenzy of activity for both U.S. and Bahamas collectors as three of the four items described here are 19th century postal history from the U.S. to the Bahamas. The final item is a very scarce King George VI postage stamp variety, a collecting area ever so popular today.

A seemingly common 1869 cover with the three-cent locomotive stamp was postmarked at Jacksonville, Florida on October 19. A second look shows the addressee as Captain Samuel A. Kamp at Nassau N. P., Bahamas, quite a scarce destination and a good reason for 1869 collectors to raise their sights. On the reverse is a rare and desirable circular date stamp "SHIP LETTER/ C/ NO 9/ NASSAU" to attract Bahamas postal historians and maritime collectors. The letter was sent in "Care of: Capt. Wark of Brig Atlantic at Messrs Brigham Holst & Co. Savannah, Ga" who carried or forwarded the cover to Nassau where the ship letter fee (4 pence) is docketed in blue crayon.

Also on the front of the envelope is a very scarce semi-circular hand stamp "ADVERTISED" in red ink. No reply came so the postal clerk wrote "Unclaimed" in black ink then most likely sent the letter to the dead letter barrel in the basement of the Nassau Post Office. This item was a real eBay bargain at \$362.00.

Gale Raymond once reported in the BCPJ that the story of the Nassau Dead Letters was for another day. I wonder if that story will ever be told.

Amazingly two Civil War blockade run covers appeared together causing much excitement in the Confederate collecting community. Evidently the word leaked out



because these items were both viewed hundreds of times. Both covers carried issues of the Confederate States, quite a scarce circumstance, and both had the highly desirable and sought after two-line "BAHAMAS/ SHIP LETTER"

Continued on page 22

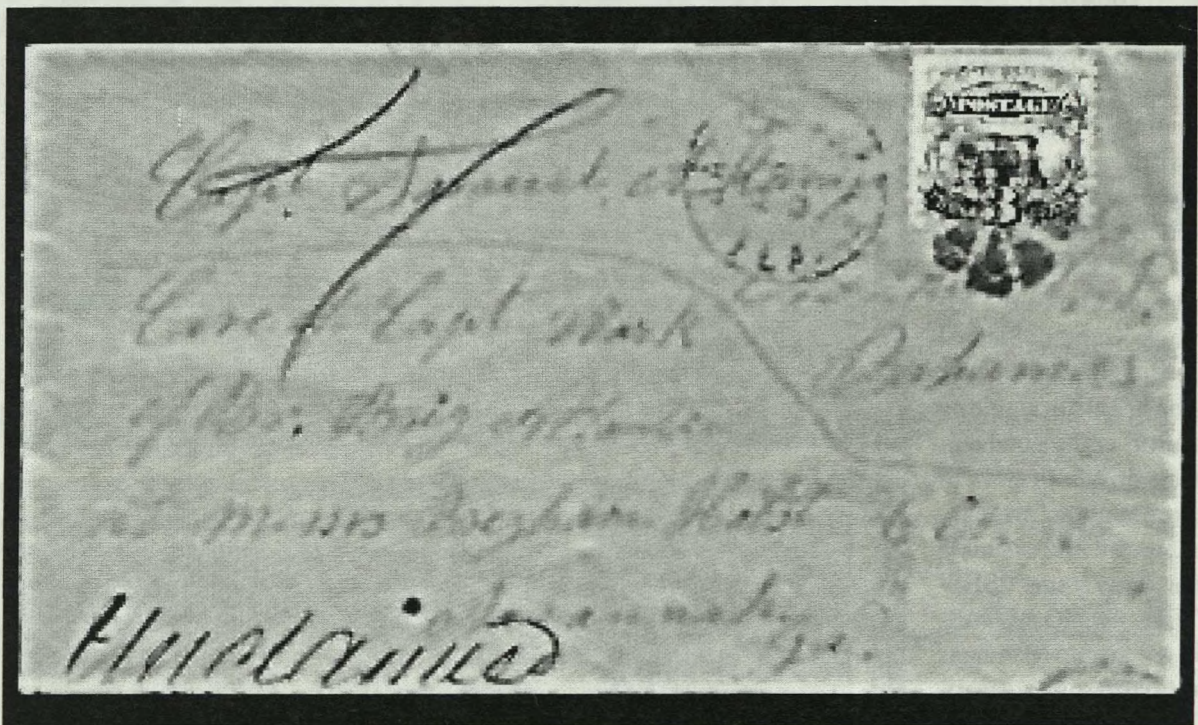
in black on the face plus a manuscript "4" in blue, denoting the ship letter fee. Both covers have September 2003 Philatelic Foundation certificates of authenticity.

The first cover carries a top margin vertical pair of the five-cent blue (Scott #7) uncanceled and addressed to "A. M. Jackson Esq of Petersburg Va C.S./ Nassau N.P." The cover has a small, scarce, straight-line "ADVERTISED." struck in red ink. On the back, there is the double arc "BAHAMAS MY 25/ 1863/ B" handstamp, struck in black ink. The cover fetched a final price of \$3,000.

The second cover carried a 10¢ blue (Scott #2) tied to the cover by a "KING'S FERRY/ JAN/ 27/ FLA" double

I suspect that all three of the covers came from a find in the Bahamas, reportedly an older couple, now living in the out islands, collected all things Bahamas privately for many years and decided it was time to sell. Further research remains for these covers. Too bad that they could not be mine to study and enjoy, that privilege and pleasure goes to someone else.

The final item is an innocent looking King George VI stamp of the 1942 Landfall of Columbus issue. The scarce half-penny with variety double overprint is accompanied by a 1970 BPA certificate of authenticity. The variety appears to have been made because the initial overprinting was lightly done and misregistered. Apparently when



ring cds. On the reverse is shown a circular datestamp "NASSAU-NEW-PROVIDENCE/ FEB ??/ 1863." The addressee is "Mr. John F. Lows, Bahamas Pilot on board of Steamer Heralds. Care of John Fraser Esq Charleston, S.C." On the front in red crayon is written "Unclaimed." This blockade run cover was hammered down for over \$16,800. According to an article in the November 10, 2003 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*, Scott Trepel of Robert A. Siegel Auctions said the cover is one of two recorded blockade run covers with a CSA #2 franking. Trepel also related that including these two covers carrying the "BAHAMAS SHIP LETTER" marking, three are now recorded with this marking. Adding further to its desirability is the fact that only five Florida blockade run covers are recorded from Florida, no others from King's Ferry.

the overprinting was being done at the offices of the *Nassau Guardian*, the overprint was struck a second time, thus creating a modern rarity. This item started at \$99.50 and ended at \$356.00.

Items of this caliber have not appeared very often on eBay. Judging by the purchasers' eBay names on the blockade run covers, we may see them in a philatelic auction house listing in the not too distant future or, perhaps in a well-known exhibit. I will continue to search for items in my areas of interest fueled by the knowledge that previously unreported items may be offered for sale in the internet auction arena. ☒

Was it the chicken ... or the egg?

By Peter Elias

St. Vincent Study Group Leader

Which came first -- the chicken or the egg? A perplexing question that has an interesting application to St. Vincent philately! Every so often I come across older Scott stamp albums (generally prior to 1950s). When I look at the illustrations of the earlier (pre-1900) St. Vincent



Fake - Type D

stamps in these albums, they don't "look" quite right. Looking at these illustrations further, it looks like they were done specifically for the album, and are NOT photographic reproductions of the actual stamp(s). And that is fine; I realize that many years ago it was not possible or even "legal" to reproduce stamps for illustration

purposes, so they had to be drawn and ended up looking close to, but not quite the same as the actual stamps.

If you look at the St. Vincent "1 penny" stamp illustrated nearby, it came from an older Scott stamp album (I do not know the year, but it was prior to 1950). Now look at the illustration of the one-penny forgery (note: this particular forgery is not attributed to any particular forger and is known both in a red and a green version). Needless to say, quite a resemblance!

This of course raises the question of:

- Did the forgers use the stamp album illustrations as



St. Vincent album page

the basis of their forgeries?

- Or did Scott's use the forgeries as the basis of their album illustrations?

What do you think? ☒

Your help is needed with War Tax overprints from various islands

Continued from page 11

stamps were packed with both the red and black overprints. As Gibbons only lists the red overprint as being in the "green" shade, with the 1/2d in the deep green shade being issued in October 1918, this raises the following questions:

- Was the batch packed from requisition 61/18 with the black overprint only, in green, deep green or a combination of both?
- Were the stamps with the black overprint, packed from requisition 68/18 that contained stamps with both black and red overprints, in the green, or deep green shades, or a combination of both?
- Is it known if examples with the red overprint exist in the unlisted deep green shade?

St Kitts-Nevis

Is the precise date of issue known for the 1/2d War Tax stamp?

There were two DLR printings of the 1/2d War Tax stamp, one in 1916 and the other in 1917. Is it known if both printings contained a combination of both the dull blue-green and deep green shades, or was the first printing in dull blue-green and the second in deep green as suggested by Ewens, or what?

If you have any information or can help in any way with these questions, please contact me at
john.davis69btopenworld.com

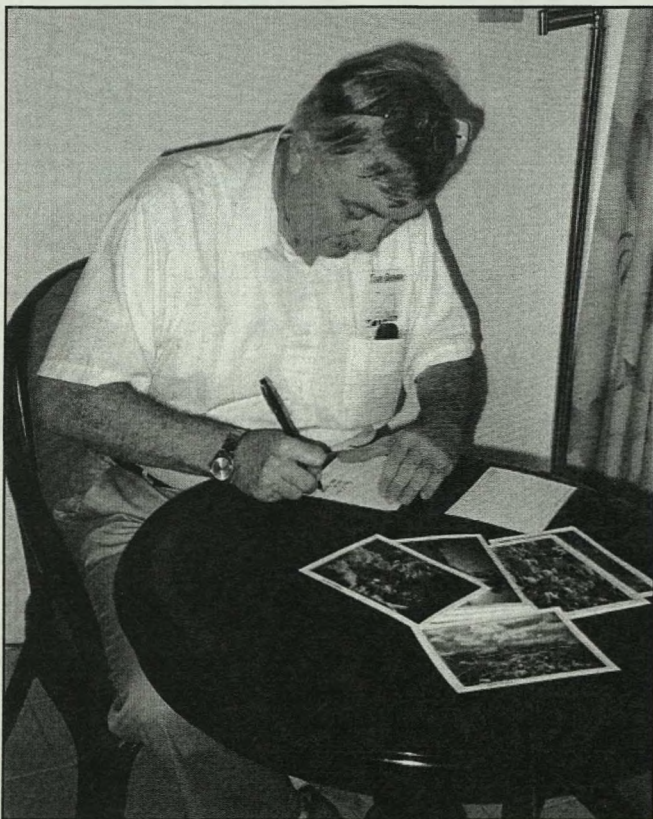
In memory of Cyril F. Bell and Fred F. Seifert

By Reuben A. Ramkissoon, M.D.
Of the USA

IN MEMORIAM CYRIL F. BELL (1942-2003)

CYRIL F. BELL, age 61, of Lilburn, Georgia, died of cancer on August 19, 2003. A native of Aiken, South Carolina, he was raised in Marietta, Georgia. He graduated from Marietta High School and Georgia Tech, and served in the United States Marine Corps.

Cyril was the founder and president of Cylix, Inc. and Bell Electronic Consultants. He served on the boards of various companies and trade organizations. He held membership in many scientific organizations. Mr. Bell was also an active member of the Georgia Republican Party,



*Cyril F. Bell
1942-2003*

serving as Chairman of the 55th District. An ardent philatelist, he held membership in many national and international organizations, including the British West Indies Study Circle, and was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

Cyril was an active and hard-working member of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group, serving on its

Board of Trustees, and most recently, in its Publications Sales and Distribution services.

Cyril's major collecting interests were the revenues of the British Caribbean, and the stamps and postal history of Grenada. On their one and only visit to Grenada in 1992, he was accompanied by his wife Liz, and is shown here in his hotel room addressing post cards to himself and philatelic friends, which he dispatched from every post office on the island.

Over the years, I had the great pleasure of working closely together with Cyril on BCPSG publications, and met frequently at our national meetings and other philatelic exhibitions. We had many worthwhile transactions of revenue issues of Trinidad and Tobago, which will serve as lasting memories of a wonderful friend and philatelic colleague. We will all miss him.

His wife of 37 years, Elizabeth Morris Bell; son and daughter-in-law Russ and Amy Bell, of Stone Mountain, Georgia; and a sister Brenda Bell, of North Augusta, South Carolina, survive Cyril.

Memorial contributions may be sent to his favorite charity: The Salvation Army of Atlanta, 675 Seminole Avenue NW, Atlanta, GA 30307.

REMEMBERING COLONEL FRED F. SEIFERT

FRED F. SEIFERT was born on April 8, 1912 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He died peacefully in his apartment on July 12, 2003 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, of congestive heart failure. He was alert, involved, and enjoying life to the end. He requested no funeral or memorial service; only that his ashes be scattered in the mountains of the Southwest that he loved so well. The family honored all these requests; hence this late announcement of his passing to his wide circle of philatelic friends.

Fred was a graduate of West Division High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison, where he received a degree in Electrical Engineering. He remained an active alumnus of these institutions for his entire life.

He enlisted in the United States Air Force, choosing to specialize in radar, and rose to the rank of colonel. During his life-long military career, he and Gladys were stationed in many coast-to-coast cities across the United States. Having had two postings in Albuquerque, they

chose this southwestern mile-high New Mexico city to live out their retirement years.

Fred's hobbies were many, and his intellectual curiosity endless. From an early age, he was interested in radio and communications. He was an avid ham radio operator and maintained contact with friends from around the globe. Fred and Gladys were world travelers, and developed a special interest in the art of the Southwest.

A lifetime stamp collector, Fred was able to pursue and enjoy his avocation during his retirement years. He belonged to the American Philatelic Society, as well as many national, regional, local and specialty philatelic organizations. He was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, having been a member since 1967. His favorite organizations were those connected with the British West Indies and mainland related territories, including the British West Indies Study Circle, and the Roses Philatelic Society, to name a few. His long association with his favorite society -- the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (BCPSG) was marked by many years of devoted service.

Fred was elected as the BCPSG's fourth president (1967), and before his full term of service was completed, he took over from the senior founding member, Al Johnson, as editor of the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal* (BCPJ), serving from 1968-73. He found the time to upgrade the BCPJ in a spectacular fashion. During his term as editor, the BCPJ assumed a professional appearance, moving from a mimeograph to printed text. He introduced the use of glossy paper, and converted to a staple-bound rather than loose-leaf publication. For the first time, a variety of fonts and sizes made the periodical very much more attractive, readable and appealing.

Fred's knowledge of the stamps and postal history of the British Caribbean and related territories was encyclopedic. He graciously served as the clearinghouse for queries from members and collectors at large. He was the Study Group leader for British Guiana (Guyana), but also very knowledgeable in the philatelic aspects of the islands and territories of the region.

Col. Seifert will be remembered by a wide circle of friends on both sides of the Atlantic, for his willingness to be of help to anyone who sought his advice and wise counsel. He mentored many new members with encouragement and a manifest interest in their collections and queries. His travels brought him in contact with a wide circle of members in the U.S. and abroad. His visits in their homes and at shows where the BCPSG annual meetings were convened, or where he served on philatelic juries, were often favored by interesting items he had sequestered as

gifts to the collector who would give these items a treasured home.

In this vein, nearly 30 years ago, Fred and Gladys gave us a call. They were passing through on their way from San Diego, California and would stop to visit us at our home in Dana Point. During a delightful visit, he presented me with a mint set of the 1966 Guyana Independence overprinted British Guiana definitive issue, which started my interest in the transition of British Guiana to Guyana, and went on to constitute my very first competitive philatelic exhibit shown at BECKPEX -- of the Beckman Philatelic Stamp Club, Fullerton, California.

I will miss his warm and friendly greeting during the philatelic visits and conversations we shared when we drove through Albuquerque on our way to our winter stays in southwest Arizona.

Fred had three sisters, Lois, Jane and Margaret, who all preceded him in death. His widow, Gladys, who resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and a niece, Mary Tooley, of Cleveland, Wisconsin, survive him.

Dr. Peter P. McCann joins board of The Philatelic Foundation

Dr. Peter P. McCann was elected to the Board of Trustees of The Philatelic Foundation at its January 2004 meeting in New York. Dr. McCann is the immediate past President of the American Philatelic Society, where he served from 1999 to 2003. He also has served as the President of the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors, the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group and the American Philatelic Congress. He currently is a member of the Smithsonian Institution National Postal Museum's Council of Philatelists and the Board of Directors for Washington 2006. He is a member of The Collectors Club, New York and a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. He has exhibited Caribbean postal history both nationally and internationally and has been a frequent judge in both national and international competitions.

Philatelic Foundation Chairman George Kramer expressed great pleasure in Dr. McCann's election as Trustee, noting his broad experience in virtually every phase of organized philately. Dr. McCann has been a resident of Annapolis, Maryland since 1993. He graduated from Columbia College of Columbia University and received his Ph.D. in Biological Sciences from Syracuse University. After a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, he worked in the pharmaceutical and biotech industries for a number of years, heading several companies in the Washington, D.C.-Baltimore area.

Auction in 2003 a moderate success

By Ed Waterous
Auction Manager

The 2003 auction sale held following the annual group meeting at CHICAGOPEX was a moderate success. I expected a larger turnout for the meeting because the show venue is well-liked by people attending. As it was, our floor attendance was 12 members. Nonetheless, there was occasional activity from this small group. There were few people to push what I considered some strong mail bids. While there were some wonderful bargains, the mail bidding was often focused on the same lots. The material offered was a mixture of holdovers and some newly consigned. As you might guess, the newly consigned items fared well in comparison.

The complete run of our BCPSG *Journal* from the first issue through September 2000 fetched \$350.00 and the buyer paid for shipping. As this was a donation lot, I was hoping for further bids from the floor. None were forthcoming. In general the postmark lots brought good prices capped by the Blanchesuisse Trinidad at \$140.00. The higher value KGVII Cayman Islands covers sold, the 5/- fetching \$200.00. The collection of Jamaica postmarks estimated at \$550 brought \$500.00. The most active bidding was for the postmark lots, one attracting seven bidders. Total sales reached the \$5,000 mark. This is somewhat lower than the past several years' sales. Better items brought interest throughout the sale. The prices realized for the entire sale are to be mailed with this issue of the *Journal*.

I'd like to thank the members who took time to pro-

vide material for sale through our auction, as well as the people who bid on items in the sale. My congratulations if you won items in the sale. Consider that professional auctioneers are seeking lots that will fetch \$200.00 and up. Smaller auction houses are willing to break down collections somewhat further to average \$80 to \$100 per lot sold. We like to shoot for an average of \$35 to \$40 realized for each lot sold. This year's average was about \$25 per lot. Without the generosity of a few members who donated items for sale, the BCPSG would lose money on the sale. To those members who made contributions either in auction material or by adding a donation to your invoice payment, a very heartfelt thank you!

The 2004 sale will be held in conjunction with our Annual Group Meeting at BALPEX, a national level show. The show will be held in Baltimore, Maryland, September 3 - 5, Labor Day weekend. Please start gathering material for this sale. I expect a good number of members to come to this show as it is held near our nation's capitol and there are many attractions and activities in addition to the excellent stamping venue. Plan on attending and consider exhibiting your material at the show.

We need consignments or donations. I am accepting consignments for this sale through July 1, 2004.

If you have any questions or need further information, phone me: (219) 769-2840. Send mail to: Ed Waterous, P.O. Box 1105, Homewood, IL 60430-0105. Alternatively, my e-mail address is: ewwaterous@hotmail.com.

Secretary's Report

By Duane Larson

Three new Trustees have been elected to the Board of Trustees for a six year term. They are: Steve Jarvis of the United Kingdom; Giorgio Migliavacca of the Virgin Islands; and Stephen Schulmann of the United States.

Jack Harwood was elected President by the Board of Trustees to fill the remainder of the term of Peter Kaulback. Ed Waterous was elected Vice President by the Board of Trustees to fill the remainder of the term vacated by Jack Harwood.

It's not too early to begin making plans to

attend the Annual General Meeting in Baltimore this September. BALPEX will be held September 3-5 at Marriott's Hunt Valley Inn, Hunt Valley, Maryland. For more information, call (410) 332-4741 or email: balpex@aol.com.

This will be a great opportunity for exhibitors in our study group to compete, not only for BALPEX awards, but for BCPSG awards and our Cameron Trophy. More to come in the next issue!

Annual Report of the Treasurer

Although I have to report an operating loss of \$2,880 for 2003, this is more than compensated for by the \$6,500 profit made the previous year. These fluctuations are due to the timing of the auction more than anything. The reported auction loss of \$975 covers parts of the last two auctions we have held.

I should point out that included in the auction figure is the cost of hiring the meeting rooms at the venue(s). Our aim is for the profit from the auction to cover the cost of hiring these rooms, but this can only be done if we have the right number of lots of a high enough quality and value, so please continue to send your surplus items to the auction manager.

Thank you to those members who have paid their subscriptions promptly, which is the vast majority. I shall send out reminders to those who have yet to pay in the next month or so.

The only item of expenditure which is higher than usual is that for awards, since a new stock of medals had to be ordered. This new stock should last for many years. The Robert J. Cooley Award will have a value of \$500 this year.

My usual thanks to David Druett who runs the U.K. account, and to Michel Forand who handles the Canadian subscriptions. ☒

LIQUID ASSETS

Fund	1 Jan. 2003	31 Dec. 2003
General Fund	\$32,960	\$29,079
Byron Cameron Fund	2,053	2,155
Ed Addiss Fund	9,040	9,492
Ed Addiss Pub. Fund	11,953	12,550
Robert J. Cooley Fund	10,650	10,500
TOTAL	\$66,656	\$63,776

Saluting Our Contributors

By Edward T. Tweddell
Treasurer

We would like to thank the following Members for their generous donations to the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group during the year 2003:

Susan Avery
Ernesto Arosamena
Bradley W. Brunsell
John Chay
Peter Colwell
Orville R. Cooper
Richard Foden
Robert W. Follett
Leonard Frank
Joseph W. Hickey
Patricia J. Hoppe
Raymond Ireson
Robert Lebow
Keith Moh
Boyd J. Mudra
Frank Nelson
Alvin B. Nordhem
Thomas E. Olson
Ernest E. Roberts
Michael A. Romano
R. F. T. Scrivens
Norman D. Thetford
Guillaume Vadeboncoeur
Dale D. Wade

CURRENT HOLDINGS

Checking Account (US)	\$7,915
Checking Account (UK)	2,752
Certificates of Deposit	53,109
TOTAL	\$66,776

INCOME

Subscriptions	\$5,171
Interest	2,299
Advertising	525
Donations	464
Sale of Publications	87
TOTAL	\$8,546

EXPENDITURES

Journal	\$ 5,950
Honorarium	2,000
Awards	1,370
Auction	975
Expenses	931
ABPS Membership	100
Website	72
Insurance	28
TOTAL	\$ 11,426

Net of Expenditure over Income = \$2,880

President's Message

By Jack Harwood

As you will have read elsewhere in this issue, the sudden death of society President Peter Kaulback has been a shock to us all. His shoes will not be easy to fill, but with the assistance of the officers and trustees, I will attempt to carry on the group's business. I join with all members in expressing my sincere condolences to Liz Kaulback and the Kaulback family. Peter was a young and energetic man who offered much to the group. If you attended any of the recent annual meetings, you will appreciate how much he contributed to making our gatherings interesting and fun. In addition to serving as President this past year, he previously served as Secretary and contributed in many other capacities. We shall miss him.

My thanks on behalf of the group to Michel Forand, who represented the BCPSG at Peter's funeral in Ottawa. Thanks also to Treasurer Tim Tweddell who handled many ongoing society functions in the period immediately following Peter's death.

In other matters, David Wilson has graciously volunteered to fill the vacant position of Publications Officer. Our holdings of publications, including back issues of BCPI, various books, monographs and other booklets, have now been shipped to David. He is in process of conducting an inventory of the 1,800 pounds of material. We plan to dispose of excess material, so if you believe you may need back issues of the journal, now is the time to compile your wants. A listing of available items should be completed shortly.

Urgently needed is a volunteer to assume the position of Auction Manager, currently held by Ed Waterous. Ed has managed the auction for the past five or six years, and has asked to be relieved. Since I held this position for five years in the mid-1980s, I can tell you that it is a very rewarding job. With the advent of computers, compiling a catalog is considerably easier than it was 15 years ago, although the job still requires a good bit of work. On the positive side, I found that I learned a tremendous amount about the philately of the British Caribbean, probably far more than I could have learned anywhere else. And even more important to me, I met literally dozens of members through correspondence, and subsequently met many of them in person. Many of these members have become good personal friends, and these friendships have made the experience of attending annual meetings and other philatelic events much more interesting. If you believe

you might be interested in this position and would like further information about it, please contact either Ed Waterous or me.

Our 2004 Annual Meeting will be held in Baltimore, September 3-5, in conjunction with BALPEX. This excellent show is always well attended and fun. A substantial turnout of members is expected, so I invite you to come join us for an entertaining weekend. The group dinner on Friday night offers an opportunity to socialize and meet your fellow members, and the Saturday group meeting includes the annual auction and one or more display presentations.

Finally, please note my new telephone number and email address listed inside the front cover. I invite you to contact me, the other officers, or study group leaders about any matters of concern or interest.

Gold Medal and Large Silver for BVI Stamp Books

News of a milestone in philatelic history for the entire English-speaking Caribbean came from Buenos Aires, Argentina, where the *Specialised Stamp Catalogue of the British Virgin Islands* won a Gold Medal at the International Exhibition of Philatelic Literature Temex 2003 held December 9-13 at the Exhibition Hall of the Argentine Federation of Philatelic Organisations (FAEF) in Buenos Aires. Also attracting accolades was the official booklet published for the *10th Annual BVI Philatelic Exhibition* (2002). This publication earned a Large Silver Medal. Described as the largest philatelic literature exhibition ever staged, Temex 2003 saw a total of 462 books and publications from 22 countries competing for top honors.

The BVI stamp catalogue had already won international awards: a gold medal in 2002 at the American Philatelic Society Stamp Show, and a Vermeil Medal at the World Stamp Exhibition held in Thailand, Bangkok in 2003. The official booklet won a Silver Medal last November at Chicagopex 2003.

Dr. Giorgio Migliavacca, editor of both BVI publications, noted that he is particularly happy for the international awards bestowed on the BVI Catalogue. He said that this is the first time that a philatelic publication from the English-speaking Caribbean has won two international Gold Medals and a Vermeil.

Membership Director's Report — By Tom Giraldi

New Members

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

New Applicants

None

Change of Address

William B. Ashley, P.O. Box 2956, San Rafael, CA 94912 USA

John D. Blouch, 1086 Overlook Pass, Clifton Park, NY 12065 USA

Roy Bond, 44 Burnham Rd., Worthing, W. Sussex BN13 2NJ UNITED KINGDOM

Carl Cammarata, P.O. Box 101, Mt. Freedom, NJ 07970-0101 USA

Bob Conrich, 666 (Air Freight), Post Anguilla, 12600 NW 107th Ave., Miami, FL 33178 USA

Darryl Fuller, 130 Bandjalong Crescent, Aranda Act 2614, AUSTRALIA

Bill Charles Gompel, P.O. Box 1547183, Orlando, FL 32854-7183 USA

Reid Hill, 402 Highpoint, Diamondhead, MS 39525 USA

Michael Oliver, 7, Ancliffe Lane, Bolton-Le-Sands, Lancashire LA5 8DS UNITED KINGDOM

Reinstated

Harold Hollander, 5 Helgarda Ave., Hout Bay 8705 SOUTH AFRICA

Resignations

Garth Andrews

Ronald A. Ward

Paul J. Edwards

G. Roger Younie

Deceased

Bill Atmore

James Evans

Peter Kaulback

If any member has information, such as a change of address, to be included in the Membership Director's Report, please contact me, either by mail (see inside front cover of the Journal) or by email, at TEG43@aol.com Thank you.

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AUCTION NEWS

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TODAY

My last sale on October 11 was a success with 87% of the lots selling.

In the near future I will be offering a further batch of Dan Walker's
Grenada covers for direct sale on my website.

The next sale is scheduled for March and will include the balance of Mike
Oliver's Leewards collection plus more Grenada and Virgin Is. covers.

As I am now in charge of the sale of BWISC publications, I will be updating
my West Indies philatelic literature stock on the website and will hope
to be inundated with orders.

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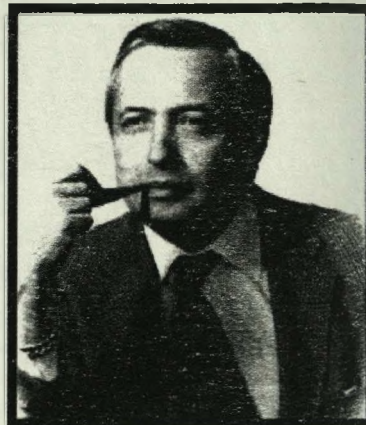


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