

BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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

Vol. 60, No. 3

July - September 2020

Whole No. 276



*Barbados in
earlier days!*



Barbados in an earlier era depicted in photo negatives found in archives of the late Edmund Bayley, a longtime BCPSG member on the island.

Your help is needed! See pages 22-23.



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 BCPSPG. Membership is based on the calendar year. Current dues are: \$30 per annum in U.S. funds for members in the United States, \$30 in Canada, and \$35 (£28) for those in other areas. Paperless memberships, where the *Journal* will be sent to you electronically, are available at \$15.00 or £12.

Life membership is available, with the following rates being applicable:

- Age 50 or less, \$450, U.S. and Canada; \$550, other countries;
- Age 51 to 60 years, \$400, U.S. and Canada; \$500, other countries;
- Age 61 and over, \$300, U.S. and Canada; \$400, other countries.

Payment terms are available, please contact the Membership Director or Treasurer for more details.

Membership application forms and additional information (including £ Sterling rates) may be obtained from the Membership Director, International Director or from our web page. Membership renewals and donations may be made through PayPal (www.PayPal.com), and follow the easy instructions).

BCPSG Website: <http://www.bcpsg.com>

(Opinions expressed in articles in this journal are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group or its officers.)

The British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group

Officers and Trustees

PRESIDENT	Mr. John Seidl, 4324 Granby Way, Marietta, GA 30062 USA; email: john.seidl@gmail.com
VICE PRESIDENT	Mr. Nigel Mohammed, 1900 Windette Dr., Montgomery, IL 60538 USA; email: trিনিবুয়@yahoo.com
SECRETARY	<i>Vacant</i>
TREASURER	Mr. John Seidl (<i>address above</i>)
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR	Mr. David N. Druett, 1 Brewerton St., Knaresborough, N. Yorkshire, HG5 8AZ, U.K. Tele & fax (01423) 865962; email: pennymead@aol.com
EDITOR	Dr. Everett L. Parker, 207 Corinth Road, Hudson, ME 04449-3057 USA. Tele: (207) 573-1686; email: everett.parker1245@gmail.com
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	Mr. Ivan Burges (2019), P.O. Box 1543, Grand Cayman KY1-1110 CAYMAN ISLANDS; email: ivanburges@yahoo.co.uk
	Dr. Peter P. McCann (2019), 8335 Abingdon Ct., University Park, FL 34201-2024 USA; email: ppm103226706@aol.com
	Mr. Steve Zirinsky (2019), P.O. Box 230049, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023 USA; email: szirinsky@cs.com
	Mr. Maurice D. Wozniak (2021), 1010 Berlin St., Waupaca, WI 54981-1919 USA; email: mwoz@live.com
	Mr. John P. Wynns (2021), 3518 Mission Rd., Unit 4, Tucson, AZ 85713-5682 USA; email: jwynns96@cox.net

Past Presidents of the Group are honorary members of the Board. They include: Mr. George W. Bowman, Mr. Charles E. Cwiakala, Mr. Paul A. Larsen, Dr. Peter P. McCann, Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon, Mr. W. Danforth Walker, Mr. Robert J. Wynstra, Mr. Jack Harwood, Mr. Edward W. Waterous, Mr. Duane Larson.

Study Group Leaders and Other Appointees

APS REPRESENTATIVE	Mr. Edward W. Waterous, P.O. Box 1105, Homewood, IL 60430-0105 USA; email: ewwaterous@hotmail.com
ATTORNEY	Mr. Thomas F. Olson, P.O. Box 937, Berkeley, CA 94701-0937 USA. Tele: (510) 558-6939; fax (510) 527-7152; email: kriegsmar@aol.com
AUCTION MANAGER	Mr. John Seidl (<i>address above</i>)
AWARDS CHAIRMAN	<i>Vacant</i>
HISTORIAN AND ARCHIVIST	<i>Vacant</i>
LIBRARIAN	Mr. Dale Wade, P.O. Box 491, Hayesville, NC 28904 USA. Tele: (478) 737-2373; email: pyrowade@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR	Mr. Wallace Craig, P.O. Box 3391, Fullerton, CA 92831-3391 USA. Email: wamcraig@att.net
PUBLICATIONS CHAIRMAN	<i>Vacant</i>
PUBLICATION ORDERS	Order through the American Philatelic Society (APS) at www.stamps.org
PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN	<i>Vacant</i>
U.K. REPRESENTATIVE	Mr. Ray Stanton, The Old Rectory, Salmonby, Lincs. LN9 6PX United Kingdom; email: ray.stanton114@gmail.com
WEBMASTER	Mr. John Seidl (<i>address above</i>)
ANGUILLA	<i>Vacant</i>
ANTIGUA	Mr. John M. Jordan, Flat 3, 1 Riverdale Road, Twickenham TW1 2BT UNITED KINGDOM; email: johnmjordan@msn.com
BAHAMAS	Mr. Edward W. Waterous (<i>address above</i>)
BARBADOS	<i>Vacant</i>
BARBUDA	Mr. Robert J. Wynstra, 1104 S. Garfield Ave., Urbana, IL 61801-4936 USA. Tele: (217) 367-9802; email: wynstra@uiuc.edu
BERMUDA	Mr. Bill Charles Gompel, P.O. Box 547183, Orlando, FL 32854-7183 USA; email: BGOMPPEL@cfl.rr.com
BR. GUIANA/GUYANA	Mr. Bernie Beston, P.O. Box 5513, Bundaberg, WQ 4679 AUSTRALIA; email: bernardbeston@gmail.com
BR. HONDURAS/BELIZE	Dr. Ian Matheson, P.O. Box 756, Witkoppen, 2068, SOUTH AFRICA; email: ian@cdi.biz
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	Dr. Giorgio Migliavacca, P.O. Box 7007, St. Thomas, VI 00801-0007 USA; email: giorgiomigliavacca@hotmail.com
CAYMAN ISLANDS	Mr. T.E. Giraldi, 1305 Scottsdale Way, Modesto, CA 95355 USA. Tele: (209) 571-1345; email: teg43@aol.com
CENSORED MAIL	Mr. Ray Murphy; email: raymurphy@prodigy.net
DOMINICA	Dr. Peter P. McCann (<i>address above</i>)
GRENADA	Mr. W. Danforth Walker, 8403 Abingdon Ct., University Park, FL 34201 USA; email: danforthwalker@comcast.net
JAMAICA	Mr. Duane Larson, 2 Forest Bl., Park Forest, IL 60466 USA. Tele: (708) 503-9552; email: dlarson283@aol.com
LEEWARD ISLANDS	Mr. Peter Brooks, 165 Spencefield Lane, Leicester LE5 6GG UNITED KINGDOM; email: bandp165@yahoo.co.uk
MARITIME MAIL	Mr. Simon Richards, Heathercombe House, Drayton St. Leonard, Wallingford OX10 7BG U.K.; email: Simon@sidebell.co.uk
MONTserrat	Dr. Peter P. McCann (<i>address above</i>)
NEVIS	Mr. Federico Borromeo, Via Torquato Taramelli 32, 1-00197 Rome, ITALY; email: comneno@tiscali.it
ST. CHRISTOPHER/ST. KITTS	Mr. Robert J. Wynstra (<i>address above</i>)
ST. LUCIA	Mr. Guy Kilburn, 100 Mira Loma St., Vallejo, CA 94590-3434; email: guykilburn@hotmail.com
ST. VINCENT	Mr. Peter C. Elias, P.O. Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427 USA; email: peter@pcelias.com
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	<i>Vacant</i>
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS	Dr. Peter P. McCann (<i>address above</i>)

British Caribbean Philatelic Journal

Vol. 60, No. 3 July - September 2020 Whole No. 276

© British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group

Editor: Dr. Everett L. Parker, 207 Corinth Road, Hudson, ME 04449-3057 USA

Telephone: (207) 573-1686; email: everettparker1245@gmail.com

Please address correspondence regarding articles in this publication to the Editor.

Membership Director: Norman T. Berlinger, 2440 Lorien St., Hopkins, MN 55305 USA

Email: ntbdoc@aol.com

Please address membership questions to the Membership Director (this includes address changes).

Advertising Manager: Mr. Tom Giraldi, 1305 Scottsdale Way, Modesto, CA 95355-3255 USA

Telephone: (209) 571-1345; Email: teg43@aol.com

Please address advertising questions to the Advertising Manager.

Awards Editor: Vacant -- Contact the Editor

Please address information about show awards to the Awards Editor.

CONTENTS

FEATURES

British Sherbro 1758-1914 <i>Auspice Britannia Liber</i> , by David Horry	4-17
<i>A glimpse of the past: The Exumas and their postmarks</i> , by Malcolm D. Watts	18-20
Trinidad local overprints, by Steven Zirinsky	21
Turks and Caicos Islands: Watermarks, by Tony Walker, FRPSL	24-25
"Missent to Turks Island," by Tom Giraldi	26

COLUMNS AND REPORTS

Officers and Trustees, Study Group Leaders & Others	2
What does your "stamp den" look like?	28
Membership Director's report	27
President's Message, by John Seidl	29
Our faithful advertisers	25-32

DEADLINES FOR THIS PUBLICATION

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

British Sherbro 1758-1914

Auspice Britannia Liber

By David Horry, FRPSL

An Englishman resident in Shanghai, China

A few years ago I volunteered to help Frank Walton, Philip Quirk and Michael Hamilton complete Frank's stalled second edition of *The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854-1961*.¹ My main interest was the "Skeletons" but since then my attention has been captured by the Temporary Rubber Date-stamps of Jamaica.

From 1792, Jamaicans (Creoles) were settled back to Freetown from Nova Scotia. That year, Lt. John Clarkson, RN, brought around 1,100 liberated slaves from the port of Halifax. I believe their influence may be noted in the postmarks and stamps of the late Victorian period. In 1800, a further 500 Jamaicans were resettled in the Sierra Leone peninsula.



Figure 1

Ethnic Map of Sierra Leone (1969) showing Sherbro Islands and diasporas and French map from 1758 clearly showing "Jamaica" on the central north coast of the Isles de Scherbro and a "Fort Anglais" on the Isle d'Yorc.

I was surprised when I recently found this French map of Sherbro dated 1758 (**Figure 1**). This is not the only map I have found. There is a Dutch map from 1760 and an undated English map, all clearly showing a fort at "Jamaica." It was the French who made many attempts to colonize parts of Sierra Leone, even as late as 1898.

British forts indicate the military, and the West Indian Regiments come to mind. In 1876 the island was referred to as "British Sherbro" -- was it perhaps a colony maintained by Jamaica and supplied from Halifax, Nova Scotia?

In 1988 The Royal Philatelic Society London published Philip Beale's *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone*.² It still is one of the finest books on any colony's postal history, containing immaculate philatelic records of what was known back in the day as "The White Man's Grave." Beale states: "Before the formation of the Royal Colony in 1808 successive trading companies had maintained forts on the coast, the British Government only becoming involved when European wars drew them into conflict. The French sacked Freetown in 1794, but it was not until 1798 that Britain sent a naval ship to protect British interests."

According to records, the West India Regiment was formed in 1795 and first stationed in Sierra Leone in 1799. Garrisons were established at Fourah Bay, Freetown, Isles de Los and the Banana Islands. Dublin (pronounced "Doo-blin") is the main port on the latter islands and it is interesting to note that the West India Regiment was encamped at Dublin Castle in Jamaica.³ It lies just to the east of Up Park Camp and south of Gordon Town (**Figure 2, next page**). However, the early Sherbro map suggests that private Ja-



Figure 2
A perfin for the 2nd West India Regiment (WIR).



Figure 3
“Dublin” Bananas sSX, September 15, 1896.

maican forces were in West Africa nearly 40 years earlier, for the purposes of trading groundnut oil and a new staple, bananas. Jamaicans had the know-how for both plantains and the “Gros Michel” banana. **Figure 2** shows a perfin on a Sierra Leone stamp used by the West India Regiment (WIR). **Figure 3** (above) shows a “DUBLIN/ BANANAS” circular postmark dated September 15, 1896.

Even today the vast majority of the 650 persons living on the Banana Islands are of Jamaican descent. The West India Regiment was basically from Trelawny Parish, where the Kri patois is spoken today. The proudest era of Kri history was The Ashanti Wars in the Gold Coast. A single reference is made in *The Daily Gleaner* to the Dublin sub-district in West Africa in 1904 (see **Figures 4, 5 and 6**).



Figure 4
Dublin Castle, northeast of Kingston, is indicated by the red arrow; the green arrow indicates the Botanical Gardens at Hope; the brown arrow Gordon Town; the black arrow George Odom’s house and the blue arrow, Mavis Bank, the center of the Blue Mountain Coffee trade.

The Ashanti and the Gonja at War was written by Joseph A. Braimah and published in Accra in 1970.⁴ It describes several campaigns: the Anglo-Ashanti Wars I, II, III, and IV and the Ashanti Expeditions I and II -- also known as the Ashanti Wars I & II. Braimah was a Paramount chief of the Gonja tribe as would

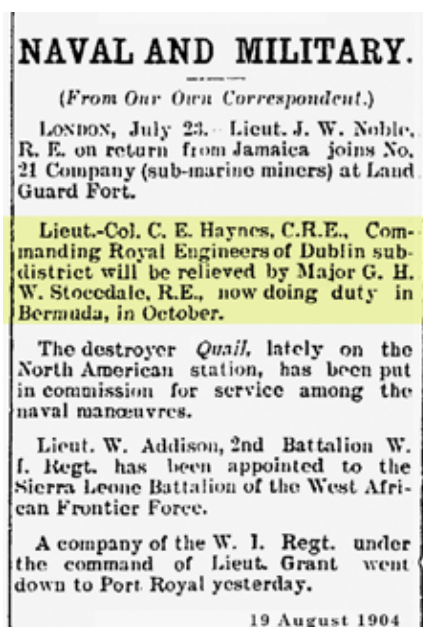


Figure 5
Mention of the Dublin sub-district in The Daily Gleaner, 1904.

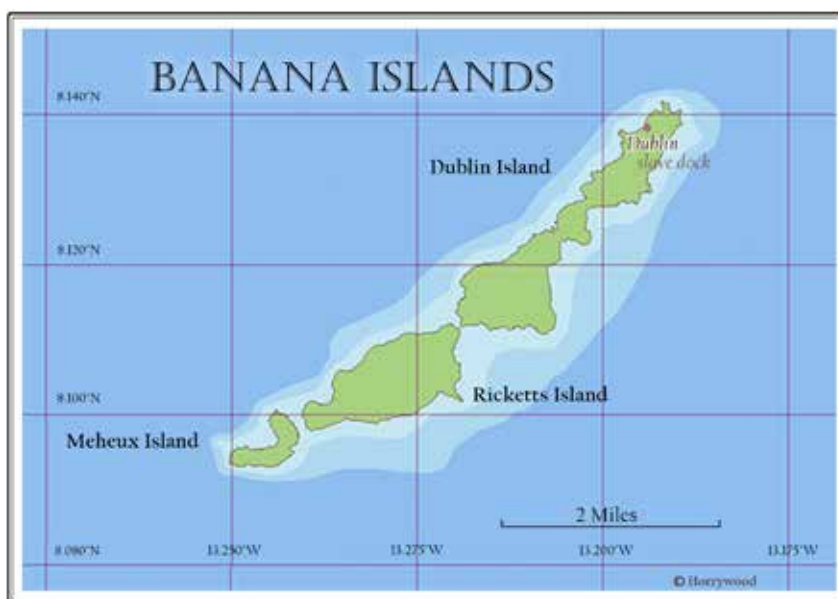


Figure 6
The Banana Islands are located due south of Freetown.

have been his forebears. He was perhaps a senior Muslim officer, as the name appears to be a local version of Ibrahim.

When Frank Walton's Sierra Leone postmark book was almost finished, he came across an old map that at last showed the village Combraymah on Turner's Peninsula, to the east of Sherbro near to Krim Country. No other map has ever managed to locate it (**Figure 7**). Combraymah's only known postmark appeared in 1884 midway between the last two Ashanti Wars of 1874 and 1897. Only five copies are recorded. Braimah is a very common name in the Gold Coast and is also found today in Sierra Leone! I would hazard that this was, in fact, not a village but a camp for a company of West India Regiment combatants -- black troops led by black officers who spoke Ashanti Twi. The Jamaican political pioneer of

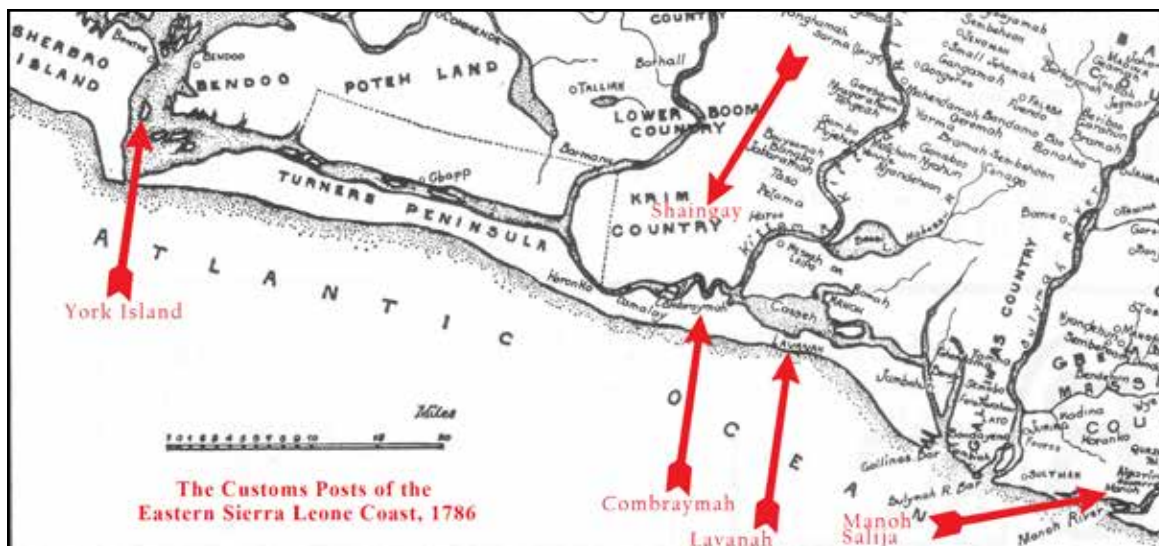


Figure 7
Customs Posts established 1786. Original map courtesy of Frank Walton.

“The Return to Africa,” Marcus Garvey, was from the Ashanti diaspora (**Figure 8**).

Back in Sierra Leone, the Combraymah postmark is part of a similar series of handstamps, namely Kissy, Lavanah, Manoh Salijah, Shaingay, Sulymah and York (**Figure 9**). Might the latter be York Island, as it was home to the aforementioned Fort Anglais and was more proximate to the others? Its stone fort was destroyed by the French in 1812. Philip Beale suggests the Customs Ports of Kaikonkeh (Kychom) (1893-4) and the Isles de Los (1892) might also have had similar instruments.

This area of northernmost Sierra Leone is also inhabited by the Sherbro peoples. None of these postmarks appear in the Post Office Impression Books in London. Might they have been found in the records of the West India Regiment?



Figure 8
Marcus Garvey,
1924.



Figure 9

Small Ovals from Combraymah (1884), Sulymah (1889-1895), Manoh Salijah (1893), Lavanah (1885) and York Island (1894).

Further they resemble a unique postmark from Cedar Valley, Jamaica (**Figure 10**) which has strong connections to the posts of the village of Seaforth which has a unique Jamaican postmark, similar to a Canadian instrument as noted by Derek Sutcliffe.⁵ The Brockville Rifles used this instrument in Jamaica in 1945; both are thought to be “Skeletons.”

If the West India Regiment was supplied with material from their base in Halifax, Nova Scotia, then perhaps their postmarks might also have been Canadian. The Seaforth Sk of 1910 (**Figure 11, next page**) bore a close resemblance to the Skeleton used by “The Brockvilles” who served in Jamaica during World War II. The post office at Seaforth, Jamaica, was simply abandoned in 1910 leading to an enquiry.

Figure 10
Cedar Valley to
“Mrs. Plaxton, The
Lunatic Asylum,
Rae Town, Kings-
ton” and dated June
9, 1894 and the
Canadian General
Staff Office dated
1918 (Sutcliffe).



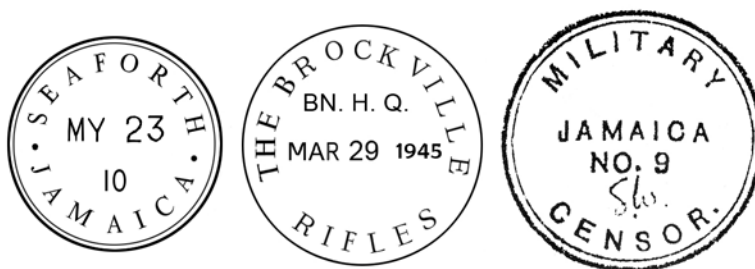


Figure 11

From left, Seaforth Jamaica Sk: 1910; The Brockville Rifles BN H. Q. Sk 1945; Canadian Military Censor Jamaica No. 9.



Figure 12

York Island, Sherbro on Stamp Duty Three Pence stamp, 1897?

BANANA FIGS.

The Development of the Industry in Jamaica.

ERECTING FACTORIES.

In connection with the cablegram published in the Gleaner yesterday to the effect that great interest was being manifested at the Toronto Exhibition in Jamaica banana figs, it can be stated that plans have been perfected for a big development of the industry in this island.

The Jamaica Banana Fig Co., in which Mr. W. B. Hannan is interested contemplate the erection of four factories in St. Thomas in the immediate future. One factory will be at Morant Bay, another at Port Morant, the third at Seaforth and the fourth at Sunny Hill.

The factories at Morant Bay and Seaforth will certainly be erected within the next four weeks, and it is expected that the other two will soon follow. The figs put up by the company are much admired in Canada, and according to plans, a Canadian gentleman who represents capitalists in the big Dominion, will shortly be in the island to look into the prospects of the industry. 99 1913

Figure 13

"Banana Figs" factory to open at Seaforth.

From The Daily Gleaner, September 9, 1913.

NOVEMBER 18 1905

WEST AFRICAN OFFICIAL.

The Hon. C. H. Harley-Moseley, C.M.G., late Colonial Secretary of Lagos, arrived in the a.s. Port Antonio yesterday from England on a visit to the island. He is accompanied by Mrs. Harley-Moseley.

Mr. Harley-Moseley was special service officer at Sierra Leone, in 1881 and Assistant Treasurer at Sherbro in 1882. He was appointed Assistant Colonial Secretary at Sierra in 1881, Civil Commandant and Governor of Sherbro the following year. As Commandant he had charge of several special missions to the interior tribes, and accompanied Sir Samuel Rowe, Governor of the colony, as one of his staff on several expeditions. He defended the towns of Lavanah Sulymah and Monah Salijah and destroyed strongholds built by marauders. He was appointed Treasurer of Gambia in 1891, became a member of the Executive and Legislative Councils of the Colony and administered the government for about three years. He went on a mission to the Fogue country in 1891, receiving the thanks of the Secretary of State for the Colonies. He also assisted the combined naval and military forces during the Gambia Expedition 1891 and was thanked by Admiral Sir F. Bedford and the Officer Commanding the troops. He was transferred to Lagos in 1891 and acted as Governor of the Colony in 1902.

Figure 14

The West Indian Regiments served in 1891 in Lavanah, Sulymah and Monah Salijah (sic) in 1891.

From The Daily Gleaner, November 18, 1905.

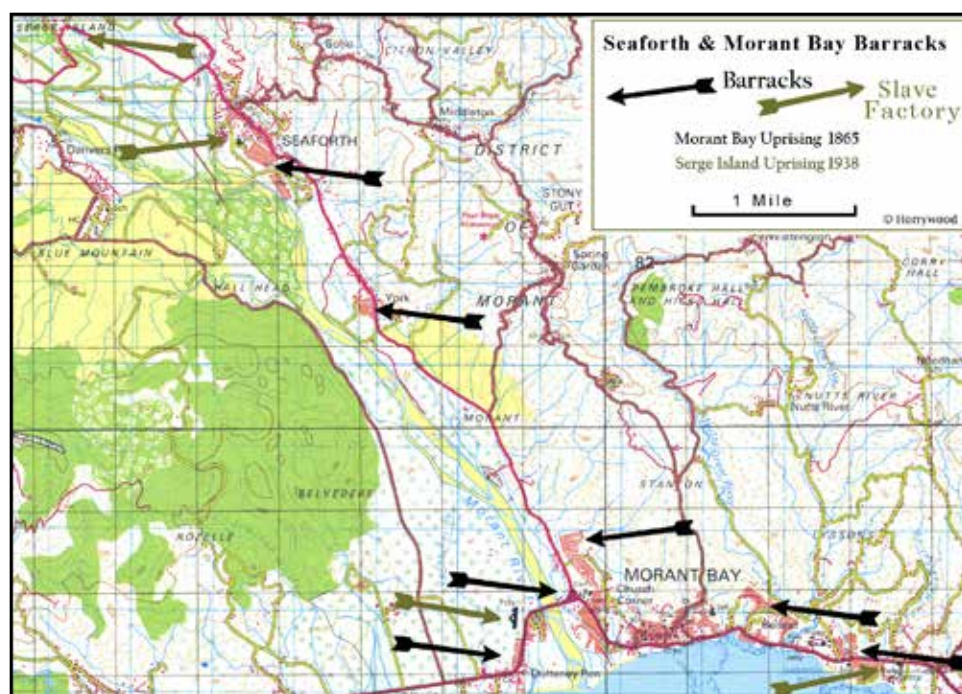


Figure 15
The Seaforth and Morant Bay Barracks and Slave Factories to the east of Kingston, Jamaica.

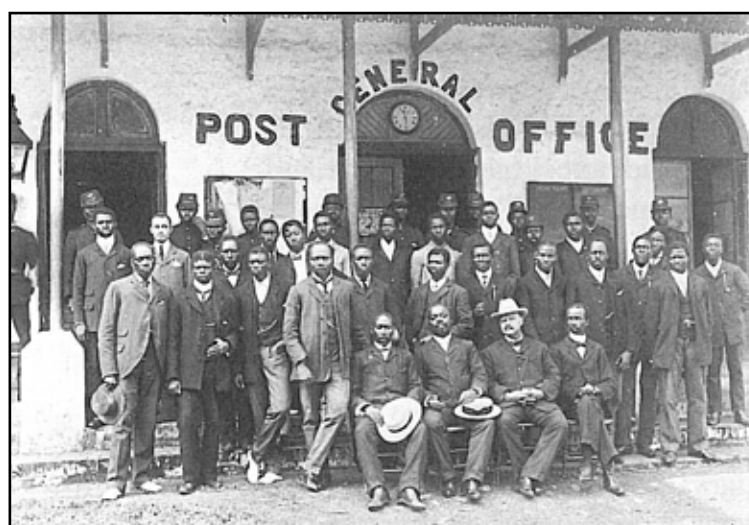


Figure 16
"The Post Office staff c. 1908. Postmaster J. C. Smith wears a hat." (Beale) Not so!

Philip Beale fortuitously made one tiny error in his book, which has led me to a new theory of events in Free-town and Sherbro. In the first chapter, "The History of the Post Office," on page 15 there is a photograph titled "The Post Office staff c. 1908. Postmaster J. C. Smith wears a hat." (**Figure 16**) The man wearing the hat looks for all the world like the postmaster general: he is Caucasian, but I can assuredly state that James Carmichael Smith was indeed black and born in the Bahamas in 1852. He was the son of a Yorkshireman and a black Bahamian mother. He sat on the Nassau Legislative Council and in 1887 founded the newspaper *Freeman* and was Postmaster at Nassau.⁶

James Carmichael Smith was named in honor of the Bahamian Governor and Abolitionist Sir James Carmichael Smyth (1829-1831). He was the most forthright of the non-white members, but an unfortunate "affair" effectively silenced him at the beginning of the 1890s. "High Standing White," Stephen Albert Dillet brought charges of seduction and abduction of his daughter, Elizabeth, against Smith. Thwarted in his legal proceedings by his daughter's flight from the Bahamas, Dillet requested an enquiry by the Governor in Council, since Smith was a government employee.

After surveying the evidence supplied by Dillet, Governor Shea decided there was a case to answer and an enquiry was held by him in 1893. Smith was found guilty and suspended from office as postmaster. Smith decided to appeal the decision to the Privy Council and went to England. The Secretary of State

acquitted and exonerated Smith from the charges, after hearing Elizabeth Dillet's statement. All this took time and energy and when he returned to Nassau he did not seem to have the same intensity or force. The Colonial Office offered him an appointment as assistant postmaster in Freetown, Sierra Leone, which he accepted. In 1894, he headed for Africa and was appointed as deputy to James Hastings Spaine, who was postmaster general and also black. Later in life Smith wrote several books and retired to Jersey in 1914: he gained mention in Jeffrey Green's book, *Black Edwardians*.⁷

According to Ted Proud, Spaine was a Krio (Krim), an emancipated slave from the West Indies, who became postmaster general in 1885.⁸ Known locally as "Nova Scotians" these emancipated blacks were far better educated than their native brethren and were able to take quite senior posts in a colony that gave little comfort to Caucasians. Yellow fever, malaria, typhoid and cholera were endemic until American surgeon Walter Reed (1905) and others discovered the root causes of these killer diseases. President Teddy Roosevelt demanded Jamaicans work in construction of the Panama Canal between 1902 and 1914, due to their immunity.

Spaine was of Bajan origins and became a *cause célèbre* in 1895. Beale takes up the story: "On 18 October 1894 The Governor held a hearing into the counterfeiting of stamps by two post office employees and a printing apprentice. The 'forme' had not been broken up after the authorized printing although the printer stated it had." There is evidence that the malpractice occurred in the middle of 1894. "In February 1895 a Commission sat to enquire into the affair. It transpired that the Postmaster Mr. Spaine had disposed of overprinted stamps (½d 1893) to a dealer named Zissler, of 86 St. Martin's Lane London" (*Figure 17*).

Proud notes, "Sierra Leone was not immune from the Philatelic fever that was prevalent in many British Colonies. From the evidence of many covers it is obvious that a Mr. Goubert (French) of the Compagnie Française was very active in manufacturing bisects, etc. from 1888 onwards. The Postmaster Mr. Spaine, (*Figure 18*) following the example of many other colonies, seems to have been the prime mover in the January 1893 provisional ½d on 1½d issue (about 6,000 printed) and made the usual profit of selling most of it to dealers."⁹ Spaine would have been well aware of the "Vendryes Affair" in Jamaica in 1890 when a provisional 2½d on 4d overprint was issued in Jamaica, "Never 'Noticed' by Authorities" (*The Daily Gleaner*, May 23, 1922).



Figure 18
Poor quality
image of
Postmaster James
Hastings Spaine.



Figure 17
Oil Rivers Registered cover bearing Old Calabar Reg.
Oval to Ludwig Zissler, Stamp Merchant, 86,
St. Martin's Lane, London, W. C.

I came across Ludwig Zissler, stamp dealer of St. Martin's Lane, London while looking at the "goings-on" in the "Cayman Islands Scandals from 1893 - 1907." Zissler was active throughout West Africa and South America for several years. He even ran ads in *The Samoa Times* and *South Sea Advertiser* in 1893 and 1894.

The "Vendryes" Cayman Islands "did for" Jamaican Postmaster General Pearce. He was exiled to Boston 1903, but managed to sort himself out "a pension" by the printing of the third series of "Vendryes" in Boston about 1908. These appeared

on the London stamp market in the early 1920s. There were similar cases in Tasmania (1889), Jamaica (1890) and Malta (1911) to name but a few.

A £5 reward was offered for information on the whereabouts of Samuel Gabbidon, Leonard Samuels, probationers at the post office, and Augustus Robinson, an apprentice at the Government Printing Office. Upon capture they gave evidence implicating Postmaster General Spaine. "A Commission found that J. H. Spaine, a distinguished Creole had since 1885 abstracted £1,000 from the Post Office and £1,480 from the Savings Bank. He was arrested in January 1895 for embezzlement but the first trial resulted in a hung jury. The Governor always thought that the jury could be influenced by Spaine's friends and brought in an ordinance to allow Officials, if charged, to be tried by a Judge and three or more Assessors. Or if it was a trial with a jury, a verdict with only two-thirds majority for non-capital cases."¹⁰

Those figures are far higher than as reported in *The Law Times* of London, which noted the figure as £486 1s 6d. "In spite of public protests the Colonial Office refused to intervene. In October 1895 a second trial was held which ended in an acquittal, the jury being eight to four and no doubt being influenced by the riotous crowd outside the courthouse. In 1896 the government brought a third trial with five assessors, who found Spaine guilty. He was sentenced to seven years hard labour."¹¹

GPO Freetown is now found to have had two postmaster generals, Spaine and Smith, both with strong West Indian origins, with a sense of injustice being meted out in the courtrooms of Nassau and Freetown. The Assessor Ordinance was highly controversial: on February 8, 1896 *The Law Times* of London recorded, "We must go back to the dark ages to find a parallel to the seemingly calculated vindictiveness displayed by the Executive Council of Sierra Leone in Regina v Spaine. If ever there was a case demanding a full and independent investigation by the home authorities, this is eminently one."¹²

Might it be considered possible that the Sierra Leone 1897 2½d on 2/- overprint, dealt with by Frank Walton in his 2011 monologue,¹³ was an attempt by Postmaster General Smith to right an obvious wrong and raise much needed funds for Spaine, his family and lawyers? Were the local authorities unaware of this enterprise, or was a blind-eye turned (**Figure 19**)? Such a small quantity of "stamps for collectors" disappeared fairly quickly. According to Walton, they were present at "a Plumridge sale held in London on 5 March 1901, less than four years after the issue date."

During this period of upheaval, a new and steadfast Postmaster General, James H. Cleugh, was appointed in 1895. He was also made Justice of the Peace, Deputy Coroner, Captain of the Volunteers and Manager of the Savings Bank. According to Philip Beale he found GPO Freetown in total disarray. "Early in his new career he set off with the usual official zeal to inspect the offices of the Peninsula for the purpose of putting them into something like postal order."¹⁴ He was then taken very ill with malaria, after all precautions, and was shipped off to Grand Canary, returning to Freetown by September 1898. He was immediately caught up in the rebellions of 1898 (The Hut Tax Wars). Ted Proud published a poem by Thomas Trennaman, "That Journey," on pages 75-78 which is well worth a read:

He looked in here, he looked in there,
He gave the P.O. Clerks a scare.
Of all the best he took his share –
He was so very bold, sir.
The ladies welcomed him with joy.



Figure 19
Sierra Leone Stamp Duty
2½d on 2/- overprint, 1897.
(ex-Boucher, Isleham and
"Samos")

Cleugh succumbed to malaria in 1901. While the cat was away, the mice played. And Carmichael Smith was a large and very playful mouse. For most of 1896 to 1911, he was postmaster general, but until Cleugh died he only had the acting title. He overlapped Governor Leslie Probyn, serving successively as Secretary and Acting High Commissioner of Southern Nigeria (1901-1904) and governor of Sierra Leone (1904-1910). He had begun his career as a British colonial administrator in the Caribbean. From 1893 to 1896, he served as Attorney General of British Honduras. In 1896, he was appointed Attorney General of Grenada. He was then moved to West Africa, serving successively as Secretary and Acting High Commissioner of Southern Nigeria (1901-1904) and governor of Sierra Leone (1904-1910).

Probyn then returned to the Caribbean, where he became the first Governor of Barbados (1911-1918). His secretary was the indefatigable philatelist (Sir) Harry Luke. Probyn finally went to Jamaica (1918-1924), where he had enormous philatelic influence. His older brother, Sir Dighton, was in later life an ornament of the Victorian age, being Keeper of the Privy Purse under Edward VIII and Keeper of the King's Household under King George V.

It is somewhat puzzling that De La Rue had not provided 2½d stamps. This is reminiscent of the Vendryes case where a shortfall in certain stamps was deliberately not reported to De La Rue. Lord Ripon noted this in his damning Colonial report of 1903. His *Bulletin* was reissued to all colonies in 1896 and 1903 but remained largely ignored. He accused governors, postmasters and GPO staff of malpractice regarding local overprints. In 1910, Lord Crewe's report forbade locally produced overprints and sought better planning of issues from all parties (see *Figure 20*).

Frank Walton reports the old Keyplate was worn but when the new Keyplate was ready, did De La Rue only send 9,360 stamps on September 3, 1896, when at least 60,000 was the normal order? The following March of 1897, 60,480 were dispatched.

An enterprise of just 240 2/- stamps overprinted 2½d would readily appeal to collectors and the likes of Ludwig Zissler. This small printing would hardly be noticed among almost 450 sheets of other 2½d overprints on the 1d, 3d, 6d, and 1/- Stamp Duty remainders.

The village of Seaforth in Jamaica has the most extraordinary postmarks and several complaints about its lack of service, which included a public inquiry regarding the validity of the Seaforth Post Office. Maps show the Barracks there to be right by Morant Bay, Serge Island, the starting point of the Frome Riots back in May 1938. "Gros Michel" bananas were still grown in Jamaica and Dublin SL in 1949 when "Cavendish" were having to be grown elsewhere due to Panama disease. "Big Mike" was wiped out on the West African coast in the early 1950s.



Figure 20
Lord Crewe's Downing Street Report, July 13, 1910
The Daily Gleaner.

Slavery did not just end with an act of Parliament in London in 1834. Emancipation was declared in Jamaica in 1838, but in 1799 the Christian Canadians started to emancipate Jamaicans and Bajans back to Sierra Leone. "The Noble Cause" has been recorded in field of Sierra Leone stamps since the "Wilberforce Issue" of December 1933.

The one "commodity" no one has looked at is Yellow Fever. It supplied the link from Jamaica to Panama; New Orleans to Nova Scotia to Combraymah and back to Man-chioneal Jamaica. It racially discriminated -- only killing Caucasians. Only one Negro died in 1896 and he was visiting from New York. When Teddy Roosevelt finally built the Panama Canal, he only wanted Jamaican workers. The United Fruit Company wanted them for the Panama and Costa Rica plantations. They fell out badly over it. Thousands traveled every year to labor. They were mainly illiterate, so few mails.

In 1905 in New Orleans the "Banana Boat Plague" was finally conquered by U.S. Army Doctor Walter Reed. In 1897, 495 folks died of Yellow Fever in that city. It came from Italian workers unloading banana boats. Mails had to be "tined" with a hairbrush-like device to puncture envelopes prior to fumigation.

Did the 1897 2½d on 2/- (and other philatelic exotica) fulfill a familiar function for Mr. Spaine? Plenty of Army officers would be interested in this "investment." Spaine was by all accounts a popular man. As for Ludwig Zissler, he moved over to 98 Charing Cross Road at the turn of the century. I further note that a map of West Africa (**Figure 21**) was published by Harrison & Sons at 45-46 St. Martin's Lane, just a few doors down from Zissler. It makes you wonder if he persuaded someone to send some type down to Freetown for a little enterprise? Overprints were *tous le rage*. George Odom's "Diamond Mills" West African covers are highly collectible. Here is a rare photograph of him in uniform of the West Indies Regiment in Bermuda. (**Figure 22**).

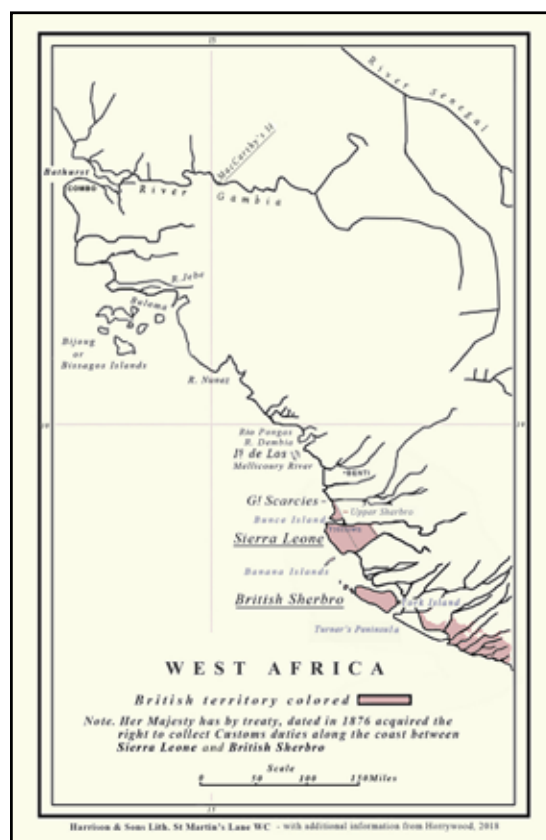


Figure 21
*Harrison & Sons map of West Africa,
1876.*



Figure 22
*The British West Indies Regiment in Bermuda 1944, bound for Naples.
Captain George Crawford Odom is seated at the far left. (Horry)*

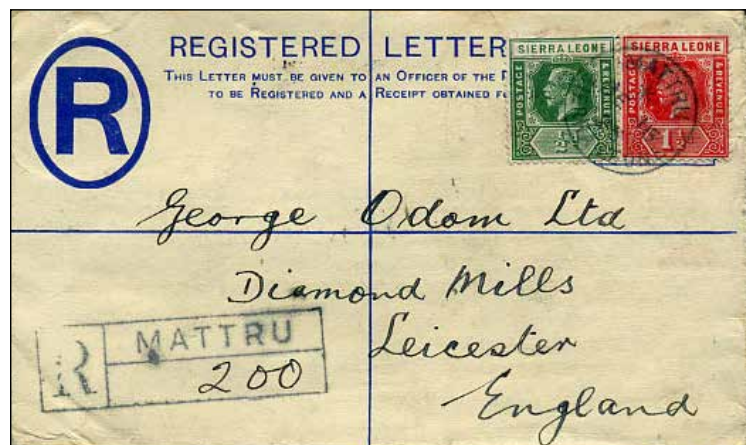


Figure 23
Registered cover from Mattru, Sierra Leone, December 16, 1925 to George Odom Ltd., Diamond Mills, Leicester, England. It was sent by “Big George” personally.
(Quirk)

Figure 23 is a registered cover to “George Odom Ltd.” It was sent from Mattru, Sierra Leone on December 16, 1925, and is addressed to “Diamond Mills, Leicester, England.”

In 1939, The West India Regiment was renamed the West Indies Regiment. They escorted German POWs to the Suez Canal from Naples, and returned at war’s end via Freetown, which explains the “rogue” usage of FPO 17 in January 1946; it was originally used in Italy and Egypt from October 1944 (**Figure 24**).

Reference to the Jamaica Regiment is to be found as late as 1958. The “Yunusa Cartouche” was crafted by the same hand that carved the Jamaica Regiment’s handstamp which was in use at Palisadoes Airport in 1958 (**Figure 25** and **Figure 26**).

It was as if Jamaica had run its own colony via the military. They were assisted by the local police forces; they also recruited hundreds of West Indians to their ranks. These so-called “Nova Scotians” were an entity to themselves and further provided barristers and justices to the courts of Freetown.

The GPO provided stamps, and from the turn of the 20th century, postmarks. At that time other idiosyncratic “Sherbro” postmarks were finally issued directly from GPO Freetown. Gloucester was just south of Freetown with Bullom and Mopalma to the east, in what was known as Mendeland. Mange and Kambia were in the northern Sherbro enclave, with the latter becoming the center of The Rio Pango Mission, that was for many years to be located on the Los Islands, off Conakry (**Figure 27**). The West Indian Mission was essentially a Bajan-run community with its headquarters back in Bridgetown. It used West Indies Regiment platoons from Barbados for protection from the ever-invasive French. The local



Figure 24
Field Post Office 17
January 11, 1946
(Horry)

Figure 25
Air Mail from M. I. A. Yunusa/ H.G.M./ P.O. Box 34/ BO, Sierra Leone to Saxone Overseas Service, Kilmarnock, Scotland.
(Horry)



postmasters were often reverend ministers from the West Indies. Kambia was also the site of a boarding school for girls and boys, as per an article in *The Daily Gleaner* on November 5, 1909.

In 1895 the British Government decided to build a narrow gauge railway to the east of the protectorate. The major concern at the time was the threat of French troops invading, and the railway was specifically designed as narrow gauge, to avoid the same gauge that the French used. It was intended to reach Prince Alfred Town (Songo) but was interrupted by the Hut Tax Wars of 1898. By 1904 the railway reached Baiima where the West Indies Regiment was quartered. Dr. Andrew Stewart of Kings College London, further notes that by 1908, Daru was the headquarters of the British military in the protectorate. This surely explains the large double circles boasted by these military barracks (*Figure 28*).¹⁵



Figure 26
“Headquarters,
The Jamaica
Regiment,
Kingston Camp,
Palisadoes,”
circa 1958.
(Sutcliffe)

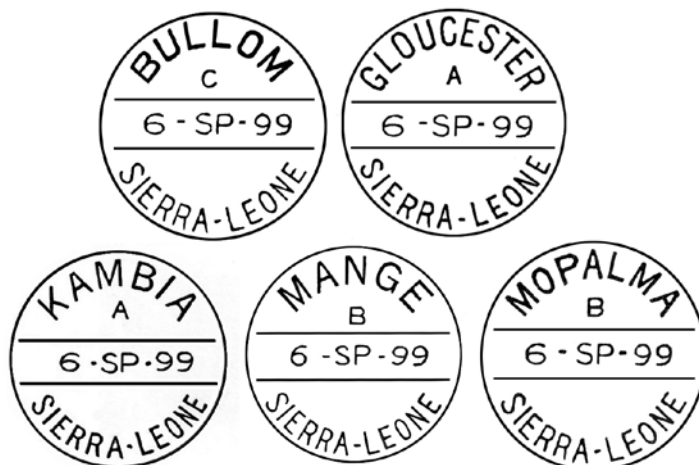


Figure 27

“Sherbro” postmarks, from Gloucester, Mange, Kambia, Bullom and Mopalma.

The red Sherbro and Sierra Leone 1884 postmark shown in *Figure 29* (next page) was listed by both Walton and Proud as “of doubtful status,” being used on philatelic covers. It is worth noting that Mr. D. N. Carroll was a stamp dealer in Bonthe at that time. In February 1898, he replaced H. R. Williams as the Bonthe postmaster. In 1904, the American Post Office officially reported postmasters at Freetown, Kent, Waterloo and Bonthe.

From all the evidence, it would appear that since 1800, families in British Sherbro were sustained by the efforts of the West Indies Regiment and the West India Mission. The resettlement of slaves back to their roots was a highly organized operation facilitated by the people of Nova Scotia; they encouraged slaves

to escape their shackles and join the British Regiments. Once they had taken the “King’s Shilling,” they were free-men. By 1856 their Zouave uniforms were designed at the request of Queen Victoria herself (*Figure 30*). They were seen in London at the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

They fought in the many Ashanti wars and particularly in The Gambia, where they boasted two Victoria Crosses. The Regiment was disbanded in 1927.

The “Nova Scotians,” as they were known locally, were further sustained by their own Jamaican expertise in ba-

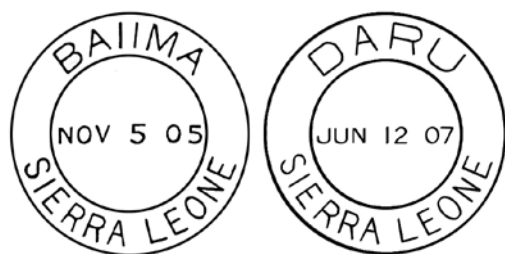


Figure 28

*Military postmarks from Baiima, 1905 and
Daru, 1907.*

nana and plantain horticulture on the coast of Sierra Leone.

The Liverpool Company of Elders, once slavers, now turned their attention to the importation of bananas; they also provided the transports for the Regiment to and from the Caribbean. The last export shipment of the “Gros Michel” bananas was delivered by Elders & Fyffes in 1950 (*Figure 31*).

They became a successful Jamaican and Bajan diaspora in the Sierra Leone colony, and even took some of the most elevated positions within the legal profession, the courts, the Army, the church, schools and the post office.



Figure 30

West India Regiment in their North African Zouave uniforms, 1874.

Michael Hamilton recently sent me this Gorgerat cover (*Figure 34*) which emanates from Barbados. Beale notes that Louis Gorgerat was responsible for contrived covers with bisects. Proud noted he worked for the Société Française in Sierra Leone.



Figure 29

“Sherbro and Sierra Leone.”

Selected men were given options to retire to other parts of the West Indies. Many went to Trinidad and settled on the southwest coast to the south of Port Fortin, in the Coromandel area. Others took

Dockers Have Banana Feast

Gleaner London Correspondent
LONDON, December 7:

Thirty-seven thousand bananas have been eaten by dockers at Liverpool in a day.

This banana-eating marathon followed the arrival of a shipload of bananas from Sierra Leone. One-quarter of the consignment was too ripe to be sent to the shops, and was rejected by the Ministry of Food.

The dockers were shown a dump of 77,000 bananas and told: “eat as many as you like”

They started in with bananas for breakfast, and finished up with bananas for tea. They ate their way half-way through the dump.

8 December 1950

Figure 31

The last shipment of Sierra Leone bananas to Liverpool, 1950.

up banana growing on the islands off the coast of Belize, British Honduras: enclaves were settled on the island of Caye Caulker (*Figure 32*, next page).

The influence of the West India Regiment is clearly visible throughout the archives of Kingston’s newspaper, *The Daily Gleaner* (*Figure 33*, next page).

FOOTNOTES

¹ Walton, Frank. *The Postmarks of Sierra Leone 1854-1961*. London: West Africa Study Circle, 1990. Second edition published 2015.

² Beale, Philip. *The Postal Service of Sierra Leone*. London: The Royal Philatelic Society London, 1988.

³ Philip Quirk contends that Dublin was named after the Irish city. If anyone has further information we both would be happy to hear about it.

⁴ Braimah, Joseph A. *The Ashanti and the Gonja at War*. Accra, Ghana: Ghana Publishing Corporation, 1970.

- ⁵ Sutcliffe, Derek. *The Military Mail of Jamaica*, Handbook No. 5. Harrogate, England: Roses Caribbean Philatelic Society, 1982.
- ⁶ Cambridge University Library: Royal Commonwealth Society Library, James Carmichael Smith Sierra Leone Collection.
- ⁷ Jeffrey Green. *Black Edwardians*. New York: Frank Cass Publishers, 1998. Also Abingdon Oxford, 1998.
- ⁸ Proud, Ted. *The Postal History of Sierra Leone*. Heathfield, England: Proud Bailey, 1994.
- ⁹ *Ibid*, p. 71.
- ¹⁰ *Ibid*, p. 73.
- ¹¹ *Ibid*, Beale, p. 11.
- ¹² *The Law Times*. London: Law Times Office, Regina v. Spaine (and Beale). No page number.
- ¹³ Frank Walton. *Sierra Leone 21/2d on 2s*. Dronfield, England: West Africa Study Circle, 2011.
- ¹⁴ *Ibid*, Beale, 1992 edition, p.12.
- ¹⁵ Ambe Njoh. *Town Planning and Social Control in Colonial Africa*. London: University College, 2007.



Figure 32

“Coromandel NB 1957- Trinidad” and “Caye Caulker, British Honduras” sTRO, 1937.

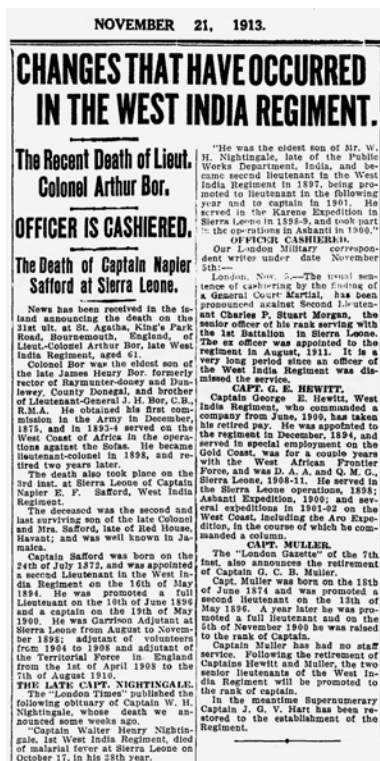


Figure 33

A typical West Indies Regiment report from
The Daily Gleaner, November 21, 1913.



Figure 34

Registered Barbados cover April 7, 1892, to Freetown to and from Monsieur L. Gorgerat! It took a month to reach Freetown via Liverpool and London.

A glimpse at the past ...

The Exumas and their postmarks

By Malcolm D. Watts

Rich in history, the Exumas, Bahamas, were once inhabited by the gentle Arawak Indians, who named their islands "Yuma." During the late 17th and early 18th centuries, pirates roamed these waters, and even today, the locals say that many stolen treasures lie beneath the sea in the depths of long-forgotten coves.

In 1773, loyalists from Carolina who remained patriotic to Britain began to settle in Great and Little Exuma because of the fertile soil, and remains of this plantation aristocracy are still found today. Lord Rolle, Baron of Steventon, was the major landowner in the Exumas in the 19th century. He voluntarily emancipated all his slaves long before it became law, and deeded them all his land. Consequently, more than half of the current population of 3,000 bear his name. Two villages are also named after him -- Rolle Town and Rolleville.

The Exuma chain, or Exuma Cays as they are often known, stretches from Beacon Cay in the north (which is only 35 miles from Nassau) to Hog Cay in the south, a distance of approximately 100 miles. They form an enchanting, jewel-like string of tiny cays of all shapes and sizes, only a few of which are inhabited. Local lore has it that there are 550 cays in all, although the guidebooks claim only 365. Great and Little Exuma -- the two main islands -- are connected by a tiny bridge.

These Exumas cays are the location of the Land and Sea Park created by the Bahamian government. This waste park spans 22 magnificent miles to preserve bird and marine life. No spears or other weapons are allowed in this exquisite skindiving area, where the water is so clear that the ocean floor can be seen at depths of 60 feet. The main industries in the Exumas are tourism and fishing, and some of the finest bone fishing flats in the Bahamas are to be found on the south coast of Great Exuma.

George Town, the capital, is situated on Great Exuma, and is by far the largest settlement. It lies snugly on the eastern side of beautiful Elizabeth Harbour, one of the finest in the Bahamas. This harbor was the favorite rendezvous for pirates and privateers during the 17th and 18th centuries, when Exuma was isolated and uninhabited. Collecting the postmarks of the Exumas is no easy task, despite the fact that most of the post offices have opened only in the last 25 years (now 65 years). The fact remains that most of them handle a very small volume of mail. George Town is the District Post Office for this group of islands, and probably processes almost two-thirds of the total mail. Thus, commercially used covers bearing cancels of the smaller offices are very scarce. The offices, with opening dates where known, are as follows:

POST OFFICE	DATE OPENED	POST OFFICE	DATE OPENED
Barratterre	January 28, 1953	Rolle Town	By June 1944
Black Point	1938 (?)	Rolleville	1922
Farmers Cay	By October 1946	Staniel Cay	1890s, at least by 1909
Forbes Hill	December 1, 1958	Steventon	?
George Town	Opened as Exuma, 1865 (?)	The Ferry	By 1902
Moss Town	By May 1944	Williamstown	July 27, 1946
Mount Thompson	By September 1944		

Some of the postmarks used are illustrated below:



25mm SINGLE RING

BARRATERRE: October 12, 1966; **BLACK POINT:** November 25, 1966/June 12, 1975; **FARMERS CAY:** September 2, 1972/June 24, 1977; **GEORGE TOWN (1):** October 30, 1961/June 19, 1968/May 18, 1971; **GEORGE TOWN (2):** January 7, 1970 to date (editor's note: 1981); **MOSS TOWN:** April 12, 1963/June 24, 1971; **MOUNT THOMPSON:** January 30, 1975; **ROLLEVILLE:** May 29, 1964/December 20, 1972; **STEVENTON:** July 15, 1975/April 24, 1977; **THE FERRY:** December 21, 1966; **WILLIAMSTOWN:** May 27, 1961.

RUBBER TEMPORARY DATE STAMPS

STANIEL CAY: December 8, 1969/January 15, 1970



30mm SINGLE RING

FORBES HILL: August 9, 1963/April 7, 1977; **ROLLE TOWN:** July 2, 1971/July 6, 1977; **THE FERRY:** May 27, 1977; **STANIEL CAY** (short "M"): January 17, 1973; **WILLIAMS TOWN:** October 23, 1972/May 5, 1977.

REGISTERED MARKINGS



Manuscript: FARMERS CAY, FORBES HILL, GEORGE TOWN.

Straight Line: (Both GEORGE TOWN)

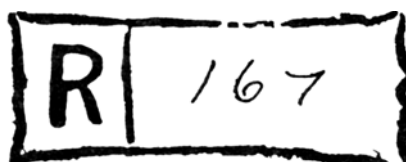
REGISTERED

99

REGISTERED

463

Boxed "R": GEORGE TOWN (February 1976 to date [i.e., 1981])



OFFICIAL MARKINGS

Official mail goes totally free inland, provided an initialled office stamp is shown. In the Bahamas, initials seem to be a matter of chance, and a selection of office stamps is illustrated here.



Black



Pale Blue



Black



Pale Blue



Black



Black

This article on postmarks of the Exumas is reprinted from the April 1981 issue of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal.

Trinidad local overprints

Overprint from 2019 more complex

By Steven Zirinsky

Trinidad has been overprinting stamps with local rates for the past 10 years or so. All of the overprints are intended for local use. One that is a little more complex is a 40¢ stamp overprinted \$1.00 in January 2019.

This overprint comes with two types of obliterations. One is a small “bird’s nest” and the other a large “bird’s nest.” The original smaller bird’s nest was deemed not suitable because it didn’t block the value sufficiently, so a larger “blob” was produced.

Both, illustrated here, were printed on two different watermarked papers - the earlier was Script CA and the later one is Block CA. So that makes four different stamps. But not all the cylinders were used in each pressing. See the chart below.

Total printing was 500,000 stamps. Of that, 33,950 were printed of the small bird’s nest and the rest were of the large bird’s nest.



Nest Overprints
\$1 on 40¢ Fork-tailed Flycatcher

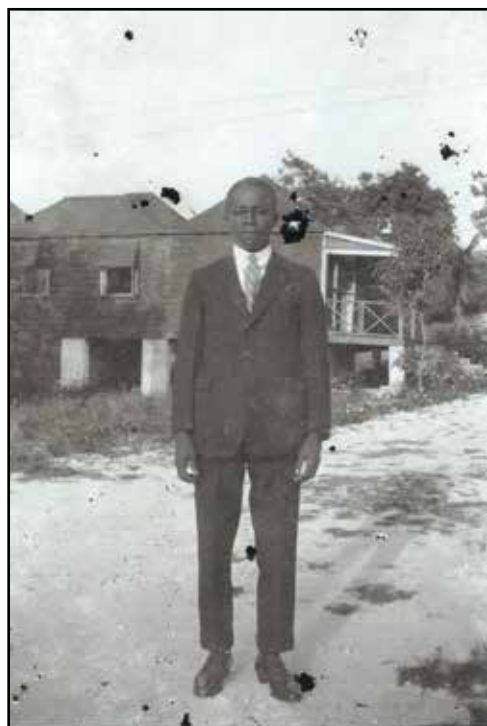
Old Scott	Old Gibbons	Type	Watermark	Plate
511	789	Bird	Script CA	1A
511	789	Bird	Script CA	1B
511	838	Bird	Block CA	1B
511	838	Bird	Block CA	1D
511	789	Bird's Nest	Script CA	1A
511	789	Bird's Nest	Script CA	1B
511	789	Bird's Nest	Script CA	1C
511	789	Bird's Nest	Script CA	1D
511	838	Bird's Nest	Block CA	1D

A look at Barbados in an earlier era

By Jack Harwood

The 11 photographs shown here came from negatives found in the estate of Edmund Bayley, a long-time BCPSG member in Barbados. The negatives were found in a box of loose stamps. It took a while to locate a photo shop in our area which could develop them, as almost everything is now digital. Based upon the car and the clothing of the individuals in the photos, they appear to be *circa* 1920. The Bayley family has been unable to identify anyone in the photos. The motor registration department in Barbados had no records going back as far as 1920, so the vehicle owner could not be identified. So all we know is that these are a few bits of life in Barbados a century ago. Even though there is no direct philatelic link to these photos, they are an interesting glimpse at “Life in Barbados in 1920.” If, by chance, you know any of these people or recognize locations, let us know!





TURKS and CAICOS ISLANDS : Watermarks

By Tony Walker, FRPSL

This is an update of the late Charles Freeland's watermark varieties, originally listed in the 1984 October and December issues of the *British Caribbean Philatelic Journal*, and reprinted in the *Journal* in April 2020.

Charles Freeland gave an excellent listing of the watermark varieties of the British West Indies, and the schedule below repeats his list, to which I have added further varieties from the Stanley Gibbons *Commonwealth Catalogue for the Northern Caribbean*, which includes Turks and Caicos Islands, 4th edition published in 2016. Charles Freeland utilized Bridger and Kay's *Five Reigns Catalogue* of the time, so it is not surprising there are several additions recorded in the intervening 36 years. I counted 16 excluding the no watermark ones. No doubt this new list will itself generate further contributions.

I will not précis Freeland's four-page article, except to say I have included the Perkins Bacon watermark varieties recorded in the SG catalogue, and also a section for those stamps without watermarks from the 1900-1904 issue, SG #101 to #107. While stamps from this issue offer some fascinating "lettered" watermarks from the margins and gutters of the sheet, they are not strictly varieties, although I suppose that could be said about the without watermark stamps.

All but two of Freeland's stamps are listed in the SG catalogue, but often updated to provide additional information. Thus Freeland's SG #102 is recorded as #102w in the 2016 edition, the letter "w" being the catalogue method for identifying an inverted watermark variety. The revised listing is identified in bold type. Reversed watermarks are noted thus: 58 and 58x, inverted and reversed 117 and 117y. Where no Freeland number precedes the bold figure, this is a new SG catalogue variety, and if not recorded in SG it is noted accordingly, the two examples being in my collection. Other varieties are listed with an appropriate note. Freeland also

added a "C" to those varieties he considered common. I have omitted this in the relisting.

INVERTED:

50w, 53w, 102 / 102w, 103 / 103w, 104a / 104aw, 111w, 112w, 115 / 115w, 116 / 116w, 117w, 120 / 120w, 124 / 124w, 129 / 129w, 132 / 132aw, 136 / 136w, 137 / 137w, 146a / 146aw, 149 / 149w, 151 / 151w, 153 / 153w, 160 / 160w.

REVERSED:

49 / 49*, 51*, 52*, 55 / 55x, 58 / 58x, 62x, 101x, 102x (unlisted in SG), 110x, 111x, 117 / 117x, 120 / 120x, 120s / 120xs (specimen), 130a / 130ax, 133c / 133cx, 136 / 136x, 138b / 138bx, 151 / 151x, 153 / 153x, 158x, 160 / 160x, 169 / 169ax, 171 / 171x.**

* Normally a sideways watermark, but catalogue notes it is difficult to detect reversed.

** The watermark is normally reversed on this stamp, so 55x is not reversed but "normal."

INVERTED and REVERSED:

103y (unlisted in SG), 104a / 104ay, 117 / 117y, 153 / 153y, 157 / 157y, 170 / 170y.

SIDEWAYS:

4b, 60 / - listed by Freeland, but not in SG.

UPRIGHT:

5c normally sideways, **49 / -** normally sideways, listed by Freeland, but not in SG.

NO WATERMARK:

These stamps are found in the 1900 year issue mentioned in the introductory notes. Freeland states: "All the low values of this may be found with the watermark missing altogether." There is a note in

the SG catalogue to this effect, but they are not listed.

101, **102**, **103**, 104, 105, **106**, 107. Those in bold I have in my collection.

Although the "no watermark" varieties have been sidelined by Freeland and Gibbons, it is perhaps worth mentioning the previously unrecorded example of an inverted and reversed watermark, SG

103y, was certified by the RPSL on the alignment of the letter "F." The example is illustrated below.

As Charles Freeland comments in his article, there are many other oddities, such as the "C" or the "A" missing from the "CA" in Multiple Crown CA paper, or even totally wrong watermarked paper being fed into the machine. Are there any of these from the Turks and Caicos? Maybe we will find out.



*The inverted "F"
Inverted and re-
versed watermark,
unlisted in SG.*



*An enlargement of part of the
central gutter in a normal stamp
showing the letter "F"*



2d sepia.

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

Steve Jarvis



Starring Commander Ian Fleming
George C. Odom, Trevor Littlejohn,
Roger Wells, Norval Marley &
Everard E. Aguilar.

NOT REPRODUCIBLE





David Horry FRPSL

The Riddle of the 'Registered' Ovals of
Jamaica and Trinidad 1949 - 1962

220 pages - illustrated in full color - from Pennymead Books - Pennymead @ aol.com \$35.00+pp

“Missent to Turks Island”



By Tom Giraldi

I recently found this “Missent to Turks Island” marking on cover in a Cavendish auction album lot of Cayman Islands stamps and covers. Checking my copy of Challis’ *Turks and Caicos to 1950*, he had only seen one other example of this handstamp (February 6, 1965). This example is cut off on the right side and severely warped. It is dated April 22, 1965 and was sent by surface mail from West End, Cayman Brac to Australia. Has anybody else come across further examples of this mark? It must be extremely scarce. As the editor states, “Missent” marks are much more prevalent from several other Caribbean countries.

PITCAIRN ISLANDS STUDY GROUP



The PISG is devoted to *all things* pertaining to Pitcairn Island, including its history, islanders, the HMAV *Bounty* mutiny (the mutineer descendants still live on Pitcairn), stamps and postal history. Our award winning journal, the *Pitcairn Log*, is published quarterly. For information and a membership form, contact Dr. Vernon N. Kisling Jr.

P.O. Box 1511,
High Springs, FL 32655
Email: vkisling@ufl.edu.
Website: www.pisg.net

Cayman Islands starter collection for sale

This collection consists of 1953-59 issues, (1/4d - 1£ mint), 1962-64 (1/4d - 1£ mint), both used on registered legal size covers, also many mint and used commemorative issues to 1970; a range of FDCs and commercial covers from most of the post offices on Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman, approximately 40+ covers all together. Also 7 mint Aerogrammes (2 1/2d, 6d, 9d, 3¢ and 7¢), and two loose stamps (KEVII & GV) with rural post cancels, Cayman Coronation 1d mint block of 8, Turks Coronation 2d mint block of 8, also many other covers including 6 GV covers, 6 ship covers, GV cover cancelled with 6d. Also several used QV & GV used on pieces, Fine-VF.

Postage/Packaging extra. Asking \$200.00
Tom Giraldi, 1305 Scottsdale Way,
Modesto, CA 95355-3255 USA
Telephone: (209) 571-1345;
Email: teg43@aol.com

Membership Director's Report

Norman T. Berlinger
Membership Director

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 this quarter

Reinstated

None this quarter

Address Changes

Kenneth David, P.O. Box 190, Orleans, MA 02653 USA

Resigned

None this quarter

New Email Address

None this quarter

Deceased

None this quarter

Donations

None this quarter

We welcome Norm Berlinger as our new Membership Director.
Please notify him of address changes, etc.

**His email is ntbdoc@aol.com
and his mailing address is:
2440 Lorien St.
Hopkins, MN 55305
Address is always on page 3!**

PLEASE ...

help support our advertisers!
Mention the Journal when
you contact them!

STEVEN ZIRINSKY

MEMBER PTS, APS, NZSDA, APTA

Stamps - Revenues - Postal History - Commercial Mail

Local Mail

Recent commercial mail, with local usages, including meters, governmental stampless, inter-island, and instructional markings from many of the Caribbean countries.

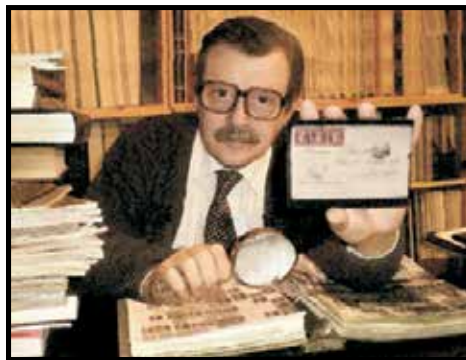


PO BOX 230049, Ansonia Station
New York, NY 10023 USA
szirinsky@cs.com (t):718-706-0616

www.zirinskystamps.com

@ZirinskyStamps

EXPERTIZATION WORLD CLASSICS



You can expect:

Detailed and Accurate

High Quality Certificates

*Fast Service * Reliable * Affordable*

Liane & Sergio Sismondo

P.O. BOX 10035
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13290-3301
U.S.A.
TEL. (315) 422-2331 * FAX (315) 422-2956
SISMONDO@DREAMSCAPE.COM

What does your “stamp den” look like?



John Puzine forwarded two photos of his stamp den in Florida. At left, the wall has bookcases, cabinets, and drawers containing the bulk of his Bermuda collection. There are 40+ binders with stamps, postal history, picture postcards, and ephemera. The drawers hold supplies, duplicates, and works-in-progress. The pictures on the wall are watercolors by one of his favorite artists, Mary Zuill. The photo at right shows another cabinet with 10 binders of Bermuda postal history and a bookcase containing Bermuda books, auction catalogs, and material related to Mrs. Puzine's collection of sterling souvenir spoons. The three wall display cabinets each hold 60 Bermuda spoons out of her collection of over 800 Bermuda pieces. Not pictured on the third wall is a 12-drawer map chest containing most of the rest of her spoon collection.

Can we share photos of your “stamp den”? Send to the editor today!

BRITISH EMPIRE EXCLUSIVELY



REQUEST A CATALOGUE FOR OUR NEXT PUBLIC AUCTION.
PLEASE SPECIFY YOUR INTERESTS.

WANT LISTS INVITED FOR PRE-1935 MATERIAL.
REFERENCES PLEASE.

WE ARE BUYERS OF BETTER BRITISH COMMONWEALTH STAMPS,
POSTAL HISTORY AND SPECIALIST ITEMS.

Victoria Stamp Company



PHOEBE A MACGILLIVRAY
P.O. BOX 335, SHARON SPRINGS, NY 13459, U.S.A.
PHONE 201-652-7283 FAX 518-776-1764
Email: VictoriaStampCo@aol.com Website: VictoriaStampCo.com



President's Message

By John Seidl

Well, 2020 has certainly been a different sort of year for all of us. I hope everyone is well and doing what they need to do in order to stay that way. By the time you see this I'll be back to full time business travel after spending more time at home than I have in my 37 years of working. The good news beyond time with family was time for stamps! In addition to my Cayman specialty, I collect not only items from the rest of the British Caribbean but also from around the world. Needless to say there is always something I can add to the collection when there are no boundaries. I hope the silver lining in the pandemic for everyone has been more time with family and a real chance to focus on what matters – the health and wellness of those closest to us.

Not sure when my local stamp club or philatelic shows will start up and I miss both but this has been a great opportunity to apply myself to the backlog of acquired treasures in recent years. I hope you too have taken advantage of the opportunity to do some research, write an article for our journal, add some items to your exhibit or collection and share the hobby with others!

As I mentioned in the last issue we could REALLY use your help with articles for the BCPSG *Journal*. PLEASE dedicate a few hours to pull together a piece on your favorite British Caribbean philatelic topic. Editor Everett will be happy to work with you on format and how to define your content. We welcome articles of all sizes and levels of detail. An analysis of a cover, the study of an island's historical rates, postal history of any form, studies of a stamp issue and even historical figures and their influence on the philatelic history of the country are all great topics.

Reach out to our members listed on the journal masthead with your questions around any item in their area of specialty. I've always found everyone is very willing to help and education is a major benefit of your BCPSG membership. I'll miss the American Philatelic Society's Summer Seminar this year also – over the last 20+ years of attending I've found I learn more about our hobby in that one week than I do most of the year combined. That said, the American Philatelic Research Library has an amazing online catalogue that is well worth a few hours of your time to peruse.

Stay safe and healthy and make the most of every day. I look forward to the time when we can see each other in person again at some major philatelic happening.



The little society with the long name



St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Philatelic Society

Are you interested in the stamps or postal history of Tristan da Cunha, Ascension or St. Helena? If so, you are very welcome to join our society. Membership benefits include a quarterly illustrated journal, annual auctions, special interest discussion groups, etc.

A sample journal is available on our website, www.shatps.org, or a printed copy may be requested from Secretary Klaus Hahn, P.O. Box 14, D-71145 Bondorf/Germany, Email: secretary@shatps.org

annual membership dues: North America \$27, international \$32, paperless \$15

The British Commonwealth of Nations



We are active buyers and sellers of stamps and postal history of all areas of pre-1960 British Commonwealth, including individual items, collections or estates.

Want lists from all reigns are accepted with references

We are active buyers ...



L.W. Martin Jr.

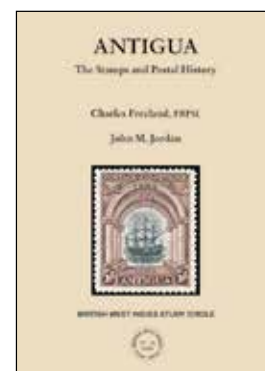
P.O. Box 1198 • Bellaire, Texas 77402
Phone: 713-781-6563 • Fax: 713-789-9998
E-mail: lwm@crowncolony.com



'ANTIGUA - THE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY'

by Charles Freeland, FRPSL and John Jordan

Coming so early in the alphabet Antigua has always been one of the most popular of the small Caribbean islands. It has an interesting mix of early stamps printed by Perkins Bacon and De La Rue including a number of rarities. On the postal history front Antigua is especially well endowed, with the Codrington and Tudway estate correspondences. There is also a rich variety of early postal markings, including some unique marks. The original inspiration for this book was the Antigua Monograph published in successive issues of the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal over a 15 year period between 1973 and 1988. This book collates all this information, updates it and presents it in a most readable form. **WINNER OF LARGE GOLD MEDAL AT NEW ZEALAND 15TH NATIONAL PHILATELIC LITERATURE EXHIBITION!**



A4 size, hardbacked with dust jacket, (x) + 299 pages. ISBN: 978-1-907481-25-3

PRICE: £37.00 (approx. \$48.00). BWISC/BCPSG Members' Price: £33.00 (approx. \$43.00).

Available from Pennymead Books (e-mail: pennymead@aol.com)

NEW BOOKS FROM BWISC PUBLICATIONS!

Early BWI Covers Perkins Bacon Adhesives – Trinidad

by Peter C. Ford FRPSL

For many years, there has been a listing of early Trinidad covers on the BWISC website; this book is an extension of that listing but now separating them into areas of destination. There have been many additions to the original listing and the book contains many high quality illustrations. This should be of great help to both dealers and collectors when researching the provenance of any particular cover.

Price: \$25.00 from the APS (see below)

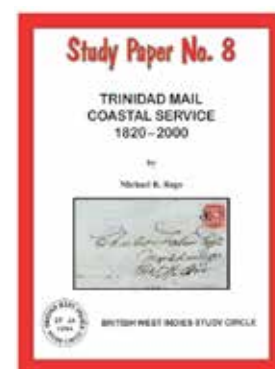


Trinidad Mail Coastal Service 1820 – 2000

by Michael Rego

Study Paper No. 8. This Study Paper traces the history of the mail service via the steamers that plied the coastal waters of Trinidad and Tobago from the early 19th century. There is much information on the vessels that sailed on these routes with tables of timings, lists of prices for various items sent by mail as well as many images of contemporaneous paintings of the ships and their ports of call. Any collector interested could not find a better reference book.

Price: £22 (BWISC Members' discount £2) from pennymead.com



For information, the following books are available from the American Philatelic Society on their website stamps.org/publications.

Airmails of Trinidad and Tobago by Ron Wike	\$23.50
Cayman Islands Postcards by Tom Giraldi	\$21.00
Classic Collections – St. Lucia by Charles Freeland	\$13.00
Encyclopaedia of Jamaican Philately – Airmails by Paul Farrimond and Raymond Murphy	\$38.00
Steamship Lines to the Caribbean, Volume 1 by Michael Rego	\$40.00
Steamship Lines to the Caribbean, Volume 2 by Michael Rego	\$40.00
Steamship Lines to the Caribbean, Volume 3 by Michael Rego	\$40.00
The Riddle of the 'Registered' Ovals of Jamaica and Trinidad by David Horry	\$23.00
The Tudway Letters by Mary Gleadall	\$26.00

British Empire
A-Z 1840-1935 Mint & Used
The Largest & Most Valuable
WANTLIST STOCK in America.



Visit www.ColonialStamps.com today!



George W. Holschauer and Son
COLONIAL STAMP CO.

5757 Wilshire Blvd., PH#8

Los Angeles, CA 90036

Ph: (323) 933-9435

Fax: (323) 939-9930

Email: info@colonialstamps.com

Website: www.colonialstamps.com



PayPal



CCNY, CSDA, IFSDA,
 INTERNATIONAL
 SOCIETY APPRAISERS