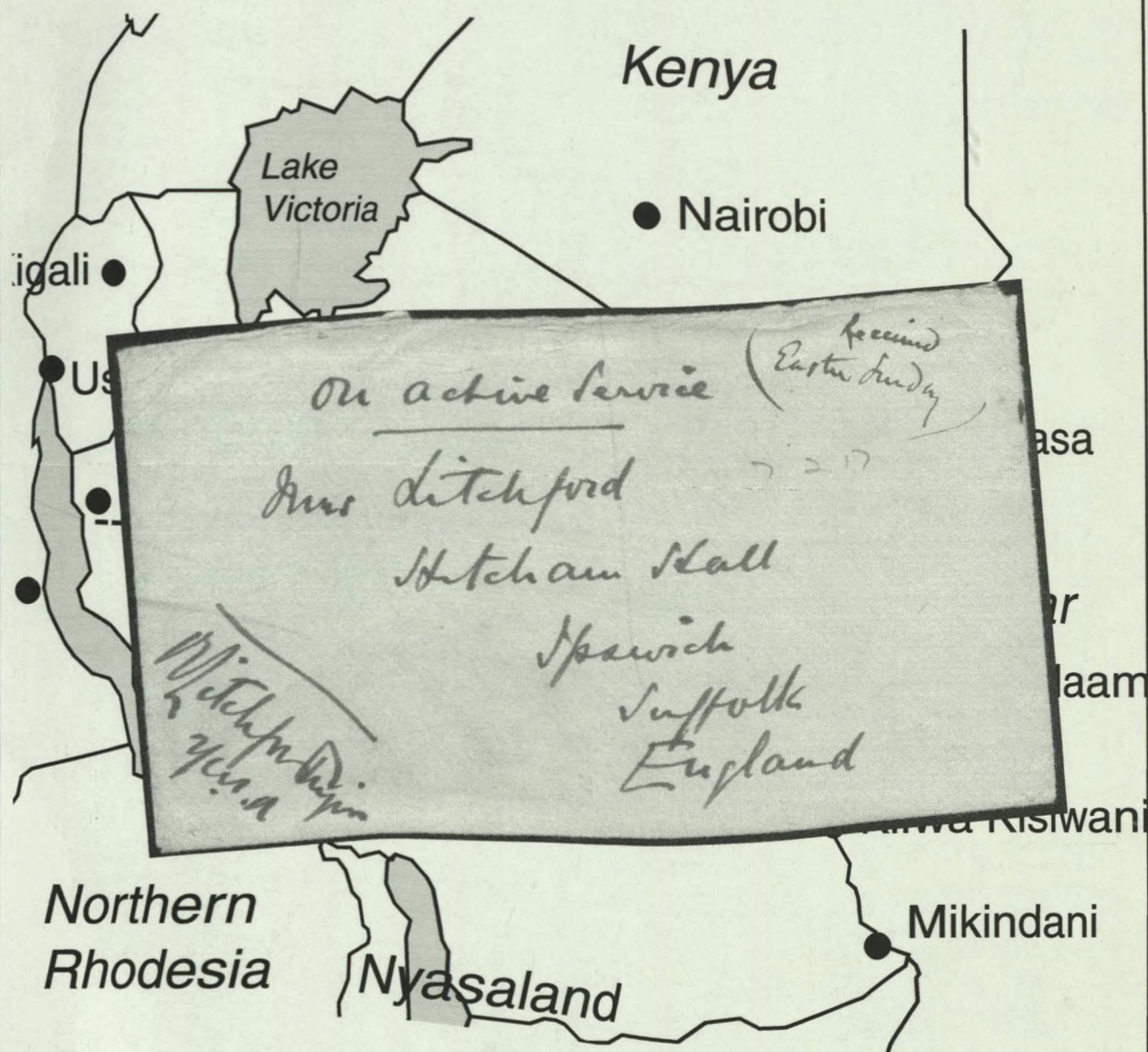


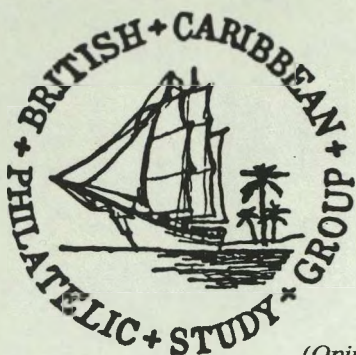
BRITISH CARIBBEAN PHILATELIC JOURNAL

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The British West India Regiment in East Africa, World War I



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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

Barbados "G.P.O."

Official Perfin

By Edmund A. Bayley
Of Barbados

Perfins are stamps which have been perforated with a perforation machine so as to prevent them from being stolen or to be used for postal purposes or to render them useless to philatelists. I had dealt with this perfin in Chapter XI of my Barbados book (page 218 *et seq*) but feel that I should now provide more detailed information since I have the information at hand. They are, of course, the private perfins which was used by Messrs. Laurie & Co. in the 1890s, but I want to deal with the one which was officially sanctioned by the Barbados Post Office.

The story of this perfin commences with a Circular Letter which is recorded as Minute 1 of the GPO File #0556. It reads:

*M. p. H. S. 266/34
Circular from Secy of State.
Downing Street,
19th May 1934.*

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that representations have recently been made to me in regard to the use of postage and revenue stamps for the prepayment of telegraphic, cable and other charges, as cases have come to light in which such stamps have been detached from the forms prior to their destruction and disposed of for private gain.

2. It has been suggested that in order to render any recurrence of this practice the use of stamps on telegram and other forms should be abolished, or, alternatively, that stamps so used should, in addition to being obliterated by a date stamp in the ordinary way, be further cancelled in the office of issue by the use of a punching machine in such manner as to destroy completely any philatelic value the stamps might otherwise possess.

3. An enquiry into the existing practice in the several parts of the Colonial Empire reveals that in at least nine territories postage stamps are not

employed for these purposes, and that the use of a punching machine for defacing such stamps has already been adopted by ten Colonial Governments.

4. The practice in the remaining territories of cancelling stamps, used for other than purely postal purposes, solely by means of a date stamp offers temptations to dishonest employees to detach them for sale to dealers or collectors and should be discontinued.

5. I shall be glad if you will accordingly arrange either for the use of stamps to be abolished altogether for other than purely postal purposes, in which case you will no doubt consider it desirable, for accounting purposes, to substitute some form of counterfoil system; or for all stamps which have been used for the prepayment of fees, other than in respect of postal packages, to be cancelled by perforation or, if the nature of the document to which they have been affixed renders this course undesirable, by such other means as will render it impossible for them to be re-used or to be of any value even for philatelic purposes.

*I have the
honour to be, Sir,*

Your most obedient, humble servant,

*P. CUNLIFFE-LISTER,
The Officer Administering
the Government of BARBADOS*

This circular was sent by Mr. G. D. Owen, Colonial Secretary, to Mr. G. B. King, the Acting Colonial Postmaster, for his comment. His reply, Minute 2 of the GPO File, reads:

*0556/11a
26th June 1934.
Hon: Colonial Secretary.*

With reference to the Secretary of State's Circular dated 19th May 1934, I have the honour to report as follows:-

1. *There are no Government Telegraphs under the Post Office control, and I am not aware that Postage and Revenue stamps are used by the Companies operating in this Island for the prepayment of charges.*

2. *In the General Post Office, Barbados, low value Postage & Revenue Stamps, not exceeding the value of 6d., are affixed to forms in connection with charges collected on Cash of Delivery Parcels and parcels mailed for overseas delivery free of Customs Duties.*

3. *I would point out that as the Postage and Revenue Stamps used for the purposes as stated in par. 2 are comparatively small, I ask for approval to heavily obliterate these stamps, with the view of their being useless for philatelic or other purposes.*

G. B.

KING

Ag.

Colonial Postmaster.

Mr. G. D. Owen, the Colonial Secretary in Minute 3, would not buy Mr. King's argument and responded:

C.P.M. Ag.

Why should not the stamps be cancelled by perforation? See top of p. 2 of 1.

G. D. OWEN.

29.6.34.

Mr. G. B. King replied:

H. C. S.

I asked for approval to heavily obliterate the stamps owing to the high cost of a punching machine.

2. *If it will be necessary to order a machine, I would suggest one with three letters "G.P.O." Messrs. Richford Ltd of 8 & 9 Snow Hill, London E. C. 1, could supply a machine of the desired pattern (see p. 80 of the catalogue forwarded herewith) at a cost of £1.6.11, including postage, which may be met under Item 24, Furniture, Fittings, etc.*

G. B. KING

Ag. C. P. M.

2. 7. 34.

On July 4, 1934, Mr. G. D. Owen referred the matter to the Governor, Sir Mark Young, who approved the purchase of the obliterating machine on the following day.

On July 10, 1934, Mr. G. B. King submitted to Mr. G. D. Owen, a draft letter to Messrs. Richford, Ltd. ordering the obliterating machine, and this was approved on the following day. The letter read:

0556/12

Reqn 9/34.

12 July 1934.

Gentlemen,

Postage Stamp Perforator

Richford's Catalogue 1931 edition, page 80

Kindly supply one (1) "Stop Thief" Postage Stamp Perforator to perforate three letters - "G. P. O." - at a cost of 31/11.

2. *On receipt of an invoice showing the cost including postage, a Money Order for the amount will be immediately remitted.*

3. *Specimen of stamp is enclosed herewith.*

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

*Your
obedient servant,*

G. B. KING.

Ag. COLONIAL POSTMASTER.

Messrs. E. M. Richford Ltd,

8 & 9 Snow Hill,

London E. C. 1,

England.

The perforator was manufactured by E. M. Richford, Ltd., and was invoiced on August 15, 1934 at a cost of £1.14.11. and sent out to the Colony. It was received in Barbados by the Colonial Postmaster on September 2, 1934 and it was handed over to the Parcel Post Department for use as from the following day.

It is not clear how long this perforator was used by the post office but we know that it was still in use as late as June 1939. This is the date that a new spring was ordered for it from E. M. Richford Ltd. at a cost of 1s.6d. plus postage 6d.

The circular from the Secretary of State says that there were at least 10 other Colonial governments who used one of these perforators. It would be interesting to learn if any member may know if any other Caribbean territory was included among these 10.

Continued on page 6

The perforator must have been extremely efficient as the only Barbados stamps to have survived this ordeal is a Barbados 1925-35 1/2d green which is illustrated from the author's collection.

It is interesting to note how the attitude of the postal authorities towards philatelists has changed over the years. Seventy years ago, philatelists were viewed almost as criminals or thieves who must be prevented at all costs

from profiting from stamps. Now the same postal authorities even create philatelic bureaus to accommodate philatelists and plan all sorts of gimmicks in their effort to relieve them of their hard earned cash in exchange for stamps.

Illustrations of the perforator machine and the invoice follow:

80



PERFORATING PRESSES.



These Presses are found invaluable for the protection of Cheques, Bills, Stamps, and other valuable Papers from fraud—
so by perforating them with Names, Initials, Designs, etc., erasures and alterations are impossible.

“STOP THIEF” POSTAGE STAMP PERFORATOR.



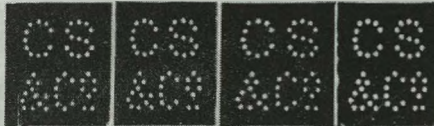
Postage Stamps once perforated are not taken in exchange or payment, and can only be used as postage.

PRICES COMPLETE.

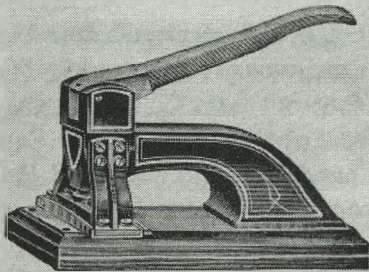
To Perforate 1 Letter 2 3 4 5 6
25 6 20 8 31 11 50 5 37 6 43 11

These Presses can also be arranged to perforate one, two, or four impressions at one operation.

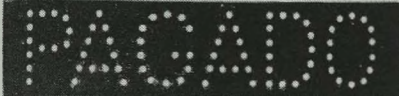
Illustrating a
group of four
at one operation.



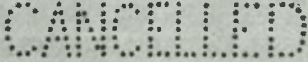
CHEQUE, RECEIPT & BILL PERFORATOR.



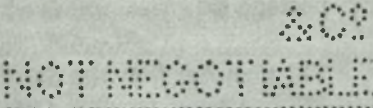
P.P. 20 Price 84/6



P.P. 10 Price 58/-



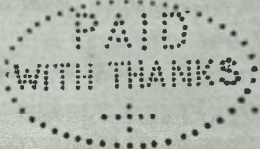
P.P. 14 Price 165/-



P.P. 25 Price 15/3



P.P. 13 Price 84/-



P.P. 30 Price 72/9



Send a rough sketch of any design not shown. We shall be pleased to estimate for same.

BARBADOS

1934

White paper.

Watermarked Multiple Crown & Script CA.

Perforation 14.

Recess printed by Thomas De La Rue & Co. Limited.

Perforated G. P. O.



Note: These stamps were perforated "G. P. O." locally with a "Stop Thief" Postage Stamp Perforator. This perforator was used by the Parcel Post to cancel stamps used for delivery fees (1d.) and Cash on Delivery Fees (4d.). This perforator probably came into use on September 3, 1934.

8 & 9 SNOW HILL, LONDON, E.C.1

15 AUG 1934

The Postmaster General Barbados

DR TO E. M. RICHFORD LTD.,

1878 MARKS OF RUBBER STAMPS RECEIVED

The Leading and Largest Rubber Stamp and Type Foundry in the United Kingdom

SEP 2 1934

Quantity of Goods	Value in Sterling	Value in Barbados	Value in Pounds
BARBADOS 1 Perforator	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11
Postage			30
			1 14 11

1/0556/12
Reg 9/34
12/7/1934

Several major awards at AGM

By Jack Harwood
President

The 2007 Annual General Meeting in St. Vincent included presentation of several major group awards. Dr. Peter Flynn received the Edward Addiss Award for lifetime achievement in philatelic writing and research. He was recognized for his recent book, *Intercepted in Bermuda, the Censorship of Transatlantic Mail During the Second World War*, published in 2006 by the Collectors Club of Chicago. This annual award is made possible by a contribution from Lee Addiss in memory of her husband, Ed Addiss.

The island of Bermuda served as the primary point for censorship of mail going by air or surface between the Americas and Europe. The book includes a database of more than 7,900 covers. Extensive research has produced an exhaustive listing of the markings and their usage, censor tapes, examiners, and the earliest and latest usage by examiner number. In addition, Flynn has shared his knowledge with an exhibit of censored mail in Bermuda, which has won numerous gold medals and grand awards.

Dr. Peter P. McCann received the Robert J. Cooley Award for lifetime service to the group. The award was made possible by an endowment from Bob Cooley, and represents the highest honor awarded by the BCPSG. McCann was cited for his service as past president of the group and his leadership in philatelic exhibiting, among other things.

During his long tenure as a member, McCann has worked diligently to promote exhibiting of British Caribbean material. His exhibits of the postal history of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the British Virgin Islands have earned numerous grand awards at national exhibitions, and a gold medal at the international level. He has frequently served as a judge for the group's annual meeting. Most importantly, he has served as a friend and mentor for many group members interested in exhibiting.

The Durnin Award, given to the author(s) of the best article published in the journal during the year, was presented to Thomas (Tim) Anderson and Ed Barrow for their article, "The Tobago A14 Handstamps and Their Forgeries." The Durnin jury noted two other worthy contenders for the award, including Jerone Hart's "Tourism and Philately in Barbados 1932-1950," and Philippe Seguin's "St. Lucia 1967 Statehood Stamp Issues."

The jury found it difficult to choose between the three articles, describing all as well-written, thorough and well-presented. Ultimately, they chose the Anderson and Barrow article because it dealt with a somewhat more important subject from a philatelic standpoint, and presented slightly greater depth of research.

Congratulations to each of the award winners. It should be noted that the Cameron Award for the best exhibit of BWI material at the annual meeting exhibition was not awarded this year due to the fact that no exhibit competition was held.

Next issue to contain dues renewal form!

By Bob Stewart
Membership Director

The 2008 dues renewal application will be included in the next copy of the *Journal*. Please take some time now to check out the upper right hand corner above your last name on the mailing label to see your dues status. The year listed is the year you have paid through. If it shows 2007, your dues were paid for 2007 and are up for renewal in 2008. You should fill out the dues renewal which will be included in the next edition of the *Journal* and return it to us per the instructions. If it lists LM or 2008 and beyond, your dues are not due at this time but you can add additional years by filling out the renewal application and sending payment per the instructions. We will not be mailing renewal notices to our members as we did last year.

Also, if you have friends who you think might be interested in joining our group, please send me their names and addresses and I will send them a complimentary copy of the *Journal*.

My email address is: stewart99@comcast.net, and my mailing address is on page 2 and 3.



Trinidad Postage Paid Postal Stationery Envelopes

By Steve Zirinsky and Dr. Reuben A. Ramkissoon
Of the USA

Two new types of postal stationery envelopes were introduced by Trinidad & Tobago (TTPost) in 2001 and 2004 respectively. The first of these is represented by Figures 1a and 1b, being a prepaid small envelope postmarked with Type 17, (Tragarete Road) oval datestamp on November 7, 2001.

Heretofore, only two hand-painted essays of unissued One Penny postal stationery envelopes are recorded (August 25, 1891) for Trinidad. Formula Registration postal stationery envelopes were used as early as 1880, and on June 1, 1884, a complete set of UPU imprinted TRINIDAD registration envelopes was placed in general use.

The new stationery envelopes introduced in 2001 by TTPost consisted of five varieties of postage paid envelopes, imprinted within a rectangular space in the upper

right corner, "Postage Paid / within / Trinidad / and / Tobago." The envelopes came in three sizes (types) and two subtypes, as follows:

The rectangle and "Postage Paid" enclosed space shows a background map of Trinidad & Tobago printed in red. The inside of the envelope shows a continuous repetitive pattern of the TTPOST logo which is readily seen in the "window" version (Figure 1a). The reverse flap carries a line of perforation for ease of opening, above and below with these instructional messages (Figure 1b):

Above perforation: "TO BE USED ONCE WITHIN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ONLY."

Below perforation: "SENDER" followed by four parallel lines (77 cm).

The location of the above printed instructional messages is different for the large size (12 x 10 inch) envelope. In this type, the flap is located on the right side which is folded under the front "Postage Paid Within Trinidad & Tobago" rectangle.

The "SENDER" with the four parallel lines is located in the upper center of the top half of the envelope at right angle to the message, "TO BE USED ONCE IN TRINIDAD AND TO-

BAGO ONLY." The EKD postmarked example in purple reads "CITY GATE POST OFFICE / NOV - 7 2001 / TTPOST."

The TTPOST red and white/black-bordered packaging label for the 25 count Small Prepaid Envelopes is shown in Figure 2, and is similar to those of the other types.

These domestic mail prepaid envelopes have been used for international mail with the addition of affixed \$3.75 postage to U.S. ad-

Continued on page 10

Type	Size (in inches)	Subtype	Price/25	Price/100*
Small	3 7/8 x 7 1/2	Window	\$30.25	\$117.00
		Non-window	\$29.25	\$115.00
Medium	4 1/8 x 9 1/2	Window	\$30.75	\$120.00
		Non-window	\$30.25	\$117.00
Large	12 x 10	Non-window	\$60.50	\$240.00

* 15% VAT is charged on the value of the envelope and not the prepaid postage.

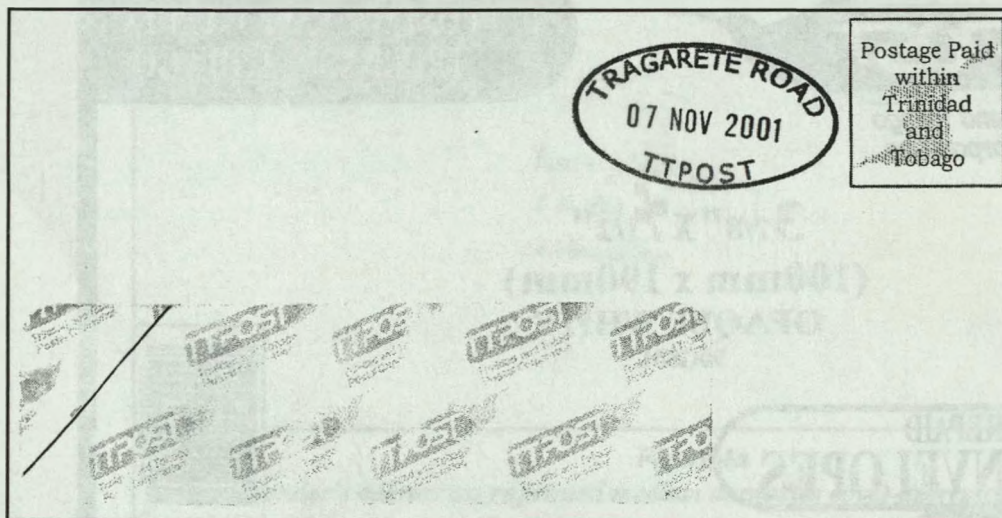


Figure 1a

A Prepaid small envelope postmarked with Type 17, Tragarete Road November 7, 2001 oval datestamp (EKD). The window allows viewing of the TTPost logo which is printed in a continuous pattern.

resses (April 3, 2002). The 75¢ prepaid postage rate was not allowed for foreign use (Figure 3).

The small size window envelope has been reprinted, and can be readily differentiated by the deletion of the word "SENDER" and the four parallel address lines on the reverse side. While the print on the front and on the inside of the envelope remains unchanged in text, the red color of the ink is in a deeper shade. Another feature of the reprinted envelopes is that the paper is white, while the original paper is off-white coral?).

Domestic usage of the reprinted medium envelope is shown in Figures 4a (front) with the sender's imprinted address and machine cancellation 22 02 2007; Figure 4b (reverse) the caption "SENDER" with the four parallel

Type	Size (in inches)	Subtype	Price/25	Price/100*
Small	3 7/8 x 7 1/2	Window	\$30.25	\$117.00
Medium	4 1/8 x 9 1/2	Window	\$30.75	\$120.00
		Non-window	\$30.25	\$117.00

* 15% VAT is charged on the value of the envelope and not the prepaid postage.

lines provided for the sender's name and address is omitted. The small and medium size envelopes - both regular and window -- have also been reprinted, showing all of the differentiating features outlined for the medium size type. The earliest known date of use is August 5, 2004.

Community Post Postage Paid Envelopes -- Reaching Out to Our Communities

Developed by the then TTPost Managing Director, Chris Abley, was a new service of postal sponsorship of community based non-governmental, not-for-profit organizations, which was launched on February 10, 2004. This TTPost sponsorship project consisted of the donation of quantities of Community Post envelopes (240 x 106mm) to 112 organizations represented at the launch session held at the La Joya Complex, St. Joseph.

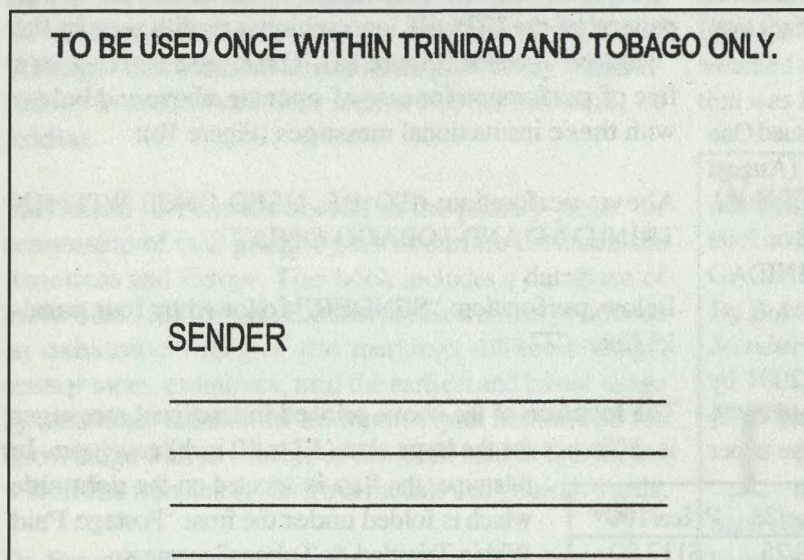


Figure 1b

Reverse side of Figure 1a shows SENDER and four lines for sender's name and address.

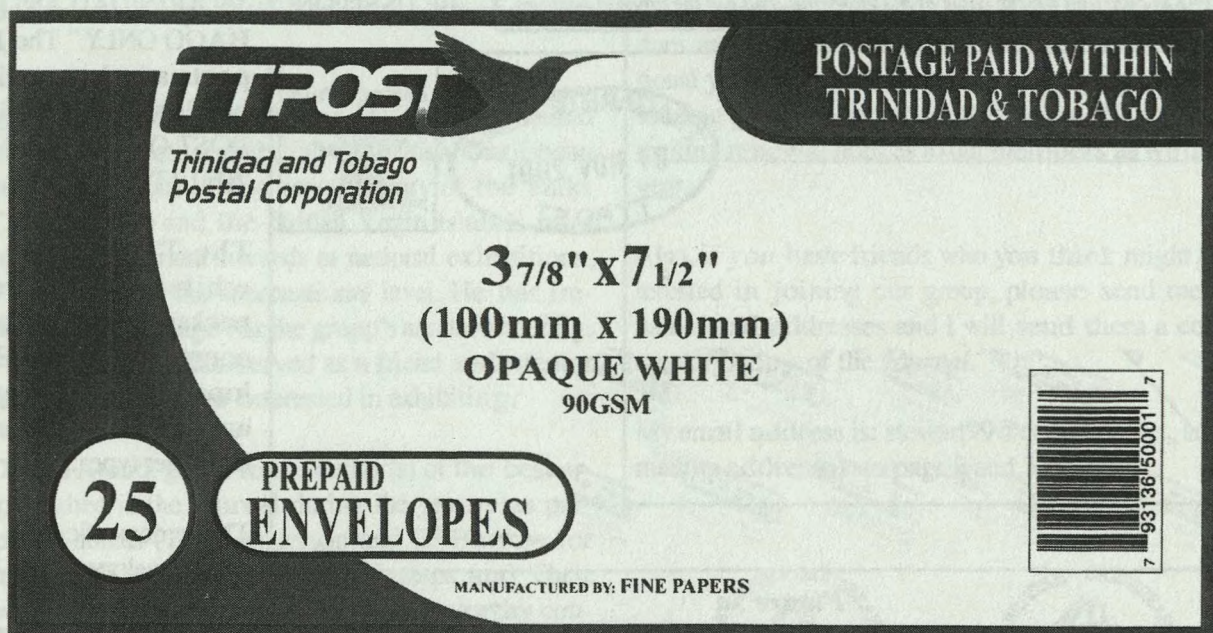


Figure 2

TTPost red and white/black bordered packaging label for the 25-count Prepaid Envelopes.

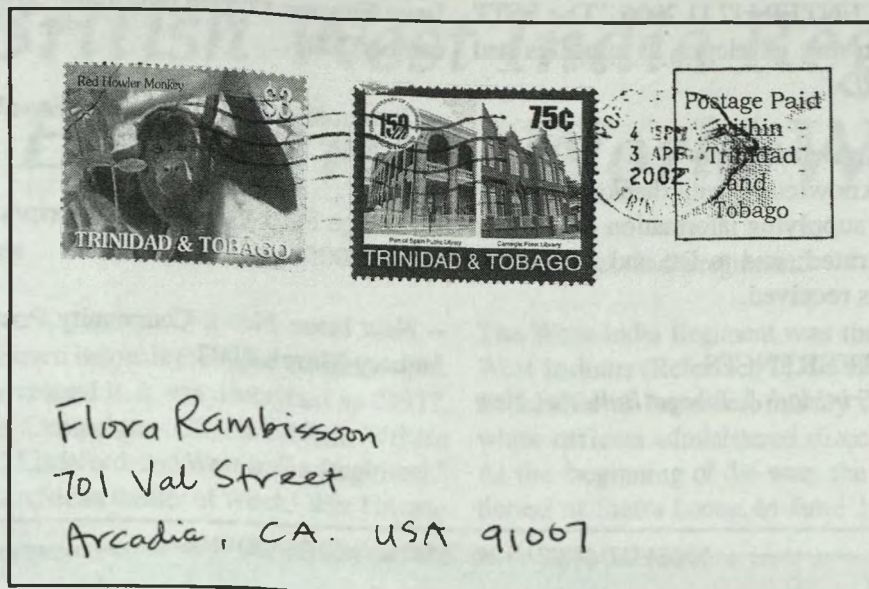


Figure 3

Prepaid domestic 75¢ rate is not valid for international mail, so the full airmail rate of \$3.75 was paid to the U.S.

Usage is shown in Figure 5.

Eligible organizations are classified into five categories: environmental, health, arts and culture, education and training, and sports. Among the initial recipients of envelopes at the launch were: Kids in Need of Direction (KIND); Child Welfare League; Hispanic Women's Group; Trinidad Muslim League; National Basketball Federation; Care and Respect for Youth (CRY); Christian Union Church; and the Guardian's Neediest Cases Fund. Some of the larger organizations received as many

The initial print run for Community Post Paid Courtesy envelopes was reported as TT\$50,000 for a quantity of 100,000.

Community Post Postage Paid Envelope -- Delivering the Future

Similar in style, format and size to the 2004 emission of Community Post Postage Paid envelope, a 2006 version differs only in the substitution of a new slogan -- "Delivering the Future." An example bearing The Salvation

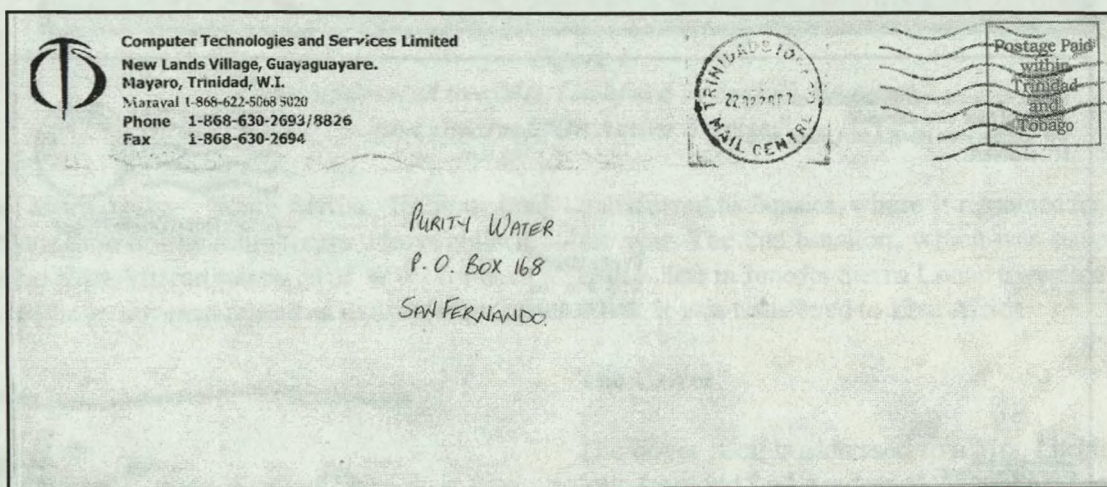


Figure 4a

Printed sender's address on reprinted medium domestic cover addressed to San Fernando.

as 5,000 envelopes; lesser entities were given 200. The Philatelic Society of Trinidad & Tobago was given 300 covers.

Army corner card has been reported with a Machine 2 (7 x 50mm parallel straight-line) cancellation, "TRINIDAD

Continued on page 12

& TOBAGO / MAIL CENTER / 17.11.2006." The PSTT was not able to obtain any envelopes, as supplies had already been exhausted.

Acknowledgments

This writer (RAR) acknowledges with thanks the kindness of John Chay in supplying information as well as some examples illustrated; and to Dr. and Mrs. Sam Rambissoon for covers received.

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-- Community Post Postage Paid Envelopes 225/3, April-June 2004.

-- Postage Paid Envelopes -- Reprints 228/5,6, January-March 2005.

-- New Issue News: Community Post Envelope 236/1, January-March 2007.

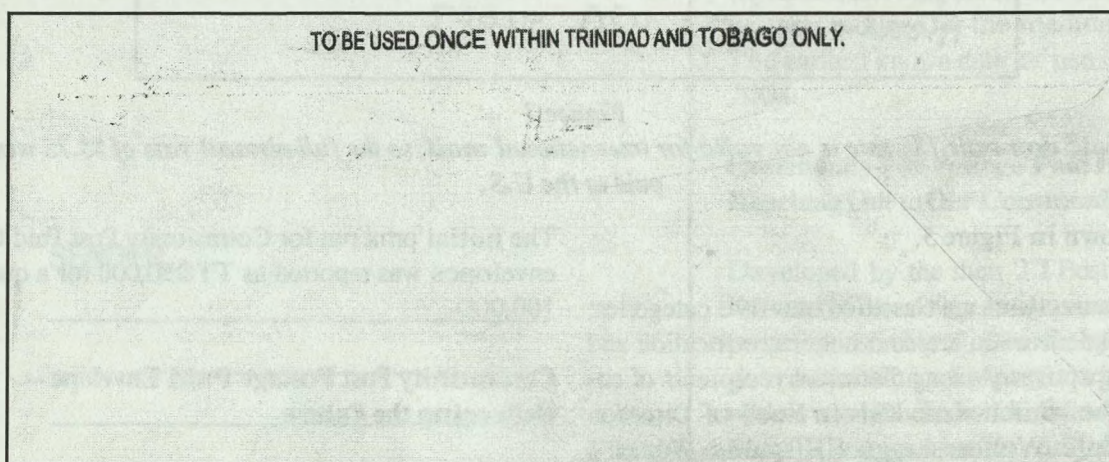


Figure 4b

Reverse side of 4a. "SENDER" and four parallel lines are omitted on the reprinted envelope.

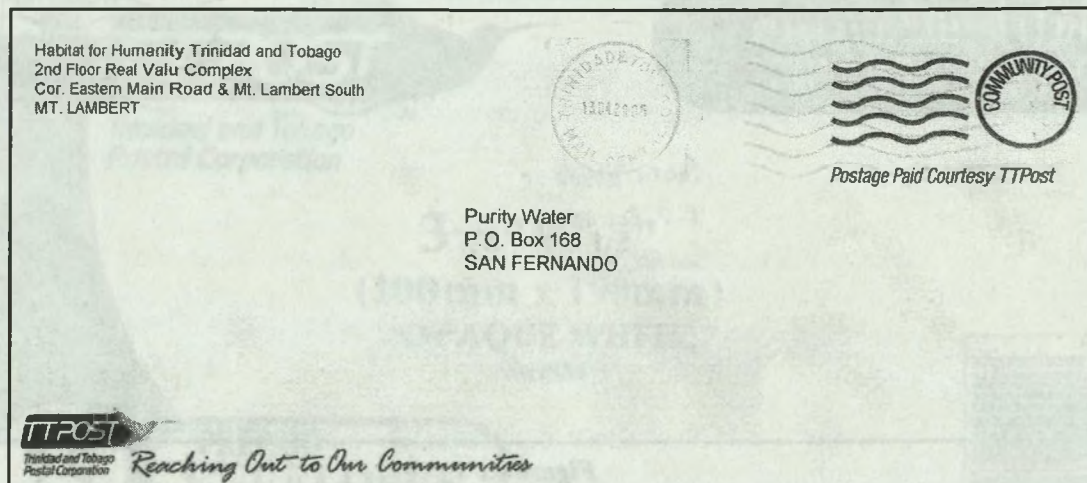


Figure 5

Usage of the first Community Post Postage Paid envelope.

The British West India Regiment in East Africa, World War I

By Regis Hoffman
Of the USA

The cover shown below is the topic of this article. When I purchased it, it was described as "1917. East Africa Campaign – Officer's Mail. Written by Major Rowland Litchford, 2nd West India Regiment." Mail from the East African theater of World War I is usu-

British West India regiment.

The West India Regiment was the only regular force of West Indians (Reference 1). In 1914, the Regiment consisted of two battalions, mainly of black soldiers under white officers administered directly by the War Office. At the beginning of the war, the 1st battalion was stationed at Sierra Leone. In June 1915, the battalion was

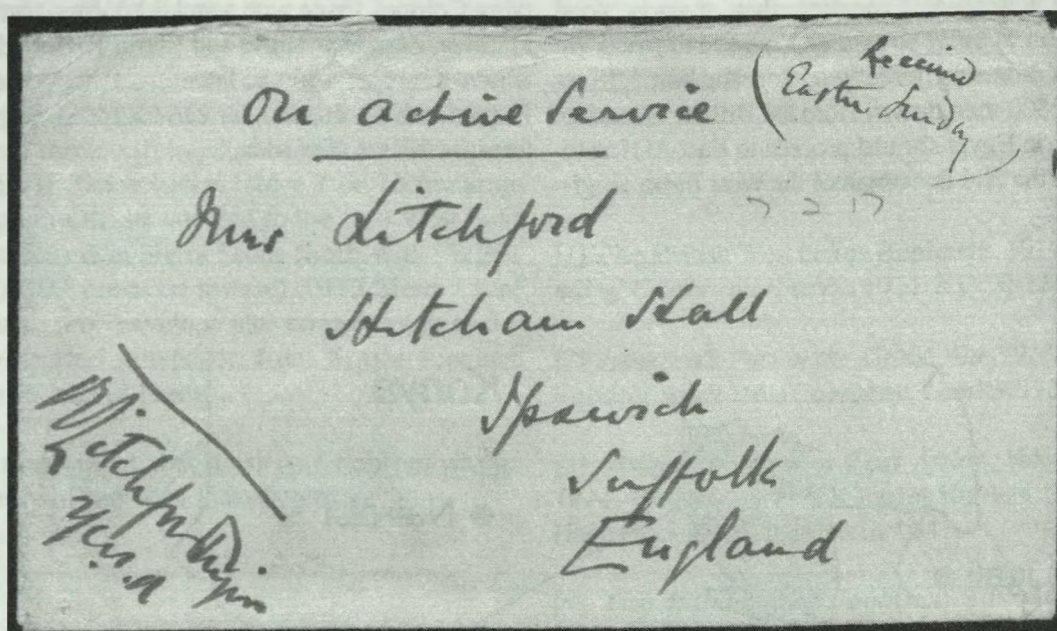


Figure 1

Cover addressed to a Mrs. Litchford in Suffolk, England, and endorsed "On Active Service."

ally found from Indian, South Africa, Belgian (and Congo), Nyasaland or Rhodesian forces. I have collected mail from the East African campaign of WWI for nearly 25 years, and have not encountered an example from the

transferred to Jamaica, where it remained for the rest of the war. The 2nd battalion, which was stationed in Jamaica, left in June for Sierra Leone to replace the 1st. In 1916, it was transferred to East Africa.

The Cover

The cover itself is addressed to a Mrs. Litchford in Suffolk, England, and is endorsed "On Active Service" (Fig-

Continued on page 14

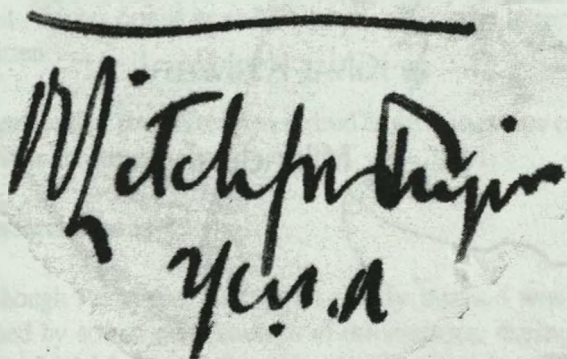


Figure 2

The sender's details are on the lower left of the cover, and are somewhat difficult to decipher. This portion is enlarged and enhanced here.

ure 1). The sender's details are on the lower left, and are somewhat difficult to decipher. This portion is enlarged and enhanced in Figure 2. There are no postal or military markings. Enclosed is a four-page letter written from "Mikindani," over the course of several days in February 1917. It is addressed to "My darling Ethel," and closes with "I am your loving husband, Rowland Litchford."

Note that Mikindani is a coastal city in what was then German East Africa (modern-day Tanzania) [see the map in Figure 3].

Historical Background

Historical information on the British West India Regiment is sparse. Reference 2 mentions that:

"In June 1916, orders were received from the War Office that a draft of 500 men drawn from the British West Indies Regiment in Egypt should proceed to East Africa to be attached to the 2nd Battalion of the West India Regi-

ment of the Regular Army, which had been ordered to proceed from West to East Africa."

The most comprehensive source of WWI East Africa history is Reference 3. Unfortunately, only the first volume (covering operations up to September 1916) was published. Thus the date of this cover is beyond the reference, so we have to extrapolate. According to the author, the 2nd Battalion of the West India Regiment traveled from Sierra Leone and reached Mombasa by way of the Cape on July 27, 1916. Its strength was 16 British officers, 7 Warrant Officers, and 492 others.

Importantly, there is this note: "On 6th September, H.H.Ss. Vengeance and Talbot sailed southwards, the former carrying Colonel Price with a small landing force of Royal Marines, Zanzibar Rifles and Mafia Riflers destined for Kilwa Kivinje, and the later escorting the transport Barjora, which carried the 2/West India Regiment destined for Kilwa Kisiwani."

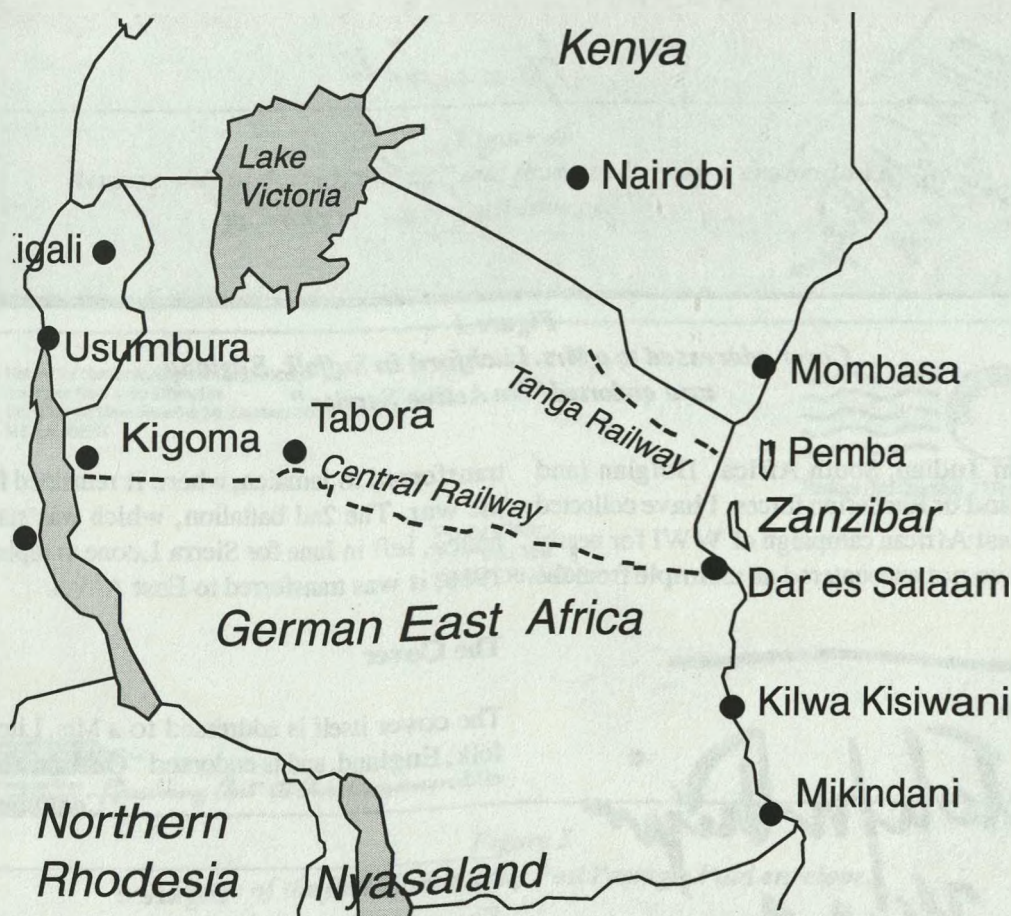


Figure 3
Map of the region.

Later Indian units occupied Mikindani, 120 miles south of Kilwa unopposed on the 13th. The map in Figure 3 shows these coastal cities.

So we can place the 2nd West India Regiment at Kilwa Kisiwani on the East African coast in September 1916. I conjecture that they could easily have been transferred to Mikindani by February 1917.

Rowland Litchford

Who was the sender of the letter? Reference 4 (page 525) lists a 2nd Lieut. R. Litchford as being a member of the 2nd Battalion of the West India Regiment in Jamaica in 1893. The year 1917 is 24 years later, so it could be the Rowland Litchford of the letter.

Lot #642 in a recent Cavendish catalog (Reference 5) is described as: "2nd West India Regiment in Sierra Leone: Selection with three envelopes addressed to Bexhill-on-Sea with KEVII Sierra Leone 1/2d x 2 or 1d frankings from an English Officer attached to the 2nd West India Regiment stationed in Sierra Leone (both with "WEST INDIA REGT/2" crests on reverse), 1912 Sierra Leone 1d postal stationery envelope plus contents (on ex Up Park Camp headed notepaper) from Major Rowland Litchford to his son in Essex..."

This seems to establish that Rowland Litchford was indeed a member of the West India Regiment.

Analysis

Given these facts, is the cover from a member of the British West India Regiment? We know that:

1. The letter was sent by Rowland Litchford, and we can tie him to the West India Regiment.

2. The endorsement in the corner is a bit cryptic. Can any member decipher it?

3. The 2nd West India Regiment was located on the East African coast near Mikindani when the letter was written.

I venture that the letter was indeed from a member of the West India Regiment.

Research Notes

Although I use the Internet on a daily basis, I was surprised by some new sources of information during the research of this cover. Searching for "Rowland Litchford"

on Google returned a hit to the on-line version of the Cavendish auction catalog in Reference 5. Even though I have a hardcopy of this catalog in my library, I doubt I would have consulted it for this cover. Thus the increasing use of the Internet for stamp auctions is a great aid for the philatelic researcher.

Further searches yielded Reference 4. This is part of the Google Book project, where old, out-of-copyright works (many from university libraries) are scanned and indexed. Litchford's name appeared on one page. Assuming I knew of the existence of this book, and assuming I could have gotten a copy of the book through intra-library loan, I may even have found his name within the 500+ pages of this work. With Google Books, I was able to search this book, copy it, and now have an electronic copy of it on my computer. I am sure that as more of these old books are digitized, they too will be a great aid in philatelic research.

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- [3] *Military Operations East Africa. Volume I. August 1914 – September 1916*. Charles Hordern. Battery Press, Nashville. First published in 1941.
- [4] *The Handbook of Jamaica*. S.P. Musson and T. Laurence Roxburgh. E. Stanford, London 1893. A digitized version is on Google Books.
- [5] Cavendish auction catalog. June 8-9, 2006. Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd.

Deadlines Deadlines Deadlines

We've all got them, and this journal is no different! Deadlines for receiving material for publication (and that means in the editor's hands, not mailed) and the anticipated mailing date for each of the quarterly issues of this publication are now found at the bottom of page 3.
Please take note of these dates!

A Tale of Two Covers

By Peter Elias

St. Vincent Study Group Leader

Back on May 22, a group of collectors from the BCPSG went to visit four of the village post offices (Layout, Questelles, Campden Park and Calliaqua) on St. Vincent as part of the annual BCPSG meeting held there. Since I specialize in collecting St. Vincent postal history, I thought that this would be a good time to get examples of the latest postmarks and registration labels that are in use.

We were told that for local mail on St. Vincent, they are still using the same registration labels that have been in use for many years, but for international mail, new self-adhesive bar code labels are now in use. That meant sending at least two covers, one to myself in the U.S., the other locally to the Sunset Shores Hotel where we were staying, since getting a copy of the old style label meant having someone on St. Vincent to send the envelope to (and I figured, "why not me?").

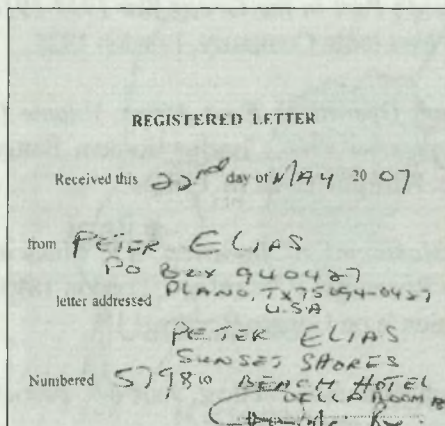


Figure 1

Receipt from Questelles Post Office.

Since May 22 was a Tuesday, and I wasn't leaving until the following Monday, I was hoping that the locally mailed envelopes would still reach me in time. Well, they sort of did. On May 25, I received a notice in my hotel mailbox stating that on the 24th, a registered mail article was waiting for me at the main post office in Kingstown. So, I would have to go to Kingstown to pick up my mail. Either mail is not delivered to Villa, which is just outside of Kingstown, or that there is simply a requirement that you had to actually go to the post office to pick up registered mail (if I'm not mistaken, here in the U.S., the mail piece would probably be signed for by someone at the

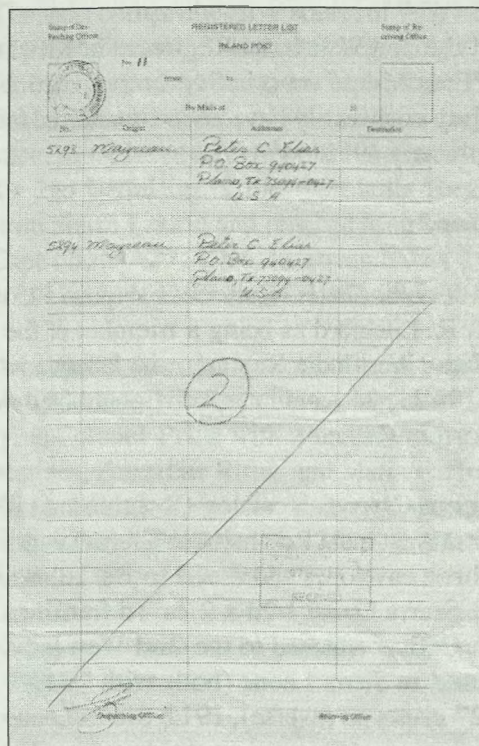


Figure 2
Postal form from Mayreau Island dated in 2005 when the author sent some self-addressed, stamped envelopes to the island.

hotel and then given to you).

Unfortunately I did not have time to go to the main post office to pick up mail (due to club activities and a side-trip to Bequia). So I left St. Vincent without seeing my two

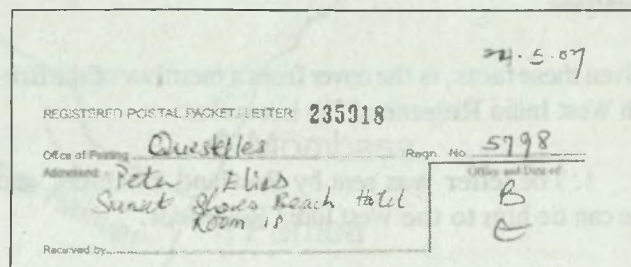


Figure 3

Notice of registered mail to pick up.

covers (actually, four had been sent). I was hoping that after some time would pass without anyone picking up the envelopes, that they would return them to the sender, which was of course me (at my address here in the U.S.).



Figure 4
Postmark on the reverse side of Figure 3.

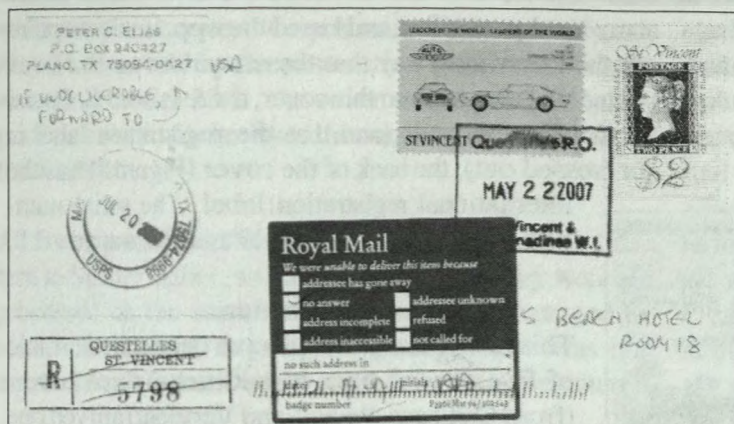


Figure 5
The envelope in question!

Two months later, I received three of my envelopes here in Plano, Texas. While it was not my intention to “test” the system in this way (*i.e.*, to see if they would actually return the mail pieces to me), inadvertently I ended up with some really nice postal history! To wit: since I was the sender of these registered envelopes, I did, of course, get a registration receipt from the post office where I mailed the envelope. See Figure 1 for the receipt from Questelles. From what I can tell, all St. Vincent post offices use these yellow receipts (which are approximately 4.0 x 4.0 inches). While I couldn’t tell for certain, I think that there is a second (carbon) copy kept at the post office of mailing. There is also a manifest of registered mail sent to the main post office. This would obviously be part of internal St. Vincent post office documentation and not normally seen by the public or collectors. While I did not see this list from these particular mailings, I do have a copy of this form from Mayreau Island (see Figure 2) from 2005 when I had sent some self-addressed, stamped envelopes to the post office on Mayreau.

One of the forms that one would not see often (unless you lived on St. Vincent) is the notice from the post office that advises you of a registered mail piece to pick up (see Figure 3). This is a numbered slip of paper about 6.0 x 2.5 inches in size. I would presume that once you present this slip to the post office, you would sign it and then get your mail piece in exchange (same as here in the U.S.). This, then, would make having one of these slips a fairly rare piece of collectible postal history! Additionally, the registration notice slip was postmarked on the back (Figure 4). Interestingly, the postmark in question has a spelling error: Grenadines is misspelled as “Granadines!”

So far, this all makes for interesting postal history by itself. But wait, there’s more! Let’s have a look at the en-

velope in question (Figure 5). Notice anything unusual? Look at the bottom of the envelope where there is a long string of long and short gray vertical dashes printed on the envelope -- these are the Postnet codes that are applied by the U.S. Postal Service processing equipment that uses inkjet equipment to spray on the addressee’s Zip Code in machine readable format to help route the mail. While this is standard procedure for regular mail, it should NOT be so for registered mail. Registered mail is handled manually, and signed for by each person handling it; it is generally not processed by machine. Yet this envelope received manual treatment as I received it in my post office box WITHOUT having to sign for it (I immediately went to the counter and informed them of this issue).

Now, continuing to look at this cover, you’ll also notice that it has a “Return to Sender” sticker (dated July 2, 2007), and also 2 lines crossing out the Questelles registration label. (On a side note, I think it is interesting that

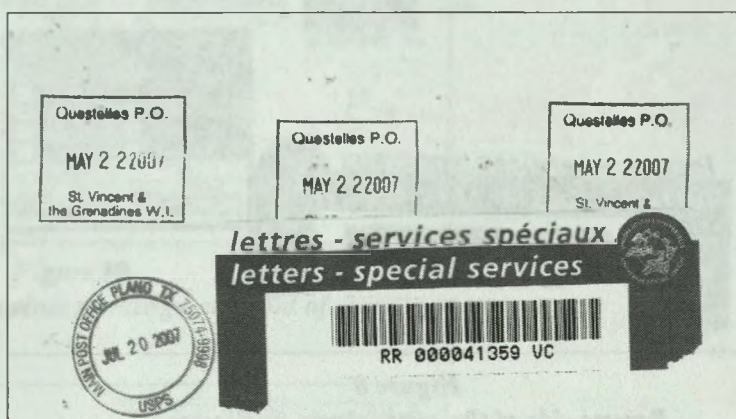


Figure 6
The reverse side of the cover shown in Figure 5.

St. Vincent is using British ‘Royal Mail’ return-to-sender stickers.) Well then, you might think since the registration label was invalidated, that this would be the reason that the mail piece was put into the regular mail stream, to be processed by machinery.

Not so fast! Let us look at the back of this cover first (Figure 6). This changes everything! The cover had properly been given a new international registration label (which, due to its size, would only fit on the back of the cover). So it would appear that the St. Vincent Postal Corporation followed all the standard rules regarding the return of undeliverable registered mail, but somewhere along the line, something in the system failed. It is my guess that when the item arrived here in the U.S., the

Continued on page 18

U.S. Postal Service took the item from the registered bag, saw that the registration label had been crossed out and simply assumed that it was supposed to go via regular, not registered, mail and did not bother to look at the back where the new registration label was to be found!

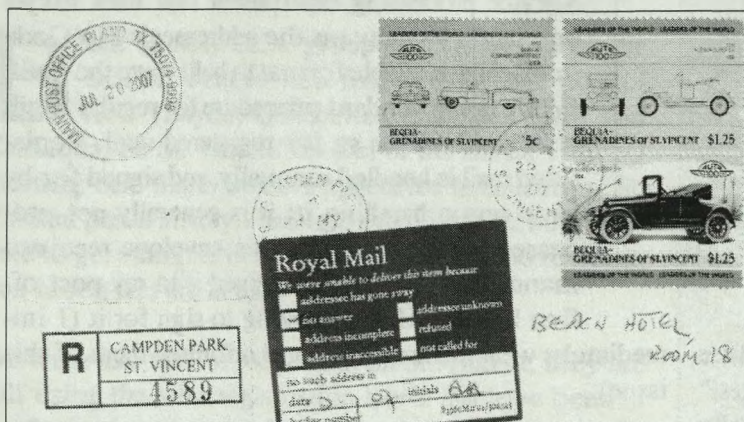


Figure 7

Registered cover mailed from Campden Park.

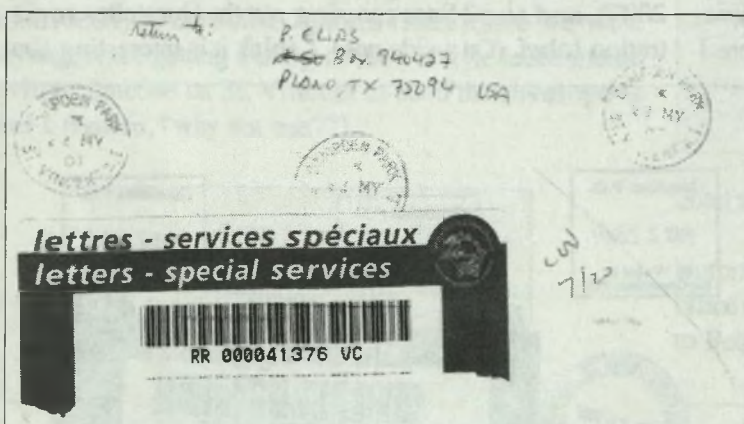


Figure 8

Reverse side of the cover shown in Figure 7.

On the same day, I did receive one of my other registered covers, mailed from the Campden Park village post office on the same day (Figure 7). I had to sign for that one

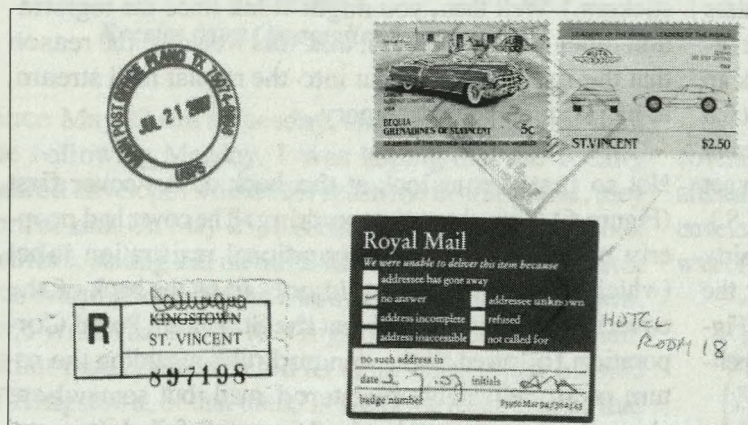


Figure 9

Handwritten village name on crossed-out Kingstown registration label.

at my local post office, and I used the opportunity to point out the interesting way that these two covers had been treated. If you notice on this cover, there is no U.S. Postal Service Postnet code (and that the registration label is not crossed out); the back of the cover (Figure 8) has the international registration label. The serial numbers of the two labels are 17 numbers apart.

Addendum

This article really should have been called "A tale of five covers" since an additional three covers (from Calliaqua, Bequia, and Vermont) arrived one to three days after I started writing it. Two of the covers I had to sign for: Calliaqua and Vermont, but not Bequia (it had the same crossed-out markings on the local registration label and somehow managed to enter the regular mailstream (i.e., it has the U.S. Postal Service Postnet markings on the front). [Figure 10]

The Calliaqua cover did strangely enough have the yellow U.S. Postal Service routing marks on the front of the cover – usually they're on the back, but I had to sign for it. Apparently the yellow routing markings might be used for tracking purposes. Calliaqua, by the way, uses the old style Kingstown registration label and they handwrite the

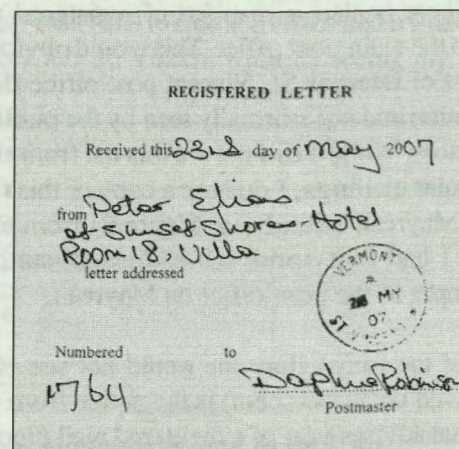


Figure 12

Registered Letter receipt.

village name on the label after crossing out Kingstown (Figure 9); the yellow Postnet markings are not visible on the illustration since they are fairly weak and do not scan well.

The Vermont cover uses an older style Registration label from Buccament (Figure 11) with the name Buccament crossed out and Vermont written in by the postmistress. Looking at the registration receipt (Figure 12), it is dated May 23,

while the actual cover was postmarked the next day, on May 24. I was told by the postmistress that even though I was there on the 23rd, the cover would get a May 24 postmark since I had missed the outgoing registered mail for the 23rd.

All five covers have the same date of July 2 on the "Return to Sender" label, so I am assuming that they were all processed on the same day; yet somehow managed to arrive here several days apart (although there was not much difference between those that went the registered

route versus the ones that slipped into the regular mailstream).

So, who says that modern postal history can't be fun? And this is true "post office" history as well, since postal history covers not only the mail piece itself, but also the forms, routings and procedures; and few of these forms are ever saved or even make it into collectors hands! Please feel free to contact me at info@stvincentstamps.com with comments, questions or any new revelations.



Figure 10
U.S. Postal Service Postnet markings on front of cover.



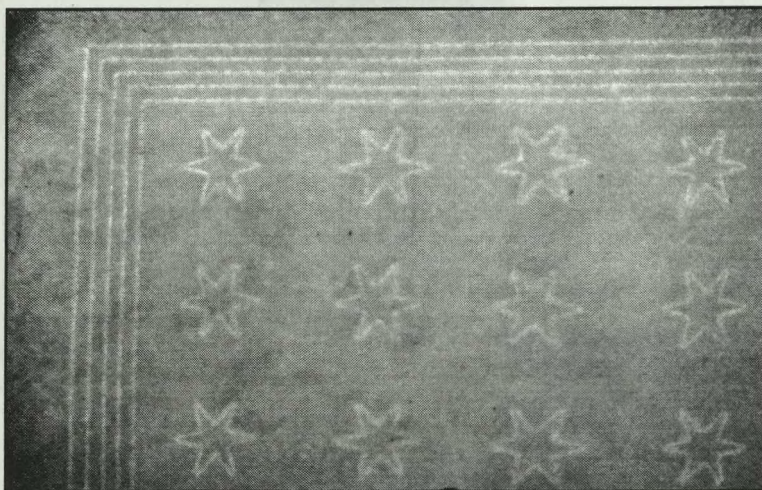
Figure 11
Cover with older style Registration label.

Early St. Vincent watermark

By Peter Elias

St. Vincent Study Group Leader

While the earliest stamps of St. Vincent were produced on unwatermarked paper, starting in 1871 with Scott #13 (one-penny black), watermarked paper with a "star" was introduced. In the Scott catalog, this is referred to as Watermark #5, while Gibbons refers to it as Watermark #2, and the Whitman Watermark reference catalog refers to it as #465.



A fine example of watermark on stamp paper.

The star watermark is also found on stamps of Antigua, Barbados, Grenada, Natal, Queensland, St. Lucia and Turks Island.

The "star" is placed on the sheet such that if properly printed on standard stamps of the time, it would appear in the middle of the stamp.

Every now and then, though, people would say that they have a watermark error or variety, such as several straight lines and parts of the word "POSTAGE" in double-lined capitals. This comes from having the original sheets of watermarked paper cut up and sent through the press sideways. The full sheet has the stars surrounded in the margins by the word "POSTAGE" and parallel lines.

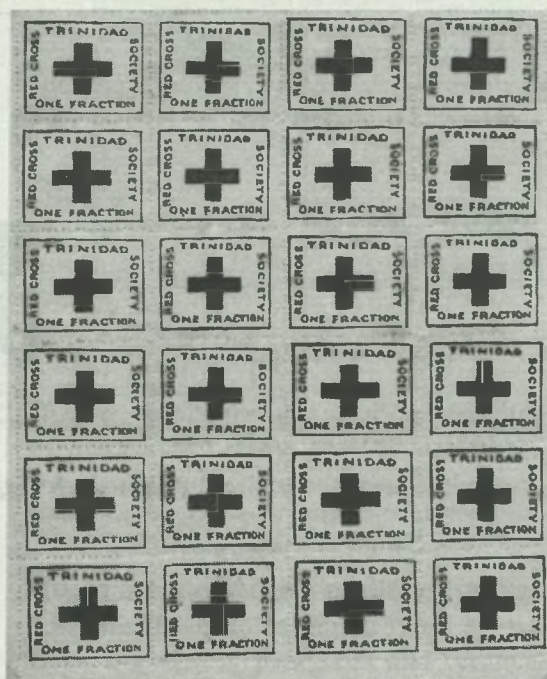
While varieties of the watermark are interesting to collect, I recently obtained a piece of unprinted paper showing the margin lines and several stars. Hopefully the image is viewable, as I had to photograph this against backlight in order to make the watermarks stand out.

Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Labels, 1914

By John Davis
Of England

I was interested to read Dr. Eric Bateson's article on the Belgian Relief Fund Labels of Barbados in the last *Journal*. I noted in his references to the Trinidad & Tobago Red Cross Labels of 1914, which he thought must have been printed in sheets of more than 10, that sheets of these had not survived.

Sheets have survived and I have one in my collection. The labels -- actually they were referred to as seals -- are well documented. They were printed in sheets of 24, perforation 11-12 with no watermark. The denomination of each seal was one fraction, this being the equivalent to one cent, and the sheets were sold for 24 cents. They were authored for postal use on one day only, September 18, 1914, not April 18, 1914 as shown in the caption under Figure 4 of Dr. Bateson's article.



The sheet from the John Davis Collection.

Information on St. Vincent's 1899 issue

By Ray Bond
Of the United Kingdom

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Bond here begins a series of articles about early St. Vincent philately. He has completed 10 installments, enough for two and a half years! We plan to present these in chronological order.)

Mr. Harry Thompson, postal administrator for St. Vincent, wrote on July 13, 1896 to Sir Charles Bruce, governor of the Windward Islands resident in Grenada. In his letter, he stated that, "when a complete set" of stamps was to be designed for issue in St. Vincent, in the near future, it should be of the existing "Distinctive" design, because "There is a strong feeling that the distinctive character of the St. Vincent stamps should be maintained."

However, Sir Charles, when writing to Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in the Colonial Office on August 18, 1896, stated

that in his letter to Mr. Chamberlain dated December 13, 1894, he had stated that it would be advantageous to adopt the Universal Keyplate for the whole of the Windward Islands group, to bring them in line with Grenada. He

St. Vincent Issue of January 1, 1899

1/2d: Green on Purple

1d: Red on Purple

2 1/2d: Blue on Purple

3d: Green on Purple

4d: Light Brown on Purple

5d: Black on Purple

6d: Dark Brown on Purple

1/-: Red on Green

5/-: Blue on Green

also said that the original instruction was to stand. (See Figures 1 and 2).

So Mr. Branston of the Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue on September 28, 1896, stating that on the instruction of the Secretary of State for Colonial Affairs, he was requesting cost estimates for a complete set of stamps in the St. Vincent traditional design, and in the Universal Keyplate design.

The Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue on February 17, 1898, stating that a letter had been received dated October 10, 1897 authorizing the manufacture of the duty plates for the Universal Keyplate design for the following values: 1/2d, 1d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 1/- and 5/-.

The Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue on April 15, 1898 confirming that the new stamps for St. Vincent would be of the universal plate design. Also would De La Rue submit a color schedule as soon as it was convenient. De La Rue replied on April 19 to the effect that as soon as the plates were ready, a color scheme would be supplied. However, it was June 21 before De La Rue supplied color schemes for eight values for the Crown Agents' inspection. The Crown Agents responded on June 27, stating that the design would be much improved by using the Sierra Leone arrangement of dividing the purple stripes into different colors for different denominations, on a white background. De La Rue replied two days later, stating that for technical reasons, this was not possible, but included some further loose specimens in case it was desired to substitute some of the items of the 21st Instant. The Crown Agents wrote to De La Rue on July 19, "As overprint plates are already completed, designs of the 21st

Continued on page 22

Figure 1



Figure 2



Information on St. Vincent's 1899 issue Continued from page 21

June cannot be measurably improved. The Blue and Lilac overprints submitted on the 29th June will not be used, the blue being retained in case a 2 1/2d value is required in the future."

On September 9, 1898, the Crown Agents ordered the following stamps:

1/2d	120,000
1d	180,000
2 1/2d	60,000
3d	60,000
4d	30,000
5d	30,000
6d	30,000
1/-	12,000
5/-	6,000

added another 30,000 1/2d and 60,000 1d stamps. On March 18, 1901 an order was placed for an additional 60,000 1d stamps. On June 8, 1901 an order was placed for another 12,000 1/- stamps. Finally, on September 13, 1901, an order was placed for another 60,000 1d stamps.

Total quantities invoiced were:

1/2d	150,000	SG 67
1d	360,000	SG 68
2 1/2d	60,000	SG 69
3d	60,000	SG 70
4d	30,000	SG 71
5d	30,000	SG 72
6d	30,000	SG 73
1/-	36,000	SG 74
5/-	6,000	SG 75

Delivery was required to be such as to allow the stamps to be in St. Vincent by mid-December; delivery quoted by De La Rue was 10 weeks (mid-November) to the Crown Agents inspector in London.

The stamps were designed by Thomas De La Rue and printed in typography by De La Rue. They were issued on January 1, 1899 and are watermarked Crown CA and perforation 14.

The Crown Agents ordered a further 12,000 1/- stamps on February 2, 1900. On June 22, 1900, the Crown Agents



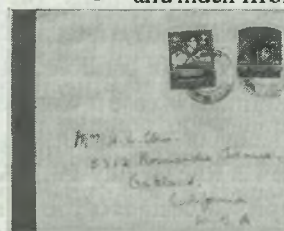
LEEWARD ISLANDS

Postal Stationery, Stamps, Covers & Postmarks



If you are interested in the Leeward Islands then this list is likely to have something for you. If you collect Leeward Island stationery then this list is a must. Some lots include the following:

- Postal stationery collection including all the specimens, most items mint (including a KEVII H2 registered envelope mint - one of 3 recorded) and a wide range of used material including 11 items of the very rare KGVII stationery used. An impossible to duplicate collection and a great basis for expansion.
- KGV 1913-22 Mult. Crown CA set with all SG listed shades fine used (hard to assemble)
- KGVII March 1942 £1 with scroll flaw (one of 100 printed)
- QEII Coronation vignette plate proof
- Scarcer postmarks
- Covers
- Individual stationery items mint used and specimen
- and much more



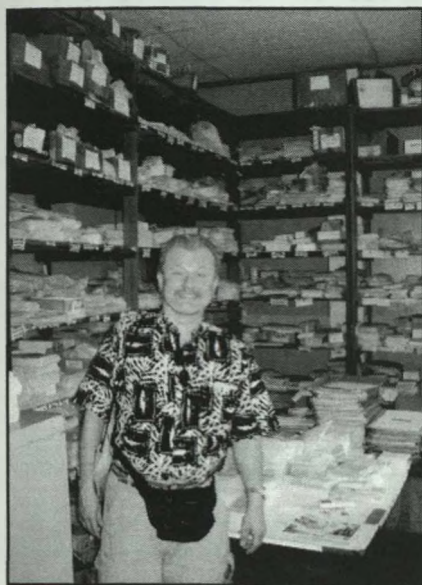
Send for a free copy of the CD with a list of all items and scanned images of virtually every item.

Darryl Fuller

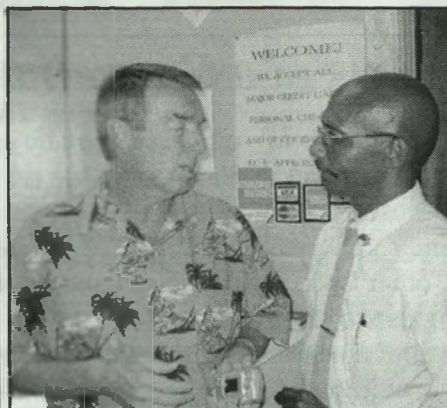
**130 Bandjalong Crescent
ARANDA ACT 2614**

e-mail: darryl.fuller@dcita.gov.au

Even more St. Vincent photos!



**St. Vincent Study Group Leader
Peter Elias at the SVG
Philatelic Bureau stockroom.**



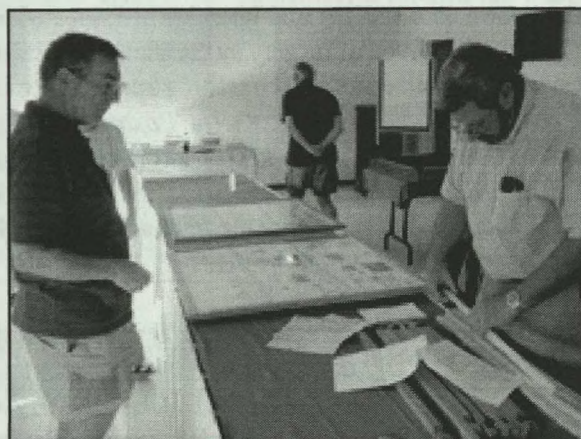
**President Jack Harwood and
Ed Beache, General
Manager of SVG Philatelic
Bureau, discuss stamps.**



**Celine Jack, Director of Posts,
SVG Post, and Mary Kerr,
at the annual dinner.**



**Ed Waterous (left) and John Seidl at Fort
Charlotte in Kingstown, St. Vincent.**



**President Jack Harwood, left, and Ed Waterous
preparing exhibits at the St. Vincent event.**



**A group of BCPSG folks heading out for a
sight-seeing tour at St. Vincent.**



**President Jack Harwood, left, Celine Jacks,
Director of Posts, SVG Post, and Peter Elias.**



Jamaican Odds & Ends

*With Dr. Raj Ramphal
Of Canada*



Special Satisfactions of a Cancellation Collector

The ultimate goal of a cancellation collector is to acquire examples of all of the known postmarks from all of the postal agencies of a chosen postal authority, usually a country. This is a rarely achieved objective but fortunately, along the way, other special thrills do occur to enrich the hunt, and I propose to share some of these from my own experience with Jamaican cancels. But first, some guidelines for the uninitiated. Postmarks are acceptable on single stamps, on piece or best of all, on cover.

The period of use of any hammer is important but given the scarcity of Jamaican archival information regarding the dates of issue and withdrawal of these devices, the earliest known date (EKD) and latest known date of usage, (LKD), are arrived at largely by the sharing of information between collectors and consulting appropriate existing reference works, Ian Potter's *The Postal Markings of Jamaica* being the handiest and most informative. Finding a fully dated specimen which expands the period of use is perhaps the most frequently encountered of the special satisfactions to which I refer.

Figure 1 is a BROADLEAF serrated oval Temporary Rubber Datestamp (TRD), dated 5 DEC 1949, almost six months after the previous LKD of 11 JULY 1949. Another common area in which new finds are made involve



Figure 1
BROADLEAF TRD, 5 DEC 1949, previous LKD
July 11, 1949.

the color of ink used, especially when the cancelling device is a TRD. These locally made hammers were at first really intended to be temporary, awaiting the arrival of a metal counterpart from England, but over time they have been introduced without a replacement being ordered, or even intended.

The lifespan of a TRD is relatively short and one TRD is

often replaced by another of similar or different design. Violet and blue are the most common inks used but red, green and black are also encountered, with black ink being the most corrosive to the rubber, resulting in poor quality, sometimes illegible strikes.

Figure 2 illustrates a WATERMOUNT double ring in violet ink, dated FE-9-22. This hammer was in continuous



Figure 2
WATERMOUNT double ring in violet, dated
FE 09, 22. Previously only known in violet on the
first day of use, January 18, 1922.

use from 18-JAN-1922 until 09-JULY-1964 when it was retired but until this find, it was only known in violet on the first day of use.

Figure 3, TROUT HALL, oval TRD, in black, dated FEB 1976, (day missing). Prior to this, it had only been found in black ink on only one day in 1976, 30-MAR-1976.



Figure 3
TROUT HALL, oval TRD in black ink, dated FEB
1976 (day missing). Prior to this, only known in black
on one day, March 30, 1976.

Figure 4, SPRING VALE oval TRD, dated 8 MAY 1969 in black ink. Previously known only in violet, with an LKD of 12-JAN-1968. A likely explanation for this strike is the accidental use of the hammer for one day, 16 months after it had been retired, and that black happened to be the color of the ink pad in use on that day. This strike both extends the period of use and is also in the wrong color of ink, a double find.



Figure 4

SPRING VALE oval TRD dated 8 MAY 1969, not previously known in black and with a previous LKD of January 12, 1968.

Figure 5, a registered cover from DALLAS to Kingston, cancelled with a Birmingham type B3 double ring, dated

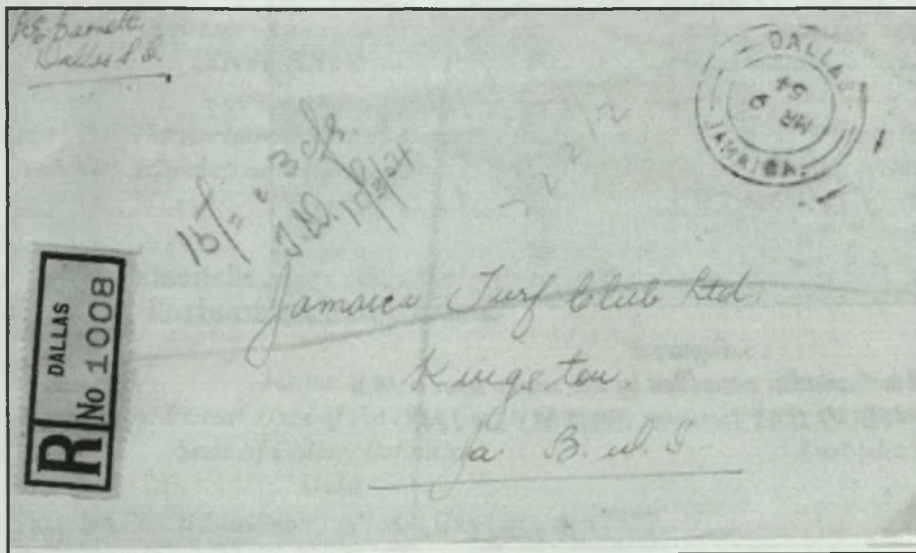


Figure 5

A registered cover from DALLAS to Kingston, cancelled by a Birmingham Type B3 double ring, dated MR 8 54 (date inverted). Previous EKD was September 14, 1954.

MR 9 54 (date inverted). Before this cover, the EKD of a Dallas B3 cancellation was SP 14 54, a substantial six month increase in the period of usage.

Figure 6 illustrates a Tercentenary 3d. stamp clearly cancelled by a modern single ring, Pear Tree River, dated



Figure 6

A 3d. Tercentenary stamp, clearly cancelled by a Modern Single Ring (MSR) at Pear Tree River, dated FE 14 72, not previously known at this post.

FE 14, 72. This very common type of hammer was issued to dozens of post offices between 1952 and the 1990s. This specimen is remarkable because no other example of this Pear Tree River MSR has ever been reported, at least for the time being, until we hear from you.

Figure 8 demonstrates the next best thing to finding an unlisted postage stamp, that is, an unlisted type of postmark. A red George VI postal stationery card, locally used, is cancelled by a hitherto unlisted MONTEGO BAY 28 mm single ring with the date in two lines, the year in four digits and with side dots between MONTEGO BAY and JAMAICA, both of which are in sans-serif block capitals, a very distinctive cancellation.

As so often happens in this serendipitous hobby of ours, about two years after finding this postcard and reporting it to Ian Potter, I found another Figure 8, dated MY 28 1948, and yet another more recently. All three examples are on cancelled postcards but I assume that to be a coincidence.

The most recent postcard is not displayed because the third digit of the year is unclear, but is either a 3 or a 4, making the date JA 26 1939 or 1949. It is franked with a red medallion George VI 1d. stamp and is addressed to Canada. There are no other marks.

Continued on page 26

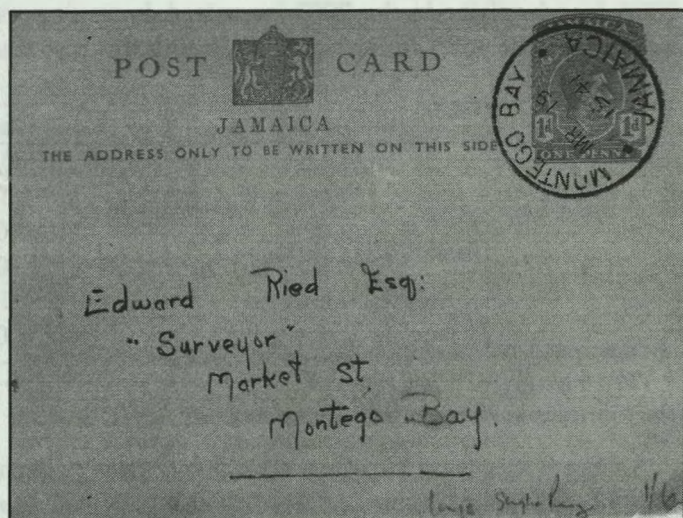


Figure 7

King George VI postcard, 1d. red, medallion, cancelled by MONTEGO BAY 28mm, single ring not previously identified.

Jamaican Odds & Ends with Dr. Raj Ramphal

Continued from page 25

Bibliography

As always, I hope these odds and ends will prompt the readership to add their own tidbits to the pile.

Potter, Ian A. *The Postal Markings of Jamaica*. Newbold, Chesterfield, England, 1996. ISBN 0 9528672 0 6.

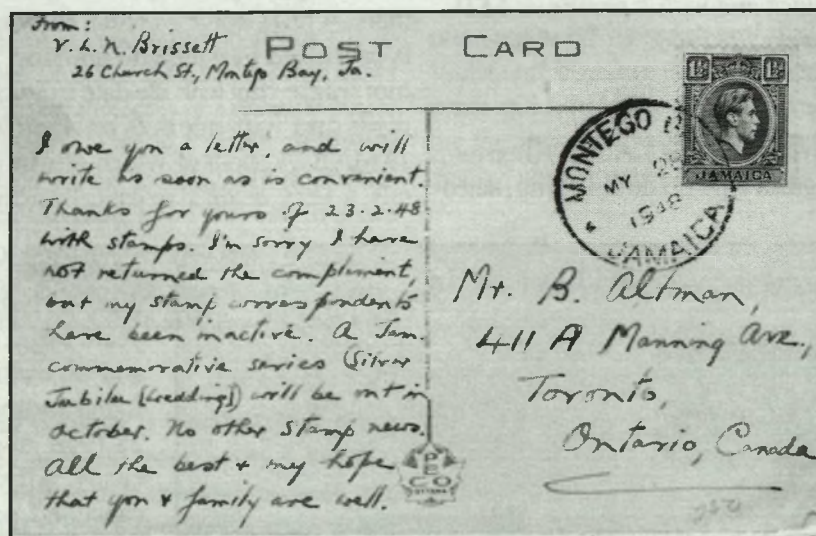


Figure 8

Postcard to Canada, cancelled by the same unrecorded
MONTGO BAY hammer, dated MY 28 1948.

Advertising Rates for the British Caribbean Philatelic Journal for 2007

The following advertising rates will be effective as of January 1, 2007. All billing for advertising will be done in December preceding the year in which the advertisements will appear. Advertisers will be billed in December 2006 for advertising in the 2007 Journals. Advertising rates are based on (1) single-issue insertion or (2) a four issue (complete year, January through December) rate. The rates effective as of January 2007 are:

Type and size Ad	Cost/single Insertion	Cost/Year 4 Issues
1/4 page	\$30.00	\$100.00
1/2 page	\$75.00	\$250.00
Full Page	\$100.00	\$350.00
Back Cover	\$125.00	\$400.00
Single-Sided Insert*	\$80.00	\$300.00
Double-Sided Insert*	\$125.00	\$400.00

* The single-sided and double-sided insertions are stand-alone pages inserted into the Journal by the printer. The cost of the insertions also includes the cost of printing.

As can be seen from the above rates, there is a significant reduction in the cost of advertising on an annual basis as opposed to single insertions. The British Caribbean Journal is a good place to advertise material from this very popular area of philately. We distribute about 400 journals four times a year and the philatelic interests of our members range from beginning collectors to very advanced collectors and exhibitors. Our journals reach members in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, the Caribbean as well as many other countries of the world. For further information, please contact your Treasurer at jseidl@mindspring.com.

BCPSG Exhibits and Awards

By Paul Larsen
Awards Chairman

Following is a listing of recent British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group (BCPSG) member exhibit participants and awards.

TEXPEX 2007, April 13-15
Dallas, Texas

Peter Elias
4 Rings - The History of Audi
Silver, AAPE Award
Reuben Ramkissoon
The Airletters (Aerogrammes) of
Trinidad and Tobago 1943-1988
Vermeil

Philatelic Show 2007, May 4-6
Boxborough, Massachusetts

Jerone Hart
Barbados: Postal Uses of the 1938 Small Format
Seal of Colony Definitive
Gold
Victorian Postal Stationery of India Used at Aden (SF)
Gold
The 1947 "One Penny" Provisional
Overprints of Barbados (SF)
Vermeil

NAPEX 2007, June 1-3
McLean, Virginia

Steve Schumann
New Zealand Postal Stationery 1876-1940
Reserve Grand, Gold
Michael Nethersole
Barbados - Pre-stamp to End of Sterling Currency
(1769-1949)
Gold, BCPSG Medal

St. Petersburg 2007, June 19-25
St. Petersburg, Russia

Reuben Ramkissoon
Development of the United States Lunar Exploration
Gold

The Trinidad WWI Charity Label That Became a
Postage Stamp (SF)
Gold

A Philatelic Handbook on
Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (Lit.)
Large Silver

INDYPEX 2007, July 6-8
Indianapolis, Indiana

John Cress
Up and Over ... "Down Under"
Vermeil

Paul Fletcher
The Postage Due Stamps of Australia
Grand Award, Gold, SAS/O Society Gold
Niue
Gold

Jerome Kasper
Illustrated WW2 British Military Airletters
Gold, AAM Society Award
Australia's Official Aerogrammes (SF)
Vermeil

Paul Larsen
Caroline Islands to 1914:
The Spanish & German Periods
Gold, SAS/O Bronze

Steve Schumann
New Zealand Postal Stationery 1876-1940
Gold, Collectors Club of Chicago Award, UPSS
Marcus White Award, SAS/O Society Silver

Minnesota Stamp Expo 2007, July 20-22
Crystal, Minnesota

Reuben Ramkissoon
Development of the United States Lunar Exploration
Gold, Space Topic Study Unit Gold

President's Message

By Jack Harwood

Preparations are now under way for our next Annual Meeting, to be held at WESTPEX in San Francisco, April 25-27, 2008. This outstanding national level show provides an excellent venue and many fine attractions, both philatelic and non-philatelic. Please try to join us for the meeting and the exhibition. Full details are available on the WESTPEX web site, www.westpex.com.

A BCPSG group dinner is planned for Friday evening, April 25. The Executive Committee will meet on Saturday morning, and the Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Saturday afternoon. Details concerning times and locations can be found at the BCPSG table at the show. All members are welcome to attend the dinner and both meetings. Our general meeting will feature the annual auction. Since we expect a sizeable group in attendance, this should be an excellent opportunity to dispose of excess material. Please forward your auction lots to Auction Manager Howie Austin as soon as possible.

We have committed to provide 60 frames of exhibits for the show. Your exhibit would be most welcome. It would be nice to have a strong showing of British West Indies exhibits. If you are a first-time exhibitor of BWI material, please remember that we have a special cash award established by the estate of Jim Stern. It would be especially nice to distribute some of that money at our Annual Meeting.

You may have read about it in *The American Philatelist* or *Linn's Stamp News* or elsewhere. But if you missed it, BCPSG Past-President Dr. Peter P. McCann has been invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. This is regarded as the world's premier philatelic honor, and we extend our congratulations to Dr. McCann. His distinguished philatelic career includes outstanding leadership, authorship, exhibiting and judging, among many other things. As you may recall, Dr. McCann was the 2007 recipient of the Cooley Award for lifetime service to the BCPSG.

Chuck Cwiakala has asked to step down from his position on the Dumin Award selection committee. Chuck has served on this committee for many years, and we thank him for outstanding service. The committee is responsible for selecting the best article to appear in this journal each year, and the award is presented to the author at the annual meeting. Michael Nethersole has been appointed to join Charles Freeland (Chairman) and David Herendeen

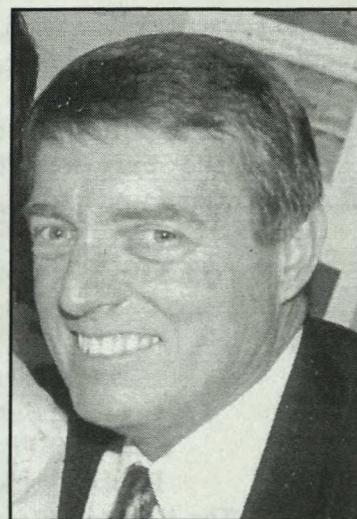
on the committee, and we thank Mike for his willingness to serve in this capacity.

Have you recruited a new member this year? Our membership continues a very slow decline. It is important that each of us participate in keeping the group strong. It is not difficult to do a little recruiting. Take your copy of this journal to

your local stamp club meeting. Do a little "show and tell." Pass out a few membership applications (available on our web site). Talk to others who have an interest in the British West Indies. Encourage eBay sellers who offer BWI material to consider joining. There are countless ways to help, none very difficult. Please pitch in.

The editor has begun to receive a few articles for this journal, but more are needed. Long or short, they can be on any topic in our area of interest. If you have an interesting item or group of items, but are having difficulty putting together an article, contact your Study Group Leader. Or contact any group officer. There is help available in many places. We'd like to see your name in print.

See you in San Francisco!



Payments to the BCPSG via PayPal

Payments to the BCPSG can be easily made via PayPal. PayPal is simple to use, quick and secure. Payments can be made for subscription renewals, donations to the various funds such as the General Fund, The Addiss Memorial and Publication Funds and the Robert J. Cooley Awards Fund.

To make payments to the BCPSG via PayPal:

- (1) Go to: www.PayPal.Com
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*If you have any problems,
please contact your Treasurer.*

Membership Director's Report — By Bob Stewart

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

Jeff M. Fussell, 305 Ward Ave., Ocean Springs, MS 39564-4840 USA. BWI dealer and collector. Sponsored by John Seidl.

James A. Garard, 1143 Derian Place, Nokomis, FL 34275-4422 USA. Email: cho00@verizon.net. Philatelic interests: Scandinavia and Caribbean islands. APS member. Sponsored by Jack Harwood.

George H. Paul, 4333 Silverwood Ln., Jacksonville, FL 32207 USA. Email: bike54@bellsouth.net. Philatelic interests: British Guiana, Turks Island, Turks & Caicos, Bermuda, British Honduras. APS member. Sponsored by Bob Stewart.

Change of Address

Raymond J. Paley, Minez Lescrech, 56630 Lagonnet, Morbihan, France

Sue Avery, P.O. Box 110, Beaver Island, MI 49782-0110 USA

Jack Harwood, 3241 Ringwood Meadows, Sarasota, FL 34235-7005 USA

Guillaume Vadeboncoeur, 404 - 320 McLeod St., Ottawa, ON K2P 1A3 CANADA; guillaume@vadeboncoeur.ca

Membership Lapsed

Laura Erskine of the U.K.; **S. Froud** of the U.K.;

J.W. Knight of the U.K.

The 2008 dues renewal application will be included in the next copy of the *Journal*. Please take some time now to check out the upper right hand corner above your last name on the mailing label to see your dues status. The year listed is the year you have paid through. If it shows 2007, your dues were paid for 2007 and are up for renewal in 2008. You should fill out the dues renewal which will be included in the next edition of the *Journal* and return it to us per the instructions. If it lists LM or 2008 and beyond, your dues are not due at this time but you can add additional years by filling out the renewal application and sending payment per the instructions. We will not be mailing renewal notices to our members as we did last year.

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 stewart99@comcast.net

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CAYMAN ISLANDS

By Richard Maisel

The third of our occasional series devoted to Classic Collections, this describes Richard Maisel's superb Large Gold Medal collection. Lavishly illustrated in colour, this booklet relates the progression of Cayman Islands philately from the earliest use of the Jamaican stamps, through the development of first Queen Victoria keyplate designs up to the pictorial issues of the King George V period. **Price: £12.00 (Approx. \$22.80).** BWISC Members' discount £2.00 (Approx. \$3.80).

This book is available now and can be ordered from David Druett of Pennymead Auctions at 1, Brewerton Street, Knaresborough, N. YORKS, HG5 8AZ UK or via e-mail at

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By Michael R. Rego

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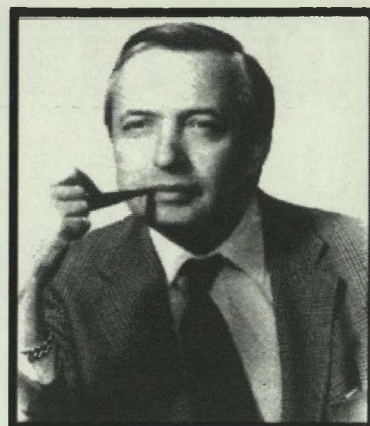
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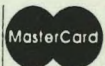
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