

BRITISH

GUIANA.

Official Organ
OF THE
Victory Philatelic Society.

6d.

Motto:—*Aut Optimum Aut Nihil.*

❖ The ❖
**British Guiana
Philatelist.**

EDITED BY W. A. HUSBANDS.

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Edited by WALTER A. HUSBANDS.



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APRIL, 1926.

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FOREWORD.

With this issue we complete our first year's publication. The year has been fair, but we are asking for more support so that we may be able to achieve our objective, i.e., to publish this magazine regularly and on time. Indeed, we would hate to suspend publication. Who knows? It would be a "Dies irae" to us and we guess our readers.

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MSS. and anything of Philatelic interest must be sent in not later than 15th of month preceding date of issue. Rejected MSS. will not be returned.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions of his correspondents.

All Editorial letters to W. HUSBANDS, 24, George Street, Georgetown, Demerara, British Guiana.

All local Advertisements to P. WATSON, Church and Queen Streets, Georgetown, Demerara.

All other business communications regarding Subscriptions, etc., to R. A. SAVORY, 224, New Market Street, Georgetown, Demerara.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We regret to state that pressure on our space (which is now limited) materially impedes us from giving you more news, thus we are forcibly compelled to publish what we deem most interesting.

Philately is not yet rid of those 'tweedums' who are for ever denouncing the cult and its followers; one said that there was no honour among stamp-collectors. This is rather a tart echo. Another said that only lunatics hoard tiny bits of paper and stamp-collectors are therefore lunatics who are unable to find any other plaything than bits of expensive paper. We cannot help throwing cold water upon these insignificant conclusions; these brief spurts of imaginative reason briskly effervesces and fades behind the cloudless sky when it reaches the ears of the true philatelist. We recommend these 'tweedums' to Dr. . . . who specializes in diseases characterised by the moon.

We understand that a well-known country folk has been disappointed in the investment point of the hobby and has consequently retired he has been only about three years at the game and bought many items at catalogue.

We beg to state that Mr. F. Gomes of 45, Bent Street is no longer a member of the Victory Philatelic Society.

WEST INDIAN NEWS.

Postmaster shot himself on account of the P.O. shortage. He held up money from stamp dealers and collectors for one year at a time. When it came to a show down he had spent the money. Down in British Guinea (we take it for granted this is a printer's devil for the word Guiana) they have made arrangements to use the transcontinental airplanes. Some of the papers are making a big fuss about it but we cannot get enthused. Any country can use that service by attaching the proper stamps and properly marking the letters.

—A. C. Roessler's *Stamp News*.

N.B.—No arrangements were ever made in B.G.; it was only a suggestion in a despatch from P.O. Department, Washington, to P.O. Dept., Georgetown. Should this service be made use of by the P.O. Dept., Georgetown, special labels would be used and special cancellations also as was stated most emphatically by the P.M.G. of B.G. in his communication to the local Government.—Vide Page 9, Vol. 1, No. 3 of B.G. P.—Ed.

BAHAMAS PEACE, 1920.

BY H. E. HUBER.

Bahamas' first contribution to the Imperial Forces in the Great War where white contingents separately recruited, and which not being large enough to be retained as individual units, were attached to the Lincolns, and practically disappeared from Colonial view.

At a special session of the Colonial Legislature convened 27th September, 1915, £5,000 was voted for recruiting 100 men to form part of the West Indian Regiment, and later, in response to the King's appeal for men, the House was convened in regular session, earlier than usual, on 22nd November, 1915, to consider what further action

should be taken. Subsequently the House announced its willingness to grant funds to keep the strength of the Bahamas contingent up to 200 men for the duration of the war.

The first draft of 30 men embarked for Jamaica on 9th September, 1915, and on 9th November sailed from Kingston on the transport "Verdala," with the first contingents from British Honduras and Jamaica. A second contingent of 105 men left Nassau on 25th November, arrived in Jamaica on 5th December, and proceeded to England on 25th December, 1915. A third draft of 65 men followed on 10th May, 1916, a total of 200. Vacancies in the ranks were filled by drafts to keep the number up to 200 men. The colony assumed the whole cost of transport, separation allowance, pensions, etc. The contingent was composed almost entirely of coloured men. Under authority of the Governor's proclamation a small volunteer force was raised for local defence.

With the signing of Peace in June, 1919, the Colony requisitioned a special series of stamps to commemorate the event. It was expected to have these in issue by the end of the year, but delays occurred, and although a partial lot (of the lower values) arrived early in 1920, it was not until March 1st, 1920, that sufficient were on hand to permit issue being made that day.

The series comprised five values, engraved and printed by De La Rue & Co., Ltd., London, from single working line engraved plates, in sheets of 60 (5 horizontal by 12 vertical) watermarked multiple Crown CA sideways to the right, and perforated single line 14. A double marginal line surrounds the pane, and cross marks in all four margins aid in perforating. The consignment sheet number appears in black in the upper margin, over the 5th stamp.

At least two plates were made to produce the 1d.—the writer having a block with the numeral 2 in the left margin outside the double marginal line, opposite the 7th horizontal row.

Of the 1s. 500 sheets (30,000 stamps) were received in the first consignment, which quantity was subsequently considerably augmented.

The design, a horizontal oblong, measuring 30 x 25 mm., contains at the left, the head of King George V., on a circular medallion of horizontal lines enclosed in an oval, over which is a Crown, and two ribbons inscribed with the word "Peace." At the upper right is the Badge of the Colony—an old

pany known as the "Grand Society for Aerial Navigation between Yokohama and Tokyo" for the sole purpose of instituting the first aerial postal service ever attempted in Japan.

Post cards commemorating this historic event depicted an aeroplane skipping over the water and in the inset, Atwater as pilot. The special postmark used in connection with the flight was appropriate with the following English inscription: "JAPANESE AERIAL POST" at the top and "45.6.2" at the bottom, with corresponding Japanese characters in the center and "FIRST" added to it. The figures at the bottom represent the 45th year of Meiji (1912) which is the Japanese epoch corresponding to the last Emperor's era, 6th month and 2nd day.

W. C. Robinson, one of America's premier aviators, instituted one of the most notable aeroplane mail services recorded in the annals of the aerial post service when he successfully piloted his aeroplane from Grinnell, Iowa, to Chicago, Ill., by the way of Des Moines, on Oct. 17th, 1914. This was one of the longest continuous flights ever made by an aeroplane in the delivery of U.S. mail. Had he not lost his way above the clouds and landed at Kentland, Ind., the flight would have been finished in record time. The last stage of his trip was accomplished in thirty-seven minutes, when he flew from Momence, Ill., to Cicero, a distance of fifty miles.

(To be continued).

PENRHYN ISLAND.

BY MADGWICK.

Of all the dependencies of New Zealand, one can conscientiously say that Penrhyn Island is the most deserted. A low coral reef or atoll covered with snowy white coral gravel, a couple hundred yards wide and comprising a splendid lagoon nearly ten miles wide is Penrhyn Island itself. Roughly the land extent is just three square miles and the population about 420; the natives are known as the Polynesians. The land is very unfertile, presumably on account of the coral gravel, the only plants that thrive being the Pandanus pine, as grown

at Gilbert and Ellice Islands and cocoanuts, the chief food of the natives, which coupled with fish takes a regular place at each meal. On dit:—"The natives live entirely on cocoanuts and fish." They are fine swimmers and very bold adventurers; there are a great many pearl fisheries on the Island, but the land is destitute of any vegetables, fruit or flowers, only an immense lot of wild vines. The only produce is Copra (made from cocoanuts) and pearl-shell which the natives barter with travellers and island traders for cotton-prints, tobacco and knives. It is said that this is the only time when they show a civilized appearance being gleeful to procure especially the knives and tobacco. The Polynesians are a dwindling race; drink, consumption, tobacco and exposure are slowly piloting them towards their sandy grave. Penrhyn yet awaits fuller exploration and development. Indeed it ought to be a healthy place, the atmosphere being free from the many impurities that must be in a thickly populated country, but the idea of a leper station being attached to a place like Penrhyn, one can only come to the conclusion that this disease, so prevalent, is due to the natives making use of the contemptible creepers that inhabit the land.

Penrhyn Island is undoubtedly the most God-forsaken place on the face of the earth. No civilised person whether for adventure or otherwise ought to visit it unmanned. Its desolate look and endless sweep of shadowy beach destitute of human life and the clear breeze of incense-breathing morn whizzing through the tall cocoanut palms and the apparent whispers of imagination only portrays before human and brings to one's memories the ghastly stories of murders. Penrhyn is always centred in the centre of the Bull's eye for acts of horrors. Death in every form is known to these natives totally uncivilised. Their hands seem to possess a double magnet for the knife. The island rarely sees a sail moving over its waters and so silent is the place, only the voice of the sightless courier of the air through the trees and the noise of the rolling sea can be heard while the blaze of the warm sun tempered upon the solitary beach even portrays a deeper loneliness.

And moreso when the traveller recalls the memories of Old England, France, America, or some other country behind him where he has left the life and light of the world, melodious strains of music, theatres,

the every day bustling about the streets and a friend now and then cracking a joke ; the traveller leaving wife and children over the sea and perhaps the young and wily adventurer leaving his fiancée across the sea, all brings before his mind in vivid contrast :— "Death itself cloaked and impersonated by a Shadow." The terrors of Penrhyn is an unequalled climax in the combination of a jungle to other colonies. Indeed, there is no life, no life in the Penrhyn.

In 1901, the New Zealand Government took control of Penrhyn Island just two years after Germany had abandoned all claim. The year following 1902, a Sub-Agency of the Auckland Post Office was opened by the New Zealand authorities and 3 values, viz :— $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. of the pictorial issues of 1898 were overprinted with the word Penrhyn and the value in the native dialect. The quantities were 24,000 of $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 24,000 of 1d., and 12,000 of $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. The printing was done by the Government Printing Office. In the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., there is a difference of spacing between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and Peni in the whole of the 8th vertical row. The distance normally measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm., but in the 8th row, the distance is $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. In March, 1903, owing to the increase of the use of the post 3 other values, viz. :—3d., 6d., and 1/- of same series had to be added ; and in 1914, 3 values $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6d. and 1/- of K.E. series made their appearance overprinted similarly with exception to the 1/- which was in the native dialect only. As previously stated the New Zealand Government Printing Office at Wellington was responsible for the overprinting of all the aforementioned. It may be wise to mention that the use of distinguishing overprints was found necessary in order that the whole of the proceeds of sales should be appropriated to the local (Penrhyn) revenue and not to the New Zealand Government. In 1918 several values of the Georgian series were overprinted with the word Penrhyn in red and blue but the native dialect was omitted. The first permanent issue of Penrhyn made its appearance on August 20th, 1920, and they are indeed a remarkably handsome pictorial set of six values. They have received a warm welcome from every collector. The new pictorials are on thick white wove paper, unwatermarked and printed in two colours, centres in black with exception to the 6d. which is in red-brown with the inscription Penrhyn Postage above the vignette and value in the English language in tablet

below. The $\frac{1}{2}$ d. bright green which show the landing of Capt. Cook with a nice array of cocoanut palms in the foreground and a boat of sailors in the background landing under the shady palms and the 1d. depicting a fleet of pearl schooners are the most appropriate designs of Penrhyn. The 6d. is said to be known with centre inverted, but the writer has never seen a copy.

GRENADA SCRIPTS.

By H. E. HUBER.

With the advent of the Georgian reign rumours began to circulate that a change was contemplated in the type of watermark used for the Colonial stamp papers, but it was not until November, 1920, that formal announcement was made, in a special circular issued by the Crown Agents, that the change had been effected.

"Early this year it was found that the dandy roll used to manufacture the all-over watermarked papers used for the issues of Colonial Postage and Revenue stamps since the year 1903, was completely worn out. It was decided to manufacture a new dandy roll bearing an Imperial Crown and the letters CA (Crown Agents) shown in script capitals. This has been done, and the old roll has been destroyed. Supplies of white and blue papers have already been made from the new roll, and as the existing stocks of green, yellow and red papers are used up, the new paper will be brought into general use."

The first stamps to be printed on white script CA paper were the 1d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. of Bermuda's first Legislative Tercentenary series (double medallion type), issued at Hamilton on November 11, 1920 ; and the first on blue script, the 2s. of Barbados small Seal series, issued at Bridgetown on November 14, 1921.

The letters CA are in script capitals, similar to those of the GvR. watermark introduced in 1912 for the Georgian stamps of Great Britain, and the Victorian Tudor Crown gives way to one of the Edward Imperial type.

PLATE 2, SCRIPT CA.

In 1912, Grenada abandoned the use of the Colonial Seal design, introduced in 1906,

and issued on January 3, 1913, a complete new series, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 10s., printed from the DLR-1912 Postage and Revenue keyplate 1.

The design consists of a large head of King George V. on a horizontally lined ground, within a pearled oval, surmounted by a Crown. At the sides of the oval is conventional foliate ornamentation, and at the foot, on either side, in small horizontal labels, in colorless lettering, is "Postage" and "Revenue." By means of a separate duty plate for each value is added the denomination (in colored numerals and letters in the upper corners), and GRENADA (in colored block caps on a straight colorless label) at the bottom.

The stamps were printed in sheets of 120, 2 panes of 60, side by side, separated by a narrow gutter, with a marginal line, broken at the line of perforation, surrounding each pane. On stamps from keyplates 1 (1912-1916) and 2 (1917-21) the numeral (1 or 2) is in the upper and lower margins, above the 2nd and 5th stamps of the left and right panes, respectively, and under the corresponding stamps in the lower margin.

Late in 1920 a requisition was dispatched by Grenada for a supply of all values (excepting the 2s. on blue) of the Postage and Revenue series, but only the white paper stamps i.e., $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 6d. were printed on script CA watermarked paper, yellow and green script CA papers not yet being available. The 3d., 1s., 5s. and 10s. were Roman CA watermarked—for the 3d. and 5s. the new pale yellow paper (creamy in appearance) being used, and for the 1s. and 10s. the new emerald green through. A portion of the 1s. was printed on emerald surfaced paper, the making of which variety was described in the Crown Agents Bulletin of January-March, 1921.

The small remaining stock of the old pale green paper (480 set size) has been surfaced with a much brighter green than previously used and has been used to produce the following stamps:—

Nigeria, 1s. and 10s., plate 8; Gold Coast, 1s. and 10s., plate 8; Str. Settlements, \$5, plate 8; Grenada, 1s., plate 2; East Africa, 75c.; Hong Kong, 50c.; B.P.O. in China, 50c.; Gibraltar, 1s., plate 2; Malta, 1s., plate 2; Mauritius, 1r. and 10r.

These seem to have been the last stamps printed from DLR-1912, plate 2, as in the same issue of the Crown Agents Bulletin

(January-March, 1921), giving details of this printing of script and Roman CA watermarked stamps for Grenada, they notified that—

"Postage and Revenue keyplate 1912, No. 2 having been condemned and destroyed is replaced by a new 120 set plate, No. 3, from which future supplies of Grenada and other stamps will be printed."

The script CA stamps (on white paper) were issued at St. George's about the first week of May, 1921; the 1s. on emerald surfaced, April 30, 1921 (or earlier), but the 3d. and 5s. on pale yellow and 1s. and 10s. on emerald through, Roman CA watermarked, were not brought into use until October or November of 1921.

May, 1921.—

King George V. (DLR-1912 Postage and Revenue keyplate).

Watermarked multiple Crown and script CA.

Perf. comb 14.

6d. chalk surfaced.

Plate 2.

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. green.

1d. carmine.

2d. orange.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ultramarine.

6d. dull and red violet. (C).

(To be Continued.)

REVIEWS.

WHITFIELD KING'S PRICE LIST.

Messrs. Whitfield King & Co. seem to be ever out to give to their customers a square deal as can be seen from their Monthly Bulletin the subscription to which is 1/6 per annum. To the astute collector, bargains can always be acquired and one is always kept in the 'know' by reading the Notes and News published every month without fail.

NOTES ON LINE ENGRAVED BRITISH STAMPS BY HARRY TAHL.

A comprehensive guide and of much importance is the 14 pp. fully illustrated 5 $\frac{1}{2}$

x 8½ pamphlet entitled Notes on line engraved British Stamps by Harry Tahl. This work is a series of Notes on the Postmarks, employed in connection with line engraved British Stamps, which has been delivered from time to time before the Aberdeen and North of Scotland Philatelic Society by the author. It has been a great achievement and will be of especial interest to collectors of line engraved stamps as it deals with every little distinctive point in the postmarks. The compiler's name which appears on the cover is sufficient to inform collectors that the work is of a high standard. Part II. of this work will appear later dealing with the actual stamps and their varieties. *The published price is 1/6 to be had from Frank Godden, Ltd., 359, Strand, London, W.C., 2.*

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE POST OFFICE FROM EARLY TIMES. BY A. E. F. GINN.

16 pp., 4½ x 7. Price 6d. from Harris Publications, Ltd., 46, Victoria Street, London, S.W., 1.

This is a short but interesting piece of work dealing exclusively with the conveyance and delivery of mails prior to 1840. The description is brief but presents a general account as far as philately is concerned and is deserving of due praise. *It is Philatelic Magazine Handbook, No. 9.*

Junior Stamp Magazine.—Just to hand is No. 3 of the J.S.M., a magazine devoted entirely to Juniors and published by Harris Publications, Ltd. The Editor, Mr. G. R. Kelly, is a young and enterprising collector and possesses more than a spattering knowledge of the hobby. His has been a somewhat ambitious work which we admire and we must congratulate him. The subscription is 2/6 per annum from Harris Publications, Ltd.

The Postage Stamps of Rhodesia.—An official Check List compiled by the Committee of the Philatelic Society of Rhodesia, Philatelic Magazine Handbook No. 6 illustrated. 28pp., 4½ x 7. Price 1/- from Harris Publications, Ltd., London. It can be reasonably advocated that this work is of an

extremely high standard and of material assistance to any specialist. It has been elaborately illustrated and we doubt whether any fuller list could be accomplished. It is of unlimited interest and should be a 'vademecum' to every collector of the stamps of Rhodesia.

TOPICS OF THE TIMES.

Peripatetic Dealers.—We notice that British Guiana is at present flooded with Dealers, mostly foreigners, who go from place to place asking ridiculous prices for what is deemed common European junk and under the pretence of being large buyers are able to see large and extensive collections; then in the most cunning way, to elude the seller, they offer about 1/10 of the catalogue value for the rare items and simply admire the others declaring they have no uses for same. The method in vogue is very much unprincipled. We are however glad to know very few bargains were snatched by these gentlemen. Be on the 'qui vive' boys—once bitten, twice shy, remember what your ancestors did with those rarities. They hid them in about ten envelopes each placed in the other, and finally it was put in the safe, and securely locked.

Demand Controls Price of Supply.—The tendency of late by far too great a number of philatelists is to engage in a hot-headed contention that Gibbons catalogue prices are far too high and Yvert is cheaper. This they maintain is not fair. We fail to see why such subjects should cause such grave feuds. The reason for such pricing is quite obvious. Demand controls price of supply. Gibbons has surely a larger percentage of British Colonial purchasers than any other catalogue publisher (by the way, remember Gibbons, Yvert, Scott, Whitfield King and others are all Dealers and the catalogues are really their price lists) and likewise to cope with the demand has priced his stock accordingly. Yvert, who has a smaller clientele of British Colonial purchasers must naturally price cheaper so as to off load his stock. We do not see why collectors should get annoyed—buy in the best or rather cheapest market and you will be a pound wise and a penny foolish if foolish at all.

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