

BRITISH WEST INDIES  
STUDY CIRCLE

Founded 1954

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G. W. Collett, R. D. P. , F. R. P. S. L.

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Dr. R. H. Urwick, F. R. P. S. L.

Hon. Vice President

P. T.Saunders

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BULLETIN NO. 1 ..... APRIL 1954

P2

**BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**

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**BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE**

**OBJECTS:** TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the British West Indies.

TO establish contact with correspondents throughout the British West Indies comprising the following colonies

ANTIGUA	CAYMAN ISLANDS	ST. KITTS-NEVIS
BAHAMAS	DOMINICA	ST. LUCIA
BARBADOS	GRENADA	ST. VINCENT
BERMUDA	JAMAICA	TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
BRITISH GUIANA	LEEWARD ISLANDS	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS
BRITISH HONDURUS	MONTSERRAT	VIRGIN ISLANDS

TO issue a quarterly Bulletin embodying articles, items of interest and other features (including a wants' section) which it is hoped will widen the knowledge of members (NOTE: It will be appreciated that every member will always be 'in the picture' no matter where he (or she) resides.

**MEMBERSHIP:** TO be **WORLD-WIDE** in scope and open to all who are interested in the stamps or postal history of the abovementioned colonies.

The **ANNUAL** subscription on to be 10/6d (\$2 Canada & U. S. A.) due on the 1st **FEBRUARY**. (NOTE: Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to "B.W.I. Study Circle").

**A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT.**

March 1954

"The formation of the British West Indies Study Circle fills a long felt want. My friend, the late L. C. C. Nicholson, often discussed with me the possibility of arranging one but neither of us could spare the considerable amount of time required to run such a Circle. We now have in our Hon. Secretary and Treasurer - Mr.P.T.Saunders - a member who is willing to give his time and enthusiasm to bring together all those stamp collectors who are interested in British West Indian stamps; a group that is probably the most popular in the whole world of stamp collecting. It is proposed to issue a quarterly Bulletin and I appeal to all members to give this the support it will require by sending in their problems for others to solve and writing articles for publication about their respective colonies. It is obvious that most of our work will have to be done through the post both here and abroad but there is at least one occasion when we can get together in person. The B.W.I. Study Circle applied to Congress for affiliation and this has been accepted. The Congress will meet at Eastbourne from May 25th to 28th. A Study Circle evening has been arranged and I hope to meet many of our members on that occasion. I am glad to learn that the Jamaica Philatelic Society will be represented at Congress by one of their members - Mr.H.F.Reid - who is coming from Kingston as a delegate and I am sure we will look forward to meeting him. The British Caribbean Philatelic Society has also affiliated to Congress and there are other Societies in the British West Indies who I hope we can induce to join and if possible send a delegate to attend our Study Circle. For my part I will do my best to solve anything appertaining to JAMAICA which the Secretary passes to me to deal with.

I wish the B.W.I. STUDY CIRCLE every success,

G. W. Collett.

PRESIDENT.

Dear Member,

In presenting to you our first Bulletin we feel sure that you will agree that the message from our President is a most welcome and appropriate introduction and it is with pleasure we announce that a "President's Paragraph" will be a regular feature in succeeding issues.

**MEMBERSHIP.**

Up to the time of going to press our number totals 42 and in view of the fact that our inaugural meeting was held barely two months ago this figure may be regarded as very satisfactory indeed. It is most interesting note that members are drawn from all parts of the country as shown by the following details:-LONDON ( 7 )

Cornwall (2)	Kent (1)	Surrey (1)
Derbyshire (3)	Lancs (1)	Sussex (1)
Devon (2)	Lincs (1)	Wilts (3)
Durham (2)	Middlesex (2)	Yorks (1)
Essex (1)	Northants (1)	Northern Ireland (1)
Herts (3)	Shropshire (2)	Scotland (2)

In addition we have members in B. W.I. (1) Canada (1) Eire (1) France (1) and U.S.A. (1) and it would seem that our decision to make membership WORLD-WIDE in scope will prove, as time goes on, to have been a wise step take. We are particularly proud of the fact that Mr. C. V. Adams, R. D. P. , F. R. P. S. L. , whose eminence in the world of philately is so well known, has joined us. Having regard to his advancing years and indifferent health (which we sincerely trust will improve) we are indeed grateful for his support which cannot but give added importance to the Circle. Also he has promised to let-us have a few notes on the stamps of St. Vincent in due course which we know will be read with interest by all members. We also have pleasure in announcing that Dr. R. H. Urwick, F. R. P. S. L. , President of the Shropshire Philatelic Society, has accepted our invitation to become a Vice President.

You may have wondered why we have given up page 2 to giving details of the Circle of which you are already aware. Our purpose is deliberate as we regard it as our 'shop window'. We hope that if you have a friend who may be interested you will lend him (or her) the Bulletin (we say LEND as we would like to think that you will not wish to part with it).

**PUBLICITY:**

We would like to take this opportunity to tender our thanks to the Editors of the following journals for a number of notices in the past few weeks:- "The Philatelic Magazine," "Stamp Collecting" and "The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly." We have also observed references in the Bulletins of The Australian Commonwealth Specialists Society of Great Britain and London & Provincial Stamp Club respectively for which we are very grateful. Our thanks are also due to the Honorary Secretary of The Royal Philatelic Society, London for his generous notice in the March issue of "The London Philatelist" which was entirely unsolicited. Our President has received intimation from Mr. E. F. Aguilar of Kingston, Jamaica that he is reserving a page of his magazine "British West Indian Philatelist" to our Circle. Since his subscribers number around 500 we are indeed grateful for such generous publicity.

**AN INVITATION.**

The London & Provincial Stamp Club have extended an invitation to members of our Circle to give a joint display at their Headquarters, Weigh House Hall, Binney Street Oxford Street, London, W 1. on Saturday September 4th at 3 p.m., which has been accepted. Three members have already promised to attend and another will be sending some sheets that will be exhibited by our Secretary on his behalf. Although the date is some way off any other members who would like to participate by attending personally or sending material should advise the Secretary not later than the end of June in order that details may be included in the July Bulletin.

**36th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain.**

Our President has referred to this event and both he and the Secretary will be attending and will. act as the Circle's delegates. A most attractive programme has been arranged and it is hoped that many of our members will be there and attend the Study Circle that has been arranged. Mr. Saunders will be staying at the Vernon House Hotel and members can contact him there should they wish to. ( 'Phone EASTBOURNE 2293).

**NOTES and QUERIES.****SURCHARGES: Could some have been avoided?**

Generally speaking surcharges have had to be applied to stamps when a particular denomination was temporarily out of supply or when a new rate of postage was suddenly introduced. This practice was prevalent in the B.W.I. during the period 1870-1900; altogether Gibbons list over 200 such surcharges excluding the "a" varieties. Although communications were not so rapid in those days as at the present time the R. M. S. P. Co. kept up a regular service between the West Indies and England. Consequently it should have been only on very rare occasions that provisional issues, printed locally, should have become necessary. It is possible, of course, that some of the Postmasters did quite a fair amount of private business with European dealers and collectors in connection with the surcharges. In fact such a state of affairs is rather plainly indicated in surviving correspondence. Whilst some colonies like St. Kitts and Turks & Caicos Islands produced large numbers of surcharged stamps others, like Jamaica, had very few whilst Montserrat had none. This does not mean that these latter colonies were never without some particular denomination but that the Postmasters concerned exercised some ingenuity in avoiding surcharges. Naturally the method that first springs to mind is the 'bisect' as authorized in Jamaica in 1861 and in Montserrat in 1883. Unfortunately it was a practice which could have led to a certain amount of abuse but which was fortunately minimised by the thoroughness of the majority of the obliterations during that period (in this group those like Nevis of 1883 which were bisected and surcharged are not included). When Barbados was temporarily short of 2d. stamps in February and March 1893 the old "Crowned Circle" Paid Mark was resurrected. A similar course was adopted in 1896 when the supply of 1d. stamps ran short. St. Lucia resorted to the same procedure in 1902. Various other "Paid" marks were also used at times by other colonies. Probably the latest example is the one used in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1926. Revenue stamps were also allowed to serve for postage purposes at certain periods. In St. Lucia such stamps were overprinted for postal use.

When the newly issued stamp ran out in the Cayman Islands in 1908 due to the heavy demands by dealers and collectors the Postmaster Mr. W. G. McCausland inscribed in manuscript in red ink in the postmark "Paid id W.C.Mc.C" From the collectors t point of view all the cases quoted are, of course, only of real value in these days when on entire and genuinely postmarked. They certainly illustrate the efforts of some of the local Postmasters to avoid provisional surcharges."

(Contributed by Mr. L. E. Bri tnor)

### **JAMAICAN OBLITERATION NUMBERS.**

I am sure amongst all British West Indies collectors there is one favourite colony. I have chosen Jamaica whose obliteration numbers have always held my interest. I first acquired the knowledge through books, magazines and articles and I feel this is the best procedure with any other colony. The obliteration is always found across the stamp: A. 01 then A. 27 to A. 78 can be found on all Great Britain stamps although these are scarce; A . 01 and A. 27 to a long list of numbers can be found on Jamaican stamps. I am sure if you look through the Jamaican section of your collection you will see many such numbers and to add a few more will create further interest. There are about 107 different numbers and types and some are naturally scarce. There were many changes in the postal history of Jamaica and one finds Mile Gully A.54 becoming A.55 but there appears to be no way of ascertaining when A.54 was replaced by A.55. Apart from the obliteration numbers one finds English cancellations on Jamaican stamps but these are always scarce items. There is also found the Letters A,B,C,D & E framed in a barred oval and these are the forerunners of temporary Post Marks. A. was used at Milk River - B. was used at Duncans. C. D. E . So far it has not been discovered where these were used. Only two copies of D have been found and it is ranked as one of the rarest Jamaican Post Marks These were discontinued on the 1st April 1877 when Jamaica joined the Postal Union and no new obliterations were issued after 1878. There is still some mystery concerning certain numbers; some had a short life owing to being broken and are, therefore scarce. In my few notes it is impossible to give a list but any query I will certainly do my best to deal with if you write through the Secretary."

(Contributed by Mr. L.A. Courtney).

**THE HANDSTAMPED SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS OF THE  
BAHAMAS.**

"This is a field that has been strangely neglected in the past in articles dealing with the postmarks of the Bahamas and even Mr. Gisburn mentions them only very briefly in his book. My collection of these cancellations is still very small but I am hoping that, having made a beginning, others will be able to enlarge and, perhaps, complete the list, for many other types I feel sure must exist:

**N A S S A U.**

1. "COME TO / NAUSSAU, BAHAMAS / IDEAL TOURIST RESORT" in three lines framed 52 x 10 mm overall Dates of Use:- 2.7.1915 to 16.9.1916.
2. "HAVE YOU BEEN TO / NASSAU BAHAMAS? / IF NOT, WHY NOT?" in three lines framed 41 x 15 mm overall Dates of use:- 4.11.1915 to 29.7.1916
3. "NASSAU" / TOURIST SEASON / DEC to APL" in three lines in left half of a rectangle 60 x 23 mm overall. The right half is completed by four horizontal lines. Dates of use 15.2.1918 to .....

**TARPUM BAY, ELEUTHERA**

I have two, single stamps S. G. 126 & 145 cancelled by the outline of what is meant to be a tarpon. (i. e. - "Tarpum"?) and with no signs of any other cancellation. One has been marked on the back by a previous owner "Cat Cay" which is on Bimini Island but it seems more probable to me that they originated at Tarpum Bay. I understand that a cancellation representing a cat was the one used on Cat Cay though I have yet to see an example. Further information on these "pictorial" cancellations would be appreciated.

**ROCK SOUND, ELEUTHERA.**

1. "VISIT ROCK SOUND / ELEUTHERA-BAHAMAS / INCOMPARABLE SCENERY" in three lines framed 62 x 36 mm overall The date is practically illegible but is probably in the 1920 's
2. Believed to be from Rock Sound, Eleuthera.  
".....and Vigour, Take / A Cruise in Your Motor Yacht to / ELEUTHERA, BAHAMAS, / THE TOMATO GROWING ISLAND" in three lines framed: 46 x 21 mm overall

I only have this, reconstructed, on single stamps but believe it dates from the 1920's.

This brief list is all I can provide for the present but I hope it will be enough to start the ball rolling. It is up to you now to let the Secretary have further information he can pass on." (Contributed by Mr. M. H. Ludington).

### **THE FIRST TRINIDAD POSTAL MARKING.**

"May 30th 1806 is the date of the date of the earliest Trinidad postal marking so far recorded. The strike is from a date stamp very similar to the later first type fleuron mark but apparently lacking the fleuron device itself. I have examined another example dated 1807. In neither case is there any trace of the fleuron device and it certainly seems that these are of a different type though it would be valuable to have further evidence.

The earliest date recorded so far for the first type fleuron date stamp (height 31mm, width 33mm) is 1809." (Contributed by Mr. J. B. Marriott).

### **WANTS.**

#### **BERMUDA.**

S.G. 24 & 24a with numeral postmarks other than "1"  
ENTIRES carried by early R. M. S. P. Co. ships.

#### **BRITISH GUIANA.**

SHIP types: S.G. 126,127,193,233/5,240/1,252/3 and 258  
(NOTE: in quantities of not less than 10)

#### **CAYMAN ISLANDS.**

Pre-adhesive entires.

S.G. 3,4,6,7,35,36,51,52,52a & 52b (MINT only)

#### **JAMAICA.**

S.G. 38 in MINT Plate No. Block 2 x 4 from top of upper left pane.

S.G. 53b and 54a WITH CERTIFICATES.

Covers or pieces with or without U.S.A. stamps used by U.S.A. Forces in Jamaica with postmarks:

- "A.P.O.804" between 17th November 1941 and early 1942.
- "A.P.O.861" between 5th NAY 1942 and 6th December 1949 and "MAR DET PORTLAND BIGHT"

Covers or pieces with paqubot cancellations and bearing one or other of the "Lady" boat cachet.

#### **ST. KITTS.**

1903 Colour trials.

TRINIDAD.

Pre-adhesives before 1910. Entires up to 1903 with town and numeral cancellations.

NOTE: Any member who is able to supply any of the 'wants?' mentioned should send them to the Secretary, stating price asked, for onward transmission. If the member who requires them decides to purchase a remittance should be sent to the Secretary drawn in favour of "B.W.I. Study Circle." The Secretary will then remit the amount (less 5% commission and postage) to the original owner.

**THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S PARAGRAPH.**

The formation of a British West Indies Study Circle is no new idea. Our President has mentioned that both the late L.C.C.Nicholson and he had often discussed the matter. Some weeks ago a well-known philatelist in the North concluded his letter to me with these words;

"we tried one at Congress some years ago and as those present collected fifteen Islands it was a flop."

Quite frankly I cannot understand why this should have been so. I find that the majority of our members confine their collecting to one or two colonies but this fact does not seem to detract their interest in the Circle to the slightest degree. Mr. Gilbert-Lodge writing in "The London Philatelist" says:- "...it may be a matter of surprise that a Study Circle has not been previously formed" and I would say that it is an even greater surprise to find that it should fall to me, a comparative newcomer to the ranks of B.W.I. collectors, to be its Founder. All I can say is that it will give me the greatest pleasure to do all in my power to see that our circle is firmly established before the time comes for someone else to take over my duties. Our President has made an earnest appeal to all members to submit their problems and contribute articles for publication. When I say

P11

that the continued existence of our Circle depends almost solely on the regular flow of such material I know every member will respond. It should not be thought that some item may be regarded as somewhat elementary for remember there are others who will follow who will be, like myself, beginners. One or two members have asked whether an Exchange Packet is going to be organised. This matter has been considered by your Committee and it has been decided that it would not be practicable having regard to our very scattered membership. For the benefit of members who may be unaware of its existence I would refer to the WEST INDIES STAMP EXCHANGE CLUB conducted by Mr. A. V. York of 1 Church Road, ERITH, Kent which I understand is a good medium for disposing of those duplicates which we all accumulate. Reference has been made to the forthcoming Congress and I would like to mention here that it will be very much appreciated if any member attending will bring say six sheets from his collection for exhibition at our Study Circle. -This seems an appropriate time for me to express my thanks to our President, my friends on the Committee and many members for their encouragement and the valuable assistance they have given me without which the compiling of this Bulletin would scarcely have been possible. It remains for me to invite you to favour me with your comments and criticisms and so enable me to endeavour, to the best of my ability, to give you the Bulletin you want.

Thank you.

P. T. S.

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[Link to Next Bulletin](#)