

THE BRITISH WEST INDIAN PHILATELIST

EDITOR E. F. AGUILAR
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ISSUED QUARTERLY

7/- YEARLY

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VOL. 4

DECEMBER, 1952

No. 2.



British Honduras
First Flight

See Page 23

1/6

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Kingston, Jamaica

L. C. C. Nicholson Obituary

L. C. C. Nicholson, was born on the 15th October 1887. He died in a London Hospital on October 14th 1952, a day before his 65th birthday. Philately has lost a great Philatelist and a dear and beloved friend of many. He was known the world over for his amazing knowledge of the stamps of Jamaica. I first met Nicholson about 1922, when he joined the Croydon Philatelic Society, and ever after were lifelong friends. The study of the stamps of Jamaica became the bond of friendship which cumulated, with the help of others, in the writing and publishing of the Jamaica Handbook in 1928.

His wonderful collection of Jamaica was sold in 1940, which gave many the chance to acquire some of the unique items he had found, and so often wrote about.

He was always so ready and willing to pass on this knowledge to others, no problem seemed to be too difficult for him to solve.

He had a brilliant memory for dates, and places, and with his careful records which he kept could place everything of importance, connected with Jamaican stamps. Although he had never visited Jamaica, many Jamaicans who visited him in his London home, found he knew more about Jamaica than they did.

He was President of the Croydon Philatelic Society for 15 years (from 1930-1945) and I worked with him, in those years till 1941 to build up the Croydon Society, and what happy years they were.

He was a staunch supporter of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain attending every annual Congress that was possible.

I last saw Nicholson at the Southampton Congress in May 1952, when he stood by my side, and sponsored me at the Roll ceremony. What a lovely memory of so dear a friend.

(G. W. COLLETT)

Notes Here And There

Jamaica -- TRDs

There have been a number of requests for an article to revamp the TEMPORARY RUBBER DATE STAMPS for Jamaica. Some of the requests have been for a price quotation for these TEMPORARY RUBBER marks, while others have requested that the name of the Parish along with the die and stamp in use, be included. If you are a collector write and let us know' what you would like, as this article will be commencing in the March edition of this magazine.

B.W.I. -- Coronation Set.

The long awaited announcement of the Coronation issue was made known throughout the British Colonies on October 1st. The set consists of one low valued stamp which is, of the low postal rate for the Colony. The design will be a key plate of the head of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It is known that many of the Colonies will be going back to the Key Plate type of issue. I will look forward to seeing some really first class work, and designs in the forthcoming sets. Even with the low value (face) of the Coronation, one does know that most of the Colonies of the B.W.I. group from the new Queen Elizabeth set or Pictorial set, will be considerably stepped up in value. Announcement of individual Colonies will be forthcoming in due course. Generally most collectors are very disappointed at the one Coronation stamp, for had it been two values, it would have made a far more appropriate and fitting set.

Coronation Stamps for the B-W.I. Islands are as follows:-

Antigua 2¢ green	Jamaica 2d green
Bahamas 6d blue	Leeward Is. 3¢ green
Barbados 4¢ orange	Montserrat 2¢ green
Bermuda 1½d blue	St. Christopher Nevis Anguilla 2c green
British Guiana 4¢ red	St. Lucia 3¢ red
British Honduras 4¢ green	St. Vincent 4¢ green
Cayman Island 1d green	Trinidad 3¢ green
Dominica 2¢ green	Turks Island 1d brown
Grenada 3¢; red	Virgin Islands 2¢ green

Face value of this group 2/7d.

Dominica – 1951 KGVI 2c & 4c

2c and 4c have been off sale for quite a while, but these are expected back at Roseau G.P.O. early in December.

Bermuda – 1938 KGVI 2/6 New Shade

2/6 new shade has been on sale in the Colony from the end of September.

Leeward Islands – 1938 KGVI £1 Wmk Varieties

£1. 0. 0. stamps with wmk. inverted. a few copies of this stamp have been reported in the B.W.I. It would not be surprising to find that a portion of the printing was done on this stamp in this way, and much of it might have gone unannounced due to the very shades and colouring of the stamp. Unless one is extremely careful the wmk. is not picked up easily on this £ stamp. Also reported is the wmk. sideways.

London Sales

On November 19th, one of the most interesting specialized sales of Barbados went up for auction at Messrs. Robson Lowe Ltd., in London.

LONDON. H.R. Harmers had an extremely fine auction on November 17th. Among which there were a number of lots of Barbados for the 1852 to 1855 issue. British Guiana 1853 to 1857 issue, and a few of the first type Grenada. Also a number of items of Trinidad of the 1851 to 1852 type. There was extremely keen bidding on these items as these are not seen often.

Dominica – 1951 KGVII New Printing

The new printing has just been released of the ½¢ 1¢ 2¢ 4¢, and 24¢. The only difference noticeable being the 24c which has a darker frame.

Shades And Varieties To Look For

Antigua – 1953 QEII Set

ANTIGUA. The new Queen Elizabeth set for Antigua has been announced, which will be in decimal currency, very nearly all values will be of the same designs, which are now current, two new values have been added.

10 grey	present ½d value
2c green	present 1d value
3c blk/yellow	present 1½d value
4c red	present 2d value
5c blk/yellow	present 2½d value
6c yellow	present 3d value
8c blue - Martello Tower	
12c violet present	present 6d value
24c black and chocolate	present 1/- value.
48c purple and blue - Martello Tower	
60c claret	present 2/6 value
\$1:20 olive green	present 5/- value
\$2:40 magenta	present 10/- value
\$4:80 blue green	present 20/ value

It would not be surprising to see this set along with the Leeward Islands being issued early in the coming year.

Leeward Islands --1954 QEII Set

New Queen Elizabeth II stamps for the Leeward Islands will be in a Key Plate and Duty Plate with the new decimal values. Printing is being done by De La Rue on white paper 1c grey, 2c green, 3c yellow/black, 4c red, 5c black/ purple, 6c yellow, 8c blue, 12c purple/bright rose, 24c black/green. 48c purple/blue, 60c green/brown, \$1:20 yellow/green and red, \$2:40 green and red, \$4:80 purple and black.

Grenada – 1951 KGVII Printing Shades

Grenada has a number of slight shades as against the first printing. The last printing of the ½c, 1c, 3c, 40, 60, 12c, 25c, and \$2:50 which frame is now changed in colour.

Trinidad – Air Letters

All the latest printings of Trinidad air letters have changed. The Royal Portrait. Collectors are advised to check, and not having this form should obtain this early.

Jamaica – 1938 KGVI Shades & Perfs

½d orange can be found in dull and bright orange. 1/- very deep green, while the 10/- value is still Perf. 14. Collectors are advised to get their stock of 3d blue, as the amount sold of this stamp, compared with the green and red (current) is small.

The 10/- perf. 13 in the light shade has just come on sale, which is more than 8 months after being issued in London.

Jamaica – Air Letter

Air letters are again on sale, the paper being greyish with one new change, the inscription "IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL," instead of the usual three lines, it is now four.

British Guiana – 1938 Compound Perfs

The latest reports of this \$1:00 compound perf. seems that this stamp is heading for the £20.0.0. class. Lucky for those who obtain theirs on the ground floor.

LONDON (Crown Agents) The latest release for British Guiana showed the 12c in a compound perf. but of a slightly different shade from the original compound. While the \$3.00 is now in a compound perf.

Bahamas – 1938 KGVI Printing Shades

The last printing of Bahamas of which the ½d, 4d and 6d were done, the ½d can be found in a slightly deeper colour than the first printing, in the new purple/red shade.

Bermuda – 1938 KGVI Printing Shades & Perfs

Likewise Bermuda had quite a heavy reprint in the 1d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 6d, 1/6 and 12/6d. Of this printing only three stamps show any real variety. They are the 1½d, which is slightly paler, the 2½d chalky surface, which is now perf. 12 x 11¾, and will be issued as a perf. variety on new issues. The 1/6 is so very little different, it is not worth mentioning. The 12/6 is a deeper grey, than the previous printing. I do not consider that it will be listed.

Reviews

Stanley Gibbons Empire Catalogue Part 1, 1953

We are glad to see this Catalogue out once again, and as usual it is as popular as it has always been. There has been quite a deal of surprise at the big drop in prices on many items. The only items to show increases are the early Queens. For Jamaica most of the early items except the Pines have dropped considerably. I will not comment on the George VI listing for all of us in the W.I. consider if a stamp is issued, and there is a noticeable difference in a shade and it warrants listing, then there is no reason why this should not be done. Collectors feel that the George VI should either be simplified or else specialized. At present it is neither. But to take on odd shades, and list them leaving other important colour varieties, it does not help the collector at all. Copies can be obtained by writing direct to the Editor, P.O. Box 406, Kingston, Jamaica. Priced at 17/- per copy.

A Directory Of Wholesaler International Philately' Agencies

This little Handbook has an extremely fine reference with regards the dealers and wholesalers. Published by the Gossip Printery Inc., Holton, Kansas U.S.A. at \$2.00 per copy. It should be included in any big firms library, or Stamp Society. It is well be All firms should definitely have this Handbook.

The St. Lucia Philatelist.

This little publication No. 4. has just been released, and is up to standard with all the previous issues. It has a checklist of the Hand struck stamps and cancellations, with notes of the first adhesive stamp for St. Lucia, along with the designs used in the Colony, and Post Office release, also Postal rates since 1860. This fine little publication can be had for 50c and has been published for the St. Lucia Philatelic Society by Messrs. Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London. Copies can be obtained direct, or by writing Col. H. G. Reid, Soufriere, St. Lucia, or through Robson Lowe Ltd, London, England.

Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue Of George VI And Queen Elizabeth II Postage Stamps 1953.

This new Catalogue has just come to hand, and gives a far more detailed listing of shades, varieties, as well as errors, in the George VI stamps. This publication is on extremely good art paper of 266 pages. Collectors as well as specialists of George VI cannot find a better Catalogue to be guided by. Copies can be obtained by writing direct to the Editor enclosing 9/6 plus 6d for postage.

Harmers Auctions – Jamaica Sale (Kitchen)

On October 6th and 7th, Messrs. H. R. Harmers (New Bond St., London) auctioned off on less than 176 lots of Jamaica. There was extremely keen bidding and prices still indicate that the stamps of this Colony are still well in demand, particularly in the postal history items.

(Transcribers Note: CHB Kitchen)

Great Britain stamps used in Jamaica.

- 4d GB 1857 issue on cover postmarked A 30 (Black River) back stamped Black River MR 1859. £6. 10/.
- Another fine item of the 4d rose GB on cover postmarked "A57" (Montego Bay) back stamped Montego Bay MR 3, 1859 and Kingston MR 5, 1859. Sold for £8. 10/-.
- The following obliterator numbers on GB were sold for £ 12. 10/-. The 6d lilac with A 57. 4d rose "A 60" "A 66", "A 73". and 1856 6d "A 75" with one circular dated mark of Savanna-la-mar. There were extremely keen bidding on all items containing selections of postmarks and obliterator numbers.

- A selection of 69 1d pine apple with different postmarks sold for £12. 10/- while a similar collection with 35 stamps of the 2d pine apple containing cancellation and obliterator numbers also sold for £12. 10/-. In the 3d green pine apple selection of 37 stamps of postmarks and obliterator numbers sold for £9. 9/-. While in the 4d of the same issue, 29 stamps all different postmarks sold for £12. 12/-. 54 6d pines with postmarks obliterator numbers went for £ 18. 0. 0. While 51 of the 1/- pines with shade varieties and a fine range of obliterator numbers were sold for £23. 0. 0.
- A large collection of postmarks many on 1d, 2d, 2½d, 1899/91 and Landoverly Falls of both types - 316 stamps sold for £ 9. 0. 0. This contained a large selection of postmarks and obliterator numbers.
- The pineapple issue is always sought after particularly in the mint, and these were all sold very nearly at full Catalogue value. The bi-sect on wrapper nicely tied with an A 50 cancellation back stamped Malvern Sp. 5, 65. Sold for £12. 10/-.
- A single item of the 1/- dollar variety of the pine used was sold for £ 18. . 0.
- Mint material in the CC and CA and the early George V also war stamps charged about half Catalogue throughout. Some special blocks were better priced.
- Block mint 5/- lilac 1863-97 were sold for £5. 0. 0. In the 1890 Provisional 2½d and 4d red brown second printing a block of 12 (6 x 2) which comprised an extremely rare piece having 9 stamps S G 30, one copy of S G 30 a surcharge 12 mm between the lines, .one S G 30c pfny for penny and 30d the broken F & Y '. This extremely fine piece sold for £20. 0. 0.
- The Coat of Arms issue has always been popular and the "ser. .et" errors particularly the 5d (SG 63a) always in demand by collectors. This item was sold for £30 0. 0. and I can foresee in the near future, that all these ser. et errors will be going up in price. In the 1905-11 issue Coat of Arms a very fine block four mint of the 5d ser. et realized 60 guineas.
- The war stamps did not bring more than a third of Catalogue Some of the better items just about half.
- The unissued Slavery stamp, which is an extremely popular item, is much in demand now a days, realized £ 13. 0. 0. with the Mult. CA paper, while on the Script Wmk. £ 15. 0. 0.
- There was keen bidding for all specimen runs. In the pineapple issue the 1d blue, 2d rose, 4d brown orange, 6d dull lilac, all imperf. copies overprinted "SPECIMEN" was sold for £6. 0. 0.
While a collection of specimen stamps 176 in pairs, blocks and singles were sold for £ 10. 10/-.
A collection of the 1919-21 issue 44 stamps all overprinted "SPECIMEN" were sold for £8. 0. 0. While the plate proofs of the 1919-21 issue 1½d to 10/- went, for £11. 0. 0. The Child's Welfare "SPECIMEN" set in block four sold for £ 9. 0. 0. The set is really very difficult, and all the later issues of the specimen sets from this issue on are extremely difficult. The die proofs which are always required to complete a collection, got very nearly all good prices. Die proof of the 1d S G 1 in black on glazed card, dated May 25, 1877 sold for £6. 6/-. While another die proof of the type S G 2, but with "before hardening" in Manuscript for £7. 10/-. Die proof of the 1/- type S G 6, in black dated Sept. 6, '60 sold for £10. 0. 0. While a copy of S G 9 the 2/- die proof on glazed card dated June 18, 1875, and marked "BEFORE HARDENING" was sold for £11. 10/-. A copy of the 5/- type S G 10, die proof 'in black on glazed card dated June 18, 1875 and marked "BEFORE HARDENING" went for £10. 0. 0.
- In the more modern issues the Silver Jubilee double flag staff varieties in pairs were sold for £.6. 6/-.

One can say that this sale on the whole, was satisfactory having realized over £1,300.

BWI First Flights

British Honduras

(This is the first of a series of articles, which will deal with the first flights of the B.W.I. Reproduced by kind permission of Messrs. Francis J. Field Ltd. and published from the Aero Magazine Volume 16 No. 7).

The first air mail despatches to and from Belize, the capital of this colony, took place in 1929, very soon after Pan American Airways had inaugurated their Central American service known as F.A.M. 5.

This route was between Miami (Florida) and Cristobal (Canal Zone). Pan American opened it on 4 February 1929, and with the flight leaving the two termini on May of that same year, mail was accepted for direct delivery to Belize. The two pilots operating these flights were S. J. Williamson on the Southbound trip, and R. E. Keeler on the Northbound. The first despatches from Belize to Miami via Havana (Cuba) left on May 22, while those to Cristobal, via Tela (Republic of Honduras) and Managua (Nicaragua) left on May 23.

Statistics of the despatches are as follows: the number of items carried to Miami was 697, and to Havana 26. On the southward flight, 60 items were carried to Cristobal, and 33 and 25 to Tela, and Managua respectively. The cachet illustrated (Fig. 1) was applied in violet to these despatches.

Various other points were added to the territory covered by F.A.M. 5 during the succeeding years, and the dates of despatch from British Honduras to these places have been noted in the Check List. Where no reliable records have been kept of such, dates, the dates of first despatches to Belize have been entered, when known.

In 1937 the first regular internal air mail service was inaugurated between Belize and El Cayo, by Transportes Aeros Centro-Americanos. Souvenir covers were issued bearing a blue Commemorative design. , Fig. 2. shows the one relating to the return service. The design for the outward service was exactly the same except -for the alteration of the inscription, to read "Belize - Cayo."

A further internal service was introduced in 1939 between Punta Gorda, and Belize, a cover from which is shown in Fig 3. The Commemorative design was again in blue.

J.C.W.F.



CHECK LIST.

1929

1. May 21. Mail was accepted for delivery to Belize over Pan American Airways Miami - Cristobal route (F.A.M.5).
2. May 22. Belize - Miami, via Havana. Mail was accepted for despatch over F.A.M. 5. A special oval cachet was applied in violet (Fig. 1).
3. May 23. Belize - Cristobal, via Tela and Managua. Mail acceptance over F.A.M. 5.
4. Sept. 21. First despatch from Tela to Belize.

5. Oct. 29. Belize - Cozumel (Mexico). It has been stated that six covers were carried over F.A.M. 5.

1930

6. Jan. 1. First despatch from San Salvador to Belize.
7. Jan. 23. Belize - San Salvador. It has been stated that one cover was carried.
8. March 11. First despatch from Costa Rica to Belize.
9. March 17. Belize - Guatemala City. It has been stated that three covers were carried.



1931

10. March 2. Mail accepted from Cuba to Belize.
11. Dec. 5 Belize - Payo Obispo (Mexico) and Puerto Barrios (Guatemala). Acceptance of mail over F.A.M. 5. Only five covers were carried to Mexico and 86 to Guatemala.

1935

12. April 4. A cover cancelled on this date in British Honduras, and addressed to Demerara, was involved in an accident to a P.A.A. machine off Trinidad. A one - line unframed cachet was applied in violet: "Received Dammed."

1937

13. Aug. 17. Belize - El Cayo and return. Inauguration of weekly internal air mail service by Transportes Aereos Centro - Americanos (T.A.C.A.) Special souvenir covers were issued (See Fig. 2.) 129 items were carried on the outward flight being backstamped at El Cayo on Aug. 17. 91 items were carried on the return of the service, also being backstamped on Aug. 17.

1939

14. March 15. Punta Gorda - Belize. First Flight of Internal service. Souvenir covers (Fig. 3) were flown.
15. Oct. 4. Tampa - (Florida) - Belize via the Cayman Islands. Inauguration of a short-lived service by Caribbean International Airways Ltd.

Air Letters Of The British West Indies (Contd.)

By E. Bulger (of Glasgow, Scotland.)

Antigua

The Air letter service from here started early 1946 but the Colony has yet to issue its first airletter with impressed stamp.

I have only two different "blank" forms used from the Island, the "Apsley" 1J having already been dealt with above.

The other form is printed on white un-watermarked paper with an overlaid stipple of dots in blue as also is the inscription. The stamp box (17.5 x 21.5 mm) of broken lines is blank. "BY AIR MAIL" cut out of a panel does not show the overlay, the length of "AIR LETTER" and the first two lines of the enclosure warning measure 38 mm whilst the third line measures 29 mm "Second fold here" has a fine unfeathered arrow at each end, there is a thicker arrow after the side opening instruction whilst the other opening instruction has no indicator. The two arrows at "First Fold here" are again fine but have a fine - line "feather" about one-third of the way along the shaft from the head. "Sender's name etc." measures approx. 43 mm.

I have three of these forms dated 1945 and 1946 from Antigua and others dated 1946 from Montserrat and Virgin Islands, but have not discovered any noticeable differences in the forms.

The Printer who produced this form is not known to me.

The rate of postage used (all inter-insular) is 8d, with the exception of one at 1/- but this may be a philatelic copy - block of 3d Antigua "Victory" dated Nov. 1, 1946 (first day of issue of the stamp.).

Bahamas.

The service, for use to the Armed Forces only was established from here on Nov. 1st, 1943 and extended on October 16th 1944 to civilian addresses in Great Britain and Commonwealth countries of the Western Hemisphere.

Air letter forms with a sevenpenny value stamp were issued on the earlier date, but when the service was extended, on May 4th 1945, to the remaining Commonwealth countries a 3d adhesive had to be added for use to the Eastern Hemisphere.

I have seen only two different forms from Bahamas. In appearance they are standard British Colonial forms with the 7d impressed stamp (SG Type 20) in orange, of white un-watermarked paper with grey-black stippled overlay of dots and the inscriptions in black.

Both are of the usual 2 -fold, 2 sealing flaps, 3 line enclosure warning type in the wide setting and the only noticeable difference between them is that in the first type there is no white border round the stamp. Close inspection of the stamp on the only sheet I have of this type (pmkd. 18/6/45) shows that the stamp is printed on the white of the paper proving that there is a space left in the overlay which impinges only slightly on the left hand and bottom frame lines. Whether the chicken or the egg, the overlay on the stamp came first I am not certain but the dots seem clear enough to be printed on TOP of the orange of the stamp.

On my form there is a small break in the frame of the value tablet at the left, level with the op loop of the "S" of "SEVENPENCE". Owing to the relative scarcity of the form it is difficult to say if the development of the break can be followed or even whether or not it is constant. (I have a sheet of the U.S.A. with a large break, another with what looks like the beginnings of the break, and I have seen an intermediate state in addition to others like my first, which does prove constancy at least). For a similar reason I am not able to comment on the possibility of more than one printing but the sheet with border round the stamp (still current) was issued some time in 1945. Not a very long run and a somewhat restricted use may mean only one printing.

The border (20 x 24 mm) round the stamp is the only difference between the two forms as they correspond in every other way even to tiny markings in the overlay. Above the "G" of "ANYTHING" in the enclosure warning there is a constant little mark like four of the overlay dots joined to make a cross. This mark appears on the early form as well as on one used as recently as July 1950

The position of the "M" of "MAIL" to the left of the "I" of "WILL" and the guide line for the second fold being continued right across the overlay, places both sheets in Group III.

It is worth noting here again that there are TWO opening instructions on these forms: sheets may be found with the bottom instruction wholly or partly cut off. One of my forms of the later issue has the instruction missing entirely.

So far I have found differences of shades, of overlay, inscription and stamp (incl. deep red-orange, light orange and yellow orange and seeming slight differences in the paper, but no really significant guide to printings; on these other details it is doubtful if two collectors could agree.

It has been recorded that some sheets of the first type without border have been overprinted "SPECIMEN" but I have no knowledge of the number so treated.

Barbados

Date of commencement of Service was late '44.

Although the single sheet with impressed stamp that this Colony has issued appeared on Nov. 21, 1949, the "Apsley" forms 1H and 1K (described above) have been recently seen in addition to another form that I think was printed locally although I do not know the printer responsible.

I understand that it is used from other Islands of the B.W.I., but apart from one sheet each from St. Lucia (1951) and Turks (1950), all of my several copies have been mint or franked with adhesives of Barbados from which my earliest is dated May 27th, 1946 and the latest July 22nd, 1950.

From the mint copies it is noted that the two sealing flaps are without gum and the story goes that the sheet with the impressed stamp was ordered by the Postmaster because of complaints about this lack of gum - what is expected for ½d!! In any event, the form seems to be used concurrently with the one with the impressed stamp AND gum, so certainly some people have overcome their disliking for the paste-pot.

Long ago I should have said that I am referring to the sheets I almost affectionately, call the "Green Barbados", an airletter printed on green tinted paper of varying weights and shades.

I have several of these in my collection including one which tells us on the top sealing flap to "STICK THIS FLAG DOWN" instead of "STICK THIS FLAP DOWN."

For those who have not seen this form (who dares to confess it) I shall describe it generally, then enter into some detail about it because I think that there is sufficient interest in it.

None of the sheets have an overlay and all inscriptions are set up in black serifed type with a frame of thin, unjoined lines forming the front inside this frame as most of the lettering and at the top right hand corner two lines at right angles form with the corner of the frame, the stamp space or box. The words "AIR LETTER" are printed in capitals at top left and beneath them "BY AIR MAIL" in larger bold capitals starting nearer to the centre. The enclosure warning is formed of two lines of uneven length, the second line being more or less centred below the first, which starts approximately under the "A" of "AIR LETTER". Beneath the enclosure warning again is printed "Address Portion" and beneath these words come four dotted lines of equal length (approx. 75 mm) running horizontally to within a fraction of the right-hand frame line.

Outside the frame lines, towards the bottom right of the front of the sheet is printed "P.O. 876." On the back of the sheet, vertically, is found printed "FROM (Sender's full Name and Address) with three dotted lines of unequal length the top one o:' which starts with "M" (for Mr., Mrs., Miss., Messrs. etc).

To give full details of the various differences in this sheet would be unwise judging by my own copies but the following will, I hope, cause an increased interest in them.

In the stamp box, which itself varies in size, are printed the words "Affix / postage / here / special / rates". Some copies have a capital in "Postage" others have only a small-case type of "p". The frames vary in size, the Type used differs, as do the lengths of words, and relative positions of these, so that a great deal of enjoyment could be had from a pile of this material. To start the ball rolling however, perhaps the following observations may be made.

The paper can be divided into three lots as follows:-

- A. Watermarked "PROVINCIAL BOND" in double lined letters curved over "MADE IN CANADA" which is in single lined lettering centrally placed underneath the arc formed. I have three copies so watermarked. all apparently of one printing, all postmarked 1946, - small "p" in "postage". Noted too, peculiar serifs on the left legs of the "As" in "AIR LETTER" and "ADDRESS PORTION" wide gap at top right corner of frame, constant breaks in dotted lines etc., etc..
- B. Un-watermarked. I have several copies of this, one dated, 1947, some 1950 and later and some mint all small "p".
- C. Watermarked "Howard Smith/VICTORY BOND/Beaver Seal in circle/MADE IN CANADA" of which mark only "Victory Bond" is in double lined lettering. I have the copy dated 8 JY 48 and one mint copy.

That lot B is not composed of sheets that have missed the watermarking "bits" is certain from printing details, in fact I believe it can be further sub-divided. All of my copies in Lots A and C have the junction of the sealing flaps cut so that the piece of waste paper is triangular in shape; some of Lot B are also cut thus, but others are cut so that this piece of waste is almost square shaped. The flaps when folded over, normally over-lap in this group whereas in the other groups, they may touch but there is usually a gap between and the cut edges are roughly parallel.



It may well be that these forms are printed in sheets of two or more airletters, each "setup" or "plate" being hand set and locked in a frame but still slightly different -'the human element. The finished products when cut into separate forms may well appear to be different printings: without knowing the method of printing we cannot be precise in this respect and, in any case, for our purposes the forms will be different and constant in their differences.

Although I have this "Green Barbados PO 876" used from St. Lucia and from Turks, I am not certain that they are or were on sale there.

Concerning the form bearing the 6d impressed stamp, little need be said as it is still current. Issued on Nov. 21st, 1949, the form is of the Standard Colonial type, the stamp, in a 'violet shade showing the arms of the Colony (SG Type 21) and with a four line enclosure warning the form falls into Group V. As usual there have been shades of inscription and overlay but I have noted only one major change; a copy postmarked 1950 is of a decidedly more brown paper, than the normal gray tone.

It is generally expected that the form would be re-issued with the stamp value in cents, but at the date of writing this is not yet certain in fact it is whispered that the P.M.G. of the Colony is not greatly in favour of these air letter sheets (but whether despite or because of their popularity elsewhere, is not known).

Bermuda

The Air Letter service here started on Sept. 18th, 1944 with blank forms without impressed stamp. So far as I can understand these came from the Crown Agents, local printers and military sources but unfortunately I have none of these used from this Colony: in all probability however, the Crown Agents' sheet is that described under St. Lucia here-after.

With regard to forms with an impressed stamp, the first was issued in 1945. It is a form printed in the same colour and style, on white paper, as the Bahamas sheets but a notable difference is in the stamp space, and in the stamp itself. The stamp this time is printed in shades of black or grey/black and has no S.G. type number. In fact, of the British Colonial Group it shares a common

design (but not value) with the impressed stamps on Aden's Airletters alone, and there is a similarity between these two, and the . impressed stamps on sheets from Ceylon.

Unlike the sheets from Ceylon and Aden however, the space for the stamp on the Bermudan sheet follows roughly the shape of the stamp by being dome shaped at the top in this and the next printing. The space on this first issue measures 22.5 x 28 mm at the highest part of the curved top.

Being like the Bahamas sheets this one also qualifies for Group III and again, I have noted on all copies seen, that there is a suspicion of a mark above the "G" of "ANYTHING". Shades of paper and printing are known as are copies overprinted "Specimen" in black.

Another sheet was issued in 1948 with the same impressed stamp and the same shape of stamp space, but this now measures 34 x 30 mm. This is a Group 1 form similar to Jamaica's in paper, and general lay-out but the printing of stamp, inscription and stipple is in black. In this form I have seen only two dots together although it may exist with only one dot or more.

During 1950 another sheet appeared this was again on the standard colonial paper, and was similar to the previous issue with the exception that the stamp space had now lost its curved top and measured 24 x 27 mm. It follows that this is another Group 1 form, and I have it with both dots in the enclosure warning and, unique in my collection, with the dot before the "T" only: I have no other sheet with that one dot.

There was yet another sheet issued for the Colony. In the narrow setting Group V (with Barbados) it has a four line enclosure warning and has the same rectangular stamp space as the 1950 issue. I notice however, that the paper of this latest 1951 issue is smoother surfaced and of a more brownish shade whilst the measurements do not exactly correspond with those of the earlier sheets.

British Honduras.

Strangely enough I have not seen even philatelically - used copies of blank sheets (with adhesives) from this Colony, and there has been no issue with impressed stamp I would be pleased to learn of any air letter sheets on sale in the Colony, either in the Post Offices or elsewhere.

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