

# THE BRITISH WEST INDIAN PHILATELIST

EDITOR E. F. AGUILAR  
P.O. BOX 406 - KINGSTON.

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VOL. 5. MARCH 1954 NO. 3.

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BRITISH WEST INDIAN  
PHILATELIST

ISSUED QUARTERLY

8/6 YEARLY

EDITOR E. F. AGUILAR

P.O. BOX 406 — KINGSTON

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VOL. 5

MARCH, 1954

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History of  
**BRITISH  
HONDURAS**

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Edited by Arthur Blair

Assisted by W. B. Haworth, M.A.

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## **Crown Agents Regulations**

Early last year the Crown Agents issued the following regulations to all Post Master Generals and Colonial Post Masters, which came into effect at once. The few amendments were as follows:

### **POSTAGE STAMPS**

110A. (1) Services to Philatelists. The Crown Agents for the Colonies are not authorized to hold stocks of stamps for sale to members of the public except those dealers resident in the United Kingdom or in North America whose names appear on their lists of approved dealers: dealers resident elsewhere and all other private collectors may obtain such stamps as they may need only from dealers or by ordering them from the Colonial Postmaster with their remittance.

(2) Remittances accompanying orders must be made payable to the Colonial Postmaster and must be in the form of banker's drafts (where appropriate), money orders or British, Postal Orders. Remittances sent otherwise shall be returned.

(3) The Colonial Postmaster shall refuse to comply with requests to affix stamps to letters, or to cancel stamps which are not affixed to letters (or other articles) entrusted to the post in the normal manner.

(4) The Colonial Postmaster shall also refrain from taking stamps, at request, from some special portion of a sheet, posting letters sent to him or in any other ways acting as agent for dealers or collectors.

(5) Stamped envelopes sent to the Colonial Postmaster for cancellation and posting or return in some other manner shall be returned marked "unserved" under official cover either to the sender or to the postal administration where they originate with a request that they be delivered to the sender.

(6) Only envelopes bearing appropriate postage stamps of the Colony, which accompany orders for unused stamps, and are being used for the purpose for which they have been provided, shall be dealt with in the usual manner, by postmarking and cancellation of the stamps affixed thereto.

(7) The Colonial Postmaster shall not accept from dealers or collectors standing orders for the supply of new issues of stamps or new printings.

(8) Postage due labels (stamps) shall not be sold over the counter to anyone, but the Postmaster may comply with orders received through the post for the supply of blocks of these labels to dealers or collectors.

(9) The Colonial Postmaster shall not address envelopes, affix stamps to them, or make any special arrangements for the cancellation of stamps on what are termed "first day covers" of any new commemorative issues or other new issues of stamps. All persons wishing to have "First day covers" posted to them or to make advance arrangements for the supply to them of new issues should appoint their own local agent to act on their behalf.

(10) The Postmaster shall not take the responsibility of recommending any private person or firm to undertake services.

We would appreciate comments from collectors on the above.

## Notes Here And There

### Bermuda – 1953 Three Power Talks

Three Power Talks which were put on sale on the 8th of December until the 31<sup>st</sup> -- locally overprinted by the Royal Gazette (Local Printing Company) and were Lino-typed. The official sales being 3d. stamps 7,069 sheets of 60 stamps, and the 1/3d. stamps 5,189 sheets of 60 stamps. From the numerous sheets seen, one can find 6-8 flaws at times on certain sheets such as "DECCC" for "DECE" as in December. As well as many broken letters in the other words. It has been officially stated that a second printing was not done, while there are to be found two distinct measurements of the overprints in both values. We will go into details in a later issue as we feel that these stamps and varieties are worth recording and listing.

### British Guiana -- FPOs

Late last year when the Welch Fusiliers left Jamaica for British Guiana, for the short while that they were in that Colony reports of an FPO 9 being used has been reported. The local postage rate in British Guiana is considerably higher than with the Forces rates, and GPO Demerara was not obliging in allowing this material through at the regular army rate. Thus early in November, when the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders took over, Field Post Offices 616 and 618 have been on a number of envelopes. Most interesting of all is the GB 2½d stamp Queen's head being used, with a single ring FPO 955. Usually this is found from Demerara mailed to England direct.

### Bahamas – 1954 QEII Issue & Lower Deadmans Cay TRD

Unlike England, the Bahamas (and the B.W.I.) keep up the 1st of January as a holiday, New Year's Eve being their big night. It was surprising to see the new Queens being released on the 1st, and from very reliable reports the handling of FDC's were extremely small. So far a few very interesting items have turned up-Lower Deadmans Cay using a T.R.D. stamp. The Post Mistress most likely found it was quicker penning the name and date across the stamps, while some of the small Post Office strikes can be found with the 31/12/53 date.

### Cayman Islands – 1940 First Flight to USA

First direct flight from the Cayman Islands to USA was the 12th of February 1940, by U.S. Sea 'Plane. From reports there were only a small amount of the F/F covers carried. Postage on each envelope was ¼d. Postmarked 10th and 11th of February and opened by the censors in Cayman, and postmarked in Miami Feb. 12th and Jamaica 14th.

### Chile – BOAC Service

Announcement has now been made of the Jet service which will be started in July by BOAC. No given route has yet been named.

### Jamaica – 'AO' AirMail Handstamp

Very interesting postmark "A.O." can be found on all Second Class Mail coming from the GPO in Kingston. These letters are hand stamped either in purple, violet or black, and indicates Second Class air mail ordinary.

### Jamaica – RANSA & LAV Airlines

Two new Airlines are now coming in with Cargo, and shortly will start their passenger service. RANSA (Rutas Areas Nacionales-South America, Venezuela) agents Messrs. Lascelles deMercado & Co., while Coxe Bros. have the Agency for LAV (Linea Aeropostal Venezolana) their passenger service will be:

- (1) Caracas-Havana-New York City-Montreal.

(2) Curacao-Kingston, Jamaica-Miami.

(3) Kingston-New Orleans.

RANSA will operate a passenger route from Venezuela through Kingston to Miami.

#### **Jamaica – BOAC Stratocruiser Service to NY**

January 1954 saw the first direct flight between Montego Bay-New York BOAC Strato-cruiser. No special cachets so far have been seen.

#### **Jamaica – SS Gothic Cachet**

A small amount of mail for Jamaica was carried by the S.S. Gothic which was postmarked with a special cachet - 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub>" long by <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" wide. Reading:-

"ROYAL - S.S. GOTHIC"  
Commonwealth Southampton  
TOUR  
Off. No. 182351  
G.R.T. 15901-89  
N.R.T. 8905-63  
N.H.P. 3768

A very fine item for the collector (sorry no stocks).

## British Honduras

The Colony of British Honduras is situated on the East Coast of Central America facing the Caribbean Sea, and on the landward side of the Republics of Mexico and Guatemala. It is separated from the Republic of Honduras by 50 miles of Guatemalan territory. It is 174 miles by 68 miles wide, and has an area of 8,600 square miles (including cays) which is about equal to that of Wales, and double that of Jamaica. The population of British Honduras is 61,500 approximately, as per the census of 1947. It is composed of various races with English as the official language.

Capital and principal port of the Colony is Belize, at the mouth of the Belize or Old River. The roadstead is protected by reefs and cays which run parallel to the coast from 5-25 miles distant. However due to the very shallow water ocean steamers have to lie some two miles out. Unfortunately there is no permanent deep water pier at present, as the Port of Commerce Bight was destroyed by hurricane in September 1941. They are however using a temporary barge jetty until they have the funds to build another one. Also Belize has been built on land one foot above sea level, which makes it vulnerable to hurricanes and storms. It is shut in by miles of mangrove swamps which is a breeding ground for mosquitoes and other pests.

There have been suggestions to move the capital from Belize and take it farther south, but this has been ruled out by geographical conditions.

Belize is divided into two parts by Maulover Creek, on the mouths of the Old River; they are known as the Northside and Southside. The Northside is actually an Island located inside the triangle of the Old River delta. The Southside is divided roughly into four areas respectively known as the Town, Yarborough, Queen Charlotte Town and Mesopotania.

After the hurricane of 1931, many changes for the better took place, not only in Belize but throughout the whole Colony in such matters as sanitation, lighting and building.

From about 1935 the Colonial Development and Welfare fund (England) have given large grants of money for construction of various public works. In 1943 a considerable grant was given for construction of a modern air-field, 9 miles west of Belize. Work started in 1944, and was officially opened on January 11, 1945, by Col. the Right Hon. Oliver Stanley, M.C., M.P., the then Secretary of State for the colonies. The air-field-Stanley Field is in honour of this distinguished visitor.

North of Belize the country is level; south of that latitude the country rises sharply into a mountain area from 2,000 to 3,000 feet. The highest point is an independent ridge known as the Cockscomb, the name due to the profile of the ridge which is exactly like a cock's comb. Except for certain savannahs, swamp lands, mountain tops, the country is densely forested throughout in which mahogany, cedar, chicle, and sapodilla occur. The coastal belt which is swamp land is mostly covered with mangrove. British Honduras has a varied climate, which rains nearly all the year, the exception being March, April, May, which is known as the "Dry Season".

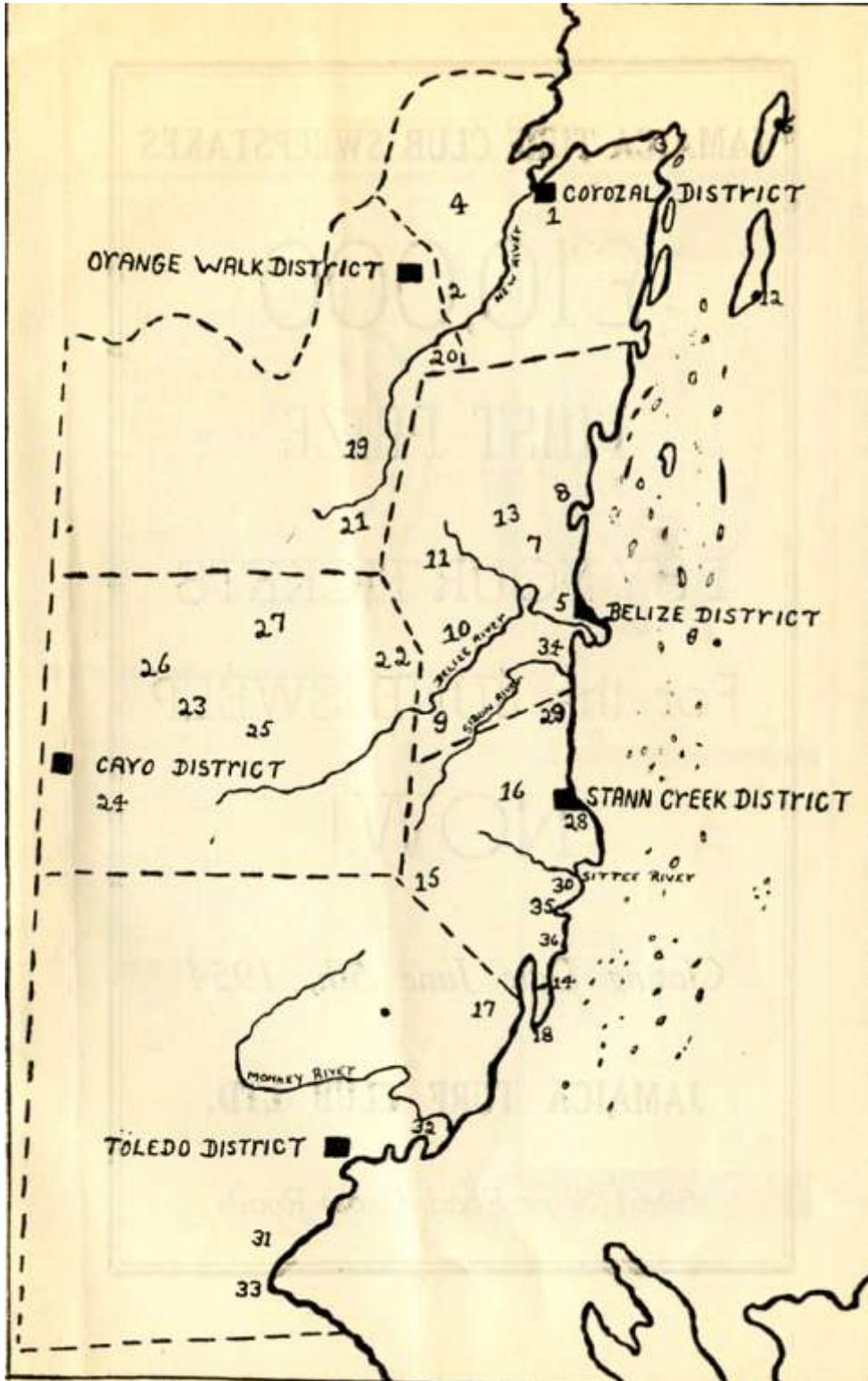
The Mountain Pine Ridge (Cayo District) is wonderful for health purposes. The scenery is rugged and beautiful, and at night it becomes so cool, that it is necessary to use a blanket, and there are no mosquitoes in this area. The wild life includes deer, jaguars, pigeons, macaws, and wild turkeys. The ridge is at present accessible to trucks and jeeps in the dry season only.

The Colony is covered with thick miocene lime stone, except for the upper carboniferous slates and granite intrusions which form the Mayo Mountains. In the south a series of thin bedded shales, etc. (Tonedo Beds) overlies the limestone. There are beds of gypsum, china clay, and diatomite of infusorial earth. Traces of tin and gold have been found.

The Colony is divided into six districts for administrative purposes, Belize, Cayo, Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, and Toledo. The latter five are known as the out-districts. Four districts have District Commissioners, and one-Orange Walk-an Assistant District Commissioner.

Roads have been greatly improved to what they were fourteen years ago, and at that time there were only 35 miles of road suitable for motor traffic, today the total has been increased to 226 miles of main roads and forty miles of feeder roads. There are also fifty miles of cart roads, which during the dry season are passable for motor traffic.

When proposed roads between Middlesex, inland terminus of the Stann Creek valley roads, and Cayo Roads, a distance of around 25 miles are built, another important step forward will have been achieved, as five out of six districts will be linked by a road with the capital.



A large proportion of the inland freight and passenger traffic is carried along the numerous waterways in motor-driven craft, or in dug-out canoes (Doreys). The latter are strong, shapely, hollowed out tree trunks, ideally suited for navigating waterways too shallow or dangerous for other craft.

There is a weekly service with the British West Indian Airways from Kingston, Jamaica. Other regular airlines calling or stationed at Stanley Field are Trans Aeroes Centro Americanos (TACA) which runs a regular service three times a week between Belize, San Pedro Sula (Republic of Honduras) and returning to Belize where the plane is stationed. At San Pedro Sula, connections can easily be made

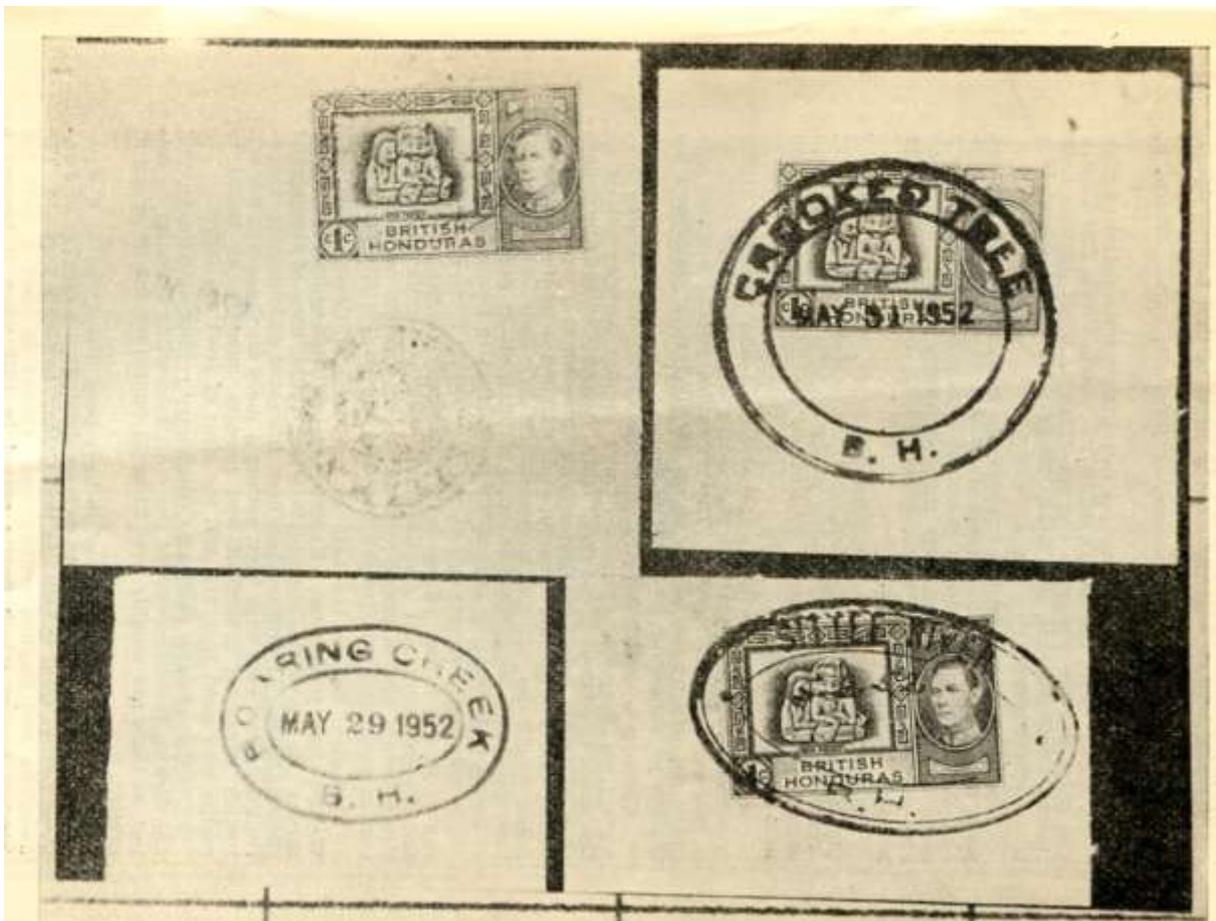
with other airlines, either north (U.S.A.) or South to Panama or any of the main cities in Central America.

A few small vessels call at Belize. The M.V. Heron makes a run to Puerto Cortez (Republic of Honduras) carrying passengers and freight, while the s.s. Caymania runs a shuttle service between Belize and Kingston calling at the Cayman Islands. She carries passengers and freight, but does not have a strict schedule.

Industry, due to the help of the Colonial Development and Welfare has progressed. Exports, mainly mahogany is known throughout the world, and chicle, which is the base of commercial chewing gum. Agriculture has been increased and oranges, grapefruit, bananas, etc., have been getting a place on the world market. British Honduras grapefruit and oranges have to be tasted to realize how good they are, and the sizes of fruit are large.

Collectors of postmarks, temporary rubber date marks, will find British Honduras one of the most interesting Colonies to collect, as there are roughly over 24 or 25 temporary marks in use at present.

This Colony was believed to have been discovered by Columbus, and it was not until 1838 or thereabouts that a number of Jamaican settlers went to settle in that Colony, to obtain logwood. The Jamaican and English settlers were always in conflict with the Spanish natives which finally ceased in 1859 when it became a colony. By March 31, 1860 a local post office had been established



The first obliterator number allotted to Belize was "A 06". Much of the mail seen with number has originated in Guatemala. It seems quite likely that the "C" killer in horizontal oval bars could have been Corozal, while the "O" could represent Orange Walls. From the official records obtained (from the Institute) in 1890, there were 9 post offices in operation, namely Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, Monkey River, Stann Creek, San Estevan, All Pines, Punta Gorda, and Mullings River. I am not at all sure of the postmarks used at this early period. In 1910 there were 26 post offices of which 21 were telegraph offices, which is very nearly the same amount used today. Obliterator Killer "K 65" used in Belize, is an interesting strike, as it is the only number recorded among the large number of obliterator

strikes that they use in K. There has been many temporary rubber date marks used for purposes such as Pan American Airways Office, which is extremely scarce, likewise Belize New River Service

There have been several other Temporary Date Stamps in use from time to time, and any readers having copies not listed, I would be only too glad for their information. Gales Point have been opened several times but at the present time of writing, reports say this Post Office is closed.

#### List Of Postmarks And T.R.D's Known

	All Pines	Opened and in use 1910.
23	Barranco	T.R.D. in purple, Type 1.
26	Baking Pot	T.R.D. in purple, Type 1.
	Bakers	Opened and in use 1910.
	Belize	"A 06" "K 65" "BELIZE" killer, single rings, Type A. & B.
	Belize M.O. & Registration	T.R.D. Type 3 in blue, used during 1914/1918.
	Belize P.A.A. Office	T.R.D. Type 4 in purple, used in 1930/1931.
	Belize New River Service	T.R.D. double ring similar to type 3
	Belize ? STATION ?	T.R.D. double ring in black similar to type 3.
27	Banana Dank	T.R.D. now closed.
24	Bengue Viege	Steel Mark Type A. & B.
8	Boom	T.R.D. in black, Type 1.
	Butcher Burns	Opened and in use 1910.
10	Bomba	T.R.D. in blue & purple, Type 1 in use
2	Caledonia	T.R.D. in purple, Type 1.
	Castille	Reported open. and in use 1910.
23	Cayo or El Cayo	Killer "C" single Rings A & B.
	Cay Caoulker	T.R.D. in purple, Type 1.
22	Crooked Tree	T.R.D. in purple, Type 5 in use.
1	Corozal	Steel die, Type A & B.
	Consejo	Reported open, and in use 1910.
11	Double Head Cabbage	T.R.D. in purple, Type 1 in use.
33	Gales Point	Reported in use from 1910.
9	Gracie Rock	T.R.D. in blue/black, Type 1.
21	Guinea Grass	T.R.D. in purple, Type 1, and Type 5.
17	Hopkins	T.R.D. in purple, Type 1 in use from 1910.
4	Louisville	T.R.D. in purple. Type 1.
7	Maskcall	T.R.D. in black, Type 1 in use.
32	Monkey River	T.R.D. in purple, Type 1, reported use from 1910.
29	Mullins River	Reported in use from 1910. T.R.D. in use Type 1
	Mount Hope	Reported in use in 1910.
19	Orange Walk	"O" and steel dies A. & B.
18	Placencia	T.R.D. in purple & violet, Type 1, in use
16	Pomona	T.R.D. in black, Type 1.

31	Punta Gorda	Steel die, Type A & B open and in use 1900.
	Sarteneja	T.R.D. in use certain periods.
20	San Estevan	reported open and in use 1910, die Type A & B.
12	San Pedro ...	T.R.D. in purple, Type 1.
14	Seine Bight	T.R.D. in Black, Blue & Violet, Type 1
30	Sittee	TRD in use, Black & Blue, Type 6
28	Stann Creek	In use in 1910, steel dies A & B.
15	Stann Creek Valley	T.R.D. in purple, Type 1 in use.
25	Roaring Creek	T.R.D. in purple, Type 1.
13	Rockstone Pond	T.R.D. black, blue & purple, Type 1.
	Riverdale	



### **B.W.I. Study Circle**

News has just been received of the formation on the 27th January this year of the B.W.I. Study Circle in London.

The Committee is as follows:

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

Hon. Vice President: Dr. R. H. Urwick, F.R.P.S.L. Hon. Secretary & Treasurer: P. T. Saunders  
Committee Members: E. S. Foreshaw, C. H. H. Roche, V. W. Smithson

OBJECT. To promote interest in and the study of stamps in the British West Indies.

To establish contact with correspondents throughout the British West Indies.

To issue a quarterly bulletin embodying articles, items of interest and other features, including a wants section, that 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.

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The annual subscription to be 10/6d. (\$1.50 Canada and the U.S.A.). (NOTE: Cheques and P.O's to be made payable to B.W.I. Study Circle). (Addressed to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer Mr. P. T. Saunders, B.W.I. Study Circle-1 Wellesley Court, Maida Vale, London W 9, ENGLAND).

THE B.W.I. PHILATELIST greets this new Society and will give every assistance possible where needed. At the present time the B.W.I. Philatelist has one specialized article on the early stamps for Jamaica, entitled the "dollar varieties that can be found on the Jamaica stamps." This article will be issued during the course of the year, through this magazine, and at the same time, it will be passed on to the B.W.I. Study Circle. It is hoped that this magazine will be privileged to reproduce from time to time articles printed by the Study Circle.

### **British Caribbean Philatelic Society**

Application for Membership

44. Dr. John Jesse Hayes, B.W.I. Orinoco Mining Co., Apartado No. 3, Ciudad Bolivar, VENEZUELA.
45. Jerrold M. Holmes, Ph.D., B.W.I. 3697 Glencairn Road, Shaker Hights 22, Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.
46. Robert W. Pitt, 3711 Almeria Avenue, Sarasota, Florida, U.S.A.  
B.W.I. Prestamp, T.R.D's, Obliterator numbers, etc.
47. William Stewart, B.W.I. Osgoode R. No. 2, Ontario, CANADA.
48. David H. Kerr, B.W.I. Box 3302, Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA.  
Part time Dealer
49. L. J. Burr, B.W.I. c/o Alstons Ltd., P.O. Box 59, San Fernando, TRINIDAD, B.W.I.

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# First Day Covers

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<b>BERMUDA</b> Royal Visit on white, limited .....	2/-
„ 3 Power Talks, limited .....	7/-
<b>BRITISH HONDURAS</b> 1¢ to 25¢ .....	5/6
<b>GRENADA</b> 1¢ to 12¢, June 15, '53 .....	1/-
2¢ Pairs, Sept. 15, '53 .....	6d
½ & 6¢, Dec. 28, '53 .....	9d
Stock not in yet: 3¢, 4¢ & 5¢, Feb. 22, '54 .....	1/3
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