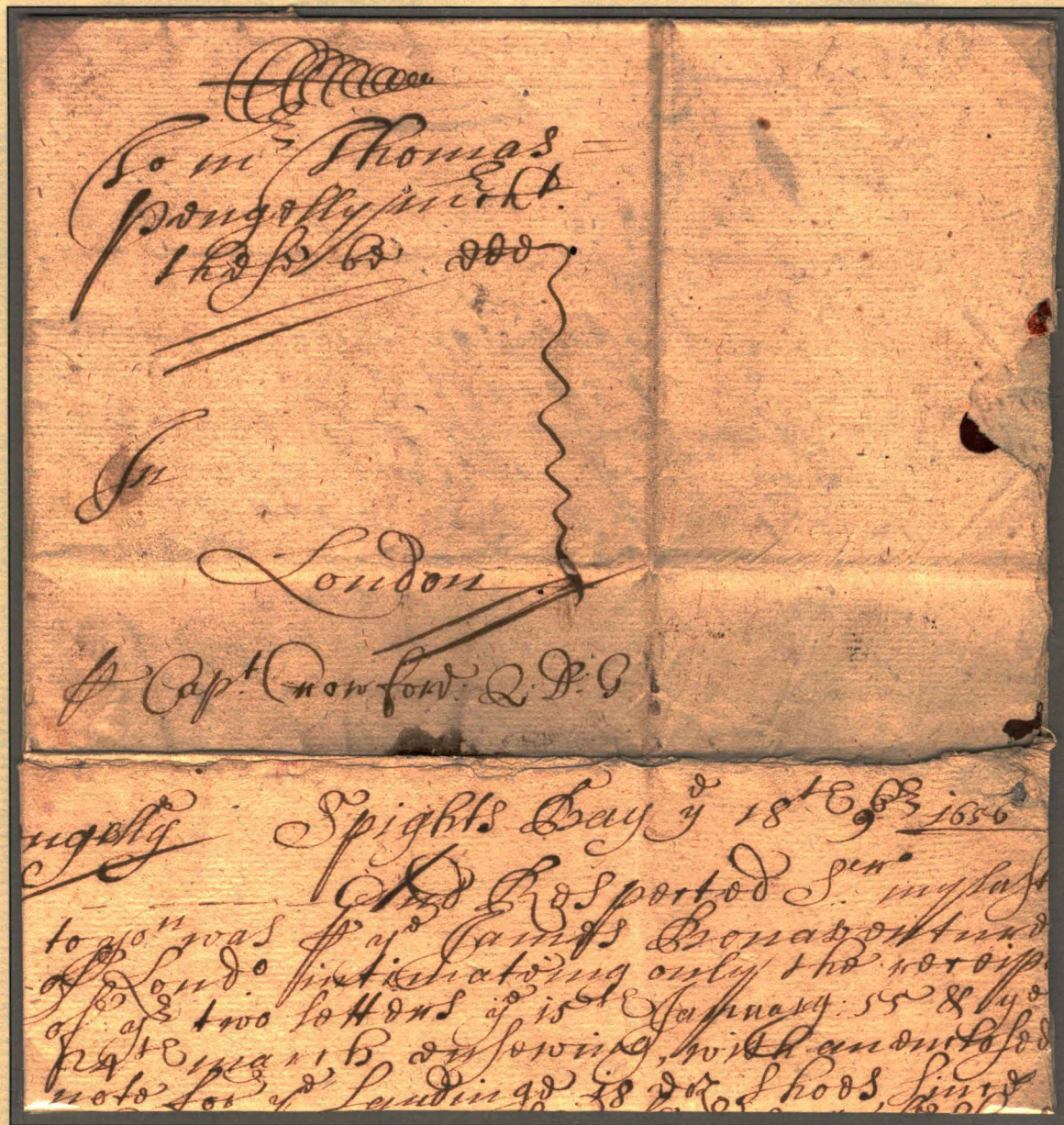


1656 - THE EARLIEST KNOWN MAIL

The first settlers arrived to Barbados in 1627 and a well organised society was slowly established. Trade with England was important and ships carried all the goods to and from the West Indies.

1656 THE EARLIEST KNOWN LETTER FROM BARBADOS



RATE: None, the letter was sent before Ship Letters were mentioned for the first time in any Post Office Act (in 1657) and this letter does not seem to have been handled by the Post Office, but was probably delivered privately or through a Coffee House.

CARRIED BY: Endorsed "Per Capt Crawford Q(uem) D(eus) C(onservet)", latin for "Whom God may protect".

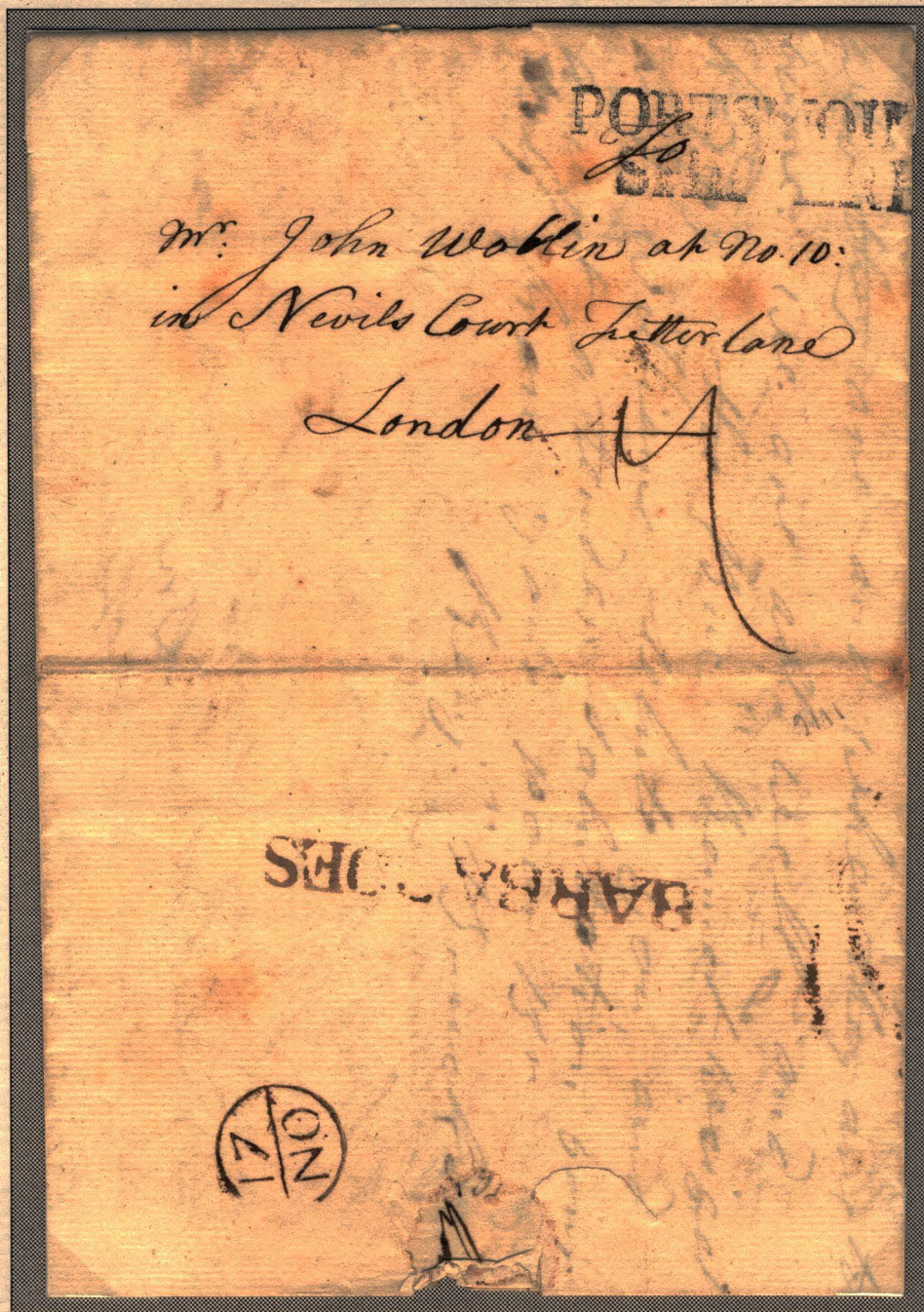
COMMENT: The letter is dated "Spights Bay ye 18th 9th 1656" and was sent by Merchant Edward Jacob, and is addressed "To Mr Thomas Pengelly Merch.t, in London". Another letter from the same correspondence is known dated the 18th December 1656.

THIS IS THE EARLIEST RECORDED LETTER FROM BARBADOS, AND ONE OF THE EARLIEST KNOWN LETTERS FROM THE BRITISH WEST INDIES IN PRIVATE HANDS!

1770 - THE "BARBADOES" LARGE STRAIGHT LINE POSTMARK (TYPE A1)

This postmark has only been recorded to have been in use between 1765 and 1770 and it is very scarce. The period of use is in the middle of the period of use of the double line postmark (type A2) and only a few examples of type A2 has been recorded between 1765 and 1770. It was probably discontinued because of its size; it was difficult to get a well inked impression of it and it took too much space on the letter.

1770 SHIP LETTER TO LONDON



RATE: Charged "4"d. (1d. Master's Gratuity 1711-1795 + 3d. rate to London 1765-1783)

POSTMARK: BARBADOES (type A1) large straight line, in use between 1765 and 1770.

TRANSIT / ARRIVAL MARKINGS: PORTSMOUTH SHIP LRE; London Bishop Mark "17.NO" in sans-serifed characters.

COMMENT: THIS IS ONE OF THE LATEST KNOWN examples of this postmark, the letter is dated 20 September 1770. Only 10 examples of this postmark have been recorded.

1800 - THE "BARBADOES" DATED DOUBLE LINE POSTMARK (TYPE A3)

This mark was introduced in 1799 to avoid fraudulent insurance claims and it is the first dated postmark from Barbados. It was only in use in 1799 and 1800, probably because it was too impractical to change the date. Subsequently, it is the rarest of all Barbados postmarks, only four examples have been recorded.

1800 SHIP LETTER FROM THE UNITED STATES TO BRITISH GUIANA VIA BARBADOS



RATE: Charged "4d" (4d. inter-island rate from Barbados to the other islands and British Guiana 1711-1891)

POSTMARK: BARBADOES DEC.15 1800 (type A3) dated double line, in use between 1799 and 1800.

FORWARDING AGENT: Manuscript "Barbados 22 Dec. 1800. Forwarded by yr friends Seed & McClare".

COMMENT: The letter is headed "Baltimore 20 November 1800" and was carried privately from the United States to Barbados where it was handed over to the Packet Office.

THERE ARE ONLY FOUR KNOWN LETTERS with this marking, this being the latest known example.

1815 - THE "PAID TO ENGLAND" MARKING (TYPE PD1)

"PAID TO ENGLAND" markings were used in many of the islands in the West Indies, mostly on mail treated under the "Withdrawn Ship Letter" scheme of 1814-1815, which is one of the most obscure charges in the history of the British Postal system. A ship letter had to be taken to the Post or Packet Office, and a charge equal to one third of the packet rate (rounded down to the nearest halfpenny) had to be paid. The letter was marked with the "PAID TO ENGLAND" marking, and the sender could then send the letter by any ship he chose. The "PAID TO ENGLAND" marking used in Barbados is very rare, only one example is recorded!

1815 THE "PAID TO ENGLAND" MARKING ON DOUBLE WITHDRAWN SHIP LETTER TO ENGLAND



RATE: Marked "1/6" in red (1s.6d.) indicating that the withdrawn ship letter rate had been paid (single packet rate to Falmouth 1s.2d. 1813-1839 + single inland rate Falmouth to Lancaster 1s.2d. 1813-1839 = total 2s.4d. divided by three rounded down to nearest halfpenny = 9d. Double rate = 2x9d. = 1s.6d.). Charged "1/4" in black (1s.4d.) (2x8d. double inland rate from Liverpool to Lancaster 1813-1839)

POSTMARKS: PAID TO ENGLAND in red (type PD1); BARBADOES AP.29.1815 (type A5) Fleuron, in use between 1812 and 1836.

TRANSIT MARKING: SHIP LETTER LIVERPOOL Crown over the red "1/6" rate marking.

COMMENT: THIS IS THE ONLY KNOWN EXAMPLE of the Barbados "PAID TO ENGLAND" marking.

1848 AND 1864 - THE "BARBADOS SHIP-LETTER" MARKING (TYPE D2)

This marking was produced by the GPO in 1847 to be used on incoming ship letters to separate them from packet letters. It was never used much and is rare; only five examples are recorded.

1848 THE EARLIEST RECORDED EXAMPLE ON SHIP LETTER TO ST VINCENT



RATE: Charged "8"d. (ship rate from England to the West Indies 1840-1854); marked per "Brig Frances".

POSTMARKS: BARBADOS SHIP-LETTER (type D2), in use between 1848 and 1877; BARBADOES SP.21.1848 (type A7) sans-serifed double arc, in use between 1845 and 1887.

ARRIVAL MARKING: Manuscript "27 Sept 48"; despatch date also noted "28 June 48" and the letter probably arrived from England since the rate charged is the ship rate from England.

COMMENT: THERE ARE ONLY FIVE KNOWN EXAMPLES of this marking.

1864 SHIP LETTER TO ENGLAND WITH THE BARBADOS SHIP LETTER MARKING

RATE: 3d. (3d. ship letter rate to Great Britain 1854-1881); marked "Per Steam Ship Hayti"; marked "1½" (1½d.) in red denoting British share (ship rates were split 50/50 between the colony and GB).

STAMPS: 1d.(x3) perforated no watermark 1861-70.

TRANSIT MARKINGS: PAID LIVERPOOL.SHIP.JA.12.1865; LONDON PAID.JA.12.65.

POSTMARKS: Bootheel "1" (type C2); datestamp BARBADOS "1" NO.19.64 (type E2); BARBADOS SHIP LETTER (type D2).

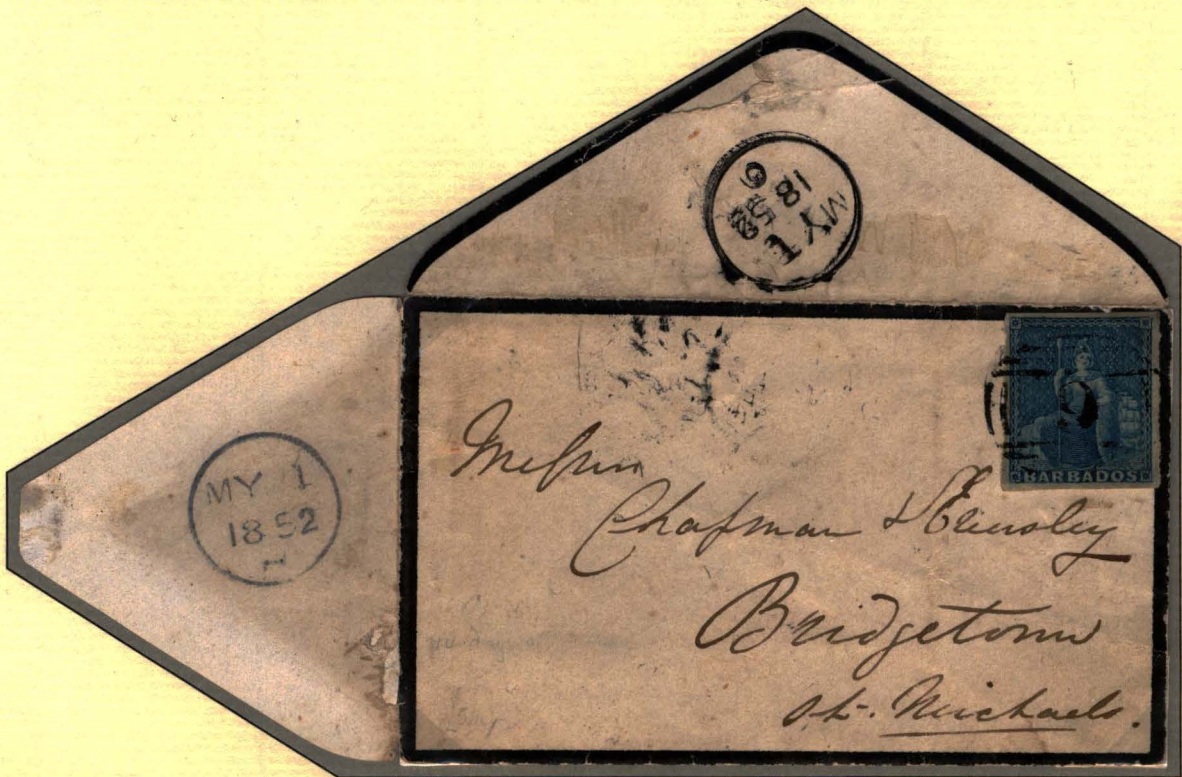


COMMENT: THERE ARE ONLY FIVE KNOWN covers with this marking, of which two are with stamps.

1852 - THE FIRST STAMPS

The Colonial Post Office was set up on 1 August 1851 and the first stamps were ordered on 11 December 1851. However, the first shipment of stamps from England was lost when the RMS "Amazon" foundered in the Bay of Biscay on 4 January 1852. On 15 April 1852, the first stamps were put on sale at all Post Offices.

1852 THE EARLIEST KNOWN USE OF BARBADOS STAMPS, ON COVER FROM ST ANDREW



RATE: 1d. (1d. inland rate 1852-1907)

STAMP: 1d. imperforate on blued paper 1852-1855.

POSTMARKS: Obliterator "9" (type C1); Parish date-stamp "9" MY.1. 1852 (type M1).

ARRIVAL MARKING: Parish date-stamp "1" MY.1. 1852 (type E1).

COMMENT: THIS IS THE EARLIEST KNOWN cover with Barbados stamps.

1854 1D. INLAND RATE ON SINGLE RATE LETTER TO DEMERARA



RATE: 1d. (1d. inland rate 1852-1907) + charged "4"d. (4d. inter-island rate 1711-1891)

STAMPS: ½d.(x2) imperforate on blued paper 1852-1855.

POSTMARKS: Obliterator "1" (type C1), in use between 1852 and 1863; sans-serifed double arc BARBADOES AU.5.1854 (type A7), in use between 1845 and 1887.

ARRIVAL MARKING: DEMERARA AU.7.1854

COMMENT: There are very few known covers with the ½d. imperforate on blued paper (1852-1855).

1854 - THE BISECTED 2D. GREYISH SLATE

In 1854 there was a sudden shortage of 1d. stamps, the denomination mostly used. The General Post Office therefore authorised the bisecting of 2d. stamps, each half to do duty for 1d. This provisional was only used between 4 August and 21 September 1854 and very few examples have survived on covers.

1854 BISECTED 2D. USED AS 1D. ON SINGLE RATE LETTER TO BRITISH GUIANA



RATE: 1d. (1d. inland rate 1852-1907) + charged "4"d. (4d. inter-island rate 1711-1891)

STAMP: Diagonally bisected 2d. imperforate on blued paper 1852-1855, used as 1d.

POSTMARKS: Obliterator "1" (type C1), in use between 1852 and 1863; Parish datestamp "1" SP.5.1854 (type E1), in use between 1852 and 1867; sans-serifed double arc BARBADOES SP.05.1854 (type A7), in use between 1845 and 1887.

ARRIVAL MARKING: DEMERARA SP.7.1854.

COMMENT: THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT 20 KNOWN covers with bisected 2d. stamps used during this emergency and they are considered to be among the rarest items of Barbados philately!

1855 AND 1859 - PACKET MAIL TO THE UNITED STATES

In the 1850's, packet mail to the United States could either be sent via St Thomas, or via England. The later option was more than twice as expensive.

1859 1S.2D. PACKET RATE COVER TO USA VIA ENGLAND



RATE: 1s.2d. (6d. packet rate to Great Britain 1854-1863 + 8d. GPO rate from England to USA); charged "5" cents.

STAMPS: 1d.(x2) imperforate on white paper 1855-1858; 1/- imperforate 1858.

POSTMARKS: Obliterator "1" (type C1); BARBADOES MR.12.1859 (type A7) sans-serifed double arc.

TRANSIT / ARRIVAL MARKINGS: Red LONDON PAID AU.5.59; PHILADELPHIA BR PKT APR.22; "5"cents US charge marking.

COMMENT: THIS IS THE EARLIEST KNOWN USE of the 1/- stamp, and also THE ONLY KNOWN USE with other stamps.

1855 1/- PACKET RATE ON LETTER TO BALTIMORE VIA ST THOMAS

RATE: 1s.1d. (1d. inland rate 1852-1907 + 1/- packet rate to the US); marked "1/-" in red denoting that the packet rate had been prepaid; charged "5" cents.

STAMP: 1d. imperforate on white paper 1855-1858.

POSTMARKS: PAID AT BARBADOES (type B1) crowned circle, in red; Parish datestamp "1" AU.13.1855 (type E1); BARBADOES AU. 13.1855 (type A7) double arc.

TRANSIT MARKINGS: ST THOMAS AU.13.1855; BOSTON BR PKT AU.29 5(cents).

COMMENT: The letter is marked "Per Mail via St Thomas".



1868 AND 1880 - THE BISECTED 6D. STAMP USED AS 3D.

Bisected stamps were used in Barbados during stamp shortages; bisected 1d. stamps used as ½d. are the ones most frequently seen but there are also bisected 2d. stamps used as 1d., bisected 4d. stamps used as 2d., bisected 1/- stamps used as 6d., and bisected 6d. stamps used as 3d. Only two examples of bisected 6d. stamps have been recorded, one on piece and one on cover.

1880 BISECTED 6D. USED AS 3D.



STAMP: 6d. perforated 14 watermark Crown CC 1875-78.

POSTMARK: Sans-serifed double arc BARBADOES JA.10.1880 (type A7).

COMMENT: THIS IS THE ONLY KNOWN piece with a bisected 6d. stamp.

1868 BISECTED 6D. USED AS 3D. AND 1D.(X2) ON 5D. SINGLE RATE COVER TO USA



RATE: 5d. (1d. inland rate 1852-1907 + 4d. inter-island rate 1711-1891); marked "4"d. in red denoting that the inter-island rate had been prepaid; charged "10"cents (10cents steamship rate).

STAMPS: 6d. perforated no watermark 1861-70 bisected and used as 3d., 1d.(x2) perforated no watermark 1861-70.

POSTMARKS: Bootheel "1" (type C2); datestamp BARBADOS "1" JU.10.68 (type E2).

TRANSIT MARKINGS: ST THOMAS JU.13.68; N.Y. STEAMSHIP JUN.20 10cents.

COMMENT: THIS IS THE ONLY KNOWN bisected 6d. Britannia stamp on cover. Although bisected 6d. stamps are not listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, this cover has been examined by a number of experts and found to be genuine. Detailed certificate is attached which lists no less than 12 examination points.

1869 - MAIL TO ST HELENA

Mail from Barbados to St Helena is quite exceptional - only one cover is recorded, and the rate is a combination of the packet rate from Barbados to England and the packet rate from England to St Helena, in each case 1/- but the total reduced by 1d. since both these rates included 1d. for British inland postage and this was only required to be paid once, thus 1s11d.

1869 1S. 11D. RATE PACKET COVER TO ST HELENA



RATE: 1s.11d. (1/- packet rate to Great Britain 1863-1881 + 1/- packet rate from Great Britain to St Helena 1863-1876, less 1d. for British inland postage since this was already included in the rate from Barbados), marked "1/10" (1s.10d.) in red denoting the British share; Barbados' share was 1d.

STAMPS: ½d.(x4), 1d.(x5), 4d., 6d.(x2) perforated no watermark 1861-70.

POSTMARKS: Bootheel "1" (type C2); datestamp BARBADOS 1 AP.25.69 (type E2).

TRANSIT MARKING: LONDON PAID 14.MY.69 in red.

COMMENT: Although the cover is marked "Officer's Letter" and is countersigned by the Commanding Officer of the 4th West India Regiment, the full postal rate was paid. The Officers rate of 6d. per half ounce could only be used on mail to or from Great Britain. The cover is also marked "Per Cape mail via Plymouth".

THIS IS THE ONLY KNOWN cover to St Helena and it is the most remarkable of all Barbados Britannia covers, bearing four different denominations, sent to a most remote destination.

1872 AND 1879 - REGISTERED MAIL

In 1857 the Colonial Office suggested that the Barbados Post Office should introduce a registration service with a fee of 6d. per letter. Official sources in Barbados do not mention this suggestion but in 1863 a local Act was passed authorising the Governor to make orders from time to time for a system of registration. The first printed reference to registration appears in an Official Gazette of 1874 and registration markings had been sent out by the G.P.O. in London in 1873. In 1872 the registration fee was 4d. and it was reduced to 2d. in 1885.

1872 1S. 4D. REGISTERED PACKET COVER TO ENGLAND

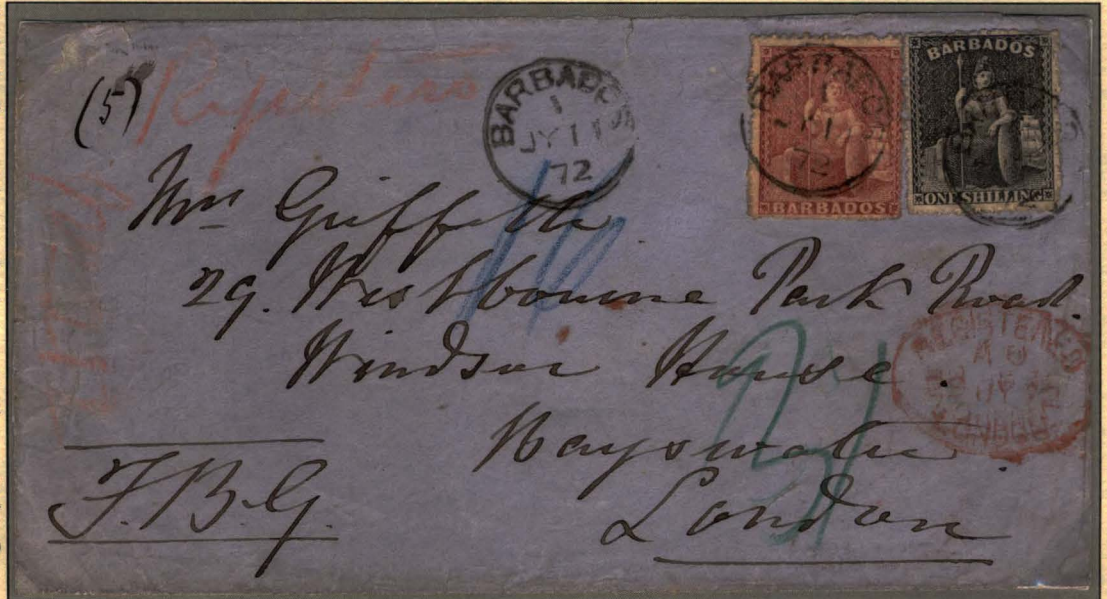
RATE: 1s. 4d. (1/- packet rate to Great Britain 1863-1881 + 4d. registration fee 1872(c)-1884); marked "16" in blue denoting the postage paid.

STAMPS: 4d., 1/- perforated watermark small star 1871.

POSTMARK: Datestamp BARBADOS "1" JY.11.72 (type E2).

REGISTRATION MARKINGS: Manuscript "Registered" in red and "31" in green.

ARRIVAL MARKINGS: REGISTERED LONDON 29 JY.72 in red, REGISTERED W.D.O. JY.29.72 in red.



COMMENT: THIS IS ONE OF THE EARLIEST KNOWN of the pre UPU registered covers from Barbados.

1879 6D. REGISTERED BOOK POST WRAPPER TO ENGLAND WITH THE REGISTERED HANDSTAMP



RATE: 6d. (2x1d. double book post rate to Great Britain 1869-1881 + 4d. registration fee 1872(c)-1884)

STAMPS: 6d. perforated 14 watermark Crown CC 1875-1878.

POSTMARKS: BARBADOES MY 29.1879 (type A7) sans-serifed double arc; REGISTERED (type J2) in red.

REGISTRATION MARKINGS: REGISTERED (type J2) in red; manuscript "12" in blue; manuscript "Book post registered".

COMMENT: THIS IS THE ONLY KNOWN EXAMPLE of the REGISTERED handstamps.

1878 - MAIL WITH 4D. LATE FEES

A late fee had to be paid if a letter was posted after the official closing time for an outgoing mail. Very little information has survived about the late fees; in 1874 it is very briefly mentioned in general terms about the West Indies and the fees are stated to be 4d. up to half an hour and 1/- for more than half an hour.

1878 4D. LATE FEE ON SINGLE RATE COVER TO USA



RATE: 9d. (4d. late fee + 1d. inland rate 1852-1907 + 4d. inter-island rate 1711-1891); marked "4"d. in red denoting that the inter-island rate had been prepaid); charged "5" cents US inland rate.

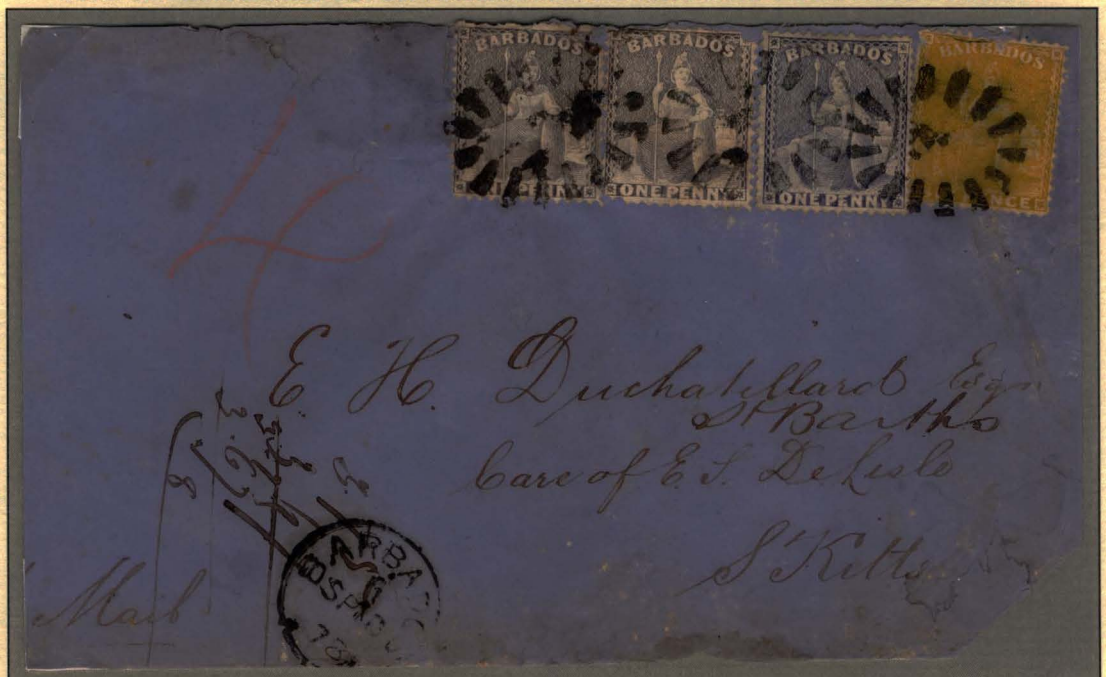
STAMPS: 3d.(x3) perforated 14 watermark Crown CC 1878.

POSTMARK: Open bootheel duplex BARBADOS "A" DE.11.78 (type C4), in use between 1876 and 1899.

TRANSIT/ARRIVAL MARKINGS: NEW YORK DEC.24 DUE 5 CENTS; PHILAD'A PA. DEC.24 10PM REC'D.

COMMENT: THIS IS THE ONLY KNOWN 4d. late fee cover from Barbados to the United States.

1878 4D. LATE FEE ON SINGLE RATE COVER TO ST BARTHOLOMEW



RATE: 9d. (4d. late fee + 1d. inland rate 1852-1907 + 4d. inter-island rate 1711-1891); marked "4"d. in red denoting that the inter-island rate had been prepaid).

STAMPS: 1d.(x3) + 6d. perforated 14 watermark Crown CC 1875-1880.

POSTMARKS: Bootheel "1" (type C2); datestamp BARBADOS "A" SP.10.78 (type C4).

ARRIVAL MARKING: ST KITTS SP.12.78

COMMENT: THIS IS THE ONLY KNOWN 4d. late fee cover from Barbados to another island in the West Indies.