

Tobago

Belle Garden manuscript



B. G m/s
22.5 .41
P O
A

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ORD 22 May 1941

Unique for Tobago and perhaps the British Caribbean, within the KGVI period.
Discovered by Dickon Pollard in bundleware.
The office was opened 1 May 1941 then nothing is recorded until March 1946
when the Belle Garden medium Double Circle was introduced.

This five year time-gap might indicate that a Skeleton postmark could have been
used provisionally at this tiny office - but none has ever shown up.

Other Tobago Skeletons could well exist at Hope, Mount Pleasant,
Mount St. George and Patience Hill - the latter being described by
B. B. Thompson from a note by P. Hosking.



Patience Hill Sk 6 March 1946 - reconstruction^H

Three others - Black Point, Buccoo Point and Golden Lane are very rare
and have only come to light through the efforts of Joe Chin Along.



Black Rock Sk LRD 11 December 1952



Buccoo Point Sk ORD 2 December 1952

Bahamas

7/7/77 Wallis Simpson



Wallis Simpson's marriage to The Duke of Windsor led to his abdication from the English throne in December 1936. In 1940. Being something of an embarrassment due to their Nazi connections - they were whisked-off to Nassau where he became Governor of The Bahamas for the duration. She was a divorcee which precluded her, at that time, to become Queen - and being a somewhat gauche American, wasn't terribly popular at Court. In 1937 King George VI issued letters patent expressly forbidding her from using the title Her Royal Highness. This was studiously ignored by Wallis as can be seen from the above cover to Mrs. Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler of New York City. She was better known as Julia Lynch Olin, spiritual leader of the Reform Baha'i movement.

I believe Wallis Simpson took quite an interest in the stamp issues of the Bahamas and was responsible for the long hold-up of the Tercentenary of Eleuthera issue as she initially persuaded the Governor, who was dotty about her, that his brother's head should not appear on the stamps! It appears that Bradbury Wilkinson had had enough of all the infighting and The Canadian Bank Note Company had to save the day.

Bahamas

Dundas Town mSC(1)



mSC(1) ORD 28 June 1951

One of the great joys of marcophily is finding an unrecorded postmark.

A couple of years ago I purchased a Bahamas collection from a well-known Cheshire postal auctioneer.

It contained this standard Dundas Town medium Single Circle - on piece

I then realised this was different to the other instrument used in the fifties.



mSC(2) 4 May 1958

Dundas Town is a pretty rare office and may well have been closed for long periods. Charles Freeland has found a quarter of a strike but the date cannot be ascertained.

British Honduras

Roger Wells and H.W. Blanks 22 May 1940



Roger Wells was one of the world's most ubiquitous postmark collectors. His covers are liberally found throughout the British Pacific Islands, and Caribbean as well as Aden. This cover was sent from Stann Creek Valley, British Honduras, is a 1940 confection which is not sent to Wells' usual address at 9 North Coates Road, Grimsby, Lincs., UK but c/o H.W. Blanks of Columbia, Louisiana, USA.

Henry Wayne Blanks, an ex-postmaster and philatelist, had just opened an engraving company in Dallas, Texas and I believe that earlier covers in December 1939 were used to order new Temporary Rubber Ovals from Blanks. Guatemala had caused a lot of trouble for the Belize Colony when war was declared on 3 September 1939. Six days later they issued a stamp showing Belize as a district of Guatemala!

Twenty three year old Wells was somehow involved in an audit of the British Honduran offices - even though he himself never stepped foot outside Britain - as far as is known.

US Navy Base 13607 BR

George Odom Leicester - 26 August 1967



There is no shortage of George Odom covers from across Sierra Leone, The Gold Coast, Nigeria, Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago. George Crawford Odom MC FRGS-1892-1959 - was ostensibly a wool merchant and tailor from Leicester, England but there are no known catalogues and just one advertisement in 1957 for cricket whites. There is mounting evidence that he was working as an undercover agent for M16. He turns up in China, Egypt, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Venezuela, Aruba, Costa Rica, Chile, Panama, Arkansas, India, Ceylon, Mexico, British Honduras, Nassau, Peru, Gold Coast, British Guiana, Barbados, Curacao and had a winter residence at Reading - Montego Bay as well as a mansion in Leicester. By 1954 he claimed to have flown more than half a million miles. His company continued in much the same vein after his death.

Much of his correspondence has police and military connections and he was prevalent in war-zones such as Calabar 1929 & Guatemala 1949. This cover is from US Base 13607 - Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Jamaica

1638/1 5s line perforation 17.15 S.G. 132a mint



One of the rarest mint stamps of the KGV1 period
none in the Royal Collection - only one used. (Voussen)

In December 1940 the De la Rue printing works at Bunhill Row was seriously damaged by enemy aircraft bombing. Many of the perforation machines were decimated. Consequently this batch of unfinished stamps was removed to Watford for perforation on an old line machine. Just 200 sheets (6,000 stamps) were released in 1941.

Eight years later in November 1949, a further 30 sheets were issued from A2 stock as reported by local dealers E. F. Aguilar & G. C. Gunter (Stamp Collecting).

'7 Jan. 50 - More light is thrown on the Jamaica 5s perf. 13 blued paper. It seems that 100 sheets (3,000) stamps were all that appeared in the Island in September last. They were followed by a further 30 sheets in November, in the different white paper P.14 none of the 3,000 were placed on sale in Kingston but were used to fill smaller offices' requirements. Our correspondents located the rest (very small amounts) by lightning tours round the whole Island. Looks like the stamps used will be good. (Fynden's readers are sitting pretty: he advised them in the strongest terms to buy this stamp at face plus 12.5%.'

With the pound just devalued by 30% in September I believe these stamps were used to pay the salaries of the British agents working under cover in Jamaica at that time - as were the high value Silver Wedding issues of 1948 - across the Commonwealth!

Jamaica

Caldwell 'Registered' Oval 3 July 1950

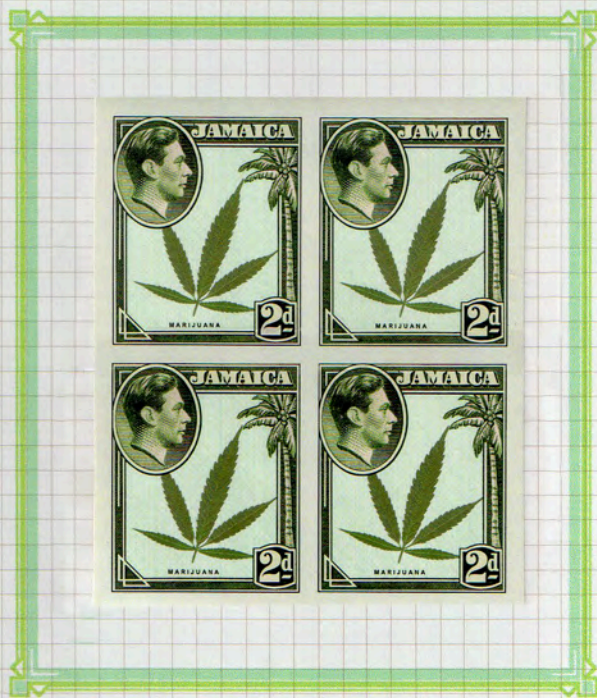


The mysterious 'Registered' Ovals were issued in April 1950 to some 28 offices and have never had a proper explanation. Issued at a time when new cancellers were in short supply they appear only sporadically during the fifties and many are quite rare. This is the first known example of usage being sent from Caldwell, Hanover by H.F. Litteljohn to the Aguilar Brothers' Knutsford Park Ltd., Harbour Street, Kingston.

Caldwell is a remote post office but a mile away from the family home of Alexander Bustamante who was 'Chief Minister' at the time. I believe that Litteljohn and Aguilar were operating for British Security Services and possibly the CIA at that time.

Jamaica

2d Marijuana green and grey-green



Without doubt Jamaica's most important single cash crop is marijuana, known locally as ganja. This most attractive plant was to be the subject of the tuppenny definitive.

The Crown Agents were far from happy. A memorandum declared, "This weed is not a welcome visitor upon the postage stamps of the island, as it encourages lassitude and feeble-mindedness among the local population."

The Coco Palms design of the previous reign was reverted to.

Unissued acquired by Hedley Adams Mobbs - 1 April 1938.

Printers Waterlow & Sons, London.

Barbados

6c Attack of the Giant Jellyfish Baltic blue



A terrified native looks on aghast as a giant jellyfish leaps from the sea and rips away half of his arm. This appears to have been the interpretation of the unknown studio-artist who added the stirring caption 'Attack of the Giant Jellyfish' to the picture of a native casting his fishing net into the blue Caribbean waters. The entire plate had to be re-worked to announce 'Casting Net' and Barbados was safe again from bellicose, aerial hydrozoa.

Unissued acquired by Hedley Adams Mobbs - 23 December 1949.

Printers Messrs. Bradbury Wilkinson, New Malden.

British Honduras

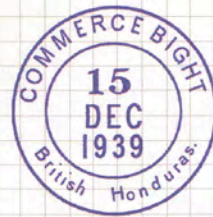
Northern River (Maskall Bank Postal Agency)
Belize District Opened c.1903



Thimble LRD 12 November 1939

Almost certainly part of Roger Wells' audit of British Honduras postmarks in November 1939. This cancel had not been used since October 1927 and was replaced by an American TRC in early 1929. Who carried out this operation is not known.

Commerce Bight Postal Agency
Stann Creek District Opened c.1938

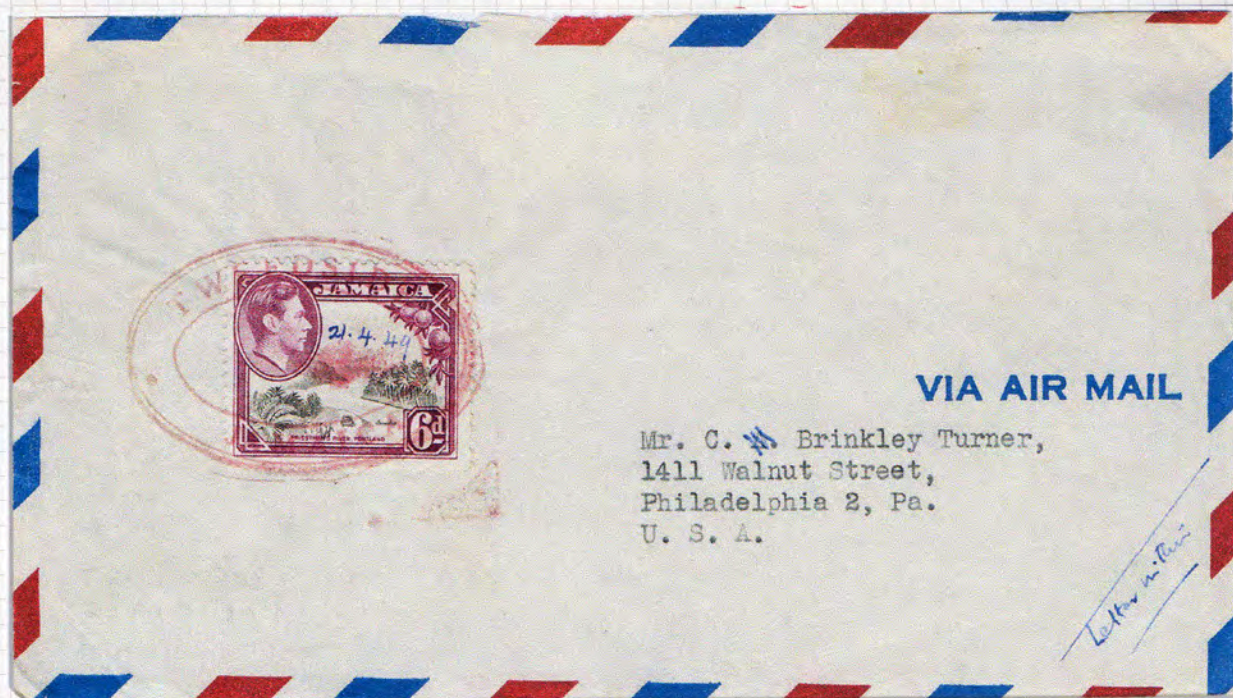


TRC ORD 15 December 1939

This American TRC bears the only date ever recorded for this rare office. I believe it may well have been replaced with a TRC in 1940. However in September 1941 the entire post office - cancellers and all was blown away by an almighty hurricane and was never replaced.

Jamaica

'Tweedside Red' and the 'Amethyst Incident'



TRO ERD 21 September 1949

The village post office at Tweedside, Clarendon was the only known office that used red-ink with its TRO until a recently discovered Essex Hall cover - 10 May 1950.

This letter was sent by John Mapletoft Nethersole to Mr. C. A. Brinkley Turner, 1411 Walnut Street (The Stock Exchange), Philadelphia, PA USA the date 21 4 49 was applied to the stamp in blue manuscript. Oddly in the bottom right hand corner is written 'Letter within'. Isn't that what an envelope usually contains? I thought nothing of it until I accidentally discovered that there are two types of Border Terriers - the Tweedside Red and the Amethyst Blue!

A mere coincidence? A Scottish witticism? Just the previous day on 20 April 1949, H.M.S. Amethyst on her way from Shanghai to Nanjing was deliberately shelled by Communist forces. In all 47 British sailors, including the Captain B. M. Skinner, lost their lives with 84 wounded. The Chinese lost over 250 men during the incident. The unfortunate Amethyst finally limped into Hong Kong on 3 August 1949, escorted by H.M.S. Consort, H.M.S. Belfast and and H.M.S. Jamaica. The latter had been specifically sent from the West Indies Station, on 25 April and arrived in Hong Kong on 31 May 1949.

Cover courtesy of R. J. Stanton

Jamaica

Allman Town TRB



TRB 19 January 1939 m/s

*Within months of the Frome Riots of May 1938 the
Temporary Rubber Datestamps sprang back into life again.*

*I believe they were used by the local security forces to monitor the mails
of Bustamante's union leaders during this period of National Emergency*

*In 1939 two emanate from Frome as well as
Faith's Pen, Lydford, Linton Park, St. Pauls and Junction
villages closely associated with nascent bauxite mines.*

*This cover is to leading solicitor J. H. Cargill of Duke Street,
Kingston - from nearby Allman Town.*

*In June 1938 Cargill organised an island-wide public fund in a
'tangible appreciation of services rendered by the Constabulary Force
in suppression of disorders' - at the Frome Riots.*

King George VI

As you've never seen him before!



Private.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE, S.W.1.

17th Mar. 1937.

Dear Sirs,

I thank you for cheque
£220 for the odd lot of dupli-
cate stamps.

When offering these please not
to mention that they have come
from the Royal Collection.

Yours faithfully,

Edward D. Bacon.



Messrs. Chas. Nissen & Co. Ltd.

This photograph of His Majesty King George VI, astride a carousel horse,
is in it's way shocking - but nothing to the shocking revelation
within this receipt - from The Curator of the Royal Philatelic Collection
Sir Edward Denny Bacon to auctioneers Messrs. Chas. Nissen & Co. Ltd.