

# BERMUDA POST

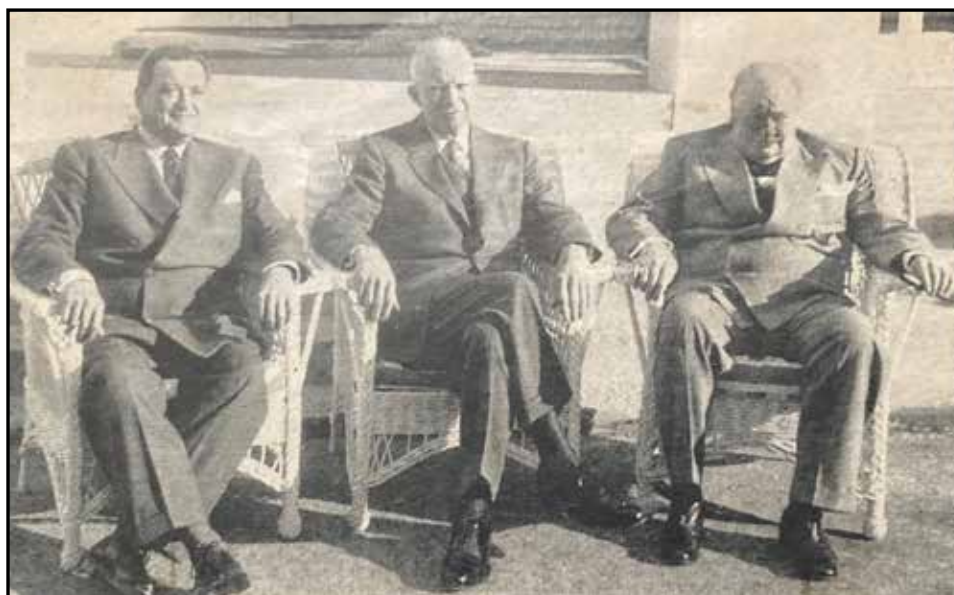
Vol. 37, No. 3

July - September 2023

Whole No. 147



*The Bermuda Conference in Bermuda.  
See Dave Robinson's report on pages 4-6.*



## BERMUDA COLLECTORS SOCIETY

An affiliate of the American Philatelic Society

[www.BermudaCollectorsSociety.com](http://www.BermudaCollectorsSociety.com)

ISSN: 1046-2813



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## On the cover

*Newspaper photograph of Big Three Conference and special covers.*

**BERMUDA POST is a quarterly publication of The Bermuda Collectors Society**  
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### Deadlines

*Every publication has deadlines, and this journal is no exception.*

*Please do not wait until deadline to submit material as the issue is mostly complete by that date.*

**January issue:** Deadline is November 1, mailing date December 15

**April issue:** Deadline is February 1, mailing date March 15

**July issue:** Deadline is May 1, mailing date June 15

**October issue:** Deadline is August 1, mailing date September 15

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Nigel W. Shanks

**W**ow – we're over halfway through 2023 and already it's been quite an eventful year for collectors of Bermuda stamps and postal history with two notable sales just a week apart in April. First off was Victoria Stamp Company's offering of Peter Flynn's material and then just a few days later "across the pond," Argyle Etkin offered the balance of Dennis Mitton's material. Reviews of each of these sales can be found elsewhere in this issue.

As a successful bidder in both auctions, I can confirm that I (and more importantly my bank account) are ready for a bidding and purchasing break.

Thankfully, I am pleased to note that as far as I am aware there are no significant offerings of Bermuda material on the horizon ... yet!

We all have some fine, unusual and favorite items in our collections. How about you take a break, sit down and pull out a few of your favorites and drop a note about them to our editor? I know he'll be pleased to receive your contribution and I can guarantee that other members will be excited to see what you have – if you like it and find it unusual and interesting the rest of us will, too. Our editor is also looking for more substantial articles or perhaps a series of articles – so if you have a research project or a specific Bermuda collecting area you have information on then now is the time to put pen to paper or fingers to the keyboard.

I will be in Bermuda between September 15 and 26 before flying to London to see David Cordon's display and the Royal and attend Stampex. While there will not be any formal meetings of the BCS, if anyone from Bermuda or the U.K. would like to meet up then please drop me a line. If you plan on attending The Great American Stamp Show (The Huntington Convention Center of Cleveland, Ohio, August 10-13) and would like to meet up other BCS members, then let me know and I will put you in contact.

Remember to keep an eye on our website -- [www.bermudacollectorsociety.com](http://www.bermudacollectorsociety.com) -- as we post details of upcoming auctions, Zoom meetings and shows so that you are updated over and beyond what you receive here in *Bermuda Post*. The website continues to deliver new members, provide a platform to pay dues easily and answer and assist with questions via the "contact us" page. If you're at a show or club meeting and meet someone interested in Bermuda then please direct them to the website and encourage them to make contact or better still, join up online.

Our AGM will be held in quarter four of this year, likely via Zoom again. Now is the time to consider if you have an interest in joining our board or would like to assist the group in any other way. Details will be forthcoming in the next issue, and everyone will be updated via email, too. If you have any questions around the AGM, please do contact me.



## Upcoming Annual Meetings of the Bermuda Collectors Society

- 2023, August 10-13: Great American Stamp Show in Cleveland, Ohio
- 2024, August 15-18: Great American Stamp Show in Hartford, Connecticut

# Three-Power Conference in Bermuda

By Dave Robinson

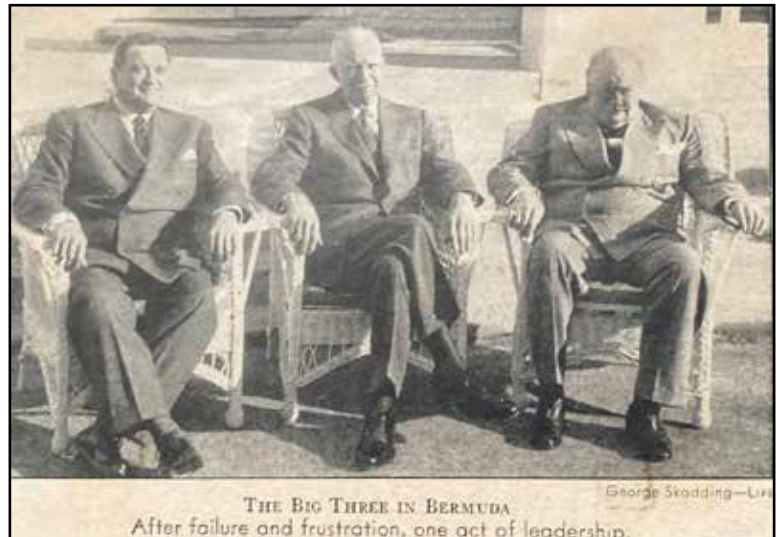
As I considered possible philatelic articles to write, I wondered what might be helpful to expand my knowledge about a topic, leverage the accumulation of material that I have, and take advantage of the significant collecting diversity that Bermuda has to offer. I've concluded that since we are approaching the 70th anniversary of the Bermuda Conference (held December 4-7, 1953), and there seems to be a reasonable amount of material readily available to the collector, this topic might just be the answer.

There have been two past articles in the *Bermuda Post* that featured the philatelic aspect of this conference: Issue 14, published in Winter 1990 featured an article by Reid Shaw titled "Covers Commemorating Bermuda Heads of State Conferences – 1953-1971" and Issue 34, published in March 1995 featured a query from Stewart Jessop about a possible variety on the three-pence overprint (Stanley Gibbons 152a).

## Historic Background for the Conference

*The following summary of the conference is excerpted and condensed from the online article found at [bermuda-online.org/specialvisitors.htm](http://bermuda-online.org/specialvisitors.htm):*

The summit was originally proposed by the British for June 1953 but was delayed by six months because of a stroke suffered by British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill. It was the first summit ever held in Bermuda between leaders of the world's most powerful Western countries. It began on December 4, 1953, when U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower met with Churchill and French Premier Joseph Laniel. It became known as the "Big Three" talks. Bermuda had been selected six months earlier (in June) as the ideal place for such a summit conference, primarily because it was a British colony close to American soil. The summit was held at the Mid Ocean Club in Tuckers Town. President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Laniel spent a total of four days together in Bermuda. Their geopolitical discussions centered mostly on relations with the USSR as the post-war Cold War began to intensify. (See photo of the event in *Figure 1*).



*Figure 1*

*Newspaper photograph from the Big Three Conference.*

## Postage Stamps

Overprinted stamps commemorating the event were issued on December 8, 1953, after the conclusion of the summit. The Scott catalogue identifies two items: 164, 165. The Stanley Gibbons catalogue identifies four items: 152, 152a, 153, 153a. The variants are associated with the two different settings of the overprint, each with a different length. The *Bermuda Specialized Catalogue* identifies six items (E21a, E21a1, E21b1, E22a, E22a1, and E22b1). The additional variants to Gibbons are associated with the joined "lk" printing flaw in the word "Talks."



*Figure 1a*

*Used pair combination of E21a / E21a1 and E22a / E22a1.*

**Cachets**

A rubber-stamp cachet for the conference was applied at the main post office in Hamilton from December 4-7, 1953. The 1990 BCS article reported the official cachet was intended for overseas airmail letters. The examples I have are in red ink (*Figure 2*). Private and commercial cachets were created to both commemorate the conference and the subsequent issuance of the postage stamps. The following images show covers from my collection.



**Figure 2**

*Official cachets of the conference dated December 4 and 5, 1953. The lower cover interestingly leverages the theme of the recently completed royal visit on November 26, 1953.*

**Figure 3**

*Conference cacheted covers posted in St. George's and at APO 856, both dated December 4, 1953.*

In *Figure 3* we have conference cachets posted in St. George's and at APO 856, both dated December 4, 1953. It is interesting that the upper cover did receive a rubber stamp cachet on the reverse, indicating that it found its way to Hamilton, but challenges the belief that only overseas airmail letters received the cachet.

Two different Conference cachets are shown in *Figure 4*, each identified as a first day cover dated December 8, 1953. The upper cover has both a MH5 machine cancellation as well as the H12 circular datestamp. The lower cover has the H12 CDS of St. George's.



**Figure 4**

*Two cachets on first day covers of December 8, 1953.*

In *Figure 5* (next page), two different first day covers are shown. The upper cover is non-cacheted, cancelled with the H12 Hamilton CDS. The lower cover shows a three-flag cachet with the MH5 machine cancellation.

In *Figure 6* (next page), there are two different first day covers with no cachet. The upper cover is a registered letter, with blocks-of-four cancelled with St. George's H12 CDS and Arch type C506b registration label. The lower cover has a MSG1 machine cancellation.

Perhaps the most challenging philatelic item associated with the conference is *Bermuda Specialized Catalogue* reference FO50, a memento flight cover from France, (shown in **Figure 7**). The front of the cover, with Orly airport CDS of December 2, 1953 is annotated with the description that the letter was carried by Georges-Augustin Bidault, who served as the French Foreign Minister at the time of the conference. The reverse of the cover features an Orly Airport CDS of December 11, 1953. Finally, in **Figure 8**, we have a machine cancel dated November 1, 2003 marking the 50th anniversary of the Bermuda Summit.

I am fascinated by the variety of material available for this philatelic topic, especially since many of us consider this stamp issue to be rather common, with most material readily available for only small financial outlay. I am interested in understanding what other varieties may exist within your own collections. Please let me know at [sdrder@gmail.com](mailto:sdrder@gmail.com).



**Figure 5**

*Two different first day covers. The upper cover is non-cacheted, cancelled with the H12 Hamilton CDS. The lower cover shows a three-flag cachet with the MH5 machine cancellation.*



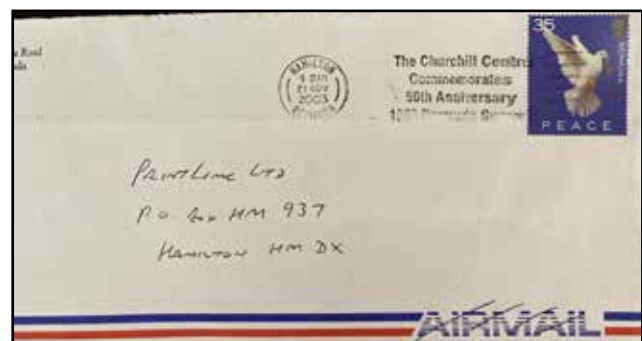
**Figure 6**

*These are two different first day covers with no cachets. The upper cover is a registered letter cancelled with St. George's H12 CDS and Arch type C506b registration label. The lower cover has a MSG1 machine cancel.*



**Figure 7**

*A memento flight cover from France.*



**Figure 8**

*Commercial cover showing a machine cancel, MH81, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Bermuda Summit.*

# Around the Sale Rooms

By David Cordon

## Flynn Auction

I attended the Victoria Stamp Company two-day auction on April 15 and 16. The first day included 332 lots of Bermuda from Peter Flynn's estate. Phoebe decided (wisely in my opinion) to offer the Flynn collection and exhibit of Transit Mail privately. This collection is now in the home of a BCS member and looks like a win-win to both buyer and seller. It would have been a shame to have split this into auction lots with a potential for a huge number of unsolds.

Of the 332 lots offered, there was one "no lot" and one withdrawn, with a pre-sale estimate of \$137,000. About 50 percent of the lots sold for a total of \$70,000. The room had three bidders (including myself, although I was counted as a book bidder) being successful on 27 lots totaling \$7,800. A further five bidders on the phone won 20 lots totaling \$15,000 and there was one agent for three more bidders also on the phone and who was successful with 30 lots totaling \$9,800. Those bidders who bid on the book were successful on 90 lots totaling \$37,000.

Since the sale I understand a further 20 Lots sold for around \$7,000 and there could well have been more post auction sales. These prices exclude the 15 percent commission. Overall, almost 60 percent by number of the lots and estimate sold which for recent Bermuda auctions must be considered a success.

## Highlights

Lot 137 – the 12/6 "Revenue - Revenue" with a beautiful revenue cancel which I consider one of the scarcest of all Bermuda stamps – sold for \$750 versus a \$375 estimate.

Two lots – Lot 121 the KGV 10/- reference collection and Lot 188, the KGV 2/- October 1940 reprint plate block (one of three recorded – one in a sheet) both had four phone bidders, two room and book bids. Lot 121 sold for \$2,000 versus an estimate of \$1,200, primarily due to the inclusion of the July 1932 printing, and Lot 188 sold for \$2,500 versus an estimate of \$600.



## Argyll Etkin – Dennis Mitton + Others

A week after the Flynn auction, Argyll Etkin included the second part of the Mitton (and other) material for a total of 192 lots, some of which were unsold items from the earlier sale and included 47 Boer war items (12 unsold).

These lots had a low estimate of £46,000 and high estimate of £56,000 with approximately £28,000 realized



*Continued on page 9*

# The Mystery One-legged Man on Front Street

*By Horst Augustinovic*

Produced by many different publishers, “Crop Season on Front Street” must have been one of the most popular Bermuda postcards of the early 20th century and therefore a perfect postcard for some detailed study. For example, one thing you will find is that the man near the flagpole (see arrow) is at one time standing still, at other times obviously walking, and finally having lost his left leg.

*On the postcard at right, published by A.E. Bourne and mailed in 1905, the man is just standing, watching the gridlock on Front Street.*



*The mystery man seems to have decided to walk farther up the street on postcards No. 65, 137, 173, 213 and two unnumbered cards published by J.H. Bradley, as well as an unnumbered card by S. Nelmes, and No. 41 published by the Yankee Store & Bermuda Drug Co. and by the Yankee Store itself.*



*On different postcards published by S. Nelmes and on two different printings of postcard No. 41 published by the Yankee Store & Bermuda Drug Co., he now seems to be running. Was he perhaps scared of horses?*





*The final state of the mystery man – without his left leg – appears on postcards published by S. Nelmes; A.E. Bourne No. 4; J.H. Bradley No. 518; H.J. Tucker No. 518; F.W. Grantham; A.P. Thompson No. 207683 and The Bermuda Catering Company No. 133237 and No. 140235.*



*If you are tired of collecting flyspecks on postage stamps, perhaps postcards would be more fun!*

***Around the Sale Rooms*** ————— ***Continued from page 7***

plus an 18 percent commission to 21 successful bidders.

**Highlights**

Early specimens are very scarce and often only one or two examples are known of specimen overprints other than the standard D5. Lot 862, the 3d imperforate plate proof with the manuscript “Specimen” sold for £2,100 and the 1880 4d orange (Lot 923) brought £3,700, both selling to the same bidder. In the Boer section, Lot 1012, a postcard with pencil drawing of the prisoners’ tents, realized £420 and saw a number of bids.



# Early type-set “SPECIMEN” overprints: Bermuda and Gibraltar

By Roger Baxter

As early as 1873, postal administrations issued circulars listing the particulars of major changes in postage stamps, e.g., new issues. Direct exchanges between post offices of such issues are also known. Among the British crown colonies, “there does not appear to have been any organized system for distributing or exchanging examples of new stamps until it became a responsibility of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1879” (Samuel, 1976, p.19). Prior to 1884, stamps were distributed unmarked; security concerns motivated the UPU to require a mechanical overprint.

De La Rue security printers introduced mechanically-printed “SPECIMEN” overprints on British colonial stamps in 1884. These were invoiced on their printing contracts beginning in January 1886. It became Crown Agents’ policy - on the instructions of the Postal Union - to require specimens for any new duty of postage stamp, postal card, etc., and for any existing duties printed in new colors, values or design. Specimens were not necessarily sought for new shades, watermarks or perforations.

UPU regulations, which changed over the years, outlined the distribution of specimens in considerable detail, although some uncertainty exists. Over the years, “the number of specimens prepared for each different issue varied significantly” (Freeland 1987, p.18). These “defaced” specimen stamps were delivered



Stamp illustrations enlarged to 135%

Issue Year	BSC #	Value	Color	Specimens to UPU: Ludington / Samuel <sup>1</sup>	Specimens to Members
1891	QV8b	1/2d	1/2d	400 / 345	Strip of 3
1893	QV2e	2d	2d	750 / 730	Strip of 5
1893	QV5d	1/-	1/-	750 / 730	Strip of 5
1898 <sup>2</sup>	QV2f	2d	2d	--	--
1901	QV11a	1/4d on 1/-	1/4d on 1/-	722 / 730	Strip of 5

**Note 1:** Re: “Specimens to UPU,” Ludington, 1978 and Samuel, 1976 report differing quantities of specimen stamps forwarded to the UPU. These numbers do not include the six specimens that were to be supplied “for the record in the GPO office as usual” (letter, GPO to De La Rue, September 12, 1892). Cordon, 2022 indicates that 276 halfpenny specimens were sent to the UPU.

**Note 2:** Re: “QV2f,” 2d (1898 - not illustrated): Charles Freeland speculated that this shade may have been mechanically-overprinted “SPECIMEN,” “but it must be from the same printing (as QV2e)” (Freeland 1987, p.19). David Cordon reports the existence of “less than 6” such specimens (Cordon 2022).

to the General Post Office, London (GPO) for distribution to member countries / postal administrations.

As colonial dependencies of Britain, Bermuda's and Gibraltar's memberships in the UPU came automatically in 1877.

In the case of Bermuda, the earliest specimen stamps were prepared by handstamping (or, in rare instances, by manuscript cancellations). In the Check List of his 1978 monograph, M.H. Ludington reported a number of handstamped "SPECIMEN" stamps dating from 1865, but he provides no further explanation other than overprint dimensions and styles. David Cordon's recently updated version of the Check List includes annotated illustrations of manuscript, handstamped and printed "SPECIMEN" overprints from the Victorian era (See Cordon, 2023).

Four Victorian-era Bermuda stamps were prepared and distributed with light-weight sans serif "SPECIMEN" overprints applied by mechanical (type-set forme) means. This overprint - Samuel Type D12 - measures 14.5mm x 2.5mm and was "the commonest and longest-lived 'SPECIMEN' overprint" (Samuel 1976, p.43), in regular use on small size Bermuda stamps until the mid-1920s.

About the "Broken M" variety: the "Broken M" flaw - a break in the left-hand leg of the letter "M" - is the best known and the most prominent of the D12 "SPECIMEN" varieties, appearing relatively early in the life of the overprint forme. Visible on the 1/2d value at right, it is found in all four issues mentioned in this note, at Position #41 (row 7, stamp 5). With a printing of 400 "SPECIMEN" stamps on panes of 60 stamps, it is probable that no more than six examples of the "Broken M" variety exist. Similar probabilities for the other three stamps would yield about 12 such examples. Frequent use of the overprint forme likely contributed to other lesser flaws.



The newly-independent Gibraltar Post Office faced a shortage of time to have new printing plates prepared for its first definitive issue. As a result, "it was found necessary to use the plates of other colonies, overprinted 'GIBRALTAR'" (Gibraltar Colonial Register, December 18, 1885). For no known reason, the Crown Agents and De La Rue agreed to "employ for the Postage Stamps of Gibraltar, the Bermuda printing plates" (Easton 1958, p.436). Seven current-issue Bermuda designs, with "GIBRALTAR" obliterating the word "BERMUDA," were printed, three in "new" colors, all with a Crown CA watermark. Put on sale from January 1, 1886, these formed Gibraltar's first (temporary) definitive issue. They were replaced in late 1886-early 1887, as supplies

became exhausted; a new permanent issue followed.

At the date the Gibraltar-on-Bermuda temporary stamps were issued, 100 specimens (of each value) were required by the UPU for distribution to member countries. The GPO reserved six additional specimen sets for its own records. Samuel classifies the "SPECIMEN" overprint used as Type D12. These stamps made one of the earliest usages of the D12 "SPECIMEN" overprint forme.

Forged "SPECIMEN" overprints are usually lithographed imitations of the type font. The starting point for detecting these - beyond visual comparison with authentic examples - is the verification of the watermark and the measurements of the overprint texts. "The overprints are generally so crude as to lead one to believe that their production was more in the nature of a hoax than a serious attempt to defraud philatelists" (Samuel 1976, p116).

The Royal Philatelic Collection includes at least one example of each specimen stamp reported in this note. Nevertheless, by any definition of "uncommon" (and with an average age of 125 years), these Victorian-era "SPECIMEN" overprinted stamps are rather scarce, if not, rare.

### Acknowledgment, Note and References

My thanks to the several postal history writers who contributed suggestions and corrections.

BSC # and color details reported in the Table are from *Bermuda Specialized Catalogue*, 2012.

"Bermuda Queen Victoria" An exhibit at London 2022 International Exhibition. Accessed on January 26, 2023 at <bermudacollectorsociety.com> (cited as Cordon 2022).

Cordon, David. "Ludington check list revisited," *Bermuda Post* 145 (January 2023) pp.4-17 (cited as Cordon 2023).

Cordon, David I. & Michel Forand (eds). *Bermuda Specialized Catalogue: Stamps and Postal History*. Bermuda Specialized Catalog Project LLC, 2012 (cited as BSC).

Easton, John. *The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps*. London: Faber & Faber for The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1958 (cited as Easton 1958).

Freeland, Charles. "The specimen stamps of Bermuda," *Bermuda Post* 5 (October 1987) pp.18-24 (cited as Freeland 1987).

\_\_\_\_\_. "The specimen stamps of Bermuda" *Bermuda Post* 113 (January 2015), pp.15-22.

Ludington, M.H. *The Postal History and Stamps of Bermuda*. (Lawrence, Massachusetts: Quarterman Publications, 1978) (cited as Ludington 1978).

Samuel, Marcus. *Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948*. London: The Royal Philatelic Society of London, 1976 (cited as Samuel 1976).

## Passing of Dave Avery

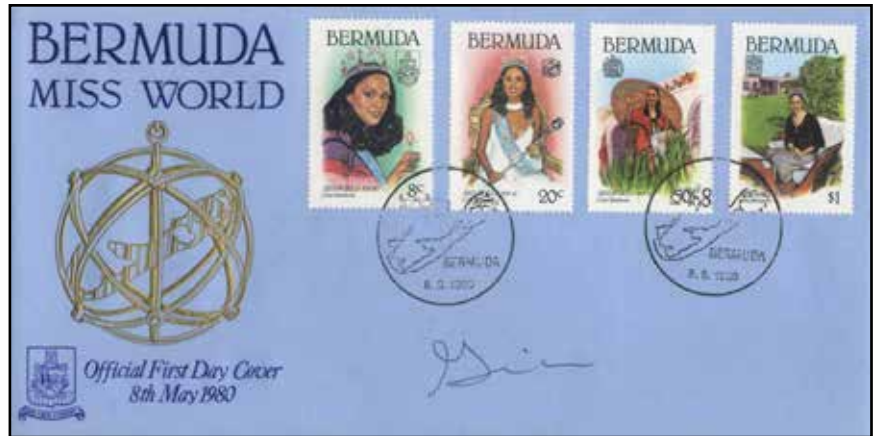
As this issue of *Bermuda Post* was heading to print, John Puzine notified that Dave Avery had passed away on May 13, 2023. He was the husband of Sue Avery, a well-known stamp dealer originally from Bermuda but now living in the U.S. A full obituary will be forthcoming in the October issue.

*Bermuda musings ...*

# Memories of London 1980

By Horst Augustinovic

The Bermuda Post Office had a team of four in attendance at its booth at the International Philatelic Exhibition in London in May 1980 – Postmaster Sidney Corbett, Philatelic Coordinator Phyllis Basden, her assistant Marita Thompson and Gerald Zuill, the post office accountant. Two sets of stamps were simultaneously issued in London and Bermuda – one set commemorating the exhibition and the other for Bermuda’s own “Miss World” Gina Swainson.



**Figure 1**  
*A FDC signed by Gina Swainson at the London 1980 exhibition.*

Featuring a living person, that second set was not without controversy as it was issued against the guidelines which are, “No living person shall be honored by portrayal on Bermuda postage with the exception of members of the Royal Family.” Consequently, Bermuda was not given permission to use either the portrait of Queen Elizabeth II or the Royal Cypher on those stamps. However, considering the meteoric career of Gina Swainson – “Miss St. George’s” in March 1979, “Miss Bermuda” one month later, first runner-up in the “Miss Universe” contest in Australia in July and finally “Miss World” in December – Bermuda was entitled to bend the rules on who should be on a postage stamp and who should not.



**Figure 2**  
*Miss World Gina Swainson and Postmaster General Sidney Corbett tour the exhibition.*



**Figure 3**  
*A proof of the 1953 Coronation stamps.*

As it turned out, Gina was a hit at Earl’s Court during the international philatelic exhibition. Surrounded by a large crowd, she signed hundreds of first day covers while giving interviews to British newspapers and the BBC. On a tour of the exhibition she was shown an exhibit of the Royal Collection featuring proofs of the 1953 Coronation stamps of all the British territories, including Bermuda. To my personal surprise it did not include a proof of the Queen’s portrait, only the frames. That was no problem, however, as a proof of the portrait was part of my exhibit “Elizabethan Bermuda.”

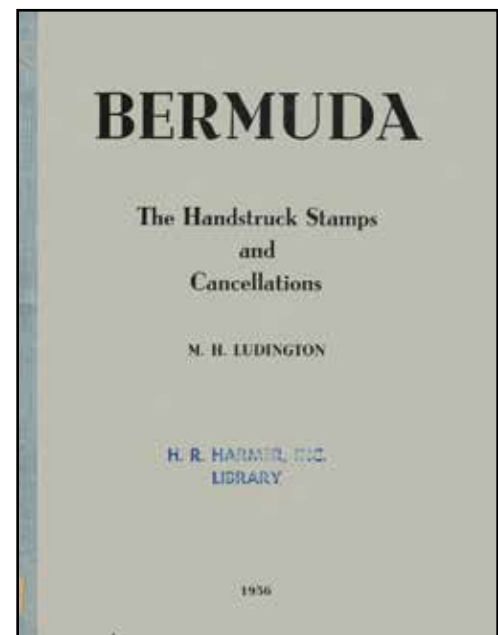
# Early Handstruck Cancellations

By David Provost

After collecting Bermuda stamps for more than 20 years, I had managed to accumulate a fairly comprehensive collection of single mint and used stamps, including specimens (with the exception of those that catalogue over \$2,000). My collecting interests were still heavily focused on Bermuda, so I began to collect Bermuda postal history. That area of my collection has held my interest for the past 10 years, and has grown to include numerous paquebot covers, registered mail, postal stationary, used picture postcards, and censored mail. I still have a long way to go before Bermuda postal history is anywhere near what I could call complete; but as a person who has collected stamps since I was eight or nine years old, I was still feeling the tug of the stamps.

One day I began to look over my used stamps and noticed that some of them had very interesting cancellations. They were “socked on the nose” with various numbers surrounded by lines and brackets. Still not really knowing much about what the numbers signified, I looked through all of my used stamps from the Victorian Era to see how many of them I had. I set them aside and forgot about them.

Years later, I was attending a semimonthly meeting of the Collectors Club of New York. During the meeting it was announced that the club was thinning its philatelic library and that members could purchase any surplus publications after the meeting. I, like many of my fellow members, took a look at the evening’s conclusion. I came across a rather beat up copy of M. H. Ludington’s *Bermuda - The Handstruck Stamps and Cancellations*, published in 1956 (*Figure 1*).<sup>1</sup> I bought it on the spot for a dollar or two, and tucked it into my briefcase.



*Figure 1*  
A rather beat up copy of  
M.H. Ludington’s book.

## Bar Cancellations

In September, 1865 the Bermuda postal system consisted of four post offices and 11 receiving offices. Four additional receiving offices were subsequently established in January 1866. In an effort to track the volume of mail processed through each office, new handstamp obliterations were issued consisting of nine lines arranged in a horizontal oval surrounding a numeral. These numbers, which ran from 1 through 15 corresponded to a given post or receiving office (Table 1, next page). This series of cancellation devices, known as Type K1 (*Figure 2*), saw general usage from time of introduction through May 1879. Although, sporadic uses of this type of cancellation are reported through 1890.



*Figure 3*  
Type K2 cancel.

In 1868 Bermuda Post introduced another variation of the bar cancellation device known as Type K2 (*Figure 3*). The Type K2 was chiefly used in St. George’s and Hamilton, using the numerals “1” and “2” respectively. Above these numerals is the letter “B”, presumably



*Figure 2*  
Type K1 cancel.

for Bermuda. Both the numerals and the letter “B” are surrounded by a vertical oval made up of 11 horizontal lines. Usage of the Type K2 cancellation by the Harrington Sound (bearing numeral 12) or Flatts (numeral 13)<sup>2</sup>, and Bailey’s Bay (numeral 14) have been reported, but are extremely rare.

**Duplex Cancellations**

In June 1879 a new duplex cancellation device was placed in service. This device was known as a duplex inasmuch as it consisted of both a circular date stamp (CDS) and a numbered obliterator consisting of a vertical oval made up of six horizontal lines, two right facing and two left facing brackets. The first of these duplex devices was issued to the then four post offices, and 11 receiving offices. There was, however, a significant difference between the devices issued to the post offices and those issued to the receiving offices. Those issued to the post offices, known as Type K3, included the name of the post office in the CDS (*Figure 4*), while the CDS, in those devices issued to the receiving offices, known as Type K3a, included the initials R.O., for receiving office, in lieu of their names (*Figure 5*).

As with Type K1 and Type K2 bar cancellations, the Type K3 and Type K3a obliterators contained a number designating the respective post or receiving office where the mailed item entered the postal system (*Figure 6*). Bermuda Post also made some changes in the assignment of numeric designation for several of its offices, at this time the Type K3 and Type K3a devices were put into service. (Tables 2 & 3, next page ). K3 cancellations originating in Hamilton and St. George’s are common in both black and blue inks.

As with most things, the Type K3 and Type K3a cancellation devices began to show their age. As such, Bermuda Post replaced them in January 1889 with the Type K4 and Type K4a handstamps. The overall design of the Type K4 and Type K4a is identical to their predecessors. That is, they too consist of a CDS containing, in the case of Type K4, the name of the post office, and in the case of the Type 4a the initials R.O.

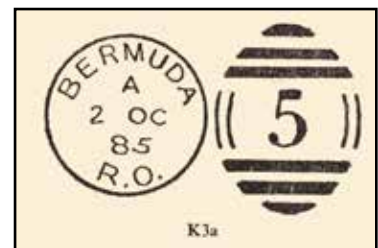
The Type K4 and Type K4a cancellation devices were in general use through June 1882. There are, however, known examples of the Type K4a number “15” device used on Dry Dock stamps in 1907, as well as Hamilton usages between 1924 and 1926 on Caravel stamps.

When collected on cover, Types K3, K3a, K4, K4a can usually be distinguished by the date and place of cancellation. This is also true when collected as individual stamps with “socked on the nose” CDSs. But what about those stamps where the individual stamp was “socked on the

Table 1	
Offices - 1865	Number
St. George’s	1
Hamilton	2
Ireland Island	3
Mangrove Bay	4
Somerset Bridge	5
Southampton West	6
Southampton East (Hunts Bay)	7
Warwick West (Riddles Bay)	8
Paget West	9
Paget East	10
Devonshire	11
Harrington Sound	12
Flatts	13
Bailey’s Bay?	14
Crawl	15



*Figure 4*  
Type K3 cancel included name of post office.



*Figure 5*  
Type K3a included initials R.O. for Receiving Office.



*Figure 6*  
Type K3a obliterators contained a number designating the respective post or receiving office where the item entered the postal system.

nose” with just the obliterator? Fortunately, they can be readily differentiated inasmuch as the fonts used by the Type K3 and Type K3a are somewhat different than those used for Type K4 and Type K4a. These differences are noted in both Ludington’s booklet and in Cordon and Forand’s *Bermuda Specialized Catalogue*.

### My Collection

A week or two after I purchased the Ludington book, I took a good look at its contents, and found a wealth of information that not only explained how those various numbers on my used stamps corresponded to the numbers assigned to various post and receiving offices across Bermuda, but a whole lot more. I decided then and there that I was going to collect a “socked on the nose” example of every known example. How hard could it be? Plenty hard!

I already had a lot of duplicates of the Type K3 and Type 4 obliterator numbered “1” and “2”; along with the odd “3” or “5.” So onto eBay and Hipstamp I went. Over the next few weeks, I was able to find a few more numbers and along with a few stamps “socked on the nose” with a CDS. But things slowed down rather quickly after that. I didn’t want to spend big money on this collection, so what I had to do was be patient. Not always easy. Over the ensuing five or six years this little specialized collection has grown, but I still have a long way to go before it’s complete.

If you’re entertaining expanding your Bermuda collecting, why not begin a collection of these interesting and elusive postal markings on stamps. If you do, try to locate a copy of Ludington’s book. Not only does it provide very detailed information regarding the Type K series of cancellations, it has sections on many, if not all, of the machine cancellations, paquebot, first flight, censorship, and postage due markings through its publication date.

### FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup> M.H. Ludington, *Bermuda The Handstruck Stamps and Cancellations*. (London: Robson Lowe, Ltd. 1956).

<sup>2</sup> There is uncertainty as to whether the only known examples originate from Harrington Sound or from Flatts, as only the top of the second digit is discernible.

<b>Offices - 1879 to 1882</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Hamilton</b>	1
<b>St. George’s</b>	2
<b>Ireland Island</b>	3
<b>Mangrove Bay</b>	4
<b>Paget East</b>	5
<b>Paget West</b>	6
<b>Warwick East</b>	7
<b>Warwick West</b>	8
<b>Southampton East</b>	9
<b>Southampton West</b>	10
<b>Somerset Bridge</b>	11
<b>St. George’s Parish (Ferry Road)</b>	12
<b>Bailey’s Bay</b>	13
<b>Hamilton Parish (Wilkinson’s)</b>	14
<b>Crawl</b>	15
<b>Flatts</b>	16
<b>Harrington Sound</b>	17
<b>Smith’s Parish</b>	18
<b>Devonshire (Devonshire Dock)</b>	19

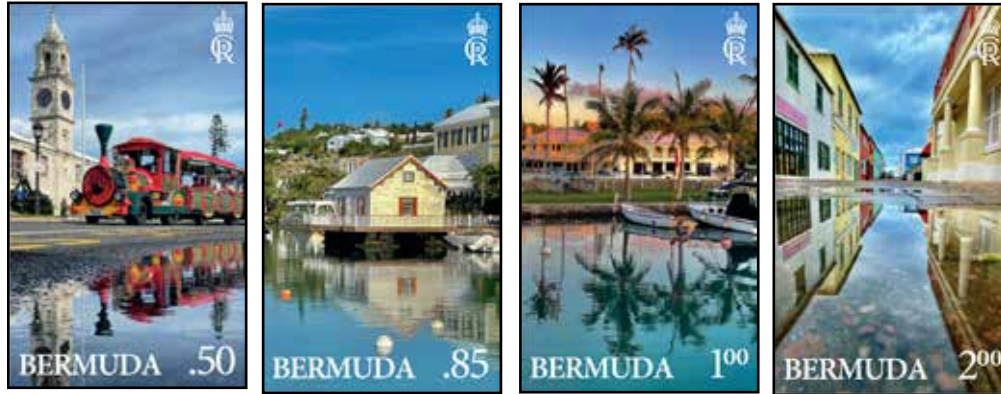
<b>Type K3 / K3a; K4 / K4a</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>Offices - 1882 to 1895</b>	
<b>Hamilton</b>	1
<b>St. George’s</b>	2
<b>Ireland Island</b>	3
<b>Mangrove Bay</b>	4
<b>Paget East</b>	5
<b>Paget West</b>	6
<b>Warwick East</b>	7
<b>Warwick West</b>	8
<b>Southampton East</b>	9
<b>Southampton West</b>	10
<b>Somerset Bridge</b>	11
<b>Bailey’s Bay</b>	12
<b>Crawl</b>	13
<b>Harrington Sound</b>	14
<b>Flatts</b>	15
<b>Devonshire North</b>	16
<b>Devonshire South</b>	17
<b>St. George’s West</b>	18
<b>St. David’s</b>	19



# Bermuda New Issues

Information provided by the Philatelic Department, Bermuda Post Office

## BERMUDA REFLECTIONS



It has been said that Bermuda’s trinity of earth, sea and sky is key to the island’s beauty. Bermuda photographer Laura Zuill has captured these elements in some of her photographs of Bermuda’s reflections while water is featured in all. As she says, “I enjoy reflection photography because it is about looking at things in a different perspective. It lets you turn the world upside down and see a beautiful image twice.” The stamps also showcase scenic parts of the island from west to east.

**50¢ Clock Tower Royal Naval Dockyard, Sandys Parish.** The clocktower towers over a shopping mall, which once was the Great Eastern Storehouse, built in 1856 by the Royal Navy as part of Britain’s naval base. The train, reminiscent of the Bermuda Railway running from the 1930s into the 1940s, takes visitors on sightseeing tours.

**85¢ Foot of the Lane, City of Hamilton.** Reflected in this picturesque body of water is a quaint cottage. Behind it are the Bermuda Underwater Exploration Institute, officially opened in 1997, and the Harbour-front Restaurant.

**\$1.00 Flatts Inlet.** The play of light and shadow on turquoise water, especially at sunset, is particularly striking at Flatts, in the central part of the island. During the 18th century, Flatts Village was a thriving port and smuggling center. Now, it’s a popular, scenic stop on the way to the L.F. Wade International Airport and St. George’s.

**\$2.00 Water Street, Town of St. George’s.** Many of the buildings on this old street in Bermuda’s first capital mask the fact it is aptly named as it truly does overlook the water of St. George’s Harbour. But in this witty photograph, the street itself is watery, thanks to a puddle creating reflections of those buildings’ traditional architecture.



Two additional issues celebrate the inauguration of King Charles III. The souvenir sheet at right is a \$6 value. The stamp at left is a \$35 Express Postage issue. Additional information about the two stamps was unavailable at deadline.



## More Bermuda Stamp Dealers

By John L. Puzine

The April 2022 issue of *Bermuda Post* contained a reprint of a June 1996 article by John Paré about “Bermuda stamp dealers recalled.” I found it interesting again, because I had forgotten the article and it brought back memories. John’s article dealt with dealers actually living and working in Bermuda, and I thought I would add to that by telling about my own experiences with a few dealers who I remember since I started collecting Bermuda stamps and postal history.

I started collecting U.S. stamps in the mid-1970s and by 1983 I realized I would never be able to own a complete collection of mint U.S. stamps. At that time my wife and I had made three trips to Bermuda, and I knew we would be returning more times, so I wondered about the possibility of collecting Bermuda stamps. I am the type of collector who needs guidance, and a specialized Bermuda album would be what I needed. I went to a stamp show and stopped at a British dealer’s table to inquire about a Bermuda collection. That dealer was Tom Bansak, who is currently a BCS director. I asked Tom about a single-country Bermuda album, and he told me that “I was in luck because there is such an album published in Lexington, Massachusetts by the Battle Green Stamp Co. owned by Bill Fletcher.”

I was lucky in that I only lived and worked 20 minutes from Lexington. I made a trip to Lexington and met Bill Fletcher who showed me his album. He also told me about Bermuda’s conservative stamp release policy (unlike the U.S. and many other countries) and that “I could own a complete mint Bermuda collection for the price of a single ‘good’ U.S. stamp.” Bill did forget to say which single U.S. stamp, but I was convinced. I told my wife, Jane, that the Battle Green Bermuda album might make a good Christmas present, and that started it all – thanks to Tom Bansak.

Bill Fletcher not only published the album, but his retail store specialized in U.S., Bermuda, and Canadian stamps. So I did not need to travel far to find

stamps for the album. The album had a space for every Bermuda stamp listed in the Stanley Gibbons Catalogue. Bill also published an annual price list which became my bible for collecting Bermuda stamps because the list had each stamp with corresponding Scott and Stanley Gibbons numbers.

The Battle Green Stamp store was also a hangout for many other Bermuda collectors. There was an adjacent conference room, and on Saturdays many prominent Bermuda collectors would gather there to tell war stories, as well as compare research on various stamp printings and errors. If I wanted to collect Bermuda stamps, it was the place to be. Bill Fletcher also introduced me to the Bermuda Collectors Society (BCS) which had recently formed.

Through membership in the BCS I was introduced to other Bermuda dealers and collectors. My first gathering with some of the BCS member/dealers was eye-opening. To me, Reid Shaw, Phoebe MacGillivray, and Bob Dickgiesser were larger than life. They were prominent in their field (Phoebe still is) and had an enormous affect on my collecting. Not only did Reid and Bob collect stamps and postal history, but they sold Bermuda material. They were also very willing to share their knowledge and experience. As time went on and I became more of a specialized collector I still found ALL the aforementioned dealers to be great sources of material and information.

When some of the prominent collectors’ material came up for sale, it was the Victoria Stamp Co. that led the field in auctioning the better Bermuda collections. As much as I find New York City intimidating, I still made my way to the New York Collectors Club to attend the Victoria sales of Harry Whitin, Reid Shaw, and Myles Glazers’ fantastic collections. All I can say now is “those were the days.”

Those “Good Olde Days” may be gone, but there are still dealers remaining who have decent stock

## More Bermuda Stamp Dealers

*Continued from page 18*

of Bermuda stamps and postal history, including the guy who started it all for me: Tom Bansak, also known as Toga Associates. Phoebe MacGillivray is now auctioning many British countries, but has Bermuda material in most of her sales. There is also a Bermuda specialized dealer who still publishes the Battle Green Bermuda Stamp Album, and to this day issues periodic supplements to that album. That would be the Bermuda Coin & Stamp Co. run by Sue and Dave Avery from Battle Creek, Michigan (<http://www.bermudastampcompany.com>).

Of course, there are many stamp dealers who have Bermuda material in their stock, but I honestly think those mentioned here had the most influence on me over the years. The BCS website (<https://bermudacollectorsociety.com>) has a list with links to many of the dealers currently offering Bermuda material for sale.

**Have YOU solicited a new member for the Bermuda Collectors Society? We need to increase our membership, and need YOUR help in doing so! Encourage friends and fellow philatelists to join today!**

## ARTHUR DAVID CHARLTON

I am sorry to report that another longtime BCS member, A. David Charlton, passed away on February 11, 2023. He was 92 at the time of his passing. David grew up in Bermuda while his father was captain of the cruise ship *Queen of Bermuda*, and his summer job was working in the purser's office on board the ship. After college David worked in Rochester, New York and retired after a 35 year career with Kodak. David collected mint Bermuda stamps and Furness Bermuda Line postal history, postcards, and ephemera.

In the 1980s and 1990s, David usually attended BCS meetings in the Northeast. At one of the meetings, a few inquisitive members asked him about the significance of the different colors of the Queen's "Posted on the High Seas" handstamps.

He replied that "the color was that of whichever ink pad was closest to the person applying the stamp. If a red stamp was used previously, and the blue pad was closer, then the next marking usually ended up purple."

David sold most of his Bermuda philatelic material a few years ago, and he donated a large amount of significant *Queen of Bermuda* memorabilia to the Bermuda Maritime Museum. In addition to being a longtime BCS member, David was a true gentleman – he will be missed.

-- John L. Puzine

## Old Time Bermuda

By Nigel W. Shanks



*The Princess Hotel situated in Pembroke Parish on Hamilton Harbour will be familiar to most BCS members. While likely not rare, I've not seen this view on a postcard previously. The hotel opened on January 1, 1885 and is named "Princess" in honor of the fourth daughter of Queen Victoria, Princess Louise, who visited Bermuda in 1883, fondly calling it "the place of eternal spring" and as such gaining international attention. The hotel is well known for hosting the Imperial Censorship Detachment during World War II and was home to over 1,000 mail censors and censorettes from September 22, 1940 until 1944. Less well known is the fact that my parents honeymooned at the hotel in December 1969, and I am looking forward to staying there when I visit Bermuda in September this year. Much has changed since 1885, with a significant renovation completed in recent years.*

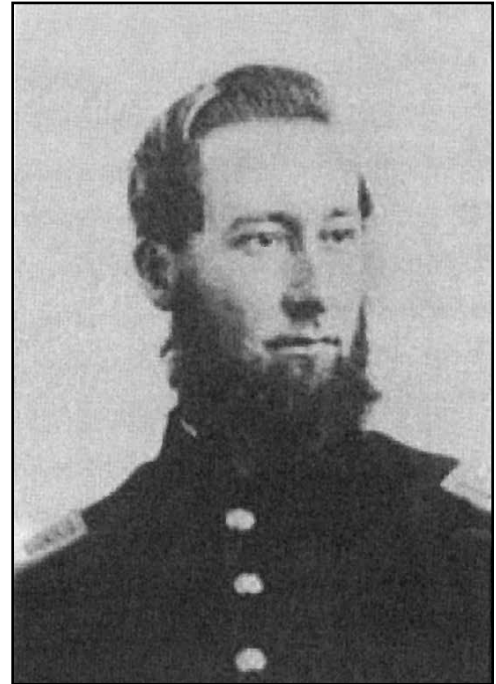
**Did you know ...****... About General Russell Hastings and the Bermuda Easter Lilies?****By Horst Augustinovic**

**T**he sixth of eight children, Russell Hastings was born in Greenfield, Massachusetts in 1835. During the American Civil War, he became a second lieutenant in the Ohio Volunteer Army. During the battle of Winchester, he was severely wounded and nearly died. Next he became adjutant general on the staff of Major General Rutherford Hayes -- later to become U.S. President -- and at the close of the war he was brevetted brigadier general.

In 1865 he was elected to the Ohio Legislature and two years later was appointed U.S. Marshal for the Northern District of Ohio. Having spent a winter in Bermuda due to his poor health, General Hastings and his wife Emily, niece of President Hayes, made Bermuda their permanent home in 1879. In 1883 they bought some 50 acres of land in Point Shares for \$8,000 and built their home, "Soncy."

Before moving to Bermuda, General Hastings formed a partnership with a florist in New York and established a business raising Easter lily bulbs for export to the United States. As he cultivated more and more fields in Point Shares, he cultivated around 300,000 Easter lilies a year, shipping them to New York, England and Holland.

In a 1890 *New York Times* article, the writer described a visit to General Hastings like this: "The best garden that I have seen so far belongs to an American, Gen. Russell C. Hastings, who, after having an ugly

***Lieutenant Russell C. Hastings******"Soncy" in Point Shares, built in the early 1880s.***

encounter with a rifle ball in the late war, came down here and began and developed the then new industry of raising lilies. It is Gen. Hastings who is responsible for the vast quantities of Easter lilies that are now sent every year from Bermuda to New York. He has promised to give a full description of the process of raising and shipping lilies, so I will say no more about that here; but in his private garden where he raises vegetables only for his own table, he showed me things that would excite wonder in a colder climate. Rows of peas ready for the picking, heads of lettuce like cabbages, artichokes, beets, sweet and white potatoes, and all the things that we expect to see in a northern garden in August, green and juicy here in the beginning of February. He has these things ready for the table year-round, he tells me, making new plantings every two weeks. Such a garden as this, in such a climate, and a beautiful house in the midst of a plantation of blooming lilies, with a broad plaza overhanging a sheet of clear water, ought to be enough to make an old soldier happy.”

The Hastings had three children: Lucy Webb, Fanny and Russell Platt. Lucy Web married an Australian surgeon and their daughter, Emily, was a well-known Bermuda resident -- Dr. Emily Liddell. One of the first women doctors in Bermuda, she worked as a public health doctor in the 1940s, studied psychiatry and became a transcendental meditation teacher. She was also the first woman to hold a Bermuda driver's license.



*A field of Bermuda Easter lilies ...*

*... and Easter lilies being packed for shipment to New York.*

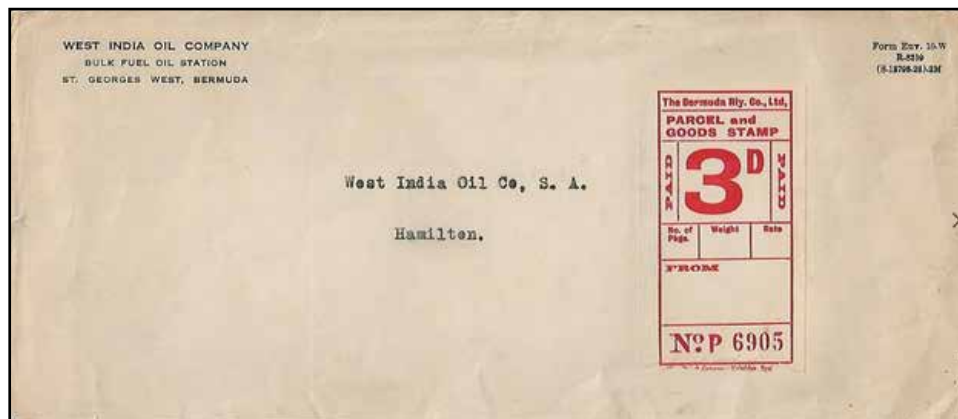


*The “Did you know ...” column is excerpted from Horst Augustinovic’s three book series, What you may NOT know About Bermuda. For information on these very informative hardcover books (with lots of philatelic information!), contact Horst by email at [horstauginovic1@gmail.com](mailto:horstauginovic1@gmail.com)*



## Questionable Bermuda Railway label on cover

The Sleuth noticed a seldom offered and quite rare 1940s Bermuda 3d Railway label on cover described as being addressed to Canada. BCS members should know that the “Hamilton” on the cover refers to the capital of Bermuda and not Hamilton, Ontario! That aside, the item attracted 15 bids from six bidders and sold for \$213.50 having started at 99¢. For those who missed out, Gary DuBro from Compustamp has a similar item on his website listed at \$475.00. The Sleuth thinks that 99¢ would have been a bargain, \$213.50 is a good price and \$475.00 might be on the high side.



***Bermuda Railways 3d label on cover addressed to Hamilton, Bermuda and not Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.***

Another item seen on eBay is a CM21 #46 on a cover from Southern Rhodesia to England. Not only is the handstamp forged but the censor tape was not used at Bermuda and there is no evidence that this cover went anywhere near Bermuda on its way to its destination. These are known forgeries possibly from a United Kingdom dealer source and quite a bit was written about them in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Michel Forand summed it nicely when he wrote: “I think these are fantasy items rather than forgeries intended to deceive. No one familiar with the rules and practices of censorship would mistake them for the real thing.” That was then, the Sleuth notes that the item sold for £54.27 and that there were 12 bids from six bidders.

Let’s hope that those bidding were doing so for curiosity interest only. Certainly the winning bidder knew what they were buying.

As always the Sleuth advises caution when buying material and if in doubt, ask.



***Cover to England with forged handstamp. There is no evidence this cover was anywhere near Bermuda.***



# Secretary's Report

By Jeffrey Dow  
jmdcollectibles@yahoo.com



### NEW MEMBERS

Malcolm Back (via PayPal, no address)  
Darryl Fuller, Low Head, Tasmania, AUSTRALIA  
Richard Goodwin, Flatts, BERMUDA

### RESIGNATIONS

*None this quarter*

### DONATIONS

Thomas Fauth

### ADDRESS CHANGES

*None this quarter*

### DECEASED

*None this quarter*

### REINSTATEMENTS

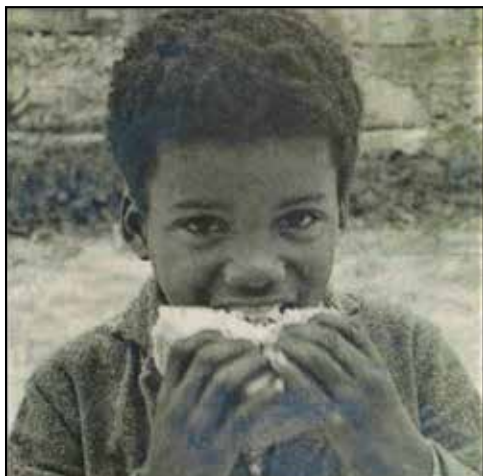
*None this quarter*

### STATISTICAL REPORT

Membership at end of previous quarter:	119
New Members:	3
Reinstatement:	0
Loss (non renewals):	0
Resignation:	0
Deceased:	0
Current membership:	122

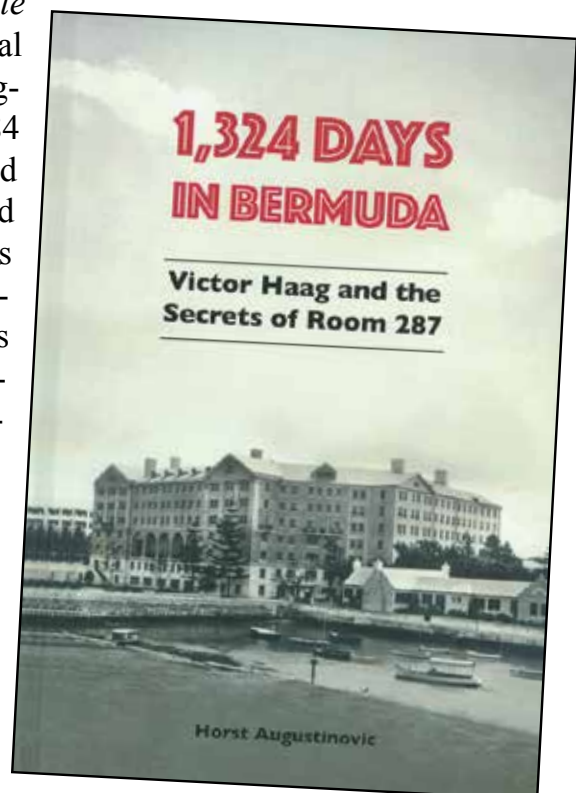
## Exciting new WW II book is three-in-one story

How did the chance identification of a young boy eating a sandwich from World War II lead to a fascinating new book from Bermuda historian and author Horst Augustinovic? The photograph in a January 2021 edition of the *Royal Gazette* brought identification AND an interesting historical



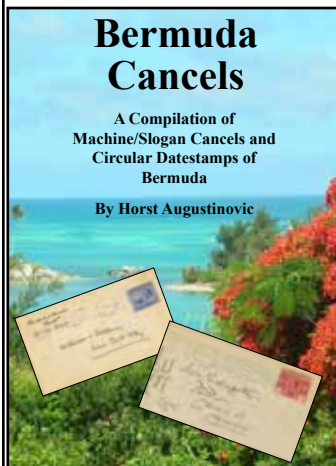
drama from England. The 184 page hardbound book, published in color, contains many antiquarian photographs and is the product of an amazing series of coincidences. It is at the same time a love story, a

thrilling tale of espionage worthy of an Ian Fleming novel and an important addition to Bermuda history. The books are available world-wide for \$40.00 which includes postage. Payment can be by PayPal or US\$ check sent to Horst Augustinovic, P.O. Box HM 937, Hamilton HM DX, Bermuda.



# Collect Bermuda?

## Five new philatelic books now available!



**Bermuda Cancels**  
A Compilation of  
Machine/Slogan Cancels and  
Circular Datestamps of  
Bermuda  
By Horst Augustinovic

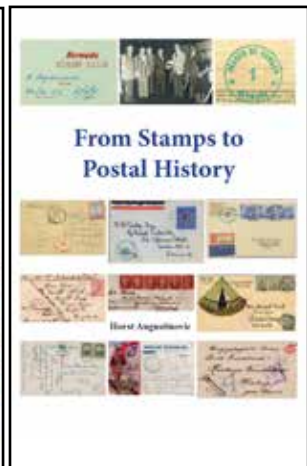
**Bermuda Cancels**  
\$30 U.S.; \$35 Canada,  
\$40 elsewhere.



**Bermuda's 1953, 1962  
and 1970 Definitive  
Postage Stamps**  
\$30 U.S.; \$35 Canada,  
\$40 elsewhere.



**The Bermuda Post  
Office and the Handling  
of Mail**  
\$40 U.S.; \$45 Canada,  
\$50 elsewhere.



**From Stamps to  
Postal History**  
\$30 U.S.;  
\$35 Canada,  
\$40 elsewhere.



**From Transport to  
Accommodation**  
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\$50 elsewhere.

*Bermuda Cancels* is the first comprehensive study of often elusive postmarks and contains exhaustive information on design, earliest and latest known usages, subtypes and more.

Each cancel is shown in detail in the 83 page book.

*Bermuda's 1953, 1962 and 1970 Definitive Postage Stamps* is a look at three of Bermuda's most interesting definitive series. Each of the sets has long provided collectors with questions now answered for the first time in this 76 page book.

*The Bermuda Post Office and the Handling of Mail* is an extensive look at post office history and development of the mails from 1784. Each post office is described in detail with information on rates and markings in the 96 page book.

*From Stamps to Postal History* is a look at history of the Bermuda Stamp Club, philatelic society and eight exhibitions, as well as Horst's quest to find 50 censor markings. It's all covered in 82 pages in color!

*From Transport to Accommodation* is an examination of how philately has played a role in transportation and public accommodations in Bermuda. The 88 page book is lavishly illustrated with both philatelic items and antiquarian photographs.

All books are soft-covered and comb-bound.

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