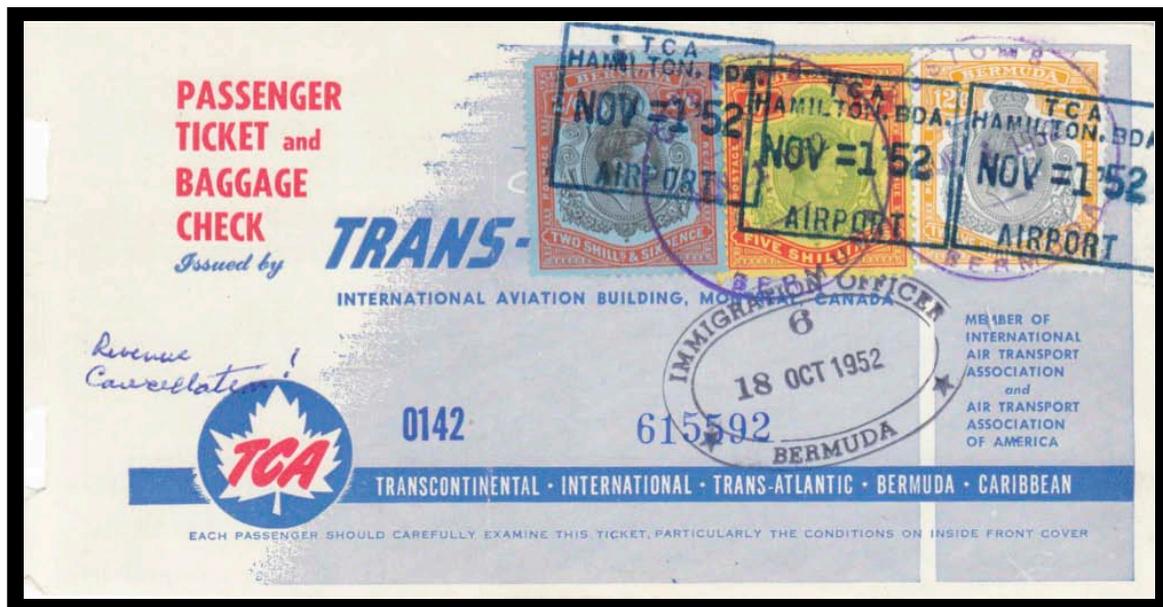


# BERMUDA POST



Rare Three Franking Keyplate Usage On Air Ticket. See Article Page 17.

<b>President's Message / Editor's Commentary</b>	3
<b>From The Secretary's Desk / Member Comments &amp; Information</b>	4
<b>Board Of Directors Meeting &amp; Minutes - John Pare</b>	6
<b>APS Columbus Ohio 'Rogues Gallery' - John L. Puzine</b>	7
<b>A Retrospective Of The BCS - John Pare</b>	8
<b>Obituary: Geoffrey Alan Osborn - Dennis Mitton</b>	11
<b>Bermuda &amp; The United States 'Mini Postal Union' - James P. Gough</b>	13
<b>Bermuda Around The Sale Rooms - Charles Freeland</b>	14
<b>Never Assume A Dealer Knows More - Tom Bansak</b>	15
<b>Tax Increase Shown On Plane Ticket - John L. Puzine</b>	17
<b>QV Combination Usages - Bill Charles Gompel</b>	18
<b>Memories Of The BCS Early Years - Charles Freeland</b>	21
<b>Bermuda Covers - Pre 1820 - David Cordon</b>	23
<b>Tracking Bermuda Rarities - Charles Freeland</b>	27
<b>Sometimes I Could Scream - Horst Augustinovic</b>	27

**BERMUDA POST** Is A Quarterly Publication Of **The Bermuda Collectors Society.**  
**WWW.BERMUDACOLLECTORSSOCIETY.COM**

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Phoebe A. MacGillivray, Vice President  
John Pare, Secretary  
Dennis Maguire, Treasurer  
Nigel Shanks, Editor

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#### **Yearly Membership Rates**

United States - \$25<sup>00</sup>; Canada - \$27<sup>00</sup>; UK - \$32<sup>00</sup> / £17.7<sup>50</sup>; Rest Of World - \$32.00

Address changes, requests for back issues (\$5.00 each)  
and new member applications should be sent to John Pare

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# President's Message

**Bill Charles Gompel**

When you receive this issue of the Bermuda Post it will mark our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a society. This event is a remarkable achievement for a one-country society and one that many in the philatelic community thought we would never achieve! I am so thankful and humble to think about all of the great and dedicated individuals that helped start, build, and support this great society for so many years. Our task is now at hand to honor those prior efforts by re-dedicating ourselves to drive the activities that will hopefully make us achieve an even greater anniversary date in the future as our legacy.

The annual meeting of the BCS, held at APS StampShow 2011 in Columbus, Ohio, was a fun and very meaningful gathering for those that attended. While the turnout was not very large, there were several members that came from afar to share good times, rekindle old acquaintances and friendships, and to help set a course for the future of the society.

The fun and good times will be covered more extensively in this issue of the BP, but the ability to have a Board meeting and to set the stage for some exciting changes to come that will benefit our existing members and hopefully generate interest in Bermuda by others cannot be understated.

The Bermuda Post will continue to be published in hard copy format and edited by Nigel Shanks, who has done a remarkable job - we aim to continue with full colour in December 2011 and beyond.

A committee has been formed to investigate all aspects of creating a very upgraded and interactive website for the society that will hopefully become a vibrant communication channel for all those members that wish to participate as well as a way of attracting new members. Nigel Shanks, David Cordon, and I will be working on this and reporting back to everyone by the December issue and beyond.

Areas like marketing, awards for writing and exhibiting, sales of excess back issues, and others are also being looked at with the idea of making the society more appealing and more prominent in the philatelic world to help create more vibrancy and excitement about collecting Bermuda. All BCS members are asked for any input they care to provide to the officers and directors of the group to help us into our next 25 years!

One of the changes that transpired during the annual meeting was the retirement of Phoebe MacGillivray as our society Vice President after many years of service. Phoebe is one of the twelve founding members of the society, the only dealer that has sustained their advertising, uninterrupted, during the full 25 years we have been in existence, and through her activities as a dealer and auctioneer, a great support for the Bermuda collecting community. Phoebe is still fully active as a dealer and auctioneer and her "retirement" is only a result of her desire to set the stage to inspire others to step up and help lead the society to new levels of achievement by volunteering their time as she did for so many years. She will be greatly missed, although I suspect she will always provide wisdom and support to the BCS in any way that she can. BP

## Commentary

**Nigel W. Shanks**

The time has come, 25 years in the making, and I am now very pleased to present Issue 100 of Bermuda Post. As members will know, there were many from the outset who doubted our survival beyond two or three years - let alone the truly great milestone that we have reached this month.

This issue also marks five years for me as Editor. It certainly does not seem that long ago at all that many members were at the fantastic Show - Washington 2006 - where I was just being appointed editor, with some trepidation. I hope to do many more years as editor of Bermuda Post, so please keep the communication lines open.

By all accounts the Ohio gathering and meetings were a great success. I understand we have a strong commitment from the board and there will be some action in the later part of 2011 and into 2012 - especially in relation to the web site.

The other much discussed matter in Ohio was the transition into colour. Well, as you will all see colour has arrived. The extra cost for printing Issue 100 in full colour is my gift to the society. However, I understand that this will be continued for subsequent issues - and as long as we find an auction manager, hopefully without an increase in membership.

We have a great team on on the board, with a new vice president taking office from October 1 - I am sure that the new blood, together with some hard work by members and directors alike will see the BCS and Bermuda Post grow stronger than ever over the coming years. Our new secretary is already working hard and you will see evidence of John's hard work in this issue - especially in relation to minutes and his own column over the page.

This issue, like most before it, has been a great deal of fun to put together. My pleas for help and the recent meeting at the APS Show seem to have made a difference. We have a small but dedicated group of people who have shown that they are prepared to step up and help out the society.

If members are considering writing an article or sending an item in for publication in Bermuda Post, it is important that they now, where ever possible send any illustrations or scans in colour. Also, please try to avoid using 'tabs' when you write articles as it makes formatting harder for me. The best thing to do is give me your words, handwritten, emailed (my preference) or typed along with colour scans and I will do the rest.

That's all from me - as always, I hope that you enjoy Issue 100 of Bermuda Post - our first full colour issue. BP

## From The Secretary's Desk

John Pare

By the time you receive this, Issue 100, the 2011 Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio will be history. In planning our get-together I learned a few things in the course of executing the duties of my office. The most important? We need to improve the speed and efficiency with which the Officers of the BCS communicate with the membership.

To that end, I ask for two things. First, when you receive your dues notice at year's end please consider **allowing the BCS to know and use your e-mail address for society business**. When we do that, we not only increase our efficiency as an organization but we also save postage costs. In the past weeks, when I sent out a mass e-mail many were returned as either out of date or blocked by your PC filters. Please, look over the form very carefully and provide us with a complete and correct mailing and e-mail address.

Second, we will include a ballot with the dues notice asking you to vote for candidates running for the Board of Directors. We will be electing two Board members and I hope that we can offer you more than two candidates for those seats on the Board. **Please vote.**

## Member Comments & Information

July - September 2011

John Puzine adds a comment to Jack Walsh's article regarding 'Seaweed Cards'. In addition to the cards illustrated in Don Stephens' article in Bermuda Post - Issue #32, and the card Jack found at the New York show, a similar card sold on eBay in August 2006. When the eBay auction closed, the card ended up fetching approximately \$245.00 including shipping. It was won by Bermudian eBay bidder "marilynn234".

\* \* \* \* \*

David Saul writes, for the information of the readers, I have just been informed by the Philatelic Bureau:

THAT AS (of) DECEMBER 2010 THE BAILEYS BAY SUB OFFICE IS CLOSED FOR RECEIVING/DISTRIBUTION OF MAIL, ADDITIONALLY THE IRELAND ISLAND CANCEL IS NO LONGER IN USE AS WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO ESTABLISH A FACILITY FOR CONTINUED USE IN RECEIVING MAILS AT THE DOCKYARD.

Members collecting blocks and cancellations may find this information useful.

Furthermore, please note that the "Lifetime of Service" commemorative stamp issue will come out without plate blocks.

THE STAMPS WERE RELEASED IN SHEETLET FORMAT WITH EIGHT STAMPS PER SHEETLET INSTEAD OF (the usual) STANDARD SHEET OF FIFTY WITH TWO PANES OF TWENTY FIVE.

\* \* \* \* \*

Horst Augustinovic's **'The Golden Age of Bermuda Postcards'** was published in Bermuda last month. The 240-page hardcover book includes 460 postcard images and retails for \$48. It is available at the Bermuda Book Store, Bookmart/Brown & Co. and A.S. Cooper's in Hamilton, as well as the Book Cellar in St. George's and the Bermuda Craft Market in Dockyard. For further information please email [netlink@cwbd.a.bm](mailto:netlink@cwbd.a.bm).

\* \* \* \* \*

Gil Kaufman writes, thank you for another excellent issue of the Bermuda Post. It was particularly interesting to me because of two articles interfacing with my own collection of Bermuda postal artifacts.

The first was the terrific article by John Puzine, who enabled me to realize that I am not the only collector of Bermuda postcards to whom the back of the card is more important than the front. I have been focused that way for 20 years or so, with the target of getting every conceivable franking likely (some unlikely) on a postcard. Not only were the illustrations an excellent cross-section of postcards front and back, but his commentary quite helpful. Your reproductions of them were very fine as well.

Another feature of John's article that fascinated me is the presence in Figure 12 of a Sikorsky S-42. As a fascinated collector of postal memorabilia of all types related to the flying boats of the late 30's that initiated Bermuda service and, later, Atlantic service, I have a couple thousand PCs and covers related to the Bermuda Clipper, the Cavalier, and the Yankee Clipper, but I was astonished to see in Figure 12 a picture of a PC I had not ever seen before. A new challenge!

My fascination with these three flying boats naturally made Alan Bestford's article on Captain J.C. Kelly Rogers also of considerable interest to me. The planes he flew, including the Caribou and the Claire, and the Caribou's sister ship, the Cabot, were very close relatives of the Cavalier, one of the most historic of the Short Brothers Sunderland class of flying boats. The Cavalier initiated commercial service from the Bermuda to the U.S.A. on June 18, 1937, along with the Bermuda Clipper, and regrettably was taken down into the Atlantic by too much ice on the wings flying out of New York's Port Washington in January of 1939.

So these two articles were instant required reading when the Bermuda Post arrived earlier today, and I thank you once again for it, and thanks also to John Puzine and Alan Bestford for their fine articles. It has prompted me to review my own collection for gems of the type to which John has brought much-deserved attention.

\* \* \* \* \*

Editor Nigel Shanks is looking for a copy of the hardbound edition of *The Picture Postcards of Bermuda* by Don Stephens (the more in-depth study from the simplified version). If anyone has a spare for sale or knows where one can be obtained, then please contact the editor - [nigel@adzup.co.nz](mailto:nigel@adzup.co.nz)

*25th Anniversary - Issue 100*

**BERMUDA POST**

*1986 - 2011 & Beyond*

# Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Saturday, August 13, 2011, 8 a.m. APS Stamp Show 2011  
Greater Columbus Convention Center – Room E150

- I. Meeting Called to Order
- II. Quorum Established and Proxies Certified
- III. Report on Last Meeting
- IV. Treasurer's Financial & Membership Report
- V. Election of Officers
- VI. Call for Nominations for Board of Directors
- VII. Bermuda Post - Discussion relating to Format, Color, On-line version, Subscription differentia, etc.
- VIII. Website Development & Maintenance
- IX. Succession of Officers, Directors, Bermuda Post Editor
- X. Future of BCS Auctions.
- XI. The Bermuda Catalogue
- XII. Future of the Bermuda Collectors Society

# Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Saturday, August 13, 2011, 8 a.m. APS Stamp Show 2011  
Greater Columbus Convention Center – Room E150

Prepared by: **John Pare, Secretary**

- I. Meeting Called to Order, Quorum Established, Proxies Certified, Directors Present: Bansak, Flynn, Pare, Puzine, Shanks (Proxy to Pare)  
Others Present: Cordon, Forand, Gompel, Maguire
- II. Report on Last Meeting by President Bill Gompel.
- III. Treasurer's Financial & Membership Report by Treasurer Dennis Maguire  
Treasury Balance a/o July 1, 2011 - \$11,089.00  
Membership a/o August 1, 2011 – 162 individual members, 4 institutional members
- IV. Election of Officers - Pare informed the Board that Phoebe MacGillivray chose not to run again for VP. Puzine moved, Flynn seconded the re-election of the remaining 3 Officers and Jeffrey Dow as Vice President to take office on September 30, 2011. **Passed.**
- V. Officers will seek candidates for the Board of Directors to replace Flynn and Shanks whose terms expire on September 30, 2011. Elections ballots will be sent to members in December along with the annual dues notices.
- VI. **Bermuda Post** – Discussion regarding the printing of the **Bermuda Post** in color. Flynn moved, Bansak seconded to begin publishing in color as soon as practicable with no increase in dues. The society will do this for a year and re-visit the issue of costs and dues at the next annual meeting. **Passed.**
- VII. Website Development & Maintenance – an ad-hoc Committee of Bill Gompel, David Cordon and Nigel Shanks will urgently work on the re-establishment and updating of the BCS website.
- VIII. Succession of Officers, Directors, **Bermuda Post** Editor - Discussion of the need for members to step forward to fill positions in the society took place. Motion by Puzine, seconded by Flynn to recognize the on-going contributions of time, resources, and expertise of Nigel Shanks, **Bermuda Post** Editor. **Passed.**
- IX. Future of BCS auctions - Bill Gompel agreed to continue his efforts to find a replacement to fill this position. It was noted that proceeds from the auctions have been a huge contributor to our balance sheet.
- X. The Bermuda Catalogue - David Cordon and Michel Forand gave an update on the Catalogue. They were optimistic in anticipating its publication by year-end.
- XI. An informal meeting of the BCS will be held in January in conjunction with the Sarasota Stamp Show.  
  
Puzine moved, Flynn seconded that the meeting adjourn. **Passed.**  
  
Adjournment at 11:25 a.m.

A General Meeting of the Society was held at 4:00 P.M. in addition to the Board, members David Cordon, Michel Forand and Jeffrey Dow were in attendance as well as six non-members. One of the non-members is planning to join the BCS. Presentations were given by Bill Gompel and Peter Flynn. **BP**

# APS Show Photos - Columbus Ohio

The 'Rogues' Gallery



**Rogues Gallery - Clockwise From Top Left. People Are Named Left To Right.**

**Photo 1** - Bill Gompel & Dennis Macquire - Doing What They Do Best;

**Photo 2** - Dennis Maguire, Peter Flynn, Madeline Flynn, John Pare & Jeffrey Dow;

**Photo 3** - Tom & Gail Bansak - Holding Court At Their Booth;

**Photo 4** - At General Meeting. Seated - Madeline & Peter Flynn. Standing - David Cordon, Bill Gompel, Jeffrey Dow, John Pare, John Puzine & Michel Forand;

**Photo 5** - The "It's Over" Party - Jeffrey Dow, Bill Gompel, John Puzine & John Pare;

**Photo 6** - David Cordon, Michel Forand, Bill Gompel & Tom Bansak

# A Retrospective On The BCS

John Pare

Twenty-five years of existence is, no doubt, a milestone. While I was not a “founding member” I was a “first opportunity member” of the Bermuda Collector Society when it was formed. As a result I have a full run of the **Bermuda Post**. To help celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary I went back over the last ninety-nine issues and read the comments and reports of the Officers and Editors. These comments and reports, in a very real sense, tell the organizational history of the Bermuda Collectors Society. I’ve tried to summarize that history by giving recognition to the people who have done the heavy lifting for this group, the Officers of the Society and the Editors of our communication lifeline, the **Bermuda Post**. I’ve noted various milestones reached along the way. And, respectfully, I have noted the passing of members (and a few non-members) who contributed so much to the early history of the BCS and to the advancement of Bermuda philately.

Founding Members Oct 1986 Tom Bansak, Bob Dickgeisser, Art Hamm, George King, Harry Whitin,  
Phoebe MacGillivray, Tom McMahon, Bob Rand, Reid Shaw

Each of the above contributed \$100 to get things going along with a “sizeable donation” from Charles Freeland.

The founding members, acting as the Executive Board, decided to publish the **Bermuda Post** quarterly in October, January, April and July with Reid Shaw as the first President and Editor. Immediately following the establishment of the BCS, “Letters of Invitation” were sent to all known Bermuda collectors. In April 1987 Tom McMahon was named Secretary-Treasurer and reported the membership had reached 193.

Six years later, in December, 1992, the Bermuda Collectors Society incorporated as a non-profit corporation and was required by its By-Laws to elect Officers and a Board of Directors. Thomas Olson, a member and a California attorney, handled the Incorporation.

Below is a list of members who have held the Bermuda Collectors Society offices over the years.

President	Oct 1986 - Sep 1997 Sep 1997 - Jun 2001 Jun 2001 - Sep 2003 Sep 2003 - Sep 2007 Sep 2007 - Current	Reid Shaw Peter Flynn David Pitts Peter Flynn Bill Gompel
Vice-President	Dec 1992 - Jun 1996 Sep 1996 - Sep 2011 Oct 2011	George King Phoebe MacGillivray Jeffrey Dow
Secretary/Treasurer	Oct 1986 – Jun 1994	Tom McMahon
Treasurer	Jun 1994 – Jun 2001 Jun 2001 – Jun 2007 Sep 2007 – Current	George King Bill Gompel Dennis Maguire
Secretary	Jun 1994 – Dec 2010 Dec 2010 – Current	Thomas McMahon John Paré

Directors Since there have been many Directors over the past 25 years, I have listed them alphabetically. A few of these people have served on the Board multiple times and many served concurrently as Officers.

David Avery, Stuart Babbington, Tom Bansak, Peter Coakes, Paul Cohen, Rick Corbett, Charles Cwiakala, Peter Flynn, Michel Forand, Charles Freeland, Bill Gompel, George King, Robert Kugel, Dennis Littlewort, Phoebe MacGillivray, Tom McMahon, Michael, Mead, John Paré, John Puzine, Nigel Shanks, Reid Shaw, Don Stephens, John Youngman,

Auction Managers	Jan 1988-Dec 1992 Dec 1992-Dec 2000 Dec 2000-Sep 2010 Dec 2010-Current	George King & Bob Dickgeisser Don Stephens & John Puzine Bill Gompel & Tom McMahon Bill Gompel
Bermuda Post Editors	# 1-27 #28-39 #40-55 #56 #57-74 #75-78 #79 #80-Current	Reid Shaw John Puzine Peter Flynn Tom McMahon when Peter Flynn had surgery Peter Flynn Rick Corbett Peter Flynn & Tom McMahon when Rick passed away Nigel Shanks

Throughout the years all of the Editors have continually urged, begged, threatened and cajoled members to submit articles. Some issues were longer than others, but the Editors never missed an issue. In my opinion, this group more than any other, deserves our heartfelt recognition and gratitude for their contribution to the continued existence of the Bermuda Collectors Society.

Starting in December 1992 Stuart Babbington served as the U.K. Representative and Chuck Cwiakala served as the Membership Chair. It was not clear in the record how long these gentlemen served in their respective capacities. Richard Conn also served as Webmaster for a period of time.

### Meetings

There has been an effort over the years to hold annual meetings. Sometimes these were formal meetings of the Society, other times they were informal gatherings of members taking advantage of being at the same stamp show. If there is a trend to note it is the decreased attendance at these meetings. Early meetings often brought together as many as 35 members and spouses.

As I write this on August 2<sup>nd</sup> I am almost elated that we will have about 12-15 members at our meeting in Columbus in two weeks and there will be a quorum of the Board of Directors so that business can be conducted.

June, 1987	Toronto	CAPEX
August, 1987	Boston	APS Stamp Show
September, 1989	Guerney	Ulrich Sale
Spring, 1990	London	London 1990
November, 1990	New York	ASDA Show
July, 1991	Bermuda	
May, 1992	Chicago	Columbian Stamp Expo
April 25, 1993	Stamford, CT	
April 24, 1994	Stamford, CT	
May 7, 1995	Stamford, CT	
Spring, 1997	Sturbridge, MA	
August 9, 1997	Sharon Springs, NY	
May 17, 1998	Stamford, CT	
June 5, 1999	Tyson Corners, VA	NAPEX
August 12, 2002	Sharon Springs, NY	
May 1, 2004	Stamford, CT	
June, 2005	Tyson Corners, VA	NAPEX
June, 2006	Washington, D.C.	Washington 2006
May, 2007	Boxboro	Philatelic Show
August, 2008	Hartford, CT	APS Stamp Show
August, 2009	Pittsburgh, PA	APS Stamp Show
May, 2010	London	London 2010
August 12, 2011	Columbus, OH	APS Stamp Show

# Tax Increase Shown On Plane Ticket

John L. Puzine

Bermuda's keyplate stamps served the dual purpose of paying postage and/or revenue usage, but in reality the highest values most frequently had revenue use. I used to laugh when BCS member Dr. Myles Glazer sometimes commented that "you could mail an elephant with a One Pound keyplate", except for the fact that Myles' point was well made.

If I were assembling a collection of postally used stamps, I know I would feel a lot more comfortable about a higher value keyplate having legitimate postal usage if it had a "Parcel Post" cancel – at least the probability was higher that it actually served a commercial mail purpose.

The main revenue use of the keyplates was the collection of Bermuda's Departure, or "Head" Tax. A Five Shilling per person Departure Tax went into effect on January 1, 1920, and two years later was increased to Ten Shillings. Effective December 1, 1928 the Head Tax rate was increased to 12s6d, and remained at that level until October 31, 1952, when a One Pound rate became effective on November 1, 1952.

From 1920 until 1937 the Head Tax was collected from ship passengers. When air travel to and from Bermuda began in 1937 the 12s6d tax rate was assessed air travelers, and was collected with the use of a KGV 12s6d keyplate. Starting in January 1938 KGV1 keyplates were used.

Airplane tickets can be found with various stamps attached paying the Departure Tax, and are collectible examples of the revenue use of Bermuda stamps. The early tickets franked with KGV 12s6d keyplates, on either Imperial Airways or Pan Am tickets, are indeed very scarce items. Tickets franked with KGV1 keyplates are somewhat more common, and I am pleased to have formed a decent collection of various airlines' tickets showing Head Tax payment via stamps. I recently came into possession of, what I consider to be, a very unusual item. The ticket folder cover reproduced below is for a passenger arriving in Bermuda on October 18, 1952, and departing on November 1, 1952 – the first day the Departure Tax increased to £1.



The illustration clearly shows the Departure Tax paid with three KGV1 keyplates – 2s6d, 5/-, and a 12s6d, which add up to the One Pound rate, that became effective that day.

The stamps are cancelled with both a TCA (Trans Canada Airlines) rectangular stamp dated Nov 1, '52, and a Bermuda Customs circular stamp, also dated Nov 1, 1952.

This ticket is the first I've ever seen with the 3-keyplate franking paying the single-person rate, and the only example I have seen using the increased Head Tax on the actual first day of the rate.

I'd really love to know if a similar ticket, used on the first day of the £1 rate, exists. If any member has an example please contact the author. BP

**What Unusual Bermuda Airline Tickets Do YOU Have?**

BSC Members Would Love To See Them? - email [nigel@adzup.co.nz](mailto:nigel@adzup.co.nz)

# Obituary: Geoffrey Alan Osborn

Dennis Mitton

Geoffrey Alan Osborn GM, the eminent Bermuda Postal Historian sadly passed away on 16th June 2011.

Geoff was born in Woolston, Southampton, England on 24th Jan 1922. At the age of 7 years his family moved to Bermuda.

He had a love of flying. At the age of 18 years he qualified as a pilot becoming the fourth person to receive his flying licence. He went back to England and received his "wings" as a bomber pilot flying Whitney and Halifax bombers into Occupied Europe. He also flew dangerous missions dropping agents including "Odette Samson" who was the subject of a 1950 film Odette.

He was involved in two separate crashes where he was badly burnt rescuing crew members from a blazing plane.

He told me about the second crash. He was flying back from a raid with a damaged plane which crash landed. with the aircraft on fire Geoff got out then returned into the plane to rescue a crew member. when I asked as to why he went back he replied "I did it without thinking". As a result of his efforts he received the George Medal which is the highest award for bravery not under enemy fire.

The pleasant outcome of this act of bravery was meeting his wife, Beatrice better known as "Bobbi". they married in London in 1944. He went back to Bermuda in Transport Command at Darrell's Island.

After the war he joined Pan Am then returned to UK becoming an air traffic controller. He worked in Germany and Northern Rhodesia. Returning to Bermuda he became Director of Aviation and finally Permanent Secretary for Transport.



Flying Officer Geoffrey Osborn, pictured above during the mid point of World War Two, was already a veteran of many dangerous missions flying over occupied Europe.



1951 Keyplate cover to Mr & Mrs Geoffrey Osborn in Dusseldorf, Germany during the time that he was an air traffic controller there. The 2/- has flaw 12 - missing leaf tip.

Retiring to Dorset in 1985 until 2009 when he went to live with his daughter in Columbia, South Carolina. He became an American citizen.

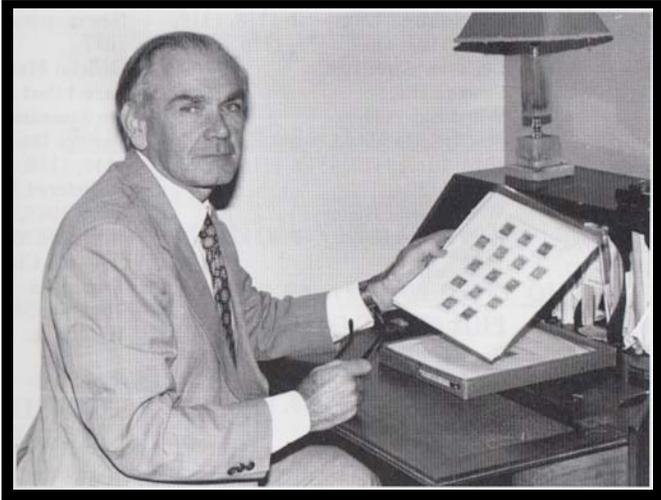
Geoff started as a stamp collector but soon became interested in postal history. He loved investigating cancel, rates and routes involved. Apart from Bermuda Geoff collected Gibraltar where he amassed a superb collection. This was exhibited at London International 1980 and was awarded a Gold Medal. This was sold and he concentrated on his Bermuda collection.

He was a great friend of Morris Ludington and Robson Lowe. He contributed to Ludington's book "The Postal History and Stamps of Bermuda". He co-authored the 1971 book "The Royal Mail Steam Packets to Bermuda & Bahamas" He wrote "Gibraltar: The Postal History" and "Naval Officers Letters" He also wrote several articles for Bermuda Post.

It is much to my regret that I did not meet Geoff until the 1990's. We met at the viewing of auction lots at the BWISC auction. As a result we became friends.

In January, 2009, a significant part of Geoff's Bermuda collection from 1726 to 1950 was offered for sale by Cavendish Auctions in the UK.

The collection, built up over more than 60 years was promoted as one of the best researched collections of Bermuda that had ever been formed and almost all of the 188 items sold to eager Bermuda Collectors. I know that Geoff was pleased to see much of his collection dispersed among many happy collectors while he was alive.



Geoff was a true gentleman in every respect. He gave me help and advice when ever I needed it. I started to receive items. He would write "you might be interested in this" which I was!

When he went to America he was unable to find items which he would have found at stamp fairs. I would send him covers and cards and in return I would receive "something I found in my Junk Box". Some junk box!

I knew Geoff's eyesight was failing but I was shocked and saddened to receive the news that he had suffered a fatal heart attack. A very brave and exceedingly kind man. Bermuda philately has suffered a great loss.

Our condolences go to Bobbi, his brother Jack, daughter Wendy and his son Michael. BP

# Geoffrey Alan Osborn

## Philatelist

## Friend

# Bermuda & The United States 'Mini Postal Union'

James P. Gough

The following is taken with gracious permission of the author and editor from an article in *The Collectors Club Philatelist*.

The Postal Union between Bermuda and the United States began on October 1, 1876 (remaining in force until about 1880). Six months after the US-Bermuda agreement, Bermuda joined the UPU on April 1, 1877. The letter rate on mail from Bermuda to the United States was established at 2d (20c), less than the GPU's target base rate of 25c (2 1/2d). On the other hand, the US rate to Bermuda stayed at 5c (25c) which had been set at the GPU base rate concurrently on the day the GPU was launched (July 1, 1875), even though Bermuda was not a member. The United States extended its GPU base rate to some other nearby British Colonies even though they were not members either.

What makes this postal union so special in the annals of the GPU/UPU is that this is the first agreement between a member and a non member requiring the use of 'T' to signify postage due. Officially Bermuda began the use of 'T' for postage due six months before GPU membership, and therefore became the first postal authority outside the GPU to use the GPU symbol for postage due. Unfortunately no one has yet found an example of the Bermuda 'T' used on cover before UPU membership.

The author believes that examples of early use Bermuda 'T' markings have to exist in junk boxes or collector stacks. Without understanding how special such a usage might be, examples of such unpaid mail would not cry out as anything special. This would be the case even for collectors of US postage due mail, because this is before the issuance of US postage due stamps, and the 10 Cents Due handstamp is nothing unusual by itself on a stampless cover.

Of special note, the treaty calls for postage due at 'double deficiency' of the rate in the country where posted, contrary to GPU practice at this time when the rate in the country of destination was the key factor in calculating postage due. (It is interesting that this approach to the calculation of postage due would be adopted by the GPU/UPU at Paris '78.) Using that rule from the treaty, an unpaid letter from Bermuda to the United States should be charged 8c, but the author doubts if that nuance would be taken into account at the New York Exchange Office on a letter with a 'T' marking.

However, we will not know for sure until a few examples are found (which should exist, statistically).

The illustration shows one of the six recorded prepaid letters from Bermuda to the United States at the 2d rate. Of the three examples seen by the author, the owners erroneously told stories that the covers also included a payment of an additional 1/2d in cash, 'which was understood and did not need to be marked'.

Bermuda issued its first 1/2d stamp in March 1880 in preparation for the new 2 1/2d rate to the United States, which apparently was not changed on its first day in the GPU. Bermuda did not issue a 2 1/2d stamp until October 1884.



The author suspects that Bermuda's operational membership in the GPU may have been delayed due to a date beyond its official membership, just as France, Canada and some others had likewise delayed their operational memberships. But we will not know for sure until a copy of Bermuda's Adhesion Agreement is found.

Nonetheless Bermuda's membership marked one of those rare occasions when joining the GPU/UPU resulted in an increase in postal rates with at least one major trading partner. **BP**

*Thanks to Charles Freeland for alerting the editor to this article. Charles notes that although the 2d is an elusive rate, his photographic records contain about 20 examples.*

# Bermuda Around The Sale Rooms

**June to September 2011** (prices are hammer prices)

**Charles Freeland**

## **Spink 28 June 2011 (BP 20% up to £3k and 17% above that)**

There was an undeniable feeling of tension at the first of the eight parts (sadly the only Empire sale) of the "Chartwell" (Sir Humphrey Cripps) collection, with TV cameras, a battery of phones and the most packed audience I have seen in the Spink rooms since the Ludington sale. While quite a number had plainly come to watch the chase for the Post Office Mauritius (which, for the record, fetched £900k after a protracted battle of the phones), the serious players included distinguished Europeans Guido Craveri, David Feldman and German agent Jochen Heddergott as well as the regular London dealers. The only other BCS member I spotted was John Hallam from Guernsey.

Proceedings were leisurely with auctioneer Nick Startup (this time without a frog in his throat) willing to lower his starting prices significantly to get a sale. This did not mean the realizations were low except for damaged goods. The phones won most of the big lots but internet bidders also secured a few. Fortunately the book was on the whole pretty strong which meant that the sale ended in time for me to grab a quick glass of Spink fizz before running for my plane.

While the famous Mauritius was the major draw, there were half a dozen great Bermuda rarities in a select Bermuda section of 28 lots. I was not surprised by the prices for the three Postmasters, the Thies cover apparently cheap at £55k but then it was rather unattractive, having fetched only £25k at the Tucker sale in 1978. The red Perot was nice and went for £95k, just over full Gibbons after the add-ons. It was last seen in the saleroom at the 1957 Caspary auction when it fetched \$5k and passed through Cartier, whose collection was broken up by Mick Michael for Gibbons in the early 1970s. The second Perot made from the Hamilton crowned circle was a nice 1861 cover and this seemed a fair buy at £110k against the Tucker £36k. Bidding started in the room with a young lady proving feisty but at the end the phones won the day.

The other rarities included the QV 1d imperf mint and used, both ex Tucker where they fetched £9.5k and £4.2k respectively. The mint was the finest known and fetched no less than £45k, way above Gibbons, even though the description hinted that it might have been a proof. Did the winning bidder (now known to be a Bermudian) realize it had the inverted Q for O flaw that David Cordon's sharp eyes spotted? The used was £14k (so, if a proof, some must have escaped, in much the same manner as the 3d on 1d provisional). Speaking of the latter, the mint block I referred to in my last column was £52k, an excellent return on Tucker's £8.5k. The other major rarity was the 1d on 1/- with inverted overprint used. Although defective it went for over three times estimate at £10k.

What was perhaps striking was that of these seven rarities only two had the same buyer, so there were six bidders who paid five or six figures for a Bermuda item... and that is not counting the many underbidders who pushed the prices to their final levels. Encouraging for the very few who own them but not good news for the vast majority of members who do not!

The remainder of the Bermuda was by no means mundane, with several blocks and fine pieces. Condition played a big part in the bidding for the five crowned circles. The two nicest, a Hamilton and a St Georges each to the US with ship markings, went to the same buyer at £4k and £7.5k. A smudgy Ireland Island with a piece of cover missing at top was £1.2k, a poor return on the Tucker price of £1.05k. A lovely block of the 1d on 3d at £8.5k seemed dear but it was as much as £3.1k in Tucker, while the slightly faulty block of 9 of the 1d on 1/- went to the same buyer for £5.5k. Other blocks of four of the 6d dull purple and 1d/1/- were well above Gibbons at £5.2k and £3k. John Hallam bought the 1d on 2d missing stop used for a reasonable £4.8k. If you are puzzled by prices way below estimate for two or three items, these were faulty lots in what was effectively an unreserved sale.

Tracking who bought what proved unusually tricky, because there was a bank of eight phones and they obtained most of the big lots. But from the numbers announced by the auctioneer, it appears that at least 15 bidders secured one or more lots. Again, there will be buyers out there when great collections are offered.

## **Murray Payne 19 July (no BP)**

A few great rarities were scrapped over by the GVI keyplaters in this postal auction which has become a key source of outstanding material and carries no BP (thanks Dickon and Stuart for small mercies). The highlights were two bronze-green 5/-s, a Pos. 60 flaw nh at £5.3k and a nh block including the #17 chin flaw which went for £8.5k despite perf separations. In the Williams Lea line perfs, the rare 22a broken tail flaw on 2/-, 2/6 and 5/-, all hinged, went for £2.4k, £2.1k and £2.3k respectively. The 1943 #1 blank scroll flaws, both mounted and without selvages, went for £550 (2/-) and £1.4k (£1). At a price more of us can afford, the Coronation set specimen was £130 and the 2/- mottled nh with 17a chin flaw £210.

There were surprisingly only two LR scroll flaw blocks with the plate plug, but they included arguably the rarest, on the 2/- line perf, at £3.7k nh. Nearly all the 59 and 60 scroll flaws were present as singles though. The same flaws on the 2/6 line perf, in a block without selvedge and with a thin on #48, were £2.9k. The gash in chin flaws appeared to be complete (what an achievement and even more so if he bought them before they were listed!) Encouragingly for those older collectors among us, who acquired most of our goodies before the nh craze, the prices for hinged rarities were mostly well over half Gibbons.

Sadly, there are no more Bermuda rarities in the next MP sale containing the second half of this outstanding collection, which I understand may have belonged to David Boakes who tragically died earlier this year at a relatively young age.

### **eBay**

There has been a steady stream of useful censor covers which always seem to make a good price these days...but what really interested me was a series of Oneglia/Panelli forgeries where the seller must have been amazed to get between £20 and £40 for each. Some had seven different advance bidders plus an unknown number of snipers. The nicest was the 2d "mint" where three bidders were still in at £30. Unfortunately the one I needed was the most dear, so someone must have read my article too carefully.

### **Coming Events**

Lord Lenny Steinberg was a collector of blocks only, and his collection is to be sold on 6-8 September at Sothebys. There are 120 Bermuda lots starting from lot 351, so there should be something there for all tastes. I spotted rare blocks of QV 2d CC wmk, 1d/1/- provisional, GV £1 from UR corner, six GV 12/6s and plenty of other GV and GVI, but there is nothing I haven't seen before. Let me warn you that a lot of patience is needed to surf the Sothebys website and even more to comply with their Money Laundering procedures, so be sure to register early if you wish to bid online. And the premium is 25% which, with VAT, means the "music" comes to no less than 30%. Delivery is also costly because they insist on using expensive couriers. BP

## **Never Assume A Dealer Knows More...**

### **Tom Bansak**

He probably doesn't, though if SHE is a dealer/auctioneer, all bets are off. Chances are you discovered this truth early in your collecting pursuit. How many times have you returned items misidentified, more often than not in the sellers favor?

On the flip side, you've probably made some great purchases, thanks to your diligence and years of study. The scale is tipped towards you since many of you concentrate on Bermuda, or a select group of areas and therefore have the time to pursue your most fervent interests. I myself focus on the whole Empire and therefore know a lot about a little, a little about a lot and everything in between. Since my absorbency rate on philatelic knowledge is only a bit better than a dollar store paper towel, and nothing like the magic towel advertised on late night TV, which if dropped into a swimming pool would cause it to dry up, I am in awe of what the average collector knows. There is often far more knowledge on the other side of my table at shows than the side on which I am sitting. Fortunately for me collectors are eager to share their knowledge. Were it not for them, or handling highly annotated collections, publications like the BCS Journal, and a group of mentors I would remain a philatelic barbarian instead of a mere neophyte.

Were I to name all of my mentors it would fill many pages of this journal. However, I will not risk this since I could still leave many of you out, but, you know who you are.

I would like to come back to the subject of the article. I have been a dealer now for over 35 years. We will take a time machine back to 1976. I was doing only local shows then, and fortunately there were no requirements to present credentials as to being a stamp dealer. All you had to do was set up a table. The shows were a blast. Stamps were in a seemingly endless upward price curve and better than that they were abundant and inexpensive by today's standards.

Five hundred people would show up in a crowded poorly lit third tier hotel or a local bingo hall and no one complained. Indeed, there was more interesting material to view at these shows than many national shows now. The U.S. was a great storehouse of philatelic material then, but, the granaries have been raided in the decades since, perhaps never to be replenished. I'll leave that thesis to another day. Back then I thought Gibbons were a group of primates, 60 flaws were age spots you got when you were older (I have my share now) and for all I knew Bridger & Kay was Jack the Rippers autobiography.

As luck would have it I had gotten in the day before a local show a group of George VI Bermuda high values (NH) as described, but, to my horror when I turned them over they were a creamy yellow gum. I believe they cost me \$40.00. I pondered how much of a loss I had to take to unload these FIDOS (philatelic term for dogs). Fortune shined upon me, for since this was a Connecticut show Bob D. walked in. With much trepidation and apologies I showed him the sad group, explained to him the circumstances, and offered it to him for \$28.00 so I could take a quick loss.

Years later he told me it was the freshest group of 1st printings he had ever seen. By then I knew what that was and we both had a great laugh.

This is not the end of the story, as it gets worse as the years go on. How about a corner copy of a George VI keyplate 2/ sold for \$6.00? Proper price - except this was the blank scroll. Or, George VI 12/6 that I wanted to identify by printing but I neglected to see the 60 flaw, and that went for \$45.00 after I decided it was a common printing. Perhaps a 10/ line perf selvage copy with sheet number will raise eyebrows. If you think the line perf is the mistake go to your George VI reference book and check this position out. Then try to find the census. These are actual sales.

Perhaps the real prize and the ultimate lesson in studying an item, and not just looking at it, was a 10/ Leewards George VI on a small registered cover to Bombay. Philatelic. I tried to block this one from my mind. I had sent it to Reid and after he received it he called to ask why it was priced at the level it was, which was something like \$100.00 or less. He mentioned to me that that was quite reasonable since it had a 59 or 60 flaw, I can't remember which one. This of course I neglected to see. He was a true gentleman to point it out to me. But, whenever I make these mistakes their true value is learning what I missed through carelessness or not knowing what I should have. While I don't know if this value and flaw are unique on cover I am confident that I will not have the privilege of owning another. Of course Reid paid the price that was marked as I always honor the prices as marked.

There is one exception though. It was an item that I sold to a friend who happened to be a customer and I had made another very large mistake. We went back and forth on this for he said he should pay what the item was really worth, multiples of the price marked. My position was he should pay the price marked. It got to the point where I thought I would lose him as a customer, because he would be too embarrassed to return ever again if he took advantage of the situation. Most people would think this was good fortune, but he felt otherwise. Finally I gave in and made up some kind of hybrid price in his favor to make him happy. What a business.

So, I can safely say I know more than I did 30, 20 or 10 years ago, but, hopefully less than tomorrow. I am in awe of the wealth of knowledge on the other side of my table at shows or at the other end of the phone at my office. It is amazing to me how freely collectors share with me what has taken them decades to learn. Rather than lament about the ones that got away I look back at these episodes with great fondness and affection for many reasons. One is they give me a fair chance at winning conversations on the subject of "you did what?!!".

Mine often get guffaws instead of laughs, a sure winning signal. Another reason is I consider it a true favor and a sign of respect and generosity when the mistake is pointed out to me. It shows me the buyer knows I won't pull it out of their hands, say it's not for sale or mark it to its proper level right in front of them. Many times I am not aware of the variety at all and with their input I can fantasize about finding the same variety again in the future. If only I had another 50 years I think I could become quite good at this. However to my embarrassment, these events did not just occur early in my career. A more recent sale was British East Africa SG 79a for about \$50.00. Fortunately for my psyche this was not a mistake, which is always harder to accept, but lack of knowledge that the variety existed. I know now and I am still looking for another.

I'll leave you with this thought. What could be more exciting than uncovering something which has eluded collectors and dealers for many decades, perhaps even a century or more. I am not talking about the monetary value. Your discovery could be responsible for passing these treasures on to the next generation of collectors to appreciate. You could be the one that saved this variety from languishing in an album, unrecognized, perhaps to be lost forever. You are the curator of the hobby and the mentor of the next generation, a privilege for all of us to enjoy. BP

## Got A Story To Tell?

Over 150 members of the BCS want to hear from you.

Why not sit down for an hour and pen a few words about YOUR Bermuda collecting interests or your favourite collecting story.

Write to [nigel@adzup.co.nz](mailto:nigel@adzup.co.nz)



# Tax Increase Shown On Plane Ticket

John L. Puzine

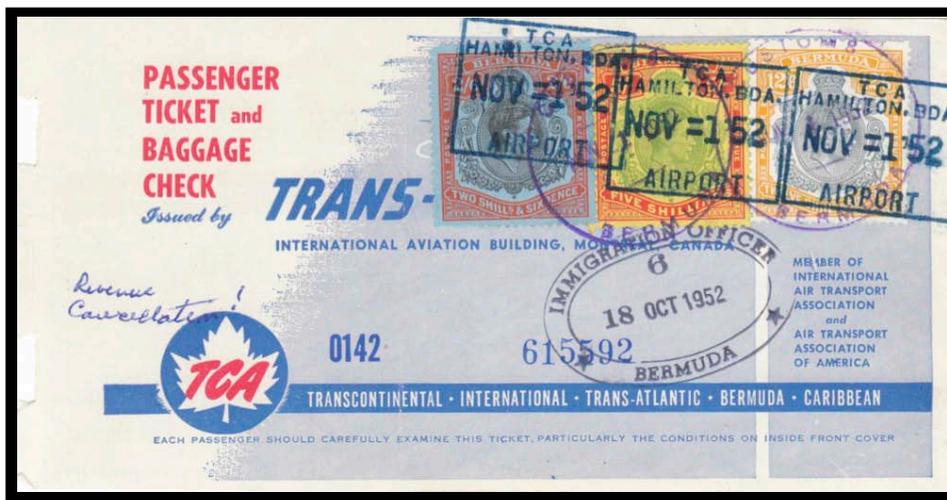
Bermuda's keyplate stamps served the dual purpose of paying postage and/or revenue usage, but in reality the highest values most frequently had revenue use. I used to laugh when BCS member Dr. Myles Glazer sometimes commented that "you could mail an elephant with a One Pound keyplate", except for the fact that Myles' point was well made.

If I were assembling a collection of postally used stamps, I know I would feel a lot more comfortable about a higher value keyplate having legitimate postal usage if it had a "Parcel Post" cancel – at least the probability was higher that it actually served a commercial mail purpose.

The main revenue use of the keyplates was the collection of Bermuda's Departure, or "Head" Tax. A Five Shilling per person Departure Tax went into effect on January 1, 1920, and two years later was increased to Ten Shillings. Effective December 1, 1928 the Head Tax rate was increased to 12s6d, and remained at that level until October 31, 1952, when a One Pound rate became effective on November 1, 1952.

From 1920 until 1937 the Head Tax was collected from ship passengers. When air travel to and from Bermuda began in 1937 the 12s6d tax rate was assessed air travelers, and was collected with the use of a KGV 12s6d keyplate. Starting in January 1938 KGV1 keyplates were used.

Airplane tickets can be found with various stamps attached paying the Departure Tax, and are collectible examples of the revenue use of Bermuda stamps. The early tickets franked with KGV 12s6d keyplates, on either Imperial Airways or Pan Am tickets, are indeed very scarce items. Tickets franked with KGV1 keyplates are somewhat more common, and I am pleased to have formed a decent collection of various airlines' tickets showing Head Tax payment via stamps. I recently came into possession of, what I consider to be, a very unusual item. The ticket folder cover reproduced below is for a passenger arriving in Bermuda on October 18, 1952, and departing on November 1, 1952 – the first day the Departure Tax increased to £1.



The illustration clearly shows the Departure Tax paid with three KGV1 keyplates – 2s6d, 5/-, and a 12s6d, which add up to the One Pound rate, that became effective that day.

The stamps are cancelled with both a TCA (Trans Canada Airlines) rectangular stamp dated Nov 1, '52, and a Bermuda Customs circular stamp, also dated Nov 1, 1952.

This ticket is the first I've ever seen with the 3-keyplate franking paying the single-person rate, and the only example I have seen using the increased Head Tax on the actual first day of the rate.

I'd really love to know if a similar ticket, used on the first day of the £1 rate, exists. If any member has an example please contact the author. BP

**What Unusual Bermuda Airline Tickets Do YOU Have?**

BSC Members Would Love To See Them? - email [nigel@adzup.co.nz](mailto:nigel@adzup.co.nz)

# QV Combination Usages

Bill Charles Gompel

My enjoyment in collecting Bermuda postal history comes from not only seeking the new discovery or good buy, but in collecting an area that is so diverse and so challenging that it satisfies my desire to collect while allowing me to research and write about challenging areas to collect. Bermuda combination usages, mainly mixed country frankings on cover with Bermuda stamps, is a very interesting and challenging area that I have collected for almost twenty years. I can honestly say that during that period I have noticed that finding examples of combination usages during the QV era is a very difficult task and so, in honor of our twenty-fifth anniversary, I decided to write on this topic since it has never been done before to any extent, if ever.

If we go back in time to the stampless period and we consider that mail from Bermuda was carried by ship and often had to be timed so it would go before the ship set sail, then it is possible to understand how the item illustrated in Figure 1 came into existence. This folded letter was posted from St Georges in the 1850's/early 1860's period and given to a passenger, or more than likely, a ship's captain or officer to be mailed in the USA by adding a stamp on arrival (or possibly in port if the carrier had stamps with them) and turned into the USPO to be delivered within the U.S. or points abroad.

This folded letter, figure 1, was postmarked in New York on December 28 to Westchester County, New York. I consider this folded letter to be a precursor to prepaying postage for the special handling of mail posted in Bermuda and then franked by a stamp from another country to pay for delivery within that country.

Whether the sender paid for this service or not is not known, though we do know that it was not sent regularly through the Bermuda Post Office as it has no markings of any type that would indicate such treatment. I discussed this cover several years ago with the noted dealer and exhibitor, Stanley Piller, of this American stamp issue and he confirmed to me that while mail to Bermuda at this time is not uncommon, this usage should be considered very rare as he had not seen one of this type originating from Bermuda.



During a recent Spink sale in England there were two lots that had QV usages of Bermuda stamps with those of the UK paying the proper forwarding rate within England. Interestingly, when this sale was reviewed both of these covers were mentioned as having achieved significantly higher prices than expected and this is due to the fact that despite all the mail during the QV era known to the UK, USA, and Canada, very few of these combination usages are known.



The cover illustrated in Figure 2 is a remarkable cover posted on March 13, 1873 at the twelve pence rate to the UK that was re-franked and forwarded on arrival to West Malvern by the addition of a QV UK one penny (the local rate).

I do not know of any other covers of this type posted during the 1870's with Bermuda original franking. The earliest Bermuda stamped combination cover dates from 1868 and is pictured in the Ludington Spink sale catalog in the section covering the rare K1 number duplexes and that cover is the only usage recorded during the 1860's!

The cover illustrated in Figure 3 shows the more common four pence rate posting from Bermuda to the UK tied by the blue K3 #1 Hamilton duplex in July 1882 that was then forwarded using a QV UK one penny to pay the local rate to London.



Despite the large “Grey” correspondence that exists during this time with similar four pence franking and other similar covers, this is the only one recorded as a combination usage.

The last two usages have illustrated what would be considered typical usages for forwarding mail upon arrival; however, there are also covers known during the QV era where stamps were applied to pay for special services or treatment in advance that were applied in Bermuda.



Case in point is the cover illustrated in Figure 4 that shows a proper five-time rate franking going to the USA with a Scott E1 special delivery stamp used in 1886 and cancelled there by a K3 duplex.

According to the renowned special delivery exhibitor, Robert Markovits, this cover is one of less than five recorded with an E1 in combination with the stamp of a foreign country, quite possibly the earliest one recorded, and the only usage originating in Bermuda. The cover lay hidden for over one hundred years among the papers of the family member of the original recipient until it was offered as a supplemental lot in a Victoria Stamp Company auction a few years ago.

The cover illustrated in Figure 5 came out of the George Ulrich collection and is also a remarkable special delivery usage. The cover was franked by a pair of the QV 2 ½ penny to pay the supplementary rate for expediting the cover onto the ship and it was also franked in Bermuda, I suspect, or possibly upon arrival with a U.S. two cent Washington banknote stamp with all stamps cancelled by a Hartford Mar 15, 1887 cancel. More than likely the Bermuda stamps missed being cancelled as it was hurried onto the ship.



The important feature of this cover and the reason it is associated with the USA special delivery system is the notation written vertically at left that reads, “P.M. (Postmaster) Please send to Mr. W. (Whiting) at once, and he will pay messenger. J.W.C.”.

Basically, the sender wanted this letter to be treated as special delivery but did not have a special delivery stamp to pre-pay for the service and so the note was written to have this accomplished. Whether this actually transpired or not is not known for sure, but the letter was cancelled upon arrival at 9pm on March 15th and was back stamped the following day at the receiving post office.

During the early days of the special delivery system, the messengers that delivered the mail were usually young boys that were paid by letter delivered even well into the evening hours on many occasions. In any event, this usage is quite unusual!

The final cover, illustrated in Figure 6, was acquired from the Geoffrey Osborn collection. The cover has some faults and was split in the middle; however, it illustrates a rare double rate Bermuda QV franked cover to the UK, in January 1902, that was then forwarded by a pair of UK KEVII 2 ½ penny stamps to Shanghai, China!

Despite its faults, this is the only QV franked cover recorded that originated in Bermuda that was forwarded using KEVII stamps and the only usage of this type known going to the Far East!



All of the usages illustrated in this article are quite interesting and took several years to find and I can tell you that I am still on the hunt for more, especially a usage with Canadian franking as this remains unrecorded during the QV period. I am preparing an outline for a future monograph on this subject as well as my first exhibit that I hope to show at the Sarapex 2012 show and so if anyone has any further combination usages they would like to share from the QV, or any other time period, I would welcome the input.

I would also like to mention that my presentation at the annual APS StampShow 2011, recently held in Columbus, Ohio, was on the subject of Bermuda Combination Frankings during the QV to QEII era and I will be more than glad to send an email or hardcopy version of the presentation to any member that wishes to receive a copy. BP

## Stamp Articles Required

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Do **YOU** have some knowledge about Bermuda Stamps?

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# Memories Of The BCS Early Years

Charles Freeland

My first memory of the “Bermuda fellowship” was meeting Eric Yendall and Wilson Wong at a Geosix meeting in London in the mid 1970s. Eric subsequently visited me in Basel and I spent a pleasant evening with Wilson in Hong Kong. At this time the prices for the GVI keyplates, which we all collected, were ridiculously cheap although the earlier stamps were not, bolstered as they were by big buyers such as Leuhusen, Ludington, Tucker and Ulrich. Indeed a benchmark was laid down at the Tucker sales in late 1978 and early 1979. Some buyers of the more bland early material would be hard pushed to get their money back, even 33 years later.

During the early 80s I first met up with Bob Dickgiesser, who became a firm friend and sparring partner. The worst shock of my life was when Michel Forand phoned me with the news that Bob had suddenly died, at the tender age of 50. We have certainly been unlucky as a society, having also lost not only Bob but also Rick Corbett at such young ages, plus of course many more mature members.

When the eight “founding fathers” (or more accurately Snow-white and the seven dwarfs) decided to establish the BCS in 1986, I must have been one of the first to join, as I wrote an article in the very first edition of Bermuda Post, edited by another historic BCS character, Reid Shaw. Looking again at that article, which dealt with watermark varieties on early Bermuda stamps, I am amazed how relatively little we knew at that time. I am sure the numbers of known varieties have doubled since then, especially in the Caravel and Tercentenary issues.



One of the ‘founding fathers’.  
The much missed, late Robert (Bob) Winton Dickgiesser

Much of this is due to the diligence of our members and their readiness to share information. It can cost on occasions but there is a net benefit to all. I have been heard to comment that the difference between a collector and a philatelist is that the first looks at the back of a stamp to check whether it has been hinged, whereas a philatelist looks to see the watermark.

Among the many happy memories of the Group’s events are several convivial meetings of the group in Stamford and a terrific dinner during the 2006 Washington International. But one event stands out - the 3-day auction of George Ulrich’s enormous collection in a Guernsey hotel in 1989. This was actually the first time I came into contact with most of the US members of the group and a highly colorful lot of characters they turned out to be – I already knew the ebullient Bob Dickgiesser of course, but met for the first time the cerebral Harry Whiting, the dignified Reid Shaw (or so I thought until the riotous closing dinner generously hosted by Allan Leverton, the highlight of which was Reid’s rendition of his legendary shaggy dog story about a British Colonel with an impeccable toffee-nosed accent) and the immaculate Phoebe MacGillivray. Sadly, the first three of them are no longer with us, but Phoebe goes on for ever it seems. Other colorful characters at the sale included Horst Augostinovic, Baron Stig Leuhusen and Larry Swain from Bermuda, Norman Brassler, Arthur Hamm and Tom McMahon from the USA, Dennis Mitton from the UK and a number of US and British dealers.

This formidable group made sure we had fun but also ensured fiercely competitive bidding. The drama began early when George’s widow sadly died on the eve of the sale, leaving Allan Leverton uncertain as to whether he could proceed. Fortunately the lawyers said he could, but the excitement continued with some dramatic contests between Bob Dickgiesser and Arthur Hamm in particular...which Bob tried to counter by bidding on the book, through two agents and in the room personally. Few present will forget their battles for the Revenue-Revenue cover and the 1938 12/6 plate block. Arthur won them, but at what cost. Allan Leverton knows his stamps but he himself would admit to some haziness on postal history so the many mixed cover lots contained goodies for the specialists, who were out in force. The residue from several of those lots fed the BCS auction for years to come.

There were also a few spicy duels between the dealers, with Michael Hamilton winning the wonderful postmark lot for some £7,000 against fierce competition from the late Trevor Davis. Michael was happy until he was intercepted by the British Customs on alighting from the ferry. Looking for liquor smugglers they found a treasure trove of stamps instead! All this ensured not only a lively sale but a healthy result for the family. The one flat section was the Postmasters, which went unsold, in the room, but after the sale Bob Dickgiesser offered to take them all. Michel Forand and I were called in to establish a fair price between Bob and George's heirs, no easy task!

One of the forerunners of our group was Ed Folk, who wrote some of the early studies of the GVI keyplates and ran part-time mail sales. Most of our members active at that time bought at those sales and several also consigned to him. In about 1985 Ed had a break-down and went awol, leaving quite a number of us nursing losses of consigned material and sale proceeds (as ever when this kind of thing happens, I had just consigned some better stuff so my exposure was larger than usual). However, there was a happy ending because twenty years later an ebay seller emerged under the ID "geosixdaughter2009". On enquiry this turned out to be Ed's daughter resident in Canada, and she was selling the residue of Ed's stock, including some items belonging to me and other consignors. She said that Ed was still alive but in a bad way healthwise. He had lost all his records including the actual catalogues but they were keen to make amends and were willing to reimburse me if I could provide documentation recording my material or an open balance. After some effort to find old records I was able to recover the balance amount owed on my sales and many but not all of the unsolds. So far as I am aware, Ed is still alive but his daughter does not seem to have put any items on ebay since August 2010.

So 25 years has passed and the Society still seems to be in rude health; long may that continue and my personal congratulations and thanks to the many officers who have expended so much effort to keep us going, especially the dedicated editors who have somehow managed to twist enough arms to fill all those blank pages. The journal is the lifeblood of any society and too few of us seem to realize that ours will die if we fail to keep up the stream of articles for the Post. We also need to recognise that times have changed in those 25 years and face to face meetings have been replaced to a large extent by electronic communication. We need to make sure we make maximum use of the internet and eBay to publicise what we can provide. Our website is the key to attracting the young members that our society needs. BP

# Auction Manager Required

Do **YOU** have some spare time - just once a year?

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You will receive as much help as you wish from the Editor to prepare the auction for print. Email your interest to [nigel@adzup.co.nz](mailto:nigel@adzup.co.nz)

# Bermuda Letters - Pre 1820

David Cordon

I am compiling a list of all Bermuda letters and covers pre 1900 and as a starting point I used the comprehensive information in the book "BERMUDA MAILS TO 1865" published by Michel Forand and Charles Freeland. However their book focused on mails with Bermuda markings and ignored those covers without any marking. To attempt to fill a gap this article gives a listing of the covers up to the introduction of the PM1 (small fleuron) in 1820 that I have obtained by going through the old auction catalogues.

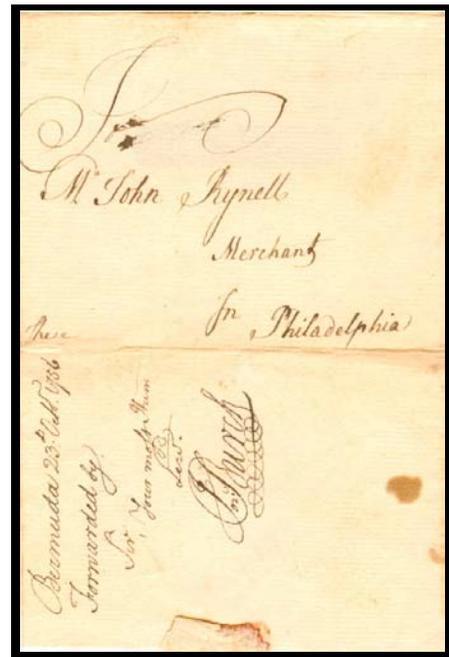
The list below currently shows only 54 letters before the introduction of the PM1 date stamp in 1820. Of these 18 are before 1800; one is a local usage in 1768, and four are examples of incoming mails. However, I would assume there might be other early incoming mail that is in collections of the origination country as Bermuda would be an unusual destination.

I have focused on items that have been sold at public auction and may become available for sale at a future date. I have not considered items that in the Bermuda Archives. The first two items are part of the Rich papers that were sold in 1970 through Sotheby Parke Bernet with 27 lots having 97 documents that were purchased and donated to the Bermuda National Trust. An additional 13 documents were also sold, however as sufficient funds were not available for their acquisition by the Trust these were purchased by other parties. I assume there are another 11 documents from these papers for which I lack any information and these might become available to collectors.

The documents in the hands of the National Trust were published in a book edited by Vernon A. Ives "The Rich Papers / Letters from Bermuda 1615 – 1646.

Mail delivery was infrequent and primarily through the service of the Royal Navy boats visiting the island or private merchants until the late 1700s when the first mail service that was started by Mr. Joseph Stockdale in January 1784 and maintained after his death in 1803 by his son-in-law and daughters until the start of the official Post Office in 1812 (see The Postal History & Stamps Of Bermuda by M H Ludington, 1978, Pages 1-5). Although 19 letters fall within the dates given for the Stockdale postal service, there is only one letter in the list that purports to have been delivered using this service.

1. 1620 (24 Sep) EL from Portroyall. Part of Rich papers. Cavendish Spring 1999 Lot 233 £3,400
2. 1628/9 (18 Mar) EL from "SUMER ISLANDS" from John Hanmer to Sr Nath Rick, part of Rich papers. Cavendish Spring 1999 Lot 234 £3,400
3. 1684 (3 Jan.) entire letter (EL) from Joseph Stove to John Wise in London, headed "Barmudas" and endorsed "Bermudas 3 30 1686" (possibly date of reply). Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 2 £3,500; and Spink Nov 07 Lot 1047 £8,500.
4. 1726 (18 Apr) EL from "Bermuda" to G.B. ("Ombersley near Worcester") endorsed "Pr Capt. Jon. Gilbert, Q.D.C." and charged "9" with a "27/MA" Bishop Mark on the side flap. Letter refers to land ownership in Bermuda and to the "Governor of the Bahama Islands". Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 3 £1,000; Cavendish Jan 09 Lot 1000 £3,400 *I assume the additional research done by Geoff Osborn helped drive the price increase of 340% in the 10 years following the Ludington sale.*
5. 1756 (23 Oct). Covering page to a merchant in Philadelphia with a manuscript forwarded by Jos. Burch. Cordon coll. Illustrated right.
6. 1768 (25 Apr) EL from Thomas Till of St Georges to Cornelius Hinson, Speaker of the House of Assembly, also in St George's marked "p'Servt", contents about being inconvenient to attend the Assembly meeting. Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 4 £900 [ed. Earliest local cover]
7. 1771 (25 June) EL from John Morton Jordan to his wife at "Annapolis Maryland", marked "1/8" at New York and "3Sh4" on arrival, the reverse showing light "NEW/YORK" Bishop mark; only recorded letter from Bermuda into the Colonial Post in North America. Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 5 £800.



Item 5 - 1756 (23 Oct)

8. 1773 (14 Mar) EL (family letter) from "Bermuda" sent by private ship "To Samuel Coates, Merchant in Philad [elphi]a" contents refer to the writer convalescing in Bermuda for the winter, mentioning a previous (Jan. 1773) letter sent "by the way of Carolina", but most helpfully noting the route for this letter; "...this [letter] comes by way of Barbados". Cavendish Jan 09 Osborn Lot 1001 £750.
9. 1786 Providence to Bermuda with no postal markings. Harmers NY Sept 79 Lot 558 \$85 (for this and xx)
10. 1789 (9 June) SFL from NY, to Messrs McDowall Goodrich, Merchants, St. Georges", ms "Capt Dickinson" on front. Commercial content. VSC Jun 96 Lot 1 \$600, VSC Mar 11 Lot 453 \$450. *I am unsure if Charles Freeland's comment on surprises in the VSC march sale was that the price was to high or to low, however, as the new owner of this cover I felt the recent price was very good compared to that when it sold 15 years ago.*
11. 1793 (3 Nov.) EL from St Georges "pr Sloop Patty via N York" to Norwich, Connecticut, rated "Sh 19" in red ink and showing a fair strike of the "N.YORK.NOV 21" Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 6 £1,400.
12. 1795 (21 Feb) EL from James and William Perot (the uncle and father of William B. Perot) "p Capt Kinny" to Philadelphia and showing h.s."4" ship letter rate. ?Temple Bar June 89 Ulrich Lot 2 £60; Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 7 £1,500
13. 1795 (28 Mar), Letter from Bermuda to Newburyport, mass with a faint arrival mark of New York? For 20? May. VSC June 97 Shaw Lot 1 \$150
14. 1795 (1 Sep) EL from "Bermuda" to Philadelphia endorsed "p. Capt. Messr" having a fine black "2/OC" Philadelphia arrival Bishop Mark on the front, but not charged. SC June 97 Shaw Lot 2 \$375; Cavendish Jan 09 Osborn Lot 1002 £600.
15. 1796 (29 Jan.) EL from St Georges to Philadelphia, carried privately and without postal markings ?Sept 75 Henry Hicks Lot 1 £78 (one of four covers); Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 8 Est £200-250
16. 1796 two letters, with comments regarding the fate of the Brig "Pomona" which had been seized, and judgment regarding ownership passed in Bermuda, Harmers Ldn Tucker 1 £40; collection sold by Corinthia ??, in hands of Bermuda art dealer.
17. 1797 letter from London to Revered Mr. Ewing, Bermuda, slightly unclear London datestamp, Tucker Lot 2, £29
18. 1799 (18 May) commercial EL from Barbados addressed to Messrs Wadson & Astwood which is endorsed "p Capt Lightburn" bottom left; auction listing advised as being Stockdale's service. SG June 97 Lot 1 £1,700
19. 1801; St. George's to Philadelphia, PA, with fancy NY date stamp of Dec 29. from a sea captain. Robson Lowe Phil Oct 50 Lot 168; Harmers Ldn June 70 Bridgemore Brown Lot 1217 £33 (with 8 other items); Sept 75 Henry Hicks Lot 1 £78 (one of four covers)
20. 1802 EL to Philadelphia showing light Charleston cds. CRL Nov 89 Lot 473 est L40
21. 1804 (Jan.) EL from Curacao to Amsterdam, per the American Schooner Sukey bound for Philadelphia, captured on 21 January by H.M. Sloop "Driver" which arrived in Bermuda on 23rd January, censored by the Vice Admiralty Court, marked on reverse "opened in Bermuda" and numbered on face "1/23 4", Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 9 Est £2,000-£3,000.
22. 1804. (Jan) EL from Curacao to Amsterdam, "p Schr Sukey", Ed Lewis mr for Ph" to Philadelphia, marked "no 14", presumably by the Vice Admiral Court, though it would appear that the cover has not been opened and censored; Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 10 Est £1,500-2,000
23. 1805 (23 March) SFL to Stockbridge, Mass. discusses sales of provisions to Tobago. Rated 24/ and endorsed "p. Sloop Cato, Capt. Darrell, via New York". Red s/l SHIP and red NEW YORK APR 10. An unusual destination VSC Dec 07 Hamilton, Lot 2001 \$325
24. 1807 (10 Mar) small EL from Lieut. And Adjutant and H. Lang at "St David's Island", to "J Hurst Esq Commanding Troop Hamilton" and marked "On Service" at top of face panel. Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 11 Est £800 -1,000
25. 1809 (22 July) EL from London to Msrs Wadson & Astwood. :Forwarded by Jn. Wainwright and shown in Bermuda Post June 2001 Page 6
26. 1810 (9 Jan) EL from London to "Bermuda" endorsed "P. Packet" and prepaid "2/2" with v. fine and fine red London "PAID" datestamps on the front; carried by the Falmouth Packet ships "Eliza". Contents ref. consignments of clothing material. Cavendish Jan 09 Osborn Lot 1009 £240 (see 8 Sep 1814 for other cover).
27. 1810 (9 Aug.) EL to Baltimore via New York and redirected back to New York, showing unframed "ship" h.s. with Baltimore and New York (25.8) datestamps, all in red. Spink Nov 2010 Lot 538 £170
28. 1811 (29 Mar) EL per "Schooner Barbara Lieut Dickens", to New York, rated "7" and with light New York arrival c.d.s. die 10 April. Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 12 Est £100 -120



Item 23 - 1805 (23 March)

29. 1812 (21 Aug) EL from "London" addressed to "Messrs. Wadson \* & Astwood, Bermuda" endorsed "P. [Ship] Catherine"; the letter would have reached the island in Sept./Nov. 1812 at which time the short-lived First Official P.O. Act was in operation (it was declared illegal by London within a year!). There is the very first incoming Bermuda Ship Letter charge of "1/3d" (triple rate) changed to "10d" (double rate) all in red crayon on the front, which fits exactly the Bermuda 1st P.O. Act charges (see full text of the Act in Ludington, esp. Article 3 ref. incoming Ship Letters, on p.112). Cavendish Jan 09 Osborn Lot 1003 £650



Item 26 - 1812 (21 August)

30. 1812 (Nov) SFL to New York written during the War of 1812. Rated "1" in red and with red New York NOV 26 cds on face. Interesting war-related contents about the "prize" ships being held in the harbor, the arrival of the new Governor, Horsford. Ex Danser, VSC Dec 07 Hamilton Lot 2002 \$475
31. 1813 (9 April) EL from London, sent by Thomas Coutts to William Astwood. See Bermuda Post article by Paul Cohen March 2001 Page 24.
32. 1813 (3 May) EL from Charleston, South Carolina, to Edinburgh, rated "7/6" (deleted) and "7/3", carried on the Brigantine Langdon Cheve bound for Lisbon, captured by H.M. Frigate Atlanta which arrived in Bermuda on 24 May, censored by the Vice-Admiral Court, and marked on reverse "opened by the Court of Vice Admiralty Bermuda", this letter, the ship and cargo released on 24 June and allowed to continue to Lisbon, the letter then placed on a Packet for England and showing framed "PACKET LETTER/PLYM:DOCK", additional "1/2" h.s. and arrival c.d.s.; Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 14 £3,500
33. 1813 (4 Dec) SFL to Scotland headed Wm. Gray, during the War of 1812. Endorsed H.M. Brig Conflict/Captain Baker, rated 3/2. Red double oval SHIP LETTER/ Crown/ PLYMOUTH, Glasgow 2-line transit and boxed Scottish toll tax: Add 1/2 Temple Bar June 89 Ulrich Lot 43 Est 150-200; VSC Dec 2007 Hamilton
34. 1813 letter from Sir John Borlase Warren, Admiral and Commander -in Chief, North American Squadron, to Sir Francis Freeling, Secretary to the General Post Office, London, the letter reporting the recapture, by H.M. Frigate Belvidera, of the Packet Nocton captured by the U.S. Frigate Essex, and that two Packets, sent under flags of truce, had not returned. Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 13 Est £300-£500.
35. 1814 (8 Sept) EL from London to "Bermuda" endorsed "P. Packet" and prepaid "2/2" with v. fine and fine red London "PAID" datestamps on the front; carried by the Falmouth Packet ship "Duke of Montrose". Contents ref. finance referring to vessels going in "convoy from Portsmouth" (because of the ongoing "War of 1812" with the US). Early ingoing mail -especially prior to the end of the Napoleonic Wars Cavendish Jan 09 Osborn Lot 1009 £240 (see 9 Jan 1810 for other cover)
36. 1814 (18 Jan) EL from James Ansel on board His Majesty's ship Plantagenet/Island of Bermuda with red crowned oval SHIP LETTER/FALMOUTH h/s in front over '1/6' (?) marking and red London arrival cds on back of March 5; SG Jun 97 Lot 2 £650
37. 1814 (23 July) SFL to Portsmouth headed HM Ship Royal Oak Bermuda July 23rd. Rated "2/3", crossed out and rerated "2/2". VF HALIFAX 18 AU 18 1814 and black Ship Letter Halifax alongside. Long letter written by an aide to the general commanding the troops, states that they expect "to sail in two days for the coast of America", the staging for a raid on the US. Temple Bar Jun 89 Ulrich Lot 44 £100; VSC Dec 07 Lot 2004 \$3,250.
38. 1814 EL from Messrs. Tucker & Co. Bermuda to London, endorsed "pr Amatta Catherine", with indiscernible red step type ship letter, red arrival backstamp, Harmers Ldn Oct 78 Tucker I lot 3 £34.
39. 1815 EL from Charleston to France written during the American War 1812-15. Writer on board the "Erin" captured by HMS Brigg "Portia". Shows Liverpool paid tombstone in red, Feb 9. 1815 Temple Bar June 89 Ulrich Lot 45 £140.
40. 1815 (2 Mar.) EL from Capt. Mascall of H.M.S. Asia to London, rated "2/-" and showing step-type "DEAL/SHIP LETTER"; the contents include "It is reported - Peace with N America is proclaimed" Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 15 £320.
41. 1815 (25 Mar.) EL to London headed "Bermudas", apparently carried privately and put into the London Twopenny Post, showing "Two Py Post/Unpaid/Chas. St. Westm" oval h.s. and large "2" rate h.s. Spink Oct 2003 Leuhusen Lot 2 £250.
42. 1815 (20 Nov) EL from Ireland Island to London, rated "1/4" and showing step-type "PORTSMOUTH/SHIP LETTER"; the content, from a Captain Carter, request information regarding "the fate of the Battalion on this Island" Spink June 99 Ludington Lot 16 £950.
43. 1815 incoming EL, probably from Canada but not docketed, to St. Georges. VSC Mar 2011 Lot 484 Est \$180

44. 1816 SFL from New York to Portsmouth, New Hampshire with contents regarding a letter received from a ship's Captain at Bermuda who sold his cargo of barrel staves, oak lumber and cows and escaped a gale. Rated 18½ and with red NEW YORK JUL 8 cds. VSC Dec 08 Hamilton Lot 2006 \$70
45. 1817 (3 Feb) EL from London to Bermuda endorsed "P. Packet" and prepaid "2/2" with red London "PAID" c.d.s.'s on the front, carried by Packet ship "Francis Freeling" (direct) additional Bermuda P.O.'s "5d" manuscript arrival charge for inland delivery, as well as a further manuscript "4" at top left thought to have been Charles C. Beach's rural delivery fee. Cavendish Jan 09 Osborn Lot 1110 £280 (2 covers see 6 Apr 1820)
46. 1817 EL from London carried privately. Spink Oct 2003 Leuhusen Lot 42 £120 (4 covers)
47. 1817 SFL incoming to St. Georges rated "30" with NEW HAVEN CT./FEB 6 unframed arc cancel in red and ms endorsement on reverse "Received and Forwarded by your obdt servants Tucker & Lawries" (NY). Written by a student at Yale. Contents discuss death of the President of the college. VSC Dec 08 Hamilton Lot 2035 \$300
48. 1818 (22 Aug) SFL from Halifax to Mrs Gray in St. Georges. Her father-in-law expresses his pleasure at her becoming a member of his family. VSC June 96 Lot 2 \$120
49. 1818 (14 Oct) SFL. Chatty letter about family members. Light toning. VSC June 96 Lot 3 \$110
50. 1818 outer letter-sheet headed St. Georges Bermuda, addressed to London with unclear boxed markings on face but with ms "2/2" rate, unclear arrival marking and large red wax seal showing the Tucker family crest on reverse. Harmers Ldn Oct 78 Tucker Lot 4 £27
51. 1819 (16 Jan) Bermuda shipping receipt for goods to be sent to Quebec written at "Harbour of Hamilton" being a shipment of rum belonging to Jos. Outerbridge and John Seymour. VSC Mar 2011 Lot 457 \$60
52. ca 1819 undated SFL, with comments about the "islands emerging from a state of neglect into some political importance". VSC June 96 Lot 4 \$120
53. 1819(?)incoming cover, probably from Canada, to St. Georges. VSC Mar 2011 Lot 456 \$180
54. 1820 SFL headed "January 12th 1820". Offers an "old fashioned remedy" for rheumatic pains that no modern doctor would endorse! VSC June 96 Lot 5 \$160

I am hopeful other members will share information with this group on items in their collections that are not included in the list above. Please send any details to the editor so that the above list may be revised. BP

## Cover Articles Required

Do **YOU** have some spare time - a little once a year?

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# Tracking Bermuda Rarities

Charles Freeland

Nigel asked me to pen a few words to explain how I compile the records that enable me to track the pedigrees and prices of rare Bermuda items. The short answer is through bloody hard work. The foundation is a large library of auction catalogues and dealers' price lists, with occasional data from specialist journals and handbooks, access to a decent photocopier (preferably one provided by one's employer) and several large ring-binders each containing several hundred pages of blank paper. I copy, cut and then paste each major item onto a page for that particular stamp or cover. I do not as a rule duplicate the pictures, unless I have a small piece in color and the full item in black and white. Alongside each I write the source(s), date(s) and price(s) realized. So, for example I might write Ludington, date xx, £xyz and below it Baillie, date yy £abc. That way I record the essentials but can always return to the actual source if needed.

My Bermuda records are contained in five thick binders of thick-packed photostats, two for the stamps and three for the covers. Many items need several pages. While most of the rare stamp items are easy to identify, single mint comb perf stamps are not. For that reason I do not, for example, cut and paste the early single stamps mint or the GV £1, although I do cut blocks and varieties. For single rare stamps which I wish to track, such as the QV 6d purple shade or the Revenue/revenue 12/6, I sort by centring in 8 directions (N, NE, E, SE etc) so as to narrow down the options. The provisionals are another challenge, and I only record singles that are in fine condition as so many are defective. Die proofs can also be awkward but if they have clear hand-stamps they are usually distinguishable. For covers, the question is where to stop, which is essentially a personal choice. I track all the preadhesives, most of the QV but only selective modern when they have interesting features such as postmarks or censor markings.

That all sounds pretty straightforward, but building a decent holding of the principal auction catalogues is quite difficult given the cost of postage and the fact that there are few dealers/auctions handling literature. After that it is basically just a question of hard work. Really keen researchers could digitise the results; that would likely be very time-consuming but it could be done with a big team effort, who will volunteer? **BP**

## Sometimes I Could Scream!

Horst Augustinovic

When stamp collecting was still a popular hobby in Bermuda, many Bermudians tore the stamps off any envelopes they could find and kept the stamps in paper bags. Sometimes these bags show up at house sales or I get them as a gift from someone who knows that I collect stamps.

Sorting through old stamps is of course fun as one never knows what to expect. However, when one finds items like the ones shown here it is not fun at all. Obviously that 'collector' thought there was something interesting about postage due marks, otherwise why cut them out or tear the stamps in such a way that part of the mark shows up?

In this particular lot both the DUE1 11d and 3s marks would to my knowledge have been only the second examples known of those values (the others are ex-Ludington). Of course the 1s/6d combination of two handstamps would have been an exciting find, and the DUE2 1/3 and 1/6 would not have been too shabby either. **BP**



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