

1848-1862 Bermuda Postmaster Provisional Labels

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Overview

- I will begin this presentation with an introduction to the 1848-1862 Bermuda Postmaster Provisional Labels. This introduction has been extracted from the *Encyclopedia of Rare and Famous Stamps* by the late L. N. Williams. It includes general background information and also interesting sections on the discovery of these “stamps” by the philatelic community.
- I next include a “roadmap” to the remainder of the presentation.
- I then cover sequentially each subsection of the Provisional Labels. Within each subsection, I will itemize each known example, providing:
 - i) its identifier in the Bermuda Specialized Catalogue,
 - ii) a photograph of the item,
 - iii) a description providing the salient features, and
 - iv) the item’s known provenance.

Introduction

- From L. N. Williams – Encyclopedia of Rare and Famous Stamps, pp.5-10.
- All the Bermuda Postmasters' stamps are classic examples of stamps first discovered and recorded many years after they were issued. All have romantic associations and they and their "biographies" form part of the lore of philately.
- As a general rule, the privilege of issuing postage stamps is reserved to governments, but there have been cases in which private undertakings have made issues; these are among that class of stamps known to collectors as private locals. The individuals who have issued postage stamps are few indeed; three of them were postmasters in Bermuda.
- One was William Benet Perot, postmaster of Hamilton, Bermuda, from 1818 until 1862. When he was first appointed, he was 27 years old. For the first 14 years of his appointment, his remuneration was derived solely from an unusual local statutory provision under which postmasters were entitled to retain and appropriate to their own use and benefit all the postage received by them on internal mail. They were obliged to forward all "inland notes", as internal mail was then called. Later he was paid an annual salary: £50 in 1843; £62 in 1844; £70 in 1847; and £95 in 1854, increasing to £100 in 1858. Nevertheless, he was still entitled to retain the internal postage money which he received; between 1843 and 1845 it rose from £25.14s.3d. to £44.13s.
- Prepayment of inland postage at the rate of one penny an ounce was first required by a local Act of 1842 and was continued as a requirement by later local statutes. The obligation remained on the postmaster to forward all such inland notes. As was pointed out in *Bermuda, The Post Office, postal markings and adhesive stamps* by M.H. Ludington p 171 Robson Lowe, London, 1962, it was to the postmaster's advantage to ensure that all inland notes were prepaid.
- The population of Hamilton was not very extensive and Perot's duties as postmaster did not take up a great deal of his time. However, £44.13s. a year in pence and ounce averages at something over 205 ounces a week and his annual return for 1845 showed that the number of 1d. post letters, books and packet letters sent from Hamilton to St. Georges was 9,095, which is not altogether negligible.
- Normally, a person wishing to post an inland note would take it to the post office and hand over cash with the note. That system worked satisfactorily enough when the post office was open and the postmaster or someone else was in attendance.

Introduction (cont'd 1)

- Perot spent most of the day in his garden, of which he was very fond, due partly to the fact that his health was not robust. He owned considerable property and used as the post office a house at the entrance to what is now Par-la-Ville Park. The house still exists and is used partly as the Bermuda Natural History Museum.
- Mr. J. B. Heyl, the American proprietor of a chemist's shop (still in existence on the corner of Queen and Front Streets in Hamilton) adjacent to the post office, was one of Perot's friends and was prevailed upon by the postmaster to call him from the garden whenever he was required in the post office during the daytime of the days when the office was open.
- For the convenience of those who wished to post their letters at night or when the office was closed, Perot provided a box into which people could drop their inland letters and pennies. Sometimes he would find, on opening the box, that there were more such letters than pennies. Since Perot had no means of fixing the blame on any particular person or persons, it is not entirely surprising that he should have been more than a little annoyed – for he was not only defrauded of income but also was obliged to perform the service of forwarding all the letters, if honest or non forgetful correspondents were not to suffer. The year 1846 had shown a sharp increase in the amount of fees which Perot had received from internal mail; it rose to £52.11s.6d., but it dropped to £47.6s.6d. in 1847, perhaps reflecting the cheating of anonymous non-payers.
- Perot consulted Heyl about the possibility of stopping the unfortunate occurrences. Heyl, who may have seen some of the stamps issued by postmasters in North America, later claimed to have suggested to Perot the striking on a sheet of a number of stamps. As before, postage on inland notes could be prepaid in cash during the daytime; the stamps were to be provided for the convenience of people who wished to post their letters while the post office was unmanned; any unstamped letters could be treated as unpaid.
- There was no statutory provision or regulation in favour of, or prohibition against, the adoption of the idea of using home-made stamps. Perot decided to adopt it.

Introduction (cont'd 2)

- He took his postmarking hand-stamp which had been sent out to Hamilton from London on 18 November 1841 and removed the date plugs except for the year. He then struck it, using black ink, several times on a sheet of paper. The postmark produced a circular impression with the word “Hamilton” curved round the upper part and “Bermuda” curved round the lower part; between the words, at each side, there was a cross; the four figures of the year appeared in a straight line across the middle of the circle. Perot gummed the sheet, probably, and then on each impression wrote the words “One penny” above and signed his name beneath the year. From time to time, Perot used to manufacture a number of the stamps and keep them in stock so that they would be ready when required.
- The exact number of stamps to a sheet has not been definitely established and no multiple larger than an all but severed pair has been recorded. The belief of Sir Henry Tucker, an eminent collector in Bermuda, was that the stamps were struck in two vertical rows of six. In a letter to us dated 8 December, 1962, he wrote: “In connection with my view that the postmasters were struck in two vertical rows of six, I am afraid that my belief is not very well founded. As you say, it seems fairly clear that there were 12 impressions on a sheet. The only reason I have for the statement I made is that I was so informed many years ago by an elderly collector named Englesbee Seon, who lived in Bermuda during the First World War and for a little time thereafter. He has long since died, but I recall that he made this comment to me more than 40 years ago and whether it was accurate or not I have no way of knowing. He was, however, friendly with Sir Reginald Gray, Mr. William Bluck and other Bermuda collectors of that period. It is, I agree, rather slender foundation for my belief.”
- The earliest-made stamps of Perot’s First Issue to have been found bear the year date 1848. Black ink was used at Hamilton post office up to May 1849. At some time between 7 and 16 May of that year the colour of the ink used was changed to red and red ink alone was employed at Hamilton until 1865. Only eleven stamps have been recorded – three of 1848, two of 1849, three of 1853, two of 1854 and one of 1856, the latest-made stamp of Perot’s First Issue which has been found. Six of the known examples are in red, five in black. During 1852, Perot obtained leave of absence, being temporarily replaced by his assistant, Robert Ward. The post office was moved during Perot’s absence to Ward’s residence.
- Perot did not bother to cancel his stamps of the First Issue when they were used on letters; he probably considered that the mere affixing of a stamp to a letter would prevent the stamp being used again.

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Discovery of the Provisionals by the Philatelic Community

- Perot's First Issue became known to philatelists in 1897, or nearly 50 years after the stamps were first issued. An example in red, dated 1854, was sent to Alfred Smith & Co., of Bath, one of the pioneer firms of stamp dealers in England, by a collector in Bermuda. The stamp was, of course, not postmarked and that, together with the fact that half of it was hidden under the fold at the back of the cover, seems to have cast suspicion on the stamp, as appears from a notice published in *Alfred Smith & Son's Monthly Circular*, vol 23 no 271 July 1897. According to Mr. Ludington, the handwriting on the cover was that of N.T. Butterfield, founder of the first bank in Bermuda, by which his name is still borne. The letter was addressed to B. Wilson Higgs, merchant and occasional forwarding agent at St. George. It was sold at Robert A. Siegel's for \$210,000 – the highest price for any stamp of Perot's First Issue.
- Nine months elapsed before another example was discovered. This time it was a copy in black and was dated 1849. A young Englishman who had only a few weeks earlier gone out to the islands found a letter bearing the crude-looking stamp affixed at the lower left corner of the address side. He showed his find to the other occupants of the office; nobody thought very much of it so he tore off part of the letter bearing the stamp and put it in his pocket. Later he met a local collector who offered him a few shillings for the piece, but his offer was refused. He sent the stamp to his father in London in the hope that more pounds might be obtained there than shillings had been offered in Bermuda. The price at which the piece changed hands is not known, but it was bought by B. W. Warhurst, a well known philatelist. The writing on the piece is that of N.T. Butterfield and, again according to Mr. Ludington, the letter was almost certainly addressed to Henry E. Higgs, also a commission merchant and forwarding agent of St. Georges, a cousin of B. Wilson Higgs and the only advertiser in the *Bermuda Royal Gazette* of that period whose name started "Henry E."

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- Soon after the finding of that stamp, an article was written by Major E.B. Evans who had spent a number of years in Bermuda. Edward Benjamin Evans, who had been born 3 November 1846 and commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1867, had begun collecting stamps in 1861 when he was at Uppingham Grammar School. He was an eager philatelist, bringing to his interest a keen and inquiring mind. He made a habit of conducting research into the postal affairs and postage stamps of the countries where he was stationed.
- The article, in *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, vol. IX, p 10 July 1898, contained all the then known details of the Perot stamps. Major Evans doubted their *bona fides* because he had never had one offered to him in Bermuda although he had had a long-standing advertisement in the local papers for old stamps of the colony.
- The article was given considerable publicity and led to further inquiries being made in Bermuda. People who had known Perot and who remembered the use of the stamps, wrote to Major Evans and research was undertaken by Edward Denny Bacon. Gradually the whole story was unfolded and the genuineness of the issue was accepted.
- In October 1922, Richard Roberts, the well-known dealer in London, was visited by a man who produced four examples of the Perot stamp, which he offered for sale. In a letter to me, dated October 22, 1976, Mr. Ludington stated that the man was Dr. William E. Tucker, a well-known physician of Hamilton. He sold the four stamps on behalf of his aunt, Miss Frances Trott, for £50 each.
- In 1934, Captain M.D. James, an army officer and native of Bermuda, walked into the offices of H.R. Harmer and produced from his pocket a pair of the rarities. They had been purchased by Captain James's grandfather, John Harvey Darrell, Chief Justice of Bermuda, from Perot in 1853 and had lain among the judge's papers until a few months earlier.

Introduction (cont'd 5)

- **Perot's Second Issue:** Early in 1946, the philatelic world was astonished when a new type of Perot stamp was discovered. The design, as collectors had known for over fifty years, had been used for the stamps of J.H. Thies of St. Georges and also by Perot as a hand-stamp on prepaid overseas mail between 1845 and 1863. The crowned double circle PAID AT HAMILTON BERMUDA could be thought to be somewhat more impressive than that produced by the bare postmarking hand-stamp with its omissions and its manuscript additions.
- Perot's Second Issue appears on letters dated in March 1861; perhaps he thought that his appointment in 1860 as a member of the House of Assembly ought to be reflected in his home-made stamps.
- The newly discovered Perot Second Issue was affixed to a letter and apparently had been used as an adhesive. The letter had been presented to Mr. Arthur D. Pierce as a Christmas present from his wife. She had obtained it from a dealer who didn't know what it was, but who felt sure that a Bermuda specialist would find it interesting. The stamp is struck in red on blue laid paper. A postmark of 1861, in the type of the better-known stamps of Perot's First Issue, was struck at the upper left of the letter.
- Perot's Second Issue bore no manuscript indicating its value or that it was his issue as distinct from that of anyone else. Also unlike the case with his First Issue, Perot thought it necessary or desirable to deface the stamp by a pen-marked cross; whether the defacement was effected before or after the stamp was affixed to the inland note remains a matter of individual speculation for no example is known in which the cancelling cross extends beyond the stamp to make it tied to the cover.
- **Hamilton: Ward's Stamps:** Two examples of Hamilton are of the crowned double circle type of Perot's Second Issue cancelled with a cross in blue pencil. One was discovered in 1951 and the second in 1953. There being no means of dating the blue pencil marking, these stamps were regarded with reserve because it is possible that each could have been cut out from an envelope of an overseas letter for which postage had been prepaid at Hamilton.

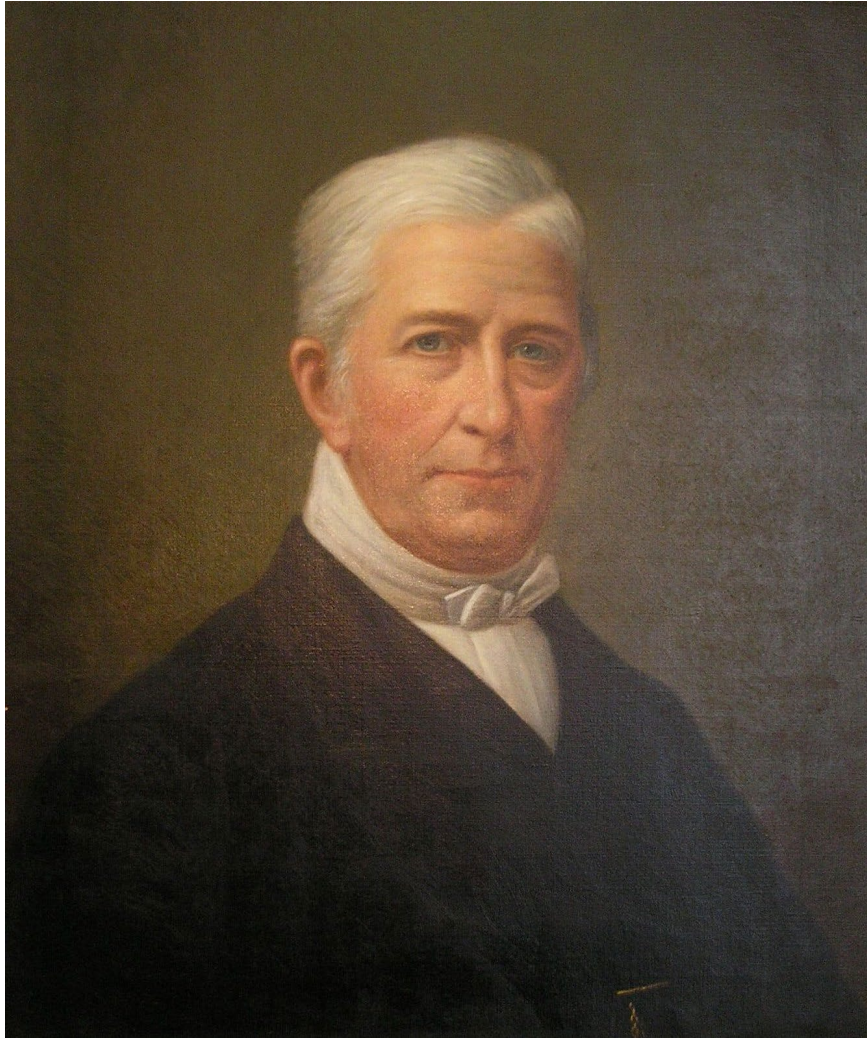
Introduction (cont'd 6)

- An argument in favour of their being adhesives is based on the fact that in machine-made envelopes on laid paper, normally, the lines run diagonally across the face of the envelope. These stamps on cream-coloured laid paper differ. In one the lines are vertical., while those of the other are horizontal. That, however, is not entirely conclusive per se because the crowned double circle hand-stamp was hand held and need not have been applied upright to a cover. It is possible that these stamps were used by Robert Ward, Perot's successor in June 1862, who then started to employ red and blue pencil in place of red and black ink for prepaid or unpaid postage rates marked on letters. Another circumstance in favour of their being adhesives is that each has adhering to the back a piece of blue-grey paper such as was used for envelopes.
- Doubts about the status of the Ward stamps seem to have been resolved subsequent to the sale by Harmers of London of the remarkable collection of Bermuda formed by Sir Henry Tucker. At that sale in 1978, a Ward stamp realized £260. Just under two years later at auction by Richard Wolfers in the United States, that stamp realized £6,875.
- **St. George: Theis' Stamps:** The postmaster at St. Georges was first appointed in 1818. His official title, Deputy Postmaster-General of Bermuda at St. Georges, indicated he was deputy to the Postmaster-General in London, superior of and with greater salary than that of the Hamilton postmaster. Like the postmaster at Hamilton, the postmaster at St. Georges was entitled to retain all postage received by him on internal mail. Between 1818 and 1853, the income of the St. Georges postmaster from inland notes averaged some £25 annually. Although the name of the island and town is St. George, philatelists refer to it as St. Georges because the Crowned doubled-circle hand-stamp sent out there from England is inscribed ST GEORGES BERMUDA.
- Until his death in 1853, the St. Georges postmaster was James Taylor. Two of his nephews had assisted him. They were Thomas and James Henry Thies – a surname which was later to become philatelically famous. Thomas Thies was appointed to his late uncle's position and, from September 1859 became officially Postmaster-General of Bermuda. He retained that post until he died on 31 August 1860, aged 30. He was succeeded in office by his younger brother, James Henry, who had carried out the duties during Thomas's failing health and illness for the previous year or more.

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- Almost certainly it was James Henry Thies who conceived and brought to fruition the idea of issuing the Postmaster's stamp of St. Georges. Whether he was imitator of Perot or innovator, he seems at first to have taken somewhat more care in the production of his stamps than had Perot. There is reason to believe that Thies ruled out the sheet of paper by pencilled lines into rectangles and then struck in red ink in each rectangle his hand-stamp bearing the inscription: PAID / AT / ST GEORGES BERMUDA enclosed by double lines broken by a surmounting crown.
- The first Thies stamp (Thies I) to be found was discovered by Ralph Wedmore. The find was not publicized or recorded at the time and the circumstances are best told in a letter dated 19 May 1940, written to us by Mr. Wedmore: "I bought the stamp in Bristol at a small shop at which stamps were left for sale. The year was 1895 or 1896. The Perot stamps had not at that time been discovered, but it looked genuine to me, so I paid the 1/6 which was asked for it. It came from a small collection of early British and Colonial stamps, with nothing after the late seventies in it ... There were no cut-outs of any kind. I think the then owner must have had some reason for treating it as a postage stamp and pricing it at 1/6."
- The first record of a Thies stamp in the philatelic press is in *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, vol IX., p 111 January 1899, in a note by Major Evans. He stated that the stamp (Thies II), on an official letter addressed to The Pilot Commissioners at Hamilton, was on deep yellow paper. He went on, "why this kind of adhesive stamp was used ... it is difficult to understand". For many years, the authenticity of the Thies issue remained in doubt.
- The mere existence of a Thies stamp was recorded in *The Postage Stamps of Bermuda* by H.R. Holmes (1932). No details about the stamp's appearance or condition appeared in print. All traces of this example were subsequently lost, but a somewhat defective example was found in 1975 by a young man in California among the effects of his deceased father. This may be the stamp recorded in 1932. It was sold at auction by Earl P.L. Apfelbaum in June 1976.
- A fifth example has been authenticated. A well-known American collector, George Ulrich, who had an outstanding collection of Bermuda, writing to me in June 1978 about the discovery, stated: "Like mine, it has a cancellation right over the stamp. It is on the same yellowish paper ... and the date is JA 30/1863 ... ", A question asked of me was whether the newly discovered stamp could have been the one recorded in 1932. My opinion was that, in view of the example auctioned by Mr. Apfelbaum in 1976, this stamp was hitherto unrecorded.

Introduction (cont'd 8)



William Benet Perot: Hamilton Postmaster 1818-1862

2022-12-12



James Henry Thies: St. George's Postmaster 1860-1880

Organization of the Remainder of the Presentation

- The 1848-1862 Queen Victoria Postmaster Provisional Labels can be divided into the following four subsections:
 - 1848-1856 Hamilton Split Circles
 - Produced by William Benet Perot.
 - 11 known examples (including 2 covers)
 - 1860c-1863c St. George's Crowned Circles
 - Produced by James Henry Thies.
 - 5 examples (4 known, including 1 cover, and 1 unsubstantiated)
 - 1861c Hamilton Crowned Circles
 - Produced by William Benet Perot.
 - 5 known examples (including 1 unused example and 2 covers)
 - 1862c Hamilton Crowned Circles
 - Produced by Robert Ward.
 - 2 known examples

Subsection I – The Hamilton Split Circles 1848-1856

- From the Bermuda Specialized Catalogue (p.001)

In the mid-1840s, Hamilton Postmaster William Benet Perot (whose tenure in that position lasted from 1818 to 1862) offered after-hours service by cutting an opening in the door of the post office, enabling customers sending inland letters to slip them into a box on the inside, along with the correct amount of postage (1d). However, the box often contained more letters than coins. He resolved the problem by preparing sheets of 12 impressions of the datestamp he was using at the time, modified by removing the day and month plugs and substituting his signature and the inscription “One Penny” (PP1). It is believed that customers could buy these “stamps” in sheets, and possibly singly, and affix them to letters after the post office was closed, thus demonstrating to Perot that postage had been paid.

The earliest known examples of these stamps bear the year date 1848; the latest is dated 1856. Although statistical speculation suggests that at least several hundred of Perot’s “stamps” should have been used during that period, only 11 are known to have survived to this day.¹

Item 1 (PP1a)

1848 black on bluish gray paper



Ludington Description: Cut round and so close that portions of all letters are missing. The first of five examples discovered among the family papers of Miss Frances Trott in 1918 and removed from the original letter. Now in the Royal Collection.

Provenance:

1918-xx-xx [per Ludington] discovered among family papers of Miss Frances Trott.

19??-xx-xx [per Ludington] acquired for the Royal Collection

- presumably by King George V.

Item 2 (PP1a)

1848 black on whitish paper



Ludington Description: Cut in a rough octagon. Slight thinning. The second of five examples discovered among the family papers of Miss Frances Trott in 1918 and removed from the original letter.

Provenance:

1918-xx-xx [per Ludington] discovered among family papers of Miss Frances Trott.

1921-xx-xx [per Siegel] in possession of Englesbee Seon (nephew of Miss Frances Trott).

[per Spink] Given by Miss Trott to her nephew, Englesbee Seon.

19??-xx-xx [per Spink and Siegel] Acquired by E. Stowe Williams, a cousin of W.B. Perot

1935-10-08 [per Spink and Siegel] Puttick and Simpson, 7238, lot 26,

bought by Tommy Allen for £455.

193?-xx-xx [per Spink and Siegel] Bought by Major T. Charlton Henry.

1960-xx-xx [per Spink] Acquired by Sir Henry Tucker from T. Charlton Henry.

1963-xx-xx [per Spink and Siegel] Sold privately through H.R. Harmer to Lars Amundsen

1967-12-10 [per Spink and Siegel] Stanley Gibbons, Lars Amundsen collection, lot 65,
sold for £5,250 to George Ulrich.

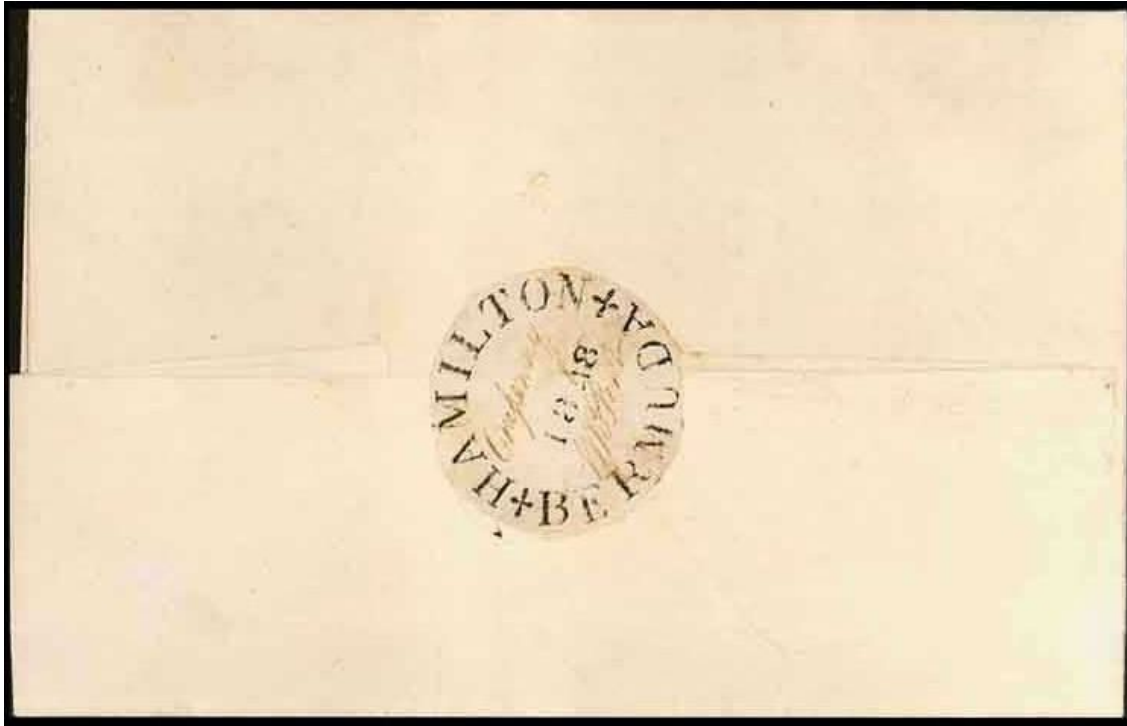
1989-06-26 [per Siegel] Temple Bar Auctions, Ulrich Collection, lot 14, unsold.

1993-xx-xx [per Spink and Siegel] Bought from the Ulrich estate through a British dealer
and subsequently acquired by David J. Saul.

2013-10-22 Spink, David J. Saul Collection, lot 2, realized £85,000.

Item 3 (PP1b)

1848 black on bluish gray paper on cover



Ludington Description: Cut round [with all letters clear but with a few faint age stains]. On the back of an entire [dated March 28, 1848 from N.J. Butterfield, once Mayor of Hamilton] addressed to [Henry E. Higgs at] St. George's. The stamp sealed the letter and was torn across when the letter was opened but has been repaired. Discovered in Bermuda a few years ago [c1945].

Provenance:

1945-xx-xx [per Ludington] discovered in Bermuda.

1961-xx-xx [per Spink] Acquired by Sir Henry Tucker from T. Charlton Henry.

1978-10-17 [per Siegel] Harmers of London, Sir Henry Tucker Collection, Part 1, lot 58, realized £22,000.

1981-02-18 [per Siegel] Stanley Gibbons, lot 103, realized \$46,200.

1989-05-24 [per Siegel] Harmers of London, lot 1129, unsold.

199?-xx-xx [per Siegel] Private Treaty, sold for £40,000.

1999-10-26 [per Siegel] Cherrystone, R.W. Dickgeisser collection, lot 21, realized \$45,000.

Item 4 (PP1c)

1849 black on bluish gray paper



Ludington Description: Cut round but so close on the left and especially at the bottom that the tops of the letters "HAM" and even more of the letters "BERMUDA" are missing. On piece with part of the name, "Henry E.", of the person to whom the letter was addressed. This was the second copy to be found, and shortly afterwards acquired by Mr. B.W. Warhurst, in April 1898.

Provenance:

1898-xx-xx [per Ludington] discovered in Bermuda.

1898-04-xx [per Ludington] acquired by Mr. B. W. Warhurst.

2003-10-29 [per Spink] Spink, Baron Stig Leuhusen Collection, Sale 3022, lot 44, realized £42,000.

Item 5 (PP1c)

1849 black on bluish gray paper



Description: Cut round but close on the right side so that the "N" and "D" are touched. Believed to have been discovered in 1904.

Provenance:

1904-xx-xx [per Ludington] believed to have been discovered.

1922-11-xx [per Siegel] Ferrary Collection, Sale 5, lot 121,
realized CHF18,213

1934-05-07 [per Siegel] HR Harmer, Arthur Hind Collection, Sale 2, lot 90,
realized £165

1957-04-14 [per Siegel] HR Harmer, Alfred Caspary Collection, Sale 9, lot 189,
realized \$4,200

1977-04-21 [per Siegel] Stanley Gibbons, Claude Cartier Collection, lot 22,
realized £30,000

1986-05-27 [per Siegel] Stanley Gibbons, lot 16,
realized \$143,000

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] Richard Roberts Collection

2005-06-15 [per Siegel] Spink, Sale 5026, Edward M. Gilbert Collection, lot 227,
realized £116,000

Item 6 (PP1d)

1853 red on bluish paper



Ludington Description: Cut round but very close, though only the “H” and “E” are actually cut into. The third of five examples discovered among the family papers of Miss Frances Trott in 1918 and removed from the original letter.

Provenance:

1918-xx-xx [per Ludington] discovered among family papers of Miss Frances Trott.

193?-xx-xx [per Spink and Siegel] Bought by Major T. Charlton Henry.

1934-12-31 [per Siegel] HR Harmer, Sale 723, lot 131, realized £310.

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] Thomas Allen Collection.

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] John Harvey Darrell Collection.

1960-xx-xx [per Spink] Acquired by Sir Henry Tucker from T. Charlton Henry.

1978-10-17 [per Siegel] Harmers of London, Sir Henry Tucker collection , Part 1, lot 59, realized £32,000.

1982-05-21 [per Siegel] David Feldman , lot 10167, realized CHF150,000.

1984-xx-xx [per Siegel] David Feldman, Private Treaty, lot 30005.

1989-xx-xx [per Siegel] Behr, Private Treaty, lot 903, [result unknown].

2013-10-22 [per Siegel] Spink, Sale 13045, David J. Saul Collection, lot 3, realized £120,000.

Item 7 (PP1e)

1853 red on thick whitish paper



Ludington Description: Cut round and, until separated in 1934, formed one of a horizontal pair with the next listed example No. 7 [sic, 8]. It still has part of its original gum but has a number of ink stains and is slightly thinned outside the design to the right of the right cross. Discovered in 1934 among the papers of John Henry Darrell, Chief Justice of Bermuda and now in the Royal Collection.

Provenance:

1853-xx-xx [per Spink] This example, together with the subsequent item, was bought from W.B. Perot by John Harvey Darrell, Chief Justice of Bermuda.

1934-xx-xx [per Ludington] discovered among the papers of John Henry Darrell, Chief Justice of Bermuda.

193?-xx-xx [per Ludington] acquired for the Royal Collection
- presumably by King George V.

Item 8 (PP1e)

1853 red on thick whitish paper



Ludington Description: In red on thick white paper. Cut round and until separated in 1934, formed the second of the horizontal pair with example No. 6 [sic, Item 7]. Slightly thinned outside the design to the left of the left cross.

Provenance:

1853-xx-xx [per Spink] This example, together with the previous item, was bought from W.B. Perot by John Harvey Darrell, Chief Justice of Bermuda.

1934-xx-xx [per Ludington] discovered among the papers of John Henry Darrell, Chief Justice of Bermuda.

1934-12-34 [per Spink] HR Harmer, auction 723, lot 131, sold to Tommy Allen for £310.

1935-xx-xx [per Spink] Acquired by Major T. Charlton Henry.

1961-xx-xx [per Spink] Acquired by Sir Henry Tucker from T. Charlton Henry.

1978-10-17 [per Siegel] Harmers, Sir Henry Tucker Collection, Part 1, lot 59, realized £32,000.

1982-05-21 [per Siegel] David Feldman, lot 10167, realized CHF 150,000 (£41,209).

1989 [per Siegel] David Feldman, Bernard Behr Private Treaty, lot 903, realized £80,000.

2013-10-22 [per Siegel] Spink, David J. Saul Collection, lot 3, realized £120,000.

Item 9 (PP1f)

1853 red on bluish paper



Ludington Description: Cut in a rough octagon with a small piece missing at the top which has infringed on the top of the "I". The upper portion of the impression is doubly struck. This the fourth copy found among the family papers of Miss Frances Trott in 1918 and was also removed from the original letter. Now in the Royal Collection.

Provenance:

1918 [per Ludington] discovered among family papers of Miss Frances Trott.

19?? [per Ludington] acquired for the Royal Collection

- presumably by King George V.

Item 10 (PP1g)

1854 red on bluish paper on cover



Ludington Description: Cut in a rough octagon. The impression is rather blurred on the left side and there are two ink smears running through the “W” and the “P” of the signature “W. B. Perot” downwards and to the left. The stamp is still on the back of an entire. The letter is dated in April 1855 and is the first example found and first recorded in July 1897. The entire is addressed in the handwriting of N. T. Butterfield, the banker, who was Mayor of Hamilton in 1849-1850.

Provenance:

1897-07-xx [per Ludington] first recorded.

1922-11-15 [per Siegel] Ferrary Collection, Gilbert, 5, lot 122, FF 35,250.

1963-07-23 [per Siegel] Robson Lowe, Burrus Collection, lot 478, realized £11,000.

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] Kapiloff Collection.

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] Tomasini Collection.

1973-10-04 [per Siegel] Stanley Gibbons, lot 5, realized £50,000.

1980-04-05 [per Siegel] Siegel Auction Galleries, 1980 Rarities of the World, Sale 560, lot 368, realized \$210,000.

1991-06-13 [per Siegel] Christie's Robson Lowe, Sale 4550, lot 1079, realized \$337,810 (with buyer's premium).

1996-04-23 [per Siegel] Siegel, The K.L. Collection of Classic Rarities, Sale 776, lot 11, realized \$340,000.

2005-12-02 [per Siegel] Bennett, Sale 297, lot 3318, unsold.

Item 11 (PP1h)

1856 red on bluish paper



Ludington Description: Cut square but the right side is badly cut into so that the “ON” is almost entirely missing and the top of the “T” and the right side of the cross are infringed. This is the fifth example found among the family papers of Miss Frances Trott in 1918 and was also removed from the original letter.

Provenance:

1918-xx-xx [per Ludington] discovered among family papers of Miss Frances Trott.

1923-05-xx [per Siegel] Bought by Hind at International Philatelic Exhibition in London.

1934-05-07 [per Siegel] HR Harmer, lot 91, realized £145.

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] King Carol of Romania Collection.

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] Howell Collection.

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] Thomas Allen Collection.

1979-04-24 [per Siegel] Harmers of New York, lot 34, realized \$75,000.

1981-xx-xx [per Siegel] Stanley Gibbons, Private Treaty.

1981-02-18 [per Siegel] Stanley Gibbons, lot 104,
realized \$77,000.

2003-10-29 [per Spink] Spink, Baron Stig Leuhusen Collection, Sale 3022, lot 45,
realized £62,000.

2005-06-15 [per Siegel] Spink, Gilbert Collection, Sale 5026, lot 228,
realized £60,000.

Subsection II – The St. George's Crowned Circles 1860c-1863c

From the Bermuda Specialized Catalogue (p.001)

Less is known about the origins of the crowned-circle “Paid at St. Georges” and “Paid at Hamilton” handstamps on adhesive piece. They were prepared and used in the same manner as Perot’s first stamp, although they do not contain a signature or denomination. The four examples from St. Georges (PP2) were produced during the tenure of James Henry Thies in that town (1860-1879) . Of the five known examples from Hamilton, three (PP3) are believed to have been prepared during Perot’s term and two (PP4) during that of his successor, Robert Ward (1862-1879).

Item 12 (PP2a)

1860c carmine-red on whitish paper on cover



Ludington Description: Cut or torn roughly square, the top and right margins being very irregular. Parts of the adjoining stamps appear to the right and right and left. The stamp has a square frame in pencil. On cover, cancelled by a heavy diagonal pen mark in black. To the left of the stamp, but not tying it, is the St. George's General Post Office stamp, Type P3, in carmine-red, dated JY 4 1860. The cover is addressed to :Jas. Tatum, Esq., Hamilton". First recorded in 1929.

Provenance:

1929 [per Ludington] first recorded.

1978-10-17 [per Siegel] Harmers of London, Sir Henry Tucker Collection , Part 1, lot 62, realized £25,000.

Item 13 (PP2a)

1860c carmine-red on whitish paper on cover

NO
REPRODUCTION
AVAILABLE

Ludington Description: Cut in a rough octagon. On cover, cancelled (and tied?) by the St-George's date-stamp, Type PM5, in carmine-red dated JY 12 1861. The cover is addressed to the "Pilot Commissioners, Hamilton". First discovered in 1899.

Provenance:

1899 [per Ludington] first discovered [but not seen since].

Item 14 (PP2b)

1861-1863c carmine-red on buff paper



Ludington Description: Cut square with a small piece missing from the top left corner. Cancelled by the St. George's date-stamp, Type PM5, in carmine-red, dated JA 21 1863. First discovered [in] 1895 or 1896.

Provenance:

1895 or 1896 [per Ludington] first discovered.

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] King Carol of Romania Collection.

1937-xx-xx [per Siegel] Private Treaty.

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] Wedmore Collection.

1989-06-26 [per Siegel] Temple Bar Auctions, Ulrich Collection, lot 17, unsold.

1999-10-26 [per Siegel] Cherrystone, R.W. Dickgeisser collection, lot 23, realized \$[?].

Item 15 (PP2b)

1861-1863c carmine-red on buff paper



Ludington Description: Cut in a rough octagon and on [a] small piece from which a portion is missing at the upper left. The stamp is water stained at the upper left and less so at the lower left. It is cancelled by a manuscript "X" in ink. Reported to have been found in the U.S.A. In about 1930.

Provenance:

1930c [per Ludington] reported to have been found in the U.S.A.

1976-06-04 [per Siegel] Apfelbaum, lot 613, realized \$5,000.

Item 16 (PP2b)

1861-1863c carmine-red on buff paper



Ludington Description: [none]

Provenance:

[unknown]

Subsection III – The Hamilton Crowned Circles 1861c

From the Bermuda Specialized Catalogue (p.001)

Less is known about the origins of the crowned-circle “Paid at St. Georges” and “Paid at Hamilton” handstamps on adhesive piece. They were prepared and used in the same manner as Perot’s first stamp, although they do not contain a signature or denomination. The four examples from St. Georges (PP2) were produced during the tenure of James Henry Thies in that town (1860-1879) . Of the five known examples from Hamilton, three (PP3) are believed to have been prepared during Perot’s term and two (PP4) during that of his successor, Robert Ward (1862-1879).

Item 17 (PP3a)

1861c red on bluish laid paper



Ludington Description: Cut square, cancelled by a manuscript "X" in black ink[,] one line of which passes between the "A" and "I" of "PAID"[,] through the "A" of "AT" and the "O" of "HAMILTON" ending in a curve to the right on the inner ring of the frame. The other line starts from the inner ring of the frame above the "H" of "HAMILTON" above the "A" and through the "T" of "AT" and ends on the "M" of "BERMUDA". Discovered in 1948.

Provenance:

1948-xx-xx [per Ludington] discovered by Morris Ludington.

1999-06-02 [per Spink] Spink, Morris H. Ludington Collection, lot 242,
realized £73,000.

2013-10-22 [per Spink] Spink, David J. Saul Collection, lot 4,
realized £58,000.

Item 18 (PP3a)

1861c red on bluish laid paper



Ludington Description: A fourth example in carmine-red on bluish laid paper was reported in 1966 by Mr. Ritchie Bodily and was sold on April 3rd 1967 by H.R. Harmer Ltd. of London. It is on a small piece and has large margins at the left and the top. The right margin just cuts through the outer circle. The bottom margin is close and there is a closed horizontal scissors cut about 2mm up from the bottom which extends from the left side to below the "O" of "HAMILTON". It is cancelled by the usual manuscript "X" in black ink, one line of which extends from the left side of the crown, through the loop of the "P" of "PAID" and down the right side of the "A" of "AT". The other line extends from the circle above the "H" of "HAMILTON", through the "P" and the bottom of the left leg of "A" to below the "D" of "PAID".

Provenance:

1966-xx-xx [per Ludington and Siegel] reported by Mr. Ritchie Bodily.

1967-04-03 [per Ludington and Siegel] Harmers of London, lot 9,
realized £2,000.

1989-06-26 [per Siegel] Temple Bar Auctions, Ulrich Collection, lot 15, unsold.

1999-10-26 [per Siegel] Cherrystone, R.W. Dickgeisser collection, lot 22,
realized \$[?].

Item 19 (PP3b –sic PP3a)

1861c red on bluish laid paper - unused



Description:

1861 Postmaster stamps: Perot's second issue (1d) carmine-red on bluish laid, unused with part gum, very fresh, trace of faint wrinkle noted for accuracy (not mentioned on any of the certs.), this is the UNIQUE UNUSED EXAMPLE of this stamp (the other four recorded are used), key stamp of any collection of Bermuda and a tremendous world classic rarity. Example V in the Williams census (SG £140'000)

Expertise: Cert. BPA (1984), BPA (1991), RPS (1991)

Provenance:

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] Hansen Collection.

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] Melat Collection.

1985-03-14 [per Siegel] Sotheby Amanthier, lot 21, sold for £36,300.

1985-11-19 [per Siegel] David Feldman, lot 30506, sold for \$92,000.

1985-xx-xx [per Siegel] Harmers of London, lot 1130, unsold.

1991-02-28 [per Siegel] Victoria Stamp Company, Private Treaty,
sold for \$100,000.

1991-10-xx [per Siegel] Bridger & Kay, lot 124, realization unknown.

2006-06-01 [per Siegel] Spink, lot 15, sold for \$120,000.

2015-12-11 [per Siegel] David Feldman "Tatiana" Collection, lot 40450,
sold for £60,000.

Item 20 (PP3b)

1861c carmine-red on bluish laid paper on cover



Ludington description: In carmine-red on bluish laid paper (similar in shade to the 1854 copies of the first Perot issue). Cut square and used on cover [and] addressed to “Miss Hurst care of W. Evans, Esq., Somerset”. The stamp has a slight spot of red on the bottom margin which might be the top of the crown of the stamp below. It is cancelled by a manuscript “X” in black ink, one line of which passes through the “D” of “PAID”, and the “T” of “AT” to the “N” of “HAMILTON”, while the other line passes through the “H” of “HAMILTON”, touches the foot of the “P” of “PAID” and passes between the “U” and the “D” of “BERMUDA”. On the upper edge of the cover to the left is a partial impression of the Hamilton date-stamp, Type PM4, from which the first Perot issue was made, dated MR 9 1861. Discovered in 1945.

Provenance:

1945-xx-xx [per Ludington] discovered by Morris Ludington.

1950-06-xx [per Siegel] private treaty, realized \$2,500.

1978-10-17 [per Siegel] Harmers of London, Sir Henry Tucker Collection , Part 1, lot 60, realized £36,000.

2011-06-28 [per Siegel] Spink, Chartwell Collection, lot 11026, realized £110,000.

2015-12-10 [per Siegel] Spink, Vestey Collection, lot 2, realized £80,000.

Item 21 (PP3b)

1861c carmine-red on bluish laid paper on cover



Ludington Description: In carmine-red on the same bluish laid paper. The impression is rather faint in places. Cut square, close at the top and left. Cancelled with a manuscript "X" in black ink one line of which starts to the right of the crown, is weak through the "I" of "PAID" and passes through the "A" of "AT" and between the "T" and "O" of "HAMILTON". The other line starts above the "A" and passes through the "T" of "AT" and ends short of and between the "R" and "M" of "BERMUDA". Discovered in 1948. Now replaced on its original cover from the same correspondence as the above, but with the Type PM4 dated MR 13 1861.

Provenance:

1948-xx-xx [per Ludington] discovered by Morris Ludington.

19??-xx-xx [per Siegel] Ludington Collection.

1974-01-16 [per Siegel] Robson Lowe, sale 3813, lot 2,
realized £5,250.

1996-10-30 [per Siegel] Harmers of London, lot 842, unsold.

2005-06-15 [per Siegel] Spink Gilbert Collection, sale 5026, lot 229,
realized £58,000.

Subsection IV – The Hamilton Crowned Circles 1862c

From the Bermuda Specialized Catalogue (p.001)

Less is known about the origins of the crowned-circle “Paid at St. Georges” and “Paid at Hamilton” handstamps on adhesive piece. They were prepared and used in the same manner as Perot’s first stamp, although they do not contain a signature or denomination. The four examples from St. Georges (PP2) were produced during the tenure of James Henry Thies in that town (1860-1879) . Of the five known examples from Hamilton, three (PP3) are believed to have been prepared during Perot’s term and two (PP4) during that of his successor, Robert Ward (1862-1879).

Item 22 (PP4a)

1862c red on cream paper



Ludington Description: [First of] Two other examples have been discovered in Bermuda, both on heavy cream coloured laid paper and each cancelled by a cross in blue pencil. One was discovered in 1951 and the other, it is believed at about the same time. From the circumstances surrounding their discovery they would appear to be genuine, though it would be safer at present to reserve judgment on them until further evidence is available, as there is no way of checking the age of the blue pencil marks, and there is the possibility that they could be “cut-outs” from overseas letters that had got back to Bermuda.

Certificates:

[none]

Provenance:

1989-06-26 [per Siegel] Temple Bar Auctions, Ulrich Collection, lot 16, unsold.

1999-10-26 [per Siegel] Cherrystone, R.W. Dickgeisser collection, lot 24, realized \$[?].

Item 22 (PP4a)

1862c red on cream paper



Ludington Description: [Second of] Two other examples have been discovered in Bermuda, both on heavy cream coloured laid paper and each cancelled by a cross in blue pencil. One was discovered in 1951 and the other, it is believed at about the same time. From the circumstances surrounding their discovery they would appear to be genuine, though it would be safer at present to reserve judgment on them until further evidence is available, as there is no way of checking the age of the blue pencil marks, and there is the possibility that they could be “cut-outs” from overseas letters that had got back to Bermuda.

Certificates:

PF 561487 Genuine, with a facial scuff at right, and thins

BPA No. 3630 (1979) Genuine. Thinned.

Provenance:

1978-10-17 Harmers of London, Sir Henry Tucker Collection , Part 1, lot 61,
realized £260

1980-09-03 Richard Wolfers, lot 1232,
realized \$16,500

1981-09-18 David Feldman, lot 2209,
realized CHF 20,250